

Research Report

Assessment of the Health Needs in:

Fillmore County
Gage County
Jefferson County
Saline County
Thayer County

for

Public Health Solutions
District Health Department

by

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Introduction	6
Background	6
Purpose	6
Objectives.....	6
Summary of Results.....	7
Key Indicators.....	7
Figure E-1. Health Planning Model	7
Table 1. Outcome Indicators.....	8
Table 2. Impact Indicators.....	8
Table 3. Process Indicators	9
Role of Public Health Solutions District Health Department	10
What do you feel the responsibilities of PHS should be?.....	10
What are the greatest barriers that PHS has to face?	10
Research Design and Methodology	11
Data Collection Standards.....	11
Telephone Survey.....	11
Focus Groups	11
Sample Characteristics	12
Telephone Survey – Total Group.....	12
Telephone Survey – By County	13
Data Analysis	16
Telephone Survey.....	16
Focus Groups	16
State of Nebraska Data	16
Identifying Needs	16
Detailed Findings	17
Fillmore County Key Indicators.....	17
Figure F-1. Heart Disease Deaths	17
Figure F-2. Breast Cancer Incidence.....	17
Figure F-3. Diabetes Deaths.....	18
Figure F-4. Child Abuse / Neglect.....	18
Figure F-5. Motor Vehicle Injuries.....	19
Figure F-6. Infant Deaths.....	19
Figure F-7. Very Low Birth Weight Babies.....	20
Figure F-7. Low Birth Weight Babies	20
Figure F-8. Obesity	21
Figure F-9. Physical Activity.....	21
Figure F-10. Youth Activities.....	22
Figure F-11. Water Fluoridation	22
Figure F-12. Dental Insurance	23
Gage County Key Indicators.....	24

Figure G-1. Heart Disease Deaths.....	24
Figure G-2. Heart Disease Hospitalization.....	24
Figure G-3. Breast Cancer.....	25
Figure G-4. Diabetes Deaths.....	25
Figure G-5. Suicides.....	26
Figure G-6. Child Abuse / Neglect.....	26
Figure G-7. Unintentional Injury Deaths.....	27
Figure G-8. Motor Vehicle Deaths.....	27
Figure G-9. Motor Vehicle Injuries.....	28
Figure G-10. Fall-Related Injuries.....	28
Figure G-11. Infant Deaths.....	29
Figure G-12. Very Low Birth Weight Babies.....	29
Figure G-13. Prenatal Care.....	30
Figure G-14. Obesity.....	30
Figure G-15. Physical Activity.....	31
Figure G-16. Youth Activities.....	31
Figure G-17. Health Insurance.....	32
Figure G-18. Water Fluoridation.....	32
Jefferson County Key Indicators.....	33
Figure J-1. Heart Disease Deaths.....	33
Figure J-2. Cancer Deaths.....	33
Figure J-3. Breast Cancer.....	34
Figure J-4. Colorectal Cancer.....	34
Figure J-5. Diabetes Deaths.....	35
Figure J-6. Suicides.....	35
Figure J-7. Child Abuse / Neglect.....	36
Figure J-8. Unintentional Injury Deaths.....	36
Figure J-9. Motor Vehicle Deaths.....	37
Figure J-10. Motor Vehicle Injuries.....	37
Figure J-11. Prenatal Care.....	38
Figure J-12. Obesity.....	38
Figure J-13. Physical Activity.....	39
Figure J-14. Youth Activities.....	39
Saline County Key Indicators.....	40
Figure S-1. Heart Disease Deaths.....	40
Figure S-2. Heart Disease Hospitalization.....	40
Figure S-3. Breast Cancer.....	41
Figure S-4. Prostate Cancer.....	41
Figure S-5. Colorectal Cancer.....	42
Figure S-6. Diabetes Deaths.....	42
Figure S-7. Diabetes Hospitalization.....	43
Figure S-8. Suicides.....	43
Figure S-9. Child Abuse / Neglect.....	44
Figure S-10. Unintentional Injury Deaths.....	44
Figure S-11. Motor Vehicle Deaths.....	45
Figure S-12. Motor Vehicle Injuries.....	45

Figure S-13. Prenatal Care	46
Figure S-14. Obesity	46
Figure S-15. Physical Activity	47
Figure S-16. Youth Activities.....	47
Figure S-17. Exercise Facilities	48
Figure S-18. Water Fluoridation.....	48
Thayer County Key Indicators	48
Thayer County Key Indicators	49
Figure T-1. Heart Disease Deaths	49
Figure T-2. Heart Disease Hospitalization	49
Figure T-3. Breast Cancer	50
Figure T-4. Prostate Cancer	50
Figure T-5. Colorectal Cancer.....	51
Figure T-6. Child Abuse / Neglect.....	51
Figure T-7. Unintentional Injury Deaths	52
Figure T-8. Motor Vehicle Deaths	52
Figure T-9. Motor Vehicle Injuries.....	53
Figure T-10. Prenatal Care	53
Figure T-11. Obesity	54
Figure T-12. Physical Activity.....	54
Figure T-13. Youth Activities.....	55
Figure T-14. Exercise Facilities.....	55
Figure T-15. Water Fluoridation	56
Community-Perceived Needs	57
Table 4. What is the greatest health concern facing your community?	57
Outcome Indicators	57
Table 5. Cancer	57
Table 6. Heart Disease	58
Table 7. Diabetes.....	58
Table 8. Unintentional Injuries	58
Table 9. Injuries and Deaths Related to Violent and Abusive Behaviors	59
Table 10. Infant Mortality	59
Table 11. Sexually Transmitted Diseases.....	59
Impact Indicators	60
Table 12. Risk Factors for Heart Disease, Cancer, and Diabetes.....	60
Table 13. Alcohol and Other Drug Use	61
Table 14. Environmental Issues.....	61
Process Indicators	62
Table 15. Healthcare Resources	62
Table 16. Oral Health Resources.....	63
Table 17. Community Attitudes.....	63
Table 18. Attitude toward Extent-of-Involvement by Various Local Organizations (tabulated by County)	64
Table 19. Attitude toward Extent-of-Involvement by Various Local Organizations (tabulated by income level).....	65

Table 20. Attitude toward Education and Policy Development as Means to Improve Community Health (tabulated by County)	65
Table 21. Attitude toward Education and Policy Development as Means to Improve Community Health (tabulated by income level).....	65
Table 22. Attitude toward Current “Hot Topics” in Nebraska.....	66
Focus Group Results.....	67

Introduction

Background

Public Health Solutions District Health Department is a name not yet familiar to the public. As an extremely new public health department, the name was selected to reflect the mission that the agency's founders had for it. Public Health Solutions is a result of collaboration between the Boards of Supervisors in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer Counties, and many community-based agencies within those counties. As one of 18 new district health departments in Nebraska, funding for Public Health Solutions District Health Department comes from Nebraska's tobacco-settlement funds as a result of the passage of LB692.

One of the first tasks assigned to Public Health Solutions District Health Department was to conduct a needs assessment of the residents of its five counties. Data for the assessment was gathered through focus group sessions and through telephone surveys, and was supplemented by data from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The following report contains the results of the needs assessment for Public Health Solutions District Health Department.

Purpose

The purpose of this project was to establish baseline data of the public-health needs for the Public Health Solutions District.

Objectives

1. Determine the key morbidity and mortality factors (outcome indicators) for Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer Counties, and compare those to Nebraska as a whole.
2. Determine the key behavioral and environmental factors (impact indicators) for Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer Counties, and compare those to Nebraska as a whole.
3. Determine the level to which necessary health resources (process indicators) are available in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer Counties.
4. Determine what role the new Public Health Solutions District Health Department should play within the five-county district.

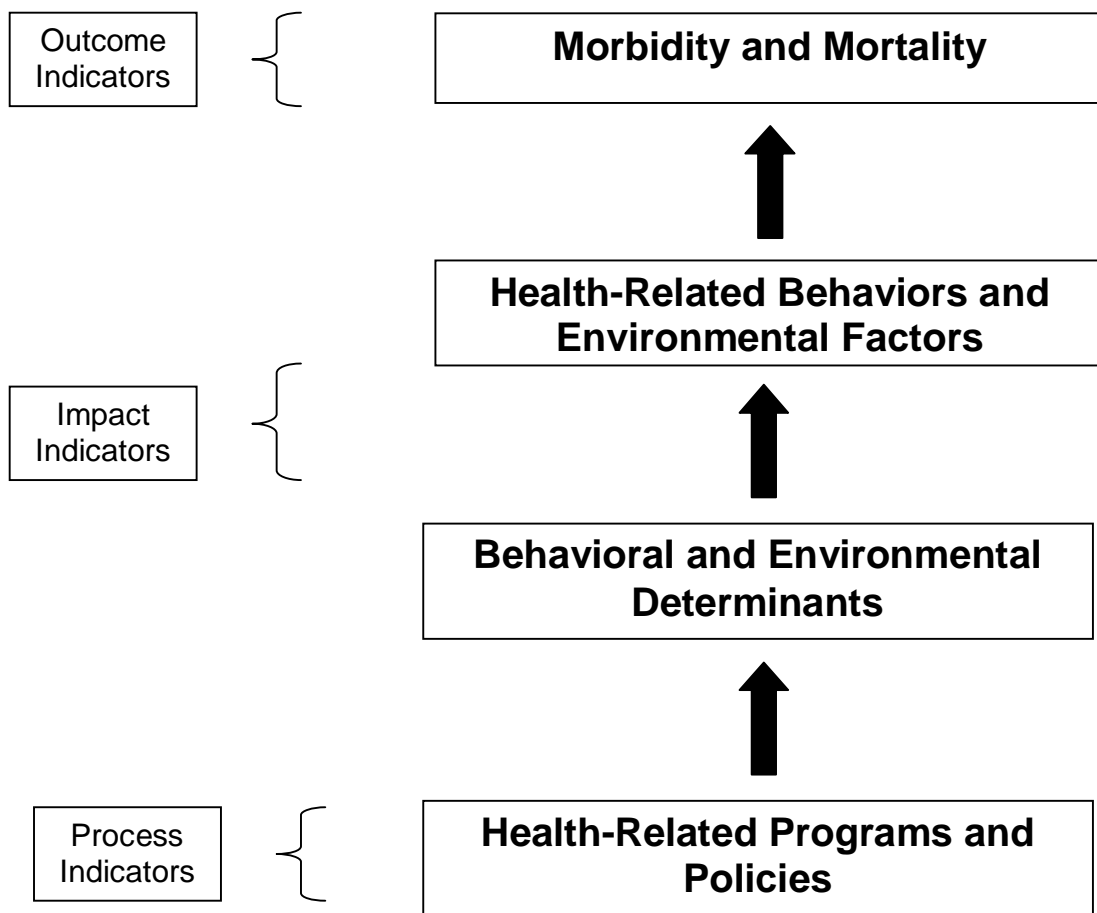
Summary of Results

Key Indicators

In keeping with the objectives for this project, key health indicators were classified as Outcome, Impact, or Process Indicators. Outcome indicators relate to various morbidity and mortality factors, and often take several years to change. Impact indicators pertain to the behavioral and environmental factors that influence morbidity and mortality, and often can be changed fairly quickly. Process indicators are the resources by which behavioral and environmental factors are addressed.

The following diagram outlines the hierarchical structure of a health planning model containing outcome, impact, and process indicators:

Figure E-1. Health Planning Model



Tables 1 through 3 contain listings of the key Outcome, Impact, and Process indicators for Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer Counties. Although the indicators differ by county, the absence of an indicator from the list of a given county does not suggest “no need.” However, it does suggest the need is greater in the county where the indicator is listed.

Table 1. Outcome Indicators

Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer
Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
Breast Cancer	Breast Cancer	Breast Cancer	Breast Cancer	Breast Cancer
Diabetes	Diabetes	Unintentional injury Deaths	Unintentional injury Deaths	Unintentional injury Deaths
Infant Deaths	Suicide	Motor Vehicle Deaths	Motor Vehicle Deaths	Motor Vehicle Deaths
	Unintentional injury Deaths	Colorectal cancer incidence	Colorectal cancer incidence	Colorectal cancer incidence
	Motor Vehicle Deaths	Suicide	Suicide	Prostate Cancer Incidence
	Infant Deaths		Prostate Cancer Incidence	

Table 2. Impact Indicators

Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer
Child Abuse / Neglect	Child Abuse / Neglect	Child Abuse / Neglect	Child Abuse / Neglect	Child Abuse / Neglect
Motor Vehicle Injuries	Motor Vehicle Injuries	Motor Vehicle Injuries	Motor Vehicle Injuries	Motor Vehicle Injuries
Very Low Birth Weight Babies	Fall Related Injuries	Drug / Alcohol Issues	Drug / Alcohol Issues	Drug / Alcohol Issues
Obesity	Very Low Birth Weight Babies	Elderly Issues	Elderly Issues	% with BMI >=30
Drug / Alcohol Issues	Drug / Alcohol Issues	% with BMI >=30	% with BMI >=30	Elderly Issues
Elderly Issues	% with BMI >=30	Water/Chemical Pollution	Water/Chemical Pollution	
Low Birth Weight Babies	Water/Chemical Pollution			
% with BMI >=30				
Water/Chemical Pollution				

Table 3. Process Indicators

Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer
% No Leisure Time Physical Activity	% No Leisure Time Physical Activity	% No Leisure Time Physical Activity	% No Leisure Time Physical Activity	% No Leisure Time Physical Activity
No Youth Activities	No Youth Activities	No Youth Activities	No Youth Activities	No Youth Activities
% Population drinking fluoridated water	% Population drinking fluoridated water	% Population drinking fluoridated water	% Population drinking fluoridated water	% Population drinking fluoridated water
	Prenatal care in 1 st trimester	Prenatal care in 1 st trimester	Prenatal care in 1 st trimester	Prenatal care in 1 st trimester
			Not enough exercise facilities	

Role of Public Health Solutions District Health Department

Focus groups were conducted in each of the five counties within the Public Health Solutions District. During the sessions, participants were asked what they thought the role of the Public Health Solutions District Health Department should be. The following is a summary of the responses:

What do you feel the responsibilities of PHS should be?

- Coordination of services
- Act as a resource to existing providers / programs
- Education/awareness
- Strengthen and expand existing health services
- Referral services
- Primary prevention

Focus group participants were then asked what they thought will be the greatest barriers that Public Health Solutions will face. The following is a summary of those responses:

What are the greatest barriers that PHS has to face?

- Resistance to change
- Public perception of public health
- Viewed as competitor with other agencies
- Lack of initial trust
- Informing people of what PHS has to offer
- Being able to coordinate the five counties equally

Based on the focus group results, it appears that the role of the Public Health Solutions District Health Department should be to: 1. Act as a resource to existing agencies; 2. Coordinate efforts in a five county district; and 3. Fill the gap for programs that don't currently exist. In order to fulfill this role, PHS should consider the following issues:

- Be aware that initially there may be some resistance to change and a lack of trust in relation to PHS operating in the region.
- When working with the public PHS should be aware that there may not be a clear understanding of what public health really is.
- PHS should work to help the residents of the district feel that efforts are being implemented equally in all five counties.
- PHS should strive to be seen as a resource and a partner rather than a competitor to existing health agencies.

Research Design and Methodology

Data Collection Standards

Telephone Survey

Data Collection Methods Telephone
Data Collected by the MSR Group

Total Surveys Completed

Survey Completed by County	Frequency	Percent
Fillmore	256	20
Gage	250	20
Jefferson	250	20
Saline	251	20
Thayer	256	20

Margin of Error by County

Fillmore	+/- 6%
Gage	+/- 6%
Jefferson	+/- 6%
Saline	+/- 6%
Thayer	+/- 6%
Total	+/- 3%

Known Sources of Bias

- Population willingness to take a phone call from an unknown source
- Population willingness to participate in a telephone survey
- Survey questions could have been too complex for some respondents to comprehend
- Spanish-only speaking residents

Focus Groups

Description	Four focus groups; 1 in each county except Thayer, because of lack of interest
Facilitator	David Corbin, Ph.D., UNOmaha
Total Participants	
Fillmore County	30
Gage County	14
Jefferson County	6
Saline County	5
Thayer County	0

Sample Characteristics

Telephone Survey – Total Group

Average Age 55

Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	623	49.3
Female	640	50.7
Total	1263	100

Which of the following best represents your level of education?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school graduate	91	7.2
High school graduate or GED	455	36.1
Some college	362	28.8
College graduate	229	18.2
Post college graduate	122	9.7
Don't Know / Refused		
Total	1259	100

Which of the following best represents your race or ethnicity?

	Frequency	Percent
White, non-Hispanic	1235	97.8
Latino or Hispanic	8	.6
African American	1	.1
Native American	12	1
Asian	2	.2
Other	5	.4
Total	1263	100

Which of the following best describes your current marital status?

	Frequency	Percent
Married	851	67.4
Separated	11	.9
Single, Divorced	100	7.9
Single, Never Married	122	9.7
Widowed	173	13.7
Don't Know / Refused	6	.5
Total	1263	100

Which of the following best represents your annual household income?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than \$15,000	173	13.7
\$15,000 to less than \$25,000	192	15.2
\$25,000 to less than \$35,000	225	17.8
\$35,000 to less than \$50,000	259	20.5
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	167	13.2
\$75,000 or more	88	7
Don't Know / Refused	159	12.6
Total	1263	100

Telephone Survey –By County

Gender

		Fillmore (N=256)	Gage (N=250)	Jefferson (N=250)	Saline (N=251)	Thayer (N=256)	Total (N=1263)
Male	%	49.6	49.2	49.2	49.4	49.2	49.3
Female	%	50.4	50.8	50.8	50.6	50.8	50.7

Which of the following best represents your level of education?

		Fillmore (N=256)	Gage (N=250)	Jefferson (N=250)	Saline (N=251)	Thayer (N=256)	Total (N=1263)
Less than high school graduate	%	3.9	8.8	10.1	5.2	8.2	7.2
High school graduate or GED	%	44.7	35.2	33.9	37.5	29.4	36.1
Some college	%	23.5	26	30.6	27.5	36.1	28.8
College graduate	%	19.2	20.8	16.5	14.7	19.6	18.2
Post college graduate	%	8.6	9.2	8.9	15.1	7	9.7

Which of the following best represents your race or ethnicity?

		Fillmore (N=256)	Gage (N=250)	Jefferson (N=250)	Saline (N=251)	Thayer (N=256)	Total (N=1263)
White, non-Hispanic	%	98	98	98	96.4	98.4	97.8
Latino or Hispanic	%	.8	.8	.4	1.2	0	.6
African American	%	0	0	0	0	.4	.1
Native American	%	.8	1.2	.8	1.2	.8	1.0
Asian	%	0	0	0	.8	0	.2
Other	%	.4	0	.8	.4	.4	.4

Which of the following best describes your current marital status?

		Fillmore (N=256)	Gage (N=250)	Jefferson (N=250)	Saline (N=251)	Thayer (N=256)	Total (N=1263)
Married	%	70.7	63.2	66	66.1	70.7	67.4
Separated	%	.8	.8	.8	1.6	.4	.9
Single, Divorced	%	6.3	10.8	7.6	.8	7	7.9
Single, Never Married	%	8.6	8.4	11.2	12.4	7.8	9.7
Widowed	%	12.9	15.6	14.4	12	13.7	13.7
Don't Know / Refused	%	.8	1.2	0	0	.4	.5

Which of the following best represents your annual household income?

		Fillmore (N=256)	Gage (N=250)	Jefferson (N=250)	Saline (N=251)	Thayer (N=256)	Total (N=1263)
Less than \$15,000	%	11.3	16.4	17.2	11.6	12.1	13.7
\$15,000 to less than \$25,000	%	16.8	14	15.2	14.7	15.2	15.2
\$25,000 to less than \$35,000	%	14.8	16	20	15.1	23	17.8
\$35,000 to less than \$50,000	%	23.4	20.4	20	19.9	18.8	20.5
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	%	14.8	9.6	12.8	17.9	10.9	13.2
\$75,000 or more	%	7	9.6	3.2	8.8	6.3	7
Don't Know / Refused	%	11.7	14	11.6	12	13.7	12.6

Average Age of Respondent

	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Total
	55.2	54.95	55.97	53.78	55.65	55.11

Data Analysis

Telephone Survey

Survey results were cross-tabulated by county, income, gender, and education. Where applicable, means were compared using an independent-groups t-test, and percentages were compared using the chi-square test of proportions.

Focus Groups

Audio recordings from each of the four focus group sessions were transcribed. Transcriptions were reviewed and common themes documented. In addition to the focus group discussions, the facilitator was able to obtain some quantitative information through the use of “perception analyzers.”

State of Nebraska Data

Where appropriate, especially in relation to morbidity/mortality statistics, and behavioral statistics data, the County and Service Area Statistical Profiles from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services was used in this report. The principle investigators of this project felt it important to use existing data wherever possible, so that the telephone surveys and focus groups could be used to obtain information not already known in relation to the health status of Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer Counties.

