
2016 Weld County Community Health Survey

Key Findings
Resident Comments



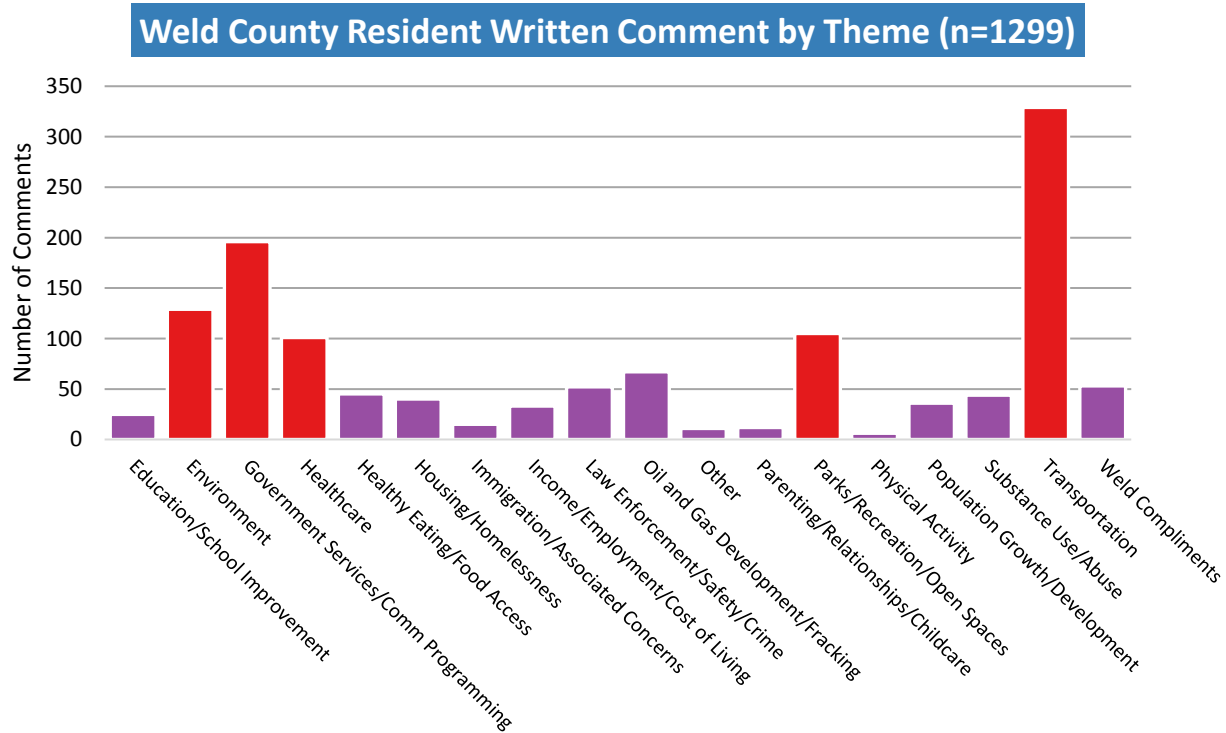
2016 Weld County Community Health Survey

RESIDENT WRITE-IN COMMENTS SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The 2016 Weld Community Health Survey asked residents to answer the question, “What suggestions do you have on ways to make Weld County a healthier place to live, work, and play?” Over 665 out of 2,080 residents wrote nearly 1300 comments that were coded first into 18 main topical themes and another 28 sub-themes for a total of 46 themes and sub-themes. Comments were coded by one trained analyst and then checked by a second trained analyst. The analysts read through all comments and identified a list of recurring themes. Themes could be general or specific and arranged hierarchically. The themes and sub-themes refer to content, attitude, or some other aspect of the comment. A response from one survey could be coded as multiple comments into more than one theme or sub-theme. The main themes and total comments for each one are represented in Figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1



TOP THEMES

Countywide, five topic areas accounted for most of the comments. They were:

1. Transportation (329)
2. Government Services/ Community Programming (196)
3. Environment (129)
4. Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (105)
5. Healthcare (101)

The sub-themes under the five main topics areas are summarized in the table below.

