



Graham County Community Health Assessment



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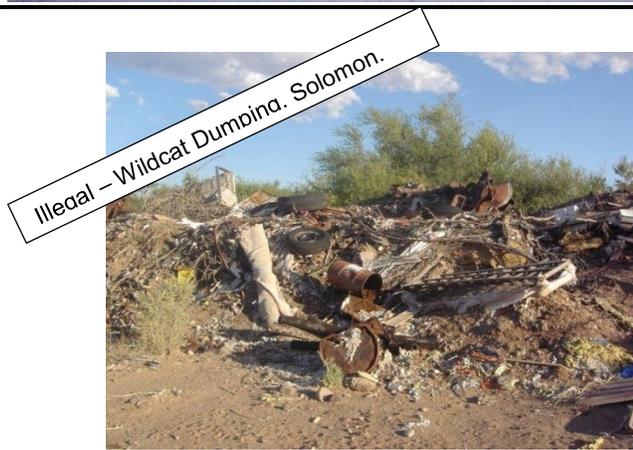
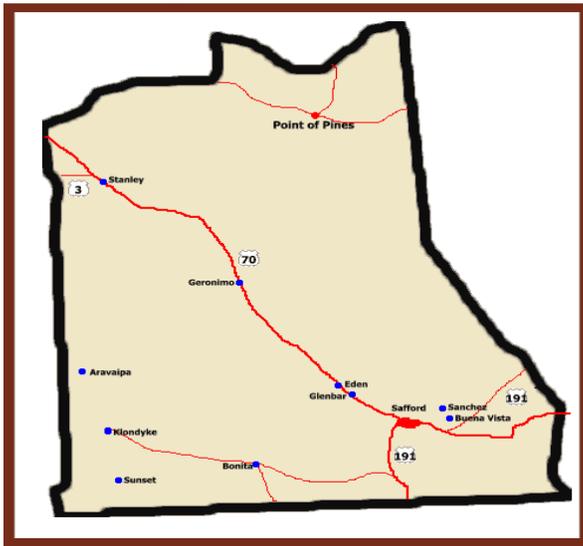
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Introduction

The Graham County Health Department, along with a large group of community partners conducted a Community Health Assessment (CHA) survey for six weeks between September 26, and October 30, 2012. We have participated in the CHA process using Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) model, included with the survey, Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, Local Public Health System Assessment and Community Health Status Assessment. Forces of Change was completed during the Steering Committee Meeting on January 23, 2013. In this CHA report, you will find a comprehensive assessment of the health of the residents of Graham County, detailed data, analysis, and input from members of our community. We have listened to input from members of our community and, because of this collaboration we will be identifying an implementation plan for improving the health of residents of Graham County.

This process will help the residents and organizations of Graham County to move forward with our goal to improve the health of our residents. The Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) is a long-term, systematic effort, based on the results of CHA activities. The CHIP is a process for setting priorities, targeting resources, and addressing public health issues in collaboration with other governmental agencies and community partners. The CHIP will describe how public health stakeholders will collaborate with community partners to improve the health of the community.

We welcome your recommendations and suggestions to help us meet these goals.



History and Regional Information

The 11th Territorial Legislature created Graham County in 1881 from parts of Apache and Pima Counties. The Legislature broke with the tradition of naming Arizona counties after local Indian tribes when they called the new county "Graham" after the 10,717-foot Mount Graham, the highest peak in the area. Lt. William H. Emory sketched the mountain and kept an accurate record of the flora and fauna, people, and climate for Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearney's U.S. Army Corp of Topographical Engineers. Lt. Emory first referred to the mountain as "Graham", after Lt. Colonel James Duncan Graham, a senior officer in Kearney's forces sent to this area to invade the Mexican Territory in 1846. After the Mexican War in 1848, Graham County was a part of two countries with the area south of the Gila River in Mexico. In 1853 the southern part of the County became part of the U.S. through the \$10,000,000 Gadsden Purchase.

Graham County's early history was primarily one of exploration rather than settlement with no notable Spanish or Mexican settlements being established in the area. Life along the upper Gila River had existed for centuries before any settlers laid claim to this area. Graham County's three pre-historic Indian tribes were the Anasazi, the Hohokam, and the Apache. The ruins of the Anasazi civilization (Navajo name for "the ancient one") dot the valley, canyons, and mountain landscape. The cliff dwellings in the Bonita and Aravaipa Canyons indicate an early culture inhabiting this area long before the time of Christ. The Hohokam (Pima name for "those who have vanished") evolved an agrarian culture about the time of Christ. They learned to use irrigation, lived in pueblo-type dwellings, made crude pottery and cremated their dead. The Apaches, coming from Northwestern Canada through the Bering Strait, then settled in the upper Gila River basin about 1700 A.D. The Apaches, known as the warrior tribe, were nomadic, hunters, and seed gatherers with little interest in agriculture. Graham County's most recent inhabitants before the 19th century were the Apaches. The first Anglo-Americans to venture into the Gila Valley were trappers and traders around 1826. Some of the first settlers passed through the Gila Valley in 1862 as members of the Confederate-hunting California column in the Civil War. Upon being discharged from service, some soldiers found their way back to this area primarily with the promise of farming and ranching.

Along with these hardy pioneers, a resolute group of Mormons came into the valley, and through their industry, helped to establish this region. Camp Goodwin was started in 1864, but abandoned in 1871 when the troops moved to establish Fort Apache. Fort Grant was settled in 1872, while Fort Thomas was set up in 1876. These three military posts made settlement possible for this territory. The year of 1872 was a milestone in Graham County's development when a copper mine began operating at Clifton, then a part of Graham County. Businesses developed to support the mining activities such as I. E. Solomon's company that made charcoal from mesquite for the copper smelters, freighting companies to ship supplies, and growing produce for those in the mines.

According to early history another major group of Spanish settlers, from neighboring New Mexico, made their homes a few miles north and east of Safford in what are today, Sanchez, and San Jose, Arizona. The area known as Sanchez was named after Lorenzo Sanchez who arrived in the valley sometime in 1879.

In the 1870s, farming communities began to appear along the Gila River, which river traverses the entire County from east to west. Munsonville, now San Jose, was established in 1873; Safford followed in 1874; Solomonville in 1876; and Smithville, now known as Pima, was the first Mormon settlement plotted out in 1879. In the next decade, several other Mormon settlements were established, including Thatcher, Eden, Central, and Bryce. Today, this is a rich agricultural area that has rich copper deposits, which creates a strong

agricultural-mining economy. Safford became the first county seat, but it was moved to Solomonville after two years. In 1915, after an election, the county seat was returned to Safford where it remains today. Almost twice its present size, before the formation of Greenlee County, Graham County still measures 4,650 square miles with about 22 square miles of water. This size ranks Graham as the 12th largest of Arizona's fifteen (15) counties.



Graham County is located in the Southeastern part of Arizona and is about 81 miles long and averages about 56 miles wide. The County is rimmed on the north primarily by Apache County with a little boundary of Navajo County; on the east by Greenlee County; on the south primarily by Cochise County with a small border of Pima County; and on the west by Pinal and Gila Counties. The County can be divided into three basic geologic areas: 1) The Gila River basin; 2) The mountainous areas including the Gila Mountains to the north, the Pinaleno Mountains in the center of the county, the Santa Teresa and Galiuro Mountains in the southwest corner and the Peloncillo Mountains on the east; and 3) The high desert plains are north of the Gila Mountains and south of the Pinaleno Mountains.

