

# Community Health Assessment

2021

VAN BUREN COUNTY



**Public Health**<sup>®</sup>  
Prevent. Promote. Protect. |



# **VAN BUREN COUNTY**

Van Buren County is located in southeast Iowa and has a population of 7,243 (2021) Van Buren County is considered to be a rural community. Out of Iowa's 99 counties, Van Buren County consistently ranks in the bottom ten in terms of per capita income. The median income for a household in Van Buren County is \$49,898 (2016-2020) compared to Iowa median income of \$61,836. 12.7% of Van Buren County residents live in poverty compared to the Iowa's 11%.

Van Buren County is made up 11 villages across the county's 491 square miles. Keosauqua is the county seat and the largest village in the county with a population of 920 (2021). Lacey State Park is located in Van Buren County which offers multitudes of hiking trails and camping opportunities. A large portion of Van Buren County prides itself in its agricultural as well as hunting and fishing recreational opportunities. Van Buren County has one public school district with multiple buildings throughout the county. The county has a large Amish population that has 6 private schools as well as a Mennonite population that has 1 private school in the county.

## **CHA PROCESS**

Residents of Van Buren County often participate in multiple community groups and committees as well as serve in many different roles to benefit the community. Those collaborating in the CHA-CHIP process were the Van Buren County Hospital, Van Buren County Public Health, Van Buren County Community School district, SAFE Coalition, local business owners/managers, community members, elderly residents, and parents. A few of the data sources used were the Iowa Youth Survey, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, and US Census Bureau as well as a community survey. Meetings were made up of focused conversations and brainstorming workshops.

## **COMMUNITY SURVEY**

Our coalition created a Van Buren County Needs Assessment Survey. Surveys were distributed through several different routes including a Survey Monkey link

publicized through emails, Facebook, and websites. Paper surveys were available with drop boxes for completed surveys at Van Buren County Hospital, Van Buren County Courthouse, Keosauqua Public Library, Cantril Public Library, Milton Public Library, Stockport Public Library, and Bonaparte Public Library.

We had a total of 75 respondents to the survey. 22.7% of survey respondents were 65 year old and up. Results of the survey and data were reviewed by the coalition and group discussions were held. The coalition ranked priority issues based on information shared and aligned them with our county's highest identified needs.