COMMUNITY
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2025

St. Lawrence County
Community Development
Program, Inc.

Prepared by Crescendo Consulting Group

crescendo

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Organizational Background

The St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, known as CDP, is a private, not-for-profit agency that serves St. Lawrence County. It is one of 49 agencies in a network in New York State and one of a thousand Community Action Agencies that exist in the United States.

CDP was incorporated in 1965 and operates programs and services for low-income families to assist them toward self-sufficiency. We encourage self-reliance and responsible community participation among those we serve. Through our programs, families gain access to resources and services that not only help alleviate the financial burden brought on by underemployment and an ever-rising cost of living but also seek to ultimately move them towards self-support.

Our programs aim to offer a hand up, not a hand out.

Mission

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program is committed to encourage and assist low income individuals and families to attain self-reliance, dignity and self-sufficiency through education, guidance and services.

Vision

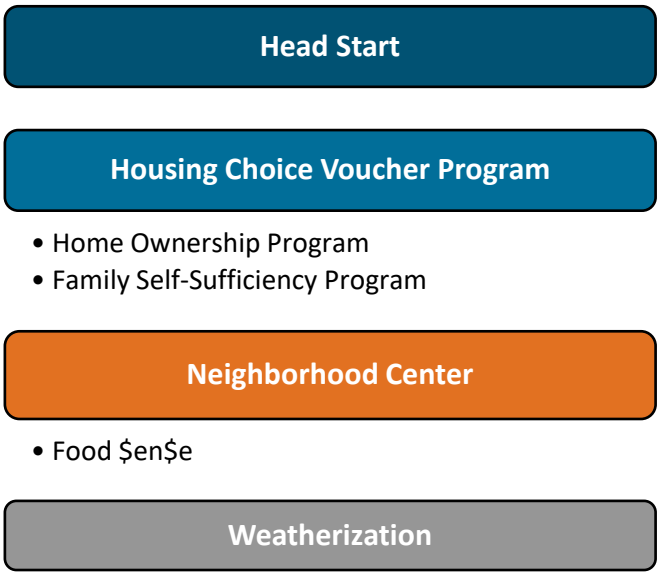
St. Lawrence County Community Development Program is a community organization that envisions equal opportunities and self-sufficiency for low-income individuals and families in St. Lawrence County

Values

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program aims to provide quality customer service to our current and potential program participants, support a work environment that fosters creativity and promotes the exploration of innovative ideas, and adhere to best practices in every aspect of the organization.

Community Programs

CDP provides programs that support food access, housing stability, family development, energy assistance, and early childhood education through Head Start. In 2024–2025 alone, the agency distributed more than half a million pounds of food, administered 585 housing vouchers, weatherized nearly 100 homes, and provided early education to over 230 children. Each year, thousands of individuals and families turn to CDP for the resources they need to meet immediate challenges and build toward long-term self-sufficiency.



Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive school readiness program for children between three and five years of age. Head Start has experienced, certified teachers who provide a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment for children, including children with special needs. Head Start children will acquire skills in math, science, literacy, language, social/emotional, physical health and development. Through play, children learn to express their thoughts and feelings, increase self-confidence, and have positive relationships with others.

Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) is a program which is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with the purpose of providing rental assistance for income-eligible families. The ultimate goal is to provide renters with safe, affordable housing.

- **Home Ownership Program** is another program for HCVP participants. The focus of this program is to assist eligible families to purchase their first home. It allows a family to use their rental assistance voucher to make their mortgage payment.

- **Family Self-Sufficiency Program** is for HCVP participants who want to achieve economic independence. This involves personalized case management and referring families to local services.

St. Lawrence County CDP operates six **Neighborhood Centers** throughout the county. The centers are each staffed by a director and provide services to low-income families with the assistance of community volunteers; the services may be directly offered at the centers, or families may be referred to other agencies and resources as needed. Centers have food pantries and provide emergency aid if required with food, fuel, utilities, or shelter. Thrift stores with donated clothing and household items are available at the Canton and Gouverneur Neighborhood Centers.

- **Food ene**, a program provided by the Food Bank of Central New York, is a monthly food-buying co-op with no qualifications, subscriptions or requirements to participate. Anyone within the eleven counties served can utilize the service. Through the program, one has access to a monthly box of 12-15 staple grocery items at a discounted price.

Weatherization is designed for homeowners or renters to make their home more energy efficient. There are income guidelines for this program. This program provides a number of weatherization measures which include window and door replacement; attic and sidewall insulation; health and safety measures including smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; and furnace cleaning and tuning.

Needs Assessment Overview

Purpose and Goals

A Community Needs Assessment (CNA) provides a framework using the available strengths and resources in the community to support and meet the needs of children, youth, and families.[1]

Community Action Agencies are required to complete a CNA every three years to receive Community Service Building Grant (CSBG) funding. Section 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act states "…that the State will secure from each eligible entity in the State …a community action plan …that includes a community needs assessment for the community served, which may be coordinated with community needs assessment conducted for other programs…" A Community Needs Assessment must meet the CSBG Standards Category Three for Community Assessments.

A Community Needs Assessment that meets the standards establishes a profile of a community, noting both needs, as well as the community resources. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) conduct these assessments of services related to a community that can be addressed and help identify the most impacted populations. CAAs should include both qualitative and quantitative data to assist in identifying needs in the community. The identification of needs at the family, community, and agency levels used in conjunction with a strategic planning process, can determine the outcomes that the agency plans to achieve for the next three years to implement and enhance services and activities for children, youth, and families to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.

Methodology

The ultimate objective of this Community Needs Assessment (CNA) is to improve the quality of life for residents living in the CDP's service area. Specifically, the CNA provides a comprehensive picture of the health and well-being of residents in St. Lawrence County.

CDP worked with Crescendo Consulting Group (CCG) as a research and assessment partner to formalize and implement the CNA process. The process listed in the methodology section of the report outlines how the study was designed to evaluate the perspectives and opinions of area stakeholders and community members.

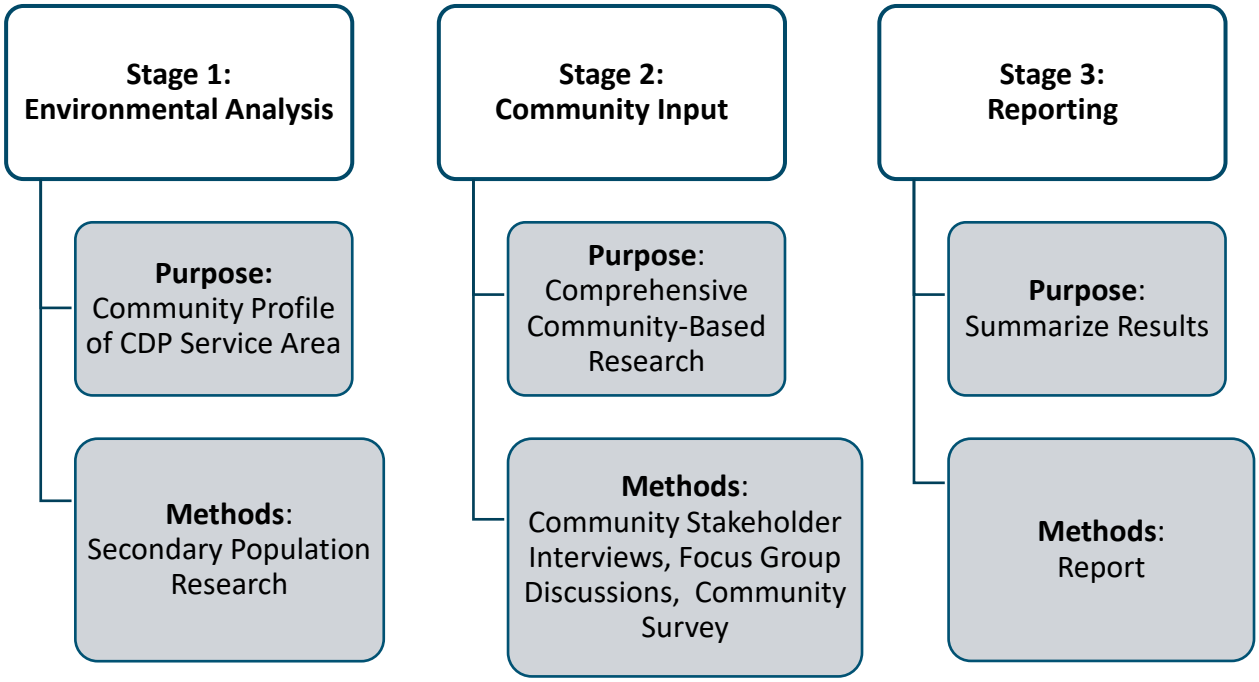
The CNA methodology includes a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods designed to evaluate perspectives and opinions of stakeholders and consumers – especially

[1] Child Welfare Information Gateway. Community Needs Assessment.

those from underserved populations. The methodology that was used helps establish a basis for continued community engagement, in addition to identifying broad, community-based needs.

The major sections of the methodology and report include the following:

- **Strategic Secondary Research:** This type of research includes a thorough analysis of previously published materials that provide insight regarding the community profile and health-related measures.
- **Qualitative Interviews:** This form of primary research includes 11 stakeholder interviews, two focus groups with eight participants with CDP leadership, CDP staff familiar with needs of families, and community members across St. Lawrence County.
- **Community Survey:** Crescendo conducted an online survey with 421 responses from community members. Survey results and analysis can be found in this report. The survey instrument is contained Appendix D: Primary Research Tools.



Data Limitations

Data collection methodologies inherently present certain limitations that can affect the comprehensiveness and representativeness of findings. These limitations underscore the importance of interpreting data within the context of its collection methods and acknowledging potential biases that may influence the findings.

Environmental Analysis: Utilizing publicly available secondary data sources, such as the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), provides valuable insights. However, these datasets are limited to respondents who completed the survey, potentially leading to underrepresentation of specific groups. Notably, the ACS experienced a response rate decline from 86% in 2019 to 71% in 2020, with rates not fully rebounding to pre-pandemic levels by 2022.[2] This decline may result in nonresponse bias, affecting the accuracy and completeness of the data.

Qualitative Data: Efforts to engage diverse community sectors are crucial for comprehensive qualitative insights. Despite these efforts, participation is limited to those who chose or were able to engage, which may not fully capture the perspectives of all community segments.

Community Survey: The Community Survey employs probability sampling to gather reliable local information on quality of life, health, employment, and neighborhood resources. While the survey aims to provide a deeper view into the community that is not attainable through interviews and focus groups alone, the reliance on respondents' willingness to participate can introduce nonresponse bias, potentially affecting the representativeness of the data.

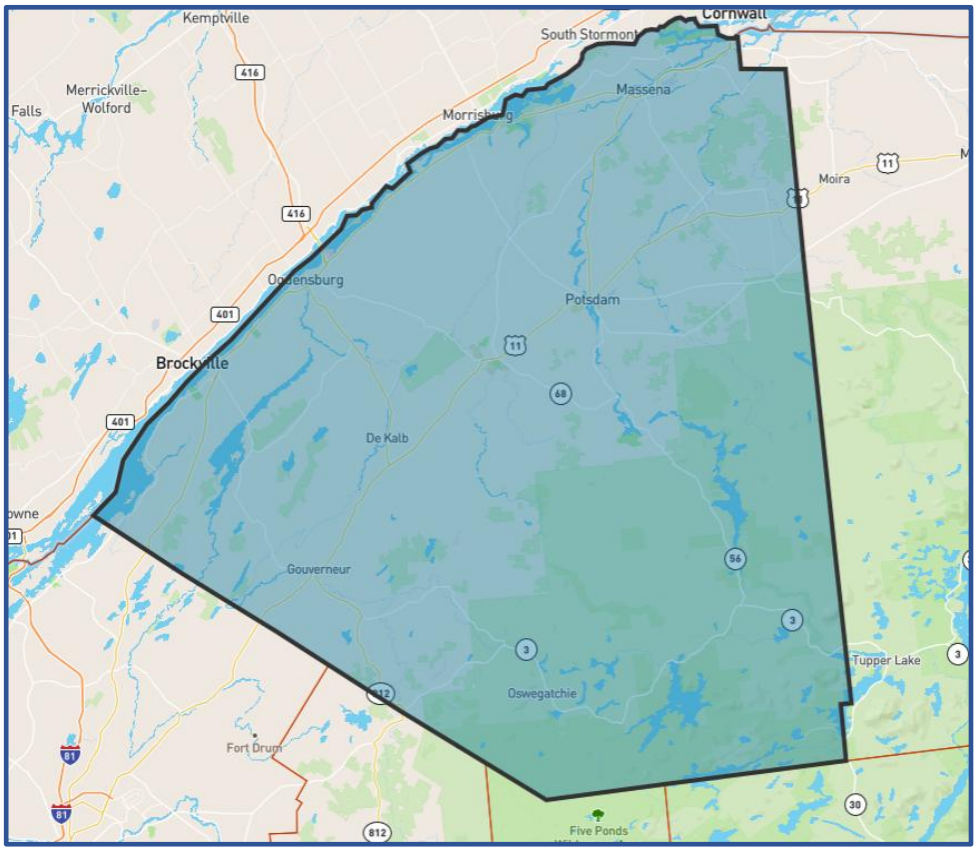
[2] U.S. Census Bureau. *Response rates*. American Community Survey. Retrieved December 3, 2024, from https://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample-size-and-data-quality/response-rates/

Community Served

St. Lawrence County, located along the Canadian border, is a largely rural mix of farms, forests, and small towns. At 2,822 square miles, it is the largest county in New York State and the fifth largest county east of the Mississippi River. The county includes 32 towns, 10 villages, and one city. Canton, the county seat, is located about 25 miles from the St. Lawrence River. Nearly one-third of the county lies within the Adirondack Park, offering unique wilderness areas and extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation.[3]

The St. Lawrence County Community Development Program (SLCCDP) is a private, not-for-profit Community Action Agency serving residents across the county. Incorporated in 1965, SLCCDP is one of 49 agencies in New York State and part of a nationwide network of more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies. Its mission is to encourage and assist individuals and families to achieve self-reliance, dignity, and self-sufficiency through education, guidance, and services.[4]

Service Area Map



[3] St. Lawrence County Government – About St. Lawrence County 2025

[4] St. Lawrence County Community Development Program – About Us 2025

Secondary Data Findings

Secondary data provides an essential framework from which to better understand the fabric of the community. This analysis highlights sociodemographic factors, social determinants of health, behavioral health risk factors, and other key indicators to further guide the development of effective strategies to meet evolving needs.

The following data was primarily gathered from the United States Census Bureau 2019-2023 American Community Survey (ACS) Five-year Estimates, the CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the New York Department of Public Health, among others.

For additional, more in-depth data, please see the data tables in Appendix B. The following pages show key findings and high-level summary data.

Demographics

St. Lawrence County, New York
Demographic Overview

Total Population
107,796

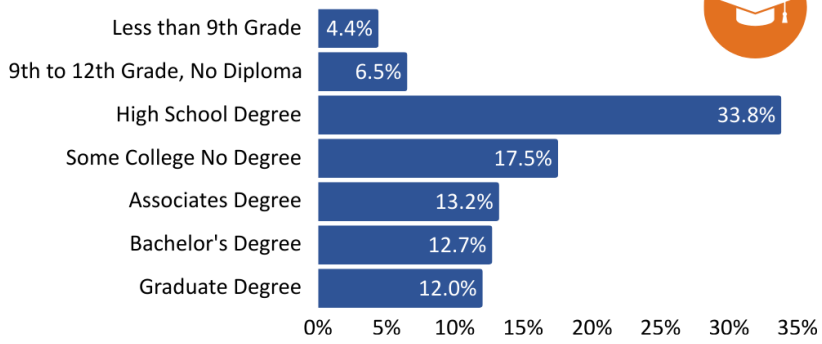
Population by Age

Under 19	20 to 64	65 +	Median Age
25.3%	56.3%	18.4%	38.7

Population Change

2010		2023		2032
111,944	-3.7%	107,796	-0.3%	107,482

Education



10.9% of St. Lawrence County residents **do not have a high school diploma.**

Race & Ethnicity

92.1%	2.5%	3.7%	2.0%	1.0%
White	Hispanic / Latino	Two or More Races	Black / African American	Asian

Economic Wellbeing

Median Household Income
$61,900

Households Below Poverty Level
17.6%

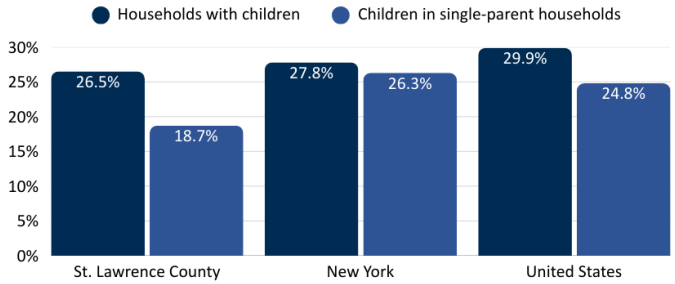
Unemployment Rate
5.7%

Households Receiving SNAP Benefits
15.8%

Household Composition

Households with Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren

St. Lawrence County	New York
1.2%	1.1%



Languages Spoken

Top languages

English Only	93.0%
Spanish	1.3%
Other Indo-European languages	0.6%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	4.8%
Other Languages	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019-2023 Five-year Estimates

Population Characteristics

Slightly more than 100,000 people live in St. Lawrence County, which has a younger age profile compared to state and national medians.

Exhibit 1: Population by Sex and Age

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total population	107,796	19,872,319	332,387,540
Male	49.0%	51.2%	50.5%
Female	51.0%	48.8%	49.5%
Median age	38.7	39.6	39.0
Under 5	4.9%	5.6%	5.7%
5 to 9	5.4%	5.6%	6.0%
10 to 14	6.0%	6.0%	6.5%
15 to 19	9.0%	6.1%	6.6%
20 to 24	8.6%	6.3%	6.5%
25 to 34	11.1%	14.3%	13.7%
35 to 44	11.1%	12.9%	13.1%
45 to 54	11.5%	12.5%	12.3%
55 to 59	6.8%	6.8%	6.4%
60 to 64	7.2%	6.6%	6.4%
65 to 74	11.1%	10.1%	10.0%
75 to 84	5.2%	5.1%	4.9%
85 +	2.1%	2.2%	1.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- The median age of residents in St. Lawrence County is 38.7 years old.
- The majority of St. Lawrence County residents (56.3%) are between the ages of 20 and 64. Those age 65 and older make up 18.4% of the population, a percentage slightly higher than the state and national averages.

In St. Lawrence County, the total number of people living with a Disability is 18,595. The percentage of residents living with a disability increases with age in St. Lawrence County and remains higher than state and national levels.

Exhibit 2: Disability Population by Age

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Population living with a disability	18,595	2,394,964	42,703,063
Under 5 years	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%
5 to 17 years	8.5%	5.7%	6.1%

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
18 to 34 years	10.0%	6.6%	7.7%
35 to 64 years	20.0%	11.2%	12.4%
65 to 74 years	28.5%	22.1%	24.0%
75 years and over	47.4%	45.4%	46.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- In St. Lawrence County, disability rates exceed state and national levels across age groups that are five and up. Nearly half (47.4%) of residents age 75 and older live with a disability, as do about one in five (20.0%) residents aged 35 to 64.

Disability prevalence in St. Lawrence County exceeds state and national levels across all major categories. Ambulatory difficulty is the most common, followed by cognitive, hearing, and independent living difficulties.

Exhibit 3: Disability Population by Type

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Population living with a disability	18,595	2,394,964	42,703,063
Hearing difficulty	5.7%	2.8%	3.6%
Vision difficulty	3.1%	2.2%	2.4%
Cognitive difficulty	7.0%	4.7%	5.1%
Ambulatory difficulty	8.4%	6.3%	6.3%
Self-care difficulty	2.9%	2.6%	2.4%
Independent living difficulty	5.9%	4.8%	4.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- In St. Lawrence County, 18,595 residents live with a disability, representing a higher proportion in several categories compared to state and national levels. The most common disability type is ambulatory difficulty (8.4%), followed by independent living difficulty (5.9%), cognitive difficulty (7.0%), hearing difficulty (5.7%), vision difficulty (3.1%), and self-care difficulty (2.9%).

A greater proportion of St. Lawrence County residents are living with a disability. Across nearly all demographic groups, a higher share of St. Lawrence County residents live with a disability compared to New York State and the United States overall.

Exhibit 4: Population Living with a Disability

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Population living with a disability	18,595	2,394,964	42,703,063

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Male	18.2%	11.5%	12.9%
Female	17.1%	12.8%	13.2%
White	18.0%	12.5%	13.9%
Black or African American	14.8%	13.7%	14.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	23.6%	15.5%	15.7%
Asian	10.0%	7.8%	7.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	15.5%	12.7%
Some other race	12.3%	12.0%	8.2%
Two or more races	12.1%	11.6%	17.4%
Hispanic or Latino	15.1%	12.2%	9.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- Disability prevalence in St. Lawrence County is higher across most demographic groups. American Indian and Alaska Native residents have the highest rate at 23.6%, followed by White residents at 18.0%, Hispanic or Latino residents at 15.1%, and those identifying with two or more races at 12.1%.
- While American Indian and Alaska Native and Hispanic or Latino residents make up relatively small portions of the county population (0.4% and 2.5%, respectively), more than one in seven individuals in each group is living with a disability.

St. Lawrence County has a higher percentage of veterans than the state and national averages.

Exhibit 5: Veteran Population

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Civilian population 18 and over	86,073	15,737,168	257,456,135
Civilian veterans	7.1%	3.9%	6.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

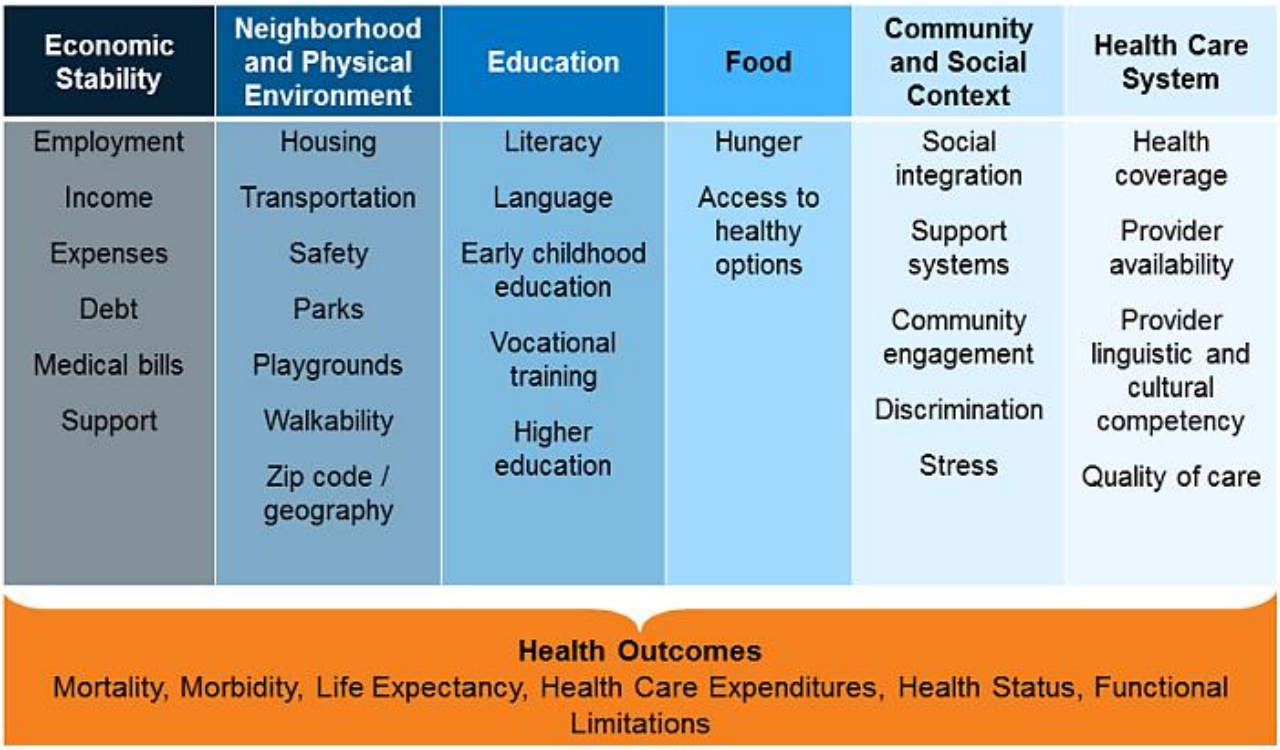
- Approximately 7.1% of residents are veterans in St. Lawrence County, higher than the state percentage (3.9%) and national percentage (6.4%).

Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and grow older. These factors affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

These conditions contribute to wide health disparities and inequities. For example, people who don't have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition. That raises their risk of health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity — and even lowers life expectancy relative to people who do have access to healthy foods.[5]

Exhibit 6: Social Determinants of Health



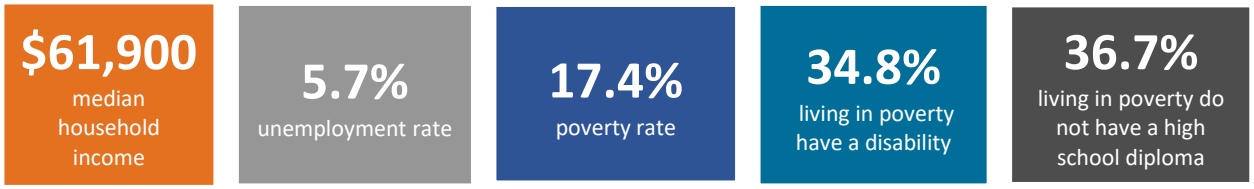
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

[5] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030, Social Determinants of Health.

Economic Stability

Economic stability is a known social determinant of health, as people living in poverty are less likely to have access to health care, healthy food, stable housing, and opportunities for physical activity. Poverty creates barriers, increasing the risk of preventable diseases and poor health outcomes.[6]

The Economic Profile of St. Lawrence County



Income & Employment

Income and employment are crucial components that contribute to a person's socioeconomic status, which is commonly measured as a combination of education, income, and occupation.[7]

The median household in St. Lawrence County is $61,990, which is approximately between $16,000 to $22,000 below the state and national medians.

Exhibit 7: Household Income by Age

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Median household income	$61,900	$84,578	$78,538
15 to 24 years	$26,262	$46,866	$43,534
25 to 44 years	$72,970	$97,722	$87,575
45 to 64 years	$74,260	$100,146	$94,847
65 years and older	$46,446	$58,643	$57,108

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- When looking at median household income by age group, the largest gap occurs among those aged 45 to 64 years, with a median income of $74,260. This is $20,500 to $25,800 lower than the State ($100,146) and National ($94,847) averages.

[6] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health, Economic Stability.

[7] American Psychological Association, Socioeconomic Status.

Unemployment rates in St. Lawrence County improved over the past few years, decreasing from 6.5% in 2021 to 5.7% in 2024.

Exhibit 8: Trend of Unemployment Rates[8]

January	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States[9]
2025	5.7%	4.4%	ND
2024	5.7%	4.2%	4.0%
2023	4.9%	4.0%	3.6%
2022	4.9%	5.2%	3.6%
2021	6.5%	8.6%	5.4%

Source: New York State Department of Labor. Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2021-2025

- In 2023 and 2024, the unemployment rate in St. Lawrence County was higher than the state and national rates.
- By 2025, the county's unemployment rate remained at 5.7%, showing no improvement from the prior year. In contrast, the state rate rose slightly from 4.2% to 4.4%, while national-level data for 2025 were not yet available.

In St. Lawrence County, about 76.1% of mothers with children under age six are in the labor force. This means nearly three out of four mothers are working, which increases the demand for affordable and reliable childcare options such as Head Start.

Exhibit 9: Mothers in Labor Force

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Mothers in Labor Force with Children Under Age 6	76.1%	76.2%	73.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

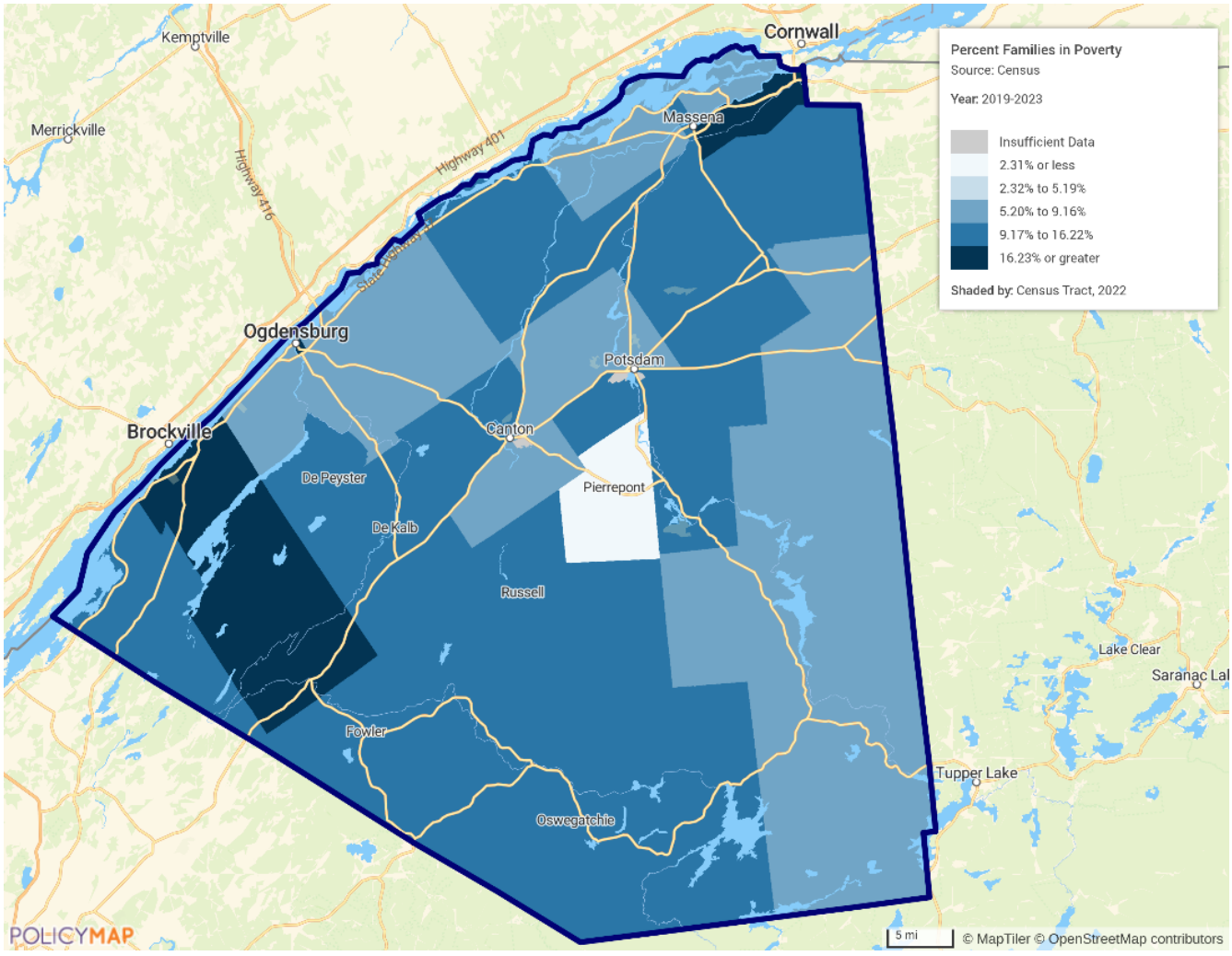
[8] Rates are not seasonally adjusted.

