

WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



2024 HEALTH REPORT



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About Our Health Department

Washington County Health Department (WCHD) is part of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), as well as an agency of Washington County government. The Washington County Commissioners serve as the official Board of Health. Funding for WCHD is a combination of federal, state and county monies, plus third-party and private-pay reimbursements.

Located at 1302 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hagerstown, MD, the facility houses the administrative headquarters, the Nursing Division, the Environmental Health Division, the Community Health Outreach, Prevention, and Promotion Division, and the Health Planning and Strategic Initiatives Division of the Washington County Health Department. Additionally our Behavioral Health Division is located down the road from the main offices at 925 N. Burhans Blvd.

● Our Vision

A healthy community for all

● Our Mission

Promote healthy behaviors, prevent disease and injury, and safeguard the environment

● Our Values

Our values are the recipe for our success as an organization

Respect

Excellence

Commitment

Integrity

Professionalism

Equity

2024 WCHD YEAR IN REVIEW

2024 WCHD Year in Review

Administration and Human Resources



The Administration and Human Resources divisions house all of the support programs and functions that allow for the health department to achieve its mission and goals. The Administration division oversees the department's interpreting services, the medical transportation program, budget and accounts, manages grant funding, purchasing, and billing for all programs, handles all maintenance, housekeeping, and IT needs, and is responsible for our reception and vital records requests. The Human Resources division handles all tasks involving employment, employee benefits, compensation, performance management, and quality assurance.

Administration

1,415

Purchase Orders Processed

8,390

Death Certificates Issued

4,955

Birth Certificates Issued

17,228

Medical Assistance Transportation
Trips

Human Resources

17

New Hires

2

Retired Employees

51

Employees with 10+ Years of Service

27

Employees with 20+ Years of Service

Language Services

5,708

LEP Interactions

28

of Different Languages
Requested



2024 WCHD Year in Review

Behavioral Health



The Behavioral Health division is responsible for providing prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery resources to Washington County residents affected by behavioral health issues. Some of the programs and services under this division include Crisis Services and Overdose Response, the Hub City Strong Harm Reduction program, Peer Recovery Services, Washington Goes Purple, the Tobacco Free for Life program, prevention services and education, the Jail Substance Abuse Program, Narcan training, and many more!

Community Outreach and Education

174

Outreach and Education Events

16,289

Peer Support Services Offered

213

Overdose Responses



Narcan Training

434

Trainings Held

1,512

Individuals Trained

18,013

Doses of Narcan Distributed

Jail Substance Abuse Program

135

Program Participants



2024 WCHD Year in Review

Community Health Outreach, Prevention and Promotion



The Community Health Outreach Prevention and Promotion division focuses on chronic disease prevention and management, health promotion, emergency planning, and public relations. Some of the activities and programs this division is responsible for include: Cribs for Kids, the Diabetes Prevention Program, PPE and Covid Test Kit Distribution, Emergency Preparedness, Stop the Bleed Training, Healthy Washington County, and management of WCHD social media, website, and the Pathfinder site.

Community Education and Outreach

34

Health Fairs and Events Attended

19

Community Presentations

51

Cribs Distributed Through
Cribs for Kids

22

Diabetes Risk Screenings

78

Blood Pressure Screening Events

545

Blood Pressure Screenings

198

BP Cuffs Distributed

11

Diabetes Prevention Program
Participants

Emergency Preparedness

14

Stop the Bleed Trainings

500+

Individuals Trained

16,189

Rapid Covid Test Kits Distributed



Social Media Engagement

135,985

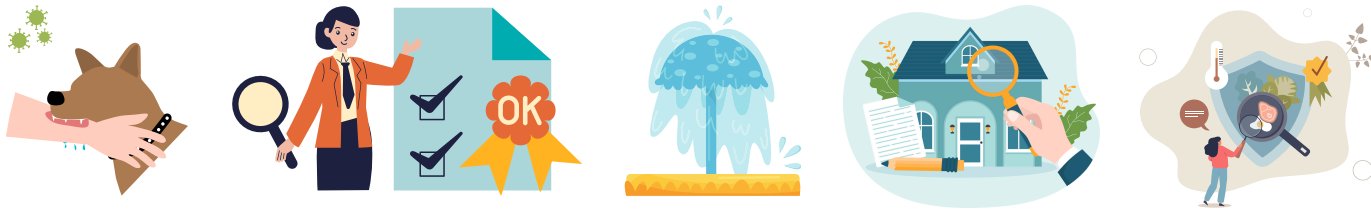
Facebook Views
and Interactions

4,134

Instagram Views
and Interactions

2024 WCHD Year in Review

Environmental Health



The Environmental Health Division's mission is to provide pure water, wholesome food, clean air, and safe surroundings for all residents of Washington County by administering and enforcing programs from the Maryland Department of Health and Department of the Environment. Some of the divisions responsibilities include handling food service complaints, inspections, and permits, reviewing and processing well and septic permits, campground, pool, and spa inspections and testing, and infectious disease investigation and control.

Permits

900+

Food Permits Issued

115

Subdivision/Site Plans Reviewed

627

Temporary Food Permits Issued

483

Building Permits Reviewed

374

Perc, Well, and Septic Permits Processed

Investigations and Inspections

400+

Restaurant Inspections

64

Pool and Spa Inspections

400+

Bite Reports Received

17

Mobile Home Park Inspections

313

Environmental Health Complaints Received

11

Campground Inspections

2024 WCHD Year in Review

Health Planning and Strategic Initiatives



The Health Planning and Strategic Initiatives division houses our Office of Health Equity and our Epidemiology department. The Office of Health Equity is responsible for developing and implementing equitable strategies to address health disparities throughout the entire community, developing internal policies to promote equitable practices, leading the health equity committee, and promoting staff development through equity related trainings. The Epidemiology department is responsible for data collection and analysis, chronic and infectious disease surveillance, and data reporting and visualization .

Office of Health Equity

12

Health Equity Committee Meetings Held

4

Staff Trainings Held

16

Health Equity Committee Members

2

Community Health Literacy Webinars

Epidemiology

2

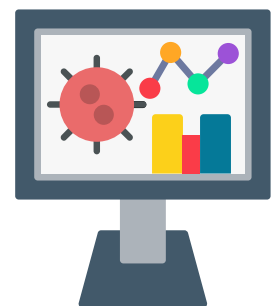
Community Surveys Developed

9

Community Focus Groups Facilitated

1

Health Equity Tracker Developed



2024 WCHD Year in Review

Nursing



The Nursing division offers many different programs and services in an effort to ensure the health and safety of the community. Some of the programs and services under this division include Administrative Care Coordination and Ombudsman Services, Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal Cancer screening, education, and treatment programs, Refugee Services, Reproductive Health and STI clinical services, HIV case management and prevention, Communicable Disease surveillance, investigation, and intervention, the Healthy Families program, WIC services, the Maryland Children's Health and Medical Assistance for Families program, and many more!

Clinical Services

1,135

Family Planning Clinic Visits

62

PrEP Clinic Visits

123

HUB Outreach Encounters

369

Tuberculosis Clinic Visits

586

Communicable Disease Control Encounters

Healthy Families

1,330

Home Visits

90

Families Served



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Our Community

2023 Population Estimates

Population	Washington County	Maryland	United States
Total Population	155,033	6,170,738	332,387,540
Female	49.2%	51.3%	50.5%
Male	50.8%	48.7%	49.5%

Race and Ethnicity	Washington County	Maryland	United States
White, alone	74.5%	47.4%	58.2%
Black, alone	11.3%	29.2%	12.0%
Hispanic or Latino	7.3%	12.1%	19.0%
Asian, alone	1.6%	6.4%	5.7%
Two or More Races, alone	4.8%	4.2%	3.9%
Other Race*, alone	0.5%	0.7%	1.2%

Age	Washington County	Maryland	United States
Under 18 Years	21.9%	22.3%	22.2%
18 Years and Over	78.1%	77.7%	77.8%
65 Years and Over	17.8%	16.3%	16.8%

*Other Race - Includes American Indian and Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and Other Race
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Table DP05

Social Factors

2023 Population Estimates

Education	Washington County	Maryland	United States
Less than High School	11.4%	8.9%	10.6%
High School Grad or Higher	88.7%	91.2%	89.4%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	23.5%	43.7%	38.8%
Income, Employment, and Housing	Washington County	Maryland	United States
Median Household Income	\$74,157	\$101,652	\$78,538
Unemployment Rate*	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%
Home Ownership	65.9%	67.5%	65.0%
Monthly Housing Cost Above 25% of Income	32.5%	36.3%	37.6%
Language Spoken at Home	Washington County	Maryland	United States
English Only	90.6%	78.5%	78.0%
Spanish	5.7%	9.9%	13.4%
Other Languages	0.2%	2.8%	1.2%

*Language - For individuals aged 18 and older

*Education - Educational attainment amongst population 25 years and over

*Unemployment - Among population 16 years and over

Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables S1601, S1501, S1901, S2301, DP03, DP04

Social Factors

2023 Population Estimates

Disability Status	Washington County	Maryland	United States
Total Population	15.3%	11.4%	13.0%
Poverty Status	Washington County	Maryland	United States
Individuals Below Poverty Level	12.5%	9.3%	12.4%
Families Below Poverty Level	8.6%	6.3%	8.7%
Household Benefits Status*	Washington County	Maryland	United States
Receiving Food Stamp or SNAP Benefits	15.8%	11.0%	11.8%
Receiving Social Security Income	33.6%	28.3%	31.2%
Receiving Supplemental Security Income	5.7%	4.3%	5.1%
Health Insurance Coverage	Washington County	Maryland	United States
Uninsured	6.1%	6.2%	8.6%
Public Insurance*	42.6%	34.2%	36.3%

*Count of Households, not individuals

*Public Insurance includes: Medicare, Medicaid, VA Health Care, and Children's Health Insurance Program

Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP03, S1810, S1701, S1702

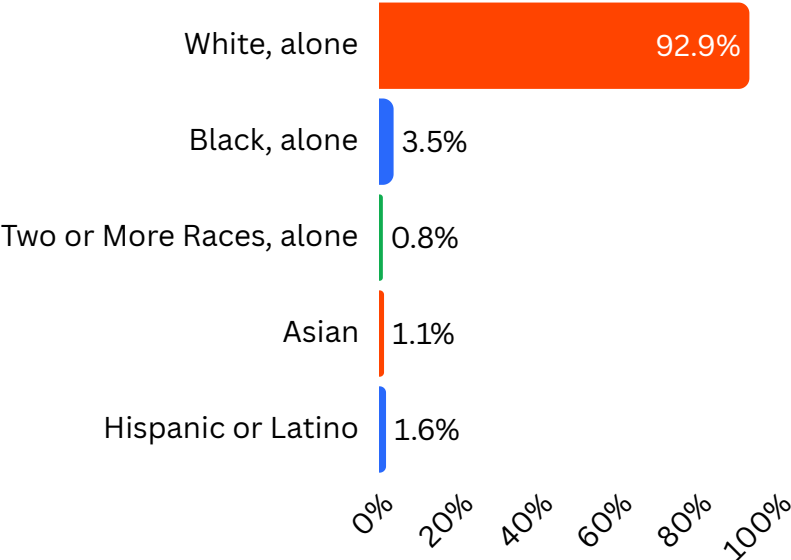
Around our Towns

Boonsboro

Total Population: 6,734

Quick Facts

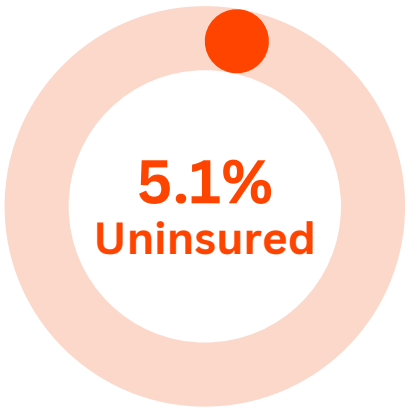
Race and Ethnicity



Age

Median Age	42.5
65 and Older	18.9%
Under 18	24.3%

Health Insurance Coverage

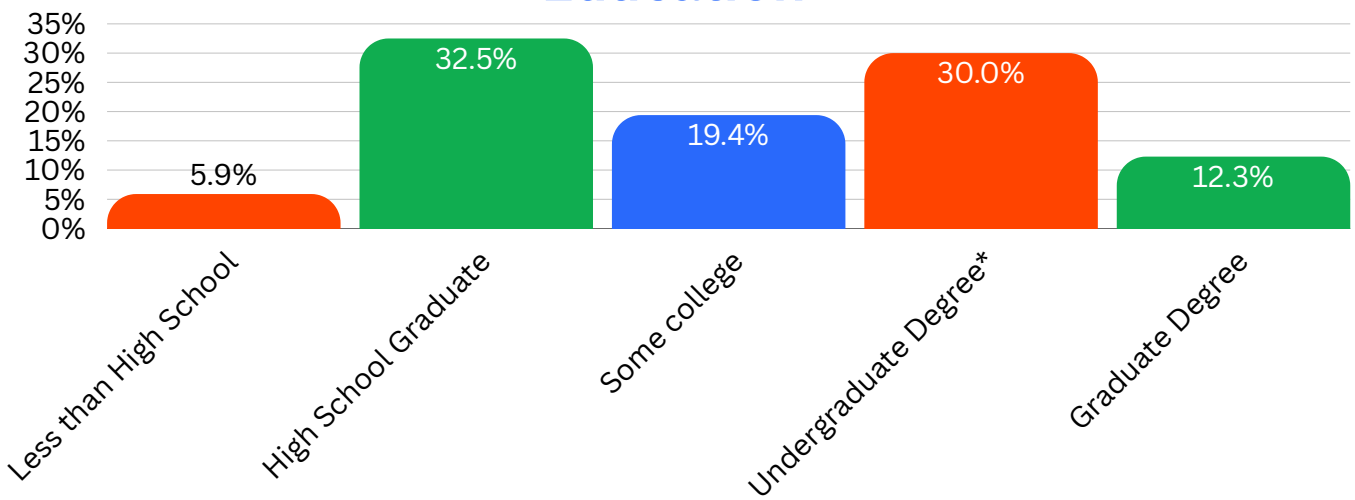


Median Household Income

\$100,938



Education



*Includes Associate's and Bachelor's degrees; Measure of Population aged 25 and older
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP05, S1501, S1901, S2701

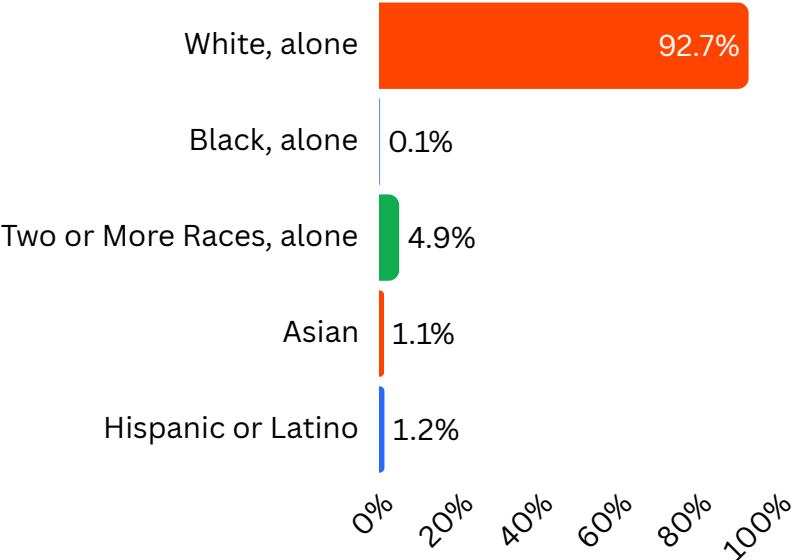
Around our Towns

Clear Spring

Total Population: 3,763

Quick Facts

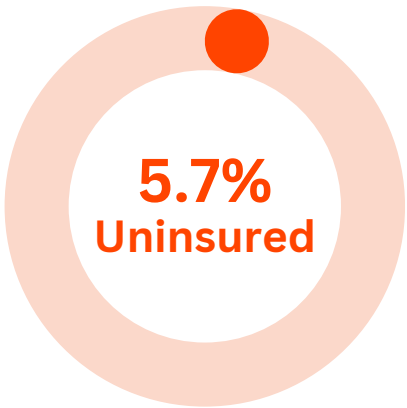
Race and Ethnicity



Age

Median Age	41.7
65 and Older	19.5%
Under 18	24.3%

Health Insurance Coverage

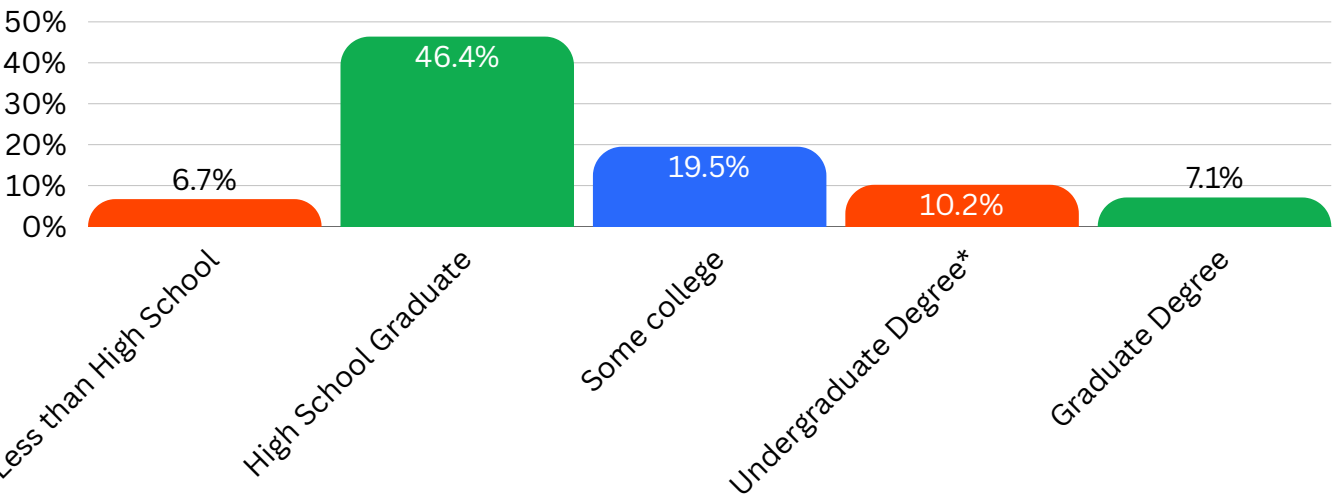


Median Household Income

\$81,964



Education



*Includes Associate's and Bachelor's degrees; Measure of Population aged 25 and older
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP05, S1501, S1901, S2701

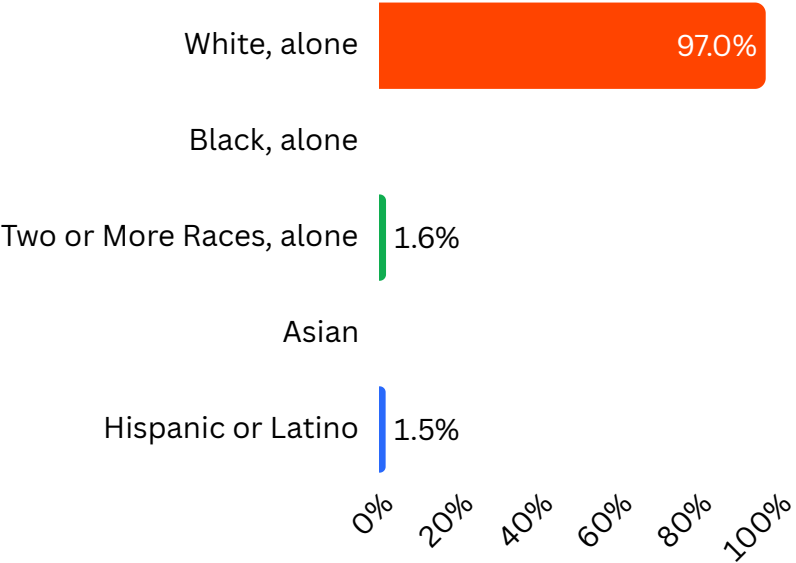
Around our Towns

Funkstown

Total Population: 826

Quick Facts

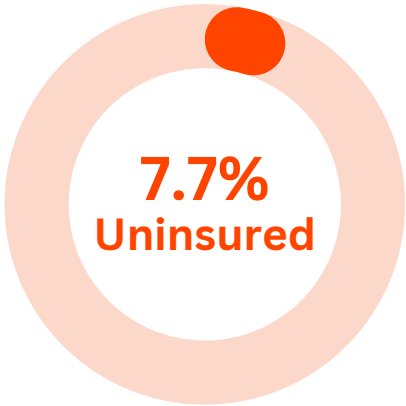
Race and Ethnicity



Age

Median Age	55.6
65 and Older	24.8%
Under 18	4.8%

Health Insurance Coverage

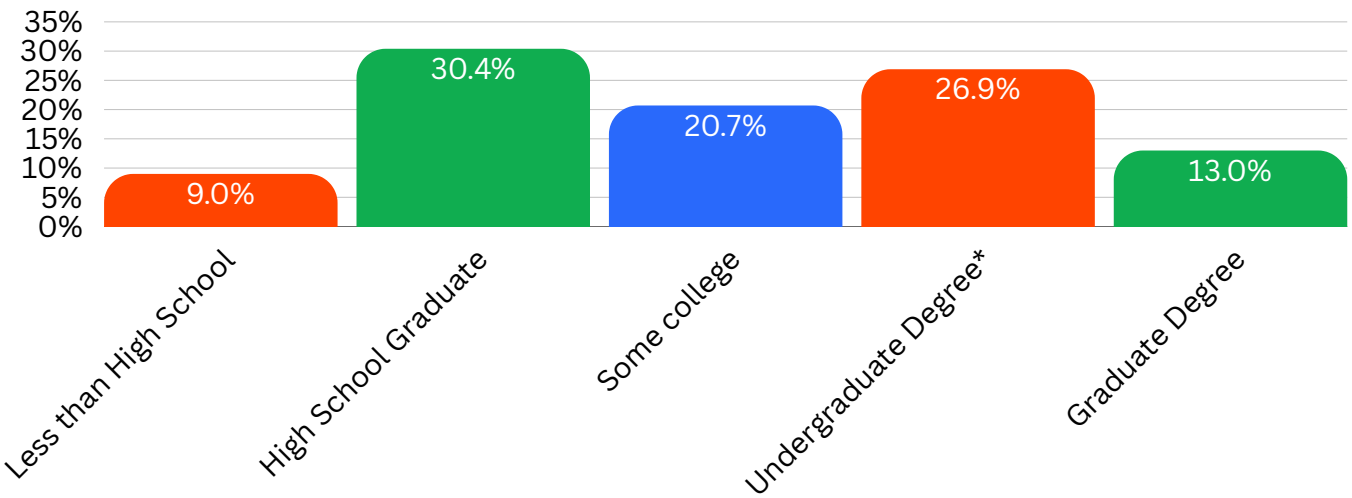


Median Household Income

\$58,438



Education



*Includes Associate's and Bachelor's degrees; Measure of Population aged 25 and older
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP05, S1501, S1901, S2701

