



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Lucas County Residents To Be Surveyed About Health** *Findings Will Help Determine Community Health Improvement Priorities*

**TOLEDO, OHIO, January 23, 2017** – Nearly 3,600 Lucas County adults will randomly receive surveys by mail in coming weeks on a variety of health-related topics, including general physical health, mental health, nutrition, exercise, substance abuse and living conditions. Survey results will be compiled in Healthy Lucas County's 2016/2017 Lucas County Community Health Assessment and be used to help determine where improvements are needed most.

About 2,400 parents of children up to 11 years old also will randomly receive surveys by mail in coming weeks for the triennial community health assessment, which is expected to be released in September.

"We want an accurate picture of key health problems and needs in Lucas County so we know where to focus our efforts," said Jan Ruma, vice president of the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio, which coordinates Healthy Lucas County and performs community health assessments. "The best way to do that is by asking our residents about their health, medical care, behaviors and living conditions."

Healthy Lucas County, a collaboration of community health improvement organizations, has performed a community health assessment since 1999. Members of the Healthy Lucas County collaboration use the data to formulate a Community Health Improvement Plan with priorities and action steps.

Individual healthcare organizations, social service agencies, government entities, educational institutions and others also use the data to make decisions about community health improvement efforts.

### **About The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio**

[The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio](http://www.hcno.org) (HCNO) is a regional hospital association that represents and advocates on behalf of its members while providing collaborative opportunities to improve community health. HCNO coordinates several community health improvement programs, including [Healthy Lucas County](#) and the Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB. [Toledo/Lucas County CareNet](#), a partnership that provides access to coordinated healthcare services for low-income residents of Lucas County and insurance navigation services throughout northwest Ohio, contracts with HCNO for staffing and administration. Additionally, HCNO coordinates disaster preparedness and community health assessments in the region and beyond. For more information, please visit [hcno.org](http://hcno.org).