

Windshield Survey: Champaign Community Assessment

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Champaign is a diverse city located in Central Illinois, with a population of almost 90,000. Several community members got interviewed within the city of Champaign. Champaign has an excellent transportation system. The Champaign Mass Transit District operates in the Champaign-Urbana area and helps community members get from one place to another. Individuals also get around by Uber, Lyft, taxis, and bikes. Champaign has a good physical environment for the community members. An annual water quality report determined that tap water provided by the water utility complied with federal health-based drinking water standards. Champaign's summers are warm and humid. Winters are cold and windy. Champaign has a significant amount of rainfall during the year. The county's landscape is on a large and flat plateau.

Champaign has a wide variety of occupational categories. Champaign provides employment opportunities through hospitals, law firms, restaurants, schools, universities, colleges, factories, post offices, farms, animal shelters, and veterinary hospitals. The median household income in Champaign County is \$56939, per capita income, is \$32971, and a poverty level of 15%. Most people in Champaign are in the lower to the middle class. There are several recreational activities located in Champaign. The Leonhard Recreation Center features an indoor track, weight room, indoor playground, and a large gym for sports recreation needs. Community members can choose from monthly or annual memberships. Day passes are also available at \$6/day for Champaign residents. Individual annual membership fees are \$120 for residents and \$180 for non-residents. The Sholem Aquatic Center center features a zero-depth pool with play-and-spray features, an 8-lane 25-yard lap pool, a kiddie pool with a slide, and a tube slide that leads to the lazy river.

There are many shopping opportunities ranging from malls to discounted stores. Some options for low-income residents include salvation army, goodwill, Salt and Light, and Habitat for Humanity. These are all nonprofit organizations located within Champaign. Champaign has several restaurants ranging from Indian, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Mexican, Mediterranean, and Italian. Public safety plays an essential role in the Champaign community. The Champaign community comprises the police department, post office, city hall, fire department, and several other government buildings. The highest crime in the community includes theft. The theft rates include 1,118 per 100,000 residents. Many community members and business owners state that the community's risks include gun violence, burglary, and lack of health support for low-income people.

Champaign consists of several public and private schools. The University is located in Champaign-Urbana and consists of about 35,000 students. The University of Illinois is among the best public universities nationwide. Campustown has several housing options, restaurants, and bars. The Krannert and State Farm Centers are both located in Campustown. The Krannert Center advances education and research by pursuing excellence and innovation in performing arts. On the other hand, the State Farm Center is an arena that hosts games for the Illinois Fighting Illini men's and women's sports teams. There are several hospitals and clinics located in Champaign. *Carle Foundation Hospital* is a level 1 trauma center that treats thousands of patients annually. Community members believed that Champaign's personal and community health is considered average. There is a wide range of people who are healthy or extremely poor within the Champaign area. Healthcare services are just a short distance from community members.

Furthermore, community members believe that individuals of low income should get better health services. Champaign County should open more clinics for low-income people who cannot afford insurance. The Champaign Public Health Department advocates for the community's health, safety, and well-being. The Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department employs approximately 150 individuals. There are several housing options within Champaign. Housing options include houses, apartments, assisted living, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and student housing. Champaign housing is affordable compared to surrounding areas. Champaign has the top 5 cheapest home prices in Illinois.

In conclusion, the community members believe that Champaign has a promising future. The diversity and inclusivity of Champaign bring community members together and aim to create positive outcomes. Because of the crime rate and violence in Champaign, some community members believe that reducing violence is a desired community change. The significant amount of diversity contributes to the strength of the community. Because of massive institutions like UIUC, Champaign-Urbana has a steady population to rely on for stability.