2021
Community Needs Assessment Report
Lycoming County

STEP INC.

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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 Needs Assessment every three years and upon any major change in service area. The last full Community Needs Assessment (CNA) was completed in 2018. In April of 2020, STEP completed a CNA in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was a major community change that brought unprecedented challenges to the community. This 2021 Community Needs Assessment follows the traditional timeframe of three years yet will also be a follow-up to the 2020 document and gauge where the COVID-19 pandemic has created or heightened community needs.

The CNA combined objective and subjective data sets for Lycoming County including demographic data, community/customer surveys, 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 2021 CNA, the COVID-19 pandemic-related needs were viewed as ubiquitous to each of the key need categories and appear through the survey data and focus group meetings. Likewise, substance abuse was evident within each of the key need categories.

Lycoming County has a long history of comprehensive CNAs completed at regular intervals, starting in 2005 when the Lycoming County United Way partnered with Lycoming College's Center for the Study of the Community & the Economy to lead the process. The 2021 CNA builds on the longitudinal data from the past CNAs 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 Lycoming County. From 2012 to 2015, and solidifying in 2018, a significant transition of the most critical need shifted from economy/jobs to drug/alcohol abuse.

As expected, the 2020 CNA saw pandemic-related issues as the most important problem facing Lycoming County. These included economy/jobs, virtual schooling, food insecurity, child care needs, and emergency assistance for families in crisis. This makes sense as the stay-at-home orders were in place and basic needs were of utmost concern during that time. With the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing, the 2021 CNA revealed that the most important problems were split.

The community respondents focused on economy/jobs followed by housing issues, and then drugs/alcohol. This makes sense as these areas have all been exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic and how the community faces recovery. From the partner respondents, drug/alcohol is still of utmost concern followed by mental health needs. Human service providers are seeing much more intense effects of the ongoing pandemic on individuals and families, more so than the community respondents. Jobs, housing issues, substance abuse and mental health needs were mentioned throughout each of the four virtual focus group sessions as a real barrier to self-sufficiency for families right now. The longitudinal data illustrates and helps assess how effectively the community is tackling identified community needs and trends of emerging community needs.

Impacts of the ongoing pandemic can easily be seen with the 2021 CNA following so closely with the 2020 CNA. Immediate needs such as food insecurity were met during the onset of the pandemic. Longer impacts such as mental health needs are intensifying. Beyond the pandemic, group discussions and survey respondents highlighted the multiplier effect of generational poverty and substance abuse. The pandemic has created even more barriers to self-sufficiency for low-income families and many less opportunities to move towards their self-sufficiency goals. Holistic approaches to breaking down barriers is ever more necessary to address many existing community needs, particularly on the family level.

The 2021 CNA 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 CNA'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 2021 CNA 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 CNA, 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 Lycoming County a better place to live, work, and play.

Methodology

The community needs assessment for Lycoming County was completed using four connected methodologies: analysis of objective secondary data, a survey of the adult population of Lycoming County which includes customers of social service agencies, a survey of partner agencies working in Lycoming 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 2021 CNA data collection was primarily done virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. Also, the telephone community survey was not completed. Rather, a virtual community survey was distributed widely to both community members and customers to be able to capture a large response. The engagement in the surveys in Lycoming County dropped compared to prior CNA surveys. This may be due in part to community members and partners feeling that they just completed the survey in 2020 and on-line survey burnout. The survey timeframe was extended numerous times, yet even with promotion and outreach more engagement was not received. 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 CNAs. 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.

Community Survey

The Community Survey was distributed widely via SurveyMonkey® to the public in Lycoming County, as well as specifically to customers engaged in services at social service agencies. Three hundred and twenty-eight (328) respondents completed the survey. This is less than what typically responds. For example, in 2018, the customer survey has 543 respondents, and the 2020 survey for the CNA had 776 respondents. Due to the ongoing pandemic, many social service agencies were not allowing customers into facilities and all services were being performed virtually, this could have impacted the response rate as staff typically helped customers fill out the survey at their regular visit.

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 Lycoming County via SurveyMonkey®. One hundred fifty-eight (158) responses were received, a significantly lower number than 258 for the 2018 CNA. This decrease is likely due to how many social service agencies were overwhelmed during the time the survey was available. While there was no means to control whether staff members from certain agencies were more likely to respond than those from other agencies, there is no reason to believe that the respondents expressed perceptions of Lycoming County's needs that would differ substantially from those not participating. That said, the possibility cannot be dismissed.

In this document, after each of the six key need categories, the data sets from the objective data sources, community survey, and partner survey are provided. This data related directly to the key need category will assist in providing the broader understanding of the findings.

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: COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts; 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 CNA Report

In order to have the CNA 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 of CNA

- *Meet STEP requirements*
- *Analyze comprehensive community needs*
- *Provide CNA 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 CNA on a three-year time frame.

- This CNA analyzed comprehensive needs through a community-wide survey.

- The CNA report will be used by STEP, Inc. and other community stakeholders for strategic planning, grant writing, program development, and partnerships.

CNA Organizational Structure

- *Critical need rankings*
- *Key need categories with summary themes*
- *Supporting data*

- Critical need rankings provide relative importance of identified needs of Lycoming 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 the CNA

- *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 CNA content within and across need categories.

- Utilize CNA 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 Lycoming 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 community survey, the most cited problems were economy/jobs, followed by housing related issues including homelessness, then drugs/alcohol. This is quite different than the prior two CNAs which had drug/alcohol as the utmost important problem by around half of the respondents. In 2015, drugs/alcohol were the top stated problem by 48.5 percent, while in 2018, the percentage jumped even higher to 58.2-percent. In 2021, only 10.9-percent stated drugs/alcohol were the top problem. This transition makes sense as significant community efforts and resources in the last several years have been put in place to combat the opioid epidemic at the local, state, and national levels. The focus group respondents concurred but said that while the opioid use is down other narcotics, including methamphetamine and cocaine, are on the rise in Lycoming County.

In 2021, the most important problems were focused on issues that were dramatically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with the economy, jobs, and housing. These are areas that will take a significant time to recover from, and these issues compounded the ability for families to pay for housing and utilities. Many of the issues addressed in the 2020 CNA, including technology issues, child care needs, and emergency needs were also emphasized in the 2021 CNA. Surprisingly food insecurity, which was a serious concern in 2020, seemed to not be of a concern throughout the compilation of data for the 2021 CNA. Existing resources accommodated the basic need of access and availability of food during the pandemic, and they seem to have kept up with the ongoing demand. The category of other was at 12.6 percent and topics ranged from pandemic-related items, such as broadband access, to the need for more recycling locations.

Each of the other response categories received less than 8 percent of total responses. It should be noted that some issues identified as problems in Lycoming County (taxes and road issues, for example) fall outside the scope of services offered by most human service providers. Concerns over crime/gang remains stable in 2021, with the percentage of 7.6, compared to 7.3 in 2018. Concern peaked on this topic in 2009, with 42.2 percent categorizing this as the most important issue.

Focus groups shared that the pandemic heightened many existing needs, particularly access and availability of mental health services was of concern due to the stress and anxiety felt while living through it. Families that were struggling are in dire need now, due to unstable employment, child care availability, and changes in day-to-day life.

As stated earlier, partners illustrated more focus on long-term needs that are amplified by the ongoing pandemic, most specifically mental health, substance abuse, affordable housing, and early care and education. The top five concerns highlighted by partner organizations are related to drugs and alcohol, as it was in 2018. Interestingly, there was the same level of concern for youth and adults when it came to abuse of alcohol and drugs. Access to mental health services remained as the next highest-ranked concern. The remainder of the top ten issues included affordable housing, child abuse and neglect, and the quality of and access to early childhood education. Notably, many of the issues are tied throughout the ranking and the results were largely consistent with past surveys.

When asked if adequate attention was being devoted to each of the issues, partners expressed the highest levels of concern about affordable housing, access to mental health services, access to affordable health

insurance, and availability of affordable child care. Access to substance abuse services and abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youth and adults did reduce since 2018, but still ranks quite high among the overall categories. This indicates continued attention needs paid to this topic.

Additional questions on the 2021 CNA asked about needs specific to the ongoing pandemic, such as what existing needs were exacerbated by it. The main areas coincide with the data provided by the community, specifically, mental health concerns, unemployment, and access to social services. Hunger was noted as being exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic, but through other data provided by partners, this need was accommodated through local efforts. When asked what new human service initiatives are needed, the areas noted are once again mental health services, job training programs, and youth programs. The rankings from the community survey, as well as the partner surveys, are listed below. It is easy to see many similarities in the data provided by both groups.

Community Survey

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

	2021	2018	2015	2012	2009	2005
Economy/Jobs	**35.2**	14.8	14.8	30.2	42.2	23.8
Housing related issues, including Homelessness	**21.9**	1.1	3.8	9.9	0.2	0.8
Various Other	**12.6**	6.4	4.8	14.9	18.2	28.6
Drugs/Alcohol	**10.9**	58.2	48.5	4.6	13.3	11.0
Crime/Gangs	**7.6**	7.3	15.1	9.2	20.6	17.0
Education	**4.6**	1.1	2.8	3.7	1.1	1.5
Taxes	**2.3**	6.6	2.8	5.4	3.2	14.3
Roads, Trucks, and Traffic	**0.6**	4.1	2.6	4.7	1.2	3
Natural gas industry related issues	*******	0.4	4.8	17.4	***	***

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

How many people are in your household? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
One	**16%**
Two	**42%**
Three	**17%**
Four	**15%**
Five or more	**10%**

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

Answer Choices	
Zero	**63%**
One	**19%**
Two - Three	**18%**
Four or more	**0%**

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

Answer Choices	
Zero	**64%**
One	**15%**
Two - Three	**18%**
Four or more	**3%**

What is your highest level of education? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
Less than high school diploma	**3%**
High school diploma or equivalent	**19%**
Some college	**23%**
College degree	**37%**
Advanced degree	**18%**

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

Answer Choices	
$15,000 or less	**14%**
$15,000 - $30,000	**18%**
$30,000 - $50,000	**16%**
$50,000 - $75,000	**21%**
Greater than $75,000	**25%**
I don't know	**5%**

Partner Survey

What are the most important issues facing Lycoming County? (Percentage)
Note: the table is sorted based on the ranking of issues in 2021 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*.

	2021		2018		2015		2012		2009		2005	
	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean
Abuse of drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin, by adults	1	4.69	1	4.86	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults	2	4.62	5	4.63	2	4.60	T7	4.12	4	4.41	T6	4.13
Abuse of drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin, by youth	3	4.61	2	4.83	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Access to substance abuse services	T4	4.58	3	4.69	3	4.53	T15	3.98	T12	4.23	***	***
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youth	T4	4.58	4	4.67	1	4.73	5	4.25	1	4.62	2	4.38
Access to mental health services	6	4.45	6	4.40	5	4.39	T21	3.90	29	3.84	T4	4.18
Child abuse and neglect	7	4.44	8	4.29	6	4.20	9	4.10	5	4.37	3	4.24
Affordable housing	8	4.41	7	4.31	4	4.49	1	4.46	T12	4.23	15	3.93
Availability of affordable child care	9	4.39	T12	4.19	13	4.09	24	3.86	17	4.14	9	4.05
Quality of early childhood education	10	4.35	9	4.29	8	4.15	***	***	***	***	***	***
Domestic abuse	11	4.31	18	4.10	16	4.05	T10	4.08	8	4.30	T4	4.18
Access to early childhood education	12	4.28	10	4.25	12	4.10	***	***	***	***	***	***
Availability of counseling services	T13	4.26	20	4.07	T31	3.84	T21	3.90	19	4.08	T12	3.97
Services for children with disabilities	T13	4.26	23	4.03	T31	3.84	T28	3.54	T24	3.96	18	3.81
Affordable housing for seniors	T15	4.24	T15	4.14	T10	4.11	23	3.89	20	4.05	21	3.74
Availability of summer activities	T15	4.24	25	4.00	33	3.83	***	***	***	***	***	***
Adult job training	17	4.21	T12	4.19	T10	4.11	19	3.92	T24	3.96	14	3.95
Homelessness	T18	4.17	17	4.12	T17	4.02	3	4.28	T9	4.28	22	3.73
Services for the needs of senior citizens	T18	4.17	28	3.95	28	3.92	26	3.71	18	4.09	23	3.72

	2021		2018		2015		2012		2009		2005	
	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean
Availability of after school activities	T20	4.16	27	3.96	29	3.90	27	3.65	T22	3.99	T10	4.03
Illiteracy	T20	4.16	T15	4.14	9	4.12	20	3.91	27	3.92	T12	3.97
Youth job training	22	4.14	14	4.15	20	4.00	***	***	***	***	***	***
Unemployment	23	4.12	T35	3.84	T17	4.02	2	4.35	2	4.52	T6	4.13
Access to affordable health insurance	T24	4.11	11	4.23	7	4.18	6	4.22	3	4.46	1	4.54
Access to affordable health insurance	T24	4.11	11	4.23	7	4.18	6	4.22	3	4.46	1	4.54
Ethnic/racial discrimination	T26	4.08	41	3.67	40	3.38	25	3.84	34	3.65	25	3.67
Access to job skill training	T26	4.08	19	4.09	21	3.99	***	***	***	***	***	***
Household budgeting	T26	4.08	30	3.92	15	4.06	***	***	***	***	***	***
Access to transportation for individuals with disabilities	T29	4.07	37	3.82	38	3.61	31	3.53	32	3.67	27	3.58
Access to affordable prescription medications	T29	4.07	24	4.01	14	4.08	T10	4.08	T9	4.28	***	***
Occupational training for individuals with disabilities	T29	4.07	40	3.71	36	3.69	36	3.35	31	3.69	32	3.45
Access to nutritious meals for seniors	32	4.05	26	3.99	T23	3.96	***	***	***	***	***	***
Heating, electricity, & water assistance	33	4.03	38	3.80	T26	3.94	***	***	***	***	***	***
Hunger	34	4.01	T32	3.89	30	3.86	T13	4.00	11	4.25	19	3.76
Health care for senior citizens	T35	3.99	22	4.05	19	4.01	18	3.95	15	4.21	17	3.87
Juvenile delinquency	T35	3.99	T35	3.84	22	3.98	T15	3.98	T22	3.99	16	3.92
Elder abuse or neglect	37	3.95	31	3.90	35	3.74	T28	3.54	21	4.00	31	3.47
Building access for individuals with disabilities	T38	3.93	39	3.72	39	3.54	35	3.39	33	3.66	26	3.66
Access to health care	T38	3.93	21	4.06	T23	3.96	T7	4.12	6	4.33	8	4.08
Underemployment	40	3.92	T32	3.89	T26	3.94	4	4.27	7	4.31	T10	4.03
Access to dental care	41	3.79	29	3.94	25	3.95	12	4.04	14	4.22	24	3.71
Gender discrimination	42	3.77	43	3.40	42	3.16	34	3.43	35	3.20	34	3.31
Age discrimination	43	3.73	44	3.32	43	3.14	30	3.54	36	3.16	33	3.32
Teenage pregnancy	44	3.54	42	3.43	34	3.75	T13	4.00	26	3.93	20	3.75
Violence in schools	45	3.24	34	3.88	37	3.65	32	3.51	16	4.17	29	3.51
AIDS/HIV	46	3.12	45	3.25	41	3.19	33	3.50	28	3.87	30	3.50
Transportation for the elderly	***	***	***	***	***	***	17	3.96	30	3.73	28	3.54

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

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

	2021	2018	2015	2012	2009	2005
	% Responding "No"					
Availability of affordable child care	**68%**	58%	71%	81%	68%	63%
Access to mental health services	**65%**	64%	77%	57%	63%	72%
Household budgeting	**65%**	58%	69%	***	***	***
Affordable housing	**63%**	65%	71%	77%	67%	75%
Availability of summer activities	**63%**	56%	61%	***	***	***
Access to affordable prescription medications	**62%**	60%	72%	64%	60%	***
Availability of after-school activities	**61%**	52%	58%	67%	64%	65%
Child abuse and neglect	**61%**	55%	64%	57%	72%	71%
Access to affordable health insurance	**61%**	63%	65%	80%	79%	100%
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youths	**58%**	61%	68%	62%	72%	54%
Underemployment	**58%**	56%	70%	64%	80%	90%
Youth job training	**54%**	53%	54%	***	***	***
Age discrimination	**54%**	36%	45%	50%	55%	70%
Availability of counseling services	**54%**	51%	54%	31%	42%	64%
Access to substance abuse services	**53%**	62%	64%	37%	43%	***
Unemployment	**53%**	43%	61%	64%	73%	65%
Juvenile delinquency	**53%**	49%	68%	60%	56%	72%
Homelessness	**52%**	57%	60%	53%	62%	47%
Access to job skill training	**50%**	44%	46%	***	***	***
Gender discrimination	**48%**	43%	45%	45%	48%	56%
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults	**47%**	53%	60%	31%	58%	40%
Illiteracy	**47%**	36%	50%	41%	41%	17%
Violence in schools	**47%**	58%	58%	52%	74%	69%
Adult job training	**46%**	46%	49%	39%	41%	33%
Domestic abuse	**46%**	43%	54%	40%	63%	44%
Teenage pregnancy	**45%**	37%	54%	65%	71%	64%
Affordable housing for seniors	**44%**	44%	49%	64%	40%	61%
Access to dental care	**44%**	44%	57%	70%	76%	65%
Access to health care	**43%**	43%	55%	66%	61%	68%
Elder abuse or neglect	**41%**	38%	45%	38%	46%	60%
Ethnic/racial discrimination	**41%**	44%	43%	48%	64%	53%
Services for children with disabilities	**38%**	28%	34%	17%	36%	46%
Building access for individuals with disabilities	**36%**	18%	22%	18%	23%	35%
Occupational training for individuals with disabilities	**35%**	26%	24%	24%	20%	42%
Health care for senior citizens	**35%**	40%	36%	42%	64%	67%
Heating, electricity, & water assistance	**34%**	34%	51%	***	***	***
Services for the needs of senior citizens	**32%**	31%	30%	30%	28%	59%
Quality of early childhood education	**30%**	34%	34%	***	***	***

	2021	2018	2015	2012	2009	2005
	% Responding "No"					
Access to nutritious meals for seniors	**30%**	25%	28%	***	***	***
Access to early childhood education	**28%**	24%	21%	***	***	***
Access to transportation for individuals with disabilities	**25%**	19%	21%	19%	13%	31%
Hunger	**23%**	27%	37%	37%	48%	33%
AIDS/HIV	**21%**	17%	28%	15%	30%	27%
Transportation for the elderly	***	***	***	21%	32%	20%

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

Has the current pandemic exacerbated any existing needs in Lycoming County?
(Percentage responding "Yes")

	2021
Mental Health Concerns	**25%**
Unemployment	**24%**
Hunger	**14%**
Access to Social Services	**13%**
Emergency Financial Assistance	**9%**
Affordable Housing	**9%**
Homelessness	**8%**
Substance Abuse	**8%**
Lack of Sustainable Jobs	**5%**
Abuse/Neglect	**4%**
Affordable Child care	**4%**
Healthcare Needs	**3%**
Inequality in Education	**3%**
Internet Access/Technology	**3%**
Small Business Aid	**2%**

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

	2021
Mental Health Services	22%
Employment/Job Training Programs	10%
Funding for Youth Programs	10%
Senior Services Outreach	8%
Affordable Housing Programs	6%
Increased need for Homeless Shelters	6%
Education Services	5%
Food Distribution Programs	5%
Rental Assistance Program	3%
Budgeting Support Services	3%
Services for Children with Disabilities	2%
Health Education Program	2%
High Quality Child Care	2%
Neighborhood Revitalization	2%
Transportation	2%
Unemployment Assistance	2%

I work for a human service provider. (Percentage)

	2021
Yes	88%
No	12%

I volunteer for a human service provider. (Percentage)

	2021
Yes	19%
No	81%

Key Need Categories with Summary Themes

The Key Need Categories were defined through understanding previous CNAs 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.

Objective data from the 2016 U.S. Census shows that the poverty rate for Lycoming County youths aged 0–17 was slightly higher than the state or national rate. However, for those aged 0–4 the rate is significantly higher than the state or national rate. The poverty rate in Pennsylvania for this age group is 19.2 percent, while the rate for Lycoming County is 24.3 percent—just over 4 percent higher. Objective data specific to individual Key Need Categories is provided at the beginning of each section of this report.

Children and Youth

The challenges facing Lycoming County children and youths are broad-based, with young people bearing the brunt of other issues facing the general community, including drug use and abuse. The consensus is that progress toward addressing many of the needs facing the county requires increased and focused attention on the problems experienced by county youths.

Comparing today's concerns with those noted in prior studies, it becomes apparent that existing problems remain a concern and some issues have been exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic. Specifically, child care and access to quality early care and education were noted throughout as being in crisis. Capacity restrictions, staffing issues, and shutdowns have reduced the access and availability of early care and education in Lycoming County. The percentage of respondents in the customer survey group who agreed (or strongly agreed) they have access to these services decreased from approximately 76 percent to 49 percent. This is a direct correlation to the ongoing pandemic and reduction in capacity. This perception seems to be substantiated by the PA Dept of Education's objective data regarding 3- to 4-year-old children who participate in an early childhood program or Head Start. Only 39.07 percent of all Lycoming County children in this age group are served by one of these programs, showing a decrease from 47.8 percent of children served in 2018.

Partners and focus group attendees noted that a lack of structured activities, including remote school, led to a dramatic reduction in reports of child abuse and neglect. Partners noted this is area needs addressed and community education. Teen pregnancy, an area on the decline, was also noted to be on the rise in Lycoming County.

Focus groups repeatedly cited increased problems with youth behavior and a lack of family supports to help deal with them. Mental health concerns for youth, as they are dealing with tremendous change and uncertainty, has also increased dramatically. Specifically related to the pandemic, community respondents had concerns about remote learning and lack of socialization, along with topics already noted such as child care, mental health, and child abuse. Five main themes emerge across objective data from the community, customer and partner surveys and focus groups. They are early care and education capacity, child care staffing crisis, behavioral issues, child abuse and neglect reporting, and mental health needs with increased drug use.

Early Care and Education Capacity

The objective data section ahead shows the number of child care facilities available in the county. 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. 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. According to focus group participants, Lycoming 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, in Lycoming County. Due to the ongoing pandemic and staffing issues, four early care and education locations have closed in Lycoming County in the last year. This even further compounds the issue of capacity strains that existed pre-pandemic. More early care and education locations will potentially close as the pandemic continues and the issues with staffing compound. Capacity issues, combined by high costs of child care, makes it extremely challenging as families cannot sustain the higher rates of child care. In Lycoming County, the average cost of preschool age child care in a location with a STAR 4 quality care rating is $152 per week. Most early care and education locations still run at 50 to 75-percent capacity.

Child Care Staffing Crisis

The focus group detailed that, beyond the lack of capacity to meet the needs of families, facilities are in a staffing crisis. Low wages, compounded by lack of educational opportunities in early care, is creating a staffing crisis. The average hourly wage of pre-school staff in a certified child care in Lycoming 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 Lycoming County is $31.96 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 Lycoming County to fill open positions. Finding educated staff is also a challenge according to the focus group. Lycoming 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 Lycoming County is not sufficient. According to Pennsylvania College of Technology, they discontinued their program in Associates of Applied Science, Early Childhood Education in 2020 because early care and education providers in the workforce do not make a living wage. Lock Haven University only offers a Bachelor of Science, Early Childhood (Pre-K through Grade 4 education with a minor in Early Education). The only associate degree available for students in our area would be completed online.

Behavioral Issues

Behavioral issues related to children and youth were first noted in 2018 and this has not improved. 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. The community survey revealed a significant change from 2018 in that the majority now believes children do not have access to adequate after school and summer activities. This is likely due to the ongoing pandemic and various activities being canceled or altered to mitigate the spread of the virus. Focus group participants tied the increase in more extreme behaviors to problems at home, often exacerbated by substance abuse or by parents who are detached from their children's lives.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

The ongoing pandemic dramatically reduced the number of reports of child abuse and neglect, specifically during the period of school shutdown. The reason for this was discussed as being the lack of interactions between children and mandated reporters, including teachers. As schools reopened the number of reports did increase significantly. Partners noted that this area is of high importance and in need of attention in Lycoming County. In the community survey, of the 16 percent of respondents aware of victims of child abuse or neglect, 39 percent did not contact authorities about the incident. This ties to the discussion of the focus group that community education around reporting child abuse and neglect would be of value.

Mental Health Needs and Increase Drug Use

According to focus group participants, the ongoing pandemic has perpetuated the need for mental health supports for youth. The stress of the unknown as related to the pandemic, the uncertainties around the virus, as well as alternating between in-person and remote schooling has affected youth. This, coupled with unstable family situations, has created a perfect storm for many youths. Many are dealing with multiple challenges at once, including illness and death of family members, which has created 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, such as parenting. Marijuana use among youth was noted as being on the rise as some are using it to self-medicate. This is posing a concern and yet parents are not addressing it in the home. Focus group participants, community survey, and the partner survey all illustrate drug and alcohol use amongst youth is on the rise. 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 Lycoming County and Pennsylvania.

Population by Age & Gender, 2015-2019

Report Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		Ages 0 to 17 Total Population
	M	F	M	F	
Lycoming County	3,191	3,046	8,786	8,438	23,461
Pennsylvania	361,510	345,053	1,001,143	954,685	2,662,381

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: Tract.

Child (0-4): Poverty Rate
Population and poverty estimate for children age 0-4 are shown for Lycoming County. According to the ACS 5-year data, an average of 24.3% of children in Lycoming County lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in Lycoming County is greater than the national average of 20.3% and much greater than the Pennsylvania average of 19.2%.

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

Report Area	Children, Ages 0 - 4 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Lycoming County	6,123	1,485	24.3%
Pennsylvania	694,722	133,106	19.2%
National	19,430,702	3,948,405	20.3%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County.

Child (5-17): Poverty Rate
Population and poverty estimate for children age 5-17 are shown for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, an average of 19% of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in Lycoming County is greater than the Pennsylvania average of 17.0% as well as the national average of 17.9%.

American Community Survey, Child (0-17) Poverty Rate

Report Area	Children, Ages 0 - 17 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Lycoming County	16,752	3,184	19.0%
Pennsylvania	1,919,024	325,784	17.0%
National	52,804,998	9,429,373	17.9%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County.

Early Childhood Programming and Head Start Participation

The tables below reflect the following: Children Served, Ages 0-2 includes children served in the following programs: The Nurse Family Partnership, the Parent Home program, and Healthy Families America. Children Served, Ages 3-4 includes children served in the following programs: The Parent Child Program, Parents as Teachers, Early Head Start, Head Start, Pre-K Counts, School District Pre-K, Early Intervention, and Keystone Stars. Children served in Head Start and Early Head Start are also listed, as indicated by the Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Reach and Risk Report. For the 2016-2017 year, the number of children ages 0-4 included in Lycoming County totals 6,521, while those participating in an early childhood program or Head Start equaled 2,548, or 39.07%.

Early Childhood Programming and Head Start Participation, 2016-2017

Report Area	Number of Children		Children Served		Age 0-2 Only Participants		Age 3-4 Only Participants	
	Age 0-2	Age 3-4	Age 0-2	Age 3-4	Nurse Family Partnership	Early Head Start	PA Pre-K Counts	School Based Pre-K
Lycoming County	3,910	2,611	1,039	1,509	172	82	184	106

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: county. **Data was compiled from the Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Reach and Risk Report, 2016-2017 report. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.**

Early Childhood Programming and Head Start Participation (continued), 2016-2017

Report Area	Age 0-4 Participants				Head Start Participants
	Parent-Child Home Program	Parents as Teachers	Early Intervention	Keystone STARS	Head Start (Age 3-4)
Lycoming County	19	0	453	1,292	240

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: county. **Data was compiled from the Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Reach and Risk Report, 2016-2017 report. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.**

Child Care Costs

The cost of child care for STAR 4 child care facilities in Lycoming 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, 2021

Report Area	Type of Care	Average Weekly Cost
Lycoming County	STAR 4 Facility	$152

Data Source: Early Learning Resource Center for Region 7, 2021.

Certified Child Care Facilities

The table below is a listing of Certified Child Care Providers as of November 2021. Child Care Center: a facility in which 7 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 4 to 6 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 4th 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, 2021

Report Area	# of Certified Providers	Certified Provider Type *	Maximum Capacity **
Lycoming County	37	Child Care Center	3,826
Lycoming County	7	Family Child Care Home	42
Lycoming County	3	Group Child Care Home	36

Data Source: Early Learning Resource Center for Region 7, 2021

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?

Yes	16 %
No	72 %
I don't know	12 %

Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"

Year	Percentage
2005	~17
2009	~21
2012	~16
2015	~26
2018	~20
2021	~15
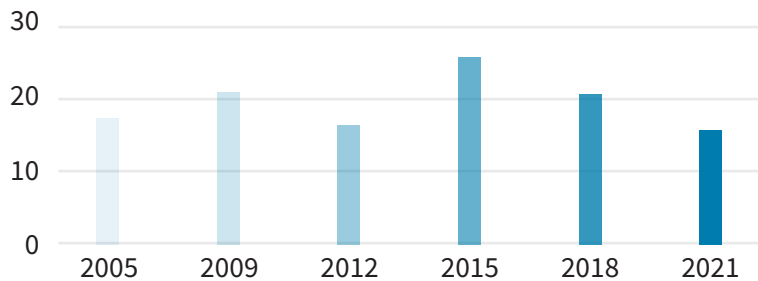
If yes, did you contact the proper authorities?

