

## Household survey

### ***Methods and sample sources***

A total of 442 Knox County residents completed the *COMPASS II Household Survey* between July 2004 and September 2005. After gathering input from stakeholders, the research team modified the *COMPASS II Household Survey* slightly to better reflect local concerns. The household survey asks respondents to rate a list of community strengths and issues, as well as concerns respondents have had within their own households. The results help identify and prioritize community strengths and issues.

In order to control survey costs, ensure strong participation from lower-income residents, and obtain representation from all areas of the county, the research team employed three sampling strategies to collect these household surveys: 1) a convenience sample of the general population at four different fairs and festivals throughout the county during the summer of 2004, 2) a purposive sample of low-income consumers at emergency assistance agencies during the winter of 2004-2005, and 3) a mail survey sent to a random sample of county residents in the summer of 2005. Table 10 displays the number of surveys completed for each sample source and survey site.

**Table 10: *Household Survey* sample sources and survey sites**

<b>Sample source and survey collection sites</b>	<b>Number of completed surveys</b>
<b>Fair and festivals, June-September 2004</b> (convenience sample of general population)	<b>133</b>
Knox County Fair, July 2004	71
Dan Emmett Festival, August 2004	23
Centerburg Farming Festival, September 2004	5
Fredericktown Tomato Show, September 2004	34
<b>Emergency assistance agencies, November 2004-January 2005</b> (purposive sample of low-income adults)	<b>99</b>
Interchurch Social Services, Mount Vernon	15
Interchurch Social Services, Centerburg	4
Interchurch Social Services, Danville	10
Interchurch Social Services, Fredericktown	9
The Salvation Army of Mount Vernon	15
The Salvation Army, Centerburg	10
Knox Metropolitan Housing Authority	10
Kno-Ho-Co Energy Assistance Program	10
Moundbuilders Guidance Center	10
Other (United Way or mailed in from unknown site)	6
<b>Mail, July-October 2005</b> (random sample of general population)	<b>210</b>
<b>Total household surveys</b>	<b>442</b>

### **Fair and festivals**

United Way staff and volunteers invited fairgoers to fill out the *COMPASS II Household Survey* at United Way booths that were set up at each event. Respondents were entered into a special drawing for miscellaneous gift certificates for completing the survey. In order to avoid duplication, respondents were asked to not fill out the survey if they had already completed a survey at an earlier event.

### **Emergency assistance agencies**

Consumers were asked to fill out the *Household Survey* in the agency lobbies or waiting rooms while they waited to be seen by agency staff. All surveys were anonymous and voluntary; consumers placed completed surveys into sealed United Way envelopes and agency staff were not allowed to see the completed surveys. United Way provided all respondents with \$5 Kroger gift certificates as remuneration.

The household survey completed by emergency assistance consumers was slightly different from the surveys completed by the fair and festival and mail survey respondents. Respondents from all three samples were asked identical questions about needs and issues within their own households. Fair and mail respondents were also asked about general community issues and strengths, while emergency assistance consumers were instead given the *Agency Awareness and Satisfaction Survey*. This was done to assess awareness of and satisfaction with local social services among low-income adults, and to reduce the burden on emergency assistance sites by making the survey shorter and easier to administer.

A separate report on the results of the surveys collected at emergency assistance agencies is included in the appendix of this report.

### **Mail survey**

United Way purchased names and addresses for a random sample of Knox County residents. A total of 2,000 surveys were mailed out and 96 were returned as invalid addresses. A total of 210 respondents completed the survey, out of 1,904 valid residents, for a response rate of 11%. As remuneration, respondents were invited to enter a raffle for prizes donated by local merchants. In order to avoid duplication, respondents were asked to not fill out the survey if they had already completed the survey at a fair or festival or at an emergency assistance agency.