The terrain is mostly composed of high desert plains at the base of medium to large basalt mountains. This area is unique for Arizona since the Gila River runs through its major valley all year round as well as the intermittent San Simon River. Further, most of the land is on the edges between the mountains and the high desert plains creating an area of transition between two major biomes. A biome is a particular terrain, climate, elevation combination, which has a particular array of plant and animal life. In the areas known as transitions, the plant and the animal life of both biomes abound. Graham County has some of the widest varieties of animal and bird life found anywhere in the United States. It is also the site of the only two designated Riparian Areas in the United States, the Aravaipa Canyon and the Gila Box. Most of Graham County is in the Gila River Watershed, which river transects the county from east central to northwest. The San Simon River runs from the southeastern corner of the State and intersects the Gila River a few miles east of Safford. The San Carlos Lake, on the reservation, has been noted in the past for its excellent fishing and recreation. Mineral water springs, artesian wells and some fresh water flows underneath the land which creates a number of natural hot springs. Recreation and tourism follow farming and mining as principal industries in Graham County. ¹ The County ranges in elevation, the lowest being 2900 ft. in Safford and Mount Graham at 10,270 ft. is the highest elevation. Mt. Graham is the name of the top only; the rest of the range is known as the Pinaleno Mountains. Casually, most people just refer to the whole mass as Mount Graham. (Taken from the Arizona Department of Commerce and Volume 1 of Mt. Graham Profiles published by the Graham County Historical Society and other local historical sources and technical papers.)

Climate

Southeastern Arizona is controlled by a mild, high desert setting that makes Graham County a place where people, from colder climates, come to retire and spend the winter months. Summers can be scorching; however the climate is relatively temperate due to low humidity most of the time. In the Gila Valley the yearly average high temperature is 83.7 degrees F, and the average low is 47.3 degrees F. June is the warmest month when temperatures can soar to 110+ degrees F. On average, the coolest month is January when

temperatures can plummet to below freezing. The average total precipitation is 9.95 inches per year. The maximum average precipitation occurs in August. Given the size and topographic differences in Graham County, the local climate can significantly vary (Table 1).

Table 1. Average Temperature in Graham County

	January Average	January Average	July Average	July Average
	High (°F)	Low (°F)	High (°F)	Low (°F)
Safford	61.0	29.0	98.0	68.0
Mount Graham				

Population

The tables below provide an overview of the composition of Graham County residents (Tables 2 – 5)

Table 2. Graham County Quick Facts, 2010 ²

Population	37,147
Unemployment ³	9.3%
Median Household Income	\$41,638
Families Living Below Poverty	20%

Table 3. Race/Ethnicity, 2010 ² Percent

White/Caucasian ^(a)	80.6%
African American ^(a)	2.2%
Native American/American Indian ^(a)	14.7%
Asian or Pacific Islander ^(a)	0.8%
Hispanic/Latino ^(b)	30.8%

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.
(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories

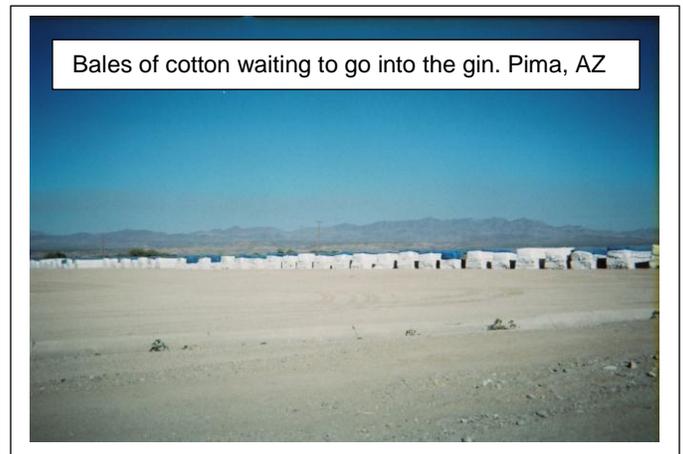


Table 4. Age, 2010 ³ Percent

Age, 2010 ³	Percent	Age, 2010 ³	Percent
Under 5 years	8.1%	45 to 54 years	12.0%
5 to 9 years	7.7%	55 to 59 years	5.5%
10 to 14 years	7.4%	60 to 64 years	4.0%
15 to 19 years	8.5%	65 to 74 years	6.4%
20 to 24 years	8.5%	75 to 84 years	3.9%
25 to 34 years	14.0%	85 years and over	1.5%
35 to 44 years	12.3%		

Table 5. Educational attainment among residents 25 years or older Graham County Quick Facts, 2010²

	Percent
High School Graduate	81.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	13.4%

Economics

Graham County is nestled in scenic southeastern Arizona, within only a few hours to the state's major metropolises of Flagstaff, Phoenix and Tucson. The county's three incorporated cities are clumped together in its north-central portion. Composed of mostly high desert plains and surrounded by beautiful mountains, Graham County was actually almost twice its current landmass of 4,630 square miles before the formation of Greenlee County. Graham County owns 1753 acres. Native American reservations account for ownership of 1,081,271 acres of land located in Graham County. The State of Arizona (State Parks and State Trust) owns 494,917 acres, while the federal governmental stewards 1,195,196 acres under the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Arizona Game and Fish Department are land agents for 796 acres. Non-agriculture individuals or organizations with vacant or improved land, including commercial, residential, multi-residential, religious, non-profit, conservancies, hospitals and care facilities, account for 173,165 acres. Privately owned agriculture and organizations, including LLCs, religious organizations, canal companies, mine companies, holding companies, ranching companies, etc., account for 401,385 acres. Twenty-two square miles of the county are comprised of water. Several highway systems weave in and around the county, offering easy accessibility to further local, regional and national cities. Commuters utilize U.S. Highways 70 and 191, as well as State Highways 266 and 366.

Agriculture has been the strength in the Graham County economy, even before its formation, as small farming communities sprung up along the Gila River in the 1870s. The river stretches through the county from east to west, acting as an excellent irrigation system for this farm center. Privately owned artesian wells contribute to the irrigation system also.

Cotton is a principle item produced in the communities of Graham County, along with alfalfa, small grains, apples, pumpkins and greenhouse tomatoes—as Graham County is home to one of the state's few hydroponic tomato nurseries (Euro Fresh Farms, located in Bonita). Additionally, farming and ranching and copper mining are prominent industries in the county.⁴

Copper mining contributes to the economy for Graham County. The Safford Mine, operated by Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold, is located about 12 miles north of Safford. Located in Morenci, AZ, east of Graham, in the sister county of Greenlee, is the largest open pit copper mine in North America, also owned and operated by Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold. Large populations of employees for both mines live in Graham County, thus contributing to the local retail economy. The Gila Valley (incorporated towns of Safford, Thatcher and Pima) is the retail and medical services center for Graham and Greenlee County residents.

Graham County is also home for Eastern Arizona College, a large public Community College. Eastern Arizona College has provided educational opportunities to residents of Southeastern Arizona for over 110 years. Throughout the past century, EAC has gone through many changes including being renamed nine times, becoming a public college, and expanding its campus from a single building in the Gila Valley to multiple locations across three counties. While the college has experienced tremendous growth, its commitment to providing educational opportunity for all continues to shape its programs and services. Today, EAC offers many associate degrees and certificates of proficiency and serves students on the main campus in Thatcher and at the Greenlee location. Students may also earn bachelor degrees in a few content areas on the EAC Thatcher Campus through Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University and University of Arizona.⁵

Agriculture, mining, public schools (elementary through post-secondary), three Department of Corrections facilities, retail, medical institutions and governmental agencies are the largest employers in Graham County. These entities provide the economic base for a strong work force that sustains growth for the county.

Community Health Assessment

According to the Public Health Accreditation Board, the purpose of a community health assessment (CHA) is to learn about the health status of a population. CHAs describe the health status of a population; identify areas for health improvement; determine factors that contribute to health issues; and identify assets and resources that can be mobilized to address population health improvement. CHAs can be developed by all levels of government.⁵

A CHA entails the collaborative collection and analysis of health data and information for a given population or community. Generally those involved include the local health department and other community health care service organizations, along with important community partners such as, town and city representatives, educational institution personnel, business leaders, civic organizations and many more. The types of data collected range from demographics and socioeconomic characteristics to morbidity, mortality, and other determinants of health status.⁵

The health information collected is most often used to develop health priorities for the community, culminating in the development of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The Model

After reviewing the limited models/guidance available, it was determined that the most comprehensive model currently available is the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) process developed by the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO). MAPP is a strategic approach to community health improvement. This tool helps communities improve health and quality of life through community-wide and community-driven strategic planning. Through MAPP, communities seek to achieve optimal health by identifying and using their resources wisely, taking into account their unique circumstances and needs, and forming effective partnerships for strategic action.

