

# 2024 Community Assessment

## CLINTON COUNTY





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# Executive Summary

The Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc. is the Community Action Agency for Lycoming and Clinton counties, and as such is required to complete a Community Assessment every three years and upon any major change in service area. The last full Community Assessment was completed in 2021. This 2024 Community Assessment follows the traditional time frame of three years.

The Community Assessment combined objective and subjective data sets for Clinton County including demographic data, community, customer, and partner surveys, and focus group meetings. The information presented in this document is the comprehensive analysis of the information gathered.

Overall, six key need categories were identified: Children and Youth, Education and Employment, Families in Crisis, Housing and Homelessness, Health and Nutrition, and Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. For the 2024 Community Assessment, housing, specifically the lack of affordable housing, and lack of affordable child care options, along with additional mental health supports were themes throughout all key need categories.

In Clinton County, STEP has been completing comprehensive community assessments at regular intervals for decades. Since 2015, the same format has been utilized to ensure longitudinal data can be analyzed. The 2024 Community Assessment builds on the longitudinal data from the past community assessments and allows trends to be seen. This data helps understand both past and current needs. The Critical Needs section of the report provides a broad view of both the community and partner perception of needs in Clinton County. Since 2015, the top two areas of need have been identified as economy/jobs and drugs/alcohol. In 2024, economy/jobs was noted as the most important problem facing Clinton County, but this is followed by housing/homelessness and lack of community resources, with drugs/alcohol and education rounding out the top five problems identified by community respondents.

From the partner respondents, the availability of affordable child care was the most important issue followed by access to mental health services, then abuse of alcohol and drugs by adults and youth, rounded out with the availability of counseling services. After that grouping, abuse of drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin by adults and youth, access to substance abuse services, affordable housing and household budgeting are ranked within the top ten. The longitudinal data illustrates and helps assess how effectively the community is tackling identified community needs and trends of emerging community needs.

The 2024 Community Assessment Report is a resource and asset for various stakeholders in the community. All of them, including funding agencies, government officials, nonprofits, businesses, and institutions, are encouraged to use the information within. The Community Assessment's value and utility will be realized only if it is embraced and used within strategic and comprehensive planning, grant writing, program development, and partnerships. Within the document, analysis of the data is illustrated in various ways, but by no means is it all-inclusive. The data provided can and should be further examined to be most useful to the reader.

While the 2024 Community Assessment provides a significant amount of data and even some analysis, there are limitations to the data. Additional questions are still left unanswered — most specifically, what should the community do now? The easy answer is to focus on the needs identified in the Community Assessment, but long-term success is best achieved when each sector (nonprofit, private, and public) fulfills its individual role, mission, and set of programs in a collaborative manner. Only then can sustained and incremental change be achieved.

Through a concentrated effort of cooperation and collaboration that focuses financial resources, human capital, and innovative outcome-based programming on the identified community needs, we will make Clinton County a better place to live, work, and play.

# Methodology

The Community Assessment for Clinton County was completed using four connected methodologies: analysis of objective secondary data, a survey of the adult population of Clinton County which includes customers of social service agencies, a survey of partner agencies working in Clinton County, and a series of four virtual focus groups of service professionals and community members to delve further into the topics identified in prior surveys. The 2024 Community Assessment data collection was primarily done virtually as the return rate from the prior year's online surveys illustrated it was a successful method. This section will address the methodology used for each.

## Objective Data

Objective secondary data was assembled using Community Commons, a comprehensive online tool managed by Institute for People, Place, and Possibility (ID3); CARES Missouri – University of Missouri; and Community Initiatives Network, which provides Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and other organizations with the means to capture information about their community, analyze the data, and identify the needs to be met within the community. Community Commons provides public access to thousands of meaningful data layers that allow mapping and reporting capabilities. This online tool provides data at federal, state, and local levels from over 20 data sources, including government agencies.

The Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP) Report tool, found at the CAAP Hub on Community Commons, is specifically designed to assist Pennsylvania Community Action Agency staff in the development of Community Assessments. The CAAP Report tool offers data and maps that span a variety of topics from reliable federal and state sources: population, veterans, employment, education, housing, income, poverty, nutrition, healthcare, and crime. These data sets and maps help CAAs identify and evaluate target areas, explore potential trends, set outcome goals, and provide meaningful and data-driven explanations.

As a CAA, STEP also in 2024 had access to Policy Map, an online mapping tool program that can integrate data geospatially to illustrate concentrations of various indicators within an agency's service area.

## Community Survey

The Community Survey was distributed widely via JotForm® to the public in Clinton County, as well as specifically to customers engaged in services at social service agencies. In 2024, 130 respondents completed the Community Survey. In 2021 there were 411 respondents, while there were 342 respondents in 2018.

The customer survey included several demographic questions. The results are provided in the demographics section of this report for comparison between the survey respondents and the broader county population.

## Partner Survey

The partner survey was distributed to staff members of social service agencies in Clinton County via JotForm®. In 2024 there were 51 responses received. This is lower than the 2021 total of 71.

## **Focus Groups**

Four focus groups of service professionals and community members were conducted to delve further into the community needs identified through the surveys. The topic of each focus group centered on one area of identified concern: Children & Youth, Families in Crisis, Housing & Homelessness, and Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. Each of the focus groups worked through several groups of questions related to topics, including: Education and Employment; Substance Abuse; and Health and Nutrition, as well as general questions about needs. Participants in focus groups were a broad cross-section of partner agencies, the public sector, and the private sector, with emphasis placed on the extensive experience of that participant with the focus group topics. Each focus group included 12 to 15 participants and was held virtually on Microsoft Teams®. Focus group data was integrated into the key need categories and helped frame the themes in this document.

# Understanding and Using this Community Assessment Report

In order to have the Community Assessment be a resource and tool for the greater community, provided below is a breakdown of the document into three key sections and a summary of each.

## ***Purpose***

- *Meet STEP requirements*
  - *Analyze comprehensive community needs*
  - *Provide Community Assessment tool to the community*
  - *Respond to community change or crisis*
- Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc. is required by many of its federal and state revenue sources to produce a Community Assessment on a three-year time frame.
  - This Community Assessment analyzed comprehensive needs through a community-wide survey.
  - The Community Assessment report will be used by STEP, Inc. and other community stakeholders for strategic planning, grant writing, program development, and partnerships.

## ***Organizational Structure***

- *Critical need rankings*
  - *Key need categories with summary themes*
  - *Supporting data*
- Critical need rankings provide relative importance of identified needs of Clinton County.
  - In each key need category section, category themes summarize findings.
  - Supporting data includes community-wide survey data.
  - Use findings and data to plan short- and long-range goals.
  - Use findings and data to support new program development and enhancement.

## ***Using this document***

- *Strategic planning*
  - *Program development*
  - *Grant writing & resource development*
  - *Internal & external assessment*
  - *Resource management*
- Collaborate with community partners to maximize community outcomes efficiently and effectively.
  - Justify funding requests with Community Assessment content within and across need categories.
  - Utilize Community Assessment as a foundation for developing and implementing assessment tools.
  - Measure effectiveness to achieve program effectiveness.
  - Manage human and financial resources to respond to valid community needs.

**Please note:** Throughout the report the data is presented as percentages that have been rounded to the nearest whole percent.

# Critical Needs Ranking

The critical needs of Clinton County and perceptions of their relative importance were assessed by two different means: the community survey and the partner survey. By comparing the results to those of prior years, it is possible to identify not only new issues, but also whether respondents see progress on other issues identified in the past.

In the 2024 community survey, the most cited problems were economy/jobs related issues including homelessness, followed by housing/homelessness, then lack of community resources, and drugs/alcohol. In 2021, economy/jobs was also the top problem identified, but it was followed by drugs/alcohol, then housing/homelessness and education. In summary, between the three year period there has been little change on the highest ranking problems by community survey respondents. However, there are some notable changes including an approximate 14% decrease in respondents stating economy/jobs as the top issue, and the increase in focus of lack of community resources which went from 4.6% in 2021 to 12.2% in 2024. Clinton County is very rural, and while there are resources available, they may not be known by residents. Education seems to be less of a concern in comparison to 2021, when 11.1% identified this as the top need, yet in 2024, it is at 6.1%. This reduction may be associated with the concern about virtual schooling that was prominent in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2024 partner survey respondents identified availability of affordable child care as the most important issue facing Clinton County, rising out of the top five issues of 2021. When asked if this area is receiving the attention needed, 78% of partners stated “no.” Over the three years, more focus has been on the lack of available and affordable child care as Clinton County has been identified as a child care desert, with fewer slots for early education options for needs of families with small children. If families do not have a safe, affordable place for their children to be while they are working, they make a choice often to exit the workforce, which affects the economy. The shortage of child care locations in Clinton County is well documented and needs to be addressed through a multi-faceted approach that focuses on early education/child care and its impact on workforce and economy. Focus group participants validated the lack of affordable child care options for families and provided many testimonials of challenging situations.

Following the availability of affordable child care, partner survey respondents identified issues related to access to mental health services, abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults and youth, followed by housing related issues, including the need for affordable housing and budgeting in the top ten. In 2021, issues related to the abuse of drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin by adults and youth were the top four issues identified. The lower ranking of abuse of drugs/alcohol may indicate that over the three-year period the focus on this area has made a positive impact on the issue. When asked if the issue is receiving adequate attention by community groups, substance abuse related issues have approximately 56% stating more support in this area is needed, which is up just slightly from 2021.

Access to mental health services in 2021 was ranked 10, yet in 2024 had moved to be a top issue facing Clinton County according to partners, and 63% noted this was not receiving adequate attention by community groups. Beyond mental health services, physical health, behavioral health, and dental services were identified as lacking in Clinton County.



## Community Survey

What do you feel is the most important problem facing Clinton County today? (Percentage)

	2024	2021	2018	2015
Economy/Jobs	24.4	38.0	32.8	47.6
Housing & Homelessness	12.9	11.1	0.7	2.5
Lack of Community Resources	12.2	4.6	***	***
Drugs/Alcohol	10.7	14.6	41.6	30.9
Education	6.1	11.1	14.3	5.1
Roads, Vehicles, & Transportation	6.1	3.8	4.2	2.2
Taxes	4.6	2.7	2.8	4.0
Crime	3.8	1.6	2.0	2.2
Various Other	2.9	3.2	1.6	5.5
Lack of Activities for Children & Teens	1.5	3.0	***	***
Food Insecurity	***	1.6	***	***
COVID-19 related issues	***	15.4	***	***

\*\*\*Respondents did not provide this response in this survey.

How many people are in your household? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
One	10.8%
Two	36.2%
Three	28.5%
Four	14.6%
Five or more	10.0%

How many adults over the age of 60 live with you in your household? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
Zero	63.1
One	18.5
Two - Three	18.5
Four or more	0.0

**How many children under the age of 18 live with you in your household? (Percentage)**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	
Zero	<b>65.4%</b>
One	<b>16.9%</b>
Two - Three	<b>17.7%</b>
Four or more	<b>0.0%</b>

**What is your highest level of education? (Percentage)**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	
Less than high school diploma	<b>2%</b>
High school diploma or equivalent	<b>16%</b>
Some college	<b>18%</b>
College degree	<b>42%</b>
Advanced degree	<b>22%</b>

**What was the total income of all persons in your household over the past year? (Percentage)**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	
\$15,000 or less	<b>7%</b>
\$15,000 - \$30,000	<b>12%</b>
\$30,000 - \$50,000	<b>11%</b>
\$50,000 - \$75,000	<b>14%</b>
Greater than \$75,000	<b>53%</b>
I don't know	<b>4%</b>

## Partner Survey

### What are the most important issues facing Clinton County? (Percentage)

Note: the table is sorted based on the ranking of issues in 2024 survey.

The mean of each issue listed below is ranked on a scale from 1 to 5, with indicators of importance:

(1) *Low*, (2) *Low-Medium*, (3) *Medium*, (4) *Medium-High*, and (5) *High*.

	2024		2021		2018		2015	
	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean
Availability of affordable child care	<b>1</b>	<b>4.51</b>	5	4.45	5	4.49	12	4.09
Access to mental health services	<b>2</b>	<b>4.43</b>	10	4.3	7	4.32	T7	4.19
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults	<b>3</b>	<b>4.41</b>	3	4.61	6	4.4	3	4.42
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youth	<b>4</b>	<b>4.39</b>	4	4.56	4	4.45	1	4.68
Availability of counseling services	<b>5</b>	<b>4.31</b>	12	4.28	T18	4.08	T22	3.87
Abuse of drugs including prescription opioids and heroin, by adults	<b>6</b>	<b>4.29</b>	1	4.68	1	4.69	***	***
Access to substance abuse services	<b>7</b>	<b>4.24</b>	6	4.43	3	4.54	2	4.46
Affordable housing	<b>8</b>	<b>4.20</b>	9	4.32	T10	4.22	20	3.93
Abuse of drugs including prescription opioids and heroin, by youth	<b>9</b>	<b>4.08</b>	2	4.65	2	4.66	***	***
Household budgeting	<b>T10</b>	<b>4.04</b>	13	4.25	20	4.02	17	4.02
Affordable housing for seniors	<b>T10</b>	<b>4.04</b>	21	4.11	24	3.95	T24	3.83
Access to affordable health insurance	<b>12</b>	<b>4.02</b>	23	4.08	T28	3.84	T7	4.19
Availability of after school activities	<b>13</b>	<b>3.98</b>	T24	4.07	17	4.1	T18	3.94
Heating, electricity, & water assistance	<b>14</b>	<b>3.96</b>	T29	4	T35	3.77	27	3.8
Services for children with disabilities	<b>15</b>	<b>3.90</b>	T29	4	25	3.9	28	3.79
Availability of summer activities	<b>16</b>	<b>3.88</b>	14	4.24	T18	4.08	T24	3.83
Quality of early childhood education	<b>T17</b>	<b>3.86</b>	8	4.34	15	4.15	T7	4.19
Adult job training	<b>T17</b>	<b>3.86</b>	T19	4.12	9	4.24	6	4.25

	2024		2021		2018		2015	
	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean
Youth job training	<b>T19</b>	<b>3.80</b>	16	4.17	T10	4.22	5	4.3
Access to affordable prescription medications	<b>T19</b>	<b>3.80</b>	T27	4.03	27	3.85	T18	3.94
Child abuse and neglect	<b>21</b>	<b>3.79</b>	7	4.37	8	4.28	T14	4.03
Access to health care	<b>22</b>	<b>3.78</b>	34	3.88	T28	3.84	21	3.9
Access to early childhood education	<b>T23</b>	<b>3.76</b>	11	4.29	16	4.11	11	4.12
Access to dental care	<b>T23</b>	<b>3.76</b>	32	3.94	23	3.97	T24	3.83
Health care for senior citizens	<b>T25</b>	<b>3.75</b>	T19	4.12	T30	3.83	T29	3.78
Underemployment	<b>T25</b>	<b>3.75</b>	22	4.1	12	4.21	10	4.14
Illiteracy	<b>T25</b>	<b>3.75</b>	T24	4.07	T21	4.01	T14	4.03
Services for the needs of senior citizens	<b>T25</b>	<b>3.75</b>	26	4.05	26	3.89	T31	3.73
Access to transportation for persons with disabilities	<b>T29</b>	<b>3.71</b>	T29	4	T35	3.77	33	3.71
Juvenile delinquency	<b>T29</b>	<b>3.71</b>	T39	3.75	34	3.78	T14	4.03
Transportation to Medical Appointments	<b>31</b>	<b>3.69</b>	***	***	***	***	***	***
Domestic abuse	<b>T32</b>	<b>3.67</b>	15	4.18	T21	4.01	T22	3.87
Ethnic/racial discrimination	<b>T32</b>	<b>3.67</b>	T39	3.75	42	3.57	43	3
Unemployment	<b>T34</b>	<b>3.65</b>	18	4.14	14	4.19	4	4.37
Access to nutritious meals for seniors	<b>T34</b>	<b>3.65</b>	T27	4.03	32	3.8	T31	3.73
Building access for persons with disabilities	<b>T34</b>	<b>3.65</b>	35	3.84	39	3.69	36	3.58
Homelessness	<b>37</b>	<b>3.63</b>	33	3.9	T30	3.83	39	3.41
Occupational training for persons with disabilities	<b>38</b>	<b>3.59</b>	T37	3.79	38	3.71	T34	3.63
Access to job skill training	<b>39</b>	<b>3.55</b>	17	4.16	13	4.2	13	4.08
Hunger	<b>40</b>	<b>3.53</b>	T37	3.79	40	3.63	37	3.52
Gender discrimination	<b>41</b>	<b>3.49</b>	41	3.67	41	3.62	41	3.02
Violence in schools	<b>42</b>	<b>3.37</b>	44	3.03	33	3.79	T34	3.63
Elder abuse or neglect	<b>43</b>	<b>3.31</b>	36	3.8	T35	3.77	38	3.47
Age discrimination	<b>44</b>	<b>3.29</b>	42	3.54	43	3.43	42	3.01
Teenage pregnancy	<b>45</b>	<b>2.75</b>	43	3.36	44	3.34	T29	3.78
AIDS/HIV	<b>46</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3.02</b>	45	3.11	40	3.06

\*\*\*Respondents did not provide this response in this survey.

## Is the issue receiving adequate attention by community groups in Clinton County?

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>% Responding “No”</b>			
Availability of affordable child care	<b>78%</b>	66%	65%	63%
Access to mental health services	<b>63%</b>	56%	60%	64%
Household budgeting	<b>63%</b>	52%	62%	60%
Underemployment	<b>59%</b>	54%	53%	66%
Affordable housing	<b>59%</b>	45%	58%	50%
Child abuse and neglect	<b>57%</b>	59%	45%	60%
Abuse of drugs including prescription opioids and heroin, by youth	<b>57%</b>	50%	65%	***
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youth	<b>57%</b>	47%	65%	69%
Availability of counseling services	<b>57%</b>	45%	54%	55%
Availability of after school activities	<b>55%</b>	61%	63%	55%
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults	<b>55%</b>	42%	53%	63%
Juvenile delinquency	<b>53%</b>	51%	46%	62%
Abuse of drugs including prescription opioids and heroin, by adults	<b>53%</b>	50%	60%	***
Affordable housing for seniors	<b>53%</b>	29%	39%	36%
Availability of summer activities	<b>51%</b>	63%	58%	46%
Access to substance abuse services	<b>49%</b>	44%	65%	63%
Access to affordable health insurance	<b>49%</b>	42%	57%	66%
Ethnic/racial discrimination	<b>49%</b>	38%	53%	29%
Violence in schools	<b>49%</b>	33%	60%	57%
Access to job skill training	<b>47%</b>	53%	52%	54%
Unemployment	<b>47%</b>	51%	46%	64%
Access to affordable prescription medications	<b>47%</b>	44%	51%	56%
Homelessness	<b>45%</b>	34%	45%	39%
Gender discrimination	<b>43%</b>	40%	53%	29%
Elder abuse or neglect	<b>43%</b>	34%	36%	34%
Heating, electricity, & water assistance	<b>43%</b>	25%	40%	46%
Domestic abuse	<b>41%</b>	39%	35%	39%
Youth job training	<b>39%</b>	44%	63%	59%
Adult job training	<b>39%</b>	41%	52%	58%
Quality of early childhood education	<b>39%</b>	29%	28%	29%
Access to health care	<b>37%</b>	32%	36%	49%
Services for the needs of senior citizens	<b>37%</b>	26%	33%	29%
Access to dental care	<b>35%</b>	36%	42%	37%
Illiteracy	<b>33%</b>	44%	48%	50%
Health care for senior citizens	<b>33%</b>	33%	31%	33%

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>% Responding “No”</b>			
Services for children with disabilities	<b>33%</b>	27%	24%	22%
Occupational training for persons with disabilities	<b>31%</b>	30%	28%	31%
Access to early childhood education	<b>31%</b>	22%	22%	21%
Teenage pregnancy	<b>29%</b>	46%	35%	56%
Age discrimination	<b>29%</b>	38%	48%	32%
Access to transportation for persons with disabilities	<b>29%</b>	28%	18%	24%
Building access for persons with disabilities	<b>29%</b>	23%	20%	24%
Hunger	<b>22%</b>	14%	35%	35%
AIDS/HIV	<b>18%</b>	25%	23%	29%
Access to nutritious meals for seniors	<b>18%</b>	19%	23%	19%

\*\*\* Respondents did not provide this response in this survey.

**Please describe any new human service initiatives needed in Clinton County to meet the needs assessed above.**

	<b>2024</b>
Childcare	<b>18%</b>
Transportation	<b>11%</b>
Housing	<b>7%</b>
Homelessness	<b>7%</b>
Substance Abuse	<b>7%</b>
Mental Health	<b>5%</b>
Healthcare	<b>5%</b>
Employment	<b>4%</b>
Early Education	<b>3%</b>
School violence	<b>1%</b>

**I work for a human service provider.** (Percentage)

	<b>2024</b>
Yes	<b>55%</b>
No	<b>45%</b>

**I volunteer for a human service provider.** (Percentage)

	<b>2024</b>
Yes	<b>8%</b>
No	<b>82%</b>

## **Key Need Categories with Summary Themes**

The Key Need Categories were defined through understanding previous Community Assessments and the domains of services for human service providers in the broader community. The themes under each category summarize findings from customer surveys, partner surveys, community surveys, and focus groups. The themes are arranged in alphabetical order and include: Children and Youth, Education and Employment, Families in Crisis, Housing and Homelessness, Health and Nutrition, and Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.

Each Key Need Category is followed by details of the related partner and community survey information related to the themes as well as the demographic information to provide additional context for each area.

# Children and Youth

There are 7,663 youth ages 0-17 living in Clinton County, according to the American Community Survey. Clinton County's rate of child poverty ages 0-4 is at 14.8% while the rate of child poverty ages 0-17 is 14.3%. The overall poverty rate for Clinton County is 12.9%. Comparing today's concerns with those noted in prior studies, it becomes apparent that existing problems remain a concern. Four main themes emerge across objective data from the community, customer and partner surveys and focus groups. They are early care and education crisis, behavioral issues, child abuse and neglect reporting, and mental health needs.

## Early Care and Education Crisis

The objective data section ahead shows the number of child care facilities available in the county, which has only decreased over the last several years. The community and customer surveys show a significant decline in the percentage of people who strongly agree they have access to child care that they can afford. Specifically, the percentage of respondents in the customer survey group who agreed or strongly agreed they have access to these services decreased from approximately 30% in 2018 and 2021 and 11% in 2024. Similarly, both customer and community responses show a decrease in the percentage of families that agree or strongly agree they have access to early childhood education. Of partner survey respondents, 69% stated availability of affordable child care was the most important issue related to children and youth facing Clinton County, and 78% stated this is not receiving enough attention. According to focus group participants, Clinton County does not have enough capacity in existing early care and education locations to fill the needs of families, both low-income and private pay. Downsizing and lack of expansion of facilities has limited the availability of early care and education in Clinton County. In terms of affordability, in Clinton County, the average cost of quality STAR 4 child care is \$176.00 per child per week or \$704 per child per month. This is often not affordable for families, particularly if there are multiple children in child care.

While the cost of care is not affordable, staff wages for child care staff have also not increased relative to inflation. Low wages, compounded by lack of educational opportunities in early care, is perpetuating a staffing crisis. The average hourly wage of preschool staff in a certified child care in Clinton County is \$10.51. Living wage is a range based on number of children and working adults in a household as well as the relative cost of maintaining stable basic needs, including housing and utilities. For a single adult household with two children, the living wage in Clinton County is \$42.56 according to the MIT Living Wage Calculator. Staff are not paid enough to entice them to move from other areas, and early care and education providers have been historically underpaid. Due to this, qualified and educated individuals are not moving to Clinton County to fill open positions. Finding educated staff is also a challenge according to the focus group. Clinton County lacks both graduate- and undergraduate-educated staff to meet the guidelines needed to be a high-quality location. The pool of educated and qualified individuals to staff early care and education locations in Clinton County is not sufficient.

The lack of capacity, staff wages, and affordability continues to compound the issue of child care and early education, which are in a state of crisis. The economic implications of this can be seen as there are adults that have exited the workforce due to not having a place for their children to be while they are working. The early care and education capacity needs directly impact the economic development potential of a community.



## **Behavioral Issues**

Behavioral issues related to children and youth were first noted in 2018 and this has not improved significantly. Young children are demonstrating even more pronounced behaviors according to focus group participants. Behavioral services to support families are harder to access, more unaffordable, and are less available in the region. Focus group participants state there has been a noticeable increase in extreme, more complex behavioral/mental health issues exhibited by children and youths. In some cases, focus group participants referred to challenging home life of children as a contributing factor of the behaviors. The community survey revealed consistency from the 2021 survey regarding access to adequate after school and summer activities. This illustrates that not much expansion of opportunities has been seen in the community over the last three years.

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting**

In the 2024 community survey, of the 24% of respondents aware of victims of child abuse or neglect, 10% did not contact authorities about the incident. This increase in the percentage of respondents contacting the proper authorities may be due to the increase community education and focus within schools and other agencies on mandated reporter training. Only 1% of the respondents to the community survey stated they believed that child abuse is not on the rise in the community, with most respondents remaining neutral and 35% strongly agreeing or agreeing to the statement. Partners continue to note the issue of child abuse and neglect is of high importance and in need of more attention in Clinton County.

## **Mental Health Needs**

According to focus group participants, the need for mental health supports specific to youth continues. Unstable family situations coupled with various stressors in social life and academics continues to affect youth's mental health. Many are dealing with multiple challenges at once, which creates an increased need for mental health services that are already understaffed and often unavailable. Locally, there has been a decline in providers due to changes in regulations and reimbursement rates for services. Focus group participants cited the need to intervene as early as possible in a child's life and helping them cope, but also addressing the root cause of the underlying issues. While there are some mental health supports available, the need far outweighs the availability and access.

## Objective Data: Children and Youth

### Population: Children and Youth

The table below shows the population of youths up to age 17 in Clinton County and Pennsylvania.

**Population by Age & Gender, 2018-2022**

Report Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		Ages 0 to 17 Total Population
	M	F	M	F	
Clinton County	1,022	1,026	2,910	2,705	7,663
Pennsylvania	361,510	345,053	1,001,143	954,685	2,662,381

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22. Source geography: Tract.

### Child (0-4): Poverty Rate

Population and poverty estimate for children age 0-4 are shown for Clinton County. According to the ACS five-year data, an average of 14.8% of children in Clinton County lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in Clinton County is lower than the national average of 18.1% and the Pennsylvania average of 17.3%.

**American Community Survey, Child (0-4) Poverty Rate**

Report Area	Children, Ages 0 - 4 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Clinton County	2,011	298	14.8%
Pennsylvania	676,428	116,758	17.3%
National	18,654,535	3,369,529	18.1%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22. Source geography: County.

### Child (5-17): Poverty Rate

Population and poverty estimate for children age 5-17 are shown for Clinton County and Pennsylvania. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) five-year data, an average of 14.3% of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in Clinton County is slightly lower than the Pennsylvania average of 15.8%, and less than the national average of 16.2%.

**American Community Survey, Child (5-17) Poverty Rate**

Report Area	Children, Ages 5 - 17 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Clinton County	5,521	787	14.3%
Pennsylvania	1,943,970	306,484	15.8%
National	53,380,823	8,632,822	16.2%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22. Source geography: County.

## Early Head Start and Head Start Participation

The table below reflects children ages 0-5 participating in Early Head Start, Federal Head Start, and State Head Start. For the 2018-2019 year, the number of children attending these programs in Clinton County totals 136, while those participating statewide equaled 43,376.

### Early Childhood Programming and Head Start Participation

Report Area	Early Head Start	Head Start Federal	Head Start State	Total Participants
Pennsylvania	5,763	31,501	6,112	43,376
Clinton County	28	108	0	136

Data Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation . Source geography: county. **Data was compiled from the 2024 Kids Count Data Book.**

## Child Care Costs

The cost of child care for STAR 4 child care facilities in Clinton County is shown below. This figure is the average cost of care for all age ranges including: infant care, toddler care, preschool care, school-age before and after care and school-age full day rates.

### Average Child Care Costs

Report Area	Type of Care	Average Weekly Cost
Clinton County	STAR 4 Facility	\$159

Data Source: Early Learning Resource Center for Region 7, 2024.

## Certified Child Care Facilities

The table below is a listing of Certified Child Care Providers provided by the Early Learning Resource Center Region 7 as of September 2024. Child Care Center: a facility in which seven or more children, who are not related to the operator receive child care. Family Child Care Home: a facility located in a home in which four to six children, who are not related to the caregiver receive child care. Group Child Care Home: a facility in which 7 to 12 children of various ages or in which 7 to 15 children from fourth grade through 15 years of age, who are not related to the operator receive child care. The maximum number of children permitted to receive care in a child care facility at one time is based on square footage of child care space and age of the children.

### Certified Child Care Facilities, 2024

Report Area	# of Certified Providers	Certified Provider Type *	Maximum Capacity **
Clinton County	13	Child Care Center	996
Clinton County	9	Family Child Care Home	30
Clinton County	1	Group Child Care Home	12

Data Source: Early Learning Resource Center Region 7, 2024. Source geography: county.

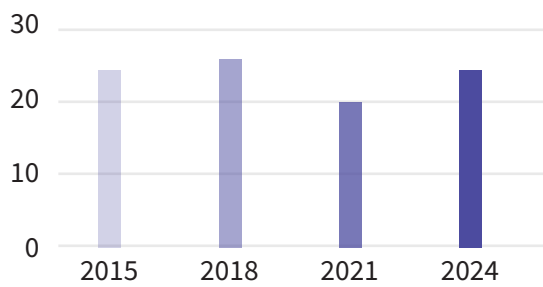
# Survey Data: Children and Youth

## Community Survey Information

Are you aware of anyone in your community who has been the victim of child abuse or neglect in the last year?



