

# Community Needs Assessment of Lycoming County, 2018

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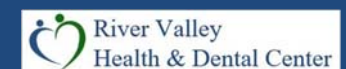
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# **Executive Summary**

In 2012 Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc. partnered with the Lycoming County United Way (LCUW) to develop a mutually beneficial process for creating an overarching, comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (CNA). As is the case with community action agencies, LCUW found significant strategic value in joining STEP to produce a CNA on a three-year time frame. Prior to this collaboration both agencies were developing CNAs separately, yet the results were relatively the same. The key to the STEP and LCUW partnership is to maximize resources while eliminating duplication.

In support of this STEP and LCUW partnership, Lycoming College's Center for the Study of Community and the Economy (CSCE) provided technical assistance and guidance in the CNA process. They collected qualitative data through telephone surveys and conducted data analysis and interpretation. The CNA combined objective and subjective data sets for Lycoming County including: demographic data, community surveys, customer surveys, partner surveys, and focus group meetings. The information presented in this document is the comprehensive analysis of the information gathered.

This partnership was expanded in 2018 to include the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP) and the River Valley Health & Dental Center (RVHDC). Overall, seven key need categories were identified: *Children and Youth*, *Community Engagement*, *Employment and Financial Stability*, *Families in Crisis*, *Housing and Homelessness*, *Medical and Dental Care*, and *Seniors and Persons with Disabilities*. For the 2018 CNA, the topics of substance abuse, education, and nutrition were viewed as ubiquitous to each of the key need categories and, thus, were relevantly addressed in those sections of the 2018 CNA. *Medical and Dental Care* was also discussed at each of the focus groups and was also developed as a key need category.

Since the LCUW and the CSCE have worked on the CNA over the last 13 years, longitudinal data exists to illustrate the identified priority needs. This data plays a key role in understanding both past and current needs. The *Critical Needs* section of the report provides a broad view of the community and partner perception of needs in Lycoming County. From 2012 to 2015 there was a significant transition of the most critical need from *Jobs/Economy* to *Drug/Alcohol Abuse*. This trend became more pronounced in 2018. The partner survey results categorize the top problems in 2018 as drug/alcohol related, followed by mental health services and housing issues. Drug use was mentioned throughout each of the six focus group sessions as a real barrier to self-sufficiency. The continued CNA partnership with the CSCE allows for longitudinal data as illustration and helps assess how effectively the community is tackling identified community needs and being a true catalyst of change.

The multiplier effect of generational poverty and drug use/abuse was highlighted during focus group discussions, as well as in survey respondents' comments. Together, these two problems often create a ripple effect, keeping a family from moving toward self-sufficiency. Given this increasingly daunting dilemma, a holistic approach to breaking down barriers is necessary to address many existing community needs. Coordination of services between agencies and emphasis on the importance of more effective communication within partnerships should be focal points.

The four partners of the 2018 CNA report intend the document to serve as a community resource and asset. The multitude of stakeholders in the community, including funding agencies, government officials, nonprofits, businesses, and institutions, are encouraged to use the information within. The CNA's value and utility will be realized only if it is embraced and used within strategic and comprehensive planning, grant writing, program development, and partnerships. Within the document, analysis of the data is illustrated in various ways, but by no means is it all-inclusive, as the data provided can and should be further examined to be most useful to the reader.

While the 2018 CNA provides more analysis and data than previous assessments, it should be understood that there are limitations to the data. Additional questions are still left unanswered—most specifically, what should the community do now? The easy answer is to focus on the needs identified in the CNA, but long-term success is best achieved when each sector (nonprofit, private, and public) fulfills its individual role, mission, and set of programs in a collaborative manner. Only then can sustained and incremental change be achieved.

Through a concentrated effort of cooperation and collaboration that focuses financial resources, human capital, and innovative outcome-based programming on the identified community needs, we will make Lycoming County a better place to live, work, and play.

## **Methodology**

The community needs assessment for Lycoming County was completed using five connected methodologies: analysis of objective secondary data, a survey of the adult population of Lycoming County, a survey of partner agencies working in Lycoming County, a survey of customers of those agencies, and a series of six focus groups of service professionals and community members to delve further into the topics identified in prior surveys. This section will address the methodology used for each.

### **Objective Data**

Objective secondary data was assembled using Community Commons, a comprehensive online tool managed by Institute for People, Place, and Possibility (ID3); CARES Missouri – University of Missouri; and Community Initiatives Network, which provides Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and other organizations with the means to capture information about their community, analyze the data, and identify the needs to be met within the community. Community Commons provides public access to thousands of meaningful data layers that allow mapping and reporting capabilities. This online tool provides data at federal, state, and local levels from over 20 data sources, including government agencies.

The Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP) Report tool, found at the CAAP Hub on Community Commons, is specifically designed to assist Pennsylvania Community Action Agency staff in the development of CNAs. The CAAP Report tool offers data and maps that span a variety of topics from reliable federal and state sources: population, veterans, employment, education, housing, income, poverty, nutrition, healthcare, and crime. These data sets and maps help CAAs identify and evaluate target areas, explore potential trends, set outcome goals, and provide meaningful and data-driven explanations.

### **Community Survey**

The Community Survey contacted by telephone 617 respondents who were randomly selected from registered voters in Lycoming County. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.9 percent. It should be noted that the margin of error for subgroups can be significantly larger depending on each group's share of the total population. The methodology used here largely replicates that used in each survey since 2005, also referenced here.

Registered voters were selected with the purpose of providing a broad cross-section of residents in Lycoming County, and because the accompanying data that comes with a registration-based sample provides useful information for reporting purposes. The primary drawback of using a registered voter-based sample is that those residents who are not registered are likely to have different characteristics and hold different opinions than those who are registered. That the unregistered are likely to be among those more likely to need and use the services designed to address the needs identified in this report should be considered when interpreting the results. Registered voters are generally older, more financially secure, less mobile, and better educated on average than their unregistered counterparts.

In addition, when comparing our sample with the universe of registered voters, we found that Lycoming County respondents were older than the population of registered voters, were more likely to be female, and in some municipalities in the county were overrepresented, while others were underrepresented. Therefore, the data was statistically weighted so that the results reflect the universe of registered voters on those three factors.

Demographic questions on income and education levels were included in the community survey. The results are provided in the demographics section of this report for comparison between the survey respondents and the broader county population.

## Partner Survey

The partner survey was distributed to staff members of approximately 150 social service agencies in Lycoming County via SurveyMonkey®. Two hundred fifty-eight (258) responses were received, a significantly larger number than the 2015 CNA. This increase is likely due to the presence of new project partners. While there was no means to control whether staff members from certain agencies were more likely to respond than those from other agencies, there is no reason to believe that the respondents expressed perceptions of Lycoming County's needs that would differ substantially from those not participating. That said, the possibility cannot be dismissed.

## Customer Survey

The customers of social service agencies in Lycoming County were also asked about their needs and their perceptions of needs through a paper survey distributed by the social service agencies to fill gaps in assessing Lycoming County needs that might be reinforced or differ from the community survey respondents and/or partner perceptions. Five hundred forty-three (543) responded to the Customer Survey. Once again, there was no means to control whether customers of certain agencies were more likely to respond than those of other agencies. As a result, interpretation of the results should take into account that there is no way of knowing how representative the responses are when compared with the opinions of the population of social service agency customers as a whole.

Several demographic questions were included in the customer survey. The results are provided in the demographics section of this report for comparison between the survey respondents and the broader county population.

## Focus Groups

Six focus groups of service professionals and community members were conducted to delve further into the community needs identified through the surveys. The topic of each focus group centered on one area of identified concern: *Children & Youth*, *Community Engagement*, *Employment & Financial Stability*, *Families in Crisis*, *Housing & Homelessness*, and *Seniors and Persons with Disabilities*. Participants in focus groups were selected by representatives of the Lycoming County United Way, First Community Foundation Partnership, River Valley Health & Dental Center, and STEP. Participants were selected to ensure a broad cross-section of partner agencies, the public sector, and the private sector, with emphasis placed on the extensive experience of that participant with the focus group topics. Each focus group included 8 to 12 participants.

# Understanding & Using this CNA Report

In order for the CNA to be a resource and tool for the greater community, provided below is a breakdown of the document into three key sections and a summary of each.

<b><i>Purpose of CNA</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b><i>Meet STEP Requirements</i></b></li><li>✓ <b><i>Satisfy Needs of the Partners:</i></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b><i>First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania</i></b></li><li>- <b><i>Lycoming County United Way</i></b></li><li>- <b><i>River Valley Health &amp; Dental</i></b></li></ul></li><li>✓ <b><i>Analyze Comprehensive Community Needs</i></b></li><li>✓ <b><i>Provide CNA Tool to Community</i></b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc. is required by many of its federal and state revenue sources to produce a CNA on a three-year time frame.</li><li>* The CNA analyzes comprehensive community needs through objective and subjective data sets including demographic data, community surveys, customer surveys, partner surveys, and focus group sessions.</li><li>* The CNA report will be used by Lycoming County United Way, First Community Foundation Partnership, and River Valley Health &amp; Dental Center, as well as other community stakeholders for strategic planning, grant writing, program development, and partnerships.</li></ul>
<b><i>CNA Organizational Structure</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b><i>Critical Need Rankings</i></b></li><li>✓ <b><i>Key Need Categories with Summary Themes</i></b></li><li>✓ <b><i>Supporting Data</i></b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Critical need rankings provide relative importance of identified needs of Lycoming County.</li><li>* In each key need category section, category themes summarize findings.</li><li>* Supporting data includes objective data, community and customer survey data, and focus group findings.</li><li>* Use findings and data to plan short- and long-range goals.</li><li>* Use findings and data to support new program development and enhancement.</li></ul>
<b><i>Using the CNA</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b><i>Strategic Planning</i></b></li><li>✓ <b><i>Program Development</i></b></li><li>✓ <b><i>Grant Writing &amp; Resource Development</i></b></li><li>✓ <b><i>Internal &amp; External Assessment</i></b></li><li>✓ <b><i>Resource Management</i></b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Collaborate with community partners to maximize community outcomes efficiently and effectively.</li><li>* Justify funding requests with CNA content within and across need categories.</li><li>* Utilize CNA as a foundation for developing and implementing assessment tools.</li><li>* Measure effectiveness to achieve program effectiveness.</li><li>* Manage human and financial resources to respond to valid community needs.</li></ul>

## Critical Needs Ranking

The critical needs of Lycoming County and perceptions of their relative importance were assessed by two different means. Some 617 community survey respondents identified the most important problem facing the County. Next, 258 members of our partner agencies rated a series of potential county issues on both their importance and the adequacy of the current response to those issues. By comparing the results of these two survey assessments to those of prior years, it is possible to identify not only the emergence of new issues but also whether respondents feel that progress has been made on other issues identified in the past.

In the community survey, the most commonly cited problems were drugs and alcohol, followed by the economy and jobs, then by crime and gangs. The top three categories remained in the same order compared to 2015, although there was substantial concentration of community concern about drugs and alcohol. In fact, the rate of change in the perception of the drug and alcohol problem is somewhat alarming. In 2018, the number of citizens now viewing this issue as the top problem facing Lycoming County increased by 20 percent. The community's concern over jobs and the economy remained steady for the past three years, while the perception of crime and gangs as a key issue has shown some decrease in relative importance.

Each of the other response categories received less than 7 percent of total responses. It should be noted that some issues identified as problems in Lycoming County (taxes, for example) fall outside the scope of the missions of the organizations sponsoring this needs assessment and their partners. The needs assessment focuses attention on those issues that mesh with the missions of CNA sponsors and their partner organizations.

Similarly, the growing concern about issues of substance abuse is reflected in the partner survey, as well. The top five concerns highlighted by partner organizations are related to drugs and alcohol. Access to mental health services remained as the next highest-ranked concern. It is interesting that access to counseling services, while not in the top 10 list, showed a significant spike in the level of concern. It moved from 31st position in 2015 up to 21st place today. The remainder of the top ten issues included affordable housing, child abuse and neglect, and the quality of and access to early childhood education. Notably, issues connected to employment and household budgeting saw some reduced concern amongst respondents. Otherwise the results were largely consistent with past surveys.

When asked if adequate attention was being devoted to each of the issues, partners expressed the highest levels of concern about affordable housing, access to mental health services, access to affordable health insurance, and access to substance abuse services. The categories where respondents revealed the most optimism included the attention being paid to HIV/AIDS, building access for the disabled, and transportation access for the disabled. In general, however, respondents were somewhat less negative about the attention being paid across most issue categories than they were previously. In 2015, a majority responded that inadequate attention was being paid to 25 of the issues surveyed; in 2017 that number was reduced to 17. The rankings from the community survey as well as the partner survey are listed below.

## Community Survey

### What do you feel is the most important problem facing Lycoming County today?

	2018	2015	2012	2009	2005
Drugs/Alcohol	58.2%	48.5%	4.6%	13.3%	11.0%
Economy/Jobs	14.8%	14.8%	30.2%	42.2%	23.8%
Crime / Gangs	7.3%	15.1%	9.2%	20.6%	17.0%
Taxes	6.6%	2.8%	5.4%	3.2%	14.3%
Various Other	6.4%	4.8%	14.9%	18.2%	28.6%
Roads, Trucks and Traffic	4.1%	2.6%	4.7%	1.2%	3%
Housing-related issues, including homelessness	1.1%	3.8%	9.9%	0.2%	0.8%
Education	1.1%	2.8%	3.7%	1.1%	1.5%
Natural gas industry related issues	0.4%	4.8%	17.4%	***	***

\*\*\*Respondents did not provide this response in this survey.

## Partner Survey

### What are the most important issues facing Lycoming County?

Note: the table is sorted based on the ranking the issues in 2018 survey.

	2018		2015		2012		2009		2005	
	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean
Abuse of drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin, by adults	1	4.86	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Abuse of drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin, by youth	2	4.83	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Access to substance abuse services	3	4.69	3	4.53	T15	3.98	T12	4.23	***	***
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youth	4	4.67	1	4.73	5	4.25	1	4.62	2	4.38
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults	5	4.63	2	4.60	T7	4.12	4	4.41	T6	4.13
Access to mental health services	6	4.40	5	4.39	T21	3.90	29	3.84	T4	4.18
Affordable housing	7	4.31	4	4.49	1	4.46	T12	4.23	15	3.93
Child abuse and neglect	T8	4.29	6	4.20	9	4.10	5	4.37	3	4.24
Quality of early childhood education	T8	4.29	8	4.15	***	***	***	***	***	***
Access to early childhood education	10	4.25	12	4.10	***	***	***	***	***	***
Access to affordable health insurance	11	4.23	7	4.18	6	4.22	3	4.46	1	4.54
Adult job training	T12	4.19	T10	4.11	19	3.92	T24	3.96	14	3.95
Availability of affordable child care	T12	4.19	13	4.09	24	3.86	17	4.14	9	4.05
Youth job training	14	4.15	20	4.00	***	***	***	***	***	***
Affordable housing for seniors	T15	4.14	T10	4.11	23	3.89	20	4.05	21	3.74
Illiteracy	T15	4.14	9	4.12	20	3.91	27	3.92	T12	3.97
Homelessness	17	4.12	T17	4.02	3	4.28	T9	4.28	22	3.73
Domestic abuse	18	4.10	16	4.05	T10	4.08	8	4.30	T4	4.18
Access to job skill training	19	4.09	21	3.99	***	***	***	***	***	***
Availability of counseling services	20	4.07	T31	3.84	T21	3.90	19	4.08	T12	3.97
Access to health care	21	4.06	T23	3.96	T7	4.12	6	4.33	8	4.08
Health care for senior citizens	22	4.05	19	4.01	18	3.95	15	4.21	17	3.87
Services for disabled children	23	4.03	T31	3.84	T28	3.54	T24	3.96	18	3.81
Access to affordable prescription medications	24	4.01	14	4.08	T10	4.08	T9	4.28	***	***
Availability of summer activities	25	4.00	33	3.83	***	***	***	***	***	***



Access to nutritious meals for seniors	<b>26</b>	<b>3.99</b>	T23	3.96	***	***	***	***	***	***
Availability of after school activities	<b>27</b>	<b>3.96</b>	29	3.90	27	3.65	T22	3.99	T10	4.03
Services for the needs of senior citizens	<b>28</b>	<b>3.95</b>	28	3.92	26	3.71	18	4.09	23	3.72
Access to dental care	<b>29</b>	<b>3.94</b>	25	3.95	12	4.04	14	4.22	24	3.71
Household budgeting	<b>30</b>	<b>3.92</b>	15	4.06	***	***	***	***	***	***
Elder abuse or neglect	<b>31</b>	<b>3.90</b>	35	3.74	T28	3.54	21	4.00	31	3.47
Underemployment	<b>T32</b>	<b>3.89</b>	T26	3.94	4	4.27	7	4.31	T10	4.03
Hunger	<b>T32</b>	<b>3.89</b>	30	3.86	T13	4.00	11	4.25	19	3.76
Violence in schools	<b>34</b>	<b>3.88</b>	37	3.65	32	3.51	16	4.17	29	3.51
Unemployment	<b>T35</b>	<b>3.84</b>	T17	4.02	2	4.35	2	4.52	T6	4.13
Juvenile delinquency	<b>T35</b>	<b>3.84</b>	22	3.98	T15	3.98	T22	3.99	16	3.92
Access to transportation for the disabled	<b>37</b>	<b>3.82</b>	38	3.61	31	3.53	32	3.67	27	3.58
Heating, electricity, & water assistance	<b>38</b>	<b>3.80</b>	T26	3.94	***	***	***	***	***	***
Building access for the disabled	<b>39</b>	<b>3.72</b>	39	3.54	35	3.39	33	3.66	26	3.66
Occupational training for the disabled	<b>40</b>	<b>3.71</b>	36	3.69	36	3.35	31	3.69	32	3.45
Ethnic/racial discrimination	<b>41</b>	<b>3.67</b>	40	3.38	25	3.84	34	3.65	25	3.67
Teenage pregnancy	<b>42</b>	<b>3.43</b>	34	3.75	T13	4.00	26	3.93	20	3.75
Gender discrimination	<b>43</b>	<b>3.40</b>	42	3.16	34	3.43	35	3.20	34	3.31
Age discrimination	<b>44</b>	<b>3.32</b>	43	3.14	30	3.54	36	3.16	33	3.32
AIDS/HIV	<b>45</b>	<b>3.25</b>	41	3.19	33	3.50	28	3.87	30	3.50
Transportation for the elderly	***	***	***	***	17	3.96	30	3.73	28	3.54

\*\*\*Respondents did not provide this response in this survey.

#### Is the issue receiving adequate attention by community groups in Lycoming County?

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2005</b>
	% Responding "No"				
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by youths	<b>61%</b>	68%	62%	72%	54%
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults	<b>53%</b>	60%	31%	58%	40%
Access to substance abuse services	<b>62%</b>	64%	37%	43%	***
Affordable housing	<b>65%</b>	71%	77%	67%	75%
Access to mental health services	<b>64%</b>	77%	57%	63%	72%
Child abuse and neglect	<b>55%</b>	64%	57%	72%	71%
Access to affordable health insurance	<b>63%</b>	65%	80%	79%	100%
Quality of early childhood education	<b>34%</b>	34%	***	***	***
Illiteracy	<b>36%</b>	50%	41%	41%	17%
Adult job training	<b>46%</b>	49%	39%	41%	33%
Affordable housing for seniors	<b>44%</b>	49%	64%	40%	61%
Access to early childhood education	<b>24%</b>	21%	***	***	***
Availability of affordable child care	<b>58%</b>	71%	81%	68%	63%
Access to affordable prescription medications	<b>60%</b>	72%	64%	60%	***
Household budgeting	<b>58%</b>	69%	***	***	***
Domestic abuse	<b>43%</b>	54%	40%	63%	44%
Unemployment	<b>43%</b>	61%	64%	73%	65%
Homelessness	<b>57%</b>	60%	53%	62%	47%
Health care for senior citizens	<b>40%</b>	36%	42%	64%	67%

Youth job training	<b>53%</b>	54%	***	***	***
Access to job skill training	<b>44%</b>	46%	***	***	***
Juvenile delinquency	<b>49%</b>	68%	60%	56%	72%
Access to health care	<b>43%</b>	55%	66%	61%	68%
Access to nutritious meals for seniors	<b>25%</b>	28%	***	***	***
Access to dental care	<b>44%</b>	57%	70%	76%	65%
Underemployment	<b>56%</b>	70%	64%	80%	90%
Heating, electricity, & water assistance	<b>34%</b>	51%	***	***	***
Services for the needs of senior citizens	<b>31%</b>	30%	30%	28%	59%
Availability of after-school activities	<b>52%</b>	58%	67%	64%	65%
Hunger	<b>27%</b>	37%	37%	48%	33%
Availability of counseling services	<b>51%</b>	54%	31%	42%	64%
Services for disabled children	<b>28%</b>	34%	17%	36%	46%
Availability of summer activities	<b>56%</b>	61%	***	***	***
Teenage pregnancy	<b>37%</b>	54%	65%	71%	64%
Elder abuse or neglect	<b>38%</b>	45%	38%	46%	60%
Occupational training for the disabled	<b>26%</b>	24%	24%	20%	42%
Violence in schools	<b>58%</b>	58%	52%	74%	69%
Access to transportation for the disabled	<b>19%</b>	21%	19%	13%	31%
Building access for the disabled	<b>18%</b>	22%	18%	23%	35%
Ethnic/racial discrimination	<b>44%</b>	43%	48%	64%	53%
AIDS/HIV	<b>17%</b>	28%	15%	30%	27%
Gender discrimination	<b>43%</b>	45%	45%	48%	56%
Age discrimination	<b>36%</b>	45%	50%	55%	70%
Transportation for the elderly	***	***	21%	32%	20%

\*\*\*Respondents did not provide this response in this survey.

#### **I work for a human service provider.**

	<b>2018</b>
Yes	<b>81.6%</b>
No	<b>18.3%</b>

#### **I volunteer for a human service provider.**

	<b>2018</b>
Yes	<b>22.8%</b>
No	<b>77.3%</b>

## Key Need Categories with Summary Themes

The Key Need Categories were defined through understanding previous CNAs and the areas of interest that were mutually important to Lycoming County United Way (LCUW), the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP), STEP, River Valley Health & Dental Center, and the broader community. The themes under each category summarize findings from customer surveys, partner surveys, community surveys, and focus groups. The themes are arranged in alphabetical order and include: *Children & Youth*, *Community Engagement*, *Employment & Financial Stability*, *Families in Crisis*, *Housing & Homelessness*, *Medical & Dental*, and *Seniors & Persons with Disabilities Support Services*.

Objective data from the 2016 U.S. Census shows that the poverty rate for Lycoming County youths aged 0–17 was slightly higher than the state or national rate. However, for those aged 0–4 the rate is significantly higher than the state or national rate. The poverty rate in Pennsylvania for this age group is 21.6 percent, while the rate for Lycoming County is 26.5 percent—nearly 5 percent higher.

Focus group members believe that many family issues, particularly substance abuse, affect children, resulting in behavioral issues. The consensus is that children are deeply and profoundly impacted by the problems with which their family is struggling. It is widely held that a family in crisis must be stabilized before the child (or children) of that family can be effectively helped.

## Children and Youth

The challenges facing Lycoming County children and youths are broad-based, with young people bearing the brunt of other issues facing the general community, including drug use and abuse. The consensus is that progress toward addressing many of the needs facing the county requires increased and focused attention on the problems experienced by county youths.

Comparing today's concerns with those noted in prior studies, it becomes apparent that existing problems remain a concern. From the community survey, for instance, it appears that residents believe there has been a decline in those who have access to affordable child care. Yet, when the same survey question was presented to the customer group, generally low-to-moderate-income families, there was a more optimistic view of affordable child care access. On a positive note, there has been a decrease in those who state they are aware of a child suffering from abuse.

Another noteworthy observation involves early childhood education. The percentage of respondents in the customer survey group who agreed (or strongly agreed) they have access to these services increased from approximately 59 percent to 76 percent. This perception seems to be substantiated by the PA Dept of Education's objective data regarding 3- to 4-year-old children who participate in an early childhood program or Head Start. More than 47.8 percent of all Lycoming County children in this age group are served by one of these programs.

In focus groups, increased problems with youths' behavioral issues were repeatedly cited. A lack of dental treatment options for children, a new issue addressed in the 2018 study, was a concern of educators attending focus groups. Across the objective data, community, customer, and partner surveys, as well as focus group information, five main themes emerge: behavioral issues, child abuse, availability and affordability of child care, drug use, and medical and dental care.

### *Behavioral Issues*

Focus group participants state there has been a noticeable increase in extreme, more complex behavioral/mental health issues exhibited by children and youths. In general, services for youths are becoming more unaffordable, but for the 18- to 21-year-old age group, services are also hard to obtain. The community survey revealed that strong majorities believe their children have access to after-school and summer activities. Yet, both the customer survey group and focus group members did identify the need for improved transportation support for those after-school and summer programs. Rather than being the result of a lack of available activities or problems within schools, the view of focus group participants is that these unhealthy and aggressive behaviors result from problems at home, often exacerbated by substance abuse or by parents who are detached from their children's lives. Over-achieving youths from functional families are under more stress to succeed and maintain their social standing, which, in turn, can lead to depression and sometimes suicide. While educational institutions can address some of these problems, the solutions must be rooted in the family. Recognizing an increase in hopelessness among youths, some stated that faith-based organizations could play a vital role in the solution.

### *Child Abuse*

The community survey shows a decline in the percentage of community members who are aware of someone who has suffered from abuse. While there may be less awareness, focus group participants who work in child services believe the widening definition of abuse is resulting in more cases being reported. While physical abuse is still a nagging issue, mental and emotional abuse appears to be on the rise. Focus groups cited cyberbullying and harassment using social media is now becoming an extremely ubiquitous concern. The situation is complicated by the fact that children will sometimes use the threat of reporting a child abuse charge against a family member or school teacher or staff as a power play. According to focus group respondents, another issue affecting increased reporting rates is the inability of families to deal with children's more extreme behaviors.

### *Child Care*

The objective data shows the number of child care facilities available in the county. The community and customer surveys show a decline in the percentage of people who strongly agree they have access to day care that they can afford. Similarly, both customer and community responses show an decrease in the percentage of families that agree or strongly agree they have access to early childhood education. According to focus group participants, childcare costs are increasing because of increasingly restrictive government regulations, such as the mandated provider-to-child ratios. To make childcare more affordable, providers must keep costs down. Cost control often results in low-paid staff, which unfortunately translates to high turnover rates, thus making it more difficult to maintain a high-quality, dedicated staff. Even with child care subsidies, families find it increasingly difficult to pay for quality child care.

### *Drug Use*

According to focus group participants, marijuana use is more prevalent in families and schools. However, families and young people do not see marijuana use as a problem and view it as acceptable behavior. Drug use by parents, including marijuana, cocaine, opioids, and heroin, as well as alcohol, affects their ability to be parents. Moreover, the use of drugs by parents often results in angry children who exhibit behavioral problems both within and outside their homes. Focus group participants cited the need to intervene as early as possible in a child's life, with the challenge being to avoid focusing solely on the youth's behavior rather on the root cause of the underlying issue(s). Addicted parents who are in drug recovery programs have difficulty focusing on raising their children. Because of the generational pattern of drug use, children are now being placed in foster care rather than with relatives.

### *Dental and Medical Care*

Children are not receiving the dental care they need. While a local clinic has assisted in getting children routine dental care, paying for needed treatment is still an issue. Given the rural nature of Lycoming County, there is also a growing need for mobile dental care service, especially for low-income families residing in the eastern end of the county. Many low-income parents do not have a family practitioner for medical care and use the hospital emergency room instead since no appointment is necessary. An issue raised by school administrators in the focus group is that parents will misuse the medical system by finding a doctor who is willing to write their child a long-term medical excuse to stay home from school, which adds to the truancy problem and directly impacts the child's education.

## Objective Data: Children & Youth

### **Population: Children & Youth**

The table below shows the population of youths up to age 17 in Lycoming County and Pennsylvania.

**Population by Age & Gender, 2012-2016**

Report Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		Ages 0- 17 Total Population
	M	F	M	F	
Lycoming County	3,343	3,180	8,853	8,610	23,986
Pennsylvania	365,819	348,779	1,019,170	970,500	2,704,268

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS). 2012-16. Source geography: County.

### **Child (0-17) Poverty Rate**

Population and poverty estimate for children age 0-17 are shown for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, an average of 22% of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in Lycoming County is greater than the Pennsylvania average of 19.1% as well as the national average of 21.2%.

**American Community Survey, Child (0-17) Poverty rate**

Report Area	Children, Ages 0 - 17 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Lycoming County	23,986	5,210	22%
Pennsylvania	2,704,268	507,013	19.1%
National	73,612,438	15,335,783	21.2%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County

### **Child (0-4) Poverty Rate**

Population and poverty estimate for children age 0-4 are shown for Lycoming County. According to the ACS 5-year data, an average of 26.5% of children in Lycoming County lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in Lycoming County is greater than the national average of 23.6% and much greater than the Pennsylvania average of 21.6%.

**American Community Survey, Child (0-4) Poverty rate**

Report Area	Ages 0-4 Total Population	Ages 0-4 In Poverty	Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate
Lycoming County	6,523	1,713	26.5%
Pennsylvania	714,598	152,537	21.6%
United States	19,866,960	4,614,933	23.6%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County

### **Early Childhood Programming and Head Start Participation**

The tables below reflect the following: Children Served, Ages 0-2 includes children served in the following programs: The Nurse Family Partnership, the Parent Home program, and Healthy Families America. Children Served, Ages 3-4 includes children served in the following programs: The Parent Child Program, Parents as Teachers, Early Head Start, Head Start, Pre-K Counts, School District Pre-K, Early Intervention, and Keystone Stars.

Report Area	Children Ages 0-2	Children Ages 3-4	Served Ages 0-2	Served Ages 3-4
Lycoming County	3,798	2,706	1,056	1,294
Pennsylvania	418,384	299,039	97,986	138,445

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: county. Data was compiled from the Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Reach and Risk Report, 2015-2016 report. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

### **Early Childhood Programming Participants Ages 0-2, Ages 3-4**

Report Area	Age 0-2 Participants Nurse Family Partnership	Age 0-2 Participants Healthy Families America	Age 3-4 Participants PA Pre-K Counts	Age 3-4 Participants School Based Pre-K
Lycoming County	175	0	184	103
Pennsylvania	6,005	259	17,115	8,998

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County

### **Early Childhood Programming Participants Ages 0-4**

Report Area	Age 0-4 Participants Parent-Child Home Program	Age 0-4 Participants Parents as Teachers	Age 0-4 Participants Early Intervention	Age 0-4 Participants Keystone STARS
Lycoming County	19	0	472	1,301
Pennsylvania	197	7,095	61,437	102,111

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County

### **Head Start Program Participants**

Report Area	Early Head Start (Age 0-2)	Head Start (Age 3-4)	Total Participants
Clinton County	57	340	183
Pennsylvania	4,979	28,235	33,214

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County. Data was compiled from the Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Reach and Risk Report, 2015-2016 report. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

## **Child Care Costs**

The 2013-2014 Department of Public Welfare reports the average costs for child care based on responses from licensed care provider centers in each county. Cost of child care for each type of care and age group for Lycoming County is shown below. These figures include the average cost of care for all age ranges including: infant care, toddler care, preschool care, school-age before and after care and school-age full day rates.

### **Average Child Care Costs, 2013-2014**

Report Area	Type of Care	Daily Cost, Full-Time	Daily Cost, Part-Time
Lycoming County	CENTER	\$22.66	\$18.11

*Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County. Data comes from Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, 2013-2014. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.*

## **Certified Child Care Facilities**

The table below is a listing of Certified Child Care Providers provided by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) as of March 2017. Child Care Center: a facility in which 7 or more children, who are not related to the operator receive child care. Family Child Care Home: a facility located in a home in which 4 to 6 children, who are not related to the caregiver receive child care. Group Child Care Home: a facility in which 7 to 12 children of various ages or in which 7 to 15 children from 4th grade through 15 years of age, who are not related to the operator receive child care. The maximum number of children permitted to receive care in a child care facility at one time is based on square footage of child care space and age of the children.

