

Executive Summary

2004-2005 Knox County Community Assessment

Purpose of the assessment

Useful information for today and a vision for tomorrow

This report on the 2004-2005 Knox County Community Assessment is the result of the first three phases of an eight-step community-building process called *COMPASS II*. Developed by United Way of America, *COMPASS II* is designed to bring together diverse stakeholders to assess and document local strengths and needs, mobilize community resources, and select a limited number of priority issues on which to focus efforts to improve the community. The ultimate goal is to develop and implement a community impact plan that will improve people's lives and communities.

Beginning in late 2003, United Way of Knox County started bringing together a broad partnership of community stakeholders to identify the kinds of information that were most needed from a needs assessment. These stakeholders called for specific information about unmet needs, access to resources, and satisfaction with existing social services, as well as a process for prioritizing community issues. In addition to providing information for the *COMPASS II* community-building process, the 2004-2005 Community Assessment, was designed to be used for several purposes, including:

- United Way fund distribution and strategic planning
- Grant writing and strategic planning by social service providers
- Local government planning
- Public fundraising and advocacy

Research questions

This assessment aims to answer the following questions:

1. What do Knox County residents need? What needs are already being met, and what are the highest-priority unmet needs?
2. What assets do we already have to meet these needs?
3. Where are there overlaps in service or duplicated services?
4. Are people aware of existing resources and do they know how to access them?
5. What kinds of barriers do consumers face when trying to get help?
6. How satisfied are consumers with existing services?

Research methods

The 2004-2005 Community Assessment drew upon several different research methods, including quantitative and qualitative approaches. Stakeholders agreed that it was critical to get representation from certain groups of Knox County residents:

- General public, including all geographic areas of Knox County

- Special populations and groups that are often consumers of United Way-funded programs and other social services (low-income families and adults, youth, and senior citizens)
- Community leaders and experts

Table 1 lists all of the research methods employed for this assessment. Stakeholders chose these methods based upon their cost-effectiveness and ability to produce valid and useful data that would answer the specific research questions. All data were collected between May 2004 and September 2005.

Table 1: Research methods

Method	Sample source and target population	Number of respondents or participants
COMPASS II surveys		
<i>Household Survey</i>	1) General population: convenience sample at fair and festivals and random sample mail survey 2) Low-income adults: purposive sample of emergency assistance agency consumers	442 total (fairs and festivals=133, mail=210, emergency assistance agencies=99)
<i>Key Informant Survey</i>	Community leaders and volunteers from social service, business, and civic sectors	124
<i>Social Service Provider Survey and Update Survey on Funding Cuts and Increases</i>	Representatives from social service organizations	56
<i>Businesses and Associations Survey</i>	Representatives from businesses and civic groups	34
Focus groups		
Low-income parents of young children	Lower-income parents of at least one child age 0-5 (Parents of Head Start students and participants in OSU Extension's parenting classes)	17 (3 groups)
Youth	Youth ages 14-18 (Mount Vernon High School seniors, Alternative Center 9 th and 10 th graders, and 10 th graders in the Knox County Career Center's Career-Based Intervention program)	32 (4 groups)
Senior citizens	Seniors ages 55-87 (Sanctuary Community Action, Interchurch Social Services, Fredericktown Senior Center, Station Break, Kno-Ho-Co RSVP and Foster Grandparent programs, and Centerburg Senior Services)	28 (4 groups)

Table 1 continued

Other methods

<i>Agency Awareness and Satisfaction Survey</i>	1) Low income adults (parent focus group participants and emergency assistance consumer household survey respondents) 2) Youth (focus group participants) 3) Senior citizens (focus group participants)	174
Secondary data	2000 US Census, Ohio Department of Health, etc.	NA

Who was represented?

Approximately 700 Knox County residents participated in a survey or focus group for this community assessment. Overall, the residents who participated in a survey or focus group were:

- More likely to be from lower-income households
- More likely to be female
- Similar to the Knox County population in terms of area of residence (geography), age, race/ethnicity, and whether or not they had children living with them

What were the limitations of the research methods?

