
MOUNT ROGERS HEALTH DISTRICT

WYTHE
COUNTY
COMMUNITY
HEALTH
ASSESSMENT

2019

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Purpose and Background	3
Secondary Data	4
Demographics	4
Poverty and Education	4
Food Access	6
Maternal Child Health	7
Child Safety	7
Premature Death	7
Health Care Access	8
Substance Use	8
Primary Data	10
Focus Group	10
Community Survey	11
Priorities and Conclusion	16
References	18
Appendix I	20



Executive Summary

Wythe County stakeholders gathered in January 2019 to begin the community health assessment process. This process included meetings of the CHA team for assessment, prioritization, and implementation planning, a focus group meeting, and community surveys. The CHA team identified substance use, unemployment, transportation, obesity, and health care access as top priorities for the county.

Community feedback indicated top areas of concern of drug use, mental health, health care access, community services, employment, and education.



Purpose and Background

In January 2019, Wythe County Community Hospital, the Wythe-Bland Foundation, and Mount Rogers Health District convened a group of stakeholders to complete a community health assessment for the county. This group included Mount Rogers Health District Virginia Department of Health (MRHD), Mount Rogers Community Services (CS), Wythe County Community Hospital, Wytheville Community College (WCC), Wythe-Bland Foundation, Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce, Wythe County Parks and Recreation, Town of Wytheville, Brock Hughes Free Clinic, Mountain Community Action Program, and Ballad Health.

The group met to evaluate health data for the county and select priority areas for intervention. The five areas chosen were substance use, unemployment, transportation, obesity, and health care access.

The five areas chosen by the CHA group were selected after reviewing secondary data sources, and through discussion about community needs and strengths. After the priorities were selected, MRHD conducted a focus group meeting and distributed a community survey to gather input from residents of Wythe County. The survey was available on paper at partner agencies and publicized online.

In January 2018, Mountain States Health Alliance and Wellmont Health Systems merged under a Certificate of Public Advantage (COPA) into Ballad Health System. Ballad's catchment area includes much of the MRHD coverage area, as well as regions in Tennessee. Wythe County falls into this catchment area, despite the lack of a Ballad hospital. State authorities for Tennessee and Virginia selected priority health issues where Ballad must demonstrate improvement for the population's health, as part of the COPA agreement.

Secondary Data

Demographics

There are 28,754 residents in Wythe County (American Fact Finder, 2019). From 2000-2010, Wythe County population grew by 5.9% (Community Commons, 2019). Nineteen percent of the population has a disability, compared to 11% of Virginia (Community Commons, 2019). The life expectancy for men is 73.3 years, compared to 75.6 years across the United States, and for women it is 78.7 years, compared to 80.7 across the United States (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2018).

Poverty and Education

Thirty nine percent of the population is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, compared to 27% for Virginia (Community Commons, 2019). The unemployment rate is 6.2% (American Fact Finder, 2019).

The median income is \$46,800, compared to \$71,500 for Virginia (County Health Rankings, 2019). The median income for male full time, year-round workers is \$38,526 (American Fact Finder, 2019). The median income for female full-time, year-round workers is \$33,221 (American Fact Finder, 2019). Eleven percent of families are below the federal poverty level, and 17% of families with children under the age of 18 are below the federal poverty level (American Fact Finder, 2019). Forty-four percent of single mother households are below the federal poverty level (American Fact Finder, 2019).

Twelve percent of the population of Wythe County does not have health insurance (American Fact Finder, 2019). Eleven percent of those who are employed do not have health insurance (American Fact Finder, 2019). Fifty-six percent of those who are seeking working but unemployed do not have health insurance (American Fact Finder, 2019). A quarter of those not in the labor force are uninsured (American Fact Finder, 2019).

The high school graduation rate in Wythe County (91%) exceeds the state rate (87%), and 52% of residents have some college education, compared to 70% for Virginia (County Health Rankings, 2019). Twenty percent of Wythe County children live in poverty, compared to 14% for Virginia (County Health Rankings, 2019). Seventeen percent of white children in Wythe County live in poverty, compared to 48% of black children (County Health Rankings, 2019). Forty-one percent of Virginia children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, compared to 47% of children in Wythe County (County Health Rankings, 2019).

Eighty percent of kindergartners in Wythe County pass the PALS-K exam, which measures kindergarten readiness, compared to 84% for the state (Voices for Virginia's Children, 2018). Among 3rd graders, 73% of economically disadvantaged students pass the reading SOL, and 91% of not economically disadvantaged students pass the reading SOL (Voices for Virginia's Children, 2018). These numbers are better than the state averages (62% and 75%, respectively), but do not match those of the top regional or Virginia performers.

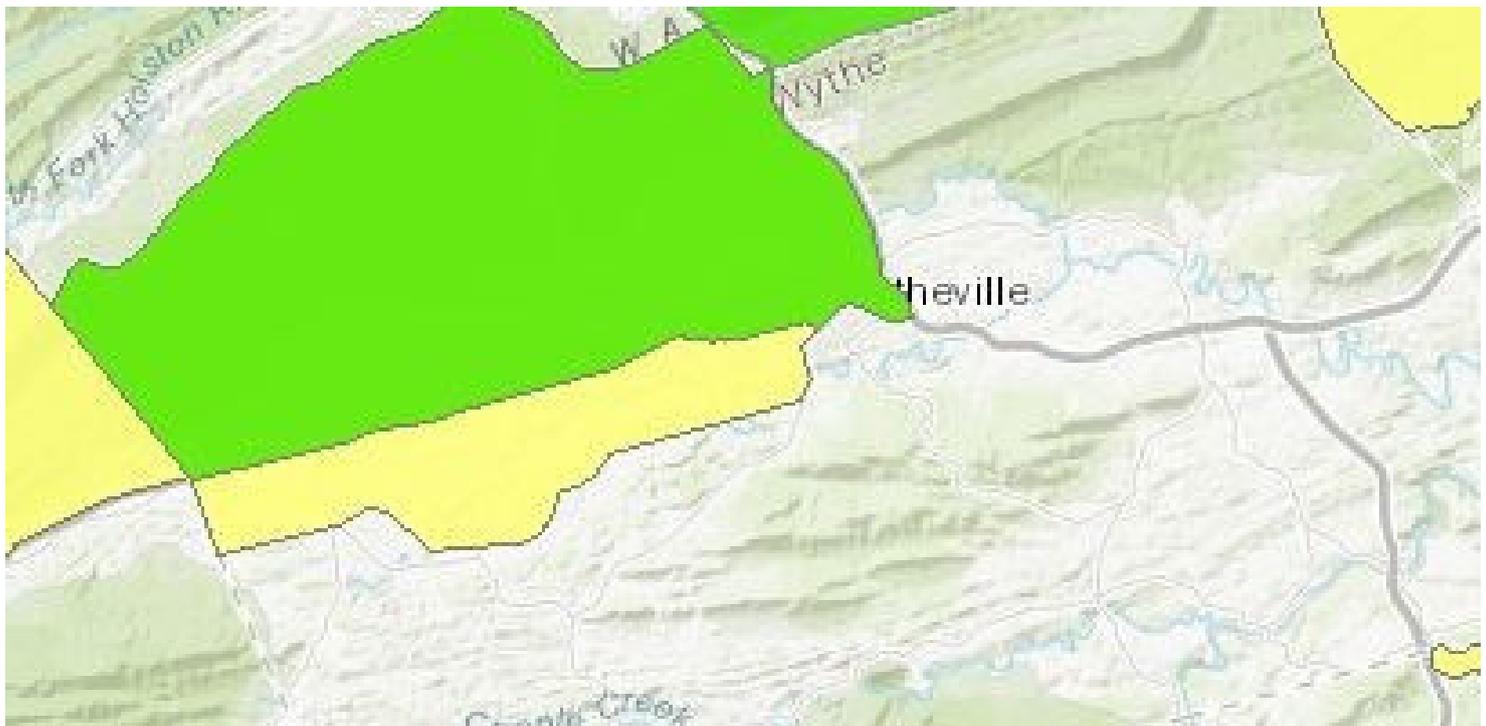
The Opportunity Atlas tracks outcome data for adults born between 1978 and 1983 based on their place of birth. It indicates what the economic opportunity of someone is based on where they were born. Household income for this group in Wythe County averages \$29,000, with an average employment rate of 73% (Opportunity Atlas, 2019). Sixty-seven percent of these adults are in the same area as where they grew up (Opportunity Atlas, 2019). This group has a high school graduation rate of 82%, a college graduation rate of 12%, and they work an average of 27 hours per week (Opportunity Atlas, 2019).

Grandparents raising their grandchildren has become an increasingly common phenomenon. In Wythe County, 55% of grandparents living with the grandchildren are responsible for them (American Fact Finder 2, 2019).

Food Access

Food insecurity impacts 12% of Wythe County residents, compared to 11% for Virginia (USDA, 2019).

6,773 people live in a food desert defined as a low-income census tract where a significant number of residents are more than 10 miles from the nearest supermarket (USDA, 2019). An additional 4,454 people live in a food desert defined as a low-income census tract where a relatively high number of households do not have a vehicle and live more than ½ mile from the nearest supermarket (USDA, 2019). This means that 11,227 people live in a food desert in Wythe County under those two definitions, almost 40% of the county.



Maternal Child Health

In 2017, 8.8% of Wythe County babies were low birth weight, down from 11.6% in 2016 (VDH MCH, 2019). The teen birth rate is 33/1,000 15-19 year old females, compared to a state rate of 19.4 (VDH MCH, 2019). In 2017, the maternal (pregnancy) smoking rate in Wythe County was 24%, compared to 5.6% for Virginia (VDH MCH, 2019).

In 2016, the infant mortality rate for Wythe County was 10.5/1,000 live births, compared to a state rate of 5.8/1,000 VDH MCH, 2019).

Child Safety

In 2018, Wythe County DSS accepted 1,064 referrals of child abuse or neglect, which resulted in 757 family assessments and 215 founded investigations (DSS, 2019). The rate of children entering foster care in Wythe County is 2.4/1,000, compared to 1.5 for Virginia (Voices for Virginia's Children, 2018).

Premature Death

Premature death is defined as years of potential life lost before age 75, and is an age-adjusted rate (County Health Rankings, 2019). Wythe County had 9,800 years of premature death, compared to 6,400 years for Virginia (County Health Rankings, 2019). There are higher rates in Wythe County than Virginia for injury and motor vehicle crash deaths (County Health Rankings, 2019). There are also high rates of cancer, heart disease, lung disease, stroke, and accident deaths (Community Commons, 2019).

Thirty-three percent of the population is obese, defined as a body mass index (BMI) of greater than or equal to 30 kg/m² (29% Virginia), and 29% of adults report no leisure time physical activity (22% Virginia) (County Health Rankings, 2019).

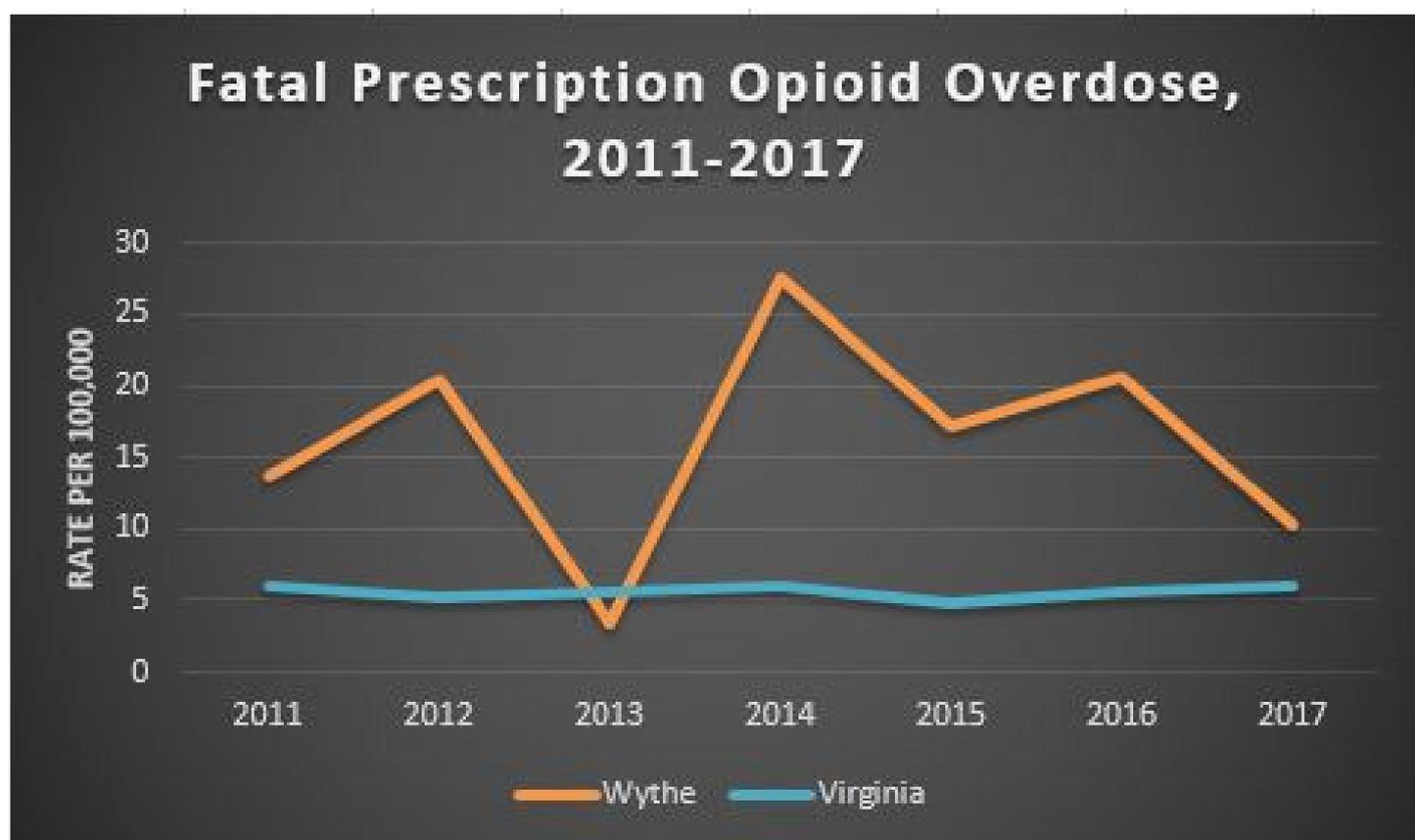
Health Care Access

The ratio of primary care physicians in Wythe County is 2,070:1, compared to 1,310:1 for Virginia (County Health Rankings, 2019). The ratio of dentists is 2,890:1, compared to 1,470:1 for Virginia (County Health Rankings, 2019). The ratio of mental health providers is 600:1, compared to 630:1 for Virginia (County Health Rankings, 2019).

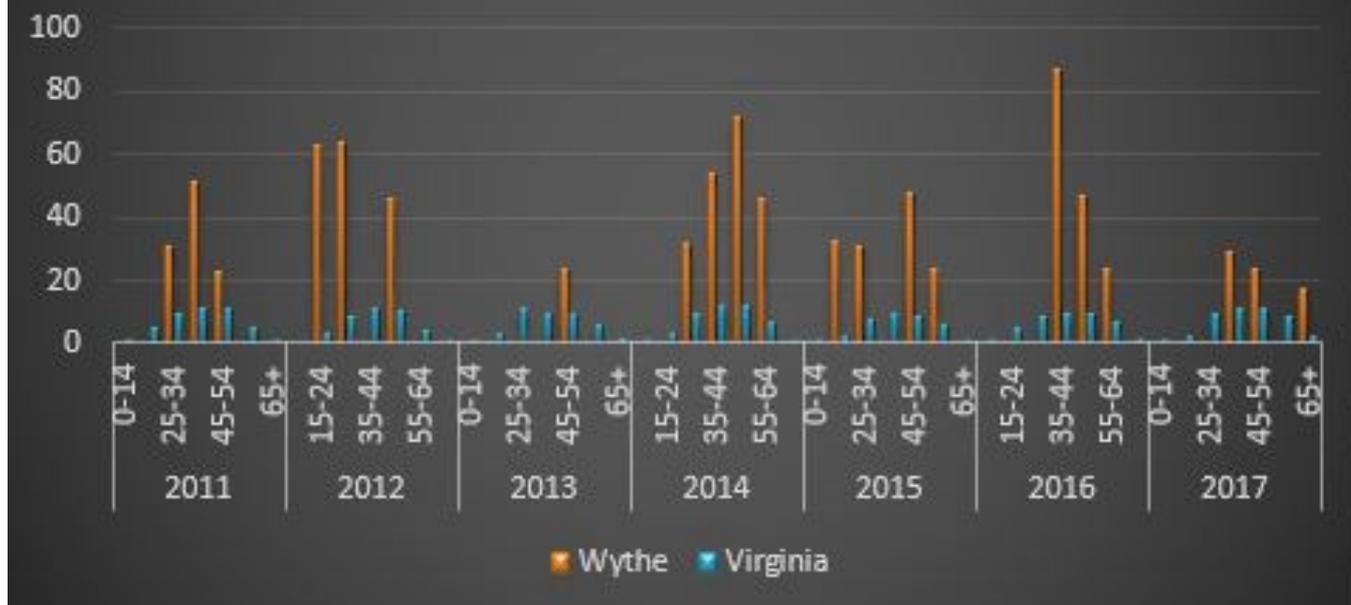
Wythe County is designated a geographic health professional shortage area for health and dental providers, and is part of a high needs geographic health professional shortage area for mental health (HRSA, 2019).

Substance Use

Wythe County's rates of fatal prescription opioid overdose are higher than the state, and are also higher when broken down by age group (VDH, 2019). While Wythe County does not have high numbers of fatal fentanyl overdoses, when those deaths do occur, they are at much higher rates (VDH, 2019). A similar effect is seen with new diagnoses of HIV (VDH, 2019).