### **Certified Child Care Facilities, March 2017**

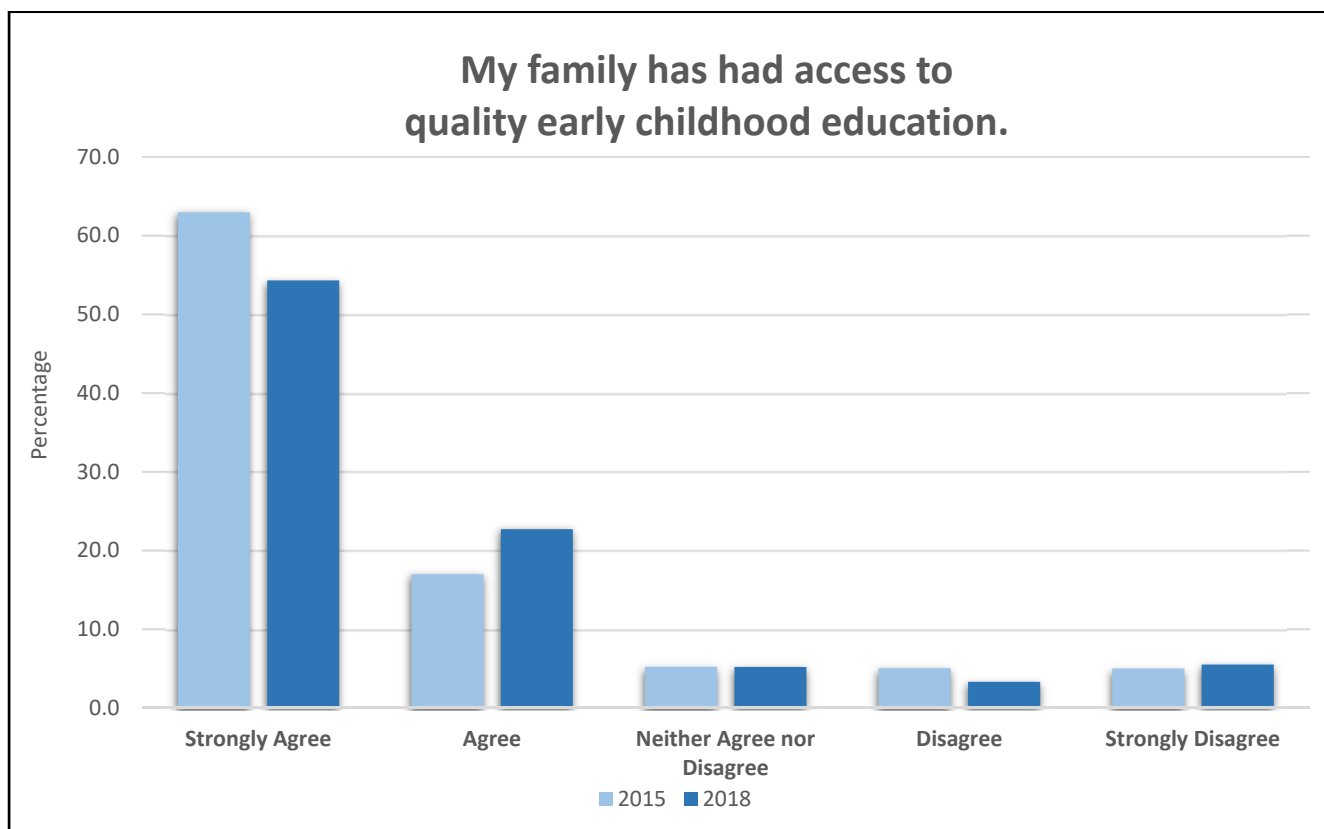
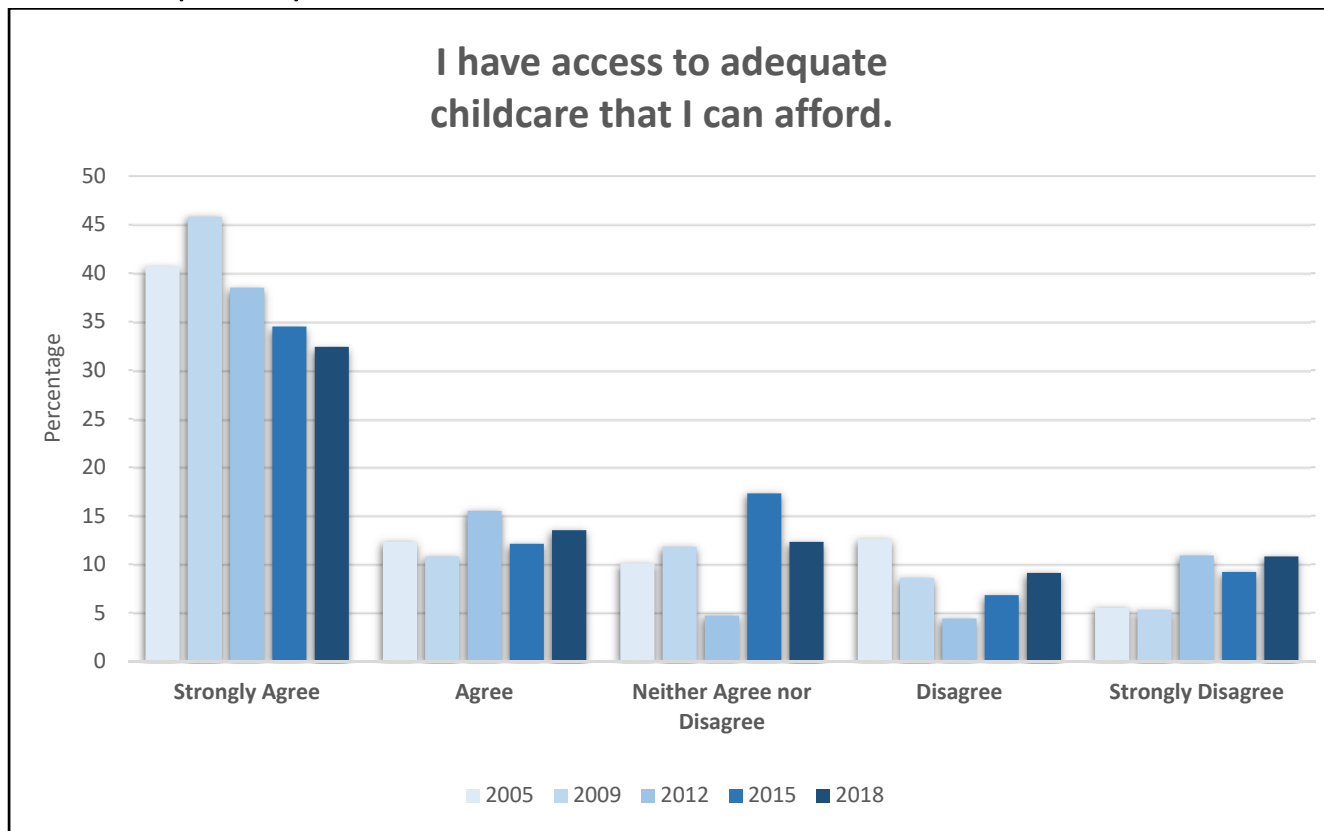
County	Number of Certified Providers	Certified Provider Type *	Maximum Capacity **
Lycoming	44	Child Care Center	2,694
Lycoming	15	Family Child Care Home	90
Lycoming	6	Group Child Care Home	70

*Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: county. Data was compiled from Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), 2017. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.*

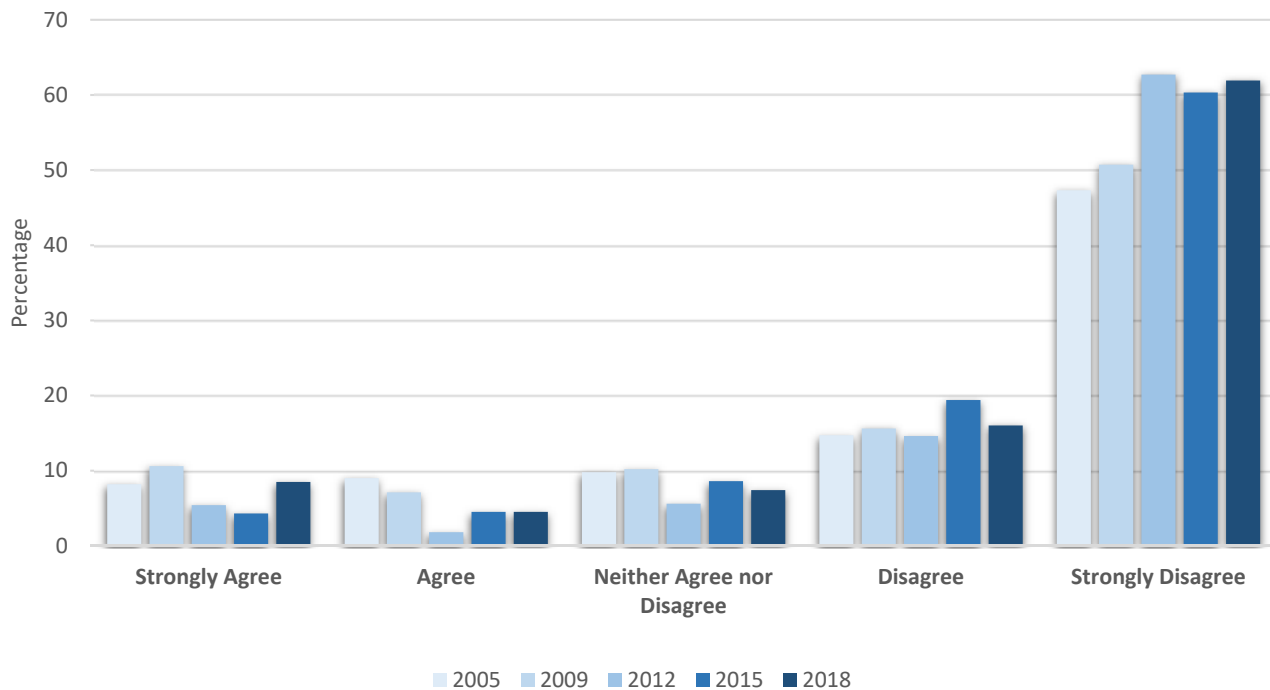


## Survey Data: Children & Youth

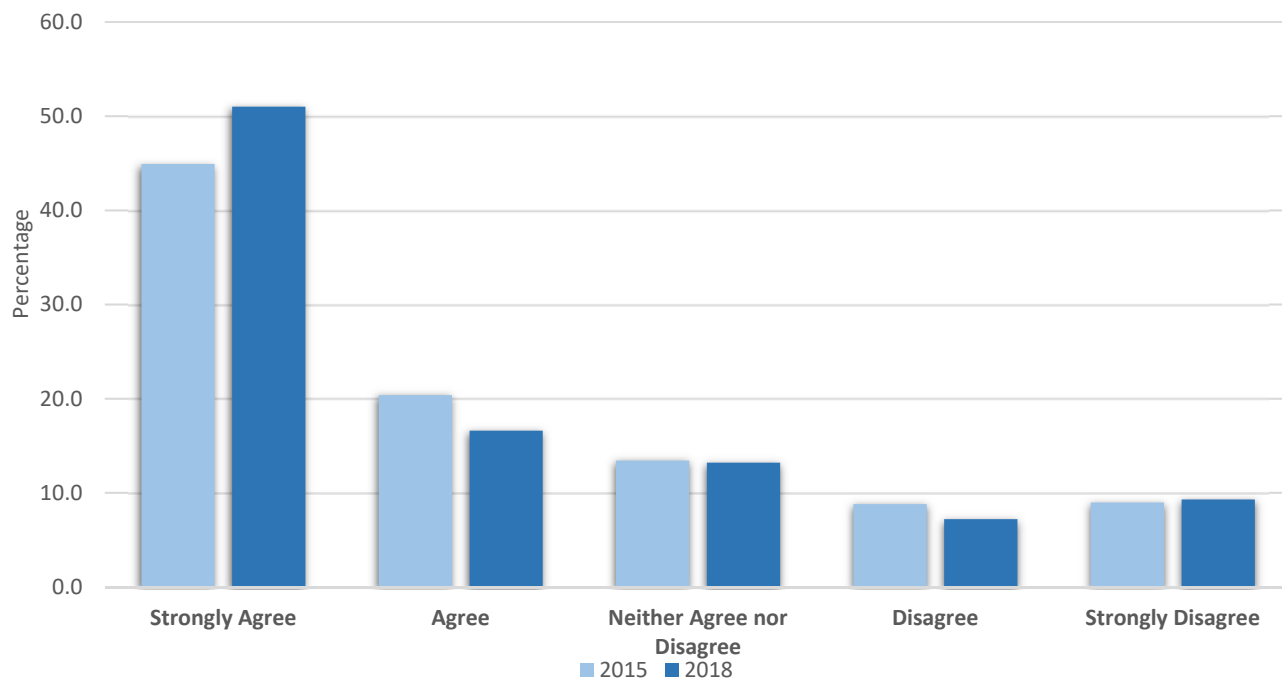
### Community Survey Information



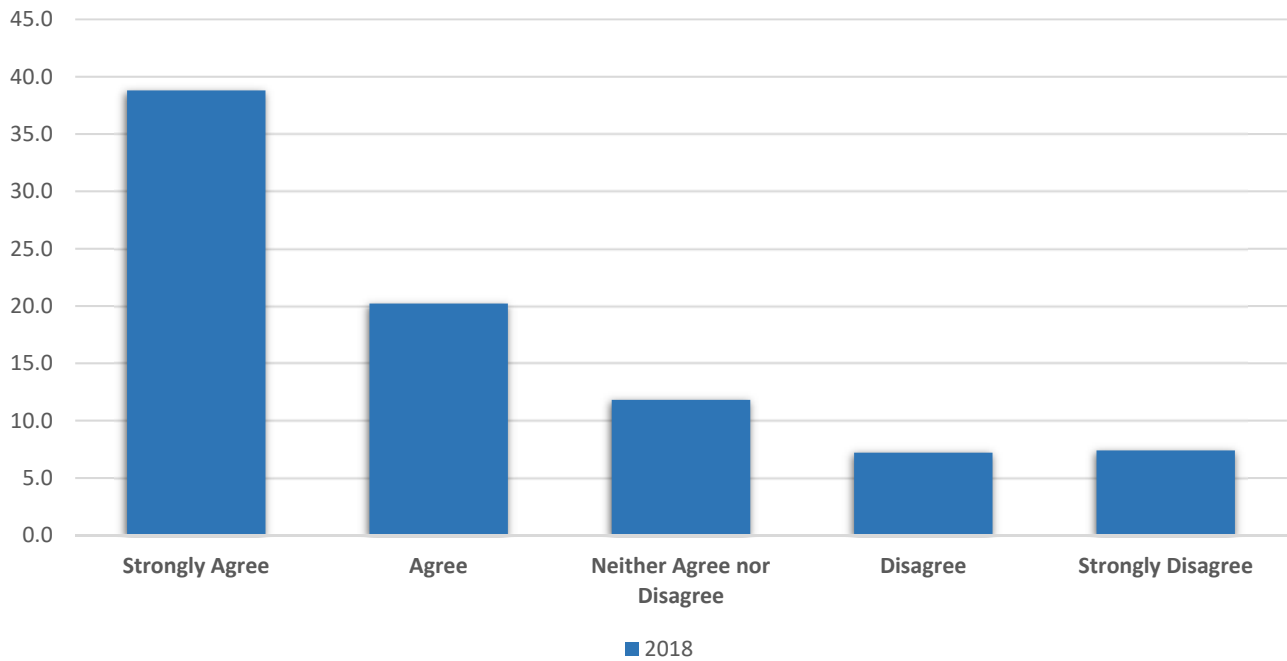
### My children have nothing to do after school.



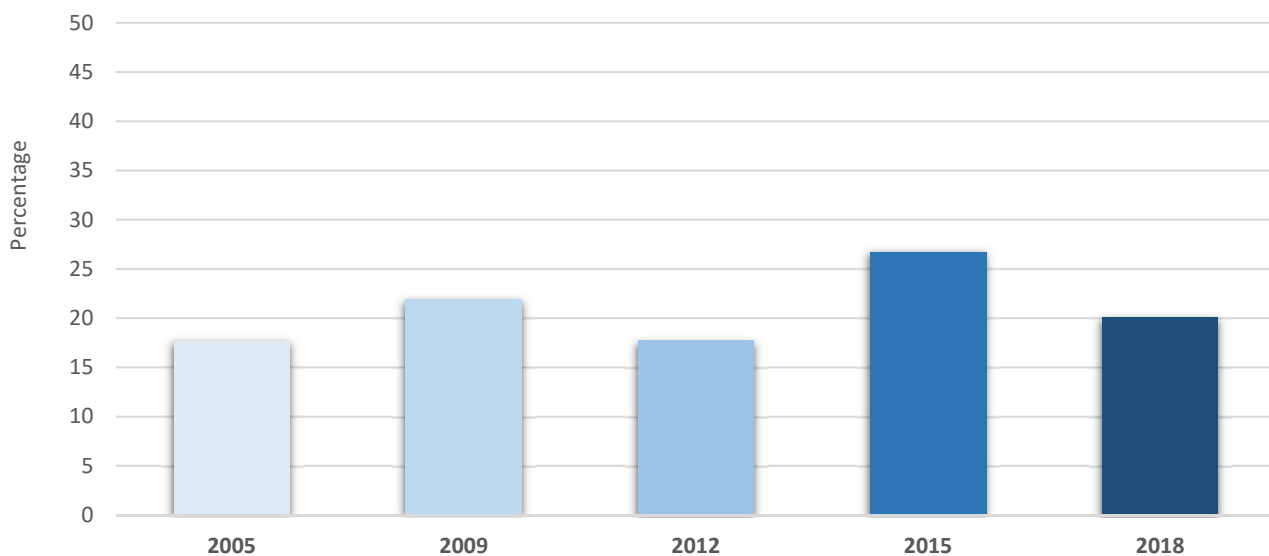
### My children have access to adequate activities to keep them busy in the summer.



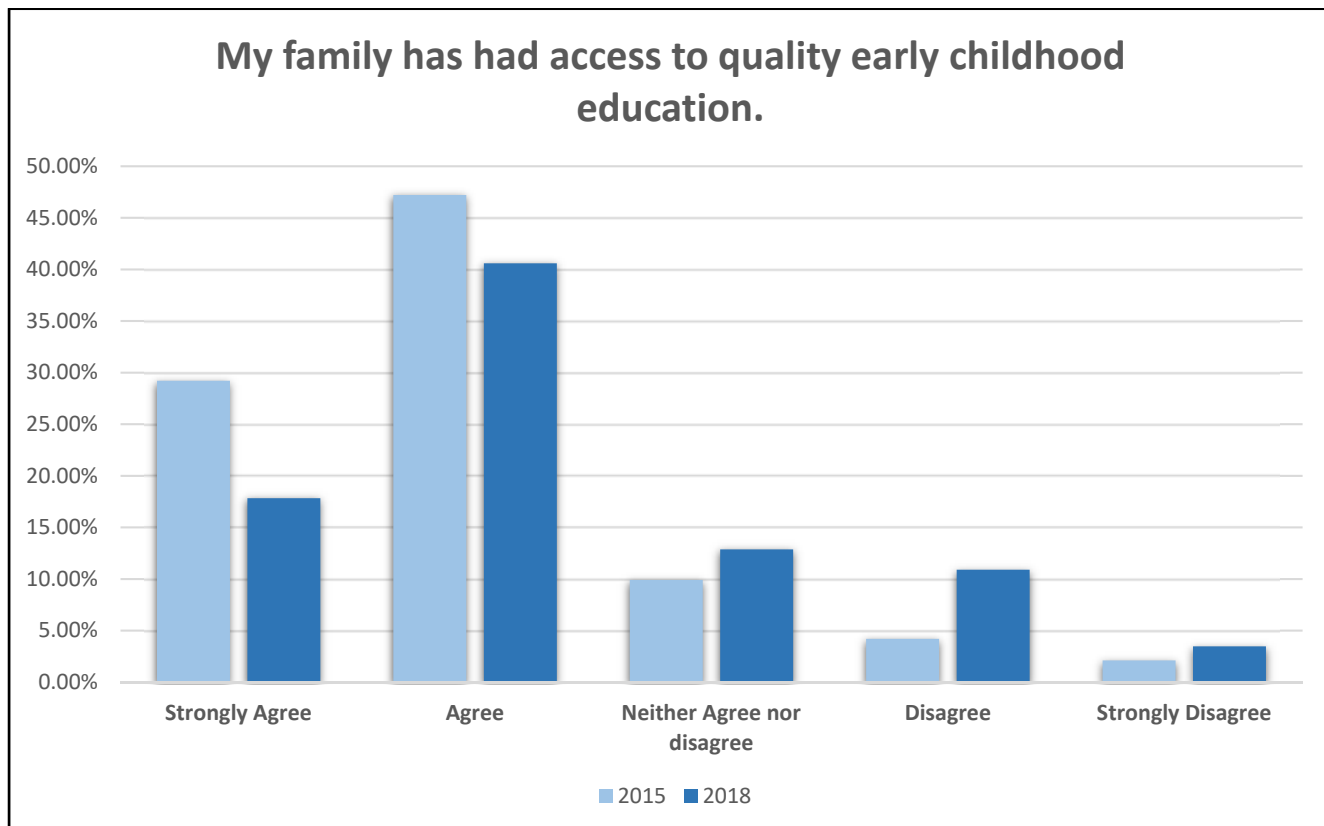
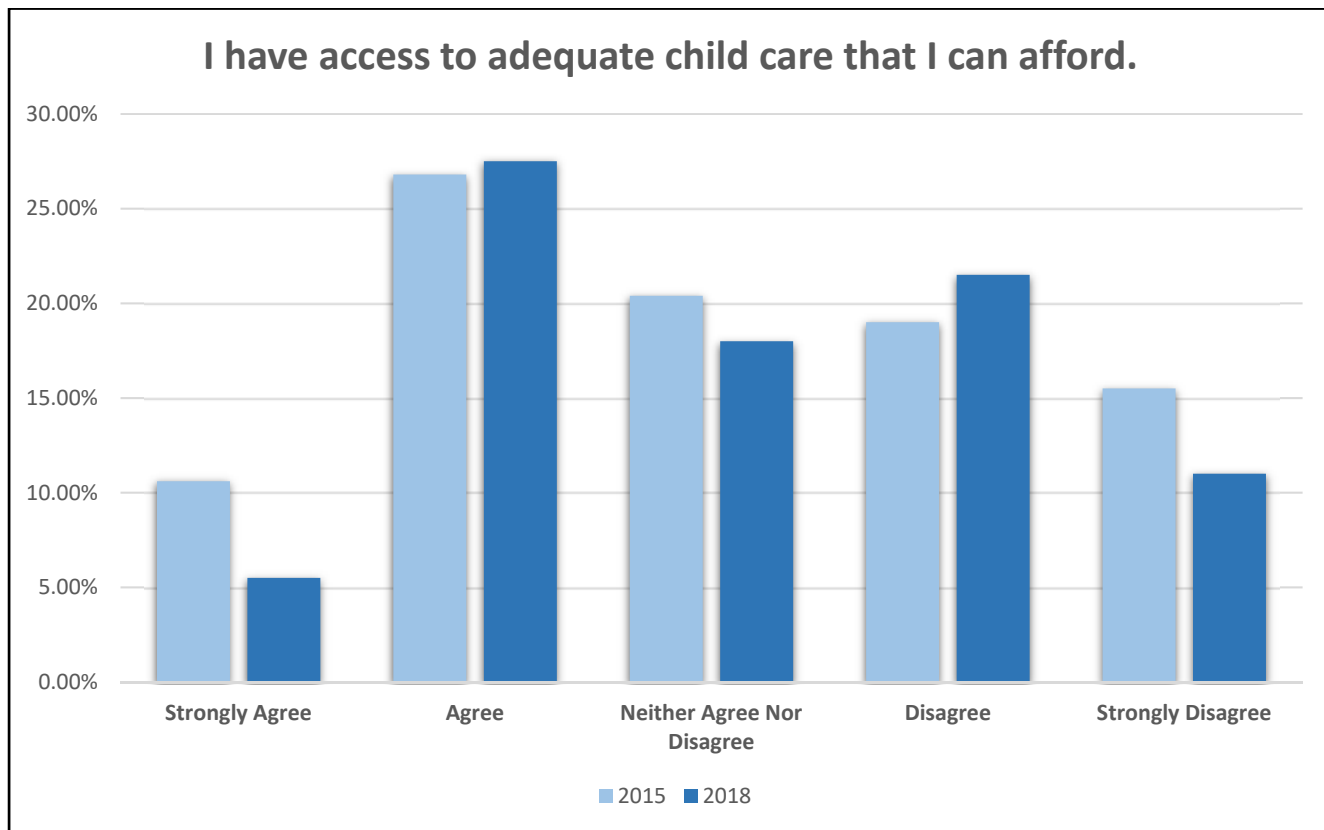
### Children in my community have good educational opportunities.



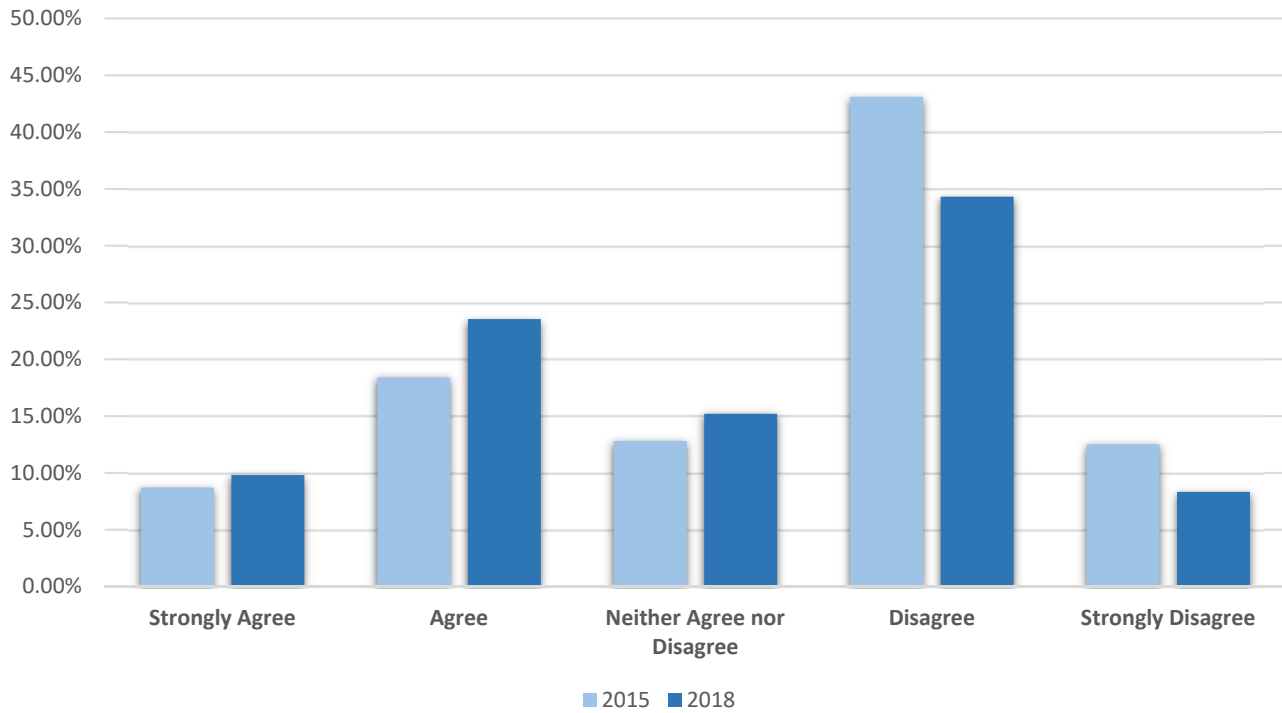
### Are you aware of anyone in your community who has been the victim of child abuse or neglect in the last year? (Percentage indicating Yes)



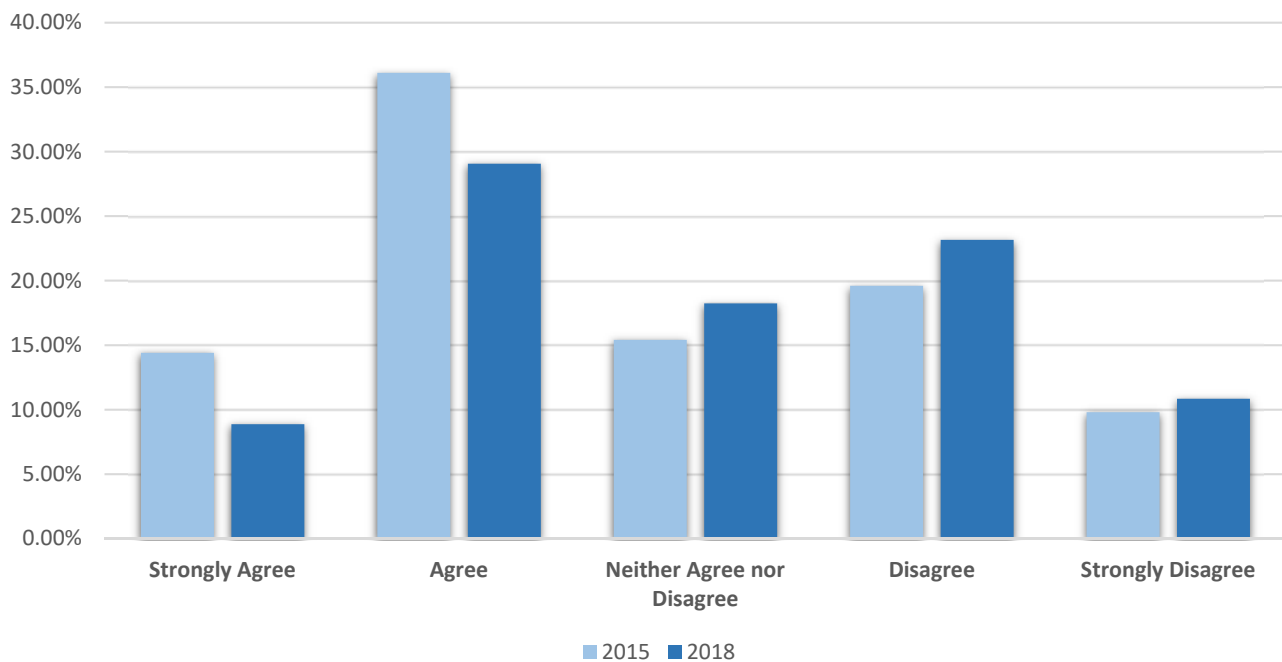
## Customer Survey Information



### My children have nothing to do after school.



### My children have access to adequate activities to keep them busy in the summer.



**Are you aware of anyone in your community who has been the victim of child abuse or neglect in the last year?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	10.3%	<b>14.4%</b>
No	64.8%	<b>61.3%</b>
I Don't Know	24.9%	<b>24.3%</b>

## Community Engagement

Both the community survey of Lycoming County residents and the survey of customers who use social services show an increased percentage of those who feel their community is safe. In fact, the surveys indicate approximately 76 percent of both groups consider their community to be either safe or very safe. When asked how well the respondent knows their neighbors, over 75 percent of community residents stated they know their neighbors well or very well. The customer survey reveals a vastly different picture with roughly 30 percent of the respondents claiming to know their neighbors well or very well.

The community survey sought to determine the level of engagement of these two groups. Respondents were asked if they engaged in any of a list of 21 community-related activities. Over 50 percent of community respondents participate in at least 14 of these activities to a high level of engagement. When customers of social services were surveyed the level of engagement was considerably lower, with only 9 of 21 activities pursued with a high level of engagement. The relative ranking of these 21 activities is generally consistent between the community and customer surveys. One interesting exception is the public library, which ranked 5th among customers of social services but only 10th for community residents.

During focus group discussions, participants shared how community amenities help to build connections by bringing people together. It was felt that doing so improves community health and wellness. Ways to engage children, youths, and seniors in more activities were considered. Finally, the need for more community awareness and organizational collaboration was addressed. Collectively, the diverse array of community organizations was said to provide better connections with nature, the arts, music, recreation, and heritage venues.

### *Building Connections*

Focus group participants believe the amenities the community offers bring people together, which strengthens a sense of community. In addition, the amenities provide the creative buzz of a larger city that is attractive to younger residents and helps to recruit professionals. Activities also connect the community to the larger area because they bring people to town. Because of these activities, both locals and visitors patronize the business community, which increases economic viability.

### *Health and Wellness*

Focus group participants believe activities provided by the communities and organizations promote physical and emotional health, which releases stress and reduces the need for drugs. It is believed by participants that more trails and sidewalks are needed to encourage walking and active lifestyles. Cultural activities can introduce people to a new passion in life, while the arts help to heal hearts and minds through participation or as a member of the audience.

### *Children/Youth/Seniors*

Exposure to community amenities and culture provides positive experiences for children and youths. Children have an opportunity for play, which promotes independence and healthy living. Such activities can also help improve mental health and decrease the rate of child obesity. Children are also encouraged to pursue a broad array of interests, some of which they may not have been previously aware. These activities and interests provide an alternative to drug use and abuse. Focus group participants were especially concerned about the vulnerability of middle school students in this regard. Some seniors do not engage in community activities, particularly those living in rural areas. The focus group participants identified the need for better evening transportation options for seniors in order to attract an increased level of participation by this sector of the community. This may be because of a lack of access, but also because of contentment with current choices. Many seniors do not fit the elderly stereotype rooted in the past. Instead they want activities to provide active engagement. They also have skills they can share with both seniors and other members of the community.

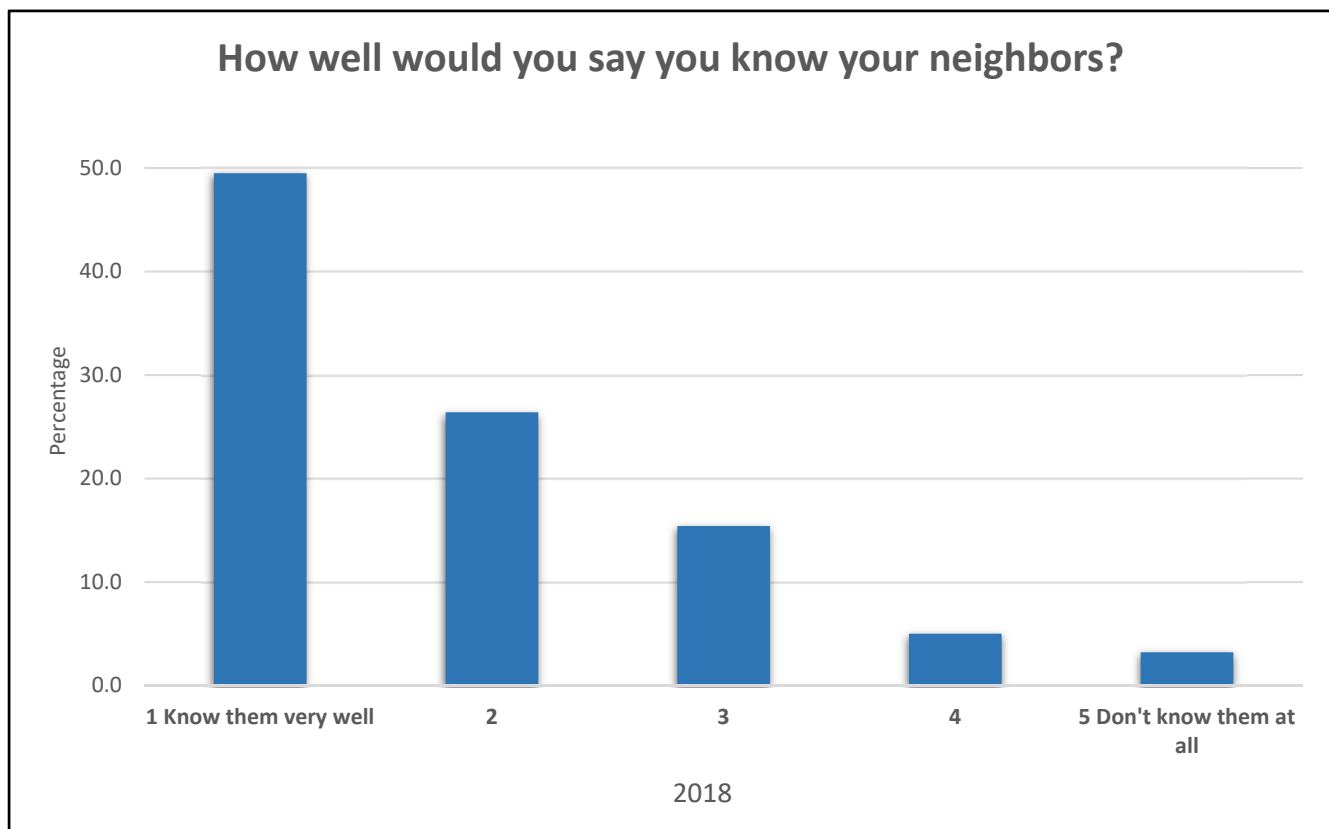
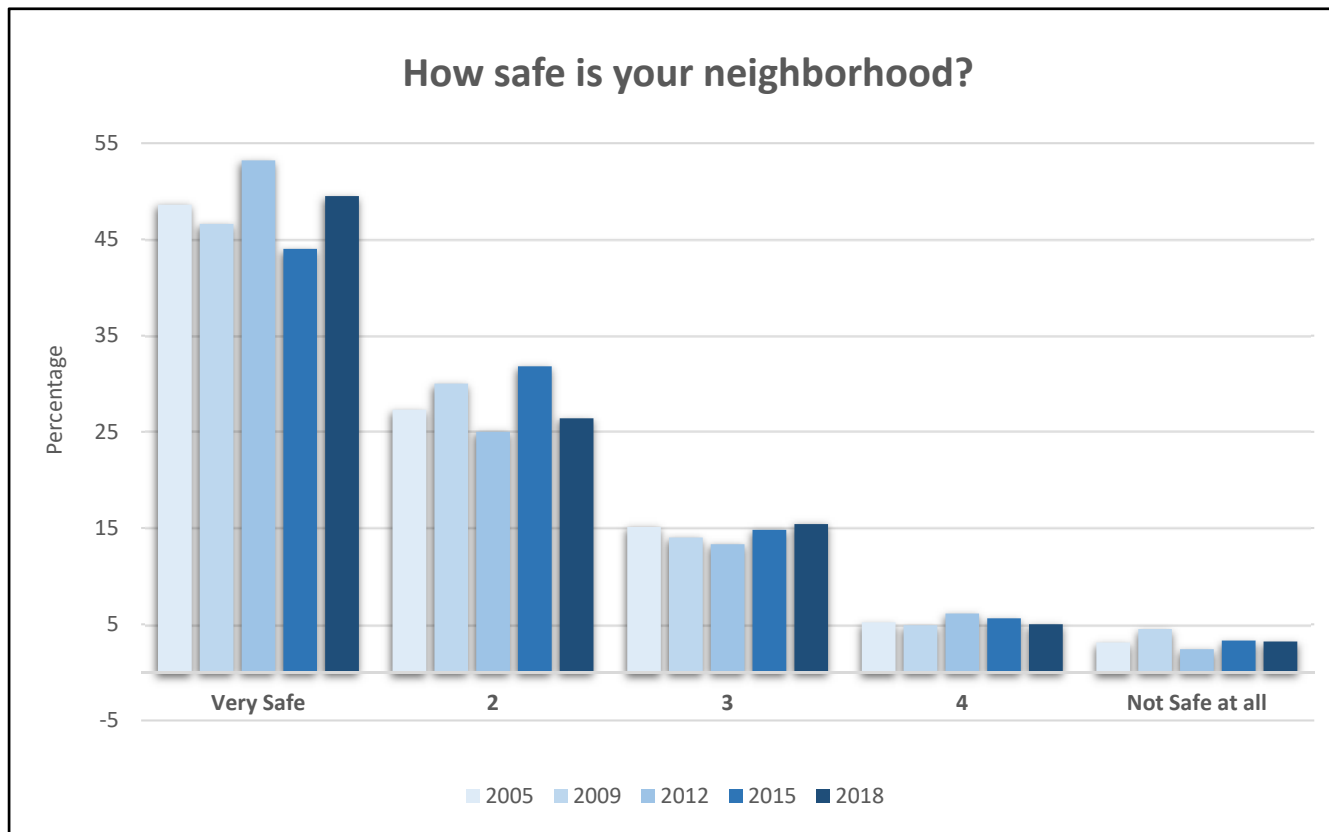
### *Awareness/Collaboration*

While the community offers a variety of activities, there is a need to build awareness as the population is always changing. Collaboration between all organizations providing amenities and activities is needed to reach everyone in the community. Collaboration such as a shared or unified website would help to increase effectiveness while avoiding duplication of efforts. Three challenges to achieving higher levels of community engagement were discussed: reaching citizens who reside in rural communities, finding the optimal mix of outreach methods to reach diverse generations, and mitigating impact of the declining economy in some areas of Lycoming County.



