

Riley County Community Needs Assessment

SOCIAL ISSUES FINDINGS

17% of respondents have someone with a **physical** disability in their household and **6%** have someone with a **developmental** disability.



TOP SOCIAL ISSUES OF CONCERN



THE MOST COMMON FORM OF DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCED OR WITNESSED IS






RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,

REPORTED BY

OVER 13%

OF RESPONDENTS. *

Top needs to help address social issues

-  Availability of services for people with low income
-  Child care
-  Availability of mental health services
-  Availability of employment
-  Housing options for homeless persons

FOLLOWED BY AGE DISCRIMINATION (10% OF RESPONDENTS) AND DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION (10% OF RESPONDENTS)

*Racial discrimination is most likely to occur in public spaces (e.g., retail stores, service establishments, educational institutions, recreation facilities, etc.)

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The 2020 Riley County Community Needs Assessment, conducted by Wichita State University Center for Applied Research and Evaluation, included the compilation of selected secondary data, administration of a community survey (n=1,229), key informant interviews, and focus groups with persons who were underrepresented in the survey.

Riley County and Manhattan have a higher percentage of persons at the federal poverty level than the state average (21.6% for Riley County, 25.4% for Manhattan, 12.4% for Kansas). Riley County also experiences a higher level of food insecurity than the state (17.5% for Riley County versus 12.7% for Kansas). Additionally, secondary data sources show that the percentage who report binge drinking is higher than the state average (24.9% versus 17.2%). However, on the needs assessment survey, very few respondents reported substance abuse (including opioids) in their household. Additionally, only a small percentage of respondents reported experiencing other social issues such as domestic violence or homelessness. Secondary data also show that Riley County experiences a relatively low level of crime (20.9 incidents per 1000 compared with 31.5 per 1000 for Kansas). When asked specifically about discrimination of any type, it is most commonly based on race, (13.7%), age (10.1%), sexual orientation (9.5%), and gender (8.9%). When broken down by where discrimination occurs, it is most common in public spaces (especially for race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, and gender identity). Discrimination in housing is by far most prevalent for race, while discrimination in employment is most prevalent for age, gender, and race.

Selected data from secondary sources

Social Issues	Riley County	Kansas	Source
Percent of persons (all ages) below federal poverty level, 2014-2018	21.6%	12.0%	US Census ACS 5-year
Percent of persons with food insecurity, 2017	17.5%	12.7%	Feeding America
High school graduation, 2018	83.89%	87.23%	Kids Count
Rate of infant mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births), 2017	3.40	5.95	Kids Count via Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Teen pregnancy, percent of all birth occurring to teens (15-19), 2015-2017	4.4%	5.9%	Kansas Health Matters via Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Percent of adults who are binge drinkers, 2017	24.9%	17.2%	Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
Index of crime offenses (per 1,000), 2018	20.9	31.4	KBI Crime Index 2018
Number of domestic violence incidents, 2017	486	22,708	Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Rape incidents, 2017	53	1,239	Kansas Bureau of Investigation

For the full report, go to: www.rileycountycommunityneedsassessment.org