

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Allegan County
3283 – 122nd Ave
Allegan MI 49010
Contact: Dan Wedge, Executive Director of Services
Phone: 269-686-5150
dwedge@allegancounty.org

Allegan County National Community Survey Results Now Available

ALLEGAN COUNTY – In December 2019, Allegan County officials and several non-profits serving the county hired a national survey organization to gauge residents' views on the state of the county and services available to residents. The survey captured opinions of a representative sample selected from 1,700 residents in the County, who were mailed invitations to complete the survey. This was the first time the National Community Survey™ (NCS™) was done in Allegan County.

There were 293 responses and a margin of error plus or minus six percent. Allegan County also had a voluntary online survey for all residents, which received 532 responses.

The survey addressed eight facets of local living -- safety, mobility, natural environment, "built" environment, economy, recreation and wellness, education and enrichment, and community engagement.

About 3 in 4 of those surveyed rated Allegan County as an "excellent" or "good" place to live. Respondents' ratings of Allegan County as a place to live were similar to ratings in other communities across the nation.

"This project will help Allegan County and partners identify what we are doing well and opportunities for improvements," Said Dan Wedge, Executive Director of Services. "We value citizen engagement and can use the survey results to make important long-range planning and investment decisions."

Other highlights from the survey include national benchmark comparisons from over 600 communities that have also used the NCS™ in the past few years. The 2019 survey findings are available online at www.allegancounty.org/CommunitySurvey and include:

- Community Livability Report: This report captures what makes a community livable, attractive and a place where people want to be.
- Dashboard Summary of Findings: A summary of resident ratings across the eight facets and three pillars of a livable community.
- The NCS™ Technical Appendices A – D
- The NCS Geographic Crosstabs
- The NCS Demographic Crosstabs
- Supplemental Online Report: Results from the online responses collected.

Allegan County contracted with the National Research Center, Inc. to conduct the survey using The NCS™, a tool created in 2001 with the help of the International City/County Management Association. The NCS™ was modified to reflect local Allegan County conditions.

Residents with questions about the survey may contact the County at 269-686-5150.

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