## Survey Data: Community Engagement

### Community Survey Information



**Have you or someone in your household participated in each of these activities locally at some point in the past year? (Percentage responding yes)**

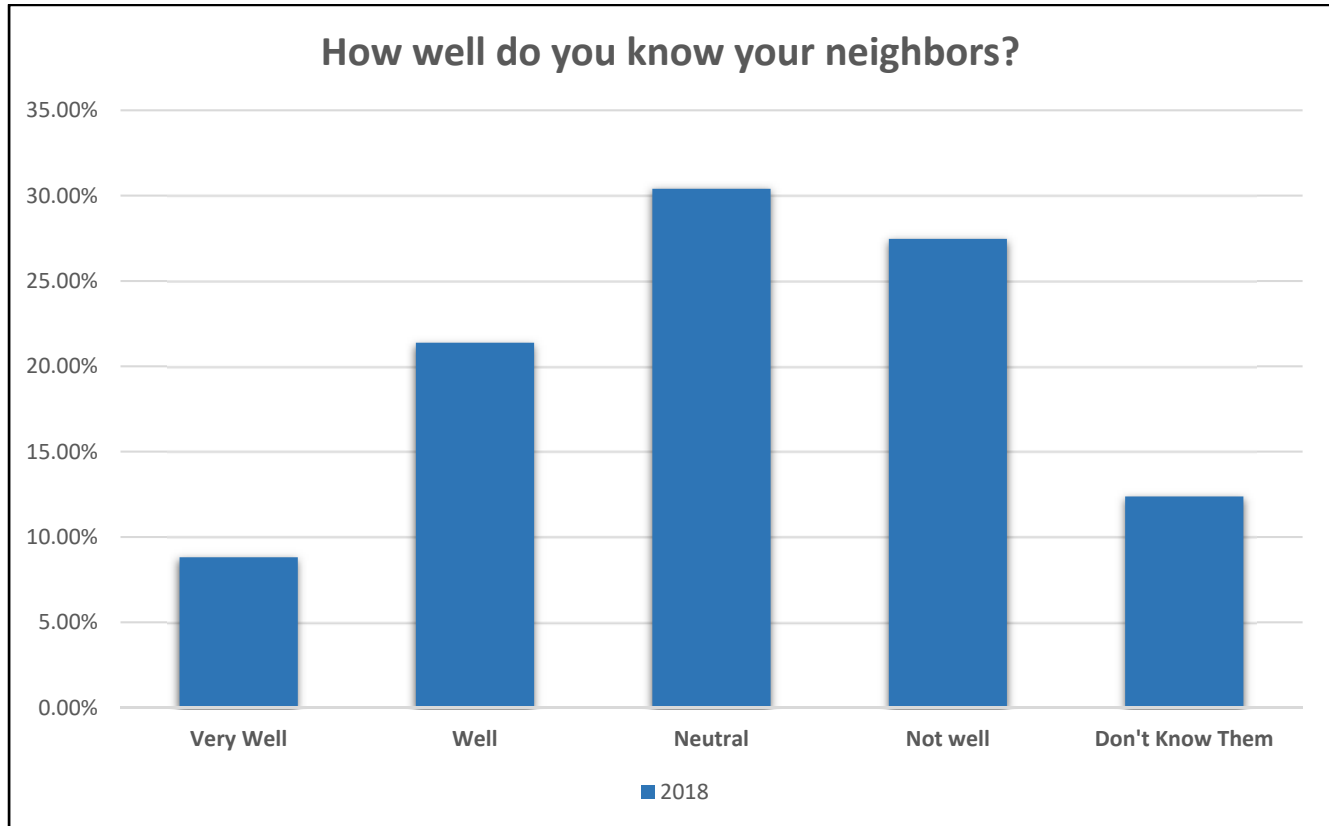
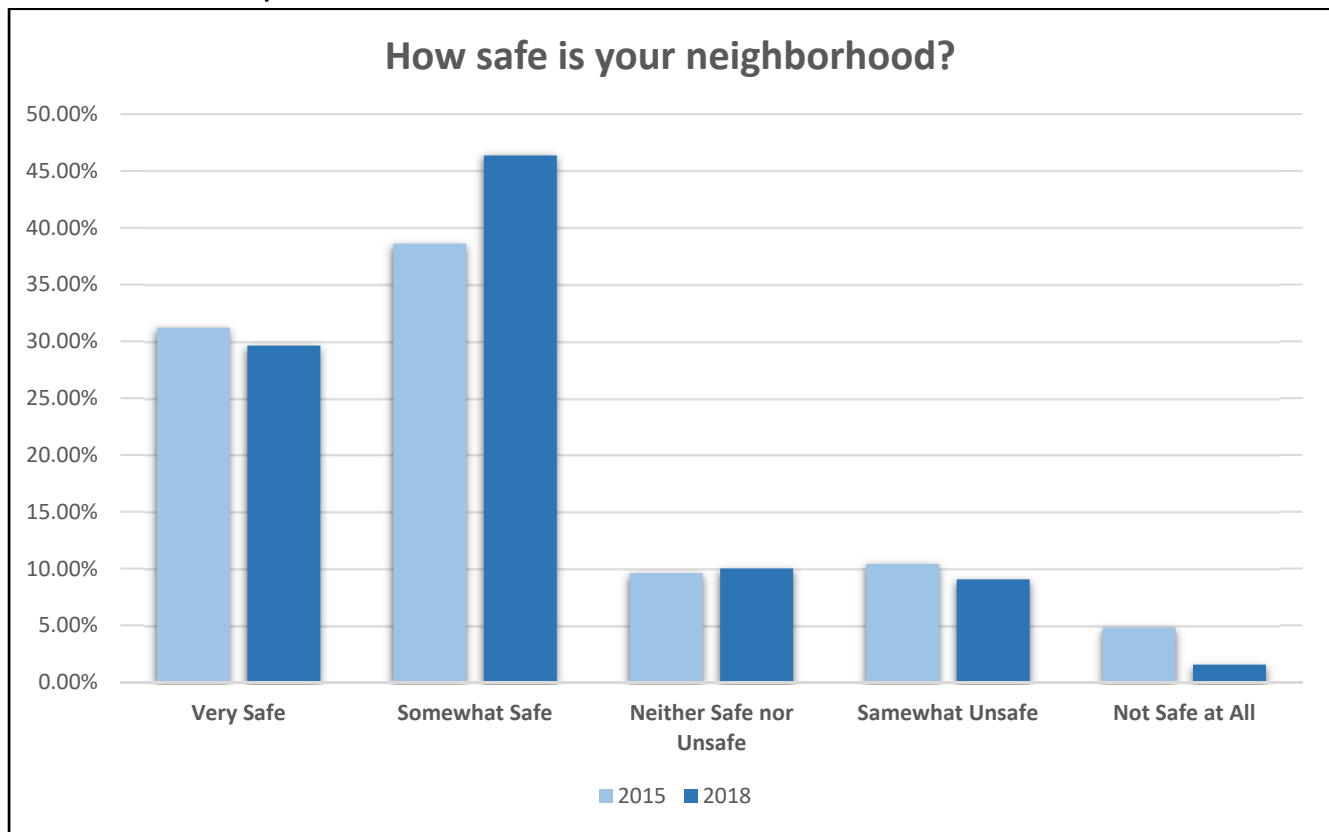
	<b>2018</b>
Went shopping for something other than groceries	<b>96.5%</b>
Ate out at a restaurant	<b>95.6%</b>
Exercised outdoors	<b>82.7%</b>
Went to the movies	<b>74.8%</b>
Visited a community park	<b>74.1%</b>
Attended a sporting event	<b>71.5%</b>
Attended a religious service, other than for a wedding or funeral	<b>70.9%</b>
Attended an organized community event or celebration	<b>70.6%</b>
Went to see live music	<b>62.9%</b>
Visited a public library	<b>62.9%</b>
Volunteered with a non-profit organization	<b>58.4%</b>
Went hiking	<b>56.7%</b>
Went fishing or hunting	<b>52.1%</b>
Used a bicycle trail	<b>51.6%</b>
Attended a theatre production	<b>46.5%</b>
Had an out-of-town visitor stay at a local hotel or motel	<b>40.9%</b>
Visited a museum	<b>39.7%</b>
Attended a class or lecture on a college campus	<b>35.8%</b>
Participated on an organized sports team	<b>35.1%</b>
Visited an art gallery	<b>27.6%</b>
Visited a community pool	<b>26.9%</b>

**Those who are users of community parks were also asked:**

**Please indicate whether you or someone in your household has used or has not used a community park in the last year for the reason stated below. (Percentage responding yes)**

	<b>2018</b>
To enjoy the natural park setting	<b>87.6%</b>
For sports and exercise activities	<b>73.8%</b>
As a gathering place to be with friends and family	<b>68.4%</b>
For children's play activities	<b>58.6%</b>
To walk your pet	<b>38.2%</b>

## Customer Survey Information



**Have you or someone in your household participated in the activity listed below locally at some point in the past year? (Percentage responding yes)**

	<b>2018</b>
Ate out at a restaurant	<b>89.4%</b>
Went shopping for something other than groceries	<b>83.7%</b>
Visited a community park	<b>66.5%</b>
Attended a sporting event	<b>62.9%</b>
Visited a public library	<b>61.1%</b>
Went to the movies	<b>59.8%</b>
Exercised outdoors	<b>59.0%</b>
Attended a religious service, other than for a wedding or funeral	<b>56.5%</b>
Attended an organized community event or celebration	<b>50.0%</b>
Volunteered with a non-profit organization	<b>39.9%</b>
Used a bicycle trail	<b>38.5%</b>
Went to see live music	<b>36.9%</b>
Went fishing or hunting	<b>32.0%</b>
Attended a theatre production	<b>31.9%</b>
Visited a community pool	<b>31.8%</b>
Had an out-of-town visitor stay at a local hotel or motel	<b>31.2%</b>
Went hiking	<b>29.6%</b>
Participated on an organized sports team	<b>22.6%</b>
Visited a museum	<b>20.5%</b>
Attended a class or lecture on a college campus	<b>15.9%</b>
Visited an art gallery	<b>14.4%</b>

**Those who are users of community parks were also asked:**

**Please indicate whether you or someone in your household has used or has not used a community park in the last year for that reason stated below. (Percentage responding yes)**

	<b>2018</b>
To enjoy the natural park setting	<b>63.5%</b>
As a gathering place to be with friends and family	<b>56.1%</b>
For children's play activities	<b>50.0%</b>
For sports and exercise activities	<b>45.2%</b>
To walk your pet	<b>24.0%</b>

## **Employment and Financial Stability**

The issues that emerged from the interconnected topics of employment and financial stability included the need to offer a wider range of educational choices for Lycoming County youths. In addition, there is a need to help adults who lack the skills needed for success in the workplace. These educational deficiencies are reflected throughout the objective data.

Not only is Lycoming County's rate lower than the rest of Pennsylvania regarding the percentage of high school graduates planning to go to college, but over 40 percent of Lycoming County's population aged 25 or older has no more than a high school education. While Lycoming County is slightly better than Pennsylvania and the rest of the nation regarding its literacy rate, it is still problematic, with over 20 percent of customers surveyed claiming to be aware of adults in the community who cannot read.

Prominent amongst the workplace skills needed were overcoming the barriers that prevent productive employment such as a lack of soft skills, substance use, and financial illiteracy. Making progress on these combined issues would have the collateral benefit of producing better outcomes on many of the other needs in Lycoming County.

At the same time, the problems underlying educational and employment needs (for example, substance abuse) are often at the root of why existing educational and employment resources have thus far proven inadequate. Across the objective data, community, customer, and partner surveys, as well as focus group information, four main themes emerge: barriers to employment, difficulty in recruiting potential employees, lack of employment training, and financial illiteracy.

### ***Barriers to Employment***

Due to a growing economy and an aging workforce, manufacturers and other employers around Lycoming County need a steady pool of new employees. Quite often, employers are willing to provide the training for the job skills needed. The more difficult barrier employers encounter in potential employees is a lack of soft skills. A growing issue that impacts the ability to recruit new employees and for current workers to hold a job is substance abuse, as addiction interferes with job performance. In addition, many people have difficulty arranging transportation to jobs located in other communities, especially if they have children who must also be transported to school and child care. Transportation to jobs in the same town can be equally challenging as many low-skilled jobs have irregular hours that fall outside the schedule of public transportation. The extent of the transportation challenge is directly related to the proximity of affordable housing locations to employment centers. Agencies need to work together to help clients overcome these multiple barriers; however, finding the funding to respond to this challenge makes this exceptionally difficult. Beyond transportation, focus group members also identified child care costs as another significant barrier to employment.

### ***Recruitment of Employees***

The lowering of the unemployment rate in Lycoming County, as illustrated in the objective data, increases the difficulty in recruiting both professional and entry-level employees in both urban and rural areas. To recruit from outside the area has proven to be difficult due primarily to the lower pay being offered. Employers stress the low cost of living, employment benefits provided, and the community's cultural amenities, yet the lower pay scale works as a disincentive. Because it is challenging to recruit outside the area, the emphasis is placed on keeping local residents/workers in the area. It is interesting that many who do move away eventually move back. Reflective of Lycoming County's aging workforce is the increasing number of citizens now in the retirement ranks, nearly 32 percent of the community members surveyed in 2018, the highest it has been since 2005. According to the customers, the retired ranks includes nearly 58 percent of those surveyed. This suggests an aging population and shrinking pool of potential employees.

### ***Employment Training***

There are good jobs for students with technical skills, but families and high schools often advocate for children to attend college. Youths need to be shown the available job opportunities that require only technical training. Apprenticeships are needed that would transition youths into the workplace directly from high school. Because adults in employment readiness programs are mandated to attend, they may not be fully motivated to take advantage of job openings. The challenge is both getting unemployed adults into the programs that will provide them the technical skills needed for employment and motivating them to seek employment. Focus group members also identified the challenge of developing a stronger work ethic and a higher level of dedication among some of its younger employees.

### ***Financial Literacy***

People who had worked in the gas industry became accustomed to a lifestyle they now can no longer afford with a lower-paying job. Current budgeting programs appear to lack practical approaches and tools for flexible budgeting techniques; these programs fail to account for life's surprises. Moreover, many people are unable to deal with forms and spreadsheets. Consequently, many people are falling deeper and deeper in debt. The financial fallout of this lifestyle is that it affects employment as workers focus on debt collection issues rather than their job performance. It is a workplace disruption that needs to be avoided. The resulting poor credit scores affect the ability of individuals and families to get future financial help that they may desperately need.

## Objective Data: Employment and Financial Security

### **Education: School Enrollment**

These tables provide the total public and private school enrollment for 2015-2016. In Lycoming County, a total of 16,447 persons were enrolled in school. In this report, private schools refer to both private and nonpublic institutions and for Lycoming County, 557 students are enrolled in private schools or 3.39% of the student population.

**Public and Non-Public Enrollment, 2015-2016**

Report Area	Enrollment			Elementary			Secondary		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
Lycoming County	16,447	15,890	557	9,121	8,680	441	7,326	7,210	116
Pennsylvania	1,961,265	1,731,588	229,677	1,075,561	918,568	156,993	885,704	813,020	72,684

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County data was compiled from the Public School Enrollment report and Private and Non-Public Schools Enrollments Reports, 2015-2016, The Pennsylvania Department of Education report. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

### **Education: High School Graduates**

The table below shows the number of public high school graduates from Lycoming County who are planning to attend college for the 2015-2016 academic years. The chart shows that of the 1,007 Lycoming County graduates, 62.07% are planning to attend college. Statewide, 66.81% of graduates plan on going to college.

**High School Graduates**

Report Area	Total Graduates	College Bound	College Bound
Lycoming County	1,007	625	62.07%
Pennsylvania	125,051	83,542	66.81%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2015-2016, Source geography: County

### **Education: High School Dropouts**

The table below shows the annual high school dropout rate which is defined as the number of students who, for any reason other than death, leave school before graduation without transferring to another school or institution. During academic year 2015-2016, 1.63% of Lycoming County's 7,222 students dropped out.

**High School Drop Out Rates**

Report Area	Enrollment Grades 7-12	Dropouts Male	Dropouts Female	Dropouts Total	Dropout Rate
Lycoming County	7,222	72	46	118	1.63%
Pennsylvania	807,280	7,694	5,812	13,506	1.67%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2015-2016, Source geography: County

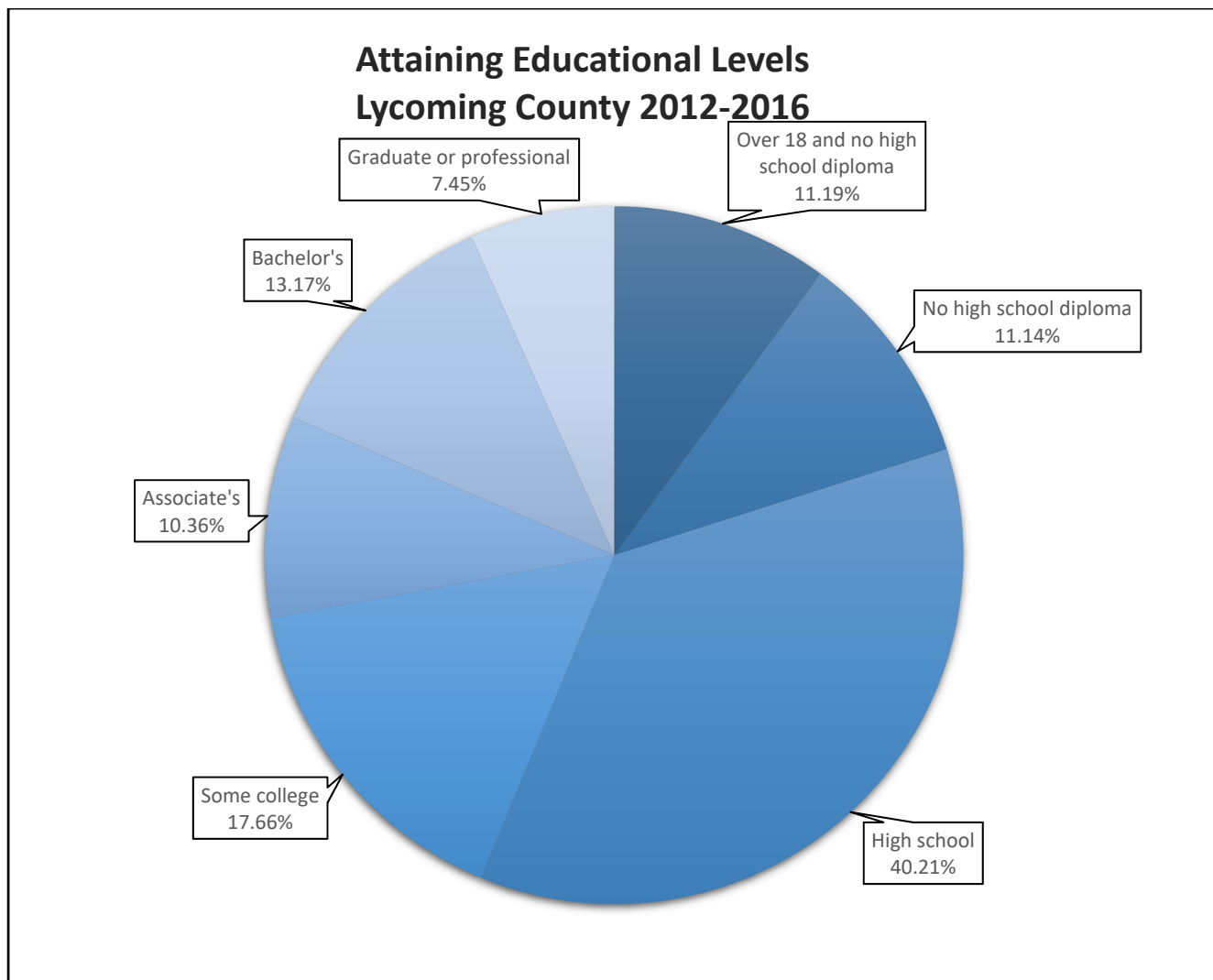
## Education: Educational Attainment

The table below shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, except where noted, and is an average for the period from 2012 to 2016. The area equaled 11.14%. The statewide percentage of persons with no High School Diploma is 10.46%, while the national percentage is 13.02%.

**Percent Attaining Educational Levels**

Report Area	Over 18	Educational level for Persons over 25					
	No High School Diploma	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associates	Bachelors	Graduate or Professional
Lycoming County	11.19%	11.14%	40.21%	17.66%	10.36%	13.17%	7.45%
Pennsylvania	10.68%	10.46%	35.97%	16.19%	8.05%	17.83%	11.50%
United States	13.12%	13.02%	27.53%	20.96%	8.18%	18.81%	11.51%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: Census Tract





## **Education: Adult Literacy**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) produces estimates for adult literacy based on educational attainment, poverty, and other factors for each county, state, and for the nation.

### **Persons Lacking Basic Prose Literacy Skills, 2003**

Report Area	Estimated Population over 16	Percent Lacking Literacy Skills
Lycoming County	91,854	12%
Pennsylvania	9,561,844	13%
United States	219,016,209	14.64%

*Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Estimates of Low Literacy. 2003, Source geography: County*

## **Employment: Unemployment Rate**

Unemployment rate change within Lycoming County from June 2014 to June 2018 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this five-year period fell from 8.09% percent to 5.51% percent.

### **Five-Year Unemployment Rate June 2014-2018**

Report Area	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	June 2018
Lycoming County	8.09%	6.08%	6.09%	6.84%	5.51%
Pennsylvania	7.76%	5.98%	5.55%	5.62%	5%
United States	7.84%	6.35%	5.55%	5.12%	4.53%

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2018 - June. Source geography: County*

## Survey Data: Employment and Financial Stability

### Community Survey Information

**Are you aware of any adults in your community who cannot read?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	23.2%	<b>15%</b>
No	70.3%	<b>82.8%</b>
Don't Know	3.4%	<b>2.1%</b>

**Which of the following best describes your employment status?**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Self Employed	10.0%	10.8%	7.7%	6.4%	<b>9.5%</b>
Employed by someone else	45.9%	48.7%	52.3%	54.2%	<b>47.8%</b>
Unemployed	4.2%	9.3%	7.4%	2.7%	<b>5.4%</b>
Retired	33.3%	23.0%	23.2%	29.9%	<b>31.7%</b>
Homemaker	6.2%	6.9%	8.0%	5.8%	<b>4.8%</b>
Don't Know	0.1%	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%	<b>0.8%</b>
Refused	0.1%	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%	<b>0.1%</b>

Those who were employed by someone else were also asked:

**Is that employment full time or part time?**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Full time	83%	71.8%	79.9%	81.0%	<b>79.8%</b>
Part time	17%	28.2%	20.1%	19.0%	<b>20.2%</b>

Those who were unemployed were also asked:

**Are you currently seeking work?**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	48.8%	60%	65%	55.9%	<b>32.2%</b>
No	51.2%	40%	35%	44.1%	<b>57%</b>

**Has anyone in your household been laid off from a job at any time in the past year?**

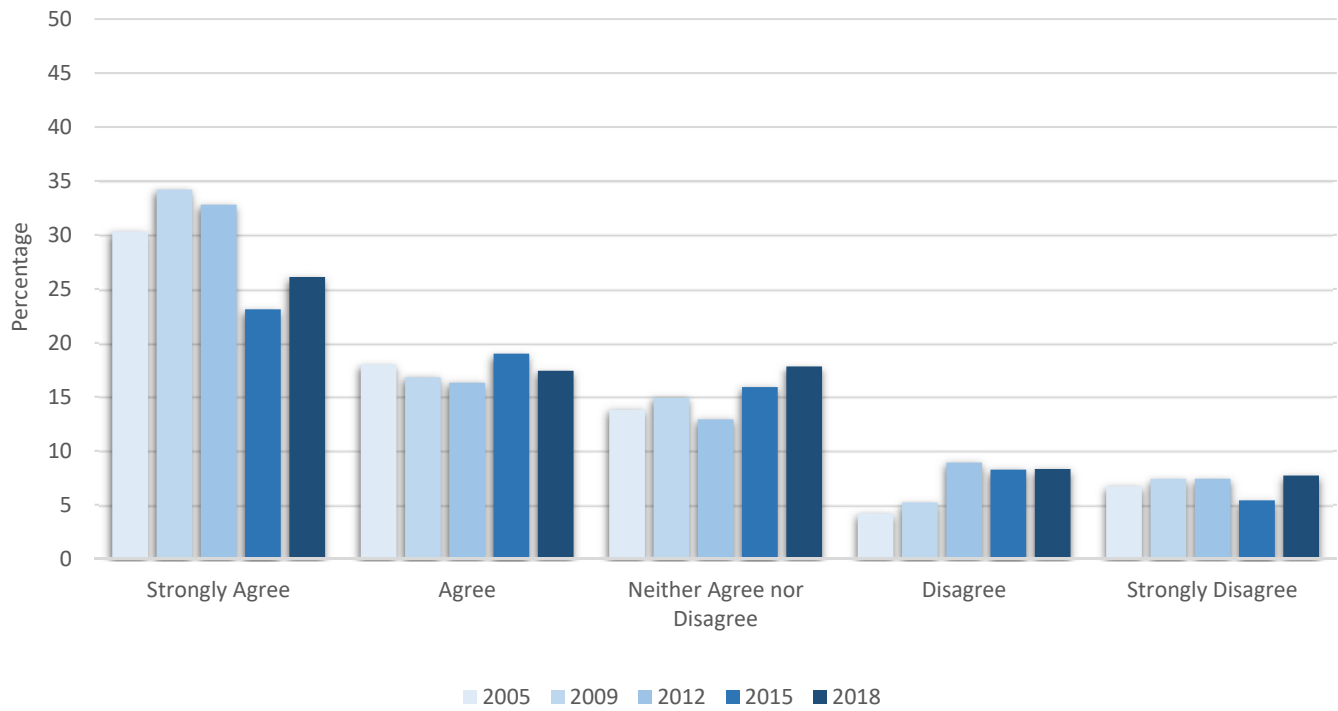
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	8.6%	20.6%	12.1%	10.8%	<b>9.5%</b>
No	90.7%	78.9%	87.4%	88.9%	<b>90.3%</b>
Don't Know	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	<b>0.1%</b>
Refused	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%	<b>0.1%</b>

Those who had been laid off were also asked:

**How long did it take that person to find another job – Less than three months, three to six months, more than six months, or is that person still unemployed?**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
0-3 months	27.8%	14.2%	20.4%	34.2%	42.7%
3-6 months	39.3%	37.6%	21.1	27.4%	23.8%
More than 6 months	8.5%	3.2%	5.6	18.5%	3.6%
Still unemployed	24.4%	45.0%	53.0	19.9%	29.9%

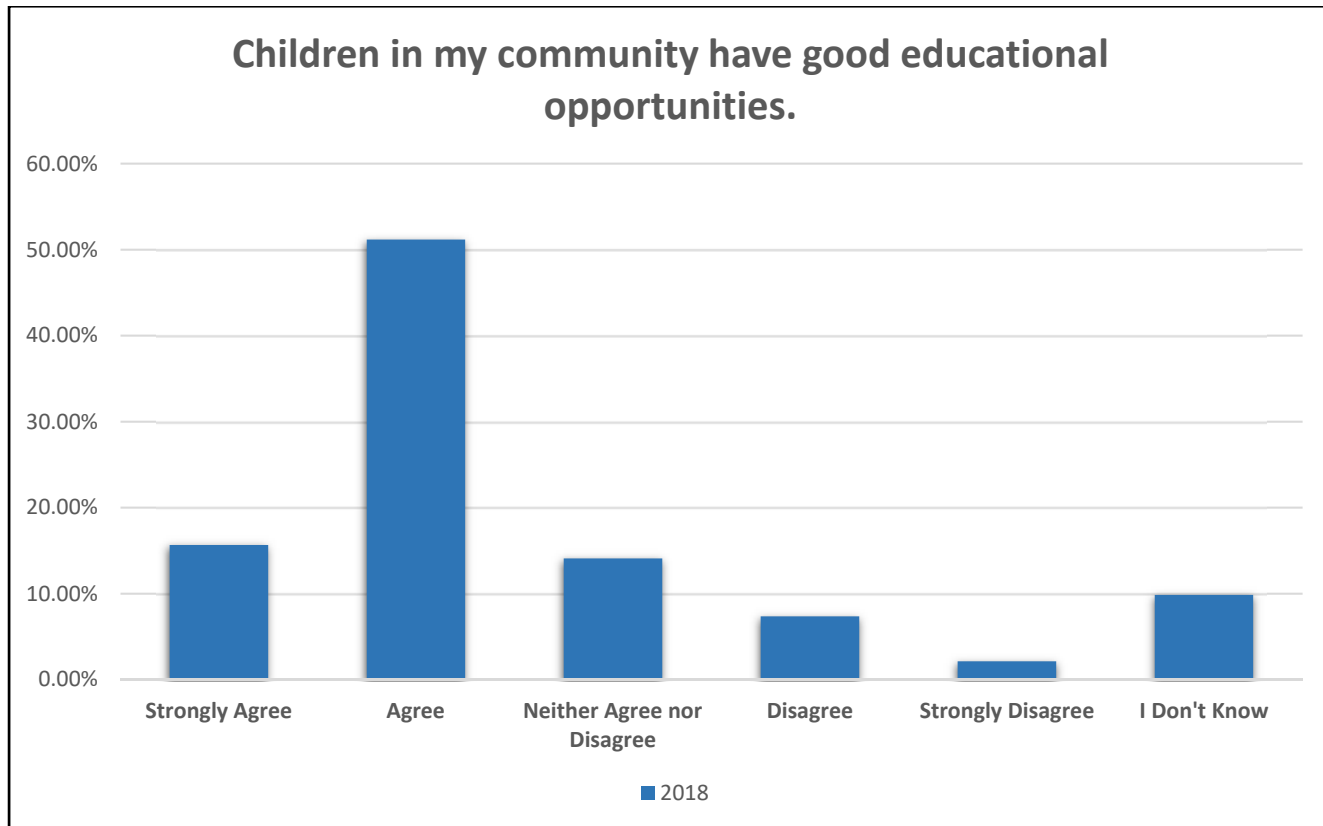
I have access to affordable job training services if I were to need them.



## Customer Survey Information

Are you aware of any adults in your community who cannot read?

	2015	2018
Yes	14.1%	<b>20.1%</b>
No	68.0%	<b>68.1%</b>
I Don't Know	18.0%	<b>11.9%</b>



Which of the following best describes your employment status?

