MOUNTAIN HEART
Community Services, Inc.
"Together We Can"

Wyoming County Needs Assessment – 2023

Approved by Board of Directors -

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Introduction

In 1964, the U.S. poverty rate (income-based) included 19 percent of Americans. Rising political forces demanded change. Under a new White House **Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO),** the concept of the federally-funded, local **Community Action Program (CAP)** -- delivered by a local **Community Action Agency (CAA),** in a nationwide **Community Action Network** -- would become the primary vehicle for a new, federal **"War on Poverty"**

Establishment

Lyndon B. Johnson's landmark Economic Opportunity Act of 1964—drafted by former Peace Corps founding director Sargent Shriver—established Community Action Programs in Title II. In concept, a Community Action Program was defined as a program "...which provides services, assistance, and other activities of sufficient scope and size to give promise of progress toward elimination of poverty or a cause or causes of poverty through developing employment opportunities, improving human performance, motivation, and productivity, or bettering the conditions under which people live, learn, and work."

A controversial feature of the Act was the requirement for "maximum feasible participation" of the people directly affected (the poor, basically) in the decision-making about how federal funds would be spent on them, in their community. This flew in the face of long-established power structures, where elected city councils, county commissions, state and federal officials ruled over everything—mostly people from the power elite and upper-class communities. The notion that the poor (largely minorities) should have a say in their affairs created some opposition at first, but was in keeping with America's liberal "civil rights" and "reform" movements, and "War on Poverty," in the 1960s and 1970s, and generally accepted, at least at first.

In each community, the local Community Action Program (CAP) was provided by a local non-profit Community Action Agency (CAA), overseen by a board made up—initially—of residents of the target neighborhood or population being served. This gave poor, working class and minority citizens a voice in how they would be served by federal funds aimed at improving their lives. However, this caused some anger and frustration among the nation's power establishment, especially in local governments used to running their communities, and among the power elites (particularly in the business community) used to dominating their local governments.

Summary

In July 2023 MountainHeart Community Services, Inc. began a needs assessment in Wyoming County. The assessment included surveying residents, interviewing community stakeholders, holding two different forums that included the community and stakeholders as well as going out to local businesses.

MountainHeart Agency Profile:

MOUNTAINHEART
Community Services, Inc.
"Together We Can"

Organization's Legal Name:	MountainHeart Community Services, Inc.
Address:	P.O. Box 1509, Oceana, WV 24870
Telephone:	1-304-682-8271
Staff Contact:	Dreama Padgett, CEO dpadgett@mthtwv.org Delana Harless, HR Director dharless@mthtwv.org
Total Agency Revenue:	$15,238,478

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

MountainHeart Community Services, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)3 Community Action Agency incorporated in accordance with the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The organization began in 1965 with few services offered in one county under the name Wyoming Community Action Program, Inc. In November of 1973, the organization changed its name to Wyoming County Opportunity Council, Inc. And yet again in July of 2003, the organization's name changed to MountainHeart Community Services, Inc.

The name change to MountainHeart Community Services, Inc. was due to services expanding throughout the state of West Virginia instead of just one county in the southern part of the state. The county name of, Wyoming, was within the agencies name at the time of this growth and confused customers that did not reside in that county on service eligibility. However, the organization currently only receives CSBG funding for Wyoming county within the state of West Virginia.

The organization's philosophy in addressing poverty conditions is first to identify the causes of poverty within the area served though a community needs assessment that is shared throughout Wyoming County to those that are considered low-income, partners, churches, doctor offices, and the community as a whole. Once the needs assessment has identified the community needs, it is analyzed to determine if these needs fit within the organizations mission and if so, what steps could be taken to lessen the impact of poverty that the need is causing.

The organization has an approved vision and mission statement.

Vision Statement

MountainHeart Community Services, Inc. embraces our role as the leader in providing pathways of opportunities for all to hold the power for their own success in achieving an enriched quality of life.

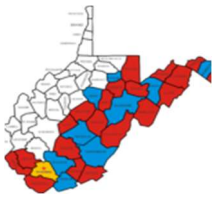
Mission Statement

Working together with individuals, families, and communities to provide resources for a better life.

ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The organization administrative office in located within the county the organization originated from: Wyoming County and is a private 501(c)3 corporation. However, a variety of

services are applied throughout the state of West Virginia. The below map shows the counties in color where services are provided.



With the variety of services that are offered, the organization has several satellite offices throughout the state that house the approximately 220 employees. These offices are in Martinsburg, Grafton, Petersburg, Elkins, Summersville, Beckley, Lewisburg, Princeton, and the administrative office located in Matheny within Wyoming county. Within these offices, the main services that is offered are:

- Child Care Resource & Referral – 2 regions
  Assist eligible parents who work, attain training or attend school with child care subsidies (financial assistance). Educate consumers on selecting quality child care and provide referrals. Provide training, technical assistance and resources to child care providers. Grant funded from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources.
- Early Head Start
  Dedicated to providing quality services in a caring environment that meets the needs of the children (birth to age three), families and communities. The program also serves families with pregnant moms providing support for the expectant mother through education, health checks, socialization meetings and classes.
- Head Start
  Serves families with children ages 3-5 providing them with the foundation of skills and knowledge they need to be successful in school and in life.
- WV Birth to Three
  Home visitation program for infants and toddlers who are experiencing a developmental delay or who are at risk for delay. Services are provided in the child's natural environment and are free of cost for families. Funding provided through Part C of IDEA.
- Weatherization
  Provides assistance to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and children by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.
- Personal Responsibility Education Program
  Educates teenagers regarding abstinence, safe sex practices and teenage pregnancy.

- Parents as Teachers
  An early childhood home visiting program designed to help parents learn more about parenting, support child development and help with the challenges of parenting.
- Emergency Repair or Replacement Program
  Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program designed to assist Low Income Families with either the repair or replacement of heating or cooling system that are not working properly.
- Earned Income Tax
  Grant funded assistance to help reduce tax burdens, boost income and help people move from public assistance to work.
- Consulting Services/Business Development
  Provides businesses with consulting, training and technical assistance. This includes organizational analysis, financial resource development (including grant writing), strategic planning & development, board & staff training and process & systems evaluation.
- Home Improvement
  MountainHeart provides affordable services including drywall, painting, roofing, flooring, siding, and other home repairs. Cabinet installations, decks, room additions, remodels and new home construction is also available. This is not a grant funded program.

The organization is a private 501(c)(3) agency and has various funding sources that follow different regulatory requirements, but all follow the 2 C.F.R part 200 guidelines. Based upon different variables, the organization does have an active strategic plan that utilizes the needs assessment, staff from various areas of the organization, current events, and survey results to determine the goals that best meet the agency and community needs. The family goals are education, basic necessities, food insecurities, adverse childhood experiences, and case management. The agency goals are COVID-19, advocacy, public relations, and partnerships. The community goals are unemployment, youth engagement, substance use, and racial equity. The challenges that we face are community engagement, lack of sufficient funding, and loss of population.

Our organization has many strengths, but one major strength is that four employees have obtained their CCAP and several more are currently in the process. Currently, there are only eight CCAPs within the state. Other strengths include longevity of staff, financially sound, evolving technology, staff show passion and compassion to our customers, social enterprise funding, and place value into what the customers need.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

The organization receives funding from both federal and state offices. The budgeted total revenue for 2023 is $15, 238,478. Over the past 10 years, revenue has grown approximately 75%. In 2013, total budgeted revenue was $8,686,828.

The board of directors is a tripartite board made up of nine members that represents low income, public, and private sectors with nine members. One unique feature of the board is that we are finding generational representation in that their mothers or fathers were once board members for the organization. The challenges we face is geographical in that we provide services in many counties but only CSBG in one; therefore, the makeup of tripartite board in meeting the needs of all services is complicated at times.

The organization has approximately 200 FTE's throughout the state and another 20 considered part time, whereas, about 98% are considered Caucasian. The majority of staff are within the child care and head start programs. Challenges of staffing vary by office due to geographic barriers and degree requirements.

ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The organization has many partners but a major one is the Wyoming county board of education that share pre-k responsibility to secure enrollment and services. The organization's reputation is good and often referred to from other non-profits, funding sources and agencies. No agency awards have been received, however, the organization has had positive radio and newscasts over the years.

Developing the Plan

The first step was to develop a work plan comprised of tasks, timelines, responsible persons, and progress updates served to guide the needs assessment process. As with any quality planning process, it was critical to bring the right people to the table. MountainHeart formed a Needs Assessment Steering Committee comprised of internal staff. The Steering Committee served to set direction, assist with the collection of primary data, monitor progress, and analyze results.

The second step was to use the Community Services Block grant guidelines as the basis on which to build the needs assessment. The Community Services Block Grant Act was enacted to assist low-income individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency. Services provided by the community action agencies vary based on the identified needs in the agency's service areas. The services provided are to enable families/individuals to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- To secure and retain meaningful employment.
- To attain an adequate education.
- To make better use of available income.
- To obtain and maintain adequate housing and suitable living environment.
- To obtain emergency assistance to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs including the need for health services, nutrition, food, housing, and employment related assistance.
- To remove obstacles and solve problems which block the achievement of self-sufficiency.
- To achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community.
- To enhance youth and family development, including after school child-care and youth mediation.
- To provide an emergency basis for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foodstuffs, and related necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among the poor.

Poverty Indicators:

- Health
- Employment
- Transportation
- Education
- Use of Income
- Housing
- Nutrition
- Emergency Situations

MountainHeart's assessment committee met and discussed:

The committee was formed with **Delana Harless, and Sabrina Krall – serving as Co-Chair, Medena Lester, PJ Estep, Abriana Kiser, and Violette Burdette serving on the committee.**

Step 1: Develop a Plan

- Work Plan
  - Target Community based, faith based, Private Sector, Public Sector, educational institutions and board members
- Community Action Key Areas

- **Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities**
  five sectors have been engaged:
    - Community-based organizations—United Way, Salvation Army or other multi-services nonprofits;
    - Faith-based organizations—Local churches, synagogues, mosques, interfaith service organizations;
    - Private Sector—Chambers of Commerce, local business improvement districts;
    - Public Sector—Department of social services, public health departments;
    - Educational Institutions—Local school boards, universities, community colleges, trade schools.

Step 2: Setting dates for Key Sector meetings.

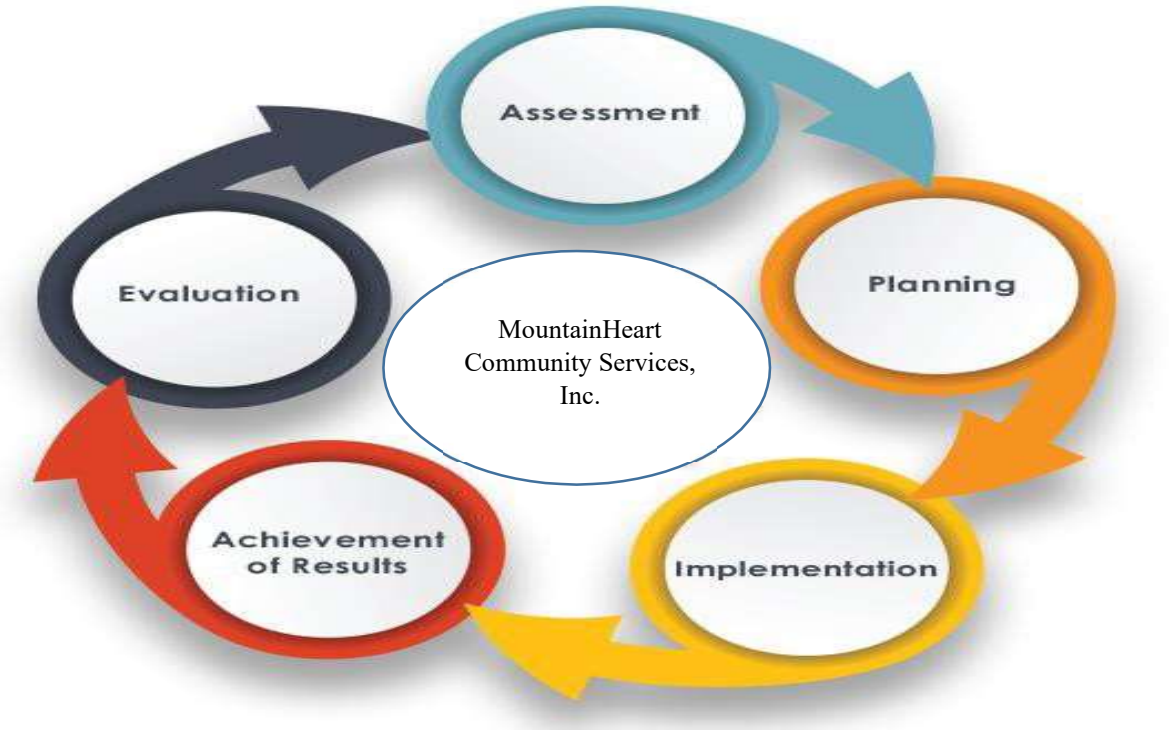
Two meetings were scheduled on both ends of the county, one in Matheny, WV and one in Mullens, WV - fourteen community members attended the meeting that was held at Matheny, and eighteen community members attended the Mullens meeting. During the meeting a discussion was held concerning what the community feels are gaps in services and/or root causes. Some of the answers were: drug epidemic, lack of transportation, addiction, childcare, lack of opportunities etc.

Step 3: Getting Assessment to public.

- Sending to IT Department for QR code – This was completed and placed in local businesses, on social media, as well as agency website.
- Distribution
    - Assigning staff to distribute
    - Community distribution
    - The MountainHeart assessment committee met and determined what areas to target to complete the assessment. Based on results of the meeting, staff were sent out within the county to complete the assessment.

