

County

Muskegon County, Michigan

Muskegon County, Michigan has 503.9 square miles of land area and is the 71st largest county in Michigan by total area. Muskegon County, Michigan is bordered by Ottawa County, Michigan, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, Kent County, Michigan, Oceana County, Michigan, Newaygo County, ...Read More

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 <p>Populations and People Total Population 175,824 <small>P1 2020 Decennial Census</small></p>	 <p>Income and Poverty Median Household Income \$55,462 <small>S1901 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates</small></p>	 <p>Education Bachelor's Degree or Higher 19.6% <small>S1501 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates</small></p>
 <p>Employment Employment Rate 52.5% <small>DP03 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates</small></p>	 <p>Housing Total Housing Units 74,591 <small>H1 2020 Decennial Census</small></p>	 <p>Health Without Health Care Coverage 4.6% <small>S2701 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates</small></p>
 <p>Business and Economy Total Employer Establishments 3,096 <small>CB2000CBP 2020 Economic Surveys Business Patterns</small></p>	 <p>Families and Living Arrangements Total Households 67,707 <small>DP02 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates</small></p>	 <p>Race and Ethnicity Hispanic or Latino (of any race) 10,283 <small>P9 2020 Decennial Census</small></p>

All data within this section is sourced from the [US Census Bureau county profile page for Muskegon County](#).

Populations and People in Muskegon County

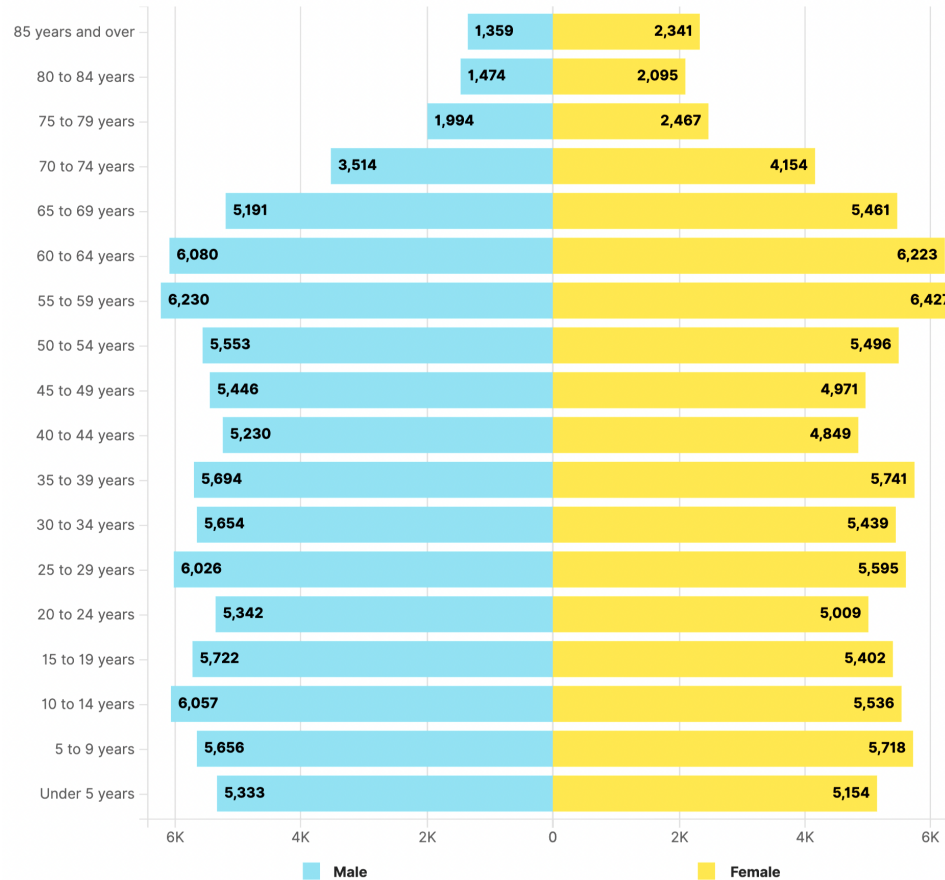
Age & Sex

Median Age

Muskegon County: **39.8** Michigan: **40.2**

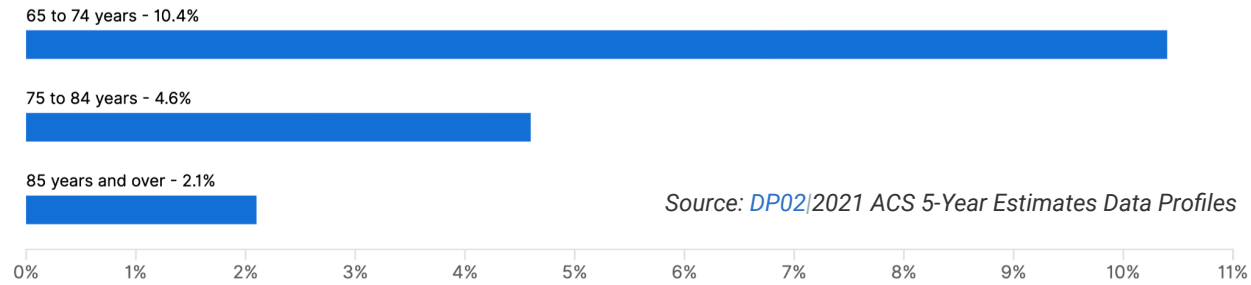
Source: [S0101](#) | 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Population by Age and Sex - Muskegon County



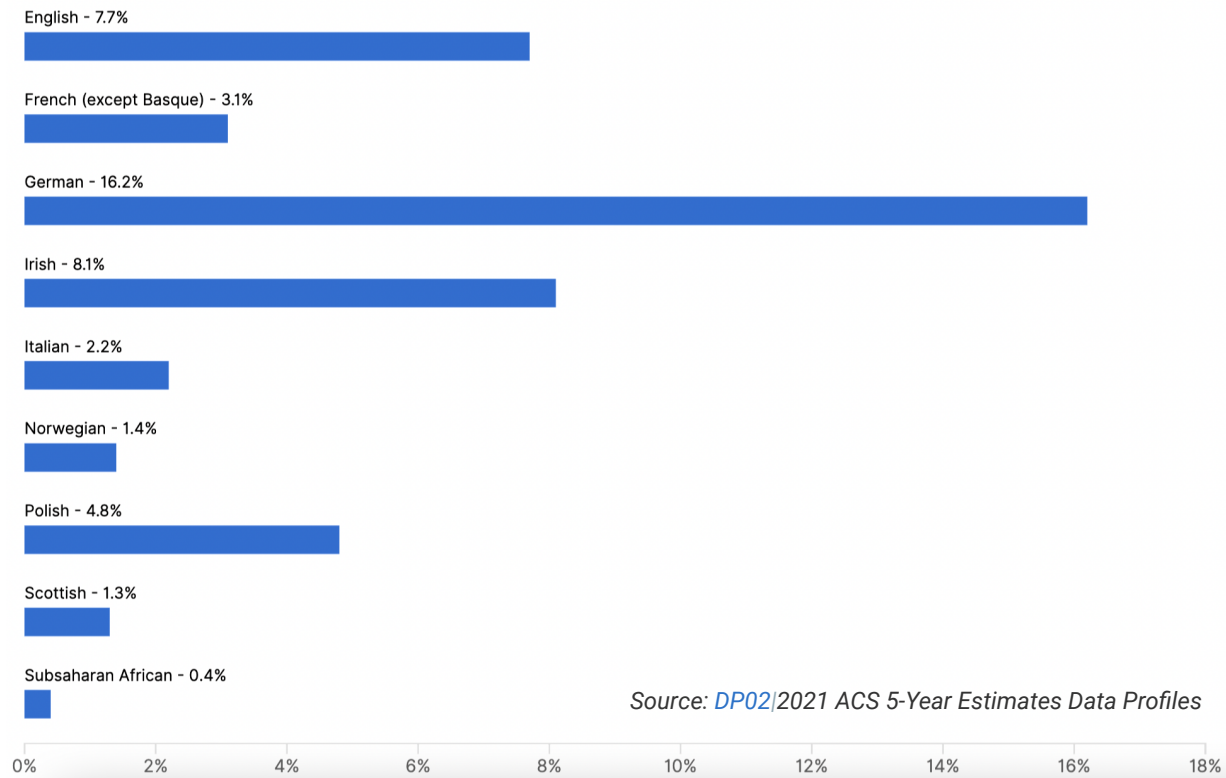
Source: [S0101](#) | 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tab

Older Population by Age - Muskegon County



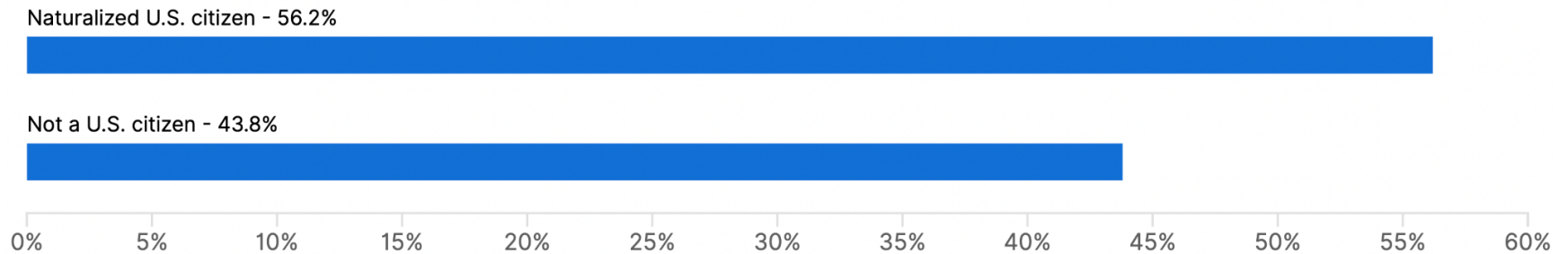
Ancestry

Ancestry - Muskegon County



Foreign Born

Foreign Born Population - Muskegon County



Source: [DP02](#) | 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles

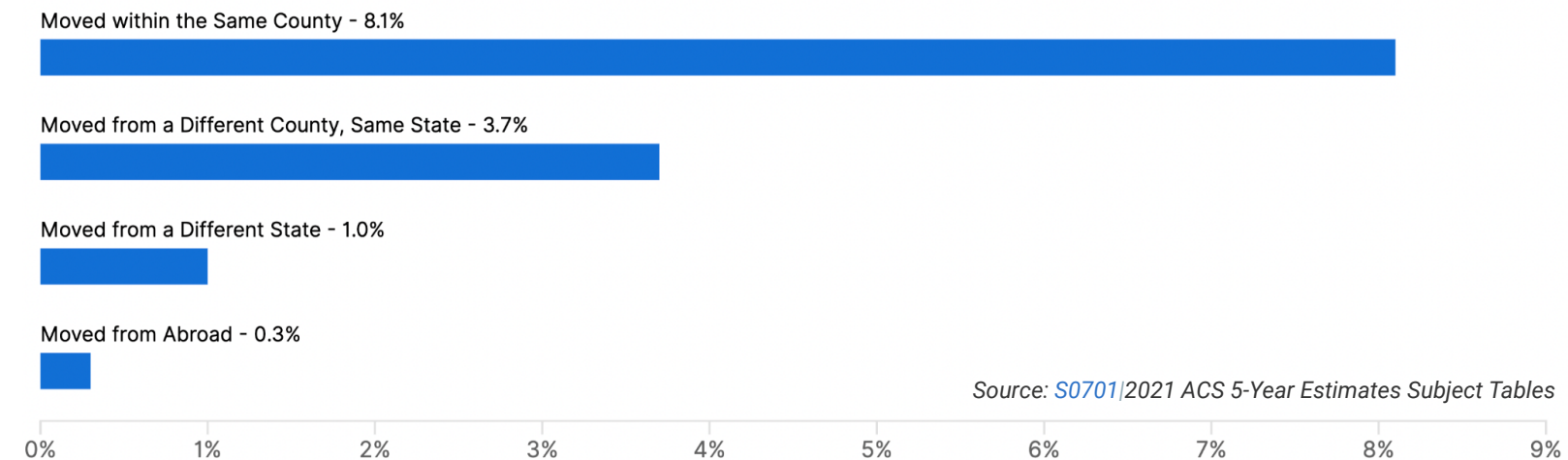
Residential Mobility

Moved from a Different State in the Last Year

Muskegon County: **0.5%** Michigan: **1.4%**

Source: [S0701](#) | 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Residential Mobility in the Last Year - Muskegon County



Source: [S0701](#) | 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

Veterans

Veterans

Veterans in Muskegon County: **8%**

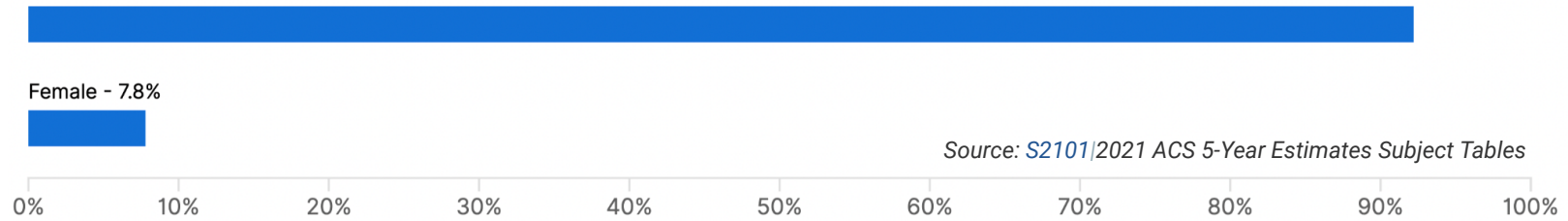
Veterans in Michigan: **6%**

S2101|2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Veterans by Sex - Muskegon County

Male - 92.2%

Female - 7.8%



Income and Poverty

Income and Earnings

Median Household Income

Muskegon County: **\$55,462** Michigan: **\$63,498**

Source: [S1901](#) | 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Median Income by Types of Families - Muskegon County

Families - \$68,734



Married-couple families - \$82,562



Nonfamily households - \$32,208



Source: [S1901](#) | 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

\$0 \$10K \$20K \$30K \$40K \$50K \$60K \$70K \$80K \$90K

Poverty

Poverty Rate

Muskegon County: **14.2%** Michigan: **13.1%**

Source: [S1901](#) | 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Poverty by Age - Muskegon County

Under 18 years - 18.1%



18 to 64 years - 12.2%



65 years and over - 8.7%



Source: [DP03](#) | 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles

0% 2% 4% 6% 8% 10% 12% 14% 16% 18% 20%

Education

Educational Attainment

Population with Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Muskegon County: **19.6%** Michigan: **31.7%**

Source: *DP02|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles*

Education Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older) - Muskegon County

High School or equivalent degree - 34.4%



Some college, no degree - 24.7%



Associate's degree - 12.1%



Bachelor's degree - 14.2%



Graduate or professional degree - 6.3%



Source: *DP02|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles*

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35%

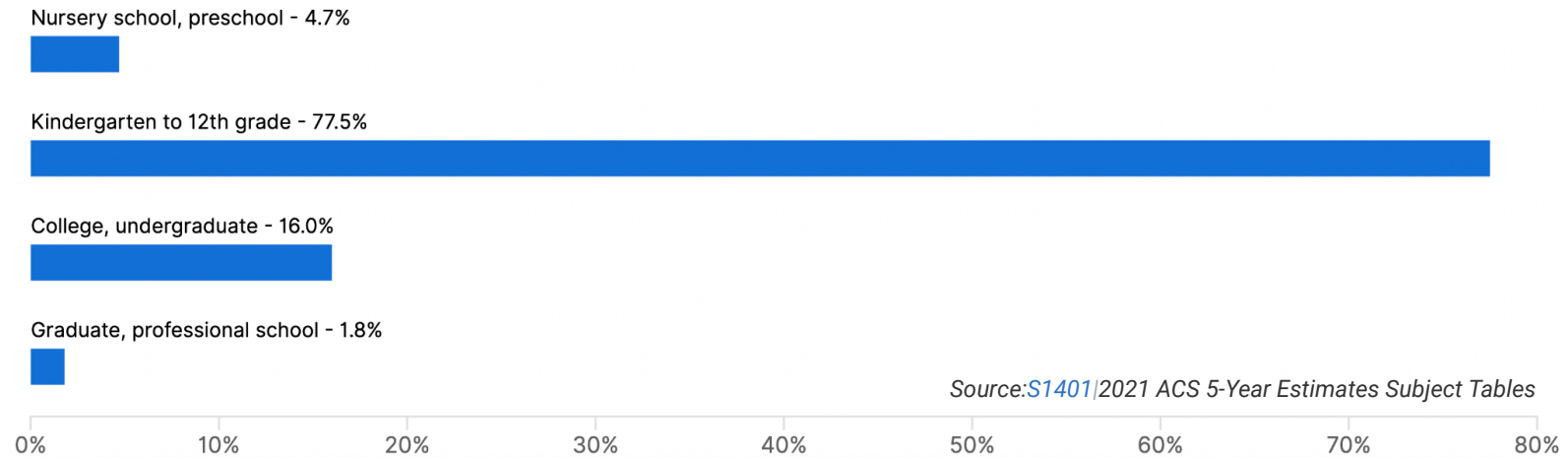
School Enrollment

School Enrolled Population Enrolled in Kindergarten to 12th Grade

Muskegon County: **80.8%** Michigan: **68.2%**

Source: [S1401](#) | 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

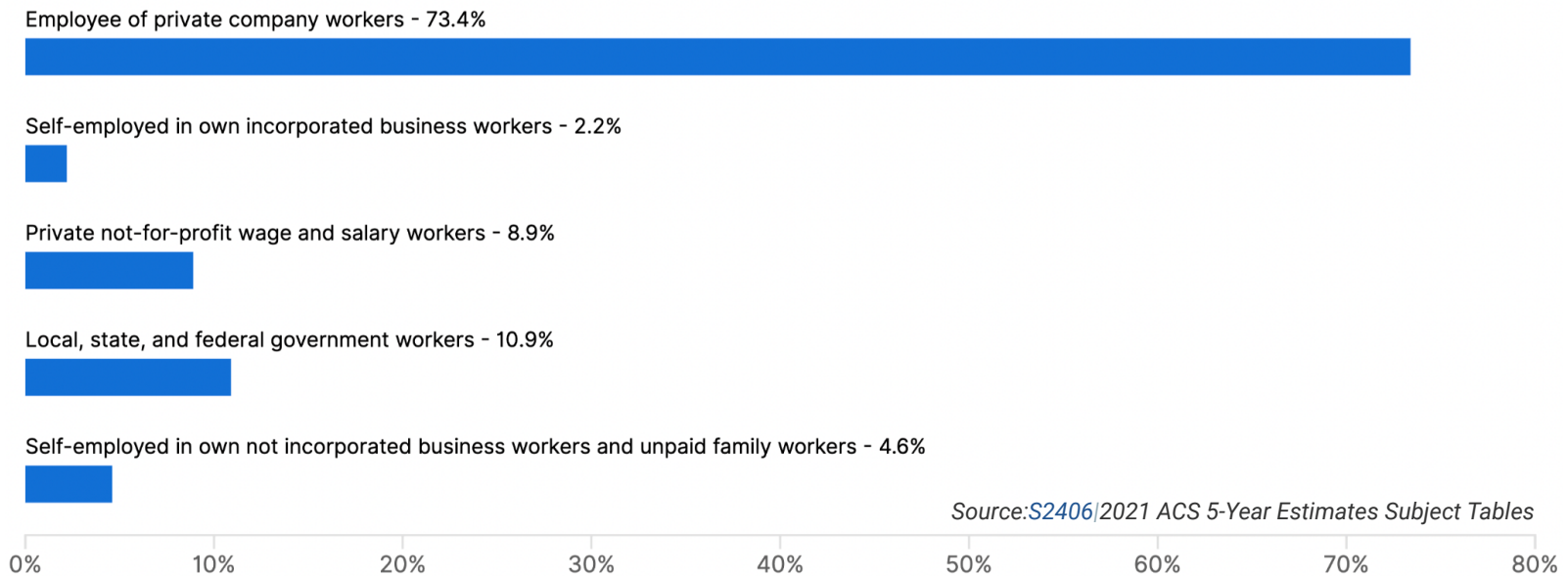
School Enrolled (Population 3 Years and Older Enrolled in School) - Muskegon County



Employment

Class of Worker

Class of Workers - Muskegon County



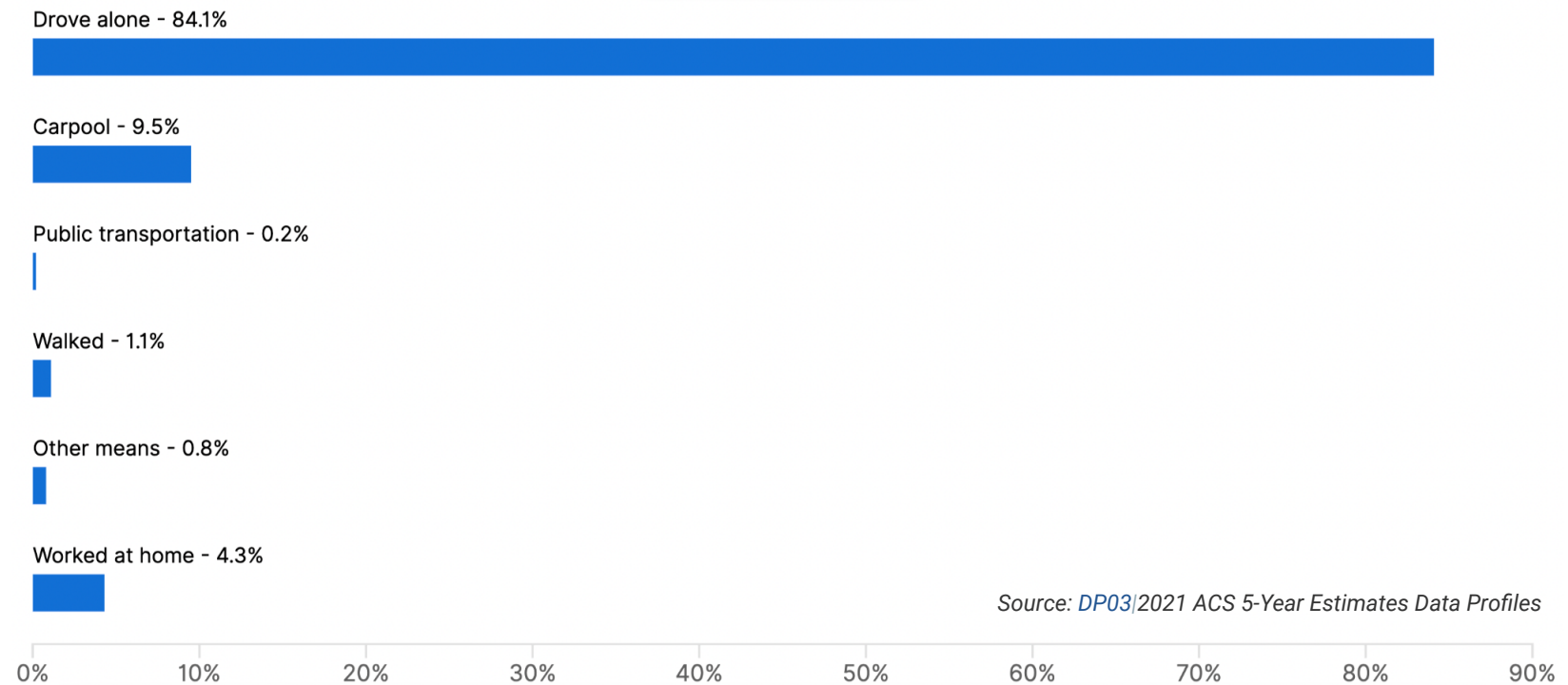
Commuting

Average Travel Time to Work

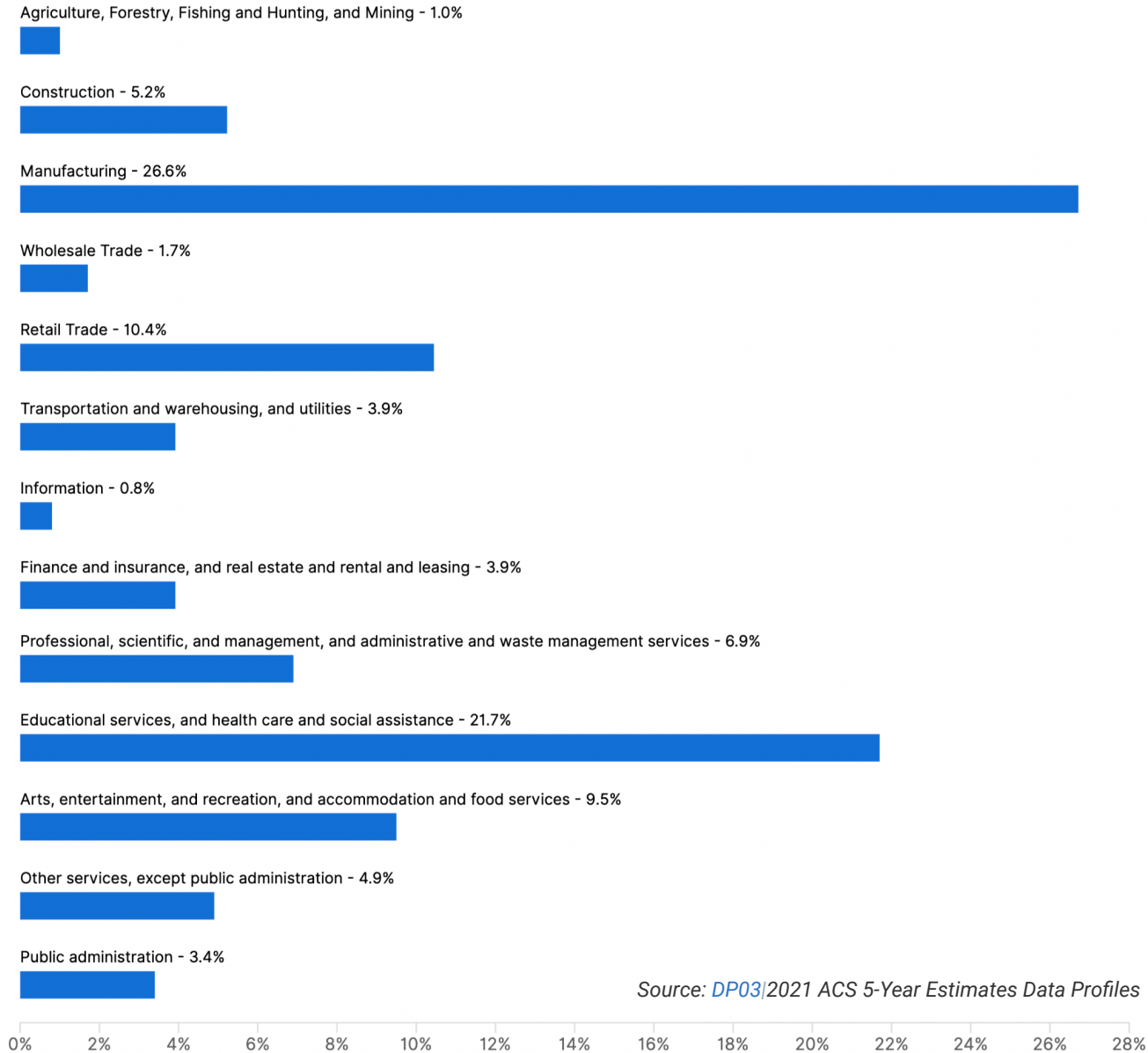
Muskegon County: **21.4 minutes** Michigan: **23.8 minutes**

Source: [S0801](#)|2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

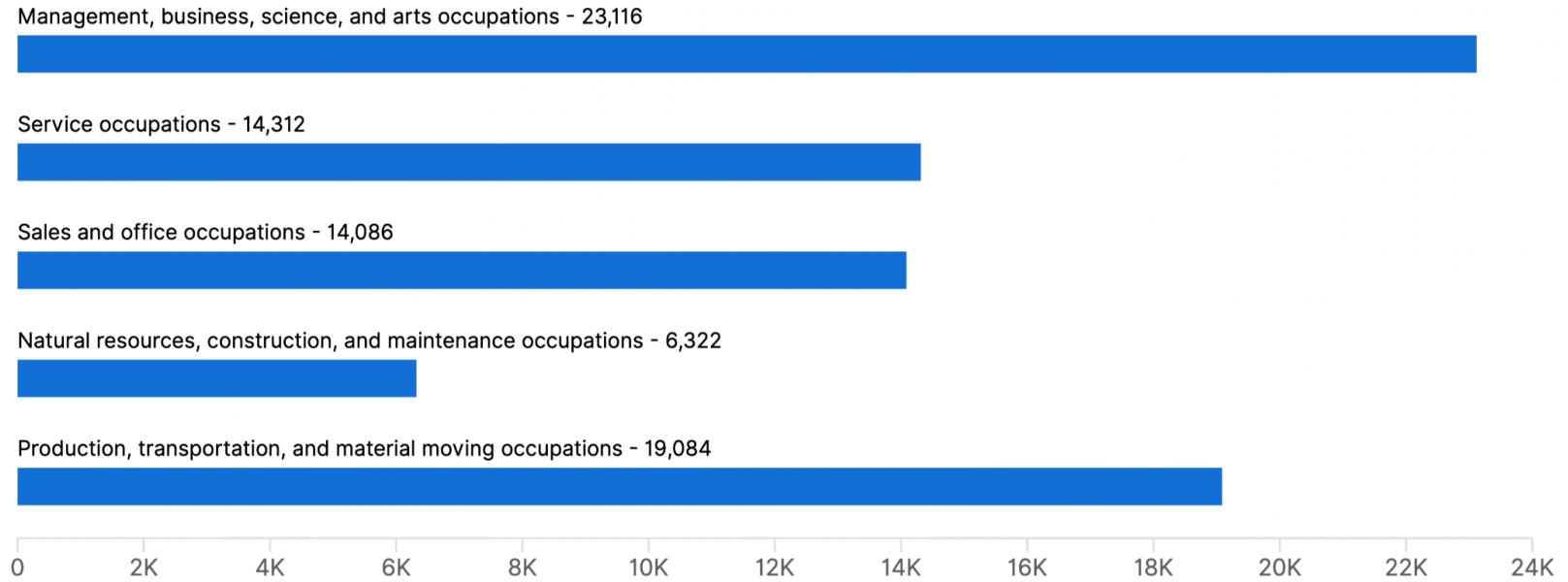
Means of Transportation to Work - Muskegon County



Industry for Muskegon County Workers



Occupation for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over - Muskegon County



Source: [S2401](#)|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

Work Experience

Mean Usual Hours Worked

Muskegon County: **38.2** Michigan: **38.3**

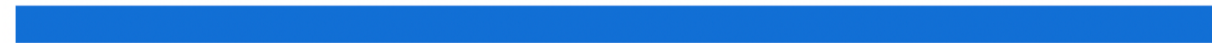
Source: [S2303](#)/2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Mean Usual Hours Worked by Sex - Muskegon County

Male - 40.4



Female - 35.6



0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45

Source: [S2303](#)/2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

Housing

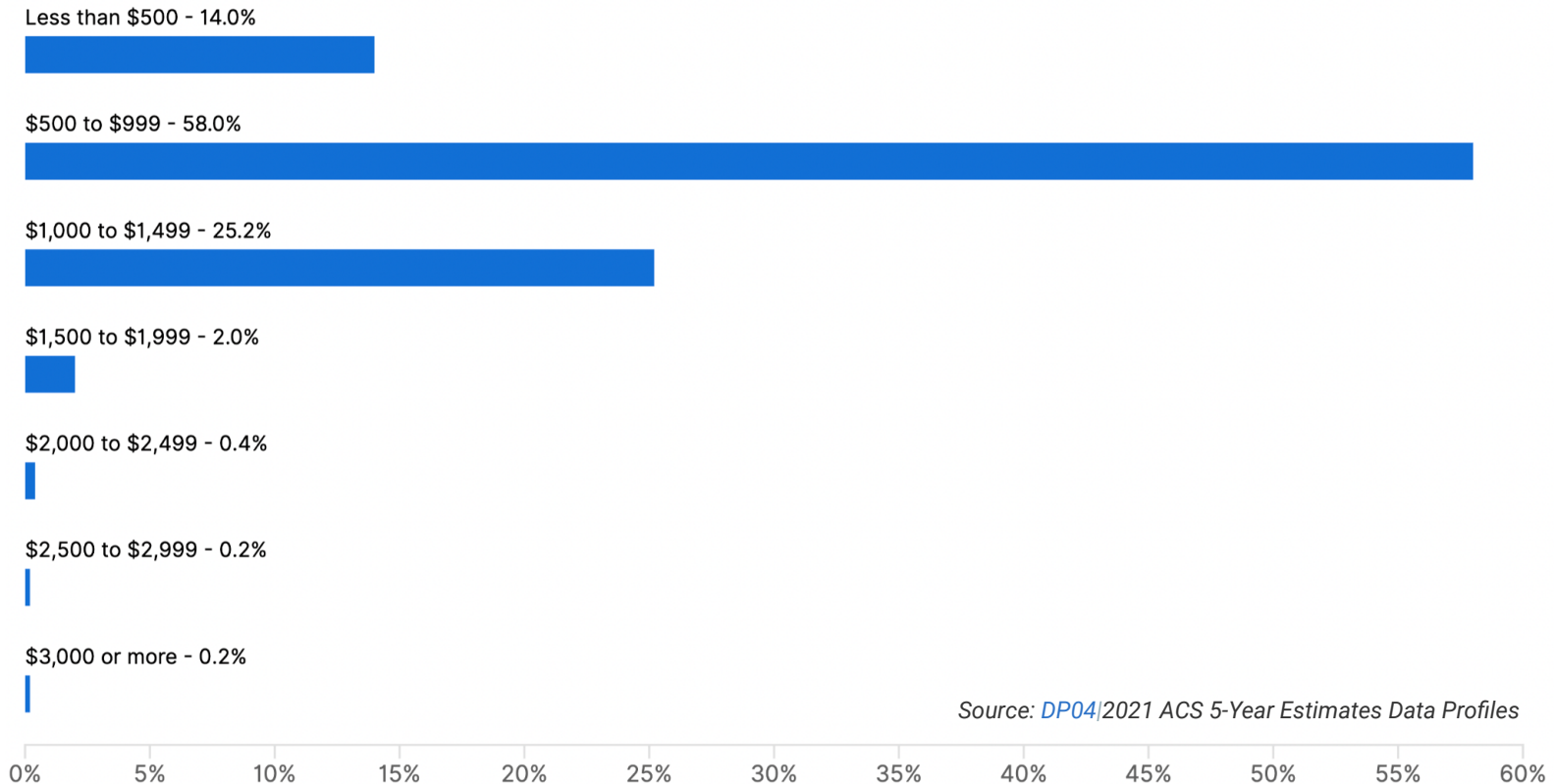
Financial Characteristics

Median Gross Rent

Muskegon County: **\$869** Michigan: **\$969**

Source: DP04|2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Occupied Units Paying Rent - Muskegon County



Source: DP04|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles

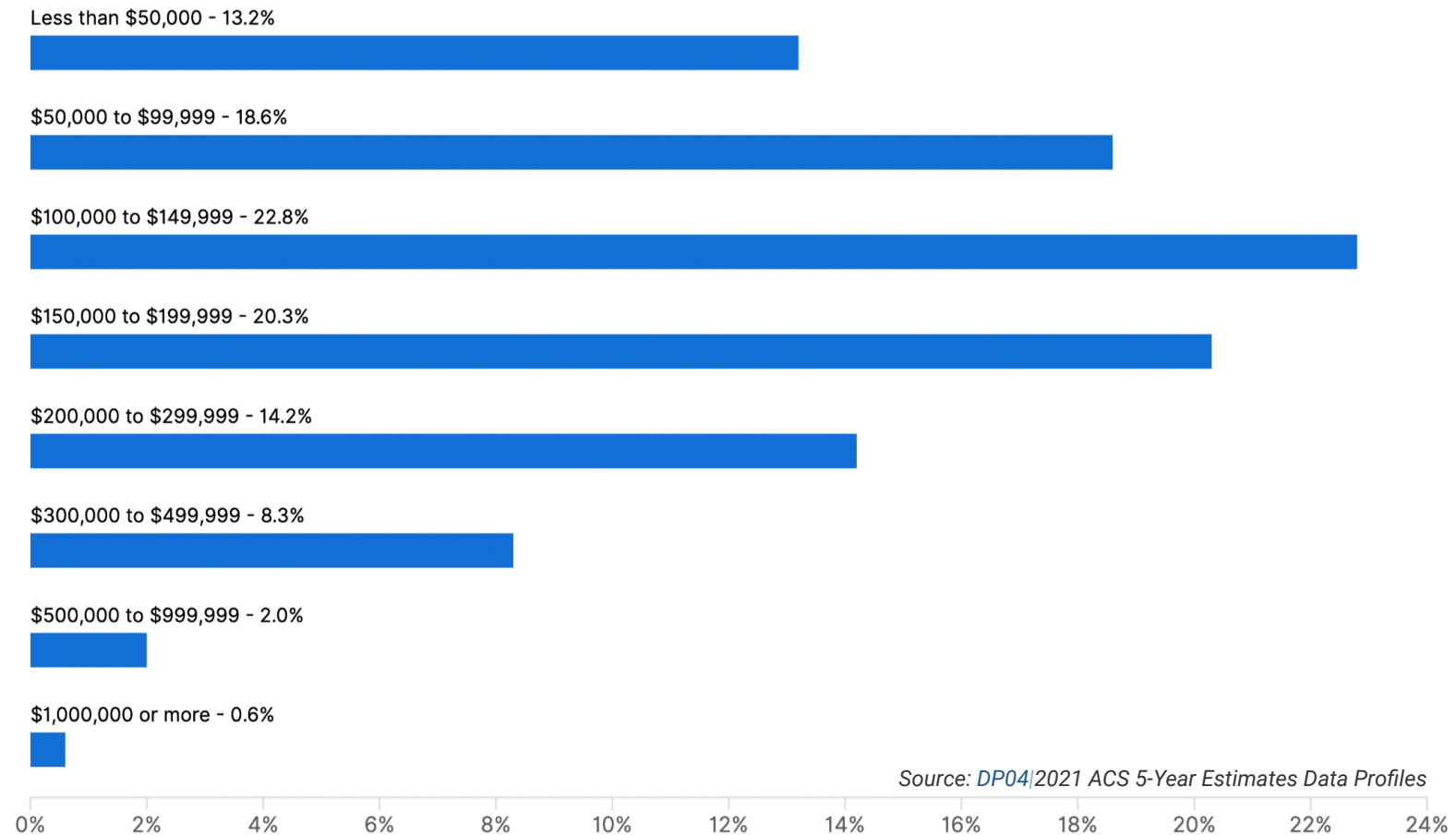
Homeownership

Homeownership Rate

Muskegon County: **75.2%** Michigan: **73.2%**

Source: DP04/2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Housing Value - Muskegon County



Housing Units

Total Housing Units

Muskegon County: **74,591** Michigan: **4,570,173**

Source: [H1|2020 Decennial Census](#)

Housing Occupancy - Muskegon County

Occupied housing units - 68,610



Vacant housing units - 5,981



Source: [H1|2020 DEC Redistricting Data \(PL 94-171\)](#)



Occupancy Characteristics

Owner Occupied Housing Units by Types of Households - Muskegon County

Married-couple family - 28,462



Male householder, no spouse present - 2,682



Female householder, no spouse present - 5,741



Source: [S2501|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables](#)



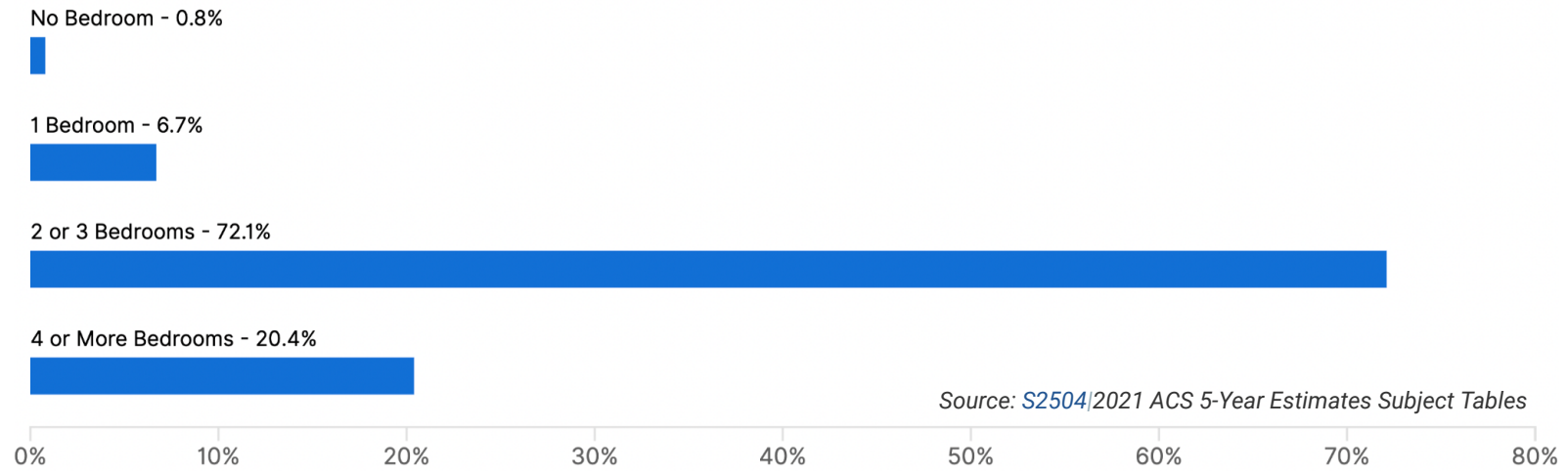
Physical Characteristics

Occupied Housing Units with Four or More Bedrooms

Muskegon County: **21.9%** Michigan: **22.3%**

Source: S2504|2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Bedrooms in Occupied Housing Units - Muskegon County



Health

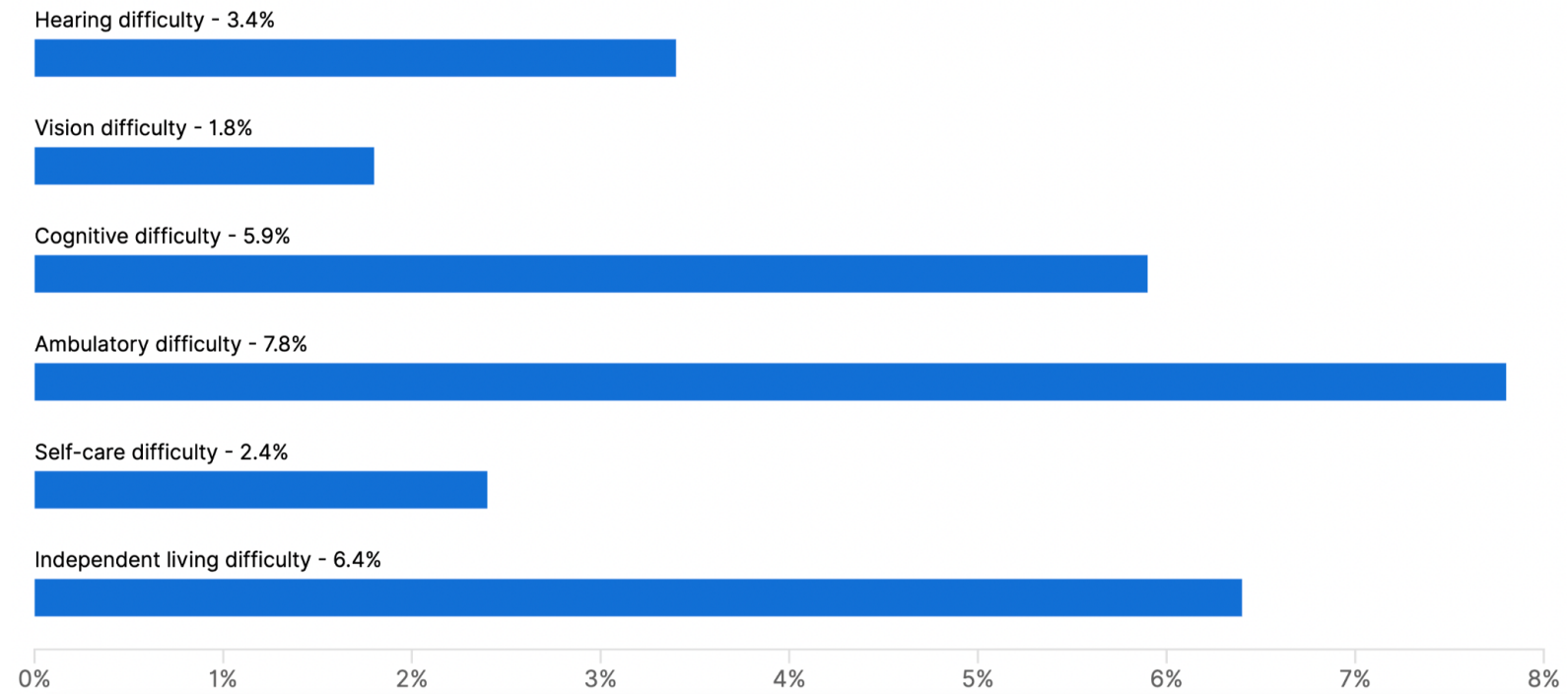
Disability

Disabled Population

Muskegon County: **15.9%** Michigan: **13.9%**

Source: S2504|2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Types of Disabilities - Muskegon County



Source: S1810|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

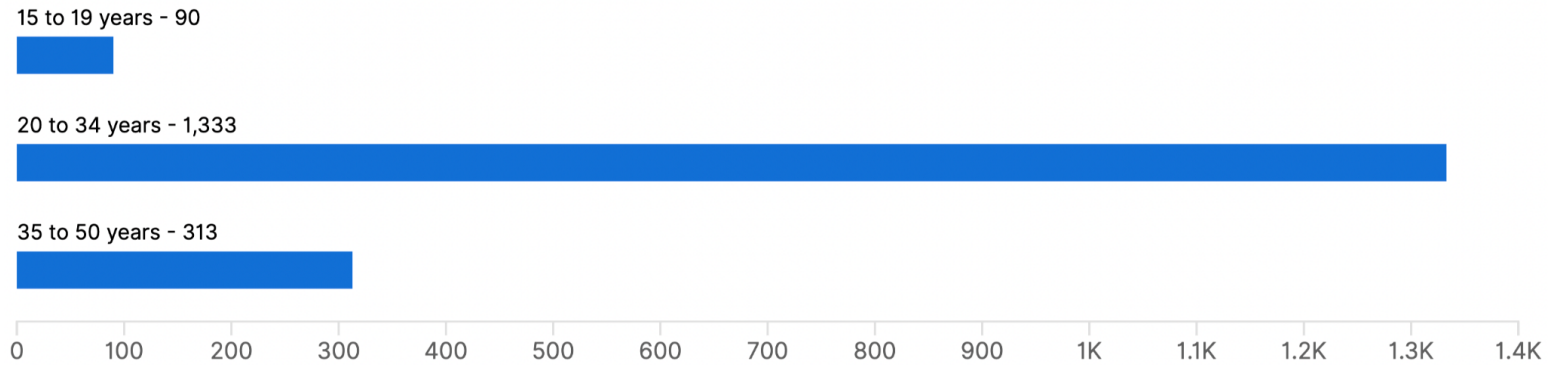
Fertility

Women 15-50 Years Old

Muskegon County: **38,771** Michigan: **2,252,807**

Source: [S1301](#)|2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Women with Births in the Past 12 Months - Muskegon County



