The survey focused on identifying respondents’ perceptions of the greatest strengths, and important health-related issues and concerns. Data collection for the survey ended in mid-December of 2017.

Participants across the state were asked to make 3 selections from an extensive list of quality-of-life factors and health-related issues for the following questions:

1) I think these are the 3 most important factors for a healthy community.
2) I think these are the 3 most important health concerns for our community.

Participants were also asked to rate the overall health of their community. There were 9 demographic questions including county of residence, zip code, gender, age, education level, race, ethnicity, job status, household income, and if the respondent had health care coverage.

A convenience sample, a commonly used methodology, was used to collect information from readily-available respondents. The results of this type of sample are not generalizable. An effort was made to target specific groups that otherwise might have been underrepresented.

The survey received a total of 4,104 respondents, with Marion, Charleston and Orangeburg counties having the greatest number of completed surveys.

The most frequently selected responses are below.

**Top Health Concerns**

- Overweight/Obesity 52%
- Diabetes 47%
- High blood pressure 33%
- Drug use 31%
- Cancer 30%

**Most Important Factors for a Healthy Community**

- Access to affordable health care 56%
- Good jobs/healthy economy 44%
- Access to healthy and affordable foods 42%
- Acceptance of all people 27%
- Strong faith and fellowship 20%

**Overall Community Health**

- Poor 19%
- Fair 51%
- Good or Better 30%
Demographics

Participants were asked to provide their gender. Over three-quarters of the respondents identified as female. Males were underrepresented in this survey, as they account for almost half of the general population in South Carolina (2016 American Community Survey).

Participants were asked to identify their age by selecting the applicable age range. The majority of the respondents were between ages 26 and 64 (74 percent). Approximately 9 percent were younger than 26, and 17 percent were 65 or older.

Participants were asked to identify their highest level of education. Slightly more than 20 percent of respondents held a high school diploma, and almost 20 percent had a technical degree. Nearly 25 percent of respondents had a bachelor’s degree, and a quarter held a graduate degree or higher.

Participants were asked to identify their annual household income by selecting their applicable income range. A quarter of the respondents reported that their annual household income was less than $25,000. Nearly a third indicated that their household income was between $25,000 to $59,999. Over 40 percent reported their annual household income was $60,000 or more.

Counties With the Most Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horry</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orangeburg</td>
<td>680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>