

2024 Community Assessment

LYCOMING COUNTY



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Executive Summary

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

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

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

Lycoming County has a long history of comprehensive Community Assessments, 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 2024 Community Assessment builds on the longitudinal data from the past and allows trends to be seen. This data helps understand both past and current needs. The 2024 community survey respondents state areas of highest concerns are affordable housing, economy/jobs, and education/child care needs.

From the partner respondents, drug/alcohol misuse is tied with affordable housing, followed closely by availability of affordable child care. After that grouping, access to mental health services, substance abuse by youth and access to substance abuse services are ranked within the top ten. Rounding out the top ten responses from partners are concerns about availability of summer activities, counseling services, and homelessness. The longitudinal data illustrates and helps assess how effectively the community is tackling identified community needs and trends of emerging community needs.

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

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

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

Methodology

The Community 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 2024 Community Assessment data collection was primarily done virtually as the return rate from the prior year's online surveys illustrated it was a successful method. This section will address the methodology used for each.

Objective Data

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

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

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

Community Survey

The Community Survey was distributed widely via JotForm® to the public in Lycoming County, as well as specifically to customers engaged in services at social service agencies. In 2024, 201 respondents completed the survey. This is about the same amount of responses as 2021, but less than prior years. For example, in 2018, the customer survey has 543 respondents, and the 2020 survey for the Community Assessment had 776 respondents.

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 JotForm®. In 2024 there were 161 responses received. This is higher than the 2021 number of 158, but significantly lower number than 258 for the 2018 Community Assessment. 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.

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

Understanding and Using this Community Assessment Report

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

Purpose

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

Organizational Structure

- *Critical need rankings*
 - *Key need categories with summary themes*
 - *Supporting data*
- Critical need rankings provide relative importance of identified needs of 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 this document

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

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

Critical Needs Ranking

The critical needs of 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 2024 community survey, the most cited problems were housing-related issues including homelessness, followed by jobs/economy, then education/child care. This is quite different than the prior three Community Assessments in which drug/alcohol misuse was ranked in the top three of the utmost important problems by around half of the respondents in some years. In 2015, drugs/alcohol were the top stated problem by 48.5%, while in 2018, the percentage jumped even higher to 58.2%. In 2021, 10.9% stated drugs/alcohol were the top problem and in 2024 it was 7.2%. 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 a problem in Lycoming County. It should also be noted that mental health issues was noted by 7.2% of respondents, as well. There is a link between drug/alcohol and mental health in some cases, as identified in the focus groups.

As stated in 2024, the most important problem was identified as housing related issues at 27.2%, followed by economy/jobs at 23.6%. In 2021, housing was the second ranked at 21.9%, behind economy/jobs, which was at 35.2%. While the COVID-19 pandemic seems like it is in the distant past, it was identified in the 2021 Community Assessment that housing, economy, and jobs were the three areas that would take the longest to recover from after the pandemic, and this is validated through the 2024 community survey. Education/child care is ranked as the third highest need at 15.9% of respondents, while in 2021 it was ranked as sixth at 4.6%. This makes sense as child care is in crisis and is so critical to a prospering economy. If families do not have a safe, affordable place for their children to be while they are working, they make a choice often to exit the workforce, which affects the economy. The shortage of child care locations in Lycoming County is well documented and needs to be addressed through a multi-faceted approach that focuses on early education/child care and its impact on workforce and economy.

Crime/gangs did move from 7.6% in 2021 to 9.7% in 2024, which ranks it fourth, followed by various other needs which did not fall under any particular category at 7.7%. It should be noted that some issues identified as problems in Lycoming County, such as roads, trucks, and traffic fall outside the scope of services offered by most human service providers.

As stated earlier, partners ranked issues related to substance abuse, affordable housing, availability of affordable child care, and mental health in the top concerns. Interestingly, affordable housing moved up seven rankings from 2021 and is tied with substance abuse as the most important issue facing Lycoming County. Affordable housing was also the top issue identified in the partner survey in 2012, at the height of the natural gas boom. Homelessness also moved up several spots and is tied for tenth place with availability of counseling services.

When asked if adequate attention was being devoted to each of the issues, partners expressed the highest levels of concern about availability of affordable child care, affordable housing, access to mental health services, and child abuse and neglect. This indicates that continued attention needs to be paid to these topics. Access to substance abuse services and abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youth and adults has continued to diminish since 2018, but still ranks towards the middle of the overall categories. This indicates attention is being paid to the area of substance abuse, but more is needed.

Community Survey

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

(Percentage)

	2024	2021	2018	2015	2012	2009	2005
Housing related issues, including Homelessness	27.2	21.9	1.1	3.8	9.9	0.2	0.8
Economy/Jobs	23.6	35.2	14.8	14.8	30.2	42.2	23.8
Education/Child Care	15.9	4.6	1.1	2.8	3.7	1.1	1.5
Crime/Gangs	9.7	7.6	7.3	15.1	9.2	20.6	17.0
Various Other	7.7	12.6	6.4	4.8	14.9	18.2	28.6
Drugs/Alcohol	7.2	10.9	58.2	48.5	4.6	13.3	11.0
Mental Health Issues	7.2	***	***	***	***	***	***
Roads, Trucks, and Traffic	1.0	0.6	4.1	2.6	4.7	1.2	3
Taxes	***	2.3	6.6	2.8	5.4	3.2	14.3
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	14%
Two	32%
Three	19%
Four	15%
Five or more	14%

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

Answer Choices	
Zero	75%
One	11%
Two - Three	13%
Four or more	0%

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

Answer Choices	
Zero	54%
One	16%
Two - Three	25%
Four or more	4%

What is your highest level of education? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
Less than high school diploma	6%
High school diploma or equivalent	12%
Some college	14%
College degree	48%
Advanced degree	20%

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

Answer Choices	
\$15,000 or less	8%
\$15,000 - \$30,000	6%
\$30,000 - \$50,000	15%
\$50,000 - \$75,000	20%
Greater than \$75,000	44%
I don't know	6%

Partner Survey

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

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

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

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

	2024		2021		2018		2015		2012		2009	
	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean
Abuse of drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin, by adults	T1	4.63	1	4.69	1	4.86	***	***	***	***	***	***
Affordable housing	T1	4.63	8	4.41	7	4.31	4	4.49	1	4.46	T12	4.23
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults	3	4.58	2	4.62	5	4.63	2	4.6	T7	4.12	4	4.41
Availability of affordable child care	4	4.53	9	4.39	T12	4.19	13	4.09	24	3.86	17	4.14
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youth	5	4.47	T4	4.58	4	4.67	1	4.73	5	4.25	1	4.62
Access to mental health services	6	4.39	6	4.45	6	4.4	5	4.39	T21	3.9	29	3.84
Abuse of drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin, by youth	7	4.34	3	4.61	2	4.83	***	***	***	***	***	***
Access to substance abuse services	T8	4.25	T4	4.58	3	4.69	3	4.53	T15	3.98	T12	4.23
Availability of summer activities	T8	4.25	T15	4.24	25	4	33	3.83	***	***	***	***
Availability of counseling services	T10	4.24	T13	4.26	20	4.07	T31	3.84	T21	3.9	19	4.08
Homelessness	T10	4.24	T18	4.17	17	4.12	T17	4.02	3	4.28	T9	4.28
Child abuse and neglect	12	4.22	7	4.44	8	4.29	6	4.2	9	4.1	5	4.37
Heating, electricity, & water assistance	13	4.21	33	4.03	38	3.8	T26	3.94	***	***	***	***
Household budgeting	14	4.19	T26	4.08	30	3.92	15	4.06	***	***	***	***
Domestic abuse	15	4.16	11	4.31	18	4.1	16	4.05	T10	4.08	8	4.3
Access to affordable health insurance	16	4.12	T24	4.11	11	4.23	7	4.18	6	4.22	3	4.46
Affordable housing for seniors	17	4.09	T15	4.24	T15	4.14	T10	4.11	23	3.89	20	4.05
Quality of early childhood education	18	4.04	10	4.35	9	4.29	8	4.15	***	***	***	***
Availability of after school activities	19	3.99	T20	4.16	27	3.96	29	3.9	27	3.65	T22	3.99

	2024		2021		2018		2015		2012		2009	
	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean
Services for the needs of senior citizens	20	3.96	T18	4.17	28	3.95	28	3.92	26	3.71	18	4.09
Access to affordable prescription medications	21	3.95	T29	4.07	24	4.01	14	4.08	T10	4.08	T9	4.28
Access to dental care	22	3.91	41	3.79	29	3.94	25	3.95	12	4.04	14	4.22
Access to early childhood education	23	3.90	12	4.28	10	4.25	12	4.1	***	***	***	***
Access to nutritious meals for seniors	24	3.89	32	4.05	26	3.99	T23	3.96	***	***	***	***
Services for children with disabilities	T25	3.88	T13	4.26	23	4.03	T31	3.84	T28	3.54	T24	3.96
Access to health care	T25	3.88	T38	3.93	21	4.06	T23	3.96	T7	4.12	6	4.33
Youth job training	27	3.85	22	4.14	14	4.15	20	4	***	***	***	***
Adult job training	T28	3.84	17	4.21	T12	4.19	T10	4.11	19	3.92	T24	3.96
Hunger	T28	3.84	34	4.01	T32	3.89	30	3.86	T13	4	11	4.25
Juvenile delinquency	T28	3.84	T35	3.99	T35	3.84	22	3.98	T15	3.98	T22	3.99
Underemployment	31	3.83	40	3.92	T32	3.89	T26	3.94	4	4.27	7	4.31
Health care for senior citizens	32	3.82	T35	3.99	22	4.05	19	4.01	18	3.95	15	4.21
Illiteracy	33	3.81	T20	4.16	T15	4.14	9	4.12	20	3.91	27	3.92
Unemployment	34	3.80	23	4.12	T35	3.84	T17	4.02	2	4.35	2	4.52
Transportation to medical appointments	35	3.75	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Access to transportation for individuals with disabilities	T36	3.73	T29	4.07	37	3.82	38	3.61	31	3.53	32	3.67
Occupational training for individuals with disabilities	T36	3.73	T29	4.07	40	3.71	36	3.69	36	3.35	31	3.69
Elder abuse or neglect	T38	3.68	37	3.95	31	3.9	35	3.74	T28	3.54	21	4
Building access for individuals with disabilities	T38	3.68	T38	3.93	39	3.72	39	3.54	35	3.39	33	3.66
Violence in schools	40	3.65	45	3.24	34	3.88	37	3.65	32	3.51	16	4.17
Ethnic/racial discrimination	41	3.63	T26	4.08	41	3.67	40	3.38	25	3.84	34	3.65
Access to job skill training	42	3.61	T26	4.08	19	4.09	21	3.99	***	***	***	***
Gender discrimination	43	3.37	42	3.77	43	3.4	42	3.16	34	3.43	35	3.2
Age discrimination	44	3.32	43	3.73	44	3.32	43	3.14	30	3.54	36	3.16
AIDS/HIV	45	3.09	46	3.12	45	3.25	41	3.19	33	3.5	28	3.87
Teenage pregnancy	46	3.06	44	3.54	42	3.43	34	3.75	T13	4	26	3.93

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

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

	2024	2021	2018	2015	2012	2009
	% Responding "No"					
Availability of affordable child care	80%	68%	58%	71%	81%	68%
Affordable housing	78%	63%	65%	71%	77%	67%
Access to mental health services	69%	65%	64%	77%	57%	63%
Availability of summer activities	66%	63%	56%	61%	***	***
Child abuse and neglect	66%	61%	55%	64%	57%	72%
Availability of counseling services	63%	54%	51%	54%	31%	42%
Violence in schools	63%	47%	58%	58%	52%	74%
Homelessness	62%	52%	57%	60%	53%	62%
Juvenile delinquency	61%	53%	49%	68%	60%	56%
Availability of after-school activities	60%	61%	52%	58%	67%	64%
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youths	60%	58%	61%	68%	62%	72%
Access to affordable health insurance	59%	61%	63%	65%	80%	79%
Access to affordable prescription medications	57%	62%	60%	72%	64%	60%
Domestic abuse	57%	46%	43%	54%	40%	63%
Underemployment	55%	58%	56%	70%	64%	80%
Youth job training	55%	54%	53%	54%	***	***
Affordable housing for seniors	53%	44%	44%	49%	64%	40%
Household budgeting	53%	65%	58%	69%	***	***
Access to substance abuse services	51%	53%	62%	64%	37%	43%
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults	49%	47%	53%	60%	31%	58%
Illiteracy	48%	47%	36%	50%	41%	41%
Access to dental care	46%	44%	44%	57%	70%	76%
Access to health care	46%	43%	43%	55%	66%	61%
Quality of early childhood education	45%	30%	34%	34%	***	***
Unemployment	44%	53%	43%	61%	64%	73%
Elder abuse or neglect	44%	41%	38%	45%	38%	46%
Gender discrimination	43%	48%	43%	45%	45%	48%
Teenage pregnancy	43%	45%	37%	54%	65%	71%
Adult job training	42%	46%	46%	49%	39%	41%
Ethnic/racial discrimination	42%	41%	44%	43%	48%	64%
Heating, electricity, & water assistance	40%	34%	34%	51%	***	***
Age discrimination	40%	54%	36%	45%	50%	55%
Access to job skill training	40%	50%	44%	46%	***	***
Services for the needs of senior citizens	40%	32%	31%	30%	30%	28%
Services for children with disabilities	38%	38%	28%	34%	17%	36%
Access to early childhood education	38%	28%	24%	21%	***	***
Health care for senior citizens	34%	35%	40%	36%	42%	64%
Building access for individuals with disabilities	32%	36%	18%	22%	18%	23%

	2024	2021	2018	2015	2012	2009
	% Responding “No”					
Occupational training for individuals with disabilities	31%	35%	26%	24%	24%	20%
Access to nutritious meals for seniors	30%	30%	25%	28%	***	***
Hunger	30%	23%	27%	37%	37%	48%
Access to transportation for individuals with disabilities	29%	25%	19%	21%	19%	13%
AIDS/HIV	22%	21%	17%	28%	15%	30%

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

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

	2024
Mental Health Services	12%
Employment	10%
Summer Programs	9%
Child Abuse/Neglect	8%
Healthcare	7%
Substance Abuse	5%
Childcare	4%
Housing	4%
Transportation	2%
Disability Services	1%
Parental Support	1%
Illiteracy	1%
Emergency Services	1%
Cultural Sensitivity	1%

I work for a human service provider. (Percentage)

	2024
Yes	83%
No	17%

I volunteer for a human service provider. (Percentage)

	2024
Yes	12%
No	88%

Key Need Categories with Summary Themes

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

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

Children and Youth

There are 22,712 youth ages 0-17 living in Lycoming County, according to the American Community Survey. Lycoming County's rate of child poverty ages 0-4 is at 22.8%, while the rate of child poverty ages 0-17 is 16.4%, both of which are higher than the child poverty rates of Pennsylvania and the United States. Comparing today's concerns with those noted in prior studies, it becomes apparent that existing problems remain a concern. Four main themes emerge across objective data from the community, customer and partner surveys and focus groups. They are early care and education crisis, behavioral issues, child abuse and neglect reporting, and mental health needs.

Early Care and Education Crisis

The objective data section ahead shows the number of child care facilities available in the county, which has only decreased over the last several years. The community and customer surveys show a significant decline in the percentage of people who strongly agree they have access to child care that they can afford. Specifically, the percentage of respondents in the customer survey group who agreed (or strongly agreed) they have access to these services decreased from approximately 76% in 2018 to 49% in 2021 and 13% in 2024. Similarly, both customer and community responses show a decrease in the percentage of families that agree or strongly agree they have access to early childhood education. 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. This has been seen with even more child care facilities downsizing or closing, yet few opening or expanding. This has reduced the availability of early care and education in Lycoming County. In terms of affordability, in Lycoming County, the average cost of quality STAR 4 child care is \$176 per child per week or \$704 per child per month. This is often not affordable for families, particularly if there are multiple children in child care.

While the cost of care is not affordable, staff wages for child care staff have also not increased relative to inflation. Low wages, compounded by lack of educational opportunities in early care, are perpetuating a staffing crisis. The average hourly wage of preschool 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 \$44.62 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.

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

Behavioral Issues

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

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

In the 2021 community survey, of the 16% of respondents aware of victims of child abuse or neglect 39% did not contact authorities about the incident. The 2024 data shows that of the 27% of respondents aware of victims of child abuse or neglect, 13% did not contact the authorities, a marked increase over the three year period. The increase in percentage of respondents contacting the proper authorities may be due to increased community education and focus within schools and other agencies on mandated reporter training. Partners continue to note that this the area of child abuse and neglect is of high importance and in need of attention in Lycoming County.

Mental Health Needs

According to focus group participants, the need for mental health supports for youth continues. Unstable family situations, coupled with various stressors in social life and academics, has continued to affect youths' mental health. Many are dealing with multiple challenges at once, which creates an increased need for mental health services that are already understaffed and often unavailable. Locally, there has been a decline in providers due to changes in regulations and reimbursement rates for services. Focus group participants cited the need to intervene as early as possible in a child's life and helping them cope, but also addressing the root cause of the underlying issues. While there are some mental health supports available, the need far outweighs 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, 2018-2022

Report Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		Ages 0 to 17 Total Population
	M	F	M	F	
Lycoming County	2,925	2,598	8,670	8,519	22,712
Pennsylvania	361,510	345,053	1,001,143	954,685	2,662,381

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

Child (0-4): Poverty Rate

Population and poverty estimate for children age 0-4 are shown for Lycoming County. According to the ACS 5-year data, an average of 22.8% 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 18.1% and much greater than the Pennsylvania average of 17.3%.

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

Report Area	Children, Ages 0 - 4 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Lycoming County	5,910	1,348	22.8%
Pennsylvania	676,428	116,758	17.3%
National	18,654,535	3,369,529	18.1%

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

Child (5-17): Poverty Rate

Population and poverty estimate for children age 5-17 are shown for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, an average of 16.4% 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 15.8% as well as the national average of 16.2%.

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

Report Area	Children, Ages 5 - 17 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Lycoming County	16,874	2,775	16.4%
Pennsylvania	1,943,970	306,484	15.8%
National	53,380,823	8,632,822	16.2%

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

Early Head Start and Head Start Participation

The tables below reflect children ages 0-5 participating in Early Head Start, Federal Head Start, and State Head Start. For the 2018-2019 year, the number of children attending these programs in Lycoming County totals 374, while those participating statewide equaled 43,376.

Early Childhood Programming and Head Start Participation, 2018-2019

Report Area	Early Head Start	Head Start Federal	Head Start State	Total Participants
Pennsylvania	5,763	31,501	6,112	43,376
Lycoming County	82	198	94	374

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

Child Care Costs

The cost of child care for STAR 4 child care facilities in 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, 2024

Report Area	Type of Care	Average Weekly Cost
Lycoming County	STAR 4 Facility	\$176

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

Certified Child Care Facilities

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

Certified Child Care Facilities, 2024

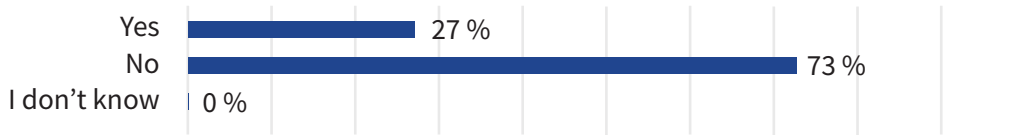
Report Area	# of Certified Providers	Certified Provider Type *	Maximum Capacity **
Lycoming County	37	Child Care Center	3,336
Lycoming County	8	Family Child Care Home	48
Lycoming County	2	Group Child Care Home	24

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

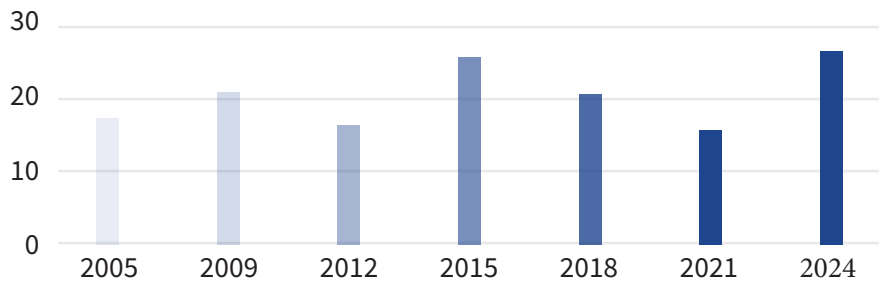
Survey Data: Children and Youth

Community Survey Information

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



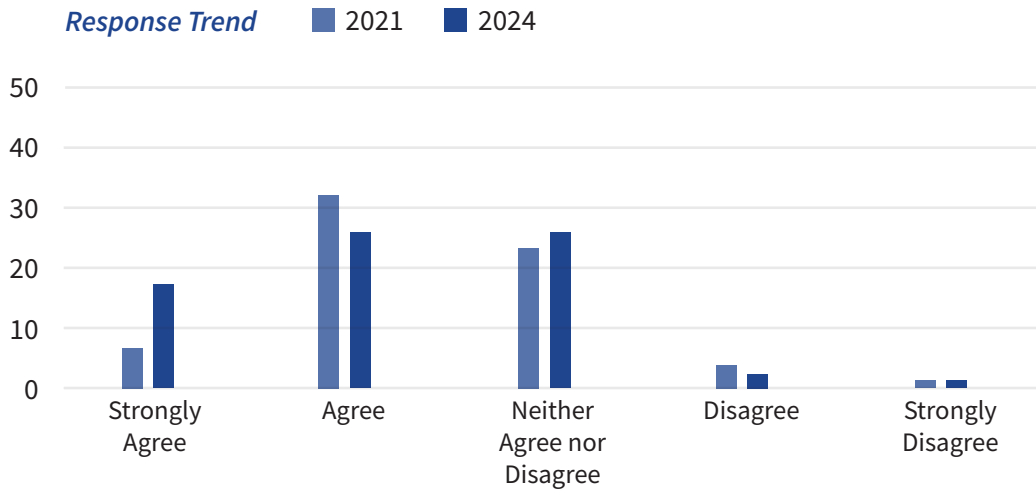
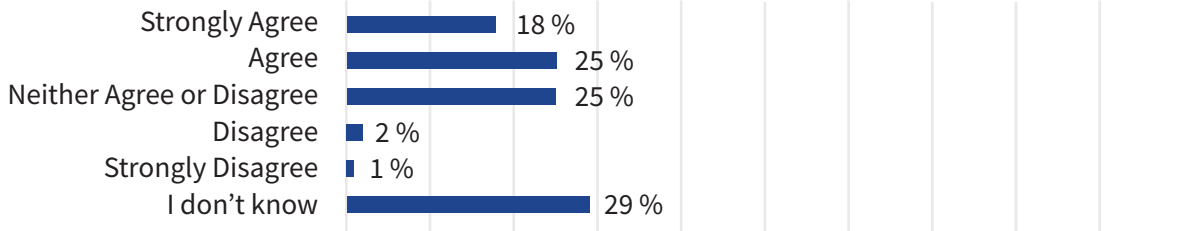
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



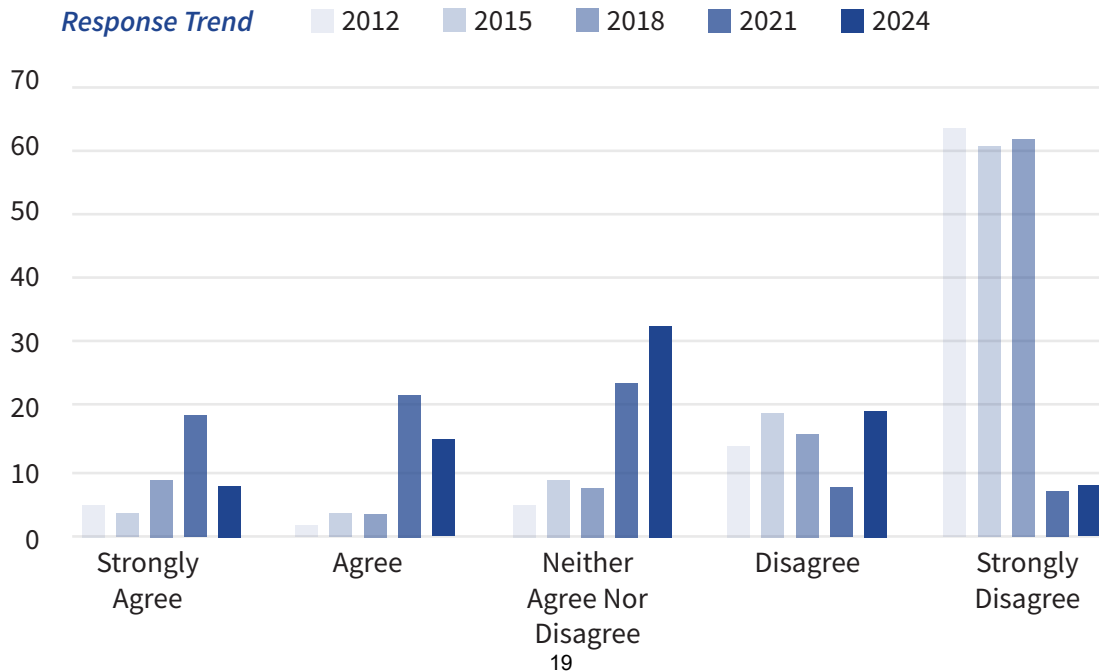
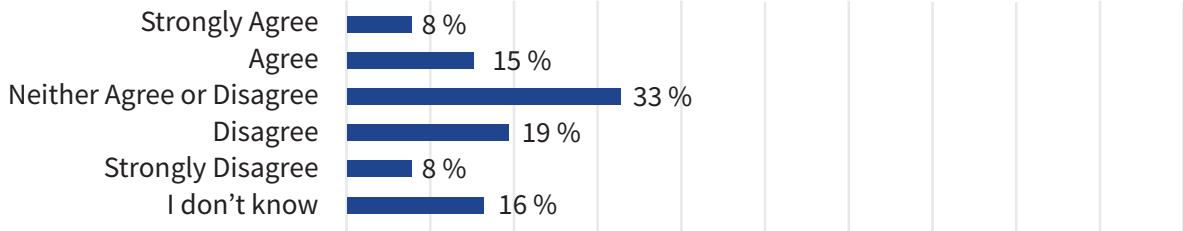
If yes, did you contact the proper authorities?



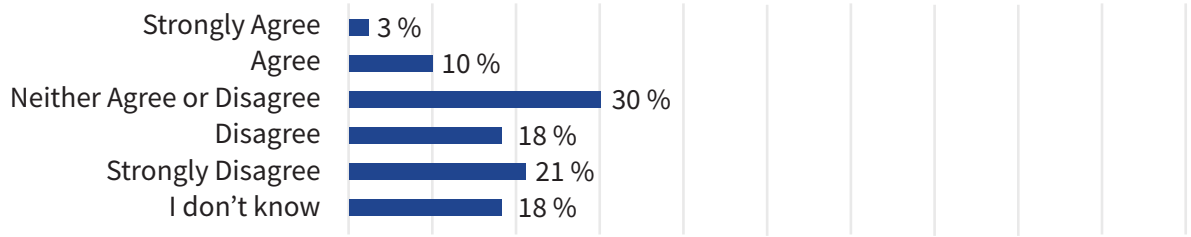
Child abuse is on the rise in my community.



