

# 2022 Community Action, Inc. Rock and Walworth Counties Community Needs Assessment Overview





The  
Process

Areas of  
Focus

Top 10

## 2022 Needs Assessment Process

- Office of Community Services (OCS) requires all Community Action Agency's to complete a comprehensive needs assessment every three years.
- CAI used the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA) participants through Rock and Walworth Counties to generate a strong sampling. 2,908 participants from WERA received the survey
- In order to construct a detailed and comprehensive picture of poverty in our community, this report compares our survey data with Census data
- Three focus groups were held and secondary data was assembled to give context to the survey and focus group responses.
- The 2022 needs assessment is comprised of data gathered from 437 surveyed households in Rock and Walworth Counties. 70% of respondents are at or below 125% of the federal poverty level.
- Survey Monkey was used to collect and generate the survey outcomes. The survey opened on June 14, 2022 and closed on July 8, 2022.



Areas of Focus:

1. Employment
2. Education and Training
3. Housing and Homelessness
4. Health
5. Transportation
6. Family
7. Financial and Legal
8. Environmental and Climate

## 2022 Top 10

	2022 Survey Percentage	2022 Survey Rank
Cost of rent	59.44	1
I cannot afford to buy a decent house	56.81	2
Finding safe, affordable housing	50.12	3
Have enough money to respond to unexpected emergencies	48.61	4
Lack of savings	45.83	5
Cost of maintaining car (insurance, gas)	45.01	6
Cost of car repairs	43.49	7
Having enough money to pay all the monthly bills	42.17	8
Paying for school	41.04	9
Paying for childcare or transportation so I can go to school	37.56	10

Closely behind the top ten included medical care concerns, high household debt, and affordable childcare

2019  
Top 10

Let's  
compare

# 2019 Top 10

	2019 Survey Percentage	2019 Survey Rank
Lack of Savings	39.64	1
I cannot afford to a buy decent house	38.74	2
Cost of rent	37.84	3
Having enough money to pay all the monthly bills	36.04	4
Pays for school	34.23	5 tie
Having enough money to respond to unexpected emergencies	34.23	5 tie
Cost of car repairs	33.33	6
Find safe, affordable housing	32.43	7
Dental costs	29.73	8 tie
Getting affordable legal services	29.73	8 tie
Finding a dentist who accepts BadgerCare/Medicaid patients	27.93	9 tie
High household debt	27.93	9 tie
Medical/dental insurance costs	27.03	10 tie
Cost of maintaining car (insurance, gas)	27.03	10 tie

# 2022 Top 10

	2022 Survey Percentage	2022 Survey Rank
Cost of rent	59.44	1
I cannot afford to buy a decent house	56.81	2
Finding safe, affordable housing	50.12	3
Have enough money to respond to unexpected emergencies	48.61	4
Lack of savings	45.83	5
Cost of maintaining car (insurance, gas)	45.01	6
Cost of car repairs	43.49	7
Having enough money to pay all the monthly bills	42.17	8
Paying for school	41.04	9
Paying for childcare or transportation so I can go to school	37.56	10

Closely behind the top ten included medical care concerns, high household debt, and affordable childcare

# 2019 Top 10

# Let's compare

# Comparing 2019 and 2022

2022 Results	Rank	2019 Results
Cost of rent	1	Lack of savings
I cannot afford to buy a decent house	2	I cannot afford to buy a decent house
Finding safe, affordable housing	3	Cost of rent
Having enough money to respond to unexpected emergencies	4	Having enough money to pay all the monthly bills
Lack of savings	5	Paying for school; Having enough money to respond to unexpected emergencies
Cost of maintaining care (insurance, gas)	6	Cost of car repairs
Cost of car repairs	7	Finding safe, affordable housing
Having enough money to pay all the monthly bills	8	Dental costs; Getting affordable legal services
Paying for school	9	Finding a dentist who accepts Badgercare/Medicaid patients; High household debt
Paying for childcare or transportation so I can go to school	10	Medical/dental insurance costs; Cost of maintaining car (insurance, gas)



# 2022 Top 10

	2022 Survey Percentage	2022 Survey Rank
Cost of rent	59.44	1
I cannot afford to buy a decent house	56.81	2
Finding safe, affordable housing	50.12	3
Have enough money to respond to unexpected emergencies	48.61	4
Lack of savings	45.83	5
Cost of maintaining car (insurance, gas)	45.01	6
Cost of car repairs	43.49	7
Having enough money to pay all the monthly bills	42.17	8
Paying for school	41.04	9
Paying for childcare or transportation so I can go to school	37.56	10

Closely behind the top ten included medical care concerns, high household debt, and affordable childcare

# 2019 Top 10

# Let's compare

# AND THE SURVEY SAYS...

Survey  
Respondent  
Demographics

County

Gender

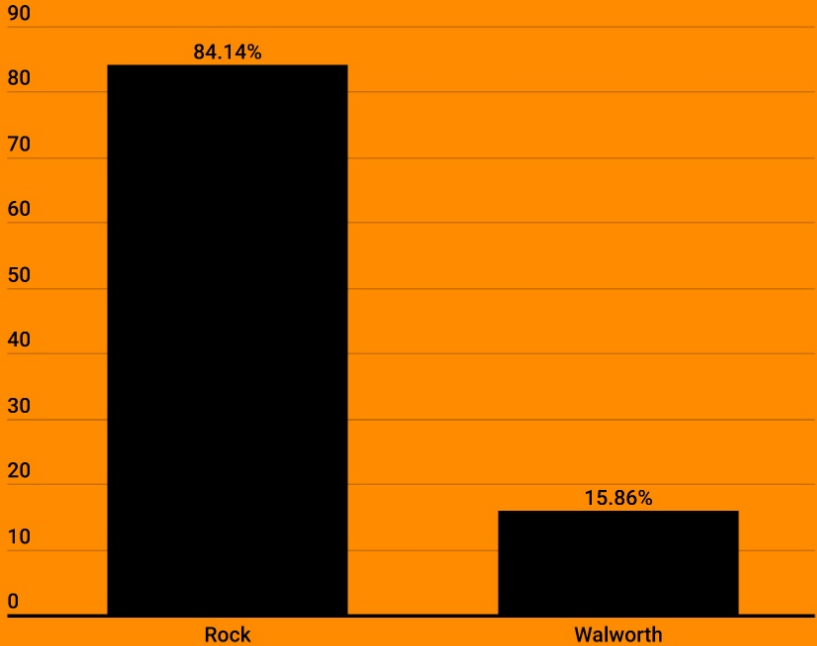
Age

Race and  
Ethnicity

Household  
Composition

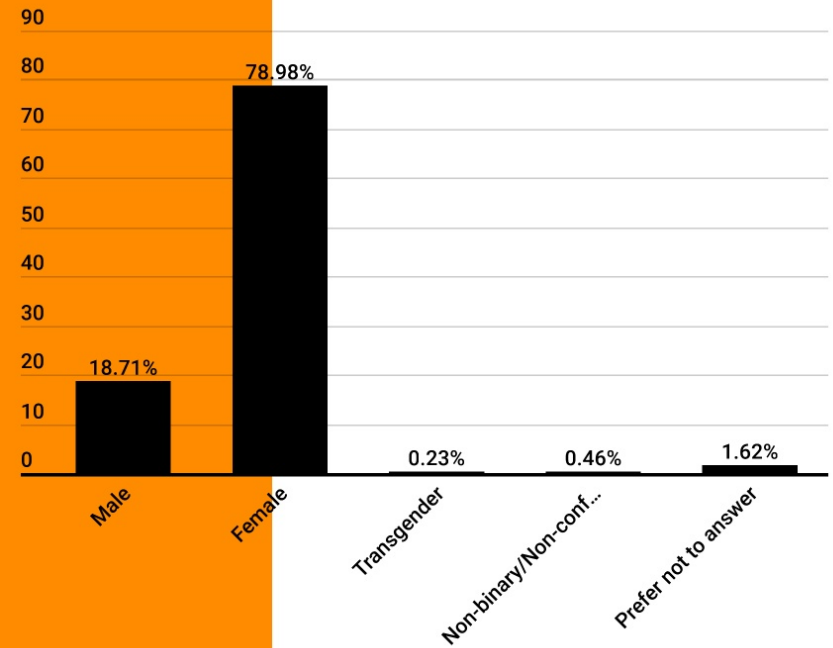
# Household County

Answer Choices	Response	
Rock	84.14%	366
Walworth	15.86%	69



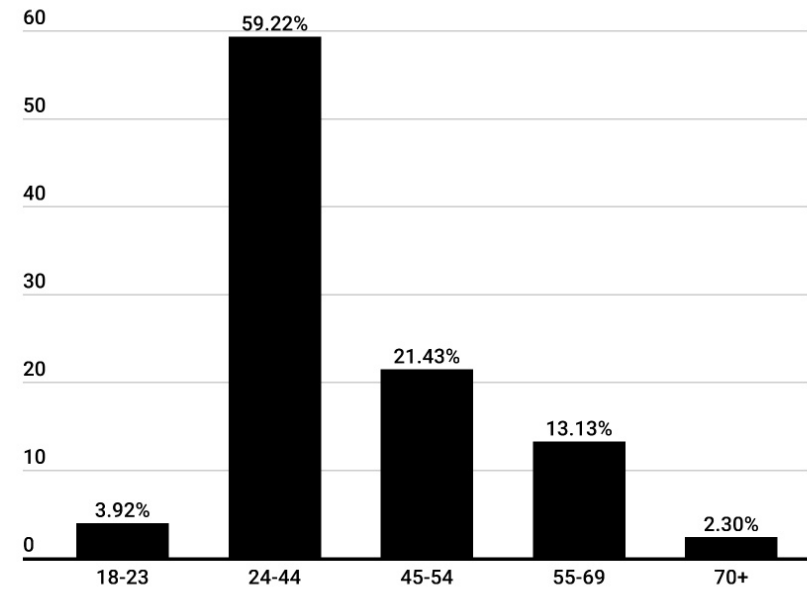
# Household Gender

Answer Choices	Response	
Male	18.71%	81
Female	78.98%	342
Transgender	0.23%	1
Non-binary/Non-conforming	0.46%	2
Prefer not to answer	1.62%	7



