Community Report

2023 Community Needs Assessment Summary

Putnam County Community Foundation

- Mission: The Putnam County Community Foundation (PCCF) partners with those who give to enrich the quality of life and strengthen community for this and future generations.

- Asset Development: Develop relationships with donors; invest and protect the principal of donor gifts; distribute grants based on charitable intent of donors

- Broad, Flexible Grantmaking: Understand community needs; re-direct charitable dollars as community needs change; can be proactive or responsive

- Community Leadership: Many ways to play a leadership role
  - Community Needs Assessment should guide how PCCF chooses to play this role
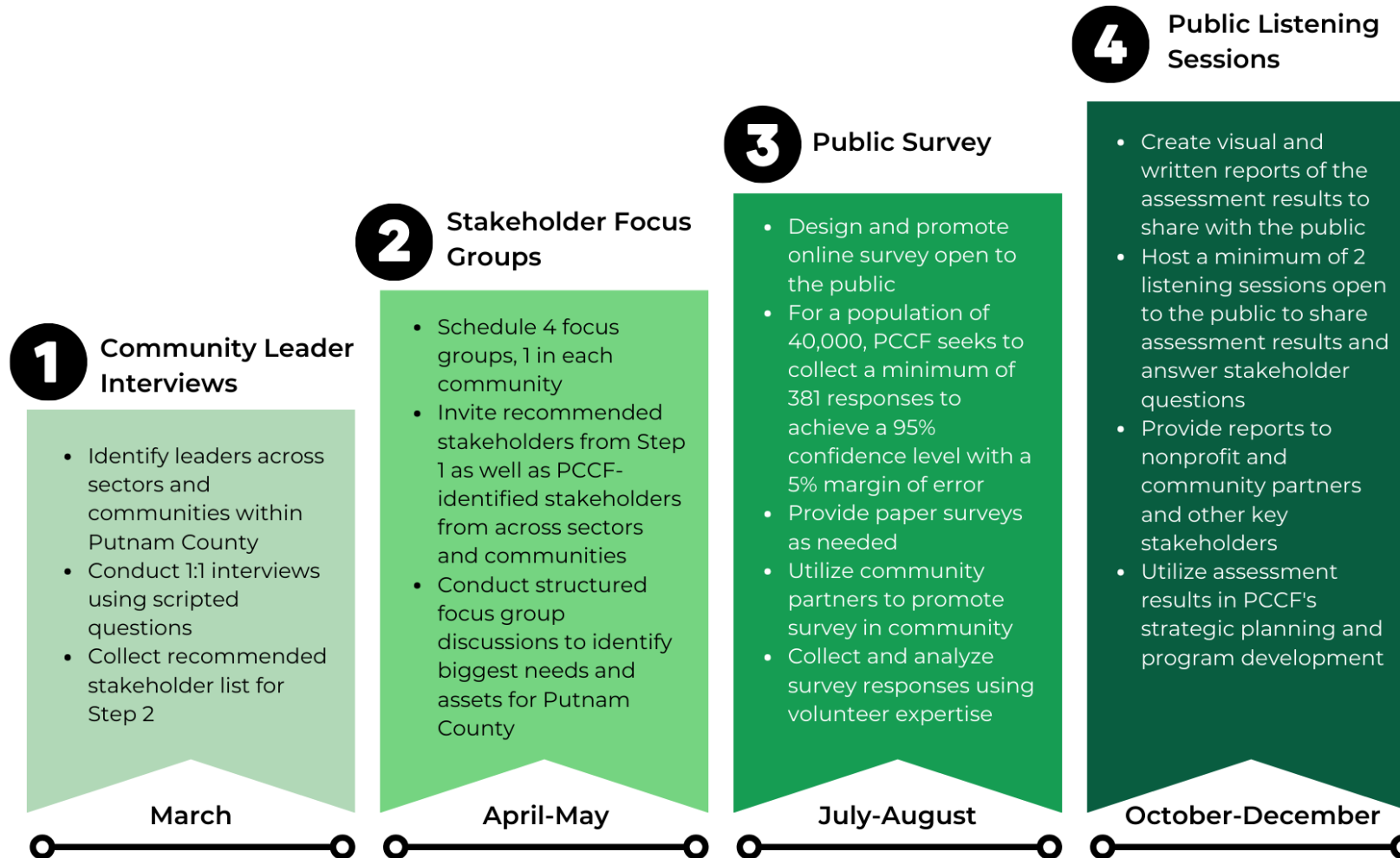
Purpose of the Community Needs Assessment

- Goals of the Community Needs Assessment:
    1. Identify and prioritize needs and assets in Putnam County;
    2. Unite organizations and resources; and
    3. Create solutions that produce significant and lasting results.
- Convene our community's decision-makers to create data-informed solutions based on the issues identified most by community members
- Guidance for our grantmaking and other strategic initiatives
- Publicly share common data for local organizations and leaders to consider in planning future programs and initiatives

