



2019 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

DATA TO SUPPORT STRATEGIC PLANNING OF
SERVICES & RESOURCE ALLOCATION



This community needs assessment belongs jointly to Eastern Idaho Public Health, Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, and VOICE Advocacy. Contents may not be duplicated or used except as a point of reference without permission.

“WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET. WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE.”

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

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LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION



Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, Inc. (EICAP, pronounced E-CAP) is extremely excited to have partnered with Eastern Idaho Public Health and United Way of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County in contracting with VOICE Advocacy to compile the necessary data and issue this comprehensive Community Needs Assessment for EICAP's geographical service area.

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, Inc. is a private non-profit operating in the social service industry serving parts of Bingham and all of Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton counties in Idaho. Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership helps and empowers at-risk individuals and families meet their basic needs and increase their independence through support and education. Our programs include early childhood education through the Head Start and Early Head Start program, affordable housing through the ownership and management of 323 apartment units, assistance with utility costs through the weatherization of homes and energy assistance benefits, assistance to the elderly population through the services offered by the Area Agency on Aging and assistance to families in need of temporary housing as they transition to self-sufficiency through our transitional shelter, The Haven.

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership will utilize the data gathered during the Community Needs Assessment to set strategic goals and objectives in alignment with our corporate mission to address the most pressing needs that we can offer some assistance in mitigating. We would like to thank our partners and VOICE for the professionalism exhibited during this process and look forward to working with them in the future as we strive to accomplish our mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Doman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

JAY G. DOMAN, CPA/CCAP

Chief Executive Officer
Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership



Eastern Idaho Public Health’s mission is to PREVENT disease, disability, and premature death; PROMOTE healthy lifestyles; and PROTECT the health and quality of our environment. We have a highly skilled and dedicated staff that serve the residents of Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties. However; the work we do in public health is truly a team effort and requires partnership and collaboration among numerous community partners, not only in our region, but throughout Idaho.

It was our pleasure to partner with the United Way of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County, Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, VOICE Advocacy, and other volunteers and stakeholders on this Community Needs Assessment. The community conversations that were held throughout our region focused on health, education, and financial stability – three key issues that affect each and every one of us in some way or another.

I want to share my thanks with the local individuals in each of the counties who attended our community conversations and allowed us to learn firsthand the great things happening in their communities. We also heard about the challenges people are facing and the needs they have that detract from or negatively impact their health and overall wellness, which leaves us all with work to do.

Eastern Idaho Public Health strives to help individuals and communities be healthy. From the information gathered through this Community Needs Assessment process, we will look for ways to better target our resources, education, and service delivery where we can to address the needs of the people and the communities with the ultimate goal of increasing the health and quality of life of the people throughout our region.

GERI L. RACKOW

Director
Eastern Idaho Public Health

ATTRIBUTION

This report required the collaboration and participation of many individuals, including writers, researchers, and participating partner organizations.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership



Eastern Idaho Public Health



VOICE Advocacy



United Way of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County



Rexburg Research and Business Development Center (RBDC)



CONVERSATION HOSTS

Lost River Senior Center, Arco, Idaho
William Cobbley Senior Center, Challis, Idaho
Clark County Community Center, Dubois, Idaho
Seniors West of the Tetons, Driggs, Idaho
Sacajawea Center, Salmon, Idaho
Jefferson School District Office, Rigby, Idaho
South Fremont Senior Center, St. Anthony, Idaho
Idaho Falls Senior Center, Idaho Falls, Idaho
Madison School District Office, Rexburg, Idaho
Bennion Student Union, Idaho Falls, Idaho
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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

OBJECTIVES

RESEARCH METHOD

BACKGROUND

A community needs assessment establishes a profile of a community, noting both needs as well as community resources. Organizations conduct assessments to determine the needs in a community that can be addressed and the population that is most impacted by the need. As such, this report will include both qualitative and quantitative data to assist in identifying needs in the community of Eastern Idaho. From this identification of needs on both the family and community level, and through a strategic process that also includes consideration of agency needs, partner organizations and agencies can determine the outcomes that they plan to achieve.

The findings and data collected through this report provide an understanding of what challenges face each of the nine counties in the Eastern Idaho service region and allow for the proper development of strategic directives and funding priorities.



FRAMEWORK

This assessment is a key component of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) framework as shown in Figure 1. Using an assessment to determine community needs and resources is the first phase of the ROMA cycle and sets the stage for the planning and implementation process. The process provides continuous growth and improvement and gives agencies who follow the framework a strong basis for state and partner leadership and assistance.

FIGURE 1

THE RESULTS ORIENTED MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY CYCLE



OBJECTIVES



The 2019 Eastern Idaho Community Needs Assessment presented herein, is based on the analysis of three fundamental building blocks of stable living for Eastern Idaho residents: health, education and financial stability. These three topics can characterize the health of a community and shine a light on the opportunities that exist to generate resources, fund partner programs, lead and convene coalitions, supporting existing programs that solve community needs, and work to bring people and community resources together.

IDENTIFYING THE OBJECTIVES

This report is designed as a tool for partner service organization leadership, outside service organizations, and community stakeholders to determine where to focus overall community improvement efforts in decision-making, funding, and grant allocation to continue in the efforts to improve the communities of Eastern Idaho.

This community assessment report has been completed to fulfill specific and timely objectives.

REPORT OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

IDENTIFY

Identify opportunities that can be taken to improve the most pressing issues of health, education, and financial stability (including housing) of individuals in Eastern Idaho.

PROVIDE

Provide a foundation for service providers and community leaders to understand what challenges face each of the nine counties within Eastern Idaho.

INFORM

Inform decisions for strategic program direction and resource allocation. This data helps partner organizations be timely and effective in their response to local needs.

SERVE

Serve as a tool for community partner organizations to evaluate current services and programs throughout their respective service areas.

DISTRIBUTION

To meet the defined objectives, this assessment will be distributed in several ways to ensure the results are shared with partner organizations, other sectors, and the community at large. It will be distributed via agency and partner websites, printed copies, shared electronic reports, and other social media.

METHOD: AT A GLANCE

VOICE Advocacy collected data from community members through a combination of surveys and community conversations. Surveys and community conversations were facilitated in a variety of settings in order to reach a diverse group of community members and stakeholders throughout the nine-county assessment area. In addition, data is included from various reputable publications to draw a comparison between the results of the data collected by VOICE Advocacy and existing data on the population.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, Eastern Idaho Public Health, VOICE Advocacy, and United Way of Eastern Idaho and Bonneville County held 12 community conversations in 9 Eastern Idaho counties: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton. To supplement the data collected in the 9 counties, a Spanish community conversation was also held in Bonneville County.

A more comprehensive methodology can be found in Methodology section of this report. Copies of the survey and leading community conversation questions can be seen in the Appendix.

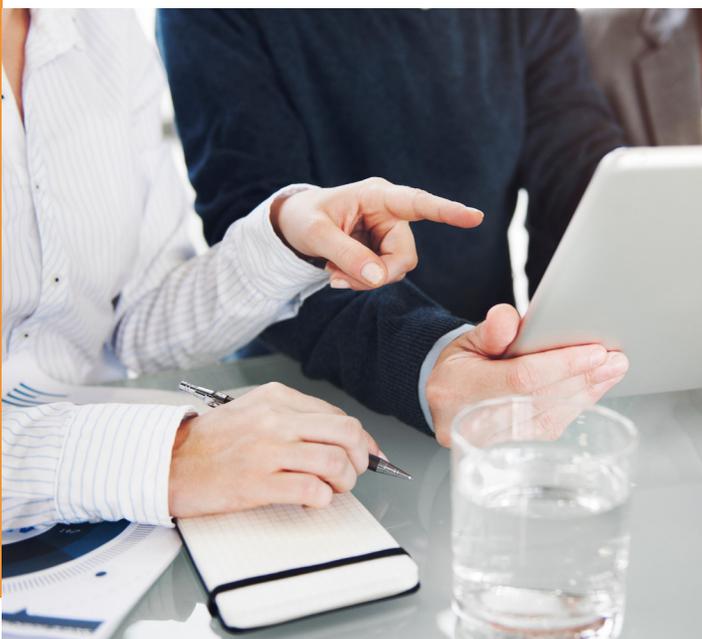
Community conversation data effectively captures Community conversation data found in the individual county analysis pages effectively captures priority points expressed by those in attendance. However, its broader reliability is limited by the small percentage of county residents who attended the conversations and the influence attendees' professions and interests had on the direction of the conversations. Thus, supplemental data is necessary in order to provide a more complete perspective of each county. Each county analysis in this needs assessment includes a brief Context Essentials section, which introduces county-specific data in regard to vital health, educational, and financial issues. Points of intersection between conversation and supplemental data are discernible and conducive to insight.

FOCUS AREAS

Community conversations are kitchen-table style conversations that focus on issues affecting the health, education, and financial stability of the individuals in each local community. The three key focus areas of health, education, and financial security are cornerstones to individual and community success and embody the areas that agency programs can impact the most.

DISCLAIMER

The information presented in this Community Needs Assessment was acquired and analyzed according to the most recent and relevant data available. Interpretations, estimates, and analysis are those of the authors and may not reflect the views of the individual partner organizations. The data analyzed in the report is presented as processed by Rexburg Research and Business Development Center and VOICE Advocacy as unbiased third parties to keep the internal and external validity of the data, as well as follow all partners' guidelines for data management and stewardship.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEFINING EASTERN IDAHO
OVERVIEW OF TOP NEEDS

DEFINING EASTERN IDAHO

DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF EASTERN IDAHO

In 2018, Idaho was the second fastest growing state in the nation, behind Nevada.¹ Much of this growth has occurred mainly in urban areas instead of rural areas. However, Idaho remains a relatively sparsely-populated state, with an average of 19 people per square mile of land area.

Although much of Eastern Idaho is rural and sparsely populated, there are census tracts in Eastern Idaho reflecting a higher density of population. These areas of higher population density are gathered around cities like Blackfoot, Idaho Falls, and Rexburg, and in County, Bonneville County, and Madison County, as shown in Figure 2. This variance of population density presents a unique spread of characteristics within the nine counties that make up Eastern Idaho.

Consistent with overall demographics of Idaho, Eastern Idaho also has a predominantly White population. However, in terms of ethnic characteristics, Clark County has a substantial proportion of Hispanic and Latino residents compared to the rest of the counties in this assessment.

Lemhi County, Butte County, and Custer County have the highest percentages of veterans in their populations.

In all Eastern Idaho counties, 86 percent or more of the population attained the educational level of high school graduate or higher.

The median age in Madison County is 23.5 years, which is very young compared to the median age of 53.4 years in Custer County. This wide variance in median age requires a scope of services to provide for the health, education, and financial security of individuals living in the Eastern Idaho area.

FIGURE 2

	Demographics Statewide and by County					Population Density by Square Mile	
	<i>Percentage of total population</i>					<i>Population</i>	<i>Households</i>
	<i>White</i>	<i>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</i>	<i>Veterans</i>	<i>Educational attainment: high school or higher</i>	<i>Median age (years)</i>		
Bonneville	92.8%	6.9%	8.4%	91.5%	32.6	55.9	21.3
Butte	94.7%	4.1%	12.0%	92.1%	46.4	1.3	0.6
Clark	74.2%	34.2%	3.4%	70.7%	29.7	0.6	0.3
Custer	97.3%	4.2%	11.2%	89.7%	53.4	0.9	0.6
Fremont	91.4%	10.6%	8.2%	87.9%	36.7	7.1	4.6
Jefferson	90.9%	10.0%	8.3%	87.8%	31.3	23.9	8.0
Lemhi	96.6%	2.2%	12.7%	90.0%	52.9	1.7	1.0
Madison	95.5%	3.9%	2.9%	95.4%	23.5	80.0	24.0
Teton	91.3%	11.8%	5.0%	92.7%	36.4	22.6	12.2
Idaho	91.0%	7.9%	9.5%	90.2%	35.9	19.0	8.1

SCOPE: EASTERN IDAHO

The Eastern Idaho geographic area is defined as Bonneville County, Butte County, Clark County, Custer County, Fremont County, Jefferson County, Lemhi County, Madison County, and Teton County. Figure 3 (below) shows a map of Idaho and the counties therein. Together these nine counties make up over 25 percent of the total area of Idaho. See corresponding colors to identify county names.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

Most populated cities: Idaho Falls; Ammon; Iona
Bonneville County's population makes up over 42 percent of the Eastern Idaho service area's total population.

BUTTE COUNTY

Most populated cities: Arco; Moore
Butte County's largest city, Arco, makes up just under half of the county's total population.

CLARK COUNTY

Most populated city: Dubois
Clark County is the least populated and most rural county in this assessment and in all of Idaho.

CUSTER COUNTY

Most populated city: Challis
Custer County, at 4,920 square miles, is the largest in area of the Eastern Idaho counties in this assessment.

FREMONT COUNTY

Most populated cities: St. Anthony; Ashton
Fremont County houses .5 percent of the population of the Eastern Idaho counties in this assessment.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Most populated cities: Rigby; Menan
Jefferson County has the fourth highest population of the Eastern Idaho counties in this assessment.

LEMHI COUNTY

Most populated city: Salmon
Lemhi County, at 4,563 square miles is the second largest in area of the Eastern Idaho counties in this assessment.

MADISON COUNTY

Most populated cities: Rexburg; Sugar City
Madison County has the third highest population density of the Eastern Idaho counties in this assessment.

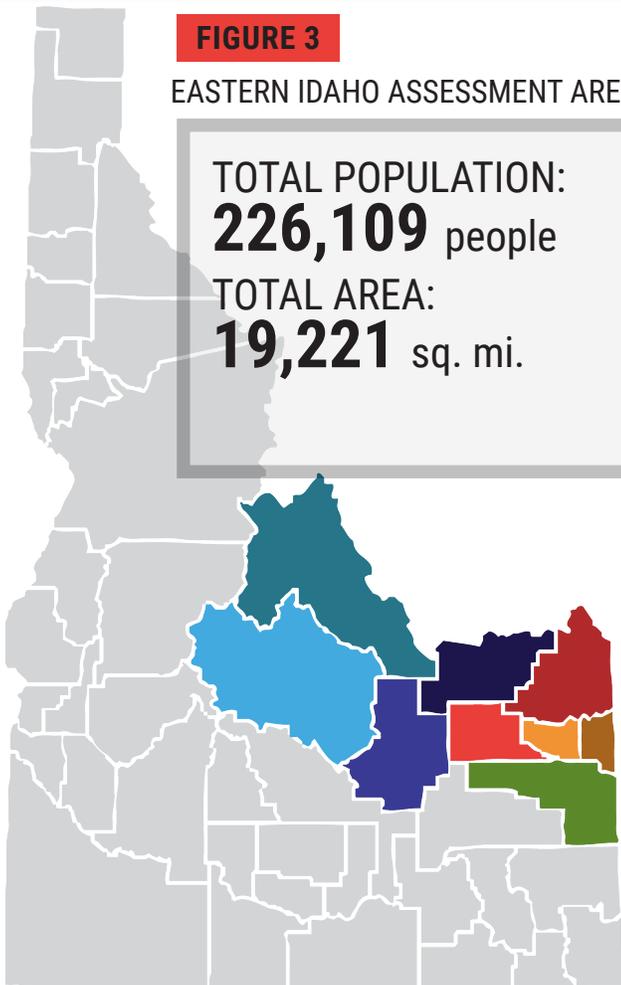
TETON COUNTY

Most populated cities: Victor; Driggs
Teton County, at 449 square miles, is the smallest in area of the Eastern Idaho counties in this assessment.

FIGURE 3

EASTERN IDAHO ASSESSMENT AREA

TOTAL POPULATION:
226,109 people
TOTAL AREA:
19,221 sq. mi.



OVERVIEW: TOP NEEDS

Awareness of the highest priority needs in Eastern Idaho enables Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership and Eastern Idaho Public Health to plan strategically about how best to focus services and allocate resources. Each community conversation concentrated on three specific topics: health, education, and financial stability. Accordingly, the top three needs associated with each topic is identified in a section entitled Top Needs by Conversation Topic.

It is also vital that the highest priority needs of the region be articulated in a way not predefined by the community conversation structure or by the mission of Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership or Eastern Idaho Public Health. Thus, a section entitled Top Needs in Eastern Idaho, which offers a brief explanation of five high priority needs explored by community conversation participants throughout the region and supported by secondary source data is included.

TOP NEEDS: HEALTH

High Priority Need: Mental and behavioral health needs abound, and many Eastern Idaho residents are not receiving the mental and/or behavioral care they need.

This topic was addressed in all nine counties covered in this community needs assessment:

- Cultural norms and patterns heavily influence perceptions of the problem and what it means to seek help.
- The need far exceeds the number of mental and behavioral health care providers and care facilities.
- The education and resources necessary to elevate awareness and expedite problem-solving are very limited.

High Priority Need: Many Eastern Idaho residents lack adequate access to health care.

This topic was addressed in all nine counties covered in this community needs assessment:

- Provider-to-patient ratios are severely imbalanced

throughout the region.

- Income constraints severely impact many residents' ability to seek the care they need.
- Proximity to care presents a significant challenge for many residents, due both to the distance and expense of transportation and the lack of public transportation alternatives.

High Priority Need: The insufficiency of information and resources limits Eastern Idaho residents' understanding and motivation in terms of meeting their health care needs.

This topic was addressed in all nine counties covered in this community needs assessment:

- The geographical spread that characterizes Eastern Idaho complicates the level of resource availability and the process of information exchange within and between counties.
- Income constraints influence not only individuals but public service organizations that may need to prioritize program funding over intensive community awareness efforts.
- Access to local news and information is influenced by generational preferences of sources, the diminishing reach of local newspapers, and the varying levels of local information available through television service providers and social media platforms.

TOP NEEDS: EDUCATION

High Priority Need: Existing support programs for students are insufficient to cultivate their potential.

This topic was addressed in various ways in every county conversation.

- Some conversations focused on the need for after-school programs that provide constructive developmental activities for students of all ages K-12.
- Other conversations focused more heavily on the need for mentoring and tutoring options inside and outside of the classroom.
- All conversations addressed the issue of parental support, the general consensus being that too few parents are volunteering the time necessary

ensure that teachers and students receive the assistance they need.

High Priority Need: Access to early childhood education is greatly needed and not equally feasible across socioeconomic sectors.

This topic was addressed in all nine counties covered in this community needs assessment.

- Conversation participants throughout the counties repeated the strong conviction that early childhood education serves a vital purpose.
- Some conversations focused on the lack of availability and accessible alternatives for parents wanting developmental/educational opportunities for pre-K children.
- Other conversations focused more on the high cost of preschool and educationally-oriented childcare.

High Priority Need: State and district public education policies need to better align with local needs and constraints.

This topic was addressed in all nine counties covered in this community needs assessment.

- Conversation participants felt somewhat disconnected from the processes by which state and district policies are formulated and passed.
- The majority of conversations focused on the ways in which state and district policies are not generating adequate resources or support for individual schools, teachers, or students.
- In general, conversations about state and district policies also focused on a dilemma: funding isn't sufficient to meet teachers' salary or school supply needs, yet workers aren't earning enough to bridge the gap with ongoing levies.

TOP NEEDS: FINANCIAL STABILITY

High Priority Need: The lack of access to affordable housing interferes with many Eastern Idahoans' efforts to build stable, progress-oriented lives.

This topic was a point of strong emphasis in every county conversation.

- Affordable housing options are insufficient to meet needs in every county covered in this assessment, though the severity of this shortage is not equally severe throughout the region.
- Deposit policies may indirectly have a disproportionate negative impact on individuals

with mental and behavioral health issues and/or who are reentering their communities after being released from prison.

- The lack of affordable housing is an issue that communities cannot resolve independently.

High Priority Need: The lack of reasonably high paying jobs keeps many Eastern Idahoans financially insecure.

This topic emerged as a significant concern in county conversations across the region.

- The severity of this "low wage" issue is sometimes obscured by low unemployment rate in Eastern Idaho.
- In general, the lowest income households in Eastern Idaho face an income-to-mortgage/rent ratio that places individuals and families at great financial risk.
- Although high paying jobs are being generated in the region, they demand a level of education many financially constrained Eastern Idahoans don't have.

High Priority Need: Financial resources and education are not easily accessible to the Eastern Idahoans who need them most.

This topic was a point of strong interest the each of the counties covered in this community needs assessment.

- Conversation participants repeatedly expressed concern about their local economies and felt unsure about how to overcome the barriers they face without better opportunities to develop a stronger financial base.
- Navigating the various banking, investment, and governmental support programs requires a level of financial literacy that exceeds the understanding of many Eastern Idahoans with the greatest needs.
- Without easily accessible financial guidance of the sort that enables an individual to make strategic decisions about banking, investments, and credit repair, Eastern Idahoans with the greatest need may fail to utilize resources or programs designed to assist them.

TOP NEEDS: OVERALL

The following four needs present root issues that branch into the lives of individuals, families, and communities in ways that limit quality of life, intensify hardships, and generate suffering. Some of these needs can be at least partially addressed on a community level. Others will require a coordinated effort between state and local leaders, community service providers, and residents.

Identifying these needs can assist community service providers as they make strategic plans regarding programs, policies, and resource allocation. They are presented below in no particular order.

Top Need: Throughout Eastern Idaho, the lack of accessible, reliable transportation has a profound negative impact on many residents.

- Many residents struggle to obtain consistent, adequate health care because the lack of transportation necessary to travel to a doctor's office. For instance, an elderly person who must drive over an hour to see a doctor is apt to forego much needed care. This type of scenario is common.
- Transportation has a profound effect on the financial stability of many Eastern Idahoans. Without reliable transportation, maintaining consistent employment can be nearly impossible, particularly given the lack of public alternatives and the seasonal extremes that make driving a necessity.
- Transportation also has a profound effect on families. Parents without reliable transportation not only struggle to meet their own basic needs, but also those of their children. Without transportation, families have to dramatically curtail the health care and educational opportunities they can provide for their children.

Top Need: Access to affordable housing is an urgent need throughout Eastern Idaho.

- The shortage of affordable housing affects everyone from individuals experiencing financial hardship as an isolated issue, to people whose lives are complicated by mental and/or behavioral health issues, which often lead directly to financial hardship, to citizens returning to their

communities after incarceration.

- The demand for affordable housing far exceeds the supply, and thus a painful competition exists for rental units. This competition enables housing owners and managers to create deposit policies that intensify the disadvantages individuals with a poor credit rating or a criminal record already face.
- A shortage of affordable housing creates a kind of perpetual instability, which in turn has the capacity to deepen and broaden the range of social problems communities in Eastern Idaho face.

Top Need: Access to affordable health care is a pressing need throughout Eastern Idaho.

- Whether in terms of physical, mental, or behavioral health, the patient-to-provider ratios are seriously disproportionate, which results in higher costs and long waiting periods for appointments.
- Health care alternatives intended to service individuals with a low income are very beneficial but inadequate to meet needs around the region, especially in terms of mental health care.
- Individual communities are ill-equipped to address this issue without collaboration, including between state and local governments and regional service providers.

Top Need: Access to education and resources limits Eastern Idahoans' growth and stability in a multitude of ways.

- The distance between significant population hubs and outlying communities places a strain on community service providers of all types, and thus leaves residents of more remote communities frequently feeling burdened in their effort to meet basic needs.
- Providing needed health, educational, and financial resources to residents across such geographically diverse and distant communities requires coordination between state and local governments and community service providers that is difficult to achieve and maintain.
- A culture of independence, toughness, and a disinclination toward "outside" or governmental involvement, can translate into a lack of awareness of existing resources and of collaborative strategies for resource generation.



COUNTY REPORTS

BONNEVILLE

LEMHI

BUTTE

JEFFERSON

CLARK

MADISON

CUSTER

TETON

FREMONT

SPANISH CONVERSATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HEALTH

- The Conversation
- Provider-patient Ratios
- Child Immunizations*
- Deaths by Suicide

EDUCATION

- The Conversation
- Highschool and Beyond
- Proximity to Further Education

FINANCIAL STABILITY

- The Conversation
- Safe and Stable Housing

Note: Citations for all data included in this section are found in page 93.

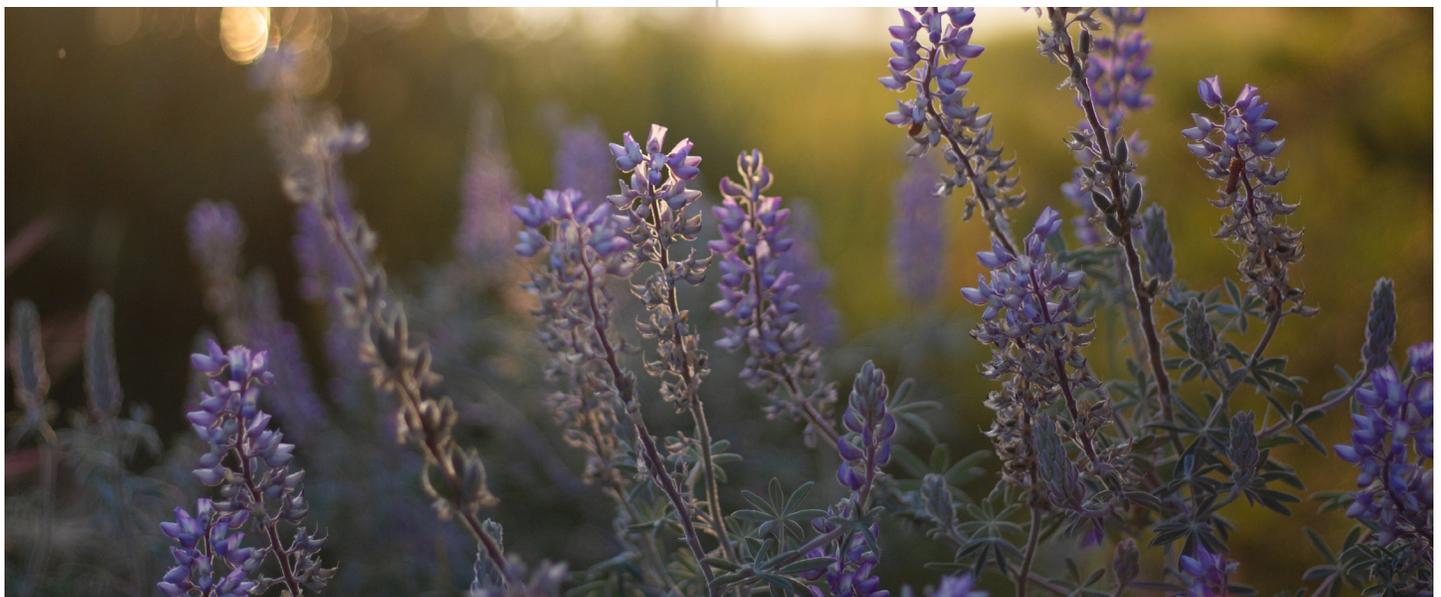
* CHILD IMMUNIZATIONS

Having high immunization rates in a community helps protect not only the vaccinated individual, but the entire community by preventing the spread of disease. Idaho is a Vaccine for Children (VFC) state, which means no child in the state is denied immunizations based on inability to pay.

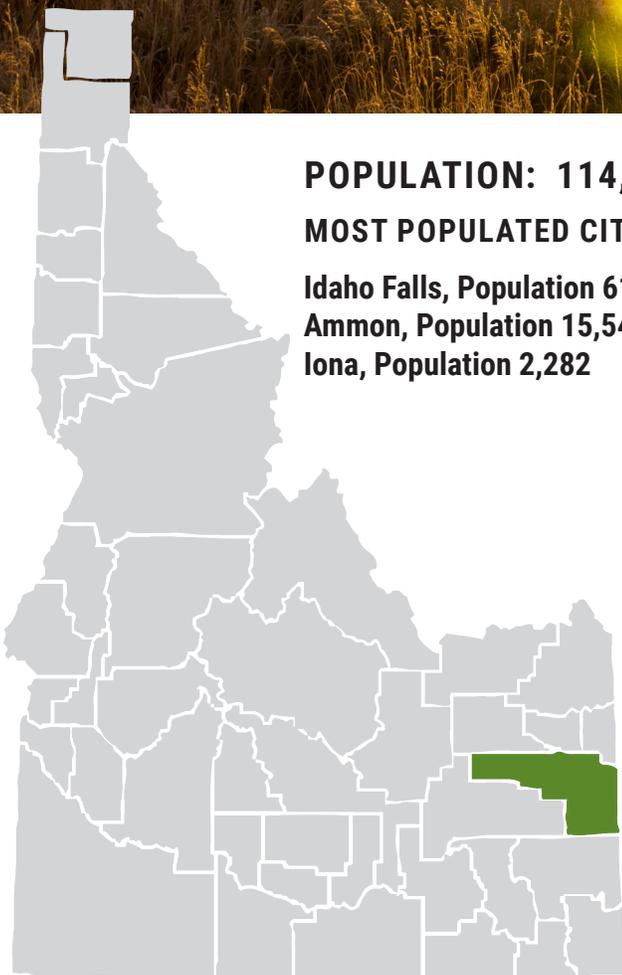
In Idaho, to enter or transfer into public or private schools, all children in preschool and grades K-12 must meet immunization requirements at registration and before attendance (Idaho Code 39-4801 and Idaho Administrative Procedures Act, IDAPA 16.02.15). Depending on the child's age, immunization requirements include vaccinations for Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTap); Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR); Polio; Hepatitis B; Varicella (Chickenpox); and Hepatitis A. A child meeting the specific requirements outlined in IDAPA 16.02.15 is considered adequately immunized. However, Idaho law allows a parent/guardian to claim an exemption from immunization requirements for their child for medical, religious, or other reasons.

Each year, Idaho schools report immunization status for students in kindergarten, first grade, and seventh grade, which is the data used in this report.

While immunizations (or the lack thereof) are a very significant health issue, it was not highly prioritized by conversation participants.



BONNEVILLE COUNTY



POPULATION: 114,595

MOST POPULATED CITIES:

Idaho Falls, Population 61,076

Ammon, Population 15,540

Iona, Population 2,282

Median Household Income: \$54,150

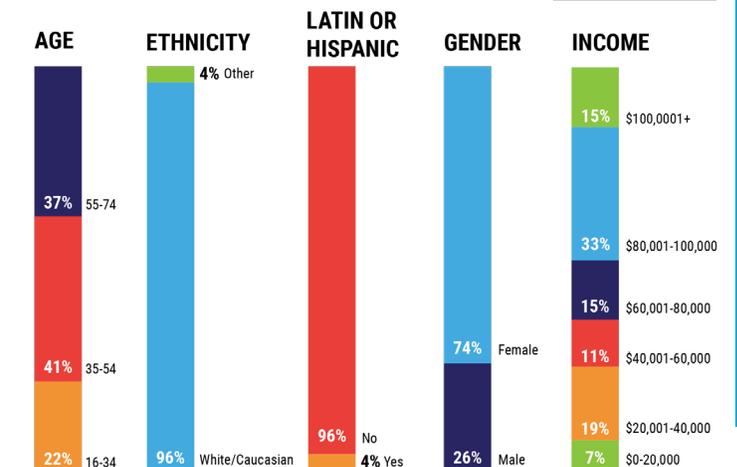
Median Age: 36.6

Race/Ethnicity: White- 83%, Hispanic or Latino- 13%, Other- 4%

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

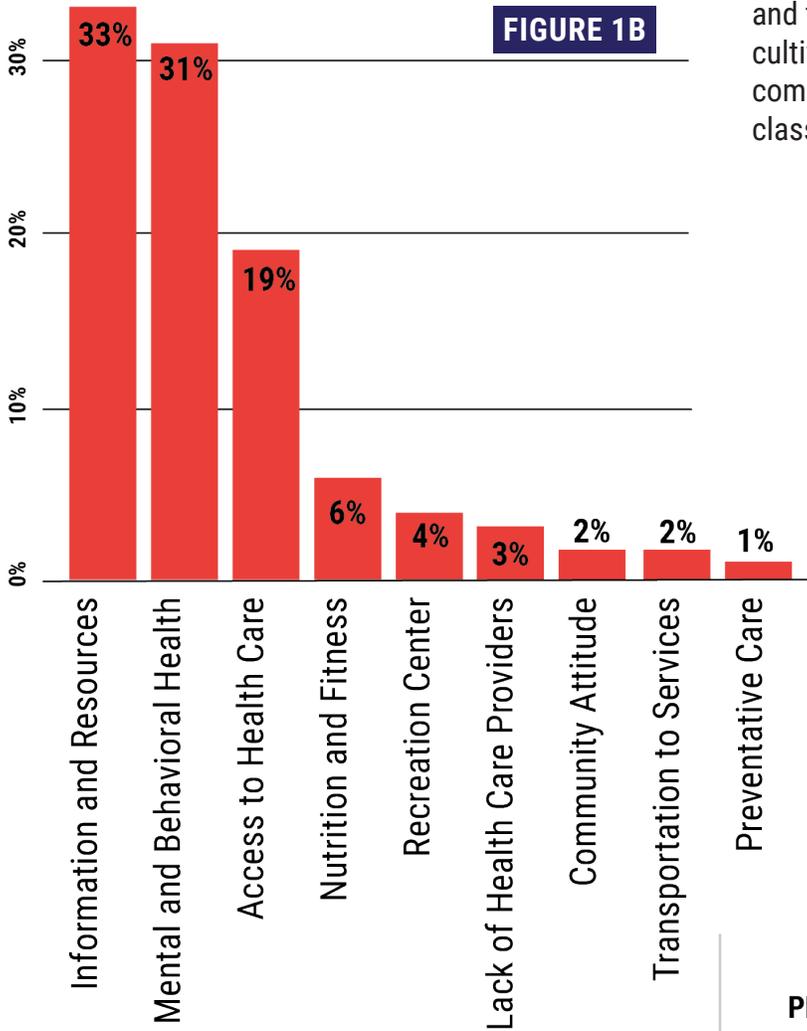
Eastern Idaho, Bonneville County Community Conversations
2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 1A



HEALTH

Eastern Idaho, Bonneville County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



and again mentioned the lack of information about existing resources. Not knowing “where to go for help” was a concern echoed by multiple attendees. A desire for more “prevention resources for things like suicide” was also shared by many attendees.

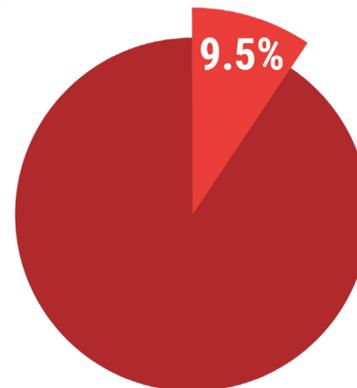
Other topics discussed included the need for better access to low-income and affordable health care, and the possibility of increasing opportunities to cultivate a healthy lifestyle, such as access to a better community recreation center and nutrition and fitness classes.

FIGURE 1C

2,340
INDIVIDUALS

1 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Ratio of population per primary care provider in Bonneville County



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

THE CONVERSATION

Bonneville County is a regional hub in terms of health care resources and provides residents with a wide range of health care options relative to the other eight counties covered in this assessment. Despite this, the most frequent concern expressed by conversation participants was the lack of awareness and information about resources.

Mental and behavioral health concerns were also emphasized. In this regard, conversation participants indicated that insufficient resources are available

PROVIDER-PATIENT RATIOS

Health care providers in Bonneville County are hard-pressed to keep up with the number of residents who rely upon them for convenient access. The ratio indicated here worsens when residents of outlying counties who also rely on providers in Bonneville County are taken into account. This issue also correlates with conversation participants’ third most common concern: access to affordable health care.



FIGURE 1D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
BONNEVILLE COUNTY	92.0	4.6		
KINDERGARTEN	92.2	3.2	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	91.9	5.3	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	92.0	5.1	85.0	7.9

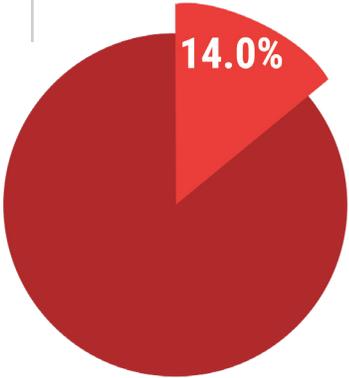
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Bonneville County has the highest percentage of adequately immunized students compared to the other counties covered in this assessment. They also have exemption rates lower than the state average. Refer to page 12 for more details.

DEATHS BY SUICIDE

Idaho’s suicide rate is significantly higher than the national average and consistently has a suicide rate among the top ten states. Drug-induced deaths also present a serious problem. Not surprisingly, conversation participants were clearly attuned to these issues, with mental and behavioral health being the second most emphasized concern. The lack of awareness of resources, a challenge emphasized by conversation participants, also directly relates to these issues.

FIGURE 1E



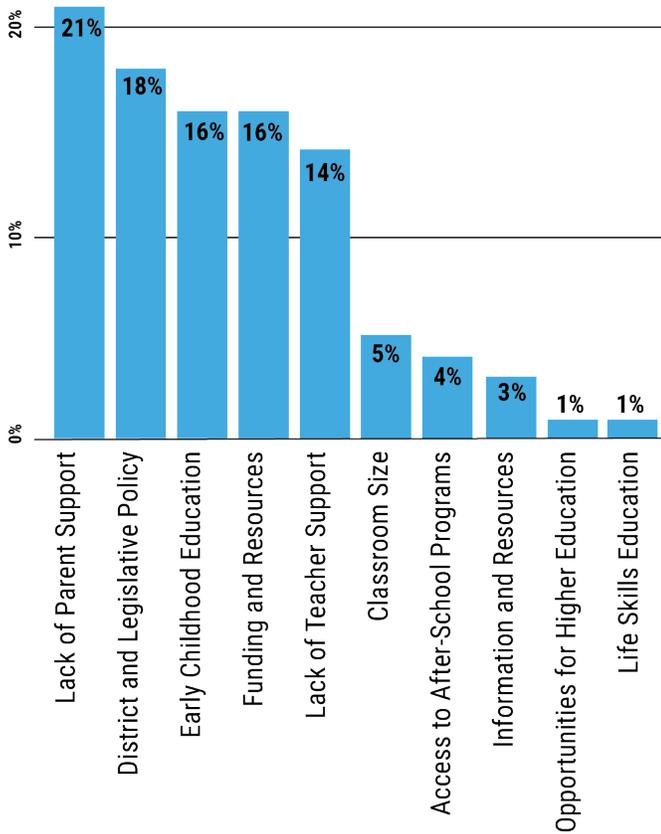
PERCENT PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY



EDUCATION

Eastern Idaho, Bonneville County
2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 1F

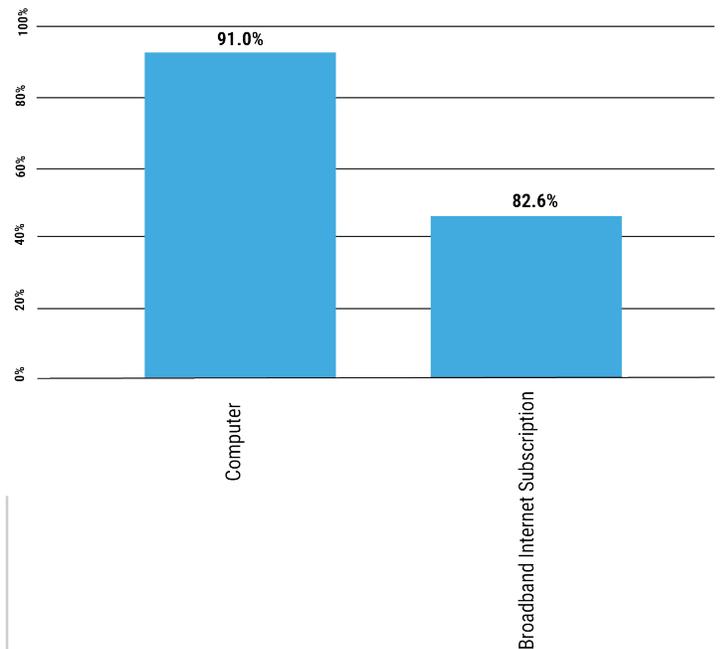


The lack of parental support for teachers and engagement in the classroom and their child’s learning were serious concerns for conversation attendees. These challenges were echoed throughout several of the other eight counties as well, although the reason is difficult to pinpoint. Conversation participants in Bonneville County indicated concern about parents being too busy to volunteer and parents having a more outcome than process focused interest in the educational experiences of their children.

Strong emphasis was also placed on district and legislative policies and funding and resources, which are obviously interrelated. Teacher pay, classroom size, after-school programs, and early learning options all concerned conversation participants that relate to how money and other resources are allocated.