Identifying Needs

The general list of health-need areas was derived from the Nebraska Healthy People 2010 Objectives.

Specific health needs were identified by comparing each health item by county, and then to the State. An item was identified as a need if it had a value (rate or percentage) that was as high as or higher than the rate or percentage for Nebraska as a whole.

Detailed Findings

Fillmore County Key Indicators

Figure F-1. Heart Disease Deaths

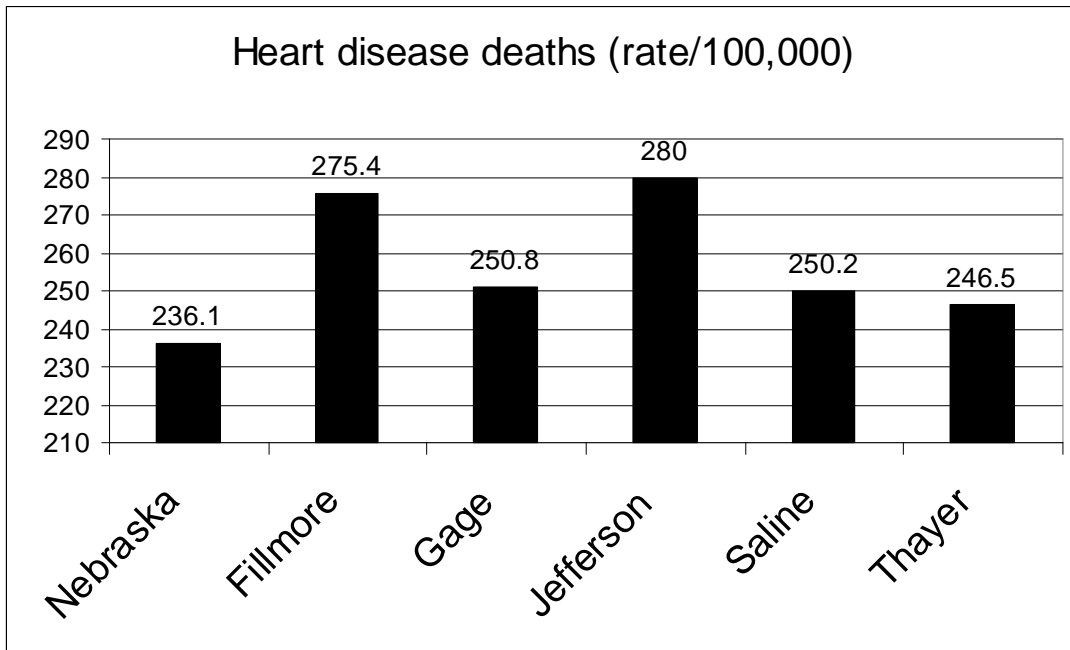


Figure F-2. Breast Cancer Incidence

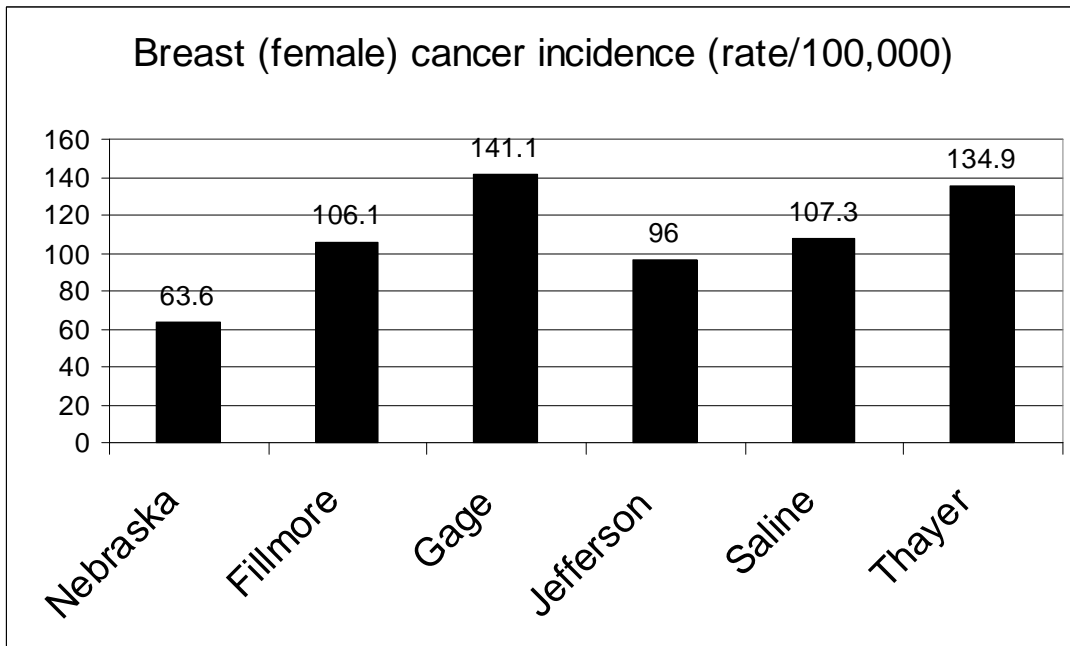


Figure F-8. Obesity

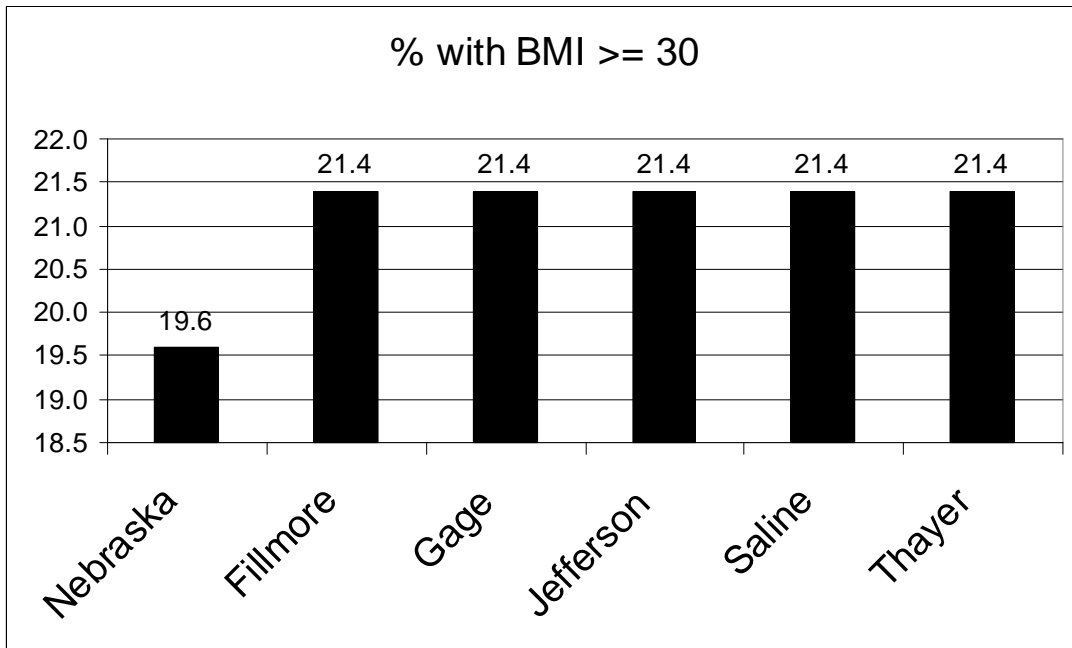


Figure F-9. Physical Activity

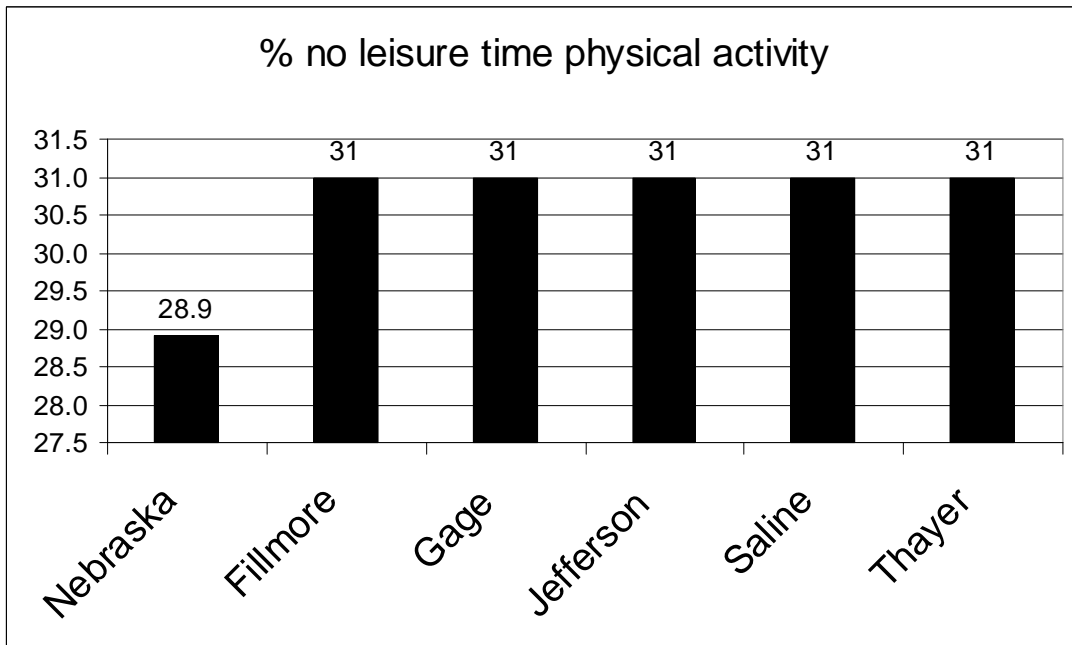


Figure F-10. Youth Activities

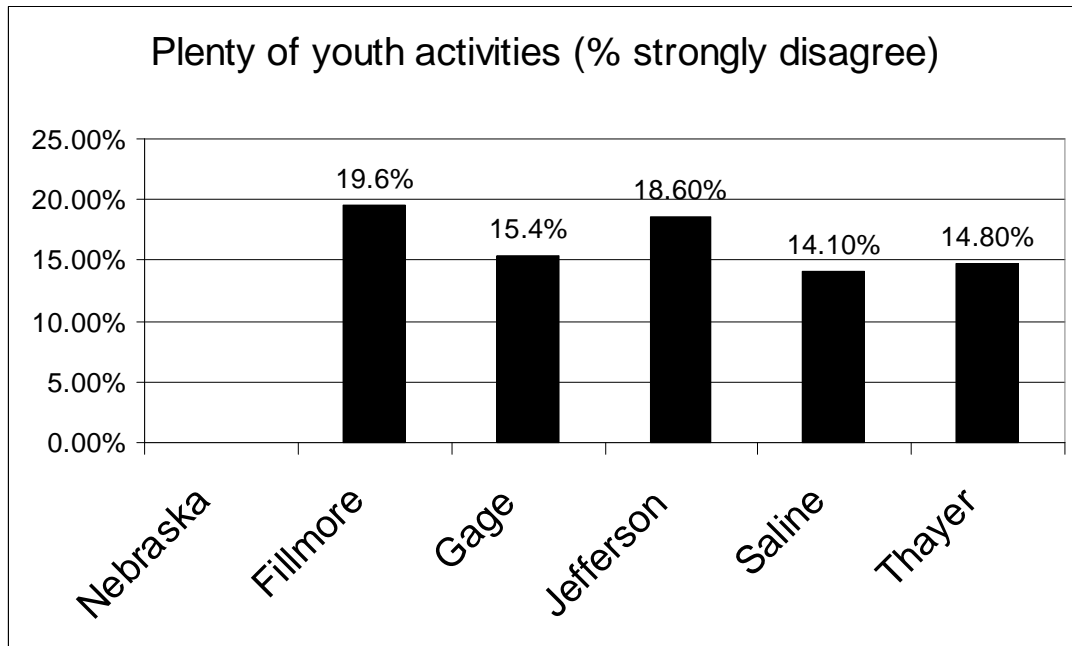


Figure F-11. Water Fluoridation

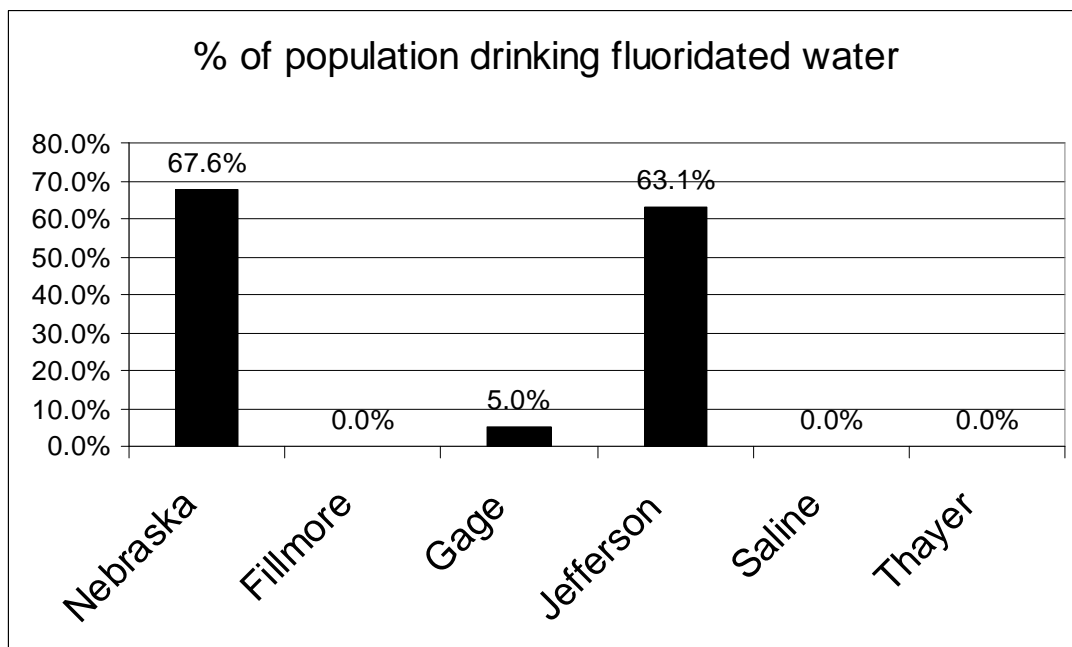
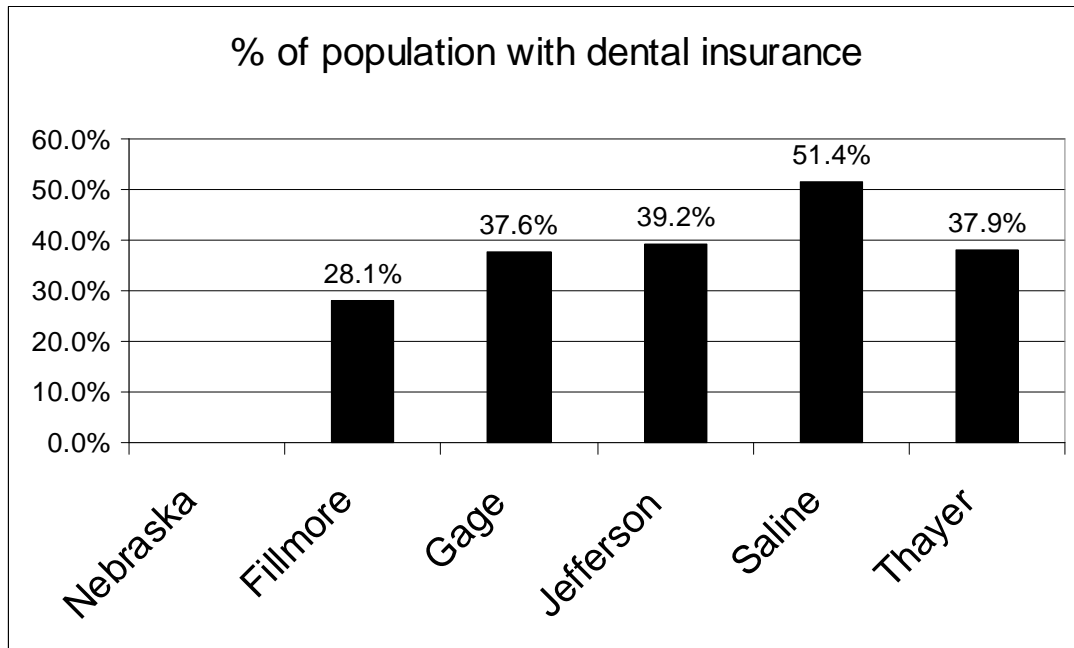