THE ROMA (Results Oriented Management and Accountability) CYCLE

MountainHeart Community Services, Inc. has two staff members that are certified ROMA Trainers and ROMA Implementors. These staff conduct on-going training on ROMA throughout the agency showing how our programs are ever evolving. The above graphic shows how we start with the assessment and end with evaluation.



ROMA: Results Oriented Management and Accountability

The Monitoring and Assessment Task Force (MATF), a task force of federal, state, and local CSBG Network officials, created ROMA in 1994. Based upon principles contained in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, ROMA provides a framework for continuous growth and improvement among local CAAs and a basis for state leadership and assistance.

In 1998, the CSBG Reauthorization Act, Section 678E(a)(1), 42 U.S.C. § 9917(a)(1), made ROMA implementation a requirement for receiving federal CSBG funds, and established October 1, 2001 as the start date for reporting CSBG Network outcomes in the context of ROMA performance-based management

principles. This statutory mandate changed both the nature and pace of ROMA implementation throughout the CSBG Network.

IM 152 outlines the new CSBG Annual Report and the role of **ROMA Next Generation** in the new Performance Management Framework. The IM places an enhanced emphasis on analysis and evaluation under ROMA Next Generation. This evaluation and analysis is actualized through the new CSBG Annual Report that will replace the CSBG IS beginning in FFY 2018.

Local CAAs are encouraged to undertake a number of ROMA implementation actions that focus on results oriented management and accountability. https://nascsp.org/csbg/csbg-resources/roma/

Results Oriented Management Principles

• Assess poverty needs and conditions within the community.
• Define a clear anti-poverty mission for the CSBG Network and the strategies and services to address those needs, both immediate and longer term, in the context of existing resources and opportunities in the community.
• Identify specific improvements, or results, to be achieved among people with low-incomes and communities in which they live.
• Organize and implement programs, services, and strategies within the agency and among partnering organizations, to achieve anticipated results. https://nascsp.org/csbg/csbg-resources/roma/

Results Oriented Accountability Principles

• Develop and implement processes to identify, measure, and record improvements in the condition of people with low-incomes and the communities in which they live that result from CSBG Network intervention.
• Use information about outcomes, or results, among agency tripartite boards and staff to determine overall effectiveness; inform annual and long-range planning; and promote new funding and community partnership activities.
• Encourage state CSBG offices and state CAA associations to work in coordination to advance ROMA performance-based concepts among CSBG Eligible Entities through ongoing training and technical assistance.
https://nascsp.org/csbg/csbg-resources/roma/

Collecting the Data

County Profile

Wyoming County
History and Geography

Wyoming County, with its rugged terrain bisected by the Guyandotte River, is located in the heart of West Virginia's southern coal and natural gas producing region.
The county was formed by the Virginia General Assembly on January 26, 1850, from a part of Logan County. Only 6,247 residents were counted in the 1890 census, but the development of timbering, natural gas production, and coal mining pushed the population to 20,926 in 1930 and to a high of 37,540 in 1950. Like its neighbors, Wyoming County lost people with the loss of mining jobs. The population in 2020 was 21,382.

Wyoming County has a land area of 501.9 square miles. Oceana, established in 1797 by early settler and Revolutionary War veteran John Cooke, was the seat of government until the county seat was moved to Pineville when that town was incorporated in 1907. A handsome courthouse was built in 1916 of native stone from a local quarry.
Major timbering began in 1889. Logs were floated down the Guyandotte River to its junction with the Ohio River at Huntington. The Guyandotte River originates just over the border in neighboring Raleigh County, where Winding Gulf and Devils Fork creeks come together. The Guyandotte and its tributaries drain all of Wyoming County.

Completion of the Virginian Railway in 1909 sparked the area's largest industrial boom by providing transportation of coal to ports on the Atlantic Ocean in Virginia. A large rail yard helped make Mullens the county's largest incorporated town, with a population of 3,449 in 1950. Wyoming County ranked 10th statewide in coal production, with more than 566 million tons of coal extracted, for the period between 1883 and 1998. In 2021, Wyoming County produced 3.9 million tons of coal, ranking it seventh in West Virginia but had the fourth largest coal workforce (872).

Financier I. T. Mann and others developed a major coal company town and mine at Itmann, near Mullens, about 1916. Today Itmann's massive cut-stone company store building remains a coalfields landmark. The first large mine was opened by Raleigh-Wyoming Coal Company at Glen Rogers in 1922 and employed nearly 1,000 men by the late 1930s. The mine was the scene of the county's worst tragedy when an underground explosion on November 6, 1923, claimed 27 lives. A total of 160 workers were killed at the Glen Rogers mine during its 40 years of operation, making it one of the most dangerous work places in West Virginia's history.

Developer C. H. Meade completed the first commercial natural gas well in 1919. The Ravencliff field, one of the state's most productive gas fields, was named after a small community in the northeastern part of the county near Bolt Mountain.

As of 2022, the largest employers were, respectively, the county school system, Diversified Gas & Oil, Contura Energy, MountainHeart Community Services, and Trion Solutions.

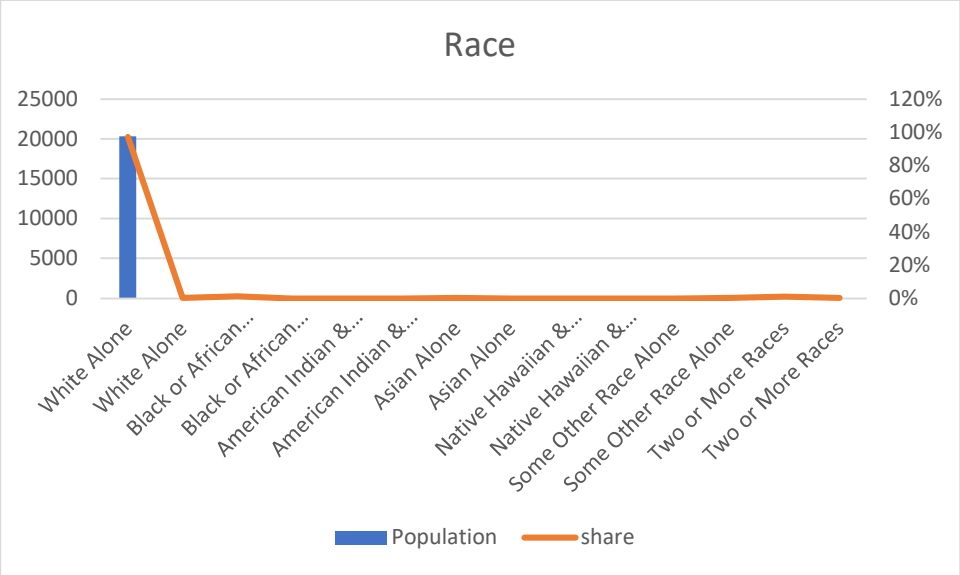
In 1964, a Wyoming County petroglyph, located near Oceana, was recorded by archeologists Oscar Mairs and Hillis Youse. Named the Luther Elkins Petroglyph, it was studied again in 1969 when archeologist Sigfus Olafson documented the site. In 1982, the petroglyph attracted widespread attention when an amateur archeologist proclaimed it to be of Irish origin with ancient markings. The claim was generally dismissed by professional archeologists.

Chief among Wyoming County's recreational facilities are Twin Falls Resort State Park, located between Pineville and Mullens, and R. D. Bailey Lake near Baileysville.

Prominent Wyoming County residents have included William C. Marland, who was elected governor in 1952; Robert D. Bailey, West Virginia secretary of state, 1965–68; Ward Wylie, a legislator and president of both the national boxing and wrestling associations in the late 1950s; and professional football star Curt Warner. Brothers Darrell V. and Warren R. McGraw both served on the West Virginia Supreme Court and in other high offices. Darrell McGraw was elected to the Supreme Court in 1977 and became state attorney general in 1993. Warren McGraw was elected to an unexpired term on the Supreme Court in 1998 and served through 2004. Warren McGraw also served in the House of Delegates from 1969 to 1972 before being elected to three terms in the state Senate. He was president of the Senate from 1981 to 1984. (https://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1381 , n.d.)

Population by Race:

Race	Ethnicity	Hispanic Population Moe	Geography	Population	share
White Alone	Not Hispanic or Latino	6	Wyoming County, WV	20292	97%
White Alone	Hispanic or Latino	40	Wyoming County, WV	32	0%
Black or African American Alone	Not Hispanic or Latino	114	Wyoming County, WV	239	1%
Black or African American Alone	Hispanic or Latino	23	Wyoming County, WV	0	0%
American Indian & Alaska Native Alone	Not Hispanic or Latino	23	Wyoming County, WV	0	0%
American Indian & Alaska Native Alone	Hispanic or Latino	23	Wyoming County, WV	0	0%
Asian Alone	Not Hispanic or Latino	70	Wyoming County, WV	60	0%
Asian Alone	Hispanic or Latino	23	Wyoming County, WV	0	0%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander Alone	Not Hispanic or Latino	23	Wyoming County, WV	0	0%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander Alone	Hispanic or Latino	23	Wyoming County, WV	0	0%
Some Other Race Alone	Not Hispanic or Latino	23	Wyoming County, WV	0	0%
Some Other Race Alone	Hispanic or Latino	39	Wyoming County, WV	25	0%
Two or More Races	Not Hispanic or Latino	119.1512	Wyoming County, WV	214	1%
Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino	55.9464	Wyoming County, WV	28	0%

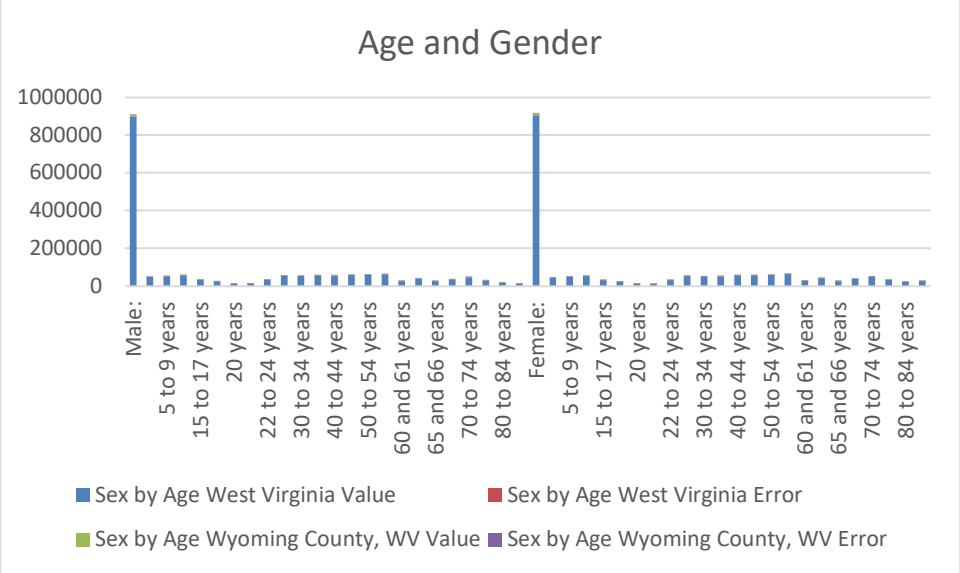

Race
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0
120%
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
White Alone
White Alone
Black or African...
Black or African...
American Indian &...
American Indian &...
Asian Alone
Asian Alone
Native Hawaiian &...
Native Hawaiian &...
Some Other Race Alone
Some Other Race Alone
Two or More Races
Two or More Races
Population
share

Population by Gender and Age:

Gender by Age

	West Virginia		Wyoming County, WV	
	Value	Error	Value	Error
Total:	1801049	0	21581	0
Male:	896723	715	10657	76
Under 5 years	48062	459	577	53
5 to 9 years	51311	1248	537	145
10 to 14 years	56100	1345	735	145
15 to 17 years	33282	362	406	24
18 and 19 years	24225	575	216	24
20 years	12027	845	172	130
21 years	13191	962	67	67
22 to 24 years	32155	1064	294	126
25 to 29 years	55187	507	577	3
30 to 34 years	52333	557	548	31
35 to 39 years	55333	1475	515	207
40 to 44 years	55148	1419	752	206
45 to 49 years	57912	400	763	44
50 to 54 years	59391	427	681	2
55 to 59 years	61799	1536	714	200
60 and 61 years	25577	1286	413	196
62 to 64 years	38880	1210	456	139
65 and 66 years	24920	1253	431	169
67 to 69 years	34390	1243	439	141
70 to 74 years	45654	1408	656	183
75 to 79 years	29870	814	340	110
80 to 84 years	17114	653	174	99
85 years and over	12862	681	194	102
Female:	904326	715	10924	76
Under 5 years	45161	468	552	49
5 to 9 years	49064	1318	676	159
10 to 14 years	51980	1346	556	154
15 to 17 years	31535	336	410	24
18 and 19 years	21481	459	205	124
20 years	11905	840	171	123
21 years	10670	895	102	86
22 to 24 years	30986	1091	215	87
25 to 29 years	52671	365	558	24
30 to 34 years	50733	465	532	24
35 to 39 years	51589	1294	666	190

40 to 44 years	55935	1294	788	203
45 to 49 years	56791	351	698	24
50 to 54 years	58578	342	692	24
55 to 59 years	62867	1345	761	184
60 and 61 years	27239	1139	346	158
62 to 64 years	41076	1324	531	140
65 and 66 years	25886	1004	357	146
67 to 69 years	37262	1025	583	199
70 to 74 years	49614	1354	586	165
75 to 79 years	33097	1028	346	120
80 to 84 years	22457	931	172	88
85 years and over	25749	993	421	143