Preparations and Planning

- Identify and learn from peer organizations in other communities which have successfully implemented a needs assessment
  - Hendricks County, Boone County, United Way of Central Indiana
- Collect guidance and input from PCCF Board
- Create plan with measurable goals
  - Include strategic and intentional ways to focus efforts on community voice
  - Identify U.S. Census Data points to use as benchmarks for data collection

Process

1 Community Leader Interviews

- Identify leaders across sectors and communities within Putnam County
- Conduct 1:1 interviews using scripted questions
- Collect recommended stakeholder list for Step 2

March

2 Stakeholder Focus Groups

- Schedule 4 focus groups, 1 in each community
- Invite recommended stakeholders from Step 1 as well as PCCF-identified stakeholders from across sectors and communities
- Conduct structured focus group discussions to identify biggest needs and assets for Putnam County

April-May

3 Public Survey

- Design and promote online survey open to the public
- For a population of 40,000, PCCF seeks to collect a minimum of 381 responses to achieve a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error
- Provide paper surveys as needed
- Utilize community partners to promote survey in community
- Collect and analyze survey responses using volunteer expertise

July-August

4 Public Listening Sessions

- Create visual and written reports of the assessment results to share with the public
- Host a minimum of 2 listening sessions open to the public to share assessment results and answer stakeholder questions
- Provide reports to nonprofit and community partners and other key stakeholders
- Utilize assessment results in PCCF's strategic planning and program development

October-December

What We Learned

Phase 1: Interviews

- 16 one-on-one interviews conducted by PCCF staff members with local leaders from a variety of industries and backgrounds
- Participants chosen by PCCF staff and board members
- Scripted questions to collect similar data points across interviews
- Gather references for Phase 2 participants and informed Phase 2 process
- What we heard most:

HOUSING   HEALTHCARE   MENTAL HEALTH/ ADDICTION   CHILDCARE

Phase 2: Focus Groups

- 5 community focus groups with 36 participants from across the county from a variety of industries and backgrounds

- Participants recommended by Phase 1 participants, PCCF staff and board

- Facilitated by trusted community member using scripted guide to collect similar data points based on feedback from Phase 1

- What we heard most:

HOUSING   HEALTHCARE   MENTAL HEALTH/ ADDICTION   CHILDCARE   WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT   INFRASTRUCTURE/ TRANSPORTATION   FOOD INSECURITY

Different from Phase 1

Special Considerations

- Housing might include opinions about:
  - *Affordable* housing options
  - *Diversity* of housing options
  - *Available* housing options
- Mental Health and Addiction might include opinions about:
  - Mental health *treatment* options
  - Mental health *resources*
  - *Addiction* treatment options and resources
- Childcare might include opinions about:
  - Affordable *early childhood education* options
  - Affordable *childcare* options
  - *High-quality* early childhood education and/or childcare options

Phase 3: Public Survey

- Phase 3: Community Needs Assessment public survey was distributed online using Survey Monkey
- 1,206 total responses collected between July 7-August 15, 2023
  - [Sample size](#) provides data that is 99% accurate with a 4% margin of error
- The survey was promoted in a variety of ways including on social media, in local print and digital ads, via local K-12 schools, through Community Partners, etc.

Survey Collection Sources

- Social Media
- Community Partner Promotion
- Printed Ads and Materials
- Other
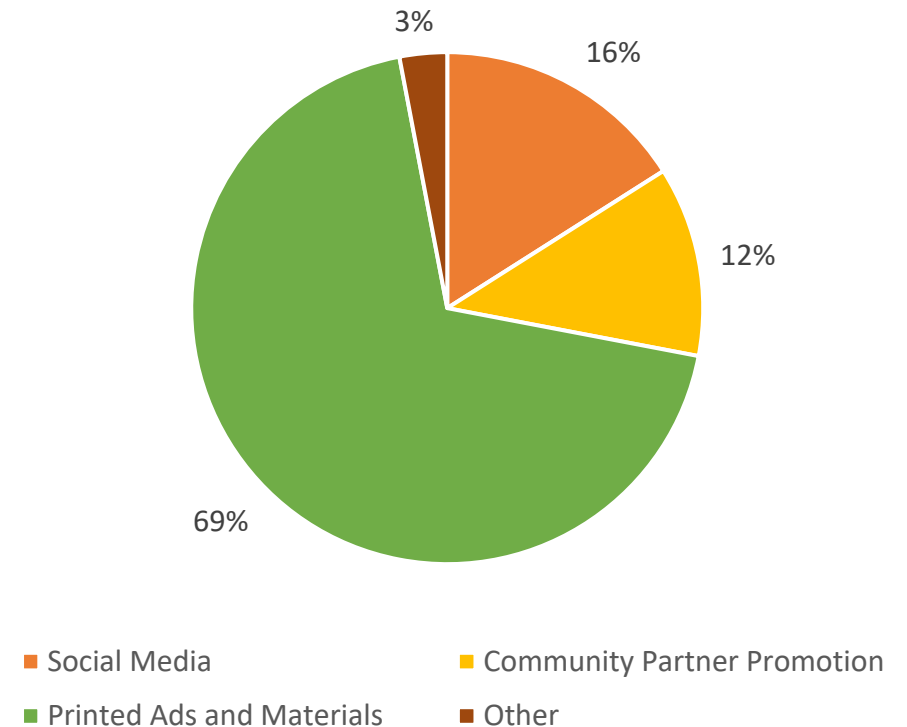
Survey Design and Benchmarks

- Questions were developed using peer organizations' needs assessments and with input from a select group of community members
- Goals for survey efficacy were set based on recent [U.S. Census Data](#) including county population, employment and income, housing and other data points.

