



crescendo | 

2023 Community Needs Assessment



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Executive Summary

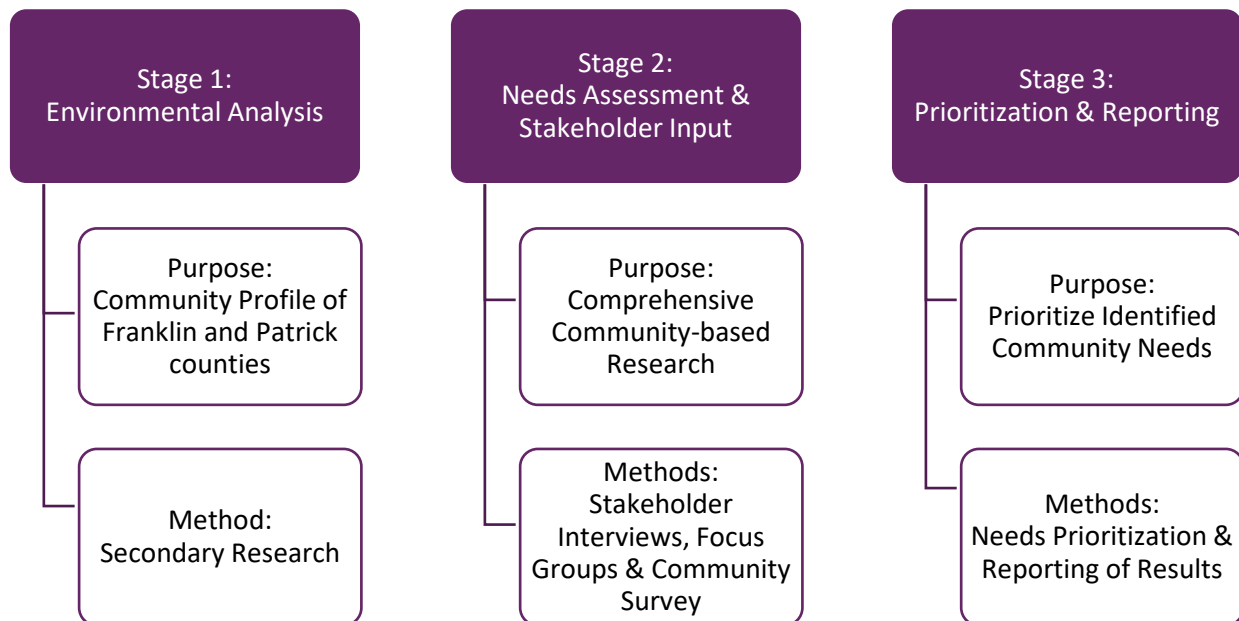
Solutions That Empower People (STEP), Inc. (“STEP”) is a dynamic community action agency headquartered in Rocky Mount, Virginia. The designated community action agency for Franklin and Patrick counties, STEP also provides services in Bedford, Pittsylvania, and Henry counties, as well as the cities of Martinsville and Danville. STEP provides exceptional services to people who want to improve their quality of life through community, economic, personal, and family development.



STEP provides programs and services in the following areas:

- Housing & Weatherization
- Youth Services
- Senior Services
- Head Start & Early Head Start
- Supportive Services
- Tax Preparation

Recipients of CSBG funding are required to complete a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years as a requirement to receive CSBG funding. STEP contracted Crescendo Consulting Group (“Crescendo”) to conduct its 2023 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) from June through September of 2023. To this end, STEP and Crescendo worked collaboratively to implement a mixed methodology approach, consisting of a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods designed to evaluate the perspectives and opinions of community stakeholders.



Prioritized Needs

The seven (7) needs prioritized for action by STEP through this CNA process are:

- **Improved access to affordable child care**, by increasing the number child care slots across Franklin and Patrick counties, as well as in populations not served by Head Start and communities without Early Head Start;
- **Programs for youth**, including those offering basic resources (food, bedding, and/or clothing), as well as other youth-focused programming such as peer mentoring;
- **Expansion of after-school programs and low-cost, accessible recreational activities** offered for children, particularly in Patrick County;
- **Transportation options** that allow residents of rural communities to access resources and programs available in town, including expansion of senior bus routes;
- **Support for families to make improvements to the quality of homes**, including home repairs and weatherization;
- **Job training and professional development opportunities** to grow the local workforce and improve local economic development; and
- **Efforts to increase public awareness of existing resources and programming**, including targeted marketing efforts and use of social media (e.g., TikTok, Facebook and Instagram).



These needs reflect an array of service areas in which STEP currently provides programming to address causes and conditions of poverty in Franklin and Patrick counties, including several child- and youth-focused areas. Needs also touch on challenges of particular importance to rural communities with an older demographic composition, including the need to alleviate obstacles posed by limited transportation options. By considering augmented services, as well as promoting awareness of the programming and resources that already exist, STEP is poised to continue fulfilling an integral role addressing causes and conditions of poverty in Franklin and Patrick counties in the coming years.

Secondary Data Research

Secondary data provides an essential framework from which to better understand the fabric of the community. This analysis highlights sociodemographic factors, social determinants of health, behavioral health risk factors, and other key indicators to further guide the development of effective strategies to meet evolving needs. The following data was primarily gathered from the United States Census Bureau 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) Five-year Estimates, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, among others. Highlights include:

- **Proportions of households living below poverty level in Franklin (13.5%) and Patrick (13.9%) counties are higher** than for the state of Virginia (10.1%), and slightly higher than the U.S. (13.1%). Correspondingly, median household income is lower in Franklin and Patrick counties than the United States, and far lower than that in Virginia.
 - The percentage of people living below the poverty level in Franklin County and Patrick County is slightly higher than the state level and comparable to the national level. Notably, Patrick County has seen a **33% decrease** in poverty since 2010.

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
People below poverty level (2010)	13.8%	10.2%	13.1%	15.8%
People below poverty level (2021)	12.3%	9.7%	12.9%	10.5%
Percent change	-10.9%	-4.9%	-1.5%	-33.5%

- **There are slightly fewer children age five and under living in poverty in Franklin County and Patrick County** compared to the state or nation.

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Children Age 5 and Under Living in Poverty	5.9%	5.9%	4.2%	5.0%

- There are five Head Start locations and one Head Start / Early Head Start location in Franklin County, and there are four Head Start locations and one Head Start / Early Head Start in Patrick County. The number of children served by Head Start has decreased in Virginia from 2017 to 2021.
- Overall, **the populations of Franklin and Patrick counties are older** than either Virginia or the U.S. and **there are more individuals living with a disability** in these counties, including nearly one in five of those in Patrick County.
- The number of children living in households with a high housing cost burden has remained stable at the national and state level since 2017. **In Virginia, Hispanic (39%) and Black or African American children (39%) are two times more likely than White non-Hispanic (19%) children to live in cost-burdened homes.**
- **There are three to four times as many housing units that are mobile homes** in Franklin and Patrick counties compared to the nation.

Qualitative Research

A total of 13 stakeholders were interviewed, and three virtual focus groups were conducted, providing the opportunity for in-depth conversations about the strengths and opportunities for STEP to identify vulnerable populations within Franklin and Patrick counties.

The following High-Level Action Areas are representative of respondents' consensus in both interviews and focus group discussions. These key action areas and some associated observations that are representative of respondents' consensus perspectives are included below.



Access to
Care



Basic Needs of
Children & Youth



Behavioral Health



Child Care



Housing &
Homelessness



Transportation

Access to Care: Some of the most prevalent health care accessibility issues in the counties stem from the lack of providers and specialists, leaving residents with few quality local options, leaving many to travel to the nearby city of Roanoke to receive the services they need.

Basic Needs of Children & Youth: Stakeholders and community members expressed the need for an expansion of current services provided to children in vulnerable living conditions, including those helping to meet basic needs, from food to peer mentoring.

Behavioral Health: Stakeholders expressed a concern for the lack of services available for individuals seeking behavioral health care and recognized the need for a wider breadth of services for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders beyond what local providers currently offer. Several spoke to the challenges of seeking such services in small communities in Franklin and Patrick counties.

Child Care: Affordable child care was cited by many residents of both Franklin County and Patrick County as a huge need in the community with regards to challenges with long wait times, limited slots, and steep costs.

Housing & Homelessness: Many residents voiced their concerns about climbing housing costs, limited renting opportunities, and long wait lists for assistance, contributing to an increase in housing insecurity. Nearly all conversations held with community members mentioned a lack of resources for homeless individuals, with limited shelters, transitional housing, or warming centers available, either for those experiencing chronic homelessness or others seeking shelter due to domestic violence or other unstable or unsafe situations.

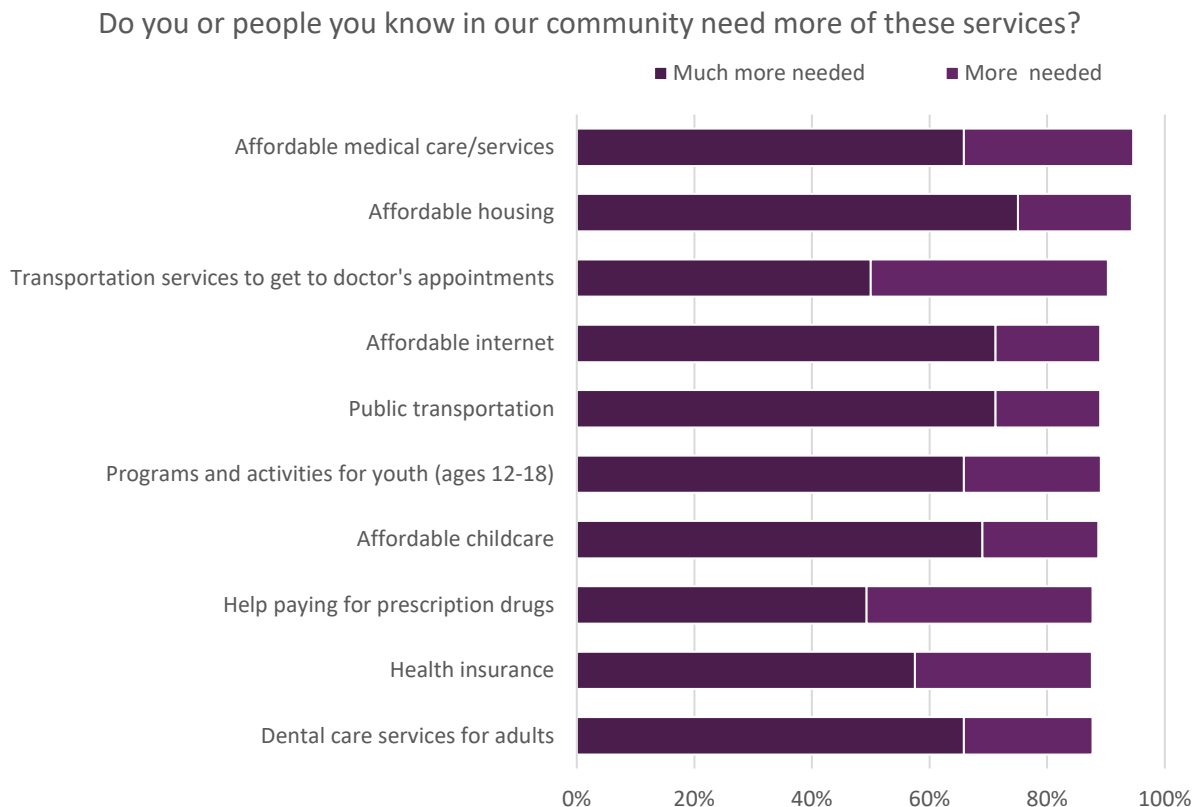
Transportation: Community members and agency staff each spoke to the challenges individuals and families face in accessing existing resources given the limited transportation available in Franklin and Patrick counties, as well as the implications for health and behavioral health outcomes impacted by a lack of access to resources.

Community Survey

The purpose of the community survey was to enable a greater share of people living in Franklin and Patrick counties to share their perspectives on the greatest needs affecting their community. Of 89 total responses received, 73 valid survey responses were included in this analysis. Most respondents (88.9%) identify as female, and most identify as White (85.5%) and not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (93.7%). Nearly half of respondents (45.4%) report being age 55 or older. The median household income reported by respondents falls in the \$35,000 to \$49,999 range, which is lower than the median household income estimated for the population in Franklin County (\$59,667) and in the range of the median household income estimated for the population in Patrick County (\$47,215).¹ The vast majority of respondents reported living and working in Franklin County or Patrick County, and more than half of respondents (54.7%) reported living in Rocky Mount (24151) or Stuart (24171).

Respondents were asked whether they or people they know in their community need more of an array of unique services. Most respondents reported the need for 'much more' or 'more' affordable medical care/services (94.5%), affordable housing (94.4%), and/or transportation services to get to doctor's appointments (90.3%).

Community Services as Scored by Survey Respondents (Ten Highest Scores)



¹ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2017-2021.

Needs Prioritization

Prioritizing the needs identified throughout the CNA process was essential for building consensus among STEP leadership, staff, and board members. The needs prioritization session provided the project Leadership Group an opportunity to review the key findings, rate the importance and scale of each identified need (in alignment with Results Oriented Management and Accountability principles), and categorize which identified needs fall within STEP's locus of control to address, as well as the level of resources available to meet the needs.

The prioritization process consisted of two steps:

1

First, an online survey was open for approximately one week to allow each Leadership Group member to answer the following question about each of the 24 identified needs: *"How great is the need for additional focus..."*

No more needed	..	...	More needed	.....	.....	Much more needed	NA
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The average score across respondents with regards to each need was calculated to gauge the level of focus necessary to create an impact in the community. Participants were also asked to provide comments supporting their scores, and these comments were de-identified and shared with the rest of the group.

2

The second step was the collaborative prioritization session. The Leadership Group participated in a virtual needs prioritization session to review the 24 community needs identified through the CNA process. The needs with the highest average scores in the survey, as well as several selected needs with slightly lower average scores, were evaluated using the following scales:

Locus of Control:

- 1 = Lead
- 3 = Collaboration or Partnership
- 5 = Support or Advocate

Resources:

- 1 = "Yes, we have all the resources we need"
- 3 = "Maybe, we have some resources but need more (i.e., funding, staffing)"
- 5 = "No, we don't have the resources"

This process resulted in identification of the seven priority needs listed on the second page of this report.

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Organizational Background

Solutions That Empower People (STEP), Inc. (“STEP”) is a dynamic community action agency headquartered in Rocky Mount, Virginia. The designated community action agency for Franklin and Patrick counties, STEP also provides services in Bedford, Pittsylvania, and Henry counties, as well as the cities of Martinsville and Danville. STEP provides exceptional services to people who want to improve their quality of life through community, economic, personal, and family development.



STEP is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who actively participate in setting and then ensuring that the agency achieves all of its strategic goals and objectives. STEP’s leadership team includes an Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Finance Director, Marketing Director, and four program directors, who work in concert to ensure that the day-to-day operations of the organization run smoothly.

Programs & Services

Housing & Weatherization

STEP has provided Franklin and Patrick County residents with help making their homes more energy efficient since 1969. The agency employs highly trained industry professionals who use the latest technology, including infrared and thermal imaging, to properly diagnose each client’s specific energy-saving needs and address them accordingly. These services benefit both the homeowner and the environment by:



- Making homes safer, more comfortable, and more efficient.
- Reducing the energy consumption in each home, which helps to create a healthier, greener environment.
- Helping our friends and neighbors save money on their utility bills.

STEP also administers the local Section 8 Housing Choice voucher program on behalf of the Virginia Housing Development Authority. In addition, STEP inspects rental homes in this program to ensure that landlords keep them properly maintained.

Youth Services

STEP's Lessons in Fundamental and Essential Skills (LIFES) Academy provides an engaging alternative setting for students with special needs. Licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Education and an accredited member of the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities, LIFES Academy helps students shape appropriate attitudes, behaviors, and life skills so they can realize their fullest potential both academically and socially.

As its foundation, LIFES Academy embraces a partnership approach, working with each student, family, and other community partners to ensure each individual student's success by addressing not only the presenting symptoms but also their root causes. The school serves students with developmental delays, emotional and intellectual disabilities, as well as health, learning, speech, and language challenges. Students are referred to LIFES Academy through their Local Education Agency's special education department in cooperation with the locality's Family Assessment and Planning Team and Community Policy and Management Team.

Senior Services

Partnering with the Southern Area Agency on Aging, STEP's staff and volunteers provide home delivered **Meals on Wheels** to home bound senior citizens in certain areas of Franklin and Patrick Counties, offering a friendly face, someone to chat with, and the comfort of knowing that someone cares. Pet food is also delivered to seniors who we serve through Meals on Wheels so seniors can afford to keep their companions with them in their homes.

For its **Senior Café** program, STEP prepares nutritious lunches that are combined with interesting educational programs and activities. These meals are prepared in STEP's own kitchen and served to some 150 seniors each week at various locations in the community.

STEP offers **transportation services for Patrick County seniors** to congregate lunches, medical appointments, and grocery shopping. More than 50 seniors take advantage of these services every week, allowing them the freedom to be more mobile, more self-sufficient and more independent.



Head Start & Early Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive education, health, and nutrition programs specifically designed to help parents prepare their children for school in Franklin and Patrick counties. They are designed to foster the healthy development of children from low-income families. STEP classrooms also provide the opportunity for social, emotional, and intellectual growth, along with health screenings and medical/dental support services. The Head Start approach serves the entire family and seeks to empower both parents and children.

The program serves over 200 clients including pregnant women and children from birth through age five. With over 50 education professionals, STEP's team includes teachers, teacher assistants, family service specialists and educators, health advocates, and transportation specialists.



Supportive Services

With its **Virginia Housing Solutions Program Homeless Prevention efforts**, STEP provides financial assistance and on-going case management services for low-income families and individuals who are at risk of losing their home (rentals only). STEP offers these services in Franklin, Patrick, Henry, and Pittsylvania Counties and the Cities of Martinsville and Danville.

STEP's **rapid re-housing** program provides emergency financial assistance to homeless veterans, individuals and families. STEP provides rapid re-housing in Franklin, Patrick, Henry, and Pittsylvania counties and the cities of Martinsville and Danville.

Tax Preparation

STEP provides free tax preparation services for families and individuals earning less than \$56,000 annually. Trained and certified volunteers prepare most standard IRS documents and submit returns electronically. Volunteers help clients take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and more. Assistance is provided at STEP offices in Rocky Mount and Stuart from January through April.

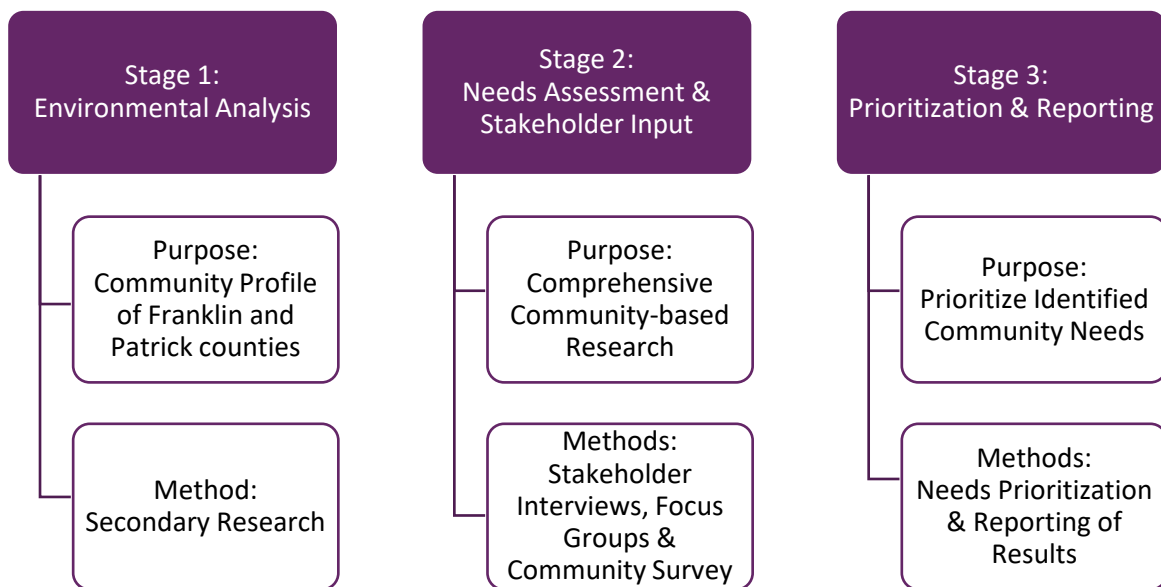
Approach

Recipients of CSBG funding are required to complete a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years as a requirement to receive CSBG funding. Section 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act states “... *an assurance that the State will secure from each eligible entity in the State ... a community action plan ... that includes a community needs assessment for the community served, which may be coordinated with community needs assessment conducted for other programs ...*”

- A Community Needs Assessment establishes a profile of a community, noting both needs as well as community resources.
- CSBG recipients conduct assessments to determine the needs in a community that can be addressed and the population that is most impacted by the need.
- CSBG recipients should include both qualitative and quantitative data to assist in identifying needs in the community.
- From this identification of needs on the family, community, and agency levels, and through a strategic planning process, CSBG recipients determine the outcomes that they plan to achieve for the next three years.

Additionally, Head Start Program Performance Standards require the periodic determination of community strengths, needs, and resources in the form of an assessment that paints a picture of the community and describes the diverse needs of families who may receive services.²

STEP contracted Crescendo Consulting Group (“Crescendo”) to conduct its 2023 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) from June through September of 2023. To this end, STEP and Crescendo worked collaboratively to implement a mixed methodology approach, consisting of a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods designed to evaluate the perspectives and opinions of community stakeholders, especially those from underserved and underrepresented populations.



² U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Administration for Children & Families. Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center. *Community Assessment Matrix*. Available at: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>

This CNA provides a critical process that examines the underlying causes and conditions of poverty while locating the resources to meet specific community-wide needs. The major sections of the methodology include the following:

Strategic Secondary Research provided critical insight into service area demographics, social determinants of health, early childhood education, and health-related measures, among many others.

Qualitative Research consisted of interviews with 13 stakeholders across Franklin and Patrick counties, and three (3) virtual focus group discussions with agency partners and community members across several sectors.

A **Community Survey** was disseminated to the community to evaluate and address the needs of vulnerable populations, in addition to identifying service gaps in resources. The survey included high-level themes that emerged from secondary research analysis and qualitative research.

The **Needs Prioritization** process was facilitated virtually by Crescendo with a Project Leadership Team comprising STEP leadership, program staff, and board members. The Leadership Group reviewed a list of 24 identified needs and prioritized the top seven (7) needs based on importance, organizational capacity/degree of control, and timeline of impact.

Secondary Data Research

Secondary data provides an essential framework from which to better understand the fabric of the community. This analysis highlights sociodemographic factors, social determinants of health, behavioral health risk factors, and other key indicators to further guide the development of effective strategies to meet evolving needs. The following data was primarily gathered from the United States Census Bureau 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) Five-year Estimates, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, among others.

There is an intentional purpose in using ACS five-year population estimates compared to one-year estimates. Five-year estimates are derived from data samples gathered over several subsequent years and provide a more accurate estimate of measures, especially among numerically smaller high-risk populations or subgroups, compared to one-year estimates, which are based on more limited samples with greater variance.³

Framework

Social Determinants of Health

In addition to collecting key demographic secondary data, research also focused on the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH). Social Determinants of Health include a wide range of factors, including, but not limited to, income, education, job security, food security, housing, basic amenities, the environment, social inclusion and non-discrimination, and access to quality affordable health care. These conditions contribute to wide health disparities and inequities.⁴

Exhibit 1: Social Determinants of Health Diagram



Source: Crescendo Consulting Group (derived from SDoH literature)

³ U.S. Census Bureau. *American Community Survey - 2010 and 2019 Five-year Estimates*.

⁴ Healthy People 2030. *Social Determinants of Health*.

Causes & Conditions of Poverty

People living in areas with higher concentrations of poverty experience more acute systemic problems (e.g., limited access to medical services, healthy, affordable food, quality education and civic engagement opportunities) than those in lower poverty areas.⁵ According to the 2023 Poverty Guidelines, an individual is considered impoverished if their income is below \$14,580, or their household income is below \$30,000 for a family of four.⁶

Causes of poverty are negative factors that make it more difficult for low-income people to provide for themselves and/or reduce access to resources that might help them meet their basic needs.

Conditions of poverty are negative environmental, safety, health, and/or economic conditions that reduce investment or growth in communities where low-income individuals live.

These disparities mean people living in poverty are more likely to die from preventable diseases. Programs and policies that make food, housing, health care, and education more affordable can help reduce poverty.

This secondary data research provides critical insight through examination of the underlying causes and conditions of poverty in STEP's service area using a Social Determinants of Health lens, while identifying resources and assets that can be leveraged to meet specific community needs, including those related to Head Start early childhood education programming.

⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. *Social Determinants of Health, Poverty*.

⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *HealthCare.gov – Federal poverty level (FPL)*.

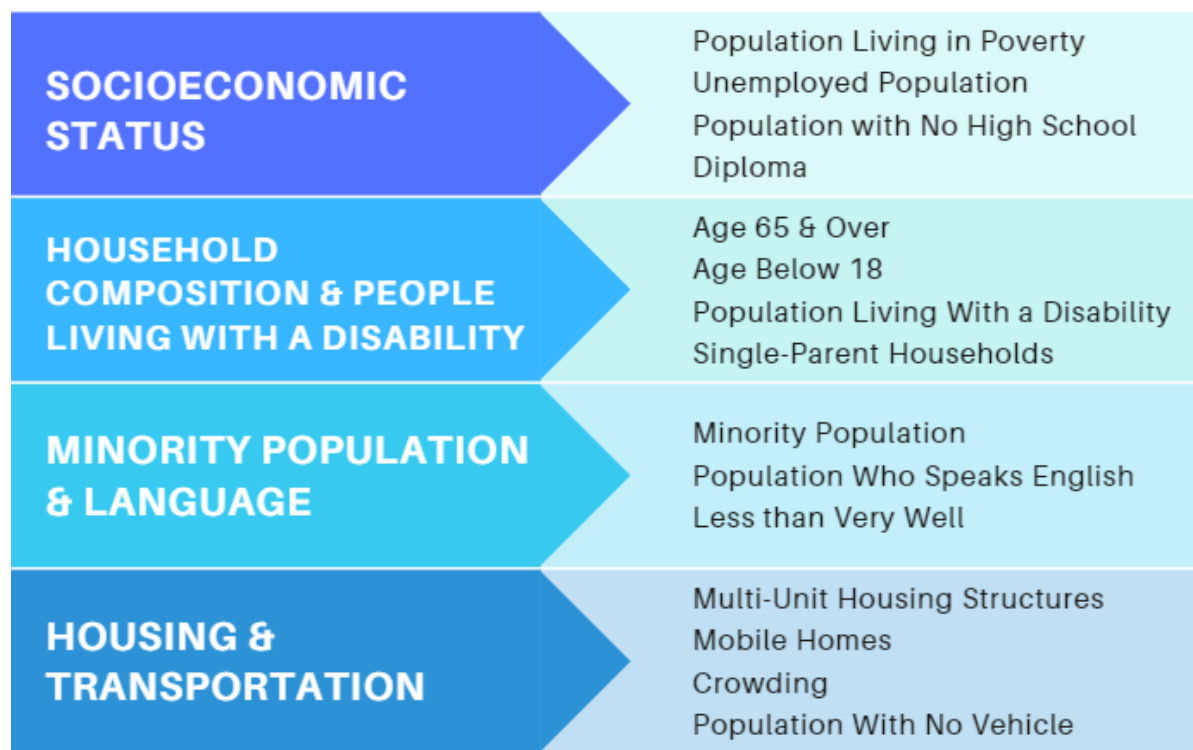
Domain 1: Demographics

Social Vulnerability Index

The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) model was developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a way to use data to identify vulnerable populations.

The SVI may be used to rank overall population well-being and mobility relative to county, state, and national figures. Measures are grouped into four major categories: Socioeconomic Status, Household Composition and Disability, Minority Status and Language, and Housing and Transportation. The SVI can also be used to determine the most vulnerable populations during disaster preparedness and public health emergencies, including pandemics.⁷

Exhibit 2: CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)



Source: CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index

⁷ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index.

The following SVI tables highlight factors that impact the needs of the most vulnerable in Franklin and Patrick counties.

Exhibit 3: SVI – ‘Socioeconomic Status’ and ‘Household Composition and Disability’ Measures

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Total population	329,725,481	8,582,479	54,829	17,661
Households below poverty level	13.1%	10.1%	13.5%	13.9%
Unemployment rate ⁸	5.5%	4.6%	2.9%	2.9%
Median Household Income	\$69,021	\$80,615	\$59,667	\$47,215
Population with No High School Diploma	11.1%	9.2%	10.9%	16.8%
Under 18	22.5%	22.1%	19.1%	17.4%
65 and Older	16.0%	15.5%	23.5%	26.4%
Population Living with a Disability	12.6%	11.9%	14.8%	18.6%
Single-parent Households	28.7%	28.6%	24.5%	24.7%

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

- Franklin County’s population is estimated to be three times the size of the population of Patrick County.
- Proportions of households living below poverty level in Franklin and Patrick counties are higher than for the state of Virginia, and slightly higher than the U.S.
- The unemployment rate in Franklin County and Patrick County is substantially lower than the rate at either the state or national level.
- Median household income is lower in Franklin and Patrick counties than the United States, and far lower than that in Virginia.
- Fewer of those in Patrick County have a high school diploma compared to any of the other geographies examined here.
- The populations of Franklin and Patrick counties are older than either Virginia or the U.S. and there are more individuals living with a disability in these counties, including nearly one in five of those in Patrick County.
- Fewer children in Franklin and Patrick counties live in single-parent households than either Virginia or the U.S.

⁸ Total Unemployed: Civilians 16 years old and over are classified as unemployed if they (1) were neither "at work" nor "with a job but not at work" during the reference week, and (2) were actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks, and (3) were available to accept a job.

Exhibit 4: SVI – ‘Minority Status and Language’ and ‘Household Type and Transportation’ Measures

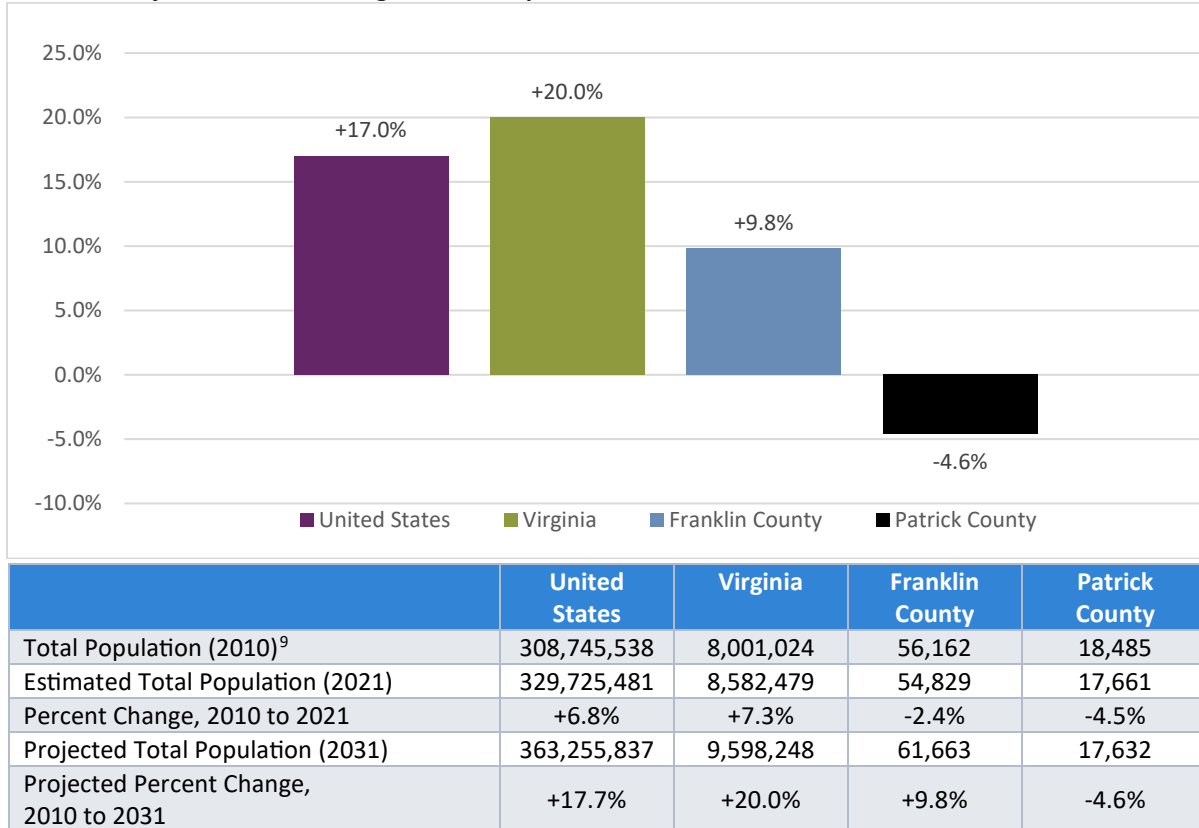
	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Minority Population	40.6%	39.4%	13.1%	10.4%
Population Who Speaks English Less than Very Well	8.2%	5.8%	1.2%	1.6%
Mobile Homes	5.9%	4.6%	16.5%	24.1%
Multi-Unit Properties	26.4%	22.8%	7.3%	3.9%
Housing Units with No Vehicle	8.3%	6.0%	5.4%	4.1%
Population in Group Quarters	2.7%	2.4%	2.2%	2.5%

- Both Franklin County and Patrick County have far fewer residents who identify as members of a racial or ethnic minority population compared to either Virginia or the U.S.
- A relative few people living in Franklin and Patrick counties speak English less than very well.
- There are four times as many housing units that are mobile homes in Patrick County, and slightly less than three times as many in Franklin County, compared to the nation.
- Multi-unit properties comprise a small fraction of housing in Franklin and Patrick counties, compared to more than one-quarter of housing at the national level and more than one-fifth of housing in Virginia.
- Fewer housing units in Franklin and Patrick counties have no vehicle compared to the state or nation.
- The proportion of the population in Franklin County and Patrick County living in group quarters is comparable to Virginia and the U.S.