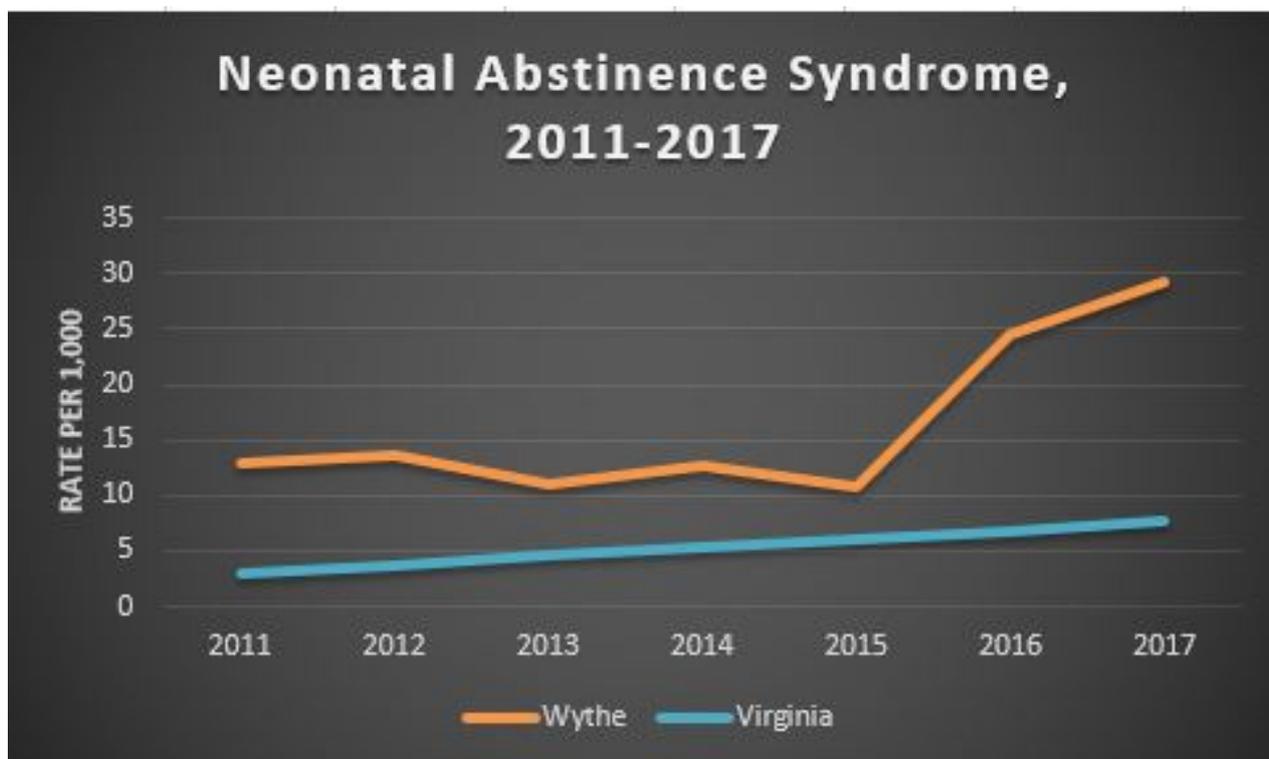


Fatal Prescription Opioid Overdose, 2011-2017

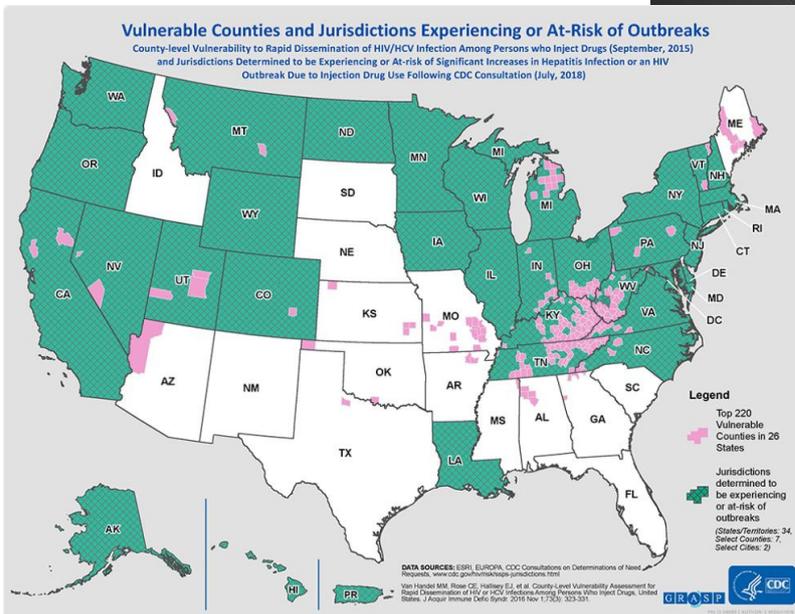
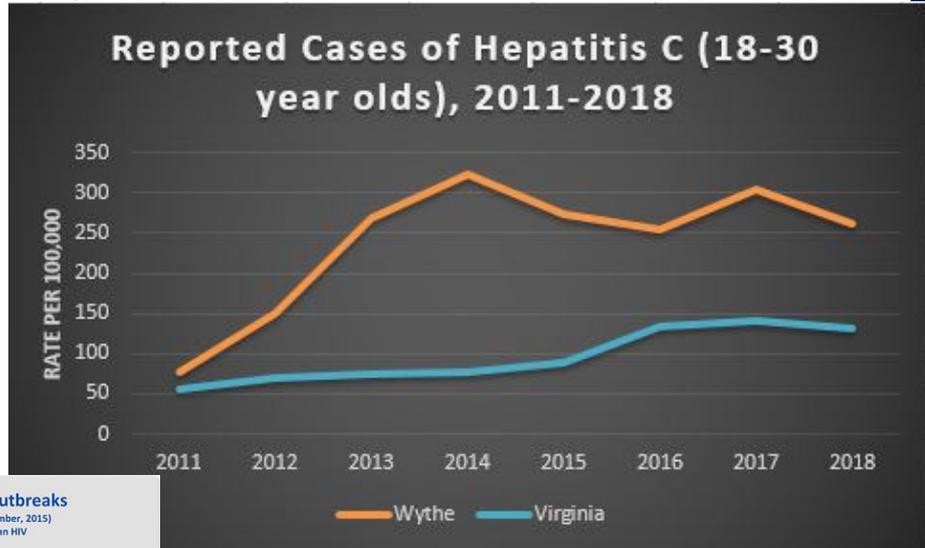


Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) is the withdrawal effects a newborn shows at birth as a result of in utero exposure to a drug or drugs (Brandt & Finnegan, 2017). NAS frequently occurs within the context of multiple substance abuse (Brandt & Finnegan, 2017). NAS may result from use of tobacco, marijuana, and other legal or illegal drugs, but is well-known as a consequence of opioid use during pregnancy (Brandt & Finnegan, 2017). Wythe County's rate of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), 29.2/1,000, is higher than the state (7.7), the region (22.9), or the district (24.5) (VDH, 2019).

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, 2011-2017



Hepatitis C is a substantial burden for Wythe County. The rates of new cases of Hepatitis C among 18-30 year olds are double the state rate (VDH, 2019). Hepatitis C is a resilient virus that can live on surfaces for up to three weeks. There is no vaccine, and it is possible to become re-infected. Treatment ranges between \$100,000 and \$280,00 per treatment. In 2016, the CDC published a study assessing counties that were vulnerable to a rapid dissemination of Hepatitis C or HIV among people who inject drugs (Van Handel et al., 2016). Researchers identified 220 counties in the United States that were vulnerable to this rapid dissemination, eight of which are in Virginia, and one of which is Wythe County (Van Handel et al., 2016).



Seventeen percent of Wythe County residents smoke, compared with 15% of Virginians (County Health Rankings, 2019).

Primary Data

Focus Group

Participants in a focus group cited issues around infrastructure, poverty, health care, and services for the elderly and for children.

Certain communities do not have access to water or sewer lines, but also do not have the resources or space to properly install septic systems, which leads to usage of pit toilets. Participants raised concerns about the Expo Center, as well as equitable distribution of infrastructure funding throughout the county.

Participants noted concerns around work ethic and disincentivizing employment for people who are receiving government assistance.

Health care was a concern for participants, including staffing, breastfeeding support, and billing. Participants often travel to surrounding counties for health care services.

Another frequent concern was services available for elderly residents. It was noted that assistance is needed with transportation, grocery shopping, keeping people in their homes, and medication management.

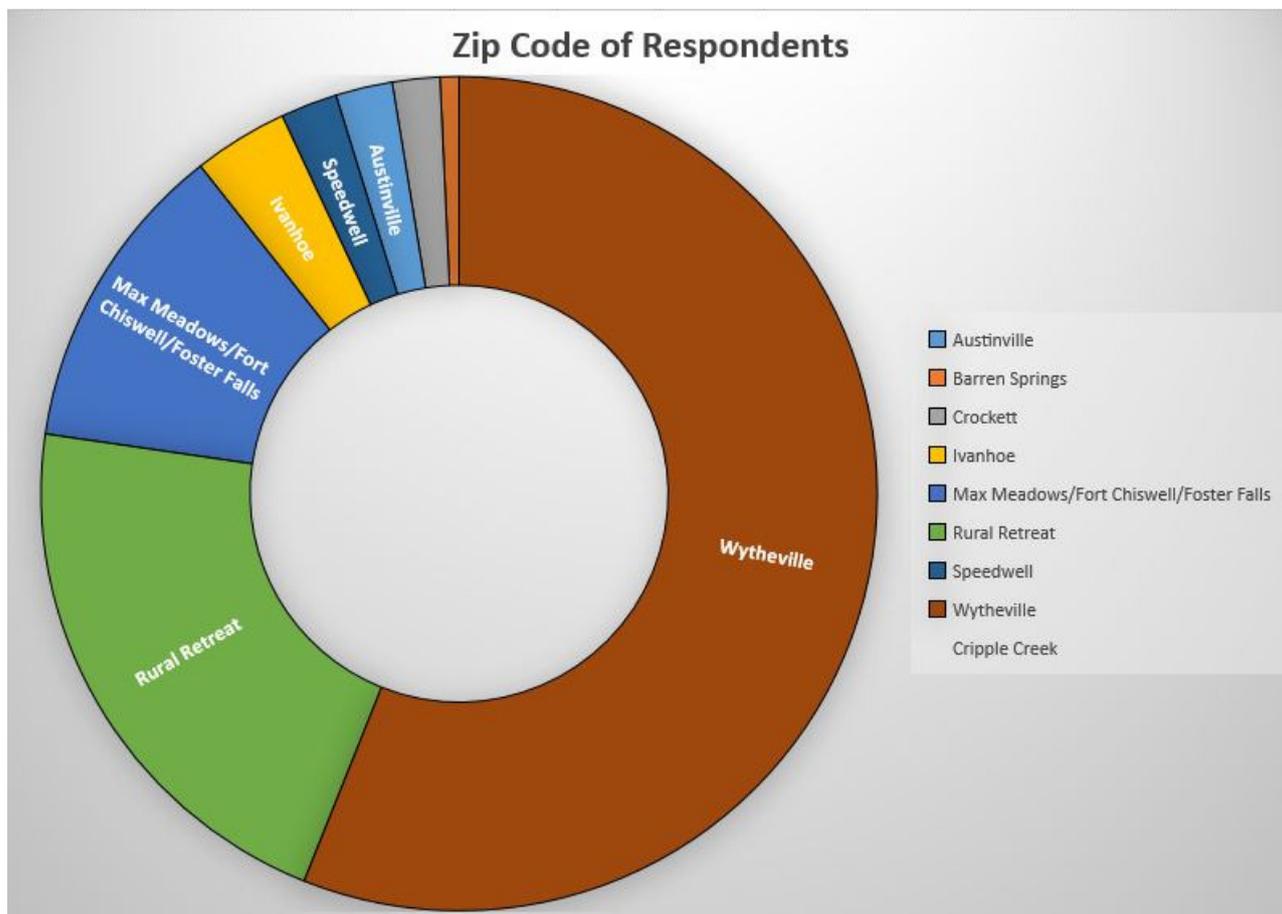
Participants also noted a lack of recreational spaces for sports, not enough physical activity time at school or at home, and too much screen time.

Community Survey

Wythe County residents were asked to give input through taking a community survey. The survey was publicized at partner agencies, at a Remote Area Medical clinic, through social media, and through news media. Two hundred and seventy-three people completed the survey, with 8 of 9 zip codes represented. Compared to census data, there was an overrepresentation of Wytheville residents, females, white respondents, English speakers, those with higher education, those with high incomes, and those with insurance among survey respondents.

83% of respondents were female, and 16% were male (not all respondents answered all questions). The racial makeup was 98% White or Caucasian, 1% Black/African American, 0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native, and 0.5% prefer not to answer.

Twenty-eight percent of respondents have a high school diploma, and 67% have some sort of higher education. Thirty-five percent of respondents have an income between \$50,000 and \$99,999. Seventy-three percent of respondents have insurance through an employer, 24% are insured through Medicare or Medicaid, and 5% do not have insurance.



Community members reported that their top concerns were drug use, mental health issues, cost of healthcare, child abuse/neglect, and obesity. When asked how they would improve their community, they commented most frequently about health care access, elderly services, substance abuse treatment, community events for youth/families, jobs, and education. Several of these align with concerns selected by the CHA team.

Top Concerns in Your Community



Twenty-eight percent of respondents have been to the emergency room in the last year, but only 7% have had an emergency visit. Forty percent of respondents have a chronic illness, and 20% of these people cannot afford their medications.

Ten percent have thought about suicide or self harm in the last 12 months, and 2% have been the victim of domestic violence.

Over 40% of respondents with children have not taken them to the doctor in the last year, and 25% have not had a dental exam in the last year.



Seventeen percent of respondents have used tobacco in the last month. Twenty-four percent of those who use tobacco indicated they want to live in a home where indoor smoking is allowed, and 57% indicated they want to live in a home where indoor smoking is not allowed.

Thirty-one percent of respondents say it is not easy to get fresh fruits or vegetables. About 20% did not have enough money to buy medicine or food at some point in the last year, and 17% did not have enough money to pay rent at some point in the last year. Four percent regularly receive food from a food pantry.

Over half of respondents report they must travel outside their community for healthcare, and 28% disagree or strongly disagree that healthcare is of good quality in their community.

Fifty-one percent of respondents disagree or strongly disagree with the statement, “My community provides good job opportunities”, and 29% disagree or strongly disagree with the statement, “Housing is affordable in my community.”

Thirty percent of respondents disagree or strongly disagree with, “My community is walkable and has enough sidewalks”, and 37% disagree or strongly disagree with, “Public transportation is available that meets my needs”, while another 36% are undecided.

Eighty-four percent of respondents answered the question, “How would you improve your community?”

The implementation plan created by the CHA team includes community education about substance use, expanding awareness of existing transportation services and seeking new solutions, increasing access to public buildings for community recreation and physical activity, opening a crisis care center in the county, opening a new dental clinic, continuing Medicaid navigation services, and encouraging legislators to develop special incentive packages for the region to attract industries to southwest Virginia.

A complete implementation plan can be found in the corresponding Wythe County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP includes goals, objectives, and performance measures.