Source: [S1301](#)|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

Health Insurance

Population without Health Coverage

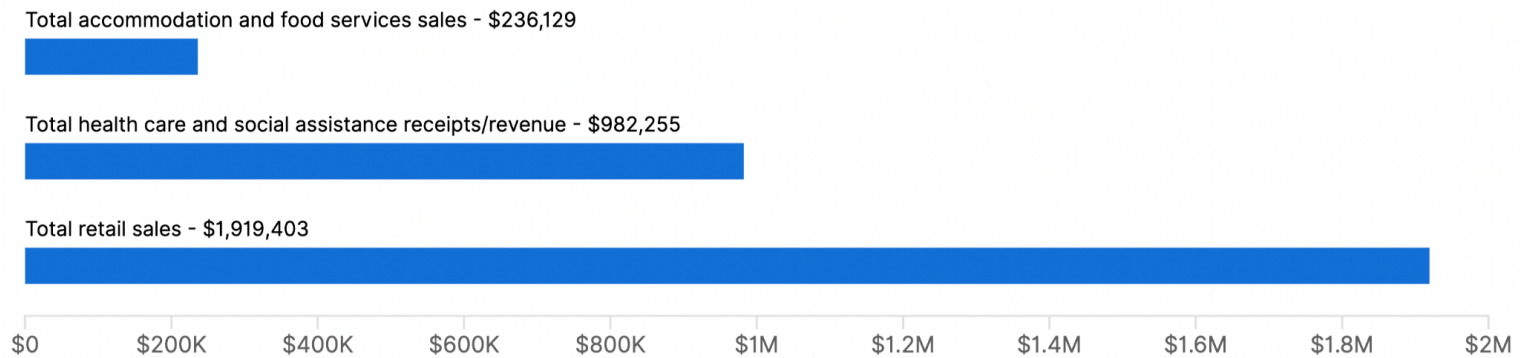
Muskegon County: **4.6%** Michigan: **5.0%**

Source: [S2701](#)|2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Business and Economy

Sales, Shipments, Receipts, and Production

Selected Sales and Revenue Totals - Muskegon County



Source: [S1301](#)|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

Small Business

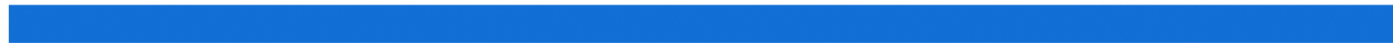
Total Employer Establishments - all sectors

Muskegon County: **3,096** Michigan: **221,060**

Source: [CB2000CBP](#)|2020 Economic Surveys Business Patterns

Employer Establishments by the Number of Employees in Muskegon County

Establishments with less than 5 employees - 1,449



Establishments with 5 to 9 employees - 676



Establishments with 10 to 19 employees - 465



Establishments with 20 to 49 employees - 323



Source: [CB2100CBP](#)|2021 ECNSVY Business Patterns County Business Patterns



Families and Living Arrangements

Children

Children (under 18 years old)

Muskegon County: **22.8%** Michigan: **21.4%**

Source: DP05|2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Children under 18 by age range in Muskegon County

Under 5 years - 6.0%



5 to 14 years - 13.1%



15 to 17 years - 4.1%



Source: S0101|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

0% 1% 2% 3% 4% 5% 6% 7% 8% 9% 10% 11% 12% 13% 14%

Families and Household Characteristics

Average Family Size

Muskegon County: **3.01** Michigan: **3.05**

Source: [S1101](#)|2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Total Households by Type of Households, in Muskegon County

Married-couple family household - 47.5%



Male householder, no spouse present, family household - 17.0%



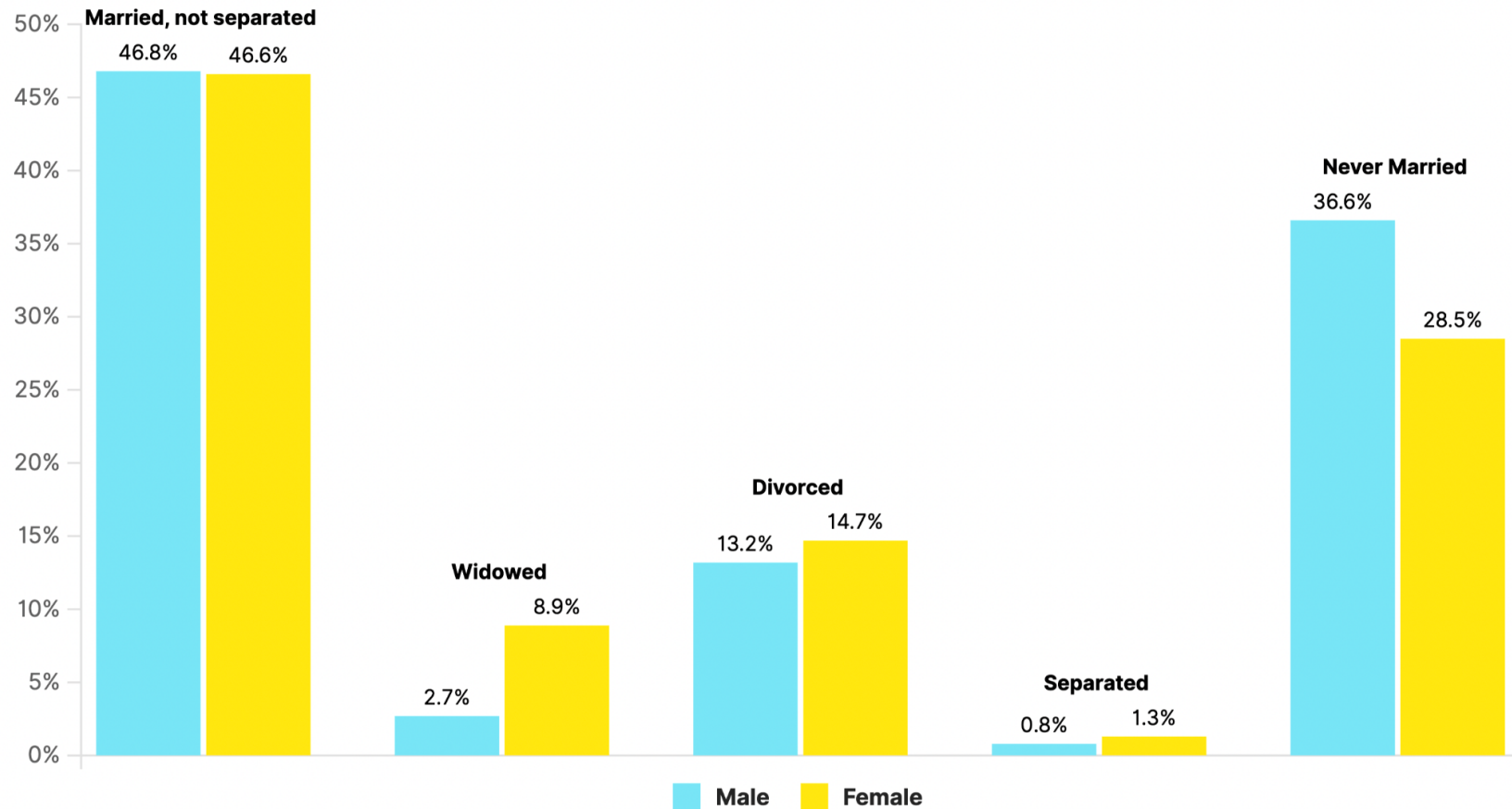
Female householder, no spouse present, family household - 27.1%



Source: [DP02](#)|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50%

Marital Status by Sex in Muskegon County



Source: S1201|2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

Race and Ethnicity

American Indian and Alaska Native

Muskegon County: **1,380** Michigan: **61,261**

Source: [P8|2020 Decennial Census](#)

Asian

Muskegon County: **1,103** Michigan: **334,300**

Source: [P8|2020 Decennial Census](#)

Black, or African American

Muskegon County: **23,908** Michigan: **1,376,579**

Source: [P8|2020 Decennial Census](#)

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Muskegon County: **40** Michigan: **3,051**

Source: [P8|2020 Decennial Census](#)

Some Other Race

Muskegon County: **3,392** Michigan: **221,851**

Source: [P8|2020 Decennial Census](#)

Two or More Races

Muskegon County: **12,281** Michigan: **635,315**

Source: [P8|2020 Decennial Census](#)

White

Muskegon County: **133,720** Michigan: **7,444,974**

Source: [P8|2020 Decennial Census](#)



EDUCATION

LIVABILITY GOAL: All residents have the knowledge & skills to thrive

Education



Health



Social Connection



Economics



Safety & Security



KEY METRICS:

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

HIGHER EDUCATION

READING & MATH PROFICIENCY

ADULT LITERACY

ATTENDANCE

% of students considered *chronically absent* from school, missing 10% or more days a year

Muskegon ISD	41.4%	Michigan	38.5%
Economically Disadvantaged	50%		
NOT Economically Disadvantaged	24.5%		

ADULT ILLITERACY % of residents 16 years or older who function at the lowest literacy level

18% Muskegon County
Approximately 25,191 adults

Sources: readmuskegon.org/about-adult-literacy; S0101 2021 ACS 5-yr estimates

HIGHER EDUCATION

% of adults age 25+ with a Bachelor's degree or higher

30.6% Michigan
20.5% Muskegon County

S1501 2021 ACS 5-year estimates;
data.census.gov/table?q=muskegon+county&t=Educational+Attainment&g=040XX00US26&tid=ACSS75Y2021.S1501

Black/African American	8.9%
Hispanic/Latinx	12.6%
White	22.1%



ENGLISH & MATH PROFICIENCY

% of 3rd grade students scoring "proficient" or "advanced" on M-STEP Statewide Assessment, 2021-2022

Michigan ELA: **40.9%** MATH: **42.9%**

Muskegon County ELA: **35.6%** MATH: **36.2%**

Black/African American	ELA: 12.3%	MATH: 11.7%
Hispanic/Latinx	ELA: 27.33%	MATH: 29.9%
White	ELA: 43.5%	MATH: 44.1%

Economically Disadvantaged	ELA: 28.8%	MATH: 28.3%
NOT Economically Disadvantaged	ELA: 50.4%	MATH: 53.5%
Students with Disabilities	ELA: 12.3%	MATH: 19.4%
Students WITHOUT Disabilities	ELA: 40.0%	MATH: 39.4%

Source: www.mischooldata.org/grades-3-8-state-testing-includes-psat-data-proficiency

LIVABILITY LAB 4.0 ^

Muskegon **CHIR**

Supplemental Data: EDUCATION



This handout is a supplement to the Education Element data sheet. Additional disaggregated data can help with both understanding current realities and developing strategies to improve livability for Muskegon County residents.

METRIC: English Language Arts and Math Proficiency (3rd Grade)

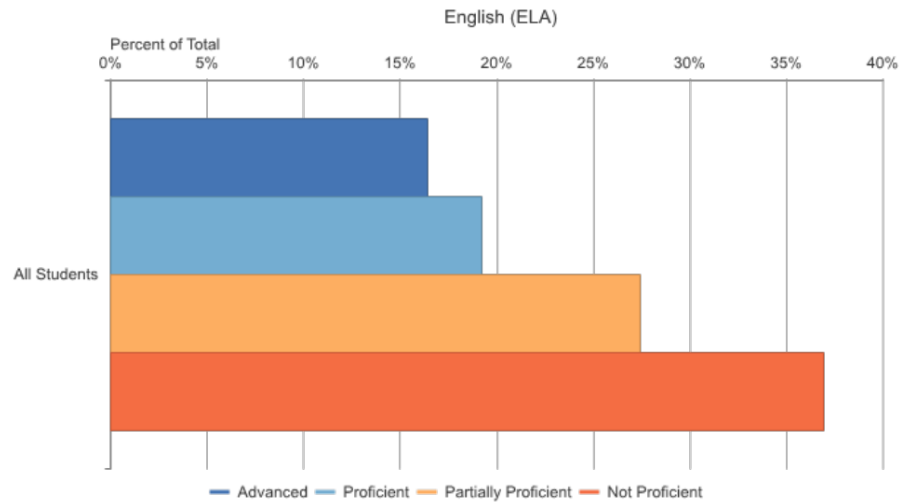
Grade 3-8 Assessments: Proficiency Snapshot, Muskegon Area ISD: 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade Content / ELA

Location	Program	Subject	Report Category	% Students Advanced or Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Partially Proficient	% Not Proficient	% Partially or Not Proficient	Number Assessed
Statewide	M-STEP	English Language Arts	All Students	40.9%	20.6%	20.3%	24.5%	34.6%	59.1%	98,715
Muskegon Area ISD	M-STEP	English Language Arts	All Students	35.6%	16.4%	19.2%	27.4%	36.9%	64.4%	1,796

Source: <https://www.mischooldata.org/grades-3-8-state-testing-includes-psat-data-performance/>

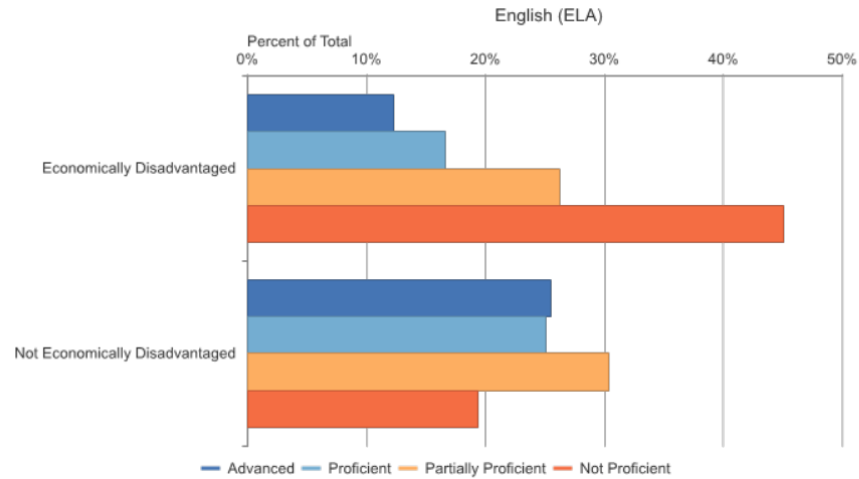
Supplemental Data: EDUCATION

Grades 3-8 Assessments: Performance Level Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade Content / ELA / All Students



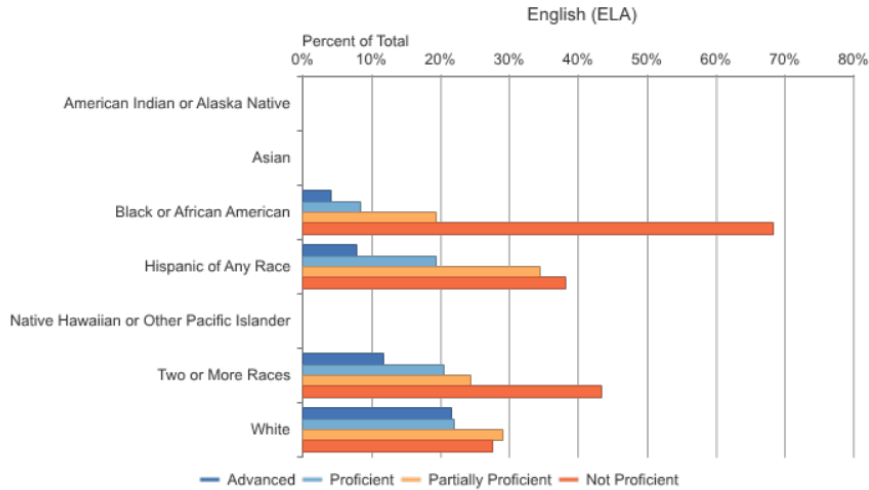
Supplemental Data: EDUCATION

Grades 3-8 Assessments: Performance Level Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade Content / ELA / Economically Disadvantaged

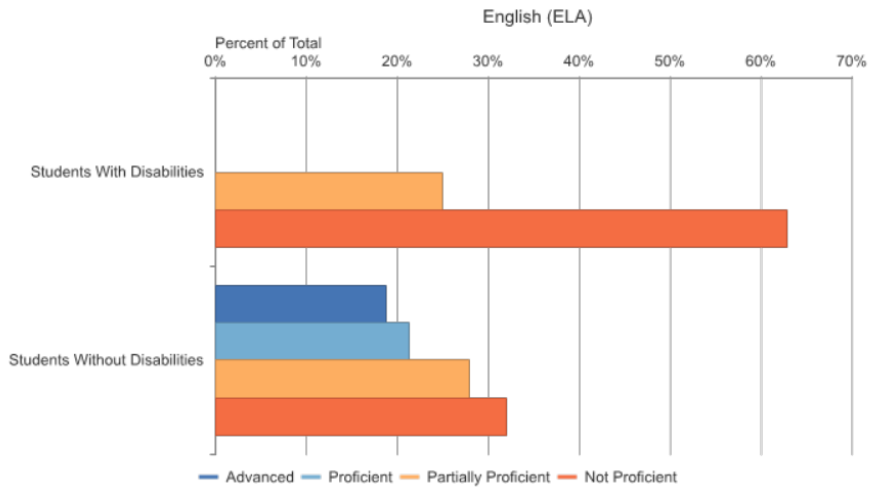


Supplemental Data: EDUCATION

Grades 3-8 Assessments: Performance Level Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade Content / ELA / Race/Ethnicity / All Race/Ethnicity



Grades 3-8 Assessments: Performance Level Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade Content / ELA / Students with Disabilities



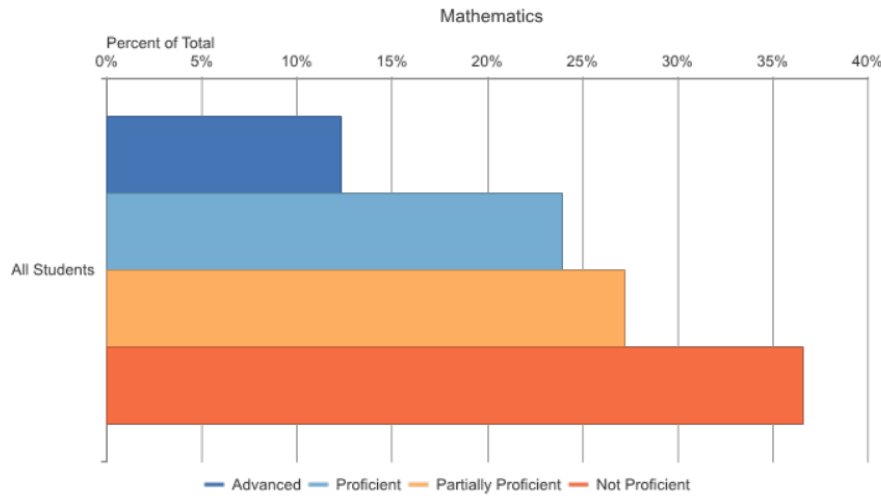
Supplemental Data: EDUCATION

Grade 3-8 Assessments: Proficiency Snapshot, Muskegon Area ISD: 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade Content / Mathematics

Location	Program	Subject	Report Category	% Students Advanced or Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Partially Proficient	% Not Proficient	% Partially or Not Proficient	Number Assessed
Statewide	M-STEP	Mathematics Overall	All Students	42.9%	17.9%	24.9%	24.2%	32.9%	57.1%	99,144
Muskegon Area ISD	M-STEP	Mathematics Overall	All Students	36.2%	12.3%	23.9%	27.2%	36.6%	63.8%	1,796

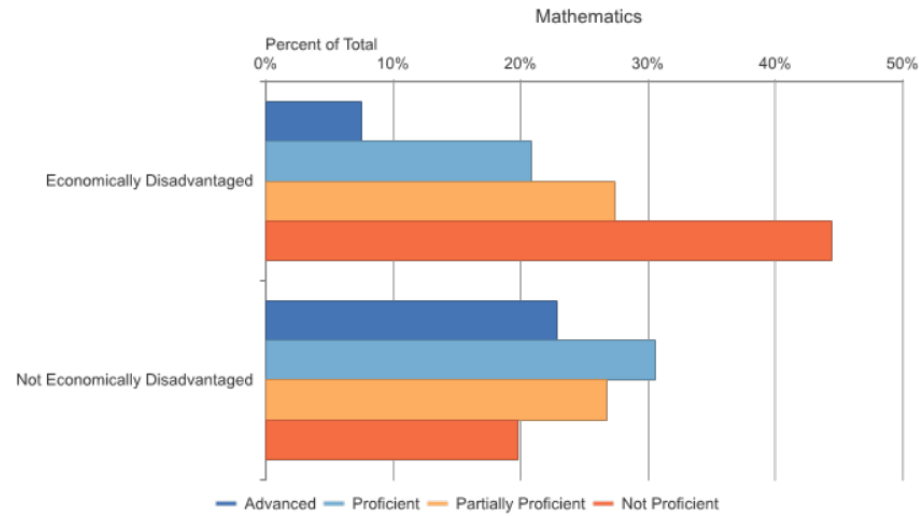
Source: <https://www.mischooldata.org/grades-3-8-state-testing-includes-psat-data-performance/>

Grades 3-8 Assessments: Performance Level Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade Content / Mathematics / All Students



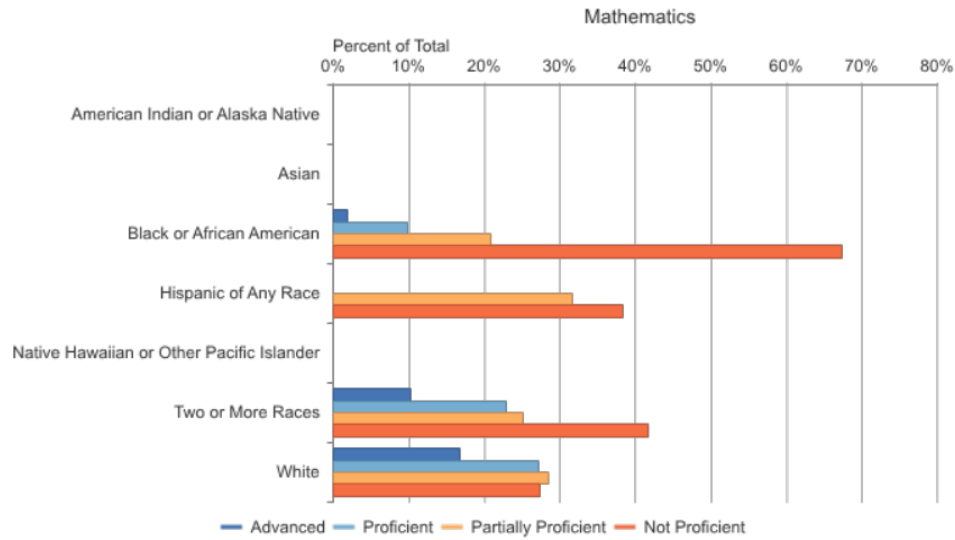
Supplemental Data: EDUCATION

Grades 3-8 Assessments: Performance Level Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade
Content / Mathematics / Economically Disadvantaged



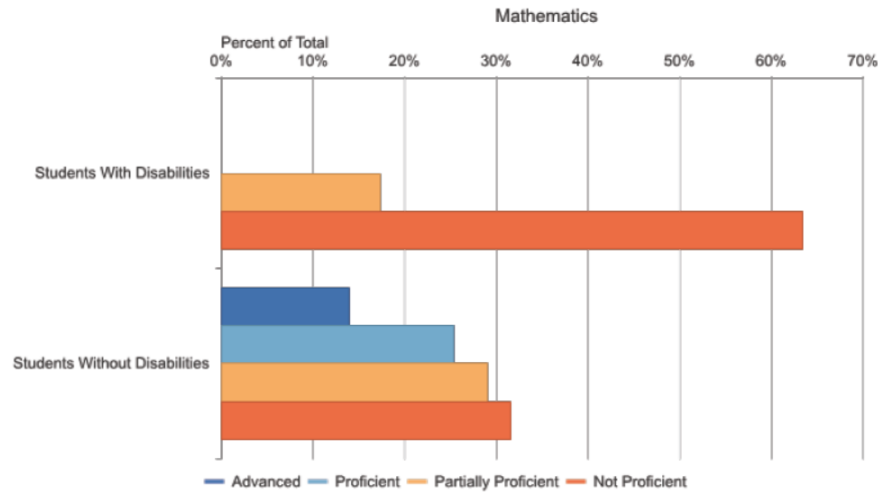
Supplemental Data: EDUCATION

Grades 3-8 Assessments: Performance Level Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade
Content / Mathematics / Race/Ethnicity / All Race/Ethnicity



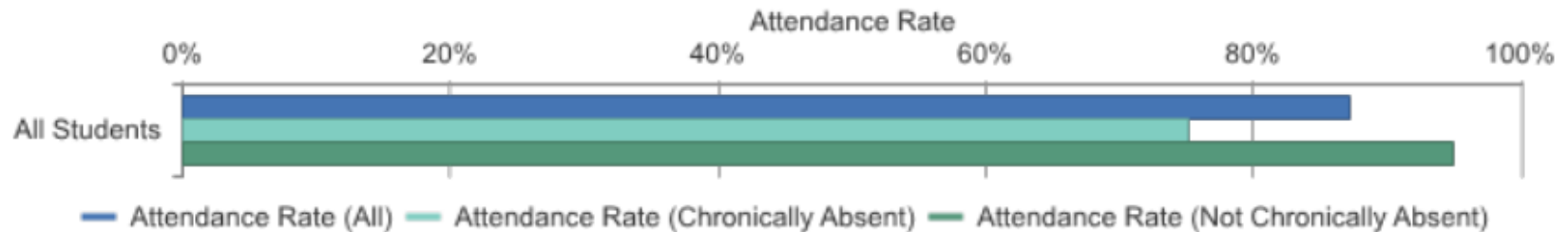
Supplemental Data: EDUCATION

Grades 3-8 Assessments: Performance Level Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): 2022-23 / M-STEP / 3rd Grade Content / Mathematics / Students with Disabilities



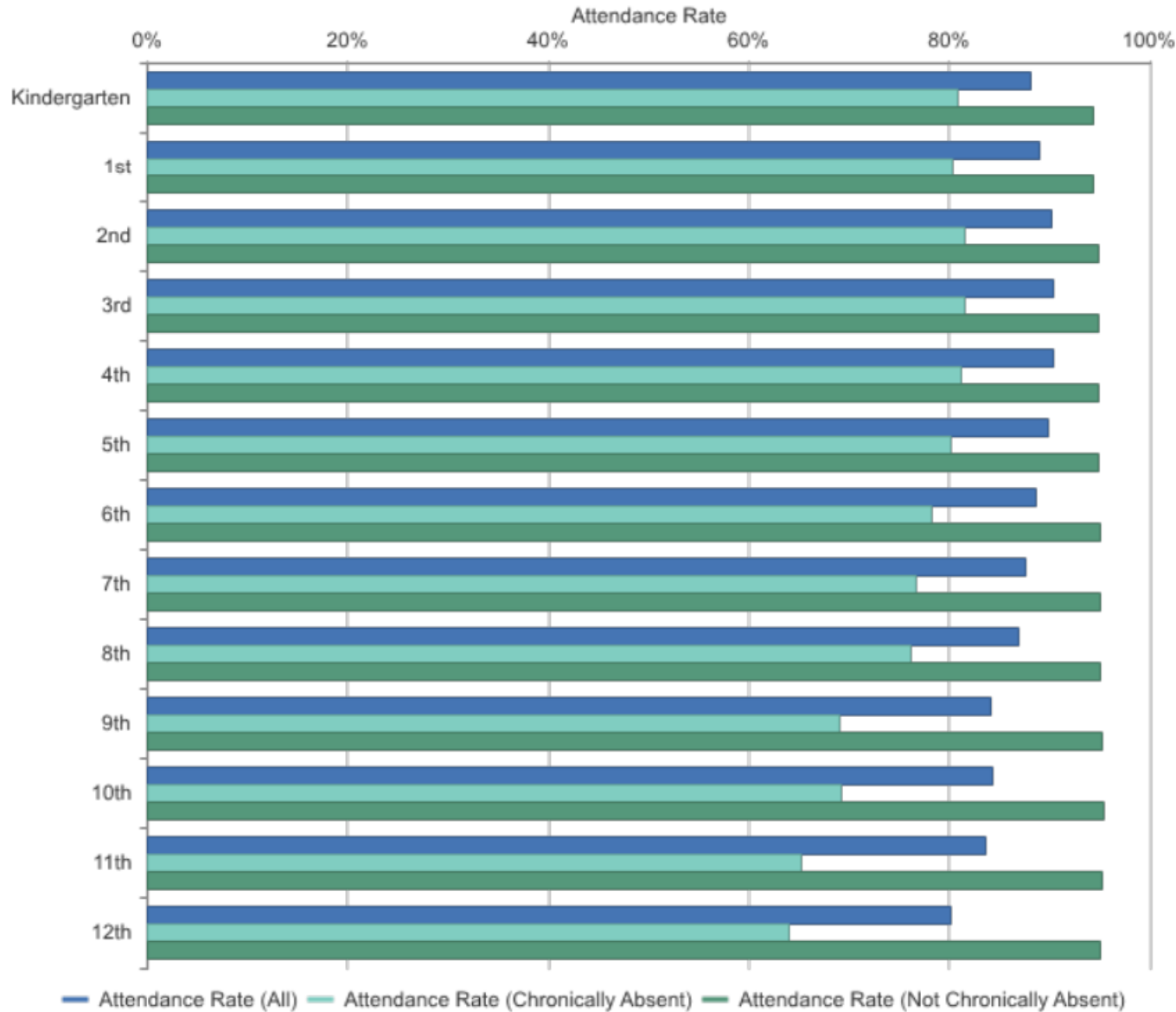
METRIC: Attendance Rate

2021-22 Student Count-Attendance Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): All Students



Supplemental Data: EDUCATION

2021-22 Student Count-Attendance Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61): By Grade



Supplemental Data: EDUCATION



2021-22 Student Count-Attendance Snapshot Muskegon Area ISD (61)

Report Category	Attendance Rate (All Students)	Total Count (All Students)	Attendance Rate (Chronically Absent)	# Chronically Absent	% Chronically Absent	Attendance Rate (Not Chronically Absent)	# Not Chronically Absent	% Not Chronically Absent
All Students	87.11%	26,470	75.20%	10,954	41.40%	95.00%	15,516	58.60%
Economically Disadvantaged	84.84%	17,512	74.30%	8,758	50.00%	94.70%	8,754	50.00%
Not Economically Disadvantaged	91.39%	8,958	78.90%	2,196	24.50%	95.20%	6,762	75.50%
Students With Disabilities	85.06%	4,060	74.70%	2,017	49.70%	94.70%	2,043	50.30%
Students Without Disabilities	87.48%	22,410	75.40%	8,937	39.90%	95.00%	13,473	60.10%
Homeless	74.43%	748	67.70%	572	76.50%	94.40%	176	23.50%
Not Homeless	87.43%	25,722	75.60%	10,382	40.40%	95.00%	15,340	59.60%
American Indian	83.81%	101	70.30%	50	49.50%	95.20%	51	50.50%
Asian	92.23%	160	74.90%	32	20.00%	96.50%	128	80.00%
African American	83.05%	4,926	72.20%	2,629	53.40%	94.80%	2,297	46.60%
Hispanic of Any Race	85.81%	2,274	75.70%	1,100	48.40%	94.60%	1,174	51.60%
Native Hawaiian	86.93%	23	*	<10	*	*	*	*
Two or More Races	86.06%	1,542	75.50%	723	46.90%	94.70%	819	53.10%
White	88.47%	17,444	76.40%	6,411	36.80%	95.00%	11,033	63.30%
Female	87.04%	12,949	74.80%	5,289	40.80%	95.00%	7,660	59.20%
Male	87.18%	13,521	75.60%	5,665	41.90%	94.90%	7,856	58.10%

Source: MI School Data: <https://www.mischooldata.org/student-attendance/>

Supplemental Data: EDUCATION



METRIC: Higher Education

Educational Attainment, 2017-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

	Michigan		Muskegon County, Michigan			
	Total*	Percent*	Total*	Percent*	% Male*	% Female*
Bachelor's degree or higher	112,304	11.8%	715	5.0%	2.9%	7.3%
Population 25 years and over	6,923,132	(X)	120,704	(X)	(X)	(X)
Less than 9th grade	182,779	2.6%	3,123	2.6%	2.9%	2.3%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	400,122	5.8%	6,897	5.7%	6.6%	4.9%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	1,971,279	28.5%	41,547	34.4%	37.6%	31.4%
Some college, no degree	1,578,085	22.8%	29,856	24.7%	24.7%	24.8%
Associate's degree	671,205	9.7%	14,578	12.1%	9.8%	14.3%
Bachelor's degree	1,287,856	18.6%	17,155	14.2%	12.7%	15.7%
Graduate or professional degree	831,806	12.0%	7,548	6.3%	5.7%	6.7%
High school graduate or higher	6,340,231	91.6%	110,684	91.7%	90.5%	92.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	446,207	25.7%	6,205	20.6%	23.4%	18.4%
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
White alone	5,499,411	(X)	99,960	(X)	(X)	(X)
High school graduate or higher	5,104,135	92.8%	93,208	93.2%	92.2%	94.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,735,665	31.6%	22,080	22.1%	20.2%	23.9%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	5,360,740	(X)	97,161	(X)	(X)	(X)
High school graduate or higher	4,995,419	93.2%	91,125	93.8%	92.9%	94.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,704,205	31.8%	21,789	22.4%	20.6%	24.2%
Black alone	880,565	(X)	14,548	(X)	(X)	(X)
High school graduate or higher	769,986	87.4%	12,303	84.6%	83.4%	85.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	161,688	18.4%	1,300	8.9%	5.0%	12.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	32,104	(X)	1,000	(X)	(X)	(X)
High school graduate or higher	27,607	86.0%	914	91.4%	94.1%	88.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	4,558	14.2%	146	14.6%	16.4%	12.7%
Asian alone	214,929	(X)	883	(X)	(X)	(X)
High school graduate or higher	192,681	89.6%	765	86.6%	87.0%	86.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	15,729	19.1%	217	31.3%	18.0%	40.4%

Supplemental Data: EDUCATION

	Michigan		Muskegon County, Michigan			
	Total*	Percent*	Total*	Percent*	% Male*	% Female*
Two or more races	211,784	(X)	3,594	(X)	(X)	(X)
High school graduate or higher	186,295	88.0%	2,856	79.5%	75.3%	84.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	62,226	29.4%	579	16.1%	16.2%	16.0%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	279,683	(X)	5,065	(X)	(X)	(X)
High school graduate or higher	212,958	76.1%	3,910	77.2%	71.7%	82.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	60,471	21.6%	637	12.6%	8.2%	17.0%
POVERTY RATE FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER FOR WHOM POVERTY STATUS IS DETERMINED BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL						
Less than high school graduate	(X)	27.0%	(X)	22.0%	19.7%	24.6%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	(X)	14.3%	(X)	14.0%	10.9%	17.5%
Some college or associate's degree	(X)	9.8%	(X)	9.6%	8.3%	10.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	(X)	4.1%	(X)	3.8%	3.9%	3.8%
MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2021 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)						
Population 25 years and over with earnings	42,598	(X)	38,297	(X)	(X)	(X)
Less than high school graduate	25,229	(X)	25,437	(X)	(X)	(X)
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	32,329	(X)	31,955	(X)	(X)	(X)
Some college or associate's degree	38,426	(X)	36,934	(X)	(X)	(X)
Bachelor's degree	57,536	(X)	54,183	(X)	(X)	(X)
Graduate or professional degree	76,175	(X)	68,935	(X)	(X)	(X)

* Estimate

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, S1501

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=muskegon+county&t=Educational+Attainment&q=040XX00US26&tid=ACST5Y2021.S1501>

METRIC: Adult Illiteracy

Disaggregated data not available at this time.



HEALTH

LIVABILITY GOAL: Residents are experiencing holistic health & wellbeing

Education



Health



Social Connection



Economics



Safety & Security



KEY METRICS:

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

PRENATAL CARE

BIRTH WEIGHT

LIFE EXPECTANCY

BIRTHS WITH LESS THAN ADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE

Measured by the month care began, number of prenatal visits, and length of pregnancy

Muskegon County 38.8%
Michigan 31.5%

Source: MDHHS, Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics, reported in Kids Count Data Center (aecf.org)

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average number of years a person can be expected to live

Municipality	Life Expectancy	Census Tract
City of Muskegon	70.8 years	5
City of Muskegon Heights	72.2 years	14.02
City of Norton Shores	83.1 years	26.02
Holton Township	76.4 years	33

Source: NCHS National Vital Statistics System, US Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP, available from [cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/usaleep/usaleep](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/usaleep/usaleep)) (Estimates of life expectancy at birth based on census tract)



PHYSICAL INACTIVITY

% of adults who self-report no leisure time for physical activity

Muskegon County 23.1%
Michigan 23.1%

GENDER

Female **27%**
Male **19%**

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

<\$20,000 **40.5%**
\$35,000-\$49,999 **26.6%**
≥\$75,000 **12.6%**

DISABILITY STATUS

No disabilities **16.8%**
Adults with disabilities **39.9%**

Source: Unadjusted Estimated No-Leisure Time Physical Activity Prevalence by Selected Characteristics, Michigan, Adults Aged 18 Years and Older, Michigan BRFSS Tables, 2021

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

% of live births with low birth weight (< 2,500 grams)

Muskegon County 10%
Michigan 9%
United States 8%

Black **16%**
Hispanic **7%**
White **8%**

Source: County Health Rankings [Low Birthweight](#) | [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

Supplemental Data: HEALTH

This handout is a supplement to the Health Element data sheet. Additional disaggregated data can help with both understanding current realities and developing strategies to improve livability for Muskegon County residents.

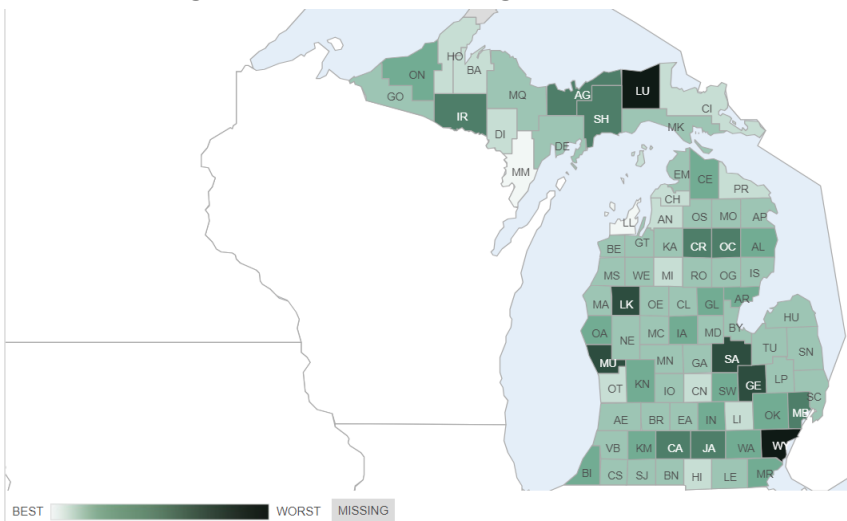
METRIC: Low Birth Weight

The percentage of live births where the infant weighed less than 2,500 grams.

Report Area	Total Live Births	Low Birthweight Births	Low Birthweight Births, Percentage
Muskegon County, MI	14,294	1,392	10.0%
Michigan	773,864	66,608	8.6%
United States	26,896,859	2,203,029	8.2%

Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic or Latino
Muskegon County, MI	8.0%	16.0	7.0%
Michigan	7.0%	14.0	7.0%
United States	6.9%	13.6	7.4%

Low birth weight rates across Michigan

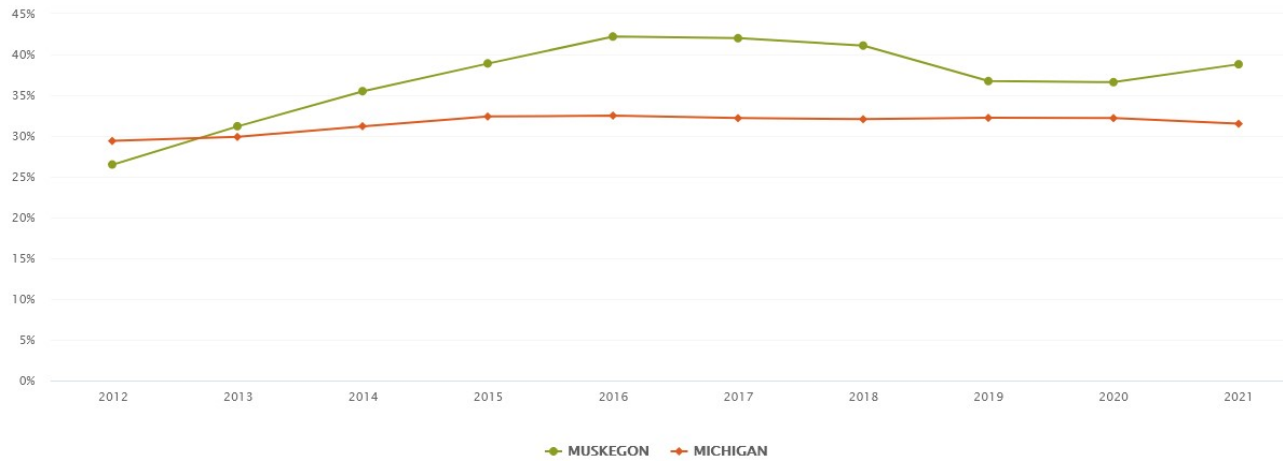


Source: Data and map from 2023 County Health Rankings, <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org>, tables from www.sparkmap.org.

Supplemental Data: HEALTH

METRIC: Births with Less than Adequate Prenatal Care

BIRTHS WITH LESS THAN ADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE (PERCENT) - 2012-2021



Location	Data Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Michigan	Percent	32.2%	32.1%	32.2%	32.2%	31.5%
Muskegon	Percent	42.0%	41.1%	36.7%	36.6%	38.8%

Source: Kids Count Data Center, [Births with less than adequate prenatal care | KIDS COUNT Data Center \(aecf.org\)](https://www.aecf.org/data-visualization/kids-count-data-center/births-with-less-than-adequate-prenatal-care).

**Live Births by Mothers Initiating Prenatal Care Beginning in First Trimester and Race & Hispanic Ancestry of Mother
Muskegon County Health Department,
Michigan 2021**

Mothers Initiating Prenatal Care Beginning in First Trimester	Race				Hispanic Ancestry
	All Races	White	Black	All Other Races	
Total	1,868	1,542	293	18	151
PNC First Trimester	1,214	1,038	155	12	101
No PNC First Trimester	652	502	138	6	50

**Percent Distribution of Live Births by Mothers Initiating Prenatal Care Beginning in First Trimester and Race & Hispanic Ancestry of Mother
Muskegon County Health Department,
Michigan 2021**

Mothers Initiating Prenatal Care Beginning in First Trimester	Race				Hispanic Ancestry
	All Races	White	Black	All Other Races	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
PNC First Trimester	65.0	67.3	52.9	66.7	66.9
No PNC First Trimester	34.9	32.6	47.1	33.3	33.1

Notes: Records with unknown level of prenatal care are included only in the total row.

Source: 2021 Geocoded Michigan Birth Certificate Registry, [Community Health Information--Nativity \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/community-health-information--natality)

Supplemental Data: HEALTH

Live Births and Birth Ratios with No Prenatal Care by Age and Race of Mother, Michigan Residents, 2021

Age of Mother in Years	All Races		White		Black		All Other Races	
	Number	Ratio	Number	Ratio	Number	Ratio	Number	Ratio
<15	8	148.1	2	*	6	222.2	-	*
15 - 19	149	38.5	63	28.6	69	52.2	11	37.8
20 - 24	440	24.2	223	18.6	167	35.9	41	31.4
25 - 29	558	17.5	321	13.8	195	33.9	32	12.4
30 - 34	489	14.7	306	12.0	133	29.8	39	12.2
35 - 39	226	15.4	147	13.1	52	30.5	21	13.0
40+	57	18.9	36	17.2	14	30.4	6	14.4
Total	1,945	18.5	1,099	14.4	636	34.6	150	16.0
Median Age at Last Birthday	28		29		27		27	

Note: Records with race not stated are included in the "All Races" column only. Ratios are per 1,000 live births to mothers in the specific age and race group.
Source: 2020 Michigan Resident Birth File, Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics, MDHHS. [No Prenatal Care \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,4570,7530_7532_7534_7536_7538_7540_7542_7544_7546_7548_7550_7552_7554_7556_7558_7560_7562_7564_7566_7568_7570_7572_7574_7576_7578_7580_7582_7584_7586_7588_7590_7592_7594_7596_7598_7600_7602_7604_7606_7608_7610_7612_7614_7616_7618_7620_7622_7624_7626_7628_7630_7632_7634_7636_7638_7640_7642_7644_7646_7648_7650_7652_7654_7656_7658_7660_7662_7664_7666_7668_7670_7672_7674_7676_7678_7680_7682_7684_7686_7688_7690_7692_7694_7696_7698_7700_7702_7704_7706_7708_7710_7712_7714_7716_7718_7720_7722_7724_7726_7728_7730_7732_7734_7736_7738_7740_7742_7744_7746_7748_7750_7752_7754_7756_7758_7760_7762_7764_7766_7768_7770_7772_7774_7776_7778_7780_7782_7784_7786_7788_7790_7792_7794_7796_7798_7800_7802_7804_7806_7808_7810_7812_7814_7816_7818_7820_7822_7824_7826_7828_7830_7832_7834_7836_7838_7840_7842_7844_7846_7848_7850_7852_7854_7856_7858_7860_7862_7864_7866_7868_7870_7872_7874_7876_7878_7880_7882_7884_7886_7888_7890_7892_7894_7896_7898_7900_7902_7904_7906_7908_7910_7912_7914_7916_7918_7920_7922_7924_7926_7928_7930_7932_7934_7936_7938_7940_7942_7944_7946_7948_7950_7952_7954_7956_7958_7960_7962_7964_7966_7968_7970_7972_7974_7976_7978_7980_7982_7984_7986_7988_7990_7992_7994_7996_7998_8000)

Supplemental Data: HEALTH

METRIC: Physical Inactivity

Unadjusted Estimated No-Leisure Time Physical Activity Prevalence by Selected Characteristics, Michigan, Adults Aged 18 Years and Older, Michigan BRFSS Tables, 2021

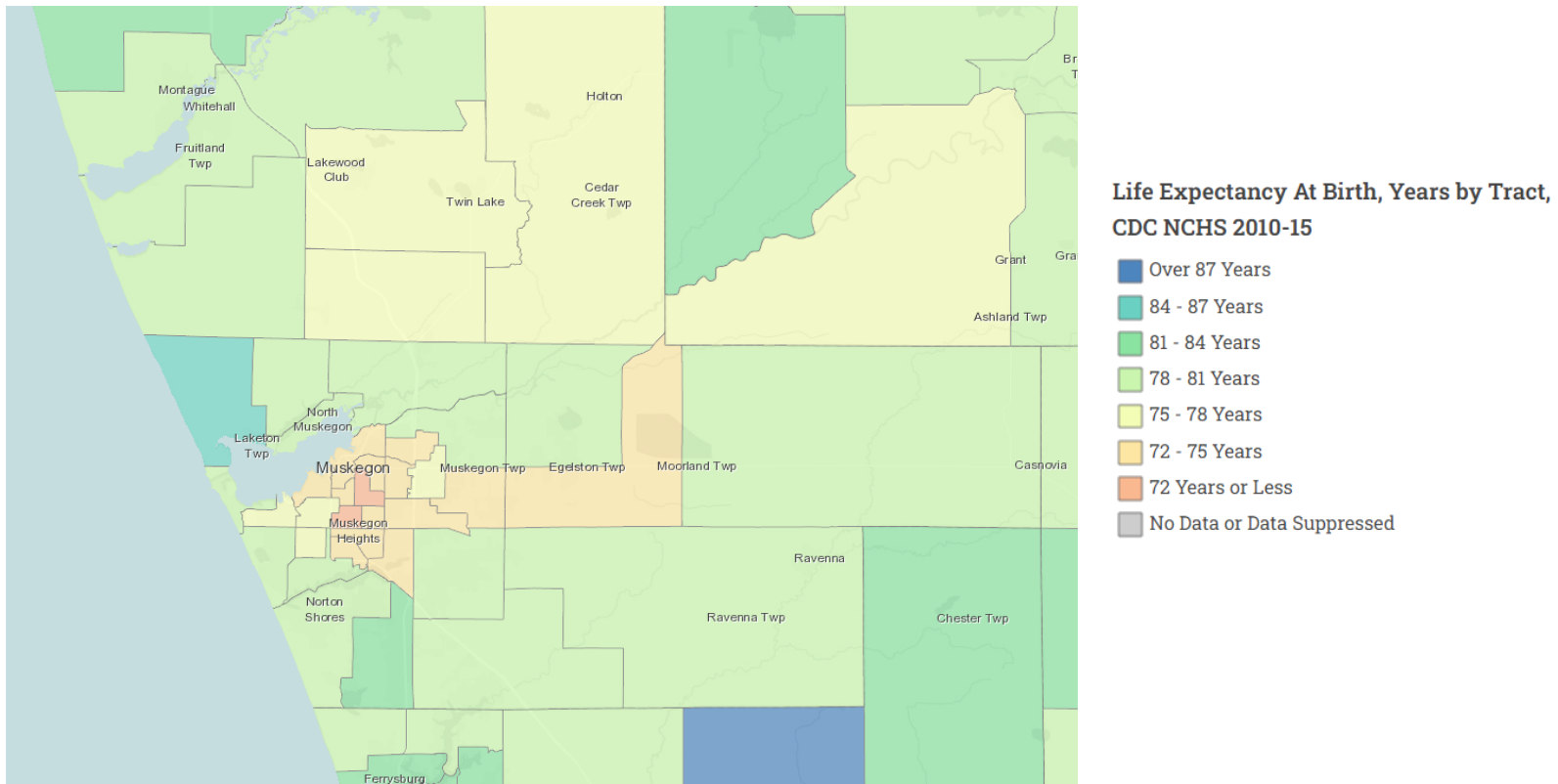
Characteristic	Estimated Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
Total	23.1	(22.0-24.2)
Age Group		
18 – 24 yrs	15.4	(12.2-19.2)
25 – 34 yrs	18.4	(15.4-21.9)
35 – 44 yrs	19.4	(16.6-22.5)
45 – 54 yrs	25.0	(22.4-27.9)
55 – 64 yrs	25.4	(22.9-28.0)
65 – 74 yrs	28.1	(25.6-30.7)
75 + yrs	33.5	(30.2-37.0)
Gender		
Male	19.0	(17.6-20.6)
Female	27.0	(25.4-28.6)
Race/Ethnicity		
White, Non-Hispanic	22.0	(20.8-23.3)
Black, Non-Hispanic	30.8	(27.2-34.6)
Multiracial/Other, Non-Hispanic	19.6	(15.5-24.4)
Hispanic/Latinx	24.8	(18.8-32.0)
Education		
Up to High School	42.8	(36.8-49.0)
High School Graduate/GED	27.8	(25.7-29.9)
Some College	22.7	(20.9-24.6)
College Graduate+	12.1	(10.9-13.4)
Household Income		
< \$20,000	40.5	(36.0-45.2)
\$20,000 - \$34,999	29.0	(26.2-32.1)
\$35,000 - \$49,999	26.6	(23.3-30.1)
\$50,000 - \$74,999	21.7	(18.8-24.9)
\$75,000 +	12.6	(11.1-14.3)
Health Insurance		
Insured	23.3	(22.1-24.5)
Uninsured	21.0	(16.1-27.0)
Disability Status		
No Disability	16.8	(15.7-18.1)
Adults with Disabilities	39.9	(37.4-42.4)

Source: Muskegon County Vital Statistics Profile <https://vitalstats.michigan.gov/osr/chi/profiles/frame.asp>

Supplemental Data: HEALTH

METRIC: Life Expectancy

Life Expectancy at Birth for U.S. States and Census Tracts, Muskegon County, 2010-2015



Source: [CARES HQ](#)

Supplemental Data: HEALTH

Muskegon County Life Expectancy at Birth Estimates by Census Tract

Census Tract Number	Life Expectancy	Census Tract Number	Life Expectancy
1	73.6	23	80.1
3	73	24	78.6
4.01	73.9	25	80.5
4.02	74.7	26.01	75
5	70.8	26.02	83.1
6.01	72.8	27	78.9
8	74.8	28	78.5
9	75.5	29	78.5
10	79.8	30	78.2
12	72	31	75
13	72.7	32	78.5
14.02	72.2	33	76.4
15	79.5	34	77.6
16	84.6	35	79.2
17	79	36	76.9
18	79.7	37	78.3
19.01	78.7	38	78.5
19.02	75.7	39	83.4
20	74.2	40	80.2
21	77.3	42	73.8
22	75.8	43	72.7

Source: NCHS National Vital Statistics System, US Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP), Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/usaleep/usaleep.html>.



