



Wayne Metropolitan  
Community Action Agency



# Community Needs Assessment

## February 2023

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 Metropolitan Community Action Agency (Wayne Metro) conducts a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to determine the needs of the larger community, specifically those who are living in poverty. 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.

With a deeper understanding of the current and emerging needs of residents who are living in poverty, 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. The assessment is also an opportunity to engage residents and local organizations in conversations about partnerships, resources, and policies.

### TRANSPORTATION

Transportation continues to be an important issue in Wayne County as a barrier for individuals seeking to gain employment and access resources necessary for themselves and their families to be mobile and stable. Transportation affects many components of an individual's ability to succeed, such as traveling to work, accessing healthcare and childcare services, and the grocery store. Roads in Wayne County continue to be in poor condition, and residents who own cars must also budget for damage from potholes. Wayne Metro needs to pursue funding and resources for programming that provides transportation options to clients, and also be involved in local, regional, and state advocacy and action toward transportation.

### HOUSING AVAILABILITY

Housing stock, when available, in Wayne County is often severely out of repair or costlier than what a low-income individual could afford. 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 programs, and the lack of safety in the neighborhoods where affordable housing exists. The current average wait time to house a homeless client into permanent housing at Wayne Metro is approximately 4 months, reflecting the lack of affordable housing availability. Housing that is affordable typically comes with major repair costs, and there is little funding or skilled labor available for residents to complete repairs. The lack of affordable housing options negatively impacts communities' economic and social capacities, decreasing the chance of a thriving environment.

Wayne Metro must continue to bolster and expand its weatherization, plumbing and home repair programming, especially the programming that trains community members to complete the repairs most often needed in the area's homes, restoring as well as advocating for the building of more affordable housing units.



## FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Stakeholders listed finances as an important barrier for individuals and families seeking self-sustainability in Wayne County. 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 to certain subpopulations in Wayne County such as the reentry population, individuals exiting foster care, or newly arriving refugees, would be beneficial.

Wayne Metro should also expand its career development programs to promote career pathways with growth potential for individuals struggling with low-wage, low-opportunity jobs. In addition, providing or partnering with paid apprenticeship programs, on the job training, and internships 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 at licensed childcare providers. Even when childcare is available, quality care can be prohibitively expensive while state-funded subsidies are difficult to obtain.

Wayne Metro must continue to enhance its Head Start and Early Head Start programs to meet additional needs in the community. Longer program hours (before and aftercare) 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, through a Whole Family Approach, expanding opportunities to engage and work with the entire family.

As part of its Whole Family Approach, Wayne Metro will be able to strengthen its services to families of Head Start and Early Head Start programming by providing other wraparound services as needed.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholders identified Civic Engagement as a main concern, even higher than Health and Housing in the client survey. It is clear people don't just want temporary solutions. They want to build their own future. They want to be involved. They want to join community groups. They want leadership skills and education access.

Wayne Metro's Participatory Grant Making (PGM) programs can play a key role in supporting residents develop leadership skills as well as develop local community groups they can get involved in. An organizational empowerment pathway can be developed, where Wayne Metro can help residents grow neighborhood organizations into more stable, and larger organizations with multiple funding sources that can have larger impacts on their target areas.



## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

In our pursuit to eliminate poverty, Wayne Metro empowers people and communities to be strong, healthy, and thriving. We hold social and economic mobility as our North Star as we envision thriving communities where all people have hope and opportunities to realize their full potential. Wayne Metro improves human service outcomes through an INTEGRATIVE, WHOLE FAMILY approach that examines the root causes of poverty and customizes solutions to match the needs of people, families, and communities with a focus on Wayne County and the City of Detroit. We work in four impact areas—Equity & Inclusion, Family Success, Green & Healthy Homes, and Upward Mobility—to generate transformative change and overcome social injustices and structural race, gender, and economic inequities.

Wayne Metro utilizes the Empowerment Pathway, a client-centric service model, which addresses the 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 key programs and services WM currently offers include (in alphabetical order):

- Education (adult)
- Education (early childhood)
- Education (K-12)
- Financial products
- Financial/Housing Counseling & Education
- Food support
- Home repair
- Housing payment assistance (homeowner and rent)
- Income Tax Preparation
- Mortgage support
- Navigation and referrals (Connect Center)
- Participatory grantmaking
- Property Tax assistance
- Supportive housing (emergency, temporary and permanent supportive housing)
- Utility (energy and natural gas) assistance
- Water assistance
- Water conservation
- Weatherization
- Workforce development



The organizational departments these programs and services lie in, as well as the impact area addressed, is summarized in the following table.

Impact Area					
Organizational Department		Equity & Inclusion	Healthy Homes	Upward Mobility	Family Success
	Empowerment & Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navigation and referrals</li> <li>• Financial/ Housing counseling</li> <li>• Financial products</li> <li>• Case Management Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utility assistance</li> <li>• Water assistance</li> <li>• Housing payment assistance</li> <li>• Financial/ Housing counseling</li> <li>• Navigation and referrals</li> <li>• Case Management Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utility assistance</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Financial products</li> <li>• Financial/ Housing counseling</li> <li>• Housing payment assistance</li> <li>• Income Tax Preparation</li> <li>• Navigation and referrals</li> <li>• Case Management Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utility assistance</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Financial products</li> <li>• Financial/ Housing counseling</li> <li>• Navigation and referrals</li> <li>• Case Management Services</li> </ul>
	Green & Healthy Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory grantmaking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive housing</li> <li>• Housing payment assistance</li> <li>• Financial/ Housing counseling</li> <li>• Weatherization</li> <li>• Water conservation</li> <li>• Home repair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive housing</li> <li>• Participatory grantmaking</li> <li>• Housing payment assistance</li> <li>• Financial/ Housing counseling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive housing</li> <li>• Weatherization</li> <li>• Water conservation</li> <li>• Home Repair</li> <li>• Financial/ Housing counseling</li> </ul>
	Whole Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education (early childhood)</li> <li>• Education (K-12)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education (early childhood)</li> <li>• Education (K-12)</li> <li>• Food support</li> </ul>
	Innovative Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce development</li> <li>• Education (adult)</li> <li>• Financial Products</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce development</li> <li>• Education (adult)</li> <li>• Financial Products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce development</li> <li>• Education (adult)</li> <li>• Financial Products</li> </ul>



## SECTION 2: STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Wayne Metro generates feedback on the community needs of Wayne County in the critical areas of housing, transportation, education and employment from clients as well as community stakeholders. Through a client and community stakeholder engagement process, Wayne Metro provides opportunities to discuss pressing needs of the community and offer recommendations to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty. Qualitative data was collected through survey responses as well as feedback collected over time through the WM CONNECT Center.

### SURVEY

To gain insight from a broader group of Wayne Metro stakeholders, the organization fielded a survey regarding perceptions of the community's needs in February 2023. The digital survey yielded 2,850 respondents who worked and/or lived in Wayne County. Topics included in the survey were education, housing options, employment, income and asset building, transportation, civic engagement, and access to health and mental healthcare services. Respondents were able to choose the needs most important for their community and were given the opportunity to provide input on what other services were needed through an open-ended response.

61,736 needs were identified in the 2,850 survey responses. 78% of the respondents were from Detroit and the balance from Out-Wayne (communities within Wayne County outside of Detroit). 80% were African American. The aggregate age distribution was as follows:

18-34	8.0%
35-54	39.2%
55-64	32.2%
65+	20.6%

Educational backgrounds of the respondents were distributed as follows:

Less than grade 12	10.8%
High School or GED	30.2%
Some College (no degree)	30.7%
College Graduate	21.8%
Professional Certification	6.5%

The survey was broken down into 7 main categories: Health, Housing, Employment, Education, Civic Engagement, Transportation, and Other Supportive Services, as well as a final "overall" section. Surprisingly, the ranking of needs was the same whether in Detroit or Out-Wayne. The percentage distribution varied slightly, but the overall ranking generally remained the same across the two geographies.



Under Health, the primary needs identified were payment assistance programs for dental, hearing, and vision (15%), focus on preventative health care (11%), and access to affordable primary health care as well as affordable transportation (both 8%). Under Housing, affordable home ownership was the primary concern (19%) followed by home repair (17%) and rental assistance (16%). Under the Employment category, jobs with better pay and benefits (26%) were top of mind, followed by training for available jobs (17%) and affordable transportation (13%). Within Education, respondents wanted more parental involvement in children's education (20%), to increase the community's knowledge of available education resources (17%), and to see an increase in certificate or degree programs being offered locally (14%).

On Civic Engagement, respondents wanted more information on joining community groups (17%), an increase in leadership development activities (17%), as well as increased access to mentors and mentorship opportunities (15%). Within Income and Asset Building, key needs identified were low-interest loans (20%), knowledge of the availability of financial resources (19%) as well as knowledge to build assets (19%). When asked about Other Supportive Services, respondents identified legal services (14%), life skills programs (12%), and youth services (10%) as their top needs.

Overall, Civic Engagement (19%) topped their list of concerns, followed by Health (16%) and Housing and Other Supportive Services (14% each). It is clear people don't just want temporary solutions. They want to build their own future. They want to be involved. They want to join community groups. They want leadership skills and education access.

It is only natural that people will want basic housing, employment support. Housing, health and transportation always appear on most analysis. We also see a key need to develop civic engagement and empowerment services.

## WAYNE METRO CONNECT CENTER

Wayne Metro's CONNECT Center, 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 the CONNECT Center, at times, fields calls from outside Wayne County, the majority of incoming calls are from within Wayne County. Detroit, Westland, Pontiac, Taylor, and Dearborn residents represent the highest number of incoming callers from Wayne County. Water, utilities, and rental assistance make up the majority of service requests. While water and utility assistance remain in the top 3 requested services, the main change from the previous CNA review is an increase in the need for rental assistance. This was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## FY22 CONNECT Center Calls by Category

Call Reason	# of Calls	Percent
Water	44,714	36%
Utilities	22,016	18%
Rent	17,646	14%
Property Tax	13,643	11%
Other	11,094	9%
Home Repair	8,477	7%
Income Tax	6,486	5%
Total	124,076	



## SECTION 3: HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The information in the following assessment pertains to the population served by Wayne Metro's Head Start services, a subset of the wider community served by Wayne Metro.

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.

### 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 infants and toddlers until the child turns three years old or is ready to transition into Head Start. Both programs emphasize that parents are the child's first and most important teachers.

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is a state-funded program through the Michigan Department of Education that provides funding for high-quality preschool education for eligible four-year-old children. 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.

Starting in 1999, Wayne Metro began serving families and children through Head Start as a delegate under Wayne County, Michigan. In 2016, Wayne Metro became a direct grantee of HS/EHS funding in seven cities within Wayne County, Michigan. Three locations include blended Head Start/GSRP classrooms. Wayne Metro provides Head Start services through Project High Five, which falls under Wayne Metro Early Childhood Services.



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, birth through age five. The model includes:

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

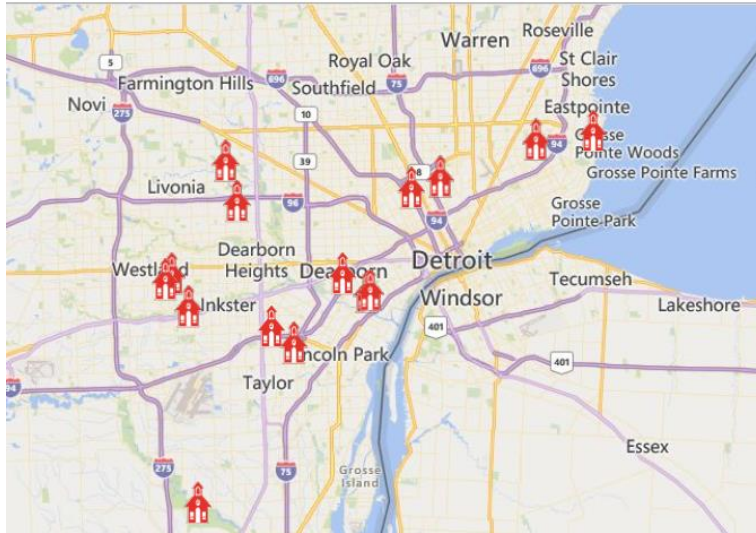
Wayne Metro's Early Childhood Services currently offers several Head Start and Early Head Start program options: Full Day Head Start, Full Day Early Head Start, Head Start –Double Session, and the Great Start Readiness Program.

In the most recently completed program year, 2021-2022, Wayne Metro served 1,148 children, including 950 children in the Head Start program and 198 children in the Early Head Start program.



## RECRUITMENT AREA

1,072 funded enrollment slots are distributed across twelve locations in the nine Out-Wayne communities served by Wayne Metro's Head Start program.<sup>5</sup> Wayne Metro early childhood sites are located in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Garden City, Grosse Pointe, Highland Park, Redford, Taylor, and Westland. Of these sites, Art Space, Dearborn Heights, Beck, Cortland, Garden City, Mitchell, Taylor, and Westland offer both HS and EHS services, while ACCESS, Harper Woods, and Grosse Pointe only offer HS services and Dearborn South only offers EHS. Additionally, St. Albert the Great, Shear, and BECK provide blended HS/GSRP services. We have also partnered with Sunnyside in the Huron School District to provide standalone GSRP programming to an additional 16 children.



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 five in the communities served by Wayne Metro Head Start is 33,889<sup>i</sup>. More than a third of these children (39.7%) 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 our Head Start Programs, on average for the past 5 years, 73% of parents of students in head start are in the labor force.

In the 2021-2022 program year, 62% of Wayne Metro's HS/EHS families had at least one working adult in their household. 56% of parents during this same year were single parents and 71.9% had a GED or higher.

<sup>5</sup> 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



## 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. The governing body 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. The governing body also works hand in hand with the Policy Council to make hiring decisions and provide strategic leadership for the program.

Wayne Metro established a Policy Council in the 2016-2017 program year when its status changed from delegate to grantee (a direct recipient of Head Start federal funding). The Policy Council is made up of 25 members comprising twenty-two parent representatives and three community representatives. Members must be annually elected and serve from December through November of the program year; no member serves more than five years over the course of a lifetime. Each program site elects Policy Council alternates based on the number of representatives. 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 Head Start and Early Head Start 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 the 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.



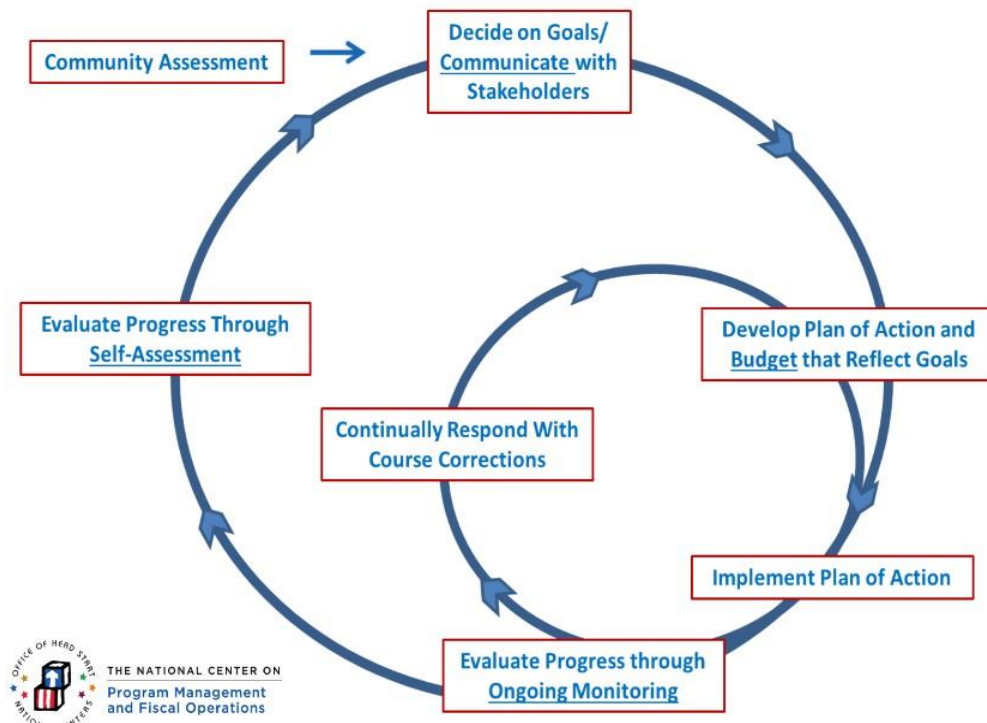
POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION BY PROGRAM SITE			
PROGRAM SITE	SLOTS	# OF REPRESENTATIVES	# OF ALTERNATES
ACCESS	34	1 HS representative	1 HS representative
Art Space	104	1EHS representative 1 HS representatives	1 EHS representative 1 HS representatives
Beck	120	1 EHS representative 1 HS representatives	1 EHS representative 1 HS representatives
Dearborn South	16	1 EHS representative	1 EHS representative
Schoolcraft Radcliff- Garden City	47	1 EHS representative 1 HS representative	1 EHS representative 1 HS representative
Ferry Grosse Pointe	16	1 HS representative	1 HS representative
Hamtramck	184	2 HS representatives 1 EHS representative	2 HS representatives 1 EHS representative
Harper Woods	34	1 HS representative	1 HS representative
Highland Park	75	1 EHS representative 1 HS representatives	1 EHS representative 1 HS representatives
Dearborn Heights	136	1 HS representative 1 EHS representative	1 HS representative 1 EHS representative
Taylor	46	1 HS representative 1 EHS representative	1 HS representative 1 EHS representative
Jefferson Barnes Westland/Wayne	48	1 HS representative 1 EHS representative	1 HS representative 1 EHS representative
Delegate	212	1 HS representative	1 HS Representative
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

## USE OF DATA

These governing bodies also review Program Information Report (PIR) data, Child Observation Report (COR) data, Classroom Assessment Scoring System (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.



## Program Planning in Head Start



### 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 from this assessment, with the most recent plan in place for 2020-2022. Part of this process also includes conducting a SWOT analysis, which is informed by surveying all agency staff, the Board of Directors, external stakeholders, and community members.

As a Head Start grantee, Wayne Metro undertakes Head Start-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, conduct strategic workshops to 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 the 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.<sup>ccclxviii</sup> The Wayne Metro HS program meets these requirements. All current classroom teachers in the HS program have a bachelor's degree or are in the progress of getting a degree in early childhood education, or a degree with similar coursework and early education teaching experience. 90% of 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 the 2022 Program Information Report (PIR), the Wayne Metro Head Start program had a classroom teacher and home-based visitor staff of 132. Of these staff, 3 had an advanced degree, 26 had a bachelor's degree, and 71 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, 2021-2022, the Wayne Metro Head Start program had a total staff of 249, including 63 staff who were current or former Head Start or Early Head Start parents. 117 of these staff were in non-supervisory child development positions, including 46 in infant and toddler classrooms (EHS), 85 in preschool classrooms (HS), and one Home-Based visitor.

The racial makeup of the Head Start and Early Head Start staff was 68 White, 49 Black or African American, 13 Asian, and 1 Bi-Racial/Multi-racial (2021-2022 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.

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The COVID-19 Pandemic changed the way that families engaged with the program. To keep staff and children healthy, families were no longer able to participate in volunteer efforts inside the center. Instead, families engaged more closely one on one with their children in both virtual whole group and individual activities. In addition, families were able to interact with families from across the county in multiple training courses. Policy Council and Parent Committee meetings were also moved to a virtual format. A significant portion of the Wayne Metro Head Start staff are also current or former Head Start parents. In the 2021-2022 program year, 63 (25.5%) 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%).<sup>ccclxix</sup>



## 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 a particular focus on 2020, 2021 and 2022 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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### PROGRAM CHANGES AND TRENDS

Wayne Metro's Head Start program has evolved over the past ten years, changing 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.
- 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.<sup>7</sup>
- With the addition of EHS services, Wayne Metro offered a home-based option beginning in 2017, as well as services for pregnant women.<sup>8</sup> In-center services were also offered for EHS participants in the full-day format.
- In 2019, Wayne Metro was awarded an additional 96 EHS slots and 336 HS slots, bringing the total enrollment to 1072 children including; 192 EHS children and 880 HS slots.
- Expanded programming to include a delegate program with the Wayne Westland School District, servicing 212 children during the 2022-2023 program year.

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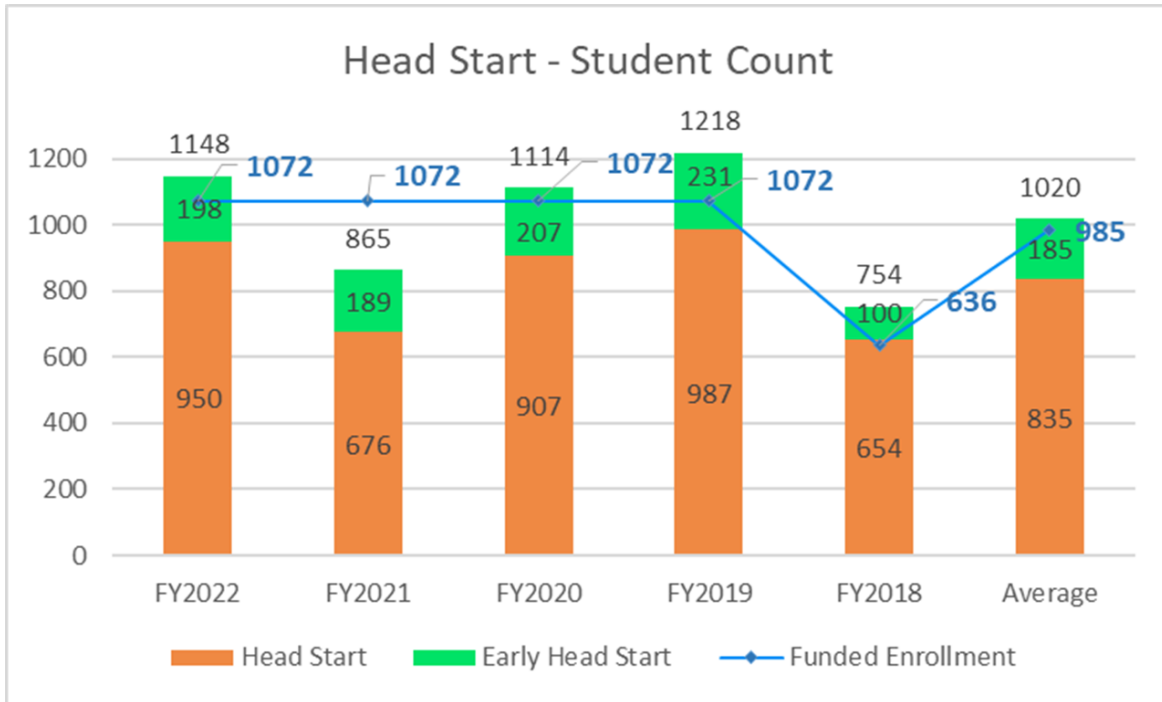
<sup>7</sup> Wayne Metro became a direct grantee in 2016, having previously been a delegate.

<sup>8</sup> 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 with the exception of FY21.

