

QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

SUMMARY REPORT

FALL 2015

SKAGIT COUNTY POPULATION HEALTH TRUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Acknowledgements

This report is part of a Community Health Assessment process supported by the Population Health Trust Advisory Committee which serves in an advisory role to the County's Board of Health. The Board of Health is represented by Commissioner Kenneth Dahlstedt, Commissioner Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki.

The Trust volunteers are committed to improving health for all Skagit people and making recommendations to the Board of Health about emerging issues. Members represent diverse community sectors and perspectives and are in service to the community.

For more information about The Population Health Trust Advisory Committee please visit <http://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PHTAC>

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Description of the Survey and Analysis

Survey Purpose

The Skagit County *Quality of Life Survey* was conducted as part of a broad community health assessment process for Skagit County, Washington.

The specific purpose of this survey was to capture perspectives on health challenges and perceived solutions from diverse individual members of the community. This information will complement other sources of information on community-wide population demographics and health status, as well as information from community leaders about opportunities for action to improve community health.

Survey Implementation

The survey was modified from a proven Kitsap County survey, with additional ideas gleaned from Snohomish, Spokane and Benton-Franklin County surveys. It was further edited and modified by Skagit County Health Department staff in collaboration with a Population Health Trust Stakeholder group. The final instrument had 40 questions, including many with multiple response options or sub-parts. All but one response to this survey were quantitative.

This survey was available through a “SurveyMonkey” online survey program, and also as a printed paper survey. The printed version was translated into Spanish and distribution was led by Community Action in collaboration Sea Mar Community Health Centers.

The goal for recruitment was to obtain at least 750 surveys. To meet this goal, promotional activities included:

- A week long announcement was placed in the Skagit Valley Herald
- Posters and promotional office tents were sent to community organizations and libraries weeks prior to announcing the upcoming release
- All Population Health Trust members sent email announcements to their constituents several weeks prior to the survey
- The survey was posted on the County website and social media, and
- Several organizations re-posted on their websites

Promotional activities reached an estimated:

- More than 6,000 people by email
- More than 2,000 people through social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- More than 650 through meetings or in public settings
- More than 460 people through face-to-face distribution of paper copies (especially among disadvantaged populations)

The survey was promoted and data collected between June 21 and July 10, 2015. A total of 1,513 people participated.

Methods for Analysis

The prevalence of different response options was reported throughout the report as percentages. These were done overall and by subgroups. A minimum of 50 respondents was required to report any results, to improve stability of estimates. When subgroups had fewer than 50 respondents, percentages were not reported and are noted with an “*” throughout the report.

Chi-square tests were used to determine whether subgroups were significantly different from one another. Results were considered statistically significant if they reached the 95% confidence level ($p\text{-value} < .05$). Data are interpreted in tables with the following symbols:

- indicates there are statistically significant differences that are “more positive” versus comparison groups (when measures have a desirable direction)
- ◐ indicates not significantly different from comparison groups (sometimes when groups are small, measured differences may be large but this symbol indicates they are not statistically significant in difference from the comparison group).
- indicates statistically significant differences that are “more negative” versus comparison groups (when measures have a desirable direction)

Groups were compared using a generally dichotomous approach as follows:

- Females and males were compared to each other
- Young adults (ages 18-29) were compared to other age groups overall (people 30 and older)
- Elders (ages 60+) were compared to other age groups overall (people under 60)
- The “Working Well” and “Struggling Families” defined groups were each compared with all other respondents (those not falling into the group, see first section of report for group definitions)
- Each race/ethnic group was compared to the remaining people in the group (e.g., Tribal community members were compared to all non-Tribal community members, Latinos were compared to non-Latinos, and whites were compared to non-whites)
- Skagit County Commissioner Districts were compared to each other (1 vs. 2, 1 vs. 3, and 2 vs. 3). Because this is a three-way comparison there are some footnotes for tables that describe which specifically were significant differences.

Limitations

The results presented in this report are intended to contribute to a process of understanding the health and factors affecting health of people in Skagit County. The results should be considered as valuable contributions from a large set of people, but they may not apply to the entire community population or subgroups.

Every effort was made to support participation by large numbers of diverse community members, so that a variety of perspectives were included that would otherwise be absent (because it is not feasible for all community members to participate in the community assessment process). Because data were gathered using a convenience sample approach, rather than as the result of formal statistical sampling and study procedures, they are not generalizable to the entire community. Information from other sources such as the Census, Vital Statistics and public health surveillance system should be considered more reliable for describing overall characteristics of the Skagit County community.

More detail about the characteristics of survey participants is included as an Appendix in this report. This information is intended to help readers consider how results might be affected by participation patterns. Notably, participation was disproportionately higher among women and employed/well-educated community members (the “Working Well”). Readers should consider these influences when reviewing and interpreting results.

The People

Who participated in the survey?

- A total of 1,513 people participated in the survey
- As is typical for health assessments, more women than men participated (72% women, 26% men)
- Age groups were well-represented
 - 18% were adults under 29
 - 23% were 30-39
 - 17% were 40-49
 - 22% were 50-59
 - 20% were 60 or better
- Most had lived in the Skagit County area for a long time
 - 70% for 10 years or more
 - 5% for less than a year

- One-third had school-aged children in the home (34%)
- Most had at least some college education (75%) and most are employed (75%)
- Most were white non-Hispanic (76%)
- Many were classified as “living in poverty”¹ (37%)
- Most took the survey online (72%) but many took a paper version of the survey (28%)

How do we use this information in terms of community planning?

We used this information to create some demographic “profiles” of key community groups. These profiles represent combinations of characteristics that may influence awareness, access or perceptions of different health-related factors.

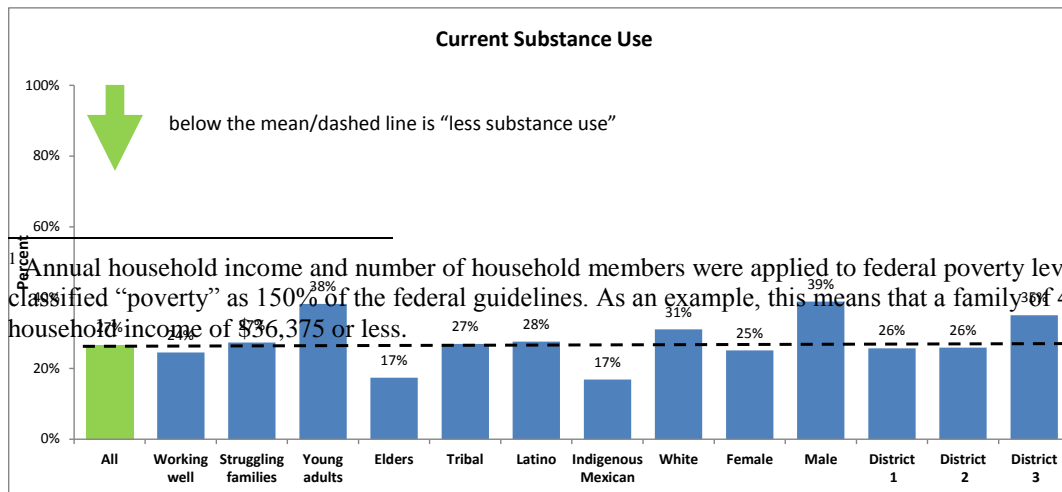
Readers should recall the dichotomous nature of these comparisons in the report: sometimes an estimate may be marked with the symbol for “more positive” or “more negative” despite not looking very different from that overall average. This is because the symbols indicate difference from the comparison group.

- **Working Well** - 43% (523) are employed, have some college education, have medical insurance and an income of \$50,000 or more per year
- **Struggling Families** – 11% (143) have school-aged children in the home, are below the poverty threshold,¹ and said they were unable to access essentials at least sometime during the past year (food, clothes, housing or medication)
- **Young Adults** – 18% (233) are under 30
- **Elders** – 20% (253) are ages 60 or better
- **Tribal community members** – 4% (52) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, alone or in combination with another race
- **Latinos** – 6% (69) said they were Hispanic, but not Indigenous Mexican
- **Indigenous Mexicans** – 10% (119) said they were Indigenous Mexicans, not Hispanics – from Mexico and may speak an indigenous language instead of Spanish
- **Skagit County Commissioner Districts 1,2,3** – 21% said they were from District 1 (Anacortes, Fidalgo Island, La Conner, Bayview, Bow, Edison, and north to the Whatcom County line), 45% from District 2 (Mount Vernon, Conway, and south to the Snohomish County line), and 34% from District 3 (Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, and all of eastern Skagit County).

Detailed descriptions and numbers of people within these groups are included in the Appendix.

What do we know about their General Health?

Our community groups reported different experiences with common life challenges that can affect health: Current substance use, Current mental health struggles, and Extreme stress. Notably, although some groups may say they have fewer challenges (such as the Working Well), they represent a large portion of the total population and consequently are important to consider in community planning.



Annual household income and number of household members were applied to federal poverty level guidelines. We classified “poverty” as 150% of the federal guidelines. As an example, this means that a family of 4 people has an annual household income of \$36,375 or less.

Natural Environment

When asked to identify the top three changes they would make to improve health and well-being in Skagit County:

- About 6% of respondents selected “healthier environment (air, water).”

The survey included a question about the top five biggest personal/family day-to-day challenges.

- About 6% of respondents selected “pollution.”

To see how these challenges and changes rank among other topics, see page 30.

Living Environment

Secondhand Smoke Exposure

Respondents reported that cigarette smoking occurs sometimes, often or always in the following locations.