ECONOMICS

LIVABILITY GOAL: Residents are prosperous and financially stable

Education



Health



Social Connection



Economics



Safety & Security



KEY METRICS:

POVERTY

ALICE HOUSEHOLDS

UNEMPLOYMENT

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

UNEMPLOYMENT

% of people who are not working but are willing and able to do so (not seasonally adjusted)

Muskegon County	5.2%
Michigan	4.3%
United States	3.8%

Source: Michigan Dept. Technology, Management & Budget, July 2022

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The median household income divides income distribution into 2 equal groups: Half with an income below the median and half with an income above it

Michigan	\$63,202
Muskegon County	\$57,047
Black/African American	\$32,558
American Indian & Alaska Native	\$37,011
White	\$61,565

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S1903.



ASSET-LIMITED, INCOME-CONSTRAINED EMPLOYED (ALICE)

% of single adults or working families who do not earn enough money to make ends meet. In 2021, the ALICE threshold in Michigan was \$25,932 for a single adult and \$59,016 for a family of four

Michigan 39%

Muskegon County 42%

Muskegon Heights	65%
North Muskegon	23%
Cedar Creek Township	43%

AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER

Under 25	67%
25-44	38%
45-64	36%
Senior (65+)	52%

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Married (with children)	17%
Single or Cohabiting (no children)	37%
Single, Male-Headed (with children)	58%
Single, Female-Headed (with children)	80%

Source: United for Alice Muskegon County Report, 2021 Michigan | UnitedForALICE

POVERTY RATE

% of people living in households with an income at or below the Federal Poverty Level (\$14,580 for an individual or \$30,000 for a family of four in 2023)

Michigan 13.3%

Muskegon County 13%

Age 25+ with less than high school graduation	22.0%
Age 25+ with a Bachelor's degree or higher	3.8%

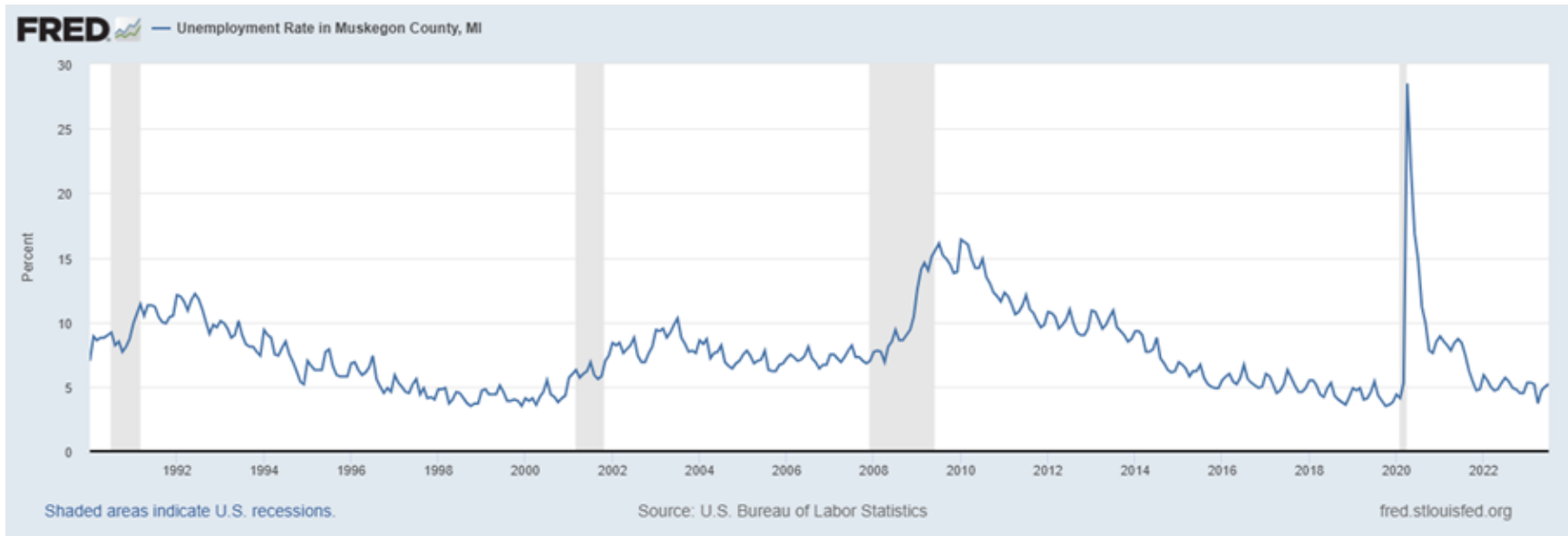
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S1701 POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST ... - Census Bureau Table

Supplemental Data: ECONOMICS

This handout is a supplement to the Economics Element data sheet. Additional disaggregated data can help with both understanding current realities and developing strategies to improve livability for Muskegon County residents.

METRIC: Unemployment

Trend: Unemployment Rate in Muskegon County (not seasonally adjusted)



Source: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MIMUSK1URN#>

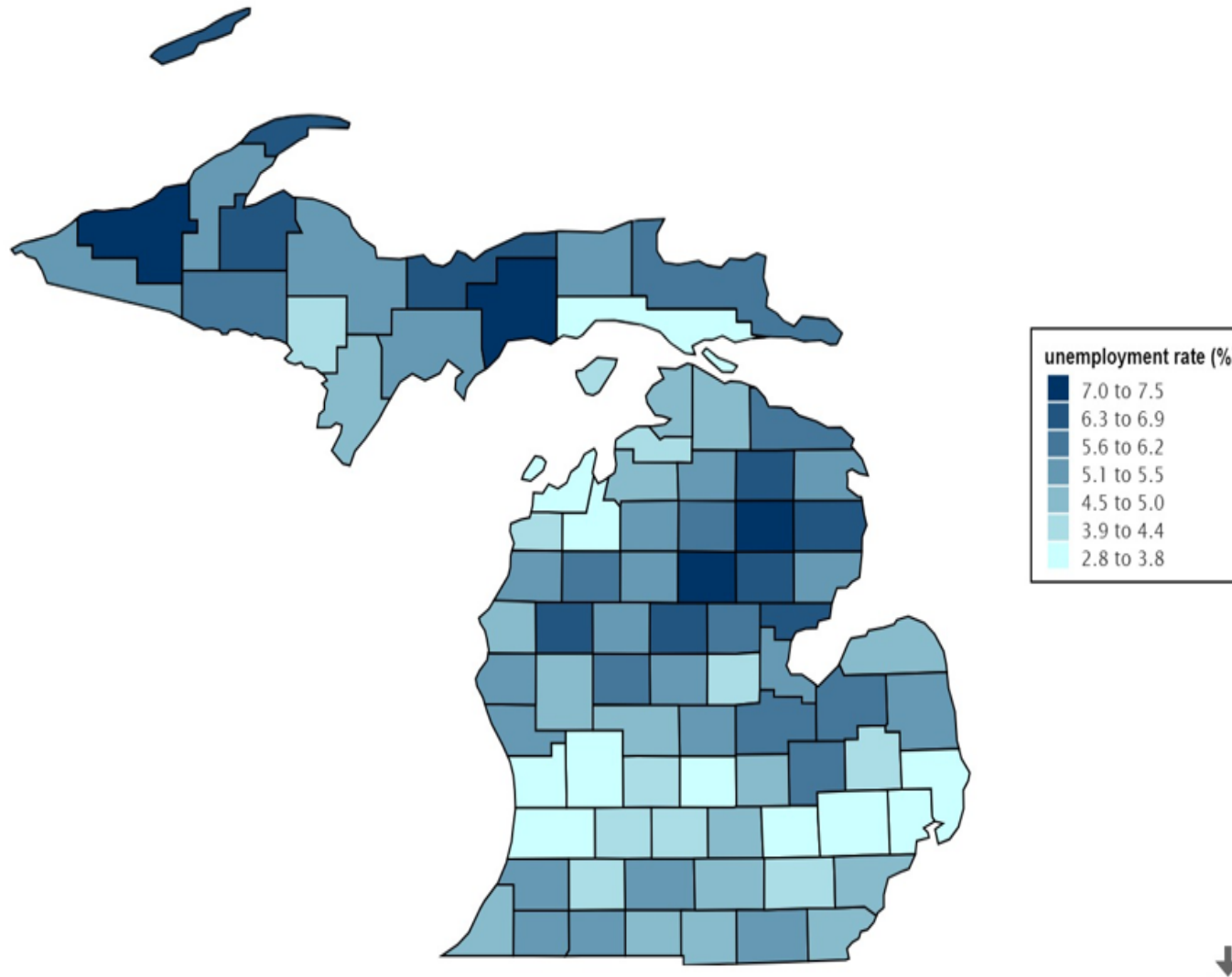
Muskegon County Employment and Unemployment Statistics - LAUS

Region	Area	Year	Period	Adjustment	Preliminary	Employed	Labor Force	Unemploy..	Unemploy ment Rate
MI	Muskegon County, MI	2023	January	Not Adj	No	72,252	76,258	4,006	5.3%
MI	Muskegon County, MI	2023	February	Not Adj	No	72,749	76,803	4,054	5.3%
MI	Muskegon County, MI	2023	March	Not Adj	No	72,882	76,845	3,963	5.2%
MI	Muskegon County, MI	2023	April	Not Adj	No	74,926	77,843	2,917	3.7%
MI	Muskegon County, MI	2023	May	Not Adj	No	75,632	79,322	3,690	4.7%
MI	Muskegon County, MI	2023	June	Not Adj	No	75,715	79,671	3,956	5.0%
MI	Muskegon County, MI	2023	July	Not Adj	Yes	75,315	79,477	4,162	5.2%

Source: Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, [LAUS \(milmi.org\)](https://www.milmi.org)

Supplemental Data: ECONOMICS

Unemployment Rates by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted, Michigan July 2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics <https://data.bls.gov/lausmap/showMap.jsp>

Supplemental Data: ECONOMICS



Employment Status by Sex and Age, Muskegon County, 2022

Muskegon County, MI	White Alone		Black/African American Alone	
Label	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	112,568	±1,223	17,168	±872
Male:	56,040	±966	9,212	±509
16 to 64 years:	43,079	±990	8,082	±499
In labor force:	32,896	±1,775	4,357	±821
In Armed Forces	19	±32	0	±184
Civilian:	32,877	±1,768	4,357	±821
Employed	30,798	±1,651	3,861	±937
Unemployed	2,079	±1,059	496	±321
Not in labor force	10,183	±1,482	3,725	±705
65 years and over:	12,961	±128	1,130	±68
In labor force:	2,633	±570	111	±120
Employed	2,633	±570	54	±73
Unemployed	0	±184	57	±101
Not in labor force	10,328	±597	1,019	±134
Female:	56,528	±623	7,956	±634
16 to 64 years:	41,101	±587	6,365	±613
In labor force:	29,769	±1,502	4,817	±796
In Armed Forces	0	±184	0	±184
Civilian:	29,769	±1,502	4,817	±796
Employed	28,726	±1,494	4,142	±876
Unemployed	1,043	±448	675	±468
Not in labor force	11,332	±1,374	1,548	±707
65 years and over:	15,427	±182	1,591	±81
In labor force:	1,792	±571	272	±221
Employed	1,728	±556	272	±221
Unemployed	64	±102	0	±184
Not in labor force	13,635	±612	1,319	±236

Source: U.S. Census, 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C23002A and C23002B, <https://data.census.gov/>

Supplemental Data: ECONOMICS

METRIC: ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained)

ALICE IN MUSKEGON COUNTY

ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mloyed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold – ALICE households plus those in poverty – can't afford the essentials.

2021 Point-in-Time-Data

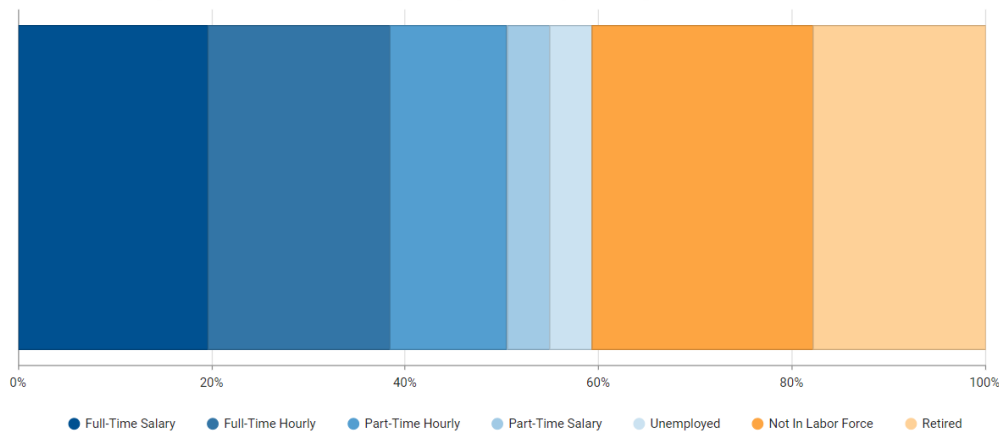
Population: 176,511 **Number of Households:** 67,707 (2% change from 2019)

Median Household Income: \$55,462 (state average: \$63,498)

Labor Force Participation Rate: 57% (state average: 61%)

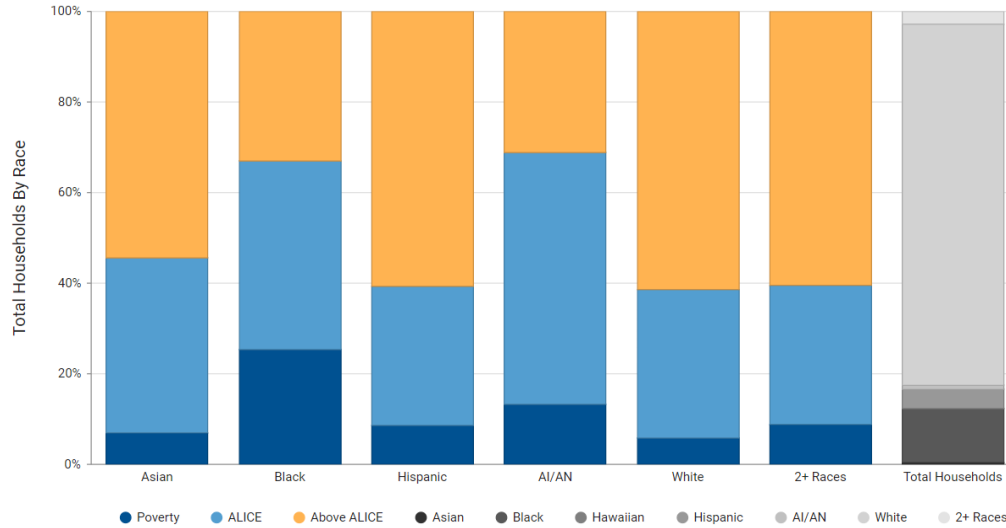
ALICE Households: 28% (state average 26%) **Households in Poverty:** 14% (state average 13%)

Labor Status, Population 16 and Over, Muskegon County, Michigan, 2021



Supplemental Data: ECONOMICS

Households by Race/Ethnicity, Muskegon County, Michigan, 2021



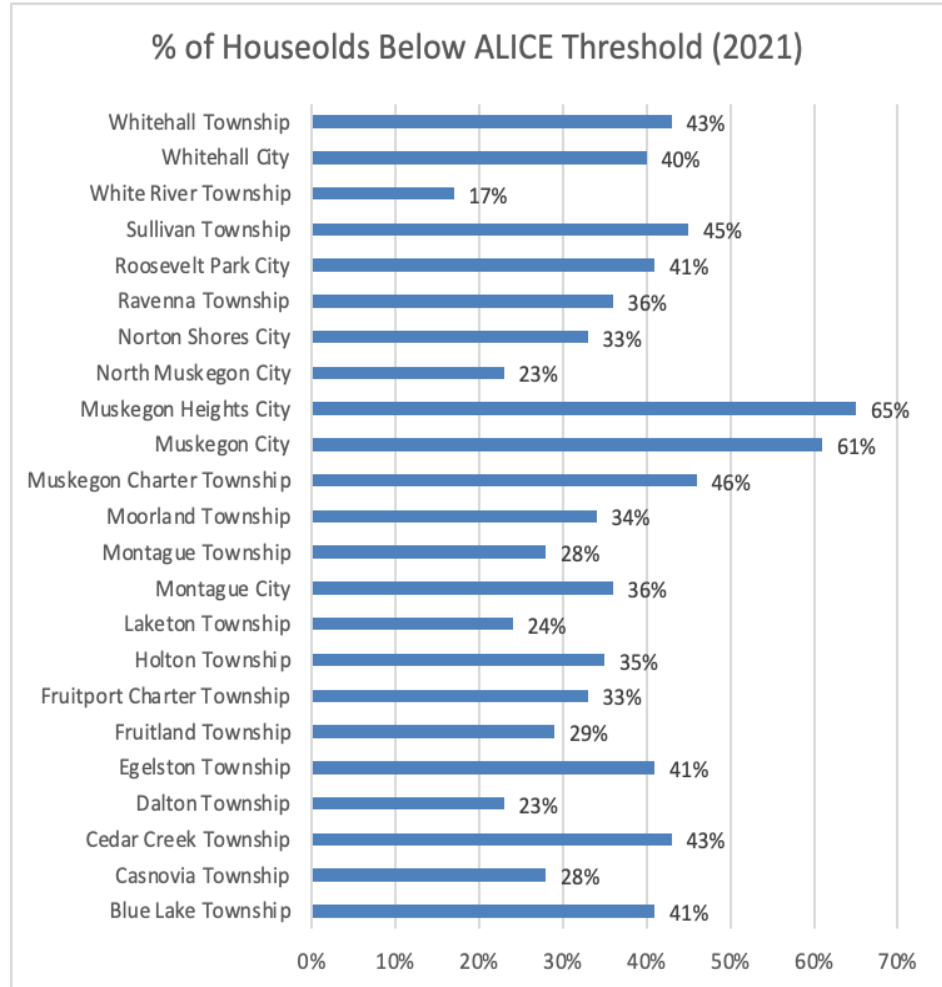
Household Survival Budget

Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing - Rent	\$439	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$533	\$533	\$439	\$387
Housing - Utilities	\$154	\$239	\$239	\$239	\$292	\$292	\$154	\$239
Child Care	\$0	\$200	\$533	\$0	\$400	\$1,093	\$0	\$0
Food	\$383	\$650	\$583	\$702	\$1,145	\$1,044	\$354	\$648
Transportation	\$396	\$494	\$494	\$572	\$872	\$872	\$349	\$478
Health Care	\$216	\$447	\$447	\$447	\$605	\$605	\$514	\$1,028
Technology	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$166	\$249	\$276	\$246	\$396	\$455	\$189	\$289
Tax Payments	\$297	\$445	\$515	\$385	\$760	\$915	\$355	\$619
Tax Credits	\$0	(\$350)	(\$567)	\$0	(\$700)	(\$1,147)	\$0	\$0
Monthly Total	\$2,126	\$2,836	\$2,982	\$3,088	\$4,413	\$4,772	\$2,429	\$3,798
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$25,512	\$34,032	\$35,784	\$37,056	\$52,956	\$57,264	\$29,148	\$45,576
Hourly Wage	\$12.76	\$17.02	\$17.89	\$18.53	\$26.48	\$28.63	\$14.57	\$20.70

Supplemental Data: ECONOMICS

Geographic Variation of ALICE Households Within Muskegon County

County Subdivision	Total Households in 2019	% Below ALICE in 2019	Total Households in 2021	% Below ALICE in 2021
Blue Lake Township	786	36%	852	41%
Casnovia Township	977	31%	919	28%
Cedar Creek Township	1,254	42%	1,235	43%
Dalton Township	3,495	27%	3,575	23%
Egelston Township	3,539	42%	3,830	41%
Fruitland Township	2,214	33%	2,554	29%
Fruitport Charter Township	5,222	33%	5,415	33%
Holton Township	982	46%	981	35%
Laketon Township	2,972	30%	3,018	24%
Montague City	1,083	41%	1,006	36%
Montague Township	563	29%	593	28%
Moorland Township	554	29%	578	34%
Muskegon Charter Township	6,785	40%	6,958	46%
Muskegon City	13,952	65%	13,776	61%
Muskegon Heights City	4,040	70%	3,567	65%
North Muskegon City	1,592	28%	1,619	23%
Norton Shores City	9,901	31%	9,551	33%
Ravenna Township	1,060	41%	1,051	36%
Roosevelt Park City	1,683	44%	1,846	41%
Sullivan Township	947	28%	1,051	45%
White River Township	498	21%	482	17%
Whitehall City	1,150	43%	1,057	40%
Whitehall Township	690	32%	608	43%



Source: United for Alice Muskegon County Report, 2021 [Michigan | UnitedForALICE](#)

METRIC: Median Household Income

Median Household Income in Muskegon County

	Muskegon* 2021	Michigan* 2021	Muskegon* 2020	Michigan* 2020
Overall	\$57,047	\$63,202	\$53,478	\$59,234
White	\$61,565	\$67,336	\$57,715	\$63,287
Black/African American	\$32,558	\$38,950	\$30,806	\$36,561
American Indian and Alaska Native	\$37,011	\$49,354	\$33,824	\$45,530
Asian	\$59,453	\$94,904	\$44,219	\$88,990
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	\$69,055	\$54,962	\$54,104	\$50,802
Two or more races	\$59,671	\$57,366	\$53,532	\$52,542
Married families with children	\$91,239	\$106,18	\$87,016	\$99,959
Female householder with own children (no spouse present)	\$27,991	\$30,504	\$25,142	\$28,086
Male householder with own children (no spouse present)	\$39,662	\$47,263	\$35,164	\$43,823

* Estimate

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#). And 2017-2021 5-Year Estimates, S1903.

Supplemental Data: ECONOMICS

METRIC: Poverty Rate

Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months

	Michigan	Muskegon County, Michigan		
	Percent below poverty level	Total	Below poverty level	Percent below poverty level
Population for whom poverty status is determined	13.3%	169,411	21,975	13.0%
AGE				
Under 18 years	18.2%	39,615	7,160	18.1%
Under 5 years	20.9%	10,358	2,102	20.3%
5 to 17 years	17.2%	29,257	5,058	17.3%
Related children of householder under 18 years	17.8%	39,403	6,948	17.6%
18 to 64 years	12.9%	100,536	12,273	12.2%
18 to 34 years	16.7%	34,785	5,162	14.8%
35 to 64 years	10.7%	65,751	7,111	10.8%
60 years and over	9.3%	41,326	3,822	9.2%
65 years and over	8.7%	29,260	2,542	8.7%
SEX				
Male	12.2%	83,002	9,845	11.9%
Female	14.4%	86,409	12,130	14.0%
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN				
White alone	10.6%	135,200	13,321	9.9%
Black or African American alone	26.6%	20,859	6,123	29.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	20.3%	1,286	323	25.1%
Asian alone	11.3%	1,234	83	6.7%
Two or more races	17.8%	9,622	2,014	20.9%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	19.3%	9,947	1,715	17.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	10.3%	129,864	12,150	9.4%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
Population 25 years and over	10.7%	116,691	12,689	10.9%
Less than high school graduate	27.0%	9,188	2,019	22.0%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	14.3%	39,555	5,557	14.0%
Some college, associate's degree	9.8%	43,430	4,174	9.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	4.1%	24,518	939	3.8%

Supplemental Data: ECONOMICS

	Michigan	Muskegon County, Michigan		
	Percent below poverty level	Total	Below poverty level	Percent below poverty level
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Civilian labor force 16 years and over	7.7%	82,312	5,820	7.1%
Employed	6.2%	76,420	4,192	5.5%
Male	5.0%	39,597	1,726	4.4%
Female	7.5%	36,823	2,466	6.7%
Unemployed	30.3%	5,892	1,628	27.6%
Male	28.9%	3,092	761	24.6%
Female	31.8%	2,800	867	31.0%
WORK EXPERIENCE				
Population 16 years and over	12.0%	134,639	15,524	11.5%
Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	2.4%	53,683	1,054	2.0%
Worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months	15.9%	31,715	4,651	14.7%
Did not work	20.4%	49,241	9,819	19.9%
ALL INDIVIDUALS WITH INCOME BELOW THE FOLLOWING POVERTY RATIOS				
50 percent of poverty level	(X)	10,020	(X)	(X)
125 percent of poverty level	(X)	30,480	(X)	(X)
150 percent of poverty level	(X)	40,001	(X)	(X)
185 percent of poverty level	(X)	53,460	(X)	(X)
200 percent of poverty level	(X)	59,239	(X)	(X)
300 percent of poverty level	(X)	92,484	(X)	(X)
400 percent of poverty level	(X)	120,095	(X)	(X)
500 percent of poverty level	(X)	138,715	(X)	(X)
Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	3.5%	11,972	397	3.3%
Worked less than full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	36.8%	6,126	2,005	32.7%
Did not work	40.5%	13,598	5,260	38.7%

* Estimate Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, S1701

[https://data.census.gov/table?q=muskegon+county&t=Income+and+Poverty&q=040XX00US26_050XX00US26121\\$0600000&tid=ACSS5Y2021.S1701](https://data.census.gov/table?q=muskegon+county&t=Income+and+Poverty&q=040XX00US26_050XX00US26121$0600000&tid=ACSS5Y2021.S1701)



SAFETY & SECURITY

LIVABILITY GOAL: Residents feel safe and secure at all times

Education



Health



Social Connection



Economics



Safety & Security



KEY METRICS:

YOUTH SAFETY (home) +

YOUTH SAFETY (neighborhood) +

ADVERSE CHILD EXPERIENCES +

CHILD ABUSE

CHILD ABUSE

Confirmed victims of child abuse/neglect, ages 0-17, in 2022

11.7 per 1,000

Michigan

**20 per 1,000
(806 total)**

Muskegon County

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Protective Services, via Kids Count Data Center KIDS COUNT Data Center from the Annie E. Casey Foundation (aecf.org)

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

% of adults experiencing 4 or more ACEs, which include the following:

- Physical abuse or neglect
- Emotional abuse or neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Household substance abuse
- Household mental illness
- Parental separation/divorce
- Incarcerated household members

United States

14.3%

Muskegon County

31.4%

Source: 2016 ACES Muskegon Community Report, HealthWest



YOUTH SAFETY IN MUSKEGON COUNTY

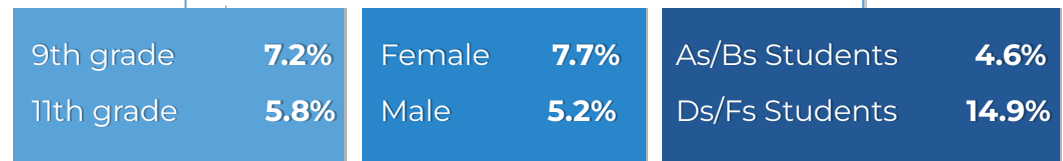
In the Neighborhood 3.9%

% of high school students who reported feeling unsafe or very unsafe in their neighborhood



At School 6.6%

% of high school students who reported feeling unsafe or very unsafe at school



Source: 2021-2022 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth, mdoe.state.mi.us/schoolhealthsurveys/externalreports/countyreportgeneration.aspx

Supplemental Data: SAFETY & SECURITY



This handout is a supplement to the Safety & Security Element data sheet. Additional disaggregated data can help with both understanding current realities and developing strategies to improve livability for Muskegon County residents.

METRIC: Youth Safety - School

Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth 2021-2022, Muskegon, Violence: High School

		Grade		Gender		Race/Ethnicity						Academics	
	County	9	11	M	F	Black	White	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian	Asian	Arab/ Chaldean	As/Bs	Ds/Fs
Attitudes Toward Danger and Violence													
Percentage of students who reported feeling unsafe or very unsafe at school	6.6% (105)	7.2% (66)	5.8% (39)	5.2% (40)	7.7% (63)	5.2% (13)	5.7% (54)	9.9% (20)	10.0% (2)	0.0% (0)	9.1% (1)	4.6% (50)	14.9% (20)
Safety													
Percentage of students who texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle in the past 30 days	40.6% (535)	30.9% (266)	58.7% (269)	45.4% (291)	36.5% (244)	33.0% (69)	44.9% (346)	39.7% (69)	11.1% (2)	40.0% (4)	-	42.6% (377)	28.2% (33)
Percentage of students who slept somewhere other than their parent's or guardian's home during the past 30 days	3.6% (52)	3.8% (31)	3.3% (21)	3.9% (27)	3.1% (23)	7.1% (13)	2.7% (24)	3.4% (6)	5.9% (1)	0.0% (0)	-	2.3% (23)	4.5% (5)
Percentage of students who slept away from their parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during the past 30 days	3.8% (55)	4.1% (33)	3.5% (22)	4.4% (30)	3.2% (24)	5.4% (10)	3.0% (27)	4.5% (8)	5.9% (1)	0.0% (0)	-	2.3% (23)	6.3% (7)
Bullying													
Percentage of students who have been bullied on school property in the past 12 months	21.9% (347)	24.3% (221)	18.8% (126)	16.5% (125)	26.7% (218)	9.7% (24)	24.7% (232)	22.2% (44)	31.6% (6)	0.0% (0)	27.3% (3)	20.8% (225)	29.3% (39)
Percentage of students who have been electronically bullied in the past 12 months	18.6% (294)	20.3% (184)	16.4% (110)	13.7% (103)	23.0% (187)	12.4% (31)	20.1% (188)	21.3% (42)	15.8% (3)	7.7% (1)	27.3% (3)	15.7% (169)	25.6% (34)

Supplemental Data: SAFETY & SECURITY

		Grade		Gender		Race/Ethnicity						Academics	
	County	9	11	M	F	Black	White	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian	Asian	Arab/Chaldean	As/Bs	Ds/Fs
Danger and Violence													
Percentage of students who carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on one or more of the past 30 days	10.9% (170)	10.7% (96)	11.1% (74)	15.6% (117)	6.4% (51)	6.6% (16)	11.4% (106)	10.2% (20)	15.0% (3)	15.4% (2)	9.1% (1)	9.6% (103)	18.0% (23)
Percentage of students who carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property on one or more of the past 30 days	0.8% (12)	0.6% (5)	1.1% (7)	1.1% (8)	0.4% (3)	0.8% (2)	0.8% (7)	0.5% (1)	5.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.6% (6)	3.1% (4)
Percentage of students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school on one or more of the past 30 days	14.8% (232)	15.6% (141)	13.7% (91)	11.6% (87)	17.9% (145)	17.3% (42)	13.3% (124)	20.0% (40)	15.8% (3)	7.7% (1)	27.3% (3)	12.9% (138)	23.3% (30)
Percentage of students who had been threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property one or more times during the past 12 months	7.8% (123)	8.5% (77)	6.8% (46)	7.5% (57)	8.2% (66)	8.1% (20)	6.8% (64)	11.6% (23)	5.0% (1)	7.7% (1)	9.1% (1)	6.6% (71)	14.5% (19)
Percentage of students who reported that a parent or other adult in their home most of the time or always hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt them in any way during their life	2.4% (34)	3.1% (24)	1.6% (10)	2.1% (14)	2.3% (17)	3.4% (6)	1.4% (12)	1.1% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	-	1.7% (17)	5.5% (6)
Relationship Violence													
Percentage of students who were physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with during the past 12 months	8.9% (88)	9.5% (50)	8.2% (38)	7.7% (34)	9.8% (53)	5.5% (9)	9.6% (55)	8.3% (11)	8.3% (1)	-	-	7.2% (46)	14.6% (14)
Percentage of students who were forced to do sexual things they did not want to do by someone they were dating or going out with during the past 12 months	12.4% (123)	12.9% (68)	11.9% (55)	5.0% (22)	18.7% (101)	4.2% (7)	15.1% (86)	13.5% (18)	25.0% (3)	-	-	13.0% (83)	7.3% (7)

% = unweighted percentage of reported response. (n) = number of students with reported response.

Source: [Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth, 2021-2022](#). Violence Domain: High School Student. n=1606

Supplemental Data: SAFETY & SECURITY



METRIC: Youth Safety - Neighborhood

Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth 2021-2022, Muskegon, Community Domain: High School

		Grade		Gender		Race/Ethnicity						Academics	
	County 1	9	11	M	F	Black	White	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian	Asian	Arab/Chaldean	As/Bs	Ds/Fs
Perceived Safety													
Percentage of students who reported feeling unsafe or very unsafe in their neighborhood	3.9% (62)	4.2% (39)	3.4% (23)	3.1% (24)	4.3% (35)	3.6% (9)	3.5% (33)	3.9% (8)	5.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	9.1% (1)	2.1% (23)	13.4% (18)
Availability of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs													
Percentage of students who reported sort of easy or very easy to get cigarettes	35.2% (546)	34.1% (303)	36.8% (243)	36.4% (269)	33.8% (271)	26.0% (60)	36.9% (341)	38.8% (76)	30.0% (6)	46.2% (6)	30.0% (3)	34.2% (363)	40.3% (52)
Percentage of students who reported sort of easy or very easy to get alcohol	51.0% (788)	47.1% (417)	56.3% (371)	49.5% (363)	52.4% (420)	34.8% (80)	55.8% (513)	48.7% (96)	45.0% (9)	76.9% (10)	50.0% (5)	53.1% (562)	49.2% (63)
Percentage of students who reported sort of easy or very easy to get marijuana	44.8% (692)	42.8% (380)	47.6% (312)	44.0% (324)	45.7% (364)	47.6% (110)	43.4% (399)	47.7% (93)	40.0% (8)	58.3% (7)	60.0% (6)	41.8% (441)	52.7% (68)
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement													
Percentage of students who know adults in the neighborhood they could talk to about something important	45.4% (656)	43.8% (356)	47.5% (300)	47.0% (323)	43.9% (329)	39.5% (75)	49.7% (441)	32.6% (60)	41.2% (7)	50.0% (6)	-	48.3% (490)	40.4% (46)
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement													
Percentage of students whose neighbors notice when they are doing a good job and let them know	19.1% (274)	17.3% (140)	21.3% (134)	22.2% (152)	16.0% (119)	24.5% (46)	19.4% (172)	11.0% (20)	23.5% (4)	25.0% (3)	-	19.9% (201)	16.2% (18)

% = unweighted percentage of reported response. (n) = number of students with reported response.

Source: [Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth](#), 2021-2022. Community Domain: High School Students n=1606

Supplemental Data: SAFETY & SECURITY

METRIC: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Q#	SURVEY QUESTION	MUSKEGON CO. ACE SURVEY	Michigan Data	National Data
% OF PEOPLE WITH EACH ACE:				
Q1:	Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often ... Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you? or Act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?	30.9%	35.3%	35%
Q2:	Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often ... Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you? or Ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?	21.6%	17.2%	15.9%
Q3:	Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever ... Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? or Attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?	22.8%	10.7%	10.9%
Q4:	Did you often or very often feel that ... No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? or Your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?	28.6%	N/A	N/A
Q5:	Did you often or very often feel that ... You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? Or your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?	12.6%	N/A	N/A
Q6:	Were your parents ever separated or divorced?	45.6%	26.6%	22.8%
Q7:	Was your mother or stepmother: Often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her? or Sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? or Ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?	17.3%	16.3%	14.9%
Q8:	Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?	35.1%	27.2%	25.1%
Q9:	Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?	32.1%	15.9%	16.3%
Q10:	Did a household member go to prison?	15.5%	7.8%	5.7%

	MUSKEGON CO. ACE SURVEY	National Data
% OF PEOPLE WITH:		
0 ACEs	25.9%	40.7%
1 ACE	18.7%	23.6%
2 ACEs	13.5%	13.3%
3 ACEs	10.3%	8.1%
4+ ACEs	31.4%	14.3%
6+ ACEs	15.8%	N/A

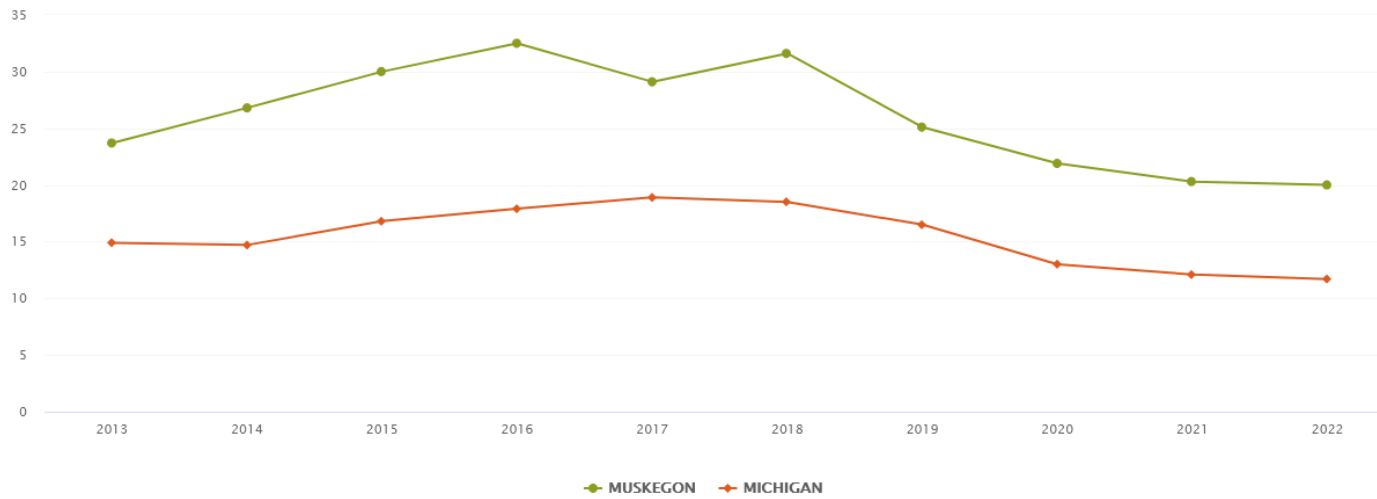
Q#	ACE CATEGORY	Women in Muskegon	Women National	Men in Muskegon	Men National
ABUSE					
Q1:	Emotional Abuse	31.1%	34.1%	29.7%	35.9%
Q2:	Physical Abuse	21.0%	15.8%	22.1%	15.9%
Q3:	Sexual Abuse	27.3%	15.2%	12%	6.4%
HOUSEHOLD CHALLENGES					
Q7:	Intimate Partner Violence	17.4%	15.6%	16.8%	14.2%
Q8:	Household Substance Abuse	35.1%	27.2%	34.7%	22.9%
Q9:	Household Mental Illness	34.7%	19.3%	25.9%	13.3%
Q6:	Parental Separation or Divorce	46.2%	23.1%	44.2%	22.5%
Q10:	Incarcerated Household Member	13.4%	5.2%	19.7%	6.2%

Source: [HealthWest ACES Muskegon Community Report](#)

Supplemental Data: SAFETY & SECURITY

METRIC: Child Abuse

CONFIRMED VICTIMS OF ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT, AGES BIRTH TO 17 (RATE) - 2013-2022



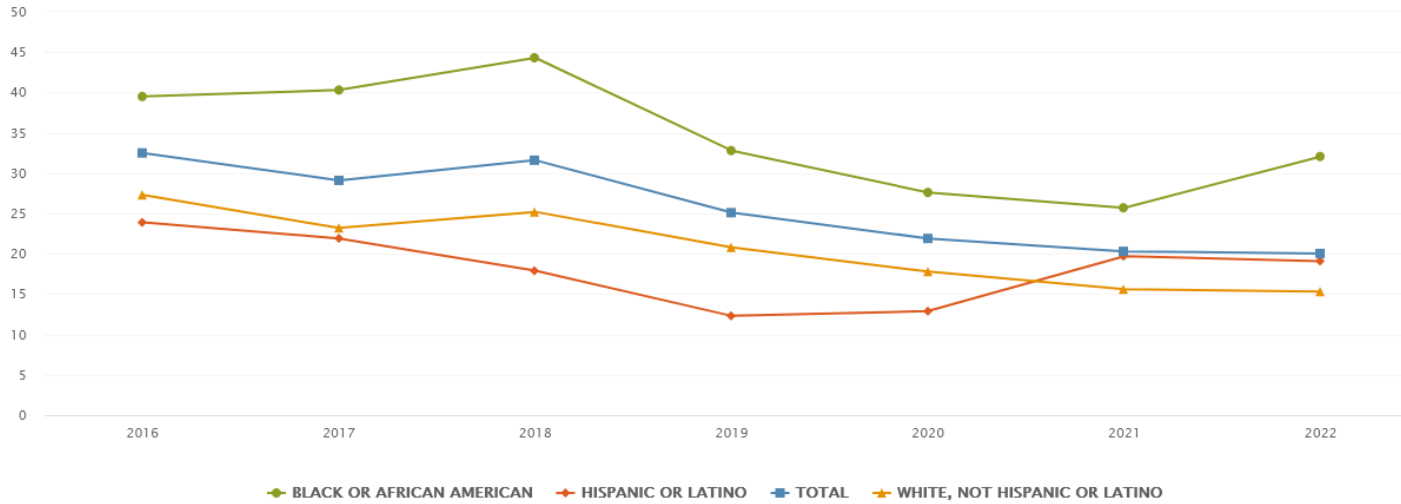
Location	Data Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Michigan	Number	40,345	35,636	27,894	25,710	25,138
	Rate	18.5	16.5	13.0	12.1	11.7
Muskegon	Number	1,277	1,006	872	800	806
	Rate	31.6	25.1	21.9	20.3	20.0

The rate is per 1,000 population ages 0-17 for the defined group.

Source: Kids Count Data Center, [Confirmed victims of abuse and/or neglect, ages birth to 17 | KIDS COUNT Data Center \(aecf.org\)](https://aecf.org/kids-count-data-center)

Supplemental Data: SAFETY & SECURITY

CONFIRMED VICTIMS 0-17, BY RACE (NEW) (RATE) - 2016-2022



Location	Race	Data Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Muskegon	Black Or African American	Rate	44.3	32.8	27.6	25.7	32.1
	Hispanic Or Latino	Rate	17.9	12.3	12.9	19.7	19.1
	White, Not Hispanic Or Latino	Rate	25.2	20.8	17.8	15.6	15.3
	Total	Rate	31.6	25.1	21.9	20.3	20.0

The rate is per 1,000 population ages 0-17 for the defined race group.
 Source: [Confirmed Victims 0-17, by Race \(New\) | KIDS COUNT Data Center \(aecf.org\)](https://aecf.org/kids-count/data-center/confirmed-victims-0-17-by-race-new)



SOCIAL CONNECTION & TRUST

LIVABILITY GOAL: Residents have relationships that demonstrate a sense of belonging, loyalty, trust & responsibility



KEY METRICS:

YOUTH SOCIAL SUPPORT (neighborhood)

YOUTH SOCIAL SUPPORT (home)

VOTER PARTICIPATION

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SUPPORT (adults)

ADULTS RECEIVING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

% of adults who report receiving support they need all or most of the time

United States 77.5%

78.6% ADULTS WITHOUT DISABILITY

65.5% ADULTS WITH DISABILITY

Source: CDC National Health Interview Survey, 2020



YOUTH RECEIVING SOCIAL SUPPORT IN MUSKEGON COUNTY

In the Neighborhood 45.4%

% of high school students who know adults in the neighborhood they could talk to about something important

9th grade	43.8%	Female	44%	As/Bs Students	48.3%
11th grade	47.5%	Male	47%	Ds/Fs Students	40.4%

At Home 76.2%

% of high school students who could ask their mom or dad for help with personal problems

9th Grade	75%	Female	74%	As/Bs Students	80%
11th grade	78%	Male	79%	Ds/Fs Students	60%

Source: 2021-2022 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth mdoe.state.mi.us/schoolhealthsurveys/externalreports/countyreportgeneration.aspx



VOTER PARTICIPATION IN MUSKEGON COUNTY

Citizens 18 years and older 133,607

General Election Votes: 74,369
(in November 2022)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S2902; Michigan Department of State Election Results and Data; Muskegon County Election Results Archive

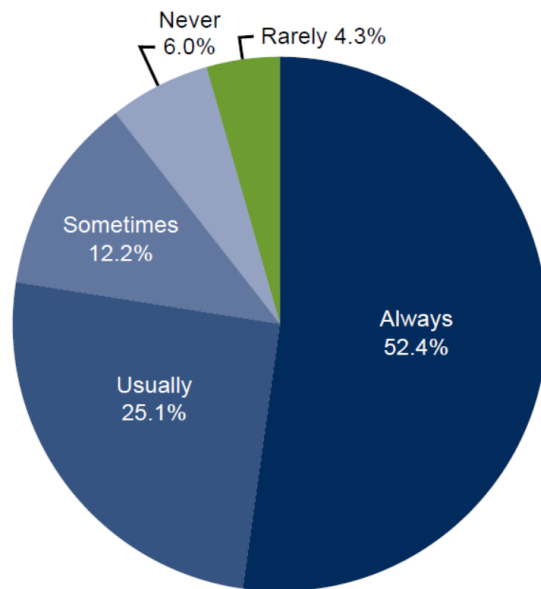
Supplemental Data: SOCIAL CONNECTION & TRUST

This handout is a supplement to the Social Connection & Trust Element data sheet. Additional disaggregated data can help with both understanding current realities and developing strategies to improve livability for Muskegon County residents.