Yes	61 %
No	39 %
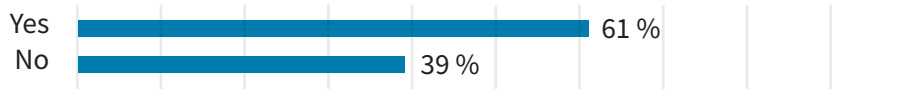
If you are an essential worker, are you having a difficult time finding appropriate child care?

Yes	10 %
No	60 %
Other	29 %
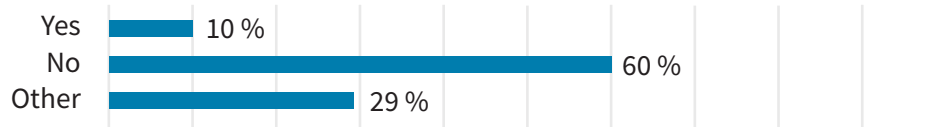
My children have nothing to do after school.

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	18 %
Agree	21 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	23 %
Disagree	23 %
Strongly Disagree	8 %
I don't know	7 %
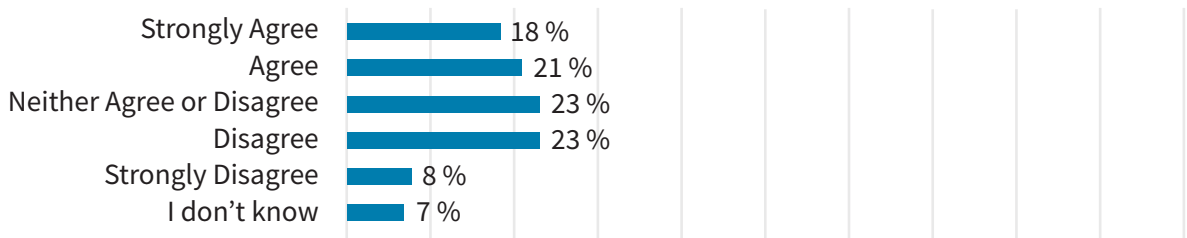
Response Trend 2009 2012 2015 2018 2021
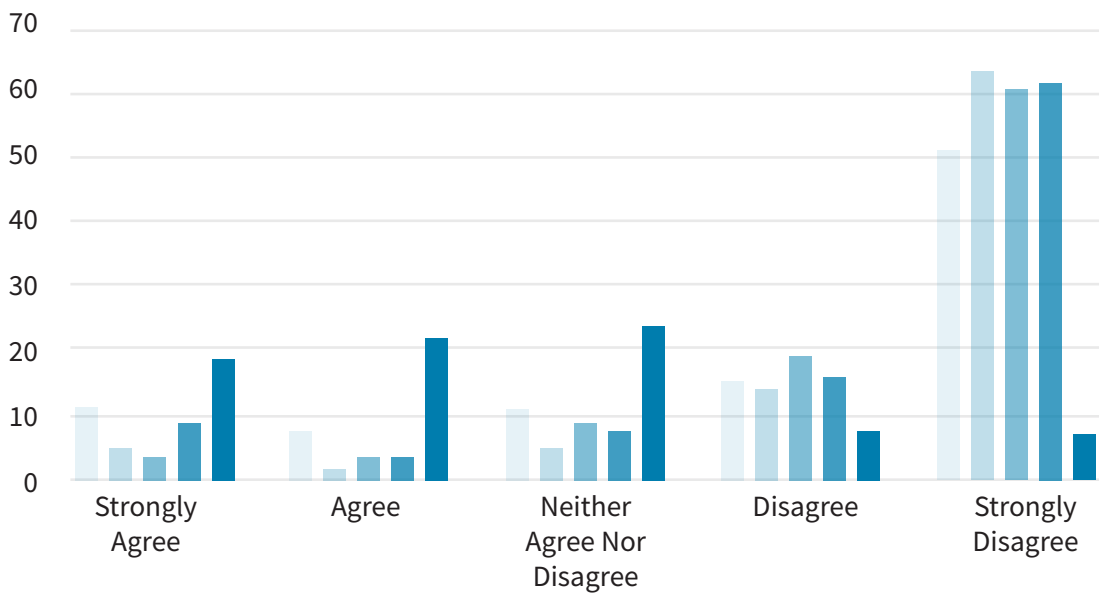
My family has access to adequate child care that I can afford.

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	12 %
Agree	22 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	26 %
Disagree	18 %
Strongly Disagree	12 %
I don't know	9 %
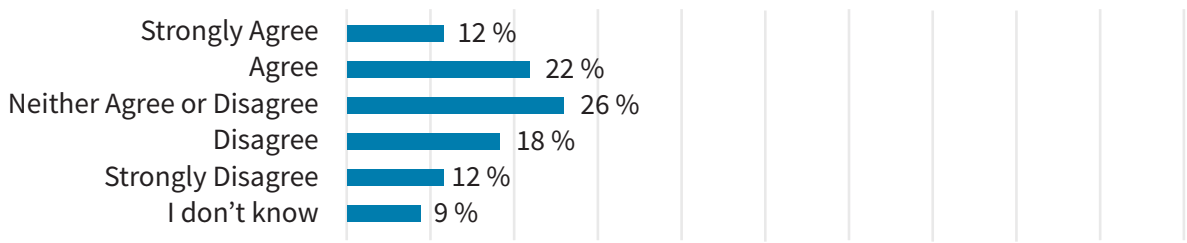
Response Trend 2009 2012 2015 2018 2021
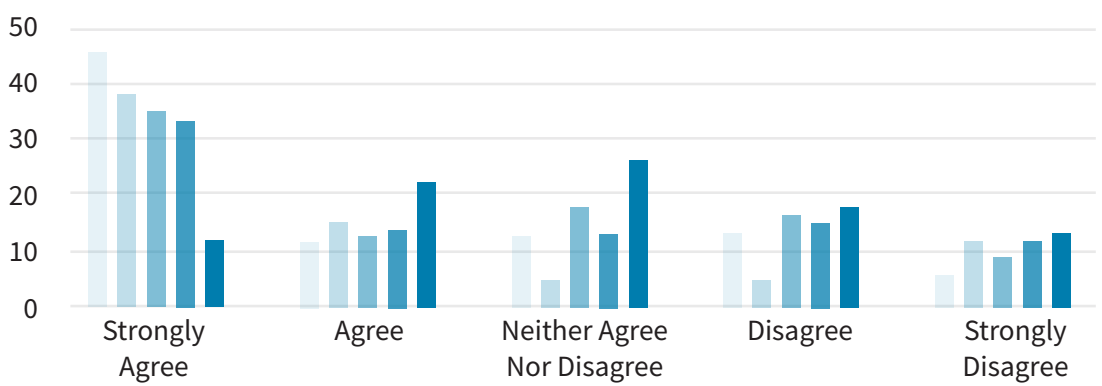
My children have access to adequate activities to keep them busy in the summer.

Strongly Agree — 13 %
Agree — 27 %
Neither Agree or Disagree — 18 %
Disagree — 24 %
Strongly Disagree — 11 %
I don't know — 8 %

Response Trend   ■ 2015 ■ 2018 ■ 2021

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2015	44	20	13	8	8
2018	51	16	12	6	8
2021	14	27	18	25	11
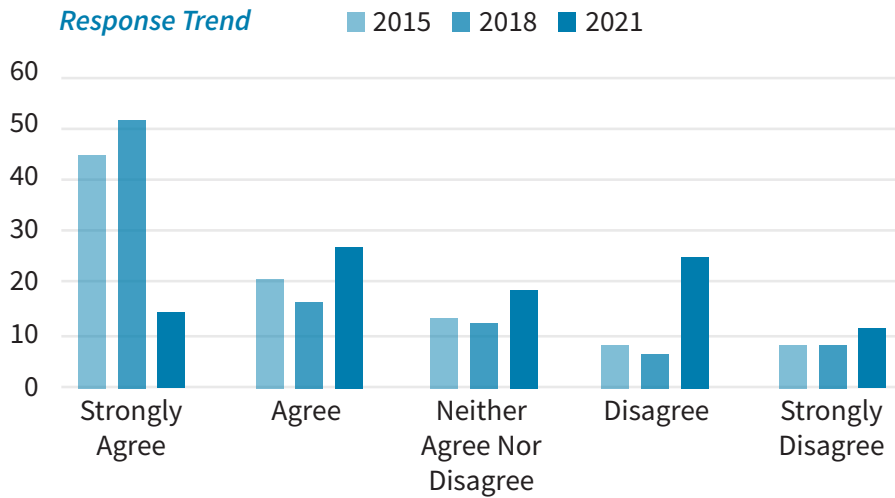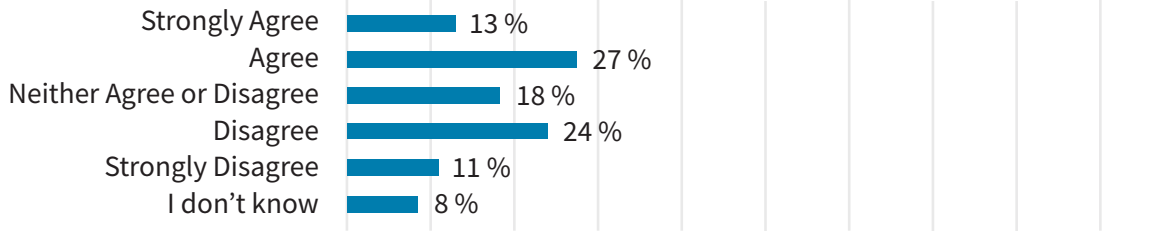
My family has access to quality early childhood education.

Strongly Agree — 17 %
Agree — 32 %
Neither Agree or Disagree — 27 %
Disagree — 9 %
Strongly Disagree — 5 %
I don't know — 9 %

Response Trend   ■ 2015 ■ 2018 ■ 2021

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2015	61	18	4	4	4
2018	54	23	4	2	5
2021	16	33	27	9	5
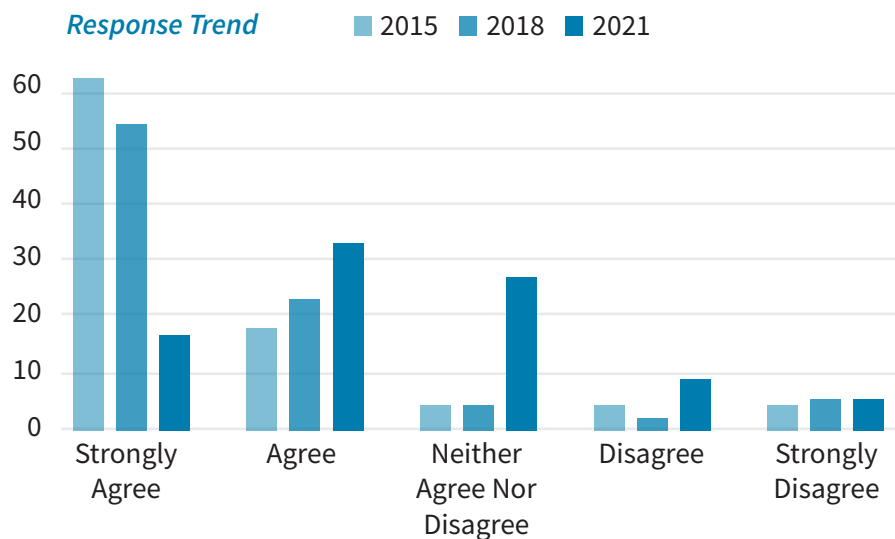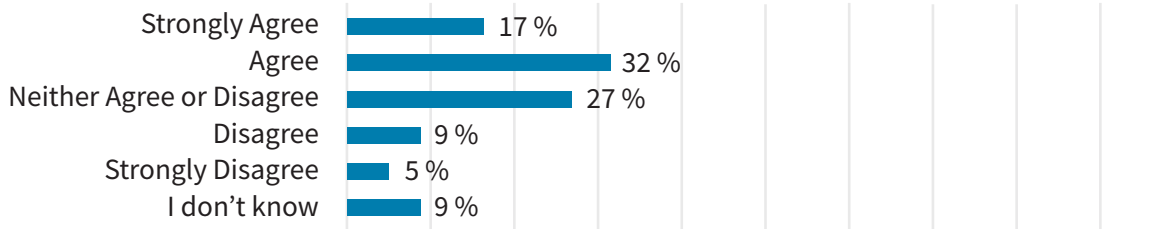
Teenage pregnancy is a big problem in my community.

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	8 %
Agree	26 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	33 %
Disagree	8 %
Strongly Disagree	0 %
I don't know	26 %

Response Trend — 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021
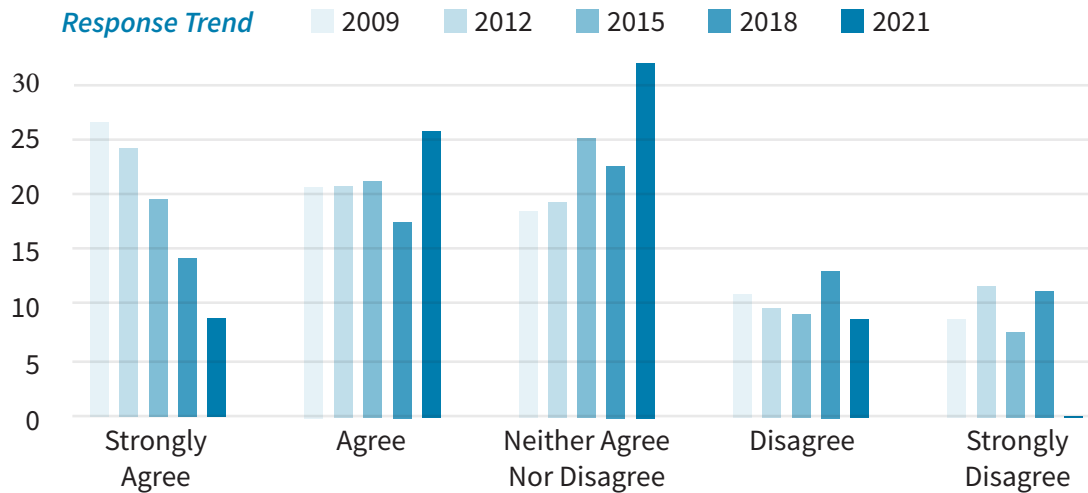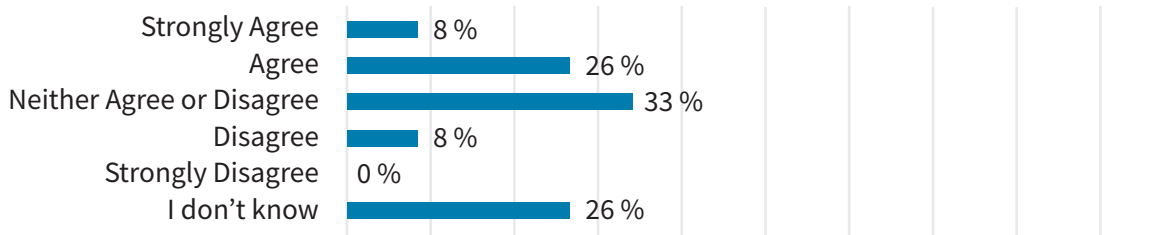
Are there needs, specific to education, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that are lacking in the community?
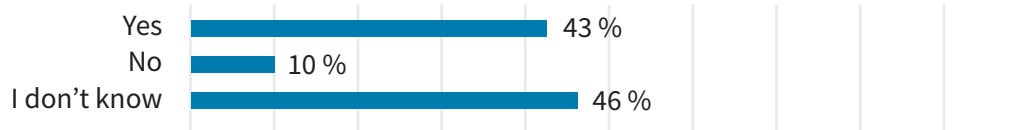
Response	Percentage
Yes	43 %
No	10 %
I don't know	46 %

If yes, please specify.

Please note: Comments have been categorized into themes and some comments include two or more themes.

Theme	Responses
Activities & socialization	25
Virtual/remote learning	22
Child care	15
Mental health	15
Abuse/neglect	11
Special Education	7
Access to fresh food	7

Survey Data: Children and Youth

Partner Survey Information

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

Violence in Schools
- Low: 11 %
- Low-Med: 17 %
- Medium: 25 %
- Med-High: 21 %
- High: 4 %

Child Abuse and Neglect
- Low: <1 %
- Low-Med: 2 %
- Medium: 18 %
- Med-High: 11 %
- High: 66 %

Teen Pregnancy
- Low: 5 %
- Low-Med: 9 %
- Medium: 35 %
- Med-High: 22 %
- High: 25 %

Juvenile Delinquency
- Low: 3 %
- Low-Med: 6 %
- Medium: 23 %
- Med-High: 25 %
- High: 41 %

Availability of After School Activities
- Low: 2 %
- Low-Med: 6 %
- Medium: 14 %
- Med-High: 27 %
- High: 48 %

Availability of Affordable Child Care
- Low: 3 %
- Low-Med: 2 %
- Medium: 13 %
- Med-High: 17 %
- High: 62 %

Availability of Summer Activities
- Low: 1 %
- Low-Med: 3 %
- Medium: 20 %
- Med-High: 22 %
- High: 52 %

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

Violence in Schools
- Yes — 31 %
- No — 47 %
- I don't know — 21 %

Child Abuse and Neglect
- Yes — 30 %
- No — 61 %
- I don't know — 9 %

Teen Pregnancy
- Yes — 40 %
- No — 45 %
- I don't know — 15 %

Juvenile Delinquency
- Yes — 34 %
- No — 53 %
- I don't know — 13 %

Availability of After School Activities
- Yes — 31 %
- No — 60 %
- I don't know — 9 %

Availability of Affordable Child Care
- Yes — 24 %
- No — 68 %
- I don't know — 8 %

Availability of Summer Activities
- Yes — 25 %
- No — 63 %
- I don't know — 11 %
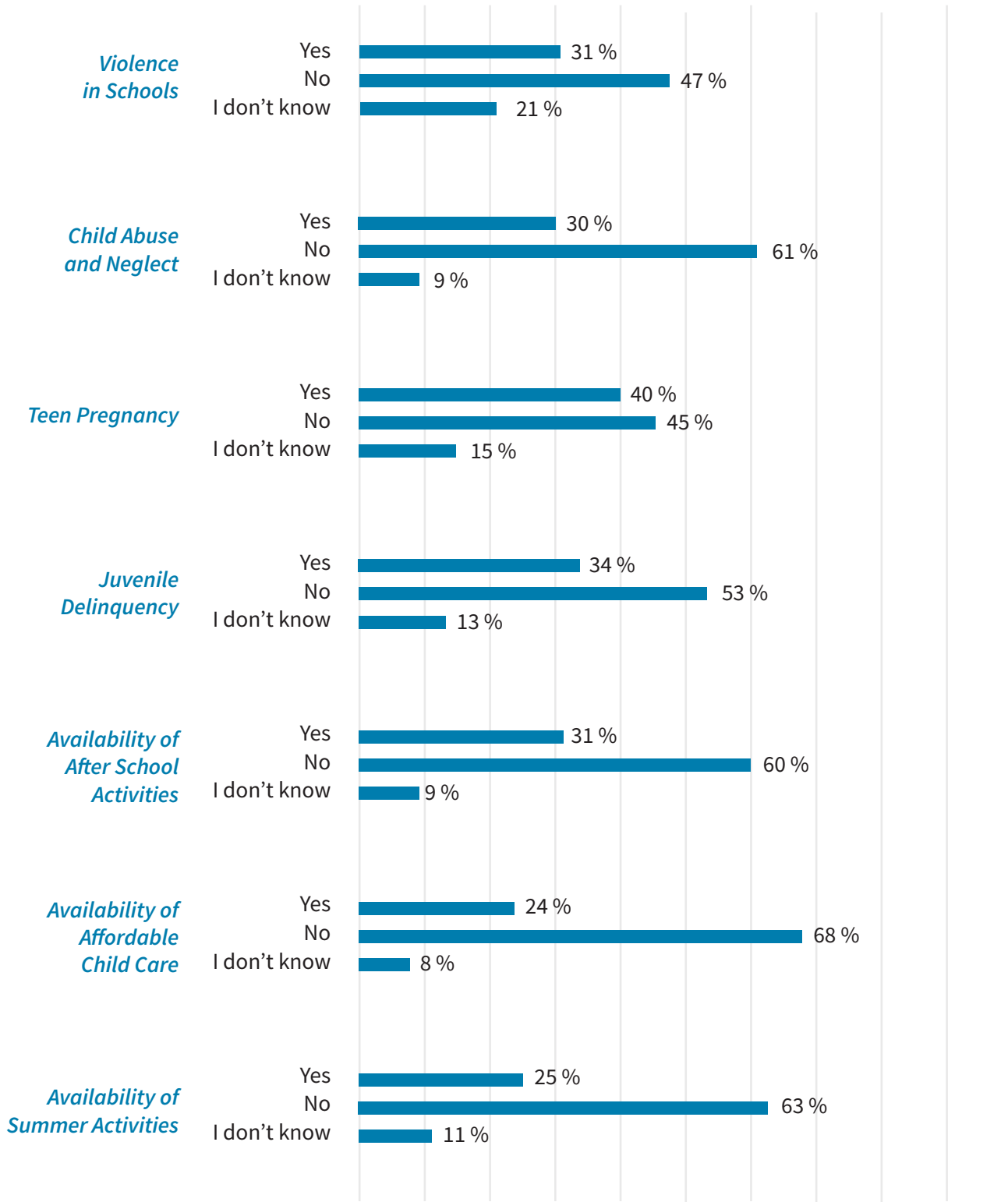
Education and Employment

The issues that emerged from the interconnected topics of education and employment were exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic. This includes increased school truancy, concerns about remote learning, access to broadband or reliable internet, economic stress for families, recruitment and retention of employees, unemployment, and general economic uncertainty. Many of these issues were highlighted in the 2020 CNA and continue to be topics in 2021.

In terms of education, not only is Lycoming County's rate lower than the rest of Pennsylvania regarding the percentage of high school graduates planning to go to college, nearly 50 percent of Lycoming County's population aged 25 or older has only a high school education. While Lycoming County is slightly better than Pennsylvania and the rest of the nation regarding its literacy rate, it is still problematic with 29 percent of customers surveyed claiming to be aware of adults in the community who cannot read.

Unemployment rates in Lycoming County in 2020 peaked at 11.5 percent. In 2021, the rate fell to 6.5 percent, but this is still higher than the typical rate in Lycoming County. The nature of employment has also changed dramatically over the last couple years, with more employers making work from home a permanent option. Many restaurants have reduced hours or changed to take-out only, and some stores have moved to only online options and closed actual stores. The employees of these locations have had to find alternative employment and develop new skills to re-engage in the workforce. 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 2018. 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 extremely more difficult to do so with individuals that lack personal responsibility, time management, and other skills that create a strong work ethic.

At the same time, barriers underlying educational and employment needs (for example, substance abuse, and lack of child care) are often at the root of why existing educational and employment resources have thus far proven inadequate. Across the objective data, community, customer, and partner surveys, as well as focus group information, four main themes emerge: barriers affecting employment, technology barriers, difficulty in recruiting and retaining employees, and financial literacy and life skills training.

Barriers Affecting Employment

Barriers to employment was also a theme in 2018, yet in 2021 it is more complicated. While Lycoming County still has an aging workforce, which perpetuates a need for workers, the ongoing pandemic has emphasized the multifaceted barriers facing potential employees. The shutdown at the onset of the pandemic created an unprecedented spike in unemployment, and the job recovery has been slow as businesses open more. Community survey respondents stated that of those laid off in the last year, 52 percent are still unemployed. The focus group discussed major changes in the workforce with many seasoned workers retiring, and business are scaling back and changing operations to accommodate the current reality. This includes restaurant hours being reduced or moving to take-out only, and employers moving positions to work from home. These changes along with the barriers that existed pre-pandemic has made entry into the workforce more challenging. The lack of child care options and cost of child care has been a barrier affecting working parents in Lycoming County. The pandemic created a situation where child care capacities are reduced and yet the need for flexible child care options increased. Currently, there are no evening and over-night child care providers in Lycoming County and finding an open child care slot for any time is nearly impossible. Transportation was also identified as a barrier to employment. Many people have difficulty arranging transportation to jobs located in other communities, especially if they have children who must also be transported to school and child care.

Transportation to jobs in the same town can be equally challenging as many low-skilled jobs have irregular hours that fall outside the schedule of public transportation. The extent of the transportation challenge is directly related to the proximity of affordable housing locations to employment centers. Another barrier noted was substance abuse, as addiction can interfere with job performance. While supports for those facing addiction have been increased in Lycoming County, focus group discussed the need for more accessibility and affordable rehabilitation facilities.

Technology Barriers

The pandemic created challenging barriers not only in the workforce, but also within all levels of education. Focus group participants noted the move to the virtual learning during the pandemic was difficult for students. To compound the issue, many areas of Lycoming County do not have reliable and adequate internet or broadband networks to keep up with the technologic demands. As students returned to in-person learning, many schools had to transition back to remote learning due to staffing issues and COVID cases within the schools. This flip-flopping was noted to be particularly challenging for both parents and students, particularly parents, who work outside the home. Focus on expanding the broadband network not only for educational purposes, but also for employment as many more staff are working from home, is needed. This will create even more opportunities in communities around tourism and economic development.

Recruitment and Retention of Employees

Employers have been having an extremely difficult time recruiting and retaining staff, according to focus group participants. The unemployment rate in Lycoming County raised along with the nation due to the ongoing pandemic, as illustrated in the objective data. Many factors were noted, including number of retirements, stimulus funds to families, 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. The dropout rate in Lycoming County is 0.98 percent. Educational attainment levels also contribute to the worker shortage. In Lycoming County 25 percent of adults 25 and older have a college education, while only 7 percent have post-graduate degree. Partner 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 work from home options, which some employers cannot accommodate. With many more employers allowing work from home options, an employee can live anywhere; 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.

Financial Literacy and Life Skills Training

Focus groups noted soft skills or life skills throughout as areas of need for adults, as well as youth transitioning to the workforce. Many families did not have the financial capacity to endure the period of shutdown or reduced hours. 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 renter rights are also areas that many human service customers see educational need. Fifty-four percent of partner survey participants stated that youth job training

needs are high in the community, while 46 percent stated that adult job training opportunities in Lycoming County need to be addressed. 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, work ethic, initiative, and communication. Enhancing both the financial literacy and life skills for youth and adults will help create a better workforce in Lycoming County.

Objective Data: Education and Employment

Education: School Enrollment

These tables provide the total public and private school enrollment for 2020-2021. In Lycoming County, a total of 15,296 persons were enrolled in school. In this report, private schools refer to both private and nonpublic institutions and for Lycoming County, 503 students are enrolled in private schools or 3.29% of the student population.

Public and Private/Non-Public Enrollment, 2020-2021

Report Area	Enrollment			Elementary			Secondary		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
Lycoming County	15,296	14,793	503	7,911	7,558	353	85	7,235	150
Pennsylvania	1,910,061	1,696,022	214,039	986,632	877,477	109,146	923,438	818,545	104,893

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, 2020-2021, 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 Lycoming County who are planning to attend college for the 2020-2021 academic years. The chart shows that of the 1,004 Lycoming County graduates, 62.16% are planning to attend college. Statewide, 61.69% of graduates plan on going to college.

High School Graduates

Report Area	Total Graduates	College Bound	College Bound
Lycoming County	1,004	649	62.16%
Pennsylvania	125,228	77,250	61.69%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2019-2020, 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 2019-2020, 0.98% of Lycoming County's 7,314 students dropped out.

High School Drop Out Rates

Report Area	Enrollment Grades 7-12	Dropouts Male	Dropouts Female	Dropouts Total	Dropouts Rate
Lycoming County	7,314	42	30	72	0.98%
Pennsylvania	812,630	6,842	4,823	11,665	1.44%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education.2019-2020, Source geography: County

Education: Educational Attainment

The table below shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, except where noted, and is an average for the period from 2015 to 2019. Lycoming County's percentage of persons with no High School Diploma over the age of 25 is 9.94%, while the statewide percentage is 9.48%, and the national percentage is 11.99%.

Percent Attaining Educational Levels

Report Area	Over 18	Educational level for Persons over 25					
	No High School Diploma	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associates	Bachelors	Graduate or Professional
Lycoming County	9.85%	9.94%	38.89%	17.18%	10.62%	15.49%	7.88%
Pennsylvania	9.77%	9.48%	34.69%	15.93%	8.47%	19.00%	12.43%
United States	12.07%	11.99%	26.96%	20.42%	8.48%	19.78%	12.36%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2015-2019, 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, 2003

Report Area	Estimated Population over 16	Percent Lacking Literacy Skills
Lycoming County	91,854	12%
Pennsylvania	9,561,844	13%
United States	219,016,209	14.64%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Estimates of Low Literacy. 2003, Source geography: County

Employment: Unemployment Rate

Unemployment rate change within Lycoming County from June 2017 to June 2021 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this five-year period increased from 6.84% to 6.9% percent, with a notable spike shortly after the pandemic of 12.4% in June 2020.

