



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



2024 Erie County, Ohio COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

CONDUCTED BY THE ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND BGSU'S CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Acknowledgments

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Center for Regional Development

The Center for Regional Development (CRD) provides technical assistance and expertise to local organizations to meet their public health goals. CRD has diverse experience in applied research in the public health sector. CRD assures excellence by providing responsiveness to the needs of the communities we work with, in-depth public engagement, in-house IRB processing, and customized deliverables tailored to your goals.

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The 2024 Erie County Community Health Assessment is available on the following websites:

Erie County Health Department/Erie County Community Health Center

www.eriecohealthohio.com

ADAMHS Board of Erie County

www.adamhserie.org

Firelands Health

www.firelands.com

BGSU Center for Regional Development

www.bgsu.edu/crd

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Executive Summary

Overview

The 2024 Erie County Health Assessment presents both positive and negative trends of health and wellness of Erie County residents. The community survey, focus groups, and leadership survey pointed out important trends and themes that will serve as a guide to better support residents and provide services for the community that support better health and well-being.

Positive Trends

Primary Care Participation: Most respondents (91%) have someone they consider to be their primary care provider.

Health Screening Participation: Participation in health screenings such as blood cholesterol checks, blood pressure checks, and skin cancer screenings is high.

Low Smoking Rates: The majority of respondents (82%) have never smoked in their lives.

Reduced Daily Smoking Behavior: There was a 4% decrease from 2022 to 2024 in the percentage of respondents who smoke

every day.

Low Illicit Drug Use: The majority of respondents do not use high-risk drugs such as cocaine, heroin, or methamphetamines.

High Participation in Physical Activity: 53% of respondents exercise 3-7 times per week.

Safe Driving Practices: Cell phone use while driving is down by 9% from 2022.

Concerns

Health Insurance Services Coverage: Other than preventative care, there seems to be a decrease in the percentage of plans that cover other health related services, such as dental and vision services.

High Prescription Costs: The cost of medications or lack of health insurance are major contributing factors to respondents not getting the medication they need. This especially impacts the low-income population.

Increase in Mental Health Diagnoses: More than half of respondents said either they themselves or an immediate

family member has been diagnosed with an anxiety disorder (53%) and/or depression (56%).

Declining Mental Health Status: There has been a notable increase in feelings of hopelessness for two weeks or more that impacts daily life. There was a 21% increase from 2019 to 2024. There has also been an increase in respondents who have seriously considered attempting suicide in the last year.

Recreational Marijuana Use: There has been a notable increase (21%) in rates of recreational marijuana use by respondents and/or their immediate family members between 2022 and 2024.

E-cigarette Use: There was a 1% decrease in the number of respondents who use e-cigarettes daily, however there was a 7% increase in those that do it on some days.

High Rates of Obesity: Nearly half (48%) of respondents have been told by a doctor that they are obese or overweight.

High Rates of Chronic Conditions: More than half of respondents to this survey have been diagnosed with arthritis (52%) or high blood pressure (56%). Almost 40% of respondents have been diagnosed with diabetes.

General Observations

Affordability: An overall theme in the survey results shows that healthcare affordability is a concern of residents that impacts many components of health and wellness. Affordability impacts respondents' ability to access routine medical care, specialist care, prescription medication, fresh fruits and vegetables, and high-quality housing. This is especially a struggle for the low-income population.

Health Department Utilization: There was an increase in the percentage of respondents who receive their primary care from the Erie County Health Department/Erie County Community Health Center.

Substance Abuse Treatment Options: For those who are seeking treatment for alcohol or substance abuse, self-help and counseling strategies are being more widely used than other strategies.

Sense of Belonging: Members of the LGBTQ+ community have not expressed that they have experienced discrimination but feel as though they could be better integrated into the community.

Introduction

What is a Community Health Assessment?

A Community Health Assessment (CHA) is an in-depth analysis of the health and well-being of residents in Erie County. A CHA also identifies and monitors health trends in the community. Conducting a CHA is a collaborative process that includes building partnerships; collecting and assessing data to identify community health-related needs, and to determine if those needs are being met by services and resources that are currently available. The CHA will then be utilized to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP will prioritize community health concerns, identify solutions to address those concerns, develop action steps towards the solutions, and establish an evaluation framework to measure progress. The Community Health Assessment establishes the baseline of health for the community and the foundation for the CHIP.

Primary Data Collection Methods

Community survey

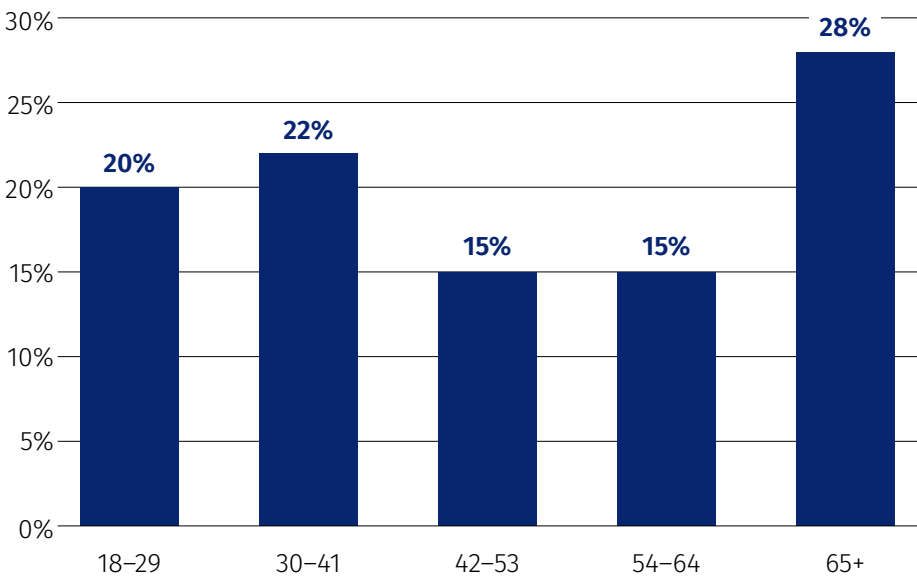
The CHA community-wide survey is the primary data collection method for gathering information about the health of county residents. The Erie County CHA Steering Committee convened to discuss current health topics and concerns to identify themes for the assessment and helped to define the content, scope, and sequence of the survey. The survey for the 2024 Erie County Community Health Assessment was adapted from the last survey instrument to incorporate longitudinal data. The ability to compare current trends with longitudinal data was important to the steering committee. The CRD team developed an initial survey instrument draft, which was reviewed by the steering committee and edited into a finalized online questionnaire hosted on the Qualtrics survey platform. The survey had 137 questions, several of which were part of “skip logics,” meaning that some questions only appear if the respondents answered a related question a certain way. The survey questions focused on the following areas: health care

access, mental health, alcohol, drugs, & tobacco use, lifestyle choices, maternal health & infant vitality, quality of life, and safety & environmental factors.

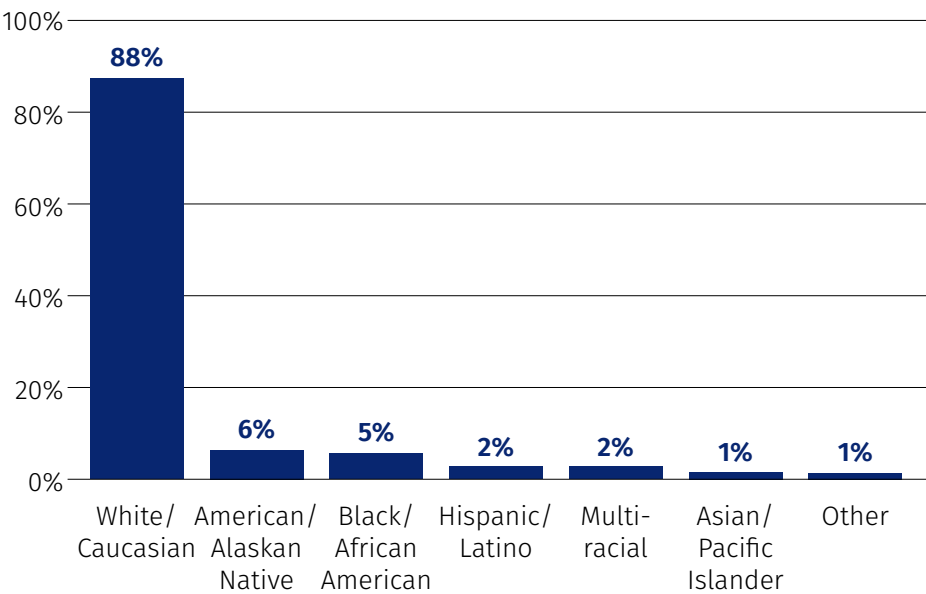
Sampling

To ensure an overall sampling error of +/- 5.0% within a 95% confidence level in order to achieve statistical significance, a sampling size of 380 was needed. This sample size is statistically significant, but the data should not be extrapolated to infer behaviors of those not surveyed. 452 responses were recorded, and respondents were picked at random using multiple methods of survey distribution.

Community survey age distribution



Community survey race distribution



Procedure

The first page of the survey requests that the participant acknowledge that they are aware that the survey is voluntary, confidential, and that they are not required to answer any question and can stop at any point. Once the survey instrument and distribution plan was approved by the CHA Steering Committee, the community survey was produced in an electronic format on Qualtrics, with a paper version made available for those who requested one. Survey distribution took place over a 3-month time frame. Marketing materials

were developed using a QR code for in-person distribution, and graphics were developed for e-mail and social media distribution. CRD also sent out 1,600 mailed letters to a random sample of Erie County residents, and an additional 3,600 postcards. CRD also sent out 55 e-mails and reminders to organizations and local elected officials in Erie County asking them to distribute the surveys to their membership lists and professional networks to cast a wide net and reach the goal of at least 380 responses.

Data analysis

The CRD staff reviewed the data to identify data points of interest, trends, the impact of different variables on certain trends, and compared the information collected to secondary data to benchmark Erie County data with Ohio data and national data. The data analysis phase was when the priority health concerns for Erie County were identified. Data trends informed further community engagement including focus groups and stakeholder interviews.

Limitations

A random sampling approach is widely considered effective

and reliable, but there are some limitations to consider. There is no way to ensure that the sample is completely reflective of the population in the county since the survey was voluntary. Voluntary participation introduces a threat to the external validity of the data, and thus the findings in this report cannot be extrapolated to the entire population of Erie County. A second limitation of this study is that the data should be interpreted in aggregate, and caution is advised for interpretation of subset data due to higher margins of error compared to the data in aggregate. A third limitation of this assessment is that the respondents completed a “self-report” survey, and as such the responses could reflect socially desirable metrics that are inconsistent with reality. This could potentially affect the internal validity of the results.

Sub-population focus groups

To capture multiple perspectives that were not well represented in the community survey, CRD conducted three focus groups. The groups that focus groups were conducted for included:

- Minority population
- Low-income population

- LGBTQ+ population

Focus groups were one hour long. The minority and low-income population focus groups were conducted in-person as two concurrent focus groups where the participants were from either or both populations. The CRD staff asked questions to gain the perspectives of both being low-income and/or a minority.

The LGBTQ+ outreach was done as one in-person focus group and a series of one-on-one virtual interviews.

Participants were notified at the start of each focus group or interview that their participation was voluntary and confidential. The list of questions that were asked at the focus groups and interviews can be found in the appendix. Participants were compensated with a \$25 Meijer gift card for their time.

Leadership survey

To gain the perspective of community leaders, a virtual leadership survey was sent to a list of stakeholders who have leadership roles in community organizations in Erie County. The survey asked questions about their perspectives on what

the biggest challenges in public health are, what strengths and gaps in services exist, which populations are not being served adequately, and which populations they serve and how. The full data from the leadership survey can be found in the appendix of this report.

Secondary Data

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a national organization created with the purpose of protecting the United States from health, safety, and security threats. The CDC measures the health of our nation through collecting data such as disease outbreaks both internally and abroad, measuring social determinants of health of the nation, and creating and implementing prevention strategies and potential cures or solutions for health crises. The CDC is also a global leader in laboratory science, often leading the way in disease and cure research.

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

The Ohio Department of Health is comprised of a team of executives that work with the Director of Health to inform the

Governor on the best course of action regarding the state's health. The Ohio Department of Health works to prevent the spread of infections and diseases, address health inequalities and disparities, monitor environmental factors that have the potential to affect public health, and ensure that all Ohioans have access to quality health care facilities. The Department of Health tracks health data and has the datasets accessible to the public on their website. In addition to the State Health Assessment (SHA), many one-time reports including health-related data were utilized in the secondary data analysis. Links to the individual reports can be found in the appendix.

Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Requirements

The Public Health Accreditation Board is a national organization that administers accreditation to health departments to ensure “excellence and scalable innovation” amongst health departments nationwide. As a prerequisite of accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, local health departments must conduct a community health assessment (CHA) at least every five years. The Erie County Health Department is accredited by PHAB and will continue to

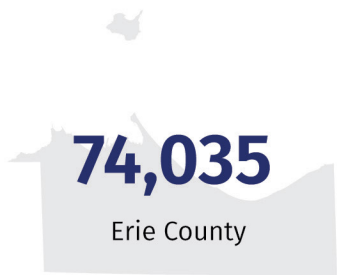
maintain its accreditation. A key component of reaccreditation is that the health department has a community health assessment that meets PHAB requirements. PHAB Standard 1 Measures 1.2.2 T/L states that the health department needs to complete a CHA that includes the following things:

1. Was done within the last 5 years
2. Data/information from various sources and how data was obtained
 - a. Primary and secondary data
 - b. Quantitative and qualitative data
 - c. “Non-traditional” data collection encouraged
3. Demographics of the population
4. Description of health issues
 - a. Population groups with specific issues/inequities
 - b. Description of factors that contribute to specific populations’ health challenges
 - c. Health status disparities, health equity and high health-risk populations
5. Description of community assets or resources to address health issues.

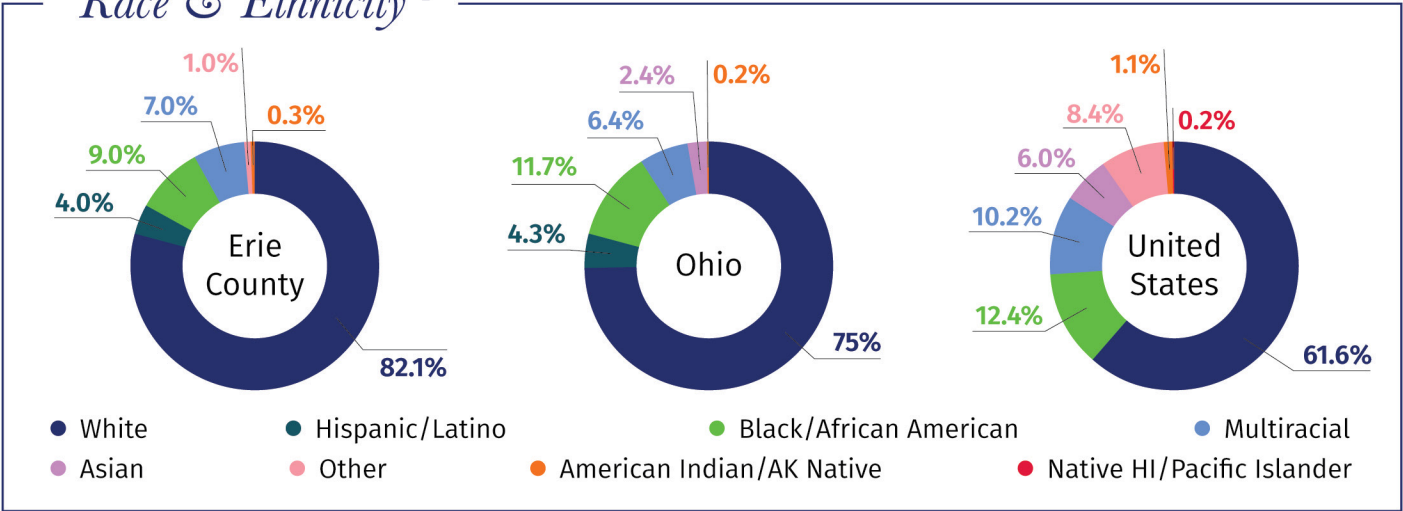
Erie County Demographics

¹ United States Census

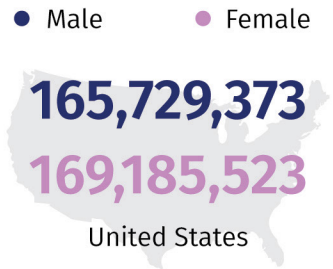
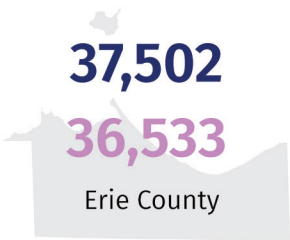
Population ¹



Race & Ethnicity ¹

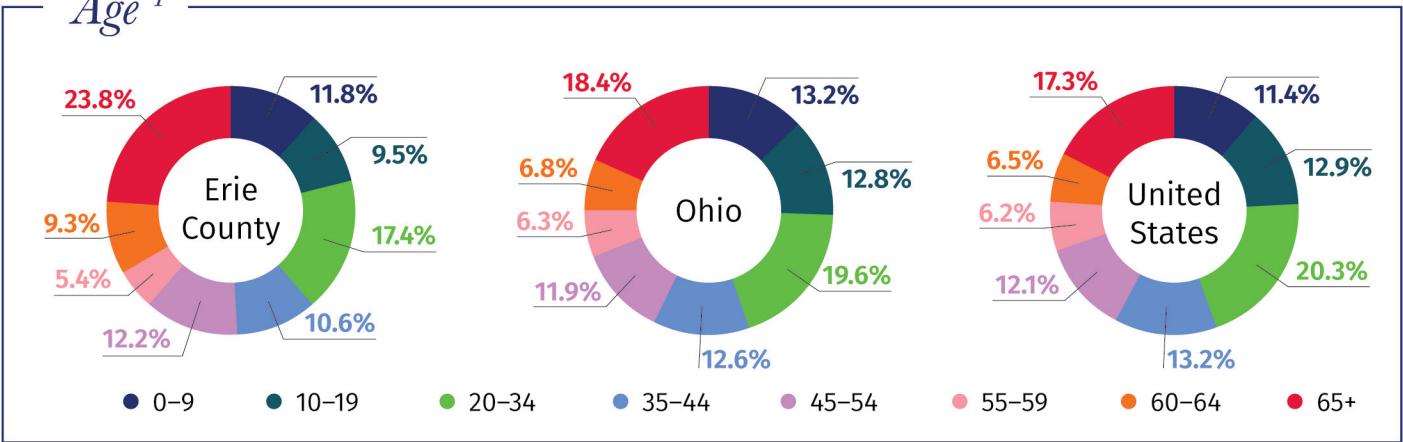


Sex ¹



Male Female

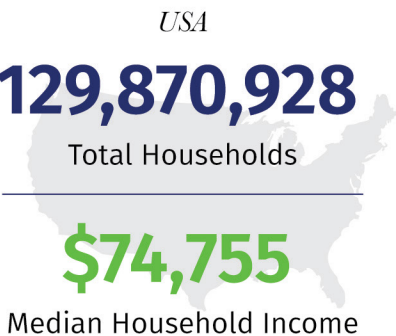
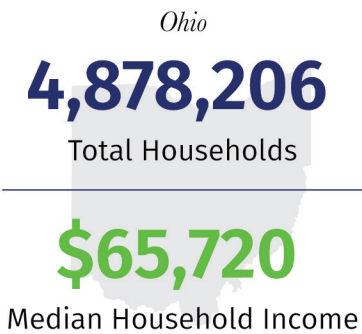
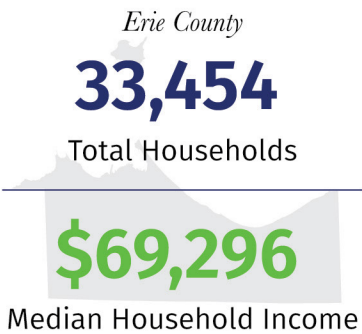
Age ¹



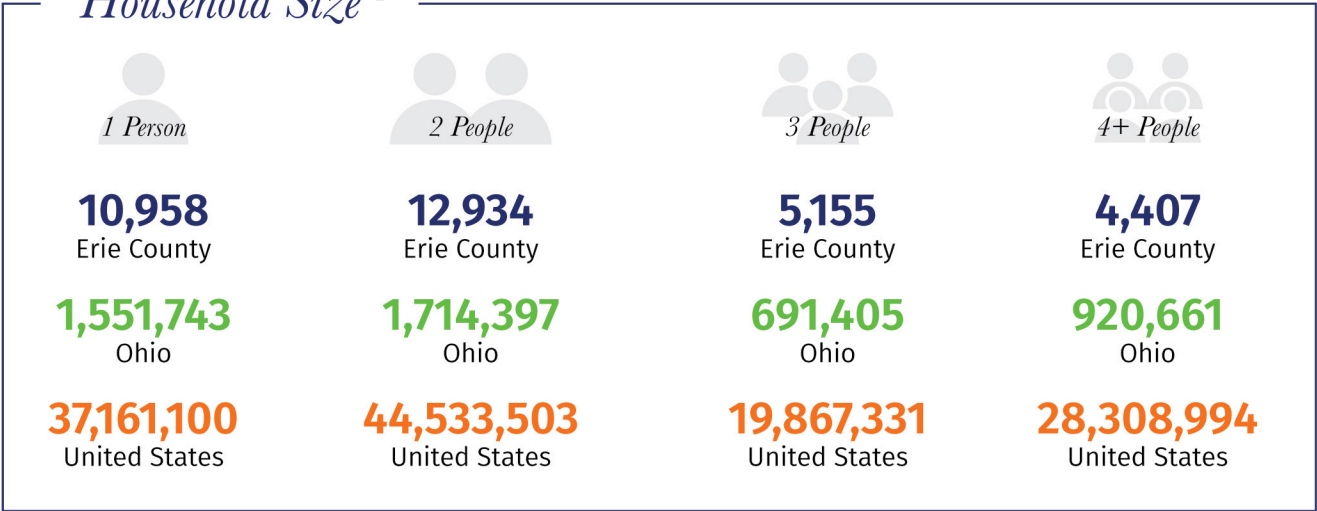
Erie County Demographics

¹ United States Census | ² Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services

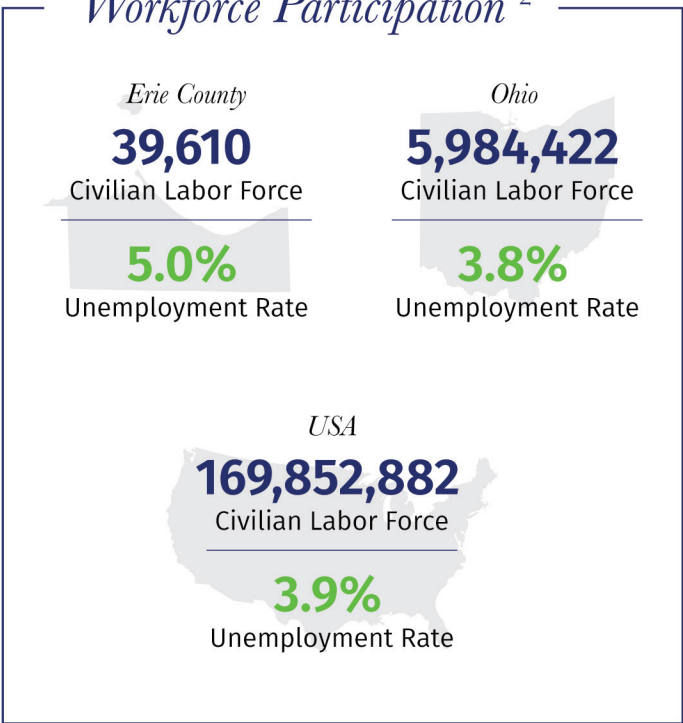
Median Household Income ¹



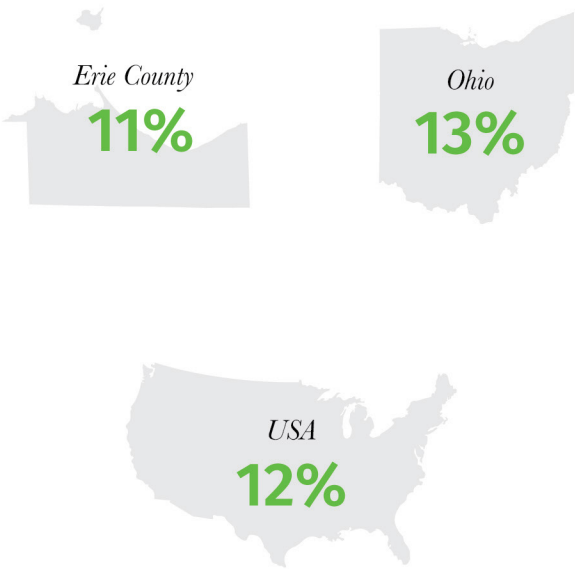
Household Size ¹



Workforce Participation ²



Poverty Rate ¹



How to read this report

This report is divided into 6 sections, and each section has sub-sections. Each section is a topic of interest being assessed, and the sub-sections are more specific within each broader section. In each section, we discuss general trends, longitudinal data, and how Erie County data compares to state and national data.

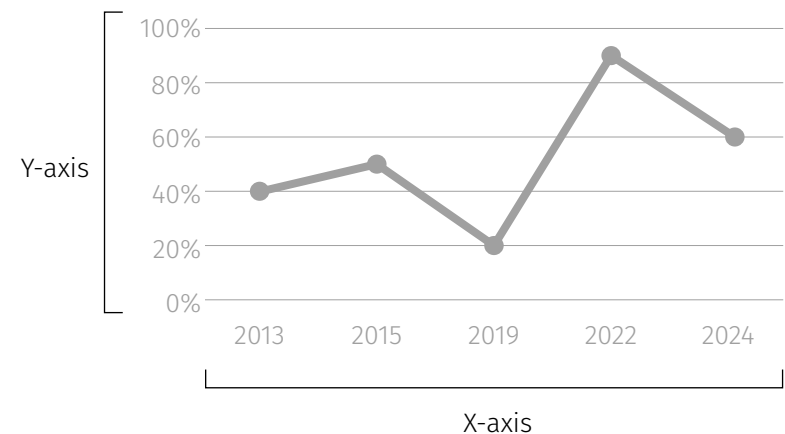
- **Longitudinal data** are questions that were asked the same way year-to-year so that we can see how the data has changed over time.
- **Line graphs** are used to show if trends are increasing or decreasing over time.
- **Bar graphs** are used to compare numbers or totals of different categories.

What does “n=___” mean

- **“N” means the number of responses for that question.** This is the number used to calculate percentages for each part of that question.
- Since each question in the survey was voluntary (survey takers could choose to answer the question or not), not all questions have the same amount of **total** answers, or the same “n”.

