

# COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

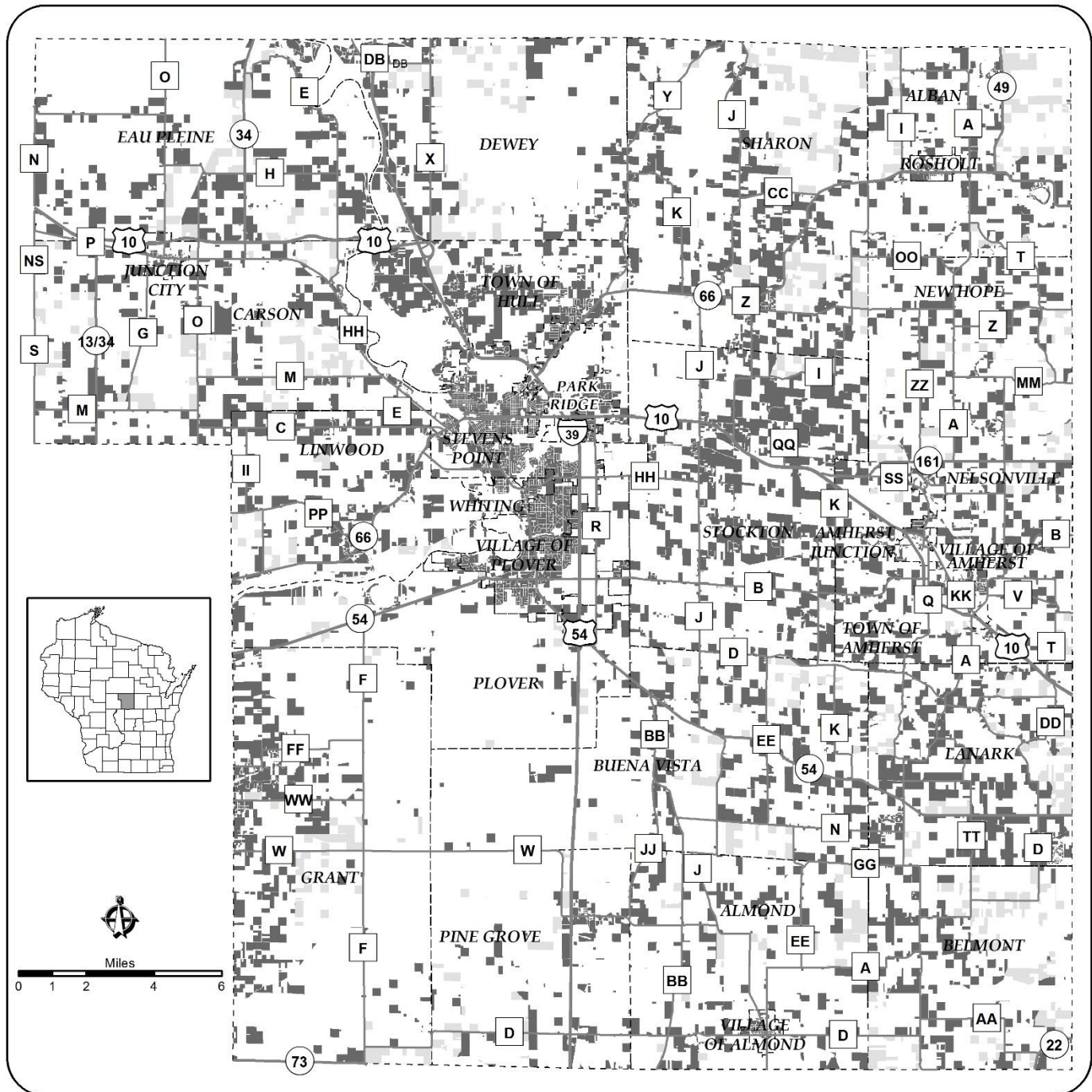
Description	Portage County			Wisconsin			U.S.		
	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 Estimates	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 Estimates	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 Estimates
Population	67,182	70,019	70,432	5,363,675	5,686,986	5,742,117	281,421,906	308,745,538	316,515,021
Median Age (Years)	33.0	35.8	36.2	36.0	38.5	39.0	35.3	36.5	37.6
Minority Population	4.3%	5.8%	6.0%	13.1%	16.7%	13.5%	31.8%	36.3%	26.4%
Families in Poverty	4.4%	5.1%	7.2%	5.6%	7.2%	8.6%	9.2%	9.9%	11.3%
Median Household Income (**2009)	\$43,487	\$51,456	\$51,613	\$43,791	\$51,569	\$53,357	\$41,994	\$51,425	\$53,889
Average Household Size	2.54	2.39	2.41	2.50	2.4	2.43	2.6	2.6	2.64
Language other than English Spoken in Home	6.4%	6.4%	5.9%	7.3%	8.2%	8.7%	17.9%	19.6%	21.0%
In Labor Force (16 years and over)	71.4%	68.7%	67.7%	69.1%	69.0%	67.2%	63.9%	65.0%	63.7%
<b>Age –</b>									
Under 5 Years	5.9%	5.6%	5.2%	6.4%	6.3%	6.0%	6.8%	6.9%	6.3%
5 to 14 Years	13.5%	11.6%	11.2%	14.6%	13.1%	12.9%	14.6%	13.4%	13.0%
15 to 24 Years	20.8%	20.1%	20.4%	14.3%	13.8%	13.7%	13.9%	14.1%	13.8%
25 to 44 Years	27.7%	23.4%	22.3%	29.4%	25.4%	24.8%	30.3%	27.6%	26.3%
45 to 64 Years	21.1%	26.6%	26.7%	22.1%	27.7%	27.8%	21.9%	25.2%	26.3%
65 Years and over	10.9%	12.8%	14.2%	13.1%	13.7%	14.8%	12.4%	12.6%	14.1%
<b>Race –</b>									
White	95.7%	94.2%	94.0%	88.9%	86.2%	86.5%	75.1%	72.4%	73.6%
Black or African American	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	5.7%	6.3%	6.3%	12.3%	12.6%	12.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%
Asian	2.2%	2.8%	2.7%	1.7%	2.3%	2.5%	3.6%	4.8%	5.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Two or more Races	0.9%	1.2%	1.5%	1.2%	1.8%	2.1%	2.4%	2.9%	3.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1.4%	2.6%	2.9%	3.6%	5.9%	6.3%	12.5%	16.3%	17.1%

## Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

# Population Density

## Portage County, Wisconsin



### Population Density

- Low ( less than 25 people per square mile)
- Medium ( 25 - 50 people per square mile)
- High ( more than 50 people per square mile)

- State / Federal Highway
- County Road
- Municipal Boundary

July 28, 2017

Sources: Population Density - US Bureau of the Census, 2010  
Municipalities and Roadways - Portage County, 2017

# 2017 LIFE in Portage County

## Community and Targeted Survey

### Community Survey

In order to assess some important issues regarding the quality of life in Portage County, the LIFE Steering Committee issued a survey to Portage County residents in January/February of 2017. The goal was to estimate characteristics and perceptions of residents of Portage County. From the county's approximately 70,000 people, a random sample of 4,000 households were selected to represent the survey population. The random sample was geographically stratified based on population proportions of the town, villages, and cities (e.g., where 21.24% of Portage County's population is from Plover, and approximately 21.24% of the random sample was from Plover). Questionnaires were mailed out in January and returned by respondents from 670 households, or about 16.8% of the contactable sample. Based on the size of the random sample, with 95% statistical confidence, the results of the survey are accurate to  $\pm 3.79\%$ .

### Targeted Survey

In addition to the community survey, the LIFE Steering Committee also issued the same questionnaire to facilities and programs that served a targeted population in order to oversample for minority and low income populations. These facilities and programs were Aging and Disability Resource Center; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Community Action Program (CAP) Services, Inc.; Emergency Services; Family Crisis Center; Forward Service Corporation; Hmong UPLIFT; Mid-State Technical College; Ministry Dental Center; Mobile Food Pantry; Operation Bootstrap; Salvation Army; Warming Center; and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Questionnaires were returned by 138 respondents surveyed at the selected facilities and programs. Because the sample was not randomly selected and coverage excluded certain populations, responses from the targeted survey cannot be generalized for the county. The data obtained from the targeted survey represent the viewpoints of those who responded.

### Data Analysis

Responses from the targeted survey remained separate from the community survey, and analysis was conducted separately for each. Analysis of the community and targeted survey consisted mostly of frequency and relative frequency data, where the number of times a response was given was recorded and calculated. In some instances, descriptive statistics were used to determine respondents' perceptions regarding certain issues. In addition, the open-ended questions in the surveys were coded and grouped into similar categories. The following is a summary of the results and analysis of the community and targeted survey.

## 2017 LIFE COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

1. In thinking about quality of life in Portage County, indicate your agreement with the following statements:

<b>List A: Family Issues (check one for each statement listed)</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Applicable</b>
Child care is available.	3 (0.5%)	19 (2.9%)	40 (6.1%)	213 (32.4%)	78 (11.9%)	304 (46.3%)
Child care is affordable.	27 (4.1%)	101 (15.4%)	69 (10.6%)	94 (14.4%)	18 (2.8%)	345 (52.8%)
Elder care is available.	4 (0.6%)	27 (4.1%)	52 (7.9%)	258 (39.2%)	80 (12.1%)	238 (36.1%)
Elder care is affordable.	36 (5.5%)	115 (17.4%)	96 (14.5%)	67 (10.2%)	30 (4.5%)	316 (47.9%)
Services for adults/children who are victims of family violence are available.	8 (1.2%)	7 (1.1%)	45 (6.8%)	275 (41.8%)	74 (11.2%)	249 (37.8%)
Most jobs provide a wage adequate to support a family.	78 (11.7%)	217 (32.6%)	108 (16.2%)	167 (25.1%)	30 (4.5%)	66 (9.9%)
People of different backgrounds, racial/ethnic groups, and lifestyles are accepted.	14 (2.1%)	66 (9.9%)	110 (16.6%)	379 (57.1%)	67 (10.1%)	28 (4.2%)
In general, there is a benefit to having people of different backgrounds, racial/ethnic groups, and lifestyles living in our county.	16 (2.4%)	13 (2.0%)	87 (13.1%)	265 (39.8%)	260 (39.1%)	24 (3.6%)
Support services for families in the development of their children are available.	4 (0.6%)	29 (4.4%)	60 (0.9%)	306 (45.9%)	63 (9.5%)	204 (30.6%)
<b>List B: Health Issues (check one for each statement listed)</b>						
Alcohol is used responsibly.	76 (11.5%)	239 (36.2%)	154 (23.3%)	127 (19.2%)	28 (4.2%)	36 (5.5%)
E-cigarettes/vaping are a concern in Portage County.	15 (2.3%)	63 (9.5%)	138 (20.9%)	196 (29.7%)	91 (13.8%)	158 (23.9%)
Abuse and misuse of prescription drugs are a concern in Portage County.	11 (1.7%)	19 (2.9%)	81 (12.3%)	298 (45.2%)	151 (22.9%)	100 (15.2%)
Health care is available.	11 (1.7%)	23 (3.5%)	30 (4.5%)	422 (63.6%)	170 (25.6%)	8 (1.2%)
Health care is affordable.	93 (14.1%)	223 (33.7%)	130 (19.7%)	152 (23.0%)	39 (5.9%)	24 (3.6%)
Healthy lifestyles are common.	12 (1.8%)	107 (16.3%)	165 (25.1%)	312 (47.5%)	37 (5.6%)	24 (3.7%)
Mental health services are available.	29 (4.4%)	61 (9.2%)	74 (11.2%)	324 (49.0%)	46 (7.0%)	127 (19.2%)
Mental health services are affordable.	59 (8.9%)	133 (20.2%)	140 (21.2%)	90 (13.6%)	17 (2.6%)	221 (33.5%)
Dental care is available.	15 (2.3%)	28 (4.3%)	32 (4.9%)	433 (65.9%)	133 (20.2%)	16 (2.4%)
Dental care is affordable.	77 (11.7%)	179 (27.2%)	131 (19.9%)	191 (29.0%)	37 (5.6%)	44 (6.7%)
Services for people with disabilities are available.	9 (1.4%)	16 (2.4%)	53 (8.0%)	360 (54.2%)	65 (9.8%)	161 (24.2%)
Obesity is a concern in Portage County.	4 (0.6%)	18 (2.7%)	103 (15.6%)	332 (50.3%)	144 (21.8%)	59 (8.9%)
<b>List C: Public Services and Education (check one for each statement listed)</b>						
Public 4K-12 education prepares students for the paths they choose.	14 (2.1%)	58 (8.7%)	84 (12.6%)	294 (44.2%)	98 (14.7%)	117 (17.6%)
Funding for public 4K-12 education is adequate.	91 (13.8%)	168 (25.4%)	93 (14.1%)	147 (22.2%)	40 (6.1%)	122 (18.5%)
Education beyond high school is available.	3 (0.5%)	11 (1.7%)	22 (3.3%)	395 (59.8%)	209 (31.7%)	20 (3.0%)
Education beyond high school is affordable.	86 (13.0%)	197 (29.8%)	111 (16.8%)	167 (25.3%)	39 (5.9%)	60 (9.1%)
I know where to find information about community services.	11 (1.7%)	60 (9.0%)	76 (11.4%)	388 (58.3%)	86 (12.9%)	45 (6.8%)
Assistance is available for those in need.	11 (1.7%)	46 (7.0%)	108 (16.3%)	339 (51.3%)	63 (9.5%)	94 (14.2%)
Public library services are adequate.	6 (0.9%)	18 (2.7%)	46 (6.9%)	398 (59.8%)	164 (24.7%)	33 (5.0%)
Streets, roads, and highways are well maintained.	61 (9.2%)	168 (25.5%)	115 (17.4%)	280 (42.4%)	32 (4.8%)	4 (0.6%)
I am satisfied with public transportation in Portage County.	22 (3.3%)	75 (11.4%)	121 (18.3%)	215 (32.6%)	14 (2.1%)	213 (32.3%)
I am satisfied with arts and entertainment opportunities.	11 (1.7%)	51 (7.7%)	97 (14.7%)	371 (56.0%)	65 (9.8%)	67 (10.1%)
I am satisfied with area parks and recreation opportunities.	4 (0.6%)	24 (3.6%)	44 (6.6%)	429 (64.8%)	138 (20.8%)	23 (3.5%)
Our lakes and rivers are clean.	12 (1.8%)	86 (13.1%)	98 (14.9%)	364 (55.4%)	56 (8.5%)	41 (6.2%)