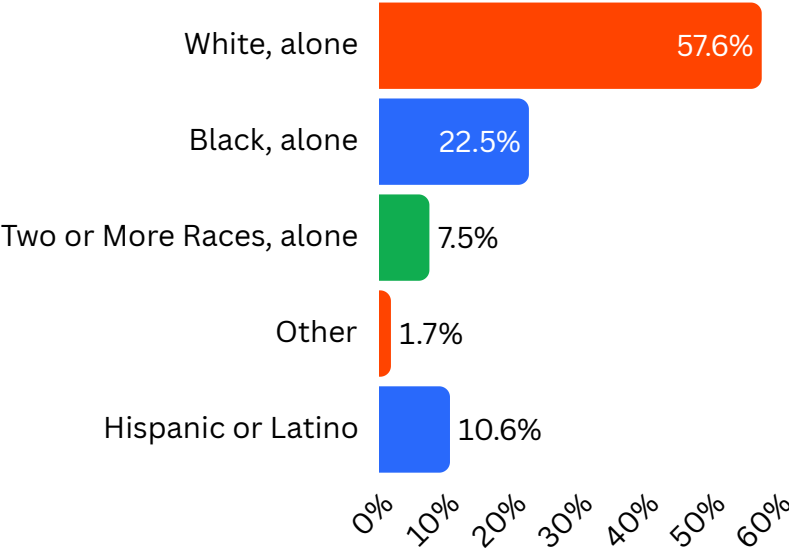
Around our Towns

Hagerstown

Total Population: 43,490

Quick Facts

Race and Ethnicity

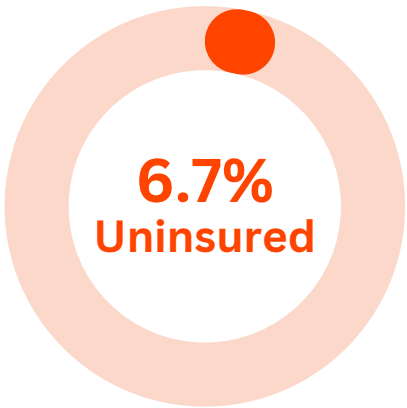


*Other Race Includes: Asian, NH&PI, and Some Other Race categories

Age

Median Age	36.4
65 and Older	14.6%
Under 18	25.3%

Health Insurance Coverage

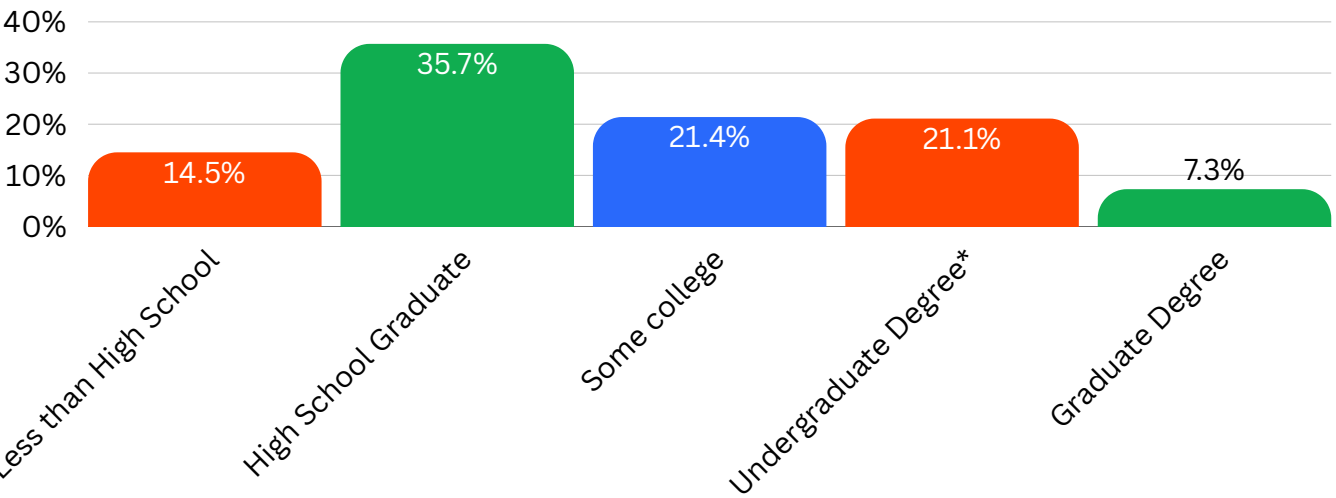


Median Household Income

\$49,957



Education



*Includes Associate's and Bachelor's degrees; Measure of Population aged 25 and older
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP05, S1501, S1901, S2701

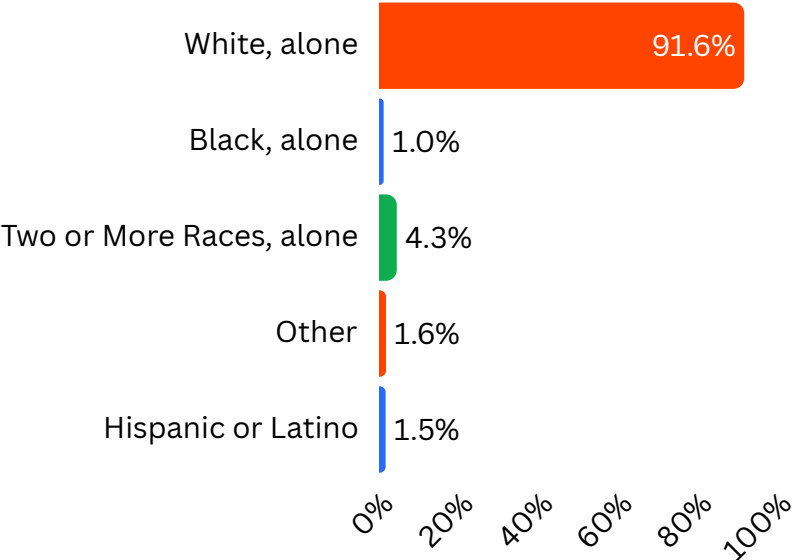
Around our Towns

Hancock

Total Population: 3,277

Quick Facts

Race and Ethnicity

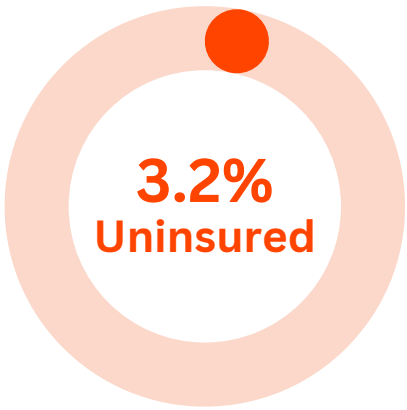


*Other Race Includes: Asian and Some Other Race categories

Age

Median Age	49.2
65 and Older	19.0%
Under 18	16.7%

Health Insurance Coverage

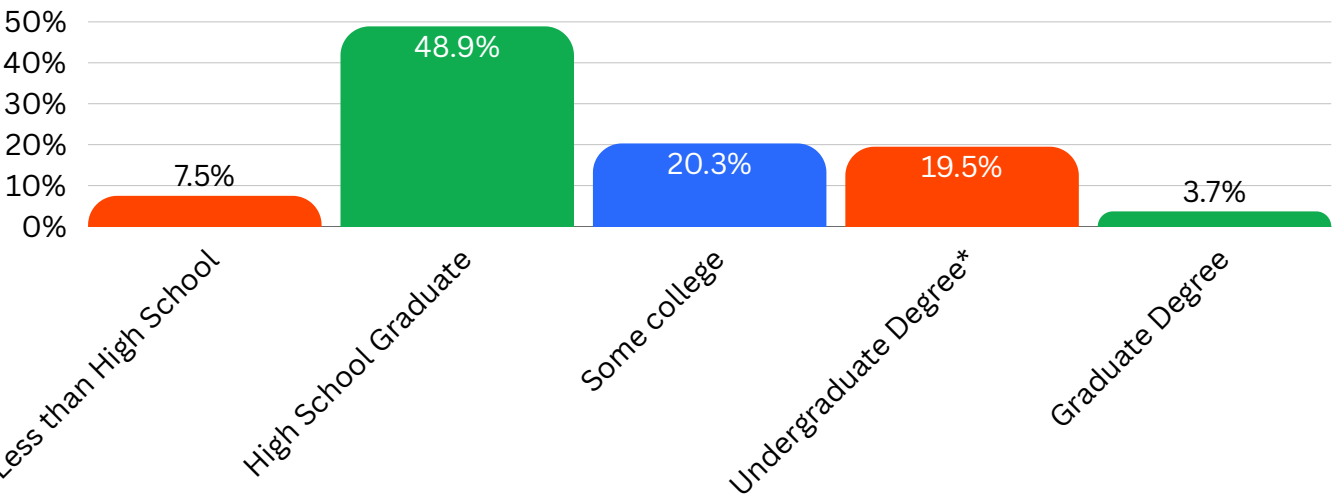


Median Household Income

\$52,434



Education



*Includes Associate's and Bachelor's degrees; Measure of Population aged 25 and older
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP05, S1501, S1901, S2701

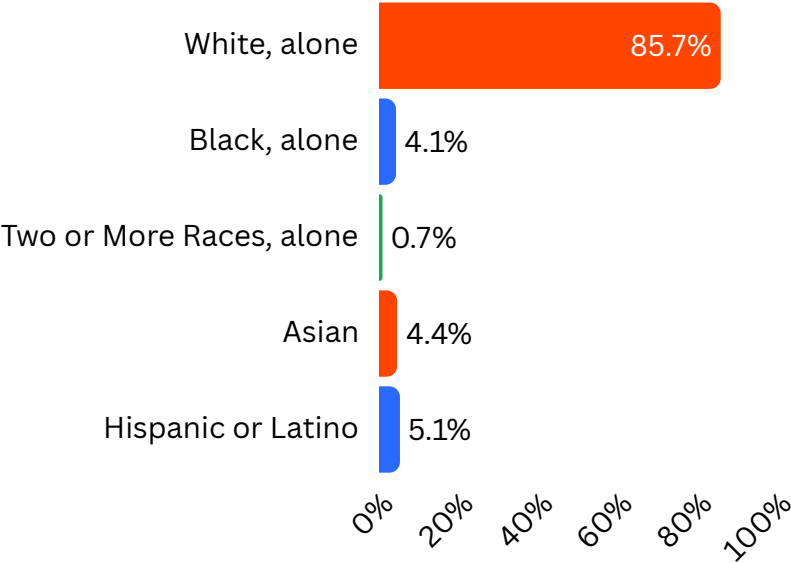
Around our Towns

Maugansville

Total Population: 6,342

Quick Facts

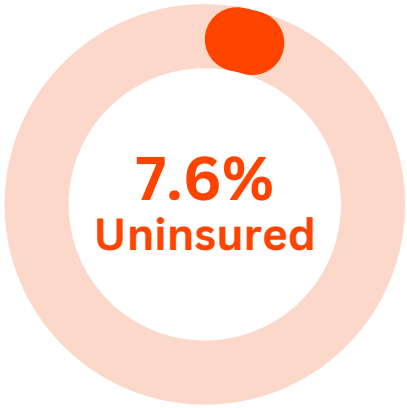
Race and Ethnicity



Age

Median Age	45.7
65 and Older	20.7%
Under 18	20.2%

Health Insurance Coverage

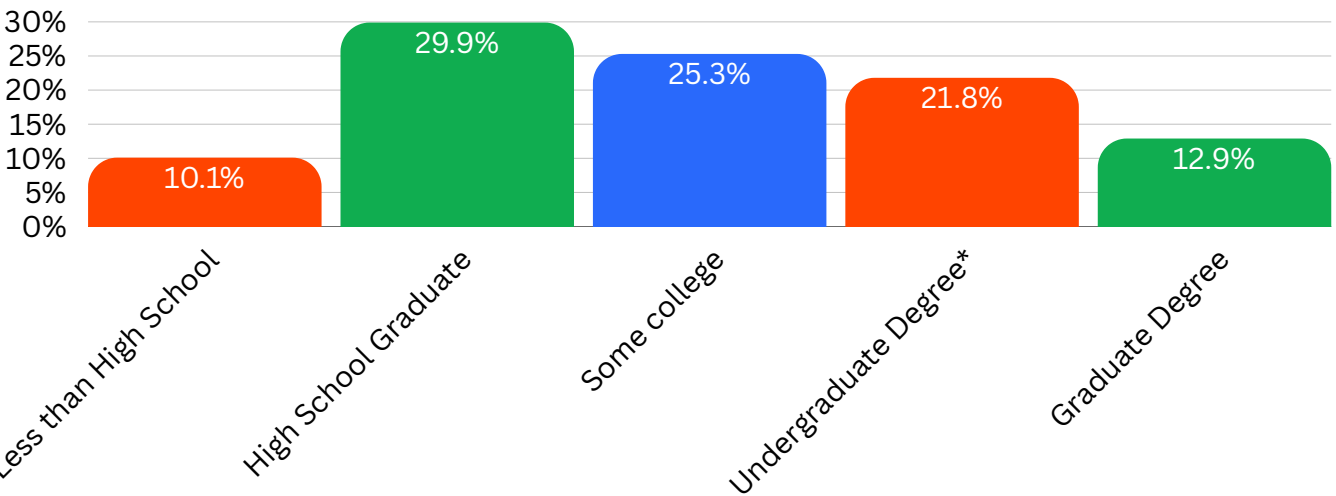


Median Household Income

\$76,192



Education



*Includes Associate's and Bachelor's degrees; Measure of Population aged 25 and older
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP05, S1501, S1901, S2701

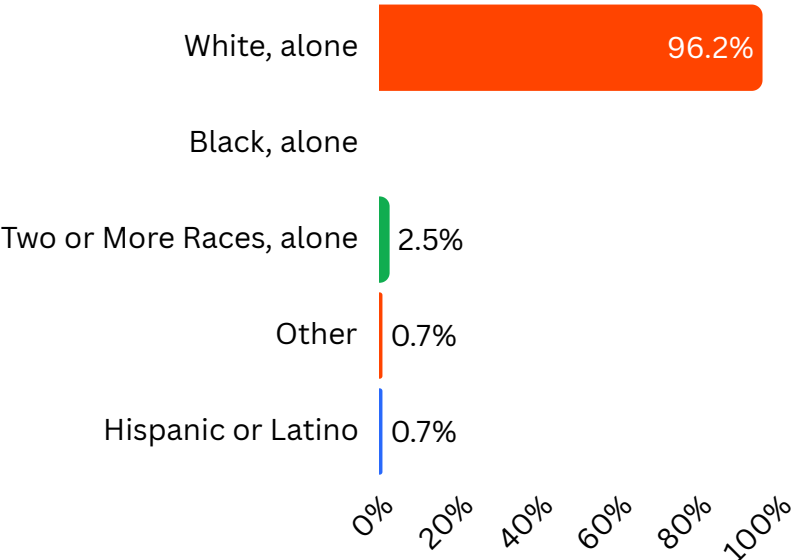
Around our Towns

Sharpsburg

Total Population: 2,886

Quick Facts

Race and Ethnicity

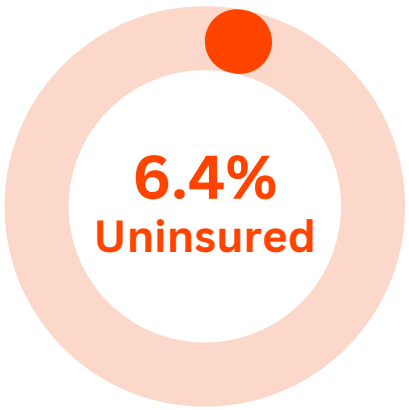


*Other Race Includes: Asian and Alaskan Native and American Indian Categories

Age

Median Age	48.7
65 and Older	22.2%
Under 18	14.1%

Health Insurance Coverage

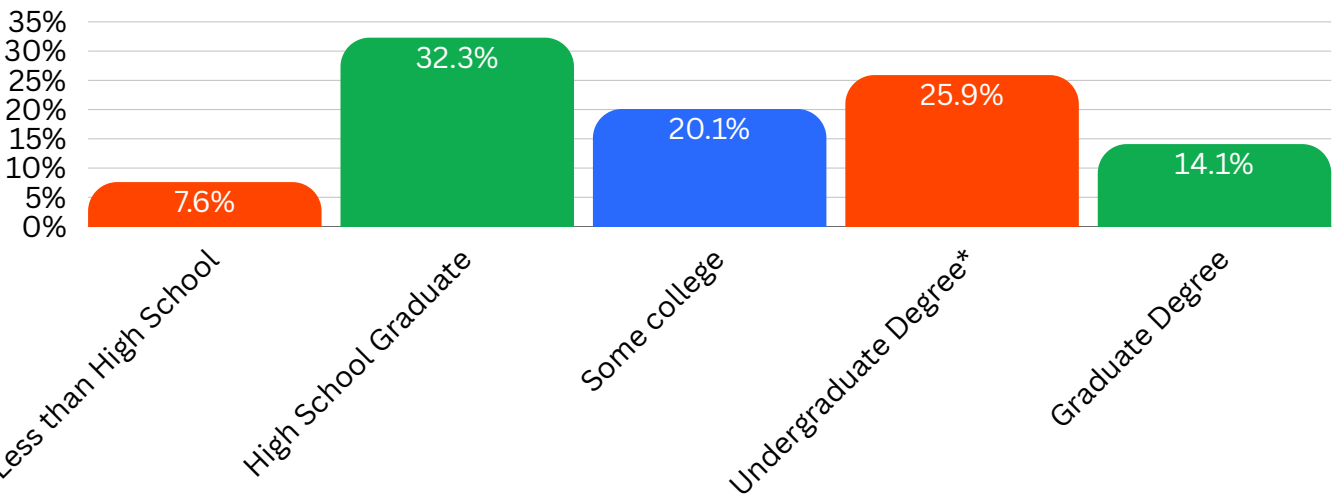


Median Household Income

\$87,038



Education



*Includes Associate's and Bachelor's degrees; Measure of Population aged 25 and older
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP05, S1501, S1901, S2701

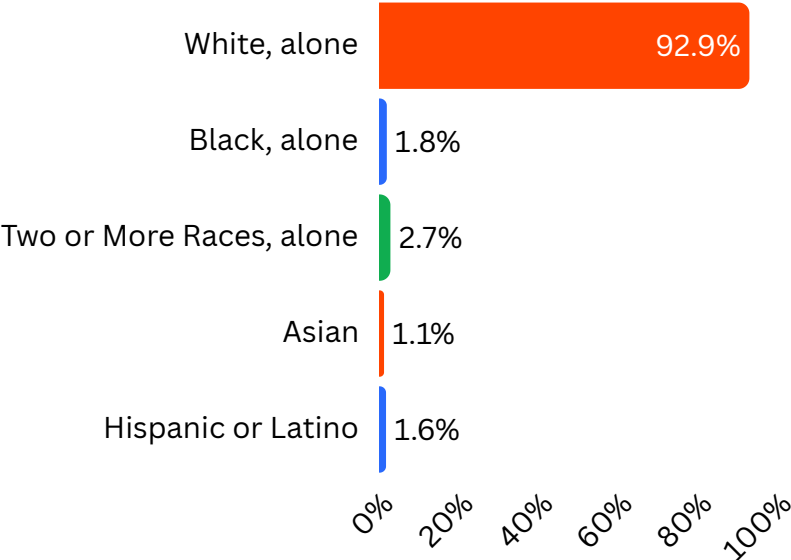
Around our Towns

Smithsburg

Total Population: 6,051

Quick Facts

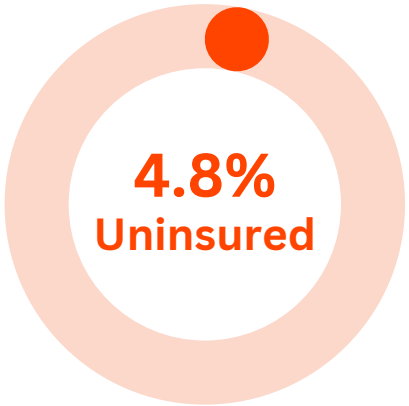
Race and Ethnicity



Age

Median Age	42.0
65 and Older	16.7%
Under 18	23.3%

Health Insurance Coverage

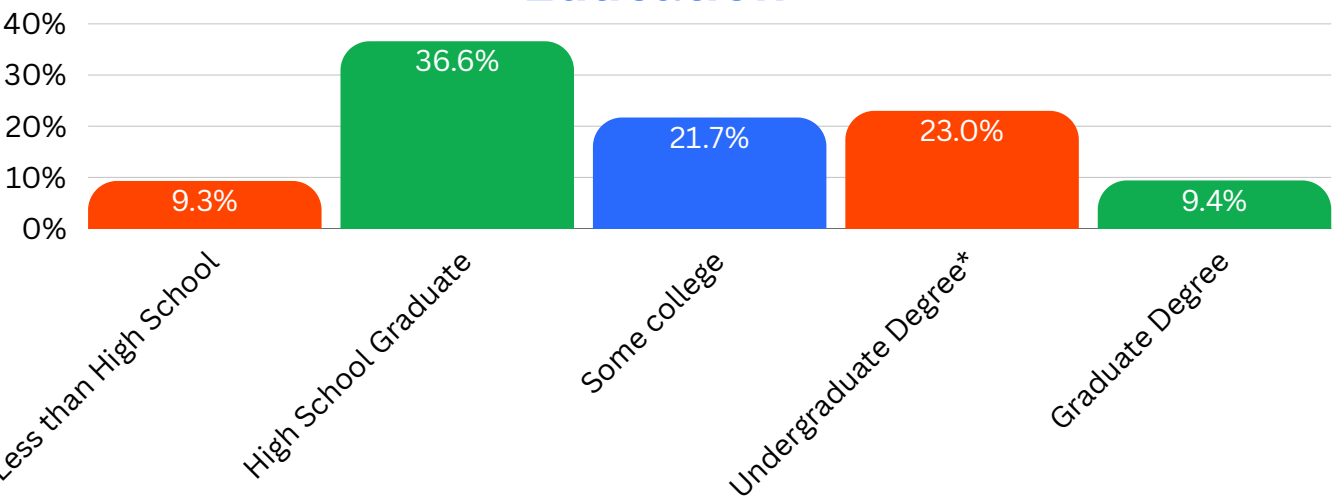


Median Household Income

\$89,601



Education



*Includes Associate's and Bachelor's degrees; Measure of Population aged 25 and older
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP05, S1501, S1901, S2701

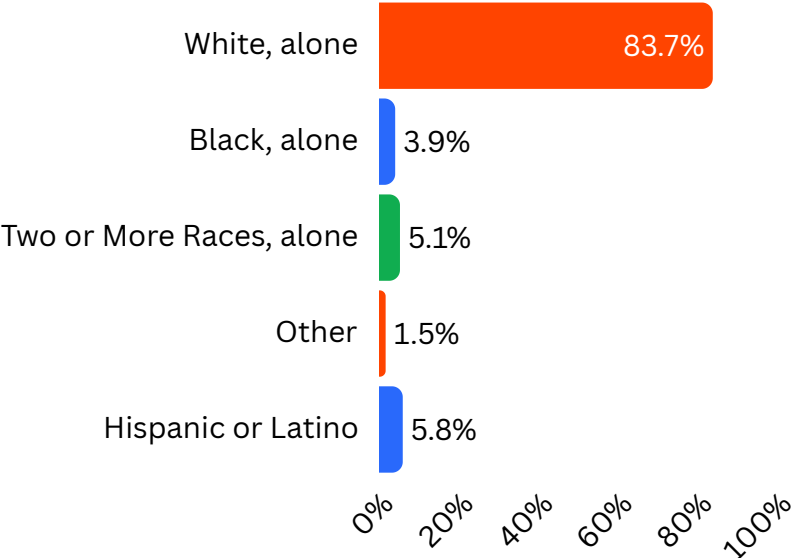
Around our Towns

Williamsport

Total Population: 4,667

Quick Facts

Race and Ethnicity

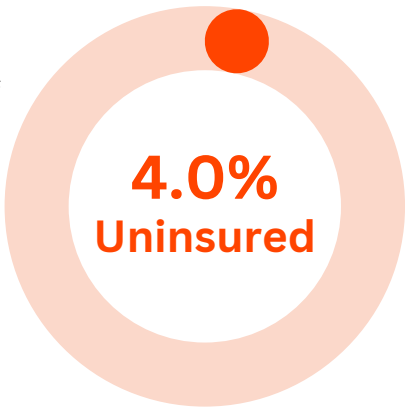


*Other Race Includes: Asian, Some Other Race, and Alaskan Native and Am. Indian Categories