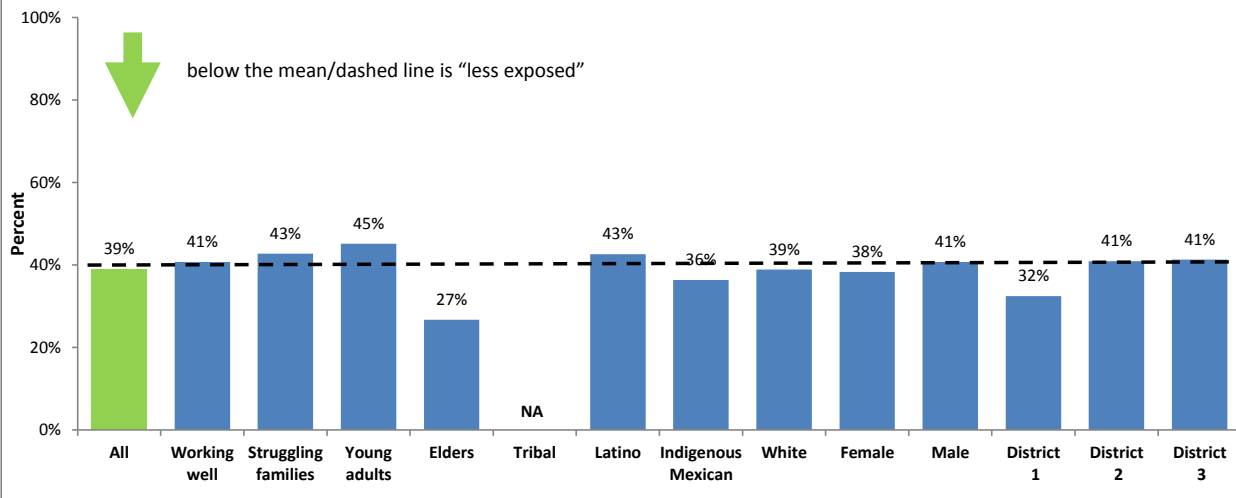
Our community groups reported different levels of exposure to secondhand smoke by location.

○ = less exposure vs. comparison group ◐ = similar ● = more exposure vs. comparison group	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
In places where they or their family is active	40%	○	○	◐	○	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	●	●
In areas around their work	39%	◐	◐	◐	○	*	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	○	●	●
In areas around their home	32%	○	●	●	○	◐	◐	◐	○	◐	◐	○	○	●
Inside their vehicles	11%	○	◐	●	○	*	◐	○	●	◐	◐	○	○	●
Inside their home	9%	○	◐	●	○	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	●	●	○	●

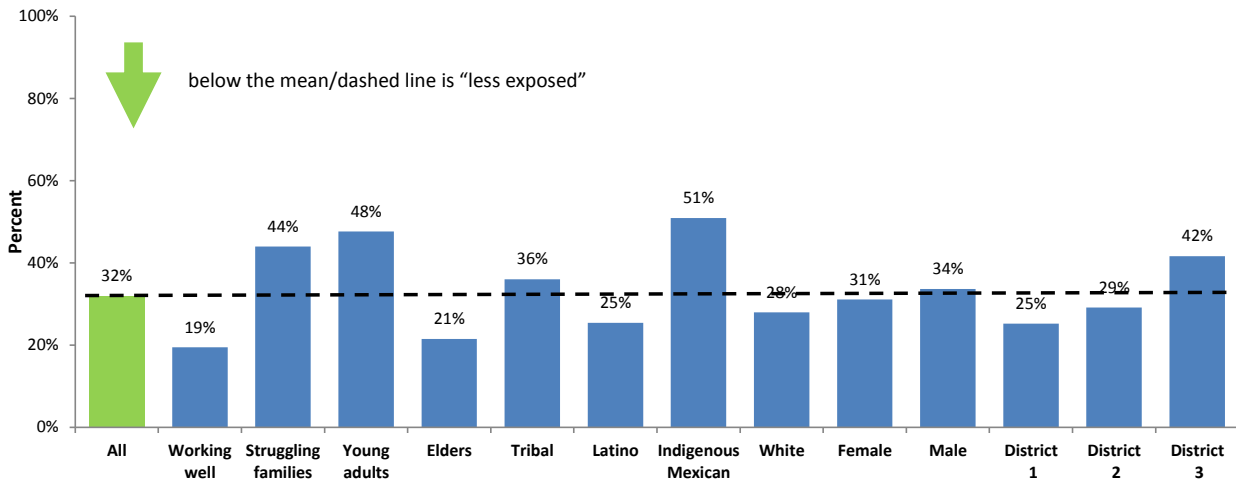
*NA – results were suppressed due to small numbers, there were fewer than 50 participants.

Among non-tobacco using participants, being exposed to cigarette smoking in their homes (3%) and vehicles (2%) was very low. Among non-tobacco users, being exposed in other areas was also somewhat lower: about 36% in places where active, about 34% in areas around work, and about 23% in areas around home.

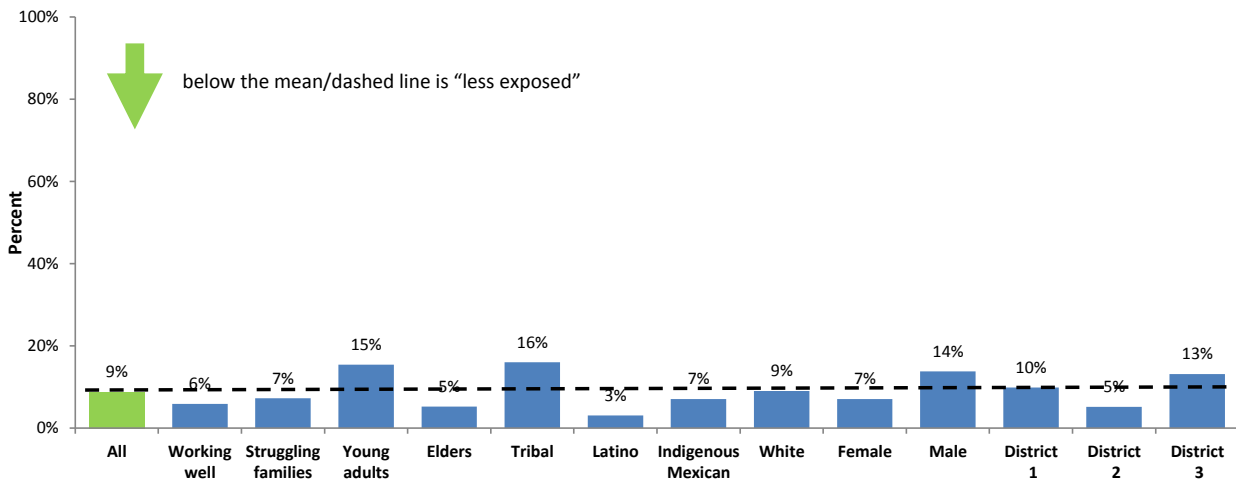
Exposure to Secondhand Smoke In Places around Family Activities



Exposure to Secondhand Smoke In Places around the Home



Exposure to Secondhand Smoke in the Home



Access to Physical Activity Opportunities

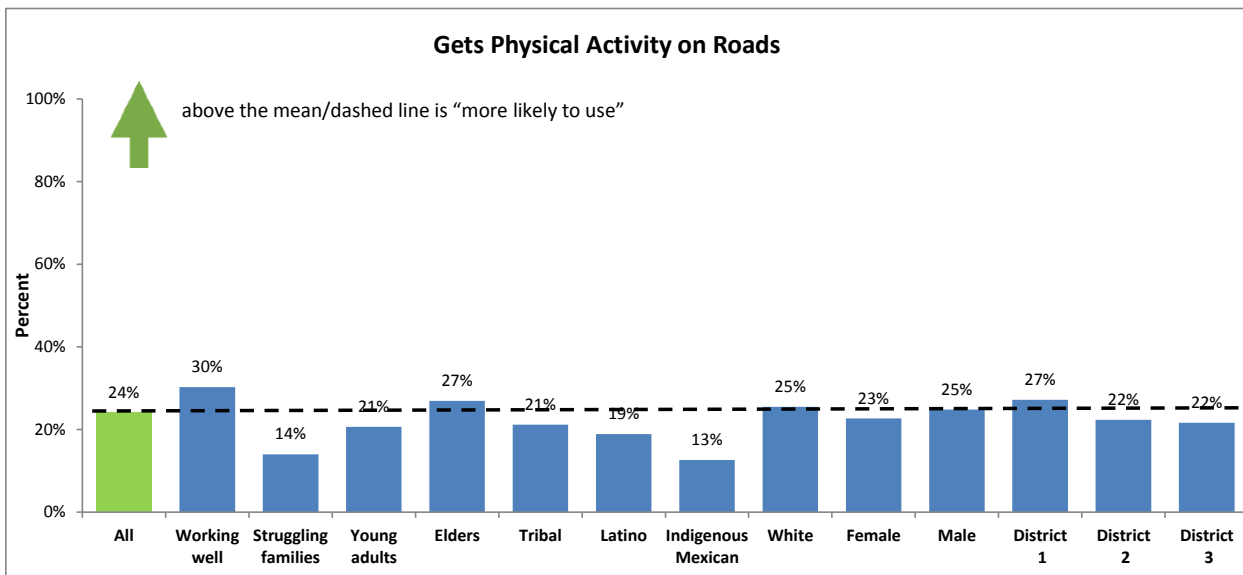
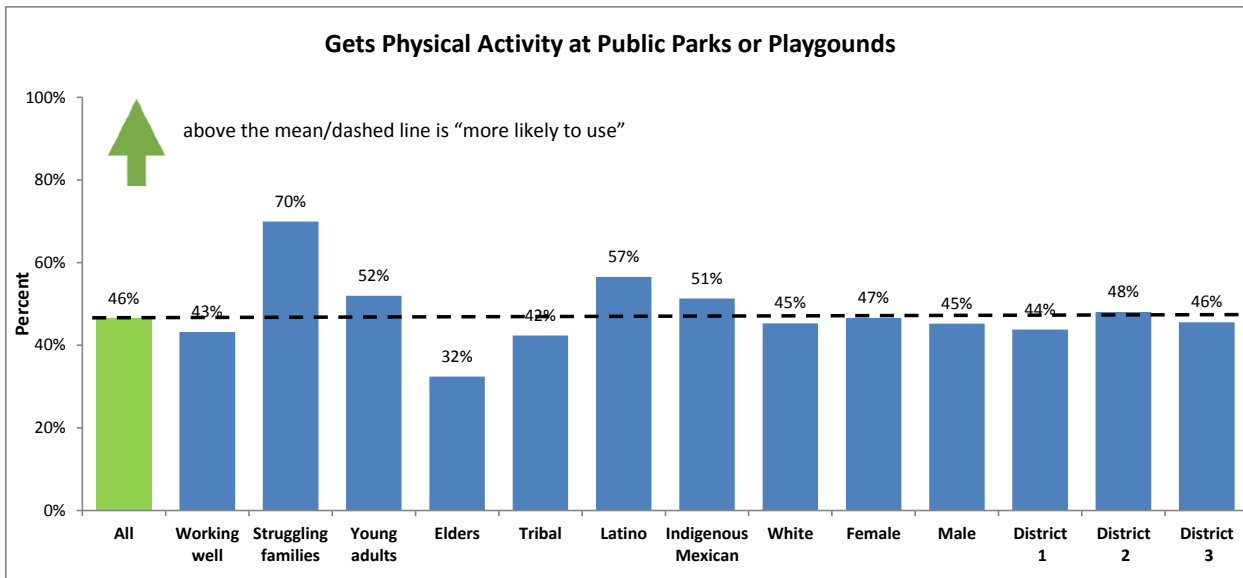
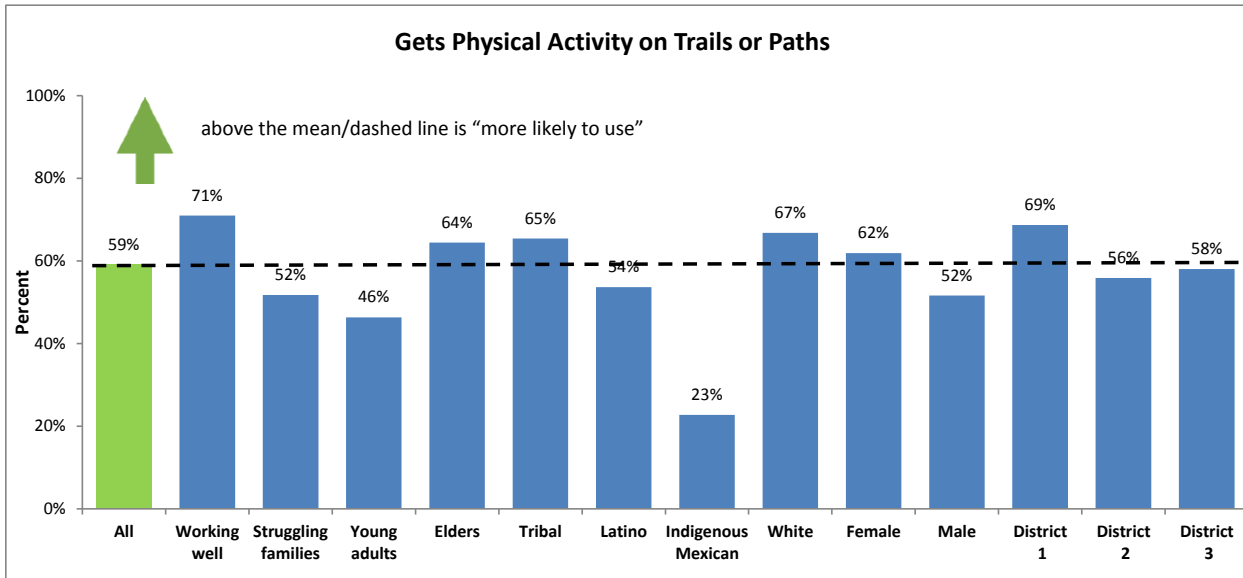
Locations for Physical Activity

