

**Lancaster County**

**Comprehensive Juvenile Services**

**Community Plan**

**July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025**

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## LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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On March 4, 2021 the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners received and approved the Lancaster County Juvenile Comprehensive Plan for the period covering July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.

Rick Vest

Rick Vest  
County Board Chair  
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

3/4/21

Date

## Introduction

The City of Lincoln in Lancaster County is the second largest city with a population of 313,977. It is home to the State's Capitol. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Lincoln's white population has decreased by 10%, while our non-white population has increased by the same amount. Most notably, we have the largest Yezidi community nationwide. Lincoln is home to the University of Nebraska and its 26,000 students. Lincoln is home to three state prison facilities, one local jail, and one youth detention center.

Compared to other cities across the United States, Lincoln is in the top third for overall well-being. Lincoln has less crime than other similarly sized communities. Persons living in Lincoln report feeling safe most of the time, traffic crash injuries have been low for the past decade, and medical and fire services are effective. However, the percentage of children removed from their homes for their safety remains higher than the national rates. Lincoln has also seen an increase in the juvenile arrest rates for drug violations, and for property crimes, when compared to the national rates (Lincoln Vital Signs).

The percent of children in poverty increased 78% since 2008 and is now slightly lower than national rates. Nearly 30% of all families with more than two children have incomes below the poverty threshold. For female headed households with more than two children, 60% are below the poverty threshold. Approximately 43% of Lincoln Public Schools' students participate in the Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program.

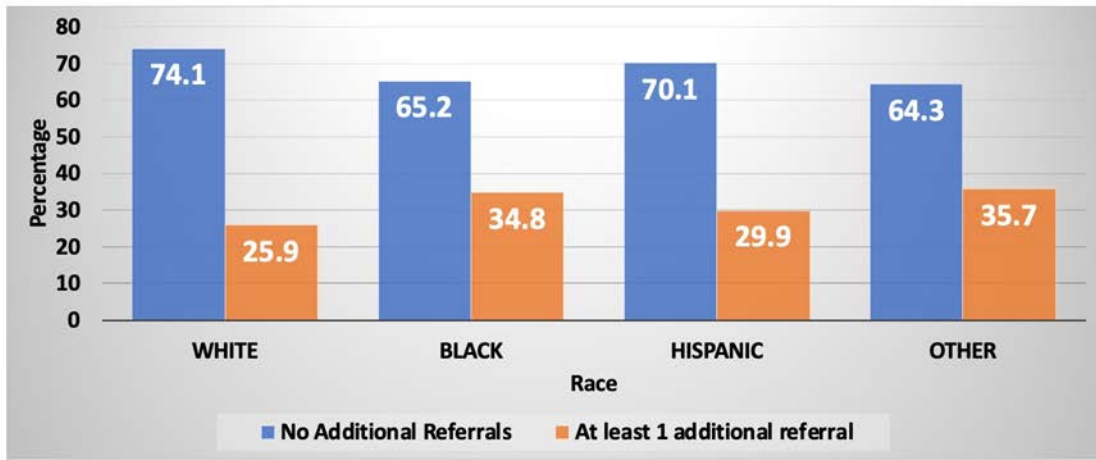
The disproportionality of non-white youth and families living in poverty, reduced educational attainment and medical care, and overall youth in the justice, system permeate our community as it does in so many others. Lancaster County has a strong juvenile justice collaborative focused on reducing these disparities.

## Data Summary

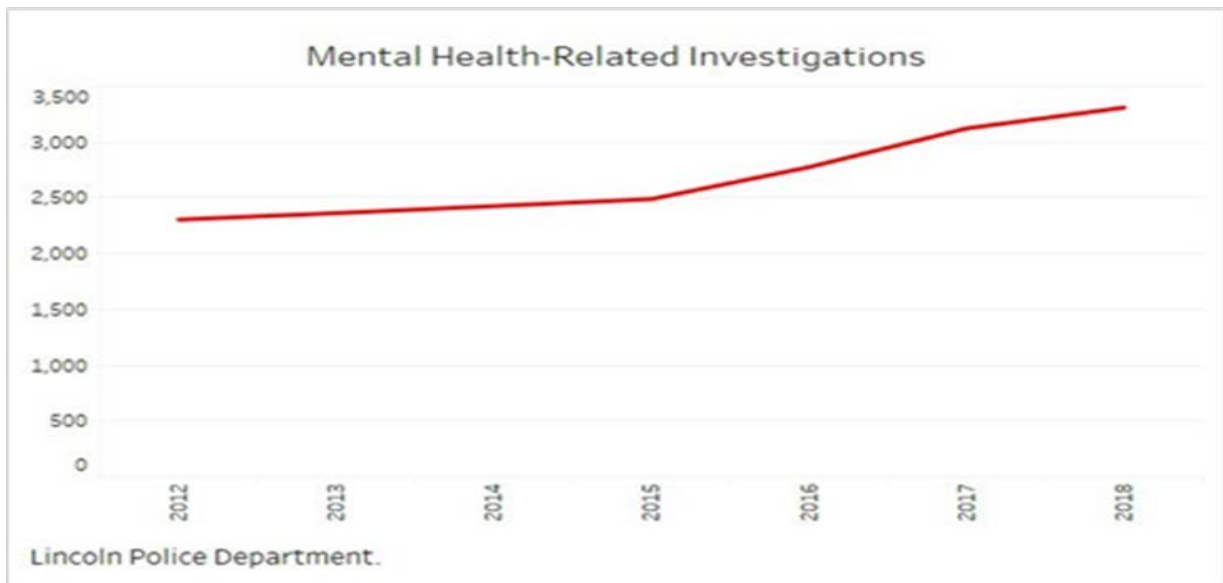
System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	9165	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	2044	2.70%	2.40%	21.40%	11.70%	2.30%	7.20%	52.30%
Youth enrolled in diversion	1791	2.90%	2.60%	21.50%	12.70%	2.60%	1.40%	56.40%
Successful completion diversion	1478	2.40%	2.60%	20.0%	12.20%	2.90%	1.60%	58.30%
Youth with multiple charges	540	3.50%	1.10%	25.20%	14.10%	0%	8.0%	48.10%
Filed on in adult court	136	3.70%	2.20%	33.80%	14.70%	0%	7.4%	38.20%
RAI Override: More Severe	583	6.50%	0.90%	31.70%	17.50%	3.40%	0%	40%
RAI Override: Less Severe	57	0%	1.80%	21.10%	21.10%	7%	0%	49.10%
Probation intake	1047	5.60%	1.10%	32.60%	17.20%	3.90%	0%	39.60%
Successful probation	1929	3.70%	1.20%	18.60%	16.90%	3.30%	0%	56.20%
Revocation of probation	837	4.80%	1.90%	30.20%	15.90%	4.90%	0%	42.30%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## Police recidivism and race of juvenile (black and other youth are more likely to pick up another referral)

$\chi^2(3) = 12.13, p = 0.01^*$



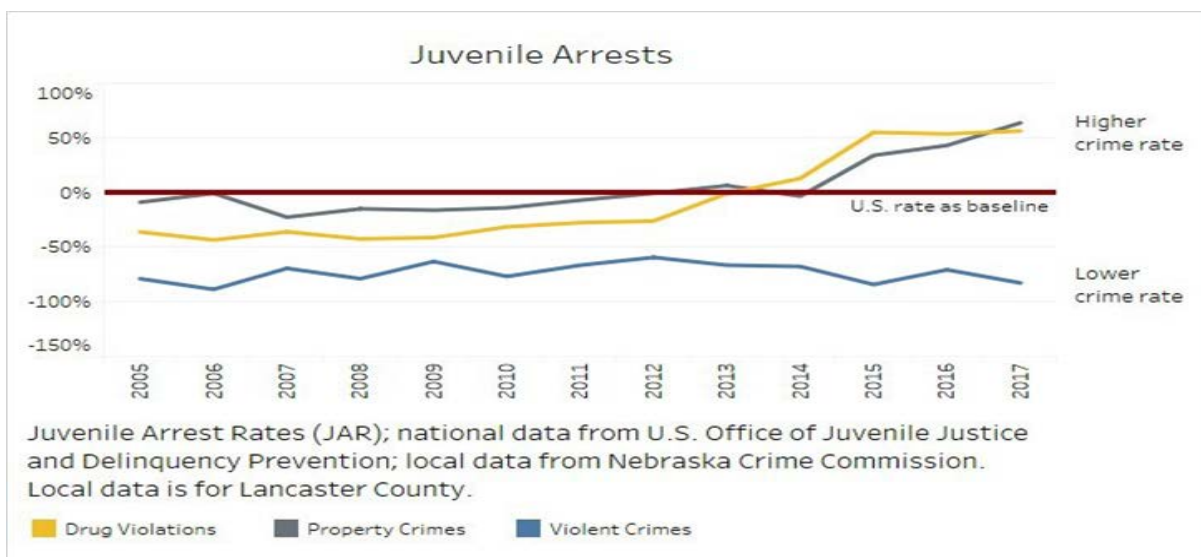
Page 8, UNL Data



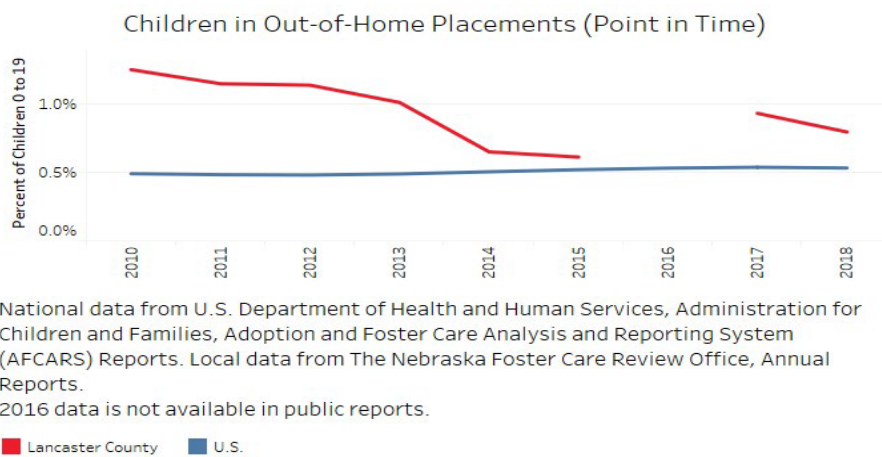
The Lincoln Police Department has officers trained to respond to calls involving mental health issues. When a person is located who may need mental health services, and they are not dangerous, they are provided information about available services. Their contact information is also provided to a peer support program that follows up on all contacts. The number of investigations involving mental health needs has increased 44% since 2012. – Lincoln Vital Signs

	2018	2019	2020
<b># youth contacts</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>74</b>
<b># of youth walk ins</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>
<b># of youth calls</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>
Age 6-10	10	10	6
Age 11-14	20	24	21
Age 15-18	36	58	47
<b>Field Response</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>

Number of youth crisis responses for youth for the City of Lincoln - CenterPointe

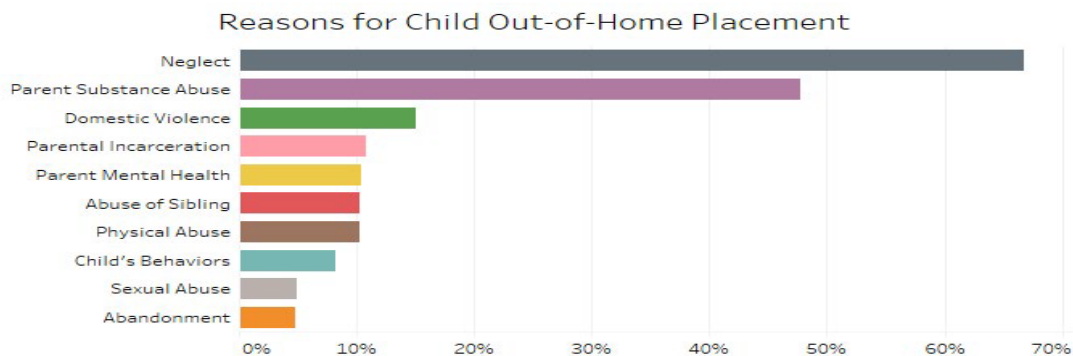


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In Lancaster County, the percentage of children in foster care continues to be higher than the national rate. In 2019, there were several reasons children would be in out-of-home placements. Neglect was the reason for out-of-home placement for a majority of children.



The Nebraska Foster Care Review Office, Annual Reports.  
Any individual child may be removed from a home for multiple reasons, therefore percentages add to more than 100%.

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### Court Filings - CNA

Filed Subtype	Lancaster					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	23	123	1	46	102	355
3B - Uncontrollable	0	5	5	2	0	12
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	0	0	0	0	0	0



Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile.  
In Fall 2010, Nebraska started tracking graduation as the 4-year graduation rate (graduating within 4 years of starting 9th grade).

■ Lincoln Public Schools   ■ Nebraska Public Schools   ■ U.S.

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Table 13: Court Action Taken at the Hearing		
	Frequency	Percent
Adjudicated	31	4.7%
All Parties Not Present	21	3.2%
Assessment Evaluation	1	0.2%
Awaiting Assessment	1	0.2%
Awaiting Nova	2	0.3%
Awaiting Placement	22	3.4%
Awaiting St. Monica's	1	0.2%
Cancelled	15	2.3%
Case Transferred to Another County	1	0.2%
Committed to Geneva	1	0.2%
Committed to Kearney	4	0.6%
Competency Evaluation	1	0.2%
Continued	22	3.4%
Dismissed	5	0.8%
Disposition Continued	11	1.7%
Drug Treatment	10	1.5%
Drug/Alcohol Evaluation	6	0.9%
Entered a Denial	5	0.8%
Evaluation Ordered	71	10.9%
Group Home Placement	26	4.0%
HHS Looking for Placement	1	0.2%
Home Detention Electronic Monitor	20	3.1%
Home Detention	3	0.5%
Motion Withdrawn	2	0.3%
No Contest	2	0.3%
No Less Restrictive Placement	195	29.9%
Parents Can't Control	1	0.2%
Pre-Disposition Investigation Ordered	2	0.3%
Placement on Conditions	21	3.2%
Probation Officer Looking for Placement	130	19.9%
Probation at Home	2	0.3%
Probation Out of Home	7	1.1%
Probation Supervision	1	0.2%
Relative Home	2	0.3%
Shelter	2	0.3%
Uta Hallee	2	0.3%
Waiting for Boys Town	1	0.2%
Waiting for Hastings Drug Treatment	1	0.2%
Waiting for Independence Center	1	0.2%
Total	653	100.0%

Slide 23, Detention Utilization Survey



Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2017 – 2019) – CNA

Score	Lancaster (2017-2019)			All NYS Counties (2015-2017)		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
Family Circumstance/Parenting	60.8%	20.5%	18.7%	60.1%	26.7%	13.1%
Education/Employment	33.4%	52.0%	14.6%	43.0%	44.0%	13.1%
Peer Relationships	34.9%	56.0%	9.1%	44.7%	46.6%	8.6%
Substance Use	56.9%	34.7%	8.4%	61.4%	30.3%	8.3%
Leisure/Recreation	43.0%	31.4%	25.5%	50.6%	33.0%	16.5%
Personality/Behavior	41.6%	44.9%	13.5%	50.1%	39.4%	10.4%
Attitudes/Orientation	52.9%	40.7%	6.4%	61.3%	33.7%	5.0%
Mean Score	<i>M</i> = 6.42, <i>SD</i> = 3.90, 0-20			<i>M</i> = 5.64, <i>SD</i> = 3.65, 0-17		

Youth Who Report Gang Involvement by Grade (2018) – NRPFS

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
Lancaster	Youth Reported Gang Involvement	2.0%	3.1%	3.8%
Nebraska		3.8%	4.4%	3.8%

Theft charges more likely to recidivate



UNL Data

## Comprehensive List of Services

<b>SYSTEM POINT: PREVENTION</b>		
<i>(includes programs that aim to intervene before and after problematic behaviors are identified)</i>		
<b>Program/ Agency Name</b>	<b>Eligible age</b>	<b>Risk or need</b>
<i>Example: HAPPY FAMILY THERAPY</i>	0-12	<i>Drug/alcohol use, low parental warmth, mental health disorders</i>
<i>Example: Mentoring</i>		
<i>TeamMates Mentoring Program</i>	8-18 (Grades 3-12)	Truancy, Low achievement, Low attachment, Lack of concern for others, Inappropriate use of time. Appropriate for youth identified by the school as PBIS Tier 1 or Tier 2.
<i>YMCA Youth Sports</i>	3-18	Antisocial Attitudes, Inappropriate use of time, Lack of concern for others, Lack of discipline, Low achievement, Low attachment, Lack of supervision, Anxiety/depression, Deviant peer groups
<i>YMCA CLC Before/After School Programs</i>	5-14	Inappropriate use of time, Truancy, Low achievement, Low attachment, Low literacy, Deviant peer groups, Antisocial attitudes
<i>Northeast YMCA Teen Nights</i>	13-18	Inappropriate use of time, Antisocial attitudes, Lack of Supervision, Low achievement, Low attachment, Deviant peer groups
<i>Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Youth academic support, evening meals, and enrichment / recreational activities, unsupervised times with peers, low achievement, provide prosocial activities, sense of belonging, engagement, strengths, and connections to others and their community.
<i>CASA for Lancaster County</i>	0-19	Court appointed advocacy that recommends needed services or programs that help youth address the issues or results of the adjudication. Work with abused/neglected youth but also truant and crossover youth - address needs so they don't re-enter the system.
<i>HopeSpoke - Extended Day Treatment</i>	5-11	Serious emotional and/or behavioral challenges who are at risk for out-of-home placement or hospitalization.
<i>HopeSpoke - Outpatient Therapy</i>	0-18	Mental health services in Lincoln and southeast Nebraska. Our master level therapists and psychologists provide assessment, treatment planning and therapy services to children ages 1-19

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<i>HopeSpoke – School Based Outpatient Therapy</i>	5-18	Mental health services across all grade levels provided on site in multiple Lincoln Public Schools. Collaboration with teachers and school staff for those youth served to maximize service benefit. Services are provided by master level therapists. Summer services available for these students as needed.
<i>HopeSpoke - CHOICES and Pilots of Change Programs</i>	14-18	A Substance Use Psychoeducation program that involves individual and group therapy in Lincoln Public Schools High Schools.
<i>Cedars</i>	0-18	Helping children who face seemingly insurmountable odds is the important work of CEDARS
<i>Pioneers Center Emergency Shelter - CEDARS</i>	12-18	Short-term shelter care and crisis stabilization services
<i>5-0 Fun Club (Lancaster County Sheriff's Office - Cedars Partnership)</i>	13-18	Community policing program designed to build positive relationships between local law enforcement and youth with risk factors including the following: Drug/Alcohol use, Inappropriate use of time, Lack of supervision, Abusive parent(s), Low attachment, Deviant peer groups, Antisocial attitudes
<i>The Bay / Rabble Mill</i>	4-22	Drug/alcohol abuse; learning disability; anxiety/depression; antisocial attitudes; defiance of authority; lack of concern for others; inappropriate use of time; abusive parent(s); low literacy; disenfranchised neighborhood; deviant peer groups
<i>Girl Scouts Outreach Program</i>	5-18	Antisocial attitudes, Defiance of authority, Lack of concern for others, Inappropriate use of time, Low attachment, Disenfranchised neighborhood, Deviant peer groups, Lack of Supervision, Low achievement
<i>Back on Track-The HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults</i>	14-21	Learning disability, anxiety/depression, defiance of authority, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, truancy, low achievement, deviant peer group
<i>Volunteer Coordination/Project HIRE-The HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults</i>	14-24	Antisocial attitudes, defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, deviant peer groups
<i>Project Everlast Youth Council-The HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults</i>	14-24	Drug/alcohol use, learning disability, mental health, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, low parental warmth, abusive parent, family violence, low achievement, low attachment, high crime neighborhood, deviant peer group
<i>LEAP (Learn Earn Achieve Potential-The HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults</i>	17-24	Learning disability, anxiety/depression, defiance of authority, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, truancy, low achievement, deviant peer group