Economics in Wyoming County

Income

$20,474 Per capita income

- **about 80 percent** of the amount in West Virginia: $24,774
- **about two-thirds** of the amount in United States: $31,177

$37,644 Median household income

- **about 80 percent** of the amount in West Virginia: $44,061
- **about two-thirds** of the amount in United States: $57,652

Over $200K: 1%†

- **about half** the rate in West Virginia: 2%
- **about one-fifth** of the rate in United States: 6%

† Margin of error at least 10 percent of total value

Poverty

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

22.2% ±3.1% (4,866 ±686)Persons below poverty line

- **about 25 percent higher** than the rate in West Virginia: 17.8% 317,089 (±0.3% / ±5,550)
- **about 1.5 times** the rate in United States: 14.6%45,650,345 (±0.1% / ±281,297)

Non-poverty: 70%

- **about 90 percent** of the rate in West Virginia: 75%
- **about 90 percent** of the rate in United States: 80%

Children (Under 18)

Poverty**30%**†

- Poverty
- Non-poverty

Non-poverty: 92%

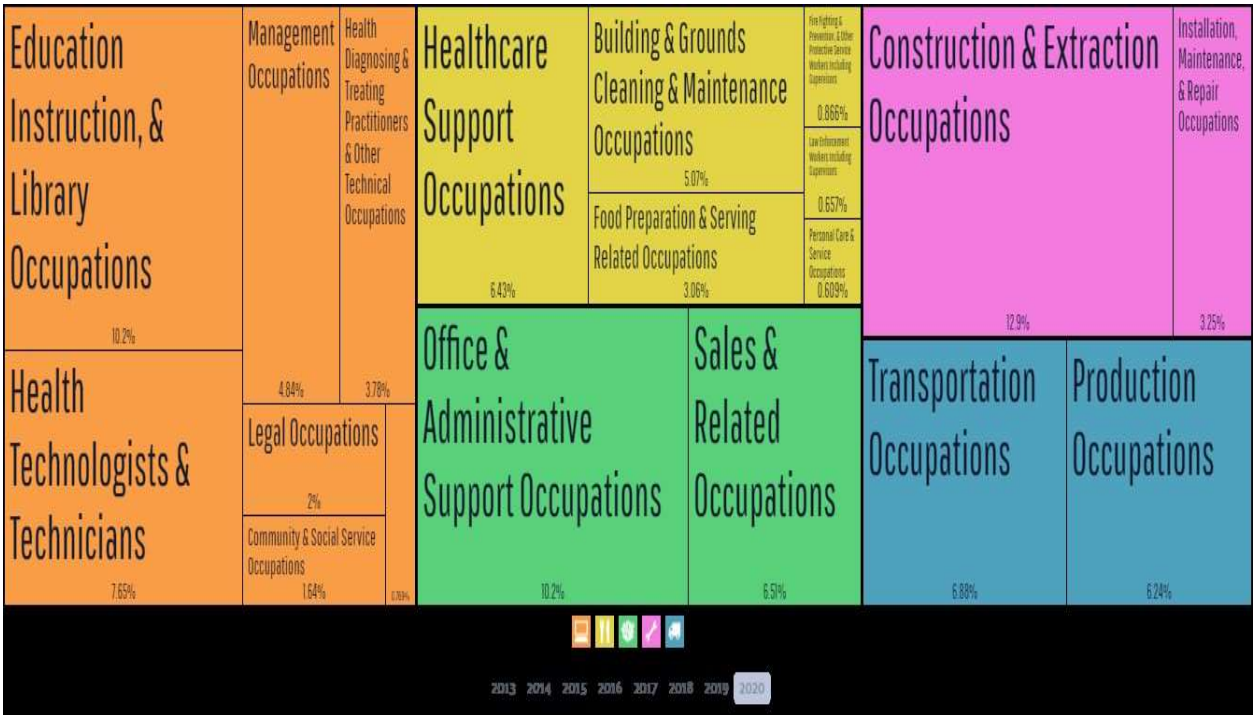
- **about the same as** the rate in West Virginia: 91%
- **about the same as** the rate in United States: 91%

Seniors (65 and over)

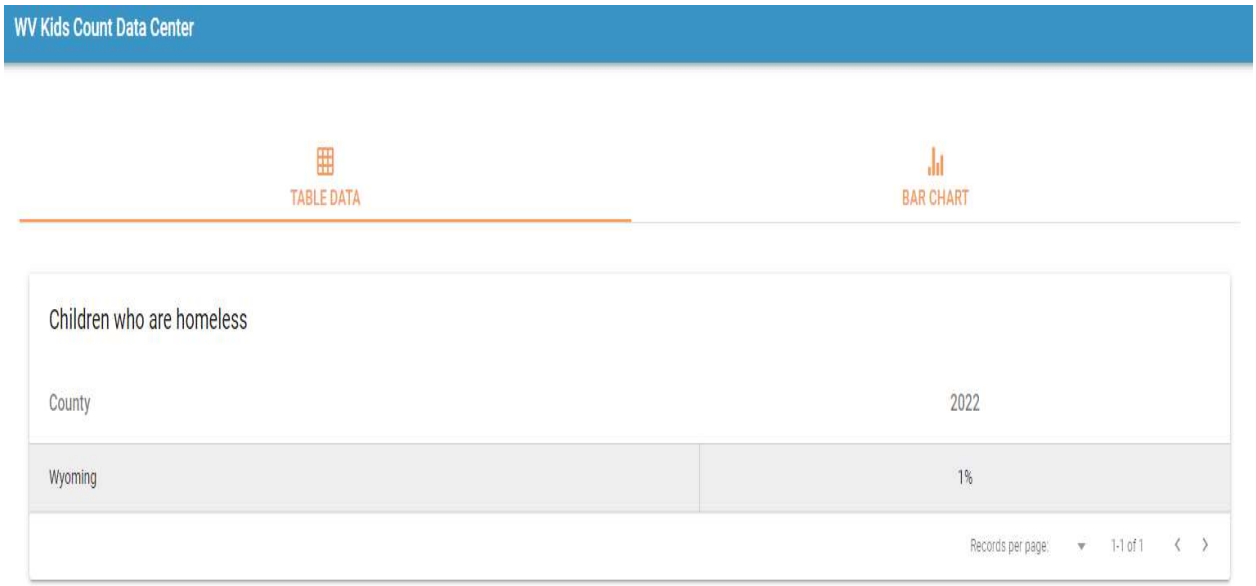
Poverty **8%**†

- Poverty
- Non-poverty

ID Gender	Gender	Industry Group	Median Earr	Median Earni	Geography
0	Male	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, & Mining	$66,629.00	$ 9,564.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Construction	$46,591.00	$ 69,891.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Manufacturing	$43,350.00	$ 13,911.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Retail Trade	$24,688.00	$ 15,425.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Transportation & Warehousing, & Utilities	$60,852.00	$ 14,506.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Information	$83,819.00	$ 31,258.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Finance & Insurance, & Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	$62,417.00	$ 45,395.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Professional, Scientific, & Management, & Administrative & Waste Management Services	$14,861.00	$ 21,882.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Educational Services, & Health Care & Social Assistance	$58,750.00	$ 15,068.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation, & Accommodations & Food Services	$13,313.00	$ 2,204.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Other Services Except Public Administration	$24,097.00	$ 9,090.00	Wyoming County, WV
0	Male	Public Administration	$29,167.00	$ 16,004.00	Wyoming County, WV
1	Female	Manufacturing	$ 2,499.00		Wyoming County, WV
1	Female	Retail Trade	$22,855.00	$ 7,414.00	Wyoming County, WV
1	Female	Transportation & Warehousing, & Utilities	$ 2,499.00		Wyoming County, WV
1	Female	Finance & Insurance, & Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	$31,250.00	$ 3,963.00	Wyoming County, WV
1	Female	Professional, Scientific, & Management, & Administrative & Waste Management Services	$45,050.00	$ 36,036.00	Wyoming County, WV
1	Female	Educational Services, & Health Care & Social Assistance	$31,228.00	$ 8,702.00	Wyoming County, WV
1	Female	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation, & Accommodations & Food Services	$16,779.00	$ 11,787.00	Wyoming County, WV
1	Female	Other Services Except Public Administration	$23,125.00	$ 6,948.00	Wyoming County, WV
1	Female	Public Administration	$33,125.00	$ 44,747.00	Wyoming County, WV



Statistics showing the number of children who are homeless in Wyoming County, 2022.



Indicator: Children who are homeless
Definition: Share of children who are homeless.

2019 Dataset
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.
Years: School Year 2016-2017.
Caveats:

2020 Dataset
Source: WV Department of Education, Education for Homeless Children and Youth, via Rebecca Derenge.
Years: School Year 2018-2019.
Caveats: Homelessness is determined by County Departments of Education using the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition.

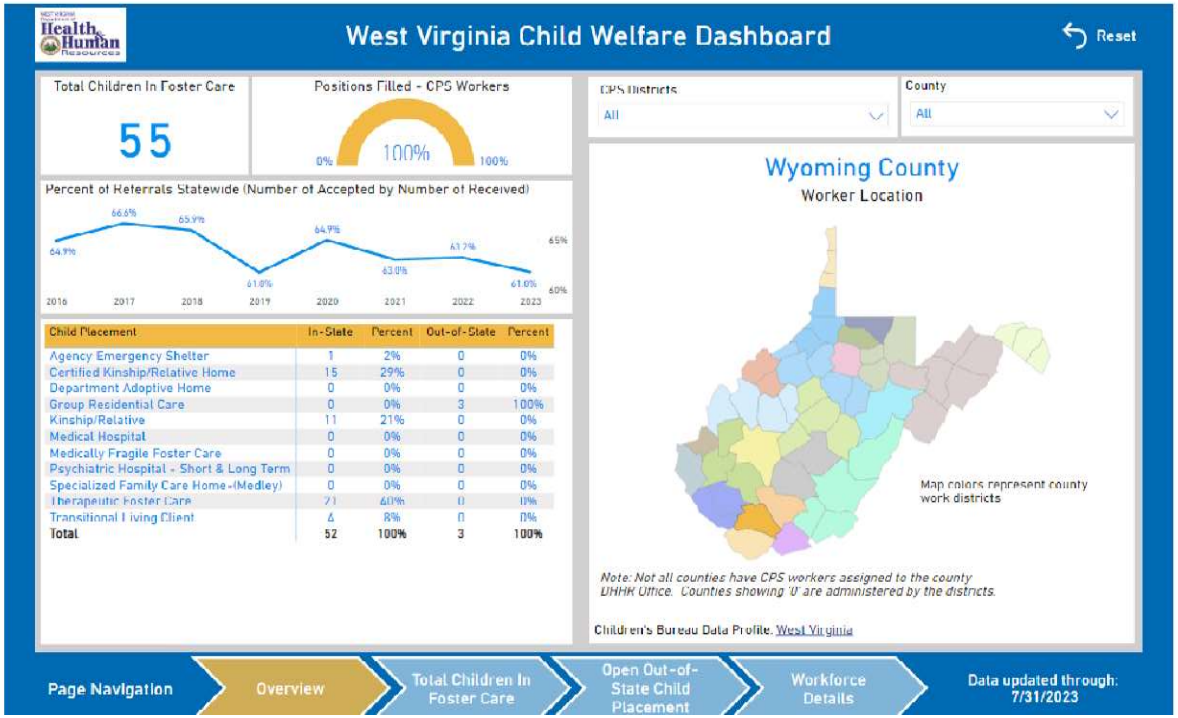
2021 Dataset
Source: WV Department of Education, via Georgia Hughes-Webb
Years: School Year 2018-2019
Caveats: 2 counties listed as having 'less than 15' and 'less than 10' – exact data was suppressed.

2022 Dataset
Source: WV Department of Education, via Georgia Hughes-Webb
Years: School Year 2020-2021
Caveats: 2 counties listed as having 'less than 15' and 'less than 10' – exact data was suppressed.

WVDHHR > Child Welfare Dashboard

Child Welfare Dashboard

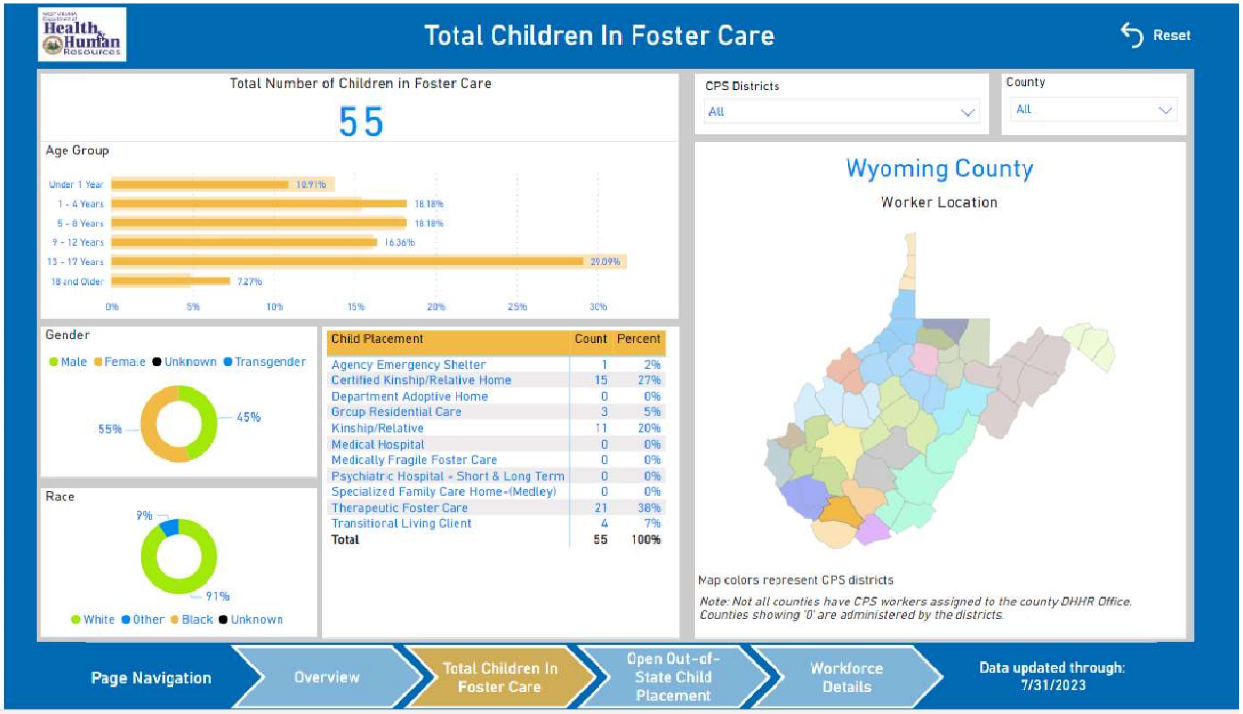
Updates to the dashboard will be made mid-month, each month.