This framework is designed to help communities collect local health data and information, apply strategic thinking to prioritize local public health issues, and identify resources to address these priorities. The MAPP framework involves six steps: organizing, visioning, assessments, strategic issues, goals/strategies, and action cycle. MAPP as an interactive, community-based process can improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and ultimately the performance of local public health systems.

This model is extremely useful to Graham County due to the small population, resources and community groups that operate within the county. The MAPP tools can be easily adaptable to the needs of the County in this CHA. The MAPP model meets or exceeds the guidance as set forth by the PHAB Guide to National Public Health Department Accreditation Version 1.0, Domain 1, and Standard 1.1: Conduct a Collaborative Process Resulting in a Comprehensive Community Health Assessment.

MAPP is intended to result in the development and implementation of a community- wide strategic plan for public health improvement. For the plan to be realistically implemented, it must be developed through broad participation by persons who share the commitment to and have a role in the community's health and overall well-being. It is unlikely that key implementers will adopt the recommendations of a plan for which they had no input. A community's commitment to implementation of a public health improvement plan will come from the sense of ownership that results from participating in the plan's development.

In an environment of tightening financial resources dedicated to public health and community health care, the Graham County Health Department (GCHD) initiated a community health assessment and improvement process to engage community members and core committee in examining the challenges and opportunities facing the health of Graham County residents.

Using MAPP as a guide, GCHD implemented the CHA per the following steps:

- a. Convened a team of GCHD staff, University Arizona Extension Service agents, and a local health clinic manager as the Steering Committee, to develop and plan the CHA;
- b. Collected and analyzed health data about the community, using secondary data, community member and stakeholder surveys, and facilitated group discussions with stakeholders;
- c. Identified and convened a group of influential community leaders and stakeholders, known as the Community Health Assessment Core Committee;
- d. Conducted community meetings in five locations throughout the county to gather input from residents;
- e. Shared and reviewed findings from collected community health data with Core members and Steering Committee;
- f. Worked with Core group and Steering committee to identify community health priorities; and
- g. Developed potential actions to address the highest health priorities.

In May-June, 2012, GCHD began internal discussions about conducting a community health assessment, and created an initial timeline and plan for the process. Recognizing the complexity of the task, GCHD began the process of hiring a person to handle implementation and organization of the CHA grant funds.

The Methodology

GCHD used a mixed-methods approach to collecting data for the CHA. A combination of secondary data, surveys, and group discussions were used. These various methods are described in more detail below.

GCHD conducted two community assessment meetings in September 2012 and January 2013. The purpose of these group discussions was to solicit feedback from community members regarding issues positively and negatively impacting the health and wellbeing of Graham County residents.

The CHA core committee developed the group discussion questions. Sample questions included: "What is important to our community?" "How is quality of life perceived in our community?;" "What assets do we have that can be used to improve our communities?" The core committee also wanted to capture what participants thought Graham County should be like and what improvements could be made in the next five to ten years. Some of the questions for this section were: "What does a healthy community mean to you?"; What are

important characteristics of a healthy community for all who live work and play here?"; and "How do you envision our community in the five to ten years?".

The list of potential MAPP Steering Committee members that were initially invited to attend the first meeting was contacted by invitation through email and by telephone. Respondents who were interested in participating were asked to RSVP and provide their contact information. Invitations were electronically sent to identify community MAPP Steering Committee members requesting their participation in the group discussions.

The first discussion group was held on September 26, 2012, at the Graham County General Services Building in the large assembly room in Safford with 59 community members attending. The second group was held January 23, 2013, at the same place with 45 community members attending.

Steering Committee member's responses were compiled and recorded. The information gathered from the first meeting was used to develop samples of values and vision statements. The final statements were then approved at the December meeting.

Survey data was discussed and the top issues were identified for each category in the survey. Forces of change was a topic that was driven by what our community members said on the survey.

Community Survey¹⁰

GCHD conducted a comprehensive Community Assessment Survey from September 26, 2012 through October 30, 2012. A GCHD Health Program Coordinator developed the survey. The survey included suggested questions from the MAPP program as well as questions from other counties community surveys, along with specific questions that addressed local issues.

The questionnaires focused on identifying factors that make a healthy community; behaviors that have the greatest impact on the health of the community; health services that are most important for the community; and health threats to the community. Respondents were asked to choose from a list of options, but were also given an "other" category for additional thoughts or ideas. The survey also asked respondents to rate the health status of and quality of life in Graham County. A few demographic items were included in the questionnaire as well. Questions concerning employment status, health insurance coverage, health services availability, chronic disease history, housing situations, recreational opportunities, worksite wellness opportunities, safe routes to schools, healthy food options in neighborhood stores, environmental health regulations, Affordable Care Act, and eating habits were also included.

The community member survey was conducted with SurveyMonkey, an online survey software and questionnaire tool, as well as in paper format. A link to the online survey was placed on GCHD's homepage; emailed to numerous health organizations, schools and educational institutions, the Graham County Chamber of Commerce and faith-based organizations. Paper versions of the survey were made available at public health clinics, and local businesses such as the thrift store, the food pantry, Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center, physician's clinics and various civic organizations such as American Legion Posts, Rotary Clubs, Lion's Club and the faith based community. The community grocery stores distributed flyers with survey information on them, in grocery bags to their customers.

A total of 1026 community member surveys were collected. 430 of the surveys we collected on paper. In collaboration with Eastern Arizona College of Nursing students, the surveys were manually entered into SurveyMonkey by 9 of the students. The nursing students are required by the nursing program to volunteer ten hours a semester. These nine students collectively spent 41.5 hours over nine days entering the responses from the paper copies of the survey. The students were able to be exposed to an aspect of public health in their effort to become registered nurses.

The Findings

Response Rate

Surveys were taken by 1,026 respondents.

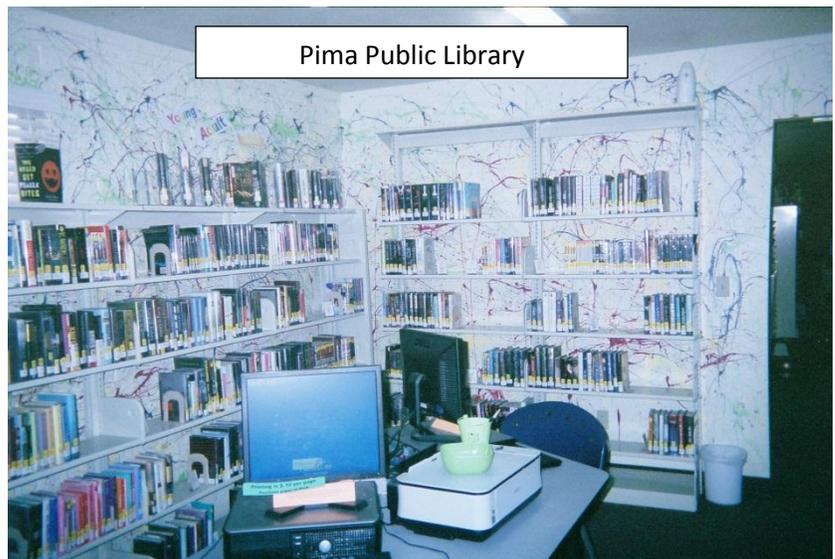
Of these 1026, 966 (94.2%) were completed

430 (41%) paper copies were recorded

596 (56%) taken using SurveyMonkey online.

The population for Graham County is 37,147. Approximately 3.62% of the population answered the survey questions.

Please see Attachment A for a complete copy of the survey results and analysis.



Secondary Data Analysis

A secondary data analysis was conducted in two primary areas, health status of Graham County and health care access in Graham County. Health Department personnel at GCHD researched local, state, and national data sets to assess health status and health care access in Graham County.

Health status of Graham County. Mortality, morbidity, and the Behavioral Risk Factor data were taken from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2010 and used to assess the health status of Graham County.