Image by Big Walker Lookout Facebook page

References

1. County Health Rankings. (2019). Wythe County. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/virginia/2019/rankings/wythe/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>
2. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). (2019). HPSA Find. <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>.
3. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2018). Does Where You Live Affect How Long You Live? <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/interactives/whereyouliveaffectshowlongyoulive.html>
4. Virginia Department of Health (VDH). (2019). Opioid Addiction. <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/data/opioid-overdose/>.
5. Brandt, L., & Finnegan, L. (2017). Neonatal abstinence syndrome: Where are we, and where do we go from here? *Current Opinion Psychiatry*, 30, p. 1-7. Doi: 10.1097/YCO.0000000000000334
6. Van Handel, M., Rose, C., Hallisey, E., Kolling, J., Zibbell, J., Lewis, B., Bohm, M., Jones, C., Flanagan, B., Siddiqi, A., Iqbal, K., Dent, A., Mermin, J., McCray, E., Ward, J., & Brooks, J. (2016). County-level vulnerability assessment for rapid dissemination of HIV or HCV infections among persons who inject drugs, United States. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, 73(3), 323-331.
7. American Fact Finder. (2019). 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Community Facts. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml
8. American Fact Finder. (2019). (2) Households with grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years by responsibility for own grandchildren and presence of parent of grandchildren. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_5YR_B10063&prodType=table

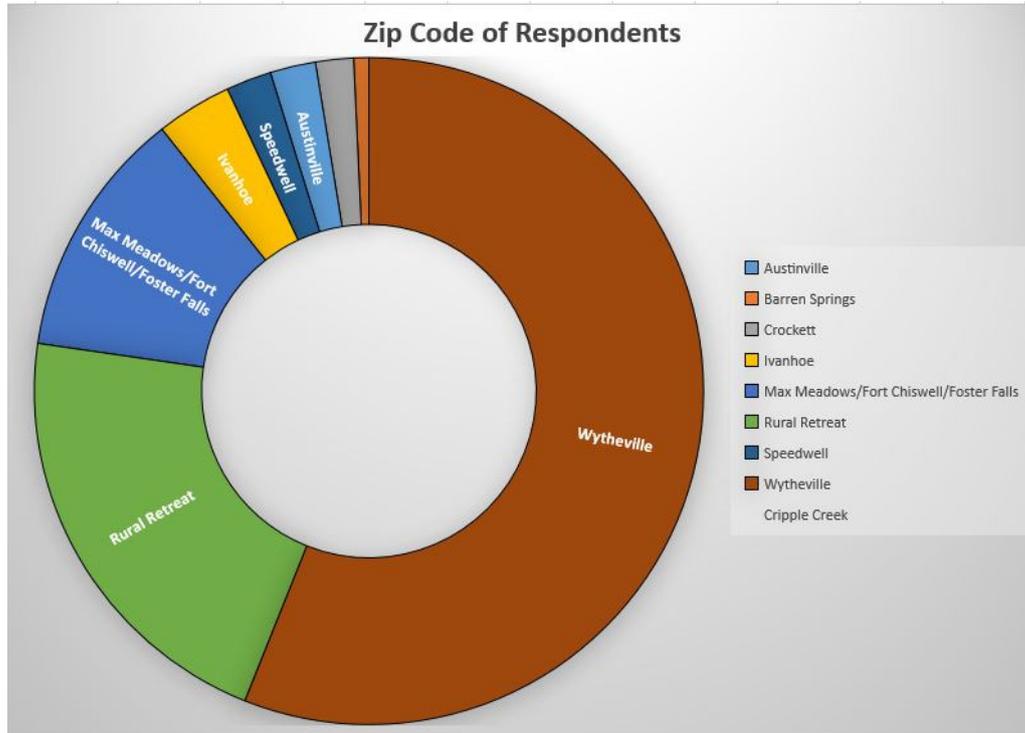
9. Community Commons (US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, CDC National Vital Statistics System, USDA, US DHHS). (2019). Community Health Needs Assessment.
10. Opportunity Atlas. (2019). <https://www.opportunityatlas.org/>
11. US Department of Agriculture (USDA). (2019). Economic Research Service. USDA Food Research Atlas. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx>
12. Virginia Department of Health (VDH MCH). (2019). Maternal and Child Health - 2017. <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/data/maternal-child-health/>
13. Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS). (2019). CPS accountability referrals types of abuse annual report. https://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/about/reports/children/cps/all_othe_r/2018/Abuse_%26_Neglect_by_locality_mod1_sfy2018.pdf
14. Voices for Virginia's Children. (2018). A Snapshot of Children in the Southwest Region. <https://vakids.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/VVC-KidsCount-2018Infographics-WEB-Southwest.pdf>



Appendix I

Complete Survey Results

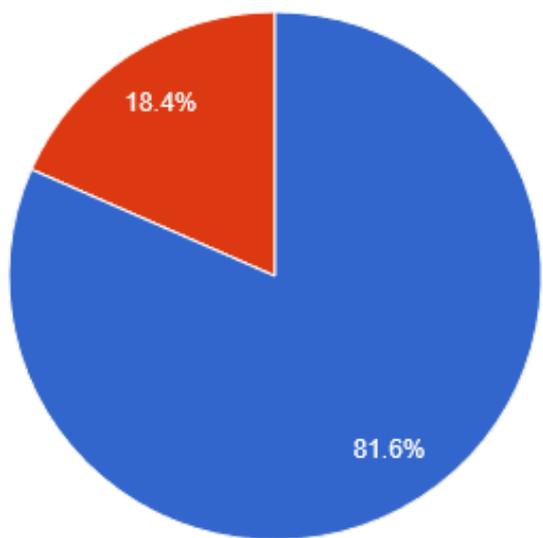
1) Please enter your zip code.



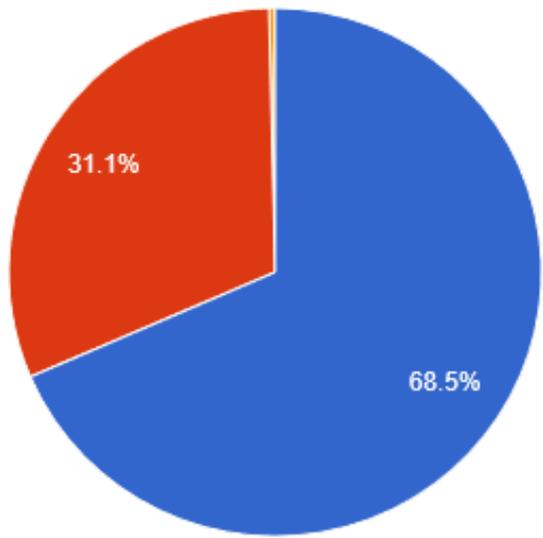
2) Select the top five concerns that impact your community.

Access to healthy foods (47, 17.2%), Aging issues (57, 20.8%), Alcohol use/abuse (64, 23.4%), Air pollution (5, 1.8%), Availability of health care (69, 25.2%), Bullying (31, 11.3%), Cancer (56, 20.4%), Child abuse/neglect (84, 30.7%), Cost of healthcare (115, 42.0%), Dental care (49, 17.9%), Diabetes (34, 12.4%), Disability issues (30, 10.9%), Distracted driving (24, 8.8%), Domestic violence (17, 6.2%), Drug use/abuse (179, 65.3%), Elder abuse/neglect (25, 9.1%), Family planning (13, 4.7%), Firearm injuries/deaths (5, 1.8%), Gang involvement (4, 1.5%), Heart disease and stroke (30, 10.9%), High blood pressure (20, 7.3%), HIV/AIDS (2, 0.7%), Homicide (1, 0.4%), Infant death (2, 0.7%), Infectious disease (TB, hepatitis, etc) (7, 2.6%), Influenza (7, 2.6%), Lack of exercise (45, 16.4%), Lyme disease (12, 4.4%), Mental health issues (121, 44.2%), Motor vehicle accidents (5, 1.8%), Obesity (81, 29.6%), Prenatal (pregnancy) healthcare (9, 3.3%), Rabies (2, 0.7%), Racism (14, 5.1%), Respiratory/lung disease (8, 2.9%), Restaurant food safety (10, 3.6%), School graduation rates (7, 2.6%), Suicide (22, 8.0%), Smoking/tobacco use (43, 15.7%), Teen pregnancy (21, 7.7%), Unemployment (65, 23.7%)

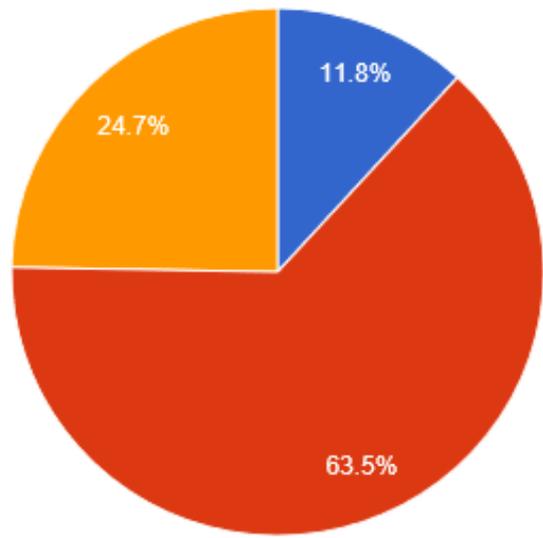
3) I have had a primary care exam within the last 12 months.
Yes (222, 81.6%), No (50, 18.4%), Not applicable (0, 0.0%)



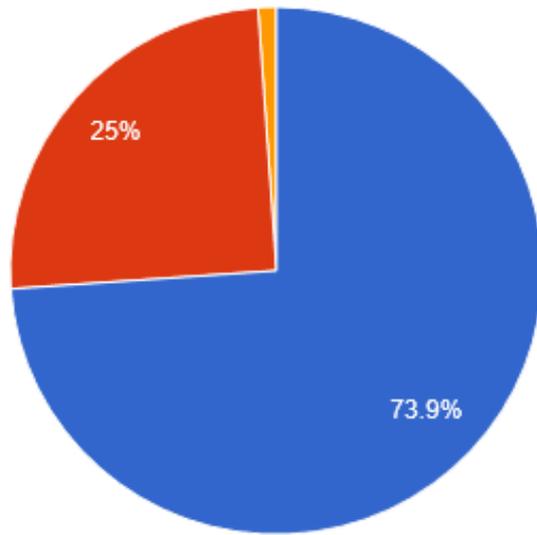
4) I have had an eye exam within the last 12 months.
Yes (185, 68.5%), No (84, 31.1%), Not applicable (1, 0.4%)



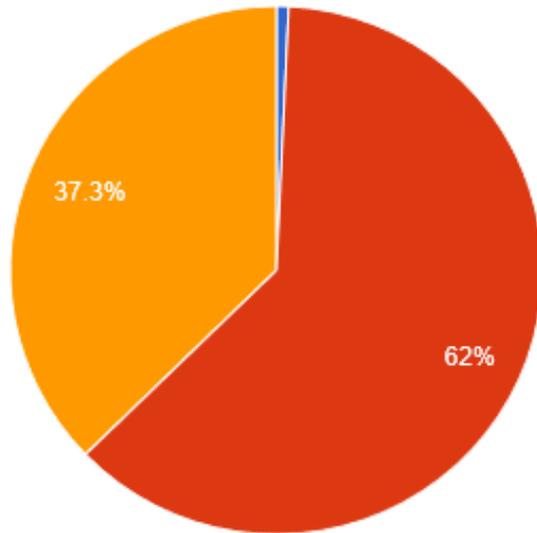
5) I have had a mental health visit within the last 12 months
Yes (32, 11.8%), No (172, 63.5%), Not applicable (67, 24.7%)



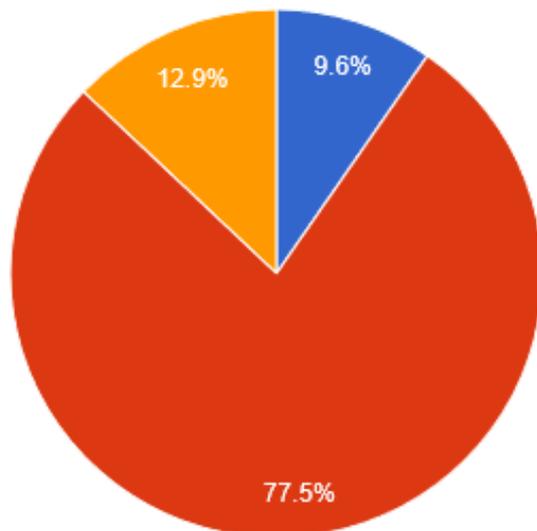
6) I have had a dental exam within the last 12 months
Yes (201, 73.9%), No (68, 25.0%), Not applicable (3, 1.1%)



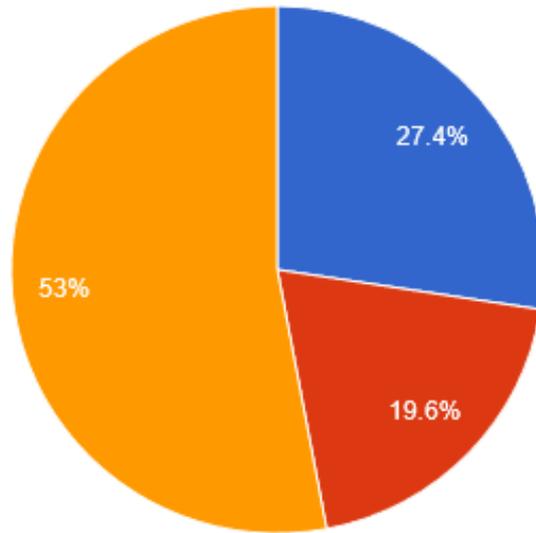
7) I have had a substance abuse visit within the last 12 months
Yes (2, 0.7%), No (168, 62.0%), Not applicable (101, 37.3%)



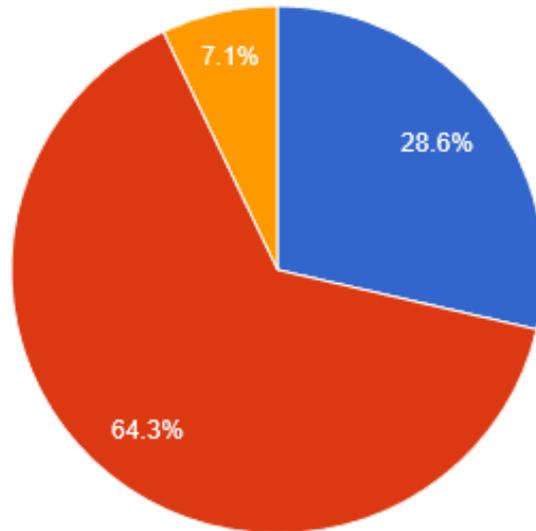
8) I have thought about suicide or self-harm within the last 12 months
Yes (26, 9.6%), No (210, 77.5%), Not applicable (35, 12.9%)



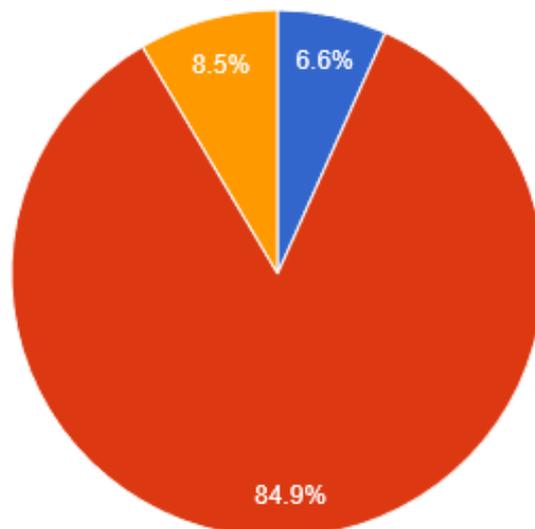
9) I have taken my minor child(ren) to the doctor in the last 12 months
Yes (74, 27.4%), No (53, 19.6%), Not applicable (143, 53.0%)



10) I have been to the emergency room within the last 12 months
Yes (77, 28.6%), No (173, 64.3%), Not applicable (19, 7.1%)

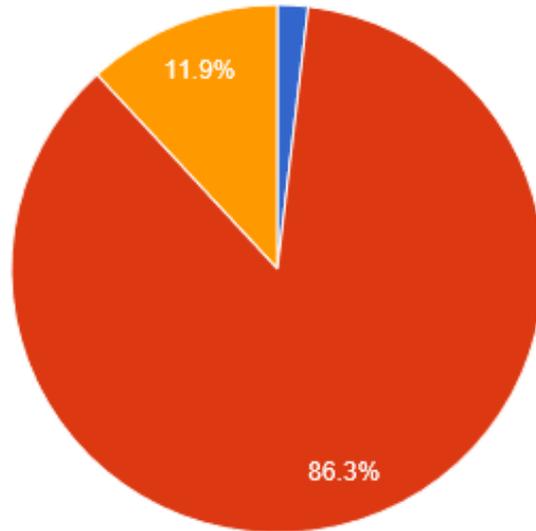


11) I have been to the emergency room for an injury (motor vehicle crash, burn, poisoning, fall, cut, etc) within the last 12 months
Yes (18, 6.6%), No (230, 84.9%), Not applicable (23, 8.5%)



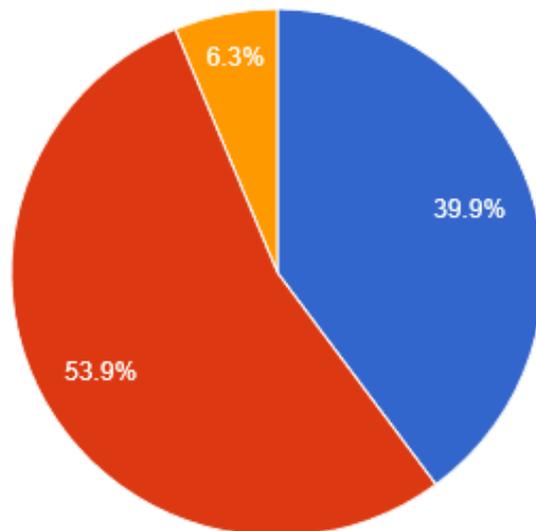
12) I have been a victim of domestic violence or abuse in the last 12 months

Yes (5, 1.9%), No (233, 86.3%), Not applicable (32, 11.9%)



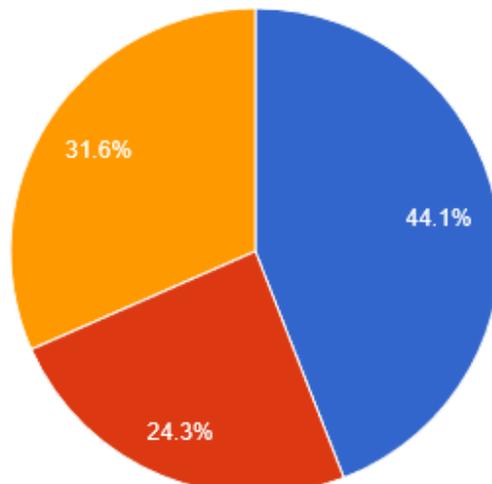
13) My doctor has told me that I have a long-term or chronic illness

Yes (108, 39.9%), No (146, 53.9%), Not applicable (17, 6.3%)

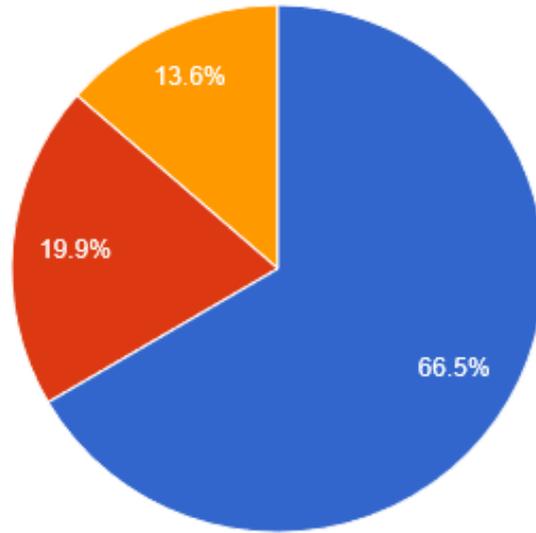


14) I take the medicine my doctor tells me to take to control my chronic illness

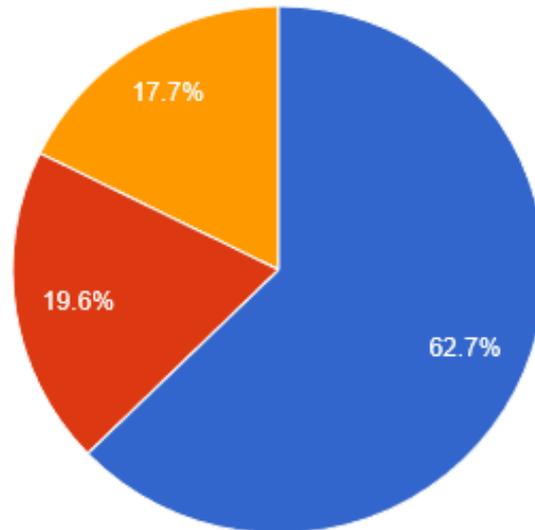
Yes (120, 44.1%), No (66, 24.3%), Not applicable (86, 31.6%)



