



2017 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FOR ALLEGAN COUNTY



Assessing and addressing the community's pressing and prevalent needs,

THAT'S HOW WE LIVE UNITED

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Patrick Moran
President
Allegan County United Way



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Director of Community Impact
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FOREWORD

Allegan County is an awesome place to live, work and play. Allegan County rests in the southwest part of lower Michigan. A county rich in agriculture and abundant natural resources, it is approximately 827 square miles with 25 miles of coastline along Lake Michigan. It is the 18th largest county in Michigan and has 24 townships. Allegan County is mostly rural, and maintains an agri-business and tourism based economy. Recent investment in light industry and technology have transformed Allegan County into one of the fastest growing regions in the state.

While there is much to celebrate in the county, this report identifies pressing and prevalent issues within the community's health and human service sector(s). This is the first full-scale Community Needs Assessment conducted and coordinated by Allegan County United Way (ACUW). ACUW identified several reasons for conducting this analysis 1) to reduce duplicated assessment efforts; 2) to build upon already existing programs; 3) to understand community limitations and/or gaps in need; and 4) to illuminate a "case-statement" for community support.

In January 2017, a Community Assessment Steering Committee (CASC) was recruited to meet and launch this process. To guide the CASC in prioritizing and determining critical issues, a key informant survey was created. The committee reviewed and revised this survey for distribution to community leaders in Allegan County. The 93 survey respondents represented a cross section of community leadership to include: education, business and industry, public, private, nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Resulting data exposed four critical areas of concern: education, financial stability, health, and basic needs. Community "Think Tanks" were created to correspond with these focus areas. Each group was charged to collect and review relevant data; revealing pressing and prevalent issues.

The pages that follow reveal specific health and human service trends that emphasize the need for increased dialogue, focus and resources. The information contained in this report is designed for use by (1) organizations throughout the county for purposes such as: strategic planning, proposal preparation, and grant seeking; and (2) community-wide groups to inform action planning and serve as a baseline for measuring change in Allegan County using a set of valid and reliable indicators. With this assessment, Allegan County can marshal resources and align improvement efforts that address identified gaps and foster community engagement, partnership and collaboration.

Patrick Moran
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Debbie Jennings
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THINK TANKS



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Tammy Mick, Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan

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George Waden, Homebodies of Western Michigan

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Allegan County United Way Staff and Board, along with the Community Assessment Steering Committee, would like to thank each of the these dedicated community champions for their hard work. The amount of time, energy and resources committed was substantial, and is deeply appreciated.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Funding for the 2017 Community Assessment was provided by the Allegan County Community Foundation and Allegan County United Way.

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Assessment Format:

The 2017 Community Assessment is reported in four focus areas:

- EDUCATION
- FINANCIAL STABILITY
- HEALTH
- BASIC NEEDS

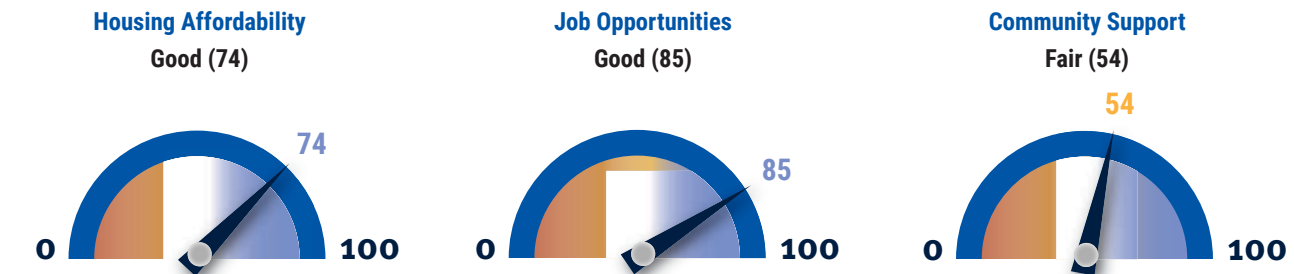


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Steering Committee for the 2017 Allegan County United Way Community Assessment began the assessment process with a Key Stakeholder Survey of more than 90 leaders from health and human services in Allegan County.

Their initial review of the data set led them to create 'Think Tanks' in four areas for further research and analysis: Education, Financial Stability, Health and Basic Needs. The following is a short summary of the findings from the think tanks.

The 2017 ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) Report shows the Economic Viability Dashboard for Allegan County. This provides a window directly into the economic conditions that matter most to the ALICE households and why these households struggle to achieve basic economic stability. Three dimensions are shown: the Housing Affordability Index, Job Opportunity Index and the Community Support Index. Each index is represented on a scale from 1 (worst economic conditions for ALICE) to 100 (best economic conditions).



EDUCATION

Early Care & Education:

› According to the latest census data, approximately 22% of the children under the age of 5 (over 1,500) live in poverty in Allegan County. State estimates show that approximately 60% of families with children under 5 have 'all their parents' in the workforce. Many children are without a place to receive quality, affordable early childhood services that will enable them to enter school ready to learn. In fact, only 41% of 3 and 4-year olds were registered in licensed preschools in Allegan County, the vast majority of those in Head Start and Great Start Readiness preschools.

K-12 Education:

- › There is a significant disparity between the reading proficiency (ELA) and math proficiency of economically disadvantaged students vs. not economically disadvantaged students. The percentage of proficient students decreases from 3rd through 8th grade for both groups.
- › Schools with higher concentrations of poverty have 8th grade ELA & Math proficiency levels as low as 26% and 15% respectively.

Post Secondary Experiences & Workforce Development:

› Until 2016, with the approval of the Lake Michigan College Satellite Campus at the Allegan Area Technical and Education Center, there had not been a post-secondary institution in the county. For the class of 2010, approximately 40% completed a post-secondary experience. Individuals with higher levels of training earn more and have less chance of unemployment.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Let us introduce you to ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed), households representing those with income above the federal poverty level (FPL) but below a basic survival threshold that enables the purchase of necessities. ALICE households are working or have worked, yet public and private assistance are not enough to help them reach economic stability.

› The number of households in poverty and ALICE households combined equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. Even with at least one person in the household working, 37% of households in Allegan County don't earn enough to reach the basic survival threshold.



Above ALICE

Household Survival Budget, Allegan County

	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$576	\$713
Child Care	\$-	\$1,039
Food	\$184	\$609
Transportation	\$349	\$697
Health Care	\$184	\$707
Miscellaneous	\$149	\$406
Taxes	\$194	\$291
Monthly Total	\$1,636	\$4,462
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$19,632	\$53,544
Hourly Wage	\$9.82	\$26.77

Sources: 2015 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Michigan Department of Treasury; Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

› To the left is the **ALICE Survival Budget**, which calculates the actual costs of basic necessities, such as housing, childcare, food, healthcare and transportation, and is adjusted for different household types.

› The other table is the Household Stability Budget (p.32) which reflects the cost of household necessities at a modest but sustainable level and it adds a savings category; it is also adjusted for different household types.

› The full ALICE report shows the survival and stability budgets for multiple family types.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH

› In the 2017 United Way Key Stakeholder Survey of more than 90 Allegan County experts in human services, health was ranked as the # 1 issue in Allegan County. Two times more stakeholders ranked health and health-related issues as the #1 issue over the next highest priority area.

Mental Health:

› 13% of adults in Allegan County have had poor mental health on at least 14 of the past 30 days and 23% have been told they have depression by a doctor.

Access to Care/Cost of Care:

› 13% of the population is uninsured. Low-income families with insurance struggle to find care facilities that will accept them and struggle to pay for care. Allegan County has a low number of primary care physicians and dentists per capita with 17% of the population having no healthcare provider and 12% having no access due to cost.

› Allegan County ranks 48th in the state for clinical care.

› There is a strong belief among the local experts in health that transportation is a barrier in accessing health care.

Healthy Lifestyles:

› In County health rankings Allegan County ranks 33rd in health behaviors, and 72nd for a healthy physical environment.

› 16% of Allegan adults state that their health is poor or fair.

› Only 1 in 5 adults get adequate physical activity and only 28% are at a healthy weight.

Children:

› Although the number has slightly declined since 2010, 31% of high school students struggle with mental health issues and 17% have seriously considered suicide.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BASIC NEEDS

Allegheny County's 2-1-1 service provided by Gryphon Place receives calls from individuals looking for support with social services. More than 70% of all calls to 2-1-1 that are successfully referred to a service provider are in the basic needs category. 57% of the calls made for which there was no service available, or the individual did not qualify for service were basic needs related.

Food:

- › The Feeding America 'Map the Meal Gap' study reports that 11,820 Allegheny residents are 'food insecure'.
- › 40% of all students in Allegheny County Schools qualify for free/reduced lunch.

Shelter:

- › A 2015 ALICE study showed that of the 8,864 renter occupied units in Allegheny County, 60% are rented by households living below the Liveable Wage Threshold.
- › A 2016 Point-in-time study showed that on one night in Allegheny County 56 individuals were found homeless.
- › 495 individual clients sought homeless services in Allegheny county in 2016, even though there is no homeless shelter in Allegheny County.

Transportation:

- › Transportation was labeled as a top issue in a 2017 United Way Key Stakeholder Survey on Allegheny County. The lack of reliable transportation has negative effects on employability, health care access, child care, nutrition and general quality of life.

Exploitation, Abuse & Neglect:

- › Child abuse investigations, confirmed cases for 0-5 and 0-17, in the home and out of home all increased annually for the last 5 years.

Seniors:

- › Although the senior millage does much to support the needs of our growing population of 65+ residents, almost 1 in 5 clients served by the Area Agency on Aging live below the poverty level.

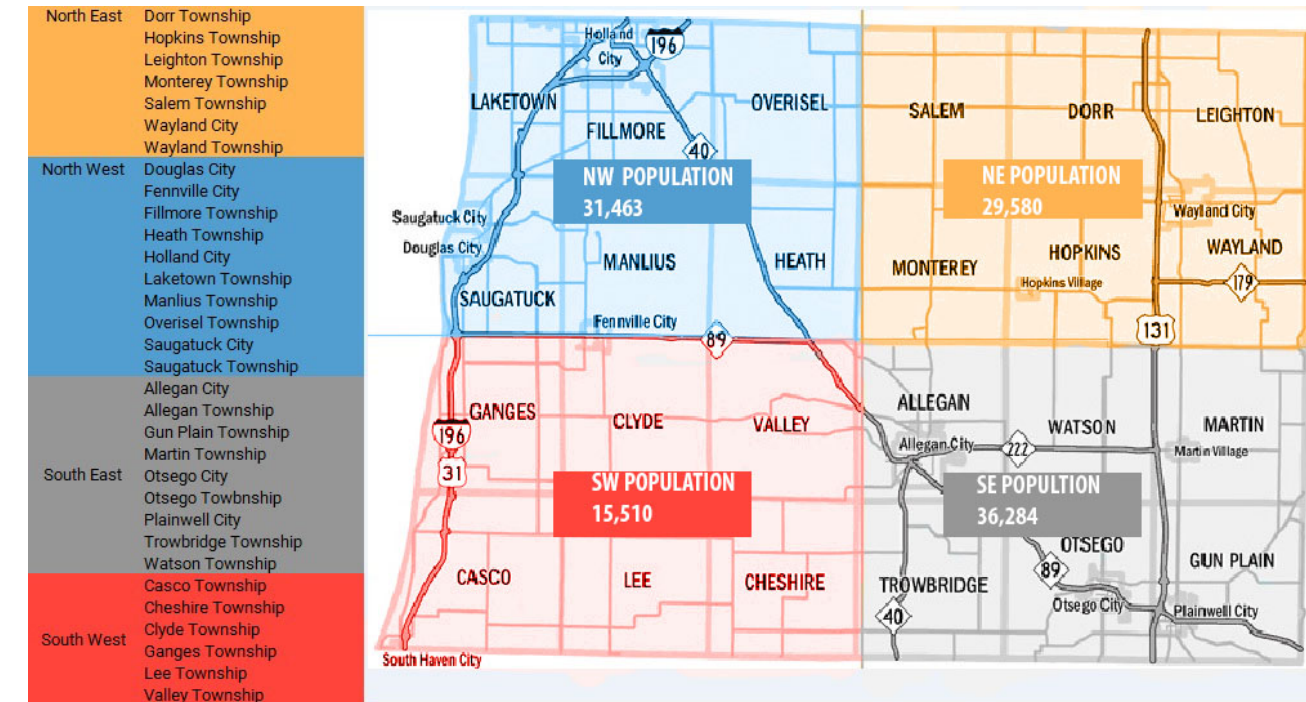
COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS



DEMOGRAPHICS

Alleghen County Population by Location

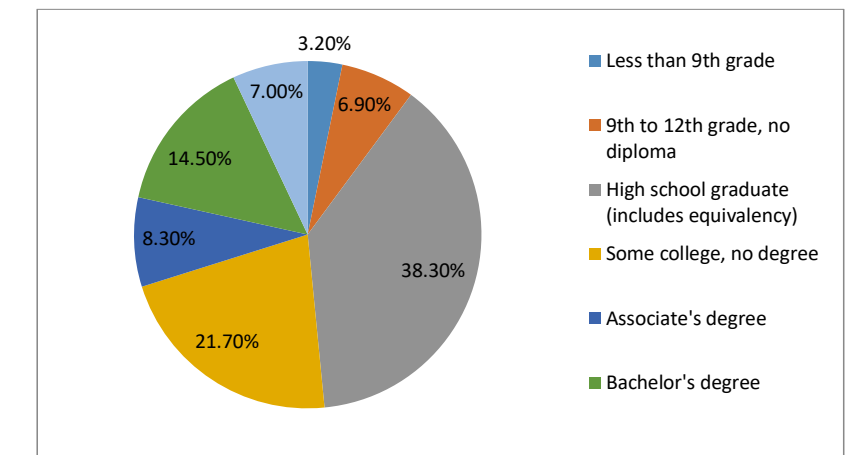


Alleghen County Population by Age

Under 5 years	6,916
5 to 9 years	8,029
10 to 14 years	8,279
15 to 19 years	7,805
20 to 24 years	6,203
25 to 34 years	12,546
35 to 44 years	13,875
45 to 54 years	17,059
55 to 59 years	8,368
60 to 64 years	7,259
65 to 74 years	9,764
75 to 84 years	4,902
85 years and over	1,832

Alleghen County Educational Attainment

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 25 yrs +	estimate	%	US %
Population 25 years and over	75,605	75,605	
Less than 9th grade	2,446	3.20%	5.70%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	5,218	6.90%	7.60%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	28,969	38.30%	27.80%
Some college, no degree	16,415	21.70%	21.10%
Associate's degree	6,297	8.30%	8.10%
Bachelor's degree	10,992	14.50%	18.50%
Graduate or professional degree	5,268	7.00%	11.20%
Percent high school graduate or higher		89.90%	86.70%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher		21.50%	29.80%



DEMOGRAPHICS

Subject	United States	Allegan County, Michigan	
	Percent	Estimate	Percent
HOUSING OCCUPANCY			
Total housing units	133,351,840	49,692	49,692
Occupied housing units	87.7%	41,893	84.3%
Vacant housing units	12.3%	7,799	15.7%
Homeowner vacancy rate	(X)	1.6	(X)
Rental vacancy rate	(X)	4.5	(X)
UNITS IN STRUCTURE			
Total housing units	133,351,840	49,692	49,692
1-unit, detached	61.6%	37,756	76.0%
1-unit, attached	5.8%	1,584	3.2%
2 units	3.7%	1,043	2.1%
3 or 4 units	4.4%	893	1.8%
5 to 9 units	4.8%	1,191	2.4%
10 to 19 units	4.5%	885	1.8%
20 or more units	8.7%	658	1.3%
Mobile home	6.4%	5,671	11.4%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0.1%	11	0.0%
HOUSING TENURE			
Occupied housing units	116,926,305	41,893	41,893
Owner-occupied	63.9%	33,872	80.9%
Renter-occupied	36.1%	8,021	19.1%
Average household size of owner-occupied unit	(X)	2.70	(X)
Average household size of renter-occupied unit	(X)	2.53	(X)

Subject	United States	Allegan County, Michigan	
	Percent	Estimate	Percent
RACE			
Total population	316,515,021	112,837	112,837
One race	97.0%	110,874	98.3%
Two or more races	3.0%	1,963	1.7%
Race alone or in combination with one or more other races			
Total population	316,515,021	112,837	112,837
White	76.1%	108,487	96.1%
Black or African American	13.8%	2,383	2.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.7%	1,406	1.2%
Asian	6.1%	1,017	0.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.4%	110	0.1%
Some other race	5.2%	1,447	1.3%
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE			
Total population	316,515,021	112,837	112,837
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	17.1%	7,861	7.0%
CITIZEN, VOTING AGE POPULATION			
Citizen, 18 and over population	222,464,708	82,620	82,620



EDUCATION

EDUCATION

Sources

The following are the numbered sources for the Education section; they will be shown next to each figure in this format: (*1).