37,301 population

13,747 households

89.1% adults have H.S. diploma/equivalent or higher

17.7% have 4-year degree or higher

15,293 housing units

73.5% owner occupied

92.2% households have computer access

83.9% households have broadband access

55.5% of residents 16+ in workforce

$64,993 Median Annual Income

46% student enrollment in free/reduced lunch
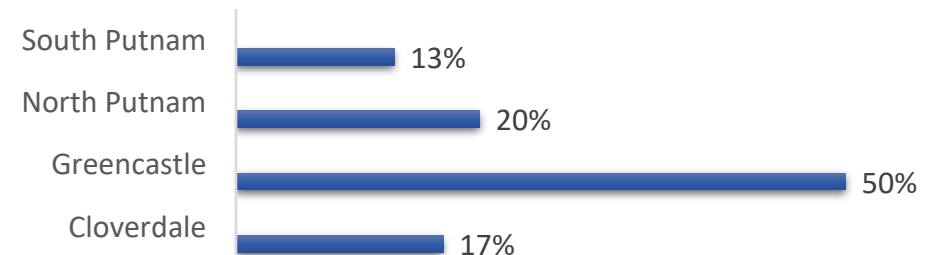
12% residents living in poverty
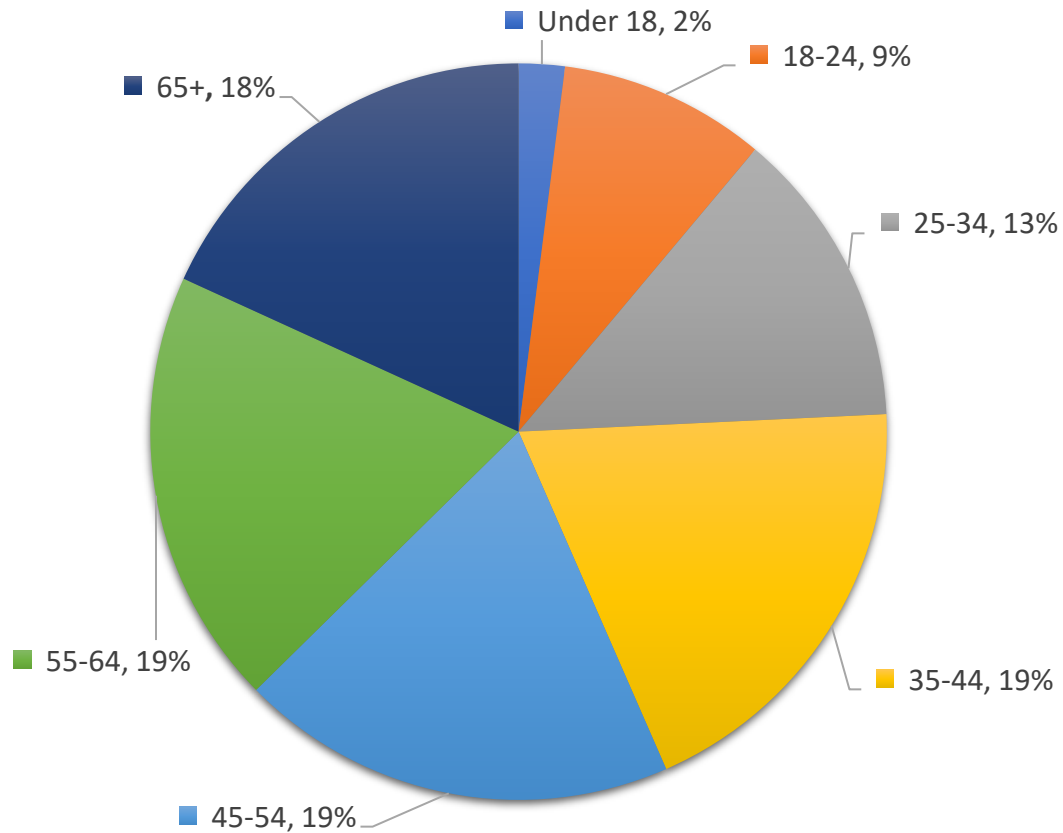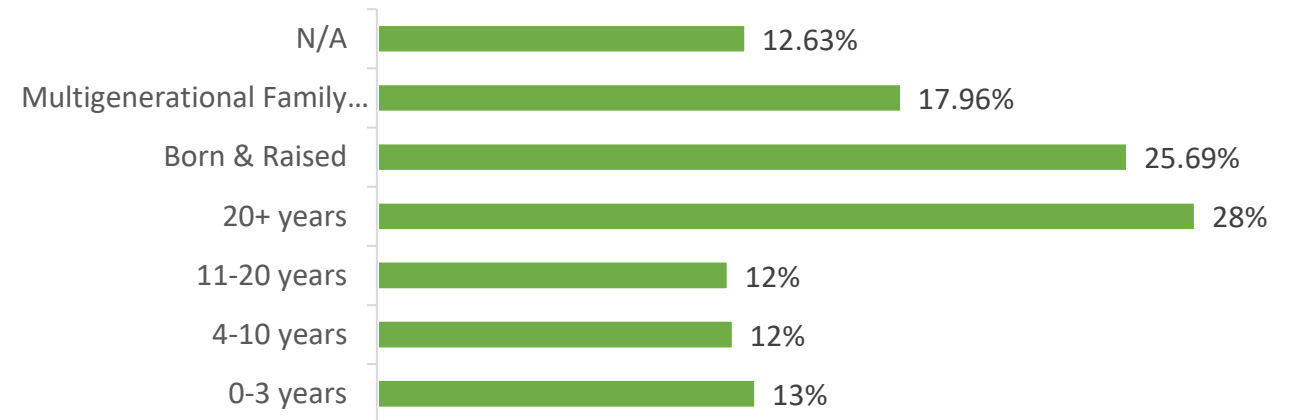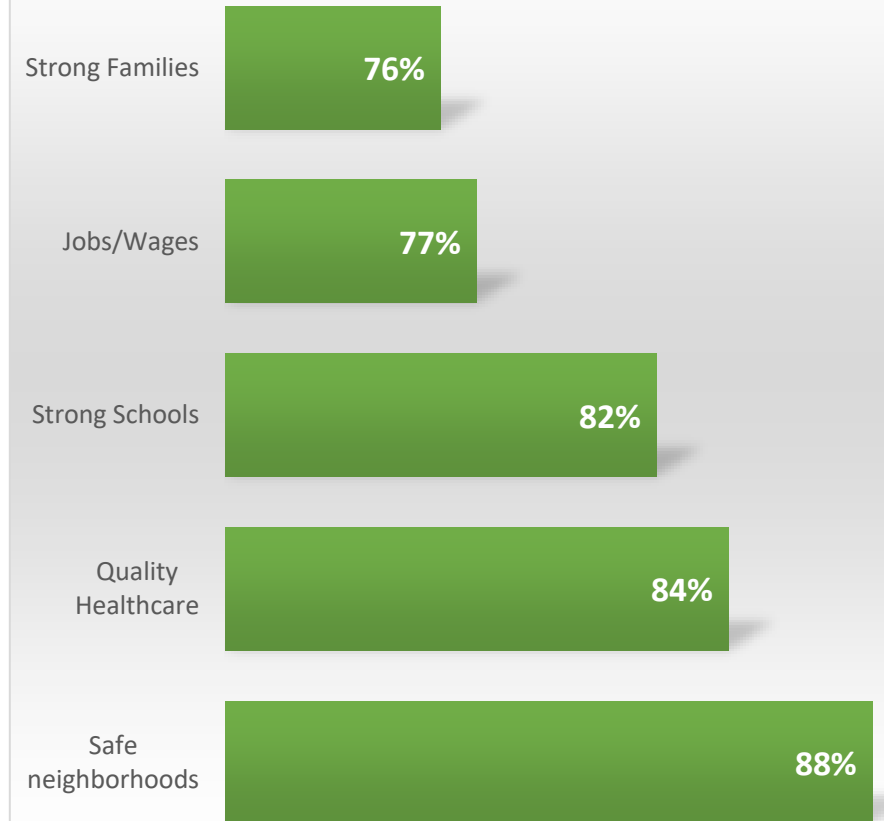
"Please tell us how important each of the following community assets are to you."