Five-Year Unemployment Rate, June 2017-2021

Report Area	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019	June 2020	June 2021
Lycoming County	6.84%	5.51%	4.7%	12.4%	6.9%
Pennsylvania	5.62%	5%	4.4%	7.8%	6.7%
United States	5.12%	4.53%	3.6%	11.1%	5.3%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2021 - June. Source geography: County

Survey Data: Education

Community Survey Information

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

Yes	29 %
No	50 %
I don't know	21 %

Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"

2015	2018	2021
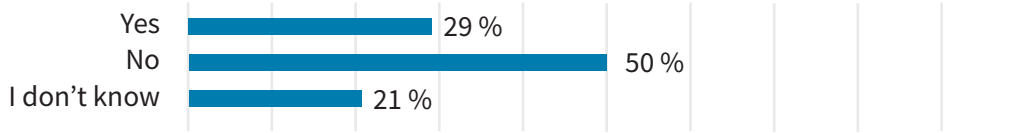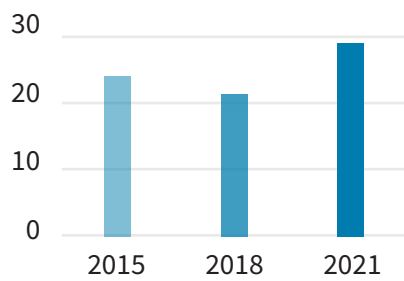
Children in my community have good educational opportunities.

Strongly Agree	19 %
Agree	45 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	18 %
Disagree	11 %
I don't know	6 %
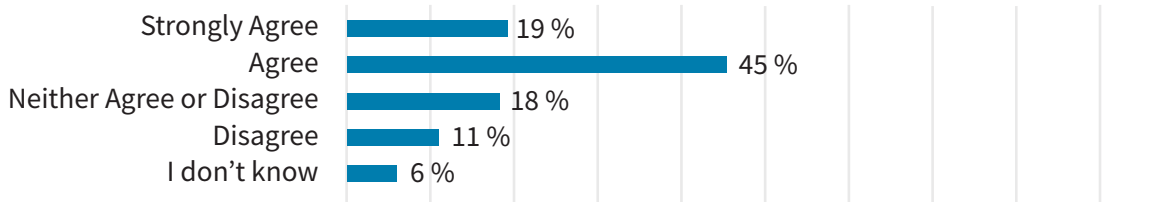
Response Trend ▪ 2018 ▪ 2021
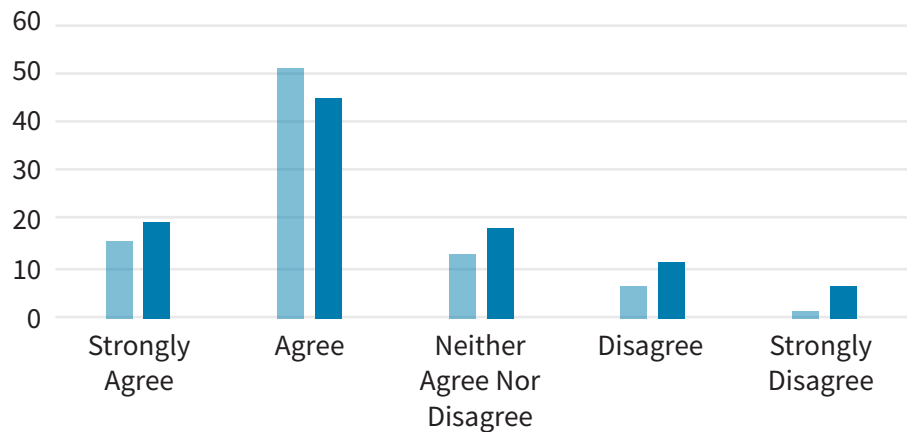
My children have the technology (computer, internet, phone) required to complete remote learning.

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	31 %
Agree	27 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	20 %
Disagree	11 %
Strongly Disagree	11 %
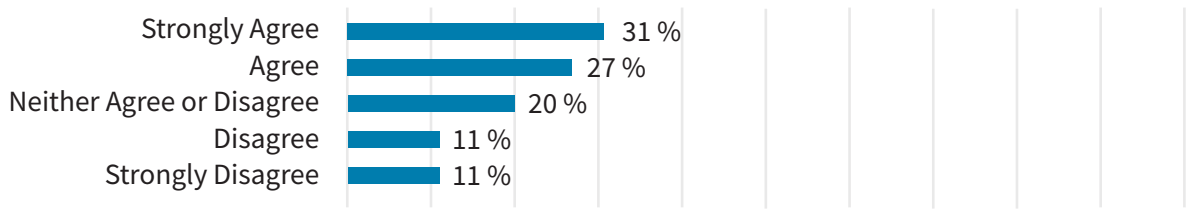
My children have the supplies (crayons, paper, pencils, etc.) they need to complete remote learning requirements.

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	32 %
Agree	29 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	20 %
Disagree	7 %
Strongly Disagree	12 %
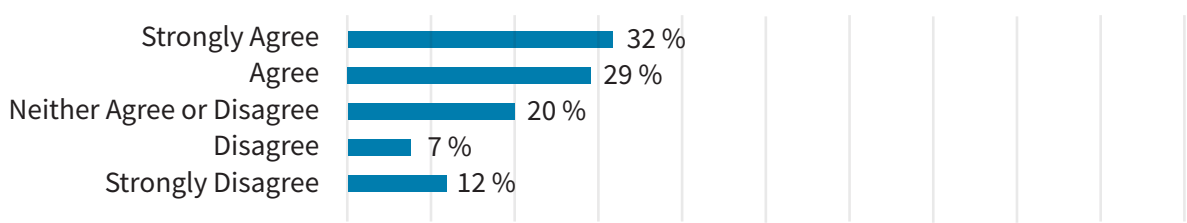
Are there educational needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that are lacking in the community?
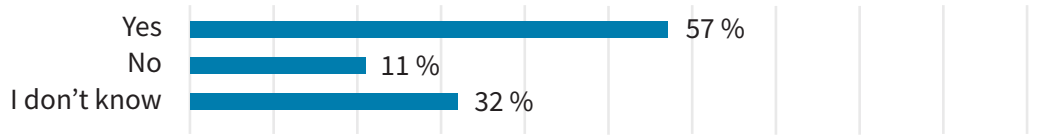
Response	Percentage
Yes	57 %
No	11 %
I don't know	32 %

If yes, please specify.

> **Please note:** Comments have been categorized into themes and some comments include two or more themes.

Theme	Responses
Internet access/technology	59
Lack of quality education/remote learning issues	57
Parental support issues/Parents as teachers	30
Mental health & socialization	13
Special Education concerns	8
Lack of child care	4
Truancy	1

Survey Data: Education

Partner Survey Information

What are the most important education issues facing Lycoming County?

Access to Early Childhood Education
- Low: 2 %
- Low-Med: 3 %
- Medium: 15 %
- Med-High: 23 %
- High: 55 %

Quality of Early Childhood Education
- Low: 3 %
- Low-Med: 2 %
- Medium: 10 %
- Med-High: 25 %
- High: 58 %

Illiteracy
- Low: 4 %
- Low-Med: 4 %
- Medium: 18 %
- Med-High: 20 %
- High: 52 %

Adult Job Training
- Low: 3 %
- Low-Med: 3 %
- Medium: 16 %
- Med-High: 26 %
- High: 51 %

Youth Job Training
- Low: 2 %
- Low-Med: 4 %
- Medium: 19 %
- Med-High: 25 %
- High: 48 %
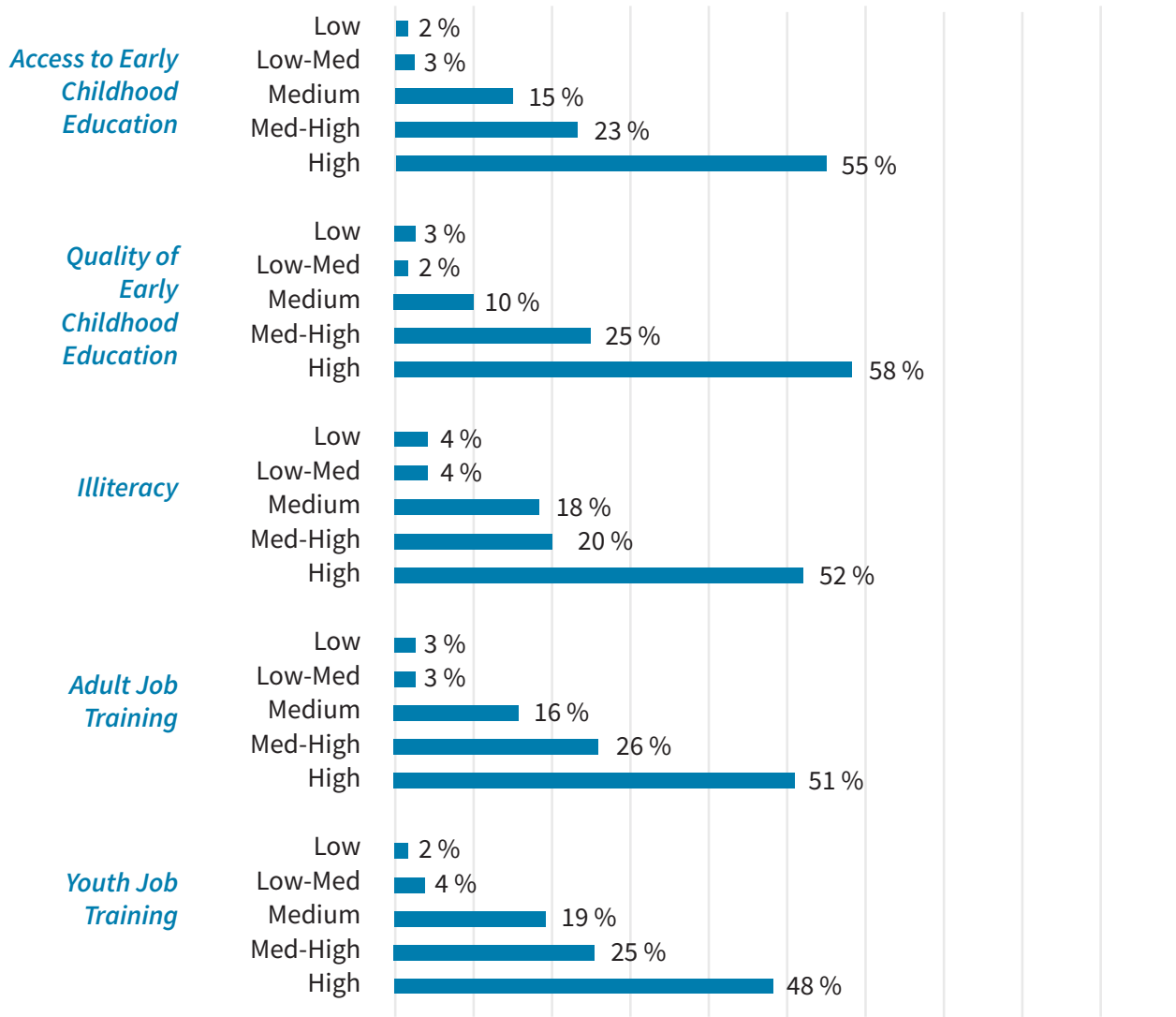
Are these education related issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?

Access to Early Childhood Education
- Yes — 64 %
- No — 28 %
- I don't know — 8 %

Quality of Early Childhood Education
- Yes — 62 %
- No — 30 %
- I don't know — 9 %

Illiteracy
- Yes — 41 %
- No — 47 %
- I don't know — 12 %

Adult Job Training
- Yes — 43 %
- No — 46 %
- I don't know — 11 %

Youth Job Training
- Yes — 34 %
- No — 54 %
- I don't know — 12 %
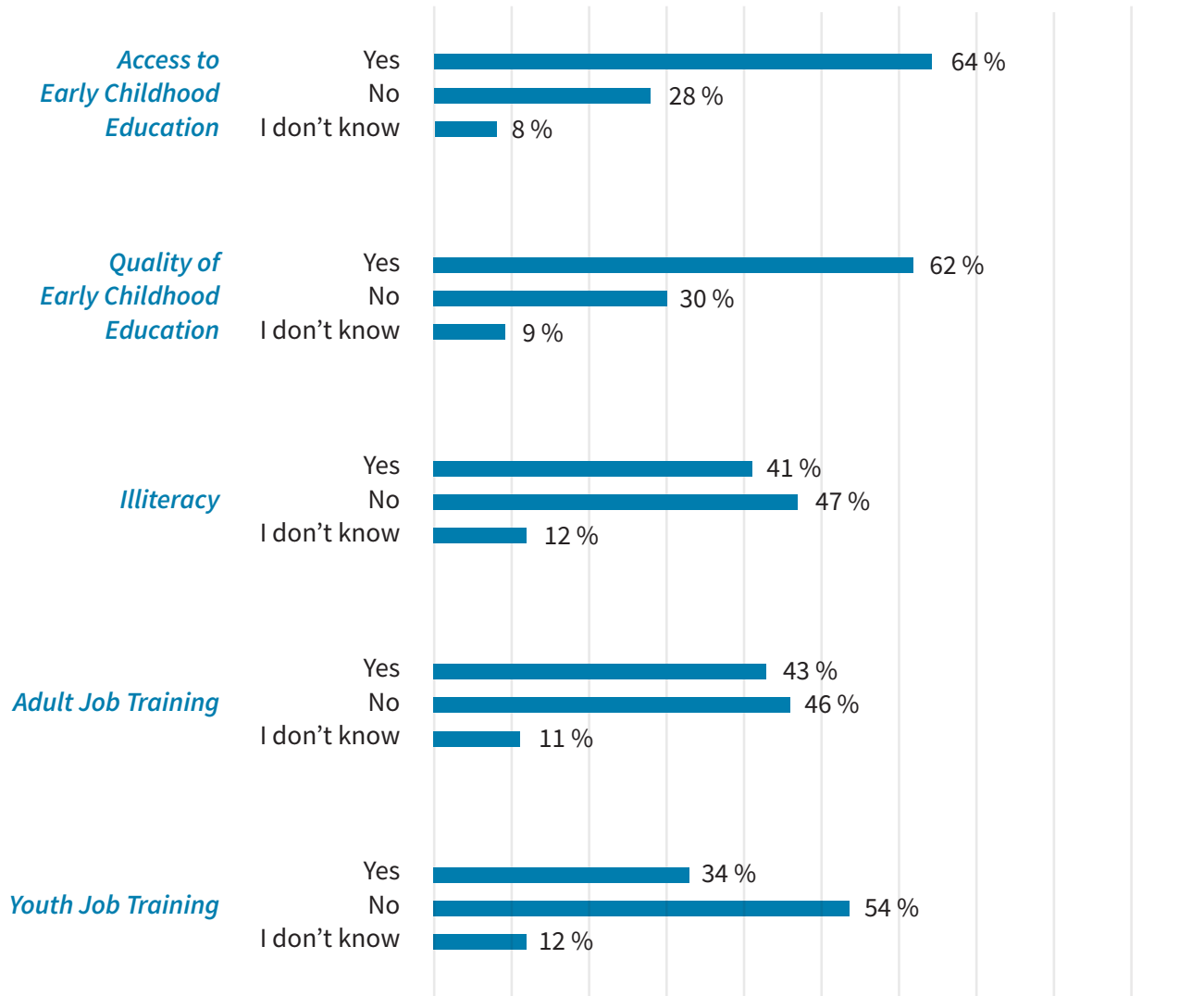
Survey Data: Employment

Community Survey Information

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

Yes — 29 %
No — 50 %
I don't know — 21 %

Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"

Year	Value
2015	~23
2018	~21
2021	~28
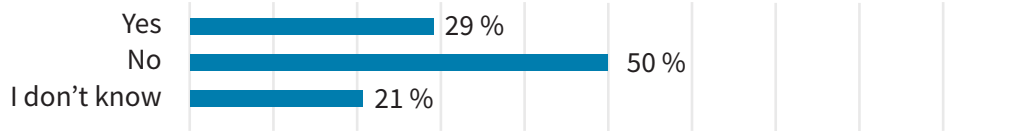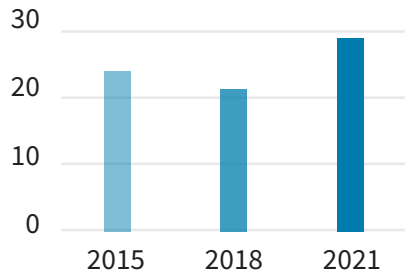
Which of the following best describes your employment status?

Status	Percentage
Self Employed	4 %
Employed by Someone Else -Full Time	48 %
Employed by Someone Else - Part Time	9 %
Unemployed - Not Looking for Work	5 %
Unemployed - Looking for Work	7 %
Retired	22 %
Full Time Homemaker	5 %
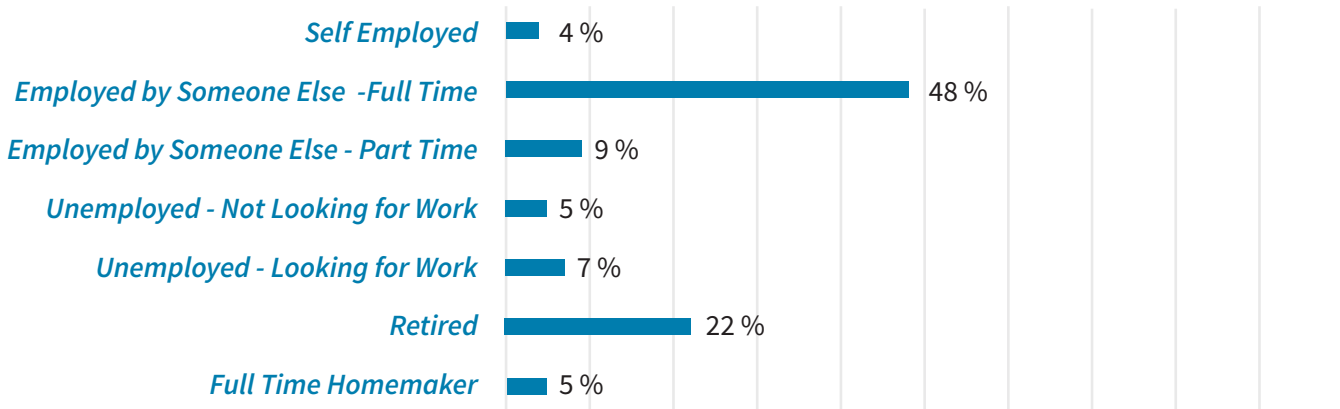
Response Trend   ■ 2015 ■ 2018 ■ 2021
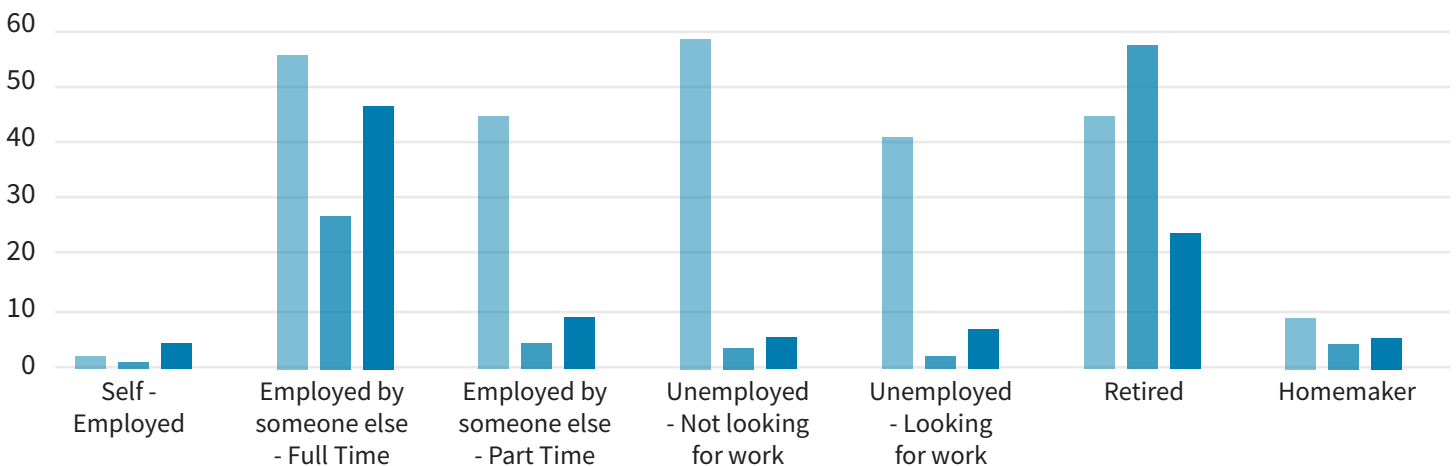
I have access to the internet, which allows me to continue my current employment.

- Yes — 83 %
- No — 17 %

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

- Yes — 22 %
- No — 77 %
- I don't know — 1 %

Response Trend   2009   2012   2015   2018   2021
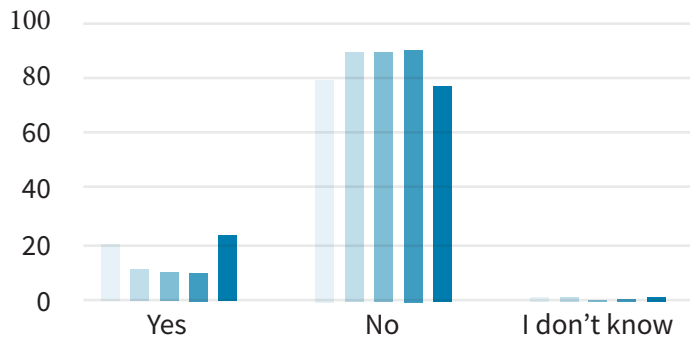
If someone in your household was laid off over the last year, how long did it take the person to find another job?

- 0 - 3 months — 28 %
- 3 - 6 months — 13 %
- More than 6 months — 6 %
- Still unemployed — 52 %
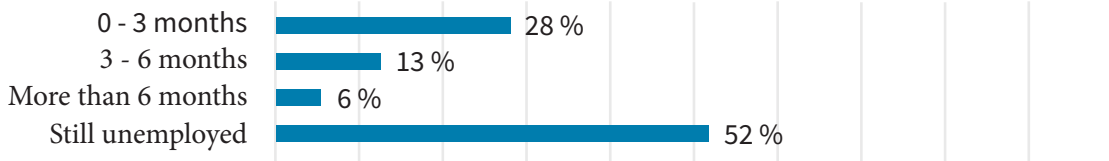
Response Trend   2009   2012   2015   2018   2021

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

Strongly Agree — 17 %
Agree — 32 %
Neither Agree or Disagree — 19 %
Disagree — 10 %
Strongly Disagree — 8 %

Response Trend — 2009 — 2012 — 2015 — 2018 — 2021

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
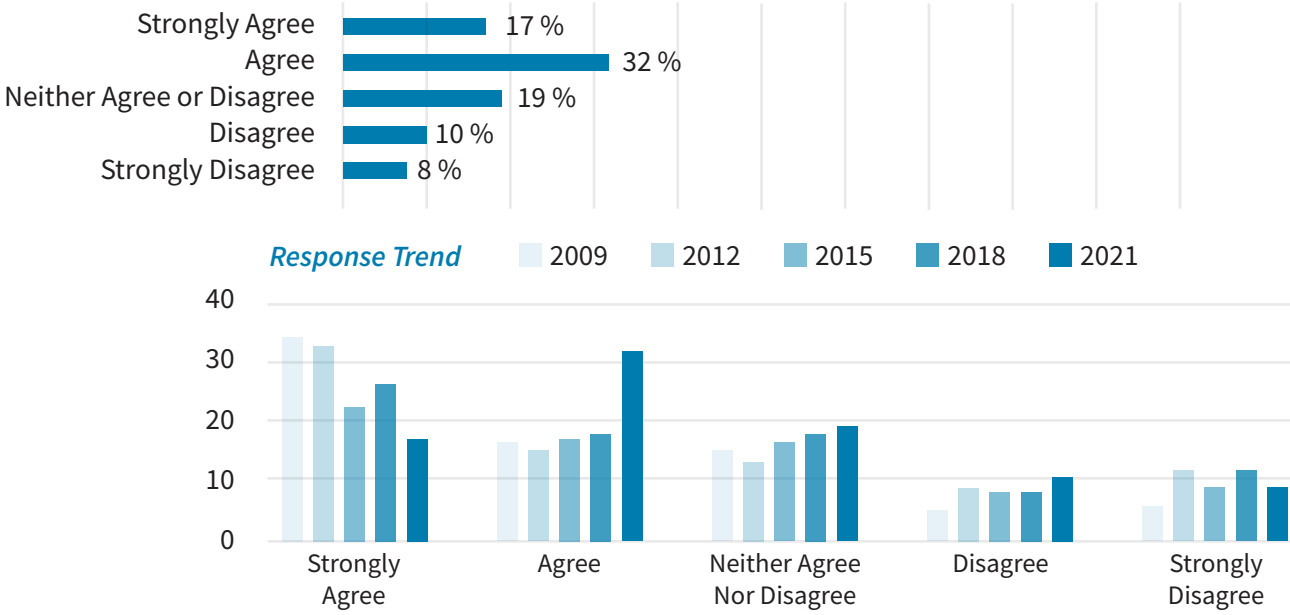
I have access to affordable transportation for employment purposes.

Strongly Agree — 27 %
Agree — 37 %
Neither Agree or Disagree — 15 %
Disagree — 9 %
Strongly Disagree — 7 %
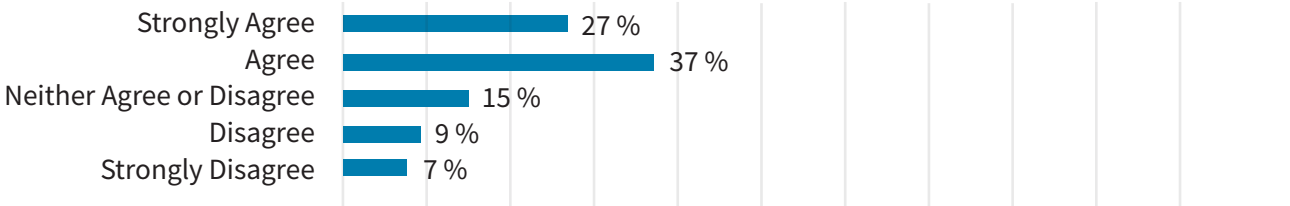
Are there other job-related needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that are lacking in your community?
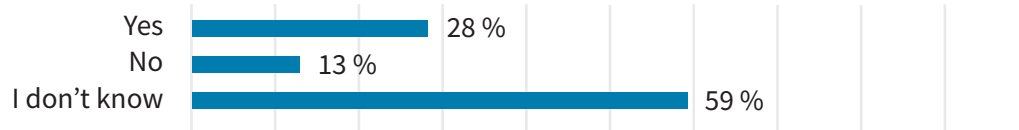
Yes — 28 %
No — 13 %
I don't know — 59 %

If yes, please specify

> **Please note:** Comments have been categorized into themes and some comments include two or more themes.
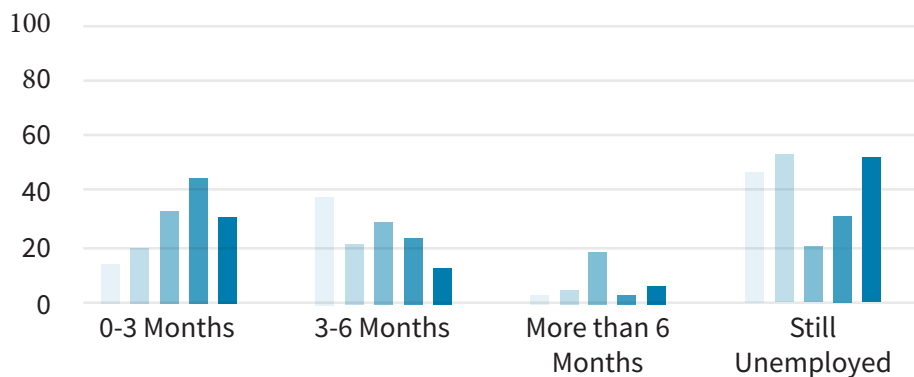
Theme	Responses
Access to internet/technology	15
Unemployment issues	9
Lack of sustainable jobs	9
Business closures	9
Access to services	8
Job training services	6
Transportation	3

Survey Data: Employment

Partner Survey Information

What are the most important employment issues facing Lycoming County?

Access to Job Skill Training
- Low — 4 %
- Low-Med — 3 %
- Medium — 21 %
- Med-High — 23 %
- High — 48 %

Unemployment
- Low — 5 %
- Low-Med — 3 %
- Medium — 17 %
- Med-High — 23 %
- High — 50 %

Underemployment
- Low — 6 %
- Low-Med — 4 %
- Medium — 21 %
- Med-High — 23 %
- High — 41 %
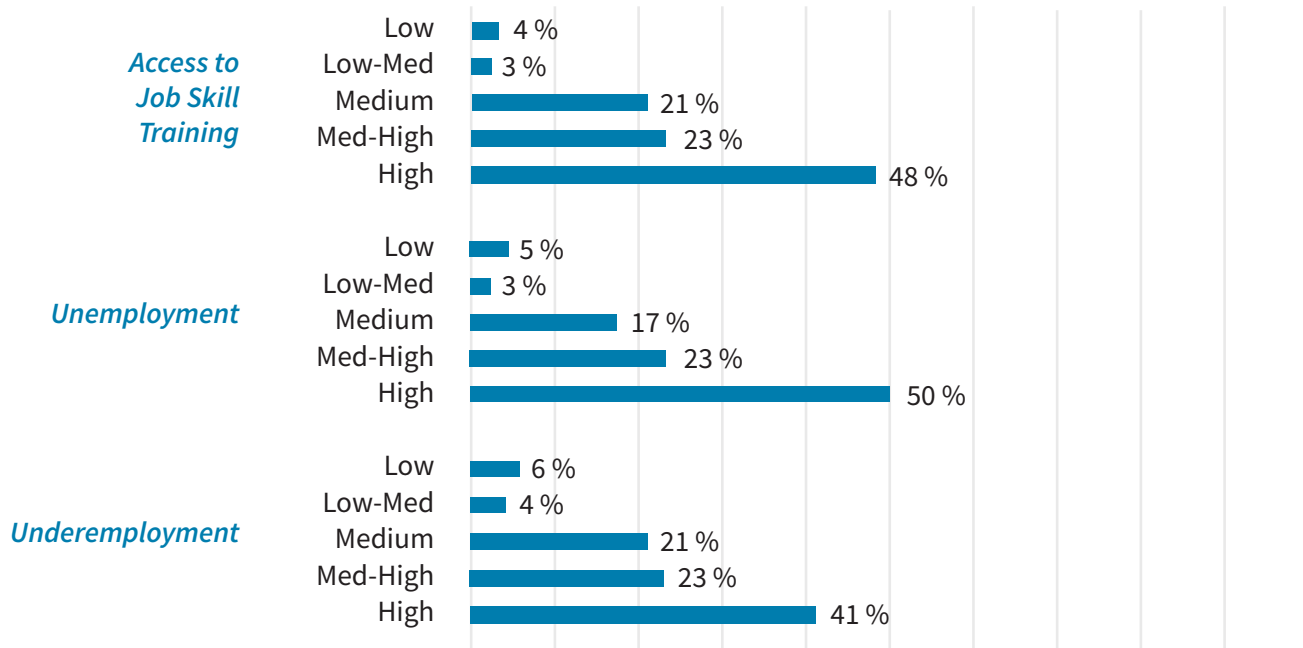
Are these employment related issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?