This assessment involved a variety of sampling strategies and both qualitative and quantitative methods, all of which have strengths and limitations. Results of any one method should be viewed in context with results from other methods. The assessment drew heavily upon purposive and convenience sampling strategies. These strategies are cost-effective and were employed to obtain participation from specific groups (low-income adults, experts, youth, etc.), but are not as strong as random selection in terms of producing results that can be directly generalized to the overall population of Knox County. Random sampling was used for the mailed household survey, but was not feasible or desirable for other methods. The results of this assessment are particularly helpful for describing perceptions, opinions, priorities, strengths, assets, and barriers. These results are not as helpful for describing the incidence or prevalence of specific problems, such as unemployment, obesity, or teen pregnancy. Secondary data and statistics collected government agencies and others are therefore presented in the assessment report to provide more accurate information about the prevalence of specific economic, social, and health problems.

Because assessment data have been collected over a one-and-a-half year period, beginning in May 2004, concerns that are emerging at the time this report is being written, such as increases in gas and heating costs and bomb threats at local schools, are not reflected in this report.

Strengths and needs

Knox County's many strengths are rooted in our "small town" environment

This Community Assessment identified many strengths and assets in Knox County. Often citing the benefits of living in a small town, focus group participants listed the following things that make Knox County a good place to live:

- Safety and low crime rate compared to bigger cities
- Friendly people, people looking out for each other, and a more relaxed lifestyle
- Green space, parks, trails, and many outdoor places for children to play
- Good schools and a good community for young children
- Central location and access to other cities for goods and services (Columbus, Mansfield, Newark, Coshocton)
- Some high-quality services and programs available for families and senior citizens

Survey results identified the following community strengths:

- Strong sense of community togetherness: most feel that people in their town or area come together to help each other, gather together formally and informally, and work together on common goals
- Collaborative leadership: most key informants agreed that Knox County leaders come together to work productively on community issues and respect each other
- Volunteerism: half of the household survey respondents (52%) said they regularly do volunteer work, compared to 29% nationwide.¹
- Satisfaction with the status quo regarding safety and crime, green space and the environment, and schools
- Significant assets and infrastructure, such as Knox Community Hospital, Knox County Health Department, New Hope Early Education Center, YMCA of Mount Vernon, public schools, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Kenyon College, and, retail businesses on Coshocton Avenue in Mount Vernon

Broad consensus points to four top-priority issues

Overall, there was a great deal of overlap between the results of different research methods, and Knox County residents seemed to agree upon a set of issues that emerged as significant unmet needs in the community. Although different groups voiced their own specific concerns, people from different parts of the county, of different ages, and with different incomes or family situations generally seemed to agree upon the importance of these four issues:

- Health care affordability, insurance, access, and quality
- Jobs, economic issues, and support for self-sufficiency (wages, benefits, unemployment, poverty, and lack of money for basic needs)
- Recreational and entertainment activities, especially affordable activities for children, families, and teens
- Mental health, stress, emotional issues, and substance abuse

Several other issues also emerged from two or more research methods as important unmet needs:

- Obesity
- Teen pregnancy
- Unsafe driving habits
- Poor access to transportation for seniors and youth
- Lack of affordable housing and substandard housing
- Family violence and abuse of children or adults
- Child care affordability, quality, and safety

Economic trends confirm concerns about jobs, poverty, and health insurance

In 2004, Knox County's unemployment rate dropped to 5.6%, making it lower than the overall Ohio unemployment rate of 6.1% for 2004.² Meanwhile, Knox County saw an increase in poverty and the number of residents without health insurance:

- Child poverty rose sharply from 12.3% in 2002 to 19.2% in 2004 in Knox County (100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPL)).³
- The proportion of Knox County children and adults living at 200% FPL was substantially higher than for Ohio overall, indicating a large number of “near poor” or “working poor” families; 51% of Knox County children were at 200% FPL or below in 2004.⁴
- The uninsured rate for adults in Knox County rose from 10.0% in 1998 to 14.4% in 2004, above the 12.5% rate for Ohio adults overall in 2004.⁵

***Household and Key Informant* survey results: Top-priority issues and needs**

The *Household* and *Key Informant* surveys asked respondents to rate a list of issues on a four-point scale, from “not an issue” to “a major issue.” Household respondents were asked about problems experienced within their own households over the past year, and also about their perception of issues in their town or area of the county. Key informants rated the significance of issues for Knox County overall. Table 2 displays the top-five ranked issues from these surveys.