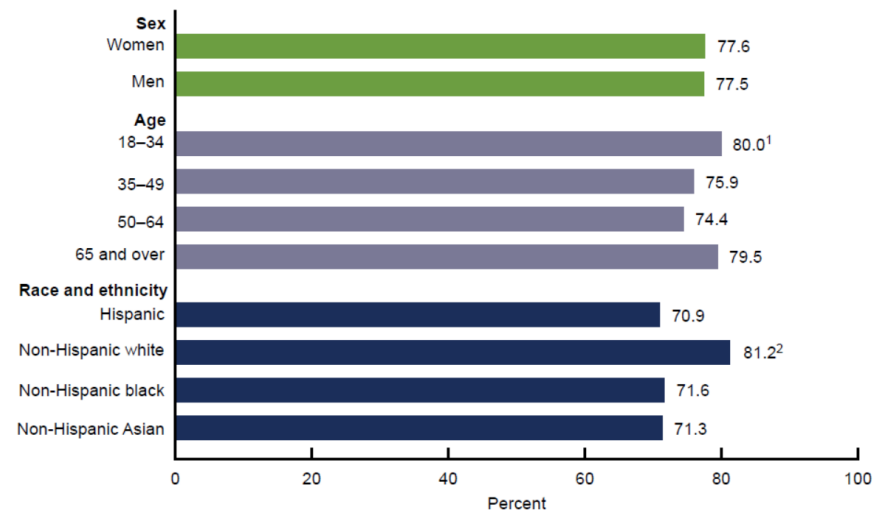
METRIC: Adults Receiving Social / Emotional Support

National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2020
United States, July–December 2020

Percent distribution of how often adults received the social and emotional support they needed

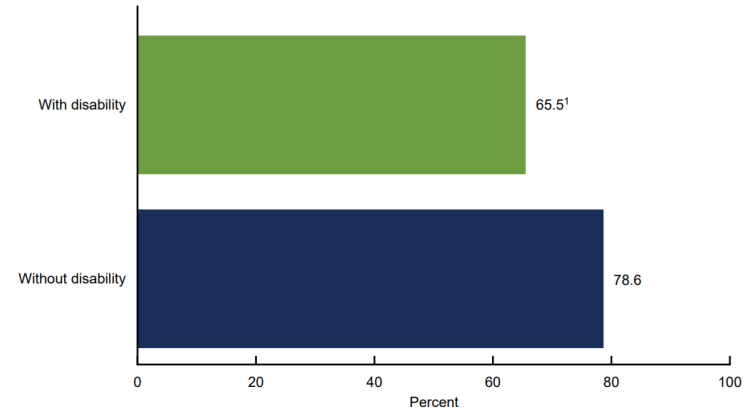
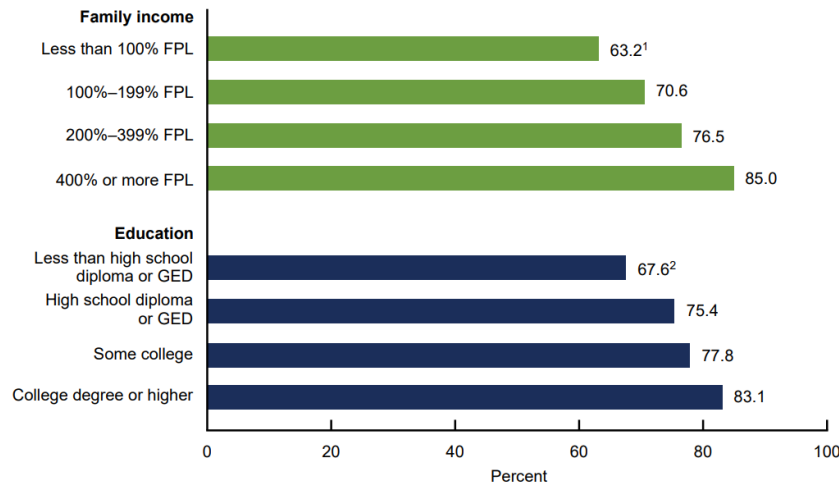


Percentage of adults who always or usually received the social and emotional support they needed, by sex, age, and race and ethnicity



Supplemental Data: SOCIAL CONNECTION & TRUST

Percentage of adults who always or usually received the social and emotional support they needed, by family income and education level:



¹Significant linear trend by family income ($p < 0.05$).

²Significant linear trend by education ($p < 0.05$).

¹Significantly different from adults without disability ($p < 0.05$).

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2020, NCHS Data Brief No. 420, October 2021. [Db420](#)

Supplemental Data: SOCIAL CONNECTION & TRUST

METRIC: Voter Participation

November 8, 2022 General Election Results, Muskegon County

Governor and Lieutenant Governor - Vote for not more than 1							
Choice	Party	Precinct		Absentee		Total	
Gretchen Whitmer Garlin D. Gilchrist II	DEM	21,870	46.08%	17,399	65.97%	39,269	53.18%
Tudor M. Dixon Shane Hernandez	REP	24,593	51.82%	8,528	32.33%	33,121	44.86%
Mary Buzuma Brian Ellison	LIB	517	1.09%	221	0.84%	738	1.00%
Donna Brandenburg Mellissa Carone	UST	267	0.56%	127	0.48%	394	0.53%
Kevin Hogan Destiny Clayton	GRN	150	0.32%	71	0.27%	221	0.30%
Daryl M. Simpson Doug Dern	NLP	61	0.13%	28	0.11%	89	0.12%
Bob Scott (W)		0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Elizabeth Ann Adkisson (W)		0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Ervin Joseph Lamie (W)		3	0.01%	0	0.00%	3	0.00%
Eugene Rosell Hunt Jr (W)		0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Evan S Space (W)		0	0.00%	1	0.00%	1	0.00%
Joseph Irving (W)		0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Joseph Michael Hunt (W)		0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Joyce Priscilla Gipson (W)		0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Justi Paul Blackburn (W)		0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Michael David Kelly (W)		0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Michael Ray Deck (W)		0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
	Cast Votes:	47,461	100.00%	26,375	100.00%	73,836	100.00%
	Overvotes:	41		22		63	
	Unresolved write-in votes:	0		0		0	

Source: <https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/523/Election-Results-Archive>

Supplemental Data: SOCIAL CONNECTION & TRUST

Voting Age Population

	Michigan		Muskegon County, Michigan	
	Total*	Percent*	Total*	Percent*
Citizens 18 years and over	7,592,246	(X)	133,607	(X)
AGE				
18 to 29 years	1,556,741	20.5%	25,796	19.3%
30 to 44 years	1,701,851	22.4%	31,877	23.9%
45 to 64 years	2,624,656	34.6%	45,984	34.4%
65 years and over	1,708,998	22.5%	29,950	22.4%
SEX				
Male	3,713,704	48.9%	66,162	49.5%
Female	3,878,542	51.1%	67,445	50.5%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
Less than 9th grade	157,969	2.1%	2,913	2.2%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	477,455	6.3%	8,801	6.6%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	2,223,348	29.3%	46,408	34.7%
Some college, no degree	1,914,308	25.2%	34,673	26.0%
Associate's degree	707,904	9.3%	15,646	11.7%
Bachelor's degree	1,331,700	17.5%	17,696	13.2%
Graduate or professional degree	779,562	10.3%	7,470	5.6%
High school degree or higher	6,956,822	91.6%	121,893	91.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	2,111,262	27.8%	25,166	18.8%
POVERTY STATUS				
Total Citizens, 18 years and older, for whom poverty status is determined	7,425,092	(X)	128,426	(X)
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	872,490	11.8%	14,526	11.3%
Income in the past 12 months at or above the poverty level	6,552,602	88.2%	113,900	88.7%

* Estimate

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, S2902

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=muskegon+county+VOTING&q=040XX00US26&tid=ACST5Y2021.S2902>

Supplemental Data: SOCIAL CONNECTION & TRUST

METRIC: Youth Receiving Social Support in their Neighborhoods

Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth 2021-2022, Muskegon, Community Domain: High School

		Grade		Gender		Race/Ethnicity						Academics	
	County 1	9	11	M	F	Black	White	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian	Asian	Arab/Chaldean	As/Bs	Ds/Fs
Perceived Safety													
Percentage of students who reported feeling unsafe or very unsafe in their neighborhood	3.9% (62)	4.2% (39)	3.4% (23)	3.1% (24)	4.3% (35)	3.6% (9)	3.5% (33)	3.9% (8)	5.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	9.1% (1)	2.1% (23)	13.4% (18)
Availability of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs													
Percentage of students who reported sort of easy or very easy to get cigarettes	35.2% (546)	34.1% (303)	36.8% (243)	36.4% (269)	33.8% (271)	26.0% (60)	36.9% (341)	38.8% (76)	30.0% (6)	46.2% (6)	30.0% (3)	34.2% (363)	40.3% (52)
Percentage of students who reported sort of easy or very easy to get alcohol	51.0% (788)	47.1% (417)	56.3% (371)	49.5% (363)	52.4% (420)	34.8% (80)	55.8% (513)	48.7% (96)	45.0% (9)	76.9% (10)	50.0% (5)	53.1% (562)	49.2% (63)
Percentage of students who reported sort of easy or very easy to get marijuana	44.8% (692)	42.8% (380)	47.6% (312)	44.0% (324)	45.7% (364)	47.6% (110)	43.4% (399)	47.7% (93)	40.0% (8)	58.3% (7)	60.0% (6)	41.8% (441)	52.7% (68)
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement													
Percentage of students who know adults in the neighborhood they could talk to about something important	45.4% (656)	43.8% (356)	47.5% (300)	47.0% (323)	43.9% (329)	39.5% (75)	49.7% (441)	32.6% (60)	41.2% (7)	50.0% (6)	-	48.3% (490)	40.4% (46)
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement													
Percentage of students whose neighbors notice when they are doing a good job and let them know	19.1% (274)	17.3% (140)	21.3% (134)	22.2% (152)	16.0% (119)	24.5% (46)	19.4% (172)	11.0% (20)	23.5% (4)	25.0% (3)	-	19.9% (201)	16.2% (18)

% = unweighted percentage of reported response. (n) = number of students with reported response.

Source: [Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth](#), 2021-2022. Community Domain: High School Students n=1606

METRIC: Youth Receiving Social Support at Home

Supplemental Data: SOCIAL CONNECTION & TRUST

Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth 2021-2022, Muskegon, Family Domain: High School

	County	Grade		Gender		Race/Ethnicity						Academics	
		9	11	M	F	Black	White	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian	Asian	Arab/Chaldean	As/Bs	Ds/Fs
Perception of Parental Disapproval of Alcohol/Tobacco/Other Drug Use													
Percentage of students who reported their parents felt cigarette use to be wrong or very wrong	96.5% (1482)	96.7% (847)	96.2% (635)	96.1% (707)	97.0% (766)	96.0% (218)	97.2% (891)	96.9% (186)	80.0% (16)	92.3% (12)	100.0% (11)	97.8% (1033)	92.7% (114)
Percentage of students who reported their parents felt marijuana use to be wrong or very wrong	86.4% (1318)	88.4% (767)	83.7% (551)	86.1% (628)	86.9% (684)	84.8% (190)	86.9% (794)	85.7% (162)	90.0% (18)	92.3% (12)	81.8% (9)	89.5% (942)	74.8% (92)
Poor Family Management													
Percentage of students whose parents ask whether their homework is done	31.5% (454)	30.4% (246)	32.9% (208)	30.2% (207)	32.8% (245)	26.6% (50)	32.2% (286)	31.5% (58)	47.1% (8)	16.7% (2)	-	30.1% (304)	36.6% (41)
Percentage of students with people in their family who have serious arguments	50.6% (728)	50.9% (411)	50.2% (317)	46.6% (319)	53.9% (402)	51.3% (97)	48.8% (433)	59.6% (109)	55.6% (10)	58.3% (7)	-	48.6% (489)	58.9% (66)
Percentage of students whose parents would not know if they did not come home on time	15.5% (223)	15.4% (125)	15.6% (98)	16.4% (112)	14.3% (107)	16.5% (31)	15.0% (133)	13.0% (24)	44.4% (8)	8.3% (1)	-	12.3% (125)	25.2% (28)
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement													
Percentage of students whose parents notice when they are doing a good job and let them know	54.4% (788)	53.7% (438)	55.2% (350)	55.4% (382)	53.8% (404)	58.2% (110)	57.4% (515)	45.3% (82)	61.1% (11)	58.3% (7)	-	60.8% (615)	35.1% (40)
Percentage of students whose parents tell them they're proud for something they've done	50.8% (730)	50.4% (409)	51.2% (321)	53.4% (365)	48.9% (364)	54.8% (103)	54.0% (481)	41.3% (74)	50.0% (9)	41.7% (5)	-	56.6% (569)	32.7% (37)
Percentage of students who enjoy spending time with their mother	85.1% (1223)	85.5% (690)	84.6% (533)	84.9% (581)	85.8% (638)	86.8% (165)	86.1% (762)	83.7% (154)	76.5% (13)	100.0% (12)	-	88.1% (890)	76.4% (84)
Percentage of students who enjoy spending time with their father	75.2% (1078)	75.5% (609)	74.8% (469)	79.2% (537)	71.8% (536)	62.8% (118)	78.9% (701)	72.1% (132)	66.7% (12)	83.3% (10)	-	79.0% (794)	61.6% (69)
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement													
Percentage of students whose parents include them in family decisions	54.5% (787)	52.2% (423)	57.4% (364)	57.7% (395)	52.0% (391)	60.5% (115)	55.9% (499)	48.4% (89)	35.3% (6)	50.0% (6)	-	59.0% (598)	36.9% (41)
Percentage of students who could ask their mom or dad for help with personal problems	76.2% (1096)	74.8% (606)	78.0% (490)	79.3% (541)	73.5% (549)	73.9% (139)	79.1% (702)	70.9% (129)	77.8% (14)	66.7% (8)	-	80.4% (813)	60.0% (66)
Percentage of students whose parents give them lots of chances to do fun things with them	73.1% (1054)	72.7% (591)	73.6% (463)	76.0% (523)	70.4% (525)	72.5% (137)	76.1% (676)	65.0% (119)	66.7% (12)	75.0% (9)	-	77.7% (785)	61.3% (68)

% = unweighted percentage of reported response. (n) = number of students with reported response.

Source: [Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth](#), 2021-2022. Community Domain: High School Students n=1606

Access to Supportive Learning Environments

Current State

"We've done a lot to address reading proficiency but still have too many low literacy children and adults and need to find new ways to address this."

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: "Lack of education and a feeling of not being successful."

"Lack of funding and lack of opportunity from schools."

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: "Didn't finish high school."

"Quality education is missing."

What is missing in my community: "A lot of stuff with our school system - a safe school environment where our children don't have to worry about drugs and the other influences out there."

Goal

High-quality learning environments in local schools, certification programs, post-secondary education, and more are accessible to all.

"Good school system from pre-k to high school for entire county."

"Access to STEAM education for all age groups."

"Parents and community involved and supporting their neighborhoods local schools and educators."

"A place where we can honestly say that ALL the children are healthy, thriving and have everything they need to grow into their full potential.... equitable education"

"The community would prioritize education and have excellent schools, colleges, and vocational training programs."

"Funding for schooling opportunities for all young people. (Not just those with high grades, etc)."

Bright Spots

"I feel that through our school district families stay connected in many ways."

"Muskegon Promise."

"Holton is super supportive of students and athletes."

"My kids attend a great school district."

"This community helps to support me by making education and training available. There are many learning opportunities in this county."

"My children's education, especially early education is well supported."

"Programs for selective career paths."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Tuition costs prevent some families from enrolling children in preschool.
2. Schools are unequally and under-resourced.
3. Some educational settings are not effectively supporting all students and families.
4. Financial barriers prevent some from accessing or thriving in post-secondary, technical, and certification programs.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Tuition Costs prevent some families from enrolling in preschool.

What is missing in my community is: *“Free preschool for all.”*

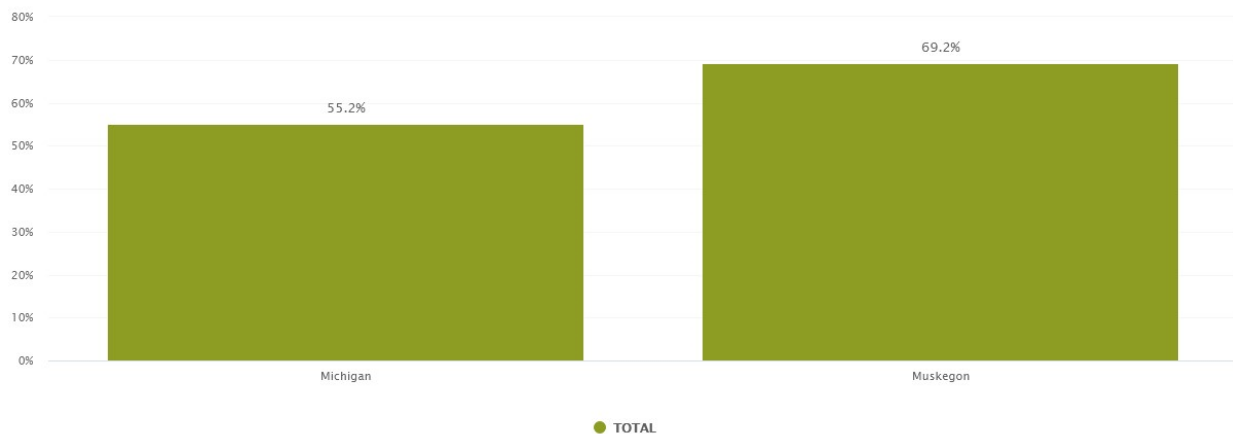
What is missing in my community is: *“Educational choices for early childhood and beyond, I make too much to get into programs and not enough to afford preschool.”*

From the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District:

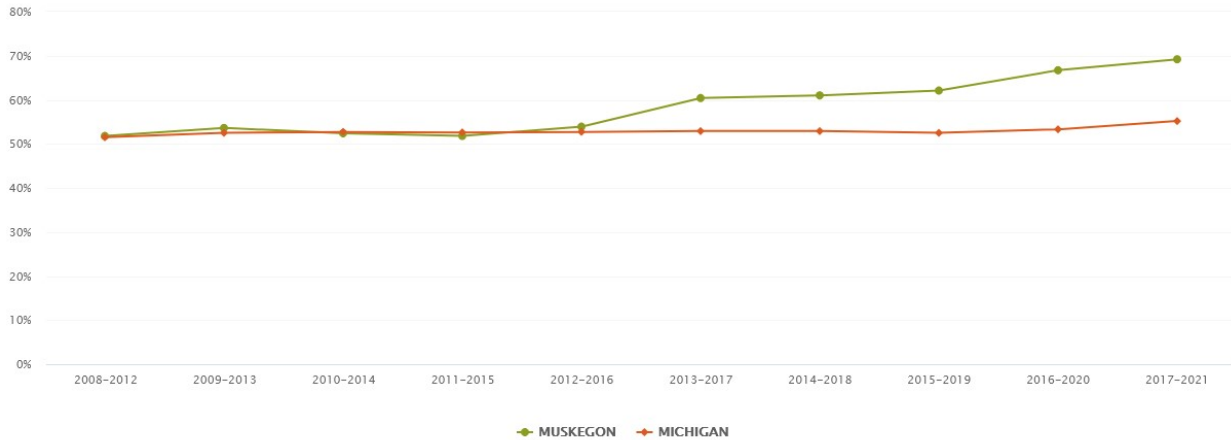
Head Start is a federally-funded child development/preschool program serving low-income children and families. There is no cost to attend Head Start. It is free to eligible children. The federal government gives Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana 666 “slots” – or classroom openings. Unfortunately, many more children in our community are eligible, and often the waiting list exceeds 200 children. (Source: <https://www.muskegonisd.org/earlychildhood/headstart/>)

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is Michigan's state-funded preschool program for four year-old children. Eligibility is tied to family income and available openings. Typically, GSRP is free to most participating families, but depending on family income level, some parents may be required to pay a reduced tuition fee. (Source: <https://www.muskegonisd.org/earlychildhood/gsrp/>)

CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 4 NOT IN PRESCHOOL (PERCENT) - 2017-2021



CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 4 NOT IN PRESCHOOL (PERCENT)



Michigan League for Public Policy, through Kids Count Data Center, <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>

Root Cause Barrier

2. Schools are unequally and under-resourced.

My hopes and dreams are: *"[To] send my kids to a local public school of choice."*

What is missing in my community: *"Public schools supported by community."*

"Even more educational equity and diversity-I wish our schools were consolidated to serve everyone in the greater Muskegon area, and not segregated by race/income, etc. Charters and private schools are a huge threat to this goal."

What is missing in my community: *"Equitable schools."*

In a healthy and thriving community: *"ALL CHILDREN have access to quality equal educational opportunity."*

"A lot of people say, oh, you don't need [the millage] for the school. Yes, you do. Schools have to be updated."

"Our children are overlooked because their teachers are not getting what they deserve."

Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, 2021-2022 Fast Facts				
District	Pupil-Teacher Ratio	Average Teacher Salaries	Revenues per pupil	Instructional Expenditures per Pupil
Fruitport Community Schools	23:1	\$62,401	\$12,848	\$7,536
Holton Public Schools	18:1	\$57,658	\$13,685	\$8,272
Mona Shores Public School District	21:1	\$75,147	\$12,692	\$8,691
Montague Area Public Schools	20:1	\$58,809	\$13,192	\$8,453
Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System	29:1	n/a*	\$14,817	\$6,223
Muskegon Public Schools City of	22:1	\$65,153	\$16,094	\$7,982
North Muskegon Public Schools	20:1	\$66,465	\$11,889	\$8,158
Oakridge Public Schools	22:1	\$59,187	\$12,473	\$7,867
Orchard View Schools	23:1	\$69,934	\$12,580	\$8,263
Ravenna Public Schools	23:1	\$58,880	\$12,113	\$7,166
Reeths-Puffer Schools	22:1	\$61,243	\$12,246	\$7,271
Whitehall District Schools	20:1	\$67,088	\$12,901	\$8,092

* Number not available in data set

Source: <https://www.mischooldata.org/schools-at-a-glance/> and Michigan Department of Education Bulletin 1014

Root Cause Barrier

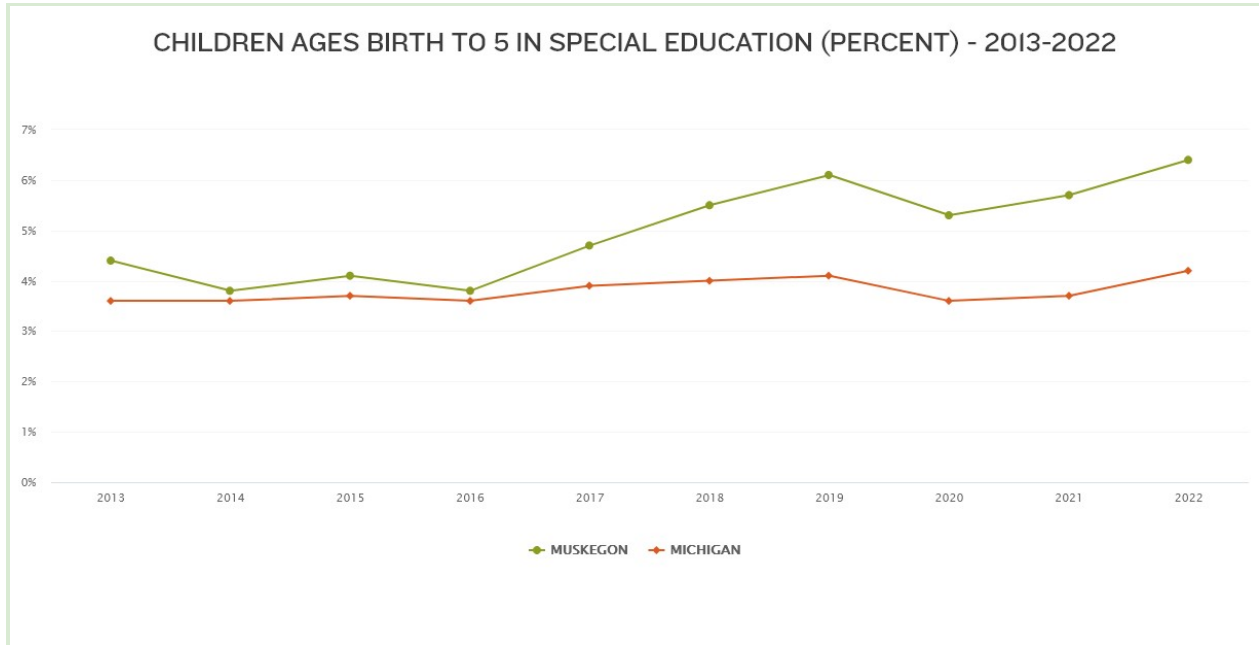
3. Some educational settings are not effectively supporting all students and families.

What is missing in my community: *“More accommodations for special needs, and support groups for those who have special needs children.”*

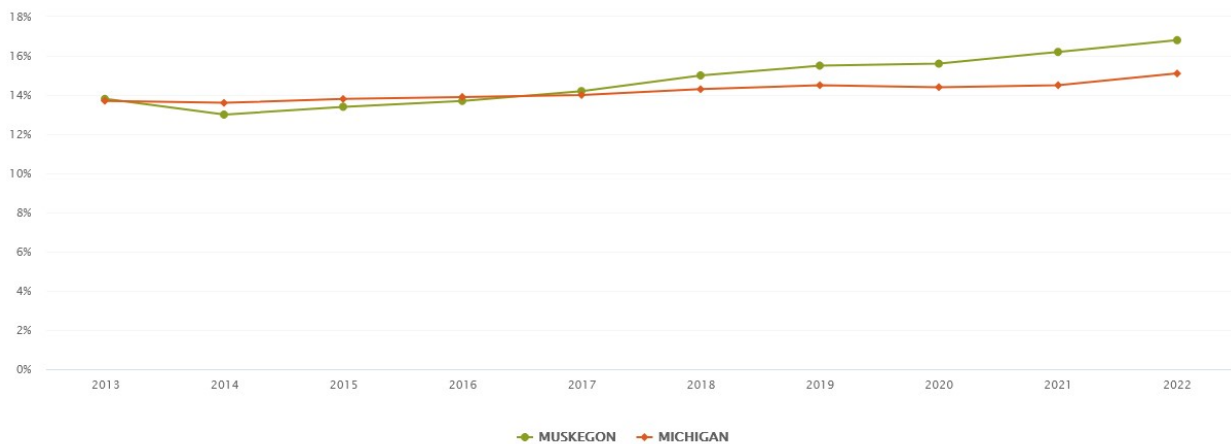
What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“Learning disabilities.”*

“We’ve done a lot to address reading proficiency but still have too many low literacy children and adults and need to find new ways to address this.”

Percent of Students in Special Education in Muskegon County



SPECIAL EDUCATION AGES BIRTH TO 26 (PERCENT) - 2013-2022



Source for both charts: Michigan League for Public Policy, through Kids Count Data Center, <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>

Muskegon Area Intermediate School District

Percent of students with an individualized education program (IEP) graduating from high school with a regular diploma: **67.42%**

Percent of students with an IEP dropping out of high school: **27.15%**

Source: Michigan Department of Education Special Education Public Reports, School Year 2020-2021,, <https://www.mischooldata.org/special-education-summary/>

Access to Supportive Learning Environments

2021-22 Graduation Dropout Entity Breakdown Muskegon Area ISD (61): 4-Year (2022 Graduation Cohort) / All Students

Location Name	Total Cohort	Total Graduated	Dropouts	Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate
Statewide	117,849	95,464	9,657	81.01%	8.19%
Fruitport Community Schools	196	162	11	82.65%	5.61%
Holton Public Schools	67	48	<10	71.64%	10.45%
Mona Shores Public School District	298	273	17	91.61%	5.70%
Montague Area Public Schools	107	88	<10	82.24%	7.48%
Muskegon, Public Schools of the City of	250	197	29	78.80%	11.60%
North Muskegon Public Schools	87	87	<10	100.00%	0.00%
Oakridge Public Schools	121	87	24	71.90%	19.83%
Orchard View Schools	212	119	48	56.13%	22.64%
Orchard View High School	128	107	<10	83.59%	7.03%
Ravenna Public Schools	80	72	<10	90.00%	6.25%
Reeths-Puffer Schools	266	249	<10	93.61%	1.88%
Whitehall District Schools	180	163	<10	90.56%	4.44%
Muskegon Covenant Academy	39	<10	11	0.00%	28.21%
Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System	45	25	10	55.56%	22.22%

Source: <https://www.mischooldata.org/graddropout-rate/>

Root Cause Barrier

- Financial barriers prevent some from accessing or thriving in post-secondary, technical, and certification programs.

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“Not being able to go to college.”*

What is missing in my community: *“Assistance for college students with family members with good jobs.”*

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“Financial stability, resources for advancement and education.”*

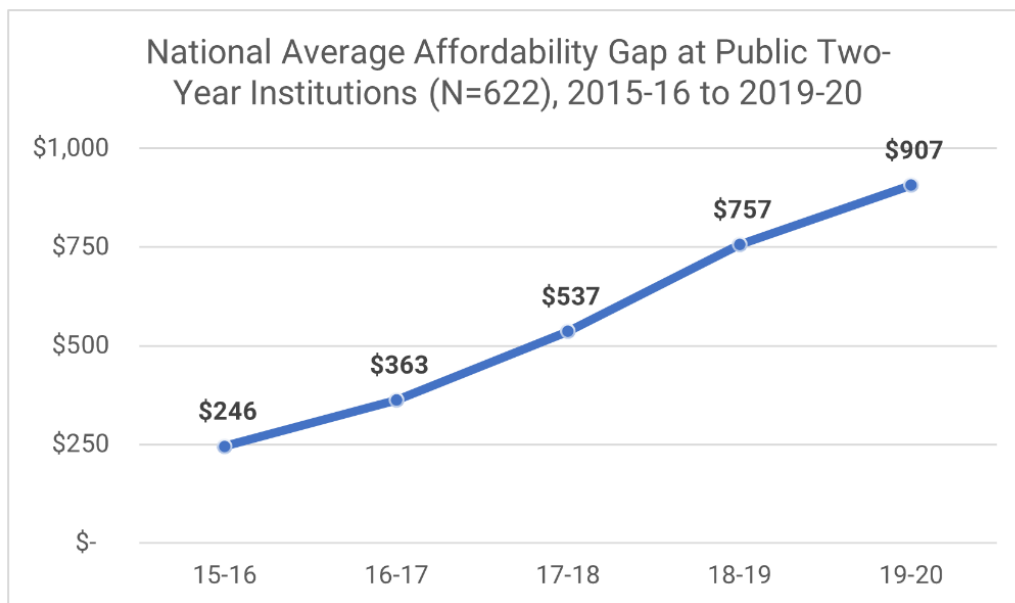
In a healthy & thriving community: *“Citizens have accessibility (and the tools) to higher education and/or training.”*

Access to Supportive Learning Environments

From the National College Attainment Network (NCAN)

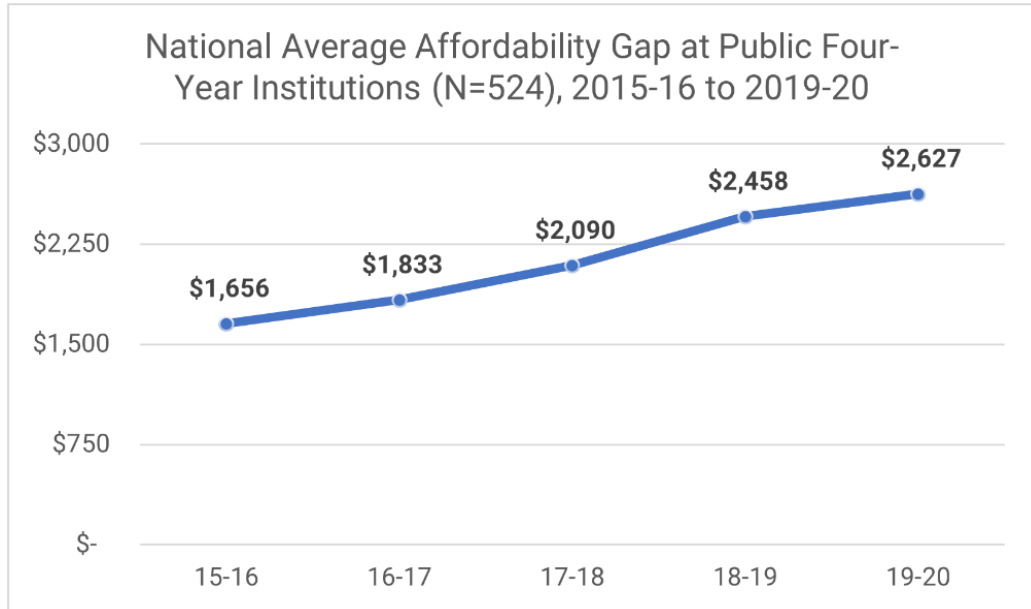
For students to complete postsecondary education, they must be able to afford it. Financial concerns play an outsized role in locking some students out of college. Students of color, students of limited economic means, and students who are the first in their family to attend college experience lower rates of postsecondary access and attainment than their peers.

The Growing Gap – NCAN’s study of college affordability within the public postsecondary sector – validates such concerns. The research documents a growing prevalence of “unaffordability” at public institutions for the average Pell Grant recipient. Pell Grants are a federal need-based award, and most students who receive Pell Grants have an annual personal or family income of less than \$40,000.



Source: <https://www.ncan.org/page/Affordability>

Access to Supportive Learning Environments



Source: <https://www.ncan.org/page/Affordability>

Muskegon Community College Cost of Attendance

Below is a reasonable budget for a **DEPENDENT** student for the 2023-2024 school year, carrying 15 credits each semester:

	In-County MI	Out-of-County MI	Out-of-State
	Students per Year	Students per Year	Students per Year
Tuition & Fees	\$5,740	\$9,130	\$12,040
Est. Excess Contact Hours	\$1,300	\$2,430	\$3,400
Books, Course Materials, Supplies, Equipment	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$1,150
Transportation	\$1,572	\$3,144	\$1,572
Miscellaneous	\$1,088	\$1,088	\$1,088
Living Expenses (Housing/Food)	\$2,691	\$2,681	\$2,691
Total Budget	\$13,541	\$19,633	\$21,941

Source: <https://www.muskegoncc.edu/financial-aid/cost-of-attendance/>

Below is a reasonable budget for a **INDEPENDENT** student for the 2023-2024 school year, carrying 15 credits each semester:

	In-County MI	Out-of-County MI	Out-of-State
	Students per Year	Students per Year	Students per Year
Tuition & Fees	\$5,740	\$9,130	\$12,040
Est. Excess Contact Hours	\$1,300	\$2,430	\$3,400
Books, Course Materials, Supplies, Equipment	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$1,150
Transportation	\$1,572	\$3,144	\$1,572
Miscellaneous	\$1,088	\$1,088	\$1,088
Living Expenses (Housing/Food)	\$5,382	\$5,382	\$5,382
Total Budget	\$16,232	\$22,324	\$24,632

Source: <https://www.muskegoncc.edu/financial-aid/cost-of-attendance/>

Additional Community Feedback

- Getting more youth involved in community projects through the schools could help with many issues in the community, such as blight.
- Some parents struggle to get children to sports, activities, and events after school.

Current State

My community is missing:
"Support groups for senior troubles."

"Nothing for our teenagers.
Nothing for aftercare."

"My community is missing:
"Places for young people to go and feel safe."

My community is missing:
"Parent, family and youth voice!"

"It's hard for parents to pay their portion of their salary for childcare."

"Growing up we had multiple programs for the summer or even at the school nowadays it just doesn't seem like there's anything no more for kids to do."

Goal

Trusted, affordable, high-quality care resources are available for all community members at all stages of life.

"Resources for seniors and handicap people and children."
"More youth recreation and programs."

"I honestly pray down the road, just like universal preschool, we have universal child care."

"An all inclusive community center that that focuses on resources and activities for the entire family."

"More neighborhood summer programs."
"Onsite daycare would be amazing."

"Safety for everyone. Senior citizen safety is needed in all phases of life, safety before abuse."

"To never need to go in a nursing home."
"To live on our own with some help."

Bright Spots

"I receive help from Senior Resources."

"Nonprofits and churches fill the gaps for social services."

"I have a great community in the senior condos where I live. They help me keep up my yard and the community is always clean."

"Good DHS support, and support from CPS for custody."

"Neighbors like family help take care of each other's kids."

"Meals on Wheels is so greatly appreciated. We also are part of the PACE program that is wonderful and extremely helpful."

"Youth sports is the only avenue I have found for me to develop friendships."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Some employers lack policies to support workers with children.
2. Insufficient number of childcare slots, particularly for infants
3. Childcare is not affordable for many families.
4. Some would benefit from additional supports for child and family development.
5. There are limited after-school and summer programs and activities for youth and teens.
6. Support for independent living is not fully accessible to many seniors, adults with special needs, and people with disabilities.
7. Caregivers often struggle to provide for themselves and others.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Some employers lack policies to support workers with children

“The regular 8-5, Monday through Friday for any parents can have a negative impact on the quality of time left to spend with kids and family. Full time work is exhausting and leaves little energy left for family time when housework and regular chores have to be accomplished at night and on weekends.”

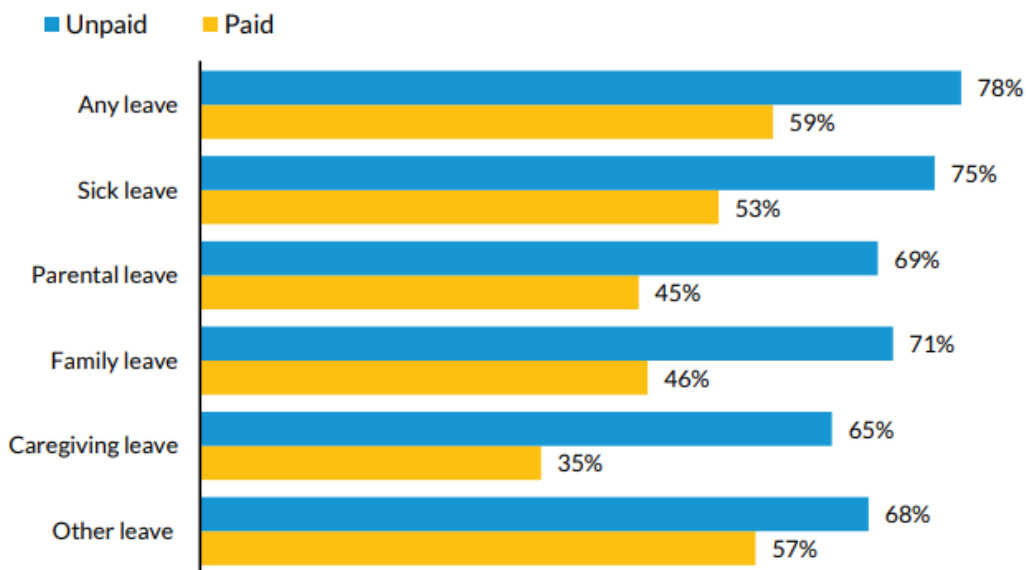
My hopes and dreams for myself and my family include: *“Workplace flexibility and family-friendly policies.”*

“When people then were needing to go back to work, what’s the first thing you need? You need child care.”

“Young moms always get fired if kids get sick”

Availability of Workplace Leave, by Type of Paid and Unpaid Leave

Among employed parents with children younger than 15



URBAN INSTITUTE

Source: American Time Use Survey Leave Module, 2011.

Urban Institute Research Report *Parents’ Access to Work-Family Supports*, October 2019,
https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/101144/parents_access_to_work-family_supports_1.pdf

Root Cause Barrier

2. Insufficient number of childcare slots, particularly for infants.

“The school does not have enough after school childcare available.”

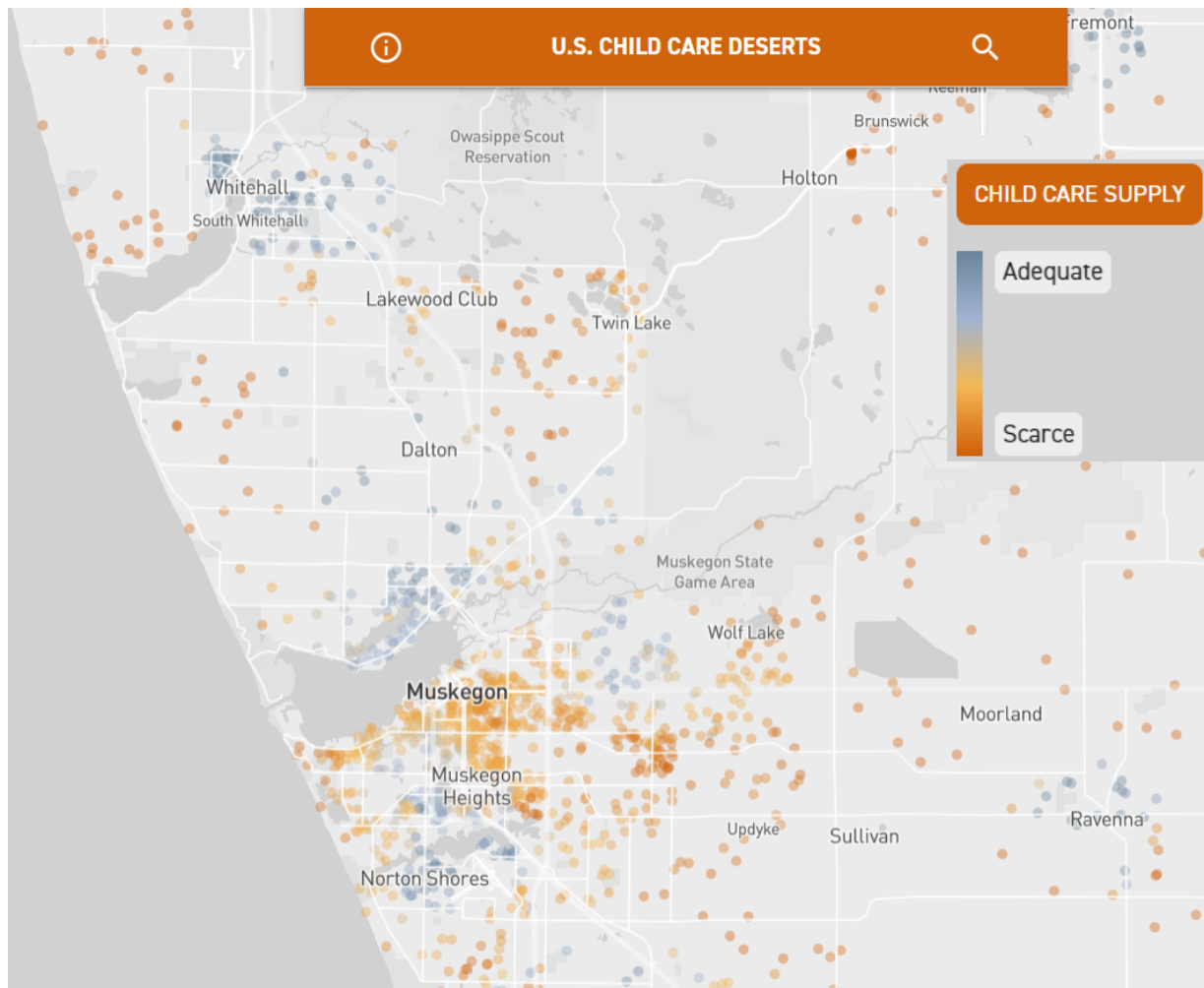
“You see people all the time looking for daycare.”

“We need more help with adequate daycare and more money for daycare providers.”

Using data from 2010 to 2022, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps calculated that:

There are 8 childcare centers in Muskegon County for every 1,000 children under 5 years old.

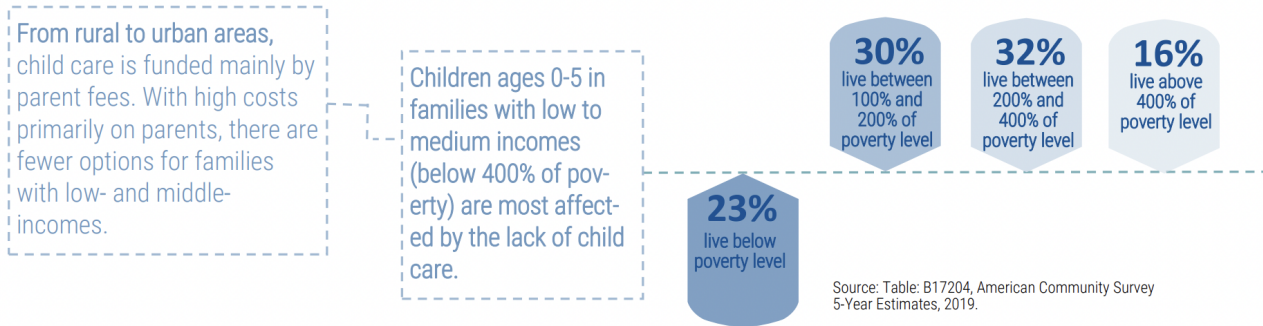
Source: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/michigan/muskegon?year=2023>



Source: <https://childcaredeserts.org/>

From a 2021 report by the Michigan League for Public Policy on the state of child care in Muskegon County:

Families Most Affected by Lack of Child Care in Muskegon County



Source: <https://mlpp.org/ThinkBabiesChildCare/Muskegon.pdf>

Root Cause Barrier

3. Childcare is not affordable for many families.

"You're giving up almost all your paycheck just for childcare. What's the point? And so then children are going to homes where they're not safe because it's a friend of a friend watching someone's child now."

"I did an early child care preschool program as a single mom for seven years because I couldn't afford to send my daughter, but I wanted her to have access to that. So I worked. I made eight bucks an hour, which is deplorable if you think about it because we're raising future leaders."

My community is missing: *"More quality and AFFORDABLE daycares."*

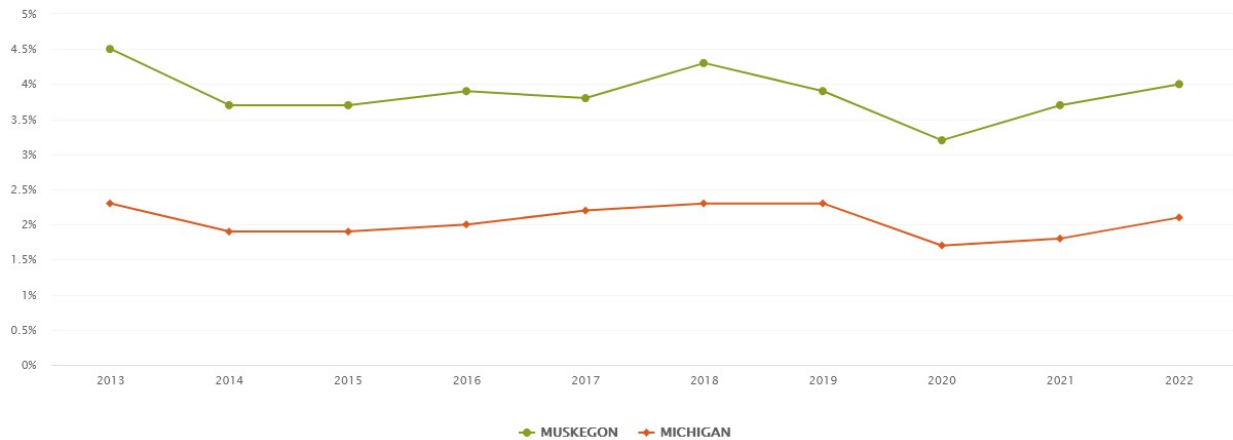
Based on data from 2021 and 2022, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps calculated that:

The average household in Muskegon County spent 43% of its income on childcare for two children.

Households in Michigan overall spent an average of 41%, versus 27% for all households across the U.S.