Access to Job Skill Training
- Yes — 41 %
- No — 50 %
- I don't know — 9 %

Unemployment
- Yes — 40 %
- No — 53 %
- I don't know — 7 %

Underemployment
- Yes — 30 %
- No — 58 %
- I don't know — 13 %
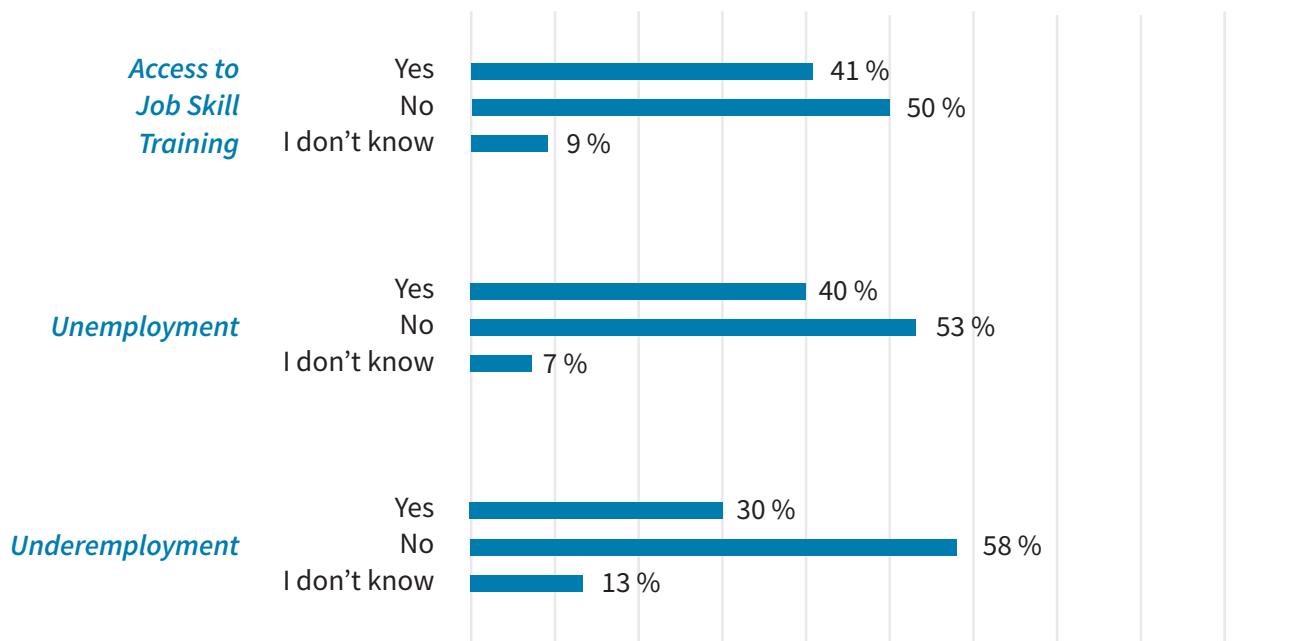
Families in Crisis

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. The ongoing pandemic has dramatically affected families who were already in crisis, as well as families that were living on the brink. The nationwide shutdown and employer mitigation efforts affected lower-wage workers who did not have the flexibility of working from home, and many lost their employment. Essential workers, such as grocery store employees and health care workers, were challenged with finding reliable and flexible child care so they could keep working. Lower income families, particularly those living in poverty, have had a tremendously challenging time recovering. Interrelated issues, all perpetuated by the pandemic, such as mental health, substance abuse, life skill development, and emergency supports 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 percent of the households in Lycoming County are living in poverty. In fact, over 18 percent of households are eligible for some form of county assistance. Making ends meet for these households is a continuing battle made even more challenging by the ongoing pandemic. 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, five main themes emerge: mental health supports, substance abuse, emergency supports, life skill development, and domestic violence.

Mental Health Supports

Mental health supports, including access, availability, and affordability was a major area of concern for community and partner respondents as well as the focus groups. The last couple years have been very challenging in general, specifically for families in crisis. Mental health situations were discussed as being way more complicated than the last 10 years. The focus group discussed how virtual counseling during the pandemic was beneficial for some, but for many the format did not work. This has created even further stress and anxiety for those dealing with issues prior and created challenges for those whose need for mental health counseling started during the pandemic. Social isolation, lack of engagement, and fear of the unknown were discussed as affecting why mental health concerns have risen over the last couple years. It is extremely important that those with mental health needs are supported in the community, so they can be helped. 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. Mobile units providing mental health supports was discussed as something that could help the issue by going out into areas of the community that may typically not have access to mental health supports, such as rural communities. 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.

Substance Abuse

Drug use cuts across all income levels of the community and can be the root cause of other problems and dramatically affecting families. Fifty-seven percent of community survey respondents stated they know someone dealing with drug or alcohol abuse, and 53 percent stated they noticed an increase in the use of drugs and alcohol in the community over the last year. Data from the partner survey shows that all issues concerning substance abuse are most important in Lycoming County, with each of them having an over 70-percent response rate. These include abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults and youth; abuse of drugs

including prescriptions opioids and heroin by adults and youth; and access to substance abuse services. When asked if the substance abuse issues are receiving adequate attention from community groups, approximately half of respondents stated they were. Focus group participants noted that while there has been much effort over the last several years to bring awareness and education to the opioid epidemic, there is still opioid use, but not as much as prior. They stated that other drugs, including methamphetamine and cocaine, are now on the rise. The focus group members discussed how the type of drugs that are popular tend to repeat in cycles. Because of this, it is extremely important to continue education and awareness about the negative effects of all drugs and not just focus on opioids. Access to local and affordable substance abuse treatment options, specifically in-patient rehabilitation was discussed at length. There are not enough options for individuals who need this type of care and often the facilities are not conducive to individuals with disabilities or older adults. This makes it extremely challenging to access the appropriate care an individual needs without going to a major city.

Focus group participants discussed how drug use is often a generational problem, passed down in families as acceptable behavior. Parents are not teaching their children the negative aspects that can come with the use of drugs or alcohol. This becomes even more complicated with medical and recreational marijuana now being legalized in some parts of the United States. Beyond the legal ramifications of these behaviors, often drug use creates money- and work-related issues for families. Human service providers explained that the emphasis is now on harm reduction by reducing drug use rather than pursuing an unrealistic goal of having clients abstain from all forms of drugs.

Emergency Supports

The pandemic caught many families off-guard and illustrated to them how unprepared they were for an unexpected crisis. They did not have savings to support expenses while they were unable to work due to unemployment during the onset of the pandemic. Child care availability also complicated parents' ability to work with many of them not able to find reliable care. While the shutdown did not last more than a few weeks, nearly two years later there is no sign of getting back to normalcy. This time put families already on the brink of crisis into a tailspin and focus group participants stated they are still trying to dig themselves out and regain some balance in their lives. These families will have a long road to recovery, and it is expected that many will never get back to where they were pre-pandemic. Those already living in poverty pre-pandemic now have an even more challenging journey to stability. This is because beyond the financial supports that families in crisis lack, the mental and social supports are also not as readily available. They often do not have families to support them and other factors such as substance abuse and domestic violence can play a role.

Focus group participants discussed how food insecurity was a major issue at the beginning of the pandemic. This was illustrated in the 2020 CNA as well. Yet, the community came together and filled that need to the point of excess. Many food pantries that were overwhelmed during the beginning of the pandemic are reducing the days they are open now. Basic expenses such as rent and utilities were the first to be let go, and many families are now in dire need of supports to make sure they are not evicted. Focus group participates stated that it is nearly impossible to find available, affordable housing, so ensuring that families are not evicted is important. The network of emergency supports, while robust in Lycoming County, was also very much unknown by many families who have never found themselves in dire need before. Focus group participants, as well as community and partner survey respondents, noted the importance of making sure information on all available emergency services is easily accessible to all residents.

Life Skills

Throughout the surveys and focus group discussions the topic of life skill development was mentioned as a key area of need. 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 disparity of those that are not knowledgeable was exacerbated through the pandemic. 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. Human service providers in the focus groups discussed how overwhelmed they are by requests and the need for intensive case management to support families through this trying time. Many discussed how understaffed they were and how that was negatively impacting services to families. Even with additional funding, the need far outweighs the available human and financial resources.

Domestic Violence

Both the community and partner survey respondents noted that domestic violence was on the rise in Lycoming County and that more attention needs to be paid to this issue. The ongoing pandemic made situations even worse for victims of domestic violence, focus group members stated, as shelters were not taking on new people and there was nowhere to go for safety. Now that shelters are back and more operational, there has been an uptick in cases of domestic violence being reported and supports to address the families immediate and long-term needs are not as robust as they need to be. It was noted that children are often caught in the middle of domestic violence situations and that 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.

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 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. In 2019, it is estimated there were 6,151 households, or 13.5% of Lycoming County's 45,608 households living in poverty, compared to a Pennsylvania average of 12.1%.

Households in Poverty, 2019

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Percent Households in Poverty
Lycoming County	45.608	6,151	13.5%
Pennsylvania	5,053,106	612,247	12.1%
United States	120,756,048	15,610,142	12.9%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Income and Poverty Estimates, 2019. Source geography: County

Poverty: Household Poverty Rate by Family Type

The table below shows percentage of households in poverty by household type. From 2015-2019 it is estimated that 6.0% of family households and 7.5% of non-family households lived in poverty in Lycoming County.

Household Poverty Rate by Family Type, 2015-2019

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Households in Poverty Percent	Family Households in Poverty	Family Households in Poverty Percent	Non Family Households in Poverty	Non Family Households in Poverty Percent
Lycoming County	45,608	6,151	13.5%	2,735	6.07%	3,416	7.5%
Pennsylvania	5,053,106	612,247	12.1%	271,519	8.4%	340,728	6.7%
United States	120,756,048	15,610,142	12.9%	7,541,196	6.24%	8,068,946	6.7%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

Poverty: Households in Poverty by Family Type

The below table shows the number of households in poverty by type. In Lycoming County, there are 906 married couples living in poverty, compared to 1,491 female-headed households in poverty.

Households in Poverty by Family Type, 2015-2019

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Non Family Households in Poverty - including Persons Living Alone	Married Couples in Poverty	Male Head of Household in Poverty	Female Head of Household in Poverty
Lycoming County	29,740	6,151	3,416	906	338	1,491
Pennsylvania	3,236,352	612,247	340,728	87,125	31,105	153,289
United States	79,114,031	15,610,142	8,068,946	2,764,595	803,863	3,972,738

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

Poverty: Number of Households Eligible for County Assistance Funding

The table below shows the average monthly unduplicated number of persons eligible for assistance for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Number of Households Eligible for County Assistance Funding, 2017-2018

Report Area	Total Households	Households Eligible for County Assistance Funding	Eligible for Medical Assistance	Eligible for TANF	Percent Eligible for TANF	Eligible for SNAP	Percent Eligible for SNAP
Lycoming County	45,991	9,168	27,034	535	1.16%	8,633	18.77%
Pennsylvania	5,007,442	1,017,722	5,660,568	59,349	1.19%	958,373	19.14%

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

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 2016-2017. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for the area shown, there was a total of 27,034 persons eligible, or 23.46%, for medical assistance. This is compared to Pennsylvania's 22.14%..

Number of Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance, 2016-2017

Report Area	Total Population	Persons Eligible	Percent Persons Eligible
Lycoming County	115,248	27,034	23.46
Pennsylvania	12,784,227	2,830,300	22.14

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 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	%
Strongly Agree	13 %
Agree	39 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	16 %
Disagree	11 %
Strongly Disagree	6 %
I don't know	15 %

Response Trend   2009   2012   2015   2018   2021

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2009	46	14	10	5	10
2012	41	14	13	7	8
2015	42	17	9	6	7
2018	38	20	12	7	7
2021	14	39	16	11	6
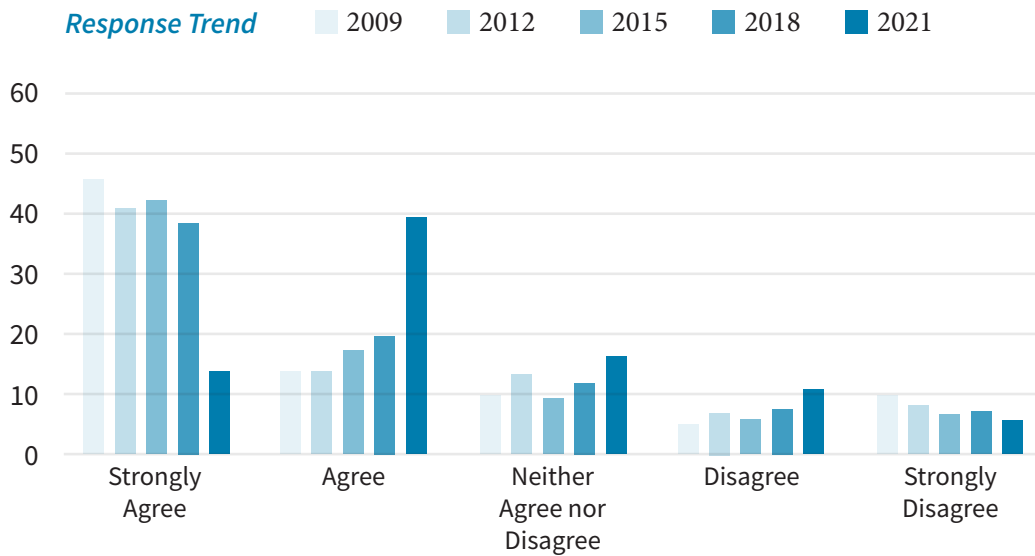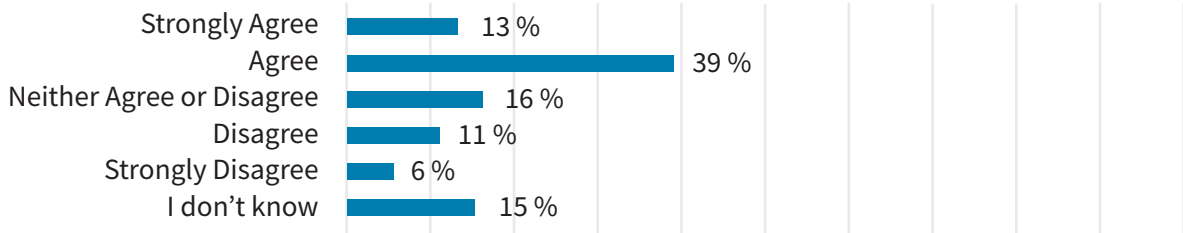
I have access to affordable mental health supports, if I were to need them.

Response	%
Strongly Agree	13 %
Agree	37 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	17 %
Disagree	11 %
Strongly Disagree	7 %
I don't know	14 %
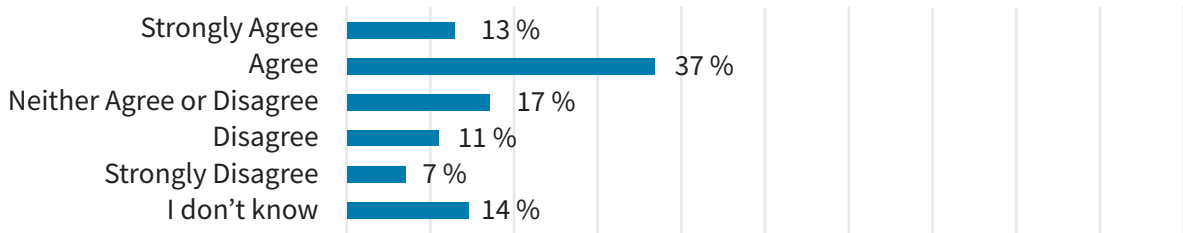
Domestic violence is on the rise in my community.

- Strongly Agree — 6 %
- Agree — 34 %
- Neither Agree or Disagree — 22 %
- Disagree — 5 %
- Strongly Disagree — 1 %
- I don't know — 31 %
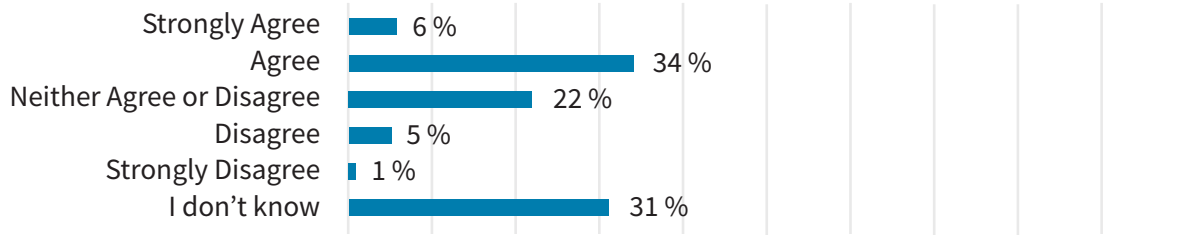
Child abuse is on the rise in my community.

- Strongly Agree — 7 %
- Agree — 31 %
- Neither Agree or Disagree — 23 %
- Disagree — 4 %
- Strongly Disagree — 1 %
- I don't know — 33 %
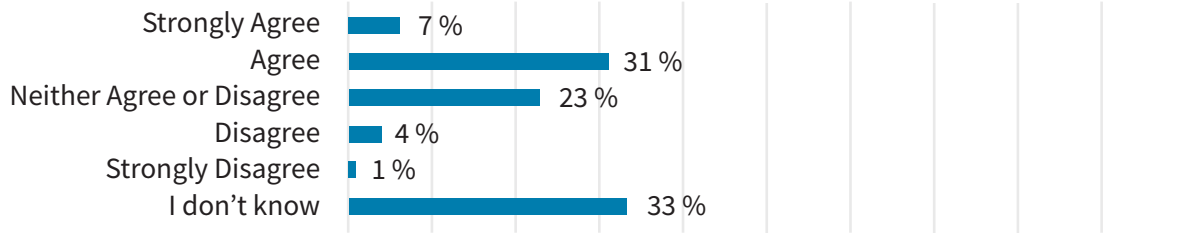
Have you or someone you know in your community been the victim of physical abuse by a family member in the last year?

- Yes — 14 %
- No — 73 %
- I don't know — 13 %
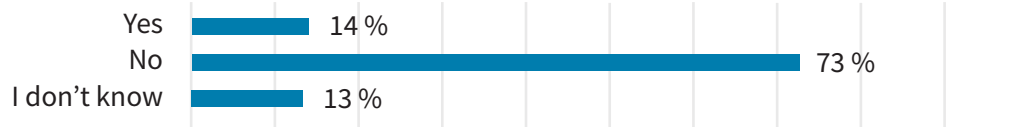
Have you or your family had difficulty finding the money to pay for the costs of heating, electricity, or water at any time in the last year?

- Yes — 30 %
- No — 66 %
- I don't know — 4 %

Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"

- 2015 — 45
- 2018 — 16
- 2021 — 30
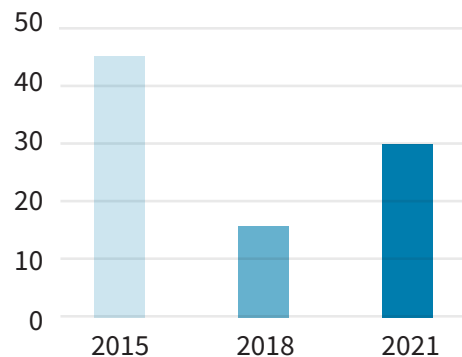
Have you or your family had difficulty obtaining infant/toddler care supplies (diapers, wipes, formula, etc.) at any time in the last year?

Yes — 10 %
No — 78 %
I don't know — 12 %

Are there other needs, specific to emergency services, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that are lacking in the community?
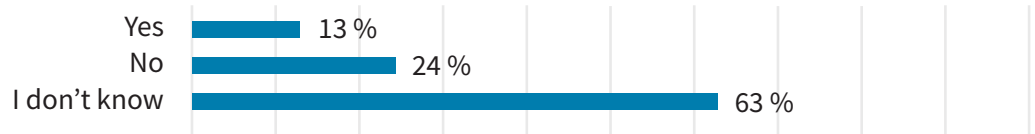
Yes — 13 %
No — 24 %
I don't know — 63 %

If yes, please specify

Please note: Comments have been categorized into themes and some comments include two or more themes.

Theme	Responses
Access to vaccine	6
Mental health concerns	5
Emergency financial assistance	4
Internet access	3
Access to information	2
Substance abuse	2
Lack of fresh food	1
Transportation	1

Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Emergency Services

Partner Survey Information

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

Heating, Electricity, & Water Assistance
- Low — 3 %
- Low-Med — 3 %
- Medium — 25 %
- Med-High — 22 %
- High — 45 %

Domestic Abuse
- Low — 1 %
- Low-Med — 1 %
- Medium — 17 %
- Med-High — 26 %
- High — 53 %

Availability of Counseling Services
- Low — 3 %
- Low-Med — 4 %
- Medium — 16 %
- Med-High — 18 %
- High — 58 %

Are these issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?

Heating, Electricity, & Water Assistance
- Yes — 57 %
- No — 34 %
- I don't know — 9 %

Domestic Abuse
- Yes — 43 %
- No — 46 %
- I don't know — 11 %

Availability of Counseling Services
- Yes — 38 %
- No — 54 %
- I don't know — 7 %
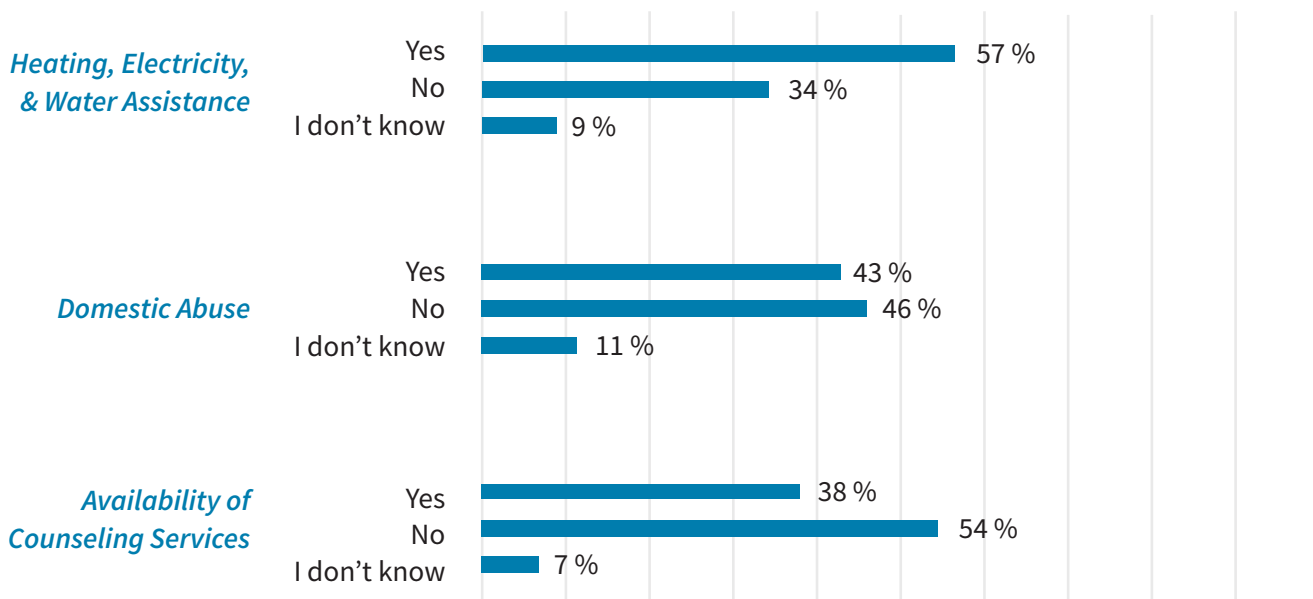
Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Substance Abuse

Community Survey Information

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

Yes	57 %
No	31 %
I don't know	12 %
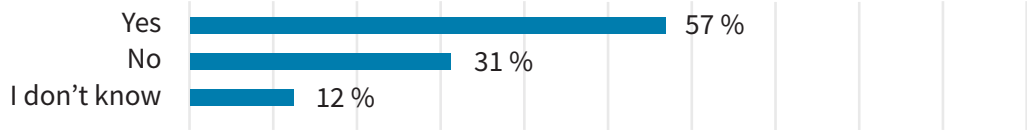
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"
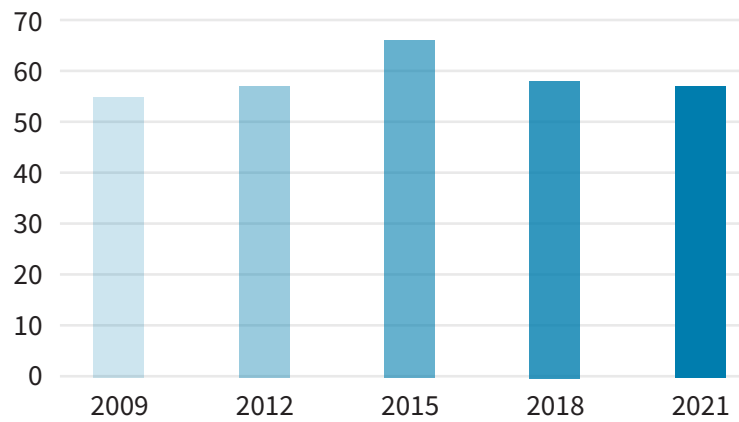
Are you personally aware of anyone in your community who has a problem with heroin or opioid addiction?

Yes	31 %
No	57 %
I don't know	12 %
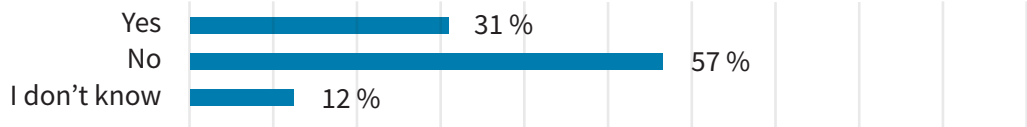
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"
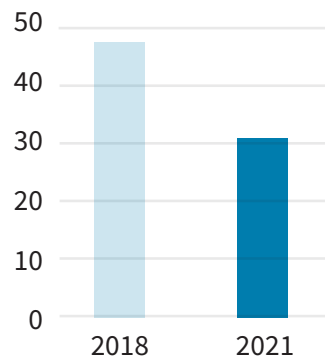
Have you noticed an increase in the use of drugs or alcohol in your community over the last year?

Yes	53 %
No	22 %
I don't know	26 %
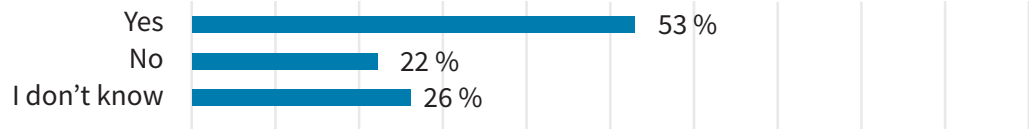
Are there needs, specific to substance abuse, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that are lacking in the community?