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<i>Tipping Point/LPD</i>	9-18	Gang Prevention, Gang Outreach, Community Outreach. Combat gangs utilizing Healthy/Positive peer relationships, Supportive social groups, Regular attendance and engagement in school, Positive adult role models, Problem solving skills and Positive attitudes/relations with authoritative figures.
<i>Big Brothers Big Sisters Lincoln</i>	7-16	Truancy, low achievement, low attachment, antisocial attitudes, drug/alcohol use, mental health, low parental warmth, abusive parent, family violence, learning disability, lack of supervision, parental substance use, low literacy, deviant peer groups
<i>Omni Inventive Care - Outpatient Therapy</i>	1-19	Drug/alcohol use, mental health disorders, defiance, victimization, low parental warmth, low attachment
<i>CenterPointe Crisis Response Line (24/7 Availability): 402-475-6695</i>	0-100	Defiance of Authority, Mental Health Disorder(s), Antisocial attitudes, Drug/Alcohol use, Parental hostility, Parental substance use, Family violence
<i>CenterPointe CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Healthcare Clinic)</i>	0-19	Comprehensive behavioral healthcare resources, including: Peer Support Services, Case Management, Wraparound Services, Mental Health and/or Substance Use Disorder
<i>The Salvation Army- After School Program/Summer Day Camp</i>	6-11	Youth Academic Support, Evening Meals, recreation and learning activities, low literacy
<i>The Salvation Army- Small Fry Basketball</i>	8-13	Inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline
<i>The Salvation Army- Teen Nights</i>	12-18	Inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, antisocial attitudes
<i>Lutheran Family Services - Outpatient Therapy, (individual and family)</i>	0-18 & parents	Mental Health, Anxiety & Depression, Low attachment, lack of discipline, low parental warmth, parental hostility, parental substance use, family violence, parental substance use
<i>Lutheran Family Services - Intensive Outpatient Therapy - Substance use</i>	19 and up	Parental substance use
<i>Asian Community &amp; Cultural Center - Serving Refugee &amp; Other Immigrant Youth</i>	10-21	Anxiety/depression, inappropriate use of time, Anxiety/depression; Anger/lack of concern for others; Anti-social attitudes; Defiance of authority; Family violence; Truancy; previous victimization; low attachment; lack of supervision; truancy; low achievement; low literacy; deviant peer groups
<i>Friendship Home-Advocacy and Support for parent and dependent youth sheltered due to domestic violence</i>	10-17+	Anxiety/depression; Anger/lack of concern for others; Anti-social attitudes; Defiance of authority; Family violence; Truancy
<i>Family Service Lincoln—School Based Therapy</i>	5-19	Anxiety/depression, mental health disorders, antisocial attitudes, drug/alcohol use, defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, previous victimization, low parental warmth, abusive parent(s), parental substance use, family violence, truancy, low achievement, low attachment, deviant peer groups

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<i>Family Service Lincoln—Before and Afterschool</i>	5-12	Lack of supervision, low achievement, high crime neighborhood, disenfranchised neighborhood, deviant peer groups
<i>Family Service Lincoln—CLC</i>	5-14	Lack of supervision, low achievement, high crime neighborhood, disenfranchised neighborhood, deviant peer groups, inappropriate use of time
<i>Family Service Lincoln—Community Response</i>	19+	Lack of supervision, lack of discipline, low parental warmth, truancy, disenfranchised neighborhood
<i>Family Service Lincoln—WIC</i>	Prenatal -5	Healthy prenatal and early childhood care
<i>YWCA - Lifeskills Coach</i>	11-15	Drug/Alcohol use, mental health disorder, Defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, truancy, deviant peer groups.
<i>Ungovernable</i>	11-18	Drug/Alcohol use, mental health disorder, Defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, truancy, deviant peer groups.
<i>YAZDA</i>	6-17	High crime neighborhood, previous victimization
<i>Youth for Christ</i>	13-18	Low parental warmth, poor prenatal and early childhood health, low attachment
<i>Willard Community Center – Before &amp; After school program and Summer program</i>	5-12	Inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, Truancy, Low achievement, Low attachment, Low literacy, Deviant peer groups, Antisocial attitudes.

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<b>SYSTEM POINT: DIVERSION SERVICES</b> (diversion and services available to youth on diversion)		
<b>Program/ Agency Name</b>	<b>Eligible age</b>	<b>Risk or need</b>
<i>Example: Diversion</i>	11-18	<i>Drug/alcohol use, lack of supervision, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time</i>
<i>Example: Mediation</i>	12-18	<i>Lack of concern for others</i>
<i>Mediation</i>	0-18	Parental Hostility, Family Violence, Problem Solving Skills, Compassion for Others
YMCA Youth Sports	3-18	Antisocial Attitudes, Inappropriate use of time, Lack of concern for others, Lack of discipline, Low achievement, Low attachment, Lack of supervision, Anxiety/depression, Deviant peer groups Youth Sports
Northeast YMCA Teen Nights	13-18	Inappropriate use of time, Antisocial attitudes, Lack of Supervision, Low achievement, Low attachment, Deviant peer groups
<i>Volunteer Coordination/Project HIRE-The HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults</i>	14-24	antisocial attitudes, defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, deviant peer groups
<i>Big Brothers Big Sisters Lincoln</i>	7-16	Truancy, low achievement, low attachment, antisocial attitudes, drug/alcohol use, mental health, low parental warmth, abusive parent, family violence, learning disability, lack of supervision, parental substance use, low literacy, deviant peer groups
<i>Omni Inventive Care - Parent Management Training (PMT)</i>	8-18	Lack of supervision, lack of discipline, defiance of authority, inappropriate use of time,
<i>Omni Inventive Care - Truancy Diversion Program</i>	14-18	Truancy, low achievement, low literacy, mental health disorders, drug/alcohol use, anti-social attitudes, inappropriate use of time
<i>CenterPointe Youth and Family Services (includes therapy, case management, &amp; peer support for youth and family system)</i>	8-24	Mental Health disorder(s), Drug/Alcohol use, Anxiety/Depression, Sensation seeking, Defiance of Authority, Low parental warmth, Lack of discipline, Parental hostility,
<i>The Salvation Army- Small Fry Basketball</i>	8-13	Inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline
<i>The Salvation Army- Teen Nights</i>	12-18	Inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, antisocial attitudes
<i>GirlPOWER/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Anxiety/Depression, Lack of concern for others, Inappropriate use of time, Low Achievement, Low Literacy, Deviant Peer Groups, Low Attachment, Learning Disability

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<i>Teen Science Café/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Learning Disability, Anxiety/Depression, Mental health disorder, Antisocial Attitudes, Sensation Seeking, Inappropriate use of time, Previous Victimization, Lack of Supervision, Lack of Discipline, Low Achievement, Low Literacy, Deviant Peer Groups
<i>Club Elevate/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Drug/Alcohol use, Learning Disability, Anxiety/Depression, Antisocial Disorders, Defiance of Authority, Lack of concern for others, Inappropriate use of time, Lack of Supervision, Lack of Discipline, Family violence, Low Achievement, Deviant Peer Groups
<i>Debate Club /Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Antisocial Attitudes, Defiance of Authority, Inappropriate use of time, Low Literacy
<i>Wilderness Explorers/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Learning Disability, Anxiety/Depression, Mental Health Disorder, Antisocial attitudes, Sensation Seeking, Lack of concern for others, Low attachment, Low literacy, Deviant Peer Groups
<i>Restorative Circles/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	All Risk & Criminogenic Need Factors Addressed (depends on situation for circle)
<i>Academic Support/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Learning Disability, Anxiety/Depression, Mental health disorder, Antisocial Attitudes, Sensation Seeking, Inappropriate use of time, Previous Victimization, Lack of Supervision, Lack of Discipline, Low Achievement, Low Literacy
<i>Alternative Suspension Program/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	All Risk & Criminogenic Need Factors Addressed (depends on situation for circle)
<i>Strength Finders/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Anxiety/Depression, Lack of concern for others, Inappropriate use of time, Low Achievement,

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		Low Literacy, Deviant Peer Groups, Low Attachment, Learning Disability
<i>STEM Club/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Learning Disability, Anxiety/Depression, Mental health disorder, Antisocial Attitudes, Sensation Seeking, Inappropriate use of time, Previous Victimization, Lack of Supervision, Lack of Discipline, Low Achievement, Low Literacy
<i>Art Club/Woodworking/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Learning Disability, Anxiety/Depression, Mental health disorder, Antisocial Attitudes, Sensation Seeking, Inappropriate use of time, Previous Victimization, Lack of Supervision, Lack of Discipline, Low Achievement, Low Literacy
<i>Nutrition/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Anxiety/Depression, Sensation Seeking, Inappropriate use of time
<i>Yoga/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Anxiety/Depression, Mental Health Disorder, Antisocial Attitudes, Sensation Seeking, Inappropriate use of time, Lack of Discipline
<i>Basketball Club/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Anxiety/Depression, Antisocial Attitudes, Defiance of Authority, Inappropriate use of time, Lack of Supervision, Lack of Discipline, Low Achievement, Deviant Peer Groups, Sensation Seeking
<i>Fitness For Life/Running Club/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Anxiety/Depression, Antisocial Attitudes, Defiance of Authority, Inappropriate use of time, Lack of Discipline, Low Achievement, Deviant Peer Groups
<i>Financial Literacy/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Inappropriate use of time, Low Achievement, Low Literacy, Low Attachment
<i>Guy CODE/Lighthouse</i>	11-18	Anxiety/Depression, Lack of concern for others, Inappropriate use of time, Low Achievement, Low Literacy, Deviant Peer Groups, Low Attachment, Learning Disability
<i>Lutheran Family Services - Outpatient Therapy (Individual and Family)</i>	0-18	Mental Health, Anxiety & Depression, Defiance, lack of concern for others, Low attachment, lack of discipline, low parental warmth, parental hostility, parental substance use, family violence, parental substance use



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<i>Lutheran Family Services - Intensive Outpatient Therapy</i>	19 and up	Parental Substance Use
<i>Lutheran Family Services - Case management peer support for youth and families. Services are provided in an integrated manner with Bluestem Health.</i>	0-18 and families	Mental Health disorder(s), Drug/Alcohol use, Anxiety/Depression, Sensation seeking, Defiance of Authority, Low parental warmth, Lack of discipline, Parental hostility, Poor prenatal and early childhood health
<i>Lutheran Family Services - Refugee and Immigrant services - Services for New Americans</i>	0-18 and families	Disenfranchised neighborhood, Low Literacy, High Crime neighborhood, Poor prenatal and early childhood health, family violence, anxiety and depression/mental health
<i>Lutheran Family Services - Kinship Navigator Program (families formed through kinships ties formally or informally)</i>	0-18 & family	Mental health, defiance, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, parental hostility, prenatal substance use, family violence, low achievement, low attachment
<i>Asian Community &amp; Cultural Center - Serving Refugee &amp; Other Immigrant Youth</i>	10-21	Anxiety/depression, inappropriate use of time, previous victimization; low attachment; lack of supervision; truancy; low achievement; low literacy; deviant peer groups
<i>Diversion</i>	11-18	<i>Drug/alcohol use, lack of supervision, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time</i>
<i>Malone Center</i>	11-18	Cultural Specific Therapist: Mental health, defiance, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, parental hostility, prenatal substance use, family violence, low achievement, low attachment
<i>Malone Center - Take Pause</i>	11-18	Community policing program designed to build positive relationships between local law enforcement and youth with risk factors including the following: Drug/Alcohol use, Inappropriate use of time, Lack of supervision, Abusive parent(s), Low attachment, Deviant peer groups, Antisocial attitudes
<i>Malone Center - Leadership Program</i>	11-18	Inappropriate use of time, Low Achievement, Low Literacy, Low Attachment
<i>el Centro - Latino Youth Program</i>	11-18	Inappropriate use of time, Low Achievement, Low Literacy, Low Attachment
<i>Project RESTORE</i>	11-18	Lack of concern for others, Lack of supervision, Inappropriate use of time, deviant peer groups
<i>SAMI</i>	12-18	Drug/alcohol use, Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, Lack of supervision, Parental substance use, deviant peer groups
<i>Assessment</i>	11-18	Drug/Alcohol use, Mental health disorder, defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, deviant peer groups.

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

**SYSTEM POINT: ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR PRE-ADJUDICATED YOUTH ONLY**

(include any programs that allow youth to remain in the community after any contact with law enforcement)

<b>Program/ Agency Name</b>	<b>Eligible age</b>	<b>Risk or need</b>
<i>Example: Trackers</i>	10-19	<i>Drug/alcohol use, lack of supervision, inappropriate use of time, defiance of authority</i>
<i>Omni Inventive Care - Agency Supported Foster Care &amp; Professional Foster Care</i>	10-18	Deviant peer groups, abusive parents, drug/alcohol use, truancy, defiance of authority, parental hostility, family violence, lack of supervision
<i>Omni Inventive Care - Therapeutic Group Home</i>	14-18	Deviant peer groups, mental health disorders, drug/alcohol use, anti-social attitudes, defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision
<i>Omni Inventive Care - Family Support &amp; Intensive Family Preservation</i>	10-18	Drug/alcohol use, mental health disorders, sensation seeking, defiance of authority, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, parental hostility, parental substance use, truancy, deviant peer groups, low parental warmth
<i>Lutheran Family Services - Foster Care</i>	0-18	Deviant peer groups, abusive parents, drug/alcohol use, truancy, defiance of authority, parental hostility, family violence, lack of supervision, low parental warmth,
<i>Life Skills Day and Evening Reporting - Cedars</i>	13-18	Development of life skills; educational, employment, and vocational support; improve peer relationships and strengthen decision-making skills
<i>PACS</i>	12-17	Drug/alcohol use, mental health disorders, sensation seeking, defiance of authority, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, parental substance use, deviant peer groups,
<i>BEST Alternative School</i>	12-18	Truancy, low achievement, low literacy

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<b>KNOWN GAPS IN SERVICES</b>		
<b>Program/ Agency Name</b>	<b>Eligible age</b>	<b>Risk or need</b>
<i>Example: Refugee services</i>	10-19	<i>Anxiety, previous victimization</i>
<i>PRTF Level of mental health services for youth.</i>	8-19	Severe mental health needs; acute treatment
<i>Residential Services for transition age youth</i>	17-18	mental health disorder, low achievement, anxiety/depression, parental hostility,
<i>Asian Community &amp; Cultural Center</i>	10-21	Severe mental health needs / disorders; drug/alcohol use; parent substance abuse; high crime neighborhood; disenfranchised neighborhood
<i>Services geared toward young adults who have committed law violations, but also are victims of child exploitation (sex/human trafficking)</i>	13-25	drug/alcohol use, anxiety/depression, previous victimization, lack of supervision, abusive parents, low attachment, low achievement
<i>Foster placements trained and show competence in caring for young adults experiencing trauma coupled with their brain development and appropriate behavioral expectations for such.</i>	6-18	previous victimization, low parental warmth, low attachment
<i>Native/Tribal programming</i>	10-21	previous victimization; drug/alcohol use; parent substance abuse; high crime neighborhood; disenfranchised neighborhood
<i>Therapeutic programming that intensively addresses and serves both substance use by parents and the young adults.</i>	6-18	drug/alcohol use, anxiety/depression, mental health disorder, low parental warmth, parental substance use
<i>Short-term Crisis Respite Services</i>	12-18	mental health disorder, anxiety/depression, defiance of authority, previous victimization, low attachment

## Community Analysis and Response (CAR) Final Worksheet

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS & RESPONSE WORKSHEET			
Identified Need	Existing Program, Agency or Resource	Eligible age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>			
Youth who commit minor crimes	Juvenile Diversion Program	11-17 years	This program cannot serve 17+, and we have a large number of college MIPs.
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>			
Elementary school youth with high percent of absenteeism	CPS calls /welfare check	0-99 years	CPS / formal handling often does not get at the root cause of the absenteeism.
Overrepresentation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system	ALL Programs are required to address this	0-99	Opportunities for volunteering without parent involvement  Parent engagement  Judge Browne’s approach  More programs that build on relationship with police  Native programming  Training on awareness  Support agency specific efforts towards racial equity & inclusion  Data informed decisions

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>Youth in crisis with behavioral health needs (including trauma and drugs &amp; alcohol)</p>	<p>Bridge to Independence Program  CEDARS  Crisis Mental Health  HopeSpoke  CenterPointe  Lutheran Family Services  Family Service Lincoln  Bryan Psychiatric Unit  Friendship Home  Malone Center  SAMI  Assessment  Families Inspiring Families  Asian Center  OMNI Inventive Care</p>	<p>0-99</p>	<p>Wait for residential treatment can be months  Need more transition services  Foster placements  Therapeutic programming that intensively addresses and serves both substance use by parents and the young adults  Short-term crisis respite services  Family centered treatment  Crisis services without law enforcement involvement  Therapy services in all the schools  Development of crisis plans with all system-involved youth/families  Training for all service providers  Care management (wrap, Pathways, etc.)  Agency specific trauma informed &amp; trauma responsive training  Culture and ethnic specific (background and experienced) providers and support specialists</p>

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>Youth with high percentage of absenteeism</p>	<p>TeamMates Lighthouse CASA HUB Big Brother/Big Sisters OMNI Truancy Diversion Asian Center YWCA Mediation Center Family Services Lincoln Assessment Truancy Circles SCIP YMCA – after school programs Salvation Army Malone Center Assessment BEST Willard Community Center The Bay Families Inspiring Families Boys &amp; Girls Club Friendship Home Cedars LPS</p>	<p>6-18</p>	<p>Expand services to wider age range</p> <p>Assign a CASA volunteer to every filed case</p> <p>Trauma Screens</p> <p>Peer support model and other mental health training and resources specifically designed to meet the needs of refugee and immigrant youth populations.</p> <p>Need for systemic change that addresses the barriers to parent engagement among non-English speaking households and financial constraints of migrant households.</p> <p>Focus High School program</p> <p>Transportation alternatives</p> <p>Support families in the form of groceries, rent/utilities, medical expenses, car repair, etc.</p> <p>Services to address underlying issues causing absenteeism (mental health, supports, etc.)</p> <p>Addressing high mobility (placements, run away youth, homeless)</p> <p>Supportive services for victims of human trafficking</p> <p>Partner with community colleges for career pathways</p>

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>A majority of youth in detention are waiting for a placement</p>	<p>PACS Cedars</p>		<p>More outreach to families for basic needs</p> <p>Transitional housing with IOP</p> <p>Only one provider in Lincoln who does dual treatment services</p> <p>Need Judge Browne’s approach</p> <p>Length of time for Interstate compact process</p> <p>Collaborative case processing</p> <p>Address disparity in detention (validated RAI)</p>
<p>Youth are scoring high on the NYS in the areas of low parent engagement and high leisure and recreation time</p>	<p>Youth for Christ Families Inspiring Families OMNI HUB YMCA The Bay Girl Scouts Salvation Army BBBSL F Street Rec TeamMates Lighthouse Cedars YWCA Ungovernable YAZDA Diversion Malone Center el Centro RESTORE Assessment Willard Community Center Asian Center Family Service Lincoln Boys &amp; Girls Club</p>	<p>12-18</p>	<p>Missing businesses that offer community service and internships</p> <p>Life skills coaching</p> <p>Services available regardless of involvement in justice system</p> <p>Variety of low-cost youth engagement activities</p> <p>Peer mentoring</p> <p>Transportation options</p> <p>Strength finding for parents</p> <p>Parent support (financially &amp; emotionally)</p>

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>Youth who join gangs</p>	<p>Operation Tipping Point CenterPointe El Centro Malone Center</p>	<p>6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grades</p>	<p>Currently have a prevention track. Need a track for youth to help them get out of gangs</p> <p>Subcommittee to address cause &amp; intervention</p> <p>More mentors</p> <p>Safe storage promotions</p> <p>Provide more trainings in relation to gang prevention/youth including gang indicators</p> <p>Help families relocate (schools &amp; homes)</p> <p>GREAT – elementary and middle</p> <p>Training for service providers on how to work with gang members and services available (mental health providers and support workers)</p> <p>Work with girls specific to gangs</p>
<p>Youth who have theft/property offenses are more likely to receive an additional police referral Increase in assaults</p>	<p>Diversion Mediation Center Lighthouse CenterPointe</p>	<p>0-99</p>	<p>Requested more data on reason for theft (was it to meet basic needs)</p> <p>Theft Assessment to determine individualized plan</p> <p>Community Circle to address individualized needs</p> <p>Store Diversion program</p> <p>Restorative Justice closely related to neighborhood where theft occurred</p> <p>90% of youth currently successfully complete the Victim Youth Conference process keeping them out of the Juvenile judicial system.</p>