WVDHHR > Child Welfare Dashboard

Child Welfare Dashboard

Updates to the dashboard will be made mid-month, each month.



Estimated Number of Children with Disabilities

Each Head Start/Early Head Start Program in the nation must enroll a minimum of 10% of its funded enrollment of children with a disability in order to meet federal requirements. In an effort to ensure these families receive our services; MountainHeart Community Services has developed a recruitment plan which has a section that focuses on the recruitment of children with disabilities. Before being accepted for enrollment, there must be written documentation of the disability, as certified by the appropriate medical personnel. For example, a child who has a suspected speech problem should be evaluated by a speech pathologist prior to enrollment in Head Start, if that child is to be accepted on the basis of a disability.

The MountainHeart Head Start Program does not discriminate in any manner on the basis of a disability. If the certifying specialist recommends the child to have special equipment, special instruction, food, etc., every effort will be made to provide such. All children with a disability are "mainstreamed," which means they are included in the normal, everyday activities to the fullest possible extent. Because many children with a disability must have extra attention or assistance, each child will have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) depending on the age of the child, to meet their needs while enrolled in the program. The child's parents, teacher, Disabilities and Nutrition Specialists, Early Childhood Specialist, and LEA must approve this plan at a special meeting

Head Start served 38 children with a disability in the 2022-2023 school year. Early Head Start served 21.

West Virginia Birth to Three program is currently (2023) providing services to___ children in Wyoming county. Children served have medical diagnosis, developmental delay or risk factors that could lead to a delay. Services include audio logical exams, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and developmental strategies provided in the child's natural environmental.

Wyoming County Schools Preschool Program served ___ children with disabilities ages 3, 4 and 5 for school year 2023-2024. The children served by the preschool program have a variety of disabilities. The disabilities of children range from speech delays on to more severe multiple disabilities. The fastest increasing disability seems to be autism, spectrum disorder. All children with disabilities ages 3-21 are provided services through Wyoming Co. Schools. Some of the services are education, occupation therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapies as well as transportation and health services. DHHR provides services to children with disabilities as well. Services are numerous. Head Start offers placement for children with disabilities.

Data

Regarding the education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of Head Start eligible children and families.

Education

Below is a summary of the education of our Head Start/Early Head Start Families

Education EHS: 24 have less than high school education

71 has High School Diploma or GED

29 has some college or Vocational Training

11 has bachelor's or Advanced

Education HS: 25 have less than high school education

83 has High School Diploma or GED

42 has some college or Vocational Training

8 has bachelor's or Advanced

Health

By the end of the 2022-2023 school year we didn't have any children without some sort of medical coverage. One of the major health concerns of our parents was lack of medical and dental coverage for themselves. Dental exams are one of the most difficult to obtain. There are two dental offices in the county with 3 dentists, both are located in the same city.

MountainHeart Head Start along with Tug River Children's Clinic and Family Healthcare conducts physicals on children enrolled in the program within 30 days of enrollment on scheduled screening days. We currently have an agreement with Tug River Clinic and Family Healthcare.

MountainHeart Head Start along with Oceana Dental Center conducts dental screenings on children enrolled in the program within 45 days of enrollment on scheduled screening days. We currently have an agreement with Oceana Dental Center.

Hearing and vision screenings are done by Head Start staff within the 45-day deadline of the enrollment into the program.

West Virginia ranked 2nd highest nationally in the prevalence of general health of adults as either fair or poor.

More than one-fourth of West Virginia adults (26.3%) considered their health to be either fair or poo

Fair or poor health was most common among groups of adults aged 55-64, those with less than a high school education, and those who have an annual household income of less than $15,000.

The prevalence of fair or poor health was highest in Boone, Fayette, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, and Wyoming counties.

West Virginia ranked 1st highest in the nation for the prevalence of poor physical health, poor mental health, and activity limitations due to poor physical or mental health.

https://dhhr.wv.gov/hpcd/data_reports/pages/fast-facts.aspx

Employment

Unemployment Rate in Wyoming County, WV was 4.3% in July of 2023, according to Workforce WV. The state average is 3.8%

Nutrition

Lacy Ferguson is a licensed and registered dietician that the Head Start/Early Head Start currently contract with. As a consultant she reviews and approves HS/EHS menus provided by the Nutrition Specialist to assure compliance to USDA regulations for children age's birth to five. As a consultant, Lacy also agrees to provide training to HS/EHS on an as needed basis, and to provide information regarding food allergies or any information related to menus for children with special needs diet.

Social Service

MountainHeart is made up of small rural communities that depend a lot on our faith-based organizations to support our families in need of food, clothing and special needs of families. Because it is a rural area, we have become self-supportive and have staff trained as child-birth educators, lactation consultants, car seat installers, first aid and CPR instructors just to name a few. MountainHeart works closely with programs within our agency for resources such as Weatherization, Parents as Teachers, Birth to Three, and VITA. MountainHeart has a strong relationship with the existing dental office in the county and local healthcare facilities. Outside agencies such as WIC, Better living center, area churches and World Vision are resources we use to aid in helping families with nutrition, household items, clothing and any other identified needs

Head Start/Early Head Start Data:

Using the families from the 2023-24 school years as a sample, we obtained the following information:

Early Head Start: 186 children served, 139 families

Employment, Job Training, and School

37. Total number of families in which at enrollment	
a. At least one parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school at enrollment	81
1. Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is employed	76
2. Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is in job training (e.g. job training program, professional certificate, apprenticeship, or occupational license)	30
3. Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is in school (e.g. GED, associate degree, baccalaureate, or advanced degree)	5
b. Neither/No parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school at enrollment (e.g. unemployed, retired, or disabled)	48
38. Total number of families in which at end of enrollment	
a. At least one parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school at end of enrollment	21
1. Of these families, the number of families that were also counted in C.37.a (as having been employed, in job training, or in school at enrollment)	17
2. Of these families, the number of families that were also counted in C.37.b (as having not been employed, in job training, or in school at enrollment)	4
b. Neither/No parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school at end of enrollment (e.g. unemployed, retired, or disabled)	15
1. Of these families, the number of families that were also counted in C.37.a	1
2. Of these families, the number of families that were also counted in C.37.b	14

Head Start: 194 children enrolled, 167 families

Transition and Turnover (EHS Programs)

18. Total number of infants and toddlers who left the program any time after classes or home visits began and did not re-enroll	62
a. Of the infants and toddlers who left the program above, the number of children who were enrolled less than 45 days	9
b. Of the infants and toddlers who left the program during the program year, the number who aged out of Early Head Start	32
1. Of the infants and toddlers who aged out of Early Head Start, the number who entered a Head Start program	27
2. Of the infants and toddlers who aged out of Early Head Start, the number who entered another early childhood program	0
3. Of the infants and toddlers who aged out of Early Head Start, the number who did NOT enter another early childhood program	1
19. Total number of pregnant women who left the program after receiving Early Head Start services but before the birth of their infant, and did not re-enroll	1
20. Number of pregnant women receiving Early Head Start services at the time their infant was born	24
a. Of the pregnant women enrolled when their infant was born, the number whose infant was subsequently enrolled in the program	14
b. Of the pregnant women enrolled when their infant was born, the number whose infant was NOT subsequently enrolled in the program (A.20 - A.20.a)	10

Child Care Programs

Wyoming County has 2 licensed day care centers.

Presbyterian Child Development Center: Located in Pineville. - Tinker Tots Childcare: Located Oceana - They both have before and after school programs. The day care centers average 25 to 30 children, ages 6 weeks to 12 years. The centers are approved for 43 children:

IN-HOME DAY CARE PROVIDERS

There are currently 5 in-home day care providers in Wyoming County. There are no more than 50 children being served by the in-home day care providers.

Wyoming County Board of Education

The Wyoming County BOE currently has 12 prek sites throughout the county serving approximately 200 children. MountainHeart collaborates with the BOE to provide family support services in 8 of these classrooms.