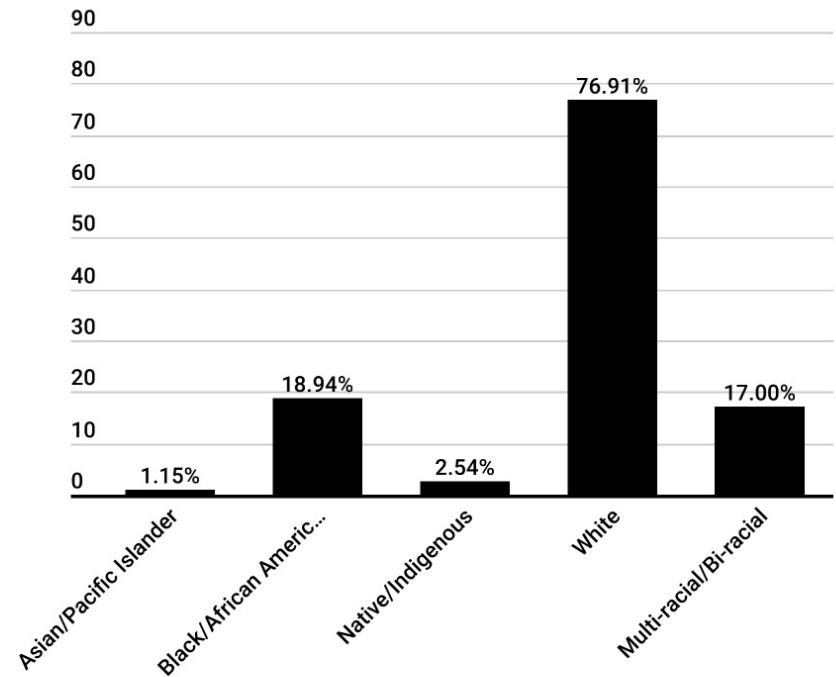
# Household Age

Answer Choices	Response	
18-23	3.92%	17
24-44	59.22%	257
45-54	21.43%	93
55-69	13.13%	57
70+	2.30%	10



# Household Race

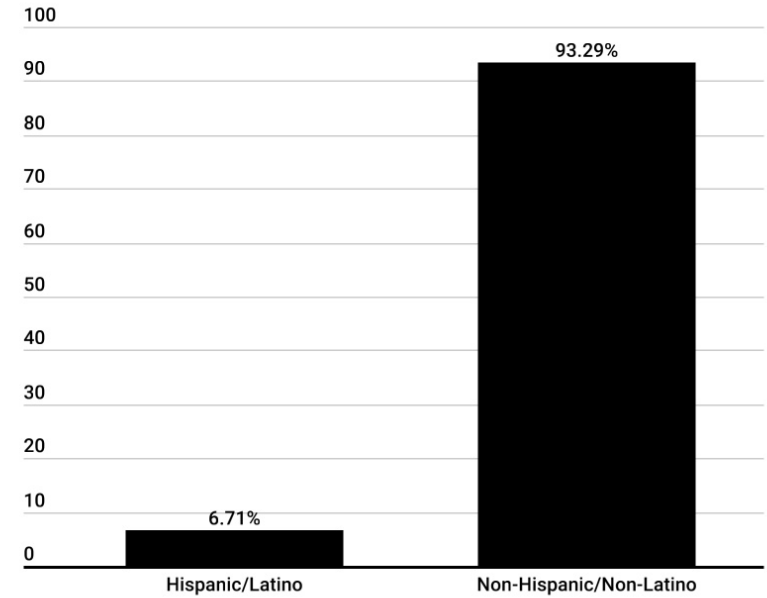
Answer Choices	Response	
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.15%	5
Black/African America	18.94%	82
Native/Indigenous	2.54%	11
White	76.91%	333
Multi-racial/Bi-racial	17.00%	74



Ethnicity

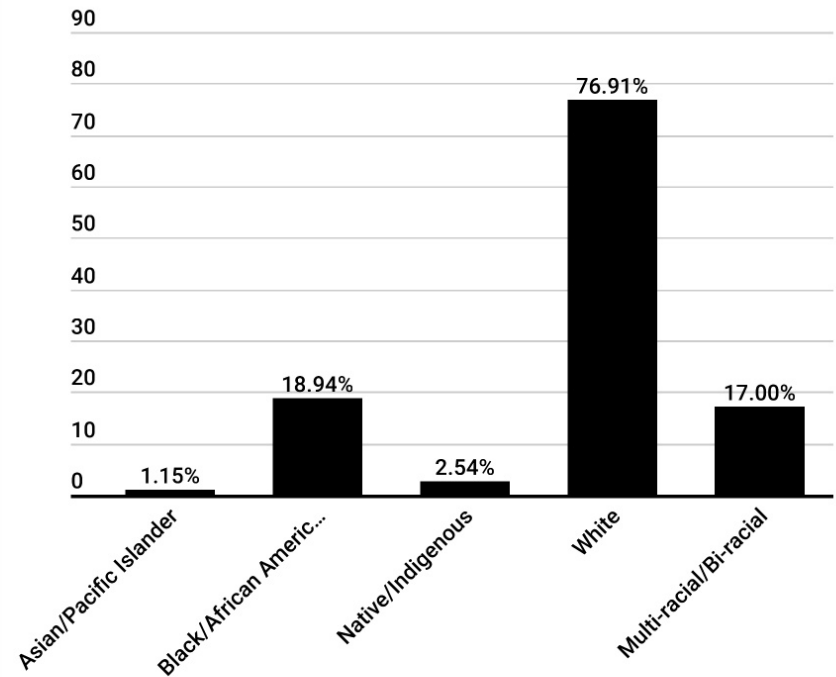
# Household Ethnicity

Answer Choices	Response	
Hispanic/Latino	6.71%	29
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	93.29%	403



# Household Race

Answer Choices	Response	
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.15%	5
Black/African America	18.94%	82
Native/Indigenous	2.54%	11
White	76.91%	333
Multi-racial/Bi-racial	17.00%	74

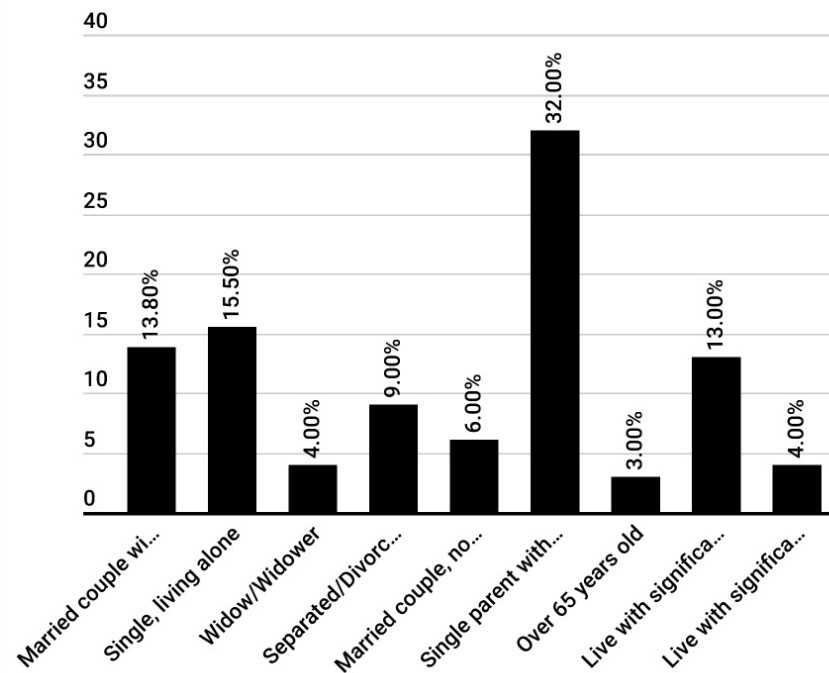


Ethnicity



# Household Composition

Answer Choices	Response	
Married couple with child/children	13.80%	60
Single, living alone	15.50%	67
Widow/Widower	4.00%	17
Separated/Divorced	9.00%	41
Married couple, no children at home	6.00%	26
Single parent with child/children	32.00%	137
Over 65 years old	3.00%	11
Live with significant other and child/children	13.00%	56
Live with significant other, no children at home	4.00%	18

