

Aligning Change with Real Need

Prosper Lincoln is informed by the Lincoln Vital Signs report. It serves as our agenda to build a better community—one that's stronger, more diverse, and ready to meet future challenges.

Together, organizations, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders collaborate on meaningful transformation in five targeted areas. A few examples of progress are below:

EARLY CHILDHOOD

All children have access to high-quality early childhood care and education, which leads to a more available workforce today and smarter workforce tomorrow.

- **Key Achievement** Provided over \$3 million in scholarships for early childhood care and education
- **Pandemic Response** Distributed emergency fund assistance and health and safety supplies to early childhood providers
- **Looking Forward** Improving support for early childhood professionals, organizations, and families



INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE

People have careers, employers retain skilled talent, and there is a culture of innovation that fuels economic success.

- **Key Achievement** Created a certificate in manufacturing program in partnership with 17 Lincoln manufacturers
- **Pandemic Response** Provided drive-through career fairs
- **Looking Forward** Expanding workforce development opportunities

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

All residents live in quality housing they can afford, which leads to healthier and more stable families.

- **Key Achievement** Initiated Lincoln's Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan and worked with Community Development Resources, a certified community development financial institution, to include affordable housing
- **Pandemic Response** Distributed more than \$36 million in emergency rent, mortgage, and utility assistance
- **Looking Forward** Fostering strategic housing partnerships

STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS

All people and places thrive through the engagement and support of local initiatives created by those who live there.

- **Key Achievement** Engaged four community builders in partnership with LPS' Community Learning Centers to build relationships between neighborhoods and schools
- **Pandemic Response** Hosted healthcare pop-up clinics with community centers and schools to offer school physicals and required vaccinations
- **Looking Forward** Building relationships with neighborhoods

CIVIC INVESTMENTS

Residents have sustainable opportunities to work, live and play, leading to a stronger and more vibrant city.

- **Key Achievement** Collaborated with community thought leaders to prioritize what's next for Lincoln
- **Pandemic Response** Studied the impact of the pandemic on Lincoln's economy and community
- **Looking Forward** Building partnerships to invest in community initiatives and spaces

Be informed. Get involved.

Join our Prosper Lincoln community effort by getting involved and taking action to make our visions for the future a reality.

Learn more at ProsperLincoln.org

ABOUT LINCOLN VITAL SIGNS

This is the fifth in a series of Vital Signs reports which also includes 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2019.

Leaders of Lincoln's philanthropic organizations continue to believe that the complex issues facing Lincoln must have collaboration among all sectors of our community to make progress.

Lincoln Vital Signs 2022 continues the tradition of providing credible, reliable information about Lincoln, compared to its recent past and to other communities in the United States.

This report was prepared by Stacey Hoffman, Ph.D., Alyssa Sloane and Taylor Smith of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and is downloadable, including data sources and citations, at LincolnVitalSigns.org.

Lincoln Vital Signs will be updated in future years to measure and track community progress and changes.



Lincoln Vital Signs

LincolnVitalSigns.org

Lincoln Vital Signs 2022 Be informed. Get involved.

Communities like Lincoln that make the best use of data, use it to identify and prioritize issues that really matter to their city.

The Lincoln Vital Signs 2022 report features data that provides a shared understanding of our city—both the achievements and persistent weaknesses.

Previous reports have become the centerpiece of a community-wide engagement process to set priorities and take action to make Lincoln even stronger.

Key Findings

- Lincoln is flourishing in many areas.
- Some areas of weakness persist.
- Population trends will shape future need for services and initiatives.



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Profile
- Basic Needs
- Economy & Workforce
- Education
- Health
- Safety & Security

SPONSORS

- Acklie Charitable Fund
- Ameritas Life Insurance Corp.
- Buffett Early Childhood Fund
- City of Lincoln: Mayor's Office
- Community Health Endowment
- Cooper Foundation
- Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools
- Lancaster County
- Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
- Lincoln Community Foundation
- Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
- Nelnet Foundation
- Olsson Family Foundation
- Peter Kiewit Foundation
- Sherwood Foundation
- United Way of Lincoln & Lancaster County
- University of Nebraska Foundation
- Woods Charitable Fund

HOW WAS THE DATA IMPACTED BY COVID-19?