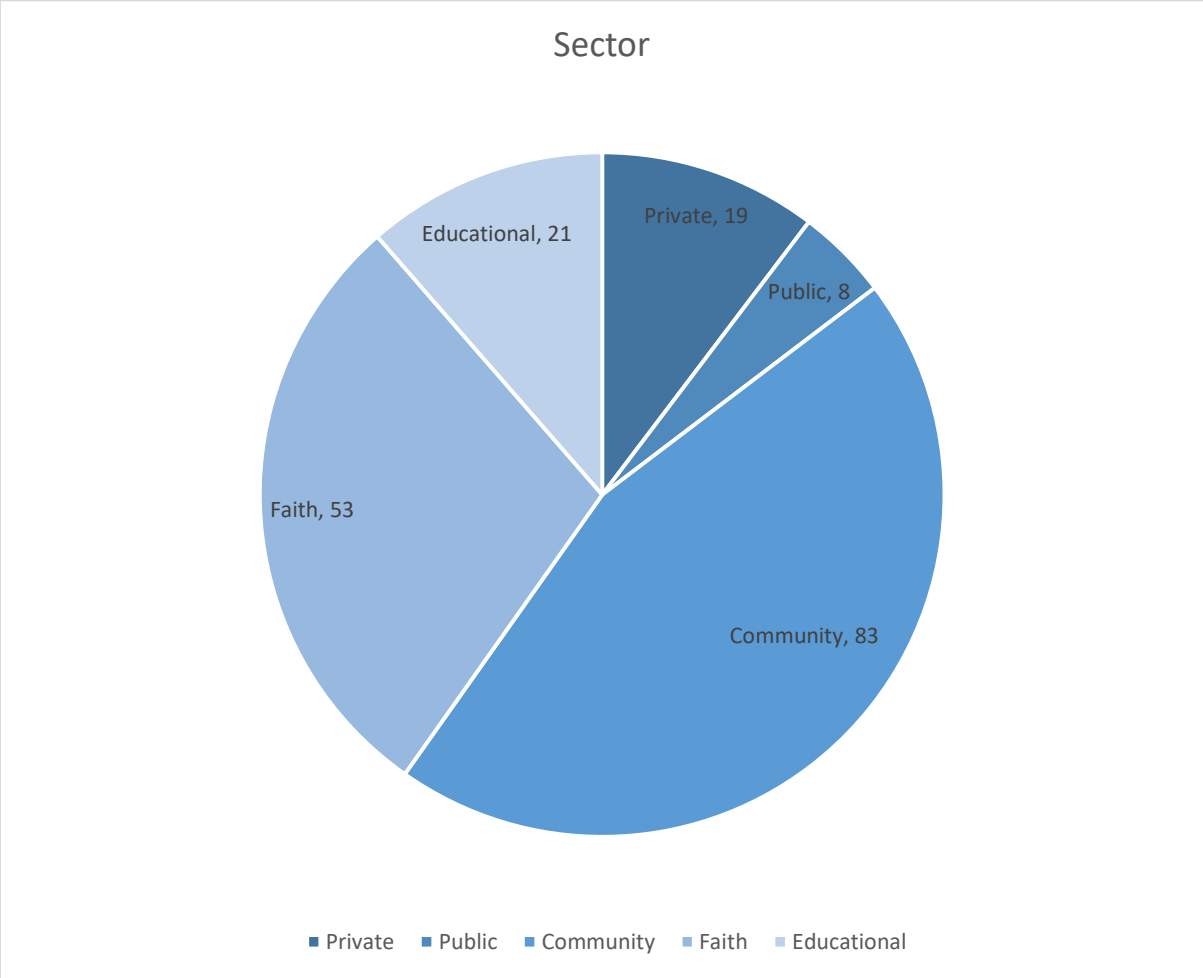
Data Analysis Process

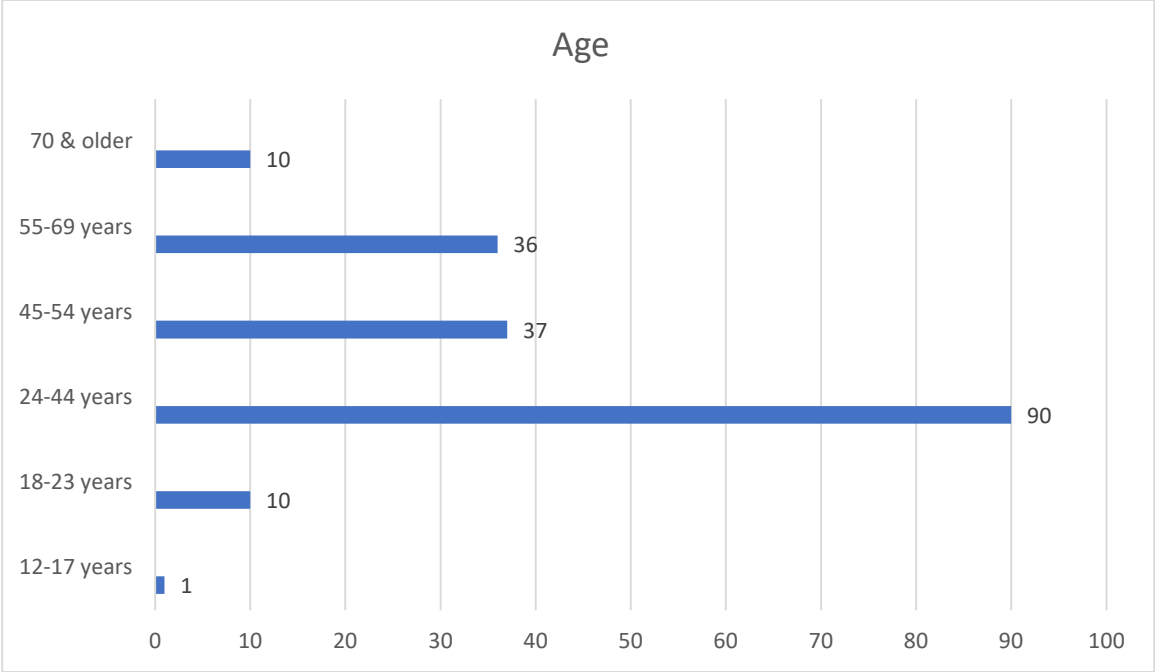
Demographics

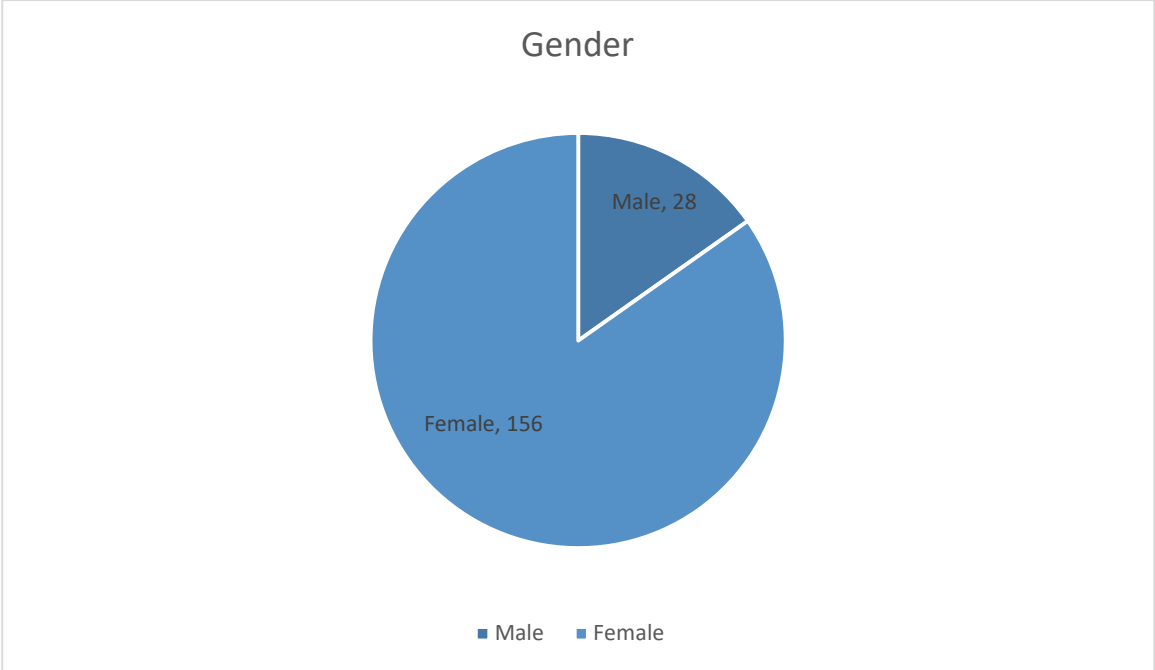
Due to funding, the agency has to demonstrate that we reach out to key sectors within the community, the key sectors are private, public, community, faith and educational.

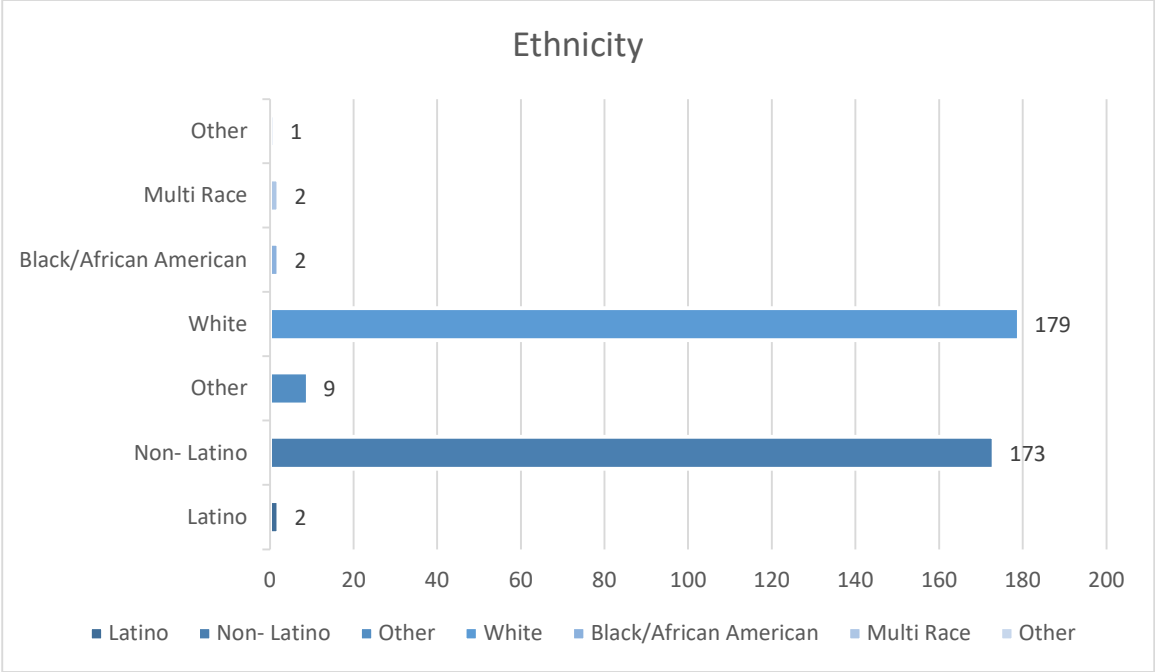
We completed 201 assessments and of the 201 assessments, 184 or 92% answered what sector best fit their life/work.

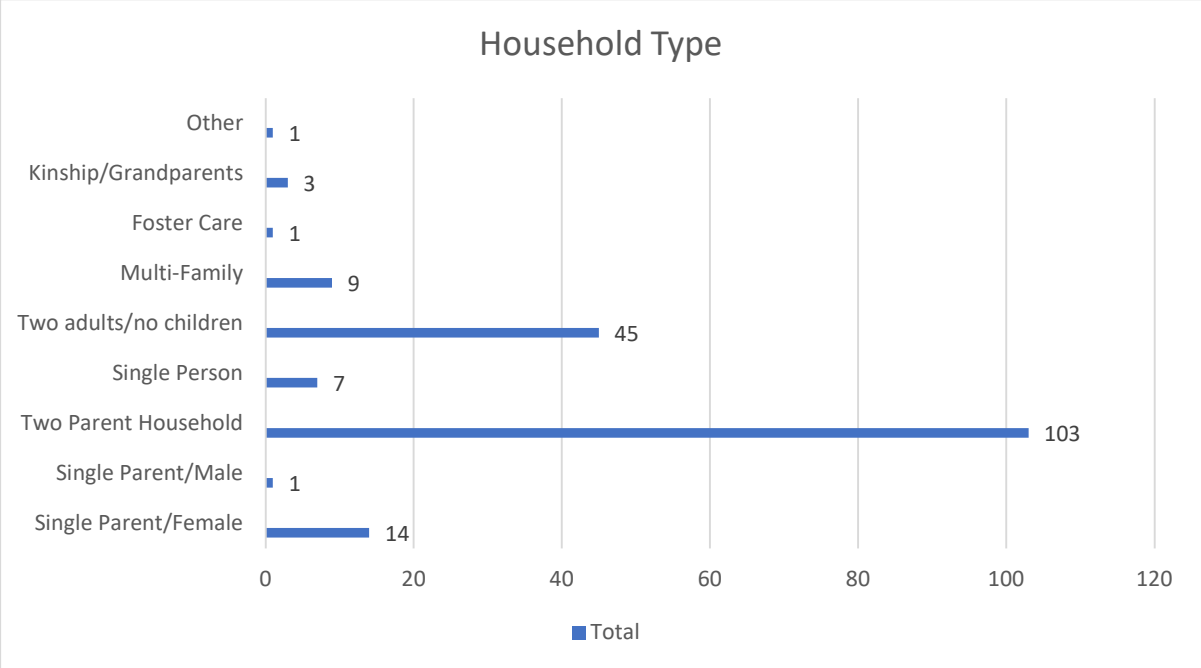
Private	19	Community	83	Educational	21
Public	8	Faith	53		

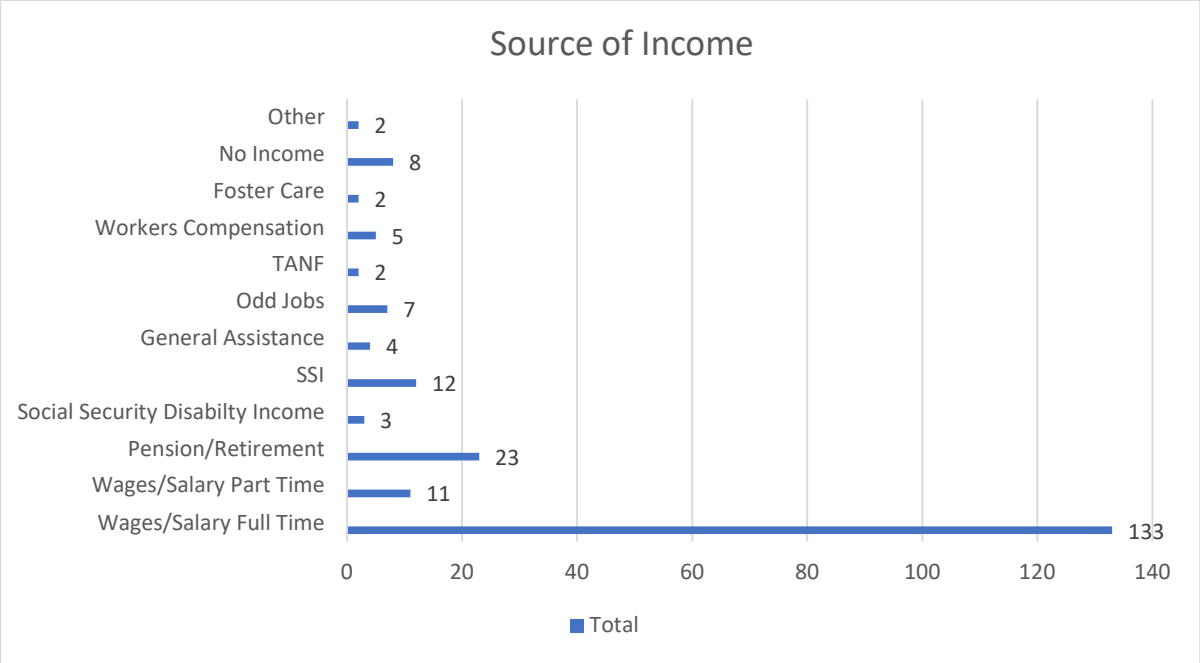


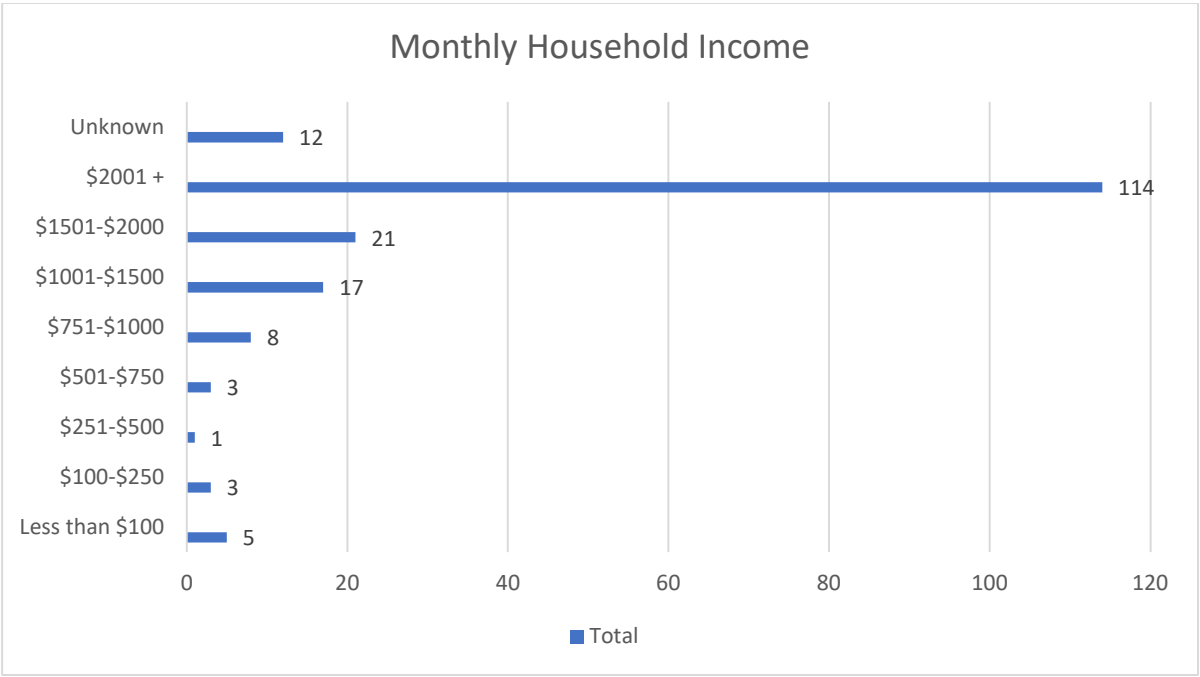

Age
70 & older
10
55-69 years
36
45-54 years
37
24-44 years
90
18-23 years
10
12-17 years
1
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100