## ***Participant characteristics***

Table 11 displays the demographic characteristics of Knox County overall from the 2000 US Census, along with the demographic characteristics of *Household Survey* respondents. Overall, survey respondents were very similar to the overall county population in terms of race/ethnicity and households with children. Survey respondents, however, were more likely than the general population to be lower-income, older, and female. Ninety-five percent of survey respondents were White, compared to 97% of county residents. Forty-

one percent of survey respondents had a child under age 18, compared to 35% of households in the county overall. Largely due to sampling methods designed to ensure strong participation from low-income residents, lower annual incomes were much more common among survey respondents than among the overall population. Only 8% of Knox County residents had incomes below \$10,000 in the 2000 Census, compared to 22% of household survey respondents. The Census reported that 35% of Knox County households had annual incomes of \$50,000 or more in 2000, compared to only 21% of survey respondents. Youth were not actively invited to complete the Household Survey, resulting in a group of survey respondents that were generally older than the overall county population. Aside from this over-representation among adults, there was a fairly even distribution across age groups that roughly mirrors the distribution of ages in the county. Females make up 51% of Knox County's population, although 66% of survey respondents were women.

Table 11 also displays the demographic characteristics for each survey sample. Overall, the *Fair and Festival Survey* sample was the most similar to the overall Knox County population. As expected the *Emergency Assistance Consumer Survey* sample had much greater representation from low-income and very low-income residents. The mail survey captured a greater proportion of higher-income and older residents.

Table 11: Demographics of *Household Survey* respondents and Knox County residents

	US Census	All <i>Household Survey Respondents</i>	<i>Household Survey</i> Sample Sources		
	Knox County (2000)		<i>Emergency Assistance Consumers (2004-2005)</i>	<i>Fair and Festival Participants (2004)</i>	<i>Mail Survey (2005)</i>
<b>Total number</b>	Total population: 54,5000	<b>442</b>	99	133	210
<b>Annual household income</b>					
Less than \$10,000	8%	<b>22%</b>	50%	26%	5%
\$10,000 to \$24,999	22%	<b>28%</b>	41%	25%	24%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	34%	<b>29%</b>	9%	27%	40%
\$50,000 or more	36%	<b>21%</b>	0%	22%	30%
<b>Age</b>					
19 or younger	29%	<b>6%</b>	2%	8%	6%
20 to 34 years	19%	<b>23%</b>	40%	16%	19%
35-54 years	29%	<b>40%</b>	44%	45%	35%
55-64 years	10%	<b>15%</b>	10%	16%	17%
65 or more years	14%	<b>16%</b>	3%	15%	23%
<b>Household type</b>					
Household with children under age 18	35%	<b>41%</b>	63%	39%	32%
No children in household	65%	<b>59%</b>	37%	61%	68%
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	49%	<b>34%</b>	19%	30%	43%
Female	51%	<b>66%</b>	81%	71%	57%
<b>Race/ ethnicity</b>					
White	97%	<b>95%</b>	93%	95%	96%
Black or African American	1%	<b>2%</b>	2%	2%	1%
American Indian	0%	<b>3%</b>	4%	2%	2%
Other	1%	<b>1%</b>	1%	1%	1%
Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent	1%	<b>1%</b>	2%	1%	1%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey*, 2004-2005; US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Table 12 provides more detail about household type and the proportion of respondents representing single-parent families. Overall, 11% of household survey respondents reported being in a household with one adult and at least one child, and 30% were in households with two or more adults and at least one child. Fourteen percent of respondents were adults living alone.

**Table 12: Single-parent families and *Household Survey* type, by sample source**

	<b>All <i>Household Survey</i> Respondents (n=425)</b>	<b><i>Emergency Assistance Consumer Survey</i> (n=93)</b>	<b><i>Fair and Festival Survey</i> Participants (n=129)</b>	<b>Mail Survey (n=203)</b>
Household with children under age 18	41%	63%	39%	32%
<b>Single parent (1 adult with at least 1 child)</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>8%</b>
2 or more adults with at least 1 child	30%	34%	35%	24%
No children in household	59%	37%	61%	68%
1 adult living alone	14%	8%	18%	15%
2 or more adults without children	45%	29%	43%	53%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey, 2004-2005*

Table 13 displays the areas of the county represented by survey respondents. The county has been divided into four commonly-recognized regions using zip code areas. Overall, half of survey respondents (57%) were from the more heavily-populated central area of the county, with the remaining respondents distributed fairly evenly across outlying areas. As shown in Table 7 these proportions are similar to the overall county population. Although Census data are not reported by zip code area, this gives us a general understanding of how representative the household survey data are in terms of geography.

