

The 2019 Sangamon County Citizen Survey



Conducted
By
The Survey Research Office
&
The Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies

Funded By



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PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Sangamon County Citizen Survey is a collaborative effort between the UIS Center for State Policy & Leadership, the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, and the United Way of Central Illinois. The project's purpose is to establish benchmarks and assess changes in residents' assessments of the quality of life in Sangamon County. The periodic survey provides local leaders, community organizations, and citizens with longitudinal insight into issues facing local residents. Each survey includes core items that serve as barometers of public opinion as well as topic-specific items that will provide timely data for local leaders. The following areas are covered in the 2019 survey: social well-being, day to day life, population, legal changes, equality, success, the economy, civic engagement, leadership, personal health, social health, the environment, and culture/recreation.

Since its outset, the survey has been guided by a steering committee of representatives from the community. The committee provides input into the questionnaire by including topics of interest to leaders in the county. The inaugural survey was conducted in 2013 while a second survey was completed in 2015. The 2017 study expanded sections on infrastructure and the economy. Many questions in the current poll remain the same as in the previous versions— this is necessary to make comparisons over time. The current survey also contains new questions on topics which have recently received attention in the community. These topics include economic development, downtown Springfield, gambling, and recreational marijuana.

Methodology

The University of Illinois Springfield Survey Research Office (SRO) is dedicated to the principles of transparency in research and is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative. Membership entails adherence to AAPOR's code of ethics as well as a commitment to promoting understanding of survey methodology and how it relates to survey quality. For more information about project methodology please contact the UIS Survey Research Office at sro@uis.edu

Funding

The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, the United Way of Central Illinois and, the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield commissioned the UIS Survey Research Office and the Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies to conduct a mixed-mode survey (mail and web) of adults living in Sangamon County. The survey was conducted from June 1, 2019 to July 3rd, 2019 via mail questionnaire with the option to take the survey via the Qualtrics Research Suite.

Sampling Frame

The sample is an address based sample (ABS) of 8,000 households in Sangamon County, Illinois. Those in zip codes 62702 and 62703 were oversampled to better obtain representativeness with regards to income and minority status. We do this to compensate for low response rates for areas of lower income and higher minority populations. To calculate the percentage for the oversampled zip codes, we took the percentage of individuals living in zip codes 62702 and 62703 and divided it by the unweighted percentage of responses for these zip codes in a previous survey conducted by SRO. In the sample, 7,324 households (92%) had a name appended to the address. The sampling frame excludes those who do not have an address (such as the homeless) as well as those living in group quarters (such as a boarding house or a fraternity/sorority), and those who may have moved into a formerly vacant address (a delivery point that has been unoccupied for 90 days or more). The survey also excludes those who are unable to take the survey in English. The sample was developed by personnel at Marketing Systems Group for the Survey Research Office.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Recruitment

The Survey Research Office sent an envelope to addresses containing an introductory letter, the mail questionnaire, and a postage paid business reply envelope. Households with a matching name were addressed to the name of the individual. Individuals without a matching name were addressed simply to “resident.” The introductory letter tells respondents that the survey is sent to the household rather than the individual listed on the envelope. Because all individuals over the age of 18 residing in Sangamon County were considered eligible to participate there is no purposive within-household selection.

A total of 652 interviews were completed (612 via mail; 40 via the web using Qualtrics Research Suite). Additionally, zero individuals completed some questions in the survey but not enough to be considered completes and four individuals sent back blank questionnaires. These were coded as implicit refusals. 19 persons sent back the questionnaire but after the field period. 28 questionnaires came back as undeliverable. Finally, two questionnaires were returned with responses indicating no one at the household was able to take the survey. The majority of questionnaires were never returned (7,294).

The Response Rate for the survey (AAPOR Response Rate 3) is 8%, the Cooperation Rate is 99% (AAPOR Cooperation Rate 3), and the refusal rate is .006% (AAPOR Refusal Rate 3). The table below shows the final disposition of cases which were coded in accordance with guidelines set forth by AAPOR as well as outcome rates calculated using AAPOR’s response rate calculator.

Precision of Findings

The margin of sampling error for the survey is 3.8% at the 95% confidence level, consistent with the 2017 survey. When examining subgroups, the margin of error will increase. The margin of sampling error has not been adjusted for design effect.

The following individuals served as the 2019 Citizen Survey Steering Committee and were instrumental to the development of the Survey:

Dr. David Racine, Center for State Policy and Leadership (Chair)
Matthew Case, Survey Research Office
Katie Davidson, Innovate Springfield
Randy Eccles, NPR Illinois
Bob Gray, Citizens Club of Springfield
John Kelker, United Way of Central Illinois
David Steward, Southern Illinois University
Val Yazell, City of Springfield
Michael Phelon, Lincoln-Land Community College
Nabih Elhajj, Sangamon CEO
Jennifer Gill, Springfield Public Schools
Bruce Sommer, University of Illinois Springfield

The report was written by the staff of the Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies and the Survey Research Office. For questions on the project, please contact the Survey Research Office at sro@uis.edu or via telephone at 217-206-6591. This report reflects the observations and views of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, United Way of Central Illinois, nor those of the members of the 2019 Citizen Survey Steering Committee.

Table 1. Final Disposition of Cases and Outcome Rates

1.0	Interviews	
	<i>Completed interviews</i>	652
2.0	Eligible non-interviews	
	<i>Implicit refusal</i>	4
	<i>Break off/ Implicit refusal</i>	0
	<i>Completed questionnaire, but not returned during the field period</i>	19
3.0	Unknown eligibility, non-interviews	
	<i>Nothing returned</i>	7295
	<i>USPS: Cannot be delivered</i>	28
4.0	Not eligible	
	<i>No eligible respondent</i>	2
	<i>Total sample used</i>	8000
5.0	Outcome Rates	
	AAPOR Response Rate 3	8%
	AAPOR Cooperation Rate 3	99%
	AAPOR Refusal Rate 3	.006%

Table 2. Demographics of the Survey Sample

Demographics	Unweighted sample	Weighted sample	Sangamon County
Gender¹			
Male	45%	46%	48%
Female	52%	54%	52%
Race²			
White alone	90%	81%	82%
Black or African American	5%	14%	13%
Hispanic	1%	3%	2%
Asian	.3%	.3%	2%
Other	4%	1%	3%
Education³			
Less than HS	1%	3%	8%
HS Degree	14%	26%	28%
Some college	31%	31%	31%
4 year degree	34%	25%	21%
More than 4 year degree	21%	16%	13%
Age⁴			
18-34	13%	13%	27%
35-44	23%	23%	16%
45-54	19%	19%	18%
55-64	21%	21%	18%
65+	24%	24%	21%
Born in Sangamon County	48%	48%	NA
Born Elsewhere	52%	52%	NA

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (2017). *Annual Estimates*

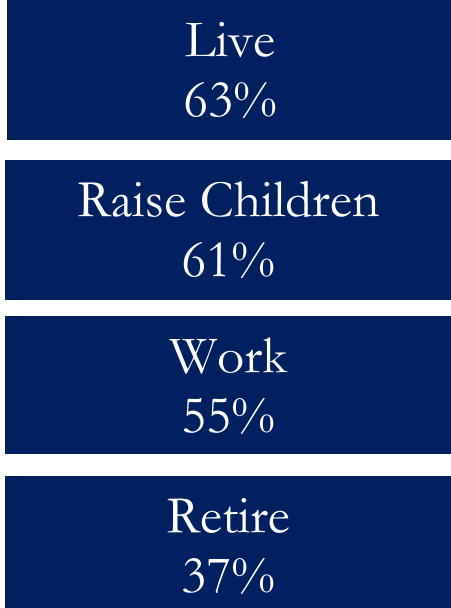
² U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Population

³ Ibid

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (2017). *Annual Estimates*

SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Do you think Sangamon County is an excellent or good place to to...

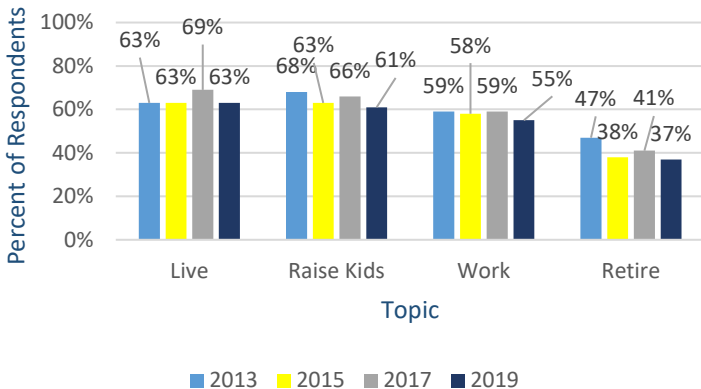


Would you say things are generally heading in the right direction, or do you think things are going in the wrong track here in Sangamon County?

Direction of Sangamon County

- 52% of respondents report that things are generally heading in the right direction. 48% of respondents report that things are on the wrong track.
- 57% of residents born outside Sangamon County think things are heading in the right direction compared to 47% of residents born in Sangamon County.
- Female respondents (54%) and male respondents (52%) report things are generally heading in the right direction at similar rates.
- White respondents (52%) report things are generally heading in the right direction compared to non-white respondents (51%) at similar rates.
- Education has a notable impact on outlook, with those that have less than a high school education (77%) and those that have a graduate degree (66%) were more likely than other educational groups that Sangamon County is heading in the right direction.
- Those reporting an annual household income of greater than \$100,000 report things are heading in the right direction at a higher rate (63%) than those reporting under \$30,000 (50%), between \$30,001 and \$60,000 (50%), and \$60,001 to \$100,000 (48%).

Percent of Respondents Who Say Sangamon County is an Excellent or Good Place to...



