Community Needs Assessment
Wayne County, Michigan

A comprehensive study on how to meet the needs of the greater Wayne County Metropolitan region.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every three years, Wayne Metro Community Action Agency conducts a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to determine the needs and assets in the community and in the organization. The findings are used to inform Wayne Metro’s strategic plan to create the most impact in the community and to ensure that the organization is held accountable for meeting proven community needs.

The CNA allows Wayne Metro to consider whether current programs and plans are achieving their intended goals, and to either validate each program or make changes based on the findings. With a deeper understanding of the current and emerging needs of residents who are living in poverty, Wayne Metro can plan what its role will be in addressing those needs. The assessment is also an opportunity to engage residents and local organizations in conversations about partnerships, resources, and policies.

TRANSPORTATION

Michigan is the most expensive state for car insurance for the sixth year in a row. In 2019, a Michigan car insurance policy averages $2,611, nearly double the national average of $1,457. Residents report that rates are even higher in some areas of Wayne County, especially Dearborn and Hamtramck. Roads in Wayne County are in poor condition, and residents who own cars must also budget for damage from potholes. A recent vote for regional public transit failed, and the system continues to have several challenges. Residents reported a shortage of convenient and efficient routes, along with poor customer service from bus drivers and other transit employees.

HOUSING AVAILABILITY

Across Wayne County, adequate and affordable housing options have steadily decreased since the recession in 2008. Housing that is affordable typically comes with major repair costs, and there is little funding or skilled labor available for residents to complete repairs. Lack of affordable housing options negatively impacts communities’ economic and social capacities, decreasing the chance of a thriving environment. Nearly 90% of households are spending a majority of their income on rent, leaving them little for basic needs, such as quality food and childcare. Due to the rapid increase of housing costs and foreclosures, more vacant homes are spread throughout Wayne County, especially in Detroit. Vacant homes lead to more crime and fewer social opportunities for community members. Dumping of trash and construction debris in vacant lots is discouraging to neighbors who are trying to maintain a higher quality of life. Wayne County continues to search for ways to reduce housing instability.

SCAMS & FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

Predatory lending is a key component to economic deficiency in Wayne County and Michigan as a whole. In just the past five years, payday lenders have drained over $513 million out of Michigan. Predatory lenders are more likely to be placed in communities with high rates of people of color, negatively impacting thousands of individuals in poverty. There is a large immigrant population in Wayne County who fall victim to these kinds of scams. Those who are not fluent or do not speak English are even more vulnerable and likely to be taken advantage of. On average, a payday loan borrower is in debt for five months of the year and spends over $500 in fees to repeatedly borrow $375.
EARLY EDUCATION

Children who attend high-quality early childcare and education programs have higher test scores, fewer behavior problems and lower rates of grade repetition in school than their peers.iii As adults, they are more likely to pursue higher education, earn higher wages and rely less on government assistance programs.vi However, there is a gap between the childcare capacity and current demand for childcare, meaning that not all children are receiving the benefits of early childhood education. One in ten Michigan families (10.6%) have had problems with childcare severe enough to cause a parent to turn down, change, or quit a job in the past year. The rate is higher for low-income families (13.4% of families earning less than 200% of the federal poverty level).

Quality childcare can also be prohibitively expensive. Early childcare and education in Wayne County can be very costly, and acts as a barrier for families with low incomes. Michigan ranks as the 23rd least affordable state in the U.S. for infant care with an average annual cost of more than $10,000 for full-time care.x This means that a one parent household earning a median income in the state would pay nearly half of their income for infant care.xi Although there are programs designed to support families and ensure that children are on a path to future success, it can be difficult to access these programs. The maximum income threshold to qualify for state-funded childcare assistance in Michigan is one of the lowest in the nation, at 130% of the poverty line, meaning many Michigan families who struggle to afford childcare do not qualify for state assistance.

POPULATIONS WITH UNIQUE SERVICE NEEDS

Nearly half (48.8%) of families in Wayne County have children under the age of 18 in the home, and 10.9% of those families have multiple children.xii Of all children in Wayne County, 51.8% live in a two-parent household, 38.4% of children live in a female-relative household, and 8% live in a male-relative household.xiii

Many households in Wayne County and Detroit have multiple generations of individuals living together. Several residents mentioned “legacy housing,” where younger generations inherit homes from their parents, and the family continues to live at the same address. In Wayne County, 45,052 grandparents live with their grandchildren who are younger than age 18. However, the grandparent is directly responsible for the grandchild in just more than one-third of those households (35.2%).xiv A child’s guardian is eligible for additional support services, but many grandparents who are raising their grandchildren have not legally adopted them and are missing out on available resources.

LOW WAGES

Across Wayne County, unemployment rates have been decreasing, and the number of available jobs has been increasing. However, wages have been stagnant. In 2017, the median household income for Wayne County was $43,051, lower than the statewide median of $54,909. In Detroit, the median household income is even lower, at $27,838. xv 80% of leading occupational sectors (highest number of jobs) in Wayne County are paying workers below the median wage of $43,051.xvi As manufacturing jobs leave the area, out-of-work factory employees struggle to find work that pays at the same rate or offers comparable health and retirement benefits as their previous jobs did.

When individuals are paid under the median wage, they are unable to afford basic needs, such as housing and food. This impacts their overall wellbeing and may lead to an increase in physical and mental health problems. Affordable housing tends to be located near low-paying jobs, and residents
face additional challenges of coordinating childcare and transportation if they look for jobs outside of their area.

**SUBSTANCE USE**

Rates of substance use have increased in recent years throughout Wayne County. Substance use negatively impacts communities’ safety and overall wellbeing. Since 2011, heroin use rates have doubled in Wayne County. In 2017, there were 2,686 drug overdose deaths in Michigan, 12.1% higher than the previous year. Deaths from cocaine and synthetic opioids (tramadol, fentanyl) significantly increased, impacting the death rate for 2017. Opioids accounted for 76.4% of drug overdose deaths in 2017. Michigan’s overdose death rate is 27.8 per 100,000, higher than the national rate at 21.7 per 100,000. Marijuana has recently been legalized for recreational use, and people may not realize that employers still have restrictions or policies in place around drug use.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Wayne Metro services reach thousands of individuals and families across Wayne County annually. As a result, Wayne Metro can continue growing and expanding services to address community needs. After collecting data from community members and leaders and conducting data analyses, the following recommendations were identified to further the impact of Wayne Metro:

- Continue providing transportation support to clients, participate in advocacy efforts to improve transportation in the county, and provide programming to support safe transit experiences.
- Bolster and expand current housing improvement programs to provide services such as lead and asbestos abatement and new windows, consider programs to encourage trash pickup from dumping sites, and partner with city and state departments to leverage investment zones in the Wayne County region.
- Partner with organizations with focuses such as reentry, foster care or refugees to provide current financial assistance programs; add content on scams to current curriculum and focus jobs programs on careers where clients can realize wage growth over time.
- Explore funding for physical space updates for early childhood programs through partnership with state and national organizations, and enhance current Head Start and Early Head Start programming through providing family engagement activities and additional 2Gen supports.
- Educate clients around drug-free workplace requirements, regardless of state law, and continue to work with and promote substance abuse service providers.
- Communicate services to the community in a variety of ways, including hanging fliers, online, and via telephone.
- Advocate for policy change that will positively affect clients and seek out partnerships with government entities for funding opportunities.
SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Wayne Metro utilizes a client-centric service model, the Empowerment Pathway, to address unique needs of each community member. Wayne Metro is an adaptive and mobile service provider with offices across Wayne County to meet the needs of individuals in their own communities. Wayne Metro also collaborates with various community partners to streamline service delivery, build capacity, and maximize resources to alleviate poverty in Wayne County. The Empowerment Pathway helps residents CONNECT, ENGAGE, BUILD, and THRIVE in their community through the following services.

**Outreach & Community Services**
- Water Assistance (WRAP)
- Energy Self Sufficiency
- Michigan Benefits Access
- DHS-BCAEO-LCA (Deliverable Fuels)

**Financial Empowerment Services**
- Family Self Sufficiency
- Financial Empowerment Center
- Foreclosure Intervention Program
- Foundations of Wealth Building
- Homebuyer Club
- Homebuyer E-Home
- Detroit Home Mortgage Program
- Impact 180
- Tax Preparation
- Property Tax Exemption Application Assistance Program

**Community & Economic Development**
- City of Wayne Housing Rehab
- Construction Projects
- Detroit Land Bank Authority Buy Back Program
- Detroit Home Repair Loan Program
- Weatherization—DCC
- Weatherization—Wayne Metro

**Youth & Family Educational Services**
- After-school Youth Programs
- Clothing Closet
- Diaper Bank
- Digital Literacy
- Early Head Start Services
- Head Start Services
- Great Start Readiness Services
- LEAP to Teach
- LEAPS Adult Education Program
- Summer Food Programs
- Wayne County Home Visiting

**Homeless & Housing Services**
- Employment Linkages
- Homeless Services
- Homeless Youth Education Program

http://www.waynemetro.org
WAYNE METRO CONNECT

Wayne Metro Connect, an information and referral call center, provides access to a comprehensive range of programs and services under an integrated services delivery model for low-income residents. Although Wayne Metro Connect at times fields calls from outside Wayne County, most incoming calls are from within Wayne County. The highest numbers of incoming calls from Wayne County are from Detroit, Westland, Pontiac, Taylor, and Dearborn residents. The most commonly requested services through Wayne Metro Connect are water assistance, utility assistance, tax preparation services, homeless services, and weatherization.

Compared with three years prior, foreclosure intervention is no longer in the top 10 requested services (now 13th), while interest in homebuyer education has increased and is now the 11th most common request, with only slightly fewer calls than Community Baby Shower). Below is a map showing the locations of calls received into the call center from October 1, 2017 to May 31, 2019, and the regional poverty rates in Wayne County. A map of number of calls by location is available in Appendix B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Type of Assistance Seeking</th>
<th>Caller Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Water Assistance</td>
<td>17,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gas/Electric/Propane Assistance</td>
<td>11,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tax Preparation</td>
<td>5,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Homeless Services</td>
<td>3,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Weatherization</td>
<td>2,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Homeless Prevention</td>
<td>2,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Utility Assistance</td>
<td>1,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Head Start and Great Start Readiness</td>
<td>791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Detroit Home Repair Loan</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Community Baby Shower</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 2: STAKEHOLDER INPUT
Wayne Metro seeks to generate feedback on community needs of Wayne County in critical areas, such as housing, transportation, education and employment from young students, clients, and community stakeholders. Through a client and community stakeholder engagement process, Wayne Metro provided opportunities to discuss pressing needs of the community and offer recommendations to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty. Qualitative data was collected through community forums, focus groups, interviews, and open-ended survey responses.

FOCUS GROUPS
On April 25, 2019, 30 clients shared their experiences related to education, housing, employment, and health in three focus groups. During the three focus group sessions, clients of Wayne Metro’s services reported positive relationships and interactions with Wayne Metro staff members and held a favorable opinion of Wayne Metro’s programs and services. Fourteen local youth participated in a focus group on March 27 at Wayne County Community College’s Downriver Campus. Locations of the other focus groups were Northwest Activities Center of Detroit and the Wayne Metro’s Wyandotte office.

Each focus group emphasized the idea that location matters. For each of the topics below, participants discussed the inequitable distribution of resources, from number and quality of schools, jobs, and homes, to political root causes in how city and county funds are expended.

HOUSING
Focus group participants brought up several challenges with housing. There are not many affordable housing options in Wayne County that are safe and healthy. Where there are affordable options, residents face additional challenges with finding transportation to school and work. For example, charter schools often do not offer bus service, which limits families’ options as to where they can live once children are enrolled in school.

Many elderly people are in the same homes that they have lived in for decades and do not have the resources to adequately maintain the home on a fixed income. As homes are inherited by the next generation, these new homeowners have not always been taught about how to maintain a home or to do the repairs that the house needs. Programs that offer funding and/or skilled workers to do repairs are underfunded, and residents report that it is difficult to get onto a list for support. Once they are on a list, it could be years before they receive any services. Even once services are approved, there is still the challenge of getting the home ready for the repairs. One participant said that her family made it to the top of the list, but when the contractor came in to do the repair provided by that program, it turned out that they could not do the repair until the homeowner removed an asbestos-wrapped pipe that would be disturbed during the work. They did not have the thousands of dollars to pay for the required pre-repairs, and so the work remains undone.

Plumbing, window replacement, crumbling front porches, abandoned homes nearby, and illegal dumping were all important topics of discussion for participants. Youth in the focus groups were especially enthusiastic about recommending that buildings should be rebuilt and made better.

PERSONAL FINANCE
In general, participants reported having no savings for any kind of emergency. Participants discussed having to make hard decisions about how to spend the money they do have. One person mentioned buying expensive athletic shoes for their child. They realize that this is not seen as a critical expense, and
also believe that their child’s self-esteem and confidence are bolstered by having things that allow them to feel like they fit in at school. Housing maintenance is also a big strain on peoples’ budgets.

Predatory lending also was discussed. Residents get a lot of calls from people offering to sell them car insurance or banking services. Several people told stories about friends or family who received offers for car insurance who do not own their own vehicles. There was a call going around recently wherein the caller offered to file paperwork for the resident for a fee of a few hundred dollars. Several people paid the fee, even though it was free to file that paperwork with the state.

**SERVICES**

Residents report being dissatisfied with services available in the county. Many have had rude or unproductive interactions with the Department of Health and Human Services. Those who have persisted in seeking help find that it is often hard to qualify for programs and services, and they do not know what to ask to make sure they are getting connected to all the programs for which they are eligible. Service providers are typically open during business hours, when families are also typically scheduled to be at work. More availability outside of traditional hours would help residents get access to services.

There are areas where residents report that first responders do not respond to emergency calls. One woman reported that it took an ambulance a long time to get to her house while her child was choking. She said she nearly lost her child because of their slow response. Other participants say they have called the police after they heard a gunshot, and then they never see any police presence in the neighborhood to investigate.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Focus group participants said that owning a car is expensive, and public transit is unreliable. There was discussion around the idea that Detroit was built as a “car city” and public transit has been excluded intentionally. Owning a car means paying for the car itself, inflated auto insurance premiums, and keeping up on maintenance.

Roads are not repaired well or quickly, and parking is expensive and hard to find downtown. Insurance rates are very high in the region. Many people pay for short-term insurance, which means that if they get into a car accident, they could be facing major expenses. Sometimes residents will provide a relative’s address to get lower insurance rates, and this can lead to lack of representation, as the different mailing address puts people into different voting districts. Insurance rates are partially determined by credit score, so residents who have bad credit and recent immigrants with no credit are priced out of the market. One focus group participant said that she considered buying a new car but decided against it because of how much her insurance premiums would increase.

One of the concerns with auto insurance is that rates are partly determined by a driver’s credit score. In areas where there is a high immigrant population, residents are unlikely to have a long credit history. Residents who are living in poverty will also likely have lower credit scores. Many participants agreed that the way the system is set up, with insurance companies managing a fund for auto-related accident expenses, is biased toward the insurance companies getting paid, and therefore not working in the best interests of community residents.
Walking and biking are not good options because of the cold climate of the region, and public transportation is unavailable or unsafe in some areas. Uber is more convenient, but also more expensive. People without other forms of transportation report asking friends and family for help getting to work and the grocery store.

Youth in the community sometimes have bus service to and from school. Students who live in areas that are not serviced by school buses will catch a ride with friends or family, walk to school, or take the city bus. Participants expressed concerns that children had to walk along busy streets or risk missing the bus or being put into an unsafe situation while on the bus.

**JOBS**

The legalization of recreational marijuana use is presenting a new challenge to the community. People can do drugs without breaking the law, but then will fail a drug test for a new job. Often, jobs will require a driver’s license, even when no driving is required for the position. Participants also discussed what support is available to get convictions expunged from their criminal records. Several were unaware of assistance that is available, though they were enthusiastic to hear that this assistance is provided in the community.

There is a mismatch between jobs and housing. Neighborhoods with affordable housing often only have local jobs available that do not pay high wages, resulting in residents with few resources having to travel farther to get to work. The high-paying jobs typically require training or certification, which is too expensive for many participants to consider. There is financial support available for some certifications and training, but only for in-demand careers. Participants expressed disinterest in many of the in-demand careers and would like to have more options for less expensive and more interesting training programs.

**HEALTH**

Nutritious food is available in some neighborhoods, and hard to find in others. Participants discussed their options for buying groceries, which include the dollar store as well as chain grocers. Kroger is seen as expensive, and often hard to get to. Food from the dollar store is not always fresh or good, and microwaveable meals are cheaper than buying fresh food. Partnered with transportation and safety issues, access to healthy foods is often limited. Taking children along to the store complicates things further, so several participants turn to fast food for convenience. One participant said that if they could do anything to benefit the community, they would create community gardens to provide fresh produce and teach people about where their food comes from.

Clients who are experiencing homelessness reported having to eat low-quality foods while at the shelter. Packaged foods and microwaveable meals are available, and there is a lack of fresh, healthy options being offered. Participants did report that food pantries are available to offer help, though they had trouble finding pantries.

Addiction is seen as a fact of life, and not necessarily a condition to be treated. When families do have medical needs, they often face challenges with government healthcare plans not being accepted at every doctor’s office. One resident said that his doctor will not make multiple appointments all on the same day, so he must return with each one of his children separately. One resident in Dearborn reported that in her experience, dentists will pull a tooth as a first course of treatment, rather than
spend time with patients and offer them options. She said that children will typically get better dental care than adults, especially when the adult is covered by a government-issued insurance plan.

**Education**

Neighborhood schools have been closing as population decreases in Wayne County. Students must travel farther to get to school, and charter schools do not offer bus service. Focus group participants discussed the lack of life skills training in schools. Subjects like home economics and wood or auto shop used to be offered, but today’s students can graduate without some of these basic life skills. They would like to see more soft-skills training and more emphasis on trades. More information on education needs in the community is below, in Appendix A.

**Youth Perspective**

One focus group was made up of local middle and high-school students. They shared the opinions of the other focus groups, for the most part, but highlighted some different priorities. In discussing their communities, the youth mentioned concerns with wild dogs and other animals that they encounter as they walk to school or around their neighborhoods. Gang violence and fights between rival schools also are concerns. Youth said that they usually feel safe during the day but know that it is dangerous to go out at night because of gun violence.

The students reported that school buildings are dilapidated and do not have air conditioning, and that the meals served at school can be good but are usually not high-quality food like you would want to eat all the time. They reported that there is very little care taken in preparation of the foods, and they are not learning about nutrition and healthy eating. Healthy food and grocery stores are not available near home.

Opportunities for physical activity are limited, as school fields and parks are not always well-maintained or safe. After school programs like sports or job training are available, though the type, number, and quality of programs varies greatly from school to school. Some students attend after school programs to get out of the house because “home isn’t always great.” One student said that job preparation is only available to students who participate in a career in sports. There was a consensus that career programs are limited to math and science information, and that higher education is unaffordable for them and their families.

The young people in the focus group have hope for the future and high expectations for what can be done to improve Wayne County. They want more trees, sidewalks, and parks. They want to rebuild and create more housing and school options for people across all demographics. They are active in after school programs that teach them about possible careers and soft skills. They report that their teachers or other supportive adults at school discuss college and career readiness with them starting in middle school.

**Community Forums**

On April 23 and 24, 2019, 57 community stakeholders participated in community forums that represented local community development organizations, government, healthy communities initiatives, financial empowerment organizations, afterschool programs, financial institutions, and housing and homeless initiatives. The community forums were held at the Downriver Community Conference in...
Southgate, at Triumph Church in Detroit, and at Wayne Metro’s Community Impact Center in Highland Park. Each forum was two hours in duration.

Participants engaged in roundtable discussions and group sharing for issue areas of transportation, housing, and workforce development in diverse communities of Wayne County. Community stakeholders also discussed ways they could collaborate more effectively to address the various needs of the community.

**Transportation**

Forum participants discussed challenges facing Wayne County residents around transportation. They described the public transportation system as not a good option, due to timelines and locations of bus stops. The recent votes on developing public transit regionally failed in some areas, and so it continues to be difficult to navigate between systems, to find connections, and to rely on public transportation to get around Wayne County. Stakeholders agreed that safety on the buses is also a concern, as well as being treated disrespectfully by bus drivers. The phone app for public transportation is hard for people with little technology experience to navigate, which makes it even harder for the elderly to use the system. Challenges exist across the population, with bus transportation to school not always being available to students in the region. Students may have to walk or try to take the city bus to school, both of which were considered unreasonable options by forum participants.

One participant told a story about her experience taking the bus to and from work each day. She works third shift and must catch the last bus of the night to make it home. If she is late getting out of work or too slow getting to the bus stop, she must find another way home. One night, she made it to the bus stop with time to spare and watched the bus drive by without stopping. She was at a marked stop, under a streetlight. Several people had similar stories about how the bus system has let them down, from rude drivers to missing scheduled pickups, or sometimes both, like when a driver sat outside a woman’s home and honked until she came out, though it was not at the time she had scheduled online.

Lyft and Uber are available options, but they are expensive and require a credit card to use. Navigating technology is also an issue with these services, as with the new bus app. Additionally, there are places in the county where Uber drivers refuse to go because they do not feel safe driving there, so residents cannot know for certain that these services will get them where they need to go.

Scooters and bikes can be an option, but bad weather and bad roads make them impractical most of the time. There is generally a lack of walkability. One stakeholder said that the idea of a 20-minute neighborhood that has been promoted is not real, and that it takes much longer and more effort to reach a grocery store, schools, and jobs. Retailers can raise prices because consumers do not have options to go to other stores to buy what they need.

Participants have a sense that there is strong advocacy work happening for the medical and insurance companies, and very little advocacy that is pro-transport. There was discussion about the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA). The MCCA is a nonprofit organization that is governed by a board of auto insurance executives. It has a legal mandate to cover medical claims for injured drivers that are over $580,000. To do this, MCCA collects $192 per vehicle each year from insurance companies, who then pass that cost on to drivers. Forum participants do not believe that the fund is being run to meet the needs of residents but is instead structured to benefit the insurance companies.
**Housing**

Stakeholders identified several challenges with housing in Wayne County. Many residents are the second or third generation to live in a home, which means that the homes are likely in need of some degree of maintenance or repairs. Many homes have lead or asbestos in addition to needing other repairs. Homeowners do not know how to prioritize home repairs, and repairs can end up costing more than the value of the home. Residents reported a need for training for new homeowners to learn about maintaining a home and managing finances.