Respondents reported that they and their families go to the following locations to get physical activity.

Community groups reported differences in the locations for getting physical activity.

	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
○ = More likely to use for physical activity vs. comparison group														
◐ = similar														
● = Less likely to use for physical activity vs. comparison group														
At home, outside	63%	○	●	●	○	◐	●	●	○	○	●	○	●	○
Trails or paths	59%	○	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	●	○	○	●	○	●	●
Public parks/playgrounds	46%	◐	○	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
At home, inside	32%	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	○	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
A paid gym or class membership (e.g., YMCA)	25%	○	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	○	◐	◐	○	○	●
Roads	24%	○	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	○	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
Schools: playgrounds, courts, gyms	22%	○	○	◐	●	◐	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	●	●	○
Physical activity break/fitness room at work (among employed)	9%	◐	●	◐	◐	*	◐	◐	◐	●	○	○	●	◐
Recreation facilities/classes	9%	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	○	◐	◐	○	●	◐
Free community group or church activities	6%	◐	○	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐

*NA – results were suppressed due to small numbers, there were fewer than 50 participants who answered this question.



Promotion of Physical Activity

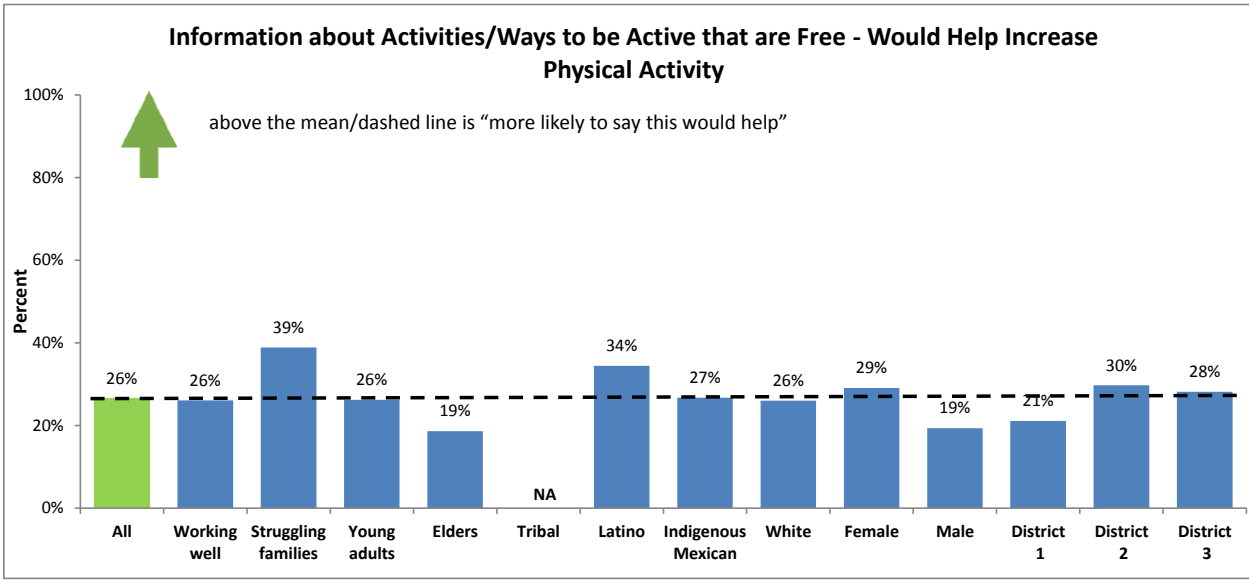
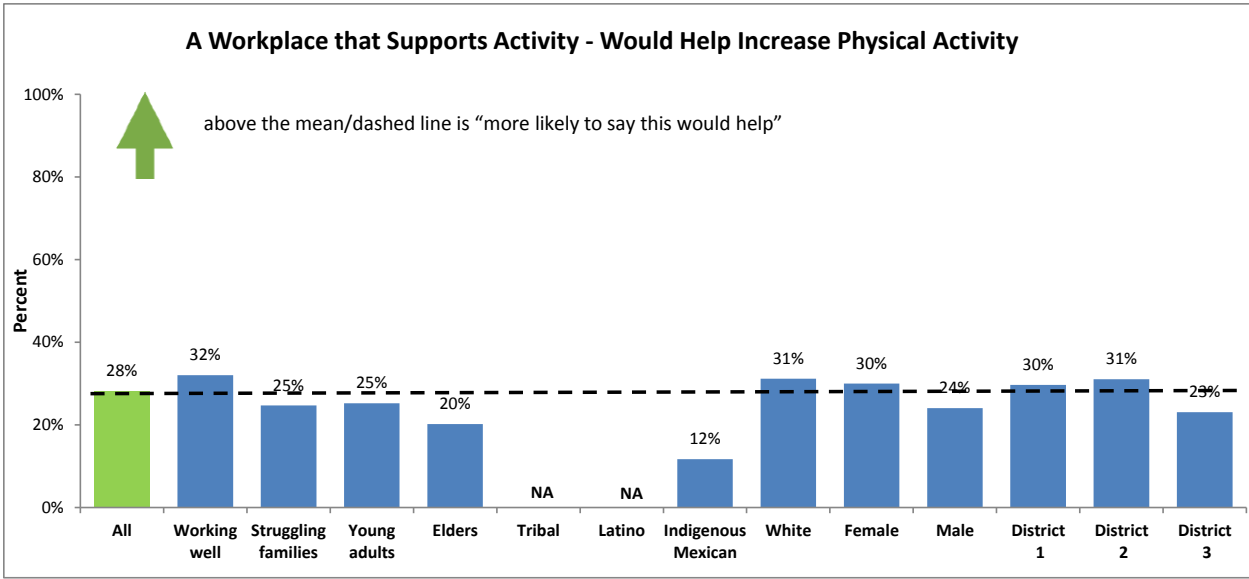
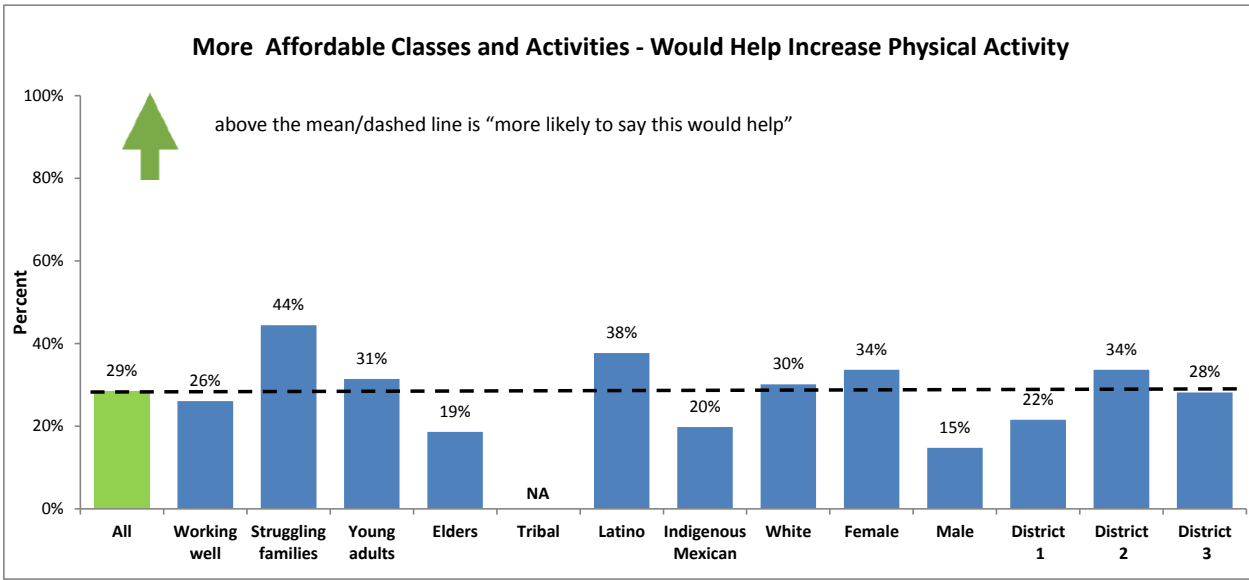
About 19% of respondents reported that they were satisfied with their own and their family’s level of physical activity.