**Table 13: Residence of *Household Survey* respondents (by zip code area) (n=442)**

<b>City/Town/Village (zip code)</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Percent of respondents</b>
Mount Vernon/Gambier/Central (43050, 43022)	252	57%
Fredericktown/North/West (43019)	54	12%
Centerburg/South/West (43011)	42	10%
Danville/Howard/East (43005, 43006, 43014, 43028, 43037)	78	18%
Other	16	4%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey, 2004-2005*

## Local strengths

The *Compass II Household Survey* begins by asking respondents about community strengths. Respondents were asked to rate several indicators of community togetherness on a four-point scale: 1= “strongly agree,” 2= “somewhat agree,” 3= “somewhat disagree,” and 4= “strongly disagree.” About one-third of respondents (35%) “strongly agreed” that “people and groups in your town/area come together to help each other out when they have a problem” (see Table 14). There was much less support for the notion that “people who are different from one another participate together in neighborhood activities;” only 16% “strongly agreed” with that statement.

**Table 14: Community togetherness** (“in the part of Knox County where you live”) (n=313-326)

Local strength (in rank order, starting with biggest strength) Note: lower average score indicates more community togetherness	Average rating	1 Strongly Agree	2 Somewhat Agree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Strongly Disagree
People and groups in your town/area come together to help each other out when they have a problem.	1.9	35%	43%	17%	6%
People in your town/area gather together formally and informally (for example at picnics or meetings).	2.1	26%	48%	19%	7%
People in your town/area come together to work on common goals.	2.2	19%	53%	19%	9%
People in your town/area trust each other.	2.4	13%	52%	23%	13%
People in your town/area consider the same things important.	2.4	11%	54%	25%	11%
People who are different from one another (e.g., young and old, established residents and newcomers, different races) participate together in neighborhood activities.	2.5	16%	37%	32%	15%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey, 2004-2005*, mail and fair/festival samples

Table 15 shows the indicators of community togetherness broken out by region. No strong patterns emerged, indicating fairly similar levels of community togetherness across the different regions. Overall, the Danville/Howard/East showed slightly higher levels of community togetherness for several items, while ratings for the Centerburg and Fredericktown areas were more mixed. With the exception of how much people trust each other, the Mount Vernon area enjoyed relatively high togetherness ratings.

**Table 15: Community togetherness, by region** ("in the part of Knox County where you live")

Local strength	Mount Vernon/ Gambier/ Central (n=186)		Fredericktown/ North/West (n=35)		Centerburg/ South/West (n=24)		Danville/ Howard/ East (n=58)	
	Ave. score	% Strongly agree	Ave. score	% Strongly agree	Ave. score	% Strongly agree	Ave. score	% Strongly agree
Note: lower average score indicates more community togetherness								
People and groups in your town/area come together to help each other out when they have a problem.	1.9	36%	2.1	35%	1.9	35%	2.0	25%
People in your town/area gather together formally and informally (for example at picnics or meetings).	2.1	26%	2.1	14%	2.2	17%	2.0	33%
People in your town/area come together to work on common goals.	2.2	25%	2.1	19%	2.3	19%	2.2	22%
People in your town/area trust each other.	2.4	11%	2.4	14%	2.2	12%	2.2	14%
People in your town/area consider the same things important.	2.4	11%	2.5	5%	2.2	8%	2.3	13%
People who are different from one another (e.g., young and old, established residents and newcomers, different races) participate together in neighborhood activities.	2.4	15%	2.5	12%	2.6	12%	2.5	22%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey*, 2004-2005, mail and fair/festival samples

Half of the *Household Survey* respondents (52%) said they regularly do volunteer work in their town/area. This is much higher than the national average. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2004-2005 28.8% of Americans said they had volunteered at least once during the past year (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm>). Among Knox County survey respondents who said they volunteer, religious groups (19%), children or youth activities (14%), and school activities (13%) were the most common types of volunteer involvement (see Table 16). Almost half of these volunteers (46%) reported that they volunteered on three or more days during the past month. Twenty-nine percent said they volunteered one or two days, and 25% did not actually volunteer at all during the past month.