FIGURE 1G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY



HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Home to multiple higher education institutions, Idaho Falls provides ample opportunities for the more than 90 percent of students who graduate from high school to pursue advanced learning. Still, fewer than 1/3 of Bonneville County residents have a college degree, and the one year “Go On” rate hovers around

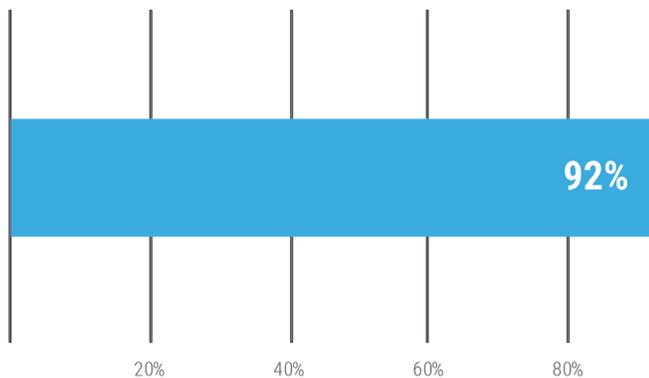
THE CONVERSATION

Bonneville County is home to two school districts, the Idaho Falls District #91 and Bonneville Joint District #93. Idaho Falls, Bonneville County seat, is the biggest population hub in Eastern Idaho, and the resulting diversity of race/ethnicity, family structure, income, lifestyle all play into a student’s educational experience. Between the two districts there are 27 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 11 high schools, which including innovative options like technical and online high schools.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE “MORE VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT IN CLASSROOMS” AND “MORE INDIVIDUALIZED TESTING.”

FIGURE 1H

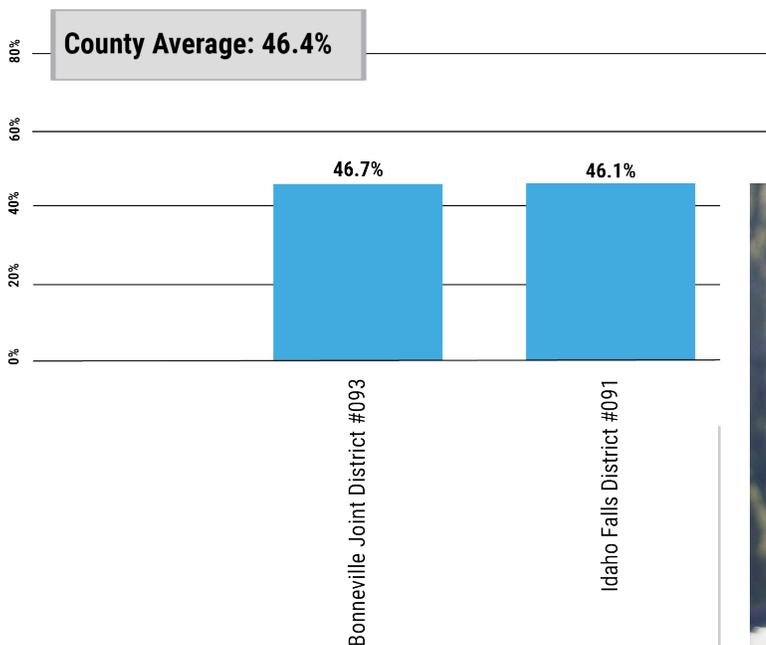
GRADUATION RATE



46 percent. Conversation participants' concerns aligned with these numbers. Opportunities for higher education were identified as a top need, despite the availability of college, university, and technical degree programs, which suggests that factors such as financial resources may play into graduates' decisions about whether or not to pursue higher education.

FIGURE 1I

PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR BONNEVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018



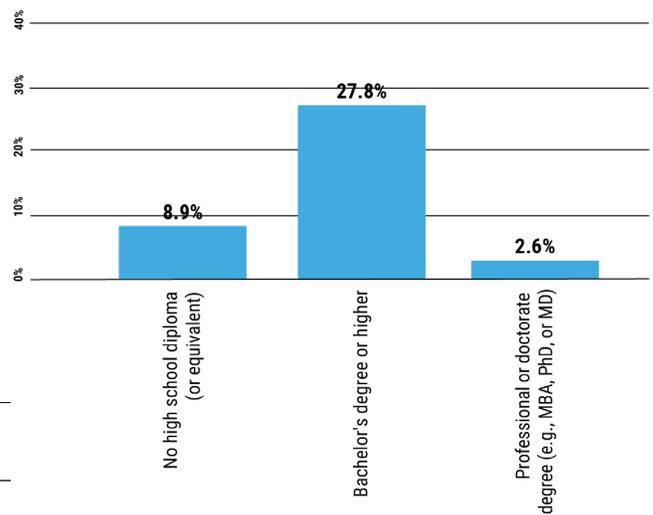
PROXIMITY TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Idaho Falls offers access to the College of Eastern Idaho within the city limits. It also serves as home to an Idaho State University Campus Extension from Pocatello, select classes from University of Idaho, and Stevens Henagar College. Fewer than 30 miles to the north is Brigham Young University-Idaho, another 4-year university accessible with a relatively short commute.

Unlike in many counties covered in this assessment, students in Bonneville County do not face seemingly insurmountable transportation issues in order to pursue advanced learning.

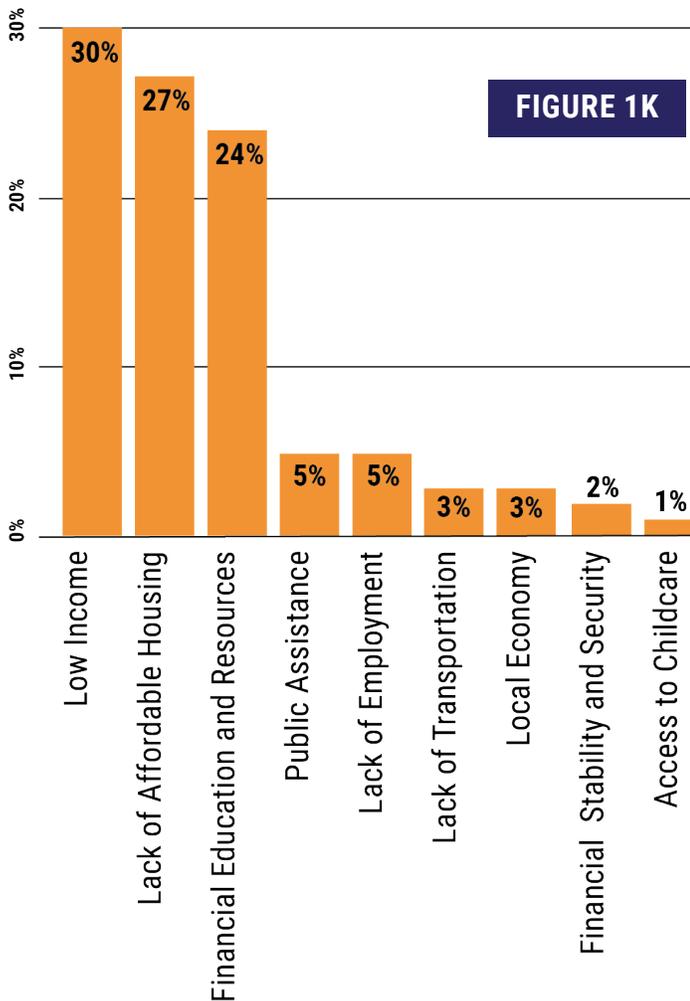
FIGURE 1J

EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY



FINANCIAL STABILITY

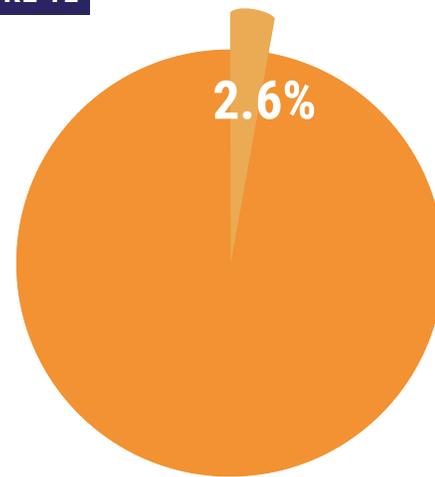
Eastern Idaho, Bonneville County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



The low unemployment rate in Bonneville County is very positive. However, that percentage can obscure the economic reality many residents face. According to the U.S. Census, approximately 64 percent of county residents are part of the labor force, including 54 percent of women. Yet a living wage for one adult with one child in Bonneville County is \$23.54 per hour, as estimated by the Living Wage Calculator. Thousands of Bonneville County residents work without ever making a living wage.

Conversation participants discussed the challenge many residents face securing affordable, stable housing, reliable transportation, and child care. They also commented on the inadequacy of resources to help individuals learn about finances. Conversation participants repeatedly expressed concern about the financial instability many of them/their acquaintances battle.

FIGURE 1L



PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY

1,468
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
BONNEVILLE COUNTY

THE CONVERSATION

The median household income in Bonneville County is slightly higher than in Idaho generally. Although the percentage of unemployed residents is very low, more than 10 percent of people in Bonneville County live in poverty.

Conversation participants were attuned to this dilemma as they discussed the irony of working hard at a job without feeling any sense of progress or purpose. Participants were unified in their perception of the top three priorities: low wages, the lack of affordable housing, and limited financial education and resources. Each concern is serious in itself but becomes even moreso in relation to the others.

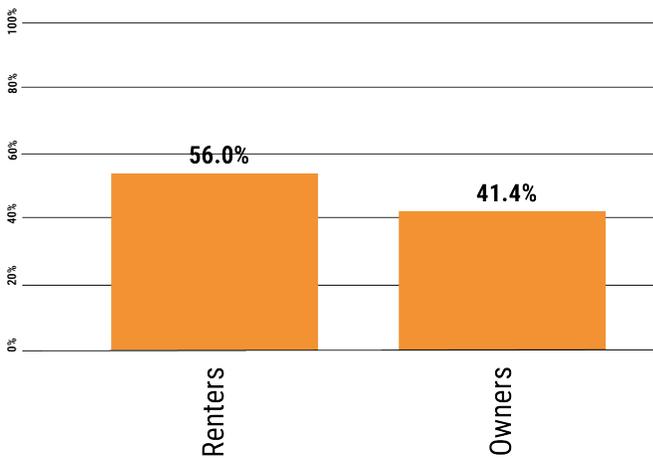
SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING

Not surprisingly, individuals and families who struggle to retain employment or who receive only minimum wage, face near continual stress as they seek to retain stable housing. Rental housing lays claim to more than half of the what is earned in households with the lowest incomes. For the same population, mortgage payments demand slightly less than rent, landing at just over 40 percent of the household earnings. Either way, the housing payment-to-income ratio far exceeds the suggested cap of 30 percent.

Beyond the straightforward cost of housing, other issues complicate matters for many residents. First, there are simply not enough housing units to meet the needs of households with a low income. Second, deposit policies for individuals with a felony or with poor credit—regardless of mental health issues or other contributing factors—create a significant barrier. Familiar contractual practices include doubling or tripling the deposit, or in the case of a felony even automatically declining the request. Thus, individuals for whom safe and secure housing is most urgent are often least likely to qualify.

FIGURE 1M

HOUSING COSTS AS % OF INCOME FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY



PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY

FIGURE 1N

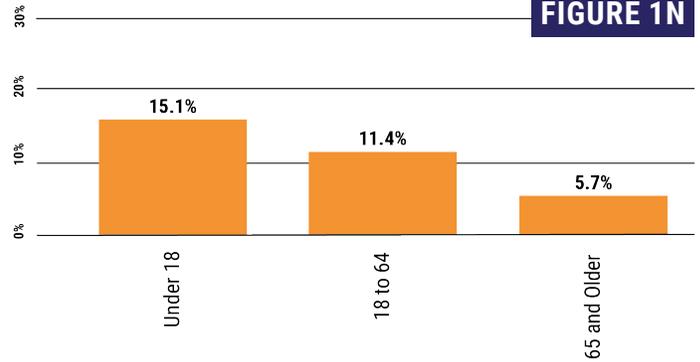
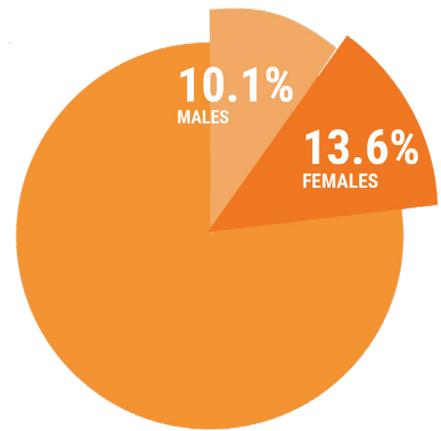


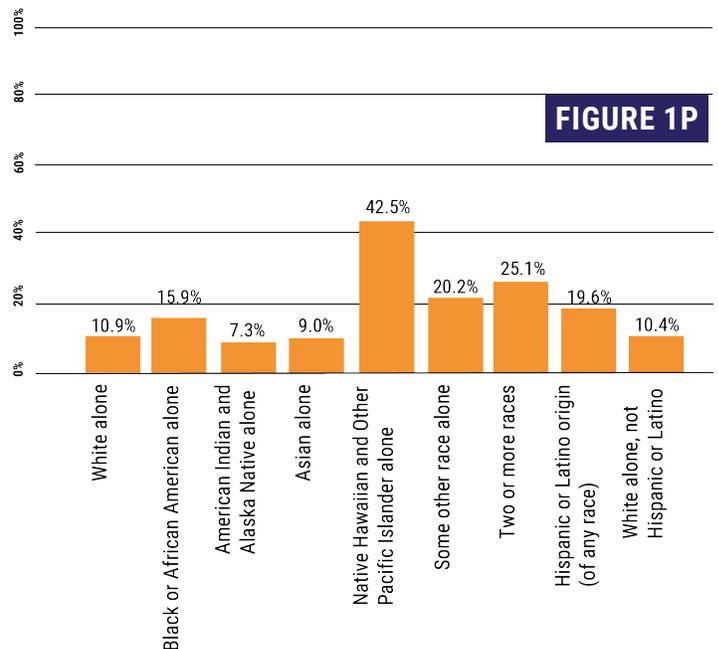
FIGURE 1O



PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY

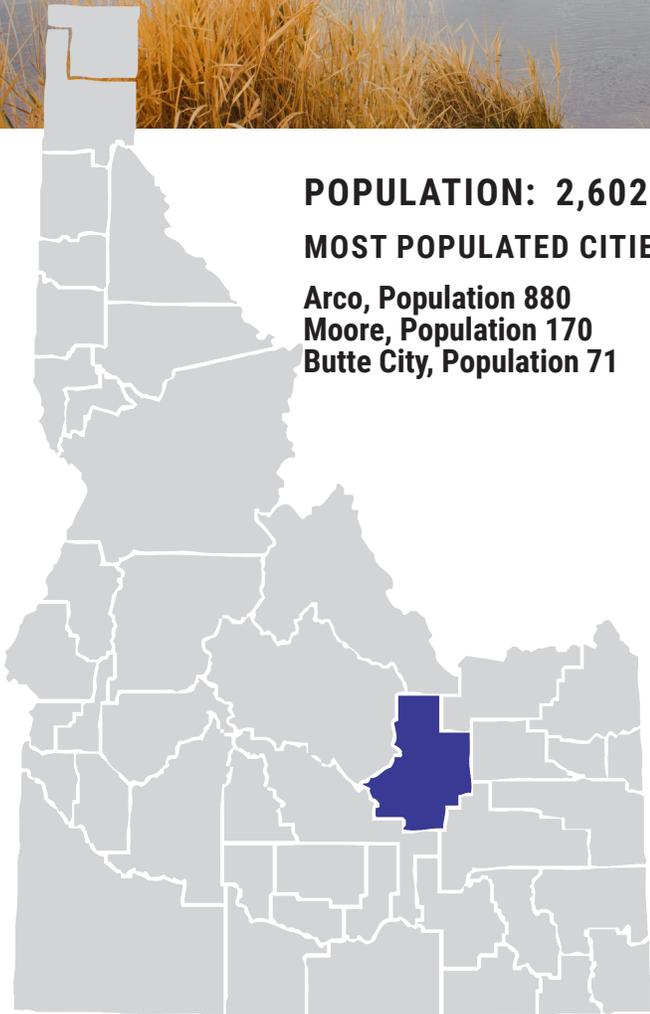
FIGURE 1P



BUTTE COUNTY



OVERVIEW: BUTTE COUNTY



POPULATION: 2,602

MOST POPULATED CITIES:

Arco, Population 880
Moore, Population 170
Butte City, Population 71

Median Household Income: \$43,207

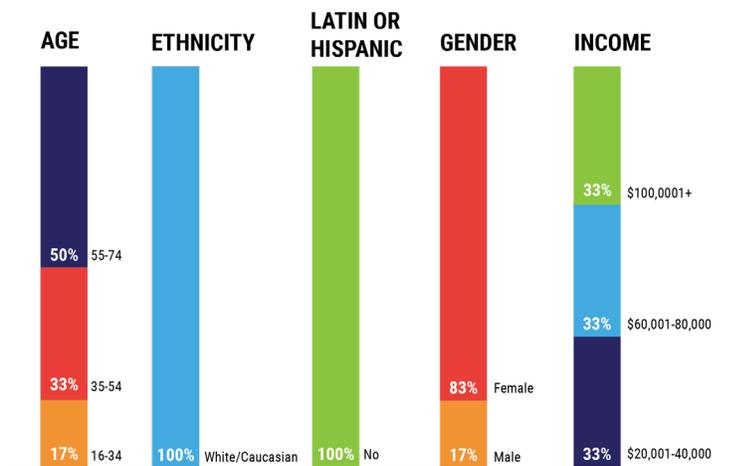
Median Age: 46.4

Race/Ethnicity: White- 91%, Hispanic or Latino- 5%,
 Other- 4%

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

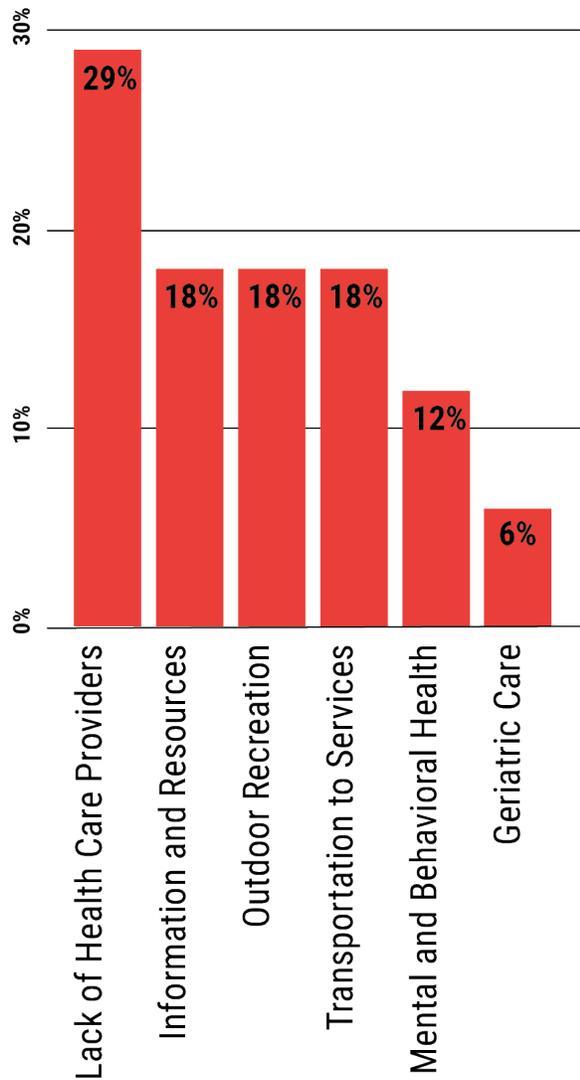
Eastern Idaho, Butte County Community Conversation
 2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 2A



HEALTH

Eastern Idaho, Butte County **FIGURE 2B** 2019, Community Needs Assessment

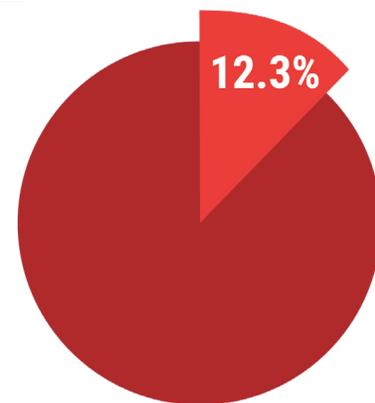


care outlets present a nearly insurmountable problem. Adding the transportation expense to the cost of care makes receiving adequate health care feel out of reach for some residents. Conversation participants want to grapple with these issues. They want more information about resources and options, and they want more transportation alternatives.

Attendees also placed a high priority on developing appealing recreational sites and activities. Healthy lifestyles mattered to them; they are interested in thinking more about how to stimulate those types of developments.

Conversation participants also expressed strong concern about mental and behavioral health and recognize that their county lacks sufficient resources to fully deal with these health problems. They also emphasized the needs of their aging population and lamented the lack of adequate geriatric care.

FIGURE 2C



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN BUTTE COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

THE CONVERSATION

Butte County is an established community that includes the resources needed to meet basic needs, send children to public schools, and enjoy the outdoor recreational opportunities in proximity to Arco. However, meeting any serious health care need requires travel and finding the information and resources needed to deal with significant mental and/or behavioral health issues is challenging.

Conversation participants were by far most concerned about the limited number of health care providers. Attracting professionals and establishing local health

2,500
INDIVIDUALS

1 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Ratio of population per primary care provider in Butte County

PROVIDER-PATIENT RATIOS

Butte County residents face a serious challenge in terms of finding enough providers to connect with the number of patients. Community conversation participants recognized this dilemma and prioritized addressing it as the foremost health need in their county.

IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Compared to the other counties covered in this assessment, Butte County has the lowest average percentage of adequately immunized students, which is driven by the very low percentage reported for 7th Grade entry. Conversely, adequately immunized students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade are above the state averages, with no immunization exemptions. While the 7th Grade immunization data may be cause of concern, it was not addressed by Conversation participants. Refer to page 12 for more details.

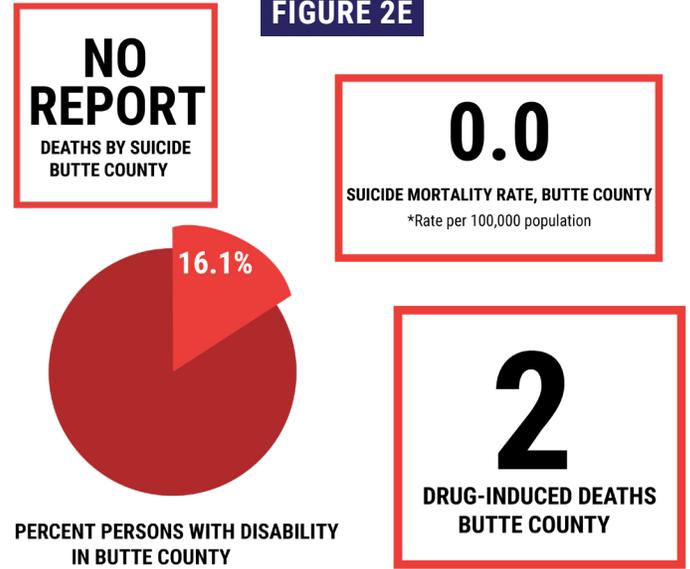
FIGURE 2D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
BUTTE COUNTY	55.2	2.1		
KINDERGARTEN	91.7	0.0	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	87.1	0.0	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	9.8	4.9	85.0	7.9

DEATHS BY SUICIDE

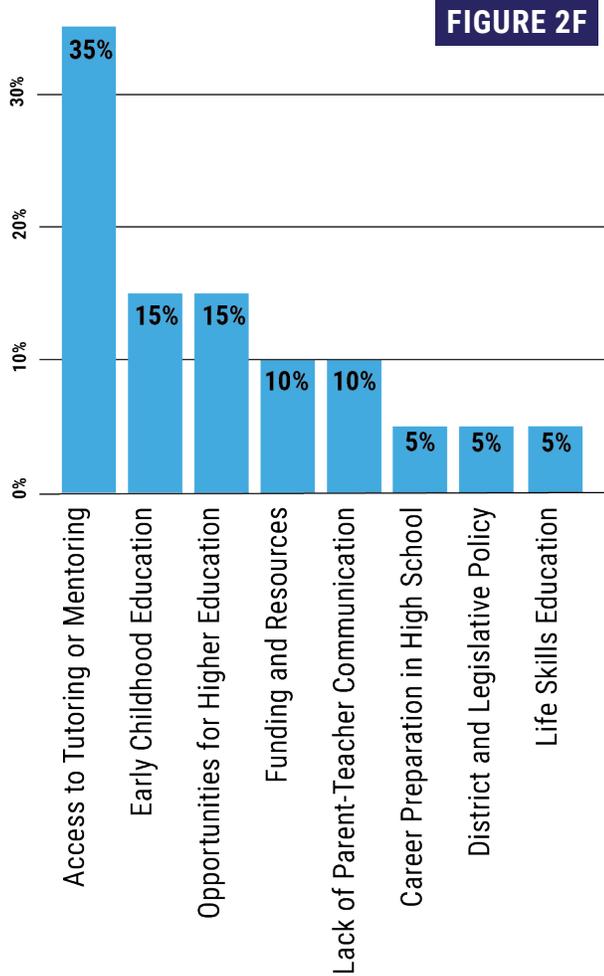
Butte County has a relatively low suicide rate relative to the counties covered in this assessment. This may help to explain why mental and behavioral health concerns, while important, were not among the top four needs identified by conversation participants.

FIGURE 2E



EDUCATION

Eastern Idaho, Butte County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

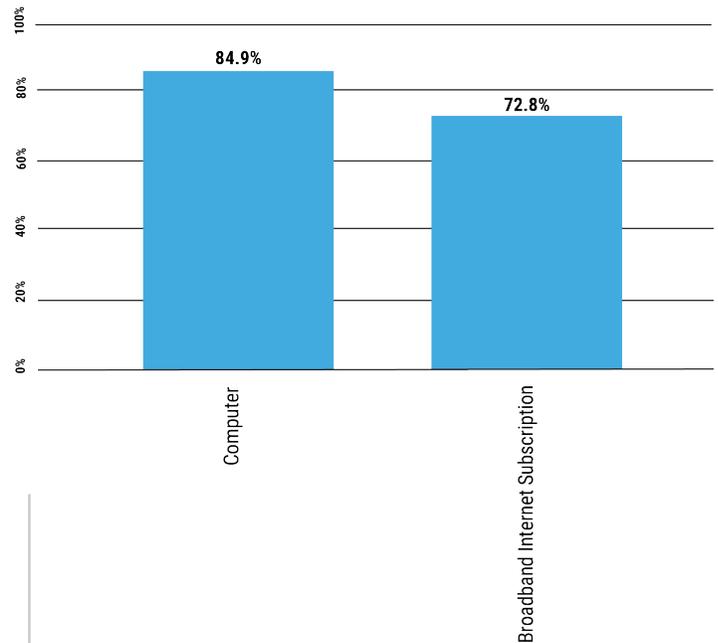


conversation attendees stressed the need for more accessible early childhood education.

Other points of emphasis included practical matters, like career preparation, life skills education, and communication between teachers, parents, and students.

FIGURE 2G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN BUTTE COUNTY



THE CONVERSATION

Butte County is home of District #111. The county houses two elementary schools and one middle/high school. The vision for the district is, “Achievement for Every Student.” However, the “achievement” of students through access to tutoring or mentoring in the schools was a concern of the Butte County conversation attendees.

In part due to low enrollment numbers of 3- to 4-year-olds in nursery and preschool (according to the 2017 US Census), many children who enter kindergarten are not prepared for it. Children often struggle to catch up; the imbalance between underprepared students and their peers can become problematic. Not surprisingly,

HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

The 75 percent high school graduation rate in Butte County is low relative to other counties covered in this assessment, and nearly ten percent of county residents have no high school diploma or equivalency certificate. Conversation participants expressed strong concern about related issues, such as the need for tutors and mentors and the availability of higher education. Attendees also expressed concern about the lack of early childhood educational opportunities. For many students, getting through school is an endeavor complicated by financial hardship. Many Butte County students depend on free or reduced lunches and don't have the financial ability to utilize educational resources beyond that provided by the public school system.

Despite the fact that the one year "Go On" rate is high relative to other counties in this assessment, fewer than one in five Butte county residents have a college degree.

Conversation participants emphasized the need for more career preparation training and life skills education.

FIGURE 2H

GRADUATION RATE

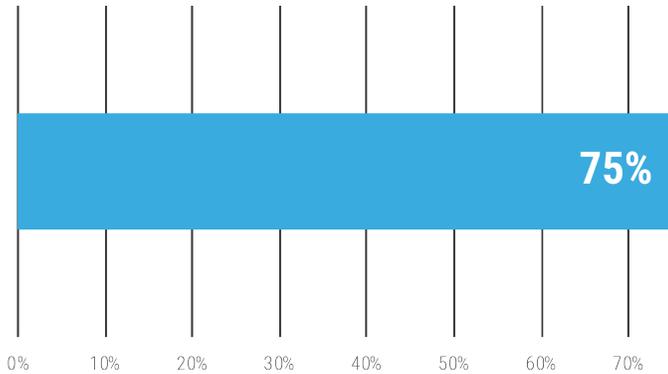
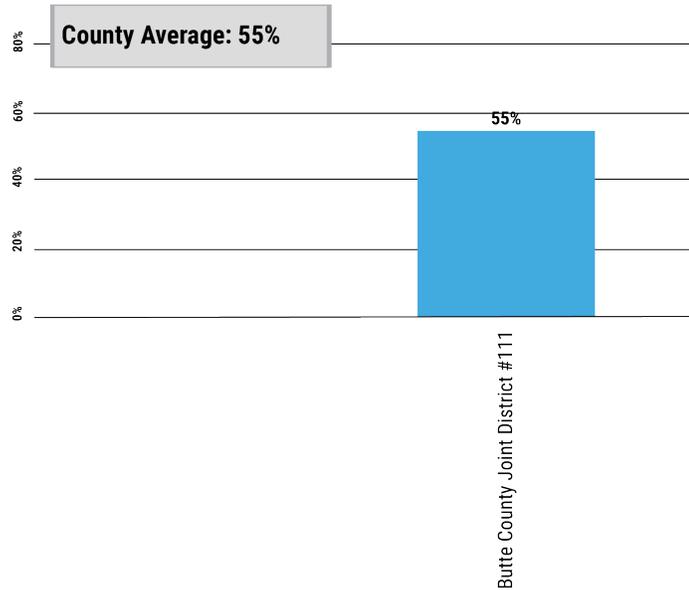


FIGURE 2I

PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR BUTTE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018

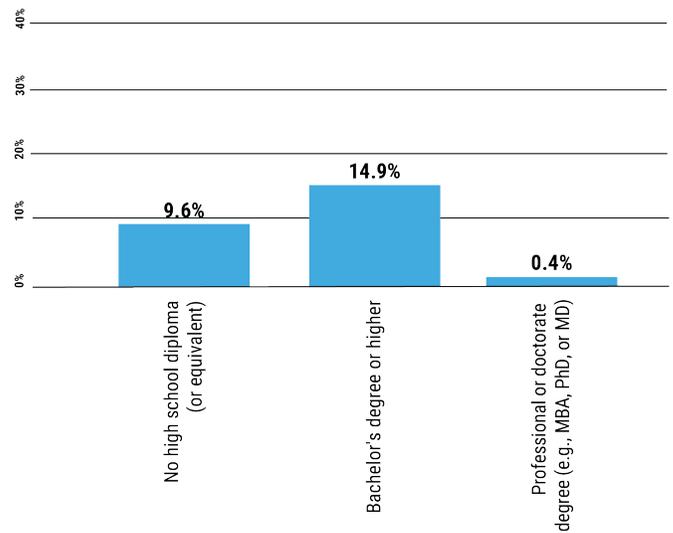


PROXIMITY TO FURTHER EDUCATION

The Butte County seat, Arco, is located 71 miles from the closest college, the College of Eastern Idaho, located in Idaho Falls. The closest university, Idaho State University, is 81 miles away from Arco, in Pocatello. A feasible opportunity for higher education in the county was a wish voiced repeatedly at the conversation. Low income was a reality for many conversation participants, and the cost of higher education is a barrier for residents of Butte County. The tuition costs do not include housing and travel, which only intensify the challenge of obtaining a college degree.

FIGURE 2J

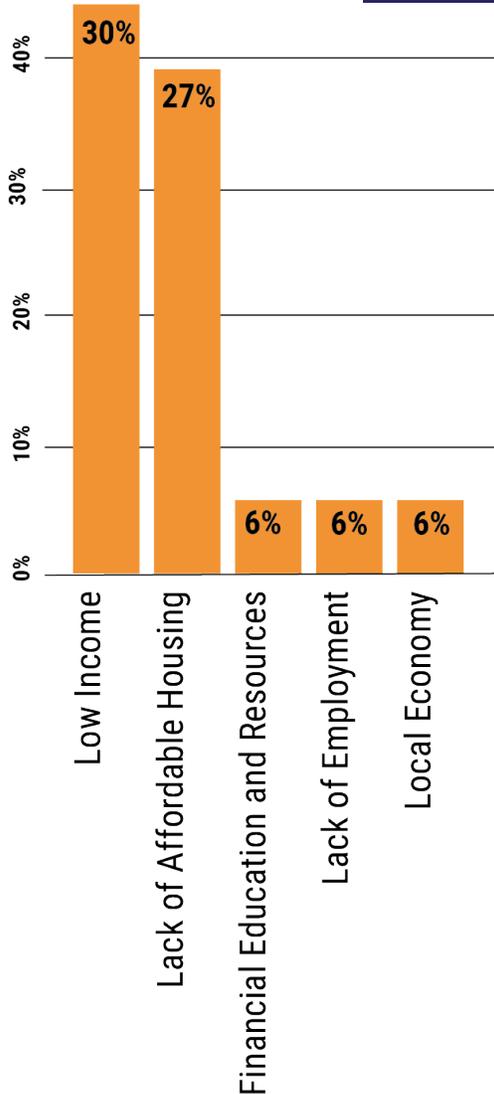
EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN BUTTE COUNTY



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Eastern Idaho, Butte County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

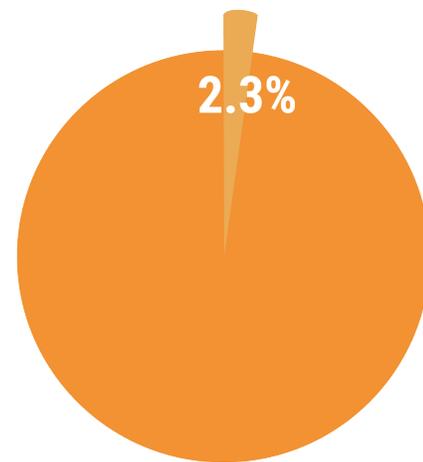
FIGURE 2K



in many of the counties covered in this assessment, unemployment itself is not a significant issue in Butte County. The civilian workforce is made up of up 48 percent of the population, including 37 percent of females. A familiar pattern of working but not getting ahead is evident here.

In some ways, this conversation revealed a common experience of “this is life here” more than it pinpointed particulars. Conversation attendees named the local economy as a significant issue and discussed the need for more employment opportunities and resources. But a specific strategy or immediately actionable vision didn’t clearly emerge.

FIGURE 2L



PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED
IN BUTTE COUNTY

THE CONVERSATION

Financial hardship is familiar to residents of Butte County. The median household income in Idaho is \$52,225. But in Butte County, it falls \$9,000 below that mark, and just shy of 17 percent of Butte County residents live in poverty.

Two needs expressed by Butte County conversation participants were clearly their most pressing priorities, and both relate directly to the dilemma revealed by the above data. Low income and the lack of affordable housing were by far the most emphasized issues. As



As was echoed across the region, Butte County residents need better access to affordable housing. In rental households with the lowest income, tenants spend approximately 60 percent of their income on rent, while homeowners also well exceed the recommended maximum income-to-mortgage ratio of 30 percent. Given that no building permits for housing were issued in 2018, according to U.S. Census data, immediate solutions are difficult to determine. Conversation participants placed a high priority on this issue.

Similar issues regarding rental deposit policies can be found throughout Eastern Idaho. The interplay of health and lifestyle-related challenges and their resulting social consequences compromise many individuals' opportunities to secure housing. Poor credit, regardless of the reason, or a criminal record can lead to much higher deposit demands, which in turn pushes stable housing out of reach for a significant number of Eastern Idahoans. In counties with limited options to begin with, this dilemma can escalate into a severe hardship.