Reading a *line* graph

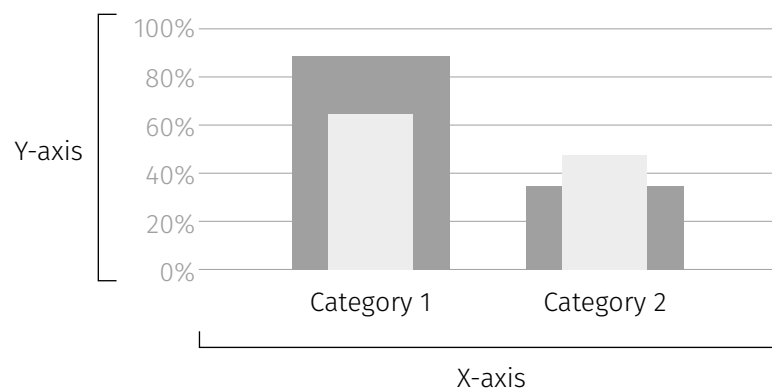
- **Check the axes:** Axes are the side and bottom of the graph.
 - The X-axis (horizontal) shows time and increases from left to right.
 - The Y-axis (vertical) shows values and increases from bottom to top.
- **Follow the line:** The line shows how values change over time.
- **Read data points:** Note where the line hits the Y-axis to see exact values. The “key” under the graph shows that different colors represent different data points.



Reading a *bar* graph

How to read a bar graph

- **Check the axes:** Axes are the side and bottom of the graph.
 - The X-axis (horizontal) shows time or categories
 - The Y-axis (vertical) shows values and increases from bottom to top.
- **Look at the bars:** Each bar represents a category. The height or length of the bar shows how much of the percentage or number. You can check the numbers/percents on the side of the graph to see the value of that bar.
 - When there is a bar inside another bar, that is a different group, and the color is explained in the key. Compare these to see differences between groups.



Reading the *CHIP* tables

The Erie County 2020-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

- A Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) outlines strategies to address local health needs. Ohio counties are required to complete CHIPs and CHAs every few years. The data gathered from a CHA informs the strategies in the CHIP. To learn more about the Erie County 2020-2022 CHIP, visit <https://eriecohealthohio.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Erie-County-2020-2022-CHIP.pdf>.

How to read the CHIP tables in this report:

Desired outcome	Indicator (source)	2019 Baseline	2022 Erie CHA Data	2022 Target	2024 Erie CHA Data
General statement about desired result (from 2020-2022 Erie CHIP)	Metric used to measure the outcome (from the 2020-2022 Erie CHIP)	Data from the 2019 Erie CHA	2022's result (2022 Health Assessment)	The goal set for the outcome (from the CHIP)	This year's result (2024 Health Assessment)

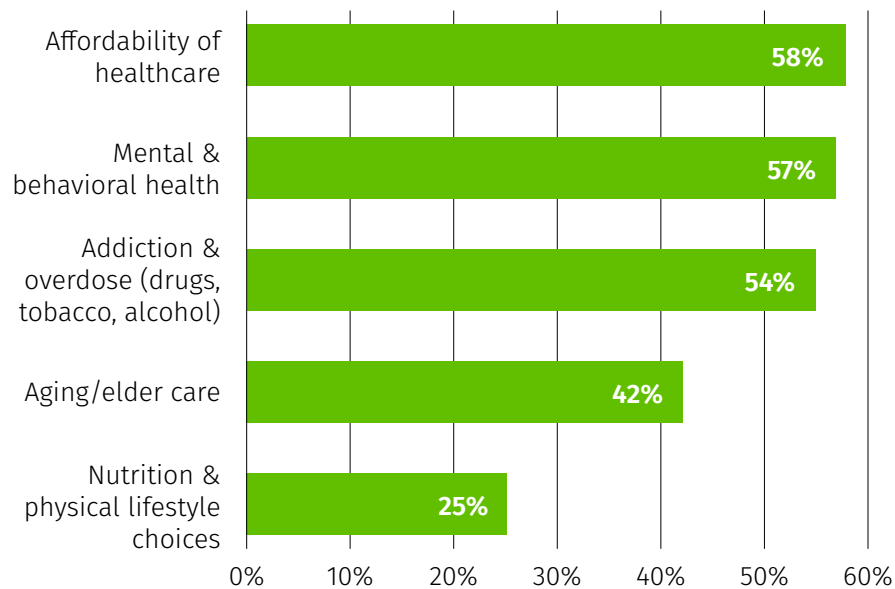
Erie County
Health Perceptions

Ranking of Top Health Priorities by Community Members

Participants in the survey were asked to select what they thought the top 3 most important health related issues facing the community are. Here are the 5 that were ranked a “top 3” issue by most respondents:

Top health priorities

n=438



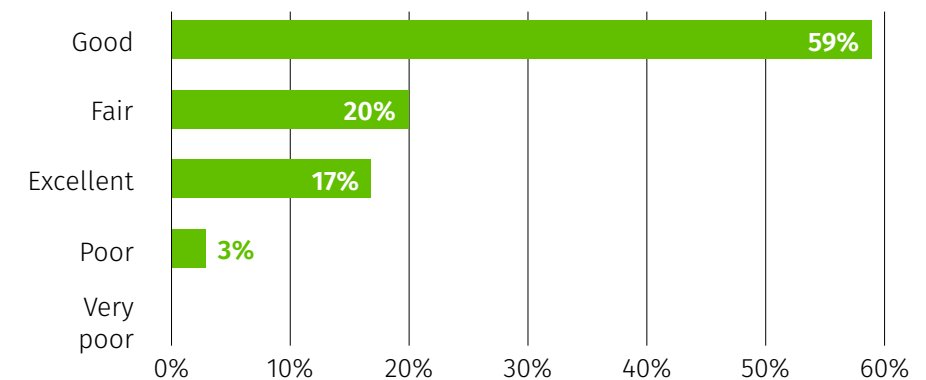
The remaining health priorities that did not make the list of top 5 can be found in the appendix.

Health Perceptions

Of the 437 respondents who answered the survey question asking them to describe their health, **76% of respondents considered themselves to be in “good” or “excellent” health** overall. In 2022, it was 71%.

How respondents generally describe their health

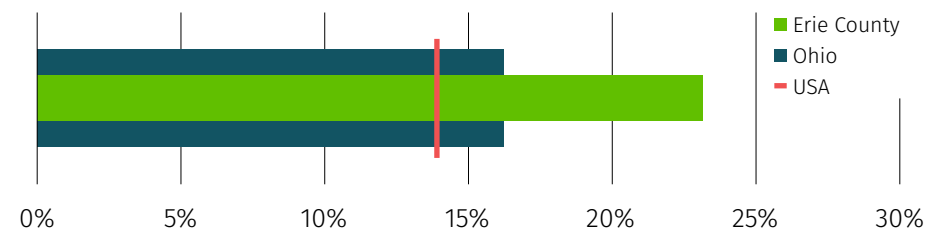
n=437



How Erie County compares

23% of survey-takers in Erie County consider themselves to be in “fair” or “poor” health. 7% higher than in Ohio and 9% higher than in the United States (County Health Rankings)

n=303

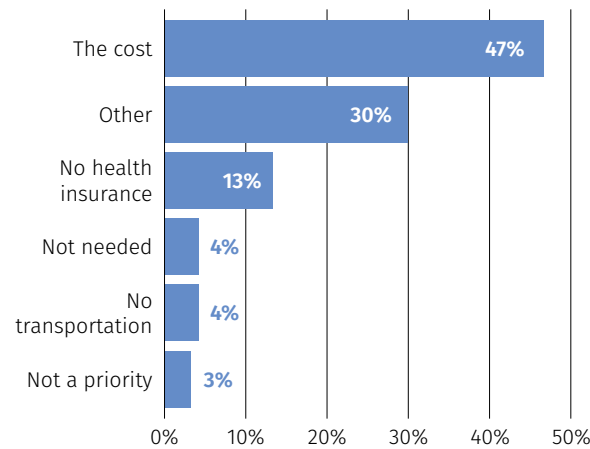


Erie County
Health Care Access

Erie County Community Health Summary Results | Health Care Access

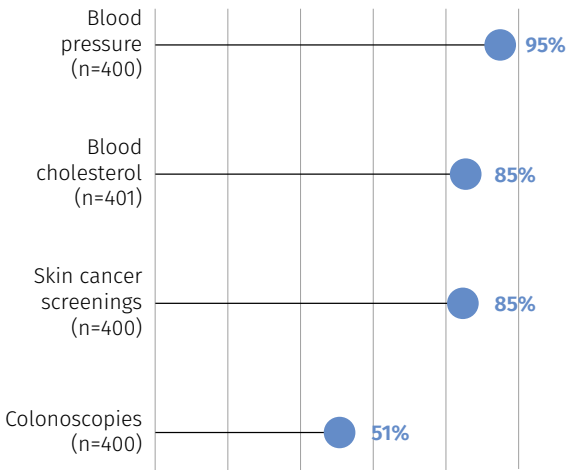
Access to health care is a concern amongst residents in Erie County. 65% of survey respondents most often receive their care from their primary care physician or family doctor. Between 2022 and 2024, there was a 9% increase in the percentage of respondents receiving care from the Erie County Community Health Center. In the last year, 23% of respondents reported they were unable to obtain a needed prescription medication. Of respondents that reported they were unable to obtain it, 60% said they couldn't get the medicine due to either the cost or lack of health insurance coverage.

Reasons residents could not obtain prescription medication

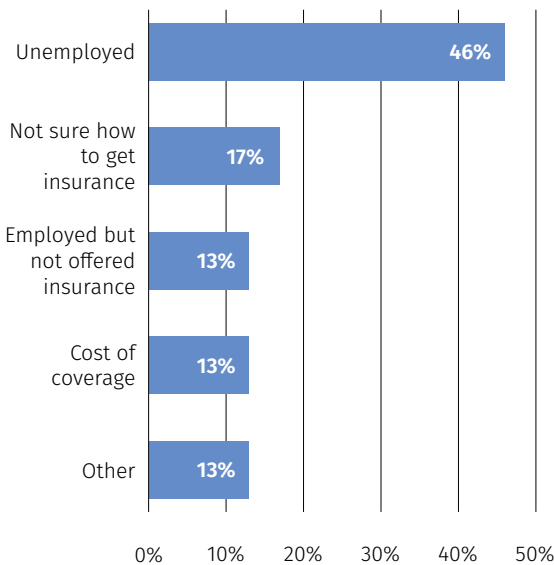


For those who responded “other”, most indicated there was a shortage of the medication they needed or it was unavailable.

Respondents who have had the following health screenings in the last 2 years



Reasons respondents do not have health insurance



Where respondents receive their primary healthcare

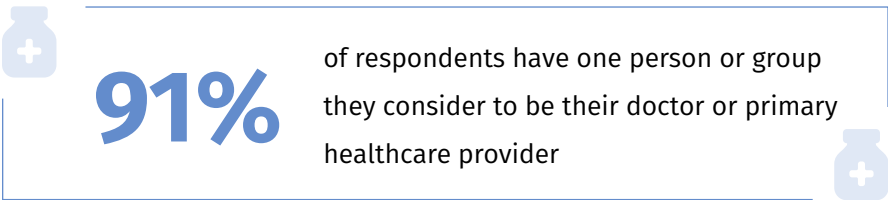
1	Family doctor	65%
2	Erie County Health Department/Erie County Community Health Center	11%
3	Community Health Center	8%
4	Urgent Care	8%
5	Emergency room	4%
6	VA hospital	1%
7	Telemedicine/virtual care	1%
8	Other	1%

The Erie County Community Health Center (ECCHC) improves individuals' access to care and assists all individuals with concerns regarding insurance and out of pocket costs. ECCHC offers healthcare services at 8 convenient locations and telehealth visits, same day scheduling, walk-in appointments, a sliding fee scale to ease or eliminate the out of pocket costs for care for individuals who qualify. ECCHC provides a Certified Application Counselor to assist individuals with the application for Medicaid, Medicare and affordable Healthcare Marketplace insurance plans. For more information, call 567-867-5174. Additional assistance can be found at the Erie County Cares website: www.eriecountycares.com

Did you know?

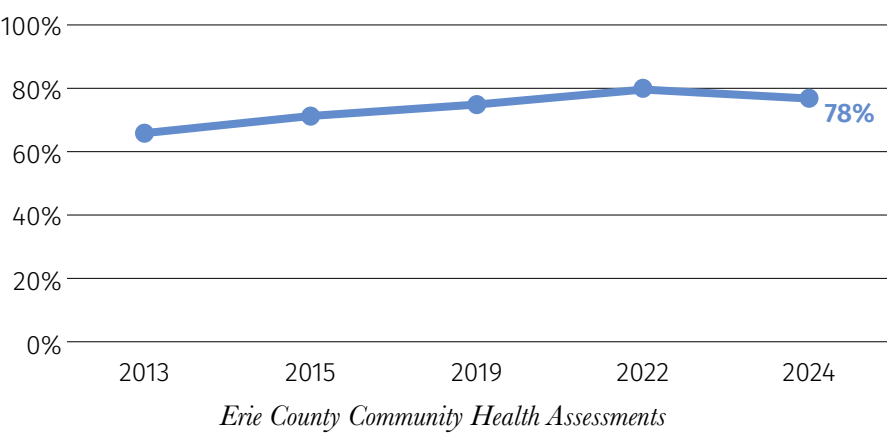
Health Care Access and Utilization

Access to health care is a concern amongst residents in Erie County – specifically, the affordability of healthcare, which was ranked as a top health priority by 58% of respondents. The data shows that cost is a barrier to respondents receiving the care that they need.

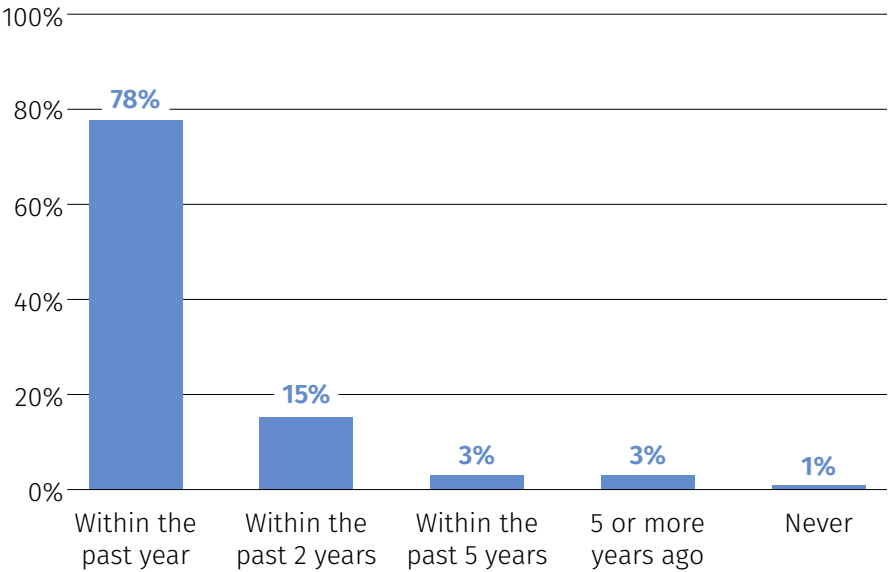


The percentage of respondents who have received a routine check-up in the past year has remained relatively consistent since 2019. Of the 22% of respondents who have not received a check-up in the last year, over half (56%) feel it is not necessary.

Respondents who received routine check-up in the past year
n=442

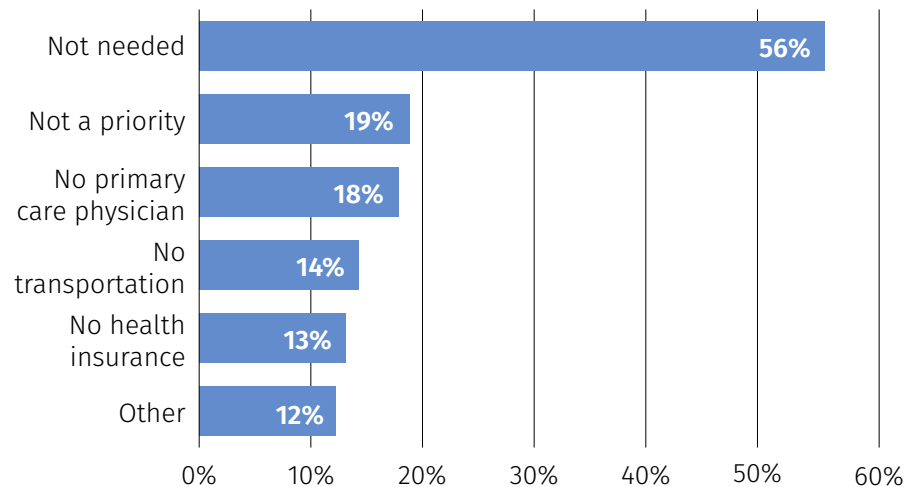


Length of time since last routine check-up
n=442



Reasons respondents who did not receive a check-up in the last year have not gotten a routine check-up

n=97



Where respondents receive their primary healthcare

65% of survey respondents most often receive their care from their primary care physician or family doctor. 9% increase in respondents receiving healthcare from the Erie County Health Department/Erie County Community Health Center.

n=441

1	Family doctor	65%
2	Erie County Health Department/Erie County Community Health Center	11%
3	Community Health Center	8%
4	Urgent care	8%
5	Emergency room	4%
6	VA hospital	1%
7	Telemedicine/virtual care	1%
8	Other	1%

Reasons for lack of healthcare

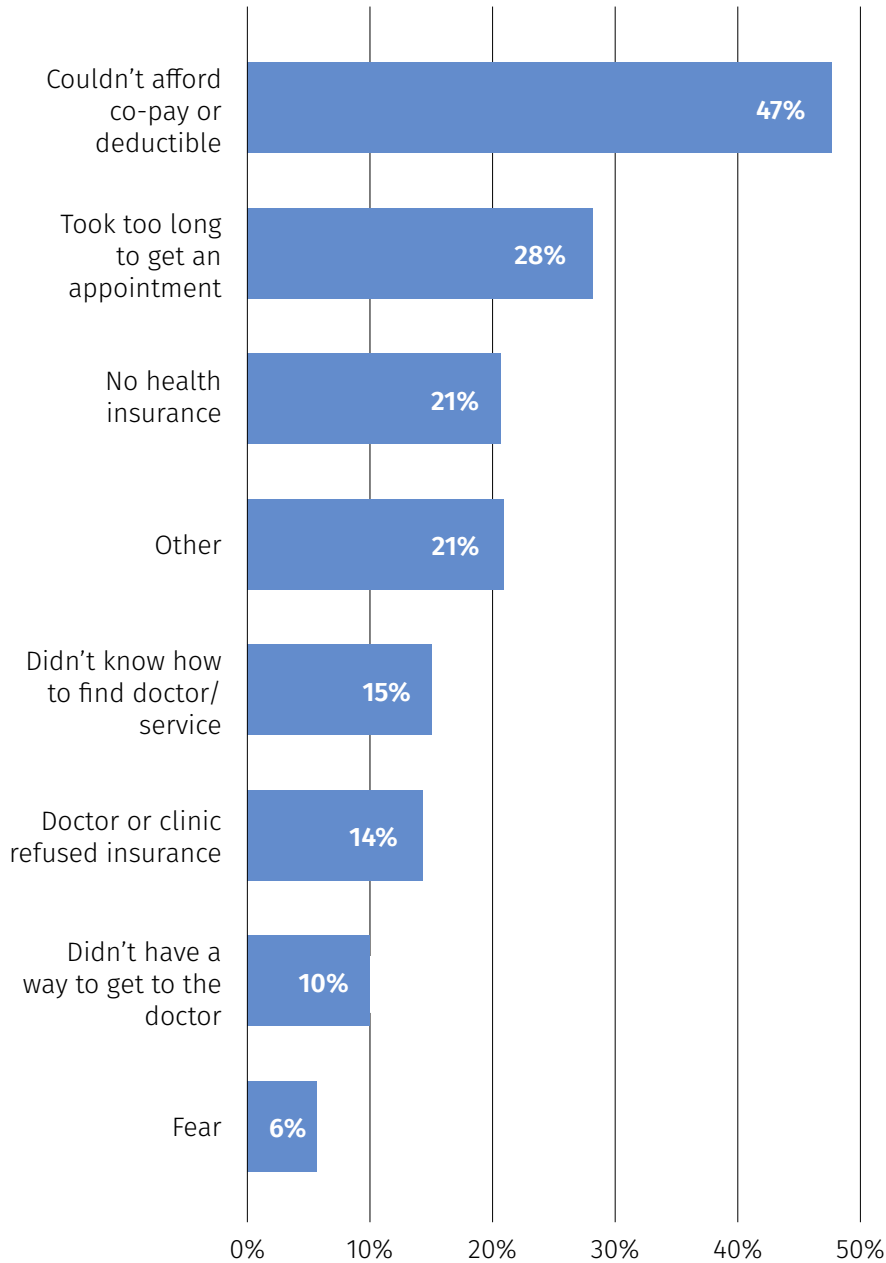
n=440

72 respondents (18%) reported that they or a family member could not obtain the healthcare services they needed.

Of those, 68% answered that it was due to a lack of insurance and/or inability to afford the co-pay or deductible.

Reasons respondents themselves or a family member were unable to get the healthcare services they needed

n=72



Health Insurance Coverage

Most residents in Erie County have health insurance coverage, and the uninsured rate in Erie County is lower than in Ohio and the United States.

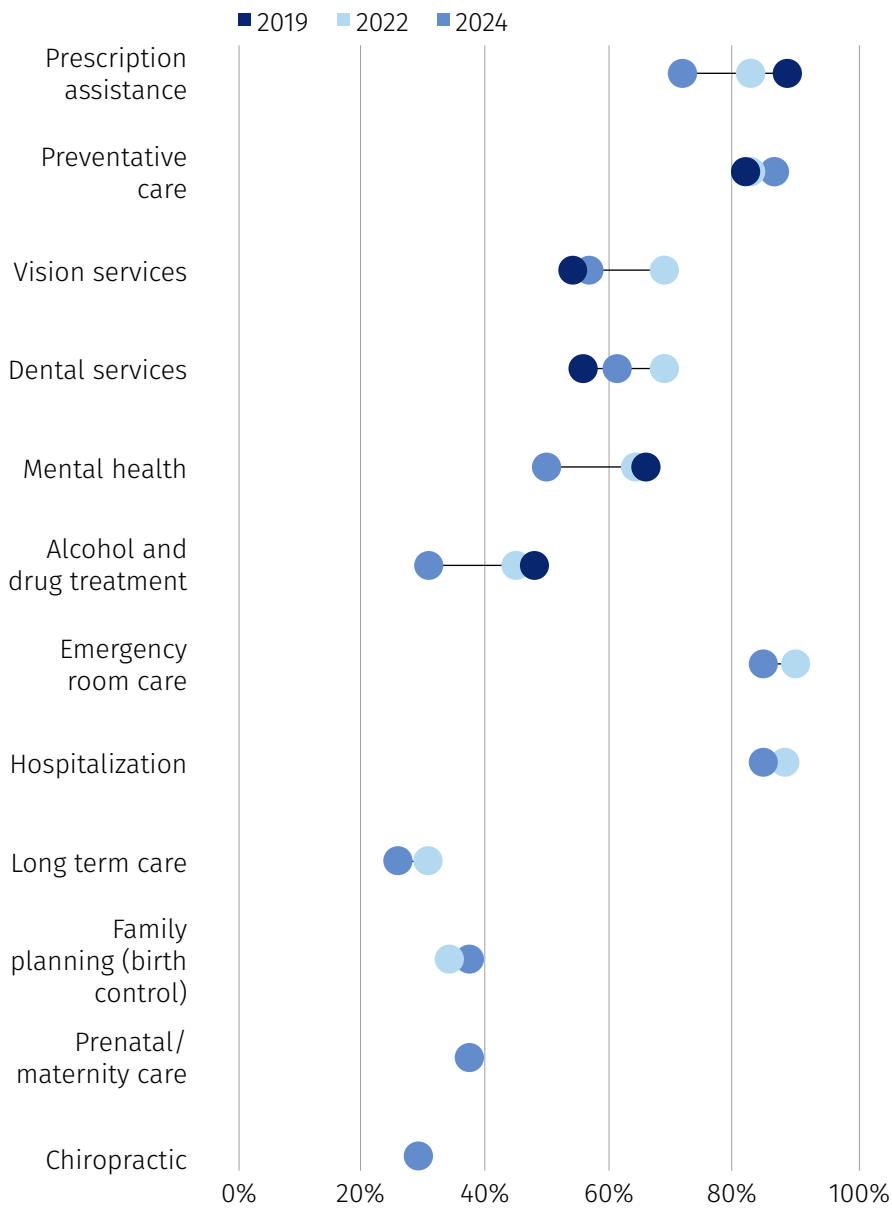
	Erie County (2024)	Ohio (2022)	USA (2022)
Rate of uninsured individuals	5%	5.9%	8.4%

Sources: *cdc.gov*; *census.gov*

The percentage of respondents who have insurance that covers prescription assistance, vision services, dental services, mental health, and alcohol and drug treatment has decreased, while the percentage of respondents whose insurance covers preventative care has increased since 2022.

Percentage of insurance plans that cover the following services

n=412

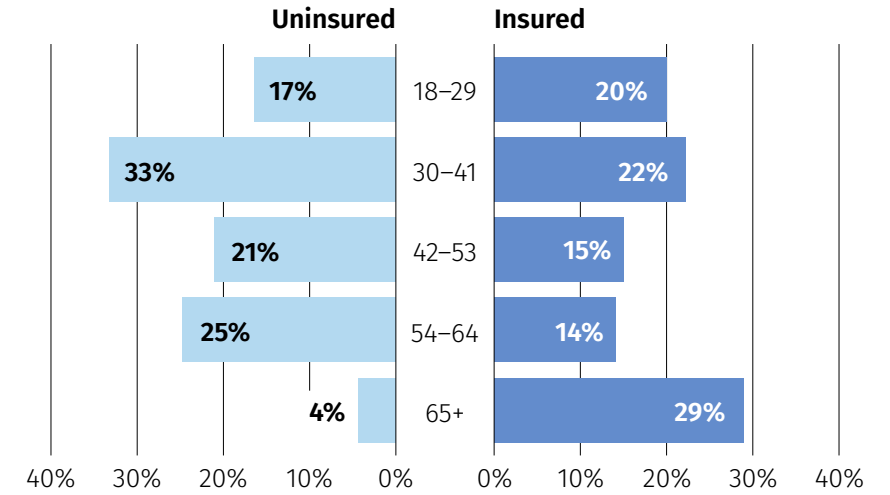


Erie County Community Health Assessments

Health insurance status by age

79% of respondents who do not have health insurance are between the ages of 30 and 64.

n=441



The 2020 Erie County CHIP outlines a goal of increasing health insurance coverage by reducing the uninsured rate of those under 65 years of age to 5.4% by 2022. The uninsured rate of residents under 65 years of age is currently 5%.