New housing stock is unaffordable for low-income residents. Forum participants would like to see more integration, with affordable housing built near jobs and grocery stores. Additionally, residents reported that contractors who do quality work are hard to find. People are not interested in going into the trades, and so there is a shortage of skilled workers to hire to do repairs.

With properties being abandoned and the dramatic loss of population that Wayne County has seen in recent years, there is more of a burden on residents who still live in the county. As the tax base decreases, taxes for those who remain increases. This only compounds the problem of homeowners not having funds to make necessary home repairs.

**Workforce Development**

As companies close large facilities or factories, workers must find new ways to earn money. Non-manufacturing jobs rarely pay at the same level that manufacturing jobs did, and stakeholders expressed that the focus of social service supports is on finding jobs, and not necessarily careers that could potentially pay a higher salary. The consensus was that the jobs that are available do not pay enough to live.

Stakeholders discussed discrimination in hiring based on race, age, and gender. Women are rarely employed in the high-paying jobs on the factory floor, for example. Youth and seniors face extra challenges in job hunting because of their age and ability. Schools emphasize the value of earning a college degree more than they emphasize trades. This may lead to the high number of open jobs for carpenters, construction workers, and electricians that are going unfilled. Additionally, Detroit has a requirement that a certain percentage of the city’s vendor’s employees must be residents of the area, which may help provide meaningful work opportunities to residents seeking a career in a trade.

Earning the credentials to change careers is also a challenge. Stakeholders discussed the need for more affordable training programs with more variety in subjects and skills being trained. Skills training needed for high impact jobs is readily available, but those jobs do not necessarily match the interests of many residents who need additional training to advance their careers in other industries. Soft skills training would be helpful to residents working across all industries. It was suggested that people should be paid while they go through training so they can maintain their quality of life as they skill up for a higher paying career.

Companies often require an aptitude test around math and literacy, as well as a drug screen during the hiring process. Additionally, having a criminal history, or needing flexibility to care for a child or adult can also create difficulty for individuals looking for jobs. Once employed, when an employee needs time off for health issues, to care for family members, or even lives far from their workplace and does not have reliable transportation, taking the necessary time away from work can put their job in jeopardy.
Participants agreed that people will choose not to work because the cost of transportation is more than some jobs pay. Many high paying jobs are in areas where there is no affordable housing. This can impact the labor force participation rate, as people who opt out of the system and have no intention of looking for work due to these other barriers are not included in the count. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was cited as a problem for employees, in that employers will try to save money by hiring part time work or temporary workers to keep their employee count below the ACA threshold. Businesses will come to the area and say they are going to create a certain number of jobs, but then do not follow through on their promises.

**OTHER CHALLENGES**

Some other challenges mentioned during the forums that did not fit into one of the above categories are:

- Organizations seem to be competing for clients instead of working together to solve problems.
- It came up specifically in the transportation conversation that there is no coordinated effort to address the challenges with the public transportation system.
- Participants expressed concern that teachers with few qualifications or lacking certifications are a risk to students’ education.
- Bias against and by subgroups of the population create barriers to serving those in need. Examples of the local Muslim population and military veterans were given as groups that are more difficult to break into and earn their trust. They may be more vulnerable to predatory practices or scams.
- Participants report that there is a lack of coordination between state, county, and city governments to offer efficient solutions to local problems.

**INTERVIEWS**

In May and June of 2019, TPMA conducted 30-45-minute interviews with ten Wayne Metro community stakeholders from a cross-section of healthcare, human services, financial, faith-based, philanthropic, and government organizations. Individuals who were interviewed all commented on the value of Wayne Metro to their organizations and to the community at large.

**HOUSING**

Housing is a major issue in Wayne County. Interviewees discussed the lack of safe, affordable housing. Tax delinquency and foreclosures cause people to lose their homes, and renting is often more expensive than buying. Rent costs decreased during the housing crisis, but now have rebounded, and not everyone can afford a healthy place to live. One interviewee sees problems with landlords accepting housing vouchers, because the landlords are concerned about getting the small percentage of rent that must come from the renter themselves. This problem is even further compounded with minimum income requirements to rent and a lack of rental units that meet the requirements for housing vouchers.

There is a need in the county for more funding for home repairs and maintenance. The only program available for homeowners now is a no-interest loan. To qualify, residents need good credit and a low debt to income ratio, and still face the challenge of finding a way to pay back the loan.
Programs that provide pathways to homeownership would be helpful to county residents. There are a lot of people living in homes they inherited, and a first-time homeowner training about repairs and maintenance and how to manage a home financially is a need in the community, to better ensure that homeowners are able to stay in the homes that they have. Several people who were interviewed discussed the value of neighborhood associations and block clubs to engage residents and as an effective way to spread information about assistance available.

**Personal Finance and Employment**

Wayne County residents face challenges around credit. One interviewee said that a recent study showed that only 18% of residents have good credit, and 50% are unbanked. Most homes are passed down to family members or purchased with cash instead of being financed through mortgages.

Interviewees reported that clients face many barriers to entering the workforce. There is a need for more GED training programs and skill development training for people who have earned their GED.

They need help with resume writing and interview skills, along with assistance securing reliable transportation and childcare. Many positions require employees to have a driver’s license, even when the job does not require them to drive. Passing basic math and literacy tests and drug tests can be a challenge. Many people do not have a high school diploma or GED and are starting from scratch. With the legalization of marijuana, there needs to be more community education around employer restrictions on drug use.

Attracting talent to the region is a challenge, along with a lack of good jobs that require less specialized skills. One interviewee mentioned the need for funding to support entrepreneurs in the county, either through government or nonprofits. They would like to see new companies moving in and rehabilitating vacant buildings or creating new spaces on vacant lots.

**Health**

A mental health provider noted that they see a lot of depression and anxiety in clients, and that 75% of people in Detroit are suffering from PTSD due to the problems in the community. Mental health is an important component in finding and keeping a job and managing daily life challenges.

A food service provider said that people (especially seniors, teens, and infants) are not getting the nutrition they need. Proper nutrition is essential for brain and body development and to learn. Marketing around telling people what not to eat is not the most effective way to communicate with residents. Messages around adding in more fruits and vegetables and talking about nutrition security instead of food security could help people understand better what they need to do.

**Transportation**

The transportation system in Wayne County is a challenge for clients of interviewees. They report that because buses do not run on time and bus lines are limited, it is especially hard for people to get to and from work. It has a negative impact on employers, as well, since employees cannot rely on the bus to get them to work on time. Seniors and students also face additional challenges getting around because of the poor transit system. One interviewee reported that they have clients who were hired at the airport and requested a new route to the airport, and the transit authority agreed and added the route.
Car insurance expenses are related to state law requirements. The Mayor of Detroit is working within the government to advocate for change to the laws to allow for insurance companies to provide coverage at lower rates. Government also has a role in updating roads and other infrastructure to make Wayne County easier to travel through.

- Develop systems and processes to ensure that clients who access one service know about all of Wayne Metro’s other services
  - Map out all available services to find gaps
  - Find partners to offer services that Wayne Metro does not offer
- Create safe spaces inside communities where residents can access a variety of services
  - Expand conversions of old school buildings into multipurpose centers with housing, physical activity, gardens, training, population health impact
- Streamline processes across organizations for clients to access service
  - Co-locate organizations
  - Reduce application lengths
  - Clear messaging around eligibility
  - Create a system for referrals between organizations
- Find innovative ways to market programs in the community
  - More assertive outreach
  - Other methods besides internet/social media
  - Grassroots outreach to neighborhood associations
  - Editorials in Crains to influence business and government entities
  - Connect with Centers for Working Families network in Detroit
- Include incentives for education (GED, certifications) in assistance programs
- Expand opportunities for collaboration
  - Work with hospital systems who are required to do Community Health Needs Assessments to encourage collaboration around funding and priorities
  - Advocate for funding policies that lead to more collaboration instead of competition among organizations
  - Emergency/disaster preparedness planning for community
  - Partner with other organizations working in the same space to allow Wayne Metro to focus more deeply on fewer programs
- Emphasize restoration strategies over problems— “Build bridges, not distance.”
- Advocate for system change— “With how well run they are, they could be an important voice.”

**SURVEY**

To gain insight from a broader group of Wayne Metro Stakeholders, the organization fielded a survey regarding perceptions of the community's need in May of 2019. The digital survey had 1,049 respondents who worked and/or lived in Wayne County. Topics included in the survey were education, housing options, living wage opportunities, transportation, public safety, and access to health and mental health care services. Respondents were able to classify each topic as having a large, moderate, small, or no need in their community. Also, respondents had the opportunity to provide an open-ended response to what services they would choose to provide if they were given one million dollars to use towards their neighborhood.
The survey looked at residents of Wayne County that live in Detroit and those in Wayne County who live outside of Detroit in order to further analyze possible differences between group needs. While responses of Wayne County residents living inside or outside of Detroit were analyzed separately, both groups identified the same top five categories as having a large need. For respondents living outside of Wayne County, affordable housing options were identified most often as a large need with 60% of respondents selecting it as a large need over the other options of moderate, small, or no need. The second most common issue identified as having a large need was living wage opportunities. For residents of Detroit, 72% of respondents identified living wage opportunities as a large need, while affordable housing options was the second most common response with 69% of responses labeling it as a large need for their community. Financial wellness was the next most common issue identified as having a large need for both resident groups, ranking fourth for Wayne County residents outside of Detroit and fifth for those living in Detroit. The fifth category commonly identified as a large need regarded safe and decent housing options as 52% of those living outside of Detroit identified safe and decent housing options as a large need while 66% of those living inside Detroit did as well.

For the open-ended response questions, the most commonly offered solution was about providing affordable housing options, with 12% of respondents addressing this issue. Individuals wanted to have more options for housing and improved programs that could offer help for low income families, senior citizens, and the homeless to be able to have a place of their own. Additionally, 9% of respondents chose to address the food shortage issue and the need for more accessible transportation.

Many respondents offered ideas of opening a food pantry for those in need and providing access to more grocery stores with fresh, healthy food options. Respondents also wanted better public transportation that would have more accessible schedules and fairer prices. In the survey, transportation was often cited as necessary for individuals to be able to get to job interviews, work, or other vital resources. Wayne County residents also noted that many school aged children living in town were required to walk long distances to school through unsafe neighborhoods and noted that the students should have better access to public transportation, if not their own transportation system. Another common theme noted by Wayne County citizens and employees was the need for job training...
in order to prepare both adolescents and adults in necessary skills for obtaining a job and being a successful employee. The need of creating safer, cleaner neighborhoods and public spaces that could house parks, libraries, and community gardens in order to clean up their neighborhoods and provide additional activities and resources for community members was addressed by 6% of respondents. Responses for this topic also included suggestions to repair vacant houses in order to improve cleanliness and safety in Wayne County neighborhoods.
SECTION 3: COMMUNITY DATA
The following section provides an overview of publicly available data across many topic areas that impact the lives of Wayne Metro’s clients. This community data is collected from a variety of public sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, Michigan League for Public Policy, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, CFED, the USDA Economic Research Service, Housing and Urban Development, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Michigan Department of Education. This data regarding the social, financial and general well-being of individuals and families living in Wayne County has been analyzed and documented below.

POVERTY
Poverty is a complex issue; it does not mean the same thing for all people. Poverty guidelines, issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, simplify the equation for the official poverty thresholds used to determine the poverty rate. According to the guidelines, a one-parent household with one child is considered “in poverty” if their income is less than $16,910 each year. A two-parent household with two children is considered “in poverty” if their income is less than $21,330.

The federal poverty level provides a baseline for determining a community’s economic health, but the full extent to which poverty’s effects negatively impact communities and individuals requires a thorough understanding of local context. Also, once above the poverty level, individuals may still struggle to make ends meet depending on the local cost of housing, food, transportation, and medical care. Further exploring the types of poverty provides insight to this challenge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Situational Poverty</td>
<td>Generally caused by a crisis or loss and is often temporary. Events causing situational poverty include environmental disasters, divorce, or severe health problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generational Poverty</td>
<td>Occurs in families where at least two generations have been born into poverty. Families living in this type of poverty are not equipped with the tools to move out of their situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute Poverty</td>
<td>Involves a scarcity of such necessities as shelter, running water, and food. Families who live in absolute poverty tend to focus on day-to-day survival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Poverty</td>
<td>Refers to the economic status of a family whose income is insufficient to meet its society's average standard of living.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Jensen (2009) Teaching with Poverty in Mind

POVERTY IN WAYNE COUNTY
It is estimated that 392,115 of a total 1.7 million residents in poverty within Wayne County earn less than the poverty threshold. This equates to an estimated 22.7% of Wayne County’s population living in poverty, which exceeds the national poverty level by 11.4 percentage points, and the state rate by 9.5 percentage points. Only one Michigan county outranks Wayne County’s poverty rate of 22.7% — Isabella County 23.8%.
The degree of support needed and the most effective methods of assisting individuals in poverty depend largely on the individual’s needs and specific circumstances; single mothers will face different challenges from individuals living with a disability or those who are 65 and over. For example, single mothers may need assistance with childcare costs, while individuals with a disability may require accessible workspaces or reliable transportation to and from work. Accordingly, the assistance required to overcome poverty will differ greatly across the same community.

When unable to work full-time to support oneself due to age, health, or disability, the availability of alternative support systems can provide individuals with access to healthy foods, necessary healthcare and medication, and basic housing. Alternative support may include public services, social networks, and philanthropic or non-profit organizations. Even when these systems can meet immediate needs, they expose these individuals to additional uncertainty and instability and may not provide the needed support to fully overcome poverty.

Of the 1.7 million Wayne County residents in poverty, there are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60,508 individuals ages 18-64 with a disability</td>
<td>138,689 individuals 18 and younger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34,567 individuals ages 65 and over</td>
<td>174,397 individuals ages 18-64 without a diagnosed disability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table C18130
By Neighborhood

Although Wayne County experiences the highest rate of poverty within the state of Michigan, Wayne County has a median income of more than $43,000, higher than 31 other counties. This discrepancy could be explained by the significant variances in poverty rates across cities and townships. For example, Hamtramck city has the highest poverty rate at 50.9%, and Highland Park has the second highest at 49%, but Belleville is at 10.7%. The chart shows the 15 Wayne County communities with the highest poverty rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wayne County Cities with Highest Poverty Rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamtramck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Rouge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecorse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inkster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvindale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romulus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumpter Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-year estimates) Table B17001

Poverty by Age and Race

As stated above, poverty can impact nearly any individual. However, children and non-white individuals are two populations that are disproportionately likely to experience poverty. In Wayne County 2 in 5 children under age six live below the poverty level (38%). Additionally, Detroit has a higher percentage of children living in poverty (over 50%) than any other city in Michigan.

Poverty remains one of the best predictors of outcomes for children. It is connected to homelessness, which results in instability and trauma for children. It appears in the child welfare system where there is a greater risk of neglect causing adverse effects for children. Children’s health is affected by poverty whether through environmental issues, such as high levels of lead in older housing, or hunger and poor nutrition. Of the 392,115 citizens of Wayne County who live in poverty, more than a third (37%) are children under the age of 18. Wayne County has the fifth highest percentage of children living in poverty in Michigan.
Across Michigan and the U.S., individuals identifying as White, Non-Hispanic have the lowest rates of poverty; the same is true in Wayne County. For each racial or ethnic category, the poverty rate is higher in Wayne County than in the U.S. or Michigan. Michigan and Wayne County also have higher rates of Black or African American individuals living in poverty than the U.S.

**Poverty by Gender**

Women consistently have higher rates of poverty compared to men across the United States; this may be due in part to women earning lower wages than men.\textsuperscript{xxvii} Additionally, higher rates of women living in poverty may be due to the proportion of their time dedicated to providing unpaid caregiving to their children.\textsuperscript{xxviii}
• While the poverty rate for males in Wayne County is above Michigan and U.S. averages, females in Wayne County experience poverty at a slightly higher rate than males.
• Altogether, there are 182,195 males and 209,920 females living in poverty in Wayne County.

![Poverty Rate, By Gender](chart)

**Poverty and Living Wage**

Employment alone may not alleviate the impact of poverty in Wayne County. An adult with one child who works full-time year-round in the county would need to earn $23.79 an hour to support his/her family.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Living Wage Calculator 2019 estimates that a typical Wayne County family of one adult and one child spends about $49,477 on an annual basis on food, childcare, medical, and other basic expenses - more than twice the poverty level wage. A single adult with no children in Wayne County will still fall short of the living wage by $11,627 if they work full-time at minimum wage. If that individual is responsible for the care of a child, the gap between the minimum and living wage grows to $30,243. While above the poverty wage, the minimum wage fails to meet the needs of a typical Wayne County resident or family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hourly Wages</th>
<th>1 Adult</th>
<th>1 Adult, 1 Child</th>
<th>1 Adult, 3 Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living Wage</td>
<td>$11.43</td>
<td>$23.79</td>
<td>$28.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Wage</td>
<td>$5.84</td>
<td>$7.91</td>
<td>$9.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator

**ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employee**

The financial concerns in Wayne County are complex and stem from a multitude of factors; the prevalence of ALICE households—those who are employed but still struggling to make ends need—also indicates that employment alone is not always enough for financial stability. For example, Wayne County is comprised of 683,986 households, and 56% of those households meet the ALICE threshold. Wayne County is ranked third in highest number of households meeting the ALICE threshold in
Michigan, with Lake, Baraga, and Luce Counties being the only three that exceed Wayne out of 83 counties.\textsuperscript{xxx}

- In comparison, only 14\% of Michigan’s households earn below the Federal Poverty Level and another 29\% are considered part of the ALICE population.

**CONCLUSION**

The significance of poverty as a social and economic issue in Wayne County cannot be ignored. The county’s poverty rates—regardless of age, race, or ethnicity—are much higher than state and national averages, with a total of 392,115 people living below the poverty line at the most recent estimate.\textsuperscript{xxxi}

Though the experiences of these individuals may vary, evidence suggests individuals in poverty face adverse health, economic, and educational outcomes. Many individuals also face barriers to increasing their incomes, especially those experiencing generational poverty.

However, Wayne County’s focus on disrupting the poverty cycle has been effective for increasing incomes and improving health or educational outcomes—making a difference in the lives of Wayne County’s most vulnerable individuals. Wayne Metro delivers a variety of services and supports to create social and economic mobility for people and communities through advocacy, resources, and collaborations.

**INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES**

Wayne County is home to 1,763,822 residents from a variety of backgrounds. Compared to Michigan as a whole, Wayne County residents are more likely to be members of minority racial and ethnic groups,\textsuperscript{xxxii} speak languages other than English at home,\textsuperscript{xxxiii} and have lower family and individual incomes.\textsuperscript{xxxiv}

**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

Wayne County has experienced a substantial population decrease over the past 17 years (more than 250,000 individuals), and one third of the population loss is concentrated in the city of Detroit. During this timeframe:

- Michigan lost 0.13\% of its population,
- Wayne County lost 14.4\% of its population,
- Detroit lost 28.5\% of its population,
• Out-Wayne\(^1\) lost 2.3% of its population.\(^{xxv}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>9,938,444</td>
<td>9,925,568</td>
<td>-12,876</td>
<td>-0.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>2,061,162</td>
<td>1,763,822</td>
<td>-297,340</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>951,270</td>
<td>679,865</td>
<td>271,405</td>
<td>-28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-Wayne</td>
<td>1,109,892</td>
<td>1,061,864</td>
<td>25,935</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B01003

Between 2000 and 2017, Wayne County cities and townships’ population decreased by roughly 2% on average. Detroit lost over 25% of its population.\(^{xxvi}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wayne County Cities &amp; Townships by Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population Increases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Charter Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northville Township</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2000) Table DP01; American Community Survey (2013-2017 Estimates) Table B01003

In Wayne County, the number of children younger than age 5 dropped by 29,421 children between 2005 and 2017, a 20% decrease.\(^{xxvii}\)

• Individuals between the ages of 18-64 decreased by only 7% between 2005 and 2017 suggesting that families with young children are most likely to relocate.\(^{xxviii}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Young Child Population Changes by Community, 2005-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population Increases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2005) Tables DP01; American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B06003

\(^{1}\) Out-Wayne in this report includes all Wayne County areas that are not included in the U.S. Census Bureau’s definition of the city of Detroit.
Migration Out of Wayne County

Of the 228,869 people that moved out of Wayne County, only 8.7% moved out of the state\textsuperscript{xxxix}. Most individuals moving out of Wayne County stayed within Michigan. The top three Michigan counties to which they moved include Ottawa County (10.1%), Kent County (8.5%), and Washtenaw County (7.5%).\textsuperscript{xl}

\begin{center}
\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
Rank & Destination County & State & Total Migrants in Wayne County \hline
1 & Ottawa County & Michigan & 26,699 \hline
2 & Kent County & Michigan & 51,158 \hline
3 & Washtenaw County & Michigan & 25,859 \hline
4 & Grand Traverse County & Michigan & 5,592 \hline
5 & Kalamazoo County & Michigan & 14,543 \hline
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Migration out of Wayne County, 2010-2018 By County}
\end{table}
\end{center}

Population by Age and Gender

Wayne County’s population is similar to the state and the nation as a whole in gender and age. Just less than half of Wayne County’s population is male (48.1%), and just more than half is female (51.9%).\textsuperscript{xli}

- Additionally, one in four Wayne County residents is younger than age 18 (24.1%) and 14.3% of Wayne County residents are older than 65.\textsuperscript{xlii}

\begin{center}
\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
Population by Age Group in Wayne County & Population & Percent of Population \hline
0-4 & 115,340 & 6.5% \hline
5-17 & 307,513 & 17.4% \hline
18-24 & 167,707 & 9.5% \hline
25-64 & 923,622 & 52.4% \hline
65+ & 253,640 & 14.3% \hline
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Population by Age Group in Wayne County}
\end{table}
\end{center}

In Wayne County, approximately 6.6% of the overall population is under 6 years old.\textsuperscript{xliii}

- 32.6% of the total youth population is under 6 years old in Wayne County.\textsuperscript{xliv}
- About one third of children under 6 years old live in a two-parent household across Wayne County.\textsuperscript{xlv}
- In Detroit, nearly 30% of all children under the age of 6 live in a female-lead household.\textsuperscript{xlvi}
Population by Race and Ethnicity

The racial makeup of Wayne County is quite different than the state as a whole, especially in Detroit, where racial and ethnic minorities comprise over 90% of the city’s population.xlvii

- Just over half of the population in Wayne County are White (53.1%), and nearly two-fifths of the population is Black (39.1%).xlviii

Population by Race/Ethnicity

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B02001
More than 86,000 Wayne County residents report having Arab ancestry. This ranks sixth among ancestral groups, surpassed by German, Polish, Irish, English, and American ancestry. Of those reporting Arab ancestry, 50.9% are male, 37.2% are under 18, and 86.8% are U.S. citizens (whether native or naturalized).