15) I can afford the medicine I need for my health conditions
Yes (181, 66.5%), No (54, 19.9%), Not applicable (37, 13.6%)

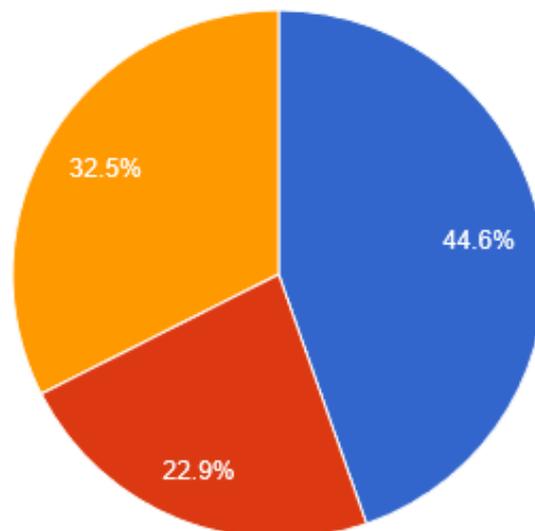


16) I am over 21 years old and have had a pap smear in the past 3 years
Yes (170, 62.7%), No (53, 19.6%), Not applicable (48, 17.7%)



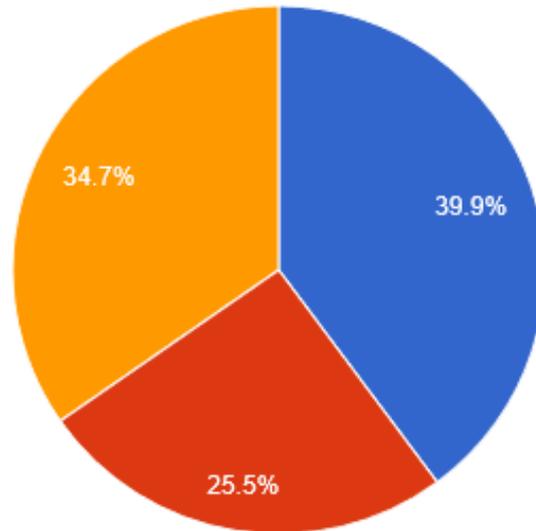
17) I am over 40 years of age and have had a mammogram in the past 12 months

Yes (121, 44.6%), No (62, 22.9%), Not applicable (88, 32.5%)



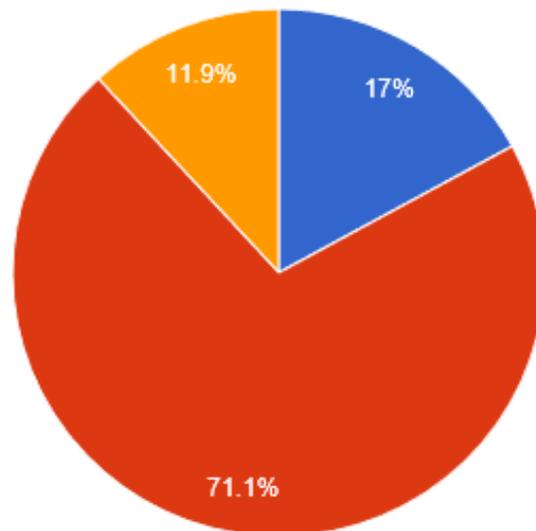
18) I am over 50 years of age and have had a colonoscopy in the past 10 years

Yes (108, 39.9%), No (69, 25.5%), Not applicable (94, 34.7%)



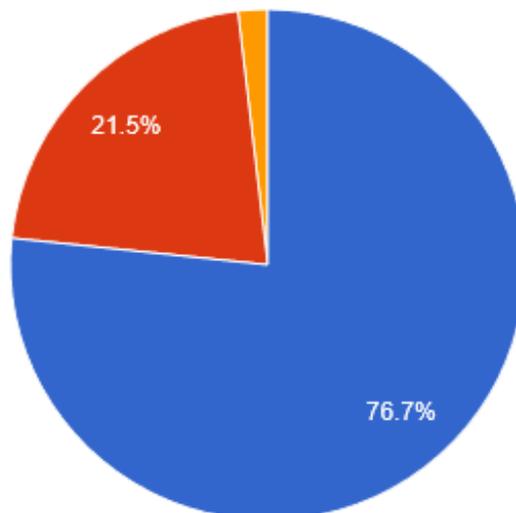
19) I have used tobacco products within the last month

Yes (46, 17.0%), No (192, 71.1%), Not applicable (32, 11.9%)



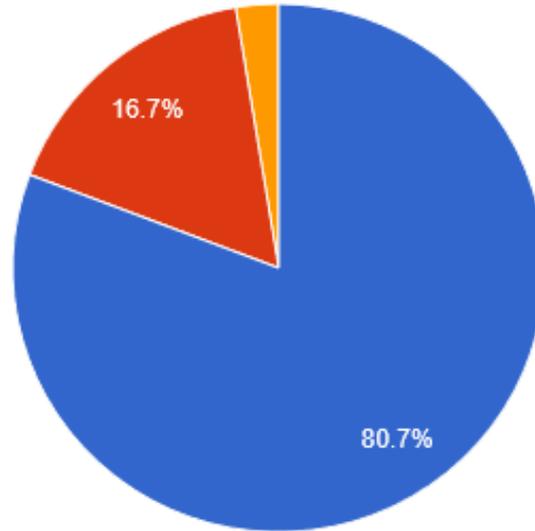
20) Does your community support physical activity (parks, sidewalks, bike lanes, etc)?

Yes (207, 76.7%), No (58, 21.5%), Not applicable (5, 1.9%)



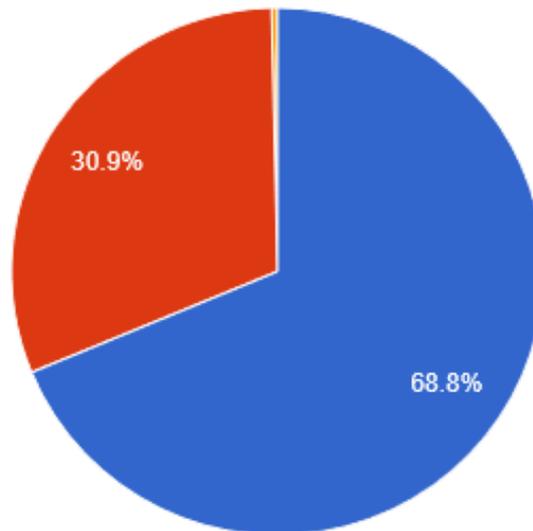
21) Does your community support healthy eating (community gardens, farmers markets, etc)?

Yes (218, 80.7%), No (45, 16.7%), Not applicable (7, 2.6%)



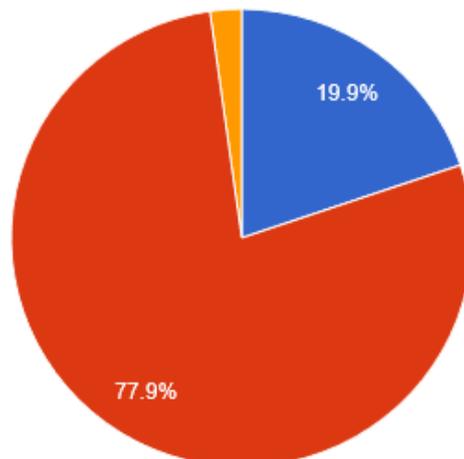
22) In the area where you live, is it easy to get affordable fresh fruits and vegetables?

Yes (187, 68.8%), No (84, 30.9%), Not applicable (1, 0.4%)



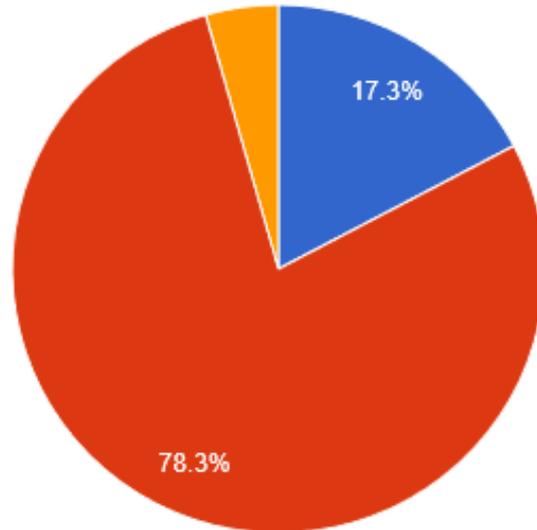
23) Have there been times in the last 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy the food that you or your family needed?

Yes (54, 19.9%), No (212, 77.9%), Not applicable (6, 2.2%)



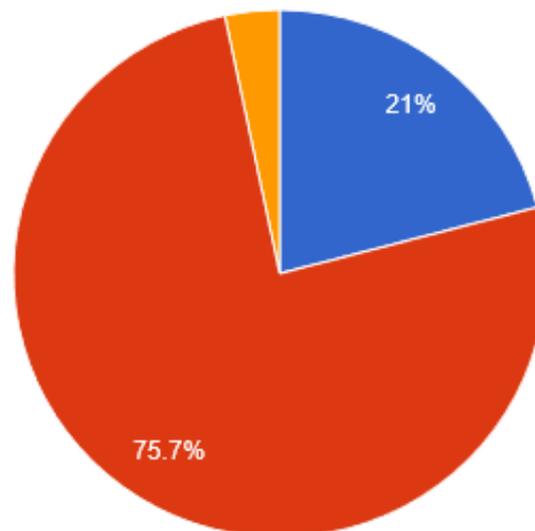
24) Have there been times in the last 12 months when you did not have enough money to pay your rent or mortgage?

Yes (47, 17.3%), No (213, 78.3%), Not applicable (12, 4.4%)



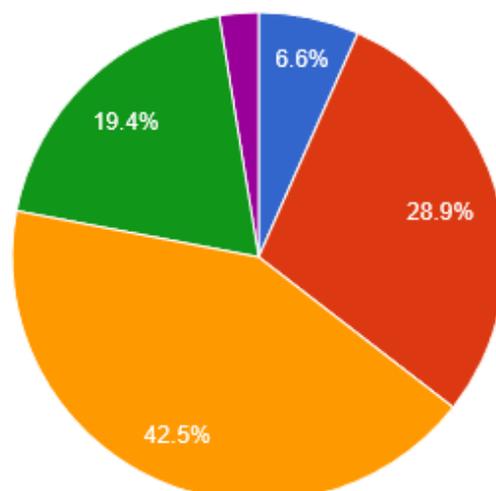
25) Have there been times in the last 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy medicine?

Yes (57, 21.0%), No (206, 75.7%), Not applicable (9, 3.3%)



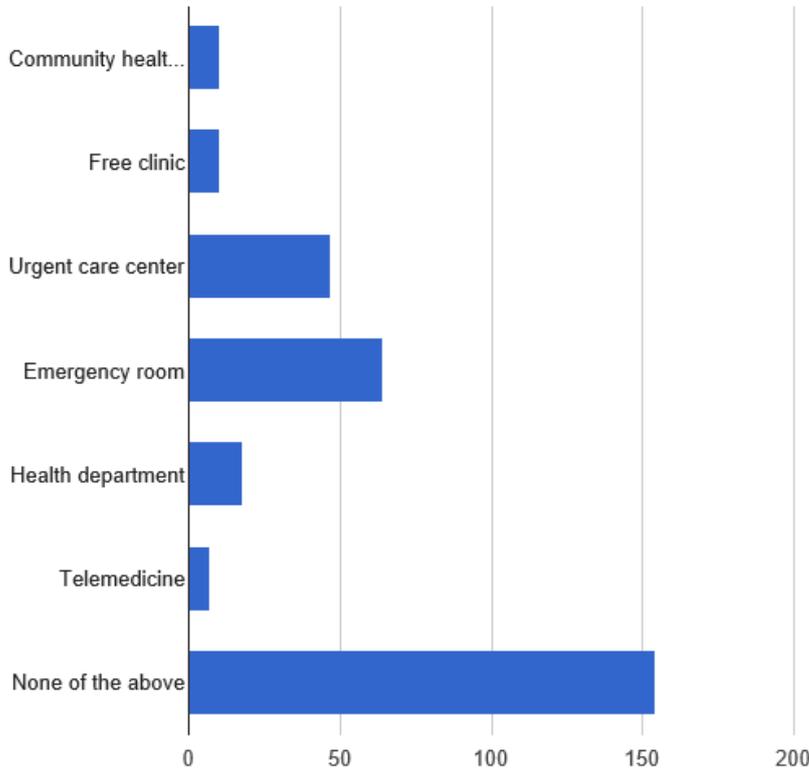
26) How do you feel about your overall health?

Excellent (18, 6.6%), Very good (79, 28.9%), Good (116, 42.5%), Fair (53, 19.4%), Poor (7, 2.6%)



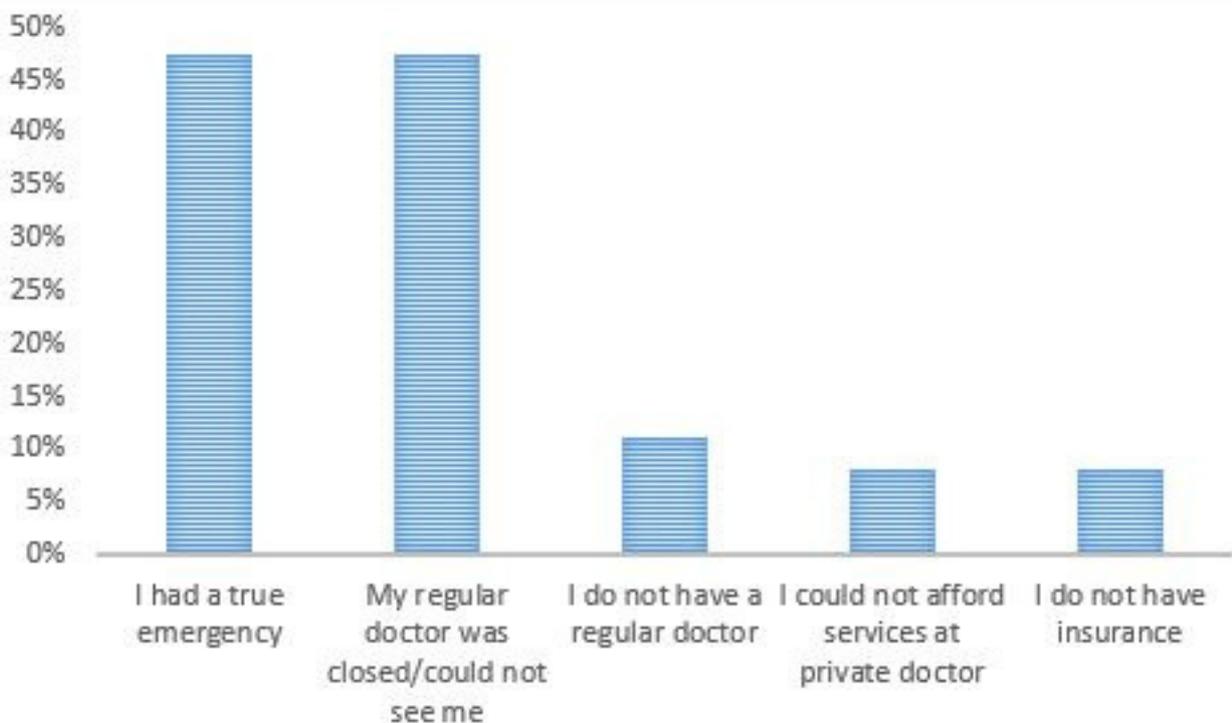
27) Within the last 12 months, I received health care services through (select all that apply):

Community health center (10, 3.7%), Free clinic (10, 3.7%), Urgent care center (47, 17.3%), Emergency room (64, 23.5%), Health department (18, 6.6%), Telemedicine (7, 2.6%), None of the above (154, 56.6%)

