

2022

# Resident Comments

## Weld Community Health Survey

Department of  
Public Health  
and Environment



There were 8 top themes that emerged from Weld County residents' responses to the open-ended question on the 2022 Community Health Survey:

***What are the top three health concerns facing you, your family, and/or your community right now?***

In total 1,334 Weld residents answered this question. After tabulating frequency of mentions, eight themes emerged as the top concerns (excluding individual health conditions residents identified for themselves or their families). In order of most frequently mentioned, the main concerns expressed by participants were:

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<b>1</b> <b>Healthcare</b>	<b>2</b> <b>COVID-19</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Mental Health</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Aging</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Safety, Crime, &amp; Drugs</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Air Quality</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Inflation</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Food</b>

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**Some other common topics mentioned in the open-ended responses included:**

- **Water Quality and Pollution:** water quality and pollution were mentioned by Weld County residents multiple times; most comments mentioned water, air, and noise pollution. In addition to water quality, several residents highlighted water shortages and linked this with the increasing population in the Front Range.
- **Housing:** several residents mentioned the need for more affordable housing options in Weld County. High rent and mortgages rates were mentioned as well as the need for entry-level housing as well as housing availability and help with housing upkeep for older adults.
- **Transportation and Traffic:** several residents mentioned the need for more public transportation options as well as the need for more pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Issues with increased traffic were also mentioned by residents and many linked this to the increasing population in the Front Range.

# HEALTHCARE

545 mentions

Health care was the most frequently mentioned topic amongst Weld County residents. Most comments related to issues with affordability and lack of providers/ accessibility. Several commented on the exorbitant cost of health insurance and lack of insurance options other than employer-sponsored insurance. Lack of and cost for dental and vision care was also discussed.

*"Cost of healthcare, availability of healthcare, enough experienced healthcare workers."*

*"Having my medical needs met consistently. Everyone having access to medical help regardless of money."*

*"Being able to find a doctor that accepts Medicare patients."*

*"Finding affordable health/dental/eye care in our insurance network that we can afford with the co-pay requirements in addition to paying for the insurance."*

*"Even with insurance it is still too expensive to pay copays and pay for meds and myself and my family will have to go without because of it being too expensive."*

*"Access to family physicians, amount of time it takes to get appointments with specialists."*

*"Access to reasonably priced health care coverage. The current National and State options are not reasonable options as of now."*

*"Having enough staff (just rebooked my dental appt and they are booking 6 months out)!"*

*"Cost of medical care and prescription drugs is INCREASING TOO MUCH, much faster than the rest of the economy."*

*"Poor medical care, inaccurate medical billing, lack of trained medical staff."*

*"There are ZERO options for medical transportation other than emergency types. There are no pharmacies that make home deliveries. Ever rising cost of insurance premiums and prescriptions."*

***"The health care system isn't a system – it is a maze of insurance(s), in and out of network providers, covered and non-covered services, dental care IS health care and should be covered, and the travesty of for-profit health insurance where corporate execs make millions."***

# COVID-19

389 mentions

Many residents expressed concerns about COVID-19. The majority of comments only included the word 'COVID', however, other comments expressed concern with the continued spread of COVID-19 and lack of precautions taken by some residents. In a smaller percent of comments residents expressed their frustration over mandates and vaccine requirements and wanted the focus on COVID-19 to end.

***"We don't have any health concerns at the moment, but the only one that we are always worried [about] is Covid 19. Waiting for the day that we all will be Corona free."***

*"Where to find resources related to Covid; testing and masks."*

*"The spread of Covid 19 variant, people refusing vaccines that would possibly stop this pandemic from continuing."*

*"Need to stop mask mandates. Need to stop forcing people to be vaccinated."*

*"Covid variants, covid variants, covid variants."*

*"Making sure COVID-19 is behind us and considered an illness similar to cold or flu."*

*"Risks of contracting COVID at work or when in public."*

*"Hesitance of people to be vaccinated."*

*"The talking about covid will never end. It's time to stop."*

*"The main problem is covid-19, it continues to spread infections."*

*"Politization of COVID safety measures."*

*"Getting COVID and exposing others."*

*"Misinformation regarding healthcare, vaccines, disease spread, etc."*

*"Forced to be vaccinated against my will in order to keep my employment."*

*"Lack of people [getting] covid vaccinations. People not staying home when sick."*

*"COVID vaccine and the political divide that is facing our community, state, and nation."*

# MENTAL HEALTH

213 mentions

Many residents expressed their concern about mental health issues in the community including stress and depression. Other comments highlighted issues with affordability and lack of providers to treat patients in a timely manner.

*"Mental Health/ stress/ depression."*

*"Availability of counseling/mental health services."*

*"Loneliness – I live alone and typically don't go anywhere except grocery shopping. Lived here for 2 years and don't know anyone, live too far from family for daily/weekly visits."*

*"Mental health accessibility and affordability."*

*"Childhood abuse and neglect leading to societal mental health issues and unsafe public spaces."*

*"Mental health of students during remote learning."*

*"Lack of mental health resources."*

*"In the community it can be seen that there are problems with anxiety, depression, eating disorders, etc."*

*"Young people's mental health."*

*"Not enough detox/mental health facilities in our community."*

*"Increased need for mental health and wellness among the unhoused."*

*"Not enough mental health professionals to be able to find a good fit."*

*"Mental health support in schools and for young people."*

*"Lack of health care, including mental health care, services available in Spanish."*

***"Mental health – stress, anxiety, depression, anger, other unmanageable emotions leading to irrational behavior that puts others at risk – e.g., gun violence, drunk driving, and refusal to adhere to public health recommendations."***

# AGING

150 mentions

Many residents expressed their concern about aging, their need for assistance, and the need for an age friendly community.

