

The **Kearny County Wellness Coalition** pursues projects and programs that bring health, wellness, and education to Kearny County. With the help of *Pathways to a Healthy Kansas*, we are making meaningful changes and opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, and income levels.

Community Perception

- When asked how important it is to ensure the safety of the children in Deerfield, 100% of the survey responses said it was extremely important.
- When asked about the most significant safety concern for children walking and biking to school, survey respondents identified a three-way tie for the top response: lack of crosswalks, speeding drivers, and distracted drivers.
- When asked about the most effective safety measures to improve conditions, respondents again identified a three-way tie for the top response: repairing and maintaining existing sidewalks, adding more crosswalks, and enforcing traffic laws more strictly.



“Being able to have a farmers market closer to home is so nice, plus the products are great”

— Pam Bennett
Kearny County Wellness Coalition



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Kearny County

Healthy Eating



Through the support of the *Pathways* grant, we are working towards providing locally grown and raised meats and produce through the

Kearny County Farmers Market. Along with giving people a place to grow their own fruits and vegetables at the community garden location, the goal is to help people have healthier food options. The *Pathways* grant will be instrumental in making these initiatives possible and successful.



Active Living



We are working towards making the town of **Deerfield** a safer place for not only the children to walk to school but also community members

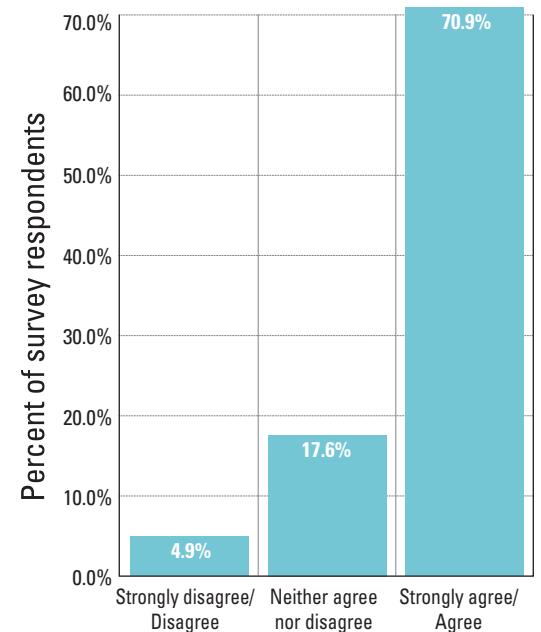
who exercise by walking. We plan to improve sidewalks and add crosswalk areas to the main streets with the *Pathways* funding. By doing this we hope that it will keep our community safer while being active.

Commercial Tobacco Control



We have two active **Resist** chapters in our county, one at **Lakin School** and the other at **Deerfield School**. In collaboration with community support, they aim to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking and vaping. With funding assistance from the *Pathways* grant, both chapters plan to attend **Taking Down Tobacco Day** at the capital, enhancing their knowledge on reducing tobacco and vaping usage within our communities.

Initiative Wide: Community conditions (e.g. housing, transportation, education) impact overall health.



Key findings:

Seven-in-ten respondents across the 24 *Pathways* communities agree or strongly agree that community conditions such as housing, transportation and education impact overall health.

Results are based on data from an initiative-wide survey of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas members for whom e-mail addresses were available in each of the 26 counties in which BCBSKS has funded coalitions as part of the Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Initiative. N = 3,708. The survey response rate was 5.3 percent. For this question, 6.6 percent of respondents did not provide an answer (blank response).

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Projects

\$190,000
Pathways Grant
Funding

3,983
Population
Impacted

Pathways to a Healthy Kansas combines evidence-based solutions and promising practices for improving healthy eating, active living and tobacco prevention to make a large impact in communities. The program provides community coalitions with the tools and resources needed to remove barriers and engage their communities – and represents the largest community grant program ever funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

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