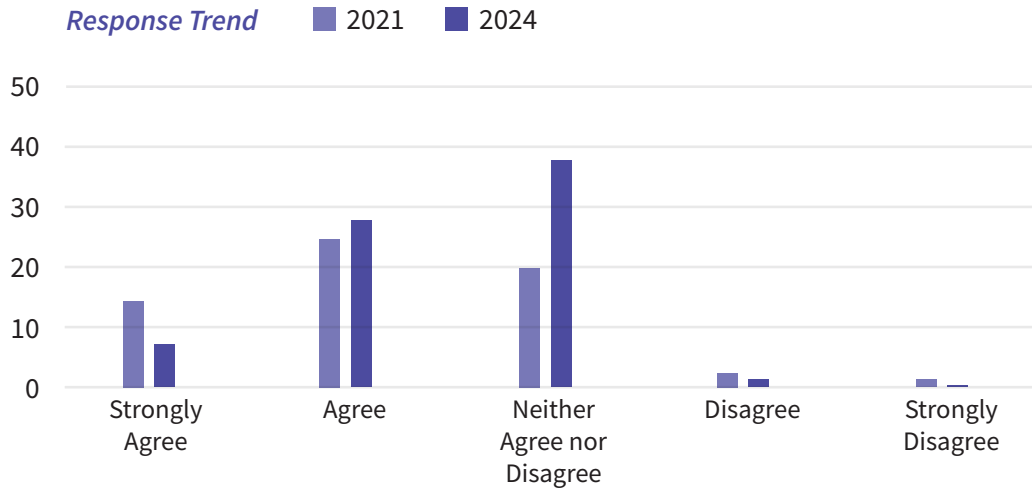
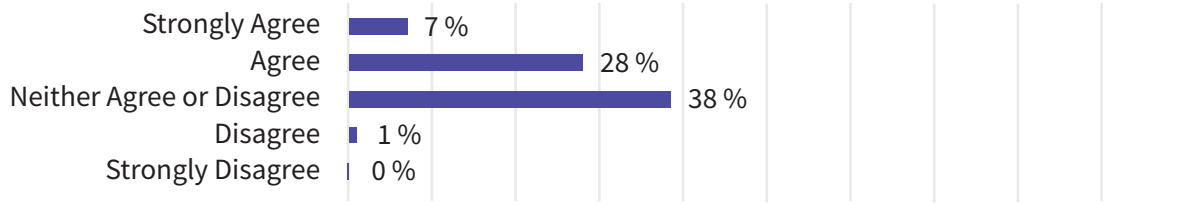
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



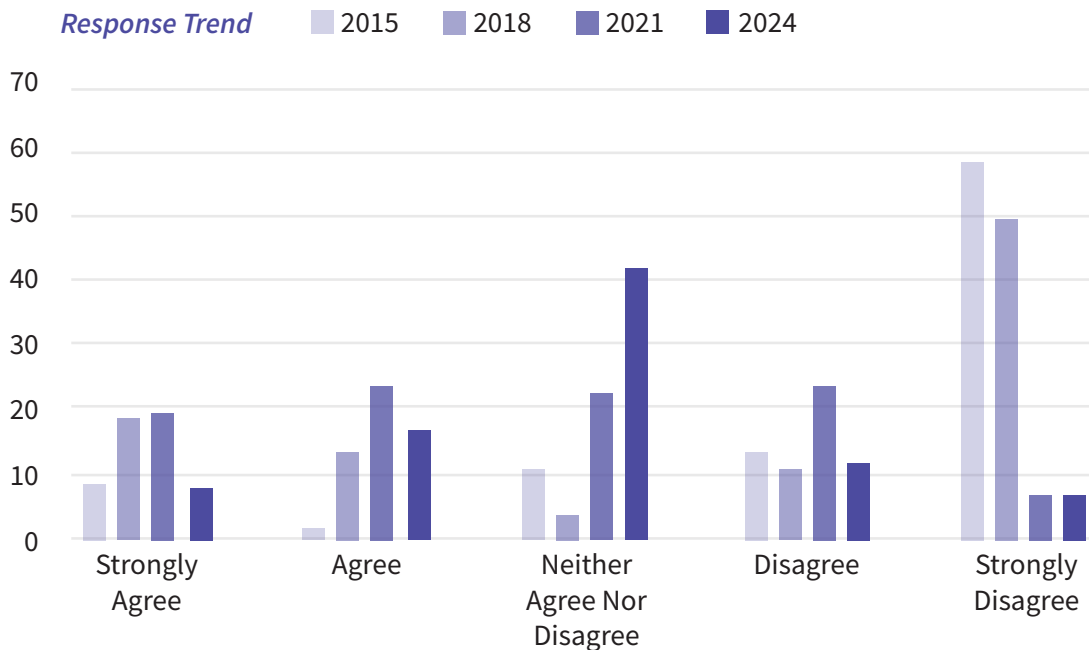
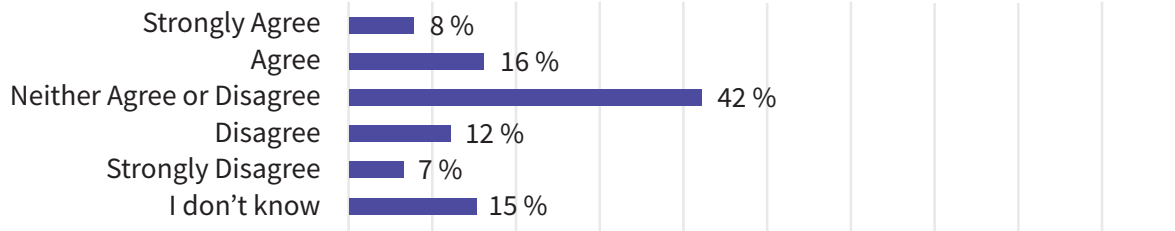
If yes, did you contact the proper authorities?



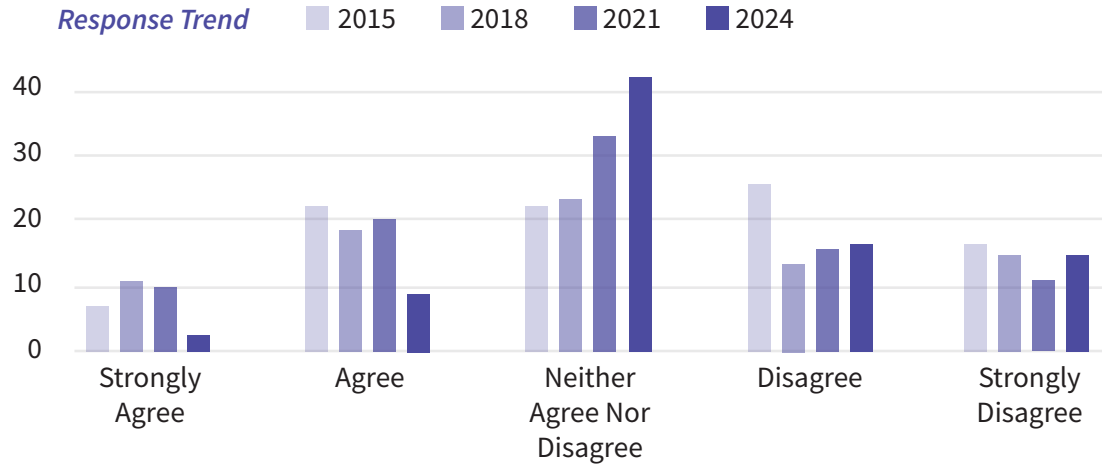
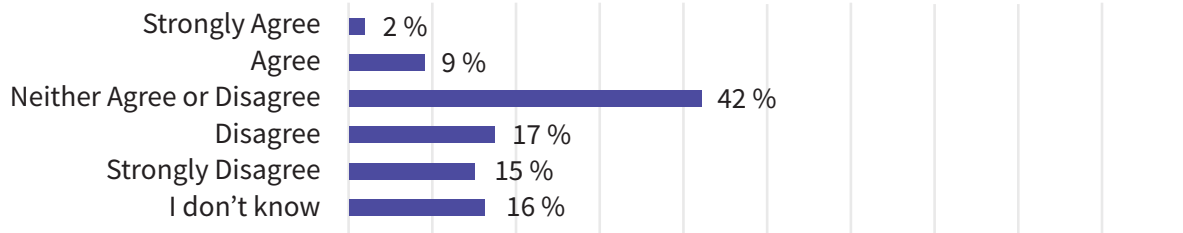
## Child abuse is on the rise in my community.



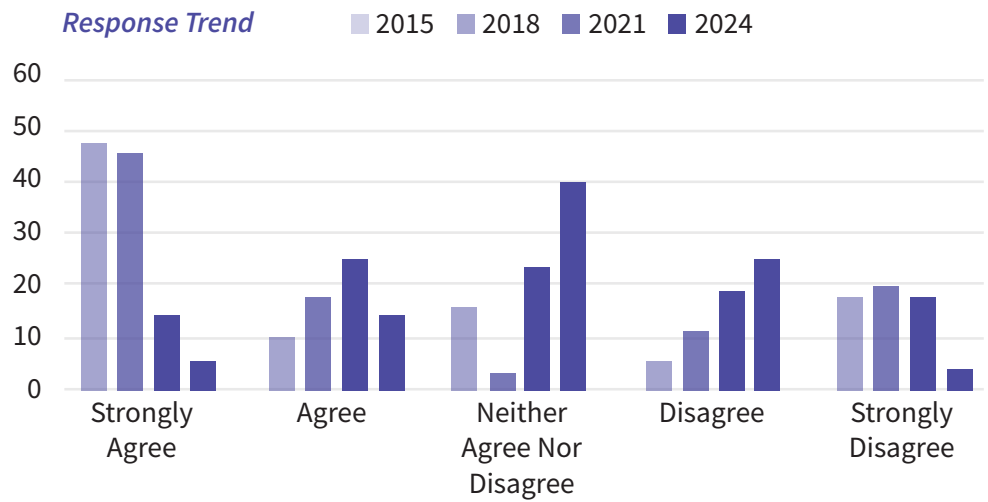
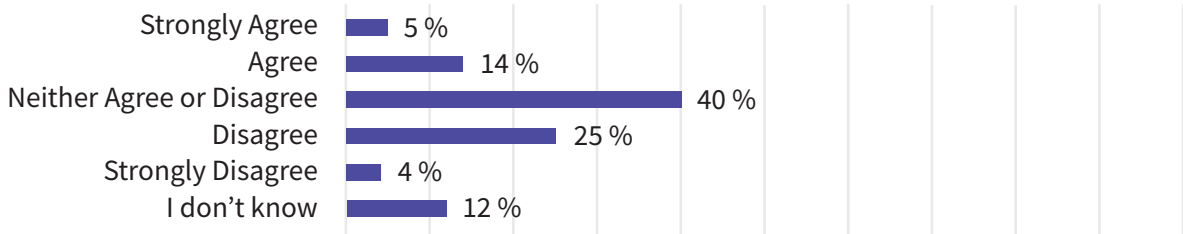
## My children have nothing to do after school.



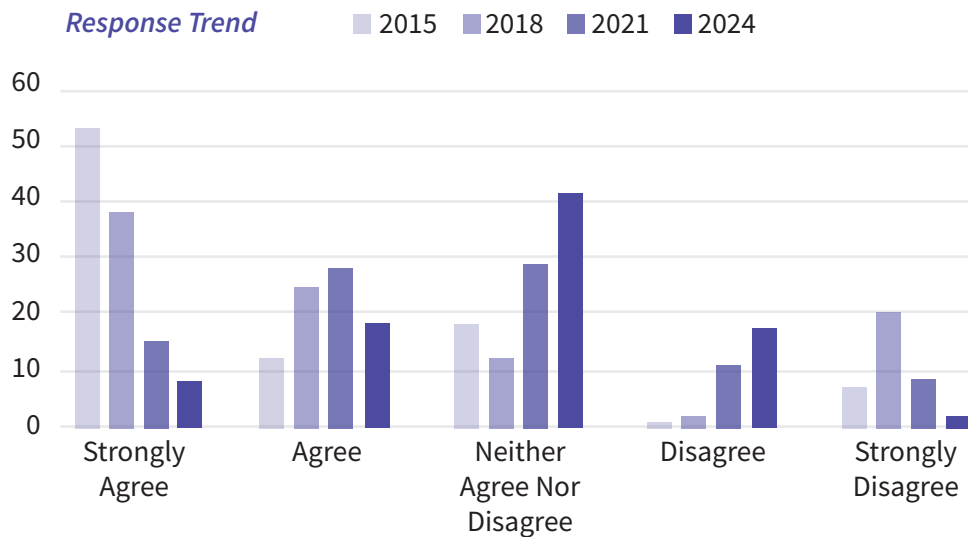
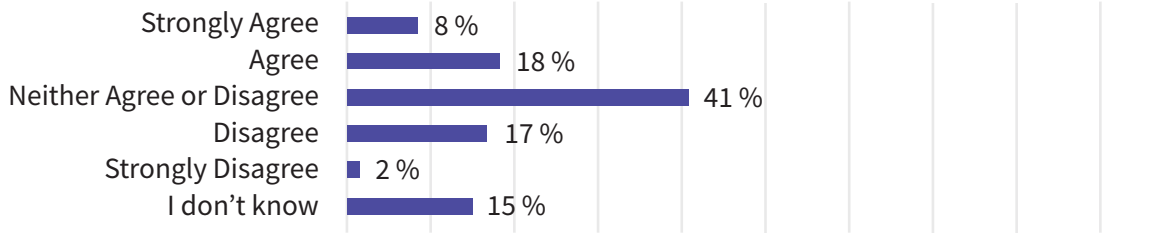
**My family has access to adequate child care that I can afford.**



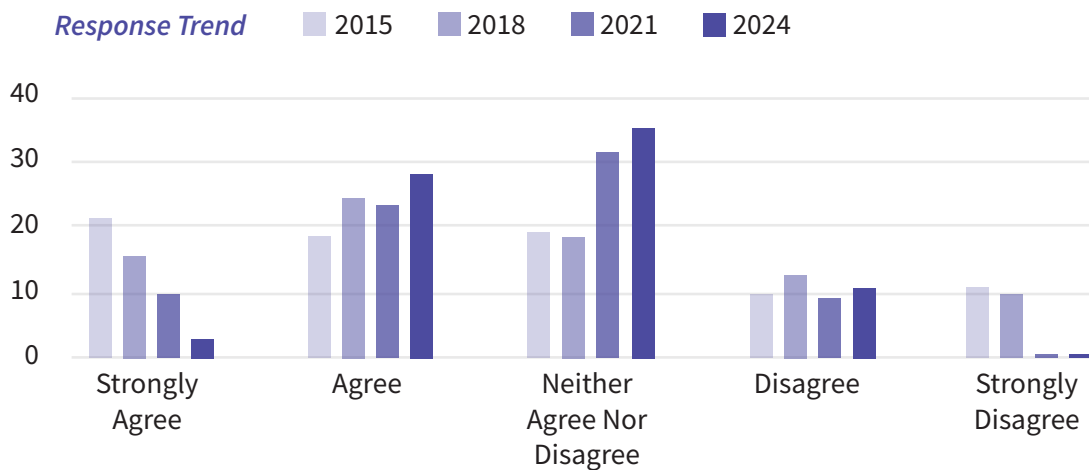
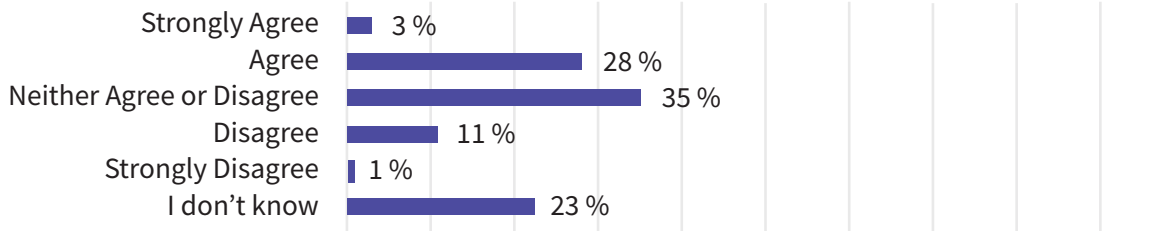
**My children have access to adequate activities to keep them busy in the summer.**



## My family has access to quality early childhood education.



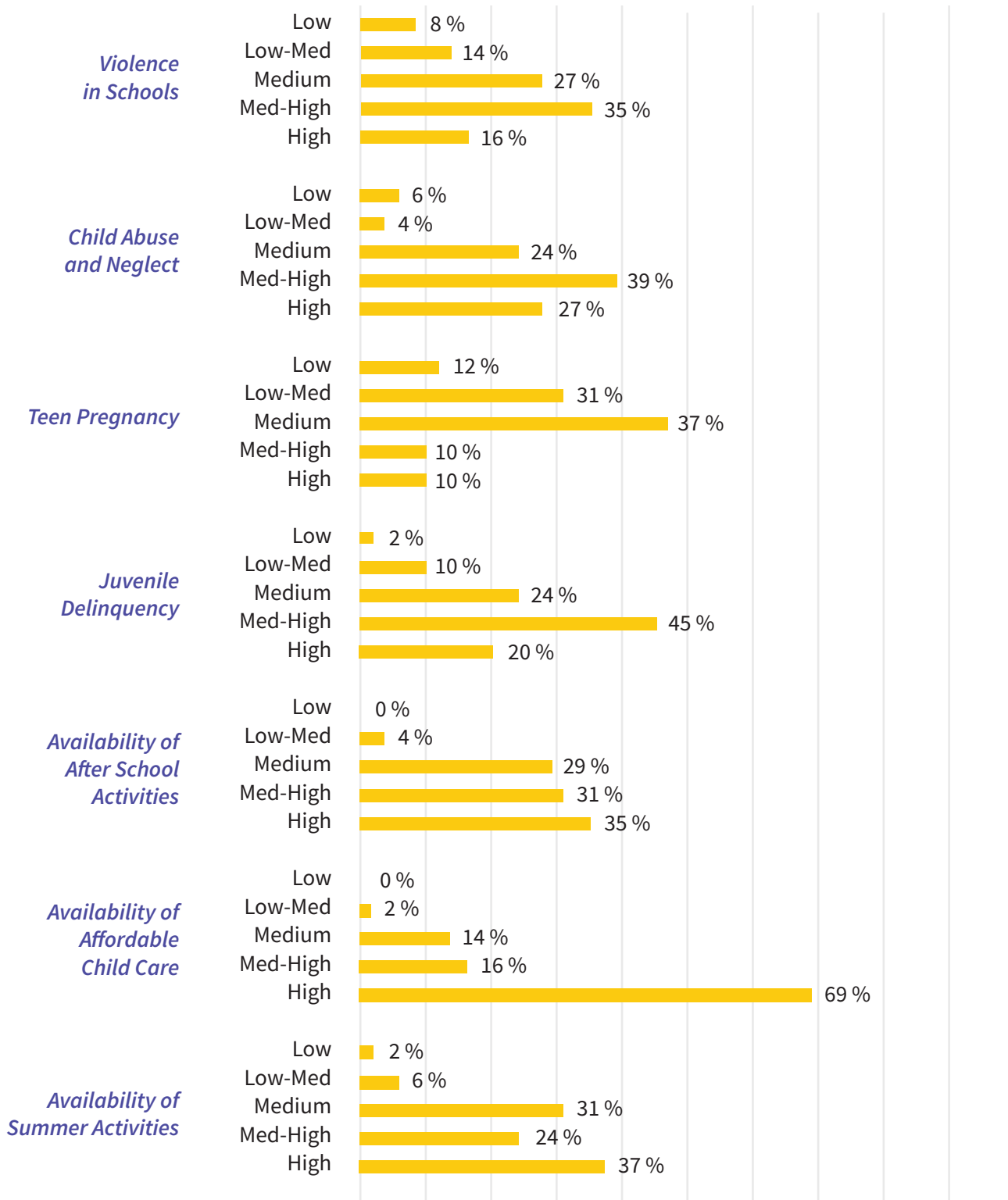
## Teenage pregnancy is a big problem in my community.



# Survey Data: Children and Youth

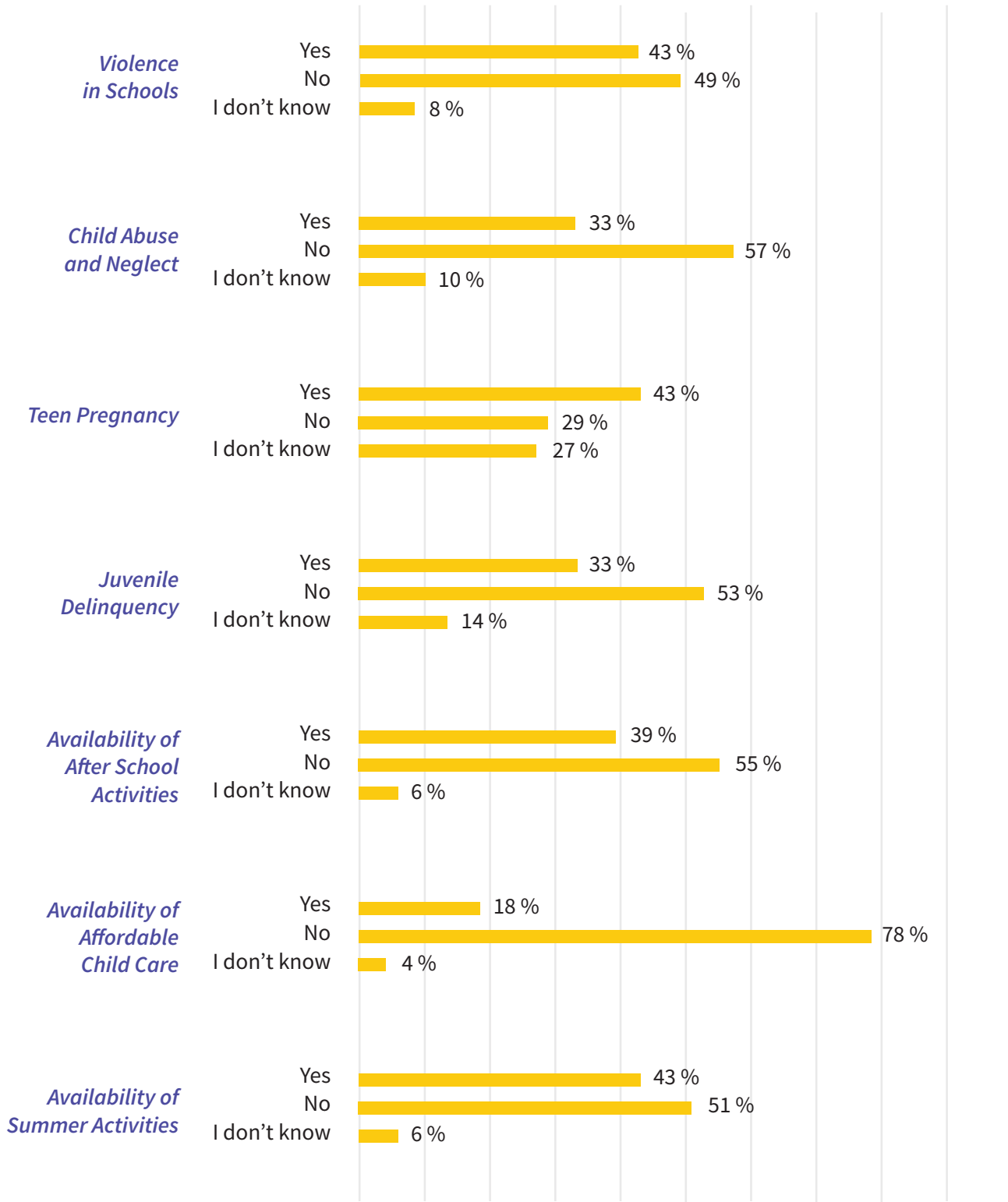
## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important children and youth issues facing Clinton County?





## Are these children and youth issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?



# Education and Employment

The issues that emerged from the interconnected topics of education and employment were discussed throughout the various focus groups. This includes lack of value put on education by parents, recruitment and retention of employees, soft skill development, and lack of child care options for working parents. In terms of education, Clinton County's percentage of high school graduates planning to go to college is 46%, which is lower when compared to Pennsylvania at 60%. Looking at educational attainment, 56% of Clinton County's population aged 25 or older either have only a high school education or does not have a diploma, this is higher than the state and national percentages. Conversely the percentage of adults over the age of 25 with a Bachelors, Graduate, or Professional degree is lower compared to Pennsylvania and the nation, at 20%. While Clinton County is slightly better than Pennsylvania, but still less than the rest of the nation regarding its literacy rate, it is still problematic with 38% of customers surveyed claiming to be aware of adults in the community who cannot read, which is increased from 2021 when it was 35%.

Across the objective data, community, customer, and partner surveys, as well as focus group information, three main themes emerged related to education and employment: quality early care and education options, difficulty in recruiting and retaining employees, and employability and life skills training.

## Quality Early Care and Education Opportunities

Throughout the focus groups and illustrated within the partner and community surveys was emphasis on the lack of available child care and early education options within the community. Within the discussion of employment, many comments illustrated the direct link between quality care for young children and economics. If parents do not have a place they feel safe and secure leaving their children, in many cases they will make the decision to exit the workforce to take care of a their children. Focus group participants discussed how they have lost good employees due to the lack of child care options that fit their need. In some cases, potential employees have not taken jobs due to the scheduling needs and the lack of options of quality locations for their children to be while they work. Clinton County does not have enough locations offering quality early care and education generally, and when looked at through the lens of affordability, the options for working families become even more limited.

## Recruitment and Retention of Employees

Employers have been having an extremely difficult time recruiting and retaining staff, according to focus group participants. Many factors were noted, including low unemployment rate, number of retirements, child care issues, and transportation challenges. Recruiting from outside the area has also proven to be difficult, due primarily to the lower pay offered. Employers stress the low cost of living, employment benefits provided, and the community's cultural amenities, yet the lower pay scale works as a disincentive. Because it is challenging to recruit outside the area, the emphasis is placed on keeping current residents/workers in the area. The focus group mentioned that many who do move away eventually move back, typically post-retirement. Educational attainment levels also contribute to the worker shortage. Community survey respondents noted there is lack of engagement from parents to push students to strive in education and further their skill development, resulting in increased truancy and unmotivated students. Retention of employees is also a challenge as the employees are looking for different types of flexibilities, such as shorter work weeks and work from home options, which some employers cannot accommodate. The workforce has moved to allow more remote work over the last several years; this is also impacting the pool of qualified employees. Incentives for retention were discussed in the focus group, but there was no real solution to the shrinking pool of potential employees.

## **Employability and Life Skill Training**

Unemployment rates in Clinton County in 2020 peaked at 15.2%. In October of 2024, the rate is at 4.2%. With the unemployment rate low, there are fewer adults looking for employment and thus job are available, yet hard to match with appropriate candidates. Partner survey respondents and focus group participants also noted underemployment was an issue, as there is a lack of training opportunities or career paths with upward mobility, so in some cases employees are working in positions that they are overqualified for. Over the last several years, employers have increased wage and fringe benefits, and focused on changing the work culture to try to entice new employees to their locations. Job training for youth and adults were seen as areas of need across community survey, partner survey, and focus groups, just as it had in 2021. Eighty-eight percent of partner survey participants gave access to job skills trainings medium to high rating, and 39% stated job training needs are not getting enough attention.

Along with the need for employment related training, life skill training was noted as something particularly important. Employers can often teach skills, but it is much more difficult to do so with individuals that lack personal responsibility, time management, and other skills that create a strong work ethic. Discussion within the focus groups highlighted the need for job training to incorporate life skills that shape a person into a better employee. These skills include time management, teamwork, initiative, and communication. Enhancing both the financial literacy and life skills for youth and adults will help create a better workforce in Clinton County. Focus groups noted soft skills or life skills throughout as areas of need for adults, as well as youth transitioning to the workforce.

Budgeting programs that include practical approaches and tools for flexible budgeting techniques, as well as strategies of how to deal with life's challenges are needed. Better understanding of banking, credit, insurance, along with homeowner responsibilities and renters' rights are also areas that many human service customers see as an educational need.

## Objective Data: Education and Employment

### Education: School Enrollment

These tables provide the total public and private school enrollment for 2022-2023. In Clinton County, a total of 4,928 persons were enrolled in school. In this report, private schools refer to both private and nonpublic institutions and for Clinton County, 859 students are enrolled in private schools or 17.4% of the student population.

#### Public and Private/Non-Public Enrollment, 2022-2023

Report Area	Enrollment			Grade 1-8			Grade 9-12		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
Clinton County	4,928	4,069	859	3,414	2,701	713	1,514	1,368	146
Pennsylvania	1,793,150	1,535,861	257,289	1,159,849	987,942	171,907	633,301	547,919	85,382

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County data was compiled from the Public School Enrollment report and Private and Non-Public Schools Enrollments Reports, 2022-2023, The Pennsylvania Department of Education report. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

### Education: High School Graduates

The table below shows the number of public high school graduates from Clinton County who are planning to attend college for the 2022-2023 academic years. The chart shows that of the 291 Clinton County graduates, 46.39% are planning to attend college. Statewide, 60.86% of graduates plan on going to college.

#### High School Graduates

Report Area	Total Graduates	College Bound	College Bound
Clinton County	291	135	46.39%
Pennsylvania	125,658	76,740	60.86%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2022-2023, Source geography: County.

### Education: High School Dropouts

The table below shows the annual high school dropout rate which is defined as the number of students who, for any reason other than death, leave school before graduation without transferring to another school or institution. During academic year 2022-2023, 1.01% of Clinton County's 237 grade 7-12 students dropped out.

#### High School Drop Out Rates

Report Area	Enrollment Grades 7-12	Dropouts Male	Dropouts Female	Dropouts Total	Dropouts Rate
Clinton County	1,995	14	6	20	1.01%
Pennsylvania	811,442	7,704	5,549	13,253	1.63%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2022-2023, Source geography: County.

## Education: Educational Attainment

The table below shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in Clinton County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 and is an average for the period from 2018 to 2022. Clinton County's percentage of persons with no high school diploma over the age of 25 is 10.46%, while the statewide percentage is 8.3%, and the national percentage is 10.9%.

### Percent Attaining Educational Levels

Report Area	Educational level for Persons over 25					
	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associates	Bachelors	Graduate or Professional
Clinton County	10.46%	46.07%	13.9%	9.27%	13.13%	7.17%
Pennsylvania	8.3%	33.5%	15.6%	8.8%	20.2%	13.6%
United States	10.9%	26.4%	19.7%	8.7%	20.9%	13.4%

Data Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2018-2022, Source geography: Census Tract.