***“Possibility of having to move closer to family members, requiring sale of my home and having to pay outrageous rent to live. Scarcity of affordable housing, and physical help (house cleaning, errands, etc.) for seniors living alone who have no close family.”***

*“Age related health concerns.”*

*“Aging, cost of health care, and lack of facilities for elderly (housing, nursing homes, etc.).”*

*“The cost for health care is getting ridiculous. Senior citizens are struggling paying for what they need. Social Security benefits are not increasing enough to cover the high inflation rates.”*

*“Just being older and the issues that go with it.”*

*“Resources for taking care of elderly family member, cost of assisted living facility.”*

*“Dementia, dementia, dementia. Have I mentioned dementia?”*

*“Disability is so little money to live on, I am scared about food and getting Covid.”*

*“Finding affordable care for my mother-in-law with dementia. Like, respite care, adult day care, or companion services.”*

*“My parents live with me, father 87, mother 80. They are very healthy right now, but if that changes, I’m concerned about taking care of them and my job.”*

*“No in-home elderly care for my parents in rural area.”*

*“As we age we are concerned about living in a rural area. Access to services and food will become difficult when we can no longer drive.”*

*“Aging, ability to “keep up” with our property, etc.”*

*“Ageism.”*

# SAFETY, CRIME, & DRUGS

123 mentions

Some residents expressed concerns about safety, crime in their neighborhood, and the prevalence of drugs in the community. Others mentioned traffic and issues with unsafe drivers.

***“The high violence that this generation is experiencing - guns. The lack of caring of people towards each other.”***

*“Feeling safe and secure where I live.”*

*“Safety- criminal activity such as theft in neighborhoods.”*

*“Where I live so many drug users, and a lot of domestic violence.”*

*“Drug addiction and the rise in crime and accidents associated with it.”*

*“Losing sleep over crisis of guns in society.”*

*“Violence in schools and availability of drugs in schools.”*

*“Too many drunk or pot heads on the road.”*

# AIR QUALITY

120 mentions

Many residents expressed concerns about air quality and pollution. The connection with traffic, increasing population, wildfires, and oil and gas was made.

*“Air quality due to wind/fire which creates asthma issues.”*

*“Low air quality sometimes.”*

*“With the population and growth in Greeley and surrounding areas, I am concerned about the overall environmental effects such as pollution and air quality.”*

*“Poor air quality.”*

*“Dust is an issue, air pollution is important to me.”*

*“Pollution from everyone driving long distances to work/home. No one lives close to their jobs, and home delivery trucks are always out and about.”*

***“Air Quality for all citizens in Weld County and Greeley. Traffic has greatly increased causing more exhaust from all vehicles and smoke from fires in the mountains and from other states.”***

# INFLATION

88 mentions

Some residents expressed their concern about inflation and the rising cost of living. Many residents mentioned the increasing costs of gas, food, rent, etc. while wages remain the same.

***“Food, covering the high utilities and what happens if either myself or my husband become sick. Community concerns are the raising prices.”***

*“Inflation. Prices are increasing. Interest rates are going up. But pay is the same.”*

*“Inflation – cost of food and fuel.”*

*“Taxes keep going up, gas is going up, food cost, and medical cost is going up and no extra income to help pay it all.”*

*“Inflation of all goods and services.”*

*“The price of energy destroying the standard of living for families and the community.”*

# FOOD

83 mentions

Some residents expressed their concern about the cost and availability of food. Many residents also expressed the need for more options for nutritious food.

*“Access to affordable and nutritious foods.”*

*“Have food on the shelves and available in nearby stores.”*

*“I worry about the community because I volunteer at a community food pantry and there are so many who are needy and are also very unhealthy.”*

*“For the community, adequate access to nutritional meals.”*

*“Healthy food being more expensive than processed food.”*

*“Having enough money to buy food.”*

***“Funding food for children in school and through summer. Food is becoming much more expensive. We must find a way to help families who truly, honestly need assistance.”***



## SELECT OTHER COMMENTS:

*“Cost of housing for my adult children is a health concern because they mentally are struggling to make ends meet. They barely make enough to pay for rent and purchasing a home seems out of the realm of possibilities at this point.”*

*“Environmental concerns because of the influx of people – lack of water and air pollution.”*

*“I am also concerned about the road infrastructure near our community. With the increase in population and housebuilding, it does not seem that the roads are keeping up with the growth. We need more planning for road expansion and larger shoulders or bike lanes, so that people have more accessibility without having to drive.”*

*“Availability of transportation for disabled persons in rural areas.”*

*“As for community, we don’t trust the water quality.”*

*“Rent is insane. I have lived here most of my life, cannot anymore. My kids and I were homeless for a month and a half. Women’s Place, etc. NEED MORE HELP/RESOURCES!  
PLEASE!”*

*“More recreation opportunities such as walking or biking paths that connect different neighborhoods and communities. We moved to Johnstown about a year ago from Denver and I like the area, but I do feel isolated and lack a community here.”*