Mortality. A mortality rate is a measure of the number of deaths in a given population. The leading causes of death in Graham County in 2010 were malignant neoplasms (cancer) and cardiovascular disease (Table 6).

Table 6. Leading Cause of Death in Graham County, 2010 ⁷			
Rank	Cause of death	*per 100,000 individuals	Percentage*
1	Malignant neoplasms (cancer)		25.8
2	Cardiovascular disease		24.2
3	Accidents (unintentional injuries)		5.6
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases		5.6
5	Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)		5.3
6	Nephritis (kidney disease)		3.0
7	Diabetes		2.6
8	Influenza and pneumonia		2.6
9	Drug induced death		2.3
10	Septicemia (blood poisoning)		2.0
11	Alcohol induced death		2.0
12	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis		1.7
13	Intentional self-harm (suicide)		1.0
14	Alzheimer’s disease		0.7

Source: Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2010

For children one to 14 years of age in Graham County, the overall mortality rate was 23.8 per 100,000 children. The most common cause of death for this age group was accident (unintentional injury) at a rate of 11.9 per 100,000 children.⁷

For adults 65 years of age or older in Graham County, the overall mortality rate was per 100,000 individuals. The most common causes of death for this age group were cardiovascular disease (1,030.7 per 100,000) and malignant neoplasm of the bronchus, lung, and trachea (252.3 per 100,000).⁶

Morbidity. A morbidity rate is a measure of the incidence of a particular disease or disorder in a given population. Whereas mortality measures cause of death, morbidity measures the prevalence of disease. One indicator of morbidity is the number of hospital discharges in a community (Table 7).

Table 7. Leading Hospital Discharges in Graham County⁸ (MGRMC) – 2011 data

Rank	Hospital Discharge from Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center (MGRMC)	
1	Respiratory related disorders (pneumonia, COPD, Asthma, Bronchitis, Pulmonary embolism)	41%
2	GI disorders (gastroenteritis, appendectomy, disorders of pancreas, liver, esophagitis)	24%
3	Joint replacement/hip or femur procedures (hip, knee replacement, or major joint procedure)	14%
4	Kidney or urinary infections	9%
5	Cellulitis	9%
6	Heart Failure	3%
7	904 patients transferred to Tucson or Phoenix from MGRMC - 2011 (OB is the largest percentage that is discharged but looking at pathology only and disease processes for this report.)	

Source: Mt Graham Regional Medical Center, Mary Peters, PhD (c), RN, NE-BC, 2011 data

Health status indicators are another measure of morbidity. Table 8 shows a comparison between Graham County and Arizona on several key health status indicators. An up arrow (▲) indicates that Graham County is performing better than Arizona in that indicator, while a down arrow (▼) indicates that Graham County is performing worse than Arizona.

Table 8. Comparison of Health Status Indicators of Graham County and Arizona (2010 data)⁹

Graham County	Arizona	Graham County	vs.	Arizona
Maternal and Child Health				
Infant mortality (Per 1,000)	7.5	6.0	▼	
Mothers who receive early prenatal care	74.5%	81.9%	▼	
Preterm births (per 1,000)	9.5	10.0	▲	
Low birth weight babies (per 1,000)	7.0	7.1	▲	
Adolescent (all 19 years and younger) pregnancies (per 1000 births)	31.9%	21.2%	▼	
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (actual Case Numbers) 2009				
Chlamydia	129	26,642		
Gonorrhea	10	2,998		

Source: Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2010

Stakeholder Group Discussions

The Community Health Assessment Team consists of three groups of people:

- ❖ The Core Committee
 - Laura Rogers, Health Programs Coordinator, GCHD
 - Neil Karnes, Graham County Director of Public Health
 - Rochelle Figueroa, WIC Manager, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Manager, GCHD
 - Carol Welsh, Canyonlands Health Center, South East District Practice Manager
 - Bill Brandau, Agriculture and Natural Resource Area Agent, Graham County Director, County U of A Cooperative Extension
 - Cindy Pearson, County U of A Cooperative Extension

- ❖ The Steering Committee - list of entities represented. A few of the entities listed below had more than one person attend the meeting.

Arizona State Prison Dept. of Corrections - Safford
Bonita Elementary School District
Canyonlands Community Health Care
Cenpatico
Chamber of Commerce
Chief of Police Thatcher
Child Family Resources
Clerk of the Court
EAC Fitness
Easter Seals Blake Foundation Children and Family Services
Eastern AZ College - Dean of Instruction
Eastern AZ College- College of Nursing and Nursing Student
Eastern AZ Courier
First Things First
Freeport McMoran Copper and Gold-Safford
Friend 2 Friend Pantry
Ft. Thomas School District
GCSO Dispatch
Gila Valley Clinic
Graham Co. Environmental health
Graham Co. Health Department
Graham County Board of Supervisors
Graham County Assessor's Office
Graham County Deputy County Attorney
Graham County Engineering
Graham County Health Department
Graham County Planning & Zoning, Engr.
Graham County Probation
Graham County Rehabilitative Center

Graham County School Superintendent
Graham County Under Sheriff
Greenlee County Health Department - several
Highway Department
Human Resource Council
Juv. Detention Center
Manager, Health Systems Development Center for Rural Health U of A
Mayor City of Safford
Mayor of Pima
McMurray Radio stations
Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center
Mt. Graham Safe House
Neighborhood Pantry
Pima Unified School District
Pima Head Start Program
Safford City Library
Safford Police
Safford School District
South Eastern AZ Behavioral Health Services Youth Prevention
SEACAB – Southeastern Arizona Clean and Beautiful
SEACUS, Senior Center, Meals on Wheels
Sierra Bonita Head Start
Southeastern Arizona Consumer-Run Services
South Eastern AZ Human Resource Council
Southwest Ambulance Service
Town of Thatcher, Engineer, Community Development
U of A Cooperative Extension Service
VA Clinic

- ❖ Voices of the Community – Community meeting sites and who was represented.
 - Safford – Safford Downtown Association, Graham County Board of Supervisors, SEACAB, GCHD, Boys Scouts of America, LDS Church, Volunteer @ State Prison, Mt. Graham Safe House, Graham County Health Department
 - Pima – Pima School District, Pima High School, Pima Schools Youth Advocates, Pima Elementary School, Pima Public Library, Private Citizen (2)
 - Ft. Thomas.- Ft. Thomas Junior High and High School, Ft. Thomas School District Office, U of A Cooperative Extension Service
 - Solomon/San Jose – Private citizens (14), Solomon School District and Elementary School, Private business, American Legion
 - Thatcher – Town of Thatcher, Thatcher School District, Thatcher Police Dept., Justice of the Peace Office #2; Private Citizens (2)

The core committee meets on a regular basis, at least once a month. This core group is the driving force behind the Community Health Assessment Project. They plan larger group, steering committee meetings; compile and discuss input from the steering committee; and help with the analysis of information that is gathered from Voices of the Community meetings.

The steering committee is made up of citizens of Graham County from many walks of life. The people that are on the list represent, not only their place of employment but also their affiliations with other community volunteer organizations, faith communities, and themselves, i.e. where they - reside in the county, shop, receive health care, recreate, go to school, etc.

The September 26, 2012 meeting was attended by 60 people who reside throughout Graham County. The agenda for this meeting included:

- Review of Community Assessment, 10 Essential Public Health Services and Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP)
 - Voices of the Community: Themes and Strengths
 - What is important to our community?
 - How is quality of life perceived in our community?
 - What assets do we have that can be used to improve our communities?
 - What assets do we have that can be used to improve our quality of life and our health? (Parks, walk ways, recreation sites, views, etc.)
 - What is important to our community?
 - How is quality of life perceived in our community? Are people satisfied with their quality of life?
 - Are you satisfied with the health care system in the community?
 - Is this community a good place to raise children?
 - Is the community a good place to grow old?
 - Is their economic opportunity in the community?
 - Is the community a safe place to live?
 - What could improve our community?
- Brainstorm activity, how do you envision the local public health system in the next 5-10 years.
 - What does a healthy community mean to you? Ideas to get you thinking (safe, affordable health care, clean environments, etc.)
 - What are important characteristics of a healthy community for all who live, work, and play here?