## Gaps to be Filled Worksheet

GAPS IN THE CONTINUUM			
Brief Data Snapshot	Existing Program, Agency or Resource	Eligible age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>			
124 youth under 17 committed minor law violations (shoplifting, 3 <sup>rd</sup> degree assault, MIP).	Only an adult diversion program	18-99 years	Need to develop a juvenile diversion program, allow youth to accept responsibility and stop offending,
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>			
25% of elementary school youth in our county, are absent 15 or more days per semester.	CPS calls /welfare check	0-99 years	Need to develop a truancy program to get at the root cause of the absenteeism, and begin attending school.
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>			
Black, Latino, and Native youth are overrepresented at almost every system point (P. 10 JJI)	ALL Programs are required to address this	0-99 years	Opportunities for volunteering without parent involvement  Parent engagement  Judge Browne’s approach  More programs that build on relationship with police  Native programming  Training on awareness  Support agency specific efforts towards racial equity & inclusion  Data informed decisions

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>Police Mental Health Investigations have increased by 44% (p. 68 LVS)</p>	<p>CenterPointe Lutheran Family Services CEDARS Bryan Psychiatric Unit</p>	<p>0-99</p>	<p>Short-term crisis respite services  Need more transition services  Foster placements  Wait for PRTF is months  Need more transition services  Therapeutic programming that intensively addresses and serves both substance use by parents and the young adults  Short-term crisis respite services  Family Centered Treatment  Crisis services without law enforcement involvement  Therapy services in all the schools  Development of crisis plans with all system-involved youth/families  Culture and ethnic specific (background and experienced) providers and support specialists  Care management (wrap, Pathways, etc.)</p>

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>Lincoln’s juvenile drug arrest rate is 56% higher than the national average (p. 78 Lincoln Vital Signs)</p>	<p>Bridge to Independence Program CEDARS HopeSpoke CenterPointe Lutheran Family Services Family Service Lincoln Bryan Psychiatric Unit Friendship Home Malone Center SAMI Assessment</p>	<p>0-99</p>	<p>Therapeutic programming that intensively addresses and serves both substance use by parents and the young adults</p> <p>Training for all service providers</p>
<p>Percentage of children in foster care continues to higher than the national rate (p. 81 LVS)</p>	<p>CEDARS HopeSpoke CenterPointe Lutheran Family Services Family Service Lincoln Friendship Home Malone Center CASA Families Inspiring Families The Mediation Center – Family Group Conferences</p>	<p>0-99</p>	<p>Trauma Informed Services</p> <p>Trauma Informed Assessments</p> <p>Assign a CASA volunteer to every case that is filed</p> <p>Trauma Screens</p> <p>Agency specific trauma informed &amp; trauma responsive training</p>

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>Number of truanancies filed have double in the past year (p. 17 JJI)</p>	<p>TeamMates Lighthouse CASA HUB Big Brother/Big Sisters OMNI Truancy Diversion Asian Center YWCA Mediation Center Family Service Lincoln Assessment Truancy Circles SCIP YMCA – after school programs Salvation Army Malone Center Assessment BEST Willard Community Center The Bay Friendship Home</p>	<p>6-18</p>	<p>Expand services to wider age range</p> <p>Need for systemic change that addresses the barriers to parent engagement among non-English speaking households and financial constraints of migrant households.</p> <p>Transportation alternatives</p> <p>Support families in the form of groceries, rent/utilities, medical expenses, car repair, etc</p> <p>Services to address underlying issues causing absenteeism (mental health, supports, etc.)</p> <p>Addressing high mobility (placements, run away youth, homeless)</p> <p>Supportive services for victims of human trafficking</p>

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>The LPS high school graduation rate was 83%, whereas Nebraska's graduation rate was 89%. (p. 53 LVS)</p>	<p>TeamMates Lighthouse CASA HUB Big Brothers Big Sisters Lincoln OMNI Truancy Diversion Asian Center YWCA Mediation Center Family Service Lincoln Assessment Truancy Circles SCIP YMCA – after school programs Salvation Army Malone Center Assessment BEST Willard Community Center Families Inspiring Families Boys &amp; Girls Club</p>		<p>Focus High School program</p> <p>Peer support model and other mental health training and resources specifically designed to meet the needs of refugee and immigrant youth populations</p> <p>Partner with community colleges for career pathways</p> <p>Addressing the underlying behavioral and mental health concerns preventing students from graduating</p>

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>In 56% of detention hearings, the court was waiting for an appropriate placement for the youth (Slide 23 DUS)</p>	<p>PACS CEDARS</p>		<p>More outreach on family basic needs</p> <p>Transitional housing with IOP</p> <p>Only one provider in Lincoln who does dual treatment services</p> <p>Need Judge Browne’s approach</p> <p>Length of time for Interstate compact process</p> <p>Collaborative case processing</p> <p>Address disparity in detention (validated)</p>

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>Youth are scoring high on the NYS in the areas of low parent engagement and high leisure and recreation time (p. 9 JJI)</p>	<p>Youth for Christ          Families Inspiring Families          OMNI          HUB          YMCA          The Bay          Girl Scouts          Salvation Army          Big Brothers Big Sisters Lincoln          F Street Rec          TeamMates          Lighthouse          Cedars          YWCA          Ungovernable          YAZDA          Diversion          Malone Center          el Centro          RESTORE          Assessment          Willard Community Center          Asian Center          Boys &amp; Girls Club          Family Service Lincoln</p>	<p>12-18</p>	<p>Missing Businesses that offer community service and internships</p> <p>Life skills coaching</p> <p>Services available regardless of involvement in justice system</p> <p>Variety of low-cost youth engagement activities</p> <p>Peer mentoring</p> <p>Transportation options</p> <p>Strength finding for parents</p> <p>Parent support (financially &amp; emotionally)</p>

**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>Gang membership has increased since 2015 (p. 7 JJI)</p>	<p>Operation Tipping Point Guidance to Success Malone Center El Centro Families Inspiring Families</p>	<p>6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grades</p>	<p>Currently have a prevention track. Need a track for youth to help them get out of gangs.</p> <p>More mentors</p> <p>Provide more trainings in relation on gang prevention/youth</p> <p>Help families relocate (schools &amp; homes)</p> <p>GREAT – elementary and middle</p> <p>Training for service providers on how to work with gang members and services available (mental health providers and support workers)</p> <p>Work with girls specific to gangs</p>



**Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)**

<p>Youth who commit theft and/or property offenses are the most likely to receive an additional police referral (p. 13 UNL)</p>	<p>Diversion Mediation Center Lighthouse</p>	<p>0-99</p>	<p>Requested more data on reason for theft (was it to meet basic needs)</p> <p>Theft Assessment to determine individualized plan</p> <p>Community Circle to address individualized needs</p> <p>Store Diversion program</p> <p>RJ closely related to neighborhood where theft occurred</p> <p>90% of youth successfully complete the Victim Youth Conference process keeping them out of the Juvenile judicial system.</p>

## List of Team Members

**Description of Team** (how formed, how long meeting, how often meet/met, structure, etc.)

In 1980, Lancaster County formed a Justice Council to discuss and plan for adult and juvenile justice issues. This included top department head representation from all departments within the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems. Key committees included: Juvenile Justice Review Committee (JJRC); Alcohol Advisory Committee; Alternatives to Incarceration; and Domestic Violence Coalition.

In 2000, a proposal was made to establish the Criminal Justice System as a separate department, but debate brought up questions regarding the appropriateness of juvenile and adult system issues being together. As a result, the Justice Council was dissolved. The focus of juvenile justice planning and services remained under the Human Services Administration.

Over the next several years, those at the table addressing justice issues were expanded to include Lincoln Public Schools, mental health and substance abuse agencies, youth organizations, juvenile justice professionals, cultural centers, UNL, and elected officials. This group of advocates was known as the JJRC-Juvenile Justice Review Committee.

In 2017, Lancaster County officially signed on as a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) site. As a result, the JJRC was renamed to what we now call the JDAI Collaborative. Additionally, during this year, the adult criminal justice system revived the Justice Council to focus on adults.

Today active teams guide and oversee the efforts of the identified priorities. They include: Truancy Team, Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee, Family Engagement, Prevention and Training, and Steering Committee. Each of these teams meets monthly to address priority goals. The JDAI Collaborative and associated sub-committees will guide the community as we strive to meet our plan's priorities. The Lincoln/Lancaster County Human Services Office serves as the backbone organization for these planning efforts.

Beginning in early 2020, the JDAI Collaborative members were asked to participate in a sub-committee to work on the Lancaster County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan. The individuals listed on the previous pages volunteered to be part of this process.

Once the plan was put into written format, it was sent to all JDAI Collaborative members for approval on February 25, 2021. The Lancaster County Commissioners approved the plan on March 4, 2021.

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## Lancaster County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)

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## Closing Comments

Lancaster County has been setting goals and objectives for juvenile justice since 1998. We continue to plan because the nature of youth and the philosophy used to address their behavior are constantly changing. We have collected and analyzed volumes of data, developed a nationally recognized diversion program, and have a vast array of service providers who care deeply about our youth. Yet a disproportionate number of minority youth continue to be in the system; youth with trancies and incidents of youth running away are a constant struggle; and the issues of substance abuse, mental health and poverty continue to permeate families of the youth we serve.

In 2018, Lancaster County developed a three year plan with five key priorities:

- Ensure equitable treatment of our system-involved youth;
- Provide effective services and apply best practices to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system;
- Facilitate respectful accommodating treatment of all families and youth in the juvenile justice system;
- Ensure behavioral health services are accessible to all youth and their families; and
- Ensure all juvenile justice system stakeholders are using evidence-based principles to meet the needs of our youthful population.

We discovered that oftentimes, constraints and issues made successful completion of objectives addressing these priorities challenging. However, due to the dedicated collaborative efforts of many and commitment from our funding partners, we made significant contributions towards those identified priorities.

We are excited with the new priority areas and ideas generated through this planning process. Our collaborative is committed to make every decision through a racially informed lens and infuse restorative justice principles throughout all services. Every youth deserves a chance at success. Lincoln/Lancaster County's strong collaborative is dedicated to making this happen.

The underlining mission of Lancaster County's Juvenile Justice System is:

*"To provide individualized supervision, care, and treatment in a manner consistent with public safety to those youth under age 18 at the time of referral who violate the law. Further, the Juvenile Justice System shall recognize and encourage prevention efforts through the support of programs and services designed to meet the needs of those youth who are identified as being at-risk or violating the law and those whose behavior is such that they endanger themselves or others".*

## Appendices

- Appendix A: Completed Community Needs Assessment (CNA)
- Appendix B: Approval Letter/minutes from Governing Board
- Appendix C: Lancaster County Juvenile Justice System Database
- Appendix D: Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey
- Appendix E: Lincoln Vital Signs
- Appendix F: Detention Utilization Survey

**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

**Lancaster County**

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## Youth Level

- Hispanic, Native American, and Black youth are over-represented in chronic absenteeism as compared to enrollment rates in the schools.
- Youth reported mental health and substance abuse rates are all lower than state numbers, nothing stands out as a high rate.
- Arrests for juveniles for larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft and other assaults are all up from 2018 to 2019. Arrests for robberies decreased from 2018 to 2019 for all age groups, but especially so for juveniles.
- NYS domains with the highest scores are Family Circumstance/Parenting, Education/Employment, Leisure/Recreation, Personality/Behavior. There should be programs in the community to address these. Peer Relationships and Leisure/Recreation were greater issues for females than males. Native American, Hispanic and Black youth have higher needs for Education/Employment, Peer relationships and overall scores, as compared to White youth.; White youth have higher substance use needs; Black and Hispanic youth have higher needs for Personality/Behavior, and Attitudes/Orientation; and Black and Asian youth have higher Leisure/Recreation needs.
- While juveniles are not reporting high rates of gang involvement in the BOSR survey, law enforcement is aware of gang memberships and affiliations.
- Approximately 22% of youth citations are being referred to diversion and 30% of citations on probation. It is not clear where the other cases are (perhaps dropped or dismissed); the community to further examine whether cases are properly funneling through the juvenile justice system.
- Law enforcement data by race and ethnicity would be very beneficial to have a clearer picture of RED. With the exception of Asian/Pacific Islander and White, all other race/ethnicities are overrepresented compared to the demographics of Lancaster County at diversion and probation, to have cases filed in adult court, have more than one charge filed, to be over and under-riden, be successful in probation and have probation revoked. Unfortunately, we did not receive law enforcement data by race/ethnicity so we cannot determine whether youth of each race/ethnicity are being referred to diversion and probation at a similar rate as they are receiving a citation from law enforcement.
- The disproportionality is highest for Black youth being filed on in adult court, filed on for multiple charges, probation intakes, and RAI overrides that are more severe/
- Once referring, youth of all race/ethnicity are enrolling and successfully completing diversion at the rate to which they were referred.





## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

Table 1.

Distribution of the Population Age 10-17 by Race/Ethnicity and Gender (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) <sup>a</sup>**Males**

Geographic Area Name	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	108,494	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>15,849</b>	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

**Females**

Geographic Area Name	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	102,658	69.9%	15.8%	5.2%	1.2%	2.5%	5.4%
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>15,650</b>	<b>71.4%</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>

[Click back to RED analysis](#)

Table 2.

School Membership by Race/ Ethnicity and School Year (2014-2019) <sup>b</sup>

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>44,272</b>	<b>11.87%</b>	<b>4.17%</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>5.63%</b>	<b>0.06%</b>	<b>70.85%</b>	<b>6.76%</b>
	Nebraska	312,281	17.74%	2.43%	1.42%	6.70%	0.13%	68.20%	3.38%
2015-2016	<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>45,243</b>	<b>12.04%</b>	<b>4.14%</b>	<b>0.63%</b>	<b>5.67%</b>	<b>0.07%</b>	<b>70.55%</b>	<b>6.90%</b>
	Nebraska	315,542	18.08%	2.53%	1.38%	6.67%	0.14%	67.72%	3.47%
2016-2017	<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>45,613</b>	<b>12.31%</b>	<b>4.24%</b>	<b>0.63%</b>	<b>5.71%</b>	<b>0.07%</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>7.04%</b>
	Nebraska	318,853	18.61%	2.66%	1.38%	6.69%	0.15%	66.92%	3.59%
2017-2018	<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>47,400</b>	<b>12.35%</b>	<b>4.23%</b>	<b>0.61%</b>	<b>5.69%</b>	<b>0.07%</b>	<b>69.95%</b>	<b>7.10%</b>
	Nebraska	323,391	18.80%	2.76%	1.35%	6.67%	0.14%	66.50%	3.78%
2018-2019	<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>47,817</b>	<b>12.51%</b>	<b>4.20%</b>	<b>0.59%</b>	<b>5.73%</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>69.52%</b>	<b>7.37%</b>
	Nebraska	325,984	19.13%	2.83%	1.33%	6.63%	0.15%	66.02%	3.91%

**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

Table 3.

Chronic Absenteeism by Race/Ethnicity and School Year (2014 - 2019)<sup>b</sup>

Year	Geographic Area	Total Youth with Chronic Absenteeism	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	Lancaster	4,106	16.78%	2.65%	2.26%	10.23%	*	59.30%	8.77%
	Nebraska	35,638	24.54%	1.64%	4.42%	12.93%	0.19%	51.61%	4.68%
2015-2016	Lancaster	5,228	19.30%	2.37%	2.10%	10.39%	*	56.62%	9.22%
	Nebraska	38,812	25.73%	1.55%	4.27%	13.68%	0.27%	49.68%	4.83%
2016-2017	Lancaster	5,585	20.36%	2.24%	1.93%	10.60%	0.21%	55.08%	9.58%
	Nebraska	42,290	26.90%	1.66%	4.40%	14.22%	0.24%	47.66%	4.92%
2017-2018	Lancaster	6,357	19.79%	2.06%	1.93%	11.44%	*	54.82%	9.96%
	Nebraska	46,365	26.81%	1.77%	4.18%	14.49%	0.22%	47.37%	2389
2018-2019	Lancaster	6,376	19.87%	2.10%	1.77%	10.52%	*	55.60%	10.13%
	Nebraska	46,356	27.64%	1.76%	4.16%	14.71%	0.23%	46.27%	5.23%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the \* represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 4.

Disabilities, English Proficiency, Eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch and School Year (2014 – 2019)<sup>b</sup>

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	IDEA	504 Plan	Limited English Proficiency	Free/Reduced Lunch
2014-2015	Lancaster	44,272	12.99%	0.99%	5.68%	39.33%
	Nebraska	312,281	13.66%	0.76%	5.97%	44.53%
2015-2016	Lancaster	45,243	13.33%	1.35%	5.67%	38.89%
	Nebraska	315,542	13.64%	0.90%	5.90%	44.23%
2016-2017	Lancaster	45,613	14.00%	1.27%	7.46%	42.22%
	Nebraska	318,853	13.80%	0.93%	6.99%	44.76%
2017-2018	Lancaster	47,400	16.32%	0.46%	6.91%	42.35%
	Nebraska	323,391	15.87%	0.88%	6.59%	46.24%
2018-2019	Lancaster	47,817	16.84%	1.67%	6.66%	42.47%
	Nebraska	325,984	16.13%	0.85%	6.78%	45.42%

Table 5.

Nebraska Public High School 4-Year Graduation Rates by Lancaster (5-year estimates, 2015-2019)<sup>c</sup>

Lancaster	Total in Last 5 Years		Yearly Averages		Graduation Rate	Rank
	Graduates	Students	Graduates	Students		
Nebraska	100,111	112,857	20,022.2	22,571.4	88.7%	n/a
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>13,119</b>	<b>15,689</b>	<b>437.3</b>	<b>523.0</b>	<b>83.6%</b>	<b>91</b>

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Data are only for public school districts and their associated high schools. The figures are aggregated based on the location of the school, not the residential location of the student. The figures for Dawes County are impacted by a vocational school where graduation rates are less than 25%; in the rest of the county graduation rates equal 93%.

Table 6.  
 Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Lancaster</b>	Loss of sleep from worry	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>19.4%</b>
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Depressed	<b>23.8%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>32.2%</b>
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Considered/Attempted suicide	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>15.6%</b>
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Current alcohol	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>28.4%</b>
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Current binge drinking	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Current marijuana	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Current tobacco	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Current vaping	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>29.2%</b>
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Hopeful for future (past week)	<b>84.2%</b>	<b>77.5%</b>	<b>78.8%</b>
Nebraska		78.0%	76.1%	77.6%

**\*\* JJI is currently waiting for the legal team at DHHS to approve providing this data**

Table 7.  
 Juveniles Referred to Services <sup>e</sup>

Table 8.  
 Juveniles Referred to Services by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Mental Health Diagnosis <sup>e</sup>

Table 9.  
 Juveniles Who Utilized Services <sup>e</sup>

Table 10.  
 Types of Services Utilized <sup>e</sup>

**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

Table 11.  
 Youth Who Report Gang Involvement by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>Youth Reported Gang Involvement</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
Nebraska		3.8%	4.4%	3.8%

Table 11b.  
 Estimated Gang Involvement by Local Law Enforcement <sup>f</sup>

Lancaster County has a program called Operation Tipping Point (OTP) through the Lincoln Police Department. The goal of the program is to intervene with youth who are identified as gang affiliated or likely to become gang affiliated. OTP served 173 youth, primarily male (88-96%). The goal of the program is to catch youth before becoming gang members, so the program targets younger youth, but serves youth ages 9-17. OTP served more Black and Hispanic youth in 2016, 2017, and 2019, but in 2018 they served more White and Black youth. When the youth in the program reported an association, Bloods and South Side Winos were the two gangs named the most often.

Lincoln Police Department also provided information about gangs in Lincoln. Known gang membership has increased since 2015, but the number of members in the age range of 14-18 has stayed steady since 2018.