Percent of Respondents Who Report Sangamon County is Heading in the Right Direction Across Years

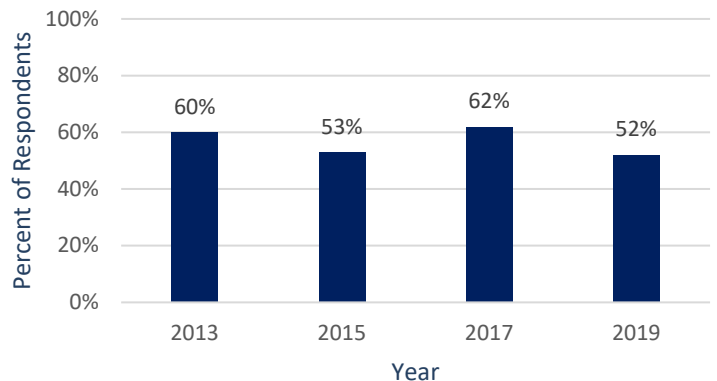


Table 3. Attitudes Towards Social Well Being Questions By Demographics

Demographics	Sangamon County is heading in the right direction	Sangamon County is an Excellent or Good Place to Live	Sangamon County is an Excellent or Good Place to Raise children	Sangamon County is an Excellent or Good Place to Work	Sangamon County is an Excellent or Good Place to Retire
All Respondents	52%	63%	61%	55%	37%
Male	52%	70%	65%	57%	34%
Female	54%	56%	55%	53%	37%
White	52%	63%	61%	54%	35%
Nonwhite	51%	55%	48%	47%	38%
Less than HS	77%	53%	53%	53%	47%
High School	43%	62%	53%	47%	39%
Some college	49%	51%	52%	44%	33%
Bachelor's	54%	72%	68%	63%	33%
Graduate degree	66%	67%	65%	64%	37%
Less than \$29,999	50%	55%	50%	48%	45%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	50%	57%	50%	45%	35%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	48%	65%	65%	54%	34%
\$100,000 or greater	63%	78%	76%	66%	34%
18-34 years old	55%	67%	65%	61%	38%
35-44 years old	58%	57%	52%	49%	25%
45-54 years old	49%	61%	63%	43%	19%
55-64 years old	42%	54%	58%	51%	36%
65 or older	58%	67%	62%	52%	52%
Born in Sangamon County	47%	56%	57%	45%	29%
Born Elsewhere	57%	70%	64%	64%	44%

SOCIAL WELL-BEING

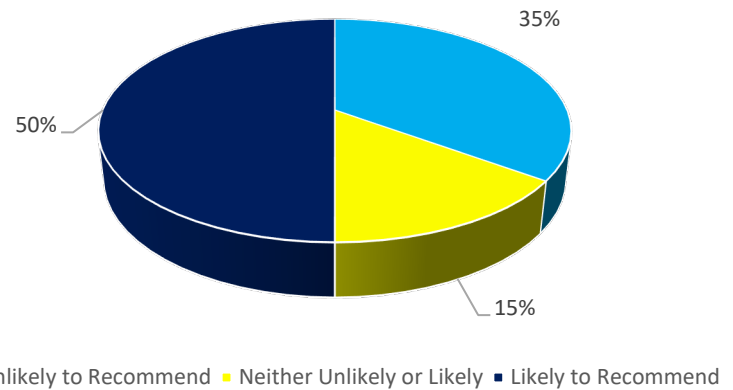
On a 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest) scale, percent that rate their quality of life as...



Quality of Life

- Men (41%) are slightly more likely than women (39%) to rate their life in the 8 to 10 range.
- 42% of white respondents rate their life in the 8 to 10 range compared to 28% of non-white respondents.
- Slightly over half (52%) of respondents with graduate degrees rate their quality of life between an 8 and a 10 compared to 10% of those with less than a high school degree.
- Those reporting an annual household income greater than \$100,000 are more likely (40%) to rate their life between 8 and 10 compared to those reporting under \$30,000 (18%), between \$30,001 and \$60,000 (31%), and \$60,001 to \$100,000 (39%).

On a scale from 0-10, how likely are you to recommend the Springfield area to someone who was considering moving to the area?



Recommending the Area

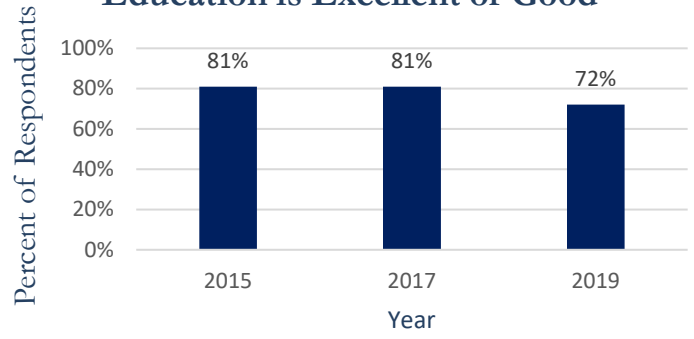
- 50% were likely (6 through 10) to recommend the area, 15% were neither likely or unlikely (5), and 35% were unlikely (0 through 4) to recommend the area.
- Residents in the age range of 18 to 34 (62%) are more likely to recommend the area than any other age group. The closest age group is those 65 and older (56%).
- Male respondents (53%) are somewhat more likely than female respondents (47%) to recommend moving to the area.
- Those reporting an annual household income of greater than \$100,000 are more likely (59%) than those reporting under \$30,000 (42%), between \$30,001 and \$60,000 (43%), and \$60,001 to \$100,000 (56%).
- Education also plays a role. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (64%) with a bachelor's degree are likely to recommend the area to someone compared to 39% of those with a high school diploma. Additional differences across education are reported in the table on the next page.
- 54% of residents not born in Sangamon County would recommend moving to the area compared 46% of people born here.
- Both questions discussed on this page are new and no longitudinal comparison exists.

Table 4. Attitudes Towards Social Well Being Questions By Demographics

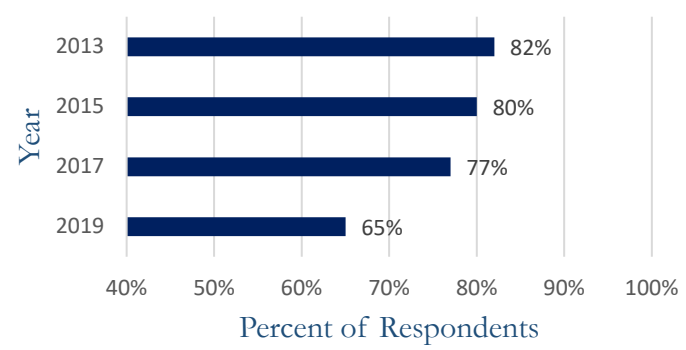
Demographics	Rating their Quality of Life 0 to 4	Rating their Quality of Life 5 to 7	Rating their Quality of Life 8 to 10	Likely to Recommend Moving to the Area
All Respondents	15%	45%	40%	50%
Male	13%	46%	41%	53%
Female	17%	44%	39%	47%
White	13%	45%	42%	49%
Nonwhite	23%	48%	28%	55%
Less than HS	10%	80%	10%	47%
High School	26%	41%	33%	39%
Some college	21%	44%	35%	44%
Bachelor's	6%	50%	44%	64%
Graduate degree	2%	46%	52%	56%
Less than \$29,999	36%	46%	18%	42%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	22%	47%	31%	43%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	8%	53%	39%	56%
\$100,000 or greater	3%	45%	40%	59%
18-34 years old	6%	64%	30%	62%
35-44 years old	20%	56%	25%	43%
45-54 years old	16%	45%	39%	45%
55-64 years old	23%	40%	38%	48%
65 or older	10%	33%	57%	56%
Born in Sangamon County	23%	43%	35%	46%
Born Elsewhere	7%	48%	45%	54%

LIFE IN SANGMON COUNTY

Percent of Respondents Who Say the Quality of Local K-12 Education is Excellent or Good



Percent of Respondents Who Feel Safe Walking Alone at Night



72% of parents rate the quality of their children’s education as excellent or good

If you had to rate the quality of education your oldest (or only) child is receiving would you say that it is...?

Rating the quality of education as excellent or good is more common among parents who are white (73%), ages 18 to 34 (84%), born outside the county (87%), report a house hold income of greater than \$100,000 (98%), and those with less than a high school diploma (100%). 71% of parents with children enrolled in a public school report this compared to 88% of those with kids in private schools.

84% of Respondents Say Sangamon County is Welcoming

60% report having a great deal of trust in the local police

How much trust do you have in the police in your area to keep you and your family safe?

Respondents who are white (62%), have less than a high school education (88%), have a household income over \$100,000 (70%), are 65 and older (68%), and not from Sangamon County (62%) are more likely than others in their comparison groups to report having a great deal of trust in the local police.

65% feel safe walking alone at night

Do you feel safe or unsafe walking alone at night in your neighborhood?

This sentiment is more common among respondents who are male (76%), between the ages of 45 and 54 (78%), and white (69%). Income appears to be a large driver for respondents as those earning less than \$30,000 (44%) a year are nearly half as likely as those making \$100,000 (83%) to report feeling safe walking alone at night in their neighborhood.

70% say Immigrants Help Sangamon County

Which of the following comes closest to your view even if neither is exactly correct?

Immigrants Help Sangamon County and Make it a Better Place to Live

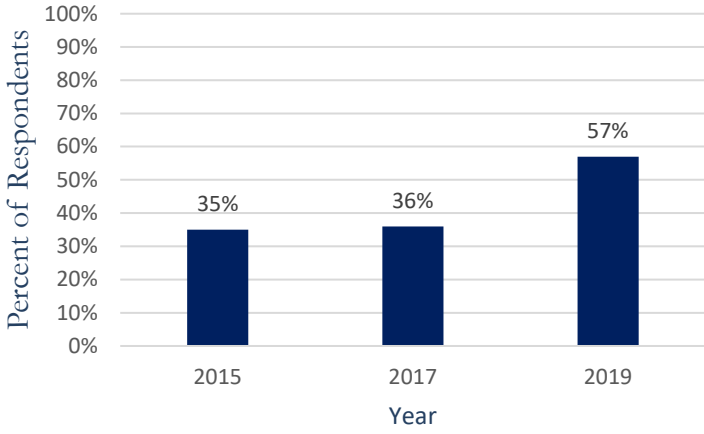
This sentiment is more common amongst women (71%), non-white respondents (78%), those reporting an annual income between \$60,000 and \$100,000 (78%), respondents between the ages 18 and 34 (86%), and those born outside of Sangamon County (77%).

Table 5. Attitudes Towards Life in Sangamon County Questions by Demographics

Demographics	Feel Safe Walking Alone at Night	Trust in Local Police	Rate K-12 Education as Excellent or Good	Sangamon County is Welcoming	Immigrants Help Sangamon County
All Respondents	65%	60%	72%	84%	70%
Male	76%	61%	74%	86%	68%
Female	59%	61%	74%	81%	71%
White	69%	62%	73%	85%	67%
Nonwhite	54%	55%	67%	78%	78%
Less than HS	13%	88%	100%	80%	86%
High School	47%	66%	48%	81%	58%
Some college	65%	54%	57%	81%	62%
Bachelor's	80%	61%	86%	91%	85%
Graduate degree	80%	61%	91%	86%	78%
Less than \$29,999	44%	55%	50%	83%	66%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	54%	57%	64%	77%	65%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	79%	63%	48%	86%	78%
\$100,000 or greater	83%	70%	98%	89%	68%
18-34 years old	61%	54%	84%	89%	86%
35-44 years old	64%	61%	68%	89%	72%
45-54 years old	78%	63%	72%	85%	69%
55-64 years old	70%	59%	73%	79%	57%
65 or older	67%	68%	NA	80%	73%
Born in Sangamon County	63%	59%	63%	84%	63%
Born Elsewhere	68%	62%	87%	84%	77%

SANGAMON COUNTY'S POPULATION

Percent of Respondents Who Have Considered Moving Out of Sangamon County in the Past Twelve Months



57% have considered moving out of Sangamon County in the past year

In the past twelve months, have you considered moving out of or away from Sangamon County?