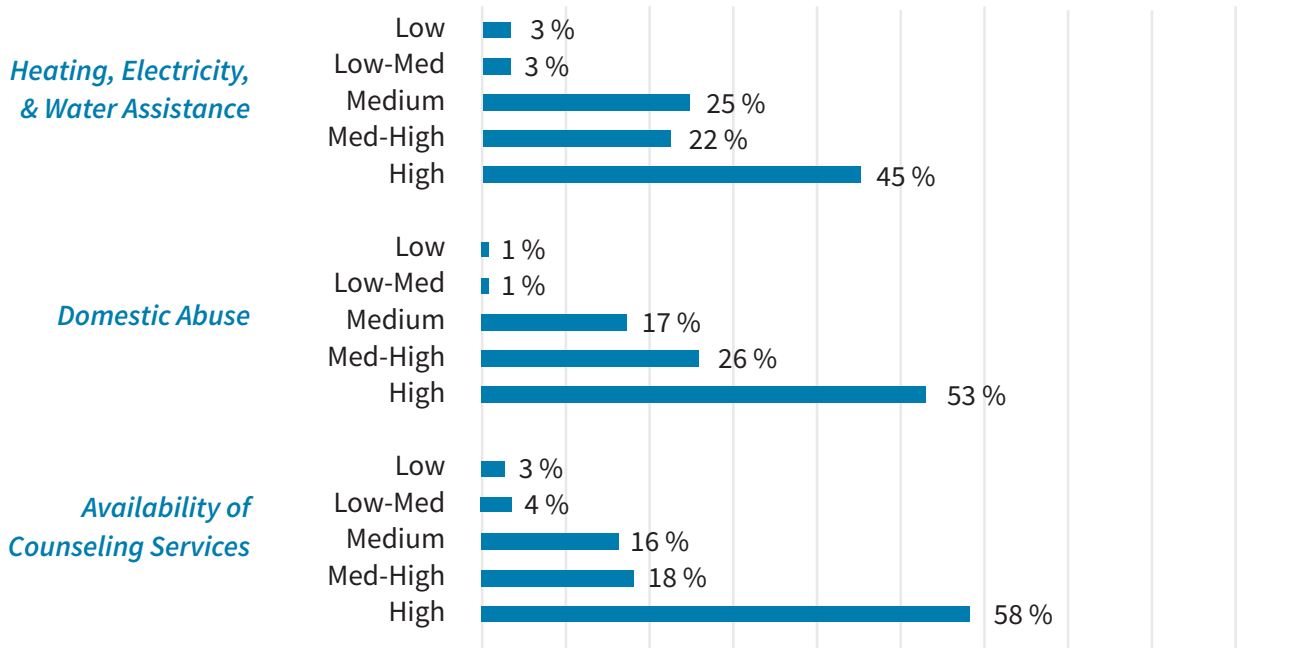|	
Yes	20 %
No	12 %
I don't know	68 %

If yes, please specify

> **Please note:** Comments have been categorized into themes and some comments include two or more themes.

Theme	Responses
Access to services	12
Increased need	6
Mental health concerns	5
Lack of services	5
Access to information	2
Internet access	2
Transportation to appointments	1
Lack of sustainable jobs	1
Community education	1

Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Substance Abuse

Partner Survey Information

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

Abuse of Alcohol and/or Drugs by Adults
- Low — 1 %
- Low-Med — 0 %
- Medium — 7 %
- Med-High — 17 %
- High — 73 %

Abuse of Alcohol and/or Drugs by Youth
- Low — 1 %
- Low-Med — 1 %
- Medium — 8 %
- Med-High — 17 %
- High — 71 %

Abuse of Drugs Including Prescription Opioids and Heroin by Adults
- Low — 1 %
- Low-Med — 0 %
- Medium — 6 %
- Med-High — 13 %
- High — 78 %

Abuse of Drugs Including Prescription Opioids and Heroin by Adults
- Low — 1 %
- Low-Med — 1 %
- Medium — 7 %
- Med-High — 16 %
- High — 73 %

Access to Substance Abuse Services
- Low — 2 %
- Low-Med — 1 %
- Medium — 7 %
- Med-High — 14 %
- High — 73 %

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

Abuse of Alcohol and/or Drugs by Adults
- Yes: 44 %
- No: 47 %
- I don't know: 9 %

Abuse of Alcohol and/or Drugs by Youth
- Yes: 32 %
- No: 58 %
- I don't know: 9 %

Abuse of Drugs Including Prescription Opioids and Heroin by Adults
- Yes: 37 %
- No: 54 %
- I don't know: 9 %

Abuse of Drugs Including Prescription Opioids and Heroin by Adults
- Yes: 29 %
- No: 61 %
- I don't know: 9 %

Access to Substance Abuse Services
- Yes: 38 %
- No: 53 %
- I don't know: 9 %
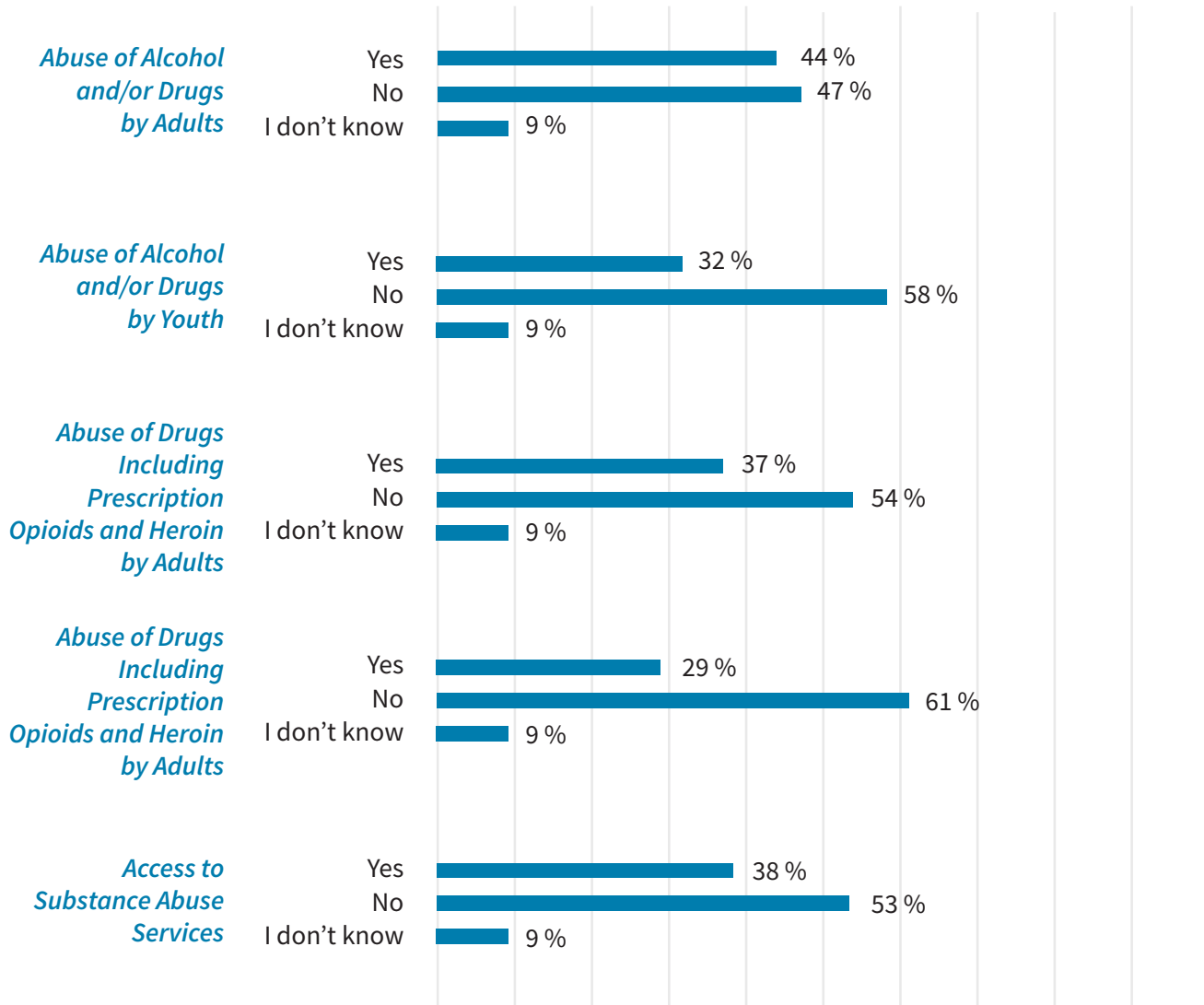
Health and Nutrition

The health and nutrition need of the Lycoming County population were addressed in the surveys and focus groups. The ongoing pandemic seems to have pushed individuals to put off routine medical and dental visits, which has created more extensive and serious issues when they finally do return. A positive brought on by the pandemic were enhancements to telehealth. Many human service providers discussed how this option was very helpful for families and individuals and should continue. There continues to be a concern with the 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.

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 prescription medication; 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 to find in Lycoming County and in 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 Lycoming County, the focus group discussed how individuals still do not know about the program and how to access it. 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 need to see specialists that are not found in the region. Pediatric dentistry and oral surgeons that take medical assistance were some of the specialists noted. Behavior 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

Eighty-three percent of partner survey respondents said that access to mental health services was of medium to high importance, and 65 percent said that it is not receiving adequate attention in Lycoming County. As stated throughout nearly all the Key Need Categories of this document, mental health is a major concern. The uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic and time in shutdown, along with the lack of individuals having time and energy to grieve all the losses that are occurring, is having a serious impact on their mental stability. Stress, anxiety, and depression were all noted as ongoing struggles for even those who have no history of mental health needs. Compound that with struggles to pay rent, utilities, reduction of hours at employment, and unemployment, the pandemic has truly put many families in a tailspin. Human service providers discussed how individuals are 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 is 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 Prescription Medication

Sixty-two percent of partner survey respondents noted that access to affordable prescription medication was not receiving adequate attention and 75 percent of respondents noted it was either medium-high or high importance. From the focus groups, it was discussed about helping to pay for prescription medication was a need, yet very few agencies have funds to support that. The Shepherd of the Streets was the only organization noted that does pay for individuals prescription copays, but they have an extremely limited number of funds. There is major concern with individuals not taking their regular prescription medications due to the inability to afford them and the medical risks that result.

Access to Fresh Food

The need for food support was discussed throughout all the focus groups and addressed on the surveys, the response was consistent that while food was a need early in the pandemic, at this point there is an overwhelming amount of food support options in the community. In some cases, food pantries have a tremendous amount of excess due to the enhancements in the food security network in Lycoming County. The one area that was noted in both the focus groups and surveys related to nutrition was the access to fresh food, such as fruits and vegetables. While some food pantries were able to offer fresh food throughout the pandemic, many noted they were focused on shelf stable food options. Programs like the 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 Lycoming County occurred with mothers 20-30 years of age, giving birth to 55.70% of all births. The second largest group is mothers 30-40 years of age, with 35.29% of births. Mothers over age 40 represent 2.14% of births. Of interest are the number of live births by mothers 19 or younger, who gave birth to 6.69% of all babies in Lycoming 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, 2018

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
Lycoming County	1,210	0	81	674	427	26	2
Pennsylvania	135,677	60	5,574	63,534	62,418	4,064	27

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

Health Care: Number of Deaths and Death Rate

Number of Deaths and Death Rates, 2019

Report Area	Live Births		All Deaths		Infant Deaths		Neonatal Deaths		Fetal Deaths
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Lycoming County	1,188	10.5	1,353	11.9	7	ND	5	ND	9
Pennsylvania	134,247	10.5	133,932	10.5	788	5.9	549	4.1	1,169

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health. Source geography: County. Data was compiled from Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research,2019. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center. Fetal deaths before 16 weeks gestation are not reported in Pennsylvania.

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 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported a total of 26,708 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in Lycoming 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 3,985 persons with disabilities in Lycoming County received Medicare benefits in 2019.

Medicare Enrollment by County, 2019

Report Area	Persons Over 65 Receiving Medicare	Persons with Disabilities Receiving Medicare	Total Persons Receiving Medicare
Lycoming County	22,723	3,985	26,708
Pennsylvania	4,684,851	780,390	5,465,240

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2019. 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 Lycoming County is 1,465 children. The number of enrollees whose household income is no greater than 208% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) totals 1,085, while those enrolled where FPL is greater than 314% equals 36 children. Families who are at or above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level must pay in part on a sliding scale for CHIP services.

Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Enrollment

Report Area	Total Enrollment	FPL Less than 208%	PPL 208% to 262%	FPL 262% to 288%	FPL 288% to 314%	FPL Greater than 314%
Lycoming County	1,465	1,085	246	54	44	36
Pennsylvania	180,260	123,688	31,829	8,823	6,481	9,439

Source: Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program. Source geography: County. Data was compiled from the Annual Report to the Legislature, Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

Health Care: Uninsured Population

The lack of health insurance is considered a key driver of health status and is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services that contributes to poor health status. This indicator reports the percentage of the total civilian non-institutionalized population without health insurance coverage.

Uninsured Persons, 2019

Report Area	Total Non-institutionalized Population	Total Uninsured Population	Percent Uninsured Population
Lycoming County	114,188	7,079	6.2%
Pennsylvania	13,002,700	754,157	5.8%
United States	323,120,678	29,638,672	9.2%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019. Source geography: Tract

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 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation is shown in the table below. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 27 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in Lycoming County in the 3rd quarter of 2020.

Institutional Medicare and Medicaid Providers, 2020

Report Area	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Lycoming County	27	3	8	2	0	0
Pennsylvania	2,886	244	690	320	71	8
United States	75,861	7,160	15,350	9,859	4,661	125

Data Source: US Department of Health Human Services, Center for Medicare Medicaid Services, Provider of Services File. 2020. Source geography: County

Physicians

The table below shows the number of physicians and physician assistants for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 3.29 physicians/assistants per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County; the Pennsylvania average is 4.19 physicians/assistants per 1,000 persons.

Physicians and Assistants, 2018

Report Area	Medical Physicians / Surgeons	Medical Physician Assistants	Osteopathic Physicians / Surgeons	Physicians / Assistants per 1,000
Lycoming County	203	114	59	3.29
Pennsylvania	37,365	8,603	7,627	4.19

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 Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 1.43 dental professionals per 1,000 persons in the report area. The Pennsylvania average is 1.29 dental professionals per 1,000 persons.

Dental Professionals, 2018

Report Area	Dentists	Dental Hygienists	Dental Professionals per 1,000
Lycoming County	52	118	1.43
Pennsylvania	8,368	8,229	1.29

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 Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 20.60 nursing professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 20.20 nursing professionals per 1,000 persons.

Nurses, 2018

Report Area	Registered Nurses	Practical Nurses	Registered Nurse Practitioners	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurses per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	1,576	698	81	0	20.60
Pennsylvania	194,506	51,098	12,597	216	20.20

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. June 2020. Source geography: County

Mental Health Professionals

The table below shows the number of mental health psychologists for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 0.23 mental health professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 0.42 psychologists per 1,000 persons. Not included in the table, but equally significant, are the many mental health therapists, consultants, and psychiatrists, who provide similar services.

Mental Health Psychologists, 2018

Report Area	Psychologists	Psychologists per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	26	0.23
Pennsylvania	5,394	0.42

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. June 2020. Source geography: County

Health & Occupational Therapists

The table below shows the number of physical therapists, occupational therapists, and chiropractors for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 1.68 physical therapy, occupational therapy, and chiropractor professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 1.97 physical therapists, occupational therapists, and chiropractors per 1,000 persons.

Health & Occupational Therapists, 2018

Report Area	Physical Therapists	Occupational Therapists	Chiropractors	Therapists / Chiropractors per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	91	58	43	1.68
Pennsylvania	13,395	8,106	3,704	1.97

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 Data was compiled using Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. 2020; and United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 Data Release, 2019 reports. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

Special Health Professionals

The table below shows the number of dietitian-nutritionists, optometrists, doctors of podiatric medicine, and speech pathologists for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 1.02 special health professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 1.11 special health professionals per 1,000 persons.

Special Health Professionals, 2018

Report Area	Dietitian / Nutritionists (LDN)	Optometrists	Doctors of Podiatric Medicine	Speech Language Pathologists	Special Health Professionals per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	33	13	10	61	1.02
Pennsylvania	4,075	2,094	1,282	6,804	1.11

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 45,608 households (15.85%) received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments, formerly known as food stamps, during 2019 in Lycoming County. Of those 7,231 households, 45.24% or 3,271 households have at least one working family member and 30.22% or 2,185 are over the age of 60.

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status, 2019

Report Area	Total Households	Total Households Receiving SNAP	Percent	Income Below Poverty	Income Above Poverty	Family has at Least 1 Working Member	Age 60 and Older
Lycoming County	45,608	7,231	15.85%	3,339	3,892	3,271	2,185
Pennsylvania	5,053,106	671,089	13.28%	308,607	362,482	319,065	243,704
United States	120,756,048	14,171,567	11.74%	6,707,025	7,464,542	7,619,407	4,796,611

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

Survey Data: Health and Nutrition

Community Survey Information

I have avoided medical treatment because it was too costly.

Response	%
Strongly Agree	17 %
Agree	28 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	10 %
Disagree	23 %
Strongly Disagree	21 %
I don't know	1 %

Response Trend — 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021
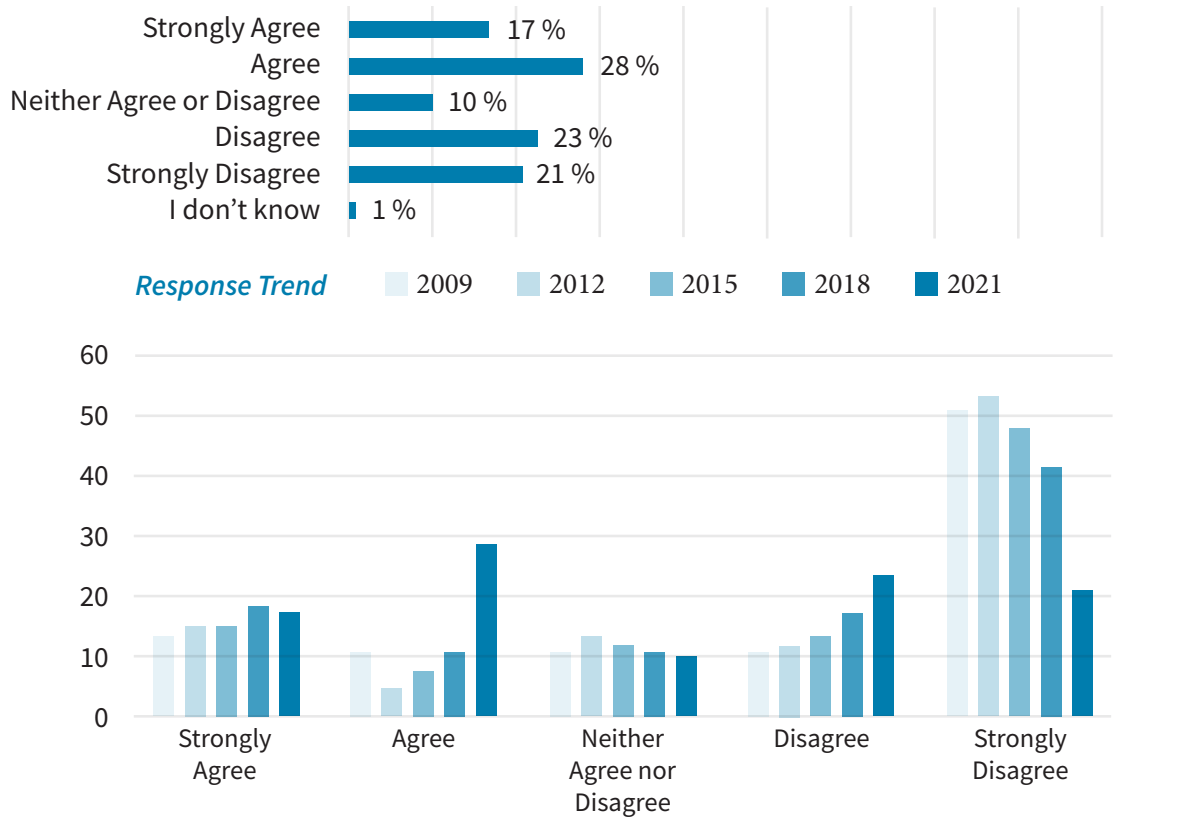
I have not received treatment that I needed because I could not get in to see a doctor.

Response	%
Strongly Agree	7 %
Agree	17 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	18 %
Disagree	36 %
Strongly Disagree	21 %
I don't know	1 %

Response Trend — 2018, 2021
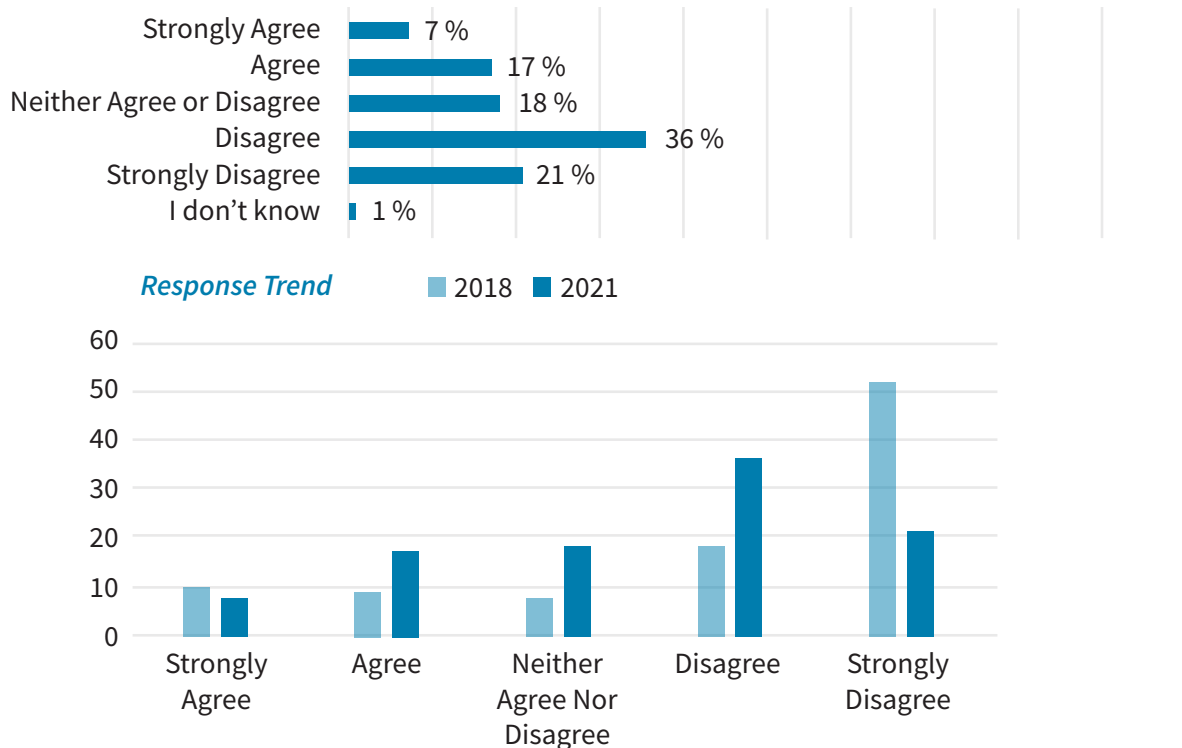
Does your medical provider offer other options to be seen, such as telemedicine, nurse hotline, or virtual appointments?

- Yes — 77 %
- No — 7 %
- I don't know — 15 %
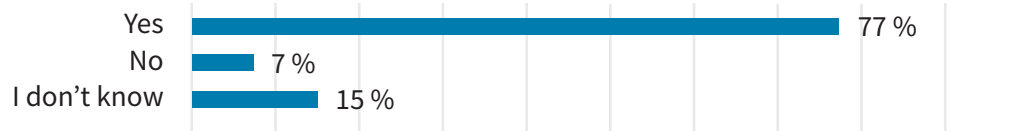
Do you have adequate health insurance for you and your family?

- Yes — 86 %
- No — 11 %
- I don't know — 3 %
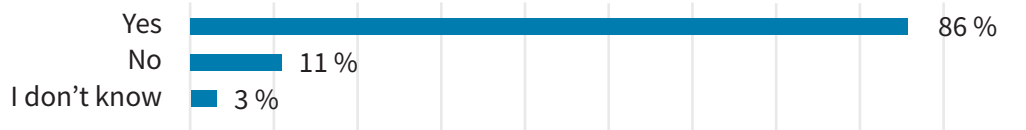
Have you seen a dentist in the last year?

- Yes — 60 %
- No — 39 %
- I don't know — 1 %
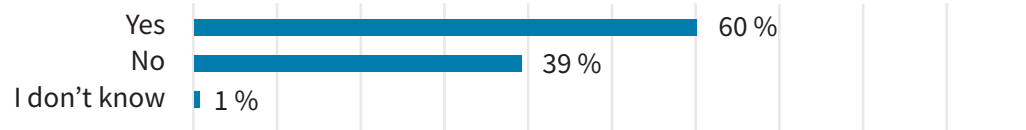
If you have not seen a dentist in the last year, what is the reason?

- *Too afraid to go* — 19 %
- *Don't need to go* — 18 %
- *Don't have dental insurance* — 29 %
- *Can't afford to go* — 35 %
- *There is no dentist I can easily go to* — 18 %
- *Can't get an appointment with a dentist* — 11 %
- *I don't know* — 18 %
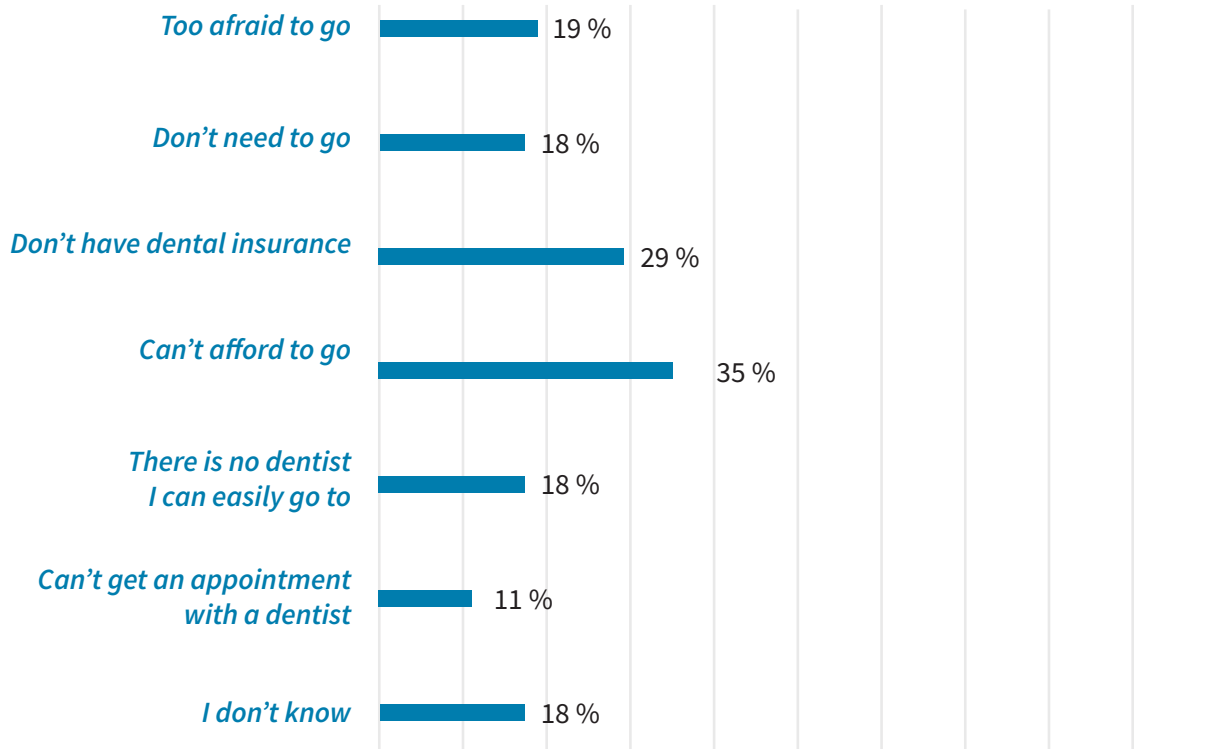
Which of the following would be your first choice if you or someone in your family became ill enough to seek medical help?

Hospital emergency room — 20 %

Family doctor — 66 %

Urgent Care walk-in clinic — 16 %

Community health center — 3 %

I don't know — 4 %

Other — 4 %
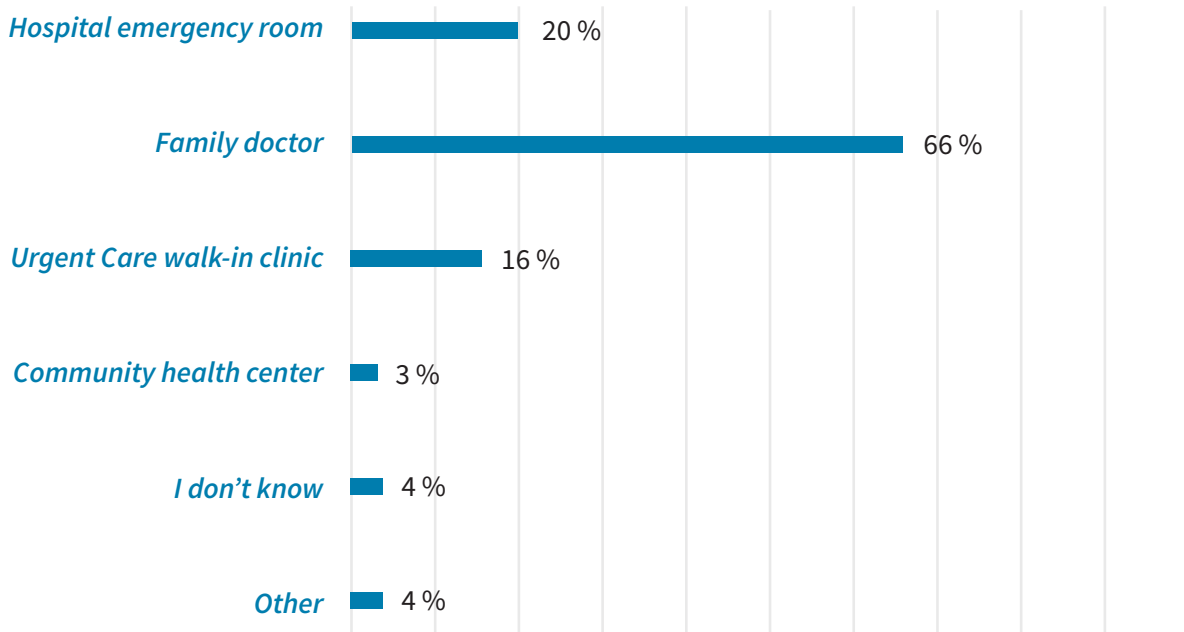
Have you or someone you know in your community gone without food for more than a day in the last year because they could not afford it?