Table 12.  
 Arrest Rates for Adults and Juveniles for 2018 and 2019 with Percent Change <sup>f</sup>

Arrestee Age	All Arrestee Ages			Under 18		
	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %
<b>Summary Arrest Date</b>						
<b>Jurisdiction by Geography</b>	<b>LANCASTER COUNTY</b>					
<b>Arrest Offense</b>						
Total	14,935	13,591	-9.00	1,639	1,615	-1.46
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	6	6	0.00	2	0	-100.00
Rape Total	20	21	5.00	5	6	20.00
Robbery Total	83	53	-36.14	50	17	-66.00
Aggravated Assault Total	380	400	5.26	2	0	-100.00
Burglary Total	114	78	-31.58	37	13	-64.86
Larceny-Theft Total	1,945	2,119	8.95	349	411	17.77
Motor Vehicle Theft Total	73	94	28.77	36	53	47.22
Other Assaults	1,365	1,409	3.22	276	324	17.39
Arson	23	14	-39.13	14	7	-50.00
Forgery and Counterfeiting	59	56	-5.08	0	0	-
Fraud	363	361	-0.55	20	21	5.00



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Embezzlement	7	3	-57.14	6	2	-66.67
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing	64	36	-43.75	7	7	0.00
Vandalism	562	519	-7.65	145	132	-8.97
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	304	258	-15.13	24	15	-37.50
Prostitution Total for Summary	43	32	-25.58	0	0	-
Sex Offenses (Except Rape and Prostitution)	110	115	4.55	16	22	37.50
Drug Violations - Sale/Manufacturing	251	197	-21.51	17	12	-29.41
Drug Violations - Possession	3,114	2,676	-14.07	274	245	-10.58
Offenses Against Family and Children	469	473	0.85	2	2	0.00
Driving Under the Influence	1,382	1,223	-11.51	11	14	27.27
Liquor Laws	1,193	821	-31.18	73	79	8.22
Disorderly Conduct	701	720	2.71	98	96	-2.04
Vagrancy	12	2	-83.33	0	0	-
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	2,292	1,905	-16.88	175	137	-21.71

Table 13a.

Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2017 - 2019) <sup>9</sup>

Score	Lancaster (2017-2019)			All NYS Counties (2015-2017)		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
Family Circumstance/Parenting	60.8%	20.5%	18.7%	60.1%	26.7%	13.1%
Education/Employment	33.4%	52.0%	14.6%	43.0%	44.0%	13.1%
Peer Relationships	34.9%	56.0%	9.1%	44.7%	46.6%	8.6%
Substance Use	56.9%	34.7%	8.4%	61.4%	30.3%	8.3%
Leisure/Recreation	43.0%	31.4%	25.5%	50.6%	33.0%	16.5%
Personality/Behavior	41.6%	44.9%	13.5%	50.1%	39.4%	10.4%
Attitudes/Orientation	52.9%	40.7%	6.4%	61.3%	33.7%	5.0%
Mean Score	<i>M</i> = 6.42, <i>SD</i> = 3.90, 0-20			<i>M</i> = 5.64, <i>SD</i> = 3.65, 0-17		

Lancaster County *n* = 1978; Statewide *n* = 2124

Table 13b.

Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2017 - 2019) by Sex <sup>9</sup>

	Female	Male
Family Circumstance/Parenting	.62	.55
Education/Employment	.80	.82

**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

Peer Relationships **	.79	.71
Substance Use	.51	.52
Leisure/Recreation *	.87	.80
Personality/Behavior	.69	.74
Attitudes/Orientation	.52	.54
Total NYS Score	6.34	6.46

Note. ANOVA for sex indicated Peer Relationships and Leisure/Recreation were greater issues for females than males. \*\* p <.01; \* p <.05

Table 13c.  
 Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2017 - 2019) by Race/Ethnicity <sup>9</sup>

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native Amer.	White
Family Circumstance/Parenting	.61	.58	.69	.62	.55
Education/Employment ***	.43*	.95*	.94*	1.08*	.75
Peer Relationships **	.63*	.78*	.82*	1.04*	.71
Substance Use ***	.35	.36*	.45*	.50*	.60
Leisure/Recreation *	.86*	.78*	.96*	1.04	.80
Personality/Behavior ***	.45*	.89*	.75*	.88	.65
Attitudes/Orientation ***	.39	.63*	.59*	.69	.50
Total NYS Score ***	4.90*	7.20*	7.18*	8.12*	6.01

Note. ANOVA for race/ethnicity indicated significant differences by race/ethnicity on NYS total score and all NYS domains (except for Family Circumstances/Parenting).\*\*\* p<.001 \*\* p <.01; \* p <.05

White youth were the comparison group and a \* indicates that group was statistically different from White youth

**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

Table 14.  
 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Descriptives (2015-2019) <sup>1</sup>

[Click here to see Census and School population data](#)

See [yearly data in the Appendix](#)

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	9165	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	2044	2.70%	2.40%	21.40%	11.70%	2.30%	7.20%	52.30%
Youth enrolled in diversion	1791	2.90%	2.60%	21.50%	12.70%	2.60%	1.40%	56.40%
Successful completion diversion	1478	2.40%	2.60%	20.0%	12.20%	2.90%	1.60%	58.30%
Youth with multiple charges	540	3.50%	1.10%	25.20%	14.10%	0%	8.0%	48.10%
Filed on in adult court	136	3.70%	2.20%	33.80%	14.70%	0%	7.4%	38.20%
RAI Override: More Severe	583	6.50%	0.90%	31.70%	17.50%	3.40%	0%	40%
RAI Override: Less Severe	57	0%	1.80%	21.10%	21.10%	7%	0%	49.10%
Probation intake	1047	5.60%	1.10%	32.60%	17.20%	3.90%	0%	39.60%
Successful probation	1929	3.70%	1.20%	18.60%	16.90%	3.30%	0%	56.20%
Revocation of probation	837	4.80%	1.90%	30.20%	15.90%	4.90%	0%	42.30%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

**Family Level**

- Compared to state data, Lancaster County has slightly higher rate of household renters and low rates of household owners.
- A large percentage of students have access to internet at home.
- Almost 75% of child abuse and neglect reports are unfounded.

Table 15.  
 Poverty/SES, Educational Attainment, Technology and Computers in Home, Housing, and Transportation (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) <sup>a</sup>

Measurement		Lancaster	Nebraska
<b>Poverty/SES</b>	Children <18 in Poverty	<b>14.4%</b>	14.8%
	Number of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	<b>5,982</b>	43,814
	Percent of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	<b>26.4</b>	28.9
<b>Educational attainment</b>	Age 25+ with B.D.	<b>38.8%</b>	31.3%
	Lancaster Rank	<b>3</b>	-
	Age 25+ with some college, no degree	<b>21.6%</b>	23.0%
	Lancaster Rank	<b>77</b>	-
	Age 25+ with HS degree	<b>93.5%</b>	91.1%
	Lancaster Rank	<b>28</b>	-
<b>Technology and computers in the home</b>	% under 18 with a computer at home	<b>98.5%</b>	96.9%
	Lancaster Rank	<b>43</b>	-
	% under 18 with an internet subscription at home	<b>93.3%</b>	91.0%
	Lancaster Rank	<b>30</b>	-
	% under 18 with broadband internet access at home	<b>93.1%</b>	90.8%
Lancaster Rank	<b>27</b>	-	
<b>Housing</b>	Owner-occupied households	<b>73,619</b>	498,567
	Total households	<b>122,646</b>	754,063
	Owner %	<b>60.0%</b>	66.1%
	Renters	<b>49,027</b>	255,496





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**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

	Renter %	40.0%	33.9%
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## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

<b>Transportation</b>	Households with no vehicle available	<b>7,033</b>	40,465
	Total households	<b>122,646</b>	754,063
	No vehicle %	<b>5.7%</b>	5.4%

Table 16.  
Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Lancaster</b>	Adult at home who listens	<b>90.0%</b>	<b>85.6%</b>	<b>88.5%</b>
Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Adult at school who listens	<b>88.4%</b>	<b>85.9%</b>	<b>90.2%</b>
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

Table 17.  
Domestic Violence Reports and Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means (2019) <sup>h</sup>

	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Reported	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means	Simple Domestic Assaults Reported	Simple Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1510</b>	<b>669</b>
Nebraska	562	402	2512	2019

Table 18.  
Child Abuse and Neglect Reports (2018) <sup>i</sup>

	Abuse/Neglect Calls	Reports Assessed	Substantiated	Unfounded
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>7,014</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>72%</b>
Nebraska	36,480	33.4%	16.0%	68.3%

## Community Level

- For all ages, there are high arrest numbers for violent crimes, especially aggravated assault.
- Juvenile record sealing is not “automatic” even if statute requires it to seal. Sealing a record requires administrative staff to initiate the process. Dismissed or dropped cases should be sealed at a rate of 100%. All others should be sealed at the rate to which youth successfully complete their court requirements (completion of diversion, probation, restorative practice, or other treatment).
- There are high rates of missing race/ethnicity data at the trial court (JUSTICE) and older diversion data. Data for race and ethnicity at each juvenile justice system point is imperative for an accurate Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) analysis.

Table 19.  
 Community Violence Measured by Arrests for Violent Crime (2019) <sup>i</sup>

Type of Violence	Lancaster	% in the state	Nebraska
Murder and Nonnegligent manslaughter	6	17.6%	34
Rape	21	8.0%	264
Robbery	53	14.4%	367
Aggravated Assault	400	24.4%	1,639
Other Assaults	1,409	16.0%	8,782

Table 20.  
 Youth Perceptions of Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Lancaster</b>	Wrong/very wrong – Marijuana	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>89.3%</b>	<b>86.5%</b>
Nebraska		94.4%	89.8%	85.2%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Wrong/very wrong – alcohol	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>81.2%</b>	<b>72.0%</b>
Nebraska		89.1%	80.4%	68.7%
<b>Lancaster</b>	Wrong/very wrong – cigarettes	<b>94.6%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>83.7%</b>
Nebraska		92.9%	89.0%	78.7%

**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

Table 21.  
 Juvenile Court Record Sealing Analysis (2015 – 2019) <sup>m</sup>

see [Appendix for yearly data](#)

	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	1499	2797	53.6%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	0	13	0.0%
Filed in Juv. Court	5514	14645	37.7%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	698	1259	54.7%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	3	27	11.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7724</b>	<b>19063</b>	<b>40.5%</b>

\*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not always available data points in in JUSTICE. Many cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis

## Policy, Legal and System Level

- This county is required under statute to provide an attorney when a youth is filed on in court; the rate is above the state average.
- There are few curfew and 3A, 3B uncontrollable, and 3C filings in court so the community is diverting appropriately; however, truancy filings increased in 2019 after demonstrating a decline in 2017 and 2018.
- Diversion practices and procedures are consistent with evidence-based practices. Lancaster County may want to compare diversion fees to court costs to ensure they are comparable.

Table 22.  
Percent of Youth in Juvenile Court Who Had Access to Counsel (2018) <sup>n</sup>

	Lancaster	Nebraska
Access to Counsel	80.0% -- 100.0%	73.5%

**Neb. Rev. 43-272. Right to counsel; appointment; payment; guardian ad litem; appointment; when; duties; standards for guardians ad litem; standards for attorneys who practice in juvenile court.**

(1)(a) In counties having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, when any juvenile shall be brought without counsel before a juvenile court, the court shall advise such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian of their right to retain counsel and shall inquire of such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian as to whether they desire to retain counsel.

(b) In counties having a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more inhabitants, when any juvenile court petition is filed alleging jurisdiction of a juvenile pursuant to subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247, counsel shall be appointed for such juvenile.

Table 23.  
Frequency of Youth with a Curfew Violation (2015 – 2019) <sup>m</sup>

	Lancaster	Nebraska
Curfew Court Filing	0	352

**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

Table 24.  
Court Filing for 3A, 3B, and 3C cases (2015 – 2019) <sup>m</sup>

Filed Subtype	Lancaster					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	23	123	1	46	102	355
3B - Uncontrollable	0	5	5	2	0	12
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	0	0	0	0	0	0

Filed Subtype	Nebraska					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	2	0	2	3	7
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	96	510	493	423	475	1997
3B - Uncontrollable	47	118	125	119	82	491
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	22	48	37	22	23	306

Table 25.  
County Diversion Procedures and Protocols Compared to Statewide Responses (2020) <sup>o</sup>

	Lancaster	Nebraska *
Refer ALL juveniles who are first time offenders to diversion	Yes	Yes: 27.3% No: 63.6% Not sure: 9.1%
File a juvenile's charges at the time of the referral to diversion	Yes	Yes: 18.2% No: 70.5% Not sure: 11.4%
File a juvenile's charges if they are unsuccessful on diversion	Sometimes	Always: 47.7% Sometimes: 47.7% Not sure: 4.5%
Allow a juvenile to complete diversion more than once	Yes	Yes: 61.4% No: 34.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Charges/offenses that make a juvenile ineligible for diversion	Yes	Yes: 86.4% No: 9.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Warning letters instead of intervention	Yes	Yes: 27.3% No: 61.4% Not sure: 11.4%
Currently drug test	No	Yes: 31.8% No: 65.9% Not sure: 2.3%



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Fees beyond restitution	Yes; \$60 for regular diversion and \$100 for intensive diversion	Yes: 86.4% No: 13.6% Not sure: 0.0%
Use of graduated responses prior to discharge	Yes; not specified	Yes: 47.7% No: 25.0% Not sure: 27.3%
Sealing diversion records	Yes; not specified	Yes: 59.1% No: 22.7% Not sure: 18.2%

\*responses included 44 juvenile diversion programs; representing 68 counties/tribe (91.9% response rate)

## Community Team Level

- A community lead should be able to get roughly a 75% response, to ensure active participation on planning issues, your response rate was 80%. This is an increase in response rate from 2019.
- Having a common agenda is the domain of collective impact where the team has rated the lowest for both years. The mean score for mutually reinforcing went down slightly, but all other mean scores increased.
- The community team should be representative of the population of that community but should also include diversity. It might be beneficial to add diverse member to your team (especially because of the patterns of over and under representation).
- Good representation of system points by team members and persons formerly involved in the system.
- About 22% of those who responded did not feel heard, which is similar to community teams across the state.

Table 26.  
 Collective Impact Survey Response Rates <sup>P</sup>

	Lancaster		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Year of survey	2019	2020	2019	2020
Number of surveys sent	24	40	1407	780
Number of completed surveys	10	32	221	345
Response rate	41.7%	80.0%	28.3%	24.5%

Table 27.  
 Collective Impact Survey Scores <sup>P</sup>

	Lancaster		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
	Mean Score		Mean Score	
Common agenda	5.39	5.59	5.29	5.69
Mutually reinforcing	5.62	5.59	5.37	5.50
Shared measurement	5.64	5.94	5.21	5.45
Continuous communication	5.78	6.16	5.49	5.55



**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021**

Backbone agency	5.62	6.16	5.52	5.78
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The five elements of Collective Impact are:

- **Common agenda:** Participants have a shared vision and common understanding of both the problem and potential solutions to that problem.
- **Mutually reinforcing activities:** Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
- **Shared measurement:** Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
- **Continuous communication:** Consistent and open communication is needed across stakeholders to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.
- **Backbone support:** Creating and managing Collective Impact often requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and to coordinate participating organizations <sup>9</sup>

Table 28.  
 Community Planning Team Diversity <sup>p</sup>

	Lancaster		Nebraska	
	N = 32	(%)	N = 345	(%)
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	11	34.4%	101	29.3%
Female	20	62.5%	229	66.4%
Missing	1	3.1%	15	4.3%
<b>Age</b>				
Under 30	1	3.1%	19	5.6%
30-39	10	31.2%	68	19.6%
40-49	10	31.2%	88	25.4%
50-59	7	21.9	90	25.8%
60 and over	3	9.4	44	13%
Missing	1	3.1%	36	10.4%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White	22	68.8%	230	66.7%
Black	3	9.4%	10	2.9%
Hispanic	1	3.1%	13	3.8%
Native American	1	3.1%	6	1.7%
Asian	--	--	1	0.3%



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Other	--	--	2	0.6%
Provided town name	5	15.6%	63	18.3%
Missing	--	--	19	5.5%
<b>Previous System Involvement</b>				
Yes	7	21.9%	98	28.4%
No	25	78.1%	242	70.1%
Missing	--	--	5	1.4%
<b>System Point *</b>				
Law enforcement	2	4.2%	34	7.8%
Lancaster attorney/ juvenile court	1	2.1%	32	7.3%
K-12 or secondary education	3	6.3%	65	14.9%
Ministry/faith based	1	2.1%	10	2.3%
Diversion	6	12.5%	55	12.6%
Probation	3	6.3%	31	7.1%
Public defender/ defense counsel/ guardian ad litem	1	2.1%	8	1.8%
DHHS or Child Welfare	2	4.2%	13	3.0%
Treatment provider	5	10.4%	40	9.2%
Post adjudication or detention	1	2.1%	8	1.8%
Community based program	23	47.9%	109	25.0%
Elected official or government	--	--	6	1.4%
Restorative practices	--	--	6	1.4%
Backbone or system improvement	--	--	3	0.7%
Other	--	--	16	3.7%
<b>Voice on Team</b>				
Feel heard	25	78.1%	270	78.3%
Do not feel heard	7	21.9%	75	21.7%

\*note. Team members could have selected more than one system point; as such, they do not add up to 100%

## References and Resources

<sup>a</sup> **Population data:** Table B01001 race series, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020

<sup>a</sup> **Youth employment:** Table B23001, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020

<sup>a</sup> **Poverty/SES:** Table B10724, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020

<sup>a</sup> **Technology in household:** Table B28005, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20

<sup>a</sup> **Home owner/transportation:** Table B25045, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20

<sup>a</sup> **Education attainment:** Table B15002, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020

<sup>b</sup> **School membership, chronic absenteeism, student disability, and free/reduced lunch:** Prepared by  
Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education

<sup>c</sup> **Graduation rates:** Special Tabulation by Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education  
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 7-24-2020

<sup>d</sup> **Mental health, Substance use, gang, and community perceptions of substance use:** Bureau of  
Sociological Research, Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Survey:  
<https://bosr.unl.edu/current-nrpfss-county-level-data>

<sup>e</sup> **Referral to and utilization of services:** Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>f</sup> **Adult and juvenile arrests:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:  
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>

<sup>g</sup> Diversion programs

<sup>h</sup> **Domestic violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Domestic Assault:  
[https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County\\_0.pdf](https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County_0.pdf)

<sup>i</sup> Child abuse and neglect

<sup>j</sup> **Community violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:  
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>

<sup>k</sup> **Distance to detention facility:** Google Maps

<sup>l</sup> **Racial and ethnic disparities:** Prepared by Mitch Herian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln with data provided  
by:



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Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:

<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>

Nebraska Crime Commission, Juvenile Case Management System

Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

Nebraska Judicial Branch, Juvenile Services Division

<sup>m</sup> **Court Filings and Juvenile Record Sealing:** Data provided by the Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute on 9-1-20

<sup>n</sup> **Access to Counsel:** Kids County in Nebraska Report, Voices for Children, retrieved from: [www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount](http://www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount). Data originally from Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

<sup>o</sup> **Diversion procedures and protocols:** Diversion survey distributed to Juvenile Diversion programs, 2020. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

<sup>p</sup> **Collective impact:** Collective impact surveys distributed to Community Planning Teams, 2019 and 2020. Prepared by: Anne Hobbs and Erin Wasserburger, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

<sup>q</sup> **Collective Impact Elements:** Kania, J., & Kramer, M. (2011). Collective Impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.

<sup>r</sup> **Estimated Gang Involvement by Local Law Enforcement:** Lincoln Police Department Memo, Descriptive Analysis of Operation Tipping Point data prepared by: Officer Luke Bonkiewicz, and Lincoln Police Department Memo, Gang Data prepared by: Jeff Peterson, LPD CAIU Manager. Both reports provided to JJI by Matt Baker.