This sentiment is more common among respondents who are male (58%), between the ages of 45 and 54 (67%), those born in Sangamon County (63%), and non-white (61%). The biggest difference is between those with some college experience (63%) compared to those with less than a high school diploma (20%). The 57% of all respondents is over 20 percentage points higher than the 2017 (36%) and 2015 (35%) rates.

79% think young people are better off moving out of Sangamon County

Do you think young people are better off staying in Sangamon County or are better off moving elsewhere?

Younger respondents, those ages 18 to 34 (82%), had a higher percent of respondents reporting this position than most age groups. The highest are those ages 45 to 54 (88%). White respondents (80%) are more likely than non-white respondents (73%) to share this sentiment. Slightly over one-third (36%) of respondents with less than a high school degree report thinking younger people are better off moving away, the lowest of the education groups.

62% want the population of Sangamon County to increase

Over the next five years, would you like to see the population increase, stay where it is now, or decrease further?

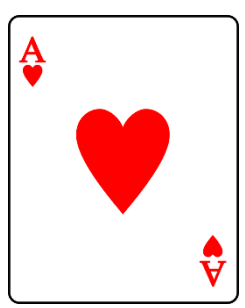
63% of white respondents report wanting the population of the county to increase compared to 57% of non-white respondents. Two-thirds (66%) of those respondents born outside of Sangamon County report wanting the population to increase in comparison to 58% of those born in Sangamon County. The lowest level of support for a population increase when looking at age are those ages 18 to 34 and 35 to 44 at 56%.

Respondents who say they have considered moving cite lower taxes (23%) and economic development (20%) as the top two changes that could get them to stay.

Table 6. Attitudes Towards The Population of Sangamon County by Demographics

Demographics	Have Thought About Moving Out of Sangamon County	Younger People Are Better Off Moving Away	Sangamon County Population Should Increase
All Respondents	57%	79%	62%
Male	58%	80%	62%
Female	54%	77%	60%
White	56%	80%	63%
Nonwhite	61%	73%	57%
Less than HS	20%	36%	73%
High School	51%	77%	62%
Some college	63%	84%	57%
Bachelor's	54%	82%	68%
Graduate degree	61%	74%	60%
Less than \$29,999	52%	70%	58%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	56%	79%	54%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	59%	84%	64%
\$100,000 or greater	54%	77%	67%
18-34 years old	58%	82%	56%
35-44 years old	67%	77%	56%
45-54 years old	67%	88%	59%
55-64 years old	59%	75%	62%
65 or older	39%	73%	67%
Born in Sangamon County	63%	80%	58%
Born Elsewhere	51%	77%	66%

LEGAL CHANGES IN SANGAMON COUNTY



42%

of Sang. Co. residents say a casino would be good for the area.



42%

of Sang. Co. residents say legalized sports betting would be good for the area.



45%

of Sang. Co. residents say recreational marijuana would be good for the area.

46% of women compared to 38% of men say that a casino would be a good thing.

48% of non-white respondents compared to 40% of white respondents say a casino would be a good thing.

53% of those ages 35 to 44 think a casino would be a good thing. Respondents ages 18 to 34 (52%) are slightly lower. These are the two highest groups of the age groups.

49% of those born in Sangamon County compared to 36% of those born outside the county think a casino would be a good thing.

48% of those reporting less than \$30,000 in their annual household income think a casino would be good, the highest of the income groups.

46% of women compared to 39% of men say that legalized sports betting would be a good thing.

50% of non-white respondents compared to 40% of white respondents say legalized sports betting would be a good thing.

58% of those ages 35 to 44 think legalized sports betting would be a good thing. The highest level of support in the age groups.

48% of those born in Sangamon County think legalized sports betting would be a good thing compared to 37% of those born outside the county.

58% of those reporting less than \$30,000 in their annual household income think legalized sports betting would be good, the highest of the income groups.

50% of women compared to 41% of men say that recreational marijuana would be a good thing.

56% of non-white respondents compared to 42% of white respondents say recreational marijuana would be a good thing.

76% of those ages 18 to 34 think recreational marijuana would be a good thing. The highest level of support in the age groups.

42% of those born in Sangamon County think recreational marijuana would be a good thing compared to 47% of those born outside the county.

58% of those reporting less than \$30,000 in their annual household income think recreational marijuana would be good, the highest of the income groups.

Table 7. Attitudes Towards Legal Changes in Sangamon County by Demographics

Demographics	Report a Casino Would be Good For Sangamon County	Report Sports Betting Would Be Good for Sangamon County	Report Recreational Marijuana Would Be Good for Sangamon County
All Respondents	42%	42%	45%
Male	38%	39%	41%
Female	46%	44%	50%
White	40%	40%	42%
Nonwhite	48%	50%	56%
Less than HS	50%	71%	14%
High School	39%	38%	31%
Some college	54%	49%	51%
Bachelor's	40%	40%	49%
Graduate degree	28%	39%	52%
Less than \$29,999	48%	58%	58%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	43%	39%	40%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	39%	42%	42%
\$100,000 or greater	44%	41%	51%
18-34 years old	52%	43%	76%
35-44 years old	53%	58%	44%
45-54 years old	41%	40%	43%
55-64 years old	40%	38%	53%
65 or older	28%	25%	27%
Born in Sangamon County	49%	48%	42%
Born Elsewhere	36%	37%	47%

RACE AND EQUALITY IN SANGAMON COUNTY

6%

of Sang. Co. residents describe race relations in the area as very good

65%

of Sang Co. residents describe race relations in the area as fairly good

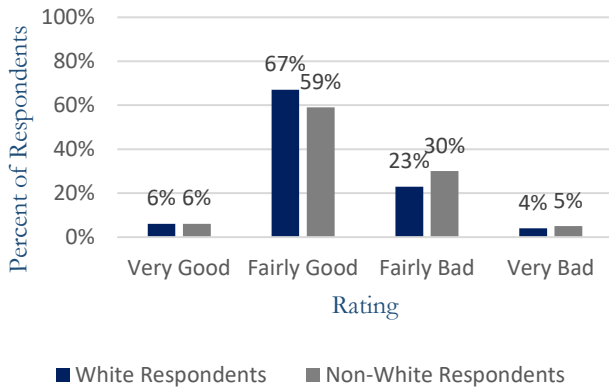
25%

of Sang Co. residents describe race relations in the area as fairly bad

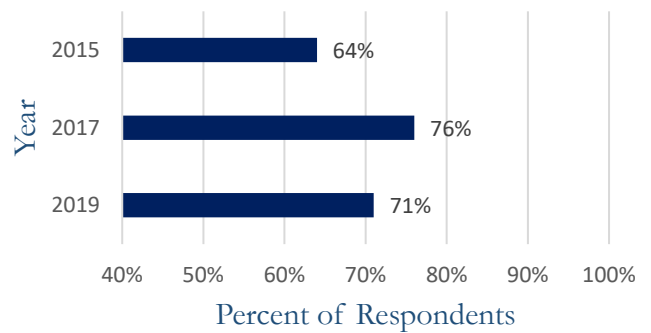
4%

of Sang Co. residents describe race relations in the area as very bad

How Would You Rate Race Relations in the Springfield Area?



Percent of Respondents Who Rate Race Relations in Sangamon County as Very or Fairly Good Across Years



Equality

35% of all respondents think everyone in their community is treated equally.

36% of white respondents report everyone is treated equally compared to 32% of non-white respondents.

28% of those ages 18 to 34 say everyone is treated equally. This is the lowest of all the age groups. The age group with the highest percent of respondents who say everyone is treated equally are those aged 35 to 44 at 37%.

Racial Discrimination

18% of all respondents report experiencing poor treatment due to their race or ethnicity.

45% of non-white respondents report experiencing poor treatment due to their race or ethnicity compared to 11% of white respondents.

Table 8. Attitudes Towards Race and Equality in Sangamon County by Demographics

Demographics	Everyone is Treated Equally	Report Poor Treatment Due to Race or Ethnicity	Rate Race Relations as Very Good or Fairly Good
All Respondents	35%	18%	71%
Male	38%	16%	72%
Female	32%	18%	73%
White	36%	11%	73%
Nonwhite	32%	45%	65%
Less than HS	80%	27%	70%
High School	39%	13%	70%
Some college	30%	25%	75%
Bachelor's	31%	14%	69%
Graduate degree	35%	14%	68%
Less than \$29,999	36%	32%	74%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	39%	16%	73%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	25%	20%	67%
\$100,000 or greater	39%	9%	70%
18-34 years old	28%	26%	77%
35-44 years old	37%	20%	74%
45-54 years old	36%	15%	66%
55-64 years old	31%	20%	69%
65 or older	34%	15%	75%
Born in Sangamon County	36%	22%	72%
Born Elsewhere	34%	15%	71%

SUCCESS IN SANGAMON COUNTY

Being a Person of Color as a Barrier to Career Success in the County

- **25%** of all respondents report that being a person of color is a large barrier to career success in Sangamon County.
- **46%** of non-white respondents report being a person of color is a large barrier to career success in Sangamon County. This is over twice the rate of white respondents (19%).
- **16%** of those ages 18 to 34 see being a person of color as a large barrier to career success in Sangamon County. This is the lowest of the five age groups.
- **26%** of women think being a person of color is a large barrier compared to 21% of men.
- **40%** of those reporting an annual household income of under \$30,000 think being a person of color is a large barrier. The highest of the income groups.

Being from Outside the Area as a Barrier to Career Success in the County

- **29%** of all respondents rate being from outside the area as a large barrier to career success in Sangamon County.
- **33%** of those respondents born outside of Sangamon County report being from outside the area is a large barrier to career success in the county compared to 26% of residents born in Sangamon County.
- **34%** of those reporting a household income less than \$30,000 a year say being from outside the area is a large barrier compared to 29% of those reporting an income of at least \$100,000.

Not Having Connections as a Barrier to Career Success in the County

- **62%** of those surveyed think that not having connections is a large barrier to career success in Sangamon County.
- **67%** of those born in Sangamon County see not having connections as a large barrier to career success in the county compared to 58% of those born outside of Sangamon County.
- **70%** of non-white respondents see not having connections as a large barrier to career success compared to 60% of white respondents.
- **53%** of those reporting an annual household income of at least \$100,000 see not having connections as a barrier to career success, the lowest of the income groupings.