**Table 16: Types of volunteer activity**

“Which of the following do you volunteer for?”	Number “yes”	Percent “yes”
Religious group	95	19%
Children or youth activities	72	14%
School	65	13%
Other group	47	9%
Group that works with lower-income, elders, or the homeless	36	7%
Sports group	35	7%
Human service organization	32	6%
Civic group, such as Kiwanis	29	6%
Hospital or health group	26	5%
Neighborhood group	22	4%
Political group or candidate	17	3%
Environmental group	17	3%
Cultural group (music group or museum)	11	2%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey, 2004-2005, mail and fair/festival samples*

Most respondents felt they had “some opportunity” (39%) or “little opportunity” (38%) “to impact how things happen in your town/area” (see Table 17). Eighty-one percent said they “vote in most elections.”

**Table 17: Opportunity for community impact (n=318)**

“How much opportunity do you have to impact how things happen in your town/area?”	Number	Percent
Much opportunity	30	9%
Some opportunity	131	39%
Little opportunity	126	38%
No opportunity	49	15%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey, 2004-2005, mail and fair/festival samples*

### **Household concerns**

In order to identify their highest priority concerns, respondents were asked to rate several issues that may have affected them or someone in their household over the past 12 months on a four-point scale (1= “not an issue,” 2= “minor issue,” 3= “moderate issue,” 4= “major issue”). Table 18 displays these results in rank order, starting with the problems respondents identified as their household’s most significant issues. The most significant household problems fell into the following categories:

- Anxiety, stress, and depression
- Health care affordability and insurance
- Jobs (benefits, underemployment, unemployment, and training)
- Not having enough money for basic needs
- Lack of recreational activities and affordable entertainment
- Unsafe driving habits
- Obesity

Over one-third of respondents (37%) said “having a lot of anxiety, stress, and depression” was a “major issue” for them or someone in their household during the past 12 months. Not having enough money for medical care (doctor, prescriptions, insurance) and “having a job that doesn’t provide benefits” were the next two most significant issues. Similarly, “not being able to find work” and “not having education or training for a decent paying job” were also rated as “major issues” by 20% or more of respondents. Not having enough money for clothing, food, legal help, emergency needs, and housing were also cited by 20% or more of respondents as “major issues.” Many were also very concerned about the lack of affordable and accessible recreational activities and entertainment, and activities for children and teens. Unsafe driving habits and being overweight or obese also made the list of top concerns.

When recounting problems within their own households, respondents reported comparatively less concern with issues related to crime, safety, and domestic violence; fewer than 10% of respondents rated “children being unsafe in school,” “experiencing physical conflict in the household,” “experiencing household crime,” “observing gang activity,” or “experiencing sexual assault or rape” as major problems.

**Table 18: Household concerns** (n=387-428) (“Have any of the following been a challenge or an issue for you or anyone in your household over the past 12 months?”)