1. Kids Count Data Center, A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016

2. United Way ALICE Report - Michigan, April 2017

3. Community Action Allegan County

4. MI School Data

5. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

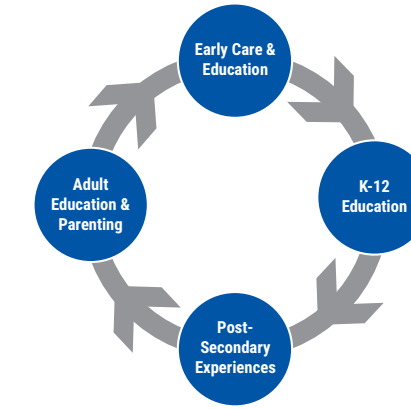
6. United Way Common Good Forecaster



EDUCATION

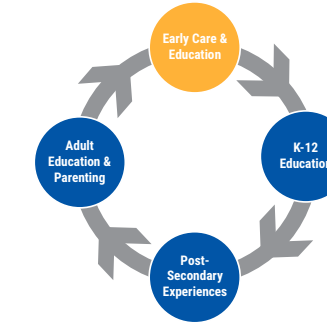
“Quality educational experiences that begin at birth lead to successful outcomes later in life, both economically and socially. We can achieve this through collaborative partnerships across all sectors of our community.”

—Allegan County Superintendents Association



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

There are approximately 8,000 children in Allegan County below the age of five. Early care and education of this population is vital to long term educational success. A popular saying among local education experts is ‘start ahead, stay ahead.’ If this is true, then the opposite concept ‘start behind, stay behind’ is something that must be addressed in this very short, but important 4-5 year span of life.



Population Ages 0-4

Location	Data Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Allegan	Number	7,501	7,227	7,041	6,933	6,818

Figure 1 (*1)

The ALICE data (low-income employed families that struggle to afford the basic cost of living) shows that **37% of working families struggle to afford the basic cost of living**, and from the table on page 18 you can see the strain that childcare places on those families.

In the Household Survival Budget for a family of four, **child care accounts for 24% of the family budget**. Yet for many ALICE households, 24% of earned income is not enough to pay for even home-based child care, the least expensive organized care option.

\$5.6 million dollars in allocations from GSRP and Head Start/Early Head Start were available to Allegan County in 2015. Yet when income and government and nonprofit assistance are combined, there is still a **50% gap in resources for all Michigan households to meet the basic ALICE threshold for child care**.

ISSUE AREAS:

- › Early Care & Education
- › K-12 Education
- › Post Secondary Experience
- › Workforce Development



“Added to this cost barrier for childcare / preschool is the reality that, for a family already struggling to afford childcare, **transportation costs are also usually a barrier**. The average Michigan gap in resources for all households to meet the basic ALICE Threshold for transportation is a 51 percent gap.” —Patrick Moran, President, Allegan County United Way

› The barriers to quality childcare and preschool, especially for low-income families, may be a part of the lower success rates in grade school for economically disadvantaged students. These barriers include cost, number of slots available in each community, knowledge about available services and logistics such as timing of drop off / pick up and transportation.

Household Survival Budget, Allegan County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$576	\$713
Child Care	\$—	\$1,039
Food	\$184	\$609
Transportation	\$349	\$697
Health Care	\$184	\$707
Miscellaneous	\$149	\$406
Taxes	\$194	\$291
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ANNUAL TOTAL	\$19,632	\$53,544
Hourly Wage	\$9.82	\$26.77

Sources: 2015 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Michigan Department of Treasury; Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

Figure 2 (*2)

› For a two-income family with two kids under five years old, **child care costs (for the most basic care available) is the most expensive item by far**. For higher quality care and preschool this cost could double.

› Although the % of families with kids under 5 that have all parents working is at a 5 year low in Allegan County, **we still have more than 60% of kids needing some form of child care** that will fulfill their need to ‘start ahead and stay ahead’ educationally.

Children Ages 0-5 With All Parents In The Labor Force

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	5,578	5,496	5,206	5,060	4,803
	Percent	64.9%	63.8%	63.5%	62.6%	60.8%

Figure 3 (*1)

Children Ages 0-5 Receiving FIP (Family Independence Program)

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	282	251	171	149	97
	Percent	3.1%	2.9%	2.0%	1.8%	1.2%

Figure 4 (*1)

Children Ages 0-5 Receiving FAP (Food Assistance Program)

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	2,524	2,472	2,213	2,011	1,740
	Percent	27.8%	28.2%	25.7%	23.9%	20.9%

Figure 5 (*1)

Children Ages 0-4 Receiving WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	5,118	4,991	4,938	4,916	4,762
	Percent	68.2%	69.1%	70.1%	70.9%	69.8%

Figure 6 (*1)

› In A 2015 ACECS study of over 200 local parents of 0-5, the survey reported that 72% of the parents surveyed had their child attend preschool (p. 37 Allegan County Early Childhood Survey)

› AND 53% of respondents use childcare due to work or educational schedule during birth – 5yrs. (p. 28 Allegan County early childhood survey)

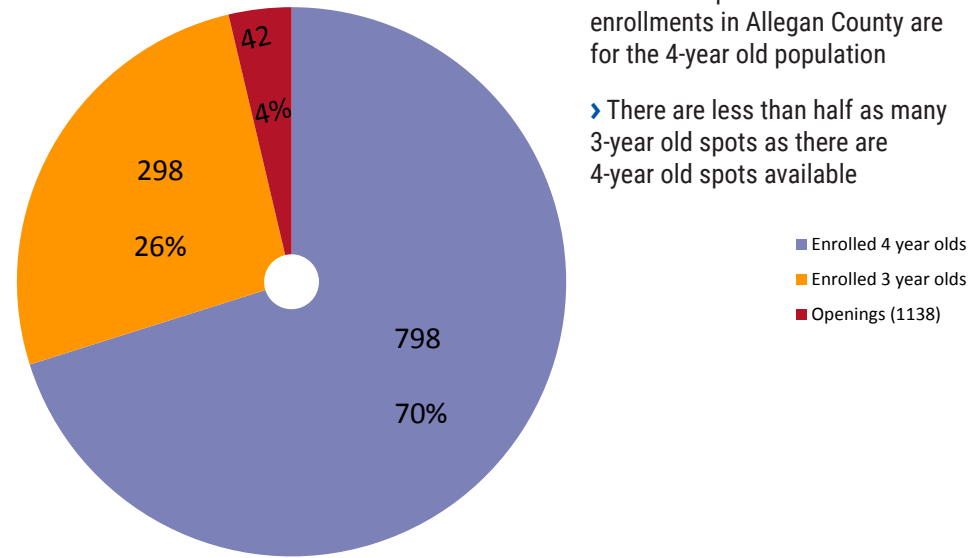
› AND 32% would attend preschool if before/ after care was available (p. 36)

› AND 14% didn't attend preschool because of barriers (p. 41)

› The survey also reported that 42% of respondents have accessed Community services such as food banks etc. (p. 23)



**2016-2017
Allegan County Preschool Enrollment**



- › 70% of all preschool enrollments in Allegan County are for the 4-year old population
- › There are less than half as many 3-year old spots as there are 4-year old spots available

Figure 7 (*1)

› The percentage of young children enrolled in a licensed preschool is growing, but still only represents 41% of all 3-4 year olds in Allegan County.

Licensed Preschool Enrollments in Allegan County

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	1,050	1,067	977	1,059	1,205
	Percent	36.3%	37.9%	35.3%	37.4%	41.0%

Figure 8 (*1)

Definitions:

The number represents the average number of children ages 3-4 who were enrolled in a preschool program for the 5 year period ending with the listed year.

The percent is based on the average population ages 3-4 for that time period.

In the 2016 Allegan County Early Childhood Survey completed by 161 parents of children in Head Start, Early Head Start, Great Start Readiness Preschool Program and Imagination Library:

- › 43% of the children live with both biological parents
- › 76% of parents have a high school diploma or less, as their highest academic achievement
- › 75% of children were covered with government-sponsored healthcare, and 5% had no health insurance coverage
- › 1 in 4 parents felt that their child would need extra help with learning upon entering Kindergarten
- › Almost 1 in 3 children in the survey are read to less than three times per week

› The chart below shows growth over time for 3 and 4-year olds in Head Start domains that are critical for school readiness.

Child Outcomes Summary for 2015-2016												
Three and Four year-olds												
Domains	Fall 2015				Winter 2015/2016				Spring 2016			
	3 yr olds		4 yr olds		3 yr olds		4 yr olds		3 yr olds		4 yr olds	
Ages ->	92		144		90		143		93		143	
Data collected on:	Met Goal	Below Goal	Met Goal	Below Goal	Met Goal	Below Goal	Met Goal	Below Goal	Met Goal	Below Goal	Met Goal	Below Goal
Social-Emotional	72	20	87	57	84	6	112	31	90	3	131	12
Physical	87	5	121	23	89	1	128	15	92	1	141	2
Language	70	22	106	38	81	9	121	22	88	5	129	14
Cognitive	70	22	103	41	83	7	126	17	89	4	134	9
Literacy	52	40	102	42	77	13	119	24	88	5	135	8
Math	50	42	46	98	77	13	9	47	88	5	122	21

Figure 9 (*3)

Children Ages 0-5 in Special Education

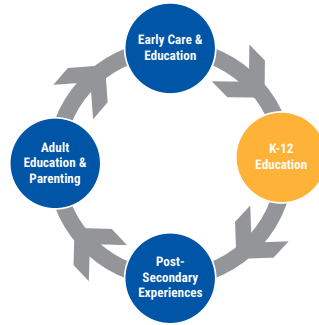
Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	233	206	283	243	244
	Percent	2.6%	2.3%	3.3%	2.9%	2.9%

Figure 10 (*1)



K-12 EDUCATION

Quality schools, motivated teachers and well prepared students are key ingredients to creating a well-educated and prepared workforce. However, **'social determinants'** also play a key role. The social determinants of education are the economic and social conditions facing our families and their distribution among the population that influence individual and group differences in educational progression and attainment.



Poverty - Children Ages 0-17

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	5,150	4,830	5,026	4,201	4,165
	Percent	18.3%	17.3%	18.2%	15.2%	15.1%

Figure 11 (*1)

▶ Although poverty rates among k-12 students have been decreasing for several years, the number of students in the ALICE population and the number of students eligible for free and reduced price lunches remain high.

Students Eligible For Free Or Reduced Priced Lunch

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	7,291	7,717	7,671	7,140	7,053
	Percent	40.7%	43.0%	43.0%	40.3%	39.7%

Figure 12 (*1)

Allegan County Student Proficiency

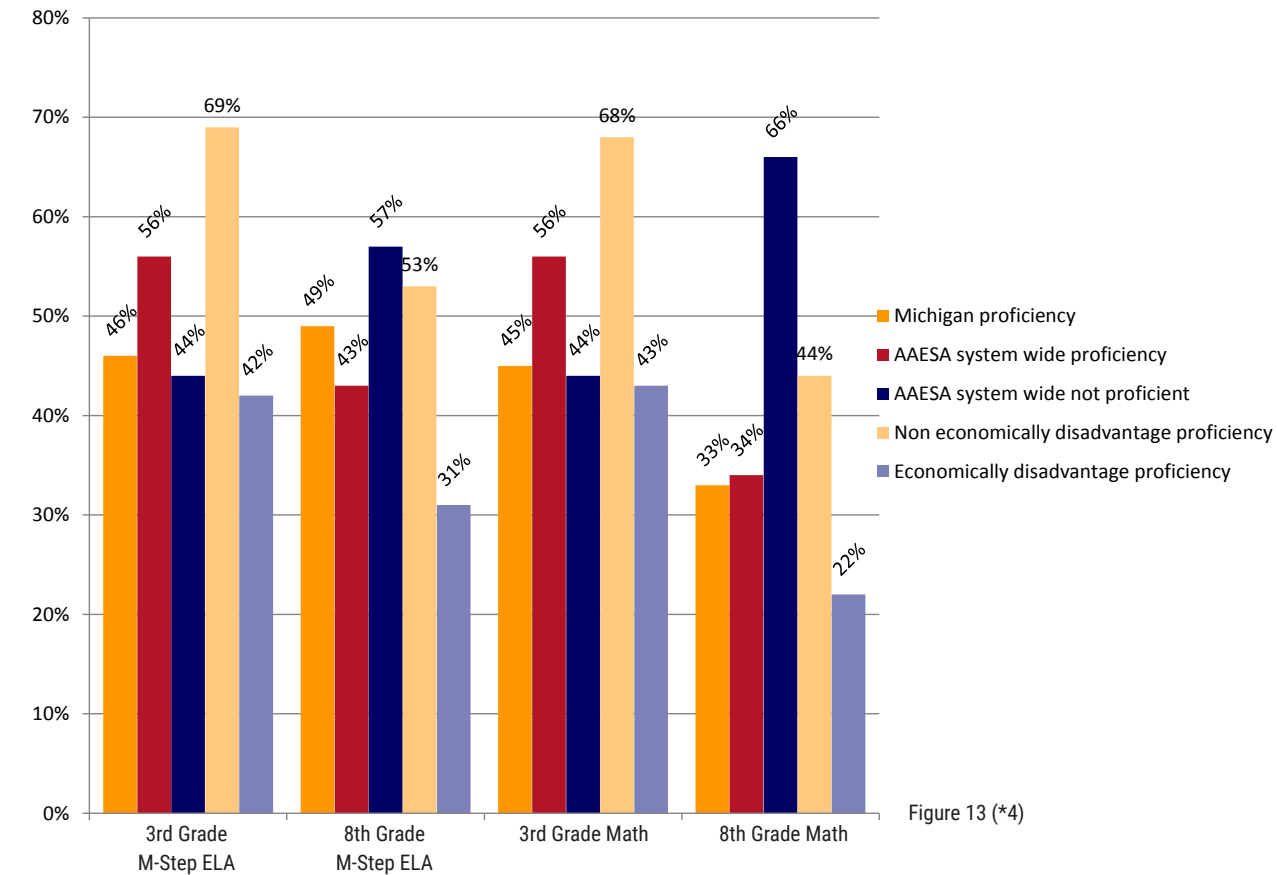


Figure 13 (*4)

- ▶ Range of total students proficient at 3rd grade English in Allegan County schools is 28% - 80%
- ▶ Range of total students proficient at 8th grade English in Allegan County Schools is 26% - 54%
- ▶ Range of total students proficient at 3rd grade Math in Allegan County schools is 23% - 82%
- ▶ Range of total students proficient at 8th grade Math in Allegan County Schools is 15% - 49%

▶ On average, proficiency for both economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students decreases between third and eighth grade

▶ The disparity in math and ELA achievements between non-economically disadvantaged and economically disadvantaged is significant and creates an enormous barrier to long term financial stability.