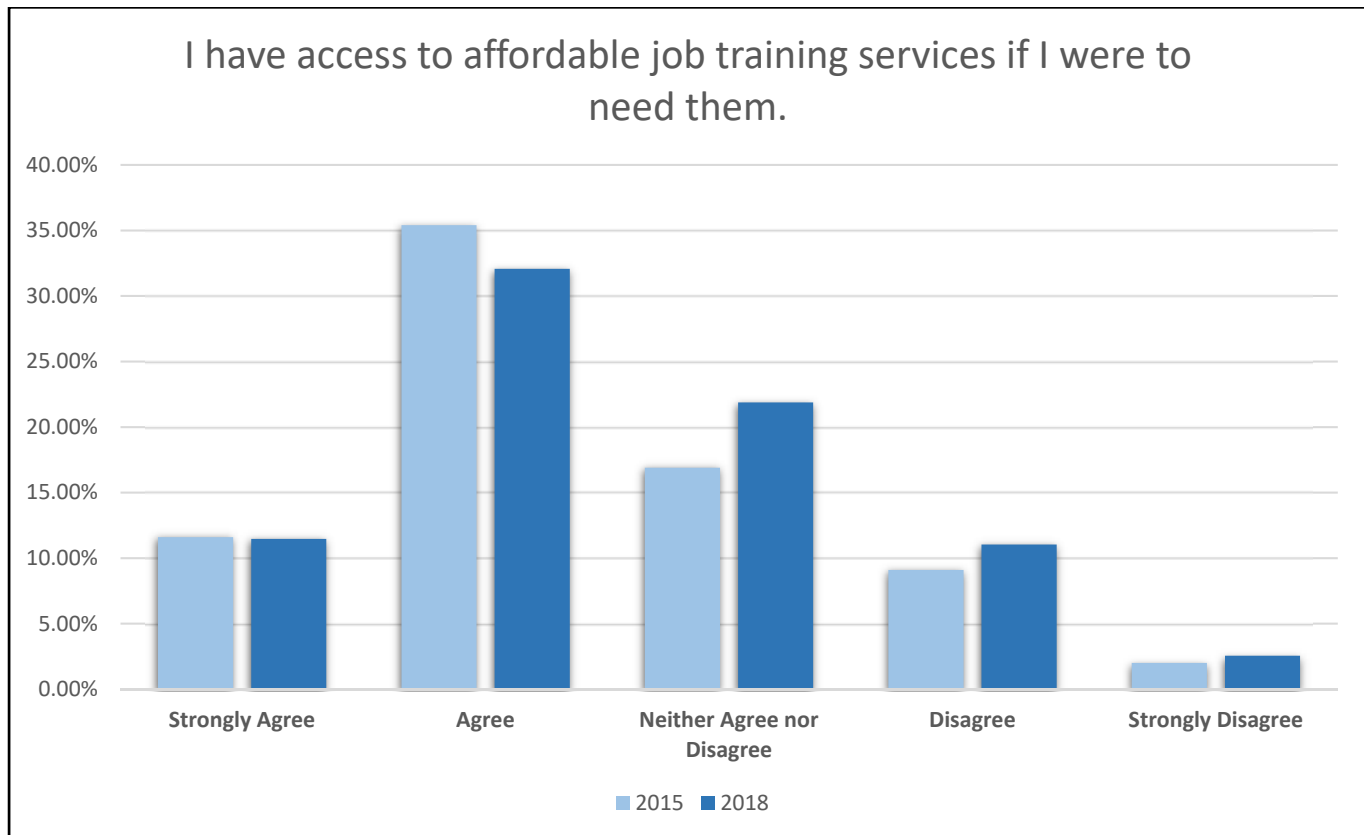
	2015	2018
Self Employed	1.7%	<b>0.29%</b>
Employed by someone else	27.6%	<b>30.4%</b>
Employed by someone else – Full Time	55.9%	<b>26.5%</b>
Employed by someone else – Part Time	44.1%	<b>4.4%</b>
Unemployed	15.9%	<b>6.2%</b>
Unemployed – Not looking for work	59.2%	<b>3.8%</b>
Unemployed – Looking for work	40.8%	<b>2.4%</b>
Retired	45.4%	<b>57.9%</b>
Homemaker	9.3%	<b>4.7%</b>

Has anyone in your household been laid off from a job at any time in the past year?

	2015	2018
Yes	11.1%	<b>7.5%</b>
No	86.7%	<b>89.8%</b>
I Don't Know	2.3%	<b>2.7%</b>

## How long did it take that person to find another job?

	2015	2018
0-3 Months	24.8%	<b>25.9%</b>
3-6 Months	13.3%	<b>14.1%</b>
More than 6 months	7.1%	<b>9.4%</b>
Still Unemployed	54.9%	<b>50.6%</b>



## Families in Crisis

The needs of families in crisis, whatever the cause, were paramount in the minds of focus group participants and are consistently reflected in the results of other methodologies. The focus group tackled the problem of domestic violence, which is seen as a continuing issue of concern in the objective data. The interrelated issues of a lack of emotional resiliency, substance abuse, and the need for life skills were also addressed in the focus group. These and other crises identified in the assessment are interconnected and suggest the need for continuing improvement in generating a coordinated, holistic response to prevent a duplication of services in a limited-resource environment.

According to the American Community Survey, over 13 percent of the households in Lycoming County are living in poverty; in fact, over 18 percent of households are eligible for some form of county assistance. Making ends meet for these households is a continuing battle. Over 43 percent of customers agree or strongly agree that they struggle to make ends meet. Breaking the cycle of poverty often requires families to deal with entrenched unhealthy behaviors. According to focus group participants, these behaviors may result in food insecurity, housing instability, employment issues, or substance abuse. Given this chronic pattern, one of the most frequently cited needs by focus group participants is for positive role models and mentors for both families and individuals.

### *Domestic Violence*

More people who participated in the community survey, as well as the customer survey, stated that they knew someone who had experienced domestic violence and/or physical abuse. When domestic violence occurs, children are caught in the middle. Victims tend to stay in this situation because they have grown up with violence and believe it is part of a normal relationship. If they do leave, the interaction between abused women and the court system may make it difficult for them to get housing or secure employment.

Woman who are survivors of domestic violence need skills that enable them to become financially independent. Focus group members also described the deep trauma caused by all forms of domestic violence and the need for sustained mental health services to help the healing process.

### *Emotional Resiliency*

Problems within the family can be exacerbated by an inability to make social connections that could be supportive in times of need. Families in crisis have relationships in the community, but those may not be healthy or helpful. Students now become stressed by situations that were considered routine by previous generations. Focus group participants described a decrease in coping skills among youths and a decrease in their ability to deal with rejection. Student stress is all too often worsened by social media use, which hurts social connections. These technology tools were intended to help people connect to find emotional support, but they have had a negative impact on children's self-confidence. The net effect is an increase in anxiety issues and a sense of hopelessness.

People need the sense of community that was once provided by belonging to organizations such as a church. Focus group participants advocated for community and school activities to become more inclusive. Individuals often must cope alone with mental health issues. People coming from prison or rehabilitation facilities need mental health services, but there are few, if any, services available. Parents also find it difficult to find help for emotionally troubled children because of a lack of available and affordable youth therapists.

## *Drug Use*

Drug use cuts across all income levels of the community and can be the root cause of other problems. The pattern of expecting to take a drug to solve problems may have started in childhood. In fact, focus group participants described that users are now self-medicating and getting better at hiding their issues. The problem is generational, as drug use is passed down in families as acceptable behavior. Beyond the legal ramifications of these behaviors, drug use creates money- and work-related issues for families. Service providers explained that the emphasis is now on harm reduction by reducing drug use rather than pursuing an unrealistic goal of having clients abstain from all forms of drugs.

## *Life Skills*

Too many families live in a perpetual crisis mode and do not know how to live a self-sustaining, drug-free lifestyle. They have never been taught appropriate life skills, such as budgeting and credit counseling. Given this hurdle, it is not surprising that focus group participants cited the growing disparity between the number of families seeking good, affordable housing and those that have the life skills to maintain a long-term rental relationship.

Unfortunately, children learn from their parents a lifestyle of dependence, receiving assistance, and becoming skilled at working the system. Service providers struggle with finding the best way to help young people who have never been exposed to a strong work ethic or to life skills such as goal setting. These problems can be addressed by service providers, but it will take comprehensive planning that addresses a range of services along with providing a continuing relationship. This will require increased staff time, which will be difficult because of limited social service agency budgets.

## Objective Data: Families in Crisis

### **Poverty: Households in Poverty**

The table below shows the number and percentage of households in poverty based on the Poverty Thresholds in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. In 2015, it is estimated there were 6,035 households, or 13.24% of Lycoming County's 45,587 households living in poverty, compared to a Pennsylvania average of 12.8%.

**Households in Poverty, 2015**

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Percent Households in Poverty
Lycoming County	45,587	6,035	13.2%
Pennsylvania	4,961,929	632,624	12.8%
United States	117,716,237	16,652,240	14.2%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County

### **Poverty: Household Poverty Rate by Family Type**

The table below shows percentage of households in poverty by household type. In 2016, it is estimated that 6.52% of family households and 6.72% of non-family households lived in poverty in Lycoming County.

**Households Poverty Rate by Family Type, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Household in Poverty Percent	Family Households in Poverty	Family Household in Poverty Percent	Non-Family Households in Poverty	Non-Family Household in Poverty Percent
Lycoming County	45,587	6,035	13.24%	2,972	6.52%	3,063	6.72%
Pennsylvania	4,961,929	632,624	12.75%	291,451	5.87%	341,173	6.88%
United States	117,716,237	16,652,240	14.15%	8,543,087	7.26%	8,109,153	6.89%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County

### **Poverty: Households in Poverty by Family Type**

The below table shows the number of households in poverty by type. In Lycoming County, there are 982 married couples living in poverty, compared to 1,682 female-headed households in poverty.

**Household in Poverty by Family Type, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Non-Family Households in Poverty - Including Persons Living Alone	Married Couples in Poverty	Male Head of Household in Poverty	Female Head of Household in Poverty
Lycoming County	29,609	6,035	3,063	982	308	1,682
Pennsylvania	3,195,577	632,624	341,173	92,817	32,622	166,012
United States	77,608,829	16,652,240	8,109,153	3,104,359	914,985	4,523,743

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County



## Poverty: Number of Households Eligible for County Assistance Funding

The table below shows the average monthly unduplicated number of persons eligible for assistance for the fiscal year 2014-2015.

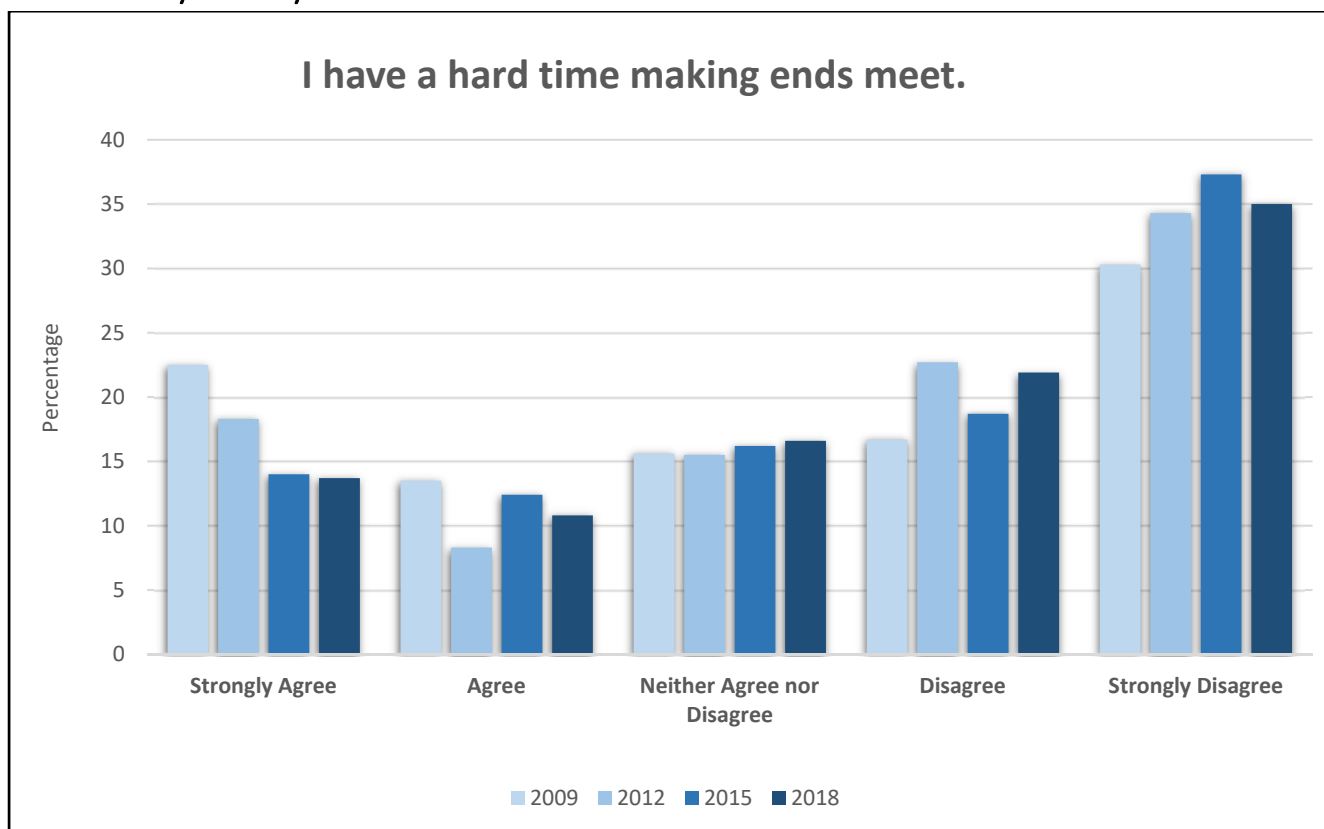
**Number of Households eligible for County Assistance Funding, 2014-2015**

Report Area	Total Households	Households Eligible for County Assistance Funding	Percent Eligible for Medical Assistance	Eligible for TANF	Percent Eligible for TANF	Eligible for SNAP	Percent Eligible for SNAP
Lycoming County	46,008	8,529	18.54%	569	1.24%	7,960	17.30%
Pennsylvania	4,957,736	996,615	18.44%	73,998	1.49%	922,617	18.61%

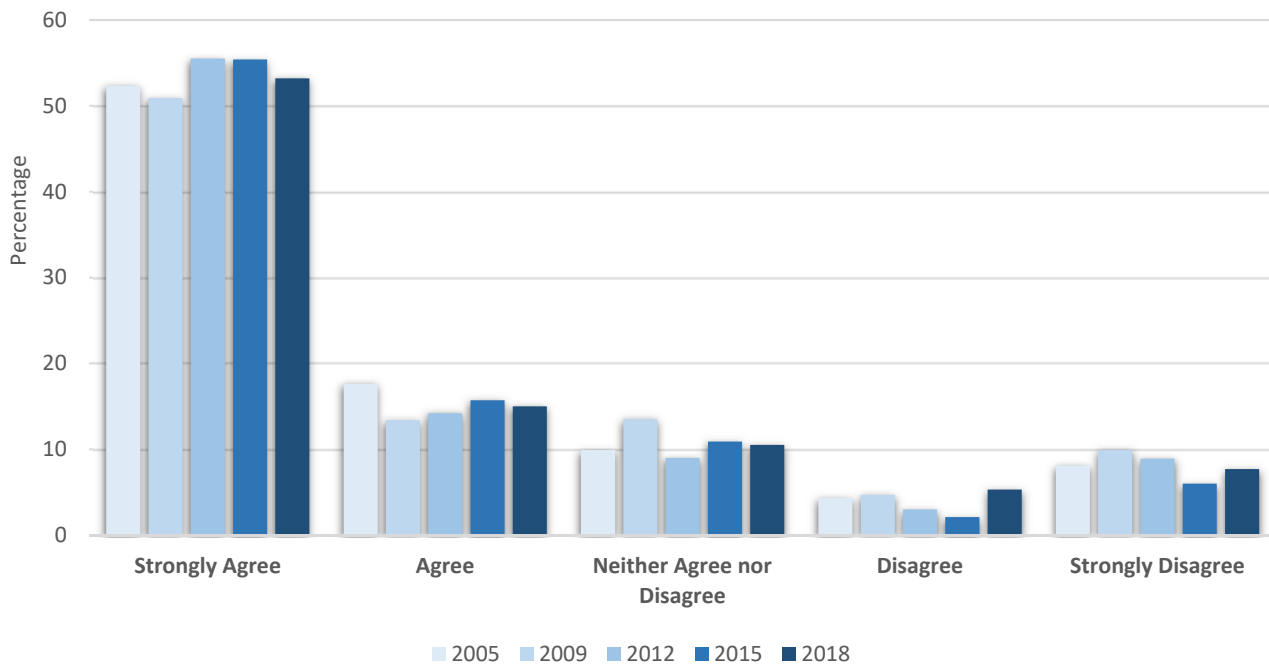
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. 2010-14. Source geography: County

## Survey Data: Families in Crisis

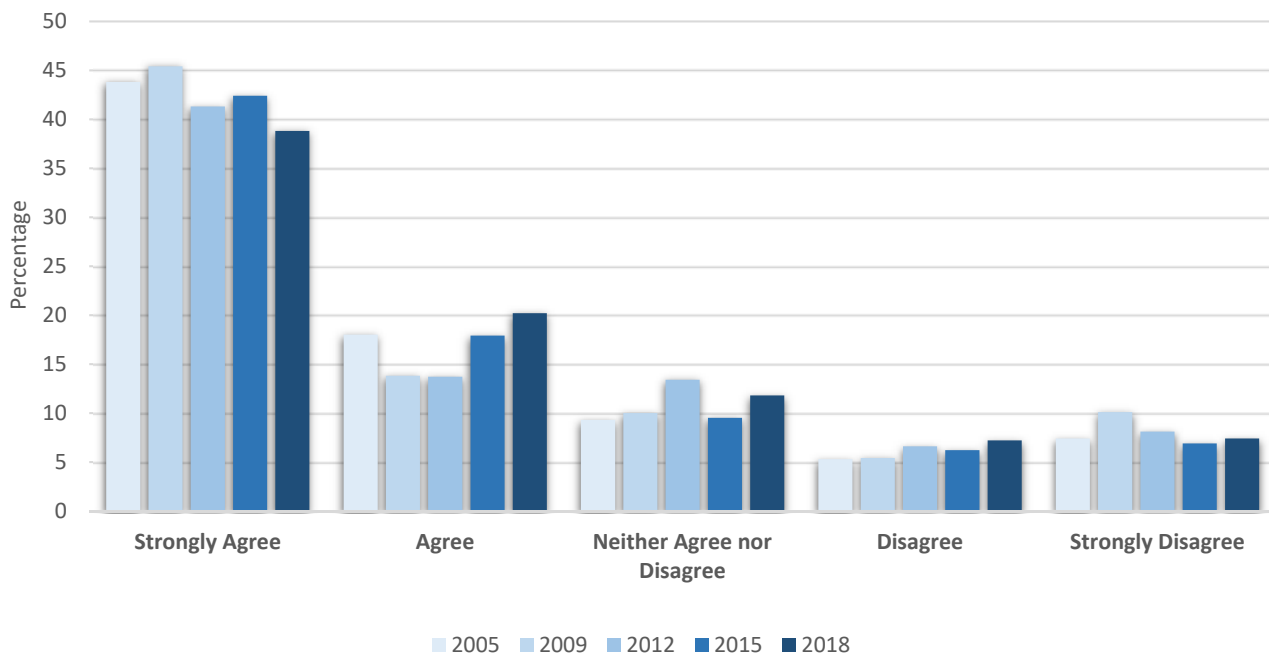
### Community Survey Information



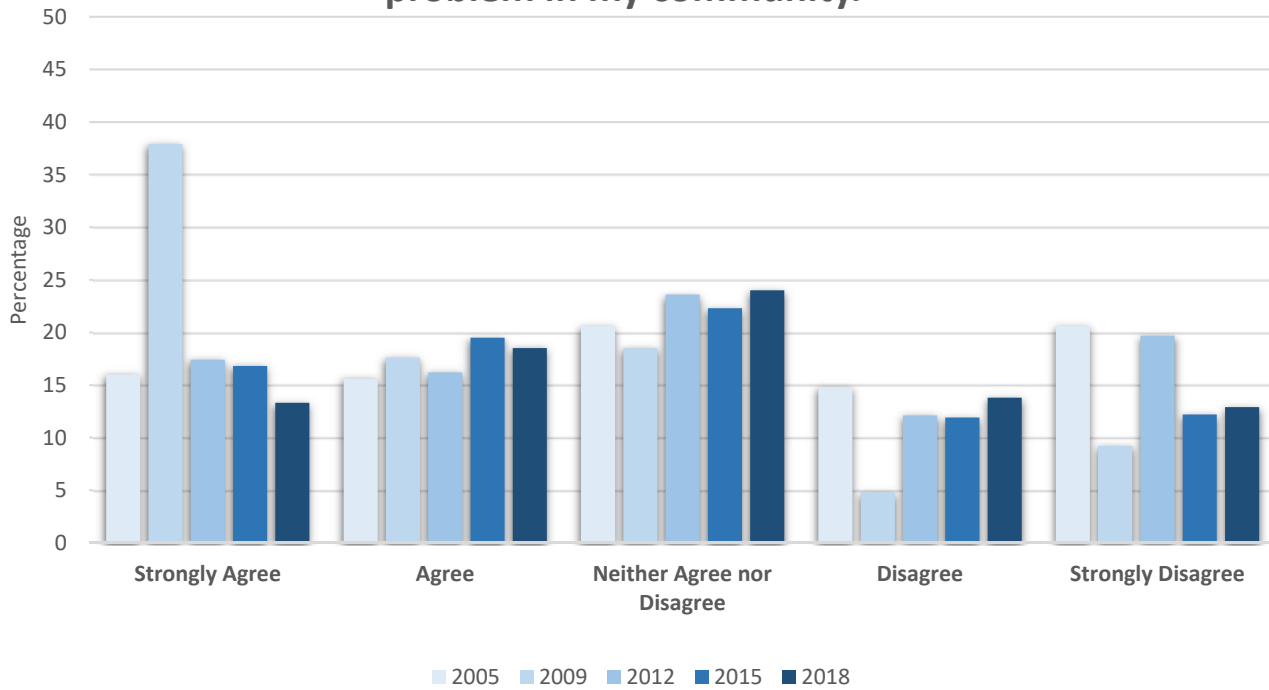
### Adequate access to transportation is available to me and my family.



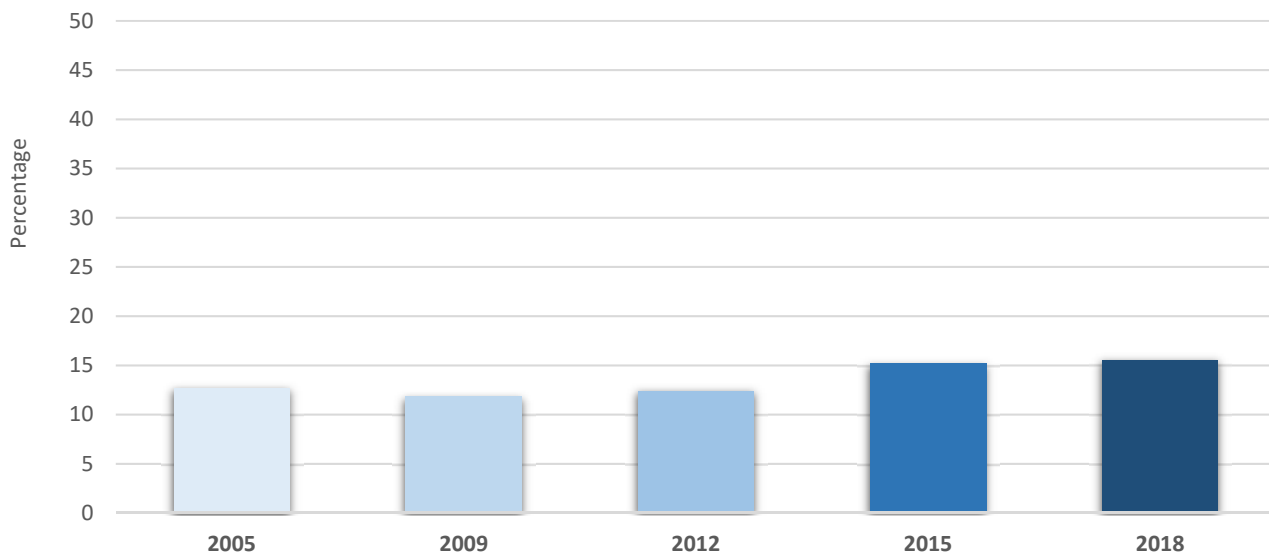
### I have access to affordable individual and family counseling services if I were to need them.



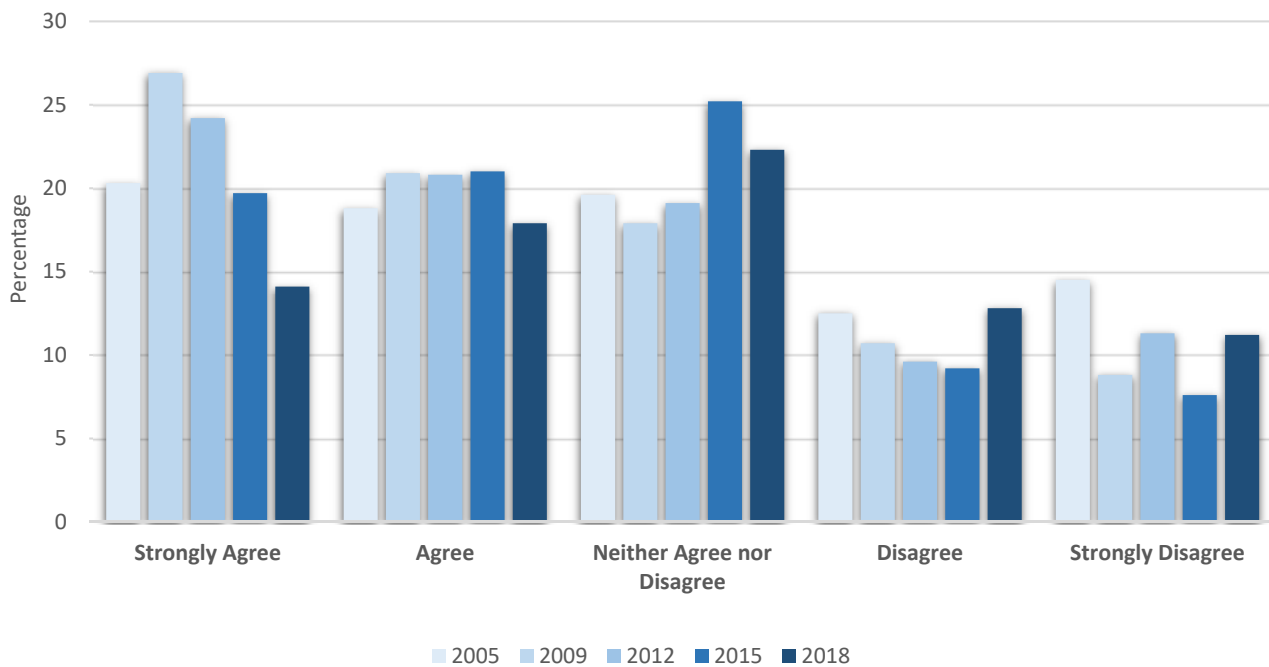
### Domestic violence is a big problem in my community.



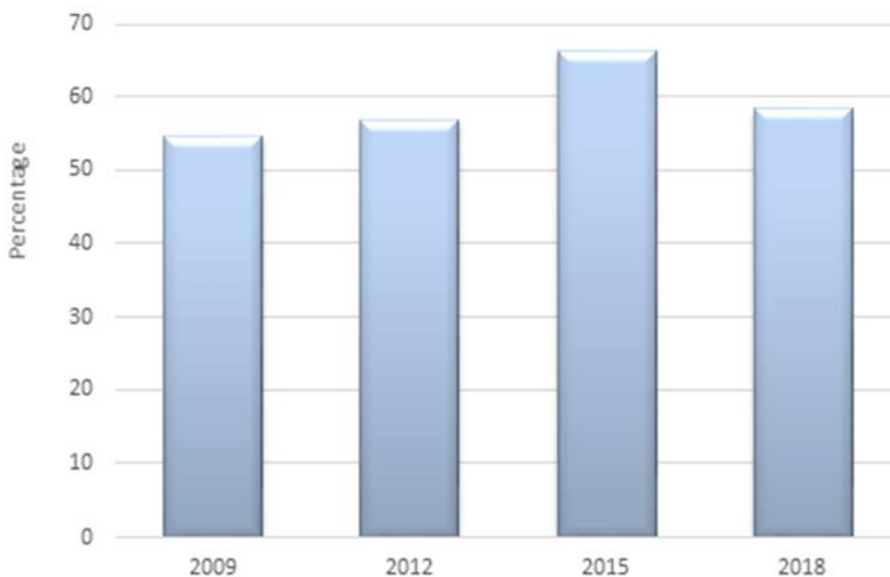
### Have you or someone you know in your community been the victim of physical abuse by a family member in the last year? (Percentage indicating Yes)



## Teenage pregnancy is a big problem in my community.



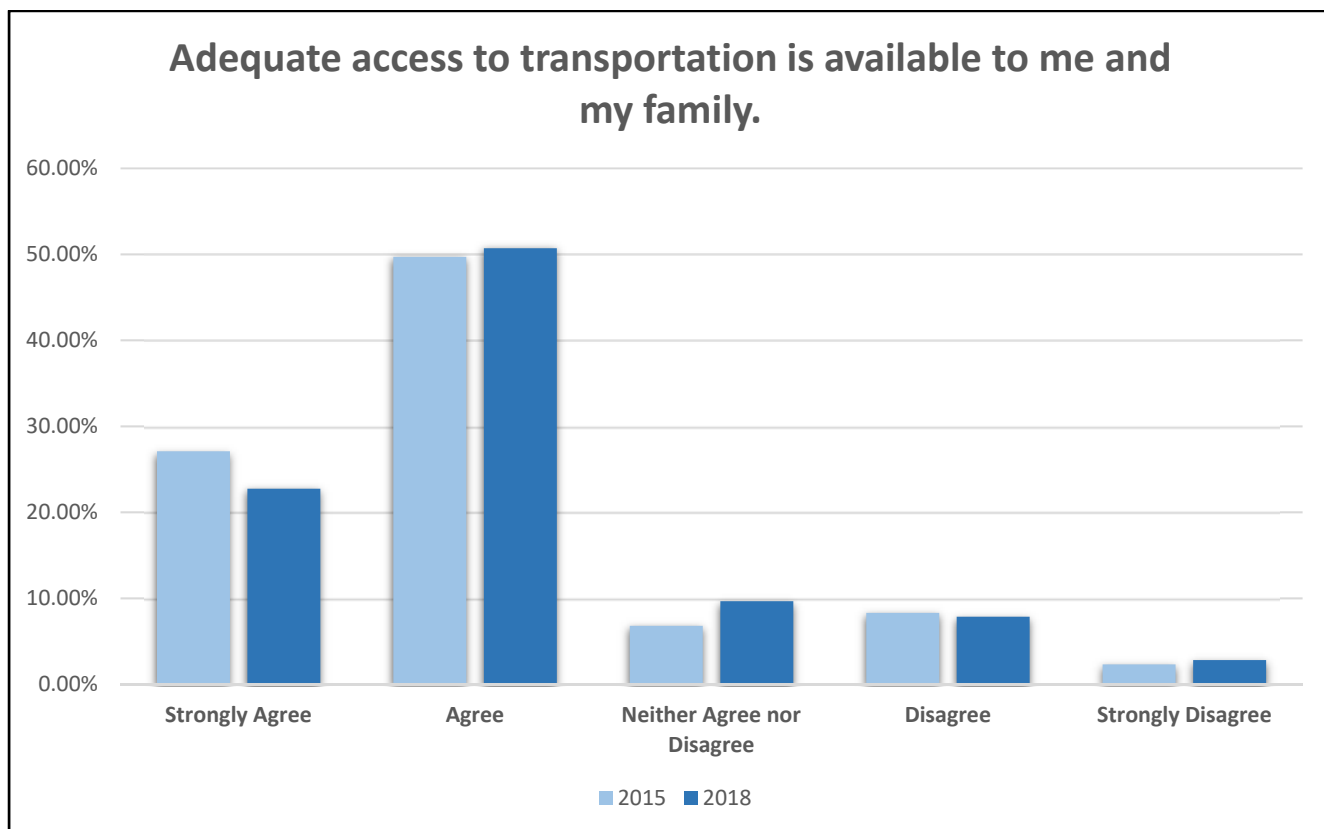
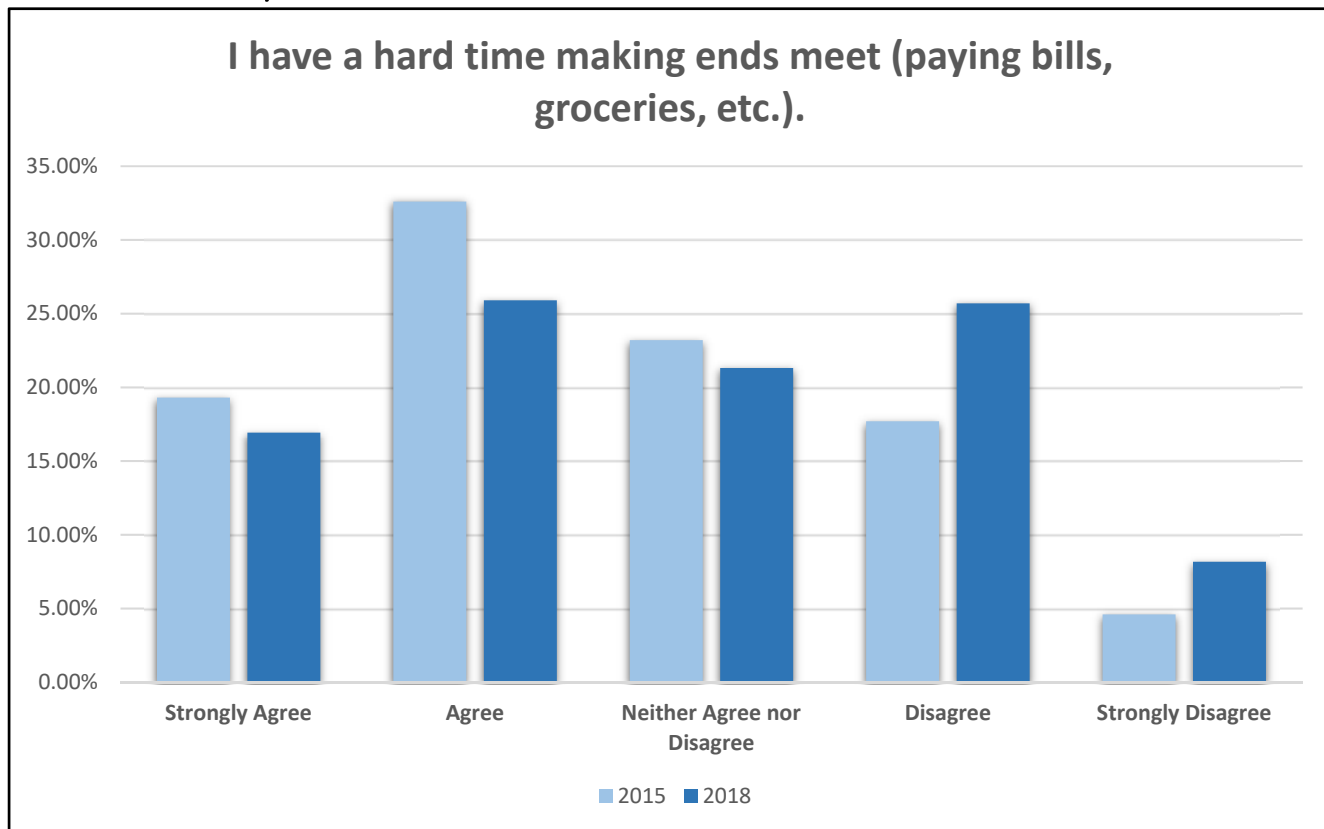
## Are you aware of anyone in your community who has a problem with drug or alcohol abuse? (Percentage indicating yes)



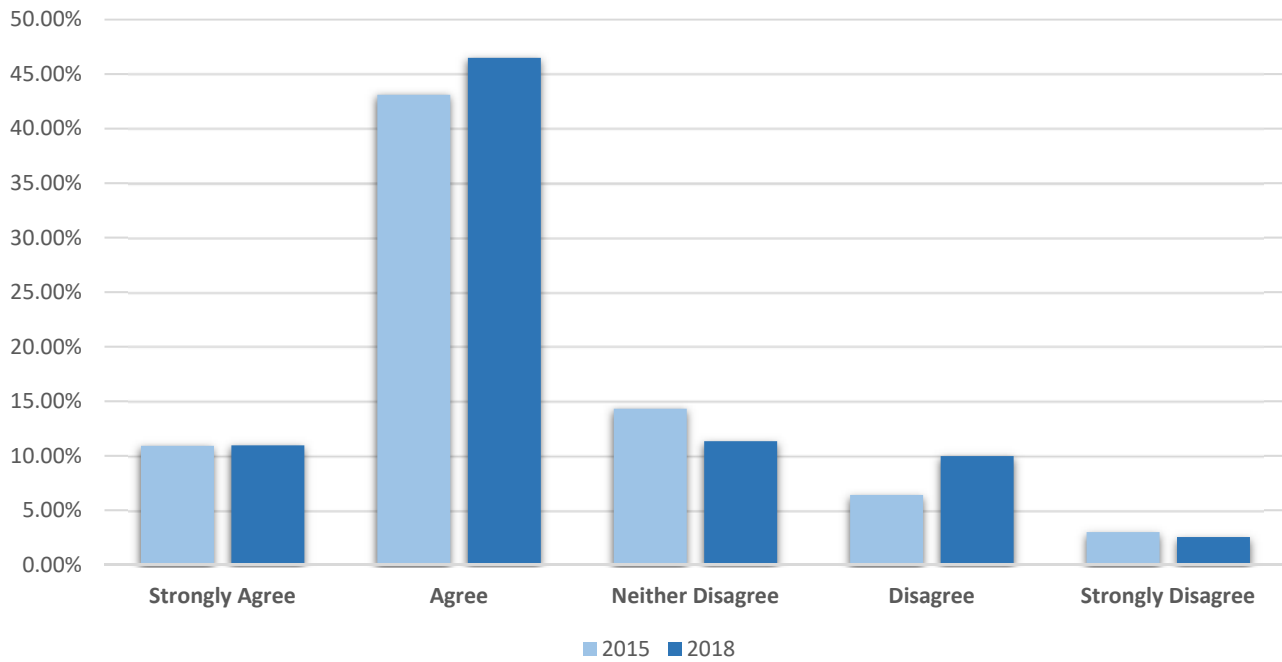
\* In 2018, Respondent who indicated they know someone with a drug or alcohol problem were also asked, "To follow up more specifically, are you personally aware of anyone in your community who has a problem with opioid or heroin addiction?"