Percent of Respondents Saying the Extent, If At All, Each of the Following Are a Barrier to Career Success in Sangamon County

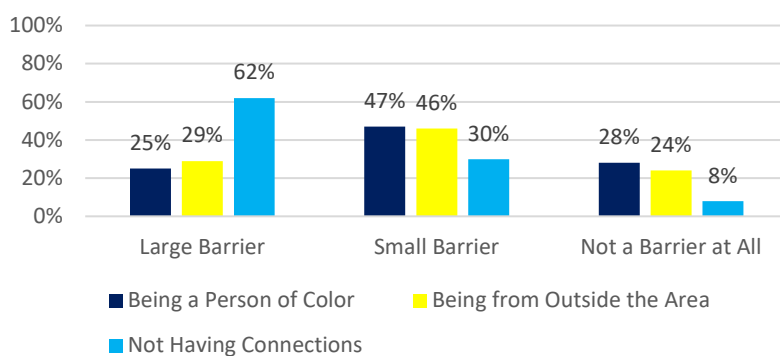
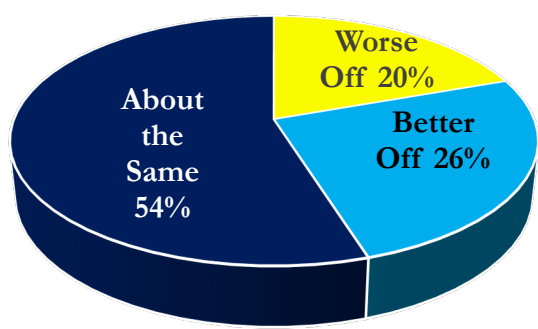


Table 9. Attitudes Towards Success in Sangamon County by Demographics

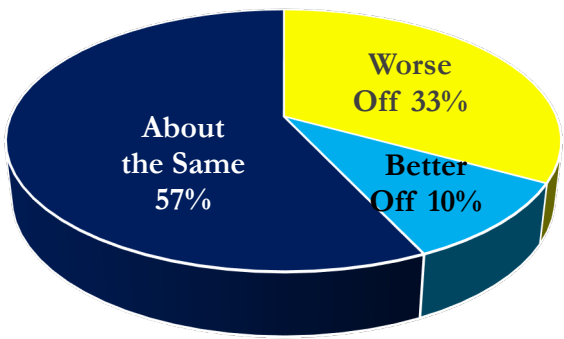
Demographics	Being a Person of Color is a Large Barrier	Not Having Connections is a Large Barrier	Being from Outside the Area is a Large Barrier
All Respondents	25%	62%	29%
Male	22%	62%	29%
Female	26%	61%	30%
White	19%	60%	29%
Nonwhite	46%	70%	32%
Less than HS	20%	67%	14%
High School	33%	62%	39%
Some college	24%	61%	21%
Bachelor's	22%	61%	27%
Graduate degree	22%	66%	36%
Less than \$29,999	40%	55%	34%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	22%	67%	31%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	24%	71%	29%
\$100,000 or greater	20%	53%	29%
18-34 years old	16%	57%	24%
35-44 years old	22%	76%	28%
45-54 years old	24%	56%	32%
55-64 years old	27%	65%	33%
65 or older	25%	51%	23%
Born in Sangamon County	21%	67%	26%
Born Elsewhere	29%	58%	33%

ECONOMY

Personal Financial Conditions Compared to 12 Months Ago



Local Area Business Conditions Compared to 12 Months Ago



Economic Development

- **56%** of respondents are aware of economic development efforts in the area.
- **30%** of respondents think Sangamon County has an excellent or good reputation for starting a business.
- **21%** of respondents report that Sangamon County has an excellent or good reputation for attracting new businesses.
- **19%** of those surveyed think Sangamon County has an excellent or good reputation for retaining existing businesses.
- **21%** of respondents think Sangamon County has an excellent or good reputation for attracting talented professionals.
- **18%** of respondents think that Sangamon County has an excellent or good reputation of retaining talented professionals.

An important note about the responses to the economic development questions is that the former director of the Land of Lincoln Economic Development Corporation was publicly removed from his position a few days after the survey was sent to the public. Due to media coverage and nature of his removal, awareness of economic development efforts may have increased but negative assessments may have as well.

89% of Sangamon County Residents see Developing Downtown Springfield as Important to the County. This is the highest percent since this survey began in 2013.

Downtown Activities

- **67%** of respondents rate downtown Springfield as either excellent or good for restaurants.
- **66%** of those surveyed rate downtown Springfield as either excellent or good for cultural activities.
- **52%** of respondents rate the cleanliness of downtown Springfield as either excellent or good.
- **42%** of those surveyed rate the safety of downtown Springfield as either excellent or good.
- **36%** of respondents rate downtown Springfield as either excellent or good for nightlife.
- **27%** of those surveyed rate downtown Springfield as either excellent or good for shopping.

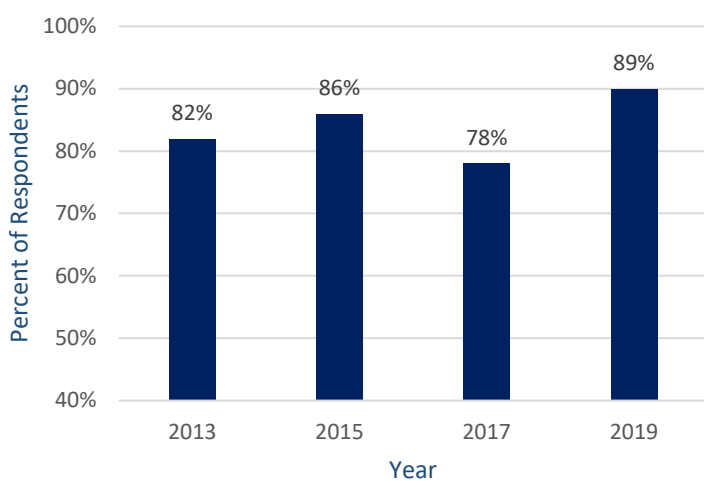
ECONOMY

Performance of the Economy

- **27%** of respondents rate the state of Sangamon County’s economy as excellent or good.
- **56%** of those surveyed rate the state of Sangamon County economy as fair.
- **17%** of respondents rate the state of Sangamon County’s economy as poor.
- **35%** of respondents born outside of Sangamon County rate the economy as excellent or good compared to 18% of those born in the county.
- **32%** of non-white respondents rate the economy as excellent or good compared to 25% of white respondents
- **41%** of respondents with an annual household income of \$100,000 or greater report the local economy is excellent or good. Those reporting an annual household income of \$100,000 or greater are more likely than those reporting under \$30,000 (31%), between \$30,001 and \$60,000 (18%), and \$60,001 to \$100,000 (22%).
- **41%** of those surveyed with a graduate degree rate the economy as excellent or good. This compares to 39% of those with less than a high school diploma, 20% of those with a high school diploma, 27% of those with some college

Historical Trends

Percent of Respondents Who Said Growing Downtown Springfield is Important Since 2013



Assessments of Local Area Business Conditions Compared to 12 Months Ago since 2013

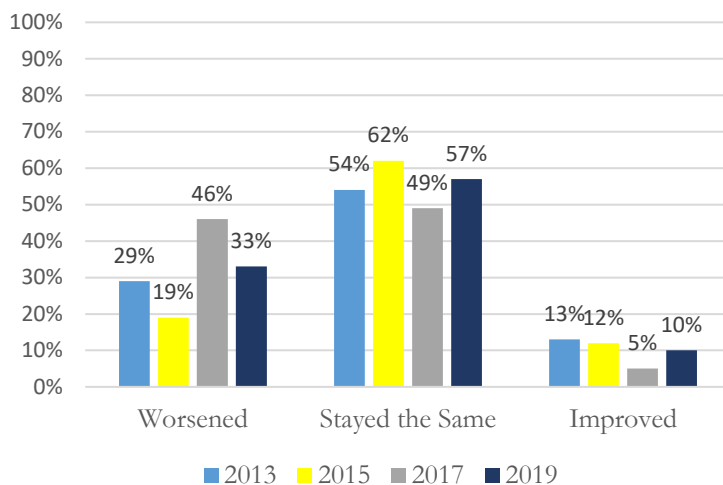


Table 10. Attitudes Towards the Sangamon County Economy by Demographics

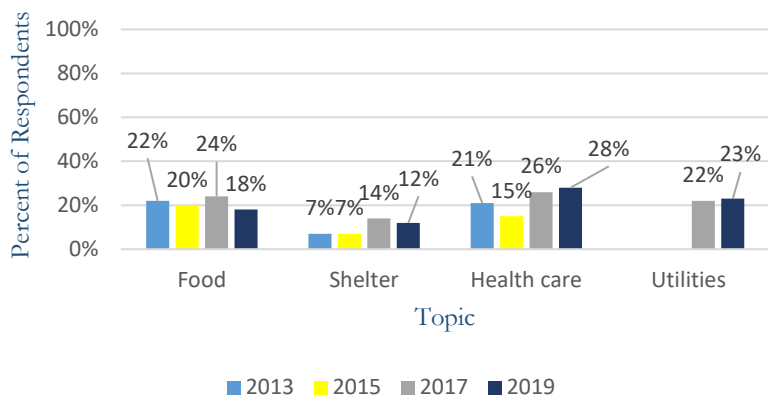
Demographics	The Sangamon County Economy is Excellent or Good	Personal Financial Situation is Better Off	Personal Financial Situation is Worse Off	Local Business Conditions Are Better Off	Local Business Conditions Are Worse Off
All Respondents	30%	26%	20%	10%	33%
Male	28%	30%	19%	11%	35%
Female	27%	22%	21%	8%	32%
White	32%	24%	20%	8%	33%
Nonwhite	25%	34%	22%	19%	30%
Less than HS	39%	53%	0%	53%	7%
High School	20%	19%	26%	6%	36%
Some college	27%	20%	28%	10%	28%
Bachelor's	27%	32%	14%	11%	37%
Graduate degree	41%	33%	10%	10%	30%
Less than \$29,999	31%	21%	33%	13%	34%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	18%	21%	26%	8%	33%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	22%	25%	16%	6%	31%
\$100,000 or greater	41%	37%	11%	16%	29%
18-34 years old	25%	42%	29%	17%	40%
35-44 years old	18%	40%	13%	12%	18%
45-54 years old	25%	20%	21%	5%	38%
55-64 years old	24%	18%	25%	8%	39%
65 or older	33%	15%	15%	7%	34%
Born in Sangamon County	18%	28%	18%	8%	34%
Born Elsewhere	35%	24%	22%	12%	31%

