



**COMMUNITY GOAL:** Everyone in our community has enough food to eat

**KEY MEASURES OF FOOD SECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITY:**



Food pantries are serving record numbers, making it challenging to maintain a steady, reliable supply of **nutritionally and culturally appropriate foods**



Many who qualify for SNAP **don't enroll due to barriers** like low benefit amounts, stigma, confusion, or lack of information—missing out on support to buy healthy, personally chosen foods

**FOOD INSECURE RESIDENTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP**

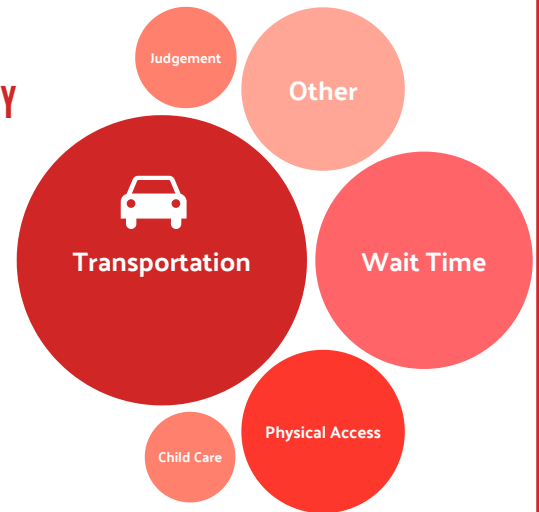
**39%**

Johnson  
County

**47%**

Washington  
County

**20% OF PANTRY USERS FACE BARRIERS TO ACCESS. OF THOSE, THESE ARE THE DIFFICULTIES IDENTIFIED.**



**11.5%**  
of our  
community



**HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOALS:**

- Improve food pantry offerings by **increasing the variety and availability of nutritious and culturally appropriate foods**
- Integrate community wide data across local pantries to **identify gaps and areas for improvement**
- Increase participation in SNAP by **reducing barriers to enrollment** and **expanding outreach** to seniors and other populations with low participation rates

**COMMUNITY GOAL:**

Everyone has access to safe, secure housing with the supports they need to maintain long-term stability



**Stable housing** is one of the most powerful predictors of health according to the CDC



People with **serious mental illness** are more likely to experience homelessness



Shelters, jails and ERs are not substitutes for adequate **housing supports** and **mental health care**

**IOWA RANKS LAST IN THE NATION FOR PSYCHIATRIC BED AVAILABILITY**



**2 BEDS PER  
100,000 RESIDENTS**



**3 OUT OF 4 WOMEN**

who have experienced homelessness have also endured domestic violence or sexual assault

**HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOALS:**

- Understand the impact of **serious mental illness** and trauma on long-term housing stability and identify **needed supports**
- Utilize coordinated, community-based services to **prevent homelessness** and to provide **ongoing support** for individuals transitioning from homelessness to **stable housing**
- Expand **permanent supportive housing** to reduce cycling through emergency systems like hospitals, jails, and shelters



**COMMUNITY GOAL:** Everyone receives the health care they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives

**KEY MEASURES OF HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY:**



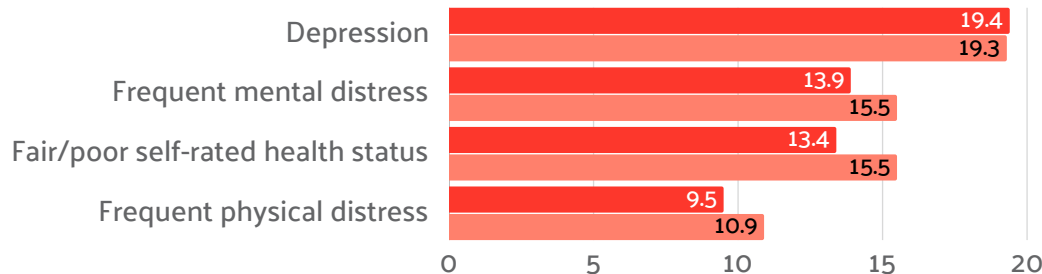
The highest share of **uninsured people** is among working-age adults



Public insurance programs are an important source of health coverage, **especially for children**

**MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CONCERNS COMMON AMONG ADULTS (BY %)**

● Johnson ● Washington



**23%**

of Johnson Co. residents don't have a primary care provider

**Top reason cited:**

High cost of health care

**17%**

of Johnson Co. residents haven't seen a dentist in more than 2 years

**Top reasons cited:**

Do not have dental insurance, concerned will be too expensive

**HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOALS:**

- Increase the share of people covered by **affordable insurance** & increase access to free or reduced-cost clinics for those without coverage
- Ensure more people receive essential health services, including **behavioral health, dental & primary care**
- Integrate social determinants of health into health care services so providers can assess & refer patients who have **additional barriers to wellbeing**
- Increase stability through **permanent supportive housing** to reduce cycling through crisis systems such as hospitals, criminal justice systems and emergency shelters

## UNITED WAY'S ROLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITY

### FUND & COLLABORATE

United Way is committed to **Community Health** by investing in strategies and programs that reduce health disparities and improve well-being for all. Using **community-based approaches**, we address barriers to health equity and work to **better align health care options and resources** to improve health outcomes for our community. Through collaboration & targeted investments, we strive to create a healthier future for everyone.

### ADVOCATE & EDUCATE

We advocate for policies and practices to improve health and well-being and provide **equitable access to care** for every member of our community. We advocate for **food security initiatives** by increasing SNAP participation, improving food availability at pantries, and integrating data for stronger support systems. We educate and promote policy change to **address our community's gaps in essential oral health services**.