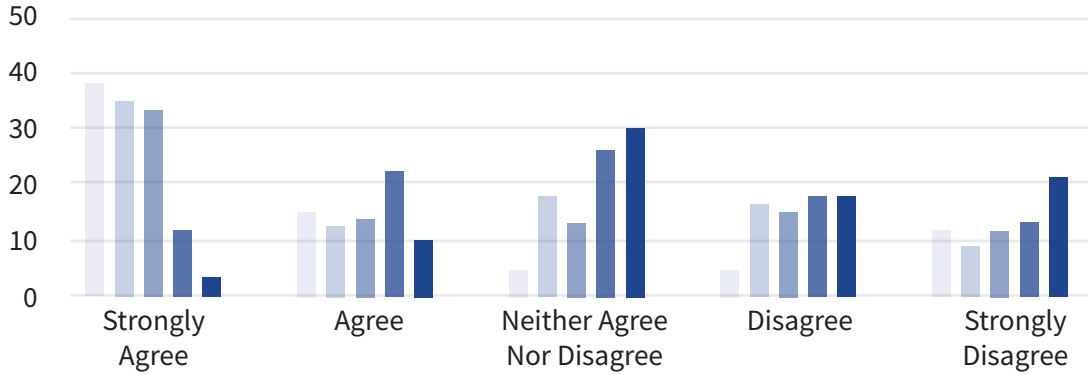
My children have nothing to do after school.



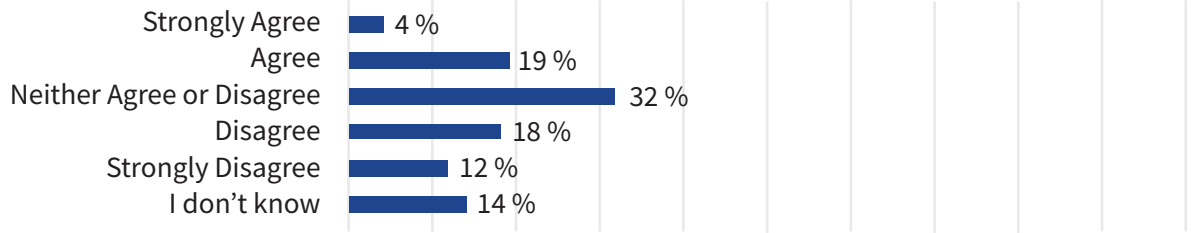
My family has access to adequate child care that I can afford.



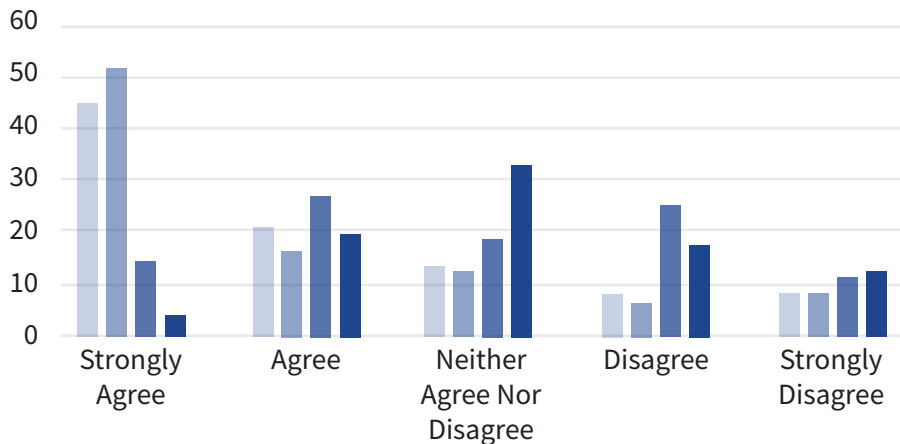
Response Trend 2012 2015 2018 2021 2024



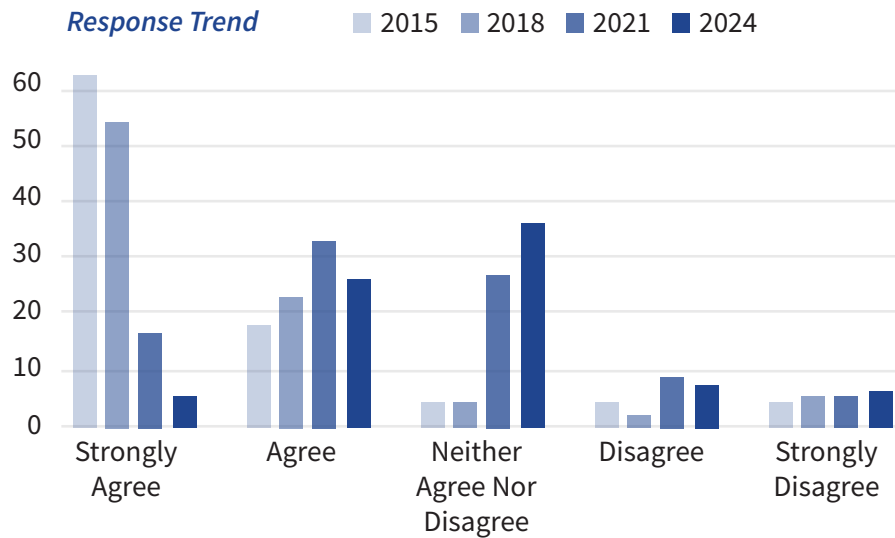
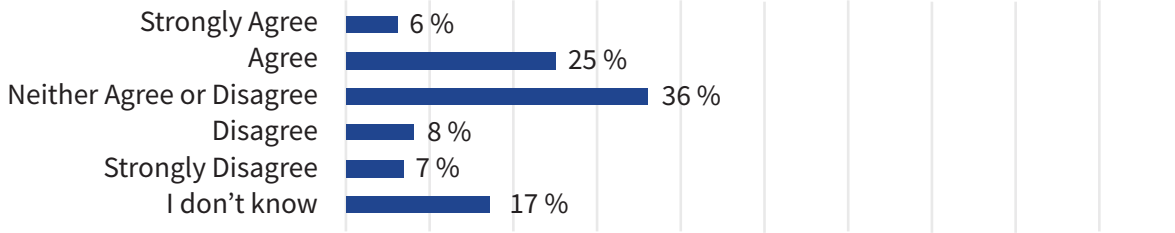
My children have access to adequate activities to keep them busy in the summer.



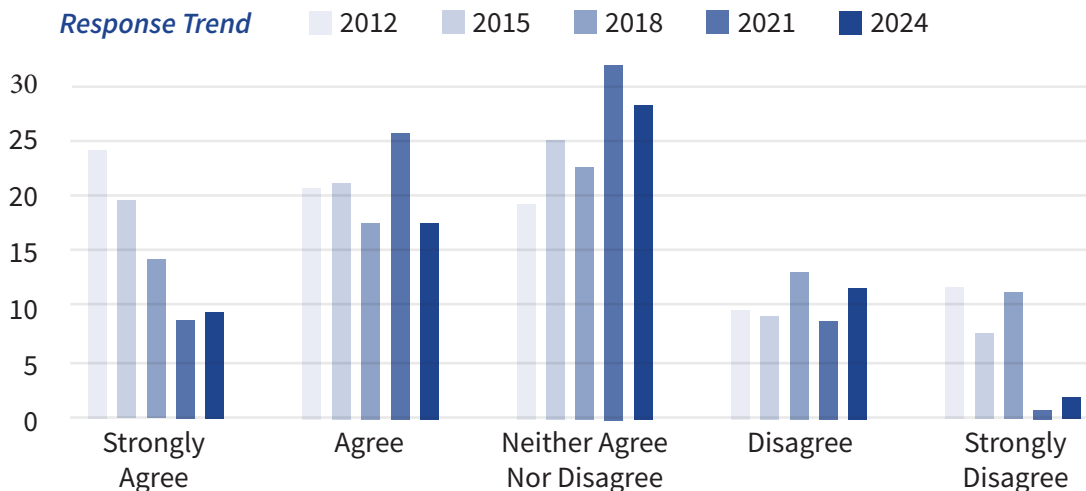
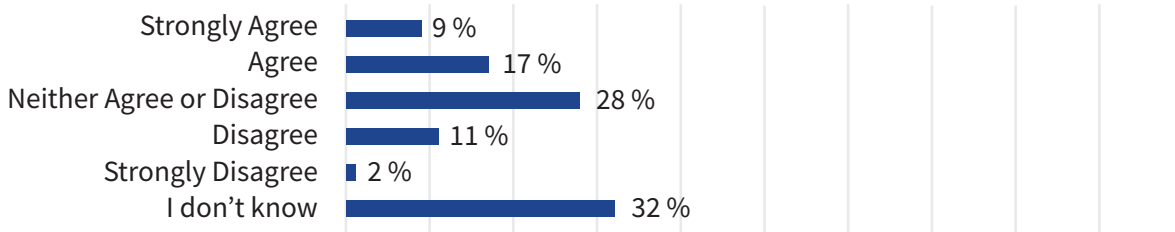
Response Trend 2015 2018 2021 2024



My family has access to quality early childhood education.



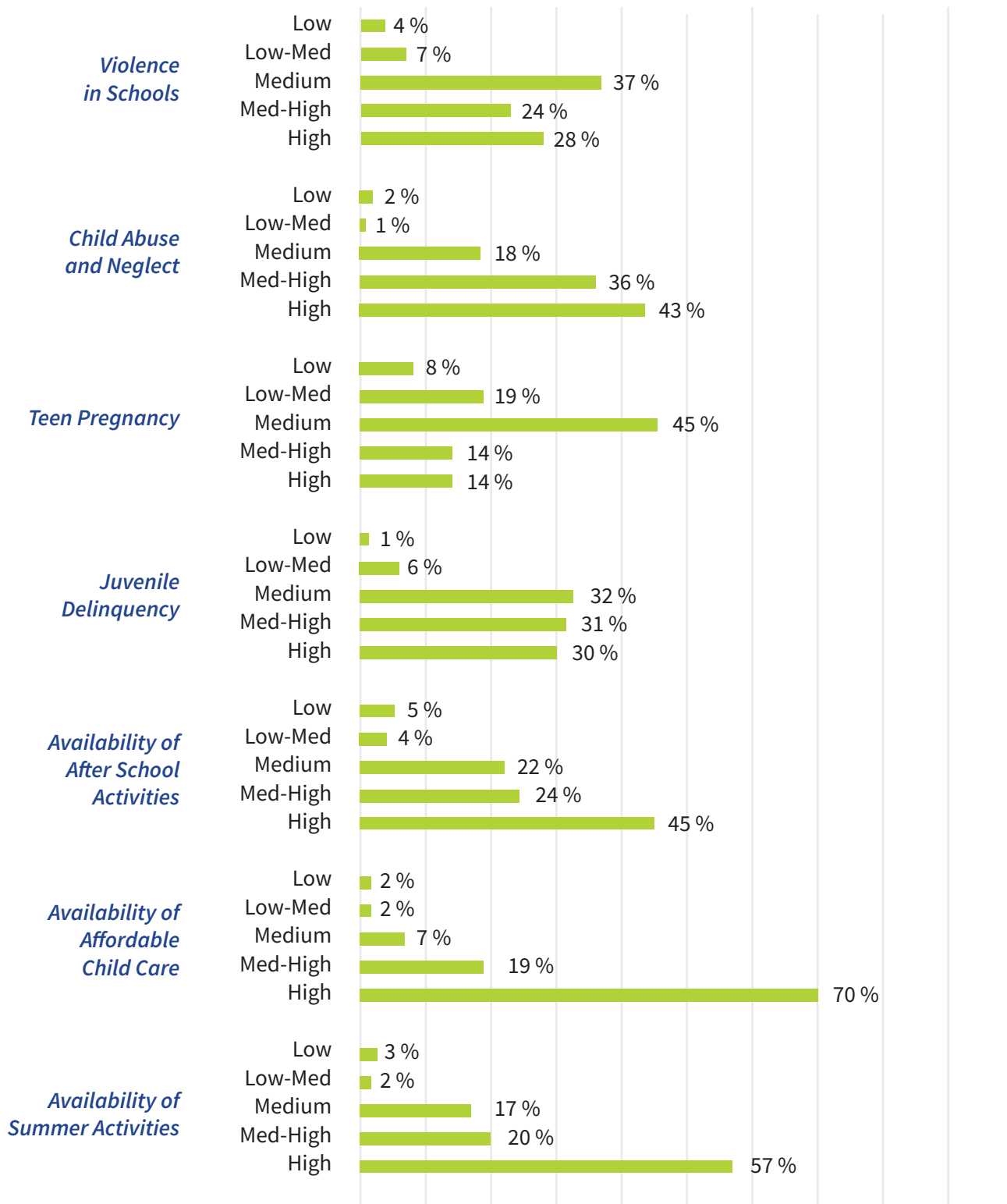
Teenage pregnancy is a big problem in my community.



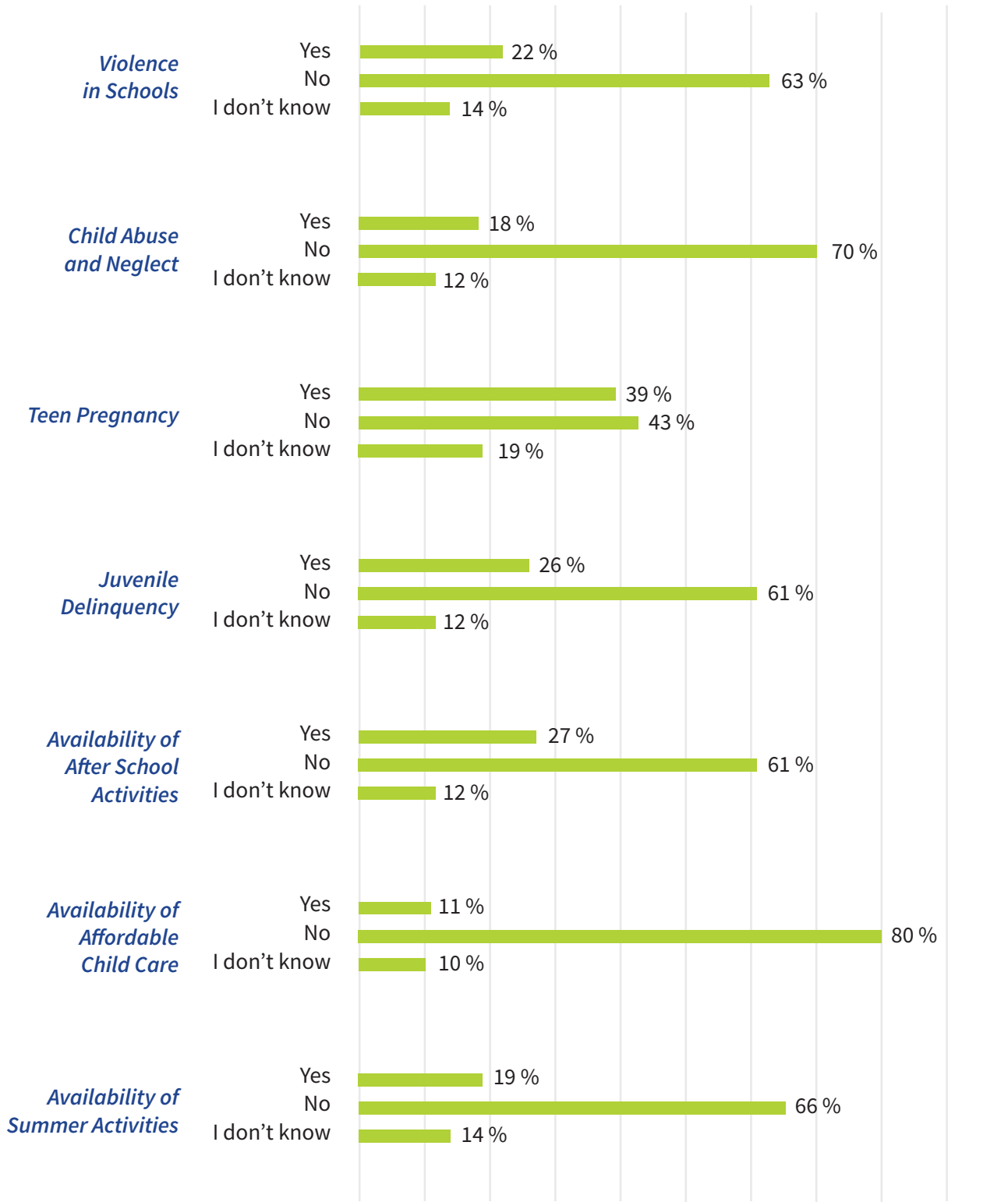
Survey Data: Children and Youth

Partner Survey Information

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



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



Education and Employment

The issues that emerged from the interconnected topics of education and employment were discussed throughout the various focus groups. This includes lack of value put on education by parents, increased school truancy, recruitment and retention of employees, and lack of child care options for working parents. In terms of education, Lycoming County's percentage of high school graduates planning to go to college is 40%, which is lower when compared to Pennsylvania at 60%. Looking at educational attainment, nearly 50% of Lycoming County's population aged 25 or older have either only a high school education or do not have a diploma. This is higher than the state and national percentages. Conversely, the percentage of adults over the age of 25 with a Bachelors, Graduate, or Professional degree is lower compared to Pennsylvania and the nation. While Lycoming County is slightly better than Pennsylvania and the rest of the nation regarding its literacy rate, it is still problematic with 41% of customers surveyed claiming to be aware of adults in the community who cannot read, which is increased from 2021 when it was 29%.

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

Quality Early Care and Education Opportunities

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

Recruitment and Retention of Employees

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

Employability and Life Skill Training

Unemployment rates in Lycoming County in 2020 peaked at 11.5%. In July of 2024, the rate was at 3.9%. With the unemployment rate low, there are fewer adults looking for employment and thus job are available, yet hard to match with appropriate candidates. Over the last several years, employers have increased wage and fringe benefits and focused on changing the work culture to try to entice new employees to their locations. Job training for youth and adults was seen as an area of need across community survey, partner survey, and focus groups, just as it was in 2021. Fifty-five percent of partner survey participants stated that youth job training needs are not getting enough attention, while 42% stated that adult job training opportunities in Lycoming County need to be focused on.

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

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

Objective Data: Education and Employment

Education: School Enrollment

These tables provide the total public and private school enrollment for 2023. In Lycoming County, a total of 14,841 persons were enrolled in school. In this report, private schools refer to both private and nonpublic institutions and for Lycoming County, 1,378 students are enrolled in private schools or 9.29% of the student population.

Public and Private/Non-Public Enrollment

Report Area	Enrollment			Grade 1-8			Grade 9-12		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
Lycoming County	14,841	13,463	1,378	10,636	9,411	1,225	4,205	4,052	153
Pennsylvania	1,793,150	1,535,861	257,289	1,159,849	987,942	171,907	633,301	547,919	85,382

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County data was compiled from the Public School Enrollment report and Private and Non-Public Schools Enrollments Reports, 2024. 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 2022-2023 academic years. The chart shows that of the 1,029 Lycoming County graduates, 40.62% are planning to attend college. Statewide, 60.86% of graduates plan on going to college.

High School Graduates

Report Area	Total Graduates	College Bound	College Bound
Lycoming County	1,029	418	40.62%
Pennsylvania	125,658	76,740	60.86%

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

Education: High School Dropouts

The table below shows the annual high school dropout rate which is defined as the number of students who, for any reason other than death, leave school before graduation without transferring to another school or institution. During academic year 2022-2023, 1.14% of Lycoming County's 7,017 students dropped out.

High School Drop Out Rates

Report Area	Enrollment Grades 7-12	Dropouts Male	Dropouts Female	Dropouts Total	Dropouts Rate
Lycoming County	7,017	43	37	80	1.14%
Pennsylvania	811,442	7,704	5,549	13,253	1.63%

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

Education: Educational Attainment

The table below shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 and is an average for the period from 2018 to 2022. Lycoming County's percentage of persons with no High School Diploma over the age of 25 is 9.2%, while the statewide percentage is 8.3%, and the national percentage is 10.9%.

Percent Attaining Educational Levels

Report Area	Educational level for Persons over 25					
	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associates	Bachelors	Graduate or Professional
Lycoming County	9.2%	38.5%	15.9%	12.0%	15.8%	8.5%
Pennsylvania	8.3%	33.5%	15.6%	8.8%	20.2%	13.6%
United States	10.9%	26.4%	19.7%	8.7%	20.9%	13.4%

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

Education: Adult Literacy

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

Persons Lacking Basic Prose Literacy Skills, 2017

Report Area	Estimated Population Between Ages 16-74	Percent at or Below Level 1 Literacy Skills
Lycoming County	84,842	17.4%
Pennsylvania	9,434,719	18.1%
United States	235,567,157	21.8%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Estimates of Low Literacy. 2017, Source geography: County.

Employment: Unemployment Rate

Unemployment rate change within Lycoming County from June 2020 to July 2024 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this five-year period decreased from 12.4% to 3.9% percent, beginning with a notable spike in unemployment shortly after the pandemic of 12.4% in June 2020.

Five-Year Unemployment Rate, 2020-2024

Report Area	June 2020	June 2021	June 2022	June 2023	July 2024
Lycoming County	12.4%	6.9%	4.8%	3.6%	3.9%
Pennsylvania	7.8%	6.7%	4.6%	3.7%	4.0%
United States	11.1%	5.3%	3.8%	3.8%	5.3%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2024 - July. Source geography: County.

Employment: Online Job Postings

The table below shows the number of online job postings in Lycoming County and Pennsylvania in 2023 and 2024. Lycoming County’s annual percentage change in job postings is 21.5%, while the state’s annual percent change is 32.4%. There was an increase of 293 online job postings in Lycoming County from October 2023 to October 2024.

Online Job Postings

Report Area	October 2023	October 2024	Annual Percent Change	Annual Volume Change
Lycoming County	1,361	1,654	21.5%	293
Pennsylvania	177,117	234,566	32.4%	57,449

Data Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Employment: Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees

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

Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees

November 2023 to October 2024	Volume		Percent of Total	
	Lycoming County	Pennsylvania	Lycoming County	Pennsylvania
Natural Resources and Mining	20	560	4.0%	1.0%
Construction	80	7,090	16.5%	11.5%
Manufacturing	80	7,200	16.5%	11.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	70	11,920	14.5%	19.0%
Information	0	1,490	0.0%	2.5%
Financial Activities	20	3,530	4.0%	5.5%
Professional and Business Services	90	12,930	18.5%	20.5%
Education and Health Services	80	9,540	16.5%	15.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	20	4,700	4.0%	7.5%
Other Services	10	1,770	2.0%	3.0%
Public Administration	20	1,230	4.0%	2.0%
Unclassified Industry	0	460	0.0%	0.5%
Total	490	62,420	100%	100%

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

Data Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Employment: Top 10 Employers by Employment

Top 10 Employers by Employment in Q2 of 2024

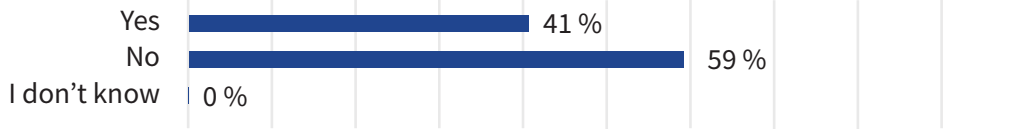
Employers in Lycoming County
The Williamsport Hospital
State Government
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Susquehanna Physician Services
Williamsport Area School District
Weis Markets Inc
West Pharmaceutical Services Inc
Lycoming County
Lycoming Engines
CS Group Payroll Services LLC

Data Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

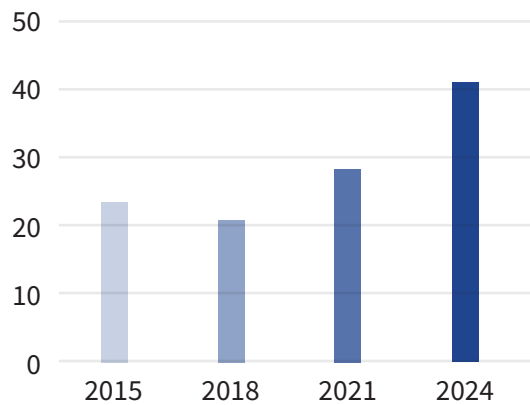
Survey Data: Education

Community Survey Information

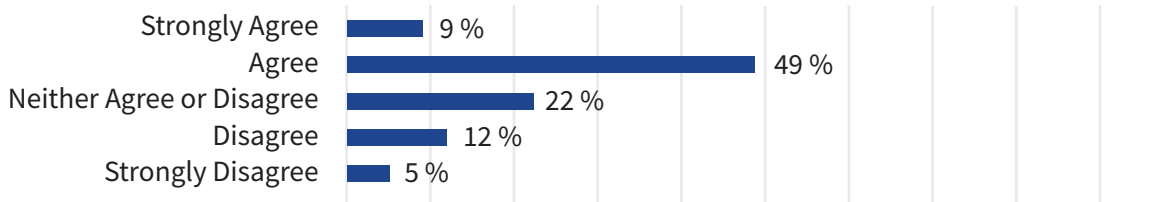
Are you aware of any adults in your community who cannot read?



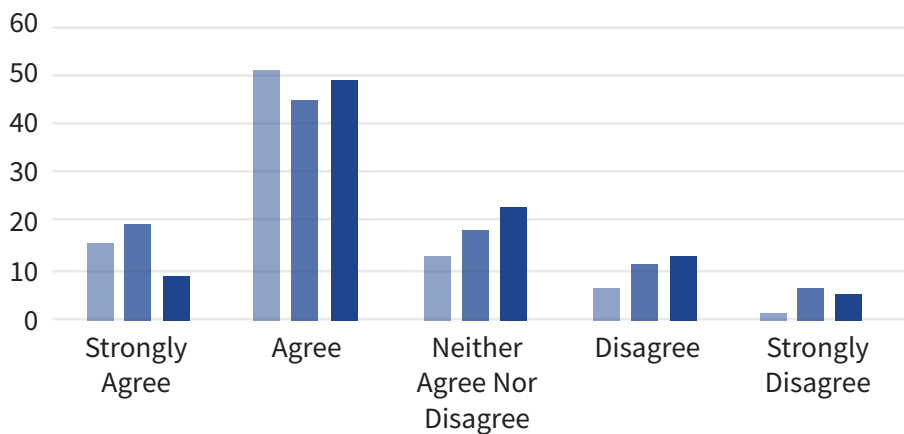
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



Children in my community have good educational opportunities.



