



2024 Shelby County Community Assessment

OnPointe.
STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

ILLUMINOLOGY

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Illuminology would like to thank the following Community Assessment Committee Members who were instrumental in completing this Community Assessment:

Scott Barr, *Habitat for Humanity of Miami and Shelby County*
Terri Becker, *Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services*
Andrew Bowser, *City of Sidney*
Dawn Eilert, *Sidney-Shelby County Chamber of Commerce*
Arthur Franklin, *City of Sidney*
Bob Guillozet, *Shelby County*
Jim Hill, *Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership*
Ashley Himes, *Shelby County United Way Board*
Chad Hollinger, *Sidney Department of Fire and Emergency Services*
Tina Hooks, *Shelby County JFS*
Erica Lentz, *Sidney-Shelby County Health Department*
Ryan Maier, *Houston Schools*
Roberta Mangen, *Sidney-Shelby County Health Department*
Mardie Milligan, *City of Sidney*
Brad Reed, *Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services*
Helen Scott, *Shelby County JFS*
Juli Smith, *Community Foundation of Shelby County*
Greg Snyder, *Sidney City Schools*
Marian Spicer, *Community Foundation of Shelby County*
Jenny VanMatre, *Sidney City Council*
Dmitri Williams, *Cornerstone*
Karla Young, *Shelby County United Way*

Additionally, we are grateful to all the youth and adult residents and community stakeholders of Shelby County who gave their time to provide their feedback.

INTRODUCTION

Shelby County United Way, the Community Foundation of Shelby County, the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department, and the Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services contracted with OnPointe Strategic Insights (a strategic planning firm) and Illuminology (a research firm) to conduct this community assessment. The assessment was guided by the Shelby County Community Assessment Committee (Assessment Committee), a workgroup of local stakeholders representing a diverse array of organizations.

(1) Prepare to assess / generate questions. The Assessment Committee held four meetings to plan and prepare for this assessment: an in-person kickoff was held on September 13, 2023, and additional meetings occurred on October 30, 2023, December 13, 2023, January 10, 2024, and February 14, 2024. During these meetings, facilitators and the committee worked together to identify secondary data sources, brainstorm potential question concepts, plan outreach efforts, and approve final versions of the questionnaires and marketing materials used in the assessment.

(2) Collect secondary data. Secondary data for this community assessment came from national sources (e.g., U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: *Healthy People 2030*; U.S. Census Bureau), state sources (e.g., Ohio Department of Health's Data Warehouse), and local sources (e.g., Wilson Health Hospital and Emergency Department, Sidney-Shelby County Health Department). All secondary data sources are identified in the References section in Appendix A. To ensure community stakeholders are able to use this report to make well-informed decisions, only the most recent data available at the time of report preparation are presented. To be considered for inclusion in the *Shelby County 2024 Community Assessment*, secondary data must have been collected or published in 2017 or later.

(3) Collect and analyze primary data from adult residents. Illuminology created draft and final versions of an online Community Survey and iterated with the Assessment Committee to finalize the instrument. The Assessment Committee worked with local organizations and businesses to promote the survey throughout Shelby County. Illuminology worked with a graphic designer to prepare marketing materials, including a full-page flyer, a half-page flyer, and stickers that were used to let residents know about the survey. These materials included a QR code that residents could use to access the online survey.

United Way of Shelby County created a survey website that was publicized throughout the community by Assessment Committee Members who posted the link on their websites, social media sites, and in newsletters and other communications. A link to the website was also sent to their partners and personal and professional contacts. Some organizations facilitated survey completion with clients via hard copies of the survey; these surveys were then entered into the online survey platform by volunteers and analyzed by Illuminology.

In total, 1,165 Shelby County adult residents completed the survey, or 2.4% of the total population of Shelby County. Because this was an opt-in survey (meaning no random sampling was employed), we cannot provide a margin of error around the results and they should be considered as providing directional guidance, similar to what one would expect from qualitative research methodologies. See Appendix C for a copy of the final instrument.

4) Collect and analyze primary data from Shelby County youth. Working from the adult Community Survey, Illuminology created draft and final versions of an abbreviated survey of youth in Shelby County.

Assessment Committee members circulated this link to youth advisory boards and throughout local high schools in Shelby County.

In total, 689 Shelby County youth residents completed the survey. Because this was an opt-in survey (meaning no random sampling was employed), we cannot provide a margin of error around the results and they should be considered as providing directional guidance, similar to what one would expect from qualitative research methodologies. See Appendix C for a copy of the final instrument.

5) Collect and analyze primary data from community stakeholders. Based on preliminary analyses of the issues adults in Shelby County saw as most important, Illuminology created draft and final key stakeholder surveys. This survey asked key stakeholders from the community, including *system leaders, organizational leaders, and the Community Assessment Committee members* what they saw as the most important problems facing the County. The survey also collected stakeholder input on the barriers and resources within the County for addressing five concerns that rose to the top amongst adult residents, specifically the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs; the lack of affordable housing; residents not having enough money for basic needs, including healthy food; the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare; and the lack of mental health care providers.

In total, 72 Shelby County stakeholders completed the survey. Because this was an opt-in survey (meaning no random sampling was employed), we cannot provide a margin of error around the results and they should be considered as providing directional guidance, similar to what one would expect from qualitative research methodologies. See Appendix C for a copy of the final instrument.

6) Share results with the community. This report presents the analysis and synthesis of all secondary, primary, and community outreach data collected during this effort. It will be posted on the website Shelby County United Way created to allow residents to participate in the adult survey (<https://shelbycountyneeds.com/>). This report will be used in subsequent community prioritization and planning efforts and will be widely distributed to organizations that serve and represent residents in the County.

Community Profile

This section describes the demographic and household characteristics of the population in Shelby County, which is located in western Ohio.

Shelby County was founded about 200 years ago and covers 411 square miles. Sidney is the seat of this county. Due to rounding error, some percentages in tables throughout the report may not sum to 100.



Table 1: Resident Demographics¹

		Shelby County	Ohio
Total Population	Total population	47,671	11,756,058
	Gender		
	Male	50.6%	49.4%
	Female	49.4%	50.6%
Age	Under 18 years	23.9%	21.8%
	18-24 years	8.2%	9.1%
	25-44 years	22.6%	25.6%
	45-64 years	25.6%	25.1%
	65 years and over	19.8%	18.4%
Race	White	92.2%	77.1%
	Black / African American	1.8%	12.0%
	American Indian / Alaskan Native	.6%	.2%
	Asian	0%	2.5%
	Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	0%	0%
	Some other race	1.1%	1.7%
Ethnicity	Hispanic/Latino (any race)	1.7%	4.4%
	Not Hispanic/Latino	98.3%	95.6%
Marital Status*	Never married	22.9%	33.5%
	Now married (not currently separated)	60.1%	47.3%
	Divorced/separated	8.2%	13.2%
	Widowed	8.8%	6.0%

¹Denominator is population 15 years and over

Table 2: Resident Households

		Shelby County	Ohio
Total Households¹	Number of households	18,877	4,878,206
Household Relationships*	Married-couple family household¹	59.9%	44.6%
	<i>With own children under 18</i>	45.2%	31.6%
	Cohabiting couple household²	9.5%	7.5%
	<i>With own children under 18</i>	2.8%	2.5%
	Male householder, no spouse present¹	2.4%	4.7%
	<i>With own children under 18</i>	3.2%	3.7%
	Female householder, no spouse present¹	5.4%	11.9%
	<i>With own children under 18</i>	7.1%	11.7%
Grandparents As Caregivers²	Household with grandparents living with grandchildren*	2.6%	3.0%
	<i>Household with grandparent responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years**</i>	72.2%	43.6%
	<i>Household with grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years**</i>	27.8%	56.4%
Household Size²	Average household size	2.6	2.4
	Average family size	3.1	3.0
Ages of People Within Household^{2*}	Households with 1 or more people under 18 years	31.8%	28.5%
	Households with 1 or more people 60 years and over	40.7%	41.3%
Household Income^{1*}	Less than \$20,000	9.6%	13.9%
	\$20,000 - \$39,999	13.1%	16.1%
	\$40,000 - \$59,999	14.9%	15.7%
	\$60,000 - \$99,999	30.0%	23.2%
	\$100,000 - \$149,999	20.2%	16.0%
	\$150,000 - \$199,999	6.5%	7.4%
	\$200,000 or more	5.7%	7.7%
Transportation^{2*}	Households without a vehicle	3.6%	7.4%

Superscripts indicate data source - see the list of sources in Appendix A.

*Denominator is total households

**Denominator is households with grandparents living with grandchildren

Table 3: Residents - Disability Information¹

		Shelby County	Ohio
Disability Status*	Total with a disability	12.2%	14.4%
	Under 18 years	1.2%	1.2%
	18 to 64 years	5.8%	7.3%
	65 years and over	5.1%	5.9%
Disability By Type**	Hearing difficulty	24.6%	26.3%
	Vision difficulty	15.1%	16.5%
	Cognitive difficulty	38.2%	40.7%
	Ambulatory difficulty	50.8%	47.9%
	Self-care difficulty	11.5%	16.2%
	Independent living difficulty	36.1%	34.9%
Languages Spoken^{2***}	Speak only English	98.4%	94.6%
	Speak language other than English	1.6%	5.4%
	Speak Spanish	.8%	1.7%
	Speak other languages	.8%	3.7%

¹Denominator is civilian noninstitutionalized population

²Denominator is civilian noninstitutionalized population with a disability

³Denominator is population age 18 and over

Survey Respondents

An overview of key demographics of the Community Survey respondents is provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Survey Sample Demographics for which Census Benchmarks are Available - Adults 18+

		Survey <i>n=1,084</i>	Shelby County (Census Data)²
Gender	Male	31%	51%
	Female	69%	49%
	Nonbinary	<1%	n/a
		Survey <i>n=1,043</i>	Shelby County (Census Data)²
Age	18-34	17%	27%
	35-44	24%	15%
	45-54	25%	17%
	55-64	18%	18%
	65+	17%	23%
	Median age	48	40.2
		Survey <i>n=1,064</i>	Shelby County (Census Data)²
Educational Attainment	<i>High School / GED or less</i>	19%	53%
	<i>Some college/Associate's degree</i>	34%	29%
	<i>Bachelor's degree</i>	24%	12%
	<i>Graduate or professional degree</i>	23%	6%
		Survey <i>n=1,102</i>	Shelby County (Census Data)²
Race / Ethnicity*	<i>White</i>	94%	92%
	<i>Black or African American</i>	2%	2%
	<i>American Indian or Alaskan Native</i>	1%	1%
	<i>Asian</i>	<1%	<1%
	<i>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</i>	<1%	<1%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	1%	1%
	<i>Some other race</i>	2%	1%
		Survey <i>n=1,076</i>	Shelby County (Census Data)²
Own or Rent Home	Own	85%	74%
	Rent	15%	26%

* Census data is for the number of people reporting they are only each race/ ethnic category. Survey participants were instructed to check all races/ethnicities that apply.

Table 5: Survey Sample Demographics for which Census Benchmarks are Not Available - Adults

		Survey n=1,084
General Health	<i>Excellent</i>	19%
	<i>Very Good</i>	47%
	<i>Good</i>	26%
	<i>Fair</i>	7%
	<i>Poor</i>	<1%
		Survey n=1,067
Years Lived in Shelby County	<i>Average</i>	36
	<i>Median</i>	36
		Survey n=1,082
School District of Residence	<i>Anna</i>	7%
	<i>Botkins</i>	3%
	<i>Fairlawn</i>	2%
	<i>Fort Loramie</i>	10%
	<i>Hardin-Houston</i>	9%
	<i>Jackson Center</i>	5%
	<i>Russia</i>	2%
	<i>Sidney</i>	61%
	<i>Other</i>	<1%

Youth Demographic Information

With regard to the Youth and Key Stakeholder Surveys, no demographic comparisons are possible because we did not attempt to survey all youth and there is no defined population for the key stakeholders. See Table 6 for Youth Survey demographics.

Table 6: Survey Sample Demographics for Youth Respondents

		Survey n=653
Gender	Male	49%
	Female	50%
	Nonbinary	2%
		Survey n=635
Age	14-15	13%
	16	31%
	17	29%
	18-19	26%
	Median age	17
		Survey n=653
School District of Residence	<i>Anna</i>	<1%
	<i>Botkins</i>	2%
	<i>Fairlawn</i>	1%
	<i>Fort Loramie</i>	15%
	<i>Hardin-Houston</i>	2%
	<i>Jackson Center</i>	6%
	<i>Russia</i>	8%
	<i>Sidney</i>	66%
<i>Other</i>	<1%	

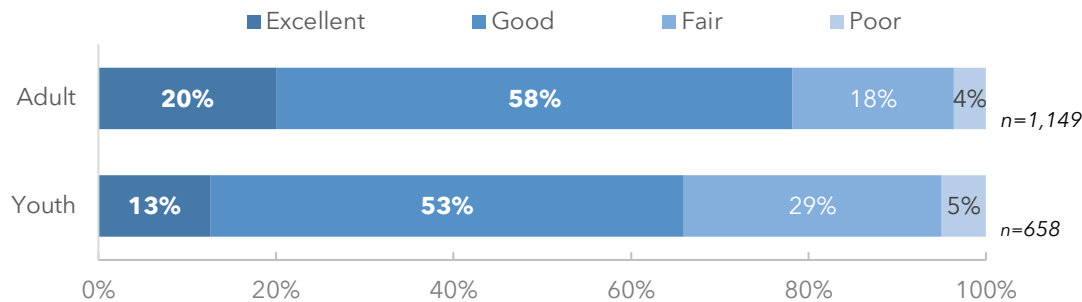
Subgroup Differences. After analyzing the topline/overall responses to each questionnaire item, ordinary least squares (OLS) regressions and crosstabulation analyses were conducted to explore whether there were any statistically significant differences¹ in responses across different groups of respondents. The subgroups compared in these analyses included gender, educational attainment (which is a proxy variable for socioeconomic status because education and SES are correlated), and school district.

¹ A statistically significant difference is one that is unlikely to have been caused by chance alone (p<.05).

OVERALL OPINIONS ABOUT SHELBY COUNTY

Respondents to the Community and Youth Surveys were asked to provide an overall rating of the quality of life in Shelby County. As shown in Figure 1, many Shelby County residents had positive opinions about their County, although adults are more positive about this than the youth. Almost four-fifths of adult residents (**78%**) and **66%** of youth residents said the quality of life in Shelby County is “excellent” or “good”.²

Figure 1: Community Survey Rating Of Quality Of Life In Shelby County



Education: More educated adult residents reported a **higher** quality of life compared to less educated residents.

- 87% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree said the quality of life was excellent or good, compared to 71% of those with less education.



School district: Adult and youth residents in the Sidney school district reported a **lower** quality of life compared to residents who live outside the Sidney school district. The differences were especially pronounced amongst youth.

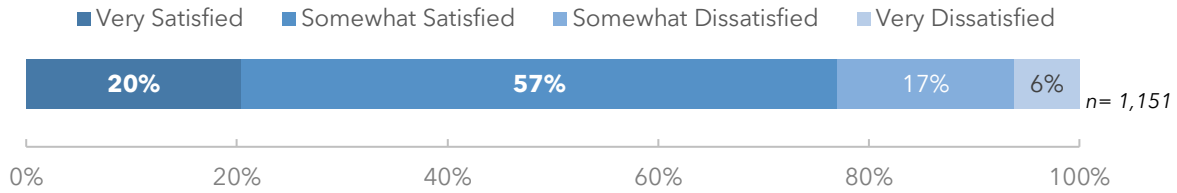
- 71% of adults and 55% of youth who live in the Sidney school district said the quality of life was excellent or good, compared to 90% of adults and 88% of youth in other school districts.

Gender: No statistically significant differences were observed between genders.

² The 2022 Shelby County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) included a similar question asking residents to complete the statement, “I think Shelby County is a _____ place to live”. Results were similar, with 87% of respondents saying it is a “very healthy” or “healthy” place to live and 13% saying it is an “unhealthy” or “very unhealthy” place. Source: Shelby County Health Coalition, Community Themes and Strength Assessment, 2022.