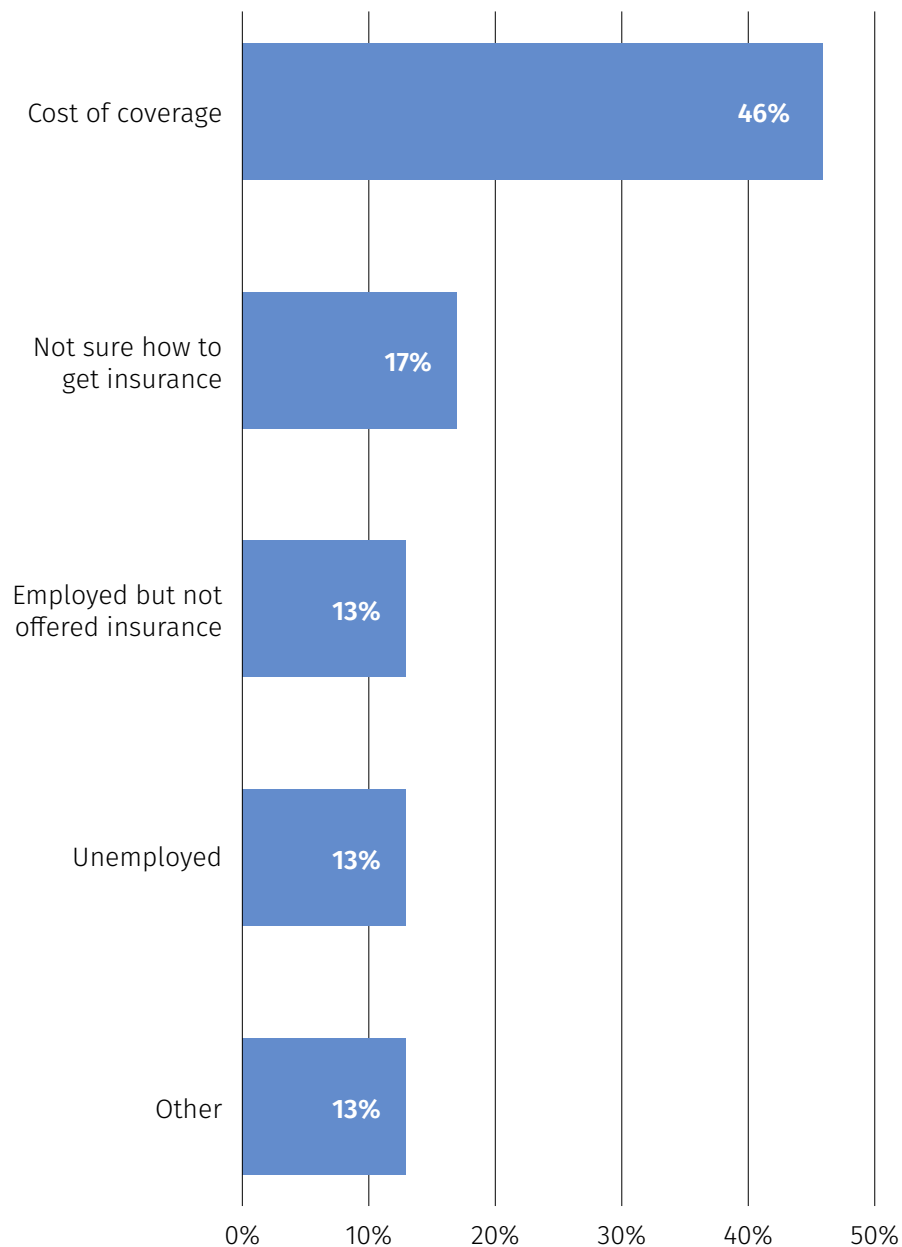
Erie County 2020-22 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Desired Outcome	Indicator (source)	2019 Baseline	2022 Erie CHA Data	2022 Target	2024 Erie CHA Data
Increase insurance coverage	Percent of population under 65 without health insurance (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps)	6%	7%	5.4%	5%

Reasons respondents do not have health insurance

Nearly half of the respondents without health insurance said it was due to cost of coverage.

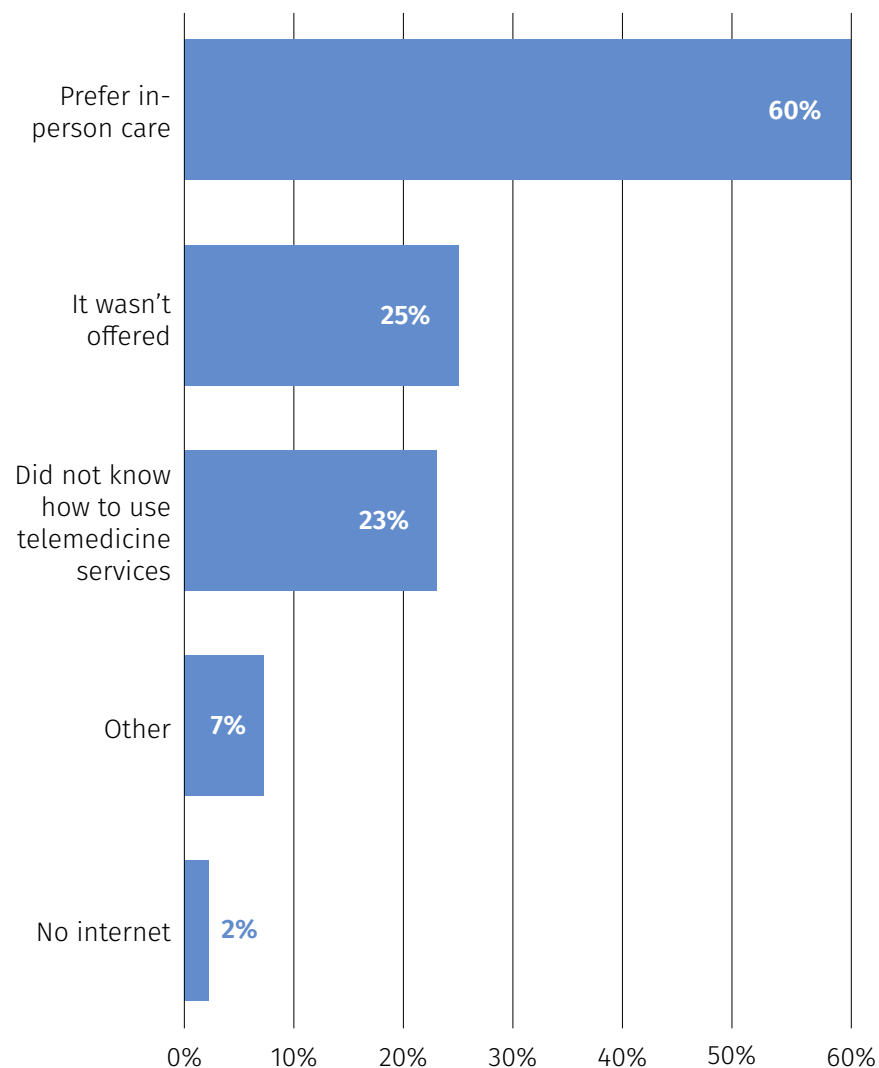
n=97



Telehealth Services

Reasons respondents did not use telemedicine/virtual care services

63% of 441 respondents have used telehealth services in the past. Of the 37% of respondents who did not, 60% said it is because they prefer in-person care. (n=164)

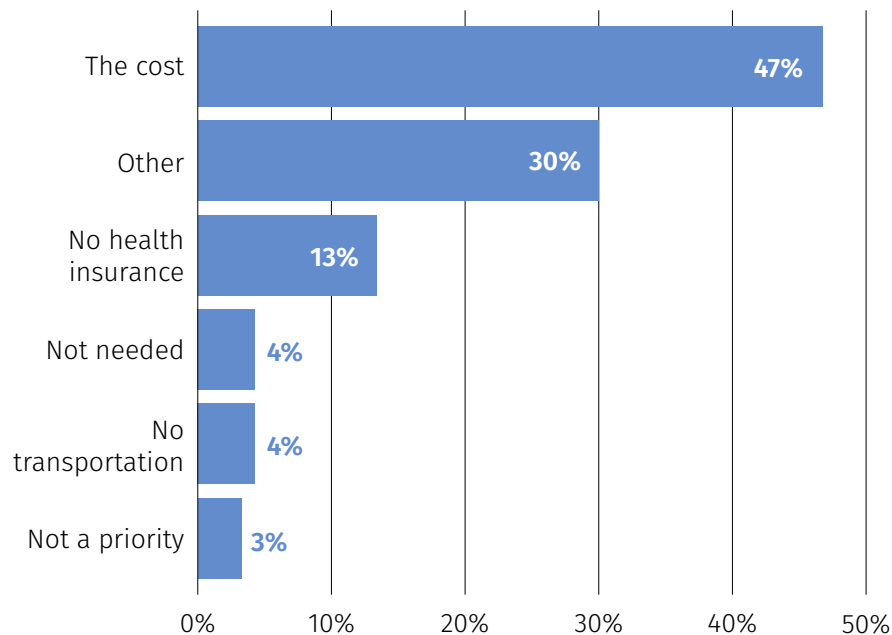


Prescription Medication

In the last year, 23% of respondents reported they were unable to obtain a needed prescription medication ($n=439$).

Of those that reported they were unable to obtain it, **60% said they couldn't get the medicine due to either the cost or lack of health insurance coverage** ($n=101$).

Reasons residents couldn't obtain prescription medication $n=101$

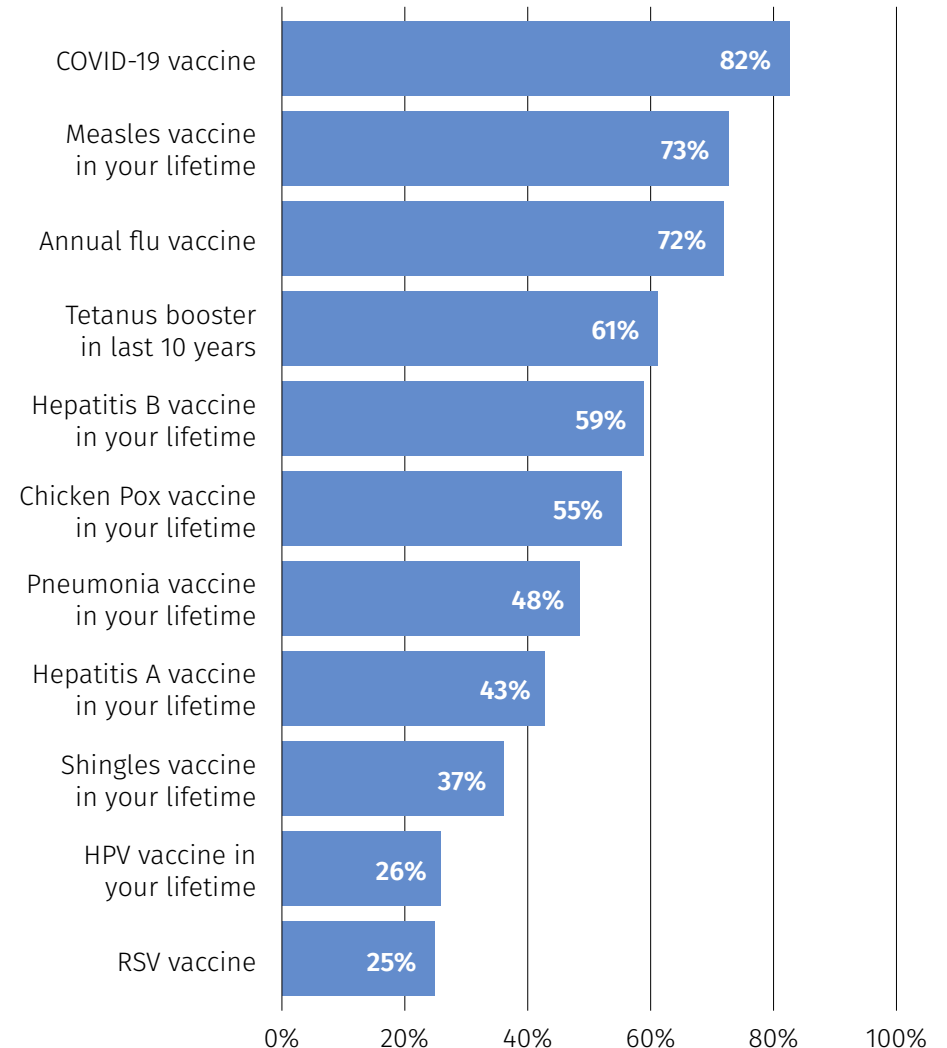


For those who responded "other", most indicated there was a shortage of the medication they needed or it was unavailable.

Preventative Practices

Vaccines received

$n=401$

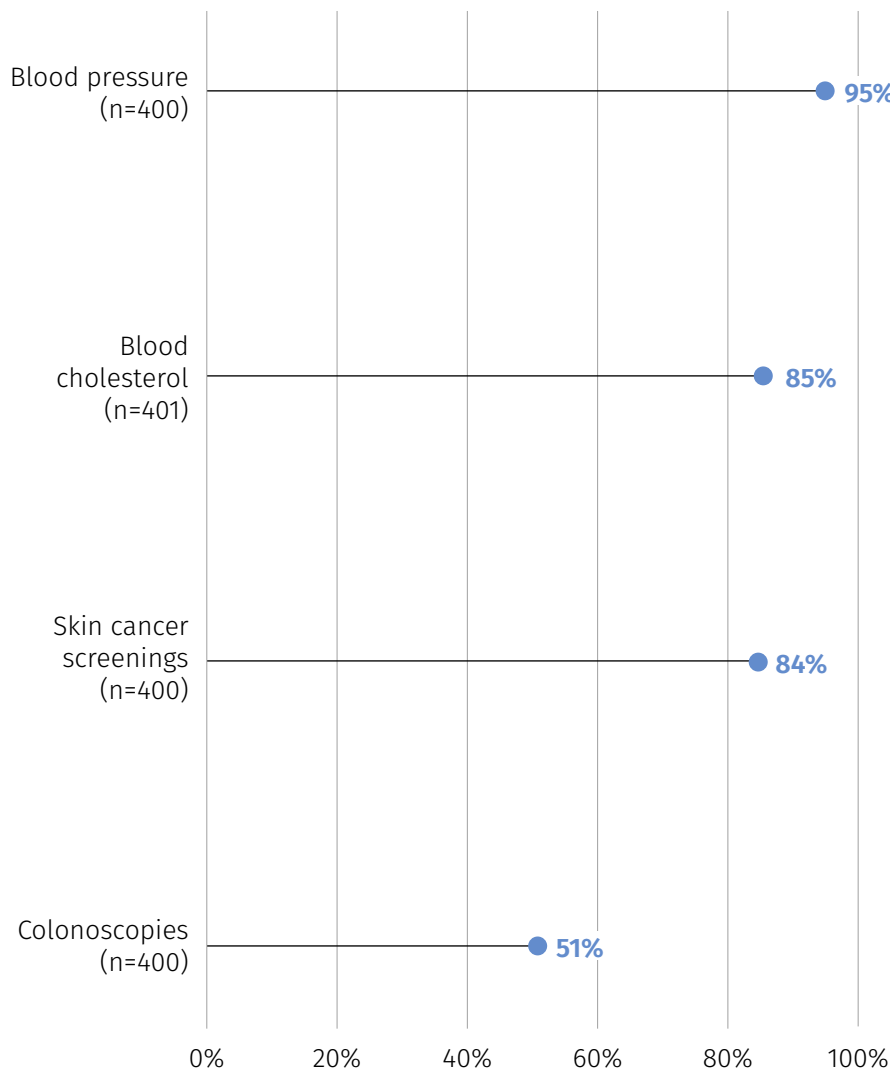


The most common reason given for not getting the COVID-19 vaccine by those who did not get the vaccine was the belief that it was unnecessary or a lack of trust in the vaccine ($n=41$).

Health Screenings

Respondents who have had the following health screenings within the last 2 years

About half of the respondents have had a colonoscopy.



Health screening rates for men and women

Women who have received mammograms in the last year (n=212)



Men who have received a PSA test for prostate cancer within the last year (n=97)



Women who have ever received a Pap smear (n=262)

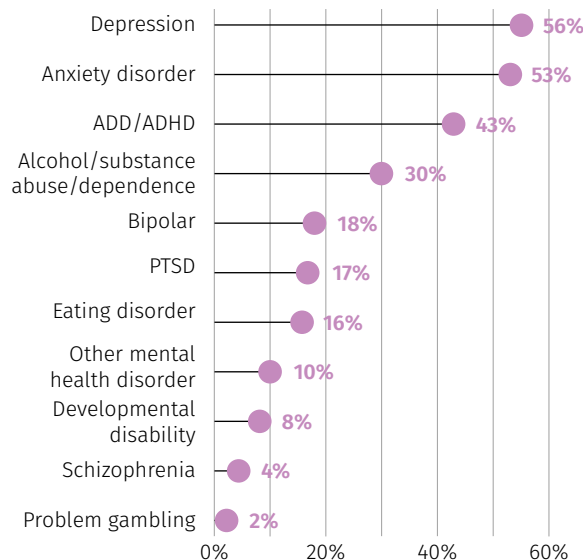


Erie County
Mental Health

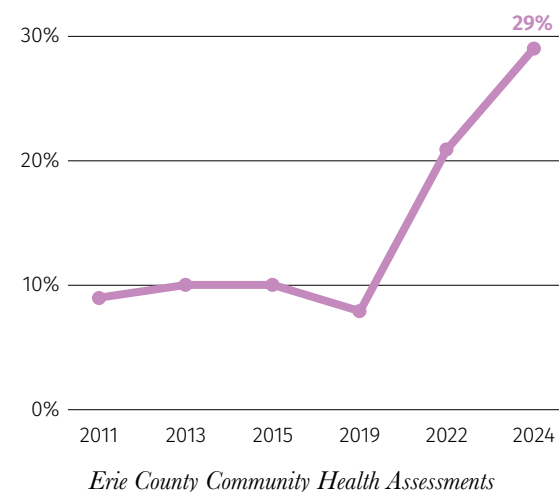
Erie County Community Health Summary Results | *Mental Health*

Mental & behavioral health is of high concern amongst residents in Erie County. It was ranked as a top health priority by 57% of survey respondents. More than half of the respondents to the community survey have either they themselves been diagnosed with anxiety disorder or depression, or they have an immediate family member who has. There has been a 21% increase in rates of feelings of hopelessness from 2019 to 2024. There has been a rise in rates of those who have seriously considered attempting suicide. More than half of the respondents to the survey know someone who has died by suicide.

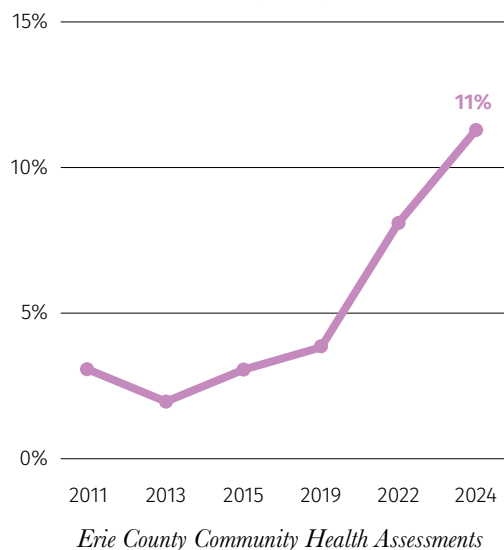
Rates of mental health disorder diagnoses



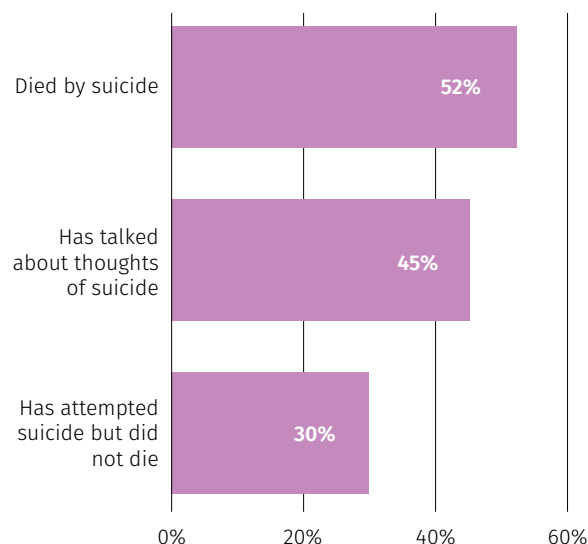
Respondents who felt so sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks in a row that they stopped doing usual activities



Respondents who seriously considered attempting suicide



Percent of respondents who know someone who has done the following:



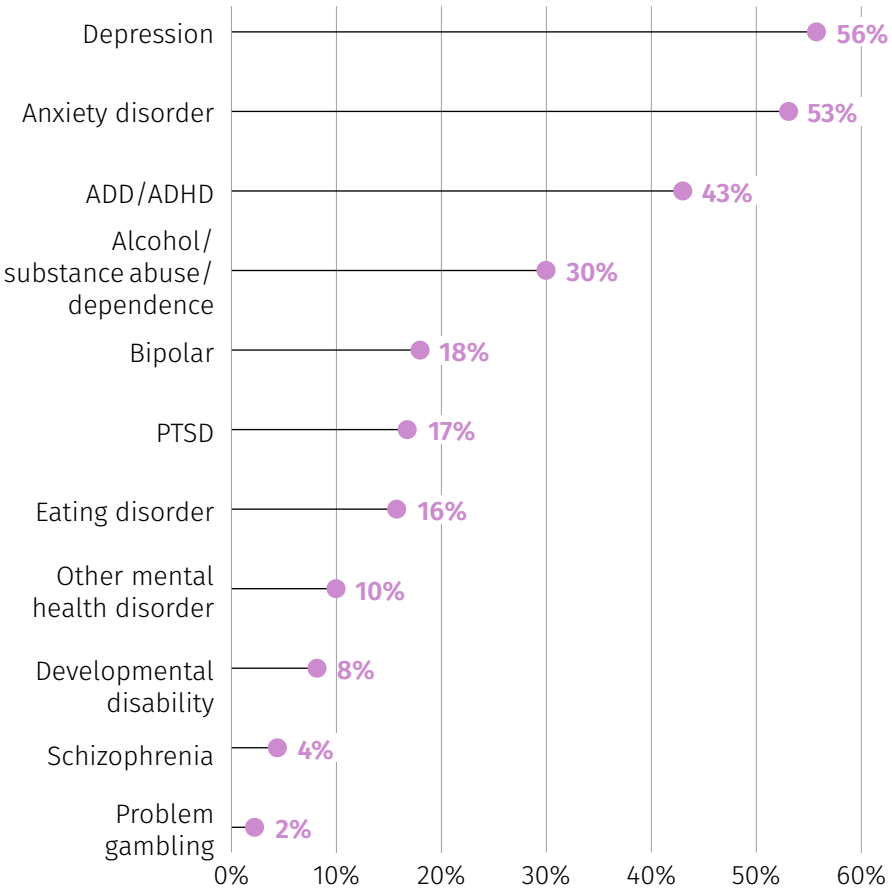
Access to mental health and behavioral health services needs to occur when the individual needs services. The Erie County Community Health Center provides same day access to Mental Health professionals. Call 567-867-5174 for support. 24 Hour Crisis Support is available by calling 988 or texting "4HOPE" to 741741. Reach the Crisis hotline at 1-800-826-1306. Additional assistance can be found at the Erie County Cares website: www.eriecountycares.com

Did you know?

Mental Health

Mental & behavioral health is of high concern amongst residents in Erie County. It was ranked as a top health priority by 57% of survey respondents.

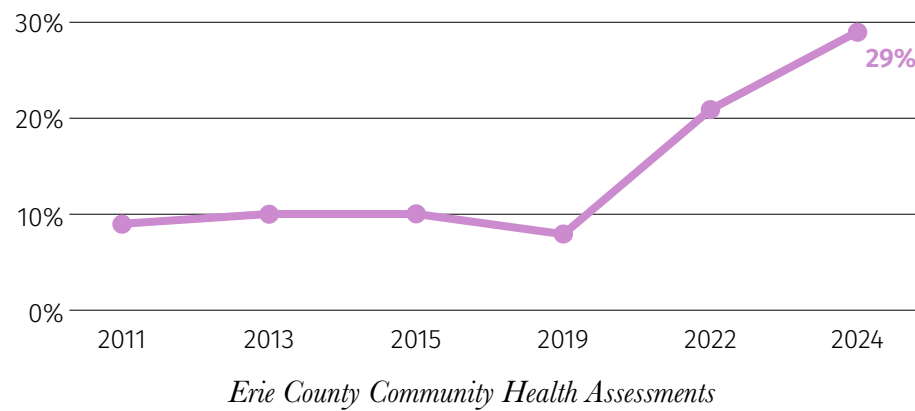
Rates of mental health disorder diagnoses in respondents and their immediate family members
n=301



Respondents who felt so sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row that they stopped doing usual activities in the last 12 months

Rates of hopelessness are rising. There was a 21% increase from 2019 to 2024.

n=432

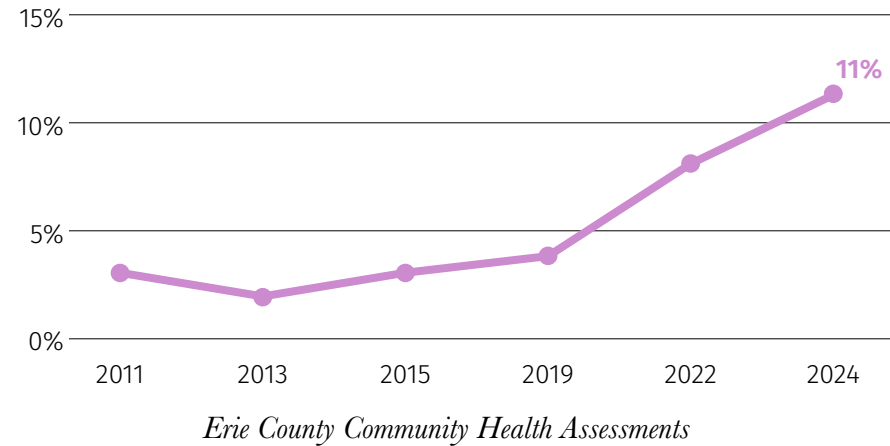


Erie County 2020–22 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Desired Outcome	Indicator (source)	2019 Baseline	2022 Erie CHA Data	2022 Target	2024 Erie CHA Data
Reduce depression	% adults 18+ who reported they felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2+ weeks they stopped doing some usual activities (Erie CHA)	8%	21%	7%	29%

There has been a rise in rates of those who have seriously considered attempting suicide.

n=435





5%

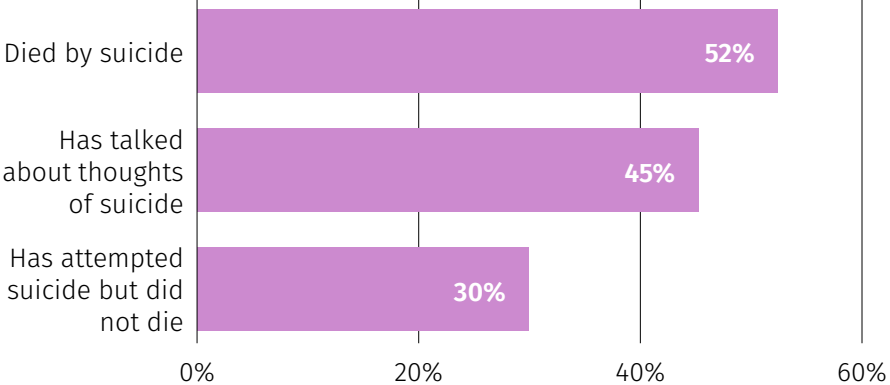
of people in the United States seriously considered attempting suicide in 2022 (*National Institute of Mental Health*)



Respondents who know someone who has done one or more of the following

More than half of the respondents know someone who has died by suicide.

n=429

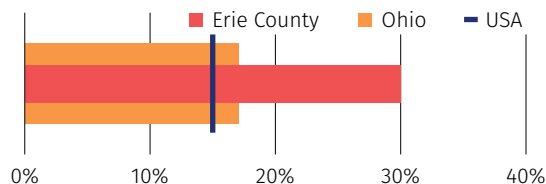


Erie County
**Alcohol, Drugs, &
Tobacco Use**

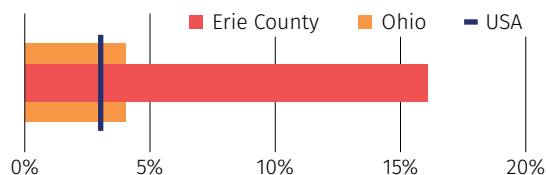
Erie County Community Health Summary Results | Alcohol, Drugs, & Tobacco

There are mixed trends in the data related to the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. One third of respondents to the survey have engaged in excessive drinking in the last month. There has also been a steady increase in the amount of respondents who drive after drinking. There has been a notable increase (21%) in rates of recreational marijuana use by respondents and their immediate family members between 2022 and 2024. There was a 4% decrease from 2022 to 2024 in the percentage of respondents who smoke every day. There was a 1% decrease in the number of respondents who use e-cigarettes daily, however there was a 7% increase in those that do it on some days.