TABLE 1

Transportation	Government Services/ Community Programming	Environment	Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces	Healthcare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation education, interactions, and safety • Public transportation • Traffic control, regulations, and enforcement • Road, trail, and sidewalk maintenance, improvements, and construction • Support for bike and pedestrian infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement, engagement, and interactions • Service eligibility verification, abuse, regulations, limits • Education and communications to residents • Suggestions for improvements or reductions • More affordable community events, activities, and programs • Access to services, resources, and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed control • Mosquito, fly, and pest control • Waste disposal • Pollution, environmental quality, protection, and regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenities, maintenance, oversight, and safety • More facilities, better access, preservation of open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental care • Mental health • Access, affordability, and quality

TOP SUB-THEMES

After categorizing the comments into main themes, they were coded into sub-themes. The top ten sub-themes, based on how frequently they were mentioned (counts in parentheses), are listed below:

- Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure (136)
- More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, Preservation of Open Space (71)
- Road, Trail, and Sidewalk Maintenance, Improvements, and Construction (70)
- Access, Affordability, and Quality- Healthcare (63)
- Pollution, Environmental Quality, Protection, and Regulations (59)
- Traffic Control, Regulations, and Enforcement (58)
- Weld Compliments (53)
- Law Enforcement, Safety, and Crime (52)
- Access to Services, Resources, and Programs (48)
- More Affordable Community Events, Activities, & Programs (46)

All but two of these sub-themes fall into the top five overall themes.

The top three sub-themes were related to active living, increasing physical activity, and improving the built environment (Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure; More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, Preservation of Open Spaces; and Road, Trail, and Sidewalk Maintenance, Improvements, and Construction).

Most of the comments in these sub-themes were related to improvements to and desires for additional bike and pedestrian infrastructure (sidewalks/paths/trails) and other spaces to be active (such as parks and open spaces). Two sub-themes were related to enforcement- both general law enforcement and traffic specifically. Another two were tied to access to services and resources, including healthcare. Three sub-themes were also tied to opportunities for things to do in the community (Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure; More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, Preservation of Open Space; and More Affordable Community Events, Activities, & Programs).

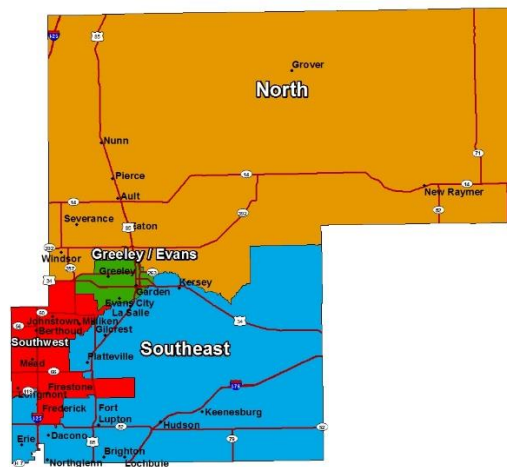
Weld Compliments was one of the top themes/sub-themes that emerged from the comments. As it describes positive aspects of the County, rather than suggested changes, it is discussed further on pages 8 to 9.

REGIONAL THEMES

Themes and sub-themes were also analyzed by four geographic sub-areas of the County (see Figure 2). These four areas were identified because they represent the geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity of Weld County. Three areas (North, Southwest, and Southeast) roughly correspond to political boundaries of the county's elected officials. The fourth area corresponds to the municipality boundaries of Greeley and Evans. The North region includes Windsor, Eaton, Ault, and other communities to the north; the Southwest Region includes Firestone, Frederick, Johnstown, Mead, Milliken, Platteville, and more; the Southeast region includes Dacono, Erie, Ft. Lupton, Kersey, La Salle, and more; and the Central Region includes Greeley and Evans.

The top ten regional themes and sub-themes are reported below. Other comments were incorporated into the calculations for percentages but are not reported here. Complimentary comments were not included in these calculations as they did not reflect the suggestions to make Weld County healthier.

FIGURE 2



North Region

There were 173 comments coded into 36 themes and sub-themes from the North Region (see Figure 3). The top three sub-themes in order of frequency of mention were: Road/Trail/Sidewalk Maintenance, Improvements, and Construction; Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure; and Traffic Control, Regulations, and Enforcement.