Figure F-12. Dental Insurance



Gage County Key Indicators

Figure G-1. Heart Disease Deaths

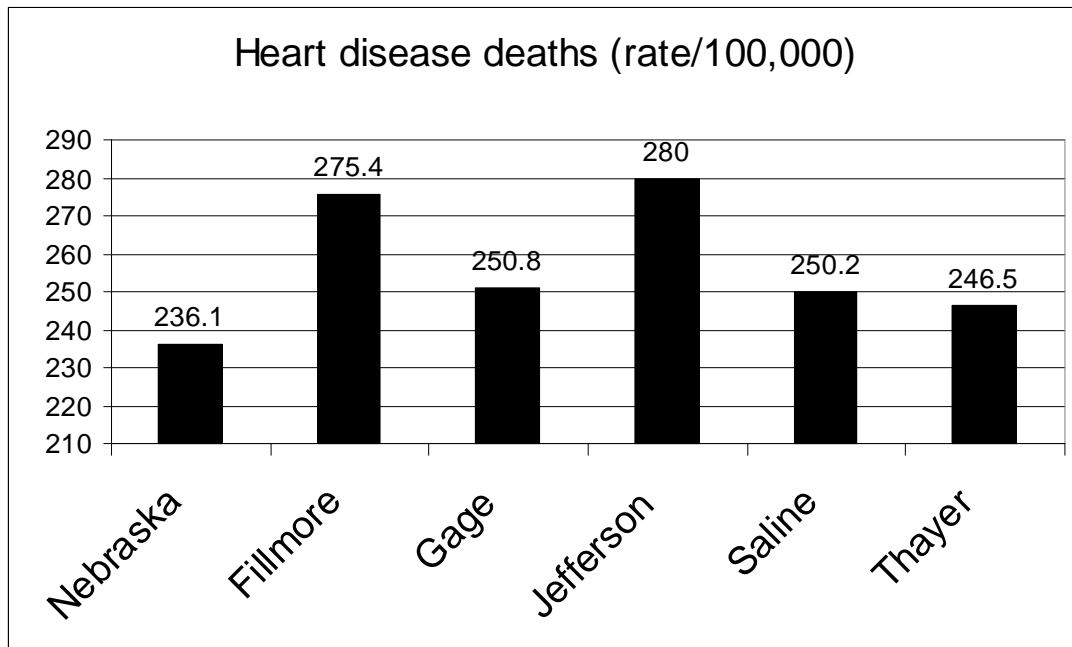


Figure G-2. Heart Disease Hospitalization

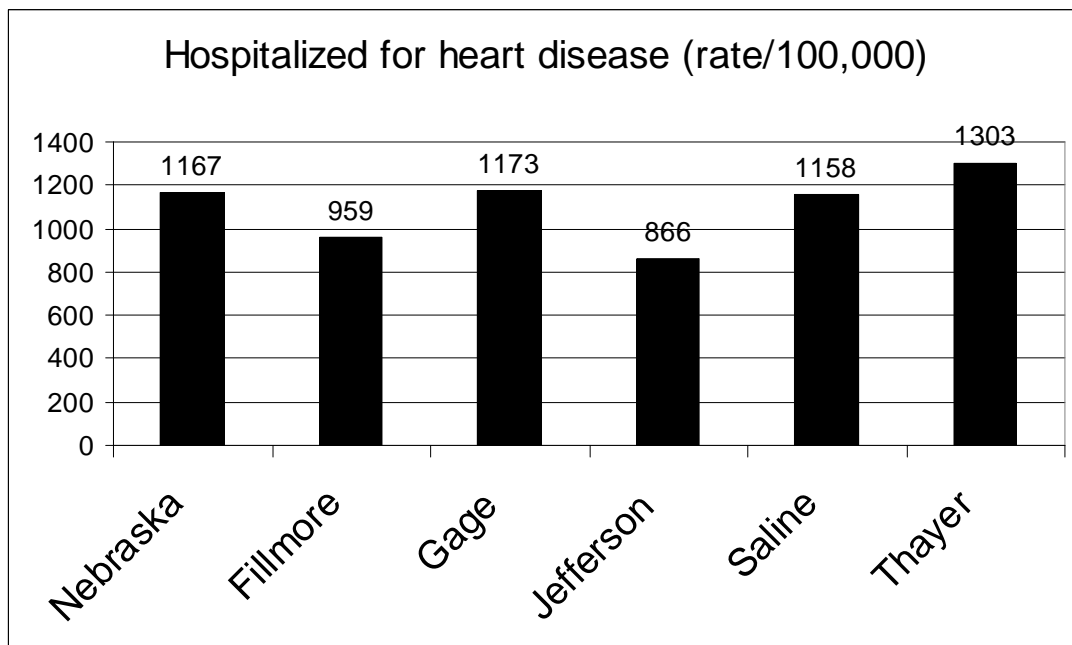


Figure G-3. Breast Cancer

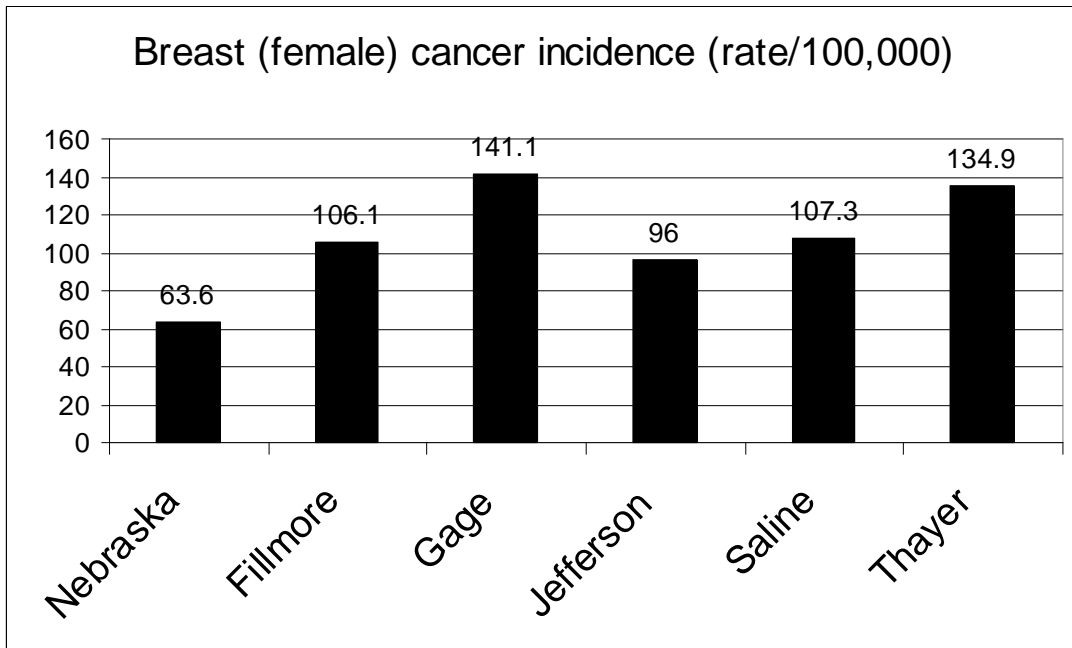


Figure G-4. Diabetes Deaths

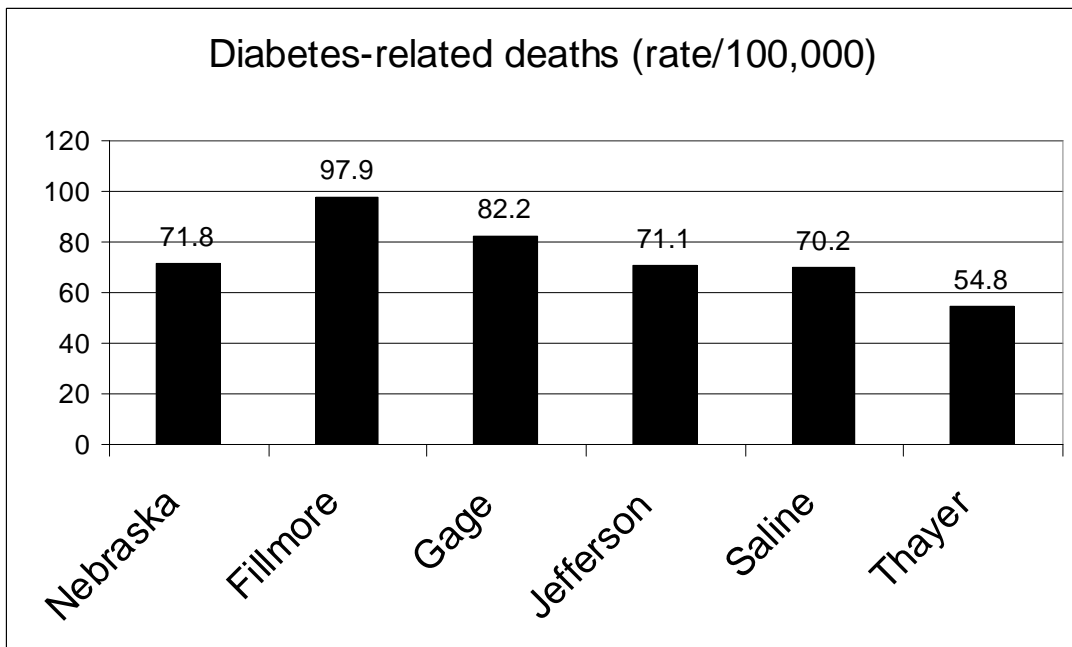


Figure G-7. Unintentional Injury Deaths

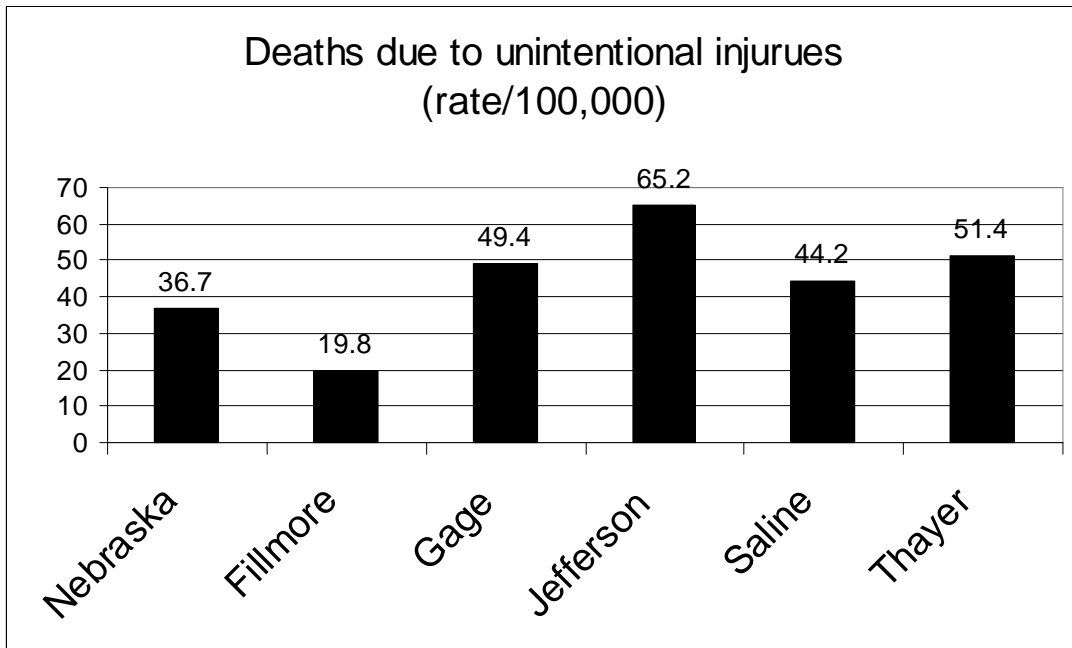


Figure G-8. Motor Vehicle Deaths

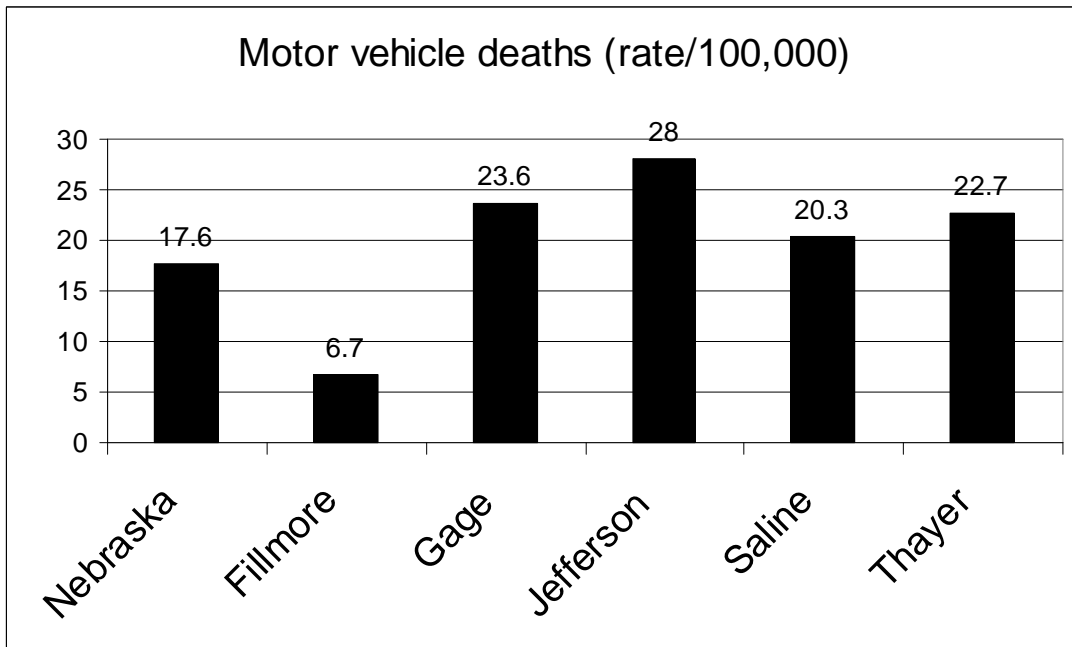


Figure G-9. Motor Vehicle Injuries

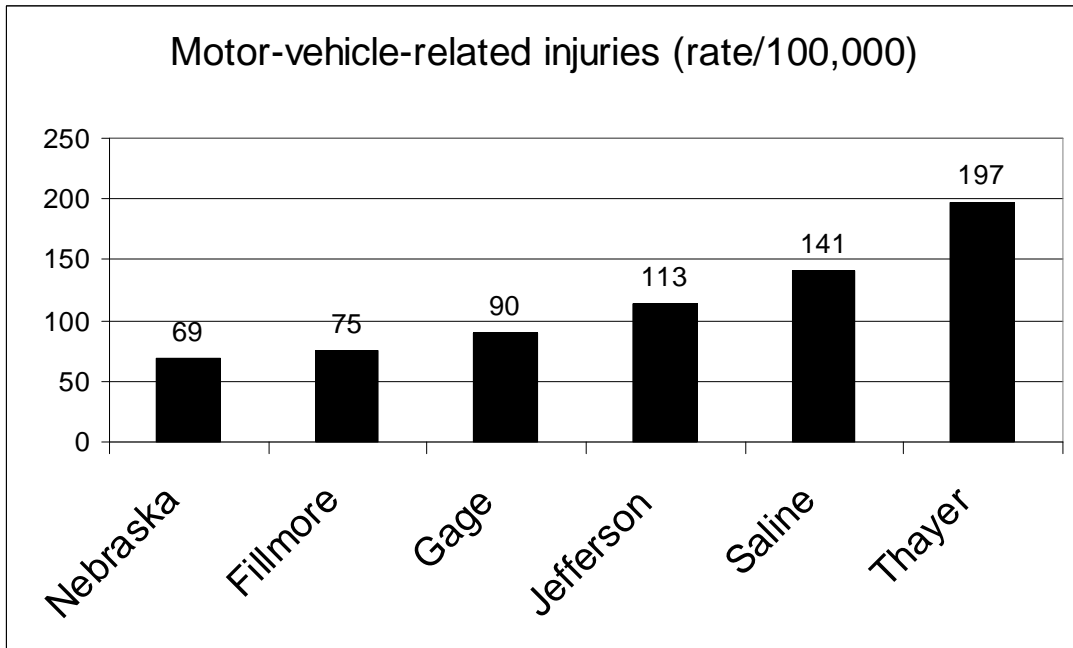


Figure G-10. Fall-Related Injuries

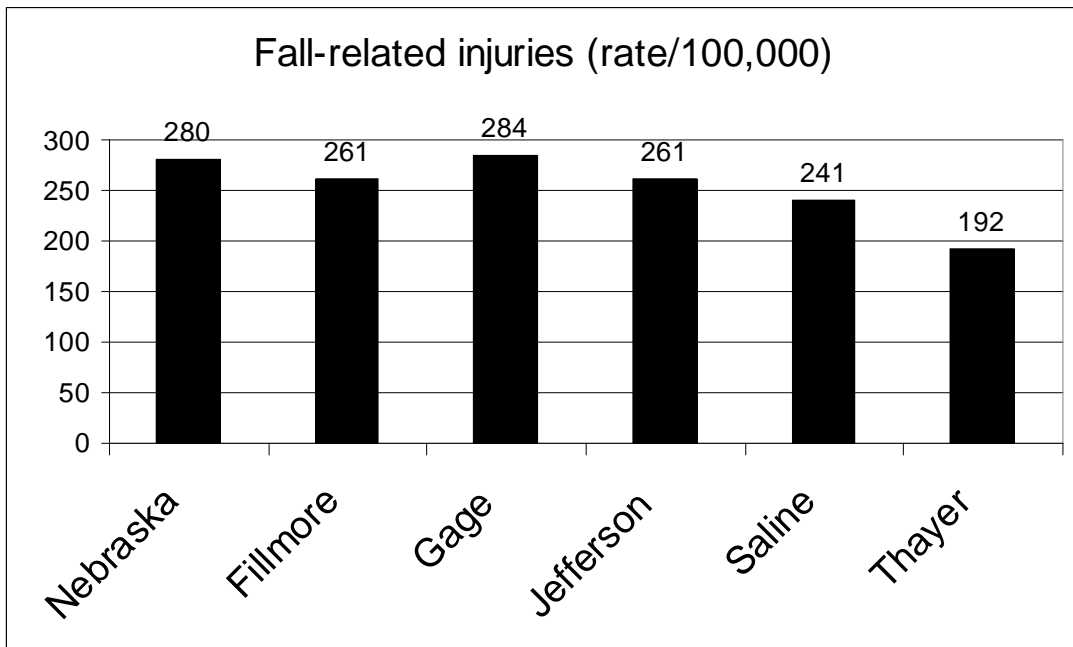


Figure G-11. Infant Deaths

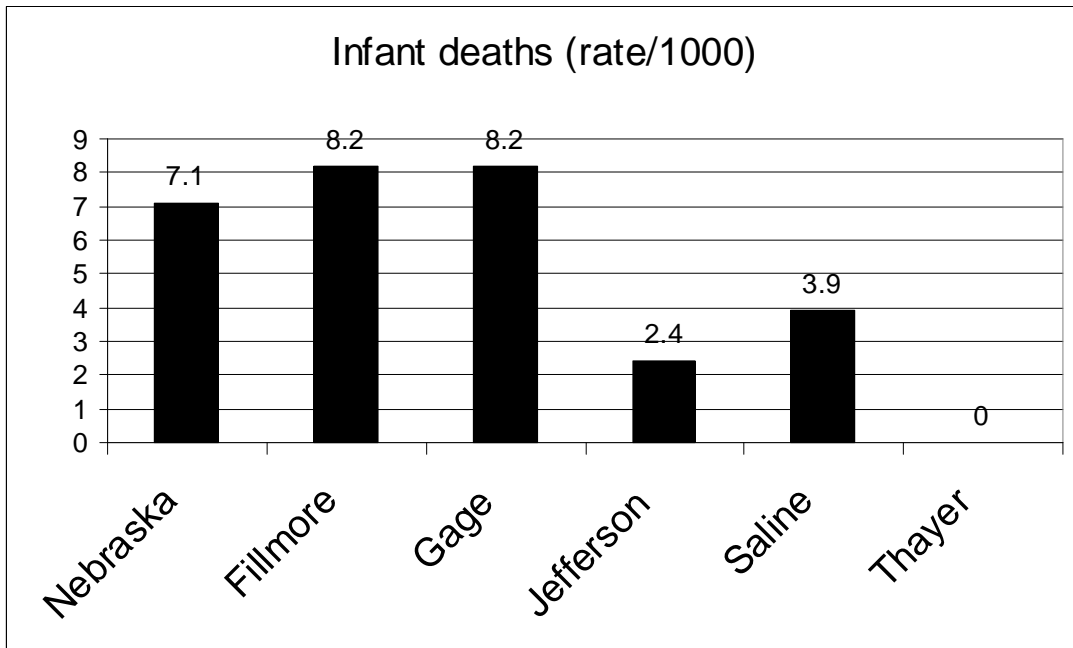


Figure G-12. Very Low Birth Weight Babies

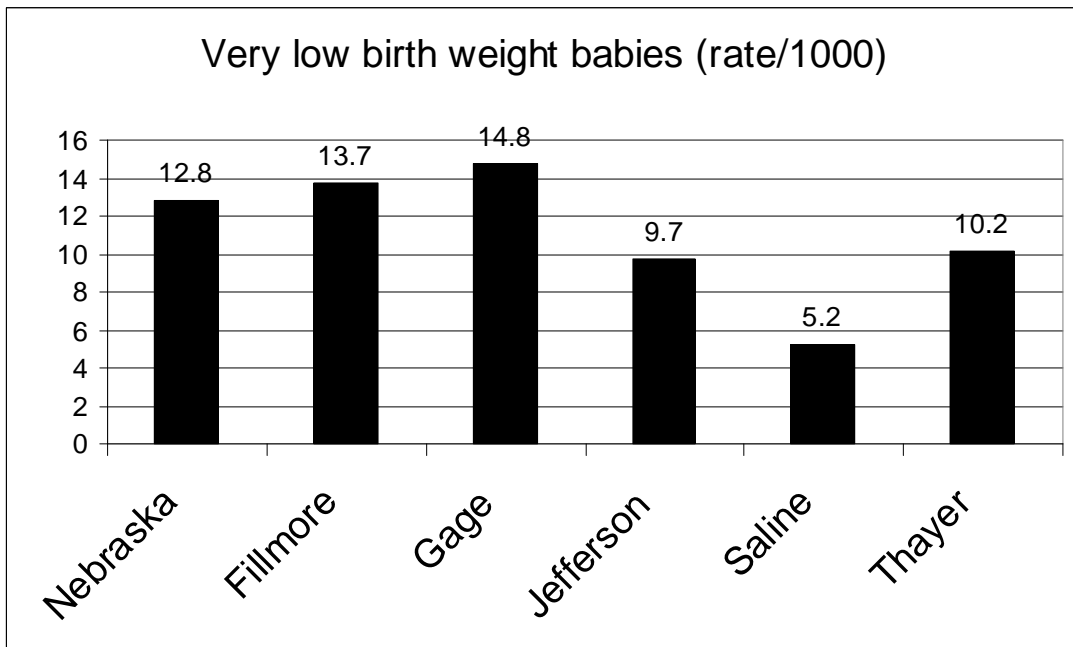


Figure G-17. Health Insurance

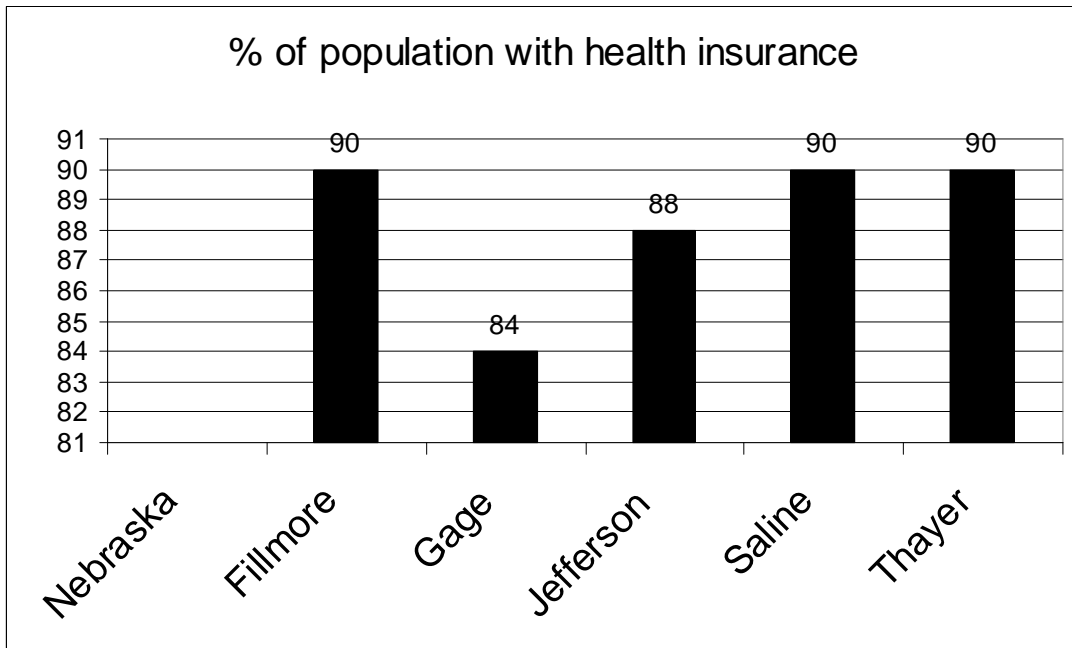
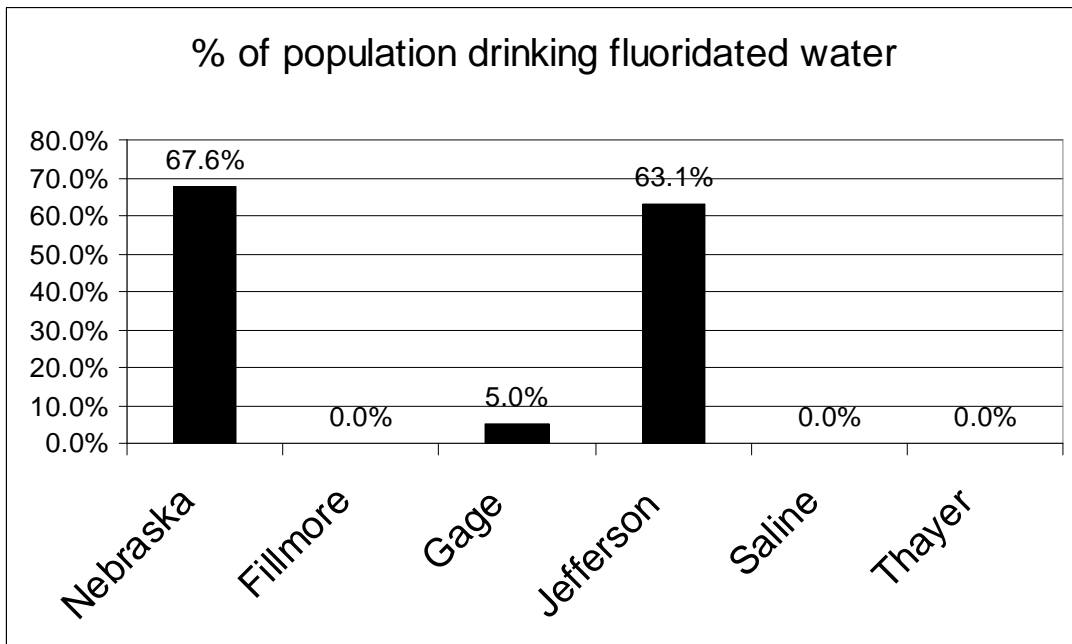