<b>Household issue</b> (in rank order, starting with biggest concern)	<b>Average Rating</b>	<b>1 Not an Issue</b>	<b>2 Minor Issue</b>	<b>3 Moderate Issue</b>	<b>4 Major Issue</b>
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	2.8	21%	17%	25%	37%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	2.7	31%	11%	18%	40%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	2.4	43%	10%	12%	35%
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	2.4	38%	15%	22%	26%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	2.4	36%	17%	22%	26%
Finding it difficult to budget	2.4	30%	23%	22%	25%
Observing unsafe driving habits	2.4	32%	20%	24%	25%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	2.3	37%	17%	21%	25%
Not having enough money for food	2.3	41%	15%	20%	24%
Being overweight or obese	2.3	39%	16%	21%	24%
Not being able to find work	2.2	48%	11%	12%	29%
Not being able to afford legal help	2.2	46%	17%	13%	24%
Lack of activities for school-aged children and teens	2.2	45%	16%	18%	21%
Lack of recreational activities that are accessible	2.2	40%	20%	22%	20%
Not having the financial resources for emergency needs (housing, food, transportation, etc.)	2.1	48%	12%	18%	22%
Not having enough money to pay for housing	2.1	49%	13%	18%	21%
Not having education or training for a decent paying job	2.1	45%	17%	18%	20%
Not knowing how to access services or information in Knox County	1.9	48%	25%	19%	8%
Children not receiving quality instruction in the classroom	1.8	57%	19%	13%	11%
Not being able to get care for a person with a disability or serious illness, or for an elder	1.8	61%	12%	10%	17%
Not being able to afford public transportation	1.8	65%	10%	10%	15%
Living in housing that needs major repair	1.8	58%	17%	11%	14%

Household issue continued	Average Rating	1 Not an Issue	2 Minor Issue	3 Moderate Issue	4 Major Issue
Not being able to find before or after school care, or summer care, for school-aged children	1.8	63%	12%	11%	14%
Not being able to use public transportation to get to a job or appointment on time	1.8	64%	11%	12%	14%
Experiencing air or water pollution	1.8	56%	22%	12%	11%
Not having enough preserved green space for use	1.8	57%	21%	12%	11%
Experiencing an alcohol and/or drug issue	1.8	64%	11%	11%	14%
Not being able to find transportation for a medical appointment outside of Knox County	1.7	66%	9%	12%	14%
Not being able to find or afford childcare for ages 0-5	1.7	67%	9%	11%	13%
Children being unsafe at school	1.6	66%	16%	10%	8%
Not having enough room in your house for all the people who live there	1.6	73%	8%	9%	10%
Not being able to find transportation for a person with a disability or an elder	1.6	70%	11%	10%	10%
Not being able to find a crisis intervention resource (suicide, family violence, neglect, alcohol and drug emergencies, etc.)	1.6	70%	12%	8%	10%
Experiencing physical conflict in the household	1.5	72%	9%	11%	8%
Difficulty in reading well enough to get along	1.5	71%	11%	12%	7%
Experiencing household crime	1.5	73%	12%	9%	6%
Observing gang activity	1.5	69%	15%	11%	6%
Experiencing sexual assault/rape	1.4	81%	7%	7%	7%
Experiencing racial or ethnic discrimination	1.4	79%	9%	7%	5%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

### Household concerns, by presence of children in the home

Tables 19 and 20 display the top five concerns for respondents with children and without children in their households. Overall, there were very few differences between these two groups. Those with children, however, were more concerned about activities; 30% rated “lack of activities for school-aged children and teens” as a “major issue” and 25% rated “lack of recreational activities that are accessible” as a “major issue.”

**Table 19: Top five household concerns for respondents *with* children (under age 18 living in their household) (n=173)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item "major issue"
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	1	3.0	43%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	2	2.7	43%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	2	2.7	34%
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	2	2.7	34%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	2	2.7	32%
Finding it difficult to budget	3	2.6	27%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	4	2.5	39%
Lack of activities for school-aged children and teens	4	2.5	30%
Lack of recreational activities that are accessible	4	2.5	25%
Not being able to find work	5	2.4	34%
Not having enough money for food	5	2.4	27%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

**Table 20: Top five household concerns for respondents in households *without* children (n=252)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item "major issue"
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	1	2.6	38%
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	1	2.6	32%
Observing unsafe driving habits	1	2.6	29%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	2	2.4	34%
Finding it difficult to budget	3	2.3	22%
Being overweight or obese	3	2.3	21%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	4	2.2	22%
Not being able to find work	5	2.1	24%
Not having enough money for food	5	2.1	22%
Not being able to afford legal help	5	2.1	21%
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	5	2.1	20%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	5	2.1	18%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples  
Knox County Community Assessment 2004-2005