Demographics

Franklin County is projected to grow at about half the rate of the nation from 2010 to 2031. **The population of Patrick County is expected to decrease 5% by 2031.**

Exhibit 5: Projected Percent Change in Total Population, 2010-2031



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

The gender balance in Franklin and Patrick counties is comparable to Virginia and the U.S. In FY23, STEP served a larger fraction of individuals identifying as female (57.9%) than male (42.1%).

Exhibit 6: Total Population by Gender

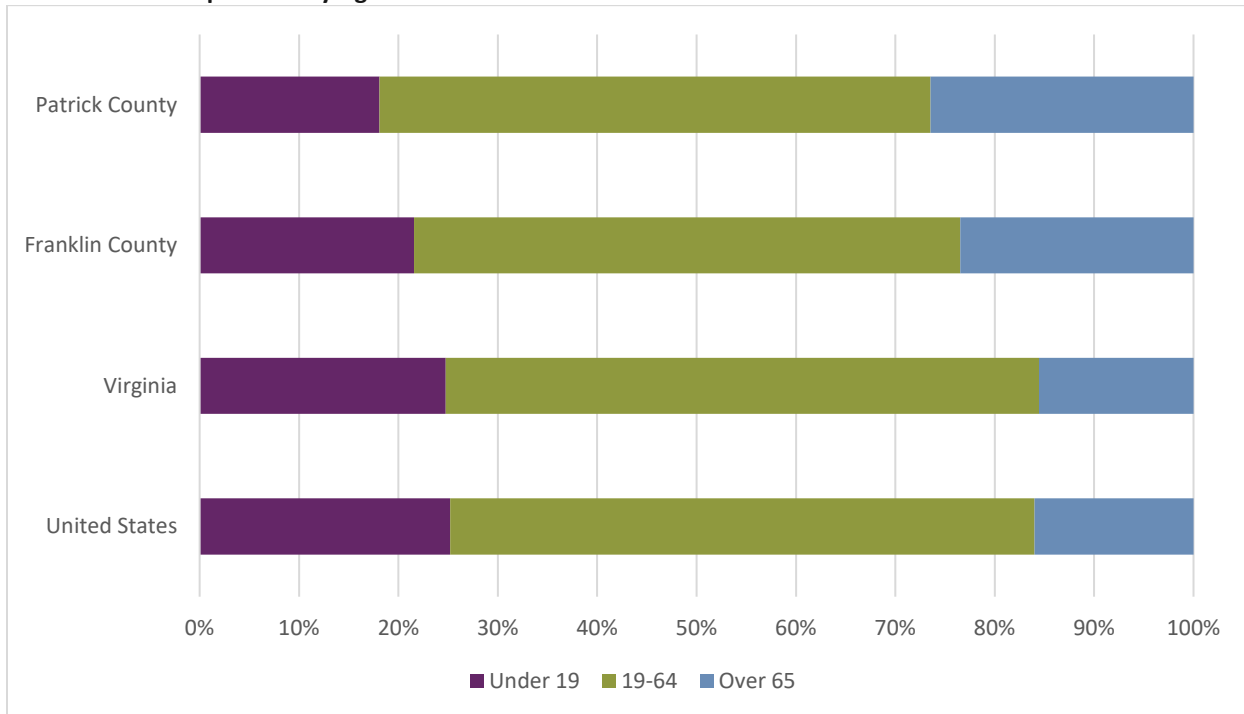
	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County	STEP, Inc. Clients
Female	50.5%	50.5%	50.6%	50.2%	57.9%
Male	49.5%	49.5%	49.4%	50.2%	42.1%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates
STEP, Inc. Client Demographics sourced from internal CSBG FY23 report

⁹ Totals reported in this row are Census 2010 population counts. The remainder of this report features more recent estimates of population, as derived from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey over the 2017-2021 period.

The median age of both counties is **substantially greater – at least ten years older** – than the state (38.5) and national level (38.4).

Exhibit 7: Total Population by Age



	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County	STEP, Inc. Clients
Median Age (2021)	38.4	38.5	48.1	50.4	-
Median Age (2010)	36.9	37.2	43.3	45.4	-
Percent Change	+4%	+3%	+11%	+11%	-
Under 5	5.9%	5.8%	4.3%	4.8%	31.5%
5 to 9	6.1%	6.0%	5.0%	5.1%	
10 to 14	6.6%	6.4%	6.0%	4.5%	
15 to 19	6.6%	6.5%	6.3%	3.7%	
20 to 24	6.5%	6.6%	5.7%	5.0%	
25 to 34	13.8%	13.7%	9.7%	9.0%	24.4%
35 to 44	12.9%	13.2%	9.5%	9.8%	
45 to 54	12.6%	13.0%	13.7%	15.0%	7.3%
55 to 59	6.7%	6.8%	8.3%	7.7%	4.7%
60 to 64	6.3%	6.3%	8.1%	9.0%	5.6%
65 to 74	9.6%	9.4%	14.5%	14.9%	12.6%
75 to 84	4.5%	4.4%	6.8%	8.9%	13.9%
Over 85	1.9%	1.7%	2.2%	2.7%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates
STEP, Inc. Client Demographics sourced from internal CSBG FY23 report

- Compared to the populations of Franklin and Patrick counties, STEP, Inc. served more clients ages 24 and under, more clients ages 25 to 44, and more clients ages 75 and older in FY23.

Both Patrick County and Franklin County have largely White racial composition, more than 20% higher than the national and state levels. The next largest racial group in both counties is Black or African American, at 7.7% (Franklin County) and 5.7% (Patrick County). The population served by STEP has a larger fraction of those identifying as Black or African American (26.3%) compared to the two counties.

Exhibit 8: Population by Race

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County	STEP, Inc. Clients
White	68.2%	64.9%	88.3%	91.5%	66.7%
Black or African American	12.6%	19.0%	7.7%	5.7%	26.3%
Asian	5.7%	6.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%
Two or more races	7.0%	5.9%	2.5%	1.2%	3.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%
Some other race	5.6%	3.1%	0.4%	0.9%	2.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

STEP, Inc. Client Demographics sourced from internal CSBG FY23 report

Most of those served by STEP do not identify as having Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origins (96.0%), comparable to proportions observed for each county. While Virginia has a larger proportion of Hispanic residents (9.8%) than either county, the nation as a whole has an even larger percentage (18.4%).

Exhibit 9: Population by Ethnicity

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County	STEP, Inc. Clients
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origins	18.4%	9.8%	2.9%	3.3%	4.0%
Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origins	81.6%	90.2%	97.1%	96.7%	96.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

STEP, Inc. Client Demographics sourced from internal CSBG FY23 report

Virginia has a larger proportion of its civilian population (age 18 and over) that are veterans (10.2%) than the nation (6.9%), likely due in large part to its proximity to Washington, D.C., and other local military resources in the mid-Atlantic region. While veterans do not comprise the same fraction of the civilian population in either Franklin County (8.4%) or Patrick County (7.3%), the counties together are estimated to be home to nearly 5,000 veterans. In FY23, STEP served 157 veterans, or 5.0% of its clientele age 18 and older.

Exhibit 10: Veteran Population

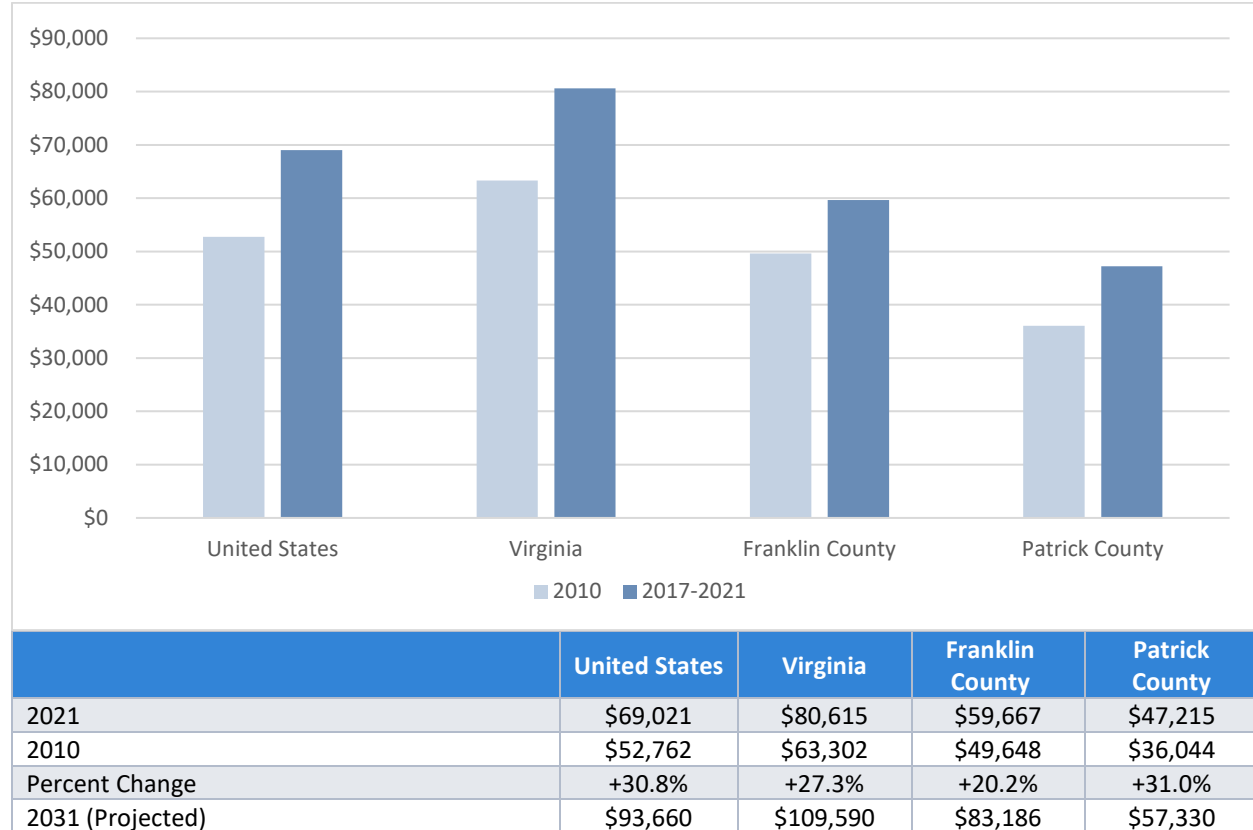
	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County	STEP, Inc. Clients
Number of veterans	17,431,290	671,519	3,703	1,067	157
Percentage of civilian population age 18 and over	6.9%	10.2%	8.4%	7.3%	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

STEP, Inc. Client Demographics sourced from internal CSBG FY23 report

Per 2021 estimates, the median annual household income in Franklin County is lower than the national and state averages by about \$10,000 and \$20,000, respectively. In Patrick County the annual household income is about \$20,000 lower than the national figure and slightly more than half the state figure.

Exhibit 11: Median Annual Household Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

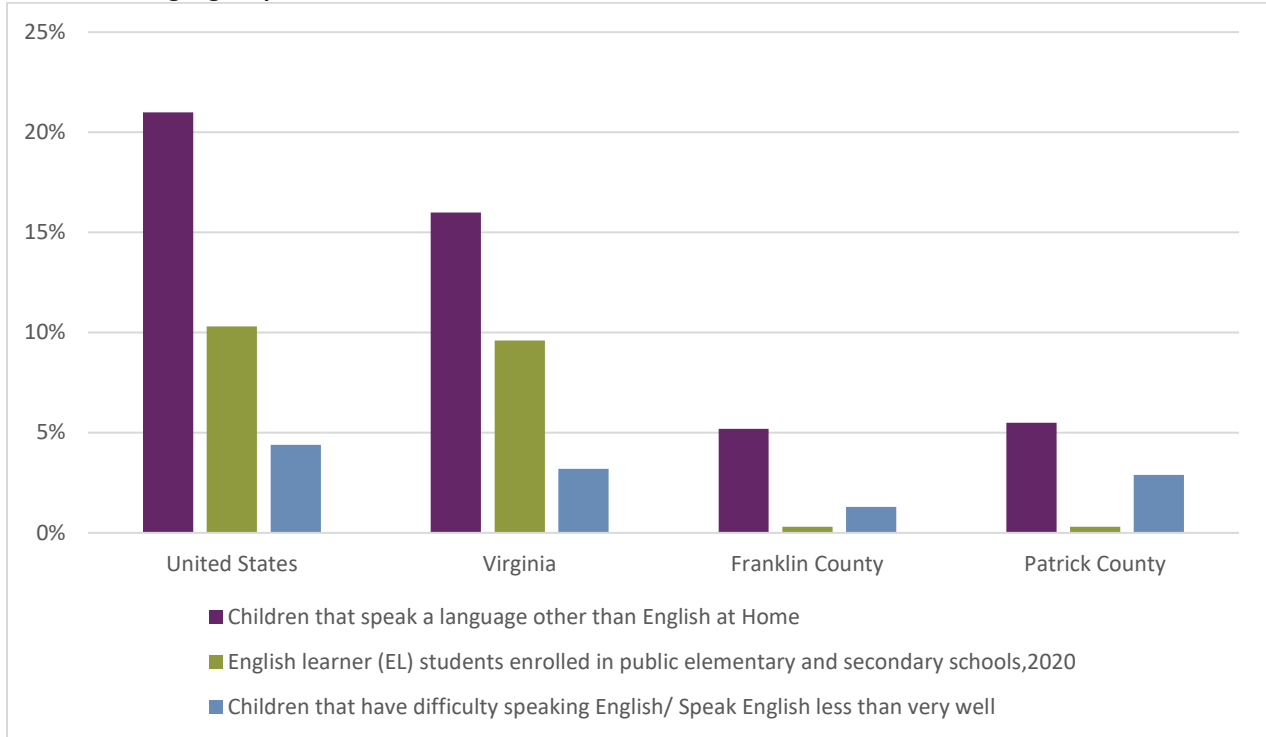
The percentage of people living below the poverty level in Franklin County and Patrick County is slightly higher than the state level and comparable to the national level. Notably, Patrick County has seen a **33% decrease** in poverty since 2010, about **three times the national percentage change**.

Exhibit 12: Poverty Level Change

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
People below poverty level (2021)	12.3%	9.7%	12.9%	10.5%
People below poverty level (2010)	13.8%	10.2%	13.1%	15.8%
Percent change	-10.9%	-4.9%	-1.5%	-33.5%

Smaller numbers of children in Franklin and Patrick counties speak a language other than English at home, and there are fewer English learner students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools, compared to Virginia and the U.S.

Exhibit 13: Languages Spoken at Home



	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Children that speak a language other than English at Home	21.0%	16.0%	5.2%	5.5%
Asian-Pacific Islander	3.5%	3.7%	0.3%	0.3%
English Only	78.3%	83.5%	96.9%	95.6%
Other Indo-European	3.7%	3.7%	0.6%	0.8%
Other	1.2%	1.7%	0.3%	0.1%
Spanish	13.3%	7.4%	2.0%	3.3%
English learner (EL) students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools (2020)	10.3%	9.6%	0.3%	0.3%
Children that have difficulty speaking English/ Speak English less than very well	4.4%	3.2%	1.3%	2.9%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Population Living with a Disability

Both Franklin and Patrick County have a higher proportion of individuals living with disabilities compared to the national and state average. The total population of individuals living with a disability is about 2% more than the national average in Franklin County and 6% more in Patrick County, likely in part due to the larger concentration of older adults in Patrick County.

Notably, of those served by STEP in FY23 for whom the presence of a disabling condition was known, more than half (51.4%) reported the presence of one or more such conditions.

Exhibit 14: Population Living with a Disability

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County	STEP, Inc. Clients
Total Population	12.6%	11.9%	14.8%	18.6%	51.4%
Female	12.8%	12.0%	13.8%	19.0%	-
Male	12.5%	11.8%	15.8%	18.3%	-
Children (Under 18)	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	5.5%	-
Adults (19 to 64)	10.3%	9.6%	13.3%	11.4%	-
Older Adults (65 and Older)	33.4%	32.0%	27.1%	43.5%	-

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates
STEP, Inc. Client Demographics sourced from internal CSBG FY23 report

In Franklin County, those who identify as Hispanic or Latino, or as two or more races, are most likely to be living with a disability. In Patrick County, as well as nationally, those who identify as Black or African American or American Indian and Alaska Native alone are more likely than other groups to live with a disability.

Exhibit 15: Population Living with a Disability by Race and Ethnicity

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	16.3%	15.2%	10.5%	20.5%
Black or African American Alone	14.0%	13.7%	12.4%	19.7%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latino)	13.3%	12.5%	14.9%	18.8%
White Alone	13.3%	12.5%	14.9%	18.8%
Any race/ethnicity	12.6%	11.9%	14.8%	18.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	11.6%	16.8%	0.0%	NULL
Two or more races	10.5%	9.1%	22.8%	14.1%
Hispanic or Latino	9.3%	7.0%	24.3%	17.1%
Some Other Race Alone	9.3%	6.6%	0.0%	1.9%
Asian Alone	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Domain 2: Education & Child Care

Education is not only about the schools or higher education opportunities within a community, but also includes languages spoken, literacy, vocational training, and early childhood education.¹⁰ Some children live in places with poorly performing schools, and the stress of living in poverty can affect children's brain development, making it harder for them to do well in school.¹¹

Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool-Age Children

In 2021, there were estimated to be **nearly 3,000 children under age five living in Franklin County, and slightly more than 1,000 estimated to be living in Patrick County.** STEP serves about 200 clients with its Head Start and Early Head Start programming in Franklin and Patrick counties, and this client population also includes pregnant women. Even when combined with the other licensed child care providers who serve the region, **this leaves the area with a shortfall in serving the 4,000 estimated children age five and under who live in Franklin County or Patrick County.**



Exhibit 16: Children Age Five and Under

	Franklin County	Patrick County
Under Age 3	1,447	489
Age 3 to 4	901	369
Age 5	646	208
Total	2,994	1,066

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

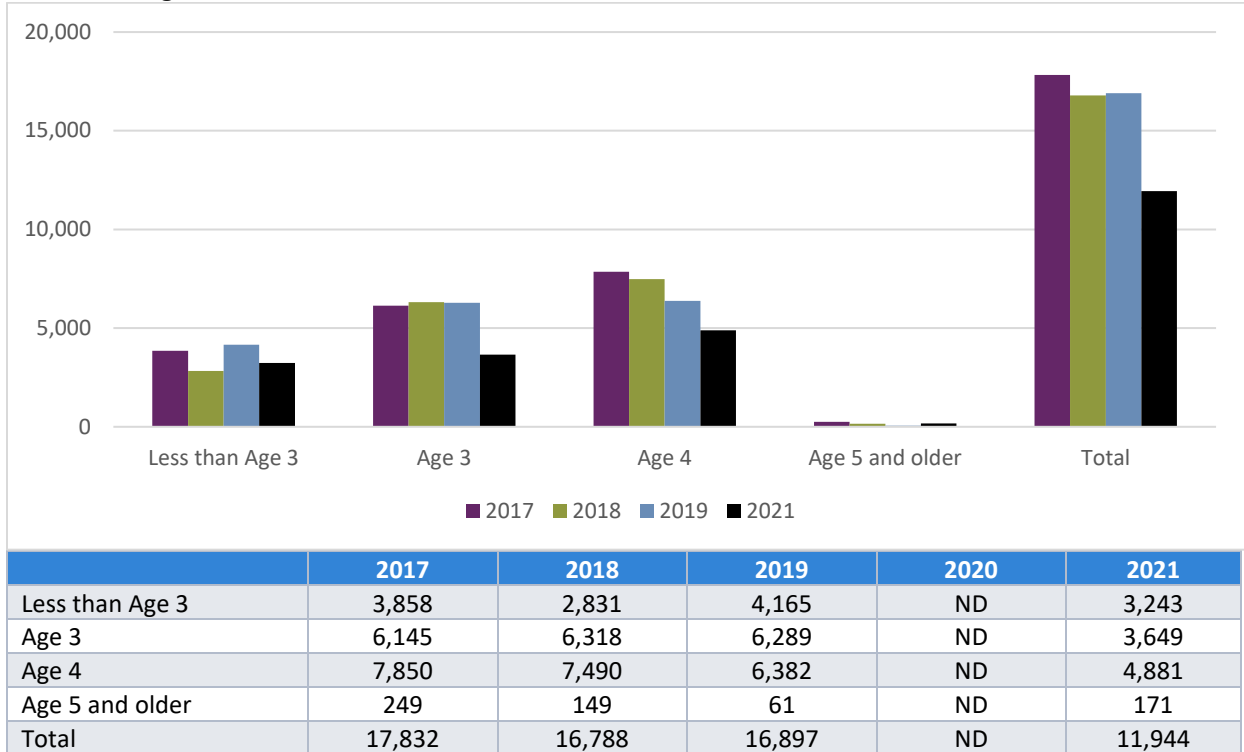
¹⁰ Kaiser Family Foundation. Beyond Health Care: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health & Health Equity, 2018.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health, Education Access & Quality.

Child Care & Head Start

Virginia children enrolled in Head Start programs have decreased over the period from 2017 to 2021, with a large decrease observed during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Exhibit 17: Virginia Head Start Enrollment Overview



Source: Virginia Department of Social Services

There are five Head Start locations and one Head Start / Early Head Start location in Franklin County.

Exhibit 18: Franklin County Head Start Locations

Name	Location	Center Type
STEP Inc. Rocky Mount HS – EHS Site	Rocky Mount	Head Start / Early Head Start
Rocky Mount Elementary	Rocky Mount	PreK / Head Start
Sontag Elementary	Rocky Mount	PreK / Head Start
Lee M Waid Elementary	Rocky Mount	PreK / Head Start
Ferrum Elementary	Ferrum	PreK / Head Start
Glade Hill Elementary	Glade Hill	PreK / Head Start

Source: STEP, Inc.

There are four Head Start locations and one Head Start / Early Head Start location in Patrick County.

Exhibit 19: Patrick County Head Start Locations

Name	Location	Center Type
STEP Inc. Stuart HS – EHS Site	Stuart	Head Start / Early Head Start
Patrick Springs Elementary	Patrick Springs	Head Start
Blue Ridge Elementary	Ararat	PreK / Head Start
Meadows of Dan Elementary	Meadows of Dan	PreK / Head Start
Stuart Elementary	Stuart	PreK / Head Start

Source: STEP, Inc.

The number of 4-year-olds served by the Pre-School Initiative in Franklin County is **two times** the number of students served in Patrick County.

Exhibit 20: Four-Year-Olds Served by Virginia Pre-School Initiative

	2015	2006	2017	2018	2019-20
Virginia	18,356	18,023	17,959	17,657	18,459
Franklin County	200	165	165	153	143
Patrick County	69	74	54	62	65

Source: Virginia Department of Education

There are slightly fewer children age five and under living in poverty in Franklin County and Patrick County compared to the state or nation. However, there are larger proportions of certain racial/ethnic groups (Hispanic children in Franklin County and Black or African American children in Patrick County) living in poverty than there are in the state or nation.

Exhibit 21: Children Age 5 and Under Living in Poverty

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Children Age 5 and Under Living in Poverty	5.9%	5.9%	4.2%	5.0%
By Race				
White Alone	5.9%	5.4%	8.4%	4.5%
Hispanic	11.6%	12.2%	16.3%	-
Black or African American	10.5%	10.6%	2.5%	14.4%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	9.2%	4.8%	-	0.0%
Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	10.2%	7.9%	-	-
Two or More Races	13.6%	14.5%	17.8%	24.4%
Other	10.2%	12.7%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

The average annual cost of center-based infant care in Virginia equates to nearly 70% of income for a family living in poverty, and nearly 50% of state median income for a single-parent family.

Exhibit 22: Child Care Cost For Infants

	Virginia
Average Annual Cost for an Infant in Center-Based Care	\$15,288
Cost of Center-Based Infant Care as a Percent of...	
Income for a Poor Family	69.6%
State Median Income for a Single-Parent Family	44.8%
Median Annual Rent	101.4%

Source: National Database of Childcare Prices

The cost of infant care in Virginia has increased across various care centers from 2018 to 2023.

Exhibit 23: Child Care Cost For Infants in Virginia By Center

	2018	2023
Infant Center-Based Price	\$12,921	\$15,209
Infant Home-Based	\$9,041	\$10,641
Toddler Center-Based Price	\$10,372	\$12,208
Toddler Home-Based Price	\$7,920	\$9,322
Pre-School Center-Based Price	\$10,372	\$12,208
Pre-School Home-Based Price	\$7,920	\$9,322
School-age Center-Based Price	\$9,150	\$10,770
School-age Home-Based Price	\$7,129	\$8,391

Source: National Database of Childcare Prices

Student Performance

The percentage of Kindergarteners **not meeting benchmarks** on the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program is **comparable** between Franklin County and the state level (1.4%; 1.3%); however, the percentage of students not meeting benchmarks in Patrick County has been consistently about **3 times higher** than the national and state level since 2015.

Exhibit 24: Kindergarteners Not Meeting All the Benchmarks on Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP)¹²

	2015 -16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Virginia	1.7%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%
Franklin County	2.0%	1.5%	1.8%	1.7%	1.4%
Patrick County	4.5%	4.2%	2.9%	4.4%	3.5%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

Passage rates for third grade reading standards of learning (SOL) **decreased steadily** at both the state and county levels in the last five academic years. In Patrick County, there was a **20% decrease** in the number of students passing between the 2018 and 2020 academic years, a **6% decrease** was seen in **Franklin County**, and **10% at the state level**.

Exhibit 25: Passage Rate For Third-Grade Reading Standards of Learning (SOL)¹³

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2020
Virginia	76%	75%	72%	71%	61%
Franklin County	80%	75%	74%	74%	68%
Patrick County	79%	84%	81%	87%	76%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

Exhibit 26: Passage Rate For Third-Grade Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) By Students Who Are Economically Disadvantaged

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2020
Virginia	62.3%	59.4%	57.0%	44.4%	52.6%
Franklin County	70.3%	66.5%	67.7%	60.7%	67.2%
Patrick County	78.3%	77.9%	81.1%	73.0%	82.4%

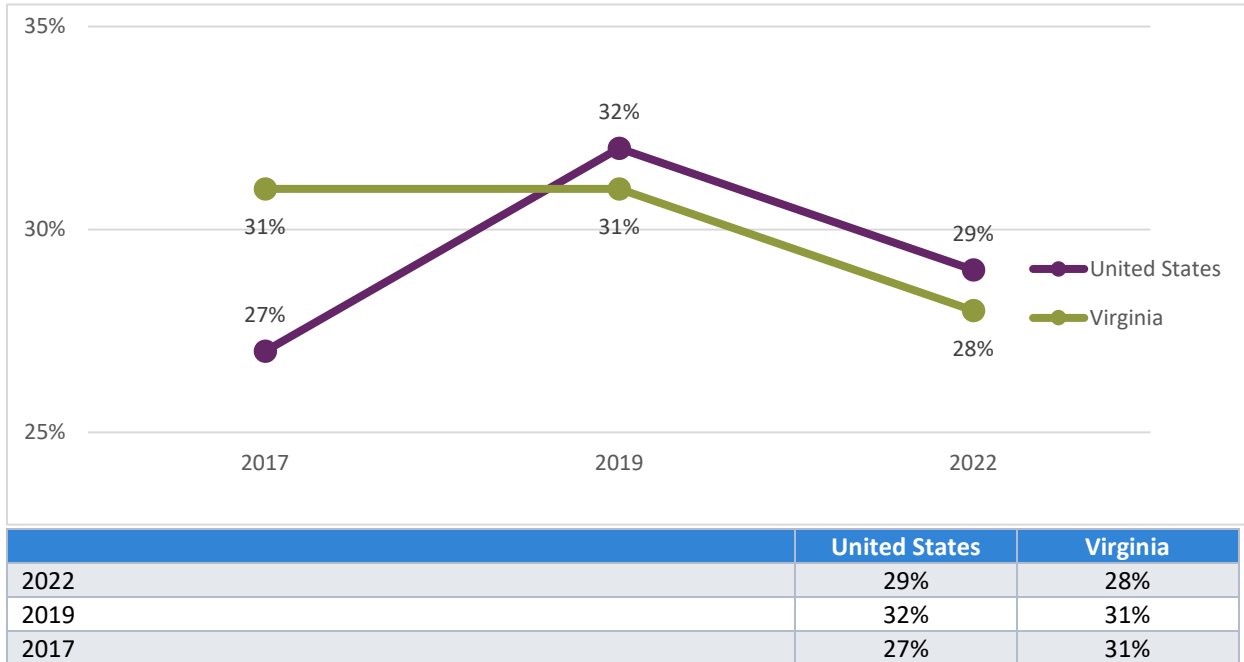
Source: Virginia Department of Education

¹² The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) measures mathematics, self-regulation, and social skills to complement Virginia's state-wide assessment of literacy using the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS). This data includes the number and percent of students not meeting all benchmarks including self-regulation, social skills, math, and PALS during the fall semester. Counts below 10 are suppressed; however, percents are still reported.

¹³ Percent of students who passed the third grade reading subject Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment. This assessment is administered in the spring of the third grade. Economically Disadvantaged students are defined if they meet any one of the following: 1) is eligible for Free/Reduced Meals, or 2) receives TANF, or 3) is eligible for Medicaid, or 4) identified as either Migrant or experiencing Homelessness.

The percent of Virginia fourth graders with proficient reading ability was slightly lower than the corresponding national figure in 2019 and 2022.

Exhibit 27: Percent of 4th Graders with Proficient Reading Ability



Source: The Nation's Report Card

Chronic absenteeism doubled in Franklin County between the 2018-19 and 2020-21 academic year, with almost 20% of students missing 10% or more of days enrolled. Students in Franklin County were **four times more likely** to experience chronic absenteeism than students in Patrick County (5.2%).

Exhibit 28: Chronic Absenteeism¹⁴

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2020-21
Virginia	10.4%	10.6%	11.1%	10.7%	11.1%
Franklin County	19.0%	19.8%	9.7%	8.5%	17.3%
Patrick County	11.3%	12.0%	12.1%	8.7%	5.2%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

Exhibit 29: On-Time High School Graduation¹⁵

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Virginia	91.6%	91.6%	91.5%	92.5%	93.0%
Franklin County	90%	90%	90.6%	93%	92.9%
Patrick County	93.4%	93.4%	95.6%	92.8%	96.8%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

¹⁴ Chronic absenteeism is defined by VDOE as the number of students missing 10% or more of days enrolled. For the percentage, this number is then divided by student enrollment.