- How you envision (see) our communities in the next 5-10 years.
- Introduction of the 51 question Community Assessment Survey.
- Introduction of HAPI – Health in Arizona Policy Initiative.
- Next steps

At the first meeting the participants were asked to give their opinions and answers to the questions in the agenda. Brainstorming activities were conducted by having the participants record their thoughts on sticky notes and posting them under the appropriate question that they were answering. Participants were assigned seats at the meeting in order to have a diversity of opinions at each table for discussion questions.

During the Community Assessment Themes and Strengths brainstorming activity, nine questions were asked. The theme of several questions included different aspects of quality of life and how the participants perceive this. Another theme was improvement for the community, while another question addressed their satisfaction of the health care system in the county.

From the responses of the participants the Themes and Strengths of the Graham County community were reflected in the following way:

- Assets of Graham County that are currently present that improve the quality of life and personal health – Small town conveniences and people feel safe; the weather is favorable; the presence of Mt. Graham Regional Hospital; recreational opportunities; shopping opportunities; good schools with educational opportunities; wellness and fitness centers, parks (county and city), walking paths; family medical services, the mining industry that provides jobs, and public libraries.
- Perceived Quality of Life – Both pros and cons were brought to the table. Rural living is considered to be safe, with a corresponding sense of normality which placed it high on the pro list. Compromised safety and security was a concern with others, indicating that housing, poverty, high cancer rate, high teen pregnancy rate, low wages, lack of activities for teens and illegal drug presence are deficits to the quality of life.
- Is Graham County a good place to raise children and grow old? These questions received mixed responses from the participants. Most indicated that living in a rural community is a good place to do both.
 - Good educational systems that have communication with parents, personal knowledge of teachers and staff, parental involvement, interactive programs, safe and participation for all students are the plus for raising children. The negative concerns listed were: Illegal drug (street drugs and prescription drugs) use, crime rate increasing, lack of respect, child neglect and abuse, poverty, and broken families (grandparents and siblings raising children).
 - Health facility availability, good emergency services, senior services, i.e., Meals on Wheels, Senior Center, free education for elderly from EAC, etc. are the assets that were listed. Need of public transportation system, more sidewalks, more specialized health care providers, common need to leave area for healthcare, too few long term care facilities (waiting list for placement), and lack of cultural events and opportunities are the items that were listed as needing improvement.

- Limited diversity, income at a lower base range, limited employment opportunities, private industry lacking to provide more jobs, and salary differences were posted for economic opportunities in the community.
- Risky behaviors such as substance abuse that includes illegal street drugs, prescription drugs, alcohol and teen pregnancy were listed as what makes community unsafe. Law enforcement for really rural areas not adequate. Law enforcement, volunteer fire departments, EMT/ ambulance service, knowing your neighbors and streets feeling safe were the positive aspects of knowing that the community is a safe place to live.
- Improvement of the community was indicated by a long list that included the following needs:

Need Community recreation center to help instill
 Healthier & safer environment and lifestyles for families
 Family friendly areas to continue growth
 Running areas
 Day care for shift workers
 Improve tolerance for diversity
 Intercultural activities
 Larger Senior Center & more centrally located
 Drug rehabilitation sites
 Community/County Event Coordinator
 Better education
 More family commitment
 Eliminate drug abuse – prescription and illegal street drugs, meth labs, etc.
 Drug awareness – start in elementary school
 Personal responsibility in community, life and home
 Economic development to bring people back and lower unemployment rate
 More public services – hospital, library
 More tolerance between people, towns and leadership
 Public transportation system – buses, vans, train
 Better communication with schools
 Youth parks
 Middle and high school areas used for public activities outside of school time with
 Support and partnerships with county, cities and towns
 Need more family/buffet style restaurants
 Activities for non-church goers

Economic diversification
 Control prescription drugs better
 More funding to create engagement between groups in the community
 Niche activities – skate park for example
 More systems dedicated to growing healthy, functioning families
 Need to improve landscaping
 Affordable child care
 Health care specialists
 Work training programs that result in actually obtain a job after training
 Opportunities for community involvement
 Clean-up abandoned and poorly maintained properties
 Streets
 Sidewalks
 Improve parks
 More volunteers
 Historic pride and preservation
 Expand current bike routes
 Extend and light Safford walking paths
 More walking paths throughout county
 Make school facilities available to the public can exercise
 Security and services need to improve in Bonita area
 Refuse transfer station in Bonita area
 Health clinic in Bonita area

This activity enabled the Core committee to get a feel for what the county and the communities were saying about their quality of life, the safety for their children and the elderly, the opportunity for the lack and or growth of economic opportunities that people desire. The activity also gave information for what is important to people along with how they feel about their health care choices and what improvements they would like to see for the communities in which they reside.

A collaborative and creative process that leads to the development of a shared community vision and common values was the purpose of asking the following three questions of the large steering community, as well as of the five individual community meetings that were conducted:

- What does a healthy community mean to you? Ideas to get you thinking (safe, affordable health care, clean environments, etc.)
- What are important characteristics of a healthy community for all who live, work, and play here?
- How you envision (see) our communities in the next 5-10 years

The large steering committee participants wrote the statements below. They were given six colored dots for each question and were asked vote for the statement that they were most passionate about on each of the three questions:

[(00) indicates the number of votes these statements received.]

What does a healthy community mean to you?

- (22) Economic diversity; good jobs and healthy economy; jobs for youth who want to return after education or stay after graduation; developing, growing economic environment
- (21) Access education; focus on education; quality education; strong educational opportunities; Opportunities for home town graduates to use their skills here in Graham County.
- (16) Working together to create a safe healthy clean and productive community.
- (14) Provide healthy overall services to our most vulnerable populations; healthy functioning families living in a supportive community; productive focused citizens; quality healthcare; safe supportive community.
- (13) Common sense of community; civic involvement
- (10) Free of environmental hazards; Clean environment; Working together; Safe; Clean communities; productive communities.
- (9) Drug free
- (8) Follow the rules and laws; take personal responsibility; strong family groups; community that lives by moral principles; community unity.
- Vibrant youthful communities; parental involvement with youth; provide services for disabled youth and adults.
- (6) Family commitment
- (5) Provide service to retirees and the aged.
- (1) Public land use policies with reflect what the citizens want not what government regulates.

What are important characteristics of a healthy community for all who live, work, and play here?

- (31) Personal responsibility; individuals accepting responsibility.
- (26) Ownership; Engaged in community
- (18) Opportunities for youth to development
- (12) Good leadership with community involvement
- (11) Drug Free
- (8) Obey laws and rules; living by the golden rule; strong family relationships; people being responsible in personal life and home.

- (7) Historic preservation
- (3) No crime
- (1) Referral information availability, follow through with strategic planning.
- (1) Physical, mental, spiritual acceptance - opportunities to meet these needs.

How you envision (see) our communities in the next 5-10 years?

- (25) Alternate transportation routes; more bicycle routes; improved appearance; more walking trails with shade trees; public transportation for all, especially for health care and seniors.
- (25) Productive citizens, businesses, government; good economy; an established community economic development committee; diversified economic growth; more diversified employment.
- (25) Community recreation center; community/county skate park
- (15) Thriving, energetic and active, but improving communities; ability to better use natural resources, more employment etc.; better security; adult and youth programs, both preventive and informative.
- (12) A healthy community will prepare the ground for the next generation; happy healthy, safe; contributing back to our communities through volunteering.
- (8) Drug free
- (7) Safe place to raise a family; clean air; places to provide for needy; good food pantries etc.; Community will have at least 75% of its' families healthy and functioning well with systems to support them.
- (4) Access to healthcare
- (2) Improved infrastructure



Community Assessment Meeting – September 2012



Graham County Community Assessment Meeting - 2012



Community Assessment Meeting Registration



Presenters Community Assessment Meeting

Post Survey Community Assessment Meeting – January 23, 2013

On January 23, 2013, 45 attendees of the steering committee received the results of the Graham County Community Survey that was conducted in the fall of 2012. During the presentation the participants were asked to note what stood out for them. The top eleven concerns/issues were identified and prioritized by the committee.