Most of the Road, Trail, and Sidewalk Maintenance, Improvements, and Construction comments were related to the maintenance and repair of rural roads as well as improvements to better support walking and biking. On a related note, the second most common sub-theme from these comments was Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure with many North Region residents expressing desires for more sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, paths, and wider shoulders on roadways. Of those comments related to Traffic Control, Regulations, and Enforcement, the majority were tied to the amount of traffic as well as better enforcement of traffic laws, especially those associated with distracted driving and speeding.

NORTH REGION TOP SUB-THEMES

- 1 Road/Trail/Sidewalk Maintenance, Improvements, and Construction
- 2 Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure
- 3 Traffic Control, Regulations, and Enforcement

“Most dirt roads are in need of more monthly attention, as [is] Colorado Highway 14.”

North Resident Comment

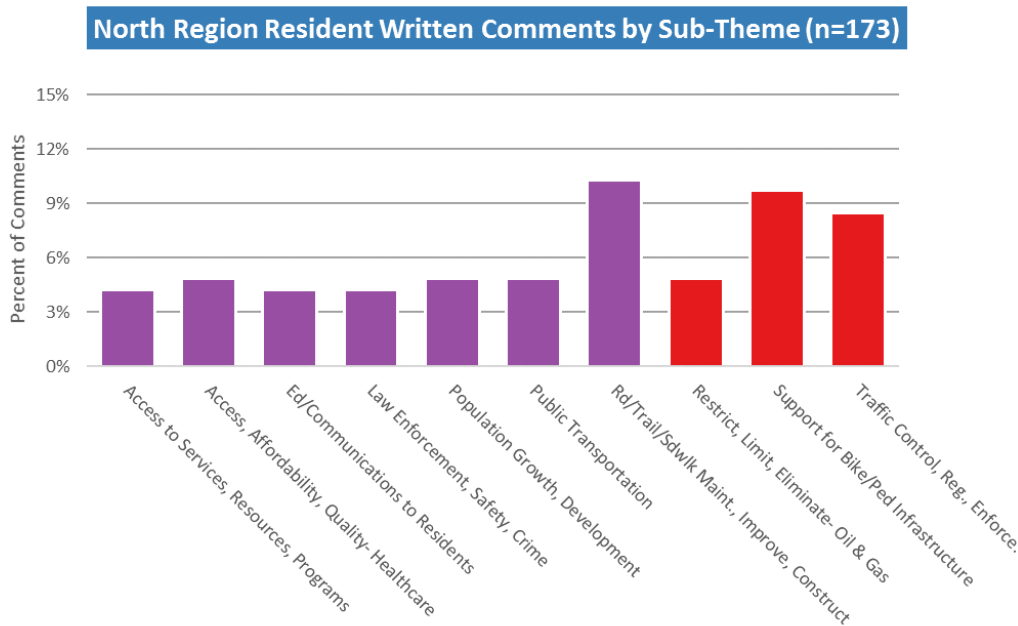
“Continue to add to the trails for biking, running, walking, etc. so we have more places to exercise safely away from traffic.”

North Resident Comment

“Educate and legislate regarding distracted driving.”

North Resident Comment

FIGURE 3



Southwest Region

There were 225 comments coded into 35 themes and sub-themes from the Southwest Region (see Figure 4). The three top themes in order of frequency of mention were: Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure; More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, Preservation of Open Spaces; and Pollution, Environmental Quality, Protection, and Regulations.

