

Compass 3.0 Executive Summary Monroe County

A household survey was conducted in the spring of 2007 to gather input from community members from the five counties in the United Way service area on their perceived needs for their community across several dimensions. The dimensions assessed included: health, public safety, lifelong learning and enrichment, quality of life and living, care for families across the generations, self-sufficiency, community traits, and overall issues. Overall, 42 households in Monroe County completed the survey. Strengths, weaknesses, and important issues or concerns were identified based on their average response compared to other items within the same general categories.

Community Strengths: (on a scale from 1 to 4, 1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent)

Air quality (3.01)
Quality of emergency services (3.09)
Safety of neighborhoods (3.06)
Availability of preschools (3.11)
K-12 schools (3.09)
Library services (3.11)

Community Weaknesses: (on a scale from 1 to 4, 1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent)

Emphasis on prevention (2.39)
Access to mental healthcare (2.24)
Affordable health care (2.07)
Affordable dental care (2.04)
Affordable mental care (1.77)
Higher education (2.19)
Community resources to learn new skills or hobbies (2.17)
Available jobs that offer enrichment and advancement (2.11)
Leisure time opportunities (2.4)
Opportunities for youth (2.34)
Fine arts and cultural opportunities (2.04)
Inclusion of diverse population in decisions (2.36)
Meeting the needs of persons with disabilities (2.35)
Jobs that offer a good standard of living (2.23)
Available services for people who need help (2.2)
Affordable education (2.15)
Ensuring a strong economic future (2.15)
Affordable personal transportation (2.11)
Jobs that offer health insurance (2.09)
Efforts in the community to reduce poverty (1.93)
Affordable and accessible public transportation (1.86)

Community Concerns/Issues: (on a scale from 1 to 4, where 4 is a high/serious concern)

Illegal drug use (3.24)
Alcohol use (3.11)

Tobacco use (3.08)

Obesity (2.91)

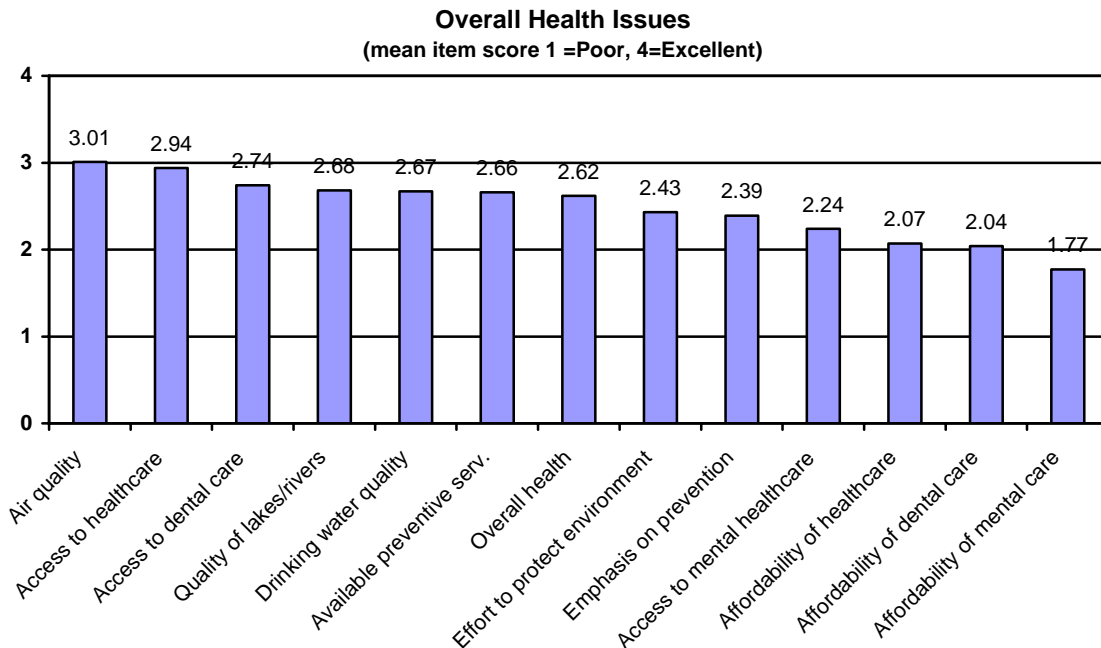
Poor money management (2.8)