1. **All types of drug abuse – illegal street drugs, prescription drugs, methamphetamine production, sales and use, bath salts, alcohol, spice, and etc. were identified as being the number one issue for Graham County.**
2. **Lack of family involvement and responsibility**
3. **Economic issues, including lack of jobs**
4. **Lack of community involvement – volunteering**
5. **Community Cleanliness – prevalence of illegal dumping, and litter**
6. Lack of youth programs
7. Lack of knowledge and facilities for Mental Health.
8. Lack of Public Transportation
9. Lack of access to affordable food
10. Need additional healthy recreation choices
11. Lack of access to affordable health care

The top five were then acknowledged by the majority of the group by voting on the issue(s) that they felt were the most important to address through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process.

The Community Survey indicated that good jobs and a healthy economy, low crime/safe neighborhoods and good schools define what a healthy community is. The top three health concerns were alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, child abuse and neglect. Prescription Drug Abuse, Illegal street drug abuse and alcohol abuse were defined as the three most serious safety problems in Graham County communities. The Steering Committee recognized some of the same concerns and issues that were prevalent in the survey results.

Forces of Change

Participants were asked to answer the following questions: "What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?" and "What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?"

The forces of change identified by the steering committee were:

- Economic issues, i.e., health of copper industry
- Environment
- Public Health
- Community Drug Use – meaning if sale and use of illegal drugs were under control what the differences would be for Graham County.
- Family Structure
- Attitude
- Commitment
- Legislative Agendas – Federal, State and Local

- Presence of the Indian Reservation
- Education and Job Skills Training
- Federal and State Funding Levels
- Public Transportation

Threats –

- Flooding
- Epidemics
- Drought
- Lack of community and parental involvement
- Continued sale and high use of illegal substances (drug abuse)
- Lack of improved education
- Loss of small town feel
- Youth leaving the community due to lack of opportunity
- Lack of funding for AZ Schools
- Loss of water
- Cost of utilities

Opportunities created by identifying threats and forces of change –

- Identify technology for jobs
- Build community cohesiveness
- Educate parents and youth
- Create opportunities to keep youth in Graham County
- Create base of Senior Citizen/Grandparent volunteers

The overall consensus of the Community Assessment meeting was good. Participants were engaged and actively involved. The survey results were eye-opening for some that attended. The concerns and issues that were identified as a result of the survey were agreed upon by the majority that attended. Participants were comfortable voicing their opinions at the meeting. Some indicated that the environment for the meeting was a safe place for opposing opinions to be expressed and heard. Others indicated that bringing community concerns into the light and having a diverse group of people meeting together were a good start for resolving and improving the concerns/issues that surfaced.

Voices of the Community Meetings

The following pages provide the responses to the questions that were presented during the individual meetings that were held in Safford, Pima, Ft. Thomas, Thatcher, and Solomon/San Jose. Three of the questions (2, 3, 4) are the same ones that were asked during the Steering Committee meeting in September 2012, plus an additional question (1) was presented when the meetings were conducted in the individual communities.

Safford – Voices of the Community meeting held on October 19, 2012

1) What are the strengths in your community?

Hospital – improved over the past few years
 Specialty Clinics – outside Doctors from Phoenix and Tucson seeing patients here locally
 Dialysis Center, Cancer Treatment Center
 Outreach for helping others – Food banks, Clothing banks, church organizations, SEAHRC transportation
 Safford Downtown Association
 Community Events – Cultural Activities with large participation
 Planning and Zoning – good
 Old West Highway
 U of AZ Mt. Graham Telescope
 Salsa Trail
 Chamber of Commerce and Information Center
 Small Schools – Youth involved in sports and clubs
 Great Geography – Trails, Mountains, Lakes
 Public Land - State Land, BLM land, US Forest Service
 Camping and recreation opportunities
 Rich History – Graham County Historical Society
 Railroad
 Faith Based Community
 Safford Walking Path
 Planning – walking, bicycling trail from 8th Ave to EAC
 Eastern AZ College (EAC)
 Green Space – parks, but improvement needed
 Library
 Discovery Park
 Boy's and Girl's Club
 Recycling
 Pool
 Center for the Arts - Safford High School
 Partnership with Probation
 Easy access to Wilderness
 Easy access to state parks and Mt. Graham
 Hunting, Fishing, Bird watching
 Fair Grounds recreation area
 Cotton Industry
 VA Clinic
 Community Health Centers
 Archeological sites
 Sand Dunes – Hot Wells area
 Eurofresh Farms
 Prisons
 Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold (provides good paying jobs)

2) What does a healthy community mean to you?

One that is a safe place to raise kids and had less drug problems than the rest of AZ and the nation
 Clean Streets
 Clean Yards
 Trimmed trees
 Safety issues
 Kids active in community
 A healthy community for poor and elderly
 Provides cheap regular transportation for elderly and all
 A healthy community looks and smells fresh
 Low crime rate
 Good jobs available

3) What are important characteristics of a healthy community for all who live work and play here?

Safety for all citizens
 Physical and mental help available
 Provides community activities where we can learn each other's names
 Good Schools
 Family oriented community
 One in which a strong economy protects the community
 Good jobs with benefits for all

4) How do you envision your community in the next 5 – 10 years?

Will have regular – cheap public transportation for all
 Growing mine will create jobs
 Continued growth/Develop Copper Rod Plan
 One in which Gila Valley kids can come home and raise a family if they choose because there is economic opportunity
 Growing, glowing, friendly, no drug abuse, safer, better, healthier
 Make Safford a destination
 Tourism expanded to encourage – Bicycle groups, motorcycle clubs, Don's Club, Conventions
 Expand transportation in and out of Gila Valley
 Diversified economy
 Improved Farmers Market
 Partnerships with organizations to operate Community Gardens
 Develop Wind Turbine and Solar Energy
 Keep Cotton Industry start to finish – grow it and then produce the fabric
 Camp grounds

Pima – Voices of the Community meeting held on October 24, 2012

1) What are the strengths in your community?

Sense of Community
 Strong Support and Social networks
 Library
 Pool
 School – K-12 on same campus
 Free lunch Program in summer and during school
 Parental support for all school levels
 Collaboration with EAC and GIFT
 Youth Sports, Clubs – Everyone participates
 Head Start
 Accommodation School
 Recreation, Sports Complex, Rodeo Grounds, Ball Fields, Triathlon
 Boy Scout and Girl Scout Programs
 Retail – Commercial – although limited
 Museum – Historians and Museum Board
 Partner with Inmate Labor for cleanup
 Sidewalks
 Low traffic
 Easy access for through traffic
 Cotton Gin
 Agriculture Lifestyle
 Outdoor recreation – Gila River, Mount Graham, Cluff Ponds, hunting, fishing, bird watching,
 Easy access to shopping and medical facilities
 Faith based community
 Affordable housing
 Small Town
 Safe
 Walking access to services, retail, post office, etc.
 Youth ball leagues – soccer, baseball, softball, basketball

2) What does a healthy community mean to you?

Good sidewalks
 Effective Education
 Good Schools
 Active Police Department
 Community awareness of Drugs, alcohol, theft
 Awareness of resource officer for the school district
 Family
 Affordable housing



Available Youth Programs
 Safety @ home, school and community
 Family Friendly
 Family oriented – includes many things important to families like education, safety, etc.

3) What are important characteristics of a healthy community for all who live work and play here?

Family – diversity
 Safety
 Awareness of surroundings
 Recreation
 Strong Schools – Supportive and unified, clean, attractive, welcoming
 Health Services
 Housing
 Family Oriented
 Opportunities for Working people

4) How do you envision your community in the next 5 – 10 years?