48.2% indicated "Yes"

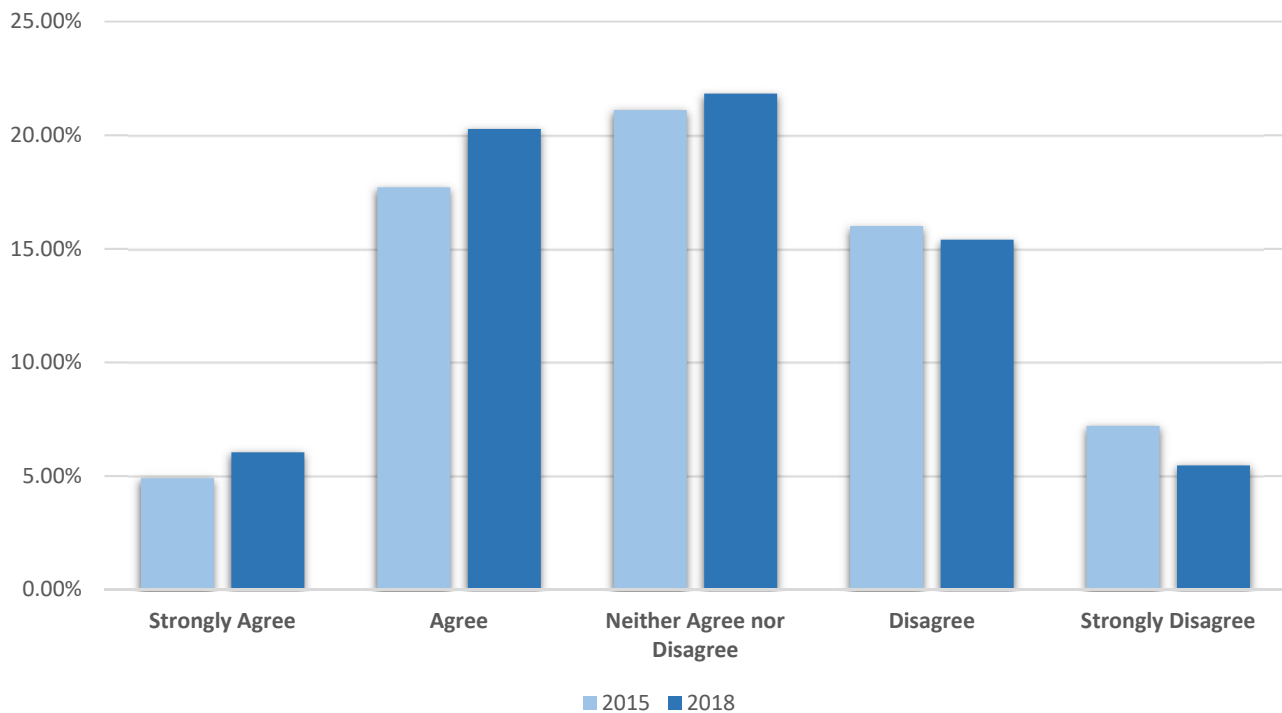
## Customer Survey Information



**I have access to affordable individual and family counseling services if I were to need them.**

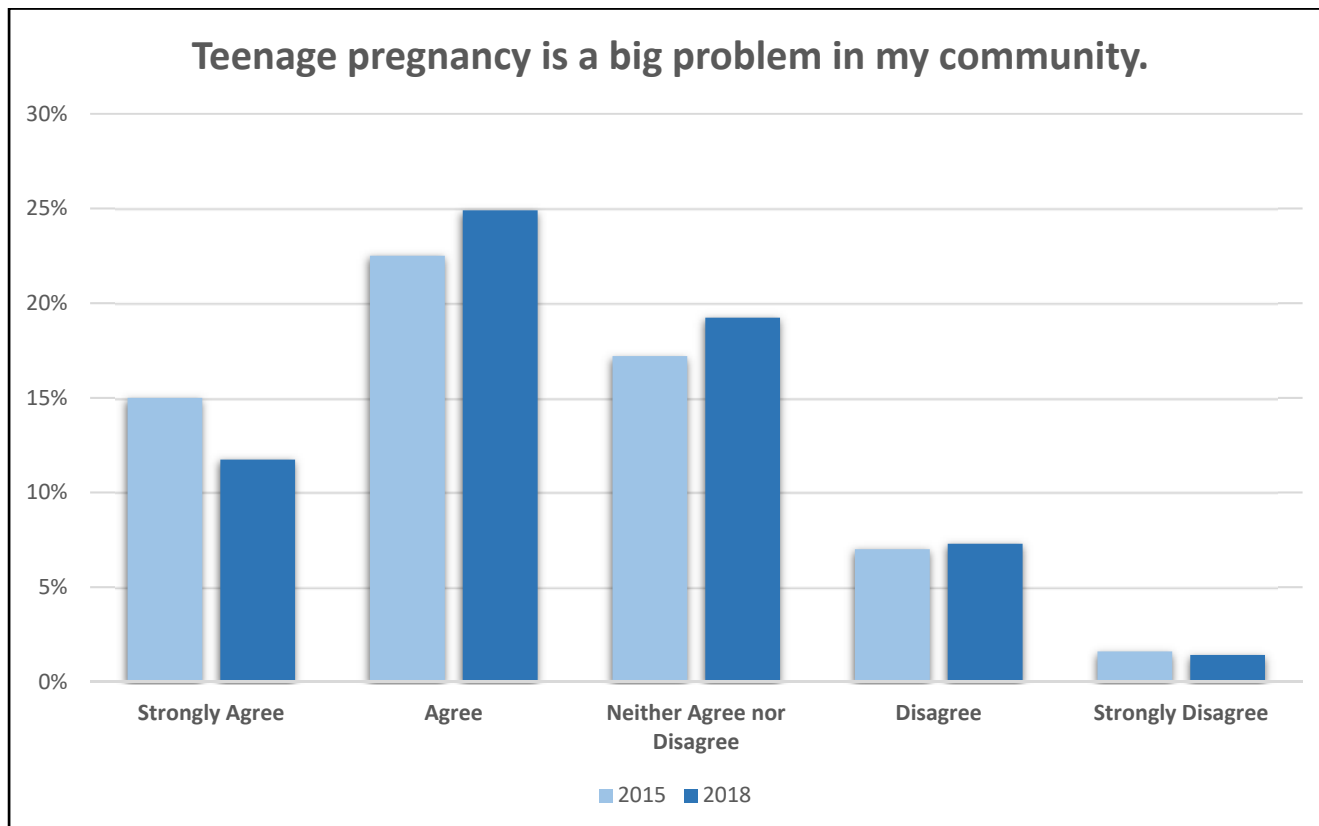


**Domestic violence is a big problem in my community.**



**Have you or someone you know in your community been the victim of physical abuse by family member in the last year?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	11.3%	<b>12.8%</b>
No	68.7%	<b>69.2%</b>
I Don't Know	20.0%	<b>18.0%</b>



**Are you aware of anyone in your community who has a problem with drug or alcohol abuse?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	30.1%	<b>42.4%</b>
No	53.3%	<b>42.4%</b>
I Don't Know	16.6%	<b>15.1%</b>

**If yes, are you personally aware of anyone in your community, who has a problem with heroin or opioid addiction?**

	<b>2018</b>
Yes	<b>32.0%</b>
No	<b>52.5%</b>
I Don't Know	<b>15.5%</b>

## **Housing and Homelessness**

The availability of quality affordable housing was an issue in Lycoming County long before the increased demand, created in the mid-to-late 2000s by the growth of the natural gas development industry placed additional pressures on the county's housing markets. The scale back of the industry over the past five years has not eliminated the housing needs in Lycoming County. The focus group discussed the high cost of rentals and the lack of crisis housing. The effect of drug use and mental health problems on keeping people housed was also addressed.

Across the objective data, community, customer, and partner surveys, as well as focus group information, four main themes emerge: rental cost, need for crisis housing, drugs/mental health impediments to housing, underlying exacerbating problems and the state of housing.

### ***Rental Cost***

Rental prices continue to be too high for those on low incomes, as landlords have not lowered prices to pre-gas drilling levels. Paying for utilities and deposits is also a challenge for low-income residents. Lower-priced properties exist outside of town, but transportation for employment opportunities then becomes a problem. When affordable housing is found, it may be in bad condition or in an undesirable location. Moreover, the location of affordable housing may present additional problems in terms of the proximity to needed childcare services. The regrettable conclusion is that low-quality housing will continue to exist—as long as landlords can still find renters willing to move into these sub-par dwellings.

### ***Crisis Housing***

Changes in HUD support for crisis housing means less availability. The need to house people with disabilities means less transitional housing. The homeless will live with families when weather is cold, but then will be asked to move on when weather improves. There is a lack of crisis housing of all types, but there is a particularly insufficient number of emergency, family, and men's shelters. As a result, there is a long wait list for any type of assisted housing. In addition to excessive demand, these shelters are also straddled with administrative burdens and coordination issues.

### ***Drugs/Mental Health***

Drug use and even drug rehabilitation exacerbates problems of unemployment that can result in homelessness. Drug use is both an individual and family problem. Heroin, methadone, and alcohol all present problems. Focus group participants indicated they are seeing younger substance clients and expressed particular concern about children and mothers addicted to opioids. Marijuana is now socially acceptable, and its use can be seen as harm reduction keeping people from using more destructive drugs. Nonetheless, people using marijuana are still focused on getting high, not on meeting life goals such as paying rent. Service providers are more aware of mental health issues and the resulting self-medicating drug use amongst their customers. This affects homelessness as active drug users may be ineligible for subsidized housing.

Focus group members also identified the need for more case managers to help address the unmet mental health needs of housing clients. These mental health issues were described as more pronounced and more ubiquitous.

### ***Underlying Problems***

Unfortunately, many people who are on government assistance for generations have become overly comfortable with their lifestyle or lack the skills to live differently. They will very likely remain in public housing long-term, which decreases the availability of this safety net for other families in need. Focus group participants defined a troubling conundrum. When these families do gain employment, it is often at fairly low wages. Unfortunately, their new-found income is just high enough to disqualify them for the government assistance they had been



receiving. Unable to exist solely on these low wages, the working poor often return to seek assistance in order to avoid losing help with childcare, health benefits, and transportation. Simply put, they make just over the income limit. Without these forms of assistance, one unfortunate event can, and often does, throw them back into poverty.

This conundrum will only change with personal intervention by service providers, but this takes a level of staffing that is lacking due to funding shortfalls. Client tracking is useful but takes time and the current systems do not communicate well with each other. Grants do not pay for the critically-needed case management, and to add to the challenge, families sometimes fail to cooperate with the process. Government policies that must be followed are often designed for large urban areas and fail in their implementation in rural areas like Lycoming County.

### *The State of Housing*

Focus group participants also discussed the challenge of trying to maintain a quality housing stock, a particularly vexing problem for the affordable housing community. As described in the objective data, the mean age of houses in Lycoming County is just shy of 60 years. Homes constructed before 1959 have a number of issues beyond the normal maintenance and wear patterns. Many homes built before that date have little or no thermal insulation, only 100-amp electrical service, asbestos shingles and flooring, low-efficiency heat systems and steel water pipes. Each of these items can present the current home owner or renter with multiple concerns—both financial and safety-related.

Housing rehabilitation funds made available from federal, state and county resources have provided the means to begin to assist income-qualified citizens. While progress is being made, the need dwarfs the amount of available funding. The net effect is that a disproportionate share of the family's income must be directed to housing-related expenses, thus making the goal of achieving financial stability even more difficult.

On a more positive note, both the community survey as well as the survey of customers found that the percentage of respondents finding it difficult to pay rent, mortgage, or utilities over the past year has declined. This is especially true for respondents from the Lycoming County community at large, which showed a drop of more than 50 percent in their difficulty to meet these obligations, as compared with the results of the 2015 survey.

## Objective Data: Housing & Homelessness

### Housing: Housing Units

The number of housing units within Lycoming County in July of each year from 2006-2016 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, there were a total of 52,694 housing units in Lycoming County in 2016, a decrease of -172 dwellings (or -0.33%) since 2006. Conversely, Pennsylvania shows a 2.2% increase over the same period.

#### Housing Units 2012-2016

Report Area	July 2006	July 2007	July 2008	July 2009	July 2010	July 2011
Lycoming County	53,737	53,882	53,935	54,200	52,499	52,268
Pennsylvania	5,453,647	5,478,158	5,496,509	5,518,579	5,568,820	5,579,394

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006- 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Report Area	July 2012	July 2013	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016	July 2017
Lycoming County	52,533	52,409	52,639	52,677	52,690	53,432
Pennsylvania	5,572,765	5,565,354	5,590,712	5,603,051	5,611,995	5,694,402

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006- 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Note: Annual Estimates of Housing Units for the United States, Regions, Divisions, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Release Date: May 2018

### Housing: Housing Age

Total housing units, median year built, and median age in 2016 for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania are shown below. Housing units included in the housing age calculation are limited to those for which the year built is known.

#### Median Housing Unit, 2012-2016

Report Area	Total Housing Units*	Median Year built	Median Age (2016)
Lycoming County	52,644	1959	55
Pennsylvania	5,592,175	1962	52
United States	134,054,899	1977	37

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Source geography: county. \* Total reflects 5-year estimate.

### Homeowners

The chart below shows that for Lycoming County, the percent change in number of homes was about 2% less, while the percent change for Pennsylvania over the same period was about a 0.57% increase.

#### Percent Change in Number of Homes, 2000-2016

Report Area	Homes 2000	Homes 2016	Percent Change 2000-2016
Lycoming County	32,636	31,989	-1.98%
Pennsylvania	3,406,337	3,425,706	0.57%
United States	69,815,753	74,881,068	7.26%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2012-16. Source geography: County

### **Housing-Cost Burden (Renters)**

The 2012 - 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) shows that 47.27% of occupied units paying rent nationwide pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. For Lycoming County, 45.23% of occupied units paying rent have a housing cost burden. When 30% or more of income is spent on housing costs, it is considered a "housing-cost burden." Total housing units are defined as "total rentals and owned where rent/owned and income known." The number of occupied units is limited to those where gross rent as a percentage of household income can be calculated.

**Housing Cost Burden (Renters), 2012-2016**

Report Area	Total Housing Units	Occupied Units Paying Rent	30 Percent or More of Income Paying Rent	Percent of Renters Spending 30 Percent or More of Income with Rent
Lycoming County	52,644	12,671	6,144	51.1%
Pennsylvania	5,592,175	1,445,155	699,474	49.6%
United States	134,054,899	40,589,851	20,250,394	49.3%

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.*

*Source geography: tract*

### **Housing-Cost Burden (Owners)**

The 2012 - 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) shows that 30.62% of homeowners with mortgages nationwide pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. 25.46% of owners with mortgages and 14.77% of owners without mortgages spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs in Lycoming County. When 30% or more of income spent on housing costs is considered a "housing-cost burden." Total housing units are defined as "total rentals and owned where rent/owned and income are known." The number of occupied units is limited to those where gross rent as a percentage of household income is able to be calculated.

**Housing Cost Burden (Owners), 2012-2016**

Report Area	Total Housing Units	Owners with Mortgage	30 Percent or More Income with Mortgage	Percent of Owners Spending 30 Percent or More of Income with Mortgage	Owners without Mortgages	30 Percent or More of Income without Mortgage	Percent of Owners Spending 30 Percent or More of Income without Mortgage
Lycoming County	52,644	18,991	4,836	25.46%	12,998	1,920	14.77%
Pennsylvania	5,592,175	2,090,142	584,250	27.95%	1,335,564	210,873	15.79%
United States	134,054,899	48,016,540	14,700,932	30.62%	26,864,528	3,771,753	14.04%

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.*

## **Vacancy Rates**

The U.S. Census Bureau provides vacancy data based on American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2012 - 2016). Vacancy rates for the report area are reported below.

Vacant non-rental housing in Lycoming County totals 518 units and includes those that are for sale only and sold but not occupied. For Lycoming County, the non-rental housing vacancy rate is 0.98%; in comparison the national rate is 1.52%.

Vacant rental housing totals 1,201 units and includes those for rent and rented but not occupied. For Lycoming County, the rental housing vacancy rate is 2.28% in comparison the national rate of 2.59%.

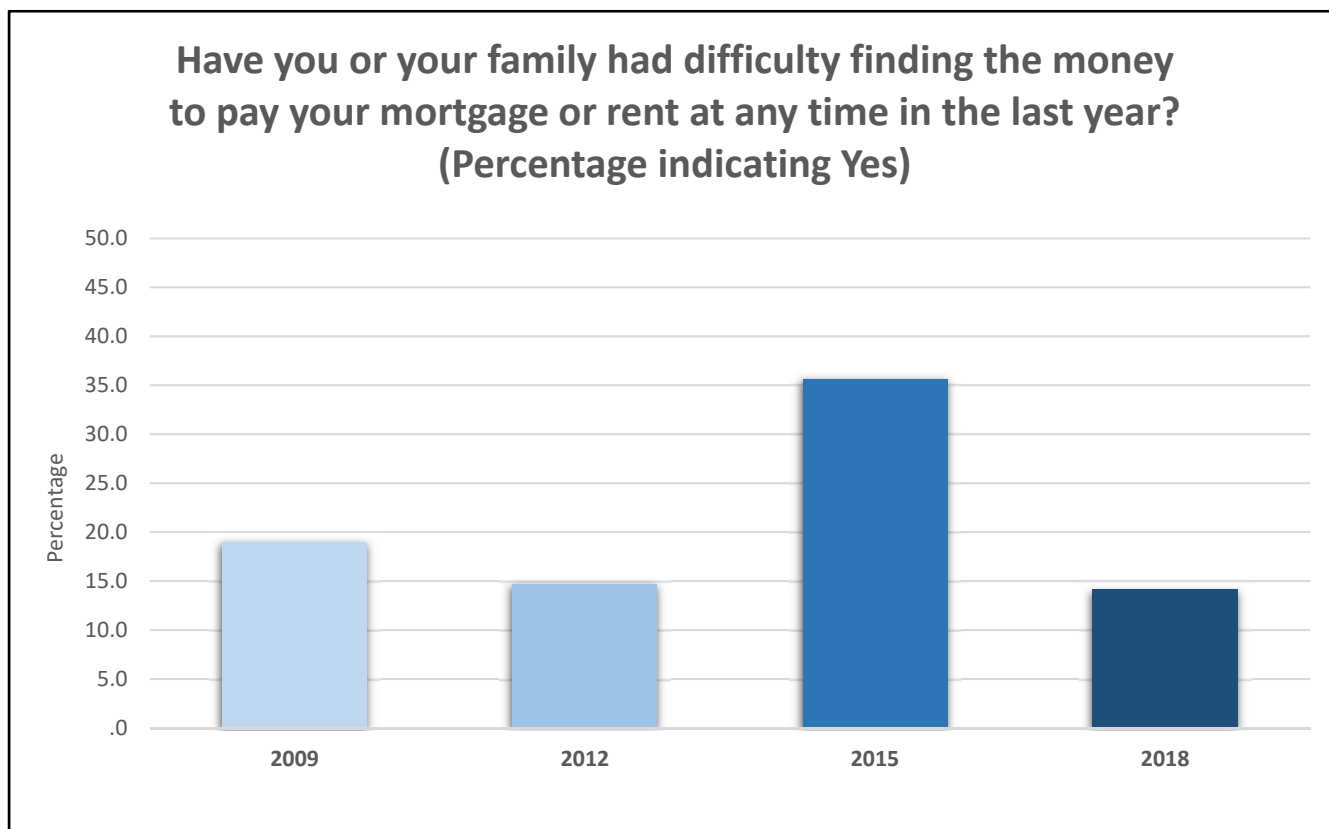
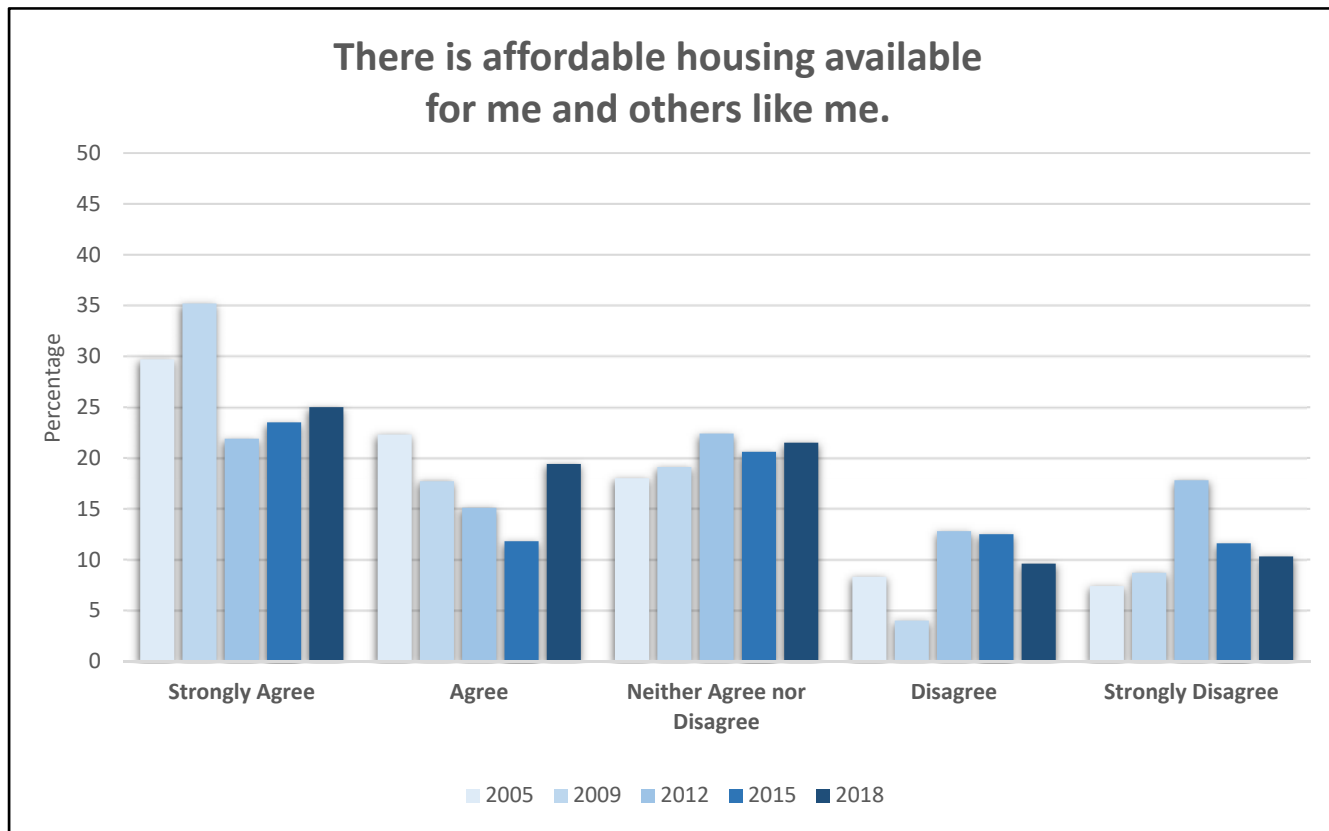
Vacant other housing totals 5,338 units and includes those used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, as well as units used for migrant workers. For Lycoming County, the housing vacancy rate is 10.14%. In comparison the national rate is 8.08%.

### **Housing Vacancies, 2012-2016**

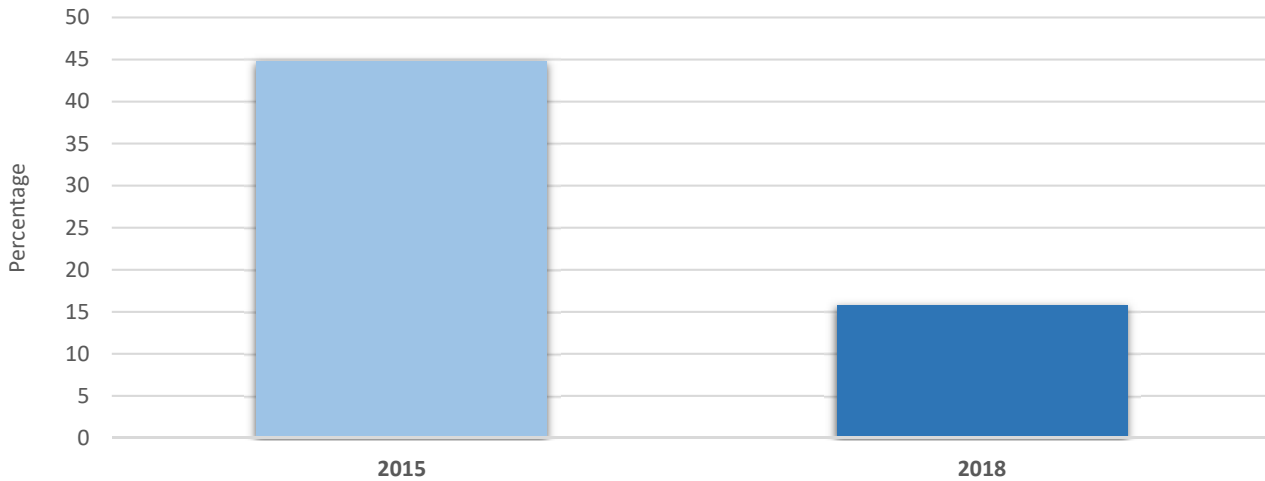
Report Area	Total Housing Units	Vacant Non-Rental	Vacant Non-Rental Rate	Vacant Rental	Vacant Rental Rate	Vacant Other	Vacant Other Rate
Lycoming County	52,644	518	0.98%	1,201	2.28%	5,338	10.14%
Pennsylvania	5,592,175	88,521	1.58%	119,581	2.14%	422,144	7.55%
United States	134,054,899	2,032,749	1.52%	3,472,540	2.59%	10,833,373	8.08%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County

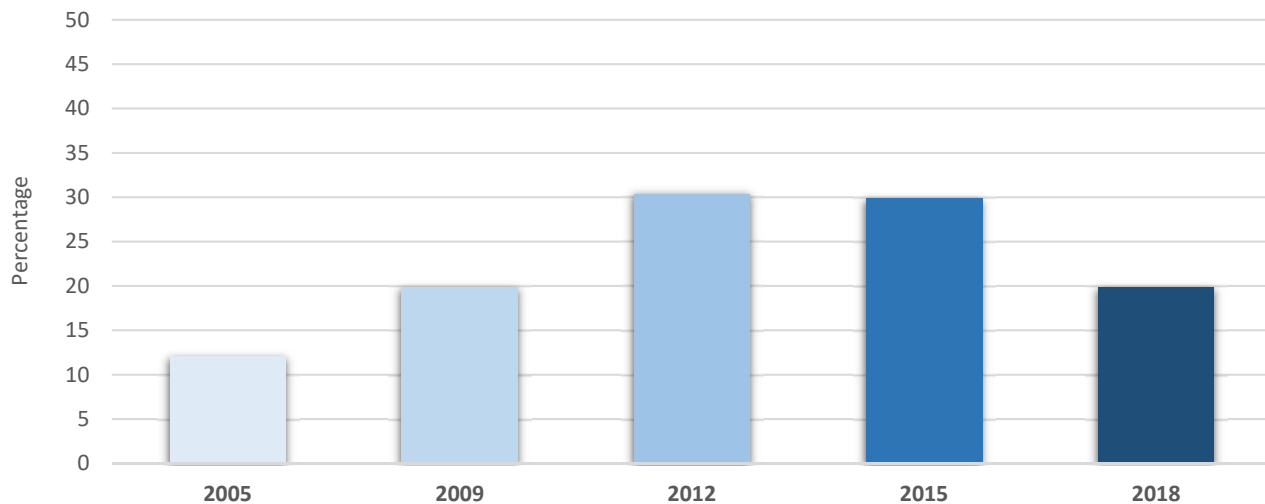
Survey Data: Housing & Homelessness  
Community Survey Information



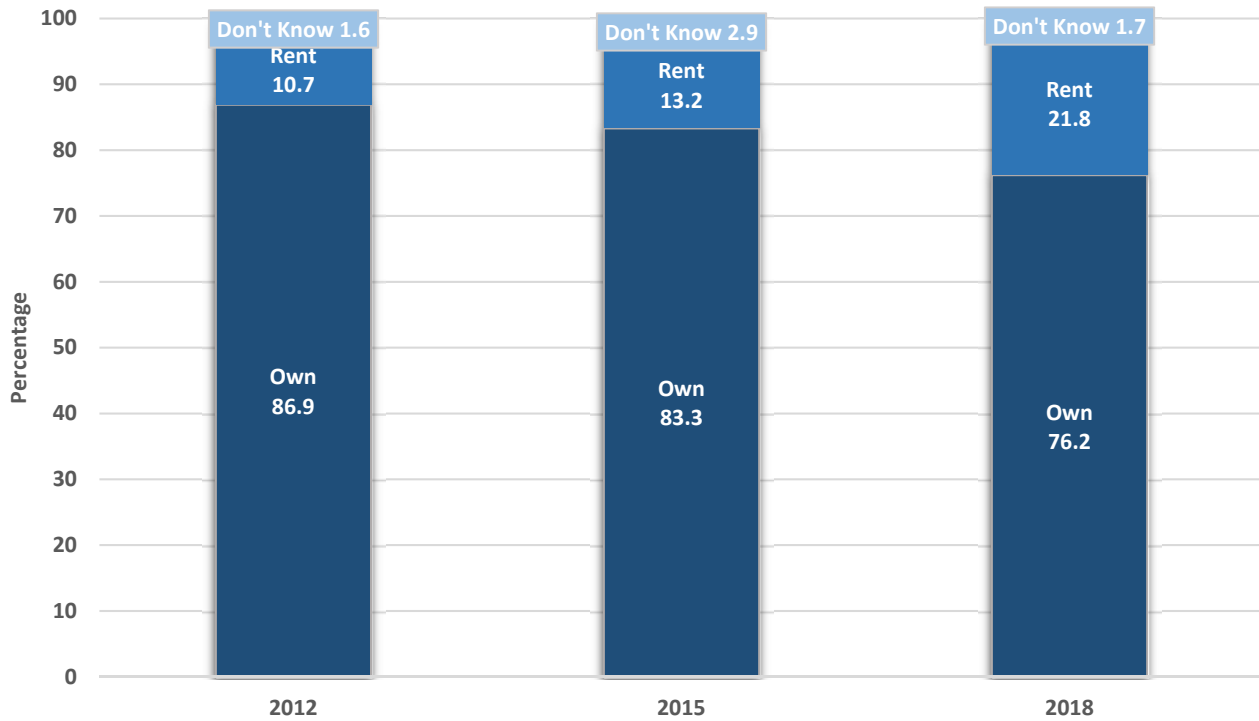
**Have you or your family had difficulty finding the money to pay for the costs of heating, electricity, or water at any time in the last year?**  
**(Percentage indicating Yes)**



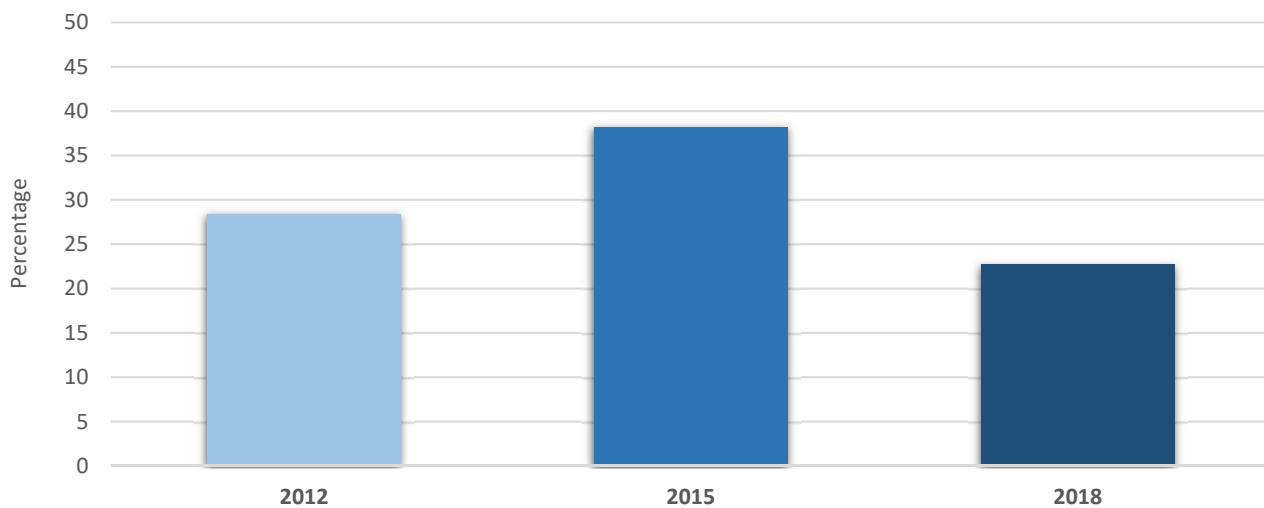
**Have you or someone you know in your community had no place to live at sometime in the last year?**  
**(Percentage indicating Yes)**



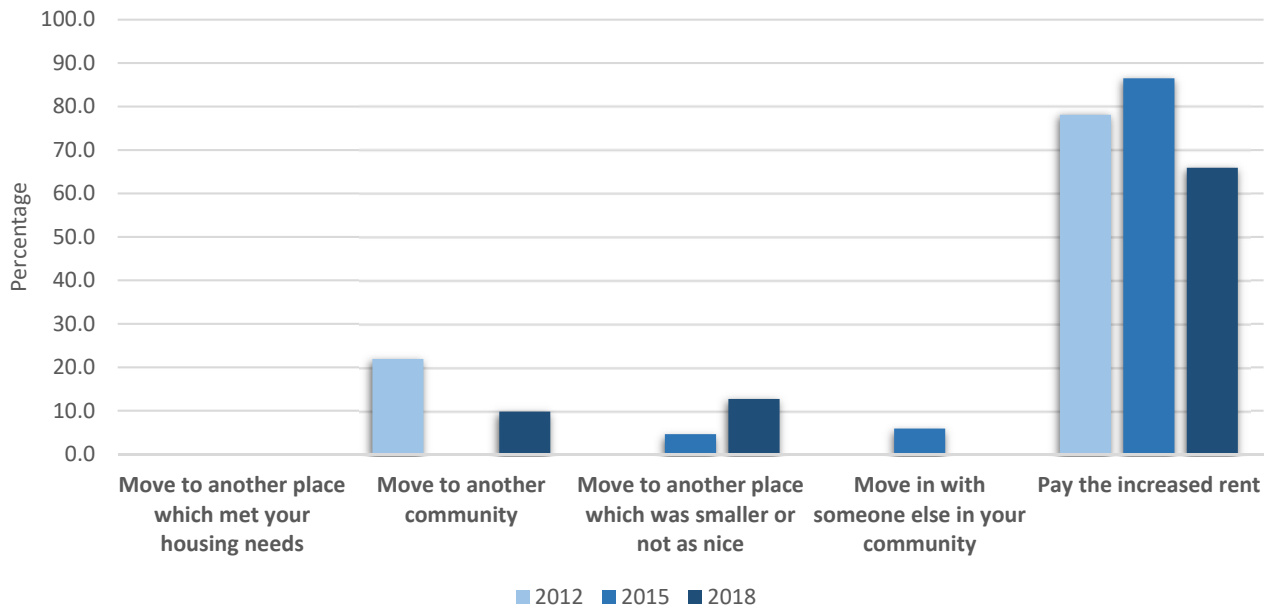
## Do you own or rent your home?