List D: Public Safety	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know/Not Applicable
I feel safe in Portage County.	1 (0.2%)	18 (2.7%)	39 (5.9%)	479 (72.5%)	122 (18.5%)	2 (0.3%)
The crime rate is low in Portage County.	5 (0.8%)	71 (10.8%)	117 (17.8%)	351 (53.3%)	49 (7.4%)	65 (9.9%)
Sexual assault is a problem in Portage County.	4 (0.6%)	78 (11.9%)	217 (33.1%)	159 (24.2%)	18 (2.7%)	180 (27.4%)
Family violence or abuse is a problem in Portage County.	0 (0%)	54 (8.2%)	177 (26.9%)	223 (33.8%)	21 (3.2%)	184 (27.9%)
Gangs are a problem in Portage County.	19 (2.9%)	153 (23.2%)	217 (32.9%)	71 (10.8%)	11 (1.7%)	188 (28.5%)
Physical assaults are a problem in Portage County.	5 (0.8%)	111 (16.9%)	224 (34.0%)	150 (22.8%)	12 (1.8%)	156 (23.7%)
Vandalism is a problem in Portage County.	5 (0.8%)	98 (15.0%)	163 (25.0%)	261 (40.0%)	19 (2.9%)	106 (16.3%)
Illegal drug use is a problem in Portage County.	3 (0.5%)	23 (3.5%)	92 (14.0%)	366 (55.9%)	92 (14.0%)	79 (12.1%)
Child abuse is a problem in Portage County.	1 (0.2%)	56 (8.5%)	206 (31.4%)	171 (26.1%)	17 (2.6%)	205 (31.3%)
Burglary (home and personal property) is a problem in Portage County.	6 (0.9%)	120 (18.2%)	198 (30.0%)	196 (29.7%)	15 (2.3%)	124 (18.8%)
Theft (business and retail) is a problem in Portage County.	4 (0.6%)	78 (11.9%)	189 (28.9%)	217 (33.1%)	14 (2.1%)	153 (23.4%)
Binge drinking is a problem in Portage County.	5 (0.8%)	31 (4.7%)	118 (18.0%)	318 (48.4%)	112 (17.0%)	73 (11.1%)
Drinking and driving is a problem in Portage County.	5 (0.8%)	28 (4.3%)	110 (16.8%)	349 (53.4%)	114 (17.5%)	47 (7.2%)
Texting and driving is a problem in Portage County.	4 (0.6%)	11 (1.7%)	55 (8.3%)	353 (53.6%)	187 (28.4%)	49 (7.4%)
Bullying is a problem in Portage County.	3 (0.5%)	28 (4.2%)	156 (23.7%)	266 (40.4%)	59 (9.0%)	147 (22.3%)

**THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD.**

2. **In the last 12 months, was there a time your family/household did not have enough food?**  
6.0% (40) Yes                      93.1% (619) No                      0.9% (6) Don't Know
- a. **If yes, did you seek food assistance?**  
69.2% (27) Yes (If yes, from where?):                      30.8% (12) No
- b. **If you did seek food assistance, did you get the help you needed?**  
71.0% (22) Yes (If yes, from where?):                      29.0% (9) No
3. **Do you spend 30% or more of your total family/household income on housing? (Housing includes rent or mortgage plus utilities, insurance, and property taxes on primary residence).**  
42.9% (280) Yes              44.6% (291) No              7.4% (48) Don't Know              5.1% (33) Prefer not to say
4. **In a typical month, how difficult is it to cover your family/household expenses and bills?**  
6.8% (45) Very difficult              36.3% (240) Somewhat difficult              49.7% (329) Not at all difficult              0.3% (2) Don't know              6.9% (46) Prefer not to say
5. **Have you set aside emergency or rainy day funds that would cover your expenses for 3 months, in case of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or other emergencies?**  
57.7% (383) Yes              32.8% (218) No              1.7% (11) Don't Know              7.8% (52) Prefer not to say
6. **In the past 12 months, was there a time that your family/household had no health care coverage or insurance (private, Medicare, Medicaid, Badger Care, VA or others)?**  
5.7% (38) Yes              93.1% (621) No              1.2% (8) Don't know/Not sure
- a. **If yes, why? (check all that apply)**  
26.3% (10) Not offered by employer              52.6% (20) Chose not to have it due to cost              34.2% (13) Not working              28.9% (11) Not eligible              10.5% (4) Other
7. **In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your family/household need to see a doctor/medical provider but did not?**  
16.1% (107) Yes              83.9% (559) No