[9] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate [UNRATENSA], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Economically Disadvantaged Populations

Poverty is one of the most visible indicators of economic hardship and an important factor shaping community health. Families living below the poverty line often face barriers to accessing adequate housing, nutritious food, health care, and educational opportunities. These challenges contribute to poorer health outcomes and shorter life expectancy.[10] Since income is a core component of socioeconomic status, higher poverty rates within a community reflect broader socioeconomic disadvantages and highlight areas where health disparities are most likely to occur.

Exhibit 10: Percent of Families in Poverty by Census Tract, 2023



[10] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health Literature Summaries, Poverty.

In St. Lawrence County, 17.4% of the population lives at or below 100% Federal Poverty Level, a rate higher than both the state (13.7%) and national (12.4%) levels.

Exhibit 11: Poverty Rate by Select Age Groups

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Poverty rate of total population	17.4%	13.7%	12.4%
Under five	25.9%	18.6%	17.6%
5 to 17	22.8%	18.0%	15.9%
18 to 34	22.8%	14.4%	14.4%
35 to 64 years	14.3%	11.4%	10.0%
65 and older	11.9%	12.7%	10.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- One in four children under age five (25.9%) live in poverty in St. Lawrence County, compared to less than 20% of those in the state or nation.
- Almost one in five of individuals ages 5 to 34 in St. Lawrence County live in poverty, compared to less than 19% at the state level and under 16% nationally.
- Among residents 65 and older, the poverty rate in St. Lawrence County (11.9%) is slightly lower than the state (12.7%) but higher than the national rate (10.4%).

Residents who do not have a high school diploma are more likely than those with higher levels of education to live in poverty in St. Lawrence County, and this gap is greater than the state or nation.

Exhibit 12: Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment[11]

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total population living below the poverty level	17.4%	13.7%	12.4%
Less than high school graduate	36.7%	27.7%	24.0%
High school graduate	17.1%	16.0%	14.0%
Some college, associate's degree	11.3%	10.8%	9.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	6.2%	5.1%	4.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- Approximately 36.7% of St. Lawrence County residents who do not have a high school diploma are living below the poverty level, compared to 27.7% of those in the state and 24.0% of those in the nation with the same level of educational attainment.

[11] Population 25 years and older

Approximately 34.8% of residents who have a disability in St. Lawrence County live below the poverty line.

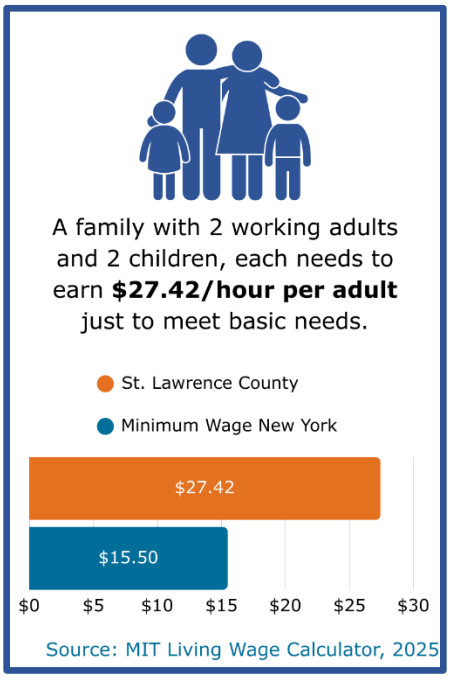
Exhibit 13: Poverty Rate for People Living With a Disability

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
With any disability	34.8%	30.4%	26.2%
No disability	19.5%	15.5%	14.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Cost of Living

Each year, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) estimates the cost of living for different household sizes across all U.S. counties. These calculations account for essential expenses such as housing, transportation, food, and childcare. In 2025, a two-adult, two-child household in St. Lawrence County would need an annual income of $114,049 before taxes to meet basic needs. This equates to each working adult earning $27.42 per hour, or a combined wage of $54.84 per hour. On average, local households spend more than $12,000 annually on housing and over $17,000 on transportation, while childcare is the largest expense at more than $24,000 per year. Nearly half of the household's annual income is required just to cover these necessities. With a minimum wage of $15.50 per hour, many working families struggle to afford these basic costs and achieve financial stability.



To maintain a minimum living wage, a resident of St. Lawrence County with no children must earn $21.02 an hour. Costs associated with food, childcare, medical, housing, transportation, and civic expenses vary based on the number of adults and children.

Exhibit 14: Living Wage Calculator & Annual Expenses

St. Lawrence County	1 Adult, 0 Children	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	2 Working Adults, No Children	2 Working Adults, 1 Child	2 Adults, 2 Children
Food	$4,222	$6,209	$9,300	$7,741	$9,621	$12,376
Childcare	$0	$13,114	$24,518	$0	$13,114	$24,518
Medical	$3,662	$9,182	$9,273	$7,215	$10,386	$10,726
Housing	$8,724	$12.484	$12,484	$9,761	$12,484	$12,484
Transportation	$10,512	$12,166	$15,325	$12,166	$15,325	$17,633
Civic	$3,535	$6,224	$6,871	$6,224	$6,871	$8,810

St. Lawrence County	1 Adult, 0 Children	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	2 Working Adults, No Children	2 Working Adults, 1 Child	2 Adults, 2 Children
Required annual income after taxes	$36,720	$69,648	$88,458	$53,944	$79,599	$99,661
Annual taxes	$6,994	$11,074	$14,177	$8,816	$12,340	$14,388
Required annual income before taxes	$43,714	$80,722	$102,636	$62,761	$91,939	$114,049
Living Wage	$21.02	$38.81	$49.34	$15.09	$22.10	$27.42
Poverty Wage	$7.52	$10.17	$12.81	$5.08	$6.41	$7.73
Minimum Wage	$15.50	$15.50	$15.50	$15.50	$15.50	$15.50

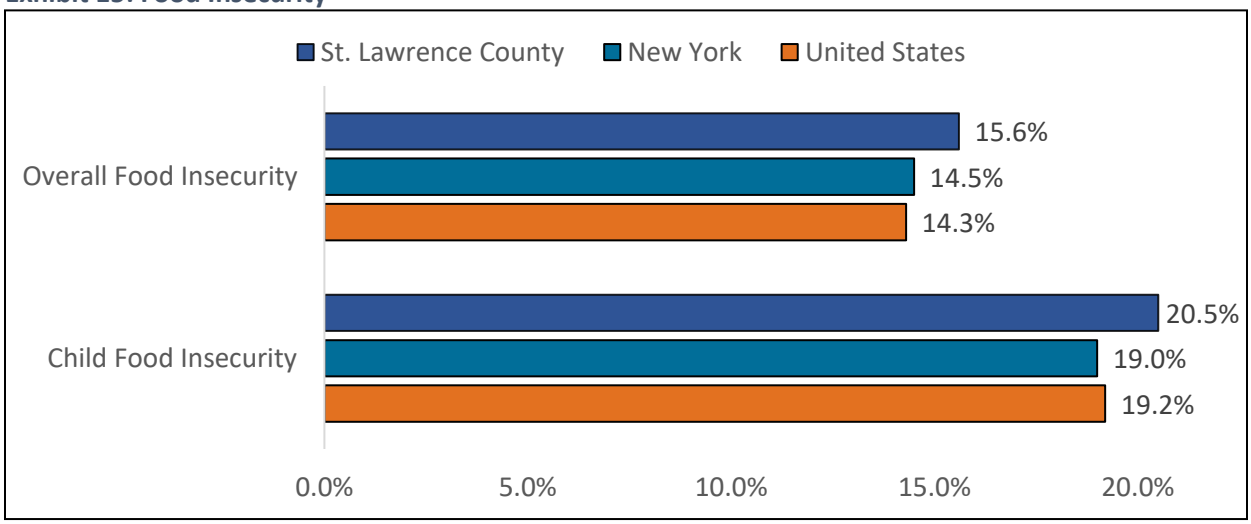
Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator, 2025

Food

Food insecurity is defined as the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of a lack of money and other resources. Food insecurity may be long-term or temporary. It may be influenced by several factors including income, employment, race/ethnicity, and disability. The risk of food insecurity increases when money to buy food is limited or not available. Additionally, people living in some urban areas, rural areas, and low-income neighborhoods may have limited access to full-service supermarkets or grocery stores.[12]

Compared to state and national averages, St. Lawrence County has higher percentages of overall food insecurity and child food insecurity. The average meal cost that food-insecure individuals report spending on food ranges from $3.58 to $3.78 in the United States, New York, and St. Lawrence County.

Exhibit 15: Food Insecurity



	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Overall food insecurity	15.6%	14.5%	14.3%
Above SNAP, Other Nutrition Programs threshold of 200% poverty	30.0%	35.0%	37.0%
Below SNAP, Other Nutrition Programs threshold of 200% poverty	70.0%	65.0%	73.0%
Child food insecurity	20.5%	19.0%	19.2%
Likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes above 185% of poverty)	20.0%	22.0%	33.0%

[12] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health Literature Summaries, Food Insecurity.

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Income eligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes at or below 185% poverty)	80.0%	78.0%	67.0%
Average meal cost	$3.69	$3.78	$3.58

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2023

- In St. Lawrence County 15.6% of the population experiences food insecurity. Approximately 30.0% of the food insecure population is above the 200% poverty threshold and does not qualify for SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs, above the national level.
- About one in five children are considered food insecure in St. Lawrence County. There are 20.0% of children who are food insecure in the county but are likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs because they live in households whose income is above 185% poverty.

In St. Lawrence County, some households receive SNAP benefits.

Exhibit 16: SNAP Assistance Program Enrollment

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total households	41,732	7,668,956	127,485,865
Households receiving SNAP	15.8%	15.0%	11.8%
SNAP authorized stores[13]	125	17,278	261,770

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- In St. Lawrence County, 15.8% of households are receiving SNAP, with 125 stores that accept SNAP. Nationally, 11.8% of households receive SNAP benefits.

In St. Lawrence County, more than half of children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, a rate comparable to both New York State and the nation.

Exhibit 17: Percent of children receiving free/reduced lunch

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total households	41,732	7,668,956	127,485,865
Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	56.0%	57.0%	55.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023 | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). St. Lawrence County, New York health data.

[13] U.S. Department of Agriculture: SNAP Retailer Management Year End Summary FY 2023

Educational Attainment

Children from low-income families, children with disabilities, and those who face social discrimination are more likely to have difficulties with reading and math. They are also less likely to finish high school or attend college. Without these educational opportunities, young people have fewer chances for safe, well-paying jobs and may face more health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, or depression. Living in poverty can also affect how a child's brain develops, making it harder to succeed in school. Programs that support students in the classroom and help families afford college can improve health and well-being in the long term. People with more education often live longer and healthier lives.

Finishing high school is a basic requirement for most jobs and higher education programs. Students who drop out face more challenges, including fewer job options, lower wages, and a higher chance of living in poverty.

Going to college can greatly improve employment opportunities. A degree often leads to better-paying jobs with safer working conditions. Higher earnings also give families access to better housing and stability, along with social benefits like improved status and connections. While there are benefits of attending college, many young people still face barriers to enrolling and completing their degrees.

In St. Lawrence County, the majority of residents aged 25 and older have attained at least a high school diploma.

Exhibit 18: Highest Level of Educational Attainment

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Less than 9th Grade	4.4%	6.0%	4.7%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	6.5%	6.2%	5.9%
High School Degree	33.8%	24.6%	26.2%
Some College No Degree	17.5%	14.9%	19.4%
Associates Degree	13.2%	8.9%	8.8%
Bachelor's Degree	12.7%	22.0%	21.3%
Graduate Degree	12.0%	17.5%	13.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- One in three (33.8%) residents in St. Lawrence have obtained a high school degree as their highest level of educational attainment, which is higher than the state and national averages.
- Overall, 37.9% of residents have obtained higher education, including 13.2% with an associate's degree, 12.7% with a bachelor's degree, and 12.0% with a graduate or professional degree.

The New York State Education Department establishes performance standards to measure student learning. For both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, students are expected to score at Level 3 or higher in order to be considered proficient. Achieving this level indicates that students have met grade-level expectations and can demonstrate the knowledge and skills outlined in the curriculum standards.[14]

Compared to the state of New York, St. Lawrence County has a slightly lower percentage of students meeting proficiency benchmarks.

Exhibit 19: Academic Indicators

	St. Lawrence County	New York
ELA performance 3rd grade[15]	34.3%	38.8%
ELA performance 4th grade	39.9%	41.4%
Math performance 8th grade	31.5%	19.8%
Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate	85.5%	86.4%
Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Dropout Rate	6.5%	4.9%

Source: New York State Council on Children and Families: Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. KWIC Indicator, 2022-23

- Approximately 31.5% of 8th graders are at or above a level 3 proficiency in math.
- The graduation rate for students in high school was 85.5%, while the dropout rate was 6.5%.

In New York State, learning disabilities are the most frequently reported condition among children and youth, affecting an estimated 149,088 individuals between the ages of 4 and 21.

Exhibit 20: Youth and Children with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Programs and Services

	New York					
	4-5 years	6-11 years	12-13 years	14-17 years	18-21 years	**Total**
Autism	8,379	32,487	8,219	14,245	4,006	**67,336**
Emotional disturbance	278	4,241	2,908	7,703	1,150	**16,280**
Learning disability	525	49,741	30,157	62,703	5,962	**149,088**
Intellectual disability	156	2,598	1,673	4,120	2,055	**10,602**
Deafness	56	391	180	323	101	**1,051**
Hearing impairment	156	1,222	456	835	64	**2,733**
Speech or language impairment	21,710	89,428	16,108	20,181	1,530	**148,957**

[14] Council on Children & Families: Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. KWIC Indicator Narrative, 2022

[15] The number reported is the number of students scoring at or above proficiency (level 3 or higher); NYS Education Department; Office of Information; Reporting and Technology Services, 2018-2019

	New York					
Visual impairment (includes blindness)	52	507	184	388	48	**1,179**
Orthopedic impairment	119	674	199	348	56	**1,396**
Other health impairment	3,885	36,822	15,563	30,114	1,882	**88,266**
Multiple disabilities	668	4,426	1,682	3,700	2,028	**12,504**
Deaf- blindness	2	6	2	6	6	**22**
Traumatic brain injury	18	215	107	253	54	**647**
Total	**46,505**	**36,004**	**222,758**	**77,438**	**144,919**	**18,942**

Source: New York State Education Department. Children with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Programs & Services, 2023

- In New York State, an estimated 46,505 children aged 4 to 5 have a disability.
- Speech or language impairments are the most common, affecting about 21,170 children in this age group.
- Autism is the second most prevalent disability, reported among approximately 8,379 children aged 4 to 5.

Childcare and Early Education

Early childhood, particularly the first five years of life, impacts long–term social, cognitive, emotional, and physical development. Healthy development in early childhood helps prepare children for the educational experiences of kindergarten and beyond. Early childhood development and education opportunities are affected by various environmental and social factors, including early life stress, socioeconomic status, relationships with parents and caregivers, and access to early education programs.

In St. Lawrence County, childcare affordability presents a challenge: households with two children spend an estimated 42% of median household income on childcare costs, far above national levels. This cost burden can limit access to early education and place additional strain on families.

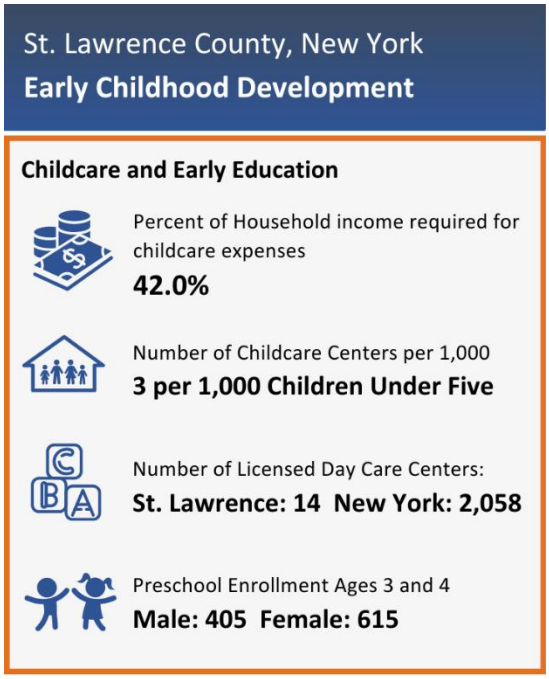


Exhibit 21: Childcare Centers

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Licensed Day Care Centers	14	2,058	92,550[16]
Number of childcare centers per 1,000 population under five	3	6	7
Percent of household income required for childcare expenses	42.0%	38.0%	28.0%

Source: Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services, 2025. | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). St. Lawrence County, New York health data.

Exhibit 22: Preschool Enrollment (Ages 3 and 4)

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Female	615	77,650	1,038,613
Male	405	89,310	1,117,293

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

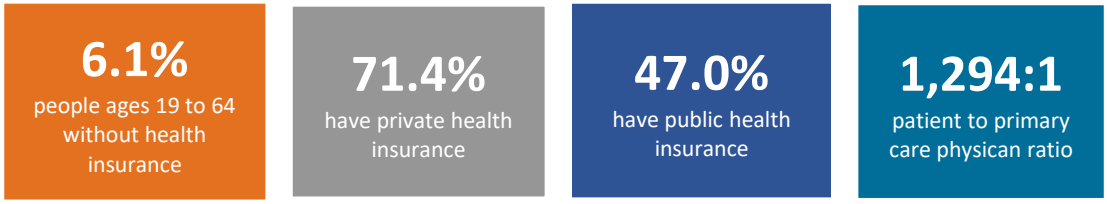
[16] Calculations based on CCAoA annual survey of states, 2020-2024. Based on data from 40 states

Health and Behavioral Health

Health Access and Outcomes

Limited health insurance coverage remains a significant barrier to accessing care, and uneven access to coverage contributes to health disparities. The cost of out-of-pocket expenses often forces individuals to postpone or skip necessary services, including medical visits, dental care, and prescriptions, leaving many with medical debt regardless of insurance status. Having a consistent primary care provider is especially important, as it supports routine checkups, preventive screenings, management of chronic conditions, and early detection of disease. People with a regular source of care are also more likely to receive recommended services such as vaccinations, blood pressure monitoring, and cancer screenings.[17]

The Health Profile of St. Lawrence County



The majority of residents in St. Lawrence County are insured, with private health insurance being the most common type of coverage.

Exhibit 23: Insured Population

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
People with Private Health Insurance	71.4%	69.7%	73.6%
People with Public Health Insurance	47.0%	43.7%	39.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019-2023 Five-year Estimates

- Overall 71.4% of residents have private health insurance, which is slightly higher than the state rate.
- Public health insurance coverage is also relatively high (47.0%), exceeding both state and national levels.

[17] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health Literature Summaries, Access to Health Services.

When examining uninsured population by age the biggest gap is seen among children.

Exhibit 24: Uninsured Population

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Age Under 6 without Health Insurance	9.7%	2.4%	4.5%
Age 6 to 18 without Health Insurance	10.5%	2.6%	5.8%
Age 19 to 64 without Health Insurance	6.1%	7.2%	12.0%
Age 65 and Over without Health Insurance	0.0%	0.9%	0.8%
Age 18 and Under with a Disability without Health Insurance	5.7%	1.8%	4.0%
Age 19 to 64 with a Disability without Health Insurance	4.3%	4.9%	10.0%
People in Labor Force without Health Insurance	5.8%	6.9%	11.2%

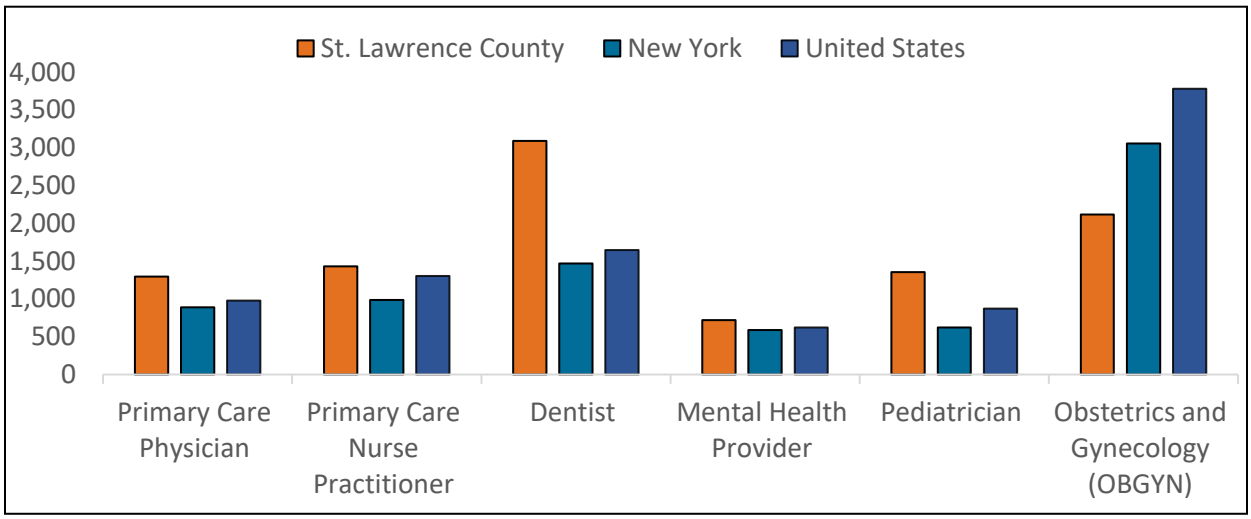
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019-2023 Five-year Estimates

- In St. Lawrence County, 9.7% of children under age 6 and 10.5% of children ages 6 to 18 lack health insurance, rates higher than both the state and national rates.
- Adults ages 19 to 64 are uninsured at a lower rate (6.1%) compared to national levels but remain slightly below the state level.
- No residents aged 65 and over were reported uninsured, reflecting near-universal Medicare coverage.

Provider shortages limit access to both preventive and routine care, which can contribute to delayed diagnoses and poorer long-term health outcomes. Patient-to-provider ratios help illustrate these gaps, with higher ratios indicating fewer providers available to serve residents. In St. Lawrence County, the highest ratio is seen in dental care, where there are over 3,000 residents for every one dentist, more than double the state average.

Examining patient-to-provider ratios helps identify potential barriers in access to care due to provider shortages.

Exhibit 25: Patient to Provider Ratios



	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Primary Care Physician	1,294:1	891:1	980:1
Primary Care Nurse Practitioner	1,430:1	985:1	1,303:1
Dentist	3,019:1	1,468:1	1,648:1
Mental Health Provider	720:1	589:1	624:1
Pediatrician	1,355:1	623:1	873:1
Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN)	2,119:1	3,058:1	3,782:1
Midwife and Doula	13,242:1	10,203:1	12,248:1

Source: National Plan & Provider Enumeration System NPI, 2024. https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Administrative-Simplification/NationalProvIdentStand/DataDissemination

- In St. Lawrence County, there is one primary care physician for every 1,294 residents, a higher ratio than both the state (891:1) and national (980:1) levels indicating less primary care physicians in the community.
- Shortages are most concerning in dentistry and pediatrics. The dentist ratio (3,019:1) is more than double state and national levels, which can result in delayed dental care, untreated oral health problems, and higher risk of preventable conditions. Similarly, the pediatrician ratio (1,355:1) is also double the state rate, raising concerns about timely visits, immunizations, and early identification of developmental or health issues.

Access to dental care is limited in St. Lawrence County, particularly for families who rely on Medicaid. Only a small number of clinics in the county accept Medicaid patients, which creates barriers for low-income families seeking routine and preventive dental care. In a rural area like

St. Lawrence, this often means families must travel long distances to find providers, further delaying or preventing needed treatment.

Exhibit 26: Number of clinics that accept Medicaid

	St. Lawrence County
Medicaid Accepted at Dental Clinic	3

Source: New York State Department of Health. (2025).

- Currently, only three Dental clinics in St. Lawrence County accept Medicaid.

Residents in St. Lawrence County reported slightly higher numbers of poor physical health days compared to the state and national rates.

Exhibit 27: Quality of Life Indicators

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Poor Physical Health Days	4.1	3.9	3.9
Poor or Fair Health	17.0%	16.0%	17.0%

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). *St. Lawrence County, New York health data*.

- Residents in St. Lawrence County have had an average of four poor physical health days in the past 30 days.
- Approximately 17.0% of residents in St. Lawrence County reported being of poor or fair health.

Leading causes of death are an indicator of a population's overall health status or quality of life.

Cancer and heart disease are the leading causes of death in residents in St. Lawrence County.

Exhibit 28: Leading Causes of Death (Rate per 100,000 People), 2023

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Heart Disease	233.8	210.4	203.3
Cancer	211.3	164.9	183.1
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	64.5	31.3	43.4
Accidental Injuries	52.4	54.5	66.5
Stroke	50.5	32.8	48.6
Diabetes	45.8	22.9	28.4
COVID-19	19.6	15.5	14.9
Influenza / Pneumonia	ND	20.5	13.5
Alzheimer's Disease	ND	15.8	34.0
High Blood Pressure	ND	15.0	12.7

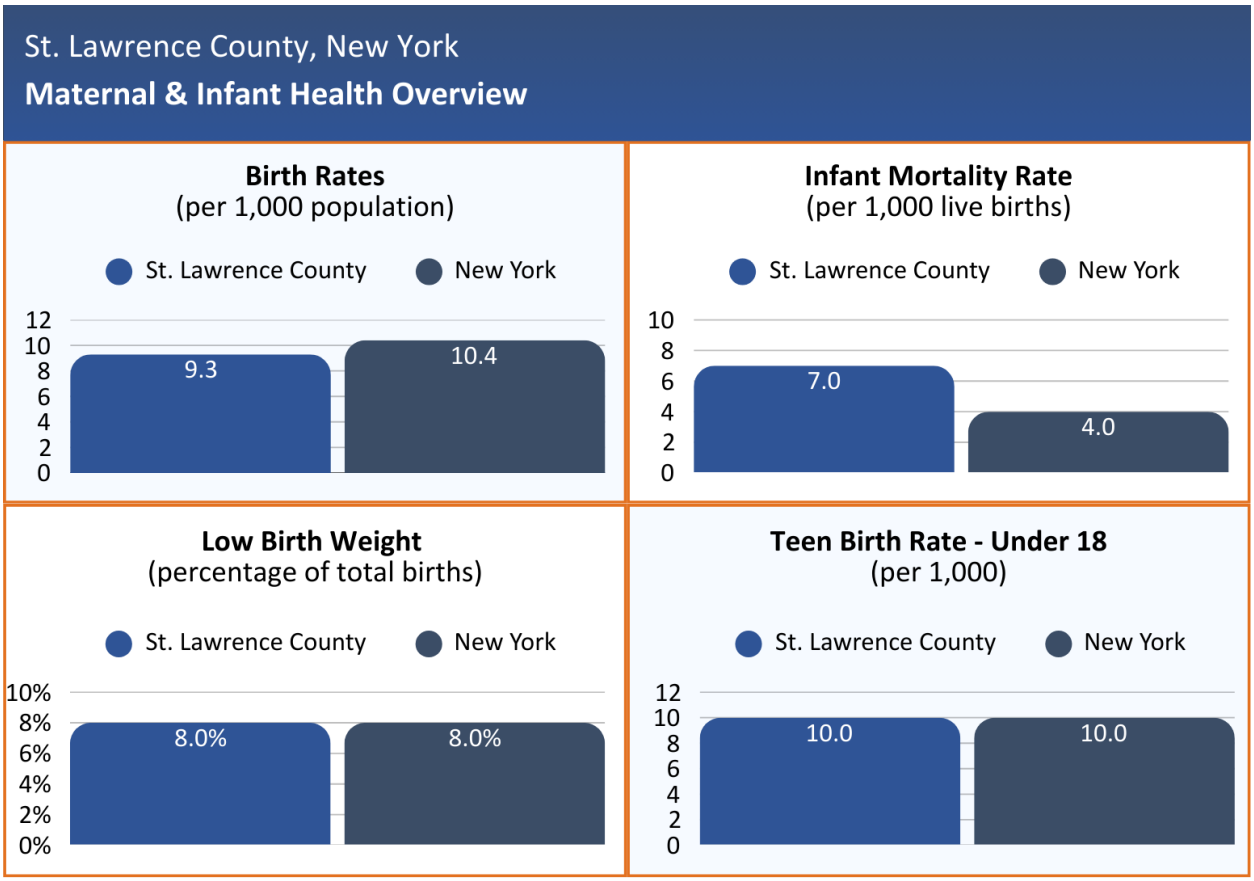
Source: CDC WONDER Causes of Death, 2023. https://wonder.cdc.gov/

- Cancer and heart disease are the leading causes of death in St. Lawrence County, with rates higher than state and national rates.
- Chronic lower respiratory deaths were more than double the state and national rate.