Source: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/michigan/muskegon?year=2023>

CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO 12 RECEIVING SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE (PAYMENTS) (PERCENT) - 2013-2022



Source: Kids Count Data Center, <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>

Root Cause Barrier

4. Some residents would benefit from additional supports for child and family development.

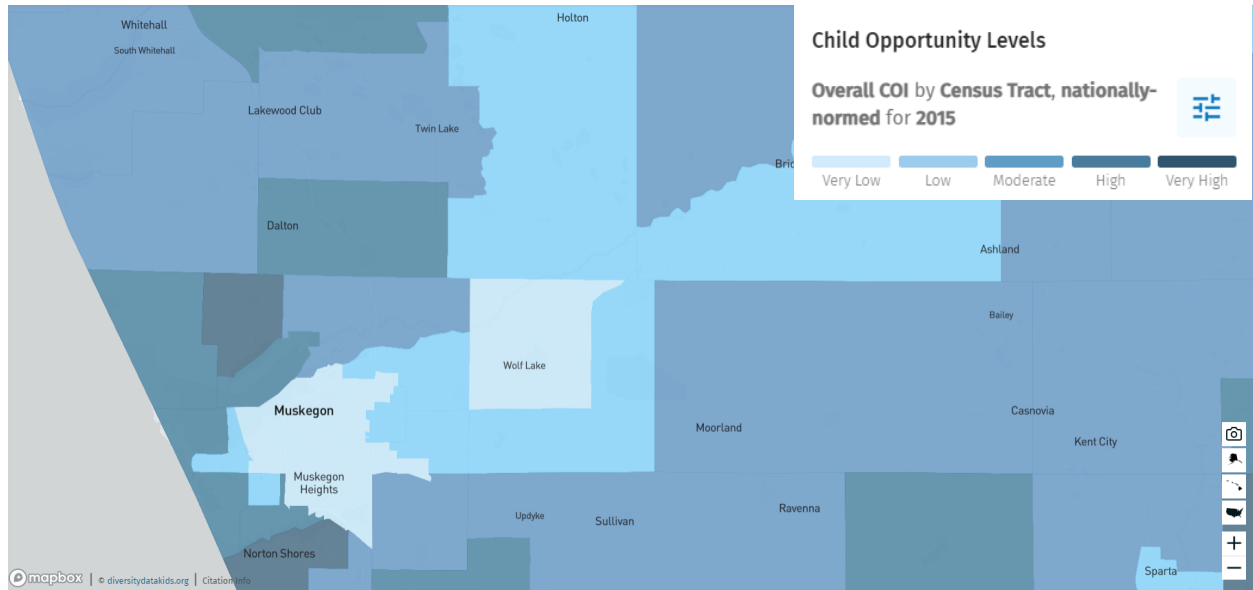
My hopes and dreams include: *Being together, family activities and vacations, understanding emotions better.*

"We need to have a class for parenting for young women to learn how to parent their children, how to feed their children."

My community is missing: *"More events or group functions that allow individuals to learn life skills to better care for themselves and their families when times get tough."*

The **Child Opportunity Index** is based on **29 indicators** across three domains: **Education, Health & Environment, and Social & Economic**. This is intended to measure and map the quality of resources and conditions that affect child development.

Child Opportunity Index, Muskegon County



Source: <https://www.diversitydatakids.org/child-opportunity-index>

Root Cause Barrier

5. There are limited after-school and summer programs and activities for youth and teens.

My community is missing: *“Positive things for kids out of school during the summer.”*

A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“Providing more programs for kids in the community.”*

Muskegon County is missing: *“More community centers for kids to go to.”*

A healthy and thriving community: *“Helps out with the youth.”*

My community is missing: *“Fun stuff for kids to do like after school programs.”*

Root Cause Barrier

6. Support for independent living is not fully accessible to many seniors, adults with special needs, and people with disabilities.

My community is missing: *“Support for special needs adults and elderly parents. Day programs for socializing and assistance with transportation.”*

My hopes and dreams include: *“Access to programs to support independence.”*

“[Seniors] need outdoor, indoor repairs, driveways need repaving. Fences-painted. Parts need to be replaced.”

A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“Helping those on a fixed income with yard work, especially the older people in need if they don’t have a lot of family support.”*

My hopes and dreams are: *“To age in place in a better apartment. To have access to good senior transportation access to good foods.”*

“Not a lot of affordable assisted living.”

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family include: *“Crisis intervention and family safety services.”*

Muskegon County Population Age 65+

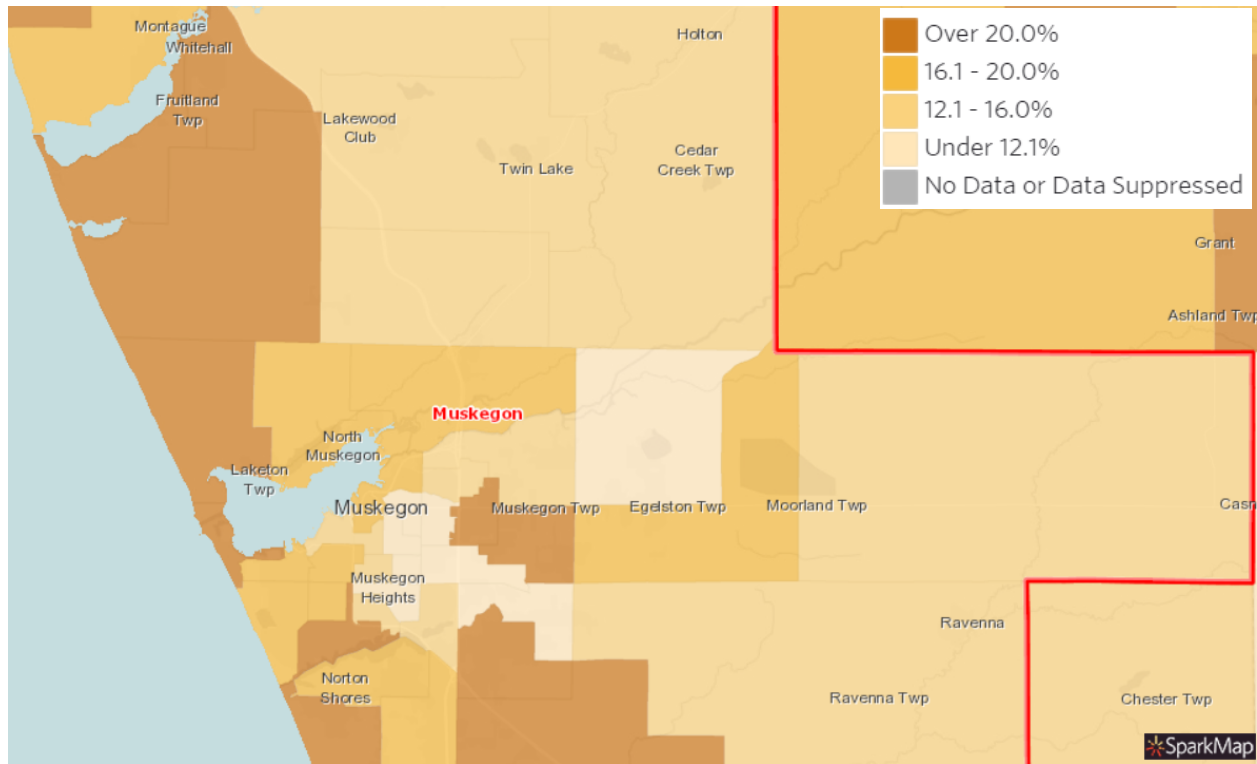
Report Area	Total Population	Population Age 65+	Population Age 65+, Percent
Muskegon County, MI	175,633	30,050	17.11%
Michigan	10,062,512	1,733,056	17.22%
United States	329,725,481	52,888,621	16.04%

Muskegon County Population with Any Disability

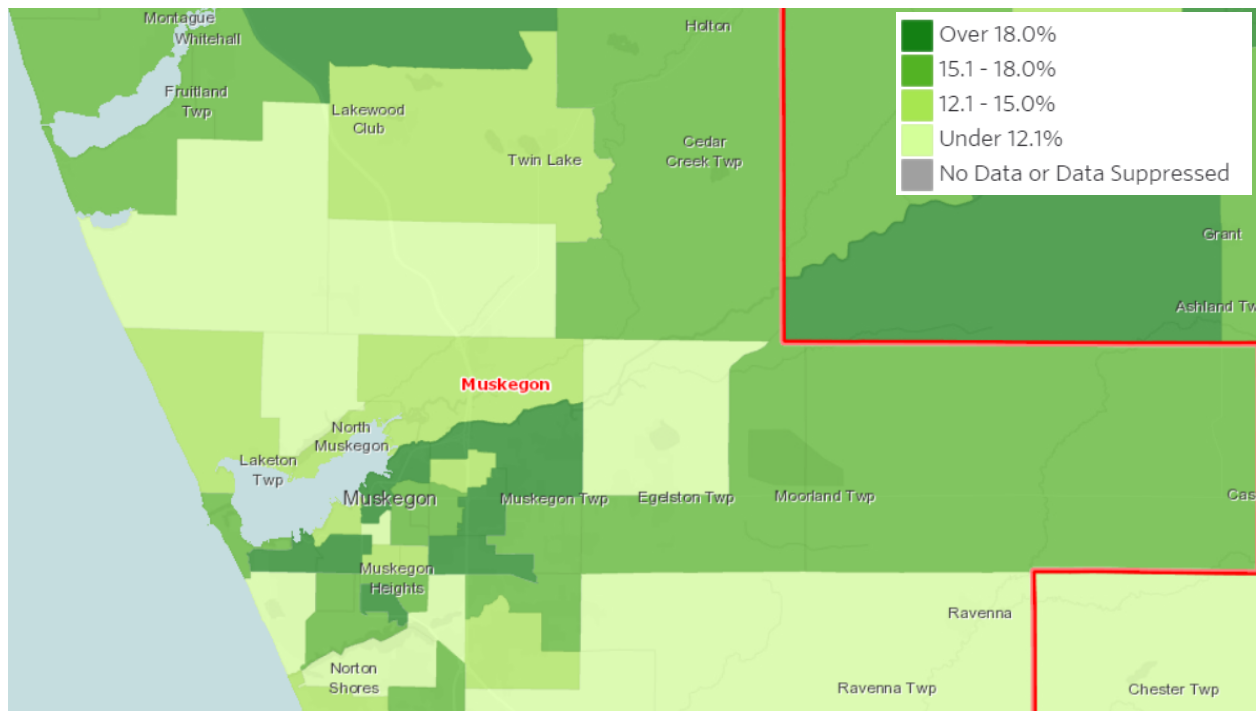
Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Disability Status Is Determined)	Population with a Disability	Population with a Disability, Percent
Muskegon County, MI	171,265	24,200	14.13%
Michigan	9,959,489	1,399,388	14.05%
United States	324,818,565	41,055,492	12.64%

Source, U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2017-2021 via <https://sparkmap.org/>

Population Age 65+ by Census Tract



Disabled Population by Census Tract



Source, U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2017-2021 via <https://sparkmap.org/>

Senior Resources administers the **Muskegon County Senior Millage**, which helps to enrich the lives of older adults and support their independence. Below is a partial list of some of the millage-funded programs, which have had **36,757 participants** in the first 3 quarters of fiscal year 2023.

Muskegon County Senior Millage

Total Count of Registered Participants per Program up to June 30, 2023

Category	Provider Name	Service Name	Participants
Educational			
	Muskegon Community Health Project	Community Health Worker	358
	Muskegon Community Health Project	Senior Navigator	611
	Senior Resources Contracted Service	MMAP Services	2,961*
Housing			
	City of Muskegon	Home Repair	56
	City of Muskegon Heights	Major Home Repair	117
	Community enCompass/Bethany Housing	Major Home Repair	23
	Living Word Church	Lawn Care	264
	Senior Resources Contracted Service	Outdoor Chore Services	171
	Trinity Village Nonprofit Housing Corp.	Major Home Repair	56
Legal			
	AgeWell Services	SafeSeniors - Investigative	516
	AgeWell Services	SafeSeniors - Outreach	17,930*
	Fair Housing Center of West Michigan	Education and Outreach	66
	Fair Housing Center of West Michigan	Housing Enforcement Services	19
	Legal Aid of Western Michigan	Legal Services	282*
	The Arc Muskegon	Legacy Planning	5
Mobility			
	AgeWell Services	Senior Transportation Program	590
	Disability Network of West Michigan	Transportation	65
	Living Word Church	Snow Removal	334
	Love INC	Ramps	47
	Ravenna Township	Grocery Trip	41
Nutritional			
	AgeWell Services	Congregate Meals	458
	AgeWell Services	Home Delivered Meals	1,141
	Casnovia Township	Monthly Luncheon	236
	Fruitport Lions Club	Power of Produce	4,546
	Muskegon YMCA	Veggie Van	793
	Senior Resources Contracted Service	Home Delivered Meals	34
	Senior Resources Contracted Service	Nutritional Supplements	26

Source: MCMS Fiscal Year 2023 Q3 Report, at <https://seniorresourceswmi.org/muskegon-county-senior-millage/>.

AgeWell Services hosts the SafeSeniors Elder Justice Collaborative, which helps to ensure the safety of older adults. Nationally:

- 1 in 10 Older Adults (60+) will experience abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.
- Only an estimated 1 in 24 cases of physical abuse are reported.
- Only an estimated 1 in 44 cases of financial exploitation are reported.
- 60% of physical abuse cases are family members.
- 85.5% of financial exploitation cases are family members, friends, or trusted others.

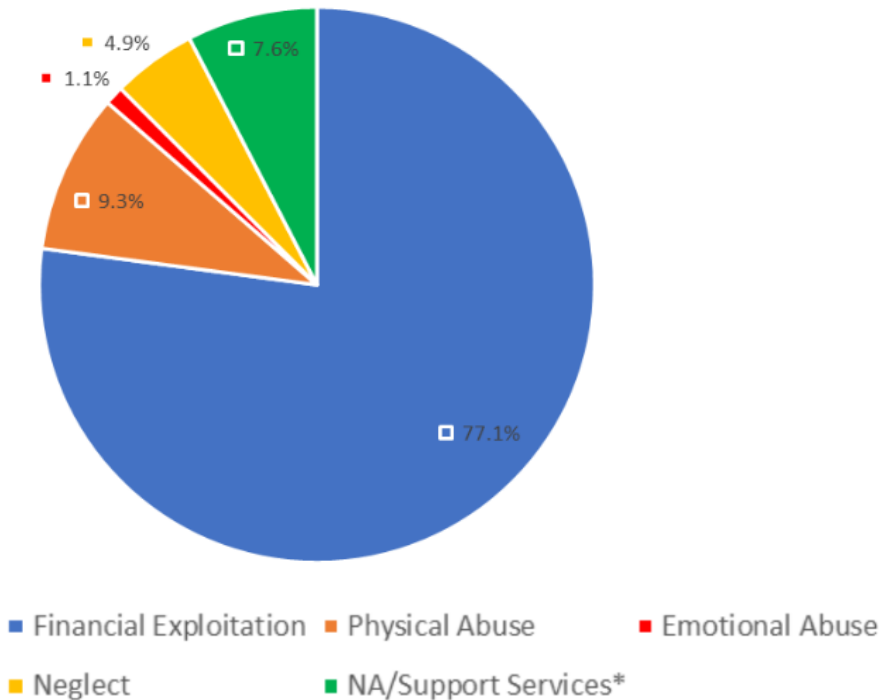
Cases of Elder Abuse reported to SafeSeniors Muskegon Multidisciplinary Team/Task Force

Case Status	Oct 1, 2022 - Aug 29, 2023	Oct 1, 2018 - Aug 29, 2023
Open	30	30
Pending /Charged	13	114
Closed	116	428
Total cases	159	572

These numbers do not represent all of the cases of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Muskegon County. Some cases are never reported, others are investigated/reviewed by Adult Protective Services and/or the Law Enforcement agency that received the complaint without coming to the MDT/Task Force for review/investigation.

Source: Information provided by the SafeSeniors Elder Justice Collaborative. Learn more at <https://safeseniors.info/>.

Distribution of SafeSeniors Muskegon Multidisciplinary Team/Task Force Cases



*No abuse/exploitation found; referred to support services as needed

Source: Information provided by the SafeSeniors Elder Justice Collaborative. Learn more at <https://safeseniors.info/>.

Root Cause Barrier

7. Caregivers often struggle to provide for themselves and others.

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“Time, family responsibilities, a lot of work responsibilities.”*

“I am disabled and can’t do a lot. I take care of my father. Who is 83.”

“Helping with food because my son is divorced and I have kids living with me on weekends. Food helps.”

My community is missing: *“Babysitters. We have searched for years and found that teenagers or young adults don’t want to babysit, or they don’t need to babysit because they have real jobs.”*

A healthy and thriving community has: *“Networks of support for those routinely care for children in their homes as their primary responsibility.”*

“Caregiver burnout is a real thing.”

In 2001, approximately 34% of Michigan children were in single parent households, and 3% were in the care of their grandparents.

Source: Kids Count Data Center, <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>

Senior Resources has trained Caregiver Support Specialists, training, and resources. Information is available online at <https://seniorresourceswmi.org/caregivers/>.

Additional Community Feedback

- **The lack of senior housing and assisted living facilities throughout the county gives many elderly residents who do not wish to leave their communities an additional reason to want to age in place.**

Current State

"The emergency room for years has been five or six hours. Easy. You can be there for eight hours."

"Health care access is getting more difficult."

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: "Our country's broken healthcare system."

My community is missing: "Help with medical costs."

My community is missing: "Mental Health care and compassion."

"No treatment centers for substance abuse."

"Our healthcare here in Muskegon is horrendous."

"We have a shortage in EMS."

"Lack of physicians and adequate health care facilities in this community."

Goal

Affordable healthcare supports to meet all mental, physical, and spiritual health needs are accessible to all.

"Everybody getting the same medical care regardless of insurance or finances."

"A hospital that can take care of people and not send them to Grand Rapids and has enough beds to hold the sick."

"Barrier free mental health access!"

"Everyone has what they need to be physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually well. "

"My concept of a healthy and thriving community is one where the population has access to health care, including mental health care regardless of socio-economic status, gender or sex, religion, ethnicity or nationality, etc."

"There is adequate health care - you can actually get into your physician, urgent cares are open and there is not a six hour wait at the Emergency Department."

"Health standards based on the needs of the people not the approvals of the insurance companies."

Bright Spots

"HealthWest has helped me with talk therapy."

"My community supports me with: "Insurance help."

"Sober living housing and treatment for mental health and alcoholism."

"I have had really good experiences with Orthopedic Associates of Muskegon."

"I get big support with my health, through Tanglewood."

"Specialists available to help with my health concerns."

"Public health clinics, information."

"Crisis intervention."

"Affordable in person therapy."

"There are resources that help me with my son's behavior."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Muskegon County does not have enough healthcare providers, facilities, and staff.
2. Muskegon County lacks support systems for specific long-term illnesses, gender and/or age specific needs, and culturally competent care.
3. Healthcare/insurance costs and medical debt cause many people to delay/avoid care.
4. Residents do not trust the local health system.
5. Many people lack time and resources to support their physical, mental, and spiritual health.
6. Some people lack sufficient access to help with substance use disorder.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Muskegon County lacks sufficient healthcare providers, facilities, and staff

My community is missing: *“More mental health/assisted living.”*

My community is missing: *“Mental health access! Even with my son having state insurance, I could not find a counselor to take him for 3 months! Then it wasn't a good fit but we stuck it out way longer than I should have because of the struggle of finding someone in the first place.”*

“We need... more pharmacy access past 9 o'clock at night.”

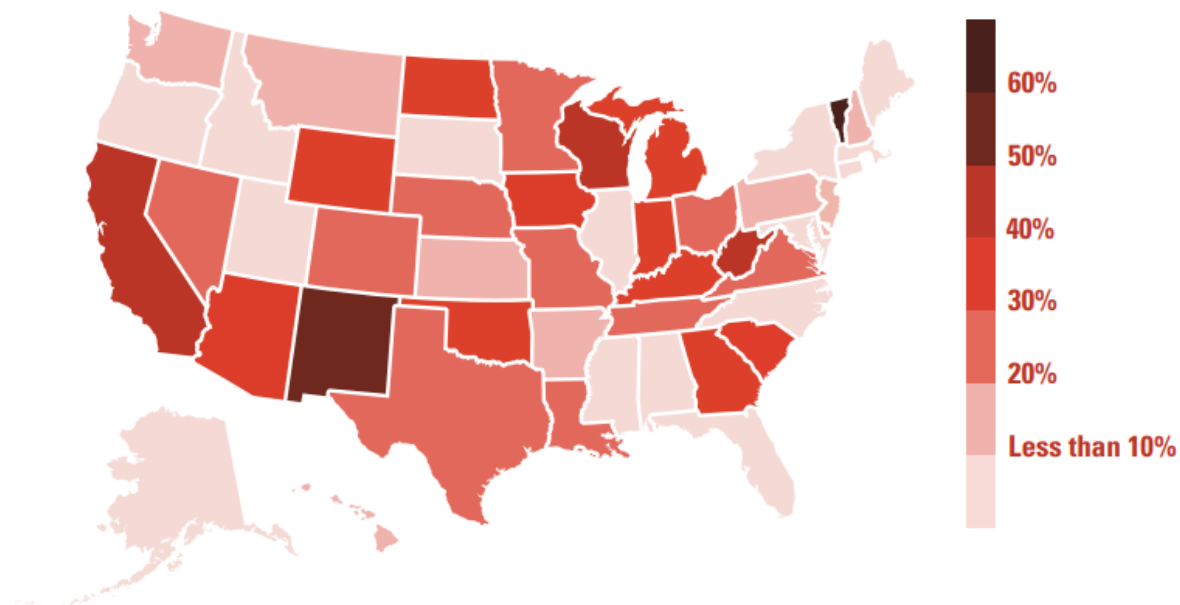
My community is missing: *“Urgent cares that are actually open.”*

In a healthy and thriving community: *“You don't have to wait to see a doctor.”*

My community is missing: *“More mental health support for kids!”*

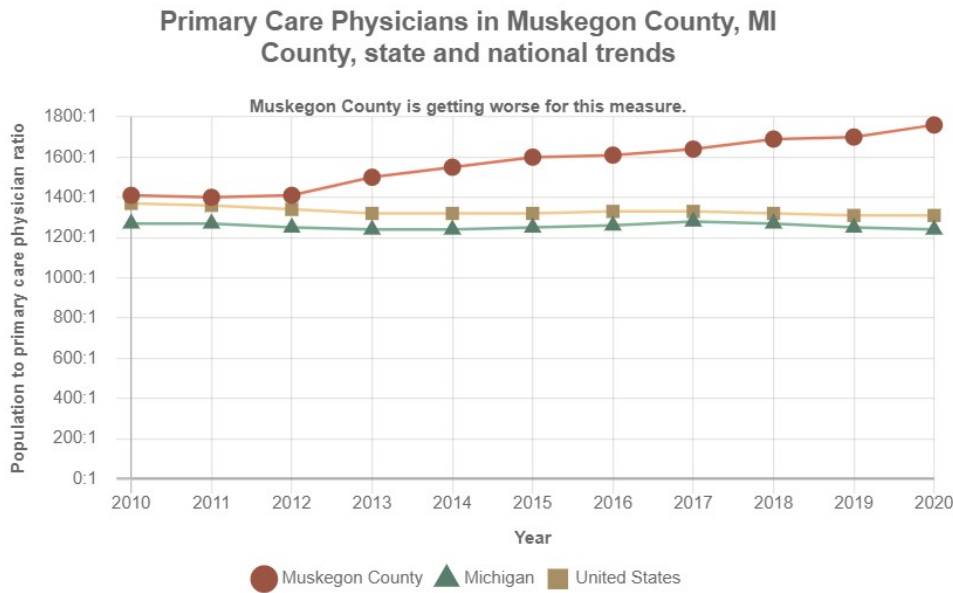
“Mercy (Trinity) hospital needs to be better staffed and supported.”

Percent of Hospitals Reporting a Critical Staffing Shortage, as of January 19, 2022



Source: HHS COVID-19 Community Profile Report, via the American Hospital Association
<https://www.aha.org/system/files/media/file/2022/01/Data-Brief-Workforce-Issues-012422.pdf/>

Ratio of Population to Primary Care Physicians



Notes:
 The data in this table reflect the average population served by a single primary care physician.

Source: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/michigan/muskegon?year=2023>

Ratio of population to care providers

CLINICAL CARE	Muskegon	Michigan	United States
Primary Care Physicians	1760:1	1240:1	1310:1
Dentists	1460:1	1270:1	1380:1
Mental Health Providers	410:1	320:1	340:1

Source: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/michigan/muskegon?year=2023>

Root Cause Barrier

2. Muskegon County lacks support systems for specific long-term illnesses, gender and/or age specific needs, and culturally competent care.

“Our community could use a support group for those families with Alzheimer's and dementia.”

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“Chronic pain.”*

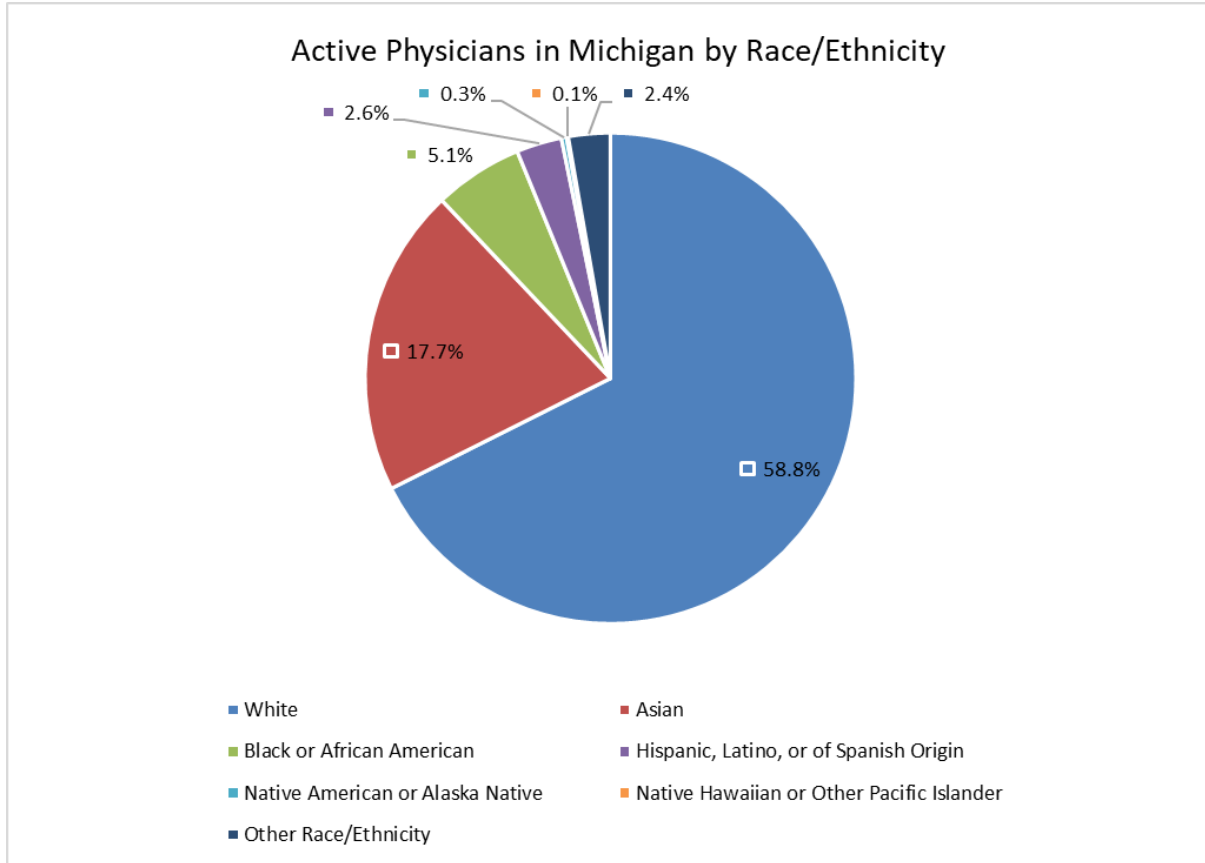
My community is missing: *“Horses for therapy kids.”*

"If we want to talk about seniors, we're all aging. We all have more needs as we age."

"[I am] 94-years-old; my feet and legs do not hold me."

"Bring back Planned Parenthood."

Active Physicians in Michigan by Race/Ethnicity



Source: [Michigan Physician Workforce Profile 2019-2020](#)

Active Physician Demographics and State Comparison Rank

Physician Demographics	Michigan	State Rank
Active Physicians per 100,000 Population	300.8	15
Percentage of Active Physicians who are Female	36.10%	25
Percentage of Active Physicians who are International Medical Graduates (IMGs)	29.60%	6
Percentage of Active Physicians who are Age 60 or Older	32.70%	29

Source: [Michigan Physician Workforce Profile 2019-2020](#)

Root Cause Barrier

3. Healthcare/insurance costs and medical debt cause many people to delay/avoid care.

“I personally can not afford to see a counselor. My husband and I both avoid the doctor for as long as possible due to having high deductible insurance.”

“I also work with the doctor's office and I see [seniors] choosing between paying for their prescriptions and... maintaining their lifestyle, and it's not usually an elaborate lifestyle.”

My hopes and dreams include: *“Reasonably affordable healthcare.”*

My community is missing: *“Affordable insurance for retired [people] other than Marketplace before Medicare.”*

“You can have insurance, and it only covers a portion, and then... you're stuck. And then the insurance company is going to have to also approve you for that.”

“Our children have state insurance but I'm always concerned about losing it due to small increases in income but not enough to actually cover medical bills if they had to go in my husband's work policy.”

2021 Mercy (Trinity) Health CHNA Community Survey - Affordability of Care

Muskegon County respondents who reported that cost prevented them from getting the following care/services in the past year	
Dental Care	21.4%
Vision Care	12.2%
Medical Care	12.0%
Mental Health Care	10.9%
Prescription Medication	9.1%
Hearing Services	5.2%
Flu Shot	1.3%
Substance Use Disorder Treatment	0.8%

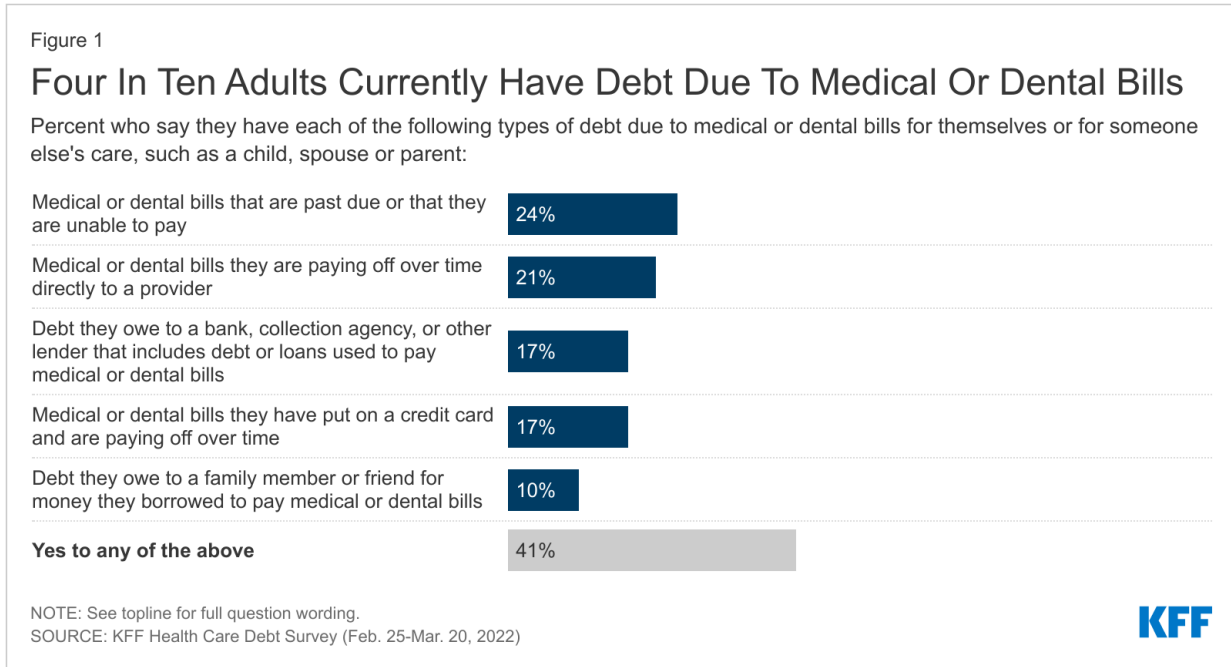
Based on a survey of residents, April 1 - May 10, 2021

Source: <https://mchp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Mercy-Health-Muskegon-2021-CHNA-Report.pdf>

Medical Debt as an Economic Barrier

		Muskegon County	Michigan
Overall Debt	Share with any Debt in Collections	35%	28%
	Median Amount of Debt	\$1,379	1,505
Medical Debt	% Medical Debt in Collections	20%	15%
	Median Amount of Medical Debt in Collections	\$459	\$492
	% Uninsured	6%	8%

Source: [Debt in America: An Interactive Map \(urban.org\)](#) - Feb. 2022



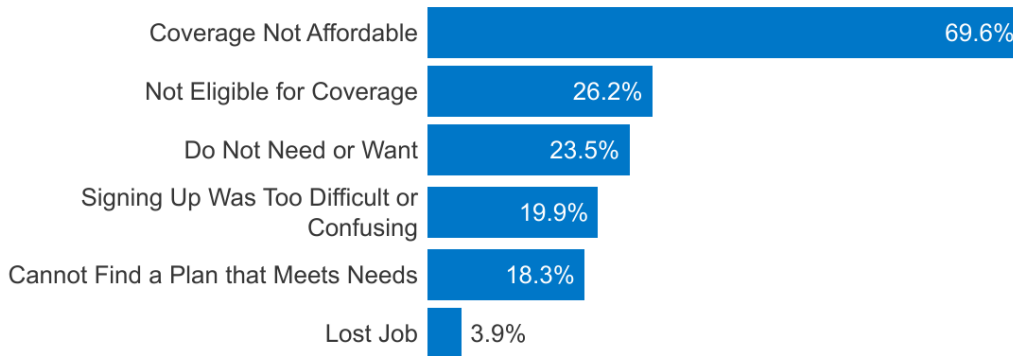
Source: <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/issue-brief/key-facts-about-the-uninsured-population/>

Types of Health Coverage, by age

Type of Coverage	Age: Under 19			Age: 19-34			Age: 35-64		
	Muskegon County	Michigan	United States	Muskegon County	Michigan	United States	Muskegon County	Michigan	United States
Employer based only	40%	51%	48%	53%	57%	55%	54%	62%	59%
Direct purchase only	4%	4%	5%	4%	7%	8%	6%	7%	9%
Medicare only	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	2%
Medicaid / means tested public coverage only	43%	32%	34%	29%	20%	15%	16%	14%	11%
No health coverage	2%	3%	5%	6%	8%	14%	6%	6%	10%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year-Estimates. B27010.](#)

Reasons for Being Uninsured Among Uninsured Nonelderly Adults, 2021

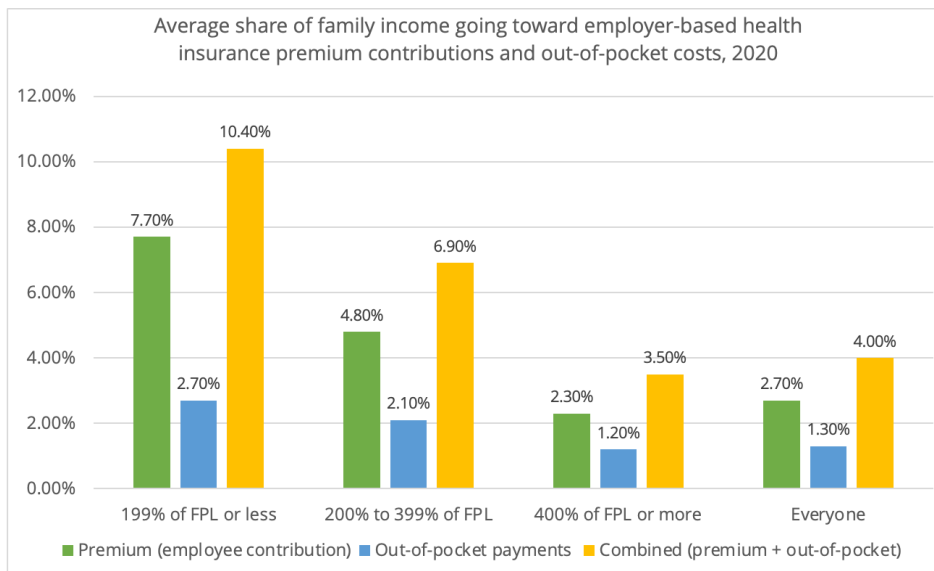


NOTE: Includes nonelderly individuals ages 18 to 64. Respondents can select multiple options.
SOURCE: KFF analysis of 2021 National Health Interview Survey.



Source: <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/issue-brief/key-facts-about-the-uninsured-population/>

Compared to higher-income people, those with lower incomes spend a significantly higher share of their income on health premiums and out-of-pocket expenses



Note: This analysis is among non-elderly people with employer-based coverage in households with a full-time worker and a policy holder. FPL stands for Federal Poverty Level. In 2020, the poverty level for a family of four was \$26,200.

Source: [KFF analysis of Current Population Survey](#)

Root Cause Barrier

4. Residents do not trust the local health system.

My community is missing: *“An organized hospital.”*

“We need more than one hospital. We need competition.”

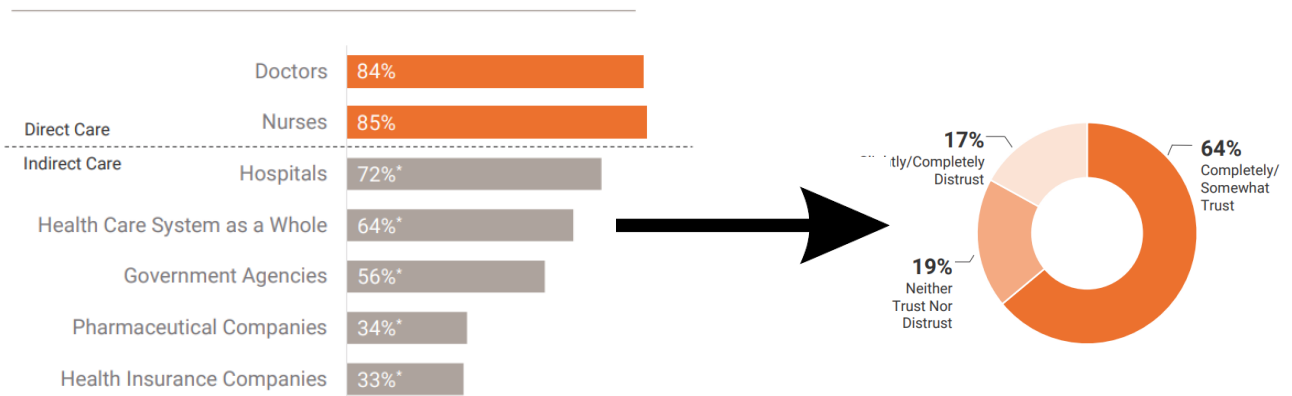
My community is missing: *“A quality healthcare system where services are coordinated and resources are available when needed.”*

“We are very upset over the fact that it is a non-profit, faith-based organization who has their name on a peace arena in downtown Muskegon. If they have that many millions of dollars, costs should be reduced or employees should be making a decent wage.”

Nationwide Public Trust in Direct and Indirect Health Care Systems

The Public

For the general public, trust is highest for clinicians—doctors (84%) and nurses (85%)*



Source: [NORC Surveys of Trust in the U.S. Health Care System, 2021](#)

2021 Mercy (Trinity) Health CHNA Community Survey - Quality of Care

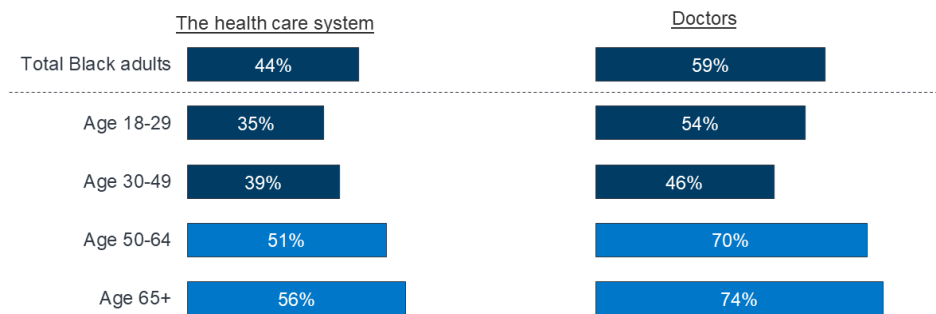
Quality of Care	Muskegon County
Respondents surveyed who report that they have choices in where they go for healthcare	55.3%
Respondents surveyed who report that they can get good medical care when they need it	61.7%
Respondents surveyed who report that it is easy to see a primary care provider	54.3%

Based on a survey of residents, April 1 - May 10, 2021

Source: <https://mchp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Mercy-Health-Muskegon-2021-CHNA-Report.pdf>

Younger Black Adults Less Likely To Trust Doctors And The Health Care System

AMONG BLACK ADULTS: Percent who say they can trust ... to do what is right for them or their community almost all of the time or most of the time:



Source: KFF/The Undeclared Survey on Race and Health, conducted Aug. 20-Sept. 14, 2020). <https://www.kff.org/report-section/kff-the-undefeated-survey-on-race-and-health-main-findings/>

Root Cause Barrier

5. Many people lack time and resources to support their physical, mental, and spiritual health.

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *“Lack of motivation/someone to help push me.”*

“Time, my goals are not career driven but my career and the amount of time I spend on my career are preventing from my personal goals with faith commitments, family time and mental health down time.”

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *“Myself.”*

“Mental health is still so prevalent- need more help.”

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *“Time, money, and in turn stress.”*

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are: *“That we will be more physically and mentally healthy than we are now.”*

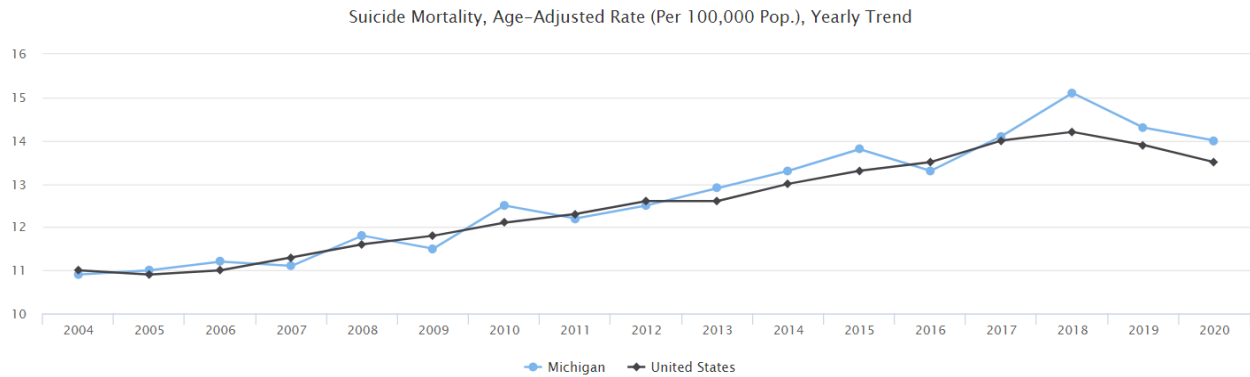
What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *“My mental health. I deal with depression.”*

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *“Lack of sleep, lack of exercise, watching too much TV/listening to radio or working on the computer.”*

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *“Self-doubt, laziness.”*

“Sometimes it is just me getting in my own way.”

Age-Adjusted Suicide Mortality Rate, U.S. and Michigan



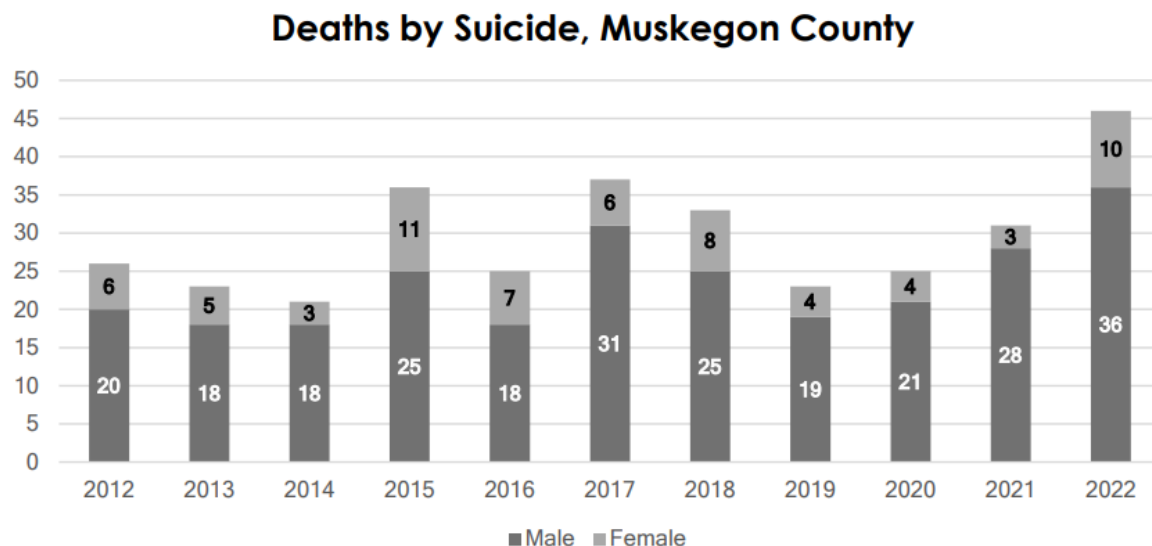
Source: [CDC - National Vital Statistics System](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/tables/vital_tables/2016-2020). Accessed via [CDC WONDER](https://wonder.cdc.gov/). 2016-20, graph from <https://sparkmap.org/>

Age Ranges of Deaths by Suicide in Muskegon County in 2022

DEATHS BY SUICIDE	Total	Percent
Age 0-17	1	2.2%
18-25	7	15.2%
26-44	20	43.5%
45-64	12	26.1%
65 and over	6	13.0%
TOTAL	46	

Source: <https://mimedicaexaminer.com/sites/default/files/2023-07/2022%20Annual%20Report%20Final.pdf>

Deaths by Suicide in Muskegon County by Year and Gender



Source: <https://mimedicaexaminer.com/sites/default/files/2023-07/2022%20Annual%20Report%20Final.pdf>

Root Cause Barrier

6. Some people lack sufficient access to help with substance use disorder.

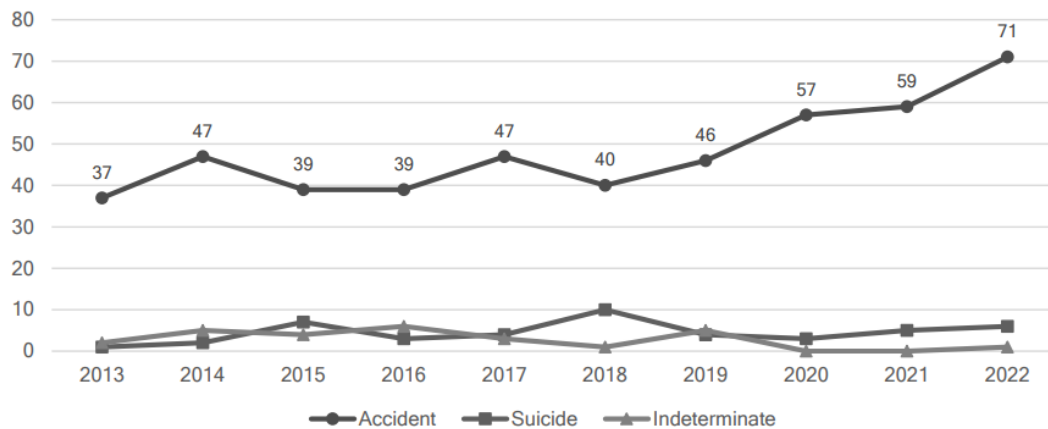
My community is missing: *“Sober living.”*

“We need less promotion of drinking especially of young people and less promotion of the stores that sell smoking type drugs (unless for those that need it for medical reasons) (cancer, extreme pain).”

“No treatment centers for substance abuse.”