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### Household concerns, by age

Tables 21 and 22 display the top five concerns for younger respondents (18-34 years old), and older respondents (65 and older). Overall, younger respondents were more likely to rate items as a “major issue” than were their older counterparts. Both groups were concerned about anxiety, stress, and depression; not having enough money for medical care; finding it difficult to budget; having a job that doesn’t provide benefits; and not being able to afford entertainment activities. Several issues related to caring for the disabled or elderly and access to transportation were of much greater concern to the older group; 19% said “not being able to get care for a person with a disability or illness or for an elder” was a “major problem;” 17% said “not being able to find transportation for a medical appointment outside Knox County” was a “major problem;” and, 16% said “not being able to find transportation for a person with a disability or an elder was a “major problem.”

**Table 21: Top five household concerns for respondents age 18 to 34 years old (n=125)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item “major issue”
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	1	3.0	44%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	2	2.9	37%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	3	2.8	44%
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	3	2.8	40%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	3	2.8	33%
Finding it difficult to budget	4	2.7	35%
Having a job that doesn’t provide benefits	5	2.6	41%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

**Table 22: Top five household concerns for respondents age 65 and older (n=72)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item "major issue"
Observing unsafe driving habits	1	2.7	29%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	2	2.4	34%
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	2	2.4	24%
Being overweight or obese	3	2.1	17%
Not having enough preserved green space	4	2.0	17%
Finding it difficult to budget	4	2.0	12%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	5	1.9	21%
Not being able to get care for a person with a disability or serious illness, or for an elder	5	1.9	18%
Not being able to find transportation for a medical appointment outside of Knox County	5	1.9	17%
Children not receiving quality instruction in the classroom	5	1.9	17%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	5	1.9	17%
Not having enough training or education for a decent job	5	1.9	16%
Not being able to afford legal help	5	1.9	16%
Not being able to find transportation for a person with a disability or an elder	5	1.9	16%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

### Household concerns, by income

Tables 23 and 24 display the top five household concerns for lower-income respondents and middle and upper-income respondents. Overall, lower-income respondents were much more likely than their higher-income counterparts to rate items as a "major issue." Four issues appear in both tables: "not having enough money to pay the doctor," "having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression," "having a job that doesn't provide benefits," and "finding it difficult to budget." Lower-income respondents were also very concerned about not being able to afford clothing, food, and activities. Middle and higher-income respondents, on the other hand, were concerned about unsafe driving habits, obesity, and lack of activities.

**Table 23: Top five household concerns for lower-income respondents (annual household incomes under \$25,000) (n=207)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item "major issue"
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	1	3.2	57%
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	2	3.1	50%
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	3	2.9	44%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	3	2.9	41%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	4	2.8	47%
Finding it difficult to budget	4	2.8	38%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	4	2.8	37%
Not having enough money for food	4	2.8	36%
Not being able to find work	5	2.7	44%

Source: COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005, all samples

**Table 24: Top five household concerns for middle and upper-income respondents (annual household incomes of \$50,000 or higher) (n=87)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item "major issue"
Observing unsafe driving habits	1	2.2	19%
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	2	2.1	13%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	3	1.9	15%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	4	1.8	14%
Being overweight or obese	4	1.8	13%
Lack of activities for school-aged children and teens	4	1.8	13%
Lack of recreational activities that are accessible	4	1.8	12%
Finding it difficult to budget	5	1.7	4%

Source: COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005, all samples

### Household concerns, by region

Tables 25 through 28 display the top-five rated household concerns for each region. Overall there was a great deal of overlap; residents in different parts of the county tended to select the same types of issues as top-priority concerns. For example, "having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression" and "not having enough money for to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or medical insurance" were rated as the top two or three concerns in all four regions. Respondents from the Mount Vernon/Gambier/Central and Knox County Community Assessment 2004-2005

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Danville/Howard/East regions were more concerned about unsafe driving habits, while Centerburg/South/West residents were the least concerned about unsafe driving conditions; 27% of Mount Vernon/Gambier/Central respondents described driving habits as a “major issue,” compared to 10% of Centerburg/South/West respondents.