- a. **If yes, why?: (check all that apply)**  
4.7% (5) Did not know how/where to find a provider 8.4% (9) Distance/transportation  
26.2% (28) Did not have insurance 18.7% (20) No available appointments  
42.1% (45) Had no means to pay for service 31.8% (34) Other:
8. **In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your family/household need to see a dentist but did not?**  
17.8% (118) Yes 82.2% (545) No
- a. **If yes, why? (check all that apply)**  
5.9% (7) Did not know how/where to find a provider 7.6% (9) Distance/transportation  
50.8% (60) Did not have insurance 7.6% (9) No available appointments  
51.1% (61) Had no means to pay for service 18.6% (22) Other:
9. **In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your family/household purposefully skip taking their prescription medication as prescribed?**  
8.7% (58) Yes 91.3% (607) No
- a. **If yes, why? (check all that apply)**  
12.1% (7) Did not have insurance 1.7% (1) Distance/transportation  
50.0% (29) Had no means to pay for medication 25.9% (15) Chose not to take medication  
3.4% (2) Did not understand prescription directions 25.9% (15) Other:
10. **In the past 12 months, have you or someone in your family/household struggled with mental health concerns?**  
17.4% (116) Yes 82.6% (549) No
11. **In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your family/household need to see a mental health provider but did not?**  
8.0% (53) Yes 92.0% (609) No
- a. **If yes, why? (check all that apply)**  
11.3% (6) Did not know how/where to find a provider 1.9% (1) Distance/transportation  
22.6% (12) Did not have insurance 24.5% (13) Had no means to pay for service  
13.2% (7) No available appointments 18.9% (10) Other:  
34.0% (18) Chose not to seek mental health services
12. **Does your family/household have medical debt?** 22.9% (151) Yes 77.1% (508) No
- a. **If yes, check the amount:**  
39.0% (57) \$999 or less 39.0% (57) \$1,000 – \$4,999 12.3% (18) \$5,000 – \$9,999 9.6% (14) \$10,000+
13. **Do you have internet access in your home?** 83.3% (550) Yes 16.7% (110) No
- a. **If no, why not?**  
12.7% (14) 3.6% (4) 40.9% (45) 6.4% (7) 27.3% (30)  
 Poor service Not available Too costly Too slow Don't want  
30.9% (34)  
 Don't have a computer/phone/device
14. **In the past year, I or someone in my family/household feels they have experienced discrimination in Portage County (discrimination occurs when a person is treated unfairly based upon personal characteristics).**  
8.0% (53) Yes 89.2% (589) No (skip to 15) 2.7% (18) Don't Know (skip to 15)
- a. **If yes, the discrimination was based upon: (check all that apply)**  
45.3% (24) Age 7.5% (4) Religion 18.9% (10) Weight 1.9% (1) Height  
17.0% (9) Disability or handicap 11.3% (6) Sexual orientation 20.8% (11) Income 7.5% (4) Race/Ethnicity  
30.2% (16) Gender 1.9% (1) Don't Know 15.1% (8) Other

b. **If yes, in what setting did you or a member of your family/household feel discriminated against? (check all that apply)**

<u>37.7% (20)</u> Store/shopping	<u>32.1% (17)</u> Workplace	<u>9.4% (5)</u> Locating housing	<u>5.7% (3)</u> School
<u>20.8% (11)</u> Police or legal system	<u>22.6% (12)</u> Medical facility	<u>32.1% (17)</u> Employment/ Job seeking	<u>7.5% (4)</u> Other

15. **Do you have a private well?** 48.2% (316) Yes 51.8% (340) No

a. **If yes, do you have your well water tested annually?** 26.9% (83) Yes 73.1% (225) No

b. **If no, why not?**

<u>28.9% (65)</u>	<u>8.4% (19)</u>	<u>14.2% (32)</u>	<u>46.2% (104)</u>	<u>15.6% (35)</u>
Not needed	Cost	Don't know where to get tested	Unaware that well should be tested annually	Other

16. **Do you properly dispose of or recycle household hazardous or special wastes (e.g. solvents, oil-based paints, pesticides, insecticides, medications, batteries, electronics, fluorescent bulbs, waste oil, etc.)?**

<u>74.5% (490)</u> Regularly	<u>23.1% (152)</u> Sometimes	<u>2.4% (16)</u> Never
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a. **If not regularly, why?**

<u>18.5% (31)</u>	<u>48.8% (82)</u>	<u>27.4% (46)</u>
Location/hours for disposing are inconvenient	Not sure where to take waste for disposal and/or recycling	Not willing to pay cost in disposing
<u>25.6% (43)</u>	<u>8.9% (15)</u>	<u>4.2% (7)</u>
Do not know what are household hazardous/special wastes	Not sure where to find information on less toxic alternatives to hazardous items	Other

**ABOUT YOURSELF – Remember, your responses are anonymous.**

17. **I am employed:**

<u>47.8% (317)</u> Full time	<u>9.0% (60)</u> Part time	<u>4.8% (32)</u> Not employed	<u>38.3% (254)</u> Retired
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a. **If employed – I am satisfied with my full time or part time job.**

<u>10.0% (36)</u> Strongly Disagree	<u>13.9% (50)</u> Disagree	<u>44.3% (160)</u> Agree	<u>31.9% (115)</u> Strongly Agree
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b. **If you are not satisfied with your job, what best describes why? (check all that apply)**

<u>30.2% (26)</u> Lack of advancement	<u>54.7% (47)</u> Low wages	<u>31.4% (27)</u> Lack of benefits	<u>34.9% (30)</u> Poor work environment
<u>19.8% (17)</u> Job does not use educational background	<u>16.3% (14)</u> Not enough hours/part-time	<u>20.9% (18)</u> Other:	