Physical inactivity (2.72)

Prescription drug misuse (2.62)

Health Items results

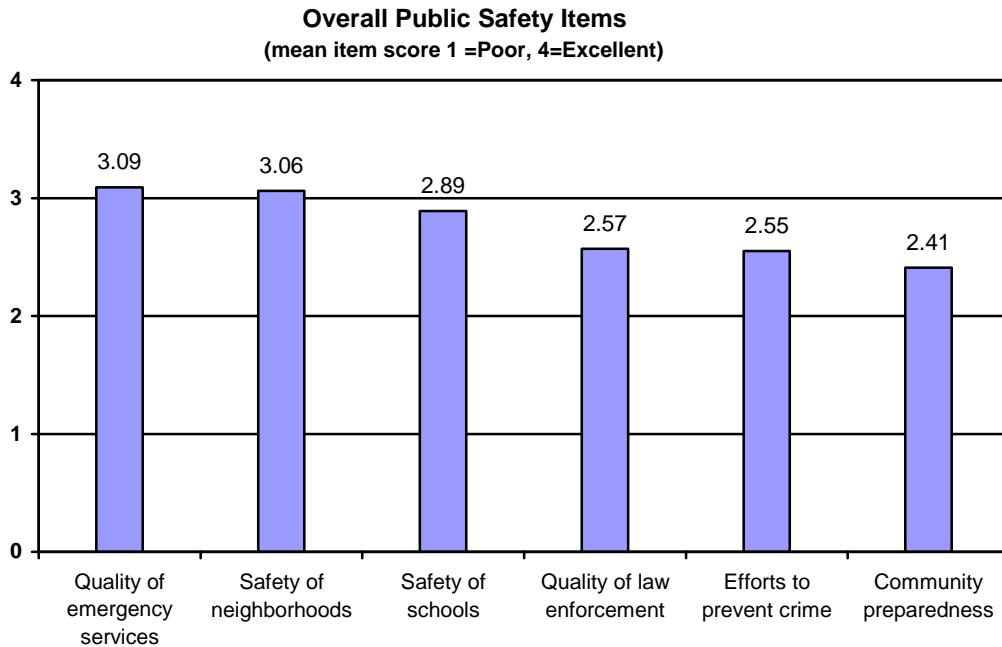
Monroe County residents rated the quality of air as the highest of all the health items asked. 89% rated the air quality as good or excellent. Access to quality healthcare was rated second highest of the items with 70% indicating access to healthcare was good or excellent. 68% of Monroe County residents indicated that access to quality dental care was good or excellent. Residents rated the quality of water in the rivers and lakes in their community higher than most all other residents. (Vernon County also rated the quality of their rivers and lakes higher than other counties.) Overall, 60% rated the health of people in the community as good or excellent. Residents in Monroe County rated the overall health of the people in the community the poorest of the five counties. Of all the items included, the affordability of mental health care, dental care, and healthcare for all were rated the lowest. 65% rated the affordability of healthcare as fair or poor, 66% rated the affordability of dental care as fair or poor, and 84% rated the affordability of mental health care as fair or poor. Monroe County residents rated access to quality mental health care and affordability to mental health care lower than any of the other counties.



Public Safety results:

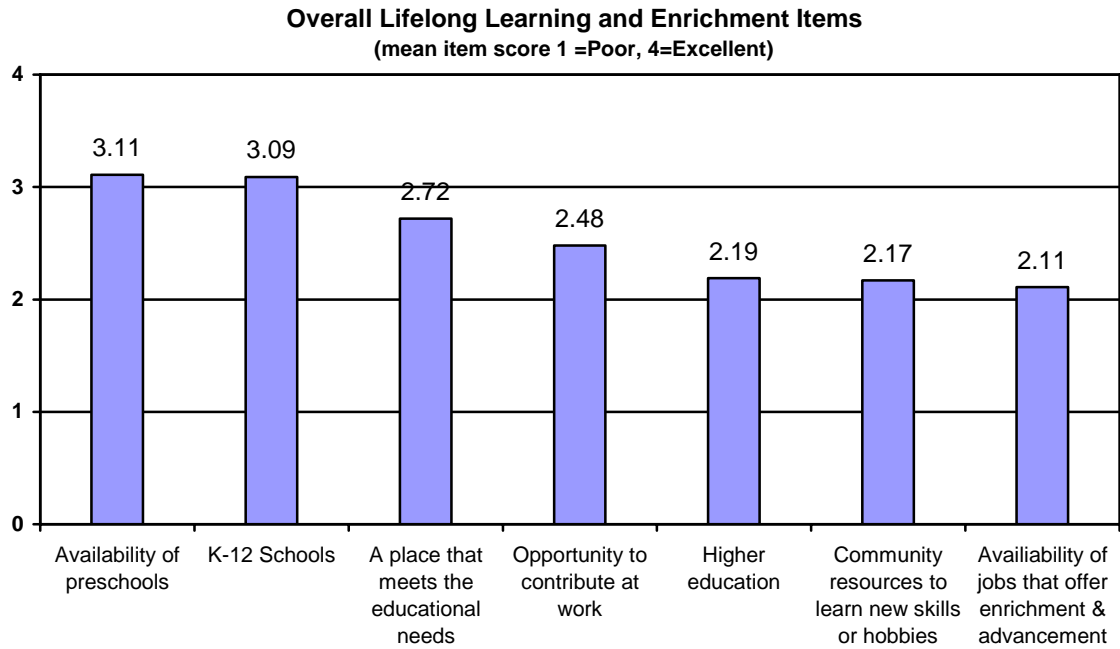
Monroe County residents rated the overall quality of the community's emergency services as the highest of all the public safety items. 32% rated the quality of the community's emergency services as excellent, and 49% rated it as good. The safety of the community's neighborhood was rated the second highest of all the items asked, with 26 % of Monroe County residents indicating it was excellent and 60% indicated their community has good neighborhood safety. However, even though Monroe County residents reported that the safety of the community's neighborhood with the second highest itemed ranked under public safety, both of Monroe's good and excellent ratings were below the regional average of all five counties, while Monroe's poor (4%) and fair (11%) rankings were above the regional average of 2% and 9%. Of all the items included in the public safety section, Monroe County residents gave their community the lowest score in the community's preparedness for major safety threats. A majority of Monroe County respondents (54%) felt their community did either a fair or poor job of

preparing for safety threats. Of the 54%, 11% of respondents reported poor ratings, while 43% reported fair ratings.



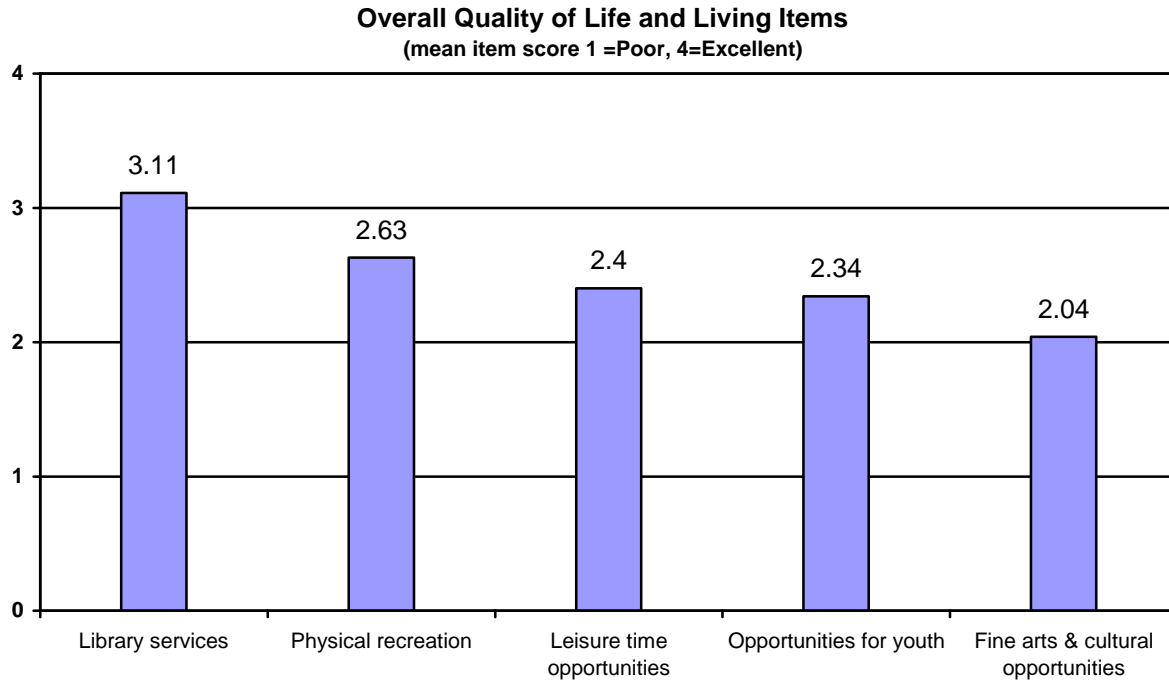
Lifelong Learning and Enrichment results:

Monroe County residents ranked the lifelong learning and enrichment items similarly to the region in general. They rated the availability of preschool opportunities in Monroe County higher than any of the other counties did. None of the respondents from Monroe County rated this as poor and 80% rated it good or excellent. Over 80% rated the K-12 schools as good or excellent as well. Monroe County residents were more likely to report a lower satisfaction than the other counties with the “opportunity to contribute significantly in their work environment,” 51% indicating fair or poor to this item, and the “community as a place to meet the educational needs,” 32% indicating fair or poor on this item.



Quality of Life and Living results

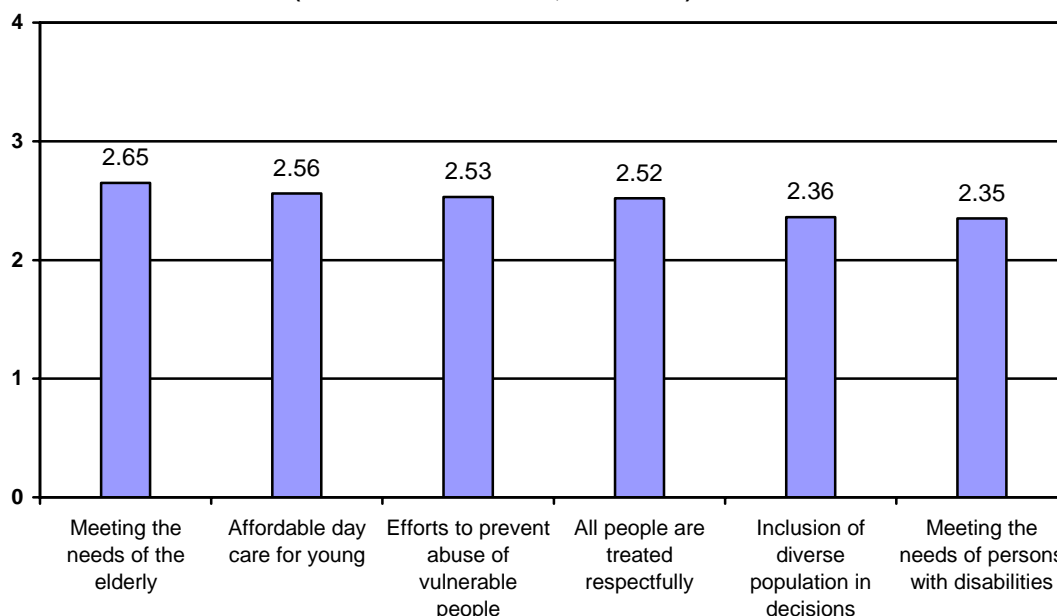
Again, Monroe County residents rated the quality of library services as the highest of all the quality of life items surveyed. 86% rated the library services as good or excellent. The results for the physical recreation for young and old were more mixed in Monroe County with 59% of the respondents rating this area as good or excellent and a little over 40% ranking this area as fair or poor. In the area of the availability of appealing leisure time activities that meet the needs of individual or family members, 55% of respondents felt that the availability was either fair or poor. 40.4% felt that this item was “fair.” 61% of respondents felt that opportunities for youth were fair or poor and 38% of respondents felt that opportunities for youth to explore interests and positive activities were good or excellent. The fine arts and culture item was lowest ranked area with 70% of respondents feeling that the opportunities were poor or fair. 40% felt that opportunities were fair.