- The unemployment rate for the Arab population is 6.1%.
- The labor force participation rate for the Arab population is 56.9%.
- The poverty rate for the Arab population is 44.5%.
- 26.4% of the Arab population individuals have attained a bachelor’s degree or higher level of education.

Michigan is one of the most common places of settlement for refugees coming to the United States, and Wayne County is home to an estimated 153,274 individuals born outside of the United States. Among these individuals, Mexico, Lebanon, Yemen, and India are the most common places of birth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ten Most Common Places of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population of Wayne County: 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In 2016, 5,039 refugees (5% of all refugees settling in the U.S. that year) settled in Michigan. Over half (59.4%) were from Syria or Iraq.

Among residents in Wayne County speaking a language other than English at home, Arabic is the most commonly spoken, closely followed by Spanish. Over 71,000 residents of Wayne County speak Arabic at home, and nearly 68,000 speak Spanish at homes. Several other languages, including Chinese, Polish, French, Urdu, and Italian, are spoken in the homes of 4,000 – 5,000 Wayne County residents.

- More than 1 in 8 (12.8%) residents of Wayne County speak a language other than English at home. More than half of them also speak English very well (65%) and only 3.9% speak English less than very well.
**Aging Trends**

Nationally, the population of older adults is expected to grow significantly as Baby Boomers age. Between 2012 and 2050, the population over the age of 65 is expected to almost double, from 43.1 million in 2012, to 83.7 million in 2050. Wayne County is similarly projected to see growth in the number and percentage of older adults residing in the county. In the next ten years (2016 – 2026), the population of Wayne County is projected to decrease by 4%. However, during this same period, the population age 60 and over is expected to grow by 16%.\[^{ix}\]

From 2000 to 2018, Wayne County’s total population decreased by 11.7%. During the same timeframe, the population ages 50 and over increased by 12%. The population for older adults increases naturally as individuals age. Since younger families are more likely to move than any other age group, the population younger than age 50 decreased more than 20%.\[^{ix}\]

**Household Composition**

The U.S. Census Bureau’s definition of household includes all people who occupy a housing unit as their regular place of residence. Households are categorized as family or nonfamily. Family households are made up of two or more individuals who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. All other households, in which unrelated people live together, or an individual living alone, are considered nonfamily households.\[^{ix}\]

- More than half of households in Wayne County are family households (61.9%).\[^{x}\]
- Among families in Wayne County, 48.8% have children under the age of 18 in the home.\[^{xi}\]
- The majority of Wayne County children live in households with a biological parent (81.7%) and of all children in Wayne County, 51.8% live in a two-parent household.
- 48.8% of families in Wayne County have children under the age of 18 in the home, and 10.9% of those families have multiple children.\[^{x}\]

More than a third (38.4%) of children live in a female-relative household, and 8% live in a male-relative household.\[^{x}\]

The graph below is a breakdown of age groups within each family type.

- Of the children that live in a male-relative household, one in five (20.8%) are under 3 years old, and nearly one third (32.8%) are 12 to 17 years old.
- Of the children that live in a female-relative household, the largest group (35.7%) are 12 to 17 years old, while only 14.3% are under 3 years old.\[^{x}\]
Many households in Wayne County and Detroit have multiple generations of individuals living together. In Wayne County, 45,052 grandparents live with their grandchildren who are younger than age 18. However, the grandparent is directly responsible for the grandchild in just more than one-third of those households (35.2%). Although grandparents often are willing to care for the children in their families, they may need additional financial assistance or other support, especially in cases where the child has been a victim of maltreatment.

**Populations with Unique Service Needs**

**Veterans**

Wayne County is home to 86,201 veterans, and just over half are 65 years and older (52%). Veterans in Wayne County experience lower levels of poverty and similar levels of employment compared to the county’s general population. However, veterans often face mental health and other challenges, while transitioning back to civilian life. While there are several supporting organizations for veterans throughout the county, veterans may be unaware of or may be unable to access these services.

- Among Wayne County veterans, 18.1% have attained a bachelor’s degree or higher level of education, 11.3% are in poverty, and 13.3% of those in the labor force are unemployed.

The largest percentage of veterans in Wayne County (35.4%) served in the Vietnam Era, followed by 27.6% who served during periods of peace.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Veterans Serving in Wars: Wayne County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period Served</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Civilian Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf War (after 9/11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf War (before 9/11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam Era</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World War II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between Wars Only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers do not add to 100% because of veterans serving in multiple periods.

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2015 5-Year Estimates) Table B21002
Children in Foster Care

Abused or neglected children often suffer from both temporary and long-term physical and emotional damage. Childhood maltreatment has been linked to depression, suicide, alcoholism, criminal behavior, and future abuse as an adult. National, state, and local child maltreatment agencies receive nearly six referrals each minute.

The preservation of family and community ties are essential to a child’s feeling of safety, well-being, and permanency. However, when a child is considered to be unsafe in his or her home, the child may be removed.

- In 2017, there were a total of 7,994 foster care youth in Michigan. 1,168 foster children reside in Wayne County.
- Youth of color are disproportionately represented in foster care throughout the state. African American youth comprise only 16% of the overall population but make up nearly 30% of the foster care system.
- Youth in foster care need a permanent home as soon as possible. As of December 31, 2017, 24% of children in foster care have been in out-of-home placements 24 months or more, compared to the United States as a whole at 15%.

There are several reasons for a child to enter the foster care system. Across the United States, 43% of cases are from neglect, similar to Michigan at 38%. Other cases include abuse, inadequate housing, and parental issues.

Primary Reasons Youth Enter the Foster Care System

Within the current foster care system’s living arrangements in Michigan, 30% of children are placed with relatives. Michigan's public and private partnerships are collaborating with licensed relative caregivers to provide more opportunities for children to remain with their biological family. In 2017, 566 relative-only licenses were issued.

Foster youth may have difficulties transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. Transition age foster youth (ages of 14 to 21 years old) have higher risks of living in poverty, homelessness, mental health issues, and physical health issues.
• There are currently 3,639 transition-age youth living in Michigan.\textsuperscript{lxxxvi}

• The median age of transition-age youth entering foster care is 15 years old, and 25% of them have been in the system for at least 3 years.\textsuperscript{lxxxvii}

• Nearly 50% of transition-age youth age out of the system (emancipation).\textsuperscript{lxxxviii}

• Common placements for transition-age youth include group homes and independent living.\textsuperscript{lxxxix}

Families First of Michigan (FFM) serves families that have at least one child at imminent risk of placement in out-of-home care. Families with children in out-of-home care are eligible for referral to the program when it is determined that reunification is not appropriate without intensive services, and the Family Reunification Program (FRP) is not available.\textsuperscript{xci}

• In 2016, the program served 3,099 families.

• In 2015, 89% of families in FFM were still together one year after being served.\textsuperscript{xci}

Family Reunification Program (FRP) services are available to families that have a child residing in out-of-home placement due to abuse or neglect who can return home with intensive services (within 30 days of the FRP referral).\textsuperscript{xcii}

• During FY 2016, 1,031 families received FRP services. Approximately 85% of families who completed FRP services for the period of twelve (12) months following case closure, remained safely reunified.\textsuperscript{xciii}

The Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) provides financial support to ensure permanency for children who may otherwise remain in foster care until reaching the age 18. As of November 2016, the caseload was at an all-time high of 1,003 cases.\textsuperscript{xciv}

In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Health and Human Services implemented strategies to ensure long-term, systemic reforms in Michigan's child welfare system. The Department implemented the utilization of Michigan TEAM Enhanced Practice Model (MiTEAM). The model serves as a guide for all agencies in the child welfare system across the state. The guide includes specific interventions and activities that are expected to be delivered to families.\textsuperscript{xcv}
LGBT Population
Michigan is home to over 311,000 LGBT-identifying adults (4% of the overall adult population) and 61,000 LGBT-identifying youth. In terms of social climate, Michigan ranks 20th in the nation on public support for LGBT rights and acceptance.\textsuperscript{xcvi}

- More than half of the individuals in Wayne County who identify as LGBT are under the age of 35.\textsuperscript{xcvii}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{percent_age_groups.png}
\caption{Percent of Age Groups LGBT Population, Wayne County}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{Source: Williams Institute (2019) The Impact of Stigma and Discrimination Against LGBT People in Michigan}

- The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey Report found that 22% of transgender respondents from Michigan experienced harassment or mistreatment on the job in the past year, 27% reported being fired, being denied a promotion, or not being hired by a job due to their gender identity.\textsuperscript{xcviii}
- The 2017 Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that LGB-identifying students were 38% more likely to report being bullied at school than heterosexual-identifying students.\textsuperscript{xcix}
- 25% of LGB-identifying adults in Michigan reported that they did not have enough money for food compared to 15% non-LGB-identifying adults in the state. 28% of LGB-identifying adults have a household income below $24,000.\textsuperscript{c}
- Detroit, Dearborn Heights, and Trenton in Wayne County have broad ordinances, prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations for individuals in the LGBT community.\textsuperscript{ci}

Prison and Reentry Population
Incarceration and reentry are barriers to self-sufficiency for many families. In Michigan, 0.6% of the adult population (42,628 men and 2,733 women) were in prison in 2016.\textsuperscript{cii} Additionally, in 2015, 1,554 Michigan youth resided in juvenile detention or residential facilities.\textsuperscript{ciii}

Specifically, in Wayne County, there are a total of 9,339 individuals in the criminal justice system, and 60% of cases are within the probation department. The average daily population for probation residential services is 58 individuals, the highest in the state.\textsuperscript{civ}
In 2017, Pew Research Center evaluated national recidivism rates. Overall, Michigan had the highest reduction of recidivism rates in the nation. Rearrests reduced by 20%, reincarceration reduced by 20%, and revocation\(^2\) reduced by 43%\(^{cv}\).

- Between 2006 and 2017, the number of people returning to prison from parole with new convictions dropped by 43%.
- The number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 residents declined by 26%\(^{cvi}\).

**Persons with Disabilities**

Data on disabilities is collected through the Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. This survey, a component of the National Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, presents two questions related to disability. A “Yes” response to either of “Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems?”, or “Do you now have any health problem that requires you to use special equipment, such as a cane, a wheelchair, a special bed, or a special telephone?” would classify an individual as having a disability\(^{cvii}\).

- 26.7% of the overall adult population in Michigan reported having a disability\(^{cviii}\).
- Disabilities are more prevalent in females (28%) compared to males (25%)\(^{cix}\).
- 52% of individuals with a disability are 75+ years\(^{cx}\).

As older residents begin to make up a larger portion of the population in Michigan, the number of adults with disabilities is expected to rise. By the year 2030, Michigan is projected to have 200,000 additional adults with disabilities\(^{cxi}\).

- In 2017, 1.4% of the population under five years old had a disability in Wayne County. This is higher than the state-wide prevalence for this age group, at 0.9%\(^{cxii}\).
- Among the Wayne County population ages five to seventeen, 6% had a disability, with “cognitive difficulty” being the most common.
- Among adults, “ambulatory difficulty” was the most common type of disability, affecting 9.8% of the population age 18 to 64, and 27.2% of the population over 65\(^{cxiii}\).

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\(^2\) Suspension of parole/probation and return to prison
ECONOMICS

Though Michigan is the 5th most affordable state to live nationally, many Wayne County residents are unable to find work or are working full-time and struggle to pay for necessities. Approximately 37% of working individuals in Wayne County make less than $35,000. Additionally, 22,000 adults in Wayne County worked full-time in 2017, but still had incomes below the poverty level.

- In 2017, the median household income for Wayne County was $43,051. This is lower than the statewide median of $54,909.
- Detroit’s median household income is almost 50% lower than Michigan’s, at $27,838.

Just over half (50.5%) of the adult working age population (16 to 64) in Wayne County worked 50 to 52 weeks in the past year. 32.4% of adults did not engage in the workforce in the past year. Possible reasons individuals may not have been involved in the workforce include lack of affordable childcare, being unable to find employment, receiving benefits that may be taken away if individuals begin to work, or having a disability.

Across Wayne County, annual median incomes also differ by race.

- Black individuals’ income is significantly lower than all other races. In Wayne County, the median income is $29,380 and even lower in Detroit, at $26,958 for Black individuals.
- American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals’ income is even lower in Detroit, at $21,667.

Number of Hours Worked Per Week in 2017: Wayne County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours Worked</th>
<th>Number of Individuals</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Usually worked 35 or more hours per week</td>
<td>573,380</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually worked 15 to 34 hours per week</td>
<td>161,022</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually worked 1 to 14 hours per week</td>
<td>33,581</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not work in the past 12 months</td>
<td>368,112</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,136,094</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B23022

Annual Median Income by Race

WAYNE COUNTY JOBS

Wayne County residents hold jobs in a variety of different fields. The leading occupational sector in Wayne County is management, business, science, and arts, with over 230,000 jobs. Eight of the top ten leading occupational sectors (by number of jobs) pay median annual wages less than Wayne County’s overall median wage of $43,228.\textsuperscript{cxix}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number of Jobs</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management, business, science, and arts</td>
<td>230,067</td>
<td>$53,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and office</td>
<td>172,558</td>
<td>$27,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>144,321</td>
<td>$16,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production, transportation, and material moving occupations</td>
<td>125,608</td>
<td>$31,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural resources, construction, and maintenance</td>
<td>49,561</td>
<td>$39,344</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The top occupation types are not equally distributed throughout Wayne County. The map below indicates location of top occupation sectors throughout Wayne County. Service jobs are concentrated within Highland Park and Detroit while sales and office jobs are concentrated within the City of Wayne, Taylor and Westland.\textsuperscript{cxxi}

Throughout Wayne County, many workers are being paid less than the Wayne County median wage. Occupations that pay less than the median wage are referred to as lower-income occupations. Of the occupations with the highest employment rates in Wayne County, eight provide median hourly wages
below the state-wide median of $19.52. The median hourly wage for Wayne County is nearly $5.00 less than the state-wide median, at $14.68. In Detroit, more than 64% of the leading occupational sector (service positions) are lower income.

- In Hamtramck, more than three out of four (76.7%) production, transportation, and material moving jobs, the leading sector, are lower income.
- Among cities in which sales and office jobs are the leading sector (Taylor, Wayne, River Rouge, Lincoln Park, Ecorse, and Garden City), more than 60% of sales and office jobs are lower income. In Ecorse, over 70% of sales and office jobs are lower income.

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table S2406

Earnings are also not evenly distributed across the county, as seen in the median annual incomes of cities and towns within Wayne County. Hamtramck, Highland Park, River Rouge, and Detroit have the most concentrated areas of lower-income workers, with median annual incomes less than $35,000. The Village of Grosse Pointe Shores has the most concentrated area of high-income workers, with a median income of $117,431.
While occupational data describes the types of jobs individuals in Wayne County hold, industry data provides an overview of sectors that are leading changes in workforce needs and county-level economics. The top two industries in Wayne County are educational services, health care, and social assistance, and manufacturing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Number of Jobs</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational services, health care, and social assistance</td>
<td>164,331</td>
<td>$31,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>125,286</td>
<td>$50,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>77,950</td>
<td>$19,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific &amp; management, and administrative &amp; waste management services</td>
<td>76,348</td>
<td>$32,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, recreation &amp; accommodation, and food services</td>
<td>74,509</td>
<td>$13,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; warehousing, and utilities</td>
<td>43,319</td>
<td>$40,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; insurance, real estate, and rental leasing</td>
<td>40,721</td>
<td>$41,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services (except public administration)</td>
<td>34,936</td>
<td>$41,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>29,044</td>
<td>$36,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>24,074</td>
<td>$51,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>17,290</td>
<td>$36,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>12,081</td>
<td>$41,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing &amp; hunting, and mining</td>
<td>2,226</td>
<td>$31,860</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Tables S2413 and S2405
Across the state of Michigan, the top industry sectors are similar to Wayne County. Education, health care, and social assistance is a leading sector at 23.5%.\textsuperscript{cxxxvii}

**Top Industry Sectors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Michigan</th>
<th>Wayne County</th>
<th>Detroit</th>
<th>Out-Wayne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
<td>10.30%</td>
<td>12.20%</td>
<td>9.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>18.40%</td>
<td>17.30%</td>
<td>15.00%</td>
<td>18.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>11.10%</td>
<td>10.80%</td>
<td>10.20%</td>
<td>11.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, health care, and social assistance</td>
<td>23.50%</td>
<td>22.80%</td>
<td>23.60%</td>
<td>22.40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table S2405

Michigan continues to be a leading state in auto-manufacturing. Wayne County alone has more auto-manufacturing jobs than all states except Kentucky.\textsuperscript{cxxxviii}

As the manufacturing sector becomes more technologically diverse, software development companies have converged with automotive manufacturing creating more opportunities for people living in Wayne County. Since 2009, Wayne County has seen a spike in the job market for information technology (IT) positions. Michigan is expected to see an increase in IT positions through 2025. Since 2014, computer occupation jobs have increased by 55%.\textsuperscript{cxxxix}

**Detroit Region’s Largest Employers, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Number of Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ford Motor Co.</td>
<td>48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>General Motors Co.</td>
<td>37,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>University of Michigan: Dearborn</td>
<td>32,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>FCA US LLC</td>
<td>32,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Beaumont Health System</td>
<td>28,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>U.S. Government</td>
<td>18,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Henry Ford Health System</td>
<td>17,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rock Ventures</td>
<td>16,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Trinity Health Michigan</td>
<td>14,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ascension Michigan</td>
<td>11,893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Detroit Regional Chamber (2019) Leading Companies

**Top 5 Fastest Growing Occupations in Wayne County, 2014-2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>2014 Jobs</th>
<th>2018 Jobs</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer occupations</td>
<td>4,207</td>
<td>6,512</td>
<td>+2,305</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information security analysts</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>1,211</td>
<td>+278</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software developers, applications</td>
<td>14,680</td>
<td>18,918</td>
<td>+4,238</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic designers</td>
<td>4,454</td>
<td>5,332</td>
<td>+878</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and information systems scientists</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>+31</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Detroit Regional Chamber (2019) Information Technology
Projected Jobs

Wayne County Projected IT Jobs 2014-2023

Over the next 10 years, projections show the highest increase in jobs in Wayne County compared to the rest of the state. IT job growth rate is projected to rise by nearly 17%. Occupations related to the medical field are expected to lead job growth in the county, with 5 of the top 10 growing occupations being related to the medical profession. Mechanical and Engineering Technician positions also are projected to grow over the next decade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016 Jobs</th>
<th>2026 Jobs</th>
<th>2016 - 2026 Change</th>
<th>2016 - 2026 % Change</th>
<th>Avg. Hourly Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loan Officers</td>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>1,867</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>$27.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>2,395</td>
<td>2,861</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>$23.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>1,133</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$27.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>18,432</td>
<td>21,206</td>
<td>2,774</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$33.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapists</td>
<td>1,255</td>
<td>1,441</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$40.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Social Workers</td>
<td>1,247</td>
<td>1,424</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$24.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>1,028</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>$21.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Health Services Managers</td>
<td>1,833</td>
<td>2,062</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>$53.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineers</td>
<td>1,154</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$33.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Secretaries</td>
<td>2,180</td>
<td>2,407</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$16.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: EMSI (2016)

The occupations with the largest number of projected jobs in 2026 are in fields that are expected to decrease in the number of overall jobs during the decade. Top jobs in 2026 are projected to be Nurses, Office Clerks, and Team Assemblers.
### Projected Occupations in Wayne County, 2016-2026

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016 Jobs</th>
<th>2026 Jobs</th>
<th>Avg. Hourly Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>18,432</td>
<td>21,206</td>
<td>$33.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Clerks, General</td>
<td>18,878</td>
<td>17,836</td>
<td>$15.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Assemblers</td>
<td>20,790</td>
<td>15,142</td>
<td>$20.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service Representatives</td>
<td>14,113</td>
<td>14,319</td>
<td>$16.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineers</td>
<td>10,666</td>
<td>10,487</td>
<td>$45.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers</td>
<td>10,289</td>
<td>10,208</td>
<td>$20.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Operations Managers</td>
<td>10,145</td>
<td>10,054</td>
<td>$55.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, No Legal, Medical, Executive</td>
<td>8,255</td>
<td>8,085</td>
<td>$16.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary Teachers</td>
<td>7,201</td>
<td>7,084</td>
<td>$34.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Representatives, Wholesale &amp; Manufacturing, No Technical or Scientific Products</td>
<td>7,612</td>
<td>6,932</td>
<td>$34.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: EMSI (2016)

### LABOR FORCE

The labor force participation rate measures the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or unemployed (not employed but looking for work), compared to the total working age population. In Wayne County, 58.8% of the population is in the labor force, compared to 64.3% in Michigan as a whole. Detroit’s labor force participation rate is even lower at 54.1%. cxxxiv

Labor force participation also varies by gender. In Wayne County, 63.1% of men are in the labor force, compared to only 54.9% of women. cxxxv

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 Labor Force Participation by Gender</th>
<th>Michigan</th>
<th>Wayne County</th>
<th>Detroit</th>
<th>Out-Wayne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men In labor force</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
<td>63.1%</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women In labor force</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B23001

Unemployment in Wayne County is highest in the cities of Highland Park and Detroit. In these cities, as well as River Rouge, and Ecorse, more than 1 in 5 individuals are unemployed. cxxxvi

Wayne County’s unemployment rate peaked in 2009 at 16.2% due to the recession. At that time, Detroit’s unemployment rate was even higher; one-quarter of the population was unemployed (25.1%). Since then, the level of unemployment has been decreasing. In 2018, Wayne County’s unemployment rate was 5.3%, and Detroit’s was 19.8%. cxxxvii In Michigan, the unemployment rate was 5.6% in 2018, higher than the national rate of 3.6%. cxxxviii
Since 2014, unemployment rates have been declining across Wayne County. Melvindale’s unemployment rate decreased by almost 10%, Detroit decreased by 8%, and Taylor decreased by almost 7%. Wayne County’s unemployment rate (5.3%) does not capture the full impact of residents struggling in the job market. A category of workers not captured in unemployment rates are discouraged workers. Discouraged workers are individuals who want to work, are able to, and have searched for a job in the past year but have not searched for a job in the past month, because they believe no jobs are available. In 2018, there were 13,500 discouraged workers in Michigan.