FIGURE 2M

HOUSING COSTS AS % OF INCOME FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN BUTTE COUNTY

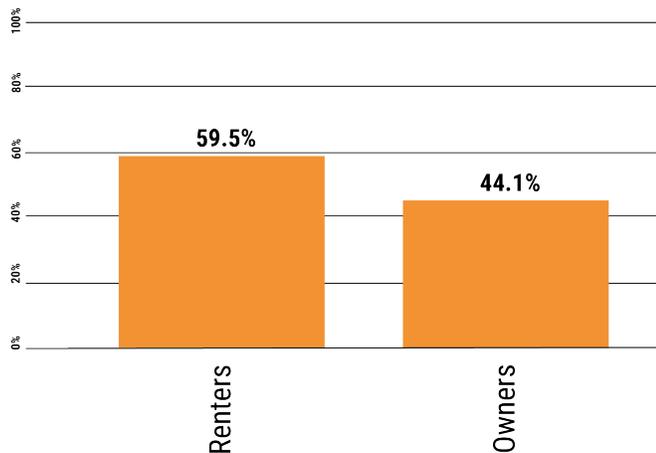


FIGURE 2N

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN BUTTE COUNTY

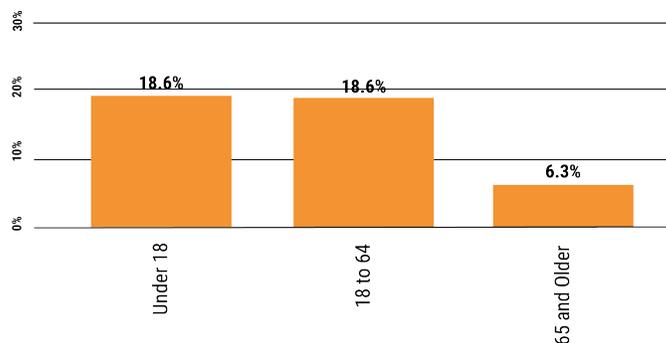
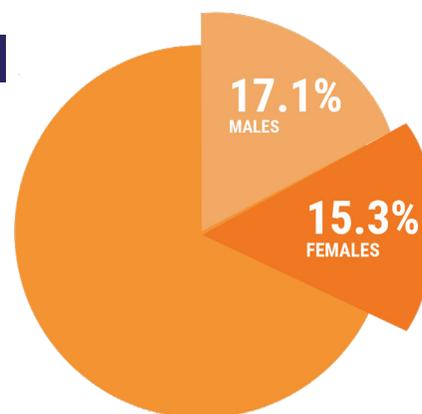


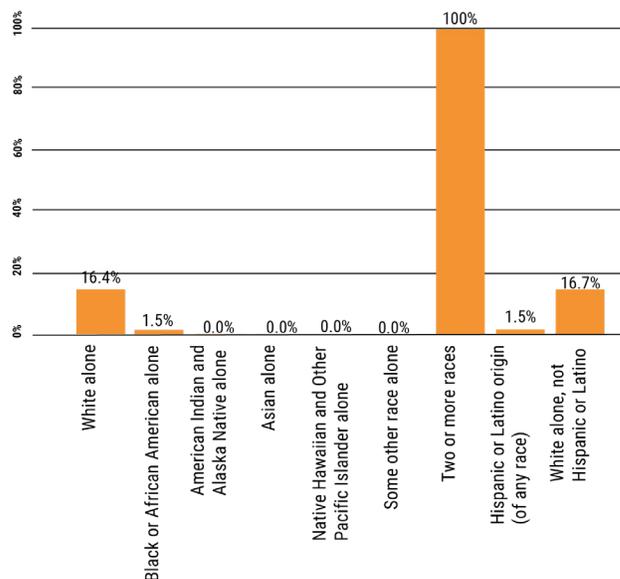
FIGURE 2O



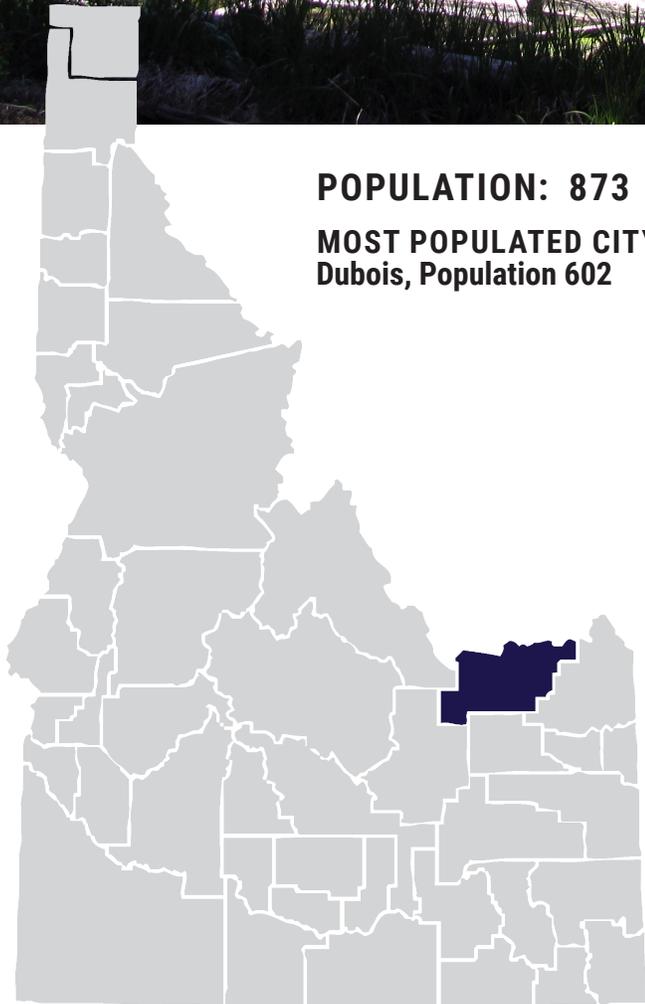
PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN BUTTE COUNTY

FIGURE 2P

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN BUTTE COUNTY



CLARK COUNTY



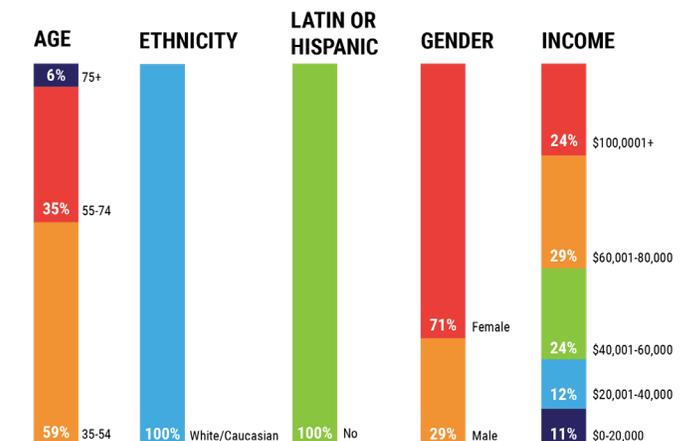
POPULATION: 873
MOST POPULATED CITY:
Dubois, Population 602

Median Household Income: \$31,927
 Median Age: 21.7
 Race/Ethnicity: White- 52%, Hispanic or Latino- 44%,
 American indian and Alaska Native- 3%, Other- 1%

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

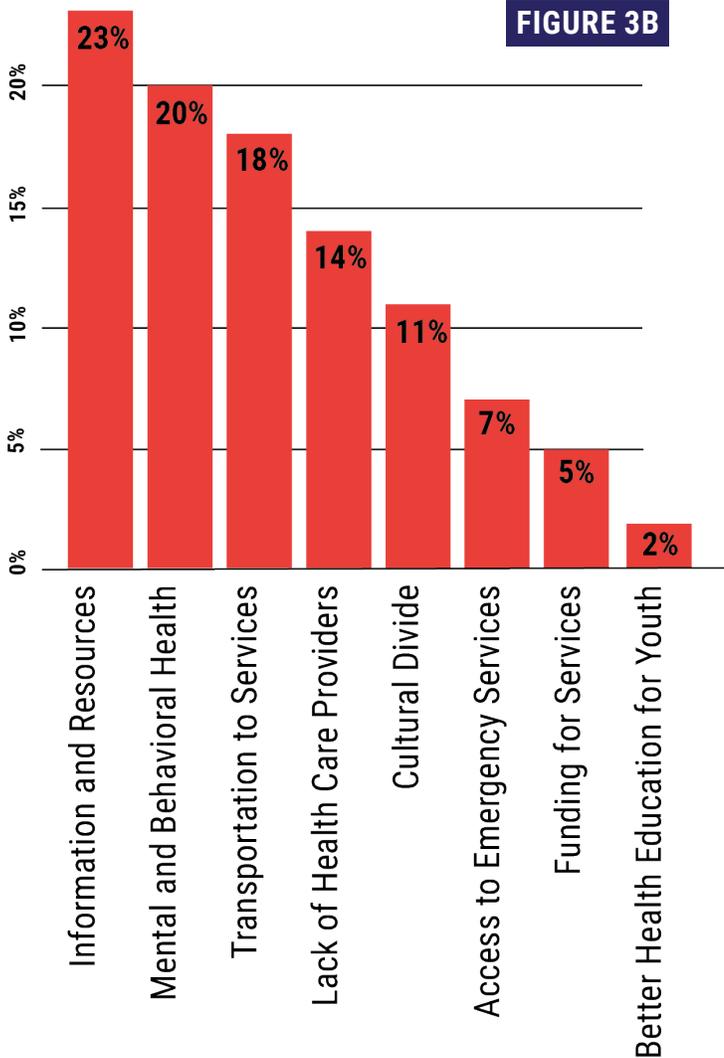
Eastern Idaho, Clark County Community Conversation
 2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 3A



HEALTH

Eastern Idaho, Clark County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



Conversation participants also expressed serious concerns about mental and behavioral health. Not only are resources unavailable locally, but conversation participants noted that a “suck it up” or “put it on ice” culture intensifies many individuals’ struggle with mental and/or behavioral health challenges. Despite the fact that conversation participants appreciate the way residents look out for each other, they also acknowledged that suicide and domestic violence are far too prevalent.

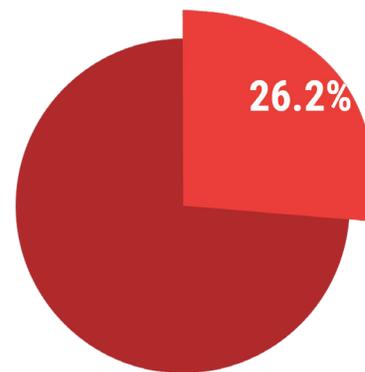
Another significant concern centered on emergency medical (EMT) services. Right now, the county relies on a volunteer EMT staff. It is difficult to find new volunteers, and funding training and services presents a real challenge.

FIGURE 3C

880
INDIVIDUALS

0 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

Ratio of population per primary care provider in Clark County



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN CLARK COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

PROVIDER-PATIENT RATIOS

Clark County residents must travel for health care, which in turn decreases the accessibility, affordability, and local information related to the range and types of providers. Not surprisingly, the most important priority of conversation participants was health care information and resources.

THE CONVERSATION

Clark County residents struggle for lack of health care resources. Dubois, the county seat, has no pharmacy, no urgent care, no counseling center, no dentist office, and no rehabilitation or crisis center. Thus, residents commute to Rexburg or Idaho Falls for health care. Not surprisingly, conversation participants focused heavily on the lack of available resources and expense of transportation. Finding ways of bringing mobile services to town interested many conversation participants. Mobile screenings and a prescription delivery service were two possibilities mentioned.



FIGURE 3D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
CLARK COUNTY	87.9	0.0		
KINDERGARTEN	75.0	0.0	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	87.5	0.0	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	100.0	0.0	85.0	7.9

IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Overall, Clark County's average percentage of adequately immunized children is above the State's average. Furthermore, it was the only county covered in this assessment that record no immunization exemptions. Refer to page 12 for more details.

DEATHS BY SUICIDE

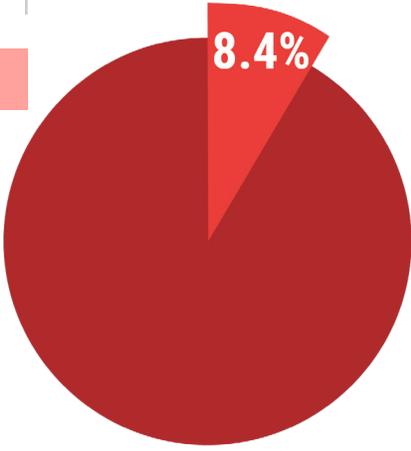
Even in a state with a high suicide rate, the numbers in Clark County are disproportionately high. The data here strongly correlates with conversation participants' concerns. The lack of local resources, the expense of transportation, and a "tough it out" culture combine to make grappling with this issue a troubling challenge.

FIGURE 3E

69.0
SUICIDE MORTALITY RATE, CLARK COUNTY
 *Rate per 100,000 population

3
DEATHS BY SUICIDE
CLARK COUNTY

1
DRUG-INDUCED DEATH
CLARK COUNTY

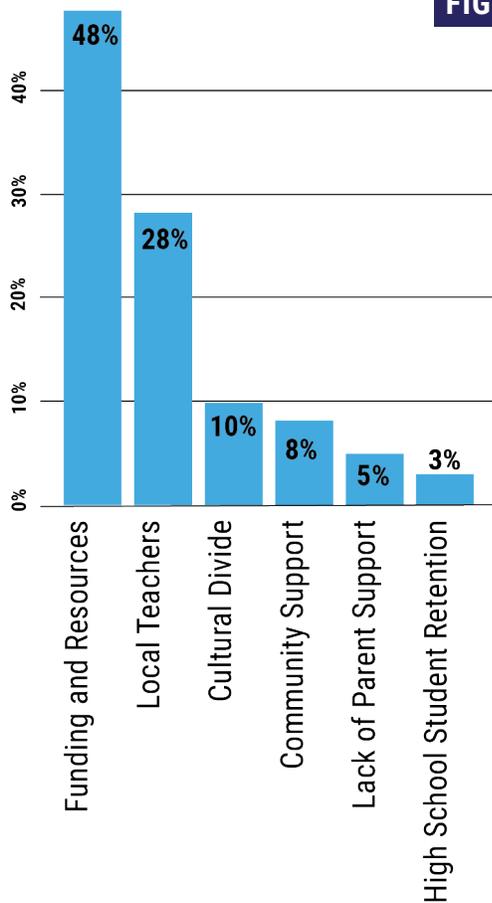


PERCENT PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN CLARK COUNTY

EDUCATION

Eastern Idaho, Clark County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

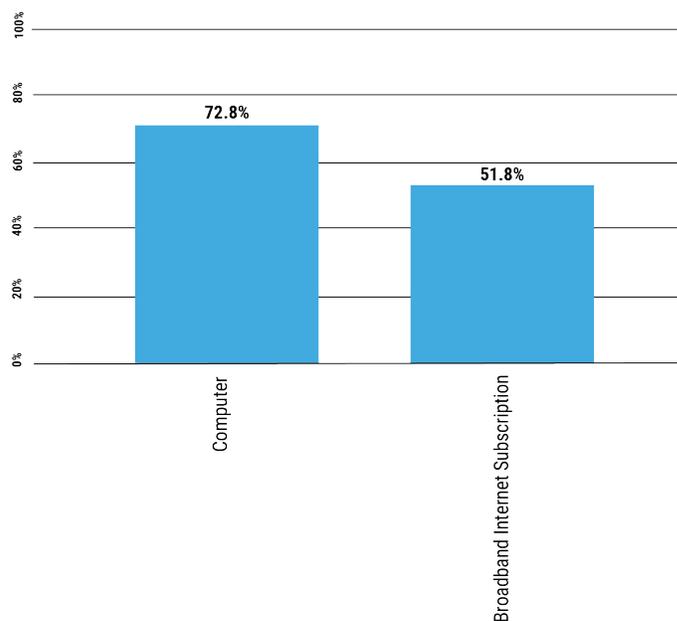
FIGURE 3F



affordable housing makes it nearly impossible for new teachers to make Clark County their home, which in terms impedes their ability to attend extra-curricular and other community activities. The loss of connection, support, and solidarity between teachers, parents, students, and the community more generally weighed heavily on the minds of many conversation participants.

FIGURE 3G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN CLARK COUNTY



THE CONVERSATION

Lack of funding and resources was a recurring theme during the Clark County conversation, regardless of whether the topic was health, education, or financial stability. But, especially strong concerns were expressed about this issue in terms of education. Almost half of Clark County conversation attendees said that a lack of educational funding and resources was the most concerning dilemma the county was facing.

The county seat, Dubois, is the least populated seat of all the counties in this assessment. Clark County is also very rural in comparison to most of the counties. There can be correlations drawn from these two factors directly to the lack of local teachers, which was the second issue expressed regarding education at the conversation by the attendees. The lack of

HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Of all the counties in this assessment, Clark County has the highest percentage of people who do not have a high school diploma (or equivalent). Despite the “Go On” rate in Clark County of 50 percent, relatively high among the counties covered in this assessment, this number can be somewhat misleading because nearly one in every four students does not graduate from high school.

Given that many children grow up in homes without the influence of higher education, the financial challenges faced by Clark County residents, and the difficulty and cost of transportation, many students from Clark County who pursue higher education have to overcome some challenging obstacles

These challenges correlate directly with conversation participants' strong concerns about the lack of community and parental support for education.

FIGURE 3H

GRADUATION RATE

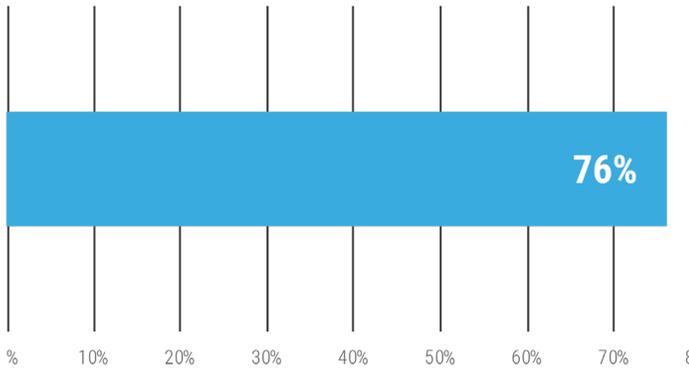
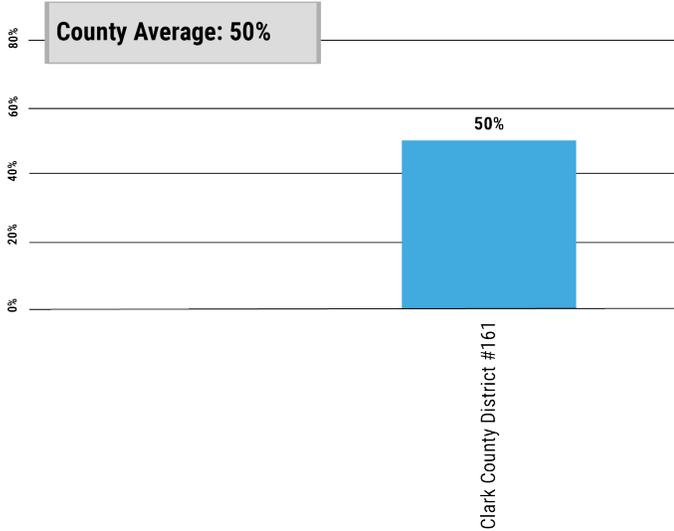


FIGURE 3I

PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018

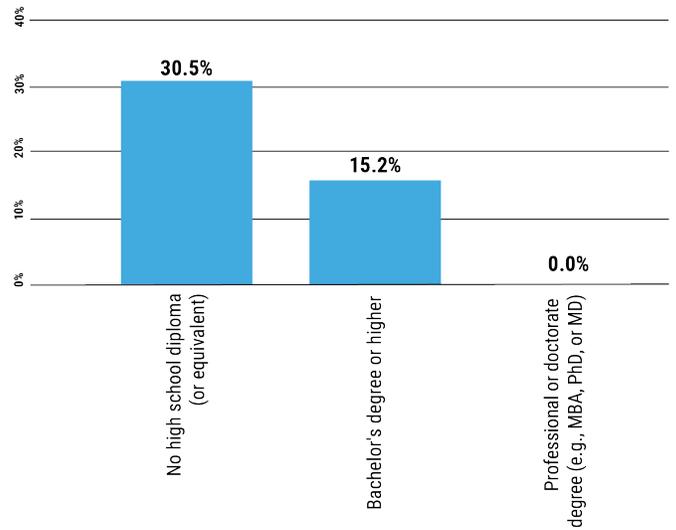


PROXIMITY TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Dubois is 55 miles from the College of Eastern Idaho and the Idaho State University extension campus in Idaho Falls and 46 miles from Brigham Young University-Idaho. Commuting to and from college would be out of the question for most citizens in Dubois and Clark County, as poverty levels in the county are relatively higher than surrounding counties. Thus, the extra burden of housing for college, on top of tuition, is something that is out of reach for many Clark County members.

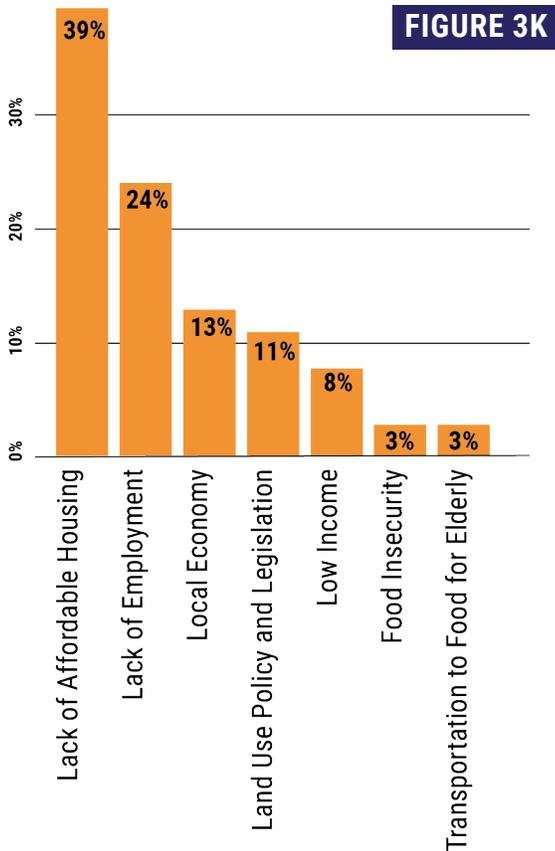
FIGURE 3J

EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN CLARK COUNTY



FINANCIAL STABILITY

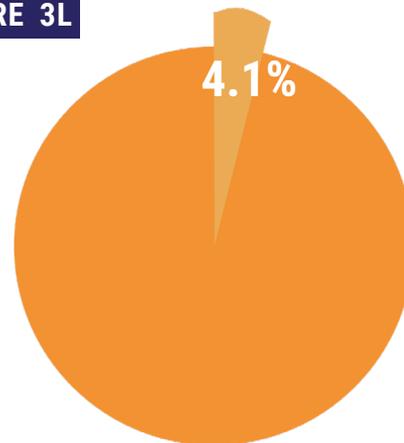
Eastern Idaho, Clark County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



Dubois, the Clark county seat. With every profession or entertainment venue that’s missing, so are the associated jobs.

Participants explored the ramifications of financial hardships. Just over 14 percent of county residents live in poverty, but they are not the only residents who experience food scarcity. Getting food to elderly residents is difficult. Emergency medical services are especially costly to provide in remote locations. Retaining teachers is tough when rental housing options are extremely limited and everything from grocery shopping to health care to entertainment requires a 45-minute drive. When new teachers have to commute, which participants reported was common, they don’t really become part of the community. A teacher without a local residence and nowhere in town to run errands or spend leisure time is unlikely to attend high school football games and other extracurricular evening events—a primary channel for community cohesion.

FIGURE 3L



**PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED
IN CLARK COUNTY**

17
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
CLARK COUNTY

FINANCIAL STABILITY: CLARK COUNTY

THE CONVERSATION

With a median household income more than \$20,000 below the state average, Clark County serves as a rather severe illustration of the deep reach of financial hardship. The county unemployment rate of over four percent is slightly high relative to several other Eastern Idaho counties. Over 60 percent of residents are part of the civilian workforce, including 43 percent of females. Another significant feature of the financial and employment landscape in Clark County is that nearly 40 percent of the households are Hispanic or Latino, and English is not the primary language spoken at home.

Clark County participants emphasized the need for affordable housing, the lack of employment opportunities, and the local economy in general. Attendees lamented the loss of a grocery store and the absence of a doctor, a dentist, even a restaurant in

Another challenge emphasized by conversation participants was land use policy and legislation. Outdoor enthusiasts find appealing opportunities in Clark County. Farmers and ranchers have an obvious interest in the land. Legislation has a significant impact on the opportunities and liabilities associated with land use.

SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING

Often, in Eastern Idaho counties, rent consumes a bigger percentage of an individual's income than a mortgage payment. The reverse is true in Clark County. In the households with the lowest incomes, the mortgage-to-income ratio is nearly 66 percent, while the rent-to-income ratio is 47 percent.

Not only is housing hard to keep because of low incomes, it's also hard to find. The impact of this scarcity on the community is profound, as referenced above. Conversation participants explained that rental apartments aren't an option. Children transitioning into adulthood have extremely few choices except to stay on with their parents or leave town. If someone did have a reason to move into the community, doing so would present a significant challenge.

FIGURE 3M

HOUSING COSTS AS % OF INCOME FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN CLARK COUNTY

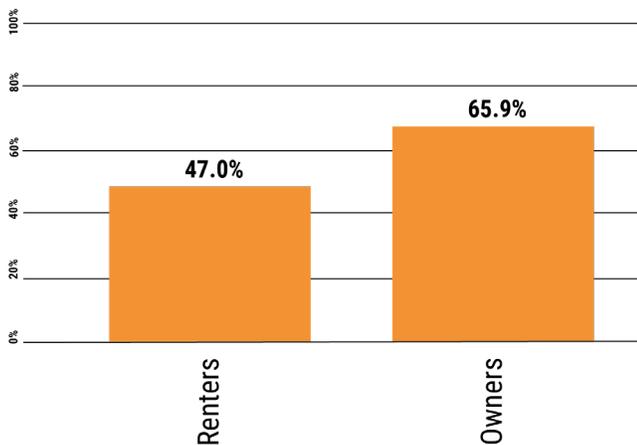


FIGURE 3N

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN CLARK COUNTY

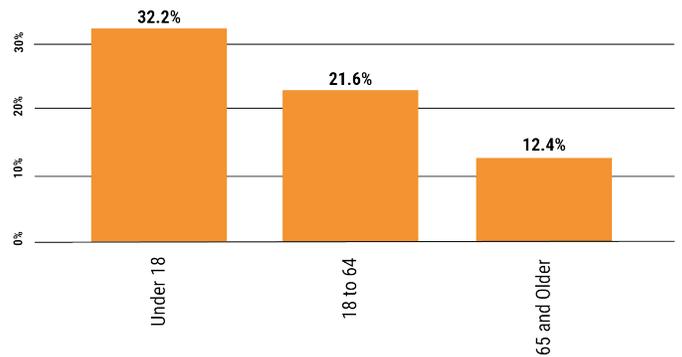
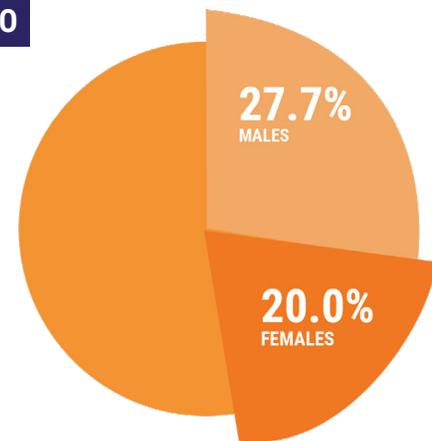


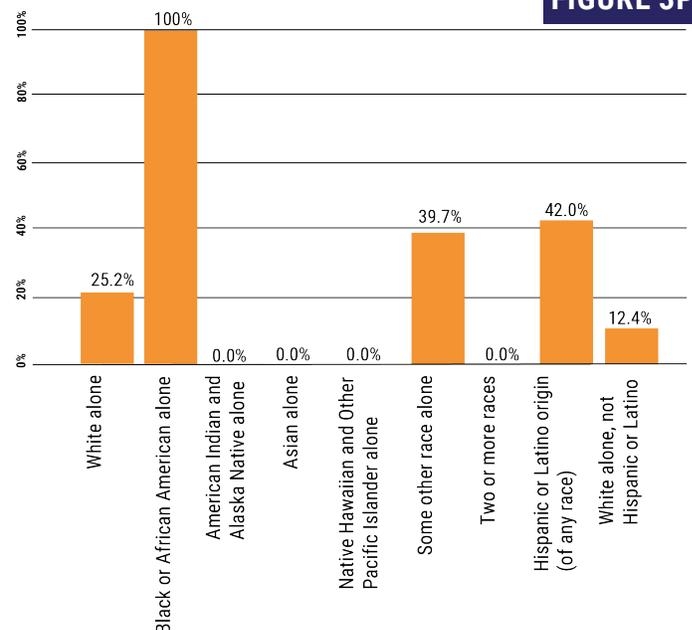
FIGURE 3O



PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN CLARK COUNTY

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN CLARK COUNTY

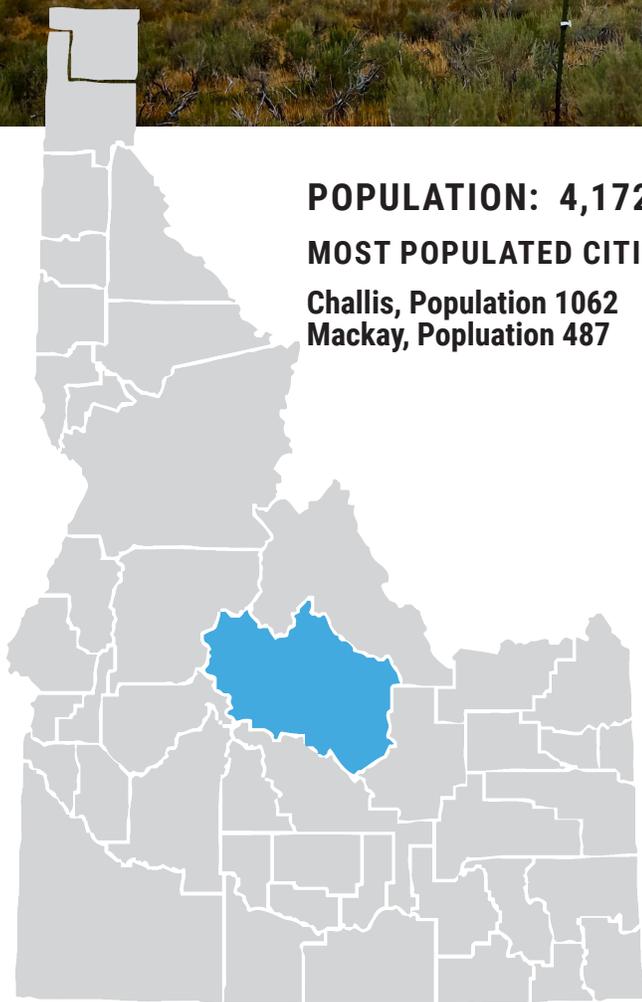
FIGURE 3P



CUSTER COUNTY



OVERVIEW: CUSTER COUNTY



POPULATION: 4,172

MOST POPULATED CITIES:

Challis, Population 1062
Mackay, Population 487

Median Household Income: \$37,976

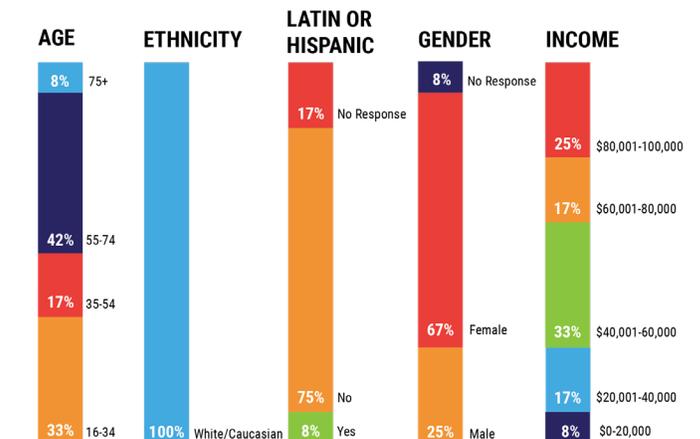
Median Age: 53.4

Race/Ethnicity: White- 92%, Hispanic or Latino- 4%,
 American Indian and Alaskan Native- 1%, Other, 3%

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Eastern Idaho, Custer County Community Conversation
 2019, Community Needs Assessment

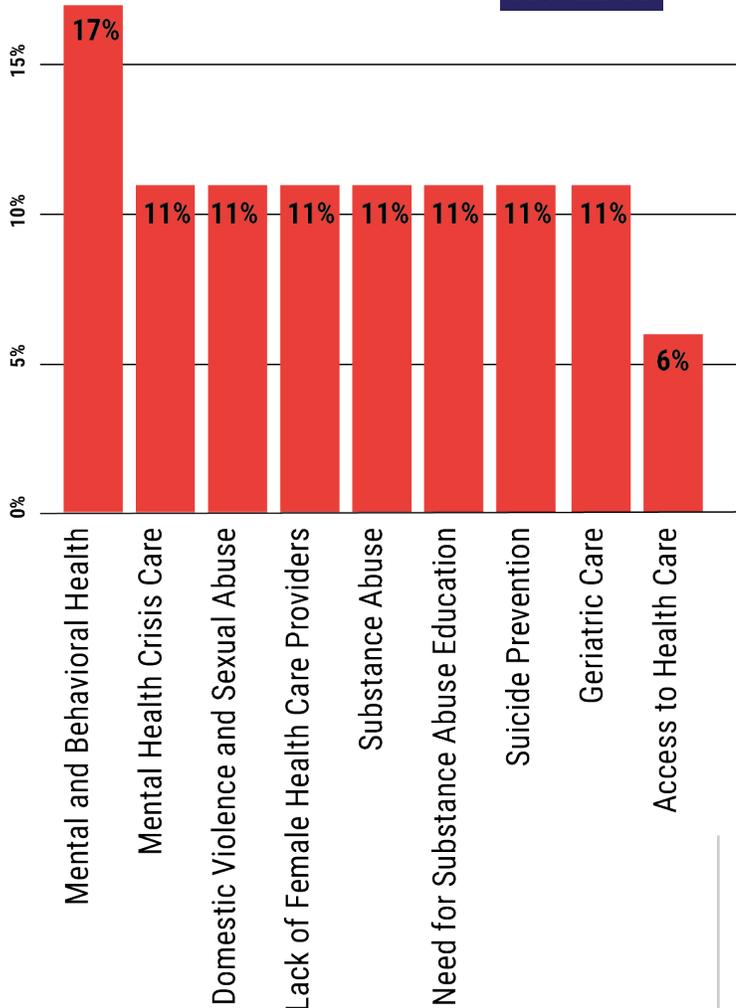
FIGURE 4A



HEALTH

Eastern Idaho, Custer County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 4B



Conversation attendees also noted the lack of awareness of and appropriate support for sexual assault victims. The fact that a victim would have to travel nearly 50 miles from Challis (the county seat of Custer County) to seek trained support in Salmon (the county seat of neighboring Lemhi County) was a source of concern. Additionally, the absence of female providers exacerbates the problem, according to conversation attendees.

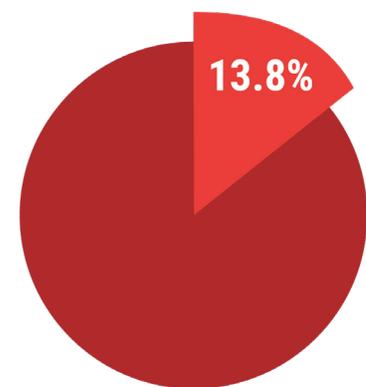
Attendees also strongly lamented the prevalence of alcohol and substance abuse in the county. They mentioned the cultural and familial dimension of substance abuse, emphasizing that many underage drinkers begin the practice at home with their parents.

Finally, deep concern was voiced about suicide rates and mental health generally. Misconceptions and a lack of communication about mental and behavioral health are both common and regrettable from the perspective of many conversation participants.

PROVIDER-PATIENT RATIOS

Custer County residents must travel to gain access to health care. Like residents of other remote counties, the necessity of travel increases costs and decreases ease of access. Residents lamented the lack of resources, particularly those related to mental and behavioral health, which they perceived to be a significant issue. Concerns about senior citizens were shared among conversation participants and were emphasized.

FIGURE 4C



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN CUSTER COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

Ratio of population per primary care provider is not available for Custer County

THE CONVERSATION

Unlike many remote Idaho counties, Custer County residents have access to the Challis Area Health Clinic, which provides integrated care regardless of a patient's citizenship or ability to pay. However, associated services such as physical therapy remain a struggle to obtain locally. This difficulty is compounded by the expense and seasonal hazards associated with traveling to find appropriate resources. This places a particular burden on people who have to travel for specialized health care, including geriatric care or chronic disease management. Conversation participants expressed a desire for more affordable and in-home care options.



FIGURE 4D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
CUSTER COUNTY	70.4	3.0		
KINDERGARTEN	86.0	4.0	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	59.5	2.7	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	62.5	2.1	85.0	7.9

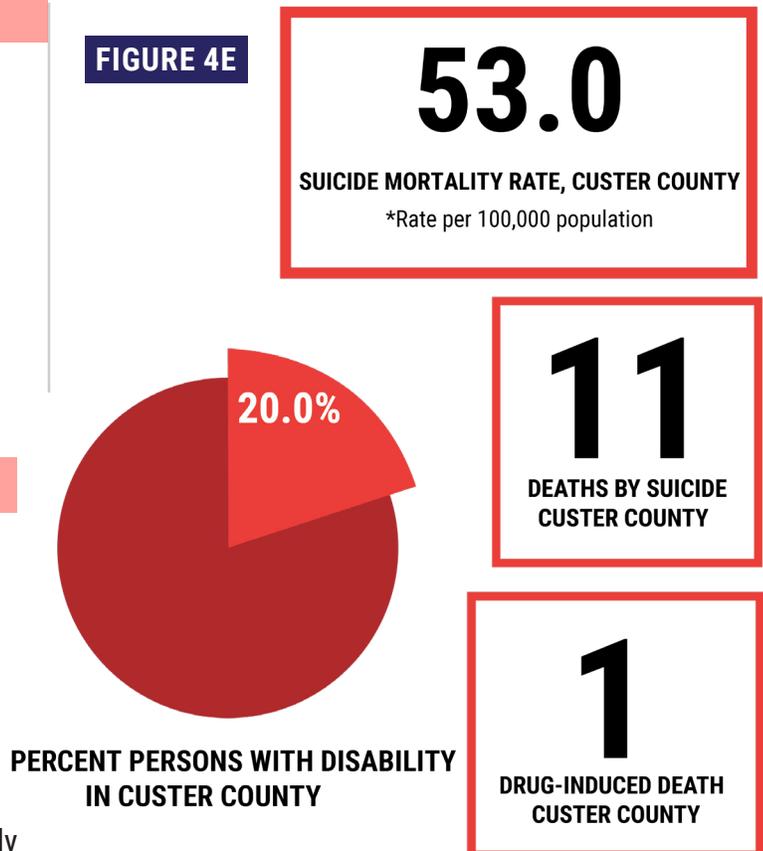
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Custer County recorded the second lowest average percentage of adequately immunized children among the counties covered in this assessment, with percentages starting out at 86% for Kindergartners, but declining significantly at 1st and 7th Grades. While this is concerning to Public Health, it was not addressed by Conversation participants. Refer to page 12 for more details.

DEATHS BY SUICIDE

The suicide rate in Custer County is high, but not disproportionately so within the context of high suicide rates in Idaho. However, for conversation participants, the issue is intensely personal. As is common in small Idaho towns, where “everybody knows everybody else,” attendees had shared memories of friends lost to suicide. Their evident concern about the seriousness of this problem directly aligns with the high suicide rate in Custer County.

FIGURE 4E



EDUCATION

Eastern Idaho, Custer County
2019, Community Needs Assessment

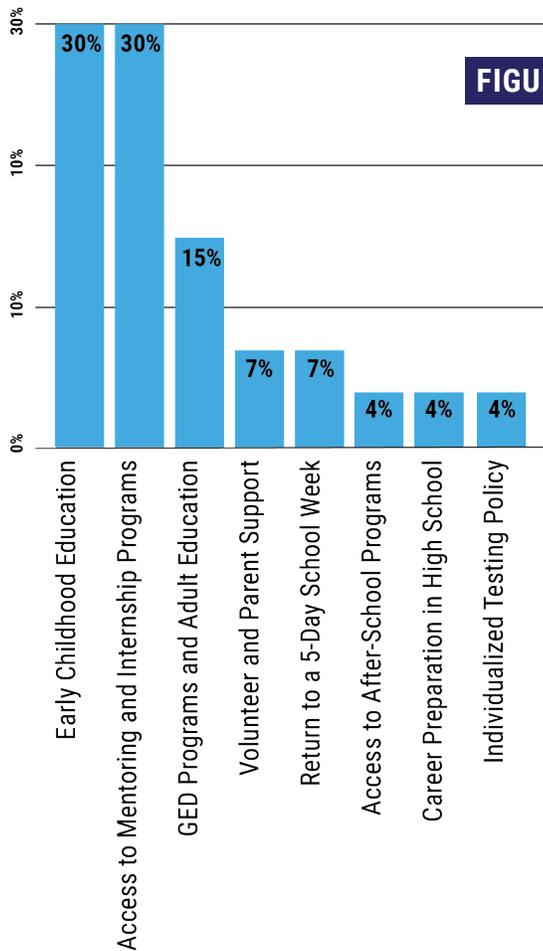


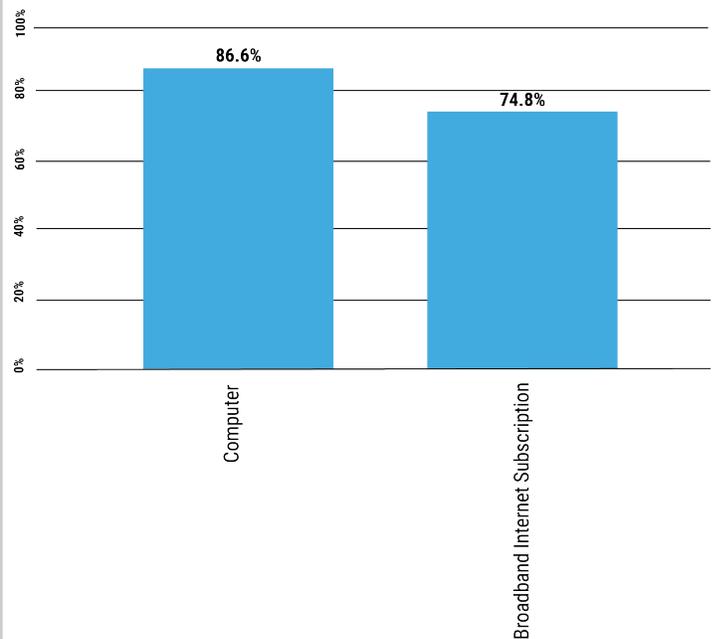
FIGURE 4F

and tutoring for older students, increased access to GED and adult learning programs. Emphasis was also placed on after school programs and career preparation.

The 4-day school week county districts have adopted concerned participants, some of whom participants felt that fewer learning days devalued education and sent the wrong message to students. Others pointed out that since teachers are paid according to the number of school days in the academic year, the 4-day schedule had reduced a wage already too low to sustain a reasonable quality of life.

