

## **Summary**

The Community Action Partnership for Somerset County has conducted a comprehensive needs assessment for Somerset County between March 2015 and August 2015. The objective of this assessment was to identify the health and human services needs of the residents throughout Somerset County. The assessment was developed and overseen by a committee comprised of the Executive Director and Department Directors of CAPFSC. The goal of this project was to provide CAPFSC administration, board members, and staff objective data on specific community needs to help with strategic planning and resource allocation decisions

## **Methodology**

The survey utilized a random sample methodology. Participants represented all eleven school districts in Somerset County. The individuals surveyed are a diverse representation of our county's population. This included community members, community leaders, service providers and a large segment of direct service recipients. Data collection was conducted a multifaceted approach which included an online survey and a paper version which was later entered into a data base.

## **Results**

### **Demographics**

Approximately, 1054 surveys were collected over a two month period. Nearly 80% of the respondents were female. In terms of ethnicity/race, 97.6% of the respondents were White/Not Hispanic, 1.0% were Hispanic, and less than 1.0% reported Black, Native American, or Asian/Pacific Islander. The average age of respondents was 45 years old.

### **Family Composition**

The primary family composition for respondents was two-parent home/w kids (49.2%), (23.8%) two-adults/no kids, (14.4%) single parent and (7.8%) single person. Nearly 30% of respondents indicated having at least on child under the age of 5. Approximately, 87% of respondents reported having a school-aged child in the household.

### **Housing**

Nearly 73.2% of people owned their own home, while 20.44% rented and 5.14% lived with friends or relatives. In terms of housing type only 6.04% indicated that they lived in low income housing. On average, 83.89% of the respondents have not moved in the last two-years, with 9.97% having moved (1) time, and 4.33% moving (2) times.

## **Education, Employment and Income**

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Educational attainment statistics are as follows-

More than 4 yrs. of college-	23.72%
2-4 year college-	25.89%
Some college-	13.44%
Technical school-	8.60%
High school grad/GED-	23.81%
9-12 (did not Graduate) –	3.95%
Grade 0-8-	0.59%

Nearly 61.44% of respondents are either having either full-time or part-time employment. The remaining respondents indicated that 6.28 were homemakers and 3.14% were unemployed. 10.43 were retired, and 6.58% were disabled.

The average income of survey participants was \$25,000 to \$49,999 (**23.3%**) and (**12.66%**) were under \$15,000.

The following responses were ranked as sources of family income:

- 81.7%- Employment
- 21.3%- SSI-SS
- 11.8%- Food Stamps
- 10.6%- Pension
- 2.5%- Unemployment
- 0.8%- Interest
- 3.3%- Cash Assistance
- 1.9%- No Income

In regards to banking status, nearly 23.9% of respondents have a checking account and 2.5% have a savings account, 69.4% have both savings and checking, and 4.0% have none. Almost 66% of the respondents indicated having put funds into some type of retirement plan, 24.6% have not and about 9.3% were already retired.