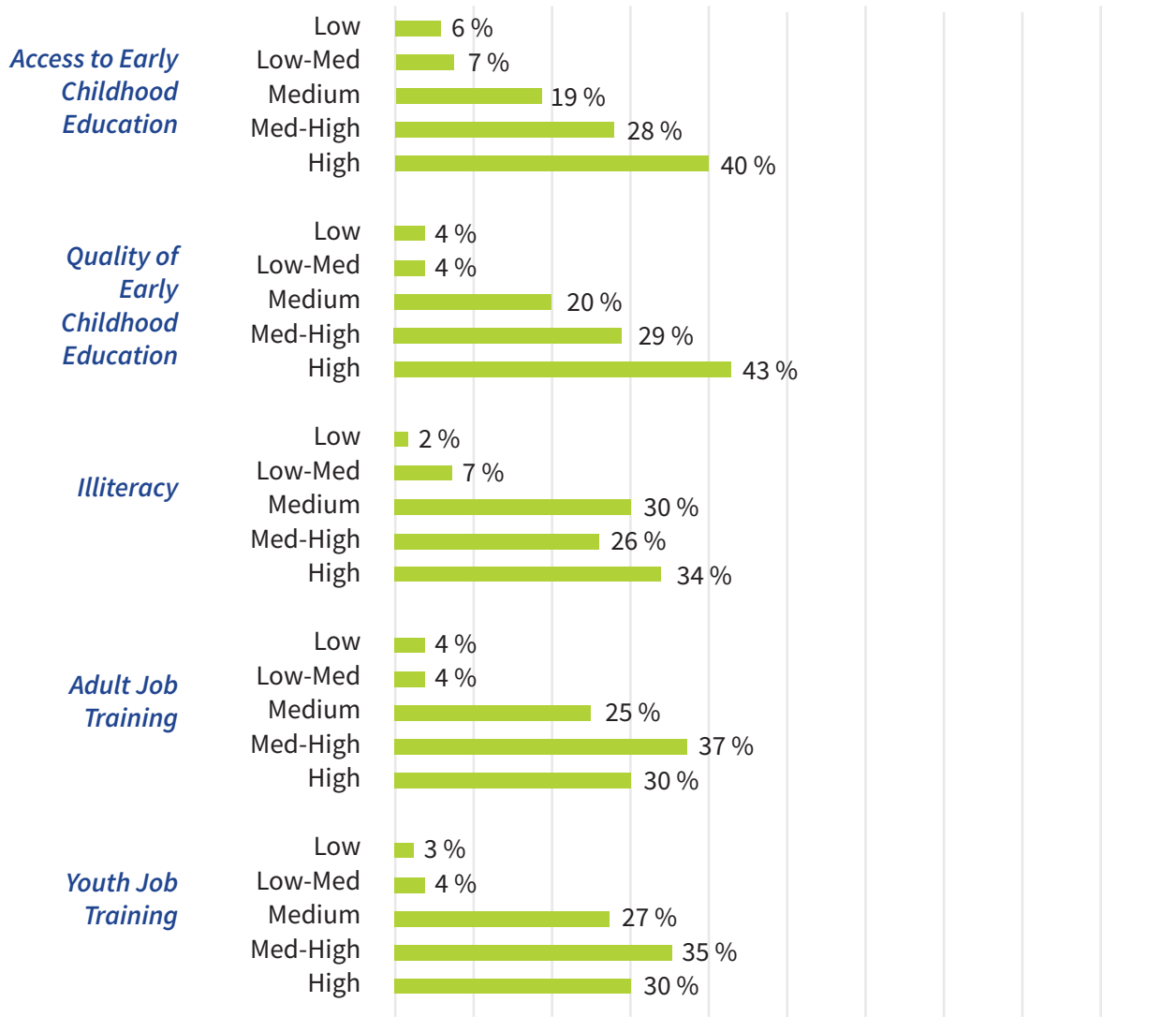
Response Trend



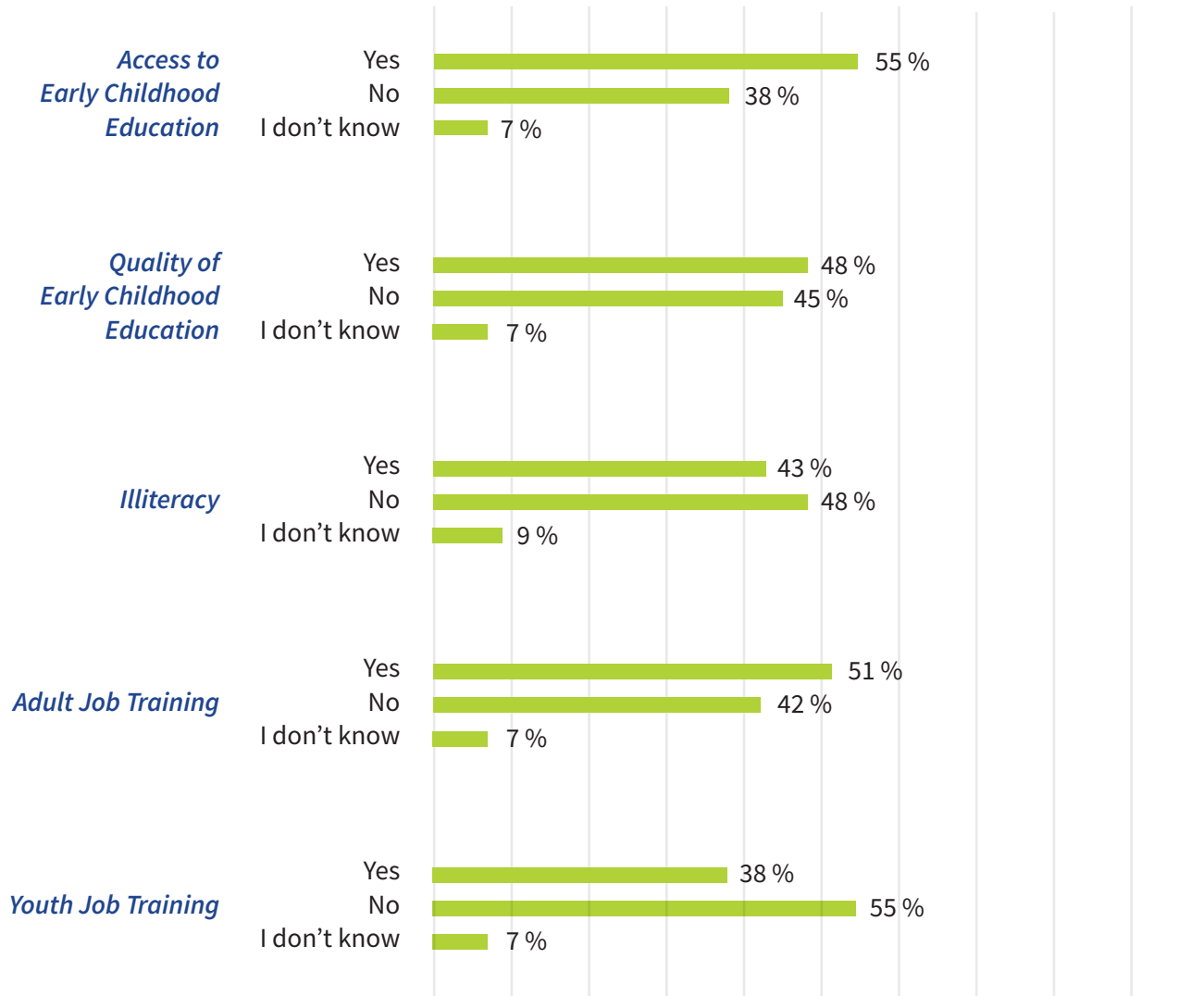
Survey Data: Education

Partner Survey Information

What are the most important education issues facing Lycoming County?



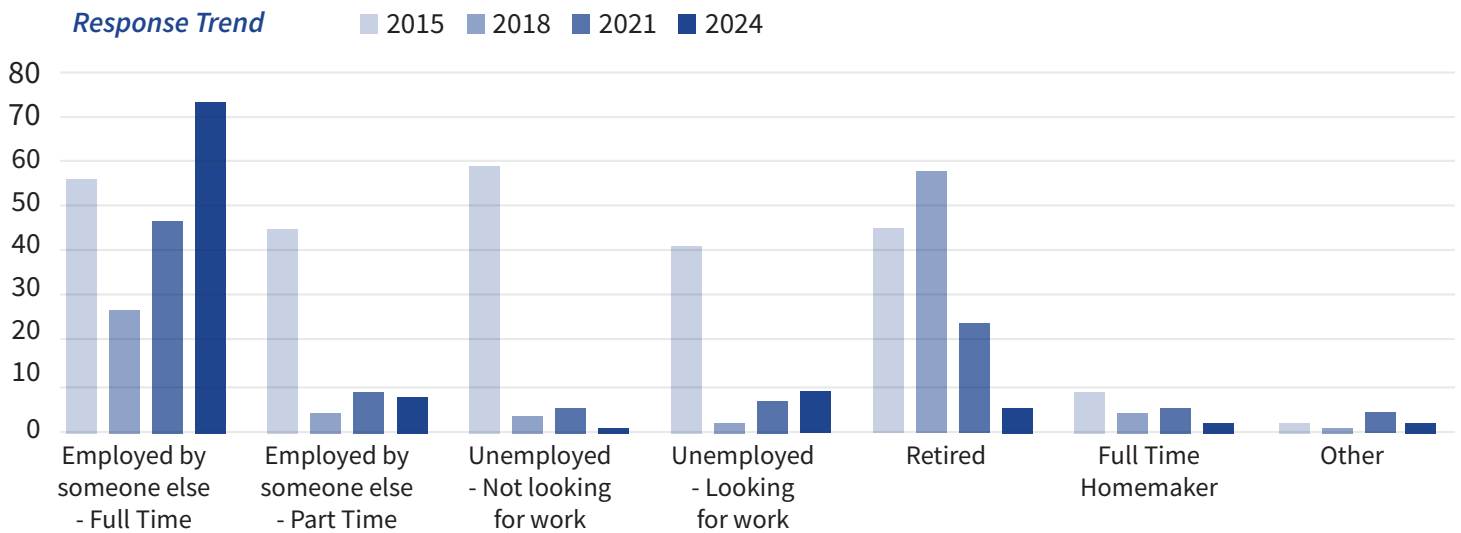
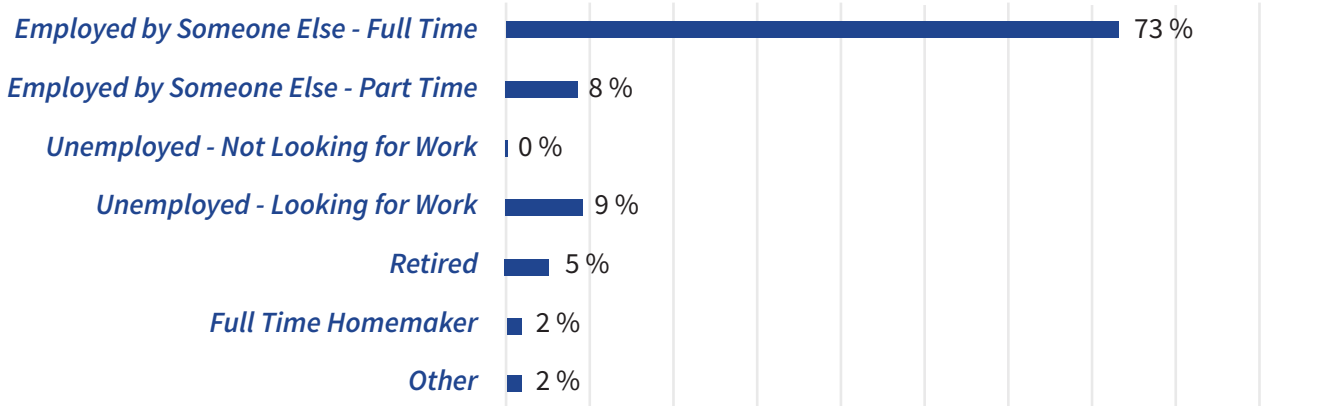
Are these education related issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?



Survey Data: Employment

Community Survey Information

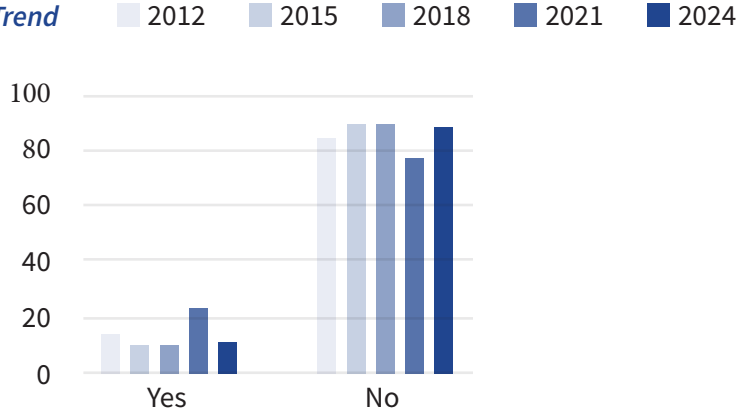
Which of the following best describes your employment status?



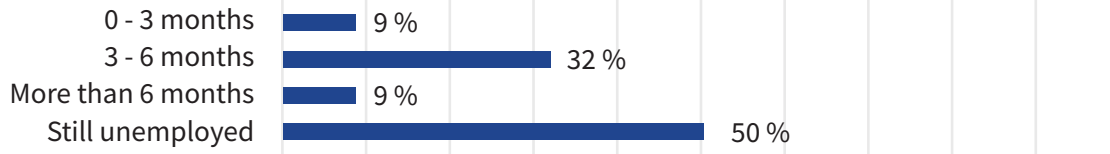
Has anyone in your household been laid off from a job at any time in the past year?



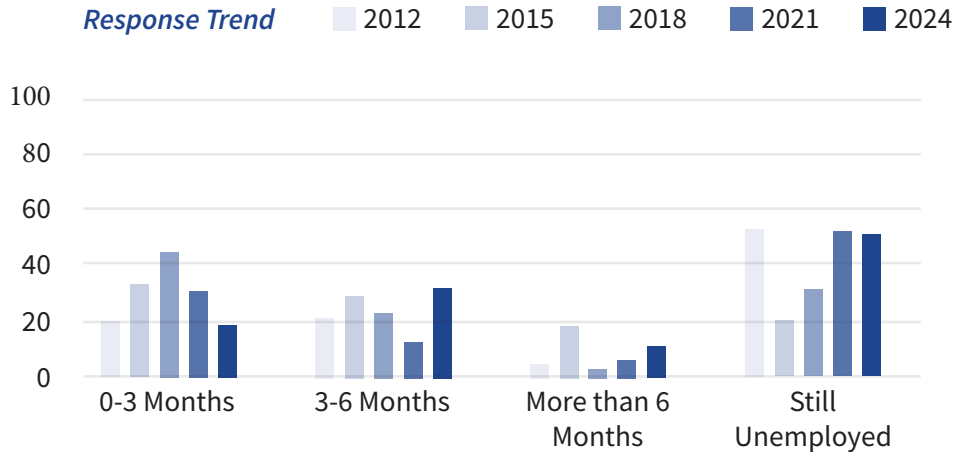
Response Trend



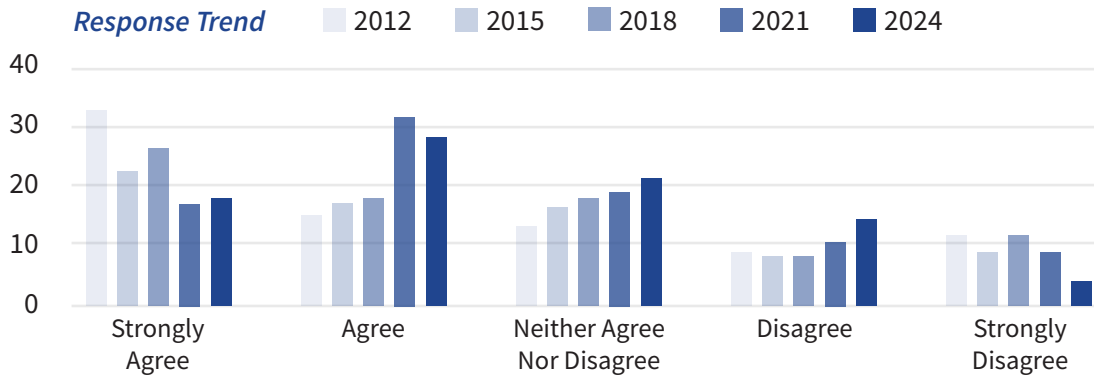
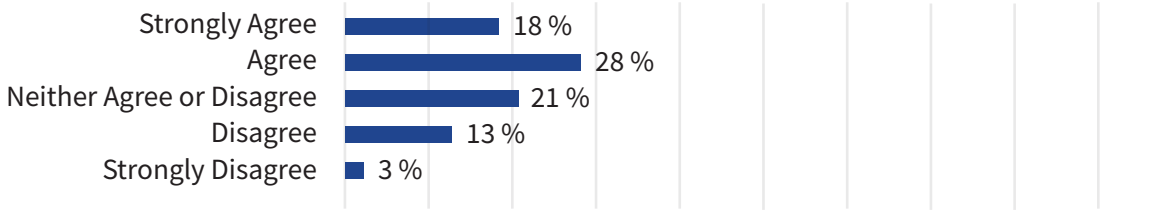
If someone in your household was laid off over the last year, how long did it take the person to find another job?



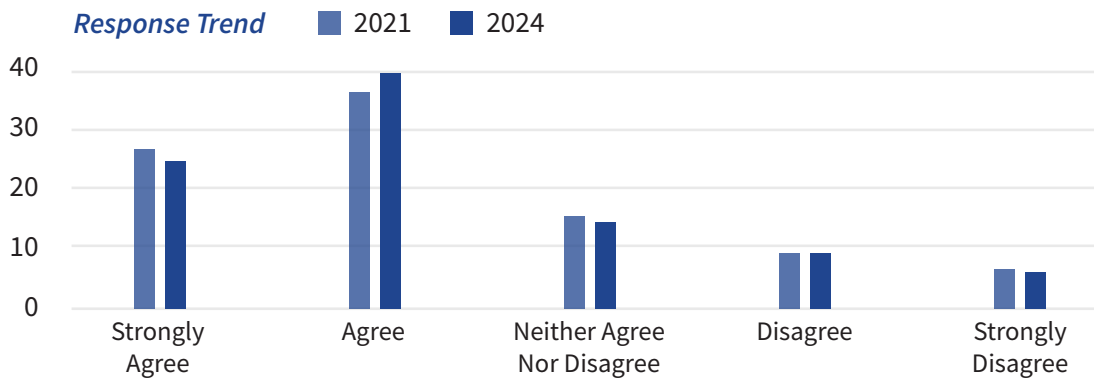
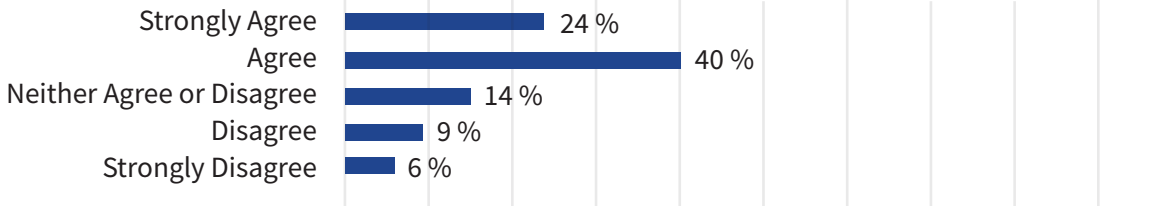
Response Trend



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



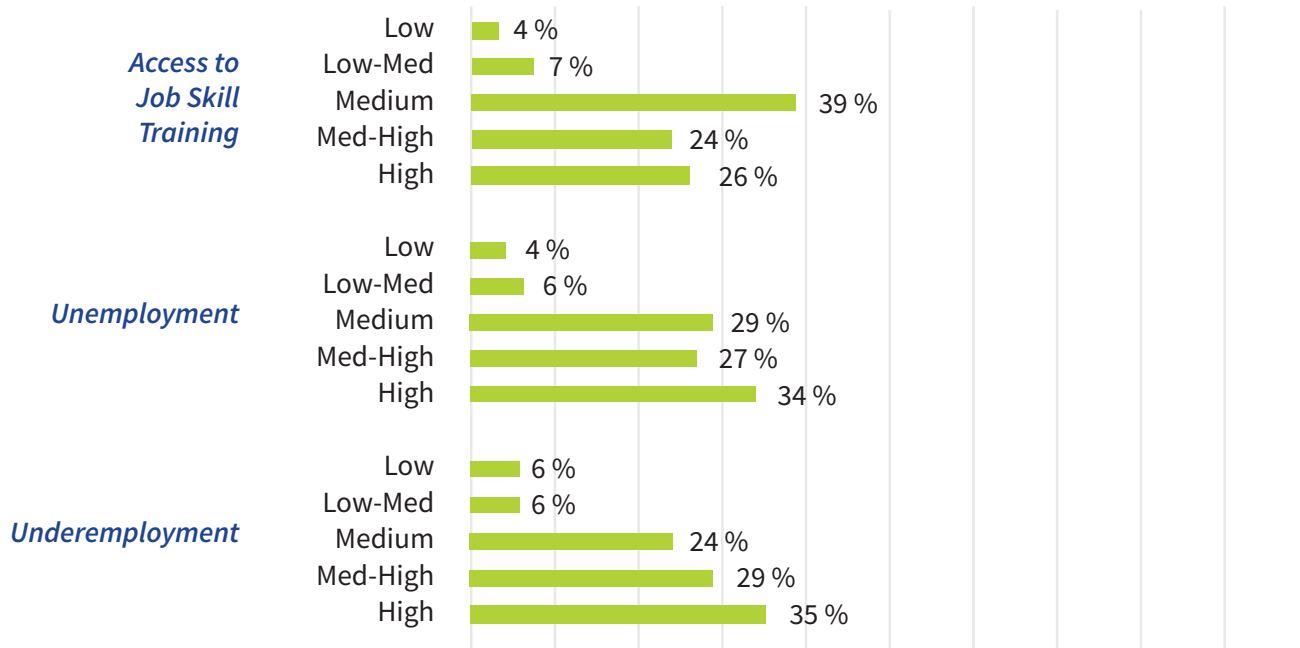
I have access to affordable transportation for employment purposes.



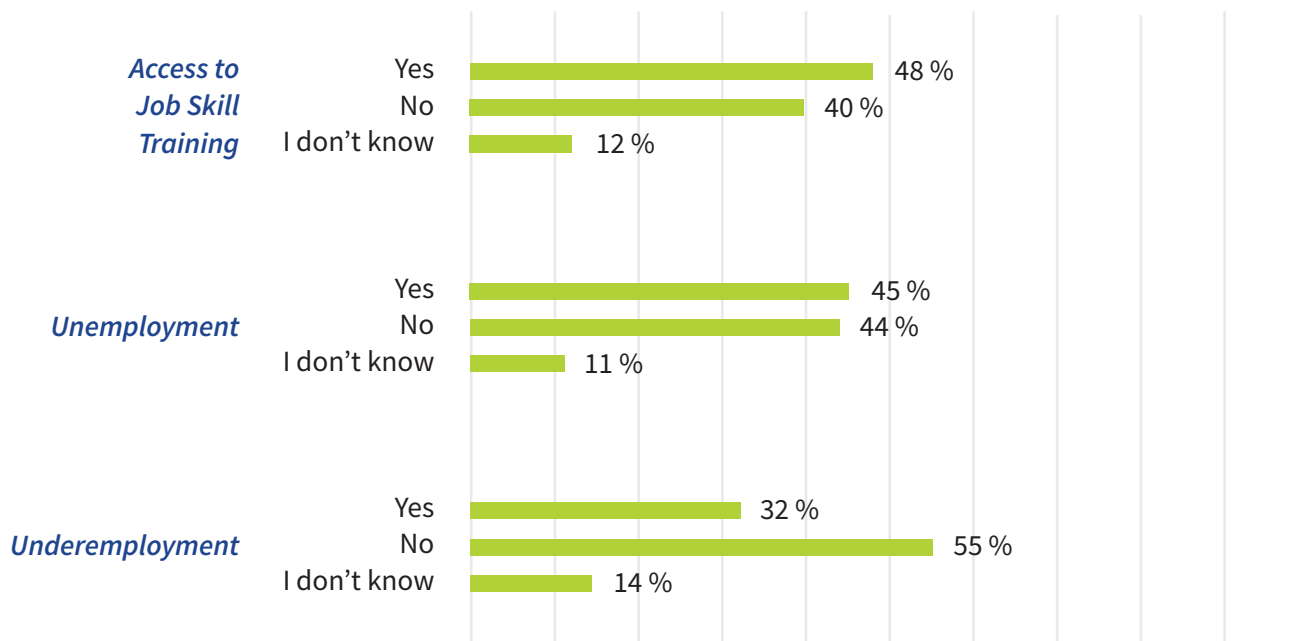
Survey Data: Employment

Partner Survey Information

What are the most important employment issues facing Lycoming County?



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



Families in Crisis

The needs of families in crisis, regardless the cause, were paramount in the minds of focus group participants and are consistently reflected in the other surveys. Interrelated issues, such as mental health, substance abuse, life skills development, lack of stable housing, and parenting supports were discussed in detail in the focus group. These and other crises identified in the assessment are interconnected and suggest the need for continued 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 12% of the households in Lycoming County are living in poverty. Of those households living in poverty, 57% are single female head of household families with children, compared to 13% who are single male head of household families with children. This is a stark difference and illustrates the wealth gap between males and females. Additionally, over 29% of households in Lycoming County are eligible for some form of county assistance. Making ends meet for these households is an ongoing battle, particularly when safe, affordable housing is a challenge in Lycoming County. Breaking the cycle of poverty and often the multi-generational cycle of poverty often requires families to deal with entrenched unhealthy behaviors and build new, healthy lifestyles. Across the data from the community, partner, and focus groups, four main themes emerge: mental health and substance abuse supports, housing instability, parenting and life skill development, housing instability, and domestic violence.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Supports

Mental health and substance abuse supports, including access, availability, and affordability were major areas of concern for community and partner respondents, as well as the focus groups. The link between mental health needs and substance abuse was discussed and how often they are intertwined for families in crisis. Substance abuse and mental health were tied at 7.2% as the most important problem, facing Lycoming County in the community survey. The community survey respondents noted they are noticing an increase in the use of drugs or alcohol in the community over the last year and that there is not adequate treatment options available. While partners survey respondents had substance abuse and related issues noted several times within the top ten most important issues, nearly half of the partners also noted that adequate attention is being focused on this topic. This makes sense as substance abuse and recovery programs have expanded. Over the last several years, access to mental health supports was noted as needing more attention in the community than substance abuse supports.

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 families in crisis. Mentoring programs for both youth and families was discussed as ways to connect individuals prior to them getting to the point of struggle with mental or other issues. Human service providers also emphasized harm reduction focusing on reducing drug use rather than pursuing the unrealistic goal of having clients abstain from all forms of drugs.

Housing Instability and Emergency Supports

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

Parenting and Life Skills Development

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

Domestic Violence

Both the community and partner survey respondents noted domestic violence remains a concern in Lycoming County. Forty-eight percent of community survey respondents stated they either agreed or strongly agreed that domestic violence was on the rise. While attention is being given to this issue, 57% of partner respondents stated that more attention is needed to support survivors and their families, it was noted that children are often caught in the middle of domestic violence situations and it can lead to long-term trauma. Focus group members described the deep trauma caused by all forms of domestic violence and the need for sustained mental health services to aid the healing process for the whole family.

Objective Data: Families in Crisis

Poverty: Households in Poverty

The table below shows the number and percentage of households in poverty based on the Poverty Thresholds in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. In 2022, it is estimated there were 5,499 households, or 12.0% of Lycoming County's 45,705 households living in poverty, compared to a Pennsylvania average of 11.9% and a United States average of 12.4%.