Among those who were not satisfied with their level of activity, respondents reported that the following would help (the respondent or family) to be more physically active.

Some community groups reported different motivations for increasing their physical activity.

○ = More of a motivating factor vs. comparison group ◐ = similar ● = Less of a motivating factor vs. comparison group	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
More time	46%	○	◐	◐	●	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
More personal motivation	43%	◐	●	◐	○	*	◐	●	○	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
More places where I can be active near my home	30%	◐	◐	◐	◐	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
More affordable classes/activities	29%	●	○	◐	●	*	◐	●	◐	○	●	●	○	◐
A workplace that supports activity (among employed)	28%	◐	◐	◐	●	*	*	●	○	◐	◐	◐	○	●
Indoor options when the weather is bad	28%	◐	◐	◐	●	*	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
Information about activities or ways to be active that are free	26%	◐	○	◐	●	*	◐	◐	◐	○	●	●	○	◐
Active friends & family	22%	●	◐	◐	●	*	◐	◐	○	◐	◐	◐	○	●
Child care (among those with school age children)	12%	●	○	◐	*	*	*	*	◐	○	●	◐	◐	◐
Participation on teams or community events	8%	◐	◐	◐	◐	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	○	◐
Better transportation to organized activities	5%	●	○	◐	◐	*	○	◐	●	○	●	◐	○	●

*NA – results were suppressed due to small numbers, there were fewer than 50 participants in this subgroup.



Satisfaction with Community Physical Activity Opportunities

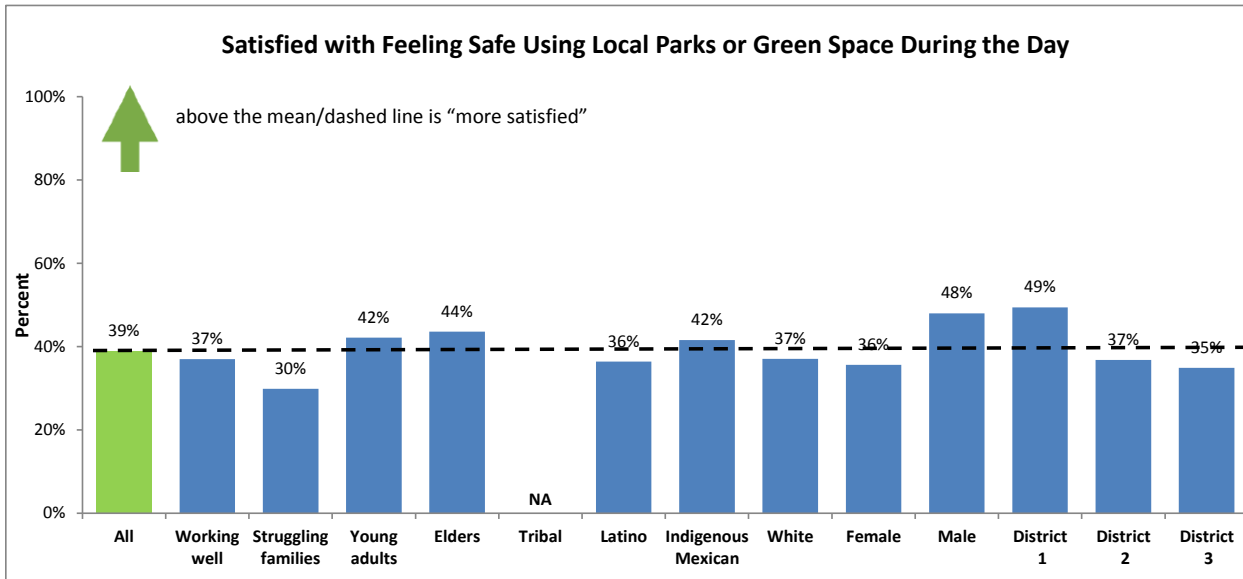
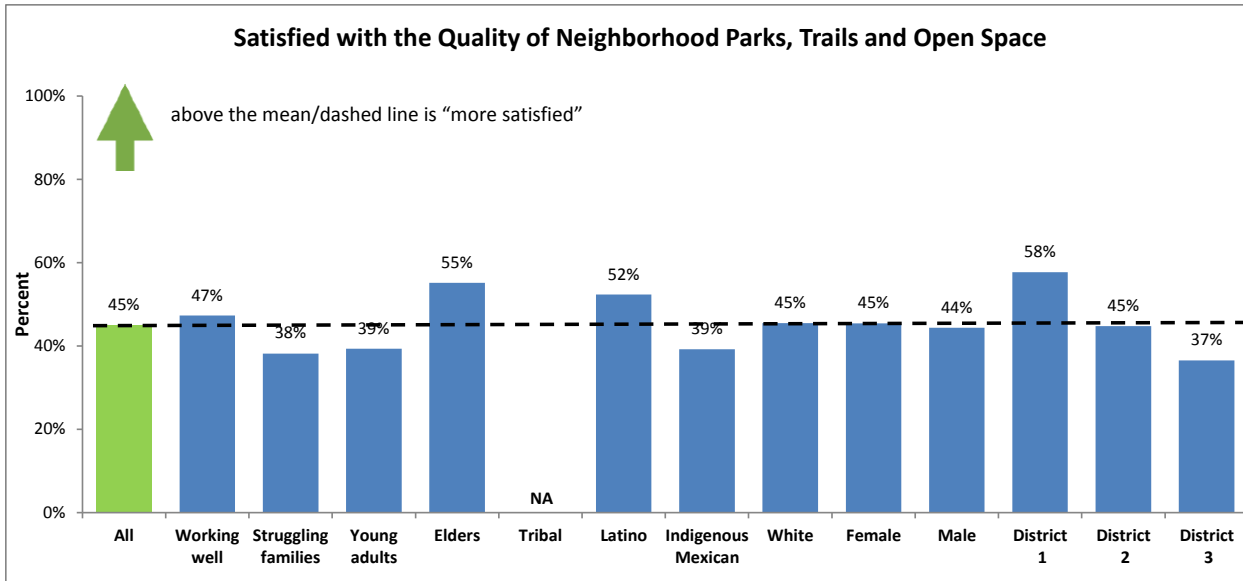
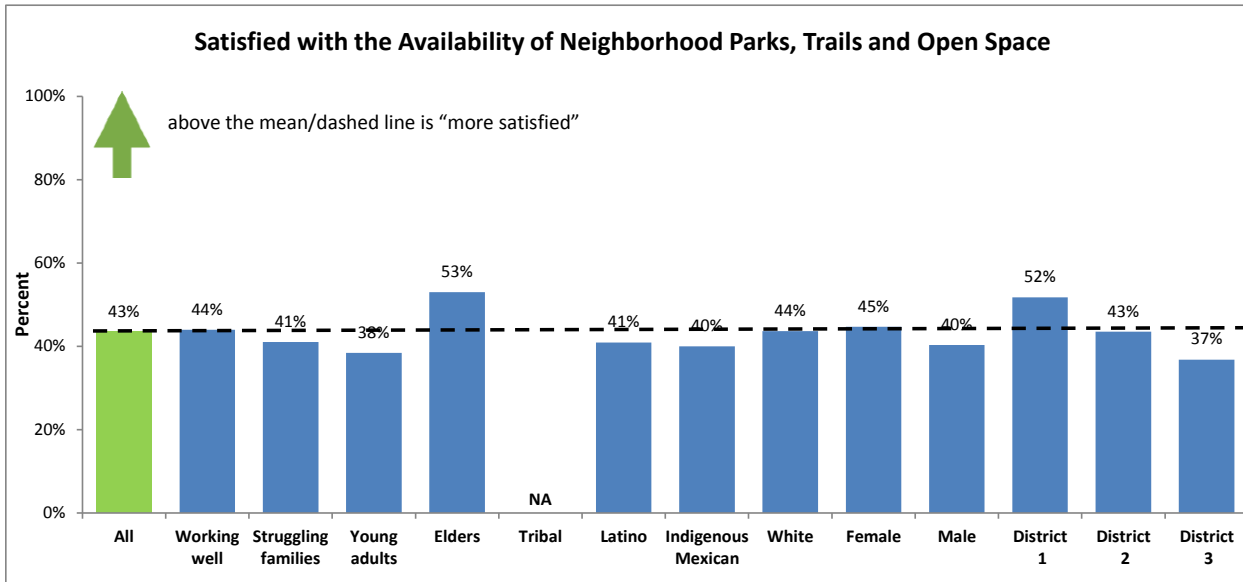
Many respondents said they were “satisfied” with many specific aspects of their neighborhood that may affect physical activity.

Some community groups reported differences levels of satisfaction with their neighborhood.

<p>○ = less of a concern vs. comparison group</p> <p>◐ = similar</p> <p>● = more of a concern vs. comparison group</p>	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
Quality of park system, trails and open space	45%	◐	◐	◐	○	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	†◐	●
Availability of parks, trails, and open space	43%	◐	◐	◐	○	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	†◐	●
Availability of sidewalks and bike paths	39%	●	◐	◐	◐	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	●
Feeling safe using local park or green space alone during the day	39%	◐	●	◐	◐	*	◐	◐	◐	●	○	○	●	●
Condition of sidewalks and bike paths	37%	◐	◐	◐	◐	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	●
Condition of roads and streets	36%	◐	◐	○	◐	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	○	●
Quality of lighting on the sidewalks and trails	28%	◐	◐	◐	◐	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	○	●
Ability to walk alone at night	21%	◐	◐	○	◐	*	●	◐	◐	●	○	○	●	●

*NA – results were suppressed due to small numbers, there were fewer than 50 participants.

† District 2 was more likely to be satisfied with the availability of parks/trails/open space and the quality of parks/trails/open space compared to District 3, but less likely compared to District 1.



Physical Activity - Top Challenges & Desired Changes to Improve Wellness

When asked to identify the top three changes they would make to improve health and well-being in Skagit County:

- About 16% of respondents selected “more opportunities for physical activity.”
- About 17% selected “more parks and/or bike paths.”