FIGURE 4G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN CUSTER COUNTY



HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Custer County's 90-94 percent graduation rate is the highest among the counties covered in this assessment, yet conversation participants expressed strong concern about students who withdraw from high school before finishing. Yet more than 90 percent of county residents have at least a high school diploma or equivalent, and over 25 percent have a college degree. Additionally, the "Go On" rate in the county is high, relative to other counties covered in this assessment. The discrepancy between these

THE CONVERSATION

With just over one square mile per person, Custer County sprawls across a beautiful landscape of mountains and rivers, a geography that inspires residents but also tests their grit. The population is low and resources slim. Challis, the county seat and largest population hub, has only two schools, one elementary and one junior/senior high school. Another pair of schools can be found in Mackay, a town southeast of Challis and alongside the Big Lost River. The "gut it out" attitude referenced by conversation participants reaches into public schools, where a lack of resources and opportunities create challenges for everyone from preschoolers to adults. Top priorities for conversation participants included accessible early learning opportunities, increased mentoring

data points the concerns of attendees may be due in part to the nature of relationships in small Eastern Idaho towns. People tend to know each other, and students were discussed by name—often with family or circumstantial details included. Individual struggles translate into community concerns.

through sometimes challenging terrain and weather can make the drive difficult. Challis is nearly three hours away from any institutions of higher education: 148 miles from the Idaho Falls and 167 miles from Rexburg. Boise is nearly four hours away (191 miles). Mackay is 93 miles from Idaho Falls, 113 miles from Rexburg, and 215 miles from Boise.

FIGURE 4H

GRADUATION RATE

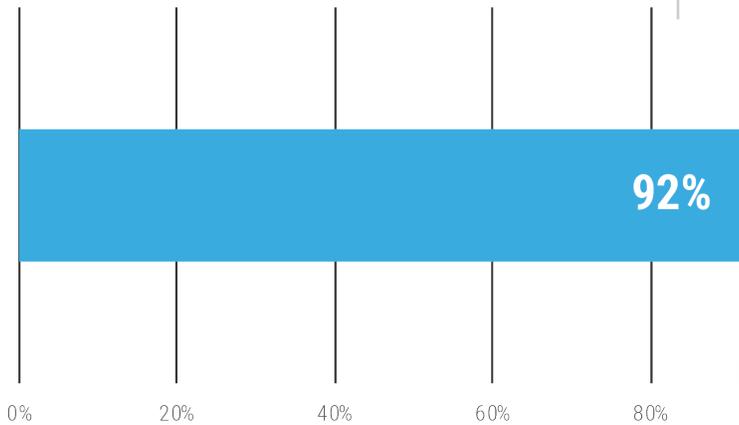


FIGURE 4J

EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN CUSTER COUNTY

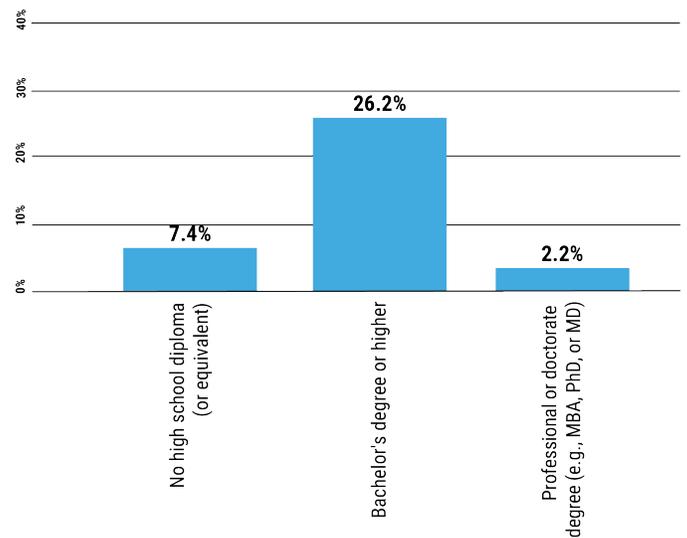
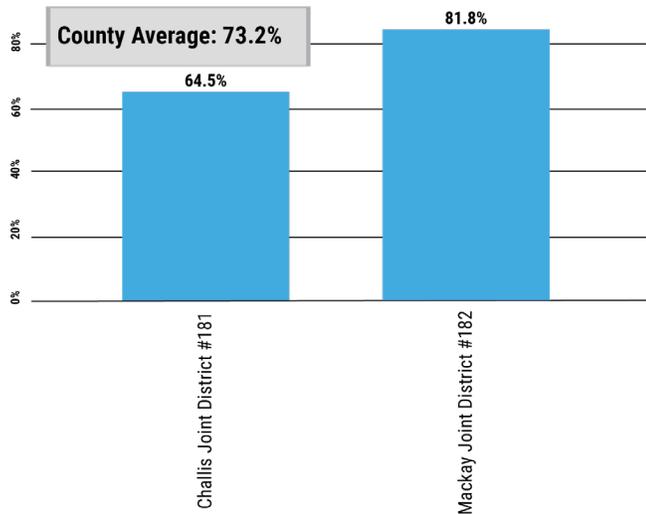


FIGURE 4I

PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR CUSTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018



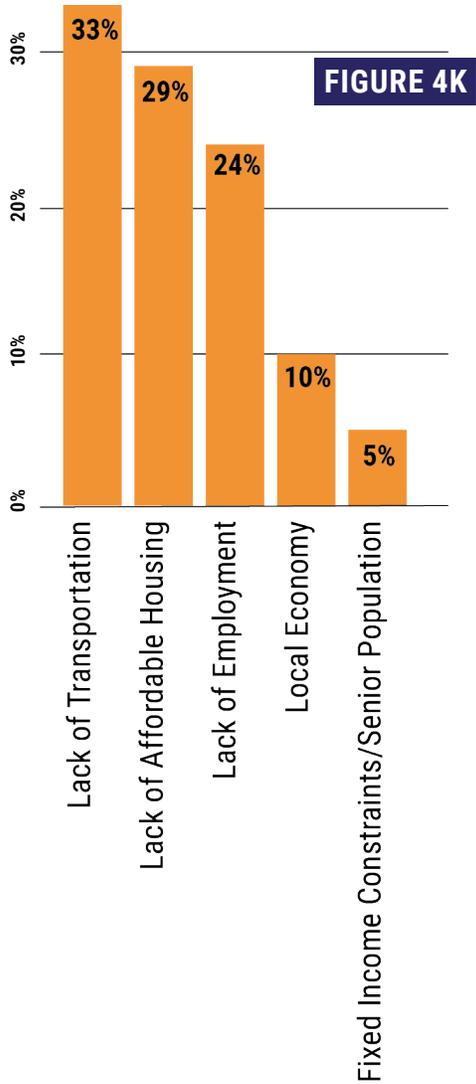
PROXIMITY TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Institutions of higher education are not easily accessible from Challis or Mackay, not only because of the distance, but also because the 2-lane highways



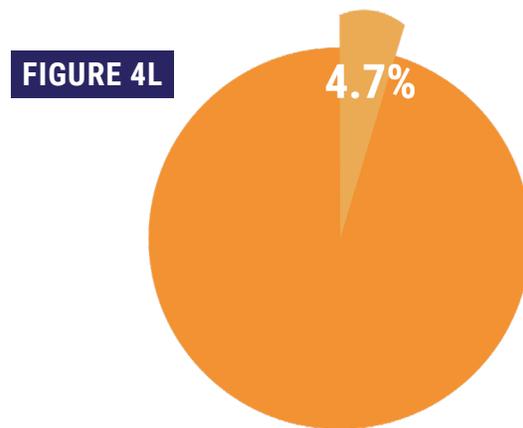
FINANCIAL STABILITY

Eastern Idaho, Custer County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



focused on the need to diversify the economy and to build stronger understanding of the relationship between local needs and state policies, creating points of leverage where possible. Conversation attendees perceived the most pressing problem to be transportation, which is both essential for employment but challenging to manage when wages are low. The lack of affordable housing, another common theme throughout the region, was on the minds of conversation participants. In a manner more specific than in most other counties, attendees also reflected upon the hardship associated with living on a fixed income, which, given the aging population in the Custer County, is a heavy burden for many residents.

In part because of the number of older residents, fewer than 50 percent of Clark County residents are part of the civilian labor force, including 43 percent of women. Nearly 15 percent of the population lives in poverty. Conversation participants were experientially acquainted with these issues and placed emphasis on the lack of employment—both in terms of opportunities and wages.



**PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED
IN CUSTER COUNTY**

105
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
CUSTER COUNTY

THE CONVERSATION

Custer County community conversation participants remembered “back when the mines” were a significant source of employment and wages there were good. Currently, with an unemployment rate hovering close to five percent—relatively high compared to several other Eastern Idaho counties—and a median household income \$12,000 below the state average, Custer County residents face significant financial challenges.

Conversation participants were concerned about the local economy. Input from Challis community leaders

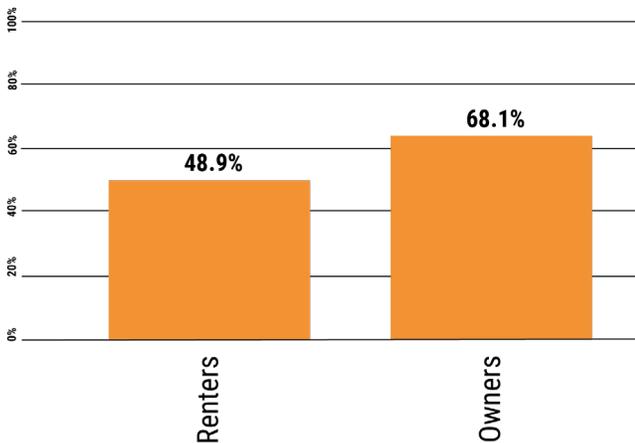
SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING

Like a drumbeat, conversation participants throughout Eastern Idaho counties voiced concern about the hardship caused by the lack of affordable housing. For households with the lowest incomes, securing stable housing may feel like a mountain too steep to climb. In Custer County, the data reveals the severity of this issue. Here, the lowest income households lose 68 percent of their income to mortgage payments. The lowest income rental households fair better, but still spend nearly half of their income to retain their housing.

Conversation attendees explored the implications of this dilemma by way of example. Participants explained that new teachers, who struggle first to find housing and then to pay for it, are often forced to commute. This added transportation expense can push some teachers to the breaking point, given that the 4-day school week adopted by Custer County districts has already substantially reduced a new teacher's salary to a point so low s/he is apt to qualify for public assistance. Attendees pointed out that teachers are not unique in terms of the hardships they experience due to the interconnection between housing and financial instability.

FIGURE 4M

HOUSING COSTS AS % OF INCOME FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN CUSTER COUNTY



PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN CUSTER COUNTY

FIGURE 4N

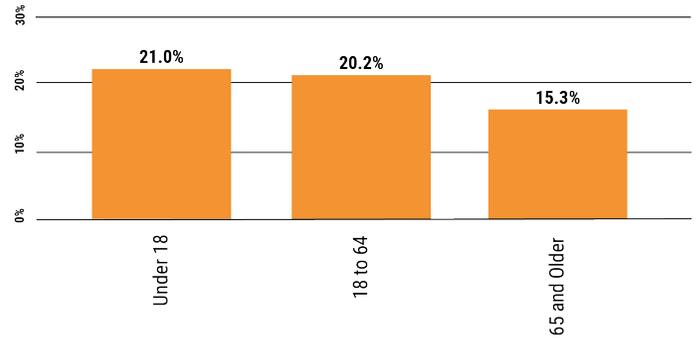
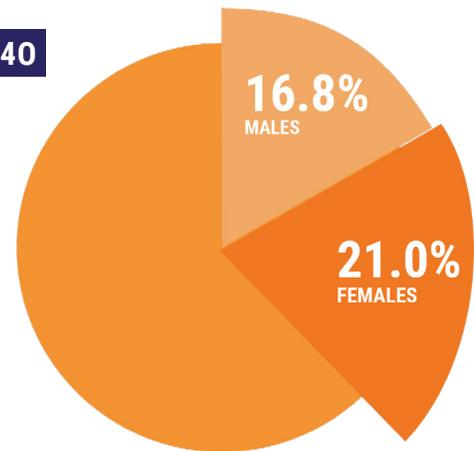


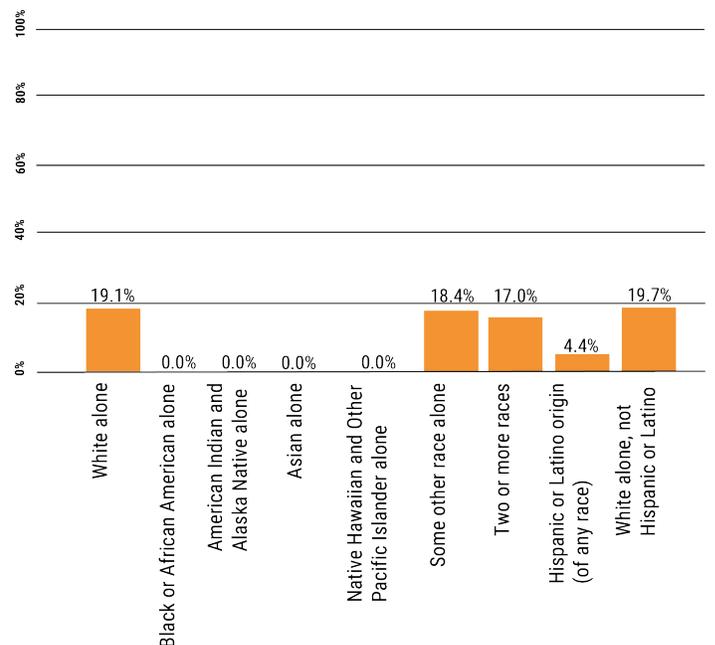
FIGURE 4O



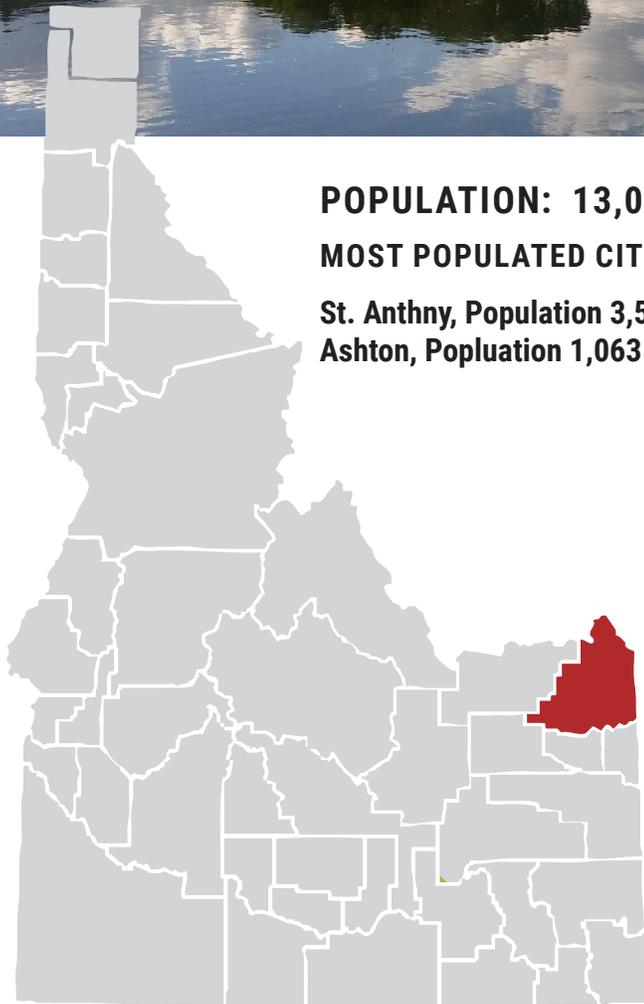
PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN CUSTER COUNTY

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN CUSTER COUNTY

FIGURE 4P



FREMONT COUNTY



POPULATION: 13,094

MOST POPULATED CITIES:

St. Anthny, Population 3,549

Ashton, Population 1,063

Median Household Income: \$51,806

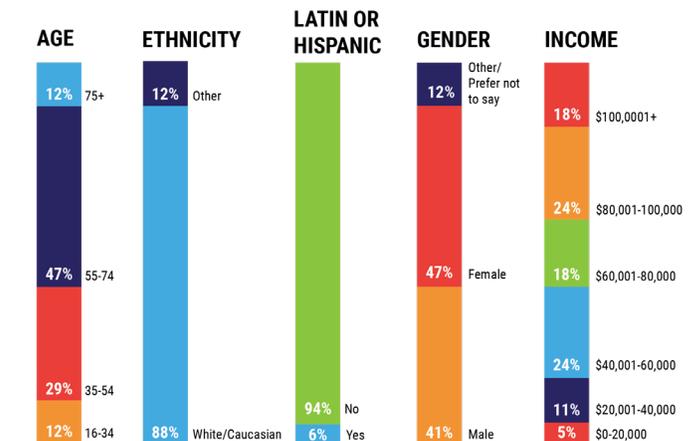
Median Age: 36.7

Race/Ethnicity: White- 85%, Hispanic or Latino- 13%, Other- 2%

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

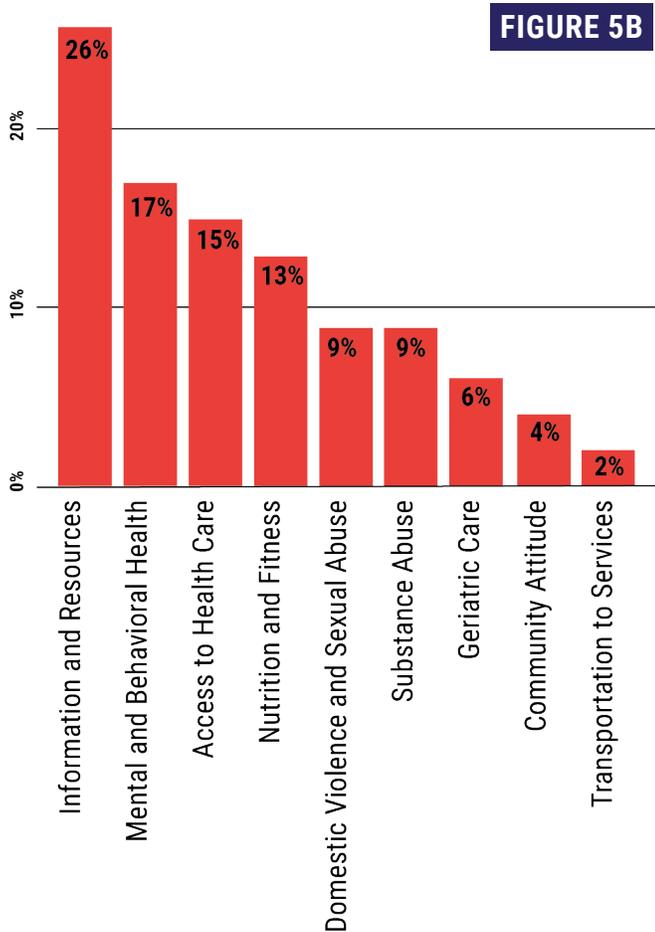
Eastern Idaho, Fremont County Community Conversation
2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 5A



HEALTH

Eastern Idaho, Fremont County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

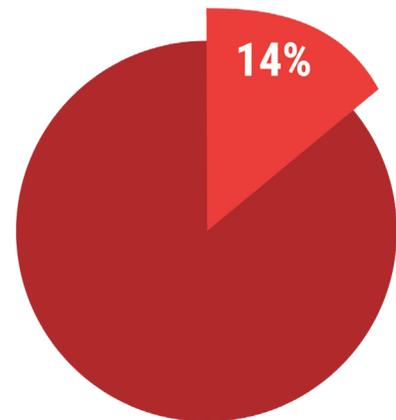


be problematic both in terms of the lack of resources and engrained cultural attitudes toward “toughness.” Strong concern was also expressed about domestic violence, sexual assault, and substance abuse, again with emphasis on the need for resources.

Geriatric care also mattered greatly to conversation participants. Residents of St. Anthony who attended mentioned a functional, local transportation network available to senior citizens, although nothing was mentioned about its availability in Ashton or Island Park, where the impact of a lack of transportation on senior citizens’ health could be very serious.

Elements of a healthy lifestyle were also prioritized among conversation participants. A desire for local access to resources was expressed.

FIGURE 5C



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN FREMONT COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

12,820
INDIVIDUALS
1 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Ratio of population per primary care provider in Fremont County

PROVIDER-PATIENT RATIOS

The number of health care providers in Fremont County face a significant challenge in terms of servicing the number of residents. Although the dilemma could be easily overstated because of the proximity of providers in Madison County, the challenge is clearly significant.

THE CONVERSATION

Fremont County’s three population hubs are distinct from each other geographically and in terms of proximity to health care resources. St. Anthony is within relatively easy reach of Rexburg, home to Madison Memorial Hospital. Island Park, a popular recreational destination is more remote and faces unique health care issues due to the frequency of vacationers engaged in outdoor activities. Between the two lies Ashton, an established community but also a significant stopping point and sometimes destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

Conversation participants emphasized the need for more and better information and resources, as well as greater access to health care. They focused heavily on mental and behavioral health, which they perceive to



FIGURE 5D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
FREMONT COUNTY	85.3	3.5		
KINDERGARTEN	80.7	3.4	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	82.9	4.1	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	91.7	3.0	85.0	7.9

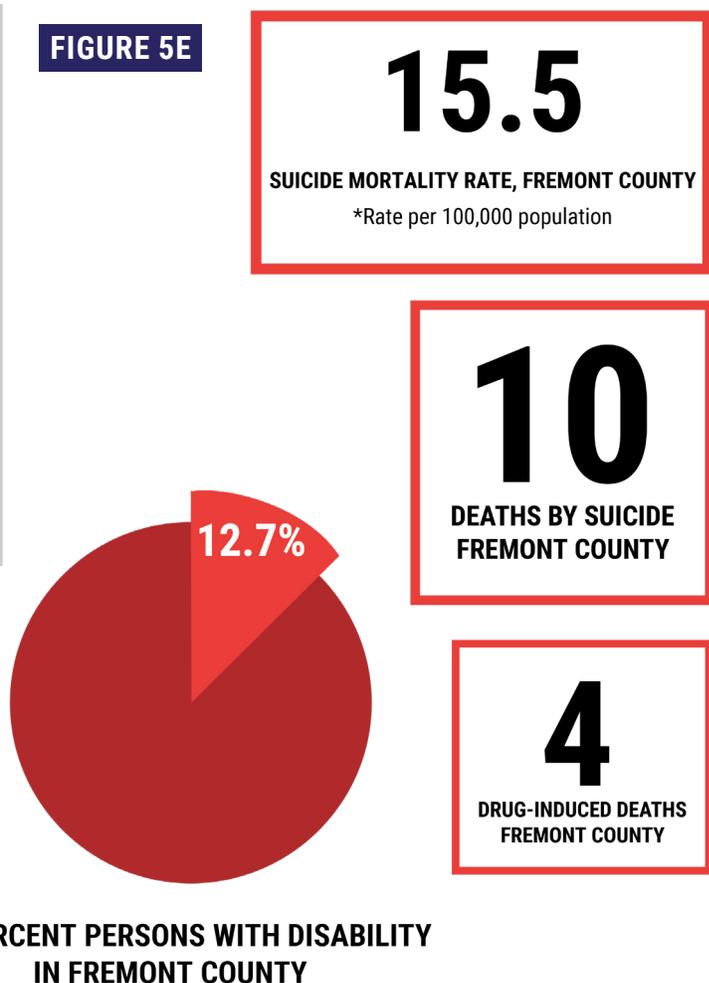
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Overall, Fremont County fell slightly below the state average for adequately immunized children; however the percentage of 7th Grade children adequately immunized rose above the state average. Refer to page 12 for more details.

DEATHS BY SUICIDE

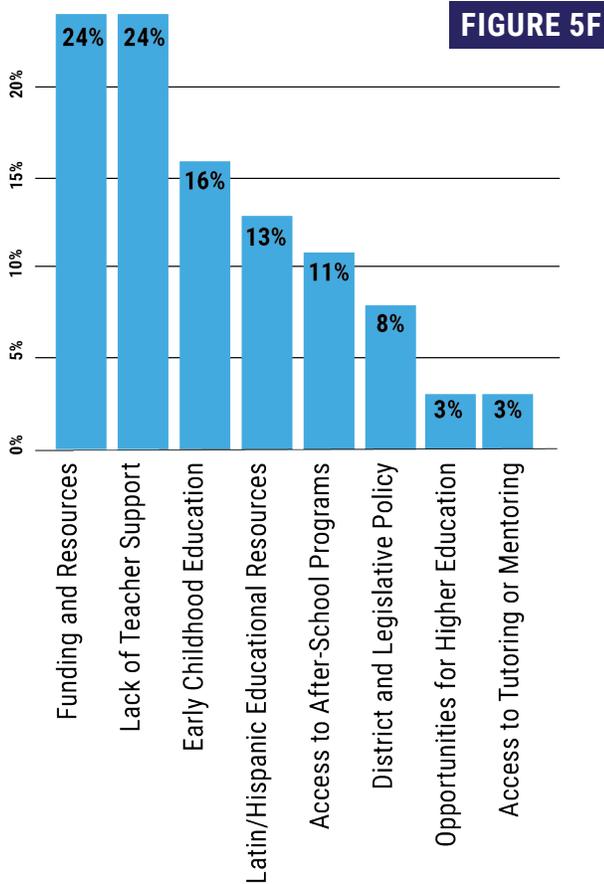
Fremont County's suicide rate is low, relative to Bonneville, Custer, and Lemhi Counties. It is extremely low relative to Clark County. Suicide was not among the top nine concerns of conversation participants.

FIGURE 5E



EDUCATION

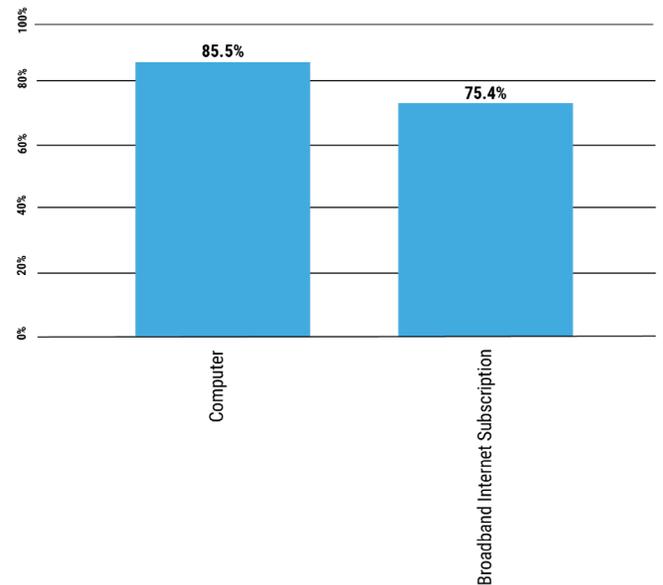
Eastern Idaho, Fremont County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



complex. Conversation participants also placed emphasis on early childhood learning, meeting the needs of Hispanic/Latino students, creating after school opportunities for students, and mentoring options. The distance between communities also plays a role here, given the transportation costs and other challenges facing service providers who would likely have to travel and/or organize volunteers to meet these needs. As did participants in several other counties, Fremont County attendees noted the legislative dimension of the educational issues they face. They expressed a need to revisit both district and state policies.

FIGURE 5G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN FREMONT COUNTY



THE CONVERSATION

Unlike Custer and Lemhi Counties, which are divided into multiple school districts, Fremont County is unified under the framework and leadership of one superintendent and school board. Of the county's three population hubs, Ashton and St. Anthony have a relatively stable, local resident base, while Island Park has much more seasonal flux. These county characteristics have a bearing on educational culture and needs.

Community conversation participants grappled with priorities that play out differently across the county. Lack of funding and resources and support for teachers were two top concerns, yet expenses associated with servicing students in more remote areas like Island Park are disproportionate to those in St. Anthony, for example. Thus, the challenge of meeting needs across the county is particularly

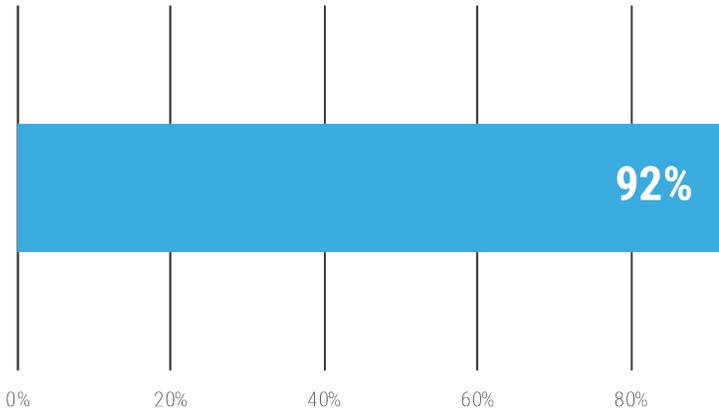
HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Despite the lack of resources, funding, and support for teachers noted by conversation participants, Fremont County has a very high graduation rate, relative to other counties covered in this survey. Still, more than one in ten county residents have no high school diploma or equivalency, and only one in three graduates pursue high education within the first year after graduation. The latter number, however, may be misleading due to the likelihood that a significant number of graduates

volunteer for a religious mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints immediately following high school.

FIGURE 5H

GRADUATION RATE



Island Park. Access to College of Eastern Idaho and the Idaho State University extension campus in Idaho Falls are a 40-minute (40 miles) drive from St. Anthony but an 80-minute (80 miles) drive from Island Park, assuming the weather is favorable. Transportation and housing costs greatly increase the challenge of furthering their education for many Fremont County residents, which likely contributed to the emphasis conversation participants placed on feasible opportunities for higher education.

FIGURE 5J

EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN FREMONT COUNTY

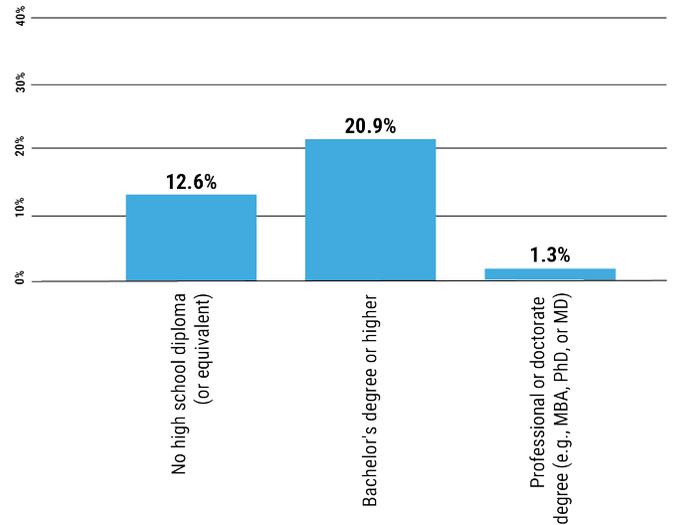
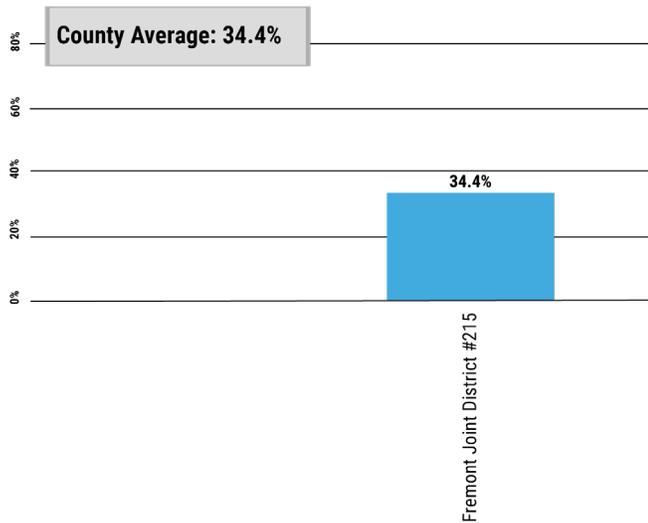


FIGURE 5I

PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018



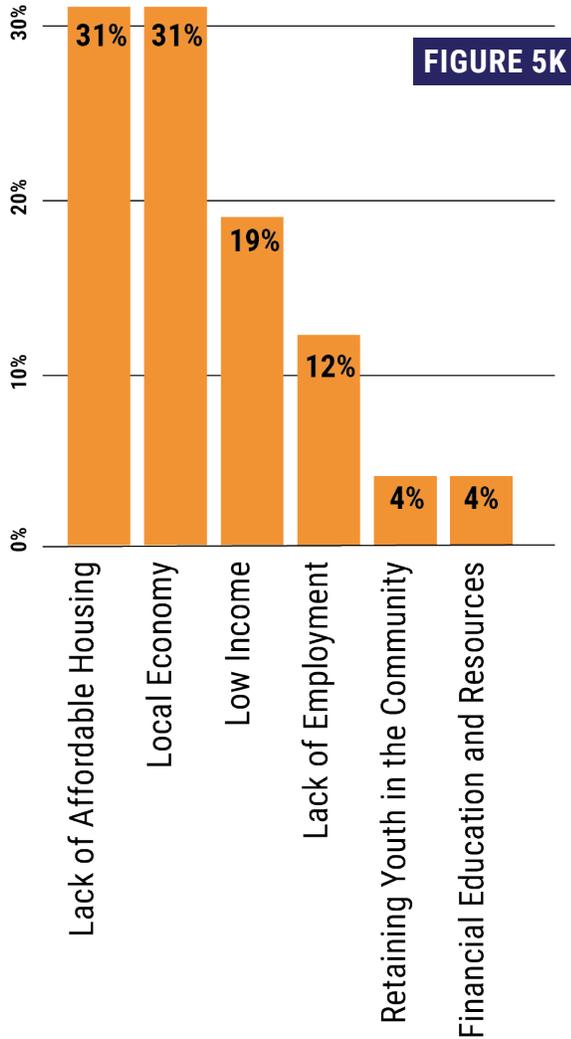
PROXIMITY TO FURTHER EDUCATION

The population centers in Fremont County vary in their proximity to institutions of higher learning. Rexburg, home to BYU-Idaho, is a 15-minute drive (14 miles) from St. Anthony but an hour drive (54 miles) from



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Eastern Idaho, Fremont County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

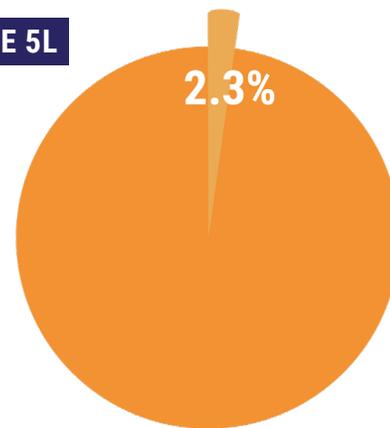


Though the median age is approximately 37 years, only 56 percent of residents are part of the civilian labor force, including 49 percent of women. Conversation participants saw beyond having a job, though they recognized the value of employment, to what available jobs meant in terms of quality of life. They expressed concern about what types of jobs were available, the associated wages, and whether there were jobs that could facilitate long-term residence. For the slightly more than 13 percent of county residents who live in poverty, stability and contentment may feel unattainable.

Attendees also focused on youth, regretting the fact that parents watch their maturing children leave a community in which they may choose to stay if there were sufficient financial resources. In fact, the loss of younger generations to other communities was emphasized by conversation participants.

Intertwined with grown children relocating was the top priority for attendees: more affordable housing.

FIGURE 5L



PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED IN FREMONT COUNTY

178

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
FREMONT COUNTY

THE CONVERSATION

With a median household income hovering just below the state average and an unemployment rate just over two percent, Fremont County residents are spared some of the most severe financial hardships faced by residents of neighboring counties. However, essential challenges remain the same.

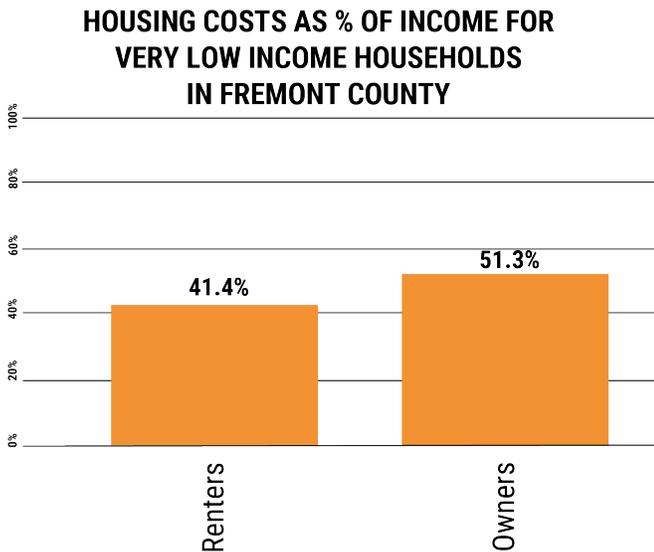
Conversation participants are deeply concerned about the local economy. Low income and lack of employment were two points of strong emphasis.

SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING

Fremont is another Eastern Idaho county in which the scarcity of affordable housing underlies other issues that challenge residents. It is also another county in which the income-to-mortgage/rent ratio far exceeds the limits identified as essential for financial stability.

Fremont County does border on Madison County, where apartment complexes are being constructed at an unprecedented pace. However, much of that construction has been spurred by the rapid growth of BYU-Idaho and is not necessarily accessible for the individuals struggling to rise above the lowest income levels. During 2018, 108 housing-related building permits were issued in Fremont County. However, individuals at the lowest income level may not benefit from these projects, which likely center on individual homes.

