SUMMIT COUNTY HOME AND COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

PURPOSE
The Home and Community Department of USU Extension conducted a needs assessment to understand major issues facing Summit County residents.

QUALITATIVE METHODS
Qualitative key informant interviews were conducted with 31 stakeholders to identify priority home and community-related needs in Summit County. Stakeholders included leaders in government, healthcare, education, religion, and community and represented diverse cultural groups, ages, and locations in Summit County. Content analysis was conducted to highlight major themes from the key informant interviews.

QUALITATIVE RESULTS
Five major themes were identified from the key informant interviews as the most important home and community-related issues in Summit County.

Figure 1: Interconnected Issues in Summit County
QUANTITATIVE METHODS
USU Extension administered a Qualtrics survey to Summit County residents, and the Ranked Discrepancy Model was used to assess residents’ needs.

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION
Data were gathered from a sample of Summit County residents (n = 139). Only 14% of respondents lived in an urban setting (i.e., Park City and environs), while 86% lived in rural areas. The majority of respondents were female (84%) and between 35-44 years old (31%). For race and ethnicity, 77% were white, and 4% were Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino.

QUANTITATIVE RESULTS
The top three needs were helping youth improve mental health, manage stress, and form healthy relationships.

TOP 10 HOME AND COMMUNITY NEEDS OF SUMMIT COUNTY RESIDENTS

1. Helping youth improve mental health
2. Helping youth manage stress
3. Helping youth form healthy relationships
4. Improving mental health
5. Reducing drug and/or alcohol abuse
6. Managing stress
7. Managing finances
8. Making healthy food choices
9. Learning food preservation techniques
10. Strengthening couple/marriage relationships

The majority of participants (71%) believed USU Extension should place high or very high effort on mental health.

TOP 10 TOPICS FOR USU EXTENSION EFFORTS

1. Mental health
2. Personal financial management
3. Nutrition
4. Family relationships
5. Drug and/or alcohol abuse
6. Food preservation
7. Parenting skills
8. Cooking
9. Workforce readiness
10. Couple/marriage relationships

CONCLUSION
USU Extension will use the results of this needs assessment to develop and implement educational programs that target high priority issues. USU Extension will focus its home and community program efforts on mental health and youth development.

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