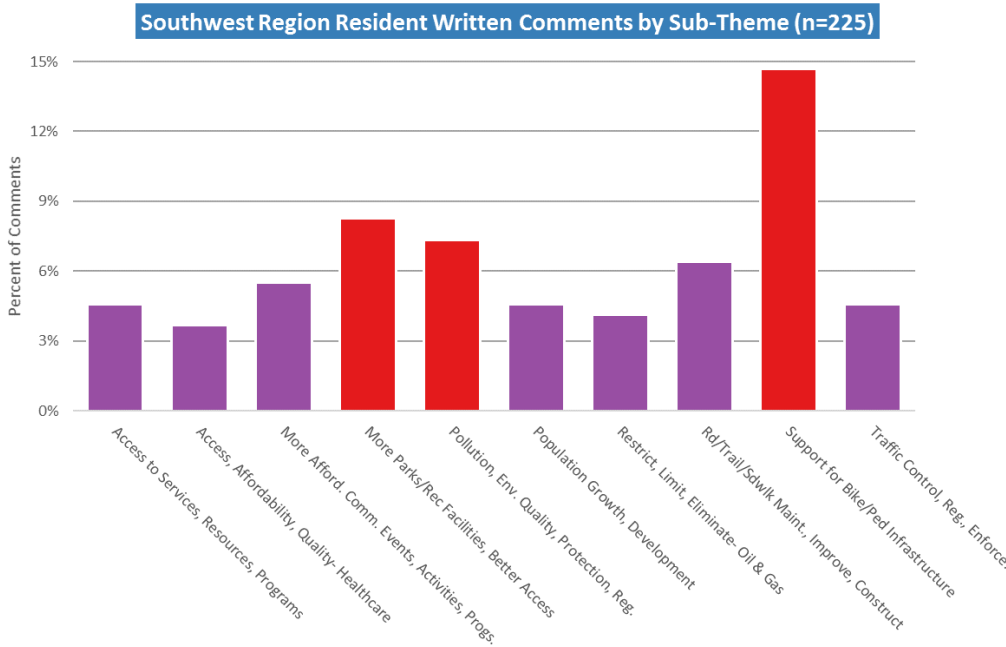
Many comments expressing Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure wanted a connected system with more trails, paths, and sidewalks for walking and biking. Of those comments related to More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, and Preservation of Open Space, many of them expressed the need for a recreation center (3 out of 18 mentioned a recreation center in Johnstown), more parks, and more things for children to do. Comments coded to the Pollution, Environmental Quality, Protection, and Regulations sub-theme were mostly related to air and water pollution, specifically agricultural odors and lead in the water (3 mentioned lead in Firestone’s water).

SOUTHWEST REGION

TOP SUB-THEMES

- 1 Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure
- 2 More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, Preservation of Open Space
- 3 Pollution, Environmental Quality, Protection, and Regulations

FIGURE 4



“More bike trails that go on for miles and miles. I think you would see a healthier community if you gave people the means to be healthy...”

Southwest Resident Comment

“We do need more [...] outdoor recreation places for the kids and family to play.”

Southwest Resident Comment

“Manage agricultural air pollution and water pollution to sensible levels.”

Southwest Resident Comment

Southeast Region

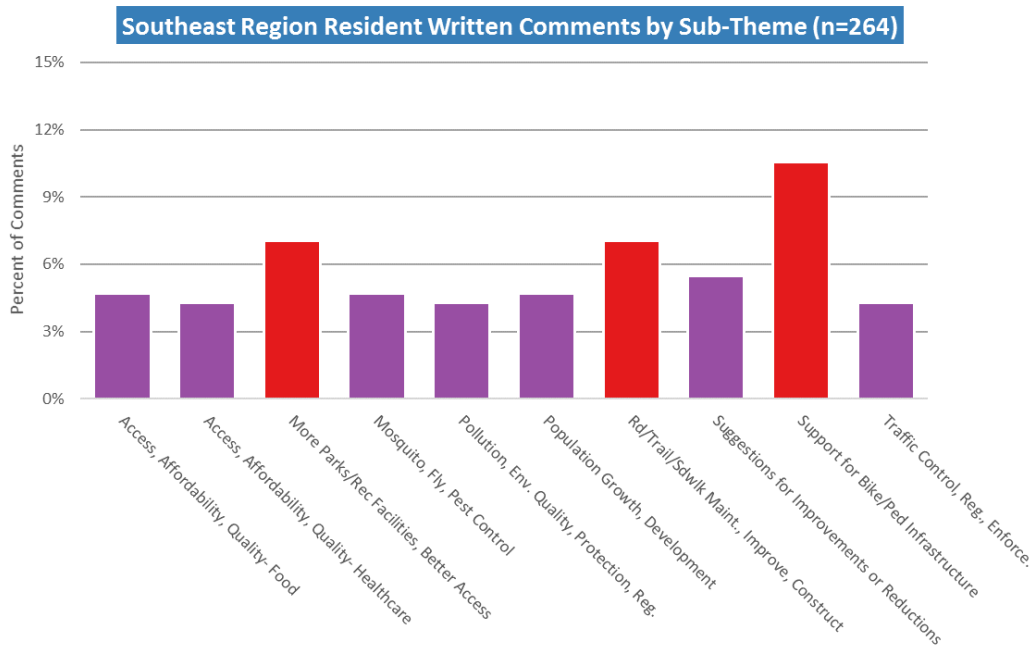
There were 264 comments coded into 34 themes and sub-themes from the Southeast Region (see Figure 5). The three top themes in order of frequency of mention were: Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure; Road/Trail/Sidewalk Maintenance, Improvements, and Construction; and More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, Preservation of Open Space.