Figure G-18. Water Fluoridation



Jefferson County Key Indicators

Figure J-1. Heart Disease Deaths

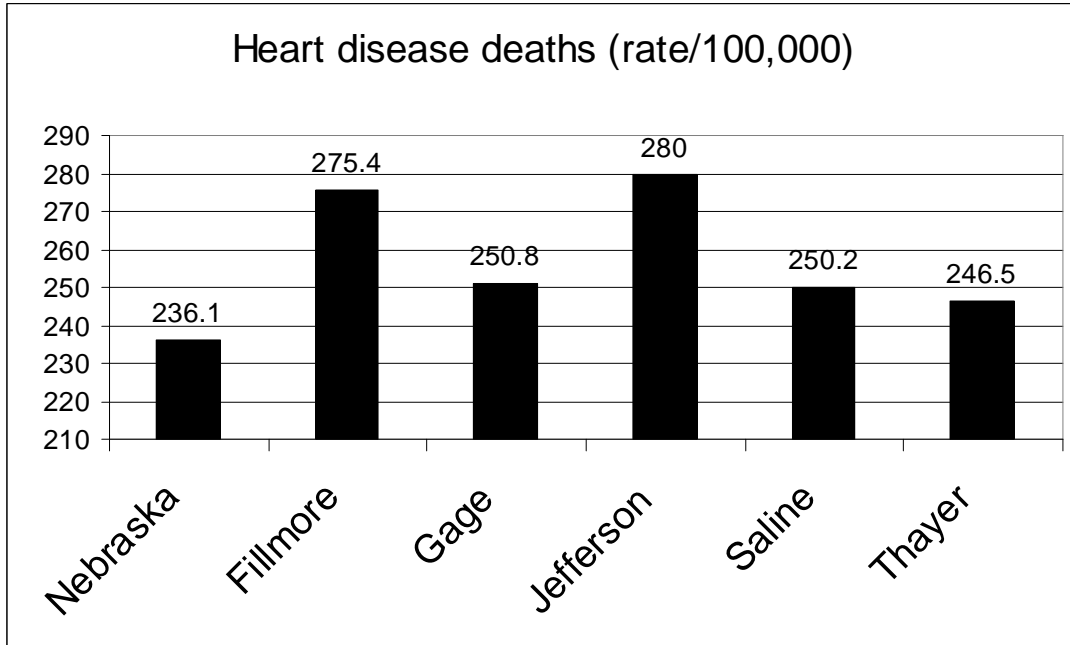


Figure J-2. Cancer Deaths

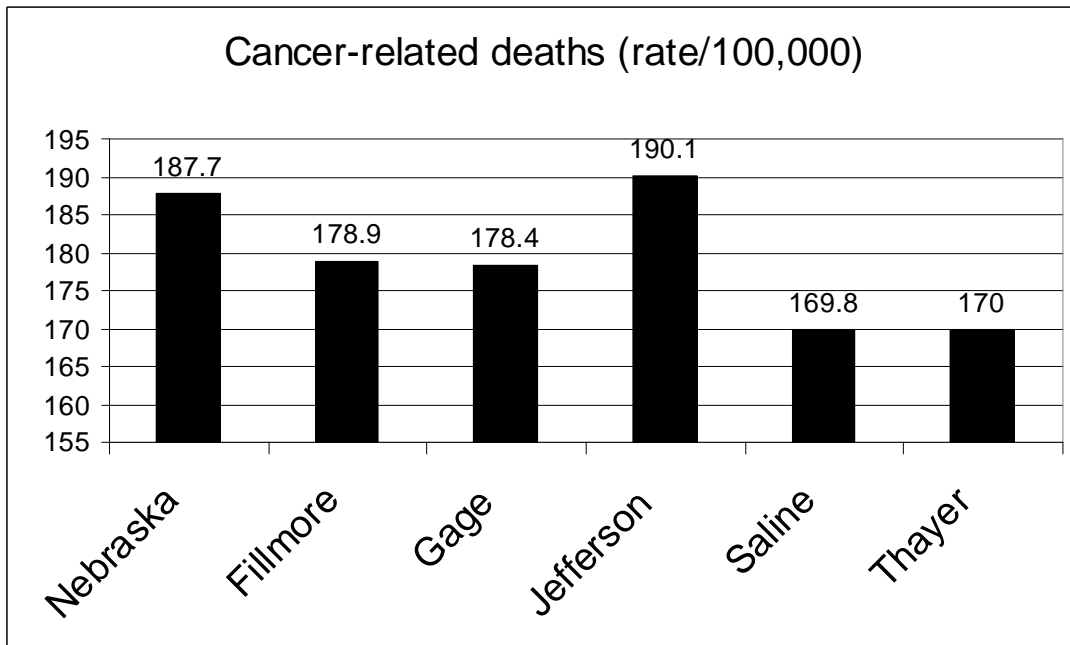


Figure J-5. Diabetes Deaths

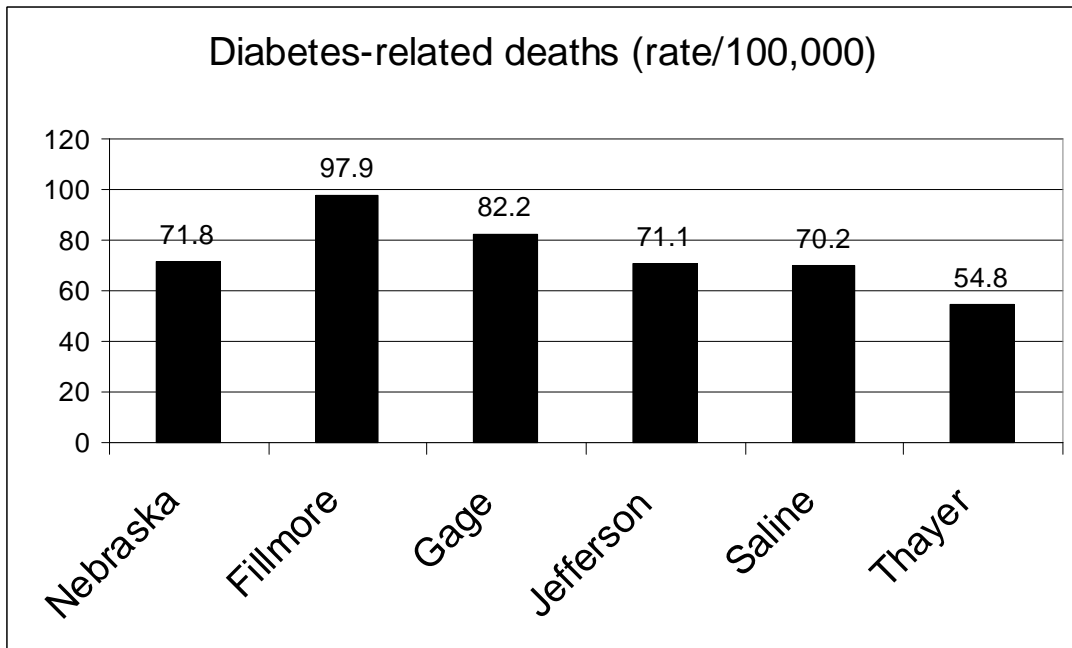


Figure J-6. Suicides

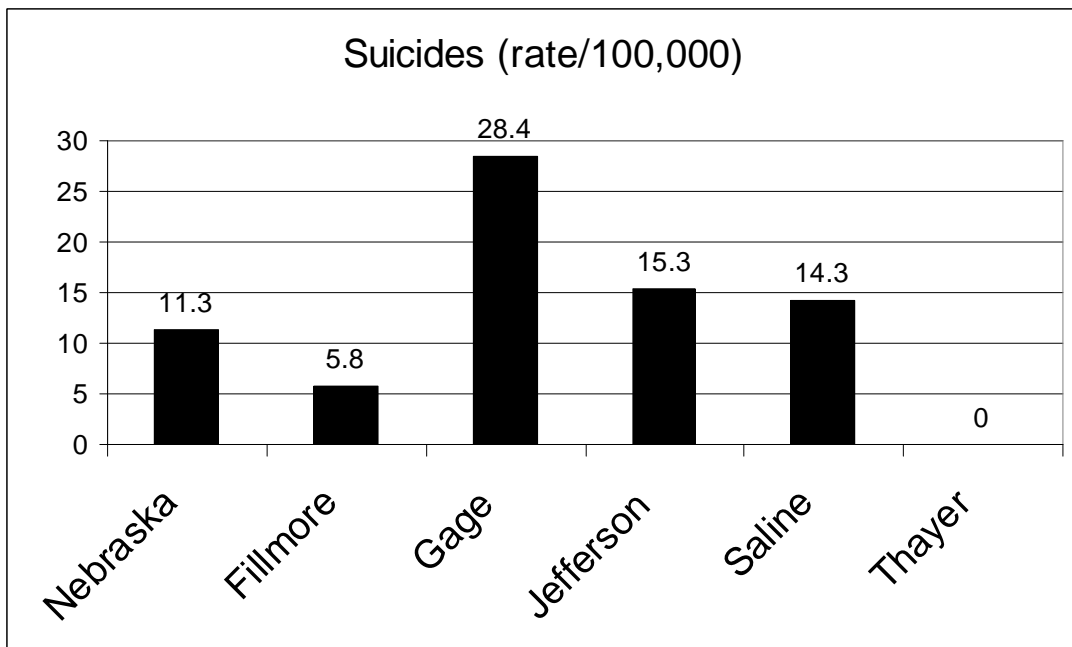


Figure J-7. Child Abuse / Neglect

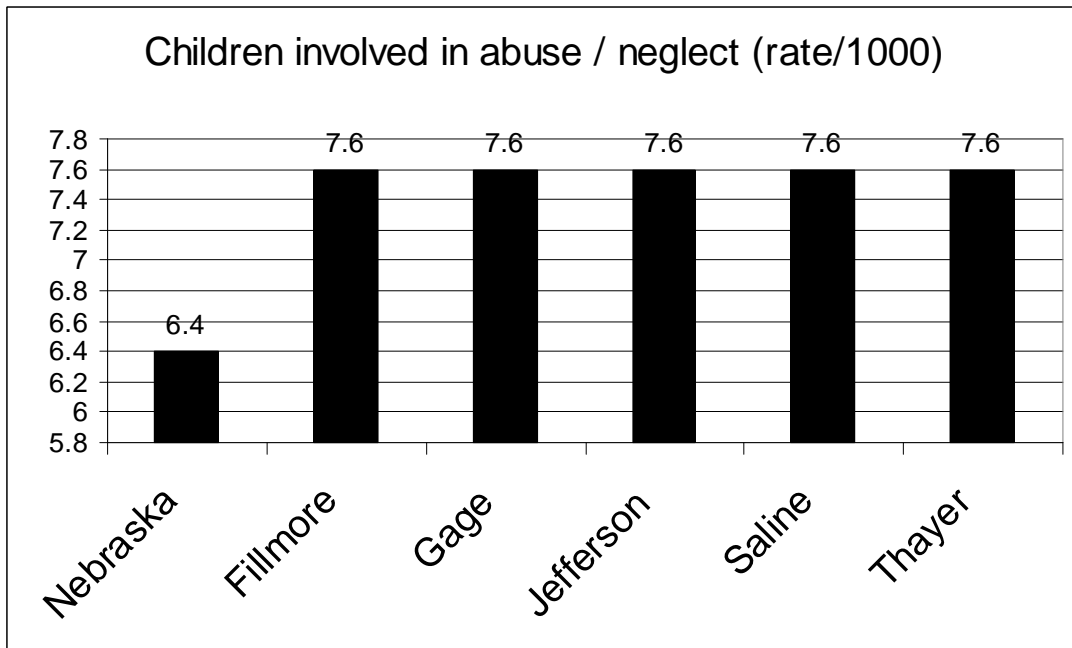


Figure J-8. Unintentional Injury Deaths

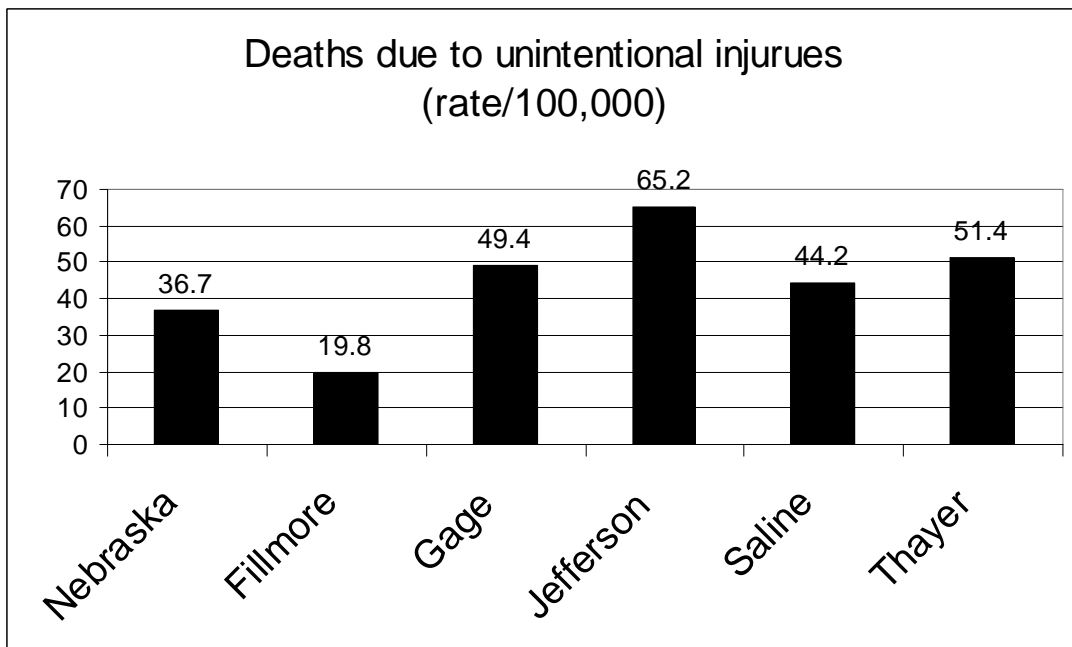


Figure J-9. Motor Vehicle Deaths

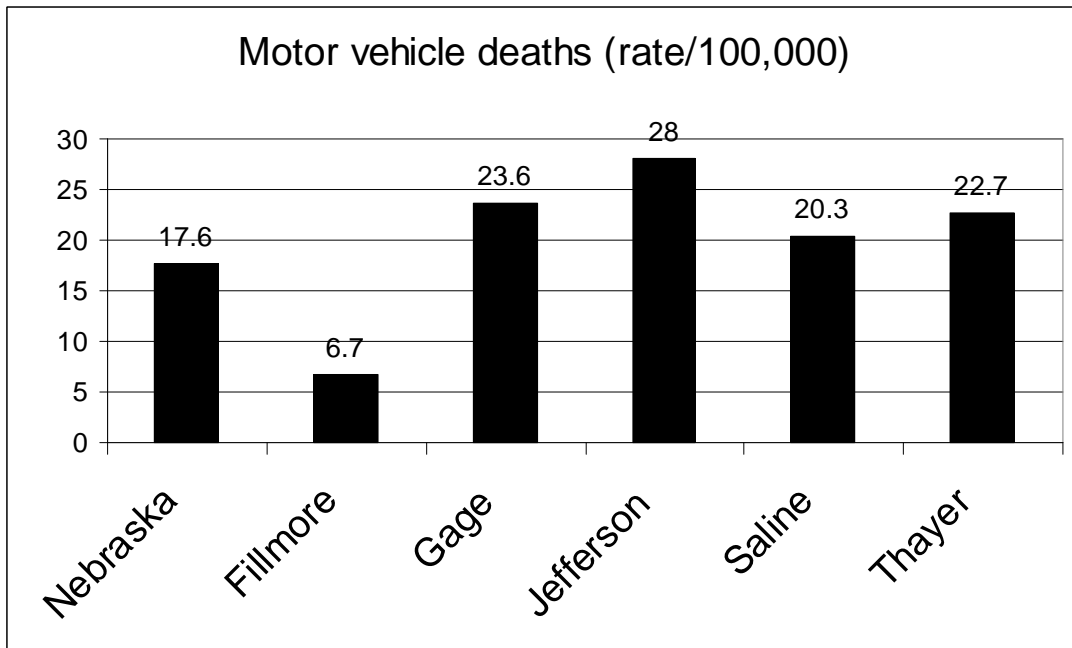


Figure J-10. Motor Vehicle Injuries

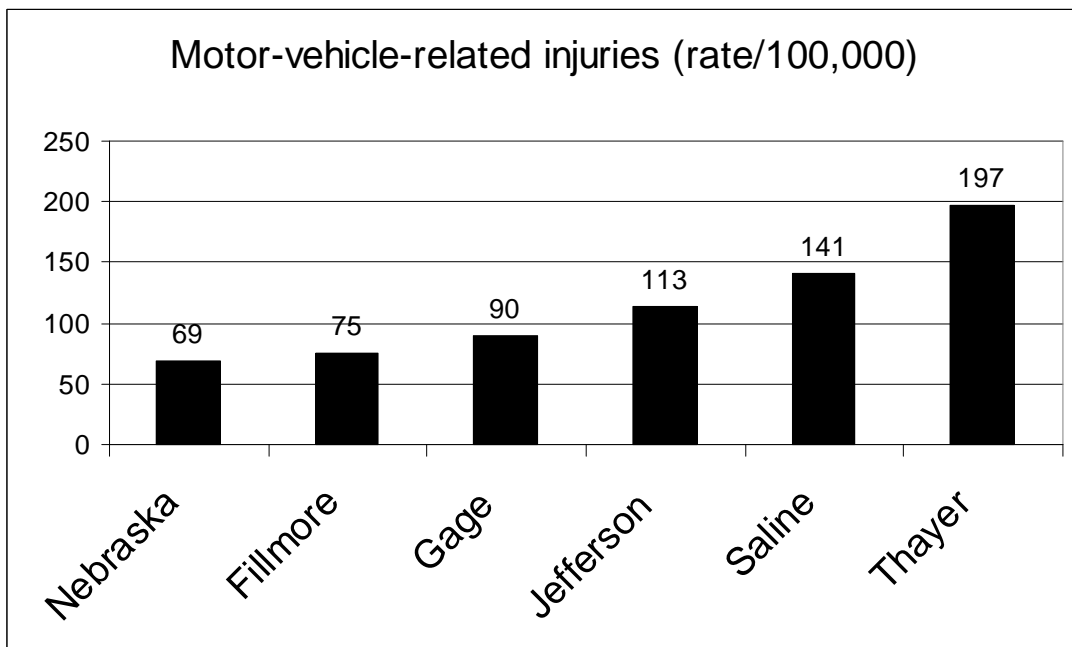


Figure J-11. Prenatal Care

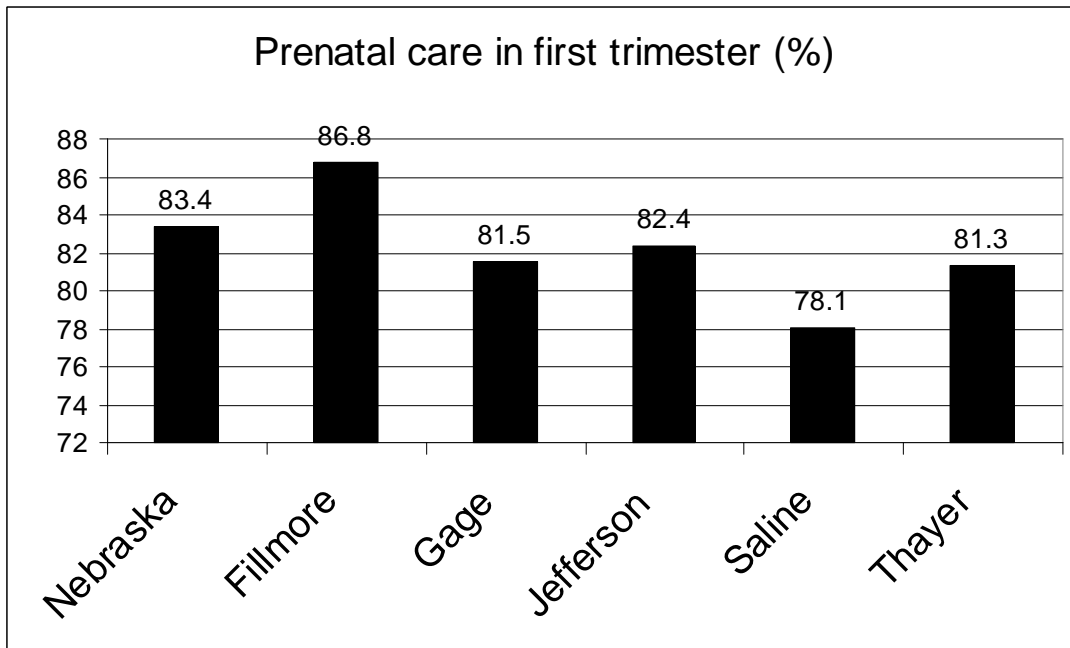
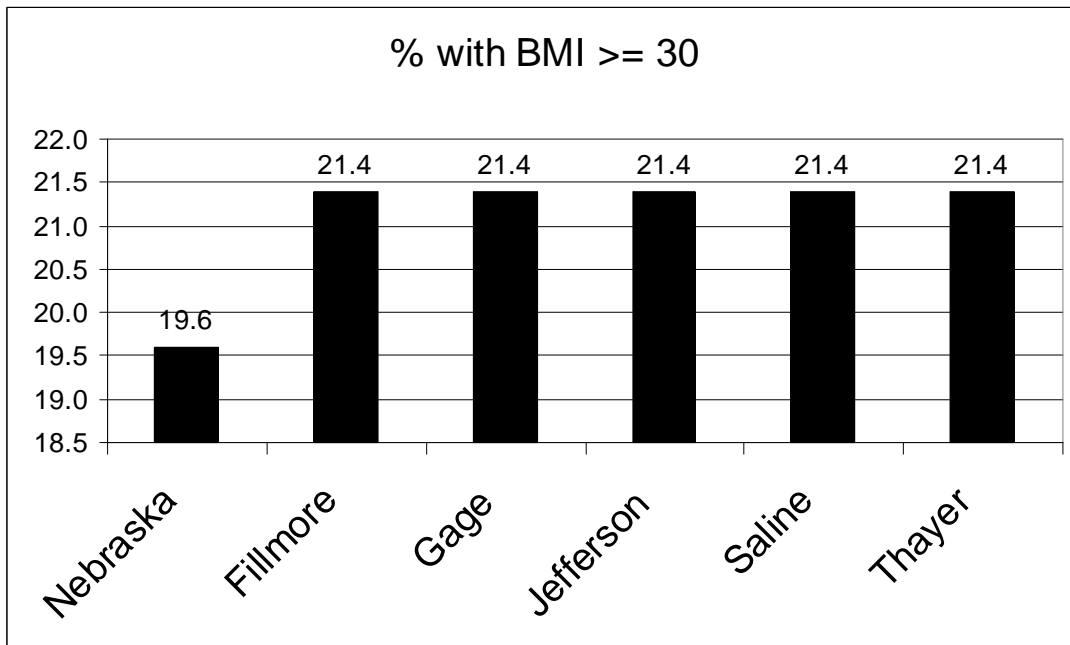