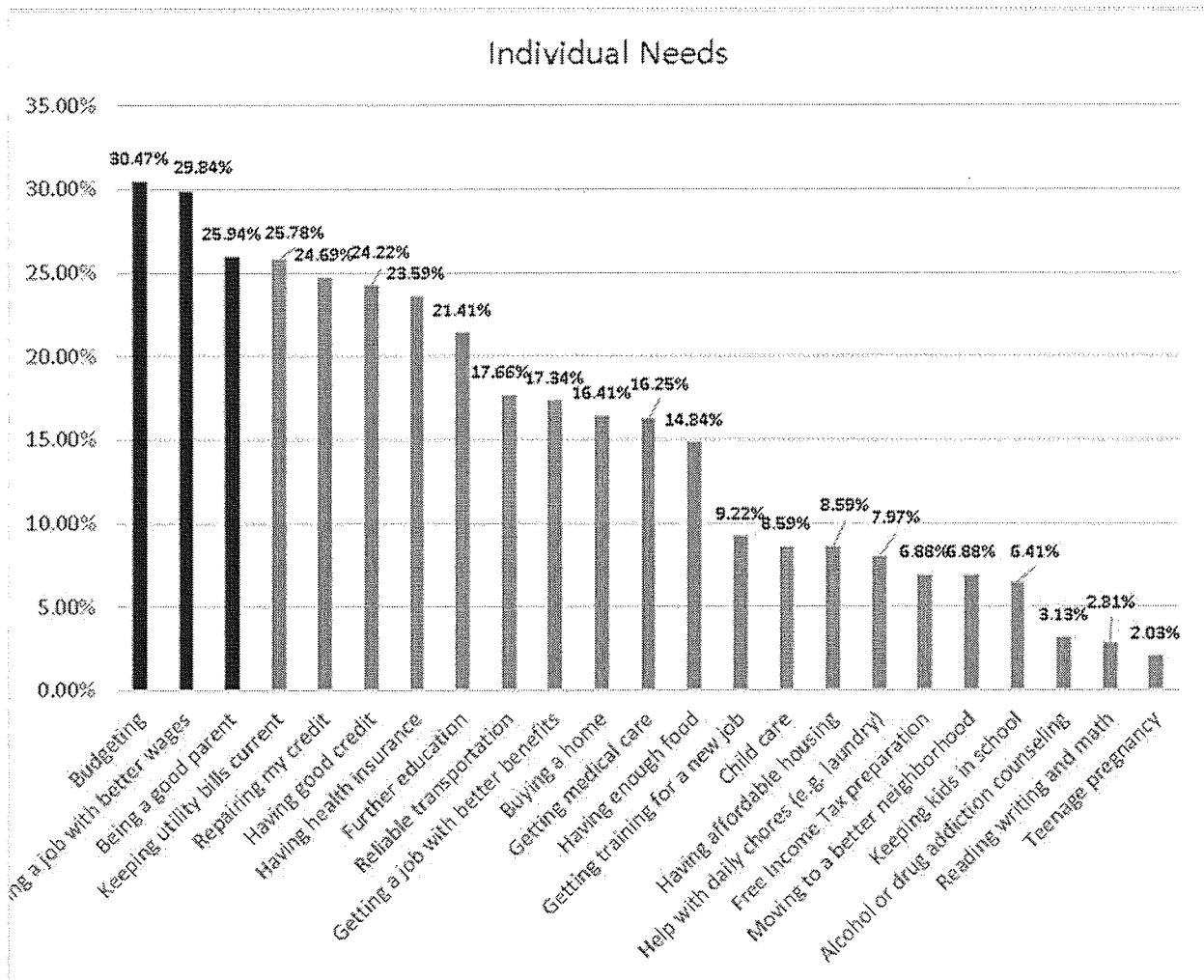
In terms of early childhood education programming 11.89% indicated that their child was enrolled in a preschool program, 26.59% were not enrolled and 61.52% replied n/a or kids too old.

Those that answered “yes” to this question indicated that 21.9% are enrolled in Head Start 15.25 % are enrolled in Pre-K Counts, 22.88% are in a private program and 28.81% school-based.

In addition to Center-based programs, home visitation services were assessed. Approximately 13.56% of respondents were enrolled in Early Head Start 13.56% and 11.86% Parents As Teachers. Nearly 30% of respondents with children under 5, indicated that they were not enrolled in any pre-birth to 5 program because they were not aware of any programs available. More than 10% indicated transportation was a barrier and 16.7% reported cost was a barrier to accessing early childhood education programming.

Only 3.31% of respondents with school-aged children reported utilizing alternative school programming. This includes home school, cyber school, private school and, alternative school placements.

## Individual Needs



## Top three priority needs

<b>Most Important-</b>	<b>Having Health Insurance</b>	<b>66.67%</b>
	Getting medical care	57.49%
	Having Enough Food	50.00%

<b>Second Most Important</b>	<b>Keeping utility bills current</b>	<b>34.74%</b>
	Having good credit	32.41%
	Further Education	30.15%

<b>Third Most Important</b>	<b>Teen Pregnancy</b>	<b>81.58%</b>
	Free Income Tax Preparation	66.20%
	Alcohol Drug Addiction Counseling	60.87%

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**Top 3 Problems experienced in household**

Depression/Anxiety	12.5%
Sever financial problems	7.45%
Serious physical illness or condition	5.74%

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**Top 5 responses regarding where residents in Somerset County turn for Human Services information.**

Internet	44.18%
Family member or friend	39.05%
Newspaper	29.66%

Clergy/church	20.78%
Doctor/medical professional	19.9%
Don't know where to get info	13.27%

## **Food Security Issues**

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Over 20% of survey respondents indicated having enough food been an issue in your household in the last year.

The following food resources were most utilized in Somerset County.