**Total Cumulative Enrollment in HS/EHS by Age**



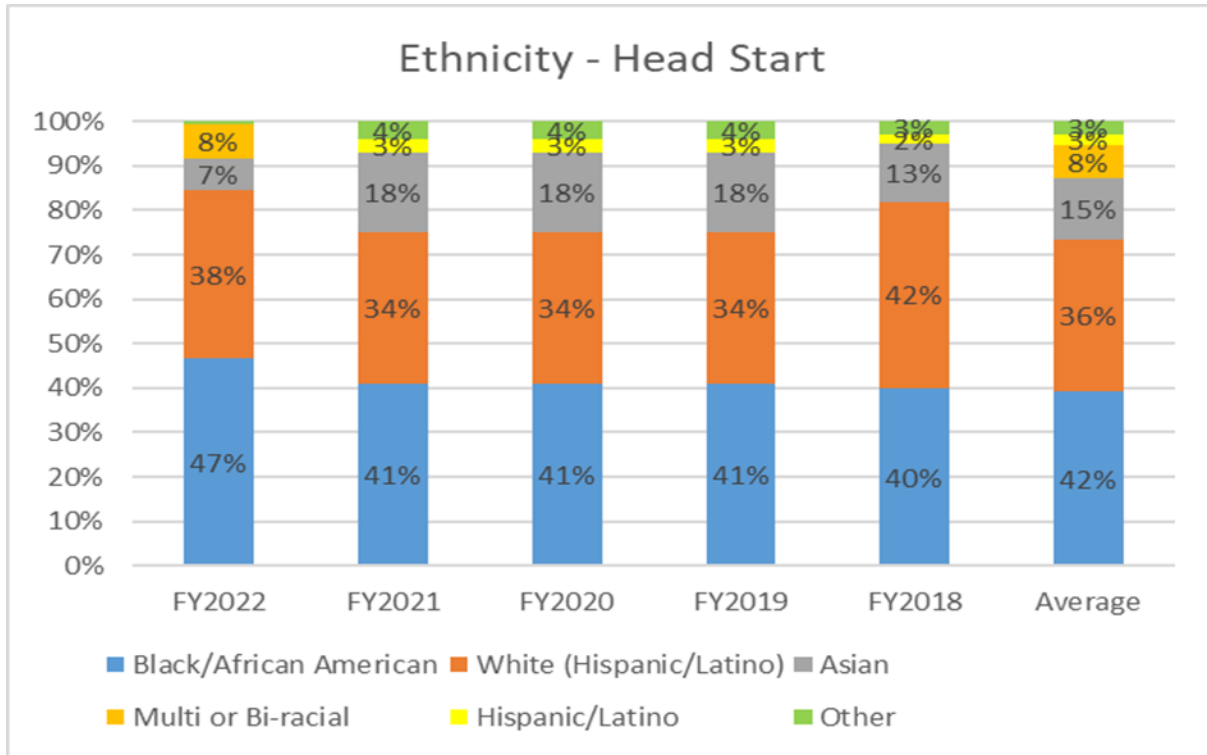
Source: Head Start Program Information Report (2009-2022) Funded Enrollment

Over the past ten years, Wayne Metro HS/EHS and GSRP/HS programming has primarily served children aged three to four. Prior to the addition of Early Head Start funding in 2016, the proportion of children’s ages had remained largely consistent, with a slight increase in the number of children aged two to three. Two-year-old children can only be served with Head Start funding if they turn three by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the enrollment year. Funding for Early Head Start began in the 2016-2017 program year, which allowed the program to serve children aged less than one year 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 (aged three and four) correspondingly decreased after the 2016-2017 program year. For the past five program years 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.”



**Race of HS/EHS Enrolled Children**

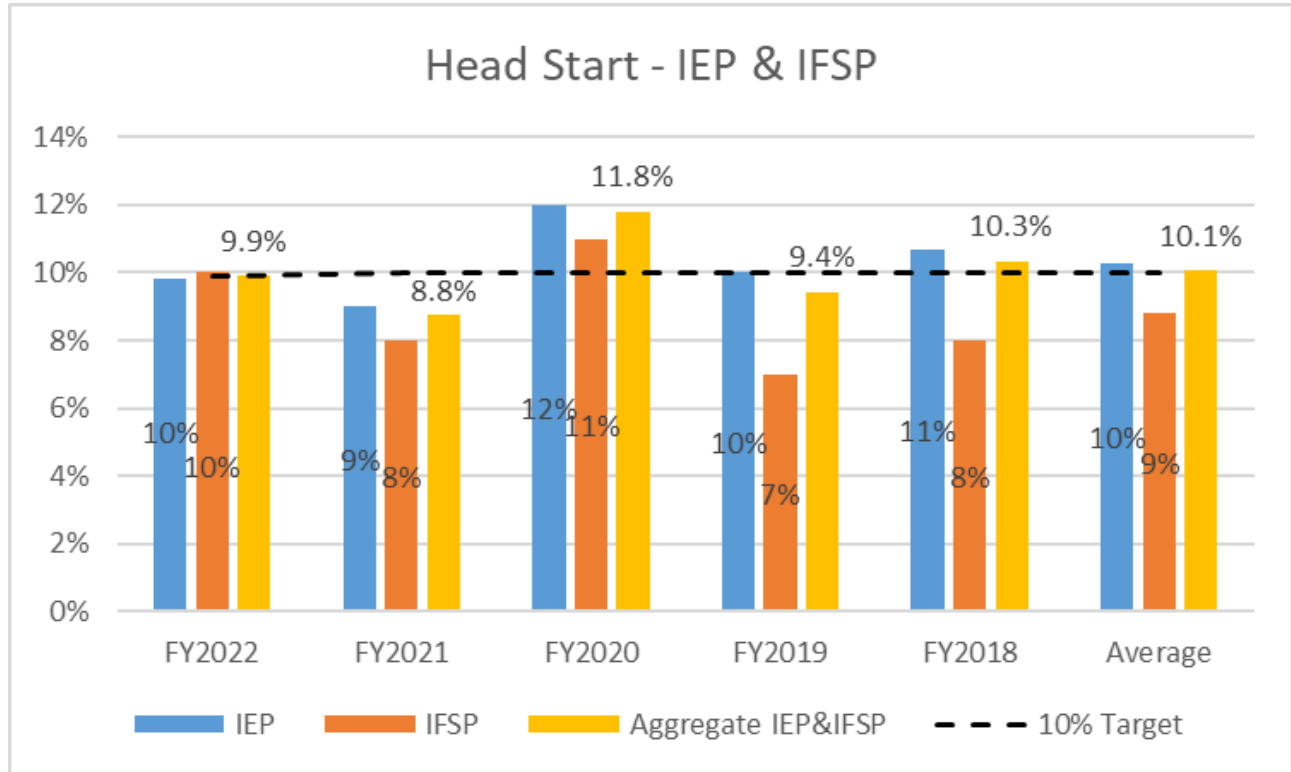


Source: Head Start Program Information Report (2009-2022)



## 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



Source: Head Start Program Information Report (2009-2022)

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.<sup>ccclxx</sup> The most common disability among these children was hearing difficulty. However, county-level disability data from the census only track 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, 10% of students had an IEP in place.

During the 2021-2022 school year 98 students were referred for evaluation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) during the program year. Of the students that were evaluated 35 of them were diagnosed with a disability. 33 students had speech or language impairments while 2 students were hearing impaired or deaf. Both of these categories were increased from last 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, 87% of HS students and 88% of EHS students' families fell below 100% of the federal poverty level in the 2021-22 school year. Less than half a percent of students in both HS and EHS identified as homeless or a foster child.

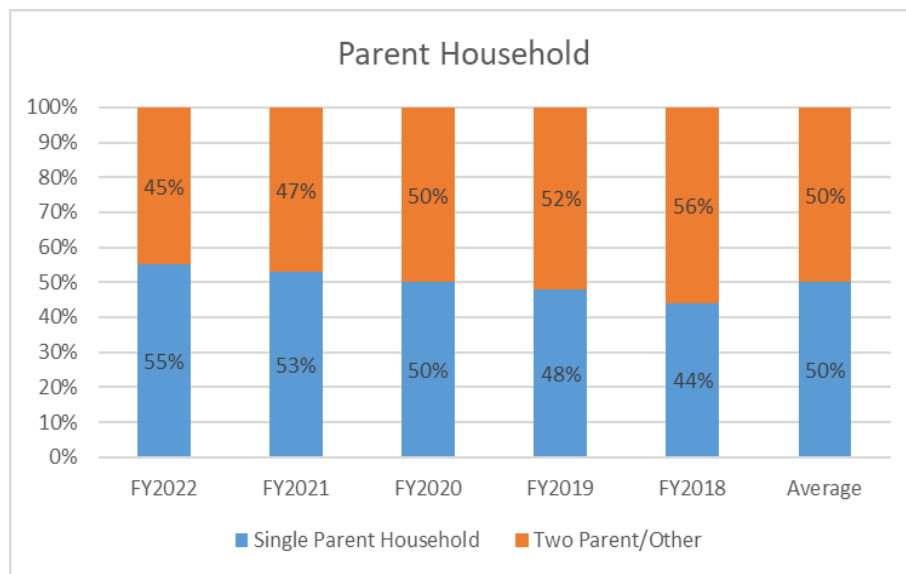


Over the last nine years, the primary eligibility for Wayne Metro's HS program has increasingly been based on family income level.

## 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 Child



In the 2021-2022 program year, more than 62% of families 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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 the professional development needs of teaching staff related to their teacher-child interactions and the specific needs of the program.

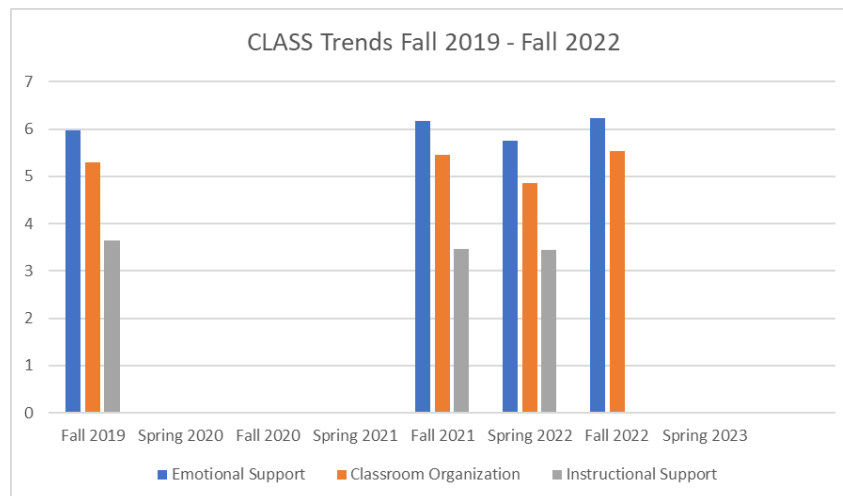
The Office of Head Start reviews grantee-level scores as part of monitoring program quality and determining the continuation of a Grantee's program status at the end of their five-year cycle. The minimum required scores for a Head Start program are four for Emotional Support, three for Classroom Organization, and two for Instructional Support.<sup>ccclxxi</sup>

Grantees with average CLASS® scores below the established competitive threshold on any of the three CLASS® domains is required to compete. The competitive thresholds are as follows:

- 5 for the Emotional Support domain.
- 5 for the Classroom Organization domain.
- 2.3 for the Instructional Support domain for CLASS® reviews conducted through July 31, 2025, and 2.5 for those conducted on or after Aug. 1, 2025.

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 the Fall 2018 assessment, performance increased in all areas in the subsequent Spring 2019 assessment. We did not have CLASS assessments in spring 2020 and the 2020-2021 PY because we were virtual due to Covid-19. The spring 2023 assessments have not taken place yet.





Source: Wayne Metro Head Start (2013-2022) *Class Domain Scores*

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 on-going assessment tool, COR Advantage. This tool is aligned with the framework set forth by the Office of Head Start, 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 level of development and seven being the latest level of development. Children are considered to be ready for kindergarten when they have an average score of 4 in all COR domains. Children are expected to have a minimum increase of 35% in knowledge and skills within a school year.

The 2020-2021 PY was virtual programming due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The COR assessment was modified to reflect items that would be observable through a virtual format, which affected the child outcomes scores. Additionally, teaching young children in a virtual format is challenging. Children need to learn in an environment where they are able to immerse themselves in experiences using all 5 senses. This is not possible through virtual programming. Our teaching staff provided the highest quality preschool experience possible given the challenges of a virtual learning environment.

The 2021-2022 PY returned to center-based programming, however, children and staff were affected by the yearlong quarantine. Staff had to get back into a consistent routine while maintaining safety and implanting additional Covid protocols. Children, after a year of isolation, started the program year with more challenges in the areas of language and social/emotional development than in previous years. The return to school after Covid-19 brought with it a set of new challenges that had to be met.



Average Increase in School Readiness Scores				
COR Category	2020-2021		2021-2022	
	Preschool (3-5)	Infant/Toddler (0-3)	Preschool (3-5)	Infant/Toddler (0-3)
<b>Approaches to Learning</b>	22.78%	31.21%	34.80%	38.97%
<b>Cognition and General Knowledge</b>	21.79%	28.73%	35.09%	40.96%
<b>Language and Literacy</b>	23.48%	28.64	31.56%	37.11%
<b>Perceptual, Motor, &amp; Physical Development</b>	20.89%	21.15%	34.29%	35%
<b>Social and Emotional</b>	24.75%	24.18%	35.07%	40.64%

Source: Wayne Metro Head Start Child Observation Reports (2016-2022) *Time Three Report*



## SECTION 4: 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. Federal poverty level (FPL) 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 **\$19,720** each year. A two-parent household with two children is considered “in poverty” if their income is less than **\$30,000**.<sup>1</sup>

The FPL 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. While we focus on poverty levels as defined by federal guidelines for various programs, we have to keep in mind that a living wage is very different. Once above the poverty level, individuals may still struggle to make ends meet depending on the local cost of living estimates. For example, per MIT’s living wage calculator, the living wage for an adult with one child in Wayne County is \$80,953, compared to the FPL of \$19,720. Further exploration of different types of poverty provides insight to this challenge.

Type	Description
Situational Poverty	Generally caused by a crisis or loss and is often temporary. Events causing situational poverty include environmental disasters, divorce, or severe health problems.
Generational Poverty	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.
Absolute Poverty	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.
Relative Poverty	Refers to the economic status of a family whose income is insufficient to meet its society's average standard of living.

Source: Jensen (2009) *Teaching with Poverty in Mind*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2023) *HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2019*. Accessed at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

<sup>2</sup> Jensen E. (2009.) *Teaching with Poverty in Mind*. Accessed at: <http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/109074/chapters/Understanding-the-Nature-of-Poverty.aspx>.<sup>com</sup> The Urban Institute (2019) *Understanding Poverty*. Accessed



## POVERTY IN WAYNE COUNTY

It is estimated that 344,282 of a total 1.7 million residents in poverty within Wayne County earn less than the poverty threshold. This equates to an estimated 20% of Wayne County's population living in poverty, which exceeds the national poverty level by 11.1 percentage points, and the state rate by 7.4 percentage points.<sup>3</sup> Decreasing trends in the poverty rate from 2017 (22.7%, 14.2%, and 13.4%, respectively, for Wayne County, State of Michigan and National) and 2010 (23.9%, 16.7% and 15.3%) are encouraging. The work of agencies like WM is having the intended impact!

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2010	Poverty Rate 2010	Persons in Poverty 2020	Poverty Rate 2020	Change in Poverty Rate 2010-2020
Wayne County, MI	429,408	23.9%	344,282	20.0%	-3.9%
Michigan	1,614,110	16.7%	1,232,948	12.6%	-4.1%
United States	46,215,956	15.3%	38,371,394	11.9%	-3.4%

Change in Poverty Rate  
2010-2020



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#). 2020. Source geography: County





<sup>3</sup> Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#). 2020. Source geography: County



## WHO DOES POVERTY IMPACT?

The degree of support needed and the most effective methods of assisting individuals in poverty depend largely on individual needs and specific circumstances; single mothers will face different challenges as compared to 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, medication, and basic housing. Alternative supports 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:	
 <p>52,293 individuals ages 18-64 with a disability</p>	 <p>129,785 individuals 18 and younger</p>
 <p>25,051 individuals ages 65 and over</p>	 <p>145,893 individuals ages 18-64 without a diagnosed disability</p>

Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) *Table C18130*



## By Neighborhood

Although Wayne County has the highest rate of poverty within the state of Michigan, the median income in the county is more than \$52,605, higher than 12 other counties.<sup>xxii</sup> 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 49.1%, and Highland Park has the second highest at 45.6%, but Garden City is at 10.3%. The chart below shows the 20 Wayne County communities with the highest poverty rates.

### Wayne County Cities with Highest Poverty Rates

City	Total	Poverty Rate
Hamtramck city, Michigan	21,173	49.10%
Highland Park city, Michigan	10,645	45.90%
River Rouge city, Michigan	7,536	40.10%
Detroit city, Michigan	665,126	36.40%
Ecorse city, Michigan	9,332	33.00%
Inkster city, Michigan	24,445	32.90%
Dearborn city, Michigan	94,675	28.30%
Melvindale city, Michigan	10,394	28.20%
Wayne city, Michigan	16,840	24.30%
Lincoln Park city, Michigan	36,749	20.10%
Dearborn Heights city, Michigan	55,510	19.20%
Romulus city, Michigan	23,257	18.40%
Taylor city, Michigan	60,638	18.10%
Westland city, Michigan	81,259	15.00%
Harper Woods city, Michigan	13,717	14.50%
Flat Rock city, Michigan	9,915	12.80%
Belleville city, Michigan	3,881	12.60%
Wyandotte city, Michigan	25,066	11.70%
Southgate city, Michigan	29,152	11.30%
Garden City city, Michigan	26,706	10.30%

American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age*. Table B17001.

## Poverty by Age and Race

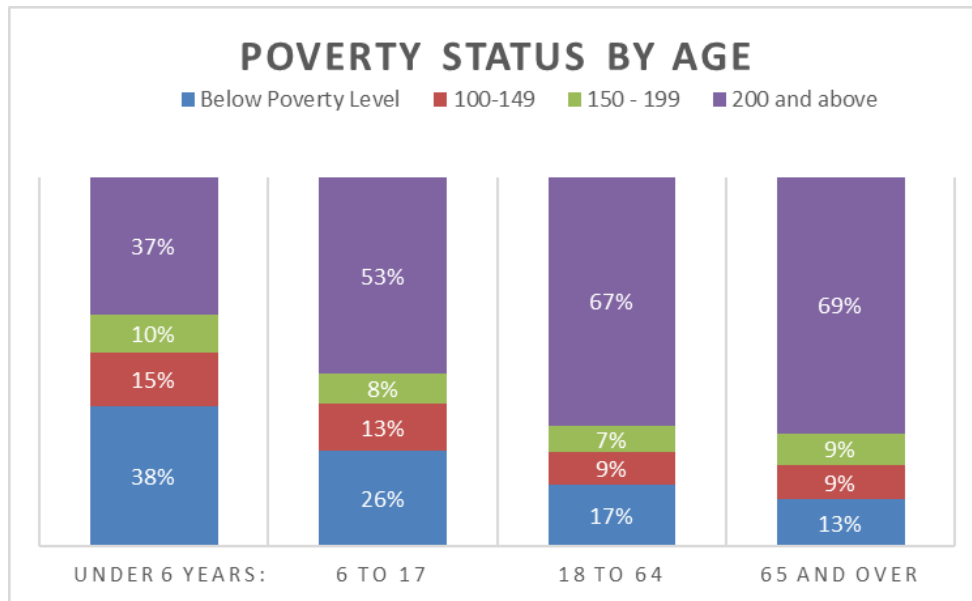
As stated above, poverty can impact nearly any individual. However, children and non-white individuals are two populations that are disproportionately likely to experience poverty.<sup>xxiii</sup> In Wayne County, 2 in 5 children under age six live below the poverty level (38%). Detroit has a higher percentage of children living in poverty (over 50%) than any other city in Michigan.<sup>4</sup>

Poverty remains one of the best predictors of negative 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.<sup>5</sup> Of the 343,551 citizens of Wayne County who live in poverty, more than a third (37%) are children under the age of 18.<sup>6</sup> Wayne County has the fifth-highest percentage of children living in poverty in Michigan.

<sup>5</sup> Kids Count in Michigan data book (2018) *Kids Count*.

<sup>6</sup> Kids Count in Michigan data book (2018) *Kids Count*.





Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age. Table B17001.

Across Michigan and the U.S., individuals identifying as White, or 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.



Source: Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2016-20.

## 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.<sup>xxvii</sup> 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.<sup>xxviii</sup>



- 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 166,494 males and 196,540 females living in poverty in Wayne County.



Source: Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2017-21 (Table B17001)

## 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 their family.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Living Wage Calculator 2022 estimates that a typical Wayne County family of one adult and one child spends about \$67,671 on an annual basis on food, childcare, medical, and other basic expenses—more than three times the poverty level wage. A single adult with no children in Wayne County will still fall short of the living wage by \$13,452 if they work full-time at minimum wage. If that individual is responsible for the care of a child, the gap between minimum and living wages grows to \$59,948. At just slightly above the poverty wage, the minimum wage fails to meet the needs of a typical Wayne County resident or family.

Hourly Wages	1 Adult	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 3 Children
Living Wage	\$16.27	\$38.92	\$73.93
Poverty Wage	\$6.53	\$8.80	\$13.34
Minimum Wage	\$10.10	\$10.10	\$10.10

Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator

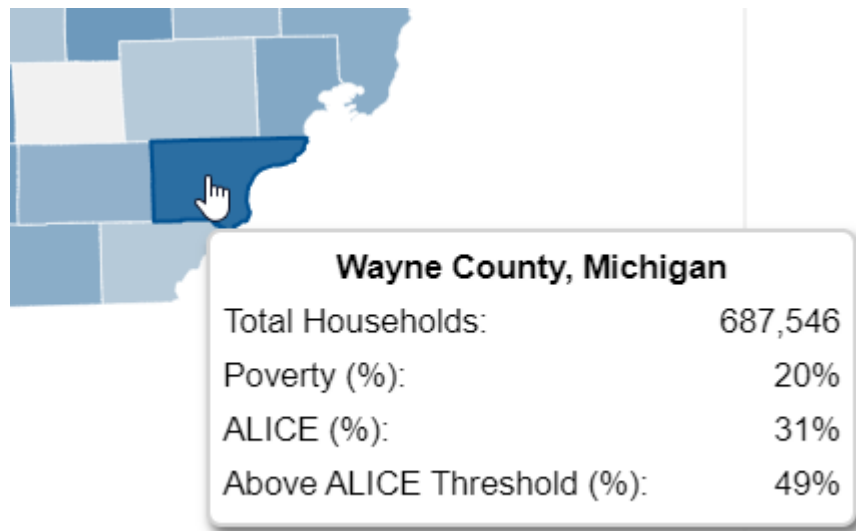
## ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

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 meet—also indicates that employment alone is not always enough for financial stability. For example, Wayne County is comprised of 687,546 households, and 31% of those households meet the ALICE threshold. Wayne County is ranked tenth

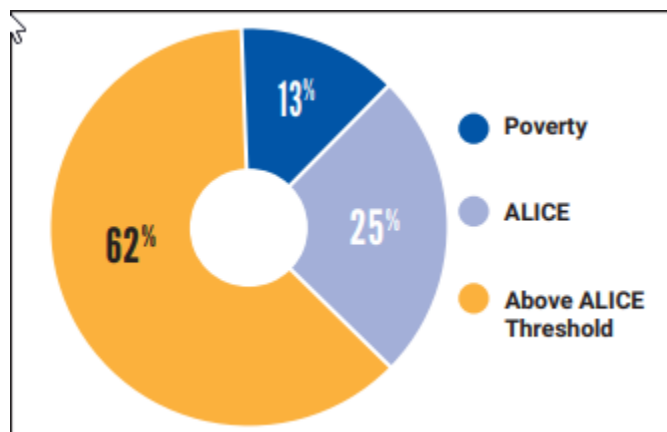


in highest number of households meeting the ALICE threshold in Michigan.