Maternal and Infant Health

Maternal and infant health indicators provide important insights into early life outcomes and long-term community health. In St. Lawrence County, prenatal care access and infant mortality highlight areas of concern, while birth outcomes such as low birth weight and teen births show mixed results compared to state averages.

Exhibit 29: Maternal and Infant Overview

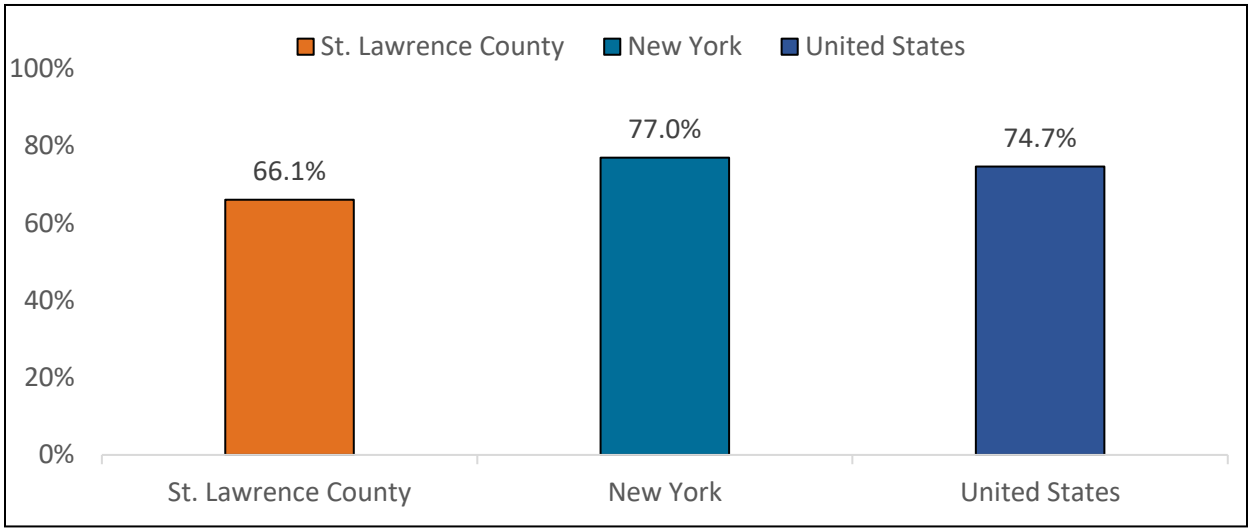


Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2025. St. Lawrence County, New York health data | CDC WONDER Natality, 2023

- Low birth weight occurs in 8.0% of births, consistent with both state and national averages.
- The infant mortality rate in St. Lawrence was 7.0 per 1,000 live births, higher than the state (4.0) and national (6.0) rates.

Prenatal care is a critical component of a healthy pregnancy. Delayed or limited access to care can contribute to complications for both birthing parents and infants. Availability of providers, such as OBGYNs and midwives, plays an important role in ensuring timely access to care.

Exhibit 30: Prenatal Care in First Trimester



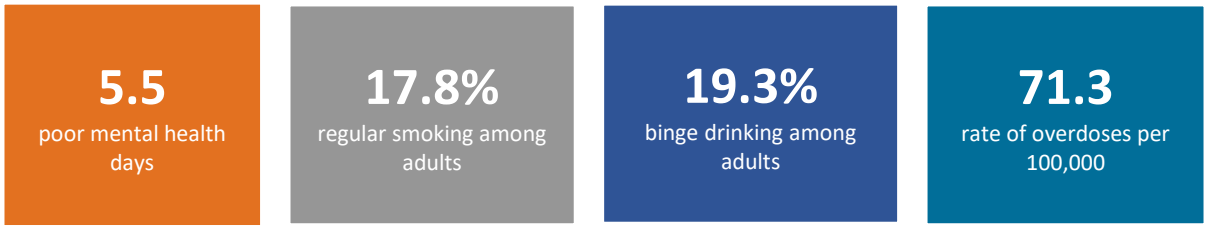
Source: CDC WONDER Natality, 2023 https://wonder.cdc.gov/

- In St. Lawrence County, two out of three birthing parents (66.1%) received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, below both the state (77.0%) and national (74.7%) levels.

Behavioral Health

On average, adults in the county reported 5.5 poor mental health days per month, slightly higher than the state (4.9) and national (5.1) averages.[18] Several health risk behaviors contribute to behavioral health outcomes. About 17.8% of adults in the county are regular smokers, higher than the state and national averages. Binge drinking among adults is also elevated at 19.3%, compared to 17.3% in New York State and 16.6% nationally.[19]

Behavioral Health Overview of St. Lawrence County



Between 2020 and 2024, the number of overdose deaths fluctuated between 5 and 12 annually. In 2024, the county recorded 77 overdoses, a decrease from 153 in 2023 and 112 in 2022. In 2024, the rate of overdoses reached 71.3 per 100,000 residents, highlighting the ongoing burden of substance use in the region.

Exhibit 31: Count of Fatal Overdoses

	St. Lawrence County
2024	5
2023	12
2022	9
2021	5
2020	10

Source: St. Lawrence County Drug Overdose Information, 2024

- Counts of fatal overdoses fluctuated between 2020 and 2024. After a decrease from 2020 (9 deaths) to 2021 (5 deaths), the number rose again in 2022 (9 deaths) before peaking in 2023 (12 deaths) and dropping to 5 deaths in 2024.

Exhibit 32: Count of Overdoses

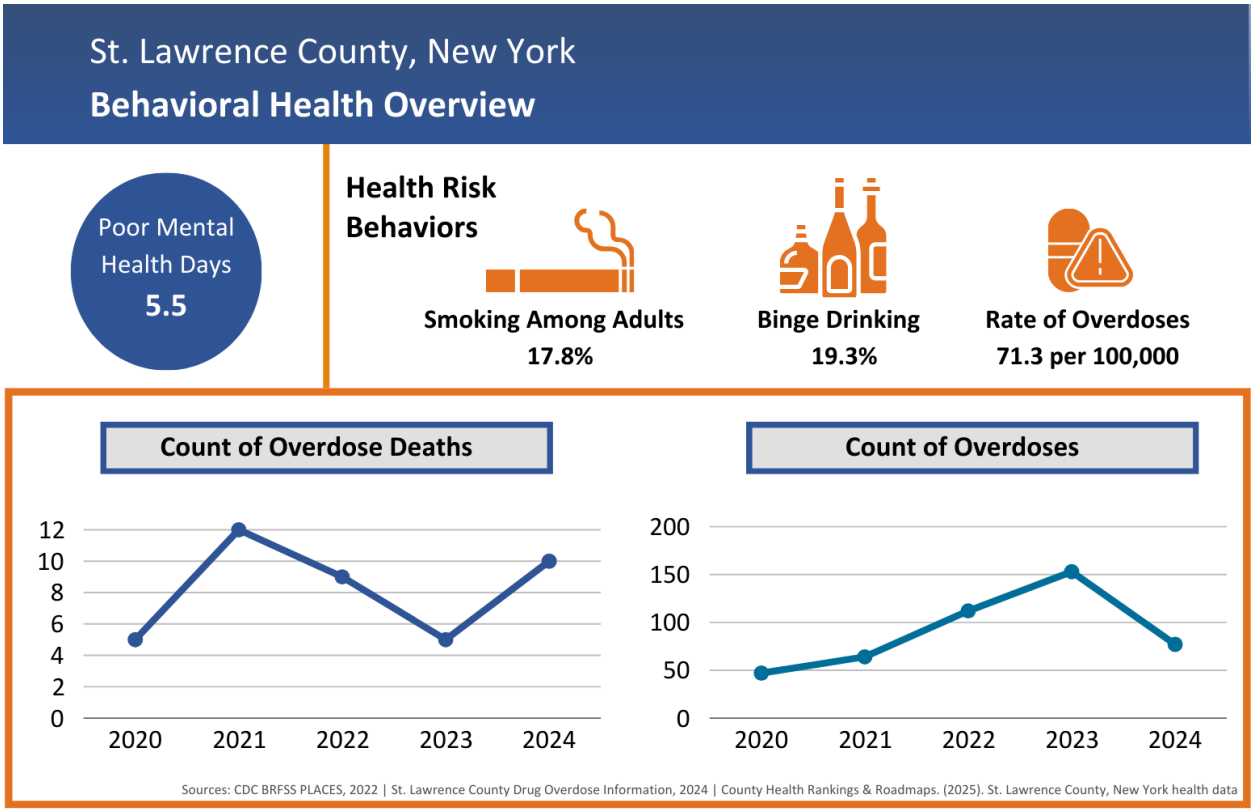
	St. Lawrence County
2024	77
2023	153
2022	112
2021	64
2020	47

Source: St. Lawrence County Drug Overdose Information, 2024

[18] County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). St. Lawrence County, New York health data.

[19] CDC BRFSS PLACES, 2022

- In 2024, the number of reported overdoses dropped to 77, a notable decline from the higher counts in 2022 (112) and 2023 (153).

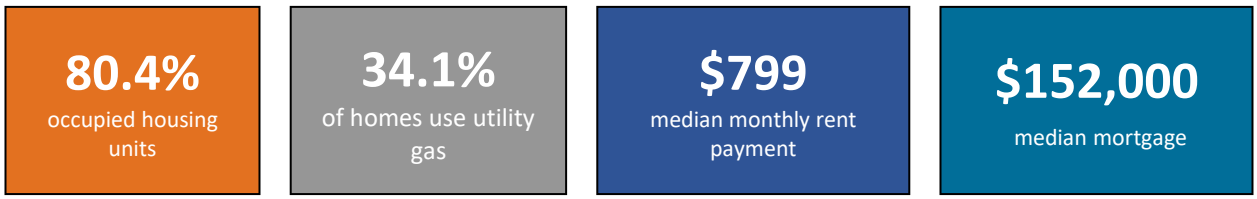


Neighborhood and Built Environment

Housing and Infrastructure

The neighborhoods people live in have a major impact on their health and well-being. Many people in the United States live in neighborhoods with high rates of violence, unsafe air or water, and other health and safety risks. Racial and ethnic minorities and people with low incomes are more likely to live in places with these risks. In addition, some people are exposed to things at work that can harm their health, like secondhand smoke or loud noises.[20]

The Housing Profile of St. Lawrence County



Housing quality refers to the physical condition of a person's home as well as the quality of the social and physical environment in which the home is located. Poor-quality housing is associated with various negative health outcomes, including chronic disease and injury and poor mental health.[21]

St. Lawrence County reported a lower percentage of occupied housing units than the state or nation. Approximately one in five housing units are renter occupied, lower than proportions for the state or nation.

Exhibit 33: Housing Units & Occupancy

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total housing units	41,732	7,668,956	127,482,865
Occupied housing units	80.4%	89.8%	89.6%
Vacant housing units	10.4%	10.2%	19.6%
Owner-occupied	77.2%	58.0%	67.8%
Renter-occupied	22.8%	42.0%	32.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- In St. Lawrence County, 80.4% of housing units are occupied, compared to more than 89% in the state and nation.

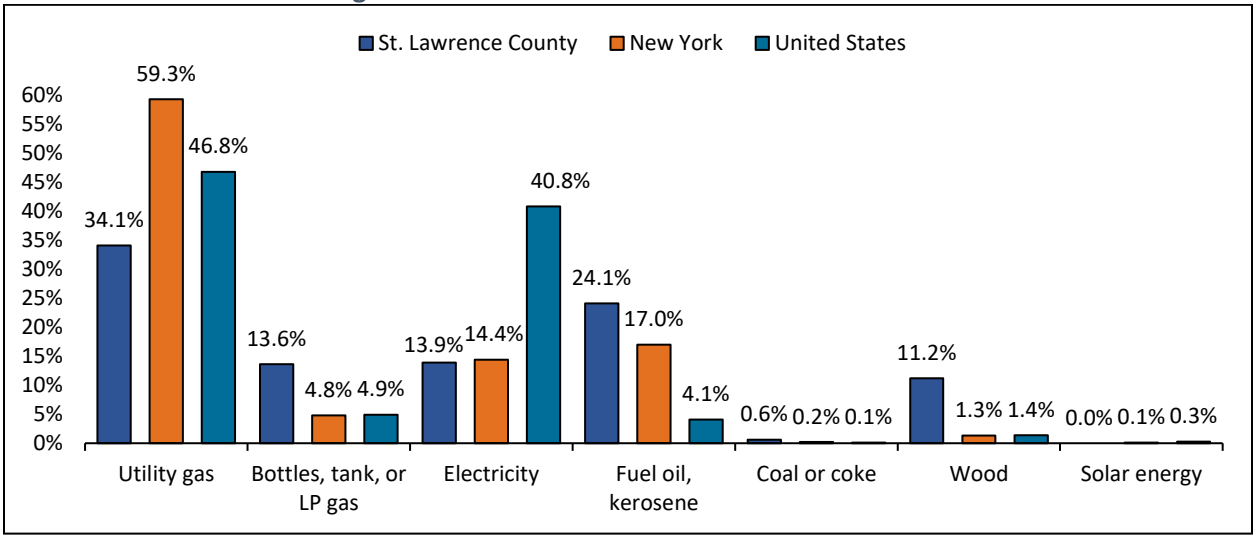
[20] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health, Neighborhood & Built Environment.

[21] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health, Quality of Housing.

- Approximately 77.2% of housing units are owner-occupied, compared to only 58.0% in the state of New York and 67.8% in the United States.
- Only 22.8% of housing units in the county are occupied by renters, compared to nearly half of those in the state (42.8%).

In St. Lawrence County, utility gas and fuel oil or kerosene are the primary sources of home heating, with wood also used at substantially higher rates than in the state or nation.

Exhibit 34: Sources of Heating Fuel



	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Occupied housing units	41,732	7,668,956	127,482,865
Utility gas	34.1%	59.3%	46.8%
Bottles, tank, or LP gas	13.6.%	4.8%	4.9%
Electricity	13.9%	14.4%	40.8%
Fuel oil, kerosene	24.1%	17.0%	4.1%
Coal or coke	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%
Wood	11.2%	1.3%	1.4%
Solar Energy	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- Bottled, tank, or LP gas is used in 13.6% of St. Lawrence County homes, a considerably higher proportion than both the state (4.8%) and national (4.9%) averages.
- Nearly one-quarter of homes (24.1%) rely on fuel oil or kerosene, a rate approximately five times higher than the national average (4.1%).
- Wood heat is used in 11.2% of county homes, compared to just 1.3% statewide and 1.4% nationally, underscoring a greater reliance on this traditional fuel source.

Although very small percentages of homes in the county lack complete plumbing and/or kitchen facilities, the percentage of homes lacking these facilities is higher than state and national averages.

Exhibit 35: Selected Housing Indicators

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	1.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	1.4%	0.8%	0.8%
No telephone service available	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%
With a computer	91.9%	91.1%	87.6%
With a broadband internet subscription	90.5%	94.0%	94.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- In St. Lawrence County, 1.4% of homes lack complete kitchen facilities and 1.6% homes lack complete plumbing facilities.

Households are considered cost burdened when they spend more than 30% of their income on housing and severely cost-burdened when housing costs exceed 50% of income. Families facing housing cost burdens have fewer resources available for other necessities such as food, clothing, utilities, and health care.[22]

The median rent in St. Lawrence County is $799, substantially lower than state and national levels. Despite this, a large share of renters (42.3%) spend 35% or more of their income on rent, indicating affordability challenges. In contrast, a majority of homeowners with a mortgage (57.1%) devote less than 20% of their income to housing costs. The median home value with a mortgage in the county is $152,000, also far below state and national figures.

Exhibit 36: Monthly Owner Costs as a Percent of Renter & Household Income

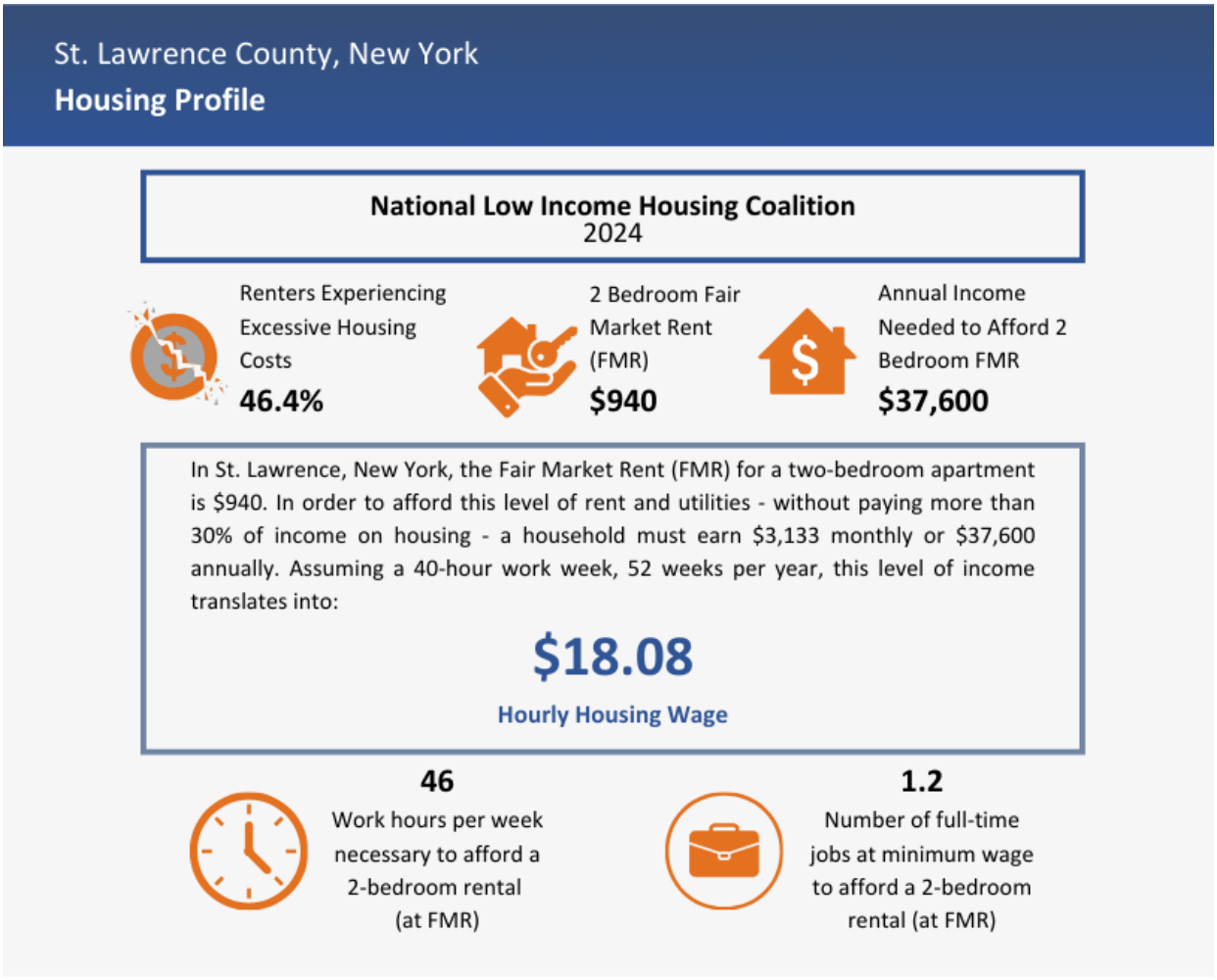
Measures	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Occupied units paying rent	10,684	3,309,953	41,515,732
Less than 15.0%	15.1%	14.5%	13.0%
15.0 to 19.9 %	10.1%	11.7%	12.4%
20.0 to 24.9%	8.9%	11.5%	12.7%
25.0 to 29.9%	14.1%	10.7%	11.5%
30.0 to 34.9%	9.4%	9.0%	9.2%
35.0% or more	42.3%	42.5%	41.2%
Median rent	$799	$1,576	$1,348

[22] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health Literature Summaries, Housing Instability.

Measures	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Housing units with a mortgage	14,443	2,424,787	50,475,136
Less than 20.0%	57.1%	43.2%	47.4%
20.0 to 24.9%	12.7%	14.2%	15.1%
25.0 to 29.9%	8.2%	9.8%	10.0%
30.0 to 34.9%	4.0%	7.0%	6.7%
35.0% or more	18.0%	25.7%	20.9%
Median mortgage	$152,000	$452,100	$372,600

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- In St. Lawrence County, 42.3% of renters spend 35% or more of their income on rent, nearly identical to state and national levels.
- The median rent in St. Lawrence County is $799, about half the statewide level ($1,576) and well below the national median ($1,348).
- The median home value with a mortgage in St. Lawrence County is $152,000, considerably lower than both the state ($452,100) and national ($372,600) values.



The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses Fair Market Rent (FMR) to determine costs to rent moderately priced units for housing assistance programs.[23] The table below depicts the FMR for an efficiency rental, one bedroom, two-bedroom, three bedroom, and four bedroom in St. Lawrence County.

Exhibit 37: Fair Market Rent

2023	St. Lawrence County
0 Bedrooms	$646
1 Bedrooms	$742
2 Bedrooms	$909
3 Bedrooms	$1,133
4 Bedrooms	$1,223

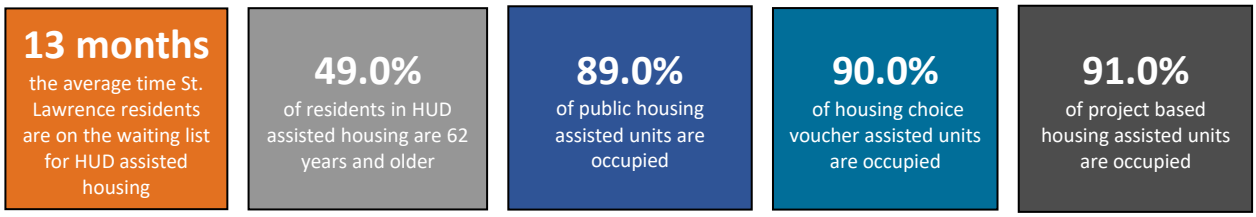
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Rent Limits 2023

[23] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Fair Market Rents, 2023.

Housing Insecure Population

Housing instability encompasses a number of challenges, such as having trouble paying rent, overcrowding, moving frequently, staying with relatives, or spending the bulk of household income on housing. These experiences may negatively affect physical health and make it harder to access health care. This summary will discuss the cost of housing as well as the health effects of substandard housing and forced evictions. Certain populations may be more affected by housing instability, such as children who move frequently. [24]

The Housing Assistance Profile of St. Lawrence County



In 2024, an estimated 200 individuals in St. Lawrence County were identified as unhoused during the annual Point-in-Time count.

Exhibit 38: Unhoused Population

	St. Lawrence County
Point-in-time count of unhoused individuals	200

Source: National Homeless Information Project 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Estimate by CoC.

Households in HUD-assisted housing in St. Lawrence County are generally smaller and face shorter wait times for units compared to New York State and the United States overall.

Exhibit 39: HUD Assisted Housing Units

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Average household size in HUD assisted housing units	1.5	1.9	2.0
Average months on waiting list for HUD assisted housing units	13.0	51.0	27.0
Age of householder			
24 or younger	3.0%	1.0%	3.0%
25 to 50	27.0%	31.0%	38.0%
51 to 61	20.0%	20.0%	17.0%

[24] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health Literature Summaries, Housing Instability.

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
62 and older	49.0%	48.0%	42.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Assisted Housing: National and Local, Picture of Subsidized Households, 2024

- Residents in the county wait an average of 13 months for assisted housing, compared to 51 months in New York and 27 months nationally.
- Nearly half of assisted households (49.0%) in the county are headed by individuals age 62 or older, slightly higher than state and national levels.

Public housing units in St. Lawrence County show slightly lower occupancy than in New York and the United States.

Exhibit 40: Public Housing Assisted Housing Units

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Public housing assisted housing units	796	175,986	872,153
People in public housing assisted housing units	1,161	293,476	1,559,149
% occupancy of public housing assisted units	89.0%	93.0%	92.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Assisted Housing: National and Local, Picture of Subsidized Households, 2024

- In St. Lawrence County there are 796 public housing units, with an 89.0% occupancy rate, compared to 93.0% in New York and 92.0% nationally.

Housing choice vouchers are utilized at slightly higher occupancy levels in St. Lawrence County compared to the state and nation.

Exhibit 41: Housing Choice Vouchers Assisted Housing Units

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Housing choice vouchers assisted housing units	654	286,865	2,787,090
People in housing choice vouchers assisted housing units	929	526,747	5,266,740
% occupancy of housing choice vouchers assisted housing units	90.0%	85.0%	84.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Assisted Housing: National and Local, Picture of Subsidized Households, 2024

- There are 654 housing choice voucher units in St. Lawrence County, with a 90.0% occupancy rate, exceeding both state and national rates.

Project-based housing in St. Lawrence County reflects occupancy levels very similar to state and national figures.

Exhibit 42: Project Based Housing Assisted Housing Units

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Project based housing assisted housing units	399	108,840	1.319,774
People in project based housing assisted housing units	473	160,506	2,030,518
% occupancy of project based housing assisted housing units	91.0%	92.0%	91.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Assisted Housing: National and Local, Picture of Subsidized Households, 2024

- St. Lawrence County has 399 project-based housing assisted units and 91.0% of them are occupied, closely aligned with state (92.0%) and national (91.0%) levels.

Transportation and Connectivity

Transportation systems help ensure that people can reach everyday destinations, such as jobs, schools, healthy food outlets, and health care facilities, safely and reliably. Enhanced built environment interventions including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, and public transit infrastructure can make physical activity easier, safer, and more accessible.

Transportation and internet connectivity are critical for accessing jobs, healthcare, education, and community resources. Limited access to reliable transportation or broadband can create barriers that directly affect health outcomes and overall quality of life.[25]

The mean travel time to work in St. Lawrence County is 21 minutes, shorter than both state and national averages.

Exhibit 43: Transportation Indicators

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	21.0	32.8	26.6
No Vehicle	10.8%	29.7%	8.4%
Commute Transportation by Public Transit	0.3%	22.4%	3.5%
Commute Transportation by Drive Alone	75.0%	49.7%	70.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

- About 1 in 10 residents (10.8%) live in households without a vehicle, creating potential barriers to employment, healthcare, and other essential services.
- The majority of residents commute to work by drive alone, translating to three out of four residents (75.0%), who commute to work by private vehicle.

In St. Lawrence County, 11.6% of households lack internet access, meaning about 1 in 10 homes are without connectivity, higher than both state and national levels.

Exhibit 44: Broadband

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Household Without Internet Access	11.6%	8.0%	7.7%
Number of Internet Providers (2024)	13	67	2,126

Source: Federal Communications Commission Fixed Broadband Deployment Data 2024 | U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019-2023 Five-year Estimates

[25] RWJF, 2012. How Does Transportation Impact Health?

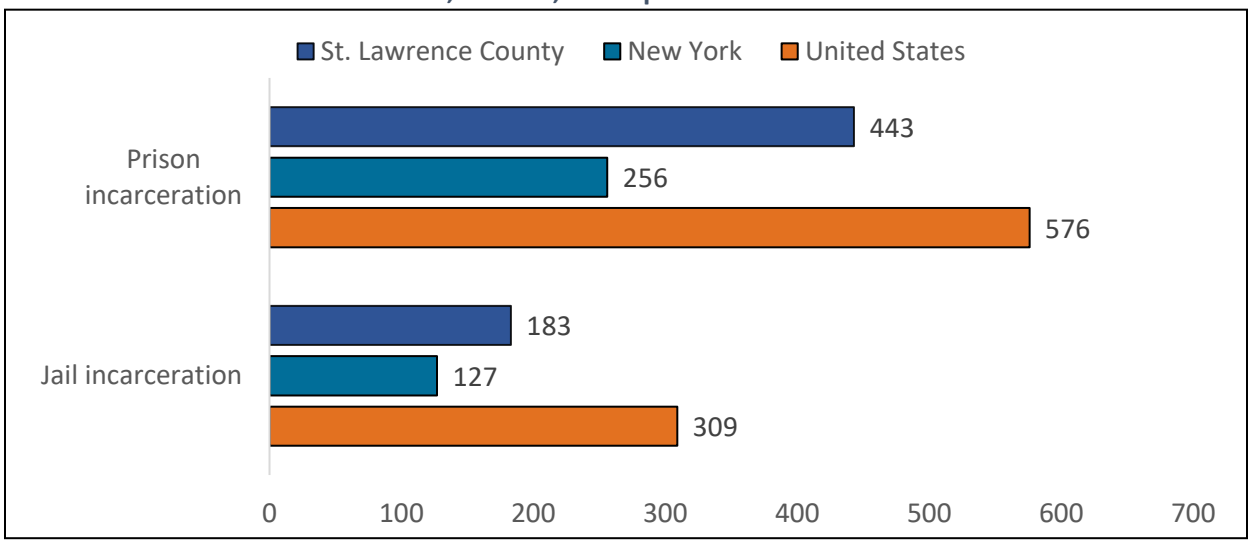
Social and Community Context

Safety

Community safety impacts health and well-being, as higher incarceration or arrest rates can reflect underlying social and economic challenges and influence community stability.[26] Examining incarceration and arrest data provides insight into public safety and its potential impact on residents.

