

Dakota County 2025 Residential Survey

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only. Thank you.

1. How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County? Excellent Good Fair Poor

2. What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County? (Please select only one.)

- | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of life in general | <input type="checkbox"/> Low taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Open space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural character | <input type="checkbox"/> My neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> People | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and greenways | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools | | _____ |

3. Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Dakota County as a place to live.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to work.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to retire.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to raise a family.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of biking paths and walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
Economic health of Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of employment opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of quality, affordable child care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting).....	1	2	3	4	5
Water quality/health of environment.....	1	2	3	4	5
Climate resiliency practices/strategies.....	1	2	3	4	5
Natural resources.....	1	2	3	4	5
Arts and culture countywide.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5

4. What do you feel is the most serious issue facing Dakota County at this time? _____

5. Do you think that a year from now you and your household will be better off financially, or worse off, or just about the same as now?

- Much better Somewhat better About the same Somewhat worse Much worse Don't know

6. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County.

	<u>Very safe</u>	<u>Somewhat safe</u>	<u>Somewhat unsafe</u>	<u>Very unsafe</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft).....	1	2	3	4	5
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery).....	1	2	3	4	5
From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs).....	1	2	3	4	5
From financial scams (identity theft, phone scams, cyber crime).....	1	2	3	4	5
From domestic violence.....	1	2	3	4	5
From gang activity.....	1	2	3	4	5
While driving on roads within Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
While walking or biking within Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
While in your neighborhood.....	1	2	3	4	5
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms.....	1	2	3	4	5
While in schools in Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
While in places of worship in Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways.....	1	2	3	4	5

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7. Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County.

	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Moderate problem</u>	<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Crime.....	1	2	3	4	5
Taxes	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic safety	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic congestion	1	2	3	4	5
Poverty.....	1	2	3	4	5
Homelessness	1	2	3	4	5
Affordability of housing	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of living wage jobs.....	1	2	3	4	5

8. Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in Dakota County.

	<u>Not at all a concern</u>	<u>Minor concern</u>	<u>Moderate concern</u>	<u>Major concern</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste).....	1	2	3	4	5
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	1	2	3	4	5
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	1	2	3	4	5
Social isolation	1	2	3	4	5
Underage alcohol use.....	1	2	3	4	5
Underage marijuana use.....	1	2	3	4	5
Alcohol abuse among adults	1	2	3	4	5
Marijuana abuse among adults.....	1	2	3	4	5
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine).....	1	2	3	4	5
Bullying.....	1	2	3	4	5
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids).....	1	2	3	4	5
The health and support of older adults	1	2	3	4	5
The health and support of persons with disabilities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Health and support of children and child development.....	1	2	3	4	5
Nutrition of adults and children.....	1	2	3	4	5
Abuse and neglect of children	1	2	3	4	5
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	1	2	3	4	5
Spread of infectious diseases.....	1	2	3	4	5

9. Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County.

	<u>Not at all a concern</u>	<u>Minor concern</u>	<u>Moderate concern</u>	<u>Major concern</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Quality of outdoor air	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of drinking water (PFA Contaminants)	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	1	2	3	4	5
Quantity of useable water supply	1	2	3	4	5
Climate change.....	1	2	3	4	5
Energy use.....	1	2	3	4	5

10. Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
County libraries like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott.	1	2	3	4	5
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville.....	1	2	3	4	5
Trail and greenway system like the Mississippi River, River to River and Big Rivers Trail.....	1	2	3	4	5
Condition of County roads such as County Road 46, Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28, County Road 42, Kenwood Trail, or Pilot Knob Roads.....	1	2	3	4	5
Snow and ice removal on County roads.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Administering property tax	1	2	3	4	5
Addressing important health issues in communities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes ...	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	1	2	3	4	5

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11. Please rate the following services provided by Dakota County *only if you have experienced them within the last two years.*

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know/ not applicable
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	1	2	3	4	5
Financial assistance for low-income households.....	1	2	3	4	5
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	1	2	3	4	5
Services for people with disabilities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services for people experiencing mental illness	1	2	3	4	5
Services that protect neglected or abused children.....	1	2	3	4	5
Information available on the County website	1	2	3	4	5
Services provided to older adults.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services at the Recycling Zone	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility of services, physical and digital	1	2	3	4	5
Organic waste drop-off sites	1	2	3	4	5
Services to children and families.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults.	1	2	3	4	5
Housing/shelter services and support	1	2	3	4	5
Public Health services	1	2	3	4	5

12. To what extent would you support or oppose an increase in your County property tax if it were needed to maintain County services at their current levels?

- Strongly support Somewhat support Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose Don't know

13. Have you visited (in-person or virtually), telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government employee within the last 12 months?

- Yes → Go to question 14 No → Skip to question 15

14. What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact? (Please rate each characteristic below.)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Knowledgeable.....	1	2	3	4	5
Responsive	1	2	3	4	5
Courteous.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall impression	1	2	3	4	5

15. Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Convenience of County facilities' locations	1	2	3	4	5
Online access to County services	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of paying for County services online.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage).....	1	2	3	4	5

16. Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents.....	1	2	3	4	5
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	1	2	3	4	5
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	1	2	3	4	5
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars.....	1	2	3	4	5
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	1	2	3	4	5
Generally acting in the best interest of the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Supporting the quality of life in the county	1	2	3	4	5
Effectively planning for the future of the county	1	2	3	4	5
Overall confidence in Dakota County government.....	1	2	3	4	5

17. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing?