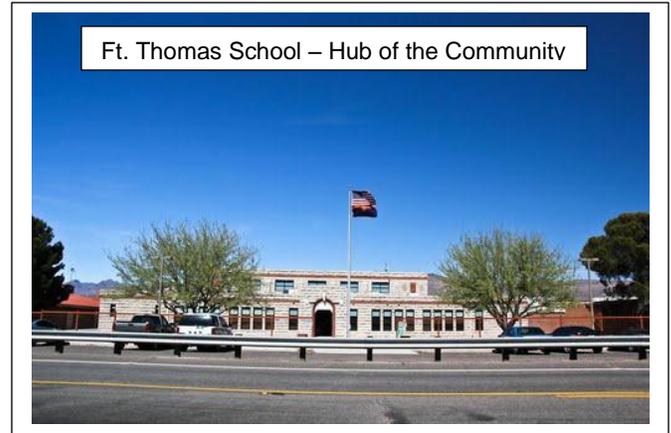
More work places
 Bus Service
 Safe House
 Growing retail and residential
 Become neater – clean-up old and rundown properties
 Growing Community
 Growing families
 Alternative School
 Better Traffic control- more observation with equal enforcement,
 Improved stop signs, slower speed on Alder Lane
 High Education
 More Resources
 Safety
 Affordable Housing
 Education (improve to highest Arizona Letter Grade)
 Broadening programs and resources
 Community Recreation Center



Ft. Thomas – Voices of the Community meeting held on October 24, 2012

1) What are the strengths in your community?

- People – everyone knows everyone, caring community
- Neighborhood support
- Self sufficient
- Friendly
- Trusting
- Private – not a destination
- Small School is the Hub of the community
- Good opportunity for kids to excel and participate
- EAC and GIFT and Gear-up partnership
- Lunch Program - free meals each day
- Personal Services for students
- Health Clinics at school for health and flu screening etc.
- Faith Based Community
- Partnership with Graham County Health Services
- Partnership with Graham County Board of Supervisors
- Youth Activities supported by Graham County
- EMS – response time excellent
- Two cultures blended –teaches tolerance
- Good Education available
- Hunting, trapping
- Involvement in Family
- Families are busy
- Fire Department and Church Driven Family Activities



2) What does a healthy community mean to you?

- Drug and alcohol free community
- Feeling Safe – environment
- Family oriented community
- Not Lots of strangers
- A healthy community is well balanced, it has strong families with good resources, i.e., education and health care
- A place where all are welcomed despite differences and a sense of well being

3) What are important characteristics of a healthy community for all who live, work, and play here?

- A safe environment where people can grow and thrive
- Live – live here because they want to
- Work – There is not a lot of places to work here, most work for the school district
- Play - Families play together
- If someone needs help – we will all help! Also respect privacy and leave each other alone
- Family
- Safety
- Community involvement
- Education
- Someplace you look forward to

4) How do you envision your community in the next 5 – 10 years?

- Visual, legal presence
- Growing, but wish that it wouldn't
- Forcing to change because of growth
- Increase surveillance by Graham County Sheriff's Officers
- More communication with Graham County
- Not too much change – like the way it is
- Not changing a lot
- Transportation – bus service to town (Safford)?

Thatcher – Voices of the Community meeting held on October 30, 2012

1) What are the strengths in your community?

Family oriented environment
 Highway Park – Reservations required for large groups
 Businesses +
 Conservative City Council
 EAC Library and Media Center
 Grocery Stores
 Extra-curricular activities for youth
 City sponsored affordable sports leagues and activities for youth
 “The Night Out” – Daly Estates
 Volunteers – keep streets and public areas clean
 Adopt a Road Program
 Partner with prisons/county jail for inmate help
 Partner with probation
 Food bank and commodities
 Utilities affordable
 Court fees lower than surrounding towns
 Small Town Environment
 Good school system
 Involved Community members
 Caring community
 Neighbors take care of each other
 People want to help make thing better
 EAC
 Great Police Department
 Low crime rate
 Safe
 User friendly streets
 School district works with community
 Quiet
 Golf Course
 Mount Graham

2) What does a healthy community mean to you?

Job opportunities to allow people to earn a good living
 Community Health and available Healthcare
 Safe Streets
 Safe
 Neighborhood Socials
 Education
 Friendly
 Recreation Center – gym - pool
 Library
 Places to see movies
 A nursing home/assisted living facility you would like living at
 Financially good for everyone in the community

Opportunity
 Activities
 Drug Free
 Safe surface transportation
 Safe drinking water adequate to sustain the city
 Homes/yards are clean and safe
 Environment relatively clean and safe
 People try to stay healthy – Exercise, good health, not smoking

3) What are important characteristics of a healthy community for all who live, work, and play here?

Good employment opportunities
 Neighborhood gatherings
 Police, Fire, EMS
 Community that cares and treats all of residents equally
 Quality Education available for all who want it
 Public Transportation
 Good Clean Air
 Competent Healthcare system
 Goods Schools
 Well Lighted Streets with sidewalks
 Clean Parks and public restrooms
 Individual involvement and being proactive
 Clean Properties
 Community Activities
 Plan Safe Streets with zoning
 Access to schools, health facilities and groceries

4) How do you envision your community in the next 5 – 10 years?

Sharing along with other communities
 Multi-sports facility
 Beautify Main Street
 Teen Center
 Four year degree opportunities
 Progress and opportunity for all
 Businesses, Eateries, Housing,
 Get EAC degree finishers into local job market
 Affordable programs to promote good health – wellness programs
 Clean Manufacturing Industries
 More housing, business, and people
 More jobs
 Sharing with surrounding communities – services, amenities, where all communities can work together for the success of the Gila Valley.

Several needs were brought to the surface about a neighborhood in the Thatcher community know as Daley Estates. The needs that were identified were: More surveillance and enforcement of speed of the ¼ mile of drag strip to Daley Estates (Golf Course Road); Daley Estates – Park not used as intended; Daley Estates – Youth do not have events in local neighborhood. They must travel into Thatcher/ Safford to participate in youth activities.

Solomon/San Jose – Voices of the Community meeting held on October 30, 2012

(Hash marks next to responses indicate number of people mentioning that item.)

1) What are the strengths in your community?

- Retired people
- Growing population of younger people
- Street lights – where present
- Low cost utilities
- Quiet streets
- Children are safe
- New water lines
- Excellent School
- Community Park at the school
- Close knit neighborhood
- Stable community
- Good support of each other
- Good Post Office
- Small quiet community
- Low crime
- Vista trash pickup available and affordable
- Probation partnership
- School – hub of Community
- School provides – flu shots, eye care, etc.
- Solar System installed
- Fine people
- Good neighbors – take care of each other
- American Legion
- La Paloma Restaurant
- Small grocery/convenience store
- American Legion and woman’s auxiliary

2) What are important characteristics of a healthy community for all who live, work, and play here?

- Larger Post office
- Street lights - II
- Slow traffic - II
- Health Clinic
- High family moral and values
- Safer streets- II
- Bus Stops
- Sidewalks
- Animal control
- Friendly - Quiet
- Paved Roads - II
- Clean - II
- Fire, Police and EMS Services
- Housing identity
- Equality
- Help Community grow
- New Businesses - Employment
- Playground equipment for park



3) What does a healthy community mean to you?

- Sidewalk -safe routes to school (Bus stop signs) – IIIII
- Medical clinic – Healthcare III
- More Street lights - IIIII
- Paved streets - IIII
- Continued good school, post office, transportation for elderly (to get to Dr. appointments, shopping, etc.)
- A safe place to raise family - IIII
- Cleanliness - no trash - II
- Clean drinking water - III
- High Family moral values
- Education
- No air pollution and dust - See stars and Mt. Graham - IIII
- Lights at park
- Speed bumps
- People caring and looking out for each other
- Clean neighborhoods
- EMS, Fire Dept. Sheriff Station – III
- Families caring for families – help each other
- Be Responsible
- Infrastructure
- Retail Shopping
- Housing

4) How do you envision your community in the next 5-10 years?