The prison incarceration rate in St. Lawrence County is 443 per 100,000, higher than the state rate (256) but lower than the national rate (576).

Exhibit 45: Prison Incarceration Rate, Per 100,000 Population



Source: Vera Institute of Justice. Incarceration Trends Q4 Total, 2023

The leading causes of arrests in St. Lawrence County include drug abuse violations (44), simple assault (38), and driving under the influence (29).

Exhibit 46: Annual Arrests by Offenses

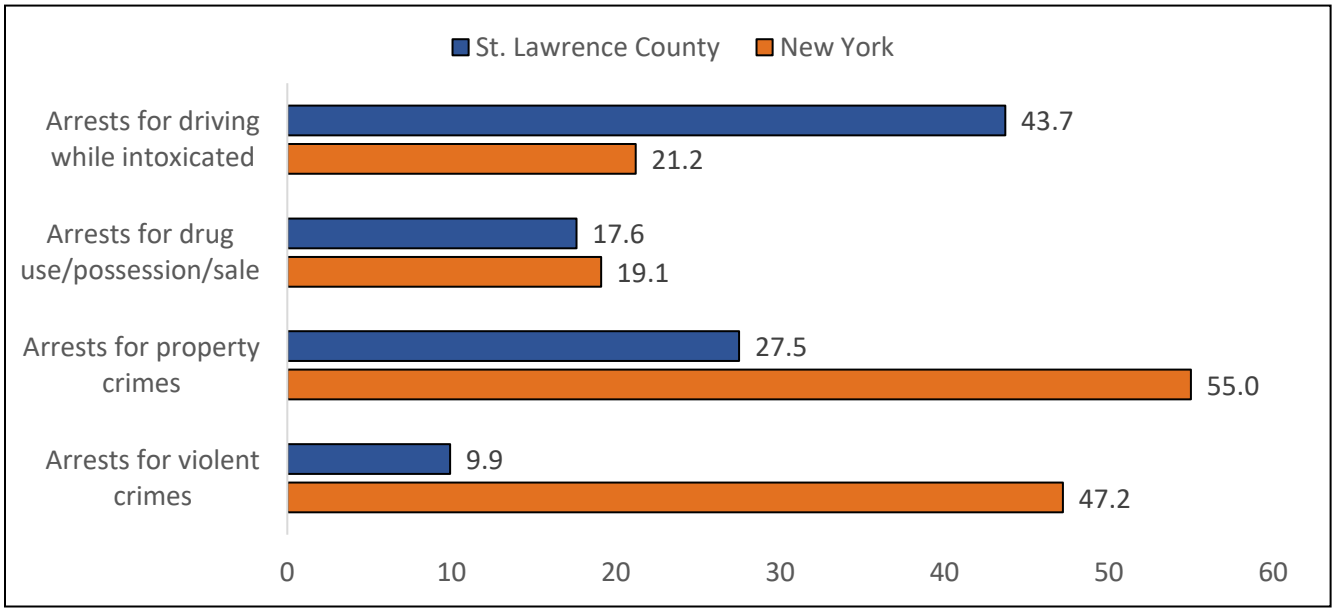
	St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office
Simple assault	38
Drug abuse violations	44
Driving under the influence	29
Larceny-theft	19

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, 2024

[26] Gifford, E. J. (2019). How incarceration affects the health of communities and families.

Among young adults, driving while intoxicated stands out as a major concern, with rates in St. Lawrence County (43.7 per 10,000) more than double the statewide rate (21.2).

Exhibit 47: Young Adults Aged 18 to 24 Arrests, Rate Per 10,000 Population



Source: New York State Council on Children and Families: Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. KWIC County Report, 2022

Child Welfare

Child welfare is an important indicator of family stability and community well-being. High rates of child abuse, maltreatment, or foster care placement may reflect underlying social and economic stressors as well as gaps in family support systems.

Exhibit 48: Child Abuse/Maltreatment

Rate per 1,000 children 0-17 years	St. Lawrence County	New York
Reports of abuse/maltreatment	11.2	21.3

Source: New York State Council on Children and Families: Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. KWIC County Report, 2022

- Reports of child abuse and maltreatment in St. Lawrence were 11.2 per 1,000 children ages 0-17 years old. This was about half the state rate at 21.3.

In St. Lawrence County, there are about 7.4 children per 1,000 in foster care, nearly three times the state rate (2.7).

Exhibit 49: Foster Care

	St. Lawrence County	New York
Foster care children in care (per 1,000)	7.4	2.7
Foster care admissions (per 1,000)	2.6	1.2
Foster care discharges	36.0%	32.9%

Source: New York State Council on Children and Families: Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. KWIC County Report, 2022

- The percentage of foster care discharges was 36.0%, slightly above the state rate (32.9%). This indicates that while many children do exit foster care, the higher admission rate suggests more children are entering care in the first place.

Qualitative Research Summary

Methodology

The qualitative research efforts sought to better understand the needs of the community and how these needs impact health and well-being. Qualitative activities included one-on-one stakeholder interviews and focus groups. Stakeholder interviews and focus groups were conducted with individuals who work closely with populations that may have unique or significant health needs. Stakeholder interviews and focus groups were conducted virtually.

Both interviews and focus groups followed a similar question format that centered the conversation on the strengths, resources, gaps, and barriers present in the community and their impact on residents' well-being. The one-on-one stakeholder interviews provided an opportunity for in-depth discussions on the health of the community. Focus groups allowed participants to provide their firsthand experience and to identify areas of consensus and discordance with other community members.

Strengths can serve as resources to address the needs identified.

Themes are conceptual considerations that provide context so that needs are addressed in a way that is responsive to the culture and identity of the community.

Needs are actionable areas that participants highlighted as the most pressing challenges, barriers, and concerns they face in their community.

These three concepts are intertwined and must be considered holistically to better understand and better utilize the data collected to make positive changes. Narrative summaries are based on qualitative data unless otherwise noted. Quotes from participants have been selected as a representation of the strengths, themes, and needs identified throughout the data.

See Appendix D: Primary Research Tools for the focus group and interview guide.

Strengths

Strengths are characteristics, resources, or other factors in a community that promote members' quality of life and community sustainability.

Collaboration and Community

Community members emphasized the strong sense of connection and collaboration in St. Lawrence County. Residents described the area as tight-knit, where people are willing to step in and support one another when challenges arise. These relationships, whether through family, friends, or local organizations, help foster cooperation and advocacy for the needs of the community.

Quotes from community members:

- *"One of the things that I really do love about this community is that you can always find someone who is willing to help."*
- *"We are huge. It's a huge geographic area, but I have to say in comparison to working in the other counties, all of the agencies in St. Lawrence County really seem to work together. We play well in the sandbox together."*

Rural Environment

Residents who participated in stakeholder interviews and focus groups also pointed to the advantages of living in a rural setting. The area's natural surroundings provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and social connection, which contribute to both physical and mental health. Activities like hiking, fishing, and camping were described as important aspects of community life that enhance overall well-being.

Quotes from community members:

- *"The ruralness is good and bad. You're not right on top of neighbors, green grass, and trees; there's a lot of outdoor activities (camping, fishing, hiking)."*

Themes

Themes are systemic factors that impact how a community functions and should be considered when leveraging strengths to meet the needs.

Rurality of Community

Participants noted that while the rural nature of St. Lawrence County is a strength, it also creates barriers to services. The county's large size means resources are spread out and often require long travel times, sometimes up to three hours for healthcare and other needs. Limited and inconvenient public transit creates challenges, especially for older adults and those without reliable transportation. As a result, many residents rely on word of mouth or personal connections to learn about and access available resources.

Quote from community member:

- *"We do have busing, but it's not convenient. If someone needs to be at work by 10 am, they need to catch the bus at 6 am. For seniors, a lack of transportation is a big barrier because they can't drive. Transportation is a deficiency in this rural area."*

Socioeconomic Status

Socioeconomic status was described as a major driver of challenges in St. Lawrence County, influencing housing stability, employment opportunities, access to healthcare, and overall quality of life. Participants highlighted how rising costs of living, stagnant wages, and the loss of larger employers have left many families struggling to make ends meet. While training and education programs exist through colleges and workforce centers, limited job growth and lower-wage positions reduce the impact of these opportunities.

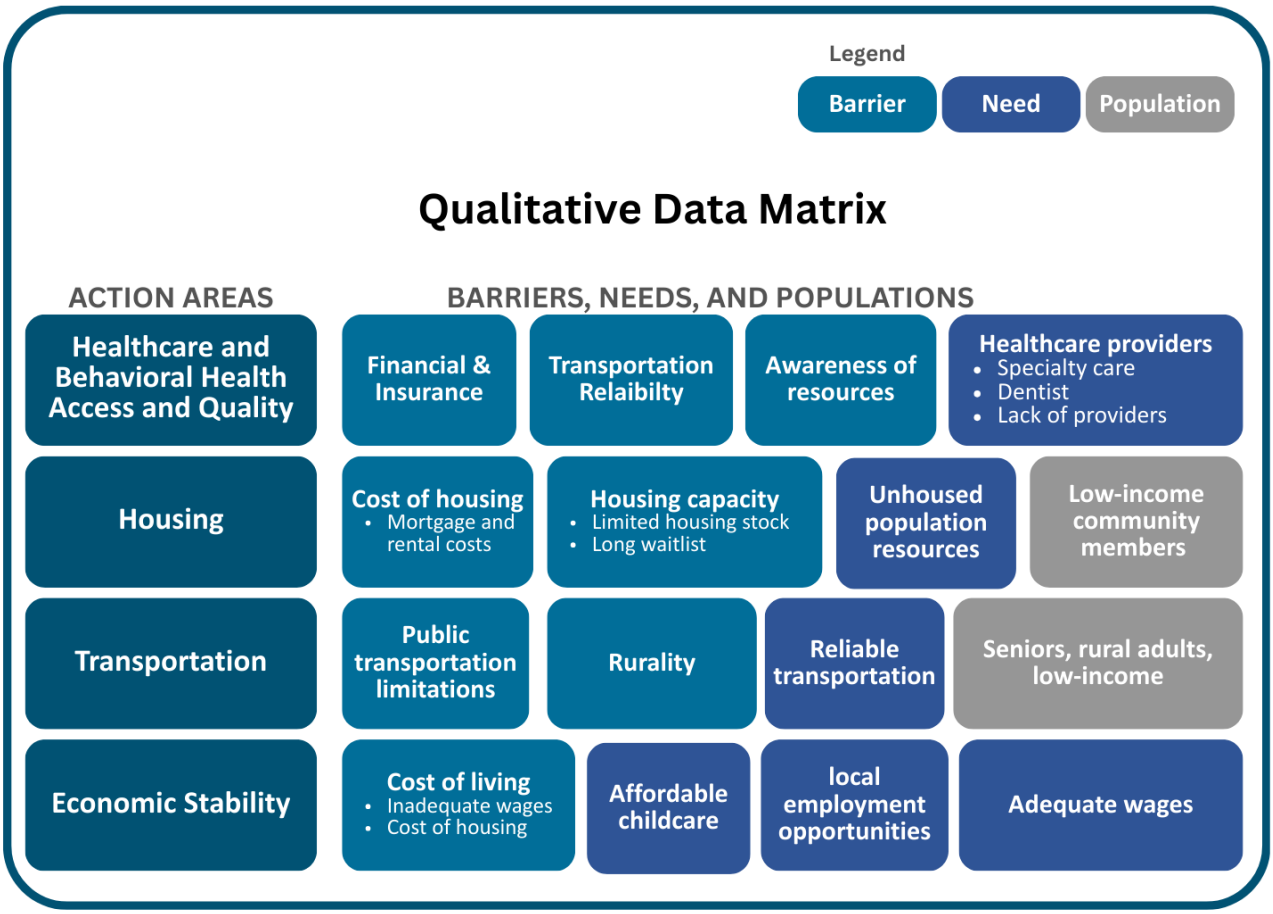
Quote from community member:

- *"Minimum wage has risen, but so has the cost of living. In our large county, many face poverty. Large companies have left. People may work at the hospital, but then they leave. Cuts to daycare and other things, like no reliable transportation, make it hard for people to land and keep employment. All the stars have to align."*

Needs

Needs are actionable areas that participants highlighted as the most pressing challenges, barriers, and concerns they face in their community.

Needs Matrix



Access and Quality of Healthcare and Behavioral Health

Participants emphasized that healthcare access in St. Lawrence County is limited across many areas, including dental, primary, and behavioral health. Residents emphasized that dentists are difficult to find, with many not accepting Medicaid or other insurance, leaving families to pay high out-of-pocket costs or travel several hours for pediatric or specialty care. Provider shortages extend to other areas such as behavioral health, where addiction treatment and mental health resources are scarce and often have long waitlists. Transportation barriers further create challenges, especially in winter when traveling long distances becomes even more difficult. As a result, many community members delay or forgo care, which contributes to poorer health outcomes and increases the burden on families already facing financial strain.

Quotes from community members:

- **"***It's hard to afford basics like food, healthcare, including dental care. Dental care is crazy to find here, and people need to drive for hours. Many dentists don't take Medicare, and then how do they get to their appointments? People have to drive to Glens Falls, which is like 3 hours away from Canton, for pediatric dentists.”*

- *"We have dentists, but they don't take Medicaid; some don't accept any insurance, and prices are high. Mental health and stigma. People just move on without using tools to improve mental health.”*

- *“Addiction (mental health resources) is a very big problem. There are very few resources, no detox or rehab. The couple that we have are far away and have long wait lists. “*

Housing, Transportation, and Economic Stability

Community members consistently emphasized the challenges of finding affordable housing, accessing reliable transportation, and securing stable employment. Rising costs of living combined with low wages leave many families struggling to cover basic needs. Affordable housing is limited, and when available, it is often of poor quality or located far from jobs and services. Transportation was described as a major barrier, with limited public transit options and long distances to essential destinations such as medical appointments, grocery stores, and workplaces. These barriers make it difficult for residents to maintain stability and fully utilize resources that already exist in the community.

Childcare access was another significant concern raised by participants. Residents noted that there are not enough regulated childcare slots in the county, and many families rely on limited after-school programs or informal care. The high cost of childcare, combined with long waitlists and a shortage of providers, forces some parents to leave the workforce or make difficult financial trade-offs. While programs like Head Start provide valuable support, the overall lack of accessible and affordable childcare further limits families' ability to maintain stable employment and housing.

Quotes from community members:

- *"I would say there are limited opportunities for manufacturing jobs. Healthcare jobs- there's a big demand for them and it's hard to fill."*
- *"There are some good jobs, but you need specific degrees. Many jobs are part-time because employers don't want the financial burden of paying for benefits, so people need more than one job. Minimum wage is increasing annually, but so is the cost of living. One parent can't stay home now."*
- *"We do not have enough childcare slots in the county at all."*
- *"We have minimum wage jobs at $15.50/hour, so no, it's not a living wage. Many people get assistance."*

Community Survey Results

Methodology

The community survey was made available online and via print copies in English. The questionnaire included closed-ended, need-specific questions and demographic questions. Invitations to participate were distributed by partners through channels including the organization's website, social media, flyers, and emails listservs among other methods.

There were 421 valid survey responses from St. Lawrence County included in this analysis. To ensure valid responses, only participants who answered at least one question beyond basic demographics were included in the analysis. The survey was carefully designed to reduce potential sources of bias, such as how questions were worded or ordered.

While the survey served as a practical tool for capturing insights of individuals across St. Lawrence County, this was not a random sample. Findings should not be interpreted as representative of the full population.

Additionally, sample sizes of demographic subpopulations are too small to be representative of their respective subgroupings. Differences in responses have not been tested for statistical significance as part of this assessment.

Full survey results can be found in Appendix C: Community Survey Results.

Survey Findings

Demographics

As shown in Exhibit 50, a little more than one in three (34.5%) respondents are 65 years old or older. About three out of four respondents are female (74.2%), the majority respondents are White or Caucasian (92.5%) and not Hispanic or Latino (89.3%).

Nearly half of the respondents (42.3%) have graduate or professional degrees. About one inf four respondents (23.9%) reported their annual income is between $50,000 and $74,999.

Exhibit 50: Respondent Demographics

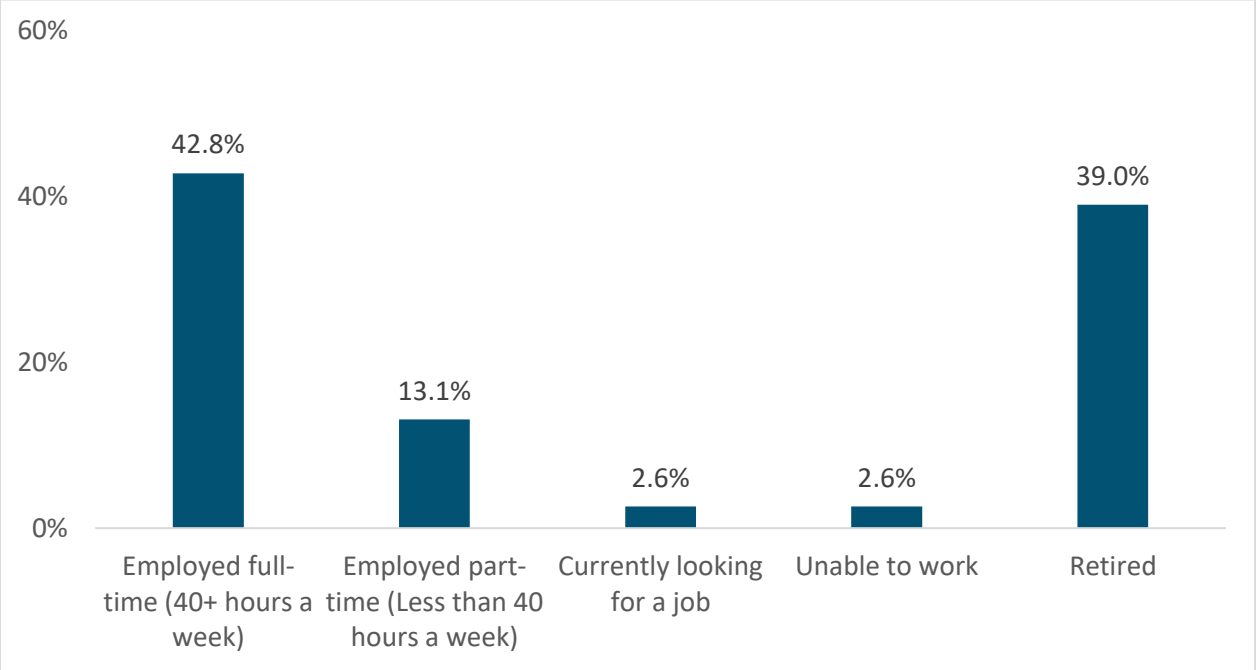
Demographic Category	Percent of Respondents
AGE	
Under 18	0.7%
18-24	2.3%
25-34	12.4%
35-44	16.0%
45-54	14.3%
55-64	17.6%
65 or older	34.5%
I prefer not to share	2.3%
GENDER	
Male	20.9%
Female	74.2%
Non-binary/gender diverse	2.0%
My Identity isn't listed	0.0%
I prefer not to share	2.9%
RACE	
White or Caucasian	92.5%
Black or African American	0.7%
Asian or Asian American	1.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Another race	0.0%
Multiple races	2.0%
I prefer not to share	4.6%
Other	0.7%
ETHNICITY	

Demographic Category	Percent of Respondents
Hispanic or Latino	1.7%
Not Hispanic or Latino	89.3%
I prefer not to share	9.1%
EDUCATION	
Less than high school or GED	0.7%
High school diploma or equivalent	9.2%
Some college	12.5%
Technical or trades school	3.3%
Associate degree	7.2%
Bachelor's degree	22.3%
Graduate or professional degree (Masters, PhD, MD, etc.)	42.3%
I prefer not to share	2.6%
INCOME	
Under $15,000	3.6%
Between $15,000 and $29,999	8.8%
Between $30,000 and $49,999	14.7%
Between $50,000 and $74,999	23.9%
Between $75,000 and $99,999	19.6%
Between $100,000 and $150,000	13.4%
Over $150,000	5.9%
I prefer not to share	10.1%

Employment and Workforce

As shown in Exhibit 51, two out of five respondents (42.8%) reported they are employed full-time. A little more than one in three respondents (39.0%) reported they are retired.

Exhibit 51: Which best describes your current employment status?



Among the respondents who reported they were unable to work in Exhibit 52, the majority of respondents (72.7%) reported the reason they are unable to work was due to disability, followed by family responsibilities (27.3%), and some respondents are "on workman's compensation" (9.1%).

Exhibit 52: Why are you unable to work?

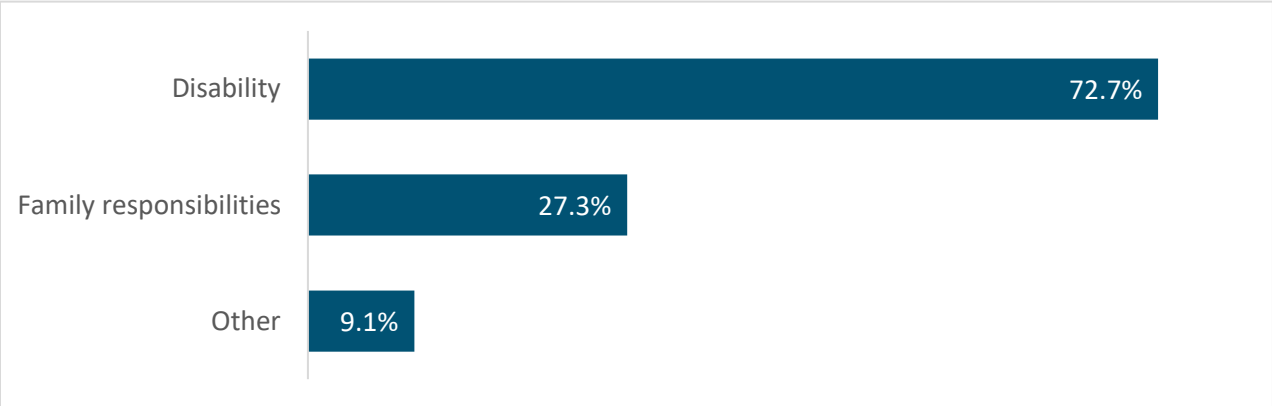
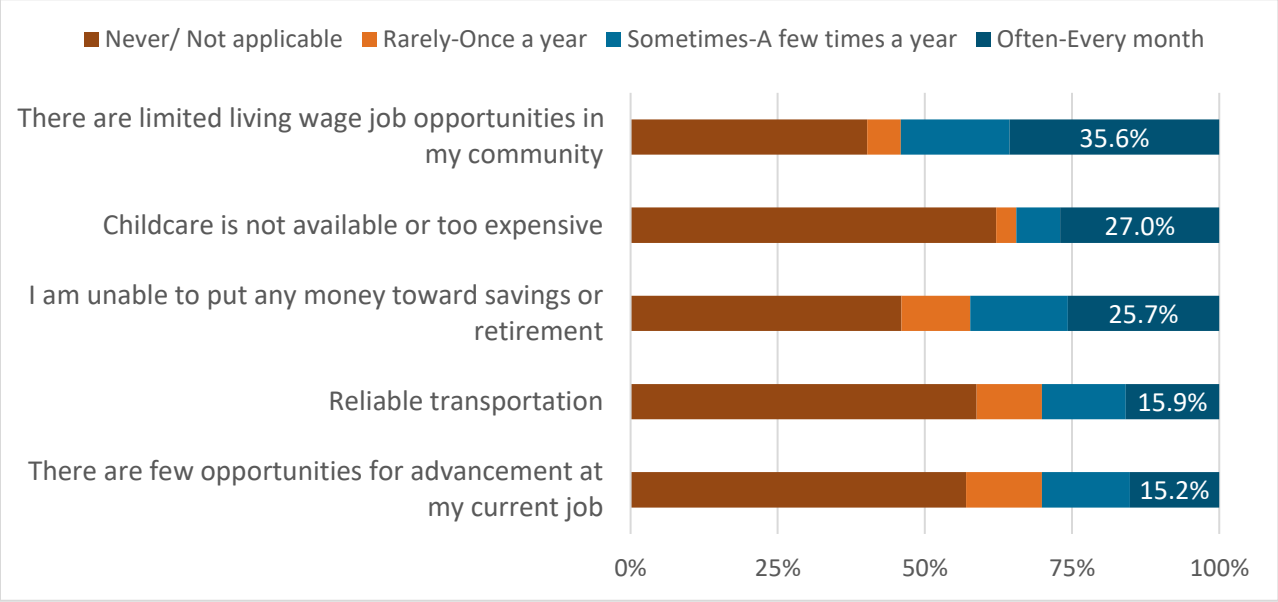


Exhibit 53 asks respondents if they ever experienced work-related challenges. About one in three respondents (35.6%) reported the work-related challenge they often experienced is limited living wage job opportunities in my community. Other work-related challenges respondents often experience are childcare is not available or too expensive (27.0%), unable to put any money toward savings or retirement (25.7%), reliable transportation (15.9%), and few opportunities for advancement at current job (15.2%).

Exhibit 53: How often, if ever, have you experienced any of these difficult work-related challenges in the past three years?



As shown in Exhibit 54, approximately one in ten respondents (9.3%) reported they use other resources to support their family, such as “disability retirement pension”, “social security”, “FICA”, “HEAP”, and etc. Followed by disability income (6.8%), and SNAP (4.8%).

Exhibit 54: Do you use any of the following resources to support your family?

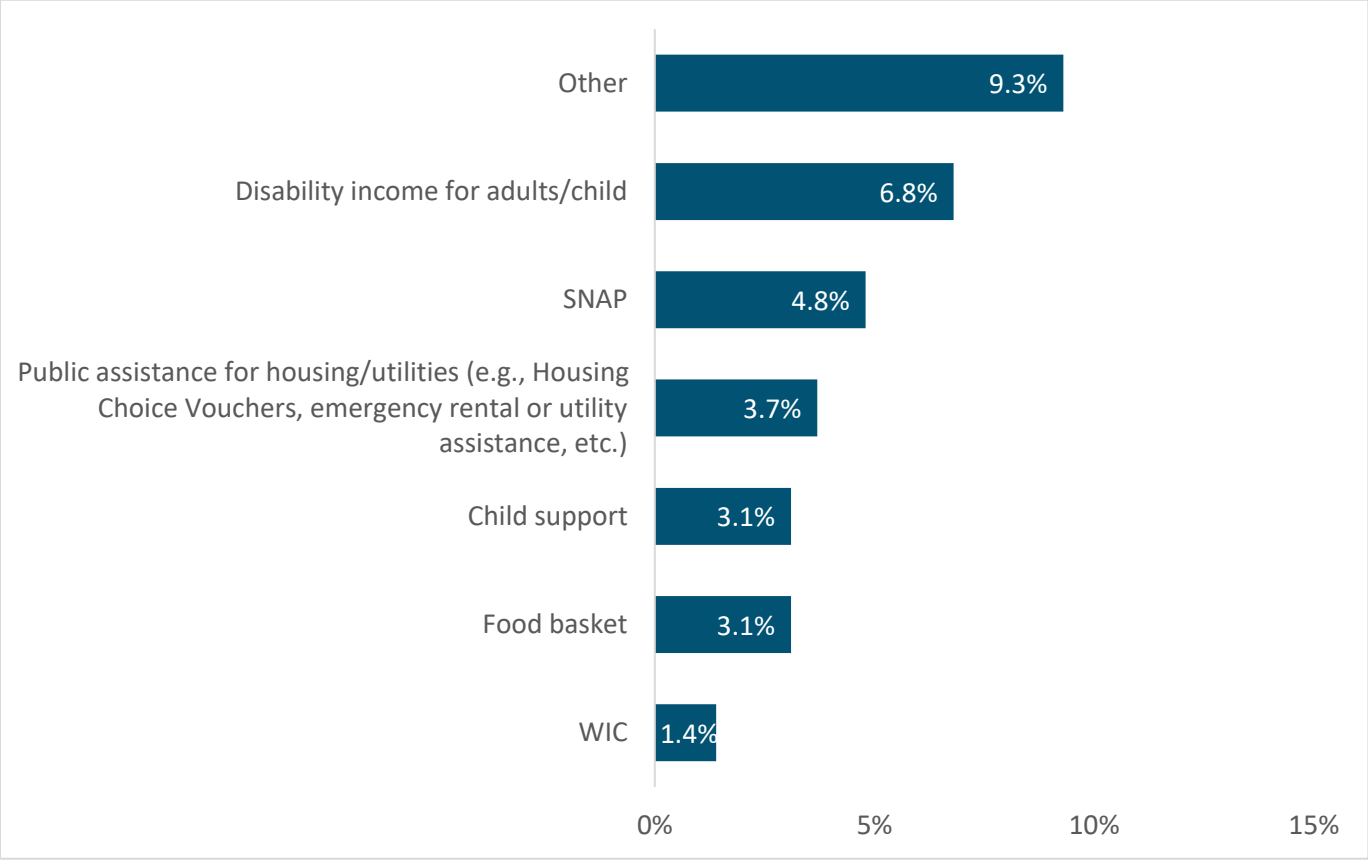
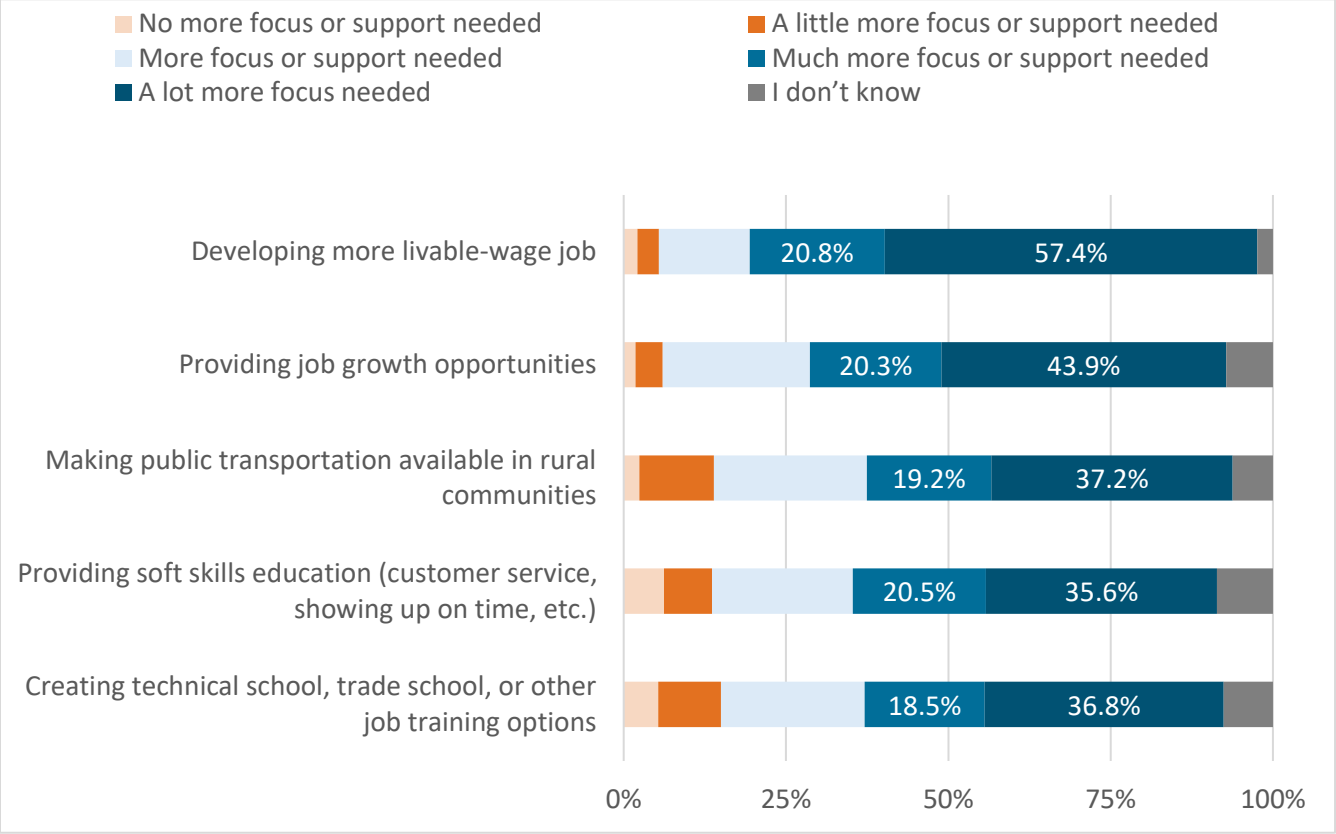


Exhibit 55 asked about transportation, workforce development, and employment needs that more focus or much more focus. About eight in ten respondents (78.2%) identified developing more livable-wage jobs as needing more or much more focus. Other needs that were identified as needing more or much focus include providing job growth opportunities (64,2%), making public transportation available in rural communities (56.4%), providing soft skills education (56.1%), and creating technical school, trade school, or other job training options (55.3%).