## Appendix: RED Descriptives

2015

[Click back to RED Summary data](#)

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	2120	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	506	4.50%	4.30%	13%	12.10%	2.20%	18%	45.80%
Youth enrolled in diversion	404	5.40%	5.20%	14.40%	15.10%	2.70%	1%	56.20%
Successful completion diversion	282	3.90%	5%	10.60%	15.20%	2.80%	0.70%	61.70%
Youth with multiple charges	51	2%	2%	27.50%	13.70%	0%	7.80%	47.10%
Filed on in adult court	7	0%	0%	14.30%	14.30%	0%	14.30%	57.10%
RAI Override: More Severe	167	3.60%	1.20%	38.90%	12.60%	1.80%	0%	41.90%
RAI Override: Less Severe	10	0%	0%	30%	10%	10%	0%	50%
Probation intake	259	3.50%	0.80%	37.10%	12.40%	3.50%	0%	42.90%
Successful probation	515	2.90%	0.80%	18.60%	15.90%	3.90%	0%	57.90%
Revocation of probation	193	5.20%	3.60%	29%	12.40%	5.20%	0%	44.60%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

2016

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	1857	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	435	2.80%	2.30%	18.90%	9.90%	0.70%	9.90%	55.60%
Youth enrolled in diversion	367	2.70%	2.70%	20.20%	10.40%	0.80%	2.20%	61%
Successful completion diversion	320	2.20%	3.10%	19.10%	10.30%	0.90%	2.50%	61.90%
Youth with multiple charges	149	6%	0.70%	24.80%	14.10%	0%	8.70%	45.60%
Filed on in adult court	29	0%	0%	31%	17.20%	0%	3.40%	48.30%
RAI Override: More Severe	83	6%	1.20%	27.70%	15.70%	3.60%	0%	45.80%
RAI Override: Less Severe	5	0%	0%	20%	0%	20%	0%	60%
Probation intake	176	4.50%	2.30%	29.50%	14.80%	3.40%	0%	45.50%
Successful probation	434	3.70%	0.90%	20.30%	17.10%	4.10%	0%	53.90%
Revocation of probation	222	4.10%	1.40%	28.80%	15.30%	4.50%	0%	45.90%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

2017

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	1934	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	364	0.50%	1.60%	28%	11.30%	0.80%	0%	57.70%
Youth enrolled in diversion	333	0.60%	1.50%	27.90%	11.40%	0.60%	0%	58%
Successful completion diversion	280	0.70%	1.80%	26.80%	10.70%	0.70%	0%	59.30%
Youth with multiple charges	135	0.70%	1.50%	24.40%	17%	0%	7.40%	48.90%
Filed on in adult court	26	0%	0%	42.30%	15.40%	0%	3.80%	38.50%
RAI Override: More Severe	73	5.50%	1.40%	31.50%	21.90%	1.40%	0%	38.40%
RAI Override: Less Severe	7	0%	0%	14.30%	14.30%	0%	0%	71.40%
Probation intake	143	5.60%	1.40%	34.30%	18.20%	0.70%	0%	39.90%
Successful probation	451	3.80%	1.60%	13.70%	16.40%	3.30%	0%	61.20%
Revocation of probation	202	4%	1.50%	33.20%	16.80%	4%	0%	40.60%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

2018

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	1639	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	355	2%	0.80%	22.80%	14.60%	3.70%	2%	54.10%
Youth enrolled in diversion	326	2.10%	0.60%	19.90%	14.70%	4%	2.10%	56.40%
Successful completion diversion	277	1.40%	0.70%	18.40%	14.10%	4.70%	2.50%	58.10%
Youth with multiple charges	112	4.50%	0.90%	24.10%	10.70%	0%	7.10%	52.70%
Filed on in adult court	38	10.50%	0%	44.70%	13.20%	0%	7.90%	23.70%
RAI Override: More Severe	95	11.60%	1.10%	29.50%	18.90%	3.20%	0%	35.80%
RAI Override: Less Severe	10	0%	10%	20%	40%	0%	0%	30%
Probation intake	190	8.40%	1.60%	32.60%	18.90%	3.70%	0%	34.70%
Successful probation	337	3.90%	1.80%	20.80%	20.20%	2.10%	0%	51.30%
Revocation of probation	122	4.10%	1.60%	26.20%	23.80%	2.50%	0%	41.80%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--





## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

2019

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	1615	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	384	2.90%	2.30%	27.60%	10.90%	4.40%	1.60%	50.30%
Youth enrolled in diversion	361	3%	2.20%	26.30%	11.60%	4.70%	1.70%	50.40%
Successful completion diversion	319	3.40%	2.20%	24.80%	11.30%	5.30%	1.90%	51.10%
Youth with multiple charges	93	3.20%	1.10%	26.90%	14%	0%	8.60%	46.20%
Filed on in adult court	36	2.80%	8.30%	22.20%	13.90%	0%	11.10%	41.70%
RAI Override: More Severe	165	7.30%	0%	27.90%	20.60%	6.10%	0%	38.20%
RAI Override: Less Severe	25	0%	0%	20%	24%	8%	0%	48%
Probation intake	279	6.50%	0%	29.40%	21.50%	6.50%	0%	36.20%
Successful probation	192	5.20%	1.60%	22.40%	14.60%	2.10%	0%	54.20%
Revocation of probation	98	8.20%	1%	34.70%	12.20%	10.20%	0%	33.70%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year

\*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. All cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis

[Click back to Record Sealing Summary data](#)

<b>2015</b>	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	288	497	57.9%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	1237	2922	42.3%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	213	318	67.0%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>1744</b>	<b>3760</b>	<b>46.4%</b>

<b>2016</b>	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	435	757	57.5%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	1774	4212	42.1%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	183	315	58.1%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>2401</b>	<b>5346</b>	<b>44.9%</b>

<b>2017</b>	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	316	559	56.5%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	1457	2948	49.4%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	90	235	38.3%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>1866</b>	<b>3810</b>	<b>49.0%</b>



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

2018	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	208	528	39.4%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	716	2456	29.2%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	76	198	38.4%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	1	2	50.0%
Total	1003	3315	30.3%

2019	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	252	456	55.3%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	0	13	0.0%
Filed in Juv. Court	330	2107	15.7%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	127	193	65.8%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	0	12	0.0%
Total	710	2832	25.1%

**Lancaster County Juvenile Justice System Database  
Findings: A Summary**

**Richard L. Wiener, Ph.D., MLS**

**Megan Berry, B.S., MLS**

**Taylor Petty, M.S., MLS**

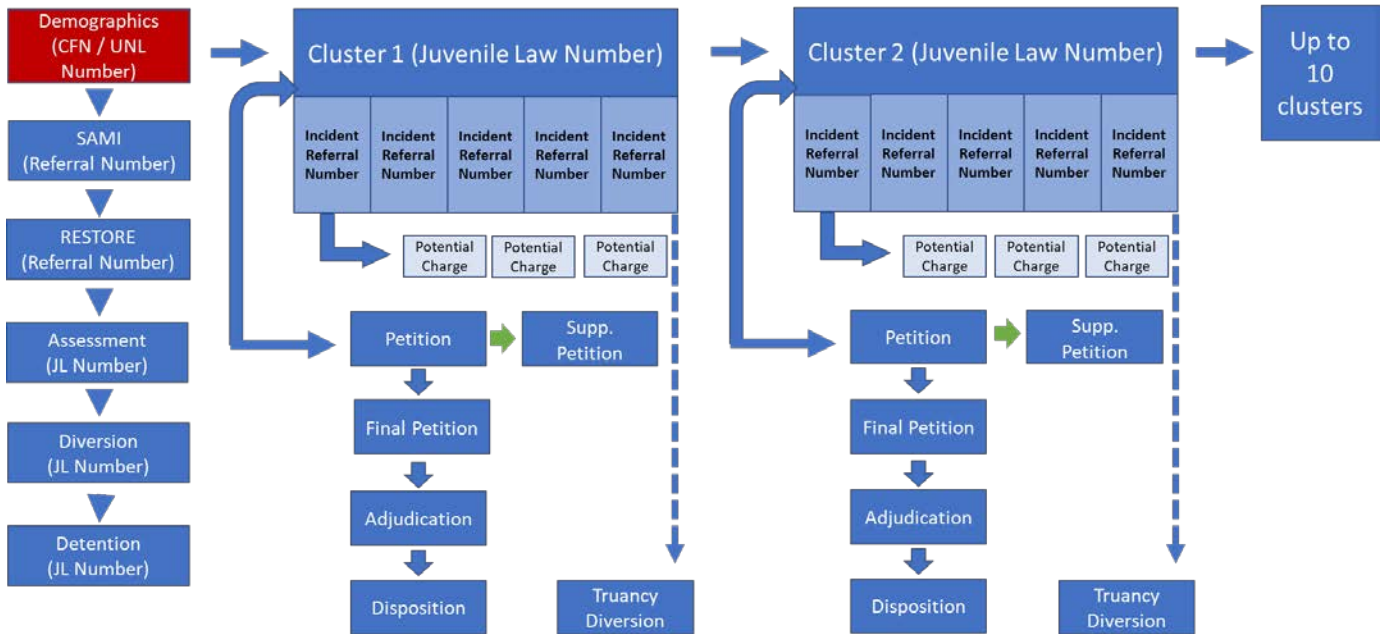
**Data maintained and analyzed by UNL Evaluation Team  
for Lancaster County, Nebraska**

**November 23, 2020**

## Introduction

The Lancaster County Juvenile Justice Database houses data that trace individual youths' involvement with the juvenile justice system from initial contact through disposition and human service intervention. The database is owned jointly by the Lancaster County juvenile justice system partners (hereafter – Partners), which include: Lincoln Police Department, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, Lincoln/Lancaster County Human Services, Lancaster County Attorney's Office, and the Lancaster County Youth Services Center. The Partners contribute data to track youths from entry at various points in the system and that follow them through to their exit of the system across time, making this an ongoing longitudinal database which continues to grow. The chart below and the definitions that follow outline the various components and points of contact in the data base. Each youth is a unique data point and each has the potential of multiple involvements over time that the database records. The University of Nebraska Law/Psychology program under the supervision of Dr. Richard Wiener serves a consultant role for the county to maintain the data base for purposes of program evaluation. The dissemination of findings is under the control of the Partners and not under the control of the consultant team. The consultant team organizes the data, conducts the analyses that the partners request, and writes reports like the current one also at the Partners' request. Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln jointly fund the database, which includes funding the University program evaluation consultant team.

# Lancaster County Juvenile Justice Data Base



# Definitions

- **Cluster** - Each cluster of incidents pertains to a closed ended time period of related incidents that the county attorney is considering at one time.
  - Each cluster can be associated with one or more police encounters
  - **Petition** – Refers to county attorneys official statutory action
- **Adjudication** – Refers to the outcome of the official action in court
- **Disposition** – Refers to the substantive court order for the youth (i.e., the activities assigned to the youth) and include the following:
  - **"Guilty Disposition"** - Refers to a Petition filed in Juvenile Court resulting in a youth being adjudicated due to an admission, plea of no contest, or a finding by the Court after a trial that the youth is responsible
  - **"Not Guilt Disposition"** - Refers to one of the following outcomes:
    - **Diversion** - the youth participates in a pre-filing Community-based Diversion or Intensive Supervised Diversion program that upon successful completion results in no Petition being filed and the youth's record being sealed.
    - **SAMI or RESTORE Program** - the youth participates in a pre-filing diversion program for school-based offenses that upon successful completion results in no Petition being filed and the youth's record being sealed.
    - **No Charge Warning Letter (NCWL)** - after an Assessment has been completed the County Attorney decides that no juvenile justice intervention is needed and provides a warning letter to the parents
    - **Dismissal** – the County Attorney files a Petition in Juvenile Court and charges are later dismissed so that no adjudication results
- **SAMI** – School based Alcohol and Marijuana Intervention
- **RESTORE** – School based offenses of assault or disturbing the peace
- **Assessment** – Risk assessment screening using the Nebraska Youth Screen (NYS) for diversion eligible youth
- **Diversion** – Activity assigned to the youth that does not result from formal adjudication in court for eligible offenses
  - 90 day program consisting of a diversion plan coordinated by the diversion officer and assessment data

Total Number of Youth in the Full File (  
N = 2057, November 2018- April 2020)

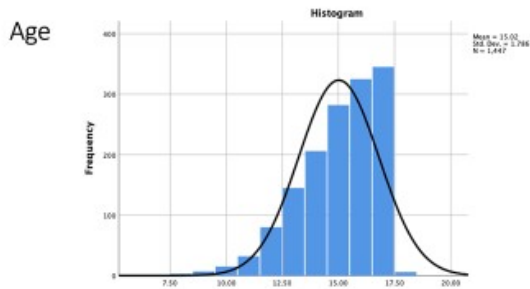


# Police (LPD) Data

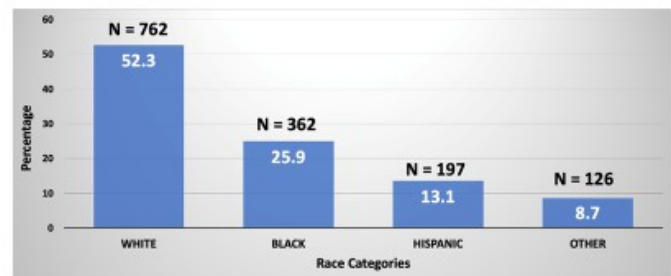
Demographics LPD File

Total Number of Youth in LPD File  
N= 1453

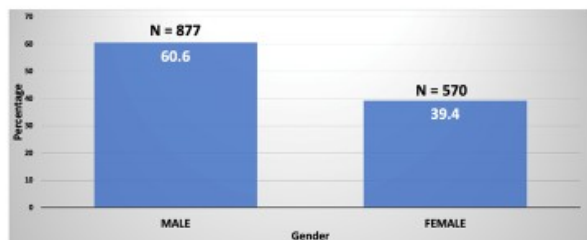
Race, gender  
and age of  
youth in  
police data



Race

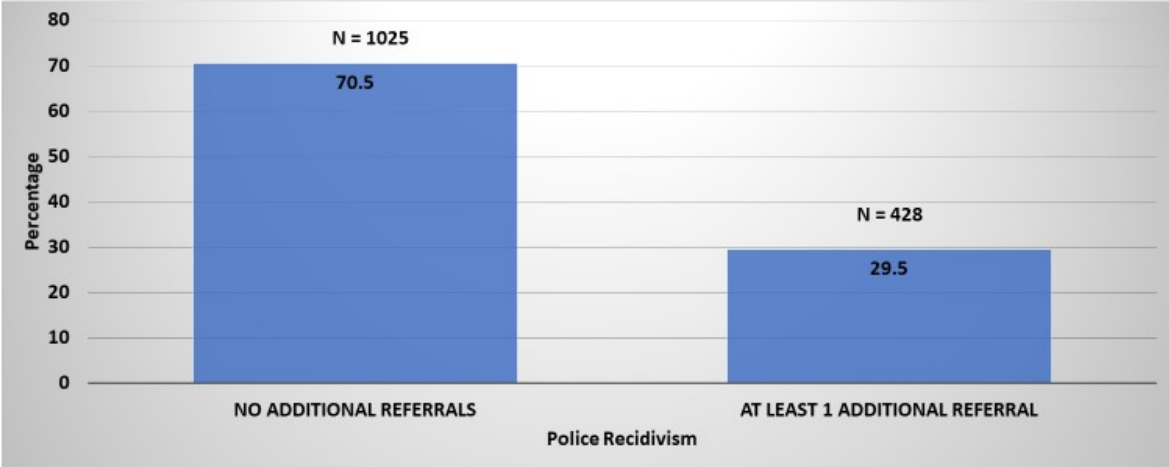


Gender (N = 1447)



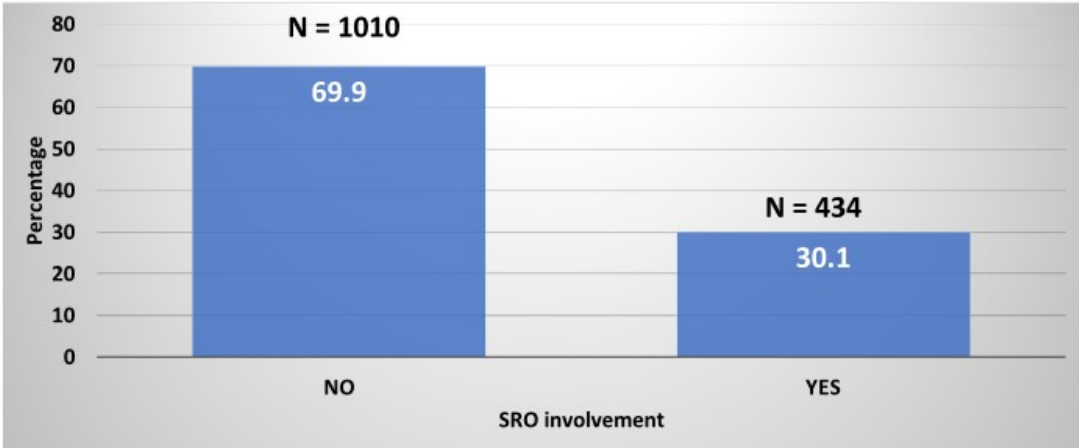
- The typical youth in the police database is a White male and approximately 15 years old.

# Total Referrals/Return to Police (dichotomous)



- The police make an additional referral (two or more referrals) for approximately 30% of the youth in the data file.

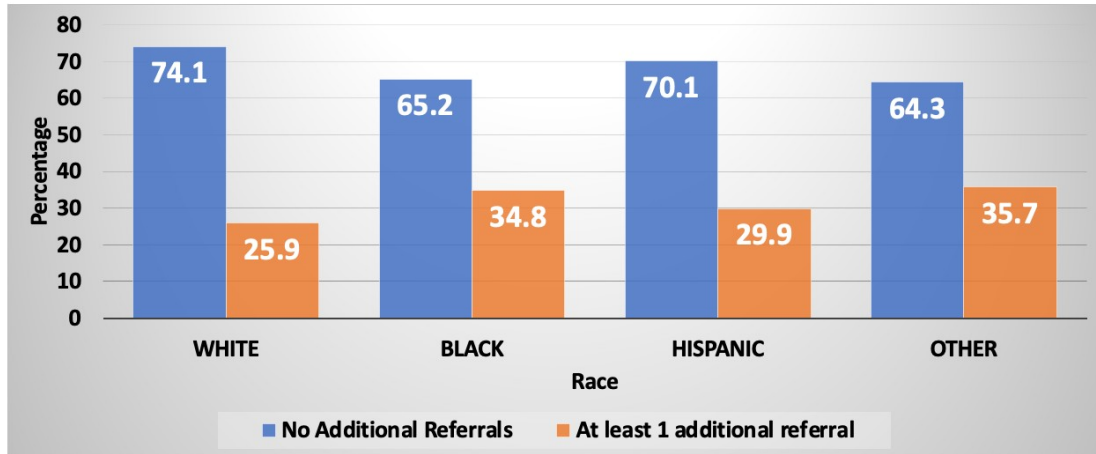
# SRO Involvement



- Thirty percent of youth in the database show School Resource Officer involvement.

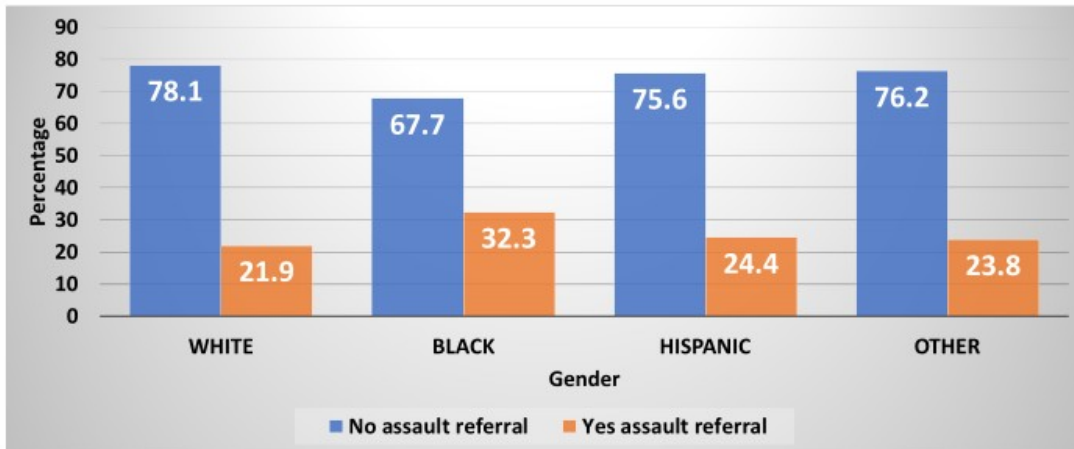
Police recidivism and race of juvenile (black and other youth are more likely to pick up another referral)

$\chi^2(3) = 12.13, p = 0.01^*$



- Police are more likely to make an additional referral for Black youth and youth of “other” ethnic backgrounds as compared to White youth.

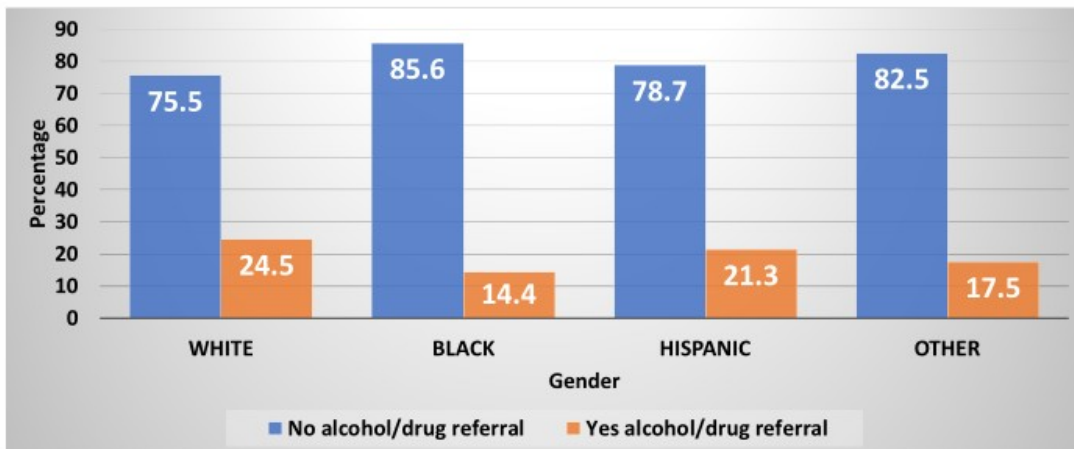
## African American youth more likely to have assault referral



$\chi^2(3) = 14.34, p = 0.02^*$

- Assault referrals are more likely for Black youth than for White youth.