FIGURE 5M



PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN FREMONT COUNTY

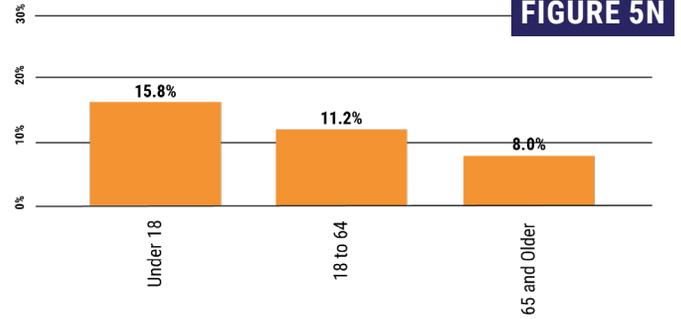
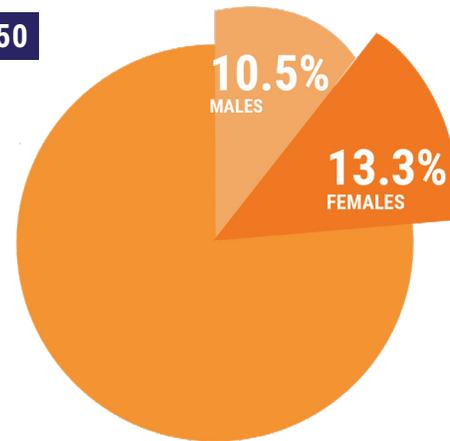
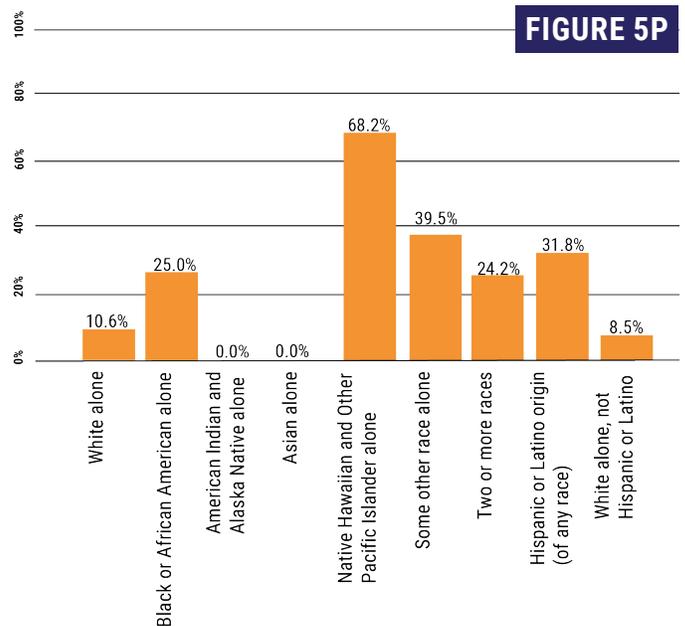


FIGURE 5O



PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN FREMONT COUNTY

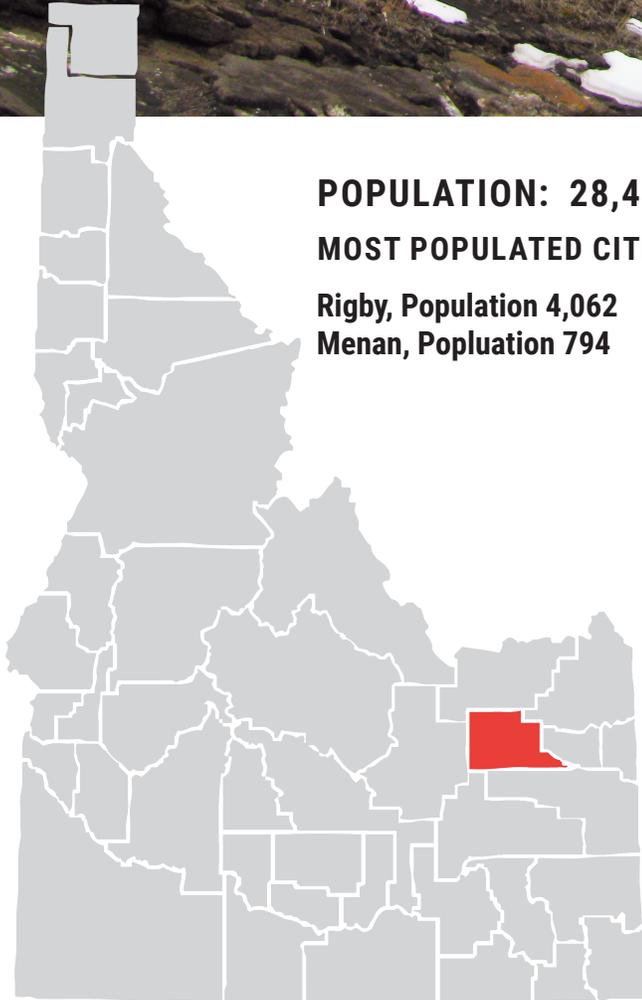
PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN FREMONT COUNTY



JEFFERSON COUNTY



OVERVIEW: JEFFERSON COUNTY



POPULATION: 28,446

MOST POPULATED CITIES:

Rigby, Population 4,062

Menan, Population 794

Median Household Income: \$58,055

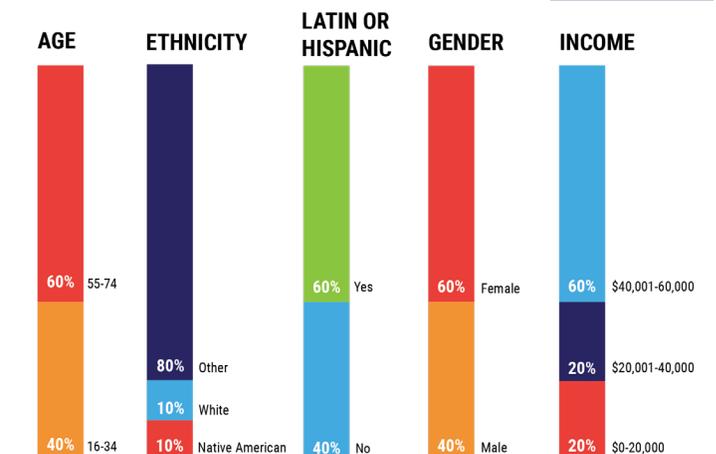
Median Age: 31.3

Race/Ethnicity: White- 87%, Hispanic or Latino- 10%, Other- 3%

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

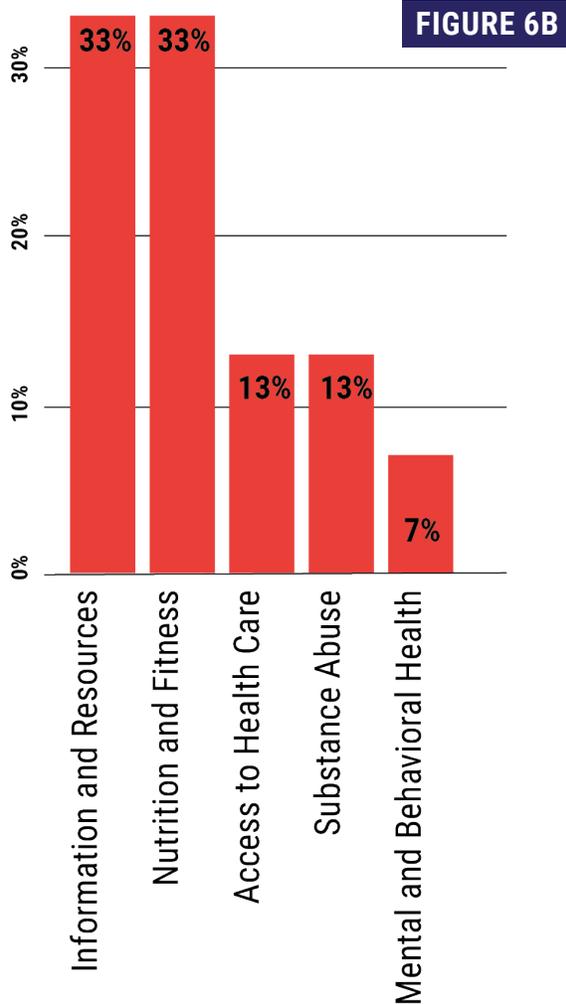
Eastern Idaho, Jefferson County Community Conversation
2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 6A



HEALTH

Eastern Idaho, Jefferson County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



Conversation attendees also expressed strong concerns about the prevalence of substance abuse and behavioral health more generally. They also emphasized the significance of mental health. Suicide has become a painful and visible issue in Jefferson County over the past few years, in part due to the fact that several Rigby high school students have died by suicide. Conversation attendees recognize the pressing nature of this issue.

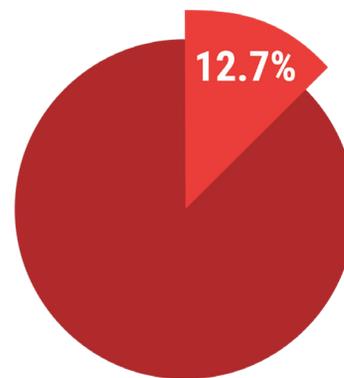
High on the list of priorities for attendees were resources related to a healthy lifestyle. Fitness and nutrition were mentioned. Local leaders have shown awareness of the need to provide public spaces conducive to healthy activities and has enhanced the atmosphere at public parks and recreational venues like Jefferson County Lake.

FIGURE 6C

3,880
INDIVIDUALS

1 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Ratio of population per primary care provider in Jefferson County



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

THE CONVERSATION

Jefferson County borders Bonneville and Madison Counties, both of which offer a far greater range of health care resources than are available locally. Despite this conversation's low attendance, participants were engaged and vocal. Rigby is growing rapidly, both in terms of population and available health resources, but conversation attendees still expect to drive to Idaho Falls or Rexburg for health care. They would prefer this to change. High priority was placed on the need for more health-related education and resources, as well as more accessible health care.

PROVIDER-PATIENT RATIOS

The disparity between the number of county residents and the number of health care providers is extreme and thus a serious concern. However, these numbers must be understood within a geographical context. It must be noted that more abundant resources are available 15 minutes to the south (Idaho Falls) or 15 minutes to the north (Rexburg). Nonetheless, the disproportion merits careful thought.



FIGURE 6D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
JEFFERSON COUNTY	89.0	8.2		
KINDERGARTEN	88.0	10.1	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	92.4	6.7	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	87.1	7.6	85.0	7.9

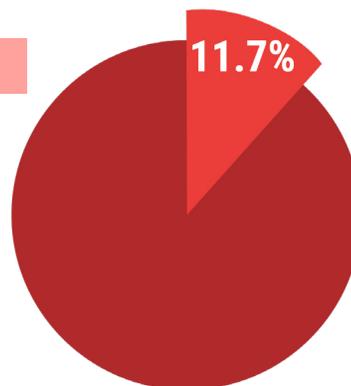
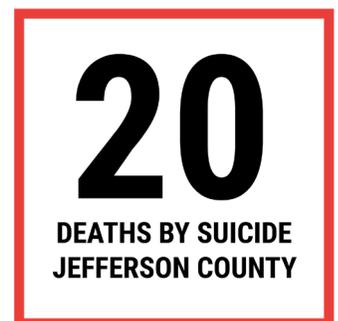
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Overall, Jefferson County had the second highest average of adequately immunized children of the counties covered in this assessment. However; the high percentage of immunization exemptions for Kindergartners is of concern to public health, but it was not addressed by conversation participants. Refer to page 12 for more details.

DEATHS BY SUICIDE

Although the suicide rate in Jefferson County is low relative to other counties covered in this needs assessment, it has become a visible and personal issue due to the loss of several high school students to suicide over the past couple of years. Conversation participants were tuned in to this issue and placed emphasis on the need for mental and behavioral health care information and resources.

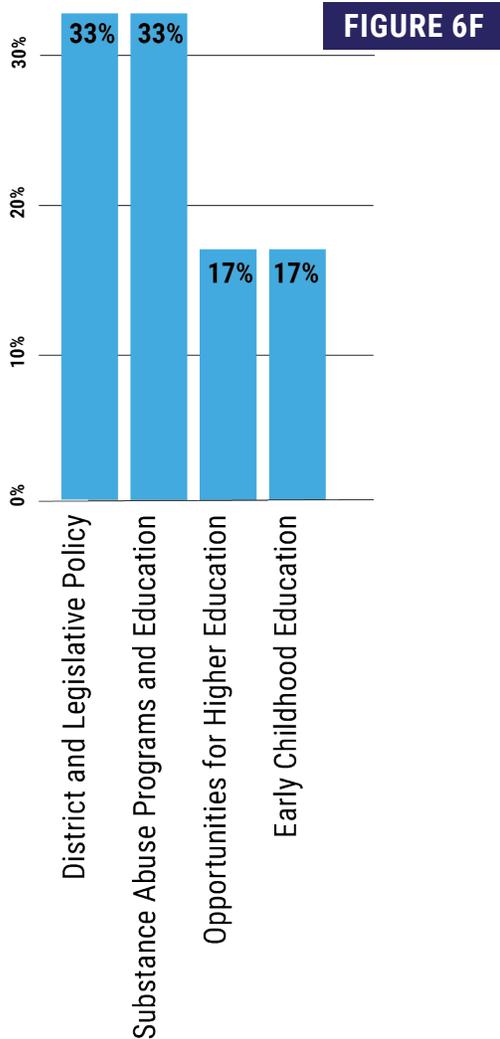
FIGURE 6E



PERCENT PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

EDUCATION

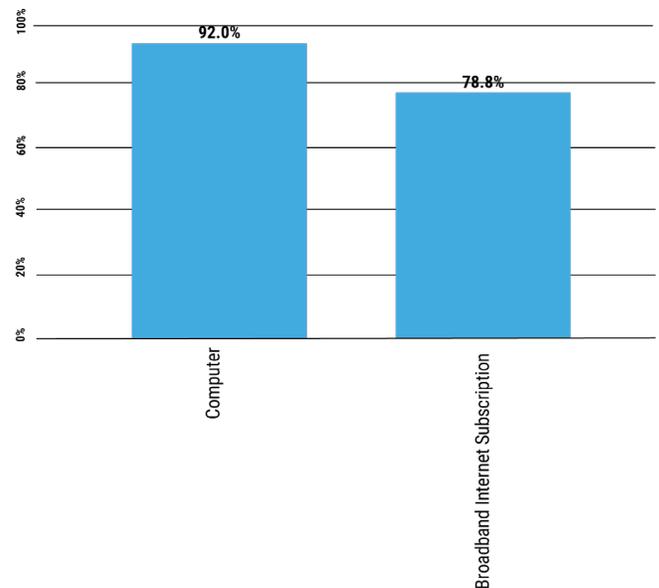
Eastern Idaho, Jefferson County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



Although this county conversation didn't include a significant number of attendees, the fact that their top concern was state and district policies is not surprising. The unavoidable flux impacts residents directly, and understanding educational changes and the rationale behind those changes matters to them. Conversation attendees also emphasized the need for substance abuse education and programs. They worry that alcohol, marijuana, and vaping could become habits that students form without fully understanding the resulting risks. Substance abuse in general was a top health concern identified by conversation attendees, which may signal a larger concern about behavioral risks across generations. Conversation participants also emphasized a need for higher educational opportunities and early childhood education.

FIGURE 6G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN JEFFERSON COUNTY



THE CONVERSATION

Jefferson County is growing quickly and with that growth comes an evolving educational landscape. Jefferson Joint School District is facing the challenge of unprecedented growth. In 2017, the district student enrollment increase of nearly six percent (324 students) was one of the largest in the state. Residents have experienced significant emergency bond votes, new school construction, school additions, and school repurposing. The district has also introduced innovative alternatives, like online learning options for high school students. Change has become a constant.

HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

The vast majority of students who attend high school in Jefferson County graduate. Of the 90 percent who do, only 34 percent pursue higher education within a year of graduation. This number may be misleading due to the strong likelihood that a large number of students opt to engage in religious service missions

before enrolling in college or entering trade programs, Jefferson County’s “go on” rate is low. This issue is reflected in education levels of residents. More than one in ten Jefferson county residents has no high school diploma or equivalent, and fewer than 25 percent have completed a bachelor’s degree or higher. The educational experiences and priorities of county residents vary widely, which may add a complication to the task of dealing with the onslaught of educational issues associated with rapid population growth. At the same time, the emphasis conversation participants placed on more opportunities for both early learning and higher education indicates their genuine concern about education.

FIGURE 6H

GRADUATION RATE

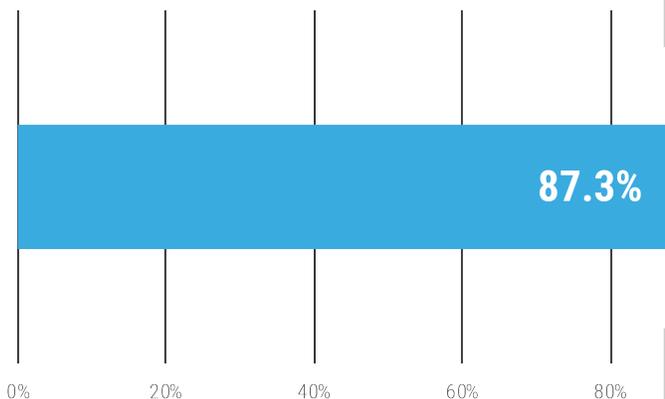
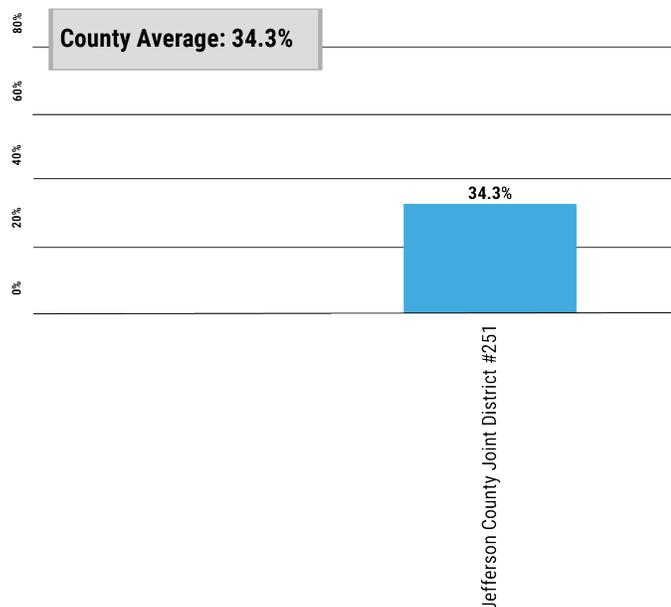


FIGURE 6I

PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018

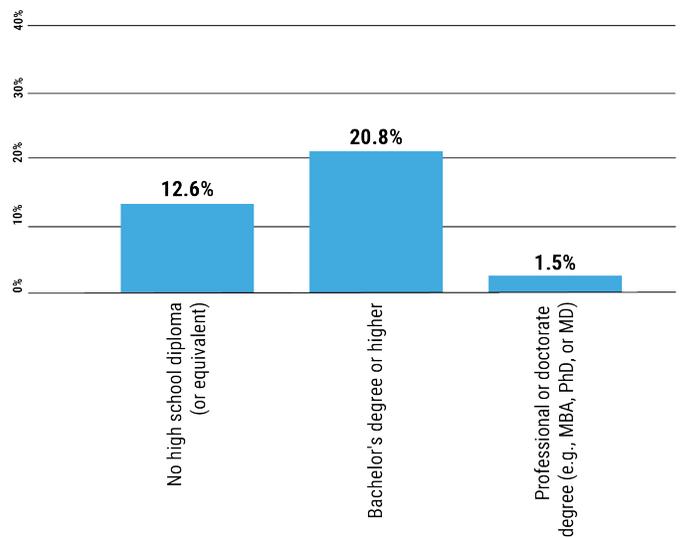


PROXIMITY TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Residing between Bonneville and Madison Counties, Jefferson county residents are within easy reach of higher educational institutions. A 20-minute drive south from Rigby can lead to Idaho State University’s extension campus in Idaho Falls, College of Eastern Idaho, or Stevens Henagar College—all commuter campuses. A similar drive to the north can lead to Brigham Young University-Idaho. Still, one of the top concerns expressed by conversation attendees was opportunities for higher education, which may indicate that proximity is not the primary deterrent Jefferson County residents face in terms of pursuing education after graduating from high school.

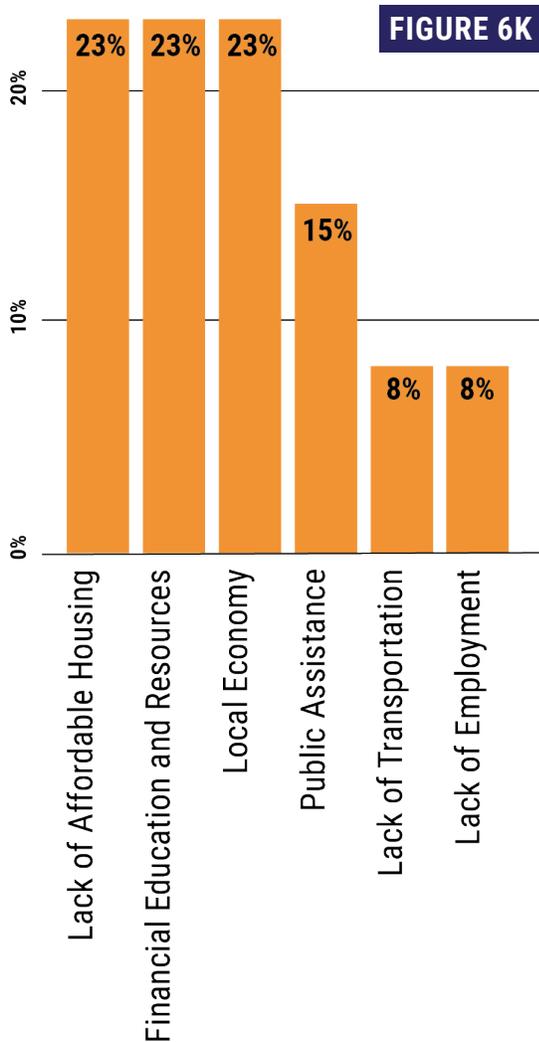
FIGURE 6J

EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN JEFFERSON COUNTY



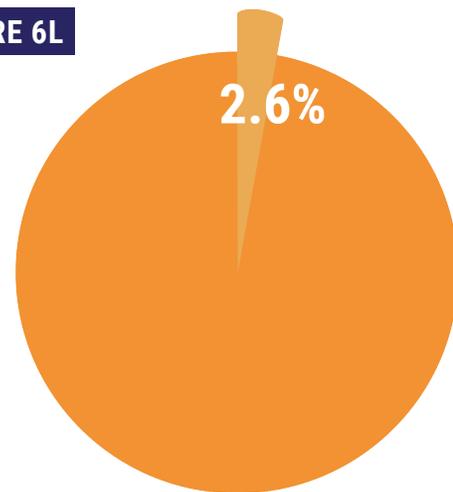
FINANCIAL STABILITY

Eastern Idaho, Jefferson County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



opportunity. Despite the fact that conversation participants named employment opportunities as a high priority, job growth in Jefferson County is both accelerating and diversifying. Over 65 percent of county residents are part of the civilian labor force, including nearly 56 percent of women. The labor market in Jefferson County is much more robust than many Eastern Idaho counties. However, as is true throughout the region, residents of Jefferson County are deeply concerned about the lack of affordable housing. Although over the past few years, a number of subdivisions have been developed and quickly populated, the housing options for people with a lower income are greatly limited. As the population continues to expand, this issue is likely to persist and possibly intensify.

FIGURE 6L



PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

356

**UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

THE CONVERSATION

With a median household income over \$5,000 above the state average, Jefferson County's financial landscape provides opportunities for earning, growth, and a high quality of life. Fewer than three percent of county residents are unemployed, and fewer than 10 percent of residents live in poverty. Still, conversation participants were concerned about the local economy. Jefferson County is the fifth fastest growing county in Idaho. Although rapid growth can place a strain on public services and educational resources, it also infuses the county with economic energy and

Jefferson County is not immune from the scarcity of affordable housing that is common throughout the region. Still, the lowest income rental households remain relatively financially secure in terms of their 28 percent income-to-rent ratios. The lowest income households with mortgage payments, however, spend almost half of their monthly income to retain home ownership. Ultimately, though, whether the supply of affordable rental units and homes can keep up with the demand as the county's population multiplies is a pressing question.

is another Eastern Idaho county in which the scarcity of affordable housing underlies other issues that challenge residents. It is also another county in which the income-to-mortgage/rent ratio far exceeds the limits identified as essential for financial stability. Fremont County does border on Madison County, where apartment complexes are being constructed at an unprecedented pace. However, much of that construction has been spurred by the rapid growth of BYU-Idaho and is not necessarily accessible for the individuals struggling to rise above the lowest income levels. During 2018, 108 housing-related building permits were issued in Fremont County. However, individuals at the lowest income level may not benefit from these projects, which likely center on individual homes.

FIGURE 6M

HOUSING COSTS AS % OF INCOME FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

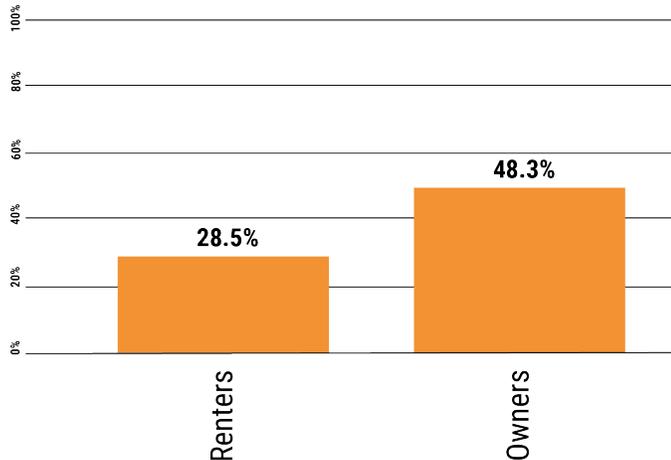


FIGURE 6N

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

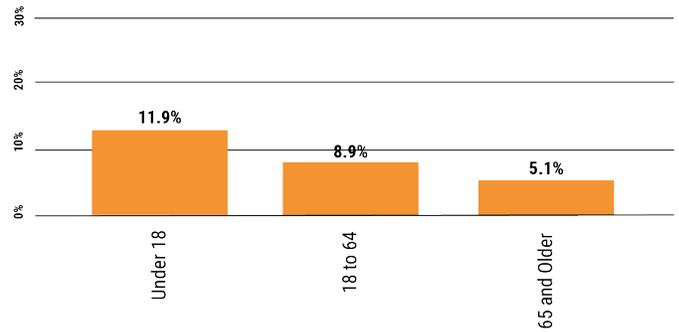


FIGURE 6O

PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

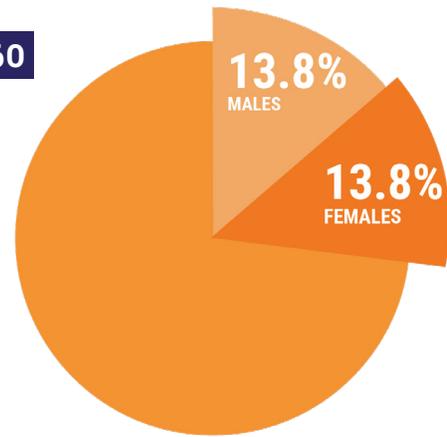
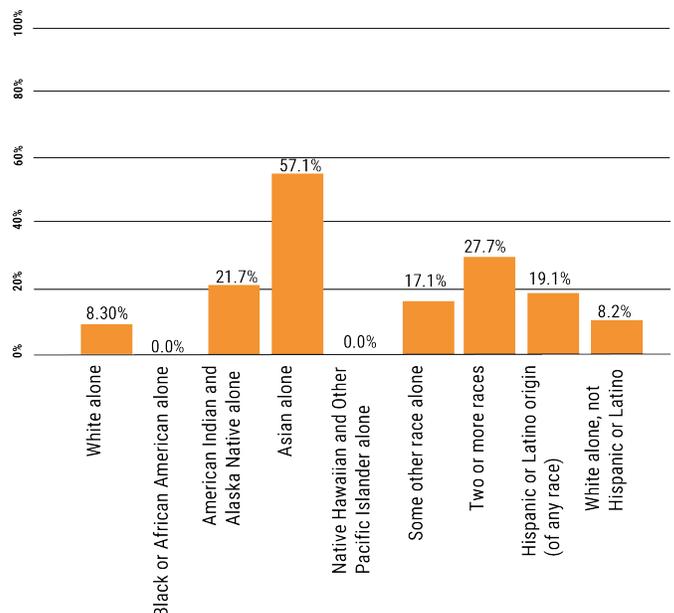
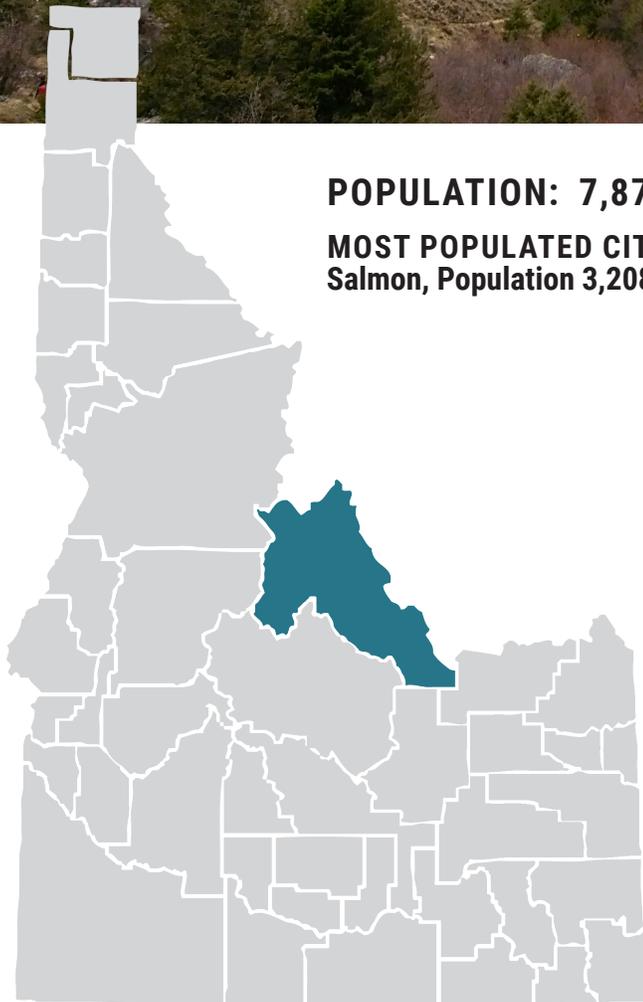


FIGURE 6P

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY



LEMHI COUNTY



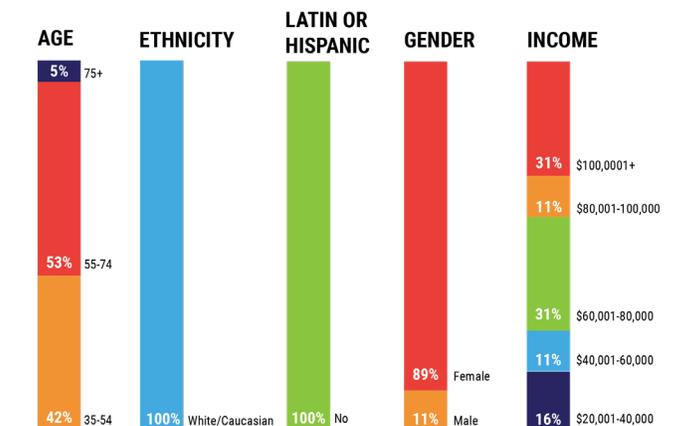
POPULATION: 7,875
MOST POPULATED CITY:
Salmon, Population 3,208

Median Household Income: \$36,031
 Median Age: 36.4
 Race/Ethnicity: White- 93%, Hispanic or Latino- 3%, Other 4%

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Eastern Idaho, Lemhi County Community Conversation
 2019, Community Needs Assessment

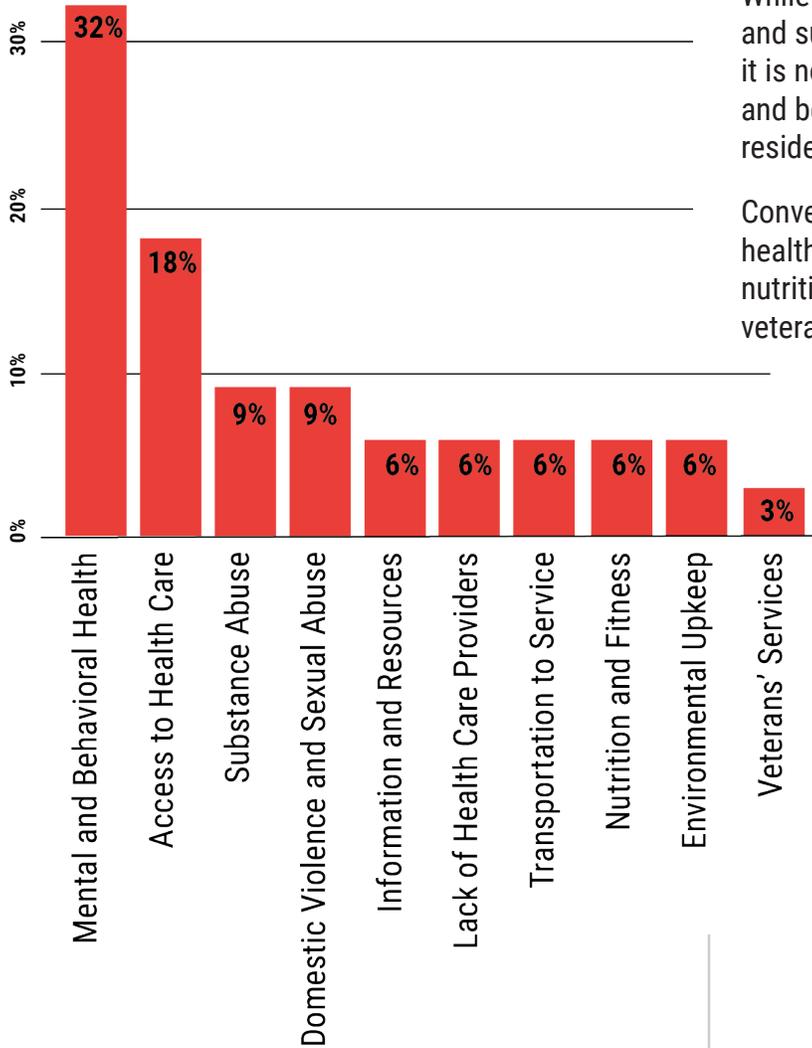
FIGURE 7A



HEALTH

Eastern Idaho, Lemhi County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 7B



County. Problems such as substance abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault are all intensified by the residents' lack of access to adequate resources and information. Traveling to receive care in a crisis situation creates a potential hazard in its own right, and thus, according to conversation participants, Lemhi county needs more support and resources. While Mahoney House provides much needed safety and support for victims of abuse and sexual assault, it is not equipped to deal with the range of mental and behavioral health challenges faced by county residents.

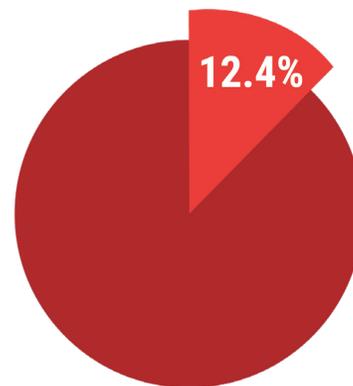
Conversation participants also noted their need for healthy lifestyle resources related to fitness and nutrition, assistance with environmental upkeep, and veterans' services.

FIGURE 7C

1,930
INDIVIDUALS

1 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Ratio of population per primary care provider in Lemhi County



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN LEMHI COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

PROVIDER-PATIENT RATIOS

While the ratio of health care providers to patients in Lemhi County is moderately low relative to several other counties covered in this assessment, it nevertheless presents a significant issue. The problem is complicated by the difficulty of traveling to locations with more providers.

THE CONVERSATION

Lemhi County provides an appealing destination for outdoor enthusiasts because of its rugged and diverse geography. But that geography, coupled with a culture that has traditionally celebrated self-reliance and a "put it on ice" response to injury, intensifies the challenge of meeting health care needs. Attracting health care providers, establishing resource centers, and funding transportation options are all more complicated endeavors in remote locations such as Lemhi County.

Mental and behavioral health issues were by far the highest priority for conversation participants in Lemhi



FIGURE 7D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
LEMHI COUNTY	77.2	10.5		
KINDERGARTEN	63.1	15.4	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	76.2	10.7	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	89.9	6.3	85.0	7.9

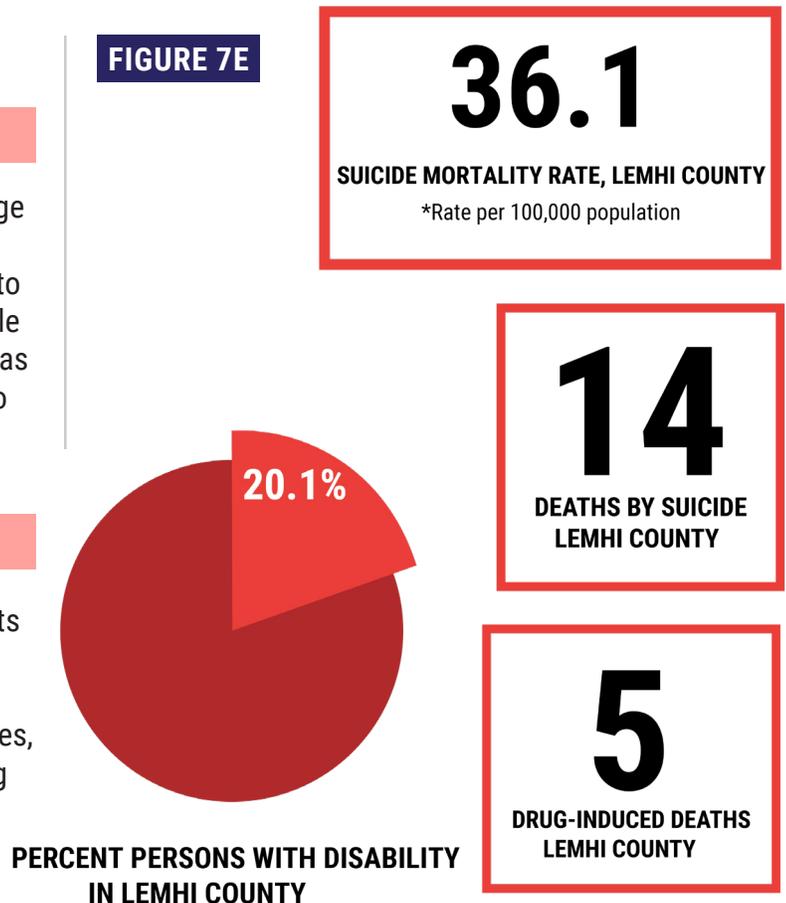
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Overall, Lemhi County has the third lowest percentage of adequately immunized children and the highest percentage of immunization exemptions in relation to the other counties covered in this assessment. While this is of great concern to Public Health, the topic was not addressed by conversation participants. Refer to page 12 for more details.

DEATHS BY SUICIDE

The suicide rate in Lemhi County is high and presents an urgent issue. Conversation participants were tuned into this concern and placed a high priority in increasing available information, enhancing resources, and encouraging a shift of attitudes toward reaching out for help.

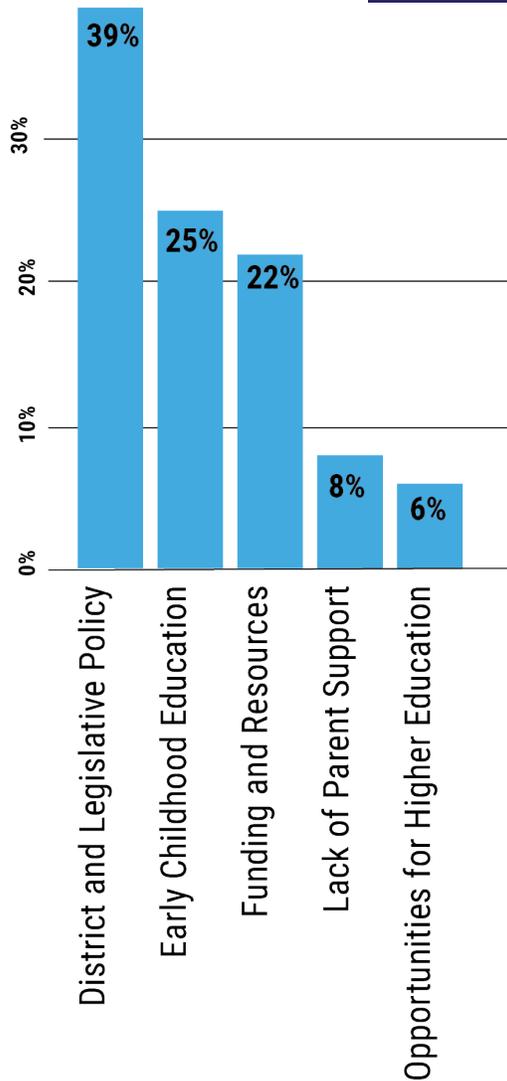
FIGURE 7E



EDUCATION

Eastern Idaho, Lemhi County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 7F

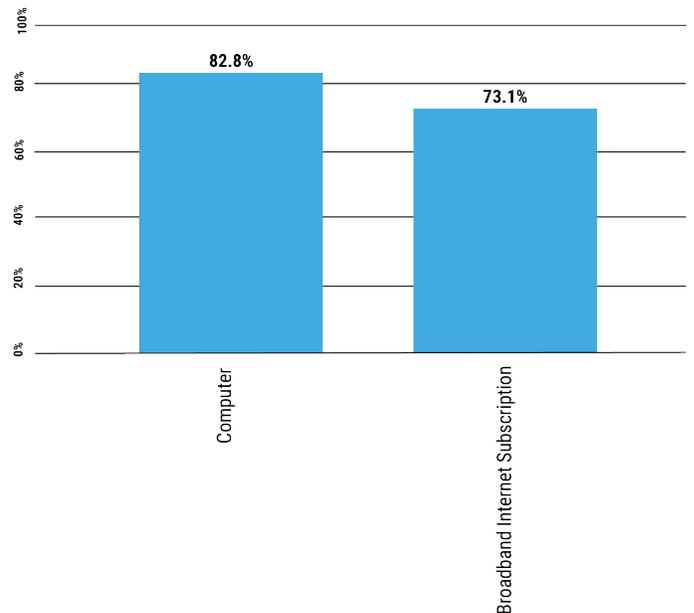


and thus a consistent tax base as a source of revenue is not a given. And with a county median income that falls approximately \$16,000 below the state average, the county hardly provides an ideal context for passing school bonds.

The need to grapple with these challenges was apparent to Lemhi County conversation participants. They expressed strong concerns about school and district policies, as well as funding and resources. They also emphasized their desire for early childhood and higher educational opportunities. Additionally, conversation participants lamented what they perceived to be a lack of parental support in schools.

FIGURE 7G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN LEMHI COUNTY



HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Perhaps in part because of these challenges, one in four Lemhi County students does not graduate from high school. While this graduation rate is lower than some counties covered in this assessment, over 90 percent of county residents have at least a high school diploma or equivalent. Additionally, more than one in five has at least a bachelor's degree. Thus, the overall education levels in Lemhi County are higher than some counties that boast a significantly higher graduation rate.