Table 2: Top five ranked issues from *Household* and *Key Informant* surveys (rank based on average rating for each item)

Household Survey: Experienced within your own household (n=428)		Household Survey: Perceived within our town or area of the county (n=327)		Key Informant Survey: Perceived within Knox County (n=124)	
Rank	Issue	Rank	Issue	Rank	Issue
1	Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	1	Lack of jobs that provide decent wages	1	Lack of affordable medical care
2	Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	1	Lack of jobs that provide a benefits package	1	Alcohol and/or drug abuse
3	Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	2	Lack of affordable medical care	1	Unemployment or underemployment
3	Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	3	Obesity	1	Lack of jobs
3	Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	3	Teen pregnancy	2	Mental illness, emotional issues, or suicide
3	Finding it difficult to budget	4	Unemployment	3	Family violence, abuse of children or adults
3	Observing unsafe driving habits	4	Alcohol and/or drug abuse	3	Obesity
4	Not being able to afford recreational activities	5	Shortage of affordable housing	3	Poverty
4	Not having enough money for food	5	Unsafe driving habits	4	Shortage of affordable housing
4	Being overweight or obese			4	Lack of affordable care for children
5	Not being able to find work			4	Teen pregnancy
5	Not being able to afford legal help			5	Substandard housing
5	Lack of activities for school-aged children and teens			5	Lack of cultural activities (concerts, museums, etc.)
5	Lack of recreational activities that are accessible				

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey* and *Key Informant Survey*, 2004-2005

Low-income parent focus group results: Top-priority issues and needs

Better access to quality health care

- More providers and better doctors, especially those who will take public health insurance
- More medical facilities, including urgent care and free clinics
- More dentists who will take public health insurance
- More options for mental health care, including more high-quality providers who specialize in children's mental health

Safe and affordable child care for young children

- Trustworthy, professional, and licensed providers in safe, clean settings
- Respite and support for stay-at-home parents

Before and after-school care for school-aged children

- Comprehensive programs that provide transportation, meals, and tutoring
- Extended morning and afternoon/evening hours that accommodate parents' work schedules

More recreational activities and facilities for children, families, and teens

- Free and low-cost activities
- Activities for families to do together, and for parents and children to do separately
- More facilities, such as a new community center, discount movie theatre, free swimming pool, more teen centers, etc.

Better support for self-sufficiency and a more comprehensive safety net

- Access to health insurance and affordable housing for the working poor
- Jobs with higher wages and benefits
- Improvements to the welfare and child support systems; more help to escape the "cycle of poverty"
- Comprehensive emergency assistance programs that have flexible eligibility criteria
- Service providers who are respectful, caring, and professional
- Less stigma for low-income families seeking help

Youth focus group results: Top-priority issues and needs

More activities and places for teens to spend their free time

- Construct a new community center in Mount Vernon, including fitness and sports facilities, as well as other recreational activities, classes, an ice rink, and space for teens to hang out
- Offer inexpensive or free activities
- Attract more businesses that cater to teen interests, such as a dance club or concert venue, a shopping mall, arcade-style venues that offer a range of recreational activities (such as putt-putt golf, video games, paint ball, laser tag, ping-pong, etc.), more sit-down restaurants, and a discount movie theater

More high-paying jobs and access to employment

- Retain college-educated Knox County youth by providing higher-paying jobs in the county
- Offer more hands-on job shadowing activities for youth
- Help Alternative Center students enter the job market by overcoming stigma and presenting positive future opportunities
- Facilitate and support part-time employment for young Career Center students

Better transportation options

- Provide free driver's education classes in the schools
- Educate teens about how to obtain and maintain low-cost vehicles
- Improve road conditions and lower gas prices
- Specific improvements to Mount Vernon High School and the Alternative Center, mostly relating to school policies, rules, and environment
- Improve and expand programs designed to prevent teen pregnancy and drunk driving

Senior citizen focus group results: Top-priority issues and needs

Better transportation services

- Improve Mid-Ohio Transit Authority (MOTA) by lowering prices for senior citizens, expanding services to include evenings and weekends, and creating a set route with specific times throughout Knox County
- Provide transportation through Centerburg Senior Services for seniors in Centerburg
- Develop a bus line to connect the county, possibly using buses no longer being utilized
- Expand the FISH program (a program through Interchurch Social Services where volunteers provide rides for those who cannot drive themselves to a medical appointment) by recruiting more drivers
- Provide better reimbursement for volunteers of the FISH program