Age

Median Age	38.1
65 and Older	15.6%
Under 18	20.7%

Health Insurance Coverage

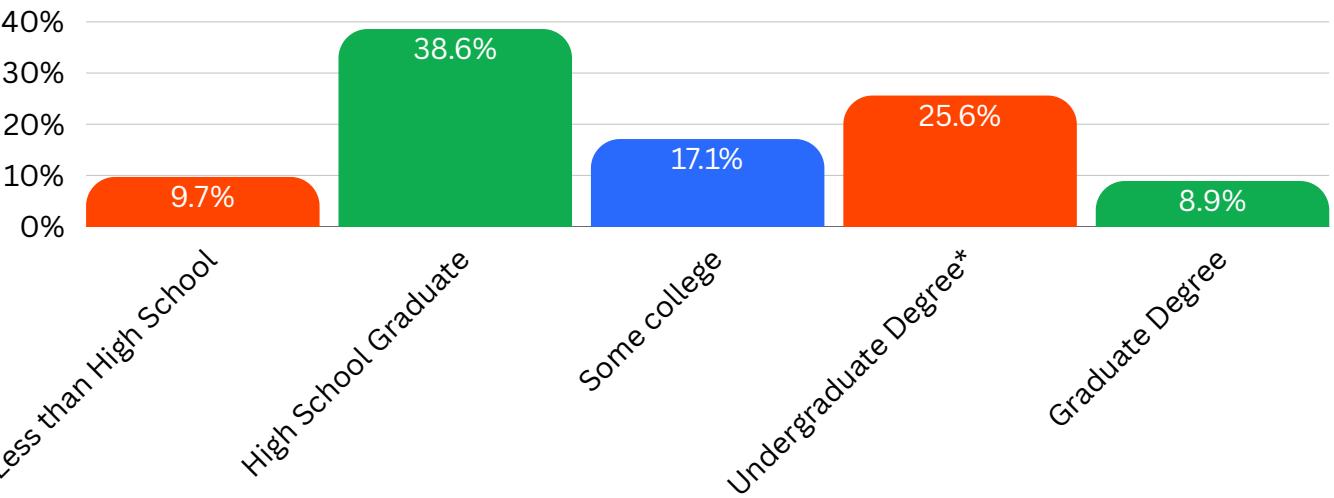


Median Household Income

\$80,227



Education



*Includes Associate's and Bachelor's degrees; Measure of Population aged 25 and older
Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-year Population Estimates, US Census Bureau, Tables DP05, S1501, S1901, S2701

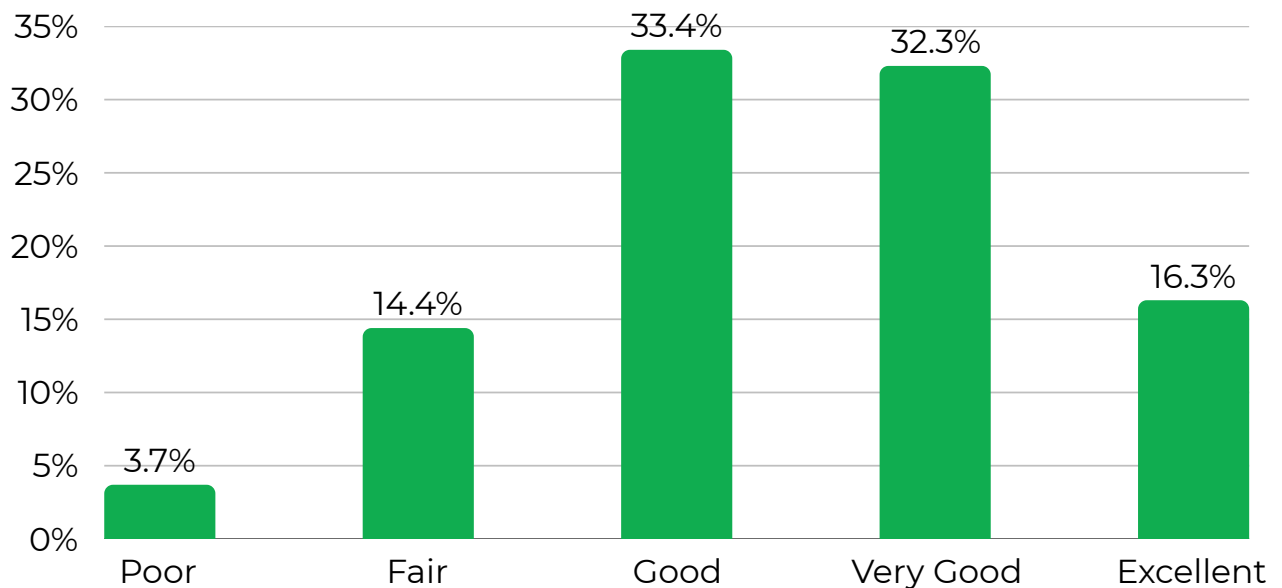
GENERAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

General Health and Wellness

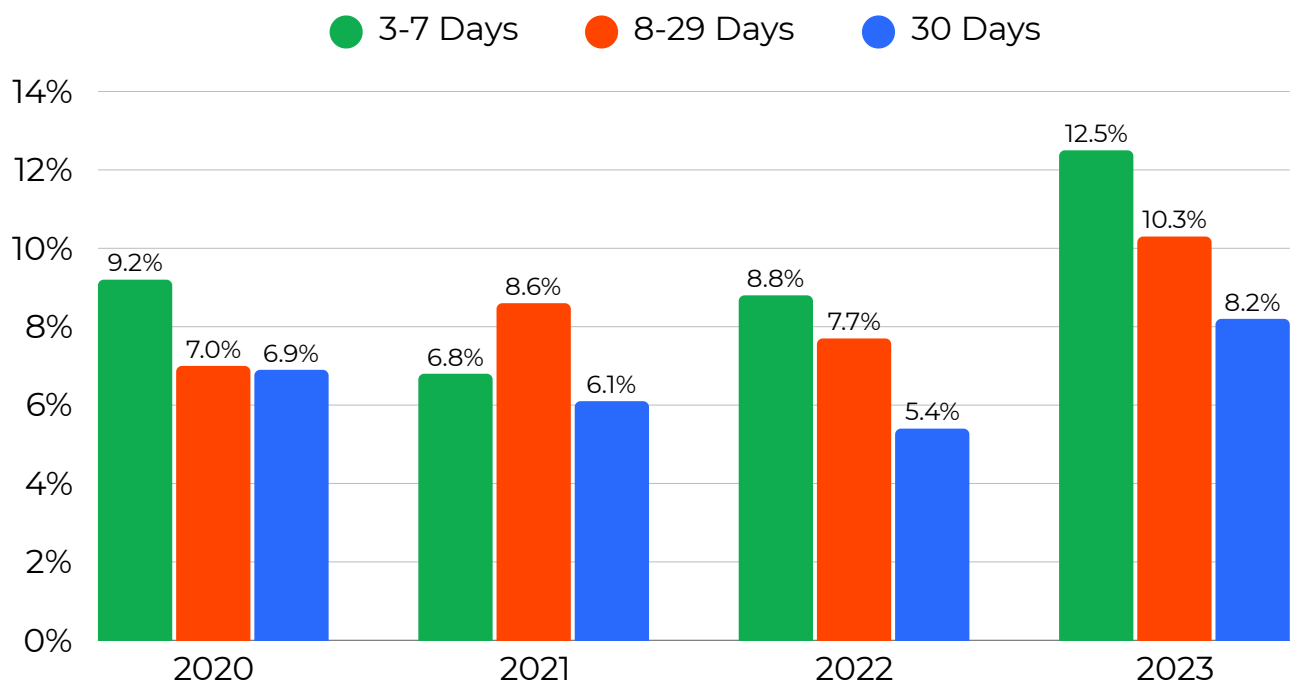
Physical Health (2023)

In 2023, most Washington County residents reported that their overall health was either good, very good, or excellent. In the same year, there was an overall increase in the amount of short and long-term periods of poor physical health (ex. illness, injury, etc) days reported by residents.

Overall General Health Status (Adults)



Number of Days with Poor Physical Health in Past 30 Days (Adults)

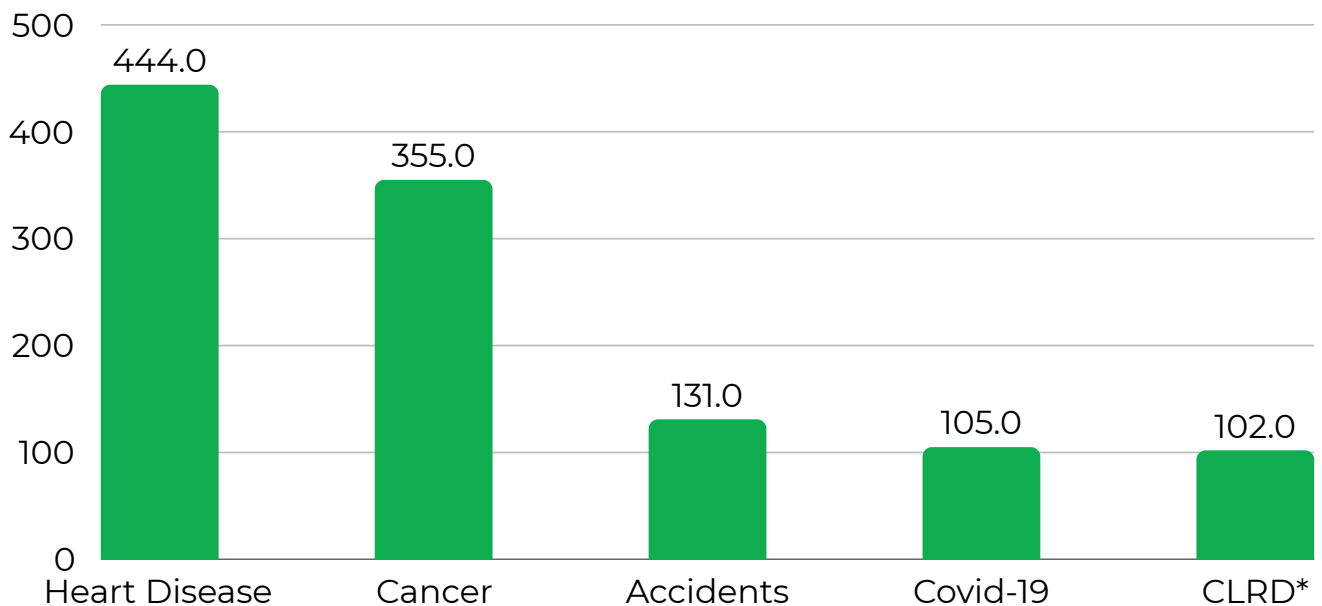


General Health and Wellness

Leading Causes of Death (2022)

There were a total of 1,937 deaths in 2022. Heart disease continued to be the leading cause of death, causing around 23% of deaths overall, with Cancer following closely behind followed by accidents. The current average life expectancy for Washington County residents is 74.7 years, slightly lower than the US average of 77.5 years.

Top 5 Leading Causes of Death (2022)



*Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Top 4 Leading Causes of Death by Mortality Rate (2022) †

White, Alone	Black, Alone	Hispanic or Latino	Asian, Alone
Heart Disease 350.9	Heart Disease 146.9	Cancer 35.6	Cancer 184.4
Cancer 272.6	Cancer 136.8	Accidents 26.7	Diabetes 61.5
Accidents 96.3	Accidents 75.9	Heart Disease 17.8	Heart Disease 61.5
Covid-19 79.9	Covid-19 45.6	Covid-19 17.8	Stroke 30.7

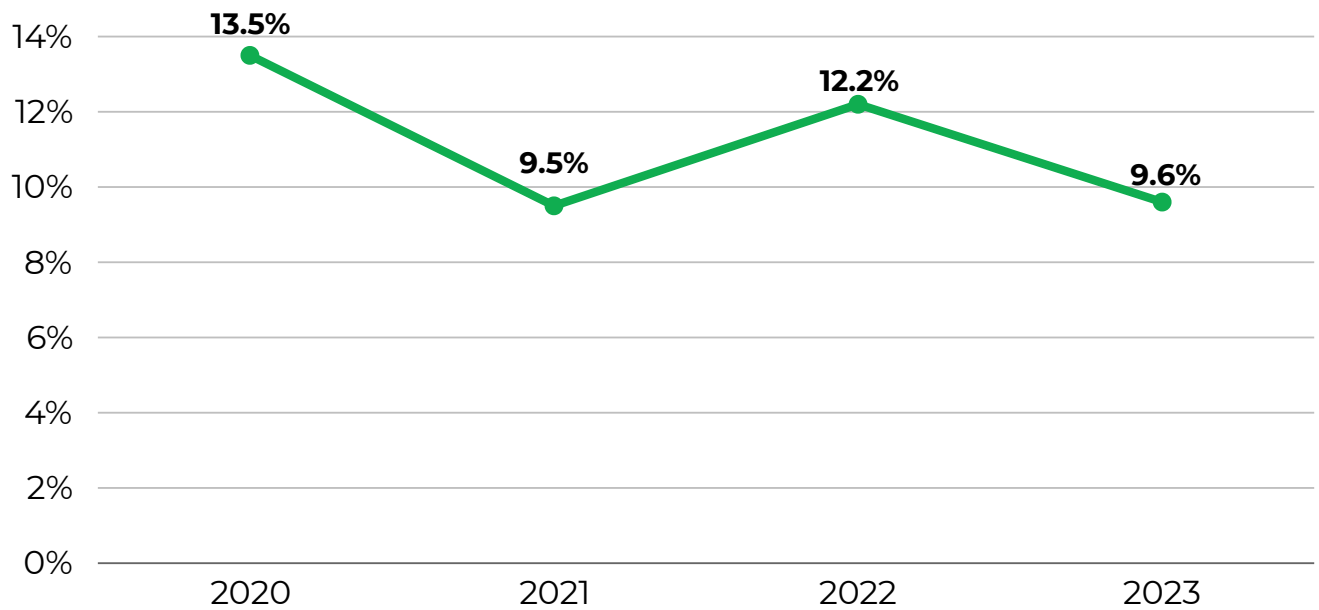
†Deaths per 100,000

General Health and Wellness

Health Barriers - Healthcare Costs and Coverage

High healthcare costs are often one of the main barriers to care seen in the US. In 2023, 9.6% of Washington County residents were unable to see a doctor due to the cost of care. In 2023, around 6.1% of residents were uninsured, with strong differences between racial/ethnic groups. Non-Hispanic Other Race and Hispanic/Latino individuals had the highest rates of uninsured individuals compared to their counterparts. Age can also play a factor in insurance coverage. With the availability of Medicare for many adults over 65, higher percentages of uninsured individuals are seen in those 64 and under.

Adults Unable to see a Doctor Due to Cost, Past 12 Months



Uninsured Residents by Race, Ethnicity, and Age (2023)

Race and Ethnicity		Age	
White, alone	5.7%	Under 6 Years	6.0%
Black, alone	8.0%	19 and Under	4.3%
Hispanic or Latino	14.5%	19 to 64 Years	8.4%
Other Race, alone	9.8%	65 years and Older	0.9%

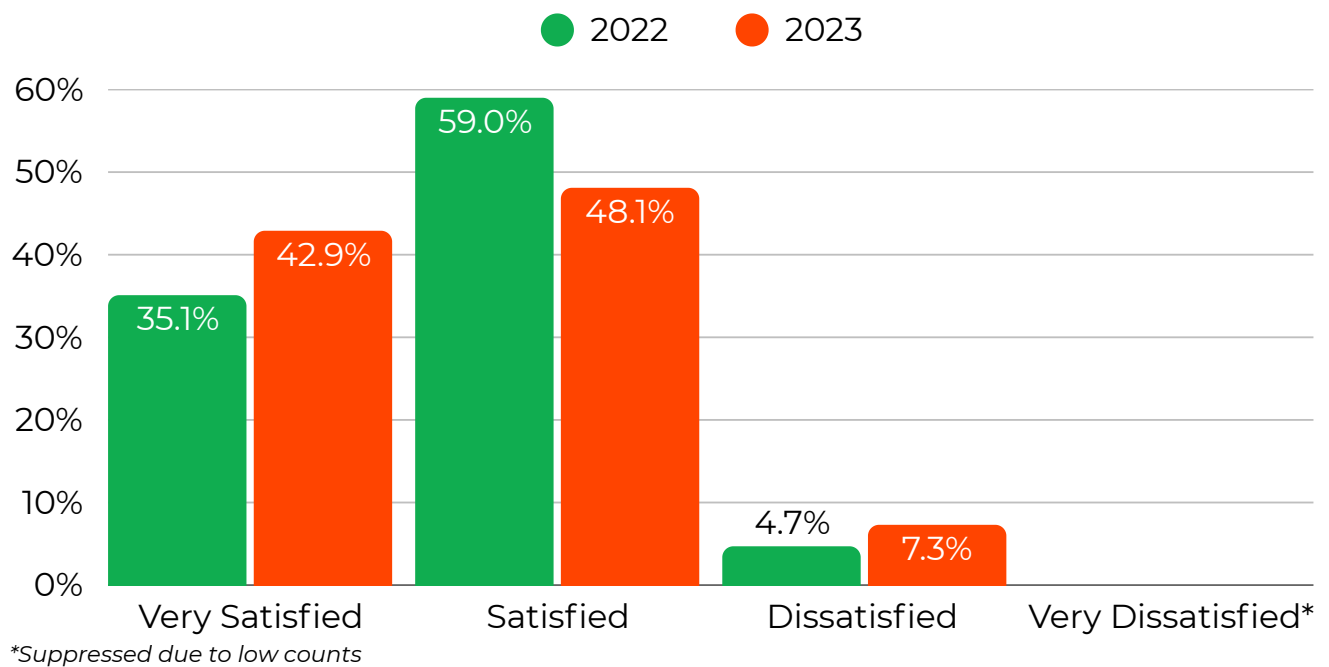
Data Source: 2023 Maryland BRFSS, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau, Table S2701

General Health and Wellness

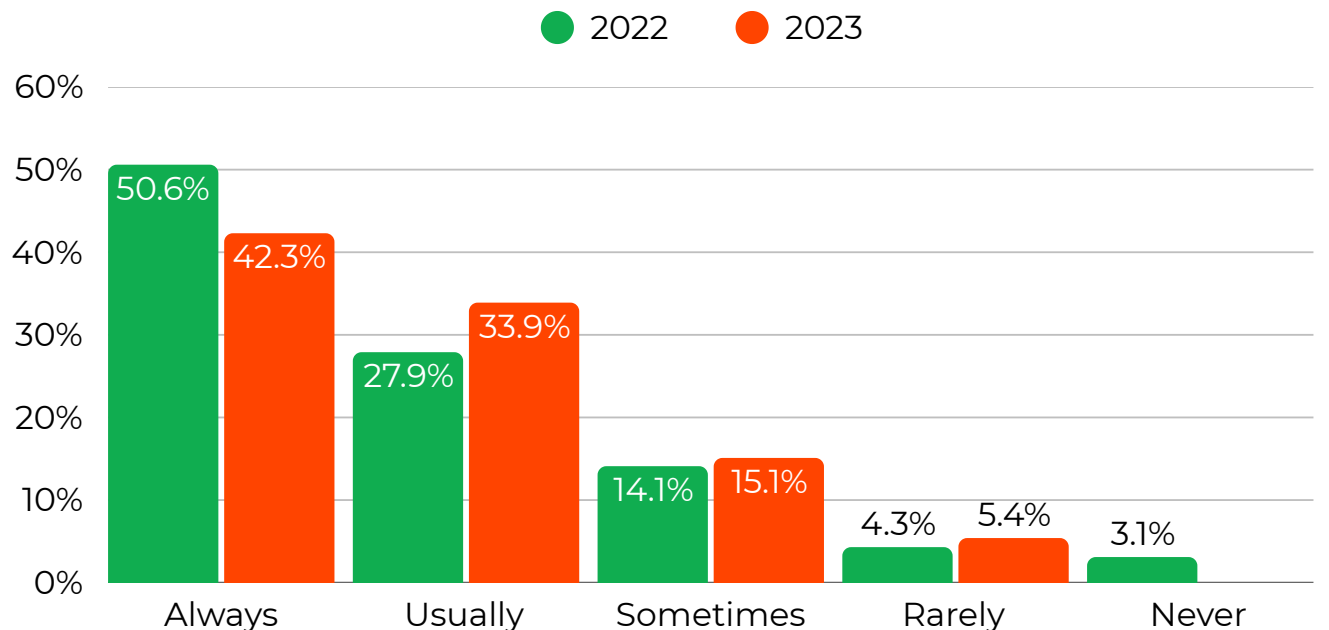
Life Satisfaction and Emotional Support

On the 2022 and 2023 BRFSS survey, county residents were asked about their overall life satisfaction and emotional support needs. Life satisfaction is one of the primary measures used to track Overall Health and Well-Being under Healthy People 2030. Emotional support can also be an indicator of well-being, as those in lack of social support have higher rates of stress, chronic illness, and depression¹.

General Life Satisfaction



Getting Emotional Support Needed



Data Source: 2022-2023 Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1. County Health Rankings

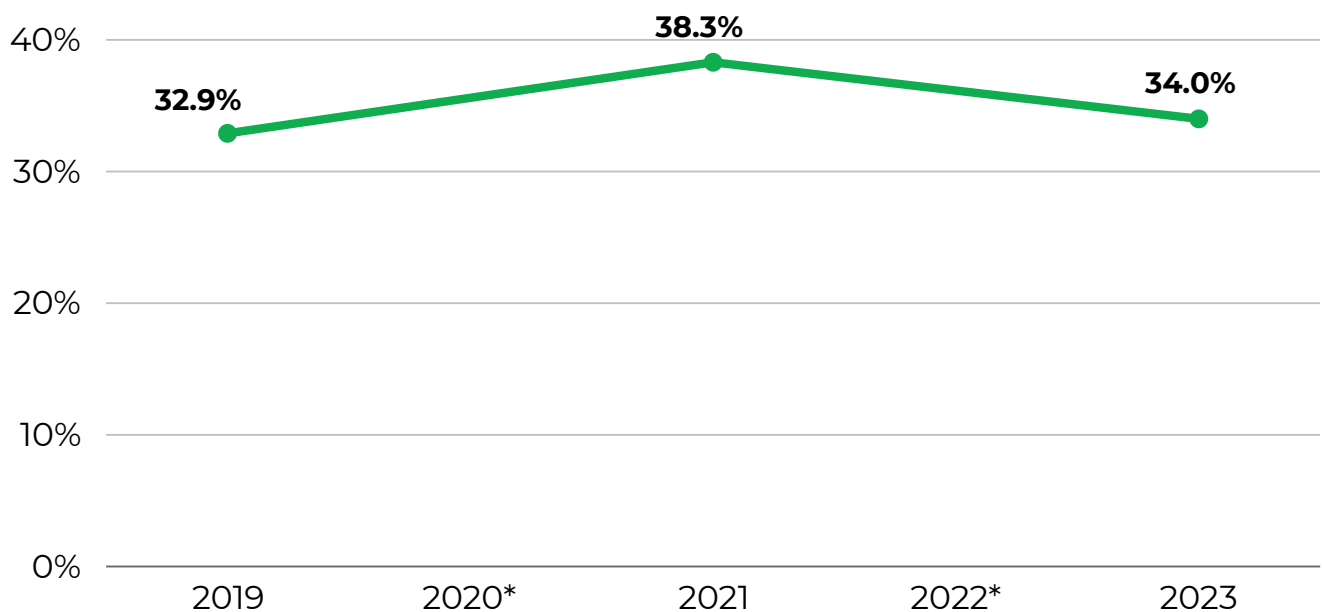
CHRONIC AND PREVENTABLE DISEASE

Chronic and Preventable Disease

Heart Disease

Heart Disease was the leading cause of death in Washington County. In 2023, 34% of Washington County Residents, aged 18 and older reported they had high blood pressure. The prevalence of Coronary Heart Disease and/or Heart Attack increased from 5.0% in 2021 to 6.3% in 2023. The prevalence of Stroke followed a similar increasing trend, with 2.9% of adult residents in Washington County reporting they had a stroke.