THE CONVERSATION

Lemhi County has two school districts and four schools. Its rugged geography and remote location create significant educational challenges. Unlike more populated districts, in which proximity to external resources can enrich students' learning and proximity to other schools can reduce the transportation costs associated with extracurricular activities, the districts in Lemhi County face issues meeting fundamental needs. Over the past seven years, county population trends have fluctuated between growth and decline,

The emphasis placed by conversation participants on the need for higher education indicates that county residents value learning.

Jefferson counties can commute to higher educational institutions with relative ease, students from Lemhi County cannot. The added housing and transportation costs make the pursuit of higher education more challenging for these students.

FIGURE 7H

GRADUATION RATE

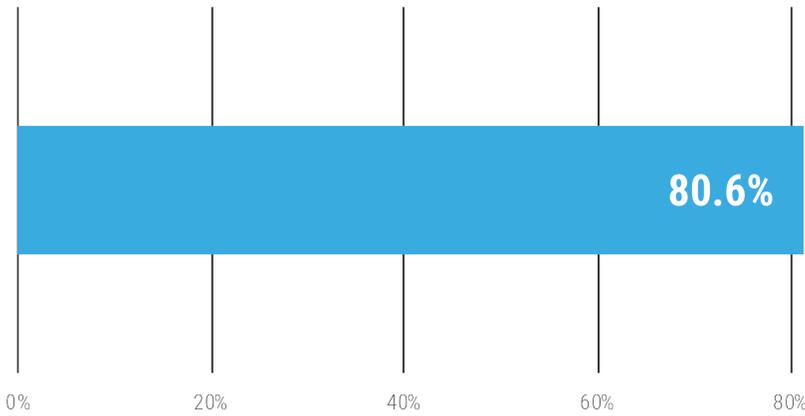
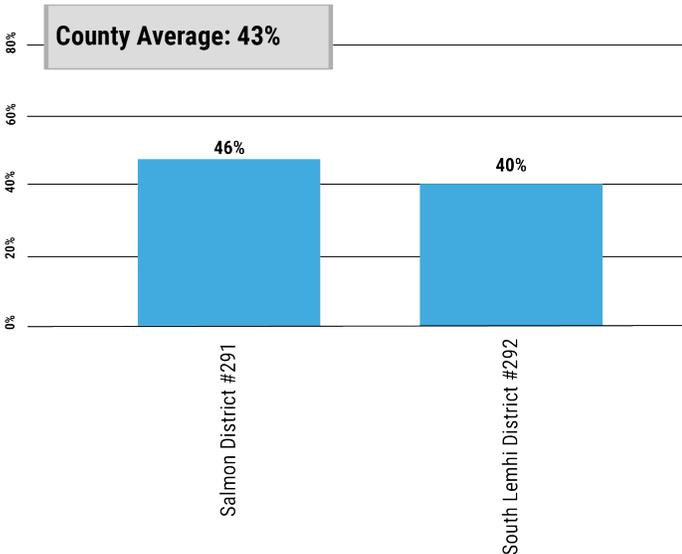


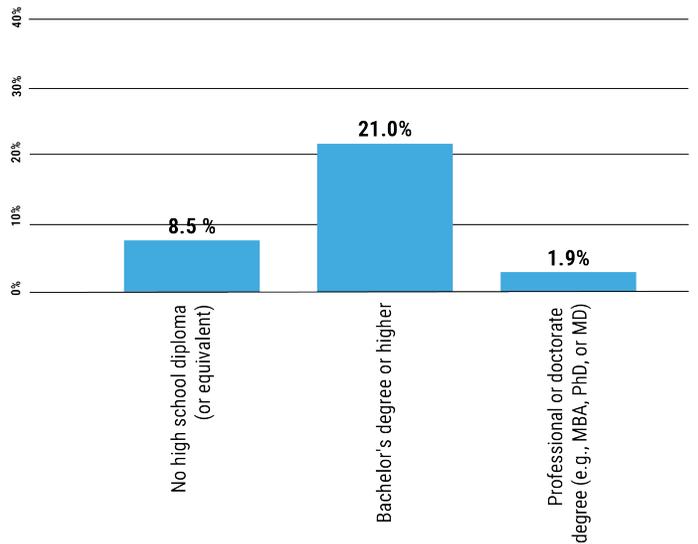
FIGURE 7J

FIGURE 7I

PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR LEMHI COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018



EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN LEMHI COUNTY



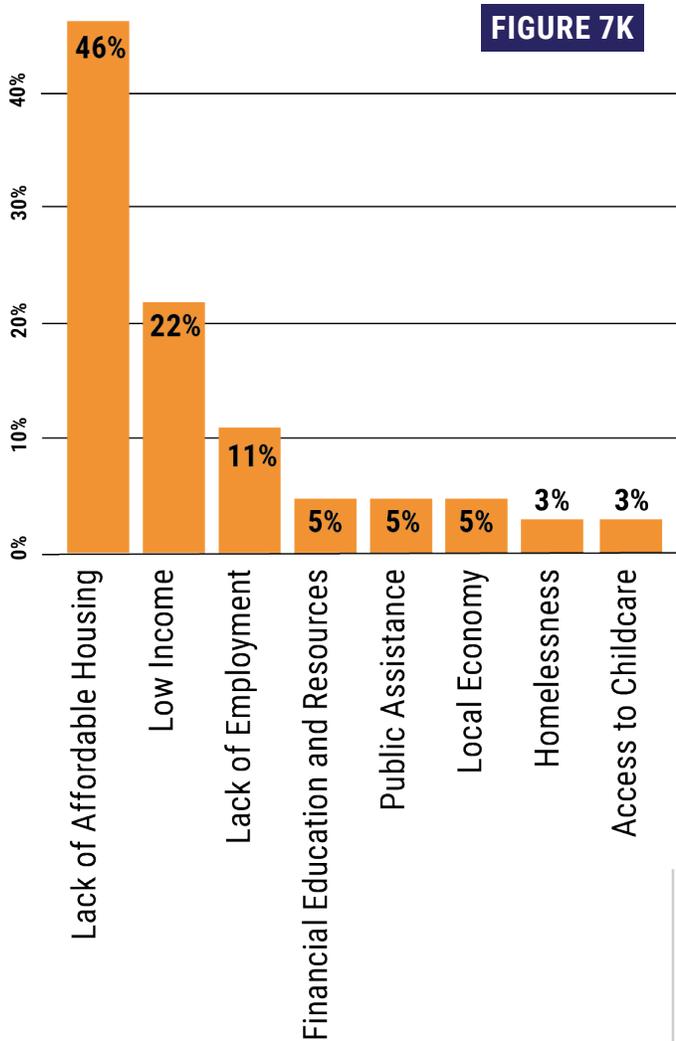
PROXIMITY TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Salmon, the Lemhi County seat, is 140 miles--but nearly a 4-hour drive--away from Brigham Young University-Idaho, in Rexburg. Though 162 miles away, Idaho Falls is also close to a 4-hour drive from Salmon. Thus, while residents of Fremont and



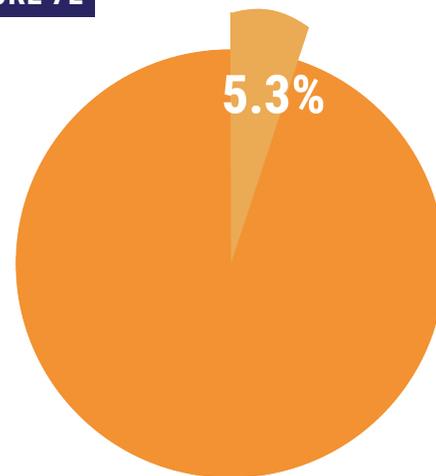
FINANCIAL STABILITY

Eastern Idaho, Lemhi County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



County conversation participants have observed the consequences of economic challenges firsthand, and the conversation explored a number of specific needs. Financial progress depends on understanding how to achieve it, and conversation attendees indicated that in Lemhi County, the lack of financial education and resources present a real obstacle to improvement. Participants also explored the relationship between low incomes, lack of employment, and public assistance, all of which were emphasized as significant issues. The cost of childcare was also identified as an urgent issue. However, as in most every Eastern Idaho county, affordable housing is the concern that looms largest. By far the highest number participants named this issue as very significant.

FIGURE 7L



PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED IN LEMHI COUNTY

189
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
LEMHI COUNTY

THE CONVERSATION

Lemhi County residents, like so many Idahoans who live in remote regions, face significant economic hardships. Conversation participants' strong concern about the local economy appears justified, given the following data. The median household income in Lemhi County is \$16,000 below the state average. Unemployment in the county has topped five percent, very high relative to many Eastern Idaho counties. Despite the fact that nearly half of the county population is part of the civilian labor force, including just over 44 percent of women, 16 percent of residents live in poverty.

SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING

Affordable housing is a critical issue throughout the counties covered in this assessment and in Lemhi County, it's acute. For the lowest income households, rather individuals are renting or buying, the cost of housing is more than twice the highest recommended income-to-mortgage/rent ratio.

With over 62 percent of a household's monthly income going to rent or mortgage payments, other issues can quickly compound. The cost of childcare, as stated previously, was another top priority for conversation participants. Combined with food and transportation costs, monthly expenses can easily exceed a household's monthly income. Public assistance, as previously mentioned, was recognized by participants as a vital necessity.

Conversation attendees recognized the severity of these interrelationships. Of the nine counties covered in this assessment, only two conversations included homelessness as a pressing concern. Lemhi County is one.

FIGURE 7M

HOUSING COSTS AS % OF INCOME FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN LEMHI COUNTY

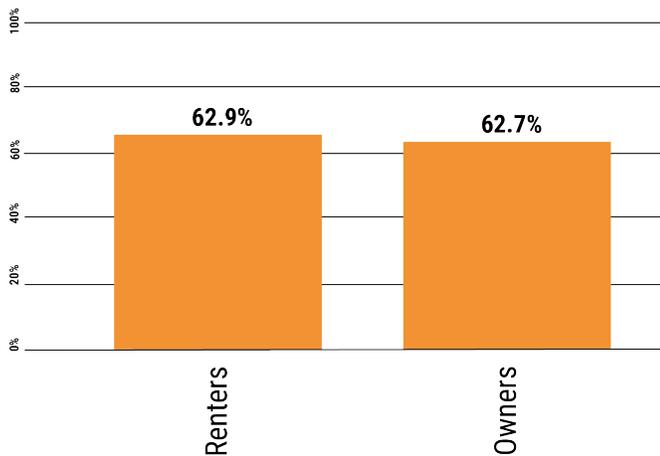


FIGURE 7N

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN LEMHI COUNTY

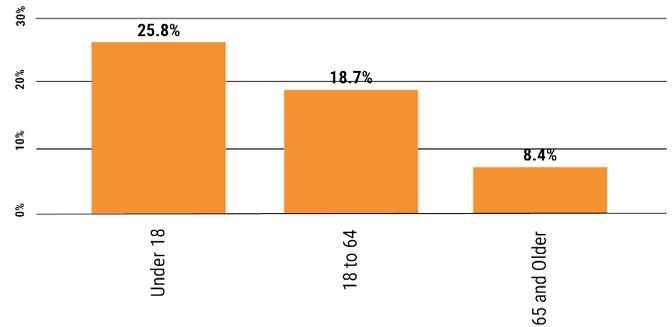
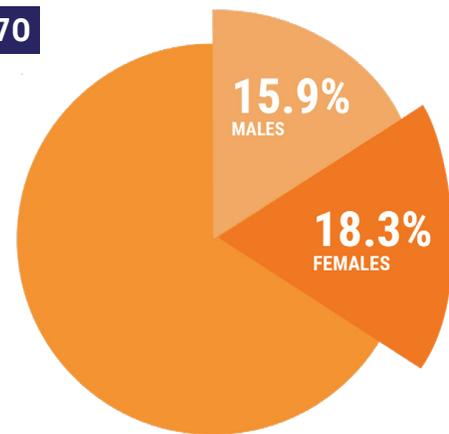


FIGURE 7O

PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN LEMHI COUNTY



PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN LEMHI COUNTY

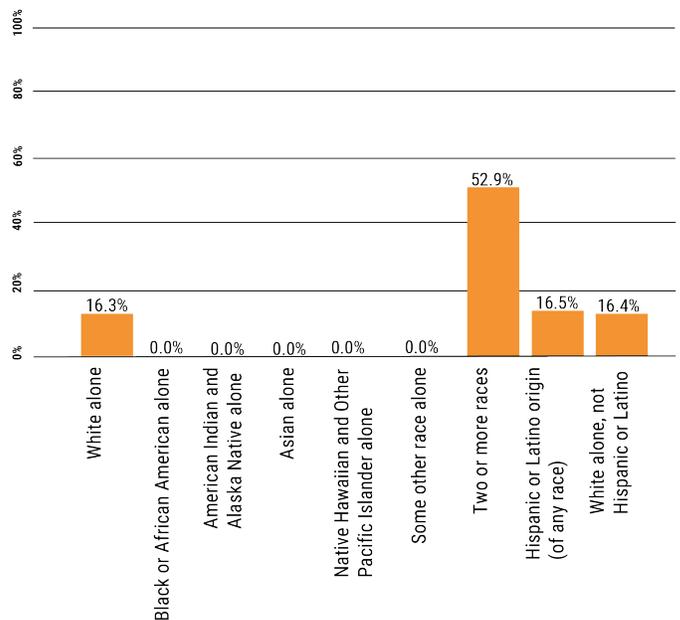
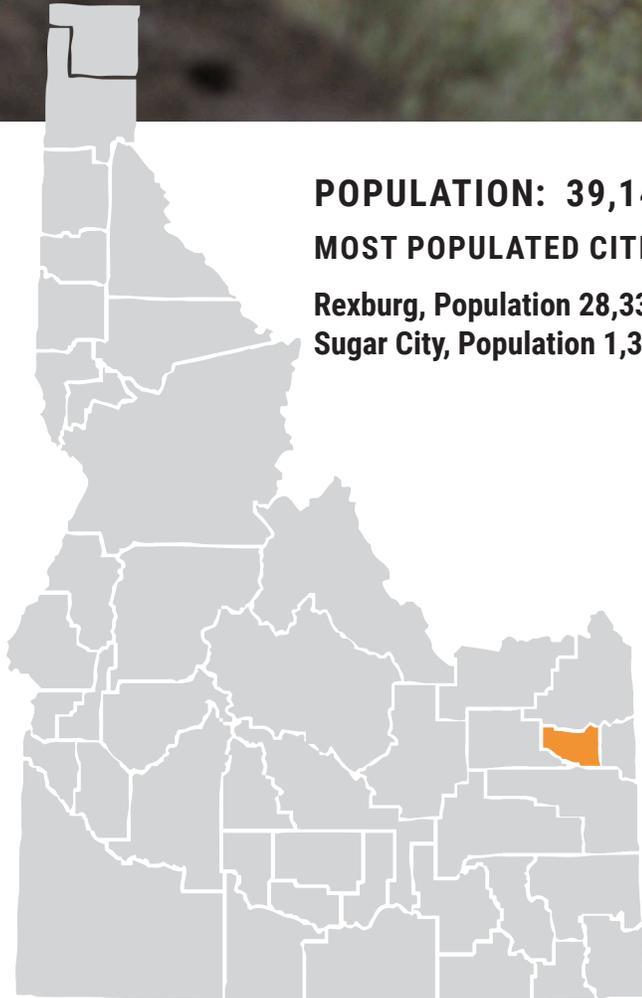


FIGURE 7P

MADISON COUNTY



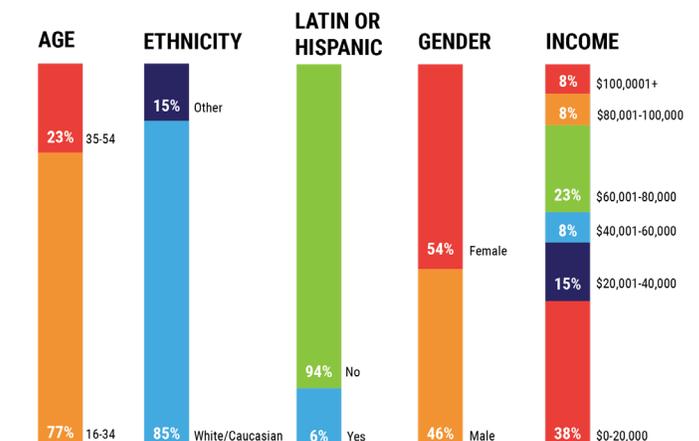
POPULATION: 39,141
MOST POPULATED CITIES:
Rexburg, Population 28,337
Sugar City, Population 1,361

Median Household Income: \$33,620
 Median Age: 23.5
 Race/Ethnicity: White- 88%, Hispanic or Latino- 8%,
 Asian- 2%, Other- 2%

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Eastern Idaho, Madison County Community Conversation
 2019, Community Needs Assessment

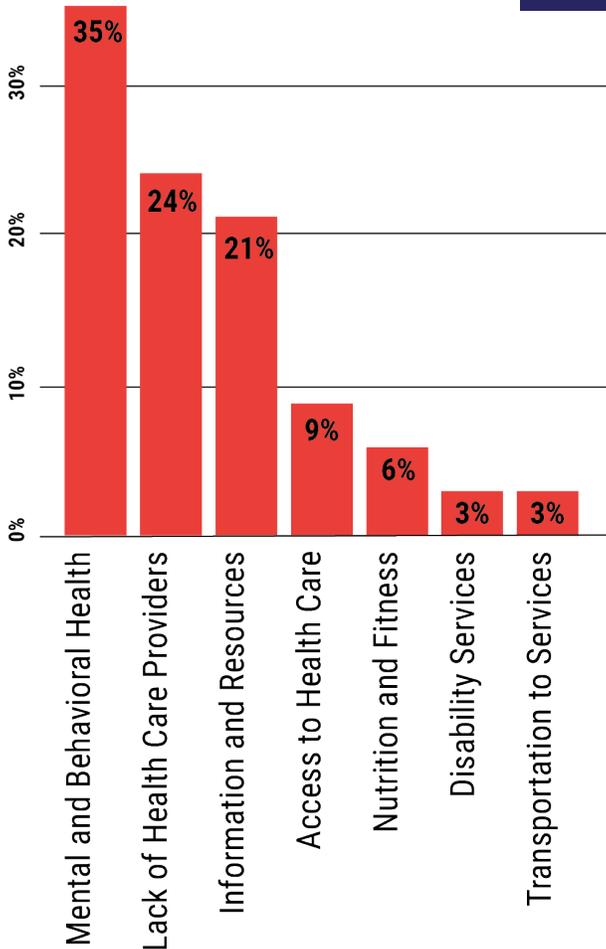
FIGURE 8A



HEALTH

Eastern Idaho, Madison County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 8B



concern is not demographic-specific. Madison Memorial Hospital is pressed to handle the number of ER visits due to mental health crisis situations. Patients in need of crisis care must be transported out of county—to Idaho Falls or often to destinations further away. Families are strained to provide adequate support when loved ones needing crisis care can't receive it in close proximity to home.

Conversation participants expressed a strong desire for more information and health resources. Lack of health care providers and access to health care were also emphasized, despite the fact that Madison County has a high number of options relative to most counties covered in this assessment. Still, conversation participants reported that many residents travel to receive their health care.

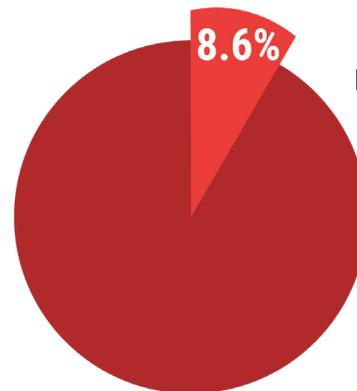
Other topics of concern to participants included healthy lifestyle resources, such as a community recreation center, disability services, and access to transportation.

FIGURE 8C

1,530
INDIVIDUALS

1 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Ratio of population per primary care provider in Madison County



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN MADISON COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

PROVIDER-PATIENT RATIOS

Although the provider-patient ratio in Madison County is positive relative to other counties covered in this assessment, conversation attendees specifically mentioned this issue as a priority need that has not been met satisfactorily.

THE CONVERSATION

At least three significant population elements have a bearing on the health concerns expressed in the Madison County community conversation. Long-time residents have witnessed a huge influx of students at Brigham Young University-Idaho. Population growth in Idaho and at the university have shifted the demographic landscape in Madison County. Young families constitute a significant percentage of the student population, and low income among students increases the need for them to rely on health services beyond what university resources can handle. At the other end of the county spectrum, a substantial aging population also has unique health care needs.

Conversation participants emphasized the critical nature of mental and behavioral health care. This



FIGURE 8D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
MADISON COUNTY	88.0	5.5		
KINDERGARTEN	80.7	8.3	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	83.9	7.4	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	96.6	2.0	85.0	7.9

IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Compared to the other counties covered in this assessment, Madison County has the third highest overall average percentage of adequately immunized students, which is slightly above the state average of 86.5%. However, the percentage of immunizations exemptions for Kindergartners is above the state average. This was not addressed by Conversation participants. Refer to page 12 for more details.

DEATHS BY SUICIDE

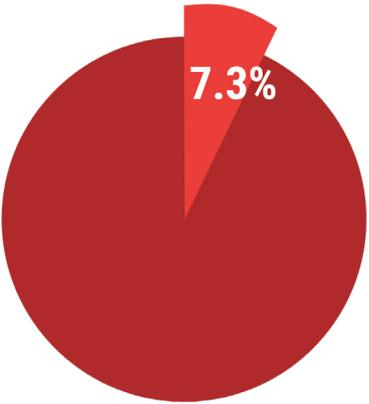
Madison County experiences low suicide rates relative to several other counties covered in this assessment. Madison Cares has served as a vital resource in regard to suicide prevention and postvention. However, county residents have experienced several visible deaths due to suicide over the past few years, and conversation participants placed high priority on having the resources needed to address this painful issue.

FIGURE 8E

7.8
SUICIDE MORTALITY RATE, MADISON COUNTY
 *Rate per 100,000 population

15
DEATHS BY SUICIDE
MADISON COUNTY

5
DRUG-INDUCED DEATHS
MADISON COUNTY

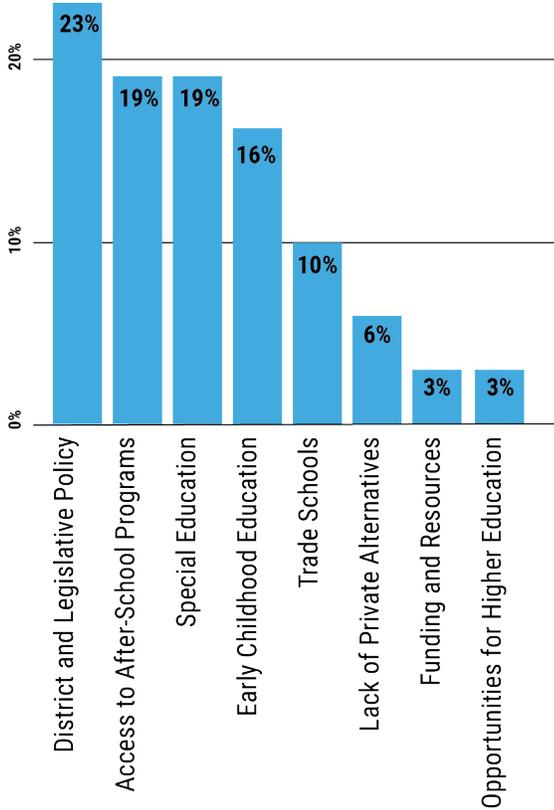


PERCENT PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN MADISON COUNTY

EDUCATION

Eastern Idaho, Madison County
2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 8F

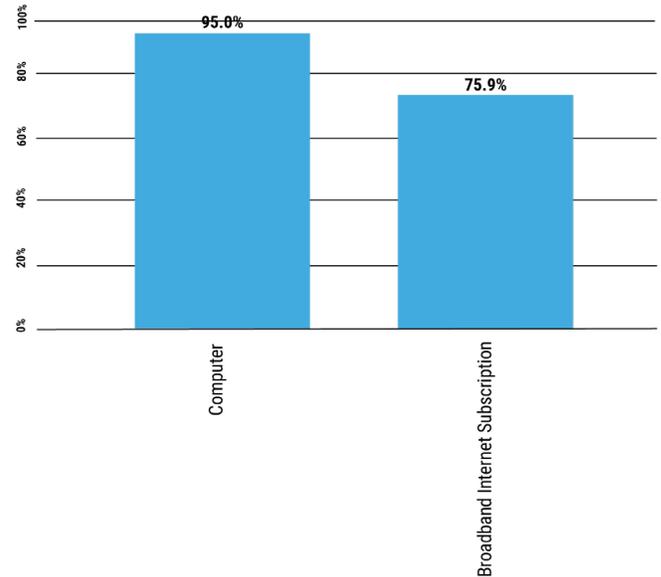


These priorities may reflect a perception that public education programs are satisfactory, or they may be influenced by the educational presence and cultural resources available through BYU-Idaho. Participants also expressed a desire for more trade school options and alternatives to public schools.

It is also notable that Madison Cares is directly affiliated with Madison County schools and provides administrators, teachers, and students in Madison County with consistent mental health training and support, a unique resource among school districts within the region covered in this community needs assessment.

FIGURE 8G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN MADISON COUNTY



THE CONVERSATION

Madison County is home to two school districts, which together consist of 15 schools and one online option. Despite their geographic proximity, Madison and Sugar Salem Districts offer students quite different experiences. Students in Madison School District progress to attend a 5A high school with over 1,100 students, while approximately 425 students attend Sugar High School and compete at the 3A level.

Unlike many who attended other county conversations, participants in the Madison County discussion did not place highest priority on lack of funding or access to higher education, although these topics were mentioned. Rather, they focused heavily on legislative and district policies, after school programs, special education programs, and early childhood learning.

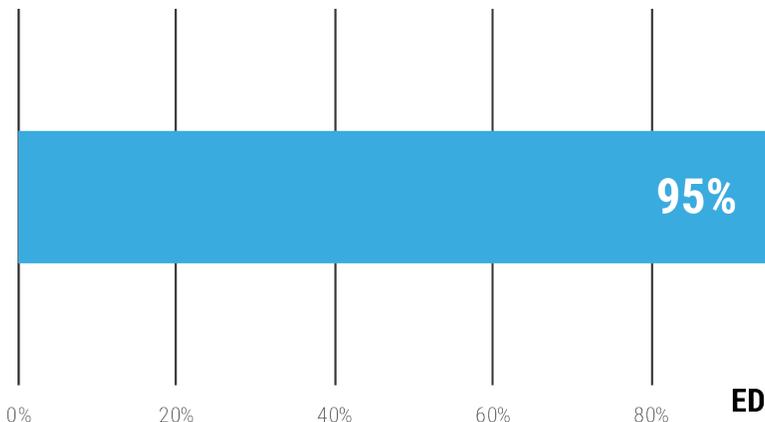
HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

The county graduation rate of 95 percent and the county “Go On” rate of only 32 percent may appear to be a disconnect. However, the wide gap is likely due to the number of high school seniors who plan to engage in religious service missions shortly after graduation and so delay the pursuit of higher education. For example in Rexburg, the Madison County seat, over 95 percent of the population belongs to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It is common for males belonging to this to begin 2-year service missions at age 18; fewer, but still a substantial number, of females who belong to the Church of Jesus Christ begin 1.5-year service missions at age 19.

Proximity and affordability make BYU-Idaho a seemingly attractive choice of universities for Eastern Idaho students. However, as a private religious institution with a strict conduct code, it is not a fit for many residents. One point worth noting is the way in which religious and educational values often become culturally intertwined in highly homogenous areas such as Madison County.

FIGURE 8H

GRADUATION RATE



PROXIMITY TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Institutions of higher learning are within relatively convenient distances for residents of Madison County. As noted above, BYU-Idaho is a local option for individuals interested in attending an LDS institution with a strict code of conduct. But College of Eastern Idaho, the Idaho State University extension campus, and Stevens-Henagar College are only a half-hour commute away from Rexburg.

FIGURE 8J

EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN MADISON COUNTY

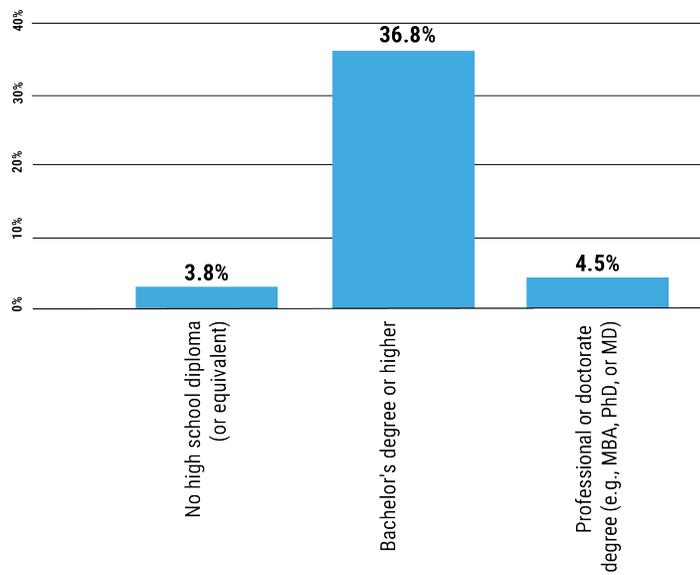
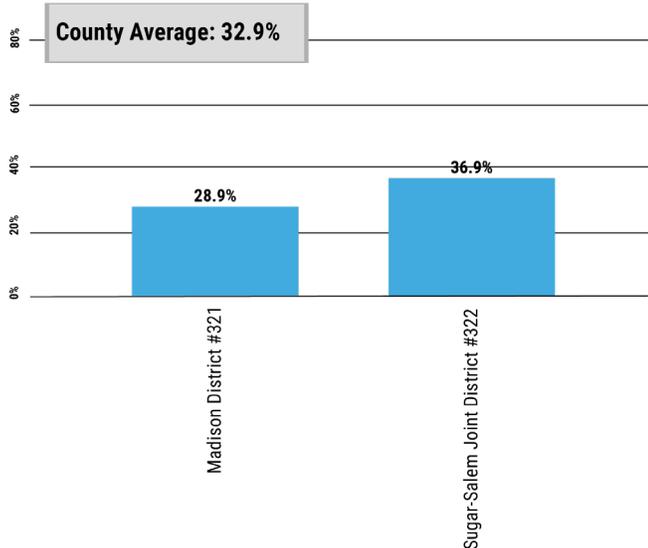


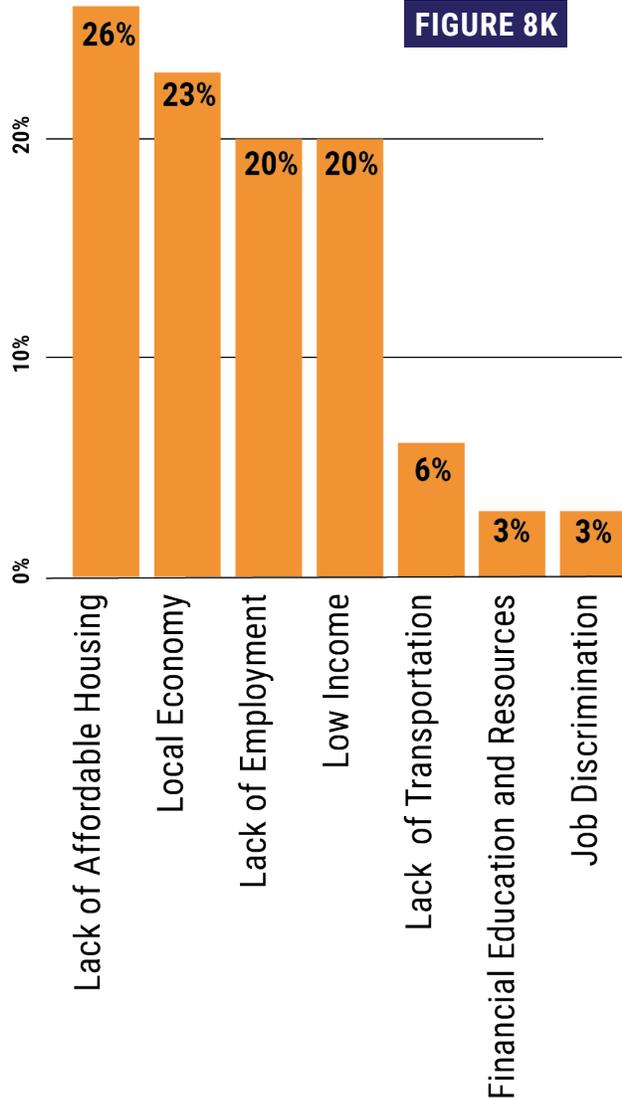
FIGURE 8I

PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Eastern Idaho, Madison County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

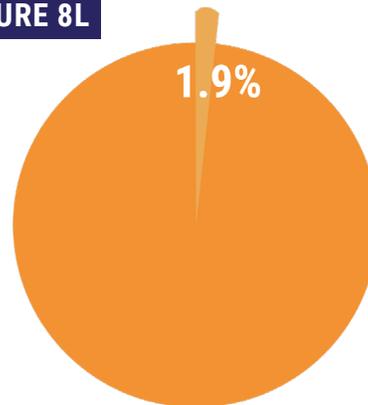


The inflow and outflow of students every year clearly has commercial advantages, as students seek housing, buy items, and seek entertainment from local businesses. But students also create costs as they rely on local government agencies and service organizations to help them resolve problems and meet needs.

Conversation participants agreed that low income is a significant concern, and not surprisingly. The county's median household income of \$33,620 falls nearly \$20,000 below the state average. However, the insight this number provides into the circumstances of permanent residents is limited because it is heavily influenced by the large number of university students with a very low income.

Conversation participants also agreed that lack of employment is an issue. Yet unemployment in Madison County, which hovers just below two percent, is remarkably low relative to other Eastern Idaho counties. Just over 65 percent of the county population participates in the civilian labor force, including 56 percent of women. But despite these

FIGURE 8L



**PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED
IN MADISON COUNTY**

417
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
MADISON COUNTY

THE CONVERSATION

Among the counties of Eastern Idaho, Madison County's financial context is unique, as it is heavily influenced by the proportion of residents who temporarily reside in Rexburg while they attend BYU-Idaho, whose student population has hit 20,000. While Madison County conversation participants emphasized the local economy as a priority concern, their reasons for doing so seemed to differ depending on whether they were permanent residents or BYU-Idaho students.

positive numbers, 19 percent--nearly one in five--of county residents live in poverty.

Conversation participants also highlighted difficulties associated with transportation, the lack of financial education and resources, and job discrimination, although what was meant by discrimination was not articulated with precision. Transportation is difficult throughout Eastern Idaho counties. Generally, larger population hubs, Rexburg being one of those, present residents with various, if inadequate, alternatives. To accommodate the student population, businesses like Walmart have created shuttle services to and from their store.

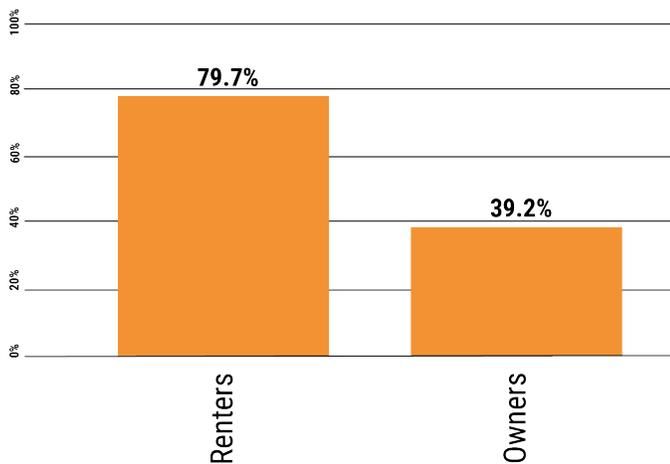
Finally, and most importantly to conversation participants in Madison County, was the lack of affordable housing.

SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING

Nowhere does the student population impact county data more than it does with affordable housing statistics. Astonishingly, Madison county residents in the lowest income households spend nearly 80 percent of their income on rent. BYU-Idaho students, the vast majority of whom are renters and many of whom rely on grants, loans, and parental support as sources of income, have a profound effect on this statistic.