Table 11. Attitudes Towards the Sangamon County Economy by Demographics

Demographics	Downtown is Important to the Economic Development of the Area	Sangamon County Has An Excellent or Good Reputation for Starting A Business	Sangamon County Has An Excellent or Good Reputation for Attracting Existing Businesses	Sangamon County Has An Excellent or Good Reputation for Retaining Businesses	Sangamon County Has An Excellent or Good Reputation for Attracting Talented Professionals	Sangamon County Has An Excellent or Good Reputation for Retaining Talented Professionals
All Respondents	89%	30%	21%	19%	21%	18%
Male	87%	30%	18%	19%	17%	18%
Female	91%	28%	23%	18%	24%	18%
White	91%	27%	19%	19%	21%	17%
Nonwhite	83%	43%	29%	21%	25%	22%
Less than HS	100%	33%	40%	23%	36%	29%
High School	90%	29%	18%	19%	20%	15%
Some college	88%	23%	17%	14%	18%	17%
Bachelor's	92%	35%	21%	17%	19%	19%
Graduate degree	85%	36%	32%	33%	32%	24%
Less than \$29,999	92%	36%	31%	24%	22%	17%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	83%	27%	16%	12%	21%	16%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	92%	28%	17%	16%	17%	17%
\$100,000 or greater	90%	31%	21%	28%	23%	21%
18-34 years old	94%	41%	21%	17%	17%	18%
35-44 years old	86%	19%	15%	19%	17%	14%
45-54 years old	86%	23%	15%	18%	13%	7%
55-64 years old	91%	28%	19%	14%	22%	20%
65 or older	90%	34%	29%	23%	31%	23%
Born in Sangamon County	89%	19%	12%	12%	16%	12%
Born Elsewhere	89%	40%	30%	26%	27%	24%

ECONOMY

Percent of Respondents Who Say in the Past 12 Months They Did Not Have Enough Money to Pay For...



Could Not Afford Food in the Past 12 Months

- **18%** of all respondents report that there was a time in the past 12 months where they could not afford food, the lowest reported rate since this survey began in 2013.
- **23%** of female respondents report this compared to 12% of male.
- **25%** of non-white respondents report this compared to 17% of white respondents.
- **60%** of those with less than a high school diploma report not being able to afford food. This is over twice as much as the next closest group, which is those with some college (25%)
- **45%** of those reporting a household income less than \$30,000 report not being able to afford food, nearly twice as much as the next closest group of those making between \$30,000 and \$59,999 (23%).
- **29%** of those surveyed between the ages of 35 to 44 report not being able to afford food. The highest of the five age groups.
- **22%** of those born in Sangamon County report this compared to 14% of those born elsewhere.

Could Not Afford Healthcare or Medicine in the Past 12 Months

- **28%** of all respondents report that there was a time in the past 12 months when they could not afford healthcare. This is the highest rate since the survey began in 2013.
- **34%** of female respondents report this compared to 22% of male.
- **37%** of non-white report not being able to afford healthcare compared to 26% of white respondents.
- **53%** of those reporting a household income less than \$30,000 report not being able to afford healthcare, compared to just 8% of those reporting an income of greater than \$100,000.
- **36%** of those born in Sangamon County report this compared to 21% of those born elsewhere.
- **18%** of those ages 65 and older report this, the lowest of all the age groups.

Could Not Afford Shelter in the Past 12 Months

- **12%** of all respondents report that there was a time in the past 12 months when they could not afford shelter.
- **14%** of female respondents report this compared to 9% of male.
- **19%** of those with some college report not being able to afford shelter. The highest of the education groups.
- **22%** of those reporting a household income less than \$30,000 report not being able to afford shelter, compared to just 1% of those reporting an income of greater than \$100,000.

Could Not Afford Utilities in the Past 12 Months

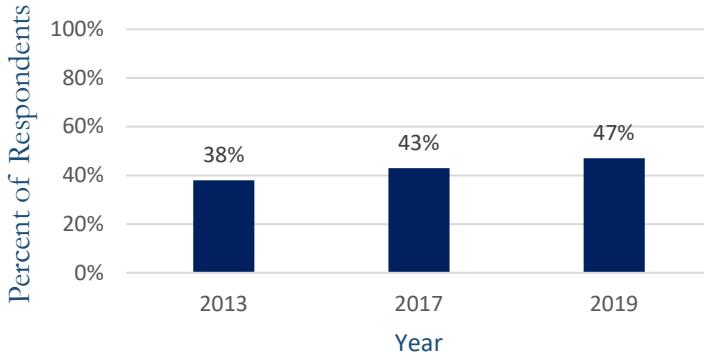
- Women (28%), non-white respondents (30%), those with less than a high school education (75%), those making less than \$30,000 a year (59%), ages 35 to 44 (32%), and people born in Sangamon County (26%) were more likely than others in their group to report having issues affording utilities.

Table 12. County Economy by Demographics

Demographics	Could not Afford Food In the Past 12 Months	Could not Afford Shelter In the Past 12 Months	Could not Afford Healthcare/Medicine In the Past 12 Months	Could not Afford Utilities In the Past 12 Months	Could not Afford Transportation In the Past 12 Months
All Respondents	18%	12%	28%	23%	15%
Male	12%	9%	22%	16%	12%
Female	23%	14%	34%	28%	17%
White	17%	12%	26%	21%	13%
Nonwhite	25%	13%	37%	30%	22%
Less than HS	60%	0%	60%	75%	75%
High School	22%	11%	34%	24%	11%
Some college	25%	19%	36%	32%	21%
Bachelor's	10%	10%	20%	17%	14%
Graduate degree	6%	4%	12%	6%	3%
Less than \$29,999	45%	22%	53%	59%	36%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	23%	18%	42%	25%	16%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	15%	10%	22%	20%	14%
\$100,000 or greater	3%	1%	8%	5%	2%
18-34 years old	15%	12%	28%	23%	6%
35-44 years old	29%	15%	48%	32%	22%
45-54 years old	19%	14%	24%	25%	20%
55-64 years old	19%	11%	26%	21%	13%
65 or older	14%	10%	18%	17%	13%
Born in Sangamon County	22%	12%	36%	26%	16%
Born Elsewhere	14%	12%	21%	19%	14%

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Percent of Respondents Who Say Most People Can Be Trusted



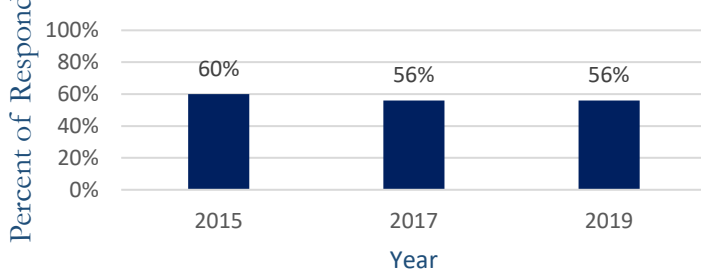
47% of 2019 respondents think most people can be trusted

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

This is the highest level of reported trust of Sangamon County residents since the survey began in 2013. Those ages 18 to 34 and 65 years and older have the highest level of trust at 54%.

White respondents (51%) are more likely to report that most people can be trusted than non-white (34%).

Percent of Respondents Who Say They Trust the Local Media to Report News Fully, Accurately, and Fairly



56% of 2019 respondents have a great deal or fair amount of trust in the local media to be fair

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the local media – such as newspapers, TV, and radio – when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly?

WICS News Channel 20 (25%), The State-Journal Register (22%), and NPR Illinois (20%), were the most trusted news organizations identified by respondents. An important note around this question is that shortly after this survey was mailed out a meteorologist for WICS News Channel 20 was removed from his position, which led to public outcry and may have influenced respondent answers.

68%
of Sangamon County residents report being very or somewhat interested in National Affairs and Politics

65%
of those surveyed report being very or somewhat interested in State Affairs and Politics

62%
of Sangamon County residents report being very or somewhat interested in Local Affairs and Politics

Table 13. Attitudes Towards the Civic Engagement by Demographics

Demographics	Most People Can Be Trusted	Trust the Local Media	Interested in National Affairs	Interested in State Affairs	Interested in Local Affairs
All Respondents	47%	56%	68%	65%	62%
Male	52%	48%	81%	75%	69%
Female	44%	64%	58%	57%	56%
White	51%	55%	69%	67%	65%
Nonwhite	34%	61%	69%	55%	50%
Less than HS	40%	92%	55%	62%	46%
High School	34%	53%	57%	61%	62%
Some college	38%	59%	71%	62%	65%
Bachelor's	60%	51%	71%	69%	59%
Graduate degree	66%	59%	81%	72%	64%
Less than \$29,999	33%	74%	50%	48%	49%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	35%	53%	70%	60%	56%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	53%	57%	74%	70%	65%
\$100,000 or greater	70%	50%	84%	80%	77%
18-34 years old	54%	63%	73%	64%	58%
35-44 years old	44%	70%	59%	51%	48%
45-54 years old	41%	32%	61%	68%	67%
55-64 years old	51%	50%	71%	73%	67%
65 or older	54%	60%	70%	69%	67%
Born in Sangamon County	40%	51%	67%	62%	63%
Born Elsewhere	54%	61%	71%	67%	61%

LEADERSHIP

Confidence in Local Elected Leaders?

46% of Sangamon County residents reported being confident that local elected leaders can effectively address local problems.

This evaluation was most common among female respondents (49%), individuals ages 65 and older (54%), white respondents (48%), individuals making less than \$30,000 a year (53%), those born outside of Sangamon County (51%), and individuals with graduate degrees (63%).

..... Confidence in State Elected Leaders?

60%
of respondents are very or somewhat confident in unelected leaders in their community.

24% of Sangamon County residents reported being confident that State leaders can effectively address problems.

In general, women (30%) are more confident in state elected officials than men (18%). Individuals between the ages of 18 and 34 are the most confident (33%) while those aged 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 are the least confident (15%). Those without a high school diploma (47%) have the highest level of confidence in elected state government officials of all the education groups. Those reporting an annual household income of less than \$30,000 are much more confident (45%) than the other income brackets. Those born outside of Sangamon County (29%) are more likely to express confidence in state government leaders than those born in Sangamon County (19%).

Confidence in Federal Elected Leaders?

24% of Sangamon County residents are confident that federal elected leaders can effectively address problems.

Women (29%) are more likely than men (18%) to report being confident in federal level leaders. Non-white respondents (34%) are more likely than white respondents (21%) to report being confident in federal elected officials. Those with less than a high school education (47%) are more likely than other education groups to report being confident in federal elected officials. Those born outside of Sangamon County are more likely (28%) than those born in Sangamon County (19%).

