



## Jackson County Department of Public Health

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### Data Collection Taking Place to Help Improve Jackson Health

Over the next several weeks, residents in Jackson County will have the opportunity to help the Jackson County Department of Public Health and Harris Regional Hospital identify the most critical health needs throughout our county and the region. The national research firm PRC of Omaha, Nebraska, will conduct phone surveys with approximately 200 individuals in the area between March and June of this year. The confidential survey will ask questions about residents' health status, behaviors, and experiences. The households asked to participate will be selected at random, and the survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Interested community members can give their input, even if they aren't part of the random selection. "Residents of Jackson County can also give their input by taking the survey online." Janelle Messer added. "The survey is available now at this link <https://www.prcsurvey.com/begin/WNC2021/> and on our Facebook page."

As the survey process begins, JCDPH and Harris Regional hope area residents will take an active role. "We really want to encourage everyone to participate if they're called. This is the community's opportunity to give their input so that we can address the health needs most important to our area," said Chelsea Burrell, Wellness Manager at Harris Regional. "The results of the survey will help us understand where the greatest needs exist and identify ways to strengthen the services and support that improve health for all residents of Jackson County."

Our county is part of a larger community health assessment and improvement effort taking place in the region called [WNC Healthy Impact](#). WNC Healthy Impact is a regional collaboration between hospitals, health departments and their partners working to improve community health.

Jackson County is one of eighteen counties involved in community health surveys that are underway across western North Carolina to gain better insight into the current health of the region. Data collected during the health assessment represents a broad look at health, including: demographics, socioeconomics, health status, health disparities, health behavior, clinical care, physical environment and quality of life. This data helps us identify the health issues we will focus on addressing together over the next three years.

For more information on Jackson County health data, visit [health.jacksonnc.org/community-health-data](http://health.jacksonnc.org/community-health-data) or call Janelle Messer at (828) 587-8238.

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