Exhibit 55: How much focus should be given to each of the following transportation, workforce development, and employment needs?



Housing and Neighborhoods

As shown in Exhibit 56, a little under four in five respondents (77.1%) reported they own their house.

Exhibit 56: What type of housing do you currently live in?

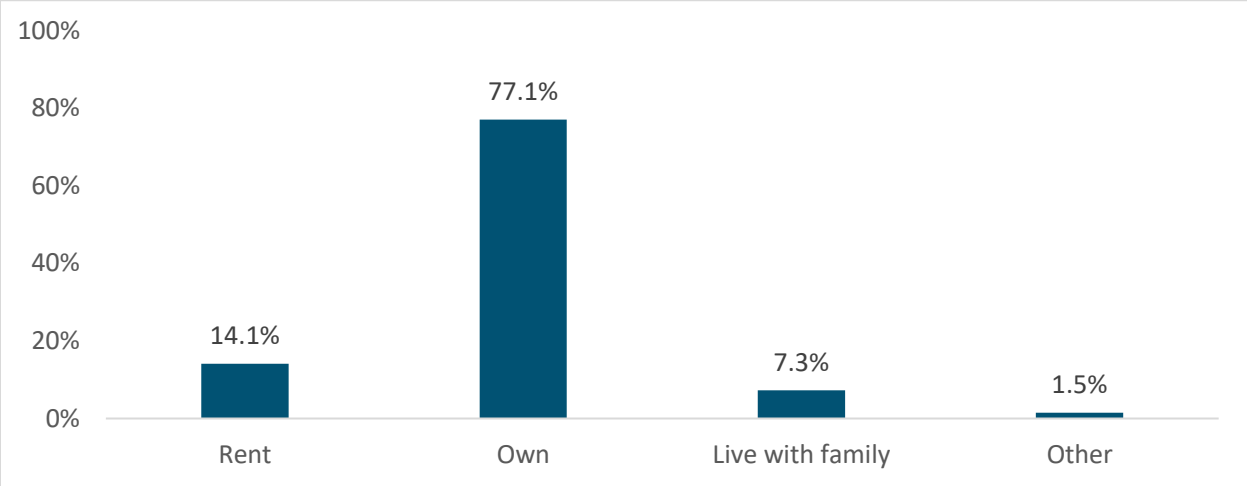
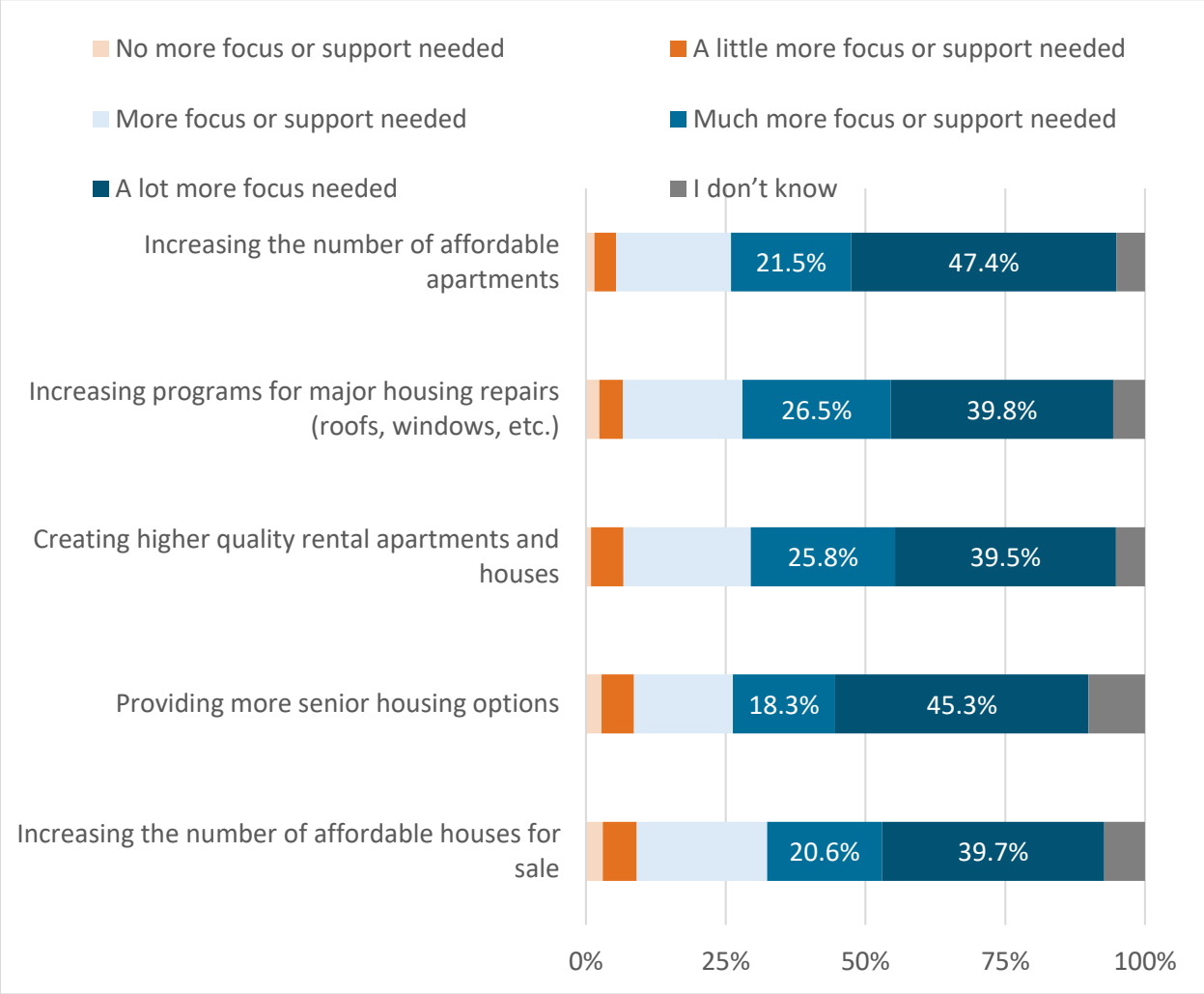


Exhibit 57 asked about housing needs that more focus or much more focus. About two-thirds of respondents (68.9%) identified increasing the number of affordable apartments as needing more or much more focus. Other needs that were identified as needing more or much focus include increasing programs for major housing repairs (66.3%), creating higher quality rental apartments and houses (65.3%), providing more senior housing options (63.6%), and increasing the number of affordable houses for sale (60.3%).

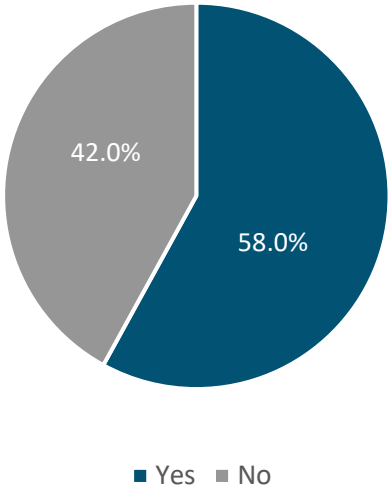
Exhibit 57: How much focus should be given to each of the following HOUSING needs?



Education and Childcare

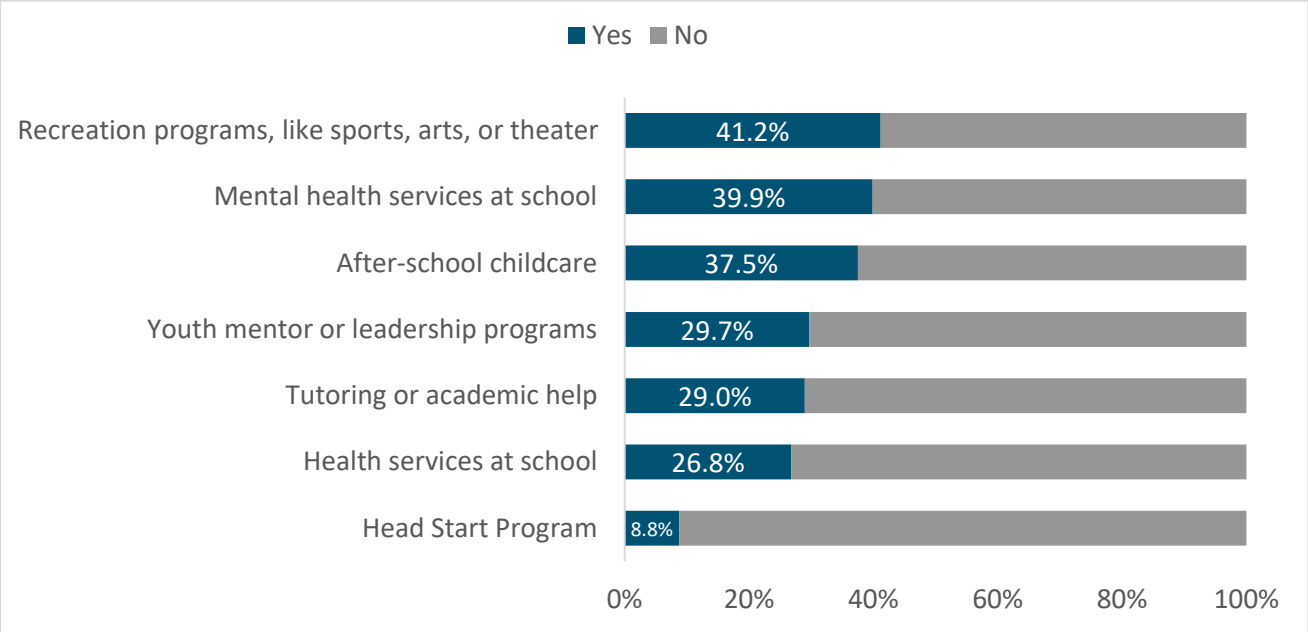
As shown in Exhibit 58, more than half of the respondents (58.0%) reported they have children.

Exhibit 58: Do you have children?



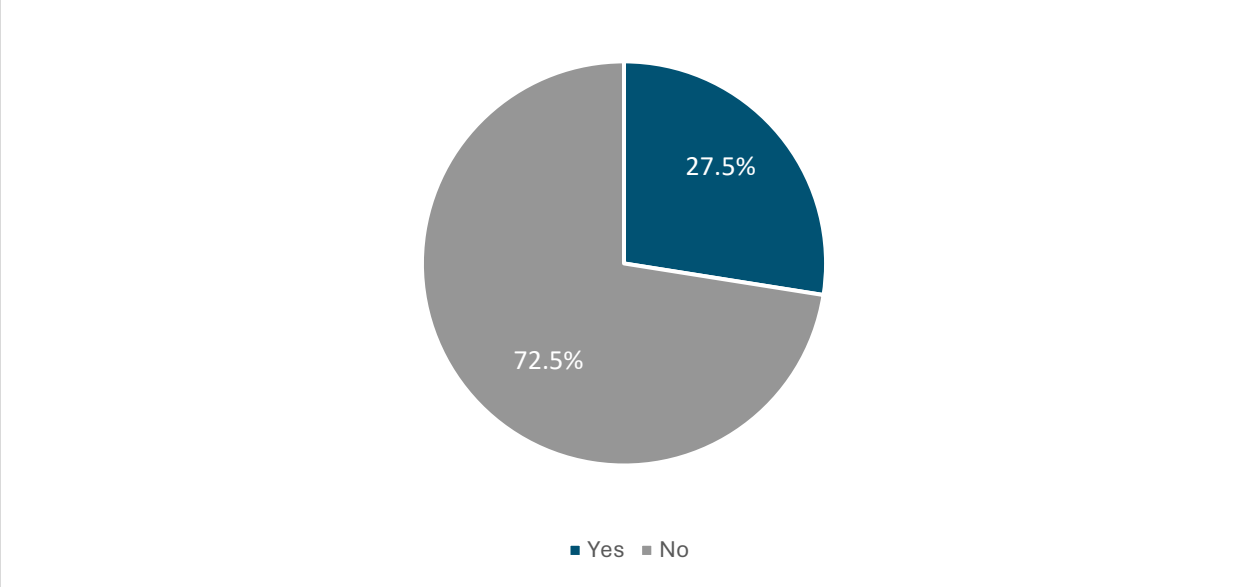
As shown in Exhibit 59, of those respondents who have children, nearly half of them (41.2%) reported they have difficulty getting recreation programs such as sports, arts or theater. Other services that were difficult to get include mental health services at school (39.9%), after-school childcare (37.5%), youth mentor or leadership programs (29.7%), tutoring or academic help (29.0%), and health services at school (26.8%).

Exhibit 59: Have you needed any of the following services for your children, but found it difficult to get the service?



As shown in Exhibit 60, among those respondents who have children, nearly one in three respondents (27.5%) reported in the past five years, they needed childcare but had difficulty finding it.

Exhibit 60: Have you needed childcare in the past five years but have had difficulty finding it?



Approximately four in five respondents (77.4%) reported cost is one of the top reasons for childcare difficulties. Other reasons include no open slot for my child (62.3%), the wait lists are too long (60.4%), cannot find quality provider (58.5%), and the childcare service are not available during working hours (26.4%)

Exhibit 61: What were the reasons for the difficulty?

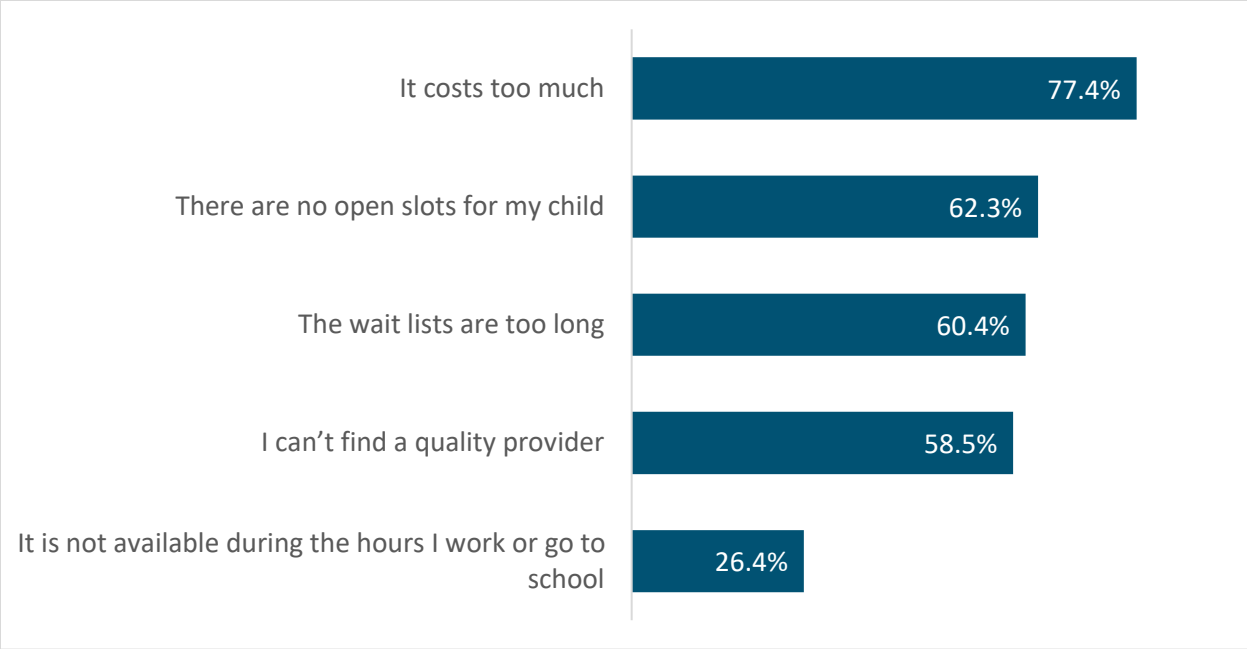
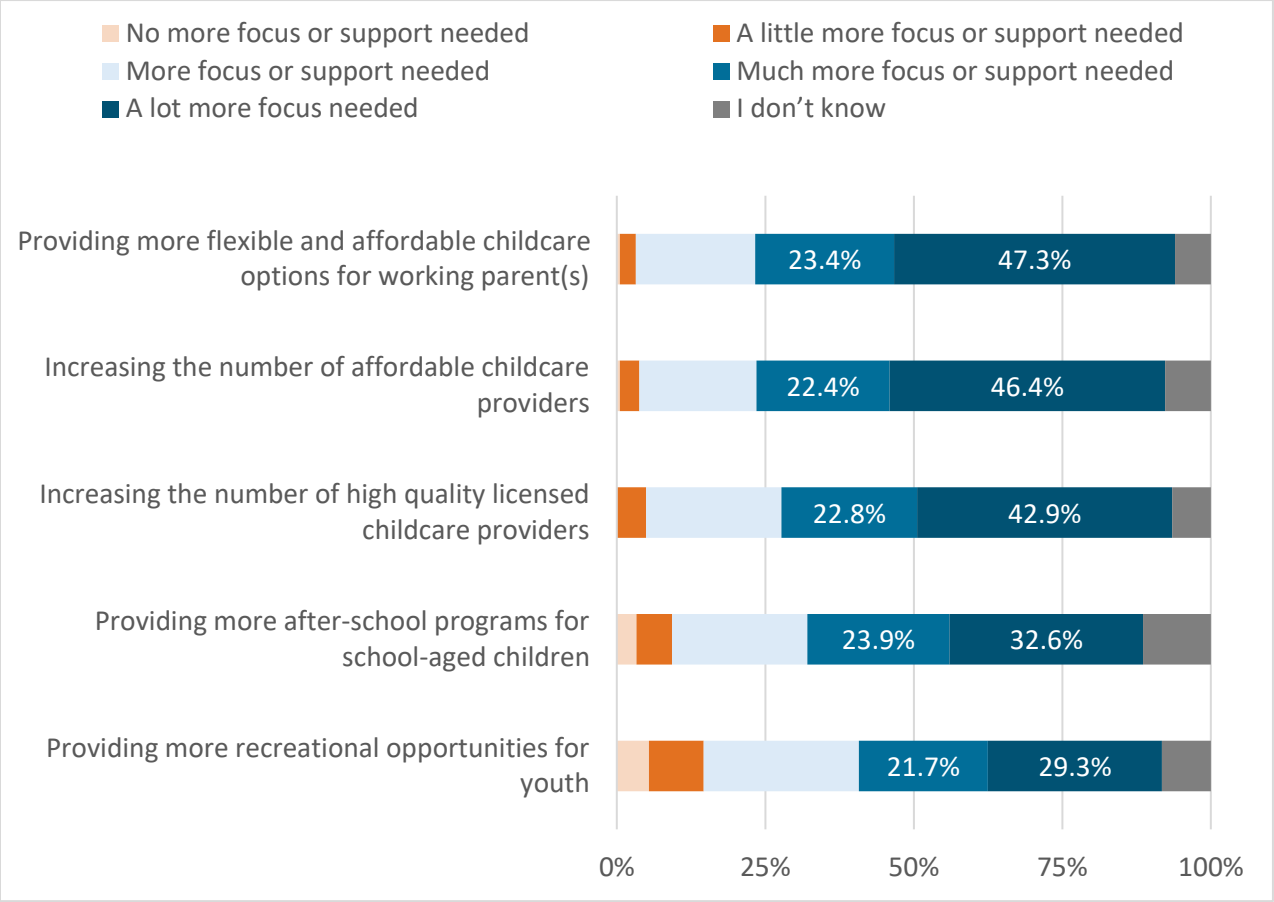


Exhibit 62 asked about childcare and early education needs more focus or much more focus. About seven out of ten respondents (68.9%) identified providing more flexible and affordable childcare options from working parent(s) as needing more or much more focus. Other needs that were identified as needing more or much focus include increasing the number of affordable childcare providers (68.8%), increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers (65.7%), providing more after-school programs for school-aged children (56.5%), and providing more recreational opportunities for youth (51.0%).

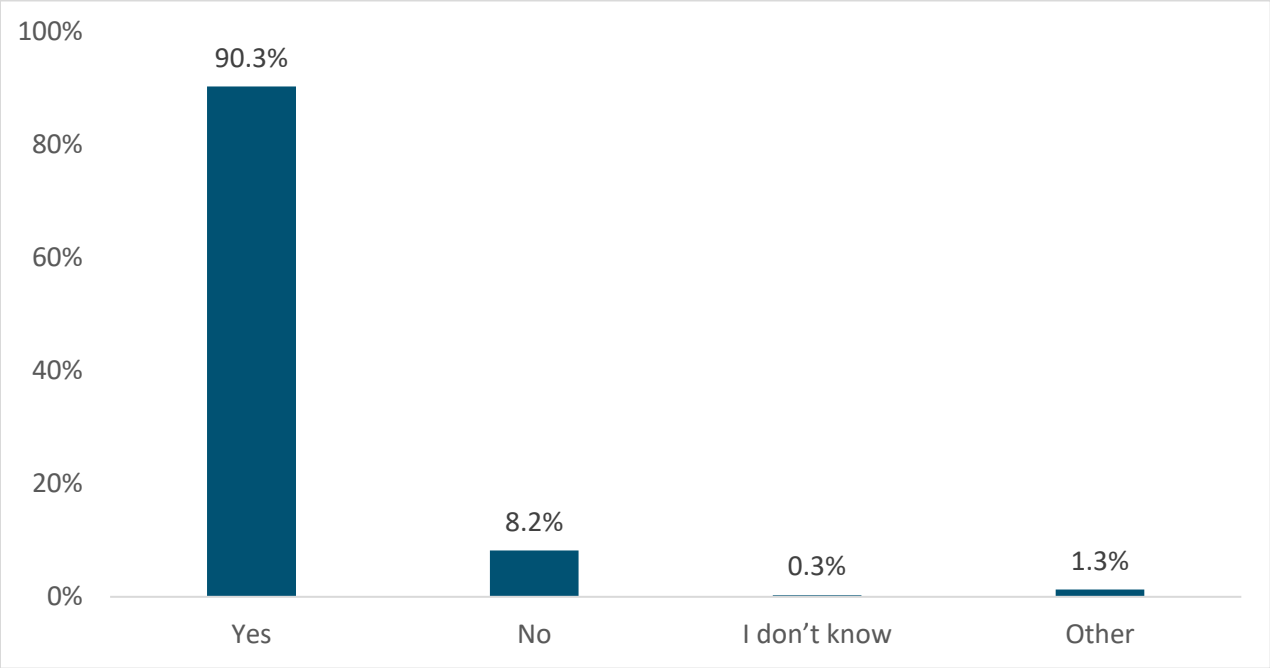
Exhibit 62:How much focus should be given to each of the following childcare and early education needs?



Health Care, Mental Health, Substance Use, and Food Access

As shown in Exhibit 63, majority of respondents (90.3%) reported they have a primary care provider. Only a small portion of respondents (8.2%) said they don't have a primary care provider.

Exhibit 63: Do you have a primary care provider, such as a doctor, nurse practitioner, or pediatrician?



As shown in Exhibit 64, five out of eight respondents (62.5%) reported dental care is one of the top services respondents needed in the past 12 months but were unable to get it. Other services that respondents need but unable to get include medical care (54.5%), behavioral health care (32.2%), other services (15.4%) such as “vision care”, “cancer, radiation specific need”, and “specialty care”, and substance use treatment (0.7%).

Exhibit 64: In the past 12 months, have you needed any of the following health services but were unable to get the service?