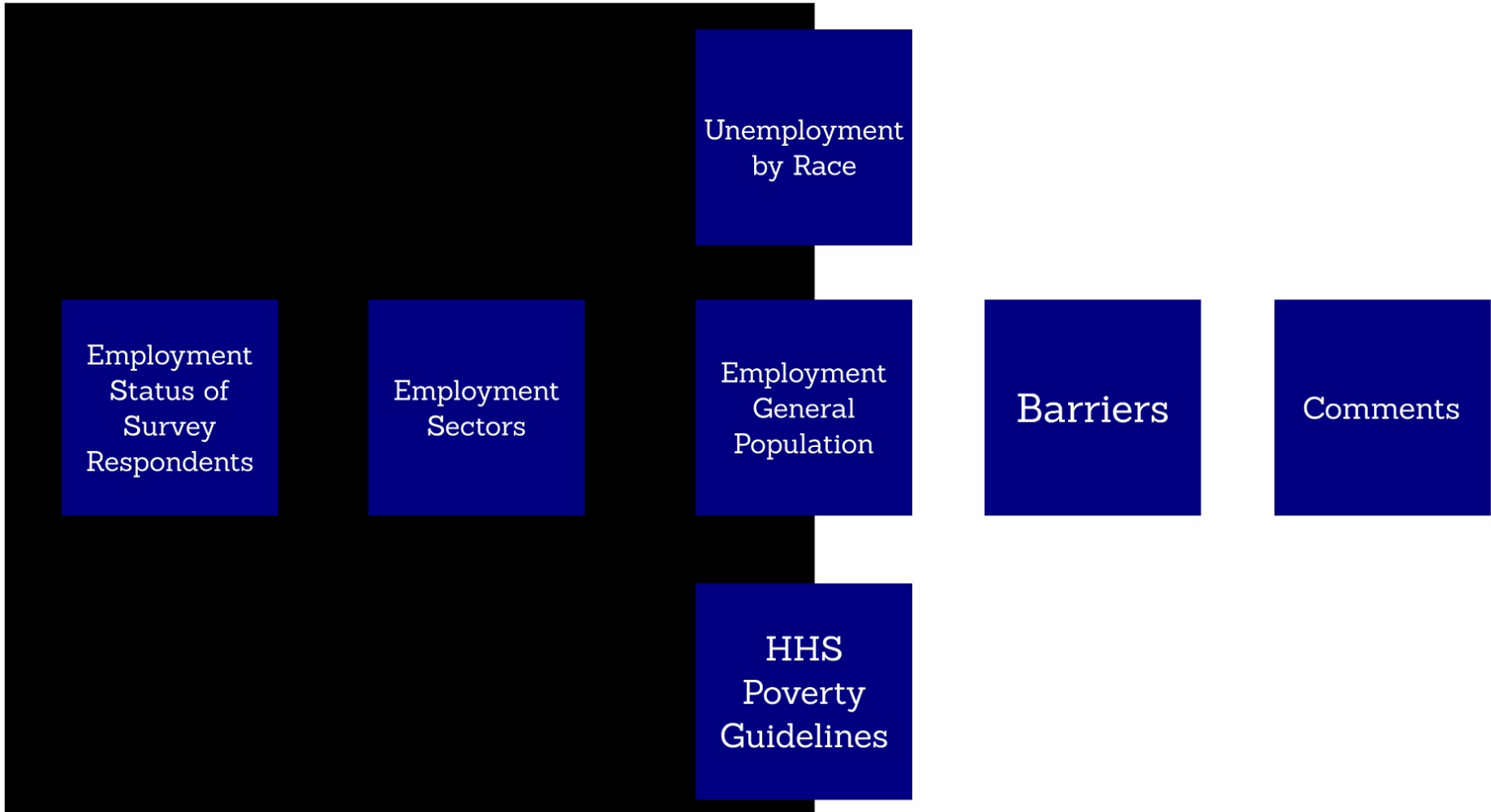


# Income and Employment

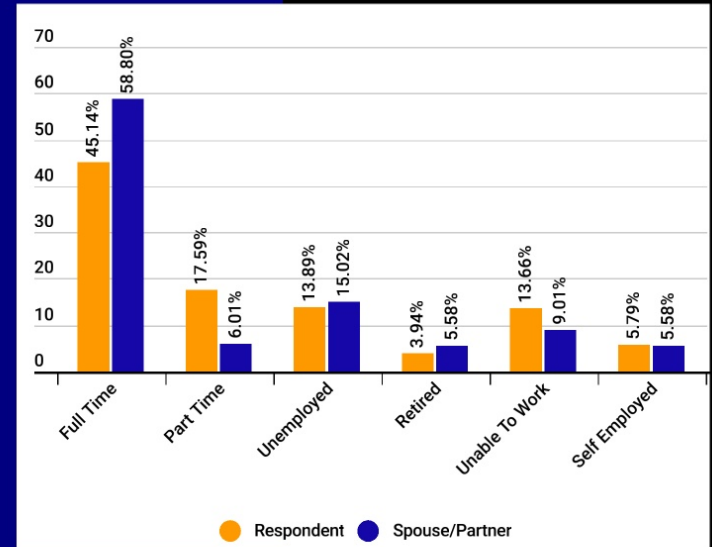


Employment

Income



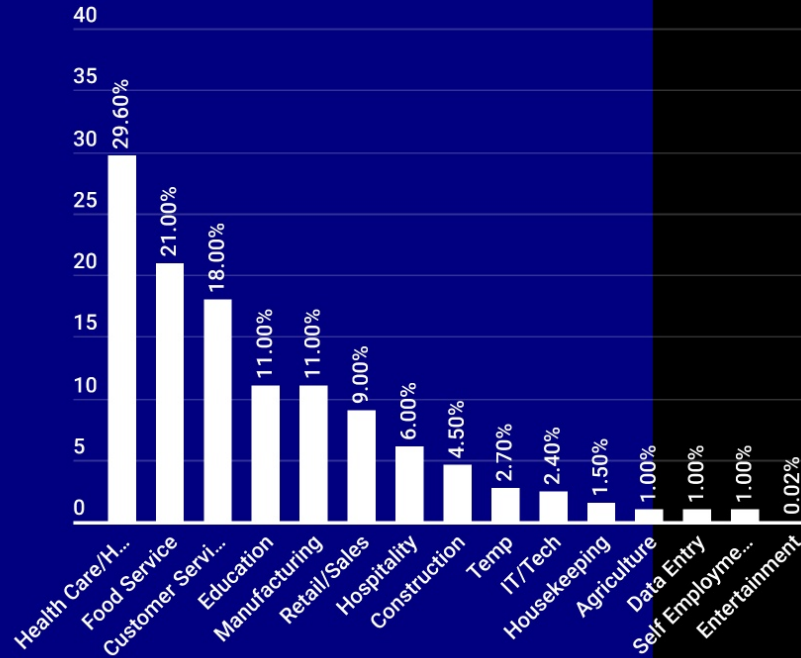
# Household Employment Status



Answer Choices	Respondent	Spouse/Partner
Full Time	45.14%	58.80%
Part Time	17.59%	6.01%
Unemployed	13.89%	15.02%
Retired	3.94%	5.58%
Unable To Work	13.66%	9.01%
Self Employed	5.79%	5.58%

# Employment Sectors

Answer Choices	Responses
Health Care/Human Services	29.60%
Food Service	21.00%
Customer Services	18.00%
Education	11.00%
Manufacturing	11.00%
Retail/Sales	9.00%
Hospitality	6.00%
Construction	4.50%
Temp	2.70%
IT/Tech	2.40%
Housekeeping	1.50%
Agriculture	1.00%
Data Entry	1.00%
Self Employment	1.00%
Entertainment	0.02%



# Unemployment by Race

	National	Wisconsin	Rock	Walworth
White alone	4.6%	3.1%	4.0%	3.3%
Black or African American alone	9.2%	8.7%	13.1%	11.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	9.7%	8.1%	2.8%	1.9%
Asian alone	4.3%	3.4%	11.1%	2.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	6.8%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race alone	6.4%	4.7%	2.9%	2.2%
Two or more races	78.0%	7.3%	12.0%	4.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	6.2%	4.8%	6.7%	3.4%

Bureau, U. S. C. (n.d.). Explore census data. Retrieved July 27, 2022, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=employment+status&tid=ACSST5Y2020.S2301&moe=false>

# General Population

Employment Status	Wisconsin	Rock	Walworth
Population 16 years and over	4,682,533	128,962	84,640
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
In labor force	66.1%	65.1%	67.0%
Employed	63.7%	62.1%	64.8%
Unemployed	2.3%	3.0%	2.3%
Not in labor force	33.9%	34.9%	33.0%
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.5%	3.4%

Bureau, U. S. C. (n.d.). Explore census data. Retrieved July 27, 2022, from [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=employment&g=0400000US55\\_0500000US55105%2C55127&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP03&moe=false](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=employment&g=0400000US55_0500000US55105%2C55127&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP03&moe=false)

# HHS Poverty Guideline - 125%

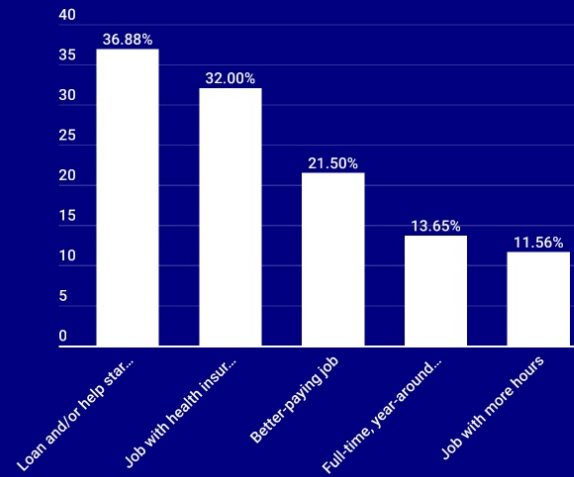
2022 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia	
Persons In Family/Household	125% of Poverty Guideline
1	\$16,988
2	\$22,888
3	\$28,788
4	\$34,688
5	\$40,588
6	\$46,488
7	\$52,388
8	\$58,288

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,720 for each additional person. Then Multiple by 1.25 for 125% of Poverty Guidelines.