Community Asset	Not Important At All	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Safe neighborhoods	0%	1%	2%	9%	88%
Access to quality healthcare options	1%	1%	2%	13%	84%
Strong K-12 education systems	1%	1%	6%	10%	82%
Adequate job opportunities to make a living wage	2%	2%	5%	15%	77%
Healthy and strong families	1%	1%	5%	17%	76%
Trusted community leadership	0%	0%	5%	18%	76%
Community unity and trust	1%	1%	9%	24%	65%
Available and reliable workforce	1%	1%	9%	25%	64%
Strong early childhood education and/or childcare resources	2%	2%	12%	20%	64%
Access to mental health treatment and resources	2%	3%	11%	22%	62%
Adequate post-graduation opportunities for young adults	1%	2%	10%	27%	60%
Welcoming and inclusive community	1%	2%	13%	23%	60%
Affordable and/or diverse housing options	2%	2%	11%	26%	59%
Elderly care options	2%	1%	11%	27%	59%
Adequate spaces and/or opportunities for recreational activities	0%	2%	8%	34%	56%
Access to training or education to get a new or better job	3%	3%	16%	28%	50%
Available retail and shopping	0%	2%	13%	39%	45%
Social offerings and community events	1%	2%	12%	41%	44%
Strong transportation system and resources	3%	3%	19%	34%	41%
Volunteer and civic opportunities	1%	2%	19%	42%	35%
Access to arts and culture	5%	6%	25%	35%	28%