As in the Southwest Region, many of the comments related to Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure expressed desires for more bike and walking paths, trails, routes, and lanes that connect communities. Comments associated with Road/Trail/Sidewalk Maintenance, Improvements, and Construction were mostly related to fixing, improving, and maintaining roads, including suggestions for paving dirt roads to address dust issues. For the More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, Preservation of Open Space sub-theme, most comments were tied to more recreation centers and parks as well as the preservation of open spaces.

**SOUTHEAST REGION
TOP SUB-THEMES**

- 1 Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure
- 2 Road/Trail/Sidewalk Maintenance, Improvements, and Construction
- 3 More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, Preservation of Open Space

FIGURE 5



“I would like to see Weld County provide funds to make more bike/walking paths between towns in unincorporated areas.”

Southeast Resident Comment

“Provide better and safer roads for cars.”

Southeast Resident Comment

“More family friendly activities, trails, bigger parks to encourage activity.”

Southeast Resident Comment

Greeley/Evans Region

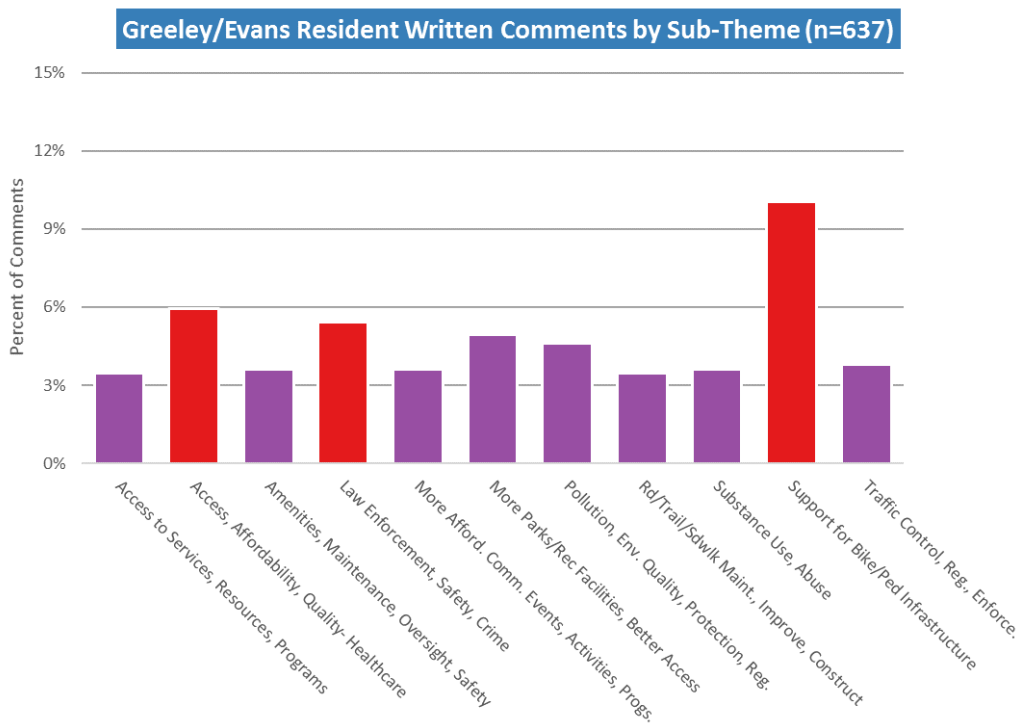
There were 637 comments coded into 36 themes and sub-themes from the Greeley/Evans Region (see Figure 6). The three top themes in order of frequency of mention were: Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure; Access, Affordability, and Quality of Healthcare; and Law Enforcement, Safety, and Crime.

