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**8 in 10 give neighborhood homes positive ratings;  
9 in 10 give their own home positive ratings; city residents give lower ratings**

**CINCINNATI. Oct. 14, 2014.** Among adults in the Greater Cincinnati region, over 8 in 10 (84 percent) rated the conditions of houses and apartments in their neighborhood as excellent, very good or good. However, there was quite a bit of variation in this response by geographic location. The highest percentages of these three top ratings were found in Butler/Clinton/Warren counties (92 percent) and Indiana counties (91 percent). This compared to much lower ratings within the City of Cincinnati, where only 62 percent rated neighborhood homes as excellent, very good or good. Results are from the Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey (CHSS) funded by Interact for Health.

“The home and community in which a person lives can have a significant impact on all aspects of health,” says Dr. Camille Jones, Assistant Commissioner, Cincinnati Health Department. “Homes in poor condition may increase exposure to environmental hazards, increase risk of injury, increase risk of developing lead poisoning or cause worsening of health conditions such as asthma. Healthy Home Assessments<sup>1</sup> are one way for owners/renters to check for the presence of a number of potential health hazards in the home.”

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<sup>1</sup> More information about Healthy Home Assessments is available at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/health/environmental-health/healthy-homes/>

The CHSS asked participants two questions about houses and apartments: the condition of homes in their neighborhood, and the condition of the home where they live. "More adults in Greater Cincinnati gave positive ratings to their own house or apartment than to homes in the neighborhood," says Jennifer Chubinski, Director of Community Research, Interact for Health. More than 9 in 10 Greater Cincinnati adults (92 percent) gave a positive rating to the condition of their own house or apartment. The percentage giving positive responses was over 90 percent in all regions, with the exception of the City of Cincinnati, where only 81 percent gave their own home a positive rating.

### **African American adults less likely to give positive rating**

Among African American adults in our region, fewer than 7 in 10 (67 percent) gave the condition of houses and apartments in their neighborhood a positive rating. This compares to over 8 in 10 White adults (85 percent). Although both groups had more positive ratings of their own homes, this racial gap is still evident: fewer than 8 in 10 African American adults (78 percent) gave the condition of their own home a positive rating compared to over 9 in 10 White adults (93 percent). A related variable may be that of home ownership: within the Cincinnati-Middletown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), only 35 percent of African American households are owned by the resident, compared to 74 percent of White households.

### **Home ratings improve as poverty decreases, education increases**

The percentage of people who gave high ratings to the condition of both homes in their neighborhood and their own homes decreased as income decreased. Among adults earning less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), 71 percent gave positive ratings to the condition of neighborhood homes and 80 percent rated their own homes this way. Among adults earning above 200% FPL, these numbers increased: 89 percent rated neighborhood homes highly, and 98 percent rated their own home highly. The same trend is evident as education level increases.

### **Better health associated with higher home ratings**

“The link between housing and health is evident when looking at general health,” says Chubinski. Among adults who report their own health as only fair or poor, only 73 percent gave the condition of neighborhood homes positive ratings, and only 80 percent gave the condition of their own home a high rating. This is compared to 88 percent (neighborhood homes) and 96 percent (own home) among adults who report excellent or very good health.

More information about Greater Cincinnati’s views on housing, and other topics, is available online at [www.interactforhealth.org/greater-cincinnati-community-health-status-survey](http://www.interactforhealth.org/greater-cincinnati-community-health-status-survey).

### **About the Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey (CHSS)**

The 2013 Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey (CHSS) is conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A total of 4,929 randomly selected adults residing in 8 Ohio counties, 9 Kentucky counties, and 5 Indiana counties were interviewed by telephone between August 20, 2013 and Jan. 19, 2014. This included 4,324 landline interviews and 605 cell phone interviews. The potential sampling error for the survey is  $\pm 1.5\%$ . For more information about the CHSS, please visit [www.interactforhealth.org/greater-cincinnati-community-health-status-survey](http://www.interactforhealth.org/greater-cincinnati-community-health-status-survey).

### **About Interact for Health**

Interact for Health improves the health of people in the Cincinnati region by being a catalyst for health and wellness. We accomplish our mission by promoting healthy living through grants, education, policy and action. Interact for Health is an independent nonprofit that serves 20 counties in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. More information is available on our website, [www.interactforhealth.org](http://www.interactforhealth.org).

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