



Connecting the Dots for Better Health



2017 Healthy Community Study Introduction and Acknowledgements

Rockford Regional Health is a non-partisan organization that focuses on improving the quality of our region's health through data gathering and analysis, education, action and advocacy. The 2017 Healthy Community Study, a data-driven approach to identifying trends in the health status of our region, provides the framework for our strategic plan with identified goals and priorities. Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies was engaged to conduct the 2017 Study, including the following components:

- **Community Analysis:** A compilation of data from external sources on a wide variety of community health issues and trends
- **Household Survey:** A random survey of residents in Winnebago and Boone Counties, also distributed through Rockford and Belvidere Public Schools, with a total return rate of approximately 13%.
- **Key Informant Survey:** Selected community leaders in business, government, healthcare, nonprofit and other community sectors were surveyed as to their views on the health of our community and how it can be improved.

The 2017 Healthy Community Study is a snapshot intended to capture the current state of health for residents of Winnebago and Boone counties, as well as residents' perceptions of well-being. We can confidently say this picture of community health contains positive indicators. Other aspects of this snapshot in time, however, are concerning and signal a need for responses that go beyond the realm of healthcare providers.

A Call to Action

The diverse membership of the Council in many ways represents the "dots" -- the entities of government, business, education, non-profit and healthcare -- where the solutions reside. As we delve deeper into the findings of the Study, our leadership teams must connect the dots to bolster positive health trends and devise collective solutions to our most challenging health issues.

Our first step in the process will be to review the current Strategic Plan and priorities in light of new Study data, looking at what is working and where improvement is needed. Next, leadership teams related to each Council priority will convene, generating solutions for each of these most pressing community issues.

But in order to be successful, we need your help! Community solutions need community partners. The Council acts as a catalyst for collaboration to assure a healthy community. "Connecting the dots" means bringing partnerships together in ways that accelerate progress and move the needle. Won't you join us? To learn more about how the Council connects the dots and improves community health, please contact Becky Cook Kendall, Executive Director of Rockford Regional Health Council -- (815) 395-5701, or by e-mail at becky@rockfordhealth.org.

2017 Healthy Community Study Acknowledgements

Contributors

Associated Bank	Rockford Park District
Belvidere Community Unit School District 100	Rockford Public Library
City of Loves Park	Rockford Public School District 205
City of Rockford	Rosecrance Health Network
Community Foundation of Northern Illinois	SwedishAmerican, a Division of UW Health
Crusader Community Health	U of IL College of Medicine
Guyer & Enichen PC	United Way of Rock River Valley
Illinois Bank & Trust	US Bank
Illinois Growth Enterprises/ Bridgeway	Van Matre HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital
Mercyhealth	Winnebago County
Oates Dental	Winnebago County Dental Society
OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center	Winnebago County Health Department
Rock River Valley Blood Center	Winnebago County Medical Society
Rock Valley College	Workforce Investment Board
Rockford Acromatic Products Company	YMCA of Rock River Valley
Rockford Chamber of Commerce	

2017 Healthy Community Study Steering Committee

Chair: Steve Ernst

Harneet S. Bath MD, <i>OSF St. Anthony Medical Center</i>	Paul Logli, <i>United Way of Rock River Valley</i>
Michael J. Born MD, <i>SwedishAmerican, a Division of UW Health</i>	Sandra Martell RN DNP, <i>Winnebago County Health Dept.</i>
Judy Emerson, <i>Consultant</i>	Dennis G. Norem MD, <i>Winnebago County Medical Society</i>
Einar Forsman, <i>Rockford Chamber of Commerce</i>	Sue Schrieber, <i>Mercyhealth</i>
Jim Knutson, <i>Rockford Acromatic Products</i>	Ellen Storm, <i>Rock Valley College</i>
John Lanpher, <i>Guyer and Enichen PC</i>	

Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies

Lisa Bergeron

Mindy Schneiderman

Sherrie Taylor

**Rockford Regional Health Council
Board of Directors**

Chair: Michael J. Born MD, SwedishAmerican Health System

Vice Chair: Jim Knutson, Rockford Acromatic Products

Secretary: Rebecca Cook Kendall, Rockford Regional Health Council

Treasurer: Michael E. Abate, US Bank

Immediate Past Chair: Hon. Janet Holmgren, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of the State of Illinois

Harneet Bath MD,
OSF St. Anthony Medical Center
Derek Cheng DMD,
Winnebago Cty. Dental Society
Philip Eaton,
Rosecrance Health Network
Gordon Eggers, Jr.,
Crusader Community Health
Einar Forsman,
Rockford Chamber of Commerce
Shurice Hunter,
City of Rockford
John Lanpher Esq.,
Guyer & Enichen, PC
Paul Logli,
United Way of Rock River Valley
Sandra Martell RN DNP,
Winnebago Cty. Health Dept.
Denise Niner,
Rockford Public School District 205

Dennis Norem MD,
Winnebago County Medical Society
H. Cyrus Oates DDS,
Oates Dental
Carla Paschal,
Winnebago County
Brent Pentenburg,
YMCA of Rock River Valley
Danielle Potter,
Rockford Park District
Luz Ramirez,
YWCA La Voz Latina
Sue Schrieber,
Mercyhealth
Alex Stagnaro-Green MD,
U of IL Rockford
Ellen Storm MS RN
Rock Valley College
Frank Walter
Heartland Financial