Adult residents were asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they are with the way things are going in Shelby County. The vast majority (**77%**) of residents said they are very or somewhat satisfied.

Figure 2: Satisfaction With The Way Things Are Going In Shelby County



Education: More educated respondents are **more** satisfied with the way things are going in Shelby County compared to less educated respondents.

- 87% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree said they are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the way things are going in Shelby County, compared to 67% of those with less education.


*Differences
Observed*

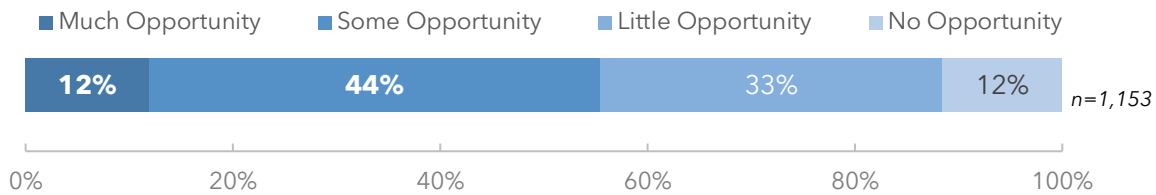
School district: Residents in the Sidney school district are **less** satisfied with the way things are going in Shelby County compared to residents who live in other school districts.

- 71% of adults who live in the Sidney school district said they are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the way things are going in Shelby County, compared to 87% in other school districts.

Gender: No statistically significant differences were observed between genders.

Adult residents were also asked how much opportunity they feel they have to affect what happens in Shelby County. Over half (**56%**) of residents feel they have at least some opportunity to affect what happens.

Figure 3: Opportunity To Affect What Happens In Shelby County



Education: More educated respondents feel they have **more** ability to effect change than less educated respondents.

- 65% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree said they have much or some opportunity to effect change, compared to 47% of those with less education.



School district: Residents in the Sidney school district feel they have **less** ability to effect change compared to residents who live in other school districts.

- 50% of adults who live in the Sidney school district said they have much opportunity or some opportunity to effect change, compared to 63% in other school districts

Gender: Women feel they have **less** ability to effect change compared to men and nonbinary residents.

- 51% of women residents said they have much opportunity or some opportunity to effect change, compared to 64% of men and nonbinary residents.

What Residents Like About Life in Shelby County

Shelby County residents who participated in the Community and Youth Surveys were asked to identify, in their own words, what they liked the most about living in Shelby County. These responses were coded by researchers into categories.

Overall, the most common responses among adults and youth were:

- **The small-town/rural feel of the County** (**43%** of adults and **19%** of youth said this)
- **The sense of community among people** (**32%** of adults and **27%** of youth said this)
- **Local amenities and resources** such as public services, shopping, dining, and entertainment (**15%** of adults and **10%** of youth said this)
- **Personal connections within the community** such as long-term or lifelong residence or proximity to family and friends (**11%** of adults and **18%** of youth said this)

Table B.1 in Appendix B provides full set of categories into which responses were coded.

The next tables contain selected adult and youth responses fitting into the most commonly mentioned categories above.

 **Community Voices:
What Adults Like Most About Living in Shelby County**
Verbatim comments from the *Community Survey*

Small Town Feeling	<p>"Small towns, rural area where you know most people."</p> <p>"I enjoy the small community aspect."</p>
Sense of Community	<p>"Close knit communities!"</p> <p>"The way there are so many people willing to give their time to someone who needs help. Whether it be a hand or a smile."</p>
Local Amenities	<p>"The small town community with the places to eat, shop, and businesses we use on a daily basis. Love having great places local to go to."</p> <p>"Living in Sidney...a small town with access to retailers, groceries, health care, great park system, lots of job opportunities and professional services as needed."</p>
Personal Connections Within the Community	<p>"I love our small community. Been my home forever along with my family."</p> <p>"Was born and raised here as were my parents and grandparents."</p>

 **Community Voices:
What Youth Like Most About Living in Shelby County**
Verbatim comments from the *Youth Survey*

Sense of Community	<p>"Our small communities are caring and supportive of one another."</p> <p>"I love how there is a good community where everyone knows everyone and you can always feel safe. You also always know that people are there for you if you need anything."</p>
Small Town Feeling	<p>"I like living in a smaller city without lots of traffic or people."</p> <p>"I would have to say the parks and the open space that allows you to see the sunset/rise."</p>
Personal Connections Within the Community	<p>"Growing up with friends whose parents grew up with my own. And getting to relive some of the same memories they had when they were younger."</p> <p>"The way teens can meet people all throughout the county. Everyone has friends from other schools."</p>

What Makes Shelby County Feel Like Home

Adult and youth respondents answered the question about what makes Shelby County feel like home in a similar way, with many residents citing:

- **Family and heritage connections within the County** such as long-term or lifelong residency or family members who live in the County (**48%** of adults and **39%** of youth said this)
- **A strong sense of community**, marked by high community involvement, shared values, and friendly and helpful residents (**32%** of adults and **24%** of youth said this)
- **Other personal connections within the community** such as friends, neighbors, and faith communities; employment within the community; or involvement in local schools, sports, or volunteering (**23%** of adults and **19%** of youth said this)
- **Shelby County’s small-town/rural feel** (**15%** of adults and **8%** of youth said this)

Table B.2 in Appendix B provides full set of categories into which responses were coded. The next tables contain selected adult and youth responses fitting into the most commonly mentioned categories above.

 Community Voices: Adults on What Makes Shelby County Feel Like Home Verbatim comments from the <i>Community Survey</i>	
Family and Heritage Connections	“Family. Many generations of family living here.” “Born and raised here, left for college, came HOME and worked for 33 years supporting everything possible for it to continue to be a place I want to live.”
Sense of Community	“When something happens in the community people are quick to come together and support one another.” “Close knit friendships between neighbors. Small community means you have a better chance at knowing the families around you including the families of your children’s friends.”
Other Personal Connections Within the Community	“Because I have family here and a great church. I feel very safe in the township I live in. Very nice neighbors too.” “Being an outsider and not originally from this county I have been able to meet a lot of people through my employment and interface with multiple people in the different activities I am involved in.”
Small Town Feeling	“The small community. We don’t have a lot of hustle and bustle around Shelby County. It’s nice to live in a small, rural county.” “Small communities where everyone knows each other and cares for one another.”



Community Voices: Youth on What Makes Shelby County Feel Like Home

Verbatim comments from the *Community Survey*

Family and Heritage Connections

"I was born and raised in Shelby County, so the memories I have here is what makes Shelby County feel like home."

"My dad's side has lived in Shelby County for over 4 generations and I've always called it home."

Other Personal Connections Within the Community

"I grew up here. I have friends and family here and a church body I have been a part of for around 16 years."

"Being able to recognize so many people in the area. Basketball games are such a fun social event to be able to go watch your team and talk to some of the kids from that school because you know them and are friends with them."

Sense of Community

"The community is fairly connected, a lot of people in town go out of their way to help each other."

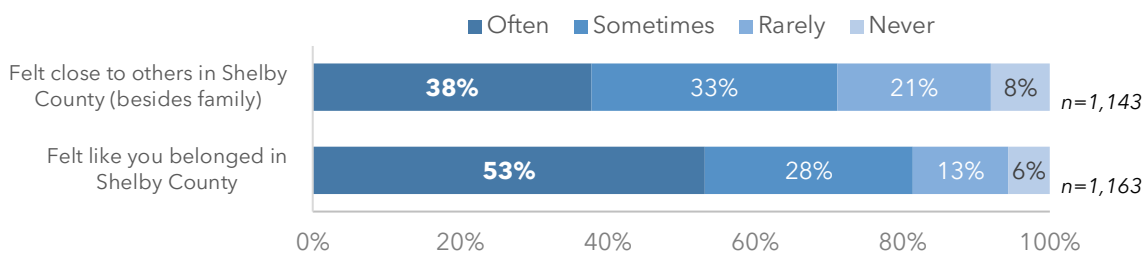
"How kind and welcoming most people are in Shelby County."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN SHELBY COUNTY

Several questions were asked to better understand how much residents are engaged in the County. Two primary concepts were measured in these questions - feelings of belonging and behavioral indicators of community engagement.

Adult residents were asked how many times in the past twelve months they felt close to others (not including their family members) and how often they felt they belonged in Shelby County. High percentages of respondents said they felt this way sometimes or often (**71%** for feelings of closeness and **81%** for feelings of belonging). Only **8%** of respondents said they never feel close to others in the community and only **6%** said they feel like they never belonged there.

Figure 4: Feelings Of Closeness and Belonging in Shelby County



Education: More educated residents reported **more** frequent feelings of closeness and belonging in Shelby County compared to less educated residents.

- 80% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree said they felt close to others in Shelby County often or sometimes, compared to 63% of those with less education.
- 88% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree said they felt like they belonged in Shelby County often or sometimes, compared to 75% of those with less education.


Differences Observed

School district: Residents in the Sidney school district reported **less** frequent feelings of closeness and belonging compared to residents who live outside the school district.

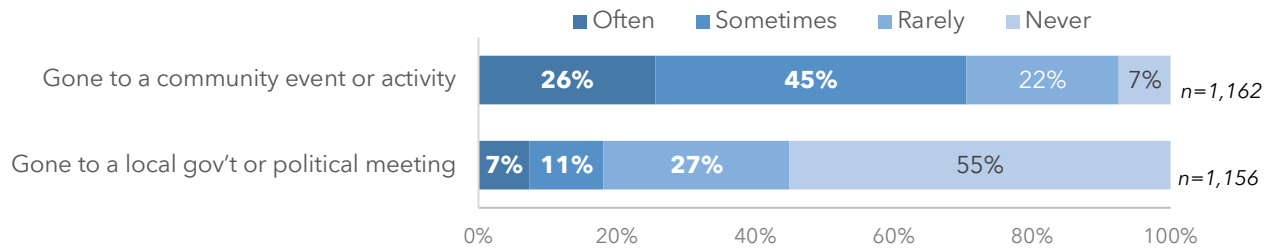
- 66% of adults who live in the Sidney school district said they felt close to others in Shelby County often or sometimes, compared to 80% in other school districts.
- 76% of adults who live in the Sidney school district said they felt like they belonged in Shelby County often or sometimes, compared to 91% in other school districts.

Gender: No statistically significant differences were observed between genders.

Adult residents were also asked about two potential behavioral indicators of this sense of belonging and closeness - attending community events and government and political meetings.

While residents commonly attend community events, they are much less likely to attend government or political meetings. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (**71%**) said they sometimes or often attend community events while only **18%** said this about government and political meetings.

Figure 5: Resident Attendance At Community Events And Government And Political Meetings



Education: More educated residents reported attending both community events and government and political meetings **more** frequently compared to less educated residents.

- 81% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree said they've gone to a community event or activity often or sometimes, compared to 62% of those with less education
- 24% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree said they've gone to a local government and political meeting often or sometimes, compared to 15% of those with less education.



School District: Residents in the Sidney school district reported attending both community events and government and political meetings **less** frequently compared to residents who live outside the school district.

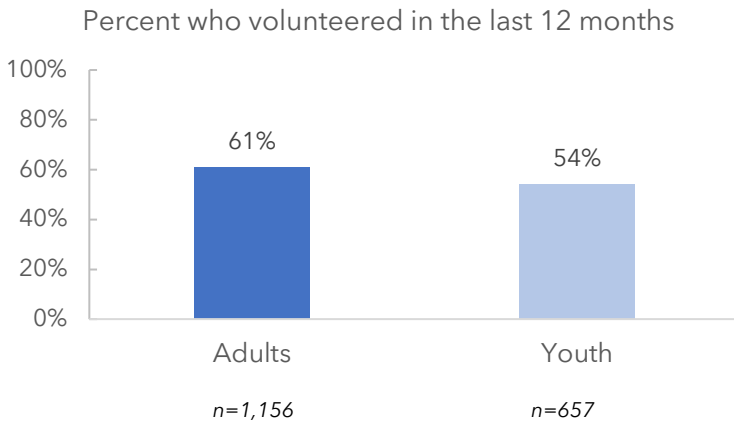
- 68% of adults who live in the Sidney school district said they've gone to a community event or activity often or sometimes, compared to 76% in other school districts
- 16% of adults who live in the Sidney school district said they've gone to a local government and political meeting often or sometimes, compared to 23% in other school districts.

Gender: Men and nonbinary residents reported attending government and political meetings **more** frequently compared to women.

- 27% of men and nonbinary residents said they've gone to a local government and political meeting often or sometimes, compared to 15% of women residents.

Both adults and youth were asked about volunteering in their community, another behavioral indicator of engagement. More than half of all residents (**61%** of adults and **54%** of youth) said they have volunteered in the community in the last 12 months.

Figure 6: Volunteerism In Shelby County



Education: More educated adult residents were more likely to report volunteering compared to less educated adult residents.

- 75% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree said they volunteered in the last 12 months, compared to 50% of those with less education.



School District: Adult and youth residents in the Sidney school district were less likely to report volunteering compared to residents who live outside the school district.

- 56% of adults and 40% of youth who live in the Sidney school district said they volunteered in the last 12 months, compared to 72% of adults and 82% of youth in other school districts.

Gender: Men and nonbinary adult residents were more likely to report volunteering compared to adult women.

- 68% of men and nonbinary adult residents said they volunteered in the last 12 months, compared to 59% of women residents.

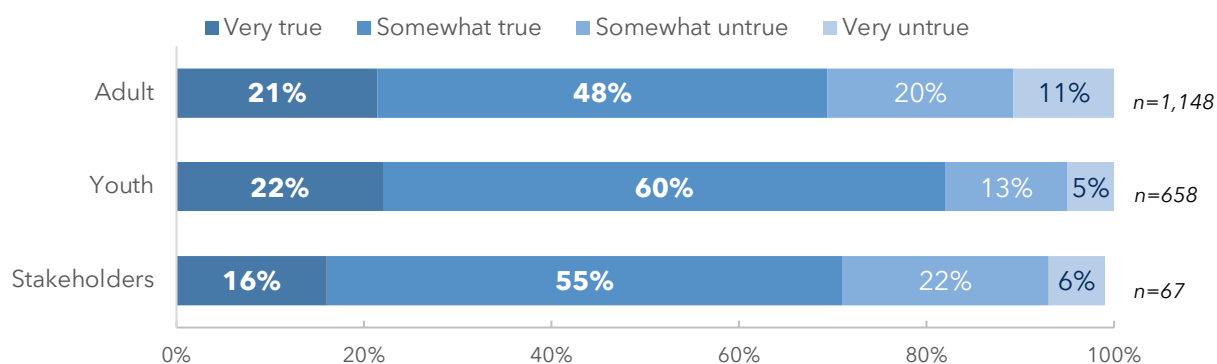
HEALTH EQUITY IN SHELBY COUNTY

Measuring resident beliefs in health equity was identified by Committee members as an area of focus.³ The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation defines health equity as a state where “everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.”⁴ To better understand residents’ perspectives on health equity in Shelby County, the 2024 Community Assessment asked adult residents, youth residents, and key stakeholders how true the following statement was:

“Everyone in Shelby County has a fair and just opportunity to achieve their highest level of physical, emotional and mental health.”

As Figure 7 shows, most respondents rated the statement at least “somewhat true.” Youth are slightly more optimistic about health equity compared to adults and stakeholders, **82%** of youth rated the statement at least “somewhat true” compared to **71%** of stakeholders and **69%** of adults.

Figure 7: Community Belief in Health Equity in Shelby County



Education: More educated residents are **more likely** to believe this statement is true compared to less educated residents.

- 75% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree believe this statement is very or somewhat true, compared to 64% of those with less education.



Differences
Observed

School District: Adult and youth residents in Sidney school district were **less likely** to believe this statement is true compared to residents who live outside the district.

- 65% of youth and 78% of adults who live in Sidney school district believe this statement is very or somewhat true, compared to 76% of adults and 92% of youth in other school districts.

Gender: Men and nonbinary residents are **more likely** to believe this statement is true compared to women.

- 77% of men and nonbinary residents believe this statement is very true or somewhat true, compared to 65% of women.