## Education: Adult Literacy

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) produces estimates for adult literacy based on educational attainment, poverty, and other factors for each county, state, and for the nation.

### Persons Lacking Basic Prose Literacy Skills, 2017

Report Area	Ages 16-74	Total at or below Level 1	Percent at or below Level 1	Total Lower Credible Interval	Percent Lower Credible Interval	Total Upper Credible Interval	Percent Upper Credible Interval
Clinton County	29,063	5,696	19.6%	4,621	15.9%	6,743	23.2%
Pennsylvania	9,434,719	1,705,057	18.1%	1,384,037	14.7%	2,024,325	21.5%
United States	235,567,157	51,401,095	21.8%	42,569,858	18.1%	60,378,678	25.6%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, 2017.

## Employment: Unemployment Change

Unemployment change within the report area from September 2023 to September 2024 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this one year period remained unchanged at 3.1%.

### Unemployment Change, September 2023-2024

Report Area	Unemployment September 2023	Unemployment September 2024	Unemployment Rate September 2023	Unemployment Rate September 2024	Rate Change
Clinton County	539	535	3.1%	3.1%	0.0%
Pennsylvania	197,948	195,185	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%
United States	6,103,482	6,590,069	3.6%	3.9%	0.3%

Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024 - September.

## **Employment: Online Job Postings**

The table below shows the number of online job postings in Clinton County and Pennsylvania in 2023 and 2024. Clinton County's annual percentage change in job postings is 93.7%, while the state's annual percent change is 32.4%. There was an increase of 178 online job postings in Clinton County from October 2023 to October 2024.

### **Online Job Postings**

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>October 2023</b>	<b>October 2024</b>	<b>Annual Percent Change</b>	<b>Annual Volume Change</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	190	368	93.7%	178
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	177,117	234,566	32.4%	57,449

*Data Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.*

## **Employment: Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees**

The table below shows the volume and percent of Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees in Clinton County and Pennsylvania from November 2023 to October 2024.

### **Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees**

<b>November 2023 to October 2024</b>	<b>Volume</b>		<b>Percent of Total</b>	
	<b>Clinton County</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>Clinton County</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>
<b>Natural Resources and Mining</b>	0	560	0.0%	1.0%
<b>Construction</b>	30	7,090	21.5%	11.5%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	30	7,200	21.5%	11.5%
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	20	11,920	14.5%	19.0%
<b>Information</b>	0	1,490	0.0%	2.5%
<b>Financial Activities</b>	0	3,530	0.0%	5.5%
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	20	12,930	14.5%	20.5%
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	20	9,540	14.5%	15.5%
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	10	4,700	7.0%	7.5%
<b>Other Services</b>	0	1,770	0.0%	3.0%
<b>Public Administration</b>	10	1,230	7.0%	2.0%
<b>Unclassified Industry</b>	0	460	0.0%	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	140	62,420	100%	100%

*Note: Percentages less than 0.5% will be displayed at 0.0%.*

*Data Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.*

## Employment: Top 10 Employers by Employment

### **Top 10 Employers by Employment in Q2 of 2024**

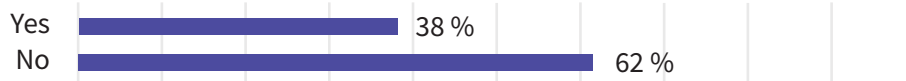
<b>Employers in Clinton County</b>
First Quality Products Inc
First Quality Tissue LLC
Keystone Central School District
Wal-Mart Associates Inc
PA State System of Higher Education
Truck-Lite Co LLC
Nicholas Meat LLC
Clinton County Commissioners
State Government
NexTier Completion Solutions

*Data Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.*

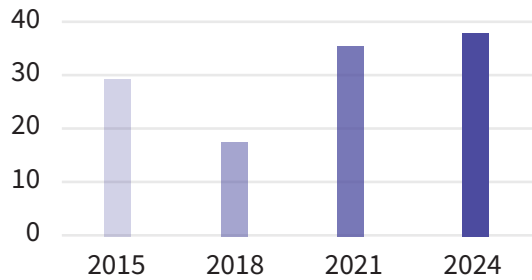
# Survey Data: Education

## Community Survey Information

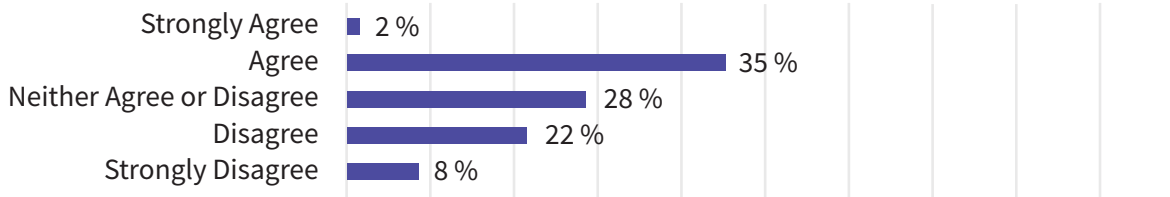
Are you aware of any adults in your community who cannot read?



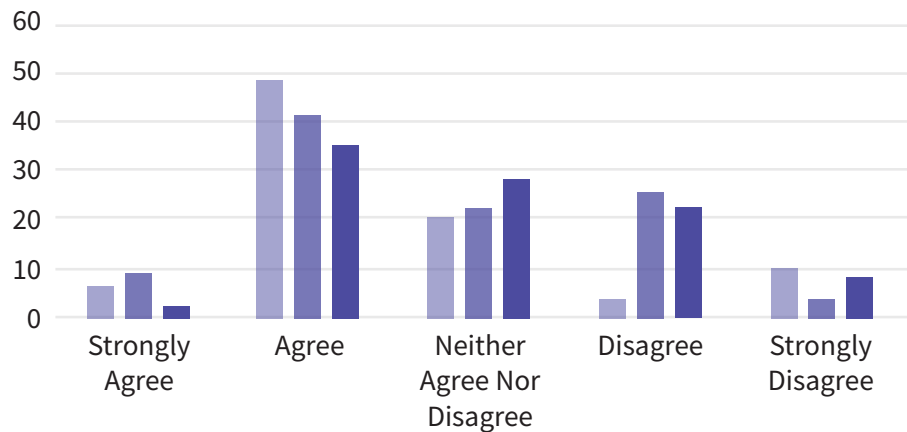
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



Children in my community have good educational opportunities.



Response Trend

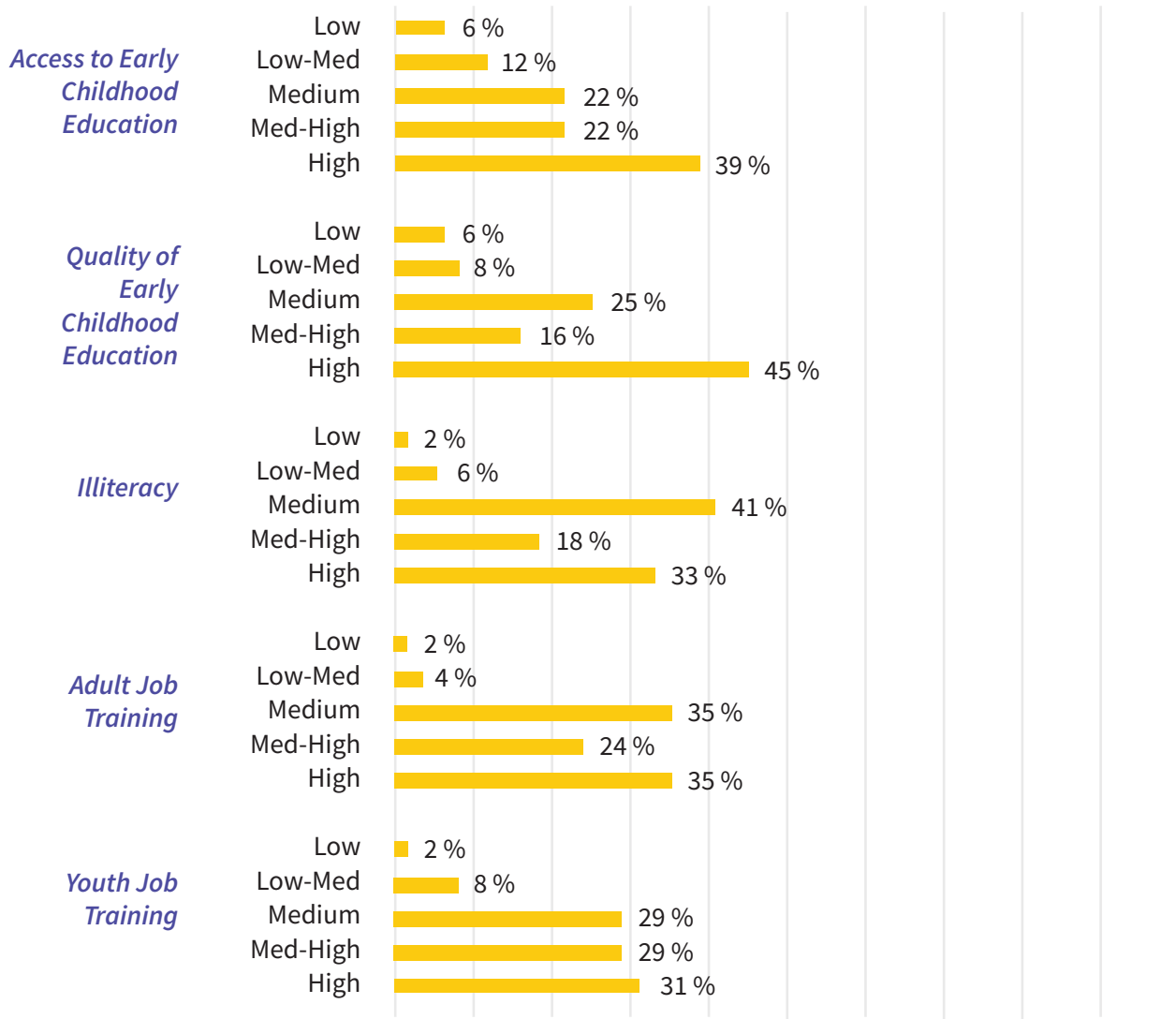




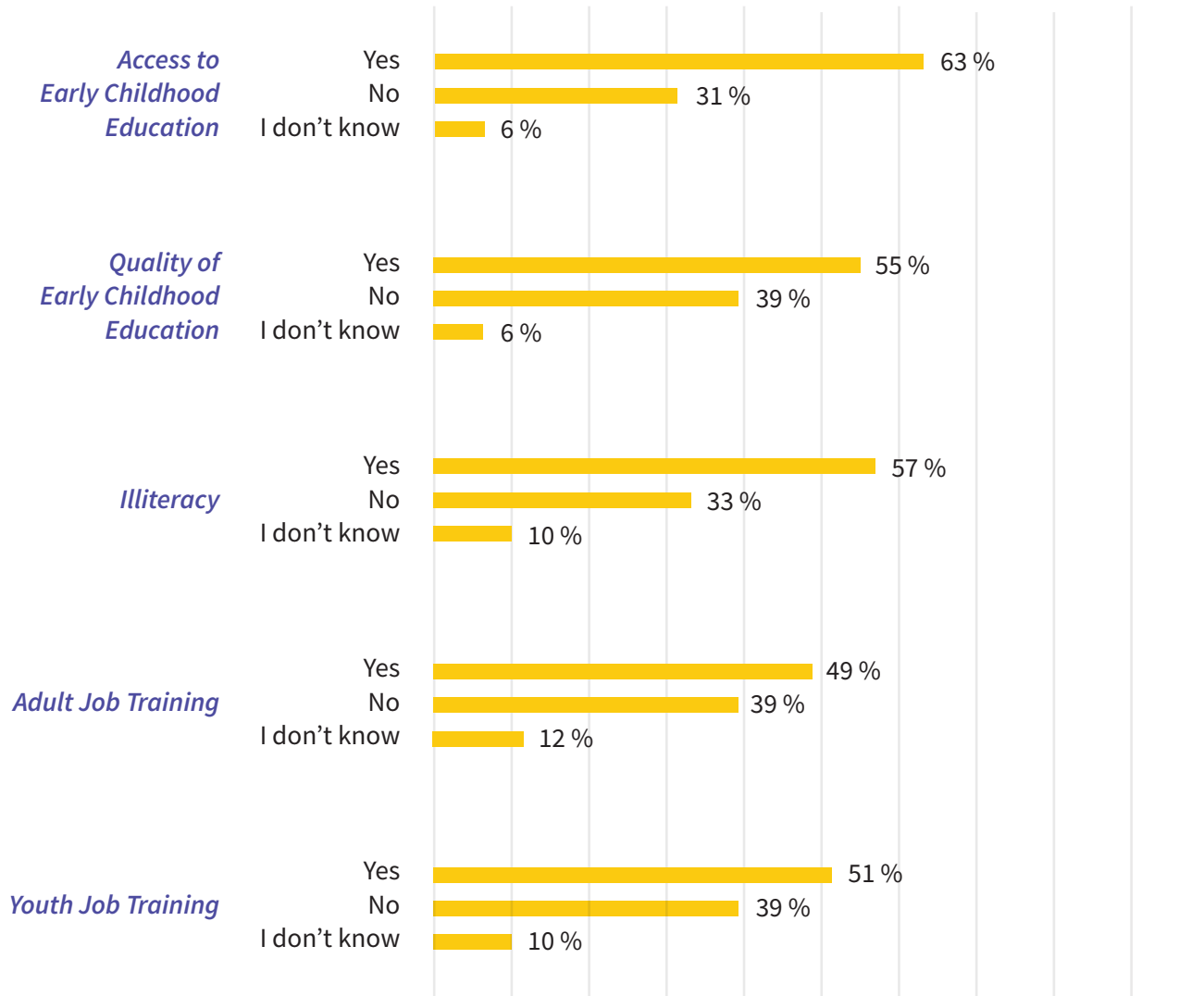
# Survey Data: Education

## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important education issues facing Clinton County?



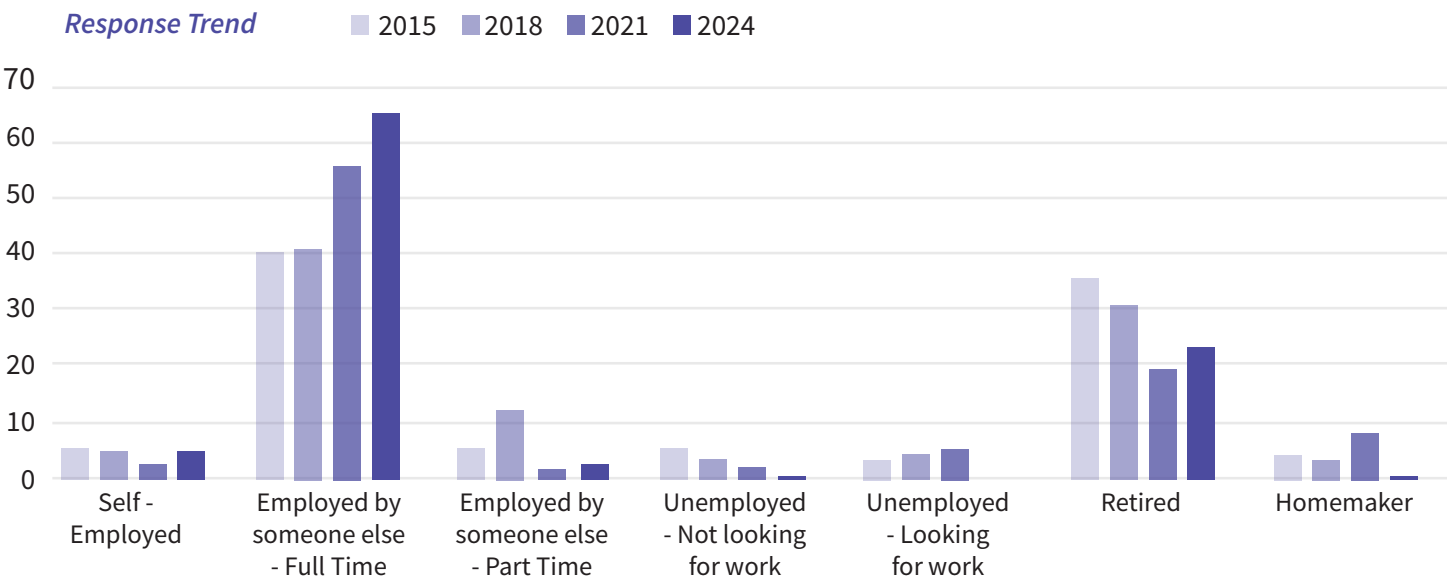
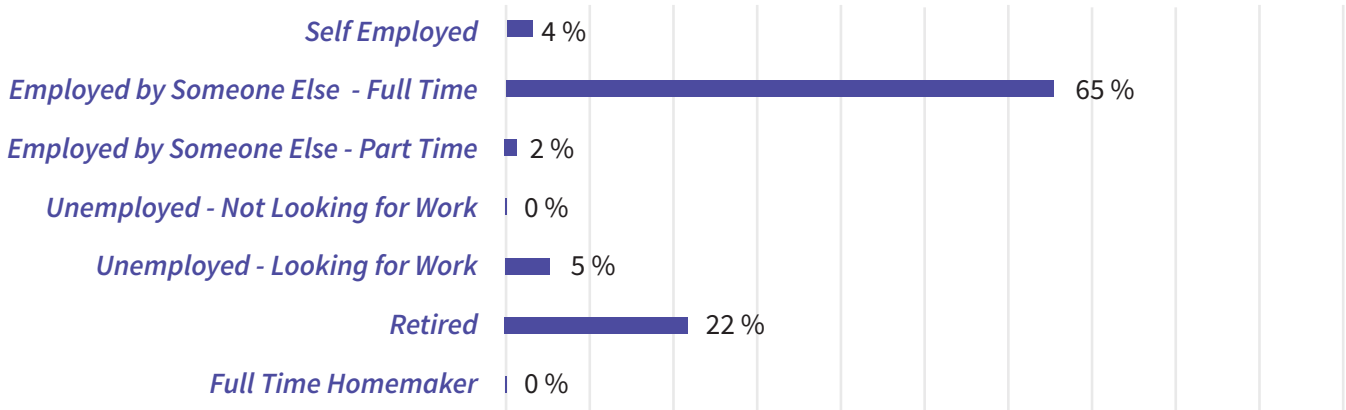
## Are these education related issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?



# Survey Data: Employment

## Community Survey Information

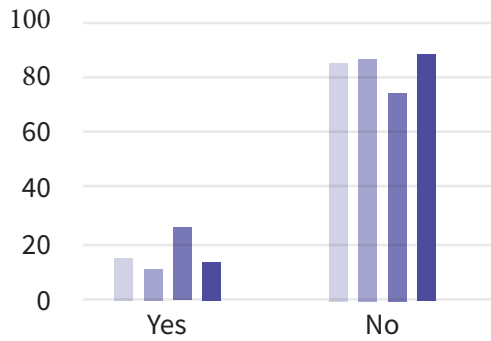
Which of the following best describes your employment status?



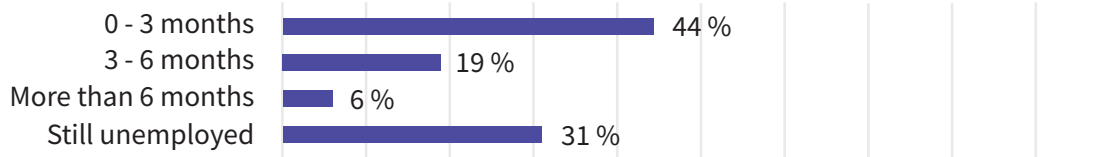
## Has anyone in your household been laid off from a job at any time in the past year?



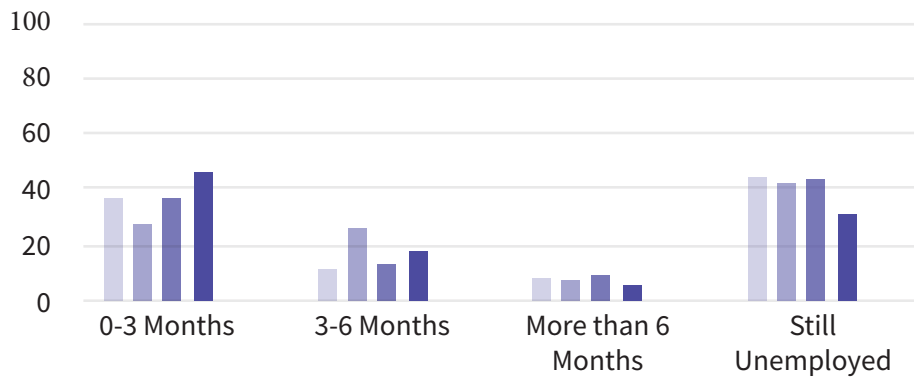
*Response Trend* 2015 2018 2021 2024



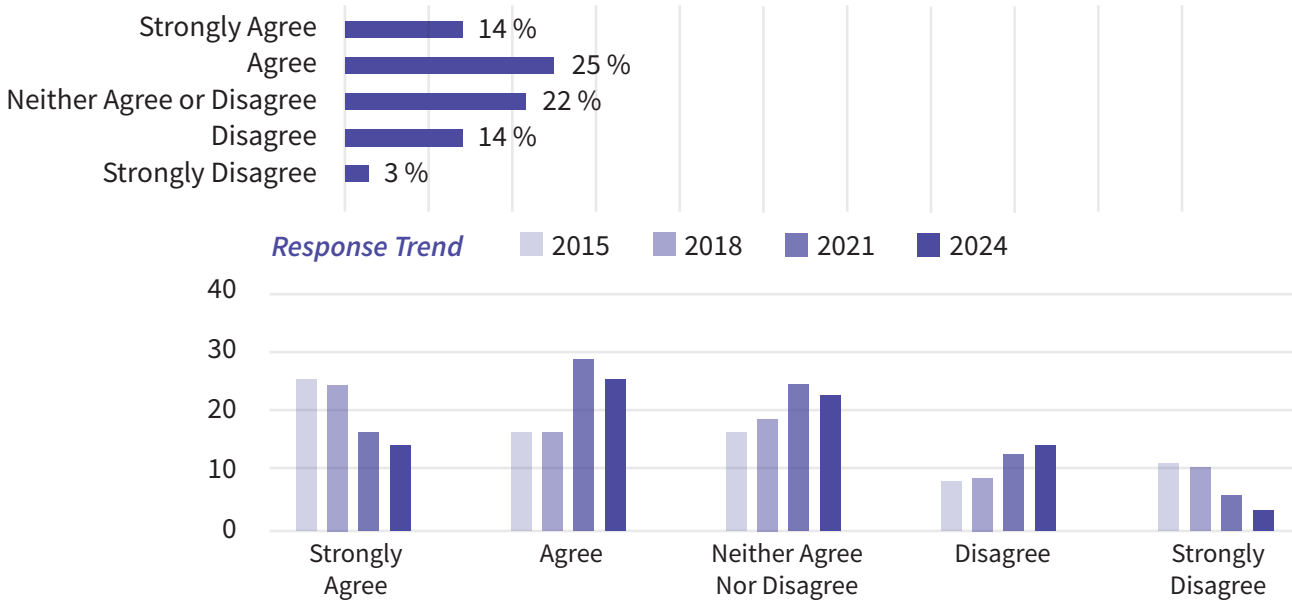
## If someone in your household was laid off over the last year, how long did it take the person to find another job?



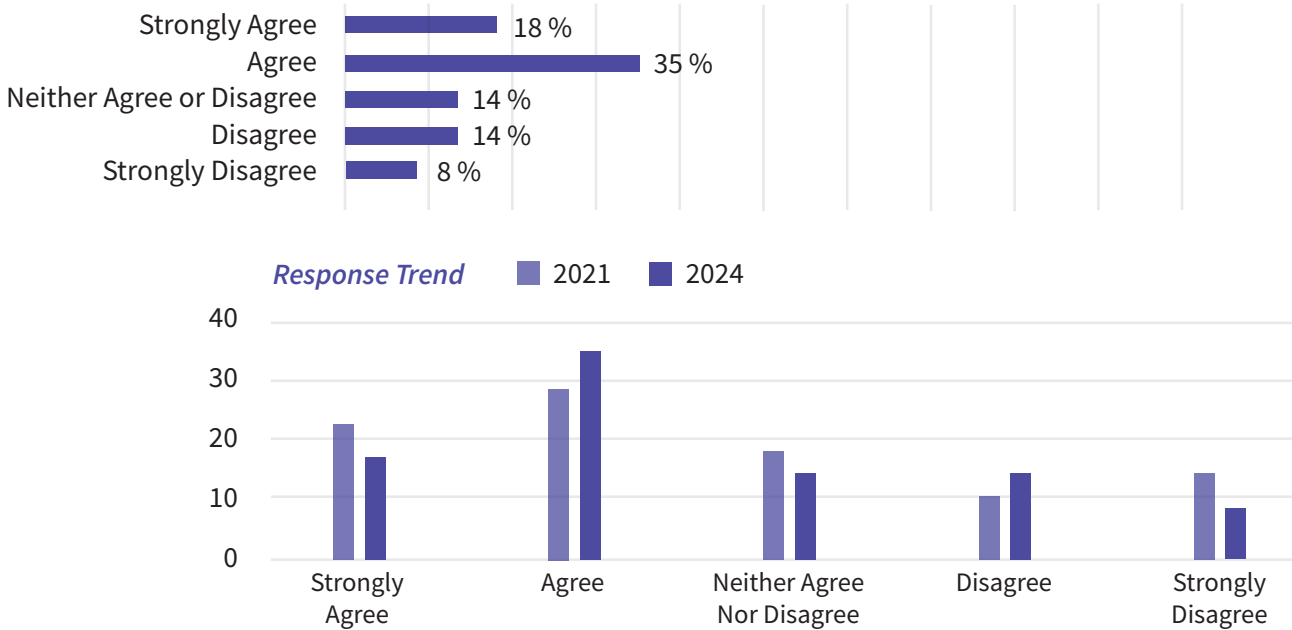
*Response Trend* 2015 2018 2021 2024



## I have access to affordable job training services, if I were to need them.



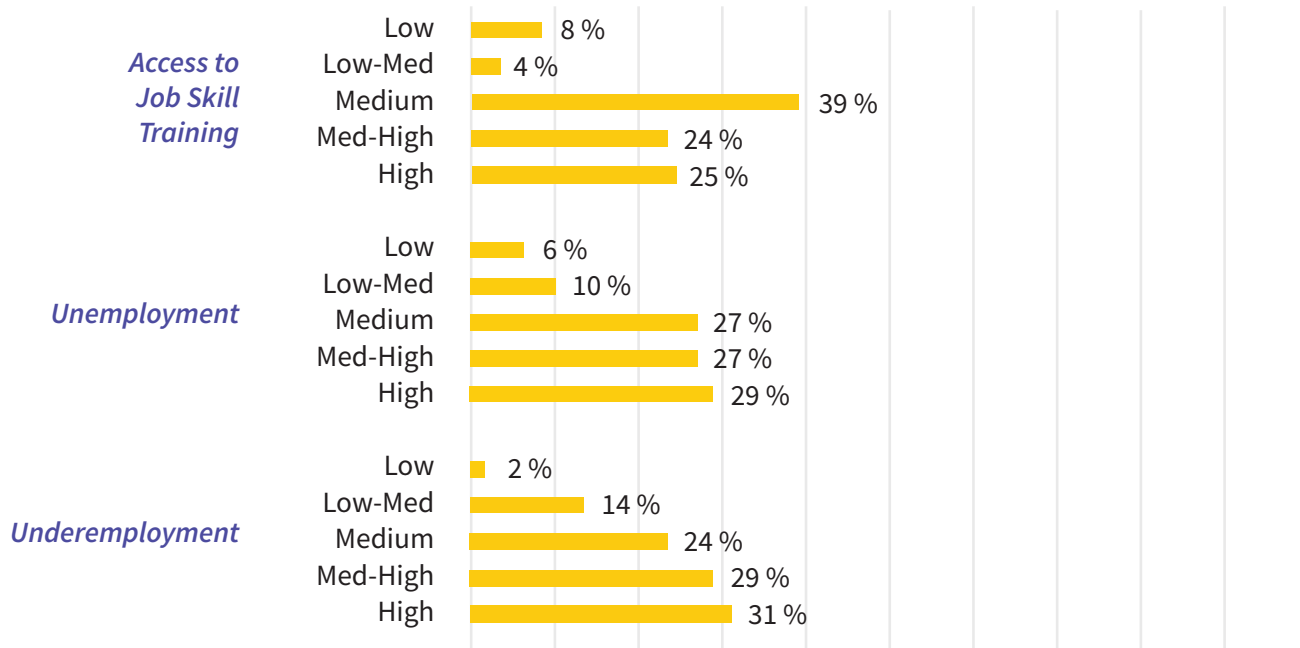
## I have access to affordable transportation for employment purposes.