Becerra, X. (2022, January 18). Poverty guidelines. ASPE. Retrieved July 26, 2022, from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>



# Employment Barriers



Answer Choices	Responses	
Getting a loan and/or help to start a business	36.88%	165
Getting a job with health insurance benefits	23.00%	98
Getting a better-paying job	21.50%	92
Getting a full-time, year-around job	13.65%	58
Getting job with more hours	11.56%	49

I need help with my interviewing, dress, resume building, and knowing what jobs I am qualified for. I also need help with basics of finding a job and understanding any of the employers benefits

There a very few places around here to make a living wage. It's ridiculous, I live with my ex husband. I make 18.70 an hour. I get around 2,100 a month. I CANT ... AFFORD ANYTHING. I can't live on my own, food is expensive, bills are behind and adding up, health care is being price gouged. Me making 18.70 I don't qualify for any help...., if I was making 15 an hour I still wouldn't qualify for help. ... And unless people that can change things do, this cycle will continue. So yes there are issues, people need to make more money, doesn't matter what they do. We need a living wage and 18.70 sadly isn't even a living wage anymore.

Existing programs do not offer reasonable employment opportunities for independent disabled adults. Pay is inadequate, advocacy groups seem to be overwhelmed, & benefits are nonexistent

Helping with the transition into working full-time. You get kicked off of benefits almost instantly and it is hard to adjust

More public awareness for job seekers and more resources promoting services not related to employment only.

Help you find a decent paying job. Make agencies aware that job in this area do not pay enough to make a living especially if your a single parent or grandparent raising children

# Household Income

Total Above 125% FPL : 30%  
Total Below 125% FPL: 70%

2022 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia	
Persons In Family/Household	125% of Poverty Guideline
1	\$16,988
2	\$22,888
3	\$28,788
4	\$34,688
5	\$40,588
6	\$46,488
7	\$52,388
8	\$58,288

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,720 for each additional person. Then Multiple by 1.25 for 125% of Poverty Guidelines.

Becerra, X. (2022, January 18). Poverty guidelines. ASPE. Retrieved July 26, 2022, from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

# Public Assistance

Are you currently receiving any public assistance?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	52.44%	226
No	47.56%	205

# Education and Training



Educational  
Attainment  
Issues

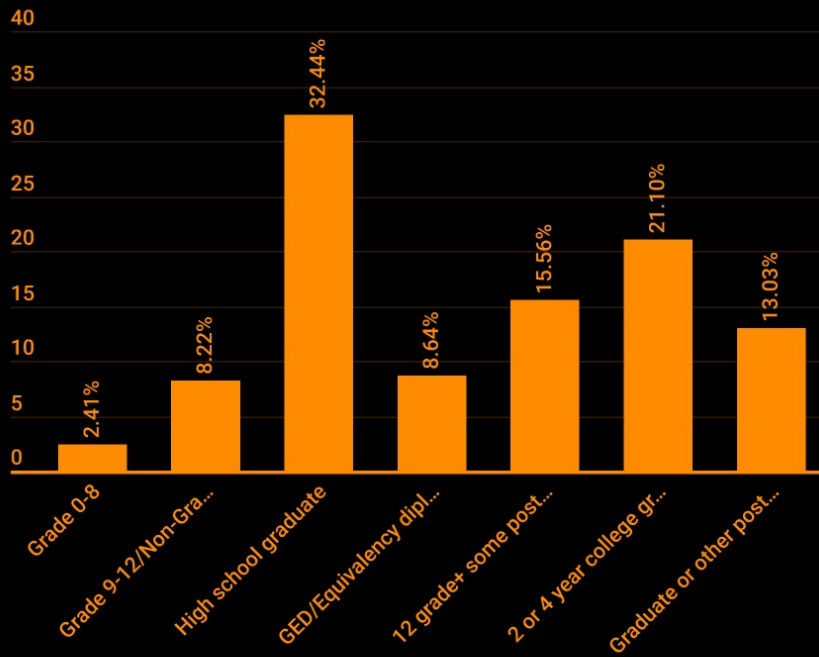
Educational  
Attainment  
by State and  
County

Comments

Household  
Educational  
Attainment

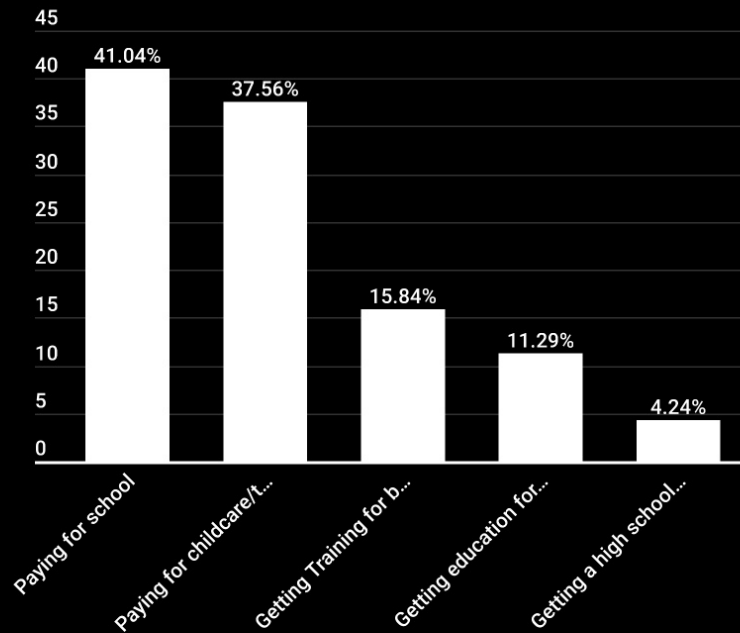
# Education Level Attained

These number are for the number of adults in the entire household, not just head of household. Total number of adults is 706.



Answer Choices	Results	
Grades 0-8	2.41%	17
Grades 9-12/non-graduate	8.22%	58
High school diploma	32.44%	222
GED/Equivalency diploma	8.64%	61
12 grade + some post secondary	15.56%	107
2 or 4 years college graduate	21.10%	149
Graduate or other post secondary	13.03%	92

# Education Attainment Issues



Answer Choices	Response	
Paying for school	41.04%	174
Paying for childcare or transportation so I can go to school	37.56%	160
Getting training to start/expand my own business	15.84%	67
Getting education or training so I can get a better job	11.29%	48
Getting a high school diploma	4.24%	18



# Education Attained with County and State

2022	Wisconsin	Rock	Walworth
Population 25 years and over	3,982,118	110,933	68,845
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Grades 0-8	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%
Grades 9-12/non-graduate	4.9%	5.9%	6.2%
High school diploma or equivalent	30.3%	34.6%	30.5%
Some college, no degree	20.5%	22.0%	22.1%
Associate's degree	11.0%	11.6%	9.4%
Bachelor's degree	20.3%	16.0%	18.8%
Graduate or professional degree	10.5%	7.5%	10.7%

Bureau, U. S. C. (n.d.). Explore census data. Retrieved July 26, 2022, from [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=education&g=0400000US55\\_0500000US55105%2C55127&tid=ACST5Y2020.S1501&moe=false](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=education&g=0400000US55_0500000US55105%2C55127&tid=ACST5Y2020.S1501&moe=false)