### Wayne County Unemployment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City/Township</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Highland Park</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>River Rouge</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ecorse</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Huron Charter Township</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Inkster</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hamtramck</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Romulus</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Melvindale</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Teen Labor Force

In Wayne County, 36.8% of teens (ages 16-19) are in the labor force. Teens are a part of the labor force if they are employed or actively looking for a job. Students that work only in the summer are not considered to be a part of the labor force, except during times of the year where they are employed or looking for employment. Among these teens that make up the labor force, the unemployment rate is 30.9% for males and 31.5% for females.

Idle teens are teenagers (ages 16-19) that are not in the labor force and not enrolled in school. In Wayne County, 6.5% of teenagers are considered idle teens.
**Banking and Lending**

Wayne County residents, especially in Detroit, struggle to access financial tools. In 2011, Detroit was ranked second among large cities nationwide in the percentage of households that were “unbanked,” meaning they did not have accounts at insured banking institutions. Individuals who are unbanked or underbanked fall prey to predatory lending or other alternative financial services, such as payday loans, non-bank check cashing, or rent-to-own services. In the past five years, payday lenders have charged Michigan consumers more than $513 million.

- In Wayne County, 5.7% of residents are unbanked, and another 18% are underbanked.
- 5% of individuals surveyed in Michigan reported using payday loan borrowing.
- The average payday loan borrower is in debt for five months of the year and spends $520 in fees on average, to repeatedly borrow $375.
- The average payday loan user earns around $30,000 per year.
- In Wayne County, payday lending stores are more likely to be in rural communities that have high rates of people of color.

**Transportation**

Owning a vehicle is important for Wayne County workers. More than 80% of Wayne County workers drive to work alone, and another 9.3% carpool to work. Very few people in the county rely on public transportation to get to work (2.6%). A 2016 ballot measure intended to improve public transportation service and to better connect communities in the southeast Michigan region was rejected by voters. The chart below provides information about Wayne County residents’ means of transportation to work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means of Transportation to Work for Workers 16 and Over by Race: Wayne County, 2017</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>All Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car, truck, or van - drove alone</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
<td>73.8%</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car, truck, or van – carpool</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation (excluding taxicab)</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walked</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked at home</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


- Approximately 14% of Wayne County households and 25% of Detroit households do not own a vehicle.
- Black workers are more likely to use public transportation to travel to work (2.3%) than their White peers (0.7%). This higher rate may be due to a higher concentration of Black workers in the city of Detroit that have more access to public transportation.
- 98.6% of Wayne County residents travel an hour or less to get to work.

Michigan is the most expensive state for car insurance for the sixth year in a row. In 2019, a Michigan car insurance policy averages $2,611, nearly double the national average of $1,457.

- While the statewide average is $2,611, the median car insurance cost for zip codes in Wayne County is even higher at $4,438.
HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Adequate housing is an essential component to a thriving community, creating safe neighborhoods. Living in a thriving neighborhood increases an individuals’ chances of engaging a healthier lifestyle and creates more opportunities for youth.\textsuperscript{clxi} Within Michigan, there are more than $4,500,000 housing units throughout the state.\textsuperscript{clxii}

HOUSING IN WAYNE COUNTY

Because of the economic climate in Wayne County, many residents have trouble paying for basic needs like food and housing. During the recession in 2008, the housing bubble across the nation “popped,” causing thousands of homeowners to lose their homes to foreclosure. During this time, housing prices dropped drastically, and housing loans became extremely difficult to obtain. Wayne County, and especially the city of Detroit within Wayne County, was particularly impacted by this phenomenon.

Additionally, certain vulnerable populations, such as seniors with disabilities, may face challenges finding housing that meets their accessibility or long-term care needs—especially at an affordable price.\textsuperscript{clxiii}

Foreclosures

A symptom of this crisis has been foreclosure judgments, which occur after three years of delinquent property taxes. Home foreclosures often result in negative personal impacts for homeowners such as poorer health,\textsuperscript{clxiv} personal financial stress, and housing instability as well as community level impacts such as neighborhood decline, and increased crime.\textsuperscript{clxv}

Wayne County is the nation’s leader in tax foreclosures, with more than 150,000 in the past 15 years. Despite reforms and outreach efforts, more than 100 people lost their homes last year for debts of $1,000 or less.\textsuperscript{clxvi}

- In 2018, tax foreclosures hit a 14-year low in Detroit. 2,920 properties faced foreclosure auction in 2018, down from 6,052 from 2017, and much lower than 2015 at 15,000.\textsuperscript{clxvii}

Since 2015, Wayne County’s leaders have been working to decrease the number of foreclosed homes by offering the community more support and partnering with nonprofits. In 2015, an interest reduction program was introduced. Homeowners are eligible to enter payment plans at an interest rate of 6% instead of 18%. More than 50,000 families were able to avoid foreclosure in 2015 alone.\textsuperscript{clxviii}

![Wayne County Foreclosures, 2015-2017](image)

Source: Quicken Loans Community Fund (2019) \textit{First Detroit Property Tax Foreclosure}
**Evictions**

Evictions are another symptom of the housing crisis. Evictions can result from a tenant failing to pay rent on time or violating their lease. Many factors contribute to eviction rates, including the increasing cost of housing and stagnant wages. Throughout the country, rent has steadily increased resulting in tenants spending more of their monthly income on rent. Evictions can also increase homelessness and neighborhood stability rates.\(^{\text{clxxi}}\)

- Michigan’s eviction rate is 5.74% on average, while the national average is 2.49%.
- Specifically in Detroit, eviction rates are 2.86% higher than the national average. There are almost 19 evictions per day in the city.\(^{\text{clxx}}\)
- Since 2011, eviction rates in Michigan have steadily decreased.

![Eviction Trends, 2000-2016](image)

Source: Eviction Lab (2000-2016) *Michigan Profile*

**Legal Needs**

Issues of foreclosure and eviction have increased the need for legal services. As the number of individuals in poverty has increased in Michigan, more individuals have become eligible for free legal aid. However, funding for these programs has also decreased, leaving an increasing number of Michigan residents without access to legal services. As of 2017, the Michigan Legal Services Corporation reported there was 1 lawyer in the state for every 276 individuals in the general population, and 1 legal aid lawyer for every 10,282 individuals with incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.\(^{\text{clxxi}}\)

- Nationally on average, low-income households experience approximately one civil legal need per year, but less than 20% of these needs are addressed with the help of an attorney.\(^{\text{clxxi}}\)
**Housing Stock**

Over the past fifteen years, Wayne County has had an extreme drop in “adequate, affordable, and available units” from roughly 48,000 to 24,500 units.\(^{clxxiii}\) Nearly three-quarters of the housing stock in Wayne County was built prior to 1970, and 17% of the housing stock was built before 1940.\(^{clxxiv}\) Older housing, especially if not well kept, is more likely to have lead paint, poor weatherization, and need expensive repairs.

In Wayne County, newer houses tend to have higher values than older houses. The median value for homes built in Wayne County since 2017 is $313,700, compared to the median value for all homes in the county of $92,400. While there have been relatively few homes in Detroit built since 2017, those homes tend to have lower values than older homes in the city. The median value of homes built in Detroit since 2017 is $57,500, compared to the median home value of $42,800 for all homes in the city.\(^{clxxv}\)
The Department of Housing and Urban Development conducts an annual American Housing Survey that includes a measure of housing conditions. According to this report, 1.3% of all occupied housing units in the Detroit MSA have residents with severe physical problems, and the percentage is higher for individuals living in poverty at 4.1%. Additionally, 8.1% of households living in poverty in the city have residents with moderate physical problems, higher than the national average at 7.3%.  

A growing concern across Michigan, but especially in Wayne County is vacant housing or blight. Areas of widespread blight tend to have higher rates of crime, lower rates of community engagement, and fewer social and economic opportunities than other communities.  

- Wayne County also has a large percentage of vacant homes compared to the state and the nation (17.4% compared to 14.9% and 12.2%, respectively), and the vacancy rate in Detroit is even higher at 29.1%. The vacant housing in Out-Wayne is largely concentrated in the communities of Highland Park, Inkster, Ecorse and River Rouge.
Renters
As the housing market continues to become less affordable, more households are renting. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, Michigan has a rental shortage of over 200,000 homes. Wayne County has one of the highest percentages of renters in the nation, ranking in the 86th percentile of all counties across the U.S. More than one-third of households in Wayne County are renters (37.8%), and in Detroit, the percentage is even higher at 51.9%.

Within any given year, most Wayne County residents stay within their same house (85.6%). However, Wayne County residents are more likely than their peers to move within the same county (9.9% compared to 8.8% in Michigan). When residents move within a county, it typically indicates they are having difficulty with housing affordability, are unable to find a job close to their home, or there is a disparity in school quality from one area of the county to another.
Over the past 15 years, Wayne County experienced an increase of Extremely Low Income (ELI) renters – from 88,945 to 99,699. Wayne County renters are most likely to pay between $500 and $699 per month in rent (39%).

Half of all households paying rent in Wayne County are experiencing rent burden-spending more than 30% of their monthly income on rent (50.1%). Since 2014, the number of rent-burden households has increased by nearly 15%. Not surprisingly, the percentage of households experiencing rent burden is higher for households earning less income. In fact, nearly three quarters (72.8%) of households earning $20,000 - $34,999 are spending more than 30% of their income on rent.
Homeowners
Just less than two-thirds of individuals in Wayne County own their homes (70.1%). Of those who own their homes, 2 in 5 do not owe a mortgage (45.7%). While Wayne County’s percentage of homeowners owing a mortgage is close to the state and national rate, Detroit has significantly fewer homeowners who owe a mortgage.\textsuperscript{clxxxv}

- The low mortgage rate in Detroit is closely tied to the low property values and unwillingness of banks to lend in the City.\textsuperscript{clxxxvi}
- Limited move-in ready homes are also a barrier to having more mortgages throughout Detroit, appraised values have been too low for a traditional mortgage, and many individuals applying do not have qualifying credit histories.\textsuperscript{clxxxvii}

More than one-third of homeowners who owe a mortgage pay between $1,000 and $1,500 a month in owner costs. Households that do not pay a mortgage (45.7%) pay much less a month than those who do. In fact, half of these homeowners pay only $200 to $499 per month in owner costs.\textsuperscript{clxxxviii}

### Percentage of Homeowners by Monthly Owner Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Owner Costs</th>
<th>With a mortgage:</th>
<th>Without a mortgage:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $200</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200 to $499</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500 to $699</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$700 to $999</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1000 to $1499</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1500 or more</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B25003

Subsidized/Affordable Housing
According to Housing and Urban Development, individuals become housing cost burdened when they are paying more than 30% of their income on rent or a mortgage. This creates less access to other basic needs. Although households that are renting are more likely to experience housing cost burdens, households with a mortgage can have similar experiences.\textsuperscript{clxxxix}
Due to the high number of households that are housing cost burden, the need for affordable housing options is high. There are several key affordable housing programs available at the federal level, such as the Housing Choice voucher program (portable – formerly known as “Section 8”) and Project-based assistance (subsidy attached to a specific unit). Other affordable housing developments that are funded through a variety of mechanisms including, but not limited to Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), HOME funds and Community Development Block Grant funds. Furthermore, units in government-subsidized public housing developments are not readily available and/or are often located in areas that do not promote the de-concentration of poverty. Eligibility for all of the programs, if and when the opportunity is available, is dependent on a family’s size, income level (as a percentage of area median income), credit history and criminal background. Between 2002 and 2016, federal funding for these programs decreased by 45%, creating a shortage of affordable options.

Barriers to accessible, affordable housing have become more apparent in recent years. Many programs such as the Housing Choice Voucher and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) have waitlists up to 3 years long. Less than one fourth of HUD eligible households receive assistance. Affordability regulations for units involved in programs such as LIHTC will expire within the next few years, which can lead to owners converting units to market rate prices.

- In fiscal year 2018, 31,583 families participated in the Housing Choice Voucher Program across Michigan. The average household income for participants was $10,872.

Local leaders are attempting to increase affordable housing options across the county. In 2018, the Affordable Housing Leverage Fund (AHLF) was established in Detroit, providing developers and owners financial tools to address housing challenges. AHLF is expected to restore 10,000 units and develop 2,000 new units.

In Wayne County, there are 42,832 subsidized housing units. All subsidized housing units are currently occupied. There are 145,641 households living below the poverty line in Wayne County. Subsidized housing units cover only 29.4% of households living in poverty.

- 96% of households in subsidized housing units are very low income, and 76% are extremely low income.
- The average length of time on the waiting list for subsidized housing is nearly 2 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of Households in Subsidized Housing Units: Wayne County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of subsidized housing units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of individuals in subsidized housing units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual household income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% very low income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% extremely low income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% female headed household</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with a disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% minority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of months on waiting list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of months since moving in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOMELESSNESS

The homeless population is a difficult population on which to gather accurate data. Several organizations gather information about the homeless population using different methods that naturally duplicate counts of individuals and leave some homeless individuals uncounted. A one-night point-in-time count of homelessness estimated that approximately 8,351 homeless individuals resided in Michigan, but another report using a methodology intended to count all individuals who had been homeless in the past year estimated the number to be much larger at 63,024.

- In 2016, it was reported that there were 2,335 individuals homeless in Detroit, the highest reported number in the state.
- In 2017, 37% of families reported being homeless for the first time in Michigan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons Experiencing Homelessness 2017 by Age - Michigan</th>
<th>Overall Homeless</th>
<th>Chronically Homeless</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0 to 4</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5 to 10</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 11 to 17</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18 to 34</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 35 to 54</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 55+</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


According to the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, Michigan experienced one of the largest decreases of homelessness rates throughout the country. Michigan’s homeless rates decreased by 7.4%, more than Florida (5.85%), California (1.1%), and Georgia (6.5%).

Children - Homelessness

Estimating the population of homeless children is difficult because it is not always obvious when a child is homeless. These youth usually change residences and schools often, and many youth—especially unaccompanied teens—try to hide that they are homeless. Homelessness among youth is a key predicting factor for student achievement, in both rural and urban areas. 94% of school districts reported homelessness within their schools during the 2015-2016 academic year.

In Michigan, an estimated 10% of homeless individuals were younger than age 5, and another 17% were between the ages of 5 and 17.

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as “individuals who lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” Under the McKinney-Vento Act, schools are required to count the number of children in their school that are defined as homeless. In 2017, the Michigan Department of Education counted 25,439 homeless children and youth in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. These students comprise approximately 2.5% of the population enrolled in the local education agencies.

- Most of Michigan’s homeless students identified by the Department of Education are living in unstable housing, such as doubled up (74.9%), in shelters (21.7%), or motels (6.8%). Only 1.6% are living unsheltered in cars, parks, or abandoned buildings.
Veterans – Homelessness
Veterans experience homelessness more frequently than other populations. Nationally, 9% of homeless adults were veterans in 2018, but that proportion varies by state. An estimated 693 homeless veterans reside in Michigan.

- A majority of homeless veterans stay in shelter locations (62%), which may provide access to additional services.
- Nationally, since 2009, homeless veterans have decreased by 51%.

HUNGER & FOOD INSECURITY
Households with food availability that is uncertain, insufficient or limited due to economic, physical or other constraints are considered “food insecure.” Rates of food insecurity are particularly high in households with incomes near or below the federal poverty level and one-parent households with children.

- Michigan ranked 22nd nationally in food hardship in 2017, and Wayne County has the highest food insecurity rate in the state.
- In Wayne County, more than 1 in 5 households (19.0% or nearly 344,440 people) faced food insecurity in 2017.
- 18.2% of children in Wayne County face food insecurity annually.

Federal nutrition programs can help individuals who face food insecurity; however, 17% of Wayne County’s food insecure adults and nearly one-third of its food insecure children are likely ineligible for SNAP and other food programs because their family’s incomes do not fall below the eligibility threshold.
Limited access to supermarkets, supercenters, grocery stores, or other sources of healthy and affordable food make it difficult to eat a healthy diet. The map below shows Wayne County’s food deserts, or low-income areas where a significant share of individuals live more than 1 mile from a supermarket in urban areas. Though many census tracts in Detroit are low-income, the density of grocery stores within the city means that it does not contain any food deserts, by the USDA definition.

**School Lunch and Summer Food Programs**

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federal program that provides free and reduced-price meals to low-income children throughout the school year. The state of Michigan served 125.0 million meals through the NSLP in FFY 2018, down from 132.0 million meals in FFY 2014.

- 64.5% of Wayne County’s students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches, compared to 50.0% of Michigan students.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a USDA service that provides federal funding for local sponsors that wish to offer meals to low-income children (under the age of 18) throughout the summer when school is not in session. There are roughly 450 meal-serving sites—run by 29 different sponsors—distributed throughout Wayne County, with most sites serving breakfasts and lunches.

- Most sponsors in Wayne County are public school districts, but some are non-profits and private school organizations.
- Across the state of Michigan, 3.5 million meals were served in 2017; 63.4% of these meals were lunches and 25.0% were breakfasts.
- In 2017, the average daily population in SFSP was nearly 65,000 across the state.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal food assistance program designed to raise the nutritional level of low-income households. It was called the Food Stamp Program prior to 2008. In 2015, the average monthly benefit for individuals using SNAP in Michigan was $125.65 per person.

- More than one-quarter of all Wayne County households received food benefits at some point between 2016 and 2017 (24.5%), and the rate was even higher at nearly 2 in 5 households with children.
- A study of families using SNAP benefits showed that 86.3% of American households exhaust their monthly SNAP benefits within 3 weeks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Households Receiving SNAP Benefits</th>
<th>Michigan</th>
<th>Wayne County (including Detroit)</th>
<th>Detroit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Households</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with Children</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)**

WIC is a program that provides health, nutrition, and food services to children under age 5 and pregnant women. The average monthly benefit per household receiving WIC in Michigan is $36.48. In 2017, 53,614 young Wayne County children received support from the WIC program. This represented 46.5% of children between ages 0 and 5 in the county.

**EDUCATION**

Access to quality education is one of the most important components of a child’s life, impacting their opportunities through adulthood. Michigan is home to nearly 900 public schools throughout the 83 counties, enrolling more than 1.4 million students. 37% of individuals have obtained a college degree in Michigan.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

From the moment they are born, children begin to learn and develop. In their early years, this learning is affected by children’s environment, including their homes as well as any programs or services in which they or their families participate. Children who attend high-quality early childcare and education programs have higher test scores, fewer behavior problems and lower rates of grade repetition than their peers. As adults, they are more likely to pursue higher education, earn higher wages and rely less on government assistance programs.

- Parents with access to affordable and dependable childcare are less likely to have childcare-related disruptions that affect their work attendance or schedule.
- Over half (51%) of American families live in a childcare desert, and 44% of families in Michigan live in a childcare desert.
- One in ten Michigan families (10.6%) have had problems with childcare severe enough that they have caused a parent to turn down, change or quit a job in the past year. The rate is higher for low-income families (13.4% of families earning less than 200% of the federal poverty level, or 200% FPL).

Many young children are enrolled in early childhood programs in Wayne County. Nearly half of all Wayne County 3 and 4-year olds are enrolled in school (45.5%), and the number of students enrolled in private schools is higher in Out-Wayne County than in the city of Detroit.

In Michigan, high quality early childcare and education is defined by the Great Start to Quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). This system supports early childhood programs improve their programs as well as helping families choose quality programs that meet their children’s needs. Ratings in the QRIS range from an empty star for programs that have not yet been rated to a high of 5 stars.

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**Percentage of 3 and 4 Year Olds Enrolled in School by Location**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Enrolled in public school</th>
<th>Enrolled in private school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>52.90%</td>
<td>15.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>54.50%</td>
<td>12.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>59.20%</td>
<td>5.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-Wayne</td>
<td>51.10%</td>
<td>17.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B14003
Early care and education in Wayne County can be very costly, and acts as a barrier for families with low incomes. Michigan ranks as the 23\textsuperscript{rd} least affordable state in the U.S. for infant care with an average annual cost of more than $10,000 for full-time care.\textsuperscript{ccxlii} That means that a one parent household earning a median income in the state would be paying nearly half of income for infant care.\textsuperscript{ccxliii} Costs are lower for 4-year-olds at more than $8,500 per year.

Programs and services across Michigan are designed to ensure that children are on a path to future success. Unfortunately, these programs and services suffer from a lack of accessibility, poor quality, and often do not serve children and families well.\textsuperscript{ccxiv}

The maximum income threshold to qualify for state-funded childcare assistance in Michigan is one of the lowest in the nation, at 130\% of the poverty line, despite being raised in 2018.\textsuperscript{ccxlv}

In 2018 Michigan received a $63 million increase in federal childcare funds, which can be used to expand and improve early childhood opportunities in the state.\textsuperscript{ccxvi} However, much of that money is yet to be disbursed.

Of the children enrolled in Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)\textsuperscript{3} programs, more than half are economically disadvantaged students.\textsuperscript{ccxvii}

\textsuperscript{3} The Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (Wayne RESA) provides teacher resources, educational programs, and other administrative services to the 33 school districts in Wayne County. It operates with its own board of education and superintendent and serves as an intermediary between the state government and local school districts. See the Appendix for a list of the schools in Wayne County with the 10 highest and 10 lowest graduation rates.
Students Enrolled in Early Childhood Programs, Wayne RESA 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>All Students</th>
<th>Economically Disadvantaged Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Special Education</td>
<td>4,241</td>
<td>2,515</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early On</td>
<td>3,347</td>
<td>2,053</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)</td>
<td>7,394</td>
<td>6,316</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSRP / Head Start Blend</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Michigan School Data Site (n.d.) Enrollment

Head Start serves children ages 3-5 in low-income households as well as children living in homeless families or foster care. Early Head Start serves children 0-3 and pregnant women. Head Start and Early Head Start focus on comprehensive child development services, parental involvement, and partnerships with community service providers.