¹⁵ The on-time graduation rate expresses the percentage of students in a cohort who earned a Board of Education-approved diploma within four years of entering high school for the first time. Percentages are based on longitudinal student-level data and account for student mobility and retention and promotion patterns.

Educational Attainment

The percentage of individuals with less than a high school degree is higher in Patrick County than any of the other geographies examined. Franklin and Patrick counties have fewer residents with a graduate degree than either Virginia or the U.S.

Exhibit 30: Educational Attainment over 25

Highest Level of Educational Attainment	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Less than 9 th Grade	4.8%	3.7%	4.2%	6.7%
9 th to 12 th Grade, No diploma	6.3%	5.5%	6.7%	10.1%
High School Diploma	26.5%	23.8%	34.2%	35.6%
Some College No Degree	20.0%	18.7%	22.5%	19.9%
Associate degree	8.7%	7.9%	9.9%	11.3%
Bachelor's Degree	8.7%	7.9%	9.9%	11.3%
Graduate Degree	13.1%	17.6%	8.2%	5.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Across geographies, **more of those who identify as White alone have a high school degree compared to those who identify with one or more other races or ethnicities.** Those who identify as Hispanic or Latino generally have among the lowest proportions, along with those who identify as some other race alone.

Exhibit 31: Adults with a High School Degree by Race/Ethnicity

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
White Alone, not Hispanic or Latino	93.5%	93.6%	89.7%	83.8%
White Alone	91.4%	92.7%	89.7%	83.5%
Asian Alone	87.6%	91.0%	90.1%	79.0%
Black or African American Alone	87.2%	87.8%	88.2%	78.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	87.0%	89.7%	ND	ND
Two or More Races	83.1%	88.2%	67.1%	100.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	79.7%	80.2%	100.0%	65.9%
Hispanic or Latino	71.2%	74.6%	74.8%	71.9%
Some Other Race Alone	65.0%	67.4%	42.8%	50.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

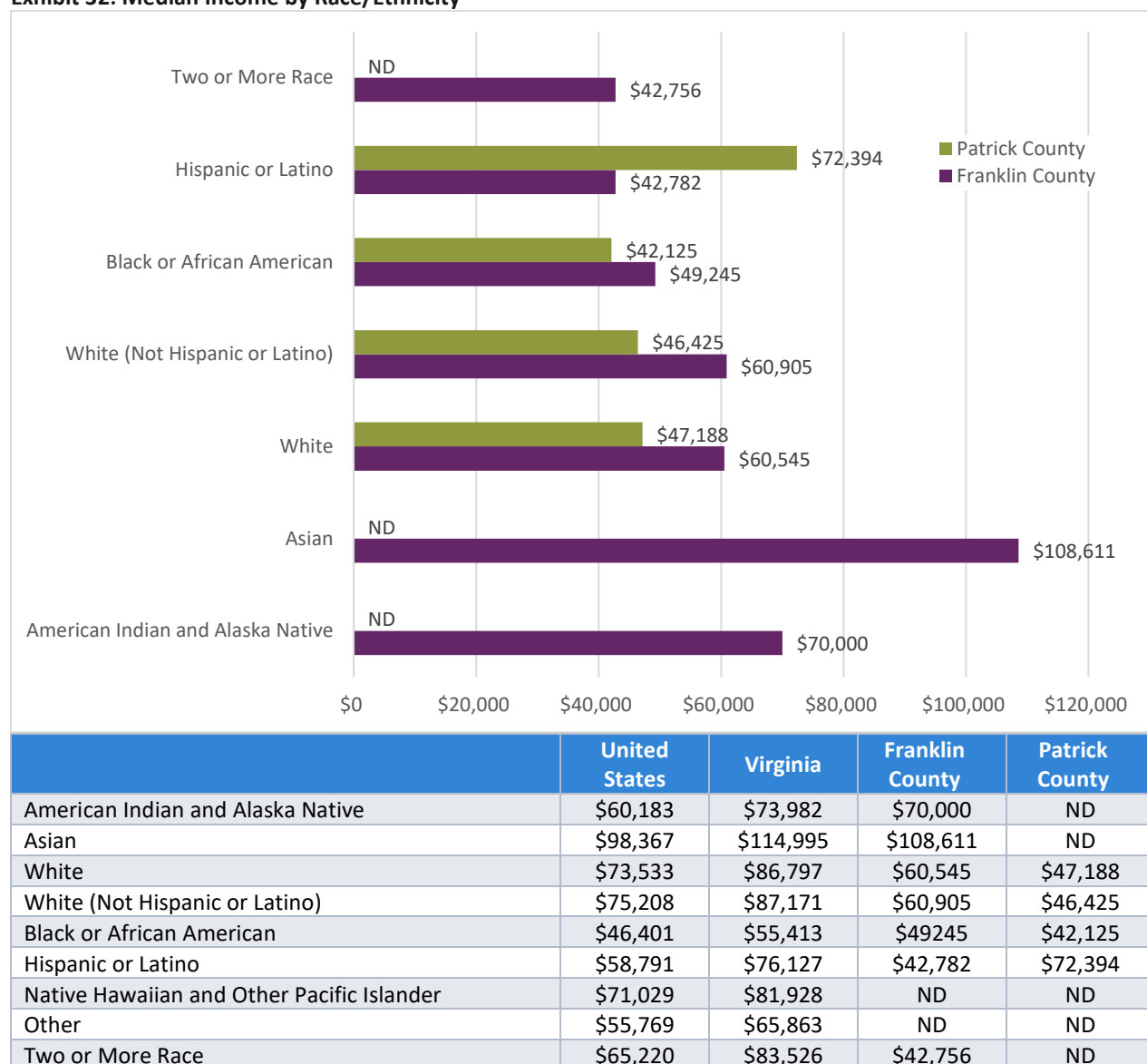
Domain 3: Economic Stability

People living in poverty are less likely to have access to health care, healthy food, stable housing, and opportunities for physical activity. Research suggests that low-income status is associated with adverse health consequences, including shorter life expectancy, higher infant mortality rates, and other poor health outcomes.¹⁶

Employment & Income

Median household income varies by race and ethnicity across Franklin and Patrick counties.

Exhibit 32: Median Income by Race/Ethnicity



Source U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

¹⁶ American Academy of Family Physicians, Poverty & Health. The Family Medicine Perspective, April 2021.

Across geographies, those ages 65 and over have considerably lower median income than those ages 25 to 64. **In Patrick County, the median income for older adults is half that for those ages 25 to 44.**

Exhibit 33: Median Income by Age

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Under 25	\$37,180	\$40,953	\$40,917	ND
Ages 25-44	\$76,311	\$86,973	\$77,057	\$66,573
Ages 45- 64	\$83,172	\$99,057	\$68,667	\$63,963
Ages 65 and over	\$50,523	\$57,591	\$49,038	\$33,991

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

The median income of families with children increased across Virginia geographies from the 2013-2017 period to the 2015-2019 period. **This included an increase of more than 40% in Patrick County.**

Exhibit 34: Median Income of Families with Children

	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
2017	\$82,307	\$56,403	\$43,472
2018	\$85,880	\$54,175	\$48,864
2019	\$89,973	\$60,194	\$61,597
Percent change, 2017 to 2019	+9.3%	+6.7%	+41.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Five-year Estimates

Since 2010 the unemployment rate in Patrick County has decreased by **77%**, almost **four times** the national percent change. Franklin County has also experienced a large percent change in unemployment rate, **with a 67% decrease** since 2010, **almost 3.5 times more** than the national average.

Exhibit 35: Unemployment rate

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
2010	6.9%	7.3%	8.9%	13.0%
2021	5.5%	4.6%	2.9%	2.9%
Percent Change	-20.3%	-37.0%	-67.4%	-77.7%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The labor force participation rate in both Franklin and Patrick County is about **10 percentage points lower** than the state and national rates.

Exhibit 36: Labor Force Participation Rate

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
2017-2021	63.6%	65.9%	53.4%	53.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Larger proportions of the Franklin County and Patrick County labor force are ages 55 or older as compared to Virginia and the U.S.

Exhibit 37: In Labor Force By Age Group

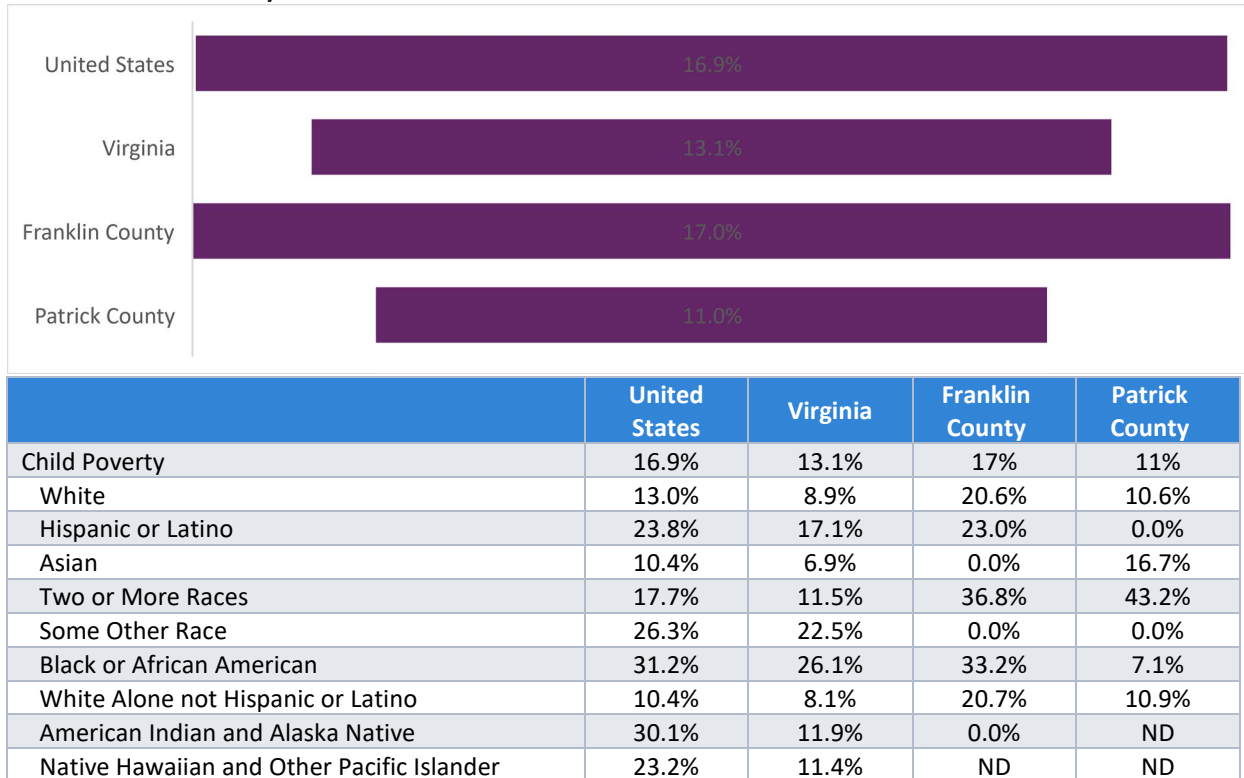
	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
16 to 19	4.0%	4.0%	5.4%	2.2%
20 to 24	9.6%	9.4%	9.8%	9.5%
25 to 35	22.5%	21.9%	17.9%	13.4%
35 to 44	21.0%	21.2%	17.0%	17.8%
45 to 54	20.2%	20.5%	21.5%	25.2%
55 to 59	9.6%	9.7%	12.4%	12.2%
60 to 64	7.2%	7.3%	9.0%	12.8%
65 to 74	5.0%	5.1%	5.6%	5.9%
75 and over	0.9%	0.9%	1.2%	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Socioeconomic Status

The proportion of children living below the poverty rate in Franklin County (17.0%) is comparable to the national level (16.9%) and **four percent higher than the state** (13.1%). There are proportionally fewer children living in poverty in Patrick County than at the state and national levels.

Exhibit 38: Child Poverty



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

While 2022 five-year estimates of child poverty had yet to be released at the time of this report's publication, the U.S. Census Bureau's announcement of its Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rates¹⁷ for 2022 included identification of an increase in child poverty from 5.2% in 2021 to 12.4% in 2022, an increase of 7.2%.¹⁸ This followed year-over-year decreases in the poverty rate for children using the SPM from 2017 to 2021, due largely to the Child Tax Credit.

¹⁷ The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) is a measure of economic deprivation—having insufficient financial resources to achieve a specified standard of living. One of two poverty measures published by the U.S. Census Bureau (the other being the Official Poverty Measure), the SPM addresses some of the limitations of the Official Poverty Measure, which features thresholds based on costs of austere food budgets developed using data from the 1950s and 1960s, with these threshold amounts updated annually for inflation. The official poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition. In contrast, the SPM thresholds for any given year are based on a below-median level of consumer expenditures for food, clothing, shelter, and utilities developed using data for five recent years.

¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. *Poverty in the United States: 2022*. Available at: www.census.gov.

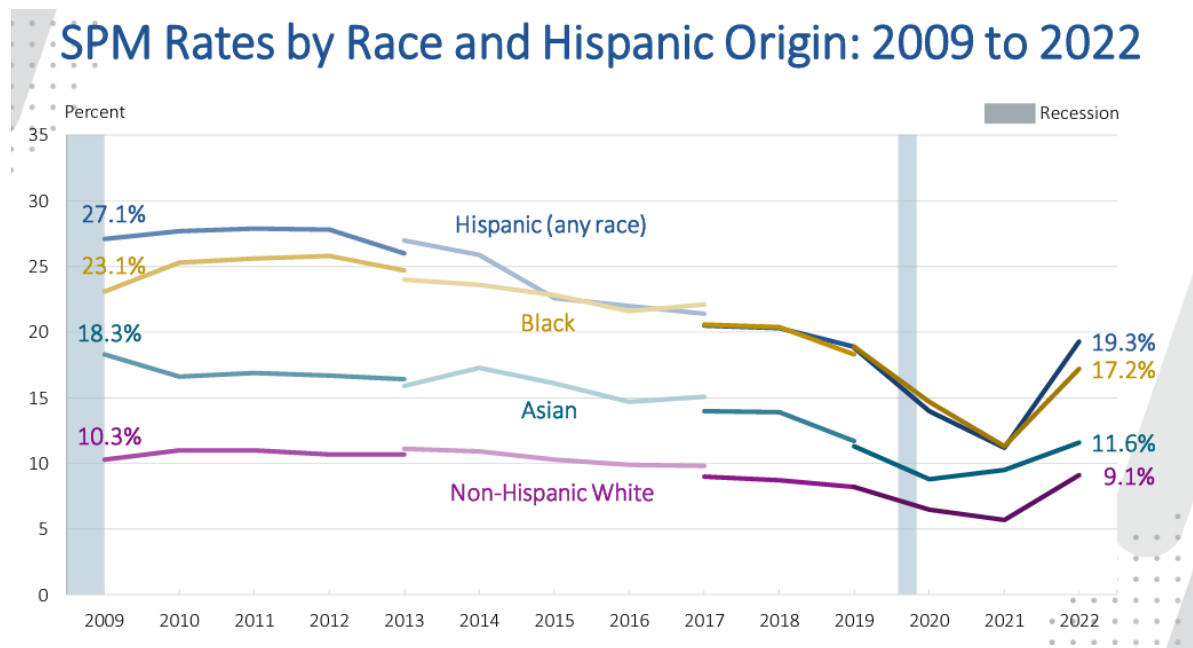
While percentages of households below poverty level generally decreased slightly from 2010 to 2017-2021 across geographies, the percentage in Patrick County increased slightly. At the same time, the percentage of people below poverty in Patrick County decreased substantially, from 15.9% to 10.8%.

Exhibit 39: Percentage of Households Below Poverty

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Total Households	124,010,992	3,248,528	22,033	7,732
Households below Poverty Level (2021)	12.4%	9.9%	13.5%	15.0%
Households below Poverty Level (2010)	13.1%	10.1%	13.5%	13.9%
People below poverty level (2021)	12.6%	9.9%	13.3%	10.8%
People below poverty level (2010)	14.3%	10.7%	13.6%	15.9%
Percent change	-1.7%	-0.8%	-0.3%	-5.1%
Occupied Mobile Homes	5.3%	3.8%	14.1%	22.7%

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

The U.S. Census Bureau's announcement of its Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rates for 2022 (described at the bottom of page 34 of this report) include identification of an increase in overall poverty from 7.8% in 2021 to 12.4% in 2022 (+4.6%).¹⁹ Beyond this, the gap in poverty between non-Hispanic White population and other groups widened from 2021 to 2022, after narrowing in preceding years:²⁰

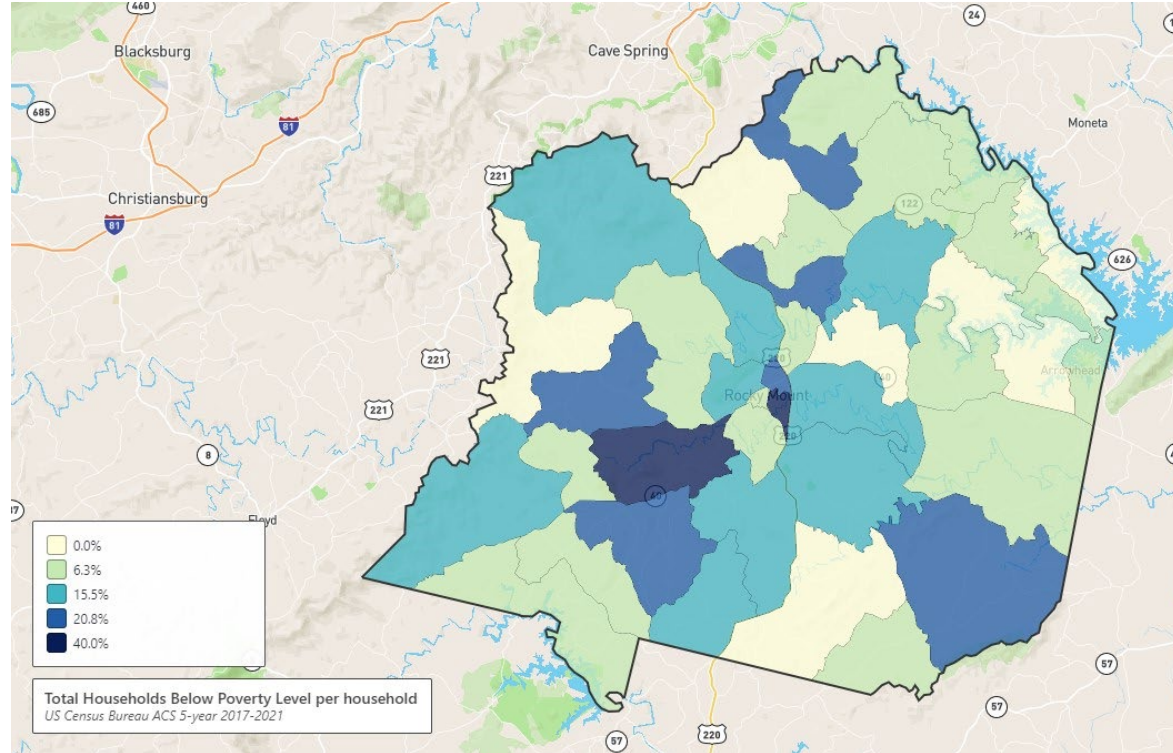


¹⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. *Poverty in the United States: 2022*. Available at: www.census.gov.

²⁰ SPM estimates for 2019 and beyond reflect the implementation of revised methodology. More information is provided in the SPM technical documentation available at https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/supplemental-poverty-measure/datasets/spm/spm_techdoc.pdf. The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar23.pdf>.

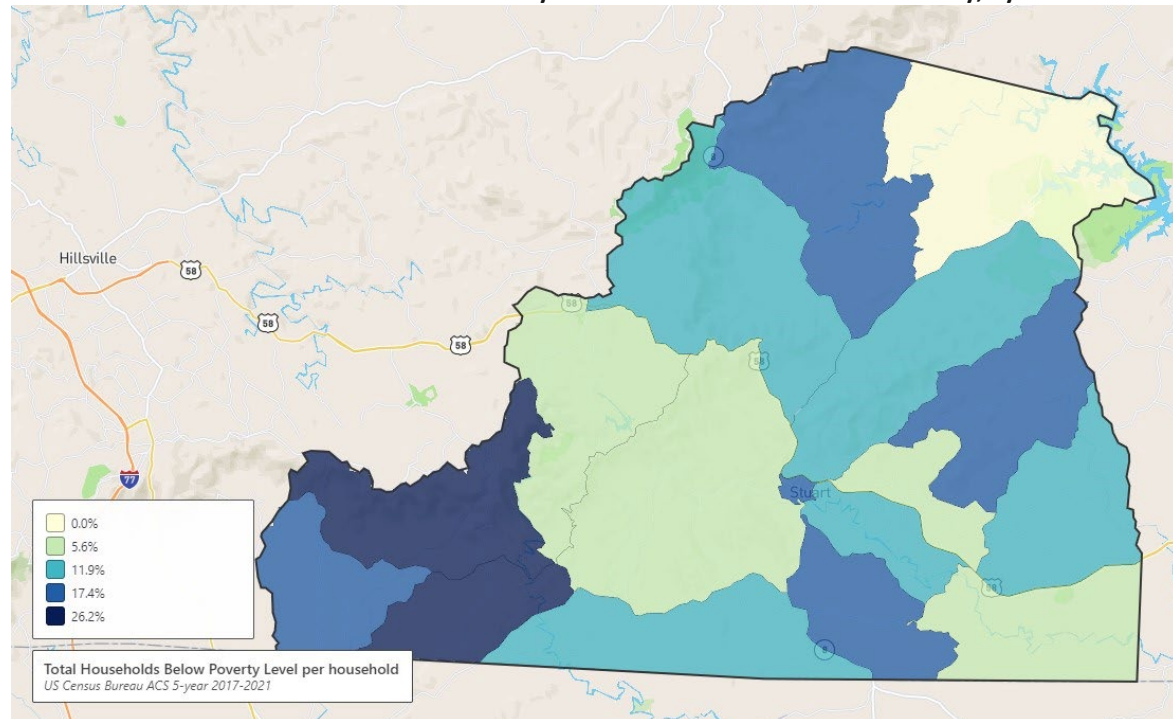
Concentrations of households below poverty vary across Franklin and Patrick counties.

Exhibit 40: Percent of Households below Poverty Level Per Household In Franklin County, by Census Block Group



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

Exhibit 41: Percent of Households below Poverty Level Per Household In Patrick County, by Census Block Group



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

Across Franklin and Patrick counties, households with a householder identifying as two or more races are more likely to be living below poverty compared to those identifying with other racial and ethnic groups.

Exhibit 42: Total Households Below Poverty Level by Race

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
White	10.3%	7.9%	12.2%	10.7%
White Not Hispanic or Latino	9.2%	7.7%	12.1%	10.9%
Black or African American	21.7%	16.7%	22.1%	11.0%
Asian	10.3%	7.1%	0.0%	7.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	23.4%	10.7%	0.0%	4.5%
Hispanic or Latino	17.7%	12.9%	21.5%	0.0%
Two or more Races	14.9%	10.3%	36.2%	20.6%
Some other Race	19.1%	16.7%	12.8%	7.0%

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

The percent of Virginia children under six with no parent in the labor force is slightly lower than the U.S.

Exhibit 43: Children Under Age 6 With No Parent In the Labor Force

	2017	2018	2019	2021
United States	8%	8%	8%	8%
Virginia	6%	8%	6%	7%

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

There are fewer connected youth ages 16 to 19 in Patrick County compared to the other geographies.

Exhibit 44: Connected vs. Disconnected Youth Ages 16-19

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Connected (enrolled in school or employed not enrolled)	6.1%	6.2%	6.1%	2.8%
Disconnected (not enrolled and unemployed)	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%

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

There are less Patrick County households with TANF benefits compared to Franklin County or Virginia.

Exhibit 45: Households Receiving TANF Benefits

	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
2019	70.3%	72.3%	67.8%
2020	70.8%	73.6%	69.8%

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services

Virginia has lower proportions of children in families that receive public assistance compared to the U.S.

Exhibit 46: Children in Families that Receive Public Assistance

	United States	Virginia
2018	24%	18%
2019	23%	18%
2021	27%	21%

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation

Domain 4: Neighborhood & Built Environment

The neighborhoods people live in have a major impact on their health and well-being. The physical environment includes housing and transportation, parks and playgrounds, and the chances for recreational opportunities.²¹ Neighborhood quality is shaped in part by how well individual homes are maintained, and widespread residential deterioration in a neighborhood can negatively affect the mental health of residents.²²

Physical Housing Measures & Cost

Compared to national averages both Franklin and Patrick County have a **larger proportion** of houses built between 1980 and 2009. About **60%** of homes in Franklin and Patrick Counties were built during this time compared to a national figure of about 40%.



Exhibit 47: Housing Age

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
1939 or earlier	12.2%	7.2%	6.2%	6.6%
1940 to 1949	4.7%	4.3%	2.6%	6.9%
1950 to 1959	10.0%	8.4%	7.1%	7.9%
1960 to 1969	10.3%	10.4%	7.2%	10.3%
1970 to 1979	14.8%	15.2%	16.6%	17.1%
1980 to 1989	13.2%	16.2%	20.4%	16.5%
1990 to 1999	13.6%	15.4%	18.5%	18.9%
2000 to 2009	13.6%	15.4%	18.5%	18.9%
2010 to 2019	7.3%	8.0%	4.9%	3.8%
2020 or later	0.2%	0.1%	0%	0%

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

The percentage of housing units without complete plumbing in Patrick County (9.0%) is **more than four times higher** than the national and state average. Individuals in Franklin County are **1.2 times** more likely than the average American to live in a house without complete plumbing.

Exhibit 48: Housing Units Without Complete Plumbing

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Housing Units without Complete Plumbing	1.9%	1.7%	2.4%	9.0%

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

²¹ Kaiser Family Foundation. *Beyond Health Care: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health & Health Equity*, 2018.

²² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030. *Social Determinants of Health Literature Summaries: Quality of Housing*.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) developed the Living Wage Calculator to estimate the cost of living in communities or regions based on typical expenses. This tool helps individuals, communities, and employers determine a local wage rate that allows residents to meet minimum standards of living.²³

The living wage for households of various compositions exceed the minimum wage in Franklin and Patrick counties, ranging from a slight difference for a household of two working adults with no children, to a difference nearly four times the minimum wage for a household of one adult with two children.

Exhibit 49: Living Wage Calculator & Annual Expense for Franklin County

	1 Adult, 0 Children	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	2 Working Adults, No Children	2 Working Adults, 1 Child	2 Adults, 2 Children
Food	\$3,926	\$5,795	\$8,707	\$7,198	\$8,966	\$11,564
Child Care	\$0	\$8,569	\$17,138	\$0	\$8,569	\$17,138
Medical	\$3,247	\$9,925	\$9,935	\$6,748	\$9,935	\$9,860
Housing	\$7,096	\$9,757	\$9,757	\$7,416	\$9,757	\$9,757
Transportation	\$5,477	\$9,851	\$12,045	\$9,851	\$12,045	\$14,484
Civic	\$3,074	\$6,107	\$6,821	\$6,107	\$6,821	\$9,300
Other	\$4,253	\$7,420	\$8,755	\$7,420	\$8,755	\$9,610
Required annual income after taxes	\$27,204	\$57,555	\$73,289	\$44,871	\$64,980	\$81,844
Annual taxes	\$4,563	\$11,177	\$14,941	\$6,745	\$11,578	\$15,628
Required annual income before taxes	\$31,767	\$68,732	\$88,230	\$51,616	\$76,558	\$97,472
Living Wage	\$15.27	\$33.04	\$42.42	\$12.41	\$18.40	\$23.43
Poverty Wage	\$6.53	\$8.80	\$11.07	\$4.40	\$5.54	\$6.67
Minimum Wage	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00

Exhibit 50: Living Wage Calculator & Annual Expense for Patrick County

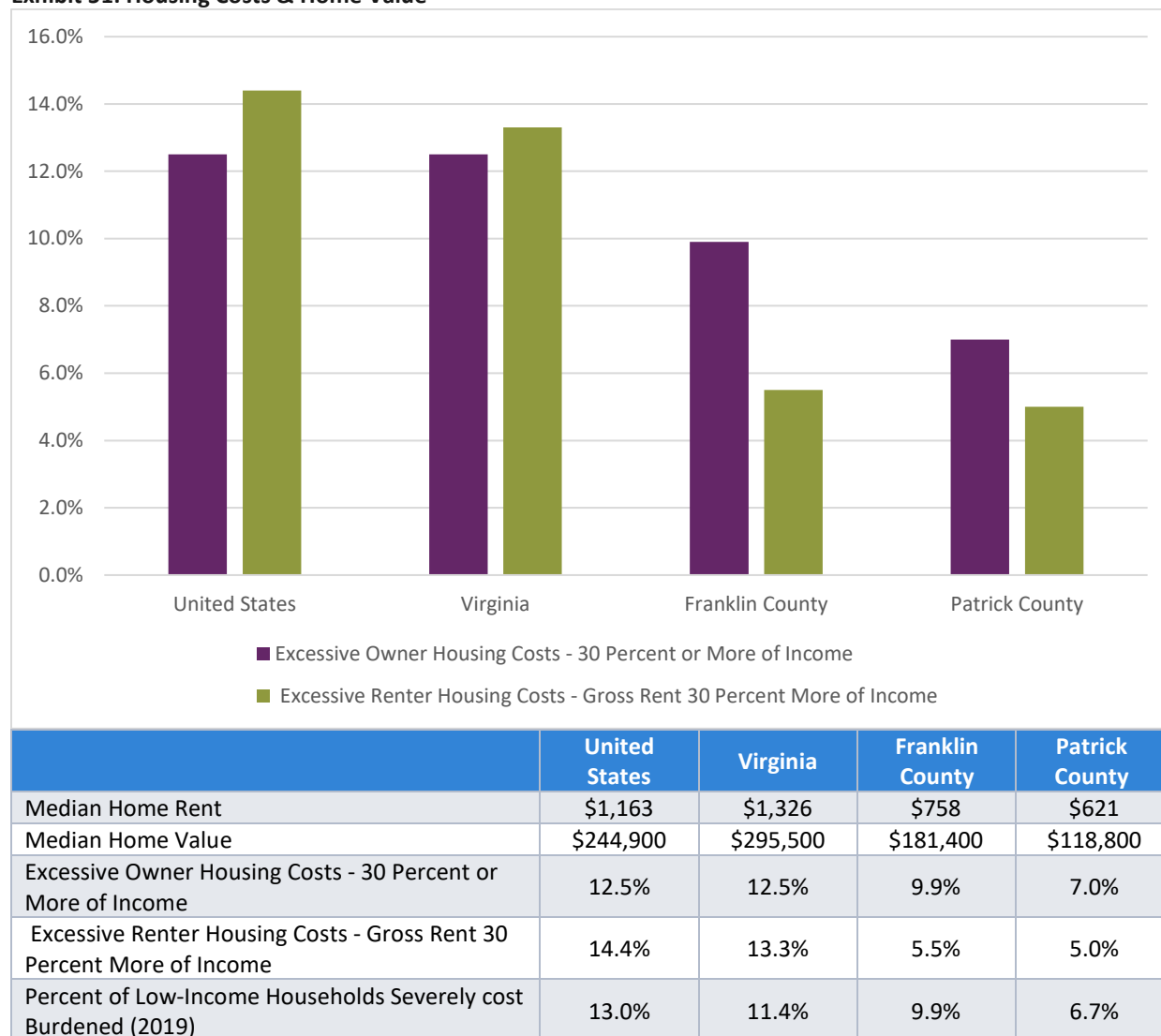
	1 Adult, 0 Children	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	2 Working Adults, No Children	2 Working Adults, 1 Child	2 Adults, 2 Children
Food	\$3,926	\$5,795	\$8,707	\$7,198	\$8,966	\$11,564
Child Care	\$0	\$7,180	\$14,359	\$0	\$7,180	\$14,359
Medical	\$3,247	\$9,925	\$9,935	\$6,748	\$9,935	\$9,860
Housing	\$5,901	\$8,648	\$8,648	\$7,598	\$8,648	\$8,648
Transportation	\$5,477	\$9,851	\$12,045	\$851	\$12,045	\$14,484
Civic	\$3,704	\$6,107	\$6,821	\$6,107	\$6,821	\$9,300
Other	\$4,253	\$7,420	\$8,755	\$7,420	\$8,755	\$9,610
Required annual income after taxes	\$26,009	\$55,057	\$69,402	\$45,043	\$62,483	\$77,956
Annual taxes	\$4,259	\$10,543	\$13,954	\$6,784	\$10,944	\$14,641
Required annual income before taxes	\$30,269	\$65,600	\$83,355	\$51,827	\$73,426	\$92,597
Living Wage	\$14.55	\$31.54	\$40.07	\$12.46	\$17.65	\$22.26
Poverty Wage	\$6.53	\$8.80	\$11.07	\$4.40	\$5.54	\$6.67
Minimum Wage	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00

Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator

²³ [Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator.](#)

The percentage of homeowners and renters in Franklin County and Patrick County is lower than corresponding percentages at the state and national levels. In both Franklin County and Patrick County, a greater share of homeowners have excessive housing costs compared to the share of renters.