2015 / 2016 SCHOOL YEAR	4 YEAR GRADUATION RATE	% DROP OUT RATE
Statewide	80%	9%
Allegan Public Schools	62%	10.58%
Fennville Public Schools	80%	7.34%
Hamilton Community Schools	90%	<5%
Hopkins Public Schools	90%	<5%
Martin Public Schools	91%	<5%
Otsego Public Schools	95%	<5%
Plainwell Community Schools	87%	7.26%
Saugatuck Public Schools	96%	<5%
Wayland Union Schools	88%	6.57%

Figure 14 (*4)

2014-15 Graduation Dropout Entity Breakdown

Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (03): 4-Year (2015 Graduation Cohort) / All Students

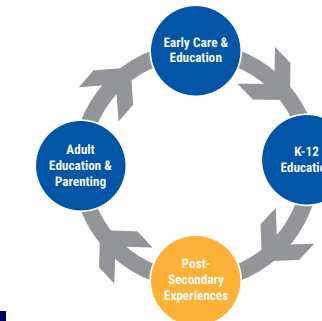
Location Name	Total Cohort	Total Graduated	Other Completer (GED, etc.)	Off-Track Continuing	Dropouts	Graduation Rate
Statewide	122,544	97,773	1,210	12,385	11,176	79.79%
Allegan Public Schools (03030)	196	134	10	26	26	68.37%
Fennville Public Schools (03050)	112	91	<10	<10	13	81.25%
Hopkins Public Schools (03070)	126	114	<10	<10	<10	90.48%
Martin Public Schools (03060)	41	38	<10	<10	<10	92.68%
Otsego Public Schools (03020)	168	152	<10	<10	<10	90.48%
Plainwell Community Schools (03010)	219	194	<10	15	<10	88.58%
Wayland Union Schools (03040)	245	215	<10	<10	21	87.76%
Outlook Academy (03902)	19	<10	<10	<10	<10	N/A
Allegan Area Educational Service Agency - District created from ISD (03000)	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	N/A

Some percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Figure 15 (*4)

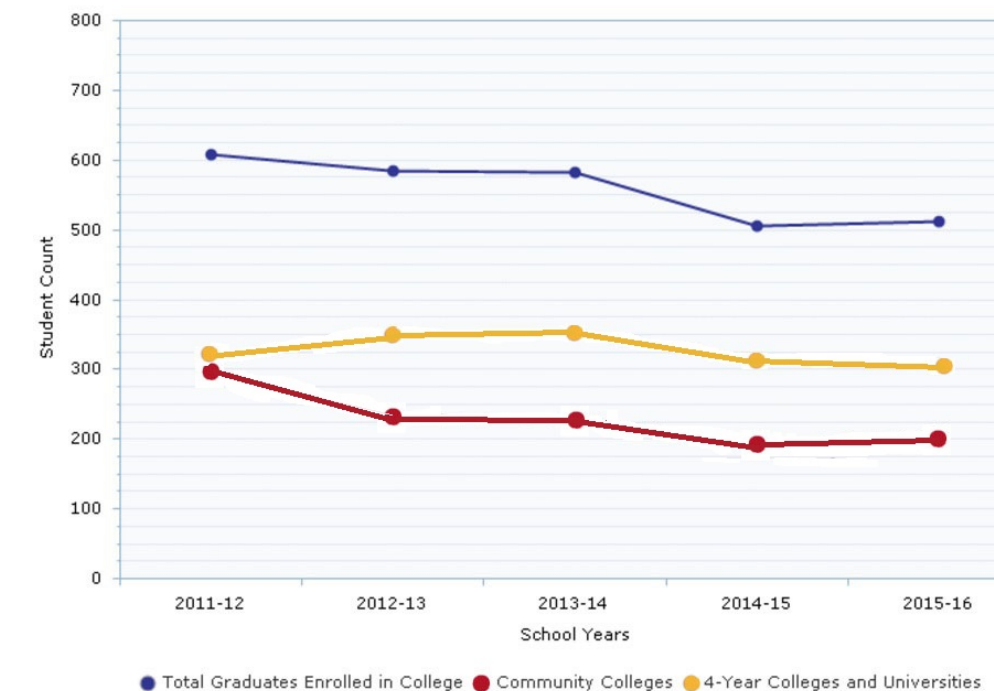
POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The data is very clear about the importance of a post-secondary experiences. Students that graduate High School and go on to attain some level of post secondary accreditation (license, certification, associates or higher ed degree) will earn more over their lifetime, have less unemployment and higher financial stability than those that don't.



College Enrollment by High School Trend

Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (03): 2015-16 / College Type (All by Category) / within 6 Months / All Students



Total Number of High School Graduates (2015-16) = 910
 Total Number of High School Graduates (2014-15) = 975
 Total Number of High School Graduates (2013-14) = 1,021
 Total Number of High School Graduates (2012-13) = 1,038
 Total Number of High School Graduates (2011-12) = 1,011

Figure 16 (*4)

Low literacy individuals struggle to find employment; they settle for low-paying jobs; they fight to increase their earning power and to support their families. They under-utilize the healthcare system out of fear, or over-utilize it because they are unable to follow written instructions on prescriptions or discharge papers.

Perhaps most heartbreaking is the long term effect their low-literacy has on their children – children who never hear a bedtime story or receive help with homework because their parent can't read. Low literacy becomes intergenerational: the strongest indicator of a child's success in school is his mother's level of education. (The Literacy Center - <http://theliteracycenter.org/about/why-literacy-matters/>)

› If the Literacy Center is correct in its comment about the mother's level of education, then there is cause for concern based on the Alleghen Early Childhood Survey report that less than 30% of mothers responding have completed post-secondary experiences.

It is estimated that 8 percent of adults in Alleghen County (perhaps as high as 15%) lack basic prose literacy skills (NCES, 2003). These adults range from being unable to read and understand any written information in English to being able to locate easily identifiable information in short commonplace text. This estimate also includes adults who could not be tested due to language barriers. This means 7,050-12,443 Alleghen County adults do not have the literacy skills to be successful readers.

Post-secondary Progression by Graduating Class - This report shows how AAESA students are progressing in postsecondary education after high school graduation. Although a high percentage of students begin post-secondary experiences (PSE), not enough are finishing their program.

College Progression by Graduating Class

Alleghen Area Educational Service Agency (03): 2009-10 Graduating Class / All Students

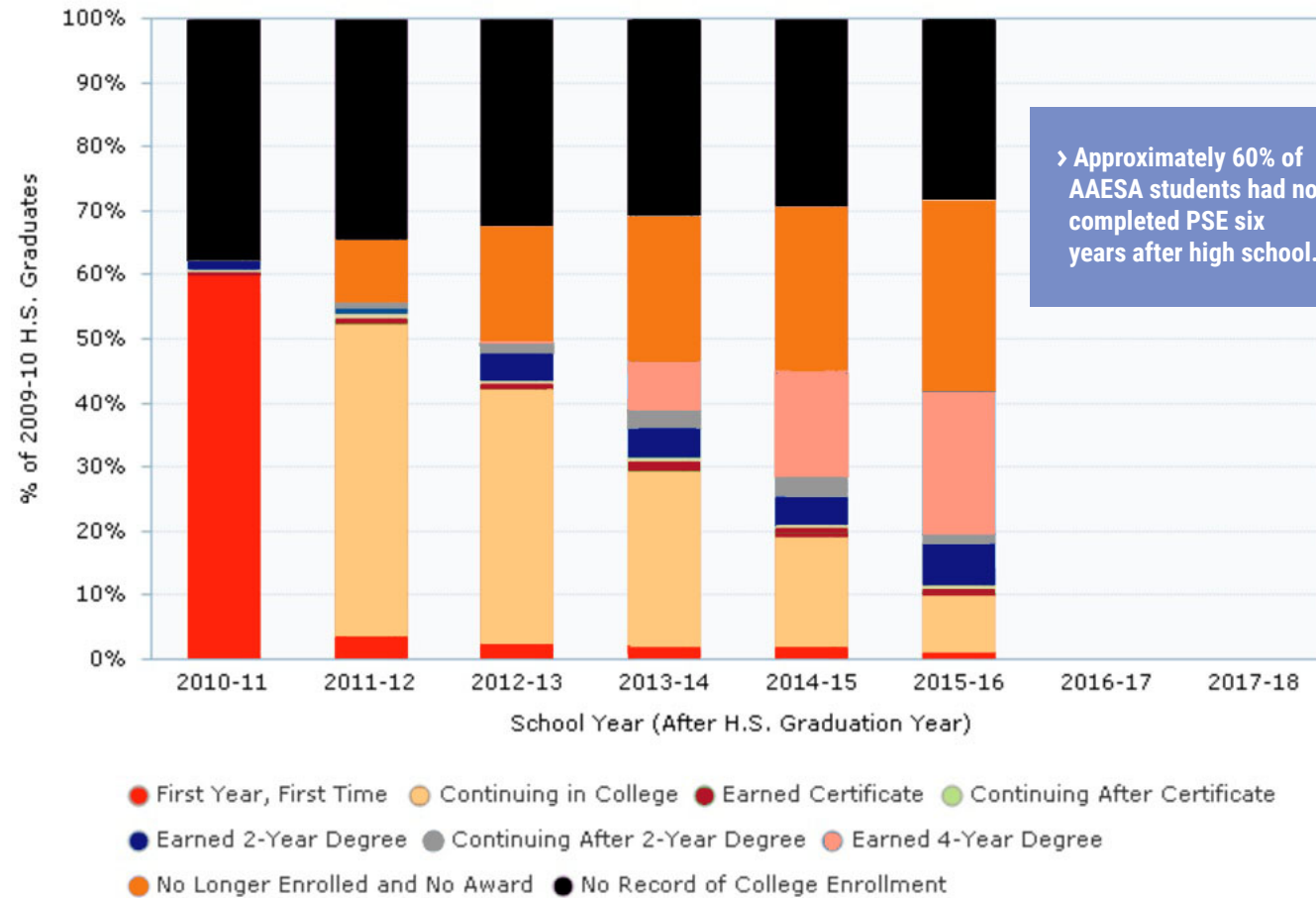


Figure 17 (*4)

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT ALLEGAN COUNTY

	Total	Percentage
Population 25 years and over	75,605	75,605
Less than 9th grade	2,446	3.2%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	5,218	6.9%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	28,969	38.3%
Some college, no degree	16,415	21.7%
Associate's degree	6,297	8.3%
Bachelor's degree	10,992	14.5%
Graduate or professional degree	5,268	7.0%
Percent high school graduate or higher	(X)	89.9%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	(X)	21.5%

Figure 18 (*5)

MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2015 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)

Population 25 years and over with earnings	\$35,027
Less than high school graduate	\$23,397
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$30,019
Some college or associate's degree	\$33,990
Bachelor's degree	\$49,196
Graduate or professional degree	\$62,553

Figure 19 (*5)



Education as a Change Agent

United Way Worldwide partners with the American Human Development project on a data tool called 'The Common Good Forecaster.' This forecaster uses specific data points from around the country to project what a community would look like if all individuals increased their education by one 'level.' (Dropout to high school graduate / high school grad to some college/some college to 4 yr etc...)

Common Good Forecaster

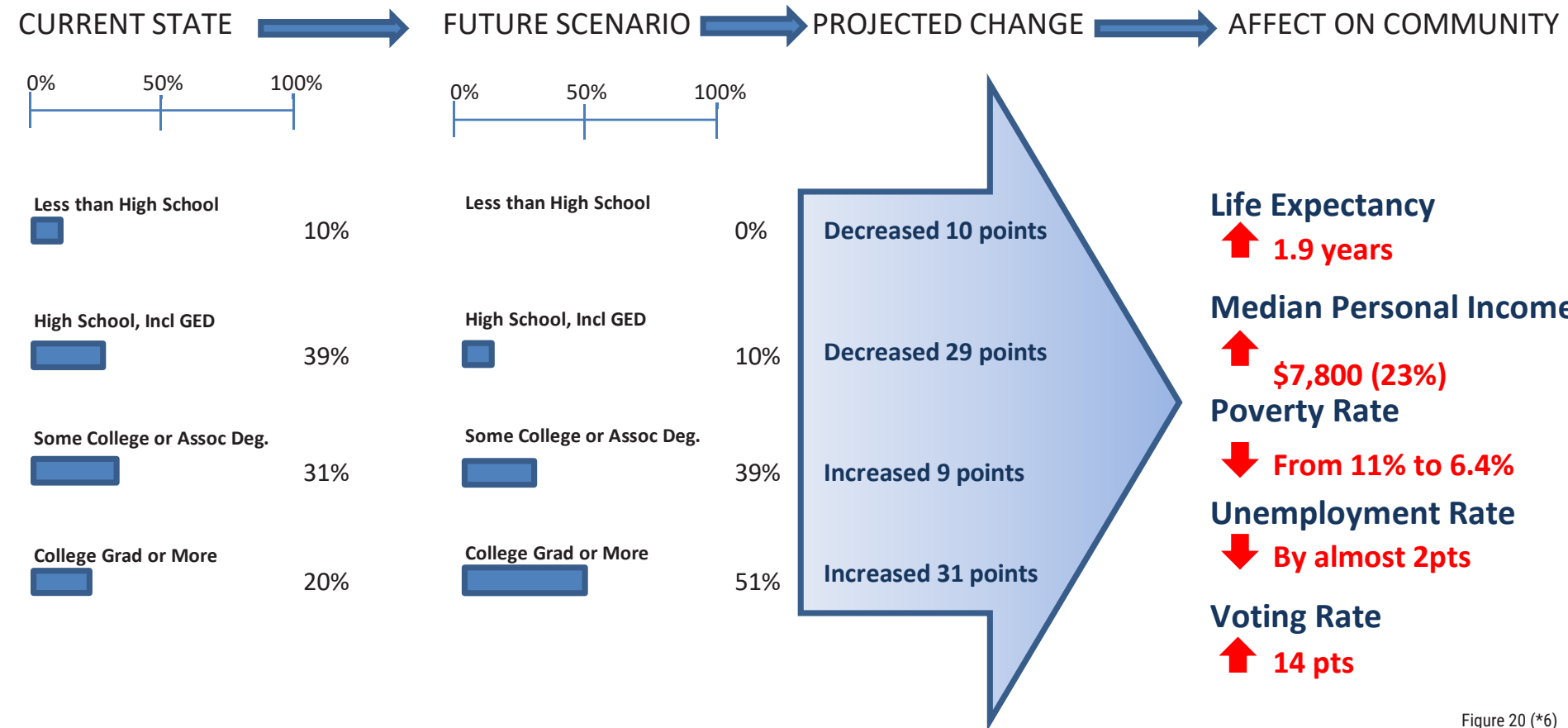


Figure 20 (*6)

FINANCIAL STABILITY

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Sources

The following are the numbered sources for the Education section; they will be shown next to each figure in this format: (*1).

1. United Way ALICE Report - Michigan, April 2017
2. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
3. Erickcek, George. W.E. Upjohn Institute
4. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Survey
5. Department of Housing and Urban Development
6. Allegan County 2-1-1/Gryphon Place
7. Coordinated Mobility Plan: Prosperity Region 4, May 2016



FINANCIAL STABILITY

While it is well recognized that Michigan has faced daunting economic times with the decline of the auto industry and the Great Recession, the official poverty level of 15% (11% in Allegan County) obscures the true magnitude of the financial instability in our communities. The official formula that calculates the United States poverty rate was developed in 1964 and has not had a major update in over 30 years, and is not adjusted to reflect the cost of living difference across the United States. A lack of accurate measurements and language to frame a discussion has made it difficult for states – including Michigan – to identify the extent of the economic challenges so many of their residents face.

MEET ALICE

ALICE represents the men and women of all ages and races who get up each day to go to work, but who face tough financial choices. ALICE is not an individual, but a conceptual blending of all those in our community who bring home a paycheck that doesn't stretch to cover household needs. ALICE is glad to have a job, proud of their work, and happy to contribute to the community. ALICE has no cushion. ALICE has no fall back, their assets are limited, and their income is constrained. ALICE is one crisis away from financial ruin. A rent hike, a family illness, the need for new car tires, things that the rest of us see as an inconvenience, are a crisis for ALICE all across our community. The key to Financial Stability is prevention – finding ways to keep people from falling of the edge, either into ALICE or from ALICE into poverty.