³ Regina Cunningham, Rosemary C. Polomano, Robin M. Wood, Jaya Aysola, Health systems and health equity: Advancing the agenda, Nursing Outlook, Volume 70, Issue 6, Supplement 1, 2022.

⁴ <https://www.rwjf.org/en/insights/our-research/2017/05/what-is-health-equity-.html>

The following data were collected to provide more insight into how contextual factors like access to health care and education status may affect health equity in Shelby County. Other data representing factors affecting health care equity can be found throughout this report.

Health Care Access

Affordability of health care is strongly tied to health insurance coverage in the U.S. About **4%** of Shelby County residents don't have health insurance; this percentage is similar to the state of Ohio.

Table 7: Health Insurance Coverage²

		Shelby County	Ohio
Health Insurance Coverage	Total with health insurance	96%	94%
	Age 18 and under	98%	95%
	Adults age 19-64	93%	91%
	Adults age 65 and over	100%	100%
Private Health Insurance (alone or in combination)	Total with private health insurance coverage	77%	69%
	<u>Employer-based</u>	66%	59%
	Age 18 and under	73%	59%
	Adults age 19-64	75%	66%
	Adults age 65 and over	22%	32%
Public Health Insurance (alone or in combination)	Total with public health insurance coverage	32%	38%
	<u>Medicaid/means-tested</u>	15%	21%
	Age 18 and under	26%	37%
	Adults age 19-64	11%	18%
	Adults age 65 and over	7%	10%

Ample service providers in a particular area also impact access and health equity. The next table shows the ratios of health practitioners to residents in Shelby County and Ohio. The ratio of Shelby County physicians (both MDs and DOs) is 1 to every 2,420 residents. There are far fewer physicians per resident in Shelby County compared to the state of Ohio as a whole. Shelby County also has fewer licensed dentists and psychologists per resident, compared to Ohio overall.

Table 8: Ratio of Providers to Population⁵

	Shelby County Ratio	Ohio Ratio
Licensed primary care physicians: MDs & DOs*	1:2,420	1:1,290
Licensed dentists	1:3,690	1:1,550
Mental Health providers**	1:1,120	1:330

Data are from 2020 (primary care physicians), 2021 (licensed dentists), and 2022 (mental health providers)

*Primary Care includes General Family Medicine, General Practice, General Internal Medicine and General Pediatrics.

Subspecialties within these specialties are excluded. This measure does not include nurse practitioners, physician assistants, or other practitioners available for primary care services.

**Mental health providers include psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists, mental health providers that treat alcohol and other drug abuse, and advanced practice nurses specializing in mental health care.

PROBLEMS FACING ADULTS IN SHELBY COUNTY

A key focus of this assessment was to identify issues facing Shelby County residents. Identifying these issues can help community partners plan, act, and communicate accordingly with regard to aspects of life in Shelby County that may frustrate residents. Both adult residents and key stakeholders were asked about the biggest issues facing Shelby County adults.

To explore Shelby adult residents’ top concerns, Community Survey respondents and key stakeholders were asked to identify, in their own words, what they thought were the biggest problems facing adults in Shelby County. These are referred to as unprompted concerns.

Community Survey respondents were also given a list of potential issues facing adults and asked to identify the most important. Key stakeholders were asked to select which of the top five issues identified by adult residents as most important should be prioritized by Shelby County moving forward. These are referred to as selected concerns.

The **use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs**, **lack of affordable housing**, and **lack of mental health care providers** are crucial concerns for adults in Shelby County. The lack of job opportunities and childcare providers, along with the overall economy, are also important issues that affect how well residents are able to get basic needs met.

Summary of Most Important Problems Facing Adults

Checkmark = mentioned/selected by about 10% or more respondents

Issues Facing Adults	Adult Residents		Key Stakeholders	
	(unprompted)	(selected)	(unprompted)	% selected as top priority issue
Use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs	✓	✓	✓	24%
Lack of affordable housing	✓	✓	✓	16%
Lack of mental health care providers		✓	✓	30%
The economy	✓		✓	N/A
Lack of affordable, high-quality childcare		✓	✓	10%
Lack of jobs offering a living wage	✓	✓		19%
Insufficient entertainment and recreation options	✓			N/A

Note: Options marked NA were not presented to stakeholders when they were asked to select the top priority issue.

In response to the open-ended question, Community Survey respondents identified the following as the biggest problems facing adults in Shelby County:

- **The economy (18%)**
- **The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs (18%)**
- **A lack of quality, affordable housing (13%)**
- **A lack of jobs offering a living wage (9%)**
- **Insufficient community events, activities, and entertainment options (8%)**

Key Stakeholder Perspectives

Key stakeholders' perspectives on the biggest problem(s) facing adults in Shelby County were similar to adult perspectives - they also identified the lack of affordable housing, substance use, and the economy as big problems. However, compared to adult residents, more stakeholders considered access to mental health care and childcare to be the biggest problem(s), and fewer stakeholders considered a lack of employment opportunities and community activities to be the biggest problem(s). Overall, key stakeholders identified the following as the biggest problems facing adults in Shelby County:

- **A lack of quality, affordable housing (26%)**
- **The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs (22%)**
- **The economy (21%)**
- **Mental health issues, including a lack of mental health care providers (19%)**
- **A lack of affordable, quality childcare (10%)**

More detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded) can be found in Table B.3 in Appendix B.

After describing the biggest issue facing Shelby County adults, Community Survey respondents were presented with a list of possible issues facing adults and were asked to rate each as not an issue, a minor issue, or a major issue. Respondents were then asked which of those problems they marked as a serious issue were the 1st and 2nd most important issues facing adults in Shelby County.

A quarter of residents (**25%**) identified **substance use** as the most important issue facing adults in Shelby County. Substance use was commonly identified as a serious issue by residents, along with a lack of affordable housing, a lack of affordable, high-quality childcare, residents not having enough money for basic needs, and a lack of mental health care providers Overall, **64%** of respondents selected one of these five issues as the most important.⁵

The next table shows how many respondents to the Community Survey selected issues as "serious" and the "most important." More detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded) are provided in Table B.4 in Appendix B.

⁵ In the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment survey conducted by the Shelby County Health Coalition in 2022, the top five health issues of concern reported were: Access to care, drug use/vaping, mental health, preventative care, and obesity. It is worth noting that while the 2022 survey was only asking about health issues, several of these issues also rose to the top in the 2024 Community Survey along with economic concerns. Source: Shelby County Health Coalition, Community Themes and Strength Assessment, 2022.

Table 9: Issues Facing Adults in Shelby County According to Residents

Percent of adult respondents who identified issue as **a serious issue** and the **most important issue**

	Serious issue	1st Most Important Issue
The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs	68%	25%
Lack of affordable housing	59%	15%
Lack of affordable, high-quality childcare	58%	7%
Not enough money to afford basic needs including healthy food	51%	9%
Lack of mental health care providers	51%	8%
Mental or emotional issues among adult residents	50%	6%
Unaffordable medical insurance, copays, medical care, or medications	49%	5%
Unaffordable dental insurance or dental care	39%	1%
Lack of recreational or cultural activities	38%	3%
Homelessness	33%	4%
Domestic violence between adult partners	30%	0%
Lack of health care providers	28%	1%
Lack of public transportation	27%	2%
Crime	26%	2%
Fast, reliable internet access at home	23%	2%
Hard to find good paying jobs in the county	21%	3%
Hard to know how to find services when you need help	21%	2%
Physical or financial abuse of senior citizens	20%	1%
Racial or ethnic bias	19%	1%
Hard to safely get to places by walking or biking	15%	1%
Biased or unfair law enforcement	13%	1%
Sexually transmitted diseases among adult residents	12%	0%
Fire and ambulance response times are too long	11%	1%

Average n = 1,134. Responses will not sum to 100% due to rounding error.

The rest of this section is devoted to additional data and insights collected during the community assessment process about issues facing adults in Shelby County. Data concerning the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs is presented next, followed by data concerning the lack of affordable housing, the lack of mental health care providers, residents not having enough money for basic needs, childcare access, and other community issues like transportation and internet access.

Verbatim comments from adult survey respondents about the issues they identified as the biggest problems are presented at the end of this section.

FOCUS ON: Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs

The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs was identified as a top concern by both adult residents and key stakeholders facing adults in Shelby County. Secondary data (discussed briefly next) confirm the seriousness of the issue.

Overdoses

The following overdose data were collected between 1999 and 2020. During this time period, Shelby County had similar rates of drug overdoses to Ohio overall, as well as with regard to opiates and fentanyl. Shelby County had a higher rate of drug overdoses as a result of psychostimulants, including methamphetamine.

Table 10: Deaths From Unintentional Drug Overdose¹⁶

	Shelby County		Ohio	
	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*
Total	17	37.8	5,017	45.6
Opiates (all) ¹⁷	17	37.8	4,308	39.5
Prescription opiates ¹⁷	17	37.8	4,266	39.1
Fentanyl and analogues ¹⁷	16	35.4	4,041	37.2
Psychostimulants including methamphetamine ¹⁷	12	26.1	1,062	9.9
Alcohol (all types) ¹⁷	1	**	658	5.9
Cocaine ¹⁷	1	**	1,231	10.9
Barbiturates ¹⁷	0	**	15	0.1
Benzodiazepines ¹⁷	0	**	420	3.8
Hallucinogens ¹⁷	0	**	119	1.1
Heroin ¹⁷	0	**	308	2.8
Methadone ¹⁷	0	**	79	0.7

*Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted **Rates based on counts of less than ten are considered unreliable.

Alcohol and Drug Related Motor Vehicle Accidents

Data for the incidence of alcohol and drug related motor vehicle accidents are available from 2022 and 2023.

Table 11: Motor Vehicle Crashes, Deaths and Calls for service

	Shelby County		Ohio	
	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*
Total alcohol or drug related crashes ¹⁸	45	93.5	10,773	91.6
Total alcohol or drug related injuries ¹⁸	14	29.1	6,562	55.8
Motor vehicle deaths ¹⁸	5	**	1,243	10.6
Alcohol or drug related motor vehicle deaths ¹⁸	1	**	584	5.0
Alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths ¹⁸	1	**	367	3.1
Motor vehicle OVI activity calls for service ^{19***}	774	not available	60,788	not available

*Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted. Rate calculated using data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2022.

**Rates based on counts of less than ten are considered unreliable.

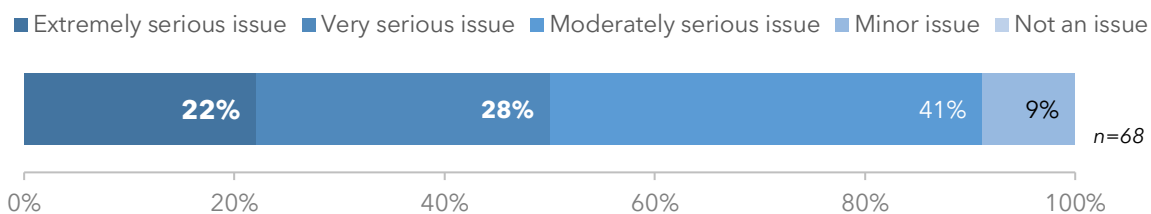
***Includes calls for service: Reckless/OVI.

Shelby County appears to experience slightly higher rates of motor vehicle crashes related to alcohol or drugs as compared to Ohio as a whole. But, when calls for motor vehicle OVI are considered, Shelby County fares slightly better - Shelby County makes up 4% of Ohio's population, and the data suggest roughly 1.3% of the OVI calls for service in Ohio are from Shelby County.

Key Stakeholder Perspectives

Key stakeholders ranked the seriousness of this issue on a scale ranging from "not an issue" to an "extremely serious issue." One in two stakeholders (**50%**) identified it as a very or extremely serious issue facing adults in Shelby County.

Figure 8: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs



Resources to Address the Issue

Key stakeholders also identified the community resources⁶ Shelby County currently has to address the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs among adult residents. These responses were coded into categories by the researchers. More detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded) can be found in Table B.5 in Appendix B.

Key stakeholders most commonly identified:

- **Nonprofits and social service agencies (24%)**
- **Counseling centers** such as the Family Resource Center (**21%**)
- **Law enforcement**, including the Sidney Addiction Assistance Team (**19%**)

Notably, more than one-fifth (21%) of key stakeholders could not identify any such resources, and **24%** stated that such resources were limited or insufficient.

The next table shows verbatim comments from key stakeholders regarding community resources Shelby County currently has to address the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs among adult residents.

 Leadership Voices: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Resources for Addressing the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs Verbatim comments from the <i>Key Stakeholder Survey</i>	
Nonprofits and Social Service Agencies	"Several organizations/nonprofits/businesses offer extensive resources." "Family Resource Center, Safehaven, and Momentum."
Counseling Centers	"Counseling agencies and recovery houses." "Family Resource Center, Sidney Addiction Assistance Team, New Vision Detox, NA/AA meetings, Celebrate Recovery."
Law Enforcement	"SAAT [<i>Sidney Addiction Assistance Team</i>] to assist addicts." "police and EMTs on the frontlines of overdose and the violence that comes with substance abuse; Sheriff's Dept."


⁶ The 2022 CTSA asked Shelby County residents "What resources/ programs does the community have that can be used to improve health?" Results were similar to what key stakeholders had to say regarding existing organizations and programs in the community. Source: Shelby County Health Coalition, Community Themes and Strength Assessment, 2022

Barriers to Addressing the Issue

Finally, key stakeholders were also asked to identify the barriers to addressing the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. Insufficient resources and cultural norms are the biggest barriers perceived by stakeholders, who identified the following barriers:

- **Insufficient services and resources (27%)**
- **Widespread cultural acceptance** of the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs (**27%**)
- **Lack of motivation** on the part of substance users to seek help (**18%**)

The next table shows verbatim comments from key stakeholders regarding barriers to addressing the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs among adult residents that currently exist in Shelby County. More detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded) can be found in Table B.6 in Appendix B.

 Leadership Voices: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Barriers to Addressing the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs Verbatim comments from the <i>Key Stakeholder Survey</i>	
Insufficient Resources	"...access to and availability of services through counseling centers and follow up and supports to those in recovery." "Access and the resources."
Cultural Norms	"The biggest barrier is the casual attitude toward use, and not recognizing problems until it's unmanageable." "Culture has, for years, indicated that this is acceptable behavior so kids, even at a very young age, are exposed. Then they too as adults repeat the cycle."
Unmotivated Residents	"Lack of desire to change from the residents." "Residents not attending."

FOCUS ON: Lack of Affordable Housing

One way housing affordability is measured by the U.S. Census Bureau is through selected monthly ownership costs as a percent of household income (SMOCAPI). Included in monthly ownership costs are payments involved in purchasing a home as well as expenditures for insurance, real estate taxes, utilities, and fuel. Condominium fees and mobile home costs are also included when applicable. A similar measure for renters exists as gross rent as a percentage of household income (GRAPI). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has historically considered families whose housing costs exceed 30% of their income to be cost-burdened.⁷ Fewer homeowners and renters in Shelby County exceed these guidelines as compared to Ohioans as a whole.

Table 12: Cost-Burdened Households²

	Shelby County	Ohio
Owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage	8,101	1,965,593
30% or more of income spent on housing costs (SMOCAPI) ³	18%	21%
Owner-occupied housing units without a mortgage	5,625	1,212,644
30% or more of income spent on housing costs (SMOCAPI) ³	9%	12%
Renter-occupied housing units	4,515	1,470,390
30% or more of income spent on rent (GRAPI) ³	36%	45%

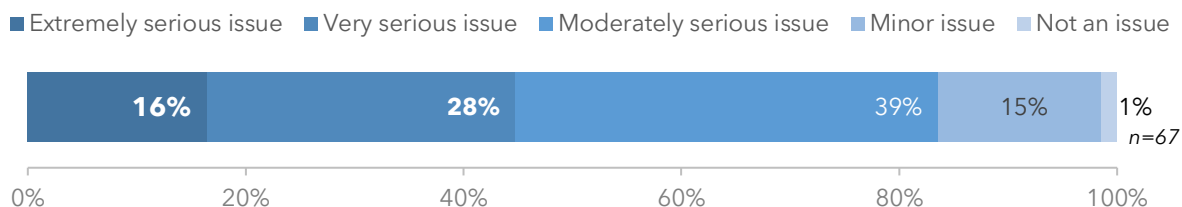
Counts of housing units excludes units for which SMOCAPI or GRAPI could not be calculated.