- There are 124 Head Start and Early Head Start grantees in Wayne county, of which 94 are in Detroit.
- Of the 30 centers in Out-Wayne County, 7 provide the Head Start program, 5 provide the Early Head Start program, and 18 provide both.

### Academic Success

Wayne County has the largest number of schools identified as persistently low achieving, or Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools, in the state. A school is identified as a CSI school if it is among the lowest performing 5% of schools in Michigan or a high school has a 4-year graduation rate of 67% or less. Of the 161 Michigan school locations identified as CSI schools in 2018-2019, 77 were located in Wayne County; of these, 76.6% were in Detroit and 23.3% were in out-Wayne County. School districts with CSI schools are eligible for Regional Assistance Grants through the Michigan Department of Education.

Less than a third of 3rd graders meet reading standards on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) reading test (32.9%), the ninth lowest percentage in the state. Students who are not able to read before entering 4th grade are more likely to drop out of high school, be unemployed, be unqualified for military service, and live in poverty.

### School Year 2018 Educational Outcomes for Seniors; Wayne RESA

- Total Graduated: 79%
- Other Completer (GED, etc.): 8%
- Off-Track Continuing: 8%
- Dropouts: 4%
- Unknown: 4%

Source: Michigan School Data Site (n.d.) Graduation/Dropout Rate
• Nearly 3 in 4 Wayne County 8th grade students are not proficient in math (73.6% compared to the state rate of 67.3%).

While standardized test scores are low, the majority of Wayne County high school students do graduate on time. Individuals who have earned a high school diploma are less likely to be unemployed and are likely to earn more each year than those who do not complete high school.

• In Wayne County, 79% of high school students graduate on time, and 8% drop out.

**College and Career Readiness**

The College Board SAT exam assesses high school students’ general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The subject areas covered are: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics, with an optional writing test. The maximum possible score on the SAT is 1600. SAT benchmarks are used to evaluate student readiness for entry-level college courses.

• In Michigan, the SAT exam is offered for free to all public-school students during regular school hours, and 100% of 2018 graduates took the SAT.

• In Wayne County, only 29.4% of Regional Educational Service Agency’s (RESA’s) students are college ready, having met the college readiness benchmarks in both Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics on the SAT exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017-2018 SAT College Readiness Snapshot</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Mean ACT Score</th>
<th>% Met or Exceeded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wayne RESA Total Score</td>
<td>Wayne RESA Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</td>
<td>486.1</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne RESA Mathematics</td>
<td>Wayne RESA Mathematics</td>
<td>475.7</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Michigan School Data (n.d.) College Readiness Snapshot

Within six months of high school graduation, 58.6% of Wayne RESA students enrolled in college. Rates of college enrollment are higher for White and Asian students compared to other races, and individuals from economically disadvantaged homes are less likely to enroll than their peers.

**Percentage of High School Students Enrolled in College within 6 months of graduating from a Wayne RESA school**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Homeless</th>
<th>Economically Disadvantaged</th>
<th>Two or More Races</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</th>
<th>American Indian or Alaska Native</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>All Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td>45.3%</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td>58.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Michigan School Data (n.d.) Postsecondary Outcomes College Enrollment by High School
Digital Literacy

Digital literacy skills are important to both educational success as well as for finding and keeping a job. About 90% of K-12 teachers assign Internet-required homework and research has found that students with home access to a computer with internet have higher graduation rates than similar students who don’t have home access to the internet. Additionally, access to the internet can open doors for social connections, educational experiences, and employment opportunities.

Half of jobs available today require technology skills and this percentage is expected to grow to 77% in the next decade. Many companies, including Best Buy, Walmart, and Target, require digital literacy even to apply for a job through online job applications.

Recent installations of Internet access at public libraries have been widely used by people across race, income, age, and education lines. In households, access to both computers and the internet has been steadily rising for the past 20 years, but the increase is not evenly distributed across race, educational attainment, age, or income.

- Nationwide, the percentage of adults who do not use the internet has dropped to 10%.
- Just less than 1 in 5 households in Michigan do not have internet access, and the figure is even higher in Wayne County and the city of Detroit.
- In Wayne County, only 69% of households have an internet subscription, and 26% have no internet access at all. Overall, there are 156,958 households in Wayne County—89,230 in Detroit—with no internet access.
- Households with low incomes are much more likely not to have Internet access. While nearly all high-income households have access to the internet at home (95% of households in the top 20% of income), only half of low-income households have access at home (49% of households in the bottom 20% of income).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Michigan</th>
<th>Wayne County</th>
<th>Detroit</th>
<th>Out-Wayne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,888,646</td>
<td>673,143</td>
<td>258,471</td>
<td>414,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an Internet subscription</td>
<td>2,995,068</td>
<td>467,118</td>
<td>142,814</td>
<td>324,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet access without a</td>
<td>171,103</td>
<td>49,067</td>
<td>26,427</td>
<td>22,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Internet access</td>
<td>722,475</td>
<td>156,958</td>
<td>89,230</td>
<td>67,728</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Technical Education Opportunities

Opportunities for career, vocational, trade or technical training are less concentrated within Wayne County than within the remainder of the country. However, there are several institutions in nearby Oakland County which can be accessed by Wayne County students.

Within Wayne County, there are at least 36 programs and institutions that are classified as vocational, trade or technical training and education, and are run by local governments, school boards and partnerships, and proprietary institutions. Fifteen of the programs are secondary education centers run by school districts, partnerships or non-profits, and are often also open to adult learners. The remaining
is trade schools run by proprietary institutions, a portion that has seen a significant decrease over the past decade due to industry regulation.

- The highest concentration of career programs is in the city of Detroit itself, followed by the suburbs of Canton, Taylor, Dearborn and Livonia.

- Trade and technical educational opportunities within Wayne County represent a variety of careers and sectors, including construction and electrical training and apprenticeships, computer training, business programs, home health and other medical training, trucking schools and cosmetology schools.

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are available at all Detroit public high schools as well as 38 high schools in Out Wayne County. CTE programs provide high school students with technical and occupational training in addition to academic knowledge to prepare students for post-secondary education and/or career pathways.

- Three community colleges with multiple campuses serve Wayne County and provide both academic and occupational training, including Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship programs at Henry Ford College and Career Education programs at Wayne County Community College District.

**Educational Attainment**

Educational Attainment is an important factor related to an individual or family’s living situation and economic stability. For example, individuals with greater educational attainment tend to have higher earnings and are less likely to live in poverty. In Wayne County individuals who have earned a bachelor’s degree earn nearly $23,000 more each year than those who have graduated high school but not attended any college.

While Wayne County females earn less than males at every education level, they are more likely than their male counterparts to earn a postsecondary degree. More women (35.6%) in Wayne County have earned an associate degree or higher than males (30.0%).

- Male workers work an average of 39.9 hours per week and earn an average income of $64,069 a year. Females, however, work an average of 35.2 hours per week and earn an average of $47,655 a year.
- Individuals with a bachelor’s degree earn an average of $23,538 more each year than those who did not attend any postsecondary schooling.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wayne County Median Earnings by Educational Attainment and Sex</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Median Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Median Earnings</td>
<td>$40,765</td>
<td>$29,541</td>
<td>$34,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school graduate</td>
<td>$23,072</td>
<td>$14,678</td>
<td>$19,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</td>
<td>$31,601</td>
<td>$221,935</td>
<td>$26,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college or associate degree</td>
<td>$40,318</td>
<td>$27,184</td>
<td>$31,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>$61,991</td>
<td>$41,779</td>
<td>$50,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>$86,961</td>
<td>$58,253</td>
<td>$70,005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B20004
Overall in Wayne County, just more than 1 in 5 individuals of working age (ages 25-64) have attained a bachelor’s degree or higher (26.2%). The majority of Wayne County’s working-age residents have a high school degree, but no postsecondary degree (59.5%).

- Educational attainment rates are lower in the city of Detroit than in Wayne County overall.

Educational attainment in Wayne County also varies by race. Asian individuals are significantly more likely to have earned a bachelor’s degree than any other race or ethnicity. Conversely, individuals that fall into the “other” category are less likely to finish high school.

### Educational Attainment Ages 25-64

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduate or professional</th>
<th>Bachelor's degree</th>
<th>Associate's degree</th>
<th>High school graduate (includes equivalent)</th>
<th>Less than high school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>8.40%</td>
<td>10.20%</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>51.10%</td>
<td>37.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>11.10%</td>
<td>18.60%</td>
<td>54.20%</td>
<td>59.50%</td>
<td>10.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>9.30%</td>
<td>14.90%</td>
<td>59.50%</td>
<td>19.00%</td>
<td>9.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-Wayne</td>
<td>11.50%</td>
<td>18.40%</td>
<td>51.10%</td>
<td>10.40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B15001

### Wayne County Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less than high school</th>
<th>High school (includes equivalency)</th>
<th>Some college or associate's degree</th>
<th>Bachelor's degree or higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>11.70%</td>
<td>27.70%</td>
<td>31.20%</td>
<td>29.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>17.00%</td>
<td>13.30%</td>
<td>36.60%</td>
<td>33.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>14.70%</td>
<td>57.10%</td>
<td>14.00%</td>
<td>14.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic, all races</td>
<td>37.10%</td>
<td>23.20%</td>
<td>29.10%</td>
<td>29.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All others</td>
<td>43.70%</td>
<td>19.50%</td>
<td>28.90%</td>
<td>28.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEALTH

Health concerns affect individuals of all ages and has an impact on a community’s ability to thrive. In Michigan, more than 50% of individuals report their overall health is positive, with access to services as needed. Wayne County ranks 82nd out of 83 counties in Michigan for overall health outcomes.

INFANT AND CHILD HEALTH

Good pre-pregnancy health, timely prenatal care, and access to social supports and education all factor into a strong start for a child. There are just over 23,000 births in Wayne County each year. In 2017, the birth rate in Wayne County was 13.1 births per 1,000 resident population. While the birth rate in Detroit (13.5 per 1,000) is higher compared to Out-Wayne County (12.4 per 1,000). Because of the size of the population, more than half of all births in Wayne County are in Out-Wayne County (58.5%).

- Approximately 7% of births in Wayne County are born to a mother younger than age 20, and of those births 20.3% are second or third births to that mother.
- Data is not collected directly on how many children are born to families living in poverty, but in 2014 over half of all births in Wayne County were to mothers insured by Medicaid (54.0%).

On average, births to unwed mothers are more common in Wayne County compared to the state as a whole. In 2014, 55.6% of Wayne County births were to unwed mothers, compared to 42.4% in Michigan. Furthermore, within the city limits of Detroit, more than 4 in 5 births were to unwed mothers (81.1%).

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4 The term “unwed mothers” is used because it is a classification used on birth certificates and is an indicator for a single earner in a household.
Risk and Protective Factors

Mothers who receive late (defined as beginning in the third trimester of pregnancy) or no prenatal care are more likely to have babies with health problems. Approximately 93% of newborns in Wayne County received prenatal care. Women who smoke during pregnancy have a higher risk of miscarriage or delivering a low birth weight baby than nonsmokers; also, smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of the baby dying from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Approximately 15.1% of Wayne County births in 2016 were to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, compared to 17.1% of state-wide births.

Birth Outcomes

While most Wayne County babies are born safe and healthy, some are born too small, too soon, have a birth defect, or even die within their first year. Births occurring at least three weeks before an infant’s due date (earlier than the 37th week of pregnancy) are considered premature or preterm births. The earlier a preterm baby is born, the less likely the child is to survive the first year. Similarly, infants born at low or very low birth weights are at increased risk for mortality or disability.

- 11.1% of babies in Wayne County are born prematurely.
- 10.8% of babies in Wayne County are born at a low birth weight.

A child’s first year of life is the most fragile. The infant mortality rate in Michigan has consistently been approximately 7.0% since 2007. In Wayne County, the infant mortality rate has been improving, but remains high at 9.3%.

Immunization, Screening and Well Child Visits

Regular checkups are important for children because they give families the opportunity to ask questions about their child’s health and doctors to assess any unmet health needs. Families having access to and utilizing healthcare services for their children is an important step in ensuring children reach developmental milestones and can thrive in personal, social and academic arenas.
• 81.3% of Michigan children received a preventative medical visit in 2017, compared to 78.7% nationwide.\textsuperscript{cccv}

Vaccines can help build immunity against preventable diseases and prevent the spread of disease among groups of children and the larger community. In Wayne County 73.2% of toddlers ages 19 to 35 months are fully immunized, compared to 74.4% in Michigan overall.\textsuperscript{cccvi}

Screening by physicians or via parent questionnaires helps identify children who are not meeting developmental milestones and may benefit from early intervention services. These screenings most often rely on parent-reported information about specific developmental or behavioral concerns.

• Almost half Michigan’s young children (ages 10 months to 5 years) were screened by a doctor for developmental, behavioral and social delays in the last year (40.5%), which is higher than the national rate of 31.7%. \textsuperscript{cccvii}

Early On Michigan offers early intervention services for Michigan infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. In Wayne County, 1.9% of children ages 0-3 receive Early On services, compared to 2.6% in Michigan as a whole. Of the children receiving Early On services, 75.19% improved overall functioning. \textsuperscript{cccviii}

**Physical Health**

Wayne County ranks as Michigan’s least healthy county based on health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors. \textsuperscript{cccx} Factors that impact individual’s wellbeing include both the environment in which they live as well as their health status. Individuals who are low-income or have a low level of educational attainment are specifically at risk for unhealthy behaviors and developing disease. \textsuperscript{cccx}

**Health Insurance**

Lack of health insurance coverage is a significant barrier to accessing needed healthcare. Nationally, over one-quarter of adults without coverage say that they went without care in the past year because of cost (27%) compared to only 5% of adults with private coverage and 10% of adults with public coverage. \textsuperscript{ccx} Additionally, insured children are likely to be healthier and have lower rates of avoidable hospitalizations and childhood mortality than their uninsured peers. \textsuperscript{ccxii}

- 3.3% of youth (under 18) in Wayne County do not have health insurance. In Detroit, 3.9% of youth (under 18) do not have health insurance.
- 9.7% of Wayne County adults (18 and older) lack health insurance. In Detroit, 13.7% of adults (18 and older) lack health insurance. \textsuperscript{cccxiii}
- Uninsured children and adults are more likely to visit emergency rooms due to a lack of access to other providers. \textsuperscript{cccxiv}

![Uninsured Adults & Youth](chart)

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B27001
Across the state, males are more likely to be uninsured. In Wayne County, 10.5% of males are uninsured, while 7.2% of females are uninsured. Even for individuals that have health insurance, cost can often be a barrier to seeking needed treatment. Medicaid has been expanded to cover individuals up to 138% of the poverty level, but individuals still have high deductibles and other cost-sharing measures such as co-pays or co-insurance.

- With changes in healthcare, many free clinics have viewed an increase in uninsured individuals seeking services.\textsuperscript{cccxvi} 
- One-quarter of privately insured adults had high healthcare cost burdens relative to their incomes in 2017. When adults with low incomes were examined, more than half had high healthcare cost burdens.\textsuperscript{cccxvi}
- In 2017, more than half of adults with high deductibles relative to their income (deductible of 5% or greater of their income), delayed or skipped needed care because of the cost.\textsuperscript{cccxvii}

**Preventative Care**

Preventative care is important for improving overall health and avoiding preventable diseases. The CDC recognizes that preventable diseases represent a significant portion of American deaths every year, and preventative care can help individuals make healthier choices or eliminate unhealthy habits.\textsuperscript{cccxviii} Preventative care also can help detect disease earlier and increase compliance with recommended immunization or health screening guidelines.\textsuperscript{cccxix}

- 77 out of every 1,000 hospital stays in Wayne County are for conditions that are treatable in outpatient settings (such as bacterial pneumonia, asthma, congestive heart failure, hypertension, angina, diabetes, gastroenteritis, kidney/urinary infection, and dehydration), compared to 51 out of every 1,000 stays in Michigan as a whole.\textsuperscript{cccx}

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**Uninsured Individuals by Gender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>6.10%</td>
<td>8.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>7.20%</td>
<td>10.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>9.50%</td>
<td>15.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-Wayne</td>
<td>5.70%</td>
<td>7.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B27001

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**Preventable Hospital Stays 2012-2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Michigan</th>
<th>Wayne County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5,121</td>
<td>5,226</td>
<td>5,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5,226</td>
<td>4,999</td>
<td>5,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4,967</td>
<td>4,916</td>
<td>5,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4,619</td>
<td>4,599</td>
<td>5,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6,934</td>
<td>4,648</td>
<td>7,770</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2019) Michigan
Obesity
Obesity is often the result of an overall energy imbalance due to poor diet and limited physical activity. Obesity increases the risk for health conditions such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, hypertension, dyslipidemia, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, sleep apnea and respiratory problems, osteoarthritis, and poor health status.

- 34% of Wayne County adults report a BMI of 30 or more compared to 31% in Michigan overall.\textsuperscript{cccxxi}
- Though 94% of Wayne County residents have access to locations for physical activity, 25% report doing no leisure time physical activity.\textsuperscript{cccxxii}
- 12% of Wayne County adults have been diagnosed with diabetes.\textsuperscript{cccxxiii}

Oral Health
Research indicates a connection between oral and general health. A lack of oral healthcare can lead to other health issues, like infections or problems with vital organs.\textsuperscript{cccxxiv} In Wayne County, there is one dentist for every 1,460 residents. Overall in Michigan there is one dentist per 1,450 residents.\textsuperscript{cccxxv}

Although states are required to provide dental benefits to children covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), access to dental care is a significant issue in Michigan. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) designates areas that have a shortage of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

- In 2017, about 45% of Medicaid-eligible children in Michigan did not receive any dental services.\textsuperscript{cccxxvi}
- Wayne County is among the 76 of 83 counties in Michigan designated as a HPSA related to dental care.\textsuperscript{cccxxvii}

The Healthy Michigan Plan, a Medicaid expansion program starting in 2014, has increased access to dental insurance for adults. However, many individuals still do not have access to dental insurance or dental care.

- More than 876,000 people in Michigan live in dental shortage areas.\textsuperscript{cccxxviii}
- Seniors age 65 and older are the most likely to lack dental insurance as Medicare does not reimburse for routine dental care. Only 59.5% of seniors in Michigan have dental insurance compared to 65.7% of all adults in the state.\textsuperscript{cccxxix}

The rates of dental insurance coverage are similar across racial/ethnic groups in Michigan, but there are disparities in access to care. Only 55% of Black Michigan residents reported having a dental visit in the past year, compared to 71% of White residents. Black individuals were also more likely to have six or more missing teeth (23.4% compared to 14.5% of White residents).\textsuperscript{cccxxx}

Environmental Health
Air pollution is associated with decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, and asthma. Wayne County's average daily air pollution density is 12.8 micrograms per cubic meter. For comparison, the least polluted counties in the United States have air pollution density rates below 9.5. Counties in Michigan range in air pollution rates from 9.8 – 12.9 micrograms per cubic meter, with a median rate of 11.6 micrograms per cubic meter.\textsuperscript{cccxxxi} Ontonago County has the lowest air pollution rate at 6.0 micrograms per cubic meter, while Cass County has the highest, at 12.9 micrograms per cubic meter.\textsuperscript{cccxxxi}
Exposure to lead, often found in the paint of older homes, can have serious effects on a child’s health, potentially causing learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and in extreme cases, seizures, coma, and even death. Almost all counties in Michigan report at least one child having lead poisoning, with Wayne County reporting over 3% of children tested were confirmed as poisoned.

**Disability**

The census captures information on six types of disability: hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, and independent living difficulty. In Wayne County, 16% of individuals have a disability in one or more of these categories. In Michigan overall, 14% of individuals have a disability. More than 50% of the population ages 75 and over have a disability. Children under 5 years old have the lowest rate of disabilities, at less than 2%. Differences in type of disability also vary by age. More than 36% of individuals’ ages 75 and over have been diagnosed with an ambulatory disability and are unable to walk independently.

- 11.4% of individuals between the ages of 65 to 74 years have a self-care disability, and 4.7% of individuals between the ages of 35 to 64 years also have a self-care disability.
- 1.1% of individuals between the ages of 18 to 34 years have a hearing disability.
- 5% of all children under 18 have a cognitive disability.
Of individuals that have a disability in Wayne County, over half (52.9%) have more than one type of disability.\textsuperscript{cxxxix}  
- 1.5% of children have more than one disability, while nearly 8% individuals between the ages of 18 to 64 years have more than one type of disability.  
- 23.3% of individuals 65 years and over have more than one disability.\textsuperscript{ccxl}

**Mental Health**

When asked to think about their mental health over the previous month, including stress, depression, and problems with emotions, 13.4% of Michigan adults reported having “not good” mental health for at least 14 days.\textsuperscript{ccxli} Reporting poor mental health was most common among those with less than a high school diploma and individuals with a household income of less than $20,000.

- Among individuals with less than a high school level education, 28.7% reported poor mental health for at least 14 days of the previous month.  
- Overall, more women (15.3% of total population) reported poor mental health than males (11.4% of total population).  
- Rates of reported poor mental health varies throughout ages. 18% of individuals that reported poor mental health are between the ages of 18-24.\textsuperscript{ccxlii}

Throughout the state, approximately 4.6% of the population report having a serious mental illness, and 18.3% report having any mental illness.\textsuperscript{ccxliii} Michigan adults are slightly more likely than the national average to have been depressed; 20.5% of Michigan adults have been told that they have a form of depression, compared with 19% of adults nationwide.\textsuperscript{ccxliv} Michigan’s suicide rate per 100,000 residents is 14.1, which also is slightly higher than the nationwide rate of 14.0.\textsuperscript{ccxlv}

- In 2017, there were 187 deaths by suicide in Wayne County.\textsuperscript{ccxlvi}  
- Michigan’s suicides rates have increased by over 30% since 1999.\textsuperscript{ccxlvii}  
- 3.9% of Michigan’s population reported having thoughts of suicide in 2017.\textsuperscript{ccxlviii}
Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is another important facet of the mental healthcare system within a state or county. In Michigan, an estimated 975,000 people above the age of twelve—11.7% of that population—report using illicit drugs each month. Though more Michigan residents use illicit drugs than national rates, the percentage reporting illicit drug dependence or abuse (2.5%) is lower than national rates.