18. **In the past 12 months, have you: (check all that apply)**

<u>48.2% (323)</u>	<u>86% (576)</u> Donated items or made financial contributions to a charity	<u>6.9% (46)</u>
Volunteered in the community		Neither

a. **If you volunteered, approximately how many total hours in the past 12 months did you volunteer?**

<u>25.5% (83)</u>	<u>39.1% (127)</u>	<u>17.2% (56)</u>	<u>18.2% (59)</u>
1-10 hours/year	11-50 hours/year	51-100 hours/year	Over 100 hours/year

19. **Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have 5 or more drinks on one occasion? (A standard drink is defined as a 12 oz. beer, 4 oz. wine, 1½ oz. liquor)**

<u>71.9% (476)</u>	<u>10.0% (66)</u>	<u>5.4% (36)</u>	<u>7.3% (48)</u>	<u>2.4% (16)</u>	<u>2.1% (14)</u>	<u>0.9% (6)</u>
None	Once	2 times	3-5 times	6-9 times	10 or more	Don't know

20. **In the past 30 days, did you operate a motorized vehicle after consuming 2 or more drinks of alcohol in an hour?**

<u>5.6% (37)</u> Yes	<u>94.4% (625)</u> No
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21. In a typical week, how many days per week do you participate in exercise for at least 30 minutes?

<u>21.2% (140)</u>	<u>27.7% (183)</u>	<u>28.3% (187)</u>	<u>19.8% (131)</u>	<u>3.0% (20)</u>
None	1-2 Days	3-4 Days	5-7 Days	Don't know

22. How tall are you? \_\_\_\_\_

23. How much do you weigh? \_\_\_\_\_

24. In what zip code do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

25. In what city, town, village do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

26. I am 47.0% (305) Male 53.0% (344) Female

27. What is your current status?

<u>14.7% (98)</u>	<u>59.8% (399)</u>	<u>1.0% (7)</u>	<u>9.7% (65)</u>	<u>11.8% (79)</u>	<u>2.5% (17)</u>	<u>0.3% (2)</u>
Single	Married	Separated	Widowed	Divorced	Cohabiting	Other

28. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

<u>2.1% (14)</u> Some high school	<u>25.3% (168)</u> High school diploma	<u>1.5% (10)</u> GED or alternative	<u>14.7% (98)</u> Some college
<u>12.6% (84)</u> Associate degree	<u>27.2% (181)</u> Bachelor's degree	<u>12.8% (85)</u> Master's degree	<u>3.8% (25)</u> Doctorate

29. Do you have any of the following living in your household? (check all that apply)

<u>61.3% (411)</u>	<u>24.3% (163)</u>	<u>7.8% (52)</u>	<u>3.0% (20)</u>
Spouse/partner	Child(ren) 18 years and younger	Relative	Other non-relatives

30. How many individuals are in your household (including you)? Mean = 2.34

31. What is your age group?

<u>1.4% (9)</u> 18-24	<u>9.1% (60)</u> 25-34	<u>12.8% (85)</u> 35-44	<u>15.7% (104)</u> 45-54
<u>26.9% (178)</u> 55-64	<u>20.4% (135)</u> 65-74	<u>10.4% (69)</u> 75-84	<u>3.3% (22)</u> 85+

32. What is your race or ethnic background? (check all that apply)

<u>96.6% (647)</u> White	<u>0.4% (3)</u> Hispanic or Latino	<u>0.9% (6)</u> Asian	0% (0) Pacific Islander
<u>0.1% (1)</u> Black or African American	<u>0.3% (2)</u> American Indian or Alaska Native	<u>0.7% (5)</u> Other	

33. Do you have a disability? 12.5% (82) Yes 87.5% (572) No

34. What was your gross annual household income, before taxes, last year?

<u>8.5% (52)</u> Less than \$14,999	<u>11.0% (67)</u> \$15,000 - \$24,999	<u>12.2% (74)</u> \$25,000 - \$34,999	<u>14.6% (89)</u> \$35,000 - \$49,999
<u>23.0% (140)</u> \$50,000 to \$74,999	<u>13.0% (79)</u> \$75,000 - \$99,999	<u>8.2% (50)</u> \$100,000 - \$124,999	<u>9.5% (58)</u> \$125,000 or more

35. What do you like best about living in Portage County?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

36. If you could change anything in Portage County that would improve the quality of life in the next five years, what change would you make?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

37. Is there anything else that you would like to say regarding the quality of life in Portage County?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## 2017 LIFE TARGETED SURVEY RESULTS