In 2019, the “Point in Time” (PIT) estimate of homelessness in Shelby County was 10 individuals and 7 households.⁸

Key Stakeholder Perspective

Key stakeholders ranked the seriousness of the issue of the lack of affordable housing on a scale ranging from “not an issue” to an “extremely serious issue.” Nearly half of stakeholders (**44%**) identified it as a very or extremely serious issue facing adults in Shelby County.

Figure 9: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on the Lack of Affordable Housing



Resources to Address the Issue


Key stakeholders were also asked to identify the community resources Shelby County currently has to address the lack of affordable housing. These responses were coded into categories by the researchers. More detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded) can be found in Table B.7 in Appendix B.

Key stakeholders most commonly identified:

- **The Metropolitan Housing Authority (22%)**
- **Nonprofits** such as the Community Action Partnership (**22%**)
- **New housing** that has been, is being, or will be built (**19%**)

Notably, more than one-fourth (28%) of key stakeholders could not identify any such resources, a higher rate than the first most important problem, the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

The next table shows verbatim comments from key stakeholders regarding community resources Shelby County currently has to address the lack of affordable housing.


 Leadership Voices: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Resources for Addressing the Lack of Affordable Housing Verbatim comments from the <i>Key Stakeholder Survey</i>	
Metropolitan Housing Authority	"Metropolitan Housing Authority." "Met Housing and Mercy Mission, but I don't know for those that make more."
Nonprofits	"Bridges is probably really the only resource." "Mercy Mission House, Bridges, Family Resource Center."
New Housing Units	"There are multiple new housing/apartment developments going up or soon to begin. I do not know how affordable these will be, but they will at least open up some additional availability." "Houses & apartments are currently being built."

Barriers to Addressing the Issue

Finally, key stakeholders were also asked to identify the barriers to addressing the lack of affordable housing. Insufficient supply to meet demand and financial barriers are the biggest barriers perceived by stakeholders, who identified the following barriers:

- **An insufficient number of quality houses and rental units (47%)**
- **Financial barriers** such as high or rising costs for rentals, houses, and land, high or rising interest rates and utility bills, and inflation (**34%**)
- **Something in the residents' background** (e.g., previous convictions, history of substance use, etc.) that prevents them from securing housing (**15%**)

The next table shows verbatim comments from key stakeholders regarding barriers to addressing the lack of affordable housing that currently exist in Shelby County. More detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded) can be found in Table B.8 in Appendix B.

 Leadership Voices: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Barriers to Addressing the Lack of Affordable Housing Verbatim comments from the <i>Key Stakeholder Survey</i>	
Not Enough Houses and Rental Units	"Not enough units available. Rent is extremely high."
	"Those are going up in Sidney only. What about the other small communities in our county?"
High Housing Costs	"The price of a quality home with current interest rates and inflation. Not many on the market for working class."
	"Landlords who keep jacking up rent, forcing people and seniors out of their homes with no place to go that they can afford. Money hungry landlords."
Residents' Criminal Background or Bad Credit	"When people are coming out of sober living homes, detox, etc. and have felonies they are automatically told no because of their past.... we should dive more into what the felony is and assess from there instead of just writing off every person who has a felony to be able to afford housing. It's setting someone who's already struggling up for failure."
	"Credit-worthy applicants. The high rent is due to risk of non payment or damage to the property."

FOCUS ON: Lack of Mental Health Care Providers

According to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps 2023, the ratio of mental health care providers in Shelby County is 1 for every 1,230 residents, compared to 1 for every 330 Ohio residents statewide. (See Table 10 earlier in this report).

Suicide

The next table presents suicide deaths from 2018-2020. The suicide rates for Shelby County are slightly higher than the rate for Ohio during that time frame.

Table 13: Suicide¹⁵

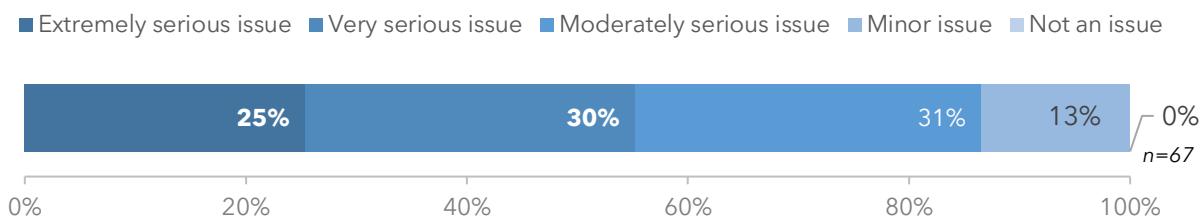
	Shelby County		Ohio	
	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*
Suicides	26	17.9	5,288	15.1

*Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted

Key Stakeholder Perspectives

Key stakeholders ranked the seriousness of the issue of the lack of mental health care providers on a scale ranging from “not an issue” to an “extremely serious issue.” More than half of key stakeholders (**55%**) identified it as a very or extremely serious issue facing adults in Shelby County.

Figure 10: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on the Lack of Mental Health Care Providers



Resources to Address the Issue

Key stakeholders were also asked to identify the community resources Shelby County currently has to address the lack of mental health care providers. These responses were coded into categories by the researchers. More detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded) can be found in Table B.9 in Appendix B.

Key stakeholders most commonly identified:

- **Existing mental and behavioral health care providers and counseling centers or agencies** such as the Family Resource Center, Momentum, and Safe Haven (**48%**)
- **Faith-based service providers** such as Catholic Social Services (**13%**)
- **The Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health** (**10%**)

Notably, more than one-fifth (21%) of key stakeholders could not identify any such resources, and **10%** stated that such resources were limited or insufficient.

The next table shows verbatim comments from key stakeholders regarding community resources Shelby County currently has to address the lack of mental health care providers.



Leadership Voices: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Resources for Addressing the Lack of Mental Health Care Providers

Verbatim comments from the *Key Stakeholder Survey*

Existing Providers	<p>"Numerous counseling centers and resources."</p> <p>"We have multiple counseling centers being able to take new clients. Momentum, FRC, scripts 360."</p>
Faith-Based Services	<p>"Shelby County counseling center and the Didney counseling center. There are also a number of faith organizations to help."</p> <p>"Catholic Social Services and other providers are working to address school needs...."</p>
Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health	<p>"In the school we have used many of the resources including Tri County Mental Health and they are doing good work."</p> <p>"Tri-County is the only resource and it lacks adequate resources to handle the dramatic increase in mental health problems. Clergy are also providing more counselling services."</p>

Barriers to Addressing the Issue

Finally, key stakeholders were also asked to identify the barriers to addressing the lack of mental health care providers. The limited number of affordable mental health care providers is the biggest barrier perceived by stakeholders, who identified the following barriers:

- **An insufficient number of providers and centers (39%)**
- **Financial issues** such as the high or rising cost of mental health care, insurance coverage, and insufficient funding for mental health care services **(24%)**
- **The difficulty attracting and retaining licensed, qualified providers (22%)**

It is worth noting that stigma is not a leading barrier identified by stakeholders, making up only 6% of respondents from this group; see Table B.10 in Appendix B which provides more detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded).

The next table shows verbatim comments from stakeholders regarding barriers to addressing the lack of mental health care providers in Shelby County. More detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded) can be found in Table B.10 in Appendix B.



Leadership Voices: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Barriers to Addressing the Lack of Mental Health Care Providers

Verbatim comments from the *Key Stakeholder Survey*

Not Enough Providers

"There is a lack of mental health providers and even greater lack of quality experienced counselors. Nothing is more frustrating then referring a family who is in crisis to mental health services only to be told it will be weeks..."

"Lack of opportunity for people living in the villages and transportation."

Financial Barriers

"Lack of providers, cost of providers...who pays for the services?"

"Insurance companies may not cover mental health care."

Difficulty Attracting or Retaining Providers

"Retention of counselors and mental health providers...continuity."

"Having licensed practitioners come and stay in Shelby County to provide this service."

FOCUS ON: Residents Not Having Enough Money for Basic Needs

Basic needs are the elements necessary to ensure an individual's health and safety, including food, shelter, and clothing. Economic stability plays an important role in quality of life, with at least one study on this topic showing that those with greater income had greater life expectancy (Chetty et al., 2016).⁶

In Shelby County, **16%** of children are living below 100% federal poverty level (FPL), which is lower than the state of Ohio percentage (18%).

Table 14: Income and Poverty

	Shelby County	Ohio
Median household income¹	\$72,323	\$65,720
Poverty Status²		
Total persons below 100% FPL	11%	13%
Children under 18 below 100% FPL	16%	18%

Food Insecurity

Economic instability is linked to food insecurity. People who are food insecure do not get adequate food or have disrupted eating patterns due to lack of money and other resources. In Shelby County, **11%** of all residents are food insecure, and **11%** of children are estimated to be food insecure. These percentages are similar to the percentages for Ohio as a whole. In Shelby County, around **7%** of households participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is lower than the state of Ohio percentage (13%).

Table 15: Food Access

		Shelby County	Ohio
Food Insecure Persons ⁹	Total residents	11%	12%
	Children	11%	15%
SNAP Households ^{1*}	Total households	7%	13%
	With children under 18 years*	48%	44%

*Denominator is total households participating in SNAP

Some researchers use the food environment index when assessing access to nutritious foods. This index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment ranges from 0 (worst) to 10 (best). Shelby County's food environment index score (8.0) is higher than Ohio's score (6.8).⁵

There are 12 regional Feeding America food banks⁷ in Ohio. The one that serves Shelby County, the West Ohio Food Bank, is located in Lima, OH in Allen County.¹⁰

Employment

Another economic indicator that may influence the quality of life of the community is the unemployment rate. It is notable that a lack of jobs offering a living wage was mentioned (unprompted) as a key concern by adults. Therefore, secondary data about employment are included here.

The unemployment rate in Shelby County in 2022 (**5%**) was the same as the unemployment rate in Ohio (**5%**), using the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' unemployment definition as those people, 16 years of age and over, who were "actively seeking work, waiting to be called back to a job from which they were laid off, or waiting to report within 30 days to a new payroll job." Those who have stopped looking for a new job (and who have therefore removed themselves from the civilian labor force) are not included in this statistic.

Table 16: Employment Status

		Shelby County	Ohio
Unemployment Rate ²	Annual average unemployment rate*	5%	5%
	In labor force **	62%	63%
Employment Rate of Labor Force ¹	Civilian labor force***	100%	100%
	Employed*	98%	96%
	Unemployed*	2%	4%
	Armed forces***	0%	0%
	Not in labor force **	38%	37%

*Denominator is civilian labor force **Denominator is total area population 16 years and over ***Denominator is total labor force

⁷ Feeding America is a nationwide nonprofit network of food banks, food pantries, and community organizations serving food insecure populations. A food bank is a warehouse that collects and stores food from food donations and food drives. A food pantry is where people can get free food. A food pantry gets its food from a food bank and gives it directly to people. Source: <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>

The industry which employs the most residents in Shelby County is manufacturing, with over one-third of residents (36%) employed in that industry compared to 15% of Ohio residents overall. The next table shows the percentage of residents employed in various industries.

Table 17: Residents Employed in Various Industries^{1*}

	Shelby County	Ohio
Manufacturing	36%	15%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	18%	24%
Construction	10%	6%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	7%	10%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	6%	8%
Other services, except public administration	6%	4%
Retail trade	5%	11%
Public administration	3%	4%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3%	6%
Wholesale trade	3%	2%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	2%	6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1%	1%
Information	0%	1%

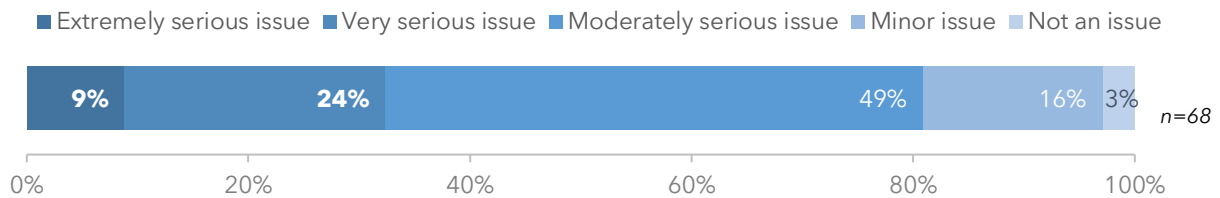
**Denominator is civilian employed population 16 years and over*

Readers who wish to learn more about the current state of jobs and public assistance (veterans' services, SNAP, etc.) in Shelby County are encouraged to access the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' "QuickView" report, at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/QuickView/Index.stm>.

Key Stakeholder Perspectives

Key stakeholders ranked the seriousness of this issue on a scale ranging from "not an issue" to an "extremely serious issue." About one-third of stakeholders (33%) identified it as a very or extremely serious issue facing adults in Shelby County.

Figure 11: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Not Enough Money for Basic Needs



Resources to Address the Issue


Key stakeholders were also asked to identify the community resources Shelby County currently has to address residents not having enough money for basic needs, including healthy food. These responses were coded into categories by the researchers. More detailed results (including all categories into which responses were coded) can be found in Table B.11 in Appendix B.

Key stakeholders most commonly identified:

- **Food pantries** such as Agape (**61%**)
- **Government assistance programs and agencies** such as SNAP, WIC, and JFS (**34%**)
- **Nonprofits** such as Alpha Community Center and Bridges Community Action Partnership (**25%**)
- **Faith-based organizations** such as the Salvation Army and Catholic Social Services (**18%**)

Only **5%** of key stakeholders could not identify any such resources, and an equal percentage stated that such resources were limited or insufficient. This suggests that relative to the top two issues facing adults in Shelby County, key stakeholders may believe the county is better-resourced to deal with this issue (or at least that more organizations are mobilizing to focus on it).

The next table shows verbatim comments from key stakeholders regarding community resources Shelby County currently has to address residents not having enough money for basic needs.

 **Leadership Voices:
Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Resources for Addressing Residents
Not Having Enough Money for Basic Needs**
Verbatim comments from the *Key Stakeholder Survey*


Food Pantries	"Agape food bank does a fantastic job feeding Shelby County residents not having enough money and providing healthy food and other basic needs."
	"I am familiar with several organizations that provide food and many basic need items through their pantries here in Shelby County."
Government Programs and Agencies	"Job and Family Services is all I can think of on this topic."
	"SNAP, WIC, Food pantries, many jobs are available in the county."
Nonprofits and Faith-Based Organizations	"Alpha Center, Agape, Salvation Army, Charity League."
	"FISH"
	"Rustic Hope"
	"Shelby County has Agape, and some local churches that distribute food, but even they have limitations. If not for the support of TUW, some of these programs would not survive. Plus how many of you will eat what the needy eat?"

Barriers to Addressing the Issue

Key stakeholders' see residents' motivation and lack of knowledge about how to access existing services as key barriers to residents having enough money for basic needs, among other barriers:

- **Lack of motivation** on the part of residents to maintain employment, seek help, or live within their means (**22%**)
- **Lack of knowledge** about how to access existing services, manage money, and prepare nutritious meals (**19%**)
- **Transportation barriers** such as lack of access to transportation or excessive distance to service providers (**19%**)
- **The high or rising cost of food and other basic needs** (**17%**)

The next table shows verbatim comments from key stakeholders regarding barriers to addressing residents not having enough money for basic needs that currently exist in Shelby County. More detailed results (including all categories into which the entire set of barriers was coded) can be found in Table B.12 in Appendix B.