ALICE IN ALLEGAN COUNTY

2015 Point-in-Time Data

Population: 114,625 | **Number of Households:** 42,079
Median Household Income: \$55,250 (state average: \$51,084)
Unemployment Rate: 1.9% (state average: 7.2%)
ALICE Households: 26% (state average: 25%); **Poverty Households:** 11% (state average: 15%)

Figure 1 (*1)

ISSUE AREAS:

- › Meet ALICE
- › Economic Viability Dashboard
 - › Housing Affordability Index
 - › Job Opportunities Index
 - › Community Support Index
- › Barriers for ALICE Population
 - › Food
 - › Transportation
 - › Cost of Healthcare
 - › Cost of Childcare
 - › Education/Training Gaps
- › Financial Literacy

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Household Survival Budget, Allegan County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$576	\$713
Child Care	\$-	\$1,039
Food	\$184	\$609
Transportation	\$349	\$697
Health Care	\$184	\$707
Miscellaneous	\$149	\$406
Taxes	\$194	\$291
Monthly Total	\$1,636	\$4,462
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$19,632	\$53,544
Hourly Wage	\$9.82	\$26.77

Sources: 2015 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Michigan Department of Treasury; Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

Figure 2 (*1)

Household STABILITY Budget, Allegan County, MI, 2014						
	Single Adult	Married Couple	Adult, One Child	Adult, One Child Care	Two Adults, 2 Children	Two Adults, 2 Child Care
Housing	\$713	\$868	\$868	\$868	\$995	\$995
Childcare	0	0	\$1,080	\$949	\$2,160	\$1,573
Food	\$373	\$758	\$705	\$545	\$1,331	\$1,146
Transportation	\$352	\$705	\$705	\$705	\$1,174	\$1,174
Healthcare	\$279	\$618	\$716	\$716	\$950	\$950
Miscellaneous	\$172	\$295	\$407	\$378	\$661	\$584
Savings	\$172	\$295	\$407	\$378	\$661	\$584
Cell Phone	\$64	\$99	\$82	\$64	\$123	\$99
Tax	\$370	\$783	\$762	\$632	\$2,210	\$1,622
Monthly Total	\$2,495	\$4,421	\$5,453	\$5,235	\$10,265	\$8,727
Annual Total	\$29,940	\$53,052	\$65,436	\$62,820	\$123,180	\$104,724

Note: One childcare refers to an infant; two childcare refers to one infant and one 4 year old. For an additional infant add 2 percent; for an additional 4 year old add 2 percent; and for an additional child add 2 percent. Sources: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Michigan Department of Treasury, and Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers: <https://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/united-way-alice-united-way-alice-report>

ALICE UNITED WAY ALICE REPORT - <http://www.unitedwayalice.org/index.php>

Figure 3 (*1)

FINANCIAL STABILITY

What is Poverty?

Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials to enjoy a minimum standard of life and well-being that's considered acceptable in society. Poverty status in the United States is assigned to people that do not meet a certain threshold level set by the Department of Health and Human Services.

2017 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1 person	\$12,060
2 people	\$16,240
4 people	\$24,600
6 people	\$32,960

Figure 4 (*2)

Town	Population	House holds	Poverty %	ALICE %	Unemployment Rate	Housing Burden: % Owner over 30%	Housing Burden: % Renter over 30%
Allegan City	5,036	2,071	17%	35%	8.2%	14%	46%
Allegan Township	4,452	1,659	7%	30%	5.1%	17%	13%
Casco Township	2,895	1,048	13%	22%	13.1%	26%	19%
Cheshire Township	2,004	803	16%	23%	5.8%	16%	49%
Clyde Township	1,959	1,959	21%	37%	5.8%	22%	56%
Dorr Township	7,546	2,418	8%	21%	4.5%	15%	23%
Douglas City	1,113	537	9%	37%	6.2%	42%	25%
Fennville City	1,777	571	34%	28%	11.8%	36%	38%
Fillmore Township	2,708	964	15%	22%	3.3%	20%	38%
Ganges Township	2,576	1,077	10%	29%	4.4%	27%	17%
Gun Plain Township	5,952	2,147	9%	17%	6.9%	16%	24%
Heath Township	3,371	1,128	9%	20%	2.7%	17%	43%
Holland City	7,033	2,665	18%	32%	6.5%	32%	36%
Hopkins Township	2,649	927	7%	31%	6.8%	22%	26%
Laketown Township	5,600	2,311	5%	18%	2.8%	19%	32%
Lee Township	4,009	1,301	23%	31%	22.3%	25%	37%
Leighton Township	5,176	1,761	7%	16%	5.8%	12%	51%
Manlius Township	3,043	1,120	9%	25%	4.6%	27%	65%
Martin Township	2,647	922	13%	23%	5.5%	24%	18%
Monterey Township	2,373	832	14%	20%	8.1%	25%	19%
Otsego City	3,975	1,729	11%	40%	9.5%	26%	32%
Otsego Township	5,636	2,069	10%	28%	8.3%	22%	49%
Overisel Township	2,955	974	5%	21%	1.7%	15%	24%
Plainwell City	3,810	1,628	20%	28%	7.5%	15%	43%
Salem Township	4,589	1,535	5%	16%	1.6%	20%	54%
Saugatuck City	842	434	21%	17%	7.4%	38%	38%
Saugatuck Township	3,021	1,239	12%	18%	3.3%	16%	22%
Trowbridge Township	2,506	1,051	13%	25%	3.8%	15%	24%
Valley Township	2,067	793	10%	27%	4.2%	32%	44%
Watson Township	2,270	782	12%	23%	7.5%	25%	29%
Wayland City	4,109	1,434	12%	38%	5.5%	15%	49%
Wayland Township	3,138	1,230	10%	21%	2.0%	29%	25%

Figure 5 (*1)

Although in the last few years the % of people living in poverty and the unemployment rate have both decreased, the number of working families living below the Alice Threshold has increased from 35% to 37%, a total of more than 15,500 households in Allegan county struggling daily to provide for basic needs.



ECONOMIC VIABILITY DASHBOARD

More than any demographic feature, employment defines ALICE households. The financial stability of ALICE workers depends on local job opportunities, as well as the cost and condition of housing, and the availability of community resources. The Economic Viability Dashboard presented in this section describes changes in these economic factors in our area.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES INDEX

Unemployment in Allegan County is at historic low levels, as of December 2016 it was down to 3.4%. However the ALICE population's wages do not necessarily match the cost of living.

In a 2017 Allegan County Key Stakeholder survey 'Job Availability & Income' was reported as a top 3 issue and as a greatest unmet need.

The Job Opportunities Index

Key Indicators: Income Distribution + Unemployment Rate + New Hire Wages

The more job opportunities there are in a county, the more likely a household is to be financially stable. The three key indicators for the Job Opportunities Index are income distribution as measured by the share of income for the lowest two quintiles, the unemployment rate, and the average wage for new hires.

Households by Income, 2007 to 2015

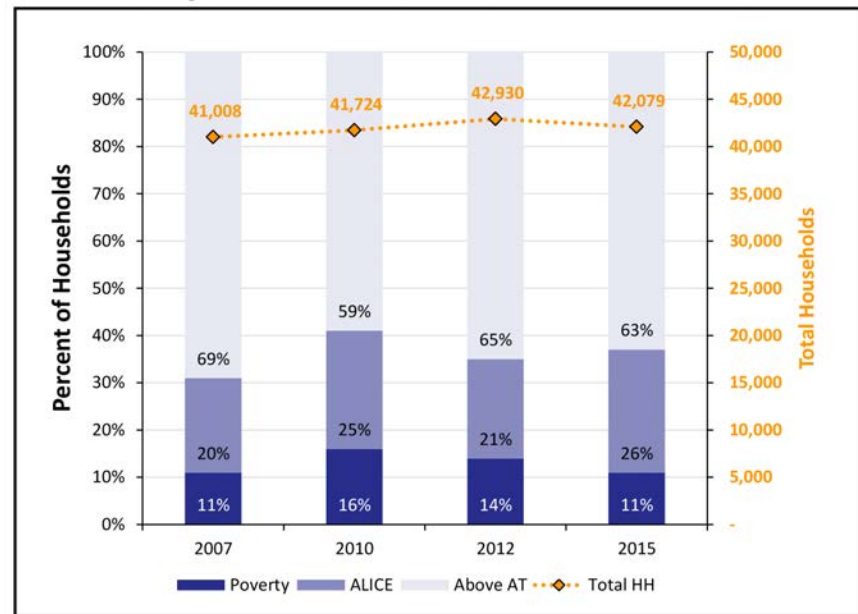


Figure 6 (*1)

Real Wages have Increased Only 2.8 Percent in the Past 10 Years in Allegan

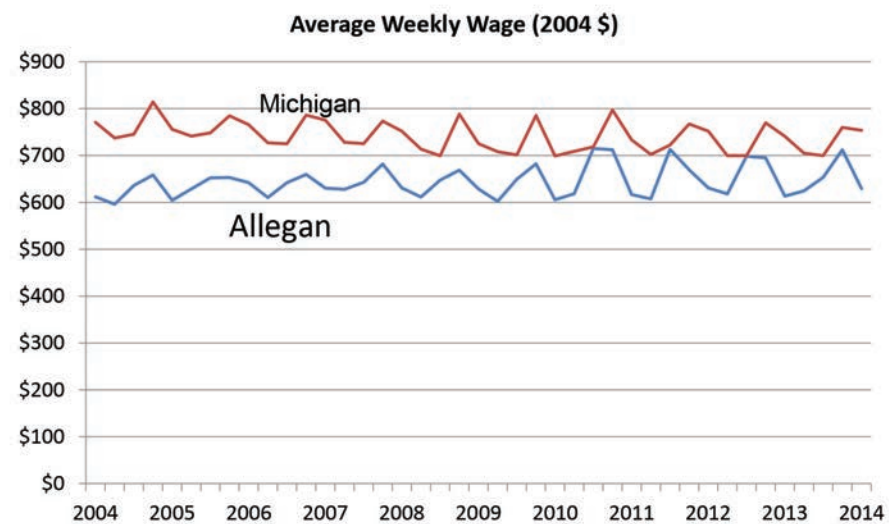


Figure 7 (*3)

Many of the high-demand jobs in the county pay modest wages

If you compare the median hourly wage of Michigan and local jobs to the ALICE Survivability budget you can see why some working families still struggle to make ends meet every month. In the chart below of Michigan's top 20 occupations, approximately one-third of them would keep a family of four solidly inside the ALICE population.

Top 20 Occupations by Employment and Wage, Michigan, 2015

Occupation	2015		Percent Change 2007-2015	
	Number of Jobs	Median Hourly Wage	Number of Jobs	Median Hourly Wage
Retail Salespersons	144,300	10.06	-6%	4%
Office Clerks, General	109,640	14.51	1%	75%
Food Prep, Including Fast Food	109,150	8.99	1%	-24%
Team Assemblers	104,210	15.48	23%	-46%
Cashiers	94,520	9.24	18%	22%
Registered Nurses	91,130	31.65	20%	323%
Customer Service Representatives	86,440	14.94	18%	30%
Waiters and Waitresses	77,740	9.08	9%	-18%
Laborers and Movers, Hand	68,320	12.48	9%	-16%
Janitors and Cleaners	63,150	11.21	12%	6%
General and Operations Managers	62,950	44.78	21%	202%
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	58,710	10.34	17%	-33%
Sales Representatives	56,400	26.48	15%	121%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	52,890	15.92	10%	-11%
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	51,340	18.54	10%	-42%
Nursing Assistants	49,780	13.38	7%	-46%
Maintenance and Repair Workers	41,590	16.71	-4%	-37%
Mechanical Engineers	40,490	42.85	-5%	244%
Bookkeeping and Auditing Clerks	39,060	17.54	-2%	51%
Elementary School Teachers	38,190	31.77	-3%	79%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Wage Survey - All Industries Combined, 2007 and 2015

Figure 8 (*4)

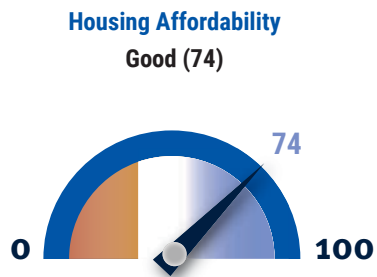


FINANCIAL STABILITY

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY INDEX

› The Housing affordability dashboard shows on a scale of 0-100 (with higher numbers meaning conditions are better than in other parts of the state) shows Allegan with a 2015 score of 74, a drastic improvement over the 2010 recession number of 42.

› Although this is reason to be optimistic, the index is comparative, not holistic. The Allegan County gap in affordable rental units is 5,354 units, with more than 1 in 3 renters paying more than 30% of their income to housing.



The Housing Affordability Index

Key Indicators: Affordable Housing Gap + Housing Burden + Real Estate Taxes

The more affordable a county, the easier it is for a household to be financially stable. The three key indicators for the Housing Affordability Index are the affordable housing gap, the housing burden, and real estate taxes.

Housing Data by County, Michigan, 2015

County	Owner-Occupied	Percent Owned by HHs Below ALICE Threshold	Housing Burden: Percent Owners Pay more than 30% of Income	Renter-Occupied	Percent Rented by HHs Below ALICE Threshold	Housing Burden: Percent Renters Pay more than 30% of Income	Gap in Rental Units Affordable for All HHs Below ALICE Threshold	American Community Survey
Allegan	33,215	39%	16%	8,864	60%	36%	5,354	1-Year

Figure 9 (*1)

› Housing burden is the ratio of housing cost to household income. For renters, housing cost is gross rent (contract rent plus utilities). For owners, housing cost includes mortgage payment, utilities, association fees, insurance, and real estate taxes.

› In a 2017 Allegan County Key Stakeholder survey 'Affordable Housing for low income workers' was reported as a top 2 issue and as a greatest unmet need.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

› A 2015 Allegan County Early Childhood survey reported that **29% of parents of young children viewed housing affordability as a top 3 issue** in the community they were most concerned about

The Final FY 2017 FMRs for All Bedroom Sizes

Final FY 2017 & Final FY 2016 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms					
Year	Efficiency	One-Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three-Bedroom	Four-Bedroom
Final FY 2017 FMR	\$585	\$613	\$727	\$987	\$1,052
Final FY 2016 FMR	\$597	\$600	\$729	\$985	\$999
Percentage Change	-2.0%	2.2%	-0.3%	0.2%	5.3%

Allegan County, MI is a non-metropolitan county.

Figure 10 (*5)

2-1-1 Unmet Caller Needs	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Automotive Repair and Maintenance					
Christmas Baskets		12		4	8
Community Shelters	5	7	5	4	
Dental Care Referrals					
Electric Service Payment Assistance	32	45	53	12	14
Fans					5
Gas Money	5	5	5	7	7
Gas Service Payment Assistance	6	6	6		
Heating Fuel Payment Assistance		4	14		
Holiday Gifts/Toys	5	5	6	8	11
Home Maintenance and Minor Repair Services	5	9	18	6	8
Homeless Motel Vouchers	8	5			
Housing Search Assistance				5	
Information Services			4	6	5
Medical Appointments Transportation					5
Prescription Expense Assistance					6
Rent Payment Assistance	16	17	5	4	8
Rental Deposit Assistance	9				
Residential Snow Shoveling			6		
Thanksgiving Baskets					
Undesignated Temporary Financial Assistance	8				
Annual 211 unmet caller needs	99	115	122	56	77

Figure 11 (*6)

› Allegan County resources are gaining ground on our peers and 2-1-1 data shows how many individuals are calling for services help. There are still many unmet service needs in our community.

› Almost 80% of the 2-1-1 unmet needs were for housing-related issues.