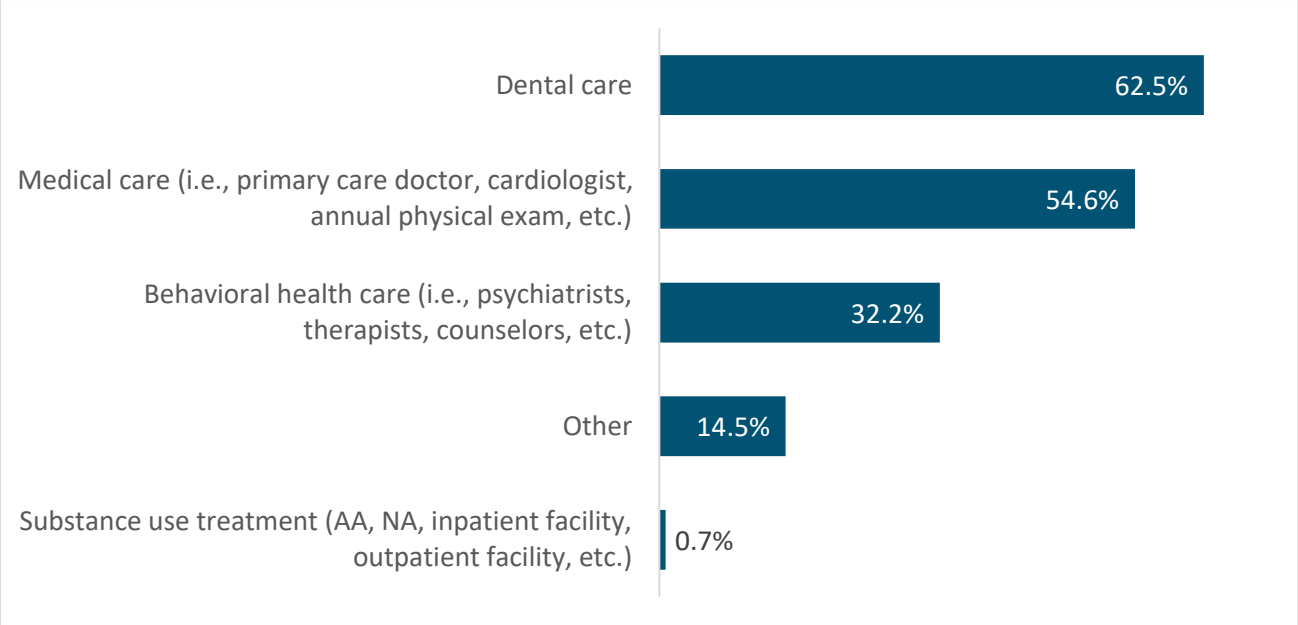
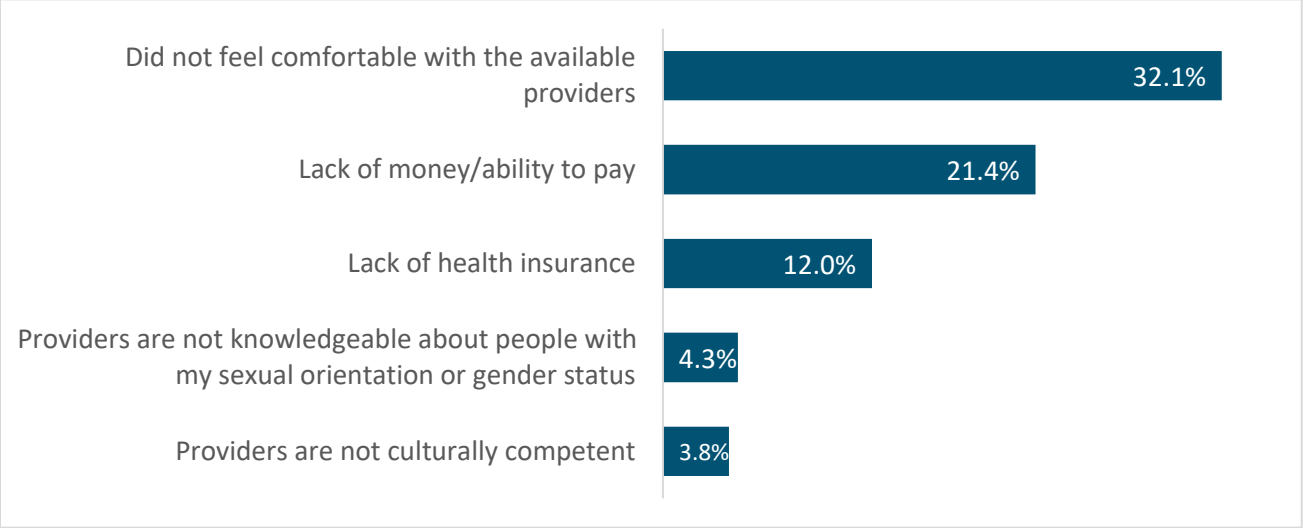


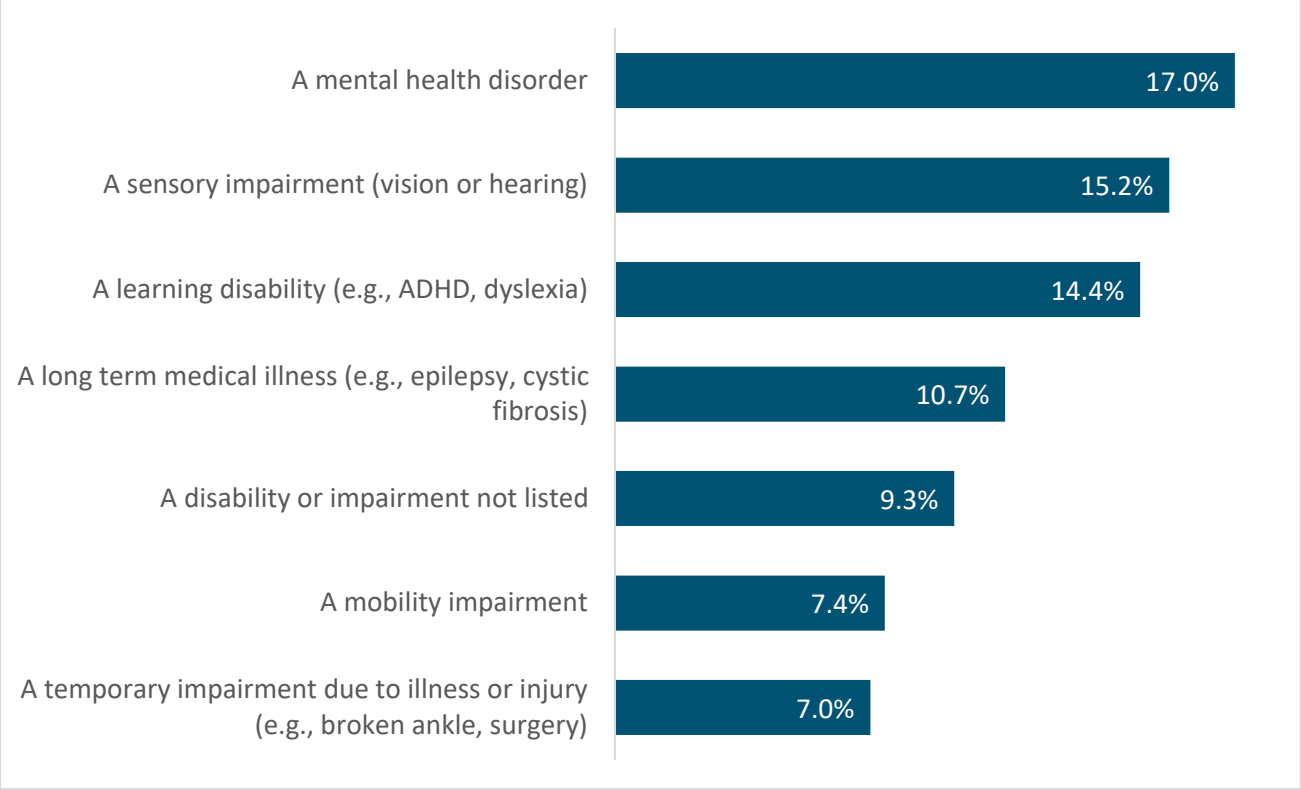
Exhibit 65 asks respondents about challenges when accessing health services, nearly one in three respondents (32.1%) reported not feeling comfortable with the available providers is one of the top challenges. Other challenges include lack of money or ability to pay (21.4%), lack of health insurance (12.0%), providers are not knowledgeable about people with their sexual orientation or gender status (4.3%), and providers are not culturally competent (3.8%).

Exhibit 65: What are some of the challenges you face when accessing health services?



As shown in Exhibit 66, about one in six respondents (17.0%) reported they have mental health disorders. Followed by a sensory impairment (15.2%), a learning disability (14.4%), a long term medical illness (10.7%), and a disability or impairment not listed (9.3%).

Exhibit 66: Do you have any of the following disability/ability?



As shown in Exhibit 67, one in seven respondents (14.2%) reported they have experienced food insecurity.

Exhibit 67: Have you or your family experienced food insecurity, that is, not knowing where your next meal is coming from or involuntarily eating less than you needed on a regular basis, for a period of time?

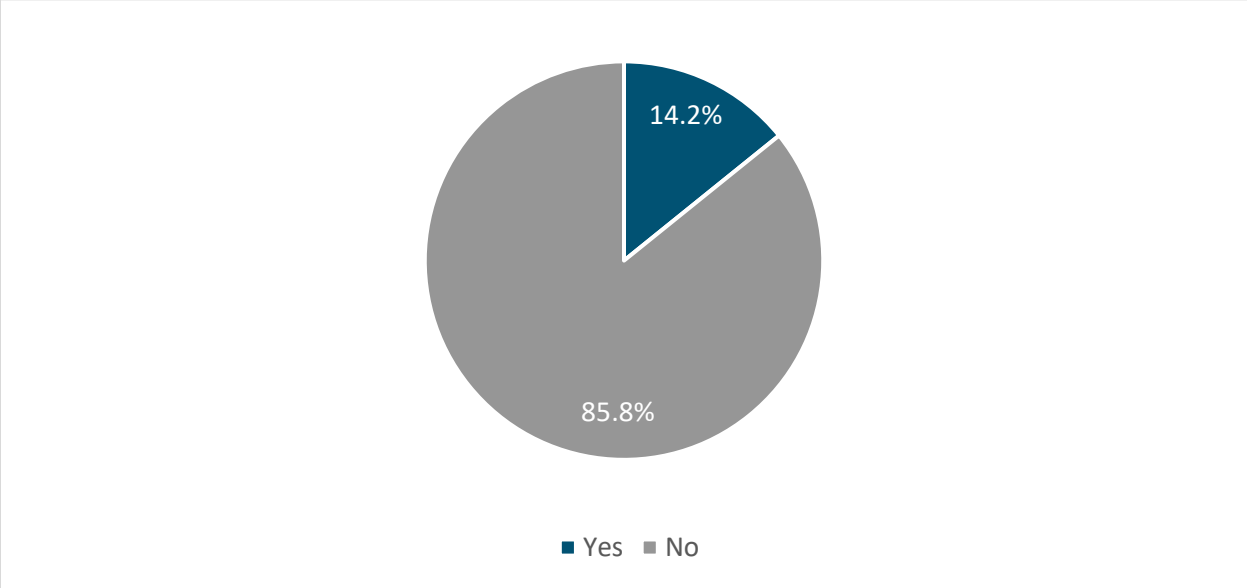
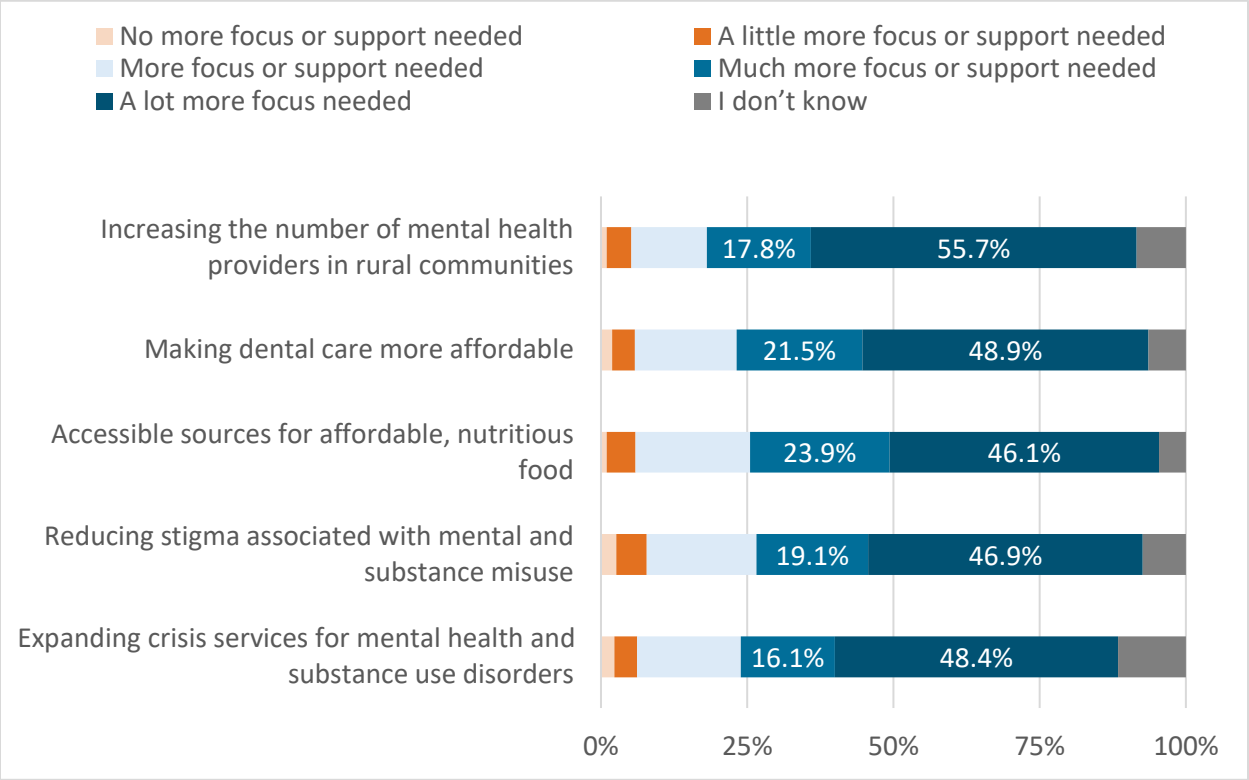


Exhibit 68 asked about food, healthcare, and mental health needs that more focus or much more focus. About three out of four respondents (73.5%) identified increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities as needing more or much more focus. Other needs that were identified as needing more or much focus include making dental care more affordable (70.4%), accessible sources for affordable, nutritious food (70.0%), reducing stigma associated with mental and substance misuse (66.0%), and expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders (64.5%).

Exhibit 68: How much additional focus or support should be given to each of the following food, healthcare and mental health needs?



Causes and Conditions of Poverty

Exhibit 69 asked about the causes of poverty in St. Lawrence County. The majority of respondents (80.3%) identified one of the biggest causes of poverty is lacking of jobs paying a living wage. Other causes of poverty include intergenerational poverty (53.2%), lack of affordable and safe housing (50.3%), lack of affordable childcare (47.4%), and lack of job available (39.0%).

Compared with 2022 survey results (see Appendix C Trend Analysis Between 2022-2025 Survey Responses), the cause of poverty has shifted more towards economic stability, housing and intergenerational poverty instead of social and family related issues.

Exhibit 69: What do you believe to the top 5 biggest causes of poverty in St. Lawrence County?

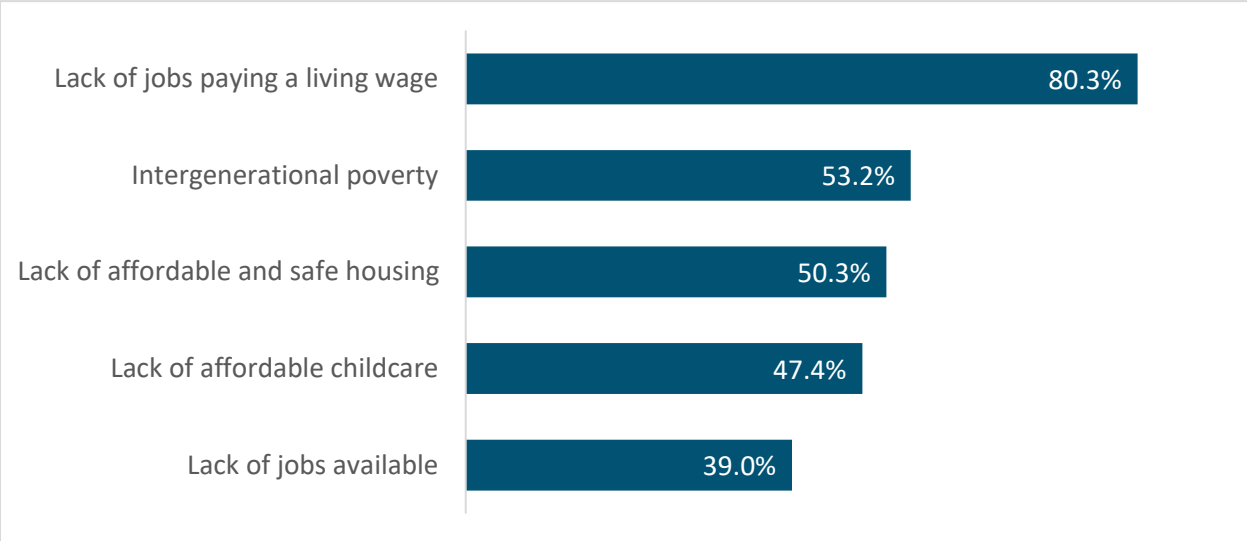
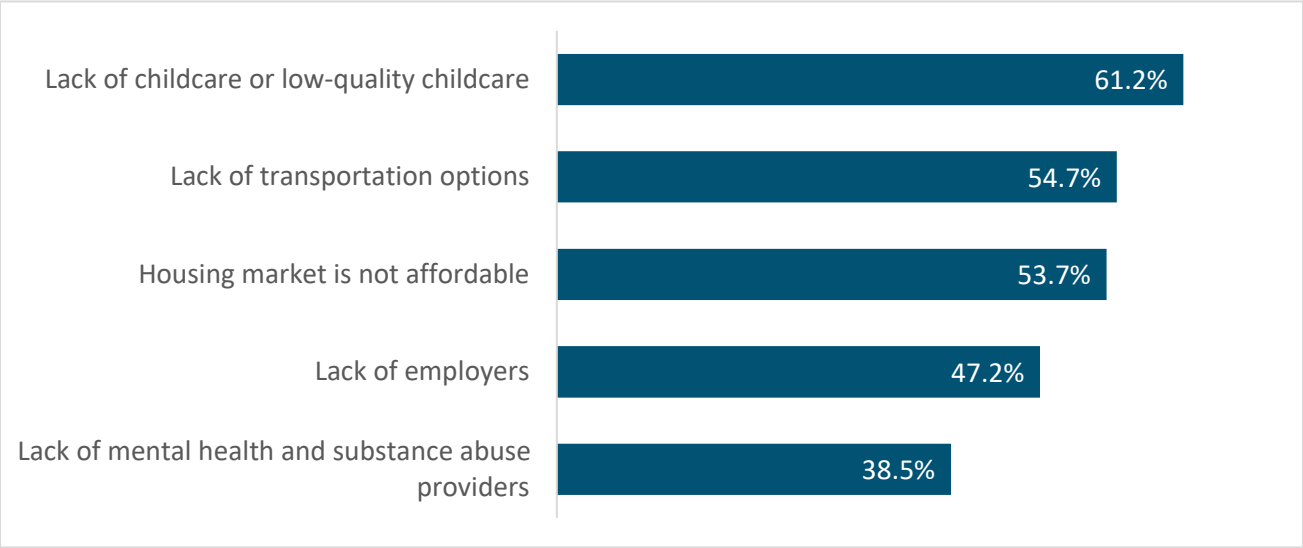


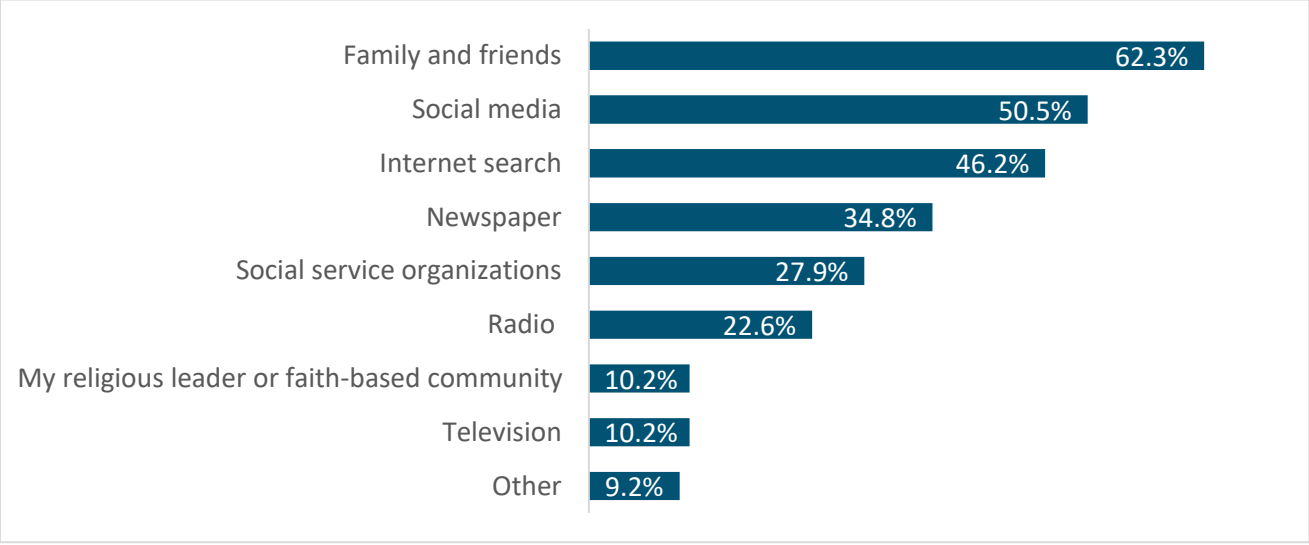
Exhibit 70 asked about the conditions of poverty, six out of ten respondents (61.2%) identified lack of childcare or low-quality childcare as the biggest condition of poverty. Other conditions of poverty include lack of transportation options (54.7%), housing market is not affordable (53.7%), lack of employer (47.2%), and lack of mental health and substance abuse providers (38.5%).

Exhibit 70: What you believe to be the top 5 biggest conditions of poverty in your county?



As shown in Exhibit 71, more than half of the respondents (62.3%) reported they hear about resources and services through family and friends. Other channel respondents hear about resources include social media (50.5%), internet search (46.2%), newspaper (34.8%), and social service organizations (27.9%).

Exhibit 71: How do you typically hear about resources and services in your community?



Conclusion

The St. Lawrence County Community Development Program (SLCCDP) Community Needs Assessment highlighted a variety of strengths and challenges that residents experienced across St. Lawrence County, a large rural region in Northern New York. SLCCDP is one of 49 Community Action Agencies in New York State and plays an essential role in the community by providing resources and services such as Head Start, housing support, food access, and other vital services.

Despite the presence of programs and resources, residents in St. Lawrence County still have critical needs unmet. Residents with lower incomes continue to face barriers in securing affordable housing, accessing healthcare, and finding reliable transportation. Finding affordable and quality childcare was brought up as a concern to residents, with high costs and limited availability placing additional strain on working families.

The county's large geographic area and rural demographic create barriers for residents as services are not always accessible, especially for those living in more rural areas of the county.

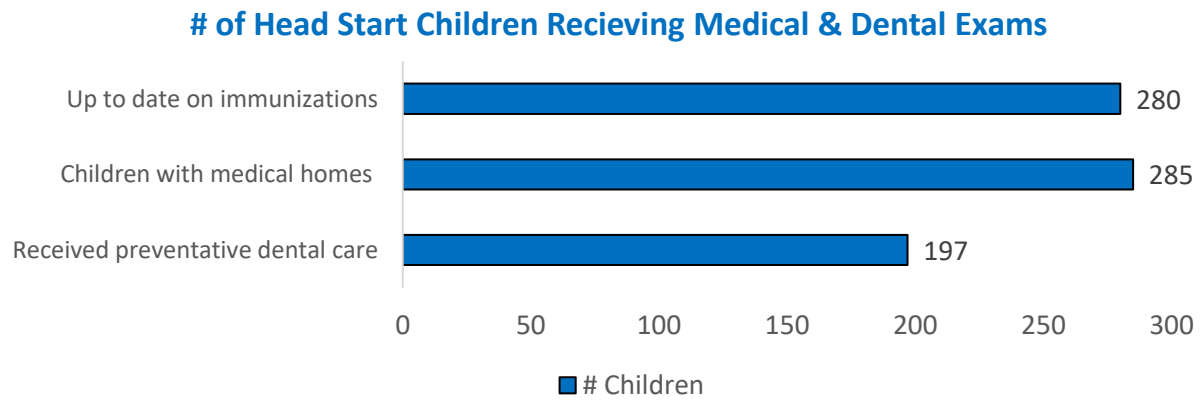
Meeting these needs will require ongoing collaboration among local agencies, schools, healthcare providers, and community partners. By coordinating efforts and building on existing strengths, the county can better connect residents to essential supports and work toward meeting the needs of the community.

Appendices

Appendix A: CDP Program Data

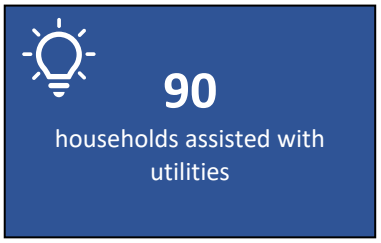
Head Start

Over the June 2024 to May 2025 period, Head Start served 278 children through both their Center-based and Home-Based programs. Outcomes associated with participation in Head Start included dental screenings, immunizations, physical exams, vision screenings, and developmental delay screenings, along with improved literacy skills and improved positive approaches toward learning.



Neighborhood Centers

Over the June 2024 to May 2025 period, six neighborhood centers (Colton/Pierrepont/ Parishville, Gouverneur, Ogdensburg, and Potsdam) provided a variety of forms of support to individuals and families in the community, including rent and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, and food assistance, along with a variety of other services and supplies (see graphics below).



Appendix B: Additional Secondary Data Tables

SVI: Social Vulnerability Index

Exhibit 72: Social Vulnerability Index

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total population	107,796	19,872,319	332,387,540
Below poverty	17.6%	13.8%	12.5%
Unemployment rate[27]	5.7%	4.2%	4.0%
Median household income	$61,900	$84,578	$78,538
No high school diploma	10.9%	12.1%	10.6%
Under 18 years	20.1%	20.7%	22.2%
Age 65 +	18.4%	17.4%	16.8%
Population living with a disability	17.3%	12.1%	12.8%
Children in single-parent households[28]	18.7%	26.3%	24.8%
Ethnic/racial minority	8.5%	46.6%	41.8%
Limited or no English proficiency	2.4%	13.3%	8.4%
Multi-unit housing structures	17.1%	51.5%	26.7%
Mobile homes	10.2%	2.1%	5.7%
No vehicle	10.8%	29.7%	8.4%
Group quarters[29]	9.7%	3.0%	2.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

[27] New York State Department of Labor. Local Area Unemployment Statistics, January 2024.

[28] County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. New York, 2016-2020

[29] A group quarters is a place where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement, that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents

Demographics

Exhibit 73: Household Composition

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Household with Children	26.5%	27.8%	29.9%
Households with Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 74: Languages Spoken

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
English only	93.0%	69.4%	78.0%
Spanish	1.3%	14.7%	13.4%
Other Indo-European languages	0.6%	5.1%	3.5%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	4.8%	8.9%	3.8%
Other languages	0.2%	1.9%	1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 75: Population by Race and Ethnicity

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total population	107,796	19,872,319	332,387,540
White	92.1%	57.1%	63.4%
Black or African American	2.0%	14.7%	12.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.5%	0.9%
Asian	1.0%	8.9%	5.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0.%	0.2%
Some other race	0.7%	9.8%	6.6%
Two or more races	3.7%	8.9%	10.7%
Hispanic or Latino	2.5%	19.6%	19.0%

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Not Hispanic or Latino	97.5%	80.4%	81.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 76: Disability Population by Age

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Population living with a disability	18,595	2,394,964	42,703,063
Under 5 years	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%
5 to 17 years	8.5%	5.7%	6.1%
18 to 34 years	10.0%	6.6%	7.7%
35 to 64 years	20.0%	11.2%	12.4%
65 to 74 years	28.5%	22.1%	24.0%
75 years and over	47.4%	45.4%	46.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 77: Disability Population by Type

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Population living with a disability	18,595	2,394,964	42,703,063
Hearing difficulty	5.7%	2.8%	3.6%
Vision difficulty	3.1%	2.2%	2.4%
Cognitive difficulty	7.0%	4.7%	5.1%
Ambulatory difficulty	8.4%	6.3%	6.3%
Self-care difficulty	2.9%	2.6%	2.4%
Independent living difficulty	5.9%	4.8%	4.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 78: Population Living with a Disability

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Population living with a disability	18,595	2,394,964	42,703,063
Male	18.2%	11.5%	12.9%
Female	17.1%	12.8%	13.2%

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
White	18.0%	12.5%	13.9%
Black or African American	14.8%	13.7%	14.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	23.6%	15.5%	15.7%
Asian	10.0%	7.8%	7.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	15.5%	12.7%
Some other race	12.3%	12.0%	8.2%
Two or more races	12.1%	11.6%	17.4%
Hispanic or Latino	15.1%	12.2%	9.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 79: Population by Sex and Age

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total population	107,796	19,872,319	332,387,540
Male	49.0%	51.2%	50.5%
Female	51.0%	48.8%	49.5%
Median age	39.0	39.6	38.7
Under 5	4.9%	5.6%	5.7%
5 to 9	5.4%	5.6%	6.0%
10 to 14	6.0%	6.0%	6.5%
15 to 19	9.0%	6.1%	6.6%
20 to 24	8.6%	6.3%	6.5%
25 to 34	11.1%	14.3%	13.7%
35 to 44	11.1%	12.9%	13.1%
45 to 54	11.5%	12.5%	12.3%
55 to 59	6.8%	6.8%	6.4%
60 to 64	7.2%	6.6%	6.4%
65 to 74	11.1%	10.1%	10.0%
75 to 84	5.2%	5.1%	4.9%
85 +	2.1%	2.2%	1.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 80: Veteran Population

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Civilian population 18 and over	86,073	15,737,168	257,456,135
Civilian veterans	7.1%	3.9%	6.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Economic Stability

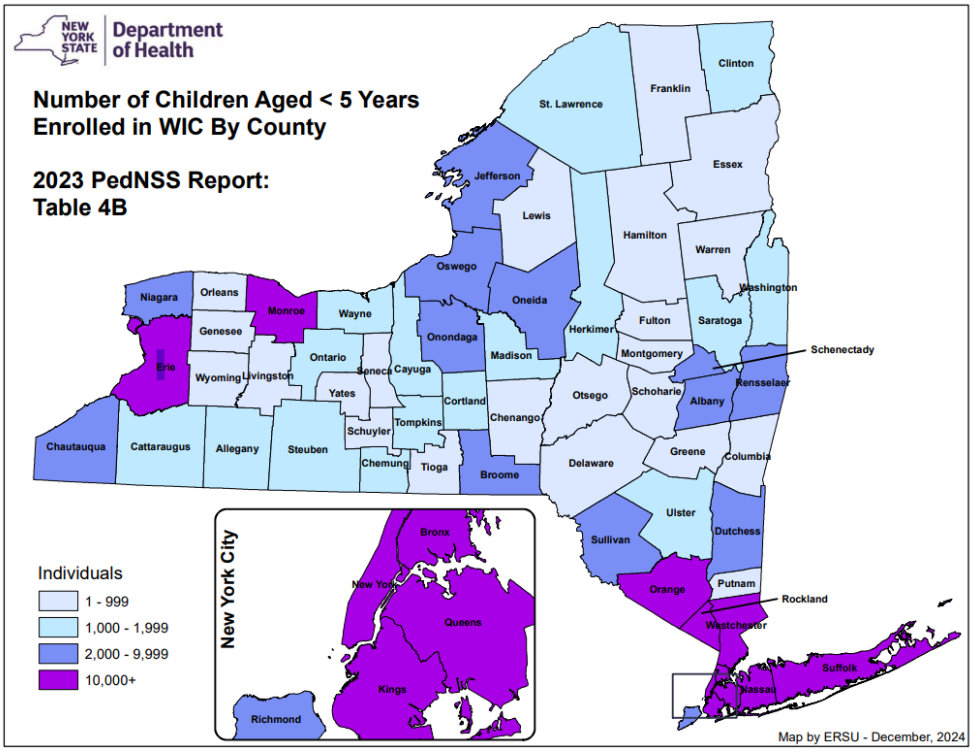
Food Access

Exhibit 81: Food Insecurity

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Overall food insecurity	15.6%	14.5%	14.3%
Above SNAP, Other Nutrition Programs threshold of 200% poverty	30.0%	35.0%	37.0%
Below SNAP, Other Nutrition Programs threshold of 200% poverty	70.0%	65.0%	73.0%
Child food insecurity	20.5%	19.0%	19.2%
Likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes above 185% of poverty)	20.0%	22.0%	33.0%
Income eligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes at or below 185% poverty)	80.0%	78.0%	67.0%
Average meal cost	$3.69	$3.78	$3.58

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2023

Exhibit 82: Number of Eligible Children Enrolled in WIC



Source: New York State Department of Health, 2023

Exhibit 83: Percent of children receiving free/reduced lunch

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total households	41,732	7,668,956	127,485,865
Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	56.0%	57.0%	55.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023 | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). St. Lawrence County, New York health data.