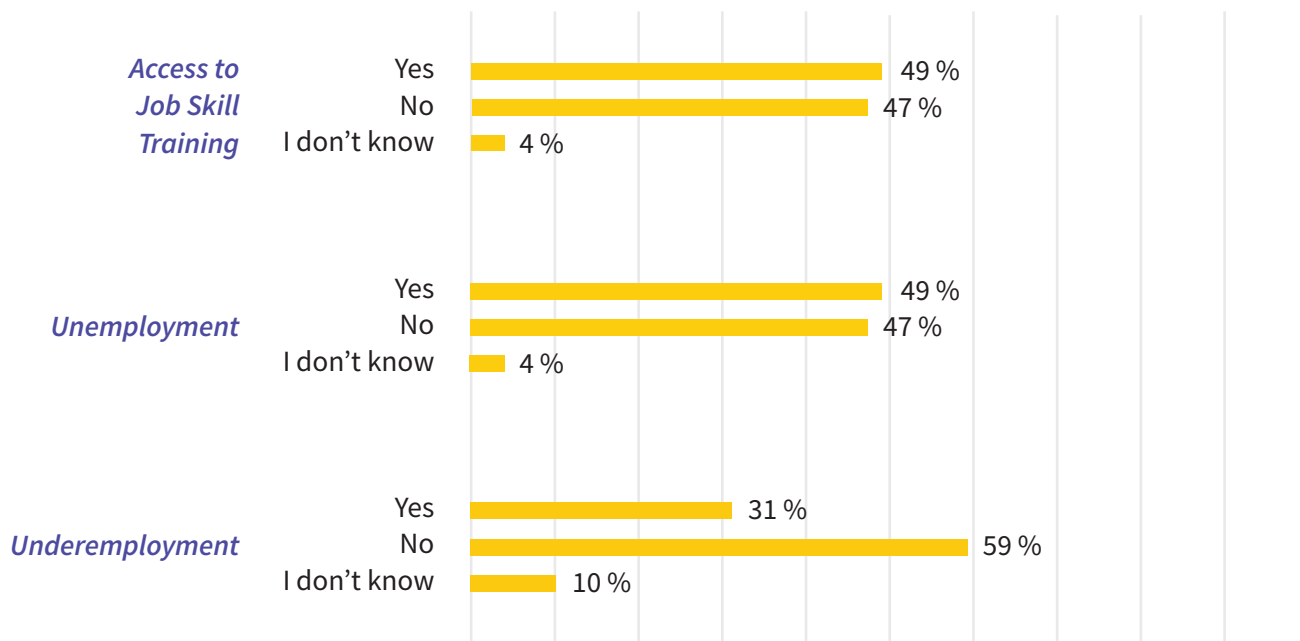
# Survey Data: Employment

## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important employment issues facing Clinton County?



Are these employment related issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?



# Families in Crisis

The needs of families in crisis, whatever the cause, were paramount in the minds of focus group participants and are consistently reflected in the other surveys. Interrelated issues, such as mental health, substance abuse, life skill development, lack of stable housing, and drug and alcohol abuse were discussed in detail in the focus group. These and other crises identified in the assessment are interconnected and suggest the need for continuing improvement in generating a coordinated, holistic response to prevent a duplication of services in a limited-resource environment.

According to the American Community Survey, over 14% of the households in Clinton County are living in poverty. Of those households living in poverty, 19.6% are single female head of household families with children, compared to 0.03% who are single male head of household families with children. This is a stark difference and illustrates the wealth gap between males and females. Additionally, over 15.5% of households in Clinton County are eligible for some form of county assistance. Making ends meet for these households is a continuing battle particularly when safe, affordable housing is a challenge in Clinton County. Breaking the cycle of poverty and often the multi-generational cycle of poverty often requires families to deal with entrenched unhealthy behaviors and building new healthy lifestyles. Across the data from the community, partner, and focus groups, four main themes emerge: mental health and substance abuse supports, housing instability and emergency supports, parenting and life skill development, and domestic violence.

## Mental Health and Substance Abuse Supports

Mental health and substance abuse supports, including access, availability, and affordability was a major area of concern for community and partner respondents as well as the focus groups. The link between mental health needs and substance abuse was discussed and how often they are intertwined for families in crisis. The community survey respondents noted they are noticing an increase in the use of drugs or alcohol in the community over the last year and that there is not adequate treatment options available. While partners survey respondents had substance abuse and related issues noted several times within the top ten most important issues, nearly half of the partners also noted that adequate attention is on this topic. This makes sense as over the last several years, substance abuse and recovery programs have been expanded. Access to mental health supports was noted as needing more attention in the community than substance abuse supports.

Focus group participants discussed how drug use is often a generational problem, passed down in families as acceptable behavior. Youth are not being taught the negative aspects of using drugs or alcohol. It was noted that this has become even more complicated with medical and recreational marijuana now legalized in some parts of the United States. Human service providers explained that the emphasis is now on harm reduction, by minimizing drug use rather than pursuing an unrealistic goal of abstinence.

The importance of trauma-informed care for youth and families was noted, with many human service agencies stating they are training their staff to be trauma-informed to better assist them. Mentoring programs for both youth and families was discussed as ways to connect individuals prior to them getting to the point of struggle with mental or other issues. Human service providers also explained there is emphasis on harm reduction by reducing drug use rather than pursuing an unrealistic goal of having clients abstain from all forms of drugs.

## **Housing Instability and Emergency Supports**

Throughout the surveys and focus groups, housing related issues, including utility costs, lack of affordable rental units, and homelessness were noted as the most important issues facing families in crisis. When families do not have stable housing, often other areas of their life begin to crumble. Housing is a basic need and when families struggle to find affordable, safe, and stable housing, it has an impact on their mental well-being, ability to hold down employment, children's ability to attend school, and other areas of their lives. Emergency supports such as rental assistance, utility assistance, food and hygiene product distributions were discussed as necessary supports for families in crisis. Focusing on Housing First is important, but also ensuring families can sustain the housing is critical and can be supported through coupling emergency supports with intensive case management.

## **Parenting and Life Skills Development**

Throughout the surveys and focus group discussions the topic of life skill development was mentioned as a key area of need. Specifically related to families in crisis, there was emphasis on more support for parents and the realization many issues youth and children are facing are made more complex due to challenging home life. As it relates to life skill development, understanding such topics as budgeting, renter's rights, landlord relationships, housing counseling, loans, and credit were just some of the areas noted that needed to be provided through engaging and continual programming. The need for rental and utility assistance, as well as a spike in evictions, brought on a flood of calls to human service providers and families without any idea of how to move forward. The ending of the rental assistance program that was tied to the pandemic recovery, perpetuated the eviction crisis. Human service providers in the focus groups discussed how overwhelmed they are by requests and the need for intensive case management to support families. It was noted that through intensive case management, families in crisis can set goals and have support on moving towards economic stability through focusing on various areas such as housing, transportation, education, employment, and others. Even with additional funding, the need far outweighs the available human and financial resources as it relates to the complex needs of families that are living in crisis.

## **Domestic Violence**

Both the community and partner survey respondents noted that domestic violence remains a concern in Clinton County. Thirty-two percent of community survey respondents stated they either agreed or strongly agreed that domestic violence was on the rise. While there is attention on this area, 41% of partner respondents stated more attention is needed to support survivors and their families. It was noted that children are often caught in the middle of domestic violence situations, and it can lead to long-term trauma. Focus group members described the deep trauma caused by all forms of domestic violence and the need for sustained mental health services to help the healing process for the whole family.



## Objective Data: Families in Crisis

### Poverty: Households in Poverty

The table below shows the number and percentage of households in poverty based on the poverty thresholds in Clinton County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. In 2022, it is estimated there were 2,097 households, or 14.1% of Clinton County's 14,877 households living in poverty, compared to a Pennsylvania average of 11.9%.

**Households in Poverty**

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Percent Households in Poverty
Clinton County	14,877	2,097	14.1%
Pennsylvania	193,727	617,593	11.9%
United States	125,736,353	15,616,265	12.4%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: County.

### Poverty: Household Poverty Rate by Family Type

The table below shows percentage of households in poverty by household type. In 2022, it is estimated that 5.3% of family households and 8.8% of non-family households lived in poverty in Clinton County.

**Household Poverty Rate by Family Type**

Report Area	Family Households in Poverty	Family Households in Poverty Percent	Non Family Households in Poverty	Non Family Households in Poverty Percent
Clinton County	788	5.3%	1,309	8.8%
Pennsylvania	262,184	5.0%	355,409	6.8%
United States	7,151,167	5.7%	8,465,098	6.7%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: County.

### Poverty: Family Poverty Rate by Family Type

The percentage of households in poverty by household type are shown for the report area. It is estimated that 8.2% of all households were living in poverty within the report area, compared to the national average of 8.8%. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 55.9% of all households in poverty, compared to 32.0% and 12.1% of households headed by males and married couples, respectively.

**Family Poverty Rate by Family Type**

Report Area	Poverty Rate All Types	Percent of Poverty Married Couples	Percent of Poverty Male Householder	Percent of Poverty Female Householder
Clinton County	8.2%	38.8%	8.9%	52.3%
Pennsylvania	8.0%	32.1%	11.4%	56.5%
United States	8.8%	37.3%	11.0%	51.8%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: County.

## **Poverty: Number of Individuals Eligible for County Assistance Funding**

The table below shows the average monthly unduplicated number of persons eligible for assistance.

### **Number of Individuals Eligible for County Assistance Funding, 2018-2022**

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance</b>	<b>Percent Population Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible for TANF</b>	<b>Percent Population Receiving TANF</b>	<b>Eligible for SNAP</b>	<b>Percent Eligible for SNAP</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	37,860	10,819	28.58%	344	0.91%	5,876	15.52%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	25,978,416	7,282,986	28.03%	160,176	0.62%	3,878,703	14.93%

*Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, 2018-2022.*

## **Poverty: Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance**

The table below shows the average monthly unduplicated number of persons eligible for medical assistance for the fiscal year 2022-2023. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for the area shown, there was a total of 10,819 persons eligible, or 28.58%, for medical assistance. This is compared to Pennsylvania's 28.03%.

### **Number of Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance, 2018-2022**

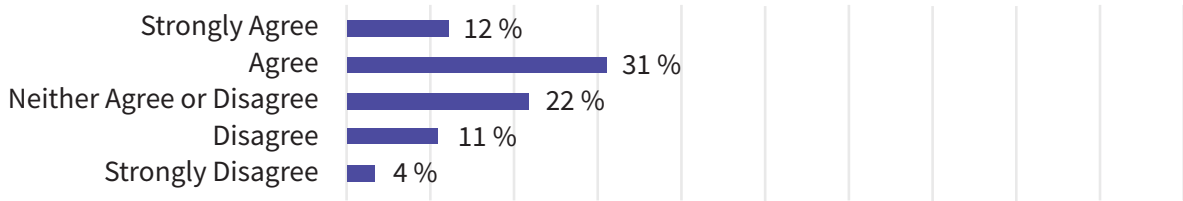
<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Persons Eligible</b>	<b>Percent Persons Eligible</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	37,860	10,819	28.58%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	25,978,416	7,282,986	28.03%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022. Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Source geography: County.*

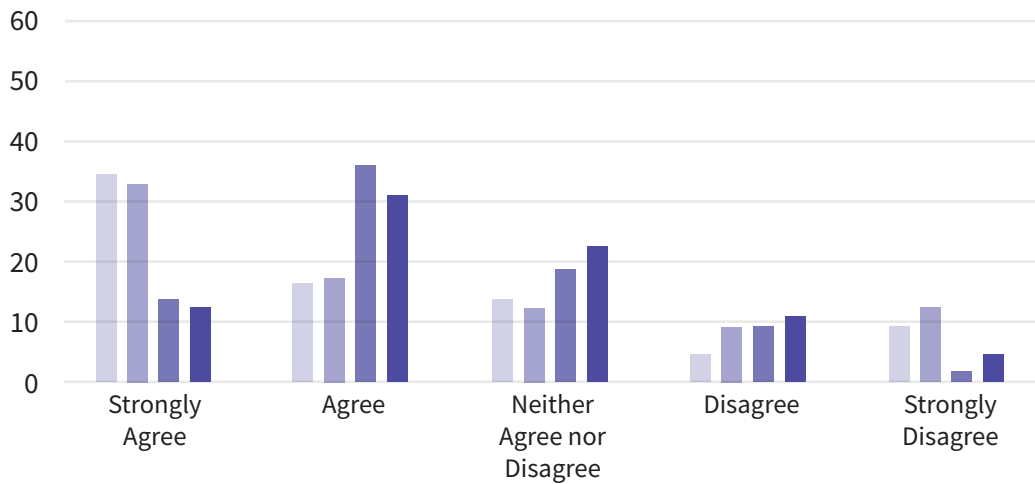
# Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Emergency Services

## Community Survey Information

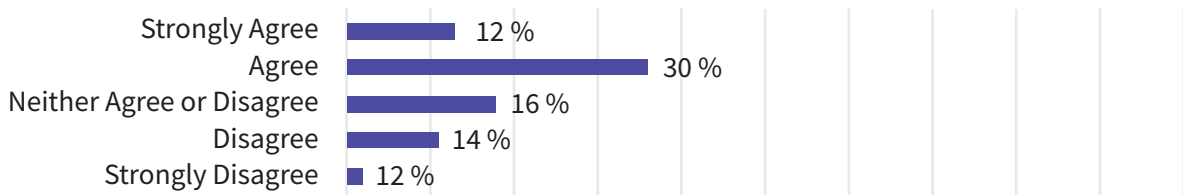
I have access to affordable individual and family counseling services, if I were to need them.



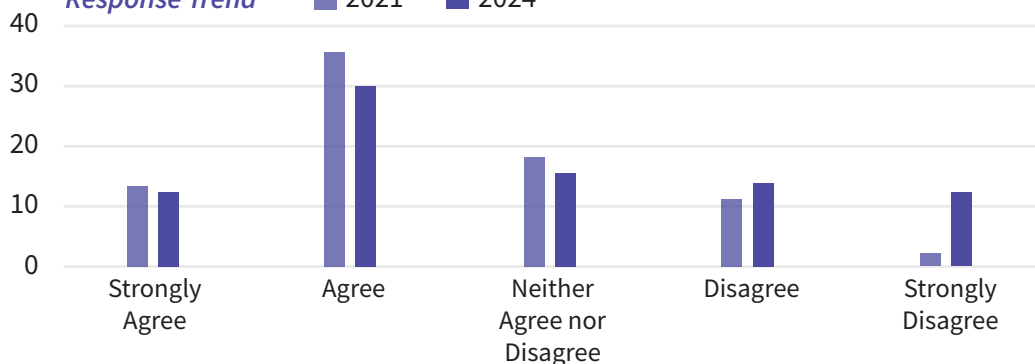
*Response Trend* 2015 2018 2021 2024



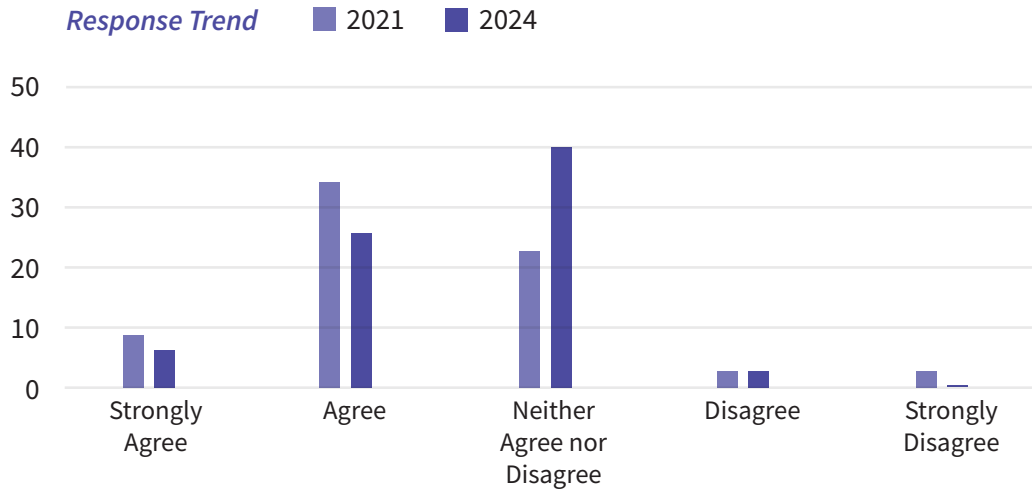
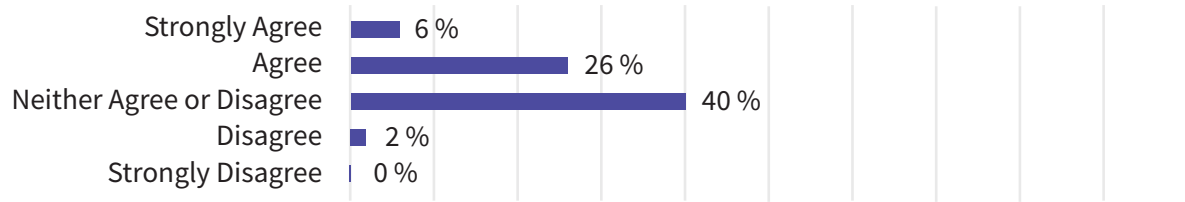
I have access to affordable mental health supports, if I were to need them.



*Response Trend* 2021 2024



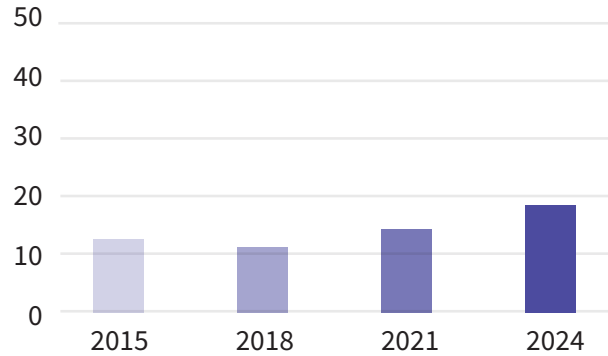
## Domestic violence is on the rise in my community.



## Have you or someone you know in your community been the victim of physical abuse by a family member in the last year?



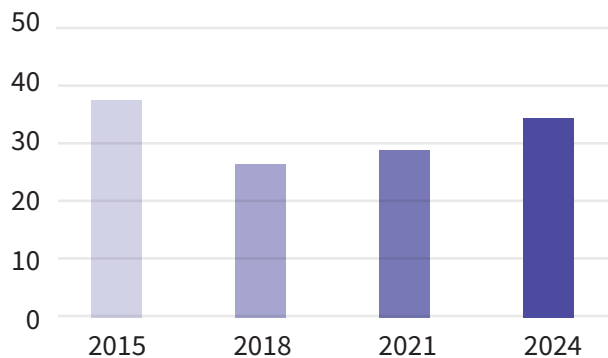
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



## Have you or your family had difficulty finding the money to pay for the costs of heating, electricity, or water at any time in the last year?



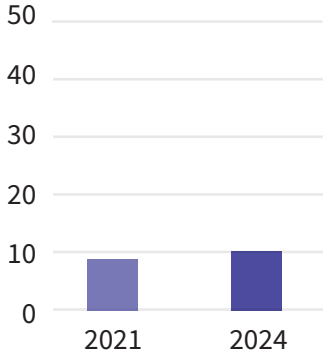
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



Have you or your family had difficulty obtaining infant/toddler care supplies (diapers, wipes, formula, etc.) at any time in the last year?



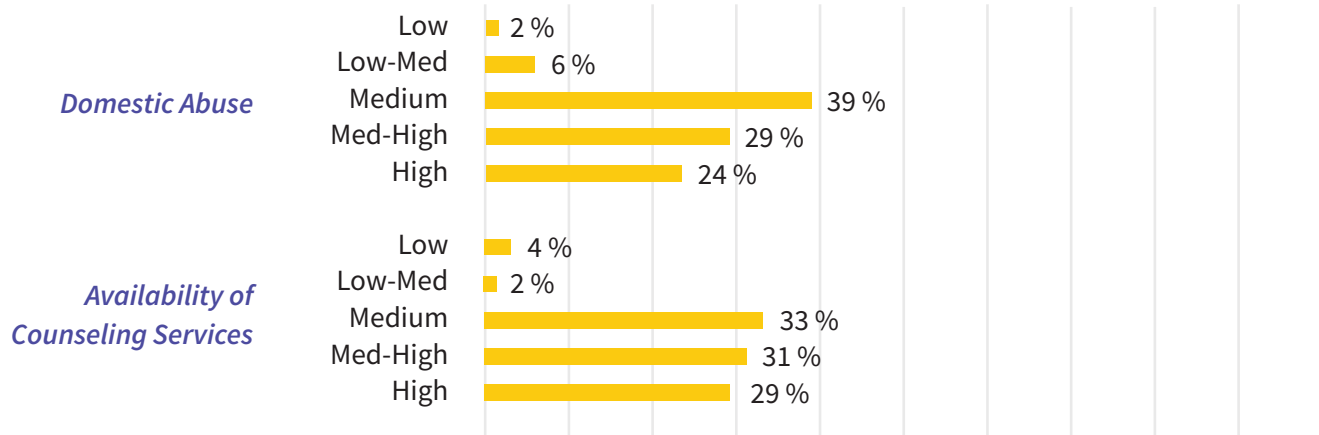
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



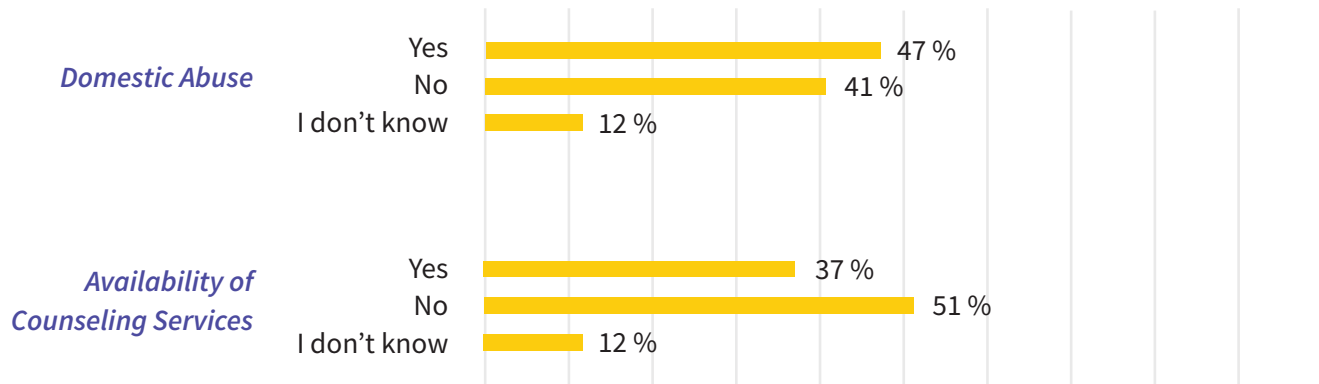
# Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Emergency Services

## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important emergency service issues facing Clinton County?



Are these issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?



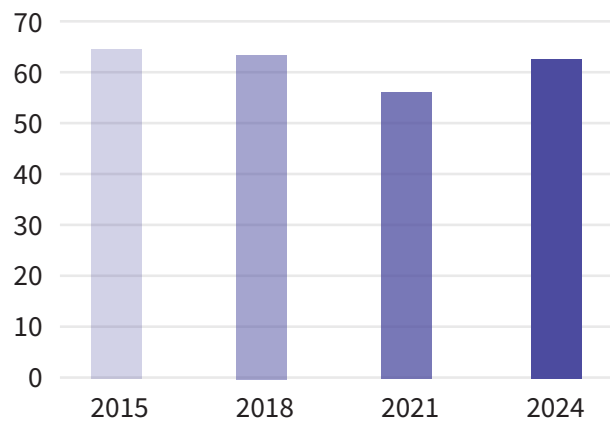
# Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Substance Abuse

## Community Survey Information

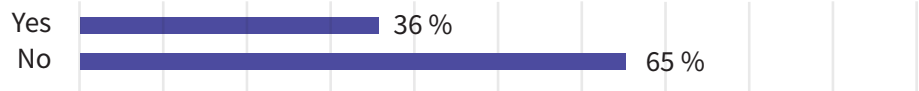
Are you aware of anyone in your community who has a problem with drug or alcohol abuse?



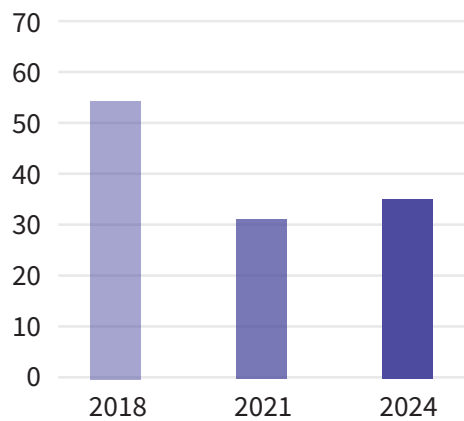
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



Are you personally aware of anyone in your community who has a problem with heroin or opioid addiction?

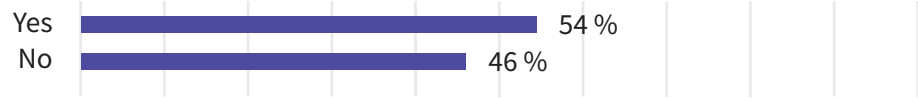


*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"

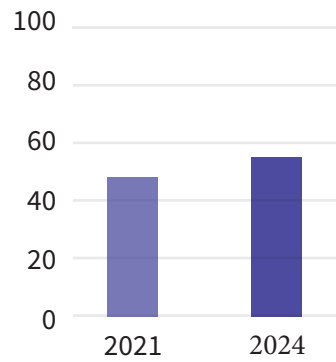




## Have you noticed an increase in the use of drugs or alcohol in your community over the last year?



*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



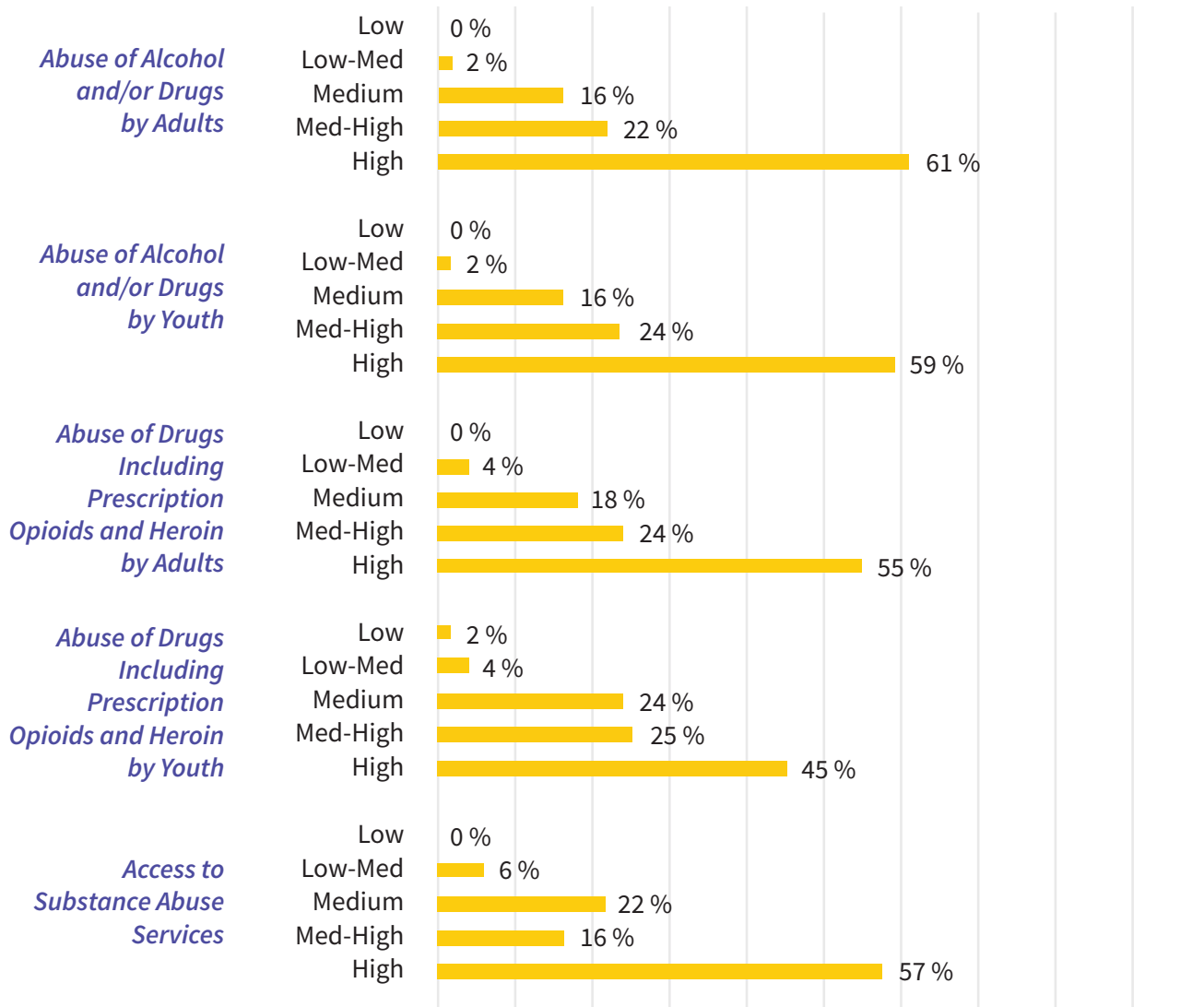
## Do you feel there are adequate drug and alcohol abuse treatment options?