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted some sources of data used for Lincoln Vital Signs, most notably the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), and the Nebraska Department of Education's Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS).

The Census Bureau determined they did not have enough representation of small population groups to release 2020 one-year data, so ACS data is only reported through 2019.

The Nebraska Department of Education skipped standardized test administration in the spring of 2020 for the 2019-2020 school year, so this data was not available; however, data for the 2020-2021 school year was available for inclusion in the report.

Lincoln Vital Signs 2022

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Lincoln Vital Signs
LincolnVitalSigns.org

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Migration into Lincoln is driving population growth; 18-24-year-olds make up half of those who move into our community. This and other population trends will shape the need for future services and initiatives.

10%
POPULATION GROWTH
SINCE 2010



FASTEST GROWING AGE GROUP

22%
GROWTH IN RESIDENTS OF COLOR
SINCE 2010

BASIC NEEDS – POVERTY

Poverty has declined with 32,564 people living in households at or below the federal poverty level in 2019. There was also a decrease in the number of census tracts in extreme poverty since 2017.

12%
PEOPLE AT OR BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL
SINCE 2019



3

CENSUS TRACTS IN EXTREME POVERTY
4 YEARS AGO, THERE WERE 7

23%
DECREASE IN PERSONS IN POVERTY
SINCE 2010

BASIC NEEDS – HOUSING

Homelessness has been declining for several years. Households spending a large portion of their income on housing are heavily concentrated in areas with historically high poverty, such as near downtown.

51%
DECREASE IN HOMELESS ADULTS
SINCE 2012

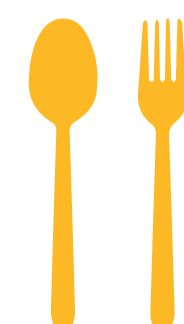


PAID OVER 30% OF INCOME ON HOUSING

62%
DECREASE IN HOMELESS CHILDREN
SINCE 2012

BASIC NEEDS – FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity continues to decline across Lincoln, though the number of students enrolled in free/reduced lunch has increased by 14% since the 2010-2011 school year.



15%
FEWER PEOPLE ARE FOOD INSECURE



24%
FEWER CHILDREN ARE FOOD INSECURE

40%
OF LPS STUDENTS ENROLLED IN FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

Lincoln's unemployment rate increased in 2020 but has quickly recovered. Disparities exist, both in median household income and unemployment rates among people of color.

11%
LOWER PER CAPITA INCOME
COMPARED TO THE U.S.



2X
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR PERSONS OF COLOR



↓
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME REMAINS LOW
COMPARED TO THE U.S.

EDUCATION

Many students within Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) are proficient in learning, compared to the state average. However, significant disparities exist between white and minority students in key academic areas and high school graduation rates.

10%
HIGHER IN LANGUAGE ARTS
LPS VS. STATE AVERAGE FOR 3RD GRADE

16%
HIGHER IN MATH
LPS VS. STATE AVERAGE FOR 8TH GRADE



7%

LOWER GRADUATION RATE FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR
COMPARED TO DISTRICT-WIDE AVERAGE FOR 2020-2021

STUDENT PROFICIENCY IN 2020-2021

HEALTH

Death rates from major illnesses are lower in Lincoln than the U.S. average, though there have been some increases in the last decade due to heart disease and diabetes.



77%
HIGHER DEATH RATE FROM DIABETES
2020 COMPARED TO 2010



18%
HIGHER DEATH RATE FROM HEART DISEASE
2020 COMPARED TO 2010

↓
LOWER DEATH RATES THAN U.S. AVERAGE
FROM CANCER, HEART DISEASE, AND DIABETES

SAFETY & SECURITY

Lincoln is a safe community with violent crime rates that are consistently about half that of comparably sized cities.



43%
LESS PROPERTY CRIME
SINCE 2010

27%
LESS VIOLENT CRIME
SINCE 2010

↓
PROPERTY CRIME & VIOLENT CRIME HAVE DECLINED