Exhibit 84: SNAP Assistance Program Enrollment

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total households	41,732	7,668,956	127,485,865
Households receiving SNAP	15.8%	15.0%	11.8%
SNAP authorized stores[30]	125	17,278	261,770

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

[30] U.S. Department of Agriculture: SNAP Retailer Management Year End Summary FY 2023

Income and Employment

Exhibit 85: Living Wage Calculator & Annual Expenses

St. Lawrence County	1 Adult, 0 Children	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	2 Working Adults, 0 Children	2 Working Adults, 1 Child	2 Adults, 2 Children
Food	$4,222	$6,209	$9,300	$7,741	$9,621	$12,376
Childcare	$0	$13,114	$24,518	$0	$13,114	$24,518
Medical	$3,662	$9,182	$9,273	$7,215	$10,386	$10,726
Housing	$8,724	$12.484	$12,484	$9,761	$12,484	$12,484
Transportation	$10,512	$12,166	$15,325	$12,166	$15,325	$17,633
Civic	$3,535	$6,224	$6,871	$6,224	$6,871	$8,810
Required annual income after taxes	$36,720	$69,648	$88,458	$53,944	$79,599	$99,661
Annual taxes	$6,994	$11,074	$14,177	$8,816	$12,340	$14,388
Required annual income before taxes	$43,714	$80,722	$102,636	$62,761	$91,939	$114,049
Living Wage	$21.02	$38.81	$49.34	$15.09	$22.10	$27.42
Poverty Wage	$7.52	$10.17	$12.81	$5.08	$6.41	$7.73
Minimum Wage	$15.50	$15.50	$15.50	$15.50	$15.50	$15.50

Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator, 2025

Exhibit 86:Monthly Owner Costs as a Percent of Renter & Household Income

Measures	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Occupied units paying rent	10,684	3,309,953	41,515,732
Less than 15.0%	15.1%	14.5%	13.0%
15.0 to 19.9 %	10.1%	11.7%	12.4%
20.0 to 24.9%	8.9%	11.5%	12.7%
25.0 to 29.9%	14.1%	10.7%	11.5%
30.0 to 34.9%	9.4%	9.0%	9.2%
35.0% or more	42.3%	42.5%	41.2%
Median rent	$799	$1,576	$1,348
Housing units with a mortgage	14,443	2,424,787	50,475,136

Measures	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Less than 20.0%	57.1%	43.2%	47.4%
20.0 to 24.9%	12.7%	14.2%	15.1%
25.0 to 29.9%	8.2%	9.8%	10.0%
30.0 to 34.9%	4.0%	7.0%	6.7%
35.0% or more	18.0%	25.7%	20.9%
Median mortgage	$152,000	$452,100	$372,600

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 87: Household Income by Age

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Median household income	$61,900	$84,578	$78,538
15 to 24 years	$26,262	$46,866	$43,534
25 to 44 years	$72,970	$97,722	$87,575
45 to 64 years	$74,260	$100,146	$94,847
65 years and older	$46,446	$58,643	$57,108

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 88: Poverty Rate by Select Age Groups

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Poverty rate of total population	17.4%	13.7%	12.4%
Under five	25.9%	18.6%	17.6%
5 to 17	22.8%	18.0%	15.9%
18 to 34	22.8%	14.4%	14.4%
35 to 64 years	14.3%	11.4%	10.0%
65 and older	11.9%	12.7%	10.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 89: Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment[31]

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total population living below the poverty level	17.4%	13.7%	12.4%
Less than high school graduate	36.7%	27.7%	24.0%

[31] Population 25 years and older

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
High school graduate	17.1%	16.0%	14.0%
Some college, associate's degree	11.3%	10.8%	9.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	6.2%	5.1%	4.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 90: Poverty Rate for People Living With a Disability

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
With any disability	34.8%	30.4%	26.2%
No disability	19.5%	15.5%	14.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 91: Occupation by Industry

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Office and Administrative Support	9.0%	9.9%	10.1%
Sales	8.0%	8.2%	8.8%
Management	9.5%	7.3%	5.9%
Food Preparation and Serving	2.3%	5.9%	5.6%
Business and Finance	3.5%	4.6%	3.1%
Construction and Extraction	3.8%	4.5%	4.2%
Education, Training and Library	5.6%	4.4%	4.9%
Building, Grounds Cleaning, and Maintenance	4.6%	4.0%	4.7%
Health Diagnosis and Treating Practitioners	3.8%	3.6%	3.6%
Transportation	4.5%	3.3%	3.2%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1.4%	3.1%	3.5%
Production	4.9%	3.1%	5.1%
Material Moving	1.4%	3.0%	2.0%
Computer and Mathematical	3.8%	2.7%	2.4%
Healthcare Support	3.2%	2.3%	3.6%
Personal Care and Service	3.4%	2.2%	2.9%
Health Technologist and Technicians	2.2%	2.0%	1.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media	9.5%	10.6%	10.8%

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Architecture and Engineering	0.6%	1.8%	1.1%
Community and Social Service	2.6%	1.8%	1.8%
Legal	1.0%	1.6%	2.1%
Fire Fighting and Prevention	1.0%	1.5%	1.1%
Law Enforcement	2.9%	1.2%	0.9%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	0.9%	0.2%	0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 92: Mothers in Labor Force

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Mothers in Labor Force with Children Under Age 6	76.1%	76.2%	73.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 93: Trend of Unemployment Rates[32]

January	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States[33]
2025	5.7%	4.4%	ND
2024	5.7%	4.2%	4.0%
2023	4.9%	4.0%	3.6%
2022	4.9%	5.2%	3.6%
2021	6.5%	8.6%	5.4%

Source: New York State Department of Labor. Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2021-2025

[32] Rates are not seasonally adjusted.

[33] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate [UNRATENSA], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Education

Childcare and Early Education

Exhibit 94: Childcare Centers[34]

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Childcare Centers	27	6,702	82,162

Source: U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns 2023. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html

Exhibit 95: Childcare Centers

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Number of childcare centers per 1,000 population under five	3	6	7
Percent of household income required for childcare expenses	42.0%	38.0%	28.0%

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). St. Lawrence County, New York health data.

Exhibit 96: Preschool Enrollment (Ages 3 and 4)

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Female	615	77,650	1,038,613
Male	405	89,310	1,117,293

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Educational Attainment

Exhibit 97: Academic Indicators

	St. Lawrence County	New York
ELA performance 3rd grade[35]	34.3%	38.8%
ELA performance 4th grade	39.9%	41.4%
Math performance 8th grade	31.5%	19.8%

[34] This dataset provides the number of child care centers. This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in providing day care of infants or children. These establishments generally care for preschool children, but may care for older children when they are not in school and may also offer pre-kindergarten and/or kindergarten educational programs. Examples include child day care babysitting services, nursery schools, child or infant day care centers, and preschool centers.

[35] The number reported is the number of students scoring at or above proficiency (level 3 or higher); NYS Education Department; Office of Information; Reporting and Technology Services, 2018-2019

	St. Lawrence County	New York
Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate[36]	85.5%	86.4%
Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Dropout Rate	6.5%	4.9%

Source: New York State Council on Children and Families: Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. KWIC County Report, 2020

Exhibit 98: Youth and Children with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Programs and Services

	New York					
	4-5 years	6-11 years	12-13 years	14-17 years	18-21 years	**Total**
Autism	8,379	32,487	8,219	14,245	4,006	**67,336**
Emotional disturbance	278	4,241	2,908	7,703	1,150	**16,280**
Learning disability	525	49,741	30,157	62,703	5,962	**149,088**
Intellectual disability	156	2,598	1,673	4,120	2,055	**10,602**
Deafness	56	391	180	323	101	**1,051**
Hearing impairment	156	1,222	456	835	64	**2,733**
Speech or language impairment	21,710	89,428	16,108	20,181	1,530	**148,957**
Visual impairment (includes blindness)	52	507	184	388	48	**1,179**
Orthopedic impairment	119	674	199	348	56	**1,396**
Other health impairment	3,885	36,822	15,563	30,114	1,882	**88,266**
Multiple disabilities	668	4,426	1,682	3,700	2,028	**12,504**
Deaf- blindness	2	6	2	6	6	**22**
Traumatic brain injury	18	215	107	253	54	**647**
Total	**46,505**	**36,004**	**222,758**	**77,438**	**144,919**	**18,942**

Source: New York State Education Department. Children with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Programs & Services, 2023

Exhibit 99: Highest Level of Educational Attainment

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Less than 9th Grade	4.4%	6.0%	4.7%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	6.5%	6.2%	5.9%
High School Degree	33.8%	24.6%	26.2%
Some College No Degree	17.5%	14.9%	19.4%
Associates Degree	13.2%	8.9%	8.8%

[36] NYS Education Department; Office of Information; Reporting and Technology Services, 2019-2020

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Bachelor's Degree	12.7%	22.0%	21.3%
Graduate Degree	12.0%	17.5%	13.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Health and Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health

Exhibit 100: Quality of Life Indicators

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Poor Mental Health Days	5.5	4.9	5.1

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). St. Lawrence County, New York health data.

Exhibit 101: Binge Drinking Among Adults

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Binge Drinking Among Adults	19.3%	17.8%	16.6%

Source: CDC BRFSS PLACES, 2022

Exhibit 102: Regular Smoking Among Adults

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Regular Smoking Among Adults	17.8%	13.1%	12.9%

Source: CDC BRFSS PLACES, 2022

Exhibit 103: Count of Fatal Overdoses

	St. Lawrence County
2024	5
2023	12
2022	9
2021	5
2020	10

Source: St. Lawrence County Drug Overdose Information, 2024

Exhibit 104: Count of Overdoses

	St. Lawrence County
2024	77

	St. Lawrence County
2023	153
2022	112
2021	64
2020	47

Source: St. Lawrence County Drug Overdose Information, 2024

Exhibit 105: Count of Overdoses, Per 100,000 People, 2024

	St. Lawrence County
Rate of Overdose	71.3

Source: St. Lawrence County Drug Overdose Information, 2024

Health Access and Outcomes

Exhibit 106: Quality of Life Indicators

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Poor Physical Health Days	4.1	3.9	3.9
Poor or Fair Health	17.0%	16.0%	17.0%

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). *St. Lawrence County, New York health data*.

Exhibit 107: Insured Population

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
People with Private Health Insurance	71.4%	69.7%	73.6%
People with Public Health Insurance	47%	43.7%	39.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019-2023 Five-year Estimates

Exhibit 108: Uninsured Population

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Age Under 6 without Health Insurance	9.7%	2.4%	4.5%
Age 6 to 18 without Health Insurance	10.5%	2.6%	5.8%
Age 19 to 64 without Health Insurance	6.1%	7.2%	12.0%
Age 65 and Over without Health Insurance	0.0%	0.9%	0.8%

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Age 18 and Under with a Disability without Health Insurance	5.7%	1.8%	4.0%
Age 19 to 64 with a Disability without Health Insurance	4.3%	4.9%	10.0%
People in Labor Force without Health Insurance	5.8%	6.9%	11.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019-2023 Five-year Estimates

Exhibit 109: Provider to Patient Ratios

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Primary Care Physician	1,294:1	891:1	980:1
Primary Care Nurse Practitioner	1,430:1	985:1	1,303:1
Dentist	3,019:1	1,468:1	1,648:1
Mental Health Provider	720:1	589:1	624:1
Pediatrician	1,355:1	623:1	873:1
Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN)	2,119:1	3,058:1	3,782:1
Midwife and Doula	13,242:1	10,203:1	12,248:1

Source: National Plan & Provider Enumeration System NPI, 2024. https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Administrative-Simplification/NationalProvIdentStand/DataDissemination

Exhibit 110: Number of clinics that accept Medicaid

	St. Lawrence County
Medicaid Accepted at Dental Clinic	3

Source: New York State Department of Health. (2025).

Exhibit 111: Leading Causes of Death (Rate per 100,000 People), 2023

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Heart Disease	233.8	210.4	203.3
Cancer	211.3	164.9	183.1
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	64.5	31.3	43.4
Accidental Injuries	52.4	54.5	66.5
Stroke	50.5	32.8	48.6
Diabetes	45.8	22.9	28.4
COVID-19	19.6	15.5	14.9
Influenza / Pneumonia	ND	20.5	13.5
Alzheimer's Disease	ND	15.8	34.0

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
High Blood Pressure	ND	15.0	12.7

Source: CDC WONDER Causes of Death, 2023. https://wonder.cdc.gov/

Maternal and Infant Health

Exhibit 112: Prenatal Care in First Trimester

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Prenatal Care	66.1%	77.0%	74.7%

Source: CDC WONDER Natality, 2023 https://wonder.cdc.gov/

Exhibit 113: Birth Rate

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Birth Rate	9.3	10.4	10.7

Source: CDC WONDER Natality Birth Rate, 2023 https://wonder.cdc.gov/

Exhibit 114: Teen Births, Per 1,000 Females Ages 15–19

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Teen Births	10.0	10.0	16.0

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). *St. Lawrence County, New York health data*.

Exhibit 115: Low Birth Weight, (<2,500g)

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Low Birth Weight	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). *St. Lawrence County, New York health data*.

Exhibit 116: Infant Mortality, Per 1,000 Live Births

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Infant Deaths	7.0	4.0	6.0

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). *St. Lawrence County, New York health data*.

Neighborhood and built environment

Housing and Infrastructure

Exhibit 117: Unhoused Population

	St. Lawrence County
Point-in-time count of unhoused individuals	200

Source: National Homeless Information Project 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Estimate by CoC.

Exhibit 118: Fair Market Rent

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Median Household Income	$44,177	$56,951	$52,762
Owner Excessive Housing Costs	17.6%	26.9%	22.1%
Renter Excessive Housing Costs	46.4%	48.7%	46.9%
Renter Housing Mobile Homes	7.2%	1.0%	4.0%
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%

Source: U.S. HUD CHAS 2015-2019 | U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010 One-year Estimates | U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019-2023 Five-year Estimates

Exhibit 119: Fair Market Rent

2023	St. Lawrence County
0 Bedrooms	$646
1 Bedrooms	$742
2 Bedrooms	$909
3 Bedrooms	$1,133
4 Bedrooms	$1,223

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Rent Limits 2023

Exhibit 120: Housing Units & Occupancy

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Total housing units	41,732	7,668,956	127,482,865
Occupied housing units	80.4%	89.8%	89.6%
Vacant housing units	10.4%	10.2%	19.6%
Owner-occupied	77.2%	58.0%	67.8%

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Renter-occupied	22.8%	42.0%	32.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 121: HUD Assisted Housing Units

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Average household size in HUD assisted housing units	1.5	1.9	2.0
Average months on waiting list for HUD assisted housing units	13.0	51.0	27.0
Age of householder			
24 or younger	3.0%	1.0%	3.0%
25 to 50	27.0%	31.0%	38.0%
51 to 61	20.0%	20.0%	17.0%
62 and older	49.0%	48.0%	42.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Assisted Housing: National and Local, Picture of Subsidized Households, 2024

Exhibit 122: Sources of Heating Fuel

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Occupied housing units	41,732	7,668,956	127,482,865
Utility gas	34.1%	59.3%	46.8%
Bottles, tank, or LP gas	13.6.%	4.8%	4.9%
Electricity	13.9%	14.4%	40.8%
Fuel oil, kerosene	24.1%	17.0%	4.1%
Coal or coke	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%
Wood	11.2%	1.3%	1.4%
Solar Energy	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 123: Housing Choice Vouchers Assisted Housing Units

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Housing choice vouchers assisted housing units	654	286,865	2,787,090

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
People in housing choice vouchers assisted housing units	929	526,747	5,266,740
% occupancy of housing choice vouchers assisted housing units	90.0%	85.0%	84.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Assisted Housing: National and Local, Picture of Subsidized Households, 2024

Exhibit 124: Project Based Housing Assisted Housing Units

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Project based housing assisted housing units	399	108,840	1.319,774
People in project based housing assisted housing units	473	160,506	2,030,518
% occupancy of project based housing assisted housing units	91.0%	92.0%	91.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Assisted Housing: National and Local, Picture of Subsidized Households, 2024

Exhibit 125: Public Housing Assisted Housing Units

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Public housing assisted housing units	796	175,986	872,153
People in public housing assisted housing units	1,161	293,476	1,559,149
% occupancy of public housing assisted units	89.0%	93.0%	92.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Assisted Housing: National and Local, Picture of Subsidized Households, 2024

Exhibit 126: Selected Housing Indicators

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	1.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	1.4%	0.8%	0.8%
No telephone service available	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%
With a computer	91.9%	91.1%	87.6%
With a broadband internet subscription	90.5%	94.0%	94.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 127: Owner-Occupied Unit Value

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Median (dollars)	$119,800	$403,000	$303,400
Less than $50,000	10.8%	3.9%	5.5%
$50,000 to $99,999	28.4%	6.0%	6.7%
$100,000 to $149,999	21.4%	7.9%	8.3%
$150,000 to $199,999	13.9%	8.4%	9.6%
$200,000 to $299,999	14.1%	13.7%	19.5%
$300,000 to $499,999	8.6%	19.1%	24.9%
$500,000 to $999,999	2.0%	28.9%	19.1%
$1,000,000 or more	0.8%	12.1%	6.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Transportation and Connectivity

Exhibit 128: Transportation Indicators

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
No Vehicle	10.8%	29.7%	8.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	21.0	32.8	26.6
Commute Transportation by Public Transit	0.3%	22.4%	3.5%
Commute Transportation by Drive Alone	75.0%	49.7%	70.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023

Exhibit 129: Broadband

	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Household Without Internet Access	11.6%	8%	7.7%
Number of Internet Providers (2021)	13	67	2126

Source: Federal Communications Commission Fixed Broadband Deployment Data 2024 | U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019-2023 Five-year Estimates

Safety

Exhibit 130: Prison Incarceration Rate, Per 100,000 Population

Per 100,000	St. Lawrence County	New York	United States
Jail incarceration	183	127	309
Prison incarceration	443	256	576

Source: Vera Institute of Justice. Incarceration Trends Q4 Total, 2023

Exhibit 131: Annual Arrests by Offenses

	St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office
Simple assault	38
Drug abuse violations	44
Driving under the influence	29
Larceny-theft	19

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, 2024

Exhibit 132: Young Adults Aged 18 to 24 Arrests

Rate per 10,000	St. Lawrence County	New York
Arrests for driving while intoxicated	43.7	21.2
Arrests for drug use/possession/sale	17.6	19.1
Arrests for property crimes	27.5	55.0
Arrests for violent crimes	9.9	47.2

Source: New York State Council on Children and Families: Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. KWIC County Report, 2022

Social and Community Context

Child Welfare

Exhibit 133: Child Abuse/Maltreatment

Rate per 1,000 children 0-17 years	St. Lawrence County	New York
Reports of abuse/maltreatment	11.2	21.3

Source: New York State Council on Children and Families: Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. KWIC County Report, 2022

Exhibit 134: Foster Care

	St. Lawrence County	New York
Foster care children in care (per 1,000)	7.4	2.7
Foster care admissions (per 1,000)	2.6	1.2
Foster care discharges	36.0%	32.9%

Source: New York State Council on Children and Families: Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. KWIC County Report, 2022

Appendix C: Community Survey Results

Complete Response Tables from 2025 Survey

Survey Table 1: Respondents Demographics

Demographic Category	Percent of Respondents
AGE	
Under 18	0.7%
18-24	2.3%
25-34	12.4%
35-44	16.0%
45-54	14.3%
55-64	17.6%
65 or older	34.5%
I prefer not to share	2.3%
GENDER	
Male	20.9%
Female	74.2%
Non-binary/gender diverse	2.0%
My Identity isn't listed	0.0%
I prefer not to share	2.9%
RACE	
White or Caucasian	92.5%
Black or African American	0.7%
Asian or Asian American	1.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Another race	0.0%
Multiple races	2.0%
I prefer not to share	4.6%
Other	0.7%
ETHNICITY	
Hispanic or Latino	1.7%
Not Hispanic or Latino	89.3%
I prefer not to share	9.1%
EDUCATION	
Less than high school or GED	0.7%

Demographic Category	Percent of Respondents
High school diploma or equivalent	9.2%
Some college	12.5%
Technical or trades school	3.3%
Associate degree	7.2%
Bachelor's degree	22.3%
Graduate or professional degree (Masters, PhD, MD, etc.)	42.3%
I prefer not to share	2.6%
INCOME	
Under $15,000	3.6%
Between $15,000 and $29,999	8.8%
Between $30,000 and $49,999	14.7%
Between $50,000 and $74,999	23.9%
Between $75,000 and $99,999	19.6%
Between $100,000 and $150,000	13.4%
Over $150,000	5.9%
I prefer not to share	10.1%

Survey Table 2: Which best describes your current employment status?

Response	Percent
Employed full-time (40+ hours a week)	42.8%
Retired	39.0%
Employed part-time (Less than 40 hours a week)	13.1%
Currently looking for a job	2.6%
Unable to work	2.6%
Migrant seasonal farm worker	0.0%

Survey Table 3: Why are you unable to work?

Response	Percent
Disability	72.7%
Family responsibilities	27.3%
Other	9.1%
Unable to find a meaningful job in my community	0.0%
Afraid of losing my public benefits or assistance	0.0%

Survey Table 4: How often, if ever, have you experienced any of these difficult work-related challenges in the past three years?

	Never/ Not applicable	Rarely-Once a year	Sometimes-A few times a year	Often-Every month
There are limited living wage job opportunities in my community	40.2%	5.7%	18.5%	35.6%
Childcare is not available or too expensive	62.1%	3.4%	7.5%	27.0%
I am unable to put any money toward savings or retirement	46.0%	11.7%	16.6%	25.7%
Reliable transportation	58.8%	11.1%	14.2%	15.9%
There are few opportunities for advancement at my current job	57.0%	12.9%	14.9%	15.2%
My paycheck does not cover my basic living expenses	53.7%	12.5%	20.2%	13.6%
Lack of affordable health insurance	64.0%	12.0%	14.0%	9.9%
Additional education or training	65.9%	13.9%	13.0%	7.2%
Unable to find additional education or training (e.g., certifications, college/technical school, etc.)	70.5%	13.2%	11.5%	4.0%

Survey Table 5: Do you use any of the following resources to support your family?

Response	Percent
None	76.9%
Other	9.3%
Disability income for adults/child	6.8%
SNAP	4.8%
Public assistance for housing/utilities (e.g., Housing Choice Vouchers, emergency rental or utility assistance, etc.)	3.7%
Food basket	3.1%
Child support	3.1%
WIC	1.4%

Survey Table 6: How much focus should be given to each of the following transportation, workforce development, and employment needs?

	No more focus or support needed	A little more focus or support needed	More focus or support needed	Much more focus or support needed	A lot more focus needed	I don't know
Developing more livable-wage job	2.1%	3.3%	14.0%	20.8%	57.4%	2.4%
Providing job growth opportunities	1.8%	4.2%	22.7%	20.3%	43.9%	7.2%
Making public transportation available in rural communities	2.4%	11.5%	23.6%	19.2%	37.2%	6.2%
Improving access to high-speed internet and technology	4.4%	12.3%	20.5%	18.2%	37.0%	7.6%
Creating technical school, trade school, or other job training options	5.3%	9.7%	22.1%	18.5%	36.8%	7.6%
Providing soft skills education (customer service, showing up on time, etc.)	6.2%	7.4%	21.7%	20.5%	35.6%	8.6%
Adding better routes and time schedules to current public transportation system	3.3%	10.1%	22.6%	18.7%	29.4%	16.0%
Providing help with the cost of vehicle repairs	10.1%	13.3%	22.2%	15.4%	18.9%	20.1%
Providing help with the cost of vehicle insurance and regular maintenance	9.2%	14.5%	25.2%	14.8%	16.6%	19.6%

Survey Table 7: What type of housing do you currently live in?

Response	Percent
Own	77.1%
Rent	14.1%
Live with family	7.3%
Other	1.5%
I do not have stable housing/living in a shelter or temporary housing	0.0%
I have been "couch surfing" with friends and family	0.0%

Survey Table 8: How much focus should be given to each of the following housing needs?

	No more focus or support needed	A little more focus or support needed	More focus or support needed	Much more focus or support needed	A lot more focus needed	I don't know
Increasing the number of affordable apartments	1.5%	3.9%	20.5%	21.5%	47.4%	5.1%
Providing more senior housing options	2.8%	5.8%	17.7%	18.3%	45.3%	10.1%
Increasing programs for major housing repairs (roofs, windows, etc.)	2.4%	4.2%	21.4%	26.5%	39.8%	5.7%
Increasing the number of affordable houses for sale	3.0%	6.1%	23.3%	20.6%	39.7%	7.3%
Creating higher quality rental apartments and houses	0.9%	5.8%	22.8%	25.8%	39.5%	5.2%
Create emergency shelter beds for people who are homeless	3.4%	6.1%	21.6%	17.7%	39.3%	11.9%
Developing rental and mortgage assistance programs	2.7%	8.5%	20.7%	21.9%	37.7%	8.5%

	No more focus or support needed	A little more focus or support needed	More focus or support needed	Much more focus or support needed	A lot more focus needed	I don't know
Create shelter beds for certain populations (children, women, families, LGBTQIA, veterans, etc.)	3.3%	6.4%	19.1%	20.3%	37.6%	13.3%
Providing help with utility assistance (heating fuel, electricity, etc.)	3.0%	4.8%	22.7%	27.2%	36.6%	5.7%
Providing help with weatherization	2.4%	4.5%	20.6%	28.8%	36.1%	7.6%
Helping more people who are homeless to find their missing identification documents (diver's license, social security number, etc.)	3.6%	6.4%	19.5%	16.4%	32.5%	21.6%
Increasing programs for minor housing repairs (paint, upgrades, etc.)	4.2%	10.3%	26.3%	23.6%	29.0%	6.6%
Increasing the number of landlords who accept housing vouchers	4.2%	7.6%	18.7%	15.7%	26.0%	27.8%
Providing hotpots for internet access	5.4%	12.1%	25.1%	19.6%	25.4%	12.4%

Survey Table 9: Do you have children?

Response	Percent
Yes	58.0%
No	42.0%

Survey Table 10: Have you needed any of the following services for your children, but found it difficult to get the service?

	Yes	No
Recreation programs, like sports, arts, or theater	41.2%	58.8%
Mental health services at school	39.9%	60.1%
After-school childcare	37.5%	62.5%
Youth mentor or leadership programs	29.7%	70.3%
Tutoring or academic help	29.0%	71.0%
Health services at school	26.8%	73.2%
Head Start Program	8.8%	91.2%

Survey Table 11: Have you needed childcare in the past five years but have had difficulty finding it?

Response	Percent
Yes	27.5%
No	72.5%

Survey Table 12: What were the reasons for the difficulty [in finding childcare]?

Response	Percent
It costs too much	77.4%
There are no open slots for my child	62.3%
The wait lists are too long	60.4%
I can’t find a quality provider	58.5%
It is not available during the hours I work or go to school	26.4%
I don’t know where to find childcare in my community	18.9%
Other	11.3%
Providers don’t take infants or toddlers	7.5%
I don’t have reliable transportation	1.9%

Survey Table 13: How much focus should be given to each of the following childcare and early education needs?

	No more focus or support needed	A little more focus or support needed	More focus or support needed	Much more focus or support needed	A lot more focus needed	I don't know
Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)	0.5%	2.7%	20.1%	23.4%	47.3%	6.0%
Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers	0.5%	3.3%	19.7%	22.4%	46.4%	7.7%
Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers	0.0%	4.9%	22.8%	22.8%	42.9%	6.5%
Providing more after-school programs for school-aged children	3.3%	6.0%	22.8%	23.9%	32.6%	11.4%
Providing more recreational opportunities for youth	5.4%	9.2%	26.1%	21.7%	29.3%	8.2%
Providing more transportation options to childcare services	2.7%	12.0%	21.3%	18.0%	29.0%	16.9%
Mental health services for children ages 4 and younger	3.8%	9.2%	22.3%	14.1%	27.7%	22.8%

Survey Table 14: Do you have a primary care provider, such as a doctor, nurse practitioner, or pediatrician?

Response	Percent
Yes	90.3%
No	8.2%
Other	1.3%
I don't know	0.3%

Survey Table 15: In the past 12 months, have you needed any of the following health services but were unable to get the service?

Response	Percent
Dental care	62.5%
Medical care (i.e., primary care doctor, cardiologist, annual physical exam, etc.)	54.6%
Behavioral health care (i.e., psychiatrists, therapists, counselors, etc.)	32.2%
Other	14.5%
Substance use treatment (AA, NA< inpatient facility, outpatient facility, etc.)	0.7%

Survey Table 16: What are some of the challenges you face when accessing health services?