Top Reported Community Assets

- Strong Families: 76%
- Jobs/Wages: 77%
- Strong Schools: 82%
- Quality Healthcare: 84%
- Safe neighborhoods: 88%

"Please select the TOP 5 issues facing your community."

| Issue Area	Response Rate
Addiction and illegal drug use	50.30%
Inadequate mental health treatment options and resources	37.35%
Inadequate job opportunities to make a living wage	37.04%
Lack of affordable and/or diverse housing options and resources	36.94%
Limited access to quality healthcare options	27.83%
Inadequate safe public spaces for youth outside of schools	27.63%
Food insecurity	27.53%
Inadequate early childhood education and/or childcare resources	27.43%
Lack of knowledge or understanding of existing community resources	25.40%
Inadequate transportation system and resources	23.38%
Inadequate access to broadband internet	21.05%
Effects of adverse childhood experiences and trauma	17.51%
Lack of coordination and planning between county and towns	16.80%
Not enough skilled workers (e.g., trade, soft skills, work ethic)	16.09%
Inadequate availability and accessibility of elder care options	14.27%
Not enough social offerings or community events	13.26%
Lack of access to training or education to get a new or better job	9.41%
Unwelcoming community	8.50%
Lack of community-wide communication vehicles to inform public	8.10%
Limited art and culture options	7.39%
Limited volunteer and civic opportunities	4.25%

Top Reported Issue Areas

Issue Area	Percent
Healthcare	28%
Housing	37%
Jobs/Wages	37%
Mental Health	37%
Addiction	50%
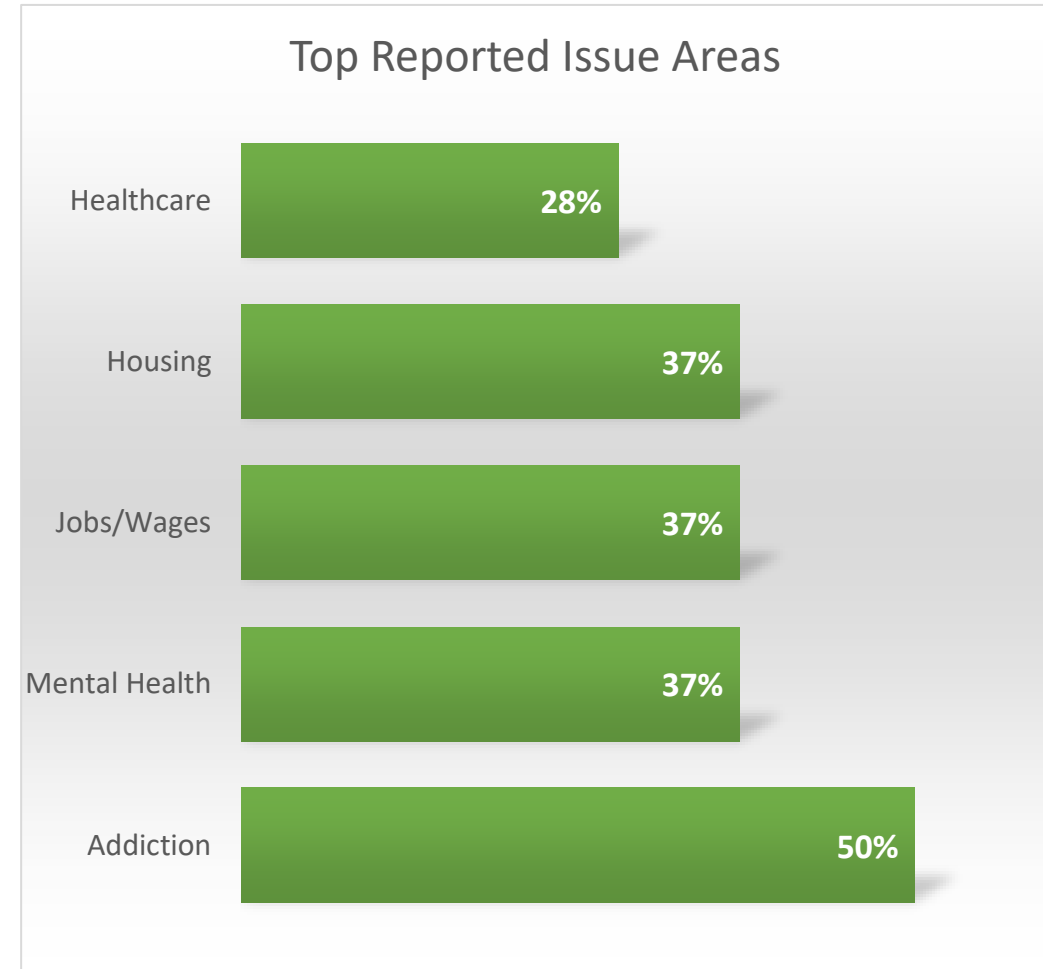
Issue Areas Reported by Community