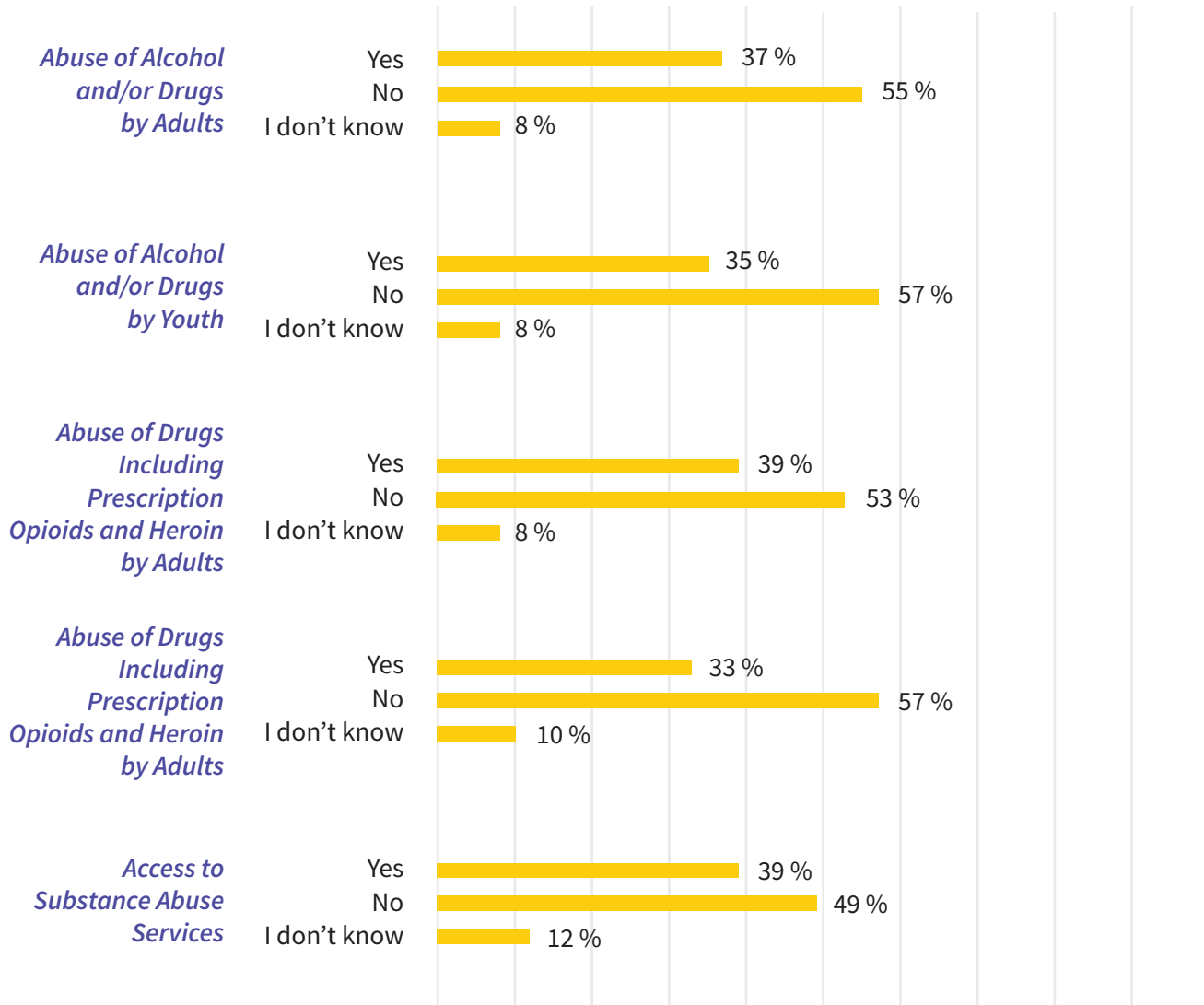
# Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Substance Abuse

## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important issues concerning substance abuse in Clinton County?



## Are these substance abuse issues receiving adequate attention from community groups?



# Health and Nutrition

The health and nutrition needs of the Clinton County population were addressed in the surveys and focus groups. There continues to be a concern with the local availability of medical and dental care options, particularly for vulnerable populations. As discussed throughout the document, the need for enhanced mental health supports was an overarching theme in all the subjective data gathered, specifically as it related to children.

Across the objective data, community, customer, and partner surveys, as well as focus group information, four main themes emerge: medical and dental care options for vulnerable populations, mental health crisis, cost of care, and access to fresh food.

## Medical and Dental Care Options for Vulnerable Populations

For our most vulnerable populations, including low-income families, homeless families, children and youth, seniors, and individuals with a disability, accessing medical and dental care options were discussed as still being a challenge in Clinton County and the surrounding region. The overarching concern included a shortage of providers and the affordability of care. Focus group participants said education on the medical and dental care options that do exist is extremely important, as well as ensuring that offices are accessible. While Medical Assistance Transportation Service is available in Clinton County, the focus group discussed how more transportation options beyond serving those that have Medical Assistance is needed. Various human service providers discussed how transportation is a barrier to care for their customers. Each of the vulnerable populations also have medical and dental needs, many of which require specialists that are not found in the region. Pediatric dentistry and oral surgeons who accept medical assistance were some of the specialists noted. Behavioral specialists and mental health professionals were noted as being so overstretched that even getting in to see one often took months and by that time the individual's issues have compounded even more.

## Mental Health Crisis

Ninety-six percent of partner survey respondents said that access to mental health services was of medium to high importance, and 63% said that it is not receiving adequate attention in Clinton County. As stated throughout nearly all the Key Need Categories of this document, mental health is a major concern. Stress, anxiety, and depression were all noted as ongoing struggles for even those who have no history of mental health needs. Human service providers discussed individuals presenting with so many mental health issues that it is challenging to get to the root causes of their barriers and address them accordingly. Coordinating access to mental health services and professionals has been, and continues to be, extremely challenging as so many of them are already overwhelmed and they have no availability to take on additional patients. Specifically, the focus group stated there are not enough psychiatrists in the local area. With so few options, when individuals are in extreme mental health crisis, case managers are directing them to go to the emergency room. Yet often they cannot be admitted to the mental health unit as they are so overwhelmed. In some cases, individuals have been sent out of the area to receive mental health treatment as it was the only option. Community education to help remove the negative perception of individuals struggling with mental health diagnosis is needed and could help with individuals who are struggling to reach out earlier for help. The community also needs to work with health care providers to increase the availability of mental health services locally.

## **Cost of Care**

Thirty-nine percent of community survey respondents stated they avoided medical treatment because it was too costly. Similarly, 21% of community survey respondents stated they did not see a dentist last year due to cost. Forty-seven percent of partner survey respondents noted that access to affordable prescription medication was not receiving adequate attention, and 57% of partner respondents noted it was either medium-high or high importance. From the focus groups, it was discussed that there are not many community-based options to support mental or dental costs, and the overall cost of care has put families into serious debt even when they have insurance. Medical debt can compound and create financial insecurity for a family, if the family is already struggling, this can move them into a crisis.

## **Access to Fresh Food**

The need for food support was discussed throughout all the focus groups and addressed on the surveys. Thirty-six percent of community survey respondents stated they were aware of someone in their community that has gone without food for more than a day because they could not afford it. While 50% of partner survey respondents stated hunger was a medium-high to high level issue, 88% also stated hunger was receiving adequate attention in the community. Focus groups and surveys related to nutrition noted access to fresh food, such as fruits and vegetables, should be supported more. Food is a basic need and tied directly to a person's overall health, providing more options to vulnerable populations to access fresh food is important. Programs like Fresh Express were discussed and how there could be more outreach around how to enroll in them.

## Objective Data: Health and Nutrition

### Health Care: Births

Most live births in Clinton County occurred with mothers 20-30 years of age, giving birth to 61.6% of all births. The second largest group is mothers 30-40 years of age, with 33.08% of births. Mothers over age 40 represent 2.7% of births. Of interest are the number of live births by mothers 19 or younger, who gave birth to 2.5% of all babies in Clinton County. Teen mothers are statistically less likely to continue education through high school and college, without which many may earn only low-income wages. Teen mothers and their children face increased health risk due to lack of education and resources.

#### Births by Mother Age

Report Area	Total Births	Mother Age Under 15	Mother Age 15-19	Mother Age 20-30	Mother Age 30-40	Mother age Over 40	Age Unknown
Clinton County	396	0	10	244	131	11	0
Pennsylvania	132,720	54	4,608	57,021	66,350	4,663	24

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health. Source geography: County. Data was compiled from Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, 2023. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

### Health Care: Number of Deaths and Death Rate

#### Number of Deaths and Death Rates, 2018-2022

Report Area	Live Births		All Deaths		Infant Deaths	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate
Clinton County	405	10.5	458	861.7	No Data	No Data
Pennsylvania	134,247	10.5	726,709	821.9	5,598	6.0

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health. Source geography: County. Data was compiled from Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, 2018-2022. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

### Health Care: Persons Receiving Medicare

The total number of persons receiving Medicare is shown below grouped by number of recipients over 65 and number of persons with disabilities receiving Medicare for Clinton County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported a total of 8,672 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in Clinton County in 2019. A large number of individuals in our society are aware that persons over 65 years of age receive Medicare; however, many of them are unaware that persons with disabilities also receive Medicare benefits. A total of 1,337 persons with disabilities in Clinton County received Medicare benefits in 2019.

#### Medicare Enrollment by County, 2023

Report Area	Persons Over 65 Receiving Medicare	Persons with Disabilities Receiving Medicare	Total Persons Receiving Medicare
Clinton County	7,924	1,186	9,110
Pennsylvania	2,552,600	338,981	2,891,580

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.2023. Source geography: County.

## Health Care: Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Enrollment

Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollment is shown in the table below. Total enrollment in Clinton County is 1,067 children.

### Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Enrollment, 2022-2023

Report Area	Total Enrollment
Clinton County	323
Pennsylvania	130,239

Source: Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program. Source geography: County.

## Health Care: Uninsured Adults

The lack of health insurance is considered a key driver of health status. This indicator reports the percentage of adults age 18 to 64 without health insurance coverage. This indicator is relevant because lack of insurance is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services that contributes to poor health status.

### Uninsured Persons, 2022

Report Area	Total Population Age 18-64	Population Age 18-64 without Insurance	Population Age 19-64 without Insurance, Percent
Clinton County	21,438	1,919	8.95%
Pennsylvania	7,525,649	527,703	7.01%
United States	197,858,423	22,237,154	11.24%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. 2022.

## Health Care: Medicare and Medicaid Providers

The total number of institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and community mental health centers for Clinton County, Pennsylvania, and the nation is shown in the table below. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were six active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in Clinton County in December of 2023.

### Institutional Medicare and Medicaid Providers, 2023

Report Area	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Clinton County	6	1	3	1	1	0
Pennsylvania	2,046	238	670	402	70	1
United States	54,926	7,044	15,350	11,698	5,365	114

Data Source: US Department of Health Human Services, Center for Medicare Medicaid Services, Provider of Services File. 2023. Source geography: County.

## **Physicians**

The table below shows the number of physicians and physician assistants for Clinton County and Pennsylvania. There are 0.87 physicians per 1,000 persons in Clinton County; the Pennsylvania average is 3.56 physicians per 1,000 persons.

### **Physicians and Assistants, 2024**

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Medical Physicians / Surgeons</b>	<b>Osteopathic Physicians / Surgeons</b>	<b>Physicians per 1,000</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	25	8	0.87
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	37,884	8,399	3.56

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County.*

## **Dentists**

The table below shows the number of dentists and dental hygienists for Clinton County and Pennsylvania. There are 0.90 dental professionals per 1,000 persons in the report area. The Pennsylvania average is 1.23 dental professionals per 1,000 persons.

### **Dental Professionals, 2024**

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Dentists</b>	<b>Dental Hygienists</b>	<b>Dental Professionals per 1,000</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	12	18	0.80
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	7,872	8,121	1.23

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County.*



## **Nurses**

The table below shows the number of nurses, nurse practitioners, and nurse specialists for Clinton County and Pennsylvania. There are 16.29 nursing professionals per 1,000 persons in Clinton County. The Pennsylvania average is 20.43 nursing professionals per 1,000 persons.

### **Nurses, 2024**

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Registered Nurses</b>	<b>Practical Nurses</b>	<b>Registered Nurse Practitioners</b>	<b>Clinical Nurse Specialists</b>	<b>Nurses per 1,000 Persons</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	314	283	13	0	16.29
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	199,643	49,031	16,414	238	20.43

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County.*

## **Mental Health Professionals**

The table below shows the number of mental health psychologists for Clinton County and Pennsylvania. There are zero mental health professionals per 1,000 persons in Clinton County. The Pennsylvania average is 0.42 psychologists per 1,000 persons.

### **Mental Health Psychologists, 2023**

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Psychologists</b>	<b>Psychologists per 1,000 Persons</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	0	0
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	2,393	0.42

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS - National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). Accessed via County Health Rankings. 2023.*

## **Special Health Professionals**

The table below shows the number of optometrists and doctors of podiatric medicine for Clinton County and Pennsylvania. There are 0.008 special health professionals per 1,000 persons in Clinton County. The Pennsylvania average is 0.26 special health professionals per 1,000 persons.

### **Special Health Professionals**

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Optometrists</b>	<b>Doctors of Podiatric Medicine</b>	<b>Special Health Professionals per 1,000 Persons</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	2	1	.008
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	2,105	1,241	0.26

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County.*

## **Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)**

The table below shows that 2,207 households (14.86%) received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments, formerly known as food stamps, during 2019 in Clinton County. Of those 2,207 households, 723 have at least one working family member; 963 are over the age of 60.

### **Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status**

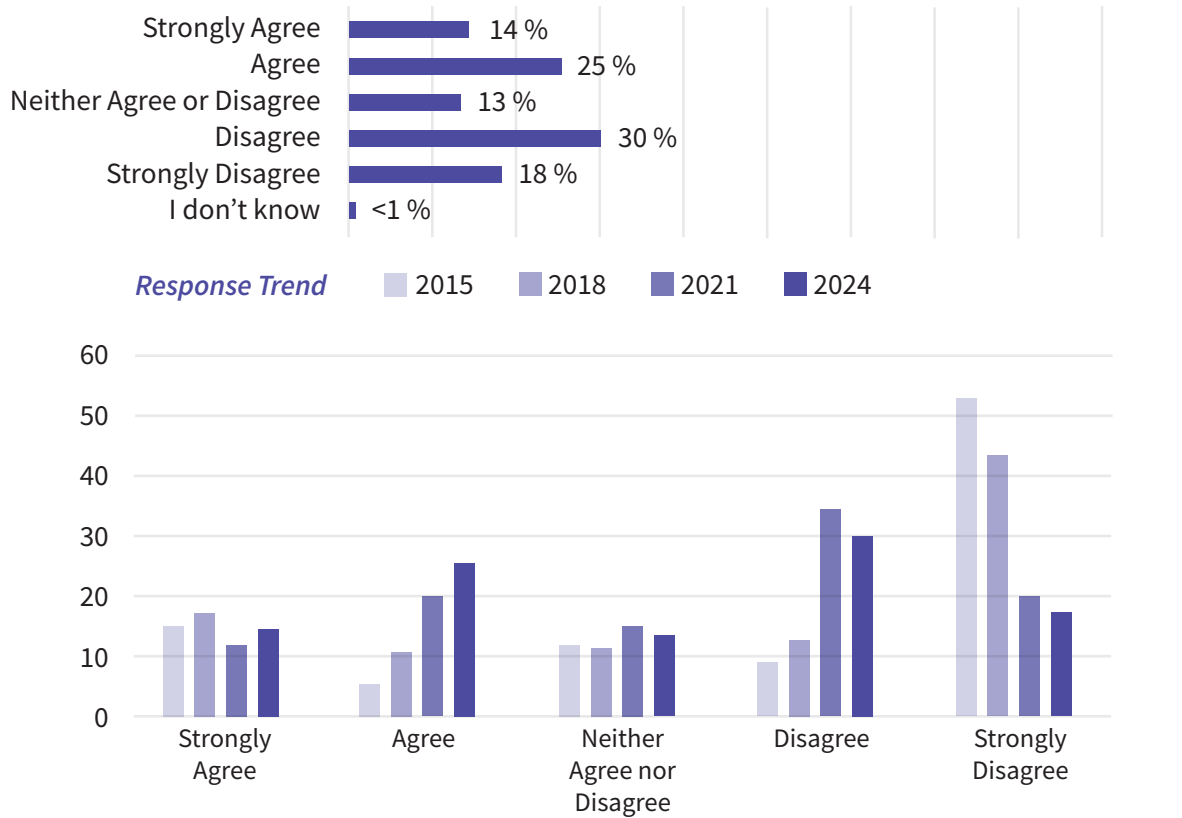
<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Total Households Receiving SNAP</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Income Below Poverty</b>	<b>Income Above Poverty</b>	<b>Family has at Least 1 Working Member</b>	<b>Age 60 and Older</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	2,207	14.86%	902	1,305	723	963
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	708,782	13.65%	307,465	401,317	336,874	285,559
<b>United States</b>	14,486,880	11.52%	6,332,769	8,154,111	7,732,214	5,461,229

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: County.*

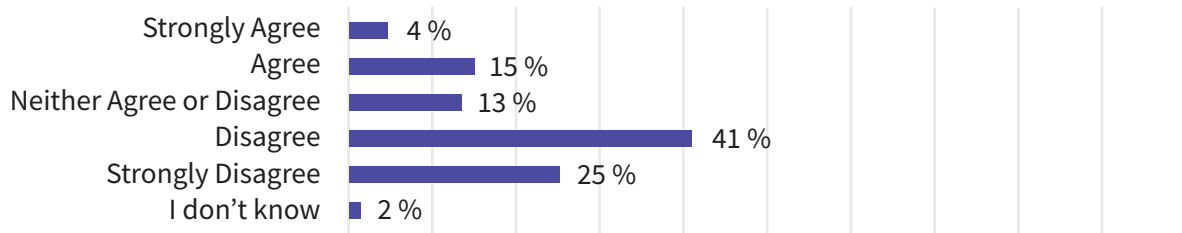
# Survey Data: Health and Nutrition

## Community Survey Information

**I have avoided medical treatment because it was too costly.**



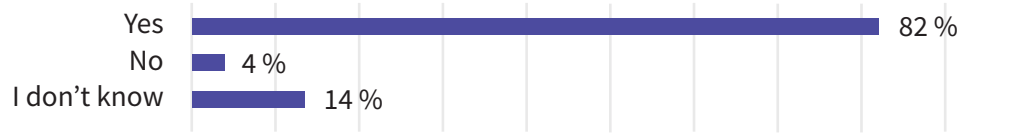
**I have not taken my prescribed medication because it was too costly.**



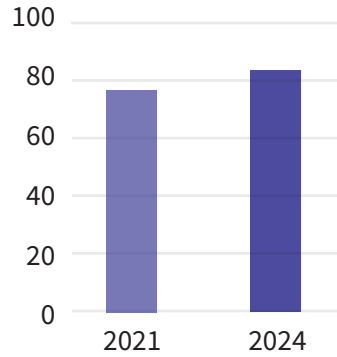
**I have not attended medical appointments due to a lack of transportation.**



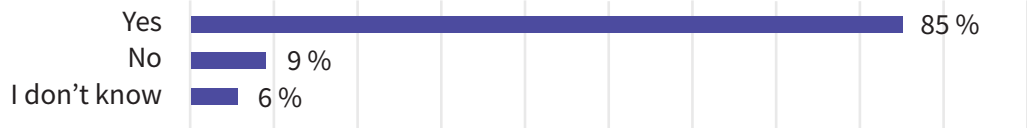
## Does your medical provider offer other options to be seen, such as telemedicine, nurse hotline, or virtual appointments?



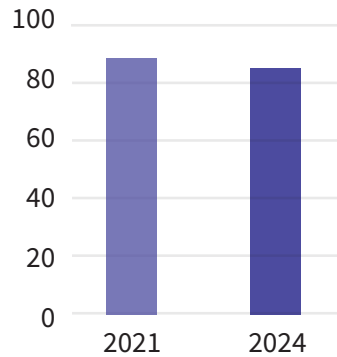
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



## Do you have adequate health insurance for you and your family?



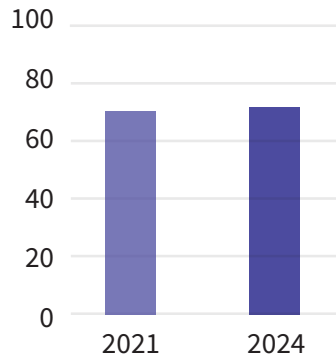
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



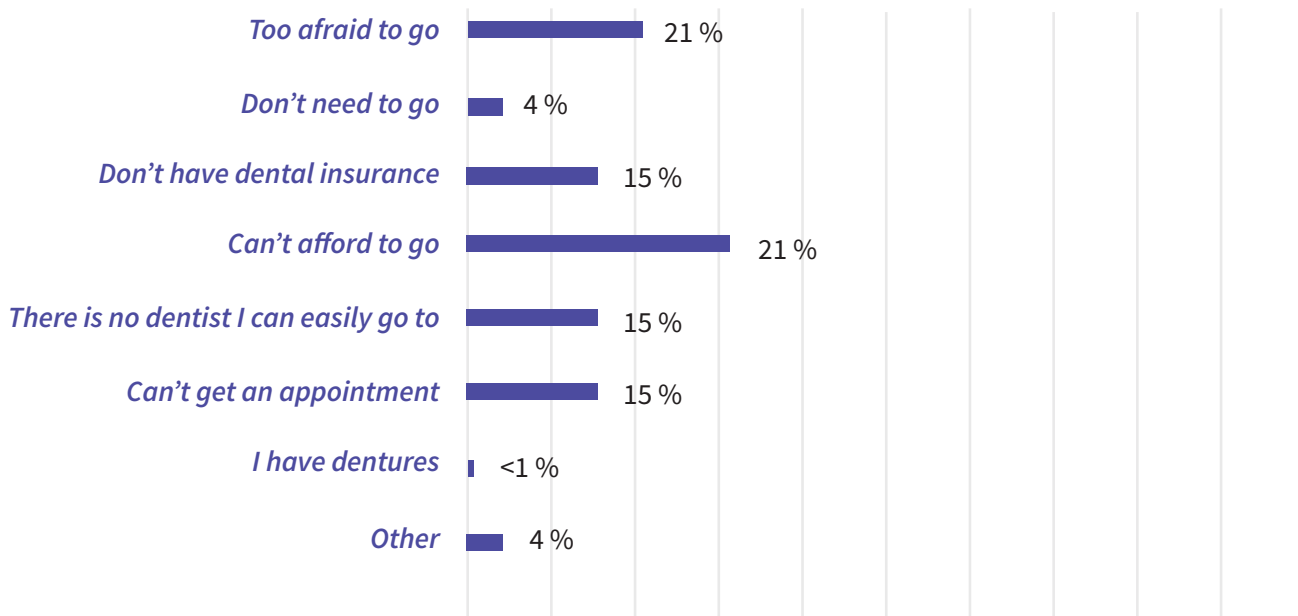
## Have you seen a dentist in the last year?



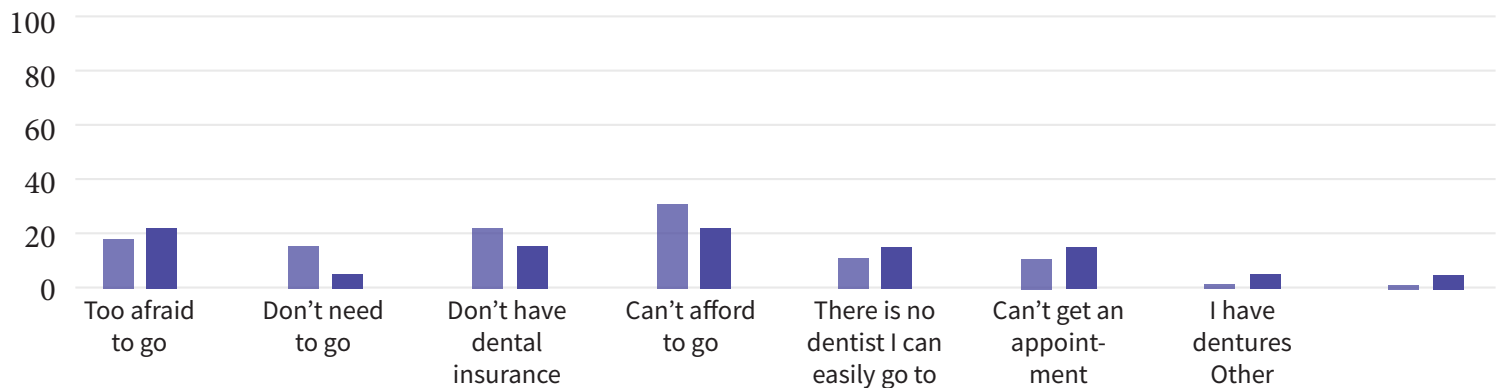
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



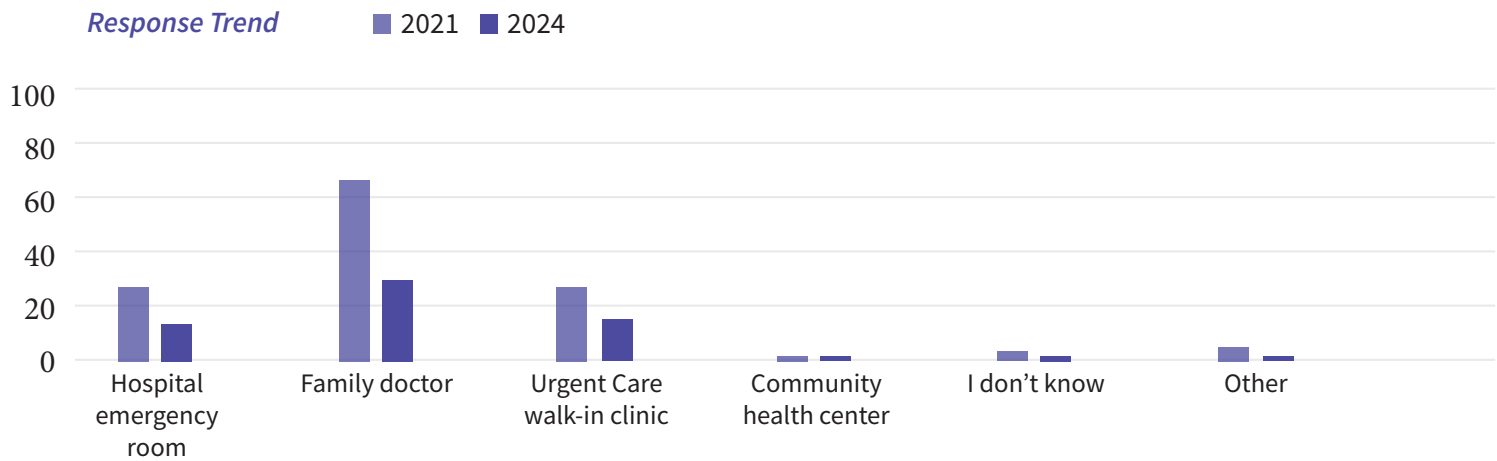
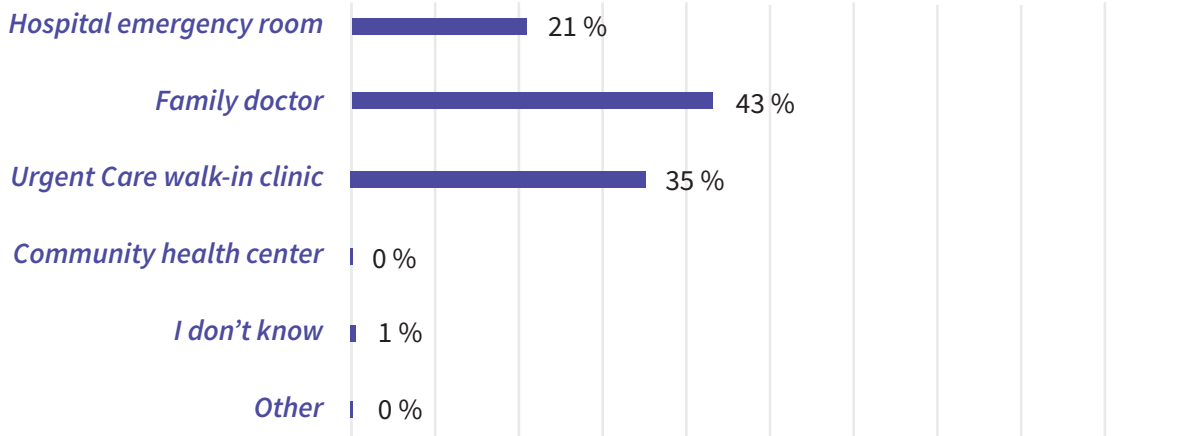
## If you have not seen a dentist in the last year, what is the reason?