 Leadership Voices: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Barriers to Addressing Residents Not Having Enough Money for Basic Needs Verbatim comments from the <i>Key Stakeholder Survey</i>	
Unmotivated Residents	<p>"Lack of follow up by individuals in need, lack of motivation to work."</p> <p>"Lack of motivation to work for a living amongst a portion of those residents. Generational poverty...young women having children before they are financially prepared and all they know is that the welfare system is there to provide."</p>
Knowledge Barriers	<p>"Awareness of the programs available."</p> <p>"Knowledge to use and access these services. I also think there is a stigma to using their resources."</p>
Transportation Barriers	<p>"Due to lack of public transportation families may need to walk and shop at dollar stores for food which doesn't always provide healthy options. Having mobile food pantries at schools during open houses or other designated nights for families would be wonderful."</p> <p>"Residents do not have access to transportation to get to food pantries or work during the operating hours."</p>
High Costs for Basic Needs	<p>"Food costs have risen as fast or faster than wages. Residents may not have training that helps with budgeting or wise buying choices."</p> <p>"In general the cost of living is just higher all the way around since COVID."</p>

FOCUS ON: Childcare Access

The Department of Health and Human Services advises that childcare is considered affordable if it does not exceed 7% of a household’s income.

As the next table illustrates, Shelby County’s average full-time childcare cost (which varies according to the age of child and childcare setting) ranges from almost \$7,000 per year to about \$9,500, which is 1.5 to almost 3 times the U.S. Department of Labor’s cutoff for affordability.⁸

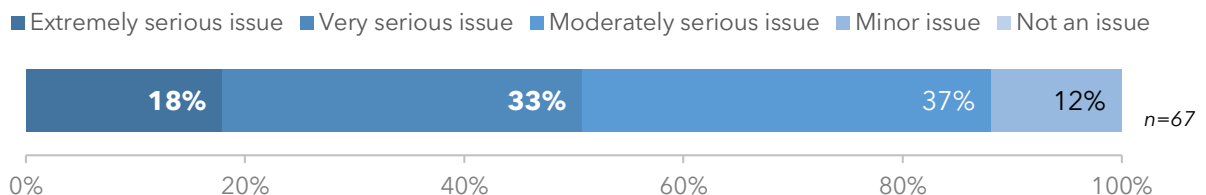
Table 18: Key Factors Related to Affordability of Childcare

	Shelby County
Median income of Shelby County HHs	\$74,243
U.S. Department of Labor affordability threshold for childcare costs per year	\$5,197
Actual cost of full time childcare per year	\$6,883 - \$9,414 <i>(1.3 - 1.8X the affordability threshold)</i>

Key Stakeholder Perspectives

Key stakeholders ranked the seriousness of this issue on a scale ranging from “not an issue” to an “extremely serious issue.” More than half of stakeholders (51%) identified it as a very or extremely serious issue facing adults in Shelby County.

Figure 12: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on the Lack of Affordable, High-Quality Childcare



⁸ The Women’s Bureau National Database of Childcare Prices compiles information from state childcare market price surveys and American Community Survey data. The database focuses on regulated childcare centers and family childcare homes, excluding other segments like publicly subsidized preschool programs or unregulated family childcare. The surveys, usually conducted every two to three years, collect data on median and 75th percentile prices for different age groups in both center-based and family childcare. The database also incorporates demographic and labor market data. The data collection process involves obtaining MRS reports from 35 states, cataloging, and supplementing the reports. The collected data undergoes a rigorous quality control process, including error checks and imputations for missing data.
Source: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>

Resources to Address the Issue


Key stakeholders were also asked to identify the community resources Shelby County currently has to address the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare. These responses were coded into categories by the researchers. More detailed results (including all categories into which the entire set of resources was coded) can be found in Table B.13 in Appendix B.

Key stakeholders most commonly identified:

- **Existing child care providers** such as businesses, babysitters, and private childcare in a caregiver’s home (**16%**)
- **Services provided by schools**, such as preschool and latchkey (**16%**)
- **The YMCA** (**16%**)

Notably, more than one-third (35%) of key stakeholders could not identify any such resources. This rate is much higher than the other priority needs identified and suggests that this may be an under-resourced area in the County. Additionally, **10%** of key stakeholders stated that such resources were limited or insufficient.

The next table shows verbatim comments from key stakeholders regarding community resources Shelby County currently has to address the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare.


 Leadership Voices: Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Resources for Addressing the Lack of Affordable, High-Quality Childcare Verbatim comments from the <i>Key Stakeholder Survey</i>	
Existing Providers	“Many daycares in Sidney, and so many home babysitters in the surrounding towns of Sidney.” “Wilma Valentine, YMCA, churches, private business.”
Services in Schools	“Headstart Latchkey YMCA.” “Head Start, and several other pre schools.”
YMCA	“YMCA is the most notable.” “YMCA is the only one I am aware of.”

Barriers to Addressing the Issue

Finally, key stakeholders were also asked to identify the barriers to addressing access to affordable, high-quality childcare in Shelby County. An insufficient number of childcare providers and financial barriers are the biggest barriers perceived by stakeholders, who identified the following barriers:

- **An insufficient number of childcare providers (49%)**
- **Financial barriers** such as the high or rising cost of high-quality childcare (**25%**)
- **The difficulty attracting or retaining high-quality childcare workers** due to low pay or other factors (**20%**)
- **Transportation barriers** such as lack of access to transportation or excessive distance to childcare providers (**16%**)

The next table shows verbatim comments from key stakeholders regarding barriers to addressing the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare that currently exist in Shelby County. More detailed results (including all categories into which the entire set of barriers was coded) can be found in Table B.14 in Appendix B.

 **Leadership Voices:**
Key Stakeholder Perspectives on Barriers to Addressing the Lack of Affordable, High-Quality Childcare
 Verbatim comments from the *Key Stakeholder Survey*

Not Enough Providers	<p>“Long wait lists. Lack of childcare providers.”</p> <p>“Just not enough daycares and no one wants to be in that business because money can’t be made.”</p>
High Cost of Services	<p>“The higher-quality childcare is expensive and with the cost of living increases and minimum wage increases will not help the matters any.”</p> <p>“A person’s childcare eats up all other salary.”</p>
Difficulty Attracting or Retaining Workers	<p>“Those who provide care usually receive lower pay/compensation. Has been really tough to attract more care providers, when there are many jobs paying so much more.”</p> <p>“Pay for childcare providers is so low and liability so high that it’s hard to attract providers.”</p>
Transportation Barriers	<p>“Transportation to childcare location. Operating hours of childcare facilities conflicting with work hours.”</p> <p>“Easy access to day care centers due top proximity of location as well as availability.”</p>

FOCUS ON: Other Concerns

Transportation

Transportation was identified by the Assessment Committee as a possible key problem facing Shelby County residents. As shown in the “Most Important Problem” table, Table B.3 in Appendix B, only **4%** of Shelby County adults mentioned transportation as an issue unprompted, and so few youth mentioned it that it was not a coding category for those responses.

Higher percentages of adult and youth rated it as a “serious” problem (**27%** of adult residents and **23%** of youth). And as mentioned previously, key stakeholders identified it as a barrier to Improving access to mental health services, to accessing services to support residents’ basic economic needs, and to accessing affordable childcare.

Transportation difficulties were explored in more detail in the Community Survey. Specifically, residents reported the extent to which they faced transportation problems and the type of problem faced. About **10%** percent of adult residents indicated they experience transportation problems at least a few times per week; the majority of residents (**85%**) experience them a few times per year or less.

Table 19: Frequency of Transportation Problems Impacting Residents

	Shelby County n = 1,158
Every day	7%
A few times a week	3%
A few times a month	4%
A few times a year	17%
Never	68%

Education: More educated adult residents were **less likely** to experience transportation problems compared to less educated adult respondents.

- 25% of adults with at least a Bachelors Degree said they experienced this, compared to 39% with less education.



School District: Adult residents in the Sidney school district were **more likely** to experience transportation problems compared to less educated adult respondents.

- 35% of adults who live in the Sidney school district said they experienced this, compared to 27% in other school districts.

Gender: Men and nonbinary adult residents were **more likely** to experience transportation problems compared to adult women.

- 68% of men and nonbinary adult residents said they experienced this, compared to 59% of women residents.

Adult residents who said they experienced transportation problems were also asked about the type of transportation problems they experienced. The most common issue is a financial barrier, reported by **more than one-third (35%)** of adult residents with transportation problems.

Table 20 : Types of Transportation Problems Impacting Residents of Shelby County

	Shelby County adults who experienced transportation problems (n = 365)
Financial issues (can't afford gas, vehicle repairs, etc.)	35%
Don't have a valid driver's license	22%
Don't have a vehicle/have to share a vehicle	23%
Lack of access to public transportation	28%

Key Stakeholder Perspective

There is one public transportation system operating in Shelby County, Shelby Public Transit, which provides demand-response transportation throughout the County.¹⁴ Community leaders mentioned there are some limitations to the system such as limited hours.

Internet Access

A lack of reliable internet access was identified by the Assessment Committee as a key concern. Approximately **2%** of households in the County do not have access to a computer, and **9%** do not have access to the internet.


Table 21: Households' Internet Access Availability

		Shelby County	Ohio
Access to a Computer¹	Households with a computer	98%	95%
	<i>With dial-up internet subscription alone*</i>	0%	0%
	<i>With a broadband Internet subscription*</i>	94%	95%
	<i>With no internet subscription*</i>	6%	5%
Households without a computer		2%	5%
Access to Internet Subscription²	With an internet subscription	90%	88%
	Dial-up only**	0%	0%
	Cellular data with no other type of internet**	12%	12%
	Broadband (i.e., cable, fiber optic, or DSL)**	79%	84%
	Satellite internet service**	9%	7%
	Internet access without a subscription	1%	2%
No internet access		9%	10%

*Denominator is total number of households with a computer

**Denominator is total number of households with an internet subscription

The next table presents verbatim comments from the 2024 Community Survey respondents about the biggest problems facing adults in Shelby County.

 Community Voices: Perspectives on Biggest Problems Facing Adults Verbatim comments from the <i>Community Survey</i>	
	"Rising costs of everything. So many people struggling."
The Economy	"Excessive rise in real estate taxes; inflation - everything is 15-25% higher than in 2019, except for income."
The Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs	"I feel the biggest problem facing adults today is alcohol and drugs in our communities." "Alcoholism: too much, too often and seems to be the only entertainment being chosen by too many which makes an impression on our youth."
Lack of Affordable Housing	"There are not many affordable rentals." "Affordable decent housing."
Lack of Jobs Offering a Living Wage	"Rising cost of living with stagnant wage increases." "Jobs not paying what is needed to survive instead of paycheck to paycheck."
Insufficient Entertainment Options	"Lack of things to do that are economical. Gets boring just going out to eat. Would like more community events that speak to different interests." "Having enough activities to do, especially when weather is bad."

PROBLEMS FACING TEENS AND CHILDREN IN SHELBY COUNTY

Adult and youth Community Survey respondents were asked to assess the biggest issues facing teens and children in Shelby County. First, they were asked to identify what they thought were the biggest problems facing teens and the biggest problems facing children (separately). Adult and youth respondents were also given a list of potential issues for teens and children (combined) and asked to identify the most important issues.

The use of **alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs** (vaping in particular) was perceived to be an important problem by both adults and youth. Adults and youth perceive **mental or emotional issues** to be an important issue, though larger percentages of youth identified that as one of the “biggest problems” compared to adults. Both groups consider child abuse/neglect, poor parenting and home life, and negative influences from social media and peers to be important issues for teens and children. Youth are more concerned about the lack of mental health care providers than they are about insufficient recreation opportunities and issues related to education.

Summary of Most Important Problems Facing Teen and Children

Checkmark = mentioned or selected by about 10% or more respondents

Issues Facing Teens and Children	Adults (unprompted)	Adults (selected)	Youth (unprompted)	Youth (selected)
Use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mental or emotional issues		✓	✓	✓
Teen vaping		✓		✓
Lack of mental health care providers			✓	
Negative influences from social media and peers	✓		✓	
Child abuse/neglect		✓		✓
Poor parenting and home life	✓		✓	
Insufficient entertainment and recreation options	✓			
Issues with education/schools (for children specifically)	✓			

Community Survey respondents were presented with a list of possible issues facing children and teens in Shelby County and were asked to rate each as: not an issue, a minor issue, or a major issue. Adult respondents were then asked to rate which of those problems they marked as “a serious issue” as the 1st and 2nd most important issues facing teens and children.

The next table presents how many respondents to the Community Survey selected issues as “serious” and the “most important.” The full responses to this question are provided in Table B.15 in Appendix B. Nearly a quarter (**23%**) of residents identified **the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs** as the most important serious issue facing teens and children in Shelby County. Teen vaping in particular was considered a serious issue by over half (**62%**) of adult respondents. Concerns over substance use in this population were also mentioned by Assessment Committee members.

Table 22: Issues Facing Children and Teens in Shelby County According to Adult Residents

<i>% of adult respondents who identified the issue as a serious issue for teens and the most important issue</i>	Serious issue	Most Important Issue
The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs among children and teenagers	65%	23%
Teen vaping	62%	10%
Mental or emotional issues among children and teenagers	62%	16%
Lack of mental health care providers	51%	8%
Child abuse or neglect	49%	10%
Lack of family structure or support from family members	46%	9%
Lack of recreational or cultural activities	44%	5%
Students do not learn what they need to learn in middle and high school	38%	7%
Children are not well prepared to start school	36%	5%
Lack of public transportation	26%	1%
Difficulty finding a good job close to home after graduation	24%	2%
Lack of health care providers	24%	1%
Teen pregnancy	23%	1%
Hard to safely get to places by walking or biking	20%	1%
Racial or ethnic bias	16%	1%
Sexually transmitted diseases among children and teenagers	13%	0%

Average n=1,117. Responses will not sum to 100% due to rounding error.

Youth Survey respondents were presented with the same list of possible issues facing children and teens in Shelby County and were also asked to rate each as : not an issue, a minor issue, or a major issue. Youth respondents were then asked to rate which of those problems they marked as “a serious issue” as the 1st and 2nd most important issues facing teens and children.

The next table presents how many respondents to the Youth Survey selected issues as “serious” and the “most important.” The full responses to this question are provided in Table B.16 in Appendix B. Over a quarter (**27%**) of youths surveyed identified **teen vaping** as the most important serious issue facing teens and children in Shelby County.

Table 23: Issues Facing Children and Teens in Shelby County According to Youth Residents

<i>% of youth respondents who identified the issue as a serious issue and the most important issue</i>	Serious issue	1 st Most Important Issue
Teen vaping	60%	27%
Mental or emotional issues among children and teenagers	53%	15%
The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs among children and teenagers	51%	21%
Lack of mental health care providers	38%	5%
Child abuse or neglect	37%	11%
Students do not learn what they need to learn in middle and high school	27%	6%
Teen pregnancy	25%	3%
Sexually transmitted diseases among children and teenagers	24%	2%
Lack of health care providers	24%	2%
Lack of public transportation	23%	1%
Racial or ethnic bias	22%	1%
Children are not well prepared to start school	18%	2%
Lack of family structure or support from family members	18%	1%
Difficulty finding a good job close to home after graduation	18%	2%
Lack of recreational or cultural activities	18%	2%
Hard to safely get to places by walking or biking	15%	1%

Average n=647. Responses will not sum to 100% due to rounding error.

FOCUS ON: Teens

Adult and youth respondents to the 2024 Community and Youth Surveys were asked to identify in their own words what they thought was the biggest problem facing teens in Shelby County.

Adult residents most frequently identified the following issues as the biggest problem(s) facing teens in Shelby County.

- **Insufficient entertainment and recreation options (45%)**
- **The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs (26%)**
- **Negative influences from social media and peers (17%)**
- **Poor parenting and home life (12%)**
- **Mental health issues and the lack of mental health care providers (7%)**

Youth perspectives on their own biggest problems differed slightly from adults. For youth, the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs was commonly stated as the biggest problem, with **32%** of youth saying this compared to 26% of adults. Only **9%** of youth stated that a lack of entertainment and recreation options was the biggest problem, compared to 45% of adults. Additionally, **17%** of youth said mental health issues and a lack of mental health care providers was the biggest problem for teens while only 7% of adults said this. Youth residents most frequently identified the following as the biggest problem(s) facing teens in the County:

- **The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs (32%)**
- **Mental health issues and the lack of mental health care providers (17%)**
- **Negative influences from social media and peers (16%)**


Key Stakeholder Perspectives

Key stakeholders' perspectives on the biggest problems facing teens in Shelby County were similar to adult and youth perspectives. Overall, they most frequently identified the following problem(s):


- **Negative influences from social media and peers (29%)**
- **Mental health issues and the lack of mental health care providers (27%)**
- **The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs (26%)**
- **Poor parenting and home life (22%)**
- **The lack of recreational opportunities (19%)**

More detailed results (including all categories into which the entire set of problems mentioned by adults, youth, and key stakeholders were coded) can be found in Table B.17 in Appendix B.