Response	Percent
Long wait times to see a provider	82.9%
Did not feel comfortable with the available providers	32.1%
Lack of money/ability to pay	21.4%
Doctor's office is too far from my house	16.7%
Lack of health insurance	12.0%
Lack for transportation	6.8%
Providers are not knowledgeable about people with my sexual orientation or gender status	4.3%
Providers are not culturally competent	3.8%
Providers did not speak my language	3.4%
COVID-19 restrictions	0.4%
Concern about my immigration status	0.0%

Survey Table 17: Do you have any of the following disability/ability?

Response	Percent
I do not identify with a disability or impairment	47.0%
A mental health disorder	17.0%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	15.2%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	14.4%
A long term medical illness (e.g., epilepsy, cystic fibrosis)	10.7%
A disability or impairment not listed	9.3%
A mobility impairment	7.4%
A temporary impairment due to illness or injury (e.g., broken ankle, surgery)	7.0%

Response	Percent
I prefer not to answer	5.9%

Survey Table 18: Have you or your family experienced food insecurity, that is, not knowing where your next meal is coming from or involuntarily eating less than you needed on a regular basis, for a period of time?

Response	Percent
Yes	14.2%
No	85.8%

Survey Table 19: How much additional focus or support should be given to each of the following food, healthcare and mental health needs?

	No more focus or support needed	A little more focus or support needed	More focus or support needed	Much more focus or support needed	A lot more focus needed	I don't know
Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities	1.0%	4.2%	12.9%	17.8%	55.7%	8.4%
Increasing the number of dentists who serve Medicaid patients	2.3%	4.5%	14.5%	14.5%	49.7%	14.5%
Making dental care more affordable	1.9%	3.9%	17.4%	21.5%	48.9%	6.4%
Expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders	2.3%	3.9%	17.7%	16.1%	48.4%	11.6%
Reducing the amount of opioid misuse	1.0%	3.6%	18.3%	16.7%	47.7%	12.7%
Reducing stigma associated with mental and substance misuse	2.6%	5.2%	18.8%	19.1%	46.9%	7.4%

	No more focus or support needed	A little more focus or support needed	More focus or support needed	Much more focus or support needed	A lot more focus needed	I don't know
Accessible sources for affordable, nutritious food	1.0%	4.9%	19.6%	23.9%	46.1%	4.6%
Reducing the amount of childhood obesity	2.0%	8.8%	19.9%	20.2%	44.0%	5.2%
Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)	1.3%	3.9%	18.9%	19.2%	44.0%	12.7%
Increasing services for people with disabilities	1.6%	6.2%	20.5%	16.6%	37.0%	18.2%
Reducing the amount of adult obesity	3.9%	8.1%	13.3%	13.6%	35.6%	5.5%
Reducing the amount of alcohol misuse	1.3%	7.2%	23.1%	20.8%	34.5%	13.0%
Reducing the amount of smoking and vaping	4.5%	12.0%	18.4%	18.8%	33.7%	12.6%
Increasing the number of detox facilities	2.0%	4.9%	18.6%	18.0%	33.3%	23.2%
Increasing the availability of prepared foods for seniors (Meals on Wheels, etc.)	2.3%	8.7%	19.0%	23.2%	31.8%	15.1%
Expanding open hours at food pantries	3.6%	8.7%	17.8%	20.1%	30.4%	19.4%
Expanding food options for people with dietary restrictions or allergies at food pantries	2.9%	10.0%	18.4%	19.4%	26.5%	22.7%
Increasing the number of substance use disorder providers and services	1.0%	4.2%	17.7%	19.4%	20.6%	17.1%

Survey Table 20: What do you believe to the top 5 biggest causes of poverty in St. Lawrence County?

Response	Percent
Lack of jobs paying a living wage	80.3%
Intergenerational poverty	53.2%
Lack of affordable and safe housing	50.3%
Lack of affordable childcare	47.4%
Lack of jobs available	39.0%
Lack of reliable transportation	38.4%
Substance (drug or alcohol) abuse	36.5%
Untreated mental health conditions	29.0%
Single-parent households	23.5%
Lack of affordable healthcare	22.3%
Lack of college, technical, or trade school education	20.3%
Outdated policy or regulatory eligibility standards	11.0%
Lack of parental involvement	10.6%
Disability	9.7%
Systemic racism or prejudice	7.4%
Teen pregnancy	4.8%

Survey Table 21: What you believe to be the top 5 biggest conditions of poverty in your county?

Response	Percent
Lack of childcare or low-quality childcare	61.2%
Lack of transportation options	54.7%
Housing market is not affordable	53.7%
Lack of employers	47.2%
Lack of mental health and substance abuse providers	38.5%
Substandard or unsafe housing	37.2%
Lack of financial or budgeting education	35.0%
Individuals on public assistance programs	31.1%
Lack of health care providers	28.8%
Lack of adequate nutrition	22.7%
Homelessness	22.0%
Lack of dentists	14.9%
Poor performing schools	12.0%
high crime rates	6.5%
Vacant housing	6.1%

Survey Table 22: How do you typically hear about resources and services in your community?

Response	Percent
Family and friends	62.3%
Social media	50.5%
Internet search	46.2%
Newspaper	34.8%
Radio	22.6%
Television	10.2%
My religious leader or faith-based community	10.2%
Social service organizations	27.9%
Other	9.2%

Trend Analysis Between 2022-2025 Survey Responses

This appendix includes a comparison of survey findings from 2022 and 2025. Crescendo used the same survey instrument in both years, allowing for a direct look at shifts in responses and attitudes over time. While these results offer insight into possible trends, it is important to note that the respondent pools were not identical across years. Because of this, the findings should be viewed as a general assessment of community attitudes rather than a strictly comparable dataset.

Survey Table 23: How often, if ever, have you experienced any of these difficult work-related challenges in the past three years?[37]

Rank	2022	2025
1	I am unable to put any money toward savings or retirement (46.2%)	There are limited living wage job opportunities in my community (35.6%)
2	There are limited living wage opportunities in my community (45.1%)	Childcare is not available or too expensive (27.0%)
3	Childcare is not available or too expensive (28.1%)	I am unable to put any money toward savings or retirement (25.7%)
4	My paycheck does not cover my basic living expense (27.7%)	Reliable transportation (15.9%)
5	There are few opportunities for advancement at my current job (24.4%)	There are few opportunities for advancement at my current job (15.2%)

[37] Rank shows top 5 challenges based on "Often-Every month"

Survey Table 24: Do you use any of the following resources to support your family?

Response	2022	2025
None	59.5%	76.9%
Other	2.3%	9.3%
Disability income for adults/child	5.8%	6.8%
SNAP	19.3%	4.8%
Public assistance for housing/utilities (e.g., Housing Choice Vouchers, emergency rental or utility assistance, etc.)	7.0%	3.7%
Food basket	9.3%	3.1%
Child support	7.3%	3.1%
WIC	14.3%	1.4%

Survey Table 25: How much focus should be given into each of following transportation, workforce development, and employment needs?[38]

Rank	2022	2025
1	Developing more livable wage job (71.4%)	Developing more livable-wage job (78.2%)
2	Improving access to high-speed internet and technology (67.4%)	Providing job growth opportunities (64.2%)
3	Providing job growth opportunities (60.9%)	Making public transportation available in rural communities (56.4%)
4	Creating technical school, trade school, or other job training options (58.5%)	Providing soft skills education (56.1%)
5	Making public transportation available in rural communities (53.1%)	Creating technical school, trade school, or other job training options (55.3%)

[38] Rank shows top 5 needs based on the sum of "Much more focus or support needed" and "A lot more focus needed"

Survey Table 26: How much focus should be given to each of the following housing needs?[39]

Rank	2022	2025
1	Increasing the number of affordable apartments (65.7%)	Increasing the number of affordable apartments (68.9%)
2	Increasing programs for major housing repairs (65.3%)	Increasing programs for major housing repairs (66.3%)
3	Providing help with weatherization (65.2%)	Creating higher quality rental apartments and houses (65.3%)
4	Providing more senior housing options (65.1%)	Providing more senior housing options (63.6%)
5	Developing rental and mortgage assistance programs (58.0%)	Increasing the number of affordable houses for sale (60.3%)

Survey Table 27: Have you needed any of the following services or your children, but found it difficult to get the service?

	2022		2025	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Recreation programs, like sports, arts, or theater	40.1%	59.9%	41.2%	58.8%
Mental health services at school	44.8%	55.2%	39.9%	60.1%
After-school childcare	38.2%	61.8%	37.5%	62.5%
Youth mentor or leadership programs	39.2%	60.8%	29.7%	70.3%
Tutoring or academic help	33.3%	66.7%	29.0%	71.0%
Health services at school	35.1%	64.%	26.8%	73.2%
Head Start Program	10.8%	89.2%	8.8%	91.2%

[39] Rank shows top 5 needs based on the sum of "Much more focus or support needed" and "A lot more focus needed"

Survey Table 28: Have you needed childcare in the past five years but had difficulty finding it?

Response	2022	2025
Yes	26.7%	27.5%
No	73.3%	72.5%

Survey Table 29: What were the reasons for the difficulty?

Response	2022	2025
It costs too much	76.7%	77.4%
There are no open slots for my child	37.2%	62.3%
The wait lists are too long	30.2%	60.4%
I can't find a quality provider	55.8%	58.5%
It is not available during the hours I work or go to school	25.6%	26.4%
I don't know where to find childcare in my community	9.3%	18.9%
Other	16.3%	11.3%
Providers don't take infants or toddlers	11.6%	7.5%
I don't have reliable transportation	--	1.9%

Survey Table 30: How much focus should be given to each of the following childcare and early education needs?[40]

Rank	2022	2025
1	Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s) (70.1%)	Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s) (70.7%)
2	Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers (65.6%)	Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers (68.8%)
3	Increasing the number of high-quality licensed childcare providers (59.8%)	Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers (65.7%)
4	Providing more after-school programs for school-aged children (56.2%)	Providing more after-school programs for school-aged children (56.5%)
5	Providing more recreational opportunities for youth (54.9%)	Providing more recreational opportunities for youth (51.0%)

[40] Rank shows top 5 needs based on the sum of "Much more focus or support needed" and "A lot more focus needed"

Survey Table 31: In the past 12 months, have you needed any of the following health services but were unable to get the services?

Response	2022	2025
Dental care	--	62.5%
Medical care (i.e., primary care doctor, cardiologist, annual physical exam, etc.)	48.0%	54.6%
Behavioral health care (i.e., psychiatrists, therapists, counselors, etc.)	38.2%	32.2%
Other	10.8%	14.5%
Substance use treatment (AA, NA< inpatient facility, outpatient facility, etc.)	2.9%	0.7%

Survey Table 32: What are some challenges you face when access health services?

Response	2022	2025
Long wait times to see a provider	69.5%	82.9%
Did not feel comfortable with the available providers	30.5%	32.1%
Lack of money/ability to pay	26.8%	21.4%
Doctor's office is too far from my house	17.1%	16.7%
Lack of health insurance	11.6%	12.0%
Lack for transportation	7.9%	6.8%
Providers are not knowledgeable about people with my sexual orientation or gender status	2.4%	4.3%
Providers are not culturally competent	7.3%	3.8%
Providers did not speak my language	2.4%	3.4%
COVID-19 restrictions	15.9%	0.4%
Concern about my immigration status	--	0.0%

Survey Table 33: How much additional focus or support should be given to each of the following food, healthcare and mental health needs?[41]

Rank	2022	2025
1	Making dental care more affordable (75.5%)	Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities (73.5%)
2	Reducing the amount of opioid misuse (74.5%)	Making dental care more affordable (70.4%)
3	Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.) (71.9%)	Accessible sources for affordable, nutritious food (70.0%)
4	Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities (70.2%)	Reducing stigma associated with mental and substance misuse (66.0%)
5	Accessible sources for affordable, nutritious food (67.9%)	Expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders (64.9%)

Survey Table 34: What do you believe to be the top 5 biggest causes of poverty in St. Lawrence County?

Rank	2022	2025
1	Lack of jobs paying a living wage (72.8%)	Lack of jobs paying a living wage (80.3%)
2	Substance (drug or alcohol) abuse (52.5%)	Intergenerational poverty (53.2%)
3	Lack of affordable childcare (45.1%)	Lack off affordable and safe housing (50.3%)
4	Single-parent households (40.1%)	Lake of affordable childcare (47.4%)
5	Intergenerational poverty (40.1%)	Lack of job available (39.0%)

[41] Rank shows top 5 needs based on the sum of "Much more focus or support needed" and "A lot more focus needed"

Survey Table 35: What do you believe to be the top 5 biggest conditions of poverty in St. Lawrence County?

Rank	2022	2025
1	Lack of childcare or low-quality childcare (55.0%)	Lack of childcare or low-quality childcare (61.2%)
2	Lack of transportation options (49.5%)	Lack of transportation options (54.7%)
3	Individuals on public assistance programs (47.5%)	Housing market is not affordable (53.7%)
4	Lack of mental health and substance abuse providers (43.6%)	Lack of employer (47.2%)
5	Housing market is not affordable (41.1%)	Lack of mental health and substance abuse providers (38.5%)

Appendix D: Primary Research Tools

Stakeholder Interview Guide

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program - Community Needs Assessment

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. My name is [NAME] from Crescendo Consulting Group and we're working with the St. Lawrence County Community Development Program's to conduct their 2025 Community Needs Assessment. This process helps identify what's working well in the community, what challenges residents are facing, and where there might be gaps in services.

This conversation should take about 20 to 30 minutes. There are no right or wrong answers—just whatever comes to mind based on what you see in your community or in your work.

Any questions before we get started?

Community Overview

1. Please tell me a little about yourself and what you think are some of the things that make this community a great place to live.
2. What are some of the key resources or supports that already exist in the community and seem to be working well?
3. Are there any resources or services you think are really missing or in short supply?
4. What do you think are the biggest challenges facing residents today?

Economic Opportunity and Basic Needs

5. To the extent you're aware, are there enough good-paying jobs in the area? Are wages generally enough to support families?
6. Do you know of any training or education opportunities that are available to help people enter or advance in the workforce?
7. Do people have trouble affording basic needs like food, healthcare, or prescription medications?

Housing and Transportation

8. How easy is it to find and keep safe, affordable housing in your community?

9. What are some of the biggest housing-related challenges (e.g., cost, maintenance, homelessness)?
10. Do most people have reliable transportation to work, school, or medical care?

Childcare and Family Support

11. Is it easy to find affordable, quality childcare—including before- and after-school care?
12. How well are the needs of families with young children being met, including those with special needs?

Health and Mental Health

13. What is access to healthcare like in your area—both physical and mental health services?
14. Are there any health issues that seem especially common or concerning in your community?

Access and Awareness

15. How do people usually find out about what services are available and how to access them (e.g., word of mouth, online, referrals)?
16. What could help improve awareness or access?

Community Priorities

17. If you had to pick just one area that deserves more attention—like education, healthcare, safety, housing, recreation, or infrastructure—what would it be, and why?

Magic Wand

18. If money and resources weren't an issue, what could make a big difference in improving the quality of life in the community?

Focus Group Guide

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program - Community Needs Assessment

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to be here today. My name is [NAME], and I'm with Crescendo Consulting Group. I'm working with the St. Lawrence County Community Development Program to conduct a Community Needs Assessment. This effort is helping identify what's working well in the community, what challenges residents are facing, and where services might be improved.

I'll be asking a series of questions today to get some feedback. There are no right or wrong answers—just whatever comes to mind based on what you see in your community or in your work. I'm here to listen and learn from you.

We'll be together for about an hour. If you need to leave for a few minutes or need to leave early, that's no problem.

I'll be taking notes and will be recording the session to help remember everything that's shared. Nothing you say will be tied to your name in any reports. Please feel free to speak openly,

Any questions before we get started?

Community Overview

1. Let's start with a quick round of introductions. Please tell me your name, a little about yourself, and something you like about your community.
2. What are some of the key resources or supports that already exist in the community and seem to be working well?
3. Are there any resources or services you think are really missing or in short supply?
4. What do you think are the biggest challenges facing residents today?

Economic Opportunity and Basic Needs

5. Are there enough good-paying jobs in the area? Are wages generally enough to support families?
6. Are there local training or education opportunities that are available to help people enter or advance in the workforce?
7. Do people in the community have trouble affording basic needs like food, healthcare, or prescription medications?

Housing and Transportation

8. How easy is it to find and keep safe, affordable housing in your community?
9. What are some of the biggest housing-related challenges in the area (e.g., cost, maintenance, homelessness)?
10. Do most people have reliable transportation to work, school, or medical care?

Childcare and Family Support

11. Is it easy to find affordable, quality childcare—including before- and after-school care?
12. How well are the needs of families with young children being met?
    What about for families with children that have special needs?

Health and Mental Health

13. What is access to healthcare like in the area—both physical and mental health services?
14. Are there any health issues that seem especially common or concerning in your community?

Access and Awareness

15. How do people usually find out about what services are available and how to access them (e.g., word of mouth, online, referrals)?
16. What could help improve awareness or access?

Community Priorities

17. If you had to pick just one area that deserves more attention—like education, healthcare, safety, housing, recreation, or infrastructure—what would it be, and why?

Magic Wand

18. If money and resources weren't an issue, what could make a big difference in improving the quality of life in the community?

Closing

Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts today. Your input will help guide future planning and services in St. Lawrence County.

Community Survey Instrument

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program also known as C.D.P. is conducting a Community Needs Assessment to help identify ways to better serve the residents of St. Lawrence County. The survey will help identify the top needs of residents and the barriers/gaps that may prevent residents from accessing community services.

The survey will take less than 15 minutes and all answers will be anonymous and confidential. You will not be asked any personally identifiable information.

Please complete the survey by August 4, 2025.

If you have any questions about the survey or the community needs assessment, please contact our research partner, Crescendo Consulting Group at nhallas@crescendocg.com.

1. **What is your zip code? _____**

Economy and Workforce

2. **Which best describes your current employment status?**
   - ○ Employed full-time (40+ hours a week)
   - ○ Employed part-time (Less than 40 hours a week)
   - ○ Migrant seasonal farm worker
   - ○ Currently looking for a job
   - ○ Not employed and no longer looking for work
   - ○ Unable to work [Go to Question 3; all other answers go to Question 4]
   - ○ Retired

3. **Why are you unable to work? (Check all that apply)**
   - ☐ Family responsibilities
   - ☐ Disability
   - ☐ Unable to find a meaningful job in my community
   - ☐ Afraid of losing my public benefits or assistance
   - ☐ Transportation
   - ☐ Childcare
   - ☐ Other (Please specify) _____

4. **How often, if ever, have you experienced any of these difficult work-related challenges in the past three years?**

	Never/ Not Applicable	**Rarely – once a year**	**Sometimes – a few times a year**	**Often – every month**
My paycheck does not cover my basic living expenses				
Lack of affordable health insurance				
I am unable to put any money toward savings or retirement				
There are few opportunities for advancement at my current job				
There are limited living wage job opportunities in my community				
Childcare is not available or too expensive				
Reliable transportation				
Additional education or training				
Unable to find additional education or training (i.e., certifications, college/technical school, etc.)				

5. **Do you use any of the following resources to support your family? (Check all that apply)**

☐ SNAP
☐ WIC
☐ Food baskets
☐ Child support
☐ Public assistance for housing/utilities (i.e., Housing Choice Vouchers, emergency rental or utility assistance, etc.)
☐ Disability income for adults/child
☐ Other (please specify) _____
☐ None of the above

Please use a scale of 1 to 5 – where 1 means that "No More Focus is Needed" and 5 means "A Lot More Focus is Needed." You can also choose "I don't know."

6. How much focus should be given to each of the following **TRANSPORTATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND EMPLOYMENT** needs?

	1. No More Focus or Support Needed	2. A Little More Focus or Support Needed	3. More Focus or Support Needed	4. Much More Focus or Support Needed	5. A Lot More Focus	I don't know
Making public transportation available in rural communities						
Adding better routes and time schedules to current public transportation system						
Providing help with the cost of vehicle repairs						
Providing help with the cost of vehicle insurance and regular maintenance						
Developing more livable-wage jobs						
Providing job growth opportunities						
Creating technical school, trade school, or other job training options						
Providing soft skills education (customer service, showing up on time, etc.)						

	1. **No More Focus or Support Needed**	**2.** **A Little More Focus or Support Needed**	**3.** **More Focus or Support Needed**	**4.** **Much More Focus or Support Needed**	**5.** **A Lot More Focus**	**I don't know**
Improving access to high-speed internet and technology						

Housing and Neighborhoods

7. **What type of housing do you currently live in?**
   - ○ Rent
   - ○ Own
   - ○ Live with family
   - ○ I do not have stable housing / Live in a shelter or temporary housing
   - ○ I have been "couch surfing" with friends and family
   - ○ Other (Please specify) _____

The following sections each list a number of Community Needs and ask you to decide how much focus each issue should be given. Please use a scale of 1 to 5 -- where 1 means that "No More Focus is Needed" and 5 means "A Lot More Focus is Needed." You can also choose "I don't know."

8. **How much focus should be given to each of the following HOUSING needs?**

	1. No More Focus or Support Needed	**2. A Little More Focus or Support Needed**	**3. More Focus or Support Needed**	**4. Much More Focus or Support Needed**	**5. A Lot More Focus**	**I don't know**
Increasing the number of affordable apartments						
Increasing the number of affordable houses for sale						
Creating higher quality rental apartments and houses						
Developing rental and mortgage assistance programs						
Increasing the number of landlords who accept housing vouchers						

	1. **No More Focus or Support Needed**	**2.** **A Little More Focus or Support Needed**	**3.** **More Focus or Support Needed**	**4.** **Much More Focus or Support Needed**	**5.** **A Lot More Focus**	**I don't know**
Increasing programs for major housing repairs (roofs, windows, etc.)						
Increasing programs for minor housing repairs (paint, upgrades, etc.)						
Providing help with weatherization						
Providing help with utility assistance (heating fuel, electricity, etc.)						
Providing hotspots for internet access						
Providing more senior housing options						
Create emergency shelter beds for people who are homeless						
Helping more people who are homeless to find their missing identification documents (driver's license, social security number, etc.)						
Create shelter beds for certain populations (children, women, families, LGBTQIA, veterans, etc.)						

Education and Childcare

9. **Do you have children?**
   - ○ Yes
   - ○ No (skip to Question 14)

10. **Have you needed any of the following services for your children, but found it difficult to get the service?**

	Yes	**No**
Head Start Program		
After-school childcare		
Recreation programs, like sports, arts, or theater		
Tutoring or academic help		
Youth mentor or leadership programs		
Mental health services at school		
Health services at school		

11. **Have you needed childcare in the past five years but have had difficulty finding it?**
   - ○ Yes
   - ○ No (skip to Question 13)

12. **If you answered yes, what were the reasons for the difficulty? (Check all that apply)**
   - ☐ I don't know where to find childcare in my community
   - ☐ It costs too much
   - ☐ It is not available during the hours I work or go to school
   - ☐ The wait lists are too long
   - ☐ I can't find a quality provider
   - ☐ I don't have reliable transportation
   - ☐ There are no open slots for my child
   - ☐ Providers don't take infants or toddlers
   - ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Please use a scale of 1 to 5 – where 1 means that "No More Focus is Needed" and 5 means "A Lot More Focus is Needed." You can also choose "I don't know."

13. How much focus should be given to each of the following CHILDCARE AND EARLY EDUCATION needs?

	1. No More Focus or Support Needed	**2. A Little More Focus or Support Needed**	**3. More Focus or Support Needed**	**4. Much More Focus or Support Needed**	**5. A Lot More Focus**	**I don't know**
Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers						
Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers						
Mental health services for children ages 4 and younger						
Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)						
Providing more transportation options to childcare services						
Providing more after-school programs for school-aged children						
Providing more recreational opportunities for youth						

Health Care, Mental Health, Substance Use, and Food Access

14. Do you have a primary care provider, such as a doctor, nurse practitioner, or pediatrician?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ I don't know
- ○ Other (Please specify)

15. In the past 12 months, have you needed any of the following health services but were unable to get the service? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Medical care (i.e., primary care doctor, cardiologist, annual physical exam, etc.)
- ☐ Dental care
- ☐ Behavioral health care (i.e., psychiatrists, therapists, counselors, etc.)
- ☐ Substance use treatment (AA, NA, inpatient facility, outpatient facility, etc.)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

16. What are some of the challenges you face when accessing health services? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Lack of health insurance
- ☐ Lack of money/ability to pay
- ☐ Did not feel comfortable with the available providers
- ☐ Providers did not speak my language
- ☐ Providers are not culturally competent
- ☐ Concern about my immigration status
- ☐ Providers are not knowledgeable about people with my sexual orientation or gender status
- ☐ Lack of transportation
- ☐ Long wait times to see a providers
- ☐ Doctor's office is too far from my house

17. Do you have any of the following disability/ability?

- ☐ A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)
- ☐ A learning disability (i.e., ADHD, dyslexia)
- ☐ A mobility impairment
- ☐ A mental health disorder
- ☐ A long-term medical illness (i.e., epilepsy, cystic fibrosis)
- ☐ A temporary impairment due to illness or injury (i.e., broken ankle, surgery)
- ☐ A disability or impairment not listed
- ☐ I do not identify with a disability or impairment
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

18. Have you or your family experienced food insecurity, that is, not knowing where your next meal is coming from or involuntarily eating less than you need on a regular basis, for a period of time?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

19. How much additional focus or support should be given to each of the following FOOD, HEALTH CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH needs?

	1. No More Focus or Support Needed	2. A Little More Focus or Support Needed	3. More Focus or Support Needed	4. Much More Focus or Support Needed	5. A Lot More Focus	I don't know
Increasing the number of dentists who serve Medicaid patients						
Making dental care more affordable						
Increasing services for people with disabilities						
Reducing the amount of smoking and vaping						
Reducing the amount of adult obesity						
Reducing the amount of childhood obesity						
Accessible sources for affordable, nutritious food						

	1. No More Focus or Support Needed	**2. A Little More Focus or Support Needed**	**3. More Focus or Support Needed**	**4. Much More Focus or Support Needed**	**5. A Lot More Focus**	**I don't know**
Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities						
Increasing the number of substance use disorder providers and services						
Reducing the amount of alcohol misuse						
Reducing the amount of opioid misuse						
Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)						
Increasing the number of detox facilities						
Reducing stigma associated with mental health and substance misuse						
Expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders						
Expanding open hours at food pantries						

	1. **No More Focus or Support Needed**	**2.** **A Little More Focus or Support Needed**	**3.** **More Focus or Support Needed**	**4.** **Much More Focus or Support Needed**	**5.** **A Lot More Focus**	**I don't know**
Expanding food options for people with dietary restrictions or allergies at food pantries						
Increasing the availability of prepared foods for seniors (Meals on Wheels, etc.)						

Causes and Conditions of Poverty

"Causes of poverty" are negative factors that make it more difficult for low-income people to provide for themselves and/or reduce access to resources that might help them meet their basic needs.

20. What do you believe to be the top 5 biggest causes of poverty in St. Lawrence County? (Choose 5)

- ☐ Lack of jobs paying a living wage
- ☐ Substance (drug or alcohol) abuse
- ☐ Lack of affordable and safe housing
- ☐ Single-parent households
- ☐ Lack of jobs available
- ☐ Untreated mental health conditions
- ☐ Inter-generational poverty
- ☐ Systemic racism or prejudice
- ☐ Outdated policy or regulatory eligibility standards
- ☐ Lack of parental involvement
- ☐ Lack of reliable transportation
- ☐ Lack of affordable health care
- ☐ Lack of affordable childcare
- ☐ Teen pregnancy
- ☐ Lack of college, technical, or trade school education
- ☐ Disability

"Conditions of poverty" are negative environmental, safety, health and/or economic conditions that reduce investment or growth in communities where low-income individuals live.

21. What you believe to be the top 5 biggest conditions of poverty in your county? **(Choose 5)**

- ☐ Individuals on public assistance programs
- ☐ Lack of childcare or low-quality childcare
- ☐ Lack of employers
- ☐ Housing market is not affordable
- ☐ Lack of transportation options
- ☐ Lack of mental health and substance abuse providers
- ☐ Substandard or unsafe housing
- ☐ Lack of health care providers
- ☐ Lack of dentists
- ☐ Poor performing schools

- ☐ Homelessness
- ☐ Vacant housing
- ☐ Lack of adequate nutrition
- ☐ Lack of financial or budgeting education
- ☐ High crime rates

22. How do you typically hear about resources and services in your community? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Friends and family
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Internet search
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Television
- ☐ My religious leader or faith-based community
- ☐ Social service organizations
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

23. Are there any other needs of St. Lawrence County residents that you think are important for us to know?

A little bit about you

We would like to learn a little bit about you. As a reminder, all answers you provide us are anonymous.

24. What is your gender identity?

- ○ Male
- ○ Female
- ○ Non-binary / Gender diverse
- ○ My gender identity isn't listed
- ○ I prefer not to share

25. What is your age?

- ○ Under 18
- ○ 18 to 24
- ○ 25 to 34
- ○ 35 to 44
- ○ 45 to 54
- ○ 55 to 64
- ○ 65 or older
- ○ I prefer not to share

26. What is your race? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ White or Caucasian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Asian or Asian American
- ☐ Native American or Alaska Native
- ☐ Another race
- ☐ Multiple races
- ☐ I prefer not to share
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

27. What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ I prefer not to share

28. What is your highest level of education?

- ☐ Less than high school or GED
- ☐ High school diploma or equivalent

- ☐ Some college
- ☐ Technical or trades school
- ☐ Associate degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Graduate or professional degree (Masters, PhD, MD, etc.)
- ☐ I prefer not to share

29. Which of the following ranges best describes your total annual household income in the past year?

- ☐ Under $15,000
- ☐ Between $15,000 and $29,999
- ☐ Between $30,000 and $49,999
- ☐ Between $50,000 and $74,999
- ☐ Between $75,000 and $99,999
- ☐ Between $100,000 and $150,000
- ☐ Over $150,000
- ☐ I prefer not to share

Thank you for participating in this important project!