| CLOVERDALE	GREENCASTLE	NORTH PUTNAM	SOUTH PUTNAM
Addiction and illegal drug use (52%)	Lack of affordable and/or diverse housing options and resources (38%)	Addiction and illegal drug use (41%)	Addiction and illegal drug use (51%)
Inadequate job opportunities to make a living wage (34%)	Addiction and illegal drug use (38%)	Inadequate access to broadband internet (35%)	Inadequate mental health treatment options and resources (35%)
Inadequate safe public spaces for youth outside of school (34%)	Inadequate mental health treatment options and resources (33%)	Inadequate mental health treatment options and resources (33%)	Limited access to healthcare options (31%)
Lack of affordable and/or diverse housing options and resources (31%)	Inadequate job opportunities to make a living wage (32%)	Limited access to healthcare options (30%)	Lack of affordable and/or diverse housing options and resources (29%)
Food insecurity (27%)	Inadequate early childhood education and/or child care resources (26%)	Inadequate job opportunities to make a living wage (29%)	Inadequate job opportunities to make a living wage (27%)

Unpacking the Issues

Mental Health
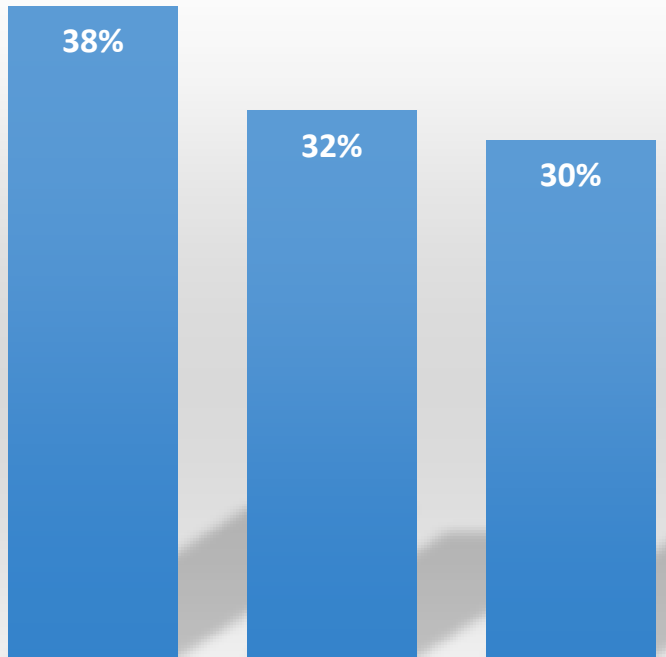
- Inadequate Addiction Treatment Options and Resources: **38%**
- Inadequate Mental Health Resources: **32%**
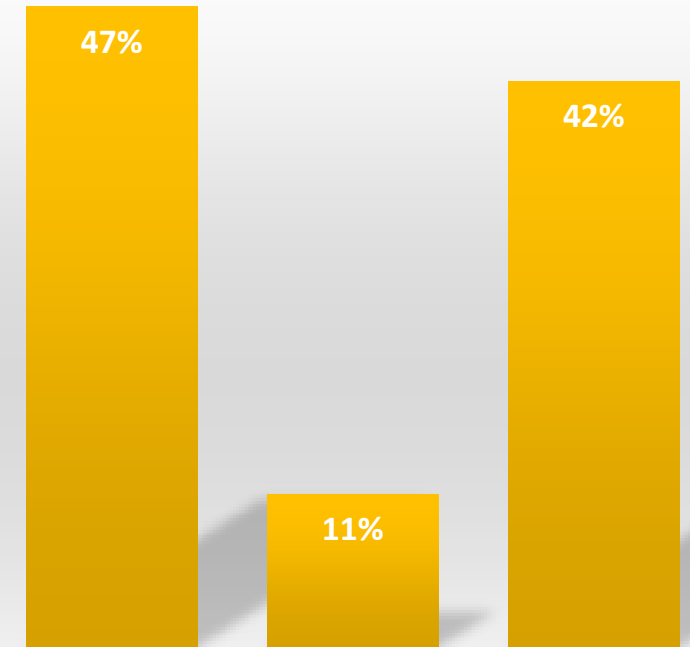- Inadequate Mental Health Treatment Options: **30%**
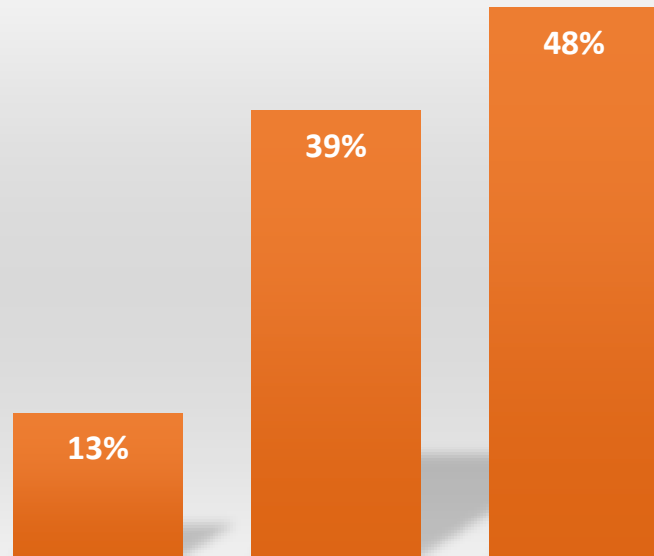
Childcare