1. In thinking about quality of life in Portage County, indicate your agreement with the following statements:

<b>List A: Family Issues (check one for each statement listed)</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Applicable</b>
Child care is available.	1 (0.8%)	5 (3.8%)	15 (11.4%)	37 (28.0%)	26 (19.7%)	48 (36.4%)
Child care is affordable.	11 (8.3%)	23 (17.3%)	23 (17.3%)	14 (10.5%)	8 (6.0%)	54 (40.6%)
Elder care is available.	2 (1.5%)	5 (3.8%)	13 (9.8%)	47 (35.6%)	27 (20.5%)	38 (28.8%)
Elder care is affordable.	4 (3.0%)	29 (21.8%)	20 (15.0%)	17 (12.8%)	11 (8.3%)	52 (39.1%)
Services for adults/children who are victims of family violence are available.	2 (1.5%)	5 (3.8%)	9 (6.8%)	51 (38.3%)	26 (19.5%)	40 (30.1%)
Most jobs provide a wage adequate to support a family.	12 (9.0%)	50 (37.3%)	28 (20.9%)	26 (19.4%)	6 (4.5%)	12 (9.0%)
People of different backgrounds, racial/ethnic groups, and lifestyles are accepted.	2 (1.5%)	15 (11.4%)	18 (13.6%)	65 (49.2%)	22 (16.7%)	10 (7.6%)
In general, there is a benefit to having people of different backgrounds, racial/ethnic groups, and lifestyles living in our county.	1 (0.7%)	5 (3.7%)	23 (17.2%)	57 (42.5%)	43 (32.1%)	5 (3.7%)
Support services for families in the development of their children are available.	1 (0.7%)	7 (5.2%)	17 (12.7%)	64 (47.8%)	26 (19.4%)	19 (14.2%)
<b>List B: Health Issues (check one for each statement listed)</b>						
Alcohol is used responsibly.	15 (11.1%)	36 (26.7%)	29 (21.5%)	26 (19.3%)	11 (8.1%)	18 (13.3%)
E-cigarettes/vaping are a concern in Portage County.	9 (6.7%)	11 (8.1%)	25 (18.5%)	40 (29.6%)	18 (13.3%)	32 (23.7%)
Abuse and misuse of prescription drugs are a concern in Portage County.	3 (2.2%)	4 (3.0%)	16 (11.9%)	52 (38.5%)	26 (19.3%)	34 (25.2%)
Health care is available.	2 (1.5%)	5 (3.7%)	11 (8.2%)	80 (59.7%)	34 (25.4%)	2 (1.5%)
Health care is affordable.	16 (11.9%)	38 (28.4%)	30 (22.4%)	34 (25.4%)	10 (7.5%)	6 (4.5%)
Healthy lifestyles are common.	4 (3.0%)	18 (13.6%)	42 (31.8%)	47 (35.6%)	13 (9.8%)	8 (6.1%)
Mental health services are available.	4 (2.9%)	19 (14.0%)	13 (9.6%)	63 (46.3%)	18 (13.2%)	19 (14.0%)
Mental health services are affordable.	16 (12.1%)	29 (22.0%)	26 (19.7%)	26 (19.7%)	7 (5.3%)	28 (21.2%)
Dental care is available.	5 (3.8%)	17 (12.8%)	13 (9.8%)	70 (52.6%)	25 (18.8%)	3 (2.3%)
Dental care is affordable.	19 (14.2%)	49 (36.6%)	16 (11.9%)	30 (22.4%)	12 (9.0%)	8 (6.0%)
Services for people with disabilities are available.	2 (1.5%)	10 (7.5%)	12 (9.0%)	66 (49.6%)	28 (21.1%)	15 (11.3%)
Obesity is a concern in Portage County.	2 (1.5%)	4 (3.1%)	27 (20.6%)	48 (36.6%)	28 (21.4%)	22 (16.8%)
<b>List C: Public Services and Education (check one for each statement listed)</b>						
Public 4K-12 education prepares students for the paths they choose.	1 (0.7%)	8 (5.9%)	18 (13.3%)	62 (45.9%)	22 (16.3%)	24 (17.8%)
Funding for public 4K-12 education is adequate.	8 (5.9%)	30 (22.2%)	20 (14.8%)	41 (30.4%)	9 (6.7%)	27 (20.0%)
Education beyond high school is available.	0 (0%)	3 (2.2%)	8 (6.0%)	67 (50.0%)	38 (28.4%)	18 (13.4%)
Education beyond high school is affordable.	12 (9.0%)	30 (22.6%)	29 (21.8%)	27 (20.3%)	12 (9.0%)	23 (17.3%)
I know where to find information about community services.	2 (1.5%)	10 (7.4%)	11 (8.1%)	65 (48.1%)	33 (24.4%)	14 (10.4%)
Assistance is available for those in need.	5 (3.7%)	6 (4.5%)	23 (17.2%)	62 (46.3%)	29 (21.6%)	9 (6.7%)
Public library services are adequate.	4 (3.0%)	3 (2.2%)	7 (5.2%)	70 (51.9%)	40 (29.6%)	11 (8.1%)
Streets, roads, and highways are well maintained.	10 (7.4%)	48 (35.3%)	20 (14.7%)	47 (34.6%)	11 (8.1%)	0 (0%)
I am satisfied with public transportation in Portage County.	2 (1.5%)	10 (7.5%)	22 (16.5%)	55 (41.4%)	14 (10.5%)	30 (22.6%)
I am satisfied with arts and entertainment opportunities.	4 (3.0%)	9 (6.7%)	22 (16.3%)	69 (51.1%)	13 (9.6%)	18 (13.3%)
I am satisfied with area parks and recreation opportunities.	0 (0%)	8 (5.9%)	10 (7.4%)	82 (60.3%)	32 (23.5%)	4 (2.9%)
Our lakes and rivers are clean.	3 (2.2%)	22 (16.3%)	26 (19.3%)	55 (40.7%)	12 (8.9%)	17 (12.6%)

List D: Public Safety	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know/Not Applicable
I feel safe in Portage County.	2 (1.5%)	3 (2.2%)	15 (11.0%)	82 (60.3%)	32 (23.5%)	2 (1.5%)
The crime rate is low in Portage County.	3 (2.3%)	12 (9.0%)	38 (28.6%)	47 (35.3%)	13 (9.8%)	20 (15.0%)
Sexual assault is a problem in Portage County.	1 (0.7%)	10 (7.4%)	39 (28.9%)	35 (25.9%)	6 (4.4%)	44 (32.6%)
Family violence or abuse is a problem in Portage County.	2 (1.5%)	8 (5.9%)	27 (20.0%)	46 (34.1%)	8 (5.9%)	44 (32.6%)
Gangs are a problem in Portage County.	8 (6.0%)	26 (19.4%)	32 (23.9%)	11 (8.2%)	5 (3.7%)	52 (38.8%)
Physical assaults are a problem in Portage County.	2 (1.5%)	10 (7.4%)	35 (25.9%)	33 (24.4%)	4 (3.0%)	51 (37.8%)
Vandalism is a problem in Portage County.	4 (3.0%)	19 (14.1%)	23 (17.0%)	41 (30.4%)	8 (5.9%)	40 (29.6%)
Illegal drug use is a problem in Portage County.	1 (0.7%)	6 (4.5%)	24 (17.9%)	44 (32.8%)	29 (21.6%)	30 (22.4%)
Child abuse is a problem in Portage County.	1 (0.8%)	10 (7.5%)	38 (28.6%)	30 (22.6%)	10 (7.5%)	44 (33.1%)
Burglary (home and personal property) is a problem in Portage County.	2 (1.5%)	12 (9.1%)	48 (36.4%)	22 (16.7%)	10 (7.6%)	38 (28.8%)
Theft (business and retail) is a problem in Portage County.	1 (0.8%)	11 (8.3%)	37 (27.8%)	34 (25.6%)	11 (8.3%)	39 (29.3%)
Binge drinking is a problem in Portage County.	1 (0.7%)	5 (3.7%)	24 (17.9%)	39 (29.1%)	41 (30.6%)	24 (17.9%)
Drinking and driving is a problem in Portage County.	1 (0.7%)	4 (3.0%)	19 (14.2%)	51 (38.1%)	45 (33.6%)	14 (10.4%)
Texting and driving is a problem in Portage County.	1 (0.7%)	2 (1.5%)	13 (9.7%)	48 (35.8%)	55 (41.0%)	15 (11.2%)
Bullying is a problem in Portage County.	0 (0%)	2 (1.5%)	28 (20.7%)	44 (32.6%)	33 (24.4%)	28 (20.7%)

**THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD.**

2. **In the last 12 months, was there a time your family/household did not have enough food?**  
29.3% (39) Yes 66.2% (88) No 4.5% (6) Don't Know
  - a. **If yes, did you seek food assistance?**  
87.5% (35) Yes (If yes, from where?): 12.5% (5) No
    - b. **If you did seek food assistance, did you get the help you needed?**  
94.4% (34) Yes (If yes, from where?): 5.6% (2) No
3. **Do you spend 30% or more of your total family/household income on housing? (Housing includes rent or mortgage plus utilities, insurance, and property taxes on primary residence).**  
65.9% (89) Yes 14.8% (20) No 11.9% (16) Don't Know 7.4% (10) Prefer not to say
  4. **In a typical month, how difficult is it to cover your family/household expenses and bills?**  
11.9% (16) Very difficult 55.2% (74) Somewhat difficult 14.9% (20) Not at all difficult 3.0% (4) Don't know 14.9% (20) Prefer not to say
    5. **Have you set aside emergency or rainy day funds that would cover your expenses for 3 months, in case of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or other emergencies?**  
21.8% (29) Yes 57.9% (77) No 7.5% (10) Don't Know 12.8% (17) Prefer not to say
    6. **In the past 12 months, was there a time that your family/household had no health care coverage or insurance (private, Medicare, Medicaid, Badger Care, VA or others)?**  
16.9% (23) Yes 77.2% (105) No 5.9% (8) Don't know/Not sure
      - a. **If yes, why? (check all that apply)**  
30.4% (7) Not offered by employer 43.4% (10) Chose not to have it due to cost 17.4% (4) Not working 30.4% (7) Not eligible 13.0% (3) Other

7. **In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your family/household need to see a doctor/medical provider but did not?**  
21.2% (29) Yes 78.3% (108) No
- a. **If yes, why?: (check all that apply)**  
6.9% (2) Did not know how/where to find a provider 17.2% (5) Distance/transportation  
34.5% (10) Did not have insurance 10.3% (3) No available appointments  
27.6% (8) Had no means to pay for service 27.6% (8) Other:
8. **In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your family/household need to see a dentist but did not?**  
35.0% (48) Yes 65.0% (89) No
- a. **If yes, why? (check all that apply)**  
10.4% (5) Did not know how/where to find a provider 10.4% (5) Distance/transportation  
56.3% (27) Did not have insurance 10.4% (5) No available appointments  
43.8% (21) (Had no means to pay for service 8.3% (4) Other:
9. **In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your family/household not take their prescription medication as prescribed?**  
11.8% (16) Yes 88.2% (120) No
- a. **If yes, why? (check all that apply)**  
25.0% (4) Did not have insurance 6.3% (1) Distance/transportation  
43.8% (7) Had no means to pay for medication 12.5% (2) Chose not to take medication  
0% (0) Did not understand prescription directions 18.8% (3) Other:
10. **In the past 12 months, have you or someone in your family/household struggled with mental health concerns?**  
25.4% (35) Yes 74.6% (100) No
11. **In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your family/household need to see a mental health provider but did not?**  
17.0% (23) Yes 83.0% (112) No
- a. **If yes, why? (check all that apply)**  
13.0% (3) Did not know how/where to find a provider 13.0% (3) Distance/transportation  
13.0% (3) Did not have insurance 8.7% (2) Had no means to pay for service  
21.7% (5) No available appointments 30.4% (7) Other:  
26.1% (6) Chose not to seek mental health services
12. **Does your family/household have medical debt?** 40.3% (54) Yes 59.7% (80) No
- b. **If yes, check the amount:**  
35.2% (19) \$999 or less 38.9% (21) \$1,000 – \$4,999 14.8% (8) \$5,000 – \$9,999 11.1% (6) \$10,000+
13. **Do you have internet access in your home?** 60.0% (81) Yes 40.0% (54) No
- a. **If no, why not?**  
1.9% (1) 5.6% (3) 51.9% (28) 1.9% (1) 11.1% (6)  
 Poor service Not available Too costly Too slow Don't want  
27.8% (15)  
 Don't have a computer/phone/device
14. **In the past year, I or someone in my family/household feels they have experienced discrimination in Portage County (discrimination occurs when a person is treated unfairly based upon personal characteristics).**  
13.5% (18) Yes 79.7% (106) No (skip to 15) 6.8% (9) Don't Know (skip to 15)
- a. **If yes, the discrimination was based upon: (check all that apply)**  
16.7% (3) Age 11.1% (2) Religion 22.2% (4) Weight 5.6% (1) Height  
11.1% (2) Disability or handicap 0% (0) Sexual orientation 33.3% (6) Income 44.4% (8) Race/Ethnicity  
22.2% (4) Gender 22.2% (4) Don't Know 11.1% (2) Other