*United Way, Alice in Michigan: A financial Hardship Study, Michigan ALICE Report 2021*



### ALICE IN MICHIGAN: All Households, 2021



*Source: United Way, Alice in Michigan: A financial Hardship Study, Michigan ALICE Report 2021*

## 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 363,034 people living below the poverty line at the most recent estimate. 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 is proving 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 1,753,561 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,<sup>7</sup> speak languages other than English at home,<sup>8</sup> and have lower family and individual incomes.<sup>9</sup>

### POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Wayne County has not experienced a substantial population decrease over the past decade (approximately 27,000 individuals), however the city of Detroit lost 10% of its population within the same ten years. There appears to be a population transfer from Detroit to other cities in Wayne County. During this timeframe:

- Michigan total population increased by 1.96%
- Wayne County lost 1.48% of its population
- Out-Wayne increased its population by 4.3%.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Population changes from 2010-2020	2010 Population	2020 Population	Change in Population	Percent
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	22,263,994	7.13%
Michigan	9,883,642	10,077,331	193,689	1.96%
Wayne County	1,820,545	1,793,561	-26,984	-1.48%
Detroit	713,977	639,111	-74,866	-10.49%
Out-Wayne	1,106,568	1,154,450	47,882	4.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#). 2020.<sup>10</sup>

Between 2010 and 2020, while cities and townships in Wayne County saw population increases on average, Detroit lost over 10% of its population.<sup>11</sup>

In Wayne County, the number of children younger than age 5 dropped by 8,472 between 2010 and 2021, a 7% decrease.<sup>12</sup>

- Individuals between the ages of 18-64 decreased by only 4% between 2010 and 2021, suggesting that families with young children are most likely to relocate.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>7</sup> American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) *Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race*. Tables B02001 and B03002. and American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) *Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over*. Table B16001.

<sup>8</sup> American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) . Table B03002  
American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates). Table B016001.

<sup>9</sup> American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) . Table S2001  
American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates). Table B01003.

<sup>10</sup> Source: US Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#). 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Source: US Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#). 2020

<sup>12</sup> American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates

<sup>13</sup> American Community Survey, (2021 5-Year Estimates), Table S0101 and Table B01001.



## Population by Age and Gender

Wayne County's population is similar to the state and the nation as a whole in gender and age. Fewer than half of Wayne County's population is male (48.5%), and slightly more than half is female (51.5%).<sup>xli</sup>

- Additionally, one in four Wayne County residents is younger than age 18 (23.68%) and 16.23% of Wayne County residents are older than 65.<sup>xlii</sup>

Population by Age Group in Wayne County	Population	Percent of Population
0-4	112,557	6.34%
5-17	307,726	17.34%
18-24	147,106	8.29%
25-64	919,397	51.8%
65+	288,030	16.23%

Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) *Own Children Under 18 Years by Family Type and Age*. Table B09002.

In Wayne County, approximately 6.3% of the overall population is under 5-years-old.<sup>xliii</sup>

- 26.8% of the total youth population is under 5 years old in Wayne County.<sup>xliv</sup>

## 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.<sup>xlv</sup>

- Just over half of the population in Wayne County is White (52.3%), and nearly two-fifths of the population is Black (38.32%).<sup>xlvii</sup>

Report Area	White		Black	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Detroit	14.39%		77.06%	1.88%	0.41%	3.82%	2.43%
Wayne	52.33%		38.32%	3.42%	0.34%	2.26%	3.30%
Michigan	77.56%		13.64%	3.18%	0.50%	1.32%	3.77%
United States	70.42%		12.62%	5.64%	0.82%	5.14%	5.17%

More than 95,000 Wayne County residents report having Arab ancestry.<sup>xlix</sup> This ranks fifth among ancestral groups, surpassed by German, Polish, Irish, English, and American ancestry. Of those reporting Arab ancestry, 51% are male, 37.3% are under 18, and 85.7% are U.S. citizens (whether native or naturalized).<sup>i</sup>

Michigan is one of the most common places of settlement for refugees coming to the United States,<sup>iv</sup> and Wayne County is home to an estimated 144,247 individuals born outside of the United States. Among these individuals, Mexico, Lebanon, Yemen, and India are the most common places of birth.



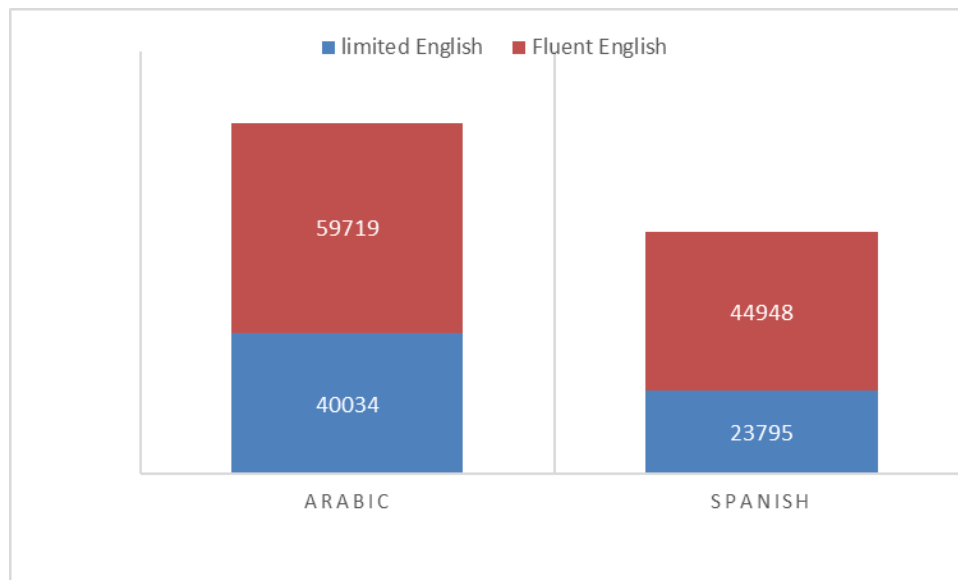
<b>Ten Most Common Places of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population of Wayne County: 2021</b>	
Mexico	19,998
Lebanon	19,407
Yemen	18,172
India	15,302
Bangladesh	9,385
Iraq	8,926
Canada	6,373
China	4,795
Pakistan	4,264
Philippines	3,500

Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-year-estimates) Table B05006

Among residents in Wayne County speaking a language other than English at home, Arabic is the most commonly spoken, closely followed by Spanish. Over 95,000 residents of Wayne County speak Arabic at home, and over 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.<sup>lvii</sup>

- Just about a sixth (15.3%) of 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. <sup>lviii</sup>

#### Wayne County Residents Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home



Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Table B16001



## Aging Trends

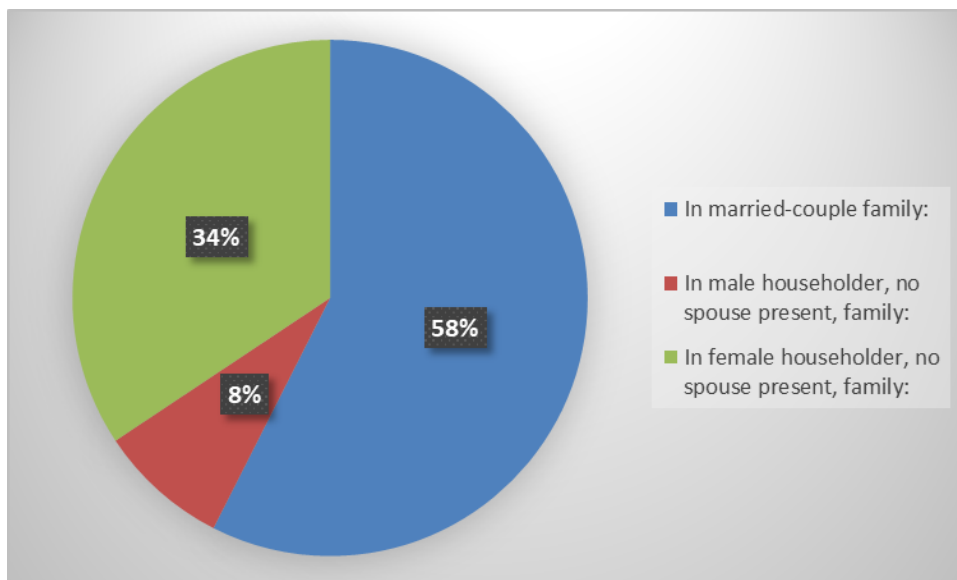
Nationally, the population of older adults is expected to grow significantly as Baby Boomers age. Between 2012 and 2050, the population over the age of 65 is expected to almost double, from 43.1 million in 2012, to 83.7 million in 2050. Wayne County is similarly projected to see growth in the number and percentage of older adults residing within its borders. During the ten-year span of 2016 – 2026, the population of Wayne County is projected to decrease by 4%. However, during this same period, the population aged 60 and over is expected to grow by 16%.<sup>lix</sup>

## 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.<sup>lxi</sup>

- More than half of households in Wayne County are family households (60.1%).<sup>lxii</sup>
- Among families in Wayne County, 29.3% have children under the age of 18 in the home.<sup>lxiii</sup>
- Of all children in Wayne County, 42.5% live in a two-parent household. More than one-third (34.3%) of children live in a female-relative household, and 8% live in a male-relative household.<sup>lxv</sup> The graph below is a breakdown of age groups within each family type.
- Of the children that live in a male-relative household, less than one in six (15.8%) are under 3 years old, and more than one-third (37.3%) are 12 to 17 years old.

**Family Situation for Children Under 18 in Wayne County Households**



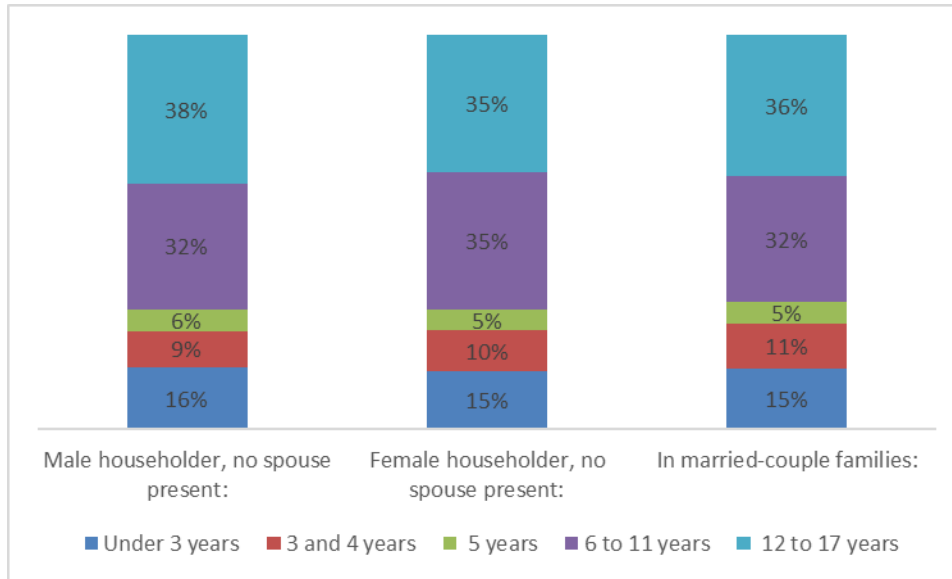
Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates)<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates)



- 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.<sup>lxvi</sup>

**Age of Children by Family Type in Wayne County**



Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Table B09002

Many households throughout Wayne County and Detroit have multiple generations of individuals living together. In Wayne County, 39,514 grandparents live with grandchildren who are younger than age 18.

In nearly half of these households, the grandparent is directly responsible for the grandchild (44%).<sup>lxvii</sup> Although grandparents often are willing to care for the children in their families, they may need additional financial assistance or other support,<sup>lxviii</sup> especially in cases where the child has been a victim of maltreatment.<sup>lxix</sup>



## POPULATIONS WITH UNIQUE SERVICE NEEDS

### Veterans

Wayne County is home to 86,201 veterans, just over half of whom are aged 65 years and older (52%).<sup>lxx</sup> Veterans in Wayne County experience lower levels of poverty yet 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.<sup>lxxi</sup>

- 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.<sup>lxxii</sup>

Number of Veterans Serving in Wars: Wayne County		
Period Served	Total Veterans	Percentage of Veterans
Vietnam Era, no Korean War, no World War II	24,553	37.01%
Between Gulf War and Vietnam Era only	11,337	17.09%
Gulf War (9/2001 or later), no Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	9,056	13.65%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	8,654	13.04%
Between Vietnam Era and Korean War only	5,992	9.03%
*Numbers do not add to 100% because of veterans serving in multiple periods		

Source: American Community Survey (2021 5 Year Estimates) *Table B21002*

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.<sup>lxxiii</sup>

### 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.<sup>lxxiv</sup> National, state, and local child maltreatment agencies receive nearly six referrals each minute.<sup>lxxv</sup>

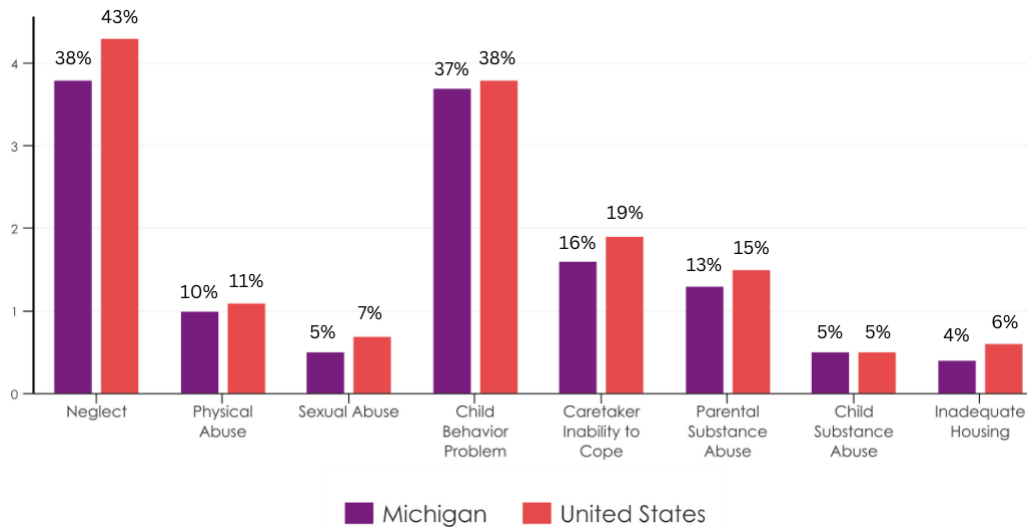
The preservation of family and community ties is essential to a child's feeling of safety, well-being, and sense of belonging. However, when a child is considered to be unsafe in his or her home, the child may be removed.

- In 2022, there were approximately 10,000 foster care youth in Michigan; 3,000 are waiting for permanent placements.
- Youth of color are disproportionately represented in foster care throughout the state. African American youth comprise only 16% of the overall population but makeup nearly 30% of the foster care system.<sup>lxxvii</sup>
- Youth in foster care need a permanent home as soon as possible.<sup>lxxviii</sup> As of December 31, 2017, 24% of children in foster care have been in out-of-home placements for 24 months or more,<sup>lxxix</sup> compared to the United States as a whole at 15%.<sup>lxxx</sup>



There are several reasons a child enters the foster care system.<sup>lxxxix</sup> Across the United States, 43% of cases are from neglect. In Michigan, neglect accounts for 38% of cases. Other reasons include abuse, inadequate housing, and parental issues.<sup>lxxxii</sup>

### Primary Reasons Youth Enter the Foster Care System



Source: Child Trends (2017) *Transition-Age Youth in Foster Care in Michigan*

Within the current foster care system's living arrangements in Michigan, 30% of children are placed with relatives.<sup>lxxxiii</sup> 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.<sup>lxxxiv</sup>

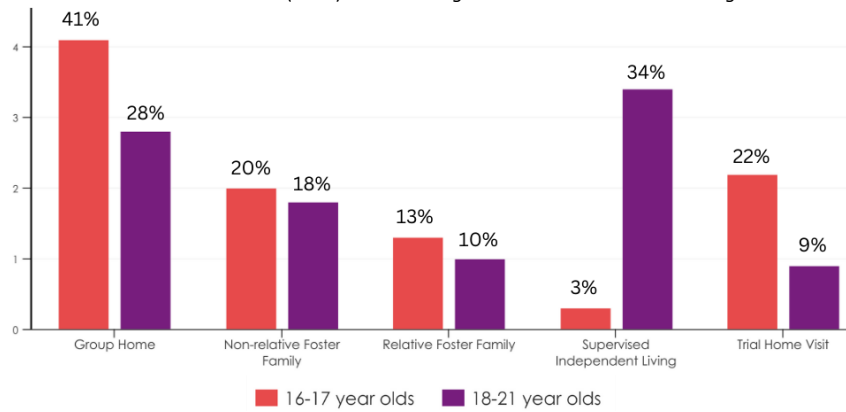
Foster youth may have difficulties transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. Transition-age foster youth (ages of 14- to 21-years-old) have higher risks of living in poverty, experiencing homelessness, or having or mental or physical health issues.<sup>lxxxv</sup>

- There were 3,639 transition-age youth living in Michigan.<sup>lxxxvi</sup>
- 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.<sup>lxxxvii</sup>
- Nearly 50% of transition-age youth age out of the system (emancipation).<sup>lxxxviii</sup>
- Common placements for transition-age youth include group homes and independent living.<sup>lxxxix</sup>



### Placement Settings for Transition-Age Youth in Foster Care: Michigan

Source: Child Trends (2017) *Transition-Age Youth in Foster Care in Michigan*



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 the 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.<sup>xcv</sup>

In 2019, Michigan quietly embraced unlicensed kinship caregivers by offering a subsidy to all relatives caring for children in foster care, regardless of whether they are licensed or not<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> <https://imprintnews.org/child-welfare-2/michigan-quietly-embraces-unlicensed-kinship-caregivers/33653#:~:text=Starting%20on%20April%201%2C%202019%2C%20the%20state%20will,children%20and%20stabilize%20kinship%20placements%20after%20they%20happen.>



### 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, “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.<sup>cvii</sup>

- 19.23% of the overall adult population in Michigan reported having a disability.<sup>cviii</sup>
- Disabilities are equal among male and female populations at (14%)..<sup>cix</sup>
- 33.83% of individuals with a disability are 65+ years.<sup>cx</sup>

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.<sup>cxii</sup>

- In 2021, 5.7% of the population under five years old had a disability in Detroit. This is higher than the state-wide prevalence for this age group, at 4.8%.<sup>cxii</sup>
- Among the Wayne County population, “ambulatory difficulty”, “Independent living difficulty” and “cognitive difficulty” were all much more prevalent at rates of 8.3%, 7.6% and 6.2%, respectively.
- Among adults, “ambulatory difficulty” was the most common type of disability, affecting 5.3% of the population aged 18 to 64, and 16.1% of the population over 65.<sup>cxiii</sup>



## ECONOMICS

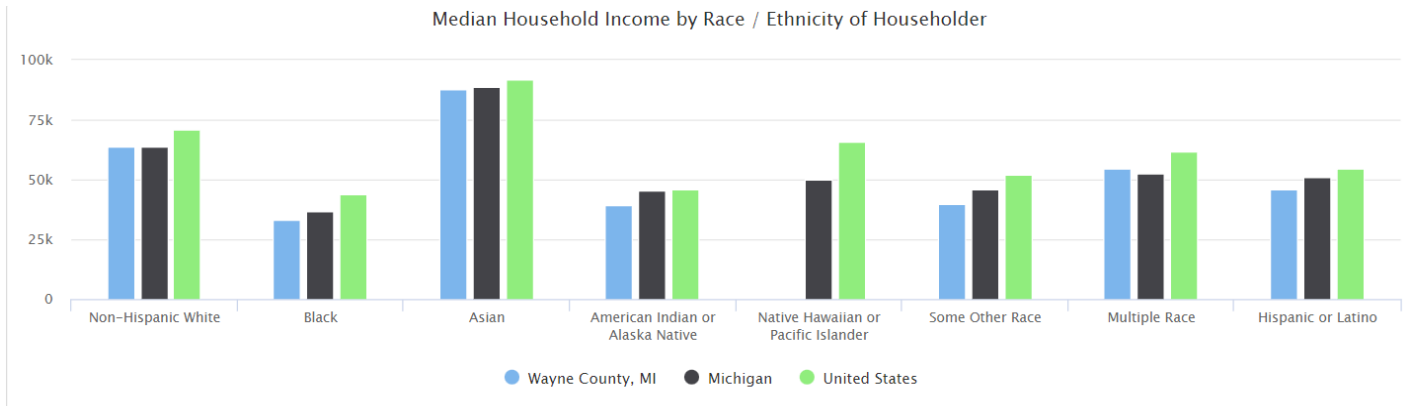
Although Michigan is the 5<sup>th</sup> most affordable state to live in nationally,<sup>cxiv</sup> many Wayne County residents are unable to find work or are working full-time and struggle to pay for necessities. Approximately 34% of working individuals in Wayne County make less than \$35,000.<sup>cxv</sup> Additionally, 57,456 adults in Wayne County worked full-time in 2017, but still had incomes below the poverty level.<sup>cxvi</sup>

- In 2021, the median household income for Wayne County was \$52,830. This is lower than the statewide median of \$63,202.<sup>cxvii</sup>
- Detroit's median household income is almost 50% lower than Michigan's, at \$34,762.<sup>cxviii</sup>

Just over half (52.3%) of the adult working-age population (16 to 64) in Wayne County worked 50 to 52 weeks in the past year. 29.3% 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.<sup>cxix</sup>

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.<sup>cxx</sup>



Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2017-21.



## 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 270,733 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 \$52,830.<sup>cxxi</sup>

Top Occupational Sectors by Number of Jobs in Wayne County 2022		
Occupation	Number of Jobs	Median Annual Wage
Management, business, science, and arts	270,733	\$61,738
Sales and office	146,525	\$ 33,758
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	140,227	\$ 34,312
Service	126,251	\$ 20,235
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	50,695	\$ 41,493

Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Tables S2406 and S2411

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.<sup>cxxiii</sup> 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.<sup>cxxiv</sup>

Earnings are also not evenly distributed across the county, as seen in the median annual incomes of cities and towns within Wayne County. Inkster, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Hamtramck, Highland Park, River Rouge, Wayne 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 \$97,574.<sup>cxxv</sup>



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.