Exhibit 51: Housing Costs & Home Value



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

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, eviction rates in Franklin County were about **two times higher** than the nation and a **third lower** than Virginia. Eviction rates nearly **doubled** in Patrick County from 2014 to 2018, but remained lower than in Franklin County over the same period.

Exhibit 52: Eviction Rate

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
United States	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%	1.7%	1.8%
Virginia	4.5%	4.3%	4.1%	4.0%	4.8%
Franklin County	3.2%	2.9%	2.3%	3.1%	3.6%
Patrick County	1.4%	0.7%	1.8%	1.7%	2.5%

Source: The Eviction Lab

Household Composition

Households with children living with grandparents are more common in Franklin and Patrick counties.

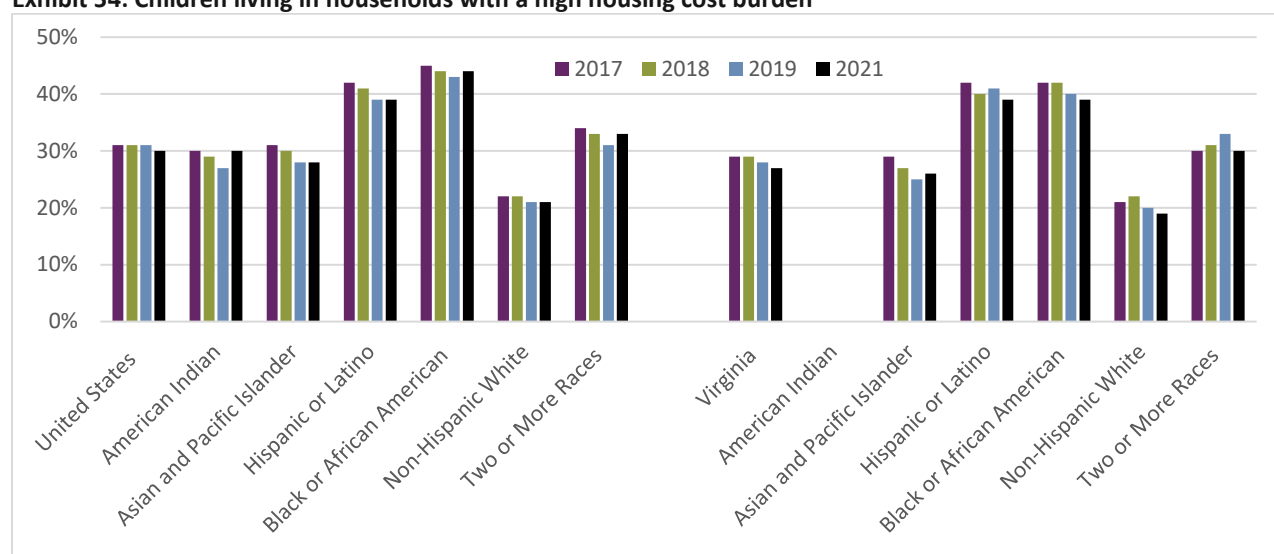
Exhibit 53: Household Composition

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Grandchildren (under 18) Living in Grandparent Household	1.8%	1.7%	2.2%	2.7%

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

The number of children living in households with a high housing cost burden has remained stable at the national and state level since 2017. In Virginia Hispanic (39%) and Black or African American children (39%) are two times more likely than White non-Hispanic (19%) children to live in cost-burdened homes.

Exhibit 54: Children living in households with a high housing cost burden



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
United States	31%	31%	31%	30%	30%
American Indian	30%	29%	27%	-	30%
Asian and Pacific Islander	31%	30%	28%	-	28%
Hispanic or Latino	42%	41%	39%	-	39%
Black or African American	45%	44%	43%	-	44%
Non-Hispanic White	22%	22%	21%	-	21%
Two or More Races	34%	33%	31%	-	33%
Virginia	29%	29%	28%	-	27%
American Indian	-	-	-	-	-
Asian and Pacific Islander	29%	27%	25%	-	26%
Hispanic or Latino	42%	40%	41%	-	39%
Black or African American	42%	42%	40%	-	39%
Non-Hispanic White	21%	22%	20%	-	19%
Two or More Races	30%	31%	33%	-	30%

Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2019, 2021 American Community Survey. The share of children living in households where more than 30 percent of the monthly income was spent on rent, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and/or related expenses. The 30 percent threshold for housing costs is based on research on affordable housing by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development (HUD). According to HUD, households that must allocate more than 30 percent of their income to housing expenses are less likely to have enough resources for food, clothing, medical care or other needs.

Housing Insecurity

Franklin County has a rate of children entering foster care comparable to that for Virginia; Patrick County's rate is lower.

Exhibit 55: Housing Insecurity

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Children in Foster Care 2021	39,098	4,977	96	17
Rate of Children entering Foster Care (2020)	3.0	3.8	3.8	2.9

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau

While volumes of homeless children/youth enrolled in public school decreased from the 2018-19 school year to the 2020-21 school year, both in Virginia and across the United States, these figures span the COVID-19 pandemic period, during which school openings (and data collection) may have been limited.

Exhibit 56: Number of Homeless Children/Youth Enrolled in Public School by Year

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
United States	1,384,301	1,277,772	1,096,669
Children with Disabilities (IDEA)	266,739	244,737	220,599
Limited English Proficient Students (LEP)	226,724	217,067	193,559
Migratory Children	16,938	15,667	15,124
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	125,729	112,822	94,363
Type of nighttime residence			
Shelters, Transitional Housing	12.2%	11.5%	10.9%
Doubled-Up	76.7%	77.5%	76.8%
Unsheltered	4.0%	4.1%	4.5%
Hotels/Motels	7.1%	6.9%	7.8%
Virginia	20,443	17,496	13,752
Children with Disabilities (IDEA)	3,834	3,259	2,711
Limited English Proficient Students (LEP)	3,941	3,295	2,653
Migratory Children	38	35	44
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	2,672	1,948	1,368
Type of nighttime residence			
Shelters, Transitional Housing	9.5%	8.6%	8.2%
Doubled-Up	73.7%	73.4%	71.2%
Unsheltered	0.9%	0.9%	1.3%
Hotels/Motels	16.0%	17.1%	19.2%

Source: National Center For Homeless Education

Exhibit 57: Franklin County Population Experiencing Homelessness, 2023 Point in Time Count

	Number
Total homeless individuals counted	13
Individuals in adult only households	381
Individuals in households with at least one adult and one child	71
Individuals in youth households	10
Sheltered individuals	
Emergency shelter	5
Transitional housing	2
Warming Center	4
Unsheltered individuals	3
By age group	
0-17	0
18-24	1
25-34	5
35-44	2
45-54	2
55-64	2
65+	1
By gender identity	
Male	3
Female	10
By race	
White	11
Black or African American	2
Asian	-
American Indian or Alaskan Native	-
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
Two or More Races	-

Source: Piedmont 2023 PIT Count

Transportation & Broadband

Single-parent families in Patrick County spend about **1.5 times** more on transportation than the national average and almost **twice** the state average. Median Income Families in Patrick County spend **almost 20 percentage points more** on transportation than the national average.

Exhibit 58: Housing Units without a Vehicle & Percent of Income Spent on Transportation

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Housing units without a vehicle	7.4%	5.5%	4.2%	3.1%
Percent of Income Spent on Transportation				
Low-Income Individuals	63.5%	65.3%	81.5%	28.4%
Median Income Families	28.1%	26.0%	34.2%	44.8%
Single Parent Family	39.0%	36.5%	49.0%	64.2%

Source: U.S. HUD

Almost **80%** of working individuals in both Franklin and Patrick County drive alone to work, **slightly higher** than both the national and state rates (73.2%; 72.7%).

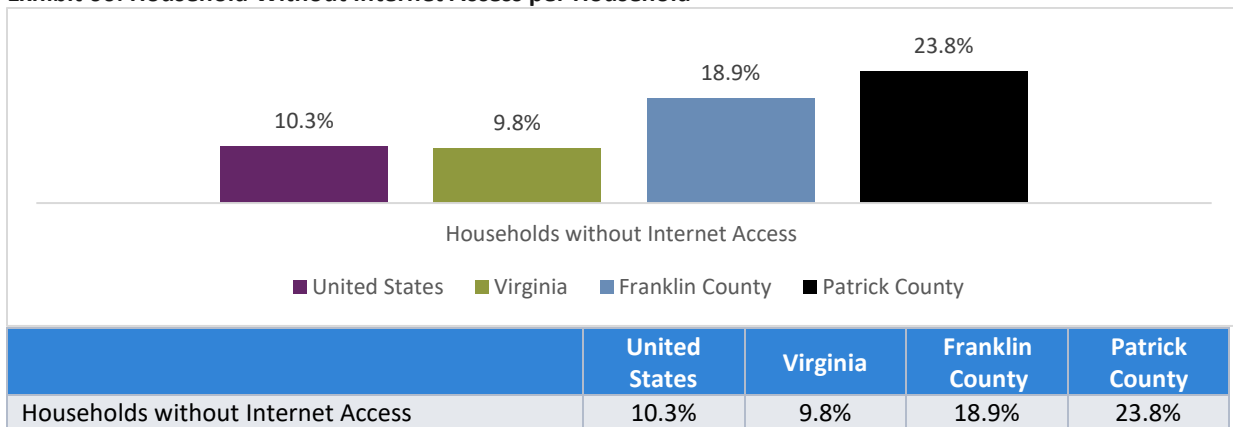
Exhibit 59: People Commuting to Work by Type Per Working Capita 16 and Over

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Drive alone	73.2%	72.7%	80.6%	81.8%
Work from Home	9.7%	11.4%	9.7%	7.5%
Drive Carpool	8.6%	8.5%	6.7%	8.0%
Public Transit	4.2%	3.2%	0.2%	0.0%
Bicycle	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%
Walk	2.5%	2.2%	1.5%	1.4%
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or Other	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%	1.4%

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

There are greater proportions of Franklin County and Patrick County households without internet access compared to the state and nation.

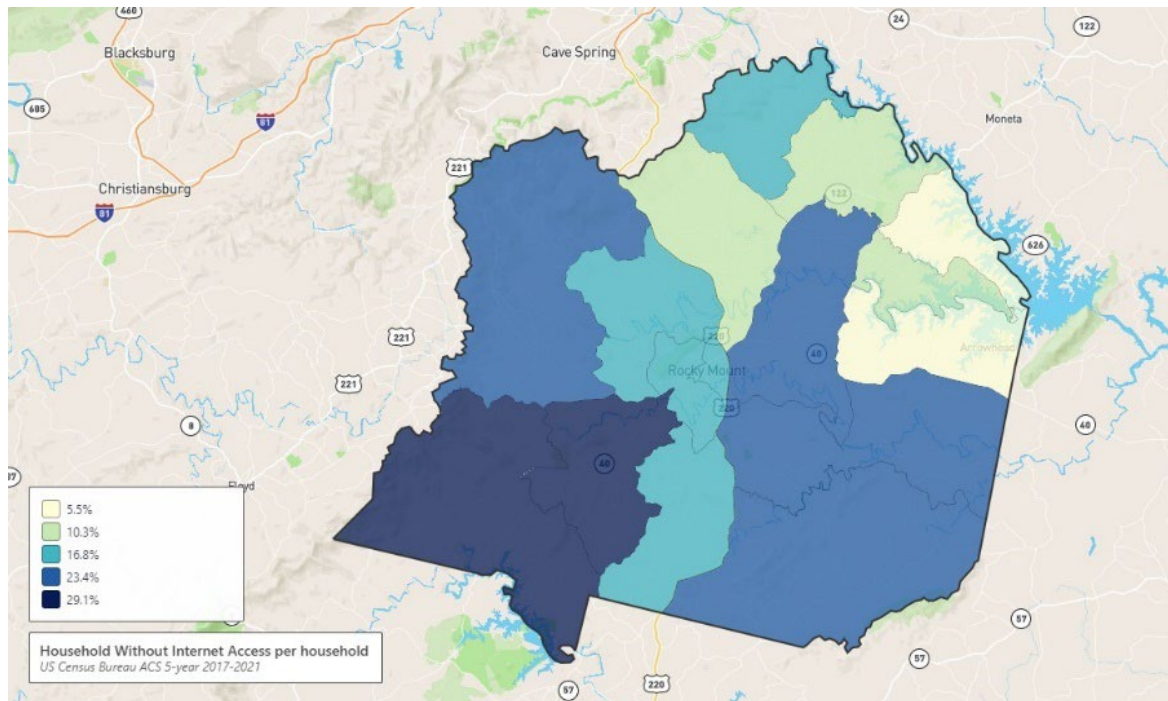
Exhibit 60: Household Without Internet Access per Household



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

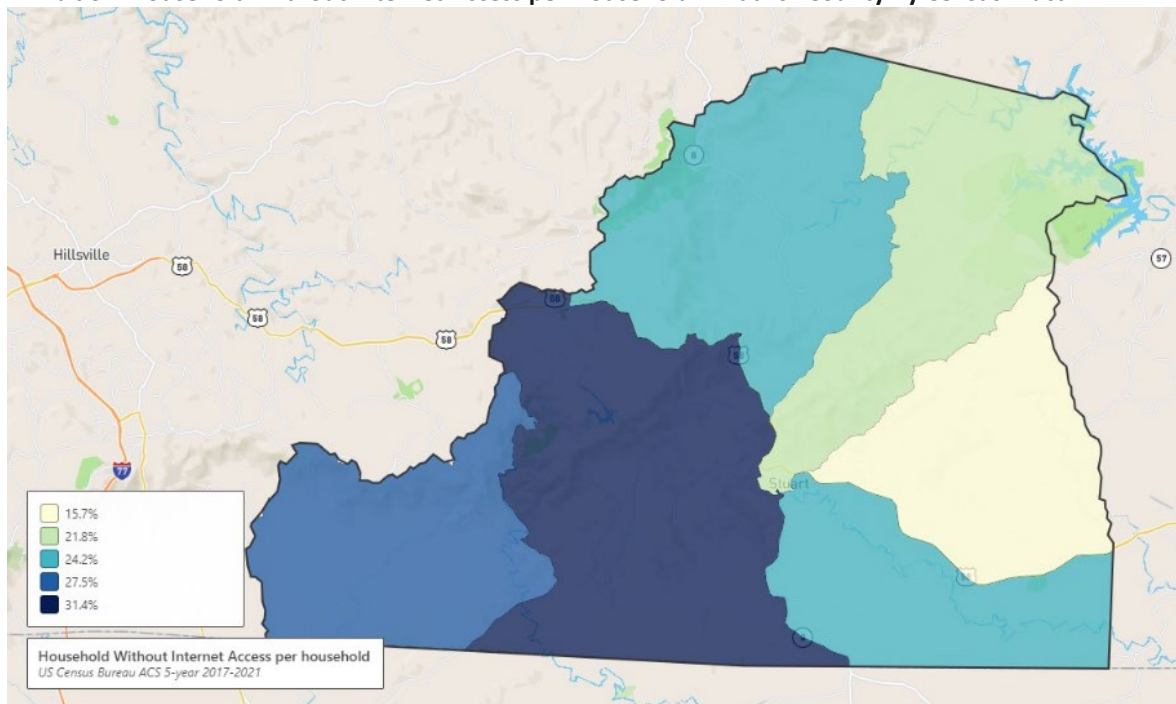
The greatest proportions of households without internet access in Franklin and Patrick counties are generally found on the southern and western sides of each region.

Exhibit 61: Household Without Internet Access per Household in Franklin County By Census Tract



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

Exhibit 62: Household Without Internet Access per Household in Patrick County By Census Tract

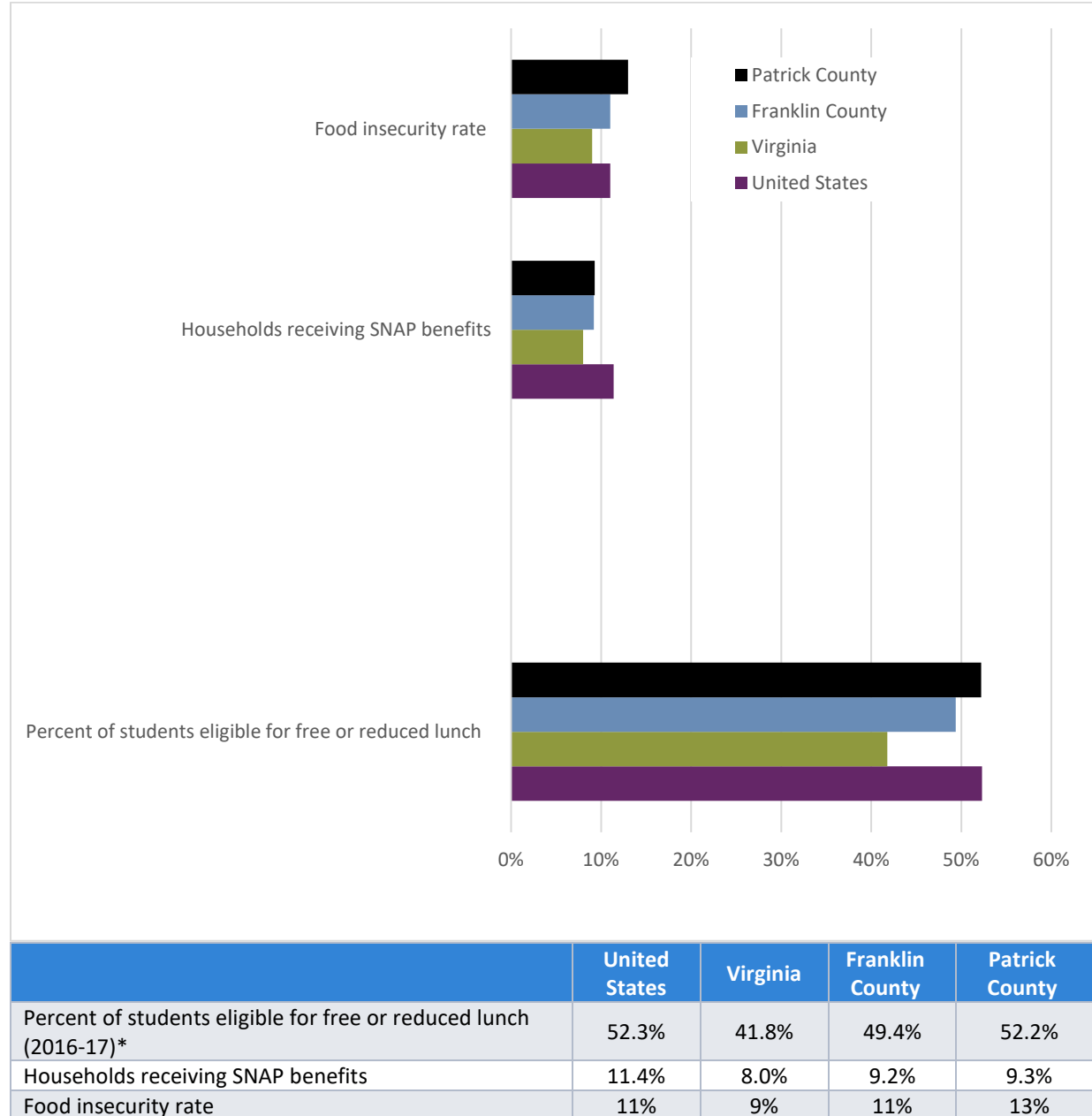


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2017-2021

Food Access

Food insecurity rates, the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits, and the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch are higher in Patrick and Franklin counties than Virginia.

Exhibit 63: Food Access



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation

*In 2014, some Virginia school districts began participating in the Community Eligibility Option (CEP), a federal program that allows school districts to provide free or reduced-price meals to all students at high poverty or 'high need' schools without determining the exact number of eligible students. As a result, it is possible that an undetermined number of students who would not otherwise qualify for FARMs eligibility are now counted in this group and FARMs eligibility data after 2014 may no longer be an accurate indicator of student poverty. The free eligible for the school districts participating in CEP is a VDOE calculated number based on USDA guidance.

Volumes of WIC participants have increased in Virginia over the 2018-2022 period, while numbers at the national level have decreased over the same period.

Exhibit 64: WIC Total Participation

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
United States	6,870,128	6,396,441	6,247,414	6,243,959	6,260,144
Virginia	113,952	109,469	114,114	120,826	121,132

Source: Virginia Department of Health

WIC coverage rates are lower in Virginia than at the national level, both overall and among subpopulations including infants, children, and women.

Exhibit 65: WIC Eligibility and Coverage Rates by Participant Category (2020)

		United States	Virginia
All	Number Eligible	12,840,206	263,687
	Number of Participants	6,266,719	117,292
	Coverage Rate	50.2%	44.5%
Infants	Number Eligible	1,876,341	38,454
	Number of Participants	1,533,424	30,283
	Coverage Rate	81.7%	78.8%
Children	Number Eligible	8,147,869	173,033
	Number of Participants	3,305,829	60,582
	Coverage Rate	40.6%	35.0%
Women	Number Eligible	2,455,995	52,200
	Number of Participants	1,427,465	26,427
	Coverage Rate	58.5%	50.6%

Source: 2021 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS-ASEC), 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), 2016-2019 Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS), Census International Data Base, and WIC administrative



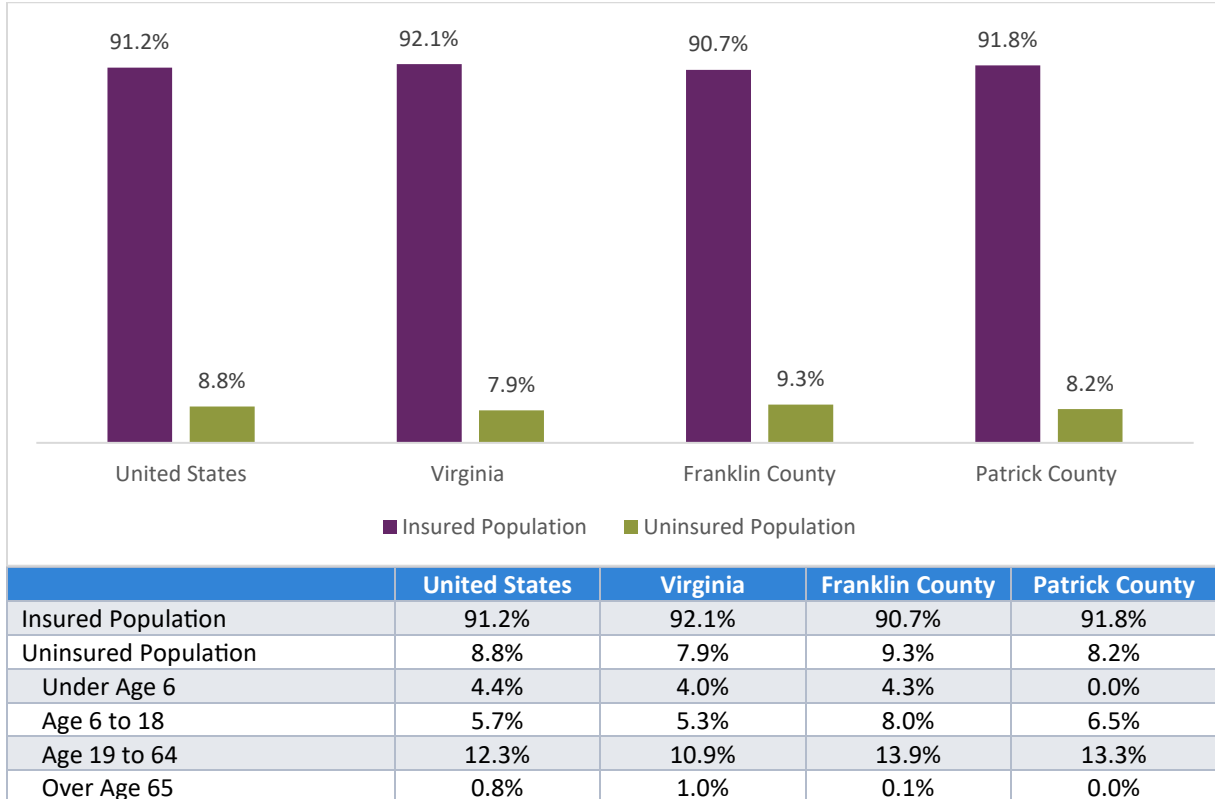
Domain 5: Health & Behavioral Health

Health outcomes represent how healthy a population is according to the most current data and reflect the physical and mental well-being of residents within a community through measures representing not only the length of life but the quality of life.²⁴

Health Care Access

Rates of uninsured population are higher in Franklin and Patrick counties compared to Virginia.

Exhibit 66: Insured and Uninsured Population



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

Pediatrician access is less common in Franklin and Patrick counties than at the state or national levels.

Exhibit 67: Pediatrician Access and Utilization

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Pediatricians per health care Worker (2022)	1.5%	1.8%	0.7%	0.0%
Child to Pediatrician ratio (2022)	888	897	5,223	-
Percentage of children having a well child check-up in the past 12 months (2020-21)	76.7%	76.5%	-	-

Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

²⁴ County Health Roadmaps & Rankings, Health Outcomes. Link: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Numbers of children receiving medical assistance have increased in Virginia over the 2019-2021 period.

Exhibit 68: Children Receiving Medical Assistance (Medicaid and CHIP)

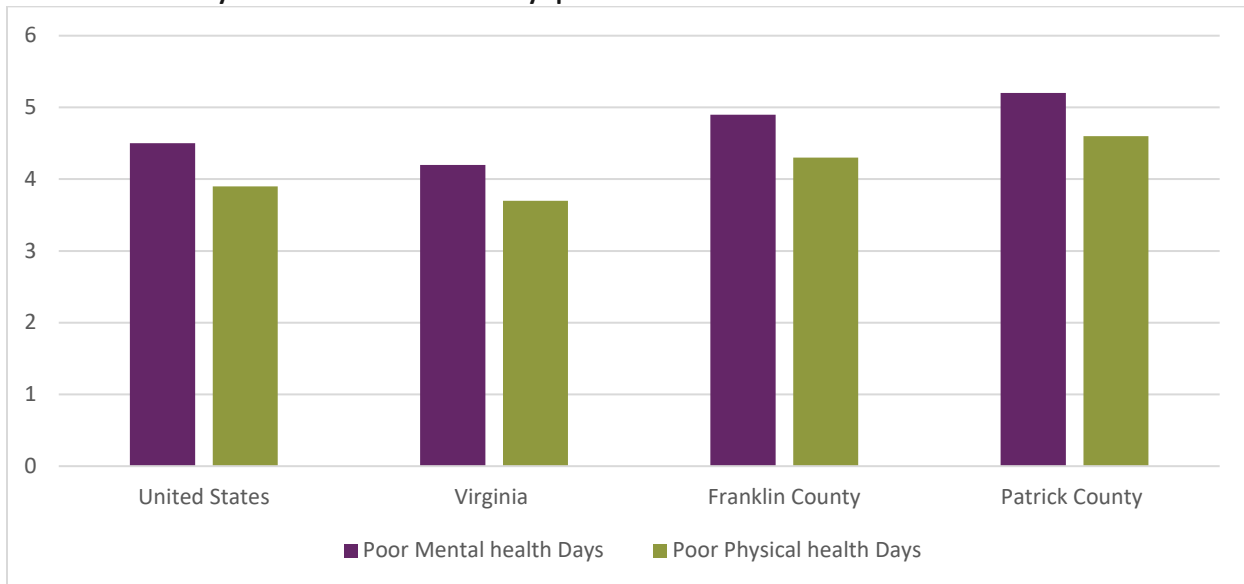
	2019	2020	2021
United States	45,133,003	44,259,975	44,920,000
Virginia	924,314	928,317	936,000

Sources: MACPAC, 2022, analysis of CHIP Statistical Enrollment Data System data as of October 24, 2022. CMS, 2021, Table: Unduplicated number of children ever enrolled (as of June 23), <http://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2020-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf>. CMS, 2021, data compilation provided to MACPAC, September 27.

Health Status

Adults in Franklin and Patrick counties report more poor physical and mental health days compared to those at the state and national level.

Exhibit 69: Poor Physical and Mental Health Days per Month



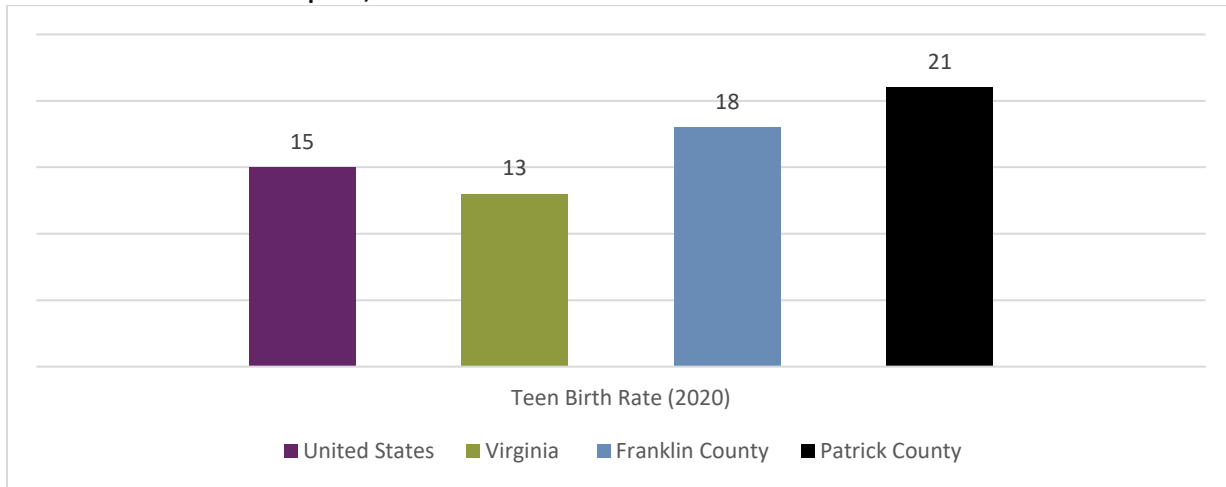
	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Poor Mental health Days	4.5	4.2	4.9	5.2
Poor Physical health Days	3.9	3.7	4.3	4.6

Source: County Health Rankings

Maternal & Child Health

Both Franklin and Patrick counties have higher teen birth rates than either Virginia or the U.S.

Exhibit 70: Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 Females



	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Teen Birth Rate (2020)	15	13	18	21
Low Birthweight	8.5%	8.3%	8%	8%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	6	6	7	ND

Source: CDC Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System 2020

Health Care Workforce

Access to health care providers of all types is least common in Patrick County, and access in Franklin County is less readily available compared to Virginia or the U.S.

Exhibit 71: Health Care Workforce Ratios

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Primary Care Physicians	959:1	1,035:1	1,337:1	4,415:1
Pediatricians	916:1	936:1	5,223:1	ND
Dentists	1,631:1	1,652:1	6,092:1	8,831:1
Mental Health Providers	633:1	1,410:1	5,483:1	8,831:1

Source: National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES)

Behavioral Health

Drug overdose rates are higher in Franklin and Patrick counties than either the state or nation.

Exhibit 72: Behavioral Health Measures

	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Drug Overdose Rate	32	31	38	42
High school students that attempted suicide (Prevalence)	10.2	9.0	ND	ND

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration | National Survey on Drug Use & Health State-Specific Tables, 2021

While most youth substance use rates are higher for than nation than in Virginia, the rate of those who have ever used marijuana is higher in Virginia.