# Housing and Homelessness



Housing  
Status

Housing  
Tenure and  
Occupancy  
Status

Housing  
Related  
Issues

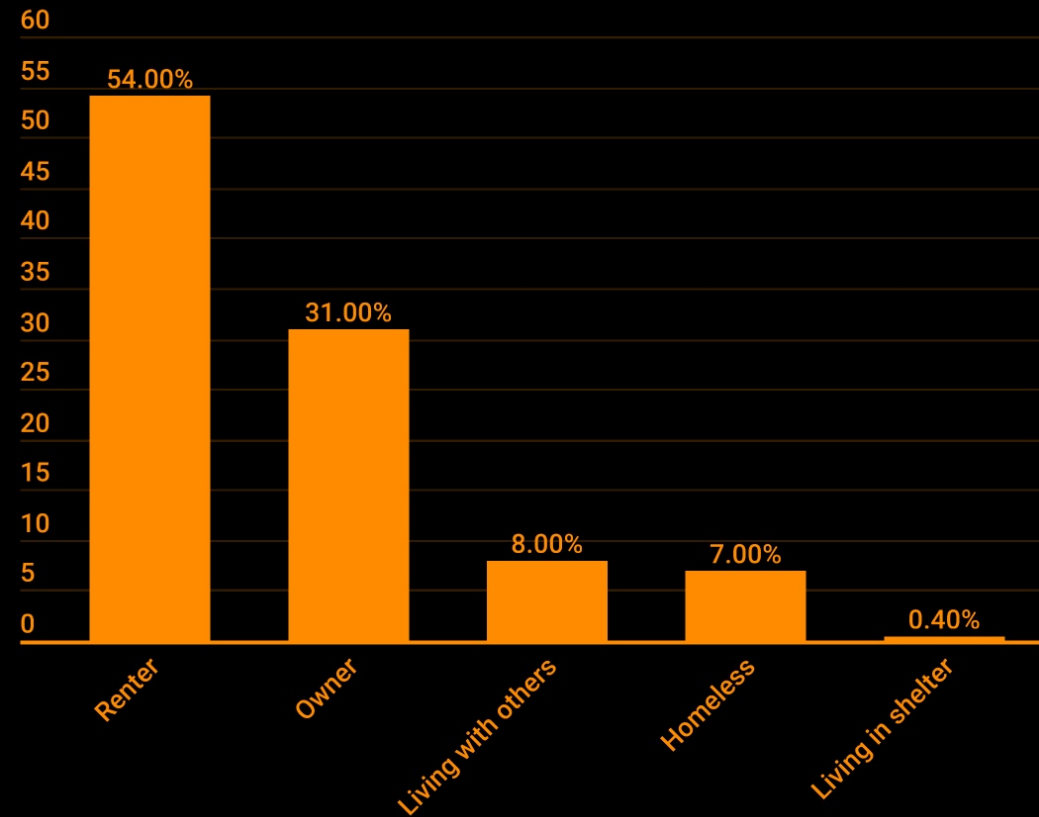
Evictions

Foreclosures

Comments

# Housing Status

Answer Choices	Responses	
Renter	54.00%	234
Owner	31.00%	135
Living with others	8.00%	35
Homeless	7.00%	30
Living in shelter	0.40%	2



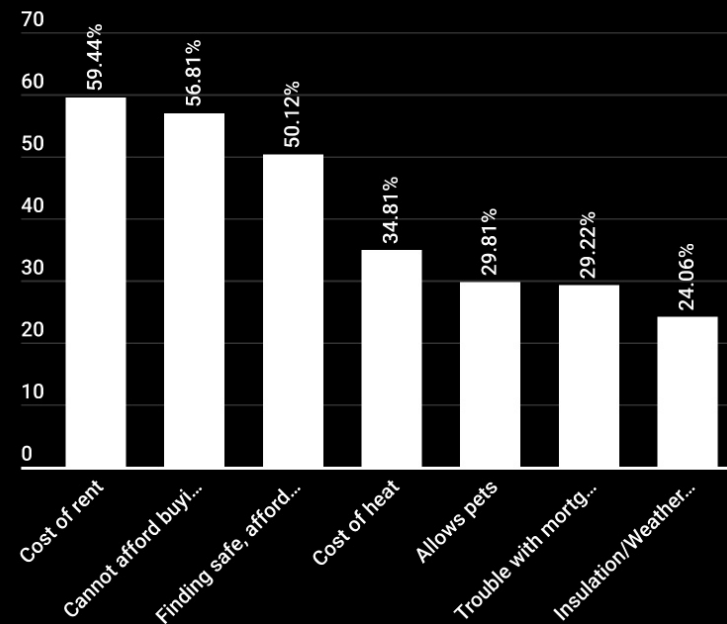
# Tenure and Occupancy

	Wisconsin	Rock	Walworth
Occupied housing units	2,377,935	65,237	41,414
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Owner-occupied housing units	67.1%	68.4%	68.7%
Renter-occupied housing units	32.9%	31.6%	31.3%

Bureau, U. S. C. (n.d.). Explore census data. Retrieved July 27, 2022, from [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Owner%2FRenter+%28Tenure%29&g=0400000US55\\_0500000US55105%2C55127](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Owner%2FRenter+%28Tenure%29&g=0400000US55_0500000US55105%2C55127)

# Issues

Answer Choices	Response	
Cost of rent	59.44%	255
I cannot afford to buy a decent house	56.81%	242
Finding safe, affordable housing	50.12%	215
Cost of heating	34.81%	149
Finding housing that allows pets	29.81%	127
I have trouble making the mortgage payment	29.22%	123
Housing needs insulation or weatherization	24.06%	102



# Evictions

	Wisconsin (Filings/Judgements)	Rock (Filings/Judgements)	Walworth (Filings/Judgements)
2019	27,023/4,264	1,027/96	233/33
2020	19,427/2,254	549/101	159/29
2021	17,727/1737	450/81	177/24

Wisconsin Eviction Data Project. DOA Wisconsin Eviction Data Project. (n.d.). Retrieved July 27, 2022, from <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/Wisconsin-Eviction-Data-Project.aspx>

# Foreclosures

	Wisconsin (Opened/Disposed)	Rock (Opened/Disposed)	Walworth (Opened/Disposed)
2019	7,164/7,654	246/263	175/190
2020	2,933/4,248	107/141	67/119
2021	2,027/2,475	49/72	45/78

System, W. C. (n.d.). Search results. Wisconsin Court System - Search. Retrieved July 27, 2022, from <https://www.wicourts.gov/SearchWicourts?query=civil%2Bdisposition%2Bsummary%2Bcounty&Submit=Search>

System, W. C. (n.d.). Search results. Wisconsin Court System - Search. Retrieved July 27, 2022, from <https://www.wicourts.gov/SearchWicourts?query=civil%2Bdisposition%2Bsummary%2B&Submit=Search>



# Health



Health Issues  
for CAI  
Survey  
Respondents

Health  
Behaviors

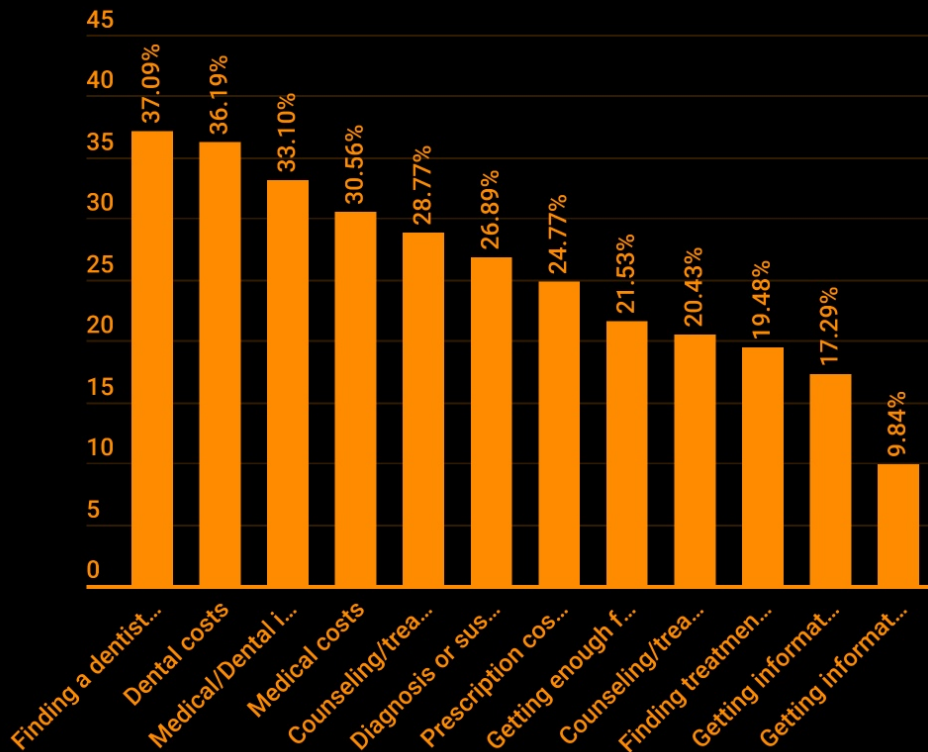
Morbidity

Health  
Insurance  
Coverage

Comments



# Health Issues



Answer Choices	Response	
Finding a dentist who accepts BadgerCare/Medicaid patients	37.09%	158
Dental costs	36.19%	156
Medical/Dental insurance costs	33.10%	143
Medical costs	30.56%	132
Counseling/treatment for mental illness	28.77%	122
Diagnosis or suspect of mental health concerns	26.89%	114
Prescription costs	24.77%	106
Getting enough food for my household	21.53%	93
Counseling/treatment for drug and alcohol use	20.43%	86
Finding treatment/coping with a disability in the household	19.48%	83
Getting information about enrolling in public county programs	17.29%	74
Getting information on nutritious food	9.84%	42

# Health Behaviors

	Wisconsin	Rock	Walworth
Adult Smoking (percentage)	16%	18%	17%
Adult Obesity (percentage)	34%	37%	35%
Physical Inactivity (percentage)	22%	26%	23%
Excessive Drinking (percentage)	25%	24%	26%
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths (percentage)	36%	43%	32%
Sexually Transmitted Infections (cases per 100,000)	499.4	541.2	329.3
Teen Births (births per 1000)	14	22	10