More for youth to do

- Create a youth center for teens in the area
- Open a movie theater, a new restaurant, or some place where youth can hang out (particularly in areas outside Mount Vernon)

Better access health care and medical information

- Organize more community health fairs for seniors that would test blood pressure, sugar, and cholesterol levels
- Educate about mental and physical health
- Advertise agencies that help seniors
- Create a free health clinic in a traveling bus offering services for eyeglasses, dental, etc.
- Offer more assistance with comprehension of medication and other medical instructions

Overlaps and gaps in services

No unnecessary duplications of service were identified

This Community Assessment did not specifically identify any *unnecessary* overlaps or duplications of social services in Knox County. The *Social Service Provider* survey and focus groups revealed that there are several emergency assistance providers, youth programs, and senior services in the county. Focus group participants indicated that it was desirable and necessary to have a variety of service providers in these areas. In the parent focus groups, for example, participants argued that limited resources and rigid eligibility criteria for emergency assistance programs leave gaps in the safety net instead of actual duplications of service. Similarly, seniors argued that they wanted *more* local senior programs. Residents of Fredericktown, Centerburg, and Danville called for services in their own towns, instead of having to rely upon programs in Mount Vernon.

Not enough providers of mental health and substance abuse treatment

Given that mental health, substance abuse, jobs, and economic issues have been identified as high-priority needs, it appears that there are relatively few resources available for these problems. For most low-income residents, there is really only one major mental health provider (Moundbuilders Guidance Center) and one substance abuse treatment provider (Alcohol and Drug FREEDOM CENTER). In the parent focus groups, participants expressed their frustration with the lack of choice in mental health services.

Not enough resources for preventing poverty and promoting self-sufficiency

On the Social Service Provider survey, only four organizations reported that they provide “job training or employment opportunities for low-income people” and only two reported working on “economic development.” Comparing this to the 17 organizations providing emergency or financial assistance (utilities, material needs, etc.) and nine organizations providing food assistance, it appears that there are more resources for addressing the symptoms of poverty than resources for preventing poverty and promoting self-sufficiency.

Awareness of existing resources

Most United Way member agencies enjoy high visibility

Overall, many Knox County residents seem to be aware of existing social services. According to the results of the *United Way Agency Awareness and Satisfaction Survey*, the majority of respondents were aware of most United Way member agencies, and low-income residents, parents, senior citizens, and youth were mostly aware of the organizations that serve them. Emergency assistance providers, such as Interchurch Social Services, and nationally-affiliated organizations, such as the YMCA, American Red Cross, and Salvation Army, enjoyed almost universal visibility, while a handful of smaller agencies were known by fewer than half of respondents.

Low-income parents seem aware of government programs and emergency assistance providers, but need more information about eligibility criteria, family activities, and educational opportunities

Large federal and state-funded programs such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Ohio Works First (OWF), Head Start, food stamps, and Medicaid enjoyed high visibility among the parents in the focus groups. Many also seemed to know where to go for help with food, housing, utilities, and clothing. These parents seemed largely aware of existing health care resources and the state-funded child care subsidy program, although there was some confusion about fees at the health department's medical and dental clinics, and about eligibility criteria for the child care subsidy.

Awareness of existing recreational activities for children and families seemed to be low. There appears to be a large opportunity to increase community awareness of family activities in Knox County, such as YMCA scholarships, library story times, the Children's Garden at the Career Center in Mount Vernon, and the Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College. Parents suggested posting flyers in public places and putting them in grocery bags, and developing a monthly "family activities bulletin."

Parents perceived a lack of access to secondary and adult education and job training. This may be due to an actual lack of educational opportunities in Knox County and/or to poor awareness of existing programs.

Teens are aware of many—but not all—youth programs and services

Youth seemed to be aware of resources within their own schools, citing help from guidance counselors and teachers, and the existence of support programs and school-based activities. Most seemed to be aware of youth-serving agencies such as the YMCA of Mount Vernon, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, church-sponsored teen centers, 4-H, and the mental health and substance abuse agencies (Moundbuilders Guidance Center and the FREEDOM CENTER). The focus group discussions and the *Satisfaction and Awareness Survey* results, however, indicate that many youth may not know about the South Vernon Youth League, MOTA, the Kno-Ho-Co family planning clinic, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, and New Directions. These latter resources may be important as the youth transition into young adulthood.