Exhibit 73: Youth Substance Use (High School)

	United States	Virginia
First Drink of Alcohol before 13 Prevalence	15.0%	14.0%
Students that currently drink alcohol	22.7%	19.4%
Binge drinking	10.5%	10.5%
Ever used Marijuana	27.8%	30.1%
Tries Marijuana before age 13	4.9%	3.5%
Currently use Marijuana	15.8%	13.3%
Ever used Heroin	1.7%	1.8%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration | National Survey on Drug Use & Health State-Specific Tables, 2021

Men have suicide death rates more than three times those of women in Virginia. By age, the highest suicide death rates in Virginia occur among those ages 80 to 84.

Exhibit 74: Virginia Suicide Rates by Demographics, 2020

	Virginia
Number of Deaths	1,202
Age-Adjusted Rate - Overall	13.99
Age-Adjusted Rates – By Demographics	
Gender	
Female	5.85
Male	21.56
Race	
White	15.44
Black	8.37
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0*
Asian/ Pacific Islander	8.36
Age Group	
10-14	3.8*
15-19	12.2
20-24	21.1
25-29	14.8
30-34	19.2
35-39	15.1
40-44	16.4
45-49	15.5
50-54	18.8
55-59	18.1
60-64	15.3
65-69	14.4
70-74	14.9
75-79	18.7
80-84	26.2
85+	19.8

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS | Explore Fatal Injury Data Visualization Tool

Domain 6: Community & Social Context

Neighborhoods are important in influencing health and health equity, and policies or actions that focus on neighborhood context can improve health inequities among community members.²⁵

Violence & Discrimination

The percentage of youth reporting sexual violence in Virginia is slightly lower than national level data across all questions on the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey. At both the national and state level the number of youth reporting sexual violence has steadily **increased by about 1%** every two years from 2017 to 2021.

Exhibit 75: Youth Sexual Violence

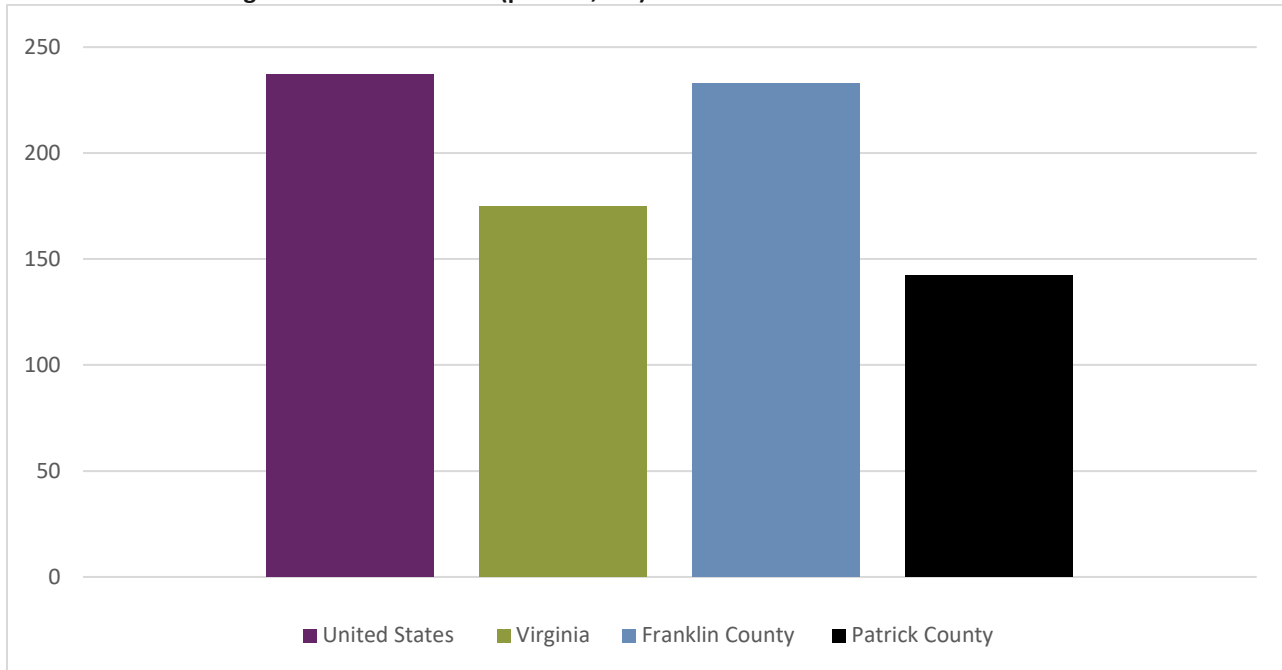


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021

²⁵ American Society on Aging. Addressing Health Equity for Older Adults at the Neighborhood Level (2021). Link: <https://generations.asaging.org/health-equity-elders-neighborhood-level>

Franklin county has five times more registered sex offenders than Patrick County. The rate of registered offenders in Franklin County is comparable to the national level, and about 2 times higher than Patrick County.

Exhibit 76: Rate of Registered Sex Offenders (per 100,000)



	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Number	786,838	15,162	127	25
Rate Per 100,000	237	175	233	142

Source: Virginia State Police

Exhibit 77: Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs by Locality

	Name	Location	Phone Number	Website
Franklin County	Franklin County Family Resources Center	Rocky Mount, VA	(540)483-5088	https://fcfamilyresourcecenter.com/
Patrick County	Southside Survivor Response Center	Martinsville, VA	(276)403-4080	http://ssrcenter.org/info/contact-us.cfm

Virginia consistently has proportionally fewer children subject to investigation reports, and lower rates of child maltreatment, compared to the nation.

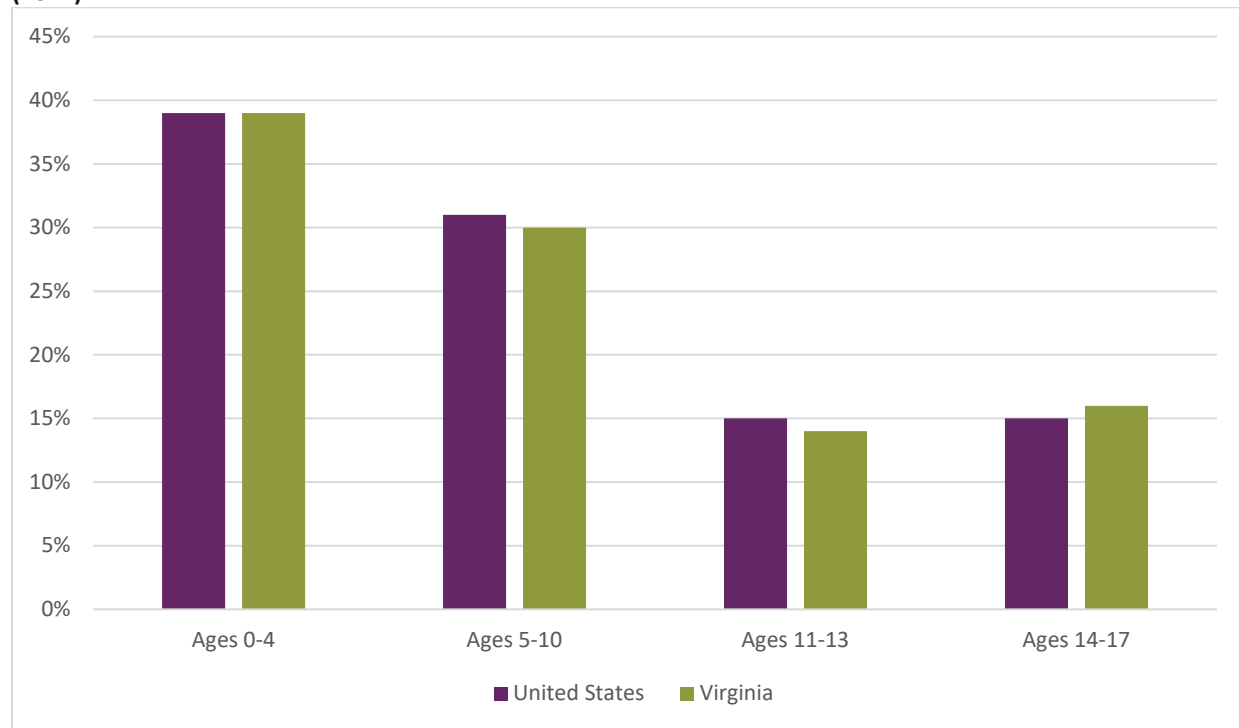
Exhibit 78: Children who are subject to an Investigated Report Rate (Per 1,000)

	2019		2020		2021	
	United States	Virginia	United States	Virginia	United States	Virginia
Children who are subject to an Investigation Report Rate	47	26	43	24	40	23
Confirmed child maltreatment by CPS Rate	9	3	8	3	8	3

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Child File, FFY 2000–2021.

By age group, Virginia's populations of children confirmed by CPS as victims of maltreatment are comparable to those across the country.

Exhibit 79: Children who are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment by Age Group (2021)

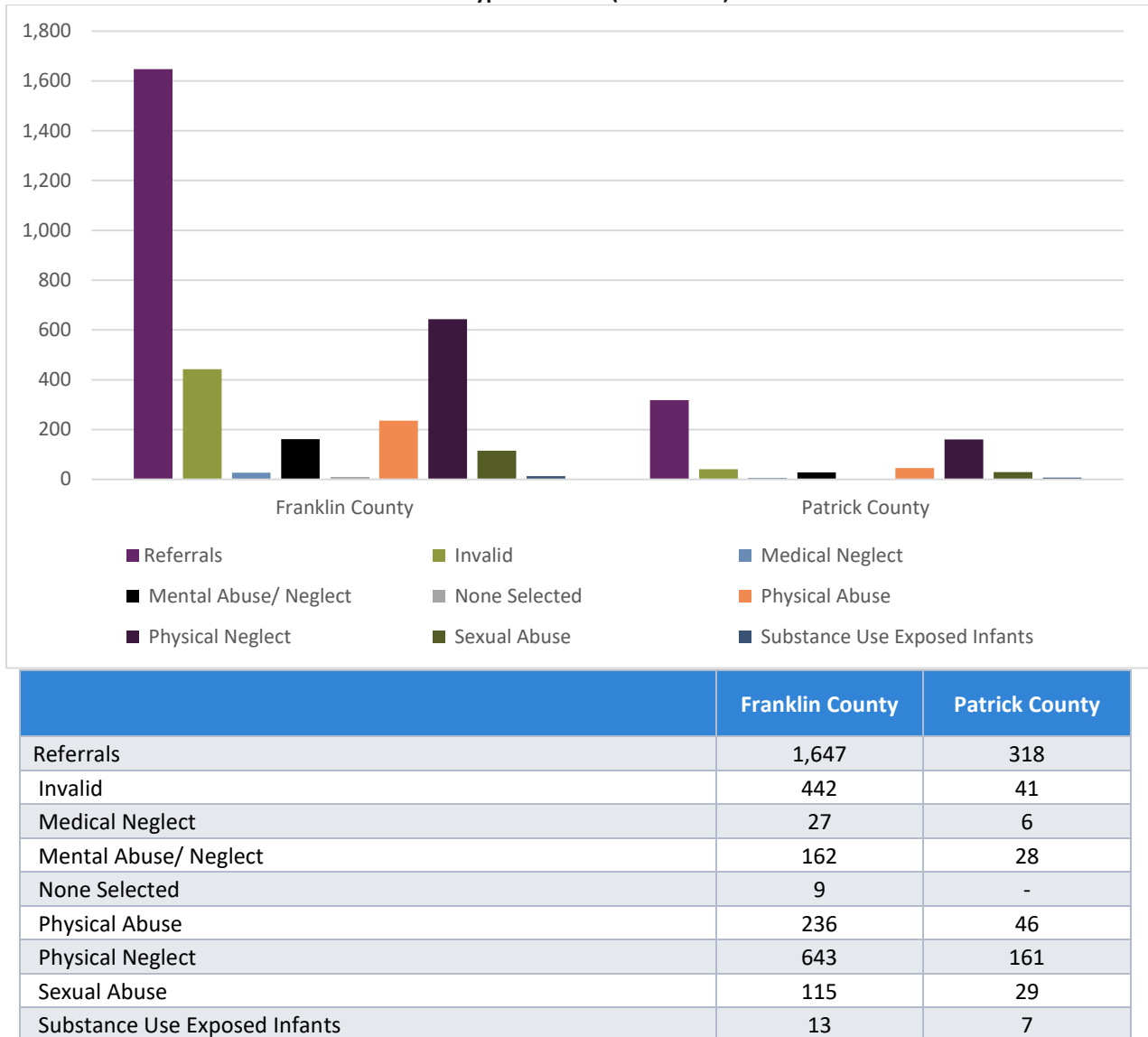


	United States	Virginia
Ages 0-4	39%	39%
Ages 5-10	31%	30%
Ages 11-13	15%	14%
Ages 14-17	15%	16%

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Child File, FFY 2000–2021.

In both Franklin County and Patrick County, the largest numbers of CPS referrals were for physical neglect in 2021-2022.

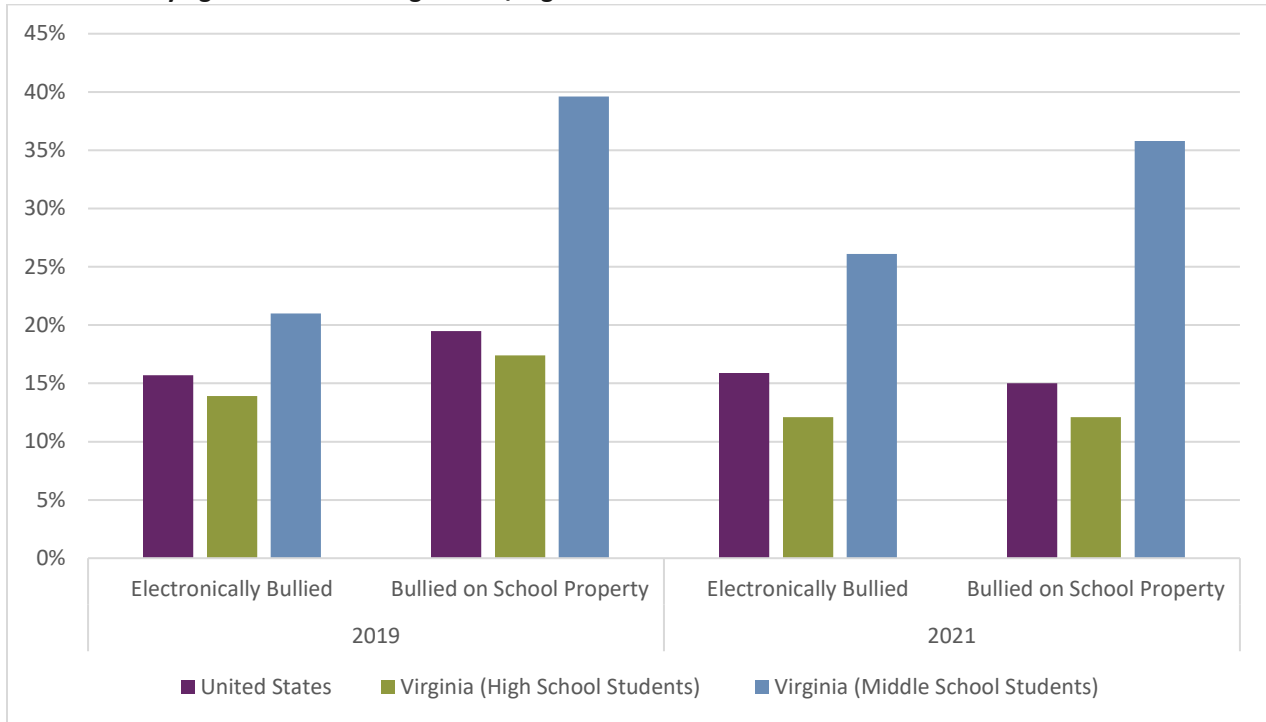
Exhibit 80: Child Protective Services Referrals Type of Abuse (2021-2022)



Child Safety

Since 2019 the number of middle school students reporting electronic bullying in Virginia has increased by about 5%. Meanwhile bullying on school property decreased at both the national and state level by about 5% in each case, although these data span the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Exhibit 81: Bullying Prevalence among Middle/High School Students

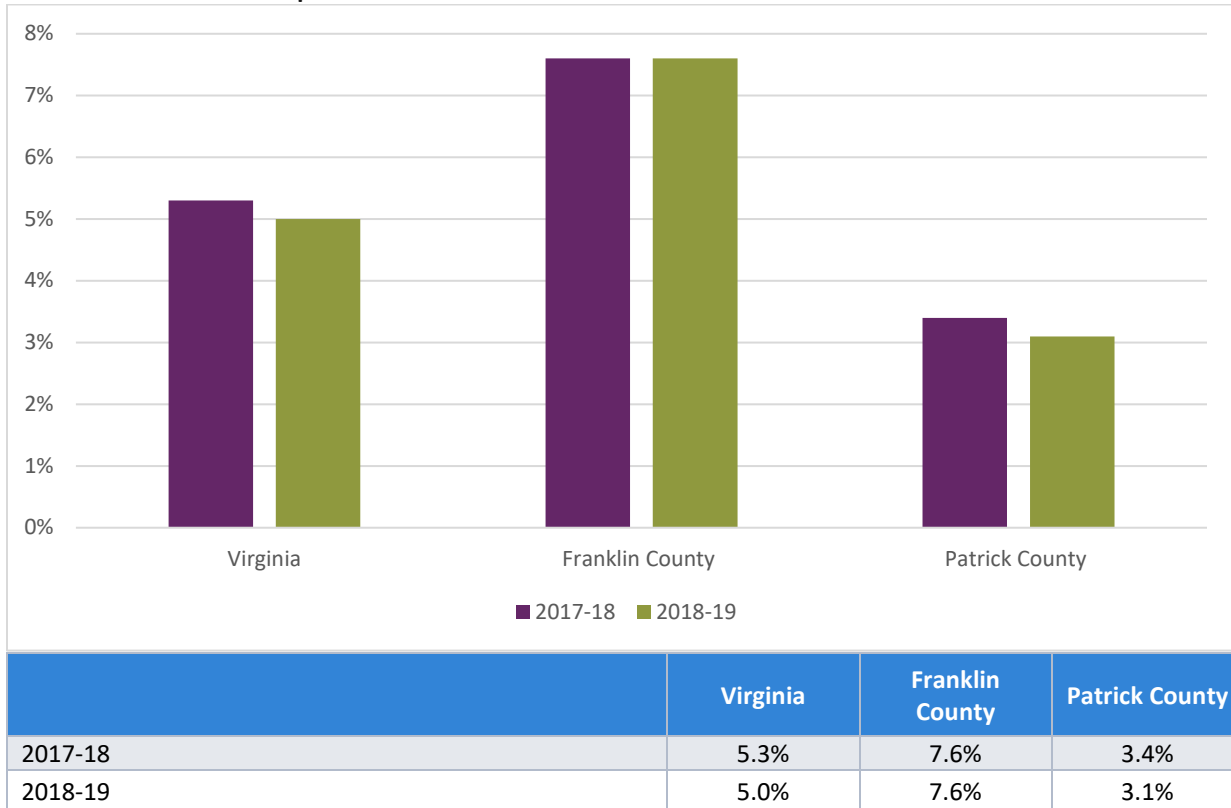


	2019		2021	
	Electronically Bullied	Bullied on School Property	Electronically Bullied	Bullied on School Property
United States	15.7%	19.5%	15.9%	15.0%
Virginia (High School Students)	13.9%	17.4%	12.1%	12.1%
Virginia (Middle School Students)	21.0%	39.6%	26.1%	35.8%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021

The percentage of students incurring short term suspension has remained stable since 2017 at the state and county level. About **2% more** students received short-term suspensions in Franklin County compared to the state of Virginia. Conversely, In Patrick County short term suspensions were lower than the state level by about 2%.

Exhibit 82: Short Term Suspensions



Source: U.S. Department of Education. Civil rights data collection

In Franklin County and at the state level, students identifying as Black had higher rates of short-term suspension compared to those identifying as White or Hispanic during the 2018-19 school year.

Exhibit 83: Short Term Suspensions By Race (2018-19)

	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Hispanic	4.0%	6.1%	-
Black	12.0%	12.6%	-
White	3.0%	6.9%	3.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Education. Civil rights data collection

Over time, expulsion rates have been lower in Virginia schools compared to those at the national level.

Qualitative Research

To identify the root causes and conditions of poverty and the greatest needs within Franklin and Patrick County, a qualitative research approach was implemented comprising both one-on-one stakeholder interviews and focus group discussions with a broad range of community members.

Methodology

A total of **13 stakeholders** were interviewed via telephone or Zoom, lasting approximately 30 minutes. The interviews provided the opportunity for in-depth conversations about the strengths and opportunities for STEP to identify vulnerable populations within Franklin and Patrick counties.

Additionally, **three virtual focus groups** were held for this community assessment. Each discussion began with brief introductions, followed by hearing participants' broad thoughts about several topics based on the social determinants of health, such as housing, child care, and awareness of services, among others. Participants were encouraged to speak about their areas of concern, interest, or experiences.

The stakeholder interview guide and focus group moderator's guide can be found in Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively.



Exhibit 84: Qualitative Research Participants

Community members	Patrick County Chamber of Commerce
County of Franklin	Safetyrope, Inc.
Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services	Southern Virginia Child Advocacy Center
Family Resource Center	STEP, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity	Town of Rocky Mount
Helping Hands of Franklin County	Town of Stuart
Patrick County Board of Supervisors	Tri Area Community Health

High-Level Action Areas

The following High-Level Action Areas are most representative of respondents' consensus in both qualitative interviews and focus group discussions. These key action areas and some associated observations that are representative of respondents' consensus perspectives from the interviews, are included on the following pages.

Please note that the Action Areas are alphabetized, but are not presented in any other prioritized order.



Access to
Care



Basic Needs of
Children & Youth



Behavioral Health



Child Care



Housing &
Homelessness



Transportation

Action Area – Access to Care

Some of the most prevalent health care accessibility issues in the counties stem from the lack of providers and specialists, leaving residents with few quality local options, leaving many to travel to the nearby city of Roanoke to receive the services they need.

“My daughter tried to get an appointment in March, and I did not get to see one until last September. I am having horrible trouble with the medical situation in Franklin County. It took about a month to get a new primary care physician. It took me three months to see a gastrointestinal specialist.”

“Even with Medicaid, there are not very many providers that take it. I have to take my child over an hour to see a specialist. Services are just not readily available.

“If you want quality care you will have to go to the next county. It took me a really long time to get into a clinic where the same doctor stayed for more than one or two years.”

“(Regarding) virtual access – we work with many folks who don't have internet. Some providers don't take Medicaid.”

“I am a mom of special needs kids and we have to drive two hours to see a specialist.”

Action Area – Basic Needs of Children and Youth

Stakeholders and community members expressed the need for an expansion of current services provided to children in vulnerable living conditions, including those helping to meet basic needs, from food to peer mentoring.

“We need more programs that provide children backpacks, coats, bedding – essential needs.”

“I have created a food pantry due to the need I have seen. Students need access to clean clothes. I have had students that have come crying to me in the morning saying they are hungry.”

“The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a national program. There is a local partner in each case that works to get kids to register. They get a book mailed to them once a month – it is free to the kids!”

Action Area – Behavioral Health

The community expressed a deep concern for the lack of services available for individuals seeking behavioral health care and recognized the need for a wider breadth of services for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders beyond what local providers currently offer. Several spoke to the challenges of seeking such services in the small communities of Franklin and Patrick counties.

“Piedmont Community Services and several individual counselors provide mental health counseling, but there’s a waiting list and it takes a long time to get in.”

“Piedmont is not able to meet the demand. On the private side, there are the same waiting list issues as there are for medical care. Police will take someone to hospital for involuntary evaluation – they may be there for days (or weeks) while there is a statewide bed search. There are systemic issues and provider shortages. Less acute situations are being exacerbated due to lack of available treatment.”

“We have relationships with a number of mental health providers. There is high turnover – we are

constantly getting familiar with new caseworkers. If someone presents with issues, we generally call a psychiatrist or caseworker to coordinate. Most are full – they are not accepting new clients. Most of our folks prefer in-person sessions. There are more resources in Martinsville and Roanoke.”

“I see a lot of paranoid schizophrenia – some of it is related to meth use. There is more marijuana use now that it is legal. Bed space is limited (due to) staffing challenges. Recently, we picked up the same person three times in two weeks. They continue to go back in the community and get worse. People don’t have any place to turn to. There are so many ‘repeat customers’ who get released and continue to use substances.”

“As far as a therapist that you can go talk to – your parents are about the only people you can talk to. And that’s because when you start airing your problems out here, the rumor mill can get started up quickly.”

Action Area – Child Care

Affordable child care was cited by many residents of both Franklin County and Patrick County as a huge need in the community with regards to challenges with long wait times, limited slots, and steep costs.

“There is a significant lack of child care in Franklin County. There are a few private daycares in town. The YMCA serves whole the county – they have some after-school programming. This issue ties to difficulties with employment – it is hard to secure employment without child care. We hear regularly that people are trying to get their kids into pre-kindergarten, but they are full.”

“I have four kids and none of them have gone to child care because of the expense, and that leaves a single parent working at home, there are long waitlists.”

“There is hardly any child care in Patrick County, the only thing is STEP, I must stay home because I can't afford child care even if there was. There is no possible way for me to work. Even child care for a single child does not justify working because you are going to hand somebody half of your paycheck.”

“(There are some) really creative solutions among churches in Franklin County. Kids will go



for different projects or programs. The quality is varied overall – there are licensed and unlicensed options. There are a lot of grandparents taking care of kids.”

“There is not a lot of quality daycare in general. People will fall back on family or on a person in their community who watches kids on the side. We need more programs that target working parents.”

Action Area – Housing & Homelessness

When asked about the most pressing challenges in both Franklin and Patrick County many residents voiced their concerns about climbing housing costs, limited renting opportunities, and long wait lists for assistance, contributing to an increase in housing insecurity. Nearly all conversations held with community members mentioned a lack of resources for homeless individuals, with limited shelters, transitional housing, or warming centers available, either for those experiencing chronic homelessness or others seeking shelter due to domestic violence or other unstable or unsafe situations.

“We don’t have enough housing units, whether it’s apartments for rent or houses for purchase. There are apartments that were recently built and there’s already a 200-person waitlist.”

“There is not enough Section 8 housing. Single-family dwellings are not affordable to buy or to rent.”

“It’s an all-around issue – (there is) limited housing, and when you do find housing it is not

affordable. Ever since COVID-19 hit everything skyrocketed. Even a trailer is so expensive that you could buy a house with that money.”

“A lot of (people) are leaving partners because of domestic violence linked to drug use. We had two income-based apartment buildings, including one for seniors, and they are full.”

“Homelessness is not recognized, but it exists. Community leaders don’t want to address it because we don’t see it. There is no homeless shelter – the closest shelter is about 30-45 minutes (away). We have a lot of couch surfing.”

“There are zero resources outside of the [Family Resource Center] shelter. Aside from STEP, Inc.’s homeless services, there’s nothing else in Franklin County.”

“We need homeless shelters for all genders and ages. We operate with all victims of domestic violence and genders. But the county does need a homeless shelter.”

Action Area – Transportation

Community members and agency staff each spoke to the challenges individuals and families face in accessing existing resources given the limited transportation available in Franklin and Patrick counties, as well as the implications for health and behavioral health outcomes impacted by a lack of access to resources.

“STEP has programs for people on the lower end of the income scale. It would be great to have more of these programs in some of the outlying communities (outside of Stuart). Chances are, if you qualify for these programs, you might not have a car. What kind of car can you afford to drive?”

“There is no public transportation, but families will make it to Walmart. They’ll make it to get their nails done. To me, it is more of a ‘priorities’ issue.”

“We hear people ask for public transportation, but as a small rural town, we are not sure what is possible.”



“There is no public transportation. Franklin County doesn’t even have Uber or cabs.”

“The State is currently repairing the main highway in our area - getting around is now even more difficult.”

Community Survey

The purpose of the community survey was to enable a greater share of people living in Franklin and Patrick counties to share their perspectives on the greatest needs affecting their community.

Methodology

The brief survey was made available online in English and in Spanish. The questionnaire included closed-ended, need-specific questions, open-ended questions, and demographic questions. Invitations to participate were distributed by partners through channels including email and social media. Strategic outreach was conducted to ensure maximum participation from community members, especially in vulnerable communities.

Of 89 total responses received, 73 valid survey responses were included in this analysis. Response validity was adjudicated based on respondent completion of one or more non-demographic survey questions. Special care was exercised to minimize the amount of non-sampling error through the assessment of design effects (e.g., question order and wording). The survey was designed to maximize accessibility in evaluating respondents' insights with regards to an array of potential community needs. See Appendix D for the survey instrument.

While the survey served as a practical tool for capturing insights of individuals across Franklin and Patrick counties, this was not a random sample. Findings should not be interpreted as representative of the full population. Additionally, sample sizes of demographic subpopulations are not large enough to consider samples to be representative of the broader populations from which responses were received. Differences in responses have not been tested for statistical significance as part of this assessment.

Respondent Demographics

Among valid responses to the community survey (n=73), most (88.9%) identify as female, and most identify as White (85.5%) and not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (93.7%). Nearly half of respondents (45.4%) report being age 55 or older.

Exhibit 85: Community Survey Respondent Demographics

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE	PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS
GENDER	
Female	88.9%
Male	11.1%
RACE[^]	
White	85.5%
Black or African American	15.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.4%
ETHNICITY	
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	6.3%
Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	93.7%
AGE	
Under 18	0.0%
18 to 24	9.1%
25 to 34	7.6%
35 to 44	19.7%
45 to 54	18.2%
55 to 64	31.8%
65 and older	13.6%

[^] Percentages total more than 100% because respondents were instructed to select as many options as apply to them.

The median household income reported by respondents falls in the \$35,000 to \$49,999 range, which is lower than the median household income estimated for the population in Franklin County (\$59,667) and in the range of the median household income estimated for the population in Patrick County (\$47,215).²⁶ The vast majority of respondents reported living and working in Franklin County or Patrick County, and more than half of respondents (54.7%) reported living in Rocky Mount (24151) or Stuart (24171).