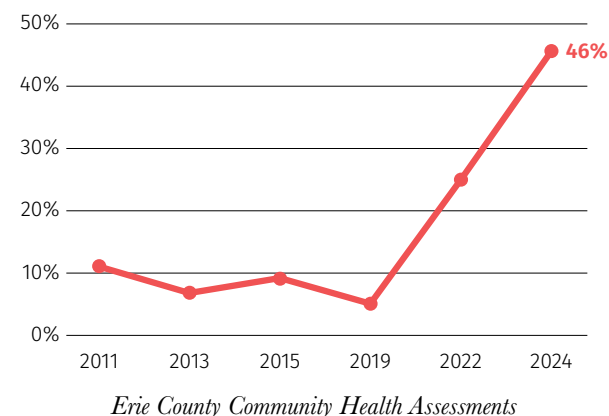
Respondents engaging in excessive drinking



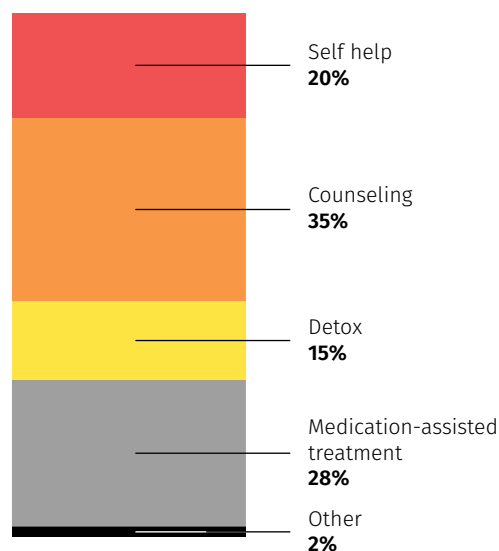
E-cigarette use every day or some days



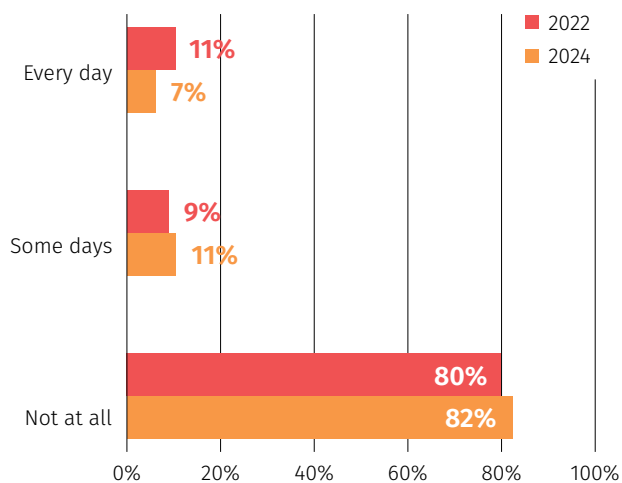
Respondents who they or an immediate family member used recreational marijuana in the past 6 months



Drug treatment options respondents are utilizing



How often respondents are smoking cigarettes, little cigars, or other tobacco products



Erie County Community Health Assessments

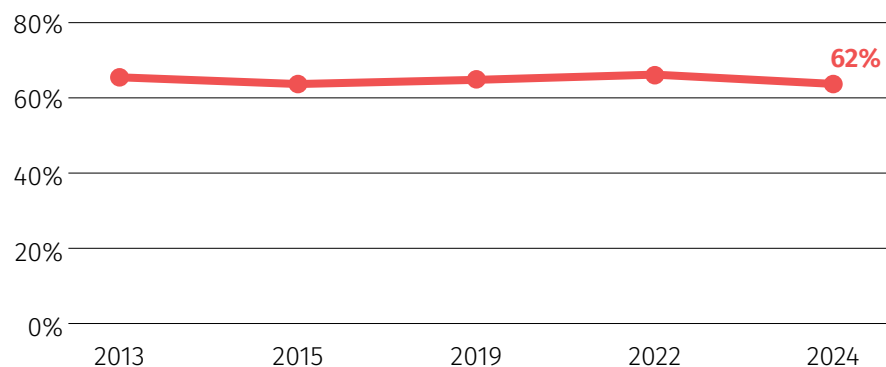
Services to assist individuals to be alcohol, drug and tobacco free are available to all individuals. The Erie County Detox Center provides treatment for alcohol, opioid, and benzodiazepine stimulant withdrawal. Call 419-624-3353 for services. The Ohio Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW provides 24/7 counseling to help you quit smoking and/or the use of other tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes. Individuals may also receive a choice of nicotine patches, gum or lozenges sent directly to their home at no cost. The Erie County Community Health Center provides the Baby and Me Tobacco Free program for pregnant women who want to quit smoking. Additional assistance can be found at the Erie County Cares website: www.eriecountycares.com

Did you know?

Alcohol Use

Percentage of adults who currently drink alcohol every day or some days

n=414

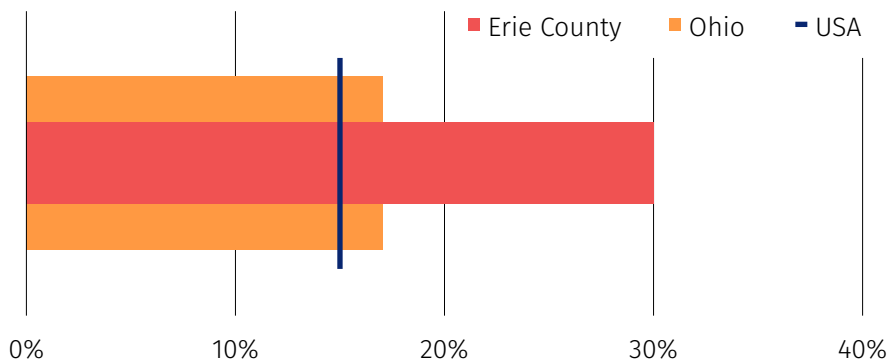


Erie County Community Health Assessments

How Erie County compares

Percentage of respondents engaging in excessive drinking (consuming 4+ for women or 5+ for men alcoholic drinks on a single occasion in the last 30 days). Rates are 10% higher in Erie County than in Ohio as a whole.

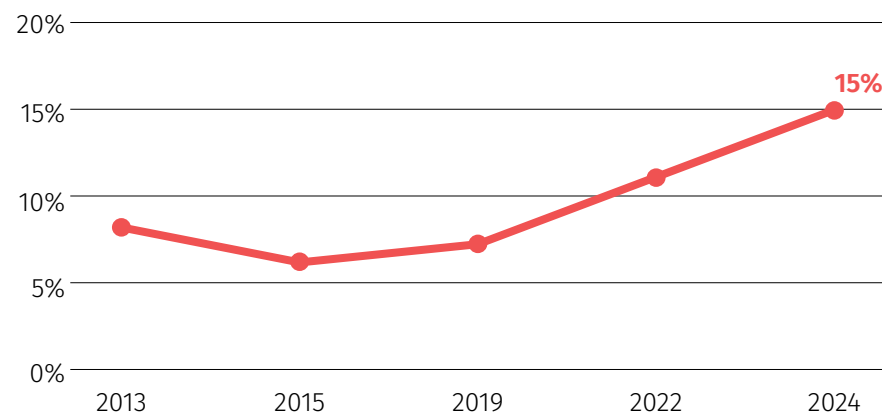
n=412



Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Rates of driving after drinking have been steadily increasing since 2015.

n=406



Erie County Community Health Assessments



7%

of respondents are currently seeking help for alcohol addiction (n=409)



Alcohol abuse recovery resources currently being utilized by respondents seeking help

n=29





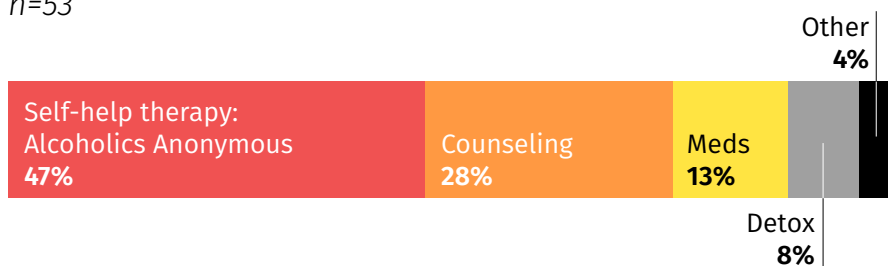
13%

of respondents have immediate family members seeking help for alcohol addiction (n=413)



Alcohol abuse recovery resources currently being utilized by immediate family members of respondents who are seeking help

n=53

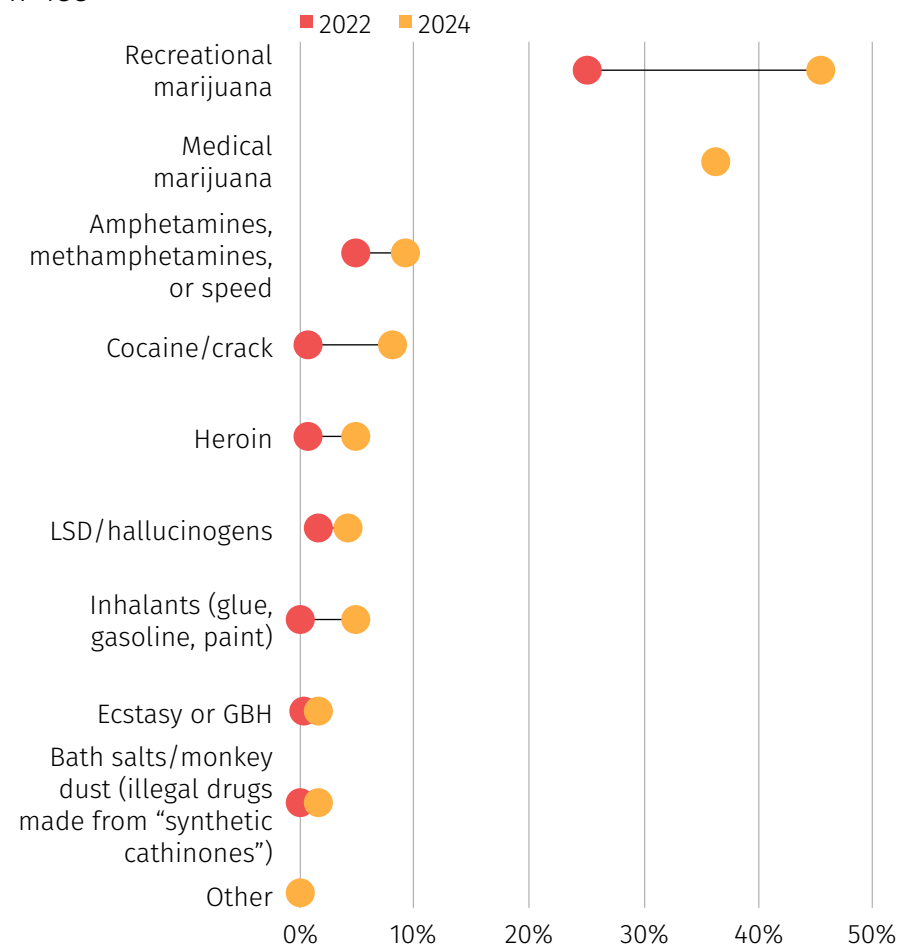


Drug Use

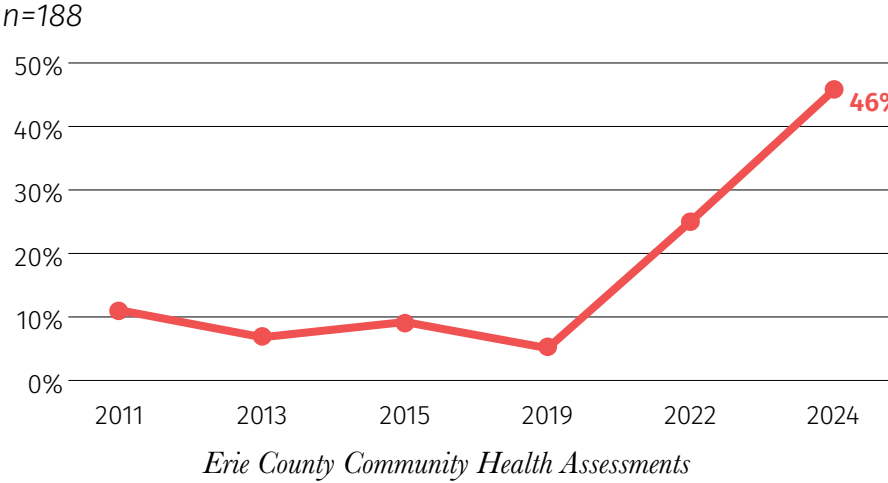
Percentage of respondents who they themselves or an immediate family member have used any of the following drugs in the past 6 months

There has been a notable increase in rates of recreational marijuana use by respondents and their immediate family members between 2022 and 2024.

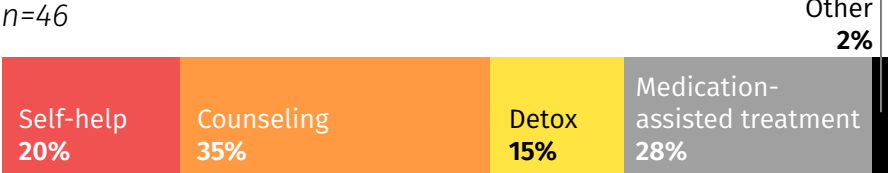
n=188



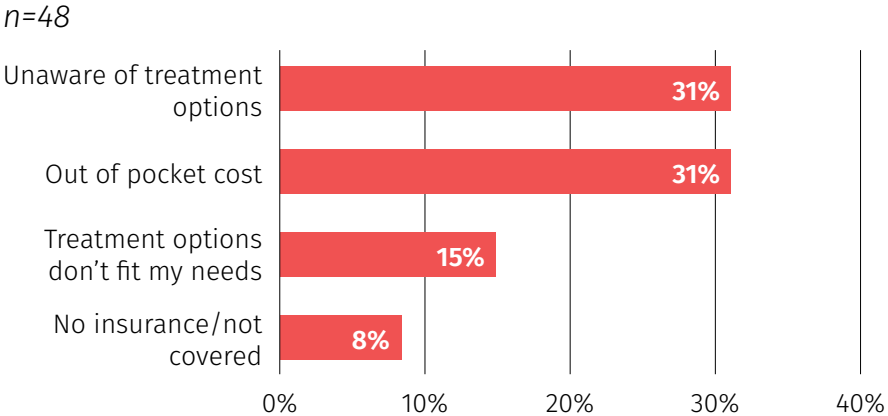
Percentage of respondents who they themselves or an immediate family member have used any recreational marijuana in the past 6 months



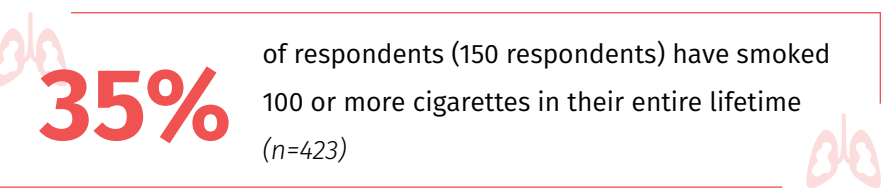
Types of drug abuse treatment options respondents who are seeking treatment are utilizing



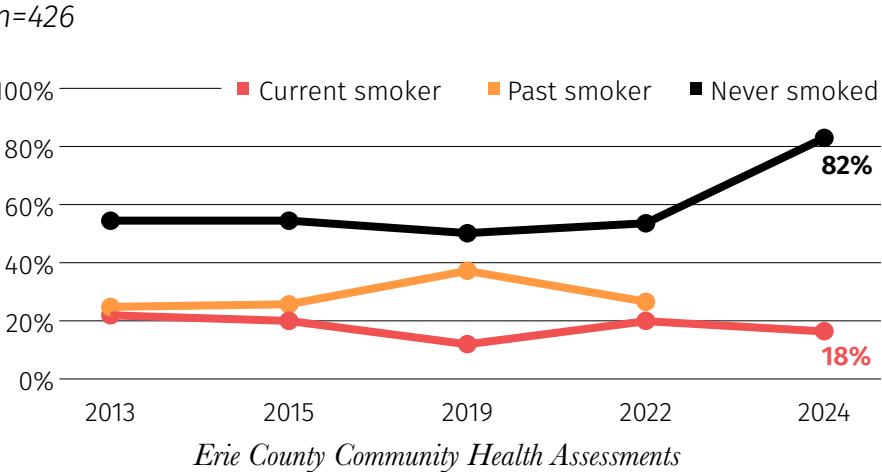
Barriers respondents have faced seeking drug treatment



Tobacco Use



Other than a decline in 2019, the percentage of respondents who smoke in Erie County has remained largely unchanged.



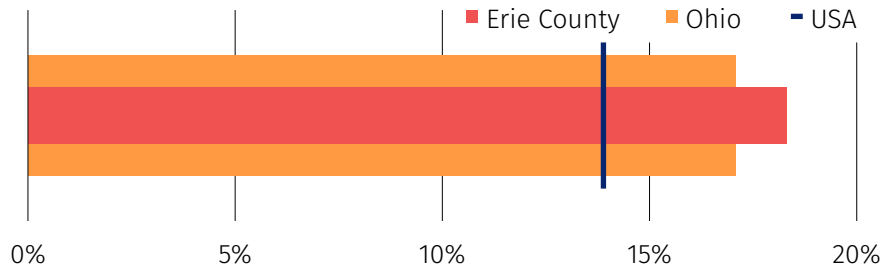
The 2024 Community Health Assessment did not provide “past smoker” as an option.

Erie County 2020–22 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Desired Outcome	Indicator (source)	2019 Baseline	2022 Erie CHA Data	2022 Target	2024 Erie CHA Data
Decrease tobacco and nicotine use	% Erie Co. adults 18+ that are current smokers (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps)	18%	20%	16%	18%

How Erie County compares

The number of current smokers in Erie County is 4% higher than that of the United States.
n=426

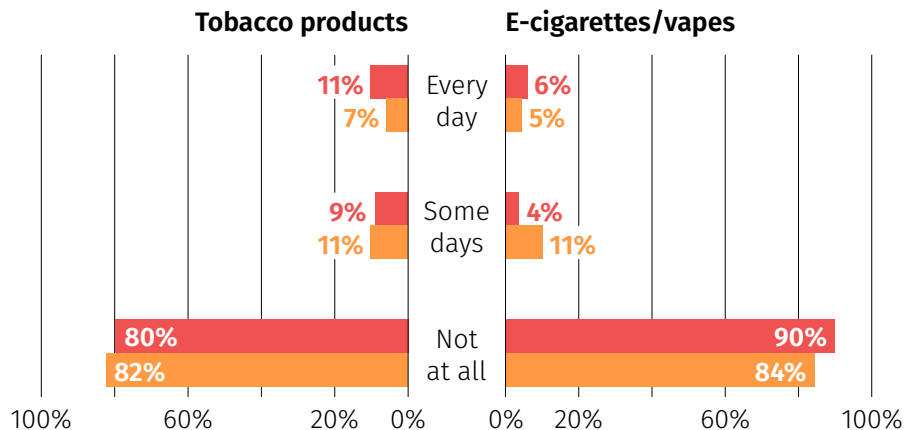


Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Surveillance System, 2023

There was a 4% decrease from 2022 to 2024 in the percentage of respondents who smoke every day. There was a 1% decrease in the number of respondents who use e-cigarettes daily, however there was a 7% increase in those that do it on some days.

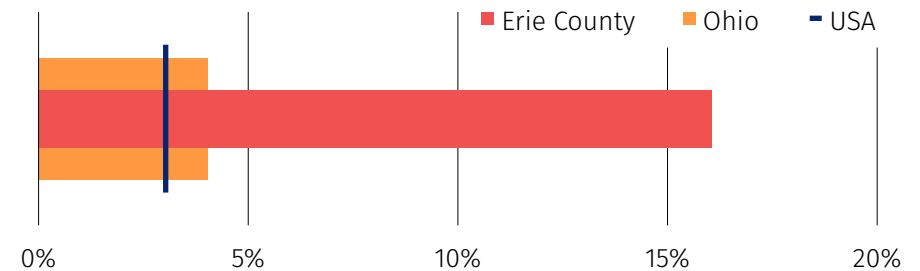
Frequency of use

Use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes between 2022 & 2024
n=426



How Erie County compares

Occasional use of e-cigarettes is much higher in Erie County than in Ohio and the United States.
n=426



Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Surveillance System, 2022

How harmful respondents think e-cigarettes and vaping are to each of the following groups

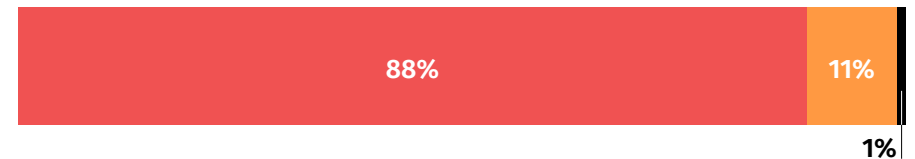
n=422

Very harmful (red), Somewhat harmful (orange), Not harmful at all (black)

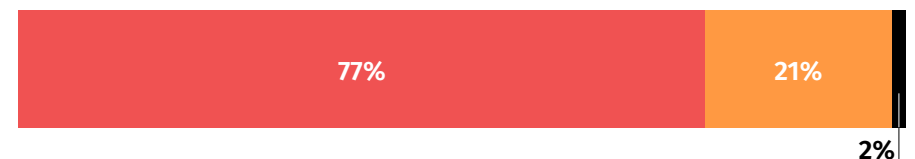
One's self



Youth

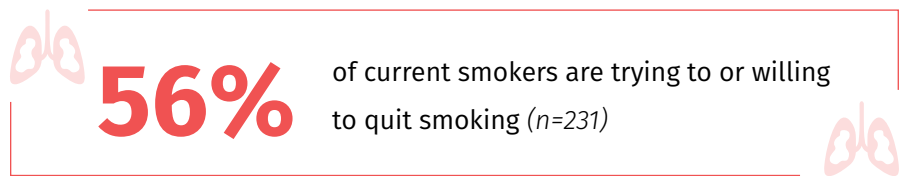
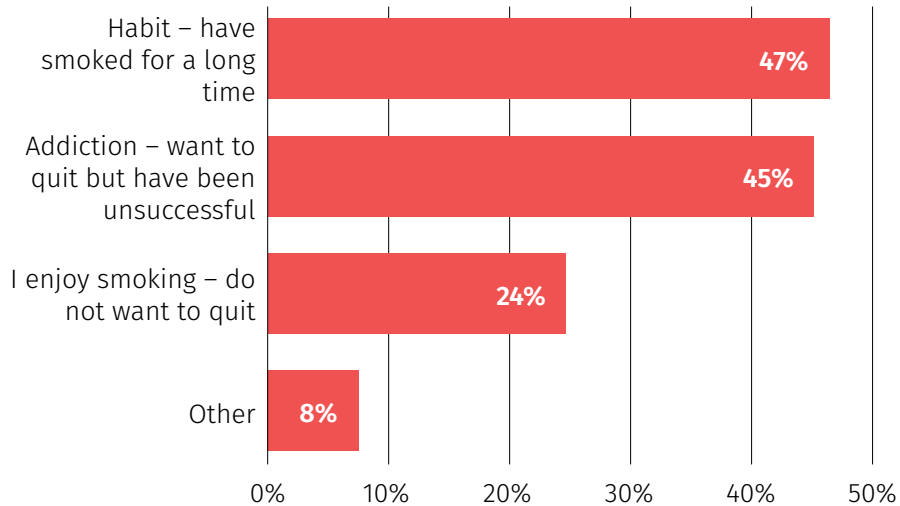