- According to the Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Survey, 57.52% of adults (18 and over) reported alcohol use in the past year, and 18.55% reported binge alcohol use in the past year.
- Individuals between the ages of 18-25 are more likely to have alcohol use disorder in Michigan.
- The top 5 substances utilized in Wayne County in FY18 included heroin, alcohol, cocaine/crack, marijuana, and other opiates.

According to TEDS data, Wayne County saw a spike in heroin use in 2015. Although rates of use have been declining, nearly 2,000 more individuals are using heroin since 2011.

In 2017, there were 2,686 drug overdose deaths in Michigan, 12.1% higher than the previous year. Deaths from cocaine and synthetic opioids (tramadol, fentanyl) significantly increased, impacting the death rate for 2017. Opioids accounted for 76.4% of drug overdose deaths in 2017.
Michigan’s overdose death rate is 27.8 per 100,000, higher than the national rate at 21.7 per 100,000.\textsuperscript{ccclvi}

In 2017, Wayne County experienced 1,780 drug overdose deaths, 20.9% increase from 2016.\textsuperscript{ccclvii}

Wayne County ranks 25\textsuperscript{th} out of all counties in the nation for drug overdose deaths, in 2012 it ranked 125\textsuperscript{th}.\textsuperscript{ccclviii}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Overdose Deaths in Wayne County, Comparison 2016-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drug Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All opioids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthetic opioids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription opioids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2016, the number of treatment center admissions increased by 28% from 2015 in Wayne County.\textsuperscript{ccclix}

Treatment services are scattered around the county, offering a variety of options. This can include inpatient stays, case management, and detox programs. Examples of service providers are found below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wayne County Substance Use Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakdale Recovery Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personalized Nursing Lighthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Social Services of Wayne County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 2012, Wayne County has seen an increase in treatment admissions, especially for individuals seeking treatment for alcohol and heroin use. In 2016, individuals between the ages of 26-44 years had the highest admission rates for treating heroin, marijuana, and opioids. Individuals under the age of 26 had the highest admission rates for treating marijuana.\textsuperscript{ccclx}

In 2016, individuals between the ages of 45+ years had the highest admission rates for treating prescription opioids.\textsuperscript{ccclx}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Admissions by Age Group in Wayne County, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drug Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rx opioids</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 2012, Wayne County has seen an increase in treatment admissions, especially for individuals seeking treatment for alcohol and heroin use. In 2016, individuals between the ages of 26-44 years had the highest admission rates for treating heroin, marijuana, and opioids. Individuals under the age of 26 had the highest admission rates for treating marijuana.\textsuperscript{ccclx}

| Source: National Drug Early Warning System (2017) Wayne County (Detroit Area) Sentinel Community Site Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2017 |
Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA) provides access to mental health and substance use services throughout Wayne County. Between FFY 17-18, DWMHA served over 15,000 individuals. A variety of services are offered including outpatient care, residential services, and recovery services. Withdrawal management services were most often utilized, serving over 3,800 clients (25%).

**Leading Causes of Death**

The leading causes of death for Wayne County residents vary by age. For example, individuals who are 45 or older are most likely to die from heart disease, followed by cancer. However, individuals younger than 45 are most likely to die from unintentional injuries such as car accidents, fires, drowning, falling, or poisoning.

- Overall, the leading causes of death include heart disease, cancer, and unintentional injuries in Wayne County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
<th>All Races</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Heart disease</td>
<td>5,383</td>
<td>2,776</td>
<td>2,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cancer</td>
<td>3,616</td>
<td>1,832</td>
<td>1,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Unintentional injuries</td>
<td>1,294</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Stroke</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Alzheimer’s disease</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Diabetes</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Kidney disease</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Pneumonia/influenza</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Intentional self-harm (suicide)</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other causes</td>
<td>4,350</td>
<td>2,114</td>
<td>2,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of deaths</td>
<td>18,323</td>
<td>9,219</td>
<td>9,104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 4: FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the quantitative and qualitative findings from the 2019 comprehensive Community Needs Assessment, the following are recommendations highlighting ways TPMA believes Wayne Metro may deliver services and create opportunities to leverage current assets for additional community collaboration.

TRANSPORTATION

Across focus groups and interviews transportation was mentioned as an important issue in Wayne County and as a barrier for individuals seeking to gain employment and access resources necessary for themselves and their families. Transportation affects many components of an individuals’ ability to succeed, such as traveling to work, childcare services, and the grocery store.

TPMA recommends that Wayne Metro continue its current programming to provide transportation options to clients, and also be involved with local, regional, and state advocacy about transportation. Wayne Metro may be able to utilize findings from this report and stories from clients to raise awareness about the value of changes to both car insurance and public transportation policies in the region and the state.

Wayne Metro also may be able to support individuals using the local public transit system through marketing and programming. Many clients reported feeling unsafe utilizing public transportation, and Wayne Metro may be able to use its platform to raise awareness or increase public safety on transit systems. For example, the organization may be able to create programming or training for transit employees or clients about staying safe on or creating safe environments on busses. There are many federal public transportation safety trainings available from organizations such as Federal Transit Administration.

HOUSING AVAILABILITY

Housing stock in Wayne County is often severely out of repair or more costly than a low-income individual could afford. Across stakeholder input platforms, residents described affordable housing accessibility as a barrier for a variety of different reasons, including the need for costly repairs to old homes, waitlists for subsidized housing program, and the lack of safety in the neighborhoods where affordable housing exists.

TPMA recommends that Wayne Metro continue to bolster and expand its weatherization and home repair programming, especially the programming that trains community members to complete the repairs most often needed in the area’s homes. Residents reported wishing that they had access to grants for home safety repairs such as lead or asbestos abatement as well as for high-ticket energy saving items like new windows. They also described long wait times for getting access to home weatherization services, which could mean that the community need is larger than the available funding for this type of repair or update. Additionally, many residents reported problems in their neighborhoods with dumping and trash removal. Wayne metro might consider programming that would engage neighborhoods in clean-up days – especially in bringing in large dumpsters for areas that have significant dumping.
Wayne Metro may consider exploring various partnership opportunities to increase housing quality or access in the county. For example, the organization may look into historic rehabilitation funding, opportunities for funding neighborhood collaborations or associations (especially in out-Wayne), national foundations looking into alleviating poverty or housing issues, partnering with Habitat for Humanity to bolster a Home Preservation Program, continuing relationships with real estate development companies and the housing authority, or Keep Detroit Beautiful. Additionally, Wayne Metro may want to look into close partnerships to take advantage of specific locations identified as investment zones such as the Detroit Promise Zone or the multiple Opportunity Zones within the Wayne County area.

**Financial Capacity**

Participants in both client and stakeholder focus groups and forums mentioned that finances are an important barrier for individuals and families seeking self-sustainability in Wayne County. Saving was seen as nearly impossible, and no one reported being financially prepared for an emergency. Additionally, many individuals reported receiving scam phone calls regularly and having difficulty navigating which advertised opportunities were good for them.

Wayne Metro provides financial assistance programs for community members, and it is vital for community members to continue utilizing these programs. Expanding on or targeting programs may be beneficial for certain subpopulations in Wayne County such as the reentry population, individuals exiting foster care, or newly arriving refugees. Partnering directly with organizations that serve these vulnerable populations may provide an easy entry-point for Wayne Metro to provide valuable comprehensive services. Additionally, because many clients reported being affected by scams, additional programming and marketing, or even adding modules into existing programming around different types of scams may be beneficial.

Although the availability of jobs has been on the rise, wages have been stagnant, contributing to income levels and poverty across the county. Wayne Metro can partner with local organizations, higher education programs, and career development programs to promote career pathways with growth potential for individuals struggling with low-wage jobs. In addition, providing or partnering with apprenticeship programs can create opportunities for individuals to support themselves while learning new and valuable skills.

**Early Education**

High cost and insufficient capacity of early childhood care and education is a major barrier for families in Wayne County. There is substantially more demand for quality early childcare than there are available slots in licensed childcare providers. Even when childcare is available, quality care can be prohibitively expensive, while state-funded subsidies are difficult to obtain. In 2018, Michigan received a $63 million increase in federal childcare funds, which can be used to expand and improve early childhood opportunities in the state. However, much of that money is yet to be disbursed.

TPMA recommends Wayne Metro partner with the Michigan Department of Education and other funders to address physical space restrictions that exist in Wayne County. Some foundations and national early childhood support organizations have funding mechanisms specifically set aside for capital improvements to childcare centers. These opportunities may not be available at the county level, but
Wayne Metro could consider partnering with the state or other organizations who are qualified to apply for and receive funding from national funding sources.

TPMA also recommends that Wayne Metro further enhance its Head Start and Early Head Start programming to meet additional needs in the community. Longer program hours (before and after care) and Friday sessions would provide a much-needed service for parents. Additionally, Wayne Metro may be able to increase the variety of activities that children can be involved in, including expanding opportunities for engagement with the entire family.

As part of its 2Gen programming, Wayne Metro may be able to strengthen its services to families of Head Start and Early Head Start programming. Some clients suggested offering volunteer or training opportunities to parents while their children are in programming. As part of this initiative, Wayne Metro might consider studying the connection between child and adult outcomes in families being served by multiple programs that support family self-sufficiency.

**Substance Abuse**

Wayne County residents reported that substance abuse was a fact of life, and that many individuals do not seek treatment. They also reported not knowing any local service providers that offered substance-abuse-specific services. However, individuals did say general mental health services were available through their health care providers. Additionally, the new Michigan policy legalizing the recreational use of marijuana has had implications on employers and their ability to hire individuals who are able to pass a drug test.

TPMA recommends that Wayne Metro add information into their current programs to raise awareness among clients that marijuana being legal in the state does not mean that employers no longer have valid reasons to require a clean drug test to be employed. Additionally, TPMA recommends Wayne Metro continue to work with organizations that provide substance abuse services to make referrals and raise awareness about services that may be beneficial to clients.

**Communication**

Clients in focus groups described the ways that they like getting information from service providers. Some mentioned seeing fliers in local grocery stores, and others mentioned looking at a company’s website to see what services they offered. Additionally, clients reported a preference to calling an organization to initially connect and to receive phone calls when program details change (i.e. times, locations, schedules).

TPMA recommends continuing to look at client feedback about communication methods and finding new and varied ways to promote its services. Wayne Metro has made concerted efforts to cross-promote its programs and make residents aware of the services it offers, but many current clients say they were unaware of some programs and services offered by the organization.

**Advocacy**

There is significant opportunity for continued education and advocacy to local and state officials on issues that affect individuals living in poverty. Some issues mentioned in forums and focus groups that Wayne Metro might be particularly suited to address include: the perceived responsiveness of the Department of Health and Human Services, increasing routes in the public transit system, the need for
additional high-quality early childhood education slots, and policies regarding requirements for receiving cash assistance.

Additionally, Wayne Metro may be able to work with state leaders in the departments of Health, Education, Workforce Development, the Housing Development Authority, and Economic Development to participate in funding opportunities that have place-based or pilot programs that could benefit individuals in the county.
SECTION 5: HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Office of Head Start requires Head Start grantees to complete a community needs assessment every three years. These assessments inform the decisions regarding what services should be offered and what service models best fit the needs of the community. As such, the information in the following assessment pertains to the population served by Wayne Metro Community Action Agency’s (Wayne Metro) Head Start services, a subset of the wider community served by Wayne Metro. Additional information about the wider Wayne County community is available above in the body of this document. The methodology used is described in Appendix B.

The Head Start Program Performance Standards require programs to review and update a community assessment annually to reflect any significant changes, including increased availability of Pre-K programs, rates of homelessness, and shifts in community demographics and resources. The assessment paints a picture of the community and describes the diverse needs of families who may receive services. The information in this Appendix is specific to the Head Start population. Methodology overview is in Appendix B.

ABOUT HEAD START

The Head Start and Early Head Start (HS/EHS) programs are administered by the Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These federally funded programs promote school readiness for children under the age of five in low-income families. Head Start supports the development of children in a comprehensive way, enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Early Head Start serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. The Early Head Start program is available to the family until the child turns three years old or is ready to transition into Head Start. Head Start programs emphasize that parents are the child’s first and most important teacher.

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is a state-funded program through the Michigan Department of Education that provides funding for high-quality pre-school education for eligible four-year-olds. GSRP funding can be combined with Head Start funding to provide blended Head Start/GSRP services. Both Head Start and GSRP regulations and standards (such as teacher qualifications, developmental screenings, home visits, etc.) apply to blended classrooms.


Wayne Metro delivers the HS/EHS program using the Project High Five Model. This model is made up of eight components aimed to support children and families, prenatally through age five. The model includes:

1. Evidence-based HighScope® curricula models with an intensive focus on school readiness skills, individualized planning for children and parents;
2. Intensive home visitation services;
3. The use of the Empowerment Pathway service model incorporating case management to identify and coordinate resources and services for the family;
4. Hub-based family support services;
5. A system of technology that streamlines enrollment requirements, allows for continuous assessment of children and intra- and interagency communication about child/family needs;
6. An implementation of reflective practice, supervision, and an innovative model of professional development through Communities of Practice;
7. An intensive focus on providing support for families struggling with disabilities and child mental health; and
8. A rigorous evaluation and data-driven quality assurance system.

The HighScope Curriculum Wayne Metro uses in all of its Head Start classrooms and services employs an active and participatory approach towards learning. The curriculum’s research-based approach encourages children to explore their environment and learn through hands-on exposure to diverse materials and interactions. The goal of this approach is for children to have some degree of autonomy in their learning as they gain skills like independence, self-regulation, and creative problem solving.

In the most recently completed program year, 2018-2019, Wayne Metro served 679 children, including 585 children in the Head Start program and 93 children and 1 pregnant woman in the Early Head Start program. The Head Start program had a staff of 114 while the Early Head Start program had a staff of 30.

**RECRUITMENT AREA**
These 636 funded enrollment slots are distributed across nine sites in the seven Out-Wayne communities served by Wayne Metro’s Head Start program. Wayne Metro HS/EHS sites are located in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Grosse Pointe, Highland Park, and Redford. Of these sites, St. Albert the Great, Shear, BECK, Cortland, and Mitchell offer both HS and EHS services, while M&M, ACCESS, Harper Woods, and Poupard only offer HS services. Additionally, St. Albert the Great, Shear, and BECK provide blended HS/GSRP services.

These sites were chosen because of their need for services based on indicators such as child poverty levels; education levels; dependency on federal, state, and county government support; rates of unemployment; and percentage of population that are minorities. Overall, the population of children younger than six in the communities served by Wayne Metro Head Start is 22,040. More than a third of these children (37.7%) live in households below the poverty level.

In addition to each of these priorities, many of the communities Wayne Metro serves have an identified gap in childcare service offerings. A large portion of children served by Wayne Metro’s Head Start program have parents that are working. In these communities, 44.7% of children younger than six (9,536 children) live in families in which all parents are in the labor force, and another 44.1% are in two-parent

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5 Out-Wayne in this report includes all Wayne County areas that are not included in the U.S. Census Bureau’s definition of the city of Detroit.
families with one parent in the labor force. In the 2017-2018 program year, 88.2% of Wayne Metro’s HS/EHS two-parent families had one (67.7%) or both (20.5%) parents working. In that same year, 66.3% of single parents were employed. Though there are nearly 10,000 children with all parents in the labor force, there are only 8,756 slots available for childcare within Wayne Metro Head Start communities.

**Governing Structure**

As a Community Action Agency, Wayne Metro has a tripartite 21-member Board of Directors. This Board of Directors serves as the Head Start governing body in accordance with the requirements established in Section 642(c) of the Head Start Act. The Board is made up of:

1. Seven low-income individuals of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds representative of the communities served, representing six area advisory councils and the HS Policy Council;
2. Seven representatives of business, industry, labor, religion, law enforcement, education or other community groups of interest; and
3. Seven public officials.

The Head Start governing body has legal and fiscal responsibility for the program, and oversees procedures for selecting Policy Council members, produces governing by-laws, establishes procedures for recruitment and enrollment of Head Start participants, and reviews major policy and operating decisions. They also work hand in hand with the Policy Council to make hiring decisions and provide strategic leadership for the program.

As a grantee (a direct recipient of Head Start federal funding) rather than a delegate starting in the 2016-2017 program year, Wayne Metro has established a Policy Council. The Policy Council is made up of 15 parents with a child currently enrolled in Wayne Metro Early Childhood Services, and a minimum of three community representatives nominated by Wayne Metro’s CEO and approved by the Policy Council. Fifteen parent alternates and three community representative alternates are also chosen in the event a member of the Policy Council is unable to attend a meeting. These alternates help to ensure all program sites are represented at Policy Council meetings. Each Head Start program site is represented on the Policy Council, with the number of representatives from each site based on its number of HS/EHS funded slots.

The Chairperson of the Policy Council also serves on the Wayne Metro Board of Directors to ensure information sharing between both policy making entities, as well as to ensure input of the Policy Council within all areas of operation in the organization. The Wayne Metro HS/EHS program provides reports to the Board and Policy Council to ensure effective oversight of operations. HS/EHS budget to actual revenue and expenses are standing agenda items for the Board and Policy Council.
### Policy Council Composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Site</th>
<th>Funded</th>
<th># of Representatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCESS (Dearborn)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1 HS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beck (Redford)</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1 HS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortland (Highland Park)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1 HS Representative, 1 EHS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper Woods</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1 HS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;M (Dearborn)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>2 HS Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell (Hamtramck)</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>2 HS Representatives, 1 EHS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poupard (Grosse Pointe)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1 HS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shear (Redford)</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>1 HS Representative, 1 EHS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Albert the Great (Dearborn Heights)</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>1 HS Representative, 1 EHS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Representatives</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3 HS Representatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Use of Data**

These governing bodies also review PIR data, Child Observation Report (COR) data, CLASS, and results of the program’s annual self-assessment to inform short and long-term planning for the program. Wayne Metro uses program data to provide ongoing oversight, make programmatic decisions, and in all stages of the ongoing program planning process. This Head Start Needs Assessment incorporates community input and community level data to provide recommendations that will inform the Head Start program planning process, including development of the program’s five-year plan.
LONG-RANGE PROGRAM GOALS
Wayne Metro’s Strategic Planning Committee oversees the Strategic Plan Process, including an annual review of the agency’s mission, vision, and values. Three-year Strategic Plans are developed, with the most recent plan in place for 2018-2020. Part of this process also includes conducting a SWOT analysis, which is informed by surveying all agency staff, Board of Directors, external stakeholders, and community members.

As a HS grantee, Wayne Metro undertakes HS specific program planning including a five-year plan outlining goals and expected outcomes. To support the five-year plan, annual action plans are developed. School Readiness, Training and Technical Assistance, and Service plans are developed and updated annually.

SHORT-RANGE PROGRAM GOALS
To monitor implementation and progress on long-term program goals, a Strategic Planning team, including the CEO, Senior Management, and staff strategic workshops monitor progress on organizational goals, objectives, and action steps. A strategic plan update is provided to the Board of Directors bi-annually.

Through quarterly Data Quality Committee meetings, senior management, program directors, and program management meet to create and monitor department specific logic plans and progress of program outcomes ensuring continuous quality improvement efforts and goal attainment. Performance plans are developed and implemented with staff related to program objectives and individual professional development growth.

HEAD START STAFF
The Office of the Administration for Children and Families puts in place requirements for the academic qualifications of Head Start program directors, teachers, and other staff. The Wayne Metro HS program meets these requirements. All current classroom teachers in the HS program and home-based visitors have a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education, or a degree with similar coursework and early education teaching experience. All current assistant teachers in the HS program and classroom teachers in the EHS program have at least a CDA or associate degree in early childhood education, or a degree with similar coursework and early education teaching experience. As of March 2019, the Wayne Metro Head Start program had a classroom teacher and home-based visitor staff of 91. Of these staff, 6 had an advanced degree, 37 had a bachelor’s degree, and 31 had an associate degree.

Details on staff education levels and racial background are reported annually in the program’s PIR. In the most recently completed program year, 2017-2018, the Wayne Metro Head Start program had a total staff of 168, including 48 staff who were current or former Head Start or Early Head Start parents. Ninety-eight of these staff were in non-supervisory child development positions, including 13 in infant and toddler classrooms (EHS), 79 in preschool classrooms (HS), and six Home-Based visitors.

Of these staff, one classroom teacher and one Home-Based visitor had advanced degrees in Early Childhood Education. An additional Home-Based visitor had an advanced degree in human services. Twenty-one classroom teachers had a baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood Education (15 for HS, six for EHS), while four Home-Based visitors had baccalaureate degrees. Among Family and Community Partnerships Staff, two Family Advocates had related advanced degrees, and eighteen Family Advocates
had related baccalaureate degrees. The two Family and Community Partnerships supervisors and the Home-Based Visitor supervisor also all had related advanced degrees, and the two Education and Child Development Managers both had related advanced degrees.

The racial makeup of the ninety-eight non-supervisory child development staff was 53 White, 36 Black or African American, 7 Asian, and 2 Bi-Racial/Multi-racial (2017-2018 PIR). Among these staff, 25 staff members were proficient in a language other than English. Twenty-four staff were proficient in Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages, while one staff was proficient in Spanish and two staff members were proficient in European & Slavic Languages. The racial breakdown of staff serving HS and EHS children (non-supervisor child development positions) was similar to the racial makeup of the children served. However, a larger proportion of staff are white compared to the enrolled children, and a smaller proportion are Black or of Asian descent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race for 2017-2018 Program</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biracial/Multi-racial</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parental Involvement**

In addition to the parents who participate on the Policy Council, many parents assist in other ways. During the 2017-2018 program year, 1,144 individuals volunteered with the Wayne Metro Head Start program in some capacity. Of these volunteers, 784 (68.5%) were current or former Head Start parents. Since 2009, the Head Start program has averaged 1,352 volunteers a year with an average of 1,088 (80.4%) being current or former Head Start Parents. The number of annual volunteers, as well as the proportion of those volunteers who are current or former Head Start parents, has fallen slightly in recent years, corresponding to a decrease in overall enrollment starting in 2016. A significant portion of the Wayne Metro Head Start staff are also current or former Head Start parents. In the 2018-2019 program year, 47 (32.6%) of staff were current or former Head Start parents. Since 2009, at least 20% of the staff has been current or former Head Start parents, with the exception of the 2015-2016 program year (18.7%).

**HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START DATA**

The Office of Head Start requires Head Start and Early Head Start programs to submit annual Program Information Reports (PIR). PIRs provide data on program staff, services provided, children enrolled, and families served by Head Start and Early Head Start programs during each program year. PIRs for each program year since 2009 were analyzed as part of the Head Start Needs Assessment process, with particular focus on the past three years since the previous Needs Assessment. These reports were used to identify changes and trends in the population served by Wayne Metro’s HS/EHS program, as well as the types of services provided.

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6 Enrollment changes and trends are discussed under “Program Changes” below.
PROGRAM CHANGES AND TRENDS

Wayne Metro’s Head Start program has evolved over the past ten years, changing in enrollment, and offering programs in a variety of different formats. A few of the significant changes affecting enrollment include:

- Funded enrollment for Wayne Metro’s HS program increased significantly in the 2013-2014 program year when Wayne Metro took over YWCA sites, adding an additional 694 slots.
- Funded enrollment decreased in the 2016-2017 program year due to the program now offering Early Head Start services, which require a greater staff to child ratio, and increased HS Full Day options.
- For the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 program years, Wayne Metro received funding for 540 Head Start slots and 113 Early Head Start slots.
- Prior to 2017, services were primarily offered in full day and double session options in a five-day format. Starting in the 2017-2018 program year, services were offered in full day and double session options in a four-day format to support additional professional development opportunities.\(^7\)
- With the addition of EHS services, Wayne Metro offered a home-based option for the past two program years, as well as services for pregnant women.\(^8\) In-center services were also offered for EHS participants in the full day format.

![Enrollment by Program Type by Year](chart)


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\(^7\) Wayne Metro became a direct grantee in 2016, having previously been a delegate.

\(^8\) Pregnant women were served in both the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 program years (see cumulative enrollment below), however they were only listed under funded enrollment in the 2017-2018 Program Information Report.
As funded enrollment for HS/EHS has changed, so has the total cumulative enrollment for the program, as visible in the chart below. Due to student turnover within the Head Start programs, the total number of children enrolled is greater than the number of funded enrollment slots for the year.

![Total Cumulative Enrollment in HS/EHS by Age](chart.png)

Note: Data for 2018-2019 are partial year data, accurate as of 3/5/2019. Data for pregnant women, under 1 year, and 1 year olds are first included in 2016-2017 when EHS was added


Over the past ten years, Wayne Metro HS, EHS, and GSRP/HS programming has primarily served children ages three and four. Prior to the addition of Early Head Start funding in 2016, the proportion of each age of child had remained largely constant, with a slight increase in the number of children age two to three. Two-year-old children can only be served with Head Start funding if they turn three by September 1st of the enrollment year. Funding for Early Head Start began in the 2016-2017 program year, which allowed the program to serve children age zero to two, as well as pregnant women. This has increased the population of younger children served through Wayne Metro’s Early Childhood Services in the past three years. The proportion of older children (ages three and four) correspondingly decreased after the 2016-2017 program year. For the past two program years (2017-2018 and 2018-2019) since the addition of EHS, the proportion of each age of child remained relatively constant.
As program enrollment has changed over the past ten years, the population served by the program has become more diverse. Although in the last six program years a larger proportion of the children enrolled have been white, this is largely due to serving more children of Arabic ethnicity. This population is considered white by the census, but the primary language spoken by Head Start families demonstrates this increase in diversity - in the 2018-2019 program year, 42% of HS/EHS families had a primary language other than English. The most recent program year also saw a slight increase in the proportion of children of Asian descent and in children whose reported race is “other.”
DISABILITIES
All children enrolled in Wayne Metro early childhood programs are screened for potential developmental delays, and HS/EHS grantees are required to make at least 10% of funded enrollment available for children with certified disabilities. Since 2009, 6-12% of total children enrolled each year have had an identified disability. This is significantly higher than the proportion of children younger than five in the general population with a disability. In Wayne County, 1.4% of children younger than 5 in the general population had a disability in 2017. The most common disability among these children was hearing difficulty. However, county level disability data from the census only tracks the categories of hearing and vision difficulties, and does not separately list speech or language impairments, which is the most common disability for children enrolled in the HS/EHS program.

For children who have a disability, Head Start staff work with parents to develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). A child’s IEP lists the specific special education services the child will receive and is based upon his or her individual needs. In the most recent program year, 42 children had an IEP in place.

| Number of Enrolled Children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 38               | 55               | 60               | 51               | 100              | 104              | 87              | 69              | 70              | 42              |


While no children in Wayne Metro Head Start during the 2018-2019 school year had hearing or visual impairments, 37 had a speech or language impairment, two had a developmental delay, two had autism, and one had a learning disability. For Head Start children with disabilities, Wayne Metro has compiled a list of 12 available resource centers that children are referred to for services. All children in the program with disabilities received special services during the 2018-2019 program year.

ELIGIBILITY
As discussed in the selection criteria section, Wayne Metro Head Start uses a weighting system to account for each child’s unique set of eligibility criteria. Even after children from families between 100 and 130% of the Poverty Guidelines are included, less than 11% of Head Start participants each year have been over income. The percentage of total participants who are considered over income has fallen in recent years, from 10.1% in the 2015-2016 program year to 6.8% in 2018-2019.
Over the last nine years, the primary eligibility for Wayne Metro’s HS program has increasingly been based on family income level. In the 2010-2011 program years, 70.2% of children were eligible based on an income below the federal poverty rate. This has steadily increased, and in the 2018-2019 program year, 90.3% of children were eligible based on income.

The second most common type of eligibility was receipt of public assistance. As eligibility based on income has become more common, eligibility based on public assistance has become less common. In the 2010-2011 program year, 21.1% of children were eligible based on receiving public assistance, but by the 2018-2019 program year this number was only 1.9%.

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Income below 100% of federal poverty line</td>
<td>70.2%</td>
<td>75.7%</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
<td>80.5%</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>88.9%</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Receipt of public assistance such as TANF, SSI</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Status as a foster child</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Status as homeless</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Over income</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Enrollees exceeding the allowed over income enrollment with family incomes between 100% and 130% of the federal poverty line</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**SERVICE PROVISION TRENDS**

Though Wayne Metro accepts the children with the greatest needs at the beginning of each program year, they are not able to accept all children. Year-end waiting list totals are shown in the chart below. These numbers fluctuate throughout the year. In each of the last three years, at least 100 children have been on a waiting list to become accepted into the Wayne Metro Head Start program. The proportion of children on these waiting lists who are income eligible has increased, reaching 90% in 2018-2019, indicating a need for more Head Start services. Of Wayne Metro’s Head Start sites, Cortland (Highland Park) and M&M (Dearborn) had the largest waiting lists during the 2018-2019 program year.
Most children who participate in Wayne Metro Head Start have strong attendance records. The chart below demonstrates monthly attendance rates at each Head Start site for the past two program years. Though the chart does show a decrease in the attendance rate as the summer break approached each year, as well as around the winter holidays, attendance has been strong across all sites.


Source: Head Start Program (2017-2019) Attendance Rates
Each year, the majority of Wayne Metro Head Start children are in their first year of Head Start or Early Head Start. However, more than 170 children in each of the last ten years has been in their second or third years in the program, with the exception of the 2016-2017 and 2012-2013 program years. Still, enrollment for a third consecutive year is rare.

![Wayne Metro Head Start Enrollment by Enrollment Tenure](chart)

**Family Type**
Families with children enrolled in Wayne Metro’s HS/EHS program are equally likely to be two-parent or single parent families.

![Family Type of HS/EHS Children](chart)
In both two-parent families and single-parent families, the large majority have at least one employed parent. In the 2018-2019 program year, more than four in five (80.7%) two-parent families had one (74.8%) or both (13.6%) parents working. In that same year, 62.6% of single parents were employed. Despite the large majority of parents working, eligibility for the program has increasingly been based on family income level, indicating that the jobs HS/EHS parents are working do not pay enough to keep their families out of poverty.

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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both parents/guardians are employed</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One parent/guardian is employed</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>63.1%</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
<td>67.7%</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both parents/guardians are not working</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Parent Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single parent employed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single parent not working</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While most children live in families with at least one parent working, during the 2018-2019 program year, 11.7% of two-parent families and 37.4% of single parent families had no parent working.

Staff report that several plant closings in Head Start communities during the 2011-2012 program year resulted in a surge in unemployment among Head Start parents.
**CLASSROOM OUTCOMES**

In order to ensure that Head Start grantees meet high standards of teacher conduct and academic progress, the Administration for Children and Families Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center conducts assessments of Head Start programs each year. One of these assessments is the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), which assesses teacher-child interactions within a Head Start Program in three domains: Emotional Support refers to a teacher’s ability to create a positive and supportive classroom environment, Classroom Organization refers to the establishment of stable rules and routines, and Instructional Support assesses teachers’ abilities to promote cognitive and language development. A Head Start program’s collective performance on each domain is scored on a 1-7 scale, with seven being the highest possible. Wayne Metro utilizes CLASS scores to tailor professional development needs of teaching staff related to their teacher-child interactions and specific needs of the program.

The Office of Head Start reviews grantee level scores as part of monitoring program quality and determining the continuation of a Grantee’s program status at the end of their five-year cycle. The minimum required scores for a Head Start program are four for Emotional Support, three for Classroom Organization, and two for Instructional Support. Grantees with average CLASS scores below the established minimum on any of the three CLASS domains will be required to compete for continued funding. Additionally, each year the 10 percent of grantees reviewed that receive the lowest average scores in each domain are required to compete, unless grantees in the lowest 10 percent in any of the three domains have scores of six or seven.

Each of the last six years, Wayne Metro Head Start/Early Head Start has far exceeded the minimum required scores in each domain. Additionally, Wayne Metro’s performance in these domains has generally improved over the years. The chart below shows Wayne Metro’s performance over time in comparison to national averages. In general, Wayne Metro has been on par with national averages for Emotional Support, slightly below national averages in Classroom Organization, and far above national averages in Instructional Support. Although Wayne Metro’s performance scores dropped during in the Fall 2018 assessment, performance increased in all areas in the subsequent Spring 2019 assessment.

**Note:** Data Received for the 2013-2014 PY did not provide a Fall/Spring break out. National average scores for 2019 were not yet available.

As part of the 1998 reauthorization of Head Start by Congress, all programs are also required to demonstrate that children make progress on specific learning outcomes. To fulfill this requirement, children’s outcome measure data are reported three times per year for Head Start and four times per year for Early Head Start.

Children in the Wayne Metro HS/EHS programs are assessed for school readiness using HighScope’s ongoing assessment tool, COR Advantage. This tool is aligned with the framework set forth by the Head Start Bureau, consisting of five central domains: Language and Literacy; Cognition, Approaches to Learning; Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development; and Social and Emotional Development. COR Advantage is rated on a scale from 0-7, with zero being the earliest development and seven being the latest development. Children are expected to have a minimum increase of 35% in knowledge and skills within a school year.

For the two most recently completed program years, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, the average improvement for all children in the Wayne Metro programs, from the first measurements taken in December to the final measurements taken in May, were 48.2% and 44.5% respectively. In 2017-2018, the first year with both Head Start and Early Head Start participants, the average improvement for HS was 45.0% while the average improvement for EHS was 44.7%. These increases significantly surpass the minimum expected increase of 35%. Additionally, HS and EHS participants saw improvements above 35% in nearly all of the five central domains both program years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Increase in School Readiness Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COR Category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All (3-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaches to Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognition and General Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language and Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual, Motor, &amp; Physical Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Emotional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY LEVEL DATA

Altogether, there are 22,040 children younger than age six in the communities served by Wayne Metro Head Start/Early Head Start. The largest populations of young children among these communities are in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights. However, children younger than six make up the largest proportion of the population in Hamtramck (11.0%)—the highest proportion among Head Start communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Younger Than Six Compared to Total Population in Head Start Communities</th>
<th>Year Than Six: Number</th>
<th>Younger Than Six: % Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn</td>
<td>9,080</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Heights</td>
<td>4,762</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosse Pointe</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamtramck</td>
<td>2,457</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper Woods</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redford Township</td>
<td>3,631</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Across Wayne County, about 48.2% of children live in a two-parent household. In some Wayne Metro Head Start communities, however, different family types are quite common. For example, only 13.4% of children younger than age six in Highland Park are in married-couple families while 33.4% are in grandparent-led households. Following married-couple families, families led by single mothers are the second most common type. A higher percentage of children live with single mothers in Highland Park (47.6%), Redford Township (19.2%), and Harper Woods (18.8%) than in other Head Start communities.

Children Under 6 in Head Start Communities by Family Type

P O V E R T Y

Children are accepted into the Head Start program based upon a variety of eligibility criteria. However, no more than 10% of participants can be from families whose incomes are above the federal poverty guidelines. Therefore, analyzing local poverty levels is useful for estimating the number of potentially eligible children in each community. As shown by the table below, child poverty levels are highest among the Wayne Metro Head Start communities of Hamtramck and Highland Park, followed by Dearborn and Dearborn Heights. The cities of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods have much lower poverty figures, but their Head Start locations may also include children who travel from neighboring cities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Statistics for Children Under Six in Head Start Communities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Younger Than Six</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamtramck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redford Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosse Pointe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper Woods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Applies only to children for whom poverty status can be determined.
Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table B17020

Examining the population trends by gender and age, the largest populations of Head Start-eligible children are likely to be in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and Hamtramck.

Children in Poverty in Head Start Communities

![Children in Poverty in Head Start Communities](image)

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2013-2017: Table B17020

In Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and Hamtramck, the majority of low-income children are white. In each of these communities —where immigrant populations are high—this figure is likely to include a large number of residents with Arab ancestry. This is not the case in Harper Woods, Highland Park, and
Redford Township, where the immigrant populations are lower and the majority of children younger than six in poverty are Black. This may reflect larger Black populations in these areas, but it could also reflect the higher rates of poverty experienced by Black individuals throughout the county. In Wayne County as a whole, the poverty rate for White, Non-Hispanic individuals is 17 percentage points lower than the rate for Black individuals.\textsuperscript{cclxxiii}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number Younger Than 6 in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity in Head Start Communities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In Poverty</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic, All Races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Races</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employment and Income**

Throughout Wayne County, the median household income is around $43,000, which is lower than the statewide median income.\textsuperscript{cclxxiv} Approximately 37% of working individuals in Wayne County make less than $35,000,\textsuperscript{cclxxv} while 22.7% of Wayne County live in poverty.\textsuperscript{cclxxvi} Among the residents living in poverty, 58.3% are not in the labor force. Meanwhile, 37.3% of Wayne County residents experiencing poverty are in the labor force but are currently unemployed.\textsuperscript{cclxxvii}

Whether individuals fall into poverty depends not only on their employment status, but also upon the industries in which they work. In Wayne County, two industries stand out as having median earnings below $23,000. These industries employ more than one in five of the county’s workers:

- Arts, Entertainment, Hospitality, and Recreation – median income: $13,653
- Retail Trade – median income: $19,590

In five of the Wayne Metro Head Start communities, these industries make up a larger percentage of the local workforce than the county average, as shown by the chart below.\textsuperscript{cclxxviii} For workers in these industries, even full-time employment provides below-average wages. Roughly 22,000 adults in Wayne County worked full-time in 2017, but still had incomes below the poverty level.\textsuperscript{cclxxix}

![Percent Employed in Low-Earning Industries, by Wayne County Community](image-url)

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2013-2017: Table C24050
For those residents wishing to change careers or improve their incomes, training and education programs are available. While training opportunities are less concentrated in Wayne County than the rest of the United States, there are at least 36 vocational, trade, or technical training programs throughout the county covering a variety of fields. Many parents do participate in these programs. During the 2017-2018 school year, 148 parents were participating in school or job training, and for 18 families, at least one parent completed a job training or certificate program during the year.

Some families are eligible for other forms of assistance. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program replaced the Assistance for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program in 1996. It provides short-term cash assistance and programming to help reduce the needs of low-income families and pregnant women. In Michigan, temporary cash assistance is provided under the name Family Independence Program (FIP). In September 2018, 6,192 families (15,384 total recipients) in Wayne County were receiving cash assistance through the FIP (TANF) program. To qualify for this program and receive $492 per month (for a family of three), the family must be at half the Federal Poverty Line. Overall, 43 Wayne Metro Head Start families received cash assistance from this program during the 2017-2018 program year.

**EDUCATION**

In addition to training and type of job, education attainment is important for increasing income. Overall, the majority of Wayne County’s workers have a high school degree, but no postsecondary degree. Additionally, two Wayne Metro Head Start communities are among the lowest in the county for attainment of a bachelor’s degree or higher; less than 13% of adults have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree in Hamtramck, and less than 11% of adults have obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher in Highland Park.

In several Wayne Metro Head Start communities, many new mothers have low educational attainment levels. For example, in Hamtramck 67.6% of women who gave birth in the past 12 months have an education level of high school or less. In three of the communities, more than 20% of mothers of infants have less than a high school education.

**Mothers of Infants: % with Low Educational Attainment**

![Bar chart showing the percentage of mothers of infants with low educational attainment in various Wayne Metro Head Start communities.]

- Dearborn: 23.4% Less than high school graduate, 16.6% High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- Dearborn Heights: 16.1% Less than high school graduate, 12.1% High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- Grosse Pointe: Not Available
- Hamtramck: 25.2% Less than high school graduate, 42.4% High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- Harper Woods: 43.1% Less than high school graduate, 26.5% High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- Highland Park: 2.6% Less than high school graduate, 21.1% High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- Redford Township: Not Available

*Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2013-2017: B13014*
High school completion is also a concern in Wayne County. Across the county, only 79% of students graduate on time, and 8% of students drop out. One of the predictors of high school graduation is reading ability. Unfortunately, only 32.9% of Wayne County third graders meet Michigan Education Assessment Program reading standards. Because learning to read by third grade is a crucial foundation for future learning, poor achievement levels at this age are a significant indicator of future unemployment and poverty.

Another foundation for future success is English language proficiency. Across the county, over 230,000 residents speak a language other than English at home, with Arabic being the most common alternative in Wayne Metro Communities, followed by Spanish and other Indo-European languages. Of these residents, over 86,000, or 38%, speak English less than “very well.” Of Wayne Metro Head Start children during the 2018-2019 school year, 281, or 42% lived in families where English was not the primary language. The vast majority of these were in families speaking “Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages,” which includes Arabic.

Just as reading and language comprehension are important for academic success, so is a smooth transition to kindergarten. Evidence suggests that children who struggle to adapt to abrupt transitions from child-care to kindergarten may benefit from dedicated efforts to make this transition smoother. To put this struggle in the context of Wayne County, there is a large difference between the percentage of children enrolled in school (defined as nursery, preschool, kindergarten, or elementary school) at ages 3-4 and the percentage enrolled at ages 5-9. While this fits broadly with the national average, the contrast is still extreme in some Head Start communities—as shown by the chart below. For example, as many as 65% more 5-9-year old children are in school in the city of Hamtramck as 3-4-year old children. Head Start helps set the tone for a smooth transition by helping prepare children for the rules and structure of school, but research emphasizes that this must be paired with ongoing support even after children enter kindergarten.

**Health**

Wayne County’s health characteristics and risk factors are surveyed extensively above in Section 3: Community Data. This assessment identifies prenatal care, health insurance access, and drug abuse as potential areas of need throughout the county.\textsuperscript{cxcvi} These and other areas of health concern affect the children and families utilizing Wayne Metro’s Head Start services.

For infants, health starts long before birth. In 2016, approximately 37.7% of newborns in Wayne County did not receive adequate prenatal care, while 7.0% received late or no prenatal care.\textsuperscript{cxcvii} 15.1% of newborns in Wayne County were born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy.\textsuperscript{cxcviii} These are risk factors for premature births or low birth weights, and 10.8% of Wayne County babies are born at a low birth weight.\textsuperscript{cxcix} In terms of the demographic situations surrounding pregnancy, around 7% of Wayne County babies are born to mothers younger than 20, 54% of births are to mothers insured by Medicaid, and 55.6% of births are to unwed mothers.\textsuperscript{cd}

All of these risk factors add up to an infant mortality rate that is higher than the state average. Currently, more than 1 in every 100 babies in Wayne County dies before his or her first birthday, as shown by the chart below.

![Infant Mortality Rate: Wayne County v. Michigan](image)

*Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center (2007-2016)*

As children grow older, preventative health measures continue to be important. Approximately 81.3% of Michigan children received a preventative health medical visit in 2012.\textsuperscript{cdi} Additionally, 74.4% of Michigan toddlers aged 19-35 months were fully immunized as of March 2019. In comparison, only 73.2% of Wayne County toddlers were fully immunized.\textsuperscript{cdii} Among Wayne Metro Head Start children, over 99% were either up to date on immunizations or exempt from immunizations, while over 90% of Early Head Start children were up to date or exempt.\textsuperscript{cdiii}

Another concern for Wayne Head Start families is how to best care for children who are affected by disabilities. The Census defines these in terms of difficulty in a certain area. Among children younger than age five in Wayne County, 1.4% have a hearing or vision difficulty. This number varies between Head Start Communities, with a high of 5.0% in Highland Park and a low of 0% in Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods, and Redford Township.\textsuperscript{cdiv} In total, the census estimates that 221 children younger than age 5 in these seven communities have a hearing or vision difficulty. In comparison to the Census data, Wayne
Metro tracks a larger variety of disabilities experienced by its Head Start children. While no children in Wayne Metro Head Start currently have hearing or visual impairments, 37 have a speech or language impairment, 2 have a developmental delay, 2 have autism, and 1 has a learning disability during the 2018-2019 school year. For Head Start children with disabilities, Wayne Metro has compiled a list of 12 available resource centers; because of their efforts, all children in the program with disabilities received special services during 2017-2018.

| Percentage of Children Younger Than 5 With Disabilities in Head Start Communities |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                 | Dearborn        | Dearborn Heights| Grosse Pointe   | Hamtramck       | Harper Woods    | Highland Park   | Redford Township |
| Total Population younger than 5 years | 7,826           | 3,880           | 223            | 2,042           | 691             | 801             | 3,114           |
| With a Disability               | 1.2%            | 2.1%            | 0.0%           | 0.4%            | 0.0%            | 5.0%            | 0.0%            |
| With a hearing difficulty       | 1.0%            | 2.1%            | 0.0%           | 0.4%            | 0.0%            | 5.0%            | 0.0%            |
| With a vision difficulty        | 0.6%            | 2.1%            | 0.0%           | 0.4%            | 0.0%            | 0.0%            | 0.0%            |

Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) Table S1810

Abuse and neglect are also significant concerns for some families. Childhood maltreatment has been linked to depression, suicide, alcoholism, criminal behavior, and future abuse as an adult. In some cases, a child may need to be removed from a home and placed in the foster system. Currently, there are approximately 1,100 foster children in Wayne County. Thirteen children who participated in Wayne Metro Head Start/Early Head Start were in foster care at some point during the 2018-2019 program year. Unfortunately, three families in the Head Start program and one family in the Early Head Start program had an identified need for child abuse and neglect services need during the program year.