**Table 25: Top 5 household concerns for Mount Vernon/Gambier/Central residents (n=252)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item “major issue”
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	1	2.7	37%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	2	2.6	38%
Observing unsafe driving habits	3	2.5	27%
Finding it difficult to budget	4	2.4	24%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	5	2.3	32%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	5	2.3	26%
Not having enough money for food	5	2.3	23%
Being overweight or obese	5	2.3	25%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	5	2.3	25%
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	5	2.3	24%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

**Table 26: Top 5 household concerns for Fredericktown/North/West residents (n=54)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item “major issue”
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	1	2.9	48%
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	2	2.8	31%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	3	2.6	37%
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	3	2.6	31%
Finding it difficult to budget	4	2.5	26%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	4	2.5	25%
Not being able to find work	5	2.4	30%
Not having enough money for food	5	2.4	25%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

**Table 27: Top 5 household concerns for Centerburg/South/West residents (n=42)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item "major issue"
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	1	2.9	40%
Finding it difficult to budget	2	2.8	37%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	3	2.7	38%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	4	2.6	35%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	4	2.6	35%
Being overweight or obese	5	2.5	25%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

**Table 28: Top 5 household concerns for Danville/Howard/East residents (n=78)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item "major issue"
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	1	2.8	34%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	2	2.7	40%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	3	2.5	41%
Observing unsafe driving habits	3	2.5	24%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	4	2.4	26%
Not being able to find work	5	2.2	28%
Not having enough money for food	5	2.2	23%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	5	2.2	21%
Being overweight or obese	5	2.2	21%
Lack of recreational activities that are accessible	5	2.2	20%
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	5	2.2	20%
Finding it difficult to budget	5	2.2	19%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

### Household concerns, by sex

Overall, men and women expressed similar concerns. As shown in Tables 29 and 30, there was a great deal of overlap in their top five household problems. Women were more concerned than men about having enough money for clothing, shoes, and food, possibly reflecting their roles as mothers and heads of single-parent households.

**Table 29: Top 5 household concerns for men (n=143)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item "major issue"
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	1	2.7	30%
Observing unsafe driving habits	1	2.7	29%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	2	2.6	36%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	3	2.5	41%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	4	2.2	23%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	4	2.2	22%
Finding it difficult to budget	4	2.2	19%
Being overweight or obese	4	2.2	18%
Not being able to find work	5	2.1	26%
Lack of recreational activities that are accessible	5	2.1	15%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

**Table 30: Top 5 household concerns for women (n=273)**

Issue	Rank	Average rating	Percent of respondents rating item "major issue"
Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression	1	2.8	39%
Not having enough money to pay the doctor, buy prescription medications, or get medical insurance	2	2.7	41%
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes	3	2.5	30%
Not having enough money for food	4	2.4	28%
Finding it difficult to budget	4	2.4	26%
Not being able to afford entertainment activities (music, movies, etc.)	4	2.4	26%
Not being able to afford recreational activities	4	2.4	24%
Having a job that doesn't provide benefits	5	2.3	31%
Being overweight or obese	5	2.3	26%
Observing unsafe driving habits	5	2.3	23%

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey 2004-2005*, all samples

## Community issues

In addition to rating the significance of several issues within their own households, the *COMPASS II Household Survey* asked respondents to rate the importance of a similar list of issues for people in their overall community, specifically their own town or area of the county. The most significant community problems perceived by respondents for their area of the county fell into the following categories:

- Jobs (wages, benefits, unemployment, and training)
- Health care affordability and insurance
- Obesity
- Teen pregnancy
- Substance abuse and mental health
- Lack of child care and activities
- Unsafe driving habits and poor road conditions
- Shortage of affordable housing and substandard housing
- Family violence and abuse of children or adults

Three related issues garnered the strongest reaction from respondents: 66% rated “lack of jobs that provide decent wages” as a “major issue,” 65% rated “lack of jobs that provide a benefits package” as a “major issue,” and 60% rated “lack of affordable medical insurance” as a “major issue.” Health and social issues were also considered to be significant issues; one-third or more of respondents rated obesity, teen pregnancy, alcohol and/or drug abuse, and mental illness as “major problems.”