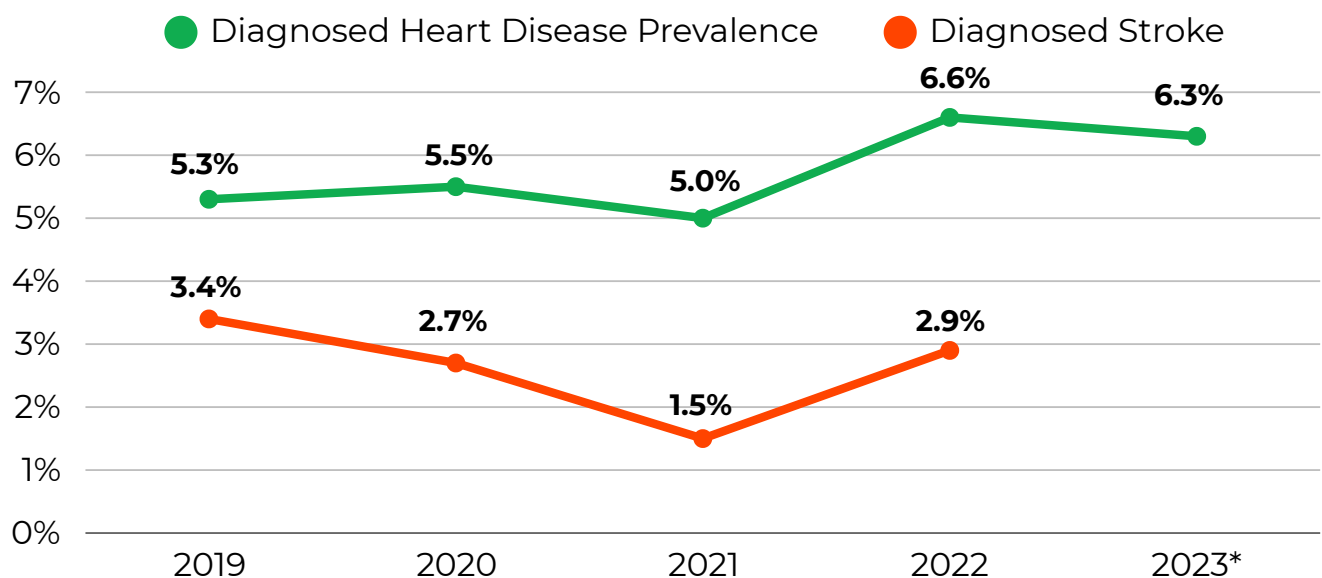
Prevalence of Hypertension †



*2020 data unavailable as it cannot be directly compared to current and previous data due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on data collection. Measure not collected in 2022

† Excluding individuals told only during pregnancy and diagnosed with borderline hypertension. Adjusted for age.

Prevalence of Heart Disease* and Stroke †



*Heart disease defined as being diagnosed with coronary heart disease and/or heart attack/myocardial infarction

† Adjusted for age. 2023 count suppressed due to low numbers

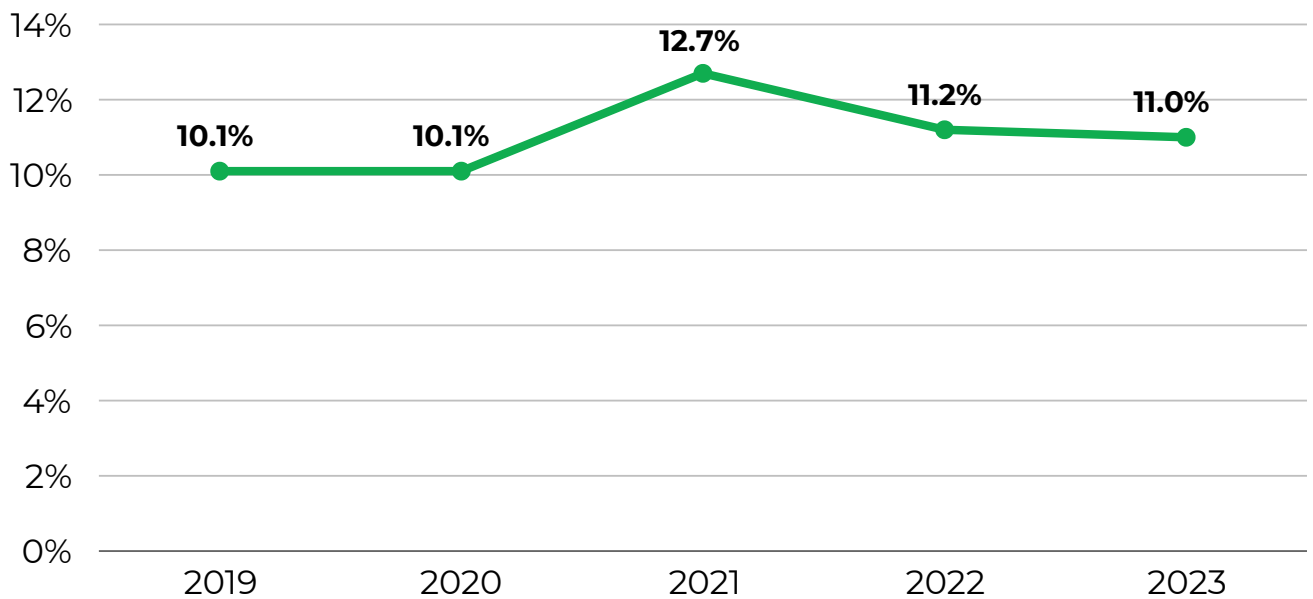
Data Source: MDH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Chronic and Preventable Disease

Diabetes

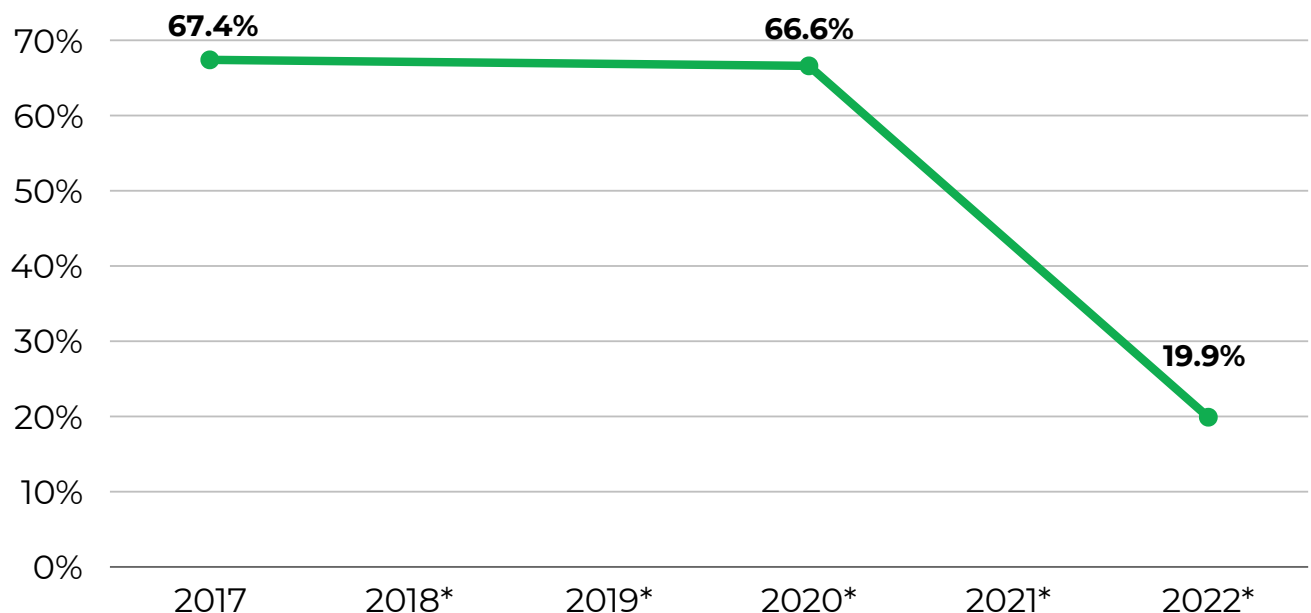
The amount of Washington County residents diagnosed with diabetes remained unchanged from 2019 to 2020. In 2021, the prevalence rose to 12.7%, however the rate saw a slight decrease in 2022 and again in 2023 when the prevalence dropped to 11.0%.

Prevalence of Diabetes †



† Excluding individuals told only during pregnancy and diagnosed with borderline hypertension. Adjusted for age.

Diabetics Who Have Taken a Class to Manage Their Diabetes †



*Measure not collected or suppressed due to low observations

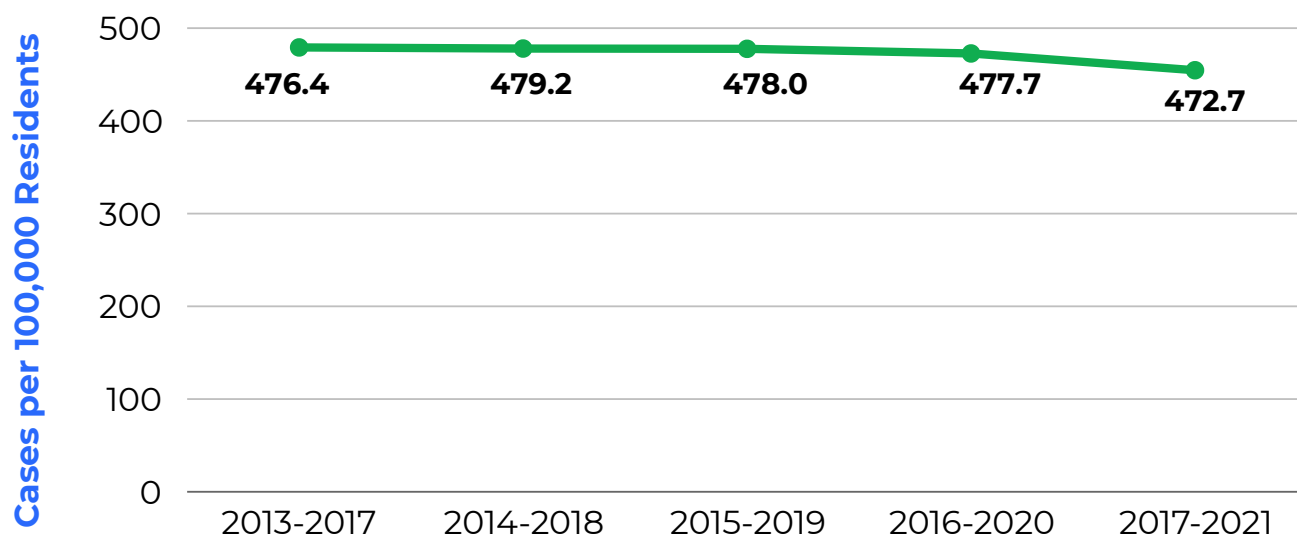
† Only asked of respondents who reported being diagnosed with diabetes

Chronic and Preventable Disease

Cancer

Cancer incidence rates have slightly decreased over the last several years in the county. Cancer incidence was higher amongst males and Non-Hispanic Black individuals, closely followed by Non-Hispanic Whites.

Age-Adjusted All Cancer Incidence



All Cancer Incidence †

Cancer Incidence by Gender	2017-2021
Female	446.2
Male	476.4
Cancer Incidence by Race/Ethnicity	
Non-Hispanic White	461.4
Non-Hispanic Black	493.2
Hispanic or Latino	222.4
Non-Hispanic Asian	219.6

† Adjusted for age. Cases per 100,000 population

Data Source: [National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles](#)

Chronic and Preventable Disease

Cancer Mortality

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Washington County. The mortality rate of cancer from 2018 to 2022 was 160.2 deaths per 100,000 residents. Cancer mortality was highest amongst males and Non-Hispanic Whites. Lung and bronchus cancer had the highest mortality rates of all common forms of cancer, followed by breast cancer

Cancer Mortality †

	2018-2022
Overall Cancer Mortality Rate	160.2
Cancer Mortality by Gender	
Female	137.7
Male	192.2
Cancer Mortality by Race/Ethnicity	
Non-Hispanic White	161.4
Non-Hispanic Black	177.1
Cancer Mortality by Type	
Breast Cancer*	22.9
Colon and Rectum	14.7
Lung and Bronchus	36.9
Pancreas	11.3
Prostate	11.5

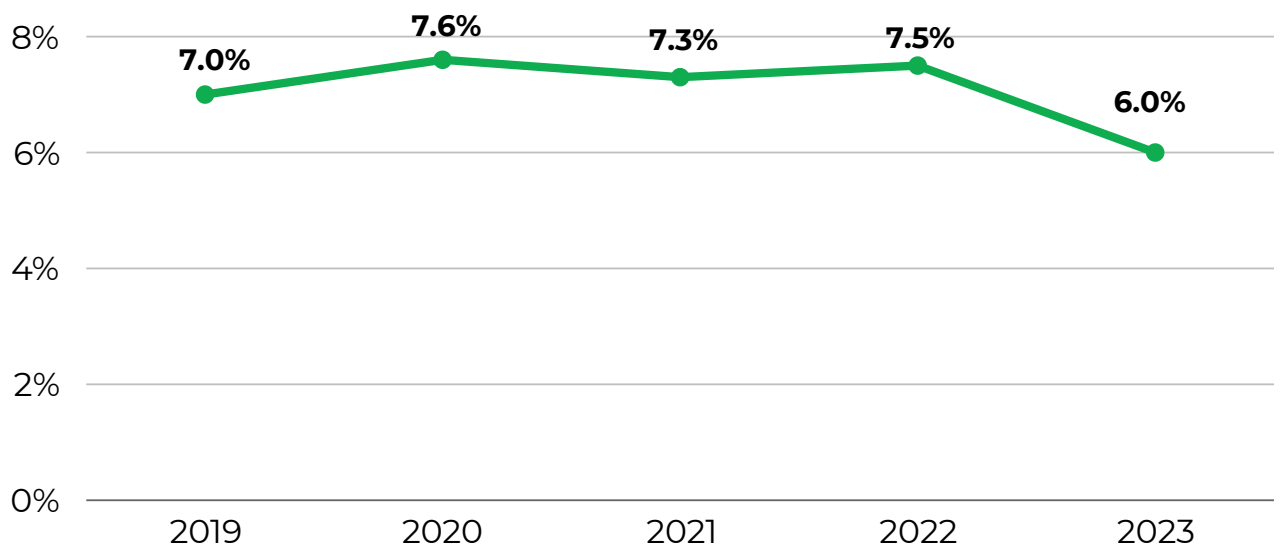
† Adjusted for age. Deaths per 100,000 population. *Mortality rate calculated only for female breast cancer deaths
Data Source: [National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles](#)

Chronic and Preventable Disease

Lung Disease

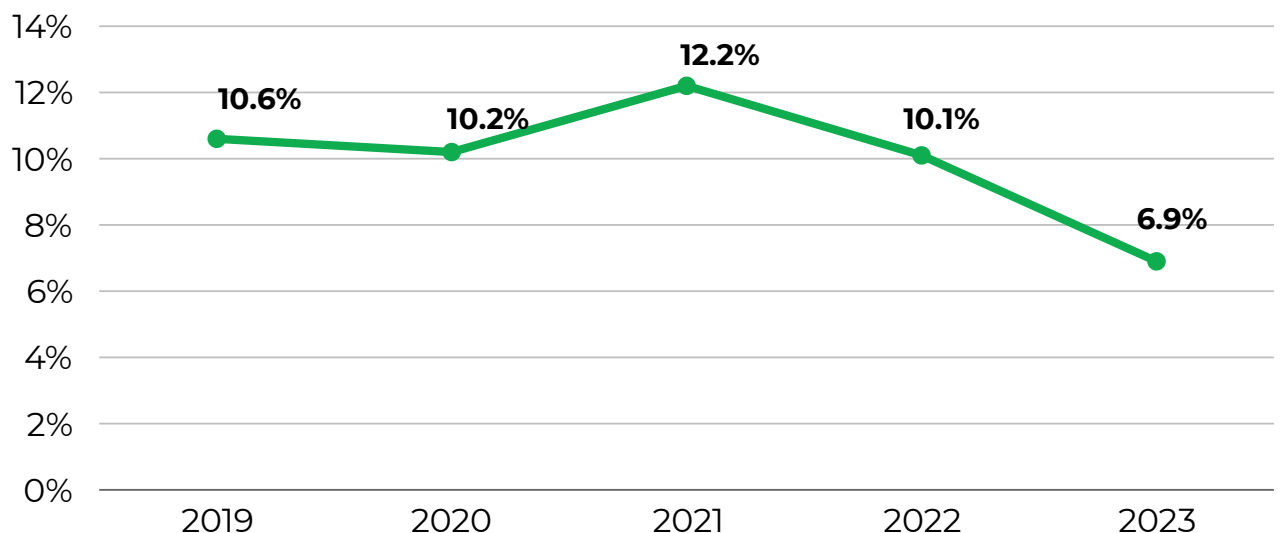
In 2023, 6% of Washington County residents had been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which was a small decrease from 7.5% in 2022. COPD is often caused by long-term exposures to respiratory irritants like cigarette smoke and toxic fumes. Rates of Asthma have been significantly decreasing since 2021. Both COPD and Asthma are illnesses that cannot be cured, but can be controlled by limiting exposures and medical treatment.

Prevalence of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease †



† Adjusted for age.

Prevalence of Asthma †



† Individuals with a current diagnosis of Asthma

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Infectious Disease

Select Reportable Diseases

The following list is made up of conditions and infectious diseases reported to public health authorities in order to ensure proper treatment, identify exposure sources, reduce transmission, and protect the public's health.

Counts of Select Reportable Diseases

	2021	2022	2023
<u>Campylobacteriosis</u>	45	36	29
<u>Giardiasis</u>	<10	<10	<10
<u>Hepatitis B - Acute</u>	0	0	<10
<u>Hepatitis C - Acute</u>	<10	0	<10
<u>Hepatitis C - Perinatal</u>	<10	<10	0
<u>Legionellosis</u>	10	<10	<10
<u>Lyme Disease</u>	38	0	109
<u>Malaria</u>	<10	<10	<10
<u>Aseptic/Viral Meningitis</u>	<10	11	10
<u>Mycobacteriosis</u>	19	13	14
<u>Salmonellosis</u>	21	26	28
<u>Shiga toxin producing E.coli</u>	8	12	<10
<u>Strep A</u>	17	34	26

Data Source: MDH Select Notifiable Conditions (2014-2023)

Infectious Disease

Select Reportable Diseases

Outbreaks and animal bites are also included in the conditions and events reported to public health officials. Animal bite incidents and cases of rabies in Washington County increased slightly from 2022 to 2023

Counts of Select Reportable Diseases (cont.)

	2021	2022	2023
<u>Strep B</u>	26	13	17
<u>Strep pneumoniae</u>	<10	24	21
<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<10	<10	<10

Counts of Select Reportable Diseases (cont.)

	2021	2022	2023
<u>Rabies - Animal</u>	<10	<10	13
Animal Bites	335	344	365
Outbreaks			
Covid-19	263	280	63

Infectious Disease

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

In 2023 there was an increase in cases of chlamydia, HIV, and primary and secondary syphilis in Washington County. In the same year, a small decrease in cases of congenital syphilis and gonorrhea was also seen.

Counts of Select Sexually Transmitted Infections

	2021*	2022	2023
Chlamydia	--	671	677
Gonorrhea	--	245	235
HIV**	12	<10	12

**New HIV Diagnoses

HIV Care Outcomes

	2021*	2022	2023
Total People Living with Diagnosed HIV	461	438	406
Retention in HIV Care	78%	77%	79%
Viral Suppression	68%	67%	67%

Counts of Syphilis Infections

	2021*	2022	2023
Total Acquired Syphilis	--	36	68
Primary and Secondary	--	<10	26
Congenital	--	<10	<10

*2021 Data unavailable due to statewide network outages

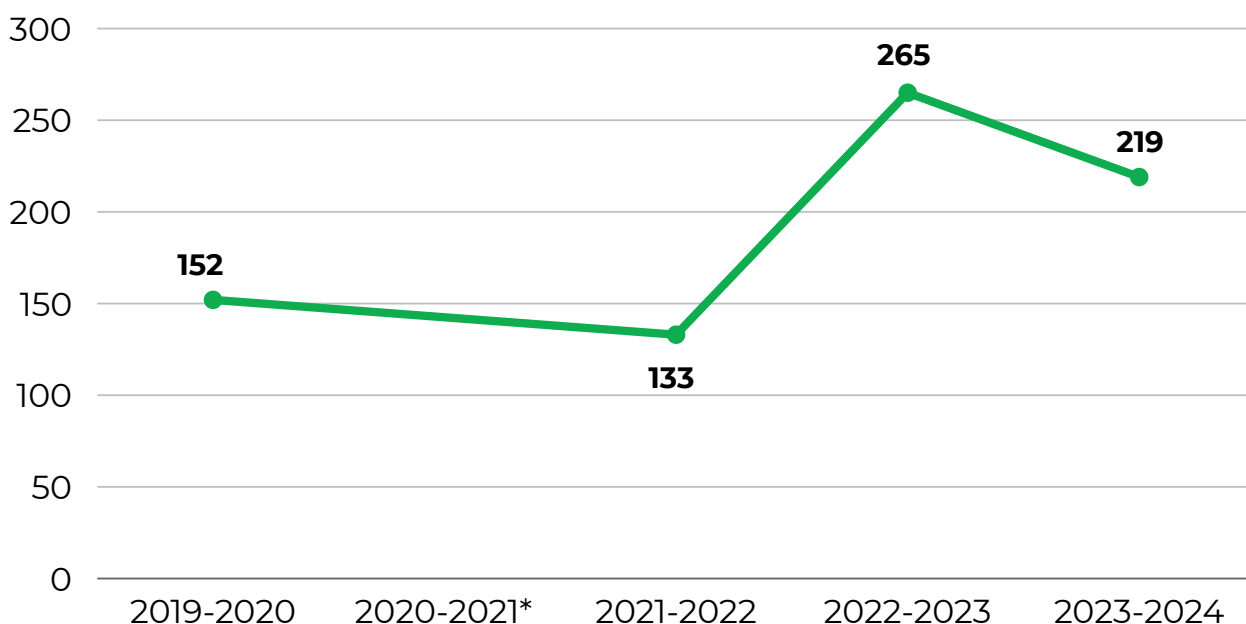
Data Source: [MDH Selected Notifiable Conditions](#), [MDH HIV 5-Year Aggregate County Dashboard](#), [MDH HIV County Overview Dashboard](#)

Infectious Disease

Flu

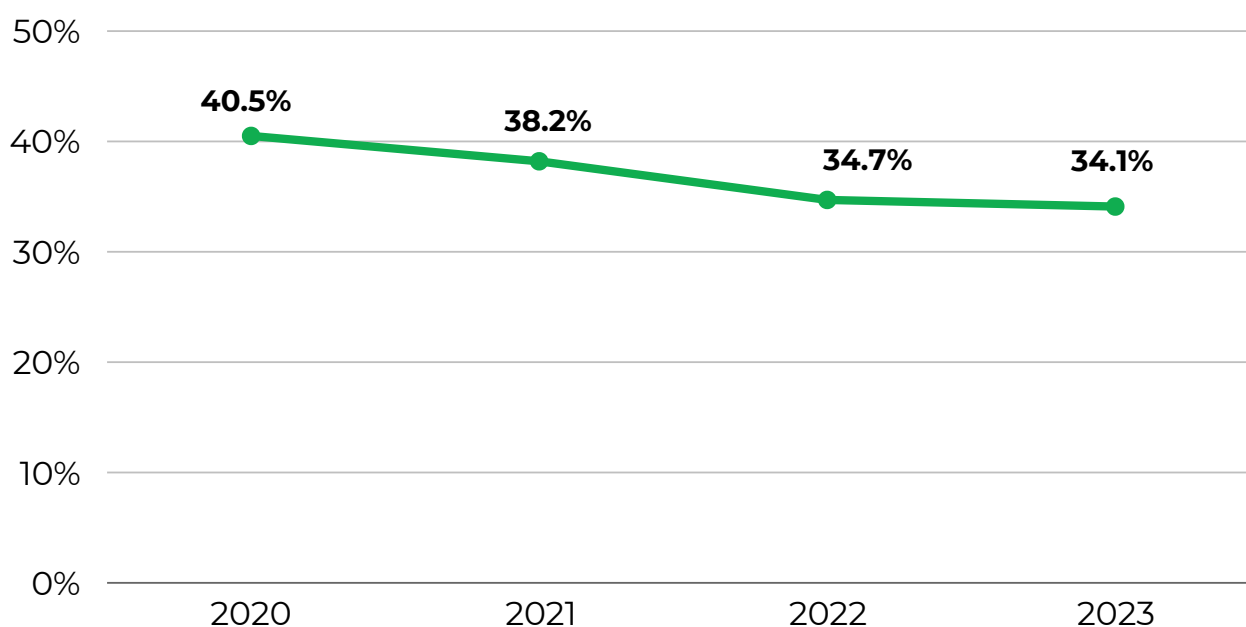
Flu hospitalizations sharply increased during the 2022-2023 flu season as the Covid-19 pandemic slowed and cases became less severe. Despite this increase in hospitalizations, flu vaccination rates have steadily decreased since 2020, with only 34.1% of residents over 18 indicating they had received their annual flu shot.