- Lack of Affordable Early Childhood Education Options: **13%**
- Lack of Affordable Childcare Options: **39%**
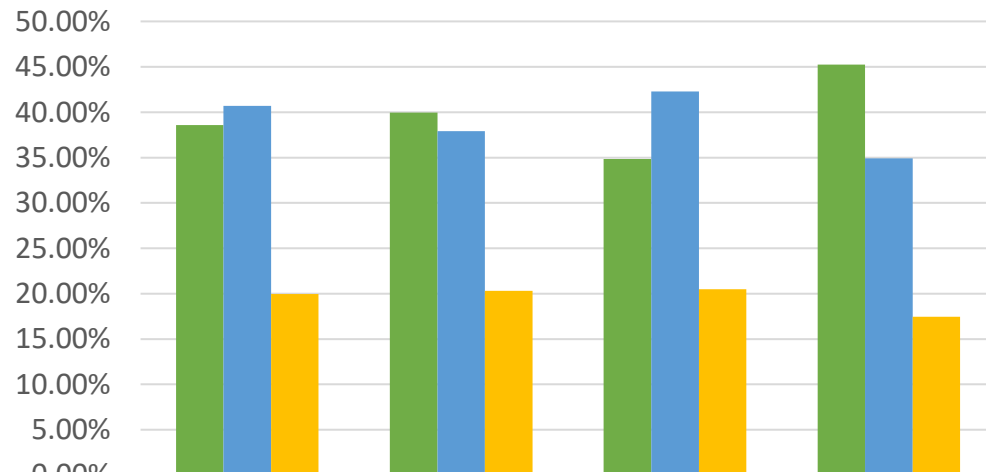- Lack of High-Quality Early Childhood Education and/or Childcare Options: **48%**

Housing

- Lack of Affordable Housing Options: **47%**
- Lack of Diversity of Housing Options: **11%**
- Lack of Available Housing Options: **42%**

Community Engagement

"How connected do you feel to Putnam County?"

	Cloverdale	Greencastle	North Putnam	South Putnam
Extremely/Very	38.57%	39.95%	34.84%	45.24%
Moderate	40.71%	37.92%	42.29%	34.92%
Slightly/Not at All	19.97%	20.30%	20.49%	17.46%

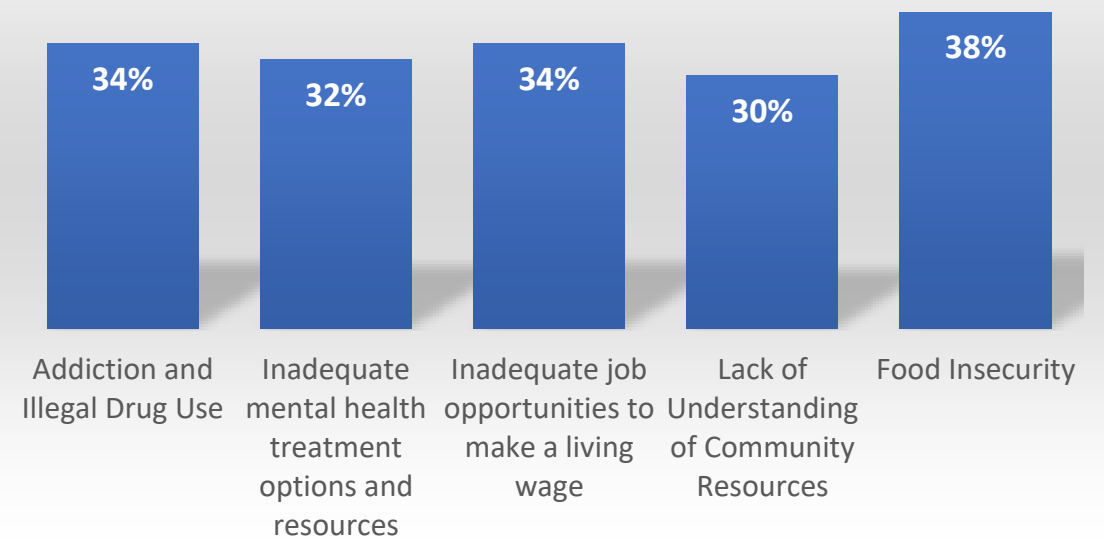## "How willing are you to actively engage in making your community a better place?"