My community is missing: *“Evening groups or classes for parents and addicts. I worked 7am - 3pm in Spring Lake and there is nothing I can attend.”*

Drug-Related Deaths, Muskegon County

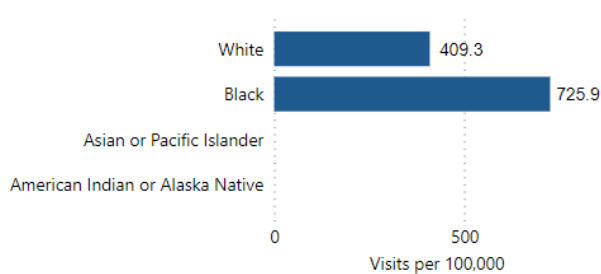


Source: <https://mimedicalexaminer.com/sites/default/files/2023-07/2022%20Annual%20Report%20Final.pdf>

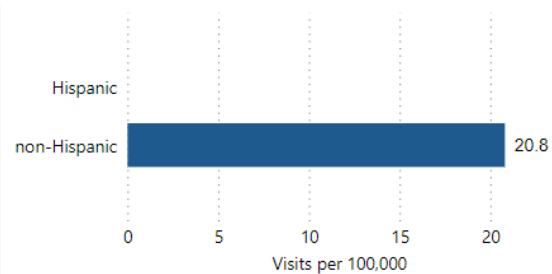
Overdose ED Visits in Muskegon County

Overdose Emergency Department Visits: October 2021 to September 2022

Rate by Race

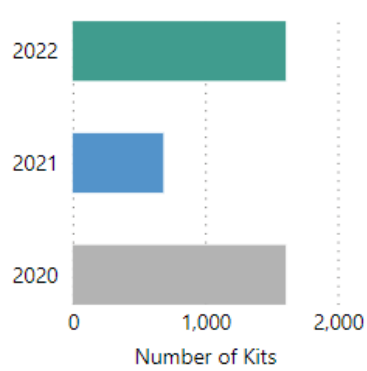


Rate by Ethnicity



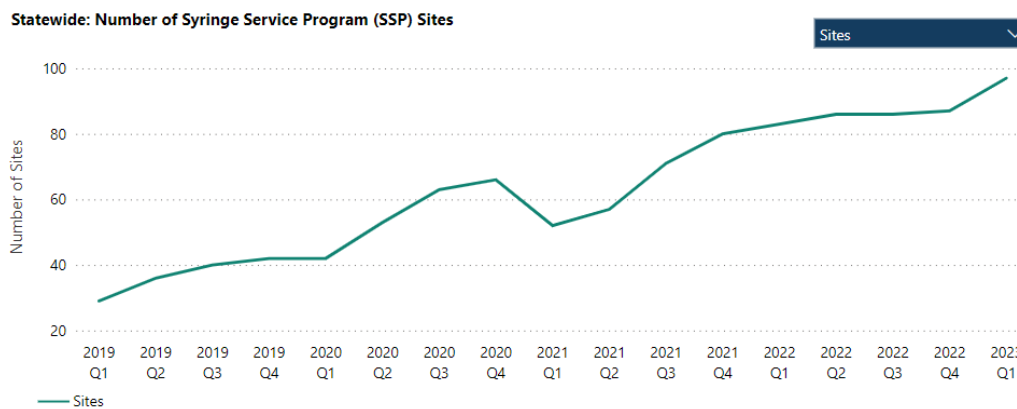
Source: <https://www.michigan.gov/opioids/category-data>

Naloxone Portal Kit Orders in Muskegon County



Source: <https://www.michigan.gov/opioids/category-data>

Syringe Serve Program Sites in Michigan



Source:

<https://www.michigan.gov/opioids/category-data>

Additional Community Feedback

- Many residents noted that issues with their physical health were a key barrier preventing them from reaching their goals.
- Veterans lack reliable transportation to VA hospitals in other areas and want suicide groups/meetings just for veterans.

Current State

"Inconvenient bike paths limits access to free exercise during warmer months."

"Unhealthy food trucks that I spend hours in the weather to get to."

My community is missing: "A pool and community fitness center."

"The community needs more authentic ethnic food options."

My community is missing: "Access to healthy and affordable food."

Muskegon County is missing: "Community centers with low-cost options for swimming, working out, and community education classes"

Goal

Affordable, healthy food that meets nutritional needs and knowledge and opportunities to promote health and fitness are accessible to all.

"Fitness facilities/activities for all."

"Lots of places for exercise and leisure."

"More community gardens."

"Having healthy meals."

"Eat healthy, have a garden."

"Grocery stores serve healthy and affordable foods."

"A community produce store."

"More food accessibility."

"Options for exercise like bike paths, park, hiking trails and getting people to use them regularly ."

"No hunger."

"Filled fridges, freezers, and cupboards."

"Citizens have access to fresh food."

"May there be structured community pools and exercise classes, to be offered to all senior citizens."

Bright Spots

"Meals on wheels is so greatly appreciated."

"The [volunteers] who bring meals."

"Soup kitchens, and food trucks."

"The [YMCA] Veggie Van."

"Our church community has been engaged in community garden—these produce are distributed to anyone needing vegetables"

"We have... our neighbors, their gardens, They have little stands and I love it 'cause you know it's gonna be right from the garden."

"Farmers Market is great"

"Tanglewood."

"My Silver Sneakers card "

"Whitehall [Community Center]. It's really been great "

"Free food at school."

"Daily lunches at Orchard View Senior Center."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Many individuals/families cannot afford a sufficient amount of healthy food.
2. Changing eligibility requirements and inflation has worsened food insecurity for many residents.
3. Some communities in Muskegon County lack access to grocery stores/fresh food retailers.
4. Lack of transportation and/or mobility impede food access.
5. Some residents lack sufficient opportunities and supports to engage in physical fitness.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Many individuals/families cannot afford a sufficient amount of healthy food.

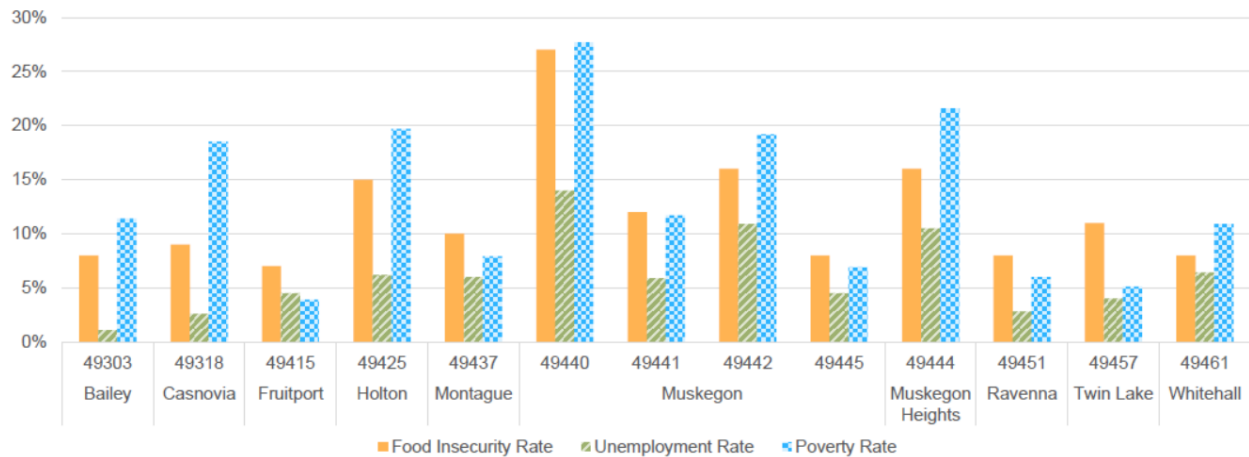
My hopes and dreams are: *“Just to live a quiet life and have enough to eat...”*

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are; *“To be able to have food on the table.”*

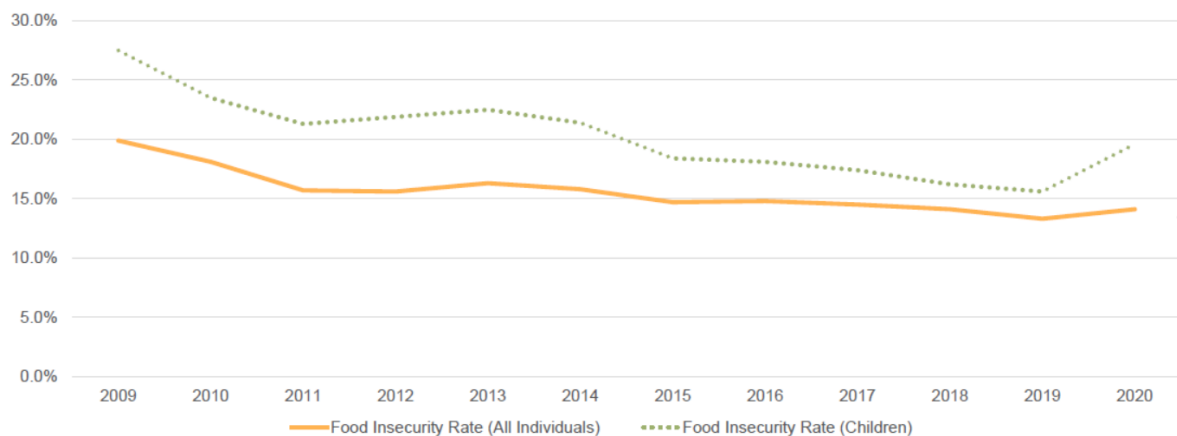
What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“I can't feed the family.”*

“I get food from food trucks and food banks.”

Food Insecurity, Unemployment, and Poverty by ZIP Code (Muskegon County, 2020)



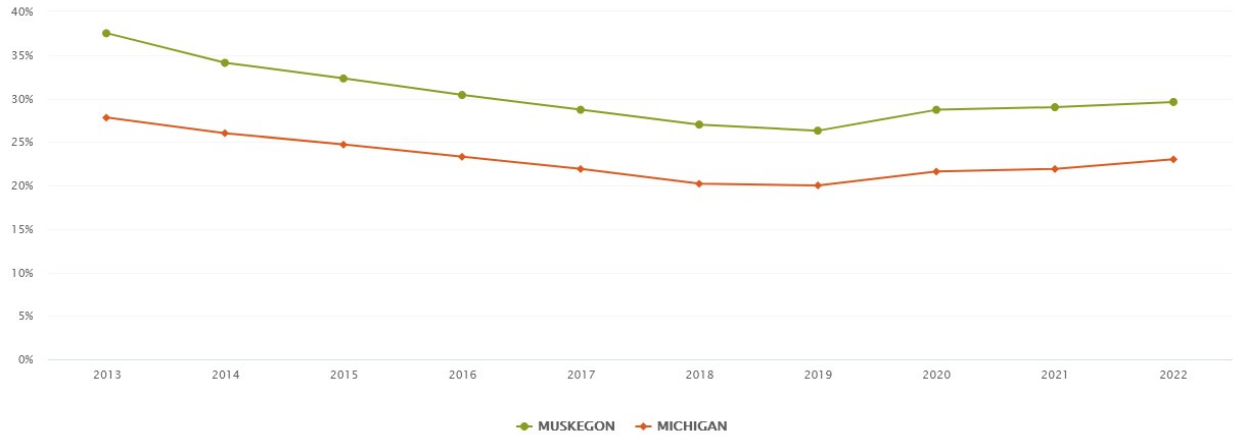
Map the Meal Gap Trends (Muskegon County, 2009-2020)



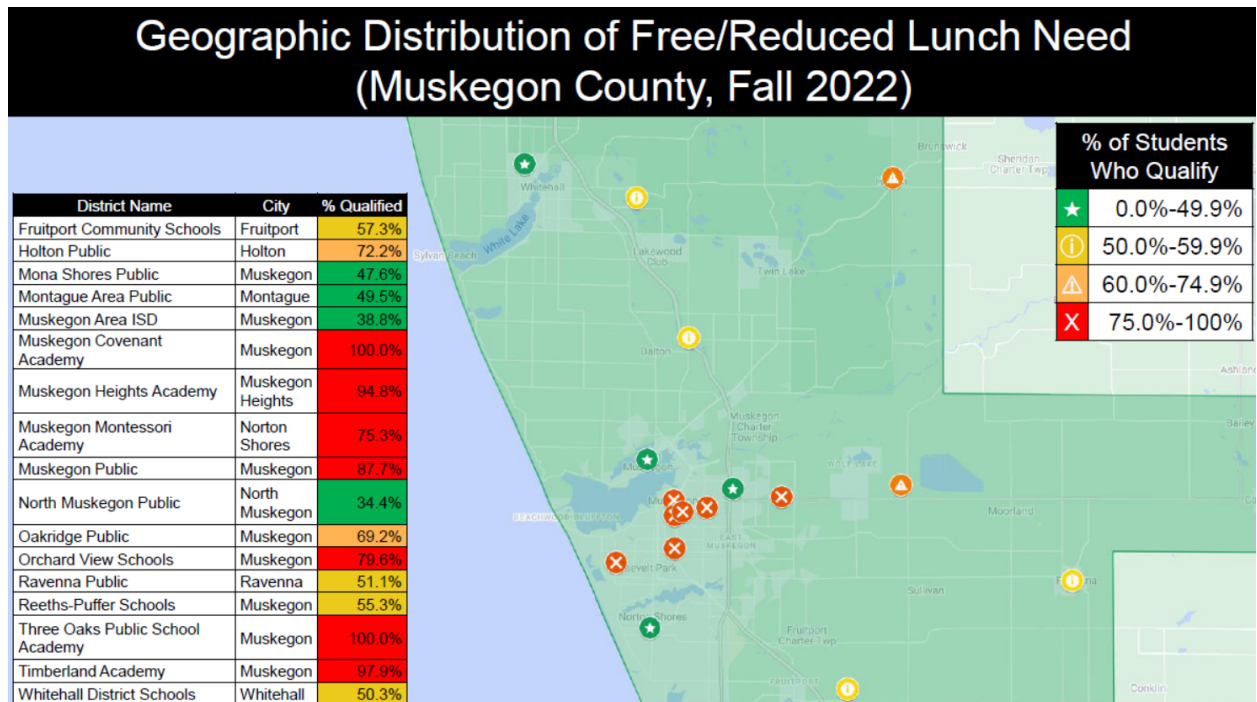
Source: [Feeding America Food Insecurity Map](#)

More Muskegon Children receive food assistance than the state as a whole, by percentage.

CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO 18 RECEIVING FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FAP) BENEFITS (PERCENT)
 - 2013-2022



Source: [The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center](#)



Source: Data from [Economically Disadvantaged Counts \(mischooldata.org\)](#), map courtesy of Feeding America West Michigan.

Root Cause Barrier

2. Changing eligibility requirements and inflation have worsened food insecurity for many residents.

“The cost of everything is so high we can’t live. We got cut off food stamps, and now we have no food.”

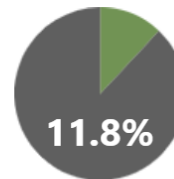
My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are: *“Keep getting food until things get better.”*

FOOD INSECURE POPULATION IN MUSKEGON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

20,680



FOOD INSECURITY RATE IN MUSKEGON COUNTY, MICHIGAN



ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE IN MUSKEGON COUNTY, MICHIGAN



21% Above SNAP threshold of 200% poverty

79% Below SNAP, Other Nutrition Programs threshold of 200% poverty

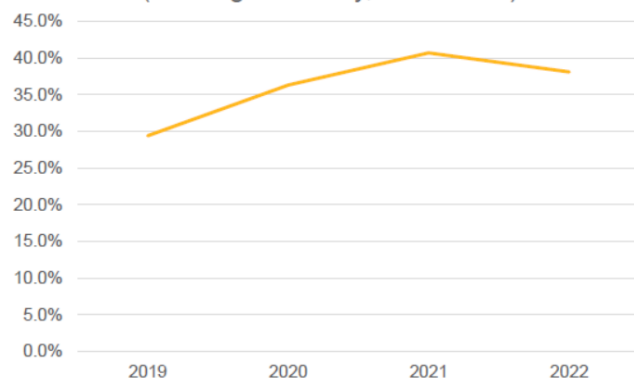
Source: [Feeding America Food Insecurity Map](#)

Seniors and other living on fixed incomes have been hit hard by rising food prices.

Seniors make up a larger percentage of mobile pantry guests in 2022 than in 2019.

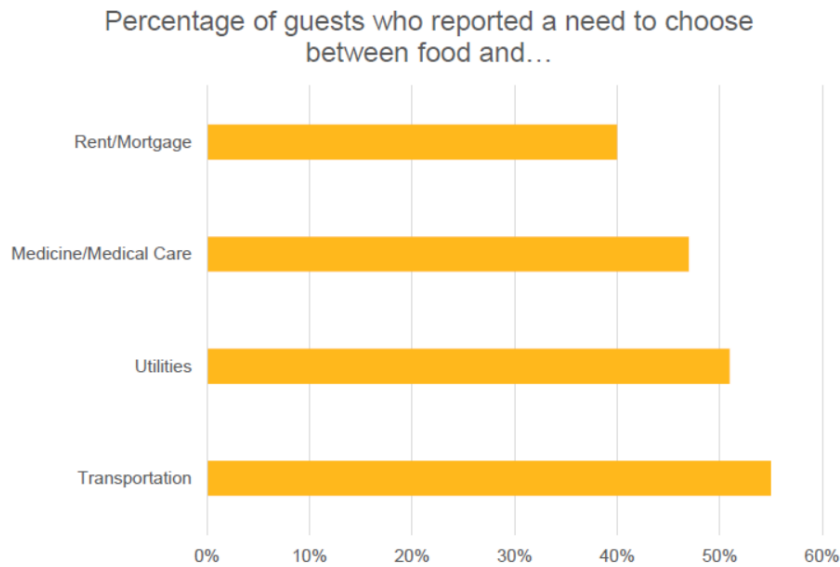
In a Feeding America West Michigan Muskegon County Survey, several senior mobile pantry users noted that they were ineligible for SNAP in spite of having primary care of their grandchildren.

Seniors as a % of All Mobile Pantry Guests (Muskegon County, 2019-2022)



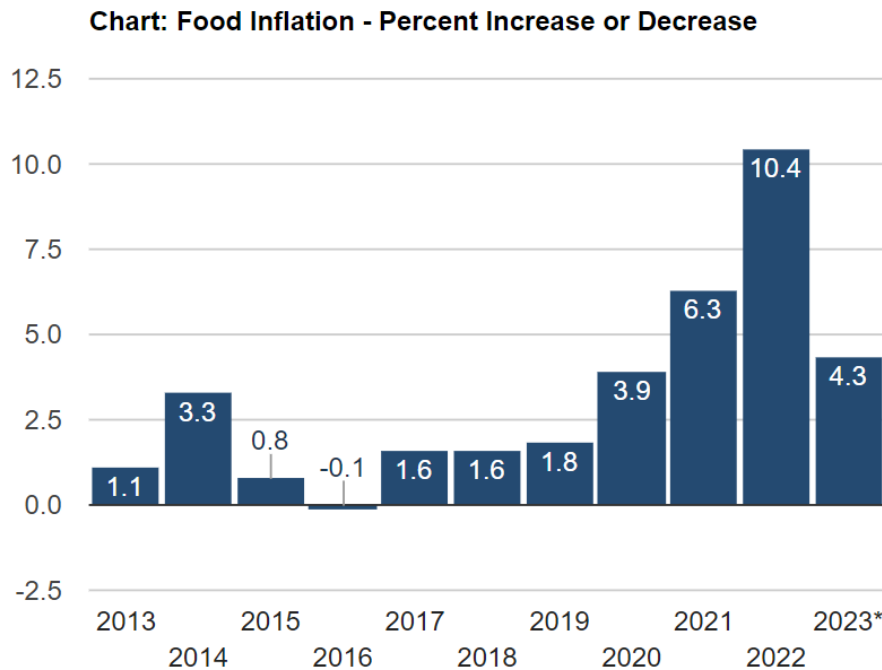
Source: [PUBLICPOLICY.COM \(feedwm.org\)](#)

The Feeding America West Michigan Mobile Food Pantry Program 2021 Evaluation Report by Public Policy Associates found that a high percentage of mobile food pantry users had to choose between food and other essentials:



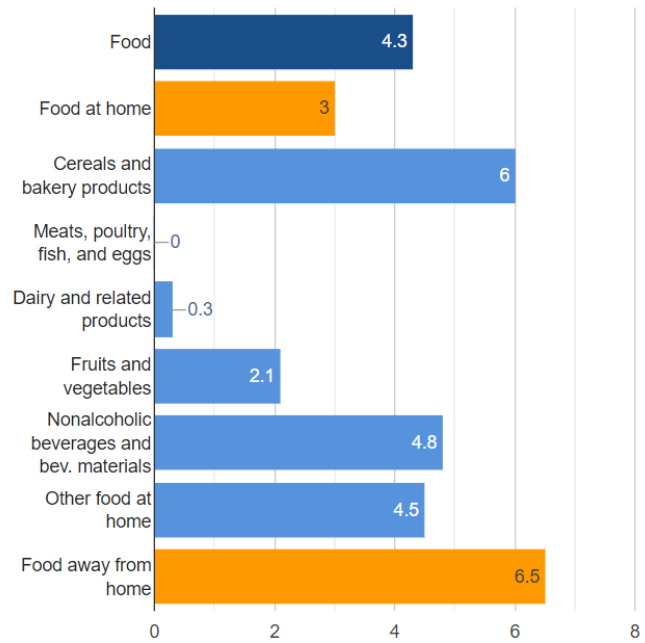
Source: [PUBLICPOLICY.COM \(feedwm.org\)](http://PUBLICPOLICY.COM/feedwm.org)

Increasing Cost of Food in the United States over the Last Decade



Source: <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/food-inflation-in-the-united-states/>

Major Food Category Expenditures
12-month Increase, from
August 2022 - August 2023



Source: <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/food-inflation-in-the-united-states/>

Root Cause Barrier

3. Some communities in Muskegon County lack access to grocery stores/fresh food retailers.

My community is missing: *“Grocery stores.”*

“For all of the high rise apartment buildings in the “downtown” area there is no regular grocery store available.”

“There used to be little family-owned grocery stores all over... but they can't make it.”

“No real grocery store for the citizens of the community In Muskegon Heights.”

“We had to ask the dollar store over here to get bread... because otherwise we had to buy our bread from Westco and nobody could afford it.”

Food Environment - Neighborhoods in Food Deserts (2019)

	Population (2010)	# of Food Desert Census Tracts	Food Desert Population	% of Population Living in a Food Desert
Muskegon County	172,188	16	57,892	34%
Michigan	9,883,640	339	1,131,629	11%
United States	308,745,538	9,293	39,074,974	13%

Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, *USDA - Food Access Research Atlas*. 2019.

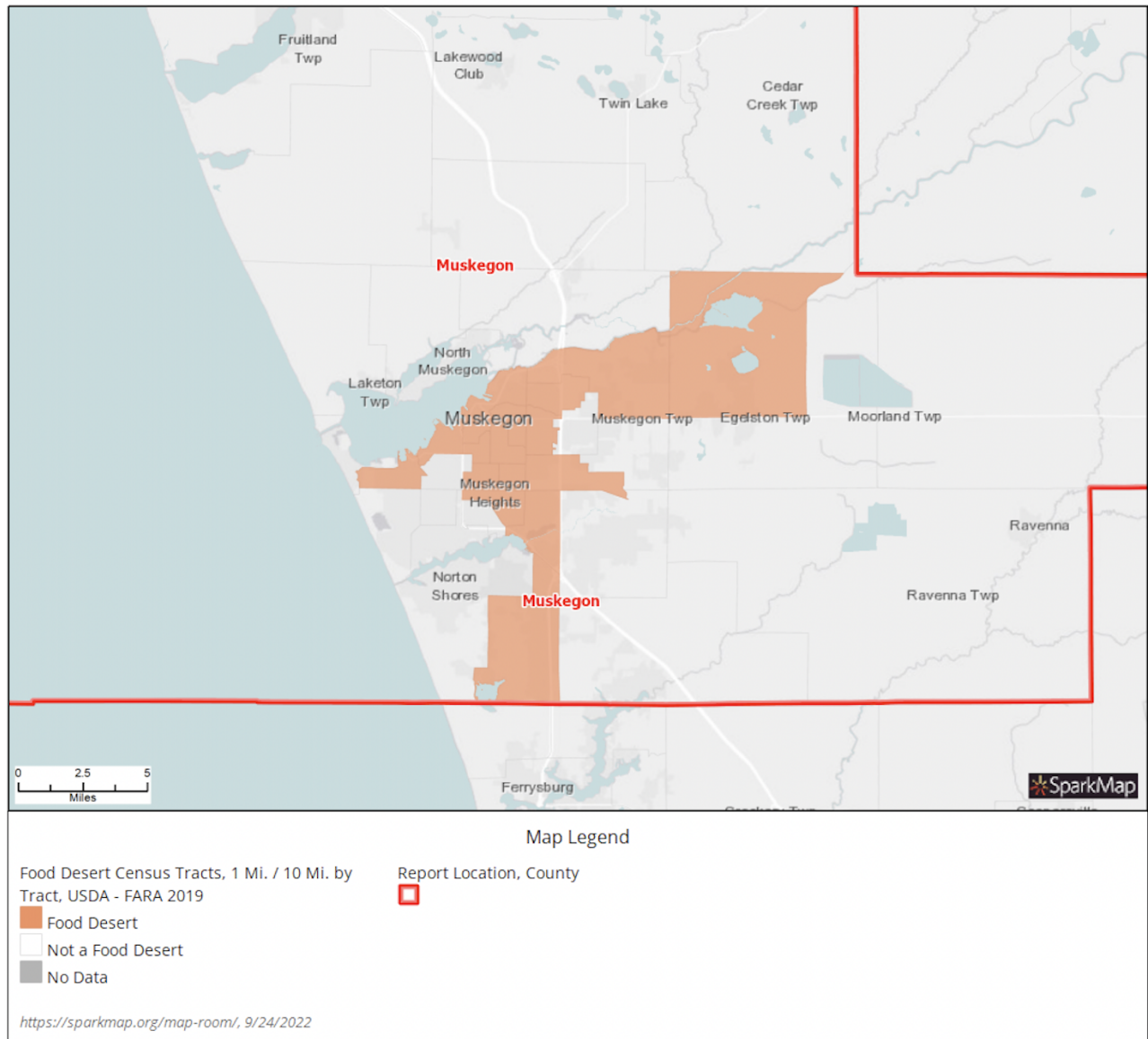
Food Deserts in Muskegon by Census Tract (2019)

1 mile from grocery store (urban) / 10 miles from grocery store (rural)

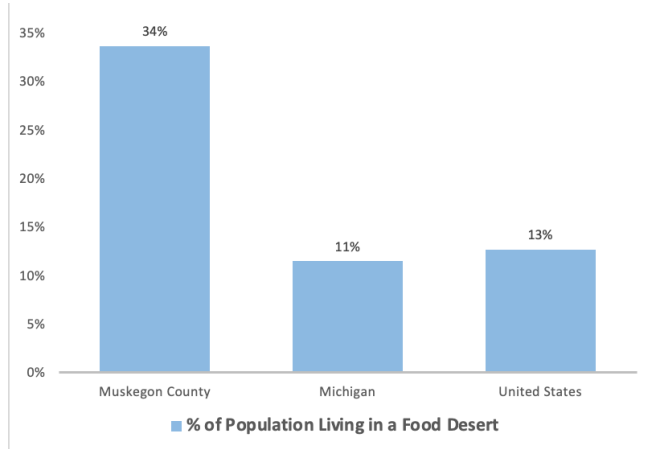
Food Desert: a low-income census tract where a substantial number or share of residents has low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. Some census tracts that contain supermarkets or large grocery stores may be a food desert if many people within that census tract are more than 1 mile (urban areas) or 10 miles (rural areas) from the nearest supermarket.

Food Desert Tract: at least 33 percent of the people living in that census tract (or a minimum of 500 people) must have low access to a supermarket or large grocery store.

Low-Income Census Tract: the poverty rate for that tract is at least 20 percent (for tracts not located within a metropolitan area, the median family income is below 80 percent of statewide median family income.



Percent of Population Living in a Food Desert



Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, *USDA - Food Access Research Atlas*. 2019.

Root Cause Barrier

4. Lack of transportation and/or mobility impede food access.

"Grocery shopping now also requires a car."

"The community helps to support me by providing Meals on Wheels and senior transportation for medical appointments."

My community helps support me with "Grocery delivery services" but is missing "Public transportation."

My community is missing: "Grocery stores that are easily accessible for people that do not drive."

AgeWell Services administers the Meals on Wheels program in Muskegon, Oceana, and Ottawa counties, delivering food to homebound seniors age 60+, as well as individuals of any age needing homebound meals. Under age 60, there is a minimum cost of \$7.00 per meal. For those 60 and older, donations are accepted. For those that are not eligible for meals that are funded, in part, by grants there is an option for full-pay meals with a monthly billing. SNAP Benefits are also accepted.

In August 2023, the Meals on Wheels grant funded programs served **578 people a total of 12,834 meals.**

As of September 12, 2023, there were **600 people on the waitlist.**

Source: <https://agewellservices.org/services-for-seniors/meals-on-wheels/> with numbers provided by AgeWell Services.

Root Cause Barrier

5. Some residents lack sufficient opportunities and supports to engage in physical fitness.

"We need a senior public pool... that we can go to in the wintertime so we can exercise."

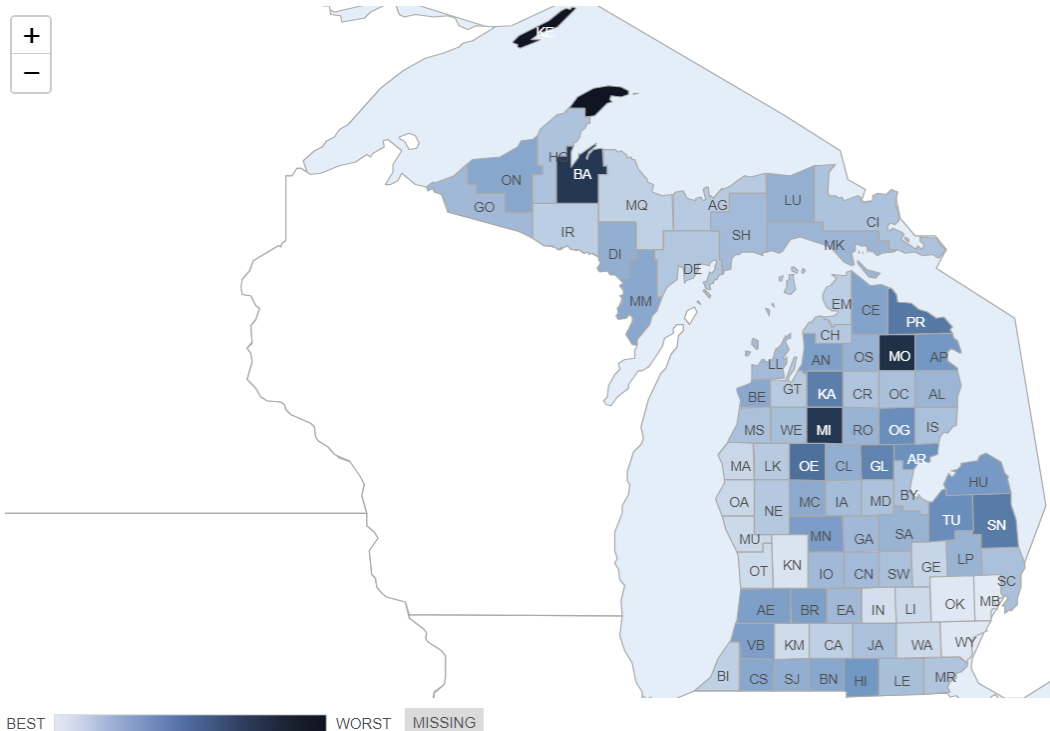
"I don't feel like either the city or the county is as vibrant in terms of what it offers for health and fitness as my previous place where I lived. And that's absolutely central to a thriving community."

"I have no ability to drive and get out of the house to get to an exercise facility."

"A healthy community provides ample recreational opportunities for its residents. This includes well-maintained parks, green spaces, trails, and sports facilities that encourage physical activity, sports, and leisure. Access to nature and outdoor activities promotes overall well-being."

"There is Tanglewood where I can go to meet others, form friendships, exercise, but their pricing is limiting me on what I can participate in."

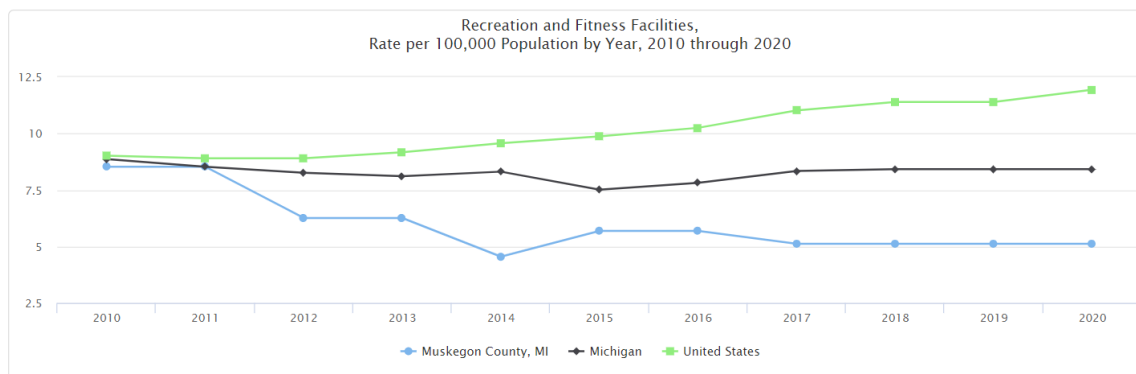
Access to Exercise Opportunities in Michigan



Muskegon County rates highly in terms of **Access to Exercise Opportunities** (88% of residents live close to a park or recreational facility) but well below the state and national average for **Recreation and Fitness Facility Access**. Surveys mentioned the need for additional facilities throughout the county for year-round indoor access to fitness opportunities.

Recreation and Fitness Facility Access

Report Area	Total Population (2020)	Number of Establishments	Establishments, Rate per 100,000 Population
Muskegon County, MI	175,824	9	5.12
Michigan	10,077,331	849	8.42
United States	331,449,275	39,562	11.94



Source: US Census Bureau, *County Business Patterns*. Additional data analysis by CARES. 2020., table from <https://sparkmap.org/>

For Seniors, AgeWell Services has a Wellness Center at Tanglewood Park in Norton Shores, and also hosts other Wellness Activities at various locations throughout the county, including Muskegon Heights, Fruitport, Whitehall, Holton, and North Muskegon.

In August 2023, the Wellness Program served 382 people for a total of 1,713 classes/fitness trips. This number includes all classes attended (which includes yoga and other fitness classes as well as art), visits to the exercise room (which has cardio equipment and weights), and more.

Source: <https://agewellservices.org/services-for-seniors/wellness-center-at-tanglewood-park/> and AgeWell Services.

An updated list of all programs funded through the **Muskegon County Senior Millage** is hosted online by **Senior Resources** at <https://seniorresourceswmi.org/muskegon-county-senior-millage/>.

Additional Community Feedback

- **Residents want more access to pools not only for physical activity but also so that children have more opportunities for swimming lessons to prevent drownings.**
- **Some seniors expressed a desire for smaller, easier to navigate grocery stores.**

Current State

"Not enough local business or mom and pop stores or business."

"It seems that there are so few opportunities to save money each paycheck as this typically goes to bills or other necessities."

"Not enough work."
"We have some employers. We need more."

My hopes and dreams are:
"To move to a place with better employment opportunities."

"We need more local business owners with brick to fill Peck and Broadway."

"They also need to increase the living wage rates around here so that people are not working two jobs"

Goal

A strong local economy and resources that support small businesses, living wage jobs, job training, and financial literacy are available to all.

"The community would prioritize education and have excellent schools, colleges, and vocational training programs."

"Businesses, shops, restaurants/bars."

"To not have to worry about money."

"Supports for entrepreneurs and small businesses."

"Education and positive mentors."

"Jobs where you can call out sick without any worries."

"Jobs with better pay and benefits."

"Thriving local businesses, successful community events, monies brought in through concerts or other activities that promote tourism that bring in sustainable resources."

"A place where there are opportunities to better oneself, and make a living wage to be self sufficient."

"Generational wealth."

Bright Spots

"I work, worship, volunteer in the community I live in. It helps dollars circulate in our community."

"Programs for selective career paths."

"Individuals of the community support our small business."

"MI Works has been awesome helping me with copies and always positive with encouraging attitudes to never give up."

The community helps support me through: "An understanding workplace in regards to being a mom of young children."

"My boss just sent me to ILA Executive Class to get my certification to work towards my personal goal."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Many jobs do not provide sufficient income and/or good benefits.
2. Many people lack the education, training, or opportunity to obtain good jobs.
3. Many people lack the knowledge/support to open and sustain a business.
4. Many people face barriers to economic mobility.
5. Some immigrants lack the documentation to work.
6. Some areas of the county are struggling to boost the local economy.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Many jobs do not provide sufficient income and/or good benefits.

“Can’t not earn enough money to sustain our basic needs; 100% not enough pay per hours or hours in a day.”

“The everyday cost of goods and services that forces me to have to work over 50 hours a week to provide a decent life for my family, doesn't leave me time for anything else.”

“Our children have state insurance but I’m always concerned about losing it due to small increases in income but not enough to actually cover medical bills if they had to go in my husband's work policy.”

“Sometimes you have to work two jobs to make ends meet nowadays.”

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“Not making enough money at work, lack of health benefits.”*

Selected Economic Characteristics, Muskegon County

OCCUPATION	Estimate	Percent
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	76,290	
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	23,116	30.3%
Service occupations	14,312	18.8%
Sales and office occupations	14,086	18.5%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	6,322	8.3%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	19,084	25.0%

INCOME AND BENEFITS (IN 2021 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)	
Median earnings for male full-time, year-round workers (dollars)	50,852
Median earnings for female full-time, year-round workers (dollars)	40,425

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	Estimate	Percent
Civilian noninstitutionalized population 19 to 64 years	99,199	
In labor force:	75,839	76.5%
Employed:	70,391	71.0%
With health insurance coverage	65,408	65.9%
With private health insurance	57,573	58.0%
With public coverage	10,032	10.1%
No health insurance coverage	4,983	5.0%

Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year-Estimates
<https://data.census.gov/table?q=dp03&tid=ACSDP5YSPT2021.DP03>

Root Cause Barrier

2. Many people lack the education, training, or opportunity to obtain good jobs.

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are to: *“Be able to get a good job.”*

My community is missing: *“More schools to learn English.”*

My community is missing: *“Funding for schooling opportunities for all young people. (Not just those with high grades, etc;).”*

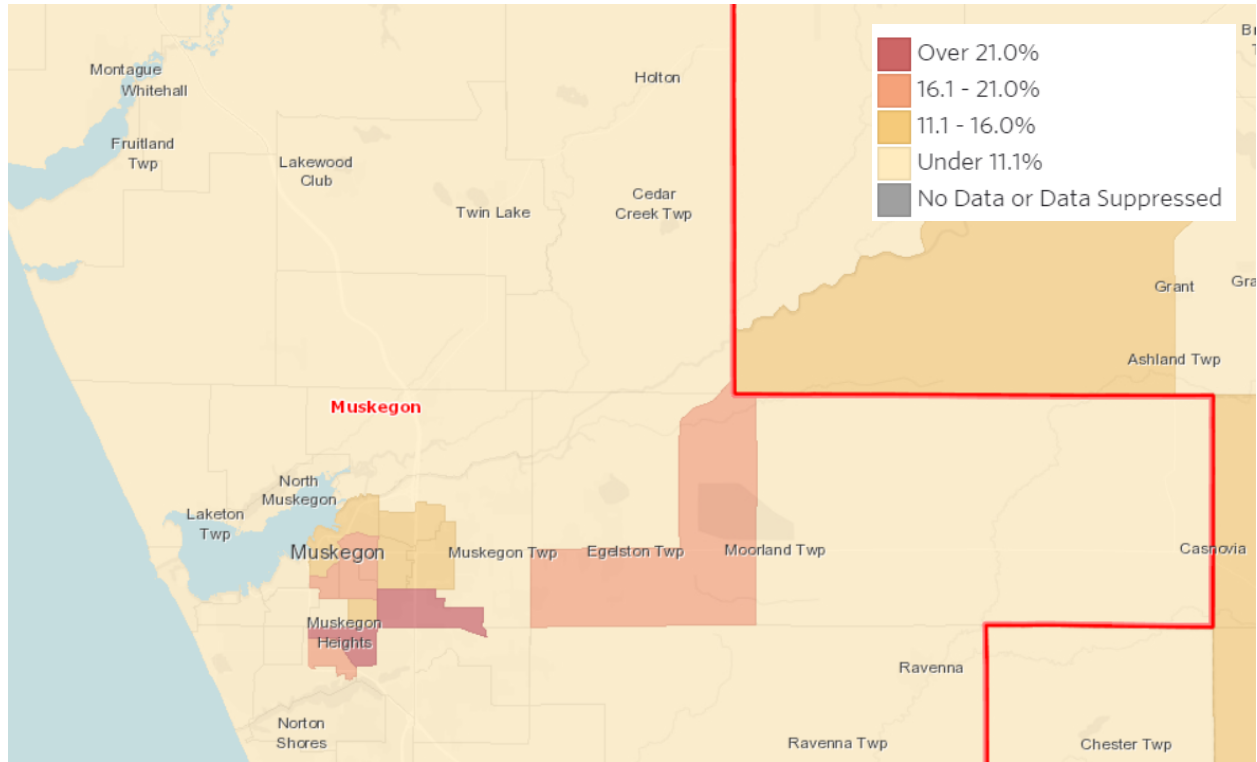
My community is missing: *“Training programs.”*

Education Attainment in Muskegon County

Report Area	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Muskegon County, MI	8.3%	34.4%	24.7%	12.1%	14.2%	6.3%
Michigan	8.4%	28.5%	22.8%	9.7%	18.6%	12.0%
United States	11.1%	26.5%	20.0%	8.7%	20.6%	13.1%

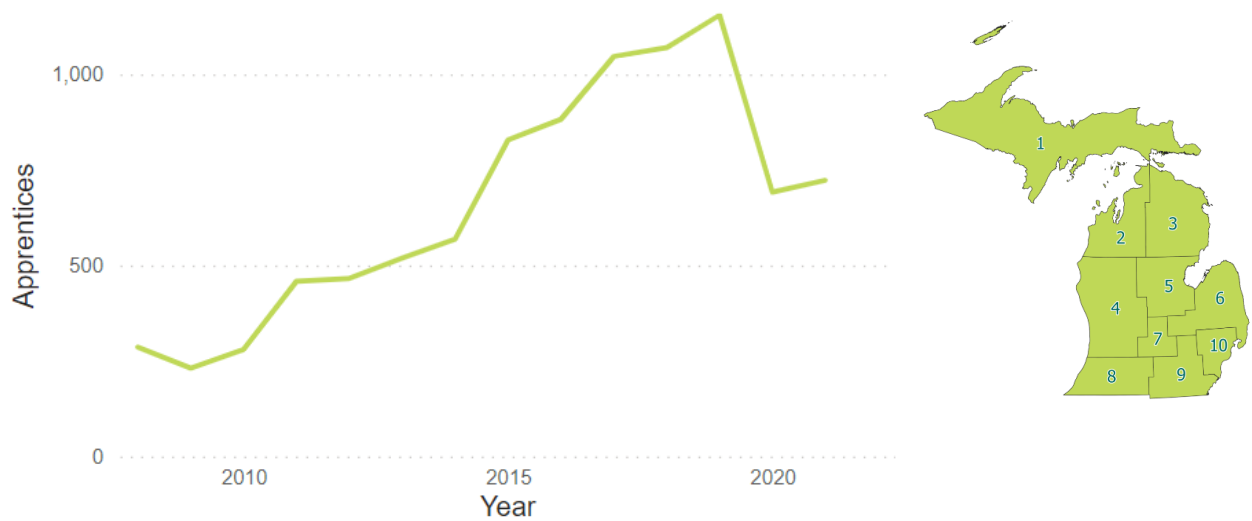
Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2017-2021 via <https://sparkmap.org/>

Population Age 25+ with No High School Diploma by Census Tract



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2017-2021 via <https://sparkmap.org/>

Number of New Apprenticeships per Year in West Michigan (Region Number 4)



Source: Michigan Labor Market Information Dashboard, <https://www.milmi.org/DataSearch/Apprenticeship>

Root Cause Barrier

3. Many people lack the knowledge/support to open and sustain a business.

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family include: *“Open a small restaurant or cafe.”*

My hopes and dreams are: *“Leave a legacy by continuing a sustainable income with our business.”*

“I want to start my own business and open my own salon. And I want a family when I am stable.”

What prevents me from reaching my [small business] goals: *“Money, inexperience, set backs.”*

A healthy and thriving community has: *“Businesses confident that their community and neighboring communities will [patronize] and/or support what they have to offer their community.”*

Muskegon County has a total of 4,840 businesses, and a majority have 4 or fewer employees. Data from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation shows the percentage of county businesses with:

1-4 Employees	58.76%
5-9 Employees	19.11%
10-19 Employees	12.07%
20-49 Employees	5.66%
50-99 Employees	2.67%
100+ Employees	1.73%



Source: Muskegon County data available from <https://siteselection.michiganbusiness.org/>

Root Cause Barrier

4. Many people face barriers to economic mobility.

"I want so much more for myself and my children and my grandchildren. It's financially exhausting to keep up w/the cost of paying for everything."

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are: *"More family time, kids to go to college, generational wealth."*

"I hope to give my children the same opportunities that others have. I want to be able to be financially independent and live comfortable (bills paid, savings, and able to live a worryless life)."

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are: *"To not have to live paycheck to paycheck worrying about how much the cost of inflation is affecting us in our everyday lives."*

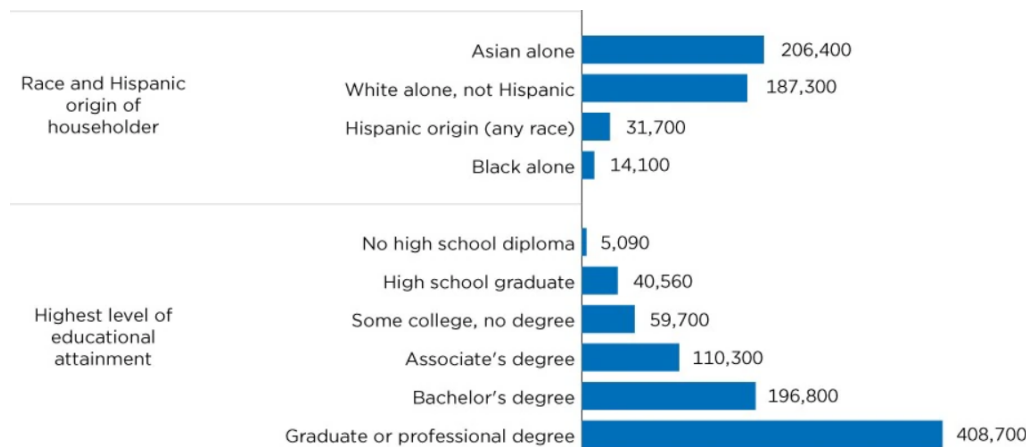
My community is missing: *"Programs that help people truly and not keep them in poverty."*

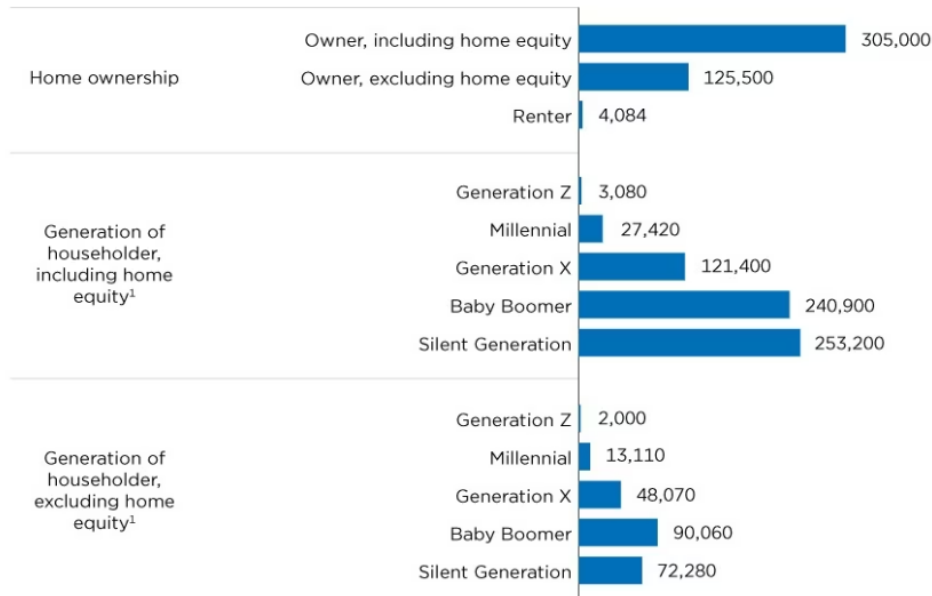
My hopes and dreams for myself and my family: *"To rise up out of poverty and have equity in a home and property."*

"I wish I could win some lotto money to pay my bills and help my family."