Exhibit 86: Community Survey Respondent Demographics (continued)

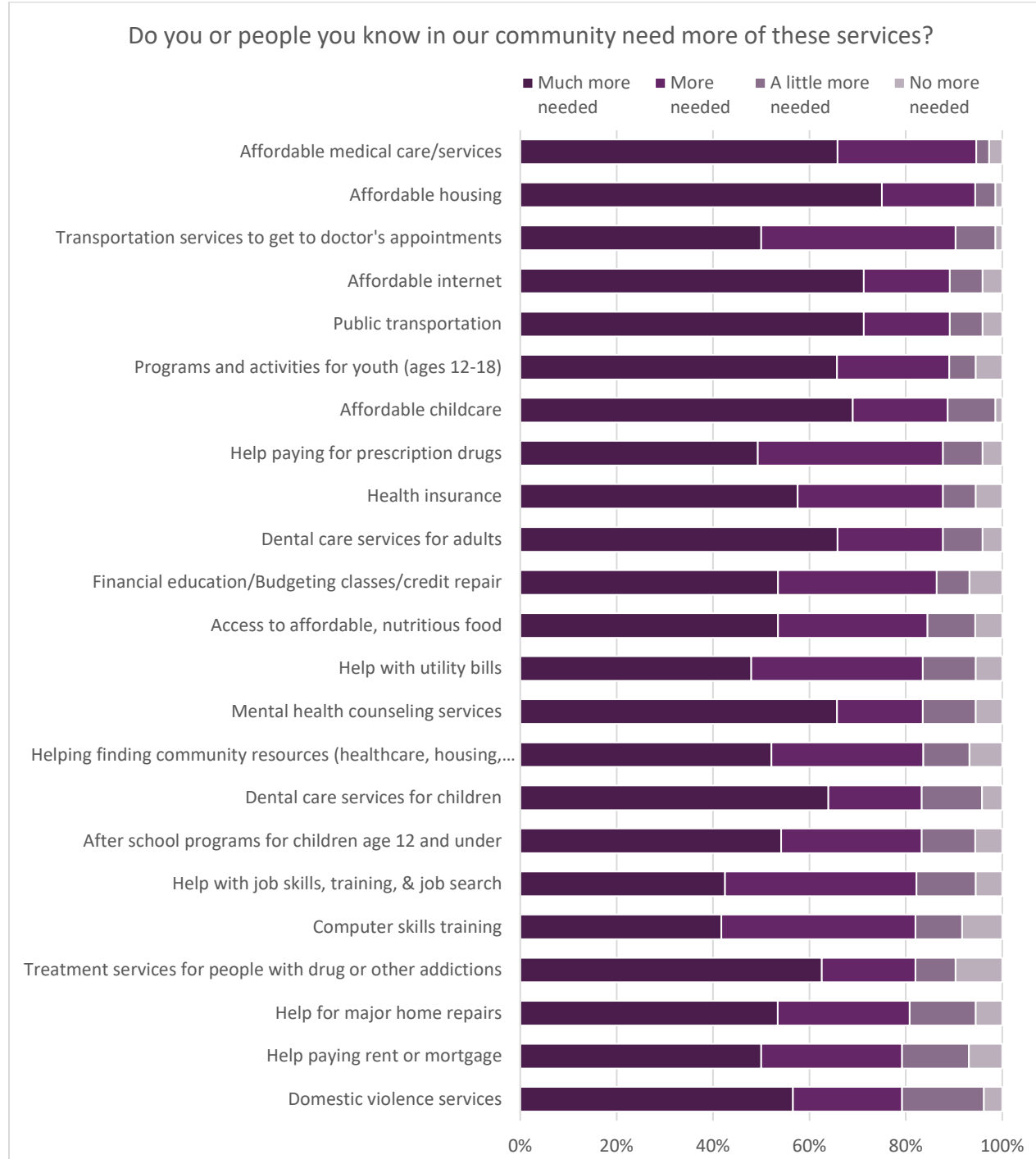
DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE	PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
Less than \$10,000	6.6%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	13.1%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	13.1%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	16.4%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	16.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16.4%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	9.8%
\$100,000 or more	8.2%
LOCATION	
Resident of Franklin County or Patrick County?	87.7%
Employed in Franklin County or Patrick County?	86.3%
ZIP CODES (Most common)	
24151	34.2%
24171	20.5%
24088	5.5%
24133	4.1%
24102	4.1%
24112	4.1%

²⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2017-2021.

Findings

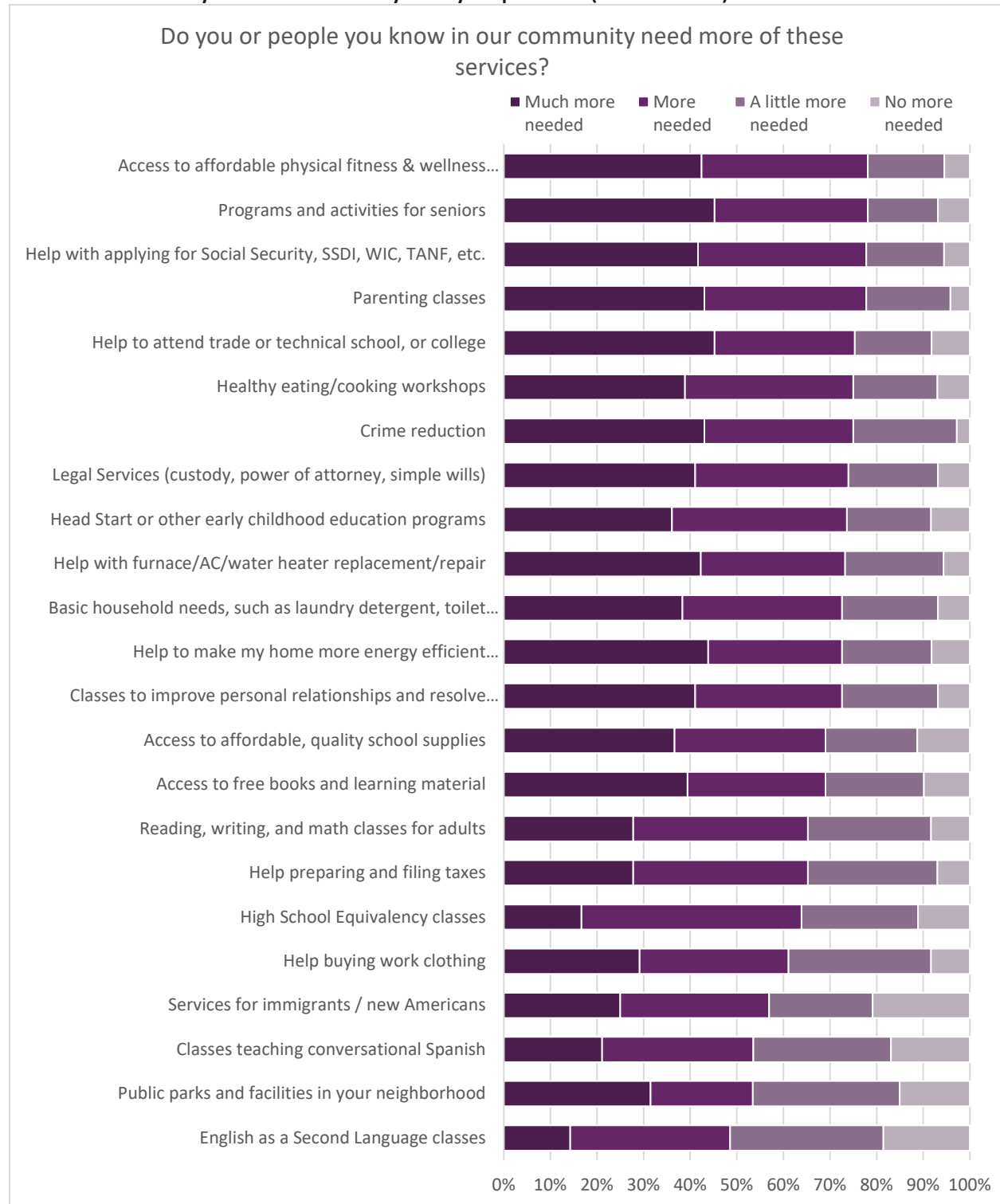
Respondents were asked whether they or people they know in their community need more of an array of unique services. Most respondents reported the need for ‘much more’ or ‘more’ affordable medical care/services (94.5%), affordable housing (94.4%), and/or transportation services to get to doctor’s appointments (90.3%).

Exhibit 87: Community Services as Scored by Survey Respondents (Highest Scores)



Respondents were least likely to report the need for ‘much more’ or ‘more’ English for a Second Language classes (48.6%), public parks and facilities in their neighborhood (53.4%), and/or classes teaching conversational Spanish (53.5%).

Exhibit 88: Community Services as Scored by Survey Respondents (Lowest Scores)



Are there any other needs of Franklin or Patrick County residents that you think are important for us to know?

There is a lack of affordable housing to rent in Franklin and Patrick Counties.

Need more affordable housing facilities for people having memory care/dementia care needs or support for those caring for those people.

We need a homeless shelter.

Mental health awareness is really needed here. And kids who age out of foster care need resources.

Many physician offices are not accepting new patients, so healthcare availability is needed.

The biggest need in both counties is access to a dentist that will serve children under the age of three that accepts Medicaid.

Affordable AND Reliable Internet!

It would be nice to have a mentorship program for children that struggle with social skills, making friends, and children who struggle to make good decisions.

Transportation for elderly no matter their socioeconomic status. Wheelchair bound people whether rich or poor need access to transportation to and from doctors.

Needs Prioritization

Methodology

Prioritizing the needs identified throughout the CNA process was essential for building consensus among STEP leadership, staff, and board members. The needs prioritization session provided the project Leadership Group an opportunity to review the key findings, rate the importance and scale of each identified need (in alignment with Results Oriented Management and Accountability principles), and categorize which identified needs fall within STEP's locus of control to address, as well as the level of resources available to meet the needs.

The prioritization process consisted of two steps:

1

First, an online survey was open for approximately one week to allow each Leadership Group member to answer the following question about each of the 24 identified needs: *"How great is the need for additional focus..."*

No more needed	..	...	More needed	.....	.....	Much more needed	NA
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The average score across respondents with regards to each need was calculated to gauge the level of focus necessary to create an impact in the community. Participants were also asked to provide comments supporting their scores, and these comments were de-identified and shared with the rest of the group.

2

The second step was the collaborative prioritization session. The Leadership Group participated in a virtual needs prioritization session to review the 24 community needs identified through the CNA process. The needs with the highest average scores in the survey, as well as several selected needs with slightly lower average scores, were evaluated using the following scales:

Locus of Control:

1 = Lead
3 = Collaboration or Partnership
5 = Support or Advocate

Resources:

1 = "Yes, we have all the resources we need"
3 = "Maybe, we have some resources but need more (i.e., funding, staffing)"
5 = "No, we don't have the resources"

Leadership Group members also considered the difficulty of making change to reduce each need, as well as whether other organizations are working (or could work) on each need being considered.

Prioritized Needs

The 24 needs included in the prioritization process were identified throughout the previously described research modalities. The table below indicates the average score of each need as rated by Leadership Group members through the surveys. Higher scores with regards to need for more focus indicate higher level of need, while lower scores for locus of control and timeline generally indicate higher priority.

Exhibit 89: Identified Needs and Scoring

Identified Need	Average Score - Need for More Focus 1 = No more needed 7 = Much more needed	Locus of Control 1 = Lead 3 = Partner 5 = Advocate	Timeline: 1 = Impact within Year 1 3 = Impact in Year 2 or 3 5 = Impact would be long-term, 3+ years
In Patrick County, augmented medical services to better account for the lack of a hospital or ER	7.0	5	5
Enhancement of local resources for children with special needs	6.5	3	5
Expansion of after-school programs and low-cost accessible recreational activities offered for children, particularly in Patrick County	6.5	2	4
Transportation options that allow residents of rural communities to access resources and programs available in town, including expansion of senior bus routes	6.4	2	3
Support for families to make improvements to the quality of homes, including home repairs and weatherization	6.4	1	2
Housing production - particularly for low-income members of community	6.4	5	5
A broader array of locally available behavioral health services (beyond what is currently offered by Piedmont Community Services), including mental health counseling and crisis intervention services	6.3	4	3
Improved collaboration between partners (including government, faith-based organizations, and other partners) to meet the needs of the region's unhoused population	6.1	2	3
Improved access to affordable child care, by increasing the number child care slots across Franklin and Patrick counties, as well as in populations not served by Head Start and communities without Early Head Start	6.1	1	4
Resources to support victims of domestic violence, including extended emergency shelters and expanded hotline services	6.0	3	4

Bold = Consensus high-priority need based on Leadership Group discussion

Identified Need	Average Score - Need for More Focus	Locus of Control	Timeline
Resources to address homelessness, including adequate shelter bed capacity for individuals and families who are unhoused	5.9	5	5
A wider range of medical, behavioral health, and dental providers who accept Medicaid	5.9	5	5
Expansion of quality local options for dental care, primary care, and specialty health care	5.9	5	5
Programs for youth, including those offering basic resources (food, bedding, and/or clothing), as well as other youth-focused programming such as peer mentoring	5.8	1	3
Job training and professional development opportunities to grow the local workforce and improve local economic development	5.7	1	3
Improved access to affordable internet service, particularly in rural areas	5.4	NS	NS
Resources and services to address substance abuse treatment, such as expansion of programming like Bridging the Gap program, particularly given linkages of substance abuse with domestic violence and other identified community challenges	5.3	5	NS
Activities, groups, and programs that promote connection between community members	5.3	NS	NS
Expanded transportation options to connect residents to resources available in Roanoke	5.3	NS	NS
Efforts to increase public awareness of existing resources and programming, including targeted marketing efforts and use of social media (e.g., TikTok, Facebook and Instagram)	5.1	1	3
Promotion of substance abuse awareness and prevention programs for children and youth, including in schools	4.8	NS	NS
Efforts to increase the number of people willing to serve as foster parents, as well as resources to support children aging out of the foster care system	4.7	NS	NS
Addition of more in-house interpreters to serve Spanish-speaking families	4.6	NS	NS
Services and resources for older adults, including specific services such as tax filing assistance, as well as general opportunities for social connection	4.3	NS	NS
Resources and services for community members who identify as LGBTQIA+	4.2	NS	NS

Bold = Consensus high-priority need based on Leadership Group discussion

NS = Not scored by Leadership Group due to lower average 'Need for More Focus' score

The seven (7) needs prioritized for action by STEP, Inc. through this CNA process are:

- Improved access to affordable child care, by increasing the number child care slots across Franklin and Patrick counties, as well as in populations not served by Head Start and communities without Early Head Start;
- Programs for youth, including those offering basic resources (food, bedding, and/or clothing), as well as other youth-focused programming such as peer mentoring;
- Expansion of after-school programs and low-cost accessible recreational activities offered for children, particularly in Patrick County;
- Transportation options that allow residents of rural communities to access resources and programs available in town, including expansion of senior bus routes;
- Support for families to make improvements to the quality of homes, including home repairs and weatherization;
- Job training and professional development opportunities to grow the local workforce and improve local economic development; and
- Efforts to increase public awareness of existing resources and programming, including targeted marketing efforts and use of social media (e.g., TikTok, Facebook and Instagram).

These needs reflect an array of service areas in which STEP, Inc. currently provides programming in Franklin and Patrick counties, including several child- and youth-focused areas. Needs also touch on challenges of particular importance to rural communities with an older demographic composition, including the need to alleviate obstacles posed by limited transportation options. By considering augmented services, as well as promoting awareness of the programming and resources that already exist, STEP is poised to continue fulfilling an integral role addressing causes and conditions of poverty in Franklin and Patrick counties in the coming years.

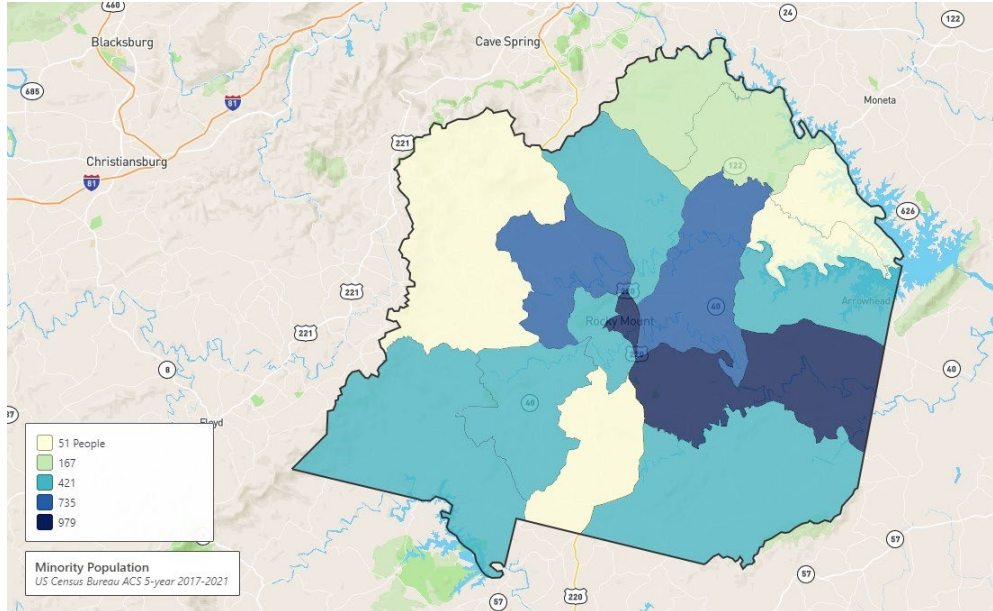
Appendices

Appendix A: Supplementary Secondary Research

Minority Population by Census Tract

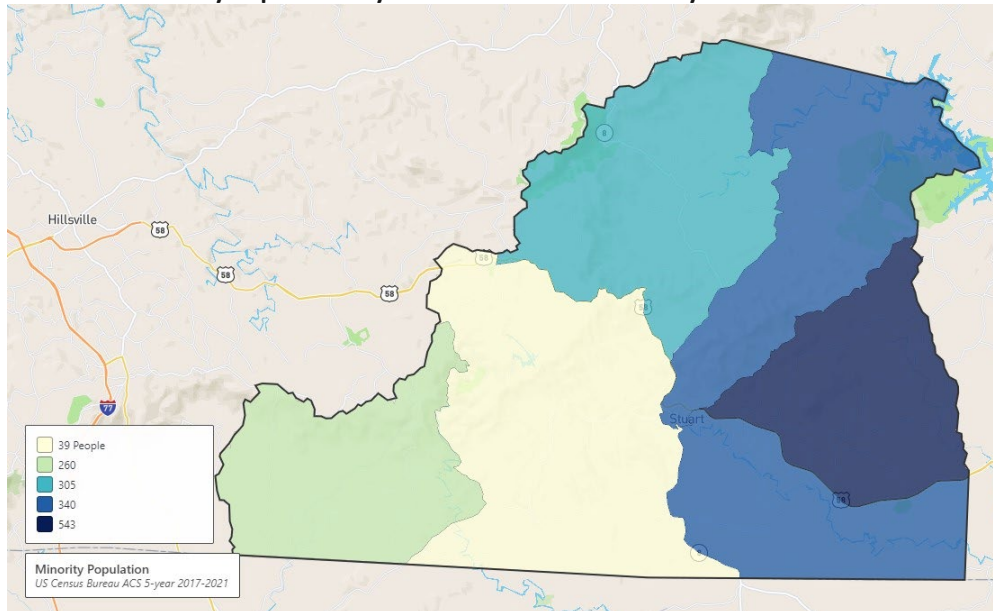
The largest numbers of residents of Franklin and Patrick counties who identify as members of racial or ethnic minority populations live East of Rocky Mount and Stuart, respectively.

Exhibit 90: Minority Population by Census Tract Franklin County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Exhibit 91: Minority Population by Census Tract Patrick County

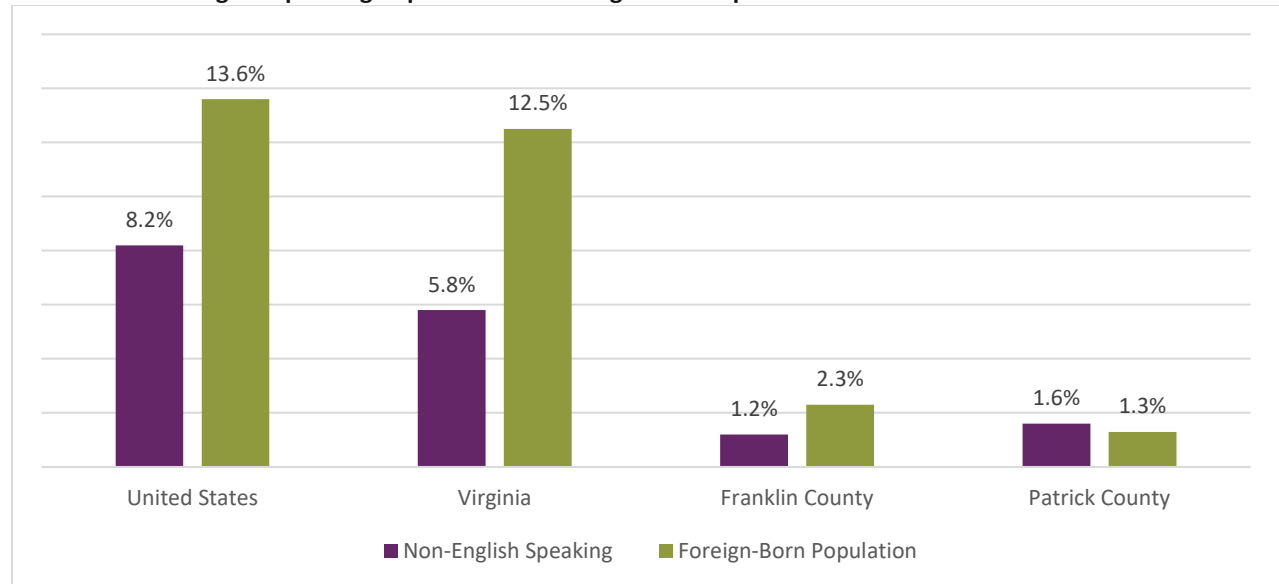


Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Language Spoken at Home & Foreign-Born Population

Compared to national and state level data, both Franklin and Patrick County have a low population of non-English speaking and foreign-born population. In comparison to Patrick County, Franklin County has **twice the amount** foreign-born population, yet a slightly lower percentage of non-English speaking people.

Exhibit 92: Non-English Speaking Population and Foreign-Born Population



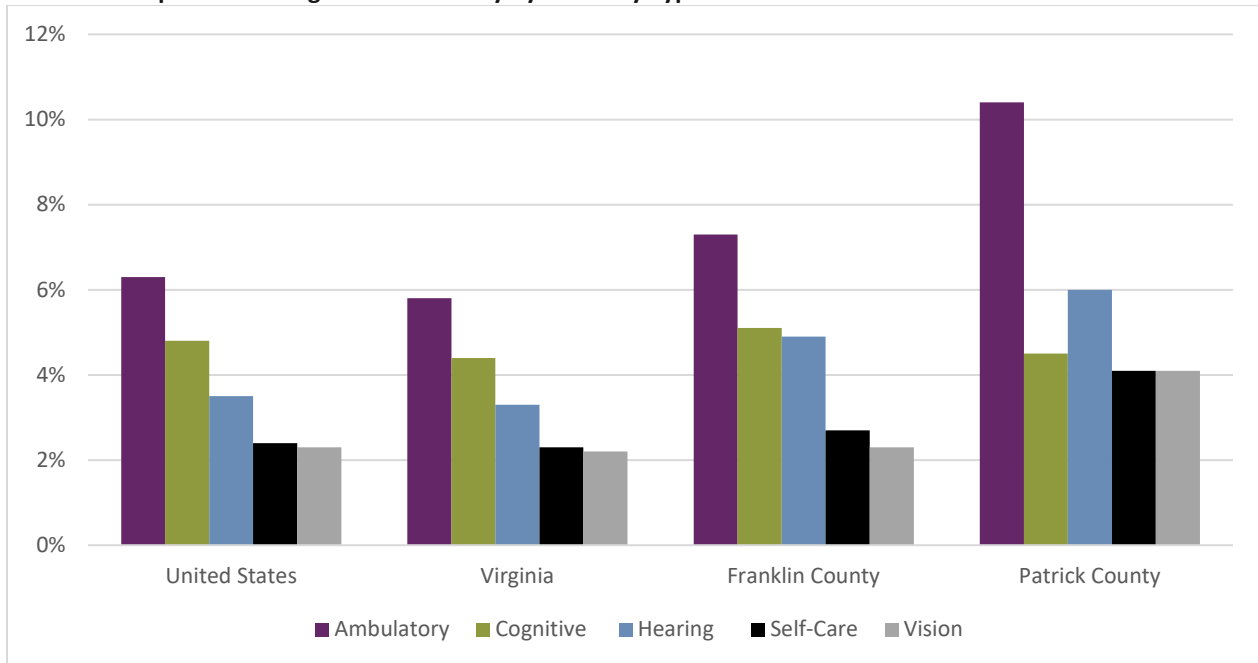
	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Non-English Speaking	8.2%	5.8%	1.2%	1.6%
Foreign-Born Population	13.6%	12.5%	2.3%	1.3%
Region of birth				
Europe	10.8%	9.8%	26.1%	34.1%
Asia	31.2%	42.2%	19.4%	23.3%
Africa	5.5%	10.9%	10.5%	6.0%
Oceania	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%	3.0%
Latin America	50.0%	35.5%	40.2%	33.6%
Northern America	1.8%	1.3%	3.8%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

People Living with a Disability, by Disability Type

Both counties have higher percentages of people living with disabilities across difficulty types compared to the state or nation. Notably the percentage of individuals living with an ambulatory disability in Patrick County (10.4%) is nearly two times higher than the state level (5.8%). This trend is also observed for individuals living with Hearing, Self-care, and Vision disabilities in Patrick County.

Exhibit 93: Population Living with a Disability by Difficulty Type



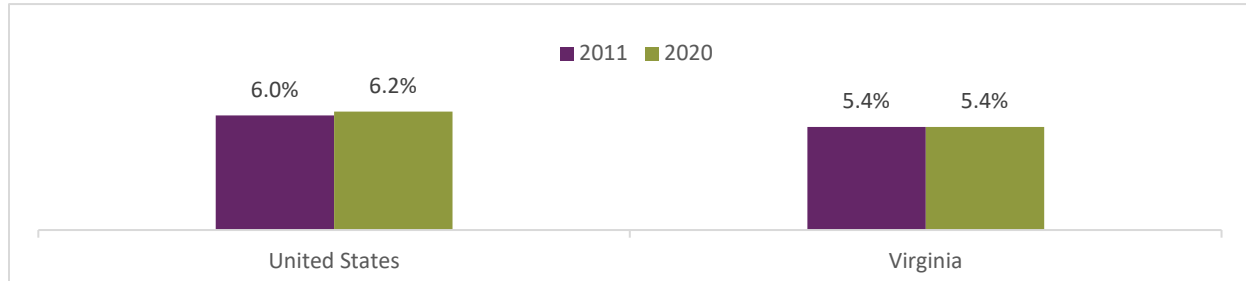
	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Ambulatory	6.3%	5.8%	7.3%	10.4%
Cognitive	4.8%	4.4%	5.1%	4.5%
Hearing	3.5%	3.3%	4.9%	6.0%
Self-Care	2.4%	2.3%	2.7%	4.1%
Vision	2.3%	2.2%	2.3%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Special Education

The percentage of Virginia children ages 3 to 5 served under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) is slightly lower than the percent served at the national level.

Exhibit 94: Percentage of children ages 3-5 served under the IDEA



	United States	Virginia
2011	6.0%	5.4%
2020	6.2%	5.4%

Source: U.S. Department of Education. 44th Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2022.

In Virginia and nationally, children ages 3-5 who identify as Asian were served under the IDEA at a percentage lower than children identifying with other racial or ethnic groups.

Exhibit 95: Percentage of Population ages 3-5 served under the IDEA by Race/ Ethnicity (Fall 2020)

	United States	Virginia
American Indian	5.0%	4.2%
Asian	3.1%	2.9%
Black or African American	3.7%	3.2%
Hispanic/Latino	4.1%	3.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5.0%	6.2%
White	4.3%	3.5%
Two or more races	4.3%	3.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Education. 44th Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2022.

In Virginia, children ages 3 to 5 served under the IDEA were more likely to be served in a separate class, and less likely to be part of a regular early childhood program, compared to those at the national level.

Exhibit 96: Percentage of children ages 3 through 5 (early childhood) served under IDEA, Part B, by educational environment and State: Fall 2020

	United States	Virginia
Regular early childhood program	56.7%	44.8%
Separate class	27.7%	38.7%
Separate school	2.3%	0.1%
Home	4.1%	6.3%
Service provider location	9.1%	10.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Education. 44th Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2022.

Employment by Occupation

Compared to the United States and Virginia, **more than double the proportion of residents of Patrick County are employed in Production occupations.**

Exhibit 97: Employment by Occupation

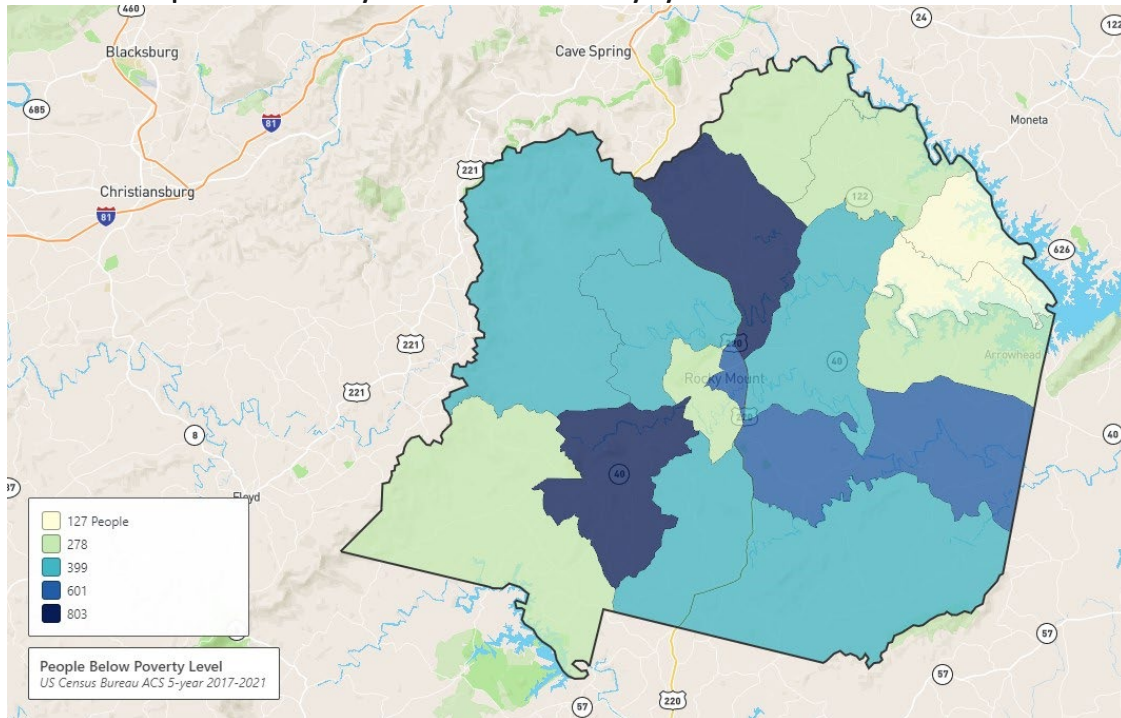
	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
Office and Administrative Support	11.1%	10.2%	10.1%	9.4%
Management	10.8%	12.0%	10.4%	7.2%
Sales	9.8%	9.0%	9.5%	9.4%
Education, Training and Library	6.2%	6.5%	5.2%	3.7%
Business and Finance	5.7%	7.2%	6.5%	4.8%
Production	5.5%	4.1%	6.8%	13.9%
Food Preparation and Serving	5.4%	4.9%	6.7%	1.9%
Construction and Extraction	5.0%	4.6%	6.3%	6.0%
Health Diagnosis	4.2%	3.8%	3.6%	3.6%
Material Moving	3.8%	3.0%	3.6%	3.7%
Transportation	3.8%	3.4%	4.9%	4.3%
Building, Grounds, Cleaning, and Maintenance	3.6%	3.3%	4.0%	5.9%
Computer and Mathematical	3.4%	6.1%	1.8%	2.6%
Healthcare Support	3.3%	2.6%	3.3%	6.0%
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	3.1%	2.9%	4.7%	6.6%
Personal Care and Service	2.6%	2.7%	2.7%	1.0%
Architecture and Engineering	2.1%	2.2%	1.3%	0.2%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sport and Media	2.0%	2.0%	1.3%	0.2%
Health Technologist and Technicians	2.0%	1.8%	2.5%	4.1%
Community and Social Service	1.8%	1.9%	1.2%	0.9%
Fire Fighting and Prevention	1.2%	1.4%	0.9%	0.4%
Legal	1.2%	1.6%	0.6%	0.0%
Law Enforcement	1.0%	1.3%	0.9%	1.1%
Life, Physical, and Social	1.0%	1.2%	0.1%	0.7%
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	0.6%	0.3%	1.2%	1.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

People below Poverty Level, by Census Tract

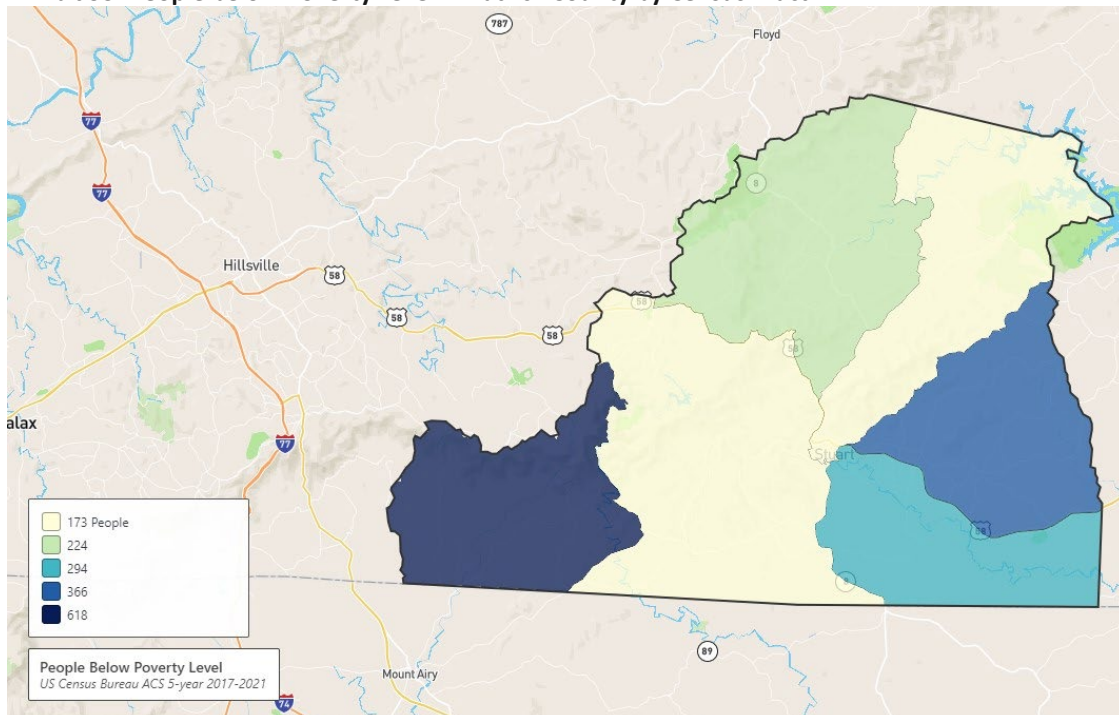
Numbers of Franklin County and Patrick County residents below poverty vary across each region.