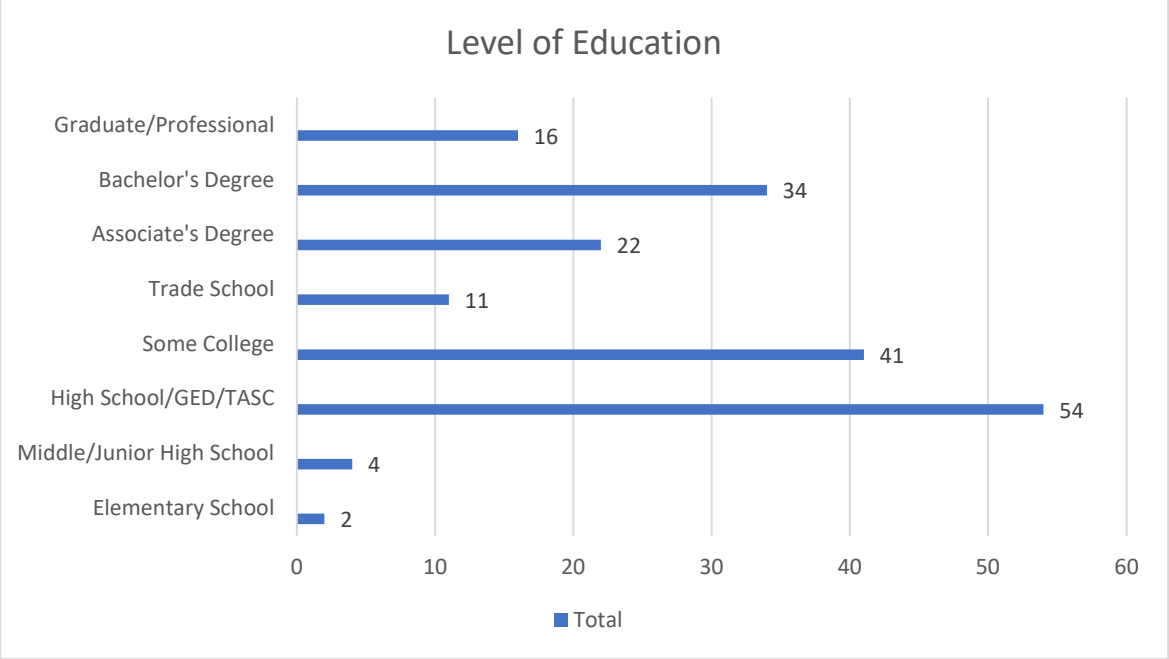

Gender
Male, 28
Female, 156
Male
Female


Ethnicity
Other
Multi Race
Black/African American
White
Other
Non- Latino
Latino
1
2
2
179
9
173
2
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
160
180
200
Latino
Non- Latino
Other
White
Black/African American
Multi Race
Other

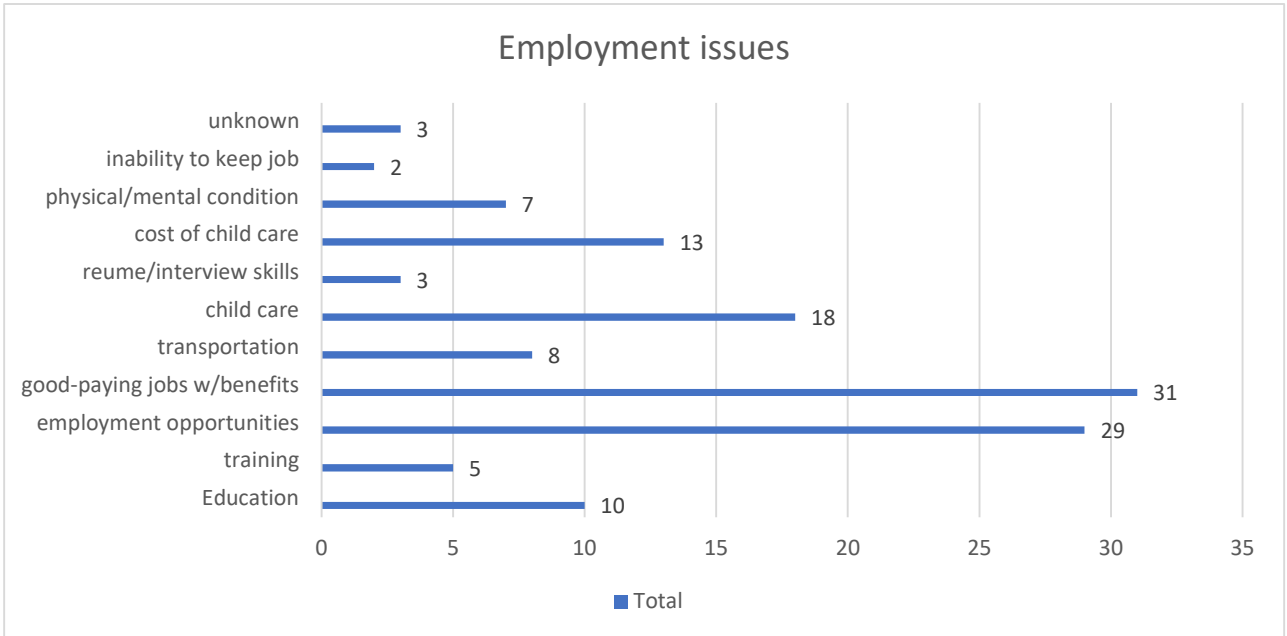

Household Type
Other
Kinship/Grandparents
Foster Care
Multi-Family
Two adults/no children
Single Person
Two Parent Household
Single Parent/Male
Single Parent/Female
1
3
1
9
45
7
103
1
14
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
Total


Source of Income
Other
No Income
Foster Care
Workers Compensation
TANF
Odd Jobs
General Assistance
SSI
Social Security Disabilty Income
Pension/Retirement
Wages/Salary Part Time
Wages/Salary Full Time
2
8
2
5
2
7
4
12
3
23
11
133
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
Total

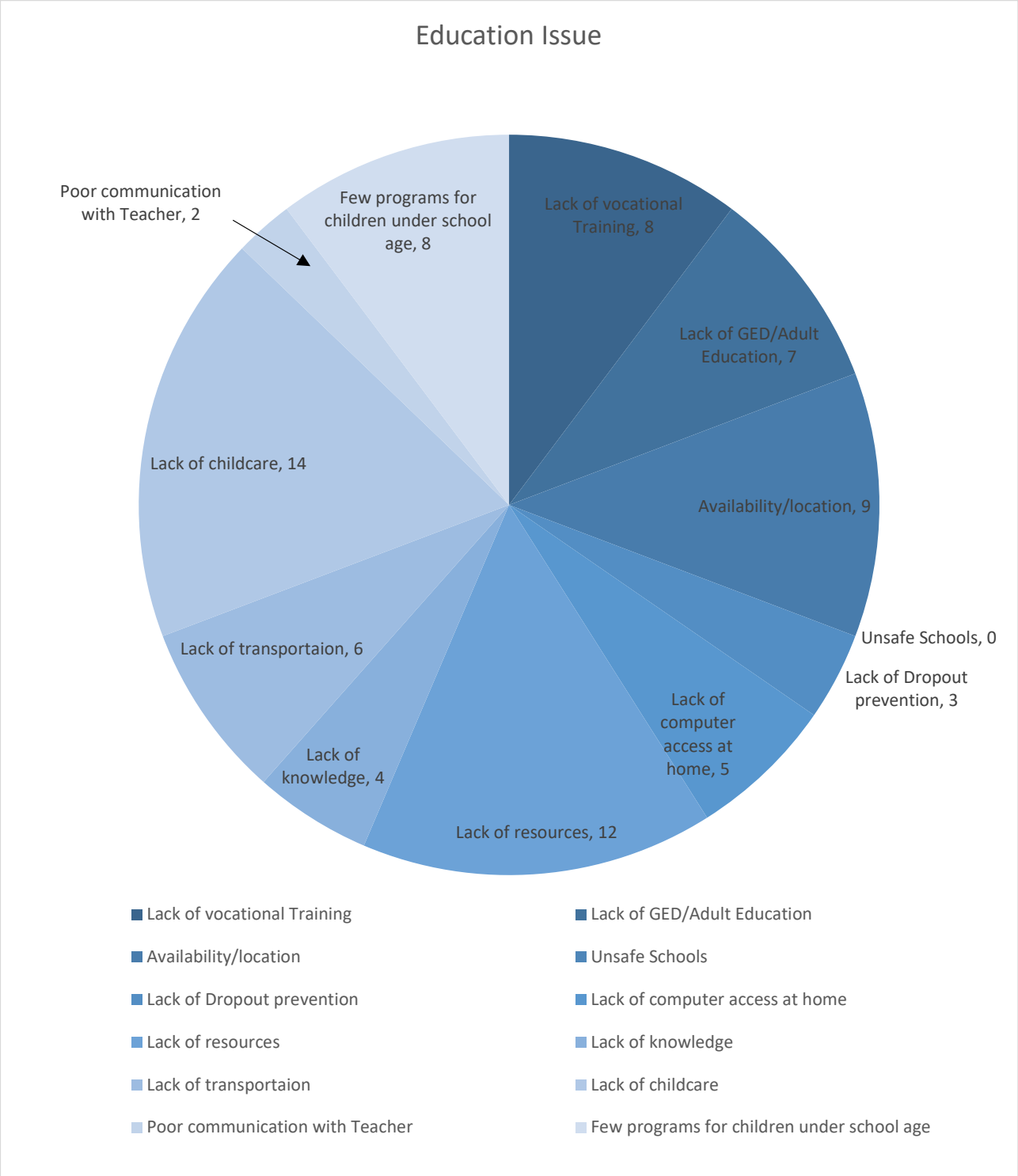

Monthly Household Income
Unknown
$2001 +
$1501-$2000
$1001-$1500
$751-$1000
$501-$750
$251-$500
$100-$250
Less than $100
12
114
21
17
8
3
1
3
5
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
Total



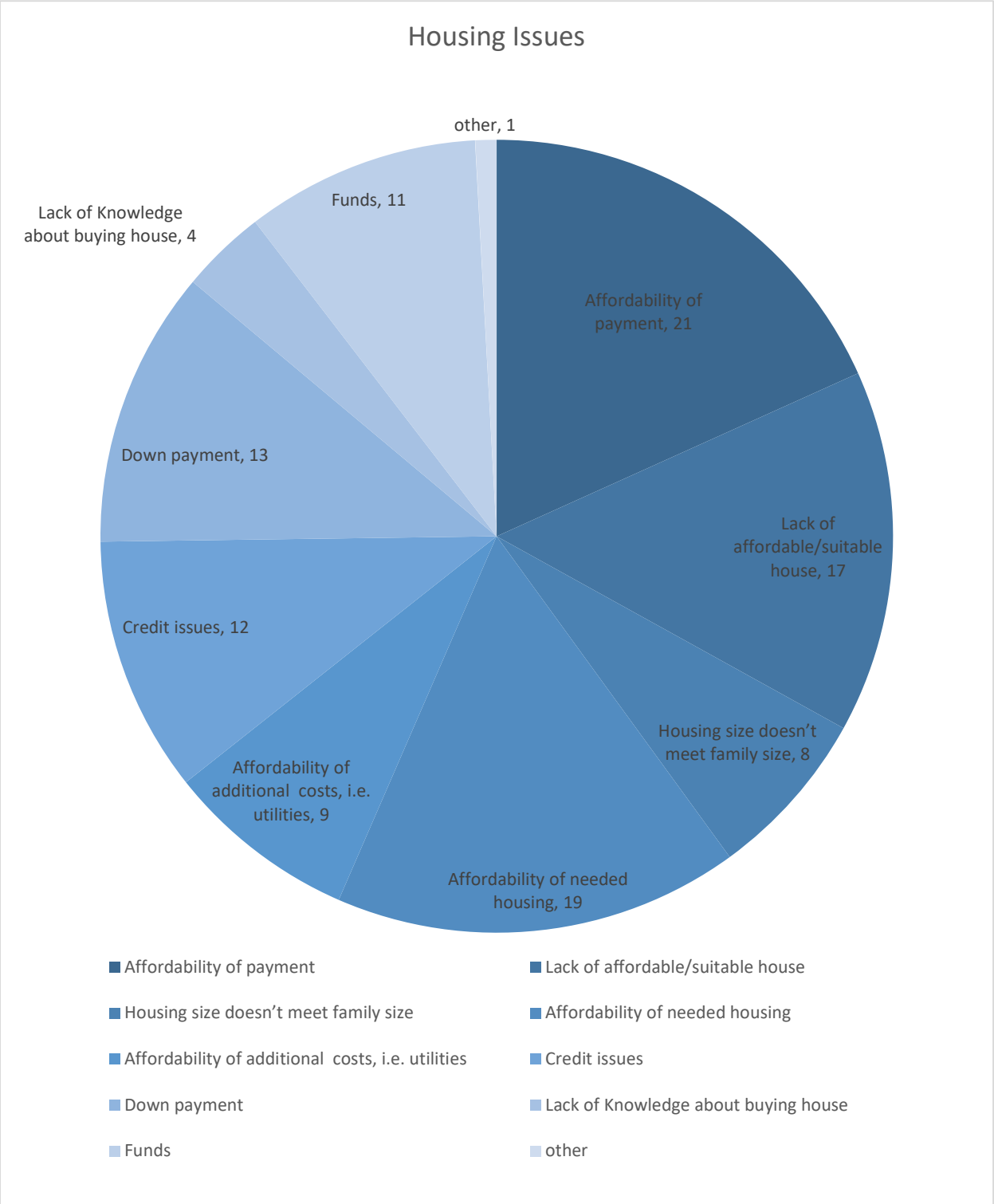
Is Employment an issue for you and/or your family? 70 YES 128 NO
If yes, choose the THREE most important reasons why:



Is Education an issue for you and/or your family? 49 YES 149 NO
If yes, choose the THREE most important reasons why:

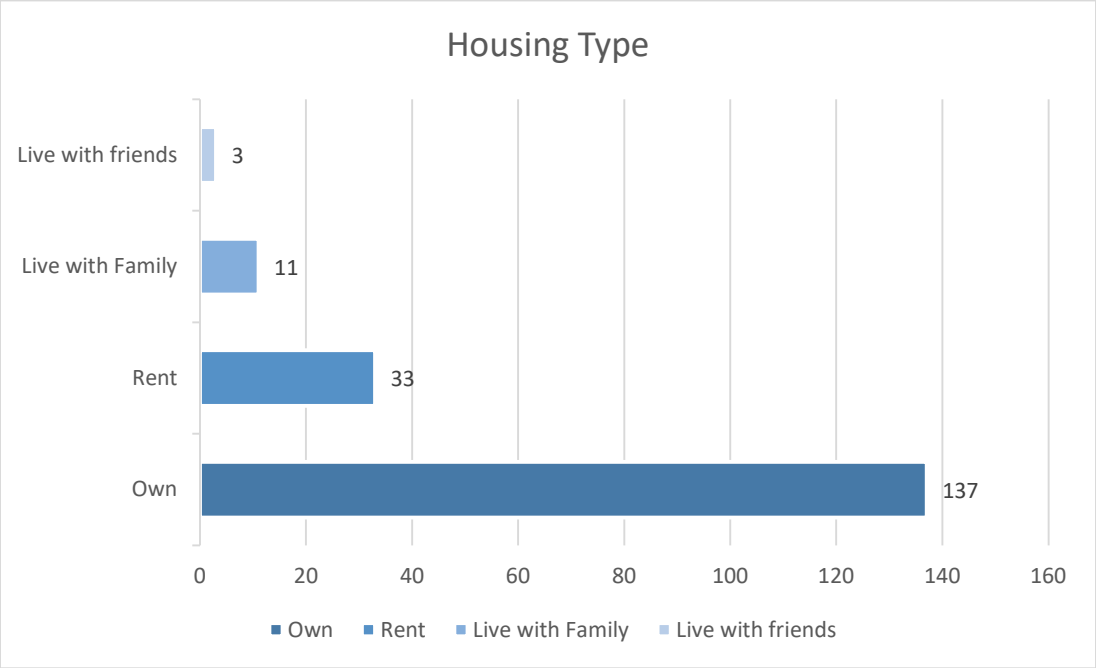


Is housing an issue for you and/or your family? 59 YES 139 NO
If yes, choose the THREE most important reasons why

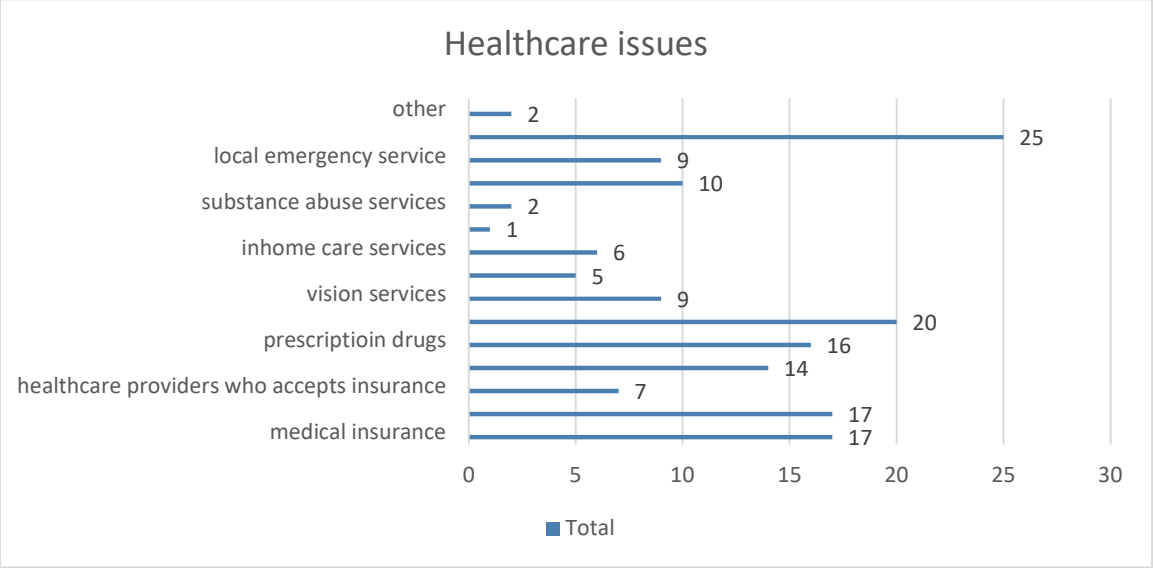


What is your current housing type?

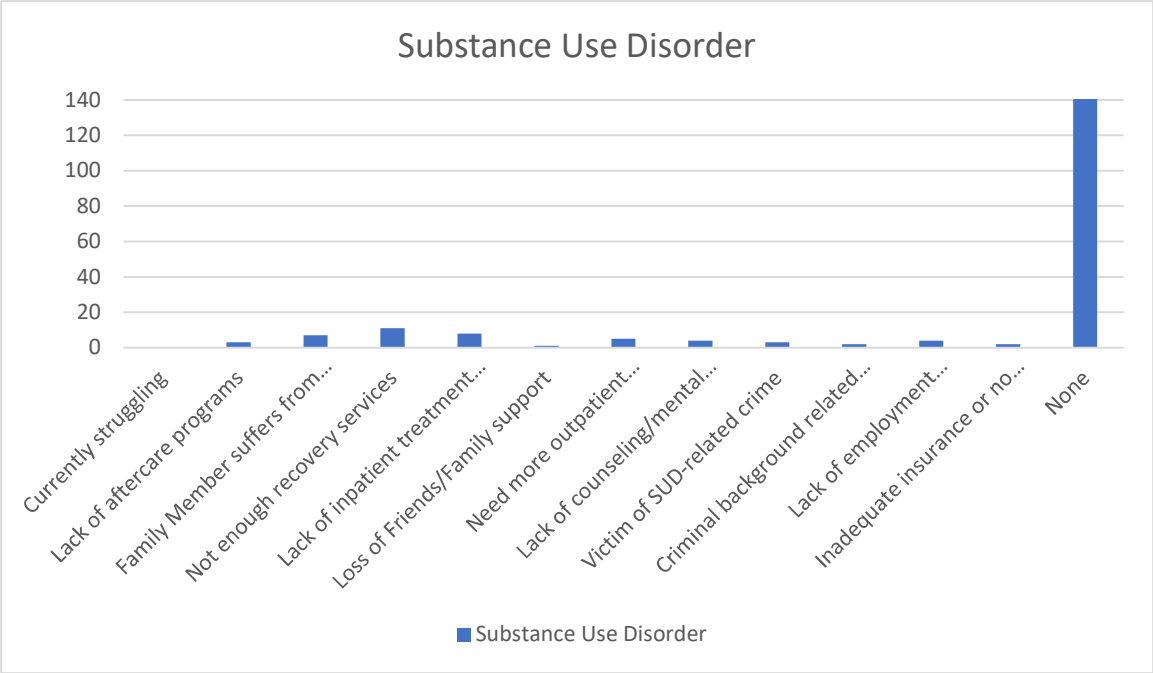
___137__ Own ___33__Rent ___11__Live with Family ___3__Live with friends



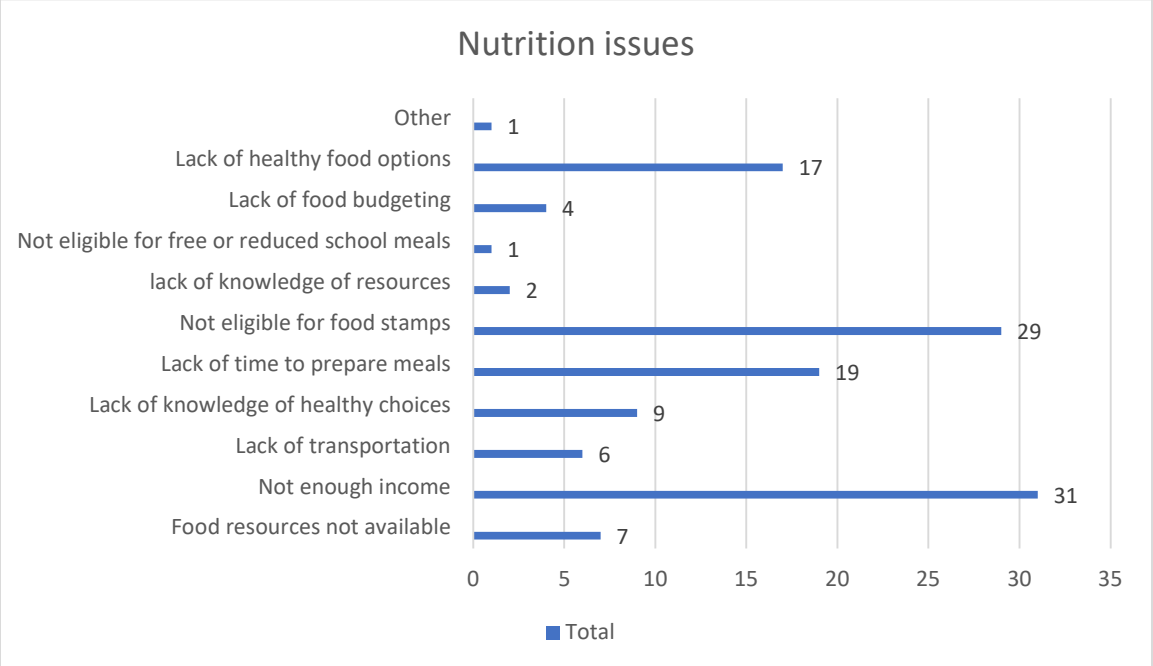
Is health an issue for you and/or your family? 83 YES 115 NO
If yes, choose the THREE most important reasons why:



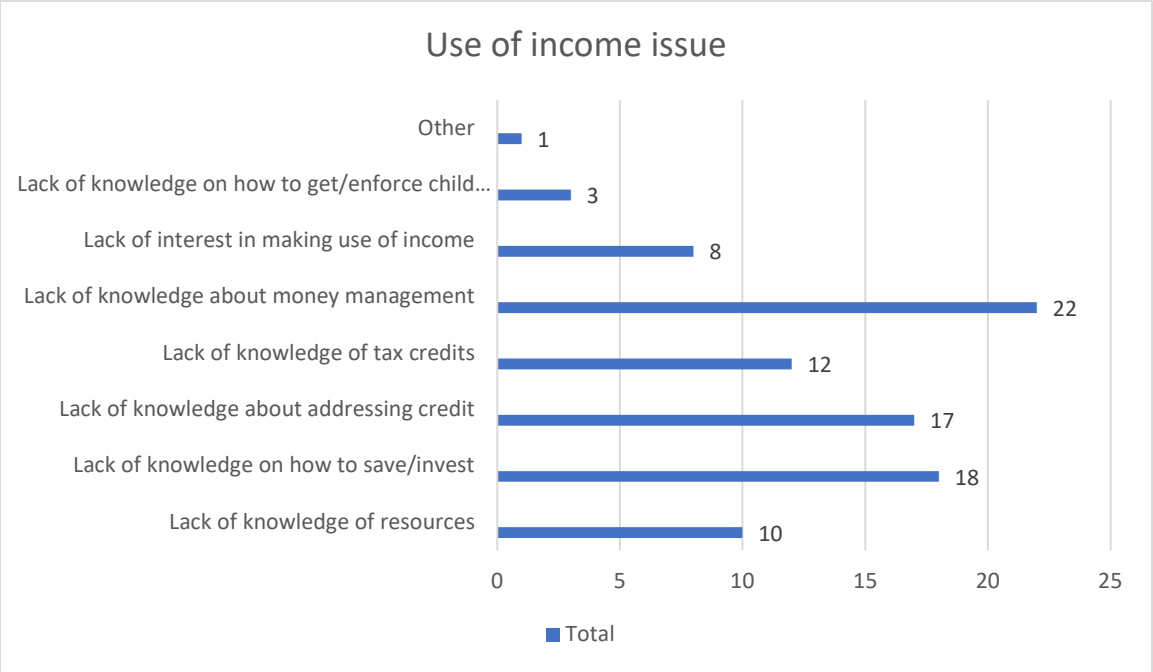
Is Substance Use Disorder (SUD) an issue for you and/or your family? 50 YES 168 NO
If yes, choose the THREE most important reasons why:



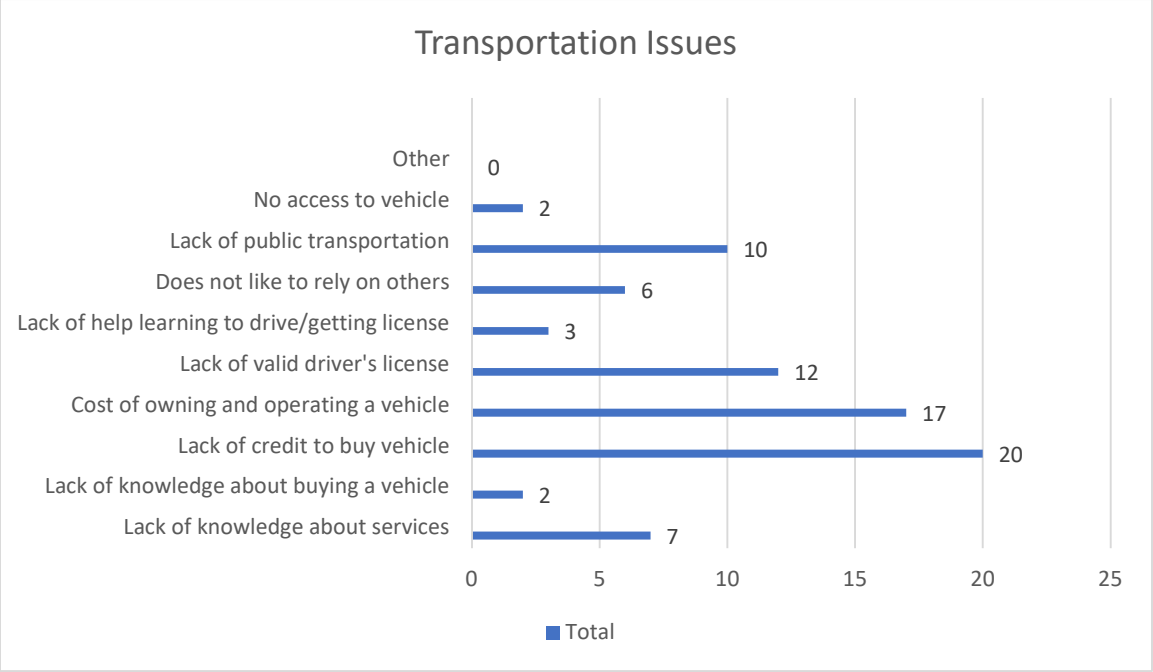
Is nutrition an issue for you and/or your family? 4 YES 160 NO
If yes, choose the THREE most important reasons why:



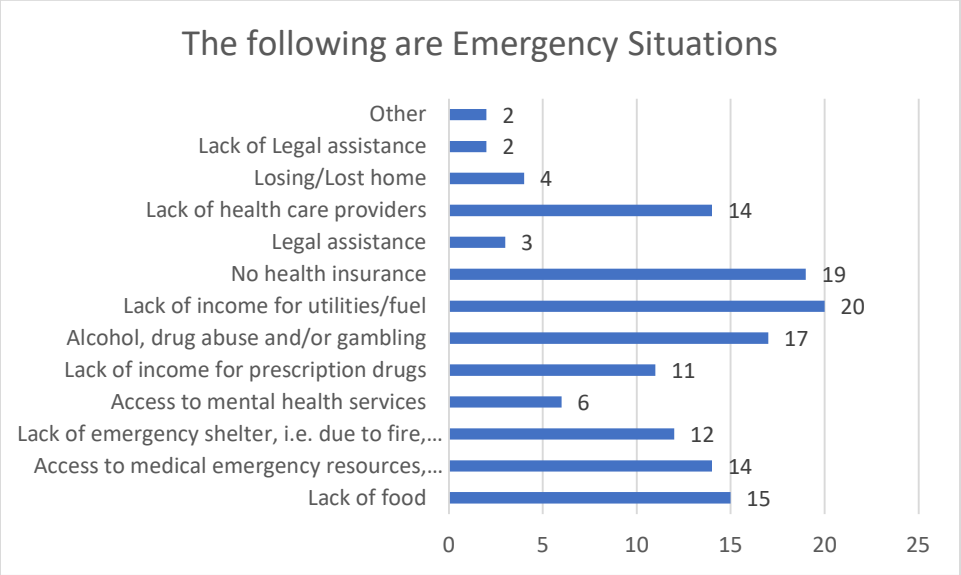
Is Use of Income an issue for you and/or your family? 9 YES 154 NO
If yes, choose the THREE most important reasons why:



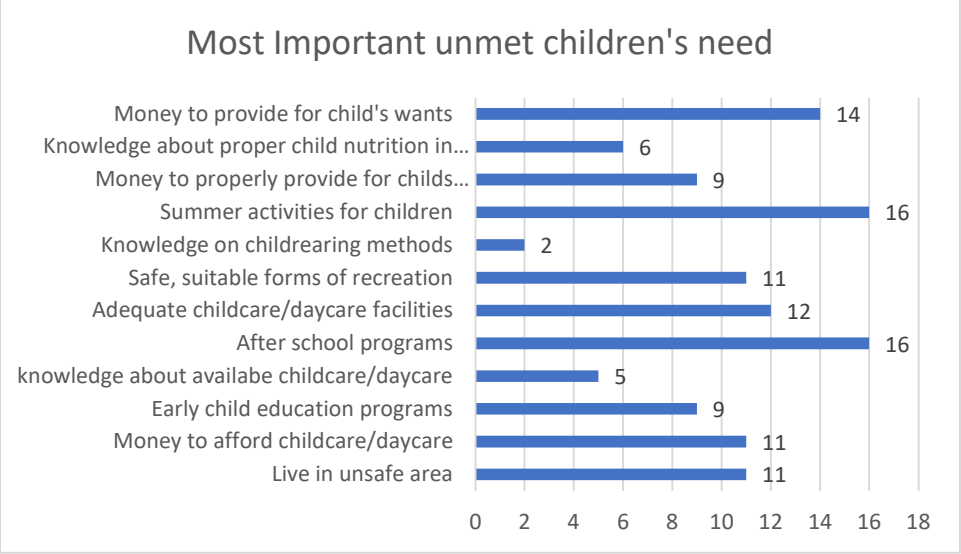
Is Transportation an issue for you and/or your family? 17 YES 146 NO
If yes, choose the THREE most important reasons why:



The following are Emergency Situations that seem to be particular problems in this area. Choose the THREE most important problems:



Choose the three most important unmet children's needs in your community.



Interpret Results

The needs assessment results show that the customers surveyed are two family households with four in the family, they are white, female aged 24-44 years old. The results show that families have a high school diploma or GED and are working with an income of $2,000 plus.

The following are the six needs listed in order of votes, including the top three reasons relating to the need.

1. Health a) Lack of local specialists b) Lack of dental services c) Lack of Healthcare providers	6. Use of Income a) Lack of knowledge about money management b) Lack of knowledge on how to save/invest c) Lack of knowledge about credit
2. Employment a) Lack of good paying jobs b) Lack of employment opportunities c) Lack of childcare – work related	7. Substance use disorder (SUD) a) Not enough recovery services b) Lack of inpatient treatment facility c) Family member currently suffering with SUD's
3. Housing a) Affordability of rent/house payment b) Affordability of additional costs to run household, i.e., utilities c) Lack of affordable/suitable housing	8. Nutrition a) Not enough income to cover food b) Not eligible for food stamps c) Lack of time to prepare meals
4. Education a) Lack of childcare (school-age) b) Lack of resources c) Availability/location and lack of adult GED classes	9. Emergency Services a) Lack of income for utilities/fuel b) No health insurance c) Alcohol, drug abuse and/or gambling addiction
5. Transportation a) Lack of credit to buy vehicle b) Cost of owning and operating a vehicle a) Lack of valid driver's license	10. Child's unmet needs a) Not enough summer activities b) Inadequate after school programs c) Not enough money to provide for child's wants and Lack of family support in caring for children

Take Action from top six needs from assessment:

1. Health –
    a) Lack of local specialist – Unfortunately MountainHeart cannot change this.
    b) Lack of dental services – MountainHeart transports children receiving Head Start/Early Head Start/PAT services to local dentists that provide dental services to children.
    c) Lack of Healthcare providers – Unfortunately MountainHeart cannot change this.

2. Employment –
    a) Lack of good paying jobs – MountainHeart has 210 + employees and has job openings posted on our social media and website accounts. We have livable wage jobs with benefits for staff, however most positions require a degree.
    b) Lack of employment opportunities – MountainHeart has 210 + employees and has job openings posted on our social media and website accounts. Unfortunately, some positions are positions that require a degree. While analyzing this we conclude that if a person goes to work for minimum wage, the person would then lose benefits that they were receiving from the state.
    c) Lack of childcare (work related) – MountainHeart has a program within the agency that is Child Care Resource and Referral where a customer that is working and going to school that meet the income guidelines qualifies for subsidized childcare and could possibly have a small or no fee for childcare.

3. Housing –
    a) Affordability of rent/house payment – MountainHeart partners with HUD and has three rental units that are available to rent.
    b) Affordability of additional costs to run household, i.e., utilities – MountainHeart has a program called Dollar Energy where we partner with AEP, the program pays up to $300 on utility bills. MountainHeart also has a Case Manager that will assist in finding resources to assist with utility bills.
    c) Lack of affordable/suitable housing – MountainHeart partners with HUD and has three rental units that are available to rent.

4. Education –
    a) Lack of childcare (school-age) – MountainHeart has a program within the agency that is Child Care Resource and Referral where a customer that is working and going to school that meet the income guidelines qualifies for subsidized childcare and could possibly have a small or no fee for childcare.
    b) Lack of resources – MountainHeart has a Case Manager that will assist in finding resources, the customer must first apply for services using an online database. MountainHeart has set funds aside that will assist with obtaining a GED and/or post education.
    c) Availability/location – Unfortunately, MountainHeart cannot address this issue.

5. Transportation –
    a) Lack of credit to buy vehicle – MountainHeart provides financial education that includes credit counseling.
    b) Cost of owning and operating a vehicle – Unfortunately, we cannot address this issue.
    c) Lack of valid driver's license – MountainHeart partners with One Voice which provides classes and assists with paying for participant to get their license restored.

6. Use of Income –
    a) Lack of knowledge about money management – MountainHeart provides financial education which includes a series of topics from credit cards, savings accounts, credit issues etc.
    b) Lack of knowledge on how to save/invest – MountainHeart provides financial education which includes a series of topics from credit cards, savings accounts, credit issues etc.
    c) Lack of knowledge about addressing credit – MountainHeart provides financial education which includes a series of topics from credit cards, savings accounts, credit issues etc.

Comparison of 2019 assessment and 2023 assessment:

2019 Assessment:

1. Health	4. Education
2. Transportation	5. Use of Income
3. Housing	6. Nutrition

2023 Assessment:

1. Health a) Lack of local specialists b) Lack of dental services c) Lack of Healthcare providers	6. Use of Income a) Lack of knowledge about money management b) Lack of knowledge on how to save/invest. c) Lack of knowledge about credit
2. Employment a) Lack of good paying jobs b) Lack of employment opportunities c) Lack of childcare – work related	7. Substance use disorder (SUD) a) Not enough recovery services b) Lack of inpatient treatment facility c) Family member currently suffering with SUD's
3. Housing a) Affordability of rent/house payment b) Affordability of additional costs to run household, i.e., utilities. c) Lack of affordable/suitable housing	8. Nutrition a) Not enough income to cover food. b) Not eligible for food stamps c) Lack of time to prepare meals
4. Education a) Lack of childcare (school-age) b) Lack of resources c) Availability/location and lack of adult GED classes	9. Emergency Services a) Lack of income for utilities/fuel b) No health insurance c) Alcohol, drug abuse and/or gambling addiction
5. Transportation a) Lack of credit to buy vehicle. b) Cost of owning and operating a vehicle c) Lack of valid driver's license	10. Child's unmet needs a) Not enough summer activities b) Inadequate after school programs c) Not enough money to provide for child's wants and Lack of family support in caring for children

Health was still the number one need in the assessment, we find this need due to the fact of living in a small community where someone must drive one hour one way to find a hospital. The community needs an after-hours clinic/hospital in cases of emergencies.

Transportation moved from number two to number five – The agency has researched ways to prevent this barrier to no avail.

Housing and education were the same – These are still on-going issues that MountainHeart has tried to address.

Nutrition was replaced by the use of income as the number six need – MountainHeart has noticed an increase in people receiving food stamps during covid as well as more food pantries being opened and providing services. Inflation is the underlying cause of the increase in the use of income category. Basic Info. US Inflation Rate is at 2.97%, compared to 4.05% last month and 9.06% last year. This is lower than the long term average of 3.28%. The US Inflation Rate is the percentage in which a chosen basket of goods and services purchased in the US increases in price over a year.

https://ycharts.com/indicators/us_inflation_rate#:~:text=Basic%20Info,in%20price%20over%20a%20year

Resources

MountainHeart Community Services, Inc. has created a resource manual that include the counties we serve. https://www.mthtwv.com/mcs/wp-content/uploads/Documents/childcare/ccsouth/Resource-Directory-for-Child-Care-Region-6.pdf