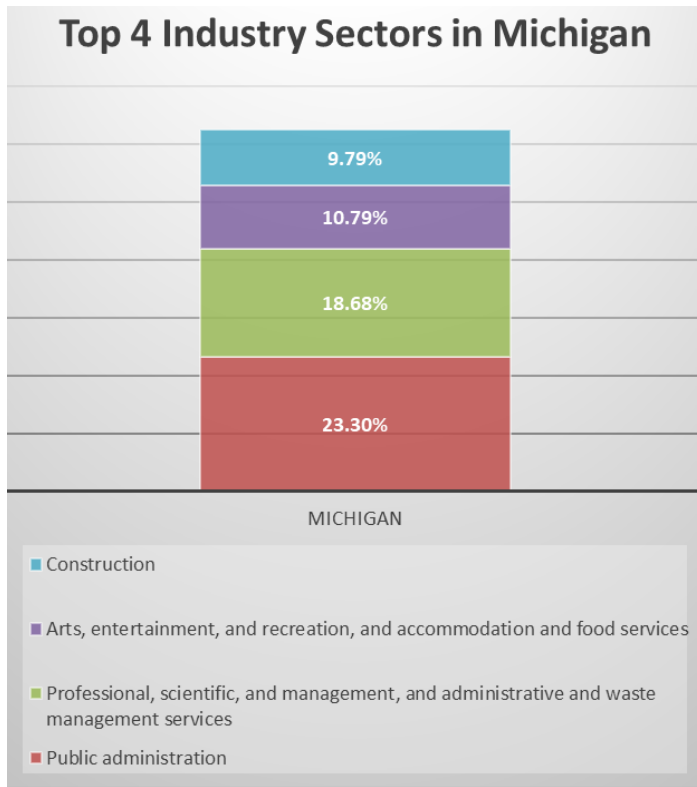
CXXVI

WAYNE COUNTY INDUSTRY TYPE BY NUMBER OF JOBS AND MEDIAN INCOME		
Industry	Number of Jobs	Median Income
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	174,685	\$42,404.00
Manufacturing	135,460	\$51,585.00
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	80,734	\$54,097.00
Retail trade	78,328	\$26,757.00
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	72,995	\$19,649.00
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	50,557	\$47,132.00
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	45,912	\$58,868.00
Other services, except public administration	32,861	\$29,481.00
Construction	32,615	\$44,287.00
Public administration	24,970	\$61,644.00
Wholesale trade	17,383	\$51,301.00
Information	9,986	\$61,268.00
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	2,171	\$39,787.00

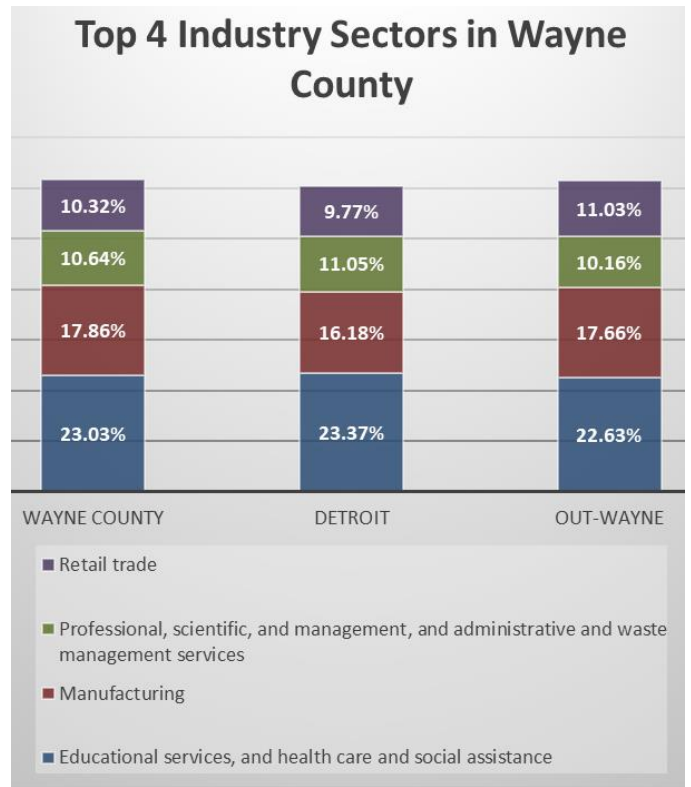
Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Tables S2413 and S2405



Across the state of Michigan, the top industry sector is public administration at 23.30%. Educational services, health care, and social assistance lead the way in Wayne county, Detroit, and Out-Wayne.



Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Table S2405



Source: American Community Survey (2021 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.<sup>cxxviii</sup>

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.

### Largest Southeast Michigan Employers

Company	City	Full-Time Employees in SE MI (July 2021)
Ford Motor Co.	Dearborn	47,750
Stellantis NV	Auburn Hills	37,761
University of Michigan	Ann Arbor	35,185
General Motors Co.	Detroit	33,935
Beaumont Health	Southfield	24,668
U.S. Government	Detroit	19,953
Rocket Companies Inc.	Detroit	18,000
Henry Ford Health System	Detroit	17,875
Trinity Health Michigan	Canton	12,991
Ascension Michigan	Warren	12,452

Source: Crain's Detroit Business, 2022



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 2015, computer occupation jobs have increased by 59%.<sup>cxxix</sup>

Top 5 Fastest Growing Occupations in Wayne County, 2015-2020				
Occupation	2015 Jobs	2020 Jobs	Change	% Change
Computer Occupations, All Other	4,587	7,311	2,724	59%
Information Security Analysts	944	1,166	222	24%
Software Developers, Applications	18,387	22,697	4,310	23%
Graphic Designers	2,828	3,148	320	11%
Computer Systems Analysts	10,897	11,335	438	4%

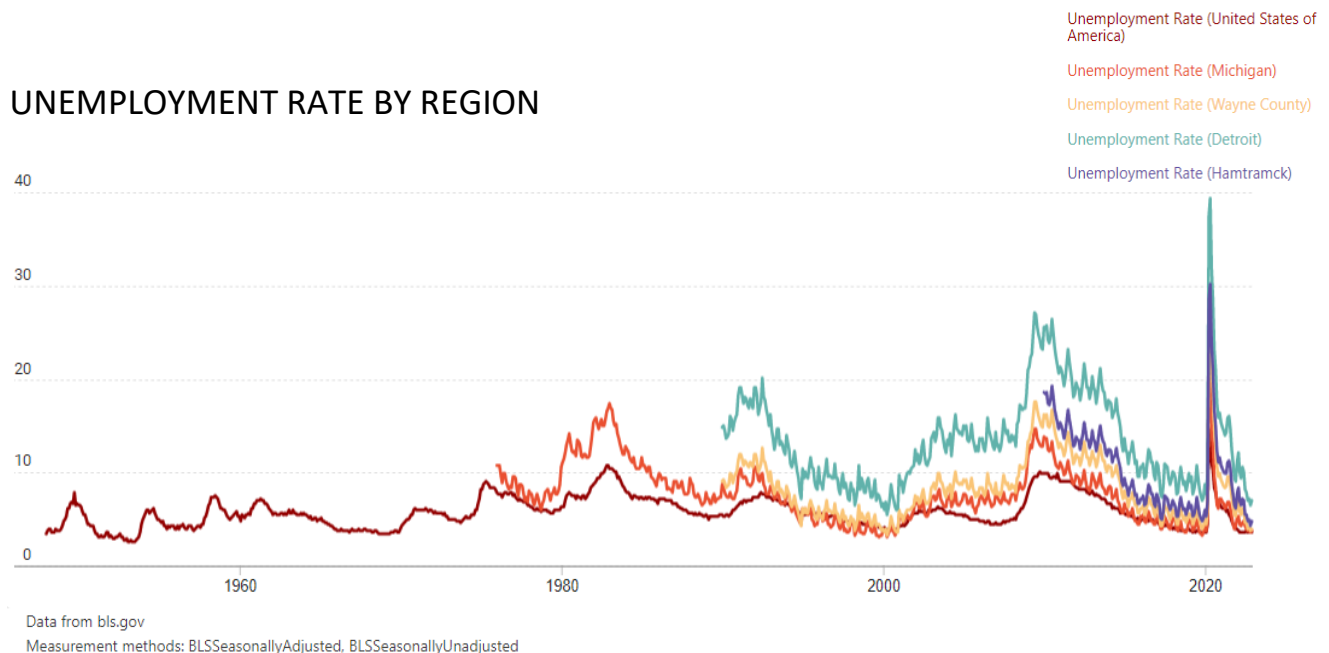
## LABOR FORCE

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%.<sup>cxxxiv</sup>

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.<sup>cxxxv</sup>

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

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY REGION





Since the peak of 2019, the level of unemployment has generally been decreasing except for an uptick in 2020--most likely due to the pandemic. In 2022, Wayne County's unemployment rate was 4.2%. Detroit followed a similar path reaching a high of almost 40%, but has now decreased to 7%<sup>16</sup>. In Michigan, the unemployment rate reached a high of 21.8% in 2020, but has recently dipped to 3.8%, still higher than the national rate of 3.5 %.<sup>CXXXVI</sup>

Wayne County's unemployment rate (5%) 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 work, 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.<sup>CX</sup>

Wayne County Unemployment Rates		
Rank	City/Township	Unemployment Rate
1	Highland Park city	20%
2	River Rouge city	18%
3	Detroit city	15%
4	Hamtramck city	13%
5	Melvindale city	12%
6	Ecorse city	11%
7	Inkster city	11%
8	Wayne city	11%
9	Romulus city	9%
10	Wayne County	5%

Source: American Community Survey (2021 1- year estimates) Table B23025

## TEEN LABOR FORCE

In Wayne County, 37.2% 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. Idle teens are teenagers (ages 16-19) that are not in the labor force and not enrolled in school. In Wayne County, 10.58% of teenagers are considered idle teens.

### Youth Not Working and Not in School

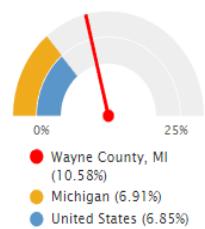
This indicator reports the percentage of youth age 16-19 who are not currently enrolled in school and who are not employed. The report area has a total population of 90,346 between the ages, of which 9,560 are not in school and not employed.

Report Area	Population Age 16-19	Population Age 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed	Population Age 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed, Percent
Wayne County, MI	90,346	9,560	10.58%
Michigan	530,637	36,688	6.91%
United States	17,360,900	1,189,520	6.85%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract → [Show more details](#)

Population Age 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed, Percent



<sup>16</sup> source: Datacommons.org



## 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.<sup>cxlv</sup> 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.

Due to low and volatile incomes and disproportionately high costs, tens of thousands of Detroit households cannot maintain consistently positive cash flow, which makes it challenging to build savings, protect assets, or for some, maintain access to a bank account. Without sufficient savings, many households accrue unmanageable debt and have low credit scores. Together, these conditions make the average Detroiter vulnerable to financial shocks and drive experiences of significant hardship, often above what people in peer Rust Belt cities experience. The COVID-19 pandemic is a financial shock experienced at massive scale, and will make it even more difficult for the average Detroit household to make ends meet<sup>17</sup>.

- Just over half of Detroit residents are either financially insecure (32%) or in financial trouble (24%) (DMACS, 2019).
- Compared with the largest cities in each state, Detroit has the second highest effective property tax rate in the nation (Lincoln Land Institute, 2015).
- Detroit’s aging infrastructure and population decline has contributed to unaffordable water prices, which have doubled over the last eight years (Zamudia & Craft, 2019; Rockowitz et al., 2018).
- Auto insurance premiums average 18% of the median income in Detroit, a much higher rate than in peer cities (Cooney et al., 2019). An estimated 60% of Detroit drivers stopped by police do not have insurance (Reindl, 2017).
- 19% of Detroit households – or an estimated 50,000 – report that they do not have enough money to make ends meet, while 37% say they have just enough (DMACS, 2019)
- 66% of Detroiters have some form of debt in collections, including credit card debt, medical debt, and government fines and fees. This figure puts Detroit ahead of the nation (35%), the metro area (31%), and even other peer cities (42%) (Elliott et al., 2016).

<sup>17</sup> [https://poverty.umich.edu/files/2020/08/Financial-Wellbeing-of-Detroiters\\_82020.pdf](https://poverty.umich.edu/files/2020/08/Financial-Wellbeing-of-Detroiters_82020.pdf)



- 20% of residents earning less than \$30,000 reported borrowing more money due to the crisis (DMACS, 2020).

### Financial Health in Detroit, By the Numbers <sup>2</sup>

	Detroit	Cleveland <sup>3</sup>	National
CASH FLOW	Median household income	\$31,283	\$29,953
	Households without bank accounts, 2017	18.5%	17%
	Average annual car insurance premium	\$5,414	\$1,277
	Median annual electricity costs, 2017	\$1,800	\$840
SAVINGS AND ASSETS	Households without enough savings to cover 3 months of basic expenses, 2014	61.5%	58.6%
	Median home sale price, 2018	\$35,000	\$47,500
	Available weeks, state unemployment insurance <sup>4</sup>	20 weeks	26 weeks
DEBT AND CREDIT	Residential tax foreclosures, 2012	18,000	961
	Residents with subprime credit	62%	45%
	Residents who filed for bankruptcy without a lawyer, 2008-2015	18.8%	5.9%

<sup>2</sup> Sources: ACS 2018 1 Year Estimates; Prosperity Now, 2018a; Cooney & Rivera, 2019; Ruggles et al., 2019; Prosperity Now, 2018d; Realcomp, 2018; Exner, 2019; MLPP, 2018; Akers & Seymour, 2019; Northeast Ohio Community and Neighborhood Data for Organizing, n.d.; Elliott et al.; Author analysis of ProPublica data, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Cleveland has a similar median income and poverty rate to Detroit, yet Detroit residents confront dramatically different financial realities, including high auto insurance and limited access to credit.

<sup>4</sup> The federal CARES Act extends state unemployment insurance to 26 weeks, but only until December 31, 2020.

Source: University of Michigan Poverty Solutions, 2020, The Financial Well-Being of Detroit Residents<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Source: University of Michigan Poverty Solutions, The Financial Well-Being of Detroit Residents, 2020



## TRANSPORTATION

Owning a vehicle is important for Wayne County workers. Almost 70% of Wayne County workers drive to work alone, and another 7.8% carpool to work. Very few people in the county rely on public transportation to get to work (2%).<sup>clii</sup> A 2021 ballot measure intended to improve public transportation service and to better connect communities in the southeast Michigan region was rejected by voters.<sup>cliii</sup> The chart below provides information about Wayne County residents' means of transportation to work.<sup>cliv</sup>

Means of Transportation to Work for Workers 16 and Over by Race: Wayne County, 2022	White	African American	All
Car, truck, or van - drove alone	72.0%	66.4%	68.9%
Car, truck, or van - carpooled	6.6%	8.2%	7.8%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	0.3%	5.1%	2.0%
Walked	1.2%	1.7%	1.5%
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	1.1%	3.0%	1.6%
Worked from home	18.8%	15.5%	18.3%

Source: American Community Survey Tables, 2021, B08105A and B08105B

- Approximately 10.8% of Wayne County households and 19.1% of Detroit households do not own a vehicle.<sup>clv</sup>
- Black workers are more likely to use public transportation to travel to work (5.1%) than their White peers (0.3%). 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.<sup>clvi</sup><sup>19</sup>
- Average travel time is 25 minutes in both Wayne county and Detroit.

Thanks to recent insurance reform, Michigan is now the 6<sup>th</sup> most expensive state for car insurance (previously was the most expensive). In 2023, a Michigan car insurance policy averages \$2,133, 27% greater than the National Average, however, it is notable that the 3 year change has been a 28% decrease in cost, due to the reforms.<sup>clviii</sup>

- While the statewide average is \$2,133<sup>clix</sup> the median car insurance cost for zip codes in Wayne County is even higher at \$2,658.<sup>clx</sup><sup>20</sup>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.insure.com/car-insurance/car-insurance-rates.html#:~:text=Florida%20is%20the%20most%20expensive,to%20an%20Insure.com%20analysis>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.zimlon.com/mi-car-insurance-ca29633/#rates>



## 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.<sup>clxi</sup> Within Michigan, there are more than 4,500,000 housing units throughout the state.<sup>clxii</sup>

### 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.<sup>clxiii</sup>

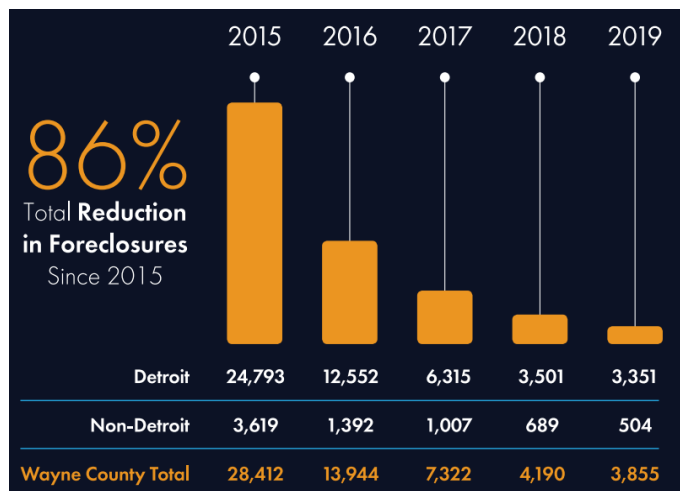
### Foreclosures

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,<sup>clxiv</sup> personal financial stress, and housing instability, as well as community level impacts such as neighborhood decline, and increased crime.<sup>clxv</sup>

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.<sup>clxvi</sup>

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

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.



Source: Wayne County Treasurer's Office,  
2016-2019, Progress Report



## Evictions

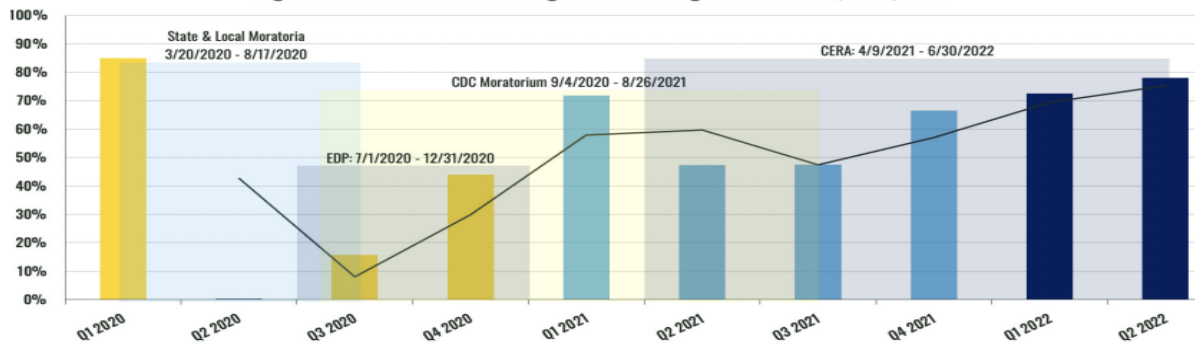
Evictions are another symptom of the housing crisis. Evictions can result from a tenant failing to pay rent on time or violating their lease. Many factors contribute to eviction rates, including the increasing cost of housing and stagnant wages. Throughout the country, rent has steadily increased resulting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

The COVID-19 pandemic precipitated catastrophic job and wage loss in the United States, an economic shock that had the potential to exacerbate rental housing instability (JCHS, [2022](#); Parrott & Zandi, [2021](#)).

Economic repercussions of the pandemic (such as eviction) disproportionately affected low-income communities and Black and Hispanic renters (Airgood-Obrycki & Hermann, [2021](#); Kneebone & Murray, [2020](#)), groups that already experienced the highest rates of housing cost burden and housing insecurity (Benfer, Vlahov, et al., [2021](#); JCHS, [2022](#); Myers & Park, [2019](#)).

- Michigan's eviction rate is 3.28% on average, while the national average is 2.34%.
- Specifically in Detroit, eviction rates are 2.66% higher than the national average. There are almost 19 evictions per day in the city.<sup>clxx</sup>
- Since 2011, eviction rates in Michigan have steadily decreased, other than during the pandemic.

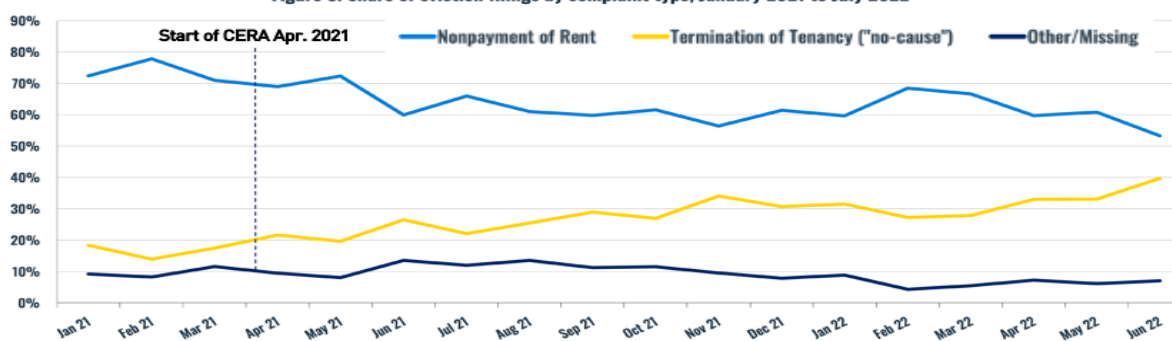
**Figure 1. 2020-2021 Eviction Filings as a Percentage of 2019 Levels, Per Quarter**



Note: Eviction rates were determined using 1-year estimates of the number of renter-occupied households from the American Community Survey (ACS). Estimates from 2019 and 2021 were averaged for 2020 due to a lack of data; 2021 estimates were used for 2022.

Source: American Community Survey, 2021 1-year estimates<sup>21</sup>

**Figure 3. Share of eviction filings by complaint type, January 2021 to July 2022**



Source: American Community Survey, 2021 1-year estimates<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> American Community Survey, 2021 1-year estimates <https://sites.fordschool.umich.edu/poverty2021/files/2022/11/PovertySolutions-Learning-from-COVID-19-Eviction-Response-Measures-in-Detroit-policybrief-111122.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> American Community Survey, 2021 1-year estimates <https://sites.fordschool.umich.edu/poverty2021/files/2022/11/PovertySolutions-Learning-from-COVID-19-Eviction-Response-Measures-in-Detroit-policybrief-111122.pdf>

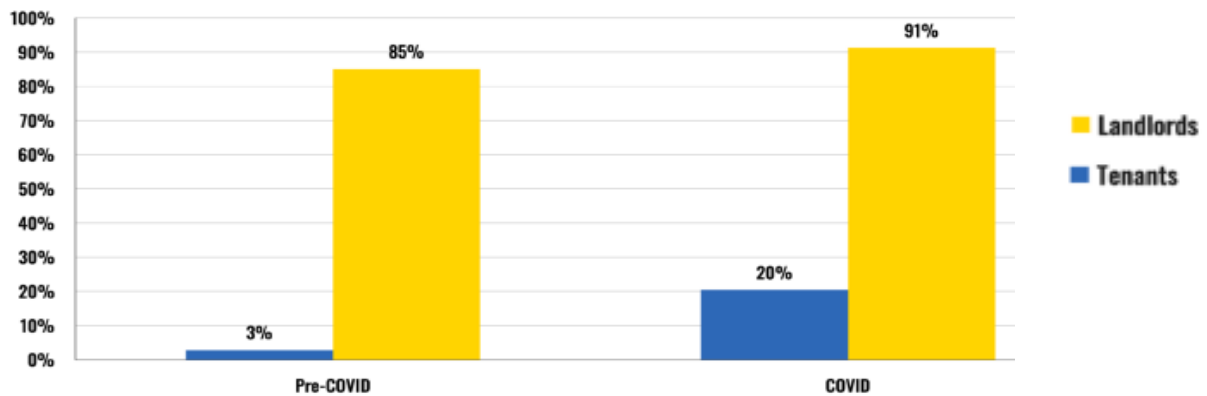


## Legal Needs

Issues of foreclosure and eviction have increased the need for legal services. In Michigan, no right to counsel exists for tenants facing eviction who cannot afford lawyers, and legal aid providers are chronically underfunded. Millions in federal COVID-relief funding paid to three Detroit legal aid providers enabled attorneys to be present in Zoom courtrooms, refer tenants to rental assistance programs, and offer legal counsel in some cases. This funding level was enough for attorneys to offer free legal advice to all tenants who attended their hearings, but not enough to provide full legal representation (filing documents with the court, raising defenses, negotiating with the plaintiffs, delivering arguments, etc.) to all who needed it.<sup>clxxi</sup>

- Tenants' access to legal counsel increased during the pandemic, but just 1 in 5 tenants had full legal representation, and landlords were four times more likely than tenants to have attorneys

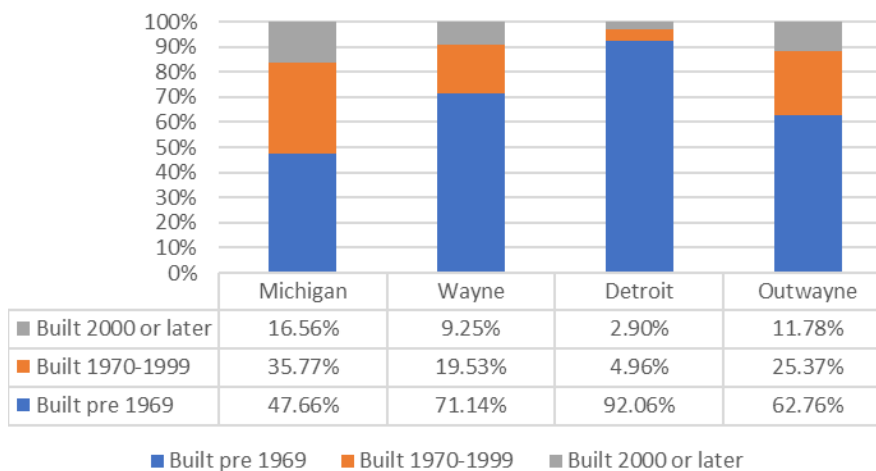
**Figure 7. Percent of tenants and landlords with legal representation among cases closed before and after the onset of COVID-19**



## 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.<sup>clxxiii</sup> 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.<sup>clxxiv</sup> Older housing, especially if not well kept, is more likely to have lead paint, poor weatherization, and need expensive repairs.