The next table presents verbatim comments from adult residents about the biggest problems facing teens in Shelby County.

 Community Voices: Adult Perspectives on Biggest Problems Facing Teens Verbatim comments from the <i>Community Survey</i>	
Insufficient Entertainment and Recreation Options	"No activities for them. There is nothing for teens to do here." "No place for them to hang out with their friends."
Substance Use	"Vaping. Kids are vaping at age 11 these days and it's very communal." "Underage drinking and some drug use."
Social Media and Peers	"Social media and how it affects their mental health." "Social Peer Pressure - pertaining to drugs and alcohol."
Poor Parenting and Home Life	"Poor parenting - not making kids stay involved and out of trouble." "Broken family structures and minimal to no good role models, especially parents."
Mental Health	"Lack of mental health treatment providers at reasonable cost." "We need more FREE mental health services in our school buildings. Not just guidance counselors - mental health counselors."

The next table presents verbatim comments from youth residents about the biggest problems facing teens in Shelby County.

 Community Voices: Youth Perspectives on Biggest Problems Facing Teens Verbatim comments from the <i>Community Survey</i>	
Substance Use	"The vaping and smoking weed in and out of schools is just insane. Also some students don't know any better due to lack of parental support."
	"I think the biggest problem is trying to be cool and getting dragged into doing things like drugs and smoking. The second is the regret that happens after."
	"There is also not much to do in Shelby County for teens so their days off, weekends, and summer are reliant on alcohol. If there was more recreation, especially for teens, I believe the alcohol dependency rates would decline."
Mental Health	"I think the biggest problem is suicide prevention or self harm prevention and how little we are helping teens with their mental health."
	"Generally speaking there aren't really any opportunities for bettering mental health as a teen. I personally am in therapy and have to travel for about 40 minutes to an office for teens. Not having a convenient source nearby makes the already hard mental health fight even harder."
	"Struggling with anxiety and stress while trying to deal with sports and school."
Social Media and Peers	"Fear of not fitting in or worrying about how others perceive them. Very often I find that people my age will not do something or try something out of fear that others will judge them. The effect of social media has made many teenagers afraid to be themselves and become paralyzed when they mess up."
	"I think the biggest problem facing teens in Shelby County is the bullying in school and putting others down."
	"Social media and comparing ourselves to others."

FOCUS ON: Children

The 2024 Community and Youth Surveys also asked adults and youth for their perspectives on the biggest problems facing children in Shelby County.

Overall, adult residents most frequently identified the following issues as the biggest problem(s) facing children in Shelby County:

- **Poor parenting and home life (36%)**
- **The lack of recreational opportunities (17%)**
- **Issues receiving quality education and other problems with schools** such as lack of busing or schools not dealing appropriately with bullies **(12%)**
- **Negative influences from social media and peers (11%)**

Youth perspectives on children's biggest problems were similar to adult perspectives, however youth's responses were more varied across different issues. Like adults, youth commonly answered that poor parenting and home life and negative influences from social media and peers were children's biggest problems. These issues were also the most common responses from youth:

- **Poor parenting and home life (17%)**
- **Negative influences from social media and peers (14%)**


Key Stakeholder Perspectives

Key stakeholders had similar perspectives on the biggest problem(s) facing children in Shelby County, with a few key differences. Like Community Survey and Youth Survey respondents, they included poor parenting and home life and negative influences from social media and peers as top problems. However, compared to the other two groups of survey participants, more key stakeholders identified a lack of affordable, high-quality childcare as the biggest problem, and fewer stakeholders identified a negative influences from social media and peers as the biggest problem. Overall, the most common responses given by key stakeholders were:

- **Poor parenting and home life (49%)**
- **The lack of affordable, high-quality childcare (14%)**
- **Issues with the schools (12%)**
- **Negative influences from social media and peers (10%)**

More detailed results (including all categories into which the entire set of problems mentioned by adults, youth, and key stakeholders were coded) can be found in Table B.18 in Appendix B.

The next table shows verbatim comments from adult residents about the biggest problems facing children in Shelby County.

 Community Voices: Adult Perspectives on Biggest Problems Facing Children Verbatim comments from the <i>Community Survey</i>	
Poor Parenting and Home Life	<p>"Parents who do not want to be parents or single parent households where a parent does work, is tired, and has not help. Electronics have become the babysitters for children instead of appropriate human interactions."</p> <p>"Broken families. Not enough home support or supervision."</p>
Lack of Recreational Opportunities	<p>"Not much to do to socialize and play, for low income especially."</p> <p>"We need more activities for them. More winter activities."</p>
Issues with Education and the Schools	<p>"I think the public educational system could be improved. Many are leaving for Lehman Catholic, Sidney Christian or home schooling."</p> <p>"Busing. Middle and elementary kids should be able to get a ride instead of walking in rain, snow or cold weather. 2 mile radius in today's world of high crime is not safe."</p>
Social Media and Peers	<p>"Peer pressure! Vaping, bullying and not enough resources."</p> <p>"Too much time on social media, not enough time interacting in person with friends and family."</p>

The next table shows verbatim comments from youth residents about the biggest problems facing teens in Shelby County.



Community Voices: Youth Perspectives on Biggest Problems Facing Children

Verbatim comments from the *Community Survey*

Poor Parenting and Home Life

"I think children lack a good example of spousal relationships in the family. Families also do not spend a lot of time with each other anymore. The goal of parents being the primary educators of their children is not being met and it is detrimental to a child's development."

"... one of the biggest challenges that face children is having not a good home life whether it be the parents are abusive or they are in an abusive relationship, they don't know where their next meal is going to come from, or the child themselves has to be the parent to younger siblings."

"Not having clean clothes, not being fed properly/taken care of."

Social Media and Peers

"Social media! So much harassment happens on this, and the school can't do anything because it happens at home or over a break."

"The biggest problem for younger children is seeing all the social media and wanting to grow up faster."

"Looking up to the older kids and seeing them attached to their phone or partying."

COMMUNITY MEMBERS' VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF SHELBY COUNTY

Shelby County residents who participated in the 2024 Community Survey were asked to envision what they would like to be different about Shelby County in five years. Overall, adults, youth, and key stakeholders said they would like to see additional amenities and resources added to the community in terms of restaurants and shops. Adults and youth also commonly stated a desire for an improved community in terms of cleanliness and redevelopment or restoration of community properties (categorized as improved community aesthetics). Key stakeholders commonly expressed a wish for improved access to housing and mental health care providers.

Adult residents most frequently identified the following attributes as part of their vision for the future of Shelby County:

- **Greater number and variety of amenities such as restaurants and shops (29%)**
- **More activities and venues for youth and families (16%)**
- **More community events, activities, and entertainment options** not intended specifically or exclusively for youth and families **(15%)**
- **Better employment opportunities**, including more opportunities, a wider range of opportunities, and higher-paying jobs **(15%)**
- **Better educational opportunities, from early education to higher education (14%)**

Youth residents most frequently identified the following attributes as their vision for the future of Shelby County:

- **Greater number and variety of amenities such as restaurants and shops (13%)**
- **Improved community aesthetics**, including better sanitation and cleanliness of public areas and new/improved community properties **(12%)**

In contrast to adults, more youth answered that they don't think anything will change in Shelby County (13% compared to 2%).

Key Stakeholder Perspectives


Key stakeholders' desires for the future were more specifically resource-related compared to Community Survey respondents overall, showing a higher concern for access to affordable housing and mental health care providers. The following attributes commonly exist in their vision of the future of the County.

- **More quality, affordable housing (29%)**
- **More mental health care providers (24%)**
- **Better support and more resources** so that all residents can thrive **(20%)**
- **Stronger families** with stable home lives and parents who are actively involved in their children's lives **(19%)**
- **Better educational opportunities**, from early education to higher education **(17%)**
- **A greater number and variety of amenities** such as restaurants and shops **(13%)**


More detailed results (including all categories into which the entire set of attributes mentioned by

adults, youth, and key stakeholders were coded) can be found in Table B.19 in Appendix B.

The next table shows verbatim comments from adult residents about their vision for the future of Shelby County.

 Community Voices: Adults' Vision for the Future of Shelby County Verbatim comments from the <i>Community Survey</i>	
Greater Number and Variety of Amenities	<p>"More shopping and dining opportunities."</p> <p>"More restaurants, shopping, entertainment, etc. that will draw people to live in Shelby County. That will drive higher value housing and improvements to schools as well."</p>
More Activities and Venues for Youth and Families	<p>"More activities for teenagers and youth. Not everyone is an outdoors person and not everyone is a gamer..."</p> <p>"A movie theater or more places to do things with our children/teens."</p>
More Community Entertainment Options	<p>"I would love to see more events without alcohol being the main attraction. More events on the court square would be nice. I miss the Apple fest that was a fun family event."</p> <p>"Make a community where all feel welcome, not just the rich. Bring back festivals with band and music for all to enjoy. Not just the wealthy."</p>
Better Employment Opportunities	<p>"Keep bringing in more businesses to offer wide range of job opportunities to keep our communities growing."</p> <p>"Better wages with more opportunities...i.e., better businesses."</p>
Better Educational Opportunities	<p>"The schools would have updates and a stronger academic presence. We transferred schools within the county a few months ago and there is a huge divide in the education being taught."</p> <p>"I would love to see a robust community education program that offers opportunities for residents of all ages to learn new skills in many different areas (i.e. sports, sign language, computer skills, art, music, cooking.)"</p>

The next table shows verbatim comments from youth residents about their vision for the future of Shelby County.

 Community Voices: Youths' Vision for the Future of Shelby County Verbatim comments from the <i>Community Survey</i>	
Greater Number and Variety of Amenities	<p>"The downtown would be full of good places to shop and eat."</p> <p>"Having more places for people to go instead of just Walmart and fast food. It will have new stores new sit-down restaurants an overall just more for people to do."</p>
Improved Community Aesthetics	<p>"I think that within five years that if someone actually tried, Shelby County could look much nicer. I think they could work on some of the buildings and make sure that certain areas of town aren't being neglected."</p> <p>"I would hope some of the run-down houses would be restored, I wouldn't want to get rid of the historic buildings of Sidney, but some just look genuinely run down and unloved. I think if more places like that were fixed up that would be ideal."</p> <p>"More buildings, better taken care of, not trash everywhere."</p>

**Appendix A
References**

References

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Supplemental Estimates, 2022
- ² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2018-2022
- ³ Shelby County Health Coalition, Community Themes and Strength Assessment, 2022
- ⁴ State Medical Board of Ohio Annual Report, FY 2023
- ⁵ University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2023
- ⁶ Chetty, R., Stepner, M., Abraham, S., Lin, S., Scuderi, B., Turner, N., Bergeron, A. & Cutler, D. (2016). The association between income and life expectancy in the United States, 2001-2014. *Jama*, 315(16), 1750-1766
- ⁷ PD&R Edge Magazine. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R). Accessed via https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr_edge_featd_article_092214.html
- ⁸ 2019 Point in Time Count, Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care. Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio
- ⁹ Feeding America Map the Meal Gap, 2021
- ¹⁰ Ohio Food Banks, <https://ohiofoodbanks.org/foodbanks>
- ¹¹ Ohio Department of Education. Report Portal, 4-year longitudinal graduation rate
- ¹² Ohio Department of Education. District Graduation Rates, 2022
- ¹³ Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System 2022
- ¹⁴ Shelby Public Transit, <https://www.sidneyoh.com/219/Shelby-Public-Transit>
- ¹⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> on December 22, 2023
- ¹⁶ Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse, Unintentional Drug Overdose of Ohio Residents Involving Specific Drug(s) by Year, 2020
- ¹⁷ Ohio Department of Health, 2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings
- ¹⁸ Ohio Department of Public Safety Crash Statistics System, Alcohol, Drug, & Fatal Statistics Report, 2023
- ¹⁹ Ohio State Highway Patrol 2022 Operational Report
- ²⁰ Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, Domestic Violence Incidents by County and Agency Report, 2022
- ²¹ Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, Victims of Domestic Violence by County and Agency Report, 2022
- ²² Public Children Services Association of Ohio Factbook, June 2022

Appendix B
Detailed Tables

What Residents Like Most About Shelby County

In the next three tables, darker blue shading highlights responses that relate to the most common category of responses. Lighter blue shading highlights responses related to the next most common categories of responses. Where applicable, light gray shading is used for categories of responses that were mentioned by fewer than 20% of respondents.

Table B.1: What Residents Like Most About Living in Shelby County

Open-ended response category	% of adults who mentioned this (n=1,006)	% of youth who mentioned this (n=650)
Community Pride	68%*	47%*
Small town/rural feel	43%	19%
Sense of community among people	32%	27%
Calm/peaceful environment	7%	6%
Affordability	3%	n/a
Community Assets	30%*	23%*
Local amenities (restaurants, shops, etc.)	15%	10%
Parks and natural spaces	9%	4%
School or sports	5%	4%
Location	5%	n/a
Community events and activities	4%	5%
Community Attributes	25%*	25%*
Personal connections and proximity to family and friends	11%	18%
Safety ⁹	9%	6%
Economic opportunities	5%	1%
Family-friendly environment	2%	n/a
Other positive comments	11%	9%
Other negative comments	4%	5%
Miscellaneous/other comments (including "don't know" responses)	1%	2%

*Represents the percentage of respondents who mentioned at least one of the issues in each response category.

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

⁹ 9% of adults and 5% of youth said they like how safe Shelby County is. Overall, the violent crime and property crime rates in Shelby County are much lower than in the state of Ohio. For detailed crime and safety statistics, see Tables B.20 and B.21 in this appendix.

What Makes Shelby County Feel Like Home

Table B.2: What Makes Shelby County Feel Like Home to Residents

Open-ended response category	% of adults who mentioned this (n=869)	% of youth who mentioned this (n=648)
Personal Connections	55%*	45%*
Family and heritage connections	48%	39%
Other personal connections	23%	19%
Community Pride	42%*	30%*
Sense of community among people	32%	24%
Small town/rural feel	15%	8%
Calm/peaceful environment	2%	n/a
Community Assets	12%*	10%*
Local amenities (restaurants, shops, etc.)	7%	4%
Community events and activities	4%	2%
School or sports	3%	4%
Community Attributes	6%*	3%*
Safety	5%	2%
Employment opportunities	2%	1%
Doesn't feel like home	5%	4%
Other positive comments	9%	3%
Other negative comments	3%	<1%
Miscellaneous/other comments (including "don't know" responses)	1%	16%

**Represents the percentage of respondents who mentioned at least one of the issues in each response category. Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.*

Important Problems/Issues Facing Adults in Shelby County

Table B.3: Biggest Problem Facing Adults in Shelby County According to Adult Residents and Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of adults who mentioned this (n=949)	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=77)
Economic/Financial Issues	42%*	47%*
The economy	18%	21%
Lack of good jobs	9%	4%
Unwillingness of some residents to be gainfully employed	5%	4%
Taxes	5%	1%
Inability to meet basic needs other than housing	5%	8%
Lack of affordable, high-quality childcare	5%	10%
Homelessness	4%	4%
Community Issues	37%*	39%*
Lack of quality, affordable housing	13%	26%
Insufficient community activities, events, and entertainment	8%	4%
Insufficient local amenities (restaurants, shops, etc.)	7%	1%
Divisions (economic, political, religious) within the community	7%	n/a
Negative character traits	5%	9%
Issues with children receiving quality education and other problems with schools	2%	n/a
Health Issues	26%*	35%*
The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs	18%	22%
Mental health issues and lack of mental health care providers	7%	19%
Insufficient access to health care	3%	4%
Issues with Government/Services	12%*	8%*
Insufficient public transportation access	4%	6%
Issues related to crime and safety	3%	1%
Issues with the government	3%	n/a
Insufficient support and resources for residents	2%	n/a
Miscellaneous/other comments (including "don't know" responses)	14%	16%

*Represents the percentage of respondents who mentioned at least one of the issues in each response category. Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.4: Issues Facing Adults in Shelby County According to Adult Residents

Percent of adult respondents who identified issue as a serious issue, minor issue, or not an issue	Serious issue	Minor Issue	Not an issue
The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs	68.1%	28.1%	3.7%
Lack of affordable housing	59.3%	34.8%	5.8%
Lack of affordable, high-quality childcare	58.2%	34.5%	7.3%
Not enough money to afford basic needs including healthy food	51.2%	43.1%	5.7%
Lack of mental health care providers	51.0%	36.3%	12.7%
Mental or emotional issues among adult residents	50.3%	43.7%	6.0%
Unaffordable medical insurance, copays, medical care, or medications	48.7%	39.9%	11.4%
Unaffordable dental insurance or dental care	38.9%	44.4%	15.7%
Lack of recreational or cultural activities	37.5%	40.4%	22.1%
Homelessness	33.5%	60.7%	5.8%
Domestic violence between adult partners	30.1%	62.8%	6.1%
Lack of health care providers	27.6%	46.1%	26.3%
Lack of public transportation	27.4%	46.6%	26.0%
Crime	25.8%	66.0%	8.2%
Lack of fast, reliable internet access at home	22.8%	44.8%	32.4%
Hard to find good paying jobs in the county	21.3%	43.2%	35.6%
Hard to know how to find services when you need help	20.7%	46.1%	33.3%
Physical or financial abuse of senior citizens	20.2%	60.1%	19.7%
Racial or ethnic bias	18.7%	54.9%	26.4%
Hard to safely get to places by walking or biking	14.5%	45.8%	39.7%
Biased or unfair law enforcement	13.4%	42.0%	53.7%
Sexually transmitted diseases among adult residents	11.6%	57.1%	31.3%
Fire and ambulance response times are too long	11.4%	40.5%	48.0%

Average n=1,134. Responses will not sum to 100% due to rounding error.