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (n.d.). Retrieved July 27, 2022, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/wisconsin/2022/rankings/outcomes/overall>

# Morbidity

	Wisconsin	Rock	Walworth
Premature Death (per 100,000)	6,600	4,900	6,500
Poor or Fair Health (percentage)	15%	16%	14%
Poor Physical Health Days	3.6	3.7	3.5
Poor Mental Health Days	4.4	4.4	4.2
Low Birth Weight (percentage)	8%	7%	6%

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (n.d.). Retrieved July 27, 2022, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/wisconsin/2022/measure/outcomes/1/map>

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (n.d.). Retrieved July 27, 2022, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/wisconsin/2022/measure/outcomes/2/map>

# Health Insurance Coverage

Health Insurance	Wisconsin		Rock		Walworth	
	Estimate	Percentage	Estimate	Percentage	Estimate	Percentage
Civilian noninstitutionalized population	5,735,703		161,320		102,749	
With health insurance coverage	5,422,99	94.5%	152,112	94.3%	96,135	93.6%
With private health insurance	2,366,028	86.9%	63,151	85.6%	42,642	85.4%
With public coverage	239,194	8.8%	8,027	10.9%	4,407	8.8%
No health insurance coverage	183,789	6.7%	5,175	7.0%	4,225	8.5%

Bureau, U. S. C. (n.d.). Explore census data. Retrieved July 27, 2022, from [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=DP03&g=0400000US55\\_0500000US55105%2C55127&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP03&moe=false](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=DP03&g=0400000US55_0500000US55105%2C55127&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP03&moe=false)

Insurance needs to cover both Mental as well Emotional not just physical; insurance should be available to cover problems not ignore them

There seems to be a shortage in children therapy and psychology resources for after school, so the child and parent do not have to miss out on school and work

Not my family but I see parents not seeking help for their child/children because they don't want child labeled or they are too busy with their own drama.

We don't have enough resources for mental health for children, adults, or families. There are not enough resources for DV prevention or interventions, nor are there any real resources for substance use (including alcohol). Local hospitals refuse to do admit patients for a proper DT or detox, don't adhere to state laws around research medications & substance use disorder, and we don't have sober living options for women at all,

Counseling without social service taking your kids no one has a perfect home not even the service workers for the state stop making it so hard to be human stop making it super hard to get kids out of corrupt cops system..HELP NOT HINDER AND MAKE IT HARDER THEN LIFE ALREADY THROWS

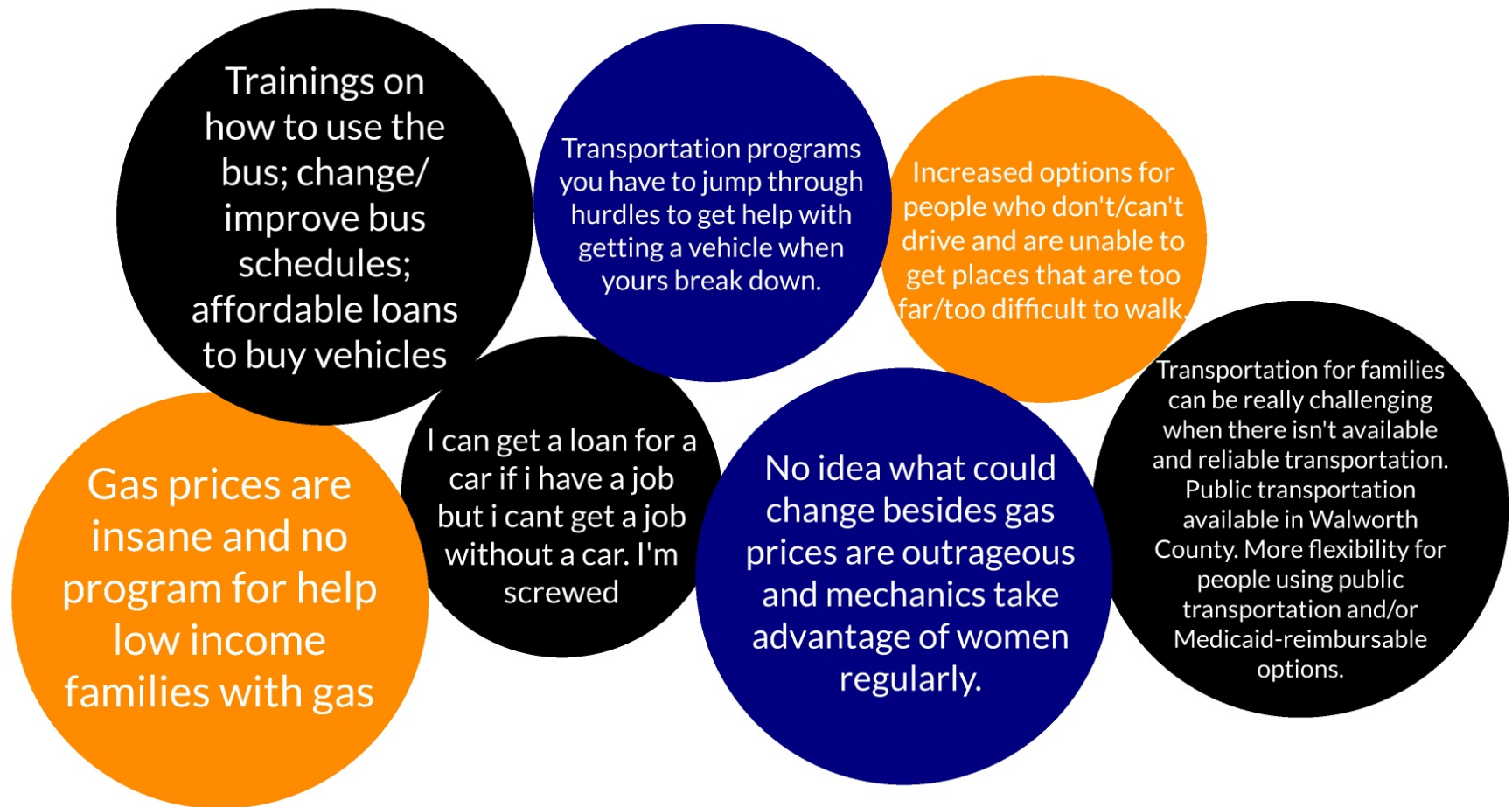
The amount of red tape to go through is hard and needs to be reduced. More social services to help those with mental health issues and/or addiction issues is needed. A lot of places have a six month wait time to get the first appointment.

# Transportation



Transportation	2022 Survey Percentage
Cost of maintaining car (insurance, gas)	45.01%
Cost of car repairs	43.49%
Obtaining reliable transportation to work, school, day care, etc.	24.53%
Car is often not available for me/ a family member to use	19.01%

Comments



# Family



Issues

Comments

Services



# Family Issues

Answer Choices	Response	
Childcare for nights/weekends	32.94%	139
Childcare for when my child is sick	32.08%	136
Affordable childcare	30.75%	131
Cost of childcare keeps me from working	23.11%	98
Guiding challenging behaviors from a teenage child	18.44%	78
Guiding challenging behaviors from a young child	15.17%	62
Ability to keep children in/attending school	8.51%	36
Ability to assist children with their homework	8.25%	35
Concern about child witnessing violence in the home	7.58%	32
There is use of force (kicking, pushing, hitting) in the relationship with my partner/spouse	7.55%	32

# Family Services Needed

Answer Choices	Response	
Housing	65.04%	253
Mental Health Services	41.12%	160
Affordable Healthcare	33.67%	131
Childcare	32.90%	118
Employment	32.65%	127
Recreation	26.48%	103
Nutrition	23.40%	91
Mentoring	17.74%	69
Tutoring	12.85%	50
Transportation	6.70%	26
Personal Health and Safety	2.10%	8



There's nothing  
outside the  
school for 16  
years old kids

There aren't adequate services for parents, but there is a lot of shaming and blaming of parents. A lot of parents don't know what is out there for them for Shaming parents and making them feel like they are worthless is just going to give you defensive parents that give up because... what's the point?

Lumping persons into categories and "one - size " fits all has never been successful. It won't work. Getting people to share without feeling intimidated is difficult dilemma.

LOST PLENTY  
OF GOOD  
PAYING JOBS  
DUE TO CHILD  
CARE

Culturally responsive programs that offer services during times that are more conducive to the needs of families. Families should not have to take off work and take kids out of school to receive services. Families that are struggling often have to miss time at work that they are not paid for and children who could be struggling in school already have to miss school to attend appointments. Also, accessing a dentist for families is almost impossible.

Because Families can't afford both housing & food children aren't being raised w/ proper nutrition or discipline/ responsibilities. Responsibility is taught not just shoved on & not be something to be avoided because some people don't want to handle it; good or bad

More access to  
weekend/night/  
sick day daycare  
that can be  
provided.