Towards the bottom of the list, more than half of respondents rated “lack of green space preservation” or “water or air pollution” as “not an issue” or a “minor issue,” indicating relative satisfaction with the condition of the environment. Safety problems (“unsafe school environment” and “gang activity”) and lack of community resources for emergencies and crises were also seen as lower-priority issues.

**Table 31: Perceived community concerns (n=276-327)** (“Here is a list of common issues. For each one, please describe whether you believe it is not an issue, is a minor issue, is a moderate issue, is a major issue, or you don’t have an opinion regarding challenges and issues people in your town/area face.”)

Community issue (in rank order, starting with biggest concern)	Average Rating	1 Not an Issue	2 Minor Issue	3 Moderate Issue	4 Major Issue
Lack of jobs that provide decent wages	3.5	4%	9%	21%	66%
Lack of jobs that provide a benefits package	3.5	4%	7%	25%	65%
Lack of affordable medical care	3.4	6%	9%	26%	60%
Obesity	3.2	5%	16%	35%	45%
Teen pregnancy	3.2	5%	14%	40%	41%
Unemployment	3.1	8%	13%	39%	41%
Alcohol and/or drug abuse	3.1	10%	14%	36%	41%
Shortage of affordable housing	3.0	10%	18%	35%	37%

Table 31 continued	Average Rating	1 Not an Issue	2 Minor Issue	3 Moderate Issue	4 Major Issue
Community issue					
Unsafe driving habits	3.0	6%	22%	36%	37%
Lack of activities for school-age children and teens	2.9	12%	20%	29%	39%
Lack of education and training for jobs that pay well	2.9	14%	21%	28%	38%
Mental illness, emotional issues, or suicide	2.9	10%	22%	34%	35%
Poor road and/or traffic conditions	2.9	10%	25%	32%	32%
Lack of before or after-school care, or summer care, for school-aged children	2.8	14%	20%	35%	32%
Family violence, abuse of children or adults	2.8	11%	27%	34%	28%
Lack of affordable childcare for children 0-5 years of age	2.8	15%	23%	34%	28%
Substandard housing	2.7	13%	29%	31%	27%
Crime	2.7	13%	32%	30%	24%
Shortage of recreational facilities (swimming pools, etc.)	2.6	20%	21%	34%	25%
Lack of cultural activities (concerts, museums, etc.)	2.6	16%	28%	31%	24%
Illiteracy	2.6	13%	33%	33%	22%
Sexual assault/rape	2.5	23%	31%	26%	21%
Quality instruction in the classroom	2.5	22%	28%	30%	20%
Lack of a place to contact for information about area services	2.5	21%	28%	32%	19%
Overcrowded housing	2.4	25%	33%	22%	21%
Racial or ethnic discrimination	2.4	26%	28%	29%	18%
Gang activity	2.4	25%	30%	28%	17%
Inadequate public transportation	2.4	24%	34%	26%	17%
Lack of community resources for emergency needs (housing, food assistance, transportation, etc.)	2.4	24%	31%	28%	16%
Lack of community resources for crisis intervention (suicide, family violence, neglect, alcohol and drug emergencies, etc.)	2.4	25%	30%	29%	16%
Lack of green space preservation	2.3	32%	26%	20%	22%
Water or air pollution	2.3	28%	31%	24%	18%
Unsafe school environment	2.2	27%	36%	25%	13%

"Other" concerns written in by two or more respondents: need quality child care (2), need homeless shelter, (2) need family counseling and mental health care (2), and excessive taxes/tax break for retired (2).

Source: *COMPASS Household Survey, 2004-2005*, mail and fair/festival samples