Figure J-12. Obesity



Saline County Key Indicators

Figure S-1. Heart Disease Deaths

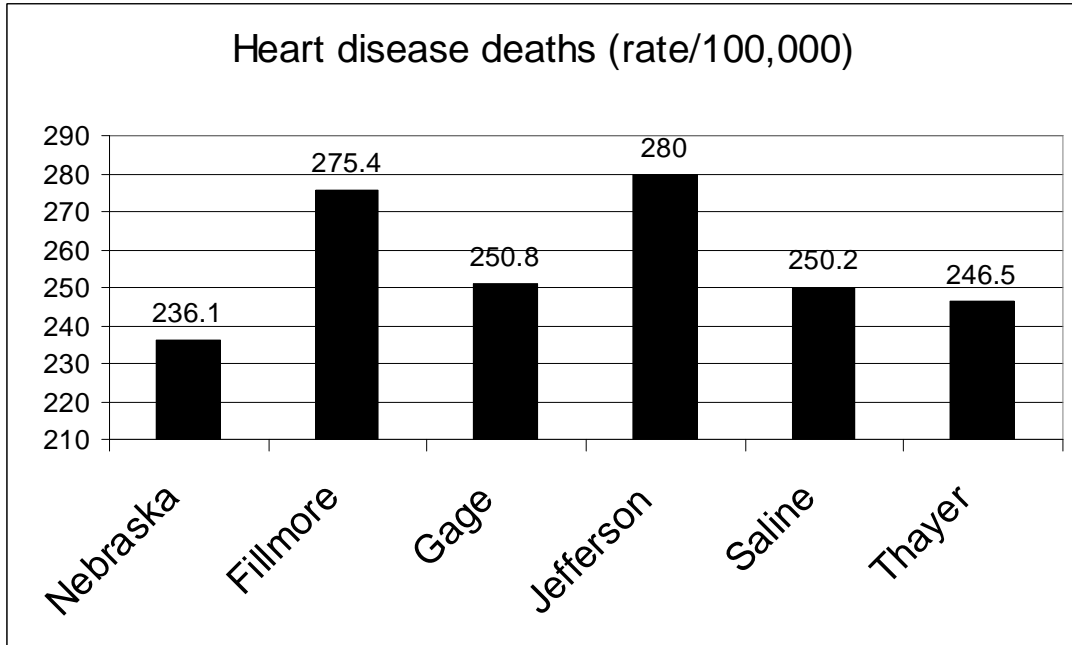


Figure S-2. Heart Disease Hospitalization

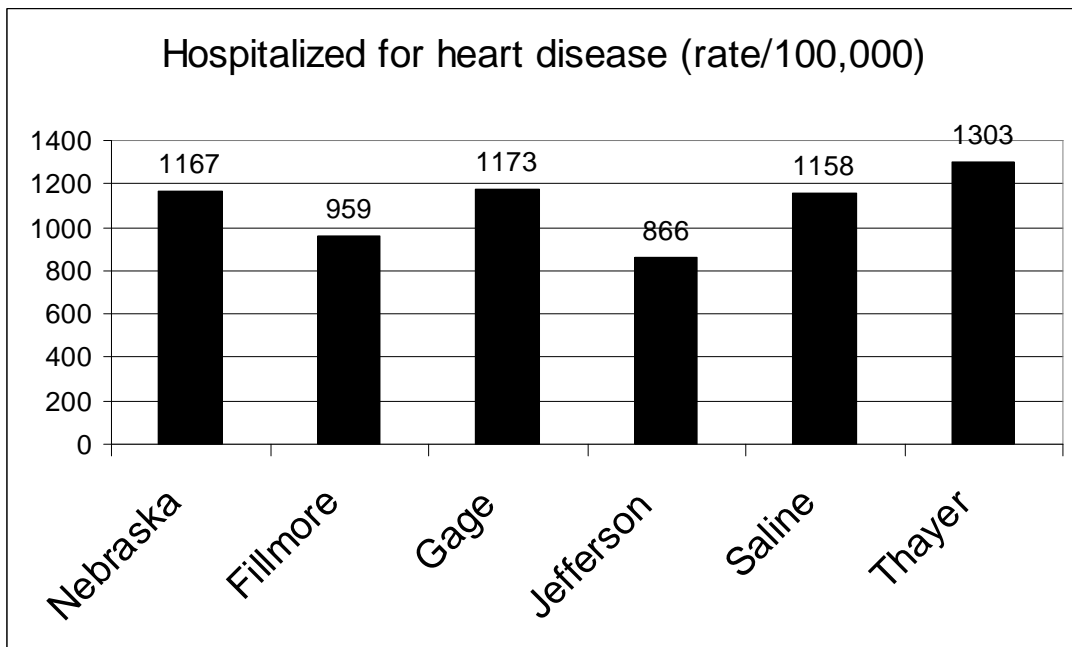


Figure S-3. Breast Cancer

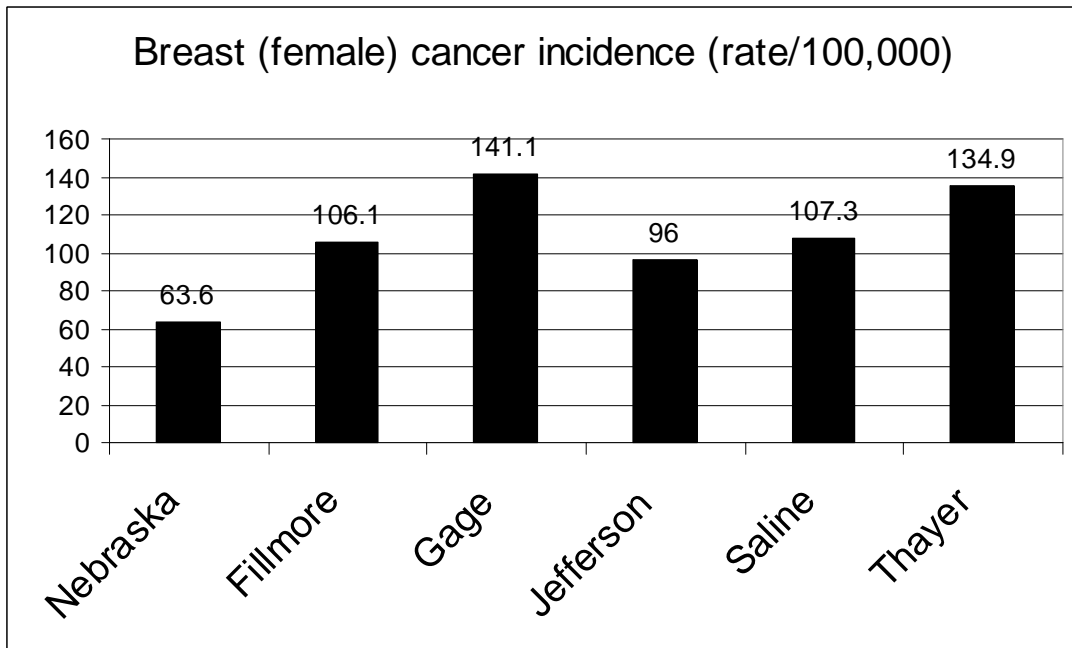


Figure S-4. Prostate Cancer

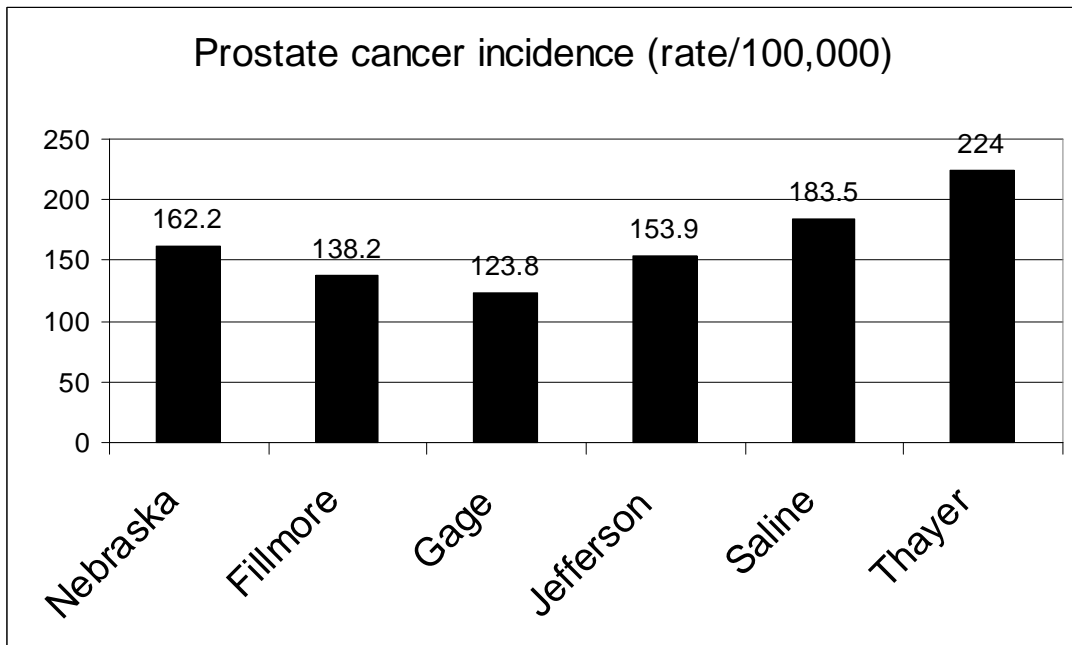


Figure S-5. Colorectal Cancer

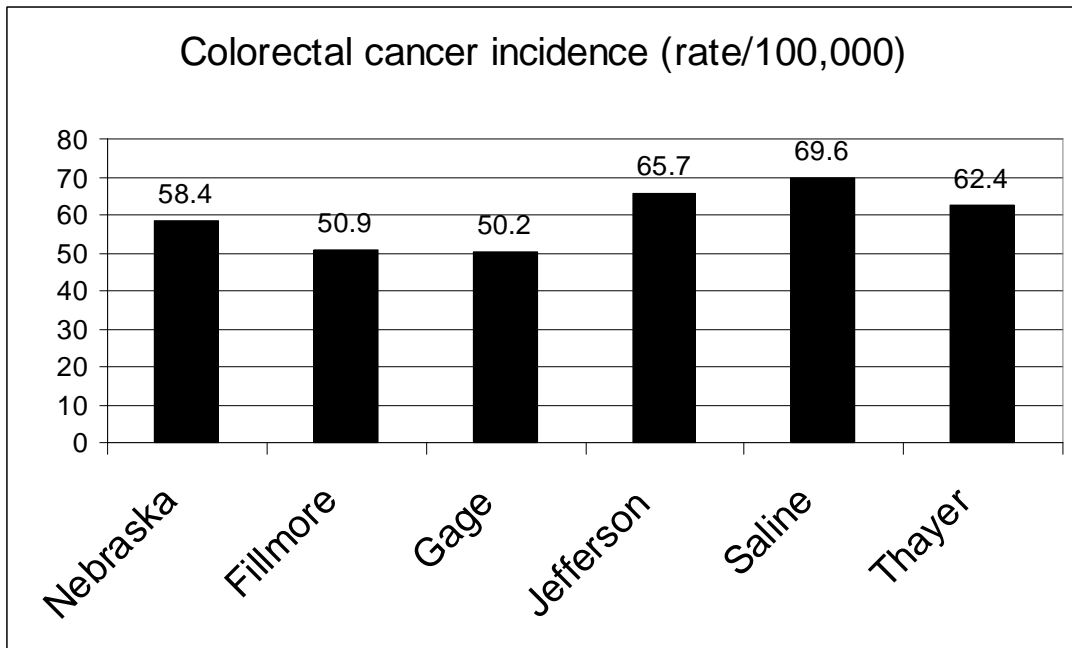


Figure S-6. Diabetes Deaths

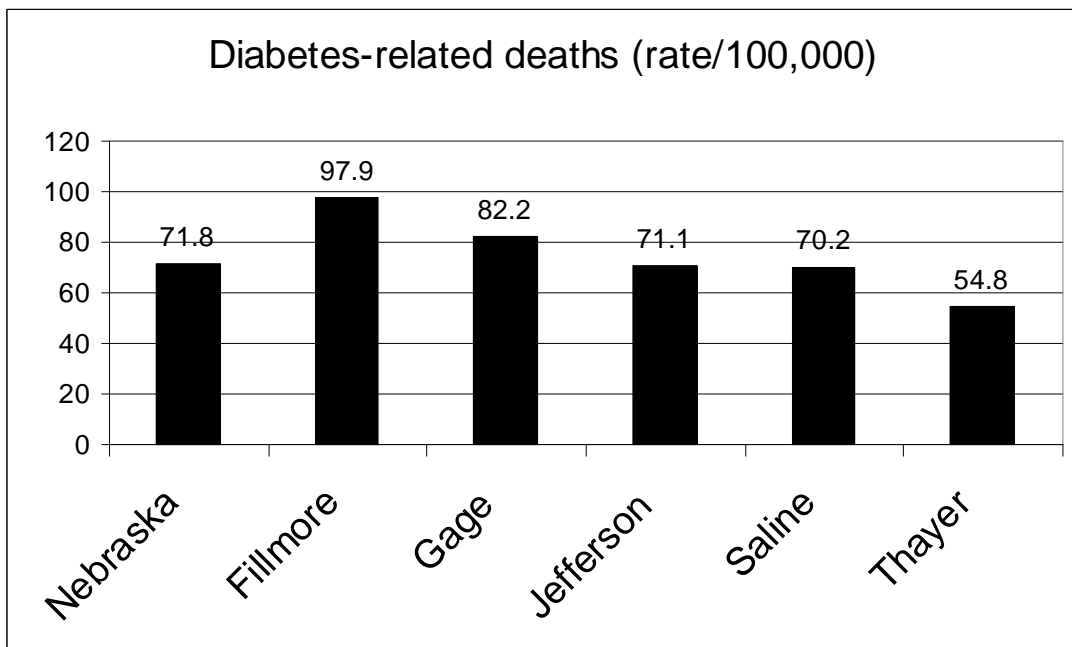


Figure S-9. Child Abuse / Neglect