## [Asked of Renters] Thinking back to the last two years, has your landlord increased your rent? (Percentage indicating Yes)

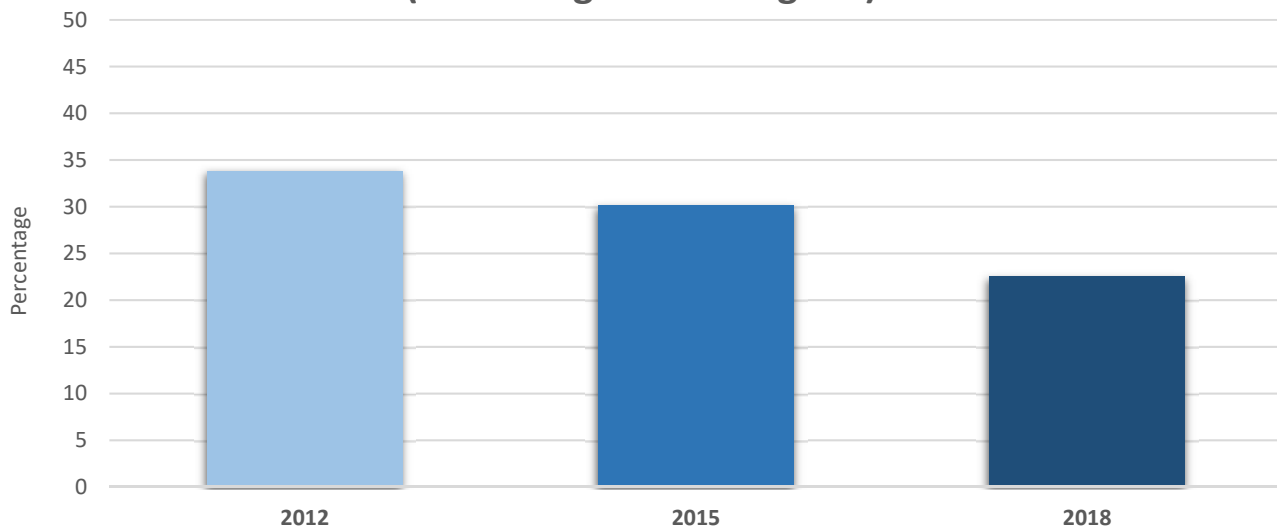


**Which of the following best describes what you did in response to the most recent increase in rent you experienced within the last two years?**



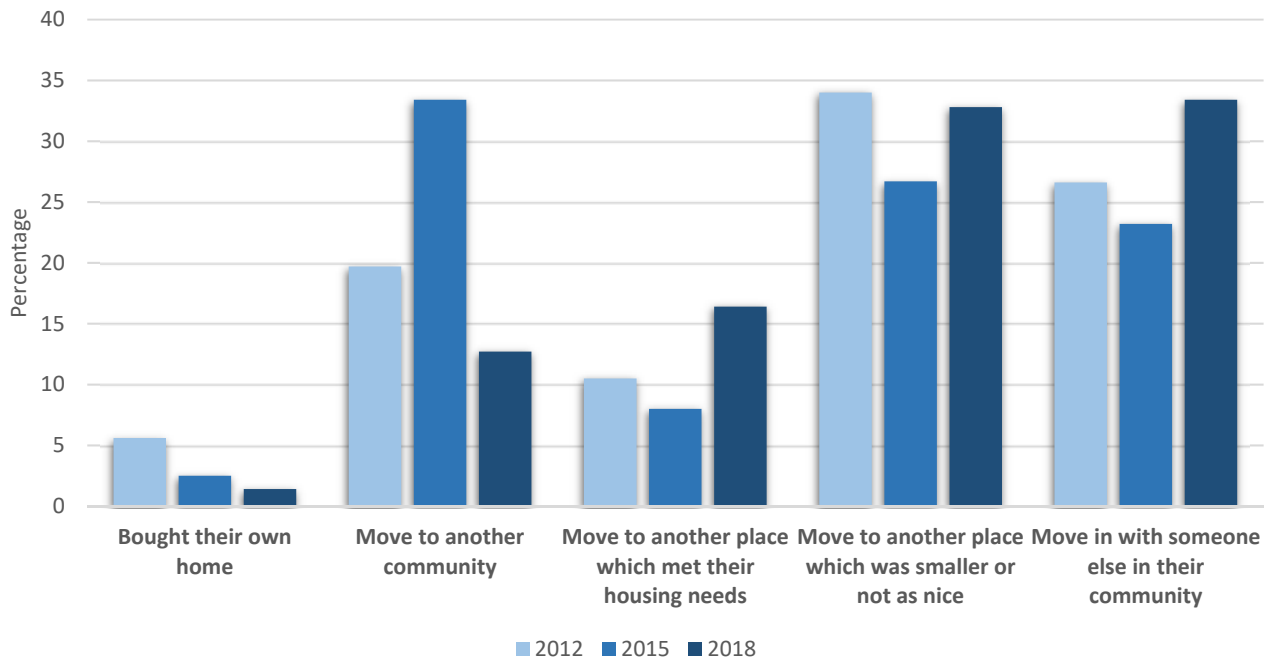
**Do you know someone personally who has been forced to move from their home within the last two years because that person's landlord has raised the rent more than they can afford?**

**(Percentage indicating Yes)**



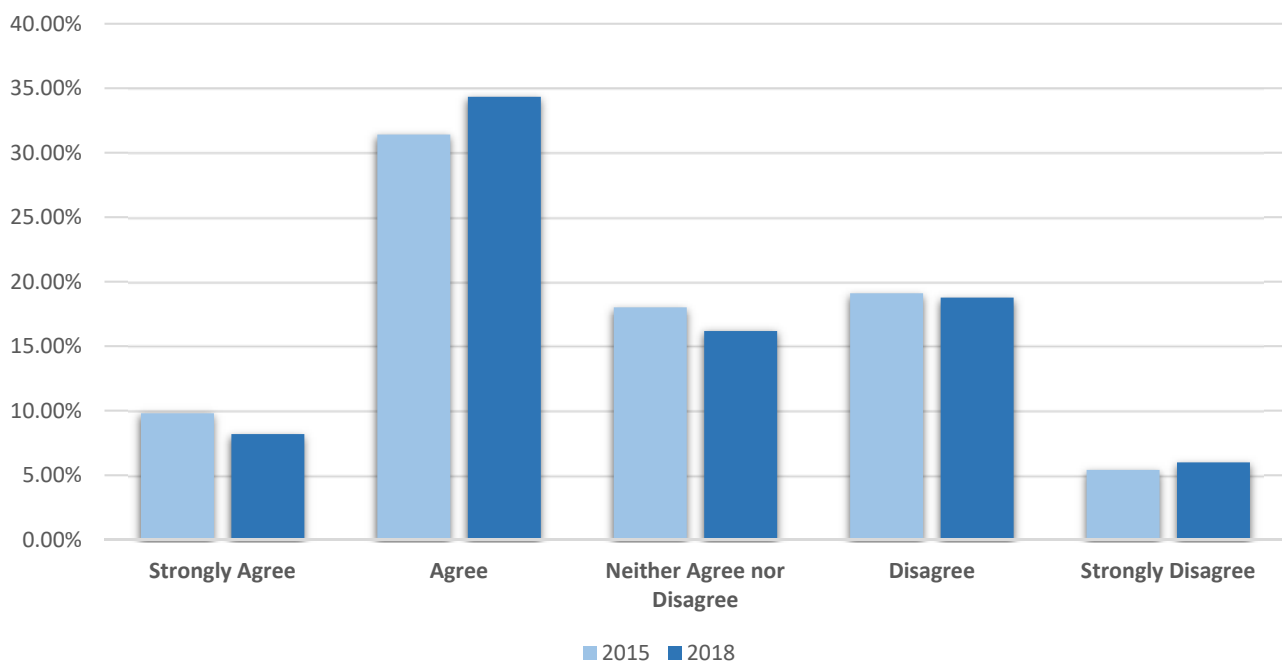


### Which of the following best describes what that person did after moving?



### Customer Survey Information

#### There is affordable housing available for me and others like me.



**Have you or your family had difficulty finding the money to pay your mortgage or rent at any time in the last year?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	35.6%	<b>29.9%</b>
No	56.9%	<b>63.0%</b>
I Don't Know	7.6%	<b>6.9%</b>

**Have you or your family had difficulty finding the money to pay for the costs of heating, electricity, or water at any time in the last year?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	44.8%	<b>32.2%</b>
No	47.0%	<b>59.1%</b>
I Don't Know	8.2%	<b>4.6%</b>

**Have you or someone you know in your community had no place to live at some time in the last year?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	20.2%	<b>27.4%</b>
No	58.4%	<b>54.9%</b>
I Don't Know	21.4%	<b>17.6%</b>

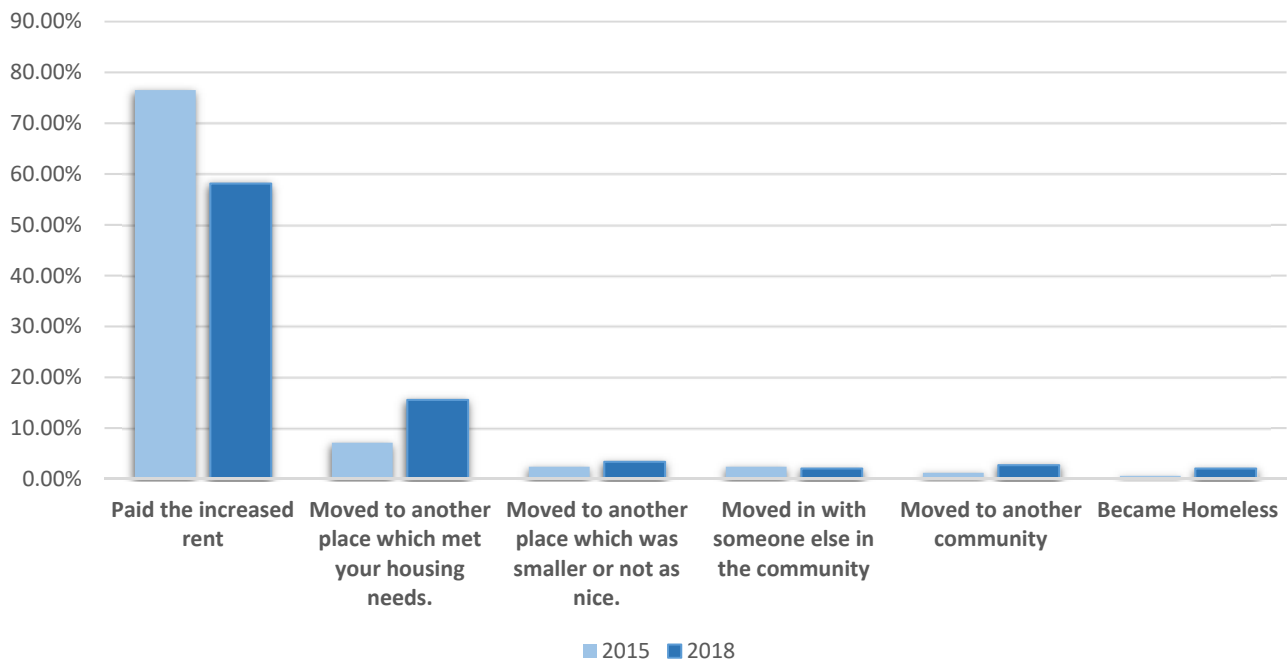
**Do you own or rent your home?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Rent	43.1%	<b>43.1%</b>
Own	54.9%	<b>53.3%</b>
I Don't Know	1.9%	<b>4.7%</b>

***Amongst renters:* Thinking back to the last two years, has your landlord increased you rent?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	34.7%	<b>29.2%</b>
No	60.7%	<b>62.2%</b>
I Don't Know	4.6%	<b>8.7%</b>

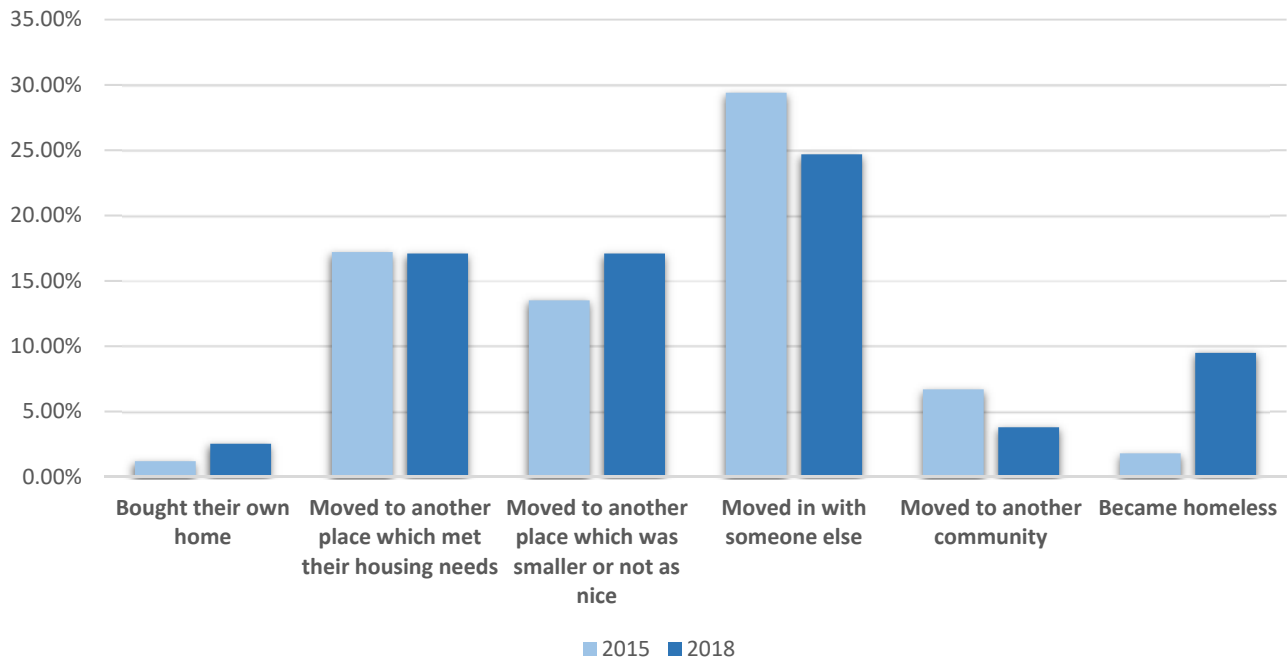
### Which of the following best describes what you did in response to the most recent increase in rent?



**Do you know someone personally who has been forced to move from their home within the last two years because that person's landlord has raised the rent more that they could afford?**

	2015	2018
Yes	21.0%	<b>22.5%</b>
No	70.9%	<b>67.6%</b>
I Don't Know	8.1%	<b>9.9%</b>

## Which of the following best describes what that person did after moving?



## Medical and Dental Care

The medical and dental care needs of the Lycoming County population were addressed in the community survey, customer survey, and focus groups. An overriding issue is limited availability of medical, dental, and behavioral health care, especially for low-income clients. The absence of care is due to both a lack of clinics and practitioners and the cost of treatment. In addition, there are specialized issues with three distinct groups: children and youth, seniors, and vulnerable populations, such as former prisoners and the homeless.

### *Medical and Dental Care Availability*

Many people choose not to schedule and visit a family medical practitioner. Instead, they use the closest hospital emergency room (ER)—a much more expensive medical option. The community survey revealed that while 50 percent of respondents said the family doctor was their first choice for medical care, 33 percent stated they use the ER. Rather than make proactive appointments to deal with health concerns when they first arise, they wait until the symptoms are severe. These families and individuals need information on programs that will assist financially with medical co-pays. If routine care is needed, people tend to use an express clinic. While medical help is obtained, there is no ability to develop a relationship with a health care provider.

Regarding dental care, availability appears to be less of an issue than affordability, especially for community survey respondents. Asked why they have not visited a dentist in the past year, lack of insurance or the inability to afford the care was cited about 83 percent of the time by Lycoming County community respondents. Moreover, for those individuals who do obtain routine dental care, many have difficulty paying for any restorative treatment that may be needed. Their solution is to go to the ER for pain medication. Another challenge relates to transportation to dental and appointments. This can be problematic, particularly for seniors, disabled individuals, and low-income individuals.

### *Special Needs of Children and Youth*

Several of the focus groups indicated that more children have dental needs than medical problems; however, they do not seek or receive the dental care that they need. This is reflected in the fact that 26 percent of respondents to the community survey and 39 percent of the customer survey respondents have not seen a dentist in the past year. While children in foster care are mandated to have needed medical and dental care, there are limited, if any, available providers for such care.

Dental and medical problems are a barrier to academic success. In Lycoming County, the local clinic has assisted in providing children the care they need; however, paying for treatment is an issue. Similar to the dental care survey results, the number of community survey respondents who strongly agree with the statement that they could not pay for needed medical care has increased. Parents who do not have a family practitioner find a doctor to write their child a medical excuse to stay home from school, which adds to the truancy problem and impacts the child's education.

### *Special Needs of Seniors*

While there are resources to provide routine care for seniors, accessibility is an issue for rural seniors. Some seniors no longer drive and public transportation to rural locations is, at best, scarce. Even in urban areas, home-bound seniors have difficulty receiving care. A new issue is the lack of treatment options for behavioral health services. Lack of socialization can result in depression that remains untreated. Services for seniors who become drug and/or alcohol addicted are especially needed.

An additional challenge for seniors, many of whom rely strictly on Medicare, is the limited number of providers willing to accept Medicare. Moreover, the size of the Medicare-eligible community is growing. According to the

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, about 19 percent of Lycoming County's 116,313 citizens receive age-related (65 and older) Medicare.

### ***Special Needs of Vulnerable Populations***

People being released from incarceration often have deep-seated mental health and drug addiction issues. If they have been treated in prison, they will be released with only a seven-day supply of medication. Because of a lack of treatment options and an excessive demand on the schedules of available providers, these individuals often experience remission, a return of their symptoms, by the time they receive an appointment. Lack of dental care for the homeless can often result in difficulty with finding employment. Employees dealing with the public must look presentable; missing teeth can prevent a person from being hired.

## Objective Data Medical and Dental Care

### Health Care: Births

Most live births in Lycoming County occurred with mothers 20-30 years of age, giving birth to 55.79% of all births. The second largest group is mothers 30-40 years of age, with 35.55% of births. Mothers over age 40 represent 2.25% of births. Of interest are the number of live births by mothers 19 or younger, who gave birth to 6.41% of all babies in Lycoming County. Teen mothers are statistically less likely to continue education through high school and college, without which many may earn only low-income wages. Teen mothers and their children face increased health risk due to lack of education and resources.

#### **Births by Females Under 15, and 15 to 19, 2015**

Report Area	Total Births	Mother Age Under 15	Mother Age 15-19	Mother Age 20-30	Mother Age 30-40	Mother Age Over 40	Age Unknown
Lycoming County	1,201	1	76	670	427	27	0
Pennsylvania	140,727	68	7,172	69,401	60,185	3,884	17

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health. Source geography: County. Data was compiled from Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, 2015. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

### Health Care: Number of Deaths and Death Rate

#### **Number of Deaths and Death Rates, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Live Births		All Deaths		Infant Deaths		Neonatal Deaths		Fetal Deaths	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Lycoming County	6,316	21.4	6,271	10.7	47	6.4	30	4.6	42	6.6
Pennsylvania	703,493	21.5	646,911	10.1	4,507	7.4	3,205	4.7	4,848	6.9

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health Vital Statistics 2012-2016.

### Health Care: Persons Receiving Medicare

The total number of persons receiving Medicare is shown below grouped by number of recipients over 65 and number of disabled persons receiving Medicare for Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported a total of 26,197 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in Lycoming County in 2017. A large number of individuals in our society are aware that persons over 65 years of age receive Medicare; however, many of them are unaware that disabled persons also receive Medicare benefits. A total of 4,119 disabled persons in Lycoming County received Medicare benefits in 2017.

#### **Medicare Enrollment by County, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Persons Over 65 Receiving Medicare	Disabled Persons Receiving Medicare	Total Persons Receiving Medicare
Lycoming County	22,078	4,119	26,197
Pennsylvania	4,466,533	803,556	5,270,085
United States	49,775,028	8,768,041	58,543,069

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2012-16. Source geography: County

### **Health Care: Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Enrollment**

Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollment is shown in the table below. Total enrollment in Lycoming County is 1,385 children. The number of enrollees whose household income is no greater than 208% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) totals 1,104, while those enrolled where FPL is greater than 314% equals 22 children. Families who are at or above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level must pay in part on a sliding scale for CHIP services.

**Child Health Program (CHIP) Enrollment, 2016**

Report Area	Total Enrollment	FPL Less than 208%	FPL 208% to 262%	FPL 262% to 288%	FPL 288% to 314%	FPL Greater than 314%
Lycoming County	1,385	1,104	161	47	51	22
Pennsylvania	169,367	120,928	29,155	7,729	5,441	6,114

Data Source: Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program. Source geography: County. Data was compiled from 2016 Annual Report to the Legislature, Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.

### **Health Care: Uninsured Population**

The lack of health insurance is considered a *key driver* of health status and is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services that contributes to poor health status. This indicator reports the percentage of the total civilian non-institutionalized population without health insurance coverage.

**Uninsured Persons, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Total Population (for whom insurance Status is Determined)	Total Uninsured Population	Percent Uninsured Population
Lycoming County	113,144	7,999	7.07%
Pennsylvania	12,579,598	1,000,216	7.95%
United States	313,576,137	36,700,246	11.7%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2012-16. Source geography: Tract



## **Health Care: Medicare and Medicaid Providers**

The total number of institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and community mental health centers for Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the nation is shown in the table below. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 28 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in Lycoming County in the 1st quarter of 2018.

**Institutional Medicare and Medicaid Providers, 2018**

Report Area	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Lycoming County	28	4	8	1	0	0
Pennsylvania	2,838	258	694	256	74	8
United States	73,554	7,153	15,635	8,350	4,246	142

*Data Source: US Department of Health Human Services, Center for Medicare Medicaid Services, Provider of Services File. March 2018.*

*Source geography: County*

## **Physicians**

The table below shows the number of physicians and physician assistants for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 3.09 physicians per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County; the Pennsylvania average is 3.92 physicians per 1,000 persons.

**Physicians and Assistants, 2017**

Report Area	Medical Physicians / Surgeons	Medical Physician Assistants	Osteopathic Physicians / Surgeons	Physicians / Assistants per 1,000
Lycoming County	206	95	59	3.09
Pennsylvania	72,168	14,124	13,932	3.92

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. 2017. Source geography: County*

## **Dentists**

The table below shows the number of dentists and dental hygienists for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 1.38 dental professionals per 1,000 persons in the report area. The Pennsylvania average is 1.26 dental professionals per 1,000 persons.

**Dental Professionals, 2017**

Report Area	Dentists	Dental Hygienists	Dental Professionals per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	46	115	1.38
Pennsylvania	16,200	16,066	1.26

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County*

## **Nurses**

The table below shows the number of nurses, nurse practitioners, and nurse specialists for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 19.25 nursing professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 19.41 nursing professionals per 1,000 persons.

### **Nurses, September 2017**

Report Area	Registered Nurses	Practical Nurses	Registered Nurse Practitioners	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurses per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	1,524	661	61	0	19.25
Pennsylvania	375,048	100,004	20,650	386	19.41

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County*

## **Mental Health Professionals**

The table below shows the number of mental health psychologists for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 0.27 mental health professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 0.43 psychologists per 1,000 persons. Not included in the table, but equally significant, are the many mental health therapists, consultants, and psychiatrists, who provide similar services.

### **Mental Health Psychologists, September 2017**

Report Area	Psychologists	Psychologist per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	31	0.27
Pennsylvania	10,972	0.43

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County*

## **Health & Occupational Therapists**

The table below shows the number of physical therapists, occupational therapists, and chiropractors for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 1.6 physical therapy, occupational therapy, and chiropractor professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 1.83 physical therapists, occupational therapists, and chiropractors per 1,000 persons.

### **Health & Occupational Therapists, September 2017**

Report Area	Physical Therapists	Occupational Therapists	Chiropractors	Therapists / Chiropractors per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	89	57	41	1.6
Pennsylvania	24,806	14,428	7,476	1.83

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County Data was compiled using Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. September 2017; and United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015 Data Release, December 2016 reports. Data supplied by Pennsylvania State Data Center.*

### **Special Health Professionals**

The table below shows the number of dietitian-nutritionists, optometrists, doctors of podiatric medicine, and speech pathologists for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. There are 0.93 special health professionals per 1,000 persons in Lycoming County. The Pennsylvania average is 1.09 special health professionals per 1,000 persons.

**Special Health Professionals, September 2017**

Report Area	Dietitian-Nutritionists (LDN)	Optometrists	Doctors of Podiatric Medicine	Speech Language Pathologists	Special Health Professionals per 1,000 Persons
Lycoming County	32	13	8	56	0.93
Pennsylvania	7,516	4,030	2,504	13,926	1.09

*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County*

### **Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)**

The table below shows that 45,587 households (or 13.82%) received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments, formerly known as food stamps, during 2016 in Lycoming County. Of those 6,302 households, 48.54% or 3,059 households have at least one working family member and 25.66% or 1,617 are over the age of 60.

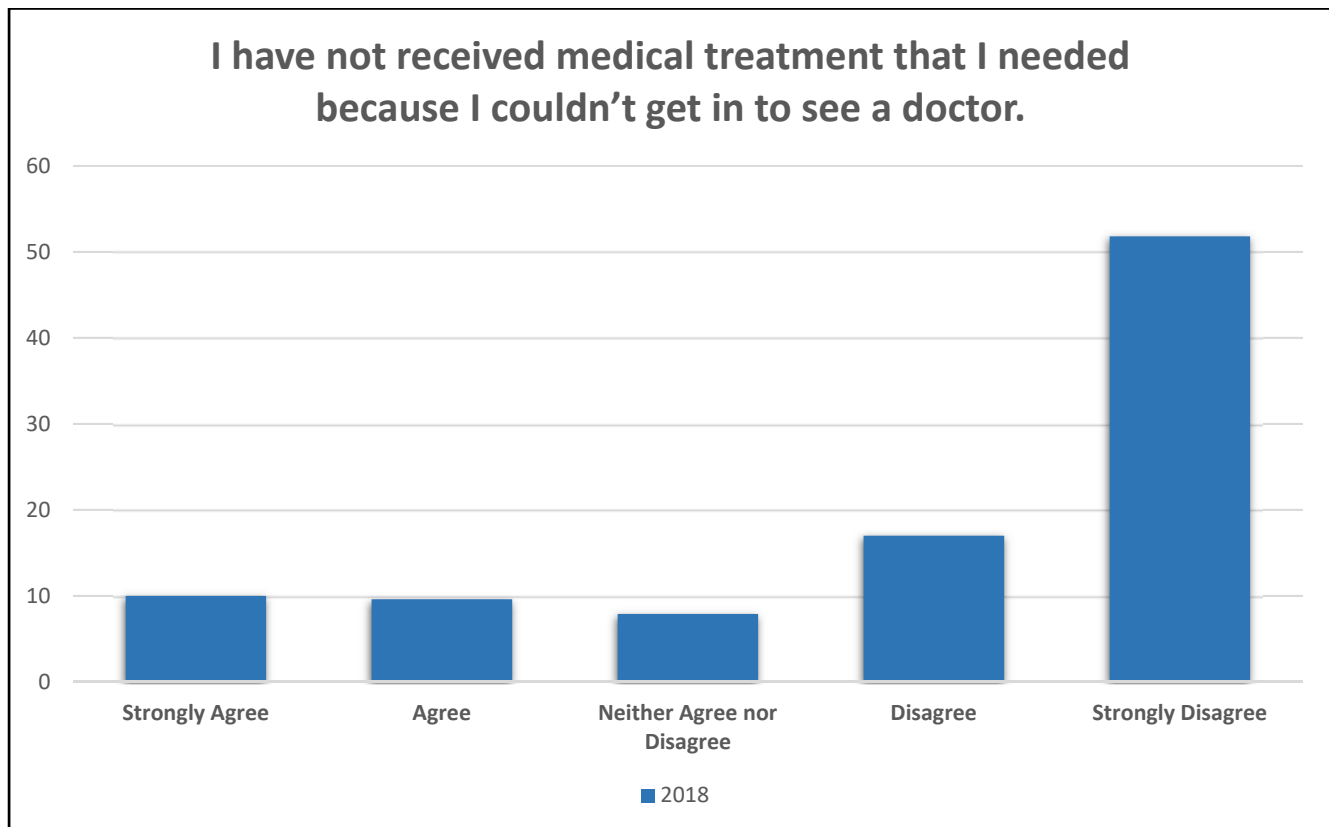
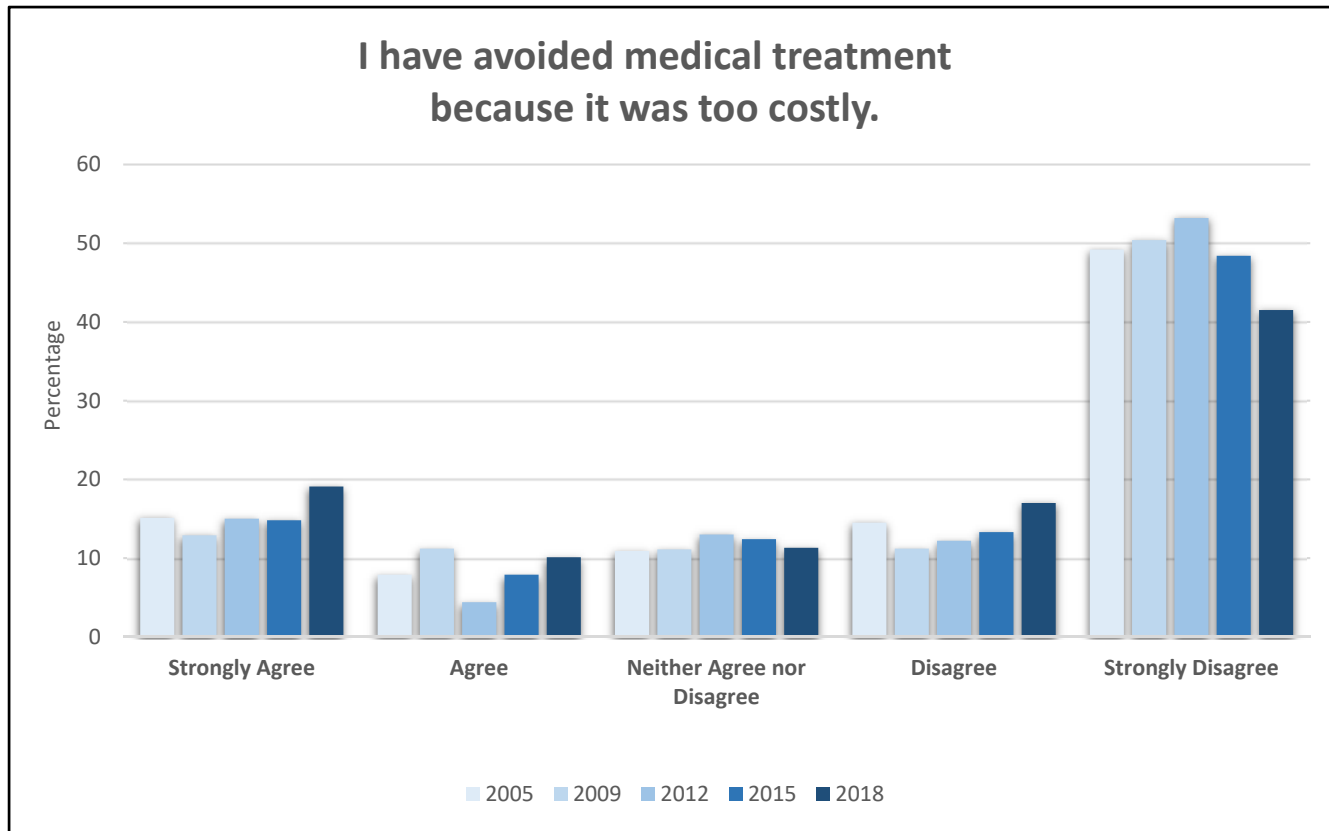
**Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Total Households	Total Households Receiving SNAP	Percent	Income Below Poverty	Income Above Poverty	Family has at Least 1 Working Member	Age 60 and Older
Lycoming County	45,587	6,302	13.82%	3,175	3,127	3,059	1,617
Pennsylvania	4,961,929	644,209	12.98%	319,415	324,794	304,740	203,562
United States	117,716,237	15,360,951	13.05%	7,727,684	7,633,267	8,410,692	4,482,179