*Response Trend* ■ 2021 ■ 2024



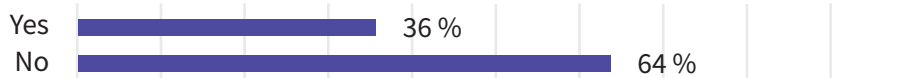
**Which of the following would be your first choice if you or someone in your family became ill enough to seek medical help?**



**Have you gone without food for more than a day in the last year because you could not afford it?**



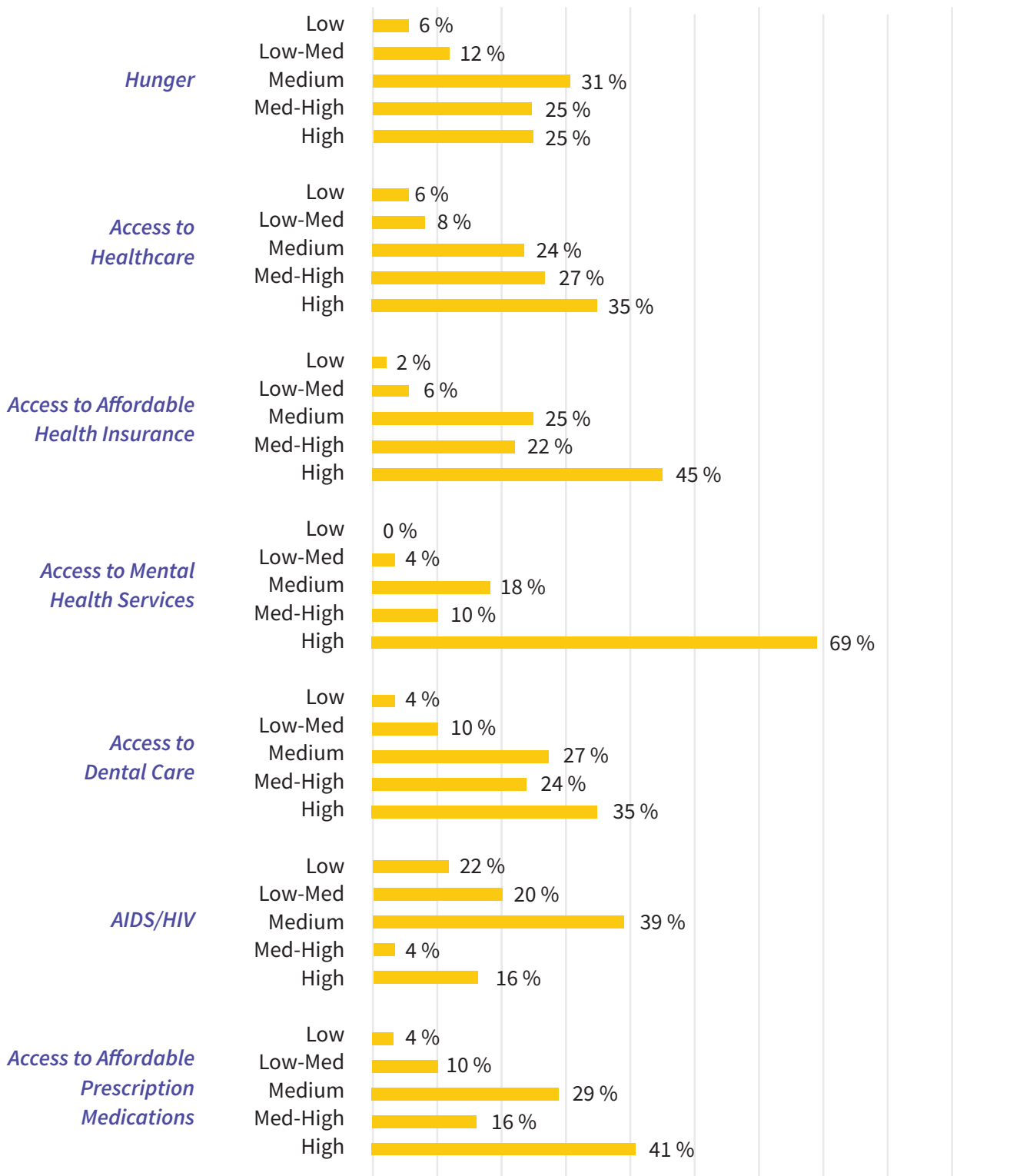
**Are you aware of someone in your community who has gone without food for more than a day in the past year because they could not afford it?**

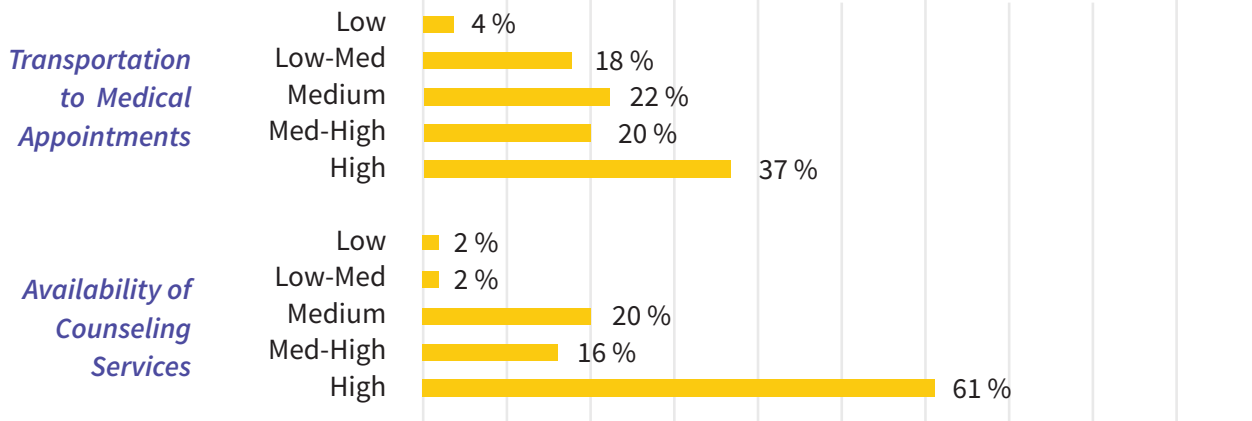


# Survey Data: Health and Nutrition

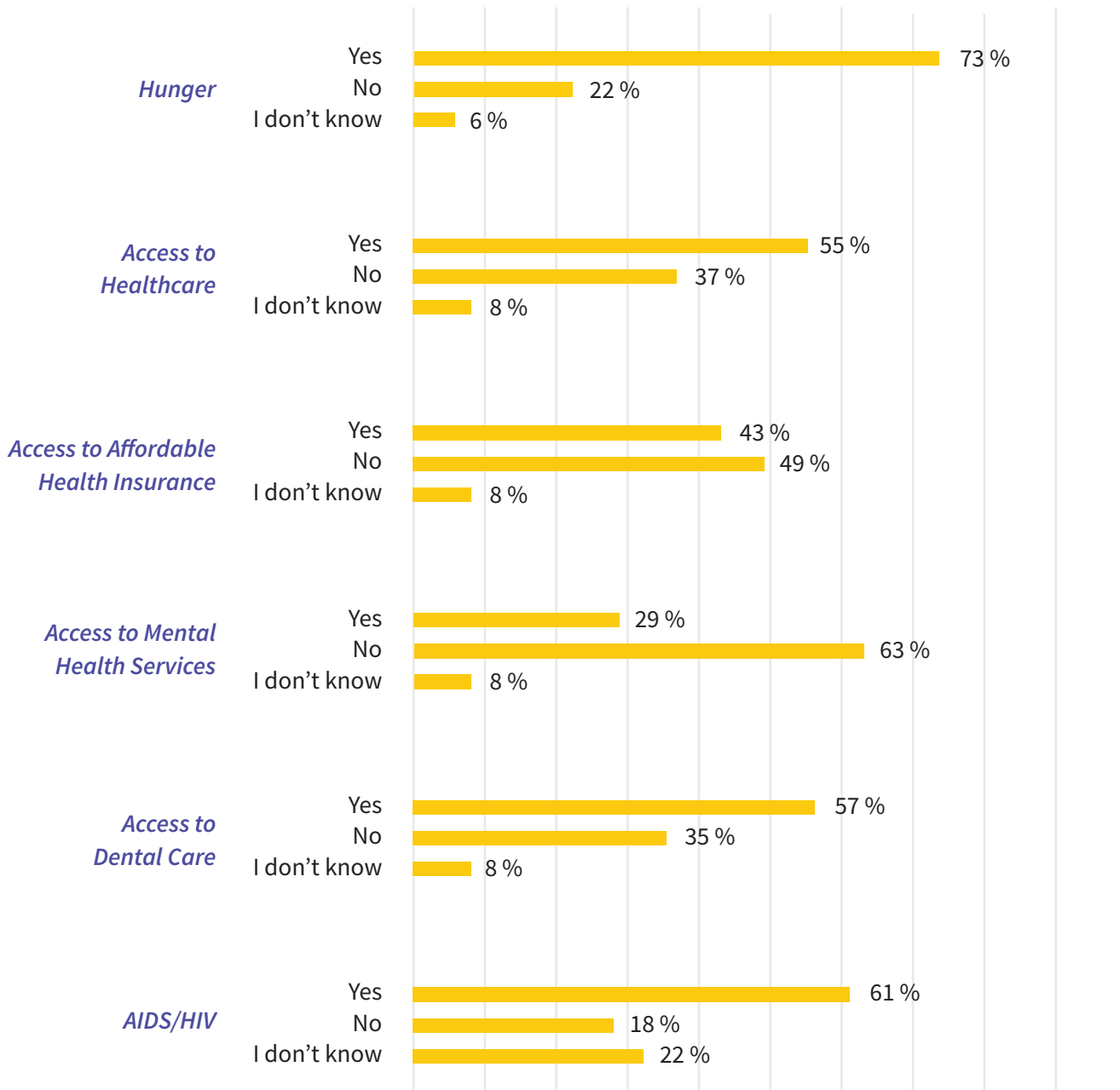
## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important health and nutrition issues facing Clinton County?

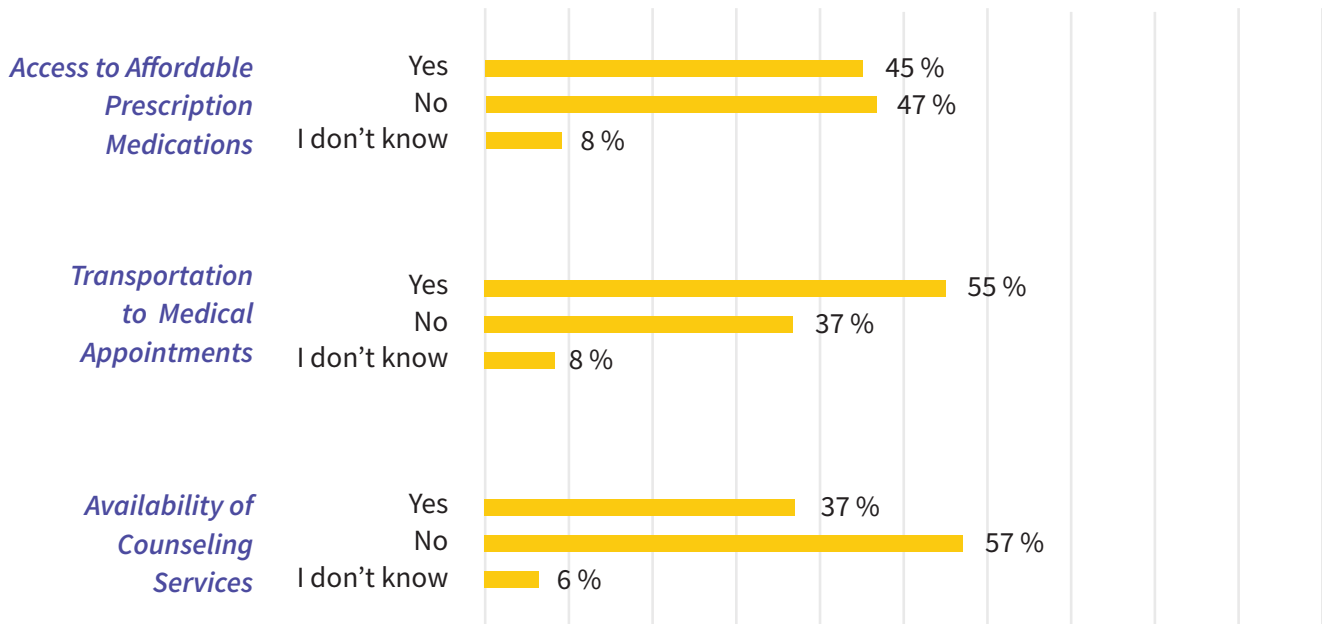




**Are these health and nutrition issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?**







# Housing and Homelessness

Community Survey respondents stated housing related issues, including homelessness, was the most important problem facing Clinton County today. While housing has not always been a top area of concern, since 2021 it has been climbing to the top. Housing affordability coupled with the lack of new construction, has stagnated housing mobility for many, particularly families who can financially buy a home. Throughout all levels of housing, from apartments to single family homes there is a lack of new construction and existing housing supply is continuing to fall into disrepair.

Vacancy rates are very low in Clinton County and focus group participants discussed the lack of homes on the market has pushed families to stay in houses that are not best suited for them.

Across the objective data, community, customer, and partner surveys, as well as focus group information, four main themes emerge: housing affordability, the state of housing, homelessness, housing counseling and financial education.

## Housing Affordability

Affordable housing is a complex issue that includes ensuring a community has a range of safe and accessible options for individuals at various income levels and capabilities. The availability of quality, affordable housing was an issue in Clinton County long before the increased demand in the mid-to-late 2000s, driven by the growth of the natural gas development industry, which placed additional pressures on the county's housing markets. The industry's scale back has not eliminated the housing needs, however. The housing market in Clinton County is unaffordable for many. According to the American Community Survey, in Clinton County 41% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on rent payments. This is compared to 16% of homeowners who spend more than 30% of their income on mortgage payments. This illustrates how the housing market in Clinton County is not affordable, particularly for renters. The cost of housing is outpacing the wage increases for workers, particularly within lower wage positions. Seventy-eight percent of partner survey respondents noted that affordable housing was of medium-high or high importance and 59% stated it was not receiving adequate attention in the community. Thirty-eight percent of community survey respondents stated they knew someone who was forced to move from their home due to landlord raising rent making the unit not affordable to them.

## The State of Housing

Focus group participants also discussed the challenge of trying to maintain a quality housing stock, a particularly vexing problem for the affordable housing community. Beyond the lack of new housing construction for all forms of housing, the state of disrepair of the current housing stock is an issue. Forty-one percent of homes in Clinton County were built prior to 1960. Homes constructed before 1960 have several issues beyond the normal maintenance and wear patterns. Many homes built before then have little or no thermal insulation, only 100-amp electrical service, asbestos shingles and flooring, low-efficiency heat systems and steel water pipes. Each of these items can present the current homeowner or renter with multiple concerns—both financial and safety-related.

Housing rehabilitation funds made available from federal, state and county resources have provided the means to begin to assist income-qualified citizens. While progress is being made, the need dwarfs the amount

of available funding. The net effect is that a disproportionate share of the family's income must be directed to housing-related expenses, thus making achieving financial stability even more difficult. Continued investment in the housing stock of Clinton County is critical to ensure the tax base is stable for the future.

## **Homelessness**

There are many reasons a family may be experiencing homelessness in Clinton County, including housing affordability, housing availability, evictions, mental health, domestic violence, and others. According to partner survey respondents, 45% stated homelessness was not adequately receiving attention by the community. Of the community survey respondents, 35% stated they or someone they knew had no place to live at some point in the last year. Focus group participants and community survey respondents discussed the importance of supports to help assist families experiencing homelessness. Programs that combine a Housing First philosophy with intensive case management needed to allow families to build their own skills and move on their journey to economic stability need to be continually invested in and supported.

## **Housing Counseling and Financial Education**

The need for household budgeting programs, financial management programs, and housing counseling was strongly endorsed by focus group participants. Due to the limited availability in the affordable housing market, housing counseling, including intensive case management and the various responsibilities of tenants, landlords, and homeowners is needed. The focus group participants stated that many housing-related problems often tie back to the lack of knowledge and experience of low-income families on how to actively address the issues. With support, these programs can help stabilize families in their homes and provide them the knowledge and skills on how to alleviate future issues that will inevitably arise.

## Objective Data: Housing and Homelessness

### Housing: Housing Units

The number of housing units within the report area in July of each year from 2014-2023 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, there were a total of 18,653 housing units in the report area in 2023, a decrease of 515 (or -2.69%) since 2014 compared to a 4.46% increase statewide.

#### Housing Units 2014-2023

Report Area	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Clinton County	19,168	19,199	19,228	19,252	19,282
Pennsylvania	5,590,712	5,603,051	5,611,995	5,694,402	5,712,698

Report Area	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Clinton County	19,298	18,609	18,625	18,634	18,653
Pennsylvania	5,732,628	5,747,659	5,770,281	5,814,781	5,839,963

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010- 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

Note: Annual Estimates of Housing Units for the United States, Regions, Divisions, States, and Counties: July, 2014 to July 2023. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

### Housing: Housing Age

Total housing units, median year built, and median age in 2022 for Clinton County and Pennsylvania are shown below. Housing units included in the housing age calculation are limited to those for which the year built is known.

#### Median Housing Unit, 2022

Report Area	Total Housing Units*	Median Year Built	Built Before 1960
Clinton County	18,623	1968	7,634
Pennsylvania	5,753,908	1964	2,632,120
United States	140,943,613	1979	37,380,530

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: county. \* Total reflects five-year estimate.

### Homeowners

The chart below shows that for Clinton County, the percent change in number of homes was a 1.42% decrease, while the change for Pennsylvania over the same period was about a 5.49% increase.

#### Percent Change in Homes, 2000-2022

Report Area	Homes 2000	Homes 2022	Percent Change 2000-2022
Clinton County	10,775	10,622	-1.42%
Pennsylvania	3,406,337	3,593,490	5.49%
United States	69,815,753	81,497,760	16.73%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: county. \* Total reflects five-year estimate.

## **Housing-Cost Burden (Renters)**

The 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) shows in the report area that 46% of occupied units paying rent nationwide pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. For Clinton County, 40.68% of occupied units paying rent have a housing cost burden. When 30% or more of income is spent on housing costs it is considered a “housing-cost burden.” Total housing units are defined as “total rentals and owned where rent/owned and income known.” The number of occupied units is limited to those where gross rent as a percentage of household income is able to be calculated.

### **Housing Cost Burden (Renters), 2018-2022**

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>Occupied Units Paying Rent</b>	<b>30% or More of Income Paying Rent</b>	<b>% of Renters Spending 30% or More of Income with Rent</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	14,877	4,255	1,731	40.68%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	5,193,727	1,600,237	701,129	43.81%
<b>United States</b>	125,736,353	44,238,593	20,547,938	46.45%

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: tract*

## **Housing-Cost Burden (Owners)**

The 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) shows in the report area that 27.17% of homeowners with mortgages nationwide pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. 23.45% of owners with mortgages and 16.45% of owners without mortgages spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs in Clinton County. 30% or more of income spent on housing costs is considered a “housing-cost burden.” Total housing units are defined as “total rentals and owned where rent/owned and income known.” The number of occupied units is limited to those where gross rent as a percentage of household income is able to be calculated.

### **Housing Cost Burden (Owners), 2018-2022**

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>Owners with Mortgage</b>	<b>30% or More of Income with Mortgage</b>	<b>% of Owners Spending 30% or More of Income with Mortgage</b>	<b>Owners without Mortgages</b>	<b>30% or More of Income without Mortgage</b>	<b>% of Owners Spending 30% or More of Income without Mortgage</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	14,877	5,918	1,388	23.45%	4,704	774	16.45%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	5,193,727	2,123,566	499,489	23.52%	1,469,924	204,949	13.94%
<b>United States</b>	125,736,353	50,148,459	13,642,400	27.17%	31,349,301	4,191,593	13.37%

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022.*

## **Vacancy Rates**

The U.S. Census Bureau provides vacancy data based on American Community Survey five-year estimates (2018-2022). Vacancy rates for the report area are reported below.

Vacant non-rental housing totals 300 units and includes those for sale only and sold but not occupied. For the report area, that is a non-rental housing vacancy rate of 1.61%, in comparison the national rate is 1.1%.

Vacant rental housing totals 413 units and includes those for rent and rented but not occupied. For the report area, that is a rental housing vacancy rate of 2.22%, in comparison the national rate is 2.24%.

Vacant other housing totals 3,033 units and includes those used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, as well as units used for migrant workers. For the report area, that is an other housing vacancy rate of 16.29%, in comparison the national rate is 7.45%.

### **Housing Vacancies, 2018-2022**

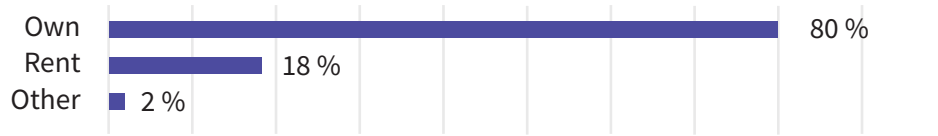
<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>Vacant Non-Rental</b>	<b>Vacant Non-Rental Rate</b>	<b>Vacant Rental</b>	<b>Vacant Rental Rate</b>	<b>Vacant Other</b>	<b>Vacant Other Rate</b>
<b>Clinton County</b>	18,623	300	1.61%	413	2.22%	3,033	16.29%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	5,573,908	64,617	1.12%	107,092	1.86%	388,472	3.75%
<b>United States</b>	140,943,613	1,549,548	1.1%	3,160,388	2.24%	10,497,324	7.45%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: County.*

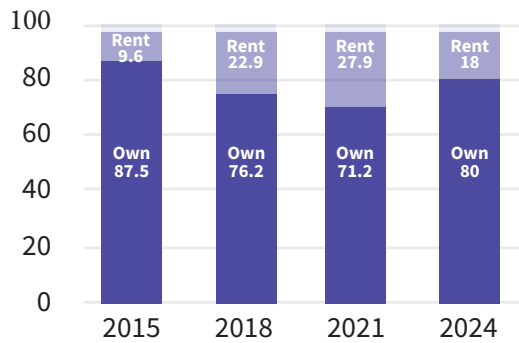
# Survey Data: Housing and Homelessness

## Community Survey Information

Do you own or rent your home?



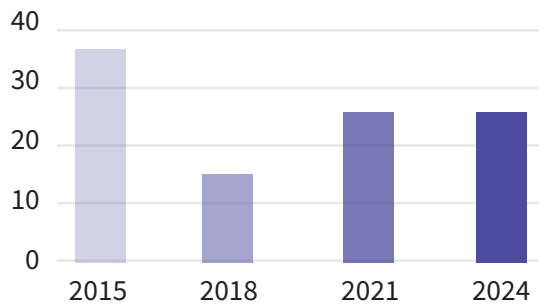
Response Trend



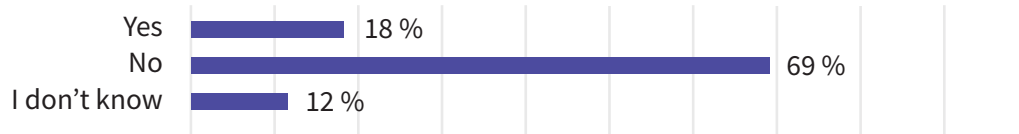
Have you or your family had difficulty finding money to pay your mortgage or rent at any time over the last year?



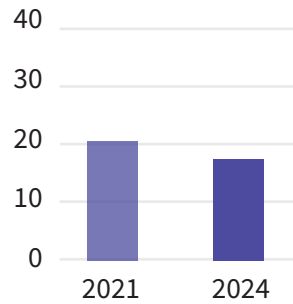
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



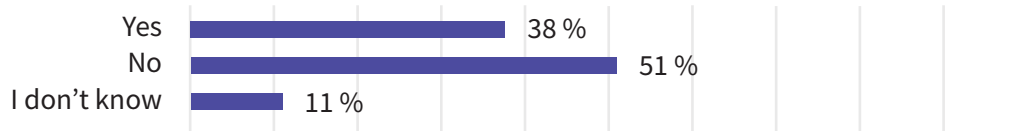
## Do you foresee having difficulty finding money to pay your mortgage or rent at any time in the next year?



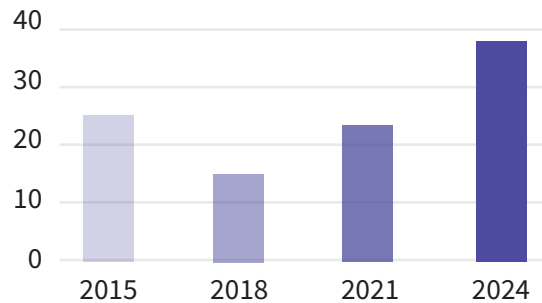
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



## Do you know someone personally who has been forced to move from their home within the last two years because that person's landlord has raised the rent more than they can afford?

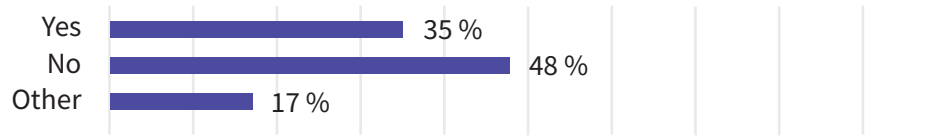


*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"

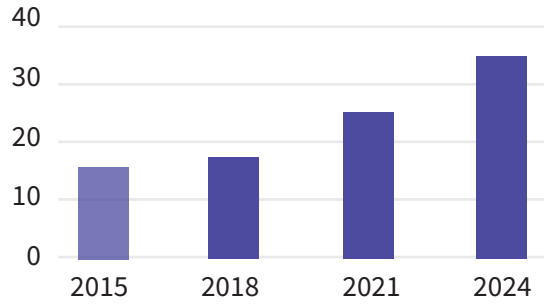




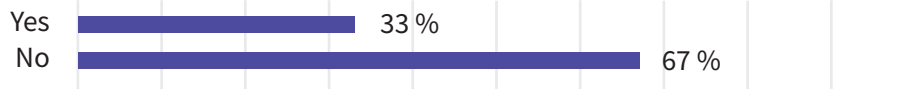
## Have you or someone you know in your community had no place to live at some time in the last year?



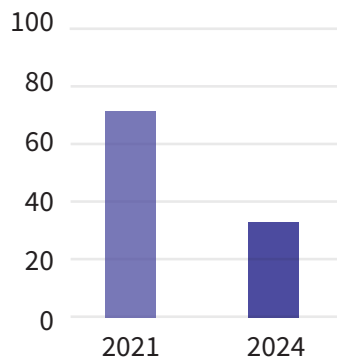
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



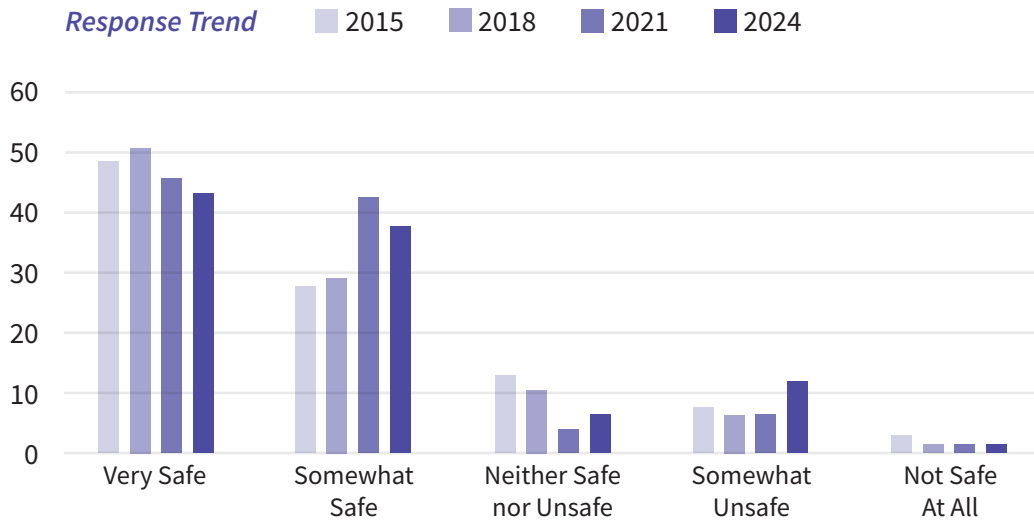
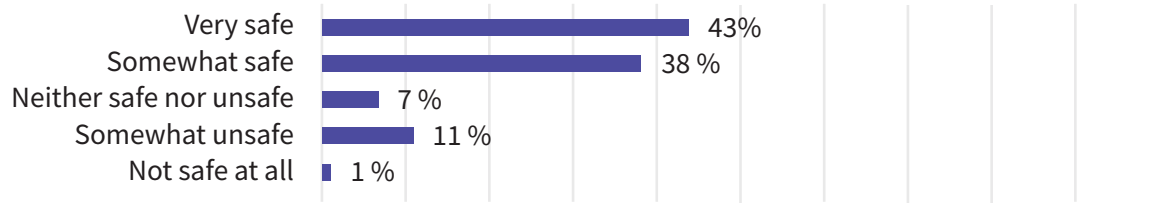
## Have you or your family had difficulty finding the money to pay for the costs of heating, electricity, or water any time in the past year?



*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"



## How safe is your neighborhood?



## Over the last year, has the safety of your neighborhood changed?



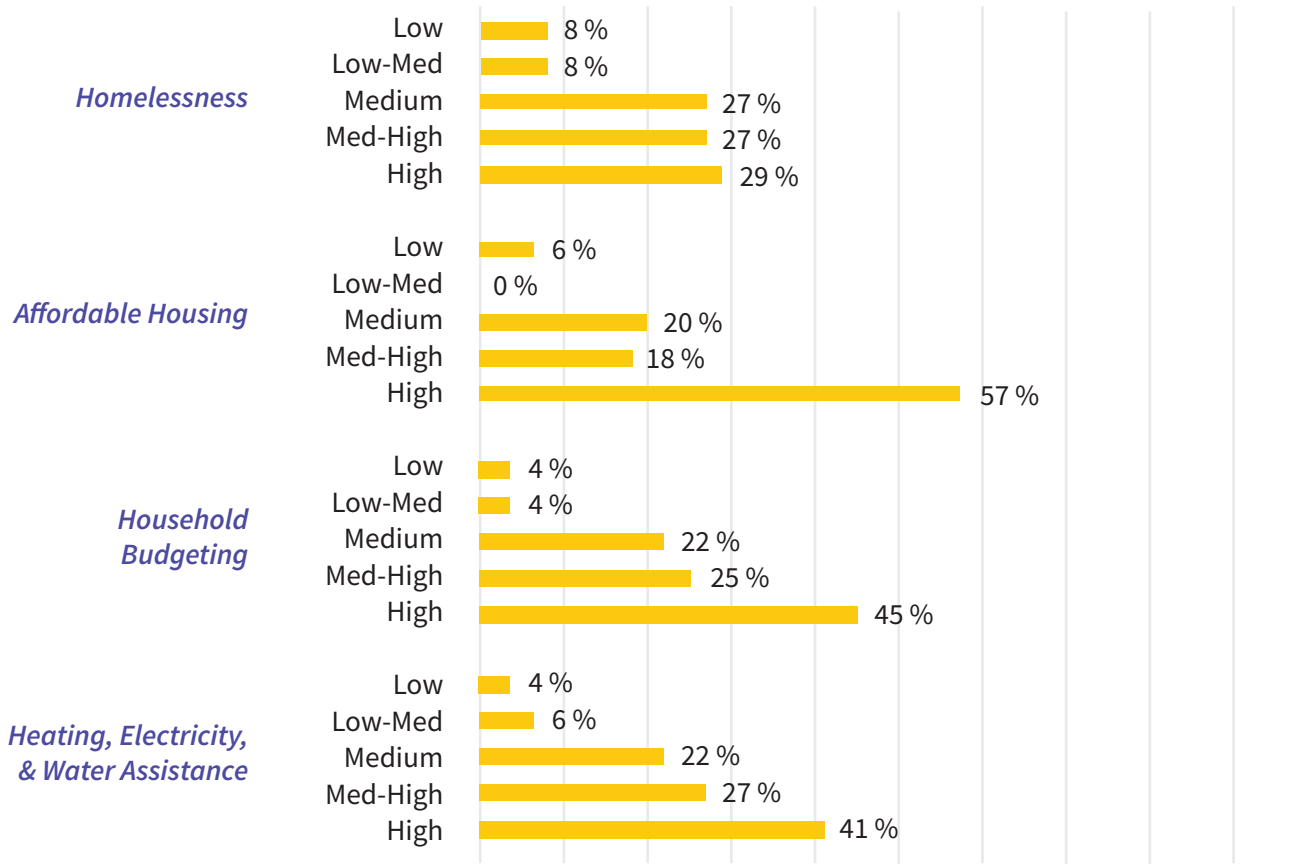
## Has your neighborhood become more or less safe?