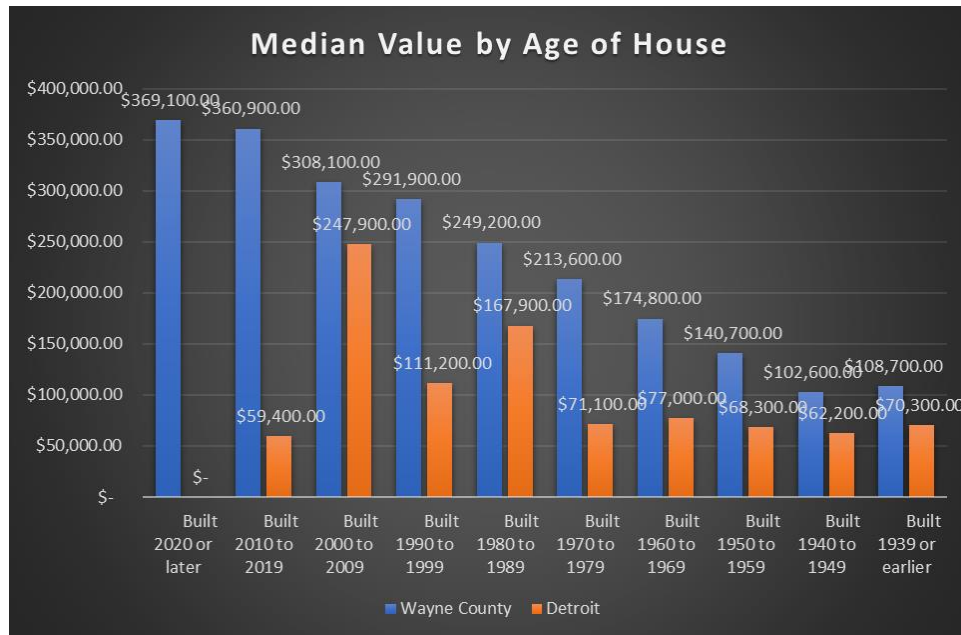
**Age of Housing Stock-Homeowners**



Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Table B25036



In Wayne County, newer houses tend to have higher values than older houses. The median value for homes built in Wayne County since 2019 is over \$360,900, compared to the median value for Detroit homes of \$59,400. 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.<sup>clxxv</sup>

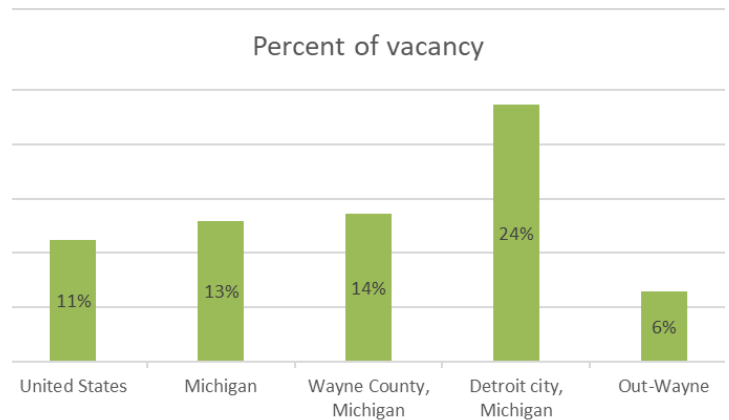


Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Table B25107

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%.<sup>clxxvi</sup>

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.<sup>clxxvii</sup>

- Wayne County also has a large percentage of vacant homes compared to the state and the nation (14% compared to 13% and 12%, respectively), and the vacancy rate in Detroit is even higher at 24%. The vacant housing in Out-Wayne is largely concentrated in the communities of Highland Park, Inkster, Ecorse and River Rouge.<sup>clxxviii</sup>



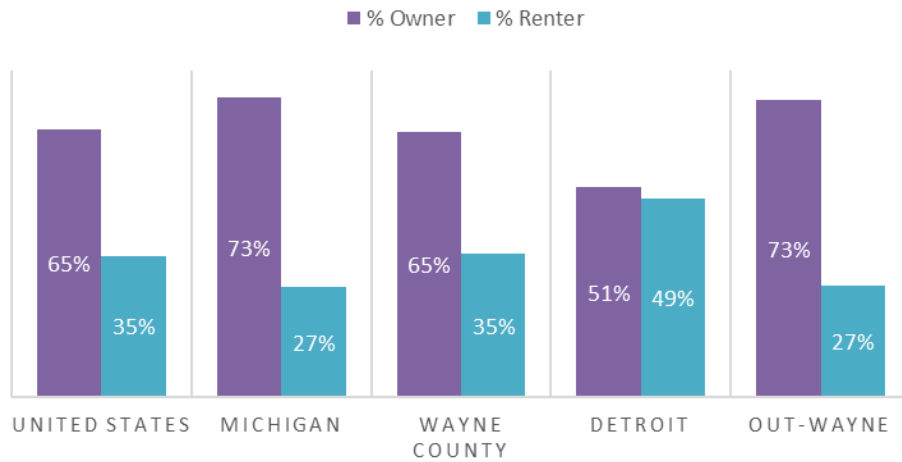
Source: American Community Survey, 2021 1-Year estimates, Table B2500



## 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.<sup>clxxix</sup> Wayne County has one of the highest percentages of renters in the nation, ranking in the 86<sup>th</sup> percentile of all counties across the U.S. More than one-third of households in Wayne County are renters (35%), and in Detroit, the percentage is even higher at 49%.<sup>clxxx</sup>

### RENTER VS. OWNER OCCUPIED



Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Table S2503

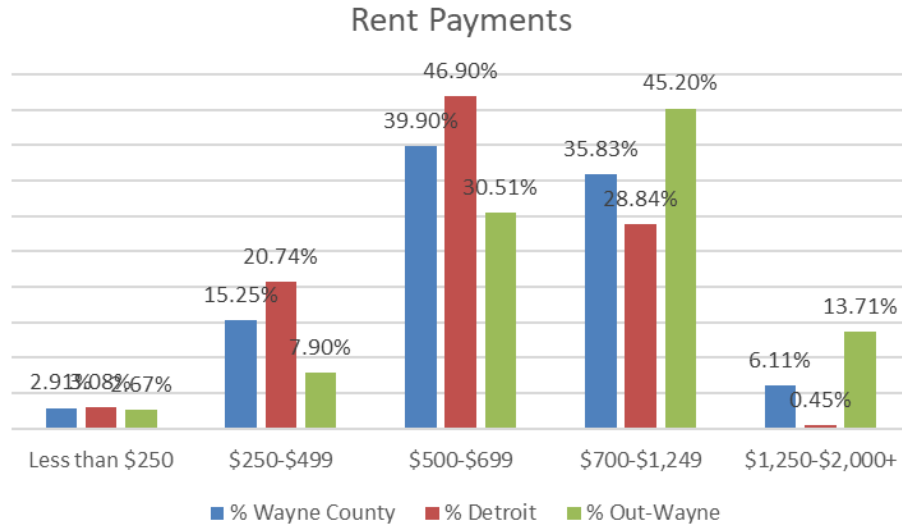


Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Table B07001

Within any given year, most Wayne County residents stay within their same house (89%). However, Wayne County residents are more likely than their peers to move within the same county (7.79% compared to 7.18% 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.<sup>clxxxi</sup>



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 on average between \$500 and \$699 per month in rent (39.9%), while 46.9% of Detroit residents are in this category.<sup>clxxxii</sup>



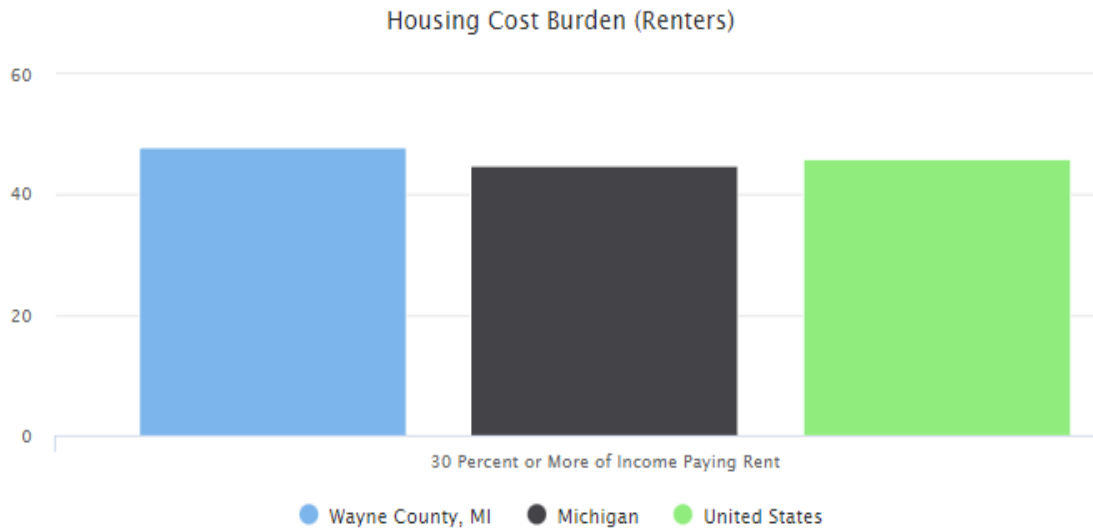
Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) *Table B25061*

Report Area	Total Housing Units	Occupied Units Paying Rent	30 Percent or More of Income Paying Rent	Percent of Renters Spending 30 Percent or More of Income with Rent
Detroit city, MI	250,096	129,225	67,735	52.42%
Wayne County, MI	685,635	251,199	120,273	47.88%
Michigan	3,976,729	1,106,036	496,201	44.86%
United States	124,010,992	43,858,831	20,169,402	45.99%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

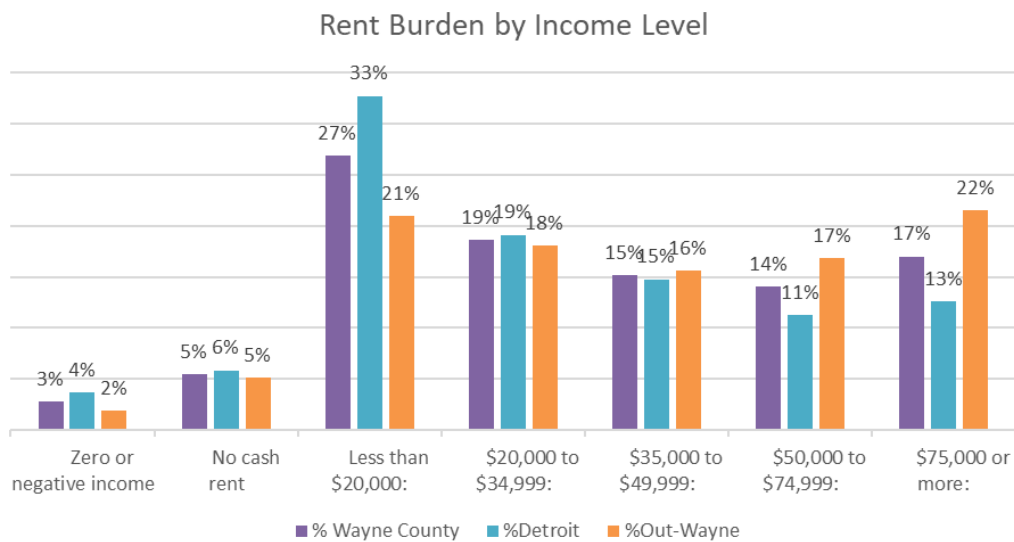
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: tract → [Show more details](#)





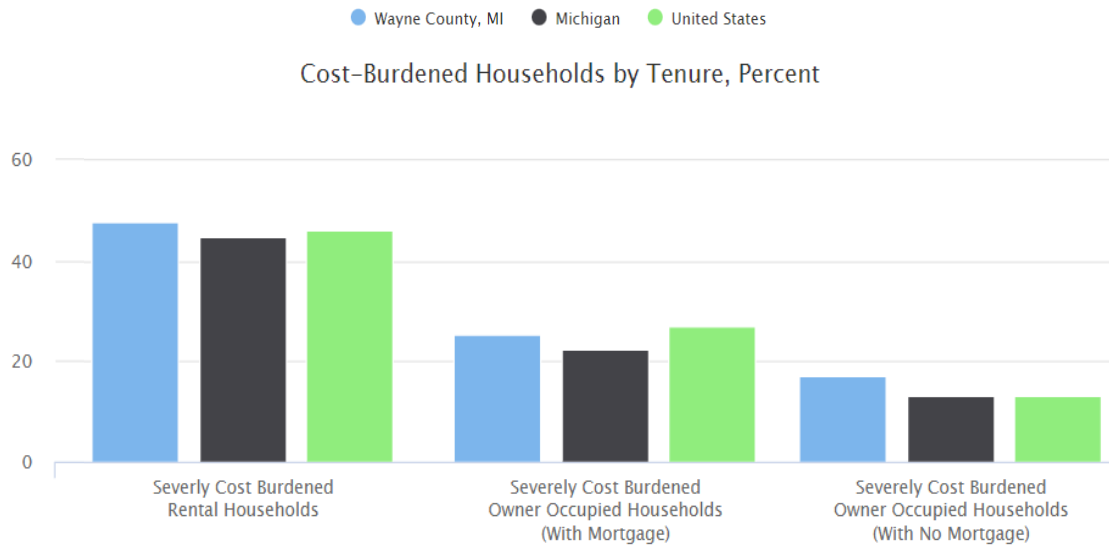
Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21.

Half of all households paying rent in Wayne County are experiencing rent burden—spending more than 30% of their monthly income on rent (47.9%).<sup>clxxxiii</sup> 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.<sup>clxxxiv</sup>



Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017 5-Year Estimates) *Table B25106*



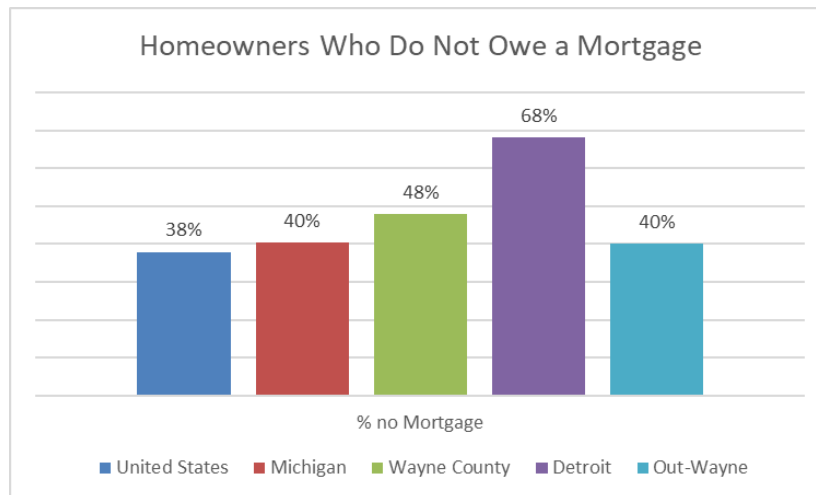


Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2017-21

## Homeowners

Just less than two-thirds of individuals in Wayne County own their homes (63.4%). Of those who own their homes, half do not owe a mortgage (48%). 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 (32%).<sup>clxxxv</sup>

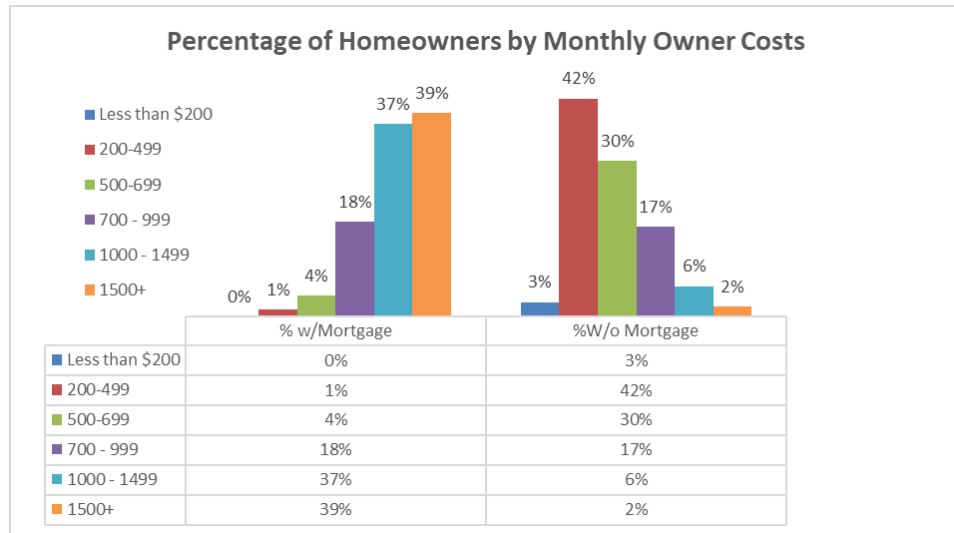
- The low mortgage rate in Detroit is closely tied to the low property values and unwillingness of banks to lend in the City.<sup>clxxxvi</sup>
- Limited move-in ready homes are also a barrier to having more mortgages throughout Detroit, appraised values have been too low for a traditional mortgage,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



Source: American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Table B25087



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. <sup>clxxxviii</sup>



Source: American Community Survey, 2021 1-Year estimates, Table B25087

### Subsidized/Affordable Housing

According to the Department of 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. <sup>clxxxix</sup>

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. <sup>cxc</sup> Between 2002 and 2016, federal funding for these programs decreased by 45%, creating a shortage of affordable options. <sup>cxc</sup>



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.<sup>cxcii</sup> 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.<sup>cxci</sup>

In Wayne County, there are 43,811 subsidized housing units. All subsidized housing units are currently occupied.<sup>cxvii</sup> There are 145,641 households living below the poverty line in Wayne County.<sup>cxviii</sup> Subsidized housing units cover only 29.4% of households living in poverty.<sup>cxviii</sup>

- 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 over 2 years. <sup>cxix</sup>

Characteristics of Households in Subsidized Housing Units: Wayne County	
Total number of Subsidized housing units	43,811 units
Total number of individuals in subsidized housing units	70,406 individuals
Household income per year	\$12,933
% very low income	96%
% extremely low income	80%
% female head	75%
% with disability, among all persons in households	24%
% minority	82%
Average months on waiting list	28 Months
Average months since moved in	96 Months

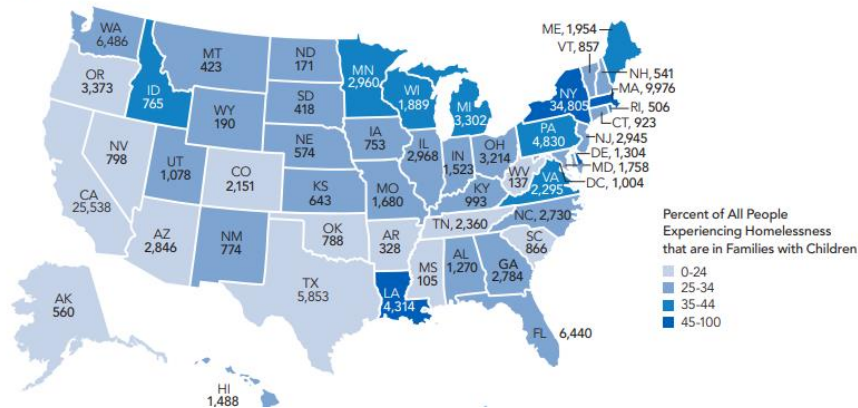
Source: Housing and Urban Development (2009-2021) *Assisted Housing: National and Local*



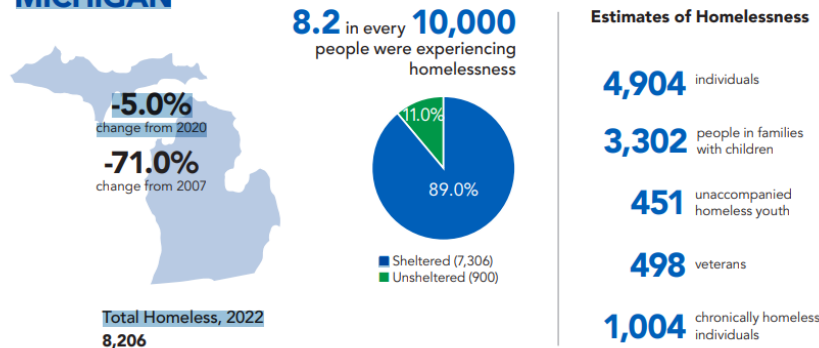
## HOMELESSNESS

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 8,206 homeless individuals resided in Michigan,<sup>cc</sup> 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.<sup>cci</sup>

EXHIBIT 3.5: Estimates of People in Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness  
By State, 2022



### MICHIGAN



Source: PIT 2007-2022; Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories<sup>23</sup>

- Programs for those who were homeless and seeking to find temporary shelter or a place to stay saw an increase of 15% between 2020 and 2021. COVID-19 played some role in the increased demand for temporary shelter due to the loss of income or individuals needing to find an alternative housing option besides doubling up. Often, individuals expressed a preference for staying in motels over using temporary shelters. Family settings, mental health, limited availability outside winter season, and lack of pet friendly policies are all contributing factors. Moreover, the number of motels participating in homeless motel voucher programs is limited across the state.

<sup>23</sup> Data source: PIT 2007-2022; Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories

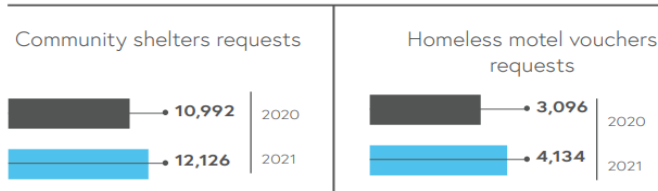
Accessed at: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2022-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>



Source: State of Michigan, 2021, Annual Report

**OVERALL INCREASE FOR THOSE WHO WERE HOMELESS SEEKING TO FIND TEMPORARY SHELTER OR A PLACE TO STAY****15%** 

These are the specific service requests highlighted in the rental housing options section for both years:



Individuals and families experiencing homelessness face additional hurdles when looking for temporary shelters or places to stay. Most often, individuals or families prefer a different living arrangement other than a community shelter. In 2021, unmet needs for Homeless Motel Vouchers increased by 37% from the previous year (2020: 1,531 and 2021: 2,098). In ninety percent of cases, the service was not available, or not immediately available to make a referral.

Requests for Community Shelters where a referral could not be made increased by 6% and ranked 3rd for unmet needs between 2020 and 2021 (2020: 910 and 2021: 969). The most common reasons for not providing referrals (combining for 67% of responses) were due to clients refusing the referral, the service was not available, or not immediately available.