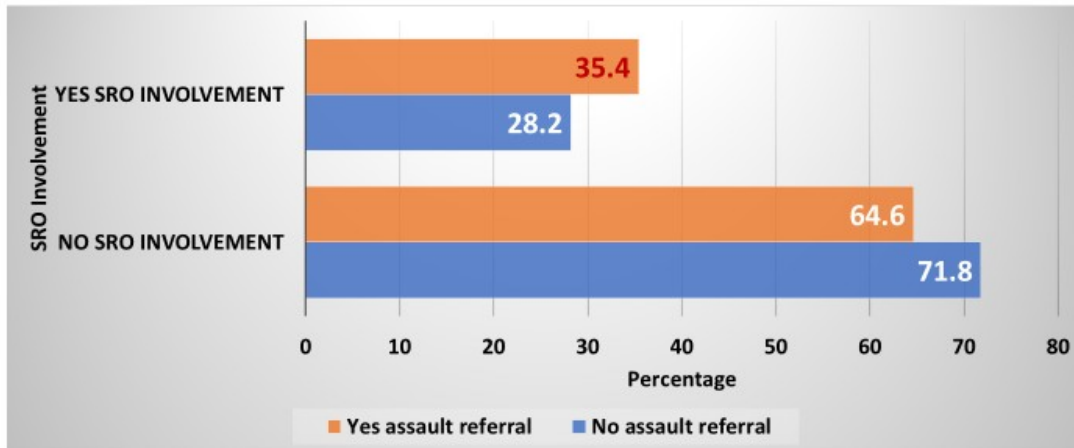
## White youth more likely to have alcohol/drug referral



$\chi^2(3) = 16.36, p = 0.001^*$

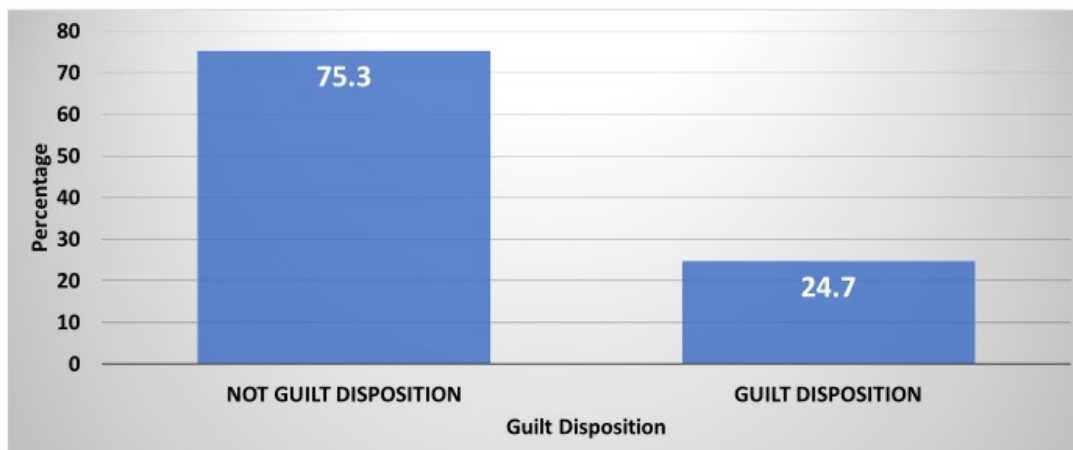
- Alcohol and drug referrals are more likely for White youth as compared to Black youth.

When there is SRO involvement, it is more likely for it to be an assault referral  $\chi^2(1) = 6.71, p = 0.01^*$



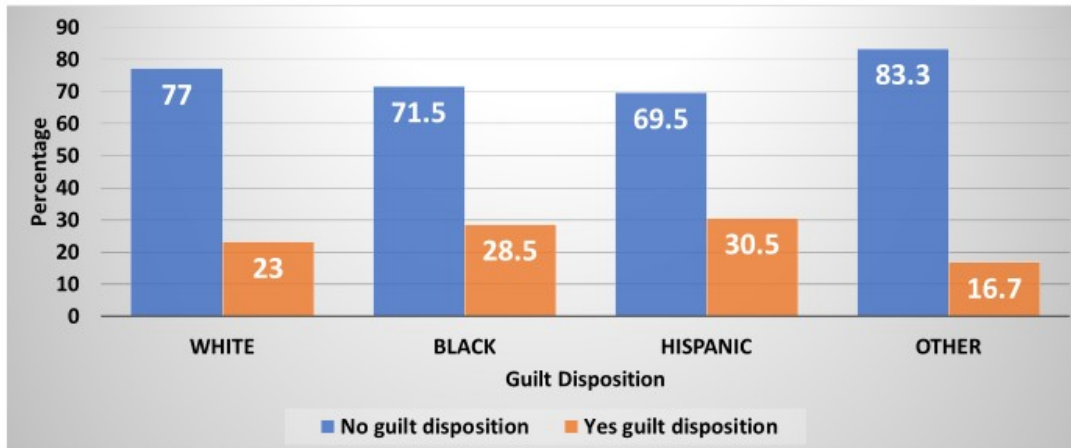
- School resource officer referrals occur most often in response to assault complaints.

Disposition (Guilty/Other) frequency



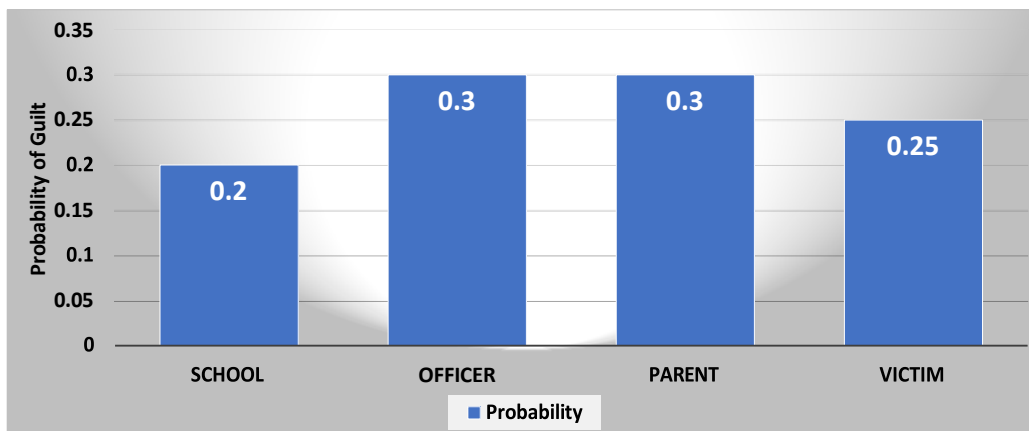
- Approximately 25% of police referrals end up with a “guilt” disposition in court.

Hispanic and black youth have higher rate of guilt disposition  $\chi^2(3) = 11.81, p = 0.01^*$



- When the police refer Hispanic and Black youth, they are more likely to receive a “guilt” disposition as compared to White youth. (The reason for the observed disparity is undetermined.)

Youth are less likely to have guilt disposition if school brought as compared to officer brought



- When school personnel (i.e. teachers, administrators, counselors) initiate a referral, the youth is less likely to be adjudicated with a Guilt Disposition as compared to when an officer initiated the referral.

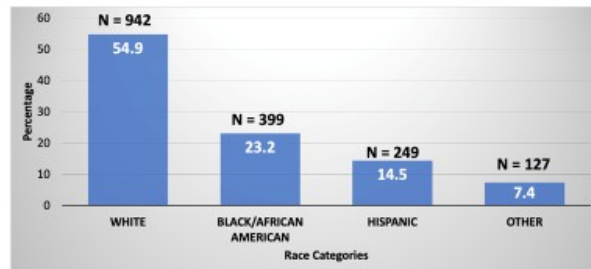
# County Attorney Data

## Demographics (N = 1717)

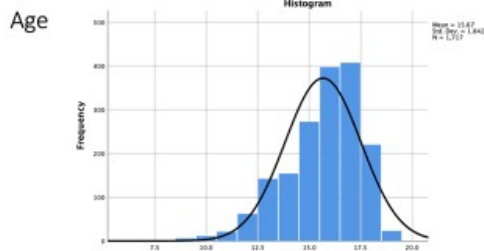
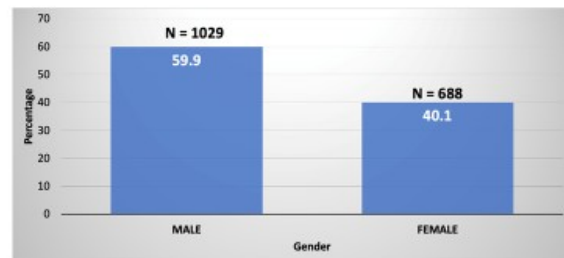
County Attorney Data sample

Race, gender and age of youth in county attorney data

### Race

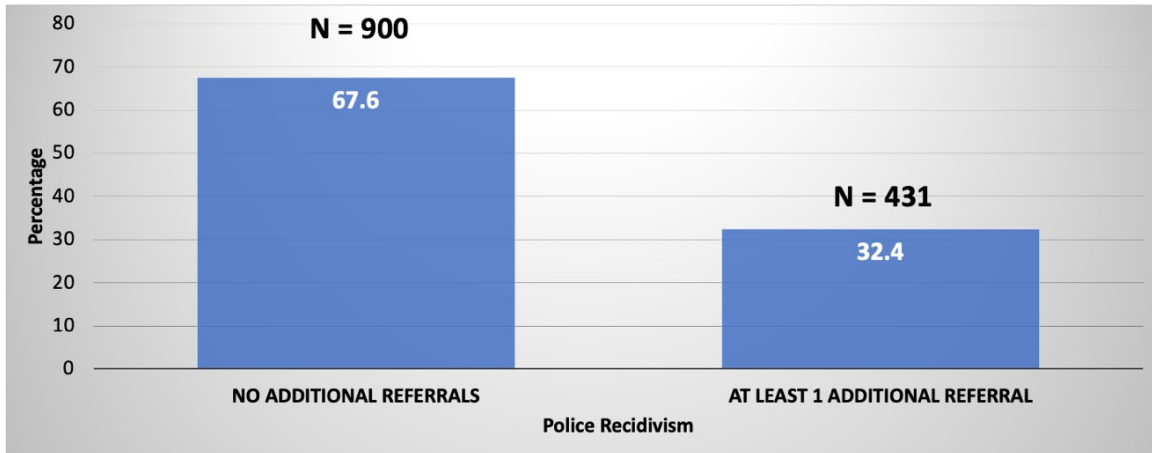


### Gender



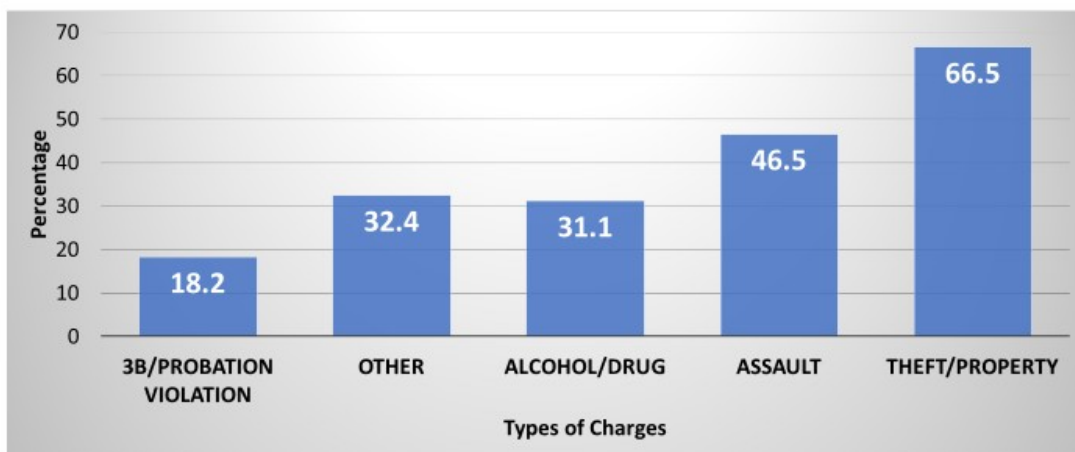
- The typical youth in the county attorney database is a White male and approximately 15 and a half years old.

## Total Referrals/Return to Police



- **Approximately 32% of the youth in the database received more than one additional police referral.**

## Theft charges more likely to recidivate

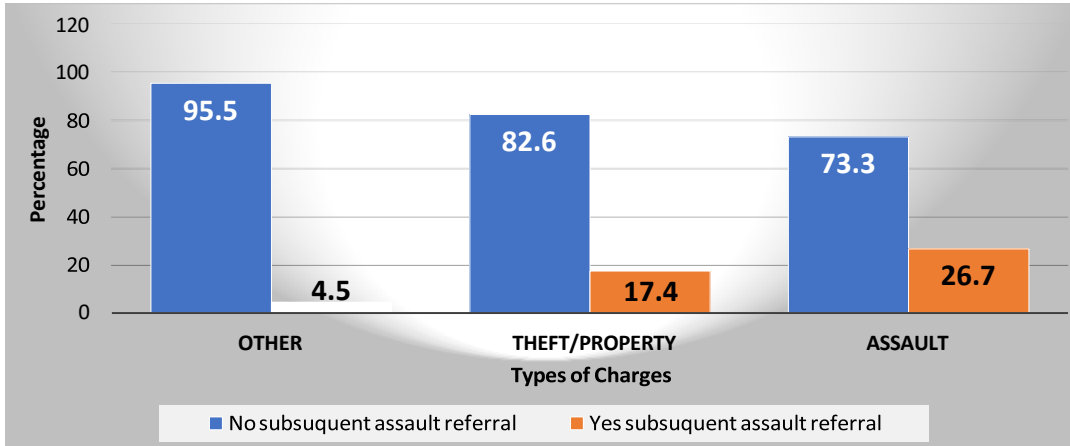


- **Youth who commit theft and/or property offenses are the most likely to receive an additional police referral.**



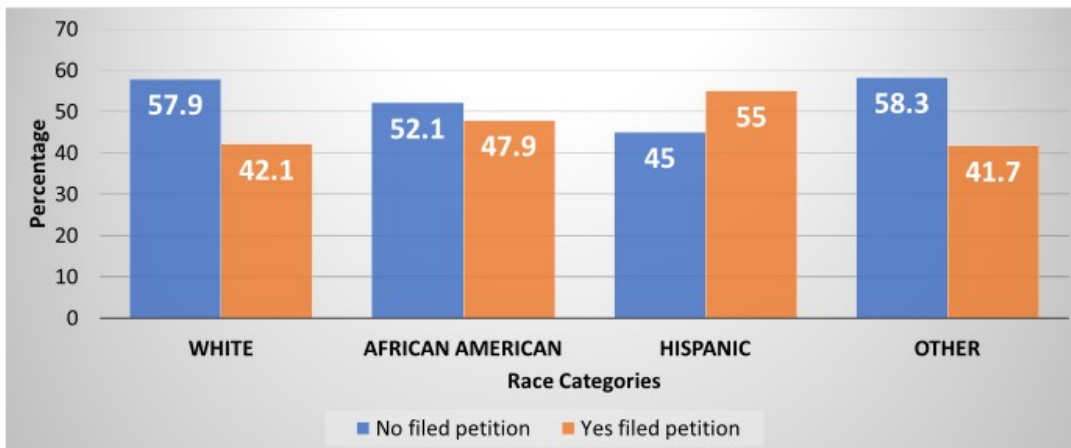
$$\chi^2(2) = 37.96, p = 0.00^*$$

Do charges predict future assaults?



- Youth who commit an assault offense are more likely than those who do not do so to commit an additional assault.

Prosecutor discretion of Filing Petition: more likely to have filed petition if Hispanic  $\chi^2(3) = 15.00, p = 0.00^*$



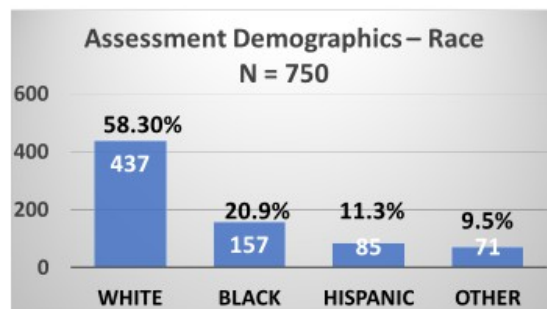
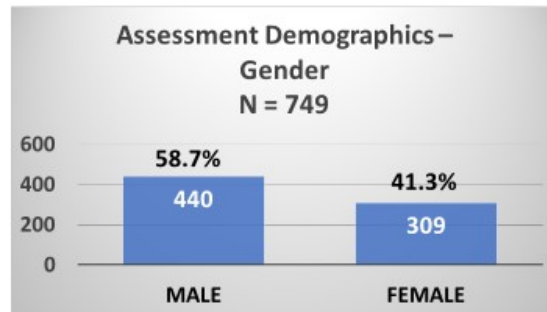
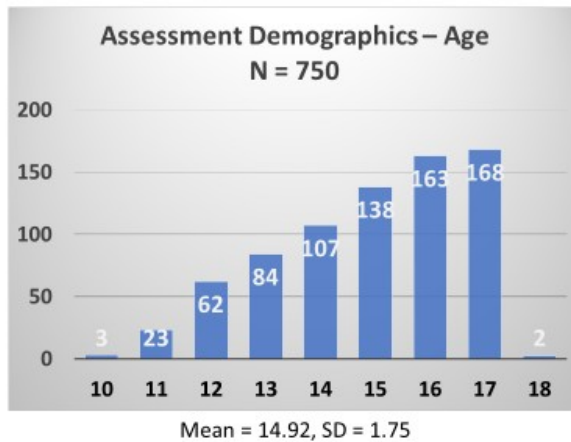
- The county attorney is more likely to file a petition for a Hispanic youth as compared to a White youth or a youth from another ethnicity group. (The reason for the observed disparity is undetermined.)

# Assessment Data

## Demographics Assessment File

N = 750\*

Race, gender and age of youth in assessment data

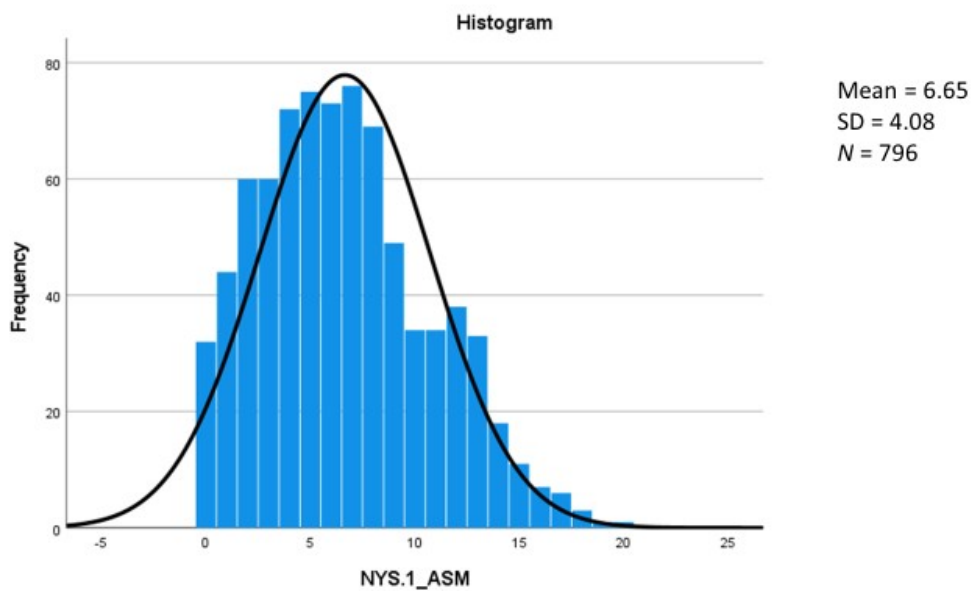


- The typical youth in the assessment database is a White male and approximately 15 years old.