Confidence in Leaders Since 2013

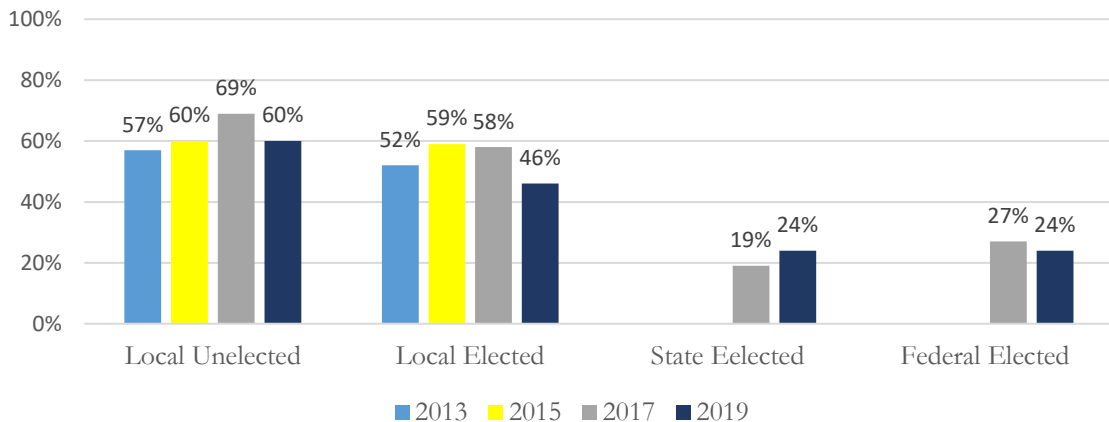


Table 14. Attitudes Towards Leadership by Demographics

Demographics	Confident in Unelected Local Leaders	Confident in Local Elected Leaders	Confident in State Elected Leaders	Confident in Federal Elected Leaders
All Respondents	60%	46%	24%	24%
Male	62%	44%	18%	18%
Female	59%	49%	30%	29%
White	62%	48%	21%	21%
Nonwhite	54%	39%	36%	34%
Less than HS	60%	47%	47%	47%
High School	64%	46%	28%	26%
Some college	53%	43%	24%	21%
Bachelor's	62%	41%	21%	25%
Graduate degree	67%	63%	23%	20%
Less than \$29,999	52%	53%	45%	35%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	57%	37%	21%	19%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	66%	48%	18%	15%
\$100,000 or greater	66%	52%	21%	30%
18-34 years old	65%	51%	33%	27%
35-44 years old	46%	41%	15%	20%
45-54 years old	61%	39%	15%	22%
55-64 years old	63%	49%	28%	22%
65 or older	69%	54%	30%	28%
Born in Sangamon County	54%	41%	19%	19%
Born Elsewhere	65%	51%	29%	28%

PERSONAL HEALTH

93%

of Sangamon County residents have healthcare coverage

89%

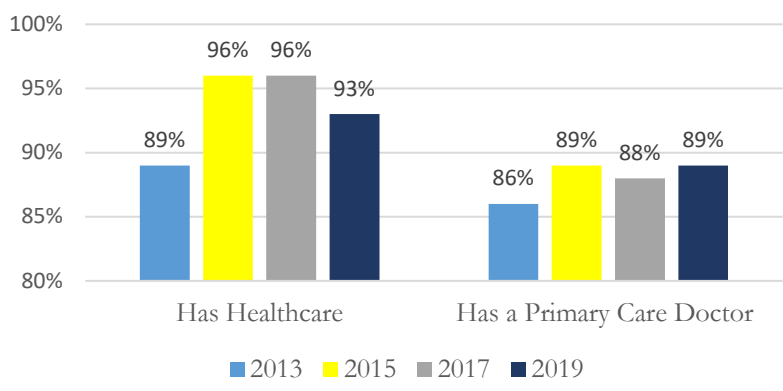
of Sangamon County residents have a primary health care provider

Health Status

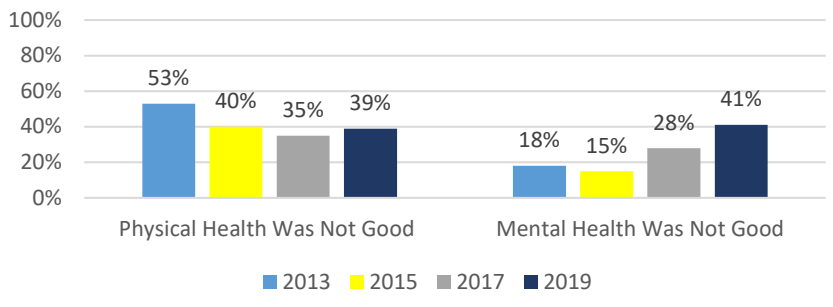
When asked about their health in the past 30 days, 39% report that there was at least one day in which their physical health was not good, and 41% report at least one day in which their mental health was not good. 29% report having at least one bad physical health day and at least one bad mental health day in the past 30 days. These results vary greatly based on gender, race, income, education, age and whether someone is originally from the area.

When comparing 2019 rates to the 2017 edition of this survey we find that a higher percentage of Sangamon County residents in 2019 report that their physical health was not good on at least one day and a higher percentage report that their mental health was not good at least one day out of the month compared to 2017. Since 2013, reports of poor physical health decreased by about 14 percentage points, but reports of poor mental health have more than doubled.

Healthcare Since 2013



Percent of Respondents Who Report Experiencing the Following At Least One Day in the Past 30 Days



Healthcare

- **93%** of all respondents report having healthcare. While slightly lower than 2017 and 2015, this is a higher rate than 2013.
- **89%** of all respondents report having a primary care physician, similar to rates in 2015 and 2017 and slightly higher than 2013.
- **94%** of white respondents report having healthcare compared to 87% of non-white respondents.
- **38%** of respondents with less than a high diploma report having healthcare. This is dramatically lower than other education groups.
- **84%** of respondents ages 18 to 34 report having healthcare, the lowest of the five age groups.

Table 15. Attitudes Towards Health Issues by Demographics

Demographics	Has Healthcare	Has a Primary Care Doctor?	Physical Health Was Not Good At Least One Day	Mental Health Was Not Good At Least One Day	There was At Least One Day Where Each Was Not Good
All Respondents	93%	89%	39%	41%	28%
Male	94%	85%	34%	34%	23%
Female	91%	92%	41%	46%	29%
White	94%	90%	45%	37%	24%
Nonwhite	87%	87%	37%	56%	39%
Less than HS	38%	100%	25%	75%	13%
High School	95%	89%	42%	36%	33%
Some college	89%	87%	47%	48%	32%
Bachelor's	96%	93%	32%	39%	23%
Graduate degree	93%	88%	27%	34%	18%
Less than \$29,999	85%	86%	54%	69%	50%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	92%	84%	39%	42%	29%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	95%	92%	43%	40%	25%
\$100,000 or greater	94%	91%	26%	27%	18%
18-34 years old	84%	73%	31%	65%	29%
35-44 years old	86%	88%	38%	54%	34%
45-54 years old	94%	87%	40%	33%	23%
55-64 years old	94%	92%	40%	35%	30%
65 or older	99%	97%	41%	27%	20%
Born in Sangamon County	89%	87%	42%	48%	32%
Born Elsewhere	95%	91%	37%	35%	23%

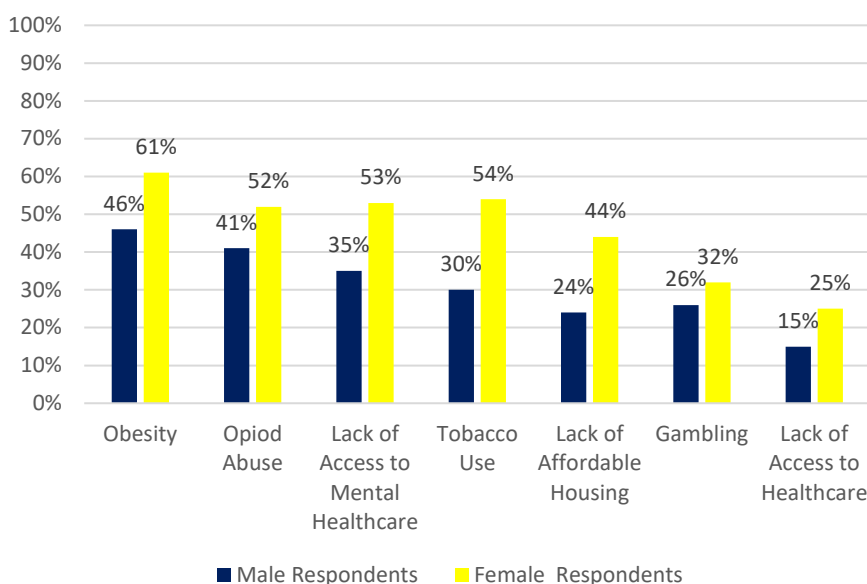
SOCIAL HEALTH

Issues Facing the Community

Respondents were asked to rate how serious of a problem a number of issues were to their community. The below table summarizes those respondents who identified an issue as extremely or very serious.

Issue	Percent
Obesity	54%
Opioid Abuse	48%
Access to Mental Healthcare	44%
Tobacco Use	43%
Access to Safe and Affordable Housing	35%
Gambling Addiction	29%
Access to Healthcare	20%

Percent of Male and Female Respondents Who Consider The Following Issues Extremely or Very Serious in the Community



Men and Women Have Differing Views

As visualized through the graph in the top right corner of this page, male and female respondents have large differences of opinion when it comes to the level seriousness of issues facing the county.

Differing Views Across Race

The issue of greatest concern for white respondents is obesity (56%) compared to the lack of access to mental healthcare (49%) for non-white respondents. Non-white respondents were also nearly twice as likely (30%) as white respondents (17%) to report a lack of access to healthcare is an extremely or very serious issue.