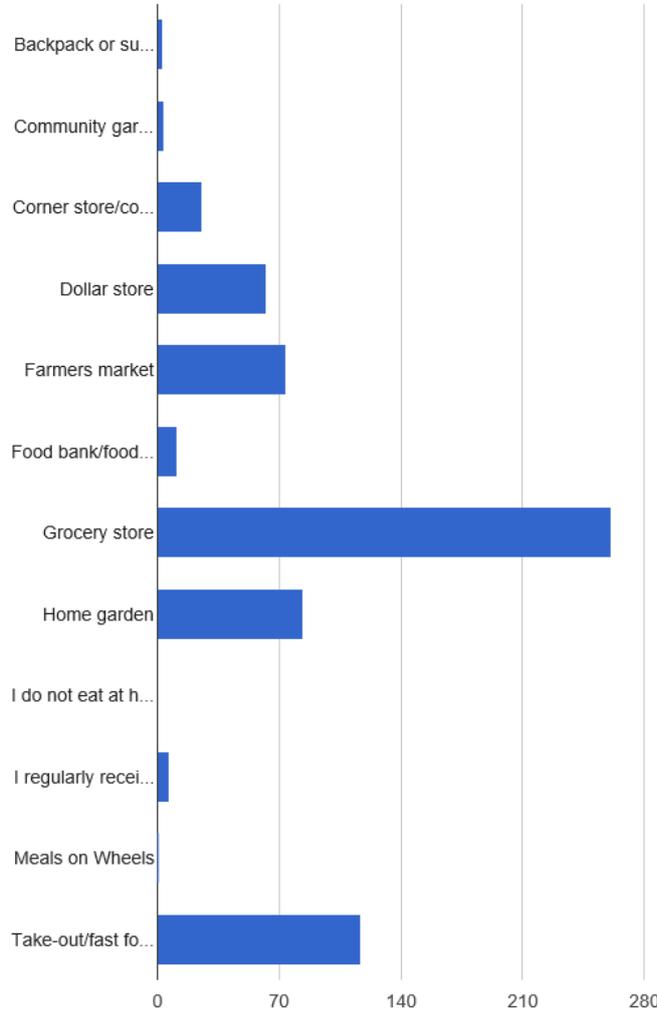


28) If you used any of the services in the last question, why did you do so? Select all that apply

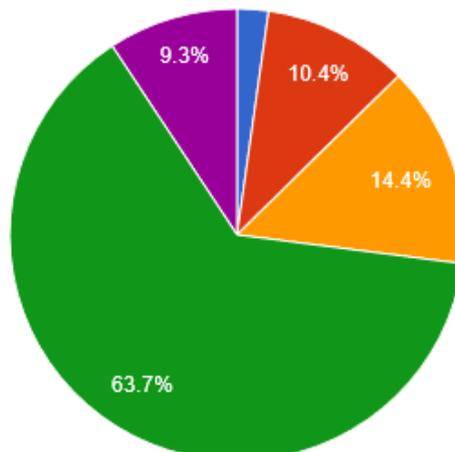
I had a true emergency (54, 47.4%), My regular doctor was closed/could not see me (54, 47.4%), I do not have a regular doctor (13, 11.4%), I could not afford services at private doctor (9, 7.9%), I do not have insurance (9, 7.9%)



29) Where do you get the food that you eat at home? Select all that apply
 Backpack or summer food programs (3, 1.1%), Community garden (4, 1.5%), Corner store/convenience store/gas station (26, 9.6%), Dollar store (63, 23.3%), Farmers market (74, 27.4%), Food bank/food kitchen/food pantry (11, 4.1%), Grocery store (261, 96.7%), Home garden (84, 31.1%), I do not eat at home (0, 0.0%), I regularly receive food from family, friends, neighbors, or my church (7, 2.6%), Meals on Wheels (1, 0.4%), Take-out/fast food/restaurant (117, 43.3%)

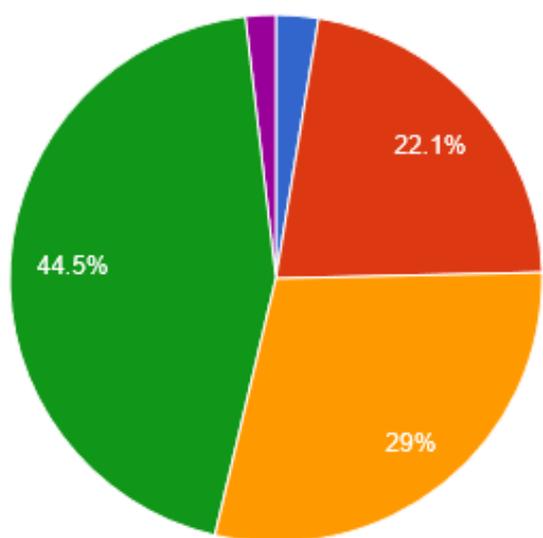


30) The quality of life in my community is good
 Strongly disagree (6, 2.2%), Disagree (28, 10.4%), Undecided (39, 14.4%), Agree (172, 63.7%), Strongly agree (25, 9.3%)



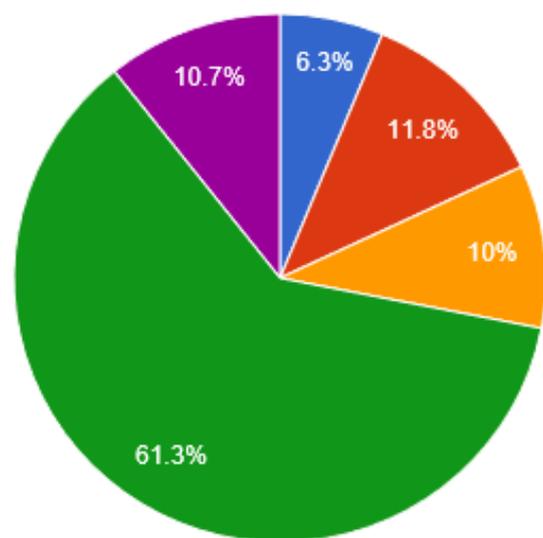
31) Overall, I live in a healthy community

Strongly disagree (7, 2.6%), Disagree (60, 22.1%), Undecided (79, 29.0%), Agree (121, 44.5%), Strongly agree (5, 1.8%)



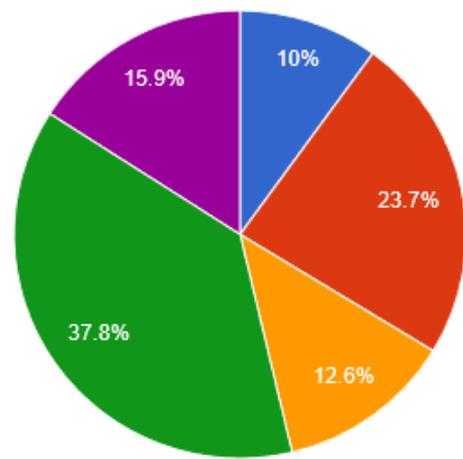
32) I am able to get the health care I need

Strongly disagree (17, 6.3%), Disagree (32, 11.8%), Undecided (27, 10.0%), Agree (166, 61.3%), Strongly agree (29, 10.7%)



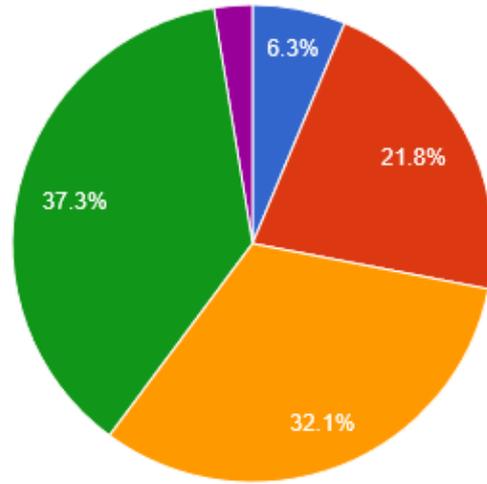
33) I must travel outside my community for health care

Strongly disagree (27, 10.0%), Disagree (64, 23.7%), Undecided (34, 12.6%), Agree (102, 37.8%), Strongly agree (43, 15.9%)



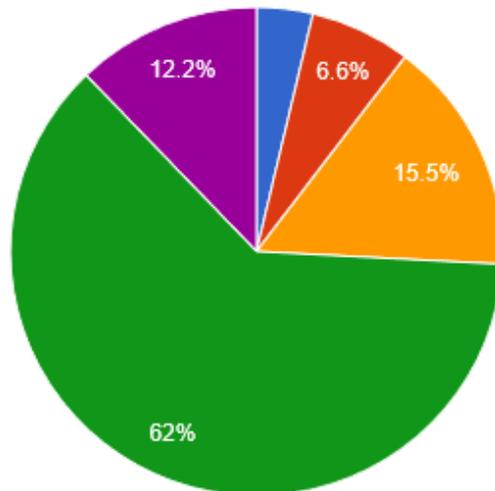
34) Health care is of good quality in my community

Strongly disagree (17, 6.3%), Disagree (59, 21.8%), Undecided (87, 32.1%), Agree (101, 37.3%), Strongly agree (7, 2.6%)



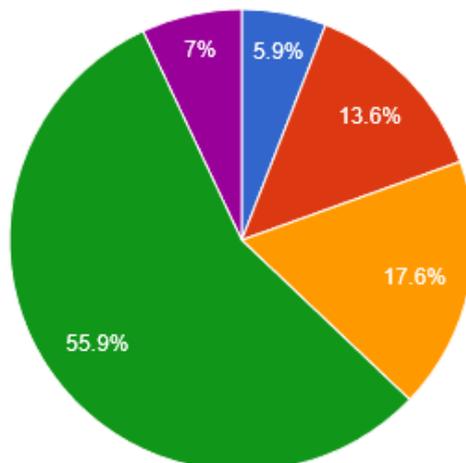
35) My community is a good place to raise children (consider education, safety, child care, youth programs, etc)

Strongly disagree (10, 3.7%), Disagree (18, 6.6%), Undecided (42, 15.5%), Agree (168, 62.0%), Strongly agree (33, 12.2%)



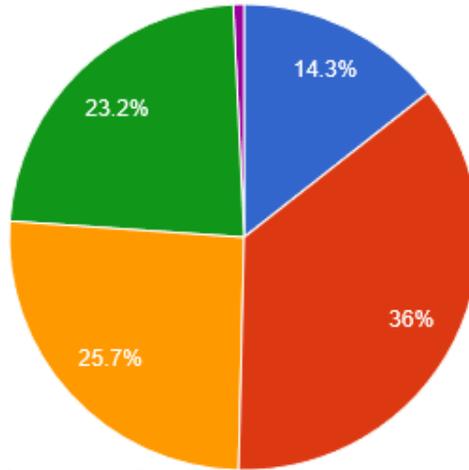
36) My community is a good place to grow old (consider housing, transportation, social support, etc)

Strongly disagree (16, 5.9%), Disagree (37, 13.6%), Undecided (48, 17.6%), Agree (152, 55.9%), Strongly agree (19, 7.0%)



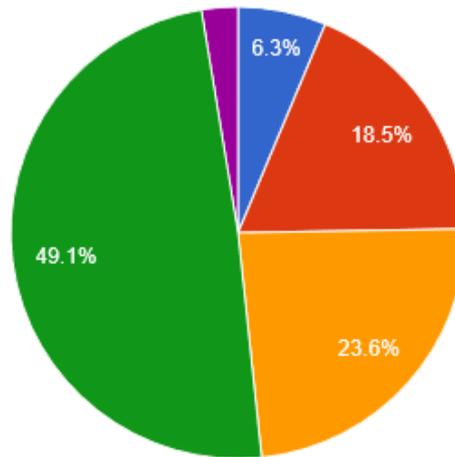
37) My community provides good job opportunities

Strongly disagree (39, 14.3%), Disagree (98, 36.0%), Undecided (70, 25.7%), Agree (63, 23.2%), Strongly agree (2, 0.7%)



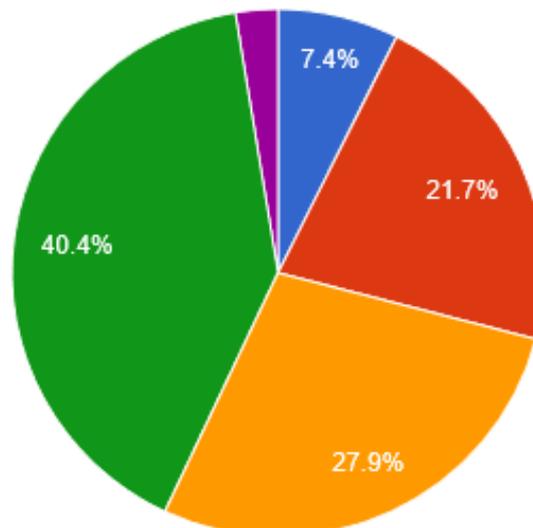
38) Children receive high-quality education in my community (consider public, private, and home schooling)

Strongly disagree (17, 6.3%), Disagree (50, 18.5%), Undecided (64, 23.6%), Agree (133, 49.1%), Strongly agree (7, 2.6%)



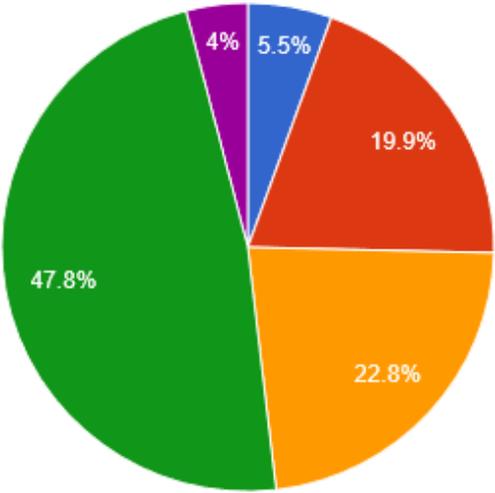
39) Housing is affordable in my community

Strongly disagree (20, 7.4%), Disagree (59, 21.7%), Undecided (76, 27.9%), Agree (110, 40.4%), Strongly agree (7, 2.6%)



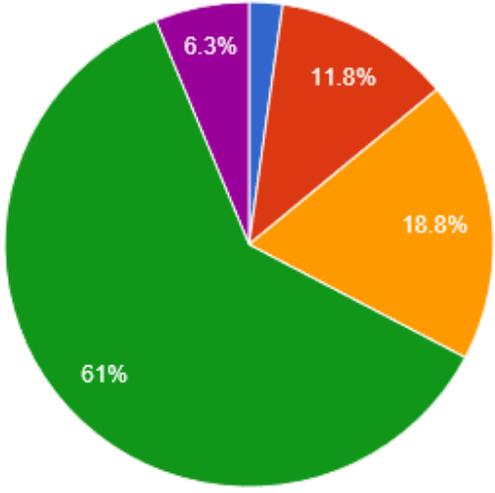
40) I am prepared for a public health emergency, such as a flu pandemic

Strongly disagree (15, 5.5%), Disagree (54, 19.9%), Undecided (62, 22.8%), Agree (130, 47.8%), Strongly agree (11, 4.0%)



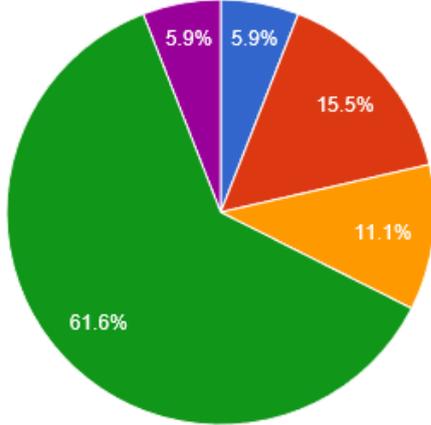
41) My community is safe (consider lighting, criminal activity, etc)

Strongly disagree (6, 2.2%), Disagree (32, 11.8%), Undecided (51, 18.8%), Agree (166, 61.0%), Strongly agree (17, 6.3%)

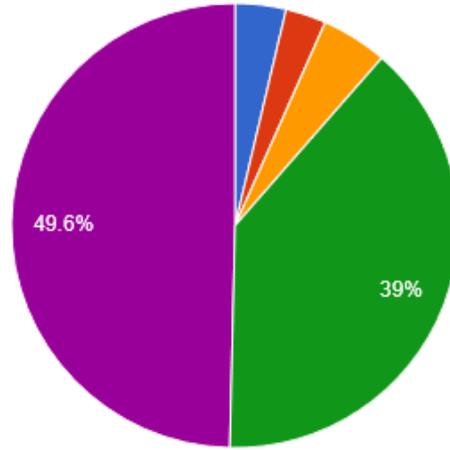


42) My community offers enough space for recreation (consider parks, indoor facilities, trails, etc)

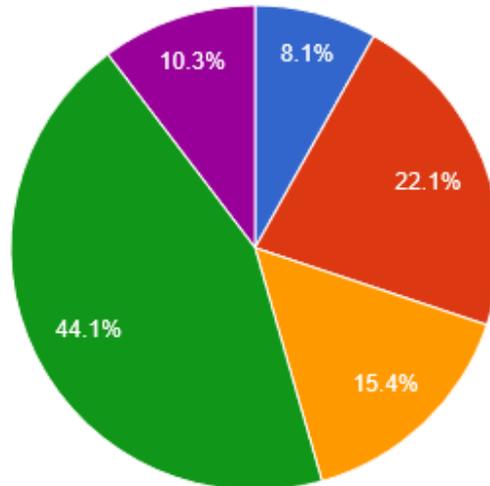
Strongly disagree (16, 5.9%), Disagree (42, 15.5%), Undecided (30, 11.1%), Agree (167, 61.6%), Strongly agree (16, 5.9%)



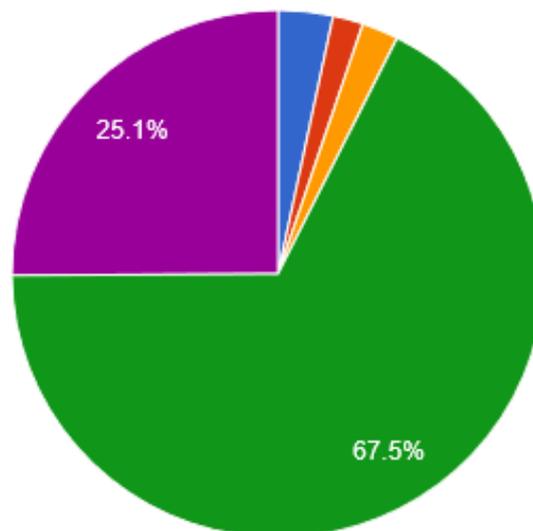
43) I prefer to live in a home where indoor smoking is not allowed
Strongly disagree (10, 3.7%), Disagree (8, 2.9%), Undecided (13, 4.8%),
Agree (106, 39.0%), Strongly agree (135, 49.6%)