FIGURE 8M

HOUSING COSTS AS % OF INCOME FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN MADISON COUNTY



PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN MADISON COUNTY

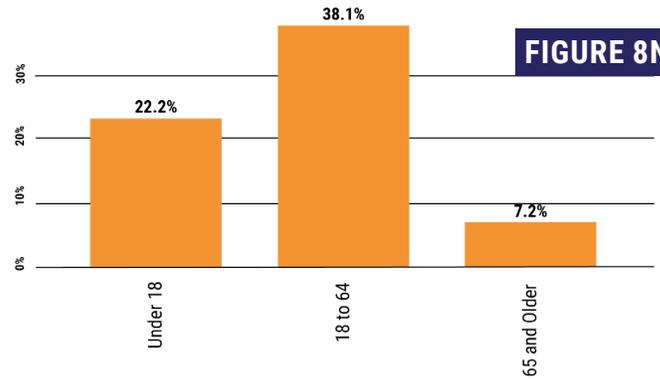
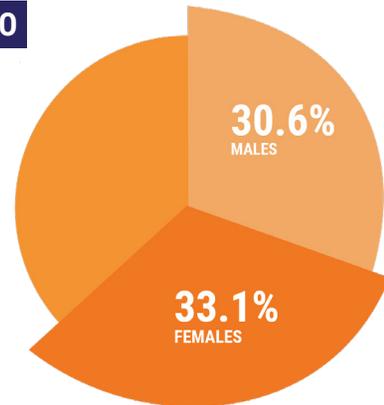


FIGURE 8N

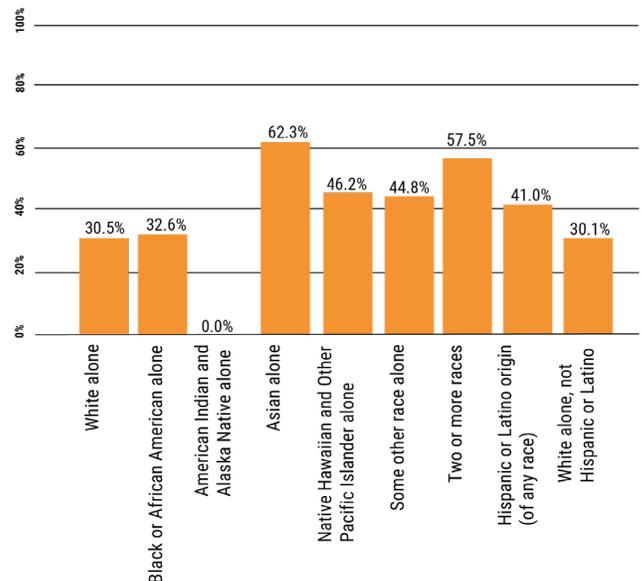
FIGURE 8O



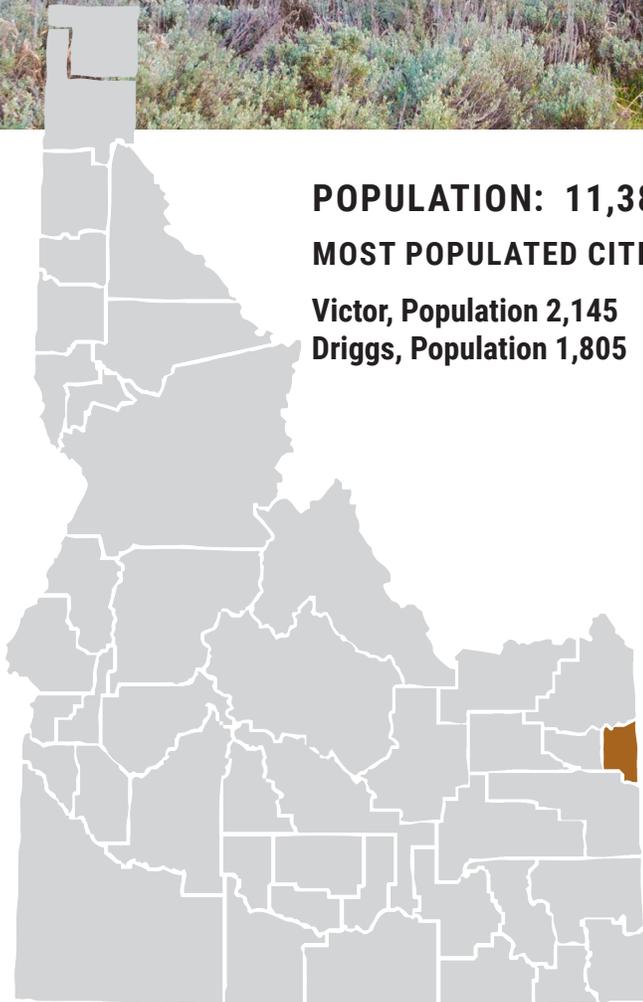
PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN MADISON COUNTY

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN MADISON COUNTY

FIGURE 8P



TETON COUNTY



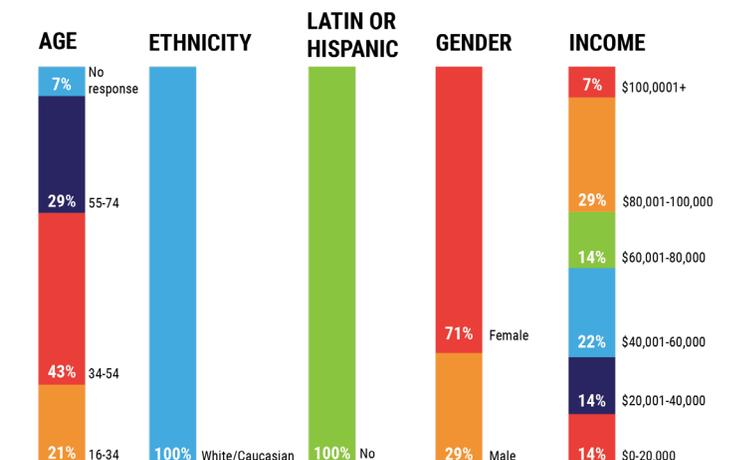
POPULATION: 11,381
MOST POPULATED CITIES:
Victor, Population 2,145
Driggs, Population 1,805

Median Household Income: \$55,968
 Median Age: 36.4
 Race/Ethnicity: White- 81%, Hispanic or Latino- 17%,
 Other- 2%

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Eastern Idaho, Teton County Community Conversation
 2019, Community Needs Assessment

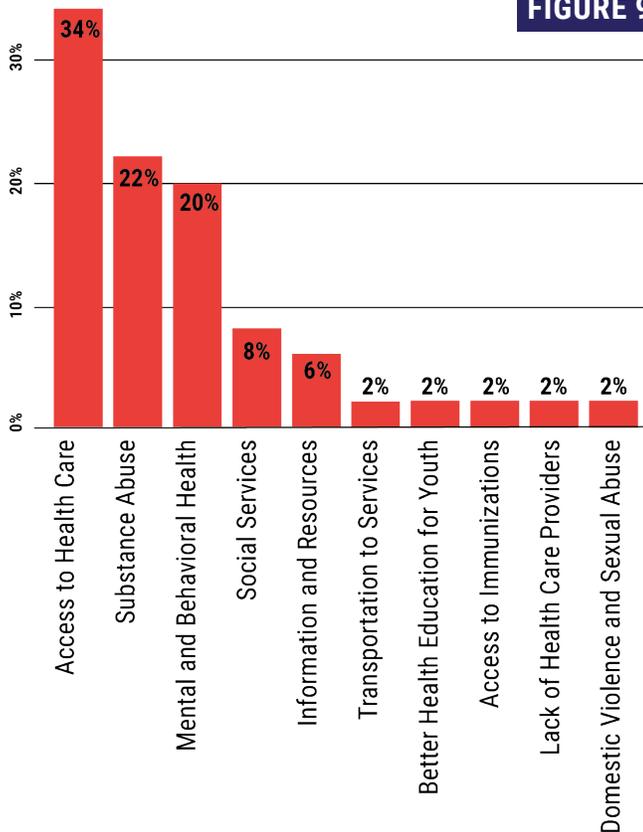
FIGURE 9A



HEALTH

Eastern Idaho, Teton County 2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 9B



unique health care issues. Conversation participants' top health priority was access to health care, which is very challenging for members of less permanent demographic groups. Their next three priorities, substance abuse and mental and behavioral health, and social services play out in ways at least loosely tied to culture. Conversation participants talked about a "drug culture" in which drug use and outdoor recreation interweave in ways difficult to separate. Treating addiction or mental health issues is challenging at best when the individuals struggling have no permanent place of residence and live on a very low income.

Conversation participants also expressed strong concerns about youth health issues. They want more information and resources, increased access to immunizations, and better youth health education.

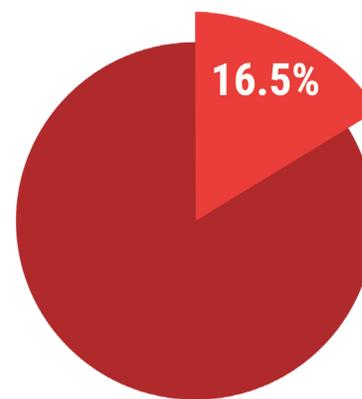
Not surprisingly, transportation and access to health care providers were also identified as significant needs.

FIGURE 9C

2,110
INDIVIDUALS

1 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Ratio of population per primary care provider in Teton County



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN TETON COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

PROVIDER-PATIENT RATIOS

The number of patients needing access to providers far exceeds the number of providers available to them in Teton County. Conversation participants were clearly tuned into this concern, as access the health care was their top priority and access to providers also made their top nine concerns.

THE CONVERSATION

Teton County demographics and cultural factors and diverse and challenging in terms of meeting health care needs. The cost of living in Teton County is highly desirable to some potential residents and formidable to others. Long-time residents have witnessed many social and cultural changes as individuals looking for a retirement or vacation home and have moved into the area. A share of the labor force in the neighboring Jackson Hole region prefer the cost of living in Driggs and seek housing there. For others, the cost of living presents an impossible barrier. Agricultural and construction workers choose to commute from more distant counties because they can't afford housing in Teton county. Outdoor enthusiasts, who are drawn to Teton County nearly year-round, sometimes call campgrounds their home and tents their shelter.

This blend of permanence and migration creates



FIGURE 9D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
TETON COUNTY	83.8	10.0		
KINDERGARTEN	80.0	12.9	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	79.1	15.8	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	91.4	2.0	85.0	7.9

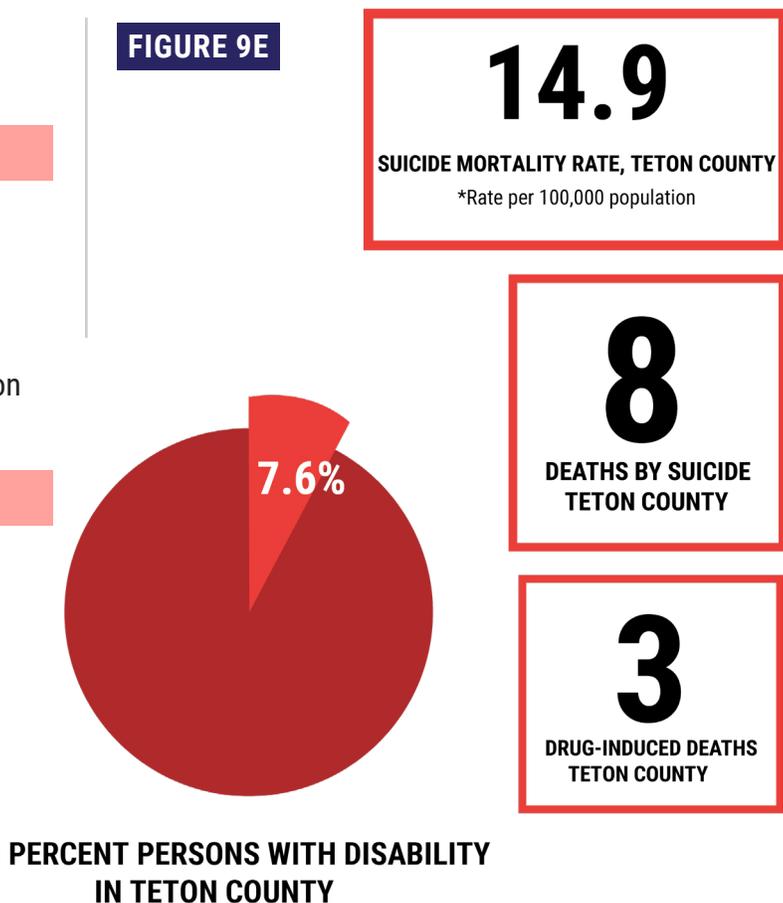
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Overall, out of the counties covered in this assessment, Teton County has the second highest percentage of students with immunization exemptions. While this is of great concern for Public Health, it was not addressed by Conversation participants. Refer to page 12 for more details.

DEATHS BY SUICIDE

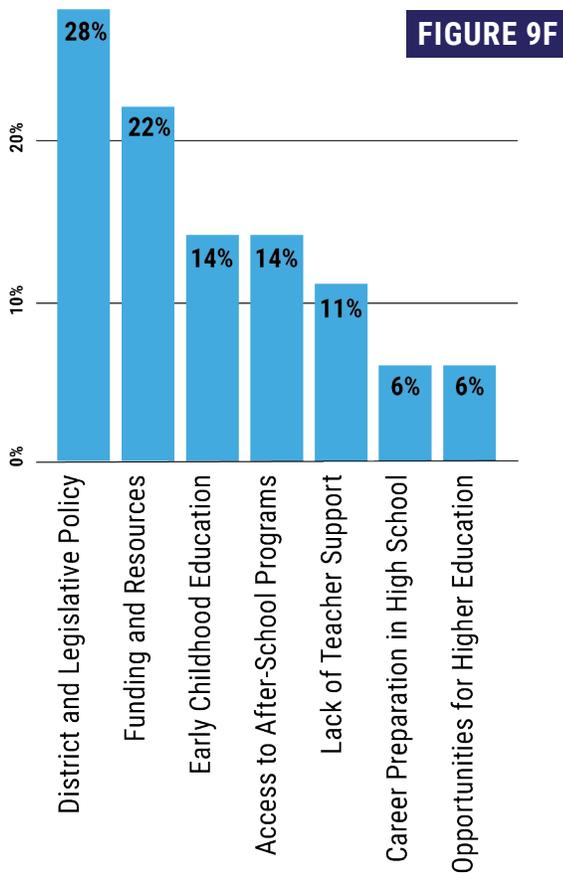
Teton County is among the lowest tier of suicide rates relative to the counties covered in this assessment. This likely accounts for the absence of suicide prevention on the top priority list of conversation participants. Though attendees did mention suicide and suicide prevention, behavioral health issues, such as substance abuse, were a much more immediate issue for them.

FIGURE 9E



EDUCATION

Eastern Idaho, Teton County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



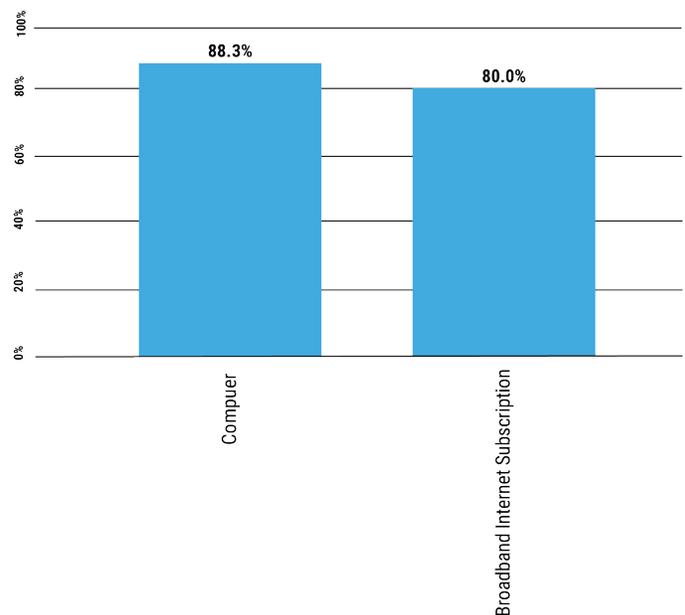
geography. The cost of meeting these challenges can escalate quickly, and conversation participants were attuned to this reality.

Conversation participants were informed and concerned, and the discussion included exploration of specific issues. They emphasized the need for early childhood learning and identified current resources in that regard. For example, Teton County School District does have an elementary school in Driggs that offers a pre-K program, a welcome resource but with limited reach throughout the county. Conversation participants also emphasized the need for after-school programs, career preparation in high school, and more opportunities for higher education. They also lamented the lack of support for teachers.

FIGURE 9G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN TETON COUNTY

Source: U.S. Census, Computer and Internet Use, 2013-2017



THE CONVERSATION

Teton County School District spans communities from Driggs to Teton to Victor and consists of seven schools. County conversation participants expressed interest in a wide range of educational issues, ranging from the earliest stages to higher education to professional preparation.

A top priority for conversation attendees, as was common among Eastern Idaho counties more generally, was district and legislative policies. Strongly related to that concern was the emphasis conversation participants placed on funding and resources. Rugged, rural areas such as Teton County create challenges in terms of reaching, transporting, and communicating with students and families spread throughout a broad agricultural and mountainous

HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

The Teton County graduation rate ranges between 85 and 90 percent. Just over half of those students pursue higher education within one year of graduation, although the “go on” data may be slightly misleading due to the fact that some students are likely to participate in religious service missions prior to enrolling in college. Conversation participants were clearly concerned about what happens to students after graduation, as they emphasized the need for

better access to higher education and for more career preparation during high school.

Education levels in the county generally are quite high, relative to other Eastern Idaho counties. Less than 10 percent of residents have no high school diploma or equivalent, while over 40 percent have at least a bachelor's degree. Teton County is rapidly growing, and it is difficult to determine how the number of people moving into these communities have affected these percentages. Certainly, many current residents are not products of Teton County schools.

FIGURE 9H GRADUATION RATE

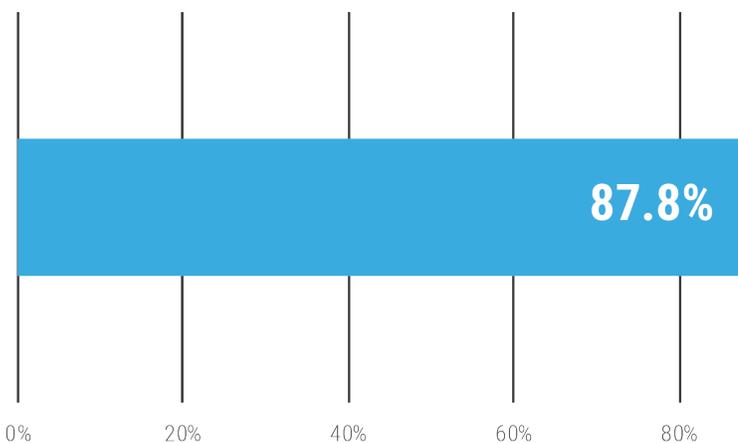
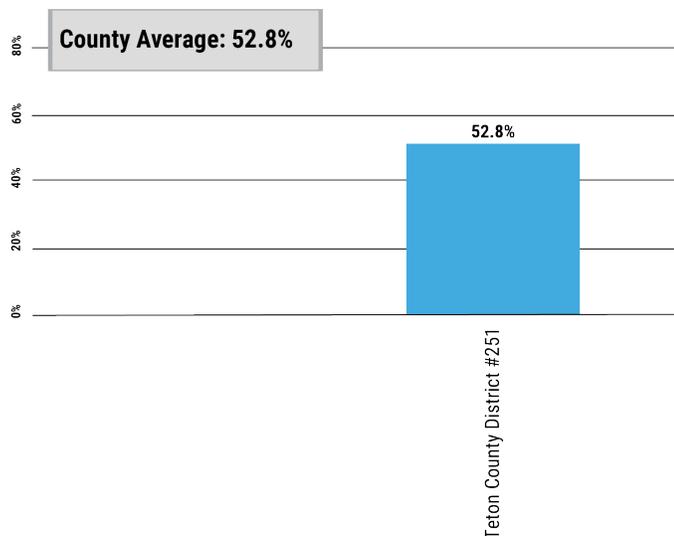


FIGURE 9I PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR TETON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018

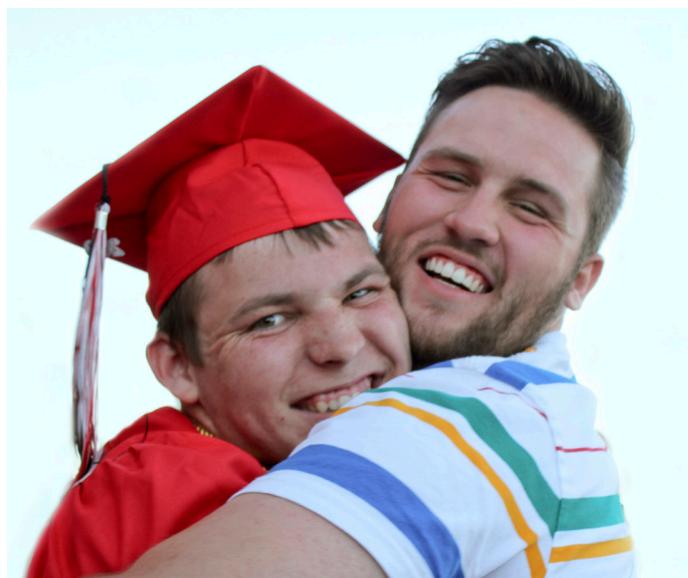
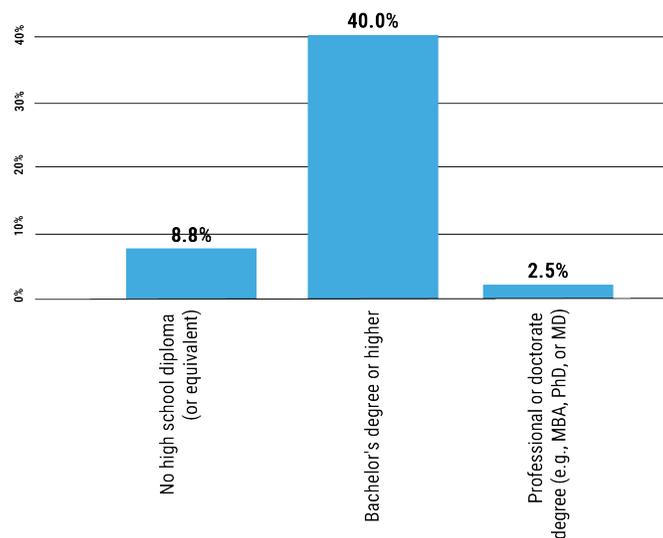


PROXIMITY TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Driggs, the largest population hub in Teton County and the county seat, is 50 miles away or nearly an hour drive from Rexburg, home of BYU-Idaho. Given the distance and seasonal difficulties of travel, commuting between Driggs and Rexburg is not a likely option. Further away but more desirable for residents who don't find a private, very conservative religious university to be a good fit are options in Idaho Falls. College of Eastern Idaho, the Idaho State University extension campus, and Stevens-Henagar College are approximately 75 miles away, or an 70-80 minute drive in good weather.

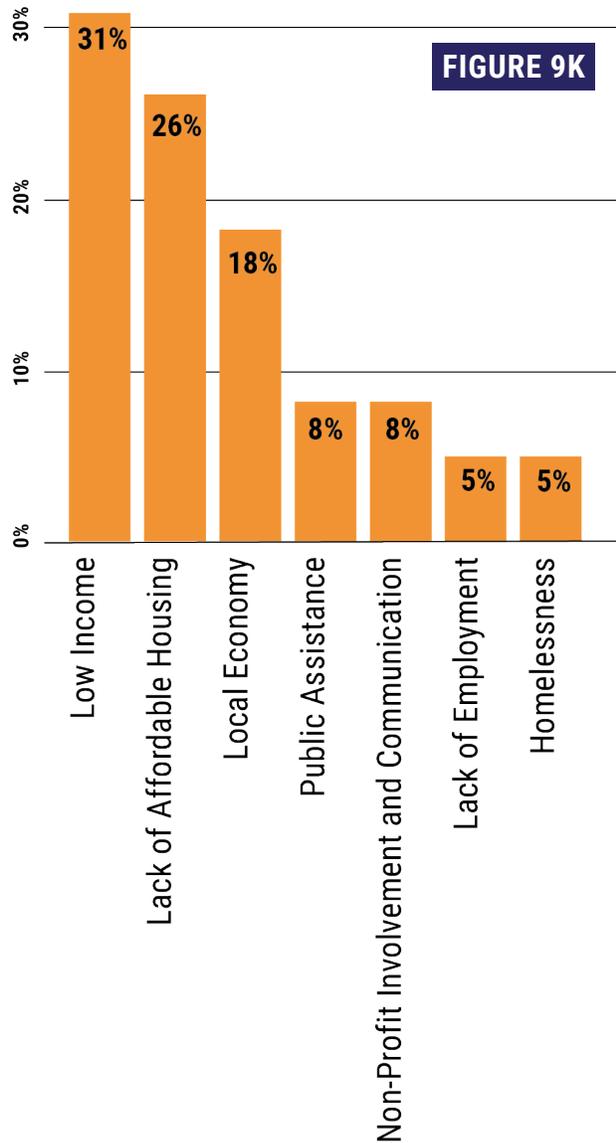
FIGURE 9J

EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN TETON COUNTY



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Eastern Idaho, Teton County 2019, Community Needs Assessment



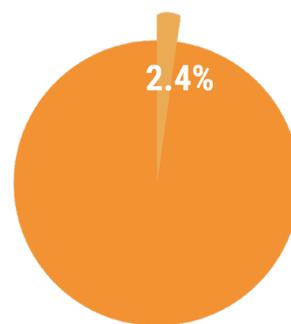
economic and cultural change. Some commute to Jackson, Wyoming for employment, choosing to live in Teton County because the cost of living is less. The range of residents and reasons is wide.

Financially, Teton county is robust. According to the U.S. Census, it is the fastest growing county in Eastern Idaho, having experienced nearly a 14.5 percent population increase since 2010. This rapid growth creates opportunities and challenges. The median household income in Teton County is \$55,986, over \$3,000 above the state average. Though this number is altered by the number of wealthy residents, the percent of residents who live in poverty—just above eight—is low relative to several Eastern Idaho counties.

Furthermore, county residents are generally employed. Nearly three of every four residents, or 74 percent, are part of the civilian work force, including 68 percent of women. The unemployment rate is 2.4 percent, moderate relative to the Eastern Idaho region.

Despite the apparently favorable financial context, Teton County conversation participants shared strong concerns about the local economy. They emphasized

FIGURE 9L



PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED
IN TETON COUNTY

155
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
TETON COUNTY

THE CONVERSATION

Teton County is demographically diverse and so is its financial landscape. Some wealthy residents have chosen to make their primary or vacation home in one of the most beautiful places the West has to offer. Many outdoor enthusiasts choose Teton County in order to be close to what they love, despite the fact that they struggle to meet basic needs such as housing. Other residents have multi-generational ties to the region, which they seek to preserve amid

low income as the most serious problem, revealing their awareness of demographic disparities. They focused on lack of employment and many residents' need for public assistance. They explored the difficult circumstances faced by residents who drift through campgrounds, using them as a home base while they pursue recreation or sometimes employment that fails to meet their financial needs. They discussed the role of nonprofits and the need for better communication between service organizations and the population more generally.

As was the case in every Eastern Idaho county covered in this assessment, conversation participants placed heavy emphasis on the need for affordable housing and the dire consequences that follow when that need goes unmet.

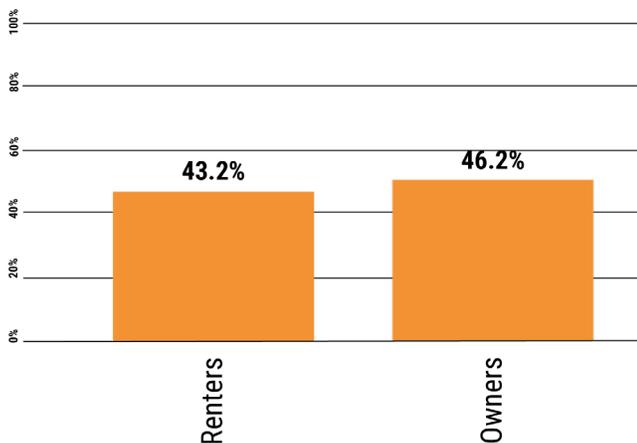
SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING

County conversation participants focused heavily on the need for affordable housing and identified homelessness as a priority problem in Teton County. In so doing, they seemed to be attuned to a dimension of the issue that doesn't become immediately apparent from the data.

In Teton County, income-to-mortgage/rent ratios for the lowest income households are high relative to ratios recommended by financial experts, with owners using just over 46 percent of their income and renters using just over 43 percent of their income for housing. Still, relative to other Eastern Idaho counties, Teton

FIGURE 9M

HOUSING COSTS AS % OF INCOME FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN TETON COUNTY



County ratios are moderate to low. Yet Lemhi, starkly different and more challenged economically than Teton, was the only other county in which participants identified homelessness as a priority problem.

FIGURE 9N

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN TETON COUNTY

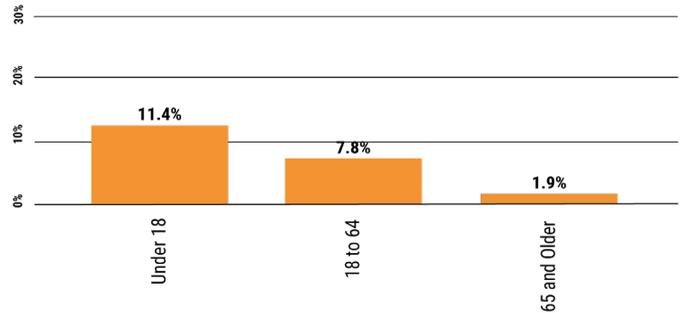
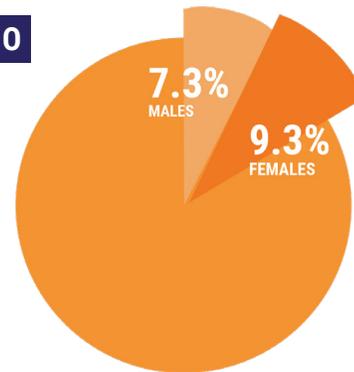


FIGURE 9O



PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN TETON COUNTY

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN TETON COUNTY

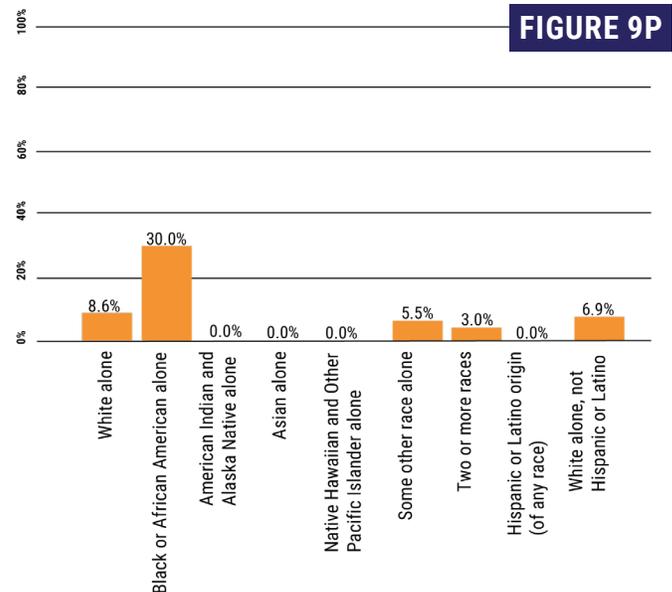


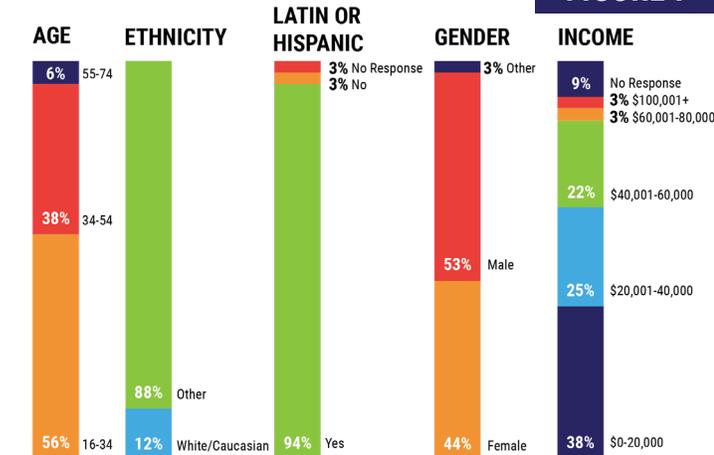
FIGURE 9P

SPANISH CONVERSATION

CONTRIBUTOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Eastern Idaho, Spanish, Bonneville County Community Conversation
2019, Community Needs Assessment

FIGURE 7



Despite the fact that the Hispanic population in Eastern Idaho is substantial, the absence of Hispanic representation in all nine county conversations was noteworthy. It could easily lead to the mistaken conclusion that members of the Hispanic community are less engaged in the community or are less inclined to join in constructive dialogue about shared issues. These conclusions would be false.

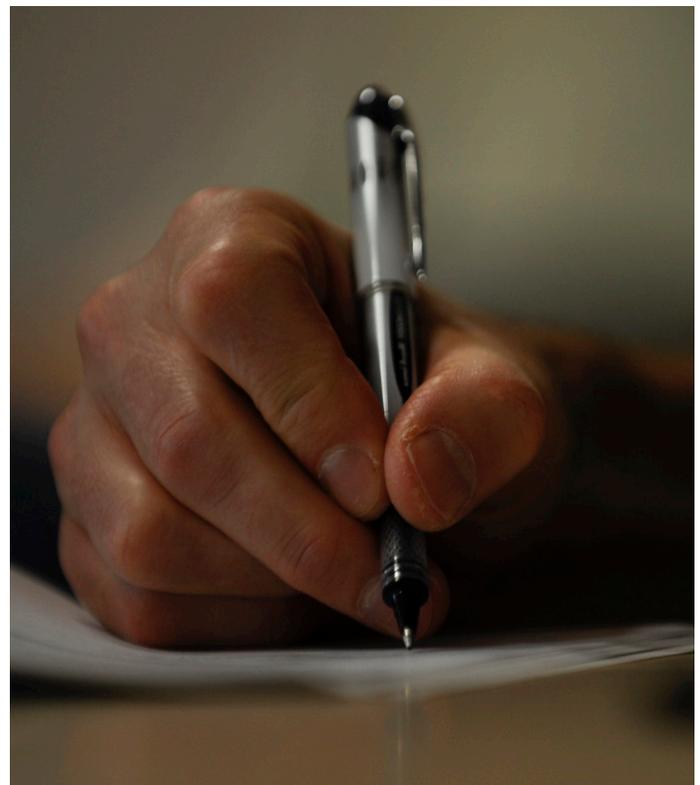
In rural Idaho, where local economies are deeply driven by agricultural, contribution of migrant workers is hard to overstate. Many Hispanic individuals and families have deep ties to agricultural rhythms and their lives are heavily influenced by the demands those rhythms place on their time and physical energy, as well as by the limited revenue such employment generates. Additionally, the uncertainty and actual fear created by the current political and cultural attitudes toward noncitizen immigrants has a direct bearing on the everyday life of many Hispanic residents and creates a definite disinclination to engage in larger community events. Any increase in visibility means a potential increase in vulnerability for a great many Hispanic individuals, either for themselves or for their family members.

Although fear was the motivation behind many of their concerns, there also appeared to be a general lack of unity about how best to advocate as a Hispanic

community to positively change the issues they face. Many said they knew resources were available or they knew they had ways around their barriers but the lack of encouragement from their family and community lead to inaction.

An example of this was expressed when a young man explained that his father felt inhibited with work because of the language barrier between Spanish and English. He and his father knew of the availability of free ESL classes; however, the father chose not to participate. The son attributed his father's choice partially to fear, but mostly to the lack of encouragement and cultural pride that lead to not using the resource available.

Organizing a Spanish conversation was an attempt to create a space for dialogue that felt safe to participants because of the venue, the language, and the leadership. Listening to members of the Hispanic population was vital to understanding their needs as they are experienced within the context of local communities. This conversation served as an essential part of the overall assessment.



HEALTH

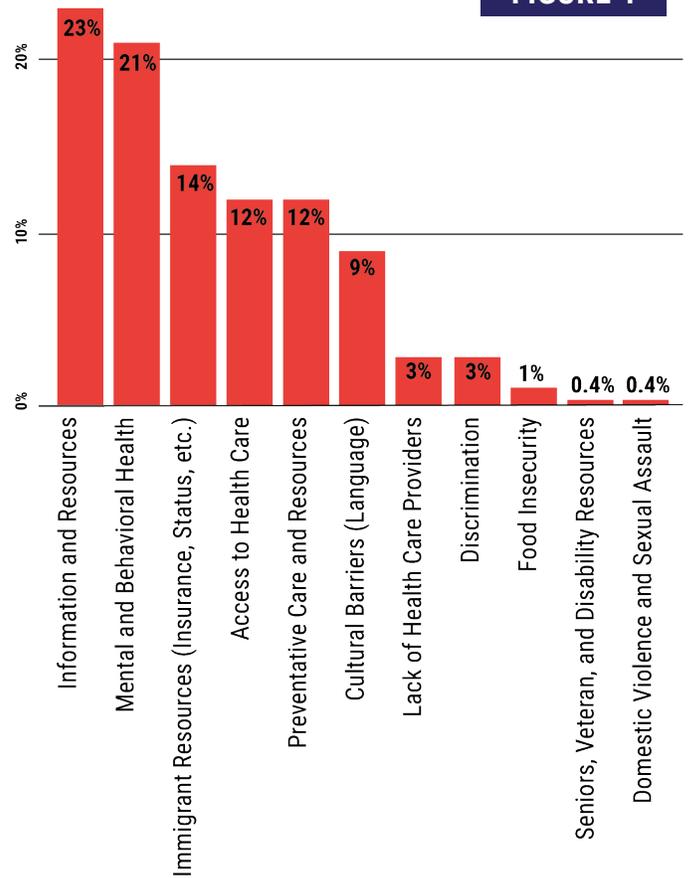
Conversation participants expressed strong concerns about a range of health care needs, some common to residents of Eastern Idaho but others unique to migrant populations. As in other conversations, the lack of education and resources was a strong concern, as were mental and behavioral health issues. However, these needs play out differently in migrant communities. Understanding which resources are available can be challenging. Asking questions and receiving answers without the interference of bias or outright discrimination is questionable. Accessing health care that's available to individuals without citizenship or insurance was a point of emphasis. Getting proper preventative care under those conditions, a challenge intensified by long hours during peak agricultural seasons and by limited transportation, was also high priority.

Conversation participants explored the multifaceted reach of the vulnerability associated with current policies and attitudes toward noncitizen residents. Food scarcity presents a health threat, but accessing local resources presents a perceived risk. Domestic violence occurs too often but frequently goes unreported due to uncertainty about whether reporting could trigger investigations into individuals' immigration status

Health needs within the Hispanic community are often acute and meeting them presents a complex challenge.



FIGURE 4



EDUCATION

The top priorities identified in the education conversation all centered on communication and relationships. Hispanic parents struggle to build constructive, trusting relationships with their children's teachers. Hispanic students often get bullied or marginalized, yet frequently find a lack of responsiveness from administrators. The lack of cultural awareness touches everything from district resource allocation, to school policies, to enforcement of rules designed to guide behavioral and academic performance, to peer group formation and interrelationships.

As in so many other contexts, Hispanic individuals tend to feel vulnerable at school, both when it comes to reporting an incident such as bullying and in following-up after reporting. A perceived lack of administrative responsiveness intensifies these feelings.

Among other priorities emphasized by conversation participants the following topics were included: ESL access, life skills training, and early childhood education.

FIGURE 5

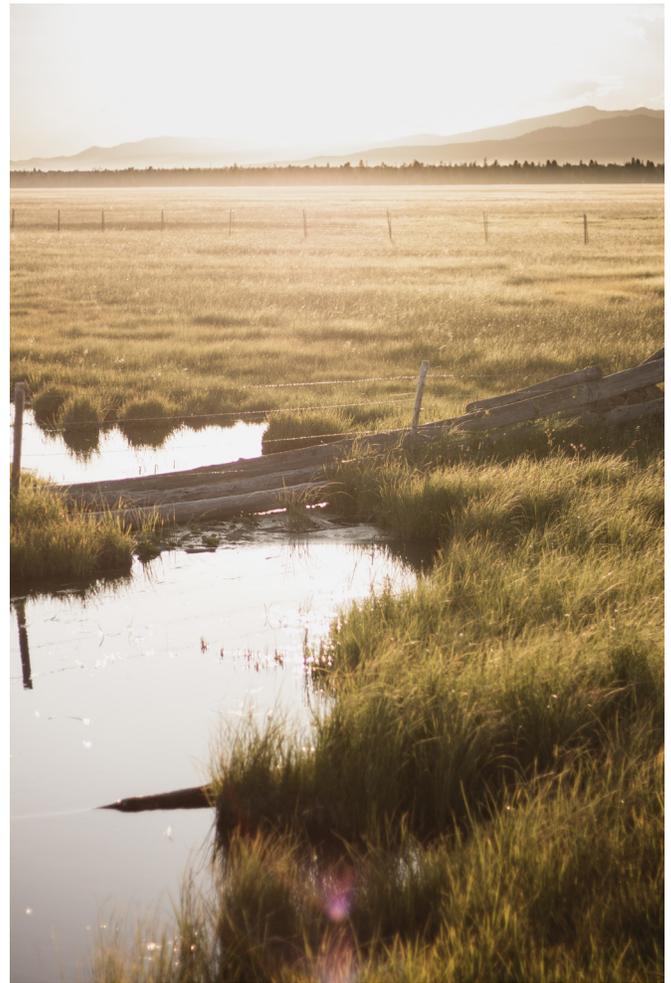
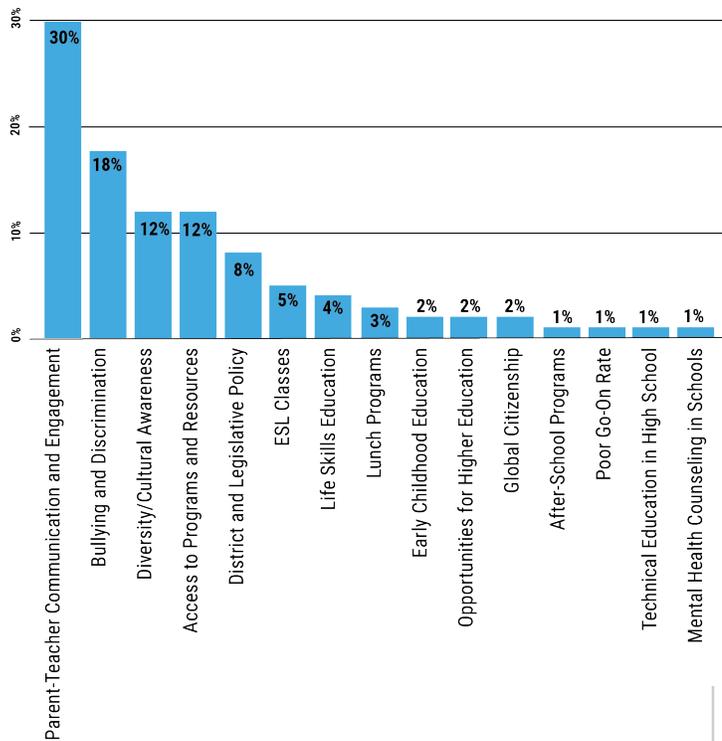
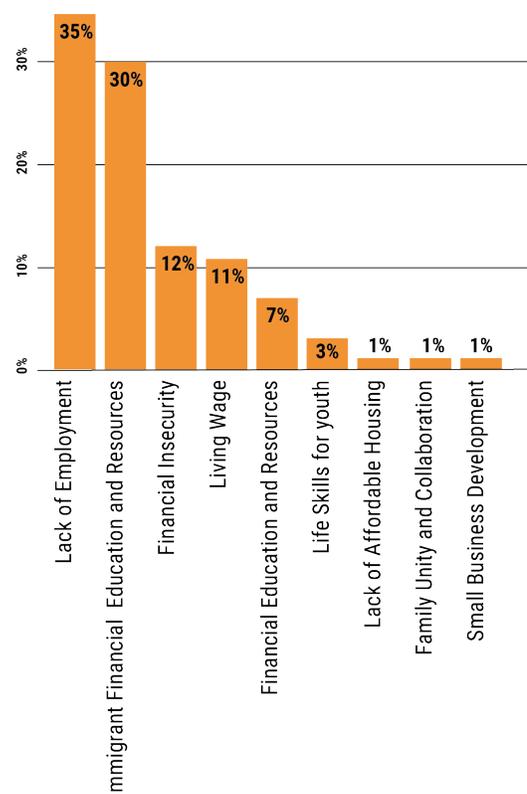


FIGURE 6



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Financial stability presents a challenge for many Hispanic families. Like the conversations throughout of Eastern Idaho, the Spanish conversation focused heavily on resources and education. However, the types of resources needed tend to differ. Much emphasis was placed on the need for education and resources directly related to obtaining citizenship, employment alternatives, and language skills.