Median Wealth by Household Characteristics: 2019

(in 2019 dollars)





Wealth is the value of assets owned minus the liabilities (debts) owed.

Source: [Wealth Inequality in the U.S. by Household Type \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/pictorial/2019/08/wealth-inequality-in-the-u-s-by-household-type)

Root Cause Barrier

5. Some immigrants lack the documentation to work.

“Not having documentation to get a good job. I need a license to get things and go places.”

“To have documentation so that I can work without fear and buy a house for my daughter and myself.”

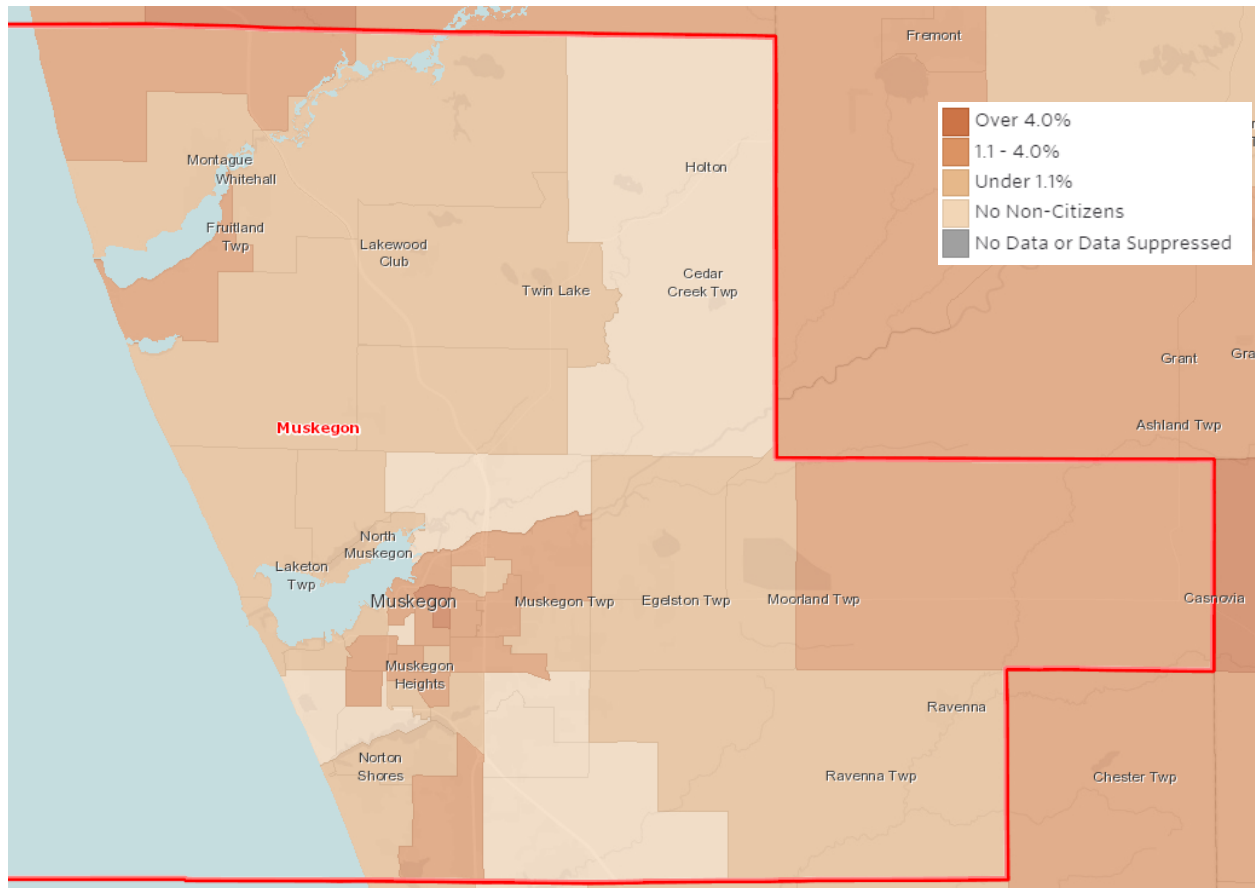
My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are: “to be able to get a good job; being undocumented I can’t.”

Citizenship Status of Muskegon County Residents

Report Area	Native	Born in a US Territory	Born Abroad to US Citizens	Naturalized	Non-Citizen	Non-Citizen, Percent
Muskegon County, MI	171,314	207	652	1,946	1,514	0.86%
Michigan	9,278,052	15,617	71,500	382,420	314,923	3.13%
United States	279,427,702	2,074,899	3,378,072	23,141,369	21,703,439	6.58%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2017-2021 via <https://sparkmap.org/>

Non US Citizen Population in Muskegon County, Percent by Census Tract



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2017-2021 via <https://sparkmap.org/>

Root Cause Barrier

6. Some areas of the county are struggling to boost the local economy.

My community is missing: *“Businesses that bring in people to help grow the town.”*

“I’d like to see better quality local stores - so we can buy more quality items locally.”

My community is missing: *“Amenities- we have a lack of sit down restaurants and good paying jobs are nearly 30-60 mins away.”*

My community is missing: *“Business support. Every time I hear someone tell me I should order from Amazon I feel like I want to challenge them to consider the employment of their neighbor, the success of their local business, and challenge them to actually support their community.”*

Muskegon County Programs to Boost Economic Development

- Kitchen 242: (A commercial kitchen located at the Muskegon Farmer's Market)
- Muskegon Area First (A private, non-profit economic development corporation)
- Muskegon County Economic Development Corporation
- Muskegon County Land Bank (MCLB)
- Muskegon Innovation Hub (A GVSU-run business innovation center)

Source: <https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/570/County-Programs>

Additional Community Feedback

- **Restaurants, museums, concerts, and other events/attractions are an important aspect of the local economy and of Livability for many residents.**
- **The negative effects of empty buildings on neighboring businesses is a concern in many parts of the county.**
- **Significant environmental cleanup efforts over the years have done a lot to make the area better for residents and more appealing to tourists and businesses.**

Current State

"There's no public transportation in the White Lake area."

"Lack of transportation to rural areas."

My community does **not** support me "because there's no more regular bus service to get out."

"We don't have the walkability, connectability through whether it's bicycles or pedestrian."

"If you live out where it's affordable to live, you can't access that. that city transportation. But man, even something like that here, I mean it's starved."

"There is a lack of bus service on Saturdays."

My community is missing: "Better transportation options for seniors and others."

"A [senior] client... said you know I would take the bus but it's scary and I don't know where it's gonna go and I don't know how it works."

Goal

Affordable and dependable transportation is available at the right times and places to all, along with safe options for walking, biking, and more.

"Decent crosswalks across dangerous highways and roads. More pedestrian safety ways and areas to congregate."

"Public spaces and walkways that are accessible to everyone."

"A walkable community."

"Parks and sidewalks where people can bike and walk to local storefronts."

"Public bike paths and lanes and sidewalks."

"More [bus] stops, more hours, weekend hours."

"Good, usable bus system."

"Public transportation is expanded so seniors can get to both medical and personal appointments."

"Mass transportation so I don't have to own a car."

"Covered places to sit and stand in on corners (waiting for bus) because of rain and snow, and a bus stop on each corner like it used to be."

Bright Spots

My community supports me:
"By providing public transportation to stores, doctors/dentist offices. Good roads to walk on (weather permitting)."

"My transportation, it's priceless."

"[Community members] carpooling kids."

"I'm so grateful for AgeWell. [Without them] I couldn't get the rides to my medical appointments. My daughter holds down 1 full time and 2 part time jobs."

"Senior transportation for dialysis treatment 3 times a week."

"AgeWell Services - Transportation and Meals on Wheels."

My community supports me by: "Providing transportation (MATS Bus System) to Meijer, Walmart, Russ's."

"It's the walkability... That's what they did down in Muskegon. They connected everything downtown, the sidewalks."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Transportation routes and times do not meet the needs of all residents.
2. Many residents struggle with transportation costs.
3. Undocumented immigrants cannot obtain a driver's license.
4. Lack of safe, year-round options for foot and bike traffic across the county.
5. The walking distance required to access bus stops or parking spaces can be challenging for many residents.
6. There are limited resources to support populations that do not drive.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Transportation routes and times do not meet the needs of all residents.

“If we had a millage for transportation, then [the bus system] could be expanded and more importantly, it could connect better.”

“I don't have a car. I don't have a city bus. I haven't been to the city.”

“When Walmart took away the bus, that really was a problem. That was huge. That was devastating for a lot of seniors and folks with disabilities and low-income people.”

My community is missing: *“City bus for my street.”*

Muskegon Area Transit System (MATS) Information

MATS Bus Routes and Times in 2019

Route	Weekday Service	Weekend Service
Route 10 - Henry	6:55 am - 5:51 pm	No
Route 15 - Sixth	6:28 am - 10:40 pm	9:50 am - 5:40 pm
Route 20 - Apple 1	6:35 am - 5:54 pm	No
Route 25 - Apple 2	6:50 am - 10:40 pm	9:50 am - 5:40 pm
Route 30 - Getty-Wood	6:28 am - 10:40 pm	9:50 am - 5:40 pm
Route 35 - Lakeshore-Sherman	6:50 am - 5:40 pm	No
Route 40 & 45 - Peck-Sanford	6:43 am - 6:02 pm	No
Route 50 - Harvey	6:37 am - 10:36 pm	9:37 am - 5:21 pm
Route 55 - East Sherman	6:34 am - 10:34 pm	9:34 am - 5:34 pm
Route 60 - Lakeshore-Henry	5:40 pm - 10:40 pm	9:50 am - 5:40 pm
Route 115 - Montague	6:45 am - 5:15 pm	No

MATS Bus Routes and Times in 2022

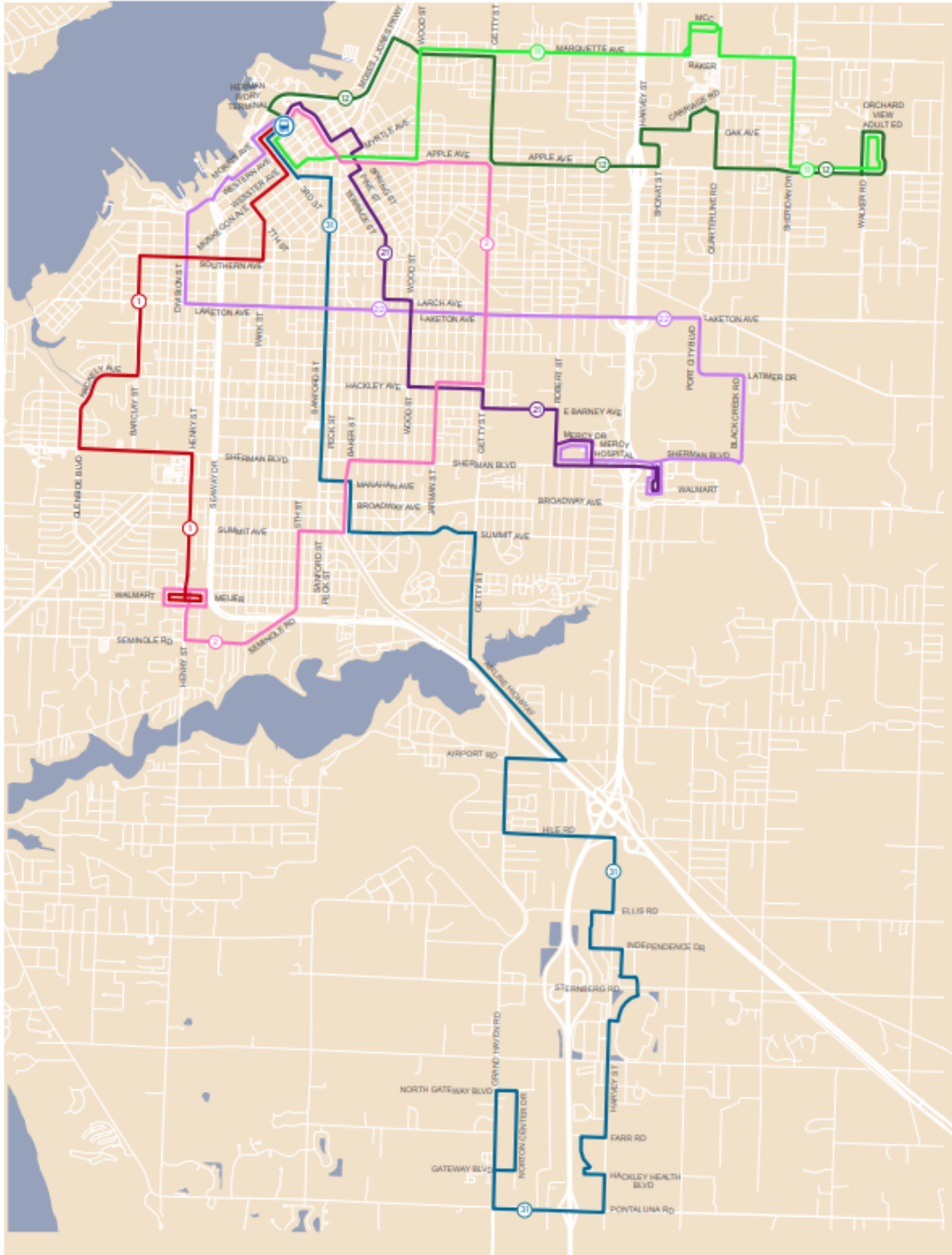
Route	Weekday Service	Weekend Service
Route 1- HIT*-Henry-Norton	7:00 am - 5:51 pm	No
Route 2 - HIT-Getty-Norton	7:00 am - 5:51 pm	No
Route 11 - HIT-Marquette-OV	7:00 am - 5:51 pm	No
Route 12 - HIT-Apple-OV	7:00 am - 5:51 pm	No
Route 21 - HIT-Terrace-Sherman	7:00 am - 5:51 pm	No
Route 22 - HIT-Laketon-Sherman	7:00 am - 5:51 pm	No
Route 31 - HIT-Sanford-Harvey	7:00 am - 5:50 pm	No

* Herman Ivory Terminal

Source: https://matsbus.com/routes_schedules/

MATS Go2 on demand transportation service provides rides in the cities of Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, Roosevelt Park, and Norton Shores Monday - Friday 9am - Midnight and Saturdays 8am - 5 pm.

Current MATS System Map (System No Longer Includes Regional Route)



Source: <https://matsbus.com/system-map/>

Root Cause Barrier

2. Many residents struggle with transportation costs.

A healthy and thriving community has: *“More forms of transportation (for individuals) at a reasonable expense.”*

My community is missing: *“Support for housing repairs, car repairs, transportation.”*

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“Transportation that doesn’t take weeks to reserve and is affordable.”*

“Not only is having a car and the insurance and all that and gas expensive but trying to keep your car is.”

Local Gas Prices as of September 17, 2023

Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland				
	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.661	\$4.129	\$4.613	\$4.459
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.662	\$4.135	\$4.619	\$4.460
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.556	\$4.039	\$4.524	\$4.496
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.926	\$4.387	\$4.867	\$4.436
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.682	\$4.073	\$4.503	\$5.295
HIGHEST RECORDED AVERAGE PRICE				
		Price	Date	
Regular Unleaded		\$5.185	6/8/22	
Diesel		\$5.981	6/22/22	

Source: <https://gasprices.aaa.com/?state=MI>

Average Cost of Owning and Operating a New Vehicle:

Year	Average Annual Cost	Average Monthly Cost
2022	\$10,728	\$894
2023	\$12,182	\$1,015

Source: <https://newsroom.aaa.com/2023/08/annual-new-car-ownership-costs-boil-over-12k/>

Muskegon Area Transit System (MATS) Fixed Route Fares

MATS FARES

	Reduced*		
	Standard	Senior	Disabled
One-Way	\$ 1.25	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.60
Ten-Rides	\$12.50	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00
Monthly	\$50.00	\$30.00	\$30.00

Source: <https://matsbus.com/fares/>

MATS Go2 Prices

Standard on-demand rides:	\$4 per ride \$2 for each additional passenger \$2 for senior & disabled passengers
Pre-booked or scheduled rides:	\$8 per ride \$4 for each additional passenger
Personal care attendants & children under 42"	Free

Source: <https://city.ridewithvia.com/go2-muskegon>

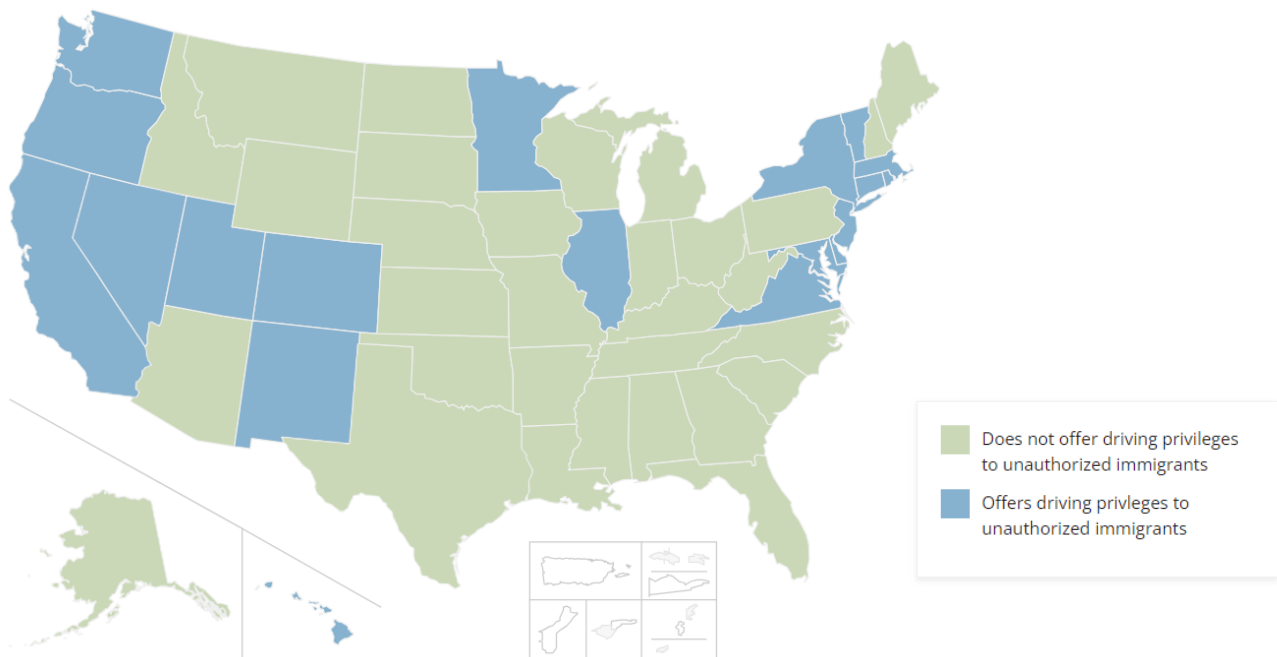
Root Cause Barrier

3. Undocumented immigrants cannot obtain a driver's license.

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *"Not having documentation to get a good job, [needing] a license to get things and go places."*

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *"Not having a license or documentation."*

Immigrants and Driver's Licenses in the United States



Source: <https://www.ncsl.org/immigration/states-offering-drivers-licenses-to-immigrants>

Until 2008, all Michigan residents had the ability to acquire a driver's license after meeting licensing requirements. The Drive SAFE Bills that have been put before the Michigan Legislature would restore the right to obtain a driver's license or state identification card to all residents, including undocumented immigrants and those who cannot prove their legal presence.

Summary of Revenue Projections for Michigan Under Drive SAFE Bill

	Fee	Additional Licenses in MI	Additional Vehicles in MI	Recurrent Fee	First 3 Years	Following Years (4 - 10)	After 10 Years
Driver's License	\$ 25.00	55,000		\$18.00 (every 4 yrs)	\$ 1,375,000		\$ 3,355,000
Vehicle Registration	\$ 135.00		20,000	\$135.00	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 21,600,000
Vehicle Title	\$ 15.00		20,000		\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000
Standard License Plate	\$ 5.00		20,000		\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000
Sales Taxes			20,000		\$ 1,560,000	\$ 1,560,000	\$ 12,480,000
Gas-related Taxes			20,000		\$ 7,540,000	\$ 7,540,000	\$ 60,320,000
TOTAL					\$ 13,575,000	\$ 11,800,000	\$ 98,155,000

Source: Michigan League for Public Policy analysis using Secretary of State fees for driver's licenses, vehicle titles and standard license plates. Vehicle registration fee uses Michigan Department of Transportation 2019 estimates. See *Methodology* for estimates of additional licenses and vehicles in Michigan as well as sales and gas-related tax estimates. 10-year estimate includes two renewals per each driver's license issued in the first three years and does not include newly licensed drivers registering more than one vehicle. Amounts independently rounded.

MICHIGAN LEAGUE FOR PUBLIC POLICY | WWW.MLPP.ORG

Source: *Drive Michigan Forward 2023 Info Packet*, using Michigan League for Public Policy 2019 Executive Summary (with 2021 update), available at <https://www.drivemichiganforward.com/resources>.

Root Cause Barrier

4. Lack of safe, year-round options for foot and bike traffic across the county.

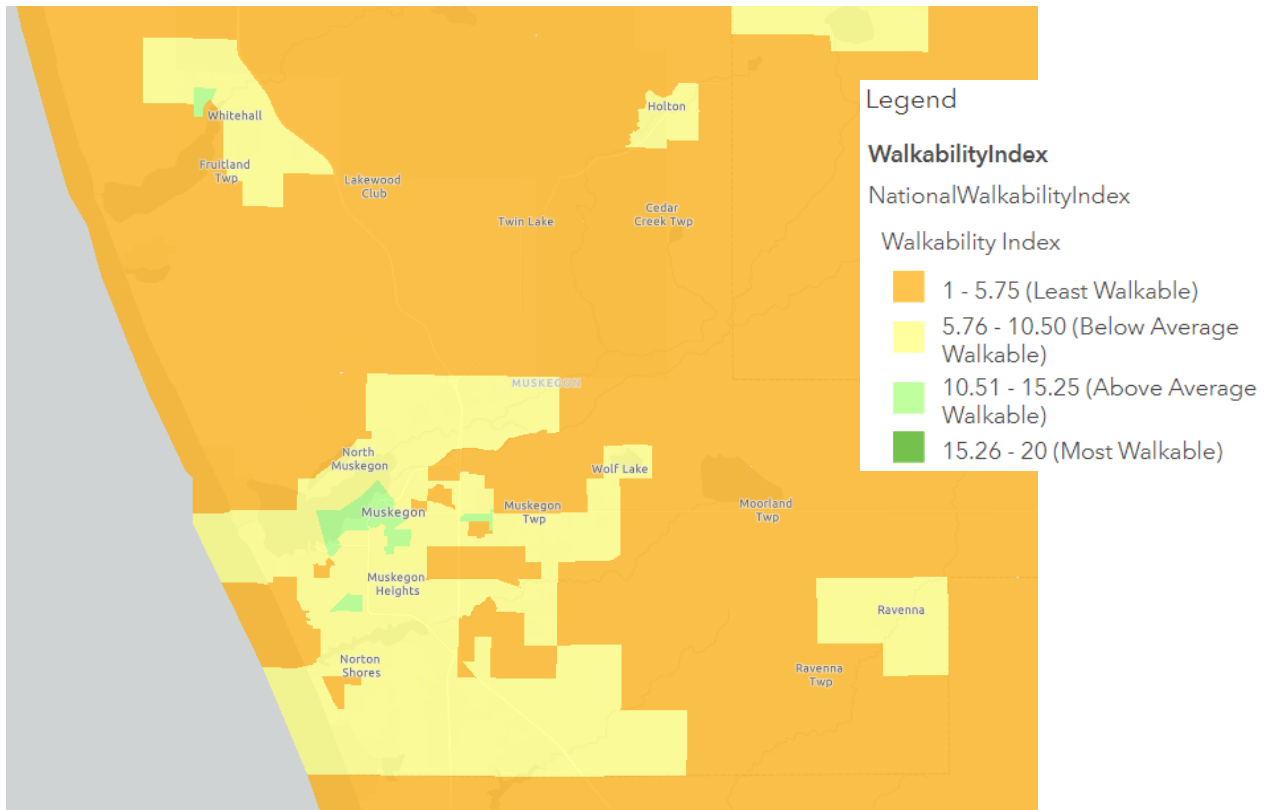
My community is missing: *“Walking and bike trails in urban and suburban areas.”*

My hopes and dreams include : *“ Safe walkable sidewalks.”*

“I have a daughter that's legally blind. And sometimes walking with no sidewalks will threaten her.”

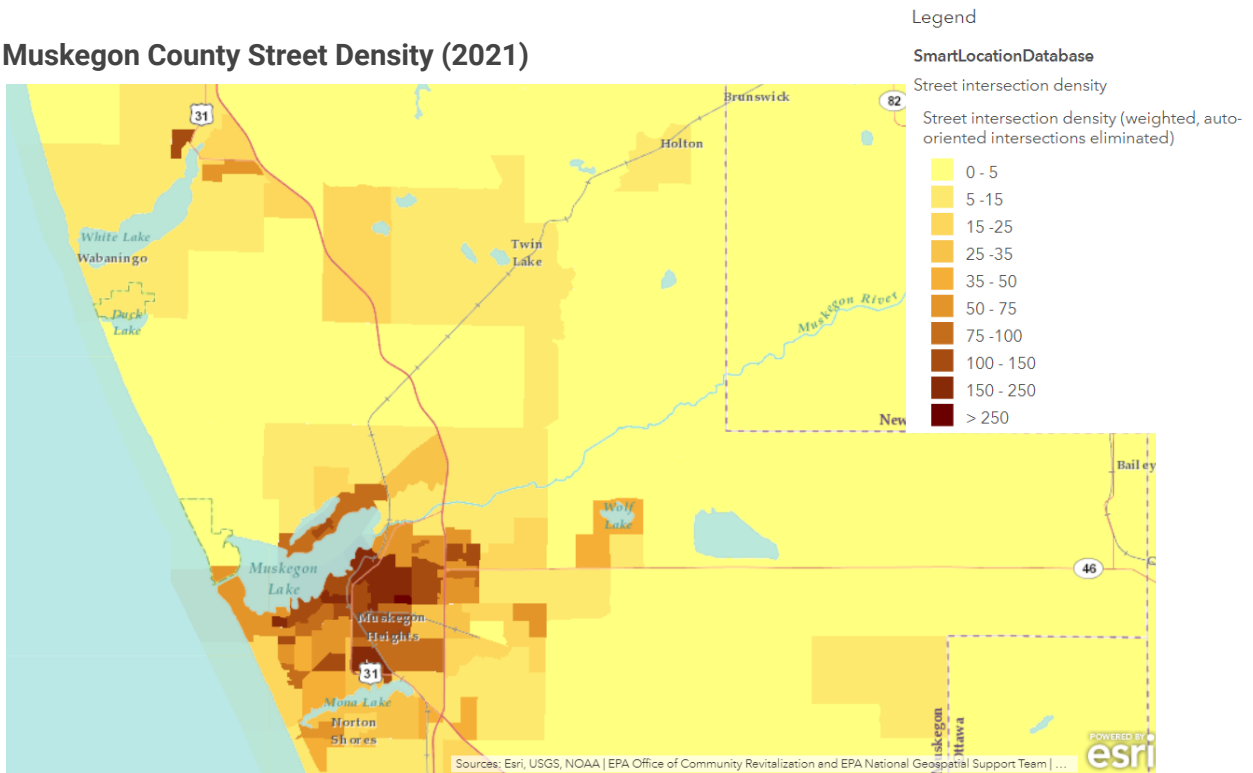
“There's nothing worse than seeing the middle of winter after a freshly plowed Apple Avenue... some poor soul walking down the shoulder, either in the road, worst case, or up knee deep in snow trudging through that. They're usually on the road. Same with kids walking to school... or walking to bus stops.”

United States Environmental Protection Agency National Walkability Index



Source: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-location-mapping#walkability>

Muskegon County Street Density (2021)



Source: EPA Smart Location Database,
https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-location-mapping_.html#SLD

Root Cause Barrier

5. The walking distance required to access bus stops or parking spaces can be challenging for many residents.

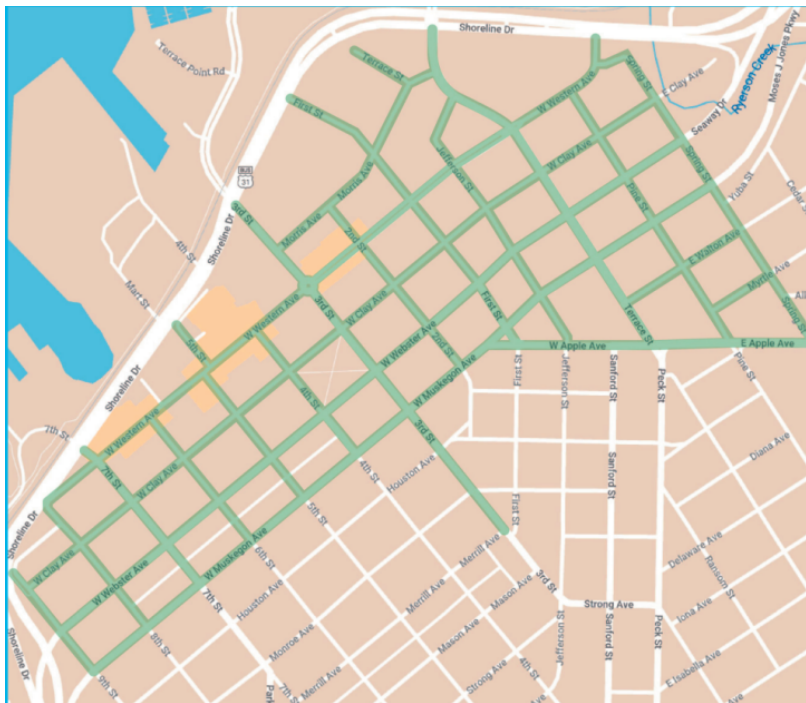
“How far are you willing to park your car and walk to go someplace? Especially if you have a walker, if you're in a wheelchair, some people are in wheelchairs, whatever. How far is a senior expecting to walk to get to where they have to go?”

“I use a walker or cane. Apple Ave can be difficult due to 4 lanes; [we] need a MATS pick up at each corner.”

My community is missing: “Doors someone with handicaps can open close or automatic ones; more handicap parking.”

Downtown Muskegon Business Zone

(subject to different parking regulations than the rest of the city)



Source: <https://muskegon-mi.gov/city-services/public-safety-inspections/police/resources/parking-information/>

Root Cause Barrier

6. There are limited resources to support populations that do not drive.

“Public transit in Muskegon is abysmal. It is a massive hindrance to independence for people with disabilities.”

In a healthy and thriving community: *“Public transportation is expanded so seniors can get to both medical and personal appointments.”*

“You know, the Cancer Society now has reinstated their transportation program. We just found out so they can take people to cancer. Yeah, and some insurances include transportation, but you said the providers that they provide, the providers that they provide to these people aren’t reliable.”

“I would like to be able to provide all of my children’s needs and also be able to drive them to wherever when they need me.”

“[Seniors] can’t get to the store, so they can’t even talk to the checkout person at the store. So the social isolation is related to the transportation... it’s all one interconnected web at this point. Because they can’t get to churches either.”

“If school transportation is an issue, [it’s worse] in the middle of winter without walkability or sidewalks. Now you’ve got parents trying to transport kids or kids just walking through.”

Muskegon County Senior Millage

Total Count of Registered Participants per Program up to June 30, 2023

Category	Provider Name	Service Name	Participants
Mobility			
	AgeWell Services	Senior Transportation Program	590
	Disability Network of West Michigan	Transportation	65
	Living Word Church	Snow Removal	334
	Love INC	Ramps	47
	Ravenna Township	Grocery Trip	41

Source: MCMS Fiscal Year 2023 Q3 Report, at <https://seniorresourceswmi.org/muskegon-county-senior-millage/>.

Additional Community Feedback

- Youth often cannot get transportation to work
- There is a pressing need for more sidewalks to connect to our parks and schools.
- There are not enough covered bus stops.
- Some residents would be willing to help youth or seniors with rides but have concerns about liability.
- Lack of transportation creates significant problems with social isolation.

Current State

"Homelessness in the senior population has increased exponentially in the last four and five years."

"I want to be a homeowner for me and my kids. I owe my kids stability throughout their childhood."

"There are not enough small family homes. I see development for wealthier folks and no new housing for seniors or working-class families."

"Ridiculous water bills and lack of help for the working person that might run into a snag."

"You cannot rent a place on minimum wage."

"[Muskegon County] needs more middle-income housing, more housing with handicapped accommodation."

"Not enough subsidized housing units."

Goal Affordable, safe, and healthy living environments are accessible to all.

"Clean, safe, affordable housing."

"More apartments, maybe tiny homes."

"Youth homeless centers."

"Appropriate growth as opposed to building unaffordable housing in less affluent neighborhoods."

"No homeless."

"A place where everyone has a safe place to sleep."

"Affordable housing for seniors and everyone."

This document presents data about the root causes getting in the way of livability in Muskegon County. The data comes from conversations, focus groups, and surveys with over 550 residents, providers of public health, education, and social services, and members of the local business community, as well as national and local datasets/reports.

Bright Spots

"I'm grateful for the expansion of low income housing."

"Sober living housing and treatment for mental health and alcoholism."

"The Women's Shelter."

"The Rescue Mission."

"I have a great community in the senior condos where I live. They help me keep up my yard and the community is always clean."

"The senior millage.... I mean there's a lot of seniors who have been getting home repairs."

"Section 8 Housing."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Muskegon County has a limited supply of safe, affordable housing.
2. There is a shortage of senior housing options throughout the county.
3. The costs of housing and related needs are increasing.
4. Many residents lack dependable internet and/or phone access.
5. Some populations are particularly vulnerable to becoming and staying homeless.
6. Some people struggle to qualify for rentals/mortgages.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Muskegon County has a limited supply of safe, affordable housing.

“In a healthy and thriving community, all people should have an affordable place to live.”

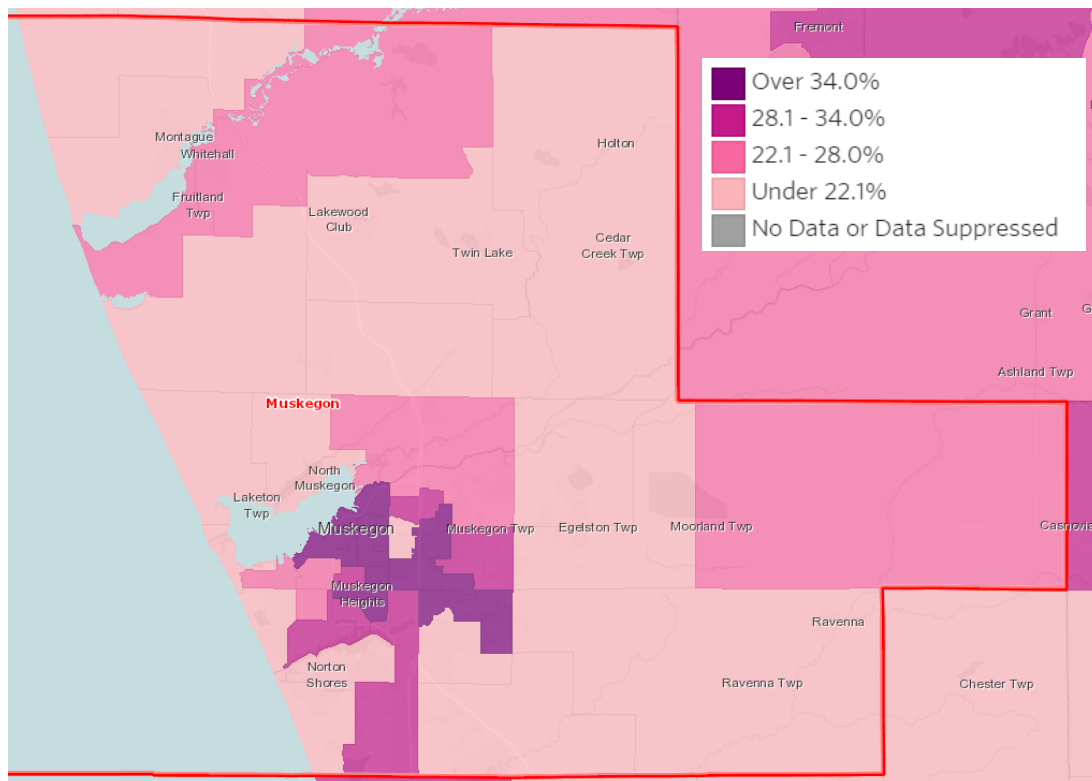
My community is missing: *“More housing with handicapped accommodations.”*

“A lot of these landlords have retired and their kids do not want to keep their rents low like their mom and dads had, or they’re selling them to developers and they’re raising the rents.”

Substandard Housing Units in Muskegon County

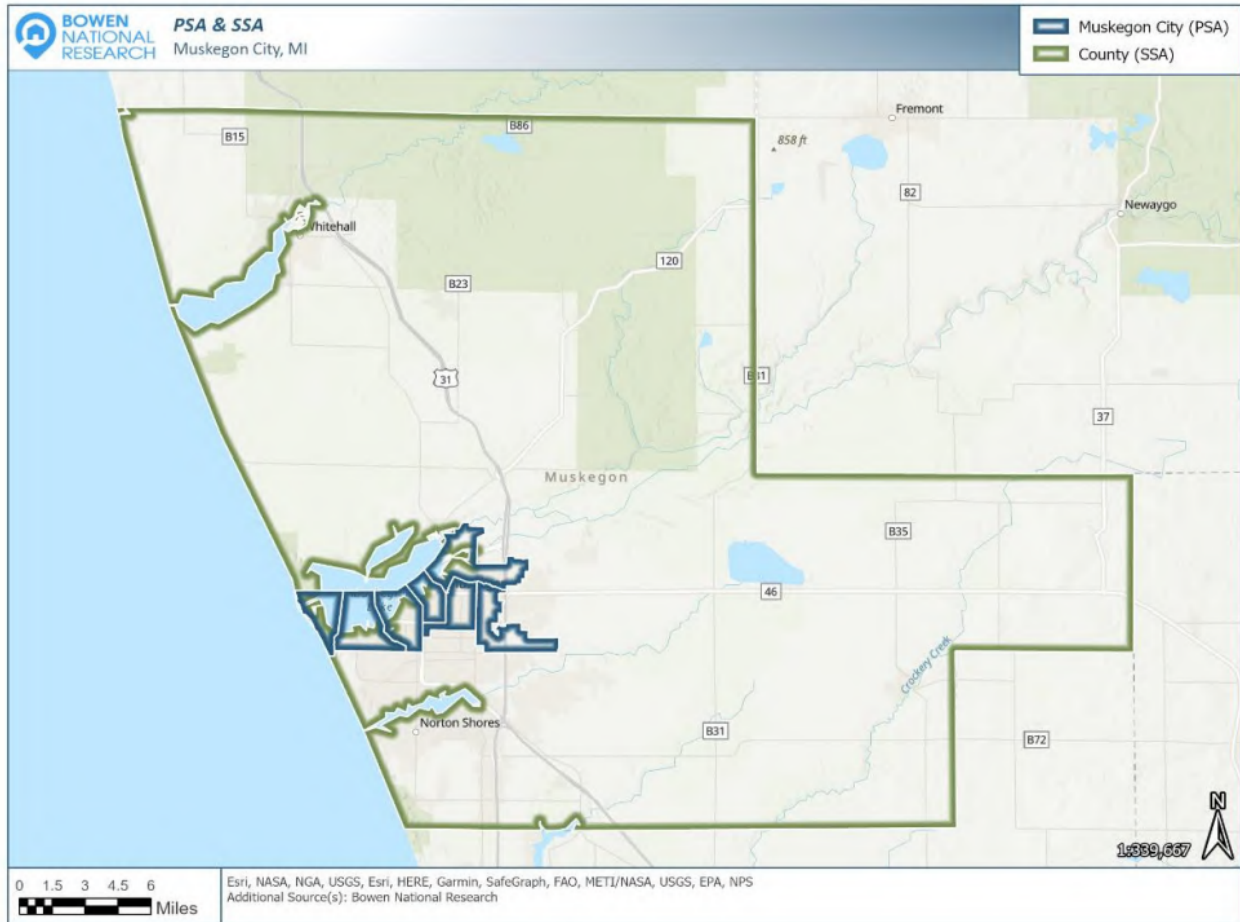
Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions, Percent
Muskegon County, MI	66,122	16,257	24.59%
Michigan	3,976,729	1,041,223	26.18%
United States	124,010,992	39,049,569	31.49%

Percent of Total Substandard Housing Units by Census Tract



Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, map/table via <https://sparkmap.org/>

Bowen National Research recently completed a **Housing Needs Assessment** for the City of Muskegon. Though the Primary Study Area (PSA) was the City of Muskegon (divided into 7 Submarkets), the report also looked at Muskegon County outside of the City of Muskegon as a Secondary Study Area (SSA).



This study shows limited availability of multifamily rentals.

Multifamily Supply by Product Type				
Project Type	Projects Surveyed	Total Units	Vacant Units	Occupancy Rate
PSA (Muskegon)				
Market-Rate	9	1,453	25	98.3%
Market-Rate/Tax Credit	4	356	5	98.6%
Market-Rate/Government-Subsidized	1	124	0	100.0%
Tax Credit	3	151	0	100.0%
Government-Subsidized	5	626	0	100.0%
Total	22	2,710	30	98.9%
SSA (Balance of County)				
Market-Rate	15	2,081	25	98.8%
Market-Rate/Government-Subsidized	1	172	0	100.0%
Tax Credit	2	184	0	100.0%
Tax Credit/Government-Subsidized	3	129	0	100.0%
Market-Rate/Tax Credit/Government-Subsidized	1	84	0	100.0%
Government-Subsidized	7	453	0	100.0%
Total	29	3,103	25	99.2%

The report also analyzed available housing for sale in November 2022.

Available For-Sale Housing by Price (As of Nov. 23, 2022)						
List Price	PSA (Muskegon)			SSA (Balance of County)		
	Number Available	Percent of Supply	Average Days on Market	Number Available	Percent of Supply	Average Days on Market
Up to \$99,999	12	14.3%	71	28	12.8%	95
\$100,000 to \$149,999	31	36.9%	46	14	6.4%	84
\$150,000 to \$199,999	18	21.4%	31	38	17.4%	43
\$200,000 to \$249,999	2	2.4%	31	34	15.5%	52
\$250,000 to \$299,999	3	3.6%	39	28	12.8%	64
\$300,000+	18	21.4%	286	77	35.2%	90
Total	84	100.0%	97	219	100.0%	73

Source: MLS (Multiple Listing Service)/Muskegon County Equalization Department

The study then projected the following housing shortages for the City of Muskegon:

PSA (Muskegon) Housing Gap Estimates (2022 to 2027) – Number of Units Needed		
Housing Segment		Number of Units
Rentals	Extremely Low-Income Rental Housing (\leq \$536/Month Rent)	385
	Very Low-Income Rental Housing (\$537-\$894/Month Rent)	321
	Low-Income Rental Housing (\$895-\$1,430/Month Rent)	403
	Moderate-Income Rental Housing (\$1,431-\$2,145/Month Rent)	295
	High-Income Market-Rate Rental Housing (\$2,146+/Month Rent)	207
	TOTAL UNITS	1,611
For-Sale	Entry-Level For-Sale Homes (\leq \$71,500 Price Point)	238
	Very Low-Income For-Sale Homes (\$71,501-\$119,167)	176
	Low-Income For-Sale Homes (\$119,168-\$190,667 Price Point)	164
	Moderate-Income For-Sale Homes (\$190,668-\$286,000 Price Point)	413
	High-Income Upscale For-Sale Housing (\$286,001+ Price Point)	322
	TOTAL UNITS	1,313

The full report is available online at:

<https://muskegon-mi.gov/cresources/Muskegon-Housing-Needs-Assessment-23-27.pdf>.

Root Cause Barrier

2. There is a shortage of senior housing options throughout the county.

"I've been in affordable housing. I've been on a waitlist... to get a ground floor because I'm a senior."

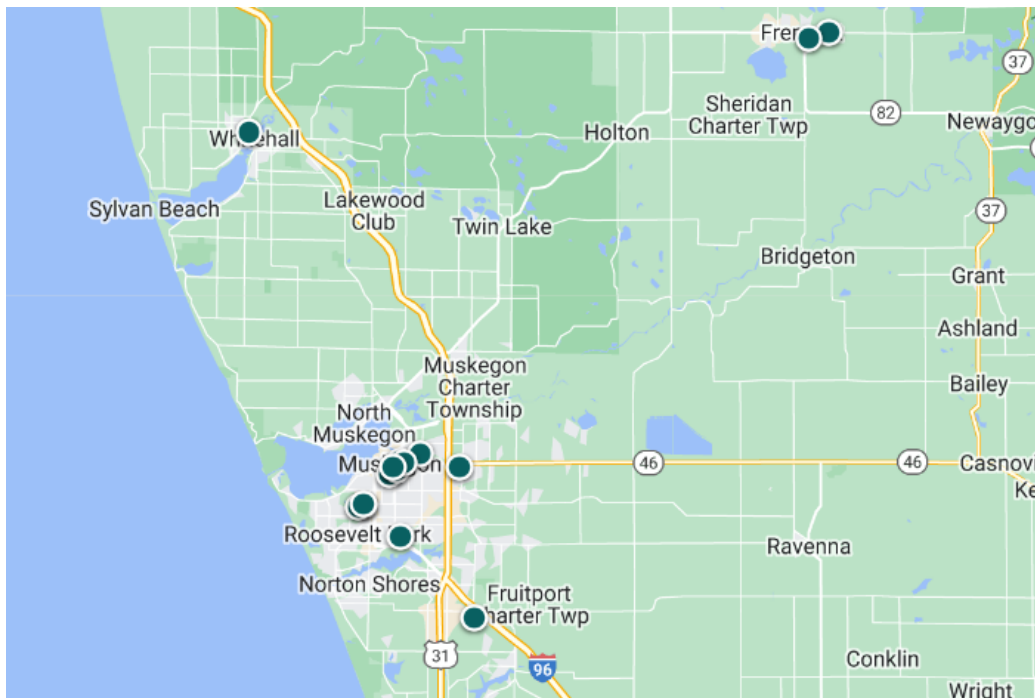
My community is missing: *"Reasonably priced housing that is accessible and allows people to age in place."*

"When you have a senior that can't get around and has to live on Social Security, I'm running out of places to put these people when they send them to you."

My hopes and dreams are: *"Being able to stay in this community even in old age."*

Many seniors are forced to move out of their community when senior/assisted living is needed, as senior housing options are not available in all parts of the county.

After55.com, the senior living and retirement community partner of Apartments.com, shows the following options in Muskegon County:



Source: <https://www.after55.com/>

Root Cause Barrier

3. The costs of housing and related needs are increasing.

"I expect Muskegon to really start to grow and I think there are going to be a lot of displaced people as areas start gentrifying. It is not a matter of if we are gentrifying but how fast and where."