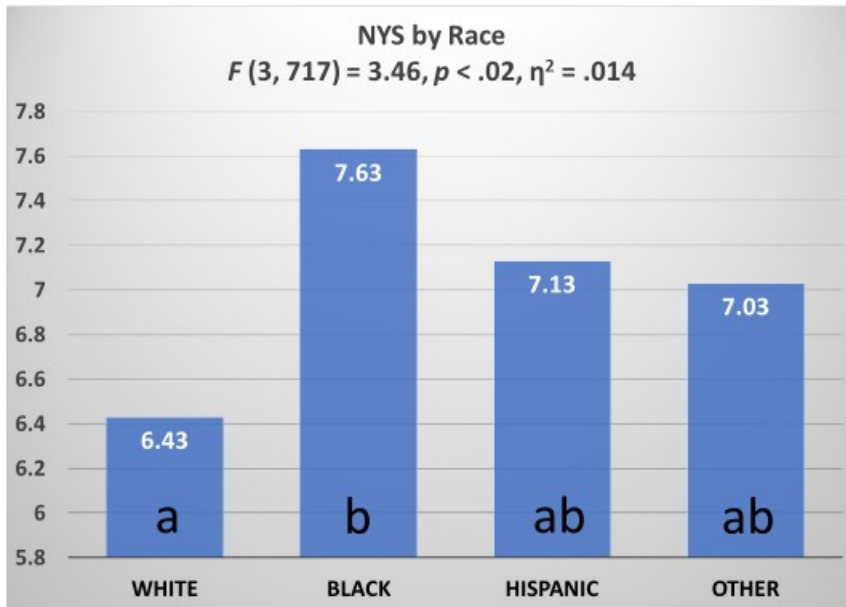
\*Demographic data from police may not include all youth in Assessment file

Assessment Top Recommendations			
Recommendation	Frequency	Recommendation	Frequency
Juvenile Diversion	413	Shoplifting Course	72
No Charge	327	Families Inspiring Families	64
Apology Letter	194	Victim Offender Mediation	59
Join School / Community Activity	100	Community Service	54
Marijuana Course	77	Continue Individual Counseling	49
Restitution	72	File in Juvenile Court	48

- The assessment staff most frequently recommend juvenile diversion, no charge filed, an apology letter, engagement in community activity, and/or enrollment in an online marijuana education course.

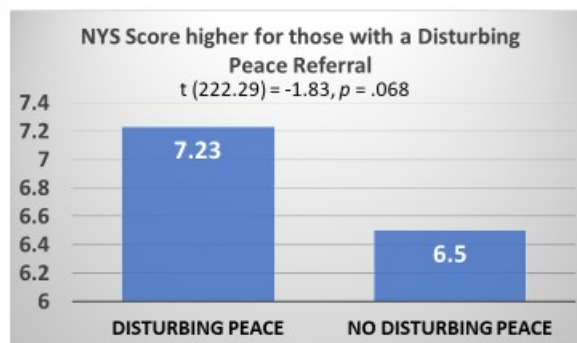
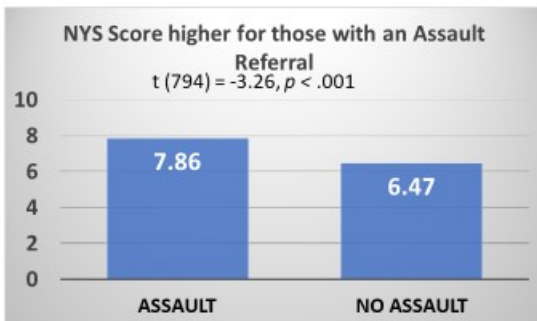


- The NYS assessment score for the typical youth is in the low to moderate risk range (about 6.7).



Bars with different subscripts are significantly different from each other.

- Black youth score higher (greater risk) on the NYS as compared to White youth. (The reason for the observed disparity is undetermined.)



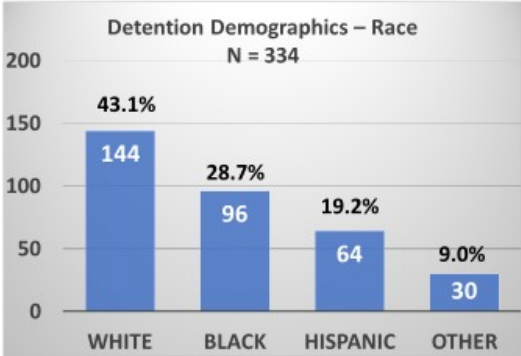
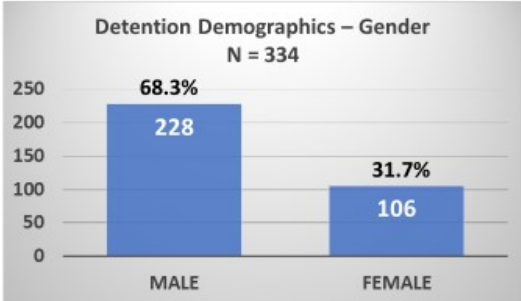
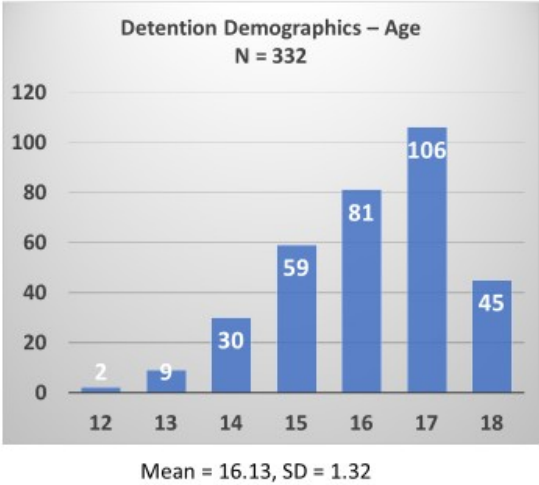
- Youth with assault and disturbing the peace offenses score higher (greater risk) on the NYS, while youth with theft offenses score lower (less risk).

# Detention Data

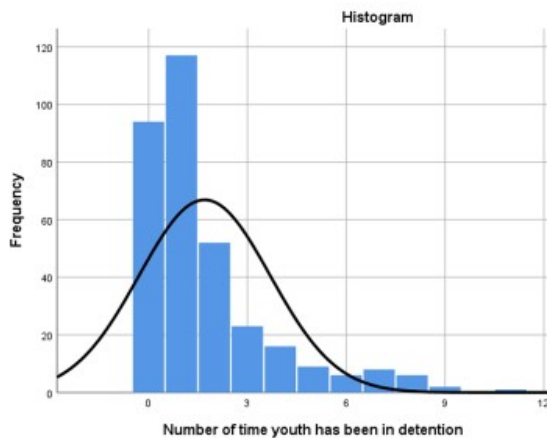
## Demographics Detention File

N = 334

Race, gender and age of youth in detention data

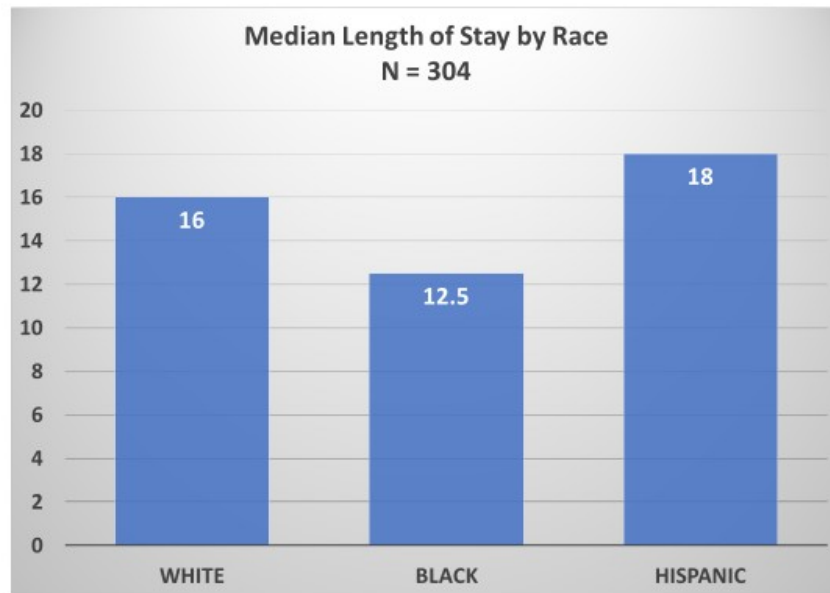


- The typical youth in the detention database is a White male and approximately 16 years of age.



SRO Involvement		
	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	26	14.4%
No	155	85.6%

- Youth return to detention anywhere from 0 to 12 times with the typical youth returning to detention between 1 and 2 times.
- Only 14% of youth in detention show SRO involvement.



Test statistic (2) = 2.29.,  $p = .319$

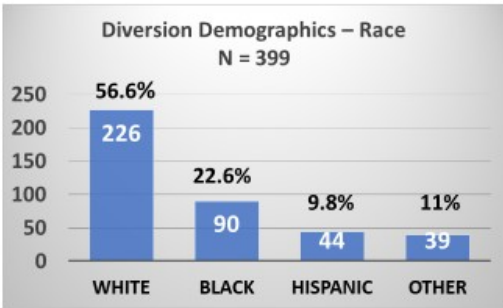
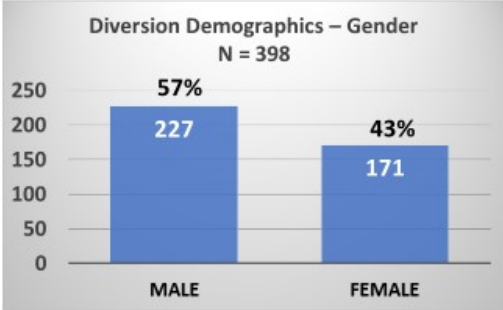
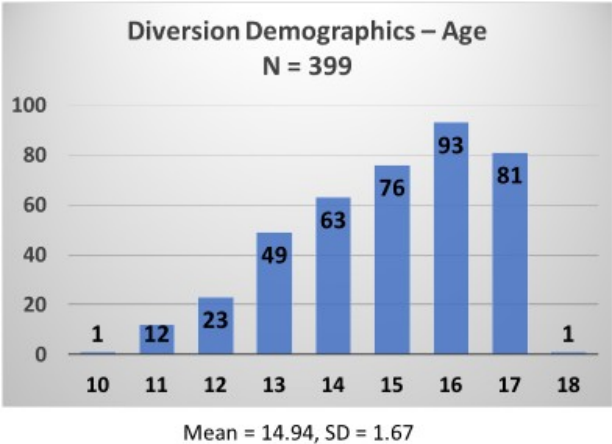
- The typical youth stays in detention between 12 and 18 days. There is no statistically significant difference in the length of stay based upon a youth's race/ethnicity.

# Diversion Data

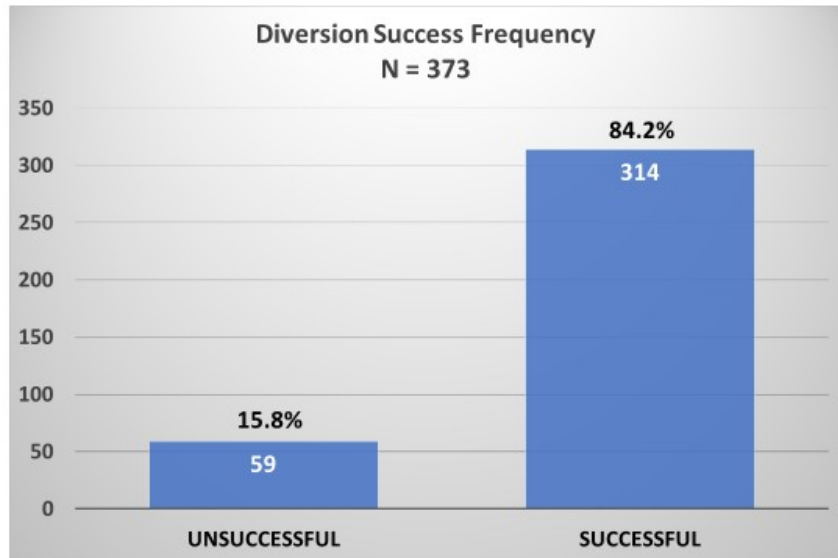
## Demographics Diversion File

N = 399

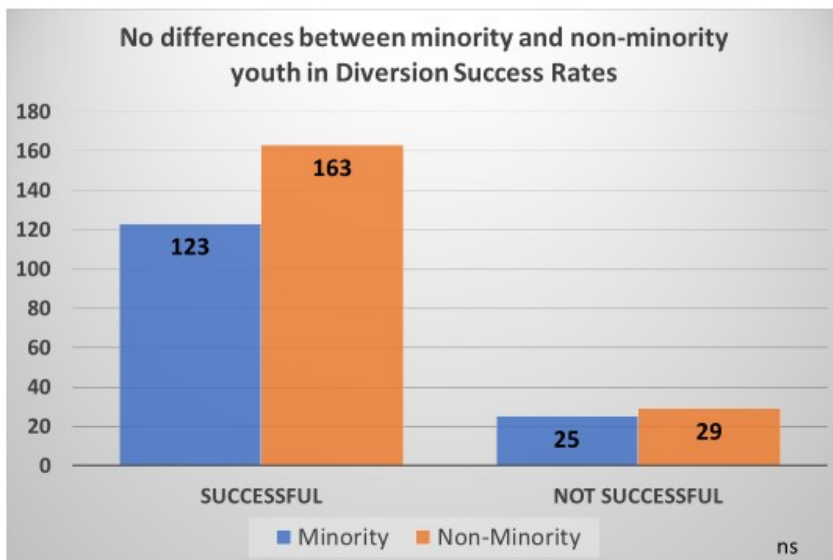
Race, gender and age of youth in diversion data



- The typical youth in the diversion database is a White male and approximately 15 years of age.

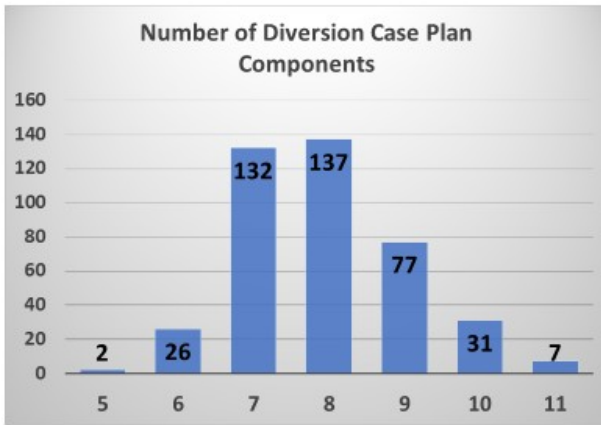


- **Approximately 84% of youth in diversion successfully complete the program.**

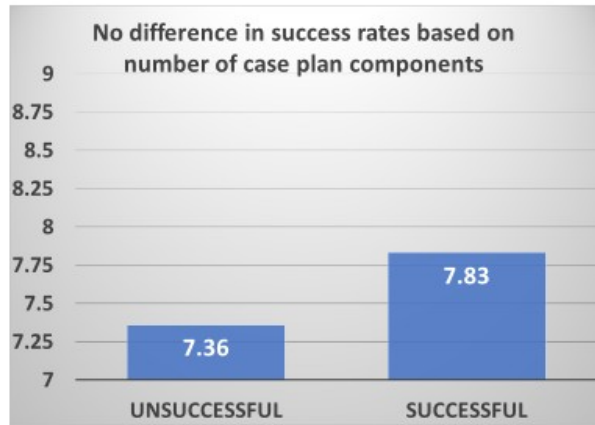


- **There is no statistically significant difference in diversion success rate between White and minority youth.**





Mean = 7.46, SD = 2.16



$t(62.18) = -1.34, p = .186$

- Diversion case plans range from 5 to 11 components (mean = 7.5), with no statistically significant difference in the number of components between successful and unsuccessful youth.

Diversion Case Plan Components		
Case Plan Components	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Avoid Criminal Activity</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>98.6</b>
<b>Maintain School Attendance and Academic Standards</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>98.8</b>
<b>Community Service</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>98.6</b>
<b>Diversion Fee</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>98.8</b>
<b>Join Community Program</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>97.6</b>
Apology Letter	324	77.9
Online Course	203	48.6
Alcohol Drug Test	132	31.7
Reflection Paper	102	24.5
Accountability Check In	99	36.9
Restitution	94	22.5
Attend Counseling	83	19.9
Mediation	55	13.2
Child Guidance Evaluation	23	5.5
PMT	13	3.8
Obtain Employment	10	2.9

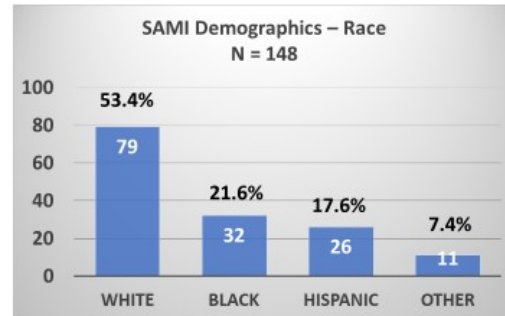
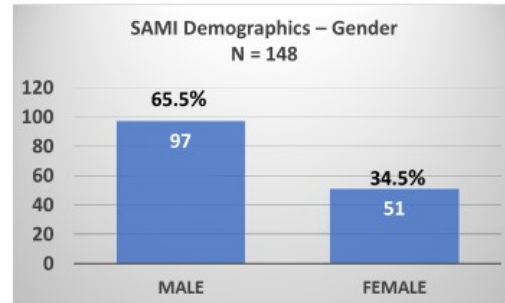
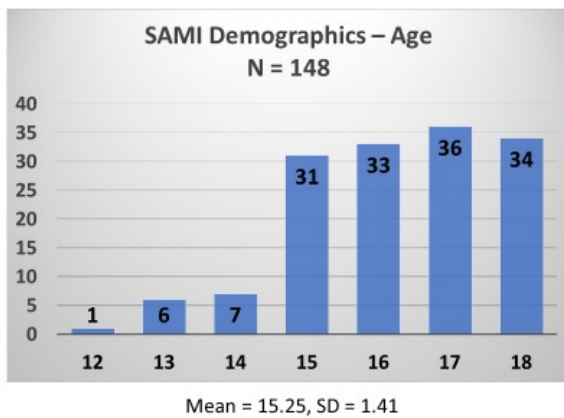
- **Diversion officers most frequently include the following components in a youth’s case plan: avoid criminal activity, maintain school performance, engage in community service, pay your diversion fee and engage in a community program. Other frequently appearing components are: writing an apology letter, taking an online course, submitting to alcohol and drug testing and writing a reflection paper.**

# SAMI Data

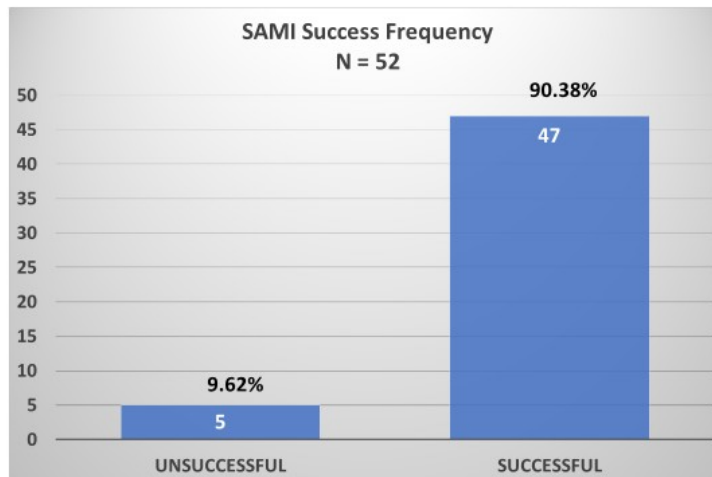
## Demographics SAMI File

N = 148

Race, gender and age of youth in SAMI data



- The typical youth in the SAMI database is a White male and approximately 15 years of age.