Other adults



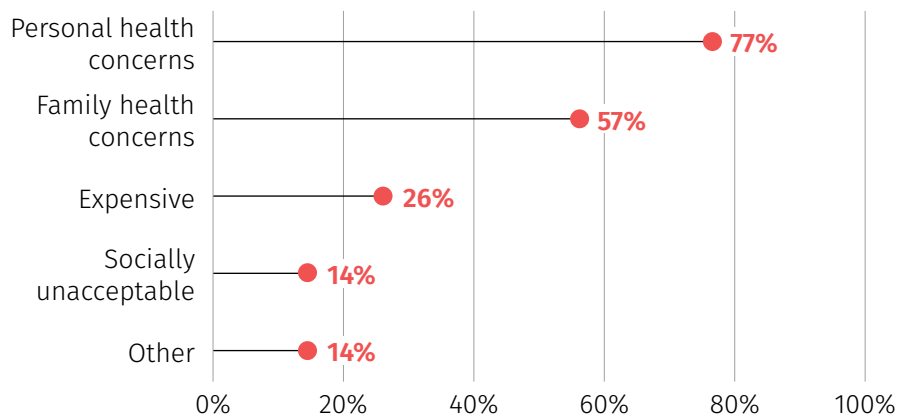
Reasons respondents are using tobacco

n=66



What is motivating smokers to quit smoking

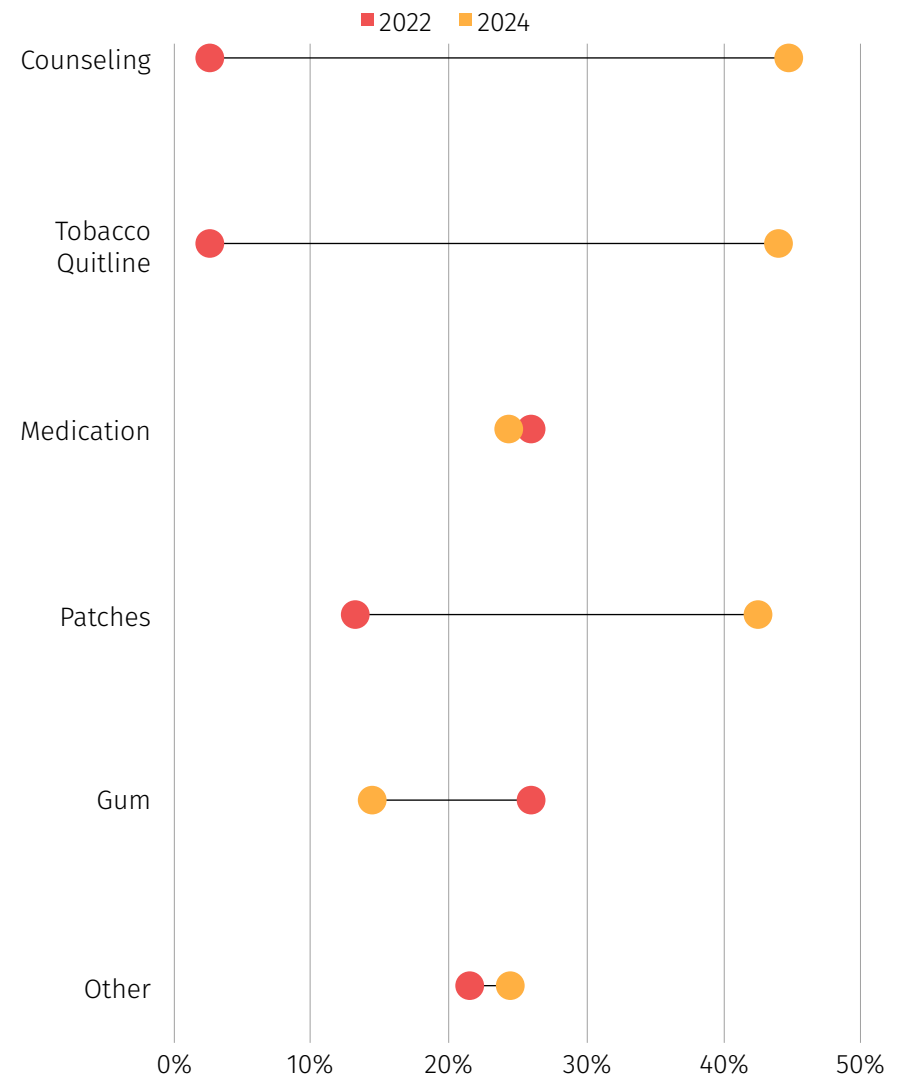
n=121



Cessation resources smokers who are trying to quit are using

In 2024, counseling, the Tobacco Quitline, and medication were the most used cessation resources. In 2022, medication, patches, and gum were the 3 most utilized cessation resources.

n=109



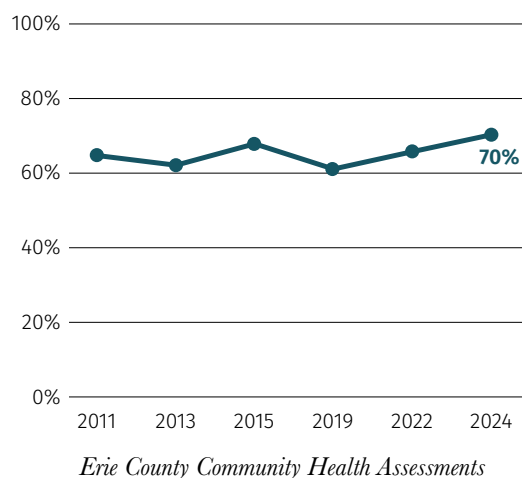
Erie County Community Health Assessments

Erie County
Lifestyle Choices

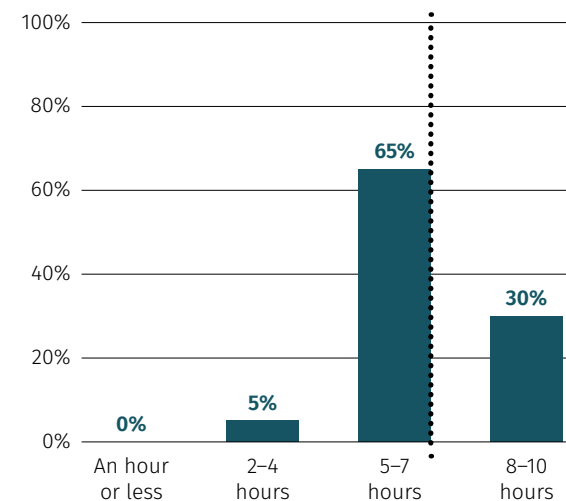
Erie County Community Health Summary Results | Lifestyle Choices

Lifestyle choices refer to choices respondents make that directly impact their lifestyle and wellbeing. 60% of respondents have visited a dentist or oral care clinic within the last year and that number has been trending upward since 2019. 30% of respondents are getting 8 to 10 hours of sleep per night, and 36% of respondents had 6 or more days in the last month where they felt that did not get enough rest. Only 3% of respondents are getting the recommended amount of fresh fruits and vegetables each day. 83% of respondents are participating in physical activity other than their job. 53% of respondents exercise 3-7 times per week.

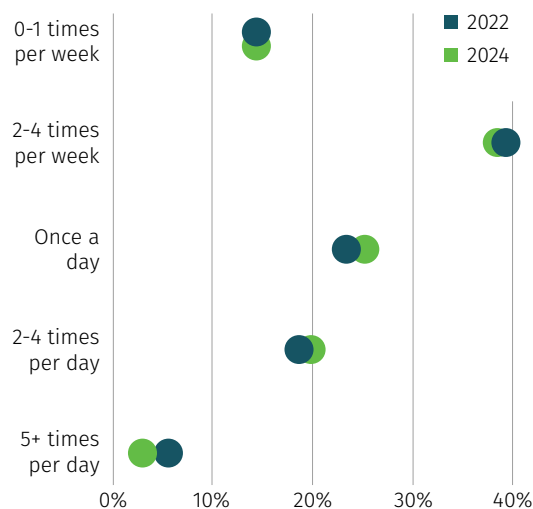
Respondents who have visited a dentist/oral care clinic in past year



The average amount of sleep respondents get in a 24-hour period

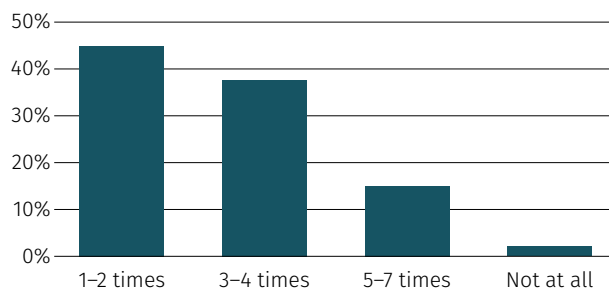


How often respondents eat fresh fruits or vegetables



Erie County Community Health Assessments

How often respondents exercise in an average week



83%

of respondents during the past month, other than their regular job, participated in physical activity or exercise such as walking, running, lifting weights, team sports, golf, or gardening for exercise (n=435)



The Erie County Health Department engages community partners to promote healthy eating and active living to improve the health of our community. The Erie County Health Department sponsors community gardens in Sandusky which provide supplemental fruit, vegetables and herbs to area residents. Additional information can be found at www.eriecohealthohio.org and the Erie County Cares website:

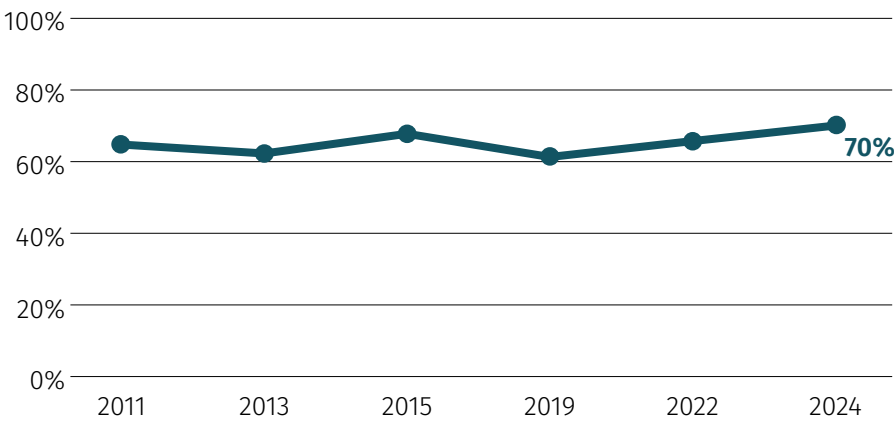
www.eriecountycares.com

Did you know?

Dental & Oral Health

Respondents who have visited a dentist/oral care clinic within the past year

n=409

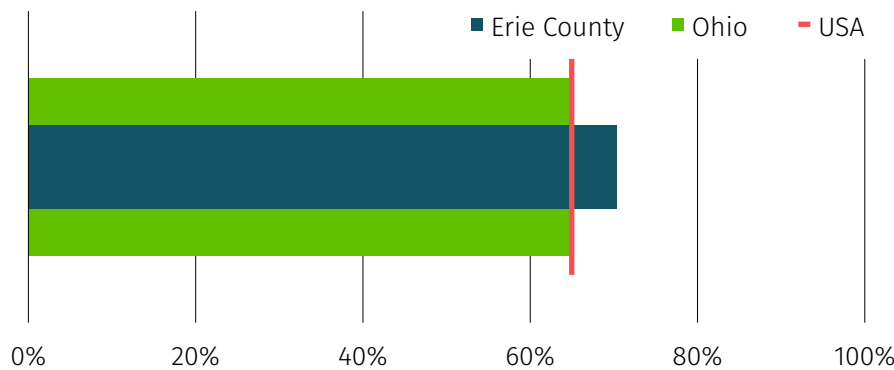


Erie County Community Health Assessments

How Erie County compares

Respondents who visited a dentist in the last year

n=409

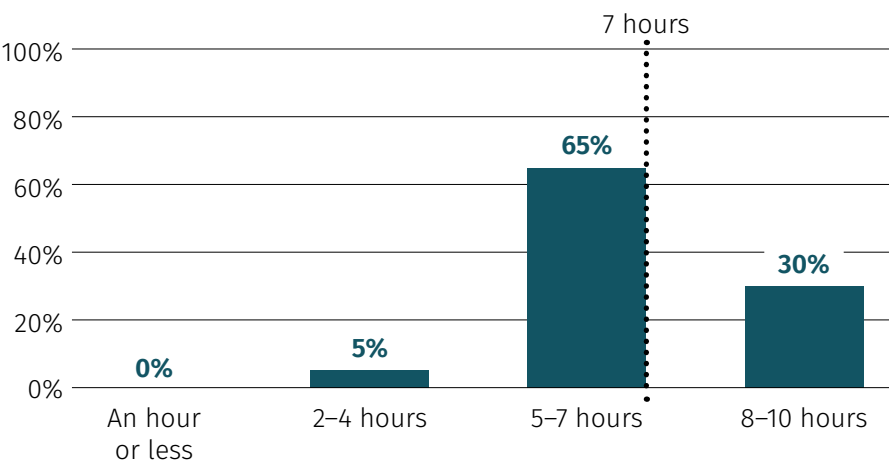


Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Sleep

The average amount of sleep respondents get in a 24 hour period

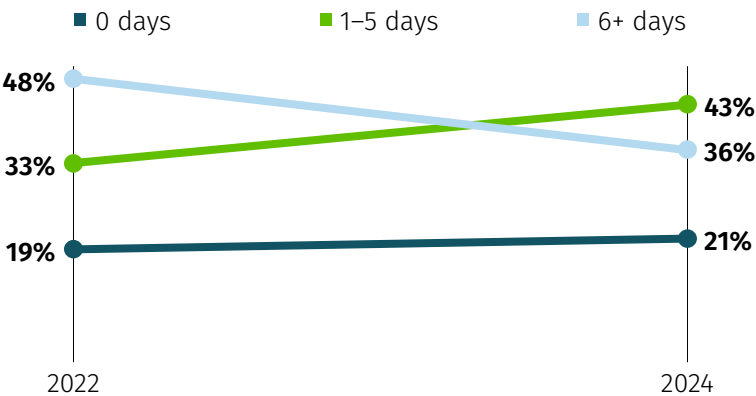
n=409



7 hours is the recommended amount

How many days respondents felt they did not get enough rest or sleep over the last 30 days

n=406

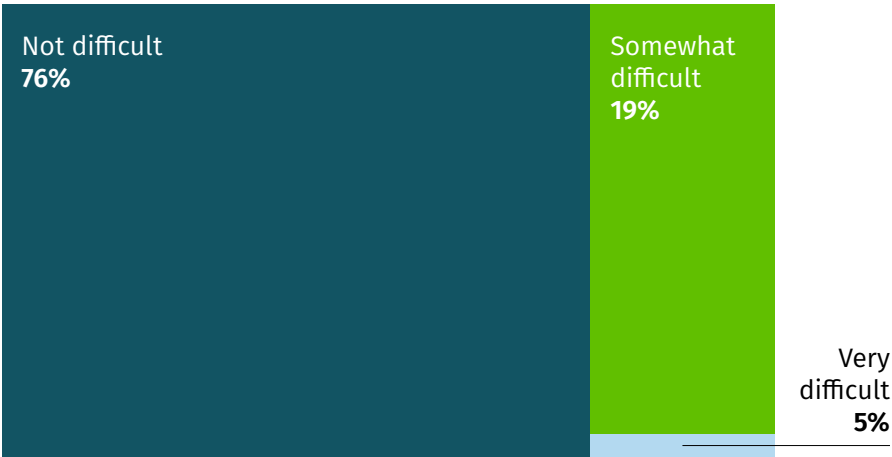


Erie County Community Health Assessments

Physical Fitness & Nutrition

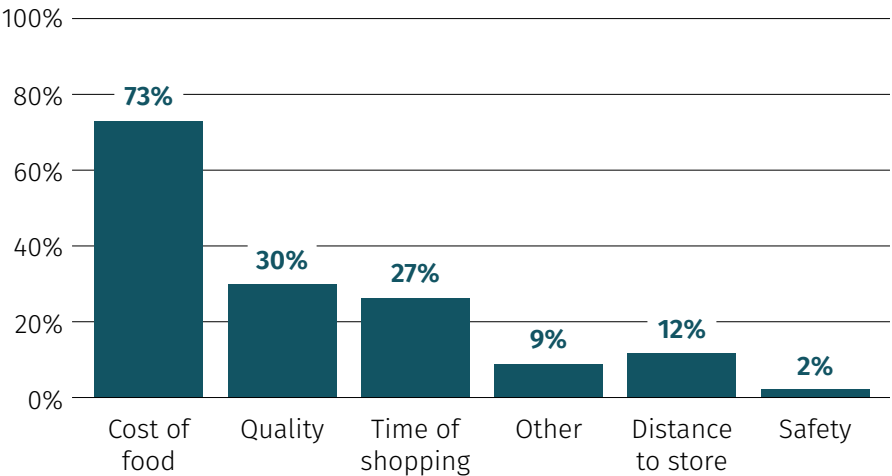
How difficult it is for respondents to get fresh fruits and vegetables

n=436



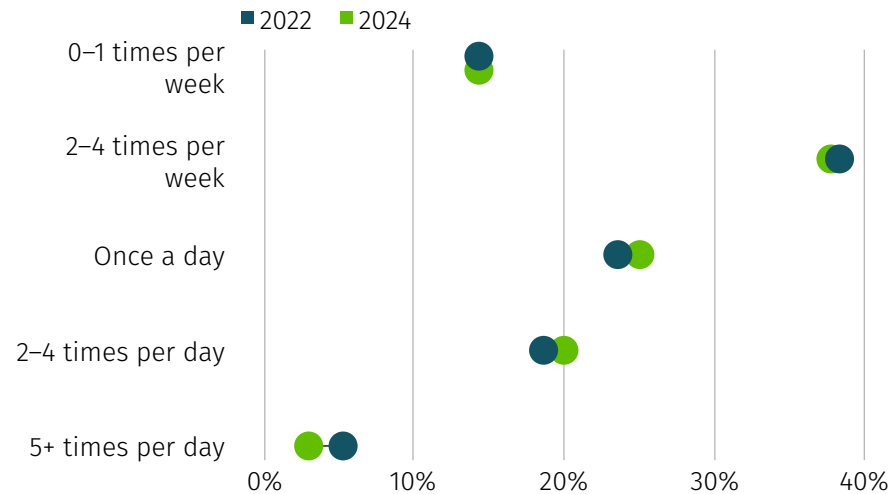
73% of respondents claimed that the cost of food was a barrier to buying fresh fruits and vegetables.

Factors that make it difficult to get fresh fruits and vegetables
n=104



How often respondents eat fresh fruit or vegetables

n=436

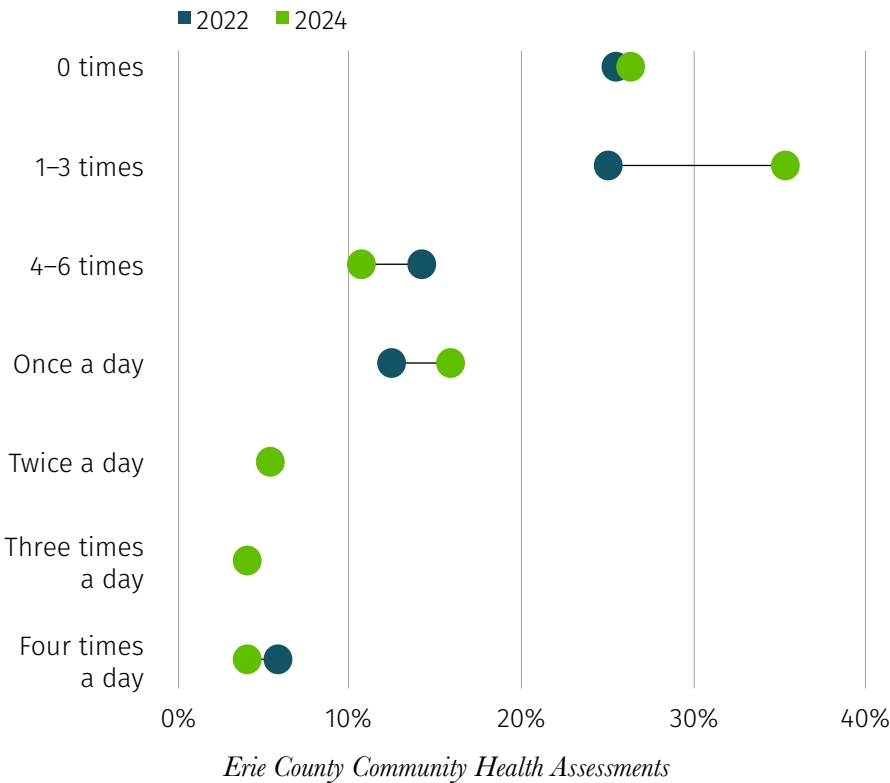


Erie County Community Health Assessments

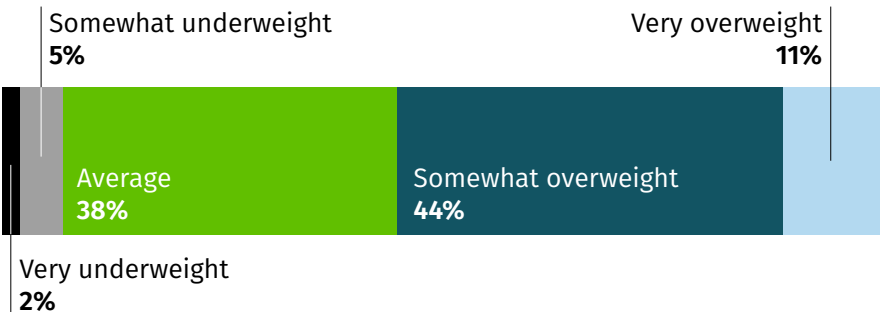
Erie County 2020–22 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Desired Outcome	Indicator (source)	2019 Baseline	2022 Erie CHA Data	2022 Target	2024 Erie CHA Data
Improve nutrition and increase physical activity	% Erie Co. adults 18+ who ate 5+ servings of fruit and/or vegetables per day (Erie County CHA)	16%	6%	20%	3%

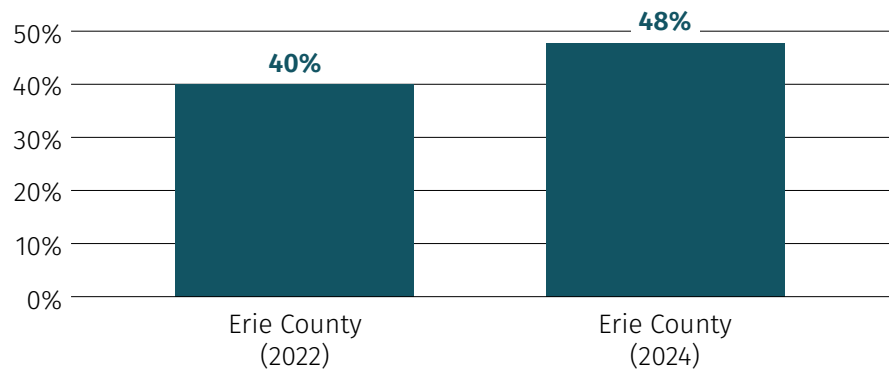
The amount of time in the last 7 days respondents drank soda, diet pop, iced coffee, punch, Kool-Aid, sports drinks, energy drinks, or other fruit flavored drinks
 n=436



How respondents describe their weight right now
 n=437



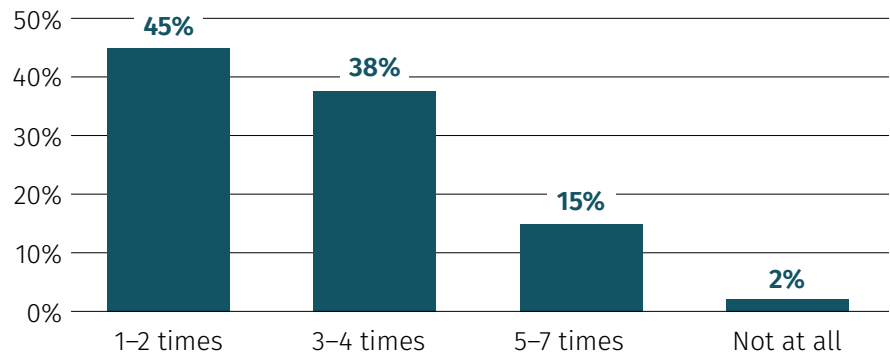
Respondents whose doctors told them they were obese or overweight
 n=436



of respondents during the past month, other than their regular job, participated in physical activity or exercise such as walking, running, lifting weights, team sports, golf, or gardening for exercise (n=435)

83%

How often respondents exercise in an average week
 n=357

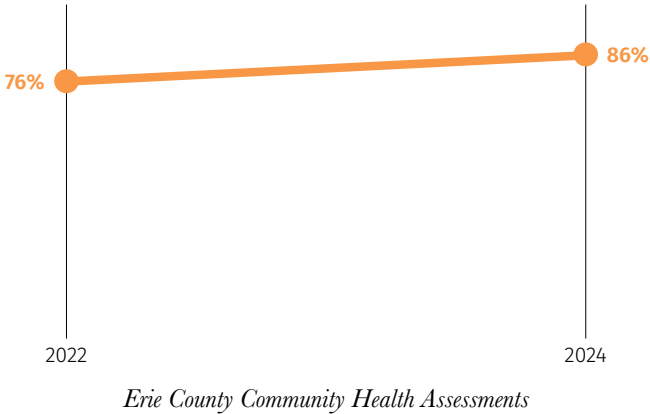


Erie County
**Maternal Health &
Infant Vitality**

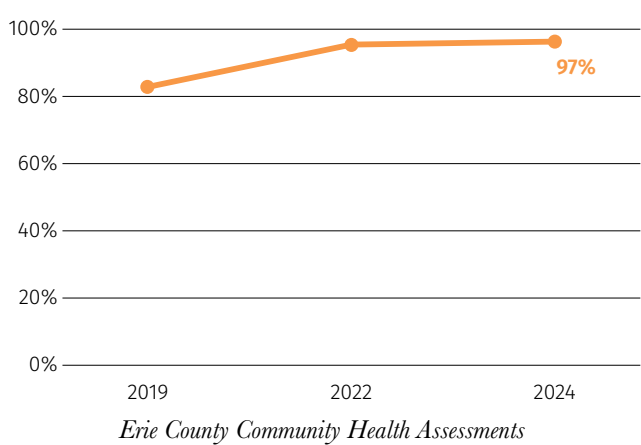
Erie County Community Health Summary Results | *Maternal Health & Infant Vitality*

Trends in health indicators in pregnant women and babies are generally positive. The majority of pregnancies were planned, and most expecting mothers received prenatal care within the first 3 months and planned for after-birth care. However, the rate of preterm births has increased slightly (3%) and more than half of respondents utilized WIC or SNAP benefits during their last pregnancy.