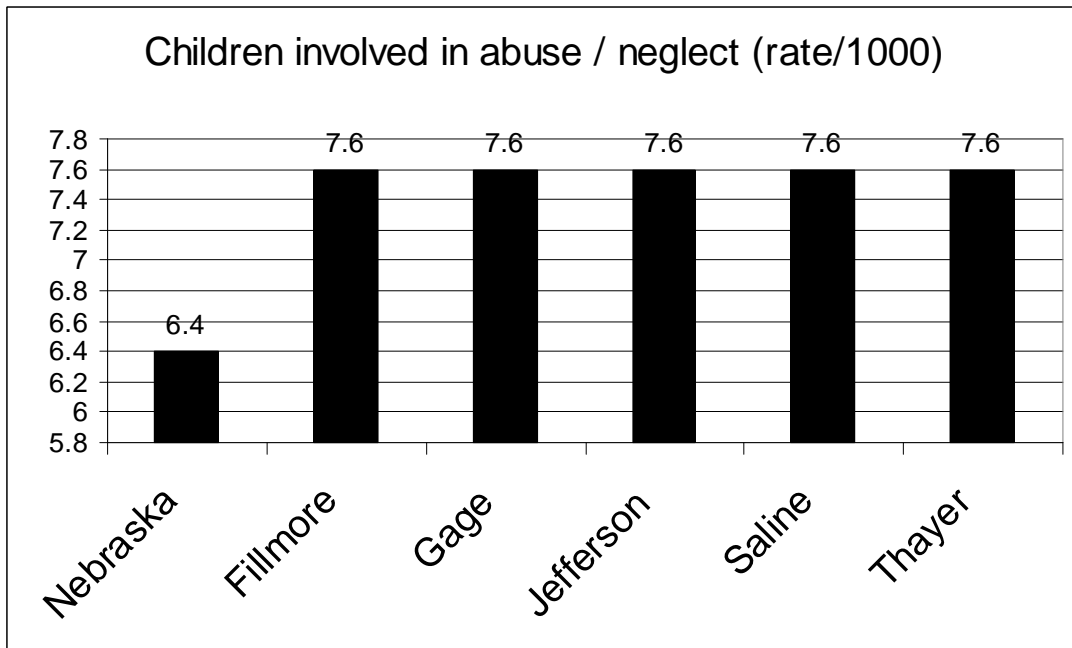


Figure S-10. Unintentional Injury Deaths

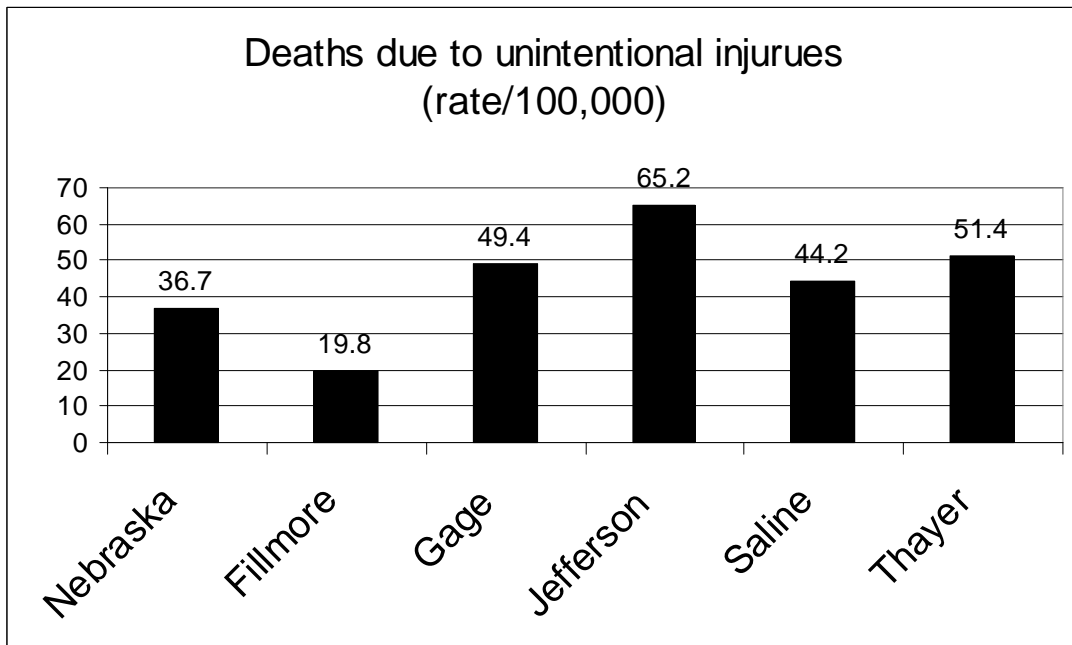


Figure S-11. Motor Vehicle Deaths

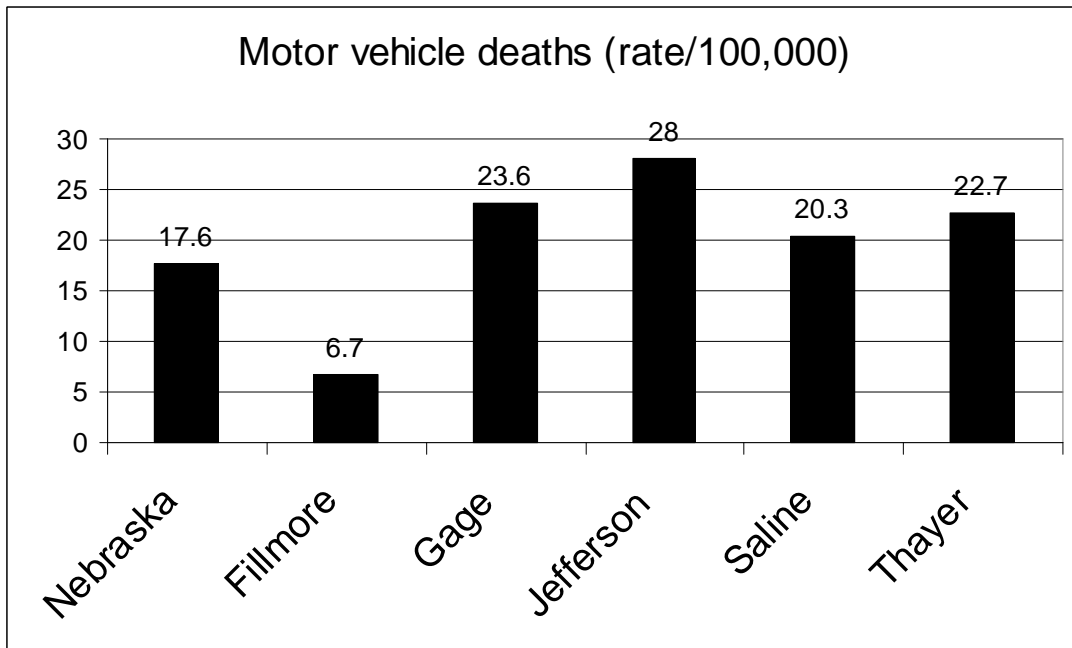


Figure S-12. Motor Vehicle Injuries

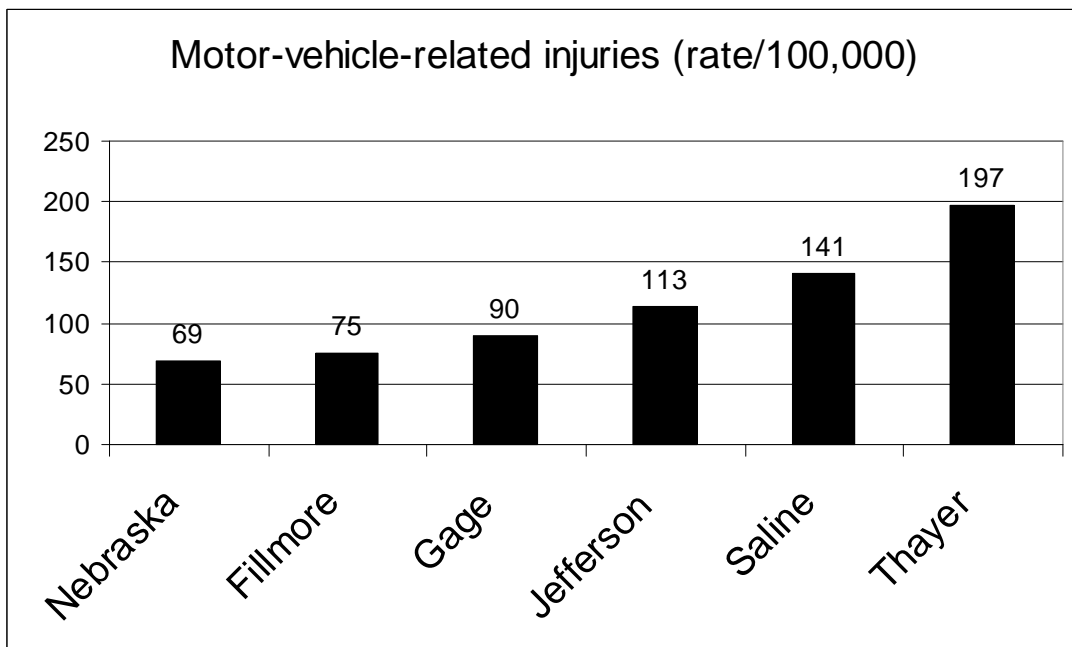


Figure S-15. Physical Activity

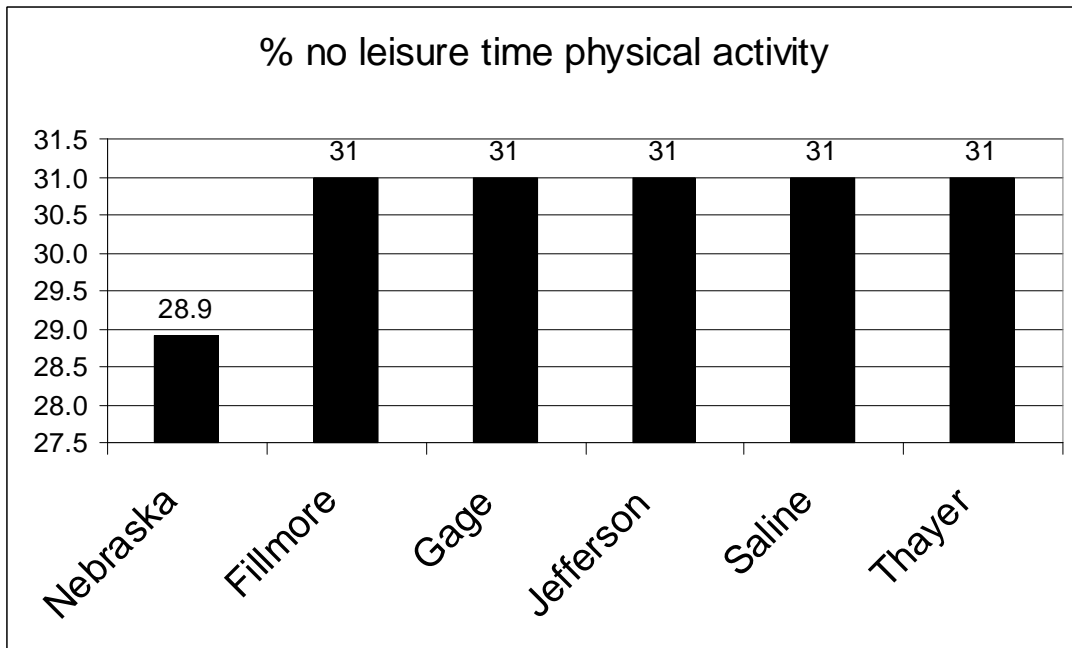


Figure S-16. Youth Activities

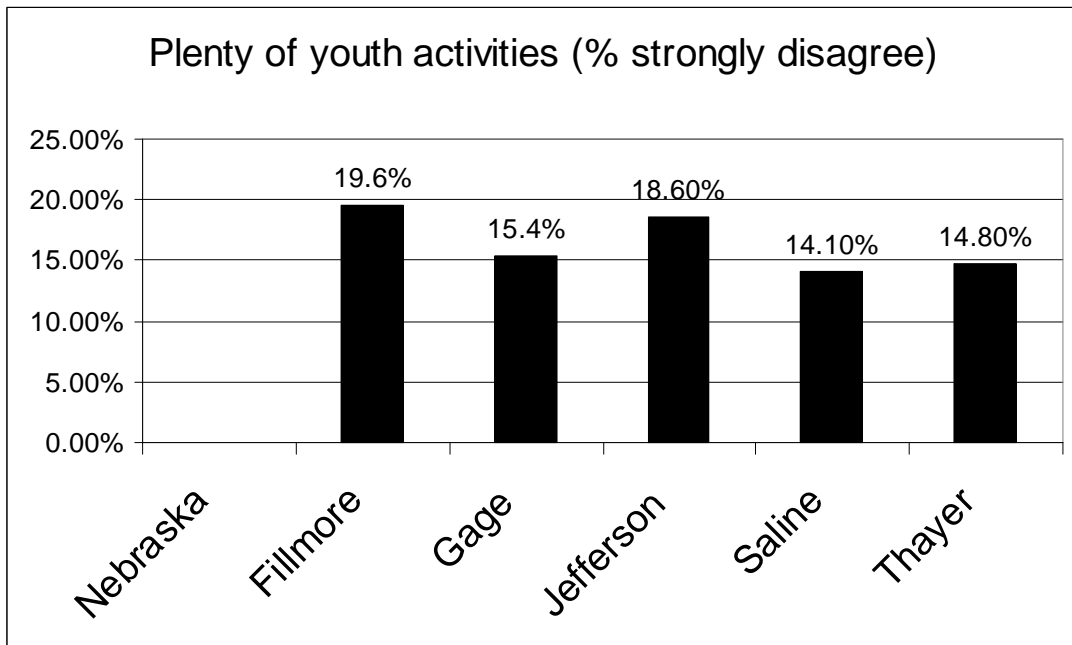


Figure S-17. Exercise Facilities

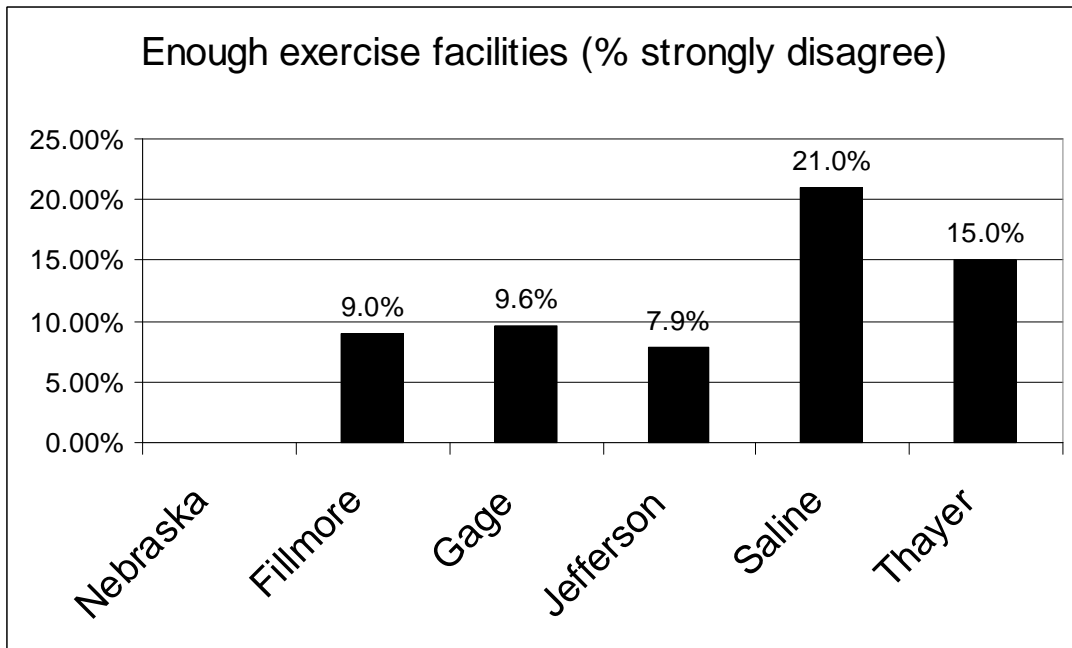
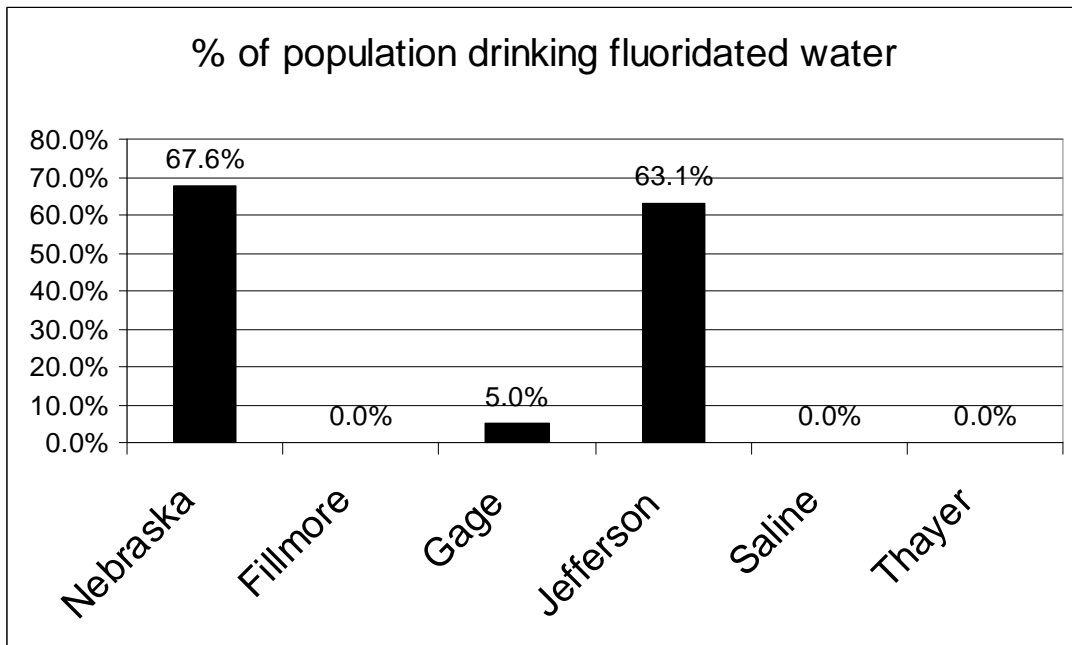