Households in Poverty

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Percent Households in Poverty
Lycoming County	45,705	5,499	12.0%
Pennsylvania	193,727	617,593	11.9%
United States	125,736,353	15,616,265	12.4%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Income and Poverty Estimates, 2018-2022. Source geography: County.

Poverty: Household Poverty Rate by Family Type

The table below shows percentage of households in poverty by household type. From 2018-2022 it is estimated that 5.2% of family households and 6.8% of non-family households lived in poverty in Lycoming County.

Household Poverty Rate by Family Type

Report Area	Family Households in Poverty	Family Households in Poverty Percent	Non Family Households in Poverty	Non Family Households in Poverty Percent
Lycoming County	2,388	5.2%	3,111	6.8%
Pennsylvania	262,184	5.0%	355,409	6.8%
United States	7,151,167	5.7%	8,465,098	6.7%

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

Poverty: Family Poverty Rate by Family Type

The percentage of households in poverty by household type are shown for the report area. It is estimated that 8.2% of all households were living in poverty within the report area, compared to the national average of 8.8%. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 57.1% of all households in poverty, compared to 29.8% and 13.1% of households headed by males and married couples, respectively.

Family Poverty Rate by Family Type

Report Area	Poverty Rate All Types	Percent of Poverty Married Couples	Percent of Poverty Male Householder	Percent of Poverty Female Householder
Lycoming County	8.2%	29.8%	13.1%	57.1%
Pennsylvania	8.0%	32.1%	11.4%	56.5%
United States	8.8%	37.3%	11.0%	51.8%

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

Poverty: Number of Individuals Eligible for County Assistance Funding

The table below shows the unduplicated number of persons eligible for assistance for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

Number of Households Eligible for County Assistance Funding

Report Area	Total Population	Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance	Percent of Population Eligible	Receiving TANF	Percent of Population Receiving TANF	Eligible for SNAP	Percent Eligible for SNAP
Lycoming County	114,022	33,793	29.64%	1,036	0.91%	17,884	15.68%
Pennsylvania	25,978,416	7,282,986	28.03%	160,176	0.62%	3,878,703	14.93%

Data was compiled from 2022 - 2023 Average Monthly Unduplicated Number of Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, 2022-2023. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

Poverty: Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance

The table below shows the average monthly unduplicated number of persons eligible for medical assistance for the fiscal year 2022-2023. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for the area shown, there was a total of 33,793 persons eligible, or 29.64%, for medical assistance. This is compared to Pennsylvania's 28.03%.

Number of Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance

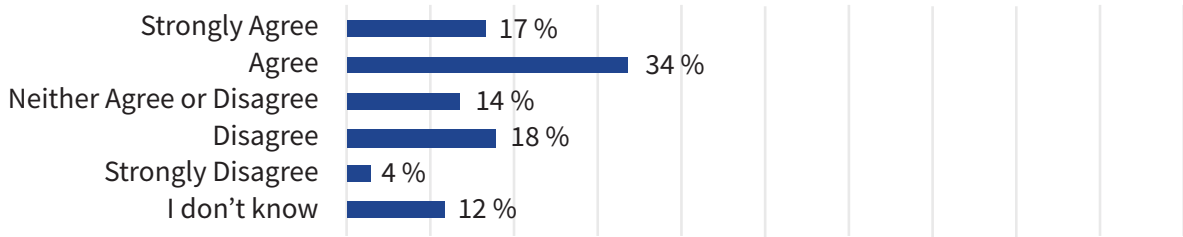
Report Area	Total Population	Persons Eligible	Percent Persons Eligible
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Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Source geography: County.

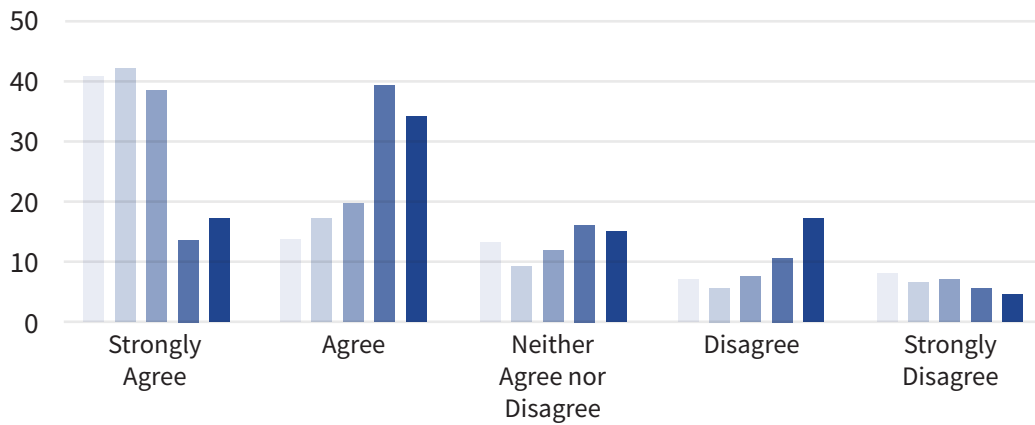
Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Emergency Services

Community Survey Information

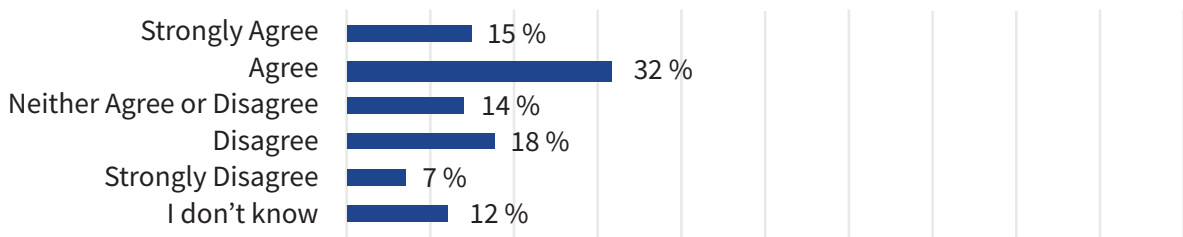
I have access to affordable individual and family counseling services, if I were to need them.



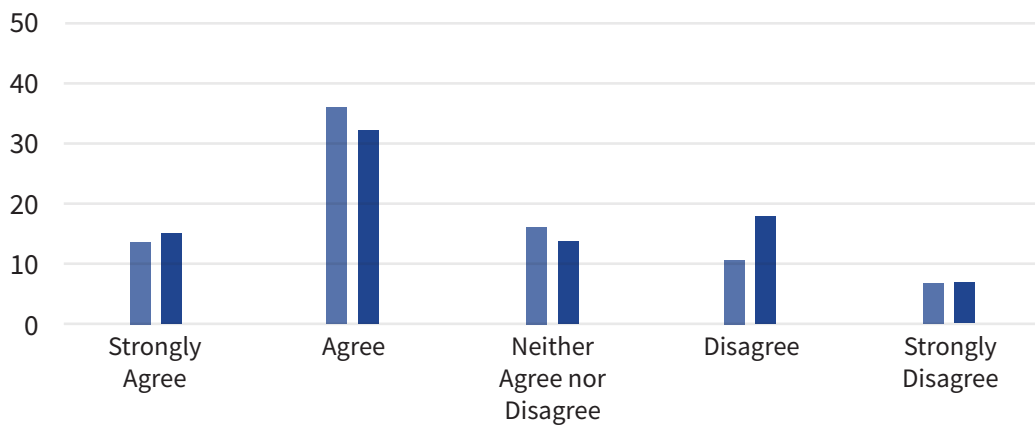
Response Trend 2012 2015 2018 2021 2024



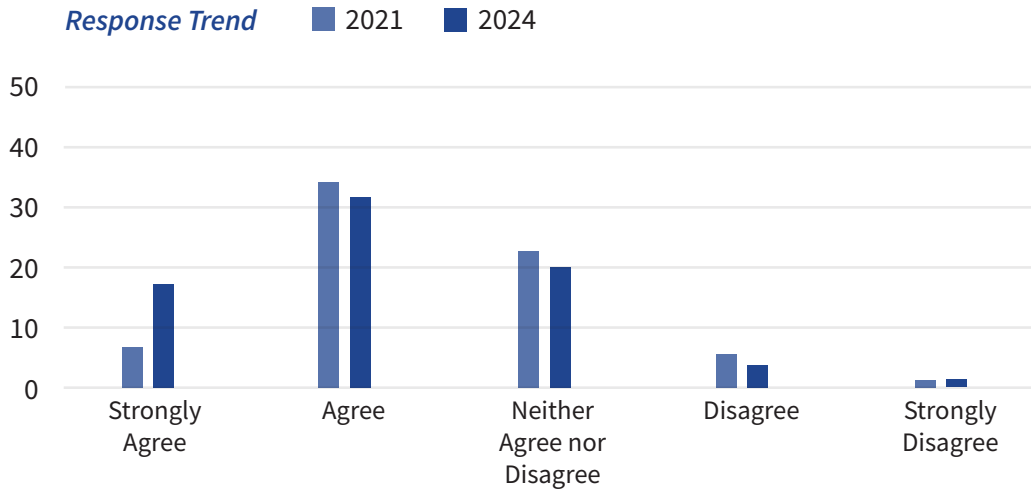
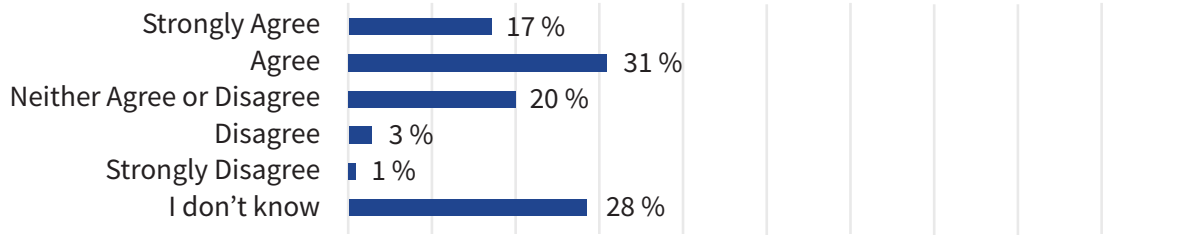
I have access to affordable mental health supports, if I were to need them.



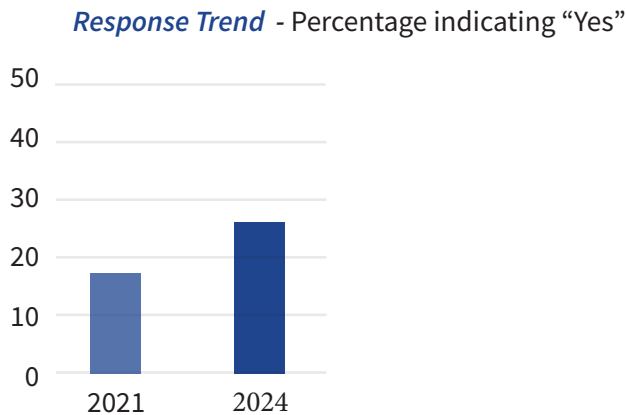
Response Trend 2021 2024



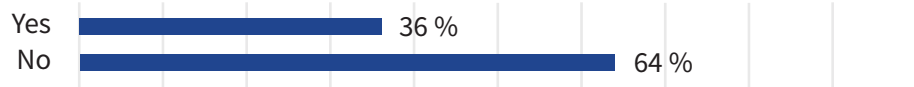
Domestic violence is on the rise in my community.



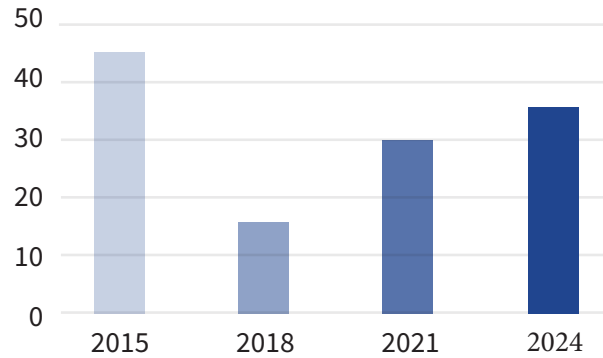
Have you or someone you know in your community been the victim of physical abuse by a family member in the last year?



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



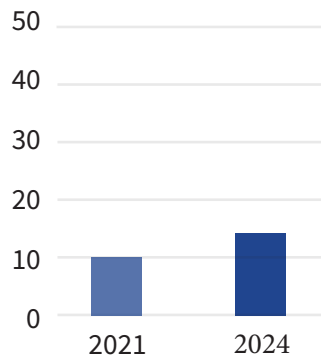
Response Trend - Percentage indicating “Yes”



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



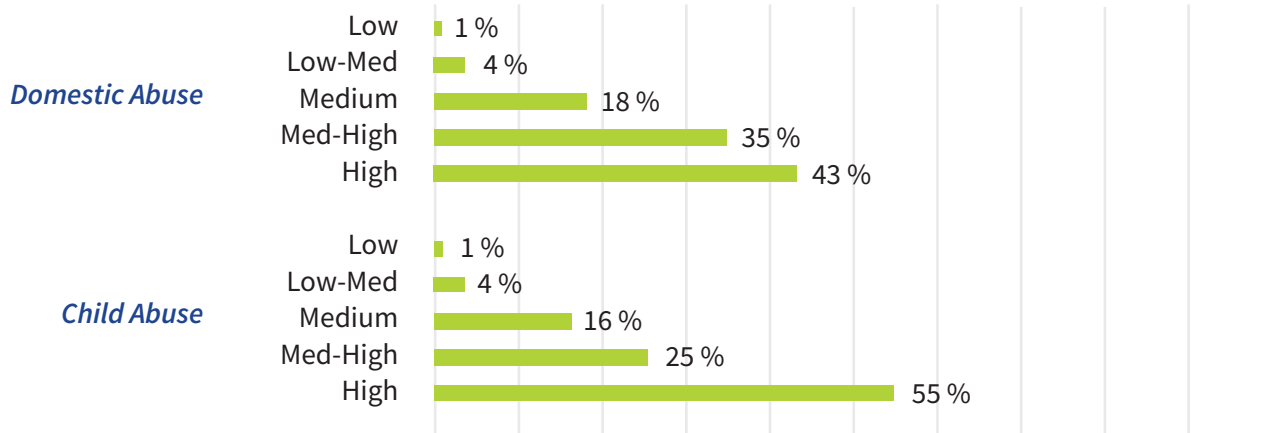
Response Trend - Percentage indicating “Yes”



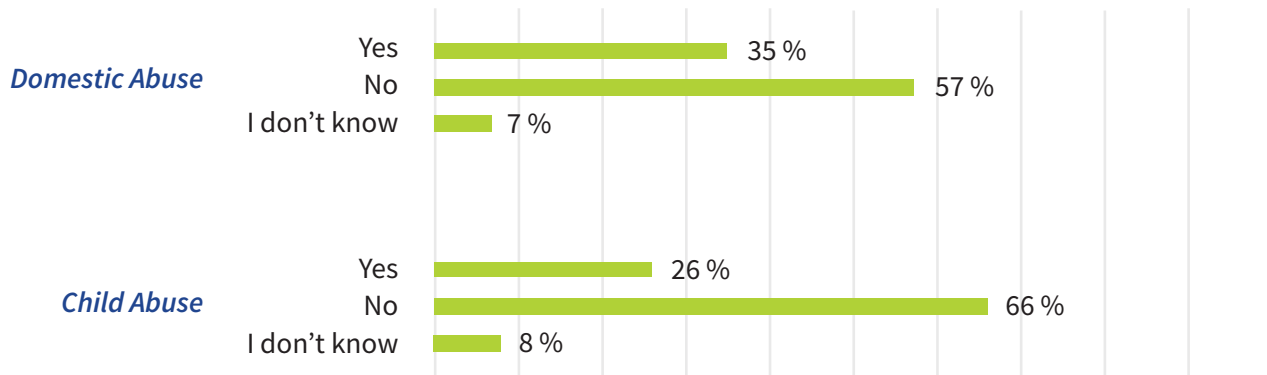
Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Emergency Services

Partner Survey Information

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



Are these issues receiving adequate attention by community groups?



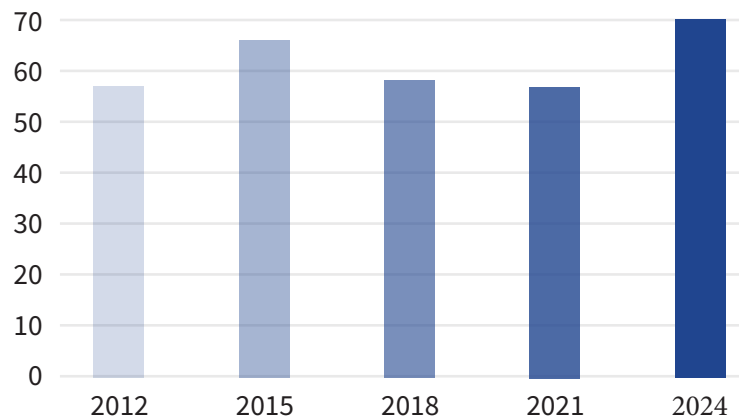
Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Substance Abuse

Community Survey Information

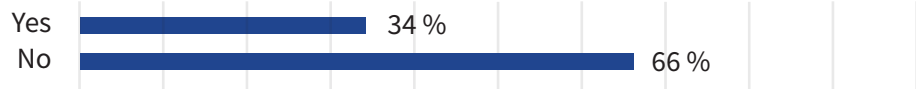
Are you aware of anyone in your community who has a problem with drug or alcohol abuse?



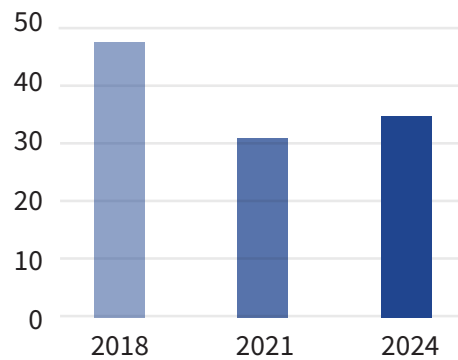
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



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



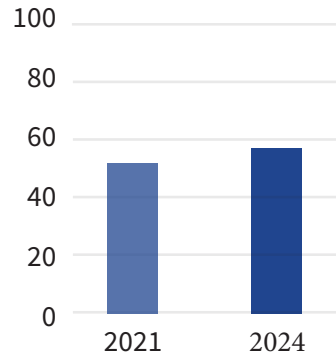
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



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



Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



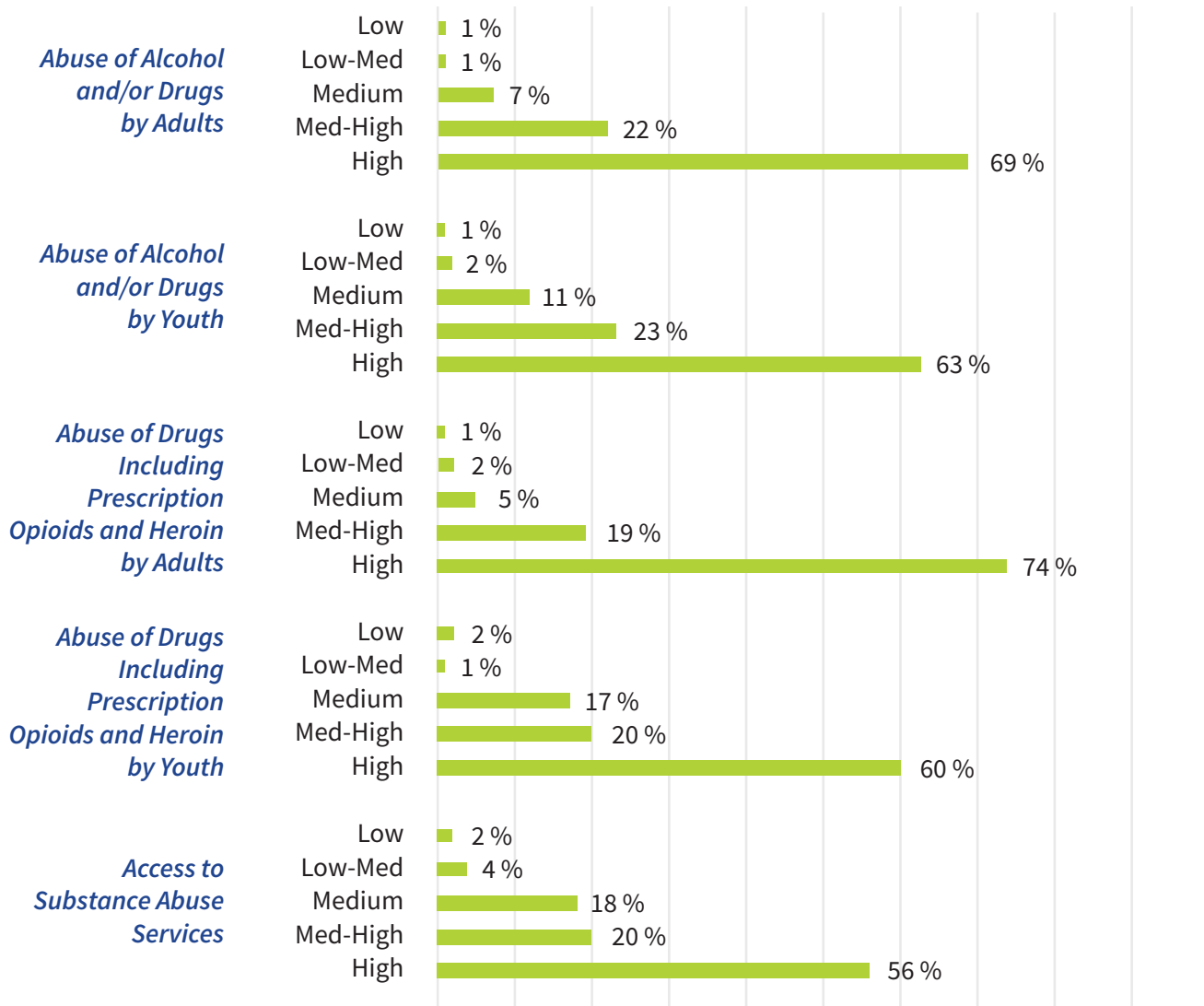
Do you feel there are adequate drug and alcohol abuse treatment options?



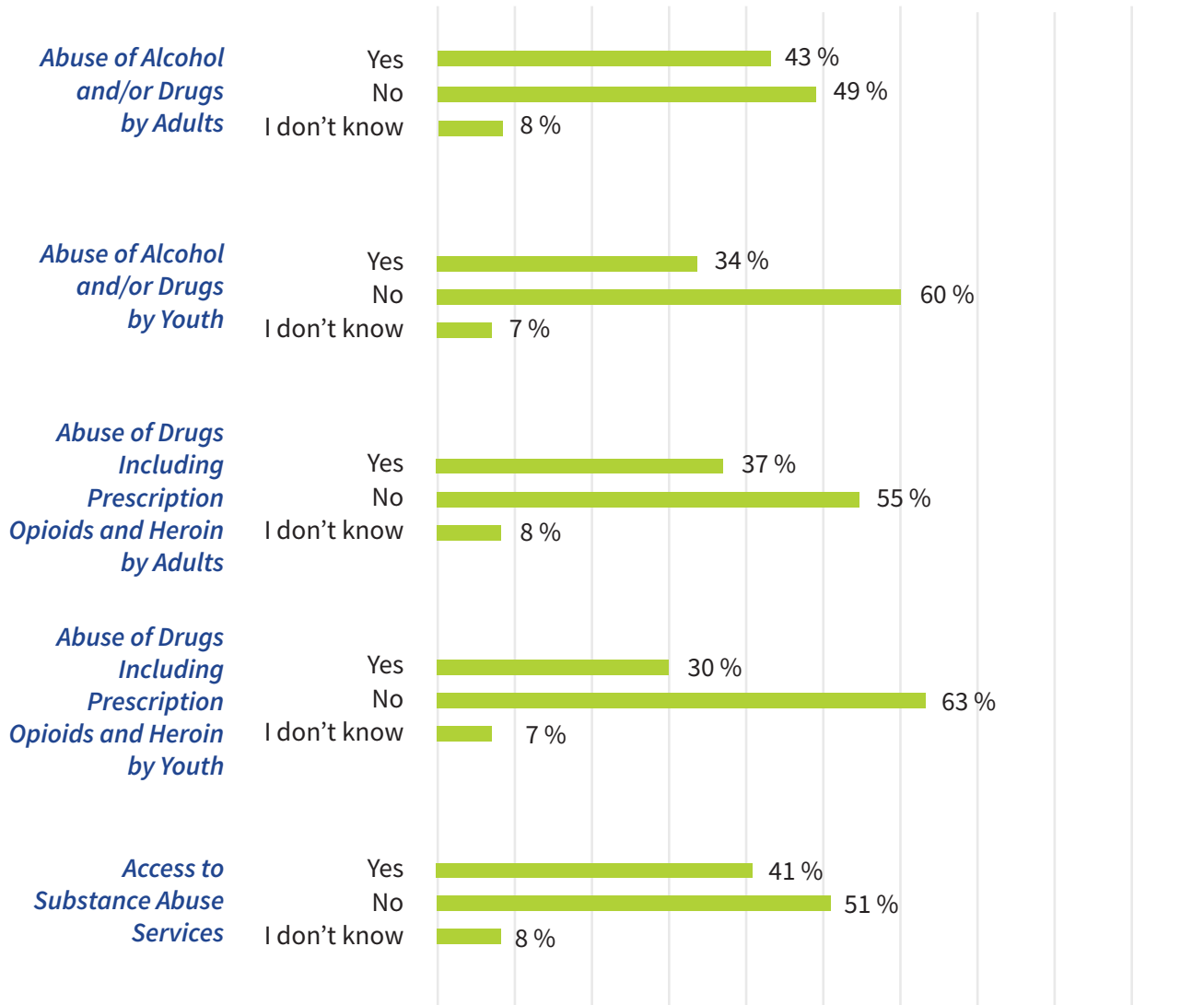
Survey Data: Families in Crisis / Substance Abuse

Partner Survey Information

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



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



Health and Nutrition

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

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

Medical and Dental Care Options for Vulnerable Populations

For our most vulnerable populations, including low-income families, homeless families, children and youth, seniors, and individuals with a disability, accessing medical and dental care options were discussed as still being a challenge 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 transportation options beyond those for individuals that have Medical Assistance are needed. Various human service providers discussed how transportation is a barrier to care for their customers. Each of the vulnerable populations also have medical and dental needs, many of which require visits to specialists that are not found in the region. Pediatric dentistry and oral surgeons that accept medical assistance were some of the specialists noted. Behavioral specialists and mental health professionals were noted as being so overstretched that even getting in to see one often took months and by that time the individual's issues have compounded even more.

Mental Health Crisis

Eighty-three percent of partner survey respondents said that access to mental health services was of medium to high importance, and 69% 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. Stress, anxiety, and depression were all noted as ongoing struggles for even those who have no history of mental health needs. Human service providers discussed 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. Many of them are already overwhelmed and they have no availability to take on additional patients. Specifically, the focus group stated there are not enough psychiatrists in the local area. With so few options, when individuals are in extreme mental health crisis, case managers are directing them to go to the emergency room. Yet often they cannot be admitted to the mental health unit as they are also 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 individuals who are struggling to reach out earlier. The community also needs to work with health care providers to increase the availability of mental health services locally.