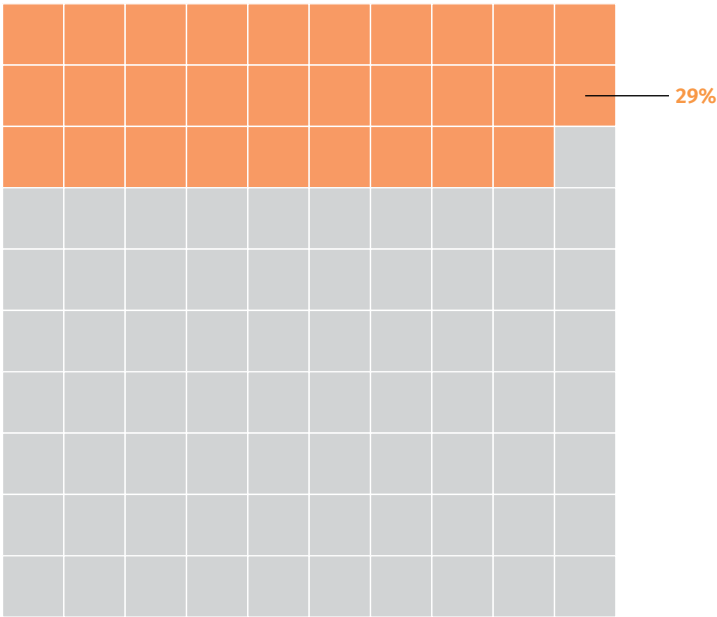
Respondents who received prenatal care within the first 3 months of pregnancy



Respondents with children who are up to date on their vaccines



Percentage of respondents who experienced depression either during or after pregnancy



Prenatal care within the first 3 months of pregnancy is important to set the foundation for a healthy pregnancy and healthy newborn. According to national statistics 1 in 8 women experience depression during or after their pregnancy. The Erie County Community Health Center provides mental health counselors and services to promote well-being and health for women. Erie County Resources for Mothers:
Access to early Prenatal Care and the Baby and Me Tobacco Free Program: www.eriecohealthohio.com/maternal-child-health/healthy-moms/
Erie County Resources for Infants: www.eriecohealthohio.com/maternal-child-health/healthy-babies/
Women, Infants and Children Program: www.eriecohealthohio.com/wic/

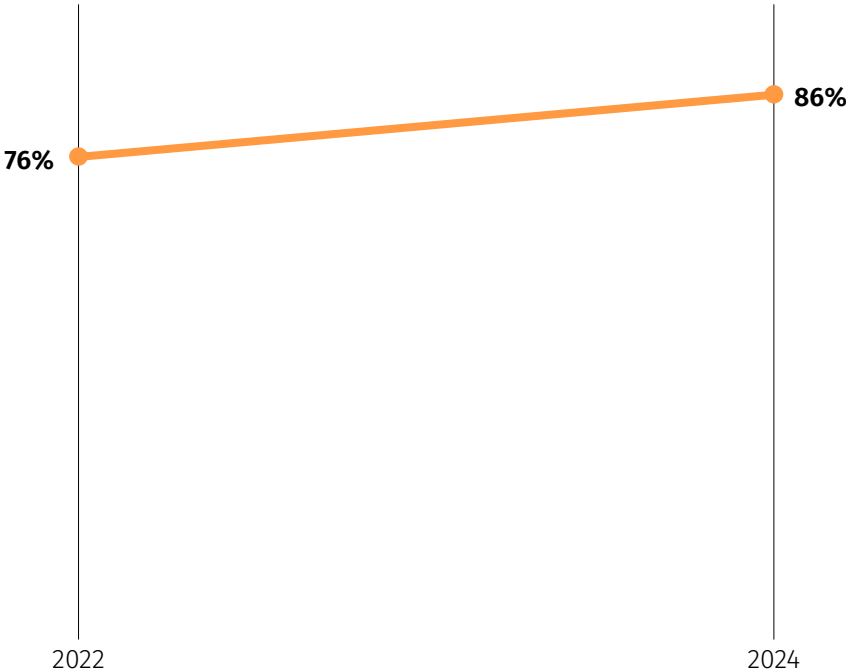
Did you know?

Maternal Health & Infant Vitality

Trends in health indicators in pregnant women and babies are generally positive. The majority of pregnancies were planned, and most expecting mothers received prenatal care within the first three months of their pregnancy and planned for after-birth care. However, the rate of premature births has increased slightly (3%), and more than half of respondents utilized WIC or SNAP benefits during their last pregnancy.

Respondents who received prenatal care within the first 3 months of pregnancy

n=83



Erie County Community Health Assessments

29% of respondents experienced depression either during or after their pregnancy.

n=83



Women who had pregnancies that were planned and who planned for after-birth care while pregnant

63%

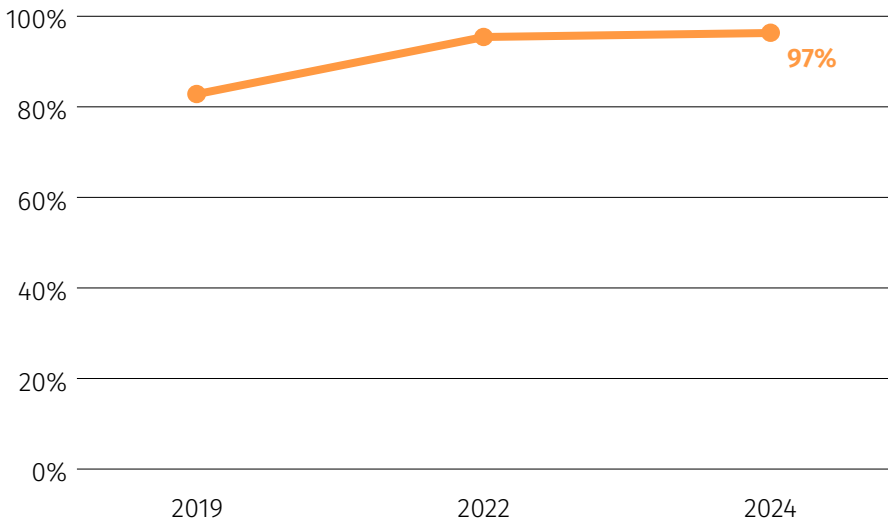
of women had pregnancies that were planned (n=83)

85%

of mothers planned for after-birth care (finances, childcare, etc.) (n=84)

Respondents with children who are up to date on their vaccinations

n=168



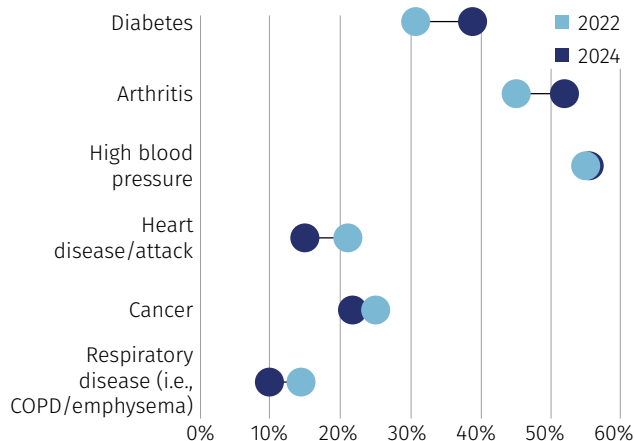
Erie County Community Health Assessments

Erie County
Quality of Life

Erie County Community Health Summary Results | Quality of Life

Quality of life refers to chronic health conditions that respondents are impacted by, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that have a lasting impact on peoples lives, safety and environmental factors, and social determinants of health which speaks to driving habits, a respondent's financial stability, and their housing situation. More than half of respondents to this survey have been diagnosed with arthritis (52%) or high blood pressure (56%). Almost 40% of respondents have been diagnosed with diabetes. Almost half of male respondents have been diagnosed with high blood pressure (42%). Over a quarter of both men and women have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Respondents diagnosed by a medical professional with the following conditions



Erie County Community Health Assessments

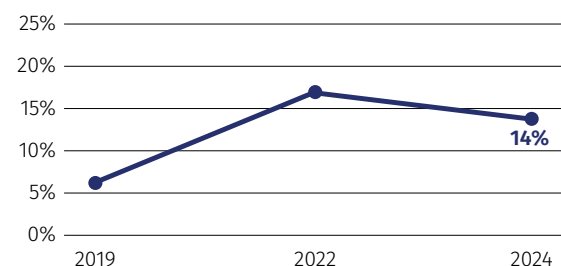


23%

of respondents needed help meeting their general daily needs (food, clothing, shelter, or paying utility bills) in the past 30 days (n=390)

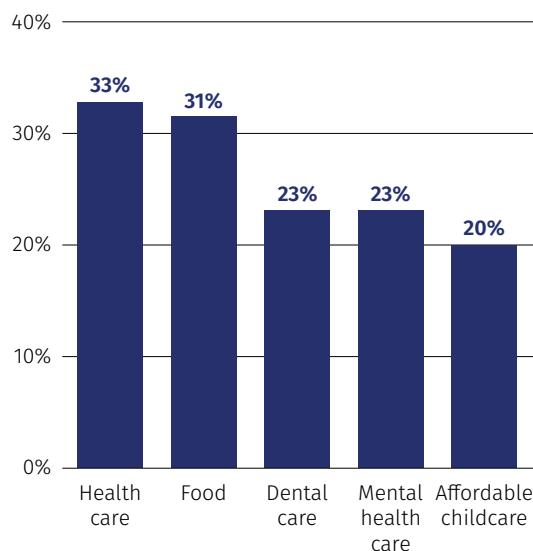


Respondents who have experienced 4 or more ACEs in their lifetime

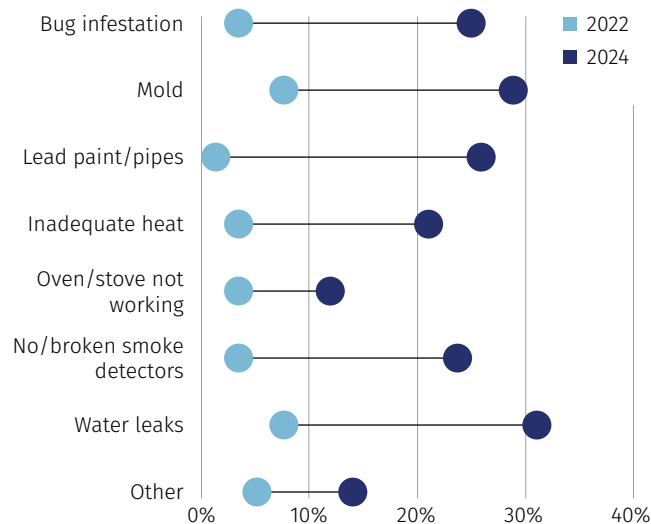


Erie County Community Health Assessments

Respondents who themselves or a loved one sought assistance for any of the following in the past year



Respondents dealing with the following housing issues



Erie County Community Health Assessments

Erie County Cares is a searchable website available in the palm of your hand to provide information and access to a myriad of services and resources throughout the area to meet the needs of our community, such as healthcare, housing, transportation, mental health and much more.

www.eriecountycares.com

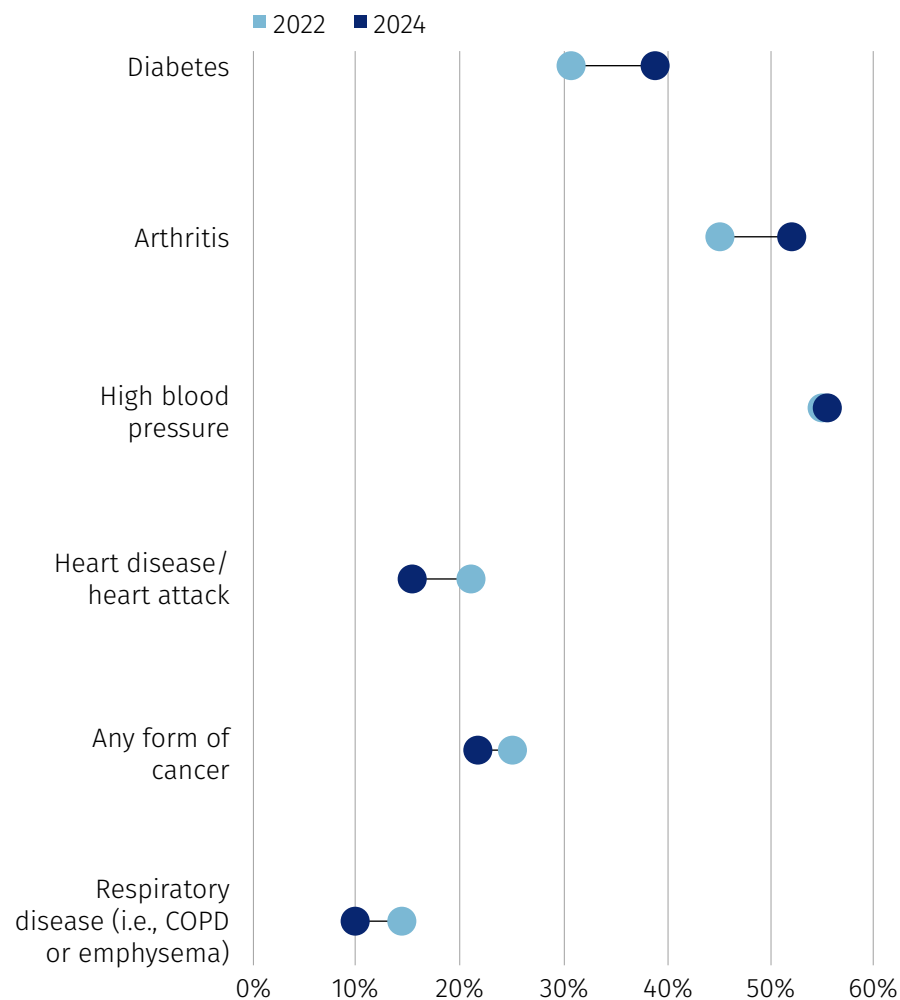
Did you know?

Chronic Conditions

Changes in rates of chronic condition diagnoses

More than half of respondents have been diagnosed with arthritis (52%) or high blood pressure (56%). Almost 40% have been diagnosed with diabetes.

n=303

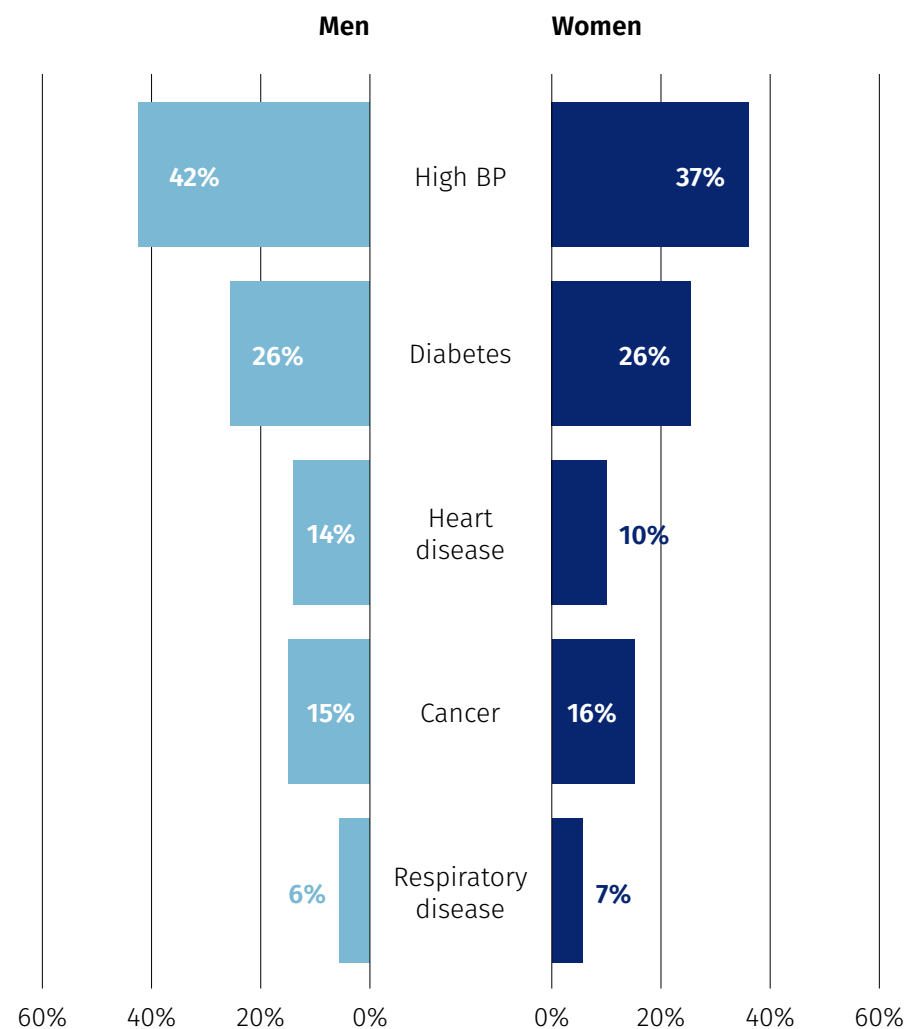


Erie County Community Health Assessments

Chronic condition diagnosis by sex

Almost half of male respondents have been diagnosed with high blood pressure (42%). Over a quarter of both men and women have been diagnosed with diabetes.

n=303

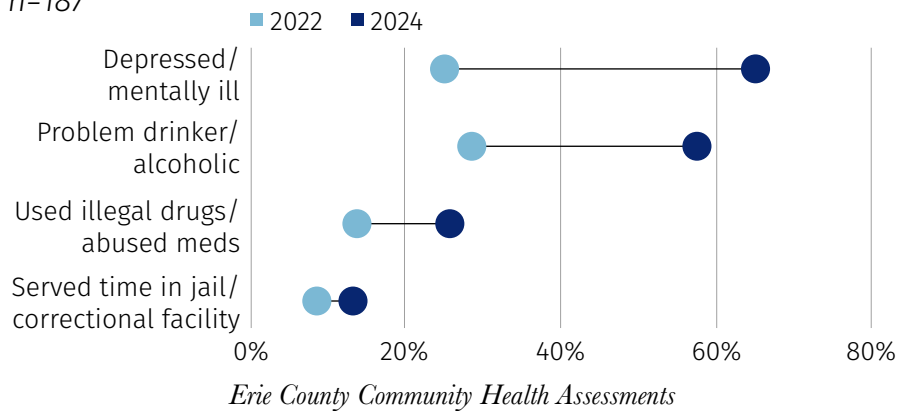


Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 yrs.) ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)). Adults who experience 4 or more ACEs show a 12 times higher prevalence of health risks such as alcoholism, drug use, depression, and suicide attempts (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>).

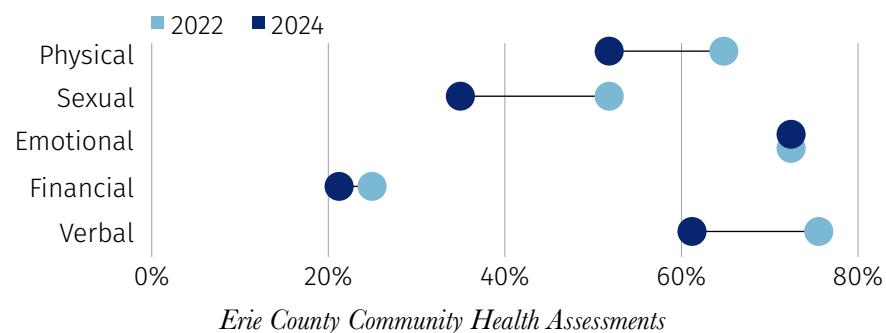
Percent of respondents who as a child lived with someone with any of the following

n=187



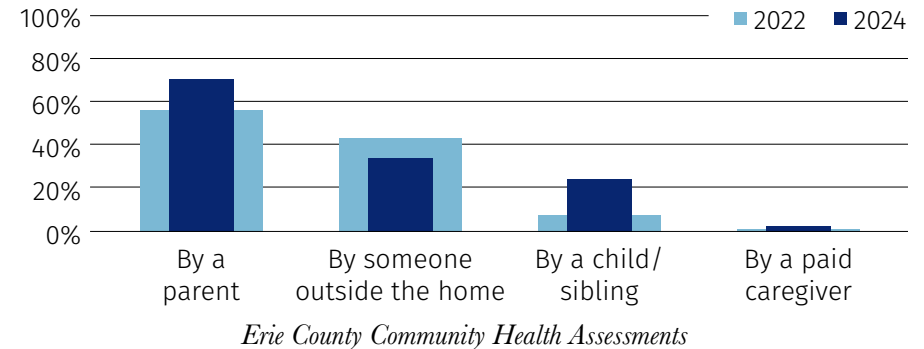
Types of abuse respondents experienced

n=89



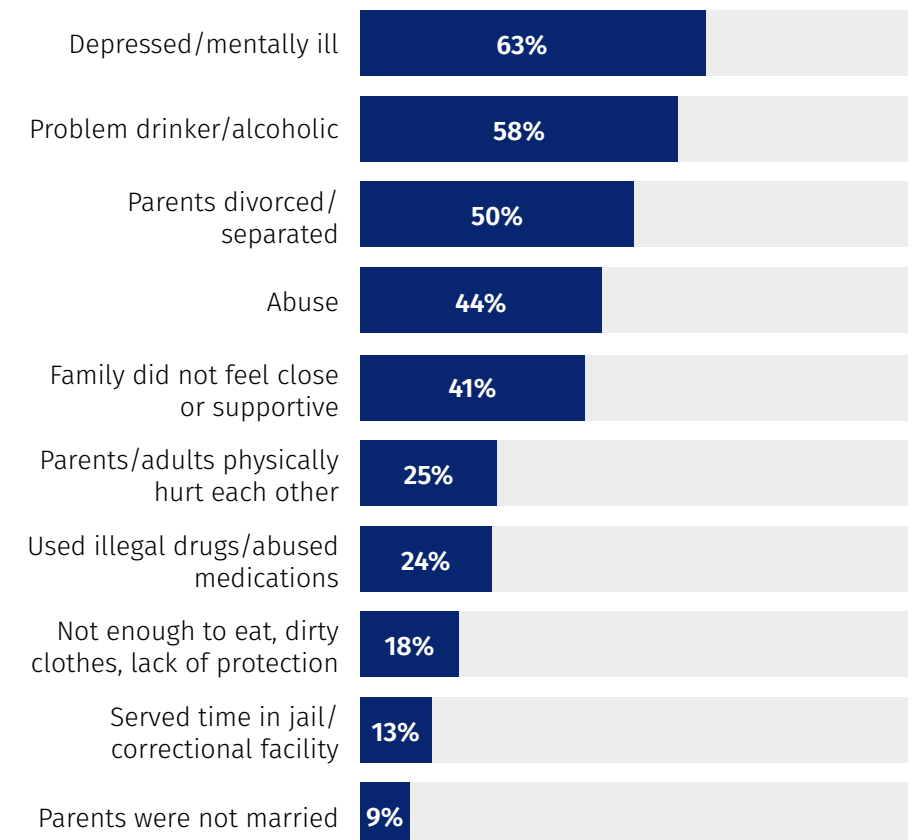
By whom respondents were abused

n=87



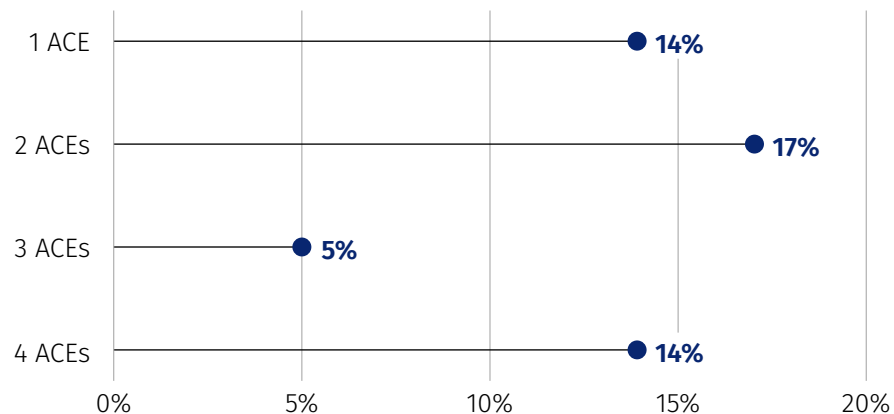
Respondents who as a child had/lived with the following

n=204



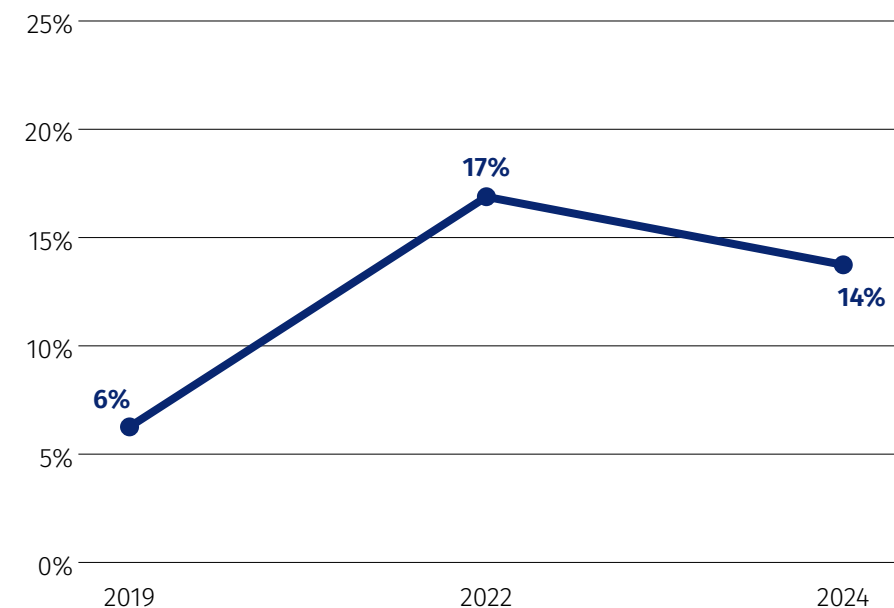
Rates of respondents suffering one or more adverse childhood experience(s) (ACEs) in their lifetime

n=453



Adults who have experienced 4 or more ACEs in their lifetime

n=453

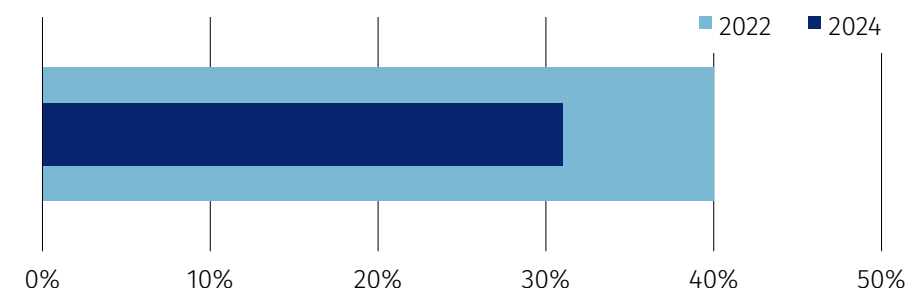


Erie County Community Health Assessments

Transportation & Safe Driving

Respondents who used their cellphone (text, e-mail, view videos, etc.) while driving