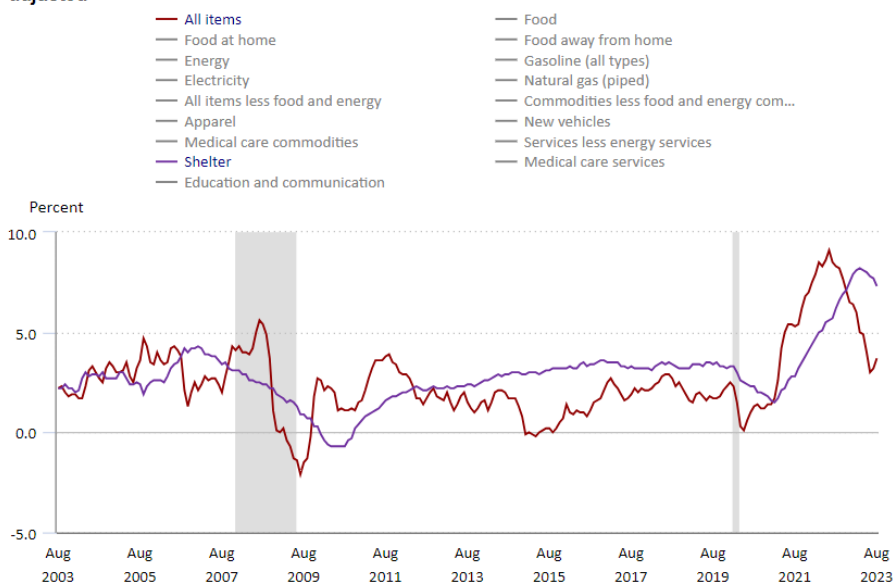
What prevents me from reaching my goals: *"Economics. Cost of living, housing, etc."*

"I mean it's a wonderful place to live but you don't want to all of a sudden become like a Jackson Hole or a Grand Haven or a Holland where people can't afford to live there, they live outside, then they have transportation problems and their vehicles aren't working."

"As a young person who has lived here most of my life, the prospect of home ownership is intimidating in this market. I am hopeful but nervous about being able to have a place of my own in the neighborhood of my choice."

My hopes and dreams are: *"To get my house redone by the city. I'm on Social Security and need the help and to have the house paid for."*

12-month percentage change, Consumer Price Index, selected categories, not seasonally adjusted



Hover over chart to view data.
Note: Shaded area represents recession, as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Source: <https://www.bls.gov/charts/consumer-price-index/consumer-price-index-by-category-line-chart.htm>

Root Cause Barrier

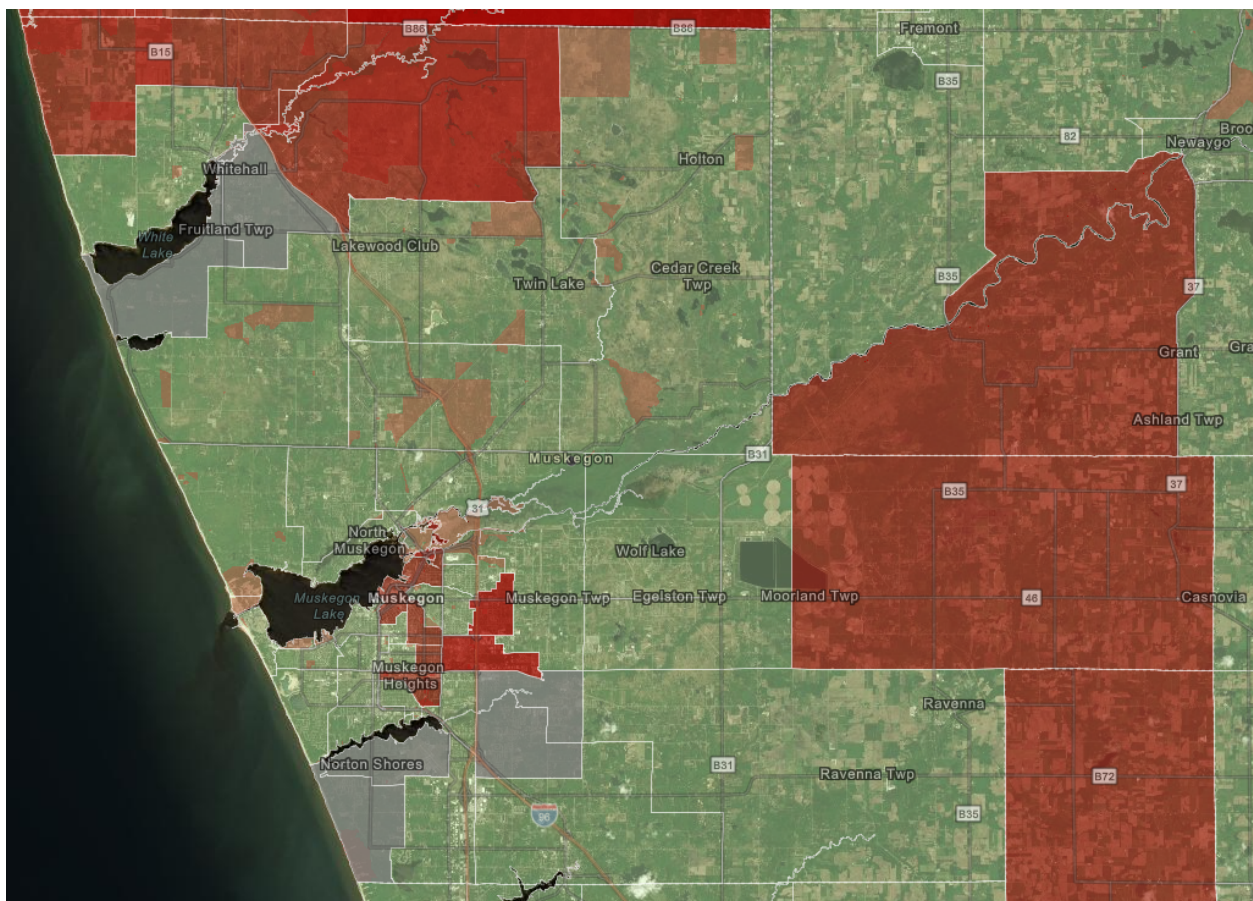
4. Many residents lack dependable internet and/or phone access.

"Internet access is an issue in many areas."

"Some... disadvantaged children and adults have access to a phone that doesn't work without Wi-Fi. They can't get access to that.."

"I live in a dead area. Yeah, the best phone that works anywhere in the world does not work where I live. I don't have an internet source."

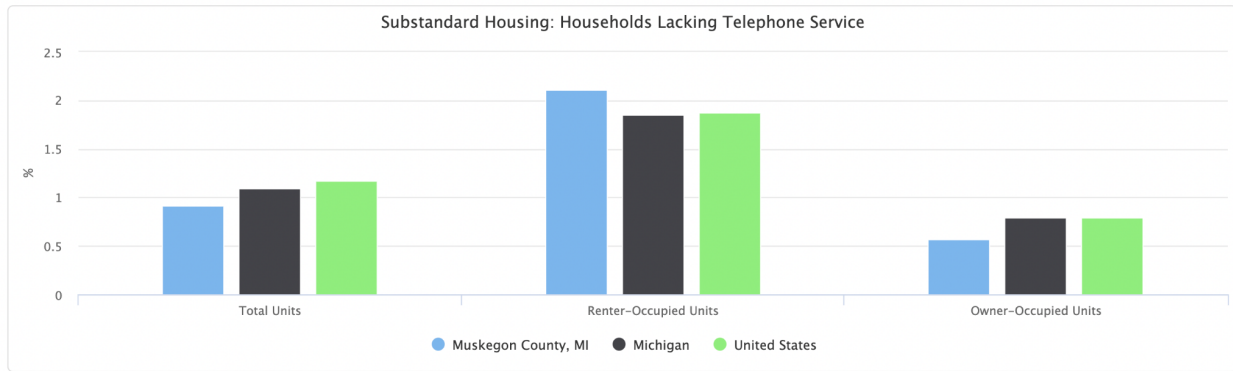
Indicators of Broadband Need



Source: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, <https://ntia.gov/topics/data-central>

Households Lacking Telephone Service

Report Area	Housing Units Lacking Telephone Service	Housing Units Lacking Telephone Service	Owner-Occupied Units Lacking Telephone Service	Owner-Occupied Units Lacking Telephone Service	Renter-Occupied Units Lacking Telephone Service	Renter-Occupied Units Lacking Telephone Service
Muskegon County, MI	611	0.92%	288	0.57%	323	2.11%
Michigan	43,216	1.09%	22,787	0.79%	20,429	1.85%
United States	1,451,132	1.17%	631,203	0.79%	819,929	1.87%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 via <https://sparkmap.org/>

Root Cause Barrier

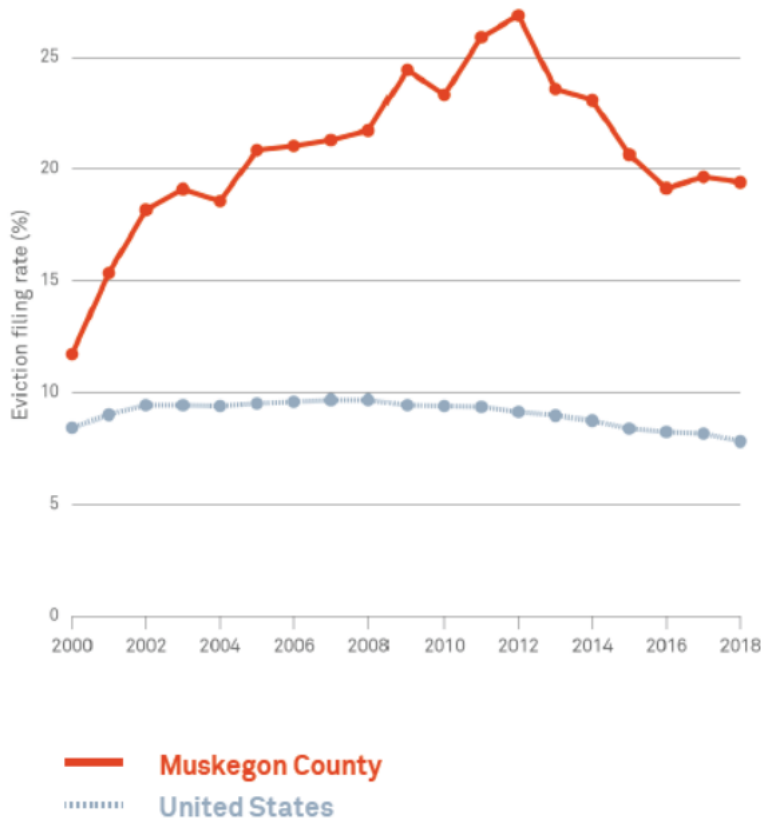
5. Some populations are particularly vulnerable to becoming and staying homeless.

My community is missing: *“More resources for treatment and stable housing.”*

“Homelessness in the senior population has increased exponentially in the last four and five years.”

My community is missing: *“Homeless shelters for teens.”*

Eviction Filings



Source: Data generated by The Eviction Lab at Princeton University, <https://evictionlab.org/>

Muskegon County Evictions in 2018

9.5
 EVICTION FILINGS PER DAY

19.4% MIN: 19.2%
 MAX: 19.6%

FILINGS RATE

+11.61 U.S. average

Eviction Filings	3.5k MIN: 3.4k MAX: 3.5k
Households Threatened	2.6k MIN: 2.6k MAX: 2.7k
Households Threatened Rate	14.6% MIN: 14.4% MAX: 14.8%

Source: Data generated by The Eviction Lab at Princeton University, <https://evictionlab.org/>

Data from the Muskegon County Homeless Continuum of Care Network shows that in 2022:

Household Experienced Homelessness		382
Individuals Experienced Homelessness		576
	Adults	404
	Females:	155
	Males	248
	Transgender	1
	Children	169
	Females	81
	Males	89

Of the 576 Individuals:

- 27% had at least one disability
 - 12% had a physical disability
 - 16% had mental health disorder
 - 2% had substance use disorder
- 11% were a Domestic Violence victim or survivor

Data provided by Muskegon County Homeless Continuum of Care Network.

Root Cause Barrier

6. Some people struggle to qualify for rentals/mortgages.

“I don't know the steps to take to be a homeowner nor do I have the money to make that move just yet.”

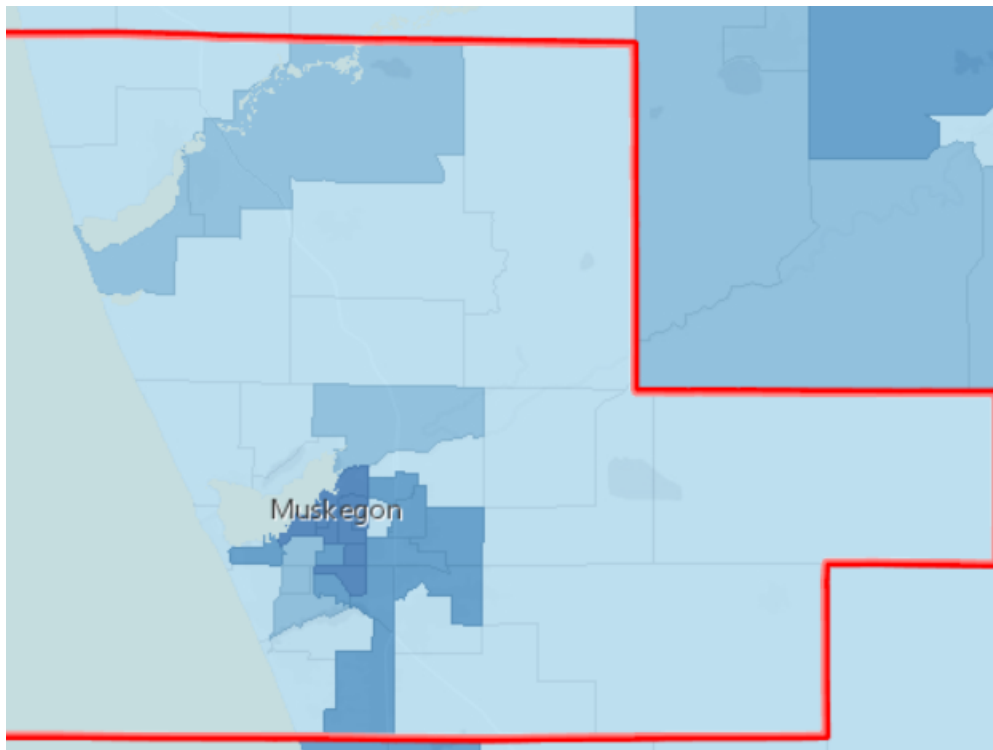
“I just make enough not to qualify for any aid and I make too much to qualify for special home loans or other special financing.”

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *“The current price of houses in our community and interest rates.”*

“The cost of rent for middle income individuals seems to keep increasing.”

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are: *“To have documentation so that I can work without fear and buy a house for my daughter and myself.”*

**Cost Burdened Households (Housing Costs Exceed 30% of Household Income)
Percent by Census Tract**



Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, map via <https://sparkmap.org/>

Additional Community Feedback

- Some residents noted a strong desire to buy a home in the neighborhood that they group up in, or to ensure that their own home stayed in the family for future generations.
- Many homeless seniors have medical conditions that do not allow them to stay in local shelters.

Current State

"Police and fire don't take care of their neighborhoods."

"Rarely do we see a police officer or anything positive."

"Not having a place for people to come together with willing hearts to know who is in the neighborhood."

"Every time my kids go out for a bike ride I have to be worried about them getting hit by a car. There are not even proper shoulders on most roads in Norton Shores."

"Muskegon Heights entire city almost needs roads. They are full of potholes and housing is old and no new housing is not being built to replace old burned up housing."

"It should be easier for community members to go to beaches and parks along the lakes and rivers."

"Neighborhoods are dirty."

"There is no good light."

"Vacant lots need brighter streetlights to help reduce crime."

Goal

Vibrant community spaces, high quality infrastructure, and thriving outdoor landscapes and waterways are accessible and safe for all.

"Parks in neighborhoods. Places for families to be together."

"To live a comfortable life without the stress of crime, water and air concerns."

"Well paved neighborhood roads."

"Clean, neat, well maintained streets."

"Clean air and water for all."

"Everyone having a safe neighborhood."

"Healthy police force and fire and rescue."

"Many opportunities and resources for gathering and recreating, especially outdoors at local parks and lakes."

"A place where children can grow and play without violence."

"Speed limits are enforced."

Bright Spots

"Our neighborhood association."

"The regular upkeep of parks."

"I feel safe walking alone daytime, almost anywhere in Muskegon."

"But where I'm at in the Heights... it's one of the most quiet [areas]. My whole entire world is canopied by trees. It's absolutely beautiful."

"I take advantage of my close proximity to the parks, lakeshore and other public areas. It's beneficial to my overall physical and mental well-being, being able to get outside and enjoy nature."

"The beautiful outdoor spaces, beaches and hiking and biking trails."

"The roads are plowed during the winter."

"First responders."

"Law enforcement."

"Safety services are responsive."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Some parts of the county experience higher rates of violence and crime.
2. Some parts of the county experience blight, poor roads, and/or lack of streetlights.
3. Some parts of the county lack adequate, informed police presence.
4. Not all residents have readily available, safe access to parks, beaches, and/or outdoor recreation opportunities.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Some parts of the county experience higher rates of violence and crime.

“Every time there’s a murder, somebody says it’s either in Muskegon or Muskegon Heights. And if you look at the addresses, it’s not always in Muskegon or Muskegon Heights.”

A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“Getting drugs off the streets.”*

A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“No gangs.”*

“So crime is everywhere. Is it only in Muskegon Heights? No.”

What is missing in my community is: *“A safe school environment where our children don’t have to worry about drugs and the other influences out there.”*

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *“Fearing that danger can happen at any time to my house, car, family, pets, friends, etc.”*

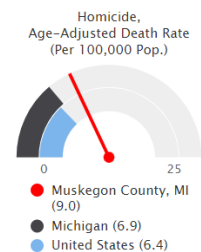
A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“No drug paraphernalia in the parks.”*

A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“One where people can safely interact with their neighbors.”*

Muskegon County Mortality - Homicide

2016-2020 five-year average rate of death due to assault (homicide) per 100,000 population

Report Area	Total Population, 2016-2020 Average	Five Year Total Deaths, 2016-2020 Total	Crude Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)
Muskegon County, MI	173,628	72	8.3	9.0
Michigan	9,967,988	3,248	6.5	6.9
United States	326,747,554	101,419	6.2	6.4



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC - National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via CDC WONDER. 2016-2020. Source geography:

Source: Table and meter from <https://sparkmap.org/>

Crime Statistics by City

Municipality	Crime Index*	Crime Rate per 1,000 Residents		
		Violent	Property	Total
Muskegon	9	7.86	24.74	32.59
Muskegon Heights	2	17.18	39.69	56.88
Montague	39	.82	11.91	12.73
Norton Shores	17	2.3	21.0	23.31
Whitehall	33	3.41	11.25	14.66

*100 is safest

Source: <https://www.neighborhoodscout.com/> (2021 calendar year data, released from FBI in October, 2022)

**Michigan State Police
 Criminal Justice Information Center
 2022 Violent and Property Crimes by County and City/Township**

	Index Crimes			Index Crime Total	Non-Index Crime Total	Grand Total All Crimes
	Violent Crime	Property Crime	Arson			
	Violent Total	Property Total				
Muskegon	782	3,557	34	4,373	12,150	16,523
Blue Lake Township	8	13	0	21	60	81
Brooks Regional Facility	8	0	0	8	20	28
Casnovia	1	7	0	8	9	17
Casnovia Township	3	19	0	22	38	60
Cedar Creek Township	3	15	1	19	57	76
Dalton Township	19	84	0	103	250	353
Egelston Township	34	110	3	147	552	699
Fruitland Township	4	23	1	28	110	138
Fruitport	0	7	0	7	52	59
Fruitport Township	25	443	2	470	554	1,024
Holton Township	11	27	0	38	138	176
Laketon Township	7	34	2	43	188	231
Lakewood Club	8	7	0	15	59	74
Montague	3	28	0	31	89	120
Montague Township	1	9	0	10	34	44
Moorland Township	2	6	0	8	51	59
Muskegon	336	1,023	11	1,370	5,023	6,393
Muskegon Correctional Facility	1	0	0	1	14	15

	Index Crimes			Index Crime Total	Non-Index Crime Total	Grand Total All Crimes
	Violent Crime	Property Crime	Arson			
	Violent Total	Property Total				
Muskegon Heights	174	329	9	512	1,897	2,409
Muskegon Township	53	387	0	440	1,067	1,507
North Muskegon	5	49	0	54	96	150
Norton Shores	57	592	3	652	1,159	1,811
Ravenna	0	6	0	6	19	25
Ravenna Township	0	7	0	7	40	47
Roosevelt Park	9	231	1	241	235	476
Sullivan Township	3	7	1	11	55	66
White River Township	1	8	0	9	37	46
Whitehall	3	33	0	36	169	205
Whitehall Township	3	53	0	56	78	134

Source: <https://www.michigan.gov/msp/divisions/cjic/micr/annual-reports/2022-crime-in-michigan-annual-report>

Root Cause Barrier

2. Some parts of the county experience blight, poor roads, and/or lack of streetlights.

My hopes and dreams include: *“Clean, friendly environment, well maintained lawns, homes kept up.”*

What is missing in my community is: *“Better roads with no potholes.”*

“I would say the roads [in Muskegon Heights] are worse than our crime. Now that's a crime.”

A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“Mowing and lands being kept so people want to live there.”*

What is missing in my community: *“Dead trees on Terrace not cut down, clean streets, and vacant lots need brighter streetlights to help reduce crime.”*

“The roads are super awful and need some major help.”

What is missing in my community is: *“Upkeep within the town in relation to the buildings, streets, and businesses.”*

Muskegon County Road Commission Fact & Figures

County Pavement Surfaces: Paved Roads - 767.49 miles
 Unpaved Roads - 334.40 miles
 Total County Roads - 1,101.89 miles

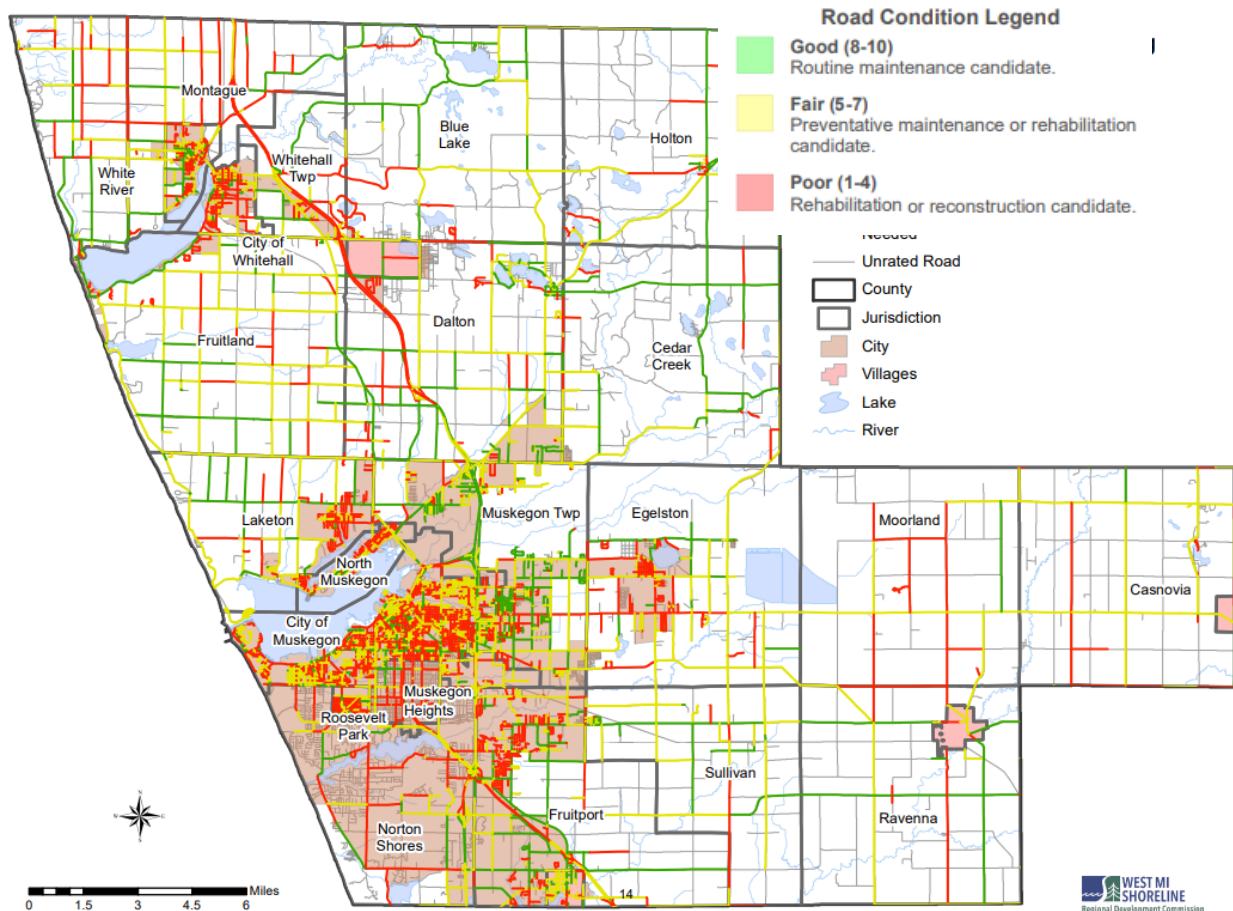
County Road Classifications Primary Roads - 380.10 miles
 Local Roads - 721.79 miles
 Total County Roads - 1,101.89 miles

State Roads

The Muskegon County Road Commission under contract with MDOT maintains 370 lane miles of State roads.

Source: <https://www.muskegoncountyroads.org/164/Facts-Figures>

2022 Assessment of Federal Aid Road Conditions in Muskegon County



Finding: 77.42% of assessed roads are in POOR condition, requiring structural improvements. (approximately 487 of 629 assessed miles)

Source: <https://wmsrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Asset-Mgmt-Report-2022-Final.pdf>

2-Year Ratings on Federal and Non-Federal Aid Roads by County and Select Cities



Road Conditions for Muskegon County

Generated on 9/10/2023

These lane miles are a combination of 2 years ratings on both Federal Aid and Non-Federal Aid roads.

Year	Rating	Lane Miles	Percentage
2018 - 19	Good	509.3	20.2%
2018 - 19	Fair	1145.9	45.4%
2018 - 19	Poor	867.6	34.4%



Road Conditions for Muskegon Heights - City

Generated on 9/10/2023

These lane miles are a combination of 2 years ratings on both Federal Aid and Non-Federal Aid roads.

Year	Rating	Lane Miles	Percentage
2018 - 19	Good	3.3	6.7%
2018 - 19	Fair	9.8	19.8%
2018 - 19	Poor	36.4	73.5%



Road Conditions for Muskegon - City

Generated on 9/10/2023

These lane miles are a combination of 2 years ratings on both Federal Aid and Non-Federal Aid roads.

Year	Rating	Lane Miles	Percentage
2018 - 19	Good	46.2	11.1%
2018 - 19	Fair	198.8	47.6%
2018 - 19	Poor	172.8	41.4%



Road Conditions for Norton Shores - City

Generated on 9/10/2023

These lane miles are a combination of 2 years ratings on both Federal Aid and Non-Federal Aid roads.

Year	Rating	Lane Miles	Percentage
2018 - 19	Good	36.3	23.1%
2018 - 19	Fair	73.3	46.6%
2018 - 19	Poor	47.7	30.3%



Road Conditions for Whitehall - City

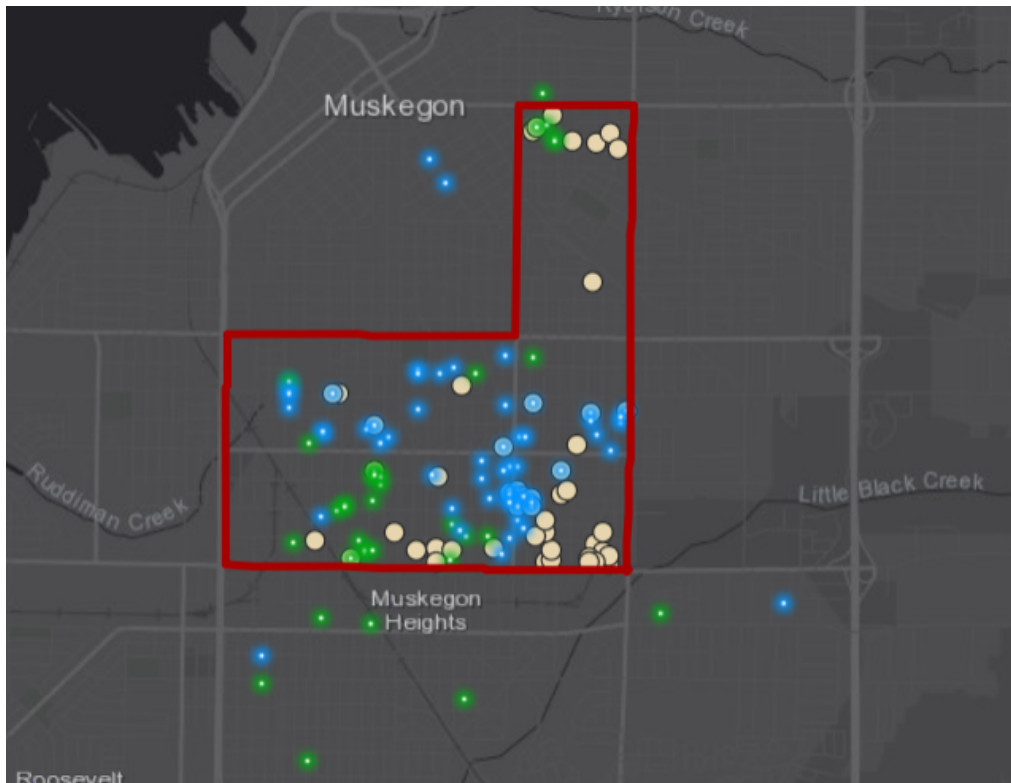
Generated on 9/10/2023

These lane miles are a combination of 2 years ratings on both Federal Aid and Non-Federal Aid roads.

Year	Rating	Lane Miles	Percentage
2018 - 19	Good	1.8	8.5%
2018 - 19	Fair	9.4	44.3%
2018 - 19	Poor	10	47.2%

Source: <https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/tamcMap/>

2018-2019 Muskegon County Urban Safety Corps Blight Cleanup Impact



Properties Cleaned: 94
Garbage Collected: 139,132 lbs
Leaf Bags Filled: 2,423
Tires Collected: 117

Source: <https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/1414/AmeriCorps-Impact>

Root Cause Barrier

3. Some parts of the county lack adequate, informed police presence.

"In the northern parts of the county... most of them don't have a police department... they have a contract with the Sheriff's Department for road patrol."

In a healthy & thriving community: *"Fire and police are plentiful."*

"Unless you are in danger right now it takes police half an hour to an hour to get there."

“Rarely do we see a police officer or anything positive [in Muskegon Township].”

“Something that makes a good community... [is] access to public safety and being able to have proper staffing of your public safety employees and feeling safe..”

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *“Lack of empathy from law enforcement.”*

“I live in the City of Muskegon and find the public services in the community to be very good... Police and Fire staff could use some cultural competency training though. ”

Number of Officers per 1K Population

Department	# of Officers	Ratio of Officers per 10K Residents
Fruitport Township Police	10	7.1
Muskegon Police	67	17.6
Muskegon Heights Police	24	22.4
Muskegon Township Police	14	7.8
North Muskegon Police	8	21.1
Norton Shores Police	38	15.5
Roosevelt Park Police	5	13.2
Whitehall Police Department	8	29.2
Muskegon County Sheriff	48	8.5

Source: Federal LEOKA Database, <https://policescorecard.org/mi/> (2021)

Root Cause Barrier

4. Not all residents have readily available, safe access to schools, parks, beaches, and/or outdoor recreation opportunities.

“I also want to see equitable access to our local waterways. It should be easier for community members to go to beaches and parks along the lakes and rivers.”

A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“Riding bikes, but there are no sidewalks to ride them on and no parks to exercise in.”*

“Parks and natural areas that are accessible to all including those in wheelchairs. A community garden would be great.”

“A healthy community provides ample recreational opportunities for its residents. This includes well-maintained parks, green spaces, trails, and sports facilities that encourage physical activity, sports, and leisure. Access to nature and outdoor activities promotes overall well-being.”

“There needs to be an infusion of cash into those parks. Because we’ve got a boatload of parks, but they are not well maintained throughout the county.”

What is missing in my community: *“Parks and nice sidewalks.”*

A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“People outside, walking in the streets, playing in parks.”*

Muskegon County Outdoor Recreation

Information on the State Parks in Muskegon County, and which facilities are handicap accessible, can be found using the Recreation Search on the website for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources:

<https://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Default.aspx#overview>

Parks and Recreation information for all individual municipalities in the county can be found on using the links compiled on the Muskegon County website at:

<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/QuickLinks.aspx?CID=103>

Muskegon County Parks & Recreation Facilities



Source: <https://muskegoncountyparks.org/>

Muskegon County Trails Map



Source: <https://mitrails.org/muskegon-lakeshore-trail.php>

Additional Community Feedback

- Residents expressed particular concern about sidewalk safety and usability during the winter months, especially near schools.
- Some community members noted environmental concerns and stressed the importance of water quality.
- Several residents were unhappy about parking fees at beaches and parks, and the lack of public transportation to these sites.

Current State

"Negative views and seclusion of some populations. [for example]: lgbtq+."

"Equity, inclusion, and unity is missing."

"The Quality of Life millage ended a few years ago, and that was what repaired the Frauenthal and the Walker Arena."

"We aren't as a united front as [we] ought to be."

"Muskegon feels divided."

"My concern would be how isolated some seniors are."

What prevents me from reaching my goals: "My attitude. My not wanting to be involved."

My community is missing:
"More inclusivity, more striving for local places, events that capture this wonderland we live in "

Goal

The social and emotional needs of all county residents are respected and supported.

"Respect shown, trust increased between people with differences."

"Community that has every kind of people and all get along with each other. One that you can turn to a neighbor for help with things like safety and illness."

"Plenty of free or inexpensive activities."

"Happy citizens with abundant public spaces for all."

"A thriving community celebrates and embraces its cultural diversity. It would promote inclusivity, respect, and understanding among different ethnicities, races, religions, and backgrounds."

"Lots of people participating in and enjoying the many activities available in the greater Muskegon area."

"Community events, live music, theaters, places of worship... "

"No people that believe they're better than others. No discrimination. Work as a team to make things better."

Bright Spots

"My faith community provides strong support."

"Various festivals and events to show support for minority groups."

"One thing I can have is the Holton [Community] Days. It brings everyone together."

"I get a lot of support from the parents of my kids' friends and teammates."

"A welcoming atmosphere that genuinely fosters community."

"The libraries offer great programming."

"The library is the most common resource I use, and the programs that have help my daughter feel closer to her community."

"We live in a community where there are many events, locations and gatherings where social opportunities so we can feel part of something."

"Church services, small groups, widows group, meals and flowers if hospitalized. Facebook group- Muskegon Helping Others."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Many residents lack enough access to inclusive community spaces and events.
2. Polarization, racism, and other forms of discrimination cause harm and discord.
3. Some residents experience lack of support from family/friends/community.
4. Some have limited access to cultural, recreational, personal development, and entertainment opportunities.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Many residents lack enough access to inclusive community spaces and events.

My community is missing: *"Places that people can go to and feel safe. Places where people can go for social events and parks and places to be outside and play."*

My community is missing: *"More events geared toward the Latino community."*

My community is missing: *"Pet friendly activities. Sober events."*

A healthy and thriving community is: *'One where people can safely interact with their neighbors, with plenty of free or inexpensive activities. Affordable options that don't leave people out.'*

Muskegon County is missing: *"More inclusive community events."*

My community supports me: *"By hosting various events that allow me to connect with the community and build supportive relationships."*

My community is missing: *"Safe places for family time and entertainment that isn't cost prohibitive."*

Root Cause Barrier

2. Polarization, racism, and other forms of discrimination cause harm and discord.

A healthy and thriving community is: *"A place where everyone is accepted, regardless of cultural background, gender preference, or 'status quo', just accepted because they are a living, breathing human being."*

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are: *"To live in a community where everyone is accepted no matter what their race is, what their sexual orientation is, what gender they identify as or whether or not they are religious/believe in God."*

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *"Racism, mindsets that keep us tied to small pockets of our community instead of thinking more broadly about the wellbeing of the whole county or state, or nation or worlds."*

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are: *“That my grandchildren have a better life, and live in a community where they are not judged by the color of their skin.”*

Residential Segregation in Muskegon County

	Muskegon County	Michigan	United States
Residential Segregation Black/White	72	73	63

This is an index of dissimilarity; higher values indicate greater segregation on a range from 0 - 100.

Source: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/michigan/muskegon?year=2023>

Hate Crimes Incidents in Michigan in 2021

Types of Crime

Crimes against Persons	373	76.7%
Crimes against Property	94	19.3%
Crimes against Society	19	4.0%

Bias Motivation Categories	2019	2020	2021
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	313	273	294
Religion	51	33	52
Sexual Orientation	44	40	60
Disability	9	9	4
Gender	15	9	7
Gender Identity	2	13	13

Source: <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/state-data/michigan>

Root Cause Barrier

- Some residents experience lack of support from family, friends, or community.

A healthy and thriving community is: *“One that you can turn to a neighbor for help with things like safety and illness.”*

“There is only me, the last of my father's children.”

A healthy and thriving community looks like: *“Working together in unity, being kind, helping others.”*

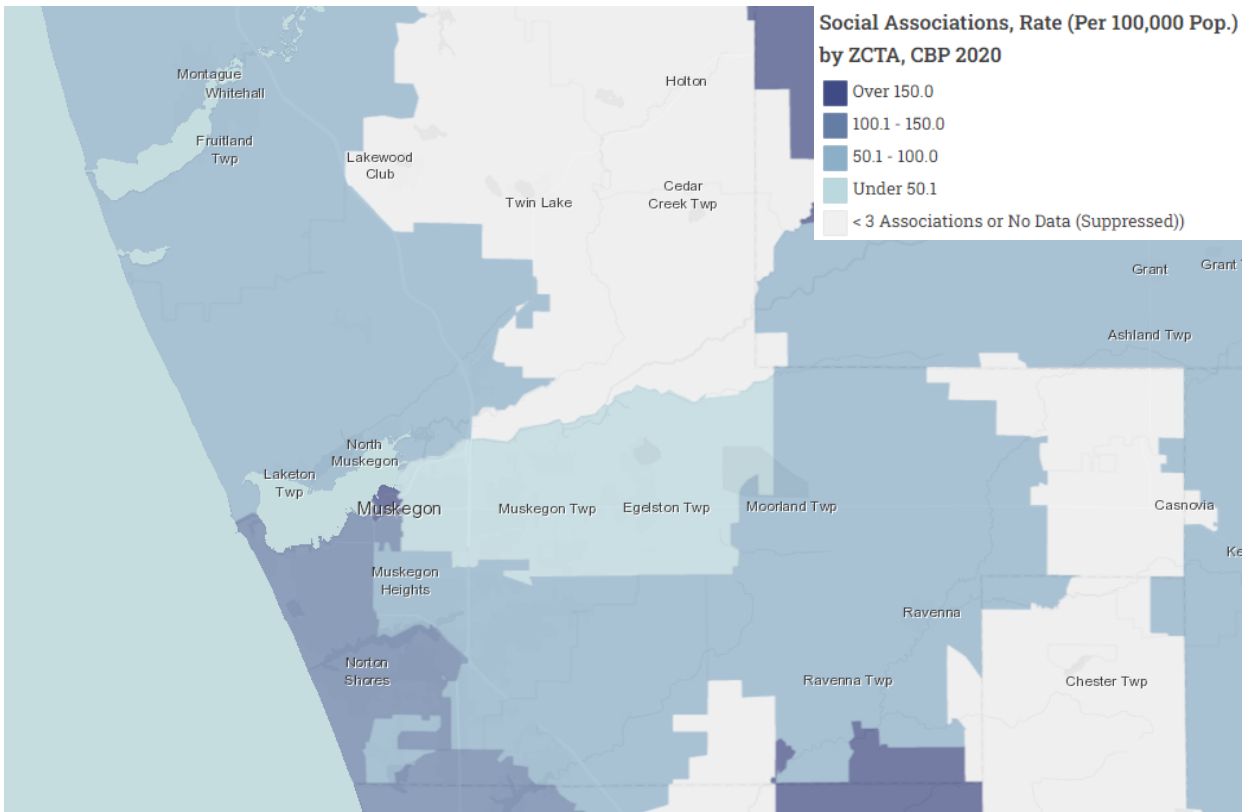
What prevents me from achieving my goals: *“Not much family help.”*

My hopes and dreams are: *“For people to not feel alone.”*

“What is missing in our community is a support group for Asian Americans. A support group is very important because it helps minorities cope with difficult challenges, band together, solve problems, etc. Social partnership is crucial to mental health because you feel you are accepted and thus lower stress and anxiety. It helps people thrive. This is also true to other ethnicities or nationalities. By having a support system, you are not lost in your community.”

My hopes and dreams are to: *“See friends and family.”*

Social Associations



Source: Social Vulnerability Index, CDC 2020, [Map Room – CARES HQ](#)

Mercy Health Community Survey to Inform Community Health Needs Assessment, 2021

Family and Social Support	Muskegon	
Report that they 'usually or always' feel lonely or isolated from those around them	8.1%	70
Among respondents age 65+, report they 'usually or always' feel lonely or isolated from those around them.	4.4%	10
Report they need help caring for themselves or their home	16.0%	137
Among those who need help caring for themselves or their home, the % who report no one helps them	28.5%	39
In the past year has Covid-19 has resulted in them or someone in their household feeling lonely or isolated	42.3%	350
In the past year Covid-19 has resulted in someone they, or someone in their household, cares about dying	27.2%	225

Source: [Mercy Health Muskegon 2021 CHNA](#)

Root Cause Barrier

4. Some have limited access to cultural, recreational, personal development, and entertainment opportunities.

My community is missing: *"An all inclusive community center that focuses on resources and activities for the entire family."*

A healthy and thriving community has: *"Senior meals and activities. Exercise and walking games, concerts, picnics, dancing, bus trips."*

A healthy and thriving community has: *"Activities for all ages."*

My community is missing: *"Libraries, music stores."*

A healthy and thriving community has: *"Opportunities to gather, art, and literature."*

My community is missing: *"More activities, more outings for children and adults."*

Additional Community Feedback

- Many residents noted that the services available through local libraries are an important means of support for community members.

Current State

"Government making decisions about what they want to do in our community without asking us to use our ideas to build what they want with our ideas."

"The services offered need to be expanded because more people need help."

"My friends and community group network provides more help than the local governments."

"I want to believe the community supports me, but I think it's hard to find ways they do."

"Community politics, territorialism."

"I'm not aware of all the resources the community has to offer "

"Unreasonable zoning, city and county leadership being confrontational instead of listening and discussing with compassion and understanding."

Goal

Residents, communities, organizations, and government work together to meet the needs of all.

"Collaboration between agencies and participants to treat problems holistically."

" Leadership that listens to ALL of the voices."

"Catch-all places, strategically planted throughout the community that will help all neighbors and families have access to resources."

"A community that listens, learns, and responds to the needs of the people that live here."

"Meeting the needs of everyone in the community."

"People that are able to work together for a common goal."

"Basic needs are being met for ALL citizens."

"More benefits for the working class."

"A community that learns from their mistakes or tries to improve."

"More strong younger community leaders."

This document presents data about the root causes getting in the way of livability in Muskegon County. The data comes from conversations, focus groups, and surveys with over 550 residents, providers of public health, education, and social services, and members of the local business community, as well as national and local datasets/reports.

Bright Spots

"Local churches are instrumental in reaching out to families."

"Having a library available for information "

My community supports me by: "Offering places on Boards of Directors."

"Marketing support for senior services and events."

"211."

"The community encouraged me to break out of my comfort zone and grow as a person."

"One of the most supportive organizations in my community is the library."

"Agencies that have compassion even when funding isn't available."

"Volunteer options as a retiree."

"I think Muskegon has a huge volunteer spirit."

Root Cause Barriers

The factors that prevent Muskegon County from reaching the goal.

1. Resources are not available for everyone who needs them.
2. Some people have difficulty accessing available resources.
3. Staffing problems, funding, and lack of capacity and coordination constrain the impact of agencies.
4. Lack of trust in government and knowledge around local civic processes and volunteer opportunities limit resident engagement.
5. Lack of efficient/effective communication tools to reach all residents in ways that are easily accessible and digestible.

Root Cause Barrier

1. Resources are not available for everyone who needs them.

My community is missing: *"A Hispanic center where they have resources for us."*

My community is missing: *"Support for the marginally disenfranchised when the focus is on the greatly disenfranchised (those with a lot of needs get the focus, whereas those that aren't in AS BAD of a place are overlooked)."*

What prevents me from reaching my goals is: *"Not having options or affordable services for seniors."*

My community is missing: *"Coaching mentoring opportunities, especially for young adults and those with disabilities. This is not the same as treatment. Services support youth and older adults, but are lacking for transition age youth and young adults."*

My community is missing: *"Helping those who don't qualify as low income but still struggling."*

"I want my family to have the same opportunities as others, more access to resources even if over income."

My community is missing: *"More low-income family friendly assistance."*

Root Cause Barrier

2. Some people have difficulty accessing available resources.

"Services are present, but not always easily accessible to those that need them."

"You say the word 'Medicaid' and it's 'I don't want to have Medicaid...' because there's a stigma."

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *"Resources and knowing who to contact when needed."*

"Interpreters when provided help me feel heard."

"I've had people that I felt would probably be eligible... they just didn't want to have anything to do with it because they wouldn't meet that requirement... It is not income-based there, and yet there was a little bit of that stigma."

"Most of our veterans don't know what's available to them or how to even get access to it."

"My husband's a veteran. He won't accept benefits."

"I think most seniors are usually too proud to ask for help."

Root Cause Barrier

3. Staffing problems, funding, and lack of capacity and coordination constrain the impact of agencies.

"When diverse individuals, non-profits, churches, and both public and private sectors work together, they can pool resources, share expertise, and coordinate efforts to tackle challenges and create positive change."

My community is missing: *"Broader spectrum of thinking, representation and accountability."*

"Our Muskegon Oceana Community Action [Partnership], and I understand for a variety of reasons, but now it's out of Mid-Michigan Community [Action] Agency, which is way up north and covers more counties. The Housing Assessment Resource Agency just went to True North in Fremont. I mean, how many more of these social service agencies that serve vulnerable populations are we going to outsource to counties outside?"

"Not all local governmental units are equal, not all schools are equal, and they need to have more cooperation among the communities and the volunteers to bring everyone up to the level they should be."

"Some people in helping professions not taking their jobs seriously and mistreating people. Some view their jobs as a paycheck and seem to forget they are working with hurting people."

"I work for a non-profit organization and generally speaking they lack advancement opportunities, although I am fortunate to hold one of the few management positions."

"Some city grant programs are very helpful, but run out of financial resources long before the end of fiscal years."

Root Cause Barrier

4. Lack of trust in government and knowledge around local civic processes and volunteer opportunities limit resident engagement.

"Our community has been blessed of resources and quality leadership that is willing to put personal gripes aside and prioritize the overall health and longevity of the city."

My community is missing: *"City and county leadership that listens to the long-time residents as well as new residents."*

"A healthy community encourages active civic participation and engagement. Residents would be involved in local decision-making processes, such as attending community meetings, volunteering, and participating in community initiatives."

My community is missing: *"Caring, engaged and effective leadership and to some degree, residents."*

"My local government staff and elected officials don't take my input of what I want to see in the community into consideration."

My hopes and dreams for myself and my family are: *"To move out of the City of Muskegon Heights due to their leadership not properly taking care of its community."*

Root Cause Barrier

5. Lack of efficient/effective communication tools to reach all residents in ways that are easily accessible and digestible.

My community is missing: *"More help, more communication."*

"There's a lot of services out there. Nobody knows how to find them."

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *"[I am] unclear on resources."*

"There is no paper here... I mean we're starved for local news... People aren't paying for subscriptions because they're getting things on the internet, so they go away..., and that's what leaves our seniors in the dust... They're not connected online."

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“The lack of knowledge of resources available for diverse populations/African Americans.”*

“We need more education and to know [about] organizations like this.”

What prevents me from reaching my goals: *“Misinformation.”*

My community is missing: *“A vehicle other than the Internet that can inform and connect the community.”*

Additional Community Feedback

- Church volunteers are dwindling but would be an excellent resource to support social service agencies and their work.
- Many survey respondents expressed a desire to help and support others, and to give back to the community.
- Getting more youth involved in community projects through the schools could help with many issues in the community, such as blight.
- People living near municipal borders (along county, city, village, or township lines) experience disparities in resource availability and frustration at not being able to vote on issues that affect them.