Homeless Client Characteristics (HMIS Data Only)	Literally Homeless	1st Time Homeless	Veterans	Adult Only	Adults with Children	Youth 18-24	Adults 25-54	Seniors 55+
Unique Number of Clients for 2020*	30,805	16,050	1,827	20,046	9,930	3,229	14,958	5,289
Unique Number of Clients for 2021*	30,113	15,882	1,829	19,040	10,441	3,088	14,418	5,369
Change from Prior Year	-2%	-1%	0%	-5%	5%	-4%	-4%	2%
Number of Adults	22,775	12,057	1,829	19,040	3,967	3,088	14,418	5,369
Number of Children	7,242	3,792	N/A	N/A	6,477	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Households	21,921	11,735	1,798	18,222	3,183	2,691	13,419	5,163

Source: State of Michigan, 2021, Annual Report

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%).<sup>cciv</sup>

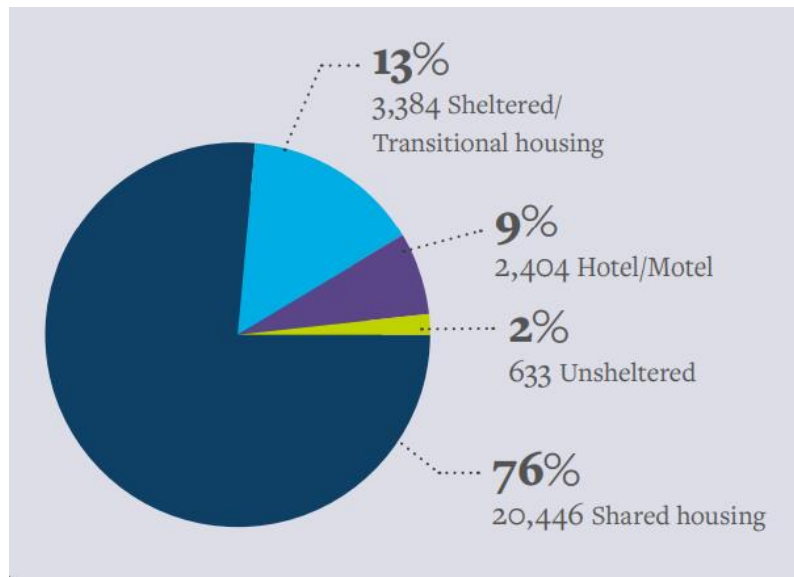
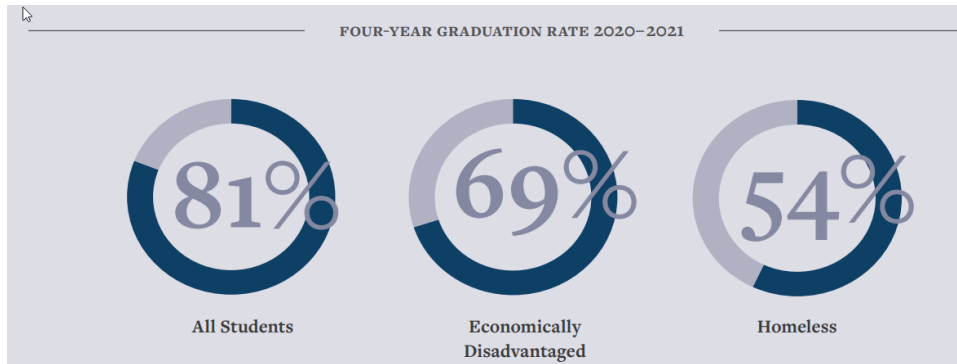
### Children - Homelessness

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 youths—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.<sup>ccv</sup>



The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as “individuals who lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”<sup>ccvii</sup> Under the McKinney-Vento Act, schools are required to count the number of children in their school that are defined as homeless. In 2021, the Michigan Department of Education counted 26,867 homeless children and youth in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These students comprise approximately 2.5% of the population enrolled in the local education agencies.<sup>ccviii</sup>

Source: State of Michigan, 2021, Annual Report



State of Michigan, 2021, Annual Report

The vast majority of students identified and served by schools live temporarily in shared homes due to loss of housing or economic hardship. Counts are fairly evenly distributed across grade levels for students identified by schools. Data show high numbers of students experiencing homelessness who are also unaccompanied (14%) or identified as students with disabilities (23%).



## Veterans – Homelessness

Veterans experience homelessness more frequently than other populations.<sup>ccx</sup> Nationally, 9% of homeless adults were veterans in 2018, but that proportion varies by state.<sup>ccxi</sup> 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%.<sup>ccxii</sup>
- HMIS data also reveals that 18% of the homeless Veteran population met the definition of chronic homelessness by living on the streets for more than 12 months in the last 3 years. An additional 39% reported being on the streets for one month in the last 3 years.
- The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency’s Veteran Resource Service Center saw an increase in callers requesting homelessness resources in 2021; up to 353 from 290 in 2020.
- Additional efforts need to focus on housing Veterans aged 55 and older, as over half of the homeless Veteran population in 2021 was in this age group. Additionally, there is an ongoing rise in the female Veteran population; suggesting targeted strategies to house female Veterans are needed

## HUNGER & FOOD INSECURITY

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

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

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.<sup>ccxviii</sup>

Limited access to supermarkets, supercenters, grocery stores, or other sources of healthy and affordable food make it difficult to eat a healthy diet. Food deserts are low- income areas where a significant share of individuals live more than one mile from a supermarket in urban areas.<sup>ccxix</sup> 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.<sup>ccxx</sup>

- 64.5% of Wayne County's students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches, compared to 50.0% of Michigan students.<sup>ccxxi</sup>

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.<sup>ccxxii</sup> There are roughly 450 meal-serving sites—run by 29 different sponsors—distributed throughout Wayne County,<sup>ccxxiii</sup> with most sites serving breakfasts and lunches<sup>24</sup>.

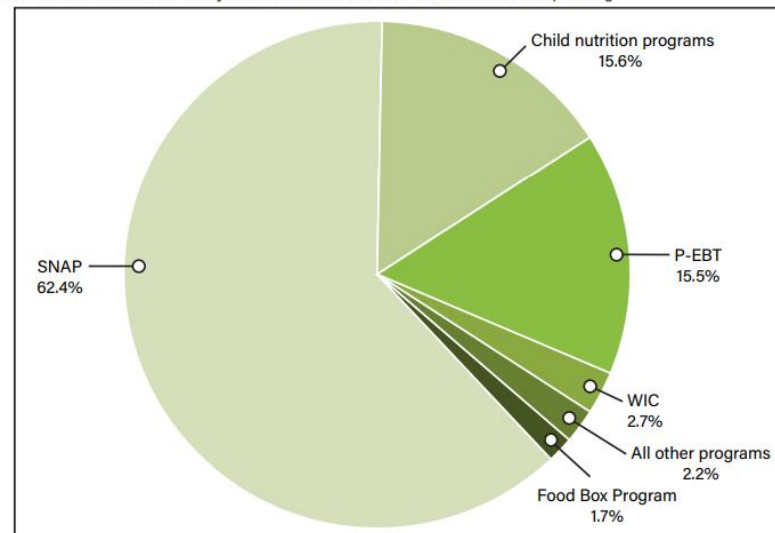
- Most sponsors in Wayne County are public school districts, but some are non-profits and private school organizations.
- Across the state of Michigan, 3.5 million meals were served in 2017; 63.4% of these meals were lunches and 25.0% were breakfasts.<sup>ccxxiv</sup>
- In 2017, the average daily population in SFSP was nearly 65,000 across the state<sup>ccxxv</sup>.
- Nationally, the number of meals served through SFSP increased to 3.0 billion, about 133 percent greater than in FY 2020. Total spending on these programs was \$26.8 billion, 27 percent more than in FY 2020.

## 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.<sup>ccxxvi</sup> In 2015, the average monthly benefit for individuals using SNAP in Michigan was \$125.65 per person.<sup>ccxxvii</sup>

**USDA food and nutrition assistance spending by program, FY 2021**

*SNAP and P-EBT accounted for nearly four-fifths of food and nutrition assistance spending*



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service and USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/104146/eib-237\\_summary.pdf?v=9235.2](https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/104146/eib-237_summary.pdf?v=9235.2)



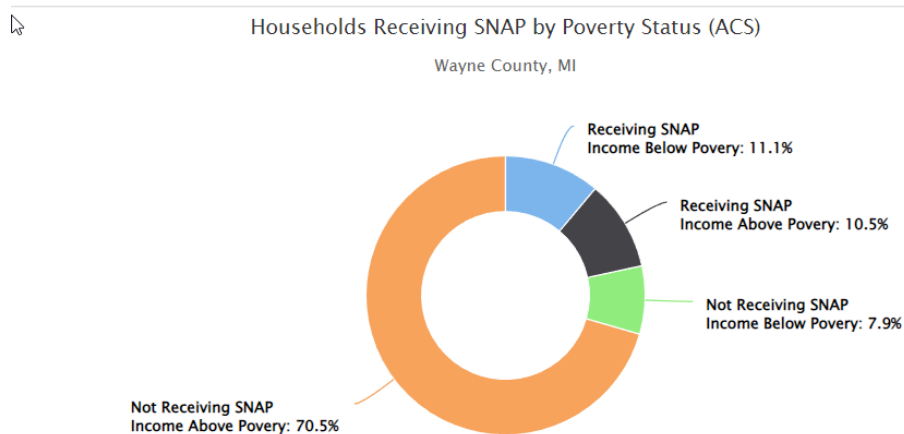
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers 15 domestic food and nutrition assistance programs that together affect the lives of millions of people and account for roughly two-thirds of USDA's annual budget. In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic beginning in fiscal year 2020 and continuing into FY 2021, USDA implemented additional temporary programs and numerous policy changes that expanded the scope and coverage of existing programs. As a result, participation in and spending on these programs changed substantially

Spending on USDA's domestic food and nutrition assistance programs in FY 2021 reached a historic high of \$182.5 billion, 43 percent greater than the previous inflation-adjusted high of \$127.5 billion in FY 2020. The increase in spending was primarily driven by increases in USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) spending (see summary figure).

Table 1  
USDA food and nutrition assistance at a glance, FY 2020 and FY 2021

Program		FY 2020	FY 2021	Percent change
SNAP	Average monthly participation (millions)	39.9	41.5	4.1
	Average benefit per person (dollars per month)	154.87	218.14	40.9
	Total spending (billions of dollars)	79.1	113.8	43.8
WIC	Average monthly participation (millions)	6.25	6.24	-0.1
	Women	1.45	1.38	-4.6
	Infants	1.55	1.46	-5.6
	Children	3.25	3.40	4.6
	Food cost per person (dollars per month)	38.48	35.34	-8.2
	Total spending (billions of dollars)	4.97	5.00	0.6
NSLP, SBP,	Total meals served (billions)	7.9	8.4	6.7
CACFP, SFS	Total spending (billions of dollars)	21.2	26.8	26.5
P-EBT	Total spending (billions of dollars)	10.8	28.3	161.5
Food Box Program	Number of food boxes delivered (millions)	103.3	73.1	-29.2
	Total spending (billions of dollars)	2.4	3.0	24.2
All programs	Total spending (billions of dollars)	122.8	182.5	48.7

- On average, 41.5 million people participated in SNAP each month, 4 percent more than in the previous fiscal year. A temporary benefit increase, the expansion of emergency allotments, and higher participation contributed to a historic high in Federal SNAP spending of \$113.8 billion, 44 percent more than in FY 2020.
- On average, 6.2 million people participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) each month, nearly the same as the previous fiscal year. Total WIC spending was \$5.0 billion, 1 percent more than in FY 2020.



Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2017-21. Source geography: County

- USDA continued to operate two temporary programs in FY 2021. P-EBT benefits were issued to eligible families at a cost of \$28.3 billion, or 162 percent greater than the amount issued in FY 2020. The Farmers to Families Food Box Program distributed about 73.1 million boxes of produce, dairy, and meat products to food banks and other charitable organizations nationwide at a cost of \$3.0 billion.
- 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. <sup>ccxxviii</sup>



- A study of families using SNAP benefits showed that 86.3% of American households exhaust their monthly SNAP benefits within 3 weeks.<sup>ccxxix</sup>

Percentage of Households Receiving SNAP Benefits	Michigan	Wayne County (including Detroit)	Detroit
All Households	43%	44%	42%
Households with Children	57%	56%	58%

American Community Survey (2021 5-Year Estimates) Table B22002.

## 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 2022 average monthly benefit per person receiving WIC in Michigan is \$40.65.<sup>ccxxx</sup>

WIC Benefit Per Person (Updated as of February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2023)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Michigan	36.48	36.99	31.26	27.24	40.65

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2023) *WIC Program: Average Monthly Benefit per Person*.

## 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.<sup>ccxxxii</sup> 37% of individuals have obtained a college degree in Michigan.<sup>ccxxxiii</sup>

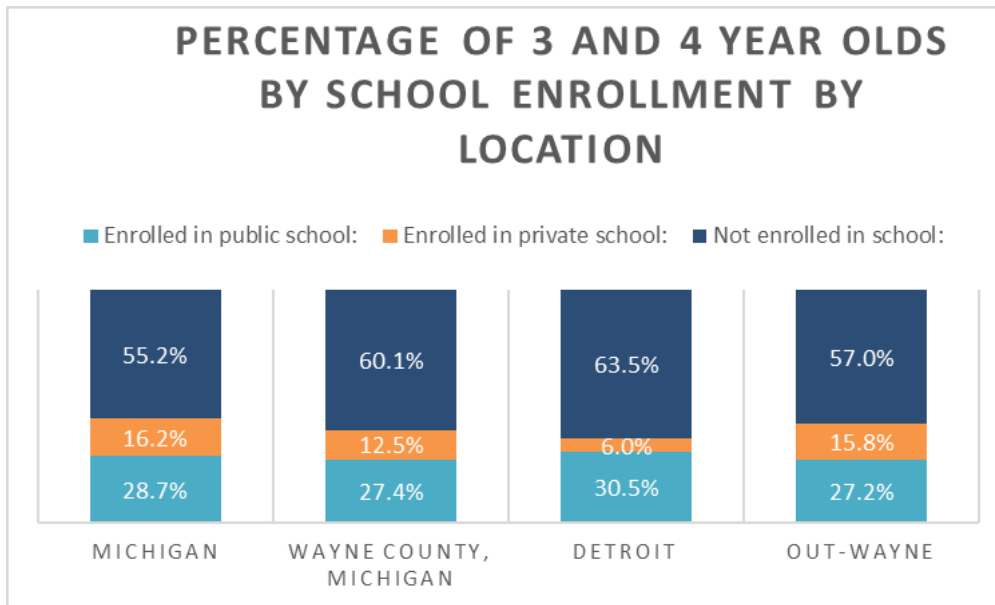
### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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.<sup>ccxxxiv</sup> As adults, they are more likely to pursue higher education, earn higher wages and rely less on government assistance programs.<sup>ccxxxv</sup>

- Parents with access to affordable and dependable childcare are less likely to have childcare-related disruptions that affect their work attendance or schedule.<sup>ccxxxvi</sup>
- Over half (51%) of American families live in a childcare desert,<sup>ccxxxvii</sup> and 44% of families in Michigan live in a childcare desert.<sup>ccxxxviii</sup>



- 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).<sup>ccxxxix</sup>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B14003

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 (40%), and the number of students enrolled in private schools is higher in Out-Wayne County than in the city of Detroit.<sup>ccxi</sup>

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 for programs that are aligned with Michigan's Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infant and Toddler Programs and Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten.<sup>ccxli</sup>

#### Great Start to Quality Program Participation as of January 5, 2023

Early Childhood Program Type	Total Number of Eligible Programs Statewide	Empty Star	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Published 1 to 5 Stars
Child Care & Preschool Centers	3775	1364	6	74	903	1196	232	63.87%
Group Child Care Homes	1438	739	28	99	538	23	56	50.17%
Family Child Care Homes	1938	1143	36	117	588	28	26	41.02%
Tribal Program	13	6	0	0	2	4	1	53.85%
Tribal Home	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Out-of-School Time	74	676	24	11	12	7	10	8.65%
<b>Total Programs:</b>	<b>7950</b>	<b>3929</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>2043</b>	<b>1261</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>50.58%</b>
<b>Total Percentages:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>49.42%</b>	<b>1.18%</b>	<b>3.79%</b>	<b>25.70%</b>	<b>15.82%</b>	<b>4.09%</b>	

Total Number of Participating Programs: 4,021  
Total Number of 3, 4 and 5 Star Programs: 3,626

Source: Great Start to Quality, 2023, Participation Data

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<sup>rd</sup> least affordable state in the U.S. for infant care with an average annual cost of more than \$10,000 for full-time care.<sup>ccxlii</sup> That means that a one parent household earning a median



income in the state would be paying nearly half of income for infant care.<sup>ccxliii</sup>

- The average annual cost of infant care in Michigan is **\$10,861**—that's \$905 per month.
- Child care for a 4-year-old costs **\$8,890**, or \$741 each month.
- Infant care in Michigan costs just **\$1,573 (12.7%)** less than in-state tuition for four-year public college.
- In Michigan, infant care costs 6.7% more than average rent.

Child care is unaffordable for typical families in Michigan.

- Infant care for one child would take up **19.0%** of a median family's income in Michigan.
- According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), child care is affordable if it costs no more than 7% of a family's income. By this standard, **only 9.3%** of Michigan families can afford infant care.

Families with two children face an even larger burden.

- Child care for two children—an infant and a 4-year-old—costs **\$19,751**. That's **48.7% more** than average rent in Michigan.
- A typical family in Michigan would have to spend **34.6%** of its income on child care for an infant and a 4-year-old.
- **Child care is out of reach for low-wage workers.**
- A minimum wage worker in Michigan would need to work full time for **28 weeks, or from January to July**, just to pay for child care for one infant.
- Yet, child care workers still struggle to get by.
- Nationally, child care workers' families are more than twice as likely to live in poverty as other workers' families (11.8% are in poverty compared with 5.8%).
- A median child care worker in Michigan would have to spend **49%** of her earnings to put her own child in infant care.

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.<sup>ccxliv</sup>

## Annual cost in Michigan

College: \$11,295

Housing: \$9,317

4-year-old care: \$6,764

Infant care: \$9,882

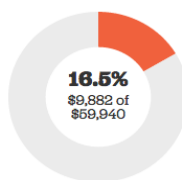
Source: Economic Policy Institute: *The cost of child care in the United States*

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE

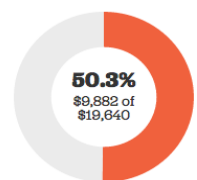
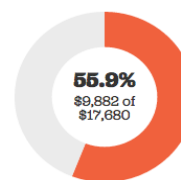
## How big a bite does child care take?

Infant care costs as a share of income in Michigan

For a median family with children



For a minimum-wage worker For a typical child care worker



Average cost of infant care in Michigan: \$9,882/year (\$824/month)

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, child care is affordable if it costs no more than 10% of a family's income. By this standard, only **26.0%** of Michigan families can afford infant care.

Source: Economic Policy Institute: *The cost of child care in the United States*

Licensed child care workers [can now get \\$1,000 bonuses](#). The state raised the income eligible [for child care subsidies to 185%](#), or a family of four currently making \$49,025, from 150% of the federal poverty level—or \$39,750—through 2023, [then 160% for the following years](#). Of the children enrolled in Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)<sup>25</sup> programs, more than half are economically disadvantaged students.<sup>ccxlvii</sup>

<sup>25</sup> 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 2021-2022	All Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	Percentage
Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)	7,522	6,687	88.9%
Early Childhood Special Education	3,701	2,130	57.6%
Early On	3,477	2,038	58.6%
Head Start	3,458	3,160	91.4%
Early Head Start	919	797	86.7%
GSRP / Head Start Blend	597	593	99.3%

Source: Michigan School Data Site (n.d.) 2021-2022 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.<sup>ccxlvi</sup>
- 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. The number of schools identified for CSI increased to 255 in 2021-22 from 162 in 2016-17; schools identified for ATS went to 68 in 2021-22 from 60 in 2017-18; and schools identified for TSI rose to 138 this year from 63 in 2018-19<sup>26</sup>. 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.<sup>ccxlix</sup> 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.<sup>ccli</sup> 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.<sup>ccli</sup>

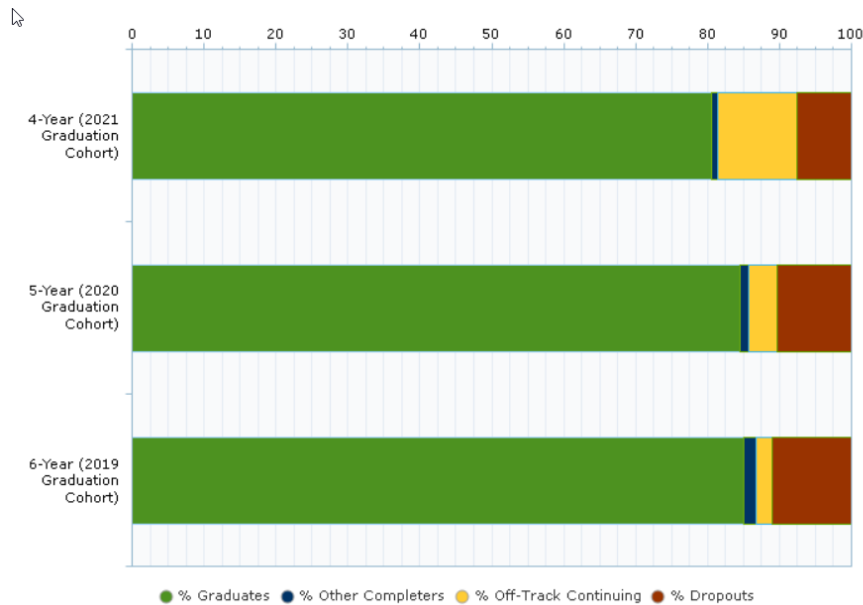
While standardized test scores are low, the majority of Wayne County high school students do graduate on time. Individuals who have earned a high school diploma are less likely to be unemployed and are likely to earn more each year than those who do not complete high school.

In Wayne County, 79% of high school students graduate on time, and 8% drop out.<sup>ccliii</sup>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2023/01/03/pandemic-learning-loss-michigan-low-achieving-school-partnership-program/69748936007/>



WAYNE METRO NEEDS ASSESSMENT | February 2023  
**School Year 2021 Educational Outcomes for Seniors; Wayne RESA**



Source: Michigan School Data Site, *Graduation/Dropout Rate*

## 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.<sup>ccliv</sup> SAT benchmarks are used to evaluate student readiness for entry-level college courses.