Yes — 19 %

No — 60 %

I don't know — 21 %

Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"

Year	Percentage
2009	~12
2012	~16
2015	~24
2018	~12
2021	~19
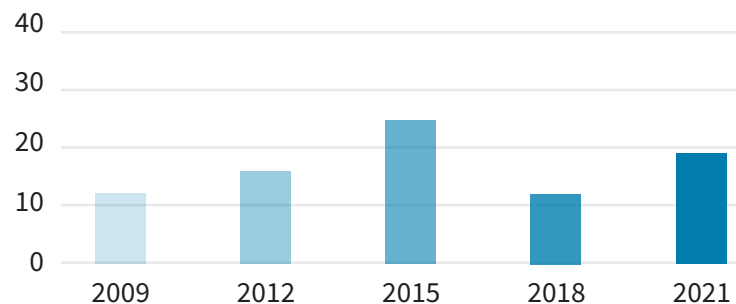
Are there health and nutrition needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that are lacking in the community?
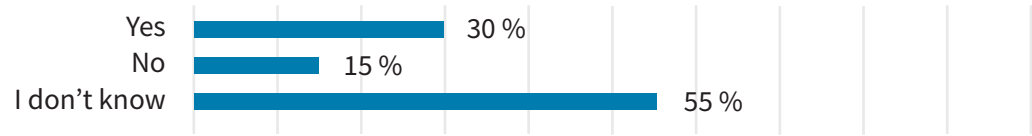
Yes — 30 %
No — 15 %
I don't know — 55 %

If yes, please specify

Please note: *Comments have been categorized into themes and some comments include two or more themes.*

Theme	Responses
Access to fresh food	32
Lack of jobs/unemployment/uninsured	10
Access to healthcare/lack of providers	6
Transportation issues	3
Access to vaccine	3
Senior concerns	3
Access to necessities	3

Survey Data: Health and Nutrition

Partner Survey Information

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

Hunger
- Low: 5 %
- Low-Med: 4 %
- Medium: 23 %
- Med-High: 22 %
- High: 46 %

Access to Healthcare
- Low: 4 %
- Low-Med: 6 %
- Medium: 23 %
- Med-High: 25 %
- High: 40 %

Access to Affordable Health Insurance
- Low: 5 %
- Low-Med: 3 %
- Medium: 17 %
- Med-High: 21 %
- High: 51 %

Access to Mental Health Services
- Low: 4 %
- Low-Med: 1 %
- Medium: 11 %
- Med-High: 13 %
- High: 70 %

Access to Dental Care
- Low: 5 %
- Low-Med: 6 %
- Medium: 29 %
- Med-High: 23 %
- High: 36 %

AIDS/HIV
- Low: 14 %
- Low-Med: 16 %
- Medium: 27 %
- Med-High: 20 %
- High: 17 %

Access to Affordable Prescription Medications
- Low: 5 %
- Low-Med: 6 %
- Medium: 14 %
- Med-High: 27 %
- High: 48 %

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

Hunger
- Yes — 71 %
- No — 23 %
- I don't know — 5 %

Access to Healthcare
- Yes — 51 %
- No — 43 %
- I don't know — 6 %

Access to Affordable Health Insurance
- Yes — 33 %
- No — 61 %
- I don't know — 7 %

Access to Mental Health Services
- Yes — 29 %
- No — 65 %
- I don't know — 5 %

Access to Dental Care
- Yes — 48 %
- No — 44 %
- I don't know — 9 %

AIDS/HIV
- Yes — 59 %
- No — 21 %
- I don't know — 20 %

Access to Affordable Prescription Medications
- Yes — 30 %
- No — 62 %
- I don't know — 8 %
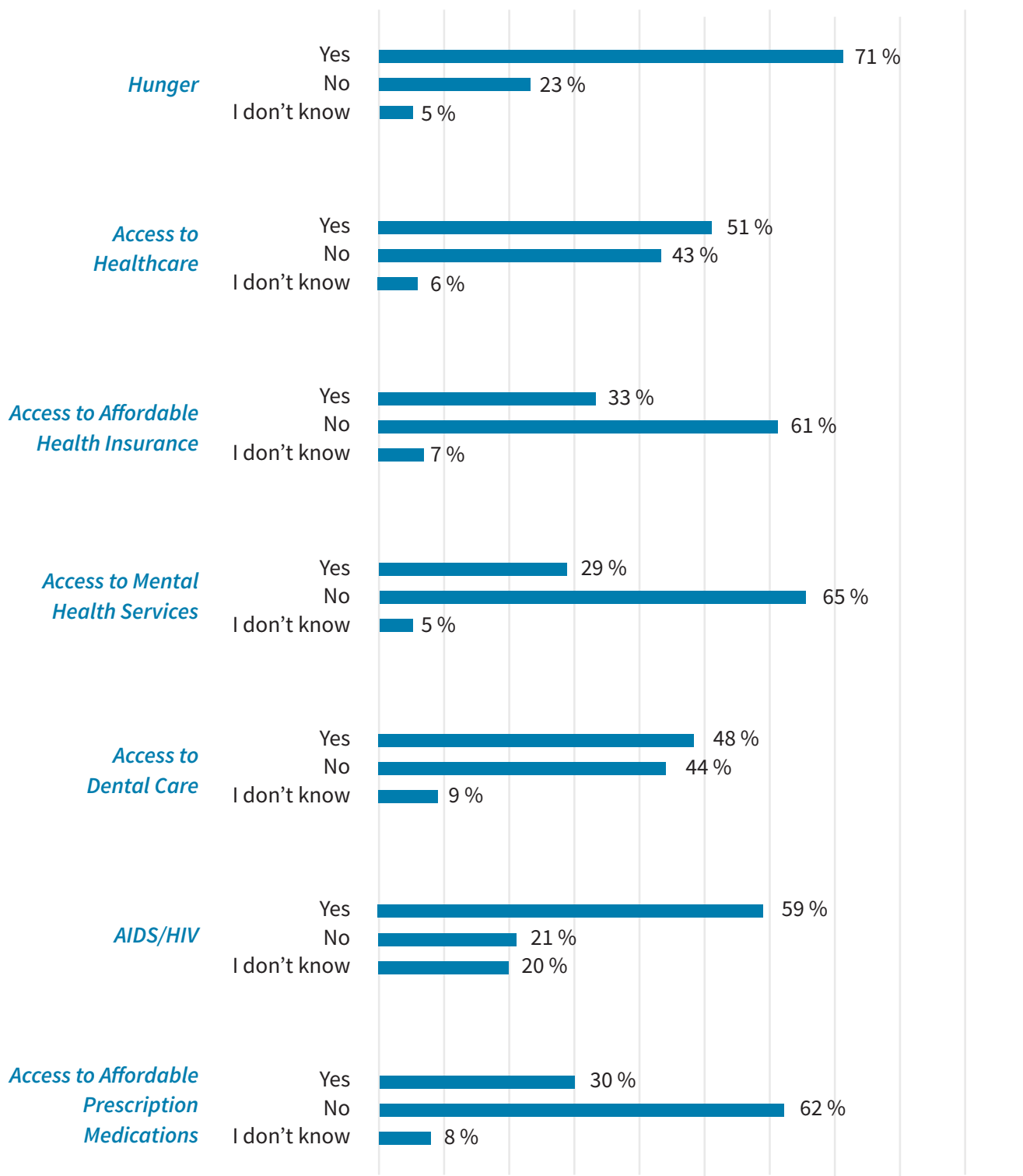
Housing and Homelessness

The availability of quality affordable housing was an issue in Lycoming County long before increased demand in the mid-to-late 2000s by the growth of the natural gas development industry, placing additional pressures on the county's housing markets. The industry's scale back has not eliminated the housing needs, however. The ongoing pandemic has only created more of a housing crunch with individuals not able to pay rents and utilities, eviction moratoriums, and decisions by landlords to stop renting units. The focus group also discussed the high cost of rentals and the lack of crisis housing that meet needs of all individuals. The effect of drug use and mental health problems on keeping people housed was also addressed.

Across the objective data, community, customer, and partner surveys, as well as focus group information, four main themes emerge: rental crisis; the state of housing; crisis housing; substance abuse and mental health needs compound housing insecurity.

Rental Crisis

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. Specifically, the housing crunch for low-income families is seen as critical. During the pandemic many families fell behind on their rent and utilities, staying housed due to eviction moratoriums in place. With evictions back in place, many families now struggle to pay or move. Need far outweighs resources here, even with the assistance through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and other community programs focused on tenants behind on rent. When a family is forced to move, there are very few available units and often they struggle to secure a place due to credit checks and other requirements. Families are doubling up, couch-surfing, or becoming homeless. Focus group participants discussed how trying to find a place for families to move to is nearly impossible and some of this is due to landlords being fed up and not renting units any longer. Over the last year there has been a significant increase in need for resources for homeless families and individuals. Thirty-eight percent of respondents stated they had a hard time making ends meet in the last year and 63 percent of partners stated that affordable housing was an important issue facing Lycoming County and not receiving adequate attention.

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. As described in the objective data, the mean age of houses in Lycoming County is just shy of 60 years. 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 Lycoming County is critical to ensure the tax base is stable for the future.

Crisis Housing

There are a lack of all crisis housing types, but there is a particularly insufficient number of emergency shelters, family shelters, and shelters that can accommodate individuals with mobility issues. During the height of pandemic, the numbers of individuals in shelters was down due to various restrictions and testing requirements. There has been an increase in the use of hotels as temporary housing, which is also problematic, according to the focus group participants. Case managers have a more challenging time engaging customers when they are in hotels, as they feel secure and often do not want to find a more permanent housing solution. While Lycoming County does have various shelters, the number of individuals and families in need of temporary housing has increased and put additional pressure on existing resources. As a result, there is a long wait list for any type of assisted housing. In addition to excessive demand, these shelters are also straddled with administrative burdens and coordination issues.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Needs Compound Housing Insecurity

Substance abuse and mental health needs can affect individuals and family causing housing instability. Service providers stated they are having more difficulty in assisting individuals with drug and mental health needs due to the various barriers they are presenting. In addition, trying to assist and encourage families to seek treatment options and work with mental health professionals, can be extremely challenging. Yet, without additional support in these areas, the other barriers they face including unemployment, lacking transportation, and lacking child care cannot be addressed appropriately. The homeless and sheltered population was noted as having a higher rate of drug use, possible overdoses, and mental health needs. Focus group participants discussed the challenge of securing even temporary housing for these individuals and how often active drug users are asked to leave shelters then end up on the streets. Focus group participants also identified the need for more case managers to help address the unmet mental health needs of housing customers. These mental health issues were described as more pronounced and more ubiquitous then in prior years. Human service organizations discussed challenges to staffing including attracting qualified candidates, retaining seasoned staff, salary restrictions, and increasing demand of case manager positions. This is quite a challenge as the needs of customers have increased dramatically, yet staffing has not.

Objective Data: Housing and Homelessness

Housing: Housing Units

The number of housing units within Lycoming County in July of each year from 2010-2019 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, there were a total of 53,642 housing units in Lycoming County in 2019, an increase of 1,122 dwellings (or +2.14%) since 2010. Compared to a 2.9% increase statewide.

Housing Units 2010-2019

Report Area	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lycoming County	52,499	52,268	52,533	52,409	52,638
Pennsylvania	5,568,820	5,579,394	5,572,765	5,565,354	5,590,712

Report Area	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lycoming County	52,677	52,690	53,432	53,530	53,642
Pennsylvania	5,603,051	5,611,995	5,694,402	5,712,698	5,732,628

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010- 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Note: Annual Estimates of Housing Units for the United States, Regions, Divisions, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

Housing: Housing Age

Total housing units, median year built, and median age in 2019 for Lycoming 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, 2019

Report Area	Total Housing Units*	Median Year Built	Built Before 1960
Lycoming County	53,428	1960	26,893
Pennsylvania	5,693,314	1963	2,682,127
United States	137,428,986	1978	38,219,876

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019. Source geography: county. * Total reflects 5-year estimate.*

Homeowners

The chart below shows that for Lycoming County, the percent change in number of homes was about 3.23% less, while the percent change for Pennsylvania over the same period was about a 2.19% increase.

Percent Change in Homes, 2000-2019

Report Area	Homes 2000	Homes 2021	Percent Change 2000-2019
Lycoming County	32,636	31,581	-3.23%
Pennsylvania	3,406,337	3,480,978	2.19%
United States	69,815,753	77,274,381	1.68%

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: county. * Total reflects 5-year estimate.*

Housing-Cost Burden (Renters)

The 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) shows that 46% of occupied units paying rent nationwide pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. For Lycoming County, 45.31% 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 can be calculated.

Housing Cost Burden (Renters), 2015-2019

Report Area	Total Housing Units	Occupied Units Paying Rent	30% or More of Income Paying Rent	% of Renters Spending 30% or More of Income with Rent
Lycoming County	45.608	14.027	6.355	45.31%
Pennsylvania	5,053,106	1,572,128	692,584	44.05%
United States	120,756,048	43,481,667	20,002,945	16.00%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: tract

Housing-Cost Burden (Owners)

The 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) shows that 27.68% of homeowners with mortgages nationwide pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. 25.7% of owners with mortgages and 13.8% of owners without mortgages spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs in Lycoming County. When 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 are 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), 2015-2019

Report Area	Total Housing Units	Owners with Mortgage	30% or More of Income with Mortgage	% of Owners Spending 30% or More of Income with Mortgage	Owners without Mortgages	30% or More of Income without Mortgage	% of Owners Spending 30% or More of Income without Mortgage
Lycoming County	45.608	18.336	4.713	25.70%	13.245	1,828	13.80%
Pennsylvania	5,053,106	2,092,266	520,428	24.87%	1,388,712	204,340	14.71%
United States	120,756,048	48,416,627	13,400,012	27.68%	28,857,754	3,846,938	13.33%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019.

Vacancy Rates

The U.S. Census Bureau provides vacancy data based on American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2015-2019). Vacancy rates for the report area are reported below.

Vacant non-rental housing in Lycoming County totals 748 units and includes those that are for sale only and sold but not occupied. For Lycoming County, the non-rental housing vacancy rate is 1.4%; in comparison the national rate is 1.39%.

Vacant rental housing totals 1,739 units and includes those for rent and rented but not occupied. For Lycoming County, the rental housing vacancy rate is 3.25% in comparison the national rate of 2.47%.

Vacant other housing totals 5,333 units and includes those used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, as well as units used for migrant workers. For Lycoming County, the other housing vacancy rate is 9.98%. In comparison the national rate is 8.27%.

Housing Vacancies, 2015-2019

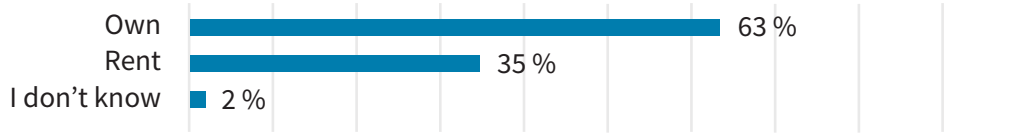| Report Area	Total Housing Units	Vacant Non-Rental	Vacant Non-Rental Rate	Vacant Rental	Vacant Rental Rate	Vacant Other	Vacant Other Rate
Lycoming County	53,428	748	1.4%	1,739	3.25%	5,333	9.98%
Pennsylvania	5,693,314	85,783	1.51%	114,003	2.00%	440,422	7.74%
United States	137,428,986	1,912,626	1.39%	3,397,827	2.47%	11,362,485	8.27%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

Survey Data: Housing and Homelessness

Community Survey Information

Do you own or rent your home?
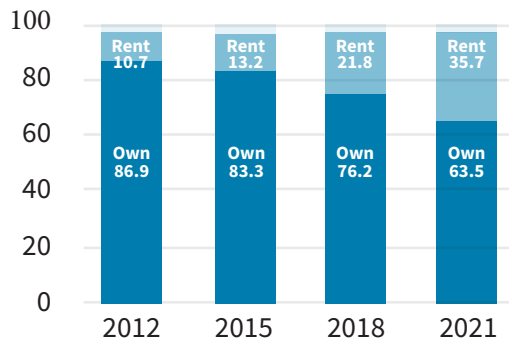
Own — 63 %
Rent — 35 %
I don't know — 2 %

Response Trend

Year	Rent	Own
2012	10.7	86.9
2015	13.2	83.3
2018	21.8	76.2
2021	35.7	63.5

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

Yes — 30 %
No — 68 %
Other — 3 %

Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"
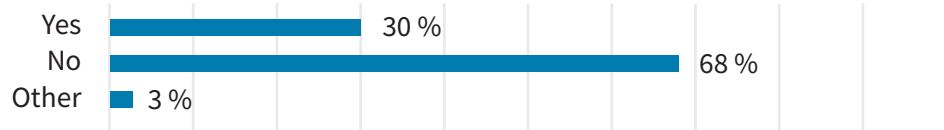
Year	Percentage
2012	15
2015	35
2018	15
2021	29

Do you foresee having difficulty finding money to pay your mortgage or rent at any time in the next year?
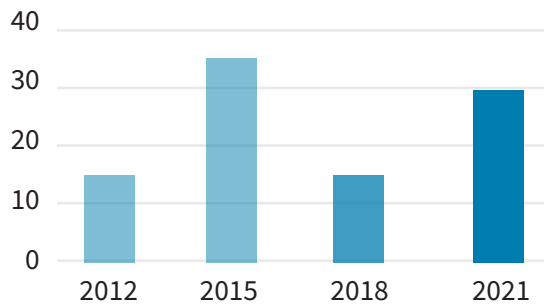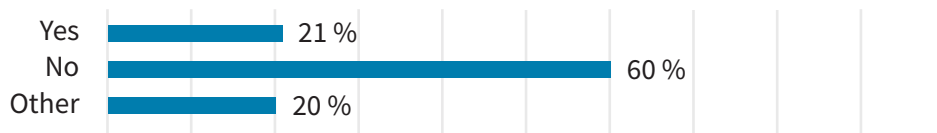
Yes — 21 %
No — 60 %
Other — 20 %

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?

Yes — 28 %
No — 60 %
Other — 13 %

Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"
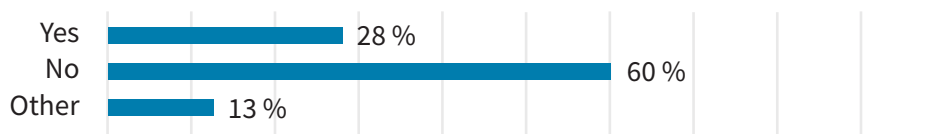
Year	
2012	34
2015	30
2018	22
2021	28
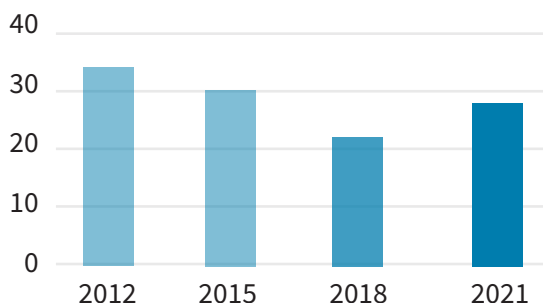
Have your or someone you know in your community had no place to live at some time in the last year?

Yes — 28 %
No — 63 %
Other — 9 %

Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"

Year	
2012	30
2015	29
2018	20
2021	27
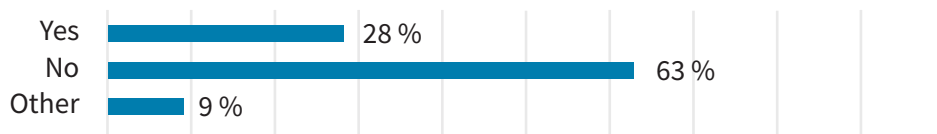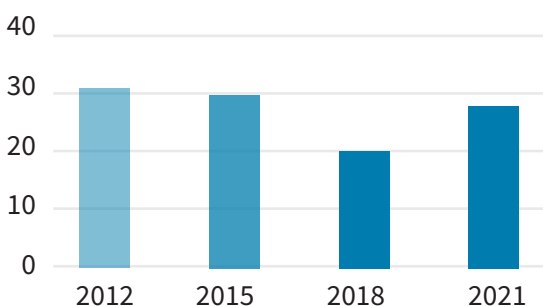
Are you able to keep up with your utility payments, such as water, sewer, electric, gas, etc.?

- Yes — 71 %
- No — 24 %
- Other — 5 %
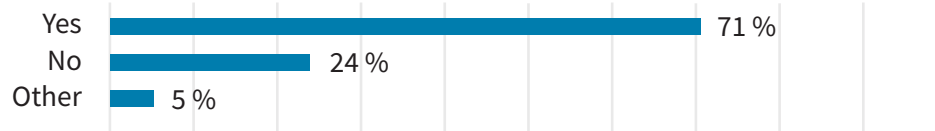
There are affordable housing options available for my family.

- Strongly Agree — 12 %
- Agree — 27 %
- Neither Agree or Disagree — 19 %
- Disagree — 17 %
- Strongly Disagree — 11 %
- I don't know — 15 %

Response Trend — 2009 · 2012 · 2015 · 2018 · 2021
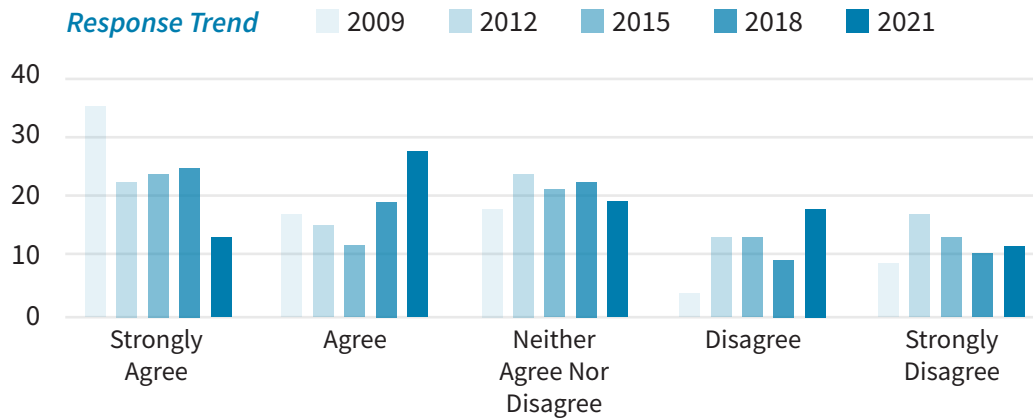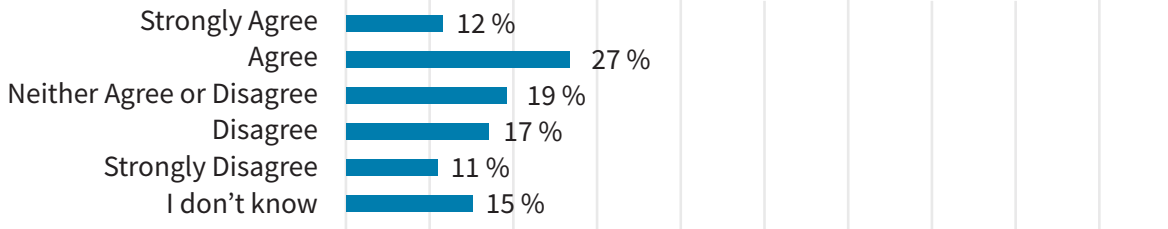
I have a hard time making ends meet (paying bills, groceries, etc.).

- Strongly Agree — 13 %
- Agree — 25 %
- Neither Agree or Disagree — 18 %
- Disagree — 22 %
- Strongly Disagree — 21 %
- I don't know — 2 %

Response Trend — 2009 · 2012 · 2015 · 2018 · 2021
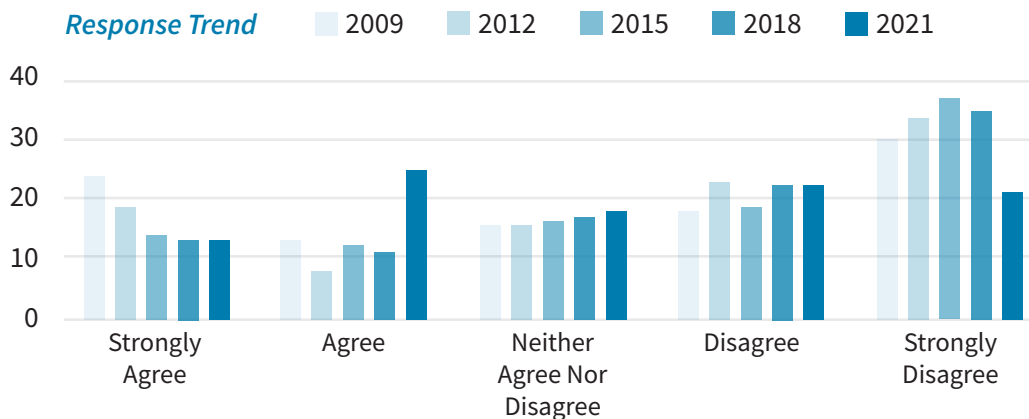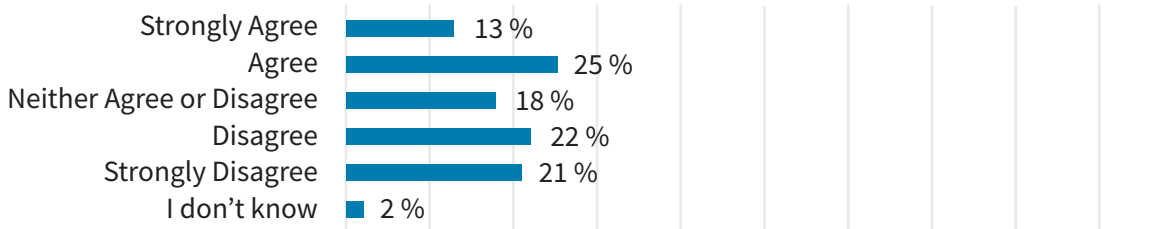
I have access to housing counseling services, if I needed them.

- Strongly Agree — 5 %
- Agree — 21 %
- Neither Agree or Disagree — 21 %
- Disagree — 9 %
- Strongly Disagree — 7 %
- I don't know — 36 %
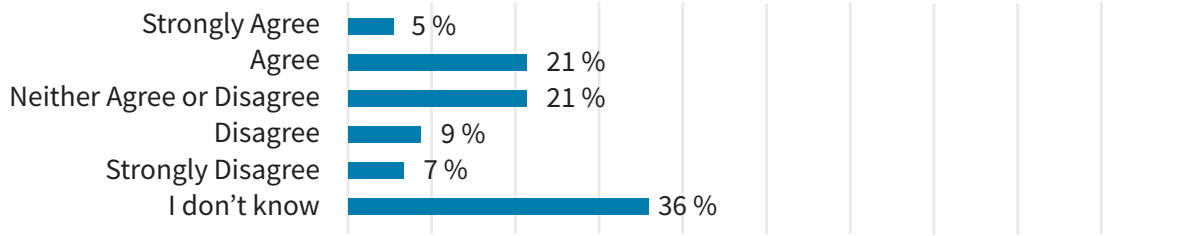
How safe is your neighborhood?