Key Stakeholders' Perspectives on Resources for and Barriers to Addressing the Five Key Issues

For the following tables, darker blue shading highlights resources/barriers mentioned by 20% or more respondents. Lighter blue shading highlights other specific resources/barriers mentioned by fewer than 20% of respondents.

Table B.5: Existing Resources for Addressing the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=62)
Nonprofits and social service agencies	24%
Counseling centers (e.g., Family Resource Center)	21%
Law enforcement (e.g., police, Sidney Addiction Assistance Team)	19%
Recovery housing (e.g., Samaritan Works, Shelby House)	13%
Medical resources (e.g., Wilson Hospital, EMS/EMTs)	8%
Faith-based service providers (e.g., churches, Celebrate Recovery)	8%
Self-help groups (e.g., Al-Anon)	8%
Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health	6%
Courts, including court-based diversion programs	6%
Respondent said resources are limited or insufficient	11%
Miscellaneous/other comments	10%
"Don't know" responses	21%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.6: Existing Barriers to Addressing the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=62)
Insufficient services and resources	27%
Cultural acceptance of substance use	27%
Residents unmotivated to seek help or access services	18%
Stigma associated with needing or seeking help	10%
Financial barriers to getting help	6%
Lack of knowledge regarding how to access available resources	6%
Transportation barriers (e.g., lack of access to transportation, distance to providers)	5%
Weak laws or insufficient enforcement	5%
Miscellaneous/other comments	19%
"Don't know" responses	5%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.7: Existing Resources for Addressing the Lack of Affordable Housing According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=54)
Metropolitan Housing Authority	22%
Nonprofits (e.g., Community Action Partnership)	22%
New housing that has been, is being, or will be built	19%
Existing housing stock	9%
Government agencies and subsidies	6%
Respondents mentioned problems related to this issue rather than resources for addressing this issue	13%
Miscellaneous/other comments	13%
"Don't know" responses	28%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.8: Existing Barriers to Addressing the Lack of Affordable Housing According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=53)
Insufficient number of quality houses and rental units	47%
Financial barriers (e.g., ownership/rental costs, interest rates)	34%
Residents' criminal background or bad credit	15%
Insufficient income to afford housing	13%
Resident's negative character traits (e.g., unwillingness to work)	11%
Insufficient resources and services	8%
Excessive regulations or insufficient government involvement	6%
Lack of knowledge regarding how to access available resources	4%
Miscellaneous/other comments	15%
"Don't know" responses	9%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.9: Existing Resource for Addressing the Lack of Mental Health Care Providers According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=48)
Existing mental health care providers and counseling centers	48%
Faith-based service providers (e.g., Catholic Social Services)	12%
Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health	10%
Non-specified nonprofits and agencies	10%
Behavioral health unit at Wilson Hospital	4%
School-based resources (e.g., school counselors)	4%
Respondent said resources are limited or insufficient	10%
Miscellaneous/other comments	2%
"Don't know" responses	21%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.10: Existing Barriers to Addressing the Lack of Mental Health Care Providers According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=51)
Insufficient number of providers and centers	39%
Financial barriers (e.g., cost of care, insurance coverage)	24%
Difficulty attracting or retaining licensed, qualified providers	22%
Transportation barriers (e.g., lack of access to transportation, distance to providers)	12%
Lack of knowledge regarding mental health issues and how to help	12%
Hours of operation are limited or conflict with residents' work schedules	8%
Stigma associated with needing or seeking help	6%
Residents unmotivated to seek help or access services	4%
Miscellaneous/other comments	6%
"Don't know" responses	10%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.11: Existing Resources for Addressing Residents Not Having Enough Money for Basic Needs According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=61)
Food pantries (e.g., Agape)	61%
Government assistance programs and agencies (e.g., SNAP, JFS)	34%
Nonprofits (e.g., Alpha Community Center, Bridges Community Action Partnership)	25%
Faith-based organizations (e.g., Salvation Army, Catholic Social Services)	18%
Soup kitchens (e.g., Holy Angels Soup Kitchen)	15%
County has enough jobs that no-one should lack money for basic needs	13%
Unspecified services/programs/agencies	7%
Respondent said resources are limited or insufficient	5%
Miscellaneous/other comments	11%
"Don't know" responses	5%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.12: Existing Barriers to Addressing Residents Not Having Enough Money for Basic Needs According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=54)
Residents' lack of motivation (e.g., to hold down a job, live within their means)	22%
Transportation barriers (e.g., lack of access to transportation, distance to service providers)	19%
Lack of knowledge regarding accessing services, budgeting, food prep	19%
High or rising cost of food and other basic needs	17%
Insufficient income to afford basic needs	11%
Insufficient services and resources	9%
Lack of access to affordable healthy foods	9%
Stigma associated with needing or seeking help	7%
Substance use diverting money from basic needs	6%
Lack of childcare options preventing gainful employment	4%
Miscellaneous/other comments	9%
"Don't know" responses	9%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.13: Existing Resources for Addressing the Lack of Affordable, High-Quality Childcare According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=51)
Existing childcare providers	16%
Services provided by schools (e.g., preschool, latchkey)	16%
YMCA	16%
Government efforts to recruit more providers (e.g., by County Commissioners, Job and Family Services)	14%
Nonprofits (e.g., Wilma Valentine daycare, faith-based organizations)	8%
Head Start	8%
Public assistance programs	4%
Respondent said resources are limited or insufficient	10%
Miscellaneous/other comments	8%
"Don't know" responses	35%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.14: Existing Barriers to Addressing the Lack of Affordable, High-Quality Childcare According to Key Stakeholders

Open-ended response category	% of stakeholders who mentioned this (n=51)
Insufficient number of providers	49%
High or rising cost of services	25%
Difficulty attracting or retaining high-quality providers	20%
Transportation barriers (e.g., lack of access to transportation, distance to providers)	16%
Regulations that make it difficult to open or operate childcare centers	12%
Lack of financial assistance for parents	8%
Hours of operation are limited or conflict with residents' work schedules	6%
Insufficient income to afford childcare	6%
Miscellaneous/other comments	12%
"Don't know" responses	12%

Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Important Problems/Issues Facing Teens and Children in Shelby County

Table B.15: Issues Facing Children and Teens in Shelby County According to Adult Residents

<i>% of adult respondents who identified the issue as a serious issue, minor issue, or not an issue</i>	Serious issue	Minor Issue	Not an issue
The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs among children and teenagers	64.7%	34.5%	3.8%
Teen vaping	61.7%	34.7%	3.3%
Mental or emotional issues among children and teenagers	62.0%	33.0%	2.3%
Lack of mental health care providers	50.9%	34.6%	14.4%
Child abuse or neglect	48.7%	46.4%	4.9%
Lack of family structure or support from family members	45.5%	44.1%	18.1%
Lack of recreational or cultural activities	44.5%	69.0%	7.8%
Students do not learn what they need to learn in middle and high school	37.8%	62.1%	24.5%
Children are not well prepared to start school	35.9%	48.8%	27.7%
Lack of public transportation	26.3%	48.1%	25.7%
Difficulty finding a good job close to home after graduation	24.1%	53.2%	30.9%
Lack of health care providers	23.6%	46.8%	17.3%
Teen pregnancy	23.2%	44.2%	10.3%
Hard to safely get to places by walking or biking	19.5%	46.2%	29.7%
Racial or ethnic bias	15.9%	36.4%	19.1%
Sexually transmitted diseases among children and teenagers	13.4%	50.1%	30.4%

Average n=1,117. Responses will not sum to 100% due to rounding error.

Table B.16: Issues Facing Children and Teens in Shelby County According to Youth Residents

% of youth respondents who identified the issue as a serious issue, minor issue, or not an issue	Serious issue	Minor Issue	Not an issue
Teen vaping	59.8%	33.2%	7.0%
Mental or emotional issues among children and teenagers	53.5%	35.9%	10.6%
The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs among children and teenagers	51.2%	39.0%	9.8%
Lack of mental health care providers	38.4%	38.4%	23.2%
Child abuse or neglect	37.4%	42.8%	19.7%
Students do not learn what they need to learn in middle and high school	26.8%	43.5%	29.7%
Teen pregnancy	24.7%	53.8%	21.5%
Sexually transmitted diseases among children and teenagers	24.4%	40.6%	35.0%
Lack of health care providers	24.3%	42.7%	33.0%
Lack of public transportation	22.8%	44.8%	32.4%
Racial or ethnic bias	21.8%	38.3%	39.9%
Children are not well prepared to start school	18.5%	47.2%	34.4%
Lack of family structure or support from family members	18.5%	41.4%	40.2%
Difficulty finding a good job close to home after graduation	18.2%	50.1%	31.7%
Lack of recreational or cultural activities	18.0%	43.4%	38.6%
Hard to safely get to places by walking or biking	15.0%	38.8%	46.2%

Average n=647. Responses will not sum to 100% due to rounding error.

Table B.17: Biggest Problem Facing Teens in Shelby County According to Residents

Open-ended response category	% of adults who mentioned this (n=1,002)	% of youth who mentioned this (n=618)	% of key stakeholders who mentioned this (n=73)
Community Issues	62%*	23%*	51%*
Insufficient entertainment and recreation options	45%	8%	19%
Poor parenting and home life	12%	2%	22%
Issues related to crime and safety	5%	4%	n/a
Issues with receiving quality education and other problems with schools	4%	7%	7%
Lack of support and guidance	4%	2%	7%
Lack of discipline	2%	n/a	n/a
Health Issues	31%*	48%*	44%*
The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs	26%	32%	26%
Mental health issues and lack of mental health care providers	7%	17%	27%
Interpersonal Issues	25%*	25%*	33%*
Negative influences from social media and peers	17%	16%	29%
Negative character traits	6%	7%	4%
Too much technology usage	4%	3%	5%
Economic/Financial Issues	3%*	3%*	1%*
Insufficient employment opportunities	2%	1%	1%
Inability to meet basic needs	2%	2%	n/a
Miscellaneous/other comments (including "don't know" responses)	10%	15%	10%

*Represents the percentage of respondents who mentioned at least one of the issues in each response category. Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Table B.18: Biggest Problem Facing Children in Shelby County According to Residents

Open-ended response category	% of adults who mentioned this (n=945)	% of youth who mentioned this (n=602)	% of key stakeholders who mentioned this (n=73)
Community Issues	67%*	39%*	64%*
Poor parenting and home life	36%	17%	49%
Lack of recreational opportunities	17%	7%	3%
Issues with receiving quality education and other problems with schools	12%	8%	12%
Lack of support and guidance	5%	n/a	4%
Issues related to crime and safety	4%	7%	1%
Lack of discipline	1%	n/a	n/a
Economic/Financial Issues	17%*	6%*	29%*
Lack of access to affordable, high-quality childcare	8%	1%	14%
Food insecurity	5%	n/a	5%
Poverty	4%	n/a	7%
Inability to meet (other) basic needs	1%	5% ¹⁰	5%
Interpersonal Issues	16%*	28%*	18%*
Negative influences from social media and peers	11%	14%	10%
Too much technology usage	5%	7%	7%
Negative character traits	2%	8%	4%
Health Issues	12%*	12%*	14%*
The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs	7%	9%	7%
Mental health issues and lack of mental health care providers	5%	2%	8%
Miscellaneous/other comments (including "don't know" responses)	16%	23%	8%

*Represents the percentage of respondents who mentioned at least one of the issues in each response category. Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

¹⁰ Due to the low number of youth respondents who mentioned food insecurity or homelessness, these issues are included in the category "inability to meet (other) basic needs."

Residents' Vision for the Future of Shelby County

Table B.19: Residents' Vision for the Future of Shelby County

Open-ended response category	% of adults who mentioned this (n=862)	% of youth who mentioned this (n=612)	% of key stakeholders who mentioned this (n=70)
Community Improvements	70%*	43%*	71%*
Greater number and variety of amenities	29%	13%	13%
More activities and venues for youth and families	16%	4%	9%
More community events and entertainment options	15%	5%	9%
Better educational opportunities	14%	6%	17%
Greater community involvement and spirit	14%	8%	9%
More quality affordable housing	13%	4%	29%
Improved community aesthetics	7%	12%	11%
Stronger families	5%	n/a	19%
Retaining the small town/rural feel despite growth	2%	n/a	n/a
Economic/Financial Improvements	27%*	12%*	23%*
Better employment opportunities	15%	4%	10%
Better general prosperity	8%	8%	6%
More residents who are gainfully employed	6%	<1%	10%
Better access to affordable, high-quality childcare	3%	<1%	4%
Improvements to Government/Services	20%*	7%*	29%*
Better support and more resources for residents	10%	3%	20%
Improved safety	8%	4%	9%
Good leadership	3%	n/a	n/a
Health Improvements	19%*	7%*	37%*
Reduced usage of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs	10%	5%	11%
Better mental health and more mental health care providers	7%	2%	24%
Greater access to quality, affordable health care	5%	<1%	7%
Infrastructure Improvements	15%*	5%*	10%*
More or better facilities (parks, trails, etc.)	6%	1%	1%
Better access to public transportation	6%	1%	6%
Improved infrastructure, including high-speed Internet access	4%	3%	3%
Shelby County will be better in some other way	12%	6%	20%
Shelby County will be worse in some way	2%	5%	n/a
Shelby County will be the same/nothing will change	2%	13%	n/a
Miscellaneous/other comments (including "don't know" responses)	4%	20%	4%

*Represents the percentage of respondents who mentioned at least one of the issues in each response category. Because multiple responses were allowed to this question, the percentages will not sum to 100.

Neighborhood Safety and Crime

The following table contains data collected between 2022 and 2023.

Table B.20: Violent and Property Crime¹³

	Shelby County		Ohio	
	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*
Violent crime total	155	3.5	54,706	5.7
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	1	<0.1	1,023	0.1
Rape	96	2.2	13,665	1.4
Robbery	7	0.2	6,637	0.7
Aggravated assault	51	1.2	33,381	3.5
Property crime total	593	13.3	205,315	21.2
Burglary / Breaking & entering	139	3.1	29,168	3.0
Larceny/Theft	417	9.4	146,037	15.1
Motor vehicle theft	32	0.7	29,012	3.0
Arson	5	0.1	1,098	0.1

*Rate per 1,000 of the population

The following table presents domestic violence incidents in 2021. Total incidents include DVI charge, other charge, and no charge.