Computer use and Internet access are fairly common among parents and youth, but not seniors

According to surveys administered to focus group participants, websites and email could be a good way to promote teen and family activities:

- Most youth and parents said they had a computer with Internet access at home and had used the Internet to find information about recreational activities and social services.
- Only about a quarter of senior focus group participants had computers with Internet access in their homes

- In a survey of 480 Knox County residents conducted by the Knox County Health Department at the 2005 county fair, 72% of respondents said they had access to the Internet, mostly at home.

Consumer satisfaction with existing services

Most consumers seem satisfied with most United Way member agencies

The majority of respondents to the *United Way Agency Satisfaction Survey* reported that they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with most of the agencies they had used, indicating an overall level of satisfaction with these programs among Knox County residents. The United Way member organizations receiving the highest satisfaction ratings were: Hospice of Knox County, Interchurch Social Services, Kno-Ho-Co, New Directions, and the American Red Cross.

Lower satisfaction with mental health, substance abuse, and employment services

The organizations receiving the lowest satisfaction ratings on the *Agency Awareness and Satisfaction Survey* were Moundbuilders Guidance Center, the Alcohol and Drug FREEDOM CENTER, and the Knox County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS). These organizations are each the sole or primary providers of the type of service they provide in Knox County. Lack of choice and competition may adversely affect consumer satisfaction. Furthermore, some of these agencies’ consumers are non-voluntary (e.g., court-ordered to attend), which may also negatively affect their level of satisfaction.

Although the focus group questions were not specifically designed to assess consumer satisfaction, discussions with low-income parents and youth seemed to confirm these survey results. Parents voiced complaints about long waits and the lack of skilled children’s mental health providers at Moundbuilders. Parents expressed a strong desire for an alternative mental health provider in Knox County that will take public health insurance. Some said they go to Columbus for their mental health needs, while others were frustrated because they could not afford to travel out of the county for counseling.

It is difficult to pinpoint specific concerns about DJFS, given that it administers several different programs. There was widespread frustration with OWF’s emphasis on full-time work requirements instead of access to secondary and adult education. The “welfare system’s” work requirements, work programs, and asset limits—coupled with poor access to education and living-wage jobs—was repeatedly described as a “trap” that perpetuates an endless “cycle of poverty.” Some parents also said they felt stigmatized for being on assistance and that they had been treated disrespectfully by caseworkers at DJFS. Other parents, however, said they had very good experiences working with individual DJFS caseworkers. Other programs, such as Children’s Protective Services, food stamps, and Medicaid received mixed reviews.

Youth, particularly Alternative Center students, were quite critical of Moundbuilders and the FREEDOM CENTER, although their reasons for dissatisfaction with these agencies

were not explored in depth. More research should be done to assess consumer satisfaction with these agencies.

Barriers to getting help

Cost, stigma, lack of transportation, rigid eligibility criteria, and disrespectful service providers are barriers for some low-income parents

Cost and stigma appear to be barriers for low-income families. Long distances and poor access to reliable transportation are barriers to accessing high-quality medical, mental health, and dental services in Columbus and other cities. Providers' refusal or inability to accept public health insurance is another major health care barrier. Inflexible eligibility criteria for a wide variety of programs are sometimes barriers for the working poor, who may earn too much to get help. Finally, disrespectful or unprofessional service providers deter some parents from asking for help.

Cost, lack of transportation, and busy parents may deter some youth from getting help

Cost and lack of transportation are the most obvious barriers teens face when they are trying to find "something to do" or "somewhere to hang out." Many of the youth focus group participants referred to how busy their parents are and that most parents work outside the home. This could mean that parents have less time to help their teenage children solve problems, or to seek or get to activities or social services. Low levels of satisfaction with the mental health and substance abuse treatment providers may also deter some teens from seeking help with those types of problems.

Isolation and lack of transportation are barriers for senior citizens

Isolation seems to be a barrier to seniors getting help. Some focus group participants shared that they feel alone in tough times. Many are reluctant to call on family, and some seniors shared that their children either have moved away or are too busy with their own lives. Access to transportation is another concern for those who can no longer drive. Seniors pointed to a number of limitations in existing transportation programs (MOTA, FISH, and Station Break) and said that seniors cannot always rely upon these services.

