

For immediate release, from Sauk County Public Health, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, and SSM Health- St. Clare Hospital

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What Would Make Your Community Healthier? Sauk County Survey Now Open

Public Health Sauk County and local hospitals have launched a Community Health Survey of area residents ages 13 and older. The 5-minute survey asks what is going well in the health of our communities and what needs improvement. The survey is available online and on paper in both English and Spanish. Everyone who completes it has a chance to win 1 of 10 \$100 gift cards.

"We know that your zip code is a major factor in the length and quality of your life," says Jodie Molitor, Health Educator for Public Health Sauk County. "This survey is a great opportunity to weigh in on what your community needs to be healthier." In past years, survey respondents focused on issues like mental health, substance use, housing, social isolation, healthy eating, exercise, and dental care.

The confidential survey is part of a larger Community Health Needs Assessment that is done every three years. Results of the 2024 assessment will drive community health improvement plans through 2027. Molitor explains the process: "We take the results of the survey-- along with information we gather from interviews, focus groups, and data reports-- and we use all that information to make decisions about what to focus on. We can't work on everything. We need to focus on what's important. This survey is your chance to tell us what is important to you."

Molitor encourages people who live or work in Sauk County to fully participate in the community health assessment and improvement planning process. In addition to completing the survey, community members can join a listening session to share in-depth feedback about the health of their community or join a coalition or committee to help create change to improve community health.

The survey is being conducted jointly by Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, SSM Health-St. Clare Hospital, and Public Health Sauk County. It is available online at <u>https://bit.ly/SaukSurvey</u> (English version) and <u>https://bit.ly/SaukSalud</u> (Spanish version) and on paper. For a paper survey or more information, contact Jodie Molitor, Health Educator, Public Health Sauk County at 608-355-4315 or Jodie.Molitor@saukcountywi.gov