



Dear Health District Residents,

One of the commitments of the Health District throughout the past ten years has been to make decisions based upon quality, relevant information. To help us fulfill that commitment, we have surveyed the health and health needs of our community every three years since 1995. You have before you highlights from the most recent survey, conducted in the fall of 2004.

The Community Health Survey has always offered an illuminating look at our local health picture, providing a level of depth and detail uncommon for a community of our size. Now with four sets of data spanning nine years, the survey has become an even richer resource with the potential to reveal long-term trends. By showing us where we have been as a community, it helps us glimpse where we might be headed. It reveals information on where our community has successfully improved in key indicators of health, as well as areas where we need significant improvement in order to improve the health of the community.

For nearly a decade, the Community Health Survey has been the cornerstone of our strategic planning process at the Health District. But in that time, it has become much more – it has become a fundamental source of information for the entire community.

Like countless communities across the nation, our community faces increasing health care needs and costs at the same time that resources are becoming more and more limited. It is essential that local policymakers and service providers have access to comprehensive information in order to make sound decisions.

It is our hope that information from the survey will be useful not only to us, but also to other service organizations. This summary contains just a few key statistics and trends from the 2004 Community Health Survey. If your organization has more in-depth health information needs, we encourage you to contact the Health District to determine whether further data or analysis is available to better meet your needs.

As you review this information, we hope you will think of two things: what our community can be proud of achieving, and... what we still need to tackle as a community so that our families, friends and neighbors can live long, healthy lives.

Respectfully,

Carol Plock  
Executive Director  
Health District of Northern Larimer County

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