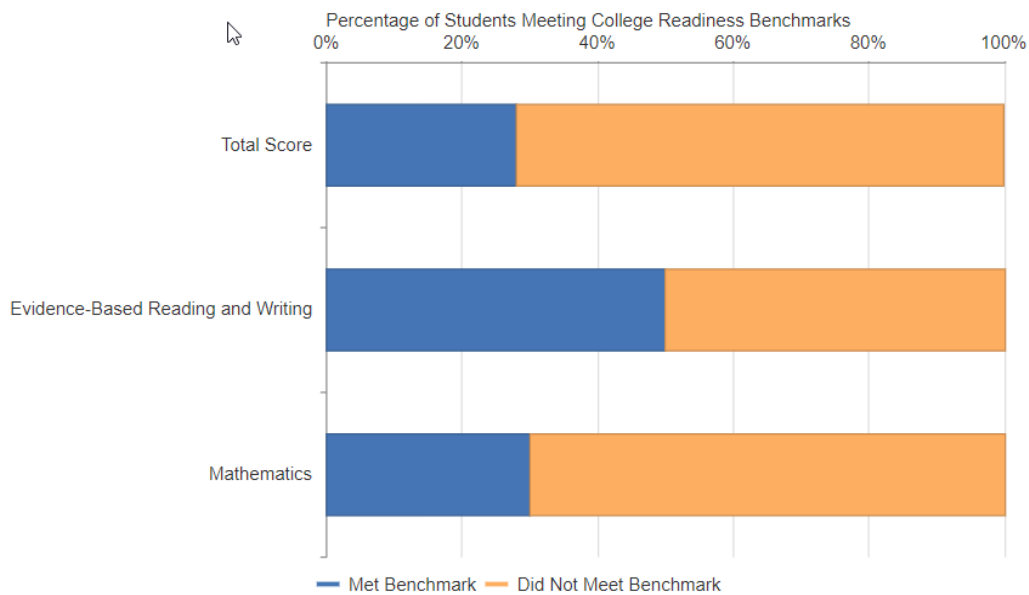
- In Michigan, the SAT exam is offered for free to all public-school students during regular school hours, and 100% of 2018 graduates took the SAT.<sup>cclv</sup>
- In Wayne County, only 29.4% of Regional Educational Service Agency's (RESA's) students are college ready, having met the college readiness benchmarks in both Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics on the SAT exam.<sup>cclvi</sup>

2020-2021 SAT College Readiness Snapshot	Subject	% Met or Exceeded
Wayne RESA	Total Score	21.3%
Wayne RESA	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	41.1%
Wayne RESA	Mathematics	23%



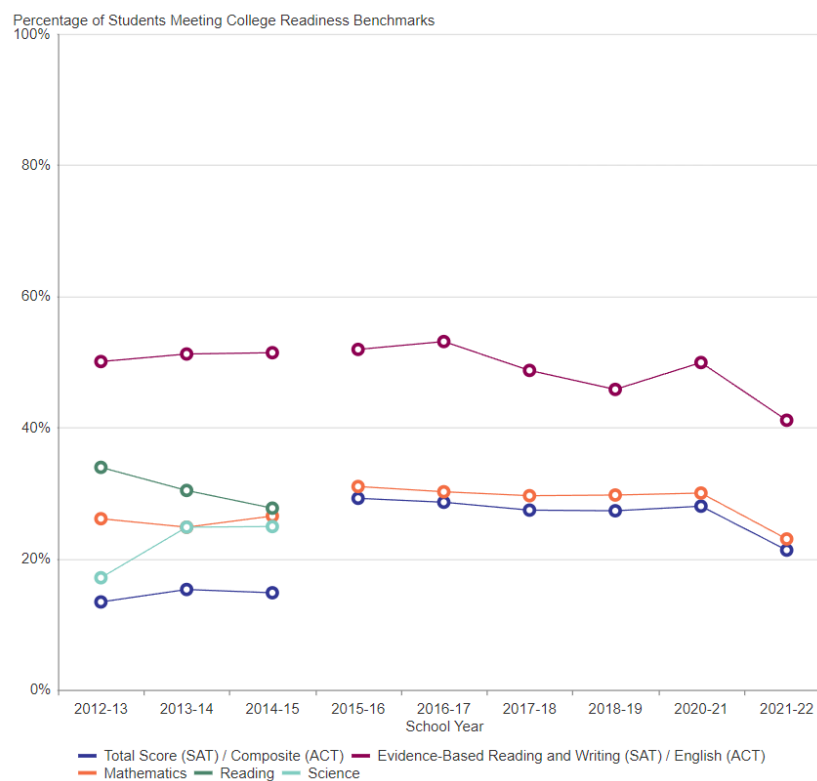
# WAYNE METRO NEEDS ASSESSMENT | February 2023

Source: Michigan School Data, *College Readiness Snapshot*



## Wayne RESA 2021 SAT College Readiness

### Wayne RESA ACT/SAT College Readiness Trend analysis

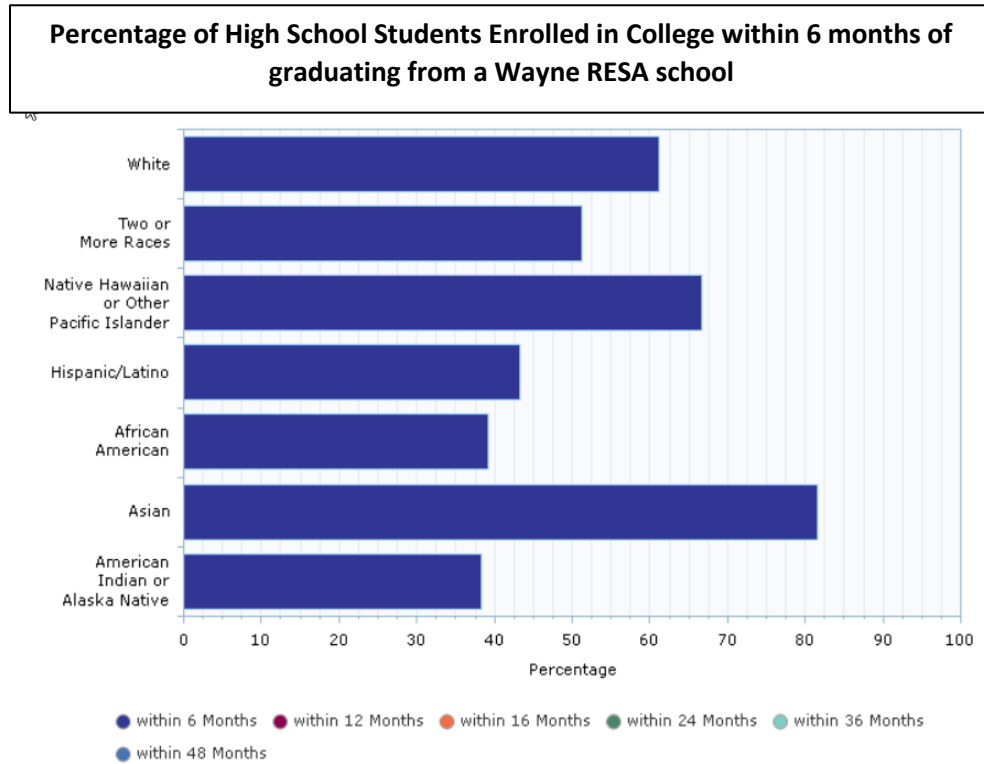


Source: Michigan School Data, *College Readiness*

## Wayne RESA ACT/SAT College Readiness Trend analysis



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.<sup>cclv</sup>



Source: Michigan School Data, *Post Secondary 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<sup>cclviii</sup> 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.<sup>cclix</sup> Additionally, access to the internet can open doors for social connections, educational experiences, and employment opportunities.<sup>cclx</sup>

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



Recent installations of Internet access at public libraries have been widely used by people across race, income, age, and education lines.<sup>cclxiii</sup> 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.<sup>cclxiv</sup>

Report Area	Total Households	Households with No Computer	Households with No Computer, Percent
Detroit city, MI	250,096	30,964	12.38%
Wayne County, MI	685,635	60,140	8.77%
Michigan	3,976,729	301,427	7.58%
United States	124,010,992	8,613,533	6.95%

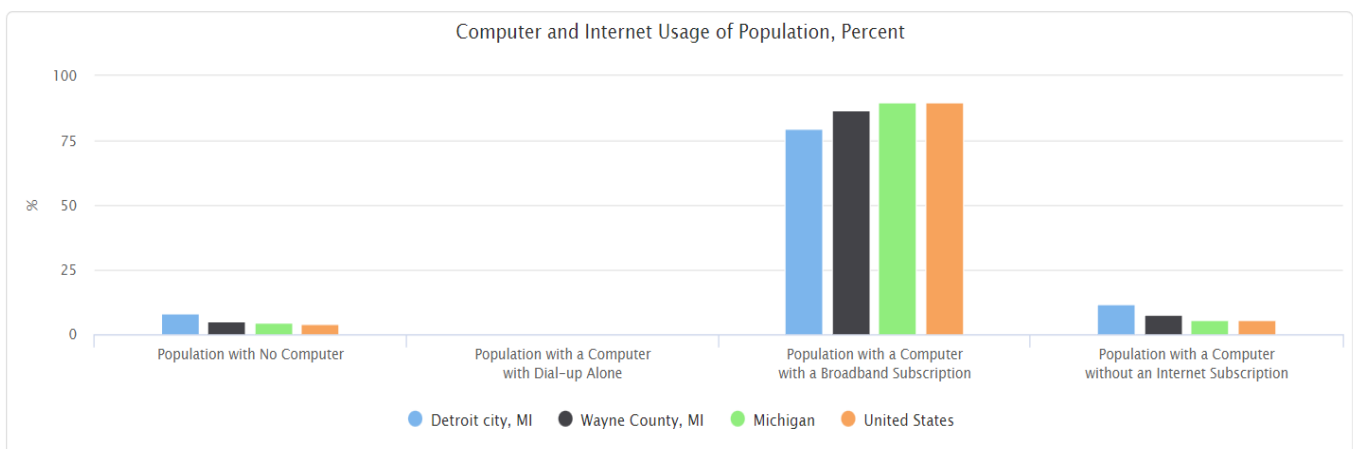
Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

- The COVID pandemic brought about a greater awareness of the digital divide and efforts were made to bridge this gap. However, about 5% of the Michigan population still does not have internet access, compared to 8% in Wayne County and 12% in the city of Detroit.<sup>cclxvi</sup>

Report Area	Total Population	Population with Any Computer	Population with Dial-up Alone	Population with A Broadband Subscription	Population without An Internet Subscription
Detroit city, MI	633,122	579,995	1,184	504,481	74,330
Wayne County, MI	1,768,624	1,673,942	2,667	1,537,131	134,144
Michigan	9,845,312	9,391,254	17,279	8,835,555	538,420
United States	321,899,278	308,041,466	511,034	289,492,704	18,037,728

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21.

- 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).<sup>cclxviii</sup>



Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21. Source geography: Tract



## Technical Education Opportunities

Opportunities for career, vocational, trade or technical training are less concentrated within Wayne County than within the remainder of the country. <sup>cclxix</sup>

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 are trade schools run by proprietary institutions, a portion that has seen a significant decrease over the past decade due to industry regulation. <sup>cclxx</sup>

- The highest concentration of career programs is in the city of Detroit itself, followed by the suburbs of 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. <sup>cclxxi</sup> as well as 38 high schools in Out Wayne County. <sup>cclxxii</sup> 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. <sup>cclxxiii</sup> and Career Education programs at Wayne County Community College District. <sup>cclxxiv</sup>

## 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. <sup>cclxxv</sup>

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%). <sup>cclxxvi</sup>

- Male workers work an average of 39.9 hours per week, <sup>cclxxvii</sup> and earn an average income of \$64,069 a year. <sup>cclxxviii</sup>
- Females, however, work an average of 35.2 hours per week, <sup>cclxxix</sup> and earn an average of \$47,655 a year. <sup>cclxxx</sup>
- Individuals with a bachelor's degree earn an average of \$23,538 more each year than those who did not attend any postsecondary schooling. <sup>cclxxxi</sup>



Wayne County Median Earnings by Educational Attainment and Sex	Male	Female	Median Earnings
Total Median Earnings	\$45,777	\$34,462	39,822
Less than high school graduate	\$27,285	\$20,625	24,198
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$35,820	\$25,592	31,021
Some college or associate degree	\$44,068	\$32,065	36,867
Bachelor's degree	\$70,784	\$47,221	56,782
Graduate or professional degree	\$94,128	\$63,897	74,127

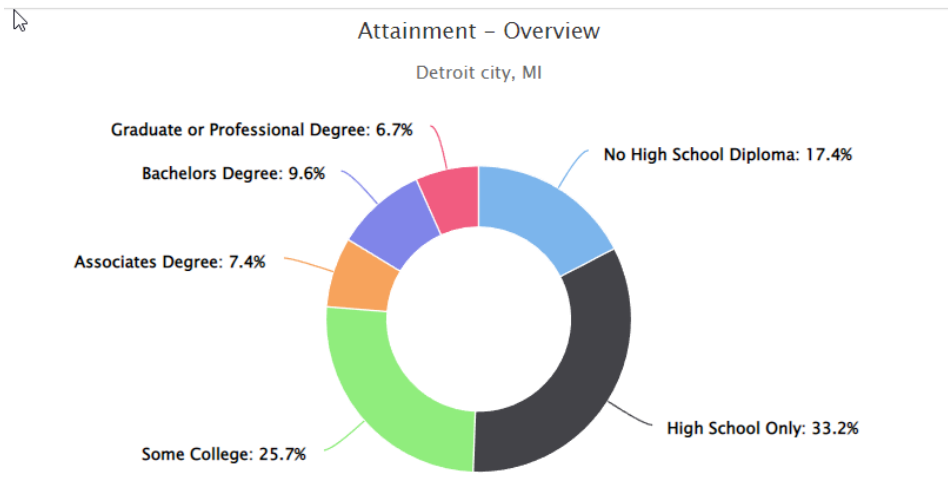
Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2021 5-year estimates, Table B20004

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%).<sup>cclxxxii</sup>

Report Area	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associates Degree	Bachelors Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Detroit city, MI	17.4%	33.2%	25.7%	7.4%	9.6%	6.7%
Wayne County, MI	12.39%	29.6%	23.6%	8.6%	15.5%	10.3%
Michigan	8.42%	28.5%	22.8%	9.7%	18.6%	12.0%
United States	11.13%	26.5%	20.0%	8.7%	20.6%	13.1%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

Educational attainment rates are lower in the city of Detroit than in Wayne County overall.<sup>cclxxxiii</sup>



Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

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.<sup>cclxxx</sup>



## 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.<sup>cclxxxv</sup> Wayne County ranks 82<sup>nd</sup> out of 83 counties in Michigan for overall health outcomes.<sup>cclxxxvi</sup>

### INFANT AND CHILD HEALTH

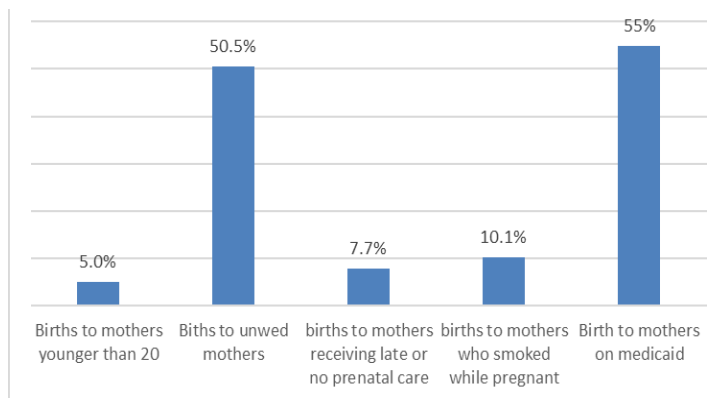
Good pre-pregnancy health, timely prenatal care, and access to social supports and education all factor into a strong start for a child.<sup>cclxxxvii</sup> In 2021, the birth rate in Wayne County was 12.0 births per 1,000 resident population. While the birth rate in Detroit (12.5 per 1,000) is higher compared to Out-Wayne County (11.9 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%).<sup>cclxxxviii</sup>

2021 Birth Rates	
Location	Birth Rate
Detroit	12.50%
Out-wayne	11.90%
Wayne	12%
Michigan	10.40%

Sources: 1900-2021 Michigan Residents Birth Files, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health. Population Estimate (latest update 7/2020), National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Census Populations With Bridged Race Categories

- Approximately 7% of births in Wayne County are born to a mother younger than age 20,<sup>cclxxxix</sup> and of those births 15.3% are second or third births to that mother.<sup>ccxc</sup>
- Data is not collected directly on how many children are born to families living in poverty, but in 2021 over half of all births in Wayne County were to mothers insured by Medicaid (54.9%).<sup>ccxci</sup>

On average, births to unwed mothers<sup>27</sup> are more common in Wayne County compared to the state as a whole. In 2021, 50.5% of Wayne County births were to unwed mothers, compared to 46.9% in Michigan. Furthermore, within the city limits of Detroit, more than 4 in 5 births were to unwed mothers (81.1%).<sup>ccxcii</sup>



Birth Risk Factors in Wayne County

Source: Kids Count Data Center, 2020, Birth Outcomes

<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>ccxciii</sup> Approximately 93% of newborns in Wayne County received prenatal care.<sup>ccxciv</sup>

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).<sup>ccxcv</sup>

Approximately 10.1% of Wayne County births in 2021 were to mothers who smoked during pregnancy,<sup>ccxcvi</sup> compared to 13.1% of state-wide births.<sup>ccxcvii</sup>

### 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>ccxcviii</sup> Similarly, infants born at low or very low birth weights are at increased risk for mortality or disability.<sup>ccxcix</sup>

- 11.7% of babies in Wayne County are born prematurely.<sup>ccc</sup>
- 11.5% of babies in Wayne County are born at a low birth weight <sup>ccci</sup>

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.<sup>cccii</sup> In Wayne County, the infant mortality rate has been improving, but remains high at 10%, with Detroit's rate higher at 14%.<sup>ccciii</sup>

#### Infant Mortality (Number & Rate)

Location	Data Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Michigan	Number	763	760	744	726	708
	Rate	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6
Wayne	Number	216	225	232	235	225
	Rate	9.3	9.7	10.0	10.3	10.0
Allen Park	Number	2	2	NA	NA	NA
	Rate	7.9	6.8	NA	NA	NA
Detroit	Number	132	134	140	133	130
	Rate	13.6	13.9	14.7	14.0	14.1

**Data Source:** Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics



### 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.<sup>ccciv</sup> 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.

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 55.7% of toddlers ages 19 to 35 months are fully immunized, compared to 66.1% in Michigan overall.<sup>cccv</sup>

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%.<sup>cccvii</sup>
- 1 in 6 children aged 3-17 years have developmental disabilities- conditions that affect how children play, learn, speak, act, or move.
- Many children with a developmental disability are not identified until after starting school.
- Nationally, only 17% of children younger than 5 years of age with developmental delays received services for those delays.
- Studies of children who are younger than 3 show that large numbers of presumably eligible children are not enrolled in early intervention. Despite high rates of developmental delays among children who receive Early Head Start, <5% of these children were also enrolled in early intervention.
- The percentage of children aged 3–17 years diagnosed with a developmental disorder increased—from 16.2% in 2009–2011 to 17.8% in 2015–2017.
- Specifically, diagnoses increased for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (8.5% to 9.5%), autism spectrum disorder (ASD) (1.1% to 2.5%), and intellectual disabilities (ID) (0.9% to 1.2%)<sup>28</sup>.

Report Area	Total Population (2020)	Adults Age 18+ with Poor Physical Health (Crude)	Adults Age 18+ with Poor Physical Health (Age-Adjusted)
Detroit city, MI	713,777	15.90%	15.70%
Wayne County, MI	1,740,623	12.40%	11.70%
Michigan	9,966,555	10.9%	10.1%
United States	331,449,281	10.0%	9.4%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Accessed via the PLACES Data Portal. 2020.

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.<sup>cccviii</sup>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/developmental-surveillance-and-screening-patient-care/>

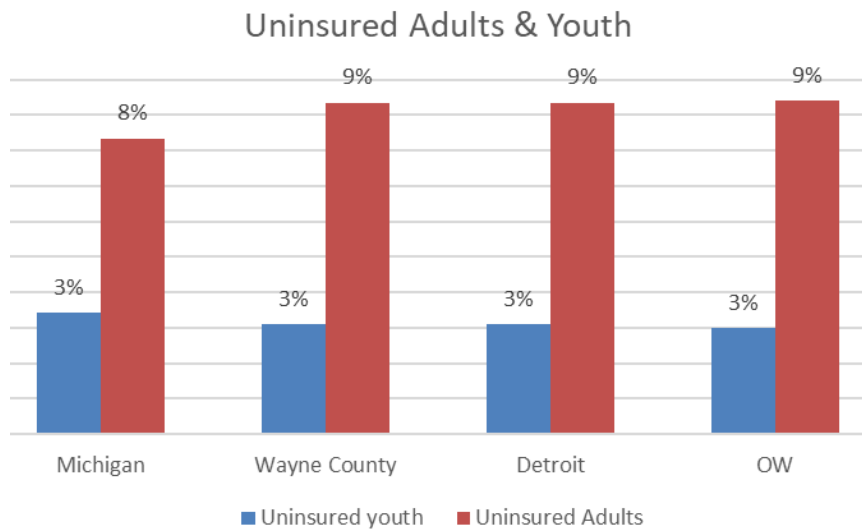


## PHYSICAL HEALTH

Wayne County ranks as Michigan's least healthy county based on health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors.<sup>cccix</sup> 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 diseases.<sup>cccx</sup>

### 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.<sup>cccxi</sup> Additionally, insured children are likely to be healthier and have lower rates of avoidable hospitalizations and childhood mortality than their uninsured peers.<sup>cccxi</sup>

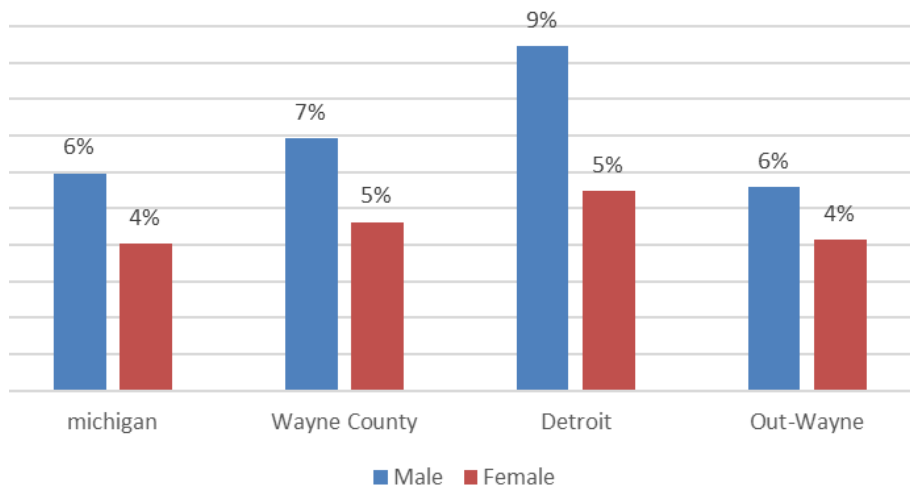


Source: American Community Survey (2021 1-Year Estimates) Table B27001

About 3% of youth (under 18) in Wayne County and Detroit do not have health insurance, compared to 9% of adults. Uninsured children and adults are more likely to visit emergency rooms due to a lack of access to other providers.<sup>cccxiv</sup>



## Uninsured Rates by Gender



Source: American Community Survey (2021 1-Year Estimates) *Table B27001*

Across the state, males are more likely to be uninsured. In Wayne County, 7% of males are uninsured, while 5% 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 133% 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 underinsured individuals seeking services. <sup>cccxv</sup>
- 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. <sup>cccxvi</sup>

About four in ten U.S. adults say they have delayed or gone without medical care in the last year due to cost, with dental services being the most common type of care adults report putting off due to cost.

- **Substantial shares of adults 65 or older report difficulty paying for various aspects of health care,** especially services not generally covered by Medicare, such as hearing services, and dental and prescription drug costs.
- **The cost of health care often prevents people from getting needed care or filling prescriptions.** About a quarter of adults say they or a family member in their household have not filled a prescription, cut pills in half, or skipped doses of medicine in the last year because of the cost, with larger shares of those in households with lower incomes, Black and Hispanic adults, and women reporting this.
- **High healthcare costs disproportionately affect uninsured adults, Black and Hispanic adults, and those with lower incomes.**

Larger shares of U.S. adults in each of these groups report difficulty affording various types of care and delaying or forgoing medical care due to the cost.

- **Those who are covered by health insurance are not immune to the burden of health care costs.**



About one-third of insured adults worry about affording their monthly health insurance premium, and 44% worry about affording their deductible before health insurance kicks in.

- **Health care debt is a burden for a large share of Americans.**

About four in ten adults (41%) report having debt due to medical or dental bills including debts owed to credit cards, collections agencies, family and friends, banks, and other lenders to pay for their health care costs, with disproportionate shares of Black and Hispanic adults, women, parents, those with low incomes, and uninsured adults saying they have health care debt.