Flu Hospitalizations



*Suppressed due to low counts (<10)

Flu Vaccination Rates

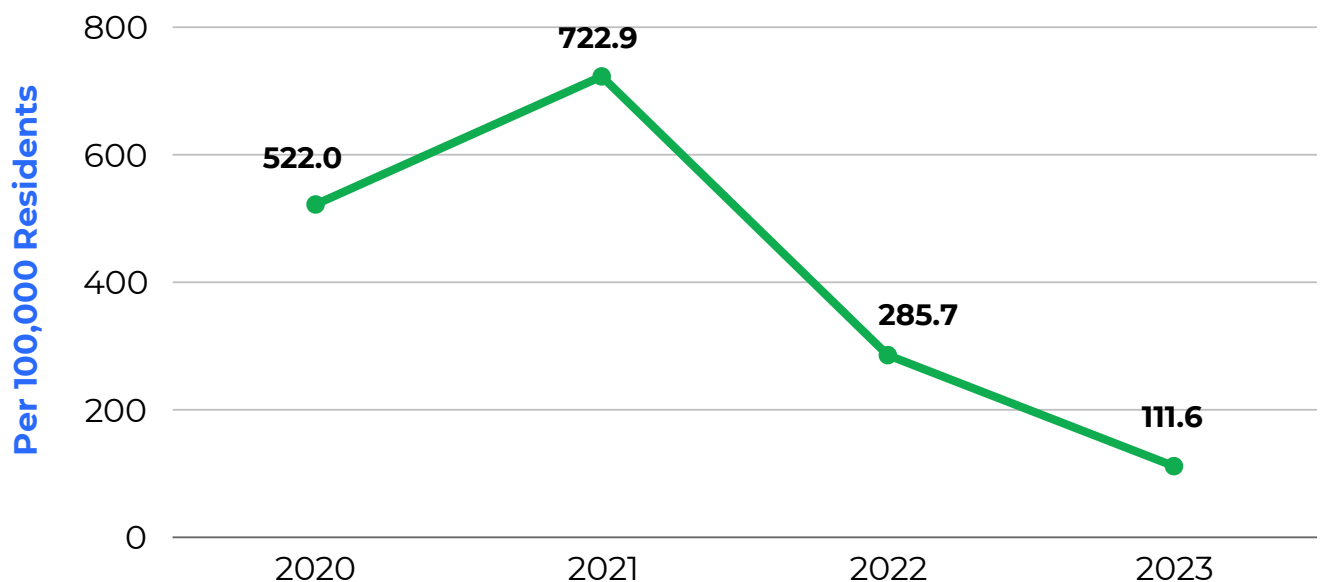


Infectious Disease

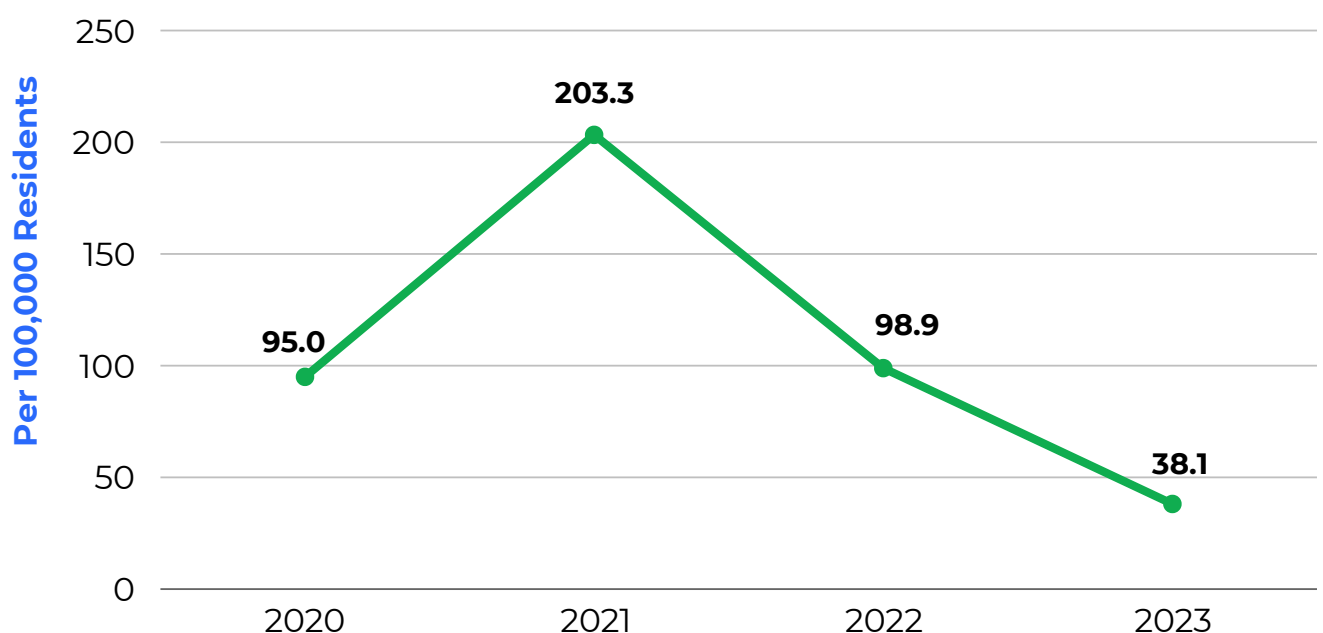
Covid-19

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, there have been 2,513 hospitalizations of Covid-19 positive residents and 717 deaths in our county. Hospitalizations and deaths have been decreasing since 2021 due to the wide availability of Covid-19 vaccinations and therapeutics to prevent severe illness.

Crude Rate of Covid-19 Hospitalizations



Crude Rate of Covid-19 Deaths

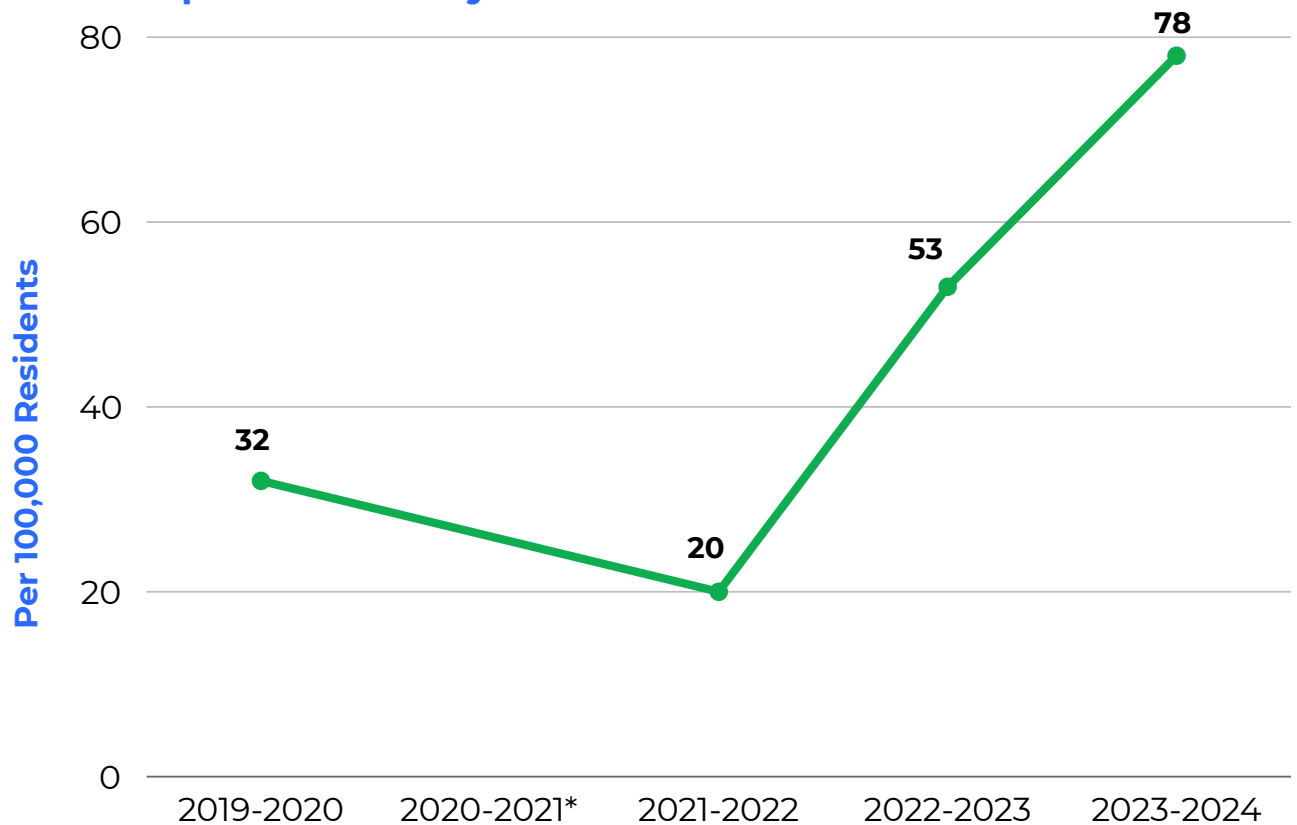


Infectious Disease

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that typically spreads during the fall and winter months. RSV hospitalizations saw a sharp increase starting in the 2022-2023 respiratory illness season

RSV Hospitalizations by Season



MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

Maternal and Infant Health

Live Births

In 2022, there were 1,624 live births in Washington County, up from 1,5291 in 2021. Of those live births, 1,046 were non-Hispanic White and 235 were non-Hispanic Black. Live births were greatest amongst those aged 25-34, followed by those aged 18-24.

Live Births by Demographics

	2021	2022
Live Births	1,591	1,624
Race/Ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic White	1,045	1,046
Non-Hispanic Black	225	235
Non-Hispanic American Indian	1	2
Non-Hispanic Asian	42	31
Hispanic or Latino	197	219
Age		
Under 18	18	22
18-24	392	399
25-34	923	945
35-44	257	254
45 and Over	1	3

Maternal and Infant Health

Live Births

Maternal education is one of many factors that can affect infant and maternal health. In both 2021 and 2022, Washington County mothers' most frequently obtained between 13-15 years of education.

In 2022, 141 infants born in Washington County were reported to have a low birthweight (<2500 g). The overall percentage of low birthweight infants decreased from 2021 to 2022. Hispanic infants were more frequently born at a low birthweight in 2022.

Maternal Education

	2021	2022
0-8 years	1.9%	2.5%
9-11 years	10.4%	11.6%
12 years	30.9%	29.7%
13-15 years	31.5%	30.5%
16+ years:	25.2%	25.2%

Low Birthweight

	2021		2022	
Overall	165	10.4%	141	8.7%
Race/Ethnicity				
Non-Hispanic White	103	9.9%	100	9.6%
Non-Hispanic Black	29	12.9%	26	11.1%
Non-Hispanic Asian	1	-%	3	-%
Hispanic	19	-%*	26	11.9%

*Percentages based on <20 events in the numerator are not presented due to instability

Data Source: 2021 MDH Vital Statistics Data - Washington, 2022 MDH Annual Vital Statistics Report

Maternal and Infant Health

Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is essential to ensuring positive health outcomes among pregnant people and infants and is most effective when started early. There was an increase in pregnant people who received care in their first trimester, rising from 1,089 in 2020 to 1,116 in 2022. The prevalence of pregnant people who received late or no prenatal care fell from 5.7% in 2021 to 5.3% in 2022.

Trimester of Prenatal Care by Race/Ethnicity

	First Trimester Prenatal Care		Late (Third Trimester) or No Prenatal Care	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Overall	1,089 (69.5%)	1,116 (70.1%)	90 (5.7%)	85 (5.3%)
Race/Ethnicity				
White, NH	751 (72.9%)	762 (74.1%)	44 (4.3%)	46 (4.5%)
Black, NH	145 (65.6%)	143 (62.7%)	14 (-%)	14 (-%)
Asian, NH	31 (68.9%)	18 (-%)	3 (-%)	3 (-%)
Hispanic	110 (56.7%)	113 (58.0%)	21 (10.8%)	16 (-%)

*Percentages based on <20 events in the numerator are not presented due to instability

Maternal and Infant Health

Live Births

Teen pregnancy is measured among individuals aged 15-19 years old. Teen pregnancies are at higher risk of hypertension, preterm birth, and low birthweight. The prevalence of teen pregnancy in Washington County has increased from 4.5% in 2021 to 4.6% in 2022. When broken down by race and ethnicity, there was a higher prevalence of teen pregnancy among non-Hispanic White teens in 2022. There was a decline in teen pregnancies among Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Black teens from 2021 to 2022 .

Teen Pregnancy

	2021	2022
Overall	72 (4.5%)	74 (4.6%)
Non-Hispanic White	38 (3.6%)	38 (3.6%)
Non-Hispanic Black	14 (-%)*	8 (-%)*
Non-Hispanic Asian	0, 0%	0, 0%
Hispanic or Latino	12 (-%)*	13 (-%)*

*Percentages based on <20 events in the numerator are not presented due to instability

Maternal and Infant Health

Live Births

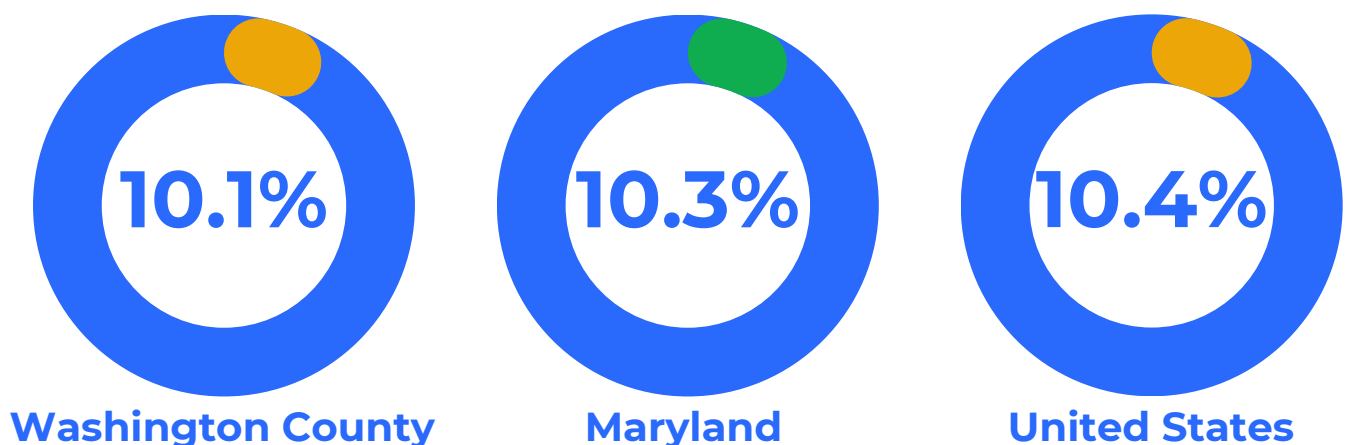
In 2022, there was 164 pre-term births in Washington County, which made up 10.1% of the live births. Pre-term births happened at a lower frequency in Washington County compared to Maryland and the United States. The frequency of pre-term births increased among non-Hispanic white, Non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic infants were from 2021 to 2022.

Preterm Births (before 37 weeks)

	2021	2022
Overall	178 (11.2%)	164 (10.1%)
Race/Ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic White	115 (11.0%)	100 (9.6%)
Non-Hispanic Black	22 (9.8%)	26 (11.1%)
Non-Hispanic Asian	5 (-%)	3 (-%)
Hispanic or Latino	22 (11.2%)	26 (11.9%)

*Percentages based on <20 events in the numerator are not presented due to instability

Percentage of Pre-Term Births in 2022



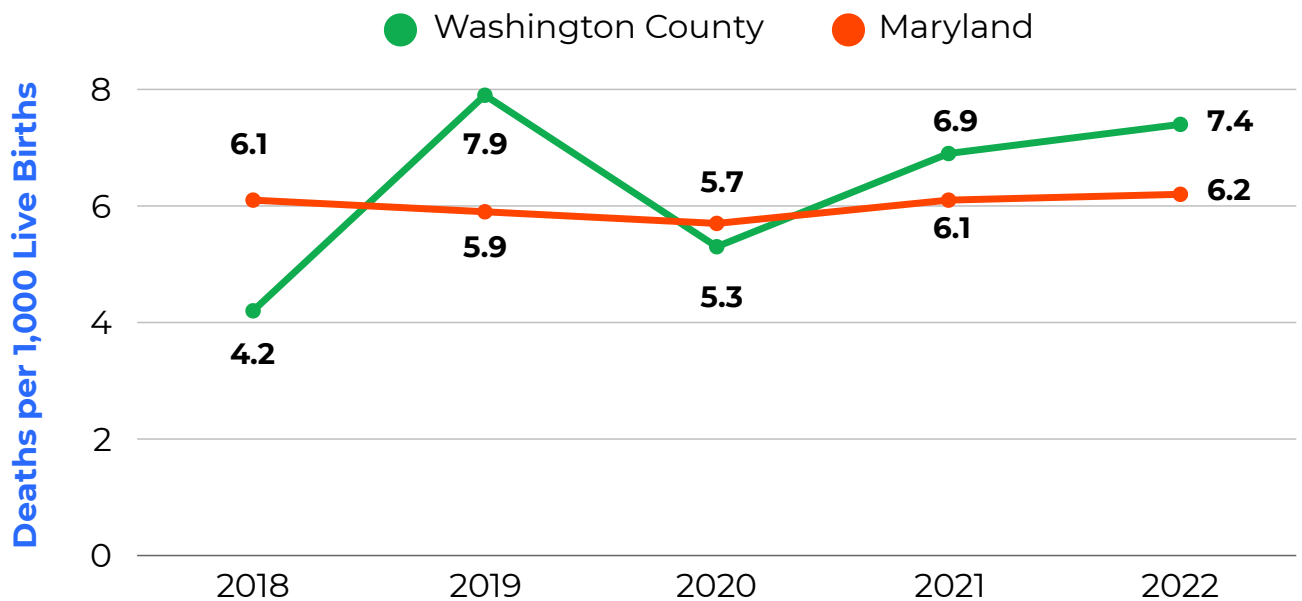
Maternal and Infant Health

Infant and Fetal Mortality

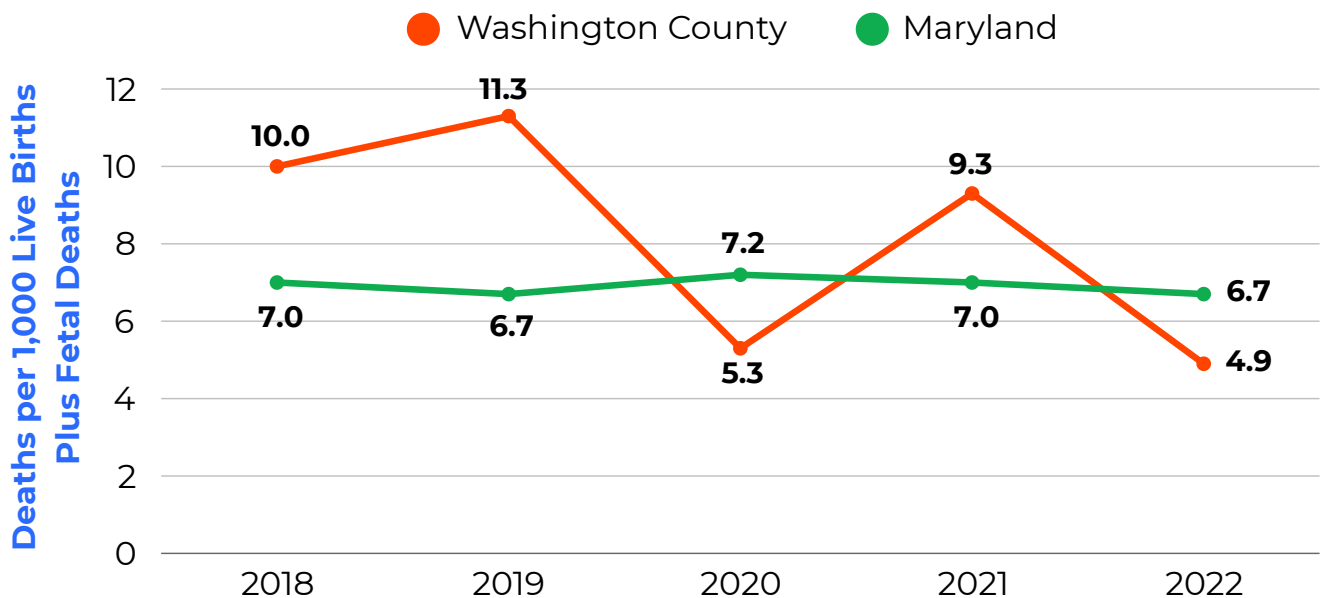
Infant mortality is measured as the death of an infant before its first birthday. Since 2020, the infant mortality rate in Washington County has been increasing. During the same period, the infant mortality rate in Washington County has also surpassed the state's rate.

Fetal mortality is measured as fetal deaths at 20 or more of gestation. The county's fetal mortality rate has fluctuated over the past 5 years, but has decreased overall.

Infant Mortality Rate



Fetal Mortality Rate



Maternal and Infant Health

Maternal Vulnerability and Mortality

The Maternal Vulnerability Index (MVI) was created to reduce maternal mortality and address racial health disparities in the United States. The MVI ranks counties and states' vulnerability to poor pregnancy outcomes. A higher score on the MVI correlates to an increased risk of maternal death.

Washington County's scored a 56.0 on the index, which was based on reproductive healthcare, physical health, mental health and substance abuse, general healthcare, socioeconomic determinants, and physical environment. Health outcomes for mothers in Washington County have worsened from 2021 to 2024, mainly due to physical health and environmental factors. However, the county's score is similar to that of the state overall.

Maternal Vulnerability Index



Washington County:
2021



Washington County:
2024



Maryland: 2024

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

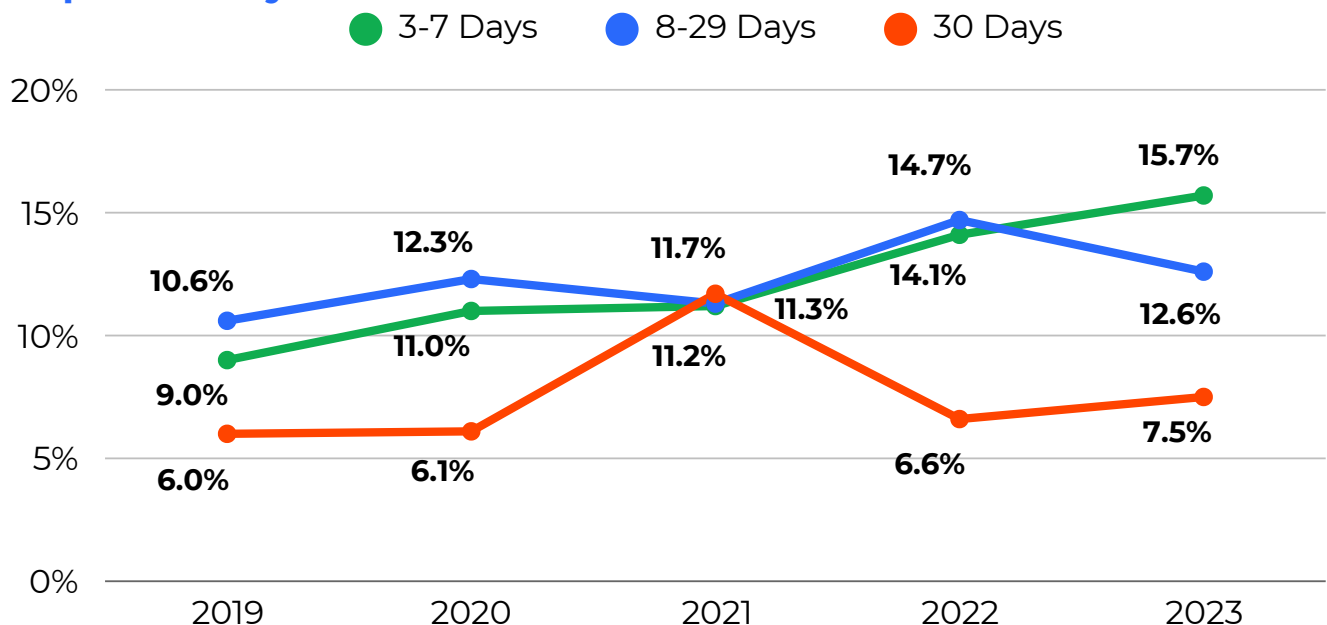
Behavioral Health

Mental Health

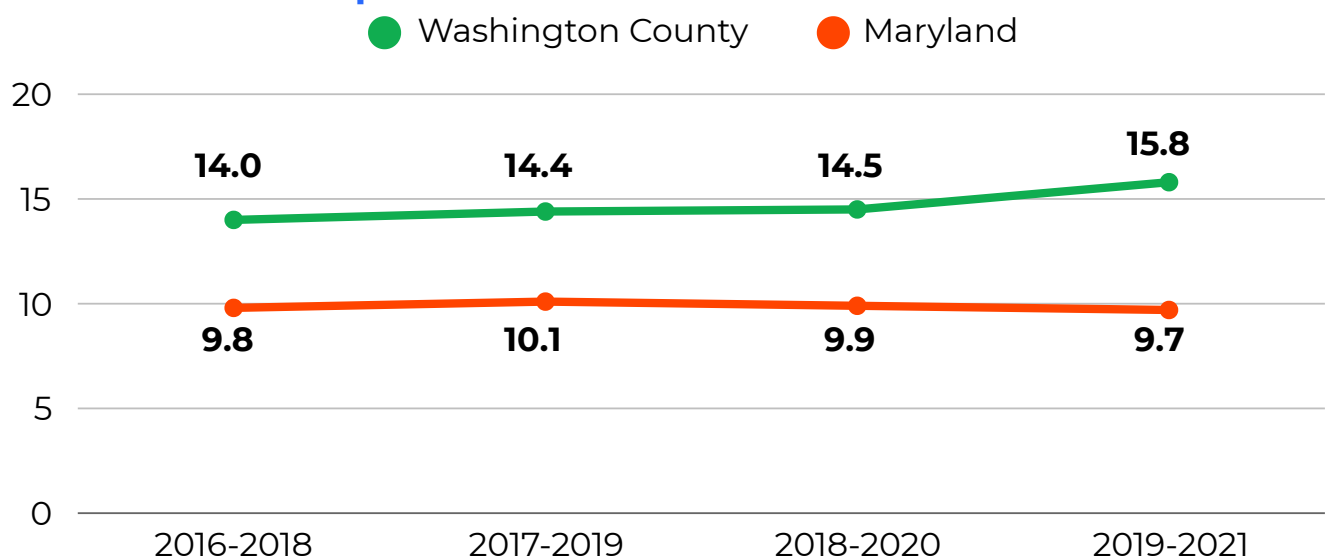
Washington County residents have been reporting increased amounts of poor mental health days from 2019 to 2023. From 2022 to 2023, reports of 3-7 and 30 days of poor mental health have increased slightly, though reports of 8-29 days have decreased.