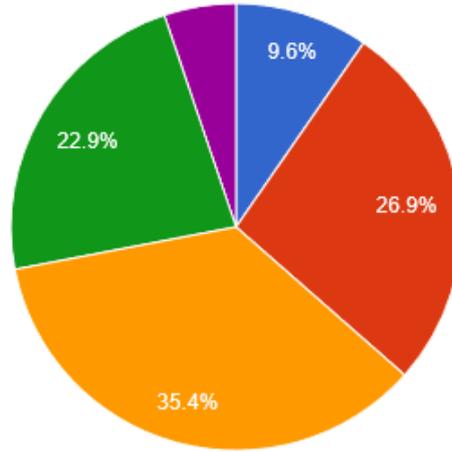
44) My community is walkable and has enough sidewalks
Strongly disagree (22, 8.1%), Disagree (60, 22.1%), Undecided (42, 15.4%),
Agree (120, 44.1%), Strongly agree (28, 10.3%)



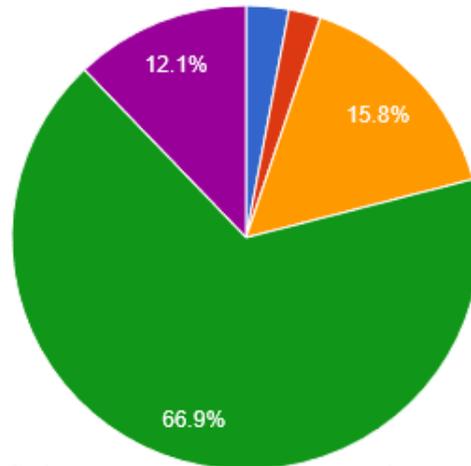
45) My personal method of transportation meets my needs
Strongly disagree (9, 3.3%), Disagree (5, 1.8%), Undecided (6, 2.2%),
Agree (183, 67.5%), Strongly agree (68, 25.1%)



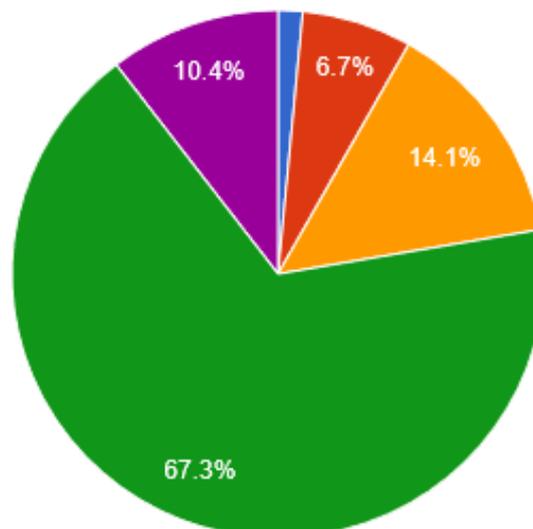
46) Public transportation is available that meets my needs
Strongly disagree (26, 9.6%), Disagree (73, 26.9%), Undecided (96, 35.4%),
Agree (62, 22.9%), Strongly agree (14, 5.2%)



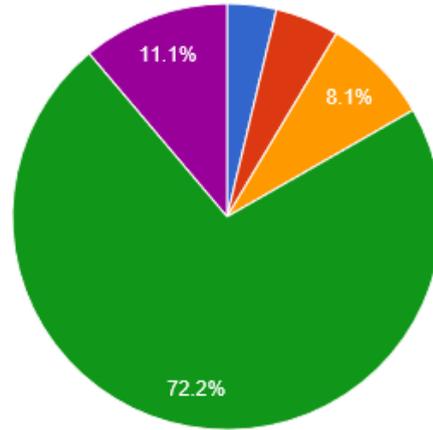
47) Air quality is good in my community
Strongly disagree (8, 2.9%), Disagree (6, 2.2%), Undecided (43, 15.8%),
Agree (182, 66.9%), Strongly agree (33, 12.1%)



48) Water quality is good in my community
Strongly disagree (4, 1.5%), Disagree (18, 6.7%), Undecided (38, 14.1%),
Agree (181, 67.3%), Strongly agree (28, 10.4%)

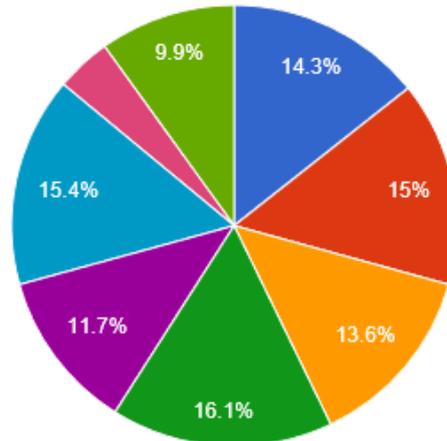


49) Sewage/septic services are available and meet my needs
 Strongly disagree (10, 3.7%), Disagree (13, 4.8%), Undecided (22, 8.1%),
 Agree (195, 72.2%), Strongly agree (30, 11.1%)

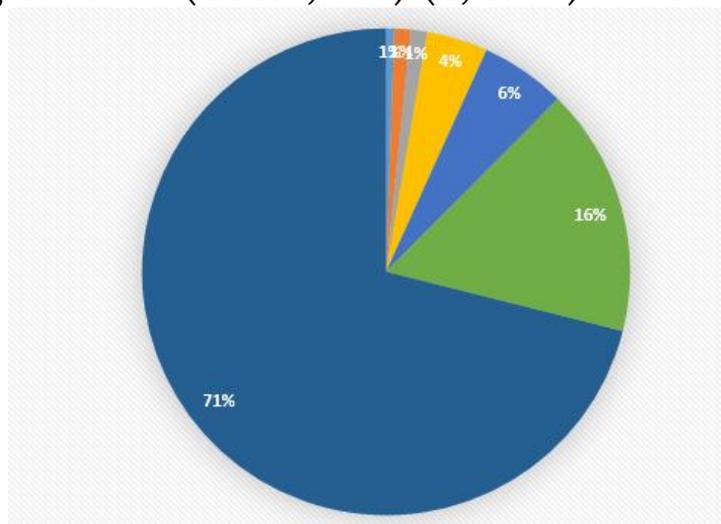


50) In the past 7 days, how many times were you physically active for a total of at least 30 minutes (add up all the times you spent in any physical activity that increased your heart rate and made you breathe hard for some of the time)?

0 days (39, 14.3%), 1 day (41, 15.0%), 2 days (37, 13.6%), 3 days (44, 16.1%),
 4 days (32, 11.7%), 5 days (42, 15.4%), 6 days (11, 4.0%), 7 days (27, 9.9%)

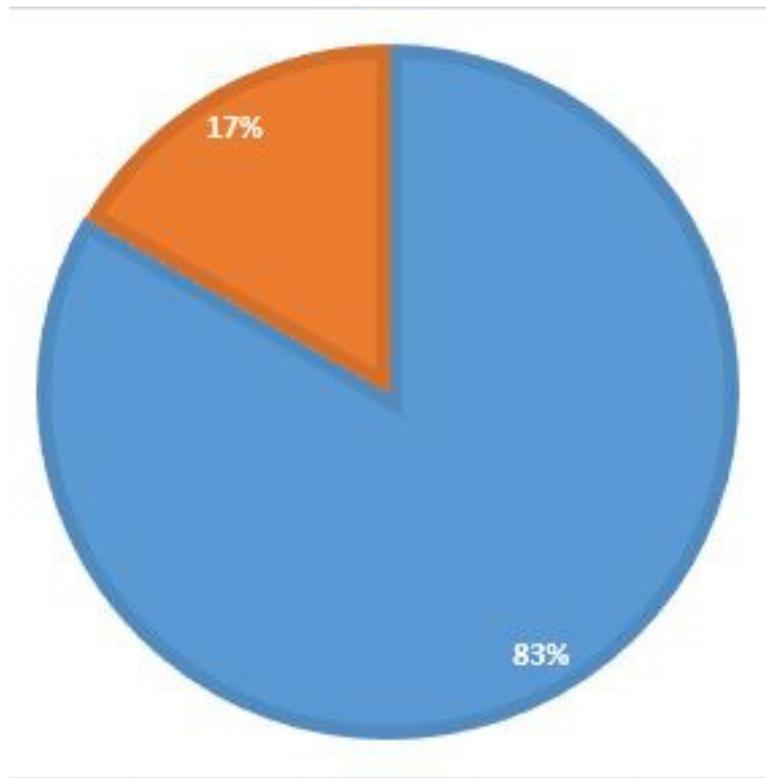


51) What type of transportation do you use? Select all that apply
 Personal vehicle (263, 96.3%), Bike (15, 5.5%), Walk (61, 22.3%),
 Friends/family drive me (21, 7.7%), Public transit (4, 1.5%), Taxi (2,
 0.7%), Ride-sharing service (Uber, etc) (4, 1.5%)



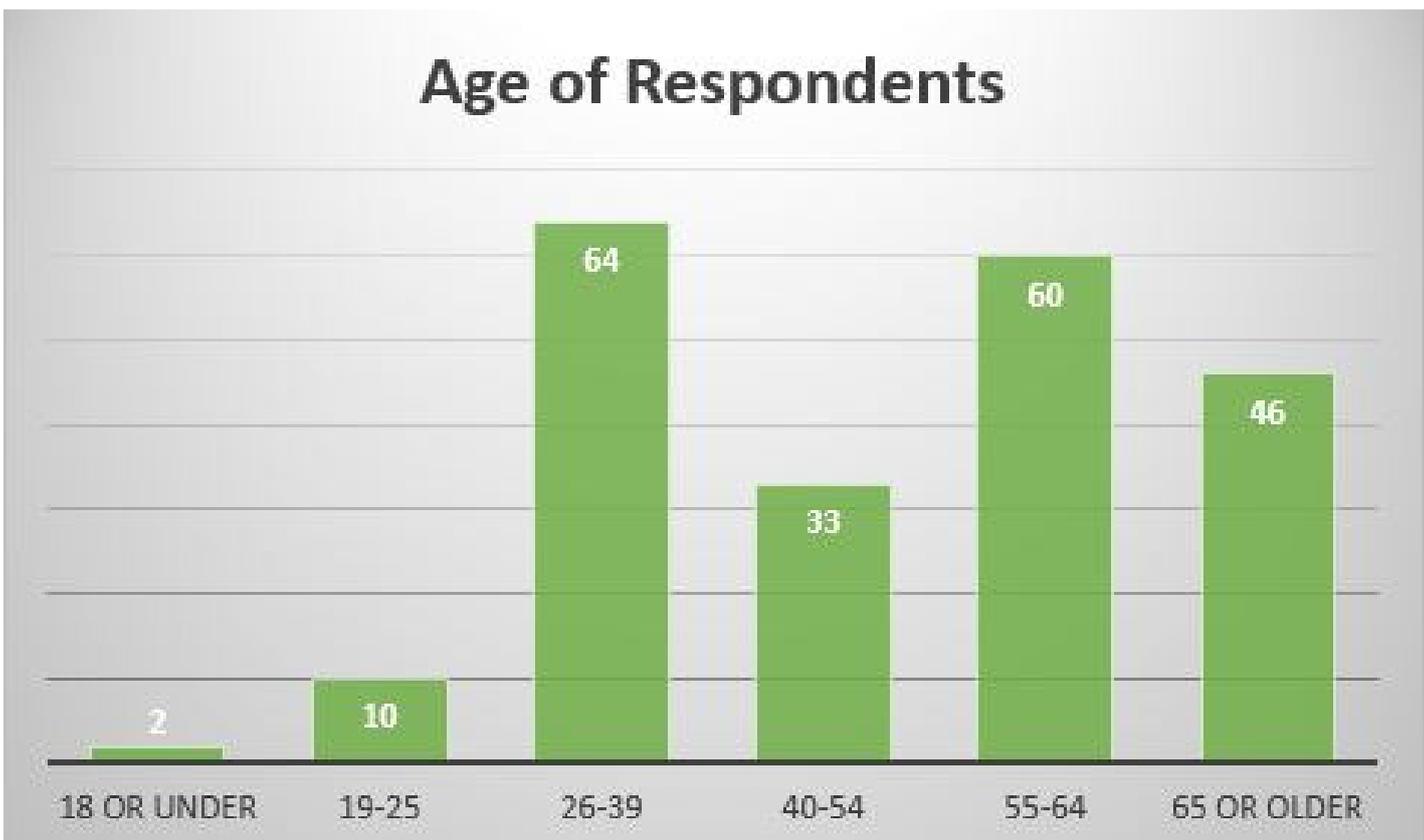
52) What is your gender?

Female (83%), Male (17%)



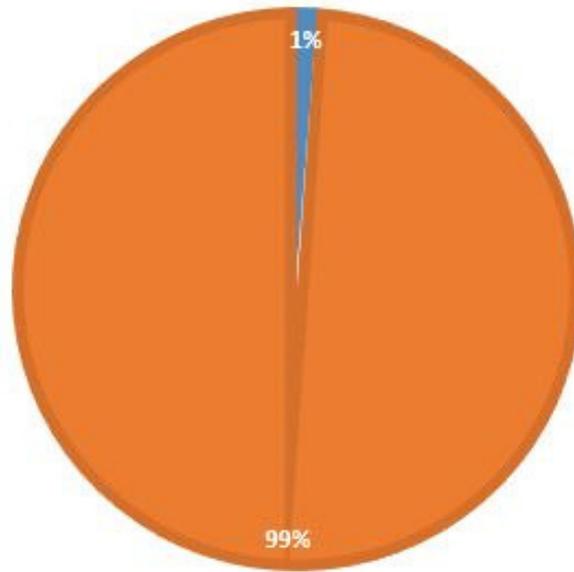
53) Age:

18 or under (2, 0.7%), 19-25 (10, 3.7%), 26-39 (64, 23.4%), 40-54 (91, 33.3%), 55-64 (60, 22.0%), 65 or older (46, 16.8%)



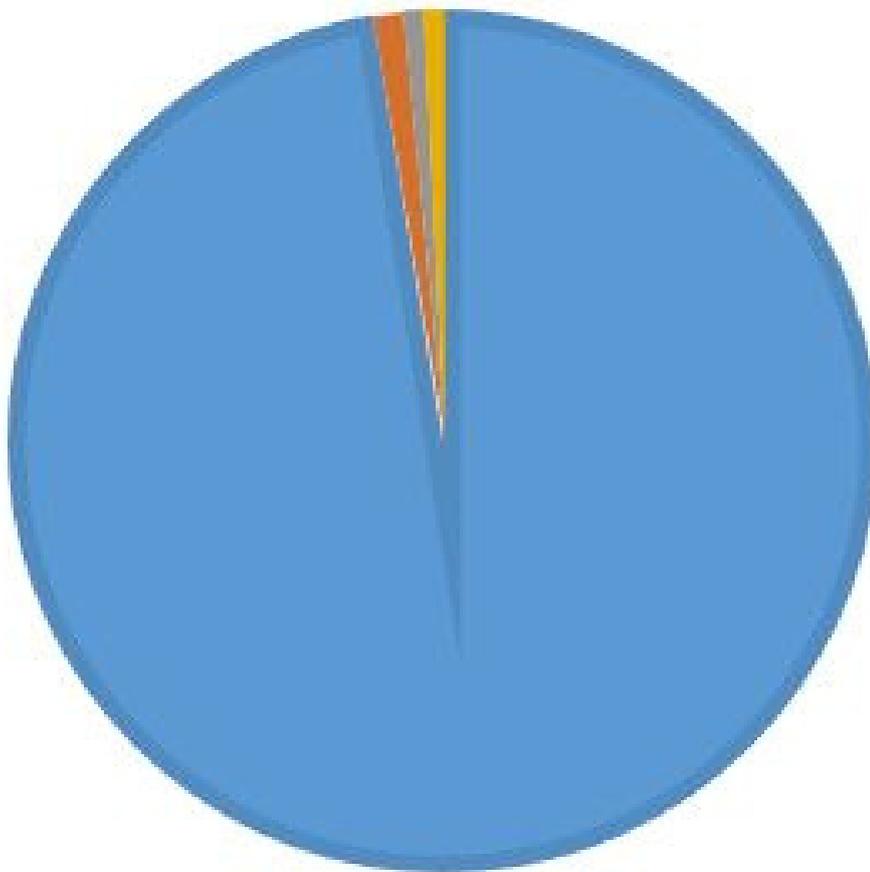
54) Ethnicity:

Hispanic/Latino (3, 1.1%), Not Hispanic/Latino (263, 98.9%)



55) Racial identity (check all that apply):

American Indian or Alaska Native (2, 0.7%), Asian (0, 0.0%), Black or African American (3, 1.1%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (0, 0.0%), White or Caucasian (268, 98.2%), Other (0, 0.0%), Prefer not to answer (2, 0.7%)

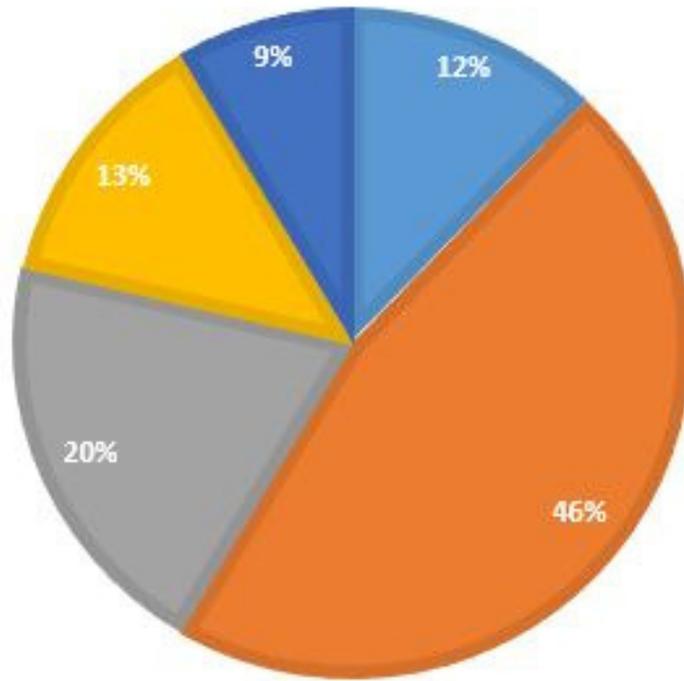


56) What language do you mostly speak at home?