› Page 48 of this report shows that more than 70% of successful 2-1-1 referrals in 2016 were for housing-related referrals.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Transportation – Consistent, reliable access to transportation to activities of daily living is crucial.

› A 2017 United Way Key Stakeholder Survey of 92 Health & Human service professionals in Allegan County rated Transportation as one of its top 3 issues facing residents.

The **Transit Dependence Index (TDI)** is an aggregate measure displaying relative concentrations of transit dependent populations. Five factors make up the TDI calculation including population density, autoless households, elderly populations (ages 65 and over), youth populations (ages 10-17), and below poverty populations.

› Transportation is a barrier to financial stability getting to & from job

Transit Dependence Index Density Map:

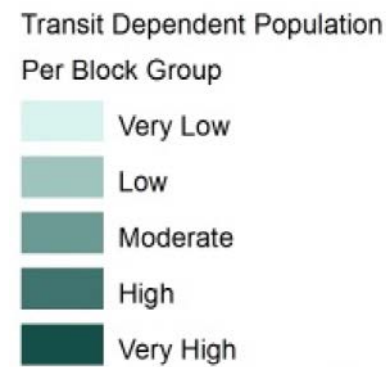


Figure 12 (*7)



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Transit Dependence Percentage Map: - Measures the degree or percentage of vulnerability. It follows the TDI's five-tiered categorization of Very Low to Very High.

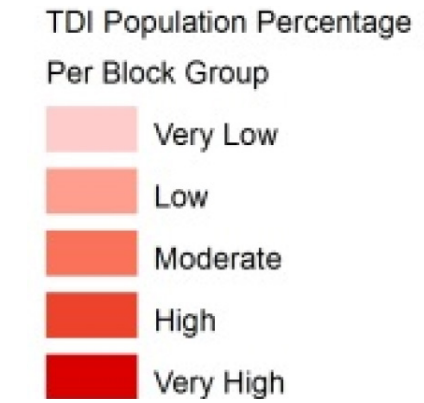
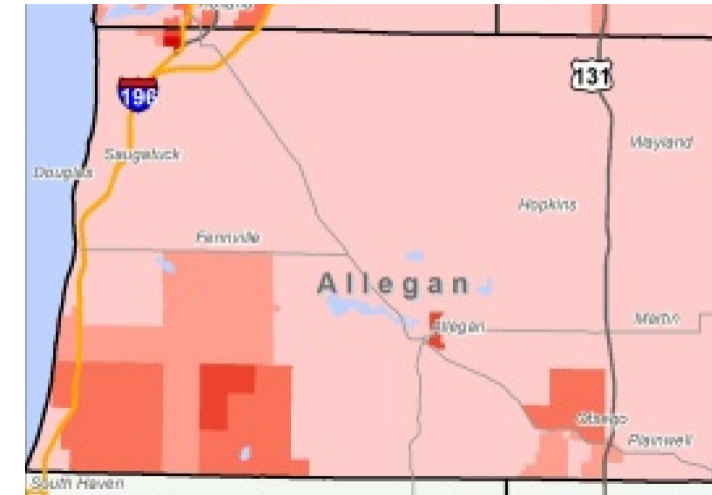


Figure 13 (*7)

Trip Generators	College/University	High Density Housing	Human service Agency	Major Employer	Medical Facility	Shopping Destinations
Allegan County		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allegan County		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Douglas						✓
Fennville						
Hopkins						
Martin						
Otsego		✓	✓	✓		✓
Plainwell		✓	✓		✓	
Saugatuck						
Wayland		✓	✓			✓

› Local trip generators attract transit demand and include common origins and destinations, like colleges and universities, multi-unit housing, non- profit and governmental agencies, major employers, medical facilities, and shopping centers. The table to the left shows local trip generators.

Figure 14 (*7)



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Journey to Work Patterns

County		Allegan	
Workers 16 Years and Older		49,552	
Location of Employment		#	%
In State of Residence		49,209	99.30%
In County of Residence		22,769	45.90%
Outside County of Residence		26,440	53.40%
Outside State of Residence		343	0.70%
Means of Transportation to Work		#	%
Car, Truck, or Van - drove alone		42,075	84.90%
Car, Truck, or Van - carpooled		4,066	8.20%
Public Transportation		77	0.02%
Walked		741	1.50%
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, other		448	0.90%
Worked at Home		2,145	4.30%

Figure 15 (*7)

› Census Bureau's Journey to Work data which provides location of employment (in county vs. out of county and in state vs. out of state) and means of transportation to work. Residents in the West Michigan Region typically work in their county of residence (72%) and predominately drive alone to work (83%).

› 53% of working Allegan residents work outside of Allegan County.

Top 5 Employment Destinations for Allegan Housed Workers

Allegan		
49,552		
Place	#	%
Holland	1,686	4.80%
Allegan	945	2.70%
Grand Rapids	696	2.00%
Wyoming	652	1.90%
Otsego	603	1.70%
All Others	30,578	87.00%

Figure 16 (*7)

› It is interesting to note that when listing employment destinations for Allegan-housed workers, the vast majority (87%) are travelling to destinations categorized as "All Others."

Public Transit Services in Allegan County

Figure 17 (*7)

System	Service Type(s)	Primary Service Area	Service Hours	Regional Services/Connectivity
Allegan County Transportation	Advanced Reservation and Limited Demand Response	Allegan County	Monday - Friday 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Intra-County with agreement to serve Holland

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Financial Stability Summary

Allegan County is a county full of natural beauty but one of financial contradictions. While the current unemployment rate for Allegan is 3.4% and the median household income for the county exceeds the state median of \$51,084 with an impressive \$55,250, this achievement does not give a full picture of the struggles of ALICE households.

Housing

- › Extreme housing burden is defined as housing costs exceeding 35% of income. For a single adult in Allegan County, a one-bedroom apartment accounts for 37% of the Survival Budget.
- › Rental and owner gaps: This refers to the number of additional rental and owner units needed that are affordable to households with incomes below the ALICE threshold so that all of these households would pay less than 35% of income for housing.
- › With 8,864 occupied rentals and a shortage of 5,354 affordable units for ALICE households, Allegan County requires a 60% increase in the number of affordable rental units.

Job Opportunities

- › As is true across the West Michigan region, the unemployment rate is low in Allegan County at 3.4%. What this statistic does not detail is that 60% of all jobs in Michigan pay less than \$40,000 per year. A household stability budget for an Allegan County family with 2 children was calculated at \$86,785 in 2012.
- › Occupations which require minimal education and training, such as service jobs, are those occupations which are expected to experience growth rates above medium and/or high skilled occupations. These lower skilled occupations pay low wages of \$15 or less per hour.

Transportation

- › The 2017 United Way Stakeholder Survey of the Health and Human Service professionals in Allegan rated Transportation as one of its top 3 issues.
- › The lack of interconnectivity across the county as well as a reduced window of opportunity for its use due its limited service hours are keys to the concerns with the transportation options available in Allegan County.

Financial Literacy

- › While it is duly noted that many times, ALICE families do not typically have the resources to allocate towards savings and/or retirement, it is clear that the lack of financial literacy is a contributor to this limited ability to save.
- › The lack of understanding of finance and its impact on daily decisions is a gap that can have lingering and devastating effects. A lack of understanding results in the increase of fees and charges toward individuals and families who can least withstand their financial blows. One study estimates that up to one-third of the fees and charges paid by those with lower debt literacy is due to a lack of knowledge. Overall, financial mistakes tend to be more common among those with less education and income.

› See page 56 to view the transportation services available in Allegan County.

HEALTH

Sources

The following are the numbered sources for the Education section; they will be shown next to each figure in this format: (*1).

1. Allegan County United Way Key Stakeholder Survey, 2017
2. CountyHealthRankings.org
3. Michigan Department of Community Health
4. Allegan County's Community Health Needs Assessment Report, Dec. 2014
5. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2015
6. Kids Count Data Center, A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016
7. Michigan Department of Education
8. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 2015 Data Report
9. Michigan County Profile 2017, Michigan Oral Health Coalition

HEALTH



ISSUE AREAS:

- › Mental Health
- › Access to Care/Cost of Care
- › Healthy Lifestyles
- › Children

HEALTH

Together: Striving for a Healthier Allegan County

Allegan County is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. With a plethora of outdoor parks and abundant natural resources, residents and visitors to our county have every opportunity to get out, get active, and enjoy nature.

Even with these opportunities to improve overall health, Allegan County ranked 12th in County Health Rankings – Health Outcomes, out of the 83 counties in Michigan. Health rose to the top of the list in the key stakeholders survey with the most prevalent county-wide health related issues being access to mental health, access to dentists, and access to primary care. Allegan County has two hospitals and less than a handful of free or low-cost medical clinics, however given the sizeable reach of the county and limited public transit, access to healthcare can often be a struggle for priority populations.

To monitor and impact the health of Allegan County, health indicators have been prioritized to focus on access to care, diet and exercise, and family and social support. Specifically, efforts focused around diet and exercise have seen improvement over the past two years, moving in the right direction. The obesity rate has dropped from 34% from 2 years ago to 30% in 2017.

Several contributing factors can influence health outcomes, such as adequate housing, transportation, education, and financial stability. Health leaders throughout the county are continuing to work together with other sectors to make Allegan County a healthier, happier place to live, work and play.

Key Stakeholder Survey Results

- › More than 90 experts and Human Service providers in Allegan County participated in a 2017 survey to identify areas for further research.
- › The results on page 35 showed that Health was the #1 reported issue in Allegan County. When several health related issues are merged (health, food/nutrition, drug abuse) into the health category then it is reported as rating twice as prevalent as the #2 issue.



HEALTH

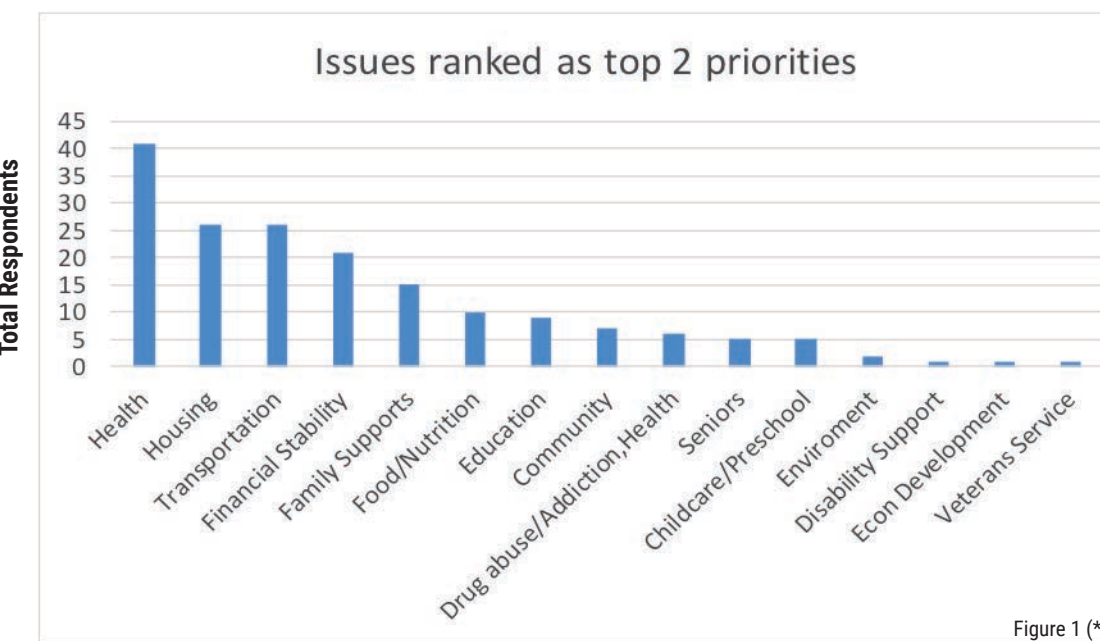


Figure 1 (*1)

- › In addition to the table above, inside of the health rankings in the Key stakeholder survey, mental health was the most mentioned health issue.

Health mentions in priority order:

- › Mental Health Needs
 - › Cost and Access of Health Care
 - › Proper Nutrition / Food for Low Income
 - › Drug Abuse
- › In a 2016 report by Allegan General Hospital the survey to prioritize Community Needs overwhelmingly agreed that mental health/substance abuse was the biggest issue. The same report said 15% of respondents did not see a doctor due to cost.



County Health Rankings - ALLEGAN COUNTY
Overall Ranking in Michigan



Research shows that where a person lives matters. Where people live impacts their health outcomes. The County Health Rankings model is based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work, and play.

This model started with Wisconsin's counties in 2003 and is now used for most counties in the United States.

In Michigan there are currently 83 counties that are ranked. These rankings occur annually.

Allegan County ranked 12th for Health Outcomes, 15th for Quality of life, 17th for Length of Life, and 23rd for Health Behaviors out of 83 counties in Michigan in 2016.

Health Outcomes are the length and quality of life which is Allegan County's current state of health. The rest of the health factors such as health behaviors, clinical care, social economic factors, and physical environment are what decides the future state of health for Allegan County.

These rankings are relative to the health of the rest of the state. Ranking 12th in Health Outcomes does not mean we are doing well, just that we are ahead of many other counties.

Figure 2 (*2)

Profile of Allegan County, 2014

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Total	973
Heart Disease	216
Cancer	218
C.L.R.D.	70
Stroke	42
Accidents	50
Alzheimer's	33
Diabetes Mellitus	27
Pneumonia/Flu	16
Kidney Disease	15
Suicide	16

Deaths Rate

973	740.3
216	162.7
218	160.0
70	50.6
42	33.5
50	40.8
33	26.4
27	21.9
16	*
15	*
16	*

LEADING HOSPITALIZATIONS--2014

Discharges Rate

11,599	1,035.3
1,154	103.0
1,370	122.3
1,330	118.7
896	80.0
554	49.5
432	38.6
489	43.7
372	33.2
311	27.8
302	27.0

Children Ages 1-19

Total	4
Accidents	-
Assault (Homicide)	1
Suicide	1
Cancer	-
Congenital malformations	-

Deaths Rate

4	*
-	-
1	*
1	*
-	-
-	-

Children Ages 1-19

Discharges Rate

563	189.5
107	36.0
61	20.5
33	11.1
13	4.4
25	8.4

Note: Rates are per 100,000. Leading causes of death are computed by the direct method, using as the standard population the age distribution of the total population of the United States for the year 2000. Children and discharge data are per 100,000, 2014 population in specified group.

Figure 3 (*3)

In some areas Allegan County is better than the State but still a cause for concern for those affected by these issues.

Health Status Data (MDHHS) – Favorable for Allegan County

	Allegan County	Michigan	% Better than MI
Years of Potential of Life Lost	5,595	7,254	22.9%
Total Hospital Admissions	1,032.3	1,312.3	21.3%
Activity Limitations	5.5%	7.0%	20.5%
Low Birth Weight Babies	6.7%	8.4%	20.2%
Perinatal Deaths	7.3	8.8	17%
Heart Disease (Deaths)	169.5	203.5	16.7%
Asthma	13%	15.6%	16.7%
Arthritis	27.2%	31.5%	13.7%
Per Capita Health Care Spending (Medicare)	\$8,676	\$9,903	12.4%
Cancer (New Cases)	423.4	482.1	12.2%
Colorectal Cancer Screening	71.8%	64.55	11.3%
Cancer (Deaths)	162.5	182.4	10.9%

Figure 4 (*4)



› In some areas we are doing worse than the state with considerable cause for concern.

Health Status Data (MDHHS) – Unfavorable for Allegan County

	Allegan County	Michigan	% Worse than MI
Dentists	22.2	35.4	63.9%
Primary Care Physicians	29.6	78.7	62.4%
Melanoma	27.9	19.3	44.6%
Heavy Drinking	7.8%	5.4%	44.4%
Fitness & Recreational Facilities	5.4	9.1	40.7%
Current Smokers	27.1%	19.7%	37.6%
Mental Health Providers	22.4	35.4	36.5%
Deaths from Motor Vehicle Crashes	14.1	10.9	29.4%
Diabetes (Deaths)	23.9	20.1	18.9%
Diabetes (Prevalence)	10.9%	9.5%	14.7%
Air pollution	11.3	9.9	14.1%
Deaths from Kidney Disease	17.3	15.3	13.1%

Figure 5 (*4)

Where we are now.

