

Have you ever gotten a phone call from someone asking you to complete a survey or wondered what they do with all of the information they get from phone surveys? Those are common questions and I don't have all of the answers. What I do know, however is that Perry County residents will soon be given the opportunity to participate in a phone survey that will directly impact the community they live in. The information gathered in the survey will be available to you and shared across the county so you don't have to wonder, "did my answers matter?"

From December 2011 through February 2012, the Perry County Community Assessment Project will conduct a random telephone survey of 500 Perry County residents. If you receive a telephone call between December and February asking you to participate in a survey for Perry County, we ask that you take a few minutes of your time to answer the questions. Your answers are anonymous and your input will help the community assessment team get a better understanding of challenges Perry County residents are facing.

Anyone randomly selected for the survey will be asked questions in several areas such as health practices, how prepared they are for an emergency and basic questions about housing. "If someone is chosen to participate in the survey, it will take less than 20 minutes of their time. Everyone's time is valuable and we appreciate the time residents are willing to give", stated Angela DeRolph, Health Commissioner at the Perry County Health Department. This is a great opportunity for Perry County residents to make their voices heard and take part in shaping the future of Perry County, DeRolph noted.

The Perry County Health Department is partnering with agencies, businesses, hospitals and other community partners to conduct this community needs assessment. The assessment will focus on local resources as well as gaps, barriers or needs in the community. With multiple partners working together to complete the assessment, DeRolph noted that they can then work together to determine what resources are available to address the greatest areas of need. The assessment will also provide data for grant writing to help secure funding that can also address community needs.

The community needs assessment team will be working with The Ohio State University Center for Public Health Practice to conduct the assessment and analyze the data. They will also assist the team in developing a community-wide strategic health improvement plan to guide future activities and partnerships.

This project is funded by contributions from the Perry County Health Department, Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Perry County Emergency Management Agency, Genesis HealthCare System, Fairfield Medical Center, Perry County Job and Family Services, and the Perry County Medical Association.

For more information contact Angela DeRolph at the Perry County Health Department at 342-5179.