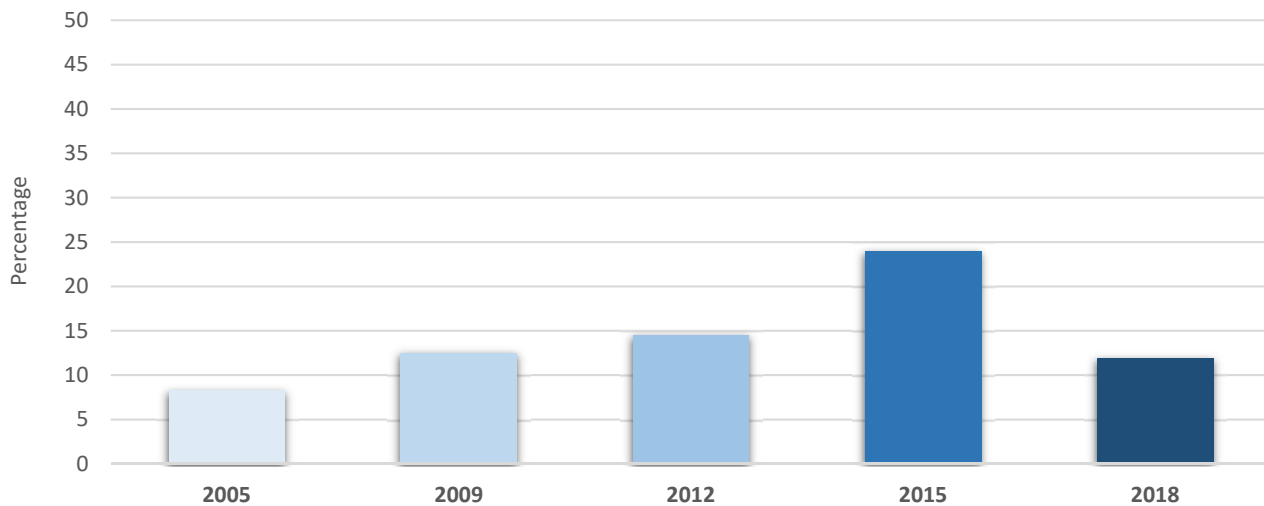
*Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County*

## Survey Data: Medical and Dental Care

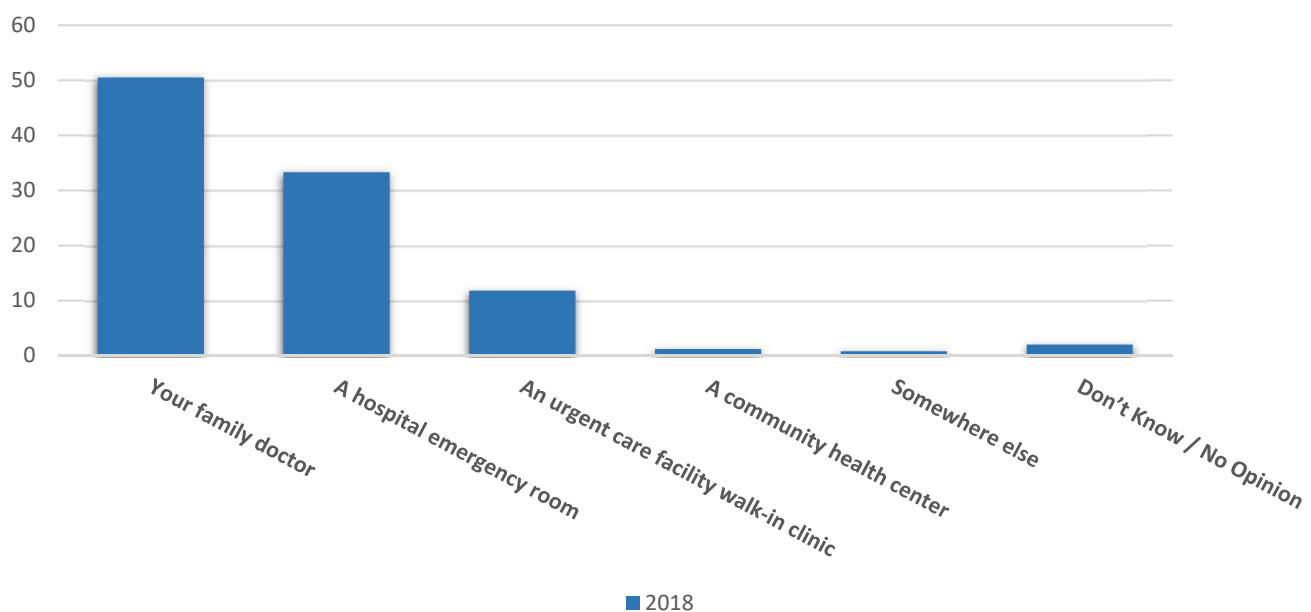
### Community Survey Information



**Have you or someone you know in your community gone without food for more than a day in the last year because they could not afford it?  
(Percentage indicating Yes)**



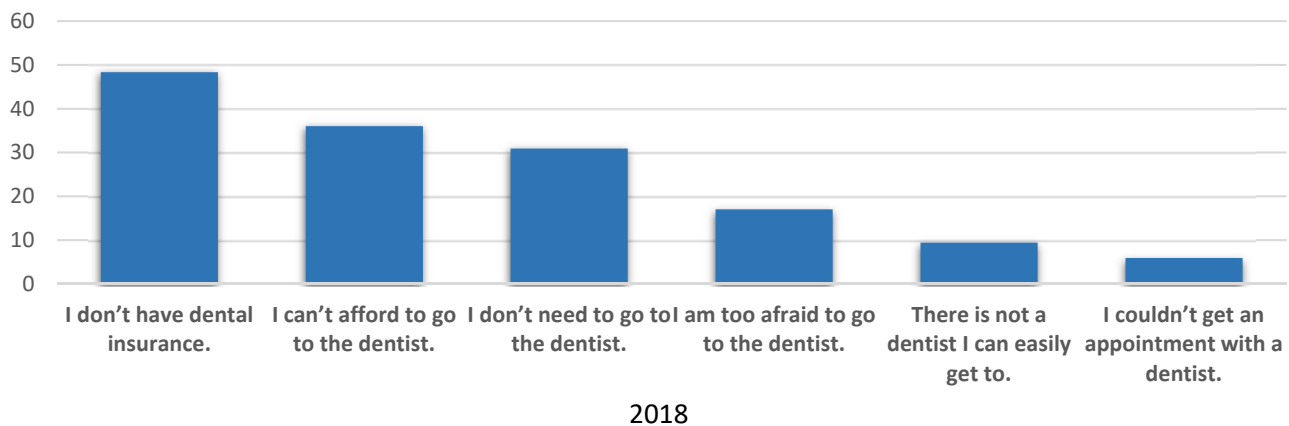
**Which of the following would be your first choice if you or someone in your family became ill enough to seek medical help?**



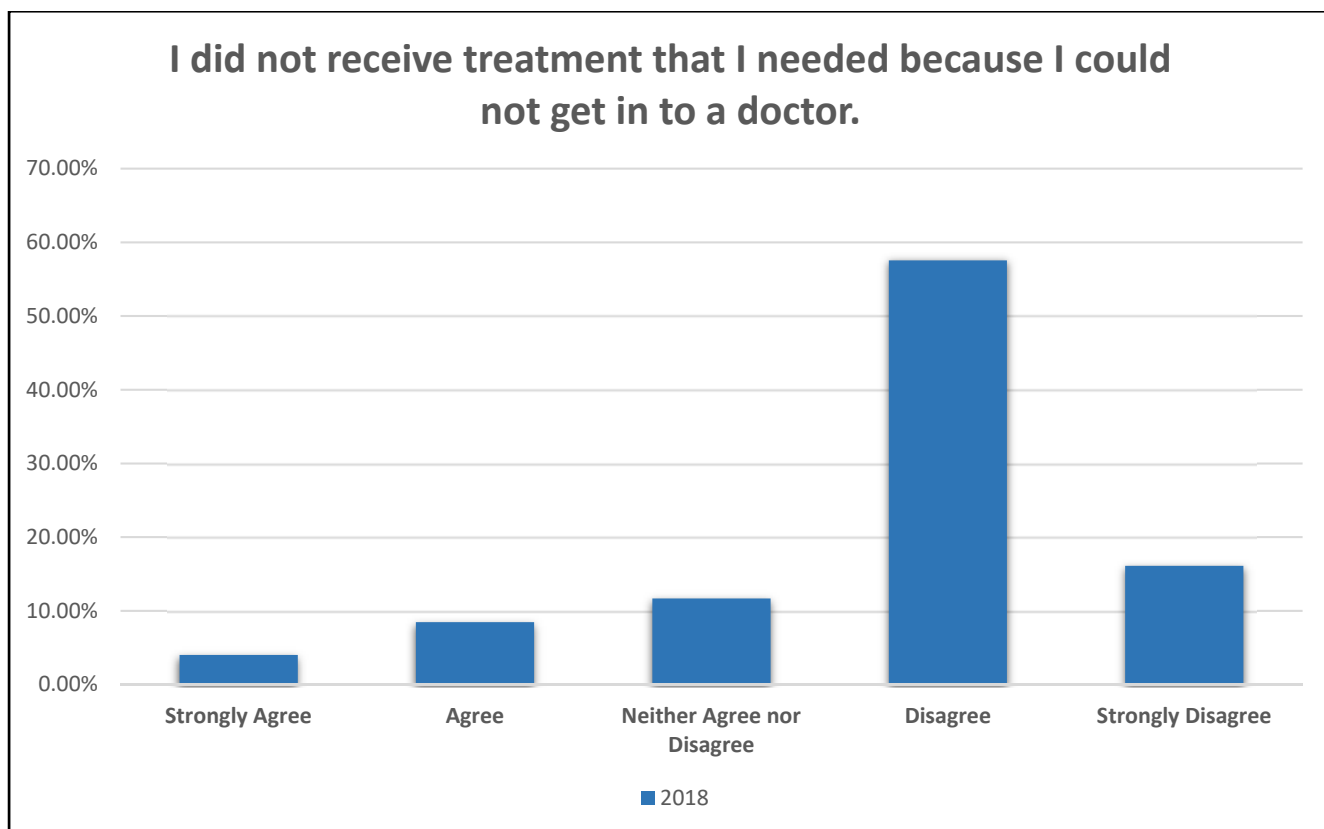
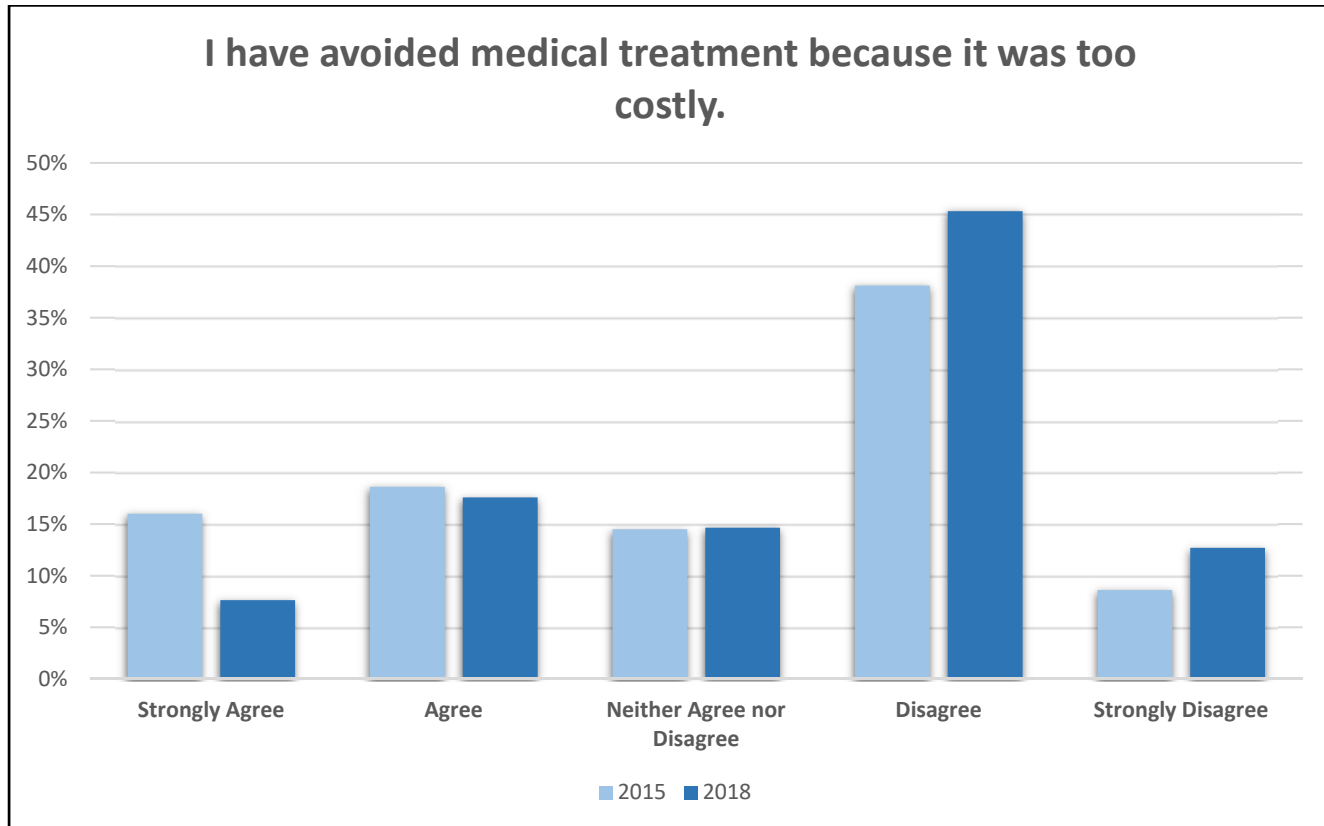
## Have you or have you not been to the dentist in the last year?

	2018
Yes	73%
No	26.2%
Don't Know / No Opinion	0.8%

**[For those who have not seen a dentist in the last year] I am going to read a list of reasons why someone might not have an appointment with a dentist. For each reason, please indicate whether that was or was not a reason why you did not go to the denti**

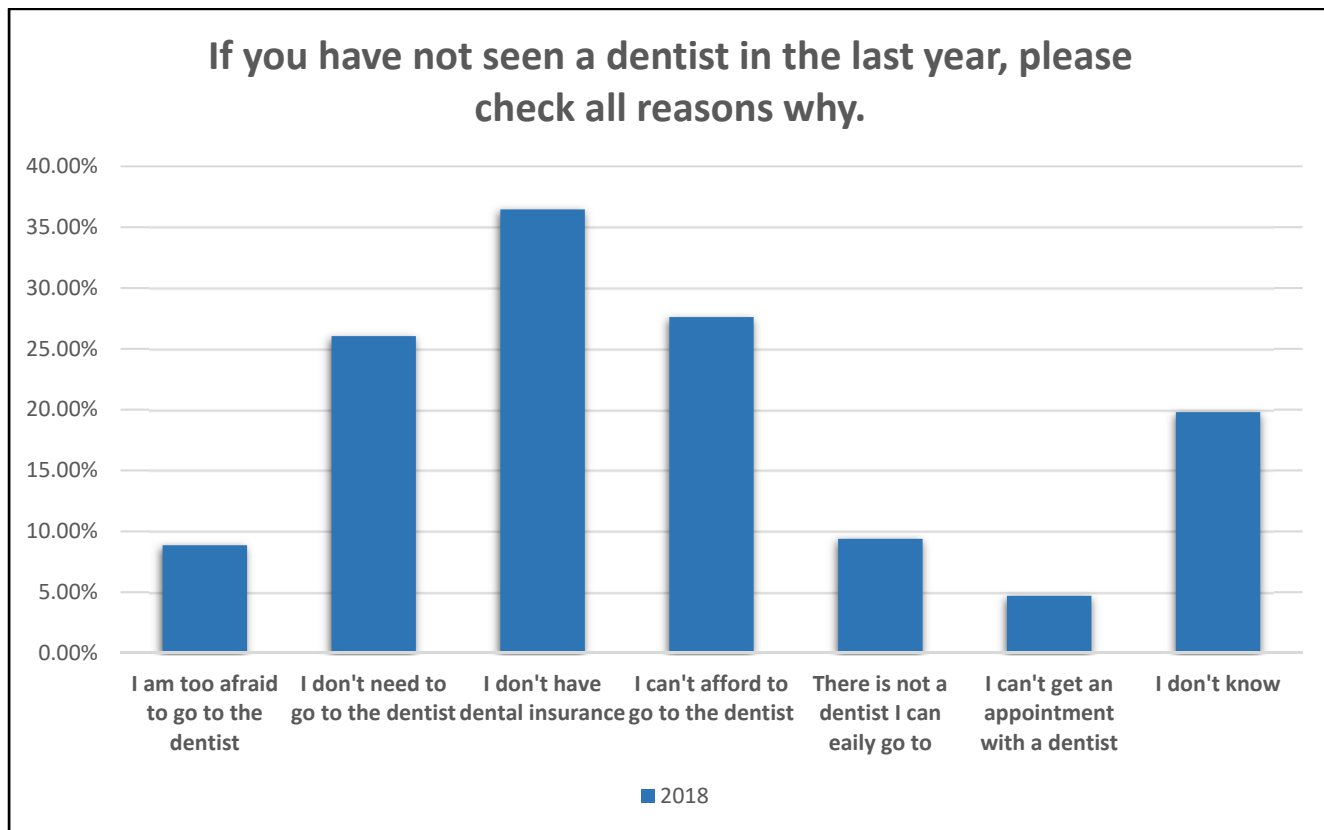


## Customer Survey Information



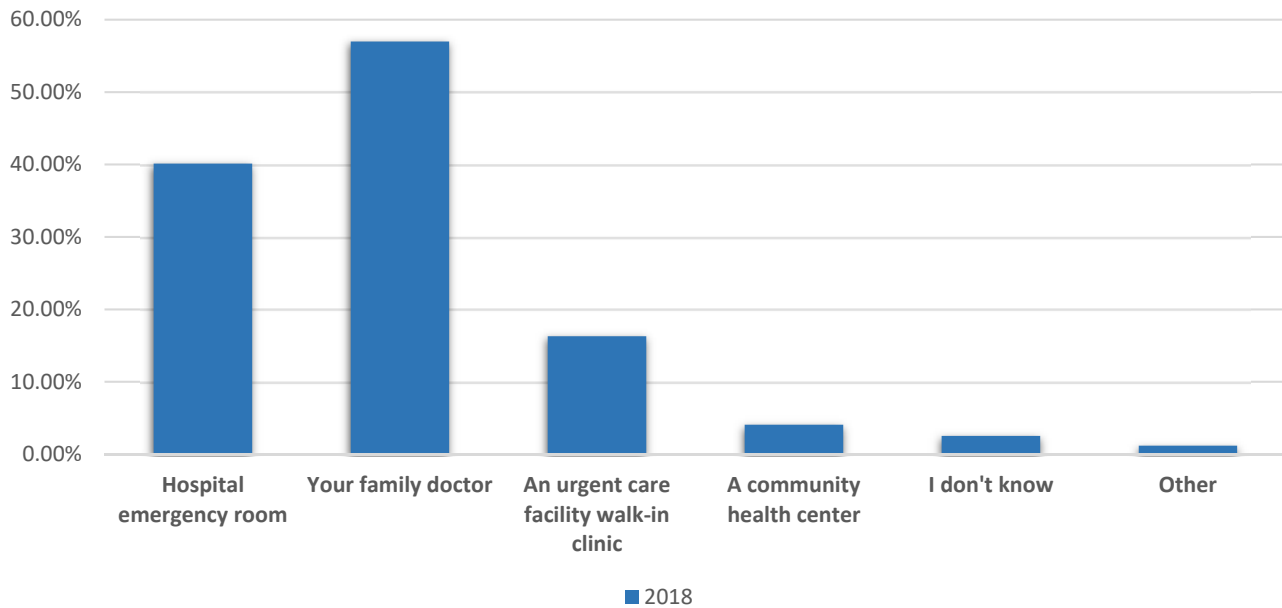
### Have you seen a dentist in the last year?

	2018
Yes	61.5%
No	37.7%
I Don't Know	0.77%





### Which of the following would be first choice if you or someone in your family became ill enough to seek medical help?



Have you or someone you know in your community gone without food for more than a day in the last year because they could not afford it?

	2015	2018
Yes	15.6%	21.4%
No	59.4%	57.3%
I Don't Know	25.0%	21.4%

## **Senior and Persons with Disabilities Support Services**

The needs of senior citizens and persons with disabilities have been a long-standing focus of Lycoming County community agencies. The County has a rapidly aging (60 and older) population leading to an increasing need for senior services. Today, there is a much greater awareness of how services for persons with disabilities can enhance quality of life and enable productive contributions to society. To that end, it is important to assess the effectiveness of existing programs to meet the specific needs of seniors, as well as those who are disabled.

Given the increasing demand for these services, the focus group participants discussed the ongoing challenge of finding and hiring adequate numbers of skilled staff for service organizations. Concern was also expressed about the level of dedication and the work ethic of some of the younger staff members. These management concerns were said to be further exasperated by the increasing amount of regulations imposed by state agencies.

When community survey respondents, as well as customers of social services, were asked to prioritize the services that seniors lack, the two highest-identified needs by both groups were health care and elder abuse. In addition, focus group participants discussed the need for improved follow-up on reported claims of elder abuse. When the community and social service customers were then asked to identify the services that are lacking for individuals with disabilities, three items emerged: housing, abuse and scam prevention, and health care.

On a positive note, the objective data demonstrates that fewer Lycoming County seniors live in poverty compared with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the nation. Across the objective data, community, customer, and partner surveys as well as focus group participants, four main themes emerge: housing affordability, inadequate information, medical and dental service needs, and socialization.

### ***Housing Affordability***

The Medicare Waiver Program, which helps pay for home accessibility modifications, is intended to help seniors stay in their homes; but, unfortunately, there is a long waiting period between enrollment and receiving services. The problem is a very limited supply of handicapped-accessible housing in Lycoming County, and seniors who do wish to stay in their own homes may need modifications completed in a more immediate time frame. Beyond these structural changes to their homes, many seniors require additional support services, such as personal hygiene assistance, in order to age in place successfully.

Another issue with the implementation of the waiver program is unrealistic contractor requirements, which limit the ability to get the work done even when funding is available. There has been a large increase in protective service alerts that take staff time to process. New regulations require increased documentation of all actions which, in turn, requires more staff at a time when low pay rates make it difficult to recruit and retain quality employees.

### ***Inadequate Information***

Seniors and people with disabilities, along with their families, may not be aware of available services. This is particularly true in rural areas. People who have had the capacity to plan and make good decisions throughout their life often do not need help when they age. People who have failed to plan will need services but lack the knowledge about what services exist and how to access them. A means of getting information on available services to this group, such as an elder navigator/advocate, is needed.

### ***Medical/Dental Service Needs***

Local clinics may provide routine care, but treatment options are lacking for clients/customers with ongoing conditions, particularly those with behavioral health issues. Focus group participants indicated that opioid abuse and addiction by a family member can negatively affect the emotional health of older family members. In addition, older people are becoming increasingly addicted to drugs that were obtained for pain management. In too many of these situations existing drug abuse support systems do not meet their needs.

Regarding other health and dental issues, focus group members expressed concern that homebound seniors are at increased risk of not seeking or obtaining needed dental and medical treatment, especially those who reside in the rural countryside.

From the Lycoming County customer survey, it is noteworthy that nearly 20 percent of those respondents identified themselves or someone in their household as having a disability. Equally interesting is that approximately 29 percent of those with a disability listed the type as mental. It is not surprising that both educators and community service agency professionals in several focus group sessions stressed the growing need for mental health counseling and advocated for increased resources.

### *Socialization*

Seniors have opportunities to connect with the community but getting some of them to engage in these activities is the problem. Focus group participants cited the value of the senior centers located around Lycoming County, but also lamented that many seniors simply want to stay at home where they feel safer and more comfortable. The focus group recognized that this self-induced isolation can result in withdrawal and depression. The problem becomes more challenging when a spouse dies and the remaining spouse has developed no other social connections; thus, no companions with whom to share activities. Transportation on weekends and from rural areas to the city might help with getting people to events.

## Objective Data: Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Support Services

### **Poverty: Seniors Population and Poverty**

Population and poverty estimates for persons age 65 and older are shown for Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the United States. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, an average of 7.5% of Lycoming County seniors lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for people living in Lycoming County is less than the national average of 9.3%.

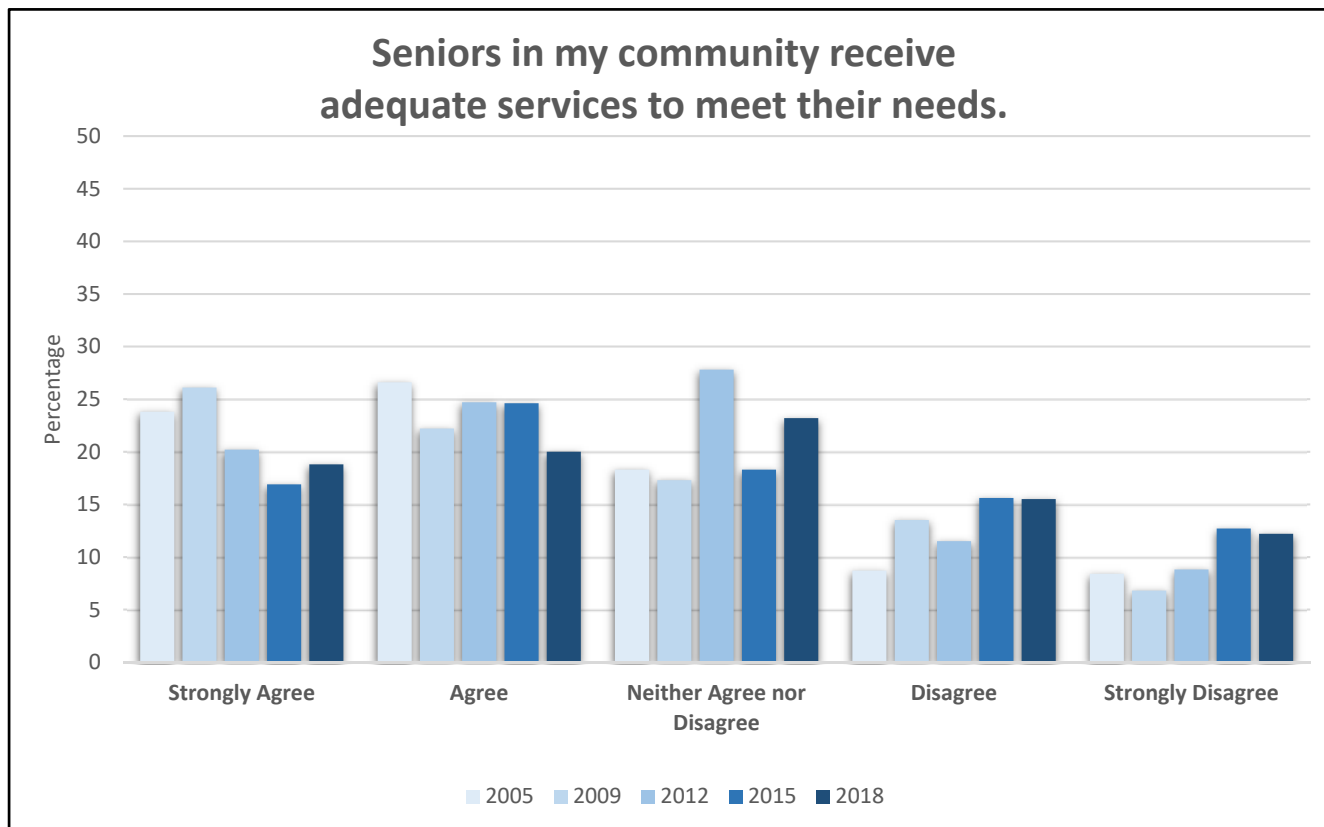
#### **Seniors in Poverty, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Lycoming County	19,486	1,463	7.5%
Pennsylvania	2,053,348	166,651	8.1%
United States	44,874,586	4,195,427	9.3%

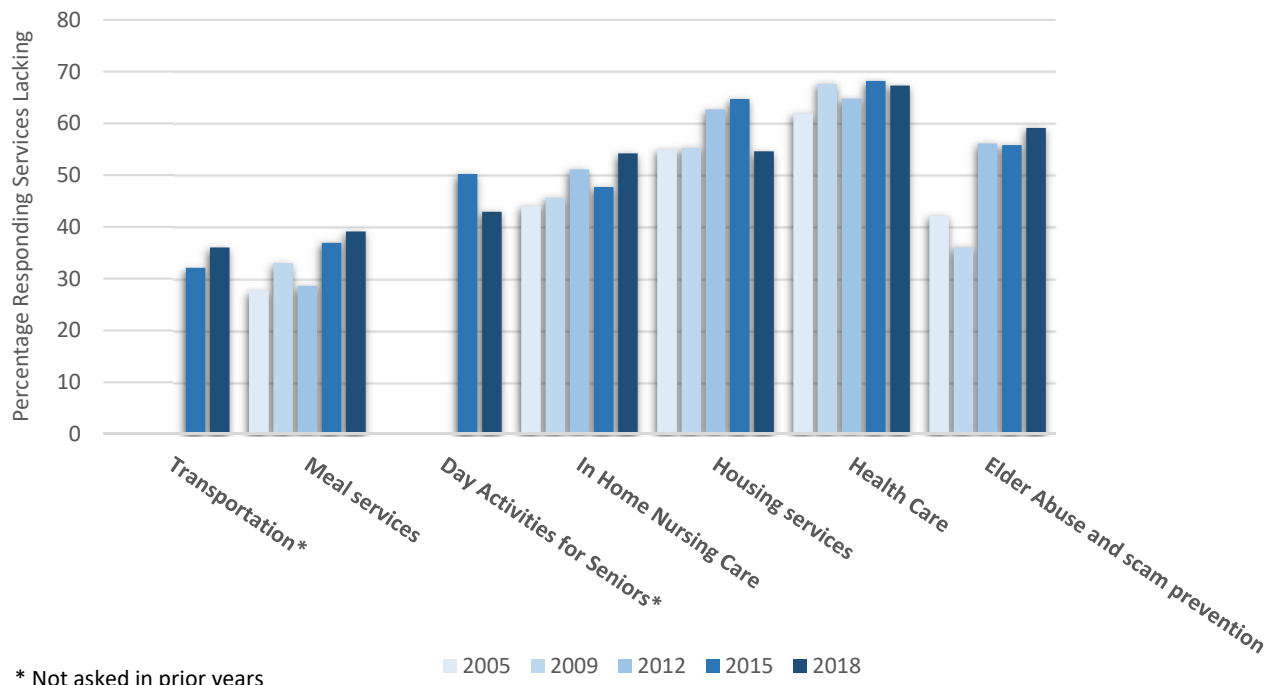
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: county

## Survey Data: Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Support Services

### Community Survey Information – Seniors



## What services are lacking for seniors?

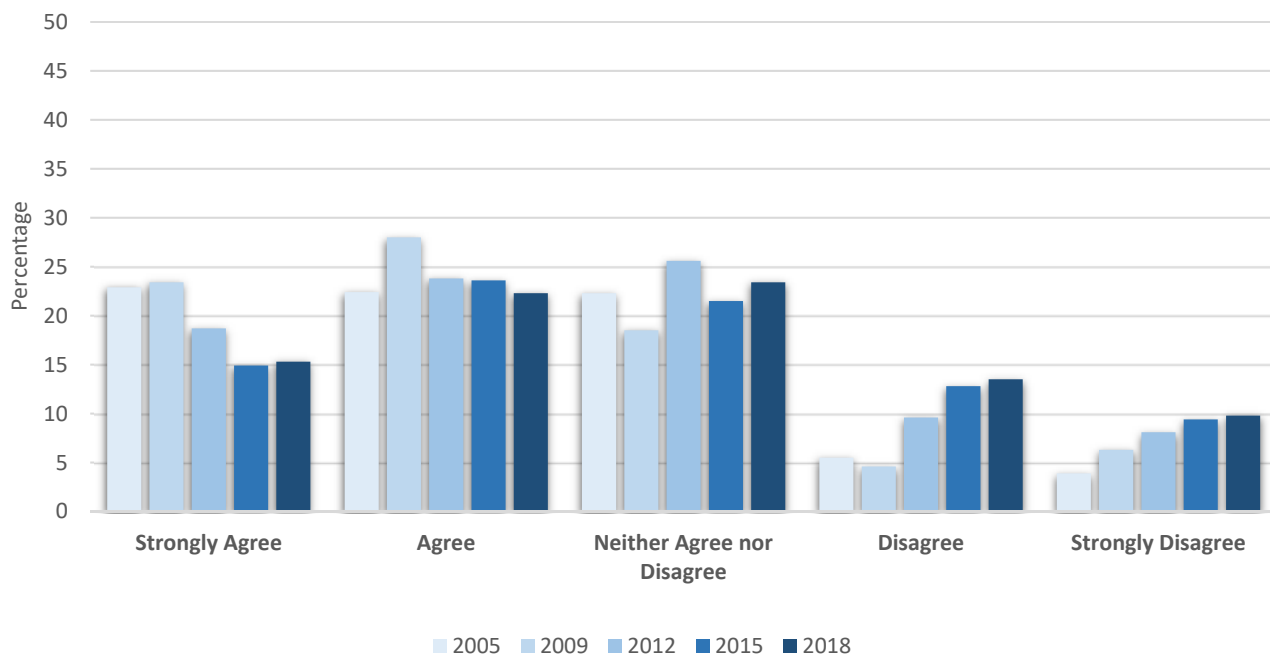


## Do you provide any assistance for an elderly relative in Lycoming County?

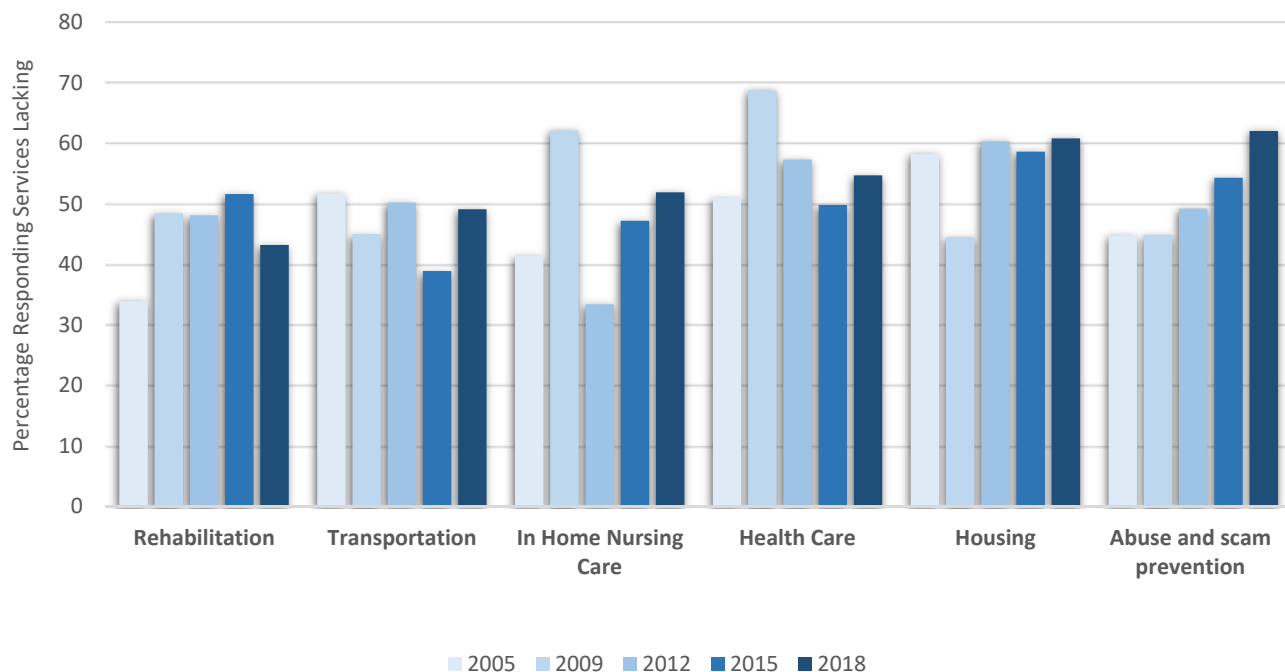
	2005	2009	2012	2015	2018
Yes	22.7%	24.8%	21.9%	12.4%	<b>17.9%</b>
No	77.0%	74.8%	78.0%	82.7%	<b>81.9%</b>
Don't Know	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	4.9%	<b>0.2%</b>