Cost of Care

Forty-eight percent of community survey respondents stated they avoided medical treatment because it was too costly. Similarly, 30% of community survey respondents stated they did not see a dentist last year due to cost. Fifty-nine percent of partner survey respondents noted that access to affordable prescription medication was not receiving adequate attention and 65% of partner respondents noted it was either medium-high or high importance. From the focus groups, it was discussed that there are not many community-based options to support mental or dental costs and the overall cost of care has put families into serious debt even when they have insurance. Medical debt can compound and create financial insecurity for a family, and if the family is already struggling, this can move them into a crisis.

Access to Fresh Food

The need for food support was discussed throughout all the focus groups and addressed on the surveys. Forty-three percent of community survey respondents stated they were aware of someone in their community that has gone without food for more than a day because they could not afford it. While 63% of partner survey respondents stated hunger was a medium-high to high level issue, 63% also stated hunger was receiving adequate attention in the community. Focus groups and surveys related to nutrition noted access to fresh food, such as fruits and vegetables should still be supported more. Food is a basic need and tied to directly to a person's overall health. Providing more options to vulnerable populations to access fresh food is important. Programs like Fresh Express were discussed and how there could be more outreach around how to enroll in them.

Objective Data: Health and Nutrition

Health Care: Births

Most live births in Lycoming County occurred with mothers 20-30 years of age, giving birth to 52.4% of all births. The second largest group is mothers 30-40 years of age, with 40.8% of births. Mothers over age 40 represent 2.5% of births. Of interest are the number of live births by mothers 19 or younger, who gave birth to 4.2% 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

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	1,127	1	46	591	460	28	1
Pennsylvania	132,720	54	4,608	57,021	66,350	4,663	24

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

Health Care: Number of Deaths and Death Rate

Number of Deaths and Death Rates, 2018-2022

Report Area	Live Births		All Deaths		Infant Deaths	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000
Lycoming County	1,127	9.9	1,412	875.3	56	7.2
Pennsylvania	134,247	10.5	726,709	821.9	5,598	6.0

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health. Source geography: County. Data was compiled from Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, 2018-2022. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center. 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 28,200 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in Lycoming County in 2013. 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 3,535 persons with disabilities in Lycoming County received Medicare benefits in 2023.

Medicare Enrollment by County, 2023

Report Area	Persons Over 65 Receiving Medicare	Persons with Disabilities Receiving Medicare	Total Persons Receiving Medicare
Lycoming County	24,665	3,535	28,200
Pennsylvania	2,552,600	338,981	2,891,580

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

Health Care: Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Enrollment

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

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

Report Area	Total Enrollment
Lycoming County	1,067
Pennsylvania	130,239

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

Health Care: Uninsured Adults

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

Uninsured Persons, 2022

Report Area	Total Population Age 18-64	Population Age 18-64 without Insurance	Population Age 19-64 without Insurance, Percent
Lycoming County	62,974	4,546	7.22%
Pennsylvania	7,525,649	527,703	7.01%
United States	197,858,423	22,237,154	11.24%

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

Health Care: Medicare and Medicaid Providers

The total number of institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and community mental health centers for 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 18 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in Lycoming County in December of 2023.

Institutional Medicare and Medicaid Providers, 2023

Report Area	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Lycoming County	18	4	8	8	0	0
Pennsylvania	2,046	238	670	402	70	1
United States	54,926	7,044	15,350	11,698	5,365	114

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

Physicians

The table below shows the number of physicians and physician assistants for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 1.73 physicians per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County; the Pennsylvania average is 3.56 physicians per 1,000 persons.

Physicians and Assistants, 2024

Report Area	Medical Physicians / Surgeons	Osteopathic Physicians / Surgeons	Physicians per 1,000
Lycoming County	197	61	1.73
Pennsylvania	37,884	8,399	3.56

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

Dentists

The table below shows the number of dentists and dental hygienists for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 1.38 dental professionals per 1,000 persons in the report area. The Pennsylvania average is 1.23 dental professionals per 1,000 persons.

Dental Professionals, 2024

Report Area	Dentists	Dental Hygienists	Dental Professionals per 1,000
Lycoming County	49	109	1.38
Pennsylvania	7,872	8,121	1.23

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

Nurses

The table below shows the number of nurses, nurse practitioners, and nurse specialists for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 21.66 nursing professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 20.43 nursing professionals per 1,000 persons.

Nurses, 2024

Report Area	Registered Nurses	Practical Nurses	Registered Nurse Practitioners	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurses per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	1,645	719	109	0	21.66
Pennsylvania	199,643	49,031	16,414	238	20.43

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

Mental Health Professionals

The table below shows the number of mental health psychologists for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 0.19 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, 2024

Report Area	Psychologists	Psychologists per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	22	0.19
Pennsylvania	2,393	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. Source geography: County.

Access to Mental Health Providers

This indicator reports the number of mental health providers in the report area as a rate per 100,000 total area population. Mental health providers are defined as psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists, and mental health providers that treat alcohol and other drug abuse, as well as advanced practice nurses specializing in mental health care. Data from the 2023 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Provider Identifier (NPI) downloadable file are used in the 2024 County Health Rankings. Within the report area there are 234 mental health providers with a CMS National Provider Identifier (NPI). This represents 207 providers per 100,000 total population. *Note: Data are suppressed for counties with population greater than 1,000 and 0 mental health providers.*

Access to Mental Health Providers, 2023

Report Area	Estimated Population	Number of Mental Health Providers	Ratio of Mental Health Providers to Population (1 provider per x persons)	Mental Health Care Provider Rate (per 100,000 population)
Lycoming County	113,043	234	483.1	207
Pennsylvania	12,951,852	34,970	370.4	270
United States	333,191,688	1,045,210	318.8	313.7

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

Special Health Professionals

The table below shows the number of optometrists and doctors of podiatric medicine for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 0.18 special health professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 0.26 special health professionals per 1,000 persons.

Special Health Professionals

Report Area	Optometrists	Doctors of Podiatric Medicine	Special Health Professionals per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	14	7	0.18
Pennsylvania	2,105	1,241	0.26

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

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)

The table below shows that 6,697 households (14.65%) received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments, formerly known as food stamps, during 2019 in Lycoming County. Of those 6,697 households, 3,031 have at least one working family member and 2,269 are over the age of 60.

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status

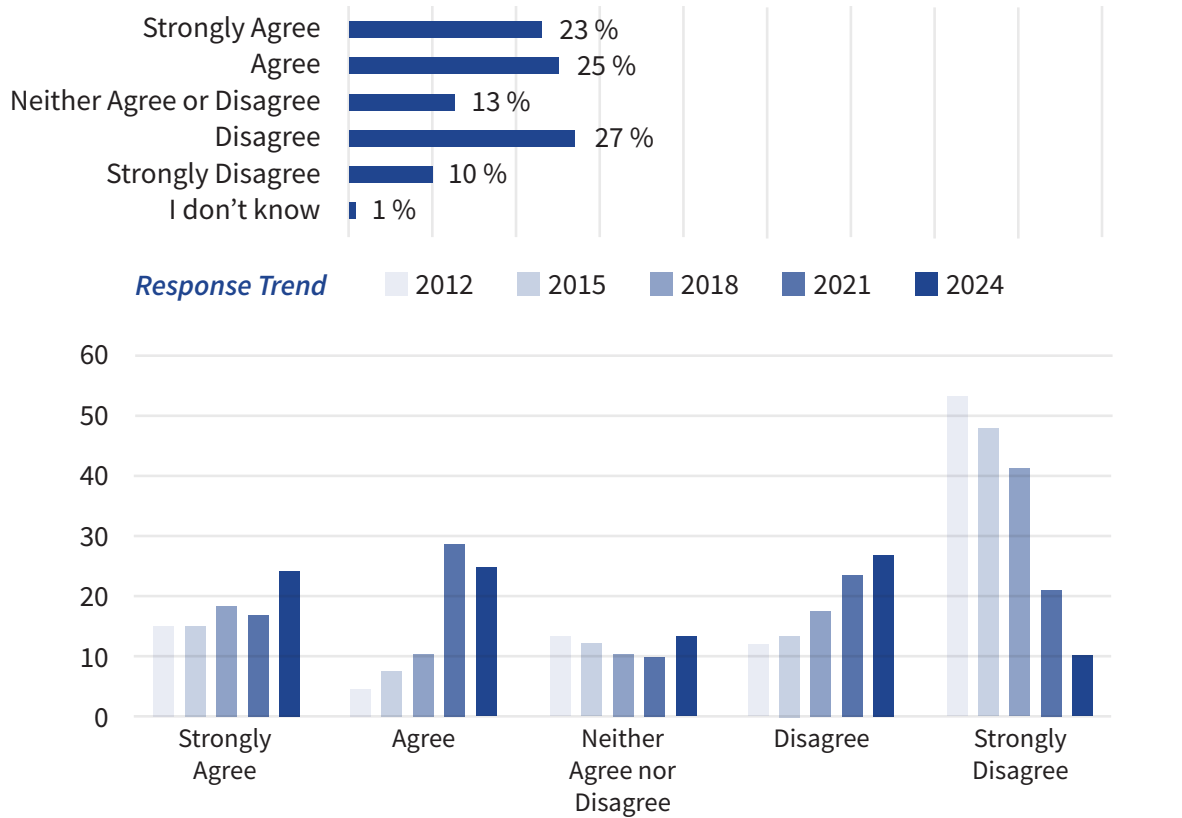
Report Area	Total Households Receiving SNAP	Percent	Income Below Poverty	Income Above Poverty	Family has at Least 1 Working Member	Age 60 and Older
Lycoming County	6,697	14.65%	2,281	3,876	3,031	2,269
Pennsylvania	708,782	13.65%	307,465	401,317	336,874	285,559
United States	14,486,880	11.52%	6,332,769	8,154,111	7,732,214	5,461,229

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

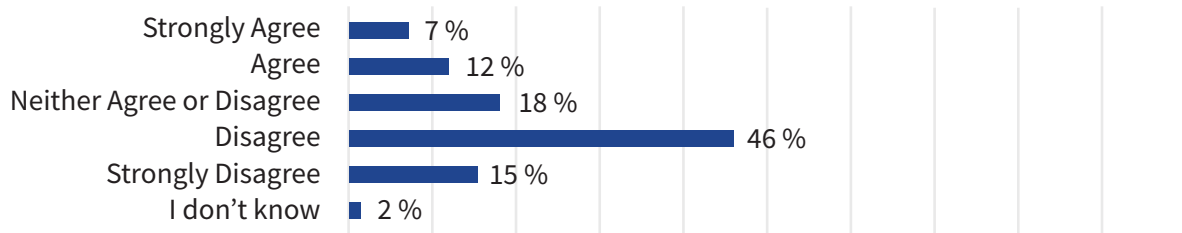
Survey Data: Health and Nutrition

Community Survey Information

I have avoided medical treatment because it was too costly.



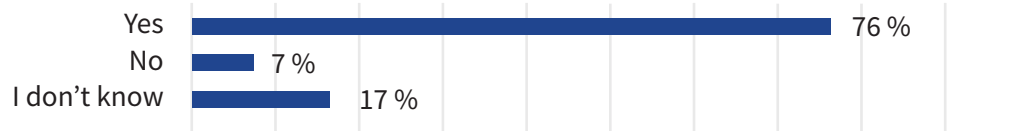
I have not taken my prescribed medication because it was too costly.



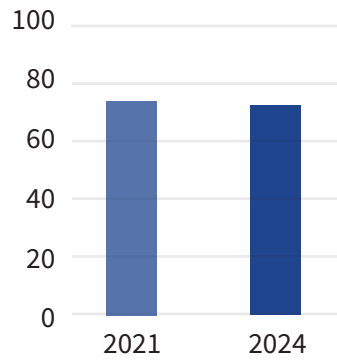
I have not attended medical appointments due to a lack of transportation.



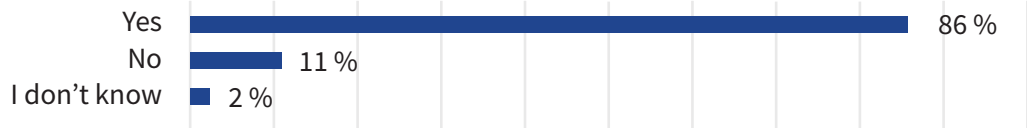
Does your medical provider offer other options to be seen, such as telemedicine, nurse hotline, or virtual appointments?



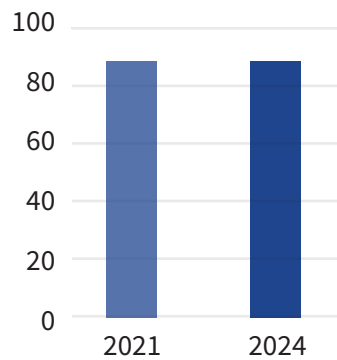
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



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



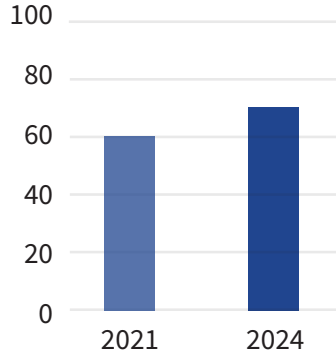
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



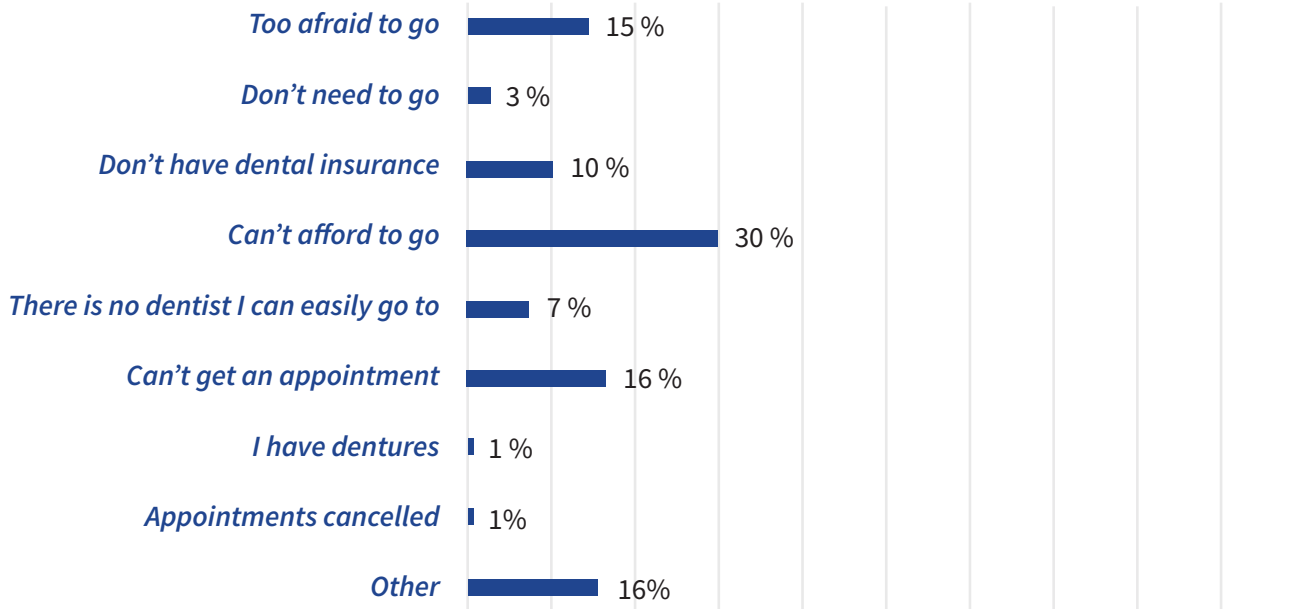
Have you seen a dentist in the last year?



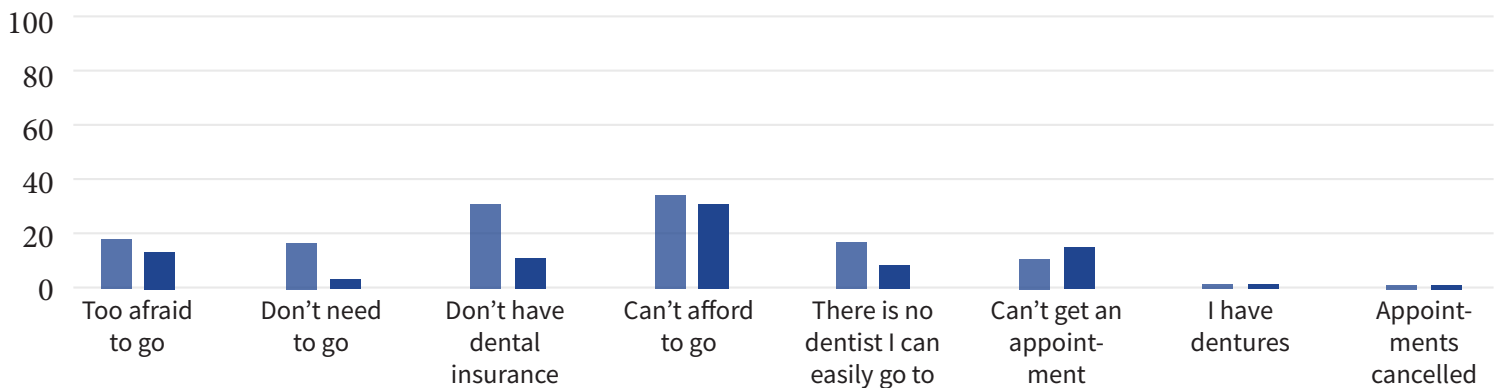
Response Trend - Percentage indicating “Yes”



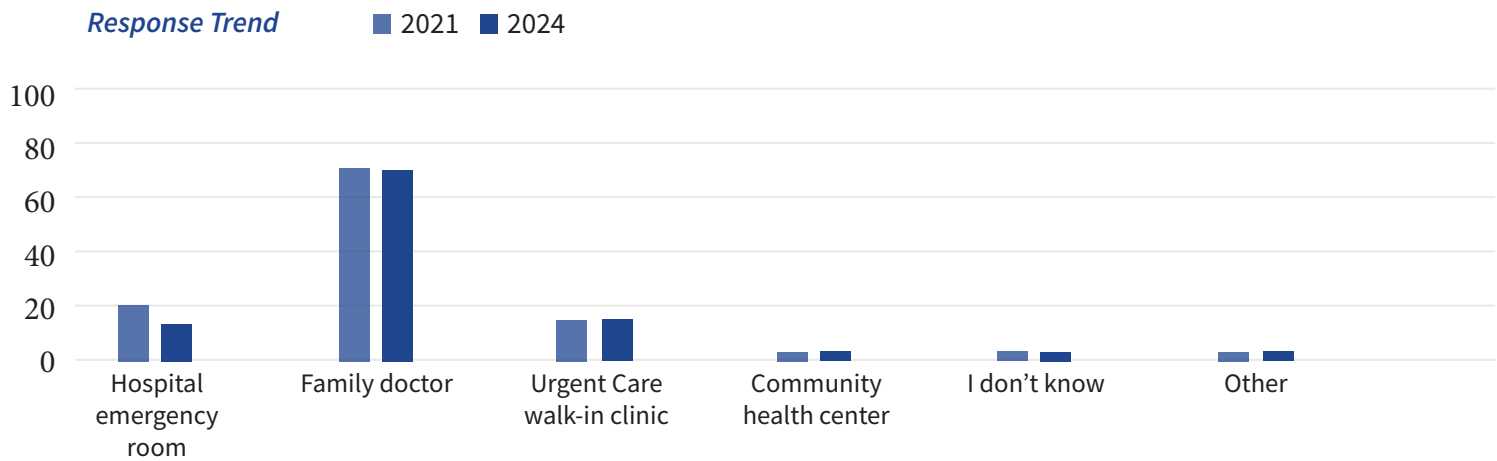
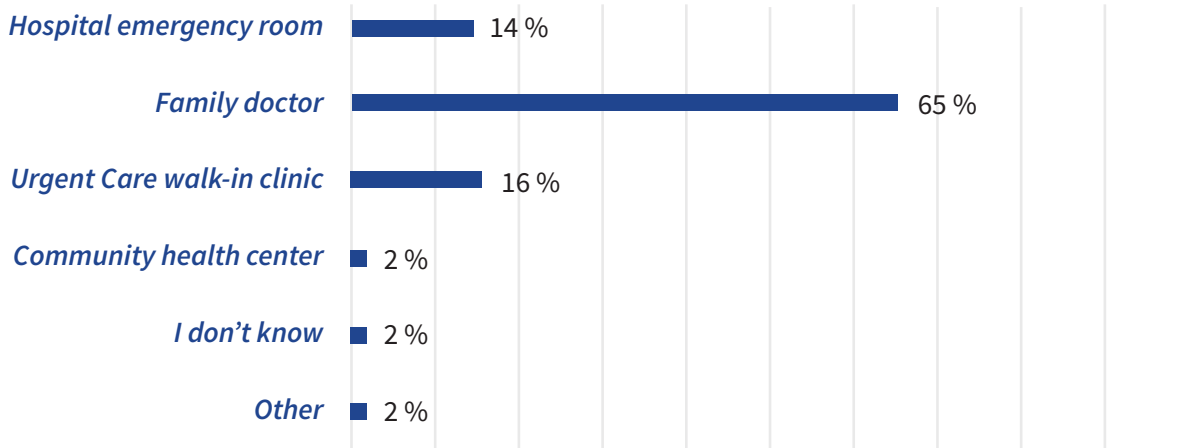
If you have not seen a dentist in the last year, what is the reason?



Response Trend ■ 2021 ■ 2024



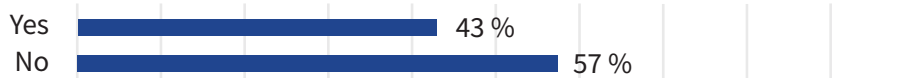
Which of the following would be your first choice if you or someone in your family became ill enough to seek medical help?



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



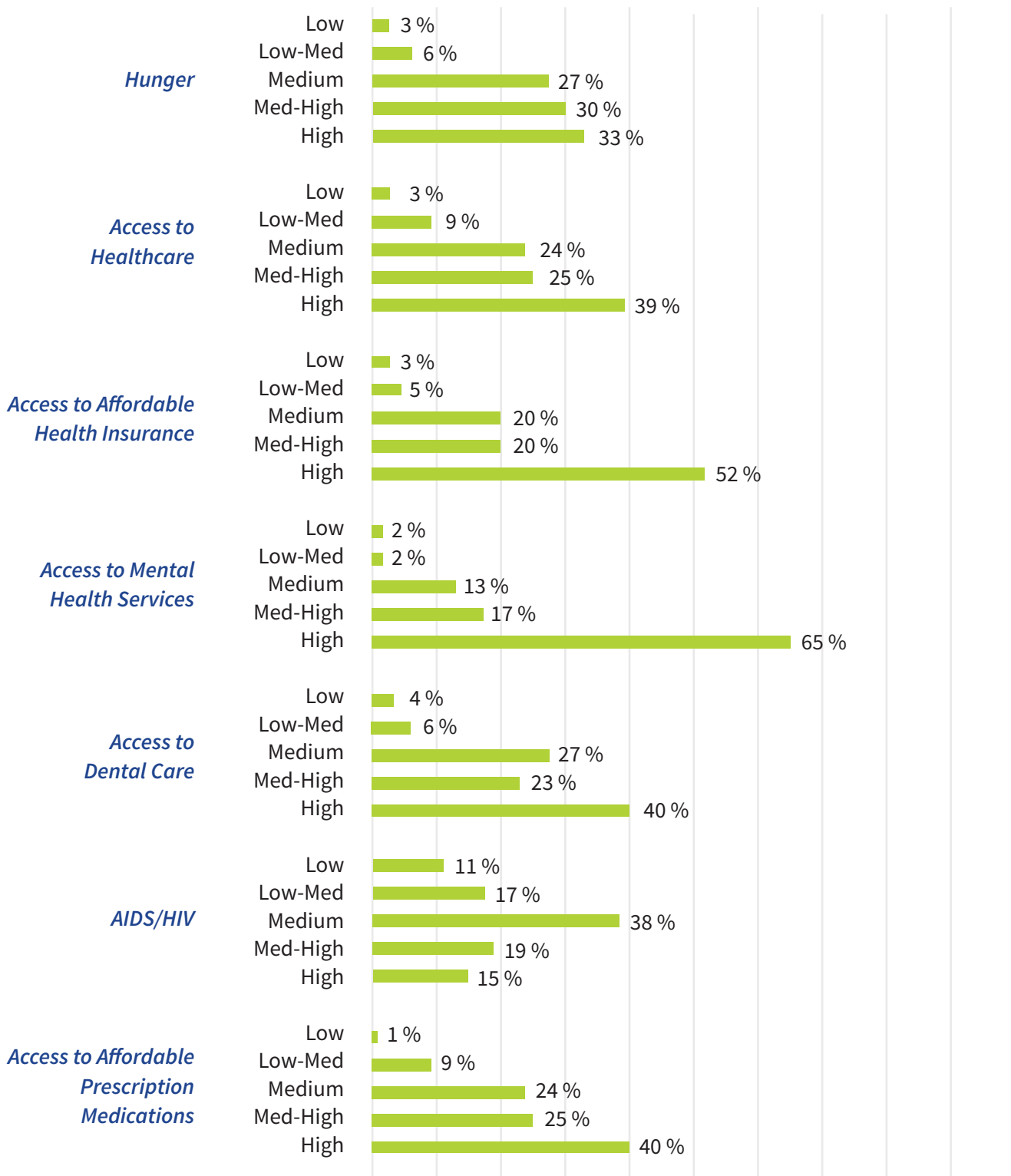
Are you aware of someone in your community who has gone without food for more than a day in the past year because they could not afford it?