Other forms of abuse are significant concerns as well in the Wayne Metro area. Michigan has a higher illicit drug usage rate than the national average, with heroin, alcohol, cocaine/crack, marijuana, and other opiates being the top 5 substances used. Drug overdose deaths in the Wayne County have been rising in recent years. In 2017, Wayne County ranked 25th out of all counties in the nation for drug overdose deaths, compared with 125th in 2012. In 2018-2019, six Head Start families had a need for substance abuse treatment. Additionally, domestic violence was identified as a need in five families during the program year.

Across Wayne County, heart disease, cancer, and unintentional injuries are the leading causes of death. In 2016, over 25,000 hospital stays were due to heart disease and over 7,000 hospital stays were related to cancer. Other prominent diseases related to hospital stays during this time were arthritis and other arthropathies, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, diabetes, and cerebrovascular disease (including stroke).
In terms of communicable diseases, STDs and Influenza are the top concerns for residents of Out-Wayne County. The five most common diseases for Out-Wayne County in 2018 are shown in the table below. Influenza led the way, followed by Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Chronic Hepatitis C, and Chronic Hepatitis B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Common Diseases in Out-Wayne County, 2018</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>7812</td>
<td>1009</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>9180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>1077</td>
<td>1046</td>
<td>1154</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>3956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>1253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C, Chronic</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>1238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B, Chronic</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pollution is also a concern in the Wayne Metro area. Wayne County’s air pollution levels are higher than the Michigan median, which is associated with decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, and asthma. Exposure to lead, often found in the paint of older homes, can have serious effects on a child’s health, potentially causing learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and in extreme cases, seizures, coma, and even death. Lead poisoning rates for children in Wayne County are more than double the state average. In terms of water quality, levels of nitrates and VOCs, as well as other contaminants, in Wayne County are well below EPA requirements.

**NUTRITION**

Several food assistance programs are available to low-income children and families in Wayne County. One such program is the National School Lunch Program. Through this program, nearly 65% of Wayne County students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches during the school year. Additionally, 47.2% of Wayne County’s households with children received nutrition benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) between 2016 and 2017; this is slightly higher than the statewide average of 46.3%. Of the 550 families enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start at the start of the 2018-2019 program year, 303 received SNAP assistance. Lastly, 375 families received assistance from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). This program provides benefits specifically to pregnant women and children younger than age five and served 46.5% of 0-5-year-olds in Wayne County during 2014.

In addition to federal programs, some local resources provide food assistance to families in Wayne County. A variety of food assistance organizations are available throughout the county; Michigan 2-1-1 Online lists approximately 90 food assistance locations within Wayne County.

Despite the assistance provided by these food programs, many Wayne County families still suffer from food insecurity. Nearly one in five households in the county faced food insecurity in 2017, and many areas of the county lack convenient access to healthy and affordable food.

**HOUSING**

While Wayne County residents may not face the same rising rents as those in other big cities, the Detroit area has its own set of housing problems. For example, the county has a high rate of vacant housing, but has an aging housing stock and a high rate of foreclosures. Because there is so much vacant housing, overcrowding is not an issue, but finding affordable and adequate housing is still a problem. A far higher
percentage of houses in Wayne County were built before 1969 than the statewide average. These homes tend to require more frequent repairs and be in poorer condition. Many homeowners have struggled to keep up with property taxes. Wayne County recorded many foreclosures during the housing crisis, but foreclosure rates have been falling since 2015.

Those who are unable to afford market-rate housing may benefit from affordable housing services. Residents of Wayne County may receive assistance via the Housing Choice Voucher program, project-based assistance, or a specific affordable housing development constructed with the help of tax credits or community development funding. Several housing commissions serve Wayne Metro Head Start communities, including Dearborn, Hamtramck, Highland Park, and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. However, each of these housing commissions either has closed their waiting lists for the Housing Choice Voucher program or does not offer the program. Still, some Head Start families are finding assistance. During 2017-2018, 37 Head Start and Early Head Start families were identified as needing housing assistance, and 18 of those families received some type of housing service.

Even those who do obtain secure housing may be burdened by the costs of maintaining it. For example, participants in community forums noted that many low-income families live in unmaintained homes that are associated with high utility costs. Currently, half of Wayne County renters are spending more than 30% of their monthly income on housing, and for Wayne Metro Head Start families, this number may be even higher.

Unfortunately, these costs sometimes become too great for some families to bear. According to one estimate, over 63,000 individuals in Michigan experienced homelessness during 2017. A 2019 “point-in-time” count, which attempts to count all individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night, found 1,965 individuals experiencing homelessness in Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park. In Michigan, an estimated 10% of homeless individuals are younger than age 5, and another 17% are between the ages of 5 and 17. Unfortunately, some Wayne Metro Head Start families are also affected by this issue; five children experienced homelessness at some point during the 2017-2018 enrollment year and two families that experienced homelessness acquired housing during the program year.

Perhaps due to the county’s affordability issues, residents of Wayne County tend to move more frequently within the same county than those in other parts of Michigan or the U.S. as a whole. When residents move within a county, it typically indicates they are having difficulty with housing affordability, are unable to find a job close to their home, or there is a disparity in school quality from one area of the county to another.

**Childcare Needs**

The gap between childcare capacity and current demand for childcare demonstrates a community’s need for additional quality childcare services. Including Wayne Metro Head Start locations, Great Start to Quality lists 170 licensed childcare service providers that cater to children younger than 6 among the seven Head Start communities. These providers have the capacity to serve 8,756 children, however 979 of those slots are exclusively for children age 5 and older. In comparison, 21,764 children younger than 6 live in these communities, of which 8,212 are living in poverty. Of course, this figure does not correspond perfectly to the need for childcare services, but it provides some perspective on where service gaps may exist. Among these communities, the gap between childcare capacity and children in
poverty is greatest in Hamtramck and Highland Park. Additionally, there may be larger gaps in the 0-3 age range; while 136 of the service providers in Head Start communities serve at least some children in that age range, only 6 specifically focus on infants.10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Providers and Potential Need by Head Start Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosse Pointe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamtramck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redford Township</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: *Great Start to Quality (2019) Find Childcare

Another indication of childcare or child development program needs is whether parents are at home taking care of children. One way to assess this is by determining the percentage of women with children who are employed. In Wayne County, 70% of women with children younger than 6 are in the labor force, and 85% of those mothers are employed.10xxx Another way to assess this is from the perspective of children; the table below provides an indication of the number of children whose parents are either working or looking for work, which might indicate a childcare need. Based on these figures and the childcare capacity shown above, Redford Township, Highland Park, and Harper Woods are the areas of greatest need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Younger Than 6 in Head Start Communities by Parental Labor Force Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With All Parents in Labor Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Parent Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosse Pointe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamtramck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redford Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates: Table B23008

In Wayne County, the number of children younger than age 5 dropped by 29,421 children between 2005 and 2017, a 20% decrease.10xxx During the same time, individuals between the ages of 18-64 decreased

10 Based on filtering accepted age ranges in the Great Start to Quality data to exclude those that serve children four and older.
by only 7%, suggesting that families with young children are most likely to relocate. Despite this change in population, the existing childcare capacity is insufficient to meet the needs of the community.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

For Wayne Metro Head Start families, reliable transportation and communication are both important for maintaining employment and getting their children to Head Start programming. Despite the opening of a new light rail line in 2017, very few people in Wayne County rely on public transportation to get to work and the Detroit Department of Transportation has been criticized for both its reliability and availability. Thus, vehicle ownership is important. Approximately 86% of Wayne County Households own a vehicle, but those who do have to pay extremely high car insurance rates.

Given Wayne County’s climate, winter weather often complicates travel and commutes to work. More than 44% of Out-Wayne County residents have commutes of 25 minutes or more. Especially for residents traveling long distances to their jobs, weather or traffic delays make life difficult. In cases of emergency, reliable communication is very important. In Out-Wayne County, 88.1% of households have internet access—a figure that is higher than the Michigan average and much higher than the rate in the city of Detroit. For most of those who do not have internet access, however, phone communication is an option. The chart below shows telephone access by Wayne Metro community. While Highland Park, Hamtramck, and Harper Woods have the highest rates of occupied housing units without phone service, no more than 4% of housing units in any community lack phone access.

Percent with No Telephone Service by Wayne Metro Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn</td>
<td>1.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Heights</td>
<td>1.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosse Pointe</td>
<td>0.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamtramck</td>
<td>2.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper Woods</td>
<td>2.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park</td>
<td>3.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redford Township</td>
<td>1.80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates: Table DP04

STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Wayne Metro seeks to generate feedback on community needs of Wayne County in critical areas, such as housing, transportation, education and employment from young students, clients, and community stakeholders. Through a client and community stakeholder engagement process, Wayne Metro provided opportunities to discuss pressing needs of the community and offer recommendations to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty. Qualitative data was collected through community forums, focus groups, interviews, and open-ended survey responses.
FOCUS GROUPS

On March 27 and 28, focus groups were held with clients of Wayne Metro’s Head Start programs. A total of 40 clients participated in the focus groups, which were held at the Mitchell Head Start in Hamtramck and the M&M Head Start in Dearborn. Clients expressed their gratitude for Wayne Metro and the support they receive through the Head Start program.

Education

Focus Group participants reported that a good education was attainable in Wayne County, though the infrastructure is aging. Books are old and buildings need to be renovated, including resources like labs for science classes. Some schools offer bussing, and some do not, which presents a challenge.

Participants would like to see more summer programs, early education slots, and programming for children outside of school hours. Tutoring and after school programming are not as widely available as needed in the community. Schools and community centers are being closed, and people must travel further to find safe places to learn and play. One participant said, “Kids need a positive dream for life. They don’t always get that at home.”

Economics

The Career Center is a good resource, but not everyone knows about it. Entry level jobs can be easy to find but moving up the ladder is a challenge. Mothers of Head Start students would love to find more opportunities to work during school hours. Participants requested job fairs to help find careers with growth potential, not just jobs in which there are no opportunities for promotion or further training.

Financial scams are a challenge in the community. Focus group participants reported receiving calls “all the time.” Scams are typically centered around insurance or banking and can be especially challenging for those who have language barriers and cannot understand that the calls are predatory.

Housing

Participants who owned their own homes talked about long wait lists for home improvement programs and how expensive it is to keep up on home maintenance, especially with a large family in a big house. Property taxes keep increasing, so even those who own a home struggle to keep up with payments. Participants describes that it is a challenge to get on the list for Section 8 housing, and once they do, there is a long wait list for services. Clients also expressed a need for women’s and children’s shelters and resources for teens who do not live at home with their families.

Health

Mental health was a significant topic of discussion in the focus groups. Schools have social workers available to support students, but there are not many other resources in the community. With recreational marijuana use being legal, some people do not recognize overuse as a problem, and do not seek out help. More education around addiction and more support to overcome it were seen as a need in the community.

Participants reported that there are plenty of doctors around, but insurance coverage is a problem. Some doctors will see only children, or do not accept the right insurance plans for parents and children to receive care at the same office. The same is true for dental care, where parents and children often have different kinds of insurance and cannot see the same provider. A lot of people resort to using the Urgent Care as their primary care provider. This results in long waits for people who do need care urgently, but people continue to go to Urgent Care because the wait to get an appointment with a primary care doctor takes even longer. There was confusion as to why Urgent Care centers schedule appointments at all.
Reports of the availability of nutritious foods and exercise facilities depended on where a participant lived. Some reported having access to parks with playgrounds and plenty of grocery stores. A focus group participant reported that “in other places, you don’t want to be outside.” Concern was expressed over the quality of food being served to students at school.

**Emergency Preparedness**
Clients nearly universally agreed that they were unprepared for a disaster or emergency. They reported not having any plans or financial supports in place for an unexpected event or expense. Health and Human Services (HHS) would be their first choice to ask for help, but they do not trust that HHS would respond quickly to their needs. Some do not have homeowner’s insurance to rely on and would go to churches or mosques to find help in a time of need.

**Transportation**
Auto insurance costs are extremely high throughout Wayne County. Focus group participants described the challenge of buying, maintaining, and insuring a car. Potholes are a big problem and can cause major damage to a car. Walking and biking are not good options because of the colder weather part of the year, and public transportation is unavailable or unsafe in some areas. Uber is more convenient, but also more expensive. Respondents reported asking friends and family for help getting to work and the grocery store.

**Clients’ Recommendations**
During the Head Start focus group sessions, participants identified ideal services community organizations should offer. Participants prioritized the following services and offered recommendations on how to improve current program offerings in the community.

- Offer childcare programming five days each week, including Fridays.
- Add fairs and field trips for youth in childcare programs.
- Call clients when schedules change, like when childcare is closed for weather.
- Offer and publicize a call-in service for clients to find additional resources.
- Make services more accessible by decreasing enrollment requirements and wait lists.
- Provide positive customer service for clients across all agencies.
- Clients report finding services through the following methods:
  - Word of mouth
  - Fliers hung in public places, like grocery stores
  - Through school (though there is sometimes a language barrier, and students are not always reliable at delivering messages)
  - Through referrals from Wayne Metro
  - Internet, social media
  - Some call 211

**Community Forums**
On April 23, a forum was conducted with stakeholders working in Early Childhood. A total of 4 partners participated in the forum, which was held at the Downriver Community Conference in Southgate.

**Workforce**
Recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers is a challenge in early childhood programs in Wayne County. Funding for salaries is low, which results in organizations hiring teachers who have fewer qualifications. Bachelor’s degrees are less common than would be preferred. Teachers are not required to participate in mental health training, which results in inconsistent responses from different teachers.
They can choose to take it as a professional development measure after they are teaching. Retaining teachers is difficult with competition between organizations who are looking to hire and because of the mental and financial tolls teachers take on in the role.

**Organization & Systems**

Early childhood providers face challenges with low funding. Budgets stay flat, even as expectations for services rise and priorities shift. Funding often comes with restrictions that do not allow for the most effective program implementation. One forum participant mentioned that best practice is to offer full-day programs, which allows the organization to serve only half as many children as they could if they offered two half-day programs each day. Respondents reported that a recent change in funding structure was positive for the field in that organizations are no longer competing against each other for government funding.

Finding facilities that are appropriate for programs is also a challenge. When considering safety, cleanliness, and layout of a building, along with finding a convenient location for families, options quickly become limited.

Participants reported that organizations have been collaborating more lately, due in part to coordination by the community foundation. There is a need for more collaboration with schools, and a broader mutual understanding of what is developmentally appropriate for different age groups. Policies in elementary school do not always serve the developmental needs of the children who attend early childhood programming at those schools.

**Family Needs**

Participants discussed the prevalence of trauma in children’s lives. Parents who are addicted to drugs or children who are born addicted will need additional support. Many children are being cared for by their grandparents. If the grandparents do not legally adopt the child, they are not eligible for some of the support services that parents would qualify for, like financial resources or housing and transportation supports. Even where resources do exist to match families with housing, there is a lack of affordable housing options to match them to. Transportation can be a major challenge when work schedules, childcare schedules, and public transit schedules do not align.

Dual-language families are often facing language barriers that disrupt the teacher-student-parent communication that is necessary. Immigrant families will visit home for long stretches of time, and providers are forced to give their spots in the program to others who are on the wait list. When they return, they find themselves with no childcare, and back at the bottom of a long wait list.
APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

Wayne Metro conducts a formal Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years by collecting pertinent data to explore community needs, gain insight on the experiences of community members, and identify gaps in current service offerings. This CNA will guide current and new initiatives and the strategic direction of the organization. Head Start program needs assessment was conducted alongside the CNA, and these methodologies were used for both assessments. This report, prepared by Thomas P. Miller and Associates (TPMA), serves as the 2019 Community Needs Assessment. Information for Wayne Metro’s 2019 CNA was gathered using a variety of methods, and results of the CNA are a compilation of findings from the following sources:

Publically Available Community-Level Data Sources: Data sources include the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, Michigan League for Public Policy, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, CFED, the USDA Economic Research Service, Housing and Urban Development, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Michigan Department of Education.

Community Forums: On April 23 and 24, 2019, 57 community stakeholders participated in community forums that represented local community development organizations, government, healthy communities initiatives, financial empowerment organizations, afterschool programs, financial institutions, and housing and homeless initiatives. One community forum was held at Michigan Works! Southgate Service center, one at Triumph Church in Detroit, and one at Wayne Metro’s office in Highland Park. Each forum was two hours in duration. Participants engaged in roundtable discussions and group sharing for issue areas of housing, transportation, and workforce development in diverse communities of Wayne County. Community stakeholders also discussed ways they could collaborate more effectively to address the various needs of the community.

Focus Groups of Current Wayne Metro Clients: On April 25, 2019, 30 clients shared their experiences related to education, housing, employment, and health in three focus groups. Fourteen local youth participated in a focus group on March 27 at Wayne County Community College’s Downriver Campus. Locations of the other focus groups were Northwest Activities Center of Detroit and the Wayne Metro office in Wyandotte. These focus groups were comprised of Wayne Metro clients enrolled in utilities and home repair, homelessness and supportive housing, and financial empowerment programs.

Interviews with Community Stakeholders: In May and June of 2019, TPMA conducted thirty- to forty-five-minute interviews with ten Wayne Metro community stakeholders from a cross-section of healthcare, human services, financial, faith-based, philanthropic, and government organizations.
## Appendix B: Charts
### Financial Information by Wayne County Neighborhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wayne Metro Service Areas</th>
<th>Asset Poverty</th>
<th>Liquid Asset Poverty</th>
<th>Unbanked</th>
<th>Under-banked</th>
<th>Population (1,000+)</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Households Income Poverty</th>
<th>Home owner</th>
<th>Renter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>321,004,407</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>9,925,568</td>
<td>3,888,646</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>71.0%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>1,763,822</td>
<td>673,143</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grosse Pointe</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>5,241</td>
<td>2,212</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grosse Pointe Farms</td>
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<td>5.1%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>9,238</td>
<td>3,113</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Grosse Pointe Park</td>
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<td>16.0%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>11,240</td>
<td>4,238</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
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<td>Grosse Pointe Shores</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>2,857</td>
<td>1,166</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grosse Pointe Woods</td>
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<td>11.2%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>15,678</td>
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<td>4.1%</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
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<td>Hamtramck</td>
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<td>17.2%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
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<td>6,158</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
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<td>11.4%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
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<td>5,199</td>
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<td>60.6%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>26.5%</td>
<td>5,485</td>
<td>4,523</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
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<td>19.5%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
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<td>258,471</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
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<td>Dearborn</td>
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<td>36.2%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>95,295</td>
<td>30,814</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>36.1%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>56,201</td>
<td>20,483</td>
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<td>10,500</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>81.6%</td>
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<td>19.9%</td>
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<td>13.0%</td>
<td>94,708</td>
<td>37,186</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northville</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
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<td>2.1%</td>
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<td>2,672</td>
<td>1,147</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
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</tr>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>28,838</td>
<td>11,077</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
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<td>13.3%</td>
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<td>4,208</td>
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<td>63.4%</td>
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<td>1,739</td>
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<td>18.3%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
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<td>45.9%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>35.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>17,090</td>
<td>6,622</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
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<td>Westland</td>
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<td>17.9%</td>
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<td>Allen Park</td>
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<td>3.3%</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>11,502</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
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### WM Connect Calls by City/Township

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>City of Residence</th>
<th>Caller Count</th>
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</thead>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>29,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>1,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Westland</td>
<td>1,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Inkster</td>
<td>1,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Redford Twp.</td>
<td>1,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dearborn</td>
<td>1,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lincoln Park</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Romulus</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dearborn Heights</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hamtramck</td>
<td>616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Highland Park</td>
<td>616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Belleville</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ecorse</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Wyandotte</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>River Rouge</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Canton</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Harper Woods</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Southgate</td>
<td>322</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Melvindale</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Other</td>
<td>10,580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Asset Poverty & Liquid Asset Poverty: 2017 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard, Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), for US and States (excluding AK, DC, SD, WY). Unbanked and Underbanked: 2013 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, for US, States, DC and 69 largest MSAs. Local Estimates: Estimates at smaller geographies are derived from CFED’s statistical modeling process using the FDIC or SIPP and 2013-2017 American Community Survey data. The figures are geographic estimates and are not meant to directly reflect the FDIC or SIPP data. Caution should be used in interpreting the local estimates as the statistical model is based on national surveys of fewer than 50,000 households. See localdata.assetsandopportunity.org/methodology for more information.
REFERENCES


Ibid.


Ibid.


https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_5YR_B09002&prodType=table
https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_5YR_B10001&prodType=table


https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_5YR_B17006&prodType=table

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Ibid.


Ibid.


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Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


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Ibid.


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homelessness-in-michigan/


Ibid.


Ibid.


Sex by School Enrollment by Type of School by Age for the Population 3 Years and Over. Accessed at: https://www.childcaredata.org/survey/school/5-year-estimates/sex-by-school-enrollment-by-type-of-school-by-age-for-the-population-3-years-and-over


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Ibid.


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http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2019/rankings/outcomes/overall


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Ibid.


Ibid.


Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2017) **Suicide rising across the U.S..** Accessed at: [https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/suicide/information/](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/suicide/information/)


More information about Household Composition in Wayne County can be found in the full Community Needs Assessment.

See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.


Ibid.


See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.

Ibid.


See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.


See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.


Id. at p. 4.

See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.


See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.


See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.


See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.

See full Community Needs Assessment for more information. Note: housing commission statuses remained the same in January 2017 as they were in 2016.


See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.


See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.


2000 Census, Table D01. 2017 ACS 5-YR, Table B06001. Accessed at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_5YR_B06001&prodType=table


See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.

See full Community Needs Assessment for more information.