- Very safe — 40%
- Somewhat safe — 39 %
- Neither safe nor unsafe — 6 %
- Somewhat unsafe — 10 %
- Not safe at all — 2 %
- I don't know — 3 %

Response Trend   2009   2012   2015   2018   2021
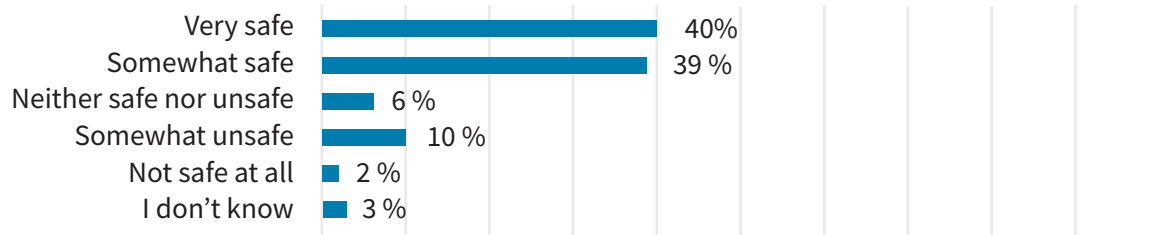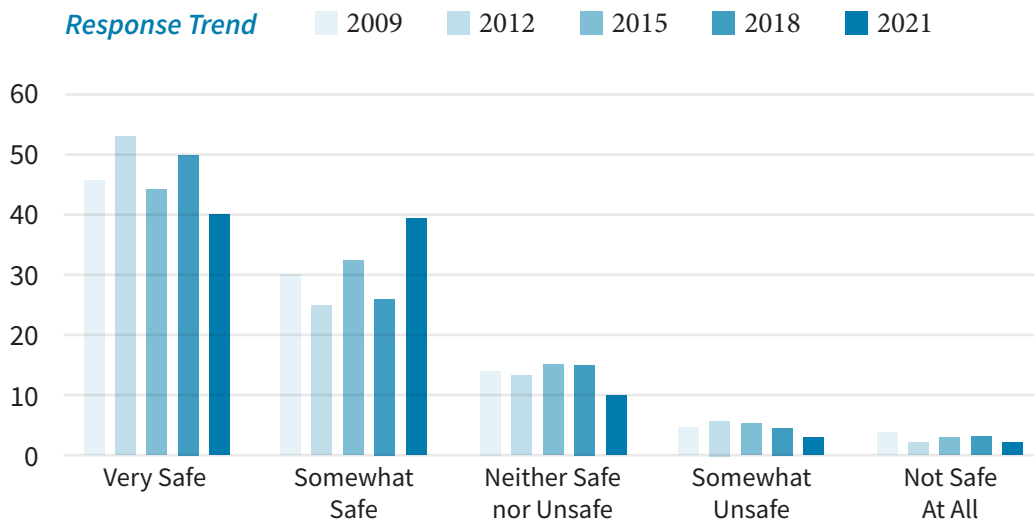
Are there housing needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that are lacking in the community?
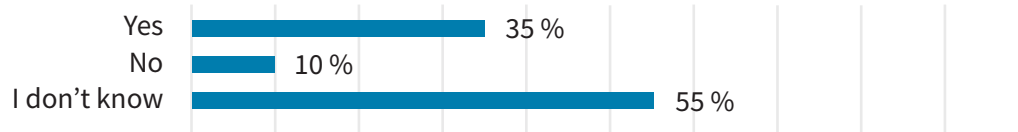
Yes — 35 %
No — 10 %
I don't know — 55 %

If yes, please specify

> ***Please note:*** *Comments have been categorized into themes and some comments include two or more themes.*

Theme	Responses
Safe and affordable housing	30
Emergency financial assistance	16
Increased homelessness	10
Unemployment issues	4
Lack of shelters	4
Transportation issues	2
Access to information	2
Taxes	1

Survey Data: Housing and Homelessness

Partner Survey Information

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

Homelessness
- Low — 3 %
- Low-Med — 6 %
- Medium — 17 %
- Med-High — 18 %
- High — 54 %

Affordable Housing
- Low — 1 %
- Low-Med — 3 %
- Medium — 12 %
- Med-High — 19 %
- High — 63 %

Household Budgeting
- Low — 3 %
- Low-Med — 4 %
- Medium — 22 %
- Med-High — 24 %
- High — 46 %
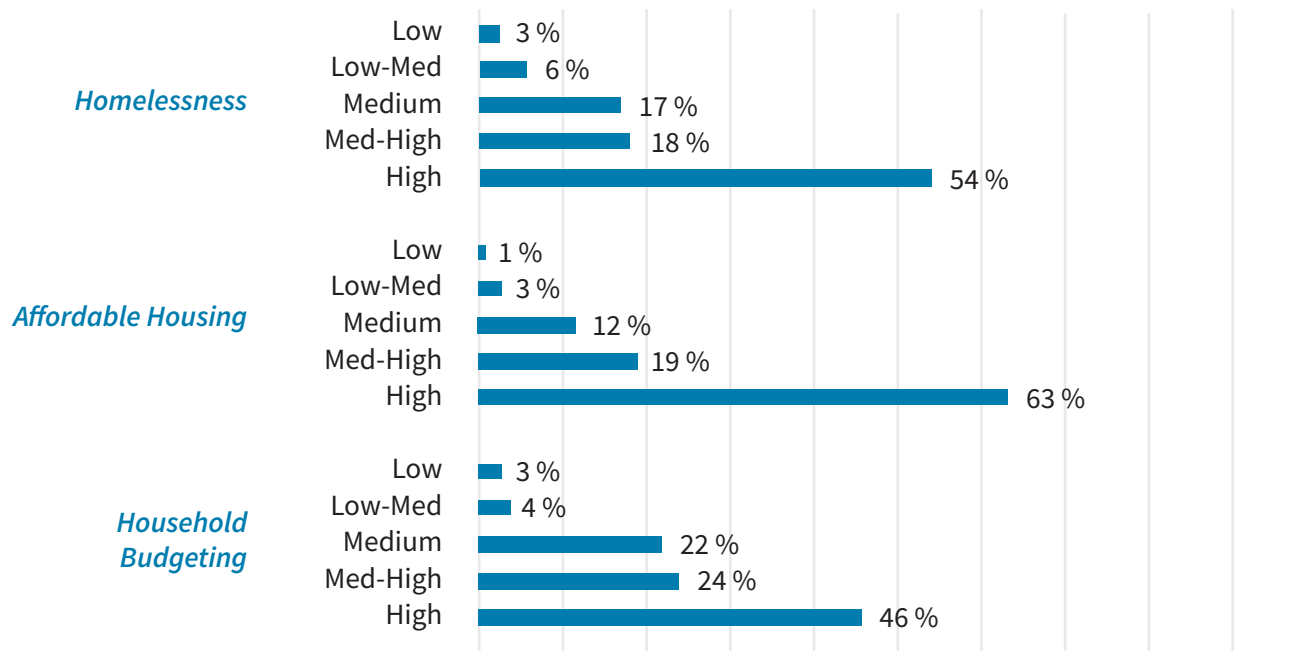
Are these housing and homelessness issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?

Homelessness
- Yes — 37 %
- No — 52 %
- I don't know — 11 %

Affordable Housing
- Yes — 30 %
- No — 63 %
- I don't know — 7 %

Household Budgeting
- Yes — 23 %
- No — 65 %
- I don't know — 12 %
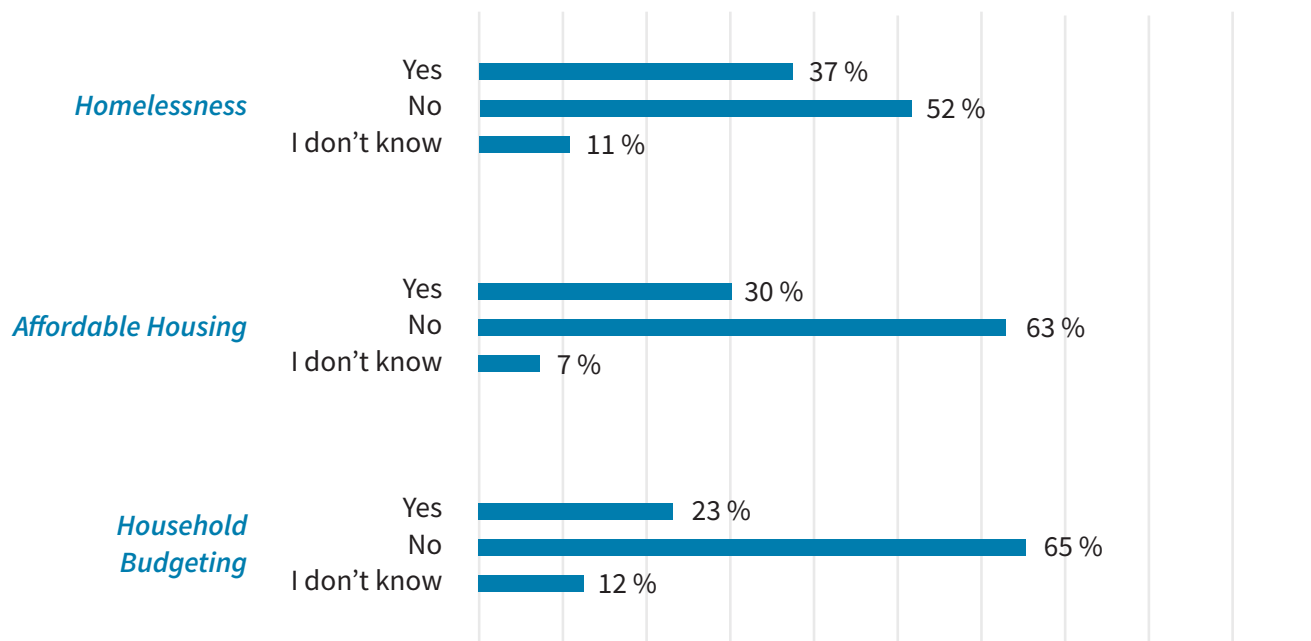
Support Services for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

The needs of senior citizens and persons with disabilities have been a long-standing focus of Lycoming County human service providers. The County has a rapidly aging (60 and older) population, leading to an increasing need for senior services. There is also much greater awareness of how services for persons with disabilities can enhance quality of life. The ongoing pandemic has affected these vulnerable populations on many fronts; human service providers discussed the importance of ensuring they have access to services and socialization. Across the various data sources, the themes around seniors and persons with disabilities support services are awareness of aging in place and affordable housing, awareness of protective services, outreach services; socialization, mental health issues; human resource demands; 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 lingering 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 timeframe. 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, the public seems to lack awareness in the degree and extent of elder abuse in its many different forms throughout Lycoming 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-two percent of community survey respondents indicated that services for elder abuse and scam prevention are lacking, and an additional 45 percent did not know. Eighty seven percent of partner survey respondents stated elder abuse and neglect were of medium to high importance and about half felt it was not being adequately addressed in Lycoming County. Focus group participants discussed a need for continued public education on this topic to help protect our most vulnerable residents.

Outreach Services

Seniors and people with disabilities, along with 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 even know 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 that adequate attention is being paid in the community to needs of seniors and those with disabilities, so outreach may be the key.

Socialization

During the ongoing pandemic, the social isolation of seniors and individuals with disabilities has been of major concern. Due to both groups being more vulnerable to the virus, many did not leave their homes for long periods of time, and some are still not back to their same level of pre-pandemic activity. Ensuring both groups feel safe in social settings is important as we move forward. The focus group participants discussed how the Centers for Healthy Aging are great locations for seniors to stay active and involved, the broad array of activities was also noted. While the centers have all reopened, attendance is low, but this is expected to change as seniors feel more comfortable being in public settings.

Mental Health Issues

Focus group participants discussed the mental health concerns of seniors and individuals with disabilities and how important it is for these groups to have access to mental health professionals and treatment options. The pandemic perpetuated many underlying issues for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Many could not see their families for extended periods of time; depression and anxiety about the uncertain future were noted by focus group participants. Focus group participants discussed nursing home shutdowns and the high rates of virus transmission in those locations as also perpetuating mental health issues for not only those in the facilities, but family members who could only wave from outside.

Human Resource Demands

According to focus group participants, retention of staff serving seniors and persons with disabilities is a major concern. The group shared that this high rate of staff turnover results in communication gaps between provider agencies. The challenge of determining the most effective way to retain qualified and committed staff to improve both consistency and continuity was discussed. The group also expressed concern about the shortage of nurses to support the aging population and the need for respite care for families and the challenges to find in-home support that is affordable and reliable.

Services for Persons with Disabilities

Community survey respondents moderately agreed that adequate services are being provided to persons with disabilities. Of the services lacking in Lycoming County, focus groups indicated transportation, especially for youth with disabilities to get to employment as an area of concern, as well as affordable housing and access to assistive technology. Focus group participants also discussed the need for accessible in-patient treatment facilities for those suffering from substance abuse issues, and how it is an extremely challenging to find any location that can adequately care for individuals with different abilities.

Services for Seniors

Community and partner survey respondents moderately agreed that adequate services are being provided to seniors. Focus groups also indicated a lack of weekend transportation as a major issue affecting the quality of life of seniors. Three transportation-related needs were emphasized in transportation of veterans to the closest Veterans Affairs Medical Center, more transportation access available to rural communities, and transportation to church services on the weekend. Focus group participants also discussed continued engagement with older adults on programming they would like to see in the community. This would help participation in planned activities, they said.

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 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the United States. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, an average of 7.7% of Lycoming County seniors lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for people living in Lycoming County is less than the national average of 9.3%.

Seniors in Poverty, 2015-2019

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Lycoming County	20,732	1,590	7.7%
Pennsylvania	2,202,234	179,411	8.1%
United States	49,488,799	4,587,432	9.3%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019 Source geography: County

Survey Data: Senior Support Services

Community Survey Information

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

Yes	34 %
No	65 %
I don't know	2 %
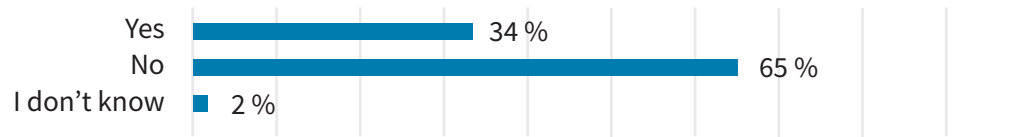
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"
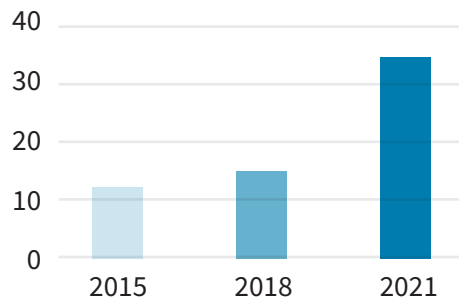
Seniors in my community received adequate services to meet their needs.

Strongly Agree	4 %
Agree	22 %
Neither Agree or Disagree	25 %
Disagree	19 %
Strongly Disagree	9 %
I don't know	21 %

Response Trend ■ 2015 ■ 2018 ■ 2021
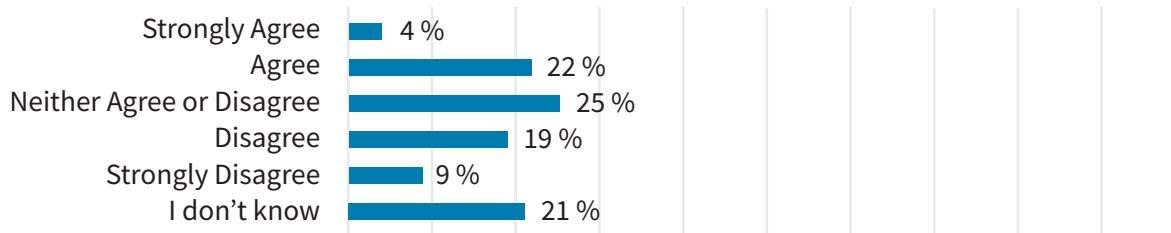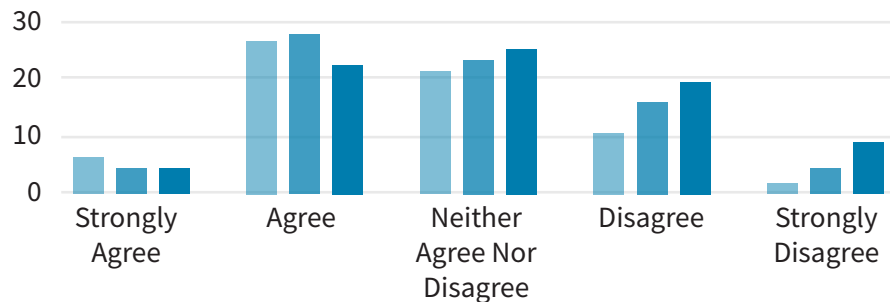
Are these senior support services receiving adequate attention by community groups?

Meal Services
- Lacking — 20 %
- Not lacking — 39 %
- I don't know — 43 %

Housing Services
- Lacking — 40 %
- Not lacking — 21 %
- I don't know — 40 %

Health Care
- Lacking — 29 %
- Not lacking — 35 %
- I don't know — 37 %

In Home Nursing Care
- Lacking — 38 %
- Not lacking — 22 %
- I don't know — 40 %

Elder Abuse & Scam Prevention
- Lacking — 42 %
- Not lacking — 13 %
- I don't know — 45 %

Transportation Services
- Lacking — 29 %
- Not lacking — 39 %
- I don't know — 32 %

Day Activities for Seniors
- Lacking — 41 %
- Not lacking — 23 %
- I don't know — 36 %

Are there any other senior support services needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that are lacking in the community?
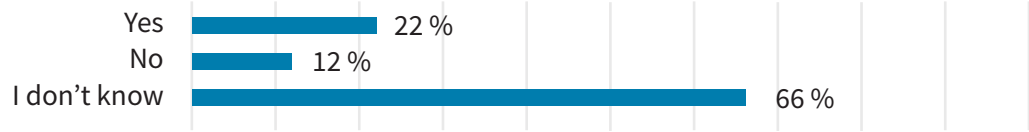
Yes   22 %

No   12 %

I don't know   66 %

If yes, please specify

> **Please note:** Comments have been categorized into themes and some comments include two or more themes.

Theme	Responses
Lack of socialization	19
Access to services	14
Mental health concerns	7
Access to information	4
Abuse/neglect	2
Access to fresh food	2
Internet access/technology	2
Taxes	1
Affordable housing	1

Survey Data: Senior Support Services

Partner Survey Information

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

Elder Abuse or Neglect
- Low: 4 %
- Low-Med: 4 %
- Medium: 21 %
- Med-High: 28 %
- High: 38 %

Services for the Needs of Senior Citizens
- Low: 2 %
- Low-Med: 4 %
- Medium: 16 %
- Med-High: 28 %
- High: 46 %

Health Care for Seniors
- Low: 3 %
- Low-Med: 6 %
- Medium: 20 %
- Med-High: 27 %
- High: 39 %

Affordable Housing for Seniors
- Low: 4 %
- Low-Med: 2 %
- Medium: 13 %
- Med-High: 27 %
- High: 50 %

Access to Nutritious Meals for Seniors
- Low: 2 %
- Low-Med: 3 %
- Medium: 24 %
- Med-High: 26 %
- High: 41 %

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

Elder Abuse or Neglect
- Yes — 43 %
- No — 41 %
- I don't know — 16 %

Services for the Needs of Senior Citizens
- Yes — 57 %
- No — 32 %
- I don't know — 11 %

Health Care for Seniors
- Yes — 52 %
- No — 35 %
- I don't know — 12 %

Affordable Housing for Seniors
- Yes — 44 %
- No — 44 %
- I don't know — 11 %

Access to Nutritious Meals for Seniors
- Yes — 58 %
- No — 30 %
- I don't know — 12 %
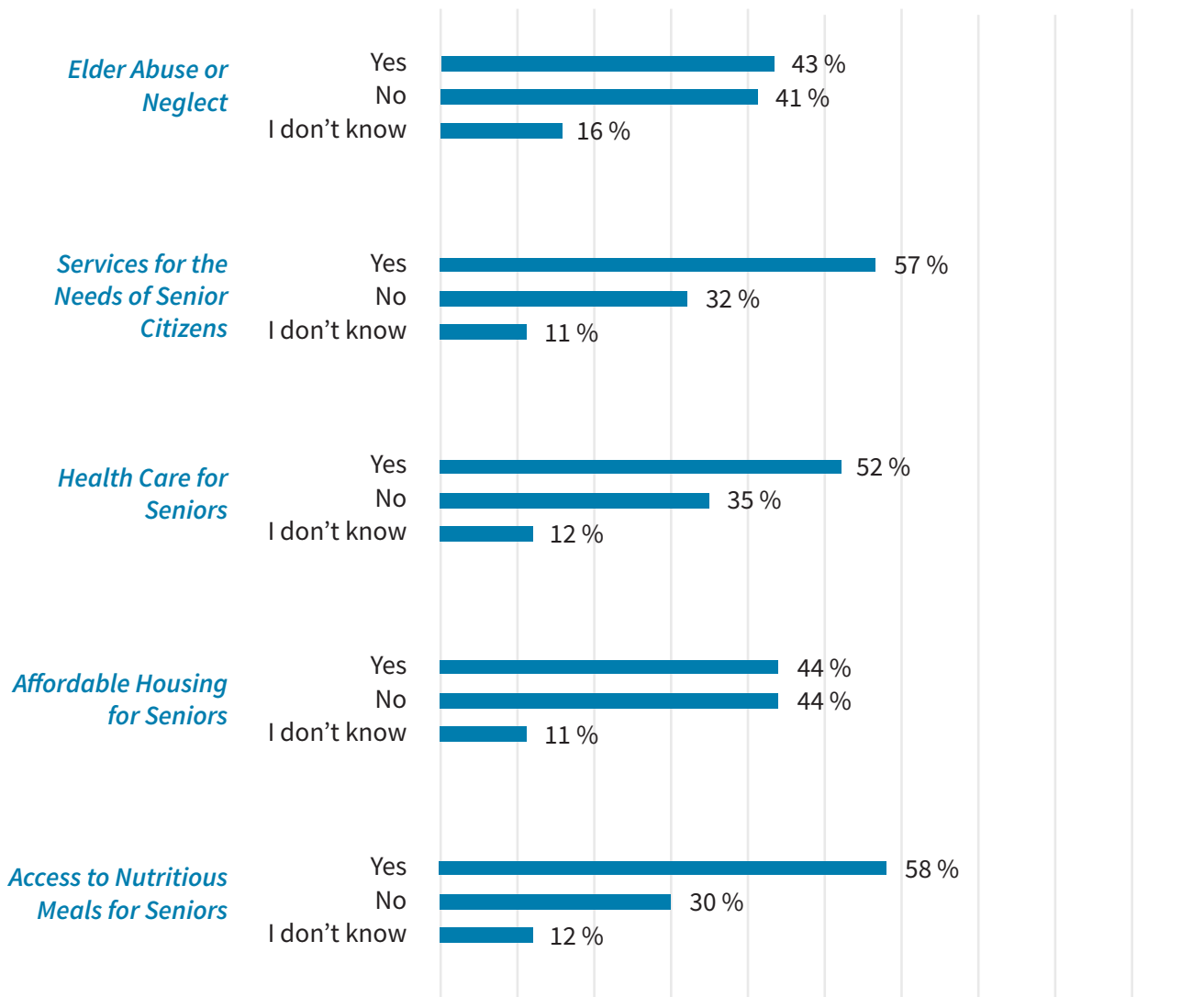
Survey Data: Individuals with Disabilities

Community Survey Information

Are you or anyone in your household disabled?

Yes — 27 %
No — 69 %
I don't know — 4 %

Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"

2009	2012	2015	2018	2021
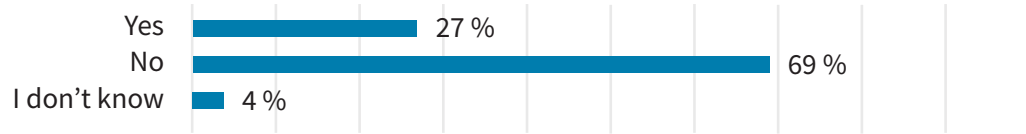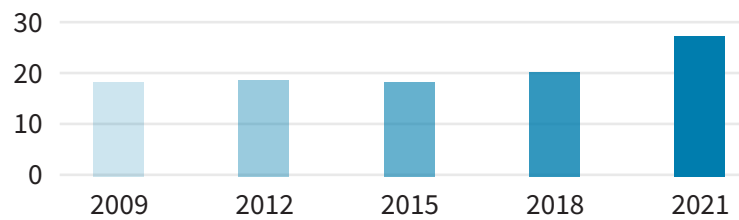
If yes, what type of disability?

Physical Disability
Yes — 44 %
No — 56 %
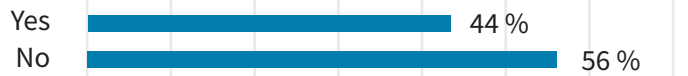
Mental Disability
Yes — 38 %
No — 62 %

Response Trend — Physical — Mental

2015	2018	2021
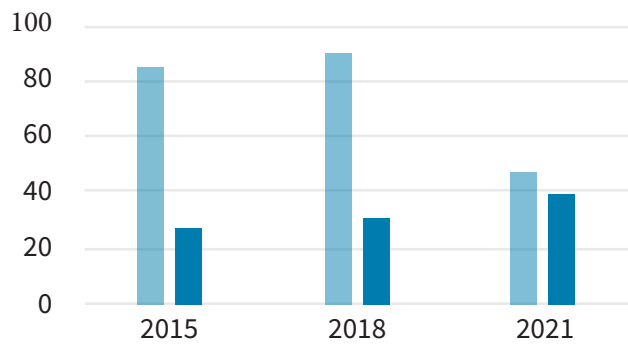
Individuals with disabilities in my community receive adequate services to meet their needs.

Strongly Agree — 3 %
Agree — 17 %
Neither Agree or Disagree — 23 %
Disagree — 20 %
Strongly Disagree — 9 %
I don't know — 28 %

Response Trend 2009 2012 2015 2018 2021
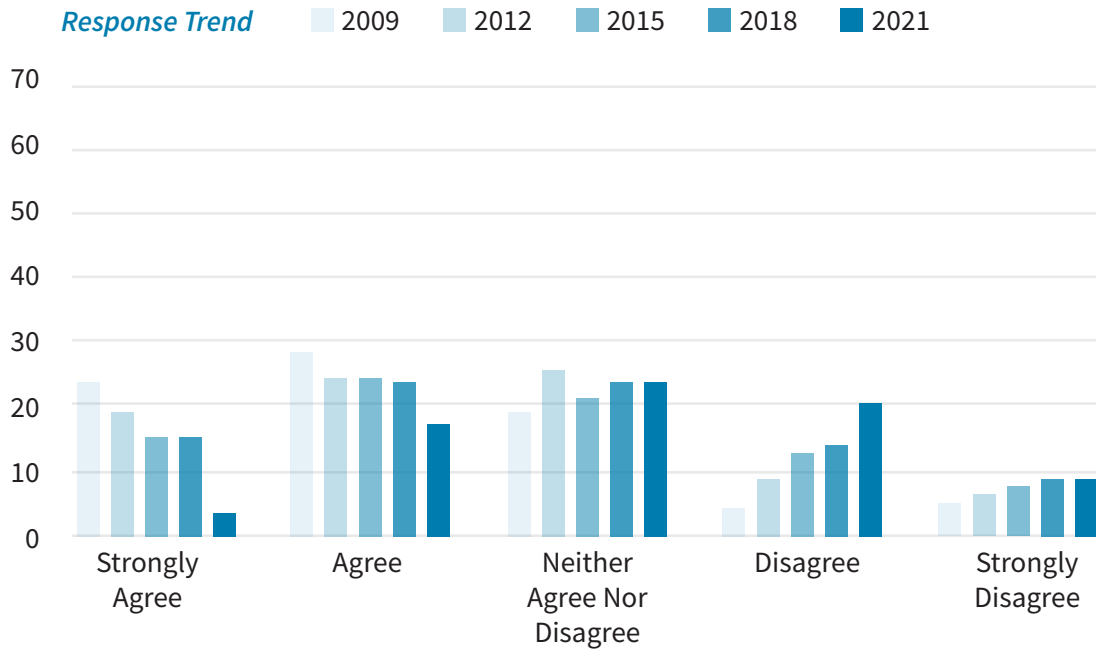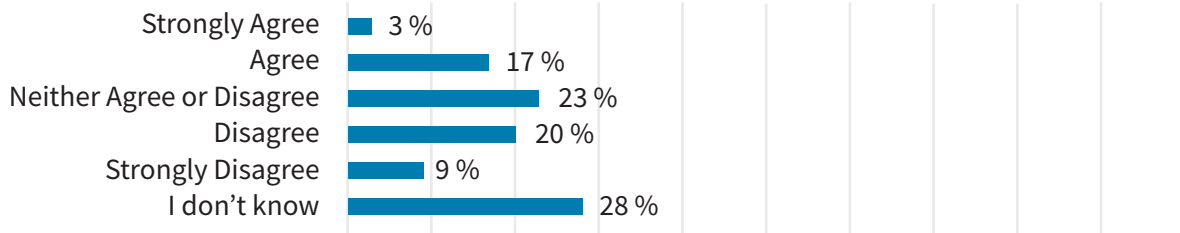
Which of the following services for those with disabilities are lacking in Lycoming County?