- Speed bumps to slow traffic – II
- Better Education
- Walking path in & around park
- Street lights and traffic lights- IIIII
- Parks
- Exercise Station
- Clean air
- Keep property Tax low
- Recognition Plaque for Park @ school
- Law enforcement presence
- Paved roads
- Food Bank and commodities
- Access to Emergency services – II
- Clean yards, lots - II
- Public Transportation with schedule
- Shopping – Retail (Full service)
- Affordable housing
- Sewer System -
- Grocery Store – III
- Playground Equipment for park
- Farmers Market – help with school Community Garden
- Sidewalks – street development

Several needs were identified when the Solomon/San Jose community meeting was conducted. The group of fifteen people that gathered that day wanted to have their voices heard about what needs improvement in their end of the County as noted below:

NEEDS

Enforce illegal trash dumping

Mandatory trash pickup

Recycling large items – vehicles, appliances through program that has helped with this before

Enforce Trash burning rules

Provide a Water source

Provide basic utilities – sewer

Mosquito Control

5 to 10 years – additional solar panels installed to power street lights

Streets – unsafe because of speeding traffic; Enforcement needed.

Traffic lights needed.

- Unpaved roads – end of Barney Lane
- San Jose – unpaved roads, Church St and Alvillar St.
- Clifton Street – needs speed bumps and enforcement
- Bowie Ave – speed control (traffic light installed on Hwy 70), speed bumps

Lack of proper house numbers for EMS to use for access to homes in emergencies.

Need – fire station, ambulance barn, and county sheriff sub station

Affordable Grocery store

Gas station

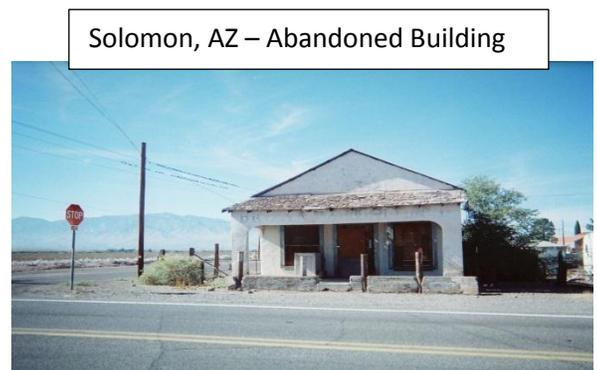
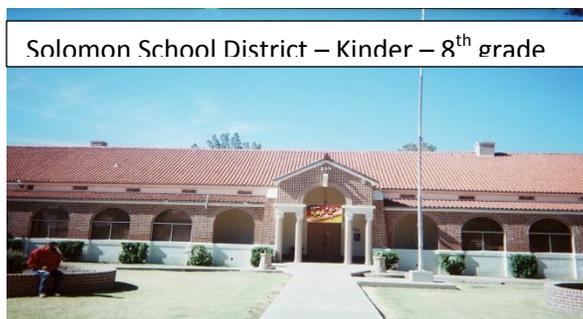
Dollar store

Safe Walking paths

Photo Voice

As part of the Voices of the Community meetings, participants were asked to volunteer to take a disposable camera that we provided and take pictures of the assets of their community. They were asked to capture people, places and events over a period of 2 to 3 weeks. As they were taking pictures, they were asked to record the date, time and what was happening when the picture was captured.

The cameras were collected from three of the communities that participated in the Photo Voice activity. Story boards were made with the pictures and the captions about the pictures and presented to attendees of the January 23, 2013 steering committee meeting. Plans to take story boards to the actual communities are being made.



Community Vision and Values Statements

The process to gather the Vision Statement and the list of Values for the citizens of Graham County, was a collaborative effort from our Community Assessment meeting on September 26 and the five individual community meetings that were conducted in October 2012. The Core Committee members took the input from those gatherings and developed drafts for the statements. During the January 23, 2013 Steering Committee Meeting, the participants in attendance agreed to accept the following statements for the CHA Process.

Graham County Community Vision:

We seek to create and maintain an environment that is clean, safe, and healthy and an educated community in which all individuals can achieve their optimum physical, cultural, social, economic, mental and spiritual well-being today, tomorrow and in the future.

Graham County Community Values:

- 1) Our community should be supportive of the efforts of families to love and develop healthy and well-adjusted children, while recognizing their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs.
- 2) Our residents should be equipped with the knowledge, education and means to adopt healthy behaviors and lifestyles, with all having access to quality, affordable medical care.
- 3) Both Adults and Youth approaching adulthood are expected to take responsibility for maintaining their own physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and economic health.
- 4) Our community values quality education, meaningful job skills, and diverse employment opportunities, as the means to ensure a reasonable standard of living, health, and well-being.
- 5) The governing authorities are expected to exercise their responsibilities in an equitable manner that assures all residents are provided the rights and services to which they are legally entitled to.
- 6) Our community values our abundant natural resources, including clean air, land, water and we appreciate the economic opportunity derived from it. We also appreciate the open spaces and the recreational opportunities it provides, encouraging people of all ages to engage in leisure activities and physical exercise.
- 7) Our citizens should have access to adequate food, and housing that is clean and structurally sound, while providing them a sense of security both inside and outside of their homes.
- 8) Our residents value partnerships and collaborative efforts that maximize community resources in promoting and assuring community health.
- 9) Our community values those with special needs and will seek to ensure a caring and equitable environment that is life affirming and recognizes the fact that we will not leave them behind.
- 10) Our community promotes improved health for all residents through reoccurring assessment of our local public health system and the implementation of specific goals related to identified needs, i.e., worksite wellness programs, improved school health outcomes, community design that encourages safety and physical activity and the development of community gardens to improve nutrition.

Conclusion

The data collected from the Community Assessment Survey along with the input from the Steering Committee Meetings in September 2012 and January 2013, and the individual community meetings in October 2012, helped identify several areas of need for health improvement in Graham County. A healthier Graham County will require a systems-based approach with community partners to ensure the proper balance of traditional and healthy lifestyle-related programs. It requires the development of data-driven public health priorities that includes the creation of a culture of health in Graham County, the elimination of health disparities, and mitigating the effect of chronic disease through both prevention and care.

Healthy Lifestyles

Personal behaviors account for 40% of our health status (New England Journal of Medicine, 2007). Drug abuse, whether it is illegal street drugs, prescription drugs, bath salts, spice, and methamphetamines along with alcohol and tobacco abuse appears to be the greatest threat for citizens in Graham County. Preventable chronic diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, obesity and infectious diseases are directly related to our personal behaviors and social circumstances. Survey respondents' recognition of both the need and desire for exercise and the problem of obesity are two examples illustrating there is a desire for leading a healthy lifestyle, but there are still significant barriers to achieving it. Not just public health but private healthcare, schools, worksites, law enforcement, the judicial system and community groups have a stake in promoting healthy lifestyles. Together these groups must demonstrate leadership and action to encourage a culture of health in Graham County.

Chronic Disease Prevention

Preventable chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, lower respiratory diseases, stroke, diabetes, drug induced death, alcohol induced death, kidney disease, and influenza/pneumonia are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Graham County. Graham County Health Department Services, our local hospital, and many of our community-based organizations who deal with the public have programs that address chronic diseases. Unfortunately, many of these activities work in isolation from one another. Integrating these primary prevention and disease management programs into a comprehensive community action plan will deliver better health outcomes more economically.

Improved Access to Care

Access to healthcare is not as significant a contributor to the overall health status of the population as personal behaviors/lifestyle choices, however, linking individuals with a physician is integral to early disease detection and treatment and optimal health. Improving access to specialized health care will continue to be addressed with solving this problem being a priority for the citizens of Graham County.

Improve Wellness Overall

Promoting physical activity to be a part of daily health by encouraging individuals and employers to engage in wellness programs supported by the workplace is a goal for improving overall health in Graham County. Encouraging county and municipalities to improve vending machine options, walking paths and opportunities to exercise and be active using existing parks, community gardens and open spaces will be on going.

Community Health Improvement Plan

In 2013, the Graham County Health Department along with its community partners will begin developing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Using the findings and input from the Community Health Assessment Survey, the MAPP process procedures and meetings, and the involvement of the community members, this project will help the residents and organizations of Graham County to move forward with the

stated goal of improving the health of our residents. The CHIP will be a collaborative process that, based on results from the CHA, will set priorities, target resources, and address the important public health issues that Graham County faces.

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The information gathered from all of these partners will enable us to help the citizens of Graham County become aware of their health and the choices they have to be healthier.

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