Exhibit 98: People below Poverty Level in Franklin County by Census Tract



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

Exhibit 99: People below Poverty Level in Patrick County by Census Tract

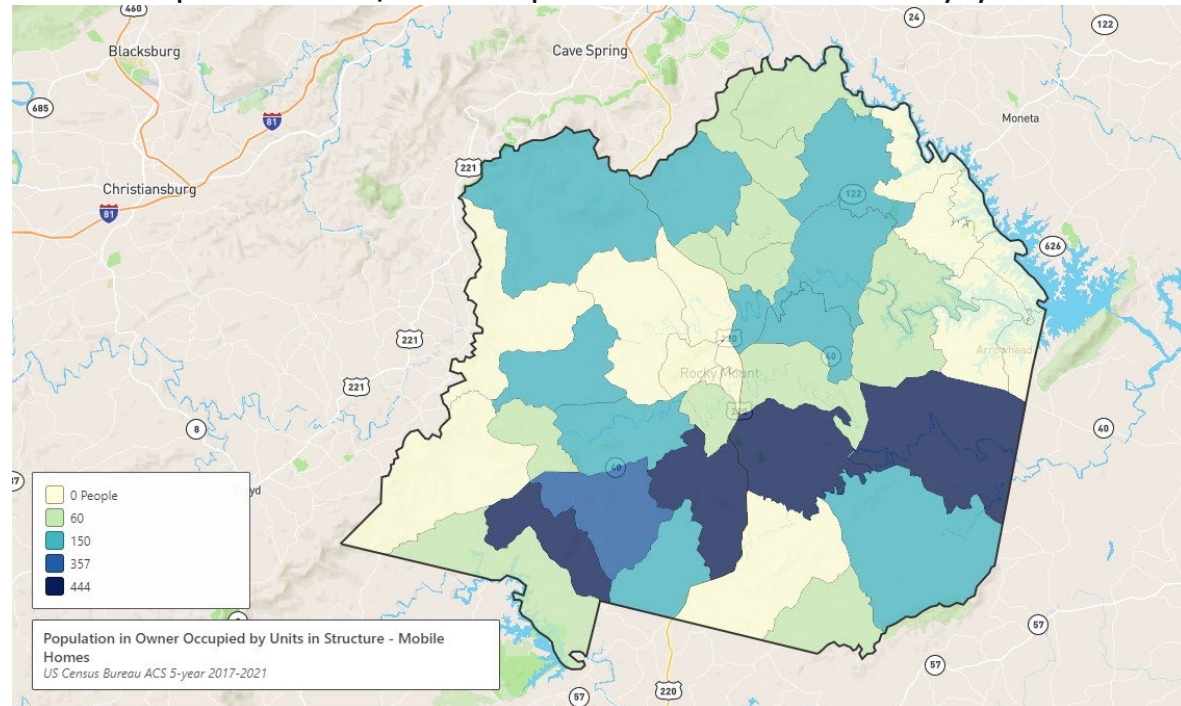


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2017-2021

Population in Mobile Homes, by Census Block Group

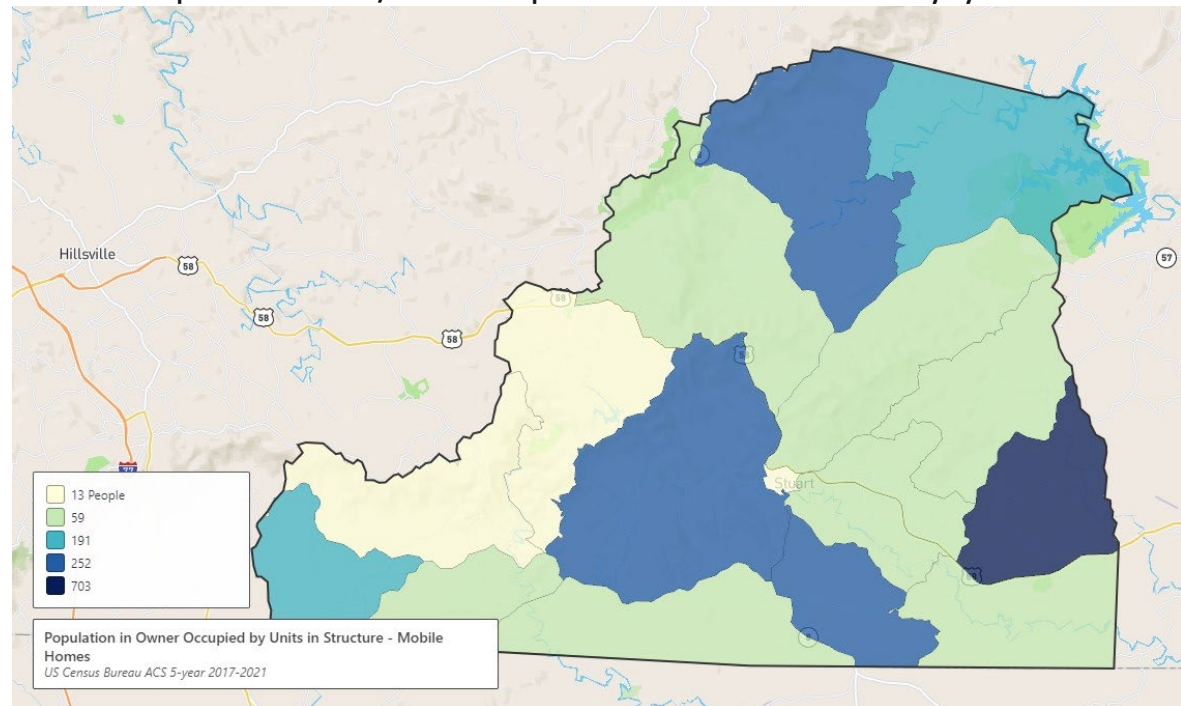
The population in mobile homes is concentrated south of Rocky Mount in Franklin County.

Exhibit 100: Population In Owner/ Renter Occupied Mobile Homes In Franklin County By Census Block Groups



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

Exhibit 101: Population In Owner/ Renter Occupied Mobile Homes In Patrick County By Census Block Groups



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

Access to Healthy Food, by Race

Few residents of Franklin County and Patrick County live within a mile of healthy food, regardless of race or ethnicity.

Exhibit 102: Access to Healthy Food, by Race

	Distance from Access to Healthy Food	United States	Virginia	Franklin County	Patrick County
American Indian and Alaska Native	1/2 Mile	60.2%	67.4%	93.3%	ND
	1 Mile	28.1%	31.5%	93.3%	ND
	10 Miles	0.8%	0.5%	6.7%	ND
	20 Miles	0.1%	0.0%	ND	ND
Asian	1/2 Mile	53.3%	59.6%	96.0%	95.2%
	1 Mile	20.7%	20.3%	90.1%	73.8%
	10 Miles	0.1%	0.1%	4.0%	2.4%
	20 Miles	0.0%	0.0%	ND	ND
Black or African American	1/2 Mile	63.0%	70.0%	98.6%	96.9%
	1 Mile	29.5%	35.0%	93.1%	89.4%
	10 Miles	0.9%	1.7%	12.5%	10.4%
	20 Miles	0.0%	0.0%	ND	ND
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1/2 Mile	60.2%	67.4%	93.3%	ND
	1 Mile	28.1%	31.5%	93.3%	ND
	10 Miles	0.8%	0.5%	6.7%	ND
	20 Miles	0.1%	0.0%	ND	ND
Other / Multiple Race	1/2 Mile	54.5%	60.5%	99.0%	95.2%
	1 Mile	23.6%	25.3%	94.2%	91.3%
	10 Miles	0.8%	0.5%	8.4%	8.4%
	20 Miles	0.1%	0.1%	ND	ND
White	1/2 Mile	73.8%	77.1%	99.3%	97.8%
	1 Mile	44.8%	48.2%	96.8%	92.3%
	10 Miles	1.39%	1.7%	9.6%	9.0%
	20 Miles	0.2%	0.0%	ND	ND

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

Households Participating in SNAP, by Census Tract

The largest numbers of households participating in SNAP are generally located east of Rocky Mount and Stuart, respectively.

Exhibit 103: Households Receiving SNAP Benefits in Franklin County By Census Tract

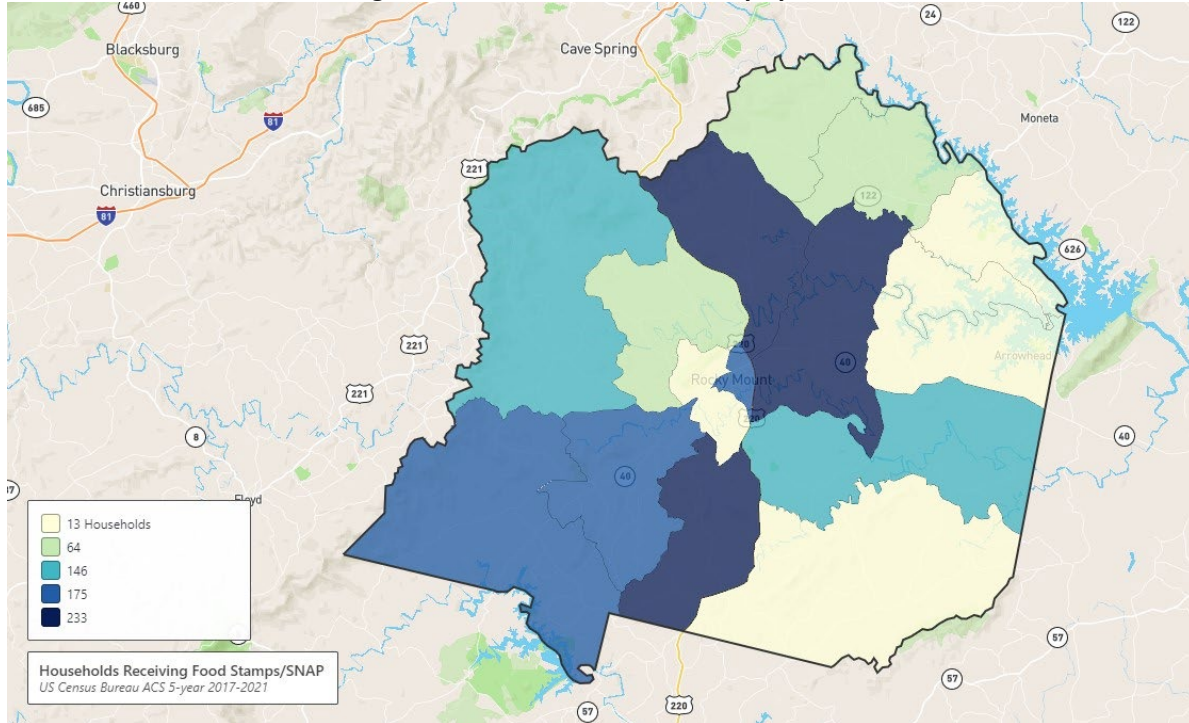
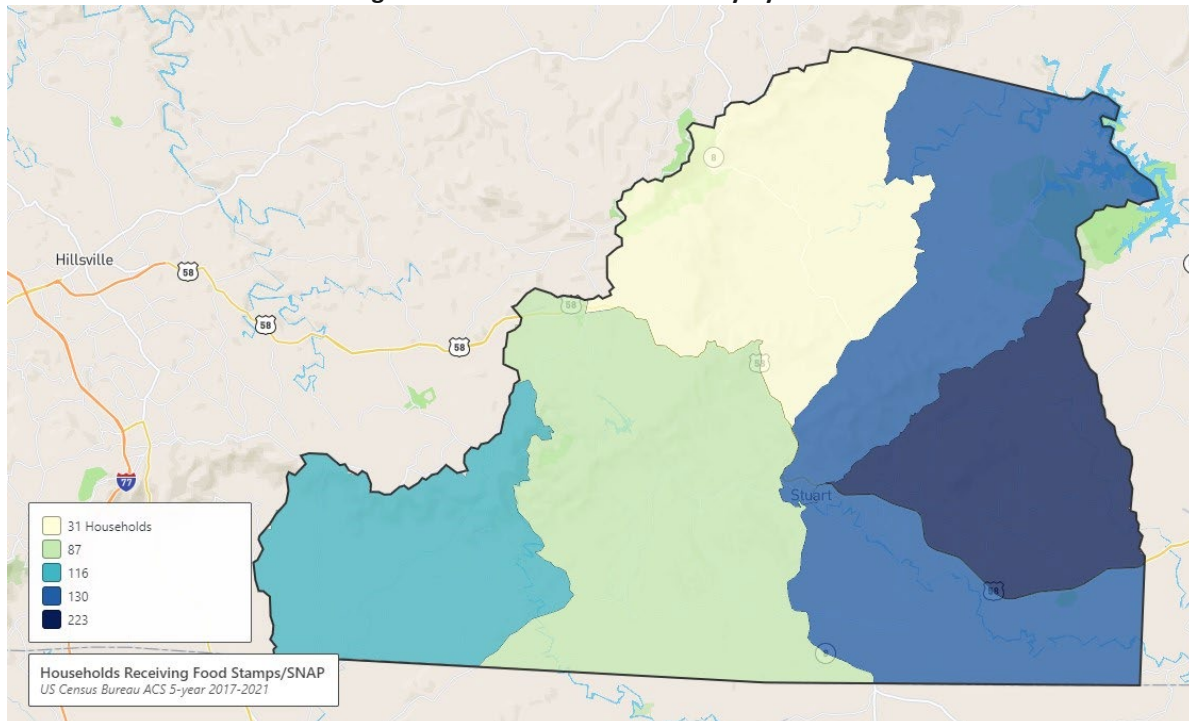


Exhibit 104: Households Receiving SNAP Benefits in Patrick County By Census Tract



Youth Substance Use (Virginia)

Rates of substance use generally increase between the 12-17 and 18-25 age groups in Virginia.

Exhibit 105: Substance Use and Mental Health in Virginia, by Age Group

Measure	12+	12-17	18-25	26+	18+
Illicit Drugs					
Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month	12.9%	6.5%	24.7%	11.8%	13.5%
Marijuana Use in the Past Year	18.0%	9.7%	31.7%	16.9%	18.9%
Marijuana Use in the Past Month	12.1%	5.4%	23.3%	11.1%	12.8%
Perceptions of Great Risk from Smoking Marijuana Once a Month	22.6%	22.7%	9.3%	24.7%	22.6%
First Use of Marijuana in the Past Year among Those at Risk for Initiation of Marijuana Use	2.0%	4.3%	8.0%	0.7%	1.6%
Illicit Drug Use Other Than Marijuana in the Past Month	3.1%	2.1%	4.1%	3.1%	3.2%
Cocaine Use in the Past Year	1.8%	0.1%	3.4%	1.7%	1.9%
Perceptions of Great Risk from Using Cocaine Once a Month	68.2%	50.4%	59.7%	71.5%	70.0%
Heroin Use in the Past Year	ND	ND	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%
Perceptions of Great Risk from Trying Heroin Once or Twice	83.1%	57.7%	78.2%	86.7%	85.6%
Methamphetamine Use in the Past Year	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%
Prescription Pain Reliever Misuse in the Past Year	3.3%	1.6%	2.7%	3.6%	3.5%
Opioid Misuse in the Past Year	3.3%	1.6%	2.6%	3.6%	3.5%
Alcohol					
Alcohol Use in the Past Month	50.7%	5.4%	54.5%	55.4%	55.3%
Binge Alcohol Use in the Past Month	22.3%	2.3%	28.5%	23.6%	24.2%
Perceptions of Great Risk from Having Five or More Drinks of an Alcoholic Beverage Once or Twice a Week	44.7%	45.1%	37.2%	45.8%	44.7%
Tobacco Products					
Tobacco Product Use in the Past Month	18.1%	2.2%	19.0%	19.8%	19.7%
Cigarette Use in the Past Month	14.4%	0.7%	12.5%	16.3%	15.8%
Perceptions of Great Risk from Smoking One or More Packs of Cigarettes per Day	70.9%	68.6%	59.9%	72.9%	71.2%
Mental Health Measures in the Past Year					
Any Mental Illness	ND	ND	22.2%	33.0%	20.6%
Serious Mental Illness	ND	ND	5.1%	11.4%	4.1%
Received Mental Health Services	ND	ND	17.7%	21.6%	17.1%
Major Depressive Episode	ND	7.9%	20.3%	18.4%	6.3%
Had Serious Thoughts of Suicide	ND	ND	4.3%	12.3%	3.1%
Made Any Suicide Plans	ND	ND	1.2%	4.4%	0.8%
Attempted Suicide	ND	ND	0.5%	2.2%	0.3%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration | National Survey on Drug Use & Health State-Specific Tables, 2021

Rates of substance use disorder diagnoses and treatment increased with age among those ages 12 to 25 in Virginia.

Exhibit 106: Substance Use Disorder and Treatment Trends, in Virginia by Age Group

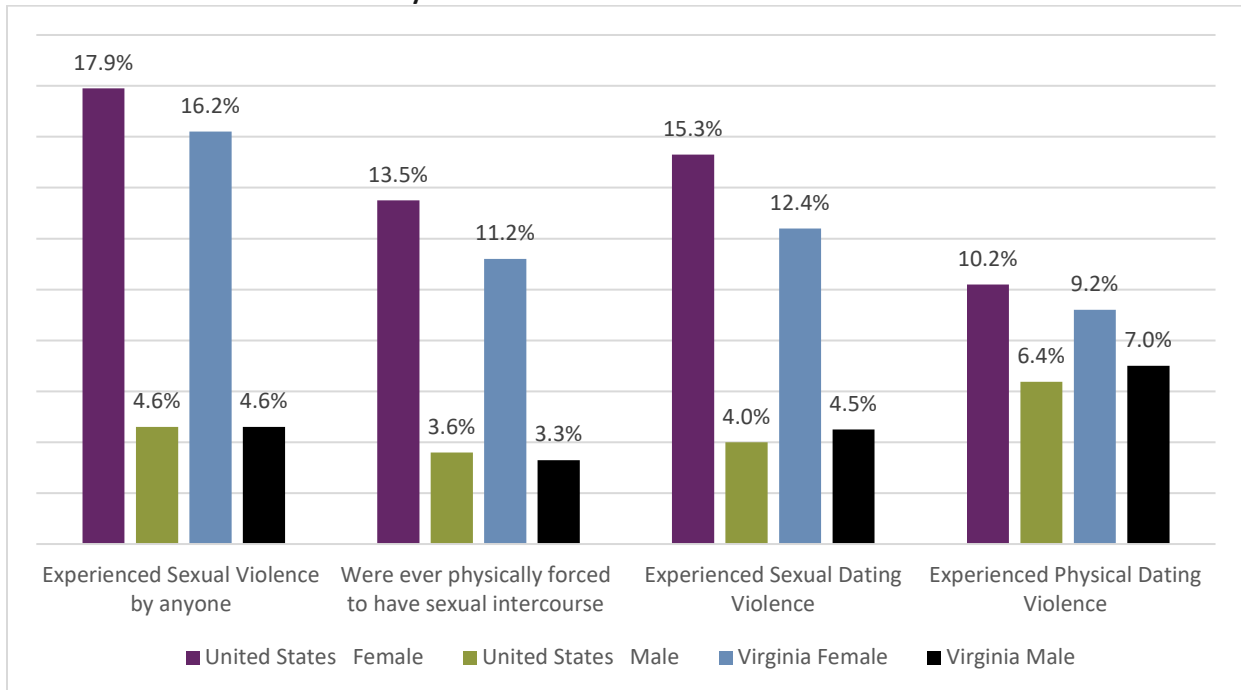
Measure	12+	12-17	18-25	26+	18+
Substance Use Disorder Diagnoses and Treatment Measures					
Drug Use Disorder	7.7%	4.2%	15.4%	7.0%	8.1%
Pain Reliever Use Disorder	1.6%	0.9%	1.0%	1.8%	1.7%
Opioid Use Disorder	1.8%	0.9%	1.0%	2.0%	1.8%
Alcohol Use Disorder	10.6%	3.1%	16.3%	10.6%	11.4%
Substance Use Disorder	16.3%	6.6%	26.0%	16.0%	17.3%
Needing But Not Receiving Treatment at a Specialty Facility for Illicit Drug Use	6.1%	4.0%	14.6%	5.1%	6.3%
Needing But Not Receiving Treatment at a Specialty Facility for Alcohol Use	10.5%	2.8%	16.2%	10.5%	11.2%
Needing But Not Receiving Treatment at a Specialty Facility for Substance Use	14.4%	6.1%	25.1%	13.7%	15.2%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration | National Survey on Drug Use & Health State-Specific Tables, 2021

Sexual Violence

In the most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey, females at both the national and state level reported higher rates of sexual violence across all questions as compared to males. At the national level females were four times more likely to report experiencing sexual violence by anyone, being physically forced to have sexual intercourse and experience sexual dating violence. In Virginia females were nearly three times more likely than males to report experiencing sexual dating violence.

Exhibit 107: Youth Sexual Violence By Gender

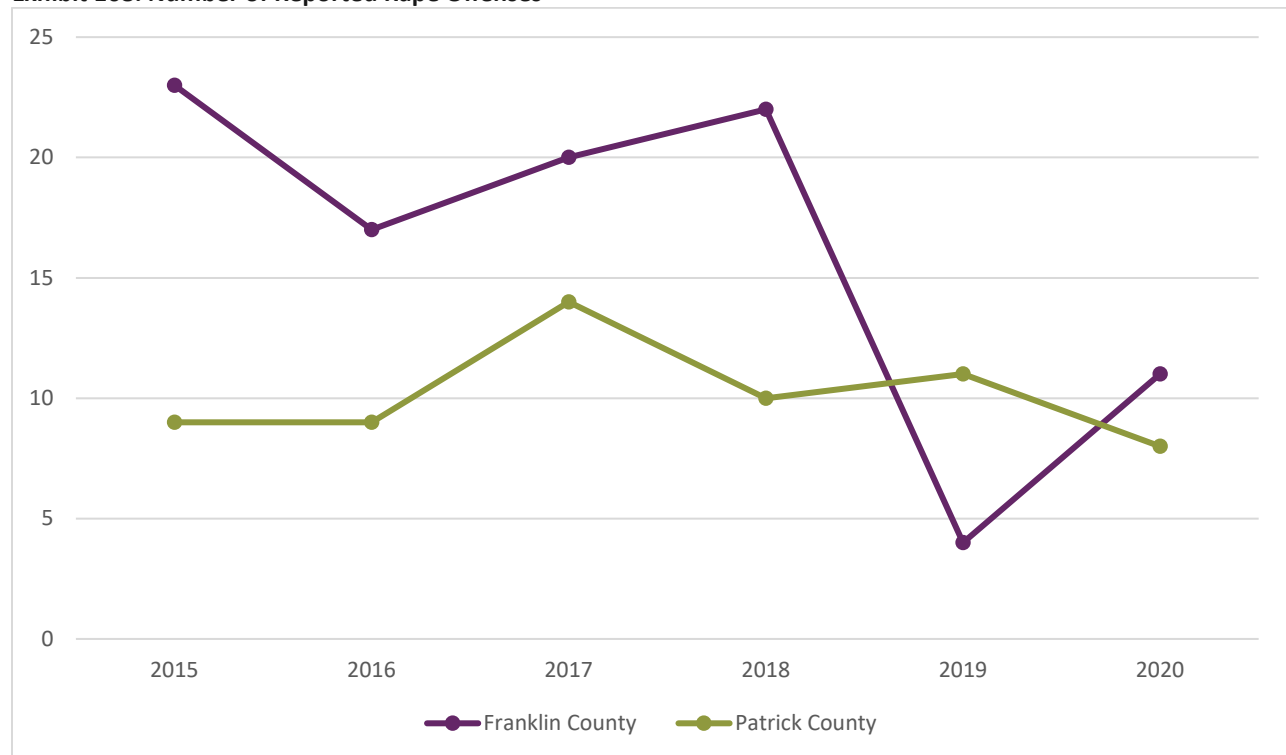


	United States		Virginia	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Experienced Sexual Violence by anyone	17.9%	4.6%	16.2%	4.6%
Were ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse	13.5%	3.6%	11.2%	3.3%
Experienced Sexual Dating Violence	15.3%	4.0%	12.4%	4.5%
Experienced Physical Dating Violence	10.2%	6.37%	9.2%	7.0%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021

In the past five years the average number of reported rape offenses in Franklin and Patrick County has been 17 and 10, respectively. The number of reported rape offenses decreased by about half in Franklin County since 2015.

Exhibit 108: Number of Reported Rape Offenses

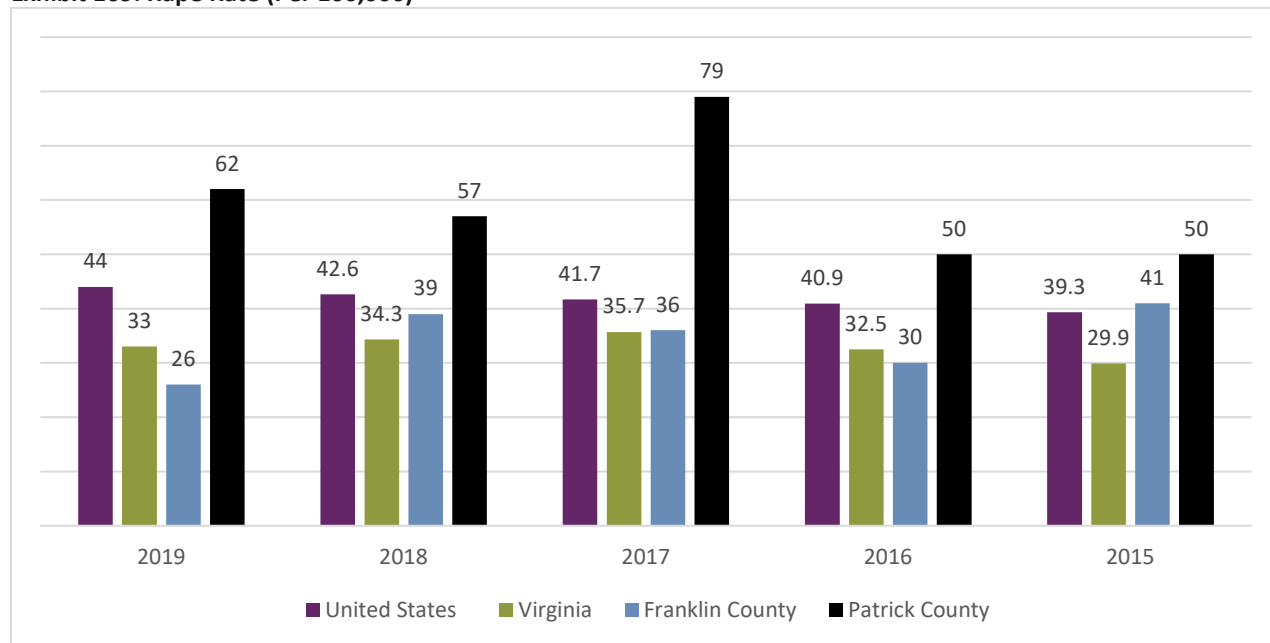


	United	Virginia	Franklin	Patrick
2020	126,430	2,816	11	8
2019	139,815	2,816	4	11
2018	143,765	2,924	22	10
2017	135,666	3,026	20	14
2016	132,414	2,737	17	9
2015	126,134	2,499	23	9

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division

The rate of reported rape offenses has **increased** at the national, state and county level in the past five years. Notably, in Franklin County the rate has **decreased** whereas in Patrick County it has **increased**. The rate in Patrick County is nearly **1.5 times the national average**, and nearly **2 times the rate for Virginia**.

Exhibit 109: Rape Rate (Per 100,000)



	United	Virginia	Franklin	Patrick
2019	44.0	33.0	26.0	62.0
2018	42.6	34.3	39.0	57.0
2017	41.7	35.7	36.0	79.0
2016	40.9	32.5	30.0	50.0
2015	39.3	29.9	41.0	50.0

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division

Nationally, the lifetime prevalence of sexual violence is higher among women than among men, regardless of race or victimization type.

Exhibit 110: Lifetime Prevalence of Sexual Violence by Race and Ethnicity, Women

Victimization type	Race					
	Hispanic	Black	White	Asian or PI	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Multi racial
Rape	19.7	29.0	28.1	17.2	43.7	48.0
Sexual coercion	16.8	23.8	25.0	18.0	32.0	39.5
Unwanted sexual contact	34.8	40.5	51.5	44.2	58.1	67.3
Sexual harassment in a public place	34.8	40.5	51.5	44.2	40.7	48.2

Source: The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)

Exhibit 111: Lifetime Prevalence of Sexual Violence by Race and Ethnicity, Men

Victimization type	Race					
	Hispanic	Black	White	Asian or PI	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Multi racial
Rape	3.2	2.9	3.9	-	-	6.3
Made to penetrate	10.8	15.7	9.6	8.4	14.4	22.8
Sexual coercion	10.6	15.3	110.3	7.6	-	15.4
Unwanted sexual contact	22.5	20.8	23.8	21.5	29.2	32.7
Sexual harassment in a public place	9.7	12.2	10.7	10.8	8.0	22.9

Source: The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)

Hate Crimes

In 2021, Virginia had slightly more hate crimes on the basis of sexual orientation, and fewer on the basis of religion, compared to the national percentages.

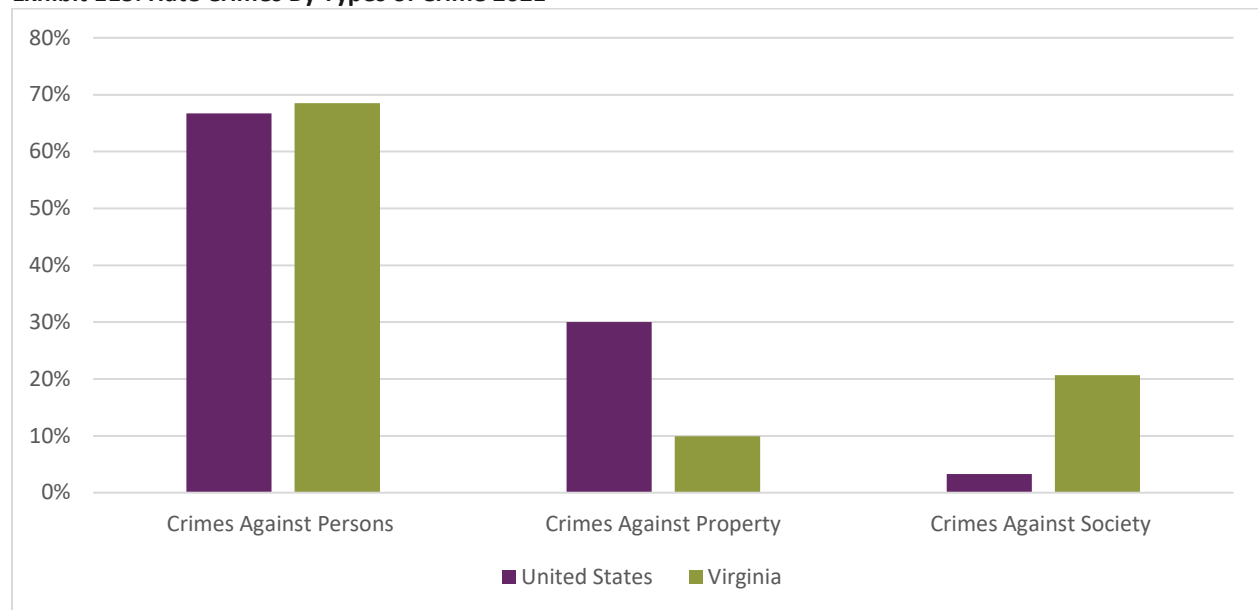
Exhibit 112: Hate Crimes By Bias Motivation (Single-Bias) 2021

	United States	Virginia
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	64.8%	68.5%
Religion	13.3%	9.9%
Sexual Orientation	15.6%	20.7%
Disability	1.7%	0.0%
Gender	1.0%	0.0%
Gender Identity	1.7%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Justice

Virginia had a lower proportion of hate crimes against property, and more such crimes against society, compared to the nation in 2021.