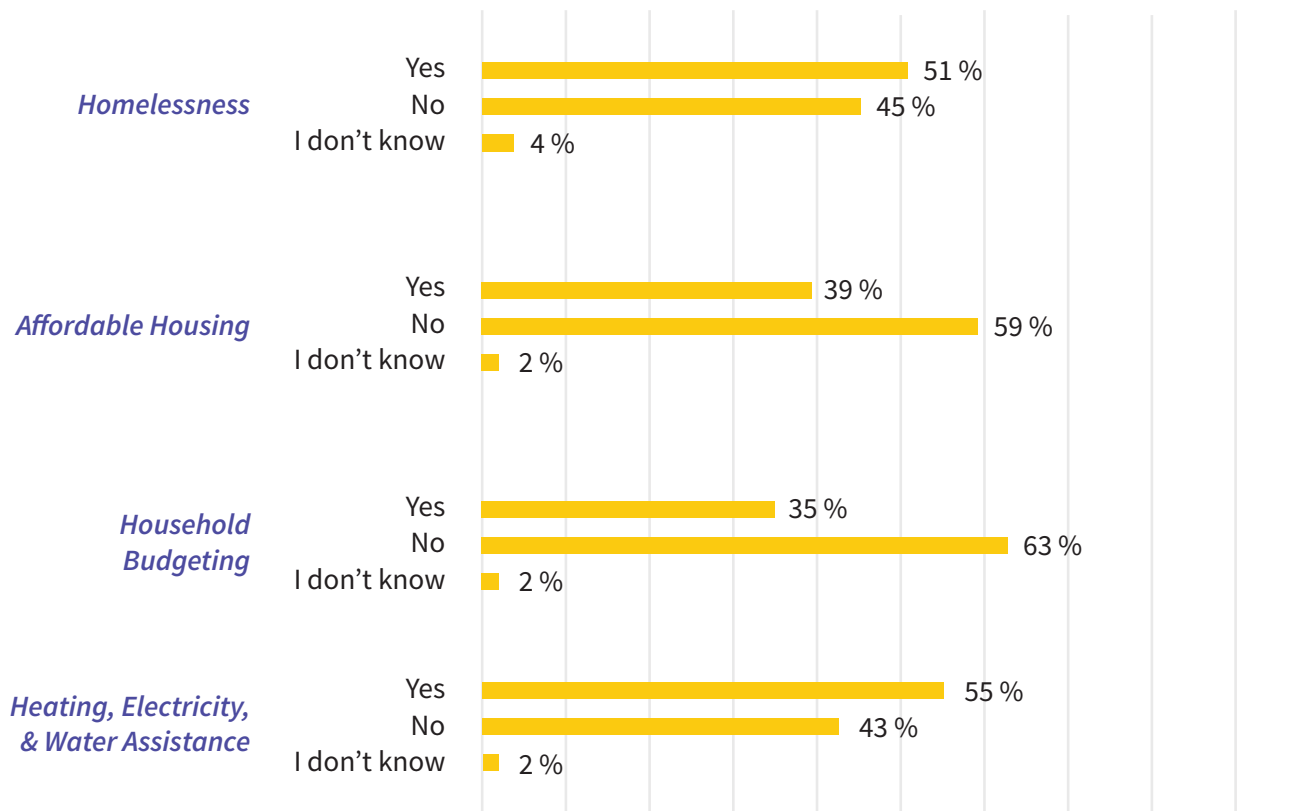
# Survey Data: Housing and Homelessness

## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important housing and homelessness issues facing Clinton County?



## Are these housing and homelessness issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?



# **Support Services for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**

The needs of senior citizens and persons with disabilities have been a long-standing focus of Clinton County human service providers. The County has a rapidly aging (60 and older) population, leading to an increasing need for senior services. In Clinton County, there is 12% of the over 65 population that currently lives in poverty. There is also much greater awareness of how services for persons with disabilities can enhance quality of life. Across the various data sources, the themes around seniors and persons with disabilities support services are: aging-in-place and affordable housing, awareness of protective services, outreach services, services for persons with disabilities, and services for seniors.

## **Aging-In-Place and Affordable Housing**

Focus group participants cited the lack of affordable housing for seniors as a continuing issue. For seniors, affordable housing works best when it includes one-floor living, access to amenities, low utility costs, and no yard to maintain. Rather than move into an assisted living facility or independent housing arrangement, many seniors prefer to age in-place in their own home. Often this requires home modifications to make a house safe and accessible for a senior. The focus group participants discussed that programs to help pay for home accessibility modifications, so that seniors can stay in their homes, have a long waiting period between enrollment and receiving services. Seniors may need modifications completed in a more immediate time frame. Beyond these structural changes to their home, many seniors also require additional support services, such as personal care assistance, to age-in-place successfully.

## **Awareness of Protective Services**

As discussed by focus group participants and within survey responses, the public seems to lack awareness of the degree and extent of elder abuse in its many forms throughout Clinton County. Moreover, there appears to be a reluctance by some abused seniors to report their situation due to embarrassment or fear of reporting an abusing caregiver they otherwise depend upon. Forty-three percent of partner survey respondents indicated that services for elder abuse and scam prevention are lacking, while of the community survey respondents, 17% stated the same. Focus group participants discussed a need for continued public education on this topic to help protect our most vulnerable residents.

## **Outreach Services**

Seniors, people with disabilities, and their families may not be aware of available services. This is particularly true in rural areas. Even though agencies try to get the word out on available services, continued outreach efforts are necessary. Focus group participants mentioned the LINK as a centralized location for various services, but many do not understand what it is. Innovative outreach techniques beyond the traditional newspaper are needed. Focus group participants mentioned commercials, radio ads, and billboards to reach a broader audience. The partner survey respondents noted within all categories, except affordable housing, that adequate attention is being paid in the community to needs of seniors and those with disabilities, so outreach may be the key.

## **Services for Persons with Disabilities**

Community and partner survey respondents moderately agreed that adequate services are being provided to persons with disabilities. Of the services lacking in Clinton County, focus groups indicated transportation, specifically that operates more often than existing options. The need for more accessible apartments, which are also affordable for families on fixed income was also noted by the focus group and survey respondents. Assistive technology access was discussed and while there are resources in the community that offer them, it was stated more outreach about them would be helpful.

## **Services for Seniors**

Community and partner survey respondents moderately agreed that adequate services are being provided to seniors, except as it relates to affordable housing. The lack of affordable and accessible housing options were discussed as a concern for older adults, particularly if they have any mobility issues. Focus groups also indicated a lack of weekend transportation as a major issue affecting the quality of life of seniors. Transportation for veterans, seniors living in the rural communities, and weekend and evening options were noted by community survey respondents, as well. Focus groups also indicated a lack of weekend transportation as a major issue affecting the quality of life of seniors. Half of the partner survey respondents noted that services for senior citizens were being taken care of in the community, while 37% stated more attention was needed in this area.

## Objective Data:

### Support Services for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

#### **Poverty: Senior Population and Poverty**

Population and poverty estimates for persons age 65 and older are shown for Clinton County, Pennsylvania, and the United States. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) five-year data, an average of 11.9% of Clinton County seniors lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for older adults living in Clinton County is greater than the national average of 10%.

#### **Seniors in Poverty, 2018-2022**

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Clinton County	7,109	843	11.9%
Pennsylvania	2,353,272	209,200	8.9%
United States	53,352,363	5,309,452	10%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: County.

#### **Population with Any Disability by Age Group**

This indicator reports the percentage of the total civilian non-institutionalized population with a disability by age group. The percentage values could be interpreted as, for example, “Among the population age 65+ in the report area, the percentage of population with disability is (value).”

#### **Population with Any Disability by Age Group**

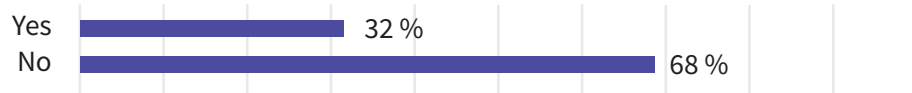
Report Area	Under Age 18	Age 18-64	Age 65+
Clinton County	5.60%	13.70%	34.66%
Pennsylvania	5.71%	11.42%	32.20%
United States	4.53%	10.46%	33.27%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22.

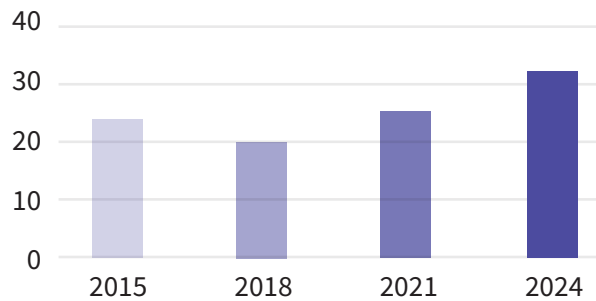
# Survey Data: Senior Support Services

## Community Survey Information

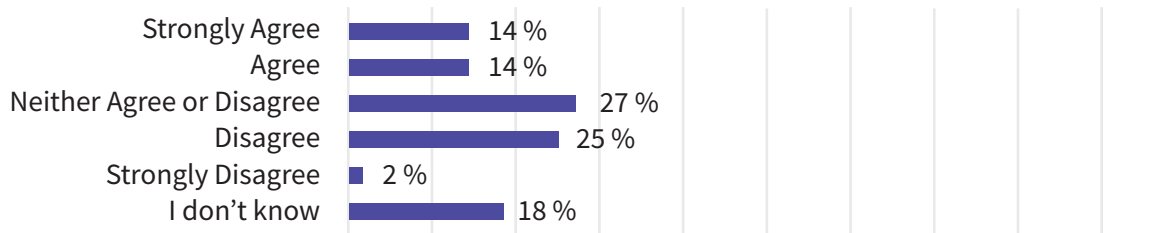
Do you provide any assistance for an elderly relative in Clinton County?



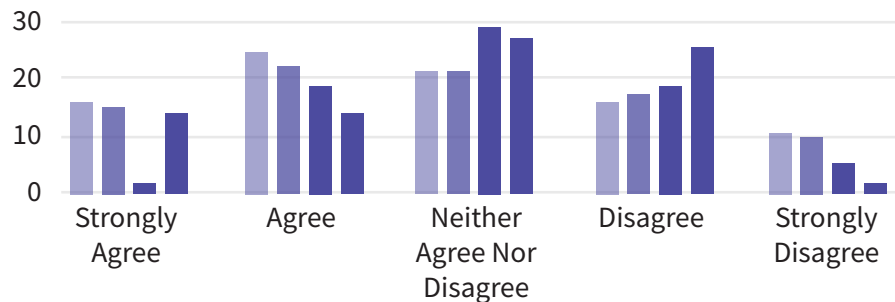
*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating “Yes”



Seniors in my community received adequate services to meet their needs.

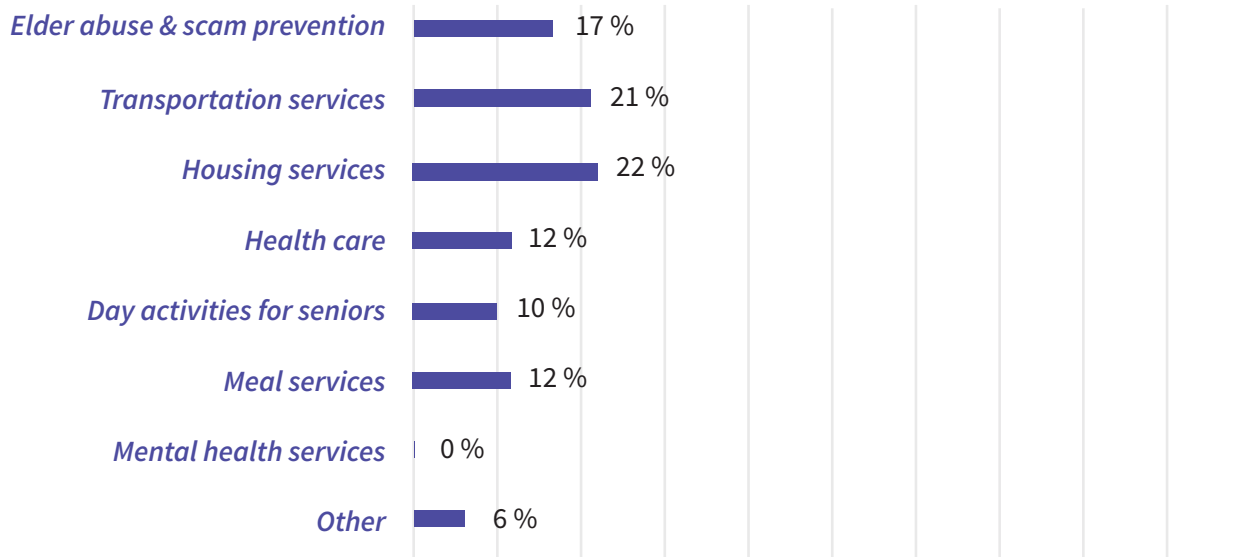


*Response Trend* 2015 2018 2021 2024





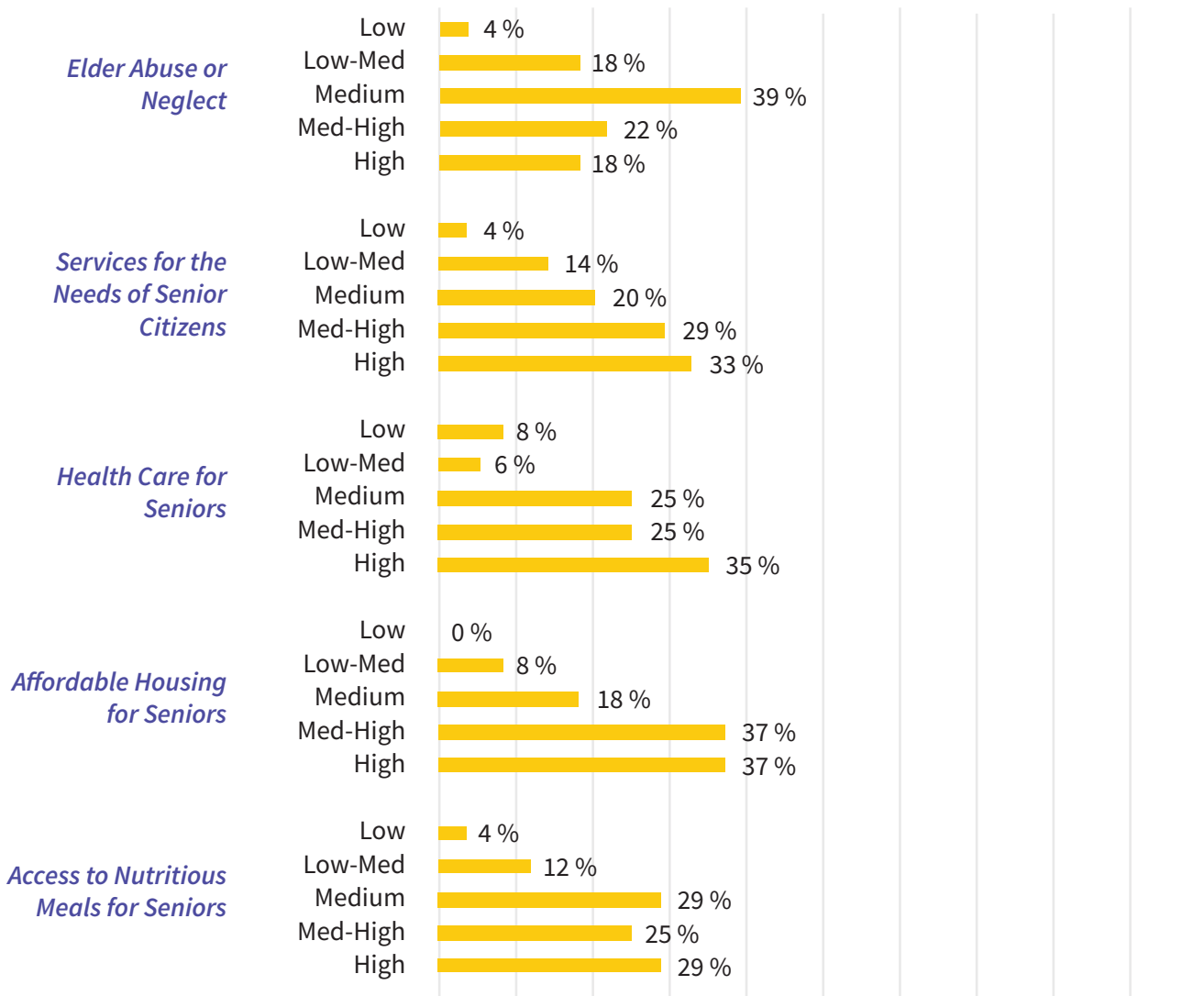
## Which of the following senior support services are lacking in Clinton County?



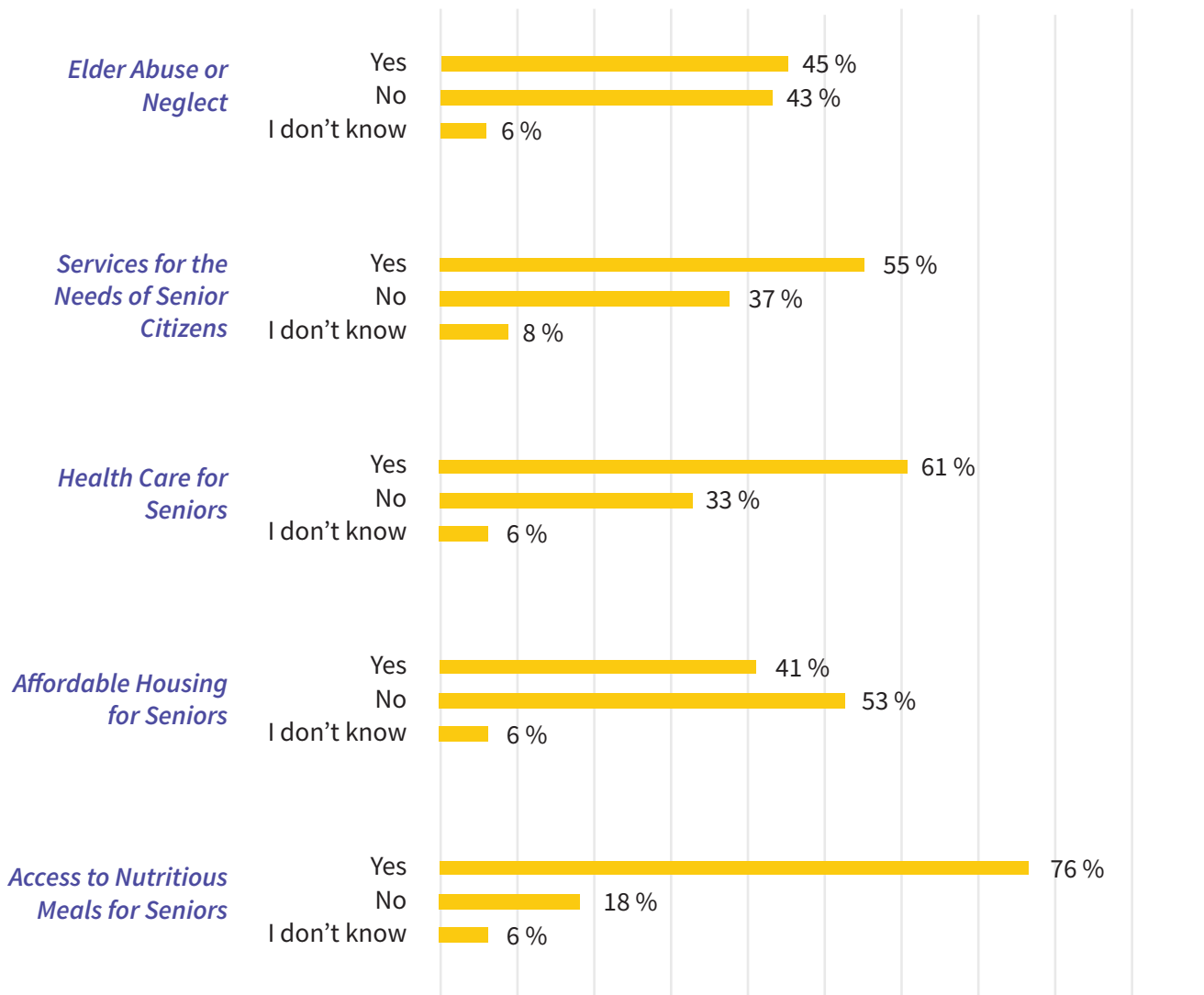
# Survey Data: Senior Support Services

## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important senior support service issues facing Clinton County?



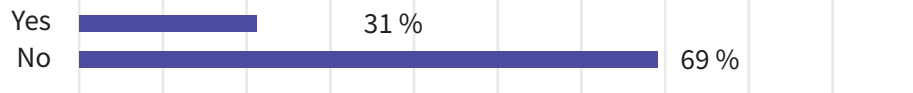
## Are these senior support service issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?



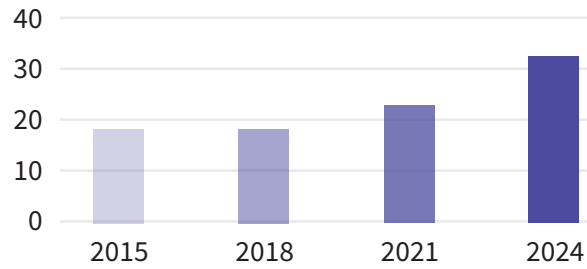
# Survey Data: Individuals with Disabilities

## Community Survey Information

Are you or anyone in your household disabled?

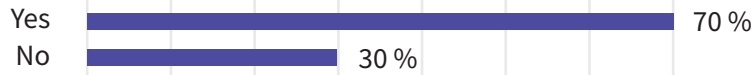


*Response Trend* - Percentage indicating "Yes"

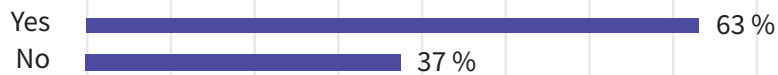


If yes, what type of disability?

*Physical Disability*

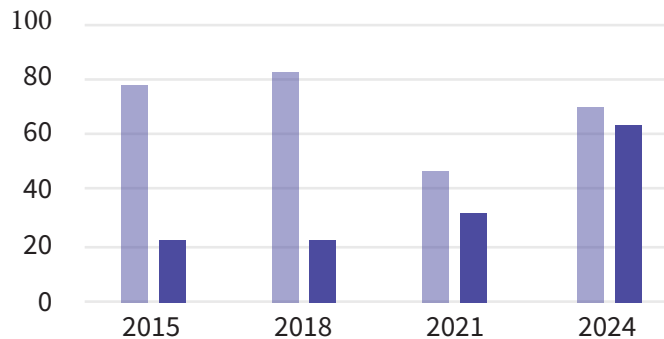


*Mental Disability*

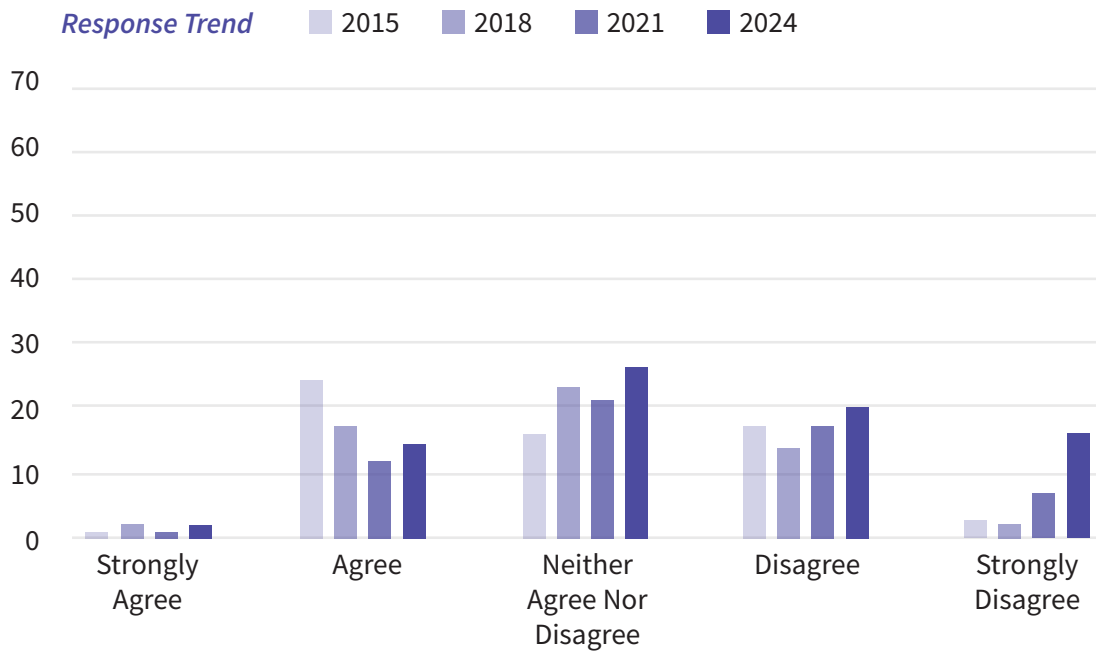
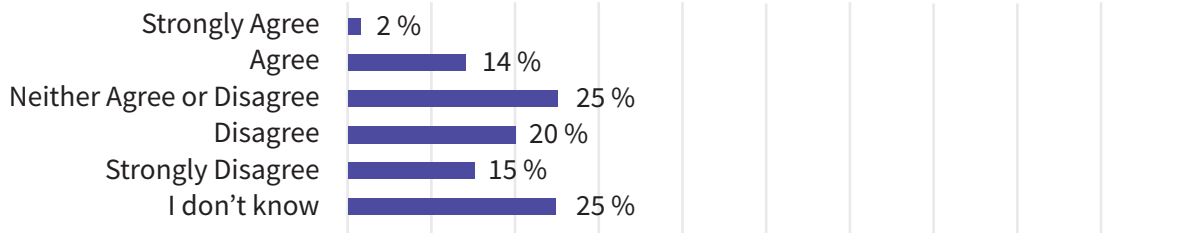


*Response Trend*

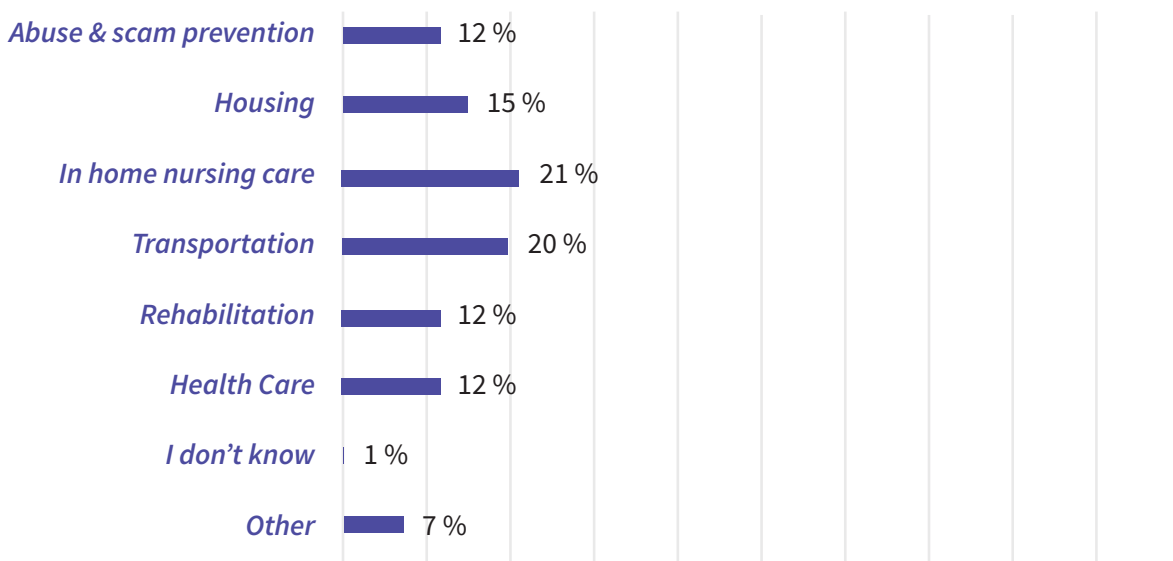
■ Physical ■ Mental



**Individuals with disabilities in my community receive adequate services to meet their needs.**



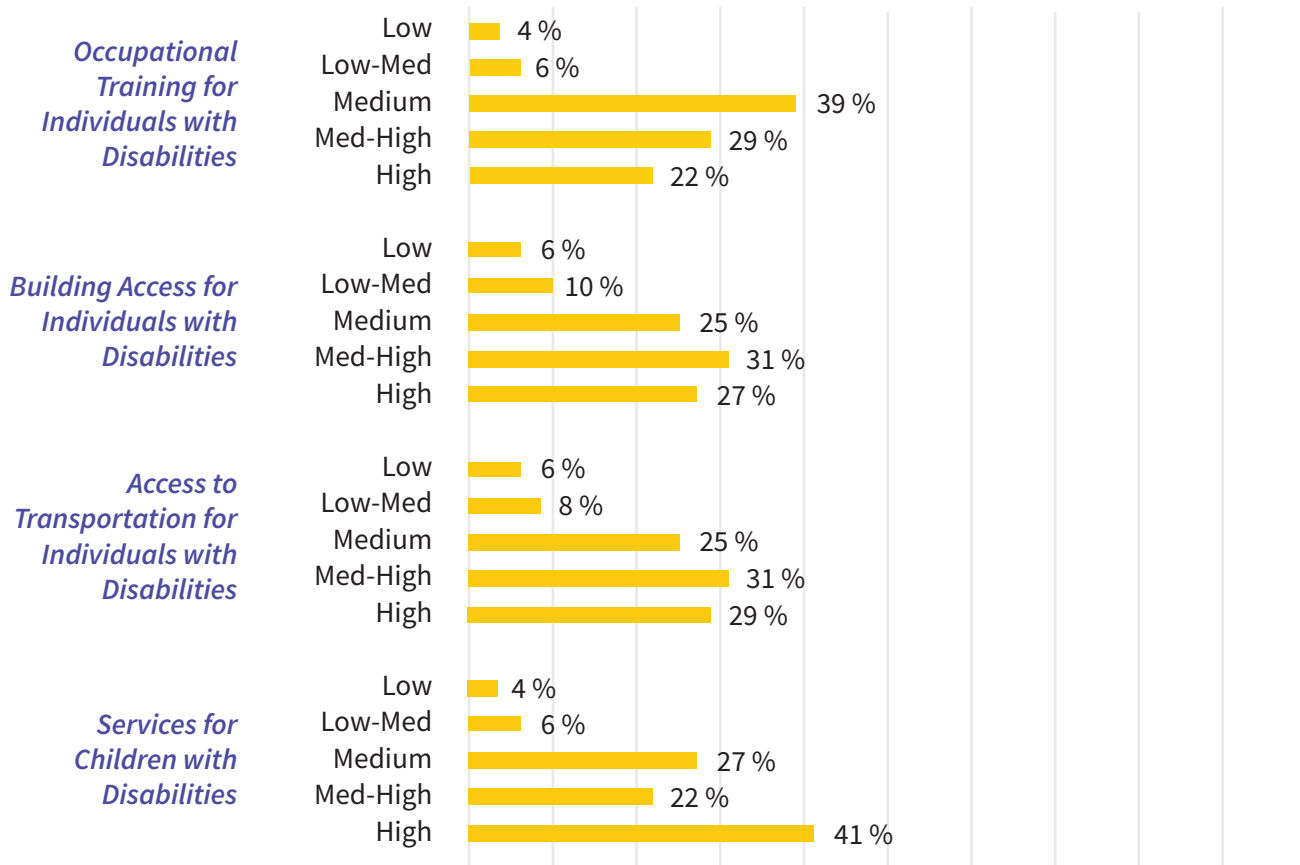
**Which of the following services for those with disabilities are lacking in Clinton County?**