The survey included a question about the top five biggest personal/family day-to-day challenges.

- About 36% of respondents selected “physical activity” as a top challenge.

The survey included a question about the biggest challenges for high school age children.

- Among those with school age children, about 27% selected “maintaining physical health.”
- About 27% selected “lack of afterschool or extracurricular activities” in their biggest challenges.

The survey also included a question about the biggest challenges for seniors.

- Among Elders (those 60 years and older), about 15% selected “lack of recreation or social activities” in their biggest challenges.

To see how these challenges and changes rank among other topics, see page 30.

Access to Healthy Foods

Motivations for Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

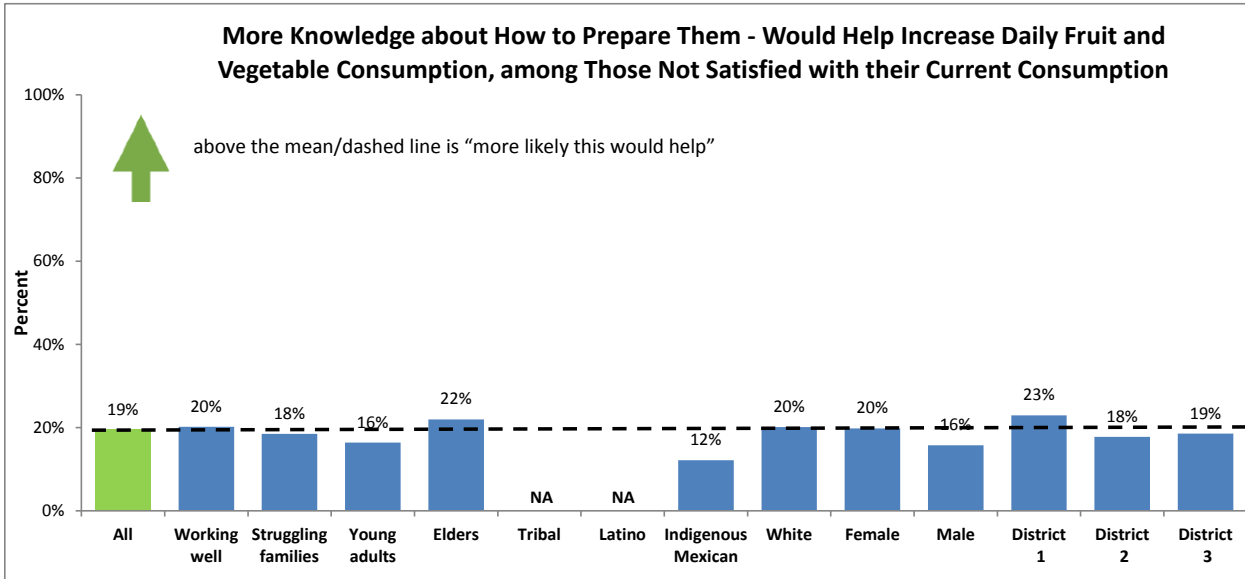
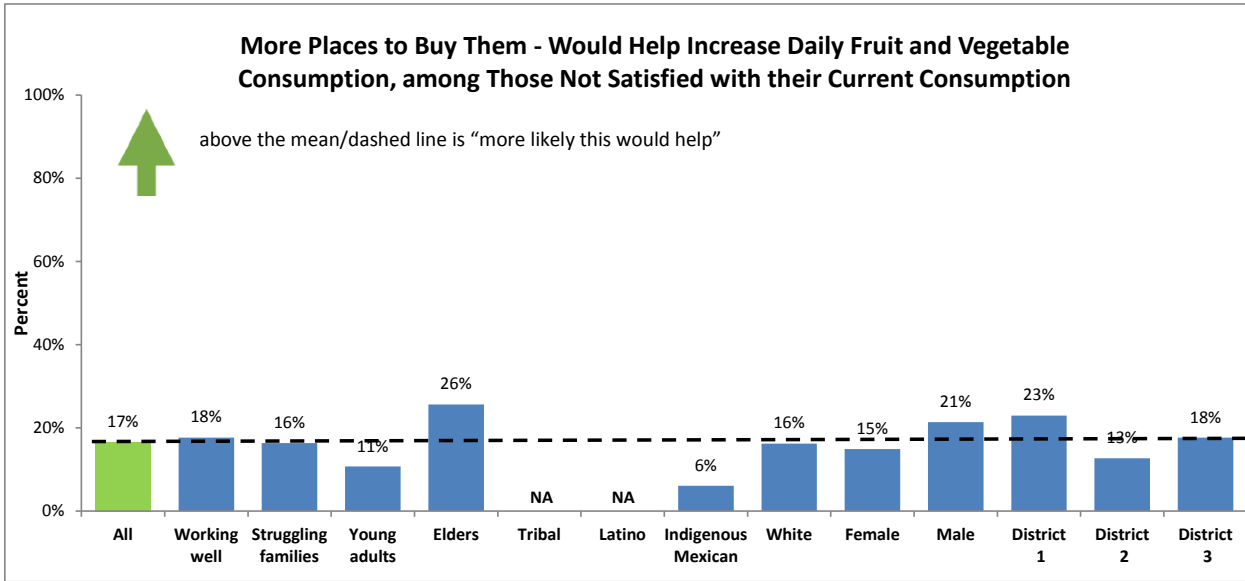
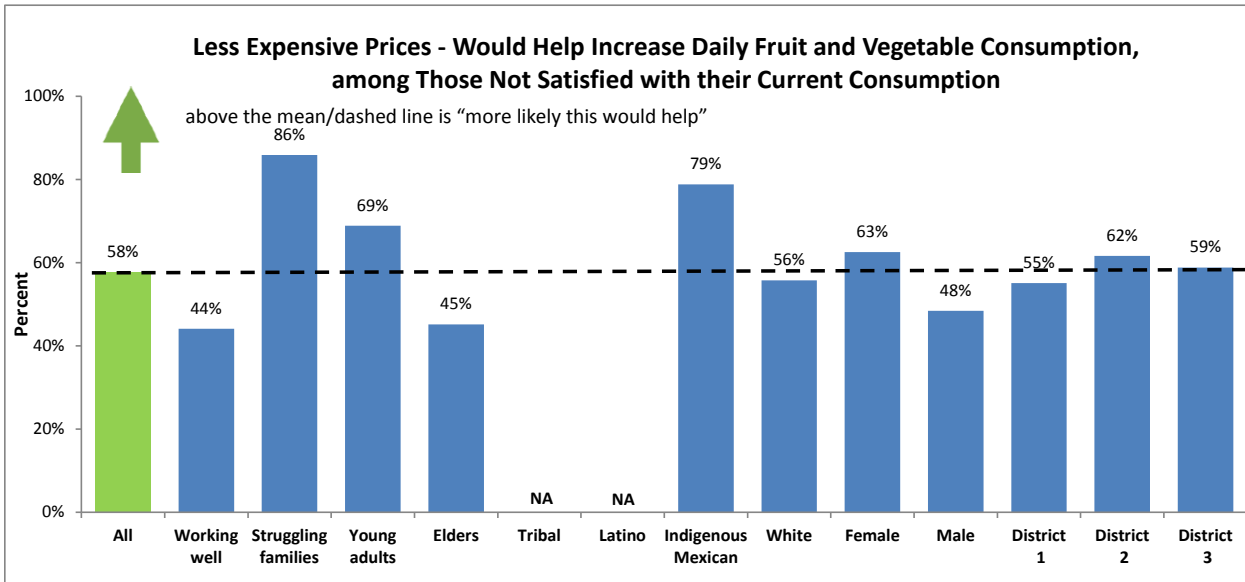
About 13% of people reported eating five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily, which is a recommended level. About 39% of participants reporting being satisfied with the amount of fruits and vegetables they were eating, but they weren't eating five servings a day (only 1-4 servings). More education might be needed about the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables needed for a healthy diet.

Among those not satisfied with their fruit and vegetable consumption, respondents reported that the following would help them eat more fruits and vegetables daily.

Some community groups reported differences in the motivations for increasing their daily fruit and vegetable consumption.

	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
○ = More of a motivating factor vs. comparison group ◐ = similar ● = Less of a motivating factor vs. comparison group														
Less expensive	58%	●	○	○	●	*	*	○	●	○	●	◐	◐	◐
More time to prepare them	27%	○	●		●	*	*	●	○	○	●	◐	◐	◐
Better selection in my local store	22%	◐	◐	◐	◐	*	*	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
More knowledge about how to prepare them	19%	◐	◐	◐	◐	*	*		◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
More places to buy them	17%	◐	◐	●	○	*	*	●	◐	◐	◐	○	●	◐
More convenient preparation	16%	◐	●		●	*	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
Liking them more	11%	◐	●	◐	◐	*	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
More convenient packaging	7%	◐	◐	◐	◐	*	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐

*NA – results were suppressed due to small numbers, there were fewer than 50 participants.



