

# 2006 Follow-up for Community Needs Report

In 2004, Fletcher Allen Health Care, the United Way of Chittenden County, and the Champlain Initiative conducted a community-wide survey asking people to describe the best things about our community, the top health and wellness concerns, and the top community problems we face. Below is a list of the 2004 responses. Please indicate what you believe to be the most relevant answers at the present time by filling out the survey below. You may check up to three in each category.

## BEST THINGS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

### **PEOPLE (pick up to 3 you agree most with)**

- People are friendly, helpful, supportive
- Sense of community/feeling connected to people who live here
- People who live here are aware of and/or engaged in social, civic, or political issues
- Community is socially and culturally diverse and/or at least becoming more diverse
- Progressive/liberal culture (e.g. social values, government)
- Tolerance, inclusion, open-mindedness
- Sense that you can make a difference - government is accessible
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### **SERVICES AND RESOURCES**

- Academic opportunities and institutions (e.g. benefits that come from presence of colleges and university)
- Quality school systems and other educational institutions and programs for youth
- Health care services and institutions
- Downtown and Marketplace
- Shopping (e.g. close by, good variety, availability of goods)
- Transportation
- Restaurants and food
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### **GEOGRAPHIC SETTING**

- Lake Champlain, waterfront, and/or beaches
- General beauty of environment and/or scenery
- Relatively small size and scale of community
- Natural setting: outdoors and nature, mountains
- Cleanliness of area (e.g. fresh air; lack of pollution and litter)
- Mix of rural and city areas
- General proximity to work and activities (e.g. short commute, convenient access)
- Climate and seasons
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Arts and cultural activities and/or cultural richness of community
- Recreational and sports activities (e.g. outdoor recreation, parks, bike path, and other sports and fitness activities)
- Specific events and festivals (Jazz Festival, Mardi Gras parade, fireworks, etc.)
- Activities for families and youth
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUALITY OF LIFE**

- Safety: safe place to live, little/no crime
- Family-friendly environment; good place to raise kids
- Informal, simple, "laidback lifestyle"
- Peaceful, quiet, calm environment
- "Healthy" place to live
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### **OTHER BEST THINGS**

(choose this option for "Best Things" that do not fit in any of the themes listed above from results of the 2004 survey)

- Other? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

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# HEALTH AND WELLNESS CONCERNS

## HEALTH CARE ISSUES (pick up to 3 you agree most with)

- Lack of insurance and/or lack of access to coverage
- High cost of health insurance
- Lack of availability or access within the health care system (e.g. difficulty getting an appointment)
- Lack of prevention programs or services
- High cost of prescription drugs
- Problems getting an appointment at Fletcher Allen
- Lack of doctors and nurses
- Lack of dental and vision insurance coverage
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE

- Drug use and abuse
- Smoking
- Alcohol use and abuse
- Presence and influence of drug dealers in the community
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Obesity
- Poor nutrition/poor eating habits
- Insufficient facilities or lack of access to facilities for exercising
- High cost of exercise facilities
- Lack of good walking or biking options (as alternatives to driving)
- Lack of exercise and/or inactivity
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

- Homelessness
- Poverty
- Lack of affordable housing
- Hunger
- High cost of living and expenses (not related to health care or housing)
- Low wages, lack of livable wage
- Lack of employment opportunities
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## VIOLENCE

- Domestic violence
- Community violence (crime)
- Child abuse
- Global violence (war)
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

- Poor water quality; contamination and/or pollution of water
- Air pollution (not related to automobiles; see below for auto emissions)
- Industrial waste; business pollution; sprawl
- Automobile emissions and pollution (including overuse of gas)
- Trash, littering, garbage
- Global pollution
- Global warming
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

- Lack of services or providers for addressing mental health problems
- Depression
- Stress
- Existing mental health programs are poor quality or problematic
- Mental health providers are not qualified or capable
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## ILLNESS

- Cancer (noted 5%)
- Chronic disease (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, multiple sclerosis)
- Communicable disease (e.g. including sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS)
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## THREATS TO SAFETY

- Traffic safety, including speeding and drunk driving
- Lack of police presence in community
- Global safety issues (e.g. war, nuclear power)
- Racism, prejudice, hate, discrimination
- Snow and weather
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Health and Wellness Issues

(choose this option for "Health and Wellness Issues" that do not fit in any of the themes listed above from results of the 2004 survey)

- Other? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

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# COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

## ECONOMIC ISSUES (pick up to 3 you agree most with)

- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of or limited employment opportunities
- Low wages
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- High cost of living
- Economic disparities between higher and lower classes
- Hunger
- High cost of health care/insurance
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## HEALTH ISSUES

- Substance abuse: alcohol and /or drug abuse
- Obesity
- Mental health problems
- Smoking
- Inactivity
- Teen pregnancy
- Chronic illness (e.g. asthma, cancer)
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## SERVICES AND RESOURCES

- Education/School problems: poor quality, high cost, and/or limited availability
- Lack of planning, funding, vision for services and resources
- Systematic problems in health care (not related to cost)
- Lack of/limited youth activities
- High cost and limited availability of childcare
- Problems with law enforcement, policy, incarceration
- Systematic problems in mental health care (not related to cost)
- Aging population: lack of resources to meet growing needs
- High cost and limited availability of elder care
- Lack of/limited family services
- Lack of availability/access to grocery store
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## DEVELOPMENT AND SPRAWL

- Unfriendly business climate
- Population growth/too many people
- Urban sprawl (including "box stores")
- Loss of open space
- Lack of development planning
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## CRIME AND VIOLENCE

- Vandalism and/or graffiti
- Availability of drugs and presence of drug dealers
- Gangs, street violence, fighting
- Domestic violence
- Bullying
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Guns, shooting
- Burglary and theft
- Rape
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES

- Racism and prejudice
- Lack of socio-cultural diversity and/or lack of diversity awareness
- General lack of awareness; ignorance
- Alienation and isolation
- Classism
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## TRANSPORTATION

- Traffic and congested roads
- Lack/limitations of public transportation
- Road conditions
- Driving habits (e.g. speeding, "road rage")
- Delays to Circumferential Highway
- Plans to continue the Circumferential Highway
- Parking
- Lack of sidewalks or biking options
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

- Garbage and litter
- Water pollution
- Noise pollution
- Air pollution
- Loss of open space
- Global warming
- Weather, cold winters
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## GOVERNMENT ISSUES

- High taxes
- Problems with/dislike of incumbent politicians
- General problems with politicians/politics
- Government bureaucracy/entrenchment; lack of diversity in gov.
- Disagreement with funding priorities
- Too much regulation
- Polarization
- Problems with specific policies or laws (e.g. Act 250)
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## SOCIO-CULTURAL ISSUES

- Breakdown of family
- Youth crime/mischief
- Loss of community
- Sense of entitlement (felt towards others, government)
- Consumerism
- School dropout/truancy
- OTHER? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## OTHER COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

(choose this option for "community problems" that do not fit in any of the themes listed above from the 2004 survey).

- Other? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION – Tell us about yourself:**

**Gender**

- Male
- Female
- Transgender

**Age**

- <20 years old
- 20- 34 years
- 35 – 59 years
- 60+ years

**Household Income**

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$75,000
- More than \$75,000

**Education**

- Some high school
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college/no degree
- Associates degree
- Bachelors degree
- Graduate degree

**Race**

- African American / born in US
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White/Caucasian
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for filling out this survey.***

**Mail your completed survey to:** Community Health Improvement  
Fletcher Allen Health Care  
199 Main Street, Suite 150  
Burlington, VT 05401

**or FAX to: (802) 847-6545**