Income and Issue Seriousness

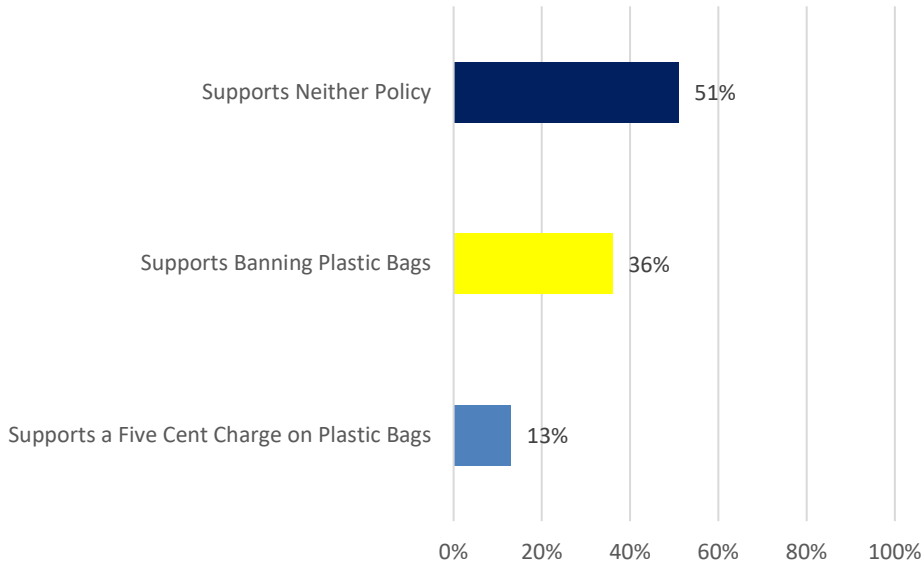
Those reporting an annual household income under \$30,000 a year highlight tobacco use (61%) and a lack of affordable housing (56%) as the two most serious issues. For those reporting an income between \$30,000 and \$59,999 obesity (52%) and opioid abuse (50%) were the two most cited issues. For those reporting \$60,000 to \$99,999 the two highest issues were obesity (60%) and lack of access to mental healthcare (45%). Those reporting an income of at least \$100,000 also selected obesity (55%) and lack of access to mental healthcare (46%)

Table 16. Percent of Respondents Who Consider An Issue Extremely or Very Serious by Demographics

Demographics	Obesity	Opioid Abuse	Mental Healthcare	Tobacco Use	Housing	Gambling	Healthcare
All Respondents	54%	48%	44%	43%	35%	29%	20%
Male	46%	41%	35%	30%	24%	26%	15%
Female	61%	52%	53%	54%	44%	32%	25%
White	56%	50%	43%	41%	32%	27%	17%
Nonwhite	45%	40%	49%	47%	44%	36%	30%
Less than HS	57%	90%	70%	80%	70%	60%	50%
High School	47%	49%	44%	46%	43%	26%	24%
Some college	50%	46%	39%	44%	34%	32%	15%
Bachelor's	66%	49%	43%	41%	27%	27%	20%
Graduate degree	58%	45%	54%	37%	35%	26%	20%
Less than \$29,999	48%	48%	46%	61%	56%	44%	31%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	52%	50%	43%	43%	38%	23%	22%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	60%	45%	45%	32%	34%	25%	16%
\$100,000 or greater	55%	42%	46%	36%	20%	28%	18%
18-34 years old	47%	46%	47%	30%	34%	18%	31%
35-44 years old	63%	53%	50%	52%	43%	23%	26%
45-54 years old	51%	46%	45%	41%	35%	28%	14%
55-64 years old	56%	39%	43%	40%	36%	35%	13%
65 or older	56%	44%	56%	42%	32%	32%	13%
Born in Sangamon County	55%	49%	47%	44%	37%	25%	22%
Born Elsewhere	54%	46%	42%	41%	33%	32%	18%

ENVIRONMENT

Support For Plastic Bag Related Policies



Plastic Bag Policies

The highest level of support for banning plastic bags came from those with less than a high school diploma (42%).

The largest level of support for charging a five cent fee for a plastic bag comes from those ages 18 to 34 (34%).

The highest level of opposition for either proposed policy comes from those with a high school diploma (68%).

Compared to other questions, there are smaller differences between white and non-white respondents.

72% of survey respondents reported that recycling does more to help the environment compared to 28% who said it does more to make people feel good.

76%

Of female respondents think recycling does more to help the environment compared to 68% of men

79%

Of those ages 35 to 44 think recycling does more to help the environment. The highest of the age groups

76%

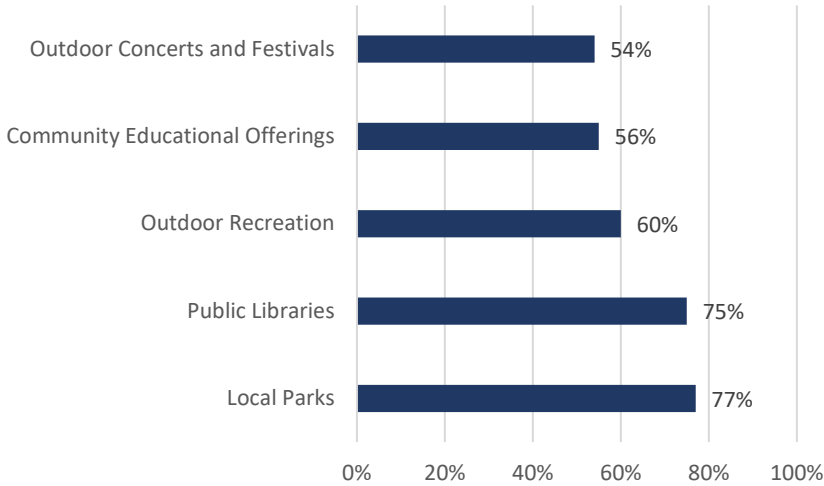
Of those reporting a household income between \$30,000 and \$59,999 report recycling does more to help environment. The highest of the income groups.

Table 17. Attitudes Towards Recycling by Demographics

Demographics	Recycling Does More to Help The Environment	Recycling Does More to Make People Feel Good	Supports a Five Cent Charge on Plastic Bags	Supports Banning Plastic Bags	Support No Change Regarding Plastic Bags
All Respondents	72%	28%	13%	36%	51%
Male	68%	32%	17%	34%	50%
Female	76%	24%	12%	37%	51%
White	72%	28%	14%	36%	50%
Nonwhite	71%	29%	11%	37%	52%
Less than HS	69%	31%	0%	42%	58%
High School	68%	32%	5%	27%	68%
Some college	76%	24%	16%	39%	45%
Bachelor's	73%	27%	15%	39%	46%
Graduate degree	67%	33%	22%	36%	42%
Less than \$29,999	72%	28%	13%	30%	57%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	76%	24%	8%	33%	59%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	75%	25%	19%	37%	44%
\$100,000 or greater	63%	37%	18%	40%	42%
18-34 years old	72%	28%	34%	27%	39%
35-44 years old	79%	21%	14%	41%	44%
45-54 years old	75%	25%	13%	25%	62%
55-64 years old	69%	31%	9%	40%	51%
65 or older	72%	28%	8%	39%	53%
Born in Sangamon County	72%	28%	10%	35%	55%
Born Elsewhere	71%	29%	17%	37%	47%

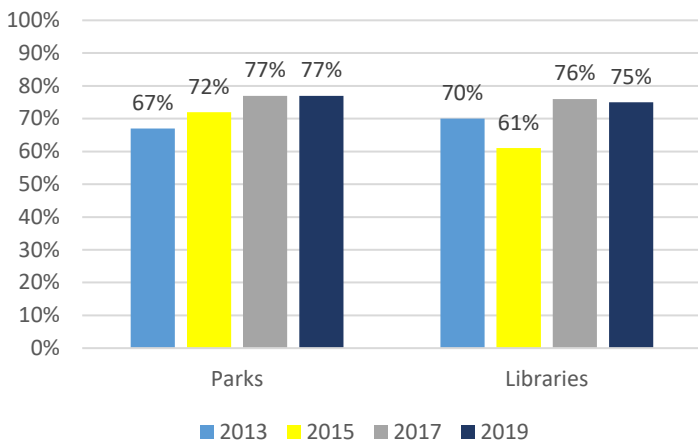
Cultural and Recreational Options

Percent of 2019 Respondents Who Rate The Below Local Recreational and Cultural Options as "Excellent" or "Good"



- Consistently, those not originally from Sangamon County rate cultural and recreation options in the county higher than those originally from Sangamon County.
- Of the two cultural options we've polled on since 2013 parks are tied for their highest rating and libraries are slightly below their 2017 high, which was a large increase from 2015.
- White respondents rate parks, educational opportunities, and outdoor concerts higher than non-white respondents.
- Men rate parks and community educational offerings higher than women while women rate libraries and outdoor recreation

Percent of Respondents Who Say the Following Cultural and Recreation Options in Sangamon County are Excellent or Good



Satisfaction With Access to Cultural and Recreation Options

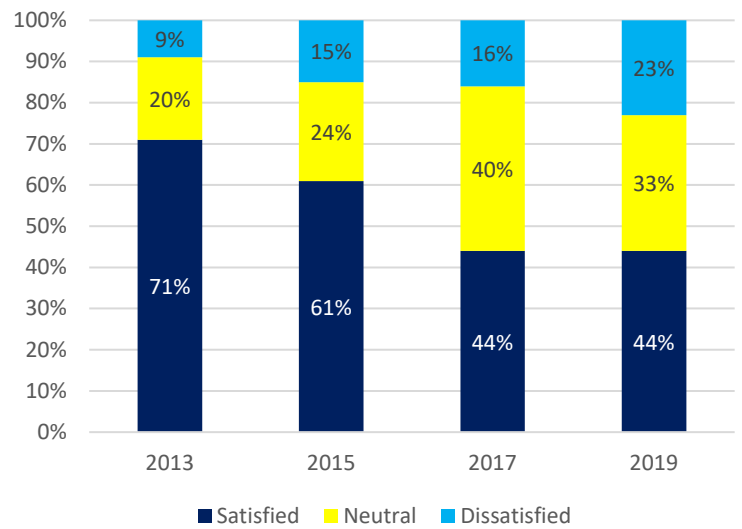


Table 18. Attitudes Towards Local Cultural and Recreational Options by Demographics

Demographics	Parks in Sangamon County Are Excellent or Good	Libraries in Sangamon County Are Excellent or Good	Outdoor Recreation Options In Sangamon County Are Excellent or Good	Community Educational Options in Sangamon County Are Excellent or Good	Outdoor Concerts and Festivals in Sangamon County Are Excellent or Good	Satisfied with Current Access to Local Recreational and Cultural Events
All Respondents	77%	75%	60%	56%	54%	44%
Male	80%	72%	60%	56%	54%	44%
Female	77%	78%	62%	55%	54%	44%
White	80%	74%	62%	58%	57%	29%
Nonwhite	67%	76%	66%	47%	40%	48%
Less than HS	40%	60%	36%	33%	36%	46%
High School	74%	77%	65%	61%	54%	46%
Some college	73%	71%	58%	52%	49%	41%
Bachelor's	86%	80%	63%	58%	56%	48%
Graduate degree	79%	73%	56%	56%	59%	54%
Less than \$29,999	72%	81%	64%	61%	46%	38%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	72%	73%	55%	43%	54%	37%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	85%	67%	58%	57%	52%	43%
\$100,000 or greater	82%	80%	67%	59%	59%	57%
18-34 years old	78%	85%	60%	46%	54%	37%
35-44 years old	69%	60%	47%	35%	44%	38%
45-54 years old	64%	70%	53%	54%	45%	33%
55-64 years old	83%	73%	65%	62%	60%	48%
65 or older	90%	83%	72%	73%	64%	55%
Born in Sangamon County	73%	70%	54%	46%	47%	36%
Born Elsewhere	82%	80%	66%	65%	60%	50%

Social Well-being and Public Safety

On a scale of 0-10, how likely are you to recommend the Springfield area to someone who was considering moving to the area?