Care for Families Across the Generations results

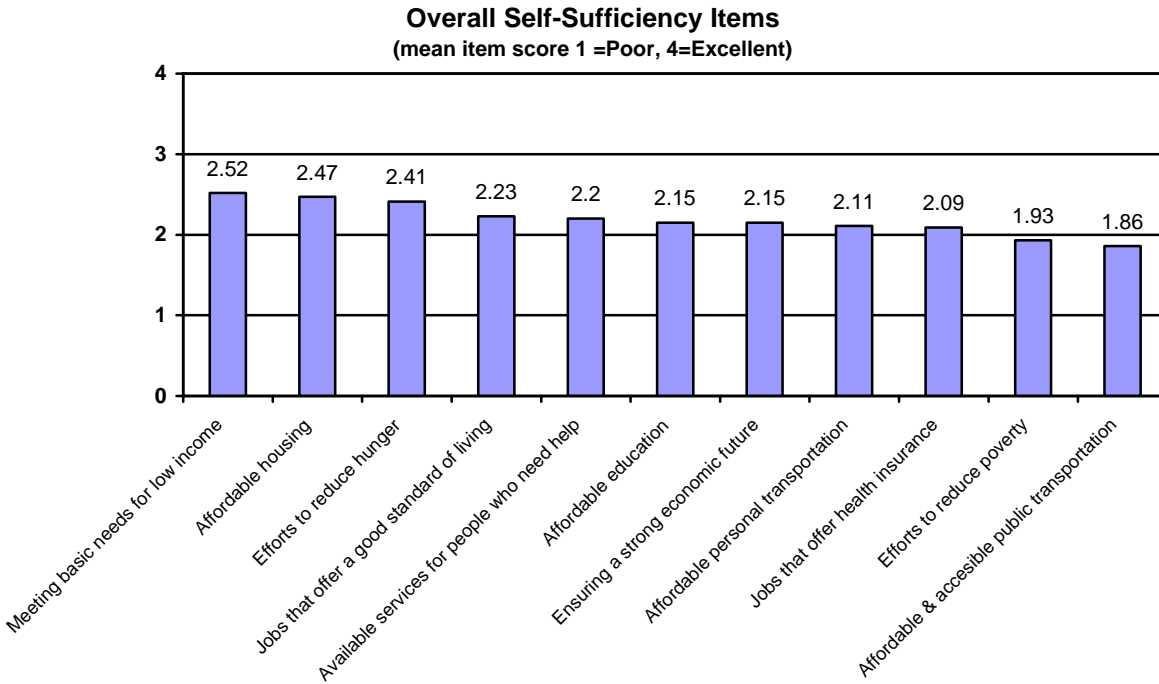
Monroe County residents rated meeting the needs of elderly persons as the highest of the items. 59% of residents indicated that meeting the needs of the elderly was good or excellent. The availability of affordable and safe day care was the second highest rated item; 53% of residents indicated day care availability was good or excellent. 61% of residents rated a place that meets the overall needs of persons with disabilities as fair or poor. 65% rated people of different backgrounds included in decision making fair or poor. 53% rated all people are treated respectfully as fair or poor. Monroe County residents rated a place where people are treated respectfully and prevention efforts lower than all of the other counties.

Overall Care for Families Across the Generations Items
(mean item score 1 =Poor, 4=Excellent)