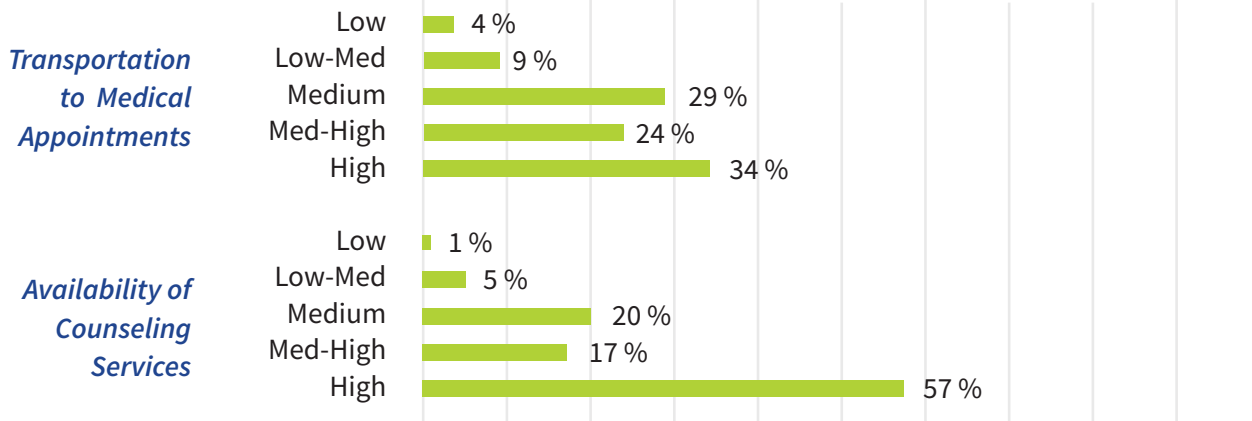


Survey Data: Health and Nutrition

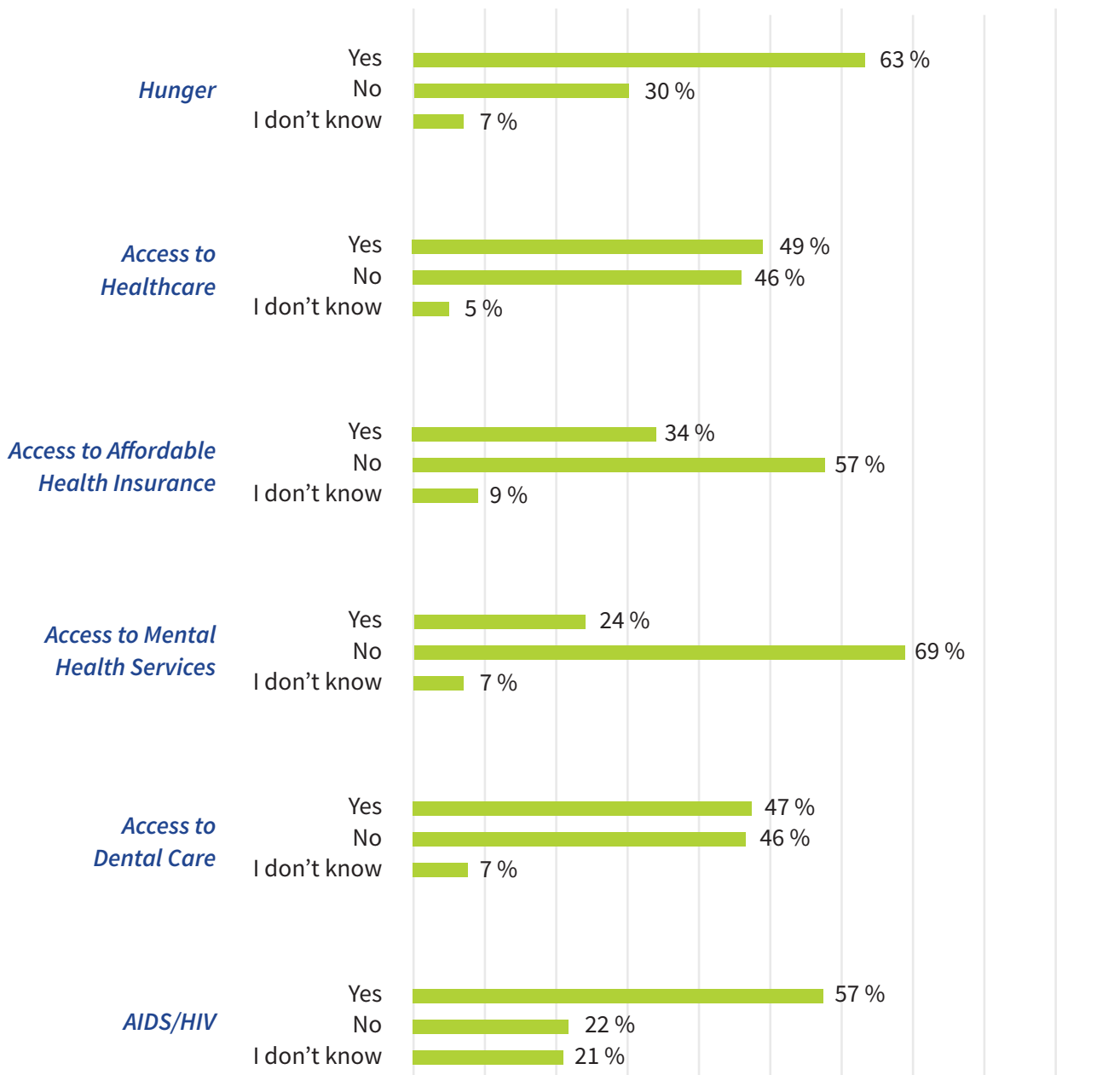
Partner Survey Information

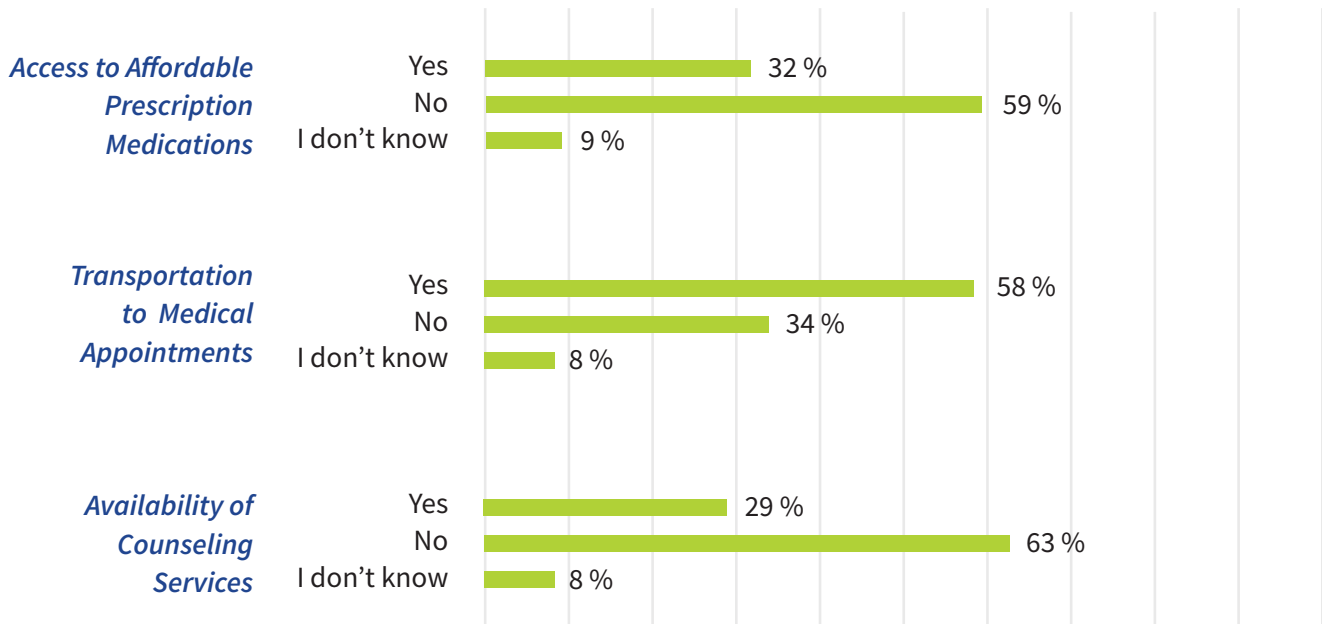
What are the most important health and nutrition issues facing Lycoming County?





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





Housing and Homelessness

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

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

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

Housing Affordability

Affordable housing is a complex issue that includes ensuring a community has a range of safe and accessible options for individuals at various income levels and capabilities. The availability of quality affordable housing was an issue in Lycoming County long before increased demand in the mid-to-late 2000s prompted 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 housing market in Lycoming County is unaffordable for many. According to the American Community Survey, in Lycoming County 42.2% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on rent payments. This is compared to 20.7% of homeowners who spend more than 30% of their income on mortgage payments. This illustrates how the housing market in Lycoming County is not affordable, particularly for renters. The cost of housing is outpacing the wage increases for worker, particularly within lower wage positions. Seventy seven percent of partner survey respondents noted that affordable housing was the most important housing related issue and 78% stated it was not receiving adequate attention in the community. Forty-five percent of community survey respondents stated they knew someone who was forced to move from their home due to the landlord raising rent, making the unit not affordable to them.

The State of Housing

Focus group participants also discussed the challenge of trying to maintain a quality housing stock, a particularly vexing problem for the affordable housing community. Beyond the lack of new housing construction for all forms of housing, the state of disrepair of the current housing stock is an issue. 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.

Homelessness

There are many reasons a family may be experiencing homelessness in Lycoming County, including housing affordability, housing availability, evictions, mental health, domestic violence, and others. According to partner survey respondents, 62% stated that homelessness was not adequately receiving attention by the community. Of the community survey respondents, 50% stated they or someone they knew had no place to live at some point in the last year. Focus group participants and community survey respondents discussed the importance of supports to help assist families experiencing homelessness. In November of 2024, it was noted that on the 211 By Name List, there were 200 families that have identified themselves as homeless and looking for housing supports in Lycoming County. This is significantly higher than 2023 when the number was approximately 130. Programs that couple a Housing First philosophy coupled with the intensive case management needed for families to move forward on their journey to economic stability need to be continually invested in and supported.

Objective Data: Housing and Homelessness

Housing: Housing Units

The number of housing units within Lycoming County in July of each year from 2014-2023 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, there were a total of 52,780 housing units in Lycoming County in 2023, an increase of 142 dwellings (0.27%) since 2014. Compared to a 4.46% increase statewide.

Housing Units July 2014-2023

Report Area	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lycoming County	52,638	52,677	52,690	53,432	53,530
Pennsylvania	5,590,712	5,603,051	5,611,995	5,694,402	5,712,698

Report Area	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Lycoming County	53,642	52,634	52,661	52,692	52,780
Pennsylvania	5,732,628	5,747,659	5,770,281	5,814,781	5,839,963

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

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

Housing: Housing Age

Total housing units, median year built, and median age in 2022 for 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, 2022

Report Area	Total Housing Units*	Median Year Built	Built Before 1960
Lycoming County	52,671	1961	25,708
Pennsylvania	5,753,908	1964	2,632,120
United States	140,943,613	1979	37,380,530

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2022. 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 2.13% less, while the percent change for Pennsylvania over the same period was about a 5.49% increase.

Percent Change in Homes, 2000-2022

Report Area	Homes 2000	Homes 2022	Percent Change 2000-2022
Lycoming County	32,636	31,941	-2.13%
Pennsylvania	3,406,337	3,593,490	5.49%
United States	69,815,753	81,497,760	16.73%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: county. * Total reflects 5-year estimate.

Housing-Cost Burden (Renters)

The 2018-2022 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, 42.2% 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), 2018-2022

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	45,705	13,764	5,808	42.2%
Pennsylvania	5,193,727	1,600,237	701,129	43.81%
United States	125,736,353	44,238,593	20,547,938	46.45%

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

Housing-Cost Burden (Owners)

The 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) shows that 27.17% of homeowners with mortgages nationwide pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. 20.7% of owners with mortgages and 13.7% 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	45,705	18,590	3,848	20.7%	13,351	1,829	13.7%
Pennsylvania	5,193,727	2,123,566	499,489	23.52%	1,469,924	204,949	13.94%
United States	125,736,353	50,148,459	13,642,400	27.17%	31,349,301	4,191,593	13.37%

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

Vacancy Rates

The U.S. Census Bureau provides vacancy data based on American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2018-2022). Vacancy rates for the report area are reported below.

Vacant non-rental housing in Lycoming County totals 823 units and includes those that are for sale only and sold but not occupied. For Lycoming County, the non-rental housing vacancy rate is 1.56%; in comparison the national rate is 1.1%.

Vacant rental housing totals 1,732 units and includes those for rent and rented but not occupied. For Lycoming County, the rental housing vacancy rate is 2.5% in comparison the national rate of 2.24%.

Vacant other housing totals 4,824 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 9.16%. In comparison the national rate is 7.45%.

Housing Vacancies, 2018-2022

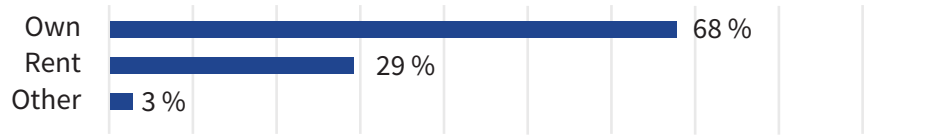
Report Area	Total Housing Units	Vacant Non-Rental	Vacant Non-Rental Rate	Vacant Rental	Vacant Rental Rate	Vacant Other	Vacant Other Rate
Lycoming County	52,671	823	1.56%	1,732	2.5%	4,824	9.16%
Pennsylvania	5,573,908	64,617	1.12%	107,092	1.86%	388,472	3.75%
United States	140,943,613	1,549,548	1.1%	3,160,388	2.24%	10,497,324	7.45%

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

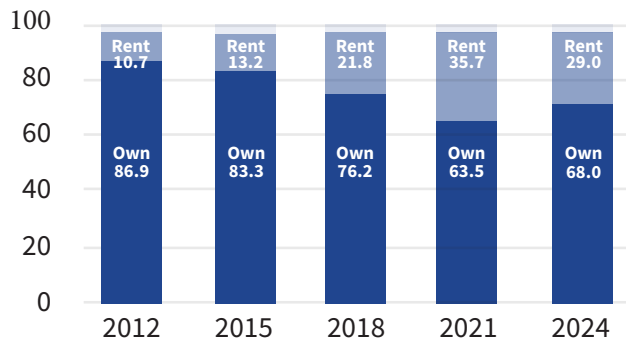
Survey Data: Housing and Homelessness

Community Survey Information

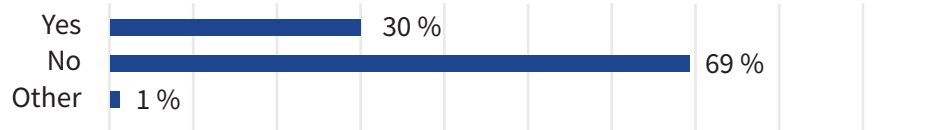
Do you own or rent your home?



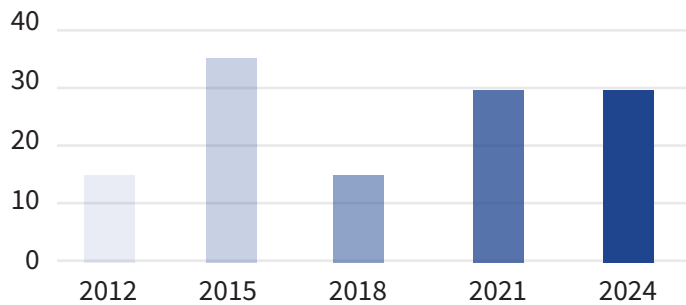
Response Trend



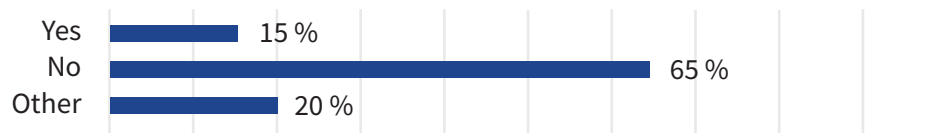
Have you or your family had difficulty finding money to pay your mortgage or rent at any time over the last year?



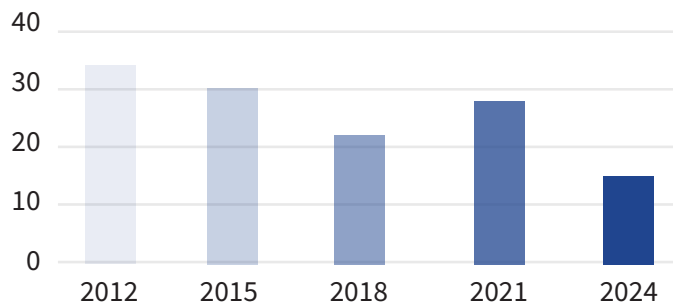
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



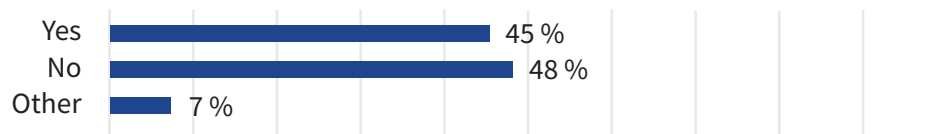
Do you foresee having difficulty finding money to pay your mortgage or rent at any time in the next year?



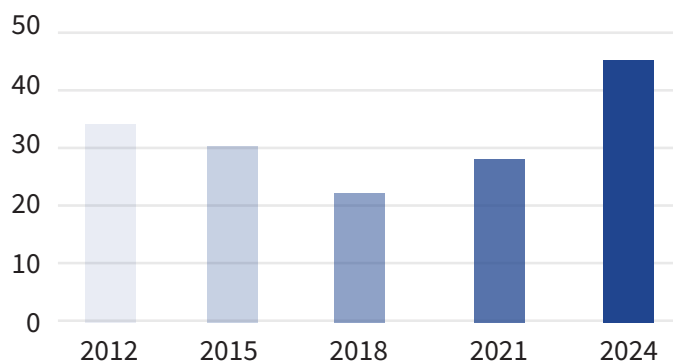
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



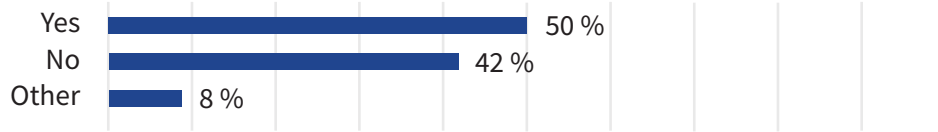
Do you know someone personally who has been forced to move from their home within the last two years because that person's landlord has raised the rent more than they can afford?



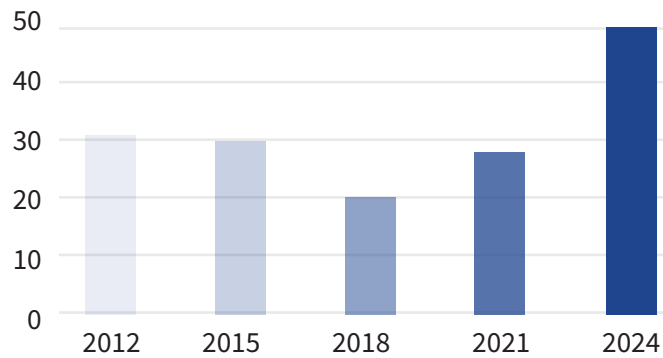
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



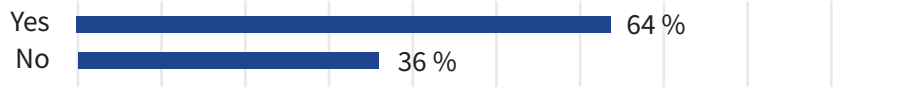
Have you or someone you know in your community had no place to live at some time in the last year?



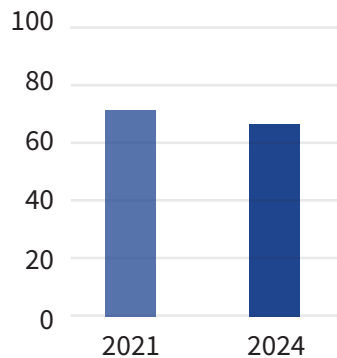
Response Trend - Percentage indicating “Yes”



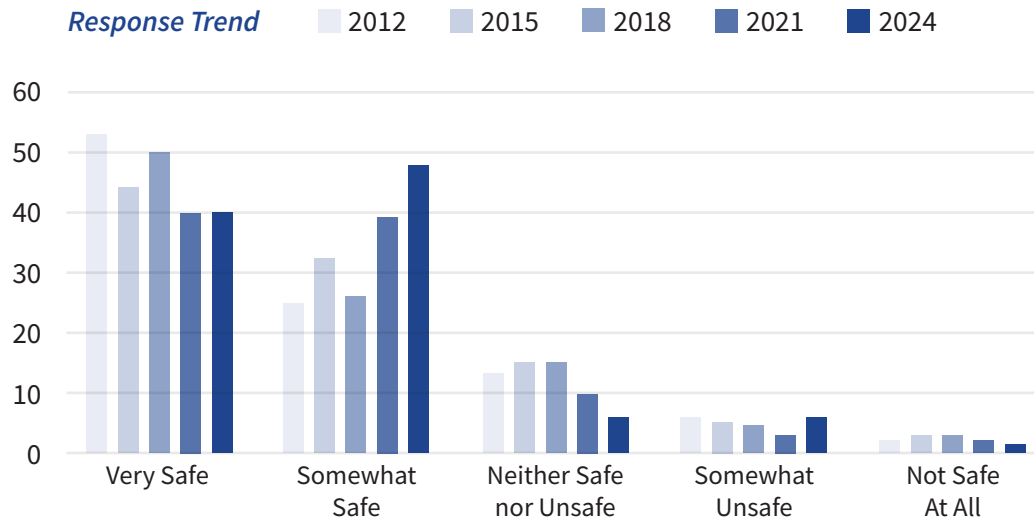
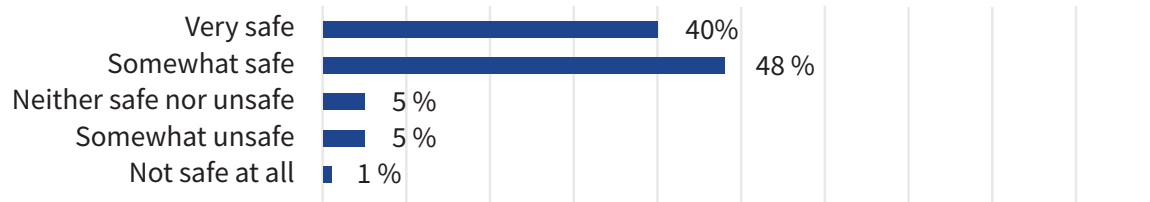
Have you or your family had difficulty finding the money to pay for the costs of heating, electricity, or water any time in the past year?



Response Trend - Percentage indicating “Yes”



How safe is your neighborhood?



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



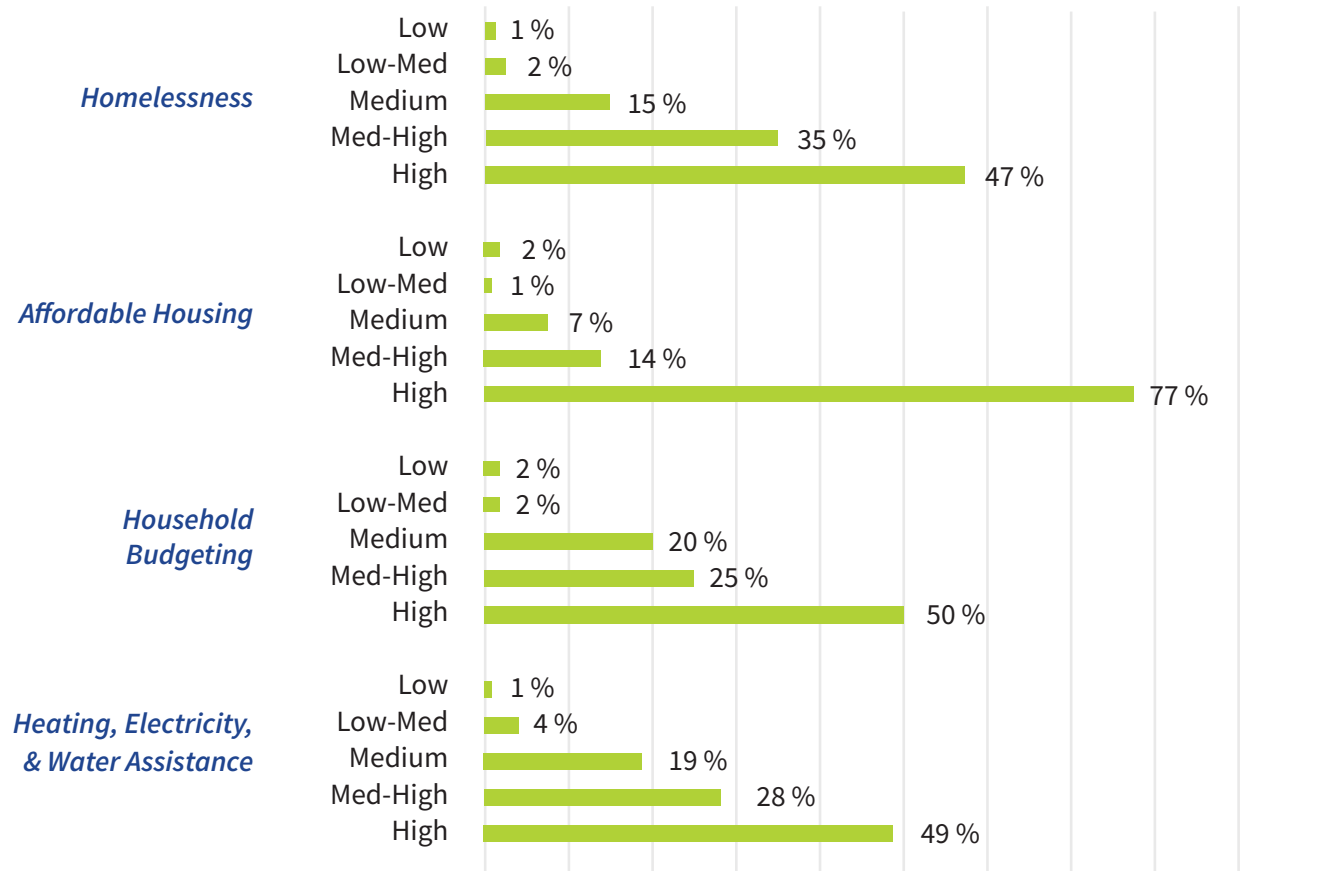
Has your neighborhood become more or less safe?



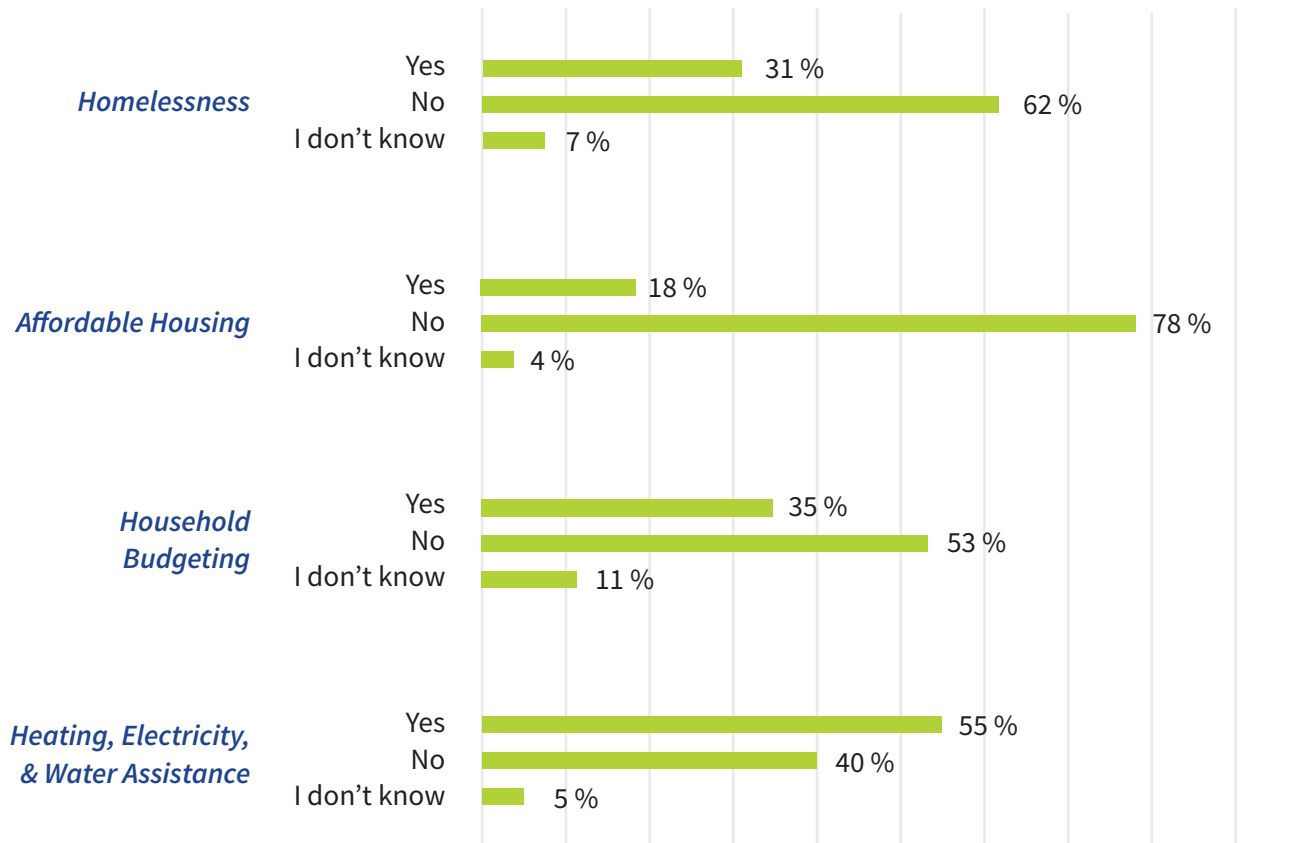
Survey Data: Housing and Homelessness

Partner Survey Information

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



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



Support Services for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

The needs of senior citizens and persons with disabilities have been a long-standing focus of 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. Across the various data sources, the themes around seniors and persons with disabilities support services are: aging in place and affordable housing, awareness of protective services, outreach services; services for persons with disabilities, and services for seniors.