Exhibit 113: Hate Crimes By Types of Crime 2021



	United States	Virginia
Crimes Against Persons	66.7%	68.5%
Crimes Against Property	30.0%	9.9%
Crimes Against Society	3.3%	20.7%

Source: U.S. Department of Justice

Harassment & Bullying Experienced by Public School Students

Compared to the U.S., a larger proportion of Virginia public school students who reported to have been harassed or bullied on the basis of sex, race, and/or disability identified as Black or African American.

Exhibit 114: Percentage of Public School Students Reported to have been harassed or bullied on the basis of sex, by race/ethnicity (2017-2018)

	United States	Virginia
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.3%	0.1%
Asian	2.2%	3.3%
Hispanic or Latino	23.1%	18.6%
Black or African American	18.6%	23.9%
White	50.7%	48.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.2%
Two or more races	3.7%	5.4%

Source: Civil Rights Data Collection

Exhibit 115: Percentage of Public School Students Reported to have been harassed or bullied on the basis of race, by race/ethnicity (2017-2018)

	United States	Virginia
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.5%	0.5%
Asian	6.0%	3.7%
Hispanic or Latino	20.2%	11.2%
Black or African American	37.0%	50.9%
White	34.4%	24.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.0%
Two or more races	6.6%	8.8%

Source: Civil Rights Data Collection

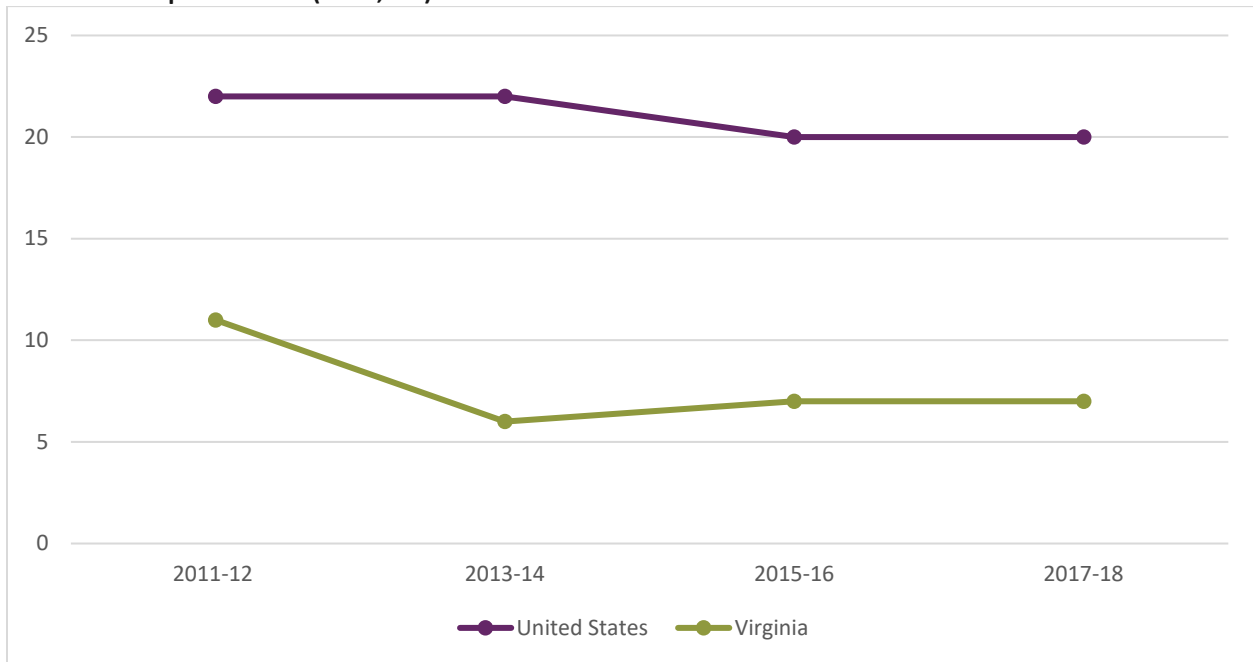
Exhibit 116: Percentage of Public School Students Reported to have been harassed or bullied on the basis of disability, by race/ethnicity (2017-2018)

	United States	Virginia
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.3%	0.6%
Asian	2.2%	3.0%
Hispanic or Latino	16.8%	13.9%
Black or African American	17.1%	44.2%
White	59.1%	33.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.3%	0%
Two or more races	3.1%	4.2%

Source: Civil Rights Data Collection

School Discipline Measures

Exhibit 117: Expulsion Rate (Per 1,000)

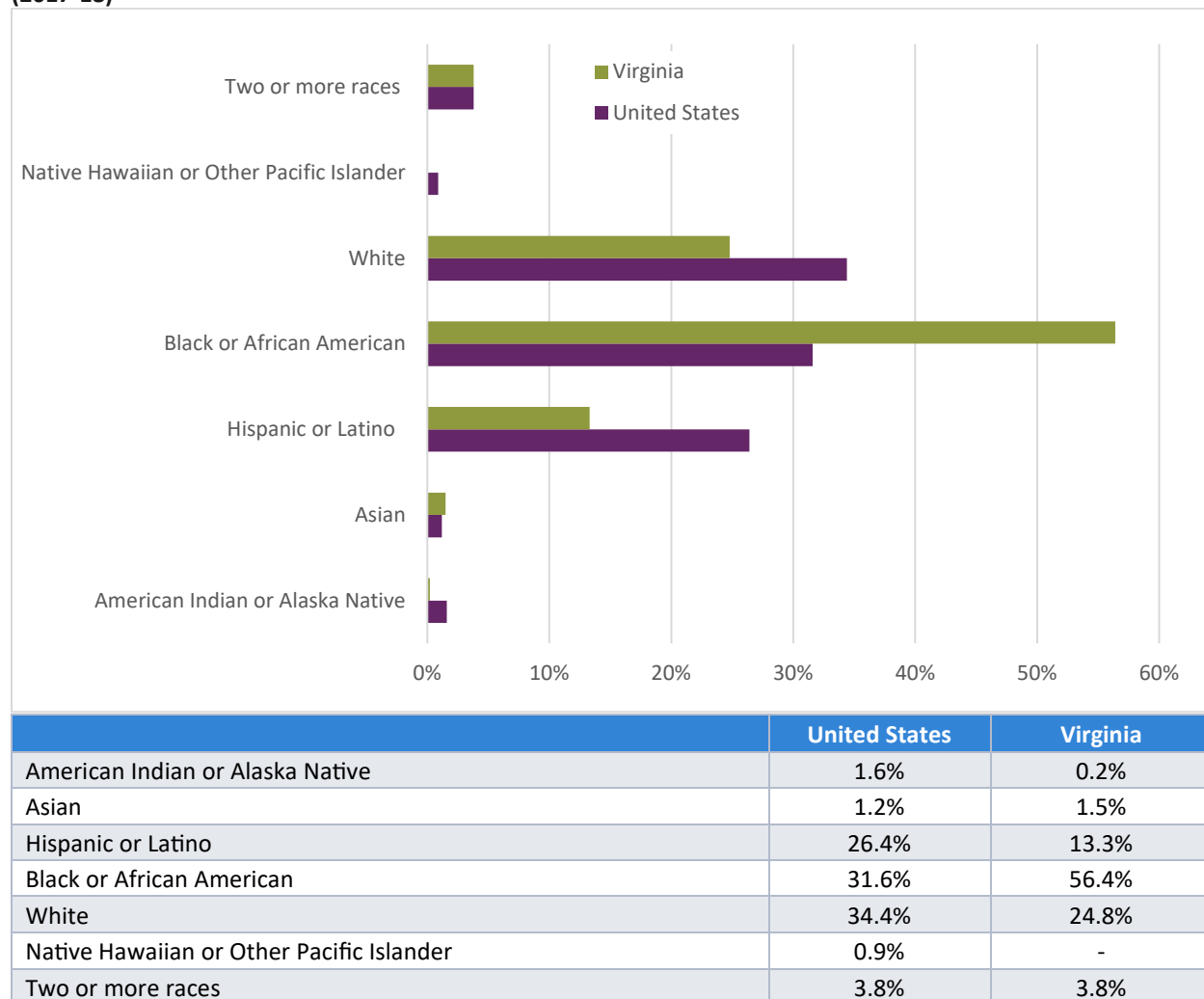


	2011-12	2013-14	2015-16	2017-18
United States	22	22	20	20
Virginia	11	6	7	7

Source: U.S. Department of Education. Civil rights data collection

During the 2017-18 school year, a larger proportion of Virginia public school students receiving referral to law enforcement identified as Black or African American compared to the U.S. (56.4% vs. 31.6%).

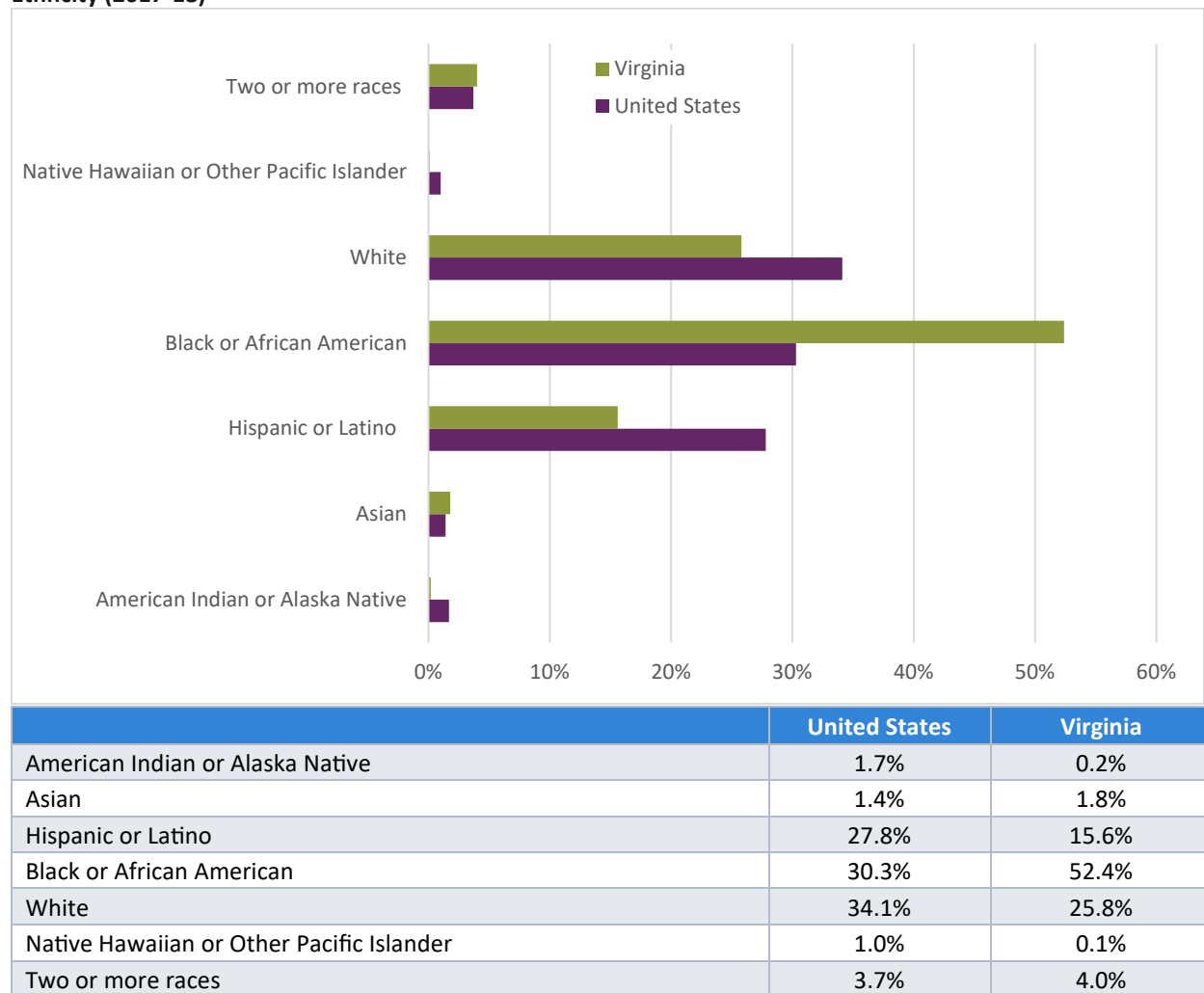
Exhibit 118: Percentage of Students in Public Schools receiving referral to law enforcement, by Race/ Ethnicity (2017-18)



Source: Civil Rights Data Collection

During the 2017-18 school year, a larger proportion of Virginia public school students receiving referral to school related arrests identified as Black or African American compared to the U.S. (52.4% vs. 30.3%).

Exhibit 119: Percentage of Students in Public Schools receiving referral to School Related Arrests by Race/ Ethnicity (2017-18)



Source: Civil Rights Data Collection

Appendix B: Stakeholder Interview Guide



Community Needs Assessment Stakeholder Interview Guide

Introduction and Objective

The 2023 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) for STEP, Inc. is being conducted in partnership with the Crescendo Consulting Group. We are inviting a wide range of community partners to share their ideas and recommendations about the community's strengths, challenges, and needs. We appreciate your insights and opinions on the subject. Some of the goals of the process are to:

- Identify and understand area needs in the context of the multiple populations STEP, Inc. serves, as well as for specific topics such as domestic violence
- Guide planning and service provision to low-income individuals and families in the STEP, Inc. service area
- Determine the services and service levels required to meet those needs
- Identify barriers and gaps that prevent area residents from accessing services
- Identify root causes and systemic barriers that prevent equitable access to services
- Find ways to build upon community engagement to maximize the effectiveness of federal, state, and local resources

The discussion will include questions from a few broad categories and will take less than 30 minutes. Please consider our conversation to be confidential. Do you have any questions before we begin?

Interview Questions

1. To start with, please tell me a little about ways that you (and/or your organization) interact with the community and what some of the strengths you see in your local community or area.

Moderator note: Note their local community for geographic comparisons and service gap identification

2. In your opinion, what are the three greatest challenges your community will face in the next three years?

Note to the moderator: Check and Record; PROBE IF NECESSARY:

- ☐ Help getting/keeping benefits
- ☐ Housing and utilities; home maintenance
- ☐ Child-related issues, including Early Childhood Education and Head Start
- ☐ Community Safety; Domestic violence
- ☐ Medical and dental care
- ☐ Behavioral health, including Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Employment-related
- ☐ Food assistance
- ☐ Disability-related issues
- ☐ Help with basic finance
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

The next set of questions are going to explore the most pressing issues in our area. As we talk about these issues, please think about the following:

- What are the root causes of these issues in your community? Are they systemic?
- Are some of these challenges impacting more people of color, LGBTQIA+, undocumented immigrants, and other more vulnerable populations?
- What activities could best address the big issues in this category?
- Who are the community partners or agencies in the best position to help address this need?

Head Start, Early Childhood Education, and Child Care

3. What are some of the challenges or barriers to finding affordable child care in the area? Why do you think these [identified barriers] are barriers or challenges for families?
4. What is your general perception of the ability of the area to meet Early Childhood services and education for those prenatal to age 5 in the area? *Probe: multilingual and/or low-income families, children with developmental or physical disabilities?*
5. What is your general perception of the ability of the area to meet school-age child care needs – including before and after school care, and others? Are services and resources available to families of color, low-income and/or multilingual families? Are there any families treated differently? *Probe: low-income and/or multilingual families, children with developmental or physical disabilities*

Domestic Violence

6. What challenges do you believe victims of domestic violence face in your community?
7. Are you aware of services available for victims of domestic violence? How accessible are they?
8. Do you know of any legal services available for domestic violence victims?

Older Adults

9. Generally, what are the biggest barriers older adults experience that prevent them from achieving a satisfactory quality of life?
10. What are some of the barriers to accessing programs and services for older adults?
11. What are some of the housing challenges that older adults experience?
12. Do older adults have reliable transportation to places such as the grocery store, doctor appointments, and activities in the community (public or private)?
13. Are there opportunities for older adults to feel connected to their community like community centers/senior centers, local events, and clubs?

Safe, Affordable Housing and Utilities

14. What are the main difficulties with accessing and maintaining affordable, adequate, and safe housing in your community? *(Probe as needed: root causes of housing challenges, systemic issues and barriers, people at risk of becoming homeless or those currently experiencing homelessness)*
15. For people experiencing homelessness or housing instability, what are available shelter and services in your community? What services are needed in your community to better meet people's needs?
16. To what degree do community members struggle with utility bills and/or home maintenance needs like weatherization? What programs are available to help people? How can programs be designed to be equitable?

Jobs and Job Training

17. How easy is it to find and maintain a livable wage job in the area? Have wages been keeping up with the rise in the cost of living? What are some of the barriers someone might have when obtaining and retaining a job? *Probe: immigration status, multilingual families, adults with developmental or physical disabilities, People of color, indigenous communities, LGBTQIA+*
18. Are there job training opportunities in the community? Are they affordable? Do they lead to livable wage jobs? *Probe: People of color, indigenous communities, LGBTQIA+, undocumented*

Transportation

19. To what degree do you (or people you know) have access to reliable transportation to work, the grocery store, doctors, school, etc.?
20. What are the challenges? What is working well? What are opportunities for improvement? How can barriers be removed to provide better access?

21. What organizations or providers are currently offering transportation services? Please describe the specific services offered.

Health Care and Dental Services

22. Please tell me about health care and dental care services in your area? What are the challenges? What are the barriers and root causes of access challenges in your community?
23. What challenges have you faced in terms of accessing prescriptions and needed medications?
24. Are there populations in your community that do not have access or have limited access to services? Why?
25. What is working well? What are opportunities for improvement?

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Treatment

26. Please tell me about mental health services in your area? What are the challenges and barriers to care? What is working well? What are opportunities for improvement? Are there culturally competent providers in the community? What are some root causes of stigma in your community?
27. Please tell me about substance use disorder treatment services in your area. What are the challenges and barriers to treatment? What is working well? What are opportunities for improvement? Are there culturally competent providers in the community? What are some root causes of stigma in your community?

Food and Basic Needs

28. To what degree are community members / families struggling with access to nutritious food, prescription medication, health care, sexual health and hygiene products, or other services? *PROBE: What are some resources or services that work really well and not so well? What are opportunities for improvement? How do we make services and resources accessible for a variety of cultures?*

Service Providers/Organization Leaders (only for community service providers)

29. As an organization, what are some of your biggest challenges offering services? (*Probe: funding, staffing, resources, capacity, policy or regulatory limitations, etc.*)
30. What services or resources do the clients you serve need that you cannot provide at your organization? Do you not provide it because of lack of resources, capacity, or funding? Are there other barriers that prevent you from helping your clients?

Magic Wand Question:

31. If you had a magic wand and could personally solve one issue in your community, what would it be?
32. Is there anything else we have not talked about today that you think is important for us to know?

Thank you very much again for your time and thoughtful responses to our questions.

Appendix C: Focus Group Discussion Moderator's Guide



Community Needs Assessment Focus Group Interview Guide

Introduction and Objective

The 2023 Community Needs Assessment for STEP, Inc. is being conducted in partnership with Crescendo Consulting Group. We are inviting a wide range of community partners to share their ideas and recommendations about the community's strengths, challenges, and needs. We appreciate your insights and opinions on the subject. Some of the goals of the process are to:

- Identify and understand area needs in the context of the multiple populations STEP, Inc. serves, as well as for specific topics such as domestic violence
- Guide planning and service provision to low-income individuals and families in the STEP, Inc. service area
- Determine the services and service levels required to meet those needs
- Identify barriers and gaps that prevent area residents from accessing services
- Identify root causes and systemic barriers that prevent equitable access to services
- Find ways to build upon community engagement to maximize the effectiveness of federal, state, and local resources

The discussion will include questions from a few broad categories and will last approximately 60 (or 90) minutes [depends on planned length]. Please consider our conversation to be confidential. Do you have any questions before we begin?

Introductions

1. To start with, please tell us how you interact with the community. What are some of the strengths you see in your local community or area?

Note participant local community for geographic comparisons and service gap identification

Overall Needs

2. In your opinion, what are the three greatest challenges your community will face in the next three years?

The next set of questions are going to explore the most pressing issues in our area. As we talk about these issues, please think about the following:

- What are the root causes of these issues in your community?
- Are some of these challenges impacting more people of color, LGBTQIA+, undocumented immigrants, and other more vulnerable populations?
- What activities could best address the big issues in this category?
- Who are the community partners or agencies in the best position to help address this need?

Head Start, Early Childhood Education, and Child Care [focus on these topics for Head Start Policy Council focus group]

3. What are some of the challenges or barriers to finding affordable child care in the area? Why do you think these [identified barriers] are barriers or challenges for families? *Probe: what sort of training programs are available for parents of eligible children? What does the programming schedule look like, how readily accessible is it for eligible families?*
4. What is your general perception of the ability of the area to meet Early Childhood services and education for those prenatal to age 5 in the area? *Probe: multilingual and/or low-income families, children with developmental or physical disabilities, children living in homelessness/ foster care system? What is the availability/ quality of child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools?*
5. What is your general perception of the ability of the area to meet school-age child care needs – including before and after school care, and others? Are services and resources available to families of color, undocumented-income and/or multilingual families? Are there any families treated differently? *Probe: low-income and/or multilingual families, children with developmental or physical disabilities, children living in homelessness/ foster care system?*
6. What services are available for children experiencing homelessness or that are in the foster care system? *Probe: children's homeless shelters, emergency center, drop-in programs, prevention programs, resource centers, transportation. What groups of youth experience elevated risks for homelessness? What are some of the underlying causes of homelessness among youth in your community and how can they be addressed?*

Domestic Violence [include in STEP staff focus group; possibly Head Start Policy Council]

7. What challenges do you believe victims and survivors of domestic violence face in your community? *Probe: What do you think are some of the underlying causes of domestic violence within your community? Are there populations in your community that are more vulnerable (BIPOC, LGBTQIA+).*
8. Are you aware of services available for victims and survivors of domestic violence? How accessible are they? *Probe: survival kits, shelters, hotlines, resource centers? What services do you think there should be more of?*
9. Do you know of any legal services available for domestic violence victims? *Probe: are any offered at low-cost/ pro-bono?*
10. To what degree do you think that the community at large is aware of domestic violence services in the area? *Probe: How do community members generally learn about access to and availability of these services (e.g., Online directory; social media; Hotline; Word of Mouth)?*

Older Adults [focus on these topics for older adult focus group]

11. Generally, what are the biggest barriers older adults experience that prevent them from achieving a satisfactory quality of life?
12. What are some of the barriers to accessing programs and services for older adults?
13. What are some of the housing challenges that older adults experience?
14. Do older adults have reliable transportation to places such as the grocery store, doctor appointments, and activities in the community (public or private)?
15. Are there opportunities for older adults to feel connected to their community like community centers/senior centers, local events, and clubs?

Safe, Affordable Housing and Utilities

16. What are the main difficulties with accessing and maintaining affordable, adequate, and safe housing in your community? *(Probe as needed: root causes of housing challenges, systemic issues and barriers, people at risk of becoming homeless or those currently experiencing homelessness)*
17. For people experiencing homelessness or housing instability, what are available shelter and services in your community? What services are needed in your community to better meet people's needs?
18. Do community members struggle with utility bills and/or home maintenance needs like weatherization? What programs are available to help?

Jobs and Job Training

19. How easy is it to find and maintain a livable wage job in the area? Have wages been keeping up with rising costs? What are some of the barriers someone might have when obtaining and retaining a job?
20. Are there job training opportunities in the community? Are they affordable? Do they lead to livable wage jobs? *Probe: People of color, indigenous communities, LGBTQIA+, undocumented*

Transportation

21. To what degree do you (or people you know) have access to reliable transportation to work, the grocery store, doctors, school, etc.?
22. What organizations or providers are currently offering transportation services? Please describe the specific services offered. *Probe: any limitations of services offered; how can they be improved?* [all focus groups]

Health Care and Dental Services

23. Please tell me about health care and dental care services in your area. What are the challenges?
24. What challenges have you faced in terms of accessing prescriptions and needed medications? [older adult focus group]
25. What populations in your community do not have access or have limited access to services? Why?
26. What is working well? What are opportunities for improvement?

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Treatment

27. Please tell us about mental health services in your area. *PROBE: What are the challenges and barriers to care? What is working well? What are opportunities for improvement?*
28. Please tell me about substance use disorder treatment services in your area. [same probes]

Food and Basic Needs

29. To what degree are community members / families struggling with access to nutritious food, prescription medication, health care, sexual health and hygiene products, or other services? *PROBE: What are some resources or services that work really well and not so well? What are opportunities for improvement? How can services and resources be more accessible for a variety of cultures?*

Enhancing Communications and Information

30. How does the community generally learn about access to and availability of services in the County (e.g., Online directory; social media; Word of Mouth; Commercials/News Outlets)?
31. To what degree do you think that the community at large is aware of the breadth of available services in the area? What are the challenges to greater awareness and understanding of the availability of services and ways to access them? What might help overcome the challenges?

Magic Wand Question: If you had a magic wand and could personally solve one issue in your community, what would it be?

Appendix D: Community Survey



Thank you for completing the Community Needs Assessment survey
for STEP, Inc.!

What is your home zip code? _____

Do you reside in Franklin or Patrick County? (Circle one) Yes No

Do you work in Franklin or Patrick County? (Circle one) Yes No

Do you or people you know in our community need more of these services?

4 = Much more needed

3 = More needed

2 = A little more needed

1 = No more needed

Access to affordable, nutritious food	Affordable childcare	
Affordable housing	Affordable internet	
Affordable medical care/services	After school programs for children age 12 and under	
Classes to improve personal relationships and resolve conflicts	Computer skills training	
Dental care services for adults	Crime reduction	
English as a Second Language classes	Dental care services for children	
Health insurance	Financial education/Budgeting classes/credit repair	
Help buying work clothing	Head Start or other early childhood education programs	
Help finding community resources (healthcare, housing, etc.)	Healthy eating/cooking workshops	
Help paying for prescription drugs	Help for major home repairs	
Help preparing and filing taxes	Help paying rent or mortgage	
Help to make my home more energy efficient (weatherization)	Help to attend trade or technical school, or college	
Help with job skills, training, & job search	Help with applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc.	
Help with furnace/AC/water heater replacement/repair	Help with utility bills	
High School Equivalency classes	Legal Services (custody, power of attorney, simple wills)	
Mental health counseling services	Programs and activities for seniors	
Parenting classes	Public parks and facilities in your neighborhood	
Programs and activities for youth (ages 12-18)	Reading, writing, and math classes for adults	
Public transportation	Transportation services to get to doctor's appointments	
Services for immigrants / new Americans	Access to free books and learning material	
Treatment services for people with drug or other addictions	Access to affordable physical fitness & wellness opportunities	
Classes teaching conversational Spanish	Access to affordable, quality school supplies	
Basic household needs, such as laundry detergent, toilet paper, soap/shampoo etc.		

What year were you born? _____

What is your gender? (Circle one)

Male

Female

Other

What is your race? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic, Latino, or Latinx
- ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native

- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to share

Which of the following ranges best describes your total annual household income in the past year? (Check one)

- ☐ Less than \$10,000
- ☐ Between \$10,000 and \$14,999
- ☐ Between \$15,000 and \$24,999
- ☐ Between \$25,000 and \$34,999
- ☐ Between \$35,000 and \$49,999
- ☐ Between \$50,000 and \$74,999
- ☐ Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 or more
- ☐ Prefer not to share



Gracias por completar la encuesta de evaluación de las necesidades de la comunidad para Step, Inc.!

¿Cuál es el código postal de tu casa? _____

¿Reside en el condado de Franklin o Patrick? (Un círculo) Sí No

¿Trabaja en el condado de Franklin o Patrick? (Un círculo) Sí No

¿Usted o las personas que conoce en nuestra comunidad necesitan más de estos servicios?

4 = Se necesita mucho más

3 = Se necesita más

2 = Se necesita un poco más

1 = No se necesita más

Acceso a alimentos asequibles y nutritivos	Cuidado de niños asequible
Vivienda asequible	Internet asequible
Atención/servicios médicos asequibles	Programas después de la escuela para niños de 12 años y menores
Clases para mejorar las relaciones personales y resolver conflictos	Capacitación en habilidades informáticas
Servicios de atención dental para adultos	Reducción del crimen
Clases de inglés como segundo idioma	Servicios de cuidado dental para niños
Seguro de salud	Educación financiera/clases de presupuesto/reparación de crédito
Ayuda para comprar ropa de trabajo	Head Start u otros programas de educación de la primera infancia
Ayuda para encontrar recursos comunitarios (atención médica, vivienda, etc.)	Talleres de alimentación/cocina saludable
Ayuda para pagar los medicamentos recetados	Ayuda para reparaciones mayores del hogar
Ayuda para preparar y presentar impuestos	Ayuda para pagar el alquiler o la hipoteca
Ayuda para que mi hogar sea más eficiente energéticamente (climatización)	Ayuda para asistir a una escuela comercial o técnica, o a la universidad
Ayuda con habilidades laborales, capacitación y búsqueda de empleo	Ayuda para solicitar Seguro Social, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc.
Ayuda con el reemplazo/reparación del horno/aire acondicionado/calentador de agua	Ayuda con las facturas de servicios públicos
Clases de equivalencia de escuela secundaria	Servicios Legales (custodia, poder notarial, testamentos simples)
Servicios de consejería de salud mental	Programas y actividades para personas mayores
Clases para padres	Parques públicos e instalaciones en su vecindario
Programas y actividades para jóvenes (de 12 a 18 años)	Clases de lectura, escritura y matemáticas para adultos.
Transporte público	Servicios de transporte para llegar a las citas médicas
Servicios para inmigrantes / nuevos estadounidenses	Acceso a libros y material de aprendizaje gratuitos
Servicios de tratamiento para personas con adicciones a las drogas u otras adicciones	Acceso a oportunidades asequibles de acondicionamiento físico y bienestar
Clases de enseñanza de español conversacional	Acceso a útiles escolares asequibles y de calidad
Necesidades básicas del hogar, como detergente para la ropa, papel higiénico, jabón/champú, etc.	

¿En qué año naciste? _____

¿Cuál es su género? (Un círculo)

Hombre

Mujer

Otro

¿Cuál es su raza? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

☐ Blanco

☐ Negro o afroamericano

☐ Hispano, latino o latinx

☐ Indio americano / nativo de Alaska

☐ Asiático

☐ Nativo Hawaiano y otro isleño del Pacífico

☐ Otra

☐ Prefiero no compartir

¿Cuál de los siguientes rangos describe mejor el ingreso total anual de su hogar en el último año? (Marque uno)

☐ Menos de \$10,000

☐ Entre \$10,000 y \$14,999

☐ Entre \$15,000 y \$24,999

☐ Entre \$25,000 y \$34,999

☐ Entre \$35,000 y \$49,999

☐ Entre \$50,000 y \$74,999

☐ Entre \$75,000 y \$99,999

☐ \$100,000 o más

☐ Prefiero no compartir