Transportation
- Lacking: 26 %
- Not lacking: 31 %
- I don't know: 43 %

Housing
- Lacking: 36 %
- Not lacking: 15 %
- I don't know: 49 %

Health Care
- Lacking: 22 %
- Not lacking: 31 %
- I don't know: 47 %

In Home Nursing Care
- Lacking: 27 %
- Not lacking: 21 %
- I don't know: 53 %

Abuse and Scam Prevention
- Lacking: 31 %
- Not lacking: 13 %
- I don't know: 57 %

Rehabilitation
- Lacking: 26 %
- Not lacking: 22 %
- I don't know: 53 %
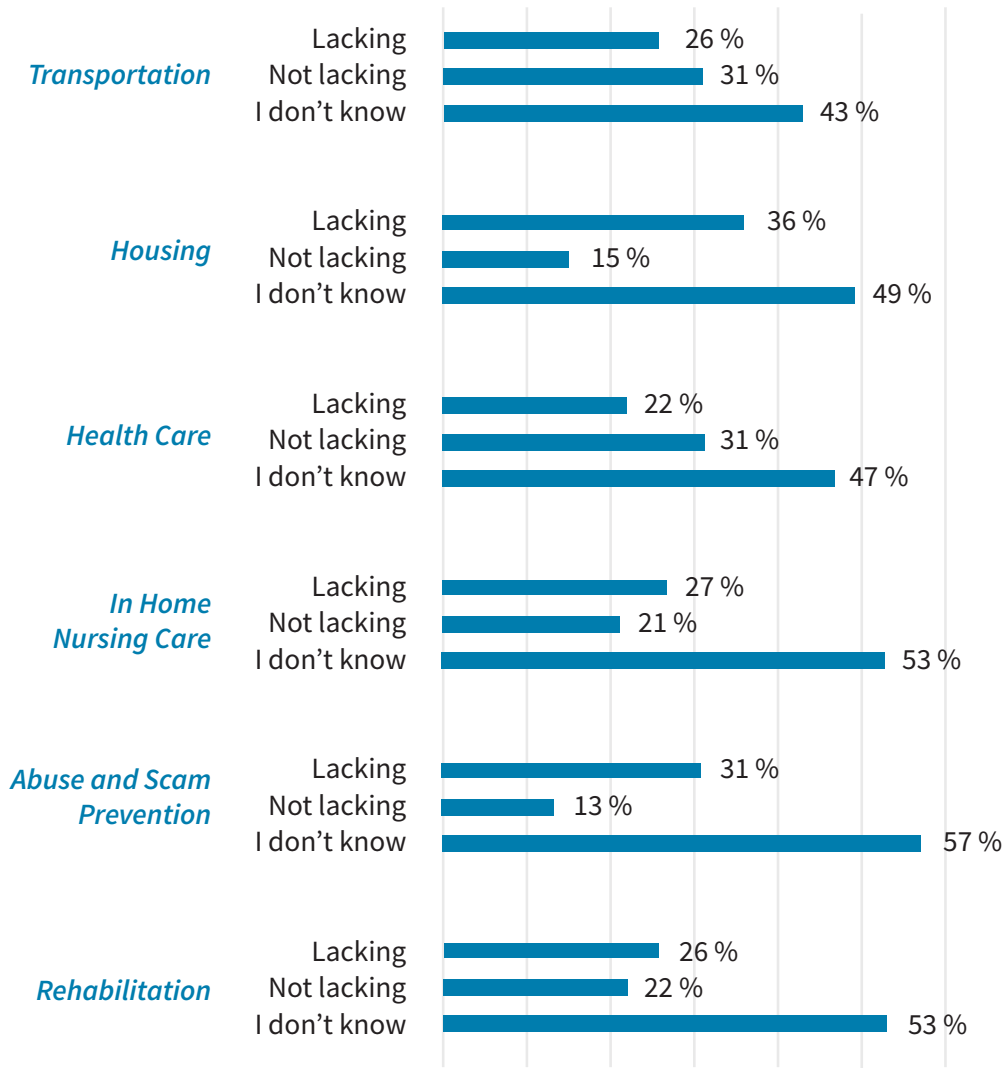
Are there other disability support service needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that are lacking in the community?
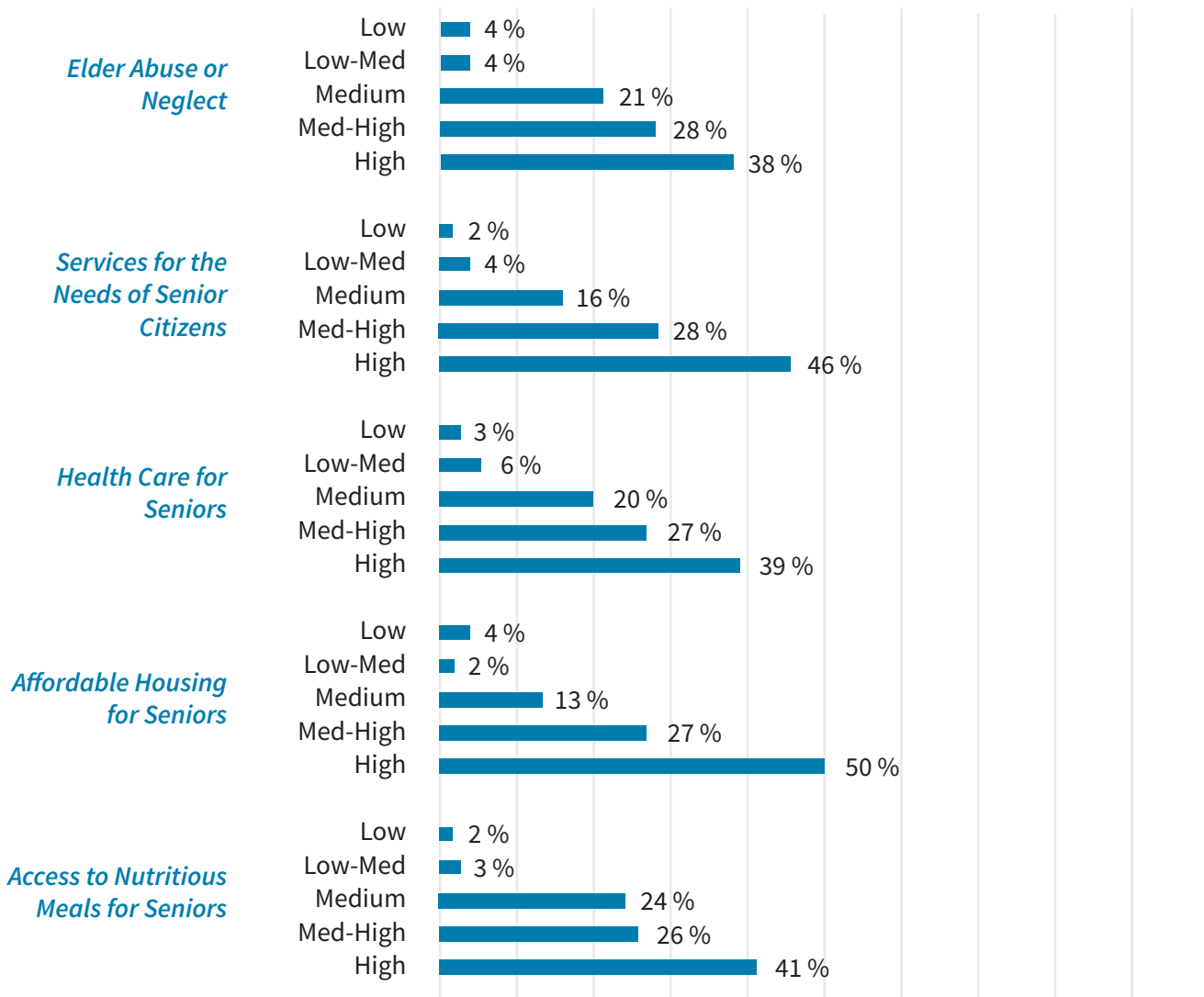
- Yes: 12 %
- No: 12 %
- I don't know: 76 %

If yes, please explain

> **Please note:** Comments have been categorized into themes and some comments include two or more themes.

Theme	Responses
Access to services	7
Lack of disability services	6
Mental health concerns	5
Lack of socialization & activities	3
Safe and affordable housing	2
Educational concerns	2

Survey Data: Individuals with Disabilities

Partner Survey Information

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

Occupational Training for Individuals with Disabilities
- Low: 2 %
- Low-Med: 3 %
- Medium: 22 %
- Med-High: 30 %
- High: 41 %

Building Access for Individuals with Disabilities
- Low: 2 %
- Low-Med: 6 %
- Medium: 27 %
- Med-High: 26 %
- High: 38 %

Access to Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities
- Low: 2 %
- Low-Med: 5 %
- Medium: 22 %
- Med-High: 23 %
- High: 46 %

Services for Children with Disabilities
- Low: 3 %
- Low-Med: 2 %
- Medium: 17 %
- Med-High: 21 %
- High: 55 %
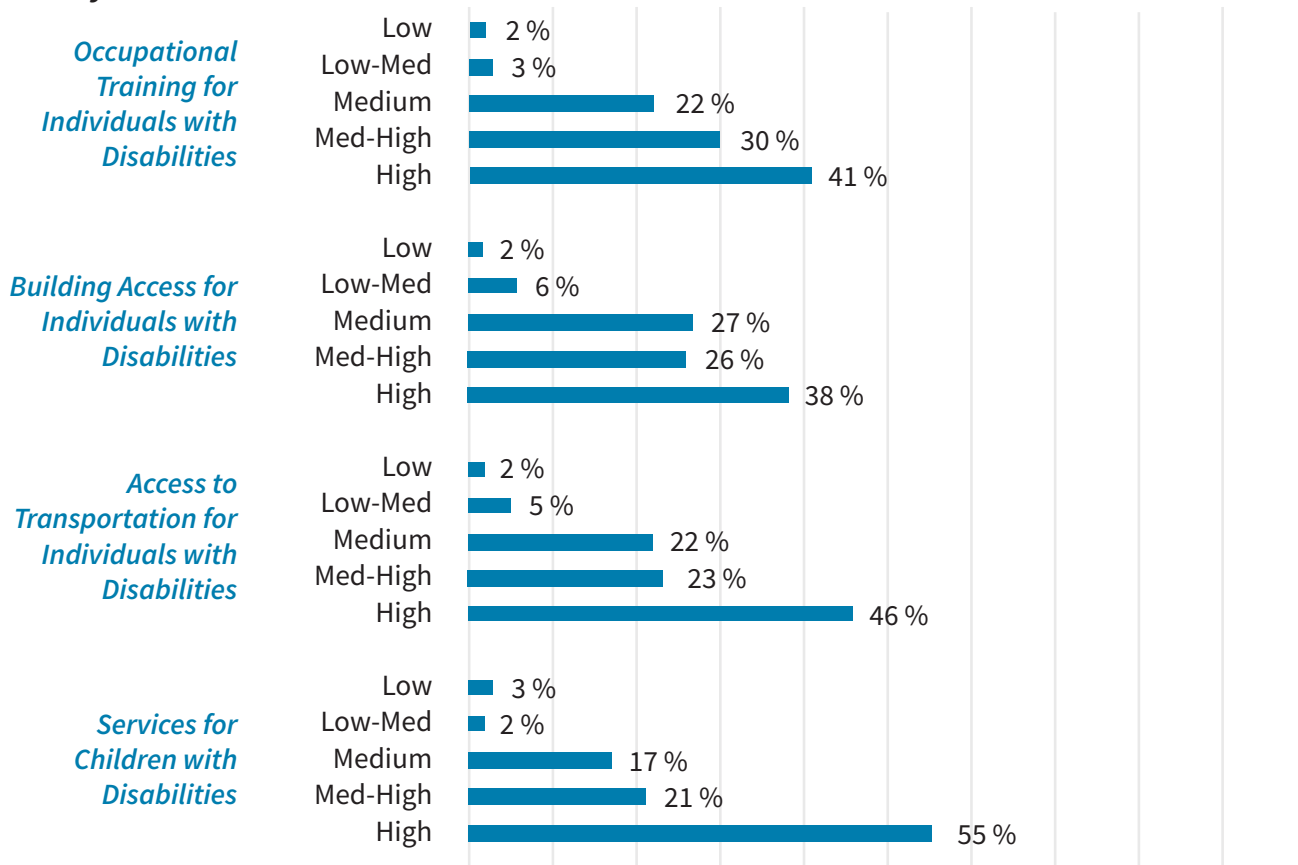
Are these services for individuals with disabilities receiving adequate attention by community groups?

Occupational Training for Individuals with Disabilities
- Yes: 53 %
- No: 35 %
- I don't know: 12 %

Building Access for Individuals with Disabilities
- Yes: 55 %
- No: 36 %
- I don't know: 9 %

Access to Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities
- Yes: 65 %
- No: 25 %
- I don't know: 10 %

Services for Children with Disabilities
- Yes: 51 %
- No: 38 %
- I don't know: 10 %
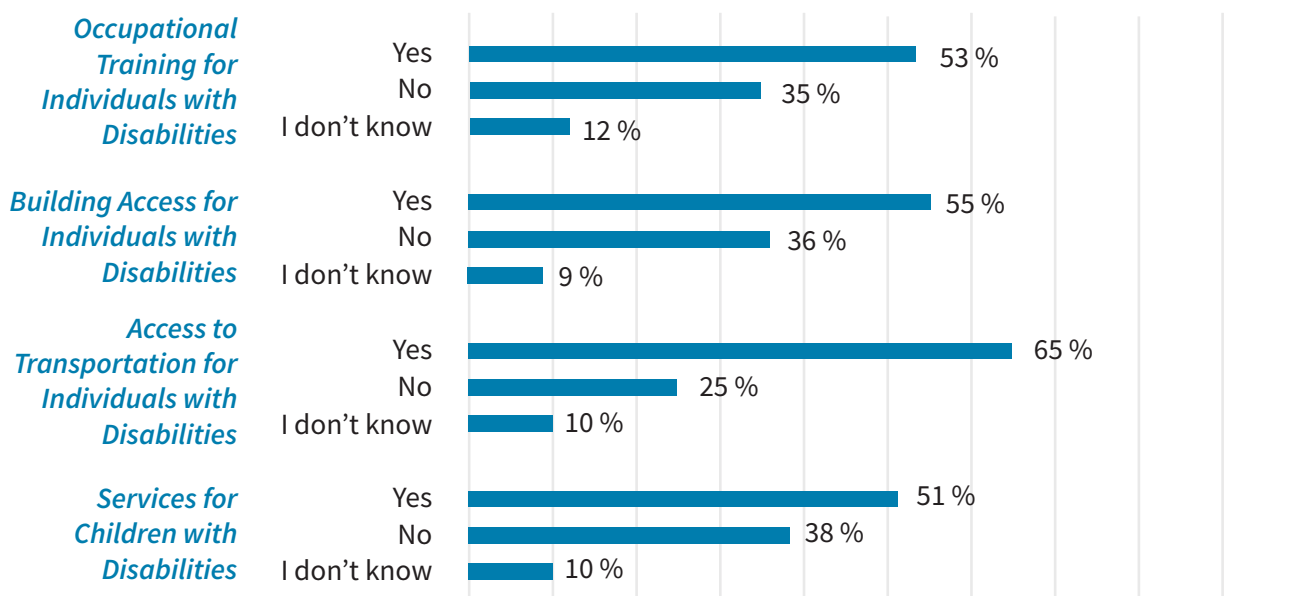
Demographics and Diversity

Population

The following section provides demographic data across a range of topics useful in evaluating Lycoming County's community needs. Of particular note are data indicating that income levels in Lycoming County fall below state and national averages across family sizes. The result is a poverty rate in Lycoming County in 2019 of 13.62%, higher than that of the state and the nation, and also growing at a relatively faster rate when compared to 2000 poverty rate data.

Population Change
Population change within county, state, and nation from 2000-2020 is shown below. During the 20-year period, total population estimates for the Lycoming County declined by -4.76%; decreasing from 120,044 persons in 2000 to 114,330 persons in 2020.

Population Change, 2000-2019

Report Area	Total Population, 2019 ACS	Total Population, 2000 Census	Population Change from 2000-2019 ACS	Percent Change from 2000-2020 Census
Lycoming County	114,330	120,044	-5,714	-4.76%
Pennsylvania	12,791,530	12,281,054	510,476	4.16%
United States	324,697,795	281,421,906	43,275,889	15.38%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019 Source geography: County

Age and Gender Demographics
Population by gender within the county, state, and nation is shown below. According to ACS 2015-2019 5-year population estimates for Lycoming County, the female population made up 53.75%, while the male population represented 46.25%.

Population by Gender and Age, 2015-2019

Report Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		18 to 64		Over 64	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lycoming County	3,191	3,064	8,786	8,438	34,474	34,642	8,684	12,137
Pennsylvania	361,510	345,053	1,001,143	954,685	3,907,637	3,939,782	885,228	1,286,897
United States	10,112,614	9,655,056	27,413,920	26,247,802	99,841,782	100,642,825	20,320,351	28,265,193

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019 Source geography: County

Survey Data: Population

Community Survey Information

How many people are in your household? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
One	16%
Two	42%
Three	17%
Four	15%
Five or more	10%

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

Answer Choices	
Zero	63%
One	19%
Two - Three	18%
Four or more	0%

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

Answer Choices	
Zero	64%
One	15%
Two - Three	18%
Four or more	3%

Demographics

Race Demographics

Population by gender within Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the United States is shown below. According to ACS 2015-2019 5-year population estimates, the white population made up 92.00% of Lycoming County, black population represented 4.95%, and other races combined were 1.23%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 1.75% of the population.

Population by Race, 2015-2019

Report Area	White		Black		Native American		Asian	
	M	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**
Lycoming County	51,789	53,465	2,758	2,907	134	87	323	486
PA	5,048,696	5,251,906	690,229	740,435	13,249	11,442	208,962	227,362
United States	116,386,410	118,991,2525	19,713,121	21,521,521	1,362,946	1,387,197	8,512,579	9,411,630
Report Area	Native Hawaiian		Mixed Race		Hispanic/Latino		Not Hispanic/Latino	
	M	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**
Lycoming County	0	25	948	1,057	1,197	1,093	54,870	57,170
PA	1,772	2,426	159,944	159,930	476,487	458,729	5,788,626	6,067,688
United States	299,477	300,391	5,376,088	5,387,814	29,534,902	25,944,408	130,352,017	135,866,408

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

Household Types

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 45,608 households in Lycoming County between 2015-2019. Single person households made up 28.98% of the total, two-person households represented 37.75% of the total, three-person households made up 14.78% of the total, four-person households represented 11.10% of the total, and larger households of 5 or more made up 7.39% of the total.

Household Types

Report Area	Total Households	1 Person		2 People	
		Count	**Percent**	**Count**	**Percent**
Lycoming County	45,608	13.218	28.98%	17,217	37.75%
Pennsylvania	5,053,106	1,500,097	29.69%	1,769,499	35.02%
United States	120,756,048	33,649,597	27.87%	40,984,459	33.94%
Report Area	3 People		4 People		5 or More People	
	Count	**Percent**	**Count**	**Percent**	**Count**	**Percent**
Lycoming County	6,742	14.78%	5,062	11.10%	3,369	7.39%
Pennsylvania	769,664	15.23%	613,874	12.15%	399,972	7.92%
United States	18,827,126	15.59%	15,585,521	12.91%	11,709,345	9.7%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019 Source geography: County

Survey Data: Diversity

Partner Survey Information

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

Ethnic/Racial Discrimination
- Low — 6 %
- Low-Med — 7 %
- Medium — 14 %
- Med-High — 16 %
- High — 53 %

Gender Discrimination
- Low — 9 %
- Low-Med — 8 %
- Medium — 19 %
- Med-High — 19 %
- High — 41 %

Age Discrimination
- Low — 8 %
- Low-Med — 8 %
- Medium — 26 %
- Med-High — 15 %
- High — 40 %

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

Ethnic/Racial Discrimination
- Yes — 46 %
- No — 41 %
- I don't know — 13 %

Gender Discrimination
- Yes — 37 %
- No — 48 %
- I don't know — 15 %

Age Discrimination
- Yes — 27 %
- No — 54 %
- I don't know — 19 %
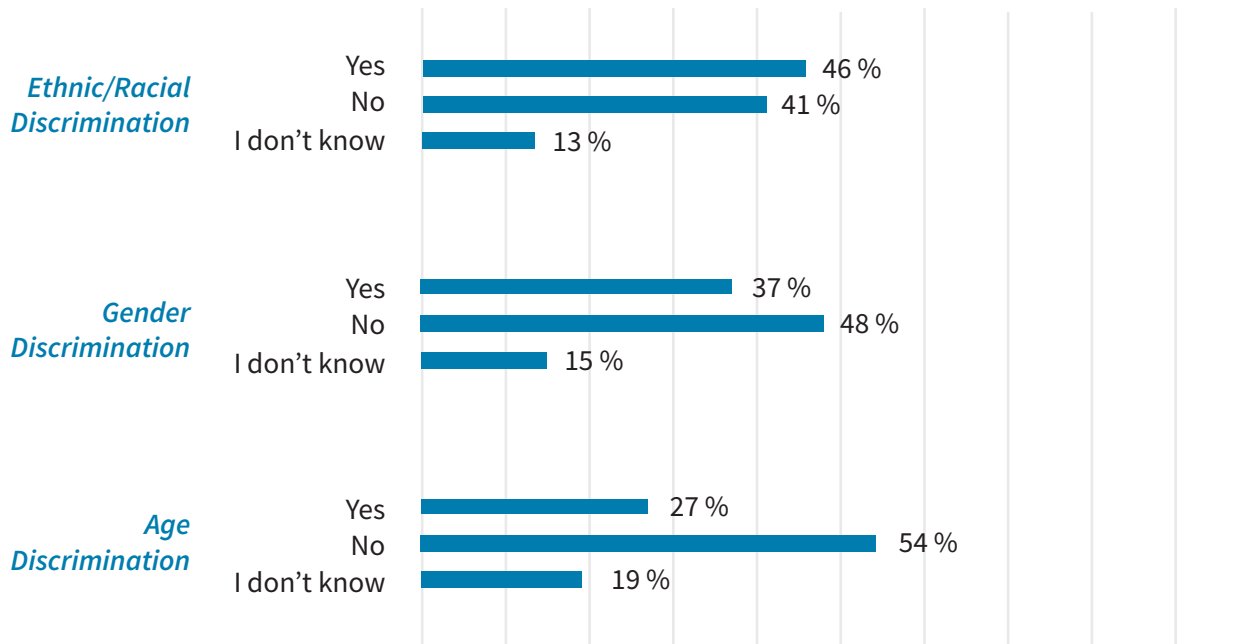
Income

Wages
Average weekly wages for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania during the period July–September are provided in the table below. The average federal government weekly wage is $999, which compares to the average state and local government weekly wage of $1111.50 and the average private weekly wage of $800.

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
Lycoming County	48,014	$905	469	$999	4,316	$1,111.50	11,391	$800
PA	5,501,028	$1,139	107,666	$1,3553	557,415	$1,183.50	4,835,947	$1.133

Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 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 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the United States in the below tables. The average income for earners in Lycoming County is $37,199. It is noted that the average income for a Lycoming County employee is 23% lower than the national average. The Census Bureau defines an earner as someone age 15 and older who receives any form of income, whether it is wages, salaries, benefits, or other type of income.

Income Levels by County, 2014-2018

Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Average Income Per Earner
Lycoming County	$54,241	$27,950	$37,199
Pennsylvania	$61,744	$34,352	$46,454
United States	$62,843	$34,103	$48,350

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2014-2018 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 $84,536, which is 20.58% higher than Lycoming County households of a similar size.

Median Household Income by Family Size, 2015-2019

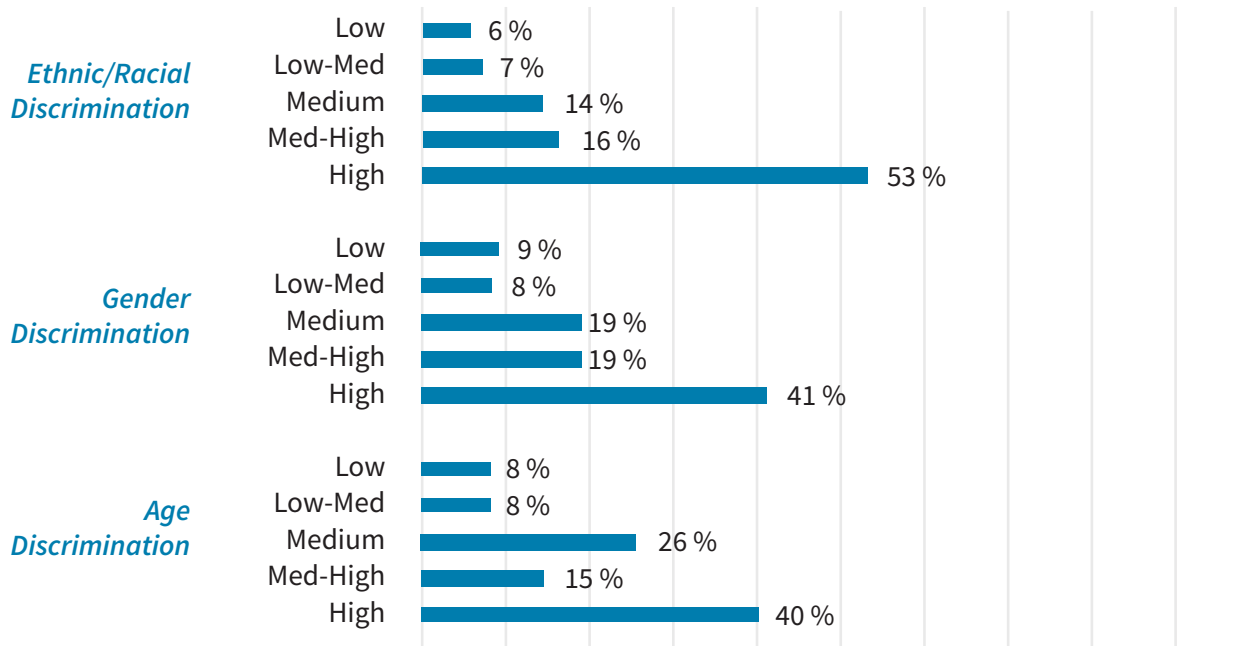| Report Area	Household of One	Household of Two	Household of Three	Household of Four	Household of Five	Household of Six	Household of Seven
Lycoming County	$26,610	$61,905	$70,106	$86,168	$74,722	$74,048	$92,094
PA	$30,528	$69,203	$84,536	$99,131	$93,394	$89,202	$82,877
United States	$32,008	$70,231	$81,087	$93,831	$86,817	$83,852	$88,850

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. 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)

Answer Choices	2021	2018	2015	2012	2009	2005
$15,000 or less	14.2	5.7	4.8	4.5	8.4	9.7
$15,000 - $30,000	18.2	11.8	13.8	15.2	16.4	21.1
$30,000 - $50,000	16.4	21.5	19.7	20.8	22.1	22.5
$50,000 - $75,000	21.1	19.4	20.4	21.6	16.1	24
Greater than $75,000	24.8	25.5	26.5	18.7	17.6	16.9
Refused	***	9.6	4.7	11.2	14.2	5.2
I don't know	5.4	6.6	1.01	8.1	5.3	0.7

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 states 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 3 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, 2021

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	$12,880	$17,420	$21,960	$26,500	$31,040	$35,580	$40,120	$44,660

Data Source: Services, D. o. (2021, 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 Lycoming County. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year averages, an average of 13.62% of all persons residing in Lycoming County lived in a state of poverty during the 2021 calendar year. The poverty rate for all persons living in Lycoming County is greater than the Pennsylvania average of 12.43%.

Poverty Rate, 2016-2019

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Lycoming County	107,874	14,691	13.62%
Pennsylvania	12,380,284	1,539,183	12.43%
United States	316,715,051	42,510,843	13.42%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019 Source geography: Tract

Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in Lycoming County from 2000 to 2019 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 3.3%, compared to a national increase of 1.0%.

Poverty Rate Change, 2000-2019

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2000	Poverty Rate 2000	Persons in Poverty 2019	Poverty Rate 2019	Change in Poverty 2000-2019
Lycoming County	11,818	10.3%	14,642	13.6%	3.3%
Pennsylvania	1,135,928	9.48%	1,481,193	12.0%	2.5%
United States	31,581,086	11.3%	39,490,096	12.3%	1.0%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

Population in Poverty by Gender

The table below shows the population in poverty in the report area by gender.

Poverty by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Perent
Lycoming County	6,450	8,241	12.10%	15.10%
Pennsylvania	679,545	859,638	11.26%	13.55%
United States	18,909,451	23,601,392	12.19%	14.61%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

Population in Poverty by Race

The tables below show the population in poverty in the report area by race.

Poverty by Race, Percent

Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Lycoming County	11.77%	44.71%	20.93%	25.73%	0.00%	15.92%	29.09%
Pennsylvania	9.72%	25.97%	24.56%	13.88%	24.50%	31.36%	22.04%
United States	11.15%	23.04%	24.86%	10.94%	17.51%	21.04%	16.66%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

Poverty by Race, Total

Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Lycoming County	11,777	2,077	45	202	0	50	540
Pennsylvania	972,867	350,457	5,730	58,438	983	83,498	67,210
United States	25,658,220	9,114,217	660,695	1,922,319	101,826	3,313,183	1,740,383

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

Education

Education: Free and Reduced Lunch Program

The table below shows the number of students for whom completed the financial eligibility form for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program in the 2019-2020 school year. The figures below include public, private, and parochial schools, and residential child care institutional figures. There are 6.955 students eligible in Lycoming County, which makes up 43.41% of total enrolled students, compared to a Pennsylvania rate of 54.28%. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) released a group of waivers and eligibility guidelines allowing schools to offer the meals without determining eligibility based on the student's household income.

Students Eligible for the Free Reduced Lunch Program (lunches only), 2019-2020

Report Area	District	Type	Enrollment	Free Lunch Eligible	Free Lunch Enrollment	Reduced Lunch Eligible	Reduced Lunch Enrollment	Free and Reduced Lunch Enrollment
Lycoming	East Lycoming School District	Public School	1,696	547	32.25%	60	3.54%	35.79%
Lycoming	Jersey Shore Area School District	Public School	2,274	928	40.81%	142	6.24%	47.05%
Lycoming	Loyalsock Township School District	Public School	1,565	549	35.08%	48	3.07%	38.15%
Lycoming	Montgomery Area School District	Public School	926	391	42.22%	51	5.51%	47.73%
Lycoming	Montoursville Area School District	Public School	1,948	514	26.39%	55	2.82%	29.21%
Lycoming	Muncy School District	Public School	1,007	378	37.54%	45	4.47%	42.01%
Lycoming	South Williamsport Area School District	Public School	1,326	530	39.97%	85	6.41%	46.38%
Lycoming	Williamsport Area School District	Public School	5,051	3,036	60.11%	258	5.11%	65.21%
Lycoming	St. John Neumann Regional Academy High School Campus	Private or Parochial school	211	63	29.86%	1	0.47%	30.33%
Lycoming	Families United Network, Inc.	Private Residential Child Care Institution	19	19	100%	0	0	100%
Statewide Average	----------	----------	1,744,344	899,518	51.57%	47,252	2.71%	54.28%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2019-2020. Source geography: county

Survey Data: Education

Community Survey Information

What is your highest level of education? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
Less than high school diploma	**3%**
High school diploma or equivalent	**19%**
Some college	**23%**
College degree	**37%**
Advanced degree	**18%**

Survey Data: Education