Community Food Banks	72.09%
Food Stamps	72.87%
Tapestry of Health/WIC	24.81%
Community Garden	1.55%
Community Action/Tableland Food Distribution	10.85%
Salvation Army	13.95%

## **Transportation Issues**

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### **Public Transportation**

93.82% of respondents drive their own vehicle to work/school

87.09% don't need/use public transportation

6.03% of those surveyed not aware of public transportation

Approximately (3%) either used public transportation or did not use/didn't like

### **Affording Transportation**

77%- NO

23%- YES

**Valid Driver's License**

96%- YES

4%- NO

**SCTS Awareness**

71% YES

29% NO

10% of respondents have utilized SCTS

90 % have not utilized SCTS services

75% of respondents reports a good experience with the SCTS

The following issues with the SCTS were reported by respondents

Too expensive	0%
Limited availability/hours of service	54.55%
Long wait times	90.91%
Scheduling conflicts	63.64%

**EMPLOYMENT**

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68.15% continuously employed in the last 2 years

31.85% not continuously employed in the last 2 years

87%-are not seasonally employed

70%-reported that their job pays a sustaining wage

92%-have not been laid off in the past two years

**Average number of jobs held in the last two years**

1-	77%
2-	16%
3-	5.3%
4 or more	less than 1%

**Number of jobs currently held**

0-	19%
1-	67%
2-	10
3-	2%

**Job Training**

Lack of skills	81% - NO
Basic Reading	98%- NO
Computer Skills	89%- NO
Have own computer	87%- YES
Internet Connection	86%- YES
Do you have a "Smart Phone" or Tablet with an internet access?	75%- YES



## **Social Media**

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Facebook	98%
Twitter	15%
Instagram	20%
MySpace	1%

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>
Average amt. of time online	2hrs. 15 min.	3hrs. 22min.
Internet access outside of home:		
49%- YES		
36%- NO		
14% - Don't know where to go		

## **Health & Health Care**

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93% are covered

7% are not covered

12% are under the age of 18

73% receive healthcare coverage from Employer, school, or union

31% Medicare/Medicaid

10% other (out-of-pocket as needed)

9% bought directly

15.5% of respondents have gone without coverage in the last 12 months

**Healthcare providers**

94% Primary care Doctor

9% Emergency room (duplications from above)

10.2% Urgent Care Clinic

<1% free clinic

3.4% Other ( generally family members)

19% have needed medical care but did not get it

**Top 3 Reasons for not getting medical attention**

56%- not covered by insurance

56% costs too much

7% provider does not accept insurance

16% went without a prescription

58% have been able to get immunizations for children

<1% have not had immunizations

41.4% - N/A

Less than 1% choose not to

27% have had trouble paying medical bills in the last year

28% have need dental care but did not get it

77% costs too much

67% not covered by insurance

5% could find a dentist that accepts my insurance

**Tobacco Use**

Cigarettes	70.8%
Vapor Cigarettes	16.5%
Smokeless Tobacco (snuff)	24.5%

**Overall health rating**

13% Excellent

50% Good

29% Average

5% Below Average/Poor

**Housing**

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98% reported that their home provides adequate/safe shelter

**Heating Source**

Electric- 25%

Fuel Oil- 41%

LP- 4%

Coal 16%

Wood- 19%

Gas 24%

Other 8.9%

(A majority of these heating sources are blended)

**Finances**

9% reported having trouble affording housing

91% reported "NO" or "N/A"

18.5% reported having trouble paying utility bills

19% reported having a home/car loan denied due to poor credit

36% have had their homes weatherized

**Community & Parenting Issues**

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**Top 3 parenting /childcare concerns**

22%- Having a safe place for youth to congregate

16%- Having enough food

14% Having enough activities for my children

**Community Programming Needs**

Teen Pregnancy Prevention 19%

Youth Drug and Alcohol Prevention 44%

Bullying Prevention 49%

Cyber Bullying Prevention 33.3%

Internet/Social Media Safety 58.6%

**Other Care Provider**

8% of respondents are guardians/care givers for another family

0% are grandparents

4% for an adult over age 60

4% are under the age of 18

**Overall ratings of your community**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
There is affordable housing			54.6%		
I feel safe in my community			64.8%		
There is ample local police service			44.9%		
I am satisfied with my community's schools			51%		
There is affordable, available health care centers			47.2%		
Overall, my community is a good place to live			65%		
Overall, my community is a good place to visit/vacation			50.8%		
Overall, my community is a good place to raise children			61.4%		
Overall, my community is a good place to work			50.8%		
Overall, my community is a good place to retire			52.%		