Within the most frequently mentioned sub-theme of Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure, the majority of comments mentioned desires for more bike paths and trails. In relation to Access, Affordability, and Quality of Healthcare, most were related to the cost of insurance and healthcare and the type of care available in the area (specialty needs, overabundance of ERs, etc.). Comments in the Law Enforcement, Safety and Crime theme described addressing gang and drug issues the most often.

GREELEY/EVANS REGION TOP SUB-THEMES

- 1 Support for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure
- 2 Access, Affordability, Quality-Healthcare
- 3 Law Enforcement, Safety, Crime

FIGURE 6



“Actively pursue and prosecute known gang members and other violent cells within Weld County.”

Greeley/Evans Resident Comment

“Better bike and walking trails that are integrated throughout city, as they are in Fort Collins, allowing movement throughout the City.”

Greeley/Evans Resident Comment

“Many people, including me, live paycheck to paycheck so free or less expensive medical and dental care would be extremely helpful.”

Greeley/Evans Resident Comment

COMPLIMENTARY COMMENTS ABOUT WELD COUNTY

In addition to the categories summarized above, there were also 53 comments that expressed positive sentiments and compliments about Weld County. Many of these comments highlighted the high quality of life in Weld County and how these respondents love the County and its resources and amenities. The following serve as examples of the comments from this category:

- Generally lots of resources and things to do!
- Living in a town (Platteville) is amazing. Great community.
- I'm pretty pleased with the quality of life here. Parks are very nice and traffic is a lot better than where I came from. Plus there's a fair amount of shopping and dining and fun community events.
- I've lived in Weld County all my life. It's perfect the way it is.
- I live in Erie and feel like it is a wonderful place to live.
- All in all I think Greeley and Weld County is a good place to live.
- I think that the County is on track to being a really wonderful place to live...
- We're on the right track. Keep doing what we're doing.
- It's a great place and I am very fortunate to live here!!!
- Keep up the great work and I will continue to praise this part of Colorado for years to come!!
- We live in Windsor and feel that it is a very safe, healthy place to live.
- We live in a wonderful place, couldn't be better. Love Weld County.
- We are very happy in Weld County (specifically Greeley). We appreciate the industry and the efforts made to improve the activities downtown... all in all the county is a nice, safe, and good place to live.
- I am a senior and I think Weld County (particularly Greeley) has wonderful resources for me.
- Overall I believe Weld County is an awesome place.
- I've lived here for 81 years and wouldn't trade it for any other place

CONCLUSION

There were 18 main themes and an additional 28 sub-themes on a wide variety of topics that were mentioned by County residents in response to the question, *“What suggestions do you have on ways to make Weld County a healthier place to live, work, and play?”* As in the 2013 Community Health Survey, the most frequently recurring suggestion in all four regions was to increase bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Road/Trail/Sidewalk Maintenance, Improvements, and Construction and More Parks/Recreation Facilities, Better Access, Preservation of Open Space surfaced as one of the top sub-themes in two out of four regions. Beyond those similarities, the themes did diverge a bit, reflecting the difference in populations, resources, etc. between the regions. Though residents offered many suggestions for improvements, the Weld Compliments theme also demonstrated that some residents are satisfied with Weld County as it is.

These comments in addition to the other results from the 2016 Community Health Survey will be used by Weld County and its partners to further shape Weld County’s community health improvement plan, the Health Department’s strategic plan, and the community’s priorities to help direct future health improvement efforts. The health department would like to again thank all the residents who volunteered their time to complete this survey. For questions or comments, contact Cindy Kronauge at 970-400-2221 or ckronauge@weldgov.com.