

## Economic Development

Economic development issues were next in importance after services with medium and major importance ratings of:

- Community involvement in growth planning - 84%
- Promote tourism - 78%
- Loans for small businesses - 74%
- Reduced regulations for small businesses - 72%

## Perception of Quality of life

Respondents feel economic development is required for a better quality of life. However, respondents show uncertainty on the benefits of growth and are not strongly optimistic about having change occur in the county. There is a desire for change in improved economics but not for a change in lifestyle.

Survey respondents in Lincoln County believe the future is bright and economic development will improve life. The strongest agreement, 84%, was in economic growth being desirable, with all things considered, and then the pride in the quality of life in the community, 77%.

Respondents to the survey had less agreement on the areas of: will increased growth improve the quality of life, 70%; in five years things will be better, 60%; and limits on growth and development would do more harm than good, 59%. Surprisingly, there were only 46% in agreement with the future of the community looking bright.

In one-on-one interviews, key residents indicated that the pressing issue is for economic development for locals to get good paying jobs. There was also a

response of not wanting a rush of people moving into the current communities. There is a fear of losing the quiet, friendly lifestyle. Locals have chosen a simple, quiet pace of life over making larger incomes, and they consider quality of life to be linked with a quiet, caring existence rather than financial wealth and power. Respondents stated that the community needs just enough economic growth to support the current residents of Lincoln County. Huge growth and profits are not a priority. These beliefs build apprehension about any developments and changes discussed for the county.

## References

Needs Assessment Results of Lincoln County, NV. 2005. Holly Rask (now Gatzke). Special Publication-05-21

Mineral County Needs Assessment: Community Needs and Issues. 2004. Staci Emm. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Fact Sheet-04-50.

Humboldt County Needs Assessment: Community Development and Urban Horticulture. Brad Schultz. 2004. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Special Publication-04-19.

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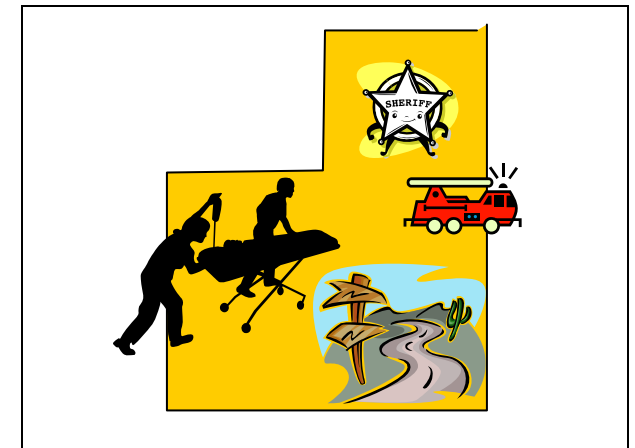
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University of Nevada  
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Fact Sheet 06-87

# Community Needs and Views in Lincoln County, Nevada



*The residents views on what are the important community needs in Lincoln County.*

<http://www.unce.unr.edu>

## Importance of the community views on needs

This document contains the list of issues that are rated of high and medium importance by the residents of Lincoln County. Identifying the community topics of importance can help policy makers and private companies address and service the needs of Lincoln County more effectively.

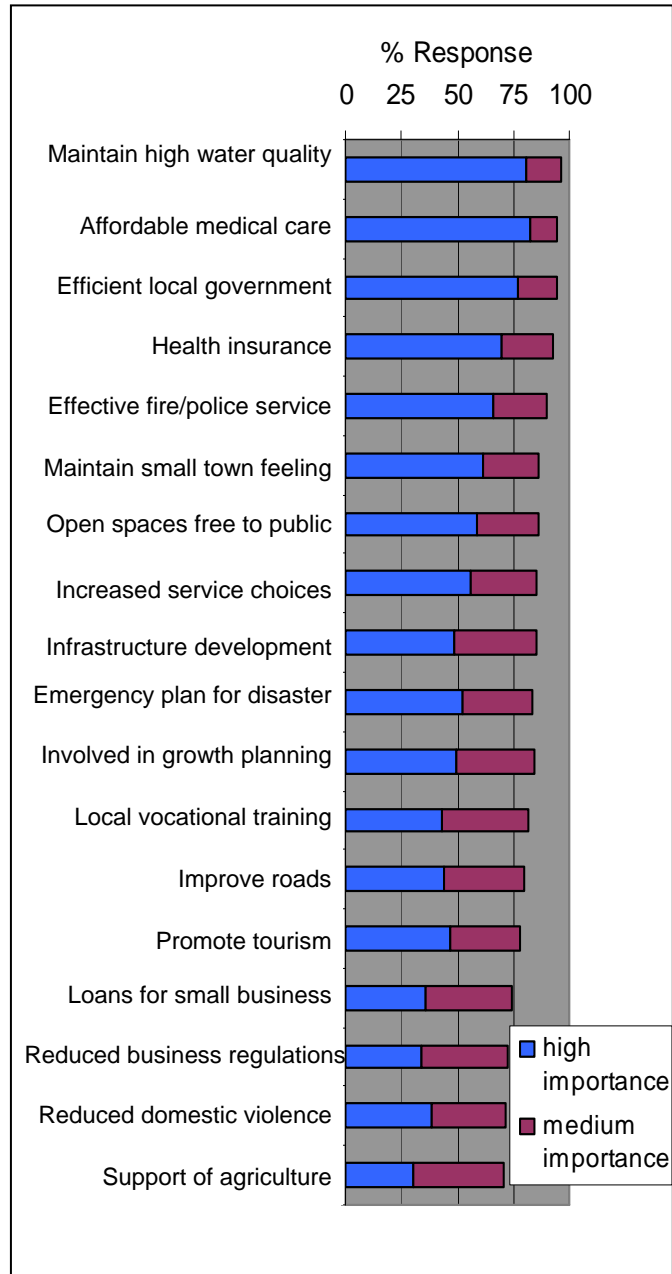
## Collection of Data

The information in this fact sheet is part of a needs assessment in Lincoln County that studied the type of educational programs desired; the form of program delivery (publications, classes, etc.); community needs, issues or concerns; individual or family concerns; youth concerns; and quality of life. A survey in 2004 and then one-on-one discussions with key individuals in 2005 were used as tools to collect the opinions of county residents on a full range of issues and to identify the needs in Lincoln County. Surveys were delivered to all post office boxes. Returned surveys represented 358 households and 875 people, which equals 23% of the population in Lincoln County.

## Health & Government

Health issues such as maintaining high water quality, affordable medical care and health insurance received 93% of the respondents' rating as a major or medium importance issue. Health services are obviously of top priority for residents in the county. Having an efficient local government also was rated 93% as major or medium in importance.

## Top Issues in Lincoln County



## Rural setting

Keeping the small town feeling and open space that is free and open to the public was next in importance with 86% being major or medium in rating. Lincoln County residents place their great lifestyle in higher priority over economic development.

## Services

The availability of services to Lincoln County residents receives major or medium importance ratings of:

- Effective fire/police service - 90%
- Increased service choices (clothes, food, entertainment, repair) - 86%
- Infrastructure development (water, curbs, streets, etc) - 85%
- Emergency response plan for disaster - 84%
- Local vocational training - 81%
- Improved roads and traffic related infrastructure - 80%

Public and commercial services available in the county are limited due to the small population and the amount of funding needed to keep them operational. Local services will not increase unless there is more economic development and population growth to support it through taxes and usage.