# Financial and Legal



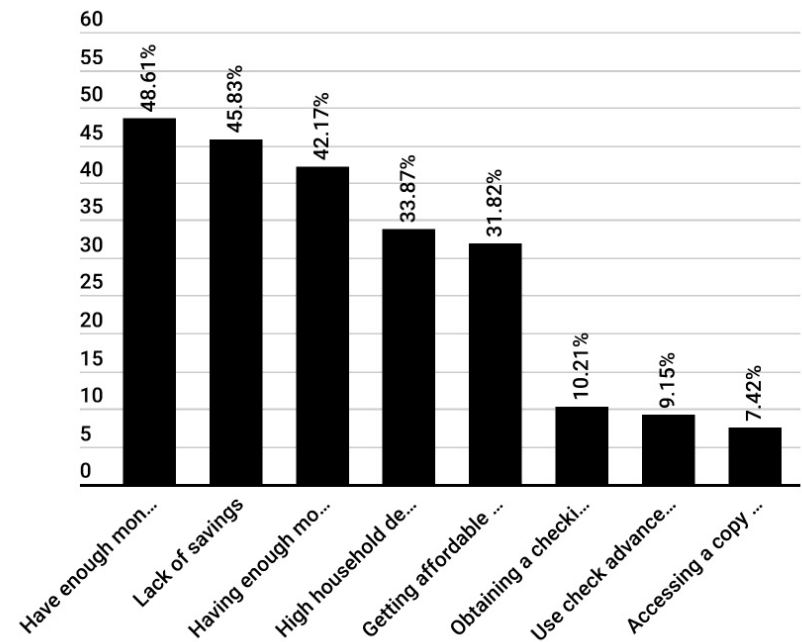
Problems

Debts

Comments

# Financial and Legal Matters

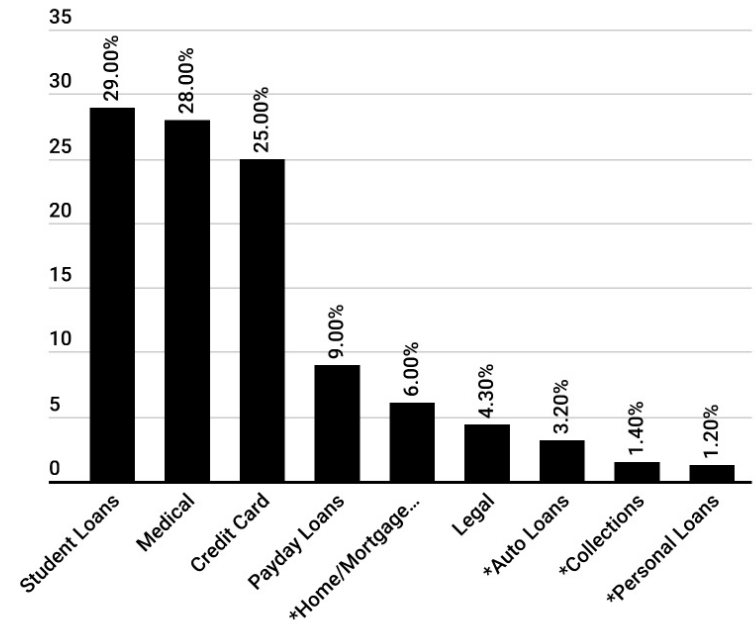
Answer Choices	Response	
Have enough money for unexpected emergencies	48.61%	210
Lack of savings	45.83%	198
Having enough money to pay all monthly bills	42.17%	183
High household debt	33.87%	146
Getting affordable legal services	31.82%	133
Obtaining a checking or savings account	10.21%	44
Use check advance services too often	9.15%	39
Accessing a copy of your credit report	7.42%	32



# Household Debt

Answer Choices	Response	
Student Loans	29.00%	100
Medical	28.00%	96
Credit Card	25.00%	87
Payday Loans	9.00%	30
*Home/Mortgage/Rent	6.00%	21
Legal	4.30%	15
*Auto Loans	3.20%	11
*Collections	1.40%	5
*Personal Loans	1.20%	4

\* Red text write-ins



# Financial Comments

The legal system in Rock is broken.... It's about getting in and out of court as fast as possible at the court date. I have five minutes with attorney. Don't even talk to me about what I am going through. The judge is mean and short to the point. Who listens to ME? Who HELPS ME? Why is it so damn hard for HUMANS on the BENCH to LISTEN?

The poorest of us can't pay fines so we lose license that we use to get to work. There are MANY laws, rulings, rules that keep the poorest of us poor in a never ending circle. 2nd, maybe even 3rd chances to those of us that are 10x more likely to mess up doing things to try and keep our heads above water, or feed our kids or have no support, AND without these things see NO way out really anyways. We need real HOPE

Why even go to court to keep my kids and me safe when all they do is praise the father for beating me. They know nothing and don't even listen to my story to keep me safe. I will have to move, spend money, and run to stay alive.

No one will believe me about the abuse in my home. Judge keeps returning him to my home.

The courts don't protect me and my child from anything

A public defender does the bare minimum if that to help there clients, they tell them to plead out, or not even defend them because they are just as convinced the person is guilty. When what ever happened to innocent till proven guilty. If we can offer better legal aide to those in need of actually fighting there case, it'll help keep people out of the prison system that don't belong there in the first place. If we provide tutoring on legal aid to these people to maybe even offer them the opportunity to defend themselves if they can't find proper or affordable legal aide. They at least have a fighting chance.

i do not feel supported or safe going to court in rock county. i have tried so many times to get away from my abuser and the judges keep putting the lowest bond on him and keeps getting out to hurt me again. no listens or cares. i will end up dead.

If jobs aren't paying more rent and mortgage shouldn't be going up. There should be more assistance for people working than those unemployed (that aren't looking for jobs) there should be limitations on government funds for people not searching for jobs whom are able to work.

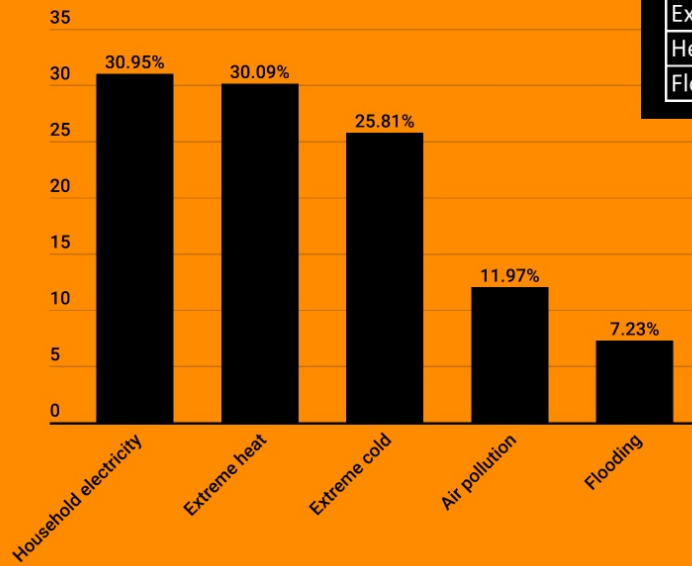
Let's face it there's just not enough help of any type for people it comes down to the fact that people are suffering and struggling and agencies and companies they have the means to help people they just put caps on it that are too soon for people to get out of the situation they need to get out of and the truth of the matter is our government just does not care about us

Start taking into account that people are making car payments and insurance and offer them other services like food stamps

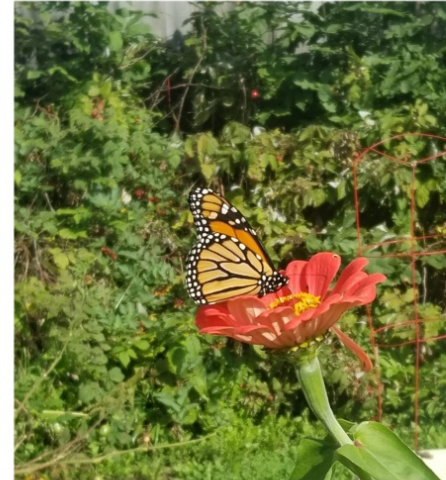
When I graduated college, I had less than \$30,000 debt. Now, my student loans have been sold and resold and with interest, my debt is around \$100,000!!! It's impossible!



## Environment and Climate



Answer Choice	Response	
The cost of household electricity	30.95%	134
Extreme heat in the summers	30.09%	130
Extreme cold in the winters	25.81%	111
Health impact from air pollution	11.97%	51
Flooding from the extreme rainfall	7.23%	31



## Focus Groups

CAI conducted 4 focus groups to gather information from under served populations in Rock and Walworth Counties.

- A focus group was conducted with Rock and Walworth County stakeholders in order to identify gaps in service, emerging needs and existing demands for services.
- A focus group was conducted with current participants in CAI's Fatherhood Program and the youth centered program, Fresh Start. This group comprised of 18-30 years old's from challenged backgrounds.
- A focus group was conducted with CAI staff, specifically those working with our most vulnerable populations.
- A focus group was conducted with CAI's Board of Directors.