0	11%
1	2%
2	5%
3	9%
4	8%
5	15%
6	9%
7	13%
8	15%
9	7%
10	6%

Generally speaking, would you say that things in Sangamon County are heading in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

Right track	52%
Wrong direction	48%

In general, do you think race relations in your community are very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	6%
Fairly good	65%
Fairly bad	24%
Very bad	4%

Do you think everyone in your community is treated equally, in other words, does everyone get a “fair shake?”

Yes	35%
No	65%

Do you think Sangamon County is a welcoming place for people like you?

Yes	84%
No	16%

Have you personally experienced or been treated unfairly because of your racial or ethnic background?

Yes	18%
No	82%

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

Most people can be trusted	47%
Can't be too careful	53%

Do you think Sangamon County is an excellent, good, fair, or poor...

Place to live	
Excellent	9%
Good	54%
Fair	28%
Poor	8%

Place to work?	
Excellent	9%
Good	46%
Fair	37%
Poor	8%

Place to retire?	
Excellent	7%
Good	30%
Fair	31%
Poor	33%

Place to raise children?	
Excellent	8%
Good	53%
Fair	32%
Poor	8%

In the past twelve months, have you considered moving out of or away from Sangamon County?

Yes	57%
No	43%

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to pay for _____ that you or your family needed?

Food	
Yes	18%
No	82%

Shelter	
Yes	12%
No	88%
Healthcare and/or medicines	
Yes	28%
No	72%
Utilities or Internet	
Yes	23%
No	77%
Transportation	
Yes	15%
No	85%
How much trust do you have in the police in your area to keep you and your family safe?	
Great deal of trust	60%
A fair amount	35%
None at all	4%
Do you feel safe or unsafe walking alone at night in your neighborhood?	
Safe	65%
Unsafe	35%
Are you the parent or primary guardian of a school age child?	
Yes	24%
No	76%
<i>If yes:</i> Is your child currently enrolled in a public school or a private parochial school? Or, is your child home schooled?	
Public school	87%
Private/parochial school	12%
Homeschooled	1%
<i>If yes:</i> If you had to rate the quality of education that your oldest (or only) child is receiving would you say that it is...?	
Excellent	36%
Good	36%
Fair	22%
Poor	6%

In what school district do you currently live?	
Springfield	61%
Ball Chatham	12%
Pleasant Plains	4%
Auburn	4%
New Berlin	3%
Williamsville	3%
Riverton	3%
Tri City	1%
Athens	1%
Pawnee	1%
Other	7%

Do any of your children live in Sangamon County?	
Yes	74%
No	26%

Do any of your adult children live outside of Sangamon County?	
Yes	60%
No	40%

Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, government plans such as Medicare, or Indian Health Service?	
Yes	93%
No	7%

Do you have anyone who you think of as your personal doctor or primary health care provider?	
Yes	89%
No	11%

Please imagine a ladder with steps numbered from 0 at the bottom and 10 on top. The top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you and the bottom of the ladder represents the worst possible life for you. One which step of the ladder would you say you personally stand?

0	1%
1	0%
2	1%
3	8%
4	5%
5	12%
6	12%
7	22%
8	22%
9	10%
10	7%

How serious of a problem are each of the following in your community?

Lack of access to health care

Extremely Serious	8%
Very Serious	11%
Somewhat Serious	32%
Not Serious At All	49%

Abuse of prescription pain killers or opioids

Extremely Serious	18%
Very Serious	30%
Somewhat Serious	40%
Not Serious At All	13%

Gambling Addiction

Extremely Serious	10%
Very Serious	19%
Somewhat Serious	43%
Not Serious At All	28%

Lack of Access to mental health care

Extremely Serious	24%
Very Serious	21%
Somewhat Serious	32%
Not Serious At All	24%

Obesity	
Extremely Serious	19%
Very Serious	35%
Somewhat Serious	37%
Not Serious At All	9%

Tobacco Use	
Extremely Serious	15%
Very Serious	27%
Somewhat Serious	40%
Not Serious At All	18%

Lack of safe and affordable housing

Extremely Serious	15%
Very Serious	20%
Somewhat Serious	44%
Not Serious At All	22%

Thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days, was your physical health not good?

0 days	61%
1-5 days	17%
6-10 days	5%
11-15 days	6%
16-20 days	2%
20 or more days	9%

Thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days, was your physical health not good?

0 days	59%
1-5 days	18%
6-10 days	7%
11-15 days	5%
16-20 days	4%
20 or more days	7%

Do you believe recycling items such as newspapers, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans does more to help the environment or does more to make people feel good?

Does more to help the environment	72%
Does more to make people feel good	28%

Which of the following would you prefer to see when it comes to plastic bags in grocery stores and other retailers?

A five-cent charge on each plastic bag sold	13%
A complete ban on plastic bags	36%
Neither	51%

How satisfied, if at all, are you with your current access to local recreational or cultural events?

Very satisfied	13%
Satisfied	31%
Neutral	33%
Dissatisfied	16%
Very dissatisfied	7%

How would you rate the following in Sangamon County?

Public libraries

Excellent	25%
Good	50%
Fair	20%
Poor	5%

Parks

Excellent	26%
Good	51%
Fair	21%
Poor	2%

Community Education Offerings

Excellent	15%
Good	40%
Fair	34%
Poor	11%

Outdoor concerts and festivals

Excellent	13%
Good	41%
Fair	32%
Poor	14%

In general, how much confidence would you say you have in _____ to effectively address problems in your community?

Leaders in your community (not elected officials)

Very confident	8%
Somewhat confident	52%
Not very confident	29%
Not confident at all	12%

Local elected officials

Very confident	6%
Somewhat confident	40%
Not very confident	35%
Not confident at all	19%

State elected officials

Very confident	2%
Somewhat confident	22%
Not very confident	35%
Not confident at all	41%

Federal elected officials

Very confident	4%
Somewhat confident	20%
Not very confident	36%
Not confident at all	40%

Do you think each of the following, if legalized, would be a good thing or a bad thing for the Springfield area?

Sports Betting

Good	42%
Bad	58%

A Casino

Good	42%
Bad	58%

Recreational Marijuana	
Good	45%
Bad	55%

How would you rate your level of interest toward the following?

National Affairs and Politics	
Very Interested (5)	47%
4	21%
3	14%
2	8%
Not at all interested (1)	10%

State Affairs and Politics	
Very Interested (5)	37%
4	28%
3	18%
2	8%
Not at all interested (1)	10%

Local Affairs and Politics	
Very Interested (5)	36%
4	26%
3	19%
2	10%
Not at all interested (1)	9%

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the local media-such as newspapers, TV, and radio-when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly?

Great deal of trust	11%
A fair amount	45%
Not very much	31%
None at all	13%

Are you currently registered to vote?	
Yes	95%
No	5%

Did you vote in the 2018 election?	
Yes	90%
No	10%

Thinking about twelve months ago, would you say you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same?	
Better	26%
Worse	20%
About the Same	54%

How do you think local business conditions are in Sangamon County compared to twelve months ago?	
Better	10%
Worse	33%
About the Same	57%

How do you rate Sangamon County's economy today?	
Excellent	2%
Good	25%
Fair	56%
Poor	17%

Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Employed full-time	55%
Employed part-time	6%
Unemployed	3%
Full-time student	1%
Disabled, unable to work	4%
Retired	31%

To what extent, if at all, are each of the following barriers to career success in the Springfield area?

Being a person of color	
A large barrier	25%
A small barrier	47%
Not a barrier at all	28%

Not having connections	
A large barrier	62%
A small barrier	30%
Not a barrier at all	8%

Being from outside the area	
A large barrier	29%
A small barrier	46%
Not a barrier at all	24%

Have you visited downtown Springfield in the past month for recreation, shopping, or other purposes not related to work?

Yes	57%
No	43%

How would you rate downtown Springfield on the following?

Restaurants

Excellent	17%
Good	49%
Fair	30%
Poor	5%

Cultural Activities (e.g. museums, tours)

Excellent	23%
Good	43%
Fair	29%
Poor	5%

Nightlife

Excellent	5%
Good	31%
Fair	41%
Poor	24%

Shopping

Excellent	4%
Good	23%
Fair	43%
Poor	30%

Cleanliness

Excellent	8%
Good	44%
Fair	39%
Poor	10%

Safety

Excellent	6%
Good	37%
Fair	43%
Poor	15%

How important, if at all, do you think growing downtown Springfield is to...

The area's economy

Very important	50%
Somewhat important	39%
Neither unimportant or important	7%
Not very important	2%
Not at all important	2%

To your personal well-being

Very important	15%
Somewhat important	31%
Neither unimportant or important	38%
Not very important	7%
Not at all important	10%

The population of Sangamon County has declined in recent years. Over the next five years, would you like to see the population increase, stay where it is now, or decrease further?

Increase	62%
Stay where it is now	31%
Decrease further	7%

Which of the following comes closest to your view even if neither is exactly correct?

Immigrants help Sangamon County and make it a better place to live	70%
Immigrants hurt Sangamon County and make it a worse place to live	30%

Do you think young people are better off staying in Sangamon County or are better off moving elsewhere?

Better off Staying	21%
Better off moving elsewhere	79%

How often, if at all, do you attend religious services?

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	27%
One to three times a month	4%
At least twice a year	17%
Less often than twice a year	14%
Never	30%

Were you born in Sangamon County?

Yes	48%
No	52%

What is the highest grade of school that you completed? Is it...

Less than high school diploma	3%
High school diploma or GED	26%
Trade school or technical training after high school	5%
Some college	26%
Four-year college degree	25%
An Advanced degree (PhD, MD, Law)	16%

Did you get any of these degrees from a local college or university?

Yes	41%
No	59%

What is your gender?

Male	45%
Female	52%
Prefer not to say	3%

What is your disability status?

Have a disability	15%
Do you not have a disability	85%

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as...

A Republican	35%
A Democrat	28%
An Independent	38%

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as...

Conservative	32%
Moderate	51%
Liberal	17%

What is your marital status?

Single, living alone	18%
Living with someone but not married	12%
Married	56%
Divorced	8%
Widowed	7%

What was your household's income last year before taxes?

Less than \$15,000 a year	9%
\$15,000-\$30,000	19%
\$30,001-\$45,000	33%
\$45,001-\$60,000	47%
\$60,001-\$75,000	10%
\$75,001-\$100,000	16%
More than \$100,000	27%

In what year were you born?

18-34 years old	13%
35-44 years old	23%
45-54 years old	19%
55-64 years old	21%
65 or older	24%