Child Nutrition

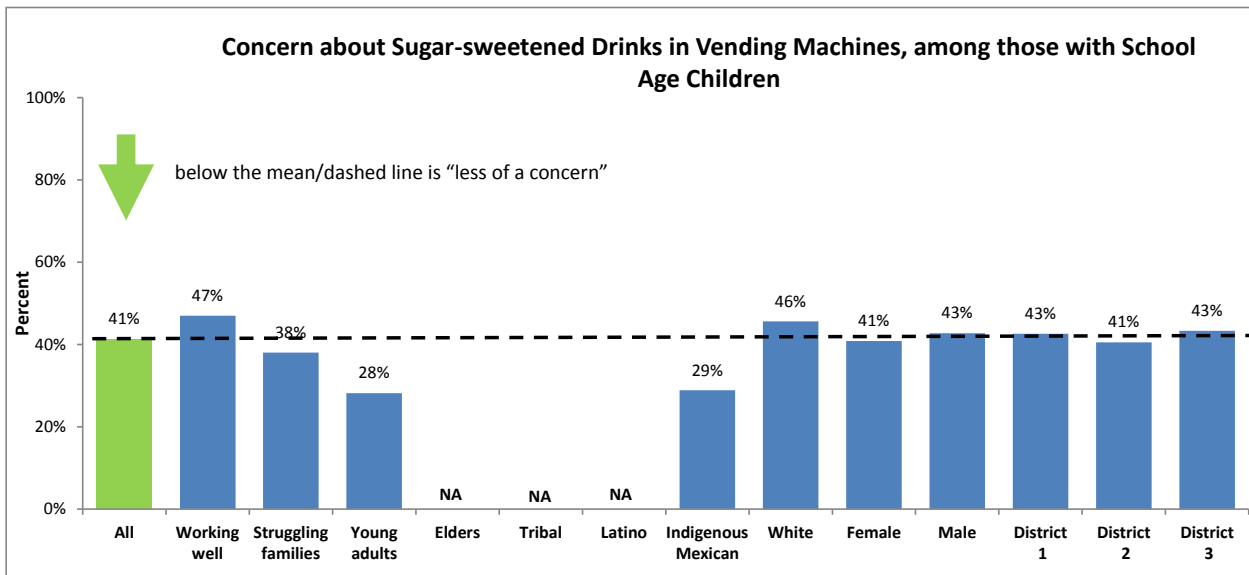
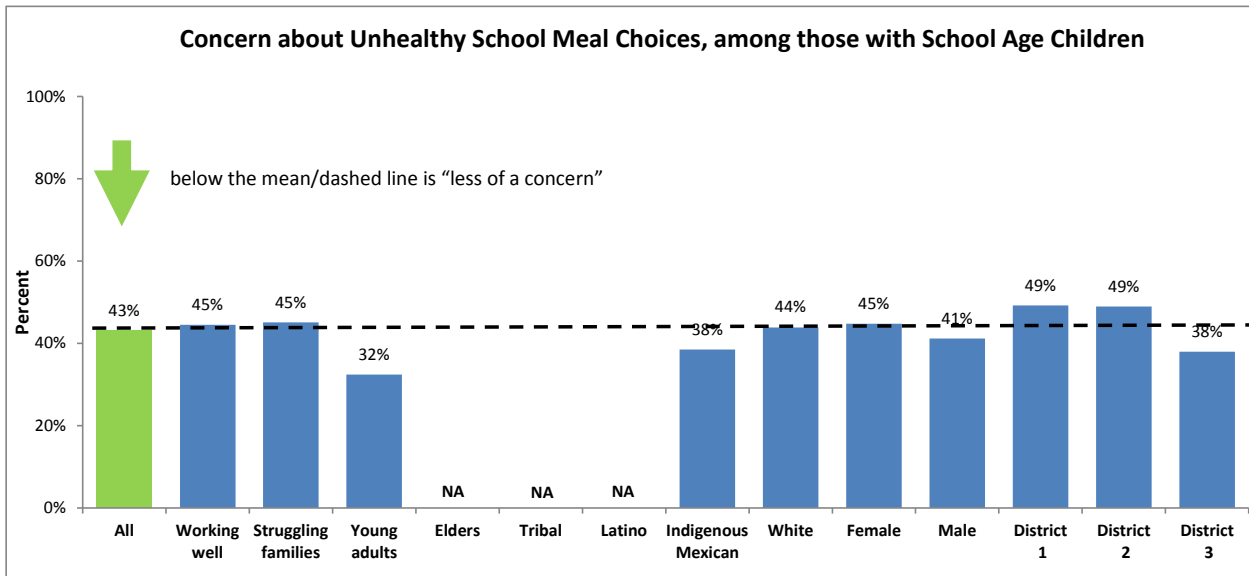
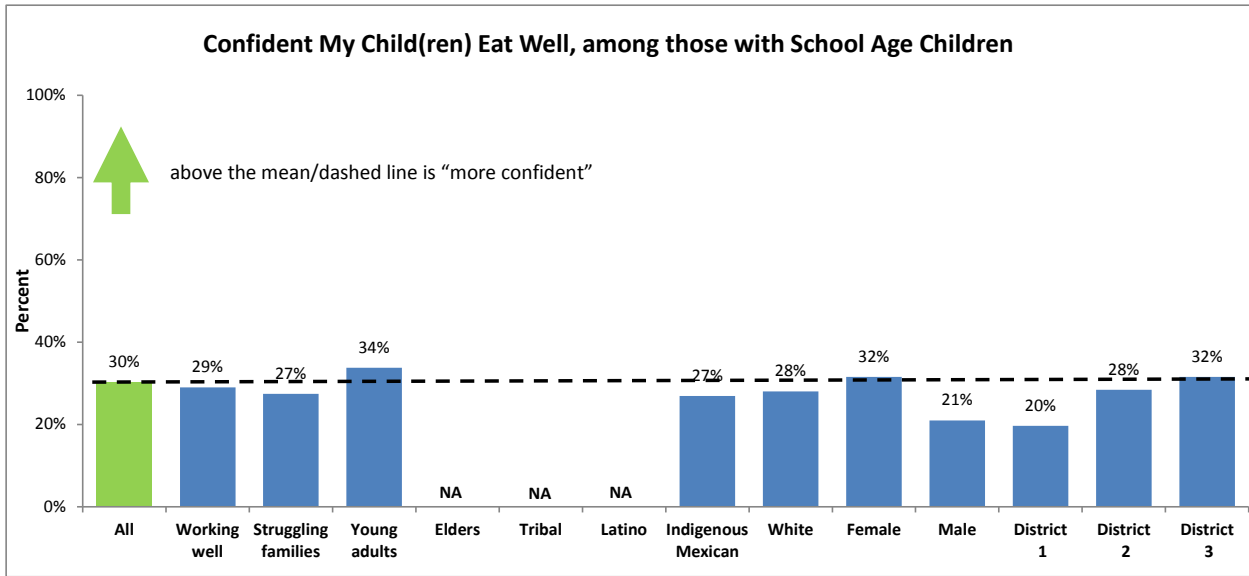
About 30% of respondents with school-age children said they were confident their children eat well. This means that 70% of parents are not confident that their children eat well.

<p>○ = More confident in child nutrition vs. comparison group</p> <p>◐ = similar</p> <p>● = Less confident in child nutrition vs. comparison group</p>	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
I am confident my child(ren) eat well	30%	◐	◐	◐	*	*	*	◐	◐	○	●	◐	◐	◐

Among all caregivers of school-aged children, the top concerns about food choices for children are shown below (participants could select multiple concerns). Some community groups reported differences in concerns about school food choices.

<p>○ = Less of a concern vs. comparison group</p> <p>◐ = similar</p> <p>● = More of a concern vs. comparison group</p>	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
Unhealthy school meal choices	43%	◐	◐	○	*	*	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	●	○
Sugar-sweetened drinks in vending machines	41%	●	◐	○	*	*	*	○	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
Unhealthy snacks in vending machines	38%	●	◐	◐	*	*	*	○	◐	◐	◐	●	○	○
Unhealthy treats for rewards or celebrations	27%	◐	◐	◐	*	*	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
Unhealthy snacks provided by school	24%	◐	◐	◐	*	*	*	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	◐	●
Unhealthy snacks/drinks/meals from home	20%	◐	◐	◐	*	*	*	◐	◐	○	●	●	○	○

*NA – results were suppressed due to small numbers, there were fewer than 50 participants.



Healthy Food - Top Challenges & Desired Changes to Improve Wellness

When asked to identify the top three changes they would make to improve health and well-being in Skagit County:

- About 20% of respondents selected “more healthy food” as a top change they would make.

The survey included a question about the top five biggest personal/family day-to-day challenges.

- About 22% of respondents selected “healthy food” as a top personal/family challenge.

The survey also included a question about the biggest challenges for seniors.

- Among Elders (those 60 years and older), about 22% selected “food” in their biggest challenges.

To see how these challenges and changes rank among other topics, see page 30.

Safety

The survey did not ask a question specifically about housing status, but “safe communities/less violence” was identified as a needed change to improve health and well-being in Skagit County.

- About 14% of respondents selected “safe communities/less violence” as one the top three changes they would make.

The survey included a question about the top five biggest personal/family day-to-day challenges.

- About 8% of respondents selected “safety” as a top personal challenge.

The survey included a question about the biggest challenges for high school age children.

- Among respondents with school age children, about 49% selected “bullying” in their biggest challenges.

The survey also included a question about the biggest challenges for seniors.

- Among Elders (those 60 years and older), about 17% selected “safety outside the home” as one of their biggest challenges.