Overall, Allegan's health outcomes are ranked 12th in the state.

	Allegan County	Top US Performers	Michigan
Length of Life	5,595	5,317	7,254
Quality of Life			
Premature Death	13%	10%	14%
Poor or Fair Health	2.9	2.5	3.6
Poor Physical Health Days	3.7	2.4	3.7
Poor Mental Health Days	6.6%	6%	8.4%
Low Birth Weight			

Figure 6 (*4)

Health Factors: Clinical Care

Allegan ranks 48th for Clinical Care

	Allegan County	Top US Performers	Michigan
Uninsured	13%	11%	14%
Primary Care Providers	3,708:1	1,051:1	1,266:1
Dentists	4,346:1	1,439:1	1,557:1
Mental Health Providers	1,883:1	536:1	676:1
Preventable Hospital Stays	65	46	70
Diabetic Screening	86%	90%	85%
Mammography Screening	67%	71%	65%

Figure 7 (*4)

› There are benchmarks for how many providers are available per person. The primary care provider benchmark is 1,045:1. The dentist benchmark is 1,377:1 and the mental health provider benchmark is 386:1. **As you can see from the above chart, Allegan County is radically underserved in all of these areas.**

Health Factors: Health Behaviors

Overall, Allegan ranks 33rd for healthy behaviors.

	Allegan County	Top US Performers	Michigan
Adult Smoking	17%	14%	21%
Adult Obesity	32%	25%	31%
Food Environment Index	8.4	8.3	7.1
Physical Inactivity	23%	20%	23%
Access to Exercise Opportunities	65%	91%	84%
Excessive Drinking	21%	12%	20%
Alcohol Impaired Deaths	40%	14%	30%
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	282	134.1	453.6
Teen Births	30	19	29

Figure 8 (*4)

BRFSS 2015 Report

Health Status	Allegan %	Michigan %
General Health, Fair or Poor*	15.9	17.4
Poor Physical Health on at Least 14 Days in the Past Month	10.9	12.8
Poor Mental Health on at Least 14 Days in the Past Month*	13.3	12.2
Ever Told Had Depression by a Doctor	22.6	20.5

Health Care	Allegan %	Michigan %
No Personal Health Care Provider	17.4	15.9
No Healthcare Access in Last 12 Months due to Cost	12.1	14.2
No Health Care Coverage Among Those Aged 18-64 Years	17.1	14
No Routine Checkup in Past Year	33.4	28.8
Appropriate Colorectal Cancer Screening	69.9	71.5
Cholesterol Ever Checked	86.5	83.3
Ever Told High Cholesterol	37.8	39.4
Immunizations Among Adults Aged 65 Years and Older		
Had Flu Vaccine in Past Year	67.1	57.4
Ever Had Pneumonia Vaccine	79.7	70.2

Preventive Health Practices	Allegan %	Michigan %
Fruit and Vegetable Consumption		
Fruits (<1 time / day)	43.4	38.7
Vegetables (<1 time/day)	29.7	24.7
Fruits and Vegetables (≥5 times / day)	10.2	14.9
Always Use a Seatbelt	90.5	89.2
Adequate Physical Activity	19.6	19.5
Weight Status: Healthy Weight	28	32.4

Health Risk Behaviors	Allegan %	Michigan %
Cigarette Smoking		
Current Smoking	19.6	21.2
Former Smoking	28	26.7
Never Smoked	52.4	52.2
Alcohol Consumption		
Any Alcohol in Past Month	52.5	56.8
Heaving Drinking		6.5
Binge Drinking	17.5	18.8
No Leisure Time Physical Activity	25.4	25.1
Weight Status: Obese	31.4	31.1
Weight Status: Overweight	36.8	34.9

Figure 9 (*5)

CHILDREN

Kids Count

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE	NUMBER	PERCENT	MI RATE
Children with health insurance	28,114	96.1%	96.0%
Children, ages 0-18, insured by...			
• Medicaid	10,063	33.8%	39.4%
• MICHILD	636	2.1%	1.6%

Figure 10 (*6)

While Medicaid and Healthy Michigan health insurance are available in Allegan County, it is possible that the 4.5% uninsured children either (a) cannot afford the required co-pays, (b) do not know how to apply, or (c) are ineligible due to an undocumented status.

Suicide Data	2010	2012	2014	2016
Percentage of students who felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months ~				29.11%
Middle School	No data	25.5%	26.6%	25.0%
High School	32.8%	33.3%	32.1%	31.2%
Percentage of students who ever seriously considered attempting suicide				17.16%
Middle School	17.6%	19.9%	19%	16.5%
High School	15%	13.9%	18.9%	17.5%
Percentage of friends that have talked to you about suicidal thoughts they are having (focus group question only-2016)	44%- Yes	46%- No		
Percentage of students who know where to get a friend help, if they have talked to you about suicidal thoughts (focus group question only- 2016)	56%- Yes	40%- No		

Figure 11 (*7)





Lead in Allegan County Children

Lead continues to cause illness and injury, especially in children. Allegan County has older housing stock in the form of homes, apartments and other living environments. In addition, lead in water supplies is more common than previously realized. Other lead exposures may arise from hobbies, work place exposures, imported household products and medical remedies. Lead is a potent neurotoxin, and no safe blood lead level has been identified. Screening and testing are the first steps of case management. Only 15.1 % of children under age 6 who should be tested have been.

CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6			Children Tested		Blood Lead Level (µg/dL) †				BLL ≥5 venous samples		BLL ≥5 venous, capillary, unknown samples		
County	% pre-1950 housing	% pre-1978 housing	Population	N	%	<5	≥5 µg/dL Capillary, Unknown samples*	5-14 µg/dL Venous samples	≥15 µg/dL Venous samples	N	%	N	%
Allegan	21.0	51.1	8,514	1,287	15.1	1,239	40	**	**	8	0.6	48	3.7

Figure 12 (*8)

MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES BELOW AGE TWO

In 2015, 6.3% of Michigan Medicaid beneficiaries below the age of two had at least one dental visit.

County	2015 Percent
Allegan	5.1

➤ Only 5.1% of Allegan Medicaid beneficiaries, under age two have had least one dental visit in the calendar year.

Figure 13 (*9)

Births To Teens Under Age 20

Location	Data Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Allegan	Number	122	116	111	107	99
	Percent	8.5%	8.4%	8.2%	8.1%	7.3%

Figure 14 (*6)

Repeat Teen Births Ages 15-19

Location	Data Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Allegan	Number	19	18	15	14	13
	Percent	15.7%	15.4%	13.7%	12.9%	12.9%

Figure 15 (*6)

The Health Think Tank believes transportation is a barrier to accessing health services that likely impacts health outcomes for Allegan County residents, including:

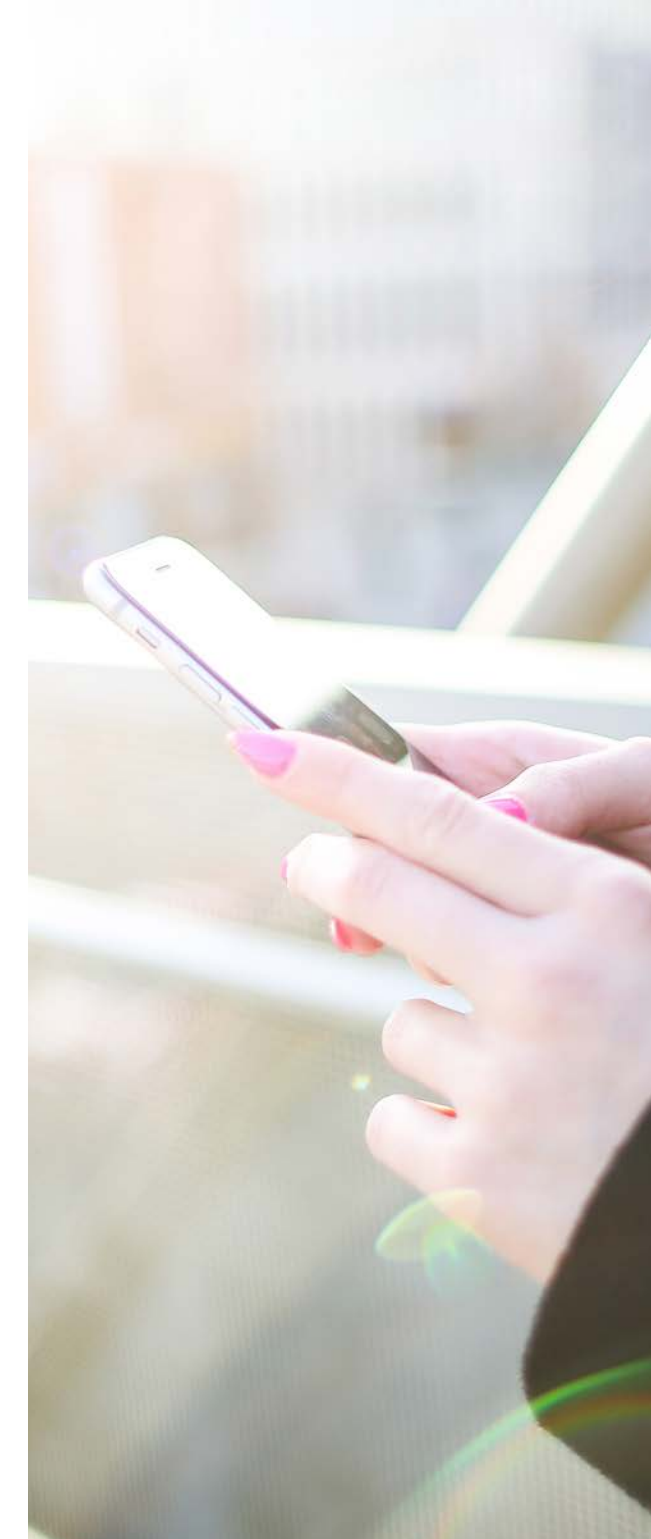
- Health Care Provider is out of Allegan County or out of the designated territory of the transportation service provider.
- Lack of transportation resources to cover the entire county
- Lack of public education regarding the capabilities of public transportation services
- Scheduling of a Health Care Provider’s appointments may not coincide with the availability of the public transportation’s schedule
- Individuals may need personal assistance with leaving their home or entering into the Health Care Provider’s facility.

2-1-1 Unmet Caller Needs	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Automotive Repair and Maintenance						9
Christmas Baskets		12		4	8	7
Community Shelters	5	7	5	4		
Dental Care Referrals						6
Electric Service Payment Assistance	32	45	53	12	14	9
Fans					5	6
Gas Money	5	5	5	7	7	14
Gas Service Payment Assistance	6	6	6			
Heating Fuel Payment Assistance		4	14			
Holiday Gifts/Toys	5	5	6	8	11	4
Home Maintenance and Minor Repair Services	5	9	18	6	8	15
Homeless Motel Vouchers	8	5				
Housing Search Assistance				5		
Information Services			4	6	5	
Medical Appointments Transportation					5	
Prescription Expense Assistance					6	
Rent Payment Assistance	16	17	5	4	8	7
Rental Deposit Assistance	9					
Residential Snow Shoveling			6			
Thanksgiving Baskets						6
Undesignated Temporary Financial Assistance	8					
Annual 211 unmet caller needs	99	115	122	56	77	83

211 Calls

➤ 57% of the unmet needs for 2016 were basic needs related

➤ 71% of our met needs in 2016 were basic needs related





The **TOP 3 ways** the assessment can be used:

- 1** Staff from Nonprofit and Human Service agencies use it to help guide their programs and leverage grant funding.
- 2** Presentations to groups such as local companies, churches, and other civic groups in order to help them focus their charitable and civic efforts on our community needs.
- 3** Printed and online versions of this document will help any citizen to learn about the needs in our community.

BASIC NEEDS

BASIC NEEDS

Sources

The following are the numbered sources for the Education section; they will be shown next to each figure in this format: (*1).

1. United Way ALICE Report - Michigan, April 2017
2. Allegan County 2-1-1/Gryphon Place
3. Kids Count Data Center, A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016
4. Feeding America West Michigan
5. Homeless Point-in-Time County 2016
6. MIHomeless.org
7. Allegan County Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA)
8. Allegan County Transportation
9. Interurban Transit Authority
10. Allegan County Senior Millage
11. Allegan County Transportation
12. Michigan League for Public Policy
13. Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan



BASIC NEEDS

In many cases, the ability to provide for your basic needs is related to financial stability, income and the cost of living in your community. The United Way ALICE study looks at the cost of living for a variety of family types by municipality, and compares that to the wages earned in that community. This 'ALICE Threshold,' or the ability to be able to afford to live in your community without support, is a good indicator of basic needs coverage. **ALICE is an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed**, comprising households with income above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost of living.

ALICE IN ALLEGAN COUNTY

2015 Point-in-Time Data

Population: 114,625 | **Number of Households:** 42,079
Median Household Income: \$55,250 (state average: \$51,084)
Unemployment Rate: 1.9% (state average: 7.2%)
ALICE Households: 26% (state average: 25%); **Poverty Households:** 11% (state average: 15%)

Figure 1 (*1)

Household Survival Budget, Allegan County

	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$576	\$713
Child Care	\$-	\$1,039
Food	\$184	\$609
Transportation	\$349	\$697
Health Care	\$184	\$707
Miscellaneous	\$149	\$406
Taxes	\$194	\$291
Monthly Total	\$1,636	\$4,462
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$19,632	\$53,544
Hourly Wage	\$9.82	\$26.77

Sources: 2015 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey; ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Michigan Department of Treasury; Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

Figure 2 (*1)

Although in the last few years the percentage of people living in poverty and the unemployment rate have both decreased, the number of working families living below the ALICE Threshold has increased from 35% to 37%, a total of more than 15,500 households in Allegan County struggling daily to provide for basic needs.

ISSUE AREAS:

- › Food
- › Shelter
- › Transportation
- › Exploitation, Abuse & Neglect
- › The Basic Needs of Seniors



Town	Population	House holds	Poverty %	ALICE %	Unemploy ment Rate	Housing Burden: % Owner over 30%	Housing Burden: % Renter over 30%
Allegan City	5,036	2,071	17%	35%	8.2%	14%	46%
Allegan Township	4,452	1,659	7%	30%	5.1%	17%	13%
Casco Township	2,895	1,048	13%	22%	13.1%	26%	19%
Cheshire Township	2,004	803	16%	23%	5.8%	16%	49%
Clyde Township	1,959		21%	37%	5.8%	22%	56%
Dorr Township	7,546	2,418	8%	21%	4.5%	15%	23%
Douglas City	1,113	537	9%	37%	6.2%	42%	25%
Fennville City	1,777	571	34%	28%	11.8%	36%	38%
Fillmore Township	2,708	964	15%	22%	3.3%	20%	38%
Ganges Township	2,576	1,077	10%	29%	4.4%	27%	17%
Gun Plain Township	5,952	2,147	9%	17%	6.9%	16%	24%
Heath Township	3,371	1,128	9%	20%	2.7%	17%	43%
Holland City	7,033	2,665	18%	32%	6.5%	32%	36%
Hopkins Township	2,649	927	7%	31%	6.8%	22%	26%
Laketown Township	5,600	2,311	5%	18%	2.8%	19%	32%
Lee Township	4,009	1,301	23%	31%	22.3%	25%	37%
Leighton Township	5,176	1,761	7%	16%	5.8%	12%	51%
Manlius Township	3,043	1,120	9%	25%	4.6%	27%	65%
Martin Township	2,647	922	13%	23%	5.5%	24%	18%
Monterey Township	2,373	832	14%	20%	8.1%	25%	19%
Otsego City	3,975	1,729	11%	40%	9.5%	26%	32%
Otsego Township	5,636	2,069	10%	28%	8.3%	22%	49%
Overisel Township	2,955	974	5%	21%	1.7%	15%	24%
Plainwell City	3,810	1,628	20%	28%	7.5%	15%	43%
Salem Township	4,589	1,535	5%	16%	1.6%	20%	54%
Saugatuck City	842	434	21%	17%	7.4%	38%	38%
Saugatuck Township	3,021	1,239	12%	18%	3.3%	16%	22%
Trowbridge Township	2,506	1,051	13%	25%	3.8%	15%	24%
Valley Township	2,067	793	10%	27%	4.2%	32%	44%
Watson Township	2,270	782	12%	23%	7.5%	25%	29%
Wayland City	4,109	1,434	12%	38%	5.5%	15%	49%
Wayland Township	3,138	1,230	10%	21%	2.0%	29%	25%

Figure 3 (*1)

› Seven of Allegan's municipalities have over 50% of residents living below the ALICE threshold. The range of Allegan municipalities residents below the ALICE threshold is 23% to 62%.