- Strongly approve Somewhat approve Somewhat disapprove Strongly disapprove Don't know

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18. How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services?

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	Don't know
Popular titles/current library materials	1	2	3	4	5
Small business/economic development resources and services	1	2	3	4	5
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	1	2	3	4	5
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books) ...	1	2	3	4	5
Access to computers and the Internet	1	2	3	4	5
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	1	2	3	4	5
Community space, meeting and conference rooms	1	2	3	4	5
Classes and events on a variety of topics.....	1	2	3	4	5
English as a second language resources and services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	1	2	3	4	5
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)	1	2	3	4	5
Other (please specify):.....	1	2	3	4	5

19. Please indicate which of the following methods, if any, you prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County. (Please select up to three methods.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers (print or online) | <input type="checkbox"/> Television |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The County's mailed newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> County website (www.dakotacounty.us) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calling Dakota County | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, X, Nextdoor, Instagram) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email from Dakota County | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>None</u> , I don't want or need any information from Dakota County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Text messages and alerts (sent to cell phones) | |

20. Please indicate what methods you believe Dakota County should use to reach residents to learn about their preferences for County services, activities, projects, decisions and plans. (Please select all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public meetings/forums/open houses | <input type="checkbox"/> Booths and staff at community festivals or events (e.g., County Fair or farmers markets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, X, Nextdoor, Instagram) | <input type="checkbox"/> Opt-in online surveys or online forums |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen advisory committees | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):..... | |

21. In the past year, on average, how often did you or your household use the following in Dakota County?

	Almost daily	Weekly	Monthly	A few times	Never
Dakota County parks	1	2	3	4	5
Regional trails/greenways	1	2	3	4	5

22. What, if anything, prevents you or your household from using parks, or natural lands more often? Choose up to (3).

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know where to go/unfamiliar with the offerings | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities lack the right equipment/amenities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Locations are inconvenient for me (e.g., too far away from my home or workplace) | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not feel safe in these locations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not easy to get there by bus, bike, or walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Not interested/don't want to |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough parking nearby for personal vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have the time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not accessible for people with disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing prevents me/us from using more often |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other reason |

23. Since 2003, Dakota County and partners have preserved land outside of County parks for many public purposes. How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes?

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	Don't know
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving natural areas	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving water quality	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat.....	1	2	3	4	5

24. What type of housing is most needed in your community? Choose up to three (3).

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market-rate housing for older adults (condos, townhouses) | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable family housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market-rate stand-alone single-family housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Assisted living or supportive housing (with services for any age) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market-rate apartments | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce housing (housing affordable for working people that is close to their job) for single-person households | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these are needed in my community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing for older adults | |

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25. If you are considering a change in your work situation (e.g., increasing hours, rejoining the workforce, looking for a new job), how important, if at all, are each of the following factors in making your decision?

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	Don't know
Better pay	1	2	3	4	5
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	1	2	3	4	5
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework) at least part of the time	1	2	3	4	5
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	1	2	3	4	5
Career advancement opportunity at work	1	2	3	4	5
Availability and affordability of childcare	1	2	3	4	5
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	1	2	3	4	5
Public transit to work	1	2	3	4	5

26. Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements? _____

27. Which highway in Dakota County needs the most congestion improvements? _____

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. How long have you lived in Dakota County?

- Less than 2 years 11 to 15 years
 2 to 5 years 16 to 20 years
 6 to 10 years Over 20 years

D2. Which of the following best describes you?

- Employed full-time
 Employed part-time
 Employed, seeking better job or more hours
 Homemaker/caregiver → go to question #D5
 Retired → go to question #D5
 Unemployed, looking for work → go to question #D5
 Student → go to question #D5

D3. On average, how long does it take you to travel to work (from home)?

- 0 to 14 minutes 30 to 44 minutes
 15 to 19 minutes 45 to 60 minutes
 20 to 29 minutes More than 60 minutes
 Not sure/Don't know I primarily work from home

D4. How long would the same trip take, if there was no traffic congestion at all?

- 0 to 14 minutes 30 to 44 minutes
 15 to 19 minutes 45 to 60 minutes
 20 to 29 minutes More than 60 minutes
 Not sure/Don't know I primarily work from home

D5. Which category contains your age?

- 18-24 35-44 55-64 75-84
 25-34 45-54 65-74 85+

D6. Which gender do you identify with most closely?

- Female Male Identify another way

D7. Which best describes the building you live in?

- One family house detached from any other houses
 House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)
 Building with two or more apartments or condos
 Manufactured or mobile home
 Other

D8. Is this house, apartment or mobile home...

- Rented
 Owned (including with an outstanding mortgage)

Please respond to both questions #D9 and #D10:

D9. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino
 Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino

D10. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
 Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander
 Black or African American
 White
 Other

D11. How many of each of the following, including yourself, live in your household?

Children age 17 years and under _____

Adults under age 65 years _____

Adults age 65 years and over _____

D12. Please indicate your household's annual income:

- Under \$15,000 \$75,000-\$99,999
 \$15,000-\$24,999 \$100,000-\$149,999
 \$25,000-\$34,999 \$150,000-\$199,999
 \$35,000-\$49,999 \$200,000 or more
 \$50,000-\$74,999

Thank you very much!

Please return the completed survey in the postage-paid envelope to:

National Research Center, Inc.,
PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502