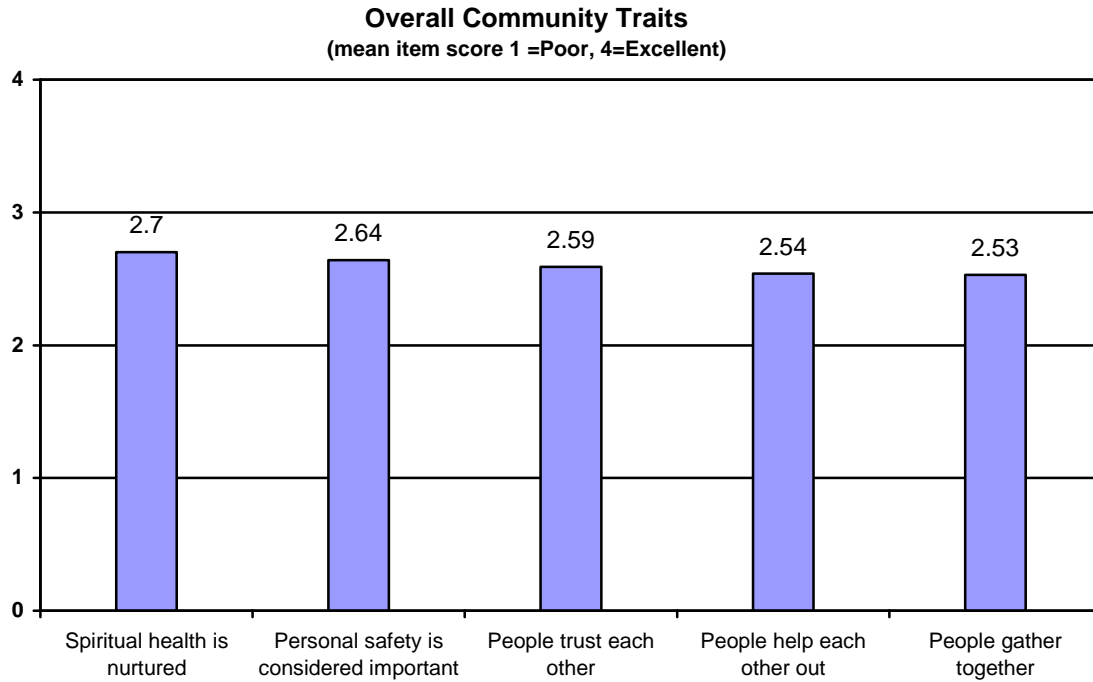
Self Sufficiency Summary results

Monroe County residents rated a place where people with low income can meet their basic needs for food, housing, clothing, and the like as the highest of all the self-sufficiency items asked. 54% rated this item as good or excellent. The availability of affordable, quality housing was rated second highest of the items with 51% indicating availability of affordable, quality housing was good or excellent. Efforts to reduce hunger was rated third highest of the items, with 43% of residents indicating this item was good or excellent. Residents rated your community as a place that provides jobs and career opportunities with wages and benefits that offer a good standard of living and a place where people with low income can meet their basic needs for food, housing, clothing, and the like higher than residents of other counties. Of all the items included, affordable and accessible public transportation, efforts to reduce poverty, and the availability of jobs that offer health insurance were rated the lowest. 84% rated affordable and accessible public transportation as fair or poor, 78% rated efforts to reduce poverty as fair or poor, and 69% rated the availability of jobs that offer health insurance as fair or poor.



Community Traits results

Monroe County residents rated their community as a place where spiritual health of residents is nurtured as the highest of all the community trait items asked. 13% rated the nurturing of their spiritual health as excellent, and 53% rated it as good. A place where personal safety is considered important was rated second highest of all the community trait items with 9% rated their community as excellent and 55% as good in the area personal safety. However, even though Monroe County residents reported their community with the second highest ranking of being a place where personal safety is considered important, their ratings of poor (9%) and fair (28%) were above the regional average of 5% for poor and 21% for fair. Overall, Monroe County residents rated the overall quality of spiritual health being nurtured and where personal safety is considered important the poorest of all five counties. Of all the items included in the community traits section, Monroe County residents gave their community the lowest score in the area of being a place where people gather together as neighbors, friends, and families. 9% of Monroe County residents gave poor ratings to their community in this area, while 40% reported fair rankings. Monroe County had a large proportion of its respondents listing their community as fair in this item, while the regional average of all five counties was 28%.



Issues:

The highest rated item as a concern in the issues category was illegal drug use. Overall, 48% of respondents indicated this was a high concern (score of 4, out of 4). Alcohol use was the second highest rated item as a concern with 39% rating it as a 4 or high concern. Tobacco use was rated a high concern by over 38% of participants and obesity by 27% of participants. Inadequate nutrition and gambling were seen as the least significant problems with 7% rating gambling as a high concern, and 9% rating inadequate nutrition as a high concern.

Overall Issues

(mean item score 4=high/serious concern, 1 =low concern)