County	Total Households	Households below ALICE Threshold	Percent Households below ALICE Threshold Race/Ethnicity				Percent Households below ALICE Threshold AGE	ALICE Threshold	
			Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Seniors	ALICE Threshold Household under 65 years	ALICE Threshold Household 65 years and over
Allegan	42,079	37%	25%	55%	55%	36%	50%	\$45,000	\$35,000

Figure 4 (*1)

› The **Community Resources Index** from the ALICE study looks at the Key Indicators of Education Resources, Health Resources and Social Capital compared to other communities in Michigan.

› Allegan County resources are gaining ground on our peers and 2-1-1 data shows how many individuals are calling for services help. There are still many un-met service needs in our community.



When a call is received by 2-1-1 and the call specialists are able to give information on services that are available in their area, it is considered a **met need**. When a call specialist is unable to find a service for a caller, it is considered an **unmet need**. This, however, does not mean the caller meets the qualifications to receive the services. Some years indicate zero referrals indicating changes in funding streams for those services.

2-1-1 Caller Referrals	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Electric Service Payment Assistance	402	440	645	299	227
Food Pantries	113	122	137	138	135
Rent Payment Assistance	106	112	88	106	93
Housing Search Assistance	73	65	0	0	0
VITA Program Sites	64	0	41	43	32
Heating Fuel Payment Assistance	56	40	150	52	34
Community Shelters	54	34	51	54	54
General Legal Aid	50	0	0	0	45
Specialized Information and Referral	49	73	60	0	0
Home Rental Listings	35	34	0	0	0
Low Income/Subsidized Private Rental Housing	0	44	43	44	40
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers	0	37	0	0	0
Gas Service Payment Assistance	0	0	122	42	0
Undesignated Temporary Financial Assistance	0	0	56	49	35
Directory Assistance	0	0	0	36	37
Total Annual 2-1-1 referrals	1002	1001	1393	863	732

Figure 5 (*2)

› More than 70% of referrals made in 2016 were for basic needs

2-1-1 Unmet Caller Needs	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Automotive Repair and Maintenance					
Christmas Baskets		12		4	8
Community Shelters	5	7	5	4	
Dental Care Referrals					
Electric Service Payment Assistance	32	45	53	12	14
Fans					5
Gas Money	5	5	5	7	7
Gas Service Payment Assistance	6	6	6		
Heating Fuel Payment Assistance		4	14		
Holiday Gifts/Toys	5	5	6	8	11
Home Maintenance and Minor Repair Services	5	9	18	6	8
Homeless Motel Vouchers	8	5			
Housing Search Assistance				5	
Information Services			4	6	5
Medical Appointments Transportation					5
Prescription Expense Assistance					6
Rent Payment Assistance	16	17	5	4	8
Rental Deposit Assistance	9				
Residential Snow Shoveling			6		
Thanksgiving Baskets					
Undesignated Temporary Financial Assistance	8				
Annual 211 unmet caller needs	99	115	122	56	77

Figure 6 (*2)

› Almost 80% of the unmet needs were for basic needs

FOOD

Food – Immediate access to quality food and the ability to prepare it is a vital basic need, affecting the ability to work, learn and be healthy.

› The Feeding America ‘Map the Meal Gap’ 2016 study reported that there were 11,820 individuals that are ‘food insecure’ in Allegan County. Food insecurity means that at some point during the month the individual is at risk for skipping a meal or reducing the size of the meal due to lack of available food.

› Across the county the number of students that receive free and reduced price lunches at school since 2011 has stayed relatively steady at 40%. For these over 7,000 students the concern is for the meal availability in the evenings, weekends, holidays and during the summer. (Kids Count)

› The number of families receiving federal and state food support is **considerably less** than the number of food insecure individuals in Allegan County

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS NUMBER

Children receiving...

• Subsidized child care, ages 0–12 ¹	184
• FIP cash assistance ^{1,3}	350
• Food Assistance Program ^{1,4}	5,489
• Women Infants and Children (WIC)	4,916

¹ As of December 2014.
² Annual rate and number are based on the three-year period 2011–2013 and only for counties with a total number over 20.
³ Family Independence Program.
⁴ State name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called “food stamps.” Note: Percentages reflect percent of population unless otherwise noted.
 * Sometimes a rate could not be calculated because of low incidence of events or unavailable data. N/A not available.

Figure 7 (*3)

Students Eligible For Free Or Reduced Priced Lunch

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	7,291	7,717	7,671	7,140	7,053
	Percent	40.7%	43.0%	43.0%	40.3%	39.7%

Figure 8 (*3)

BASIC NEEDS

Food Insecurities Comments from Feeding America

"Food insecurity is slightly less prevalent in Allegan County than it is in the state of Michigan as a whole, though far too many Allegan County residents are still struggling to meet their basic needs. 10.5% of the population in Allegan County is food insecure, meaning they lack access, at times, to enough food for all members of their household to lead a healthy, active life. Among Allegan County children, 16.7%, or roughly 1 in 6, are food insecure. With the help of local partner agencies, Feeding America West Michigan provided 793,000 pounds of food in Allegan County in 2016."

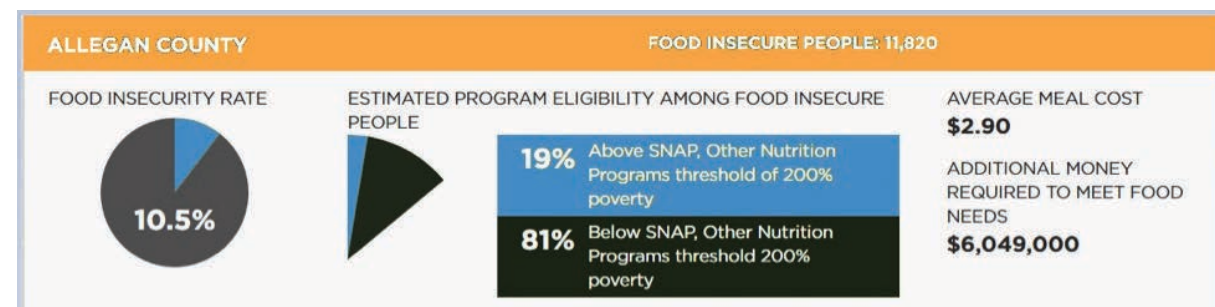


Figure 9 (*4)

SHELTER

Shelter – Immediate access to short-term, safe, affordable shelter is key to quality of life.

Economic Viability Dashboard, New Jersey, 2010 and 2015 1 = worse, 100 = better						
County	Housing Affordability		Job Opportunities		Community Resources	
	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010
Alcona	68	63	47	48	58	44
Alger	68	60	57	50	50	47
Allegan	74	42	85	64	54	51

› The Housing Affordability Dashboard shows on a scale of 0-100 (with higher numbers meaning conditions are better than in other parts of the state) shows Allegan with a 2015 score of 74, a drastic improvement over the 2010 recession number of 42.

› However, being a comparative number, this doesn't mean we have no housing issues.

Figure 10 (*1)

BASIC NEEDS

› Although this is reason to be optimistic, the Allegan County gap in affordable rental units is 5,354 units, with more than 1 in 3 renters paying more than 30% (housing burden) of their income to housing. In some communities in Allegan County, more than half of the population in "housing burden."

Housing Data by County, Michigan, 2015

County	Owner-Occupied	Percent Owned by HHs Below ALICE Threshold	Housing Burden: Percent Owners Pay more than 30% of Income	Renter-Occupied	Percent Rented by HHs Below ALICE Threshold	Housing Burden: Percent Renters Pay more than 30% of Income	Gap in Rental Units Affordable for All HHs Below ALICE Threshold	American Community Survey
Allegan	33,215	39%	16%	8,864	60%	36%	5,354	1-Year

Figure 11 (*1)

› A 2015 Allegan County Early Childhood survey reported that 29% of parents of young children viewed housing affordability as a top 3 issue in the community they were most concerned about.

Homeless PIT Count 2016

Adult & Child Households	Adult Only Clients	Total Unique Clients
48	8	56

Figure 12 (*5)

Breakdown of PIT Homeless

	Emergency Sheltered Clients	Transitional Housing Sheltered Clients	Unsheltered Clients	Total
Households	4	9	4	17 HH
Children under 18	8	16	6	30
Young Adults 18-24	0	0	3	3
Adults	4	9	2	15
Male	7	10	5	22
Female	5	15	6	26

Figure 13 (*5)

Two of the individuals in this count are considered 'chronically homeless veterans'

Homeless Emergency Shelters

There is no data related to how many individuals are sheltered in emergency shelters in Allegan County for a very simple reason – there are no traditional emergency homeless shelters in our county. Clients needing emergency shelter for homelessness (outside of domestic abuse shelter) are sent to Ottawa or Kalamazoo Counties. Theresa Bray, President of Allegan County Community Foundation provided the following discussion on the need for homeless shelters in Allegan County;

Allegan County has never had a homeless shelter. In part, because of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness; which dictated that future funding would be available for those shelters that were in existence prior to the Plan. The idea that no funds could be awarded from the state made it difficult to plan for a sustainable shelter.

There are a number of reasons why a shelter would be an asset to our homeless population in Allegan County.

› **Geographically:** A typical example is one where the client does not have transportation. Caseworkers may spend 2-3 hours getting to 1-2 clients each day. This cuts down on the amount of time and frequency that can be spent with each client and often times causes the caseworker to lose contact with the client because they have to move around so as not to remain in one place for fear of being arrested.

› **Safety:** the lack of a shelter in Allegan County results in referrals to either Holland, Grand Rapids or Kalamazoo. When transportation isn't available or gas money is not available, we have people sleeping in the forests and fields. Numerous studies have shown increased health concerns in the homeless. Last year we had a gentleman, his girlfriend and their dog living in a storage unit in Plainwell during brutal winter months. We knew about it - provided services of food and housing search, even dog food - but were unable to get them out of the storage unit. We have a couple who have been living in their van for three years. They shower at Love INC in Hamilton, receive food from local pantries, have been involved with housing services --- but due to mental illness, choose to stay on the streets. We recently placed a family of four, two teenage sons, in a hotel for four nights. The night before we housed them in the hotel, they were sleeping in a building on a mattress with mouse droppings. Both parents work full-time and earn minimum wage. We have had numerous single moms call for help from state/ parks. Even though they go through an intake process, the wait list is 6 months long for housing in Allegan County.

› **Care Delays:** Renewed Hope has seen homeless clients who don't have health insurance and their symptoms/injuries/illnesses are considerably advanced. Untreated diabetes, infections, pneumonia and other chronic health issues are quite common in the homeless population.

› **Dignity:** As if being homeless weren't bad enough, it is typical for a homeless person to be sent to two or three places (by phone or in person) before they reach the HARA - to be told there is no housing available. Even the idea of having clients call additional service providers, results in the loss of minutes on cell phones.

› **More than a shelter:** If there were a shelter in Allegan County the homeless would have greater access to caseworkers, employment training, employment opportunities, disability filing, veteran's services and so much more. A shelter in Allegan County would have the goal of moving people out of poverty. Both a gift to the client and the community.

2015 Unduplicated HARA Clients (Clients who sought homeless services)

	Total Clients	Adult Single	Unaccompanied Youth	Adults in Families	Children in Families
Unduplicated Count	495	141	3	140	223

Figure 15 (*7)

Last known Zip Code of Individuals Seeking Homeless Services from outside the county

Zip Code of Last Permanent Address(1136)	Total Unduplicated Clients
49010	48
49070	3
49078	5
49080	12
49323	6
49328	1
49348	13
49406	1
49408	23
49419	8
49450	17
49453	2
Total:	139

Figure 14 (*6)

All Clients Age	Total	Percentage
1. Newborn to 4	68	14.20%
2. 5 to 10	79	16.49%
3. 11 to 14	48	10.02%
4. 15 to 17	19	3.97%
5. 18 to 24	33	6.89%
6. 25 to 34	84	17.54%
7. 35 to 44	79	16.49%
8. 45 to 54	48	10.02%
9. 55 to 64	19	3.97%
99. 65 and up	2	0.42%
Sum:	479	100.00%

Figure 16 (*7)

DV Victim/Survivor	Total	Percentage
No (HUD)	274	61.71%
Yes (HUD)	167	37.61%
Client refused (HUD)	3	0.68%
Sum:	444	

Figure 17 (*7)

# Of Times On Streets, ES or SH in Past 3 Years	Total	Percentage
One time (HUD)	155	40.68%
Never in the 3 years (HUD)	132	34.65%
Four or more times (HUD)	43	11.29%
Three times (HUD)	32	8.40%
Two times (HUD)	19	4.99%
Sum:	381	
Percentage:		100.00%

Figure 18 (*7)

Housing Status	Total	Percentage
Category 1 - Homeless (HUD)	249	51.98%
At-risk of homelessness (HUD)	124	25.89%
Category 2 - At imminent risk of losing housing (HUD)	99	20.67%
Category 4 - Fleeing domestic violence (HUD)	7	1.46%
Sum:	479	

Figure 19 (*7)

Zip Code of Last Permanent Address (Overall Clients)	Total	Percentage
49010	179	36.09%
49450	59	11.90%
49408	49	9.88%
49080	36	7.26%
49348	36	7.26%
49078	27	5.44%
	27	5.44%
49423	12	2.42%
49056	11	2.22%
49328	9	1.81%

Figure 20 (*7)

TRANSPORTATION

› A 2017 United Way Key Stakeholder Survey of 92 Health & Human service professionals in Allegan County rated transportation as one of its top 3 issues facing residents.

Transportation – Consistent, reliable access to transportation to activities of daily living is essential quality of life.