Since 2015, suicide rates in Washington County have been greater than the overall rate in Maryland. Compared to 2018-2020 rates, suicide rates in the county have increased, while rates in Maryland have decreased slightly.

Reported Days of Poor Mental Health



Rates of Suicide †



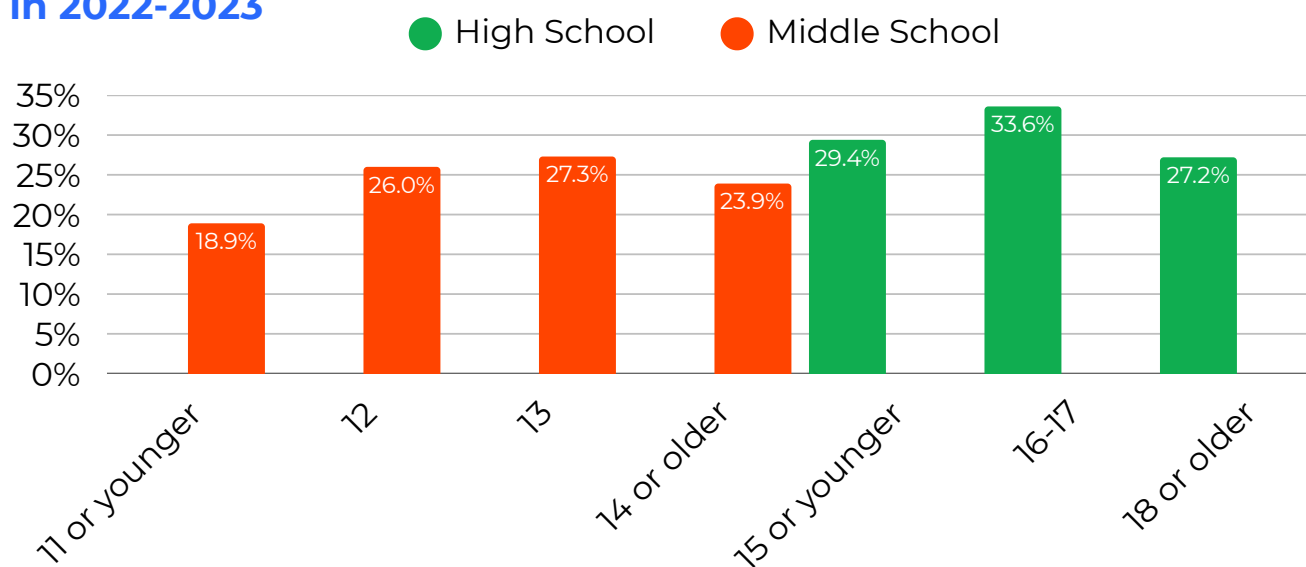
† Adjusted for age. Deaths per 100,000 population

Behavioral Health

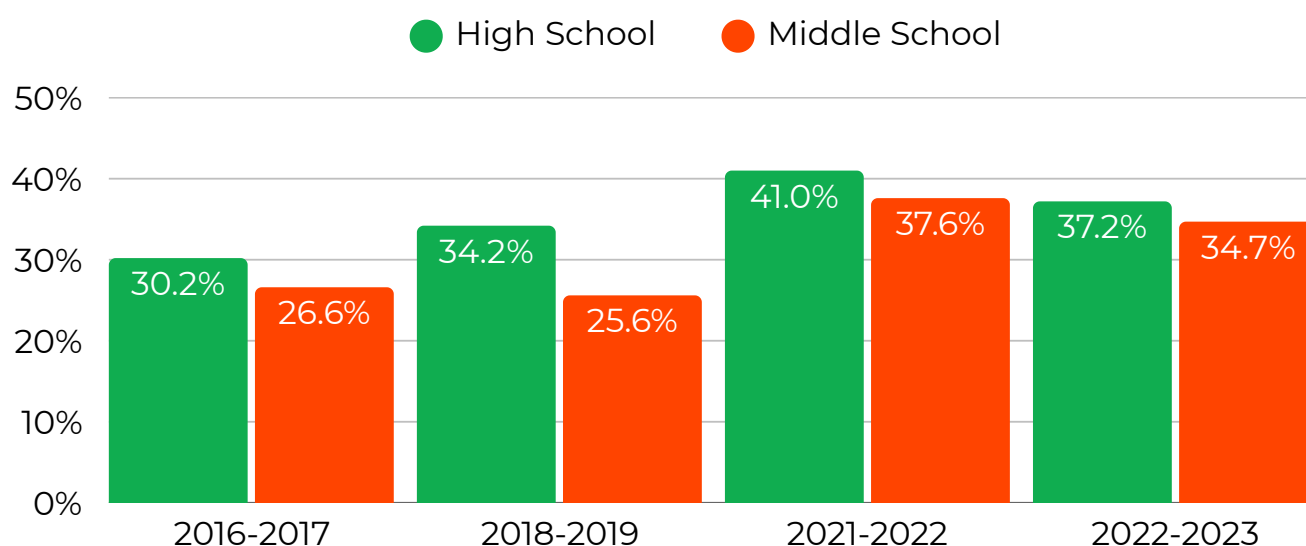
Adolescent Mental Health

Amongst middle school students, 27.3% of children aged 13 had reported they experienced poor mental health most days or always. The highest prevalence of this occurred amongst high school students aged 16-17 at 33.6%. For both middle and high school students in Washington County, reports of feeling sad or hopeless have decreased from the 2021-2022 school year.

Percentage of students who reported that their mental health was most of the time or always not good (including stress, anxiety, and depression, during the 30 days before the survey) in 2022-2023



Percentage of students who felt sad or hopeless almost every day for greater than 2 weeks by school year

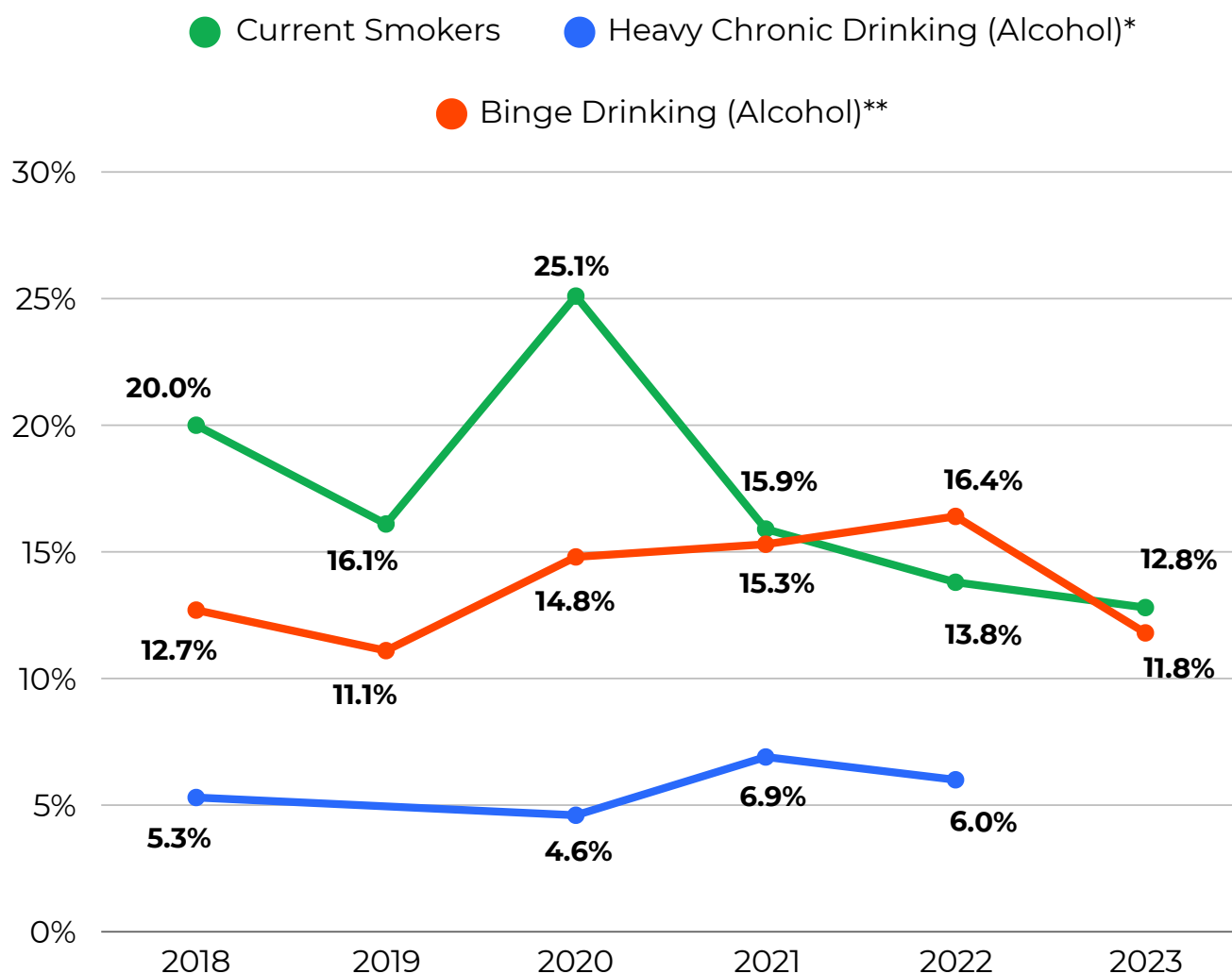


Behavioral Health

Substance Use

After a sharp increase in 2020, the amount of Washington County residents that reported they were current smokers fell in 2021, and has continued to decrease to 12.8% in 2023. The prevalence of binge drinking has decreased to 11.8%, the lowest it has been since 2019. *

Prevalence of Substance Use †



† Adjusted for age.

* Chronic drinking defined as 14 drinks per week for men, 7 drinks per week for women.

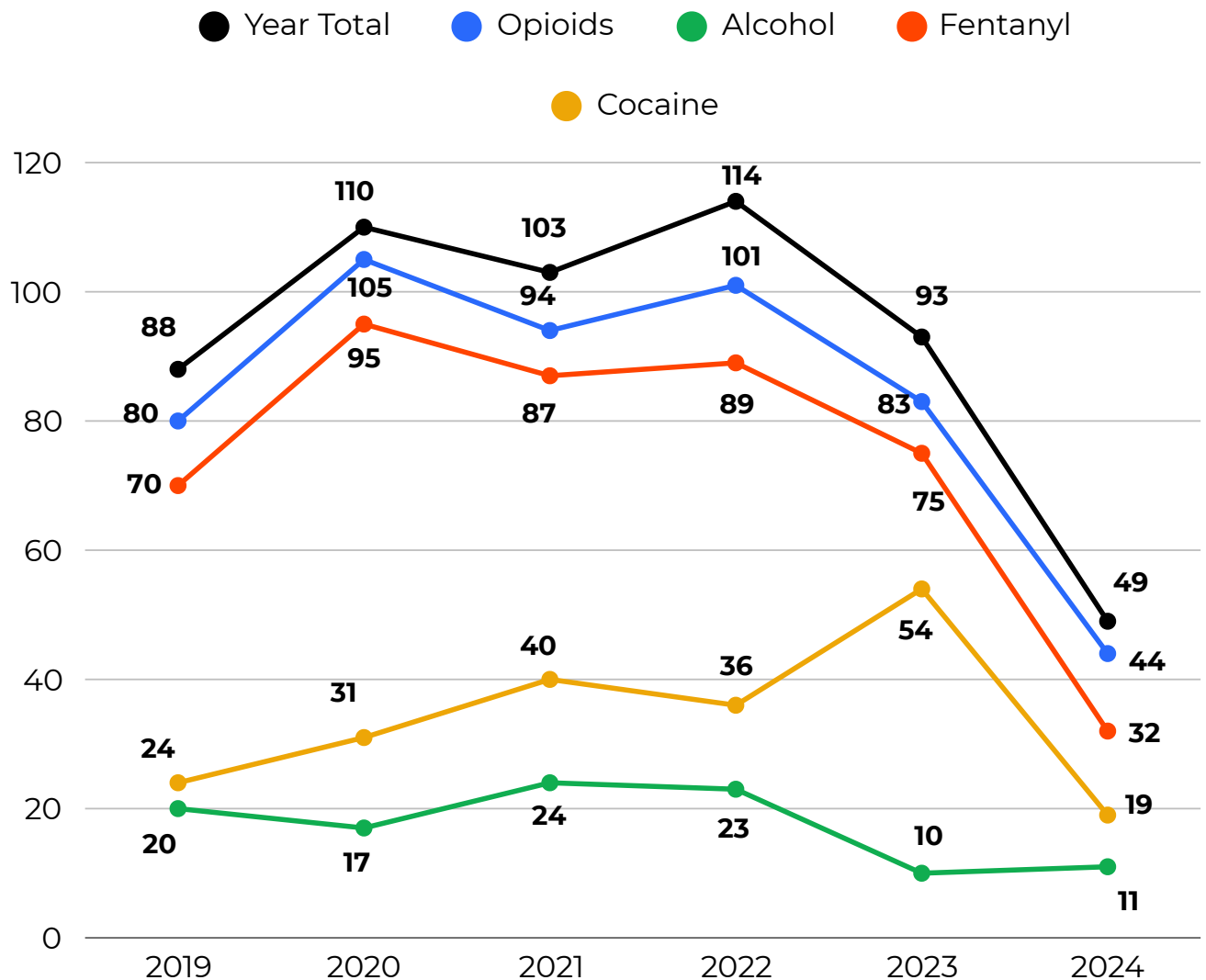
** Binge drinking defined as 5 or more drinks for in 30 days for men or 4 or more drinks in 30 days for women.

Behavioral Health

Overdoses

In Washington County, there were 49 drug and alcohol related deaths reported in 2024, a significant decrease from the peak in 2022 of 114 deaths. Overdose deaths involving opioids and fentanyl have followed a similar trend from 2019 to 2024 and have also greatly decreased. Opioid-related overdose deaths have remained the highest in Washington County compared to other substances. Cocaine related deaths have also decreased significantly from 2023. Additionally, alcohol related overdose deaths have decreased from 2022 and remained stable in 2024.

Unintentional Drug and Alcohol Related Overdose Deaths***



* Overdose deaths may involve more than one substance.

** By place of occurrence, may include non-Washington County residents.

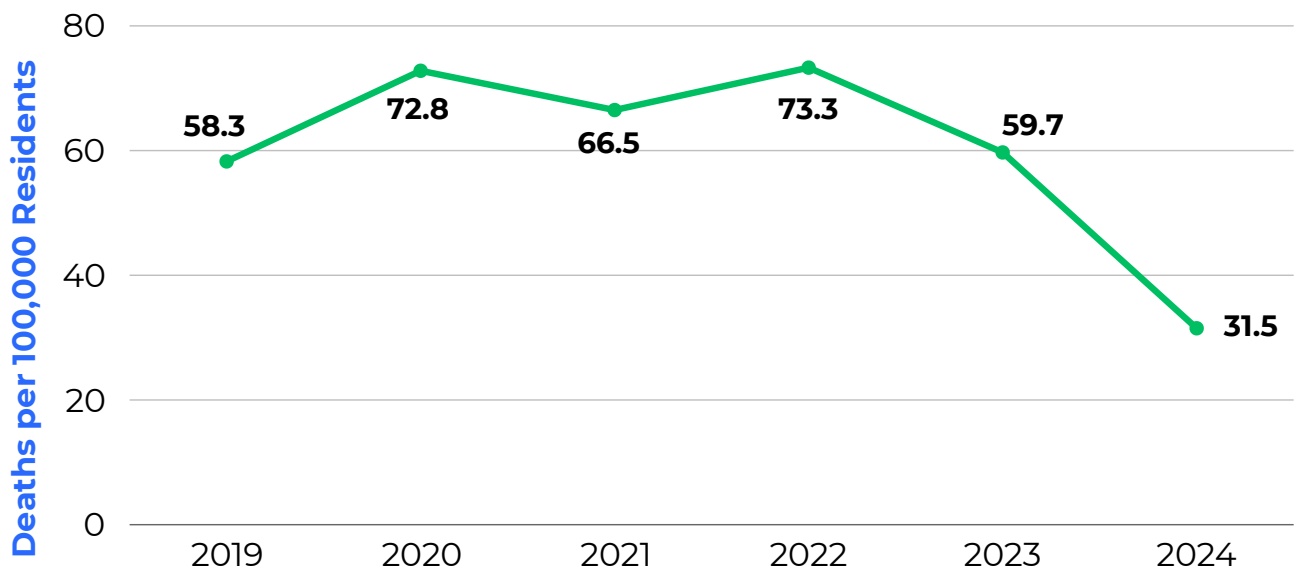
*** 2022-2024 number of deaths are not final and subject to change due to OCME death investigations.

Behavioral Health

Overdoses

In 2024, the overdose death rate in Washington County was 31.5 deaths per 100,000 population, following the trend of decreasing overdose deaths since 2022. The overdose rate among non-Hispanic White residents was slightly lower than the county rate, while rates for residents of other races are not available due to low numbers. The overdose rate amongst male residents was 44.2 deaths per 100,000 population and was also greater than the county rate.

Drug and Opioid-Involved Overdose Death Rates*



Drug and Opioid-Involved Overdose Death Rates by Race and Gender*

Race/Ethnicity	2021	2022	2023	2024
Non-Hispanic White	59.6	77.4	59.9	29.9
Non-Hispanic Black	149.7	106.4	**	**
Gender				
Male	92.0	97.1	89.6	44.2
Female	39.7	48.5	28.8	**

* 2022-2024 number of deaths are not final and subject to change due to OCME death investigations.

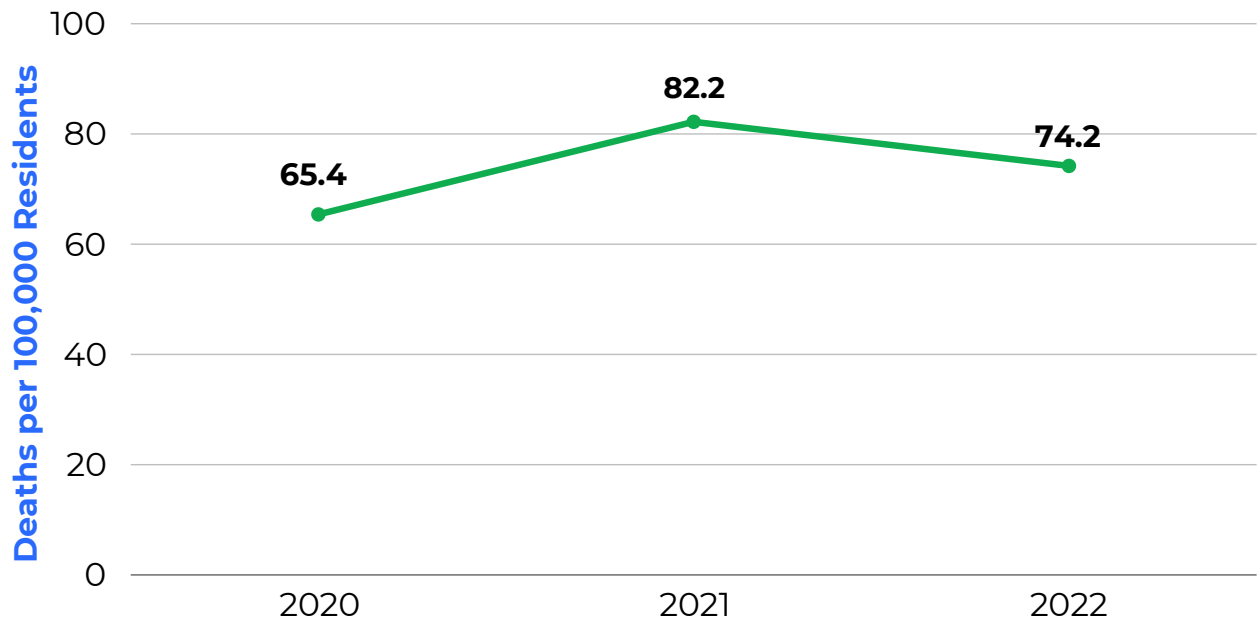
** Rate suppressed because of low values

Data Source: [MDH Overdose Data Portal](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

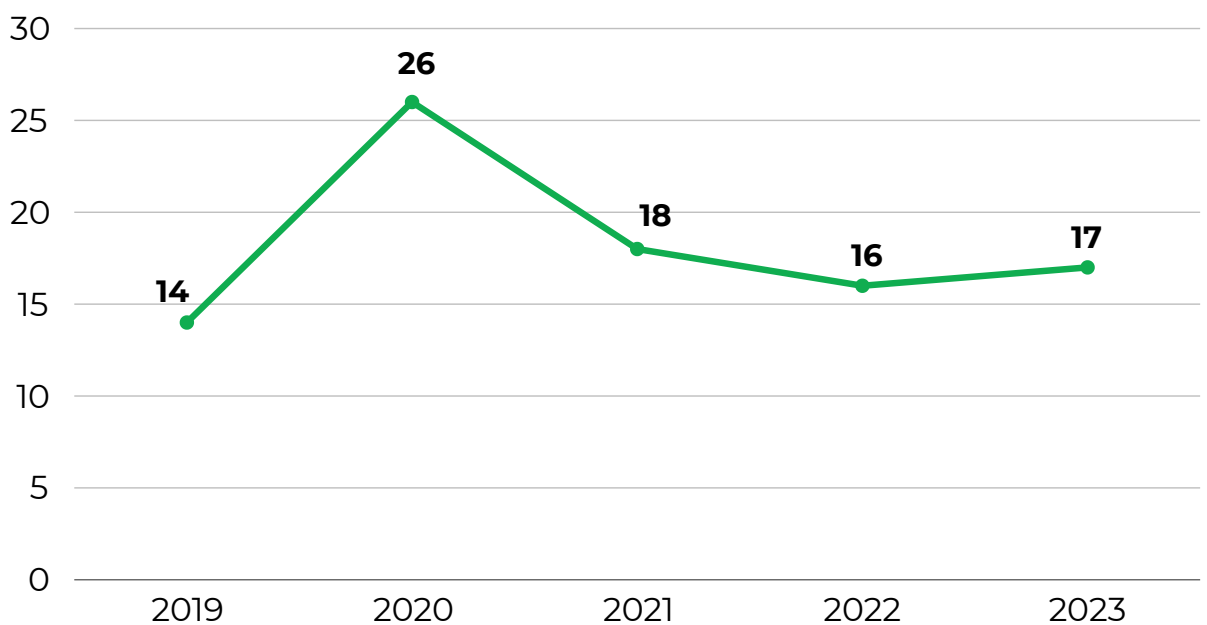
Accidental deaths in Washington County have slightly decreased since 2021. Firearm related deaths saw an increase in 2020, however the total number began to decline in 2021 and saw a small rise in 2023.