n=386

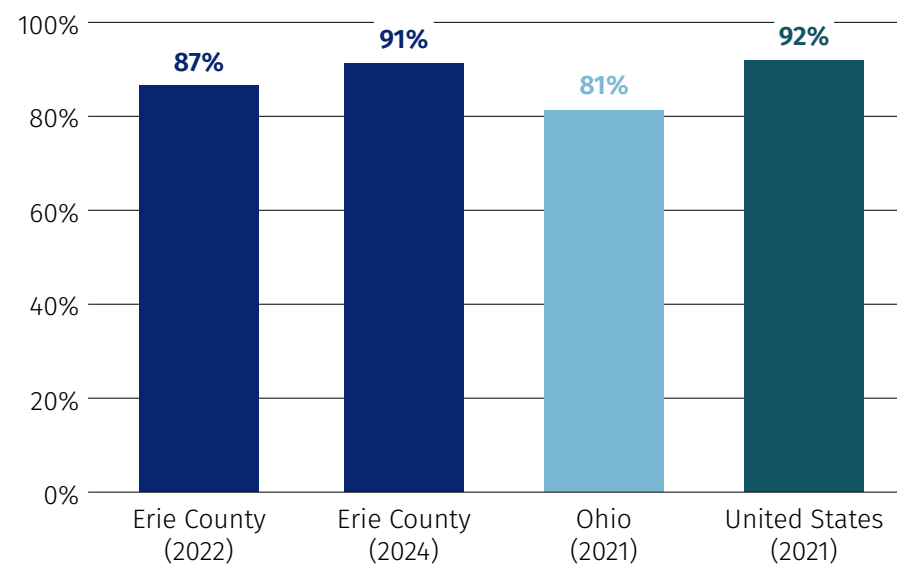


Erie County Community Health Assessments

How Erie County compares

Respondents who use seat belts while riding in a car

n=397

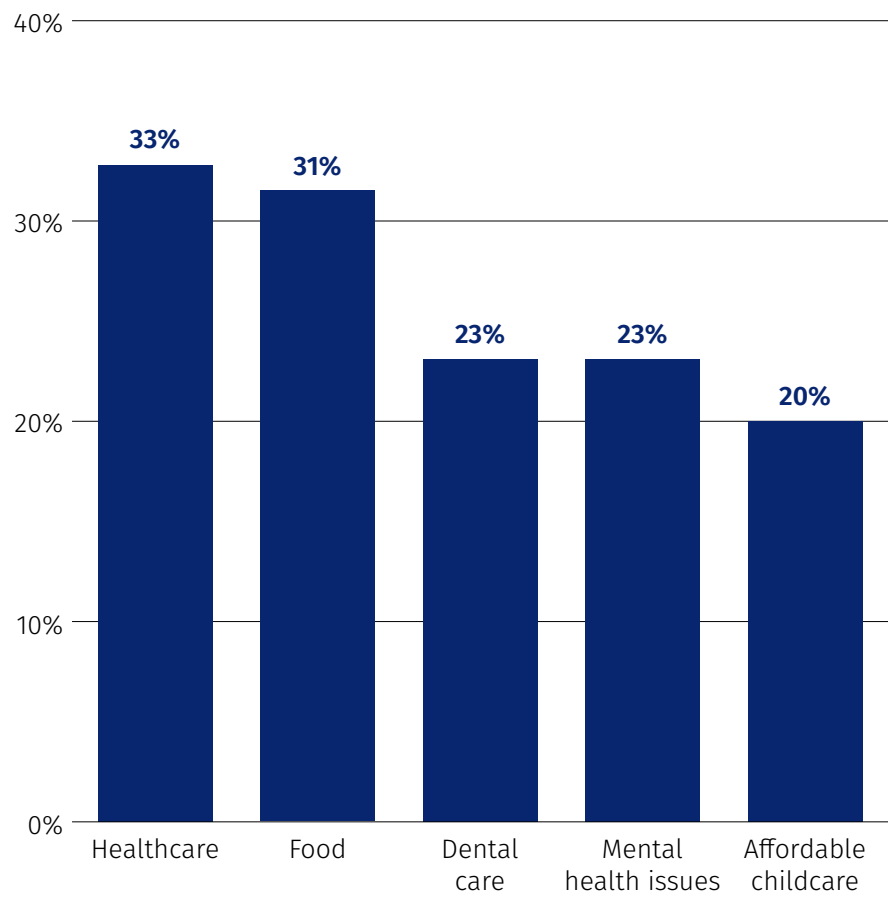


Source: NHTSA

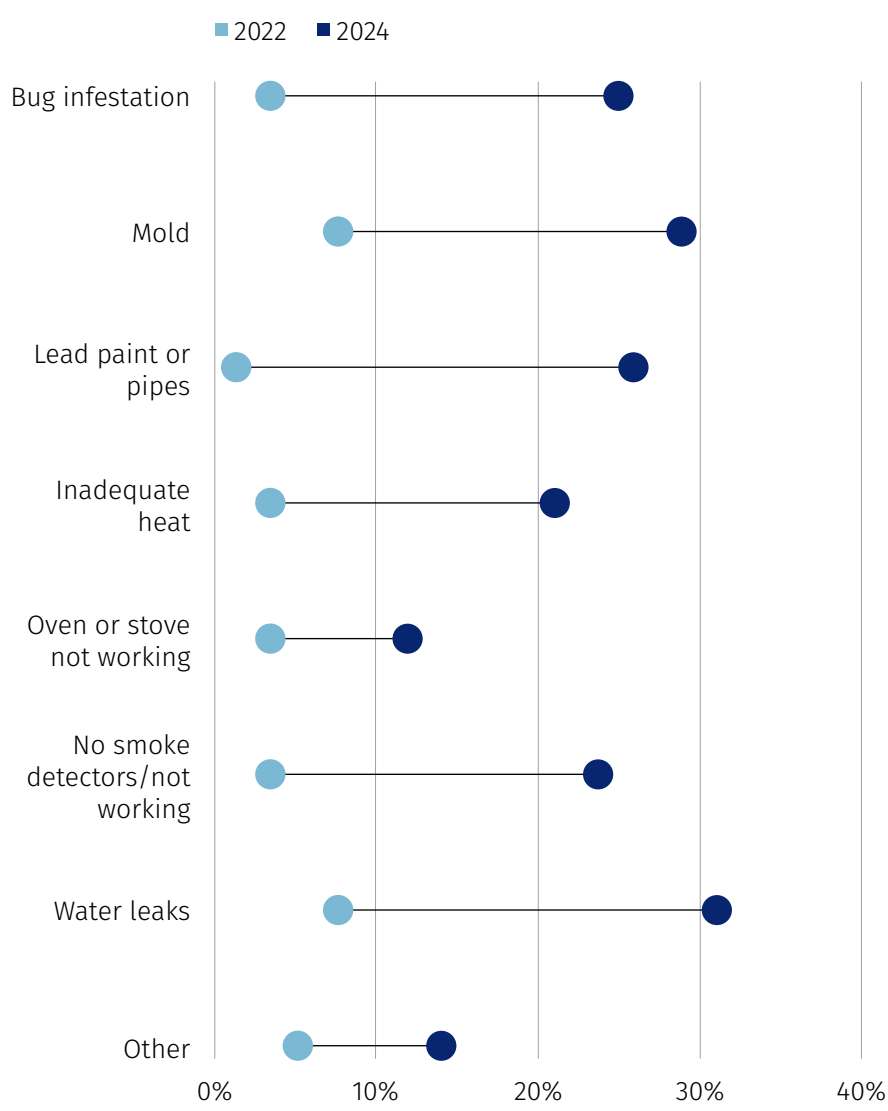
Social Determinants of Health

 **23%** of respondents have needed help meeting their general daily needs (food, clothing, shelter, utility bills) in the past 30 days (n=181) 

Respondents who they or a loved one sought assistance for any of the following in the past year
n=181



Respondents dealing with the following housing issues
n=99



*Focus Groups & Leadership
Survey Data Summaries*

Focus Groups Data Summary

Overview

The community-wide survey data offered aggregate information about the health and wellness of the residents of Erie County. In addition to gathering information through a survey, the CRD conducted focus groups and interviews. A focus group is a small, facilitated group conversation where participants are from a specific population or demographic and are asked questions to gain their perspectives on public health. One-on-one interviews are similar, the difference being that a person is interviewed individually. Focus groups are a tool to better understand underrepresented perspectives. The CRD conducted focus groups and interviews with the following populations:

- Minority Population
- Low-Income Population
- LGBTQ+ Population

The minority and low-income focus groups were held in-person concurrently, with participants from either or both groups. These sessions aimed to explore experiences related

to being low-income and/or a minority. The LGBTQ+ outreach included one in-person focus group and several one-on-one virtual interviews to gather diverse insights from the LGBTQ+ community.

Healthcare challenges

Low income population

- Residents do not have enough money to pay for their care, so they do not receive the care they need.
- Residents on Medicare/Medicaid have difficulty finding providers that will accept their insurance.
- Some places charge late fees which adds to the financial burden.
- Healthcare is expensive – some residents report having difficulty paying for healthcare despite owning their homes.
- The quality of housing, low-income housing in particular, is poor.

Diverse populations

- Doctors don't seem to understand the issues that minority

groups face in Erie County; there is a lack of empathy among providers.

- Cultural and language barriers, sometimes dialect, can create misunderstandings between the patient and the provider.
- There continues to be a stigma around seeking treatment for mental health. There is a perception that leaning on family is more effective than professional help.

LGBTQ+ population

- There are no resources here to integrate the local LGBTQ+ community.
- It is difficult to meet others to develop a social circle and support system which can lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation.
- Gender-affirming care is not available in Erie County. Residents travel as far as Cleveland for healthcare because providers there are known to help LGBTQ+ people.
- If there is gender-affirming care available in Erie County, it is not advertised well.
- There are enough therapists in the community, but a shortage of psychiatrists who can prescribe medication.

Suggested solutions to challenges

Low-income population

- Some residents state that there should be other ways to help assist with the financial burden of healthcare such as gift cards if healthcare providers will not accept Medicaid/Medicare.
- More healthcare providers to accept Medicare/Medicaid
- Free services for mental health and substance abuse

Diverse populations

- Training for healthcare providers on diversity and inclusion
- Provide education opportunities for diverse populations on nutrition to expand the diets of folks to include more nutritious foods and recipes they may not have ever been exposed to.

LGBTQ+ population

- Provide gender-affirming services in the community and make that information easily accessible.
- Bring more psychiatrists to the community.

Things that are working well for residents:

Low-income population

- The food pantries in the community are great – a lot of different options and it is all free.
- There are a lot of facilities and insurance companies that provide transportation to appointments and pharmacies.

Diverse populations

- Preventative care is easily accessible and available.
- Seeing more diversity in health care practitioners and service providers.
- Participants have not experienced discrimination based on race in Erie County.

LGBTQ+ population

- Preventative care is easily accessible and available.
- HIV testing is readily available.
- Erie County Cares website is helpful.
- Participants have not experienced discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in Erie County.

Leadership Survey Data

Overview

To gain valuable perspectives from leaders from various community organizations and sectors, a virtual leadership survey was distributed to stakeholders with leadership roles in organizations across Erie County. The survey sought to understand:

- The major challenges currently facing public health
- The strengths and gaps in existing services
- Populations that are inadequately served
- The specific populations each organization serves and the methods employed

This survey aims to capture comprehensive insights from service providers, contributing crucial information to the overall assessment of health and wellness services in Erie County.

Ranking of community health-related issues

Community leaders were asked to rank the importance of the following health-related issues on a scale of 1-5 in which 1 is

“not at all important” and 5 is “extremely important”.

- Health care access
- Aging population
- Chronic disease management
- Mental health services
- Obesity and lifestyle choices
- Substance use/abuse

Every respondent ranked **substance use/abuse** as either **very important** or **extremely important** to address.

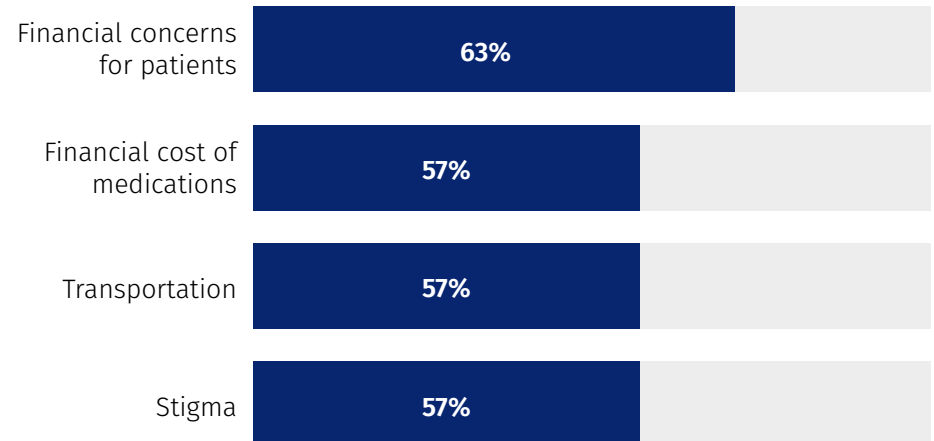
Every respondent ranked **mental health services** as either **very important** or **extremely important** to address.

More than half of the respondents think **access to care** is **very important** or **extremely important** to address.

Obesity and healthy lifestyle choices, chronic disease management, aging population and social determinants of health had more even distributions of responses ranking from **moderately important** to **extremely important**.

Problems, barriers, or gaps in services

The top 4 problems, barriers, or gaps in services that prevent residents from receiving the health-related care they need:



Top 5 populations experiencing barriers or gaps in local health services

Community leaders were asked which (if any) populations in Erie County are not adequately served by local health services. These are the 5 population groups who received the most responses:

- Homeless/transient
- Low-income populations
- People with mental illnesses
- People with substance addictions
- Uninsured individuals

Strengths of local health services

Community leaders were asked to describe the things they feel are being done well by health service providers in terms of health and quality of life in Erie County. The responses were categorized in two ways: specific health services that are available to residents, and community-wide efforts that are fostering better health and well-being for residents.

Specific services that are provided

Dental care

Lead hazard
abatement

Elder care

Substance
abuse/abuse
recovery

Mental
health care

Community-wide effort

Diverse providers
offer many services

Services provided by
the health department

Ongoing work by health
organizations to improve
access to healthcare

How residents access information

- ▶ Community leaders think that residents get the majority of their information on health resources/ services that are available in the community via community events and social media.
- ▶ Most community leaders think that awareness amongst residents about health resources/services offered available in Erie County is good.

Overall impressions of community leaders

All community leaders **strongly agreed** with, **agreed** with, or were **neutral** on the following statements:

- Residents in Erie County are able to access a primary care provider when needed.
- Erie County is a good place to raise a family.
- Immunizations are an important tool in maintaining and protecting the health of the community.
- Immunizations are accessible and available in Erie County.
- Community organizations work together in Erie County to address health-related issues.

- Erie County is a safe place to live.
- Residents in Erie County are able to access a dentist when needed.
- It is easy to get information about health services that are available in the county.

Most community leaders **disagreed** with, **strongly disagreed** with, or were **neutral** on the following statements:

- There is a sufficient number of mental and behavioral health providers in the area.
- Family planning services are accessible and available to adequately address reproductive health needs in the community.

Appendices

Appendix I: Community Survey Demographic Information of Respondents

Variable	2024 Community Survey Sample
Age	
18–29	20%
30–41	22%
42–53	15%
54–64	15%
65 and older	28%
Racial distribution	
American/Alaskan Native	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Black/African American	5%
Hispanic/Latino	2%
White/Caucasian	88%
Multiracial	2%
Other	1%
Sexual orientation	
Straight/heterosexual	91%
Gay	2%
Lesbian	2%
Bisexual	2%
Prefer not to answer	3%
What is your sex?	
Male	28%
Female	71%
Prefer not to answer	1%
Gender identity	
Male	28%
Female	71%
Non-binary/third gender	0%
Transgender	0%
Prefer not to answer	1%

Variable	2024 Community Survey Sample
Education level	
Less than high school	3%
High school diploma or GED	13%
Some college but no degree	28%
College degree or higher	56%
Annual household income	
Less than \$20,000	6%
\$20,000 – \$34,999	12%
\$35,000 – \$49,999	15%
\$50,000 – \$74,999	26%
\$75,000 – \$99,999	18%
Over \$100,000	23%

Appendix II: Links to Secondary Data Sources

Overall Links

CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Ohio Department of Health

Ohio State Health Assessment

Links by Topic

Health perceptions

Fair and Poor Health Perceptions

- <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/ohio/erie?year=2024>

Alcohol, drugs, and tobacco Use

E-cigarette Use

- https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByLocation&rdProcessAction=&SaveFileGenerated=1&irb-LocationType=States&islLocation=39&islState=&islCounty=&islClass=CLASS19&islTopic=TOPIC67&islYear=2022&hidLocationType=States&hidLocation=39&hidClass=CLASS19&hidTopic=TOPIC67&hidTopicName=E-Cig-

arette+Use&hidYear=2022&irbShowFootnotes=Show&rdICL-iclIndicators=ECIGNOW2%2c_CURECI2&iclIndicators_rdExpandedCollapsedHistory=&iclIndicators=ECIGNOW2%2c_CURECI2&hidPreviouslySelectedIndicators=&DashboardColumnCount=2&rdShowElementHistory=&rdScrollX=0&rdScrollY=0&rdRnd=2075

Tobacco use

- <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/tobacco-use-prevention-and-cessation/media/tobaccouseamongadultsinohio2021>
- Ohio Department of Health, Tobacco Use in Adults, 2021

Excessive drinking

- https://analytics.das.ohio.gov/t/ODHPI PUB/views/SHA_FINAL_Domain_PopHealth/19_PopHealth?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Alinktarget=_self

Lifestyle choices

Dental Visits

- https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByLocation&rdProcessAction=&SaveFileGenerated=1&irb-LocationType=States&islLocation=39&islState=&islCounty=&islClass=CLASS19&islTopic=TOPIC67&islYear=2022&hidLocationType=States&hidLocation=39&hidClass=CLASS19&hidTopic=TOPIC67&hidTopicName=E-Cig-

Appendix II: Links to Secondary Data Sources

aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByLocation&rdProcessAction=&SaveFileGenerated=1&irb-LocationType=States&islLocation=99&islState=&islCounty=&islClass=CLASS13&islTopic=TOPIC16&islYear=2022&hidLocationType=States&hidLocation=99&hidClass=CLASS13&hidTopic=TOPIC16&hidTopicName=Dental+Visit&hidYear=2022&irbShowFootnotes=Show&rdICL-iclIndicators=_DENVST3&iclIndicators_rdExpanded-CollapsedHistory=&iclIndicators=_DENVST3&hidPreviouslySelectedIndicators=&DashboardColumnCount=2&rdShowElementHistory=divClassUpdating%3dHide%2cis-ICLClass%3dShow%2cdivTopicUpdating%3dHide%2cis-ITopic%3dShow%2cdivYearUpdating%3dHide%2cisLYear%3dShow%2c&rdScrollX=0&rdScrollY=0&rdRnd=99600

Obesity Rates

- https://analytics.das.ohio.gov/t/ODHPIPUB/views/SHA_FINAL_Domain_PopHealth/16_PopHealth?%3Aembedded=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Alinktarget=_self

Safety & environmental factors

Ohio Seat Belt Data

- <https://otso.ohio.gov/resources/reports-and-statistics/safety-belt-task-force-report#:~:text=In%20raw%20numbers%2C%20that%20adds,was%2091.6%20percent%20that%20year>

United States Seat Belt Data

- <https://www.nhtsa.gov/vehicle-safety/seat-belts#:~:text=Many%20Americans%20understand%20the%20lifesaving,estimated%2014%2C955%20lives%20in%202017>

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- “The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Health and Development in Young Children” Erica M. Webster, Department of Foundations and Social Advocacy, SUNY Cortland
- <https://www.cdc.gov/aces/about/index.html>

Appendix III: Longitudinal Survey Data

Summary		2011	2013	2015	2019	2022	2024
Personal health status							
Health perception	Excellent/Very good/Good	89%	84%	85%	83%	71%	77%
	Fair/Poor	11%	16%	15%	17%	29%	23%
Poor physical or mental health kept from activities		20%	21%	22%	27%	38%	29%
Insurance coverage							
Currently uninsured		9%	16%	7%	3%	7%	5%
Type of insurance coverage (of those with insurance)	Private insurance – employer-paid	N/A	N/A	N/A	42%	41%	44%
	Private insurance – self-paid	N/A	N/A	N/A	4%	11%	11%
	Medicare	N/A	N/A	N/A	40%	32%	36%
	Medicaid	N/A	N/A	N/A	4%	13%	8%
	VA coverage	N/A	N/A	N/A	2%	2%	1%
	Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	8%	N/A	N/A
Services covered by insurance (of those with insurance)	Prescription assistance	N/A	N/A	N/A	82%	83%	74%
	Preventative care	N/A	N/A	N/A	82%	83%	86%
	Vision services	N/A	N/A	N/A	61%	69%	58%
	Dental services	N/A	N/A	N/A	57%	69%	61%
	Mental health	N/A	N/A	N/A	66%	64%	50%
	Alcohol & drug treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	47%	44%	31%

Appendix III: Longitudinal Survey Data

Summary		2011	2013	2015	2019	2022	2024
Access to health care							
Have a regular primary care provider		86%	88%	87%	90%	84%	91%
Had a routine check-up in the past year		57%	63%	71%	77%	80%	78%
Mental health							
During the past 12 months...	Felt sad or hopeless for 2 or more weeks	9%	10%	10%	8%	21%	29%
	Ever seriously considered suicide	3%	2%	3%	4%	8%	11%
Access to oral health care							
Dental check-up within the past year		65%	62%	67%	61%	65%	70%
Smoking & tobacco use							
Smoking behavior	Current smoker	26%	21%	20%	12%	20%	18%
	Past smoker	22%	24%	25%	38%	26%	N/A
	Never smoked	52%	55%	55%	50%	54%	82%
Alcohol & substance abuse							
Percentage of adults that are current drinkers		65%	54%	62%	63%	65%	62%
Driven after drinking alcohol in the past month		8%	6%	7%	9%	11%	15%
Adult recreational marijuana use		11%	7%	9%	5%	25%	46%
Taken prescriptions not belonging to them or differently than prescribed in the past year		N/A	N/A	N/A	8%	3%	8%

Appendix III: Longitudinal Survey Data

Summary		2011	2013	2015	2019	2022	2024
Child health							
Children up to date on recommended vaccines		N/A	N/A	N/A	82%	96%	97%
Healthy living – weight & exercise							
Self-described weight	Overweight	66%	74%	70%	75%	63%	55%
	About right	34%	26%	30%	24%	35%	38%
	Underweight	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2%	7%
Been told they were obese or overweight by a doctor		N/A	N/A	N/A	32%	39%	48%
Prevention, screening, & testing							
Received vaccines	Annual flu vaccine	34%	48%	49%	64%	58%	72%
	Pneumonia vaccine (age 65+ in lifetime)	46%	50%	54%	80%	78%	85%
	Shingles vaccine (in lifetime)	N/A	8%	14%	35%	29%	37%
Women's health							
Breast exam in the past year (2022 self-exam, other year, clinical)		62%	56%	54%	46%	79%	70%
Pap smear in the past year		56%	48%	46%	28%	37%	56%
Overweight or obese		N/A	N/A	N/A	68%	64%	50%
Current smoker (for 2022, this is everyday smokers)		N/A	N/A	N/A	7%	11%	4%

Appendix III: Longitudinal Survey Data

<i>Summary</i>		<i>2011</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2024</i>
Men's health							
Overweight or obese		N/A	N/A	N/A	81%	62%	45%
Current smoker (for 2022, this is everyday smokers)		N/A	N/A	N/A	16%	11%	15%
Chronic illnesses							
Respondents who they themselves or a member of their household has been diagnosed with...	High blood pressure	28%	31%	36%	N/A	55%	56%
	High cholesterol	31%	35%	39%	N/A	43%	42%
	Arthritis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	45%	52%
	Diabetes	13%	10%	12%	21%	30%	38%
	Any form of cancer	N/A	N/A	N/A	23%	25%	22%
	Asthma	13%	15%	14%	9%	28%	22%
	Heart disease or heart attack	4%	7%	6%	8%	22%	16%
	Stroke	2%	4%	4%	5%	11%	11%
Housing							
Have mold problems in the home		N/A	N/A	N/A	7%	8%	29%
Adverse Childhood Experiences							
Experienced 4 or more ACEs in lifetime		N/A	N/A	N/A	6%	17%	14%
Feelings of safety in the community							
Firearms are kept in or around the home		41%	41%	35%	44%	41%	42%

Appendix IV: Focus Group Questions

1. Do you feel healthcare is accessible in Erie County?
2. Do you feel healthcare is affordable in Erie County?
 - i. If not, what barriers to access to healthcare do you experience?
 - b. Consequences
 - i. What are the impacts on the community?
 - ii. How has this impacted you and/or your family?
3. How do you feel about mental health and addiction recovery services in Erie County?
 - a. Consequences
 - i. What are the impacts on the community?
 - ii. How has this affected you and/or your family?
4. How do you feel about preventative practices such as annual check-ups, mammograms, or vaccines in Erie County?
 - a. Are these a priority for you? Do you have any issues accessing these services?
5. Where do you obtain information about healthcare services available in the community?
 - a. What are the best ways to reach people with information about services?
6. How has your experience been with local healthcare facilities?
7. Have you ever felt you've experienced any kind of discrimination related to healthcare?
8. Do any of the following things impact your health and well-being (positively or negatively)?:
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Food Access
 - Economic Stability
 - Social Integration/ Sense of Belonging
 - Cultural Competency
9. What do you think would improve local health services?
10. Is there anything else you would like to share with us today regarding health and wellness in Erie County?

Appendix IV: Focus Group Questions

Specific Population Questions

LGBTQ+

1. In terms of LGBTQ+-focused care, are there gaps in health care services? PReP Rx? Trans care? AIDs care and prevention?
2. Do you feel there is a lack of representation of the LGBTQ+ population amongst healthcare professionals in Erie County?
 - a. What is the impact of the lack of representation of the LGBTQ+ population amongst healthcare providers?

Minority population

1. Do you feel there is a lack of representation of the minority population amongst healthcare professionals in Erie County?
 - a. What is the impact of the lack of representation of the minority population amongst healthcare providers?

Appendix V: Community Survey Raw Data

Health Perceptions

What do you think are the MOST important health-related issues or challenges facing your community? Choose 3

Addiction and overdose (drugs, tobacco, alcohol)	236
Affordability of healthcare	256
Aging/elder care	183
Mental and behavioral health	249
Nutrition and physical lifestyle choices	111
Cancer	48
COVID-19	9
Diabetes	35
Heart disease	15
Environmental factors	21
Community safety	36
Sexual health/education	22
Dental and vision	34
Health education/resources	37
Contagious diseases (Flu, Shingles, etc.)	22

Generally, how would you describe your health?

Excellent	73
Good	260
Fair	89
Poor	15
Very poor	0

Now thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?

0 days	174
1–7 days	184
8–14 days	38
15–21 days	15
22–30 days	31

Demographics

What is your age?

18–29	89
30–41	99
42–53	66
54–64	67
65 or older	123

How would you describe yourself? (Select all that apply)

American Indian/Alaskan Native	27
Asian/Pacific Islander	5
Black/African American	21
Hispanic/Latino	10
White/Caucasian	388
Multiracial	7
Other	4

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

Straight/heterosexual	403
Gay	8
Lesbian	9
Bisexual	10
Prefer not to answer	12

What is your sex?