Many social service agencies have experienced funding, staff, and program cuts

Overall, more than half of the social service organizations surveyed experienced budget cuts during 2003 and 2004, and decreases in funding were more common than funding increases:

- 68% of organizations said they experienced some kind of reduction or elimination in funding during 2003, rising to 74% in 2004
- 35% of the agencies reported some kind of elimination or reduction of programs or services in 2003, falling slightly to 29% in 2004
- 28% said they had to turn clients away or start a waiting list in 2003, falling slightly to 23% in 2004
- 47% said they reduced or consolidated staff in 2003, dropping to 43% in 2004

Moving toward a community vision: Recommendations and next steps

Next steps in the community building process

Now that we have identified many strengths, assets, and unmet needs in Knox County, the next three steps in the *COMPASS II* community building process are to:

Phase 4: Create a community vision

Phase 5: Select priority issues and establish targeted community outcomes

Phase 6: Build an outcome-focused community impact plan

United Way of Knox County will convene a Community Partnership Committee to review the results of the Community Assessment, move forward with Phases 4-6, and develop a community impact plan.

Top-priority issues

This Community Assessment identified several top-priority issues that should be considered and could potentially be addressed in the community impact plan:

- Health care affordability, insurance, access, and quality
- Jobs, economic issues, and support for self-sufficiency (wages, benefits, unemployment, poverty, and lack of money for basic needs)
- Recreational and entertainment activities, especially affordable activities for children, families, and teens
- Mental health, stress, emotional issues, and substance abuse
- Obesity
- Teen pregnancy
- Unsafe driving habits
- Poor access to transportation for seniors and youth
- Lack of affordable housing and substandard housing
- Family violence and abuse of children or adults
- Child care affordability, quality, and safety

Resource gaps and barriers that present opportunities for improvement

It is beyond the scope of this report to make extensive recommendations. A few findings about resource gaps and barriers, however, stand out and warrant further consideration by stakeholders:

- While there appear to be several programs addressing the *symptoms* of poverty in Knox County (emergency financial assistance, food, clothing, etc.), more resources are needed for preventing poverty and promoting self-sufficiency.
- Resources for mental health and substance abuse should be improved and expanded.
- Resources for transportation assistance, public transportation, and driver safety should be improved and expanded.
- Efforts should be made to widely publicize family activities and opportunities for secondary education and job training for lower-income adults.
- The public may need better information about eligibility criteria for government programs (such as public health insurance, food stamps, and child care subsidies) and free and low-cost medical and dental care.

- Local control and satellite operations are critical when planning services for senior citizens in areas outside Mount Vernon.

Unanswered questions

Many of the top-priority issues would benefit from further research, addressing questions such as:

- What can be done at the local level to address problems with health insurance, employer-sponsored benefits, wages, and job creation?
- What kinds of mental health problems are the most prevalent? Are stress and emotional issues the primary concerns, or more serious and diagnosable mental health problems?
- What are the specific problems related to unsafe driving habits? Who is most at risk and what are the causes of these problems (drunk driving, poor driver training, elderly drivers, “road rage,” etc.)?
- Why are some residents not satisfied with existing mental health and substance abuse programs? What can be done to improve them?
- What is the scope and severity of the unmet needs? How many people are affected?
- What kinds of services and programs are most effective at preventing and treating the high-priority problems? What kinds of evidence-based programs are available? What are the best practices?
- Are we able to identify and document effective programs through outcome measurement and evaluation? If not, what resources are needed to do that?
- How can we get the most “bang for the buck” in terms of prevention versus intervention?
- What are other communities doing to address these problems?
- How can we make better use of our existing assets, resources, and infrastructure to meet these needs?

Pulling it all together

The results of this Community Assessment present exciting opportunities for improving the quality of life in Knox County. The broad consensus in identifying top-priority issues lays the framework for bringing the community together to solve problems. Knox County’s identity as a safe, cohesive, and friendly community, in a beautiful rural location, provides an excellent foundation for building a stronger community.

Data sources:

1. US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004-2005.
2. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data, 2005.
3. 2002 data are from the US Census Bureau; 2004 data are from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Ohio Family Health Survey, Health Policy Institute of Ohio Health Data Brief, May 25, 2005.
4. ODJFS Ohio Family Health Survey, Health Policy Institute of Ohio Health Data Brief, May 25, 2005.
5. ODJFS Ohio Family Health Survey, 1999 and 2005.