Many participants emphasized that immigrants may be unaware of their rights when it comes to fair labor and compensation. Many mentioned the fear to ask or be assertive about it to employers due to fears about family separation or simply being misunderstood.

Participants also mentioned the homes of many families who work in agriculture are not connected to services (i.e. sewage, water) or built to code, and that the conditions are very bad for children or families. Many wondered if there were housing rights that were being violated by employers that provide housing for the workers.



CONCLUSION

METHODOLOGY

From September 2018 to August 2019 Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, Eastern Idaho Public Health, VOICE Advocacy, and United Way of Eastern Idaho and Bonneville County partnered to hold 12 community conversations in 9 Eastern Idaho counties: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton. To supplement the data collected in the 9 counties, a Spanish community conversation was also held in Bonneville County.

The focus of these events was to ask community members about three key focus areas: health, education and financial security (including housing). The design of the conversations allowed every participant to answer and ask questions in an open conversation setting allowing for insights and observations to be shared, compared and put into perspective from the community's point of view. VOICE Advocacy facilitated each community conversation and collected information through notes taken from the participant's comments, questions, and concerns.

The community conversations were targeted toward the general population of each county area, which involved a diverse group of individuals. Participants included: low-, middle-, and high-income individuals; people who are public assistance dependent; families; non-English language speakers; people receiving physical, dental, and mental health services; and others. Specific demographic information about participants in each county can be found in the County Reports section of this report.

In addition to the community conversations, VOICE Advocacy performed surveys at each event to collect demographic information as well as key takeaways from the participants in each group.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Also known as statistical or numerical data, quantitative data is gathered and reflected in the report for the identified community. Quantitative data will help agencies understand the scope of the needs

in the community. Quantitative data was collected in the surveys of the community conversations.

Outside data points were provided by service provider partners and community outreach and research performed by VOICE Advocacy. Data is included from various reputable publications to draw a comparison between the results of the data collected by VOICE Advocacy and existing data on the population. Sources that were used for this information can be seen in the appendix.

SURVEY

A survey was administered to collect data from a variety of individuals who participated in community conversation events and individuals invested in the community at locations in various communities. Surveys were distributed at EIPH and EICAP community offices, at community events, and at community conversations facilitated by VOICE Advocacy. The surveys were administered in-person. Physical surveys were then processed by Rexburg Research and Business Development Center. All data was analyzed using descriptive analysis tools in Microsoft Excel by VOICE Advocacy. Filters were created to sort data by questions and answers, depending on the variable of interest, illuminating trends in the data. Reports were created based on demographic categories. See charts in the county report section for respondent demographics, obtained from the survey completed by community conversation participants and community members.

The data and observations collected from the surveys, conversations, and "micro" conversations through contacts with community members and organizations, provided the information that can be found in this assessment. The qualitative and quantitative data was processed by the Rexburg Research and Business Development Center and given to VOICE Advocacy for further analysis, and provides the foundation for the analysis and conclusions made in this Community Needs Assessment.

A copy of the blank survey can be seen in the appendix.

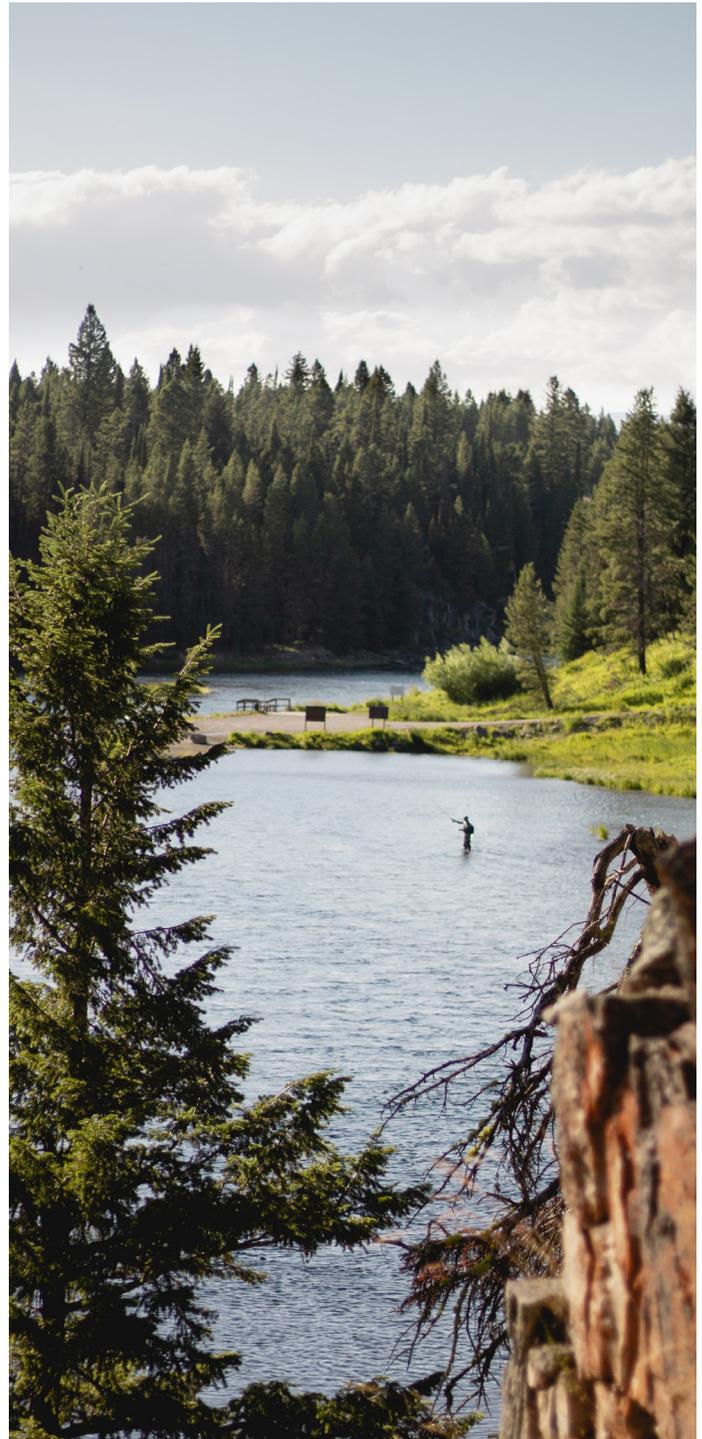
QUALITATIVE DATA

Qualitative data, often referred to as descriptive or narrative data, is used in this assessment report to augment the numerical data. Qualitative data was collected in this report through open ended survey questions (see Appendix 00 for a copy of the survey) and also through community conversations, considered to be focus group discussions.

Community Conversations

The community conversations held in each county were small-group discussions guided by a leader that focused on specific topics of health, education and financial stability. The group's composition and discussion were planned to create an environment where participants are free to talk openly and express their opinions. Outreach was done to prepare for the various community conversations, and participants included local leaders, elected officials, partner organizations' leadership, partner organization and agency board members, new and potential partners, agency customers, agency and partner organization staff, and the general public.

The format and guiding questions used in the community conversation discussion can be found in the appendix.



SOURCES CITED:

In order to provide the most consistent and accurate information, each counties outside data was gathered from the same locations. To reduce length and confusion, each graph has a corresponding letter. The letter connects the graph to the source from which it was retrieved.

Graphs without a corresponding letter are cited by figure name.

Figures with an A: Contributor Demographics- Eastern Idaho ____ Community Conversations, Community Needs Assessment-

Figures with a B: Health- Eastern Idaho ____ Community Conversations, 2019 Community Needs Assessment

Figures with a C: Source(s): U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

Figures with a D: Idaho Division of Public Health, School Immunization Report, 2018-2019

Figures with an E: Deaths by Suicide and Mortality Rate, 2013-2017-Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics; Division of Public Health (August 2019).

Drug Induced Deaths- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2013-2017, Suicide Rates

Persons with a Disability- U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Figures with a F: Education- Eastern Idaho ____ Community Conversations, 2019 Community Needs Assessment

Figures with a G: U.S. Census Bureau, Computer and Internet Use, 2013-2017

Figures with a H: Idaho State Department of Education, Graduation Rate, 2018

Figures with an I: Idaho Board of Education, High School Go-On Rates

Figures with a J: Statistical Atlas, Educational Attainment in Idaho (State)

Figures with a K: Financial Stability- Eastern Idaho ____ Community Conversations, 2019 Community Needs Assessment

Figures with a L: Labor Force Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics 2019

Figures with a M: Idaho County-Level Demographic & Housing Data Sheets 2018

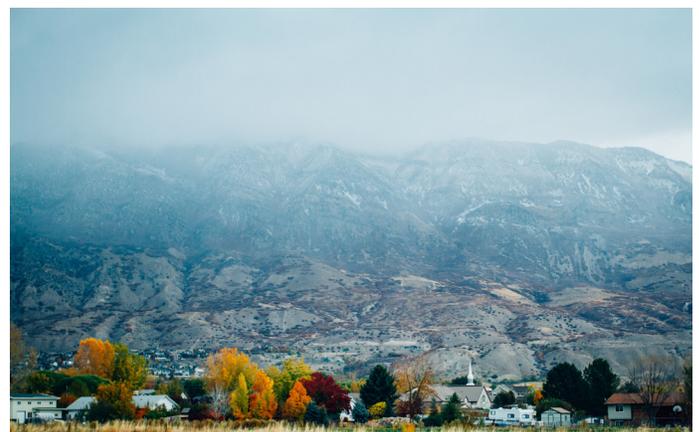
Figures with a N,O, or P: U.S. Census, Selected Characteristics of People at Specified Levels of Poverty in the Past 12 Months 2013-2017, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 1: National Association For State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP), ROMA, 2019

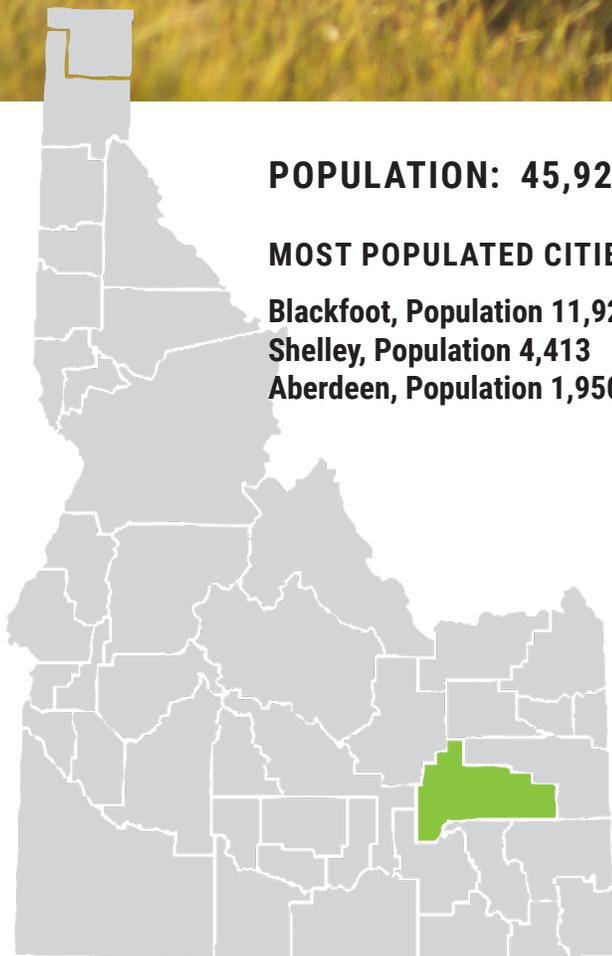
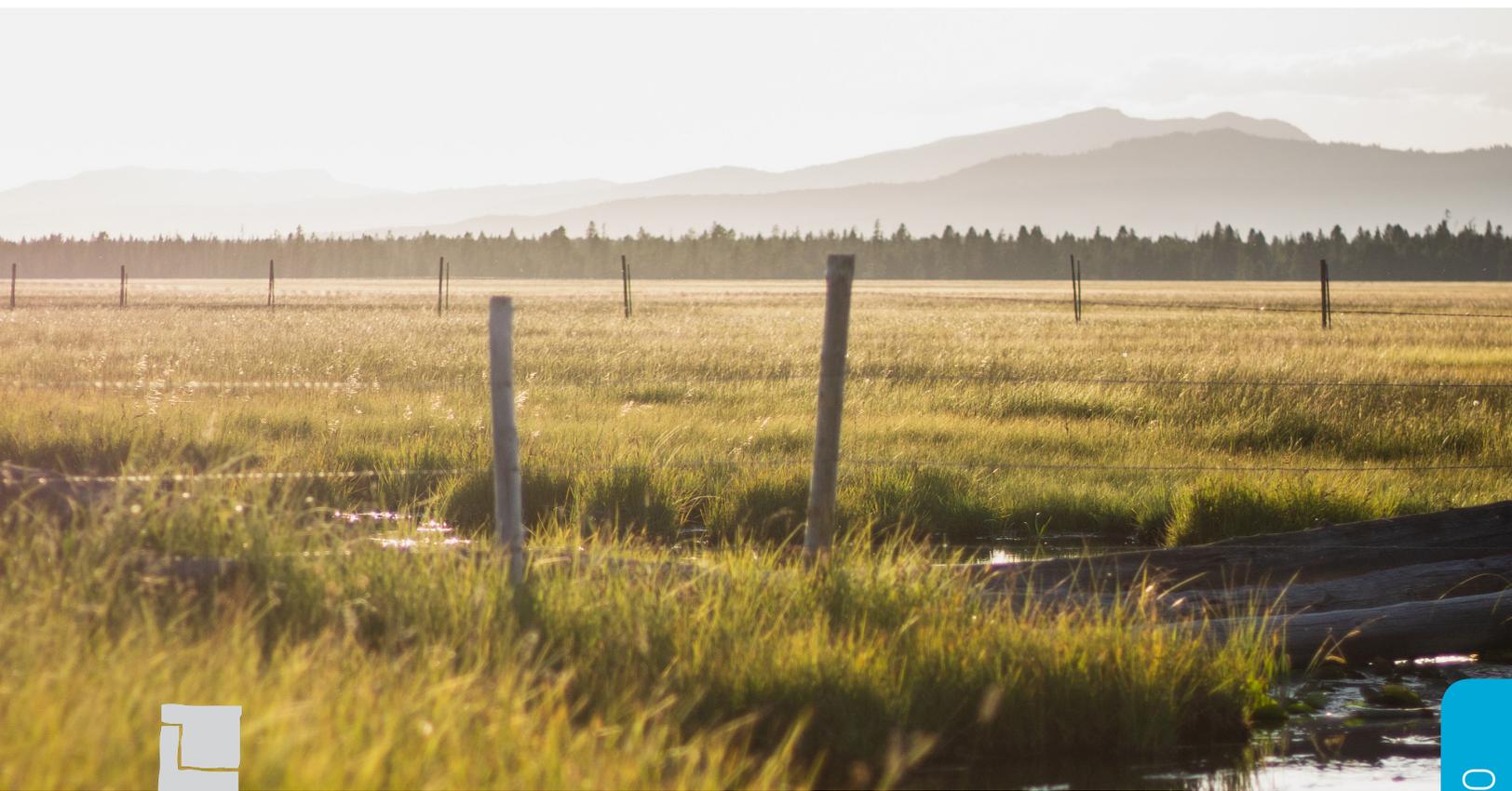
Figure 2: American Community Survey, 2013-2017 United States Census, Idaho, 2010-2018

Figure 3: United States Census, Idaho, 2010-2018

Figures 4, 5, 6, 7: Eastern Idaho, Spanish, Bonneville County Community Conversation 2019, Community Needs Assessment



BINGHAM COUNTY



POPULATION: 45,927

MOST POPULATED CITIES:

Blackfoot, Population 11,922

Shelley, Population 4,413

Aberdeen, Population 1,950

Median Household Income: \$54,150

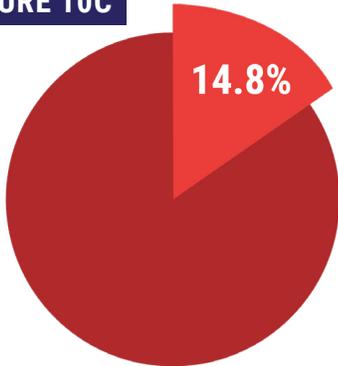
Median Age: 36.6

Race/Ethnicity: White- 74%, Hispanic or Latino- 18%,
American Indian and Alaskan Native- 5%, Other- 3%

While Bingham County does not officially fall within Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership's service coverage area, the organization does provide some services to residents of Bingham County. Thus, county data has a relevant place in this community needs assessment.

HEALTH

FIGURE 10C



PERCENT PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN BINGHAM COUNTY, UNDER AGE 65 YEARS

2,650
INDIVIDUALS

1 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Ratio of population per primary care provider in Bingham County

FIGURE 10E

49

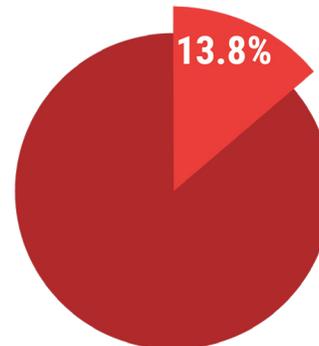
DEATHS BY SUICIDE
BINGHAM COUNTY

19

DRUG-INDUCED DEATHS
BINGHAM COUNTY

21.6

SUICIDE MORTALITY RATE, BINGHAM COUNTY
*Rate per 100,000 population



PERCENT PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN BINGHAM COUNTY

FIGURE 10D

	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF COUNTY STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS ADEQUATELY IMMUNIZED	PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS WITH AN EXEMPTION
BINGHAM COUNTY	87.2	3.9		
KINDERGARTEN	85.9	3.5	85.6	7.7
1ST GRADE	92.1	4.0	89.0	7.6
7TH GRADE	84.0	4.3	85.0	7.9

EDUCATION

FIGURE 10G

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION IN BINGHAM COUNTY

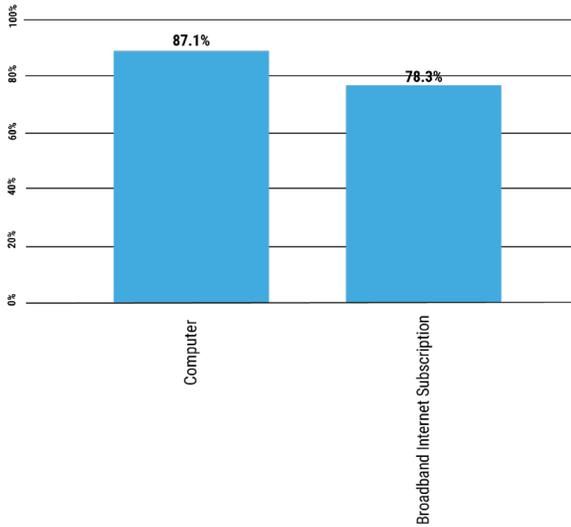


FIGURE 10I

PERCENT OF ONE YEAR GO-ON RATE FOR BINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 2018

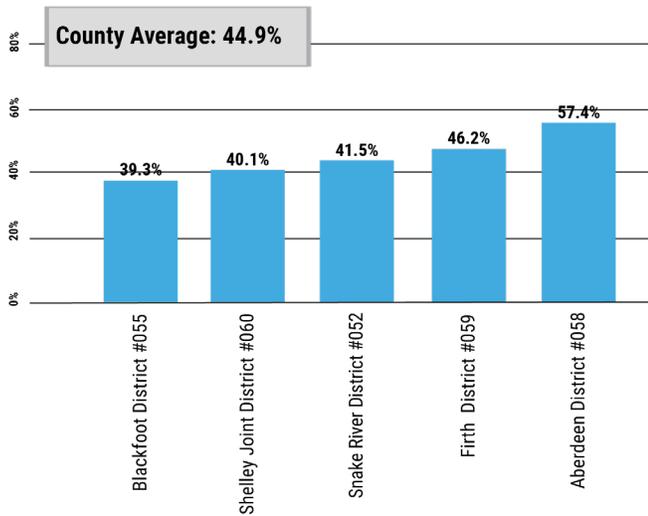
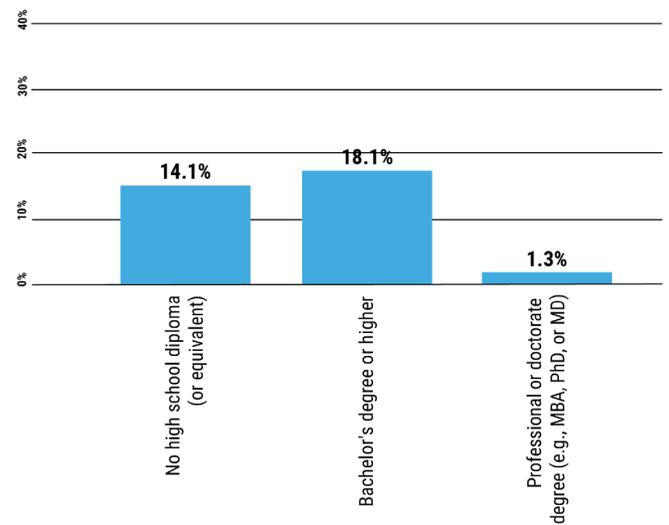


FIGURE 10J

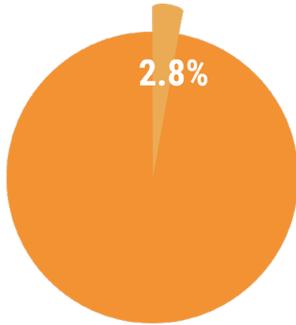
EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN BINGHAM COUNTY



Source: Stastical Atlas, Educational Attainment in Idaho (State)

FINANCIAL STABILITY

FIGURE 10L



PERCENT PERSONS UNEMPLOYED IN BINGHAM COUNTY

657

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
BINGHAM COUNTY

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE IN BINGHAM COUNTY

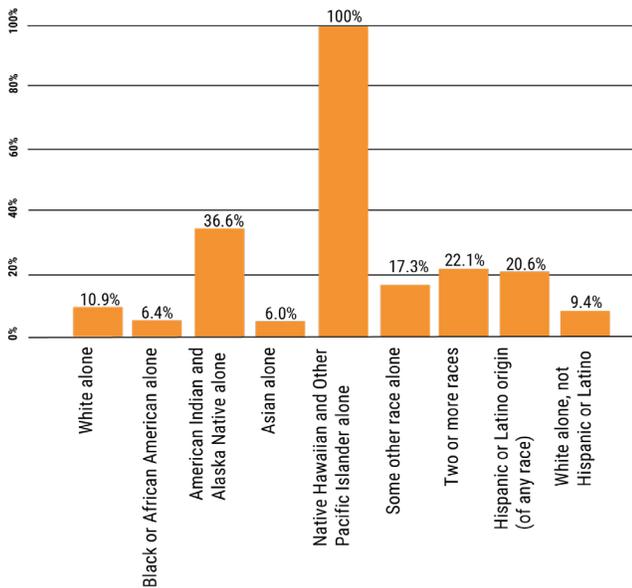


FIGURE 10M

HOUSING COSTS AS % OF INCOME FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN BINGHAM COUNTY

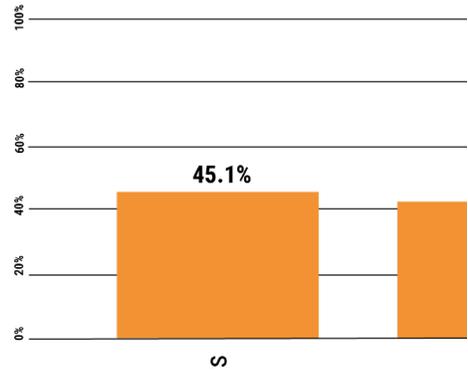
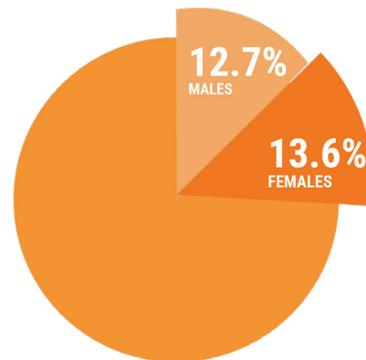
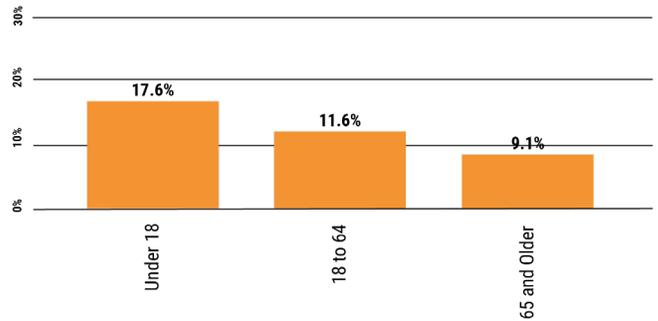


FIGURE 10N

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN BINGHAM COUNTY



PERCENT MALES AND FEMALES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN BINGHAM COUNTY

APPENDIX

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SURVEY

EASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT: COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SURVEY ABOUT YOURSELF

What zip code do you live in?

Please Identify your age.

____ 16-34 ____ 35-54 ____ 55-74 ____ 75+

How do you describe your race or ethnic group? (If multi-racial, please check all that apply)

- ____ Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander;
____ Black, African American or of African descent;
____ American Indian, Aleut, Native American or Alaskan Native;
____ White, Caucasian, or of European descent;
____ Other

Do you consider yourself Latino or Hispanic? ____ Yes
____ No

How do you identify yourself? ____ Female ____ Male
____ Prefer Not to Say ____ Other (please specify)

What is your primary language?

- ____ English
____ Spanish
____ Other (please specify)

What is your family income?

- ____ \$0–20,000
____ \$20,001–40,000
____ \$40,001–60,000
____ \$60,001–80,000
____ \$80,001–100,000
____ \$100,001+

What is your highest level of education you have completed?

- ____ Less than a high school diploma
____ High school degree or equivalent (e.g. GED)
____ Associate degree (e.g. AA, AS)
____ Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, BS)
____ Master's degree (e.g. MA, MS, MEd)
____ Doctorate degree (e.g. PhD, EdD)

What is your current employment status?

____ Employed full time (40 or more hours per week)

- ____ Employed part time (up to 39 hours per week)
____ Unemployed and currently looking for work
____ Unemployed and not currently looking for work
____ Student
____ Retired
____ Homemaker
____ Self-employed
____ Unable to work

CONTINUED ON BACK >>

What is your current housing situation?

- ____ Homeless
____ Rent
____ Own
____ Multi Family Household
____ Other (please specify)

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

How would you rate the quality of the discussion tonight?

____ Excellent ____ Good ____ Fair ____ Poor

As a result of this experience, how likely are you to get involved in other conversations and activities about important community issues?

____ Less Likely ____ Equally Likely ____ More Likely

Please indicate your relationship, if any, to United Way:

____ None ____ Volunteer ____ Other (please specify)

WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE ISSUES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?

Please take a moment to think about what you perceive to be the top three issues standing in the way of our communities reaching their full potential under the pillars of health, education, and financial stability. In the space provided, share your thoughts, and help contribute to the work of United Way as we fight to help those in our communities that are struggling.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO LIVE UNITED!

Your participation, insight, and support are part of

what makes Eastern Idaho such a great place to live. If you have additional comments, please use the space on the space below to make them.
Thank you for your participation!

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION STRUCTURE

Community Conversation Structure

Introductions+Thanks for attendance/housekeeping

Approx. 5 mins

- This can be done at smaller ones, but larger may have to skip to save time

Background

Approx. 5 mins

- Why are we here? What is the purpose? What do we hope to get out of these meetings?
What will we do with the information we gather from these conversations?

Expectations of the conversations

Approx. 2 mins

- United Way is interested in working with people and groups in the community to solve problems together.
- We are here to listen and to learn.
- We want to better understand the kind of community you all want and hear more about what you see as the challenges we are facing. We think it's important to hear from people who live in our community. It's just as important as research and what the experts say.
- The sign in sheets are so we can follow up with you later – and share with you what we've learned.
- Information gathering process. Community Needs Assessment compiled in report format. Findings shared with local agencies and stake holders +website.
- If you have any questions about United Way, or our work, we would be happy to talk with you more about it after the conversation, but we are really here to listen and not do a lot of presenting.

Ground Rules

Approx. 3 mins

1. Here to have a "kitchen table" conversation: Everyone can participate; no one dominates
2. There are no "right answers": *Draw on your own*

experiences, views, and beliefs. You do not need to be an expert

3. Keep an open mind: *Listen carefully and try to hear and understand the views of others, especially those you may disagree with*

4. Help keep the conversations on track: *Stick to the questions. Try not to ramble.*

5. It's okay to disagree, but don't be disagreeable: *Respond to others how you want to be responded to.*

6. Enjoy the process! We are here to learn from you.

Framing

Approx. 5 mins

Explain ALICE, tying back to United Way pillars of Health, Education, and Financial Stability.

Point out localized data for the specific county with some anecdotal/relational structure.

Community Conversation Questions:

Building from the framing above, using the guidelines of health, education, and financial stability to keep the conversation on track.

- What kind of a community do you want?
 - o As the 'ideal' for their community is uncovered, help them tie those issues back to health, education, financial stability
- Given what we just said, what are the 2-3 things you think are standing in the way of the kind of community you want?

o Sticking to challenges only, not jumping to remedial solutions at this point; Look for patterns/connecting themes across the challenges identified

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Definition

From participants, help to uncover aspirational "What kind of a community do you want?" in terms of what Financial Stability looks like in their county.

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o How would you describe what it means to be financially stable in your community?
- o What would it mean for a family or individual to be financially stable?
- o What does that include?
- o Is it about income? More than that?

Issues

Look to uncover/identify the challenges or barriers facing the community and its members that keeps them from realizing/achieving financial stability.

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

o Now that we've talked about what it means to be financially stable, how are individuals and families doing in this community?

o What kinds of things makes it harder for more families and individuals to become financially stable?

o What does that include?

o What do you think your community would look like if more families were achieving financial stability?

o Does the cost of housing play a role? Other costs?

o What about _____? (Child care, transportation costs, other examples)

Solutions

What do the participants think could be done to better the financial outlook for community members?

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

o What programs are already in place? Would you say those programs are working?

o Where are the gaps?

o Who are the players that are active in the community now?

o Who do you think should be included in the future discussions of focus groups?

EDUCATION

Definition

From participants, help to uncover aspirational; What does quality education offerings look like in this community?

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

o How will what we said about education help us to get the kind of community we want?

o Overall, how do you think things are going when it comes to education in your community?

Issues

Look to uncover/identify the challenges or barriers keeping the community from realizing their ideal circumstance in regards to education.

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

o What would you say are the issues facing

education in your community?

o How do the issues on education we are talking about affect you personally?

o When you think about these issues, how do you feel about what's going on?

o What kinds of things are keeping us from having the education we want for the youth in this community?

Solutions

What possible solutions could we explore to help remedy some of the issues identified?

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

o What kinds of things are missing in this community that keep youth from achieving their education potential?

o What could be done that could make a difference?

o Who should be the ones to take action? Why them and not others?

HEALTH

Definition

From participants, help define what it means to them to have a healthy community, both the community itself and its members.

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

o What does it mean to you to have a healthy community?

o What does it mean to you when we talk about having healthy community members?

Issues

Look to uncover/identify the challenges or barriers keeping the community from realizing their ideal circumstance in regards to health

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

o What do you feel the current condition in the community are when it comes to the health of the community and its members?

o What is keeping the community today from being a 'healthy' community?

o Does access to services have an impact? Types of services offered?

o How do you feel these issues are affecting you personally? Your neighbors? Other community members?

Solutions

What possible solutions could we explore to help

remedy some of the issues identified?

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o What could help make a difference?
- o Who should be involved?
- o How do we work to close that gap?

Closing

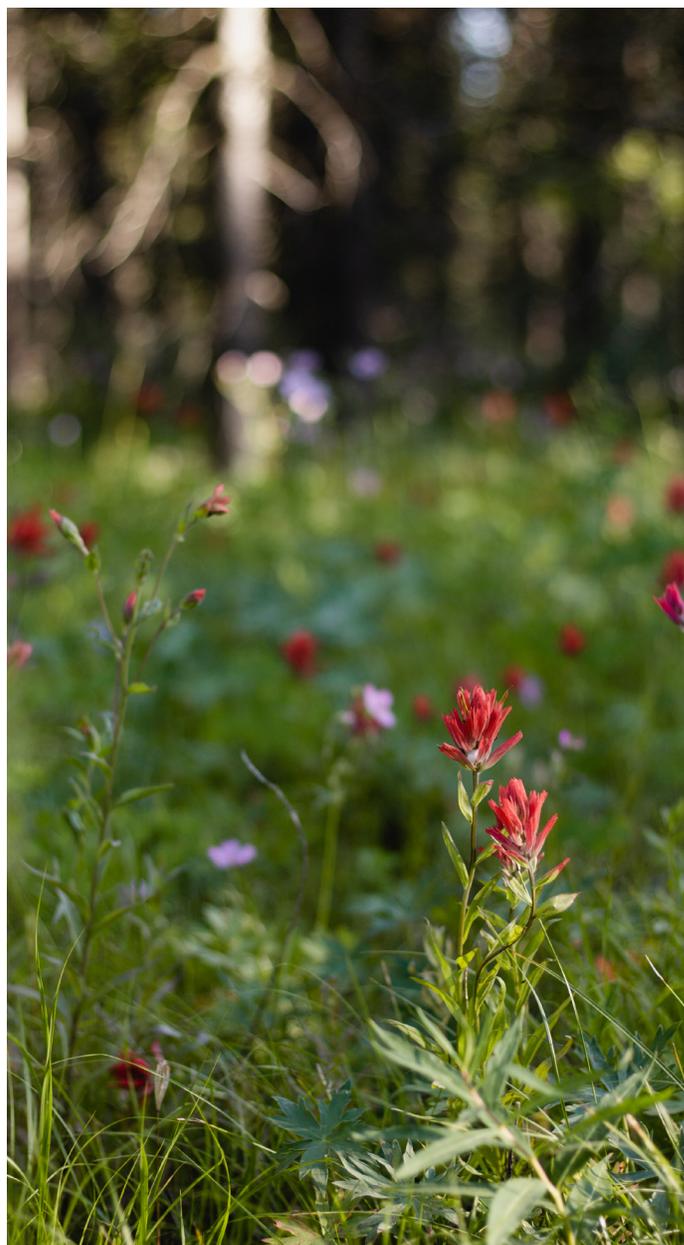
(Optional questions, if time/interest permits)

- When you think about what we've talked about, what are the kinds of things that could be done that would make a difference? What/who have we missed in our discussion tonight?
 - o Health, Education, Financial Stability
 - o What do you think these things might accomplish?
 - o How about in terms of individuals: What are the kinds of things that individuals can do to make a difference?
 - o What do you make of what the other people say should be done?
 - o What's important for us to keep in mind when we think about moving ahead?
- Thinking back over the conversation, who do you trust to take action on these issues?
 - o Health, Education, Financial Responsibility
 - o Why them and not others?
 - o Is it mostly about individuals? Or families? Is it something larger?
 - o Are there some groups or organizations in particular that you'd trust to work on this – and why?
- Now that we have talked about these issues a bit, what questions do you have about it?
 - o What do you feel you'd like to know more about that would help you make better sense of what's going on and what should be done?
 - o What kind of follow-up would you like out of this discussion? (*Look for topics/individuals to bring back together for focus group)
- Closing discussion
 - o Surveys
 - o What are the top 3 issues

NOTE TAKER TEMPLATE

The following four documents were given to note takers to be filled out during the conversation.

NOTE: Data tables are available upon request. Due to the extensive amount of tables they are not included in the report document.



HEALTH

Put a tally mark every time someone mentions the following topics:

- Abuse
- Addiction
- Addiction Awareness
- Behavioral Health
- Counseling
- Disease/Health Issues
- Insurance
- Mental Health
- Physical Health Awareness
- Prescriptions
- Sexual Assault
- Victimization

What other topics did you hear regularly?

Demographics Mentioned:

- Babies
- Children
- Teens
- Young Adults
- Adults
- Elders

Other Important Information:

HOUSING

Put a tally mark every time someone mentions the following topics:

Location/Proximity

Low Income

Not Enough

Policies like Deposits

Too Expensive

Transportation

What other topics did you hear regularly?

Demographics Mentioned:

Babies

Children

Teens

Young Adults

Adults

Elders

Other Important Information:

FINANCIAL SECURITY

Put a tally mark every time someone mentions the following topics:

Both Parents Working

Debt

Higher Pay

Lack of Jobs

Job Training

Promotions

What other topics did you hear regularly?

Demographics Mentioned:

Babies

Children

Teens

Young Adults

Adults

Elders

Other Important Information:

EDUCATION

Put a tally mark every time someone mentions the following topics:

Early Childhood

Outside Resources

Poor Student Performance

Teachers

Too Expensive

Transportation

Tutors/Support

What other topics did you hear regularly?

Demographics Mentioned:

Babies

Children

Teens

Young Adults

Adults

Elders

Other Important Information:

EDUCATION TABLE GUIDE

Definition

From participants, help to uncover aspirational; What does quality education offerings look like in this community?

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o How will what we said about education help us to get the kind of community we want?
- o Overall, how do you think things are going when it comes to education in your community?

Issues

Look to uncover/identify the challenges or barriers keeping the community from realizing their ideal circumstance in regards to education.

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o What would you say are the issues facing education in your community?
- o How do the issues on education we are talking about affect you personally?
- o When you think about these issues, how do you feel about what's going on?
- o What kinds of things are keeping us from having the education we want for the youth in this community?

Solutions

o What possible solutions could we explore to help remedy some of the issues identified?

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o What kinds of things are missing in this community that keep youth from achieving their education potential?
- o What could be done that could make a difference?
- o Who should be the ones to take action? Why them and not others?

*Required topics: Housing Availability and Affordability

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o How would you describe what it means to be financially stable in your community?
- o What would it mean for a family or individual to be financially stable?
- o What does that include?
- o Is it about income? More than that?

Issues

Look to uncover/identify the challenges or barriers facing the community and its members that keeps them from realizing/achieving financial stability.

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o Now that we've talked about what it means to be financially stable, how are individuals and families doing in this community?
- o What kinds of things make it harder for more families and individuals to become financially stable?
- o What does that include?
- o What do you think your community would look like if more families were achieving financial stability?
- o Does the cost of housing play a role? Other costs?
- o What about _____? (Child care, transportation costs, other examples)

Solutions

What do the participants think could be done to better the financial outlook for community members?

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o What programs are already in place? Would you say those programs are working?
- o Where are the gaps?
- o Who are the players that are active in the community now?
- o Who do you think should be included in future discussions or focus groups?

FINANCIAL STABILITY TABLE GUIDE

Definition

From participants, help to uncover aspirational "What kind of a community do you want?" in terms of what Financial Stability looks like in their county.

HEALTH TABLE GUIDE

Define:

From participants, help define what it means to them to have a healthy community, both the community itself and its members.

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o What does it mean to you to have a healthy community?
- o What does it mean to you when we talk about having healthy community members?

Issues

Look to uncover/identify the challenges or barriers keeping the community from realizing their ideal circumstance in regards to health.

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o What do you feel the current condition in the community are when it comes to the health of the community and its members?
- o What is keeping the community today from being a 'healthy' community?
- o What impact does access to services have on your community? Types of services offered?
- o How do you feel these issues are affecting you personally? Your neighbors? Other community members?

Solutions

What possible solutions could we explore to help remedy some of the issues identified?

Possible Questions (help prompt discussion, if needed)

- o What could help make a difference?
- o Who should be involved?
- o How do we work to close that gap?