Accidental Deaths - Mortality Rates †



† Adjusted for age. Deaths per 100,000 population. Accidental deaths are defined as deaths due to unintentional injuries including motor vehicle collisions, poisonings, falls, etc

Firearm Related Deaths †



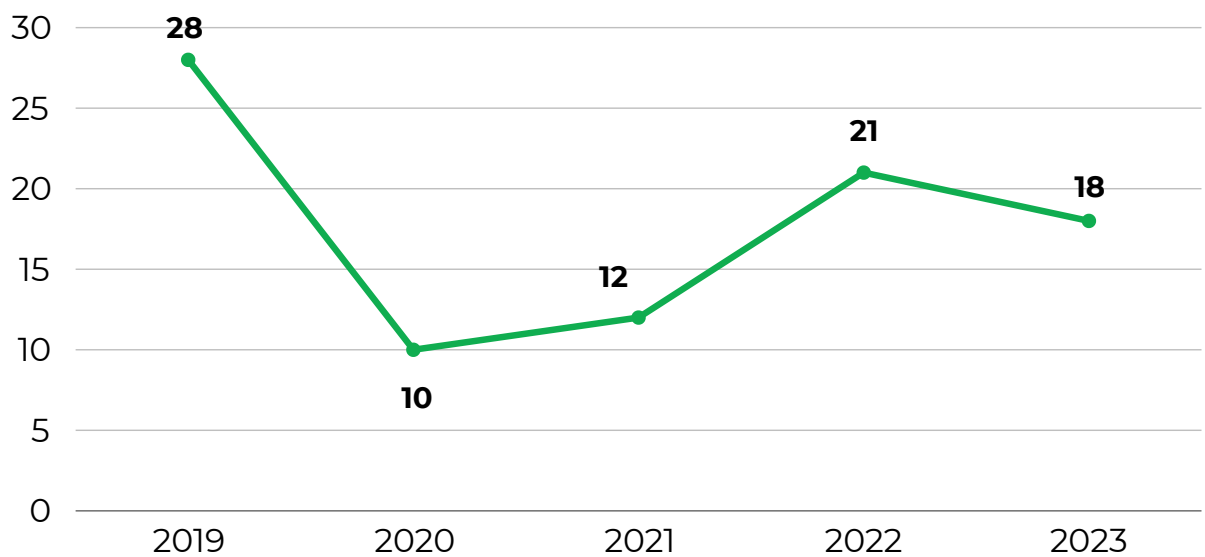
† Firearm deaths are defined as any death related to the discharge of a firearm

Environmental Health

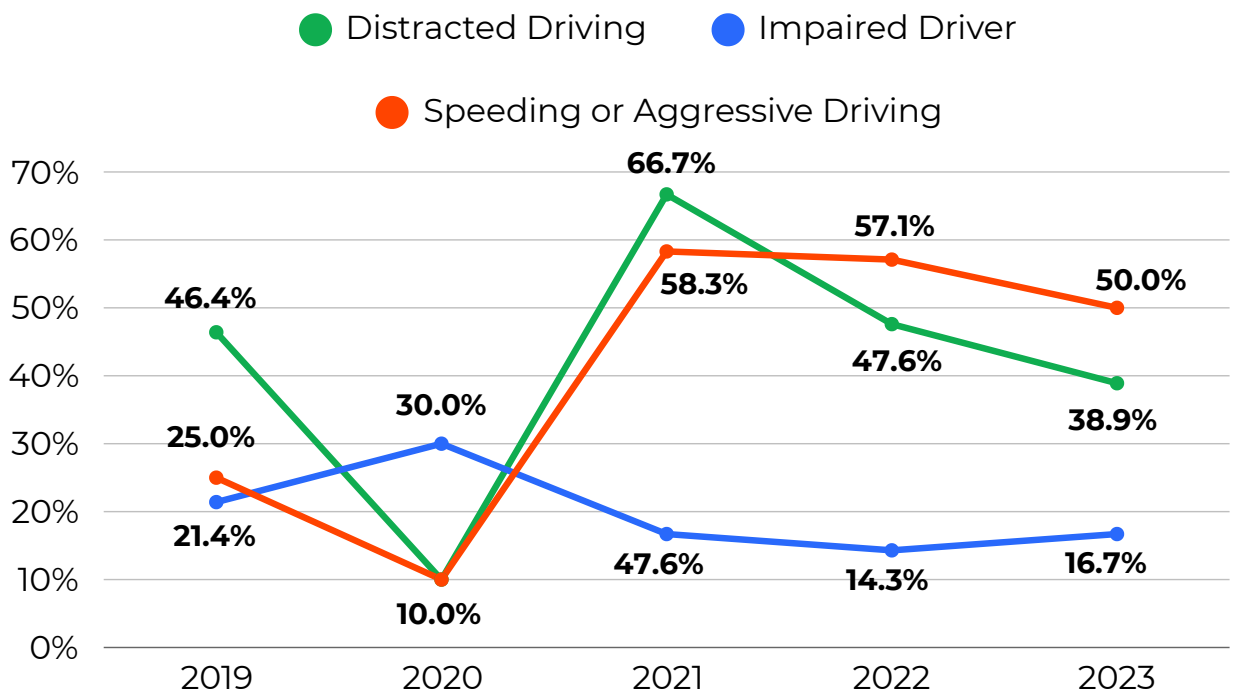
Motor Vehicle Crashes

While pandemic shutdowns most likely led to a sharp decline in motor vehicle crashes in 2020, the number of fatal crashes began to increase again in 2021 and 2022, and slightly decreased in 2023. Distracted driving was the most common cause for fatal motor vehicle crashes, closely followed by speeding or aggressive driving, with speeding or aggressive driving becoming the most common causes in 2023.

Motor Vehicle Fatalities



Causes of Motor Vehicle Fatalities

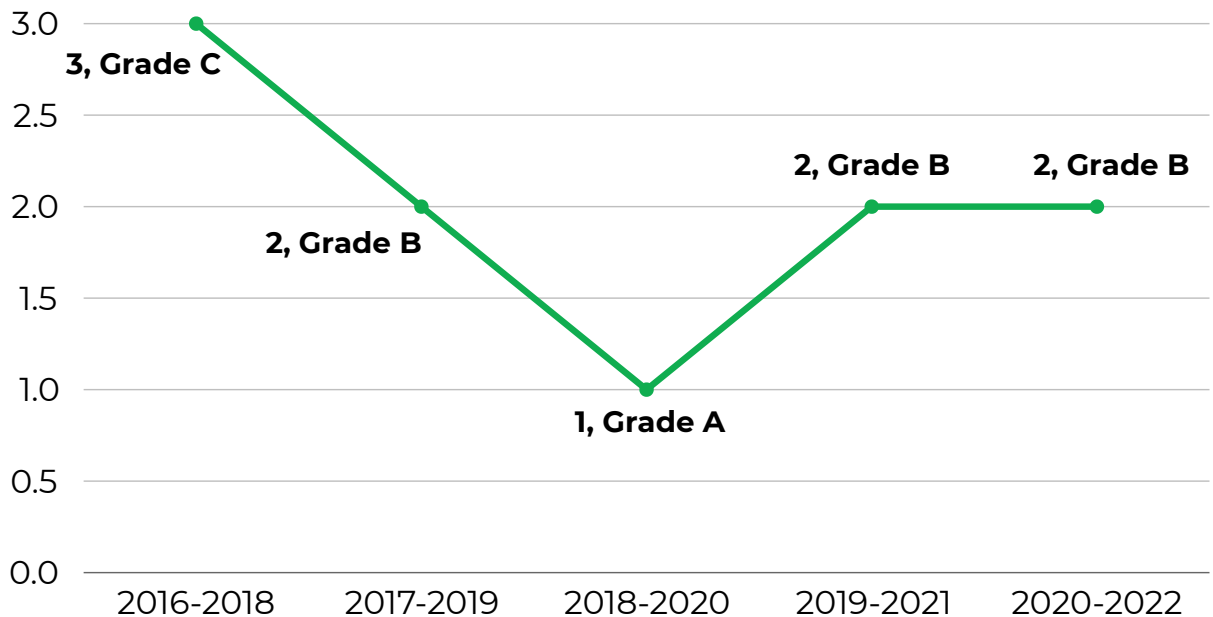


Environmental Health

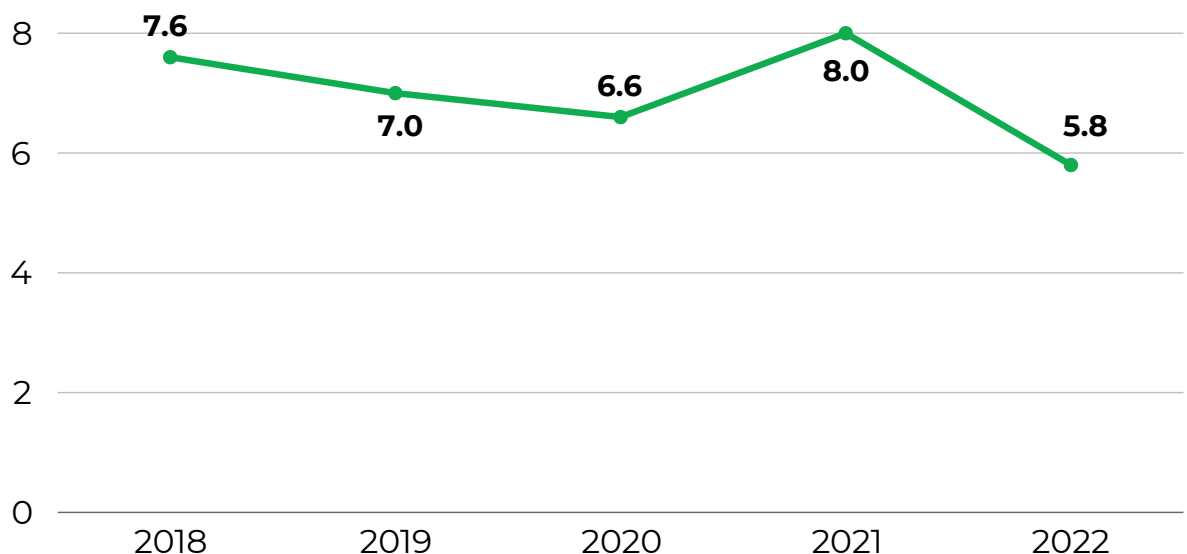
Air Quality

Ground-level ozone and particulate matter can both have negative effects on health, particularly with one's respiratory health, and can worsen or cause asthma, lung irritation, or cardiovascular issues. Air quality in Washington County has steadily remained in higher grades based on EPA data assessed by the American Lung Association. Washington County has continuously met the EPA's particulate matter standards, even with a slight rise in 2021 due to pollution from wildfire smoke spread.

Annual Ozone Air Quality Grade



Air Pollution - Average Daily Density of Particulate Matter

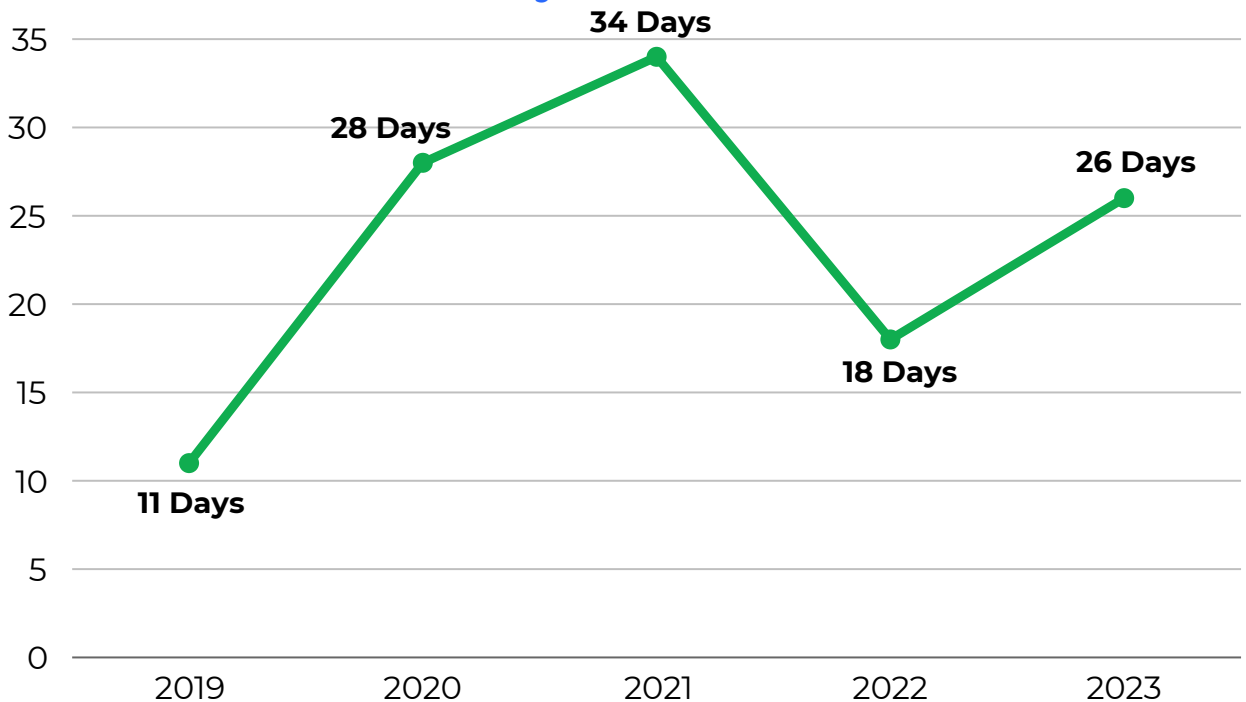


Environmental Health

Extreme Heat

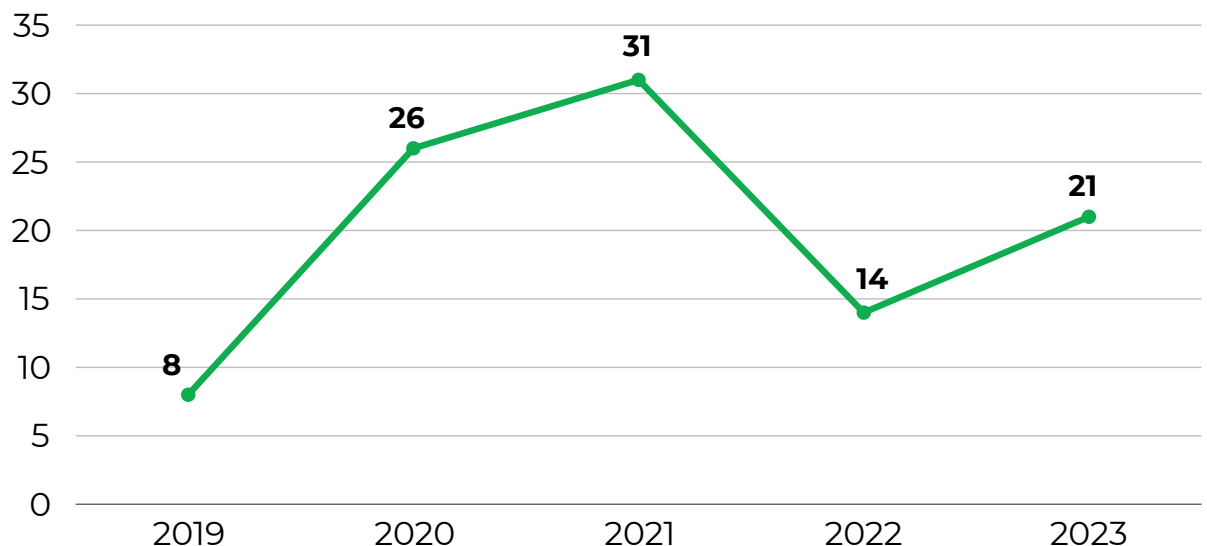
As a result of our warming climate, extreme heat days and events are becoming more prevalent in Washington County. The number of extreme heat days and waves per year steadily increased from 2019-2021 and a decline was seen in 2022, however the numbers began to increase again in 2023.

Number of Extreme Heat Days*



**Extreme heat days are defined as days in which the daily max temperature exceeded the 90th percentile threshold of average daily maximum temperature. This measure is calculated using data from May-September each year*

Number of Extreme Heat Events



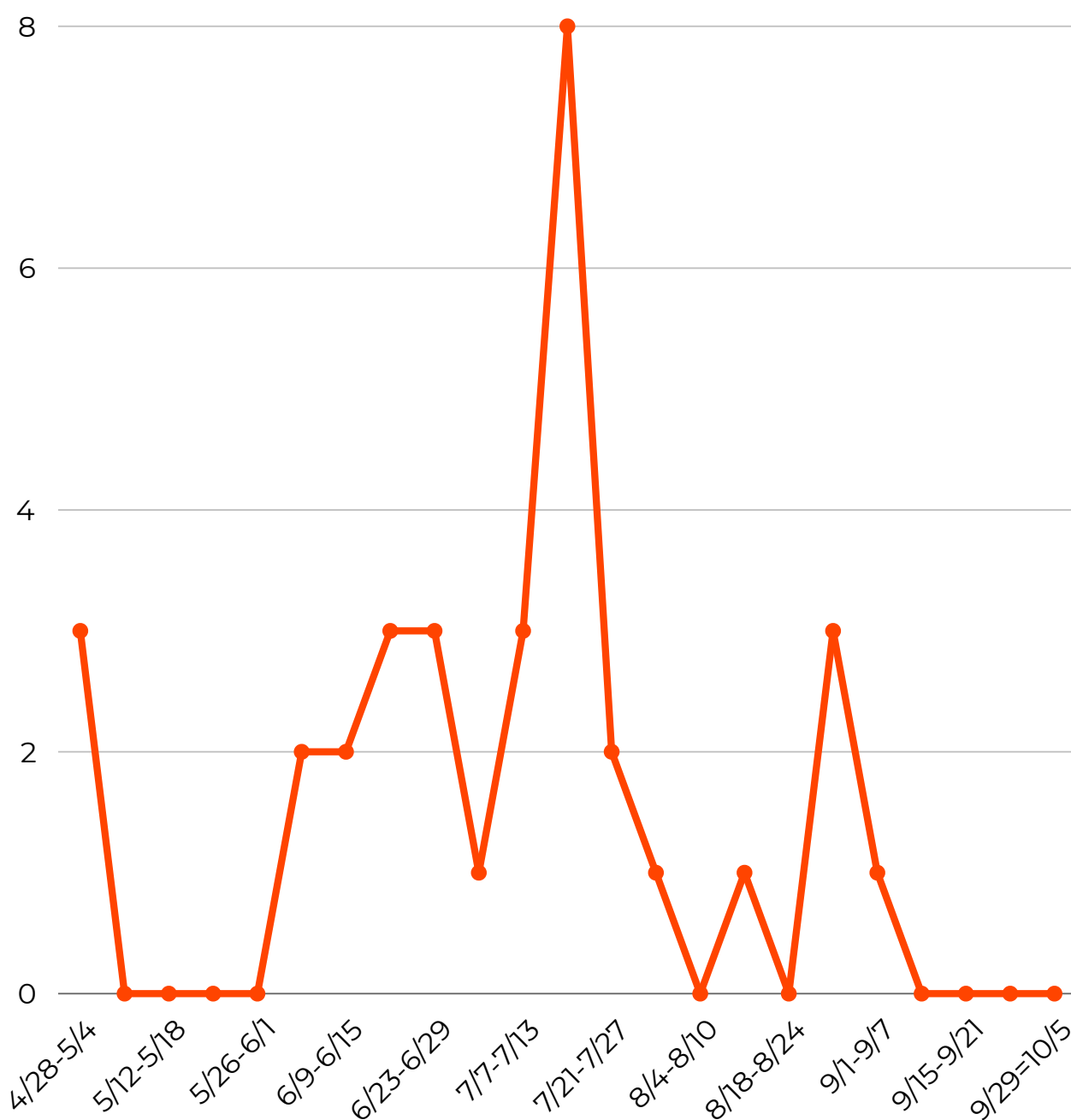
**Extreme heat events are defined as a minimum of two consecutive days in which the daily max temperature exceeded the 90th percentile threshold of average daily maximum temperature. This measure is calculated using data from May-September each year*

Environmental Health

Extreme Heat

As summer temperatures rise, reports of heat-related illnesses have increased as well. In the 2024 heat season, there were a total of 33 heat-related ED and Urgent Care visits, with cases reaching their peak in July. For the overall 2024 heat season, only one heat-related death was reported in Washington County.

Emergency Department and Urgent Care Heat-Related Illness Chief Complaints* (May - October 2024)



*Extreme heat events are defined as a minimum of two consecutive days in which the daily max temperature exceeded the 90th percentile threshold of average daily maximum temperature. This measure is calculated using data from May-September each year

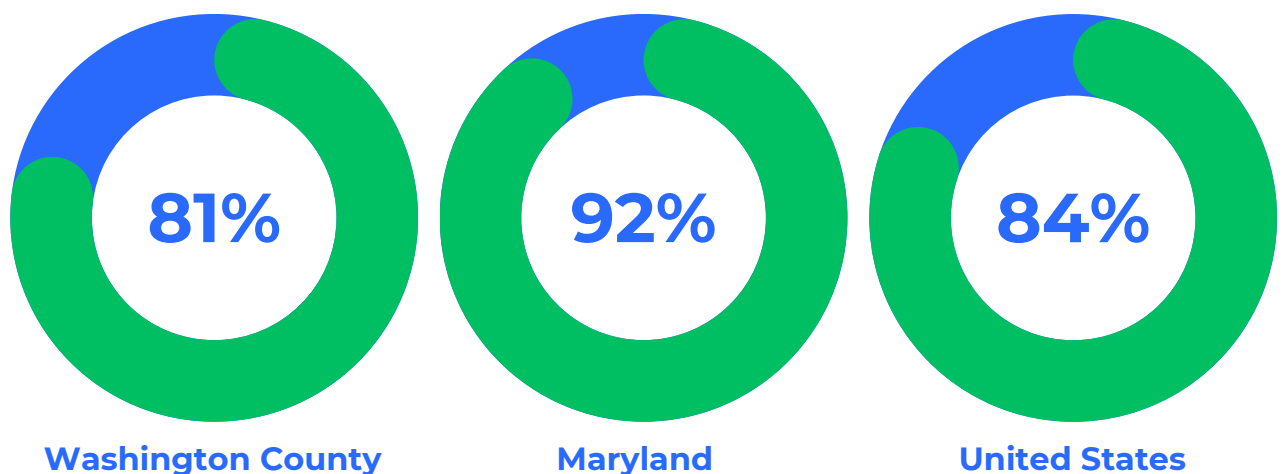
Data Source: Maryland ESSENCE

Environmental Health

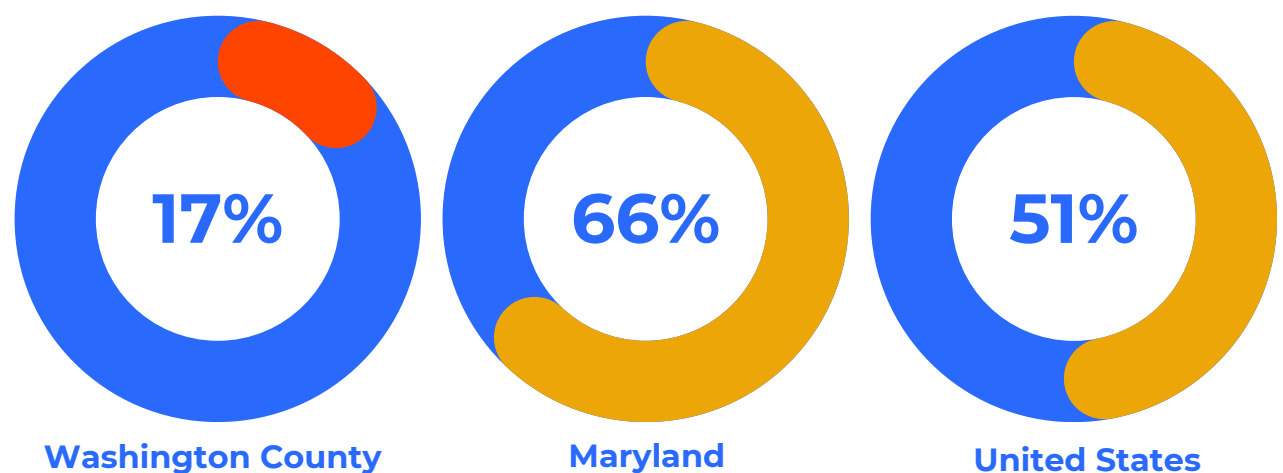
Physical Environment

Access to exercise opportunities and parks is important for not only physical health, but can also improve mental health and overall wellbeing. Parks and green spaces are also important for the environment and climate, as they preserve natural resources, provide clean air and water, and reduce heat islands in urban areas.