English (272, 100%)

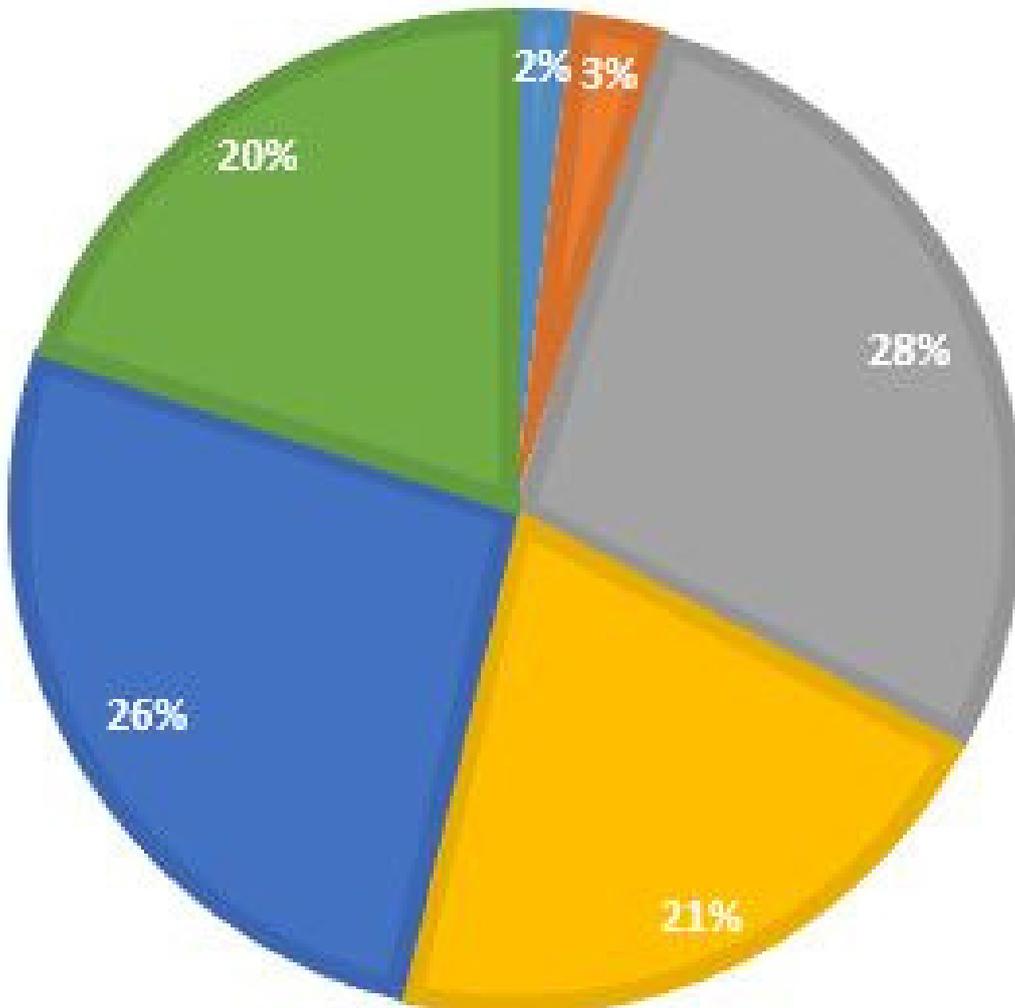
57) Household size (including you):

1 (33, 12.1%), 2 (126, 46.3%), 3 (55, 20.2%), 4 (35, 12.9%), 5 or more (23, 8.5%)



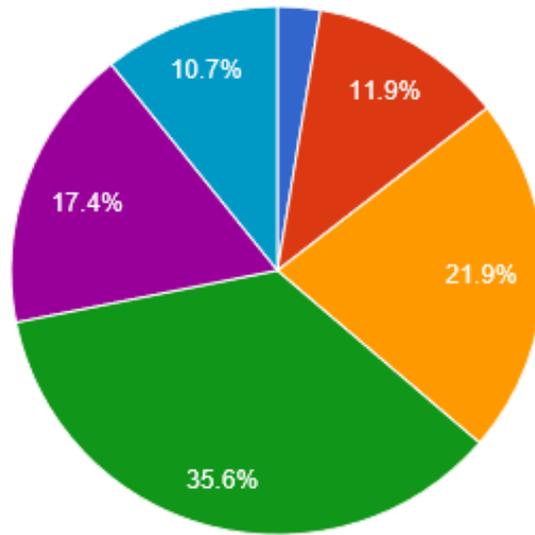
58) Your highest level of education:

Less than high school (5, 1.8%), GED (8, 2.9%), High school diploma (76, 27.8%), Associate degree (57, 20.9%), College degree (73, 26.7%), Graduate degree (54, 19.8%)



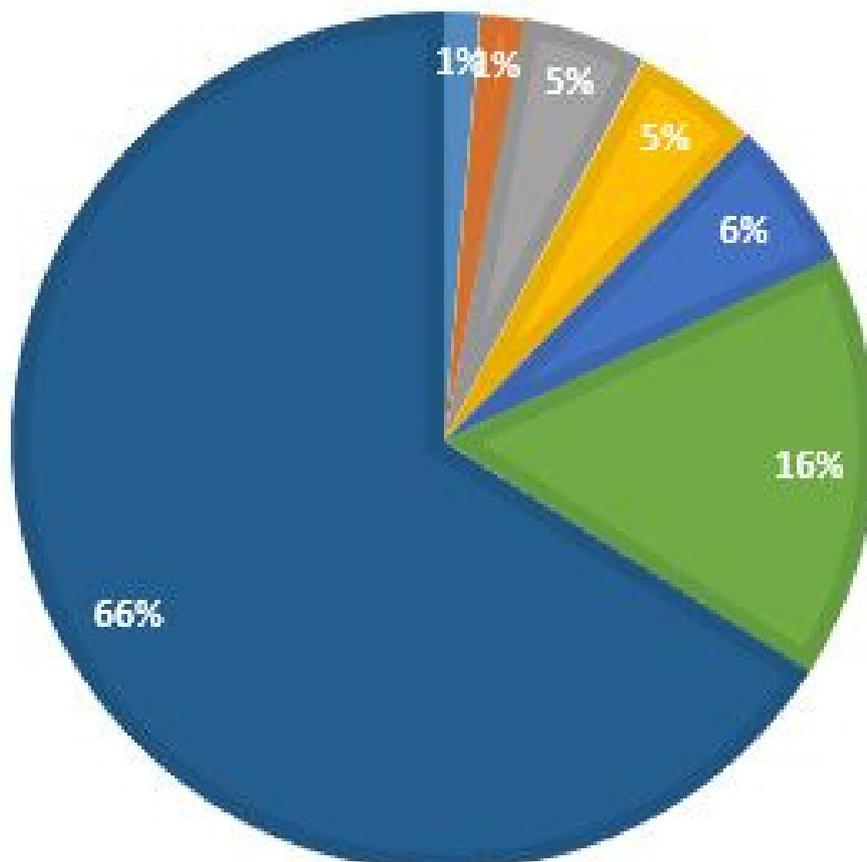
59) Household income:

Less than \$10,000 per year (7, 2.6%), \$10,000 to \$24,999 per year (32, 11.9%), \$25,000 to \$49,999 per year (59, 21.9%), \$50,000 to \$99,999 per year (96, 35.6%), \$100,000 or more per year (47, 17.4%), Prefer not to answer (29, 10.7%)



60) How do you pay for your healthcare?

No insurance (pay out of pocket) (14, 5.2%), Health insurance through employer (or spouse/family member's employer) (198, 73.3%), Purchase private health insurance (14, 5.2%), Medicaid or FAMIS (17, 6.3%), Medicare (48, 17.8%), TRICARE/VA healthcare (5, 1.9%), Affordable Care Act marketplace (4, 1.5%)



61) How would you improve your community?

?????????

Access to healthcare, transportation

There should be more community events for the younger generation. Give them more to do. Offer more STI education. Also, we need to educate more about drug abuse. We need to offer these classes starting in elementary school, and more often in middle and high school.

I would like to see more for kids, free programs or discounted to get them more active.

Mental health awareness More programs for elderly with affordable care

help with people taking care of the elderly instead of placing in nursing homes, need respid care affordable or granted. (if don't qualify for Medicaid at present, cannot get help at home

(ppl) more jobs/trade school opportunities (not everyone can afford college) or wait to start job

Programs to help combat drug crisis in our county. Mental health programs. Better affordable housing.

Would love to have side walks or walking paths that were

well lit/safe to walk on. We need a 24

hour gym that people can afford or free.

A lap pool would be great. Have a community garden that was actually in our community and not have to drive a good distance to participate. Have

transportation/transit system to doctor appointments, etc. Offer cooking classes for healthy eating options and weight loss programs that are designed individually. We need specialists that are not over 100 miles away or have transportation that we can get to them.

Better drug control and more traffic stops/road checks

more drug treatment programs, more health care for uninsured clients

More services for the elderly

We have no reason for our children who grow up in our community to remain in our community when they graduate and are ready to work and live on their own. Most people move away from here as fast as they can because our area is horrible. There are no facilities for our youth to use such as basketball courts, baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, etc.

besides those at a school and those are not always accessible. Our area offers no sort of attraction to draw

people here what so ever!

better healthcare oportunities

Listen to the community.

??

We need to stop 'looking the other way'. We have had far too many murders/suicides for our small rural area. Traffic stops need to include carseat checks.

More community health programs

Our community needs good paying jobs. More dental services are needed for our community.

More jobs, More activities for kids.

We must begin by addressing poverty and helping people understand the value of education. In too many homes, education is not regarded as important. Until we can address those factors, health and related issues

will continue to be a major concern.

Quality of schools, nutrition education, economic stability including better opportunities for employment

Increase awareness about the impact of diet and exercise on overall health and wellness.

There are too many old buildings along Main Street that are falling down. More businesses would come in if this place didn't look like Chernobyl. We are in a great Central location with access to 2 interstates. Law enforcement spends their whole shifts dealing with mental people. That is a total waste of resources. We need a CIT drop off center here. All mental patients from Wythe and Bland must use Wytheville hospital, which ties up ER beds and multiple officers. Hospital security is a joke. Their jobs consists of bringing sandwiches from the cafeteria to the ER. They are not allowed to kick anyone off the property or confront an angry patient. I'm very glad to hear Steadfast is coming back. That's a step in the right direction.

I would love to see walking or biking trail/track close by.

Community center to workout

Bring in more jobs and make it harder for the young people to live off the government \$

Improve transportation for citizens.

NA

n/a

Provide more restaurant and shopping options

More access for healthcare for uninsured mothers who can't afford to be put on their spouses insurance, but are not eligible for FAMIS/ Medicaid due to household income.

make resources that are available better marketed and known. A lot of those in or below the local poverty level are unaware of some of the services available. Also Economic growth is needed so that better paying jobs will be provided and those that pay better can eat better and are able to make those healthier choices rather than being 'forced' to choose cheaper food options that are unhealthy.

Focus more on current residents' needs, through better education, recreation and safety nets, than chasing after smoke stack new businesses, which divert precious local tax dollars away from needed services.

Services for aging, drug abuse and family support is weak. Jobs other than service level. have more places to shop for clothing etc. so we don't have to travel to other cities

Dental care available for everyone would be absolutely wonderful considering it will break your bank completely if you pay full price!

Year round Farmers Market

schools that prepare students for higher education if they so desire

Better schools\education, more medical specialists, programs to combat racism, diversity and better public relations in sheriff's dept, more inclusive recycling program, another major grocery store, more produce at Farmers Market, recreational opportunities for children and teens, outreach programs for elderly, dental care for uninsured. More programs to improve standard of living - affordable housing rental and purchase, medical assistance for those in the 'gap' who are insured but still can't pay copays or meds.No cost dental care for uninsured.

Need new schools.

Unsure

Offer free classes about nutrition and health

Increase involvement of churches in community events

Bring in industry to create more and better jobs. Improve school rankings.

Educational opportunities to decrease heart disease and diabetes. Recruit more primary care physicians in our community. Shortage of PCPs and nurses.

more walking trails, more specialty health care, more healthy dining choices, education spread out EQUALLY over the entire county, more public health education (healthy eating, exercise)

More awareness on drug and opioid abuse.

n/a

Safe affordable assistive care for the elderly is the greatest need. Cost of healthcare is a big need across the country. I know people who have to choose between food and meds and usually it is the elderly or disabled that falls through the cracks. See problems with getting to Social Services and have heard many complaints about how over worked and difficult it is getting help either by phone or in person. Our cannery is one good item and people need help getting over unease with going.

the community as a whole needs more access to mental health help and drug abuse

Open smaller gyms/workout facilities in more of the rural areas of the county, as some residents are spread out and it is harder for them to travel 20+ minutes 3 or more days a week to go to a gym to exercise. Granted when it is warm there are outdoor areas to go to, but when it is cold or raining it makes it impossible to exercise outdoors a lot of the times.

We must have more Mental Health Beds in the State. They spend hours in our E.R. and then most of the time they cant find a Mental Health Bed for them.

Access to swimming pools more than currently allowed.

Walking parks without hiking in woods.

I feel that there are many families in our area that take advantage of the systems set up to help them. I have called social services to try to get a home visit completed for a possible neglect issue only to be accused of poor shaming. If parents are not will or capable of caring for children, then that situation needs to be addressed. Ignoring that issue only sets up the problem to recur--and worsen--in the coming generations. The drug use situation also impedes parental involvement in children's life. Again, we need to step in when children are being neglected while parents are drug addicted.

Less fast food restaurants, more farm to table. More specialists for healthcare

Provide better job opportunities.

more follow up services for seniors & mentally challenged.

n/a

New school facilities with upgraded equipment larger school clinic space. More affordable options for usage of our town fitness center such as working with employers to provide financial incentives.

Improve access for patients with mental health issues.

Improve pedestrian accessibility.

Need more mental health support in the area. Need more psychiatrists, psychologists to see patients with mental health needs as they are having to wait for over 3 months just to get an appointment for evaluation and by then it could be too late for some of the patients.

I would have more programs to help at risk youth and programs for seniors to educate them on navigating the health care system and decision making. Even the youth with good support tend to navigate toward drugs and alcohol without programs to educate them and give them alternatives to these bad choices.

The drug abuse problem is out of control. We need to increase measures to prevent people from starting, to recognize it when it occurs, and treat those affected by it.

And, I do love the idea of more sidewalks, there are none in my area.

Need more primary care providers in our community. Retaining quality providers. Have more availability of Day Care for kids younger than primary school age.

Currently one of larger day cares is closing and will leave a void in this need for parents to work outside home.

Adding more fun events for children and parents to do together outside with no cost.

Provide more activities for teenagers/children; find a way to get the drugs/alcohol out of the area especially the school systems, offer more realistic classes in high school to get students ready for the real world, provide more affordable housing not income based, provide more awareness for mental health, drug/alcohol abuse, screenings for cancers, more affordable insurance for families that actually provide decent coverage and better explanation of benefits to families especially seniors

MORE INDUSTRY IS NEEDED FOR BETTER PAYING JOBS

The public schools do not have enough basketball courts and football fields for all ages. Often we have to not have practice because we fight for gym or field time.

better housing for community

More Child Care facilities. We currently have one daycare in Wytheville. We need more options for working parents not only for school days but also snow days, and breaks like Christmas and summer.

Cost friendly healthy food, work incentives for participation in healthy activities

I see no major changes needed to my community.

we need more better paying jobs affordable housing better public transportation more job training better public school funding and much better access to healthcare without it putting you in debt just because you got a illness

More stores for shopping. Better access to affordable fitness center - Wellness Center is very nice, but crowded AND they do not offer the same membership rates to county citizens as they do to town citizens. More youth oriented activities. Better access for mental health care. Affordable real estate and housing.

Take care of the drug issues

Wytheville Hospital is a joke

More education about health and diet more law enforcement only have one and he is taxed with things that need to be done

a indoor work out place

Afterschool programs in 24368 for overweight kids. Wytheville has this, but it is not available to Rural Retreat because the bus will not take them there. There is only one daycare. We need a summer program for middle school kids. They are too old for daycare, and too young to work. They sit all summer, and do nothing. They put on weight this way. It's very unhealthy. Rural Retreat needs a healthcare center. They need a gym that they can access for the kids to play in the winter. Klockner offered to build such a place, and the town council refused. This was a huge loss for our community. Wythe County needs an indoor playground; even if it is attached to McDonald's. There is not a place for little kids to play when the weather is bad. They cannot burn calories, and they are becoming overweight. Rural Retreat does not have a food pantry. The school needs to combat the lice problem. Rural Retreat needs a summer program at the lake. More indoor tracks for walking/running and more basketball gyms.