Table B.21: Domestic Violence

	Shelby County		Ohio	
Domestic violence incidents ²⁰	226		66,655	
DVI charge	84		30,199	
Other charge	1		2,739	
No charge	141		33,717	
Total victims ²¹	230		56,662	
Victim with injury	112	48.7%*	22,792	40.2%*

*Percentage of all people involved in incidents who were injured

Appendix C
Survey Questionnaires

Dear Shelby County Resident:

The United Way of Shelby County and its partners, including the Community Foundation of Shelby County, the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department, and the Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services are partnering with Illuminology, a research consultancy, to complete an important effort to gauge residents' priorities through a **Community Needs Assessment**.

The information we learn from this assessment will help us better serve you and all of Shelby County now and into the future.

We really need as many residents as possible to complete the survey so we can better understand what Shelby County residents need and want to see us work together to address. The survey is completely anonymous and Illuminology will analyze and present all responses as a group.

Completing the survey will take less than 10 minutes.

How to Participate:

Please scan the QR code below or visit this webpage for access:
<http://s.alchemer.com/s3/2023-Shelby-County-Community-Survey>

If you have any questions, please call Karla Young at 937-492-2101 or Dr. Amanda Scott, the researcher leading Illuminology's work, at 614.447.3176.

And, if you don't have internet access you can still participate! Dr. Scott can mail you a paper copy to complete. Just call her at the number above.



2023 Shelby County Community Survey

The United Way of Shelby County and its partners, including the Community Foundation of Shelby County, the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department, and the Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services need your input to support their planning efforts.

Please answer the questions as honestly as you can. If you don't know the answer to a question or if it is not applicable to you, feel free to skip it.

If you do not live in Shelby County, please do **NOT** complete this survey.

OPINIONS ABOUT SHELBY COUNTY

1. Overall, how is the quality of life in Shelby County? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

Excellent Good Fair Poor

2. What do you like most about living in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you: [FOR EACH ITEM BELOW, CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

Gone to a community event or activity in Shelby County	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Felt close to others in Shelby County (besides family)	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Felt like you belonged in Shelby County	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Gone to a local gov't or political meeting in Shelby County	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never

4. In the past 12 months, have you volunteered in your community, or have you not done that?

Have done that Have not done that

5. In your opinion, how much opportunity do you have to affect what happens in Shelby County?

[CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

Much opportunity Some opportunity Little opportunity No opportunity

6. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way things are going in Shelby County right now? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very dissatisfied

7. What do you think is the biggest problem facing **adults** in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]

8. What do you think is the biggest problem facing **teens** in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]

9. What do you think is the biggest problem facing **children** in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]

10. What problems do you or your family face with transportation or getting where you need to go?

[Check all that apply]

- Don't have transportation problems
- Financial issues (can't afford gas, vehicle repairs, etc.)
- Don't have a valid driver's license
- Don't have a vehicle or have to share a vehicle
- Lack of access to public transportation (schedule, distance, etc.)
- Other

11. How often do transportation problems impact your day-to-day life (i.e., ability to get to appointments or work, take children to school, get groceries, etc.)?

- Every day
- A few times a week
- A few times a month
- A few times a year
- Never

12. Please indicate how true you believe the following statement is: Everyone in Shelby County has a fair and just opportunity to achieve their highest level of physical, emotional and mental health.

Very true Somewhat true Somewhat untrue Very untrue

13. Please think for a moment about your vision for Shelby County in five years - what does that look like? In an ideal world, what would be different? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]

14. What makes Shelby County feel like home to you? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]

PROBLEMS FACING ADULTS

15. Next, we'd like you to think about some specific challenges that may affect **adults** in Shelby County. For each item below, please mark whether you think it is not an issue, is a minor issue, or is a serious issue for Shelby County residents. (FOR EACH ITEM BELOW, CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

A. The use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
B. Homelessness	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
C. Lack of affordable housing	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
D. Not enough money for basic needs including healthy food	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
E. Hard to find good paying jobs in the county	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
F. Domestic violence between adult partners	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
G. Physical or financial abuse of senior citizens	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
H. Racial or ethnic bias	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
I. Lack of affordable, high-quality childcare	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
J. Lack of health care providers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
K. Lack of mental health care providers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
L. Mental or emotional issues among adult residents	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
M. Sexually transmitted diseases among adult residents	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
N. Unaffordable dental insurance or dental care	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
O. Unaffordable medical insurance, copays, medical care, or medications	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
P. Biased or unfair law enforcement	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
Q. Crime	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
R. Fire and ambulance response times are too long	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
S. Hard to safely get to places by walking or biking	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
T. Lack of public transportation	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
U. Fast, reliable internet access at home	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
V. Hard to know how to find services when you need help	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
W. Lack of recreational or cultural activities	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue

16. Please look again at the problems in the table above. In your opinion, what are the **TWO MOST IMPORTANT** problems facing Shelby County **adults**? Please pick two and write the letters below.

1st most important problem:		2nd most important problem:	
---	--	---	--

PROBLEMS FACING CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

17. Next, we'd like you to think about some specific challenges that may affect **children and teenagers** in Shelby County. For each item below, please mark whether you think it is not an issue, is a minor issue, or is a serious issue for Shelby County residents. [FOR EACH ITEM BELOW, CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

A. Teen vaping	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
B. The use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs among children and teenagers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
C. Child abuse or neglect	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
D. Teen pregnancy	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
E. Lack of health care providers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
F. Lack of mental health care providers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
G. Mental or emotional issues among children and teenagers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
H. Sexually transmitted diseases among children and teenagers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
I. Children are not well prepared to start school	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
J. Students do not learn what they need to learn in middle and high school	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
K. Hard to safely get to places by walking or biking	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
L. Lack of public transportation	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
M. Racial or ethnic bias	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
N. Lack of recreational or cultural activities	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
O. Lack of support from family members	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
P. Difficulty finding good jobs close to home after graduation	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue

18. Please look again at the problems in the table above. In your opinion, what are the **TWO MOST IMPORTANT** problems facing Shelby County **children and teenagers**? Please pick two and write the letters below.

1st most important problem:		2nd most important Problem:	
---	--	---	--

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

PLEASE NOTE: If you are helping someone else complete this survey, please answer these questions about that person.

19. Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

- Excellent Very good Good Fair Poor

20. What is your gender? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

- Male Female Non-binary

21. In what year were you born? [WRITE A FOUR DIGIT YEAR]

22. For how many years have you lived in Shelby County? YEARS

23. Which of the following best describes your race? [CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY]

- White Black or African American American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Hispanic Some other race

24. Do you or does someone you live with own or rent your home? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

- Own Rent

25. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

- Less than 12th Grade (no diploma) High School Degree / GED Some College (no degree) Associate's Degree Bachelor's Degree Graduate or Professional Degree

26. What school district do you live in? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

- Anna Botkins Fairlawn Fort Loramie Hardin-Houston Jackson Center Russia Sidney Other: please write below

Dear Shelby County Teen:

Several Community Partners are currently planning how to address and prioritize needs of residents in Shelby County and they are particularly interested in understanding the perspectives of young people.

We need your help to understand what young people think are important problems facing youth today.

The information we learn from this assessment will help us better serve you and all of Shelby County now and into the future.

We really need as many young people as possible to complete the survey. The survey is completely anonymous and we will report all responses as a group.

Completing the survey will take less than 5 minutes.

How to Participate:

Please scan the QR code below or visit this webpage for access: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7674572/2023SCCYouthsurvey>

If you have any questions, please call Karla Young at 937-492-2101 or Dr. Amanda Scott, the researcher leading Illuminology's work, at 614.447.3176.

And, if you don't have internet access you can still participate! Dr. Scott can mail you a paper copy to complete. Just call her at the number above.



2023 Shelby County Community Survey

Several community partners are working together to make Shelby County a better place. They are very interested in understanding what young people think are key concerns.

Please answer the questions as honestly as you can. If you don't know the answer to a question or if it is not applicable to you, feel free to skip it.

If you do not live in Shelby County, please do **NOT** complete this survey.

OPINIONS ABOUT SHELBY COUNTY

1. What do you think is the biggest problem facing **teens** in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]

2. Overall, how is the quality of life in Shelby County? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]
Excellent Good Fair Poor
3. What do you like most about living in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]
4. In the past 12 months, have you volunteered in your community, or have you not done that?
Have done that Have not done that
5. What do you think is the biggest problem facing **children** in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]
6. Please indicate how true you believe the following statement is: **Everyone in Shelby County has a fair and just opportunity to achieve their highest level of physical, emotional and mental health.**
Very true Somewhat true Somewhat untrue Very untrue
7. Please think for a moment about your vision for Shelby County in five years - what does that look like? In an ideal world, what would be different? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]
8. What makes Shelby County feel like home to you? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]

PROBLEMS FACING CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

9. Next, we'd like you to think about some specific challenges that may affect **children and teenagers** in Shelby County. For each item below, please mark whether you think it is not an issue, is a minor issue, or is a serious issue for Shelby County residents. [FOR EACH ITEM BELOW, CIRCLE ONE

ANSWER]

A. Teen vaping	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
B. The use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs among children and teenagers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
C. Child abuse or neglect	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
D. Teen pregnancy	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
E. Lack of health care providers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
F. Lack of mental health care providers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
G. Mental or emotional issues among children and teenagers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
H. Sexually transmitted diseases among children and teenagers	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
I. Children are not well prepared to start school	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
J. Students do not learn what they need to learn in middle and high school	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
K. Hard to safely get to places by walking or biking	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
L. Lack of public transportation	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
M. Racial or ethnic bias	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
N. Lack of recreational or cultural activities	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
O. Lack of support from family members	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue
P. Difficulty finding good jobs close to home after graduation	Not an issue	Minor issue	Serious issue

10. Please look again at the problems in the table above. In your opinion, what are the **TWO MOST IMPORTANT** problems facing Shelby County **children and teenagers**? Please pick two and write the letters below.

1st most important problem:		2nd most important Problem:	
---	--	---	--

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

11. What is your gender? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

Male Female Non-binary

12. In what year were you born? [WRITE A FOUR DIGIT YEAR]

13. What school district do you live in? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

Anna Botkins Fairlawn Fort Loramie Hardin-Houston Jackson Center Russia Sidney

Other:
please
write
below

2024 Shelby County Key Stakeholder Survey

The United Way of Shelby County and its partners, including the Community Foundation of Shelby County, the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department, and the Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services need your input to support their planning efforts.

Please answer the questions as honestly as you can. If you don't know the answer to a question or if it is not applicable to you, feel free to skip it.

OPINIONS ABOUT SHELBY COUNTY

1. What do you think is the biggest problem facing **adults** in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]
2. What do you think is the biggest problem facing **teens** in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]
3. What do you think is the biggest problem facing **children** in Shelby County? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]
4. Please indicate how true you believe the following statement is: **Everyone in Shelby County has a fair and just opportunity to achieve their highest level of physical, emotional, and mental health.**

Very true	Somewhat true	Somewhat untrue	Very untrue
-----------	---------------	-----------------	-------------
5. Please think for a moment about your vision for Shelby County in five years - what does that look like? In an ideal world, what would be different? [PLEASE WRITE ANSWER BELOW]

PROBLEMS FACING ADULTS

The Shelby County Community Resident survey asks residents about some specific challenges that may affect **adults** in Shelby County. Five key issues rise to the top of resident concerns. The next questions are about these five issues.

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: KEEP THIS INTRO AND THE NEXT THREE QUESTIONS ON THE SAME PAGE.]
Residents believe the most serious issue facing Shelby County adults **is alcohol, tobacco and drug use.**

6. Do you think **the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs** is not an issue, is a minor issue, is a moderately serious issue, is a very serious issue, or is an extremely serious issue for Shelby County Residents?

Not an issue	Minor issue	Moderately serious issue	Very serious issue	Extremely serious issue
--------------	-------------	--------------------------	--------------------	-------------------------

7. What resources does Shelby County currently have to address **the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs** among adult residents?

8. What barriers exist when trying to address **the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs** in Shelby County?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: KEEP THIS INTRO AND THE NEXT THREE QUESTIONS ON THE SAME PAGE.]

Residents believe the 2nd most serious issue facing Shelby County adults is **the lack of affordable housing** in the County. The federal government typically defines housing as affordable when it consumes no more than 30 percent of a household’s income.

9. Do you think **the lack of affordable housing** is not an issue, is a minor issue, is a moderately serious issue, is a very serious issue, or is an extremely serious issue for Shelby County Residents?

Not an issue	Minor issue	Moderately serious issue	Very serious issue	Extremely serious issue
--------------	-------------	--------------------------	--------------------	-------------------------

10. What resources does Shelby County currently have to address **the lack of affordable housing** in the County?

11. What barriers exist when trying to address **the lack of affordable housing** in Shelby County?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: KEEP THIS INTRO AND THE NEXT THREE QUESTIONS ON THE SAME PAGE.]

Residents believe the 3rd most serious issue facing Shelby County adults is **residents not having enough money for basic needs including healthy food**. Basic needs are the elements necessary to ensure an individual’s health and safety, including food, shelter, and clothing.

12. Do you think **residents not having enough money for basic needs including healthy food** is not an issue, is a minor issue, is a moderately serious issue, is a very serious issue, or is an extremely serious issue for Shelby County Residents?

Not an issue	Minor issue	Moderately serious issue	Very serious issue	Extremely serious issue
--------------	-------------	--------------------------	--------------------	-------------------------

13. What resources does Shelby County currently have to address **residents not having enough money for basic needs including healthy food**?

14. What barriers exist when trying to address the issue of **residents not having enough money for basic needs including healthy food** in Shelby County?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: KEEP THIS INTRO AND THE NEXT THREE QUESTIONS ON THE SAME PAGE.]

Residents believe the 4th most serious issue facing Shelby County adults is the **lack of affordable, high-quality childcare**. The Department of Health and Human Services advises that childcare is considered affordable if it does not exceed 7% of a household’s income. According to the census, the median income of Shelby County households in 2020 was \$64,522. That means for the median household in Shelby County, childcare should not exceed about \$4,500 per year. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in 2018, the monthly cost for full time childcare for non-school age children ranged from about \$6,883 to about \$9,414 per year, depending on the age of the child and the care setting.

15. Do you think **the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare** is not an issue, is a minor issue, is a moderately serious issue, is a very serious issue, or is an extremely serious issue for Shelby County Residents?

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Not an issue | Minor issue | Moderately serious issue | Very serious issue | Extremely serious issue |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|

16. What resources does Shelby County currently have to address **the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare**?

17. What barriers exist when trying to address **the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare** in Shelby County?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: KEEP THIS INTRO AND THE NEXT THREE QUESTIONS ON THE SAME PAGE.]

Residents believe the 5th most serious issue facing Shelby County adults is the **lack of mental health care providers**. According to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps 2023, the ratio of mental health care providers in Shelby County is 1 to every 1,230 residents, compared to 1 for every 330 Ohio residents statewide.

18. Do you think **the lack of mental health care providers** is not an issue, is a minor issue, is a moderately serious issue, is a very serious issue, or is an extremely serious issue for Shelby County Residents?

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Not an issue | Minor issue | Moderately serious issue | Very serious issue | Extremely serious issue |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|

19. What resources does Shelby County currently have to address **the lack of mental health care providers**?

20. What barriers exist when trying to address **the lack of mental health care providers** in Shelby County?

[NEW SCREEN]

21. The selection of priority issues is complex and should consider both 1) the seriousness of the issue and 2) how feasible it is to address the issue. If you were deciding to prioritize one of the five issues just discussed, which would you select as the one to focus community efforts toward?

- The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs
- The lack of affordable housing
- Residents not having enough money for basic needs including healthy food
- The lack of affordable, high-quality childcare
- The lack of mental health care providers

PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

22. Would you have any interest in joining a future workgroup dedicated to addressing one or more of the issues asked about in this survey? [CIRCLE ONE ANSWER]

Yes No

IF YES TO ABOVE QUESTION: Which workgroups would you be interested in joining? Please select all that apply:

- The use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs
- The lack of affordable housing
- Residents not having enough money for basic needs including healthy food
- The lack of affordable, high-quality childcare
- The lack of mental health care providers

IF YES TO ABOVE QUESTION:

23. So that we can contact potential workgroup members, please provide your contact information below.