Aging-In-Place and Affordable Housing

Focus group participants cited the lack of affordable housing for seniors as a continuing issue. For seniors, affordable housing works best when it includes one-floor living, access to amenities, low utility costs, and no yard to maintain. Rather than move into an assisted living facility or independent housing arrangement, many seniors prefer to age in-place in their own home. Often this requires home modifications to make a house safe and accessible for a senior. The focus group participants discussed that programs to help pay for home accessibility modifications, so that seniors can stay in their homes, have a long waiting period between enrollment and receiving services. Seniors may need modifications completed in a more immediate 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 and within survey responses, the public seems to lack awareness of the degree and extent of elder abuse in its many 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-three percent of partner survey respondents indicated that services for elder abuse and scam prevention are lacking, while of the community survey respondents, 19% stated the same. Focus group participants discussed a need for continued public education on this topic to help protect our most vulnerable residents.

Outreach Services

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

Services for Persons with Disabilities

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

Services for Seniors

Community and partner survey respondents moderately agreed that adequate services are being provided to seniors, except as it relates to affordable housing. The lack of affordable and accessible housing options were discussed as a concern for older adults, particularly if they have any mobility issues. Focus groups also indicated a lack of weekend transportation as a major issue affecting the quality of life of seniors. Transportation for veterans, seniors living in the rural communities, and weekend and evening options were noted by community survey respondents, as well. Focus groups also indicated a lack of weekend transportation as a major issue affecting the quality of life of seniors. Half of the partner survey respondents noted that services for senior citizens were being taken care of in the community, while 40% stated more attention was needed in this area.

Objective Data:

Support Services for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

Poverty: Senior Population and Poverty

Population and poverty estimates for persons age 65 and older are shown for Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the United States. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, an average of 8.5% 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 10%.

Seniors in Poverty, 2018-2022

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Lycoming County	21,524	1,820	8.5%
Pennsylvania	2,353,272	209,200	8.9%
United States	53,352,363	5,309,452	10%

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

Population with Any Disability by Age Group

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

Seniors in Poverty, 2018-2022

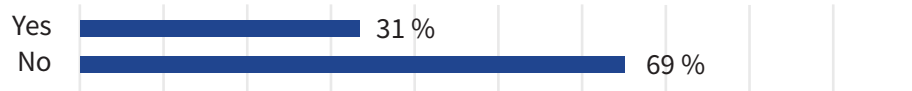
Report Area	Under Age 18	Age 19-64	Age 65+
Lycoming County	5.81%	14.35%	33.88%
Pennsylvania	5.71%	11.42%	32.20%
United States	4.53%	10.46%	33.27%

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

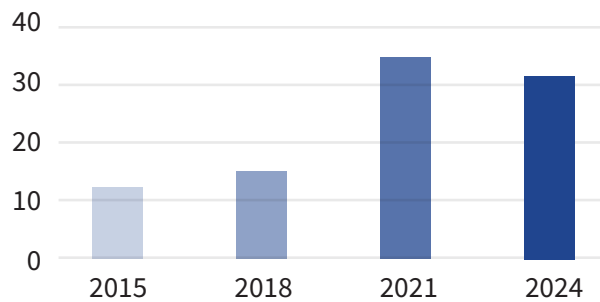
Survey Data: Senior Support Services

Community Survey Information

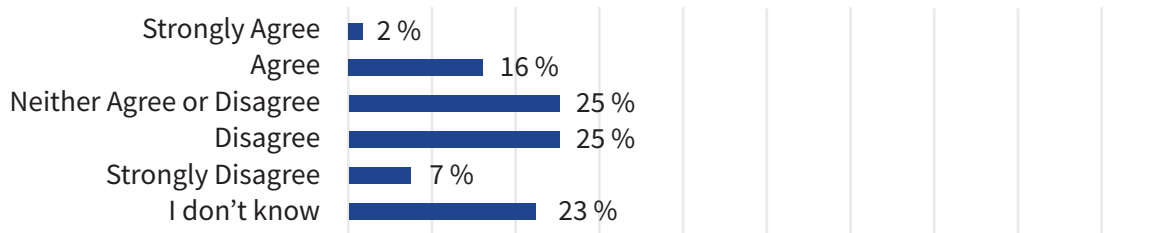
Do you provide any assistance for an elderly relative in Lycoming County?



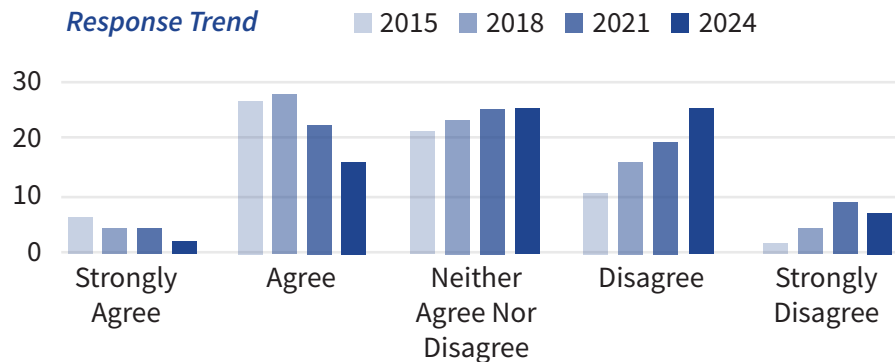
Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



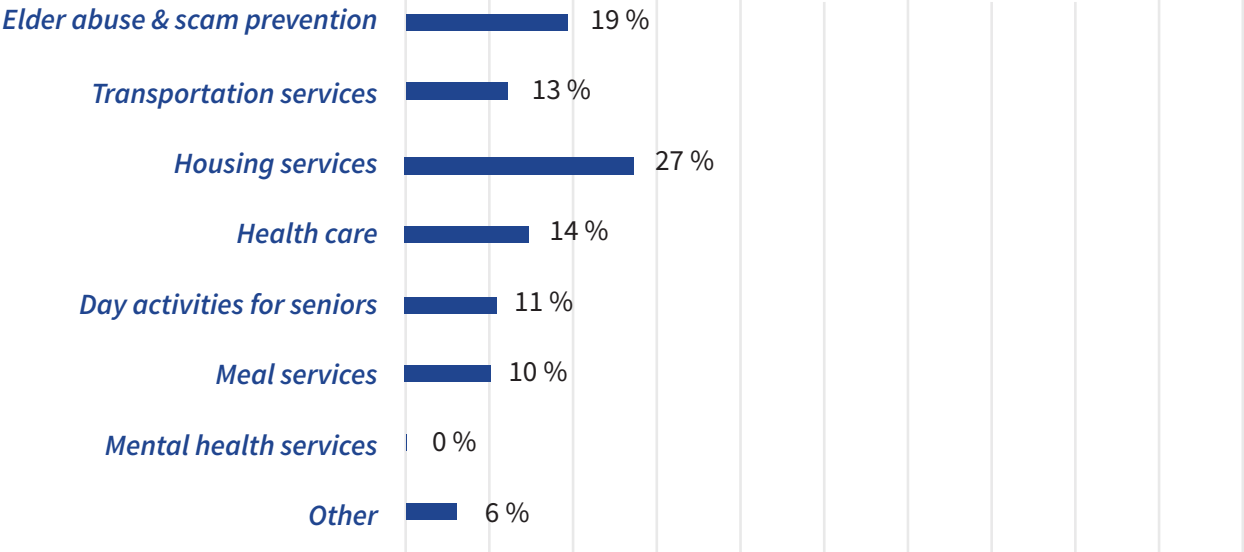
Seniors in my community received adequate services to meet their needs.



Response Trend



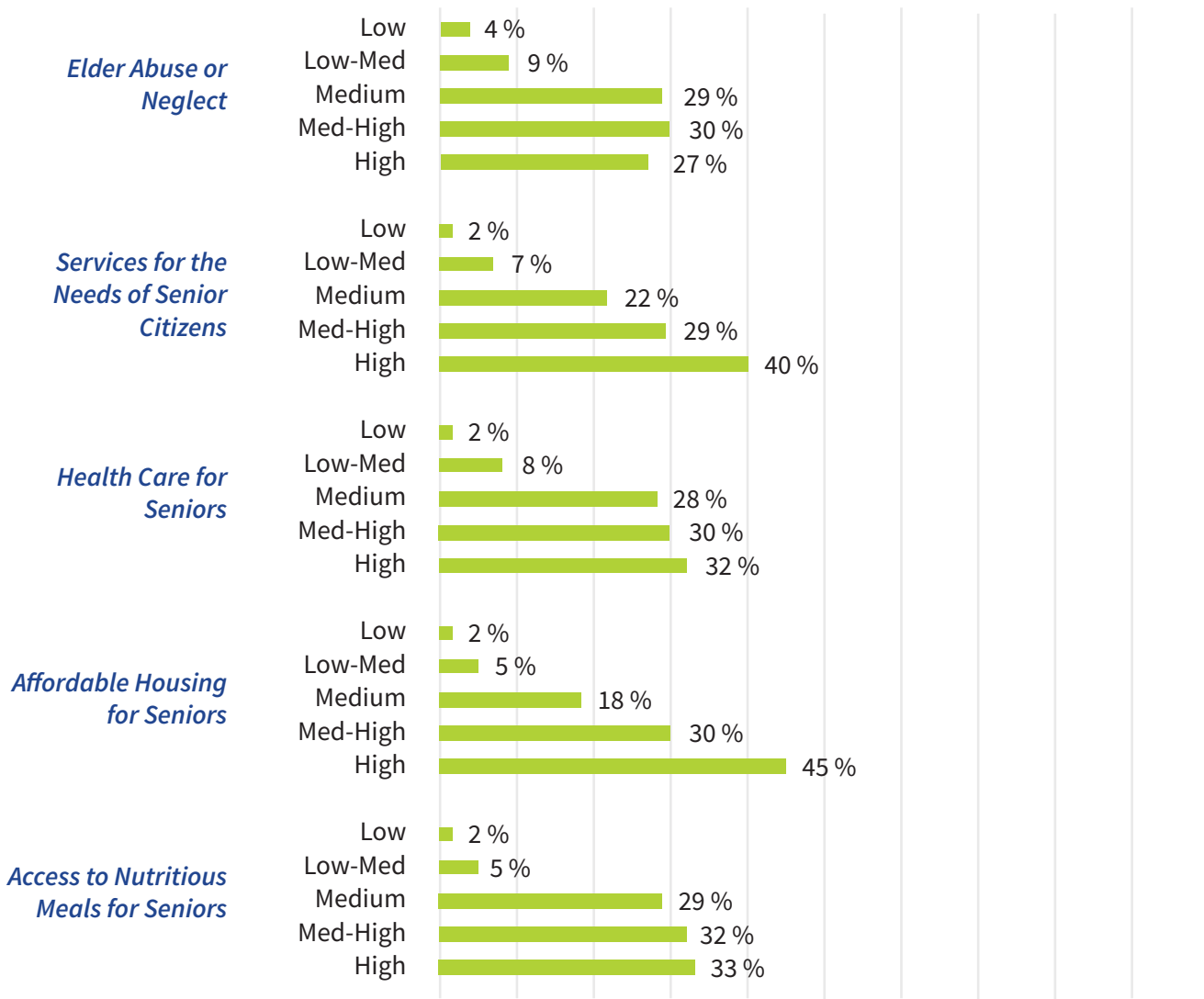
Which of the following senior support services are lacking in Lycoming County?



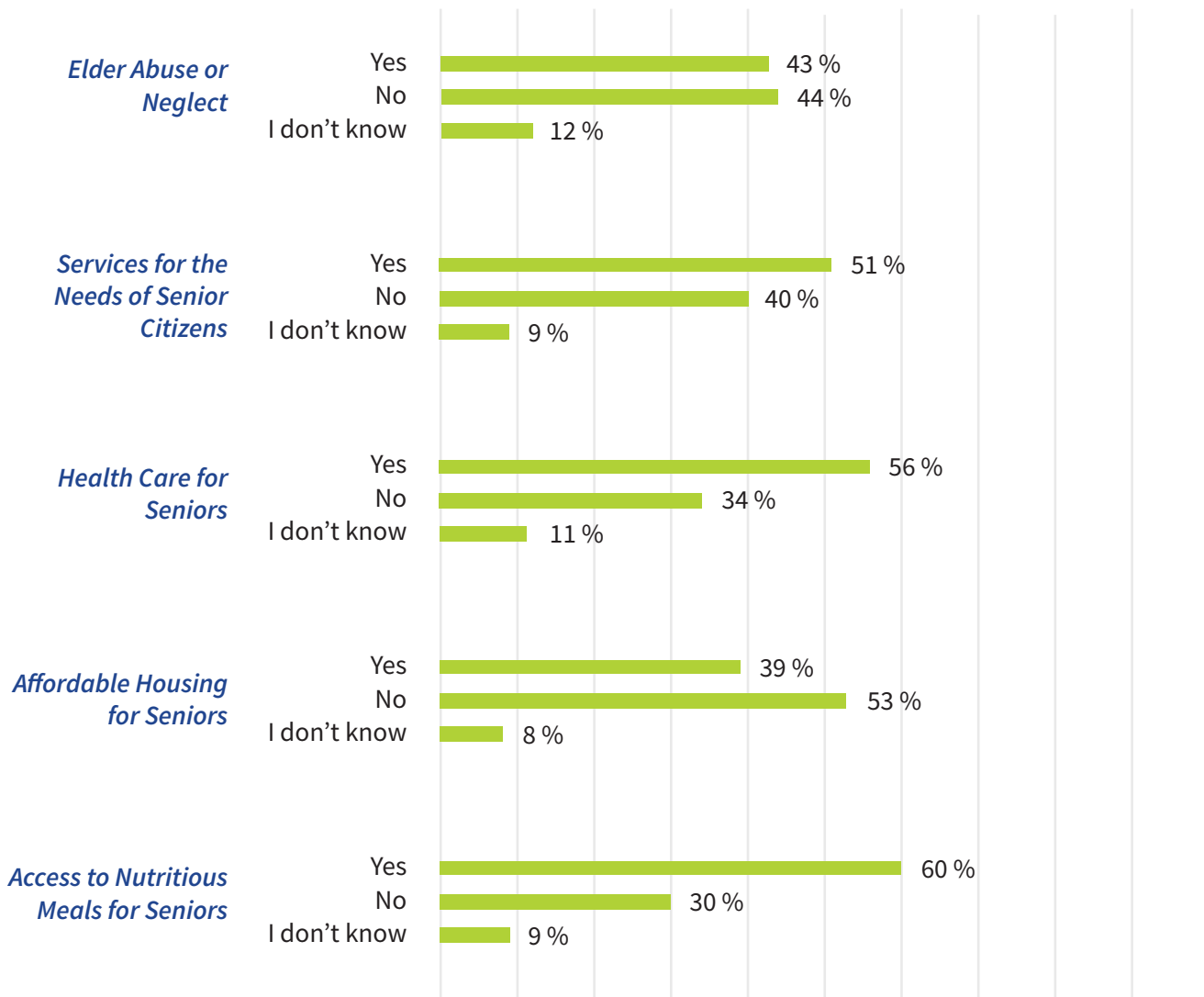
Survey Data: Senior Support Services

Partner Survey Information

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



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



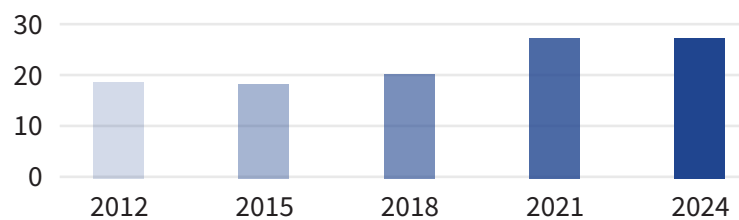
Survey Data: Individuals with Disabilities

Community Survey Information

Do you or anyone in your household have a disability?



Response Trend - Percentage indicating "Yes"



If yes, what type of disability?

Physical Disability

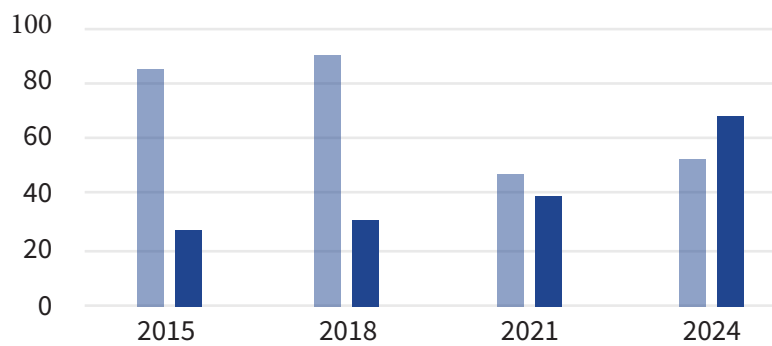


Mental Disability

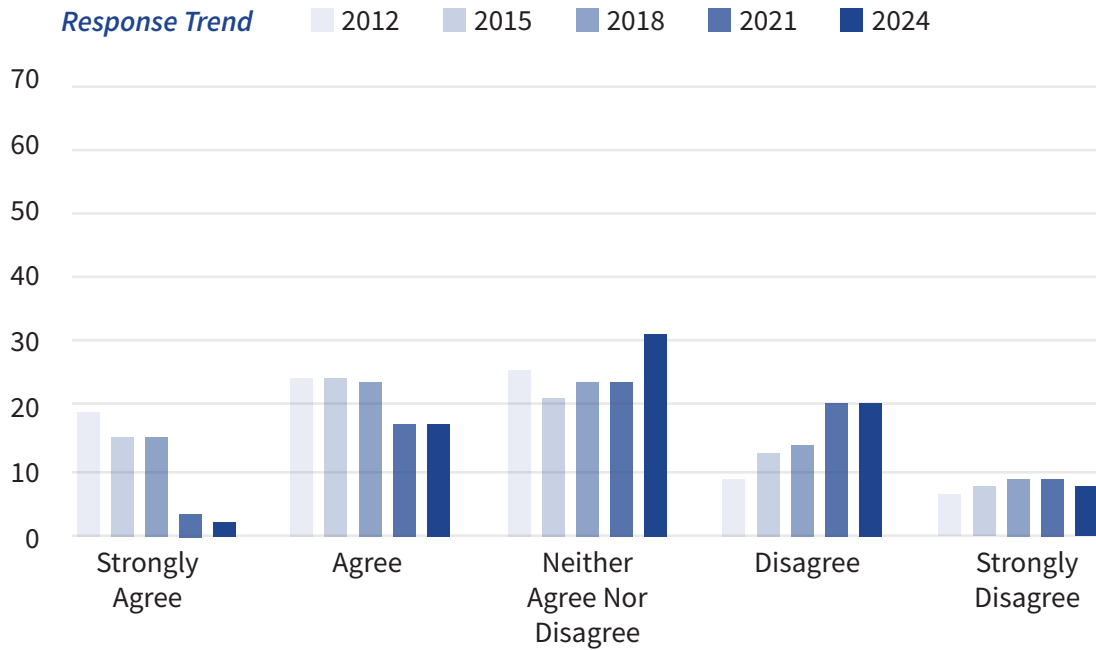
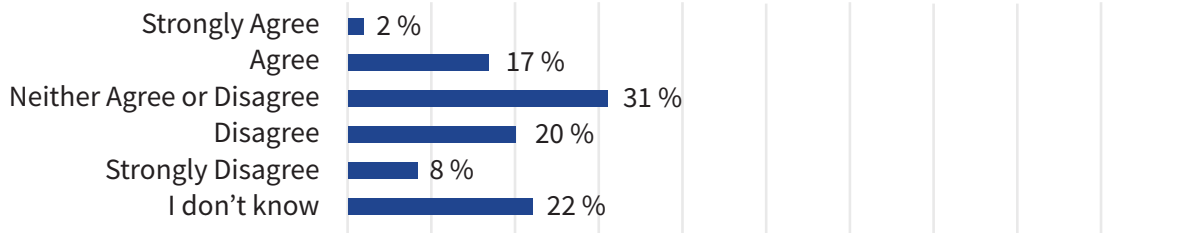


Response Trend

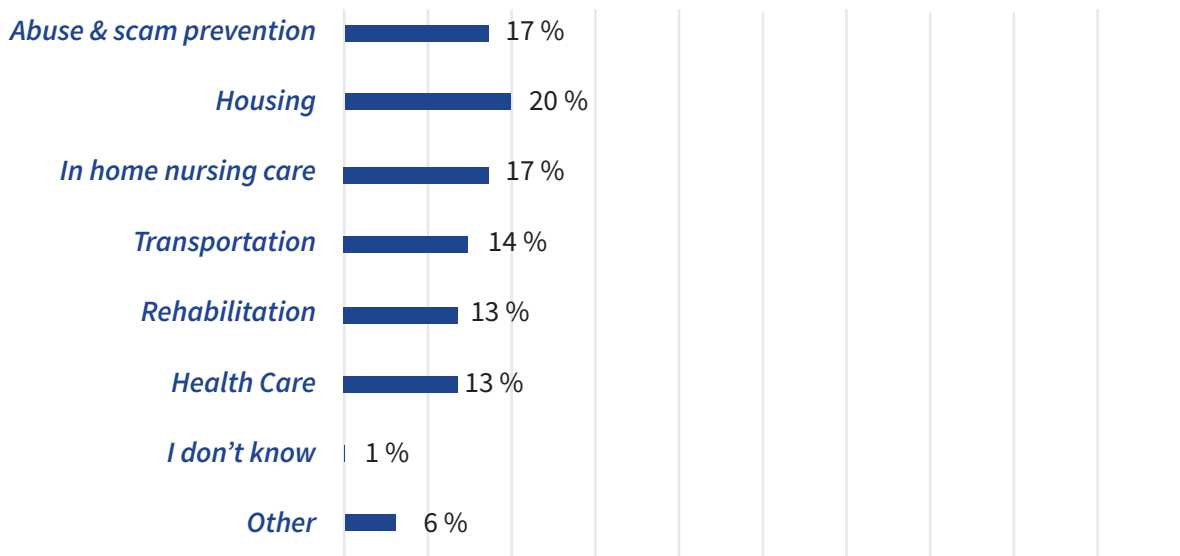
■ Physical ■ Mental



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



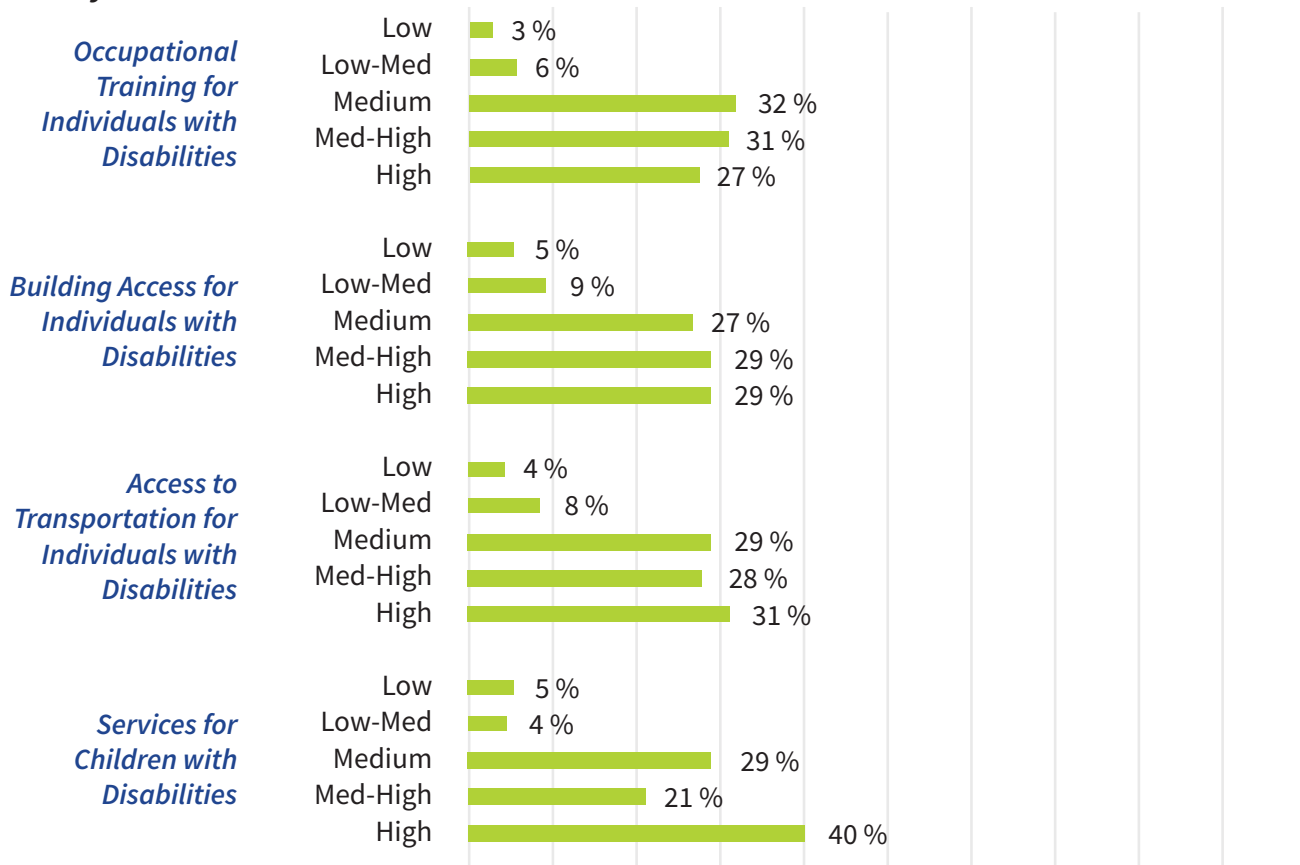
Which of the following services for those with disabilities are lacking in Lycoming County?