Access to Exercise Opportunities (Recreation Facilities and/or Parks)



Access to Parks*



*Percentage of individuals that live within 1/2 mile of a public park

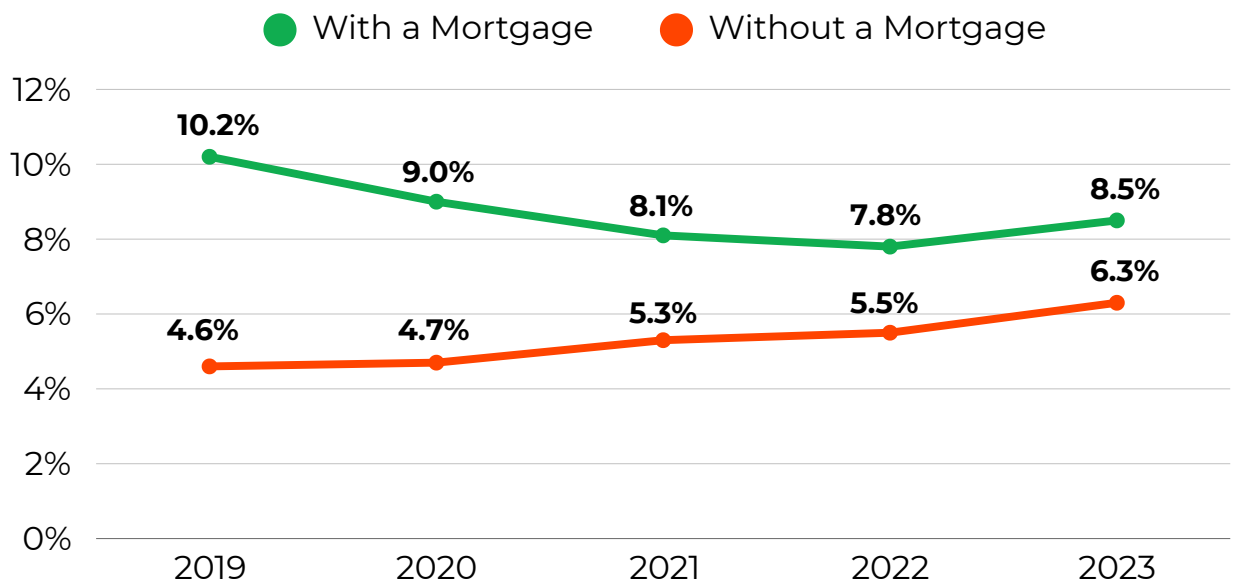
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Social Determinants of Health

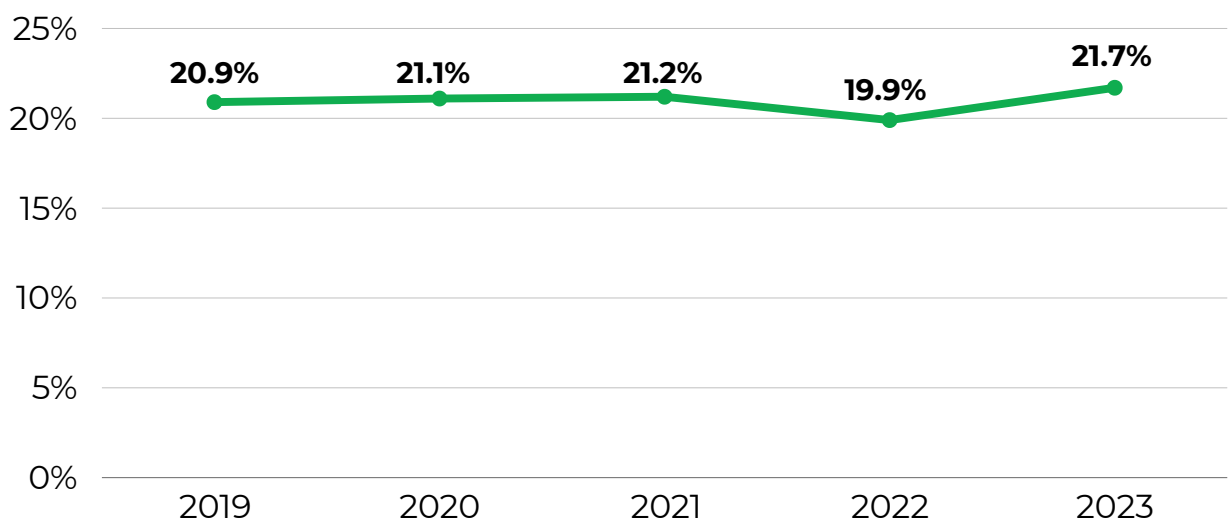
Severe Housing Cost Burden

A severe housing cost burden is when a household spends more than 50% of their household income on housing costs including rent, mortgage, and household upkeep. Homeowners with mortgages were more likely to experience housing cost burdens, however an increase for both groups and renters was seen in 2023, most likely due to rising housing costs in the county

Severe Housing Cost Burden Amongst Homeowners



Severe Housing Cost Burden Amongst Renters

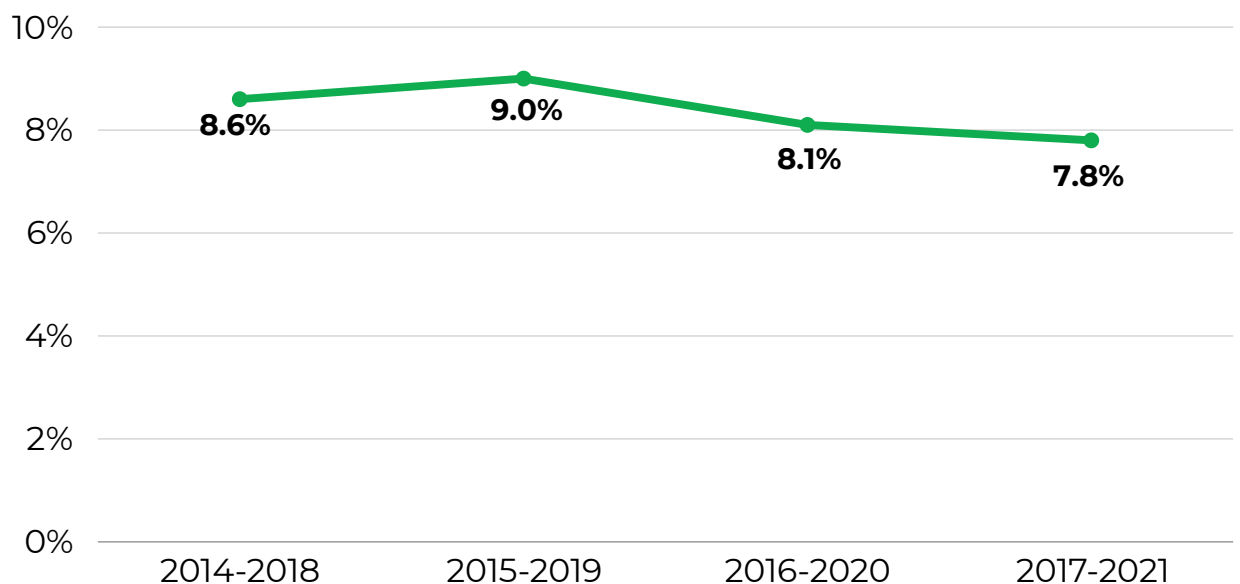


Social Determinants of Health

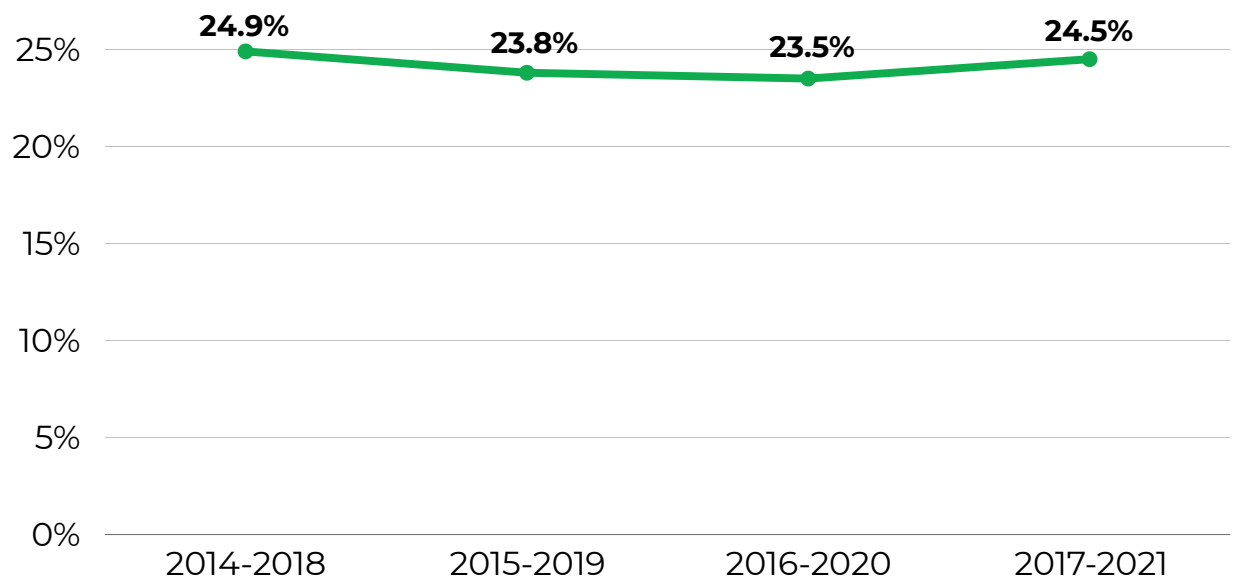
Severe Housing Problems

A severe housing problem is when a household is experiencing at least one of 4 housing problems: lack of plumbing facilities, lack of kitchen facilities, overcrowding, or high housing costs. The number of homeowners experiencing severe housing problems has decreased over several years, however for renters, the number of households has been mostly stable.

Severe Housing Problems Amongst Homeowners



Severe Housing Cost Burden Amongst Renters

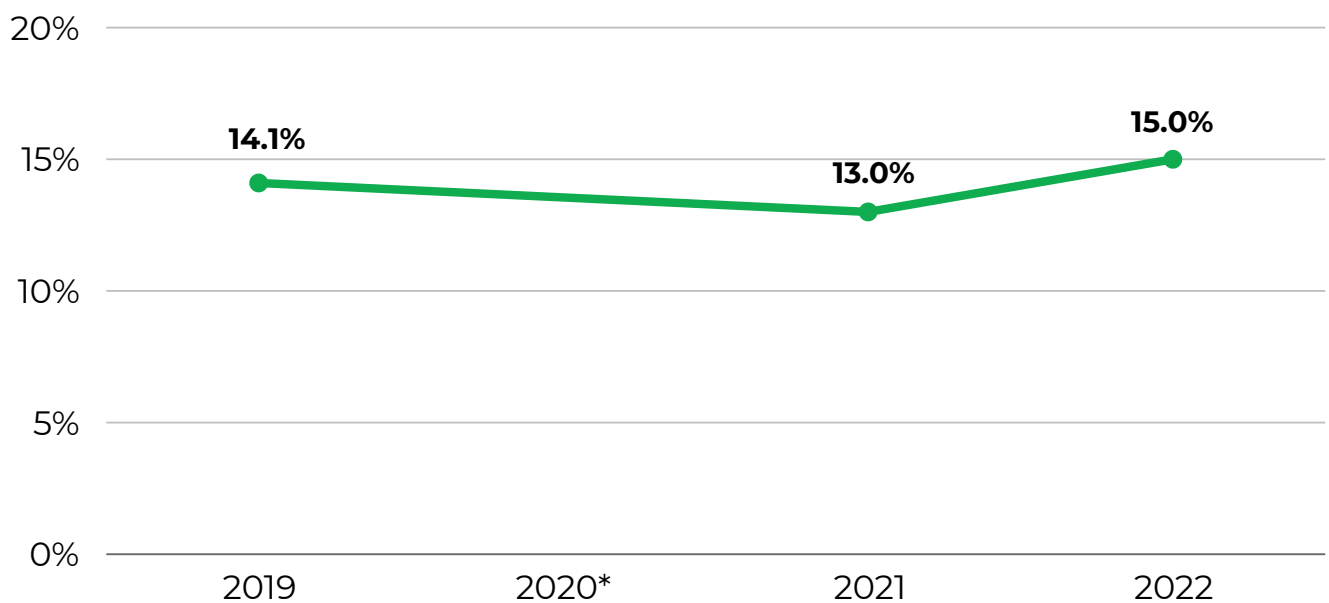


Social Determinants of Health

Food Insecurity

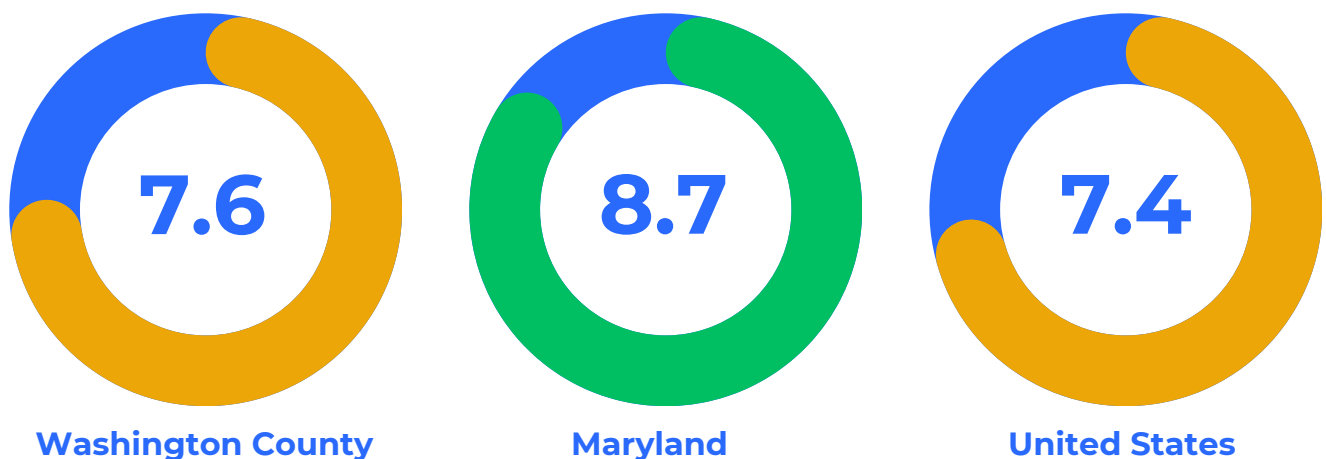
Food insecurity is the lack of access to enough food to live a healthy, active life. This lack of access can have a severe negative impact on health outcomes as food and nutrition are essential to health. In 2022, 15% of the population in Washington County was considered food insecure. Food insecurity is often more common in rural areas, due to lack of access to grocery stores and healthy food sources.

Washington County Food Insecurity Rate



**2020 data unavailable as it cannot be directly compared to current and previous data due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on data collection*

Food Environment Index*



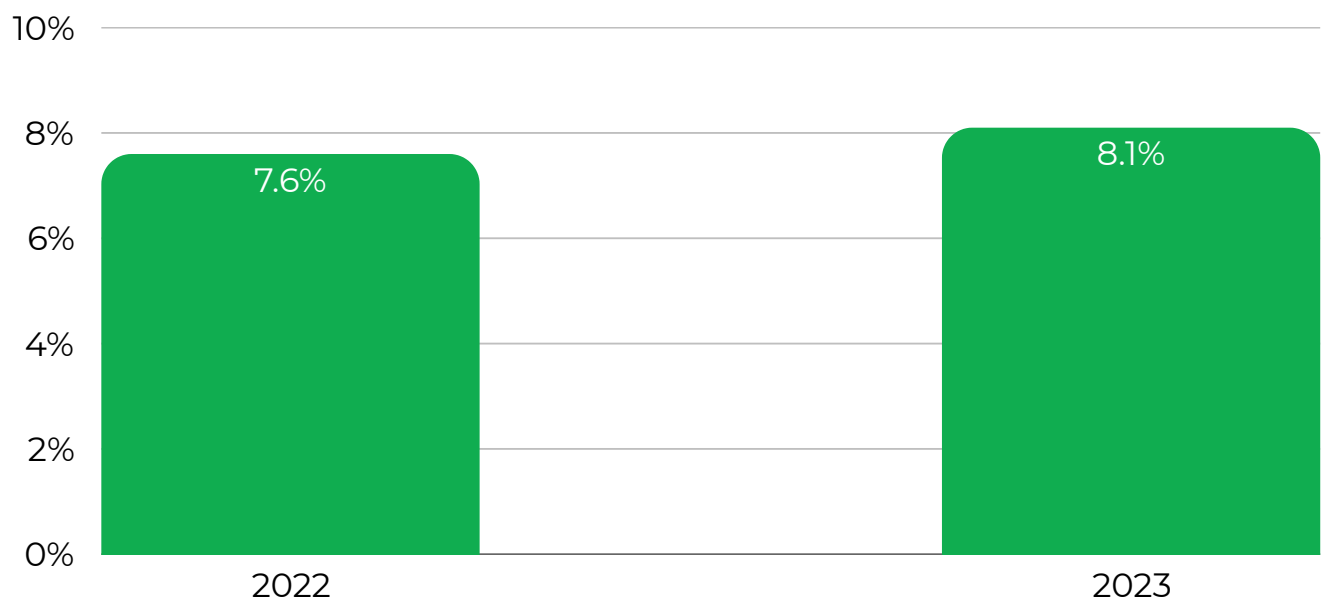
**Index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment, such as access to healthy foods, food insecurity, etc.), from 0 (worst) to 10 (best)*

Social Determinants of Health

Transportation

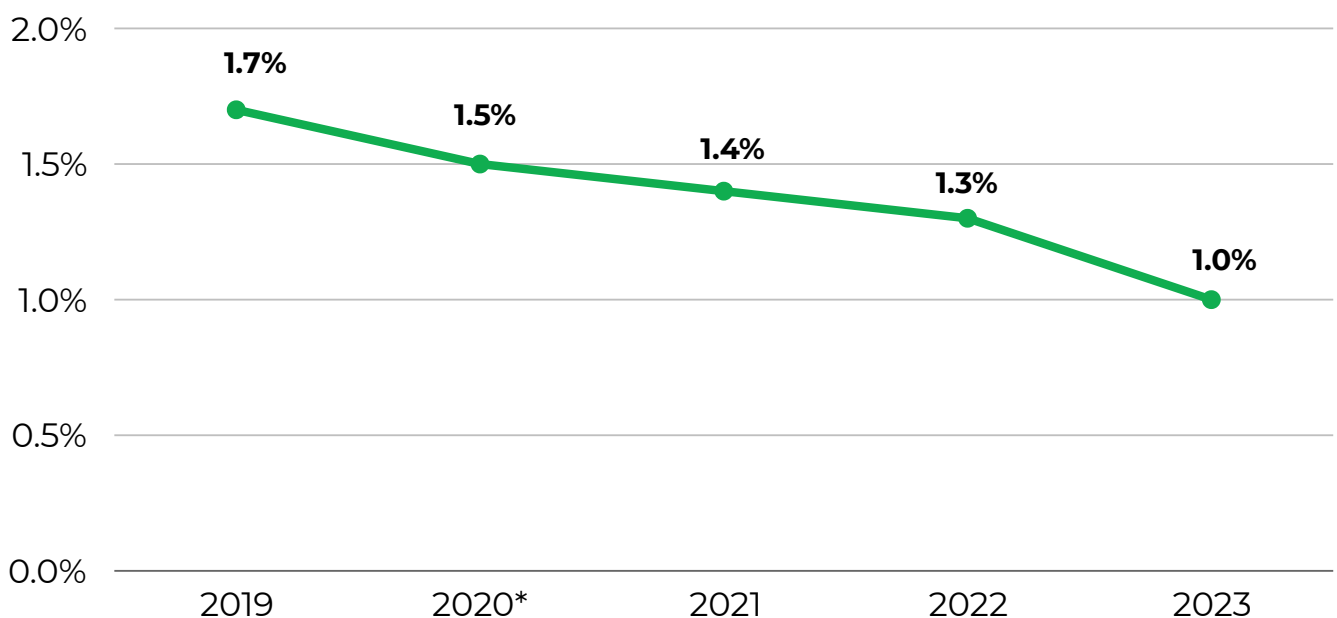
Transportation access plays a major role in a community's overall health and wellbeing. Access to reliable transportation, especially in rural areas, can aid in access to medical care, healthy food, social opportunities, and physical activity. Public transportation can also be a valuable resource for those with no personal means of transportation, however access is often limited in rural areas.

Lack of Reliable Transportation*



**In last 12 months*

Workers Commuting by Public Transportation*



**Workers aged 16 and older. Excludes taxi services*

Data Source: 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, US Census, Table DP03, Maryland BRFSS

GLOSSARY

Glossary

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Page</u>
ACCU	Administrative Care Coordination Unit. Helps Medicaid recipients navigate available resources and services	X
AERS	Adult Evaluation and Review Services. Helps identify effective long-term care options and linkage to resources for functionally limited individuals.	X
Age-Adjusted Rate	A rate that has been adjusted to account for differences in population age distribution per 100,000 residents	33
Barriers to Care	Factors that prevent people from obtaining the healthcare they need	28
Chronic Disease	Conditions that last a year or more and require continuous medical care	30-35
Congenital	Medical condition present from birth	39
Crude Rate	An unadjusted rate of illness, hospitalizations, or deaths per 100,000 residents	41
Ground Level Ozone	Harmful air pollutant, primary component of smog	60
Health Disparity	Preventable differences between populations in rates of disease, injury, and violence	10, 50
Incidence Rate	New cases of a disease or condition in a specific time period per 100,000 residents	33
Infectious Disease	Illness caused by pathogens such as bacteria, virus, fungi, or parasites	36-42
Life Expectancy	Average length of lifetime of an individual in a population	27

Glossary

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Page</u>
Mortality Rate	Deaths due to a specific illness or event per 1,000 or 100,000 residents	27, 34, 49, 58
Naloxone	A medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose	X
Narcan	A specific brand name of naloxone	X
Outbreak	Increase of disease among a specific population in a geographic area during a specific period of time	38
Particulate Matter	Solid particles and liquid droplets in the air that make air pollution	60
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis is a medical program that offers daily medication to prevent HIV among people without HIV	11
Prevalence Rate	Total cases of a disease or condition in a specific time period per 100,000 residents	31, 32, 35, 46, 47, 53, 54
Socioeconomic/Social Determinants	Conditions in which individuals, are born, grow up, live, work and age. Includes economic stability, physical and built environment, education access and quality, social and community context, and healthcare access and quality	64-68
Transmission	The spread of disease	37
Trimester	A period of three months	46
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children program. Provides supplemental foods, nutrition counseling, and health care/social service referrals to eligible pregnant and postpartum people, infants, and children	X



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