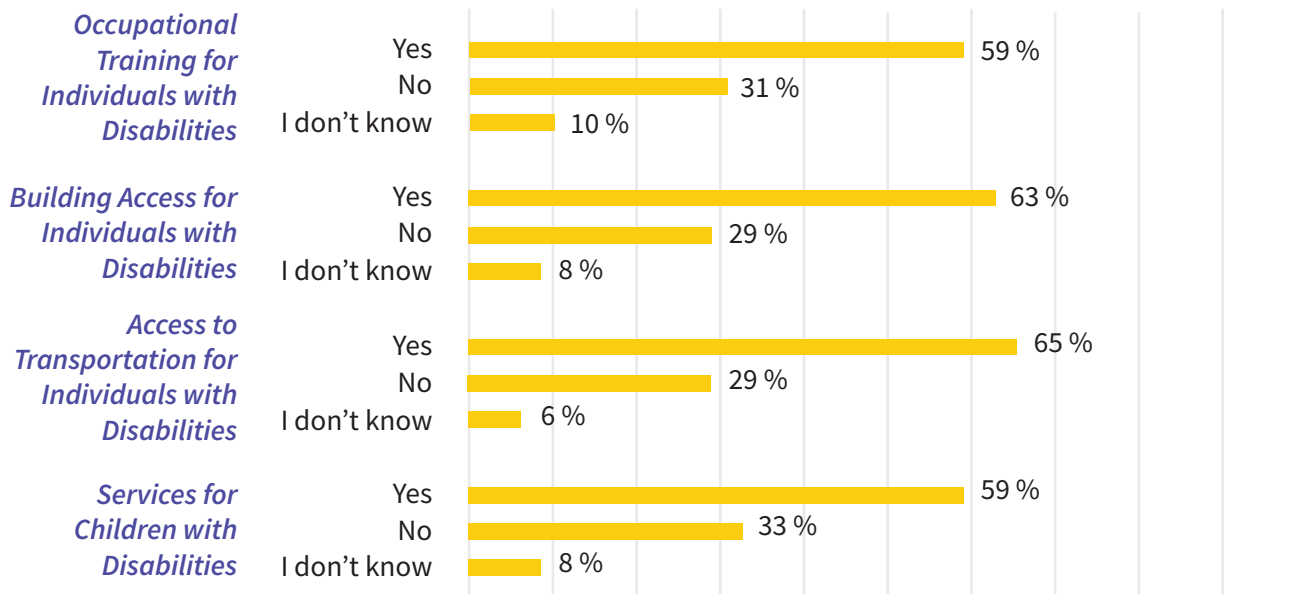
# Survey Data: Individuals with Disabilities

## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important issues facing individuals with disabilities in Clinton County?



Are these services for individuals with disabilities receiving adequate attention by community groups?



# Demographics and Diversity

## Population

The following section provides demographic data across a range of topics useful in evaluating Clinton County's community needs.

### Population Change

Population change within the report area from 2010-2020 is shown below. During this ten-year period, total population estimates for the report area declined by -4.56%, decreasing from 39,238 persons in 2010 to 37,450 persons in 2020.

#### Population Change, 2010-2020

Report Area	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population, 2020 Census	Population Change from 2010-2020	Percent Change from 2010-2020
Clinton County	39,238	37,450	-1,788	-4.56%
Pennsylvania	12,702,385	13,002,700	300,315	2.36%
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	22,263,994	7.13%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2020.

### Age and Gender Demographics

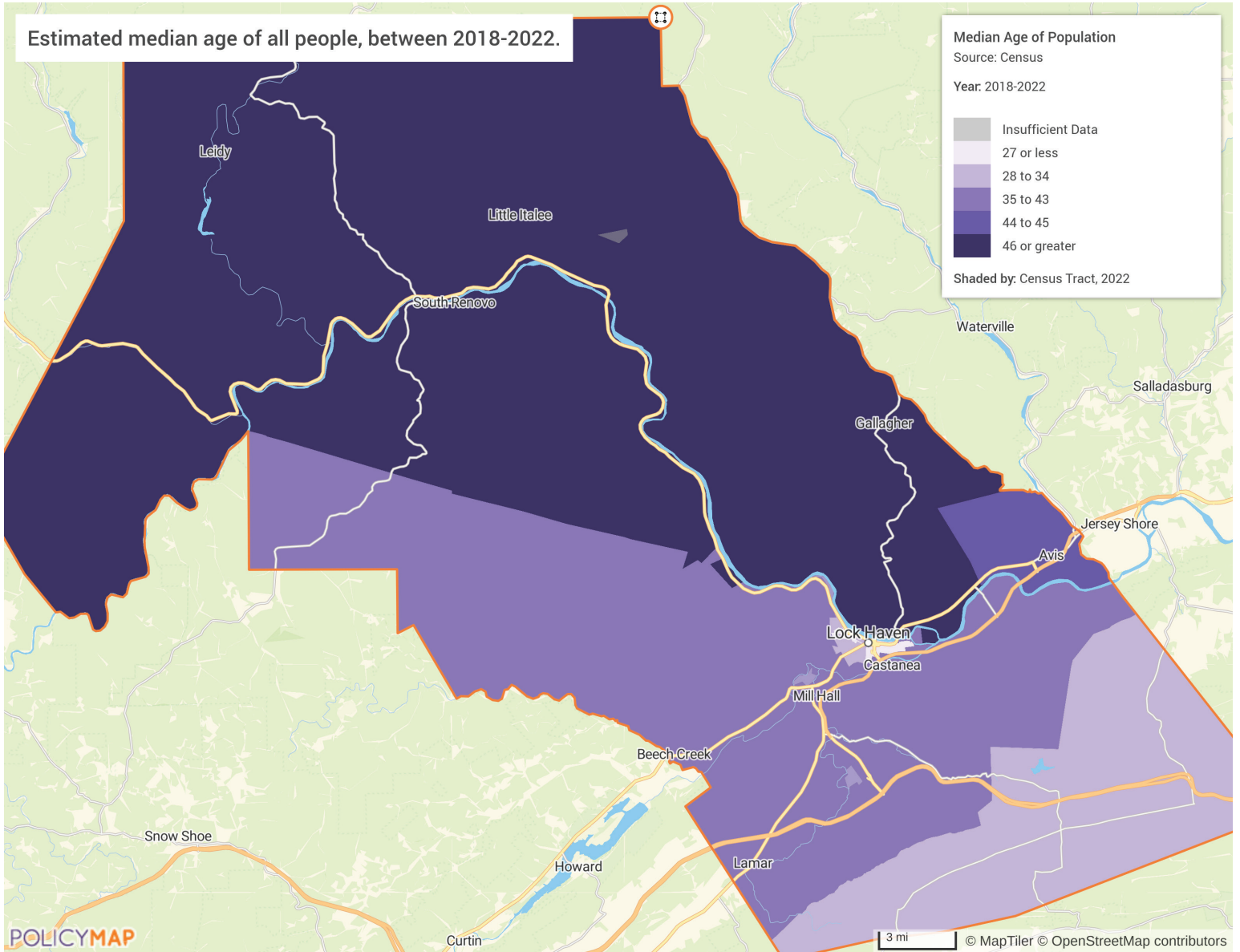
Population by gender within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2018-2022 five-year population estimates for the report area, the female population comprised 50.5% of the report area, while the male population represented 49.5%.

#### Population by Gender and Age, 2018-2022

Report Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		18 to 64		Over 64	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Clinton County	1,022	1,026	2,910	2,705	11,655	11,231	2,979	3,982
Pennsylvania	352,395	336,176	1,013,534	962,457	3,967,967	3,922,274	966,779	1,357,535
United States	9,725,644	9,279,281	27,762,503	26,446,277	102,230,144	100,916,096	22,157,050	30,255,641

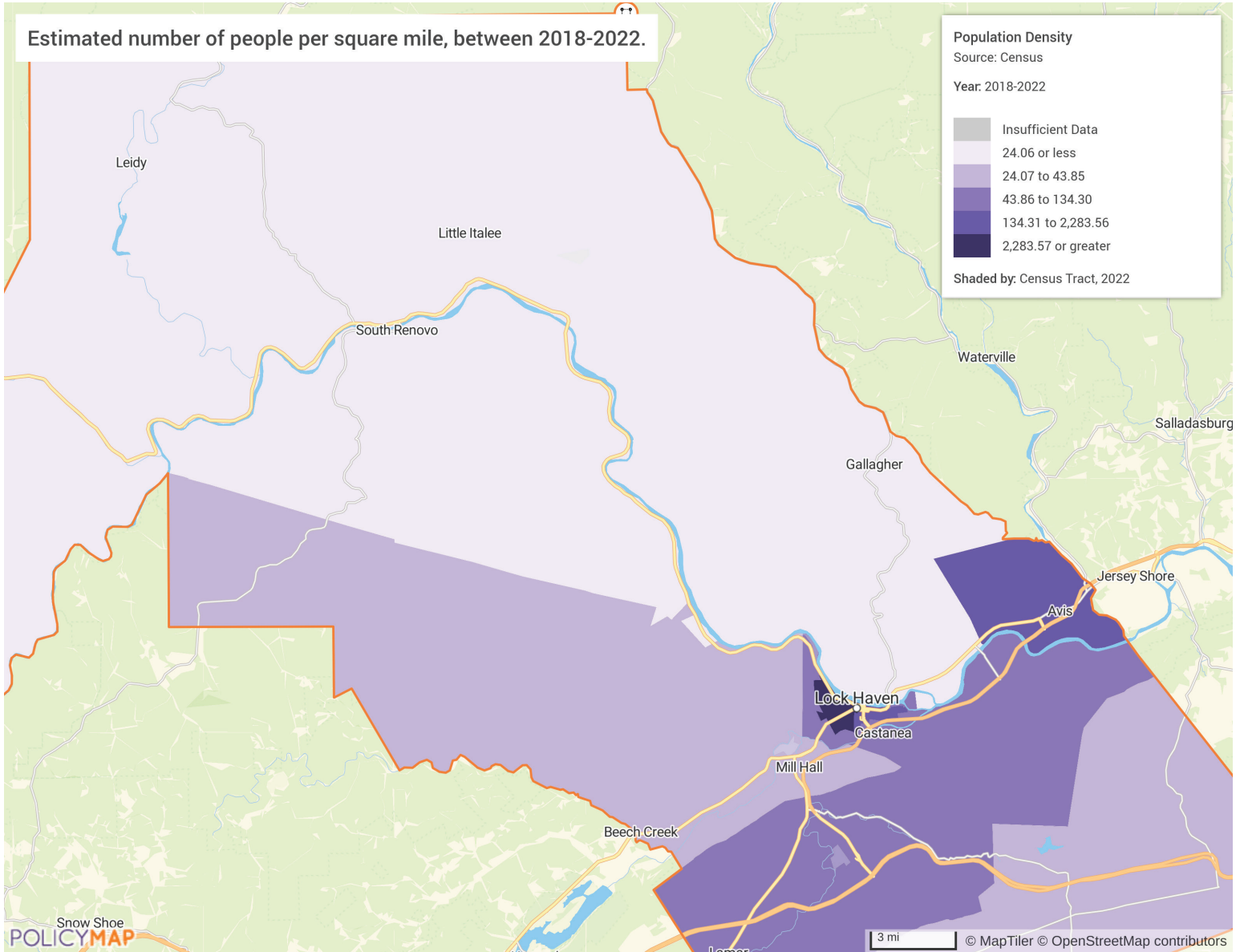
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: County.

# Estimated Median Age of all People, 2018-2022

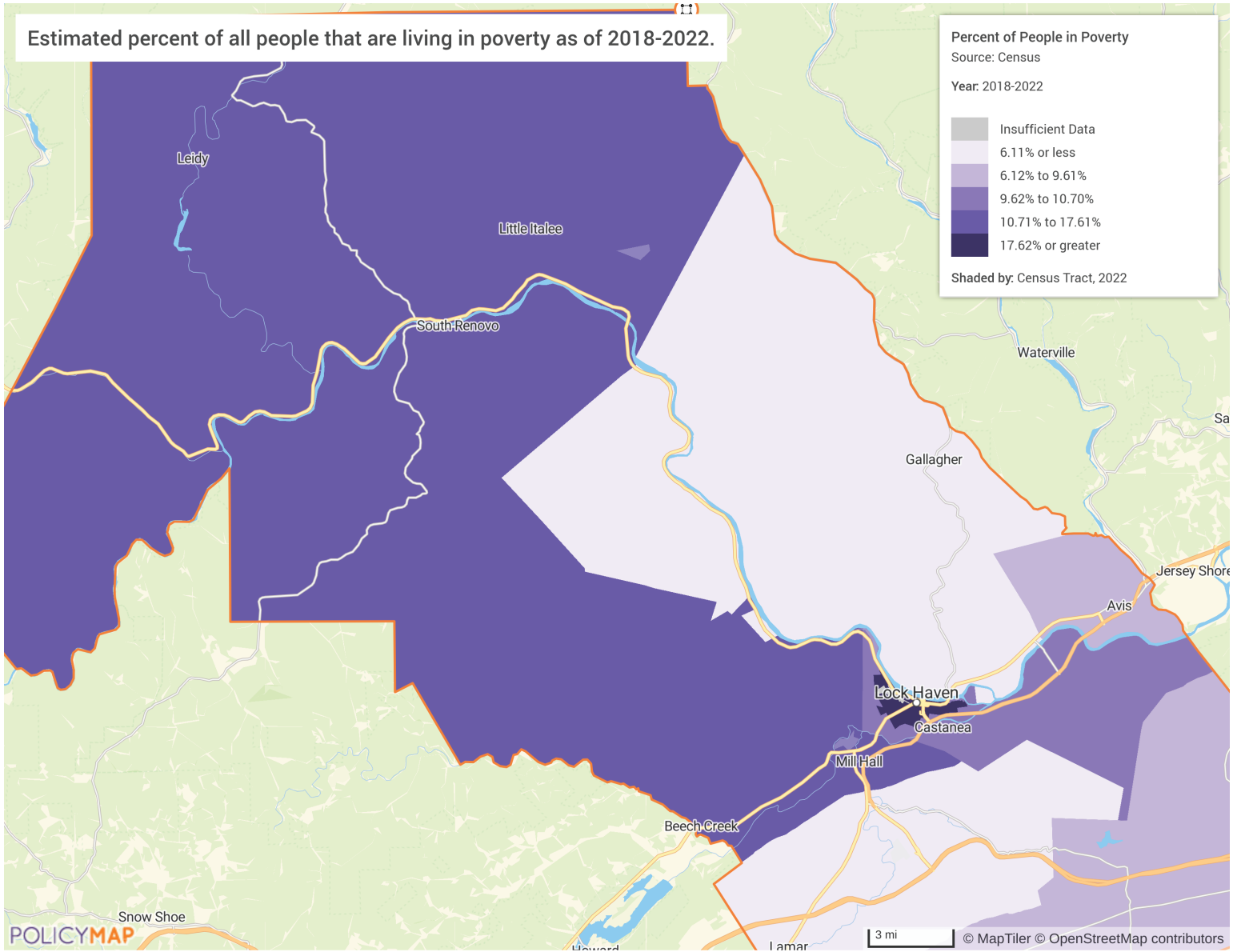




# Estimated Number of People Per Square Mile, 2018-2022



# Estimated Percent of People Living in Poverty, 2018-2022



## Survey Data: Population

### Community Survey Information

How many people are in your household? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
One	<b>11%</b>
Two	<b>36%</b>
Three	<b>29%</b>
Four	<b>15%</b>
Five or more	<b>10%</b>

How many adults over the age of 60 live with you in your household? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
Zero	<b>63%</b>
One	<b>19%</b>
Two - Three	<b>19%</b>
Four or more	<b>0%</b>

How many children under the age of 18 live with you in your household? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
Zero	<b>65%</b>
One	<b>17%</b>
Two - Three	<b>18%</b>
Four or more	<b>0%</b>

## Race Demographics

Population by race within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2018-2022 five year population estimates, the white population comprised 94.94% of the report area, black population represented 1.3%, and other races combined were 1.73%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 2.4% of the population.

### Population by Race, 2018-2022

Report Area	Total Population	White Total	Black Total	American Indian Total
Clinton County	37,860	35,945	493	57
PA	12,989,208	10,010,379	1,407,814	20,570
United States	331,097,593	218,123,424	41,288,572	2,786,431
Report Area	Asian Total	Native Hawaiian Total	Some/Other Total	Mixed Race Total
Clinton County	270	7	179	909
PA	473,192	4,256	405,422	667,575
United States	19,112,979	624,863	20,018,544	29,142,780

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: County.

## Household Types

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 14,877 households in the report area during 2018 - 2022. Single person households comprised of 26.41% of the total, two person households comprised 38.93% of the total, three person households comprised 17.54% of the total, four person households comprised 10.32% of the total, and larger households of 5 or more made up 6.8% of the total.

### Household Types, Total

Report Area	Total Households	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 or More People
Clinton County	14,877	3,929	5,791	2,609	1,536	1,012
Pennsylvania	5,193,727	1,571,675	1,812,113	781,402	614,504	414,033
United States	125,736,353	35,550,232	42,558,406	19,451,108	16,035,290	12,141,317

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022 Source geography: County.

### Household Types, Percent

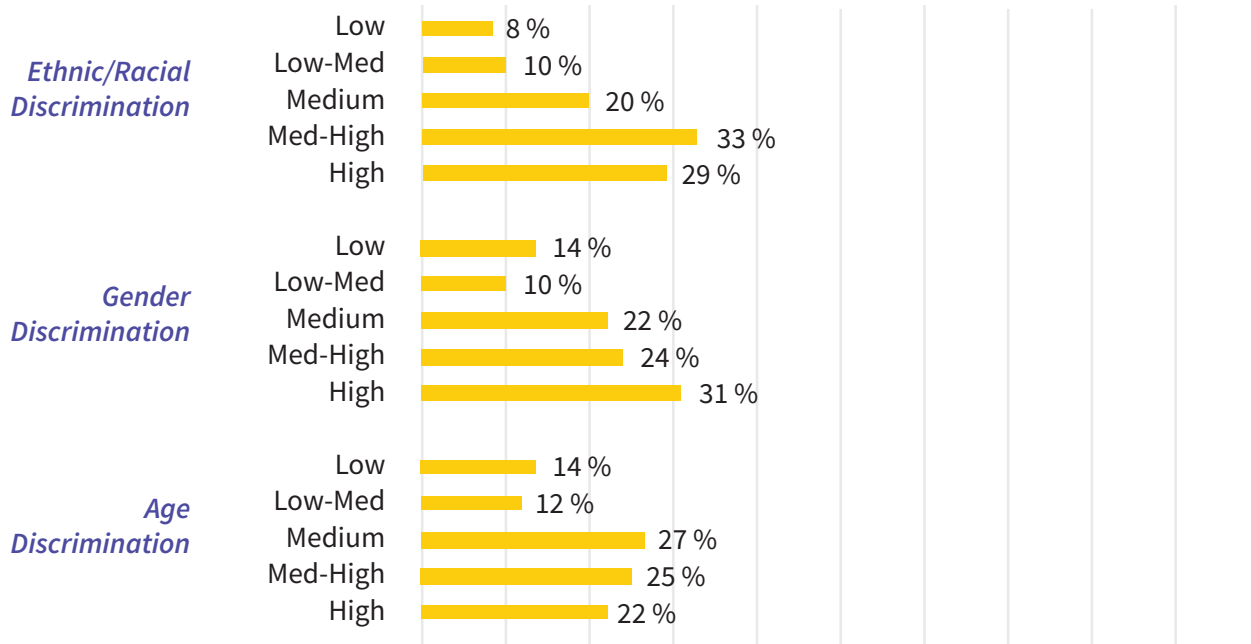
Report Area	Total Households	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 or More People
Clinton County	14,877	26.41%	38.93%	17.54%	10.32%	6.80%
Pennsylvania	5,193,727	30.26%	34.89%	15.05%	11.83%	7.97%
United States	125,736,353	28.27%	33.85%	15.47%	12.75%	9.66%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022 Source geography: County.

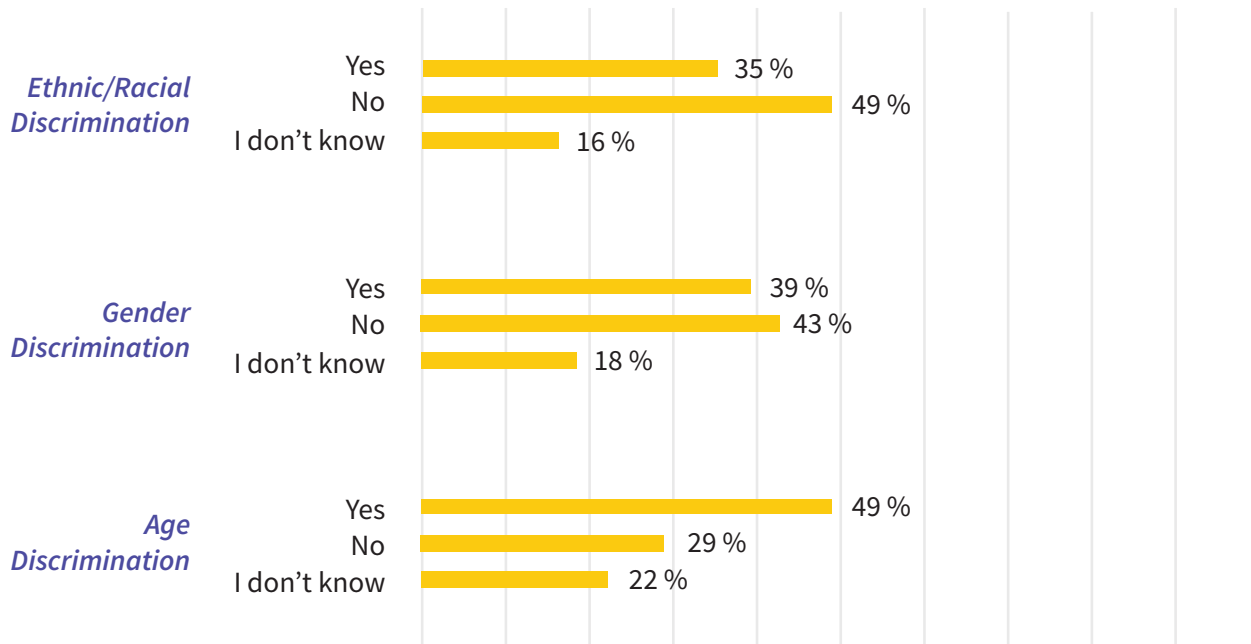
# Survey Data: Diversity

## Partner Survey Information

What are the most important issues concerning diversity in Clinton County?



Are these diversity related issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?



# Income

## Wages

Average weekly wages for Clinton County and Pennsylvania during the period July–September 2023 are provided in the table below. The average federal government weekly wage is \$1,332, which compares to the average local government weekly wage of \$1,153 and the average private weekly wage of \$946.

### Weekly Wages

Report Area	Total Employees	Average Weekly Wage	Federal Employees	Average Federal Government Weekly Wage	State/Local Employees	State/Local Government Weekly Wage	Private Employees	Average Private Weekly Wage
Clinton County	12,665	\$971	139	\$1,332	1,919	\$1,153	10,607	\$946
PA	5,995,961	\$1,283	102,668	\$1,788	570,065	\$1,299	5,323,288	\$1,276

Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 3rd Quarter, 2023 Source geography: County.

## Income Levels

Three common measures of income are median household income, per capita income, and average income based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates. All three measures are shown for the report area in the below tables. The average income for earners in Clinton County is \$40,605. The Census Bureau defines an earner as someone age 15 and older that receives any form of income, whether it be wages, salaries, benefits, or other type of income.

### Income Levels by County, 2018-2022

Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Average Income Per Earner
Clinton County	59,011	30,723	40,605
Pennsylvania	73,170	41,233.63	55,389.70
United States	75,149	41,261.47	57,863.37

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: Tract.

## Income by Family Size

The table below shows median household income broken out by family size. The Pennsylvania average for a household of 3 is \$100,883 and the national average is \$97,644, both are higher than the average Clinton County household of 3 at \$78,972.

### Median Household Income by Family Size, 2018-2022

Report Area	Household of One	Household of Two	Household of Three	Household of Four	Household of Five	Household of Six	Household of Seven
Clinton County	24,854	63,976	78,972	103,222	104,375	76,523	111,250
PA	36,453	82,298	100,883	119,931	113,081	109,631	102,903
United States	38,445	83,185	97,644	113,664	106,473	104,420	113,370

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022 Source geography: County.

## Survey Data: Income

### Community Survey Information

What was the total income of all persons in your household over the past year? (Percentage)

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2018</b>
\$15,000 or less	7	9.9	16.4
\$15,000 - \$30,000	12	14.9	31.5
\$30,000 - \$50,000	11	20.1	17.6
\$50,000 - \$75,000	14	20.8	8.3
Greater than \$75,000	53	30.7	21.9
Refused	4	***	4.6
I don't know	***	3.7	4.3

# Poverty

## Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

The Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) displayed below are issued every year by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and are the measure used for determining financial eligibility for all federal and many state programs. The FPIG is the same for all 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. The Federal Poverty Income is a slightly different, simplified version of the poverty thresholds used to measure poverty for statistical purposes. In most communities, a family would need to earn twice, or 200% of the amount identified for their family size in the FPIG guidelines to achieve financial stability, and in some communities that number is closer to three times or 300%. For a community to assist families in moving out of poverty into stability, a self-sufficiency model like the Living Wage Calculator must be used so that appropriate strategies can be instituted.

### Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, 2024

Report Area	Family of 1	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4	Family of 5	Family of 6	Family of 7	Family of 8
PA	16,060	20,440	25,820	31,200	36,580	41,960	47,340	52,720

Data Source: Services, D. o. (2024, February 2). Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines. Retrieved from Federal Register The Daily Journal of the United States Government.

## Poverty Rate

The table below shows the total population estimates for all persons in poverty for Clinton County. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year averages, an average of 13.15% of all persons residing in Clinton County lived in a state of poverty during the 2022 calendar year. The poverty rate for all persons living in Clinton County is greater than the Pennsylvania average of 11.78%.

### Poverty Rate, 2018-2022

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Clinton County	36,293	4,771	13.15%
Pennsylvania	12,582,125	1,482,439	11.78%
United States	323,275,448	40,521,584	12.53%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022 Source geography: Tract.

## Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in the report area from 2012 to 2022 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area decreased by -2.8%, compared to a national change of -3.3%.

### Poverty Rate Change, 2012-2022

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2012	Poverty Rate 2012	Persons in Poverty 2022	Poverty Rate 2022	Change in Poverty 2012-2022
Clinton County	5,780	15.7%	4,650	12.9%	-2.8%
Pennsylvania	1,688,364	13.7%	1,483,039	11.8%	-1.9%
United States	48,760,123	15.9%	40,951,625	12.6%	-3.3%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. 2022.



# Education

## Education: Free and Reduced Lunch Program

The table below shows the number of students eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program in the 2023-2024 school year. The figures below include public, private and parochial schools, and residential child care institutional figures.

**Students Eligible for the Free Reduced Lunch Program (lunches only), 2023-2024**

Report Area	District	Type	Enrollment	Free Lunch Eligible	Free Lunch Enrollment	Reduced Lunch Eligible	Reduced Lunch Enrollment	Free and Reduced Lunch Enrollment
Clinton	Sugar Valley Rural Charter School	Public School	479	411	85.80%	0	0%	85.80%
Clinton	Keystone Central School District	Public School	3,374	2,756	81.68%	0	0%	81.68%
Clinton	Lock Haven Catholic School	Private or Parochial School	167	36	21.56%	3	1.80%	23.35%
<b>Statewide Average</b>	-----	-----	1,665,797	1,027,763	61.70%	22,217	1.33%	63.03%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition, 2023-2024 report.

## Survey Data: Education

### Community Survey Information

What is your highest level of education? (Percentage)

<b>Answer Choices</b>	
Less than high school diploma	<b>2%</b>
High school diploma or equivalent	<b>16%</b>
Some college	<b>18%</b>
College degree	<b>42%</b>
Advanced degree	<b>22%</b>