- b. **If yes, in what setting did you or a member of your family/household feel discriminated against? (check all that apply)**
- |   |                                   |   |                        |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <u>33.3% (6)</u> Store/shopping         | <u>33.3% (6)</u> Workplace        | <u>22.2% (4)</u> Locating housing       | <u>5.6% (1)</u> School |
| <u>22.2% (4)</u> Police or legal system | <u>11.1% (2)</u> Medical facility | <u>22.2% (4)</u> Employment/Job seeking | <u>22.2% (4)</u> Other |
15. **Do you have a private well?** 29.3% (39) Yes 70.7% (94) No
- a. **If yes**, do you have your well water tested annually? 45.7% (16) Yes 54.3% (19) No
- b. **If no**, why not?
- |                                |                          |  |   |                           |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|
| <u>10.5% (2)</u><br>Not needed | <u>10.5% (2)</u><br>Cost | <u>15.8% (3)</u><br>Don't know where to get tested | <u>47.4% (9)</u><br>Unaware that well should be tested annually | <u>15.8% (3)</u><br>Other |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|
16. **Do you properly dispose of or recycle household hazardous or special wastes (e.g. solvents, oil-based paints, pesticides, insecticides, medications, batteries, electronics, fluorescent bulbs, waste oil, etc.)?**
- |                              |                             |                        |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>80.7% (109)</u> Regularly | <u>11.9% (16)</u> Sometimes | <u>7.4% (10)</u> Never |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
- a. **If not regularly, why?**
- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <u>11.5% (3)</u><br>Location/hours for disposing are inconvenient           | <u>26.9% (7)</u><br>Not sure where to take waste for disposal and/or recycling                       | <u>19.2% (5)</u><br>Not willing to pay cost in disposing |
| <u>30.8% (8)</u><br>Do not know what are household hazardous/special wastes | <u>11.5% (3)</u><br>Not sure where to find information on less toxic alternatives to hazardous items | <u>23.1% (6)</u><br>Other                                |

**ABOUT YOURSELF – Remember, your responses are anonymous.**

17. **I am employed:**
- |                             |                             |                                |                           |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>16.3% (22)</u> Full time | <u>21.5% (29)</u> Part time | <u>27.4% (37)</u> Not employed | <u>34.8% (47)</u> Retired |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
- a. **If employed – I am satisfied with my full time or part time job.**
- |                                   |                           |                         |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>9.8% (5)</u> Strongly Disagree | <u>17.6% (9)</u> Disagree | <u>52.9% (27)</u> Agree | <u>19.6% (10)</u> Strongly Agree |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
- b. **If you are not satisfied with your job, what best describes why? (check all that apply)**
- |   |   |                                   |  |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <u>35.7% (5)</u> Lack of advancement                  | <u>78.6% (11)</u> Low wages               | <u>42.9% (6)</u> Lack of benefits | <u>21.4% (3)</u> Poor work environment |
| <u>0% (0)</u> Job does not use educational background | <u>50% (7)</u> Not enough hours/part-time | <u>14.3% (2)</u> Other:           |  |
18. **In the past 12 months, have you: (check all that apply)**
- |   |   |                              |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| <u>33.3% (46)</u><br>Volunteered in the community | <u>52.2% (72)</u><br>Donated items or made financial contributions to a charity | <u>34.1% (47)</u><br>Neither |
|---|---|------------------------------|
- a. **If you volunteered, approximately how many total hours in the past 12 months did you volunteer?**
- |                                      |                                       |                                       |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <u>23.9% (11)</u><br>1-10 hours/year | <u>26.1% (12)</u><br>11-50 hours/year | <u>19.6% (9)</u><br>51-100 hours/year | <u>30.4% (14)</u><br>Over 100 hours/year |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
19. **Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have 5 or more drinks on one occasion? (A standard drink is defined as a 12 oz. beer, 4 oz. wine, 1½ oz. liquor)**
- |                            |                          |                            |                              |                              |                             |                               |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>81.2% (108)</u><br>None | <u>8.3% (11)</u><br>Once | <u>3.8% (5)</u><br>2 times | <u>3.8% (5)</u><br>3-5 times | <u>1.5% (2)</u><br>6-9 times | <u>0% (0)</u><br>10 or more | <u>1.5% (2)</u><br>Don't know |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
20. **In the past 30 days, did you operate a motorized vehicle after consuming 2 or more drinks of alcohol in an hour?**
- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| <u>0% (0)</u> Yes | <u>100.0% (133)</u> No |
|-------------------|------------------------|

21. In a typical week, how many days per week do you participate in exercise for at least 30 minutes?

29.9% (40)

None

33.6% (45)

1-2 Days

15.7% (21)

3-4 Days

11.9% (16)

5-7 Days

9.0% (12)

Don't know

22. How tall are you? \_\_\_\_\_

23. How much do you weigh? \_\_\_\_\_

24. In what zip code do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

25. In what city, town, village do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

26. I am

25.2% (33) Male

74.8% (98) Female

27. What is your current status?

22.6% (31)

Single

41.6% (57)

Married

5.8% (8)

Separated

13.9% (19)

Widowed

14.6% (20)

Divorced

1.5% (2)

Cohabiting

0% (0)

Other

28. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

11.0% (14) Some high school

32.3% (41) High school diploma

8.7% (1) GED or alternative

22.0% (28) Some college

5.5% (7) Associate degree

17.3% (22) Bachelor's degree

2.4% (3) Master's

0.8% (1) Doctorate

29. Do you have any of the following living in your household? (check all that apply)

44.2% (61)

Spouse/partner

44.2% (81)

Child(ren) 18 years and younger

10.9% (15)

Relative

4.3% (6)

Other non-relatives

30. How many individuals are in your household (including you)? Mean = 3.33

31. What is your age group?

5.1% (7) 18-24

27.0% (37) 25-34

9.5% (13) 35-44

11.7% (16) 45-54

16.8% (23) 55-64

14.6% (20) 65-74

10.9% (15) 75-84

4.4% (6) 85+

32. What is your race or ethnic background? (check all that apply)

69.6% (96) White

7.2% (10) Hispanic or Latino

17.4% (24) Asian

(0) Pacific Islander

0.7% (1) Black or African  
American

2.9% (4) American Indian or  
Alaska Native

1.4% (2) Other

33. Do you have a disability?

31.6% (43) Yes

68.4% (93) No

34. What was your gross annual household income, before taxes, last year?

41.3% (52) Less than \$14,999

19.8% (25) \$15,000 - \$24,999

15.1% (19) \$25,000 - \$34,999

7.9% (10) \$35,000 - \$49,999

8.7% (11) \$50,000 to \$74,999

4.0% (5) \$75,000 or more

0.8% (1) \$100,000 - \$124,999

2.4% (3) \$125,000 or more

35. What do you like best about living in Portage County? \_\_\_\_\_

38. If you could change anything in Portage County that would improve the quality of life in the next five years, what change would you make? \_\_\_\_\_

39. Is there anything else that you would like to say regarding the quality of life in Portage County? \_\_\_\_\_