- **Affording gasoline and transportation costs is now a top worry for Americans followed by unexpected medical bills.**

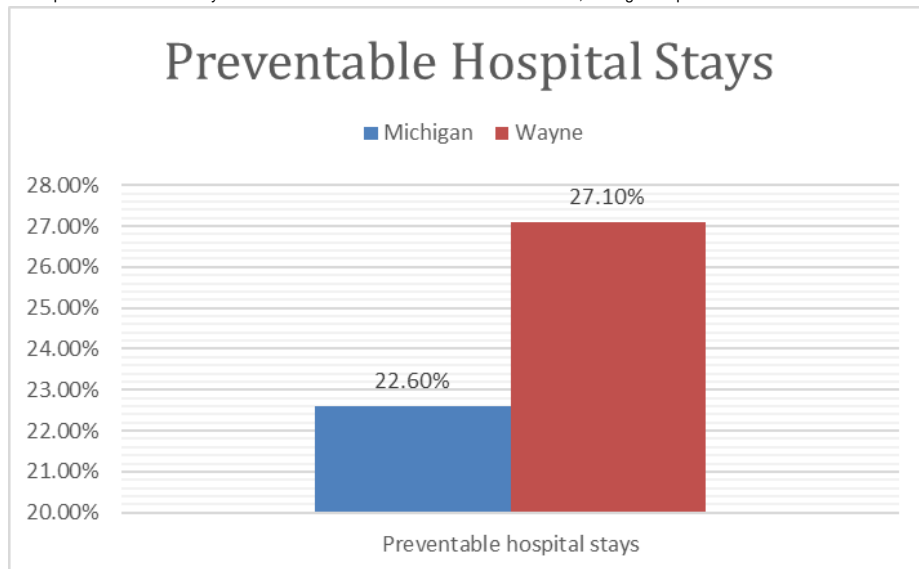
While worry over gasoline and transportation costs has risen markedly since 2020, significant shares of adults still say they are worried about affording medical costs such as unexpected bills, deductibles, and long-term care services for themselves or a family member.<sup>29</sup>

## 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.<sup>cccxviii</sup> Preventative care also can help detect disease earlier and increase compliance with recommended immunization or health screening guidelines.<sup>cccxi</sup>

- 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.<sup>cccxx</sup>

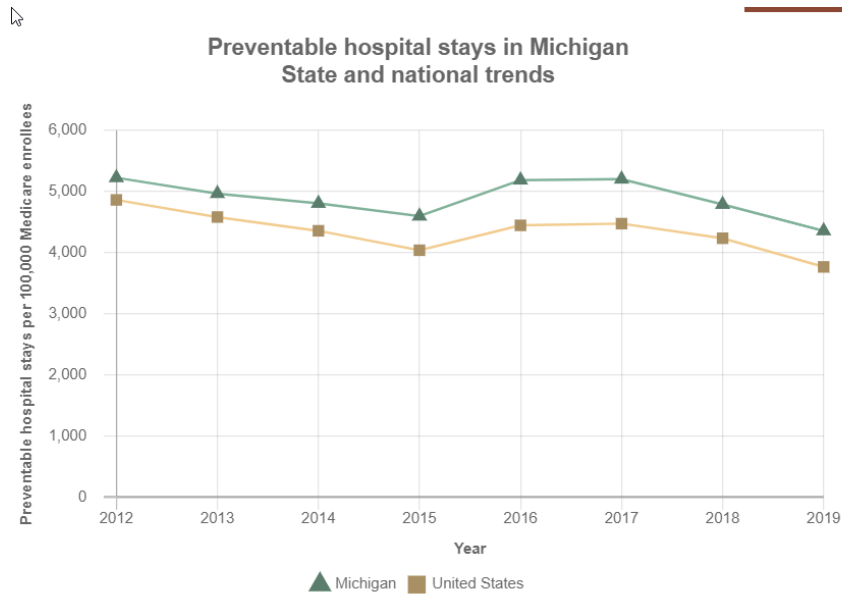
Source: Michigan Resident Inpatient Files created by the Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, using data from the



Michigan Inpatient Database obtained with permission from the Michigan Health & Hospital Association Service Corporation (MHASC). 2014-2020

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.kff.org/health-costs/issue-brief/americans-challenges-with-health-care-costs/>





Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2022, Michigan

## 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.<sup>cccxxiv</sup> In Wayne County, there is one dentist for every 11,380 residents. Overall in Michigan there is one dentist per 1,290 residents.<sup>cccxxv</sup>

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.<sup>cccxxvi</sup>

Report Area	Total Population (2020)	Adults Age 18+ with Recent Dental Visit (Crude)	Adults Age 18+ with Recent Dental Visit (Age-Adjusted)
Detroit city, MI	713,777	50.50%	50.10%
Wayne County, MI	1,740,623	62.40%	62.20%
Michigan	9,966,555	68.4%	67.9%
United States	331,449,281	64.8%	64.5%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Accessed via the PLACES Data Portal. 2020. Source geography:

Tract → [Show more details](#)

- Wayne County is among the 76 of 83 counties in Michigan designated as a HPSA related to dental care.<sup>cccxxvii</sup>
- 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.<sup>cccxxviii</sup>
- 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.<sup>cccxxix</sup>

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).<sup>cccxxx</sup>

## 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.<sup>cccxxxv</sup> 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.<sup>cccxxxvi</sup>

46% of the population ages 75 and over have a disability. Children under 5 years old have the lowest rate of disabilities, at less than 1%.<sup>cccxxxvii</sup>

Individuals with a Disability by Age: Wayne County (2021)		
Age	Number of Individuals	Percent of Total Population (per age group)
Under 5 years	815	0.7%
5 to 17 years	18,342	6%
18 to 34 years	34,678	8.6%
35 to 64 years	107,254	16.2%
65 to 74 years	51,030	29.1%
75 years and over	49,240	45.9%

Source: American Community Survey, 2021 1-Year estimates, Table S1810

Differences in type of disability also vary by age. More than 30.8% of individuals' ages 75 and over have been diagnosed with an ambulatory disability and are unable to walk independently.

- 11.7% of individuals between the ages of 65 to 74 years have a self-care disability, and 3.8% of individuals between the ages of 35 to 64 years also have a self-care disability.
- 0.9% of individuals between the ages of 18 to 34 years have a hearing disability.
- 4.4% of all children under 18 have a cognitive disability.<sup>cccxxxviii</sup>

Of individuals that have a disability in Wayne County, about half have more than one type of disability.<sup>cccxxxix</sup>

- 1.6% of children have more than one disability, while nearly 16.2% individuals between the ages of 18 to 64 years have more than one type of disability.
- 19.7% of individuals 65 years and over have more than one disability.<sup>cccxl</sup>



## MENTAL HEALTH

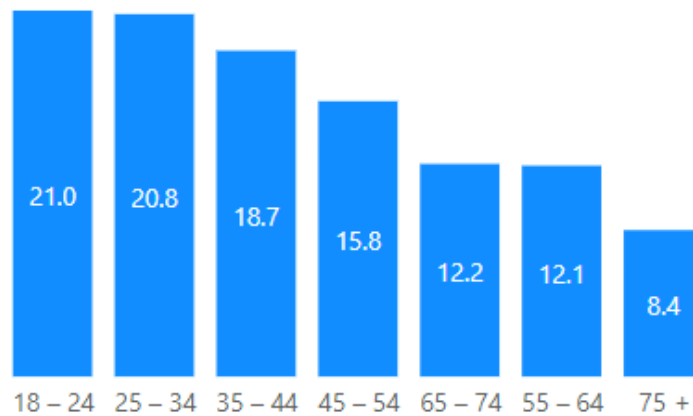
When asked to think about their mental health over the previous month, including stress, depression, and problems with emotions, 16.65% of Michigan adults reported having “not good” mental health for at least 14 days. <sup>cccxi</sup> Reporting poor mental health was most common among those with less 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. <sup>cccxlii</sup>

Throughout the state, approximately 4.6% of the population report having a serious mental illness, and 18.3% report having any mental illness. <sup>cccxlili</sup> 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. <sup>cccxliv</sup> Michigan’s suicide rate per 100,000 residents is 14.1, which also is slightly higher than the nationwide rate of 14.0. <sup>cccxlv</sup>

- In 2017, there were 187 deaths by suicide in Wayne County. <sup>cccxli</sup>
- Michigan’s suicides rates have increased by over 30% since 1999. <sup>cccxlvi</sup>
- 3.9% of Michigan’s population reported having thoughts of suicide in 2017. <sup>cccxlviii</sup>

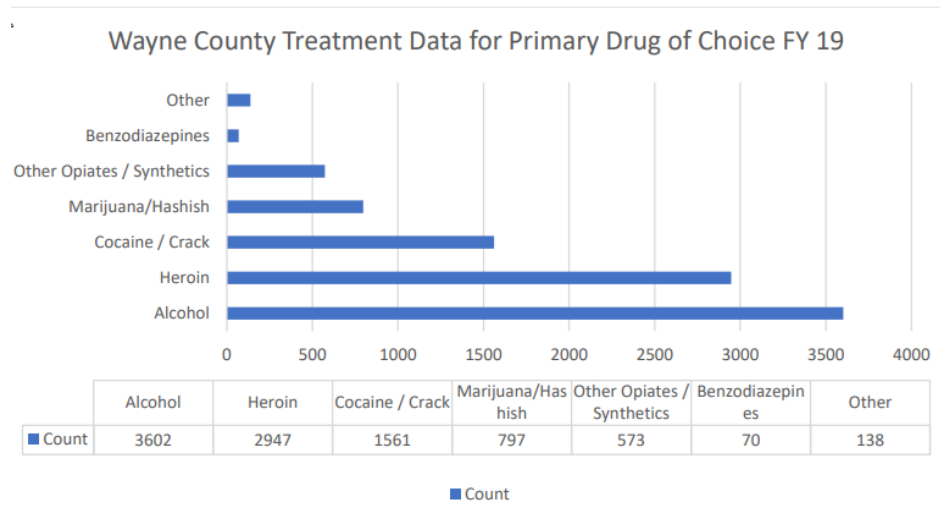
Prevalence (%) by Age



Source: MiBRFSS, Prevalence Estimates for Risk Factors and Health Indicators, Michigan, 2020



## Substance Abuse



Source: Substance Use Disorder Initiatives, 2021-2023, Three Year Strategic Plan

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<sup>cccxlx</sup>—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.<sup>cccl</sup>

- 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.<sup>cccli</sup>
- Individuals between the ages of 18-25 are more likely to have alcohol use disorder in Michigan.<sup>ccclii</sup>
- The top 5 substances utilized in Wayne County in FFY18 included heroin, alcohol, cocaine/crack, marijuana, and other opiates.<sup>cccliii 30</sup>

*Wayne County's Medical Examiners provisional data states a total of 837 opioid related deaths in 2019. There was a 5.1% decline in opioid related deaths compared to 2018. The number of African Americans who overdosed and died from opioids in 2019 increased 4% from 2018 to 2019. There was a notable shift over age distribution of deaths overtime to older age groups. 80% of opioid related deaths in Wayne County were caused by fentanyl.<sup>31</sup>*

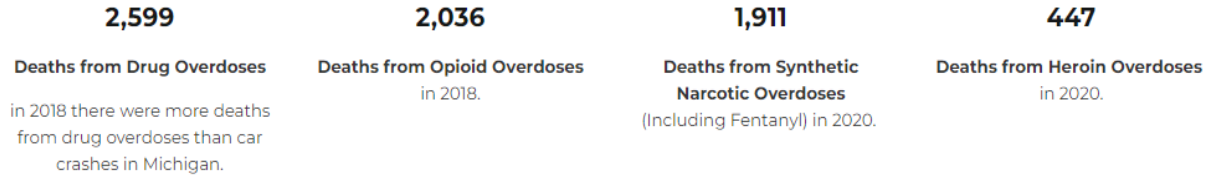
- Michigan's overdose death rate is 27.8 per 100,000, higher than the national rate at 21.7 per 100,000.<sup>ccclvi</sup>
- In 2017, Wayne County experienced 1,780 drug overdose deaths, 20.9% increase from 2016.<sup>ccclvii</sup>
- Wayne County ranks 25th out of all counties in the nation for drug overdose deaths, in 2012 it ranked 125th.<sup>ccclviii</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Source: Substance Use Disorder Initiatives, 2021-2023, Three Year Strategic Plan

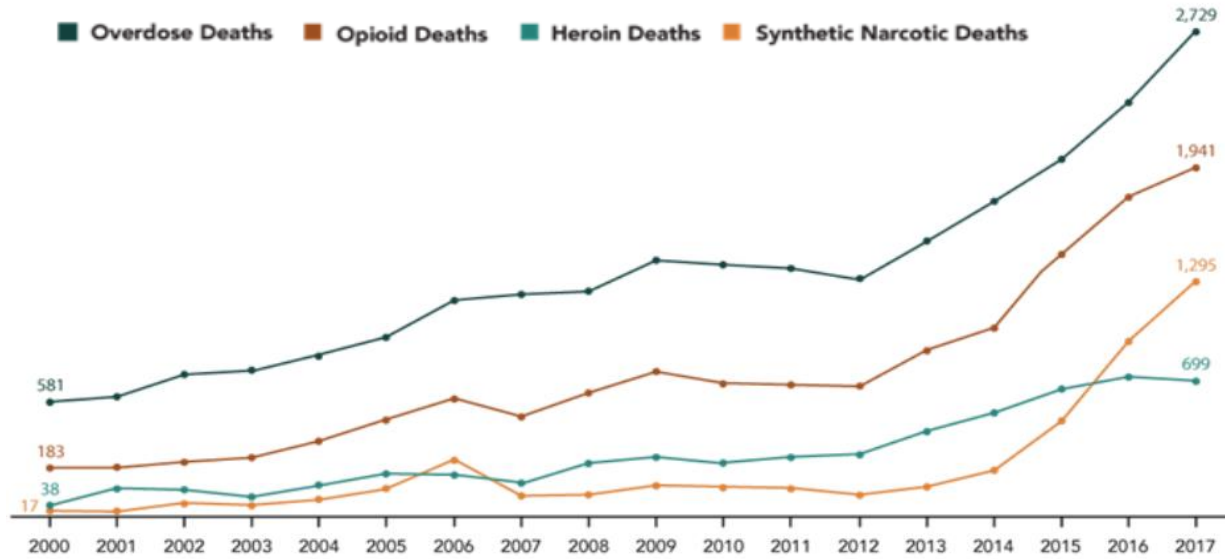
<https://www.dwhn.org/providers-sud-strategic-plan-2021-2023.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.dwhn.org/providers-sud-strategic-plan-2021-2023.pdf>





SAMHSA Opioid Resources,2023, About the epidemic



Source: SAMHSA Opioid Resources,2023, About the epidemic<sup>32</sup>

Drug Overdose Deaths in Wayne County, Comparison 2016-2017		
Drug Type	Number of Deaths	% Change from 2016
All opioids	636	+18%
Heroin	288	+25.4%
Synthetic opioids	469	+35.7%
Prescription opioids	153	-1.1%
Cocaine	234	+14.5%
Total	1,780	+20.9%

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (2019) *Drug Overdose Deaths in Michigan, 2016-2017*

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.michigan.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic>



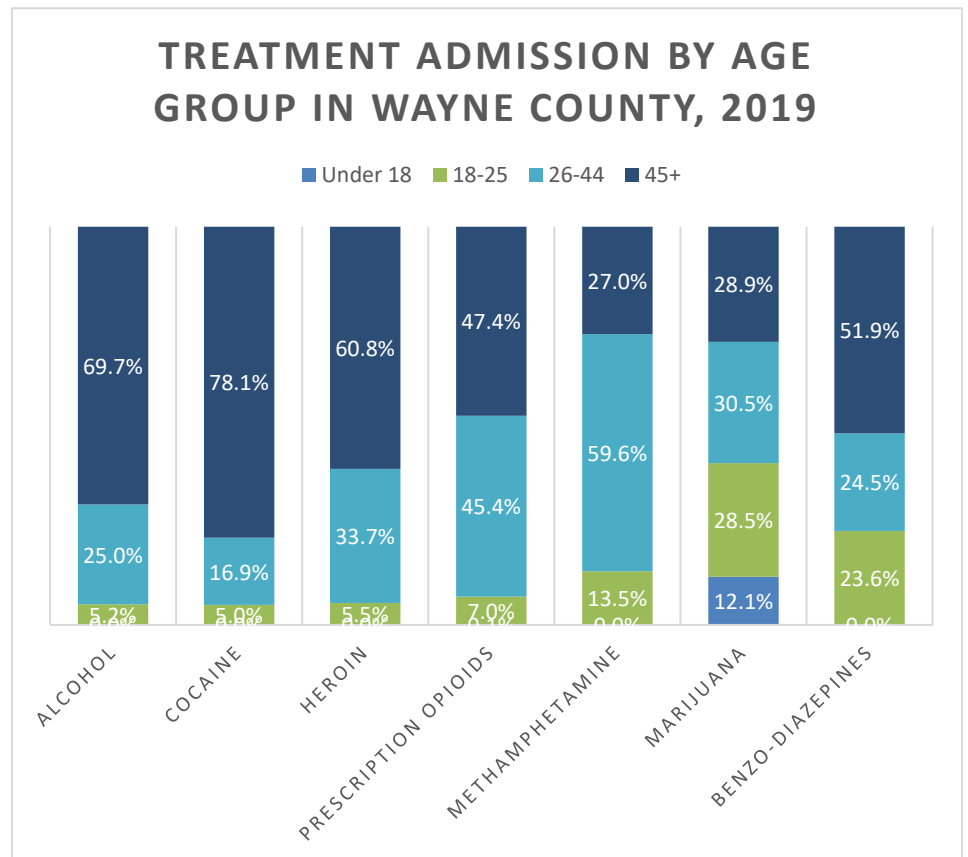
Retail marijuana sales began in 2019 and increased in 2020.<sup>ccclix</sup> Treatment services are scattered around the county, offering a variety of options. This can include inpatient stays, case management, and detox programs. Examples of service providers are found below.

Wayne County Substance Use Services	
Name	Service Offered
Oakdale Recovery Center	Individualized treatment assessment & planning, counseling, drug screening, medication management, referrals
Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority	Point of entry for Medicaid and uninsured Wayne County patients, assessment and referral to inpatient and outpatient options
Personalized Nursing Lighthouse	Detox, programming, sober living, outpatient services

Source: University of Michigan (2020) *Substance Abuse Disorder by Services and Programs by County*

Since 2012, Wayne County has seen an increase in treatment admissions, especially for individuals seeking treatment for alcohol and heroin use. In 2021, individuals between the ages of 26-44 years had the highest admission rates for treating Methamphetamine. Individuals under the age of 26 had the highest admission rates for treating marijuana.

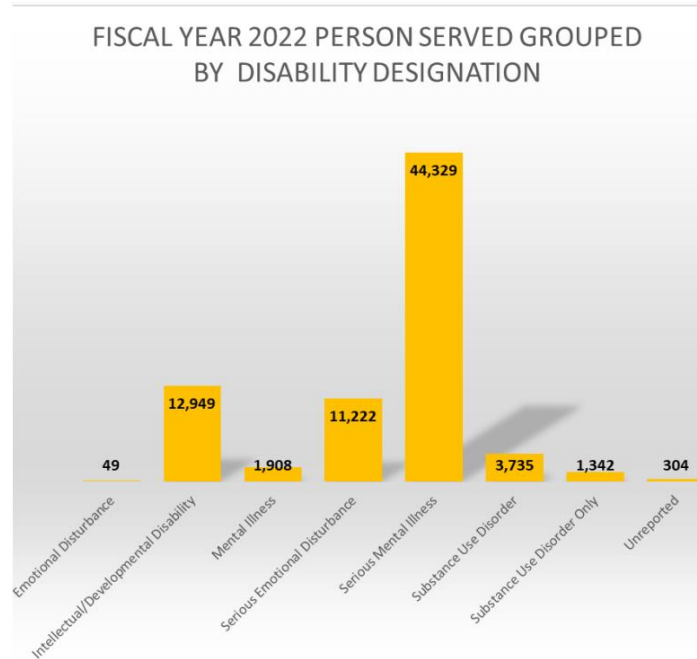
Source: National Drug Early Warning System (2020) *Wayne County (Detroit Area) Sentinel Community Site Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2020*





Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) provides access to mental health and substance use services throughout Wayne County. Between FY 21-22, DWIHN served over 75,000 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%).<sup>ccclxi</sup>

Source: Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (2022) 2021-2022 Annual Report



## LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

The leading causes of death for Wayne County residents vary by age. For example, individuals who are 55 or older are most likely to die from heart disease, followed by cancer. However, Individuals younger than 55 are most likely to die from unintentional injuries. Overall, the leading causes of death include heart disease, cancer, and COVID-19 in Wayne County.

Number of Deaths for Ten Leading Causes by Gender & Race, Wayne County 2021							
Cause of Death	All Races			White		Black	
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Heart disease	5,407	3,023	2,384	1,513	1,214	1,402	1,113
2. Cancer	3,506	1,789	1,771	1,033	1,010	693	691
3. COVID -19	2,488	1,346	1,142	750	510	515	579
4. Unintentional Injuries	1,477	979	498	424	226	519	259
5. Stroke	1,050	448	602	256	337	180	245
6. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	718	305	413	197	276	105	130
7. Alzheimer's disease	481	138	343	89	230	44	103
8. Diabetes	628	342	286	184	132	150	143
9. Kidney disease	413	217	196	106	79	104	111
10. Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	283	172	111	102	68	61	42
Other causes	5,203	2,748	2,454	1,316	1,307	1,328	1,084
Total number of deaths	27,108	11,507	10,200	1,316	5,389	5,101	4,500

Source: Michigan Department of Community Health (2021) Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analysis presented, some specific recommendations for Wayne Metro to consider include the following:

- Pursue funding and resources transportation options to clients, and be involved in local, regional, and state advocacy and action toward transportation
- Bolster and expand weatherization, plumbing and home repair programming, especially programming that trains community members to complete the repairs are most often needed in the area's homes, restoring as well as advocating for the building of more affordable housing units
- Expand career development programs to promote career pathways with growth potential for individuals struggling with low-wage, low-opportunity jobs. Providing or partnering with paid apprenticeship programs, on the job training, and internships can create opportunities for individuals to support themselves while learning new and valuable skills.
- Enhance its Head Start and Early Head Start programs to meet additional needs in the community. Longer program hours (before and aftercare) 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, through a Whole Family Approach, expanding opportunities to engage and work with the entire family. As part of its Whole Family Approach, Wayne Metro will be able to strengthen its services to families of Head Start and Early Head Start programming by providing other wraparound services as needed.
- Wayne Metro's Participatory Grant Making (PGM) programs can play a key role in supporting residents develop leadership skills as well as develop local community groups they can get involved in.
- An organizational empowerment pathway can be developed, where Wayne Metro can help residents grow neighborhood organizations into more stable, and larger organizations with multiple funding sources that can have larger impacts on their target areas.



## NOTE: METHODOLOGY

Wayne Metro conducts a formal Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years by collecting pertinent data to explore community needs, gain insight into 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. The Head Start program needs assessment was conducted alongside the CNA, and these methodologies were used for both assessments. This report serves as the 2023 Community Needs Assessment. Information for Wayne Metro's 2023 CNA was gathered using a variety of methods, and the results of the CNA are a compilation of findings from the following sources:

**Publicly Available Community-Level Data Sources:** Data sources include the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the 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 Survey:** To gain insight from a broader group of Wayne Metro Stakeholders, the organization fielded a survey regarding perceptions of the community's needs in February 2023. The digital survey had 2,850 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 choose the needs most important for their community.

**Wayne Metro Program Data:** Wayne Metro analyzed program data over the past few years to gain insight on trends of programs in which the community access the most. This included data from the Connect Center as well as from programs.



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