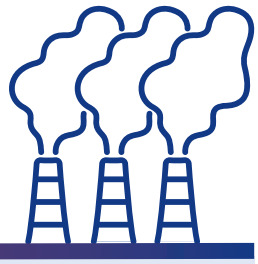
COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

North Omaha residents share concerns about **pollution**, **stalled progress**, and **being left out** of key decisions that affect their daily lives.



This summer, 131 people connected to North Omaha took part in a community survey about the local coal plant. The results are clear—residents have deep concerns about unhealthy air, little to no progress on environmental problems, and being excluded from decisions on pollution and energy that shape their future.

Survey findings show widespread concern about air quality and health.

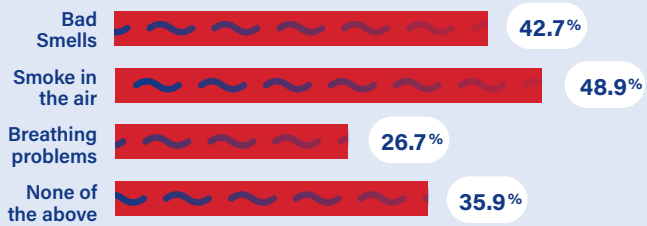
A significant portion of residents are experiencing environmental problems, indicating strong concerns about air quality and unpleasant odors in their neighborhood—and related health problems.

Nearly half (48.9%) said they smell **smoke in the air**, and **42.7%** said they regularly notice **bad smells**.

RESPONDENTS IN THE AREA DESCRIBED:

- Chemical smells at night that trigger asthma
- Children exposed to smoke and bomb-like sounds from clearing the stakes while playing sports nearby
- Pets and family member allergies that started after moving to North Omaha

FIG 1 HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY EVER NOTICED ANY OF THESE ISSUES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



> "At night when they clean I smell a horrible chemical smell and it causes my asthma to act up and I have sharp chest pains."

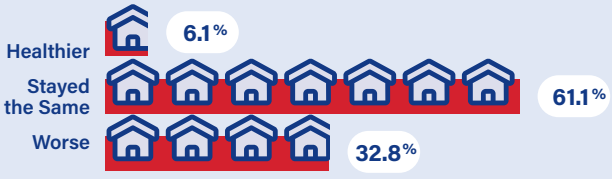
> "My entire family including pets suffer from allergies, which none of us had major issues with before moving to North O."

Residents feel their area's environmental health is unchanged or worsening.

When asked about the direction of their neighborhood's environmental health: **61.1%** said it **stayed the same**, while **32.8%** said it's gotten **worse**. Only 6.1% said things are getting better. That means over **93%** see no improvement—or even decline—when it comes to air, water, or environmental safety.

> "The neighborhood continues to get older and there aren't major investments to change things. Until the coal plant is gone and highway 75 rerouted of 30th street we will have massive air quality problems."

FIG 2 DO YOU FEEL YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAS GOTTEN HEALTHIER, WORSE, OR STAYED THE SAME OVER THE YEARS WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS LIKE AIR, WATER, OR THE ENVIRONMENT?



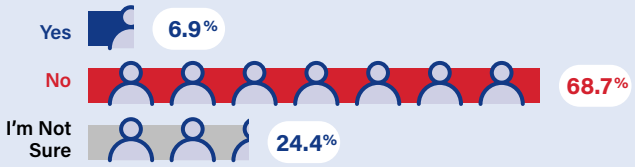
Survey participants say North Omaha is not treated fairly and are asking for a seat at the table.

Residents' strong sentiment of injustice is a critical finding. **More than two-thirds (68.7%)** of respondents said North Omaha **has not been treated fairly** in decisions about pollution, energy, and power plants.

While **three-fourths (76.3%)** of surveyed residents **are aware** of the coal plant's presence, nearly **93% report no contact from OPPD** or any other group about changes—revealing a major gap in community engagement. This lack of communication likely fuels perceptions of unfair treatment and exclusion from decision-making.

Respondents noted several **areas of concern** for leaders to focus on—health and pollution ranked high on their list and how they'd like to be included.

FIG 3 DO YOU THINK NORTH OMAHA HAS BEEN TREATED FAIRLY WHEN IT COMES TO DECISISONS ABOUT THINGS LIKE POLLUTION, ENERGY OR POWER PLANTS?



> "North Omaha is kept out of the loop. We found out about issues that affect us after the implementations are already in place."
>
> "Most people don't think about those who live in 'the ghetto'"

SURVEY TAKERS' TOP ISSUES:

- → Infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, etc.) (64.1%)
- → Poverty/Rising Costs (59.5%)
- → Crime/Safety (51.9%)
- → Health and Wellbeing (38.9%)
- → Schools (30.5%)
- → Youth Programs (29%)
- → **Pollution (26.7%)**
- → Hunger (20.6%)
- → Childcare

OPPD has a responsibility to every citizen.

OPPD board meetings in August and September could determine the future of the coal plant and North Omaha's neighborhoods. OPPD must follow through on its promise to refuel and retire the plant. Let's make sure our community's future is decided with us, not for us.

TAKE ACTION. Remind the OPPD board to keep their promise to transition the North Omaha plant away from coal.

TODAY

Send a message to the OPPD Board and Executive Leadership.

SCAN QR AT LEFT OR VISIT:

boldnebraska.org/northo

AUG 21 OR SEP 18

Attend a Board Hearing in-person or online

About the Survey: Bold sent this survey to nearly 14,000 North Omaha voters in July 2025. Results are reflective of the community's feelings, and not a scientific study. Survey respondents' ages were 18–24 (1.5%), 25–34 (12.2%), 35–44 (20.6%), 45–54 (21.4%), 55–64 (19.1%), and 65 or older (24.4%). In terms of gender identity, 36.6% identified as men, 58.8% as women, 3.1% as nonbinary or gender non-conforming, and 1.5% preferred not to say.