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### Survey to Gather Information on Residents' Health Issues

Oak Parkers will soon be asked to share their thoughts, opinions and concerns about current health issues as part of a survey produced by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Eight hundred residents will be polled by telephone in September for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey (BRFSS), which is intended to generate information about health risk behaviors, clinical preventive practices and health care access and use.

"The survey will allow us to gather information about how Oak Park residents feel about a range of public health issues," explained Director of Public Health Georgeen Polyak, PhD.

Survey questions will delve into a wide range of topics, including current health status, access to healthcare, environmental factors, tobacco and alcohol consumption, and use of health screenings such as mammograms, diabetes and cholesterol.

"The questions are designed to assist us in developing a vision for the collective health of the community and determine factors that may impact the public health system and residents' health," said Polyak.

Similar surveys will be conducted in many other communities across the county. Once the information is gathered, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention will combine the data for each state and publish reports on the BRFSS website, [www.cdc.gov/brfss](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss).

Information from the surveys is used to plan and target health initiatives, identify emerging health problems, establish and track objectives, develop, implement and evaluate a broad array of disease prevention activities and support health-related legislative efforts.

The project is a joint venture of Rush Oak Park Hospital, West Suburban Medical Center and the Village of Oak Park. For more information call 358.5480 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

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