Stakeholders

Youth  
and  
Fathers

CAI  
Staff

Board of  
Directors

Key  
Issues

## Challenges/Issues in Community: Stakeholder Responses Ranked

More  
challenges

### Housing

- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of availability housing for everyone
- Youth Homelessness

### Youth Services

- Lack of programming for teens 12+ years old
- Equitable opportunities for youth, lack of access to programming, financial assistance
- Must invest more into our youth
- Lack of volunteers
- Lack of transportation for the youth
- Youth Homelessness
- Need to assist the youth with developing skill sets for their future

### Mental Health

- Lack of resources/treatment (“Where do we go?”)
- Lack of bilingual professionals/providers, culturally of professionals
- Untreated trauma
- Lack of trust
- Affordability of services
- Self-care for the professionals

### Culture Equity

- Close gap of services and population
- Life experiences
  - Listen and tell your truth
- This challenge ties into all the needs in our community
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Racial disparity, DEI efforts have backlash on fundraising efforts for service providers.

## Stakeholders Continued...

Childcare	Substance Abuse/Addiction	Violence/Crime	Transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of certified professionals</li><li>• Pay is not competitive (low wages in this field)</li><li>• Affordability for families</li><li>• Long wait lists</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to treatment and facilities<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Affordability for treatment</li></ul></li><li>• Vaping</li><li>• Domestic violence</li><li>• Awareness, have conversations in our community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase of violence</li><li>• Fear</li><li>• Court system is not working<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of prosecution</li></ul></li><li>• Drug/sex trafficking</li><li>• Victims are scared to open-up and talk</li><li>• Conflict resolution skills</li><li>• Trauma/coping skills</li><li>• Lack of trust in courts for safety</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of affordability</li><li>• Preventing employment</li><li>• Hours and Locations for public transportation</li><li>• Need to expand in smaller communities to get to the larger communities for:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employment, school, etc.</li></ul></li></ul>

## Overarching Topics from Stakeholders:

### Sustainability

- Funding
- All agency's coming together, networking, outreach throughout the county, work together rather than being territorial of your community
- Accessibility of programming

### Education

- Increase Early Education opportunities for Households
- Literacy
- Affordability of secondary education level

### Bridge the Gap

- Outreach
- Awareness
- Value what matters in our communities
- How to close the gap of communication?

### Employment

- Labor shortage
- Skills

## Challenges/Issues in Community: Youth and Fathers

More  
Challenges

### Poverty

- Lack of education
  - Appropriate education
  - Life skills
- Lack of income/money
- Lack of transportation (reliable and affordable)
- Documentation assistance (SS card, birth certificate)

### Youth

- Focus on youth
  - ALL youth. Start at the beginning.
- More opportunities after high school
- Need positive patterns of examples and relationships from leaders and community members

### Drug Abuse

- Lack of resources/treatment
- Selling drugs has become a means to feed families
- Selling drugs has become income survival

### System Change

- Wealth gap
- Generational Gaps
- Lack of trust of the system
- **“The system is designed to protect the system, not the people.”**

## Youth and Fathers Continue...

### Mental Health

- Lack of honest conversation about mental health
- More options for treatment
- **“I can’t get the help I need.”**
- Lack of education regarding mental health
- Lack of a diverse population in the field

### Lack of Housing

- Affordability
- Credit History
- Background barriers
- Safe neighborhoods, safe homes to rent

### Divided Community

- Lack of trust of law enforcement
- Class division
- Neighborhoods not equal

### Child Care

- Not adequate childcare
- Lack of childcare impacts job, mental health, safety of children

### Financial Literacy

- Lack of education
- Start with basics
- Have classes
- More hands-on
- Needs to start at an early age

# Challenges/Issues in Community: Community Action Employees

## Overarching Topics

### Top 5 Challenges Ranked

#### Housing

- Safe and affordability
- Lack of stock
- Homeless Shelters
- Home ownership
- Increased rent and fees
- Sustainability

#### Health Services

- Medical, dental, and mental health
- Rising costs of insurance plans
- Substantial medical bills
- Substance Abuse and lack of availability and affordability of treatment
- Lack of clinicians
- Food insecurities

#### Child and Youth Services

- Quality
- Lack of programming for youth
- Cost of extra activities
- Role models needed for youth
- Childcare
  - Staff
  - Pay
  - Facilities

#### Transportation

- Rising gas costs
- Public transportation and availability
- Bus tokens
- Cost of maintaining a reliable and affordable vehicle
- Registration/DL costs

#### Employment, Education, and Training

- Worker shortage
- Education costs for post secondary, GED, trade school, etc.
- Lack of opportunities
- Financial literacy
- Sustainable wages
- Training opportunities
- Education gaps and lack of access



## Overarching Topics

### Inflation

- Impacts all
- Supply chain shortage
- Increase of costs of food and gas

### Racial Disparities

### Violence/Crime

- Incarceration rates (racial)
- Domestic Violence/Family Violence
- Gun Violence/Gun Control

### Investments of Core Values

- Self-investments
- Family investment
- Education investment
- Career investment
- Community investment

## Significant Needs Identified by CAI Board of Directors

## More Topics

### Housing

- Safe and affordable permanent housing
- Lack of stock
- Keeping people housed at all socioeconomic status
- Transitional housing/ emergency shelters

### Inflation

- Increased food costs, leading to food insecurities
- Increase cost of gas
- Transportation
  - Availability of vehicle
  - Car stock is low
  - Cost of vehicles to purchase and maintain

### Public Information

- How to have the general public recognize the needs are a lot closer to home than they think
- Asking for assistance and use of programs is life changing event for some
- Isolation and connectivity to programs and services

### Childcare

- Lack of quality and quantity
- Lack of availability childcare facilities for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift families
- Stock of certified and qualified staff is low
  - Pay scale low and not competitive wages

### Reproductive Health

- Safe reproductive health care
- Comprehensive sex education
- Impact of Community Action Program, PREP
- Access to contraceptives

## More Significant Needs Identified:

### Homelessness

- What happens to families and individuals when WERA is done?

### Addiction/ Substance Abuse

- Treatment availability

### Gun Violence

- Availability of firearms
- Easy access

### Mental Health

- Not enough facilities
- Not enough clinicians

### LGBTQ+ Community

- How to provide more support?
- Rollback of rights

## 2022 Focus Groups Key Issues and Concerns:

In conclusion the four focus groups identified the following as the top 5 ranked community needs in Rock and Walworth Counties.

1

Housing

4

Transportation

2

Child/Youth  
Services

5

Community  
Investments

3

Health  
Services

Other

# Housing



- Lack of safe and affordable housing
- Lack of stock
- Background barriers
- Lack of availability for everyone
- Homelessness
- Increased rent and fees
- Sustainability
- Lack of transitional housing/emergency shelters
- Keeping people housed at all socioeconomic status

## Child/Youth Services

- Childcare:

- Lack of childcare, impacting job, mental health, safety of children
- Lack of certified professionals
- Pay is not competitive
- Affordability for families
- Long wait list
- Lack of available and high quality childcare facilities for 2nd and 3rd shift working families

- 

- Youth:

- Lack of focus on all youth, start at the beginning
- More opportunities after high school
- Need positive patterns of examples and relationships from leaders and community members
- Lack of programming for 12+ years old
- Equitable opportunities for youth, lack of access to programming, financial assistance
- Must invest in more into our youth
- Youth homelessness
- More assistance with developing skill sets for their future

## Health Services

- Lack of resources and affordable AODA and mental health treatment facilities ("Where do we go?")
- Lack of providers/clinicians
- Affordability of services
- Lack of trust in providers
- Untreated trauma
- Rising costs of insurance plans
- Safe and affordable reproductive health
- Comprehensive sex education



# Transportation

- Hours and locations for public transportation
- High and not affordable gas prices
- Cost of maintaining a reliable and affordable vehicle
  - Preventing employment
- Registration and drivers license costs
- Bus tokens
- Need to expand in smaller communities to get to the larger communities for:
  - Employment, school, etc.





## Community Investments



- System change, lack of trust
- Divided community
- Culture equity
- Public information
  - Isolation and connectivity to programs and services
- Poverty



- Violence and Crime
  - Increase of violence
  - Court system is not working
  - Conflict resolution skills
  - Lack of trust in courts for safety
  - Domestic/Family violence
- Employment, Education and Training
- Inflation
- Financial Literacy
- Racial Disparities
- Bridge the Gap
  - Outreach
  - Awareness
  - Value what matters in our communities

## Other Key Areas:



## Key Findings:

More Key Findings

- The top three needs/concerns per the survey respondents show housing as the biggest area of need.
- 68% of respondents are working full time, part time, or are self employed. 50% of respondents reported they have a two adult household who are working. Yet, 70% of the survey respondents are under the Federal Poverty Level Guideline. Over 50% of respondents reported receiving public assistance.
- Over 1/3 of respondents reported obtaining some post secondary or a 2-4 year degree. Trade education and certificates are on the rise and more accessible.
- Evictions from 2019-2021 had a major decrease. This is mostly due to the COVID-19 Eviction Moratorium and Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA) available to tenants for up to 18 months.

## More Key Findings:

- The top three family issues are all childcare concerns reported. They are childcare for nights/weekend, affordable child care, childcare for when their child is sick, and the cost of childcare.
- 15% of respondents reported family violence in their homes. Respondents reported children are present when violence takes place and they are in a relationship which the use of force is present.
- As indicated by several comments made by respondents Domestic Violence/Family Violence is a high concern of how it is treated in the judicial system (specifically Rock County as stated).
- Over 65% of respondents stated housing is the biggest need for their family. 41% stated mental health services are the biggest need for their family.