I cannot answer this question because the conditions that make this a place I want to live, low population, low crime, country living are what contribute to making it a place that is not great for my elderly mother and my young adult children. The health care is not sufficient for my mother, so we have to travel great distances to get it. There are not many options for jobs for my young adult children, nor social avenues for them to meet like-minded people. I guess the one practical thing I would change is to have pub-type facilities that had the atmosphere of a Starbuck's maybe. A place where it is okay to go and have a drink and hang around awhile. Many of the existing places like restaurants want to move the kids in and out quickly. Or if they are like a sports bar like The Ville, for instance, the atmosphere is just not nice. I wouldn't want to hang out there. So atmospheric public gathering places that might include sports on tv and all types of live music. Not just bluegrass. These could be pubs or coffee shops. A lot of these open, but people either don't have the money or don't know how to add the atmosphere to make it a place where people want to hang around.

more walk in clinics

Increase enrichment programs for teens and young adults and reduce drug/addiction.

No comment

more primary care physicians available that stay in the community less cost for ER visit needs

Working with the public, I find that many do not know where they can get resources to assist them. I would like to see a better effort of getting correct informaton to the public to enhance their chances to a better and more healthy life.

Offer more services in the schools or outside of the schools for children with special needs, especially the children who do not have visually obvious diagnosis and may need minor assistance with school, either with schoolwork, tests, or homework or with sensory or behavioral issues. Many children may appear to be making it through the school year, but may be struggling more than can be seen. It would be great to see a program that offers students help with subjects they are struggling with as well as classrooms having more materials and items that would assist students with sensory or anxiety issues while at school.

Offer more community health education. More availability to fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats and education on how to preserve these items for when they are not readily available. Also, education and help on how to grow fresh foods for personal use.

no comment

Everyone needs to be involved and help support those suffering.

I don't know

community garden

More oppourtunities for youth, community become more trauma informed, addressing food insecurity, Greater access for healthcare.

More job oppourtunities, better schools, better selection of healthcare practitioners.

no response

Accessibility of healthcare for all community members. Fresh fruits and vegetables along with healthy food options not twice as expensive as alternative unhealthy choices.

I would like to see the Kegley's stop bringing low income family's into our community. Unless they are willing to support bringing more law enforcement with better pay for LEO's, more DSS assistance, more mental health, and other services that come with assisting the unwilling. The low income housing is hurting the growth of our beautiful town. It doesn't help when big industrial company's look at our area to locate their company if all we have is low income housing, poor out dated schools, under paid LEO's, but we have a nice brick sidewalk that is a trip hazarded. Please lets build 20 more banks, hotels, and truck stops. It would be nice to have company's come into the area with pay rates high enough to keep people working within the town and county and not have to travel to earn a proper wage and benefits. I would just like to see our town move toward gearing itself towards being a professional community. That would attract new younger business class families to our community and make our community look better for families looking to retire or come back to after college. Families that would be less a burden on our communities resources.

More quality jobs.
More doctors. Better stores.
More affordable housing
Invest in schools/education. Better grocery stores.
More options for eating out. More specialized/quality health care (surgery, endrochornologist, etc).
Other grocery store types for shopping, more options.
Improve overall health educational level, launch area-wide wellness effort such as Get Healthy Wythe Us...or similar, even more free or low cost health screening services, bigger effort at Medicaid expansion sign-ups, more collaborations between private sector medicine and public for common patient and family good, improve adult immunization rates, expand smoking cessation emphasis. more specialists without having to travel out of community, MRI suitable for obese people, Air and water quality tested and published where publicized and easy to find.
Short-term to long-term substance abuse or other mental health treatment facilities
More affordable housing
Better paying jobs would be nice
Substance use treatment.
Rental properties that are not trailers or income controlled. It is impossible for a young person with income to find a nice, pet friendly rental.
Eliminate hunger. Provide more economic equality and opportunity. Increase compassion.
Have more programs for the senior citizen
More businesses. More jobs. More park space. a Food City! better health care, be more welcoming to new comers, Something for teens and young adults to do
Unknown
Have a community garden, have a gym and or walking track close by, need more health care facilities and urgent care.
Offer rec center
Public transportation
Elder care in the home Childhood free dental services Removing children from addicts
The community center is to high for the average person
I would have an indoor walking track in the community along with a small fitness center that was free or low cost so everyone could benefit. I would have better Doctors for elderly. I would have a pre-school for kids with special needs. I would make sure the school did not have to charge any kids for meals, and that they had a 3rd meal at the end of the day so the kids would not go home hungry. (Galax City Schools) provide this.

Better fresh food
more family practice physicians
more police activity to close known 'drug' houses

Exercise/activity center.

More funding for museums, libraries, arts.

Use county and city funding efficiently

cut out traffic lights at 1st and Spring and Church and Spring and right turn lane at 4th and Monroe going west

Needs affordable housing. Needs better care for the elderly. Needs activities things to do for everyone especially the elderly.

?

not sure

Need space for children to play and community activities.

More activities for the youth/young adults. Stricter welfare policies. More restaurants. A better school curriculum that prepares kids for the real world. Prepare taxes, general mechanics, basic home care and self care.

My name is [redacted]. Barren Springs is the forgotten end of Wythe County. We have 2 gas stations and 2 stores. The stores are Dollar General and Family Dollar. Sure, that's better than nothing but that is all we have. We must drive 30 minutes to the nearest store for any fresh fruits and vegetables. There are a lot of people who have great jobs around here, but there are also a lot of drug addicts and alcoholics. The drug addicts and alcoholics are evenly dispersed among the people who make a decent living, for the most part. Due to our community being 30 minutes away from the town of Wytheville, police officers are rarely seen in our area. When we have an emergency, it takes them 15 minutes or more to get here. I do not feel that is adequate enough for my community. We need good grocery stores, a police presence, a clinic of some sort, and a red light at the intersection of Foster Falls rd and route 100. I hope my voice is heard, because I'm not the only person in our growing community who feels this way. If you would like to further discuss this issue, please call me anytime at 276-[redacted]. I love my community and want to see the people in it healthy and prosperous.

Make dental care easier to obtain.

Offer more opportunities for participation in healthy events the availability of free Health care clinics child care for those who would like to work but cost of child care prohibits job opportunity

If the county board of supervisors would make sure the building inspector applied codes correctly and not allow nonresident to create a defacto mini house on a septic tank that is a health issue.

More services for senior citizens. We are an aging community. The needs to be more services in place for elderly that are having difficulty with independent living but aren't yet ready for an assisted living facility

Programs to help elderly understand and take advantage of programs available to assist them. Our community is extremely racist and we need some kind of committee that addresses the issues and works with all ages to promote unity and understanding.

More affordable health care for those in the lower middle class who make too much for the income based clinics and Medicaid, but unable to afford insurance.

More things for kids to do

Add low cost/long hours gym (like planet fitness) and a community center in the Fort Chiswell area of the county. It would be helpful for those who do not travel to Wytheville often and it would be a nice alternative to hold social functions for this side of the county and a different option than the rec center for birthday parties. The rec center is way over priced and not enough time allowed for birthday parties.

??

Have more nutrition programs available like Fit for Life nutrition.

Our community needs to be willing to open it's eyes and admit we have a drug problem in the area.

This is what makes it feel unsafe at times. The interstate increases the insecurity of nighttime activities.

Give insurance credits for physical activity

Have more activities for children and teenagers.

more activities for the children maybe a teen center that is affordable maybe some programs like big brother big sister

Provide free dental clinic in Wytheville for dental care and denture services

More activities for teens and young adults

Make it larger

Housing cost go down

More activity for children

better paying jobs

currently a huge livestock holding facility is holding the community of Speedwell hostage with HUGE POOR AIR QUALITY ISSUES

Sidewalks in our neighborhood, better water, better medical care

Need public transportation to county, Rural Retreat communities. Good transportation in Wytheville.

Mainly I worry about the services available to the elderly and the low income families....lack of affordable healthcare and low cost prescriptions (especially for young families and the elderly)....reliable transportation that is available throughout the day so those who work and depend on public transportation to town or work etc.....Healthcare and housing seem to take the most from the people who try to live off low paying jobs.

unsure

More substance abuse programs and lower healthcare cost for those without good insurance. Lower premiums on family health insurance plans offered by the county. More education on eating healthy and exercise.

Free or low cost plans at the wellness center for those that cant afford them.

I can afford this, but lots in our community cannot. More concentration on prevention services of all kinds, rather than programs designed to help correct an area that is already an issue (child abuse, substance abuse, elder abuse, obesity, etc.)

Allocate more resources to reducing the use of controlled substances: law enforcement, drug court, rehab programs, early education. Drugs negatively impact health, child abuse/neglect, domestic abuse, education, etc.

More activities for youth that are FREE or affordable.

Our Rec Ctr and programs are not for most of our community. Cheaper farmers market fresh foods

We must rid Wythe County of apathy. We must teach parents how to parent. We must end the cycle of poverty. We must not make schools the place to fix all of societies problems.

More plant based food options

More things to do and better public transportation

Offer more senior activities or communicate more effectively what is available. Train youth in various gardening technologies for future food resources for general population. Steer youth away from processed food.

More opportunities for mental health treatment

Better access to mental health support for working adults.

Drug court is the first step! More mental health and drug rehab availability. Buy in from business community around importance of early childhood on the work force pipeline.

more locally grown food available. More integrated health care providers

More mental health doctors available. We have a serious lack of professionals in the mental health field available in our area. Add more sidewalks and lights leading to and from town(further than they go now out 4th St). I've seen many families and teens walking this road and almost get hit.

Better transportation options. Buses need to run 7 days a week and later hours so people can get to jobs. We need better paying jobs and systems in place to help people who want to work get jobs. People may not know how to break the cycle of poverty---we need more hands on support to help them cross the bridge. Schools attempt transition but then the ball is dropped.

My community could use more mental health providers! Also public education needs to be aimed at truly providing grade level education not passing children to the next grade!!!

Our community has a serious drug problem. We are seeing more and more kids come to school with serious developmental delays and the majority of these children come from homes and parents that are on drugs. Meth has been one of the biggest problems for our youth. If we want to better our community we must break the drug cycle and remove these children from the home early.

We need open facilities on this end of the county such as the rec center to offer exercise and weight training. People can't always go to town. Quality affordable child care is needed
Get rid of all the drugs in the surrounding area.

N/a

Ipave our road

It's good

Invest in genuine quality-of-life improvements, including more sincere investment in education.

Have more things for enjoyment like museums fishing areas arcades bowling alley skating rink laser tag miniature golf skateboarding park art gallery batting cages

Bring in good employers that pay a livable wage, offer top benefits and provide full time permanent jobs. Provide affordable fitness facilities that are open 24 hours. Close or re-staff Mt Rogers and provide citizens caring, effective mental health services that are capable of addressing a wide variety of mental health issues. Provide affordable public transportation through out the town and county with daily normal routes. Offer free short term education services for technical and high demand jobs that pay a livable salary. Offer financial services to enable people to attend training.

Offer a Dept of Social Services that provide the citizens they serve in a professional caring manner and willing to go the extra mile to help people become self sufficient. Provide affordable housing for working individuals without a disability and whom do not have children. Most jobs in the area do not provide sufficient wages to afford housing in the area. Provide safe meaningful housing for seniors that do not have a year or longer waiting list.

more things to do for younger generations

mandatory vaccination

More social and physical type activities. Health education activities for children and adults that are ongoing and related to both physical and mental health topics.

More access to walk in health care

Healthy affordable fast food. Every eats at fast food that is unhealthy. Many of the town is over weight. Get rid of the old timers that don't want to see change and bring in job that will offer health insurance. Too many without. Or on state aid. But many who don't qualify for state aid.

Access to healthier food. Would love to see a more health conscientious community
HEALTHIER FOOD OPTIONS AT HE GROCERT STORE AND RESTAURANTS,
IMPROVED MEDICAL CARE AT LOCAL HOSPITAL AND LOCAL CLINICS WITH
INCREASED EMPHASIS ON WELLNESS AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE RATHER THAN
MEDICINE TO MASK ALL PROBLEMS.

lower rent prices and more affordable health care stop the drug abuse and crime. Help children when needed and not just brush bullying/abuse off like it didn't happen.

bowling alley, skating rink, more places to shop for clothing and gifts.

Provide more healthy options for food in the community and more mobility for pedestrians

Better paying jobs

More recreation activities for all ages Better access to medical staff, especially specialists (must drive 1+ hours for most specialists)

It is a Rural community that I like. The only employment in my immediate areas are Daily Farms and I guess if Cortez has her way that wont be in 10 years.

I live very rural and we own a farm. Very happy with my community.

Better education and healthcare services for community members and services for people with disabilities. Cleaner water and counties.

Higher paying jobs and more resources and intensives fro people to return to this area for work.

Bring in more industry to provide job opportunities for its citizens resulting in individuals having health care coverage at a reasonable cost. Beautify the counties by keeping Virginia green, not loitering the highways and streets with trash. Provide jobs for people who would take pride in keeping the roadways, streets, parks and community areas clean from debris. Encourage volunteers to assist in helping the elderly who are unable to help themselves due to the lack of close family and friends due to living alone.

I would like to see more farmer's markets available.

no comment

The housing in my community is so expensive. A 2 bedroom apartment will run about \$600. A single person with one income makes to much for rental assistance and not enough to pay the bills. And this town is all about alcohol. They do a lot of good things to entertain and it always says kid friendly but there's always alcohol available. The alcohol abuse and drug abuse is really awful here in Wytheville.

Would like to see community support to reduce drug use in our area.

more services for the elderly and those with disabilities

n/a

Offer more activities and things to do

More positive recreation/leisure skill activities- drug/alcohol free More parks for kids

not sure

Undecided

more affordable health care, more specialist in the area, less drugs and alcohol usage, moer community awareness on domestic violence.

Add more sidewalks, better park, put restrictions on factory pollution, have inmates pick up trash along side the roads, improve the quality of roads, and have more police to monitor road traffic so people thay don't have sidewalks can walk!!!

Our community is making many efforts to move in a positive direction; I would continue and increase current amount of efforts re: revitalization and community events, as well as outreach and assistance.

Help those living in low income trailer parks by cleaning up common areas, and by helping residents to repair major structure problems to their homes. In particular the trailer park on Holston Road in Wytheville Virginia, heart breaking to see anyone having to live in these conditions especially the children. One afternoon while driving past this trailer park I was behind a school bus and watched as a teenager was let off the bus here, she never looked up as she walked towards the trailers all of them looking as if they should be condemned. I can't begin to imagine the obstacles this child will have to overcome to be able to imagine a better future for herself. No one should have to live in these conditions, as a community we need to either remove and replace the trailers or make them fit to live in

Thank-you for the opportunity to share my feelings. Increase housing options, increase job opportunities, increase educational opportunities, raise awareness around mental health/substance use disorders, increase collaboration between health providers and other community resources
More emphasis on the alcohol/drug issues in the community

More educational opportunities to teach healthy living, money management, healing from chronic disease. More RAM visits. more addiction treatment options, another crisis stabilization unit or two, education/skillbuilding opportunities for more self-sustaining lifestyle (gardening, cooking, budgeting, etc.) without limitations as to who can attend, overnight safe houses for kids in violent homes who want to report

I would like to see better access to inpatient substance abuse services. Our area experiences an above average incidence of domestic violence, poverty, unemployment or under-employment, substance abuse, mental and physical health issues. These issues affect our young people more than most. These needs are not adequately met by the current healthcare services that are available locally and access to the services that do exist is fairly limited by ability to pay. I would like to see more jobs that pay living wages and that provide health insurance.

Drugs are becoming a real issue. This needs to be improved; I'm just not sure how.

1) By continuing to improve myself 2) I would push for more access to healthy foods (longer farmer's market hours and more days open, and welcome (via making it cheap to do so) local independently operated produce stands throughout the county), as well as community education via ads for why to eat healthy foods. Food is medicine. 3) I would push for more SUD services to help address the myriad of SUD's in this part of Appalachia, including a GOOD detox facility (ie: properly licensed SUD counselors, case managers, nurses, doctors, peer supports, and security staff, also substance use education classes, group counseling, one-on-one counseling, recovery support groups such as AA, NA, RR, MARA, etc., healthy food, and clean rooms/facilities). I would love to see transitional/sober housing in this area as well. 4) There is a serious need for affordable child care in this area 5) There is a need for good mechanics in this area 6) I would also like to create a free community gathering space for anyone to come regardless of religion/lack of religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. Literally a safe space. In that space I would like to have youth programs and adult programs - classes for the community. Anything from crafts to knot tying to yoga. The instructors would be the ones to set the cost per person. It would also have a bus or multiple buses to transport people. 7) I also would love to see cheaper and more available housing than what there is currently. The average wages do not match the cost of living here. 8) Not just access to healthcare, but access to GOOD healthcare.

There are some very poor choices in this area.

Increased funding for mental health and substance use prevention, and family/parenting classes.

Also increased access to reliable public transportation.

Would like to see the farmer's market expanded year round, rather than just summer months.

While basic healthcare is available, access to medical specialists is limited. Recruiting more specialists would reduce amount of/length of travel, as well as appointment availability. Expansion of backpack/summer food programs and food banks. So many families struggling to make ends meet. Food should be accessible, free to anyone regardless of age. No one should struggle with hunger.

Gym that is closer to where I live and not drive for 25 miles, more care for people that struggle to buy medicine for food, it has to be a choice for some of the people that I know. Checking on the elderly in the neighborhood that I live. I do my best to help people, wished everyone would do the same in my area.

Jobs substance use treatment

would like to see a pay raise on my check.

Instead of building more restaurants, banks, and hotels, the community should invest in more recreational area/services. The county should also be more proactive in attracting businesses requiring skilled labor and work with the community college to ensure that a skilled workforce is readily available. The current trend toward trying to become a 'tourist' town is, in my opinion, futile. The types of tourism available in this area is niche, at best. Clean it up. People don't seem to care the way they live.

Make recreation opportunities less expensive; provide more activities for our youth

More jobs

It would be nice to have a community garden, a local health center and a walking track/gym available

Would like to see more recreational exercise programs at reduced rates for residents out in the county.

Put more parks and places for children to go to entertained and safe place to grow. Open more drug awareness places for children. More info and access to drug rehabilitation.