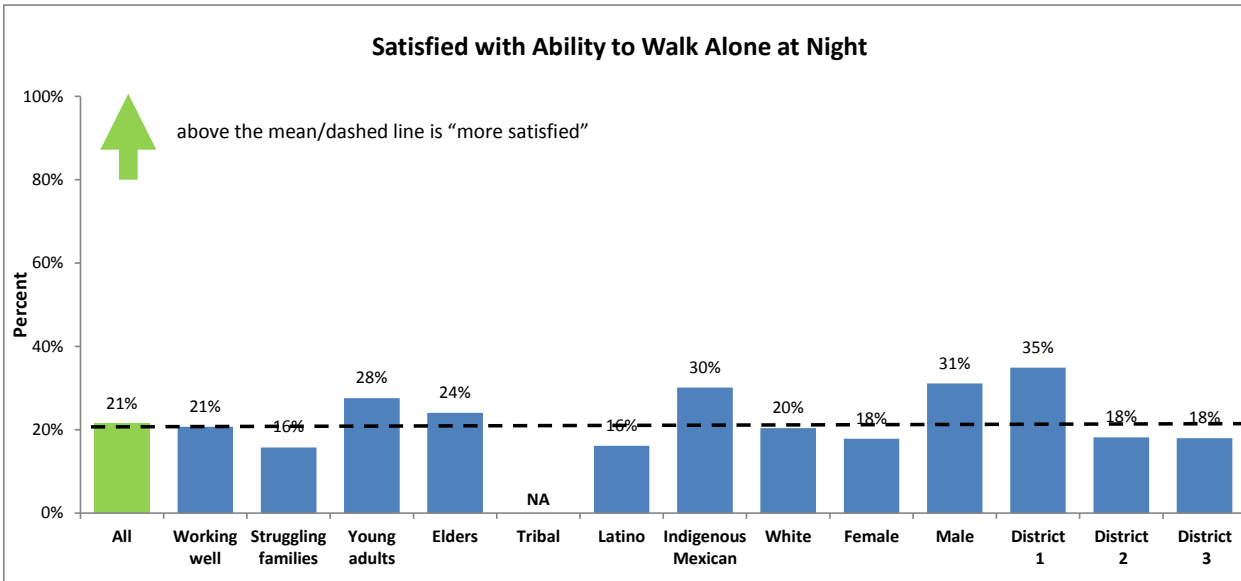
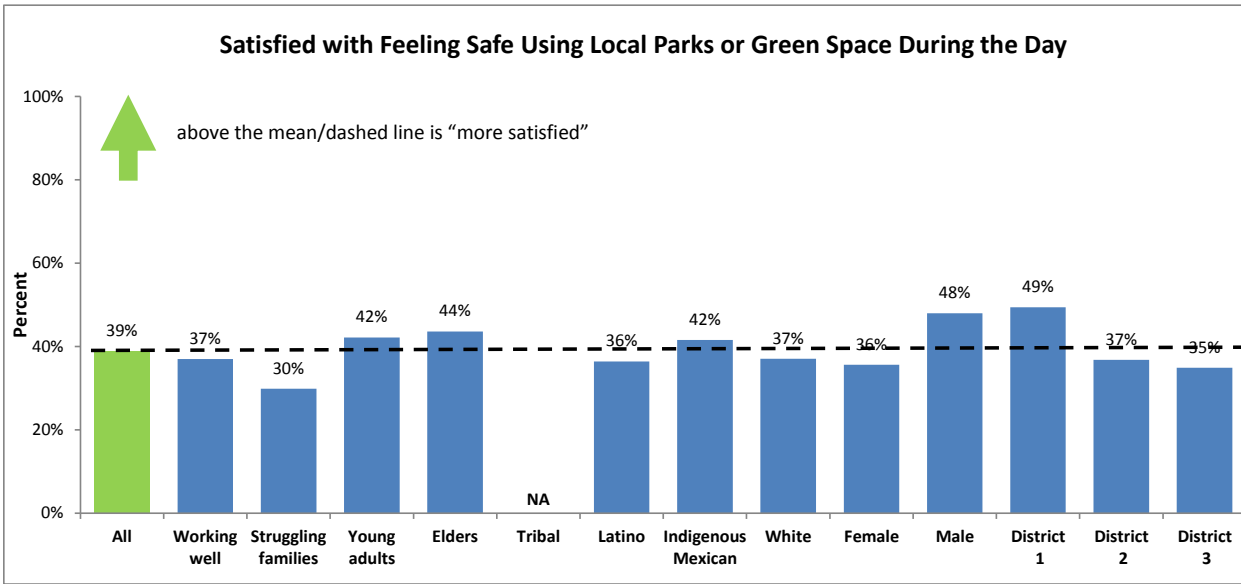
Satisfaction with Neighborhood Safety

Respondents that they were “satisfied” with specific aspects of their neighborhood safety.

Some community groups reported different levels of satisfaction with their neighborhood.

	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
Feeling safe using local park or green space alone during the day	39%	●	●	●	●	*	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●
Ability to walk alone at night	21%	○	○	○	○	*	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●

*NA – results were suppressed due to small numbers, there were fewer than 50 participants.



To see how these safety-related challenges and changes rank among other topics, see page 30.

Housing

Not Enough Money for Housing

One in four (29%) respondents said they did not have enough money to pay for essentials such as housing in the past year.

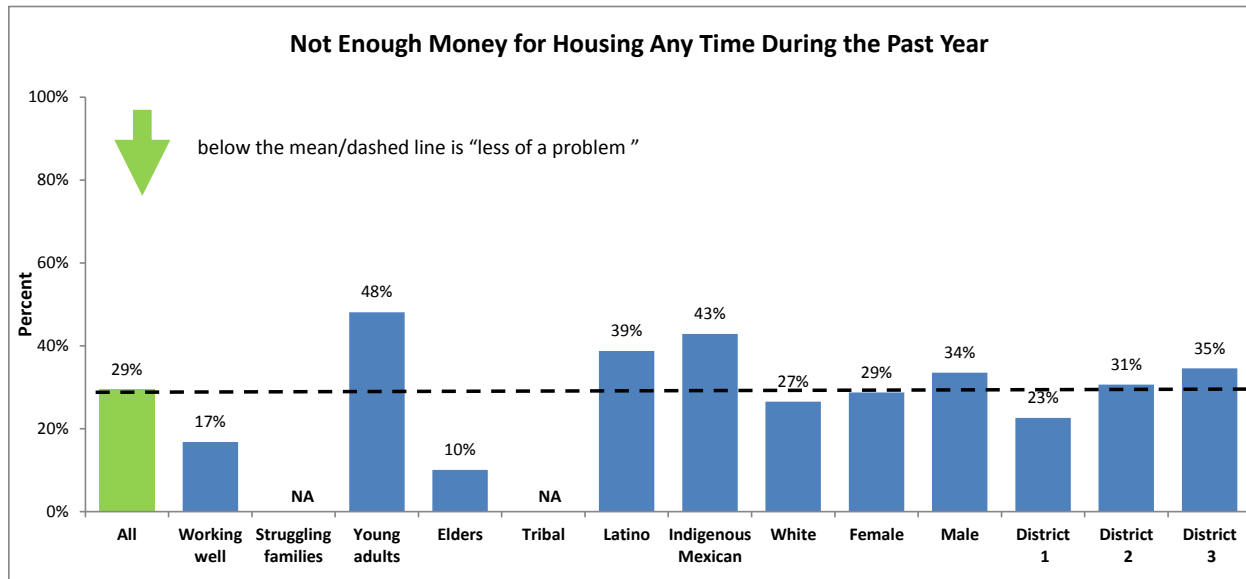
Some community groups reported different levels of not having enough money to pay for housing at any time during the past year.

	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
Not enough money for housing	29%	○	**	●	○	*	◐	●	○	◐	◐	○	○	●

○ = less of a problem vs. comparison group
 ◐ = similar
 ● = more of a problem vs. comparison group

** The definition of “Struggling families” includes not enough for essentials, so results are not presented for this group.

*NA – results were suppressed due to small numbers, there were fewer than 50 participants in the group.



Housing - Top Challenges & Desired Changes to Improve Wellness

When asked to identify the top three changes they would make to improve health and well-being in Skagit County:

- About 28% of respondents selected “more affordable housing” as a top challenge.
- Almost all of our community groups (Struggling families, Young adults, Elders, Tribal members, Indigenous Mexicans, Whites, Females, Males, and Districts 1, 2 and 3) selected “more affordable housing” as one the three most common changes they would make.

The survey included a question about the top five biggest personal/family day-to-day challenges.

- About 16% of respondents selected “housing” as one of their top five challenges. Among our community groups, Indigenous Mexicans selected “housing” in their biggest challenges (43%).

The survey also included a question about the biggest challenges for seniors.

- Among Elders (those 60 years and older), about 27% selected “housing” as a top challenge for seniors.
- About 42% of Elders selected “support to age in place (live independently)” in their biggest challenges.

To see how these challenges and changes rank among other topics, see page 30.

Weight Status

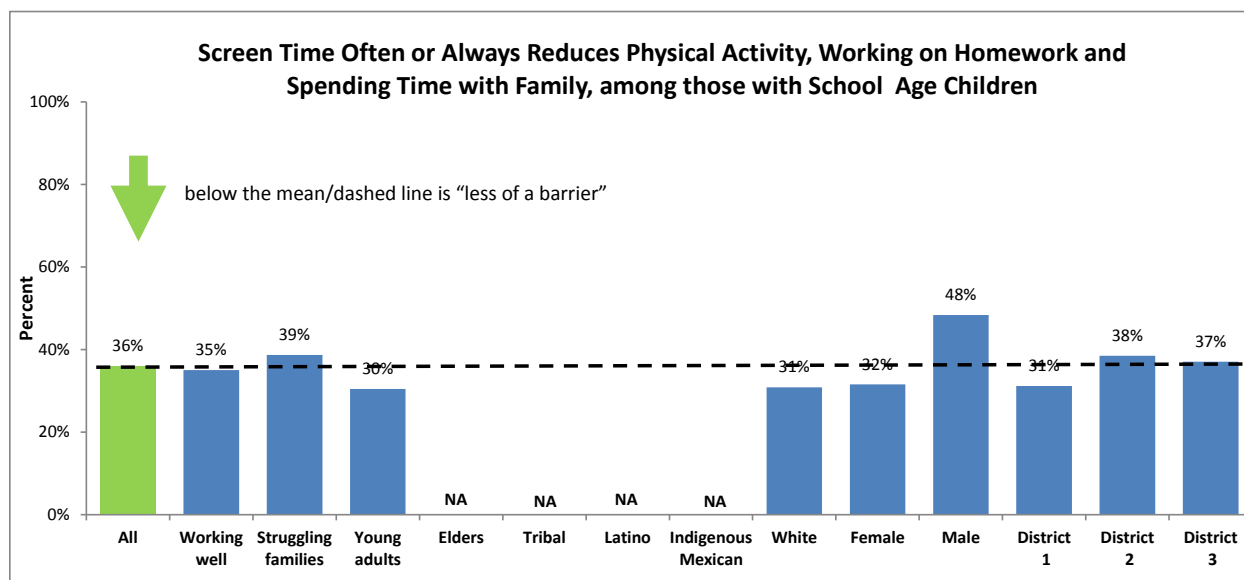
Excessive Screen Time as a Barrier to Physical Activity

Among those with school age children, 36% of parents said too much screen time (e.g. TV, electronic games and Internet) often or always reduced their child’s physical activity, time working on homework, or time spent with the family.

Some of our community groups reported different levels of screen time as a barrier to physical activity.

	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3
Screen time as barrier to physical activity, homework and family time	36%	●	●	●	*	*	*	*	●	○	●	●	●	●

*NA – results were suppressed due to small numbers, there were fewer than 50 participants.



Weight Status - Top Challenges & Desired Changes to Improve Wellness

The survey included a question about the biggest challenges for high school age children.

- Among those with school age children, about 44% selected “abuse or misuse of technology (texting, internet, games, etc.)” as a top challenge.

To see how this challenge ranks among other topics, see page 30.

Transportation

The survey did not ask a question specifically about transportation, but about 10% of respondents identified “more public transportation options” as a needed change to improve health and well-being in Skagit County.

The survey included a question about the top five biggest personal/family day-to-day challenges.

- About 9% of respondents selected “transportation” as one of their top five challenges.

The survey included a question about the biggest challenges for parent/caregivers of young children (ages 0 to 5).

- Among those with school age children, about 15% selected “transportation” as one of their biggest challenges.

The survey included a question about the biggest challenges for high school age children.

- Among those with school age children, about 10% selected “lack of transportation” as one of their biggest challenges.