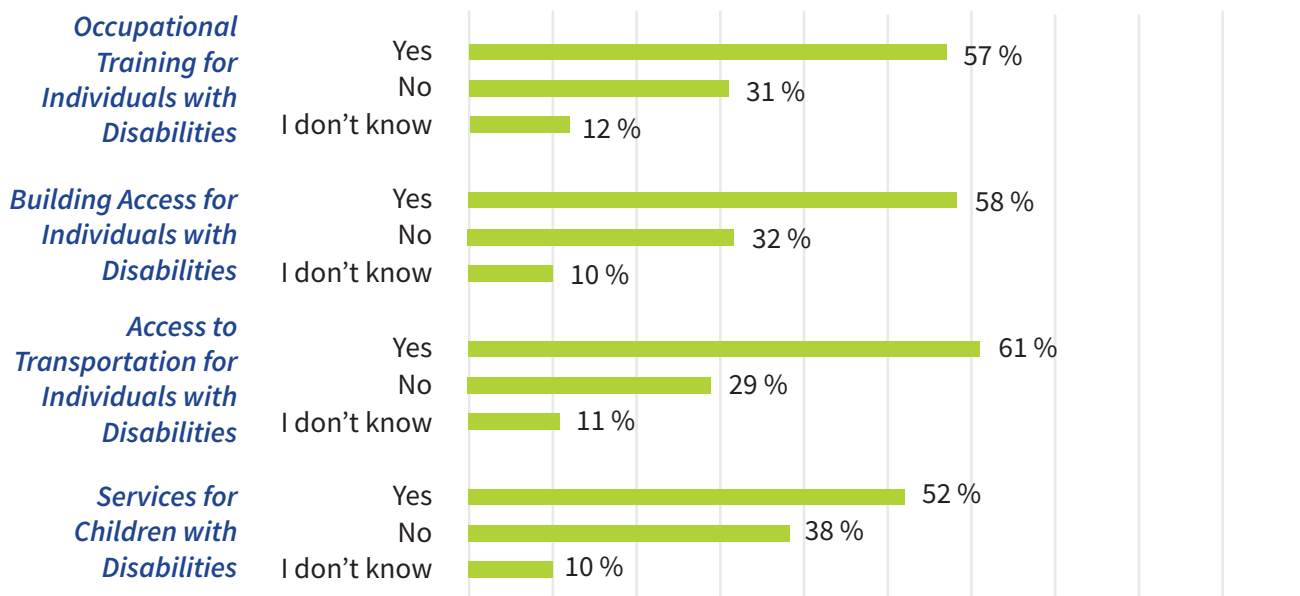
Survey Data: Individuals with Disabilities

Partner Survey Information

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



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



Demographics and Diversity

Population

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

Population Change

Population change within the report area from 2010-2020 is shown below. During this ten-year period, total population estimates for the report area declined by -1.66 percent, decreasing from 116,120 persons in 2010 to 114,188 persons in 2020.

Population Change, 2020

Report Area	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population, 2020 Census	Population Change from 2010-2020	Percent Change from 2010-2020
Lycoming County	116,120	114,188	-1,932	-1.66%
Pennsylvania	12,702,385	13,002,700	300,315	2.36%
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	22,263,994	7.13%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2020 Source geography: County.

Age and Gender Demographics

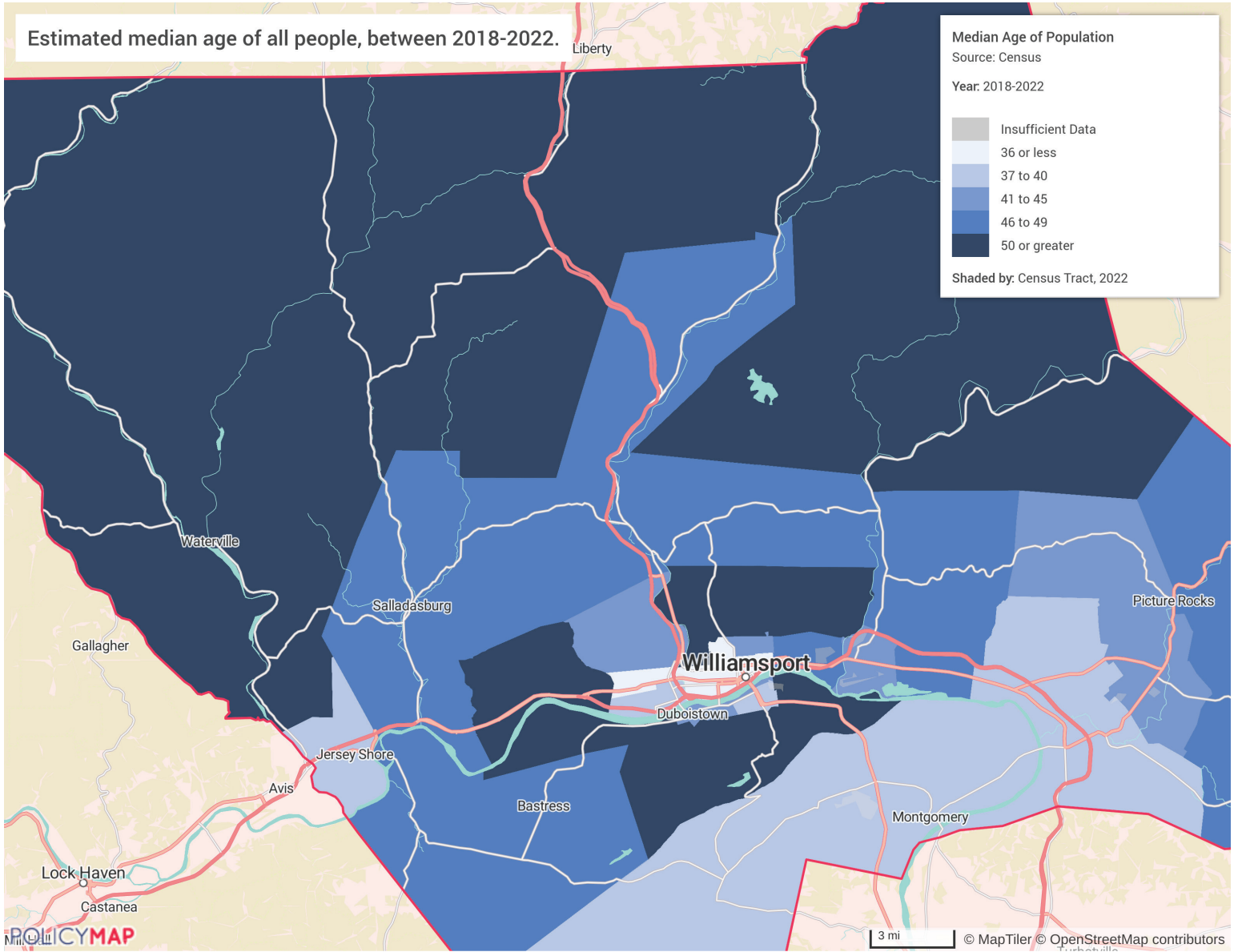
Population by gender within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2018-2022 5-year population estimates for the report area, the female population comprised 50.97% of the report area, while the male population represented 49.03%.

Population by Gender and Age, 2018-2022

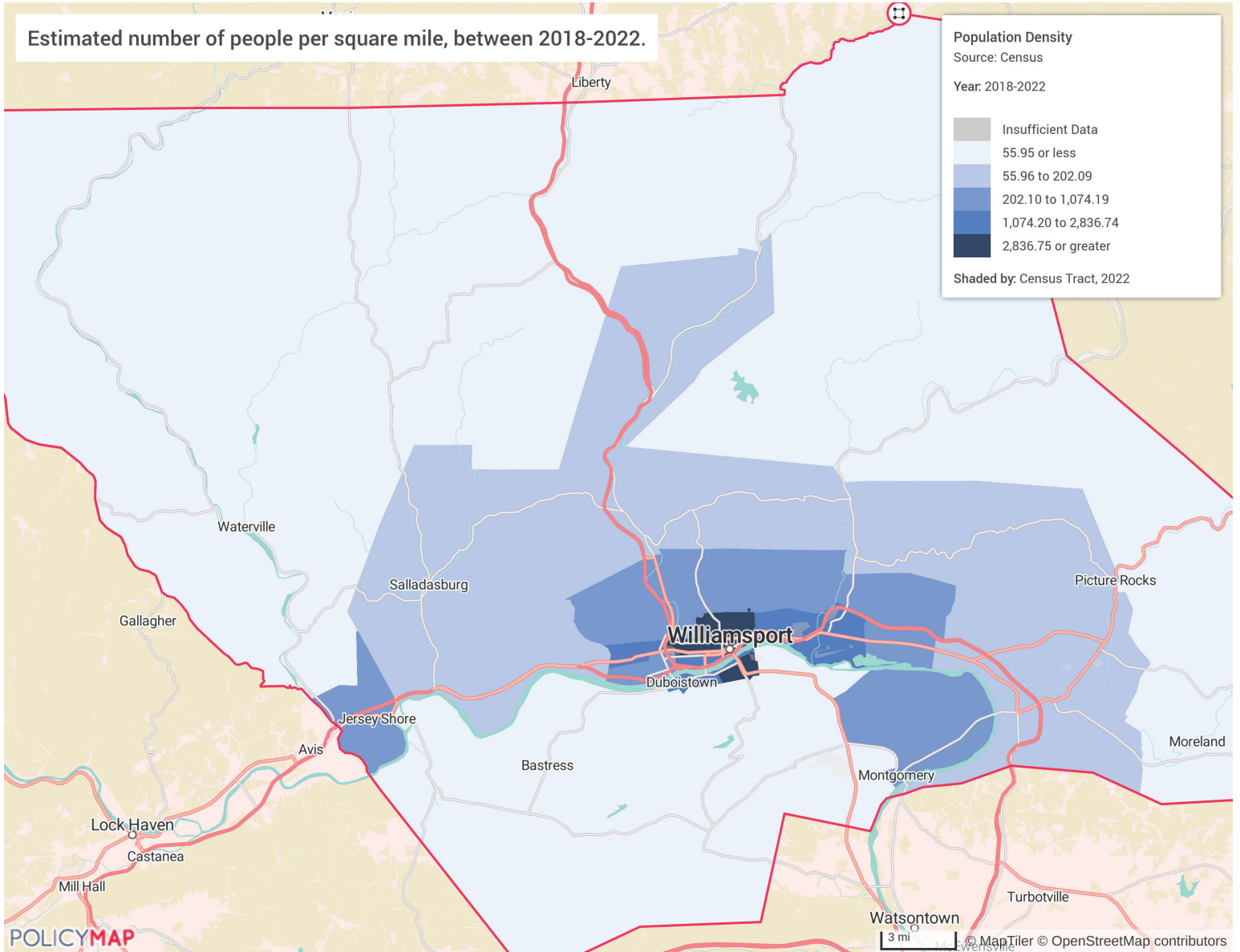
Report Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		18 to 64		Over 64	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lycoming County	3,085	2,931	8,775	8,630	34,201	33,636	9,202	12,596
Pennsylvania	352,395	336,176	1,013,534	962,457	3,967,967	3,922,274	966,779	1,357,535
United States	9,725,644	9,279,281	27,762,503	26,446,277	102,230,144	100,916,096	22,157,050	30,255,641

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

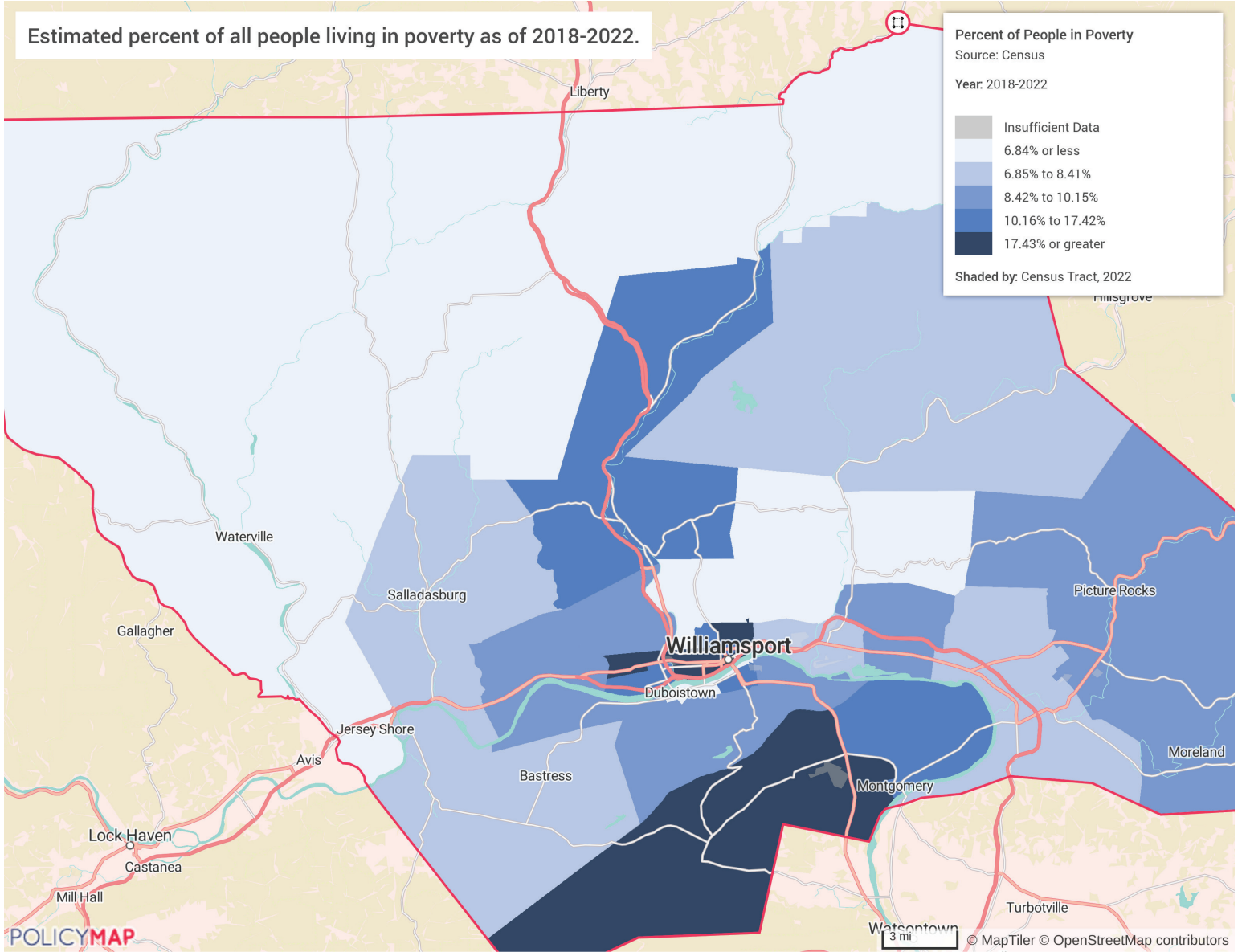
Estimated Median Age of all People, 2018-2022



Estimated Number of People Per Square Mile, 2018-2022



Estimated Percent of People Living in Poverty, 2018-2022



Survey Data: Population

Community Survey Information

How many people are in your household? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
One	14%
Two	32%
Three	19%
Four	15%
Five or more	14%

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

Answer Choices	
Zero	75%
One	11%
Two - Three	13%
Four or more	0%

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

Answer Choices	
Zero	54%
One	16%
Two - Three	25%
Four or more	4%

Demographics

Race Demographics

Population by race within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2018-2022 5 year population estimates, the white population comprised 91.04% of the report area, black population represented 3.77%, and other races combined were 1.73%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 3.45% of the population.

Population by Race, 2018-2022

Report Area	Total Population	White Total	Black Total	American Indian Total
Lycoming County	114,022	102,334	5,238	308
PA	12,989,208	10,010,379	1,407,814	20,570
United States	331,097,593	218,123,424	41,288,572	2,786,431
Report Area	Asian Total	Native Hawaiian Total	Some/Other Total	Mixed Race Total
Lycoming County	983	73	749	4,337
PA	473,192	4,256	405,422	667,575
United States	19,112,979	624,863	20,018,544	29,142,780

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

Household Types

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 45,705 households in the report area during 2018 - 2022. Single person households comprised of 29.93% of the total, two person households comprised 37.5% of the total, three person households comprised 14.28% of the total, four person households comprised 11.13% of the total, and larger households of 5 or more made up 7.15% of the total.

Household Types, Total

Report Area	Total Households	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 or More People
Lycoming County	45,705	13,681	17,140	6,527	5,087	3,270
Pennsylvania	5,193,727	1,571,675	1,812,113	781,402	614,504	414,033
United States	125,736,353	35,550,232	42,558,406	19,451,108	16,035,290	12,141,317

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

Household Types, Percent

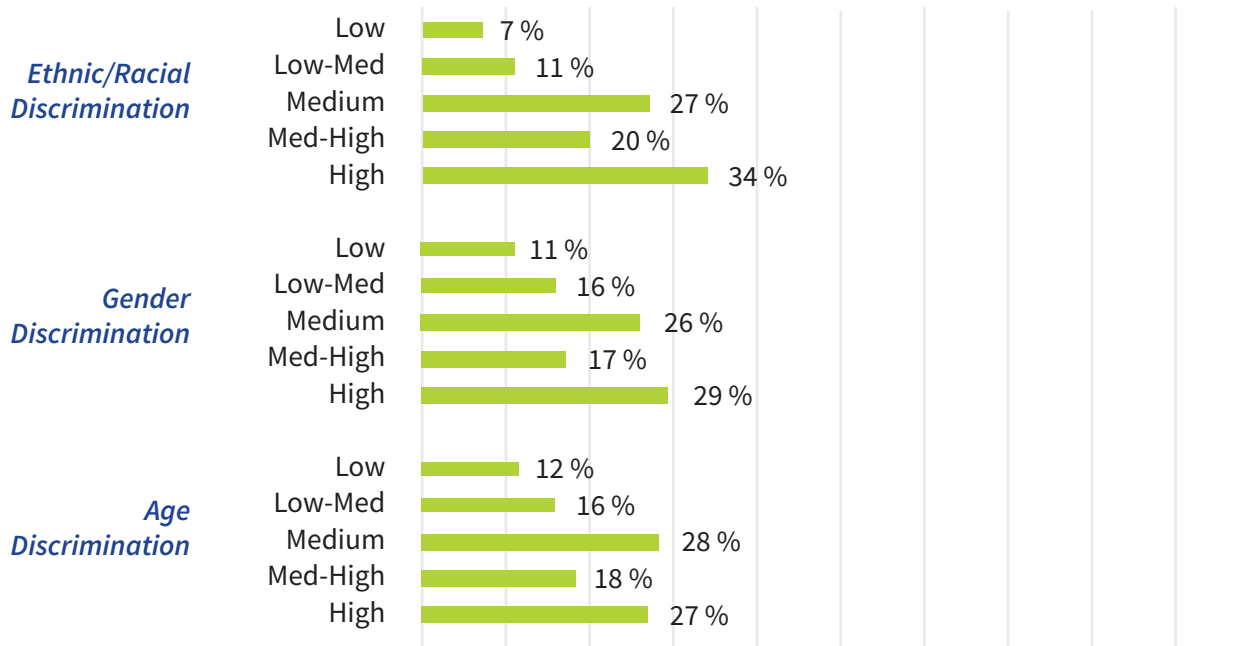
Report Area	Total Households	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 or More People
Lycoming County	45,705	29.93%	37.50%	14.28%	11.13%	7.15%
Pennsylvania	5,193,727	30.26%	34.89%	15.05%	11.83%	7.97%
United States	125,736,353	28.27%	33.85%	15.47%	12.75%	9.66%

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

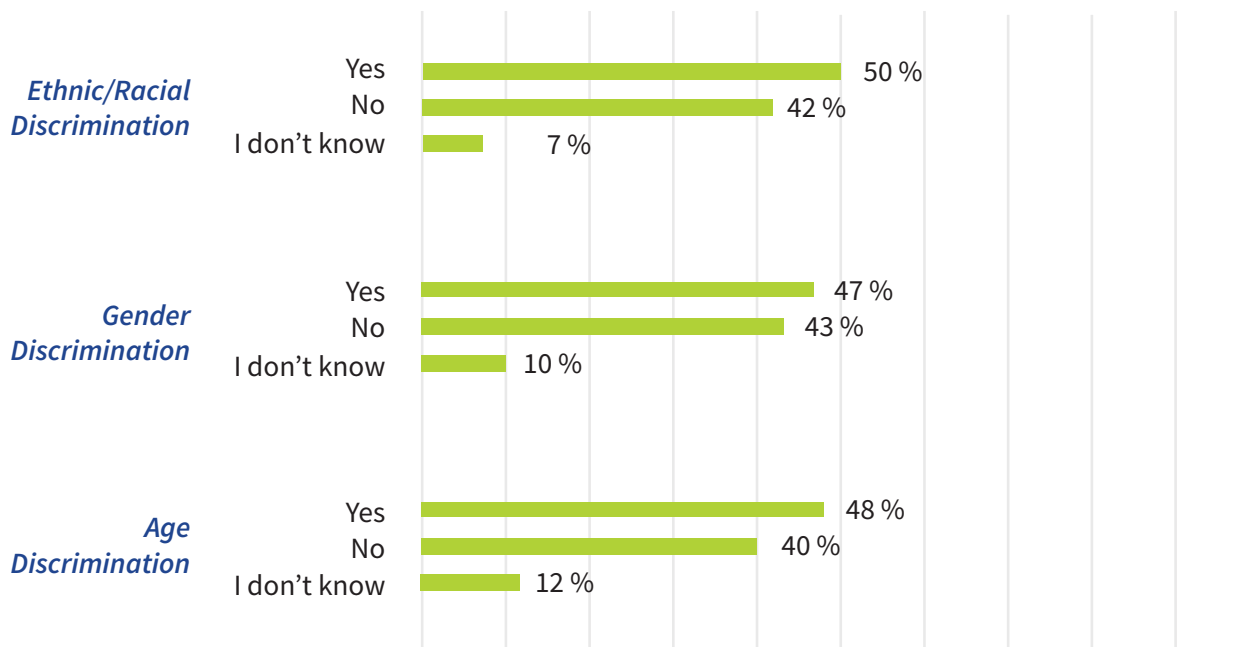
Survey Data: Diversity

Partner Survey Information

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



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



Income

Wages

Average weekly wages for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania during the period July–September 2023 are provided in the table below. The average federal government weekly wage is \$1,463, which compares to the average state and local government weekly wage of \$1,171 and the average private weekly wage of \$1,012.

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	49,794	\$1,033	360	\$1,463	6,772	\$1,171	42,662	\$1,012
PA	5,995,961	\$1,283	102,668	\$1,788	570,065	\$1,299	5,323,228	\$1,276

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

Income Levels

Three common measures of income are Median Household Income, Per Capita Income, and Average Income based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates. All three measures are shown for Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the United States in the below tables. The average income for earners in Lycoming County is \$44,252. It is noted that the average income for a Lycoming County employee is 23.6% 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, 2018-2022

Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Average Income Per Earner
Lycoming County	63,437	32,968.11	44,252.70
Pennsylvania	73,170	41,233.63	55,389.70
United States	75,149	41,261.47	57,863.37

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

Income by Family Size

The table below shows median household income broken out by family size. The Pennsylvania average for a household of 3 is \$100,883, which is 17.39% higher than Lycoming County households of a similar size.

Median Household Income by Family Size, 2018-2022

Report Area	Household of One	Household of Two	Household of Three	Household of Four	Household of Five	Household of Six	Household of Seven
Lycoming County	32,721	70,660	83,330	99,595	96,767	92,188	100,000
PA	36,453	82,298	100,883	119,931	113,081	109,631	102,903
United States	38,445	83,185	97,644	113,664	106,473	104,420	113,370

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

Survey Data: Income

Community Survey Information

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

Answer Choices	2024	2021	2018	2015	2012	2009	2005
\$15,000 or less	8.5	14.2	5.7	4.8	4.5	8.4	9.7
\$15,000 - \$30,000	6.5	18.2	11.8	13.8	15.2	16.4	21.1
\$30,000 - \$50,000	15.4	16.4	21.5	19.7	20.8	22.1	22.5
\$50,000 - \$75,000	20.4	21.1	19.4	20.4	21.6	16.1	24
Greater than \$75,000	43.8	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	6.5	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, 2024

Report Area	Family of 1	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4	Family of 5	Family of 6	Family of 7	Family of 8
PA	15,060	20,440	25,820	31,200	36,580	41,960	47,340	52,720

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

Poverty Rate

The table below shows the total population estimates for all persons in poverty for Lycoming County. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year averages, an average of 12.65% of all persons residing in Lycoming County lived in a state of poverty during the 2022 calendar year. The poverty rate for all persons living in Lycoming County is greater than the Pennsylvania average of 11.78%.

Poverty Rate, 2018-2022

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Lycoming County	107,523	13,417	12.65%
Pennsylvania	12,582,125	1,482,439	11.78%
United States	323,275,448	40,521,584	12.53%

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

Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in the report area from 2012 to 2022 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area decreased by -1.7%, compared to a national change of -3.3%.

Poverty Rate Change, 2012-2022

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2012	Poverty Rate 2012	Persons in Poverty 2022	Poverty Rate 2022	Change in Poverty 2012-2022
Lycoming County	15,239	13.7%	12,939	12.0%	-1.7%
Pennsylvania	1,688,364	13.7%	1,483,039	11.8%	-1.9%
United States	48,760,123	15.9%	40,951,625	12.6%	-3.3%

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

Education

Education: Free and Reduced Lunch Program

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

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

Report Area	District	Type	Enrollment	Free Lunch Eligible	Free Lunch Enrollment	Reduced Lunch Eligible	Reduced Lunch Enrollment	Free and Reduced Lunch Enrollment
Lycoming	East Lycoming School District	Public School	1,642	664	40.44%	50	3.05%	43.48%
Lycoming	Jersey Shore Area School District	Public School	2,174	976	44.89%	96	4.42%	49.31%
Lycoming	Loyalsock Township School District	Public School	1,563	1,063	68.01%	0	0%	68.01%
Lycoming	Montgomery Area School District	Public School	668	510	76.35%	0	0%	76.35%
Lycoming	Montoursville Area School District	Public School	1,714	612	35.71%	47	2.74%	38.45%
Lycoming	Muncy School District	Public School	961	402	41.83%	15	1.56%	43.39%
Lycoming	South Williamsport Area School District	Public School	1,230	903	73.41%	0	0%	73.41%
Lycoming	Williamsport Area School District	Public School	4,891	4,891	100%	0	0%	100%
Lycoming	Families United Network, Inc.	Private Residential Child Care Institution	16	16	100%	0	0%	100%
Statewide Average	-----	-----	1,665,797	1,027,763	61.70%	22,217	1.33%	63.03%

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

Survey Data: Education

Community Survey Information

What is your highest level of education? (Percentage)

Answer Choices	
Less than high school diploma	6%
High school diploma or equivalent	12%
Some college	14%
College degree	48%
Advanced degree	20%