Figure S-18. Water Fluoridation



Thayer County Key Indicators

Figure T-1. Heart Disease Deaths

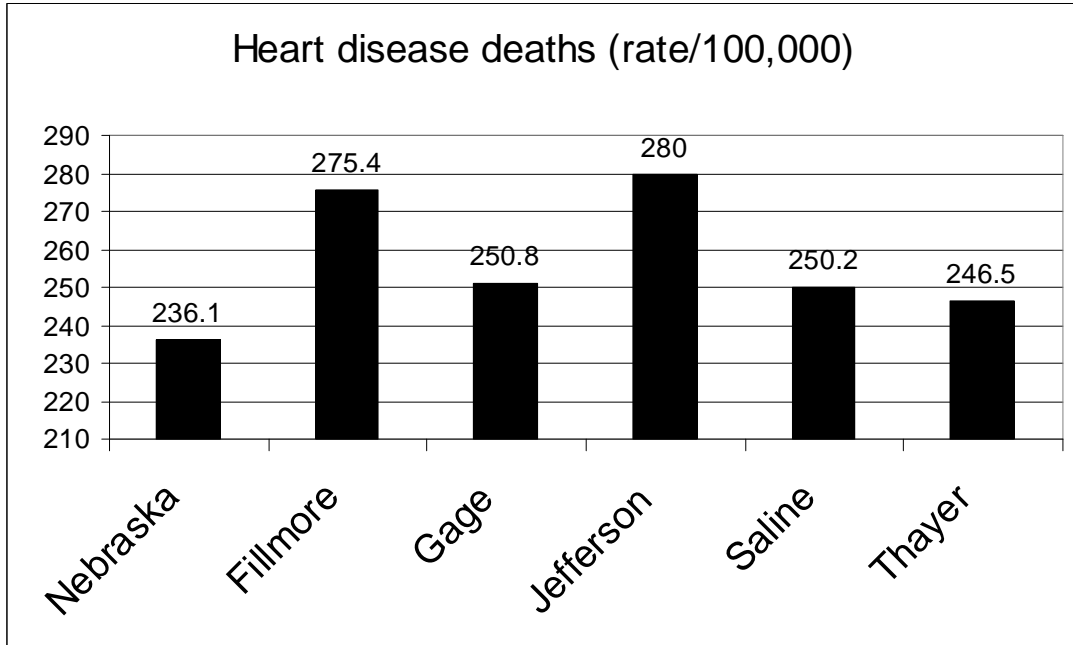


Figure T-2. Heart Disease Hospitalization

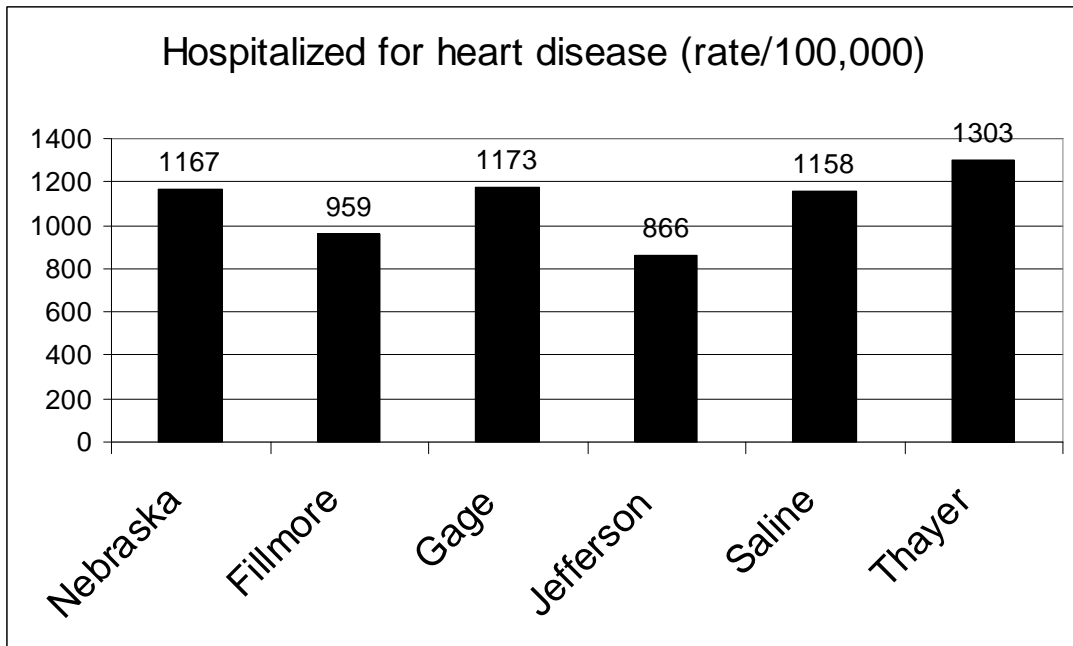


Figure T-3. Breast Cancer

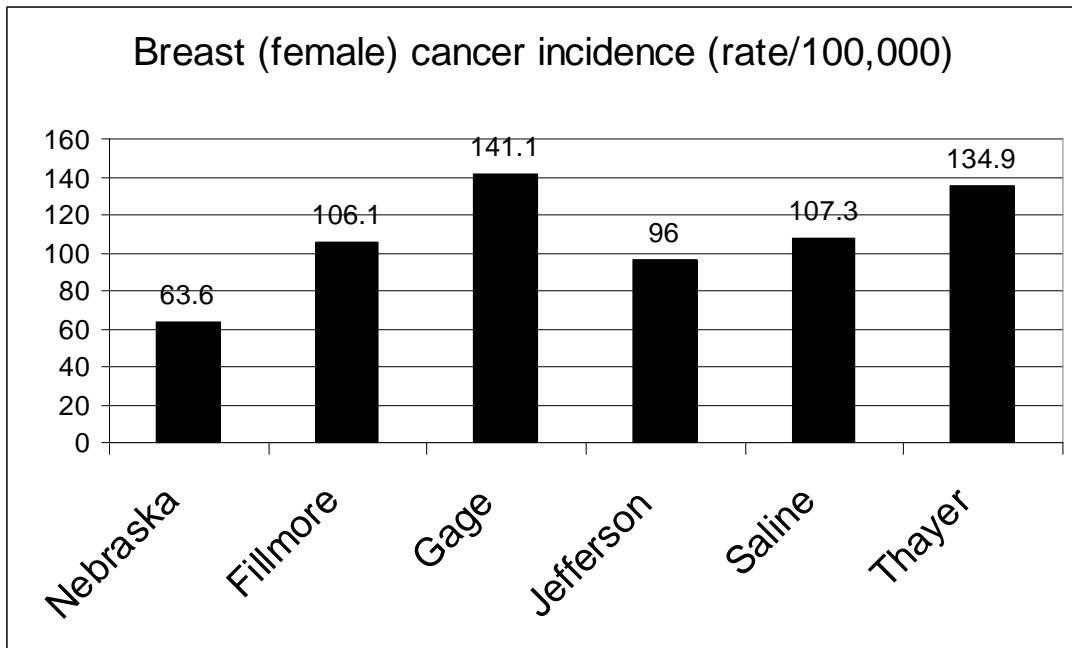


Figure T-4. Prostate Cancer

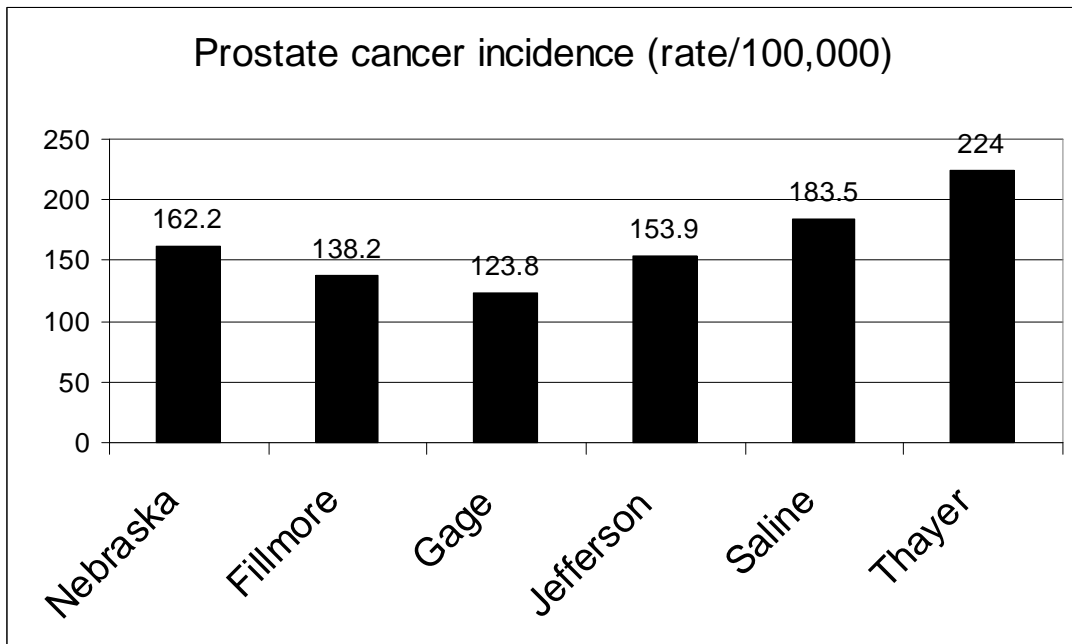


Figure T-7. Unintentional Injury Deaths

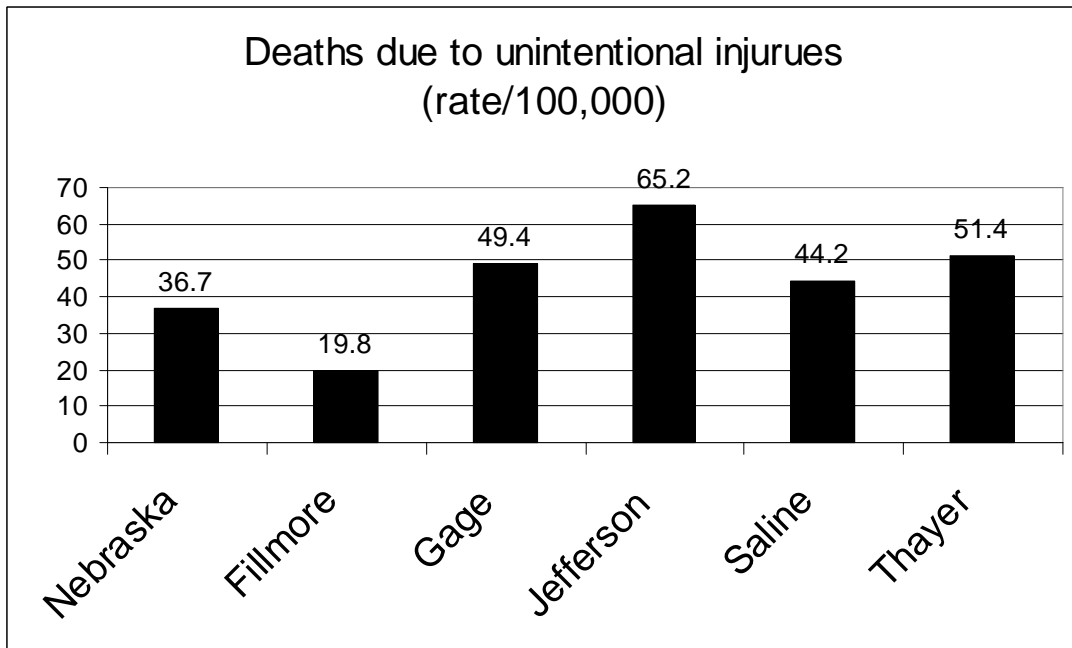


Figure T-8. Motor Vehicle Deaths

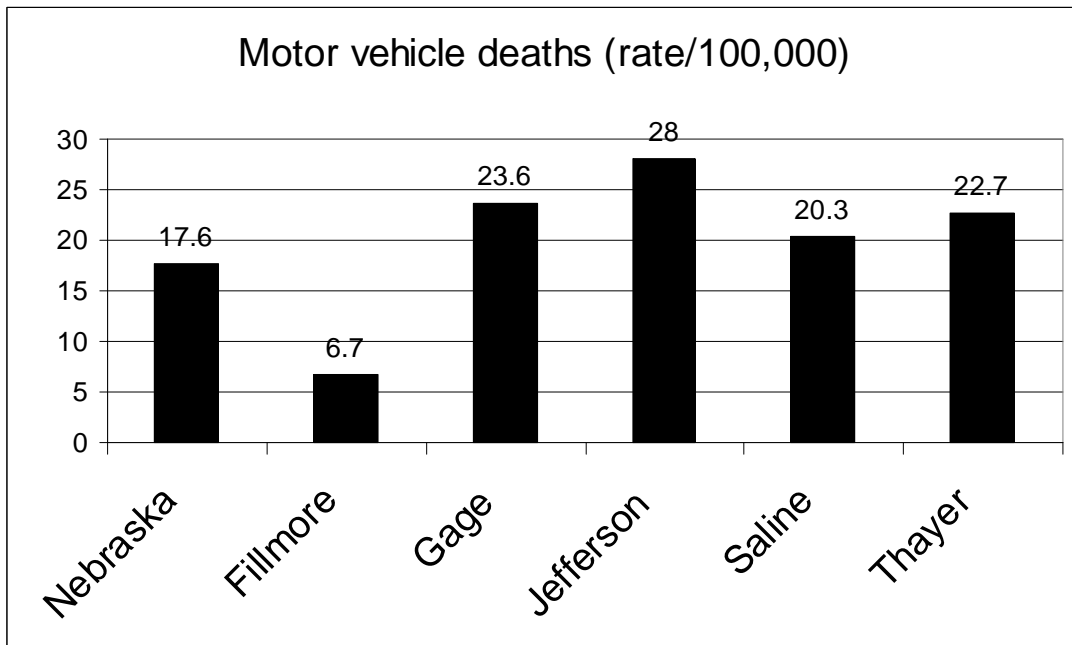


Figure T-9. Motor Vehicle Injuries

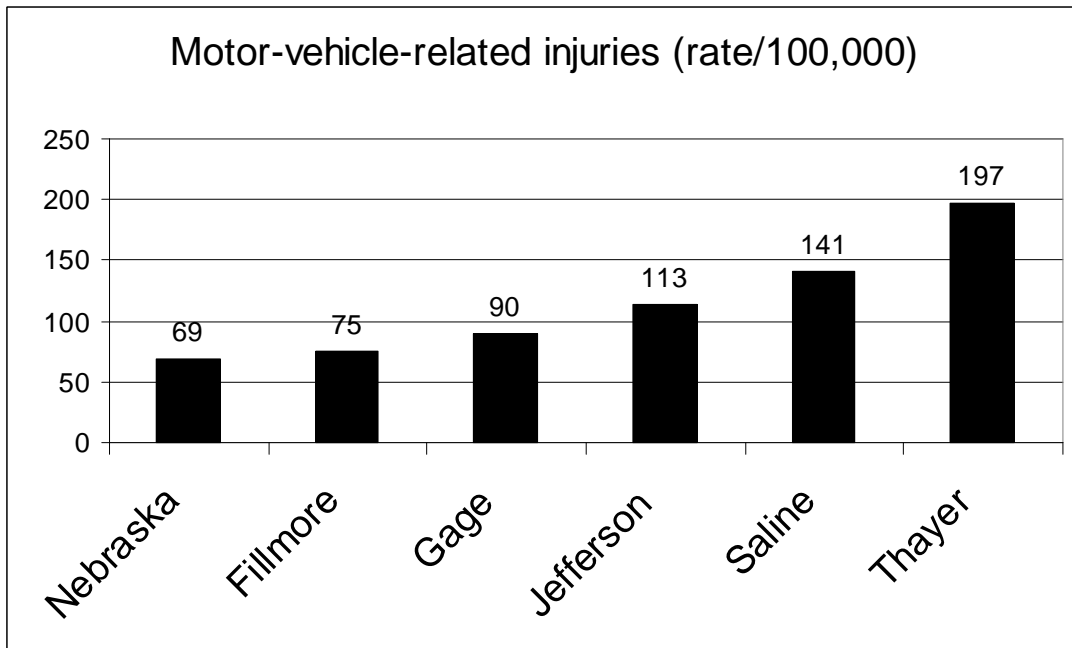


Figure T-10. Prenatal Care

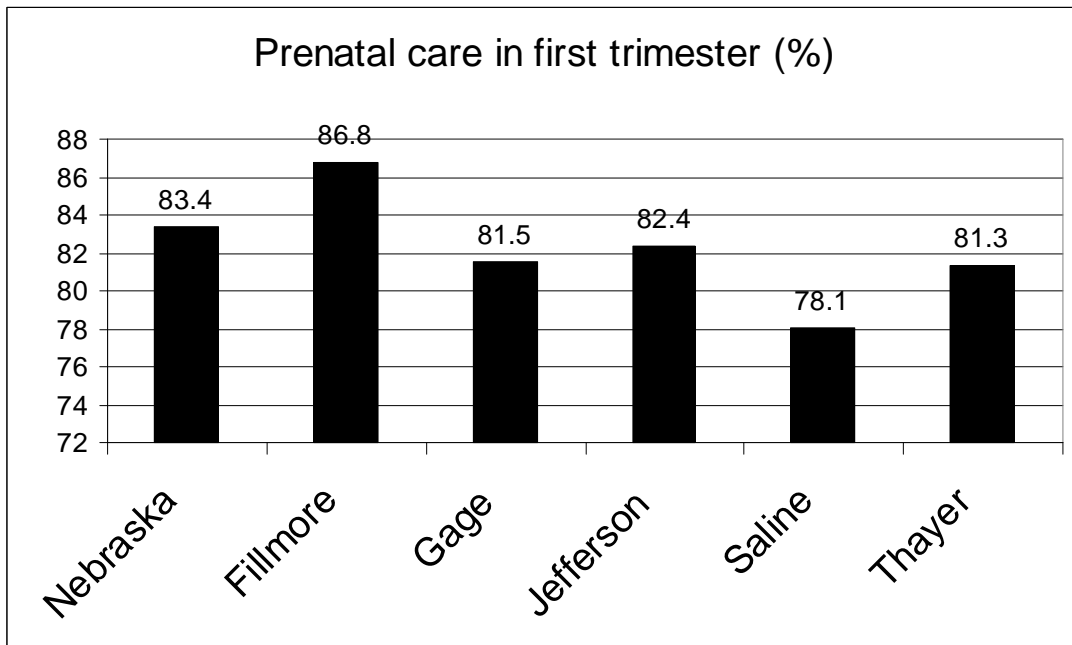


Figure T-11. Obesity

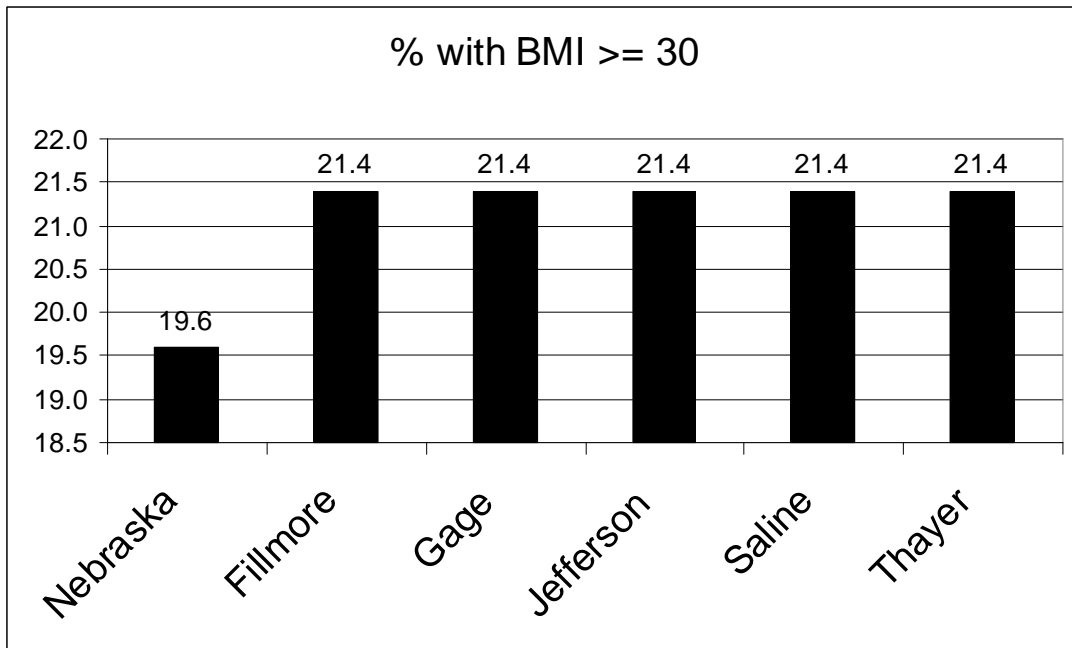


Figure T-12. Physical Activity

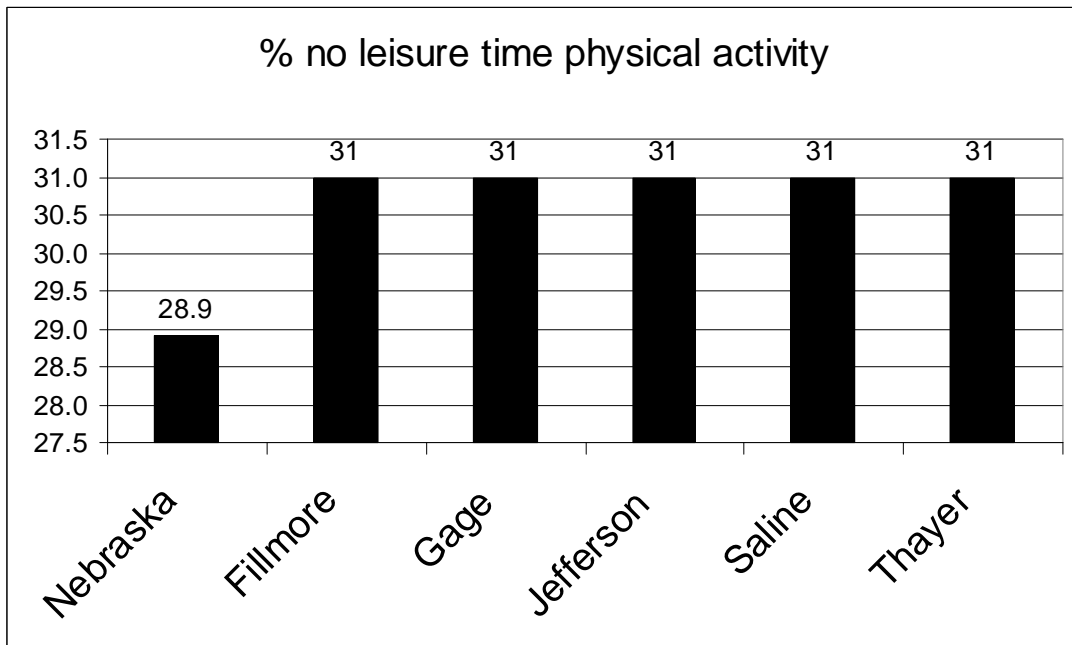


Figure T-13. Youth Activities

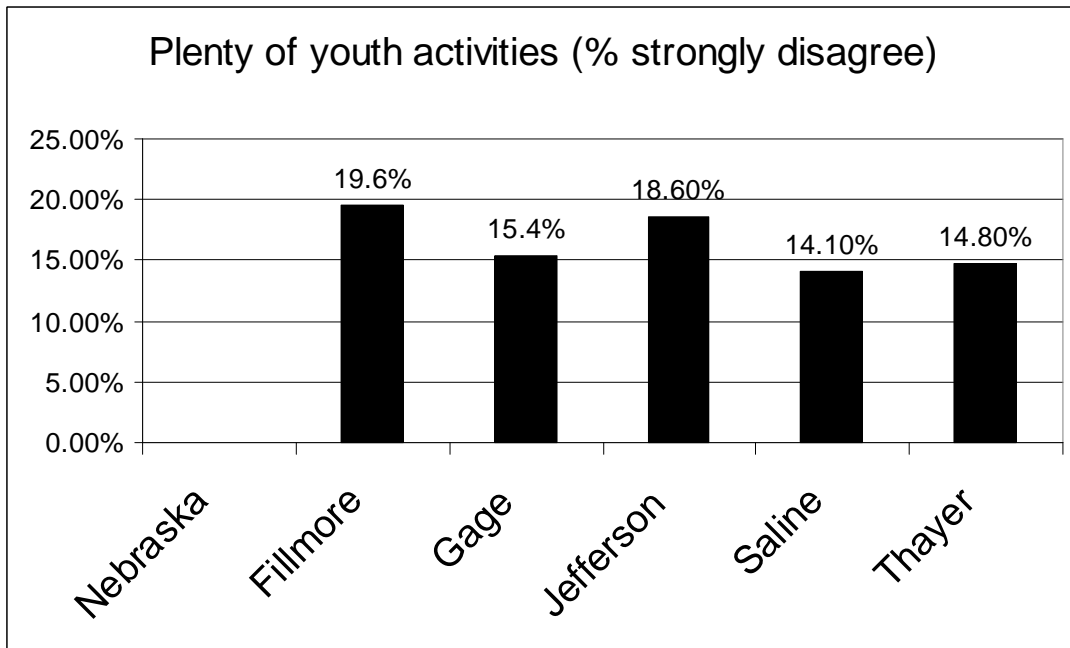
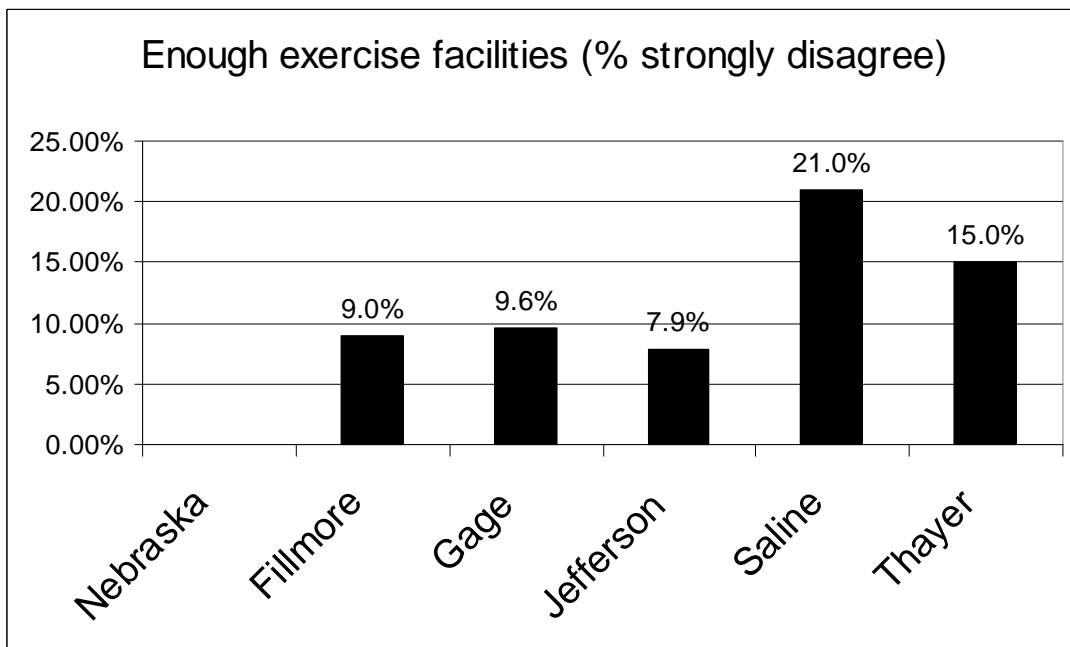


Figure T-14. Exercise Facilities



Community-Perceived Needs

Table 4. What is the greatest health concern facing your community?

Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer
Don't Know Drugs	Don't Know Drugs	Don't Know Health insurance /Access	Don't Know Health Insurance / Access	Don't Know Health Insurance / Access
Health Insurance / Access	Health Insurance / Access	Drugs	Drugs	Cancer/ Heart Disease
Cancer/ Heart Disease	Cancer/ Heart Disease	Water/ Chemical Pollution	Water/ Chemical Pollution	Drugs
Water/ Chemical Pollution	Water/ Chemical Pollution	Elderly Issues	Cancer/ Heart Disease	Elderly Issues
Elderly Issues	West Nile Virus / SARS	Other Disease/ Illnesses	Elderly Issues	West Nile Virus/ SARS

Outcome Indicators

Table 5. Cancer

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
Cancer-related deaths (rate/100,000)	187.7	178.9	178.4	190.1	169.8	170	147
Hospitalized for any type of cancer (rate/100,000)	374	381	302	314	338	368	
Lung and bronchus cancer incidence (rate/100,000)	463.4	57.3	46.9	43.5	55.2	34.6	
Breast (female) cancer incidence (rate/100,000)	63.6	106.1	141.1	96	107.3	134.9	
Prostate cancer incidence (rate/100,000)	162.2	138.2	123.8	153.9	183.5	224	
Colorectal cancer incidence (rate/100,000)	58.4	50.9	50.2	65.7	69.6	62.4	
Cancer is the greatest health concern facing my community (% stated, top of mind)		14.8	11.2	8.4	12	12.9	

Table 6. Heart Disease

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
Heart disease deaths (rate/100,000)	236.1	275.4	250.8	280	250.2	246.5	
Hospitalized for heart disease (rate/100,000)	1167	959	1173	866	1158	1303	

Table 7. Diabetes

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
Diabetes-related deaths (rate/100,000)	71.8	97.9	82.2	71.1	70.2	54.8	
Hospitalized for diabetes- related diseases (rate/100,000)	1193	1018	1055	993	1113	1109	

Table 8. Unintentional Injuries

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
Deaths due to unintentional injuries (rate/100,000)	36.7	19.8	49.4	65.2	44.2	51.4	19.9
Motor vehicle deaths (rate/100,000)	17.6	6.7	23.6	28	20.3	22.7	
Fall-related injuries (rate/100,000)	280	261	284	261	241	192	
Motor-vehicle-related injuries (rate/100,000)	69	75	90	113	141	197	
Other unintentional injuries (rate/100,000)	20	11	12	7	15	3	

Table 9. Injuries and Deaths Related to Violent and Abusive Behaviors

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
Homicides (rate/100,000)	3.4	3.4	1.5	0	0	2	2
Suicides (rate/100,000)	11.3	5.8	28.4	15.3	14.3	0	8.2
Children in out-of-home care (rate/1000)	12.7	6.9	7.8	11.3	10.3	8.9	
Children involved in abuse / neglect (rate/1000)	6.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	

Table 10. Infant Mortality

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
Infant deaths (rate/1000)	7.1	8.2	8.2	2.4	3.9	0	4.5
Very low birth weight babies (rate/1000)	12.8	13.7	14.8	9.7	5.2	10.2	9
Low birth weight babies (rate/1000)	67.7	68.7	65.9	55.6	56.6	57.8	50
Prenatal care in first trimester (%)	83.4	86.8	81.5	82.4	78.1	81.3	90
Birth by mother between 10 and 17 years of age (% of total births)	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.9	2.1	1.4	

Table 11. Sexually Transmitted Diseases

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
Incidence rates age <18, all STD's (rate/100,000)	171	228	36.3	0	0	0	
Incidence rates age >17, all STD's (rate/100,000)	309	20.5	68.7	46.9	106.2	87	

Impact Indicators

Table 12. Risk Factors for Heart Disease, Cancer, and Diabetes

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
% with BMI >= 30	19.6	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4	15
% no leisure time physical activity	28.9	31	31	31	31	31	15
Tobacco-related deaths (rate/100,000)	161.6	159.1	154	137.1	149.1	120.4	
Hospitalized for tobacco-related diseases (rate/100,000)	545.9	478.5	454.3	426.1	487.7	530	
% currently smoke cigarettes	21.7	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	12
It should be illegal to smoke in restaurants (% strongly disagree)		13.8	17.3	16.6	20.9	10.2	
There should be higher taxes on cigarettes (% strongly disagree)		18.8	25.7	20.6	19.7	12.3	
Tobacco should be kept behind the store counter to reduce youth access (% strongly disagree)		3.9	1.6	2.8	2.8	2.3	

Table 13. Alcohol and Other Drug Use

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
Alcohol-related deaths (rate/100,000)	35.6	24.8	39.6	39.6	36.1	34.5	
% youth having 1 drink past 30 days	56	49.8	49.8	49.8	49.8	49.8	50
% youth binge drinking past 30 days	41	37.1	37.1	37.1	37.1	37.1	32
% youth drinking and driving	26	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	13
% youth riding in car with driver who had been drinking	46	43	43	43	43	43	33
Drug / Alcohol use is the greatest health concern facing my community (% stated, top of mind)		22.7	22.8	19.2	14.3	7.4	

Table 14. Environmental Issues

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
Water quality is the greatest health concern facing my community (% stated, top of mind)		6.6	5.6	5.6	13.1	3.5	
Pollution is the greatest health concern facing my community (% stated, top of mind)		6.6	5.6	5.6	13.1	3.5	
I am confident that the restaurants in my community are clean and safe (% agree or strongly agree)		79.7	55.7	69.2	56.7	57.8	

Process Indicators

Table 15. Healthcare Resources

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
% of population with health insurance		90.2	84.2	88.4	90	90.2	
% of population with a regular family physician		97.3	92.	88.8	92.8	93.4	
% of population who travel out of their county for routine physician visit		28.6	50	39.3	38.9	17.6	
# of people served per general / family practitioners	2550	1659	1769	1667	2307	1514	
# of people served per internal medicine practitioners	7640	n/a	11497	n/a	n/a	n/a	
# of people served per physicians assistants	4377	3317	4599	4167	2769	6055	
# of people served per LPN	277	184	140	157	190	164	
# of people served per RN	97	133	112	139	131	119	
Confident that community hospital can handle most medical situations (% agree or strongly agree)		69.7	43.9	67.2	57.7	73.8	
Lack of healthcare resources is the greatest health concern facing my community (% stated, top of mind)		18.8	20	20	18.3	25.8	
People have equal access to healthcare regardless of their race or ethnicity (%agree or strongly agree)		84.8	76.3	79	78.8	88.7	

Table 16. Oral Health Resources

	Nebraska	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer	Objective
% of population drinking fluoridated water	67.6	0	5	63.1	0	0	
% of population with dental insurance		28.1	37.6	39.2	51.4	37.9	
% of population with a regular family dentist		90.2	81.2	76.4	88.4	85.2	
% of population who travel out of their county for routine dental visit		60	13.9	40.7	30.9	47.5	
# of people served per dentist	1730	3317	2090	2083	1978	6055	

Table 17. Community Attitudes

		Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer
There are plenty of activities available for the youth in my community	% Agree / Strongly Agree	30.8	31.2	25.7	32.9	27.6
	% Strongly Disagree	19.6	15.4	18.6	14.1	14.8
There are enough exercise facilities in my community to meet our physical-activity needs	% Agree / Strongly Agree	63	53.3	68.9	34	42.9
	% Strongly Disagree	9.6	9	7.9	21	15
I am concerned about terrorism in my community	% Agree / Strongly Agree	13	15.4	15.4	14.4	13.8
	% Strongly Disagree	48	46.6	51.2	43.8	52.8
My community has an adequate emergency warning system	% Agree / Strongly Agree	82.3	83	75.7	82.2	85.5
	% Strongly Disagree	3.9	1.7	2	1.2	1.6
I generally feel safe in my community	% Agree / Strongly Agree	91	85.2	88.7	85.2	93.7
	% Strongly Disagree	1.6	.4	.8	1.6	1.2

I generally trust government officials	% Agree / Strongly Agree	41	28.9	35.5	32.1	43.9
	% Strongly Disagree	13.4	11.6	14.5	13.3	7.1
I am comfortable with the level of effort I make toward improving my health	% Agree / Strongly Agree	74.2	76.4	69.4	72.5	69.4
	% Strongly Disagree	.8	.4	1.2	1.6	1.6
Maintaining / improving my health is important to me	% Agree / Strongly Agree	94.9	96.8	93.2	95.2	95
	% Strongly Disagree	.8	.4	.4	.0	.4

Table 18. Attitude toward Extent-of-Involvement by Various Local Organizations (tabulated by County)

	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer
The schools in my community should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.29	3.57	3.49	3.48	3.48
My local government should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.02	3.11	3.22	3.2	3.18
The state government should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.03	3.23	3.25	3.29	3.16
The churches in my community should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	2.81	2.82	2.92	2.96	2.81
The employers in my community should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.16	3.42	3.28	3.29	3.24