The survey also included a question about the biggest challenges for seniors.

- Among Elders (those 60 years and older), about 35% selected “transportation” as one of their biggest challenges.

To see how these challenges and changes rank among other topics, see page 30.

Appendix A: Overall Ranking of Top Desired Changes and Challenges

Respondents were asked to select the top three things they would change to improve health and well-being in Skagit County and were asked four questions about the top challenges that specific groups face. Desired changes and challenges are presented in most sections of this report, but are also presented here to show each issue ranks among the other changes and challenges.

Among our community groups, a check is used designate the most common changes or challenges that were selected by that group.

Top 3 Changes to Improve Health and Well-being in Skagit County

Topic	✓ = selected as group's 3 most common changes														Included in the Following Report Sections
	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3	
More affordable housing	28%		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Social & Economic, Physical Environment
More/better jobs	23%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Social & Economic
Better access to affordable health care	20%		✓		✓			✓			✓		✓		Health Care Access & Quality
Less poverty	18%							✓		✓				✓	Social & Economic
More parks and/or bike paths	17%	✓							✓						Physical Environment, Health Behaviors
Better access to affordable mental health care	16%	✓										✓			Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors
More opportunities for physical activity	16%						✓								Physical Environment, Health Behaviors
More healthy food	15%			✓			✓								Physical Environment, Health Behaviors

Topic	✓ = selected as group's 3 most common changes														Included in the Following Report Sections
	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3	
Safe communities/less violence	14%					✓									Social & Economic, Physical Environment, Health Behaviors
Better access to affordable dental care	14%														Health Care Access & Quality
Higher level of education among all residents	12%														Social & Economic
Better access to affordable child care	10%														
Stronger sense of community	10%														Social & Economic
More kids graduating from high school	10%						✓								Social & Economic
More public transportation options	9%														
More help with stress and/or emotional trauma	8%														Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors
Better access to affordable substance abuse treatment	7%														Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors
Parenting help for parents of young children	7%														
Less discrimination	7%														
Fewer unplanned pregnancies	7%														
Healthier environment (air, water)	6%														Physical Environment
Child/elder abuse or neglect	4%														
Less alcohol and/or substance use	0%														Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors

5 Biggest Personal Day-to-Day Challenges

Topic	✓ = selected as group's 5 most common challenges															Included in the Following Report Sections
	All	Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3		
Stress	49%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Health Care Access & Quality	
Time	44%	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Income	42%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Social & Economic	
Physical activity	36%	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Physical Environment, Health Behaviors	
Healthy food	22%	✓					✓				✓				Physical Environment, Health Behaviors	
Employment	22%		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓			✓		Social & Economic	
Health problems	20%				✓							✓		✓	Health Care Access & Quality	
Housing	16%		✓	✓				✓							Social & Economic, Physical Environment	
Child care	14%		✓					✓								
Education	13%														Social & Economic	
Meeting basic needs	12%														Social & Economic	
Health care access	10%							✓							Health Care Access & Quality	
Social support	10%														Social & Economic	
Mental health	10%														Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors	
Elder care	9%															
Transportation	9%															
Safety	8%														Social & Economic, Physical Environment, Health Behaviors	
Single parenting	6%															
Pollution	6%														Physical Environment	
Legal problems	4%															
Alcohol or drug use	4%														Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors	

Biggest Challenges for Parents with Young Children

Topic	✓ = selected as group's 5 most common challenges			Included in the Following Report Sections
	All	With School Age Children	Without School Age Children	
Cost of child care	49%	✓	✓	Social & Economic
Single parenting	30%	✓	✓	
Quality child care	29%	✓	✓	
Child care options	27%	✓	✓	
Lack of awareness of available community resources	24%	✓	✓	
Lack of education/information about parenting	21%			
Lack of free, full-day kindergarten	19%			Social & Economic
Lack of information about child health/development	18%			
Lack of medical, mental health or dental providers for their children	17%			Health Care Access & Quality
Transportation	16%			Physical Environment
Lack of community support	15%			Social & Economic
Lack of opportunities to meet other parents	13%			
Lack of family activities	13%			
Lack of information about kindergarten preparation	10%			

Biggest Challenges for High School Age Youth

Topic	✓ = selected as group's 5 most common challenges			Included in the Following Report Sections
	All	With School Age Children	Without School Age Children	
Bullying	46%	✓	✓	Social & Economic
Substance use	49%	✓	✓	Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors
Abuse or misuse of technology (texting, internet, games, etc.)	40%	✓	✓	Health Behaviors
Unhealthy or unstable home life	40%	✓	✓	Health Care Access & Quality
Lack of involved, supportive, positive role models	33%		✓	
Maintaining emotional health	32%	✓		Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors
Pressure to succeed	26%			Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors
Maintaining physical health	25%			Physical Environment, Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors
Lack of afterschool or extracurricular activities	24%			Physical Environment, Health Behaviors
Suicidal thoughts or attempts	20%			Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors
Staying in school	20%			Social & Economic
Lack of quality education	17%			Social & Economic
Lack of transportation	10%			

Biggest Challenges for Seniors

Topic	✓ = selected as group's 5 most common challenges			Included in the Following Report Sections
	All	Elders - 60 or Older	Under Age 60	
Living on a fixed income	49%	✓	✓	Social & Economic
Social isolation/being lonely	41%	✓	✓	Social & Economic, Health Care Access & Quality, Health Behaviors
Managing health problems	38%	✓	✓	Health Care Access & Quality
Cost of needed assistance/care	38%	✓	✓	Social & Economic
Support to age in place (live independently)	30%	✓	✓	Social & Economic, Physical Environment
Transportation	28%			
Getting good health care	25%			Health Care Access & Quality
Housing	22%			Social & Economic, Physical Environment
Quality senior care	21%			
Food	19%			Physical Environment, Health Behaviors
Lack of recreational or social activities	15%			Physical Environment, Health Behaviors
Safety outside the home	14%			Social & Economic, Physical Environment, Health Behaviors

Appendix B: Participant Summary

Characteristics of the 1,513 total survey participants are summarized here. Readers might use this information to consider how the responses reported in the survey could be biased by the characteristics of the respondents. For example, more women than men took the survey (73% vs. 27%). This was true for all subgroups as well (e.g., 82% of participants in the “struggling families” group were women vs. 18% men), so the impact of having more female respondents should be somewhat consistent in all subgroups as well as overall.

Survey Respondents by Community Groups % (number)	All	% (number) within each row group who belong to other groups														
		Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Middle aged	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3	
All	100% (1513)	43% (523)	11% (143)	18% (233)	62% (808)	20% (253)	4% (52)	6% (69)	10% (119)	79% (958)	73% (957)	27% (347)	21% (265)	45% (560)	34% (417)	
Income and Employment²																
Working well	43% (523)	-	-	7% (39)	74% (386)	19% (97)	3% (14)	5% (24)	0% (2)	91% (469)	70% (368)	30% (155)	25% (124)	41% (203)	33% (163)	
Struggling families	11% (143)	-	-	24% (35)	74% (106)	1% (2)	6% (7)	11% (14)	24% (29)	56% (69)	82% (115)	18% (26)	7% (10)	48% (66)	45% (62)	
Age																
Young adults (18-29)	18% (233)	18% (39)	15% (35)	-	-	-	4% (8)	9% (18)	25% (51)	63% (129)	77% (176)	23% (53)	12% (27)	54% (121)	34% (76)	
Middle aged (30-59)	62% (808)	50% (386)	14% (106)	-	-	-	4% (31)	6% (47)	8% (58)	80% (608)	73% (585)	27% (221)	20% (149)	45% (346)	35% (268)	
Elders (60+)	20% (253)	42% (97)	1% (2)	-	-	-	5% (12)	2% (4)	2% (6)	88% (214)	73% (185)	27% (68)	35% (85)	36% (87)	30% (72)	
Race/Ethnicity																

² See “methods” section for definitions of these subgroups

Survey Respondents by Community Groups % (number)	All	% (number) within each row group who belong to other groups														
		Working well	Struggling families	Young adults	Middle aged	Elders	Tribal	Latino	Indigenous Mexican	White	Female	Male	District 1	District 2	District 3	
Tribal	4% (52)	28% (14)	14% (7)	16% (8)	61% (31)	24% (12)	-	-	-	-	63% (32)	37% (19)	37% (18)	31% (15)	33% (16)	
Latino	6% (69)	38% (24)	21% (14)	26% (18)	68% (47)	6% (4)	-	-	-	-	75% (52)	25% (17)	12% (8)	64% (43)	24% (16)	
Indigenous Mexican	10% (119)	2% (2)	25% (29)	44% (51)	50% (58)	5% (6)	-	-	-	-	67% (78)	33% (39)	4% (5)	57% (67)	39% (46)	
White	79% (958)	51% (469)	7% (69)	14% (129)	64% (608)	23% (214)	-	-	-	-	75% (715)	25% (241)	25% (229)	40% (361)	35% (314)	
Gender																
Female	73% (957)	41% (368)	13% (115)	19% (176)	62% (585)	20% (185)	4% (32)	6% (52)	9% (78)	80% (715)	-	-	21% (190)	43% (397)	36% (328)	
Male	27% (347)	48% (155)	8% (26)	16% (53)	65% (221)	20% (68)	6% (19)	5% (17)	12% (39)	74% (241)	-	-	23% (75)	50% (160)	27% (87)	
Commissioner District																
District 1	21% (265)	49% (124)	4% (10)	10% (27)	57% (149)	33% (85)	7% (18)	3% (8)	2% (5)	88% (229)	72% (190)	28% (75)	-	-	-	
District 2	45% (560)	39% (203)	12% (66)	22% (121)	62% (346)	16% (87)	3% (15)	9% (43)	14% (67)	73% (361)	71% (397)	29% (160)	-	-	-	
District 3	34% (417)	42% (163)	15% (62)	18% (76)	64% (268)	17% (72)	4% (16)	4% (16)	11% (46)	78% (314)	79% (328)	21% (87)	-	-	-	
Survey administration																
Online	72% (1,090)	58% (512)	5% (47)	11% (104)	66% (598)	22% (203)	4% (36)	5% (44)	0% (3)	90% (811)	75% (685)	25% (230)	27% (237)	40% (342)	33% (283)	
Paper	28% (423)	3% (11)	25% (96)	33% (129)	54% (210)	13% (50)	5% (16)	8% (25)	36% (116)	46% (147)	70% (272)	30% (117)	7% (28)	57% (218)	35% (134)	