## Community Survey Information – Persons with Disabilities

### The disabled in my community receive adequate services to meet their needs.



### What services are lacking for the disabled?



### Are you or anyone in your household disabled?

	2005	2009	2012	2015	2018
Yes	16.2%	18.7%	19.4%	18.6%	<b>19.5%</b>
No	83.5%	80.9%	80.1%	79.9%	<b>80.0%</b>
Don't Know	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	<b>0.3%</b>
Refused	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%	1.0%	<b>0.2%</b>

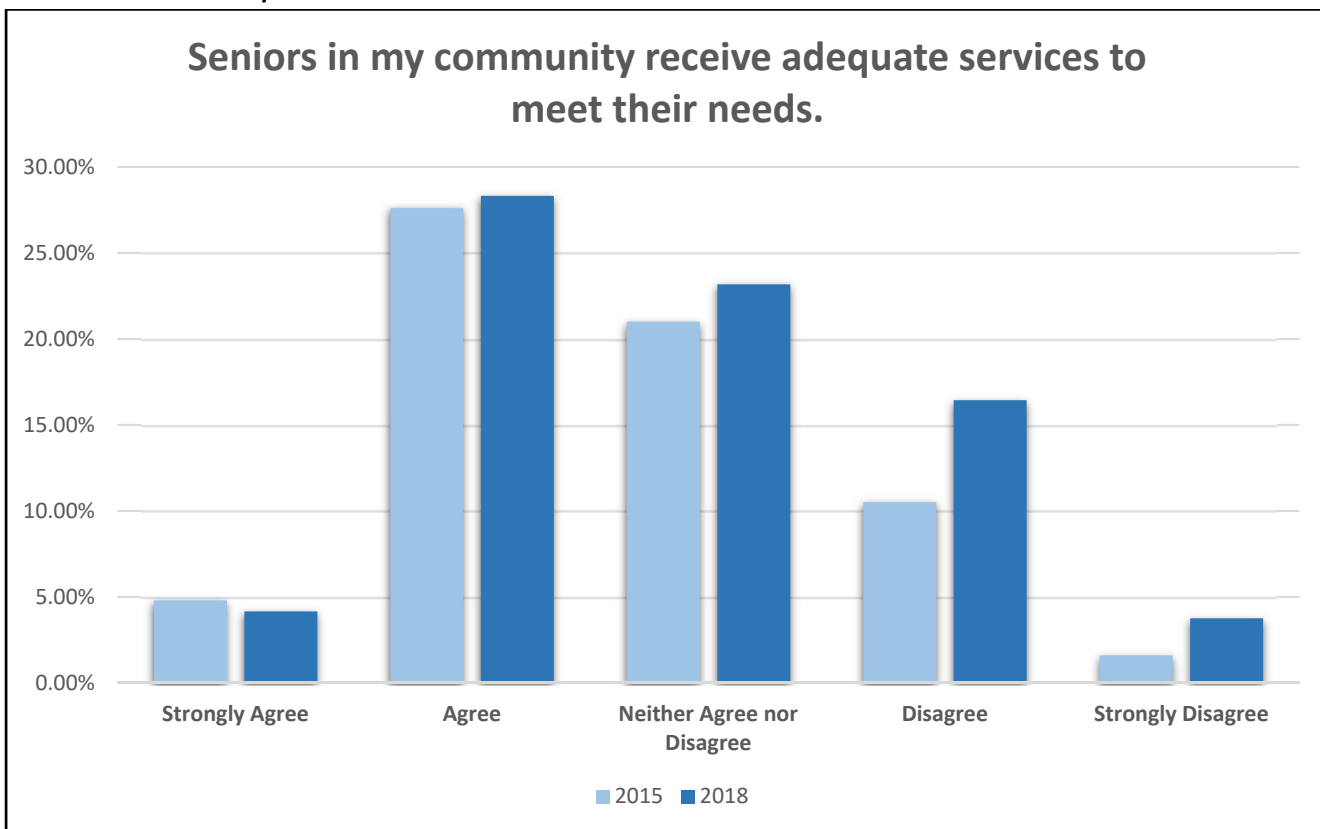
Those who indicated there was someone with a disability in their household were also asked:  
**What is the approximate age of that individual?**

	2005	2009	2012	2015	2018
Under 18	3.5%	13.6%	12.8%	4.6%	<b>3.7%</b>
18-64	56.0%	69.7%	58.1%	61.1%	<b>65.5%</b>
65+	40.5%	16.7%	29.1%	34.3%	<b>30.8%</b>

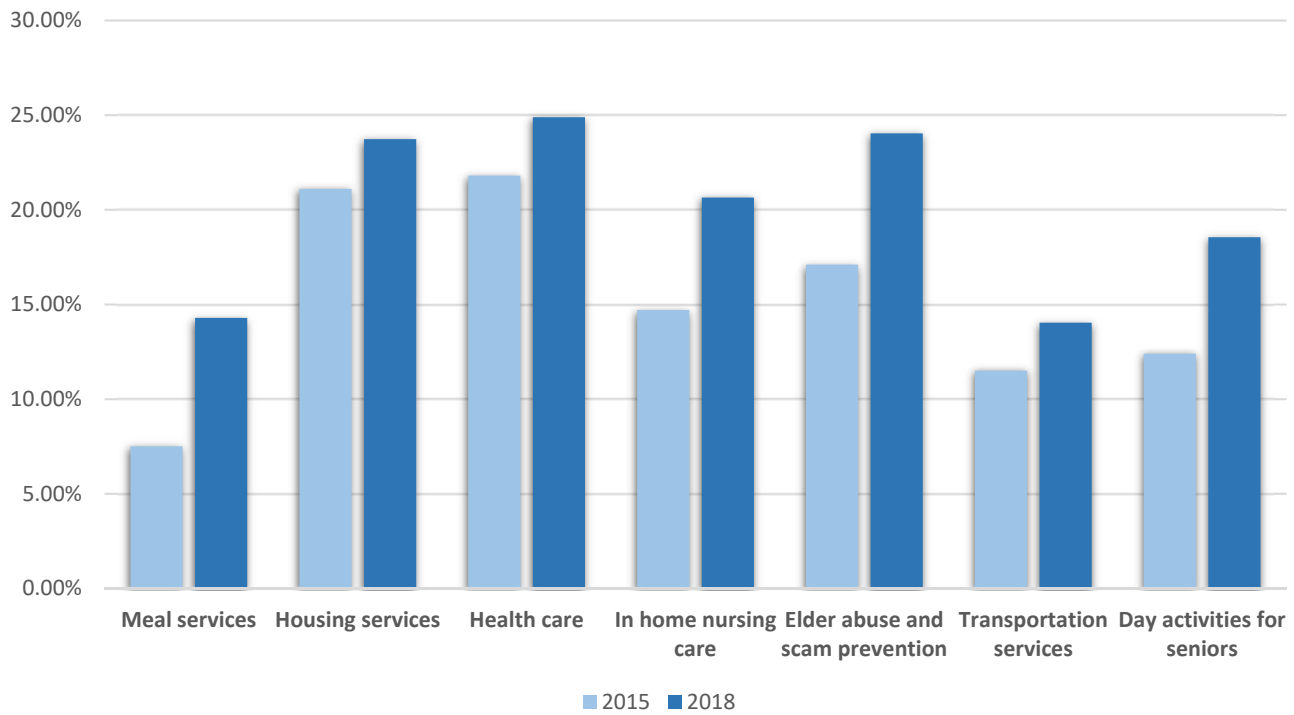
**Does that person have a physical/mental disability? (Percentage responding yes to each option)**

	2015	2018
Physical	83.7%	<b>77.9%</b>
Mental	26.4%	<b>28.9%</b>

### Customer Survey Information – Seniors



## What services are lacking for seniors in Lycoming County?

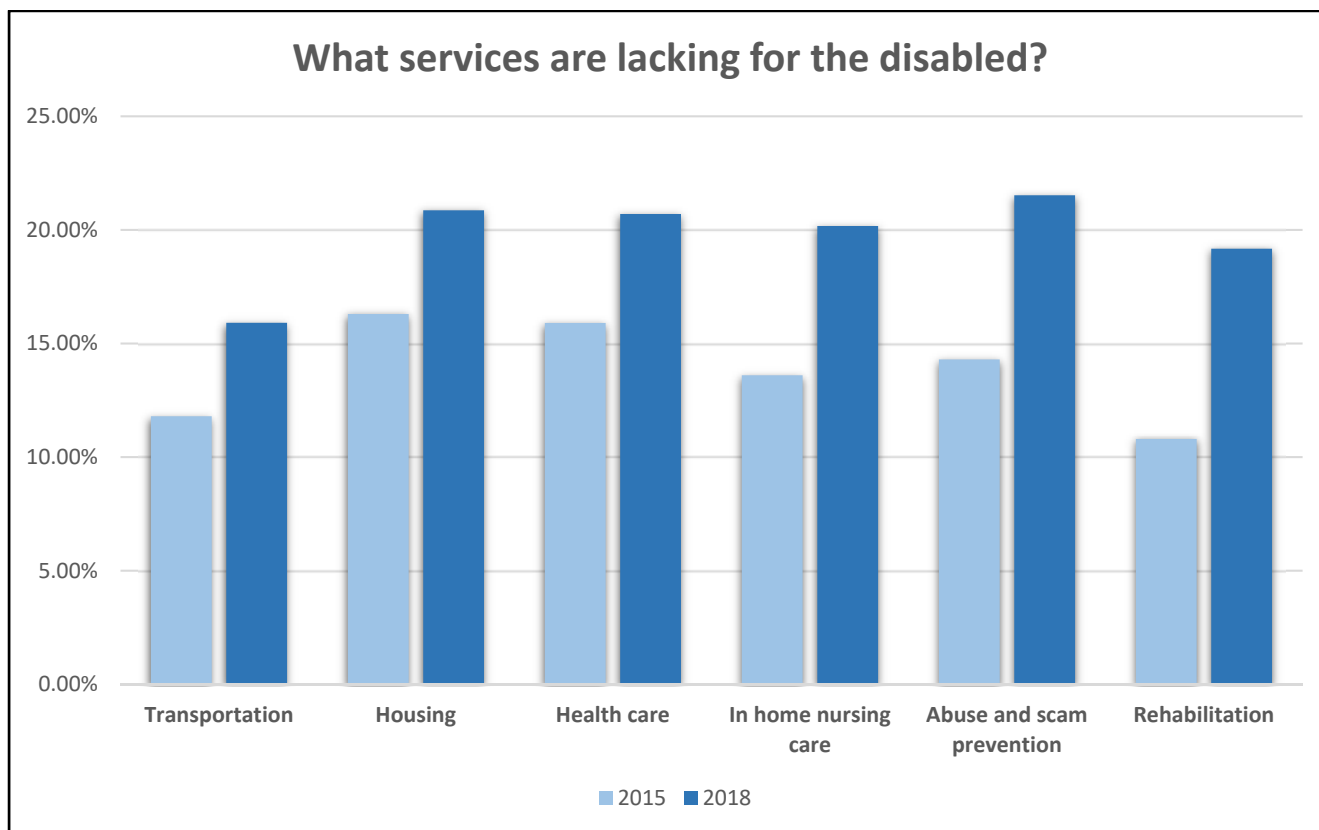
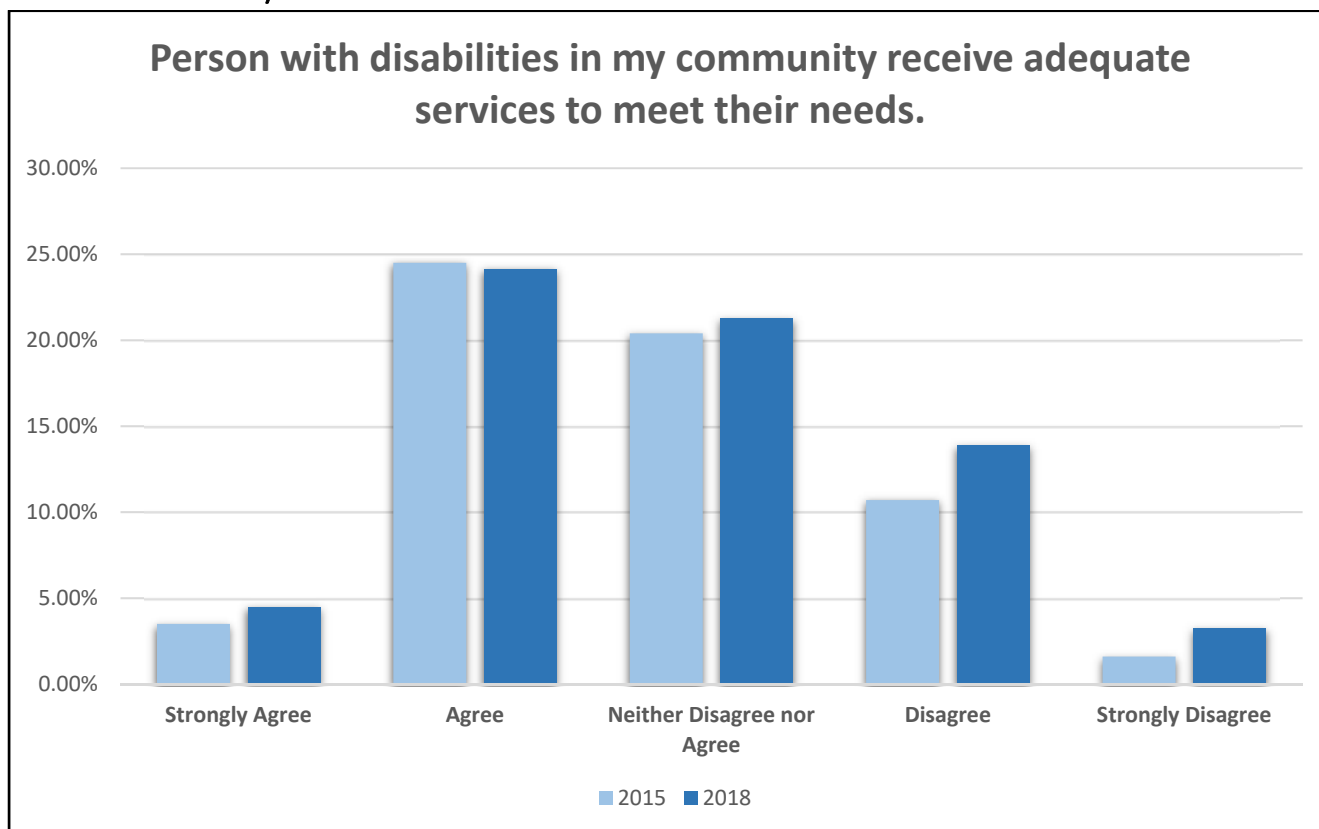


## Do you provide any assistance for an elderly relative in Lycoming County?

	2015	2018
Yes	12.4%	15.0%
No	82.7%	81.9%
I Don't Know	4.9%	3.1%



## Customer Survey Information – Persons with Disabilities



**Are you or anyone in your household disabled?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Yes	32.8%	<b>35.0%</b>
No	65.0%	<b>62.5%</b>
I Don't Know	2.2%	<b>2.5%</b>

**What is the approximate age of that individual?**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Under 18	12.8	<b>10.7%</b>
18-64	46.2	<b>45.9%</b>
65+	41.0	<b>42.1%</b>

**Is that person's primary disability physical or mental? (Percentage responding yes to each option)**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Physical	71.4%	<b>70.0%</b>
Mental	28.6%	<b>41.1%</b>

## Demographics

The following section provides demographic data across a range of topics useful in evaluating Lycoming County's community needs. Of particular note are data indicating that income levels in Lycoming County fall below state and national averages across family sizes. The result is a poverty rate in Lycoming County in 2016 of 14.6%, higher than that of the state and the nation, and also growing at a relatively faster rate when compared to 2000 poverty rate data.

## Objective Data: Population

### Population Change

Population change within county, state, and nation from 2000-2016 is shown below. During the 16-year period, total population estimates for the Lycoming County declined by -3.1%; decreasing from 120,044 persons in 2000 to 116,313 persons in 2016. The area equaled 116,313.

**Population Change, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Total Population, 2016 ACS	Total Population, 2000 Census	Population Change from 2000-2016 Census/ACS	Percent Change from 2000-2016 Census/ACS
Lycoming County	116,313	120,044	-3,731	-3.11%
Pennsylvania	12,783,977	12,281,054	502,923	4.1%
United States	318,558,162	281,421,906	37,136,256	13.2%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2012-16. Source geography: County

### Age and Gender Demographics

Population by gender within the county, state, and nation is shown below. According to ACS 2012-2016 5-year population estimates for Lycoming County, the female population made up 51.33%, while the male population represented 48.67%.

**Population by Gender and Age, 2012-2016**

Report Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		18 to 24		25 to 34	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lycoming	3,343	3,180	8,853	8,610	6,362	5,285	7,361	7,272
PA	365,819	348,779	1,019,170	970,500	625,422	604,441	827,446	806,846
United States	10,154,024	9,712,936	27,455,869	26,289,609	16,044,240	15,252,337	21,899,150	21,498,757

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County

**Population by Gender and Age (continued), 2012-2016**

Report Area	35 to 44		45 to 54		55 to 64		Over 64	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M
Lycoming	6,420	6,661	7,731	8,202	8,164	8,381	7,914	11,618
Pennsylvania	754,817	760,642	888,389	916,121	856,591	905,747	811,266	1,215,859
United States	20,182,692	20,365,708	21,415,016	22,045,450	19,310,203	20,751,539	18,244,716	25,876,504

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County

## Race Demographics

Population by gender within Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the United States is shown below. According to ACS 2012-2016 5-year population estimates, the white population made up 92.43% of Lycoming County, black population represented 4.88%, and other races combined were 2.69%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 1.84% of the population.

**Population by Race, 2012-2016**

Report Area	White		Black		Native American		Asian	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lycoming	52,601	54,273	2,721	2,924	132	53	337	132
PA	5,094,147	5,308,596	680,760	729,803	13,115	11,832	192,673	13,115
National	115,461,098	118,195,980	19,220,550	21,021,268	1,288,198	1,309,619	7,882,217	1,288,198
Report Area	Native Hawaiian		Mixed Race		Hispanic/ Latino		Not Hispanic/ Latino	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lycoming	0	9	955	1,177	933	1,142	56,171	58,067
PA	2,083	2,380	142,263	143,505	430,715	412,449	5,824,327	6,116,486
National	279,671	280,350	4,862,948	4,889,999	27,904,147	27,294,960	128,861,175	134,497,880

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County

## Household Types

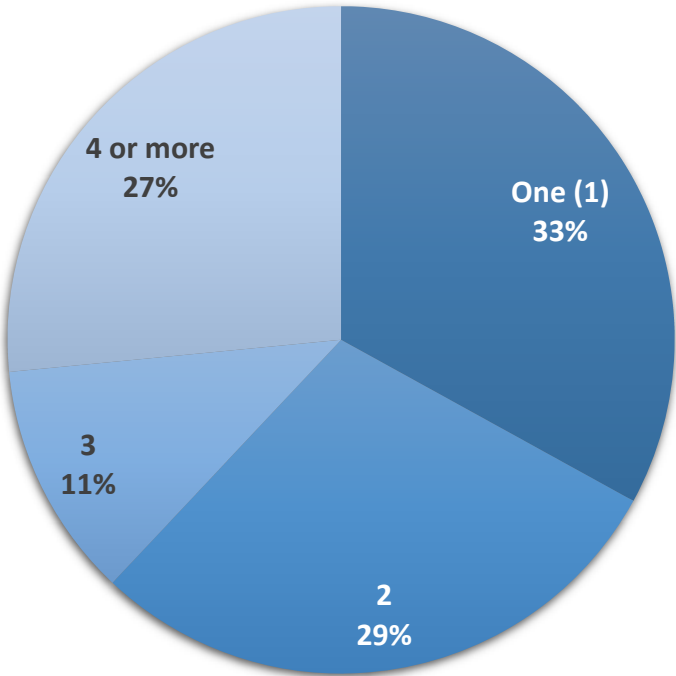
The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 45,587 households in Lycoming County in 2016. Single person households made up 29.2 % of the total, two-person households represented 37.71% of the total, three-person households made up 14.36% of the total, four-person households represented 11.66% of the total, and larger households of 5 or more made up 7.07% of the total.

**Household Types, 2016**

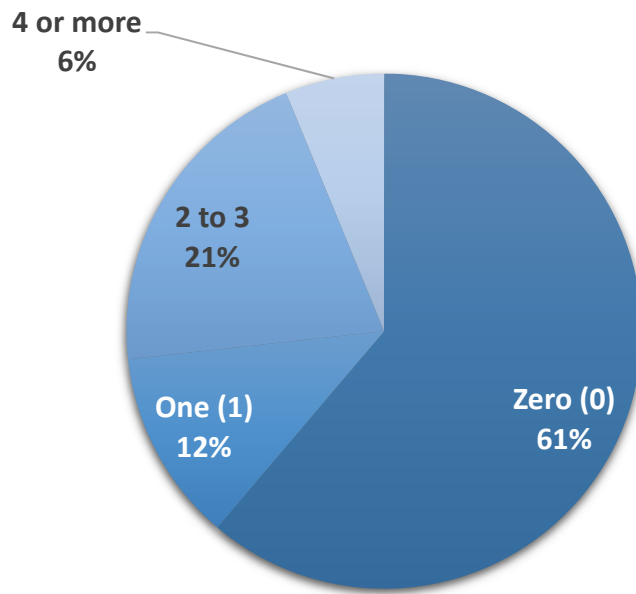
Report Area	Total Households		1 Person		2 People	
			Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Lycoming	45,587		13,311	29.2%	17,193	37.71%
Pennsylvania	4,961,929		1,467,333	29.57%	1,719,962	34.66%
United States	117,716,237		32,595,486	27.69%	39,674,011	33.7%
Report Area	3 People		4 People		5 or More People	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Lycoming	6,545	14.36%	5,317	11.66%	3,221	7.07%
Pennsylvania	771,280	15.54%	608,541	12.26%	394,813	7.96%
United States	18,539,570	15.75%	15,387,938	13.07%	11,519,232	9.79%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2016. Source geography: County

Household Size of Respondents in Lycoming County



## Number of Children in Household under the age of 18 in Lycoming County



## Objective Data: Income

### Wages

Average weekly wages for Lycoming County and Pennsylvania during the period July–September 2017 are provided in the table below. The average federal government weekly wage is \$1,129, which compares to the average state and local government weekly wage of \$1,041.5 and the average private weekly wage of \$784.

### Weekly Wages, 2017

Report Area	Total Employees	Avg Weekly Wage	Federal Employees	Avg Federal Government Weekly Wage	State/Local Employees	Avg State/Local Government Weekly Wage	Private Employees	Avg Private Weekly Wage
Lycoming County	51,464	\$817	367	\$1,129	6,899	\$1,041.5	44,198	\$784
PA	5,836,506	\$1,002	97,125	\$1,396	582,740	\$1,080.5	5,156,641	\$990

Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017. Source geography: County

## Income Levels

Three common measures of income are Median Household Income, Per Capita Income, and Average Income based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates. All three measures are shown for Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and the United States in the below tables. The average income for earners in Lycoming County is \$33,321. It is noted that the average income for a Lycoming County employee is 22.2% lower than the national average. The Census Bureau defines an earner as someone age 15 and older who receives any form of income, whether it is wages, salaries, benefits, or other type of income.

**Income Levels by County, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Average Income Per Earner
Lycoming County	\$48,731	\$24,855	\$33,321
Pennsylvania	\$54,895	\$30,137	\$41,219
United States	\$55,322	\$29,829	\$42,837

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-16. Source geography: Tract

## Income by Family Size

The table below shows median household income broken out by family size. The Pennsylvania average for a household of 3 is \$75,526, which is 11.3% higher than Lycoming County households of a similar size. This disparity grows as household sizes increases. For a household of seven the Lycoming County verse Pennsylvania disparity is 32.8%.

**Median Household Income by Family Size, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Household of One	Household of Two	Household of Three	Household of Four	Household of Five	Household of Six	Household of Seven
Lycoming County	\$23,921	\$53,800	\$67,860	\$74,902	\$73,889	\$68,333	\$57,326
Pennsylvania	\$27,343	\$61,459	\$75,526	\$86,965	\$83,862	\$79,480	\$76,126
United States	\$29,162	\$62,214	\$70,766	\$81,844	\$75,347	\$71,600	\$74,443

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-16. Source geography: County

## Survey Data: Income

### Community Survey Information

**What was the total income of all persons in your household over the past year for all household members?**

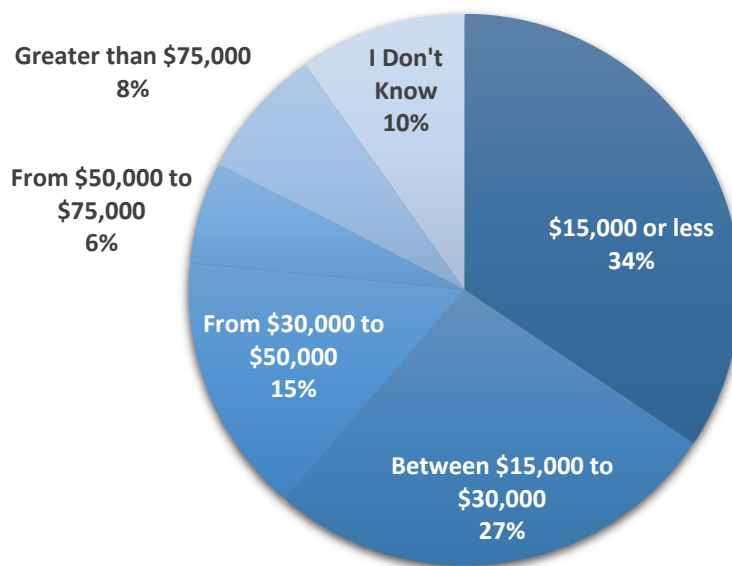
	2005	2009	2012	2015	2018
\$15,000 or less	9.7%	8.4%	4.5%	4.8%	<b>5.7%</b>
\$15-30,000	21.1%	16.4%	15.2%	13.8%	<b>11.8%</b>
\$30-50,000	22.5%	22.1%	20.8%	19.7%	<b>21.5%</b>
\$50-75,000	24%	16.1%	21.6%	20.4%	<b>19.4%</b>
Greater than \$75,000	16.9%	17.6%	18.7%	26.5%	<b>25.5%</b>
Refused	5.2%	14.2%	11.2%	4.7%	<b>9.6%</b>
Don't Know	0.7%	5.3%	8.1%	10.1%	<b>6.6%</b>

## Customer Survey Information

**What was the total income of all persons in your household over the past year for all household members?**

	2005	2009	2012	2015	2018
\$15,000 or less	9.7%	8.4%	4.5%	4.8%	<b>35.1%</b>
\$15-30,000	21.1%	16.4%	15.2%	13.8%	<b>26.5%</b>
\$30-50,000	22.5%	22.1%	20.8%	19.7%	<b>13.3%</b>
\$50-75,000	24.0%	16.1%	21.6%	20.4%	<b>6.0%</b>
Greater than \$75,000	16.9%	17.6%	18.7%	26.5%	<b>7.8%</b>
Refused	5.2%	14.2%	11.2%	4.7%	<b>6.6%</b>
Don't Know	0.7%	5.3%	8.1%	10.1%	<b>10.0%</b>

**What was the total income of all person in your household over the past year?**





## Objective Data: Poverty

### Poverty: Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

The Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) displayed below are issued every year by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and are the measure used for determining financial eligibility for all federal and many states programs. The FPIG is the same for all 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. The Federal Poverty Income is a slightly different, simplified version of the poverty thresholds used to measure poverty for statistical purposes. In most communities, a family would need to earn twice, or 200% of the amount identified for their family size in the FPIG guidelines to achieve financial stability, and in some communities that number is closer to 3 times or 300%. For a community to assist families in moving out of poverty into stability, a self-sufficiency model like the Living Wage Calculator must be used so that appropriate strategies can be instituted.

**Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, 2018**

Report Area	Family/ household Size	Family of 1	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4	Family of 5	Family of 6	Family of 7	Family of 8
Pennsylvania	Poverty Guideline	\$12,140	\$16,460	\$20,780	\$25,100	\$29,420	\$33,740	\$38,060	\$42,380

*Services, D. o. (2018, January 18). Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines. Retrieved from Federal Register The Daily Journal of the United States Government*

### Poverty Rate

The table below shows the total population estimates for all persons in poverty for Lycoming County. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year averages, an average of 14.42% of all persons residing in Lycoming County lived in a state of poverty during the 2016 calendar year. The poverty rate for all persons living in Lycoming County is greater than the Pennsylvania average of 13.32%.

**Poverty Rate, 2012-2016**

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Lycoming County	110,490	15,932	14.42%
Pennsylvania	12,369,671	1,647,762	13.32%
United States	310,629,645	46,932,225	15.11%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: Tract*

### Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in Lycoming County from 2000 to 2016 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 4.3%, compared to a national increase of 2.7%.

**Change in Poverty Rate, 2016**

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2000	Poverty Rate 2000	Persons in Poverty 2016	Poverty Rate 2016	Change in Poverty Rate 2000-2016
Lycoming County	11,818	10.3%	16,033	14.6%	4.3%
Pennsylvania	2,271,853	9.48%	3,179,169	12.87%	3.39%
United States	31,581,086	11.3%	44,268,996	14%	2.7%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income Poverty Estimates. 2016. Source geography: County*

## Objective Data: Education

### Education: Free and Reduced Lunch Program

The table below shows the number of students eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program in the 2015-2016 school year. The figures below include public, private, and parochial schools, and residential child care institutional figures. There are 590 students eligible in Lycoming County, which makes up 35.31% of total enrolled students, compared to a Pennsylvania rate of 50.4%.

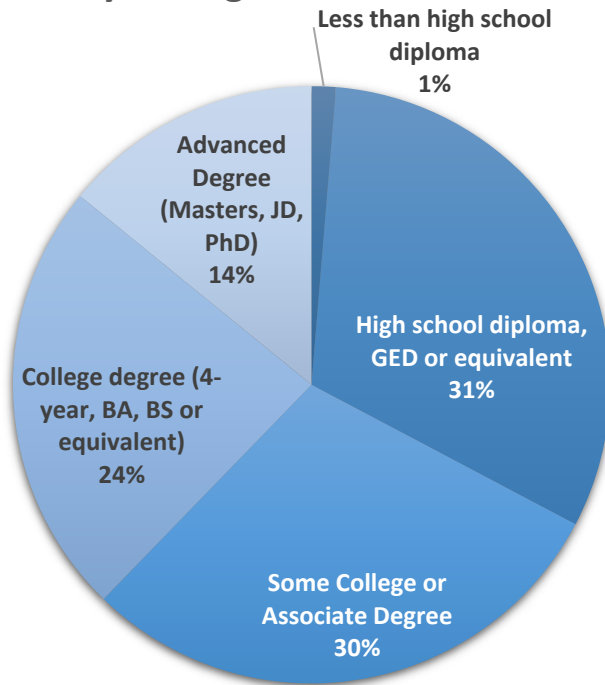
**Students Participating in the Free Reduced Lunch Program (lunches Only), 2015-2016**

County	District	Type	Enrollment	Free Lunch Eligible	Free Lunch Enrollment	Reduced Lunch Eligible	Reduced Lunch Enrollment	Free and Reduced Lunch Enrollment
Lycoming	East Lycoming School District	Public School	1,671	520	31.12%	70	4.19%	35.31%
Lycoming	Jersey Shore Area School District	Public School	2,416	1,083	44.83%	159	6.58%	51.41%
Lycoming	Loyalsock Township School District	Public School	1,560	546	35%	58	3.72%	38.72%
Lycoming	Montgomery Area School District	Public School	971	411	42.33%	63	6.49%	48.82%
Lycoming	Montoursville Area School District	Public School	2,043	466	22.81%	81	3.96%	26.77%
Lycoming	Muncy School District	Public School	1,086	382	35.17%	43	3.96%	39.13%
Lycoming	South Williamsport Area School District	Public School	1,309	496	37.89%	78	5.96%	43.85%
Lycoming	Williamsport Area School District	Public School	5,055	3,081	60.95%	323	6.39%	67.34%
Lycoming	St. John Neumann Regional Academy High School Campus	Private or Parochial School	242	66	27.27%	15	6.20%	33.47%
Lycoming	Families United Network, Inc	Private	32	32	100%	0	0%	100%
Statewide Average			1,751,081	845,729	48.30%	53,941	3.08%	51.38%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2015-2016, Source geography: County

## Community Survey Information: Education

### What is your highest level of education?



## Customer Survey Information: Education

### What is your highest level of education?