Table 19. Attitude toward Extent-of-Involvement by Various Local Organizations (tabulated by income level)

	<\$25,000	\$25 to <\$50,000	\$50,000 and over
The schools in my community should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.51	3.46	3.43
My local government should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.4	3.16	2.81
The state government should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.39	3.27	2.87
The churches in my community should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.05	2.83	2.75
The employers in my community should play a greater role in keeping people healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.32	3.34	3.20

Table 20. Attitude toward Education and Policy Development as Means to Improve Community Health (tabulated by County)

	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer
Creating new health-related laws is an effective way to get people in my community to be more healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	2.45	2.73	2.77	2.77	2.70
Providing educational programs in the community is an effective way to get people to be more healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.84	3.87	3.88	3.84	3.85

Table 21. Attitude toward Education and Policy Development as Means to Improve Community Health (tabulated by income level)

	<\$25,000	\$25 to <\$50,000	\$50,000 and over
Creating new health-related laws is an effective way to get people in my community to be more healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.03	2.68	2.46
Providing educational programs in the community is an effective way to get people to be more healthy (mean, 5-pt. agree/disagree scale)	3.87	3.89	3.82

Table 22. Attitude toward Current “Hot Topics” in Nebraska

		Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Thayer
Police should be able to stop drivers if their seatbelts are not fastened	% Agree / Strongly Agree	23.3	26.1	22.3	27.2	19.0
	% Strongly Disagree	43.9 62.4	44.9 63.8	46.2 62.4	44 60.7	45.5 68.8
It should be illegal to smoke in restaurants	% Agree / Strongly Agree	13.8	17.3	16.6	20.9	10.2
	% Strongly Disagree	27.6	36	27.6	32.4	30.9
There should be a tax on junk food	% Agree / Strongly Agree	31.6	33.9	30.1	32	28.2
	% Strongly Disagree	56	51.4	53.1	55.3	61.9
There should be higher taxes on cigarettes	% Agree / Strongly Agree	18.8	25.7	20.6	19.7	12.3
	% Strongly Disagree	48.6	50.6	48.8	43.4	53.6
The 75 mph speed limit is too fast	% Agree / Strongly Agree	27.1	25.9	26	27.7	19.8
	% Strongly Disagree	86.6	89.9	89.9	88.8	90.6
Tobacco should be kept behind the store counter to reduce access by youth	% Agree / Strongly Agree	3.9	1.6	2.8	2.8	2.3
	% Strongly Disagree					

Focus Group Results

The following is an aggregate summary of the focus groups that were conducted within each of the five counties of the Public Health Solutions District:

1. Why do people like living in this county?
 - Rural living
 - Friendly and safe community
 - Community cohesion and pride
2. What's the greatest problem that people in this county face?
 - Lack of jobs and opportunities
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Shrinking and transient populations in counties
3. What's the greatest health concern in this county?
 - Diabetes
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Lack of preventative healthcare resources
4. What comes to mind when you hear the term "public health?"
 - Meeting the health needs of everyone, and for low income people
 - Visiting nurses
 - Disease control
5. What do you feel the responsibilities of PHS should be?
 - Coordination
 - Act as a resource
 - Education / awareness
6. What are the greatest barriers that PHS has to face?
 - Resistance to change
 - Public perception of public health
 - Viewed as competitor of other agencies

Survey Instrument

Public Health Solutions District Health Department
Needs Assessment Survey
June 2003
12 Minutes

(INTERVIEWER READ)

Hello, may I speak with (Mr. / Mrs. FNAME LNAME)?

My name is _____ and I'm calling on behalf of the newly formed Public Health Solutions District Health Department, which oversees the public health activities for (RESPONDENT COUNTY OF RESIDENCE) county. As you may have seen in the local newspaper, we are conducting surveys with over 400 residents from (RESPONDENT COUNTY OF RESIDENCE) county, to determine the health-related needs in the community.

The Public Health Solutions District Health Department serves one of 18 districts that were recently formed using Nebraska's tobacco-settlement dollars. These new districts allow for almost every community in Nebraska to now receive the benefits of public health programming.

Your responses to this survey will not be used individually, but will be looked at as part of the data for the entire (RESPONDENT COUNTY OF RESIDENCE) county. May I have your permission to begin the survey? (IF NECESSARY, TELL THEM THE SURVEY WILL ONLY TAKE 15 MINUTES)

YES (GO TO Q1)
NO (READ S1)

S1. The survey will only take about 15 minutes. Your responses will help us to make our community healthier. Would you please help us by participating in the survey?

YES (GO TO Q1)
NO (THANK AND TERMINATE)

Q1. What do you like best about living in the community where you live?

RECORD VERBATIM – ONE TO TWO WORD RESPONSES ONLY
(ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

Q2. What would you say is the greatest problem facing your community today?

RECORD VERBATIM – ONE TO TWO WORD RESPONSES ONLY
(ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

Q3. What do you feel is the greatest health concern facing your community today?

RECORD VERBATIM – ONE TO TWO WORD RESPONSES ONLY
(ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

Q4. Now I'd like to get your opinion on the various resources available in your community. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "strongly disagree" and 5 being "strongly agree", please tell me how much you agree with each of the following statements: (READ AND ROTATE EACH STATEMENT, RESTATE THE 1 – 5 SCALE AS NECESSARY)

- a. The law-enforcement officials in my community do a good job of controlling crime
- b. I am confident that the hospital in my community can handle most medical situations
- c. There are enough exercise facilities in my community to meet our physical-activity needs
- d. There are plenty of activities available for the youth in my community
- e. People in my community have equal access to health care regardless of their race or ethnicity.
- f. I am concerned about terrorism in my community.
- g. My community has an adequate emergency warning system.
- h. I generally feel safe in my community.
- i. I generally trust government officials.
- j. I am confident that the restaurants in my community are clean and safe

Q5. Do you have a regular family doctor?

- YES (SKIP TO Q7)
- NO
- DK / REFUSED

Q6. If you or someone in your family needed to visit a doctor, to which city or town would you be most likely go to for that visit?

(AFTER RESPONSE TO Q6, SKIP TO Q8)

Q7. In which city or town is your family doctor located?

- DK / REFUSED

Q8. Do you have a regular family dentist?

YES (SKIP TO Q10)

NO

DK / REFUSED

Q9. If you or someone in your family needed to visit a dentist, to which city or town would you be most likely go to for that visit?

(AFTER RESPONSE TO Q9, SKIP TO Q11)

Q10. In which city or town is your family dentist located?

Q11. Overall, would you say your current health is: (READ LIST, ACCEPT ONE)

POOR

FAIR

GOOD

VERY GOOD

EXCELLENT

DK / REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

Q12. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “strongly disagree” and 5 being “strongly agree”, please tell me how much you agree with each of the following statements: (READ AND ROTATE EACH STATEMENT, RESTATE THE 1 – 5 SCALE AS NECESSARY)

- a. I am comfortable with the level of effort I make toward maintaining/improving my health
- b. Maintaining/improving my health is important to me.
- c. The schools in my community should play a greater role in keeping people healthy
- d. My local government should play a greater role in keeping people healthy
- e. The state government should play a greater role in keeping people healthy
- f. The churches in my community should play a greater role in keeping people healthy
- g. The employers in my community should play a greater role in keeping people healthy
- h. Providing educational programs in the community is an effective way to get people to be more healthy
- i. Creating new health-related laws is an effective way to get people in my community to be more healthy
- j. Police should be able to stop drivers if their seatbelts are not fastened.
- k. It should be illegal to smoke in restaurants

MALE
FEMALE

D6. Do you have major medical insurance?

YES
NO
DK / REFUSED

D7. Do you have dental insurance?

YES
NO
DK / REFUSED

D8. Do you have a computer in your home with internet access?

YES
NO
DK / REFUSED

D9. Approximately how many hours of TV do you watch each day?

RECORD VERBATIM
DK / REFUSED

D10. How many community meetings, (PTA, town hall, political rally, etc.) did you attend in the past year?

RECORD VERBATIM
DK / REFUSED

D11. Which of the following best describes your current marital status? (READ LIST)

MARRIED
SEPARATED
SINGLE, DIVORCED
SINGLE, NEVER MARRIED
WIDOWED
DK / REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

D12. May I please have your zip code?

RECORD VERBATIM

DK / REFUSED

(READ)

I am now finished with the survey. Thank you so much for your assistance, as the results will be used to for future health department planning. If you have any questions about the Public Health Solutions District Health Department, you can

... ???

Goodbye.

Focus Group Discussion Guide