The services currently available in Allegan County are:

Allegan County Transportation (ACT): Serving Allegan County since 2000. Their mission is to enhance and promote economic development and serve the transportation needs of Allegan County by providing safe, reliable, barrier-free travel. Allegan County Transportation has a reservation bus service that will come to your home or place of work. ACT connects people to jobs and services in designated areas of Allegan County. In addition to the general public service, Job Access, and Specialized Services, ACT also provides contracted service to several human service agencies. The goal is to meet the individual needs of people in the county who need transportation to and from work, agency services, medical appointments, or whatever their needs might be. **Please call (269) 673-4229.**

Allegan County Senior Services: Provides transportation to seniors, age 60 and older, persons with disabilities and veterans for medical and legal appointments, grocery shopping and errands. Door-to-door service is provided (depending on the mobility level of the senior) by volunteer drivers or a wheelchair friendly bus. Please allow 3-5 business days in advance of your request. Rides are prioritized using the following criteria: Medical appointments, nutritional appointments, legal appointments, and shopping and errands. **Please call (269) 686-5164.**

Community Action of Allegan County (CAAC): Volunteer drivers are available to drive seniors aged 60 and older to and from appointments in order of priority for medical, legal, nutritional or social purposes. Volunteer drivers are able to drive seniors to out of county medical appointments when necessary and provide door to door services. Requests should be given at least 48 hours in advance. Community Action of Allegan provides transportation for all of Allegan County. All transportation clients should contact Allegan County Senior Services. **Please call (269) 673-5472.**

Interurban Transit Authority (ITA): Interurban is a demand response public bus system providing transportation for the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas and in Saugatuck Township. Customers may request a ride anytime during business hours. The ride can be scheduled as early as in 15 minutes, or you can make a reservation for a specific time. We offer curb to curb service – we pick you up and drop you off anywhere in our service area. **Please call (269) 857-1418.**

Macatawa Area Express (MAX Transit): A small urban transit system that serves the greater Holland/Zeeland area with hourly fixed bus routes and complementary reserved ride demand response service for eligible passengers. Our mission is to create a sustainable transportation system to be used by all residents of the Macatawa area with linkages to other transit systems. **Please call (616) 355-1010.**

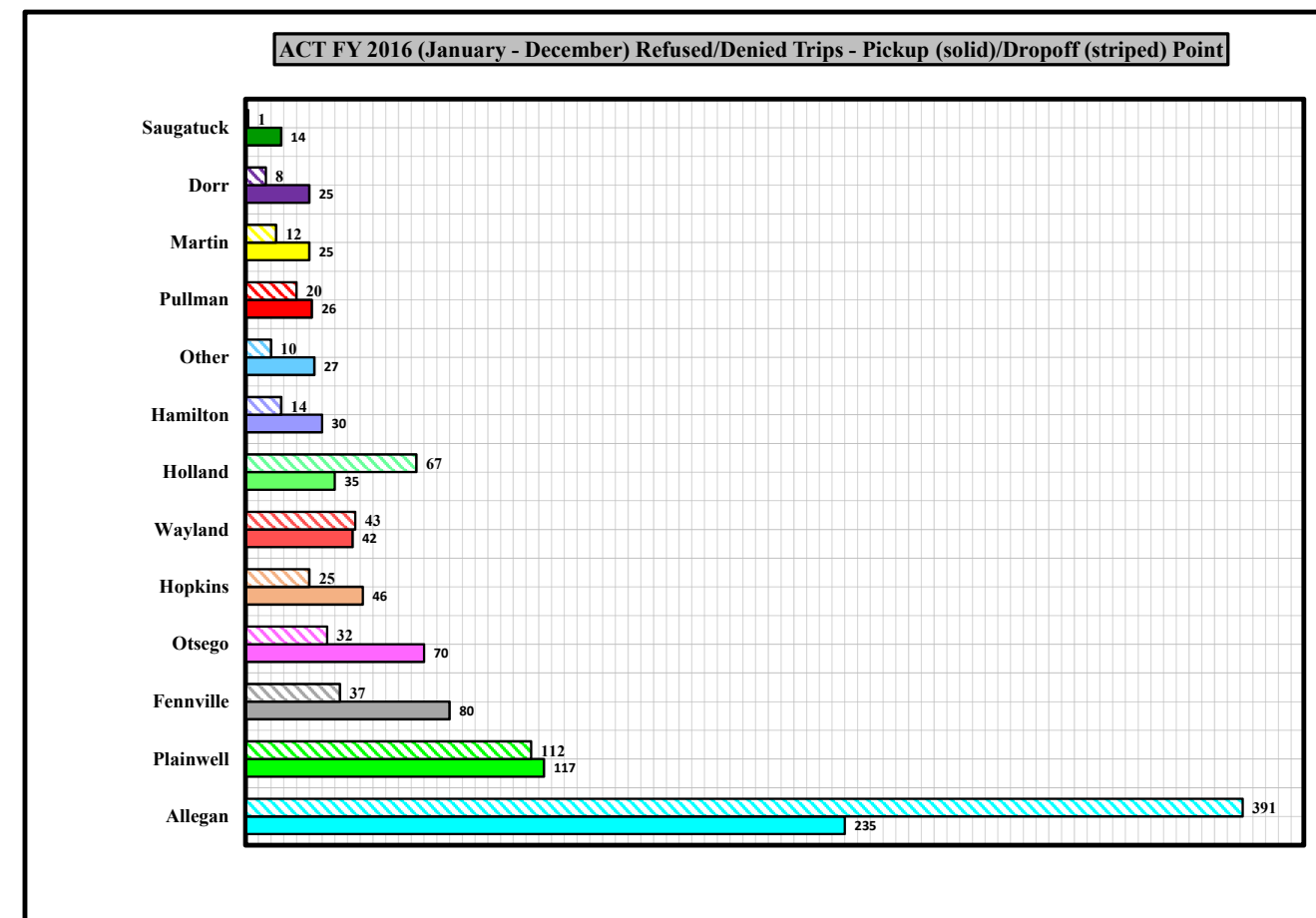


Figure 21 (*8)

Interurban Transit Authority
5 Year System Statistics

Year	Hours	Miles	Persons				Total Riders	Days Operated
			Regular Riders	Elderly Riders	with Disabilities	Elderly with Disabilities		
2012	11045	153023	43744	7536	7873	2331	61484	328
2013	11181	164415	49616	8119	5845	2065	65645	326
2014	11189	155189	47764	913	4550	2249	63676	329
2015	11270	152651	48813	8534	4289	2254	63890	336
2016	11440	158722	49155	8652	4857	2769	65433	337

Figure 22 (*9)



Volunteer Driver Pool

The Allegan County Senior Millage in partnership with Michigan Department of Transportation provides funding for seniors and persons with disabilities who are able to be safely transported in a personal vehicle. This program matches customers with volunteers who transport customers in their personal vehicles to and from appointments that support them in remaining independent in the community.

Senior Millage Transportation Miles 2012 - 2017

	2012			2013			2014			2015			2016			2017		
	Allegan Co	CAAC	Grand Total	Allegan Co	CAAC	Grand Total	Allegan Co	CAAC	Grand Total	Allegan Co	CAAC	Grand Total	Allegan Co	CAAC	Grand Total	Allegan Co	CAAC	Grand Total
January	1,420	8,775	10,195	808	8,002	8,810	1,198	16,494	17,692	1,551	13,491	15,042	2,788	10,566	13,354	4,792	7,139	11,931
February	1,678	11,593	13,271	920	8,054	8,974	1,971	12,199	14,170	1,457	12,354	13,811	1,387	9,526	10,913	6,028	3,952	9,980
March	1,852	13,715	15,567	565	8,430	8,995	1,836	16,651	18,487	1,659	14,180	15,839	3,431	9,283	12,714			0
April	1,287	8,017	9,304	508	9,455	9,963	2,235	16,592	18,827	1,033	17,502	18,535	5,007	11,090	16,097			0
May	1,584	10,229	11,813	970	7,526	8,496	883	14,357	15,240	1,616	14,281	15,897	4,099	8,615	12,714			0
June	1,171	10,994	12,165	1,663	7,368	9,031	1,305	14,908	16,213	1,925	14,751	16,676	2,685	12,807	15,492			0
July	1,331	8,947	10,278	1,651	12,515	14,166	1,299	16,319	17,618	3,169	16,773	19,942	4,427	12,383	16,810			0
August	1,171	7,212	8,383	1,430	11,621	13,051	883	11,772	12,655	2,349	12,653	15,002	4,425	13,038	17,463			0
September	1,700	6,248	7,948	1,247	13,834	15,081	1,872	13,371	15,243	3,197	15,280	18,477	1,985	11,637	13,622			0
October	1,160	7,767	8,927	986	14,872	15,858	825	15,874	16,699	1,848	12,861	14,709	5,996	8,874	14,870			0
November	850	7,868	8,718	1,499	12,793	14,292	1,936	12,920	14,856	2,265	11,444	13,709	5,510	6,887	12,397			0
December	776	11,001	11,777	1,117	9,489	10,606	1,120	15,877	16,997	3,264	13,842	17,106	4,001	8,286	12,287			0
Totals	15,980	112,366	128,346	13,364	123,959	137,323	17,363	177,334	194,697	25,333	169,412	194,745	45,741	122,992	168,733	10,820	11,091	21,911

Figure 23 (*10)

Allegan County Transportation Five year statistics

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Trips Per Year	41,576	43,711	49,851	54,365	55,336
Miles Per Year	624,625	580,698	663,609	682,624	655,146
Miles Per Trip	15.00	13.30	13.30	12.60	11.84
Hours Per Year	23,000	21,772	25,942	26,954	26,823
Hours Per Trip	1.81	2.01	1.92	2.02	2.06

Figure 24 (*11)

EXPLOITATION, ABUSE & NEGLECT

Prevention, Intervention and Services

Children Ages 0-17 In Investigated Families

Location	Data Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	1,566	NA	1,596	1,738	1,696	2,334	2,381	2,697	3,019

Figure 25 (*12)

Children Ages 0-17 Confirmed Victims of Abuse And/Or Neglect, Ages 0-17

Location	Data Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	316	NA	401	516	518	570	540	551	597

Figure 26 (*12)

Confirmed Victims Of Abuse And/Or Neglect, Ages 0-5

Location	Data Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	NA	NA	139	224	225	236	239	239	260

Figure 27 (*12)

Children Ages 0-17 In Out Of Home Care-Abuse Or Neglect

Location	Data Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allegan	Number	139	NA	122	118	127	121	95	108	131

Figure 28 (*12)

› A 2015 Allegan County Early Childhood survey reported that 34% of parents of young children viewed Child abuse/neglect as a top 3 issue in the community they were most concerned about

› Although economic conditions may impact the increase of neglect on child physical abuse cases, there is no indication that economic conditions play a role in the increase of child sexual abuse. Experts agree that the increased efforts of prevention and awareness helps adults to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse and teaches children how to tell safe adults about abuse they may be suffering.

› Nationally, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they reach the age of 18. Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center provides a safe place for an average of 175 children and teenagers to share their story of abuse and to participate in counseling, medical body safety exams, and advocacy services.



SENIORS AND BASIC NEEDS

Seniors and Basic Needs – The basic needs of seniors differ from that of younger populations.

Senior Services spans across a very broad spectrum ranging from the Baby Boomers to the children of the Great Depression. Seniors represent the fastest growing demographic to our population. By the year 2020, senior citizens will represent 20% of the adult population, and that number will increase to 35% by 2050.

The Baby Boomers have always presented a challenge by their sheer volume. By the 1990s, Boomers represented one third of the total population. Between the years 1990 and 2020, the senior population is projected to increase by 74%. The current number of long term care and assisted living facilities, senior housing, and available supportive services are critically insufficient to meet the growing need.

The older senior population is living far longer than ever before. In 2014 the number of Americans over the age of 100 was 72,197. This is a 44% increase from 2000 when there were 50,281 centenarians.

The majority of funding that is earmarked to provide basic needs to the senior population who remain living independently in our community comes from the Older American Act programs, the MI Choice Waiver Programs and the Allegan County Senior Millage. These programs provide basic needs such as Home Delivered Meals, Congregate Meals, Adult Day Care, Senior Transportation, Personal Emergency Response Systems, and In-home supports such as personal care, homemaking and respite care.

Allegan County has taken a proactive approach to providing for its senior residents by implementing a Senior Millage in 2006, which currently collects approximately 2 million annually and supports approximately 1000 clients in remaining in their homes. However, even with the most recent increase in 2015 from .24 mil to .437 mils, wait lists remain for most of the millage services.

Under the current Federal administration, the proposed budget for 2018 includes drastic cuts to senior programs which could potentially result in seniors currently on the federally funded programs funneling toward the millage funding and causing a spike to the current wait lists.

Clients by Service

Adult Day Services	23	3.66%
Homemaker	38	6.04%
Nutrition - Congregate Meals	99	15.74%
Nutrition - Home Delivered Meals	324	51.51%
Respite Services		
Homemaker	4	0.64%
In-Home	12	1.91%
Personal Care	2	0.32%
Transportation-Assisted	116	18.44%

Figure 29 (*13)

	AAAWM TOTAL	ALLEGAN COUNTY	Percentage
Clients Served	13,821	629	4.55%
Below Poverty		183	29.09%
Lives Alone		85	13.51%

Figure 30 (*13)

MI Choice Waiver Program

Nursing homes used to be the only choice for older or disabled persons who needed help caring for themselves. One program run by Michigan Medicaid is the MI Choice Waiver Program. It began in 1992 as the Home and Community Based Services for the Elderly and Disabled (HCBS/ED) waiver program.

- › In 2016, the Area Agency on Aging served 163 clients, 134 of whom were over the age of 65.
- › 92% were White; 1.8% were Hispanic; 1.8% were Black; with the remainder being multi-racial or American Indian
- › 69% are female
- › 46% are widowed; 22% are married; 20% are divorced
- › Almost 1 in 5 live below the poverty level, and the average monthly income for all clients served was \$1,529 per month, which would place a vast majority of the seniors served in the ALICE population.
- › 68% live in a home or apartment; 28% live in assisted living/board & care; 4% live in a long term care facility

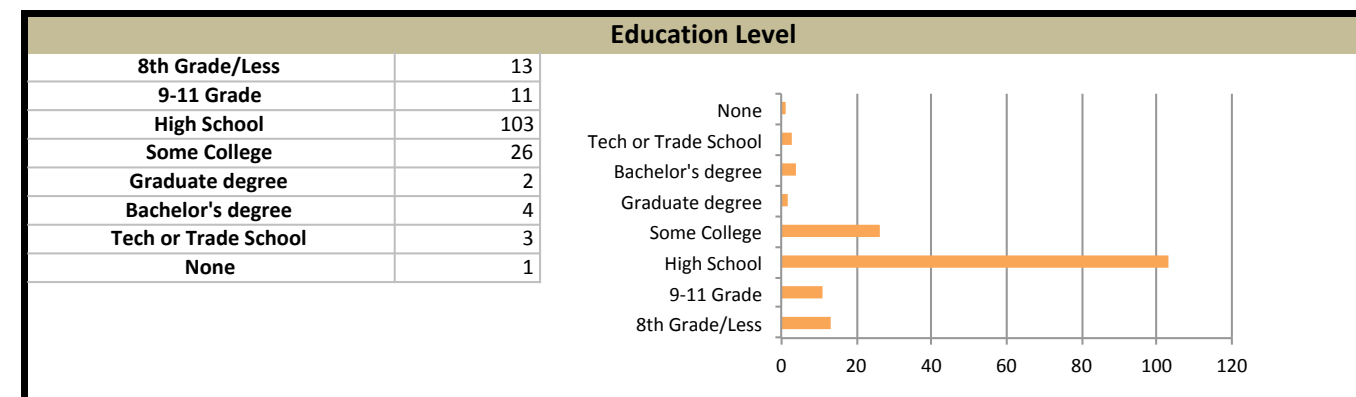


Figure 31 (*13)





FINAL THOUGHTS

This is the first Allegan County United Way Community Assessment to take a comprehensive county wide look at issues facing our residents in health & human services. High volumes of data were gathered and analyzed to result in this document, and all sources are referenced so that you can take a deeper dive into the issues and data points that are relevant to you and your organization.

It is our intent to complete this study every three years and present it to multiple groups around the county to create a better understanding of community issues, foster collaboration, be used in grant applications and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of agencies working on these issues.

In the next report we hope to take an even deeper dive into the data, potentially filling gaps in pre-existing data with new research, conducting a household survey to hear the voice of our community members and hosting community conversations and focus groups to create a broader context for the data.

Initially the report will be printed in limited quantities but available for all to see and download on multiple partner websites. In the future we hope for an interactive, drill-down capacity to the online version.

Contact Allegan County United Way to get involved further in the following ways:

- › Have the Community Assessment presented to your organization or group. We can provide presentations on the whole document or on specific sections.
- › Sponsor the assessment so that we can expand the service in all the ways stated in the final thoughts section.
- › Serve on the Steering Committee or Think Tanks for the next assessment.
- › Have United Way facilitate a community conversation or collaboration in your area.



*Funding for the 2017
Community Assessment was
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Allegan County Community Foundation

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