Not at All	1.53%
Slightly	10.73%
Moderately	30.23%
Very	33.30%
Extremely	16.96%
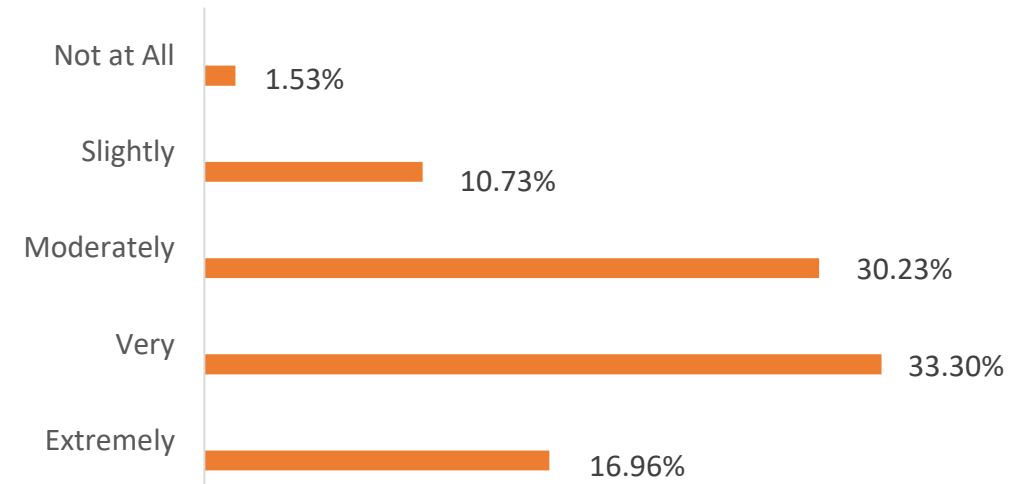
Raising Community Voices

Top Issues Reported by Respondents which reported Below Average Income (27%)

Issue	Percentage
Addiction and Illegal Drug Use	50%
Inadequate mental health treatment options and resources	35%
Inadequate job opportunities to make a living wage	40%
Lack of affordable housing and/or diverse housing options and resources	42%
Food Insecurity	29%
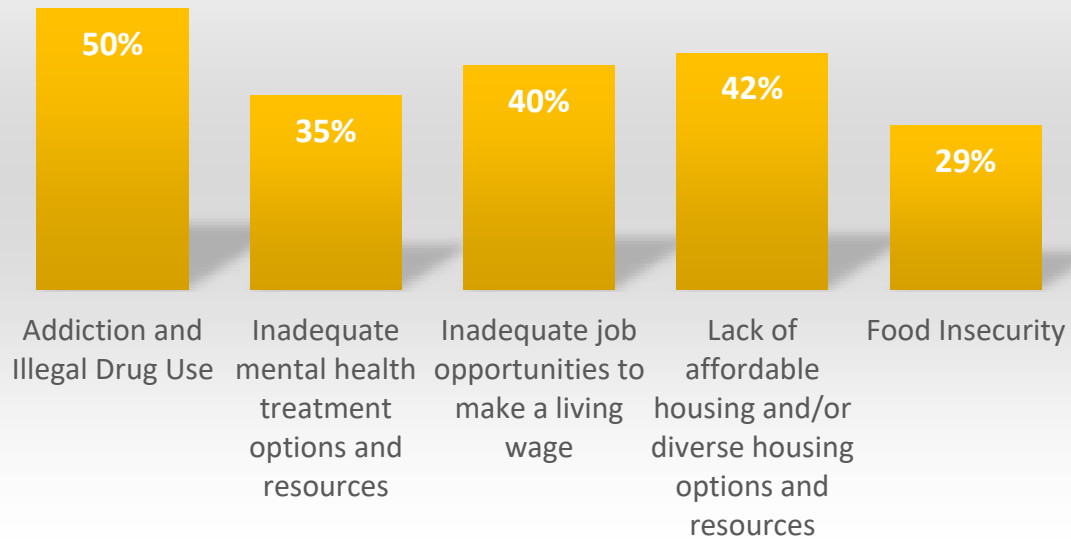
Note: *Quality Healthcare* falls off the top 5 issues and *Food Insecurity* rises.

Top Issues Reported by Respondents Age 24 or Younger (11%)

Issue	Percentage
Addiction and Illegal Drug Use	34%
Inadequate mental health treatment options and resources	32%
Inadequate job opportunities to make a living wage	34%
Lack of Understanding of Community Resources	30%
Food Insecurity	38%

Note: *Quality Healthcare* AND *Housing* fall off the top 5 issues and *Food Insecurity* and *Lack of Understanding of Community Resources* rises.

What's Missing?

We didn't hear:
- Male voice (22.5%)
- Youth voice (2.26%)
- Low-income voice (26.93%)

We didn't ask:
- LGBTQ+
- Education level
- Job status
- Household details

What's next?

- Publish final Community Needs Assessment report in December 2023
- Realign grantmaking and other programs to better address top needs
- Make comprehensive local data available to public in 2024
- Regularly convene local leaders working to address areas of top need
- Connect regional and state leaders working to address areas of top need to local leaders
- Make large scale investment and seek additional support for a special project to address issues within areas of top need

Feedback

A list of questions and answers will be made available to the public at pcfoundation.org/communityneedsassessment.

Stay connected

- Full report available in December 2023.

- Sign up to receive e-newsletter at pcfoundation.org.

- Follow us on social media to stay updated.

- Schedule a Community Report presentation for your group, organization or workplace by contacting Sarah Stone at sstone@pcfoundation.org.

- Stop by for Coffee Talk!

@PutnamCCF

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