Male	125
Female	316
Non-binary	0
Prefer not to answer	2

What is your gender identity?

Male	123
Female	315
Non-binary/third gender	1
Transgender	0
Prefer not to answer	3

What is the highest grade of school or year of college you have completed?

Less than high school	12
High school diploma or GED	59
Some college but no degree	124
College degree or higher	248

What is your annual household income?

Less than \$20,000	27
\$20,000–\$34,999	50
\$35,000–\$49,999	64
\$50,000–\$74,999	114
\$75,000–\$99,999	78
Over \$100,000	99

Health Care Access

Do you have one person or group you think of as your doctor or healthcare provider?

Yes	403
No	38

When you are in need of healthcare, where do you receive it MOST often?

Family doctor	288
Emergency room	17
Urgent care	36
Health Department/Health Center	47
VA hospital	6
Community health center	34
Free clinic	3
Telemedicine/virtual care	4
Other	6

Have you ever used telemedicine/virtual care services?

Yes	276
No	165

Why didn't you use telemedicine/virtual care services? (Select all that apply)

I don't know how to use telemedicine services	38
It wasn't offered	41
No internet	4
Prefer in-person care	98
Other	11

Are there any healthcare, health education, or public health programs or services you would like to see offered in your community?

Yes	211
No	209

What kind of programs would you like to see offered?

Low cost or free clinics (x3)	
Mental health (x4)	
Elder care (x2)	
Affordable care	
Free dental (x3) / dentures for seniors	
More child and infant first aid. This area also struggles big time with mental health so maybe a class that just goes through different ways to regulate your nervous system and emotions. So many people in this area take their lives because they don't have anyone to help.	
Not sure. There are a lot of programs that would be beneficial.	
340b pharmacy	

Annual physical, blood tests
Healthy eating
More senior activities
vision, chiropractor
At home behavioral health for families

About how long has it been since you last visited a doctor for a routine checkup? A routine checkup is a general physical exam, not an exam for a specific injury, illness, or condition.

Within the past year	345
Within the past 2 years	68
Within the past 5 years	14
5 or more years ago	12
Never	3

Why has it been over a year since you have visited a doctor for a routine checkup? (Select all that apply)

No health insurance	13
Not needed	54
No transportation	14
No primary care physician	17
Not a priority	18
Other	12

Were there any healthcare services that you or a family member needed in the past year that you were unable to get?

Yes	79
No	361

What was it that you needed?

Dental services (x5)

Kidney doctor. Couldn't see one for 6 mo. Peeing blood

Hearing test

consultation

Vision services (x2)

counseling

Pain management

I have a primary care physician who I consider my main healthcare provider. I would like to see an increase in health education programs relating to mental health and chronic disease management in the community.

Inhalers for asthma and COPD, costs too much

a diabetes

I was injured during physical activity and could not go to my physician Due to the cost of healthcare.

Medical and medication coverage

Diabetic and cardiac needs

Therapy

In the past year, both my family and I had difficulty accessing mental health counseling services. What we needed was more accessible and targeted mental health support.

Why were you unable to get the needed service? (Select all that apply)

No health insurance 15

Couldn't afford co-pay or deductible 34

Didn't have a way to get to the doctor 7

Doctor or clinic refused insurance 10

Didn't know how to find a doctor/services 11

It took too long to get an appointment 20

Fear 4

Other 15

In the last year, was there a time you needed a prescription medicine but were not able to get it?

Yes 101

No 338

What was the reason you were unable to get this prescription?

The cost 47

No health insurance 13

Not needed 4

No transportation 4

Not a priority 3

Other 30

In the past 2 years, have you or a family member needed to see a specialist or doctor that you were unable to find locally or had to wait more than 30 days to schedule an appointment?

Yes 174

No 266

What type of specialist or doctor was it?

Cardiology, ent, neurology, urology

Dentist

Child geneticist

Pediatric otolaryngology

Pulmonologist

Pediatric ophthalmologist

ADHD Assessment

Kidney
rheumatologist
Gastro surgery
Allergist, neurologist
Neonatal cardiologist. Pediatric dental surgeon
Obgyn
Pediatric Dermatologist
Neurological
Dermatologist
Eye doctor
Oral surgeon
Endocrinology
ENT and pulmonology

Do you currently have health insurance?

Yes	417
No	24

Why not?

Unemployed	3
Employed but insurance not offered by employer	3
Cost of coverage	11
Not sure how to get insurance	4
Other	3

Which of the following categories best describes your current health insurance plan?

Private Insurance - Employer Paid	185
Private Insurance - Self Paid	45
Medicare	149
Medicaid	33
VA (Veterans Affairs)	5

To the best of your knowledge, are the following services covered by YOUR health insurance plan? (Select all that apply)

Preventative care	353
Prescription assistance	306
Dental services	251
Vision services	239
Emergency room care	345
Hospitalization	345
Long term care	108
Family planning (Birth Control)	157
Mental health care	206
Alcohol and drug treatment	129
Prenatal/maternity care	155
Chiropractic	118

Nutrition & Physical Activity

How would you describe your weight right now?

Very underweight	7
Somewhat underweight	24
Average	165
Somewhat overweight	192
Very overweight	49

Has a doctor ever told you that you were obese or overweight?

Yes	210
No	226

During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activity or exercise such as walking, running, lifting weights, team sports, golf, or gardening for exercise?

Yes	359
No	76

How often do you exercise in an average week?

Not at all	9
1-2 times a week	159
3-4 times a week	135
5-7 times a week	54

What are some things that make exercise difficult for you?

Pregnancy complications	
Old age	
Surgery (x2)	
Knee issues (x5)	
Childcare, energy	
Time (x3)	
I have POTS	
Dislike exercise, health issues	
Lupus, fibromyalgia	
Access to exercise equipment	
PNH, chronic low back pain,fatigue	
My kids	
Pain	
Weight/body aches	

How difficult is it for you to get fresh fruits and vegetables?

Very difficult	23
Somewhat difficult	81
Not difficult	332

What makes it difficult to get fresh fruits and vegetables?

Cost of food	76
Quality of food	31
Time for shopping	28
Safety	2
Distance to store	12
Other	9

<i>How often do you eat fresh fruit or vegetables?</i>	
0-1 times a week	61
2-4 times a week	165
Once a day	109
2-4 times a day	86
5 or more times a day	15

<i>In a typical week, about how many meals do you eat out in a restaurant or bring takeout food home to eat?</i>	
0 meals	77
1-2 meals	262
3-4 meals	71
5 or more meals	26

<i>During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink soda pop, diet pop, iced coffee, punch, Kool-Aid, sports drinks, energy drinks, or other fruit flavored drinks?</i>	
0 times in the past week	118
1-3 times in the past week	156
4-6 times in the past week	48
1 time a day	62
2 times a day	24
3 times a day	15
4 or more times a day	13

<i>Would you benefit from the assistance of a dietician (a professional to assist with food choices)?</i>	
Yes	138
No	151

Maybe	108
Not sure how to access a dietician	13
I have consulted a dietician	26

Mental Health

<i>Thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?</i>	
0	144
1-7 days	176
8-14 days	58
15-21 days	25
22-30 days	26

<i>During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?</i>	
Yes	127
No	305

<i>During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?</i>	
Yes	46
No	389

Do you know someone who:

	Yes	No
Has died by suicide	226	203
Has talked about thoughts of suicide	197	222
Has attempted suicide but did not die	129	289

Has a doctor, nurse, or other health professional ever diagnosed you or an immediate family member with any of the following mental or behavioral health issues? Please select all that apply.

Attention Deficit Disorder or ADD/ADHD	129
Alcohol/Substance Abuse or Dependence	90
Bipolar	55
Depression	169
Developmental disability	23
Eating disorder	48
Anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, or panic disorder	161
Postpartum depression	31
Post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD	52
Problem gambling	5
Schizophrenia	13
Seasonal affective disorder	38
Other mental health disorder	31
Other trauma	22

Tobacco Use

Have you smoked 100 cigarettes or more in your entire life?

Yes	150
No	273

Do you currently smoke cigarettes, little cigars, or use other tobacco products?

Every day	29
Some days	46
Not at all	351

Why are you a tobacco user? (Select all that apply)

Habit – I have smoked for a long time	31
Addiction – I want to quit but have been unsuccessful so far	30
I enjoy smoking - do not want to quit	16
Other	5

In the next 6 months, how likely do you think it is that you will try to quit smoking or using tobacco?

Very likely	23
Somewhat likely	48
Not likely at all	23
I don't smoke or use tobacco products	332

Do you currently use electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or vape?

Everyday	20
Some days	47
Not at all	359

How harmful do you think electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or vaping is...

	Very harmful	Somewhat harmful	Not at all harmful
You	314	86	21
Youth	368	43	6
Other adults	322	87	7

If you are a current smoker, are you trying to quit or willing to quit smoking?

Yes	129
No	102

Why? (Select all that apply)

Health concerns for myself	93
Health concerns for my family	69
Socially unacceptable	17
Expensive	32
Other	17

What cessation resource(s) are you currently using?

Counseling	48
Tobacco Quitline (1-800-784-8669)	47
Medication	27
Patches	14
Gum	16
Other	27

Why not?

Habit - I have smoked for a long time	5
Addiction - I have been unsuccessful in trying to quit	3
I enjoy smoking - do not want to quit	9
My health is unimpaired by smoking	4
Other	59

Alcohol Use

How often do you drink alcoholic beverages? (beer, wine, malt beverages or liquor)

Everyday	26
Some days	233
Not at all	155

How many alcoholic beverages do you drink each week on average?

0 drinks	35
1-2 drinks	152
3-5 drinks	49
6 or more drinks	23

How many days in the past month have you consumed one or more drinks?

0 days	159
1 day	114
2 or more days	139

MALES: Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have 5 or more drinks on the same occasion?

0	89
1	49
2 or more	36
N/A	82

FEMALES: Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have 4 or more drinks on the same occasion?

0	210
1	60
2 or more	39
N/A	47

During the last month, have you driven after drinking any alcoholic beverages?

Yes	62
No	344

How harmful do you think drinking alcohol is to each of the following?

	Very harmful	Somewhat harmful	Not at all harmful
You	161	180	62
Youth	319	80	5
Other adults	160	215	28

Do you think you have a drinking problem?

Yes	38
No	370

Are you currently seeking help for alcohol addiction?

Yes	29
No	380

What resources are you currently utilizing?

Self-help therapy, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)	11
Counseling	11
Medications	6
Detox	1
Other	0

Is an immediate family member currently seeking help for alcohol addiction?

Yes	54
No	359

What resources are they currently utilizing?

Self-help therapy, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)	25
Counseling	15
Medications	7
Detox	4
Other	2

Drug Use

During the past 6 months, have you or an immediate family member used any of the following?

Recreational Marijuana	87
Medical Marijuana	70
Amphetamines, methamphetamines, or speed	16
Cocaine or crack	15
Heroin	10
LSD or other hallucinogen	8
Inhalants such as glue, gasoline, or paint	10
Ecstasy or GHB	3
Bath salts/monkey dust (illegal drug made from “synthetic cathinones”)	3
Other	34

In the past year, have you taken any prescription medications?

Yes	309
No	101

In the past year, did you use any of the medication differently than prescribed (more frequently or in higher doses than directed by your doctor)?

Yes	28
No	282

In the past 6 months, have you used medications that were either not prescribed to you or took more than what was prescribed to feel good, high, or more active or alert?

Yes	27
-----	----

No 380

Do you think there are enough treatment options for drug and alcohol addiction available to you?

Yes	291
No	80

Are you currently seeking help for substance use disorder?

Yes	47
No	358

What sort of treatment are you utilizing?

Self-help	9
Counseling	16
Detox	7
Medication-assisted treatment	13
Other	1

What barriers are you currently facing in seeking treatment?

Unaware of options for treatment	15
No insurance/not covered	4
Out of pocket cost	15
Treatment options don't fit my needs	7
Stigma associated with admitting addiction and seeking help	3
Other	4

Dental Care

About how long has it been since you last visited a dentist or a dental clinic for any reason? This includes dental specialists, like orthodontists.

Within the past year	286
Within the past 2 years	54
Within the past 5 years	34
5 or more years ago	31
Never	4

What is the main reason you have not visited the dentist in the last year? (Select all that apply)

No dental insurance	28
Couldn't afford co-pay or deductible	36
Didn't have a way to get to the dentist	4
Dentist or clinic refused insurance	15
Didn't know how to find a dentist/services	10
It took too long to get an appointment	18
Fear	29
Other	31

Sleep

During the last 30 days, for about how many days have you felt you did not get enough rest or sleep?

0, I got plenty of sleep	86
1-5 days without enough rest	175
1 week without enough rest	52
2-3 weeks without enough rest	28
Most days without enough rest	65

On average, how many hours of sleep do you get in a 24 hour period?

8-10 hours	123
5-7 hours	264
2-4 hours	22
An hour or less	0

Chronic Conditions

Has a doctor, nurse, or other health professional ever diagnosed you or anyone in your household with any of the following chronic diseases? (Select all that apply)

Diabetes	115
Arthritis	157
Heart disease or heart attack	49
Stroke	32
Any form of cancer	68
Asthma	66
Kidney disease	31
Alzheimer's	7
A respiratory disease such as COPD or emphysema	31
High blood pressure	169
High cholesterol	126

What are you doing to manage this chronic condition?

Routine visits to PCP, Taking prescribed medications
Prescription for Diabetes. Natural breathing treatments for asthma.
Nothing
Prescriptions, chemotherapy
Injections and inhalers

Medication(s) (x9)
It is family members
seeing specialists
Not me directly, both my parents
medicine, massage, acupuncture, laser chiropractic hand therapy
Diet
Eating less fats, exercise, take medication

Preventative Practices

<i>How long has it been since you last had your blood cholesterol checked?</i>	
Within the past year	297
Within the past 2 years	60
Within the past 5 years	13
5 or more years ago	10
Never	21

<i>How long has it been since you last had your blood pressure checked?</i>	
Within the past year	351
Within the past 2 years	30
Within the past 5 years	6
5 or more years ago	6
Never	7

<i>Have you ever had a colonoscopy?</i>	
Yes	205
No	195

<i>When was your last colonoscopy?</i>	
Within the past year	56
Within the past 2 years	64
Within the past 5 years	49
5 or more years ago	35

<i>Why have you not had a colonoscopy?</i>	
Not of age (45 years old)	99
Scared	25
Unaware of need	30
Other	39

<i>Have you ever had an exam to check for potential skin cancer?</i>	
Yes	175
No	225

<i>How long has it been since your last skin check?</i>	
Within the past year	99
Within the past 2 years	47
Within the past 5 years	19
5 or more years ago	10

Have you received any of the following vaccines for preventable diseases?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Annual flu vaccine	292	93	7
Tetanus booster in past 10 years	245	101	43
Pneumonia in your lifetime	196	153	43
HPV vaccine in your lifetime	107	214	48
Shingles vaccine in your lifetime	150	196	41
Chicken Pox vaccine in your lifetime	222	125	33
Measles vaccine in your lifetime	293	56	31
Hepatitis B vaccine in your lifetime	238	77	60
Hepatitis A in your lifetime	174	97	98
COVID-19 vaccine	331	57	5
RSV vaccine	103	196	73

What is the main reason you have not received the COVID-19 vaccine?

Lack of trust (x3)
Don't trust pharmaceutical companies
Unnecessary (x5)
Do not want to get it (x3)
Too new.
I have extremely bad reactions to the flu shot and worry about the same type of reaction
Fear
I just never got it
I believe that natural immunity gained from recovering from COVID-19 is preferable
Just not for me
Refuse to
Religious beliefs

FEMALES: Have you ever had a mammogram?

Yes	212
No	84

Why not?

Not of age where it is recommended (x11)
Have not been told I need one
I don't think I need them yet.
No insurance
don't want to
Not suggested by my doctor yet
Doctor never brought it up
scared
Never been recommended.
I don't know

When was your last mammogram?

Within the past year	148
Within the past 2 years	37
Within the past 5 years	15
5 or more years ago	12

FEMALES: Have you ever had a PAP Smear?

Yes	271
No	24
N/A	48

Why not?

scared
i don't like it
Because there's no need to do it
be afraid, There is nothing unusual in the body.
I don't have any discomfort.
out of pocket
not have
fear

How long has it been since your last PAP Smear?

Within the past year	146
Within the past 2 years	48
Within the past 5 years	26
5 or more years ago	42

MALES: Have you ever had a PSA test for prostate cancer?

Yes	97
No	50

Why not?

Not of age
I don't know (x3)
Did not know it was necessary (x2)
Dr not requested it (x3)
No answer

Out of fear

There is no such disease.

I don't have time to have an examination.

have no use for

Dont know what it is

I don't know if it's really necessary but if it is, I probably can't afford it.

How long has it been since your last PSA test?

Within the past year	57
Within the past 2 years	28
Within the past 5 years	10
5 or more years ago	2

Maternal & Infant Health

FEMALES: Have you been pregnant in the last 5 years?

Yes	84
No	212

During your last pregnancy, did you do any of the following? (Select all that apply)

Received prenatal care within first 3 months of pregnancy	71
Received dental exam during pregnancy	30
Received WIC services (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)	44
Took a multi-vitamin with folic acid	70
Smoked cigarettes or used other tobacco products	5
Used electronic cigarettes or other vaping products	4

Consumed alcoholic beverages	4
Used marijuana	3
Used opiates or prescription painkillers	2
Used any drugs not prescribed to you	3
Experienced depression, either during or after pregnancy	24
Experienced domestic violence	3

Was your pregnancy planned?

Yes	52
No	31

Did you plan for after-birth care? (finances, childcare, etc.)

Yes	71
No	13

Was your baby born prematurely?

Yes	13
No	72

Are there any children in your home under the age of 18?

Yes	162
No	199

Are your children up to date on their vaccinations?

Yes	163
No	5

What is the main reason that your children are not up to date on their vaccinations?

We choose not to vaccinate
Eliminating unnecessary ones
Not interested

Transportation & Safe Driving

Do you have a cell phone?

Yes	388
No	7

Are you aware that cell phone use while driving is against the law in Ohio?

Yes	369
No	16

Do you ever use your cellphone (text, e-mail, view videos, ect.) while driving?

Yes	119
No	267

How often do you use a seat belt when you drive or ride in a car?

Always	360
Most of the time	27
Sometimes	5
Rarely	4
Never	1

Do you have access to reliable transportation when you need it?

Yes	385
No	12

How do you regularly get to where you need to go most often? Please select one of the following:

Walk	10
Bike	10
Public transit	16
Own a car	343
Borrowed car	4
Family member/friend	12
Other	2

Quality of Life

Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems?

Yes	96
No	293

What major impairments or health problems limit your activities?

Chronic back pain	
Back surgery/ pain/ depression	
Colostomy bag	
Knee and/or leg issues (x3)	
Physical	
Slipped Disc	
POTS (x2)	
Physical impairment	
Spinal stenosis. Asthma.	
Chronic back pain,PNH,fatigue	
Stress	
Anxiety	
I can't swim without being supervised, I have to have a escort if I'm walking around town, can't drive, can't climb, can't work machinery	
overweight depression	
Pain	
Aging and declining mobility over last 5 years	
Morbid obesity, major depressive disorder	

Are you responsible for providing regular care or assistance to any of the following? (Select all that apply)

Multiple Children	79
Children with behavioral issues	37
An adult child	26
A friend, family member, or spouse who has a health problem	65
A friend, family member, or spouse who has a mental health issue	46
Someone with special needs	29

A friend, family member, or spouse with dementia	17
An elderly parent or loved one	55
Grandchildren	17
Foster children	4

As a child, did you live with someone who had any of the following? (Select all that apply)

Depressed/mentally ill	117
A problem drinker/alcoholic	109
Used illegal drugs/abused medications	45
Served time in jail or a correctional facility	24

Did any of the following happen to you as a child? (Select all that apply)

Parents divorced/separated	103
Physical/sexual/emotional/financial/verbal abuse	90
Family did not feel close or supportive	83
Parents or adults physically hurt each other	52
Not enough to eat, dirty clothes, lack of protection	37
Parents were not married	19

What type of abuse occurred when you were a child? (Select all that apply)

Physical	47
Sexual	33
Emotional	66
Financial	19
Verbal	54

Who were you abused by? (Select all that apply)

By a parent	62
By a child/sibling	20
By a paid caregiver	2
By someone outside the home	30

Social Determinants of Health

Are there any firearms currently kept in or around your house?

Yes	164
No	225

Are they locked?

Yes	129
No	31

Are they loaded?

Yes	33
Maybe	24
No	106

In the past 30 days, have you needed help meeting your general daily needs (food, clothing, shelter, or paying utility bills)?

Yes	90
No	300

*In the past year, have you or a loved one sought assistance for any of the following?
(Select all that apply)*

Affordable childcare	37
Clothing	30
Dental care	42
Employment	34
Food	57
Gambling addiction	7
Healthcare	59
Home repair	26
Legal aid services	21
Medicare	27
Mental health issues	41
Prescription assistance	27
Rent/mortgage	18
Transportation	12
Unplanned pregnancy	5
Utilities	19

How safe from crime do you consider your neighborhood to be?

Very safe	199
Somewhat safe	153
Neither safe nor unsafe	32
Somewhat unsafe	5
Very unsafe	2

What is your housing situation today?

Do not have housing (hotel, shelter, car, friends, streets)	10
Have housing, but worried about losing it	46
Have housing	333

What is the status of the housing you currently have?

Housing is owned	265
Housing is rented	47
Currently staying with a family member/friend for free	16

*Do you have problems with any of the following in the place that you currently live?
(Select all that apply)*

Bug infestation	24
Mold	29
Lead paint or pipes	25
Inadequate heat	21
Oven or stove not working	12
No smoke detectors or smoke detectors not working	23
Water leaks	31
Other	13

Appendix VI: Leadership Survey Raw Data

Given your professional experience, what do you think are the most important health related issues or needs in Erie County right now?

Clients needing access to behavioral health professionals.

I think that Erie County has a lot of services, but there needs to be more access and awareness for these services.

Parents refusing to get basic immunizations for their children

Substance abuse issues

Mental health

Preventative care which can be impacted by individuals ability to obtain transportation to care and the time to attend to preventative care.

Mental healthcare, Addiction services, and housing.

Mental health

Based on your professional experience, on a scale in which 1 is 'Not at All Important' and 5 is 'Extremely Important', please rank the importance of the following issues:

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Access to health care including primary care doctors, dentists, and access to specialists, and affordability	0	0	1	1	4
Aging population and social determinants of health	0	0	2	2	3
Chronic disease management	0	0	2	2	3

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Mental health services	0	0	0	2	5
Obesity and healthy lifestyle choices	0	0	2	4	1
Substance use/abuse	0	0	0	1	6

What do you think are some of the problems, barriers, or gaps in services that prevent residents from receiving the health-related care they need? (Select all that apply)

Providers don't accept Medicaid or Medicare

Not enough specialists to meet the need in that area of specialty

Stigma

Not enough representation of minorities or LGBTQ+ populations in the healthcare workforce

Discrimination

Transportation

Financial concerns for patients

Financial costs of medications

Other

Which of the following populations in Erie County, if any, do you think are NOT being adequately served by local health services? (Select all that apply)

People with mental illness	3
Individuals addicted to drugs and alcohol	3
Minority populations	2
Homeless/transient	5
People with developmental disabilities	1
People with physical or mental disabilities	1
Overweight/obese	0
Non-English speaking/English as a second language	2
Children	0
Elderly	1
Immigrant/refugees	2
Low-income populations	4
Veterans	0
LGBTQ+	0
Individuals with Medicaid	1
Uninsured individuals	3
Other (please specify):	0

In your opinion, what is being done well in Erie County in terms of health and quality of life?

Working to improve ease and access to healthcare providers.
There are a lot of services for elderly, addiction, and mental health.
The entire Health Department campus/operation!
Individuals are aware of the concerns and attempting to make a positive impact.
Dental option; lead hazard control
Many diverse health providers that offer a wide range of services

Are there any other important health issues that you would like to see the Erie County Health Department focus on over the next three years? IF YES: What would they be?

More done in prevention.

You truly do a great job and shy away from no problem no matter how big or small. We are so lucky to have a Health Dept. like you! Thank you.

Family and Aged housing health concerns

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Residents in Erie County are able to access a primary care provider when needed.	2	5	0	0	0
Residents in Erie County are able to access medical care specialists when needed (Cardiologist, Dermatologist, etc.).	1	5	0	1	0
Residents in Erie County are able to access a dentist when needed.	2	4	1	0	0
There is a sufficient number of mental and behavioral health providers in the area.	1	1	2	2	1

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Transportation for medical appointments is available for residents in Erie County when needed.	1	2	3	1	0
Family planning services are accessible and available to adequately address the reproductive health needs in the community.	1	1	5	0	0
Emergency care is available in the county.	3	2	1	0	1
It is easy to get information about health services that are available in the county.	2	3	2	0	0
People in the community know about the health services and options that are available to them.	0	3	4	0	0
Community organizations work together in Erie County to address health related issues	1	3	1	0	0
Erie County is a safe place to live.	3	3	1	0	0

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Erie County has the needed programs and resources to address health related issues.	2	4	0	1	0
Erie County is a good place to raise a family.	3	4	0	0	0
Immunizations are an important tool in maintaining and protecting the health of the community.	4	2	1	0	0
Immunizations are accessible and available in Erie County.	4	2	1	0	0
<i>Where do you think Erie County residents most commonly get information regarding health resources/services that are available in the community?</i>					
Erie County Cares website					1
Erie County Health Department website					1
Community events					2
Word of mouth (friends and family)					1
Advertisements (billboards, commercials, print ads)					0
Social Media					2
Other					0

Do you think there is good awareness amongst residents about health resources/ services that are available in Erie County?

Yes	1
No	6

If you selected “no”, why do you feel awareness is not good?

There are a lot of services being offered, but a lot of folks especially minorities might not be aware of these services.

Which of the following populations does your organization serve? (Select all that apply)

People with mental illness	5
Individuals addicted to drugs and alcohol	5
Minority populations	5
Homeless/transient	5
People with developmental disabilities	5
People with physical or mental disabilities	5
Overweight/obese	1
Non-English speaking/English as a second language	5
Children	6
Teens or adolescents	5
Elderly	5
Immigrant/refugees	4
Low-income populations	6
Veterans	5
LGBTQ+	5
Individuals with Medicaid	6
Uninsured individuals	6
Other (please specify):	2

Which of the following sectors does your organization most closely associate with?

Business/private sector	0
Government	3
Education	2
Nonprofit	2
Religious	0
Health Care	0
Other (please specify):	0

What is your primary service area? Erie County, multi-county, specific city or township, etc.?

Erie County
Erie County
Erie County
Erie County
Sandusky City
Erie County
City of Sandusky

Please leave any additional comments you would like to share in the space below:

Thank you for all that the ECHD does!

BGSU[®]

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