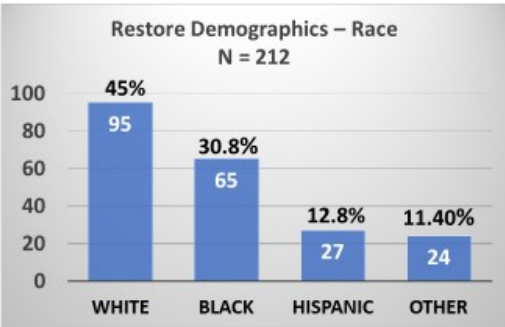
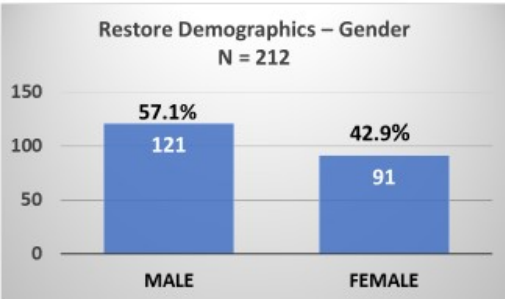
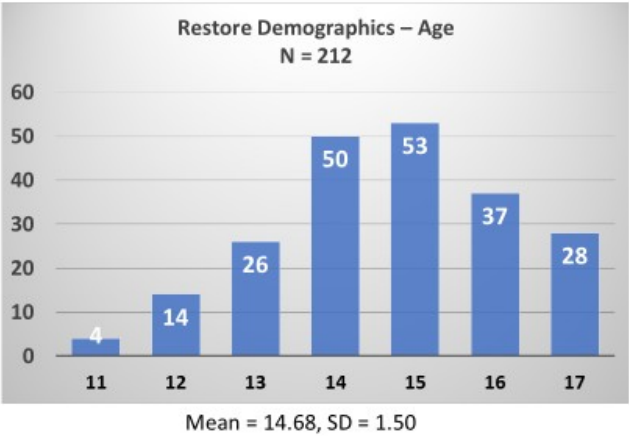
- Approximately 90% of youth who enter SAMI successfully complete the program.

# RESTORE Data

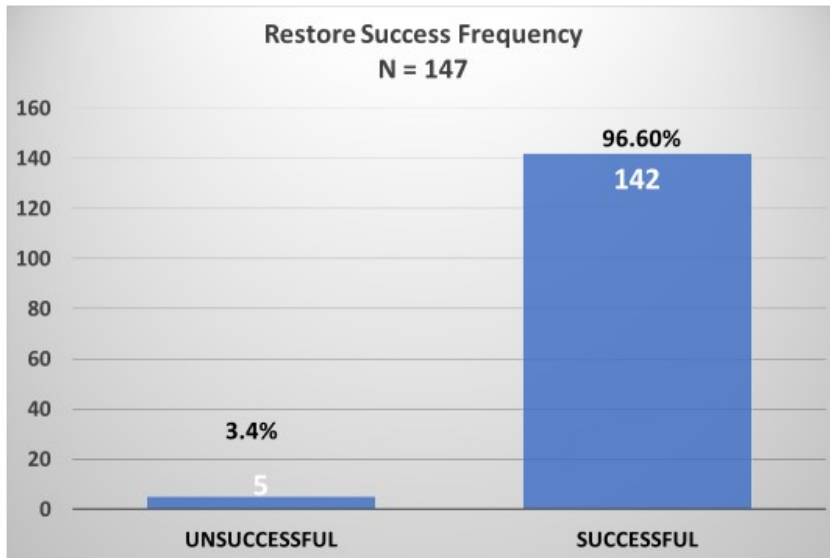
## Demographics RESTORE File

N = 212

Race, gender and age of youth in RESTORE data

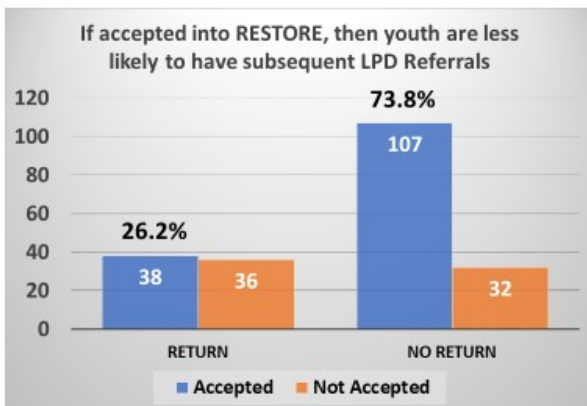


- The typical youth in the RESTORE database is a White male and approximately 14 and a half years of age.



\*3 Unsuccessful due to new charges, 2 due to failure to complete program requirements

- **Approximately 97% of youth enrolled in RESTORE successfully complete the program.**



$\chi^2 (1) = 14.59, p < .001$



$\chi^2 (1) = 14.51, p < .001$

- **Youth who are accepted and successfully complete RESTORE are less likely to receive additional police referrals as compared to those youth who do not enter into the RESTORE program.**



# Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for 2018

## Profile Report: Lancaster County



**Sponsored by:**

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Behavioral Health

**Administered by:**

Bureau of Sociological Research  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

*NRPFSS is part of the Student Health and Risk  
Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System that administers  
surveys to youth enrolled in Nebraska schools*

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## Introduction and Overview

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This report summarizes the findings from the 2018 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS). The 2018 survey represents the eighth implementation of the NRPFSS and the fifth implementation of the survey under the Nebraska Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System. SHARP consists of the coordinated administration of three school-based student health surveys in Nebraska, including the NRPFSS, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), and the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS). The Nebraska SHARP Surveillance System is administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Department of Education through a contract with the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For more information on the Nebraska SHARP Surveillance System please visit <http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp>.

As a result of the creation of SHARP and its inclusion of the NRPFSS, the administration schedule shifted from the fall of odd calendar years to the fall of even calendar years. The first three administrations of the NRPFSS occurred during the fall of 2003, 2005, and 2007, while the fourth administration occurred during the fall of 2010, leaving a three-year gap (rather than the usual two-year gap) between the most recent administrations. The 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 administrations also occurred during the fall, as will future administrations, taking place during even calendar years (i.e., every two years).

The NRPFSS targets Nebraska students in grades 8, 10, and 12 with a goal of providing schools and communities with local-level data. As a result, the NRPFSS is implemented as a census survey, meaning that every public and non-public school with an eligible grade can choose to participate. Therefore, data presented in this report are not to be considered a representative statewide sample. The survey is designed to assess adolescent substance use, delinquent behavior, and many of the risk and protective measures that predict adolescent problem behaviors. The NRPFSS is adapted from national, scientifically-validated surveys and contains information on risk and protective measures that are locally actionable. These risk and protective measures are also highly correlated with substance abuse as well as delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence. Along with other locally attainable sources of information, the information from the NRPFSS can aid schools and community groups in planning and implementing local prevention initiatives to improve the health and academic performance of their youth.

Table 1.1 provides information on the student participation rate for Lancaster County. The participation rate represents the percentage of all eligible students who took the survey. If 60 percent or more of the students participated, the report is generally a good indicator of the levels of substance use, risk, protection, and delinquent behavior in Lancaster County. If fewer than 60.0 percent participated, a review of who participated should be completed prior to generalizing the results to your entire student population.

### 2018 NRPFSS Sponsored by:

The 2018 NRPFSS is sponsored by Grant #5U79SP020162-05 and #1H79SP080988-01 under the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success Grant for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Prevention through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health.





The Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL) collected the NRPFSS data for this administration as well as the 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 administrations. As part of BOSR’s commitment to high quality data, BOSR is a member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative. As part of this initiative, BOSR pledges to provide certain methodological information whenever data are collected. This information as it relates to the NRPFSS is available on BOSR’s website ([www.bosr.unl.edu/sharp](http://www.bosr.unl.edu/sharp)).

**Table 1.1. Survey Participation Rates, 2018**

Grade	Lancaster County 2018			State 2018		
	Number Participated	Number Enrolled	Percent Participated	Number Participated	Number Enrolled	Percent Participated
8th	1293	3981	32.5%	10270	26257	39.1%
10th	391	3801	10.3%	7437	25634	29.0%
12th	296	4010	7.4%	6378	26155	24.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>11792</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>24085</b>	<b>78046</b>	<b>30.9%</b>

*Note. The grade-specific participation rates presented within this table consist of the number of students who completed the NRPFSS divided by the total number of students enrolled within the participating schools. For schools that were also selected to participate in the YRBS or YTS, the participation rate may be adjusted if students were only allowed to participate in one survey. In these cases, the number of students who completed the NRPFSS is divided by the total number of students enrolled that were not eligible to participate in the YRBS or YTS.*

Again, the goal of the NRPFSS is to collect school district and community-level data and not to collect representative state data. However, state data provide insight into the levels of substance use, risk, protection, and delinquent behavior among all students in Nebraska. In 2018, 30.9 percent of the eligible Nebraska students in grades 8, 10, and 12 participated in the NRPFSS.

The 2018 participation rate for the state as a whole remains lower than the 60.0 percent level recommended for representing students statewide, so the state-level results should be interpreted with some caution. Failure to obtain a high participation rate statewide is, in part, due to low levels of participation within Douglas and Sarpy Counties, which combined had an 11.2% participation rate in 2018 compared to 44.4% for the remainder of the state.

Table 1.2 provides an overview of the characteristics of the students who completed the 2018 survey within Lancaster County and the state overall.

Table 1.2. Participant Characteristics, 2018

	Lancaster County 2018		State 2018	
	n	%	n	%
<b>Total students</b>	1987		24622	
<b>Grade</b>				
8th	1293	65.1%	10270	41.7%
10th	391	19.7%	7437	30.2%
12th	296	14.9%	6378	25.9%
Unknown	7	0.4%	537	2.2%
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	953	48.0%	12382	50.3%
Female	1030	51.8%	12175	49.4%
Unknown	4	0.2%	65	0.3%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
Hispanic*	124	6.2%	3972	16.1%
African American	83	4.2%	750	3.0%
Asian	104	5.2%	486	2.0%
American Indian	31	1.6%	731	3.0%
Pacific Islander	5	0.3%	70	0.3%
Alaska Native	3	0.2%	30	0.1%
White	1594	80.2%	18258	74.2%
Other	36	1.8%	275	1.1%
Unknown	7	0.4%	50	0.2%

Notes. \*Hispanic can be of any race. In columns, n=number or frequency and %=percentage of distribution.

### Overview of Report Contents

The report is divided into the following five sections: (1) substance use; (2) transportation safety; (3) violence, bullying, and mental health; (4) nutrition and physical activity; and (5) feelings and experiences at home, school, and in the community. Within each section, highlights of the 2018 survey data for Lancaster County are presented along with state and national estimates, when available.

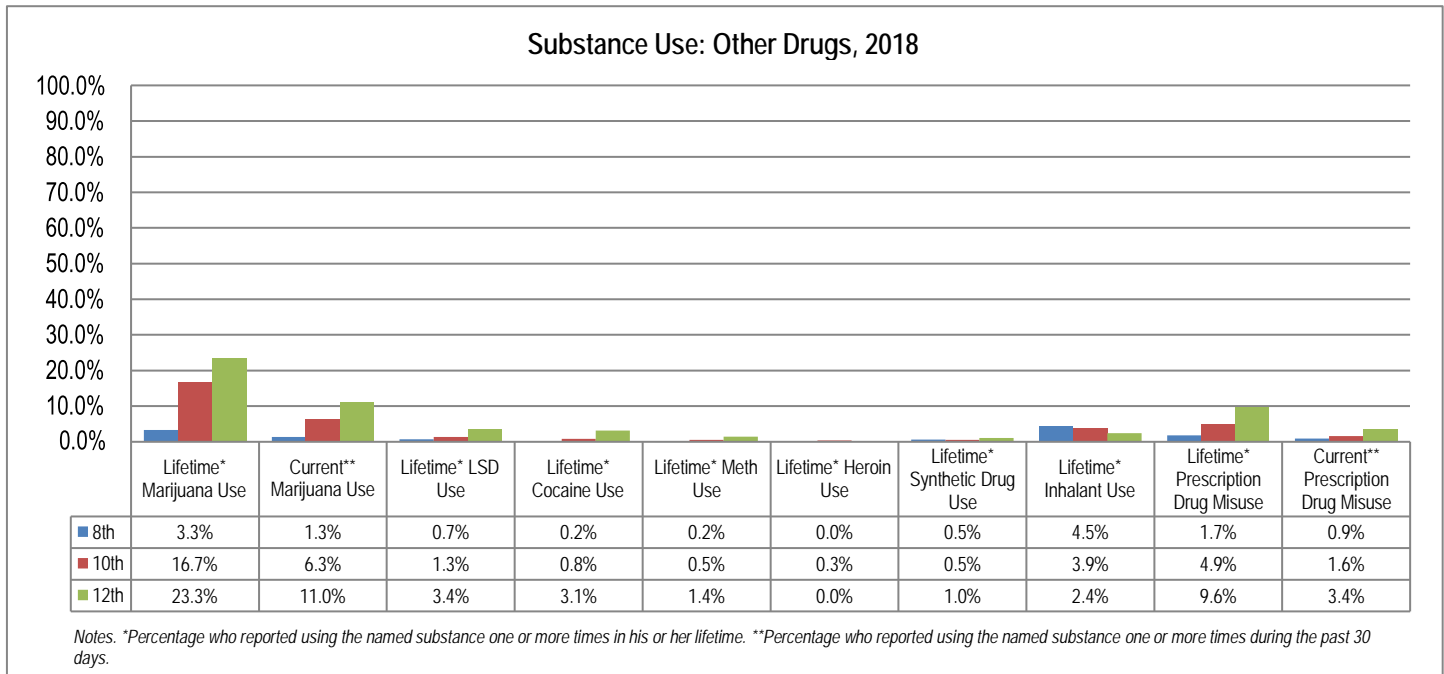
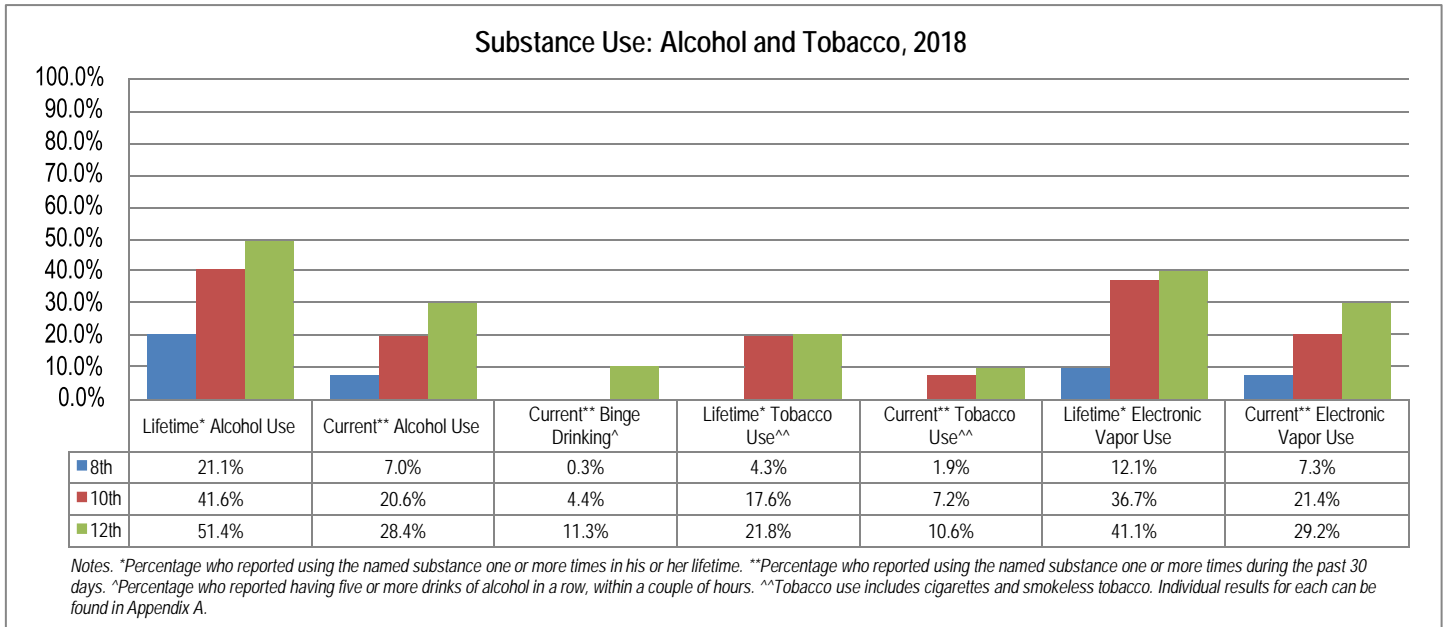
When there are less than 10 survey respondents for a particular grade, their responses are not presented in order to protect the confidentiality of individual student participants. However, those respondents are included in regional- and state-level results. Furthermore, if a grade level has 10 or more respondents but an individual question or sub-group presented in this report has less than 10 respondents then results for the individual item or sub-group are not reported.

A number of honesty measures were also created to remove students who may not have given the most honest answers. These measures included reporting use of a fictitious drug, using a substance during the past 30 days more than in one's lifetime, answering that the student was not at all honest when filling out the survey, and providing an age and grade combination that are highly unlikely. Students whose answers were in question for any one of these reasons were excluded from reporting. For Lancaster County, 44 students met these criteria.

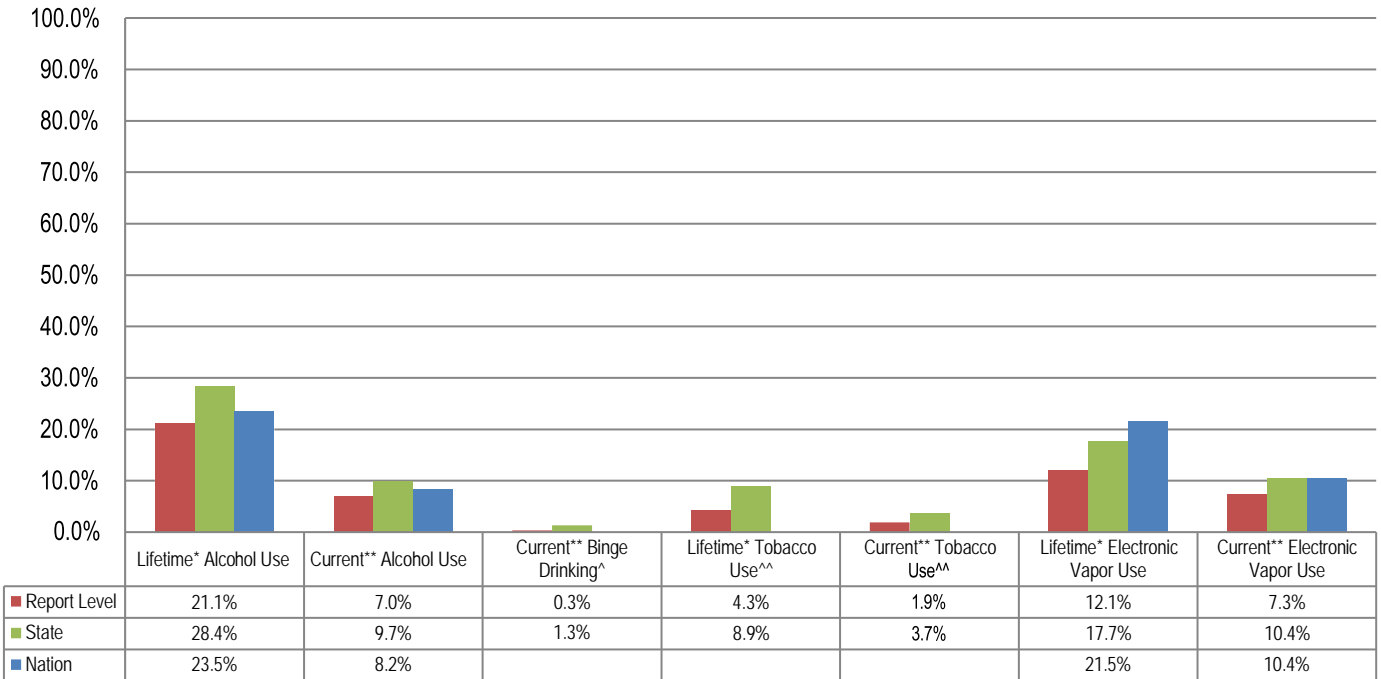
Substance Use

This section contains information on the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska. In addition, there is information on attitudes and perceptions, the sources of substances, and other substance-related topics. To provide greater context for the results from Lancaster County, overall state and national results are presented when available. As discussed earlier, the state results are not to be considered a representative statewide sample. The national data source is the Monitoring the Future survey, administered by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan and sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institutes of Health.

Substance Use

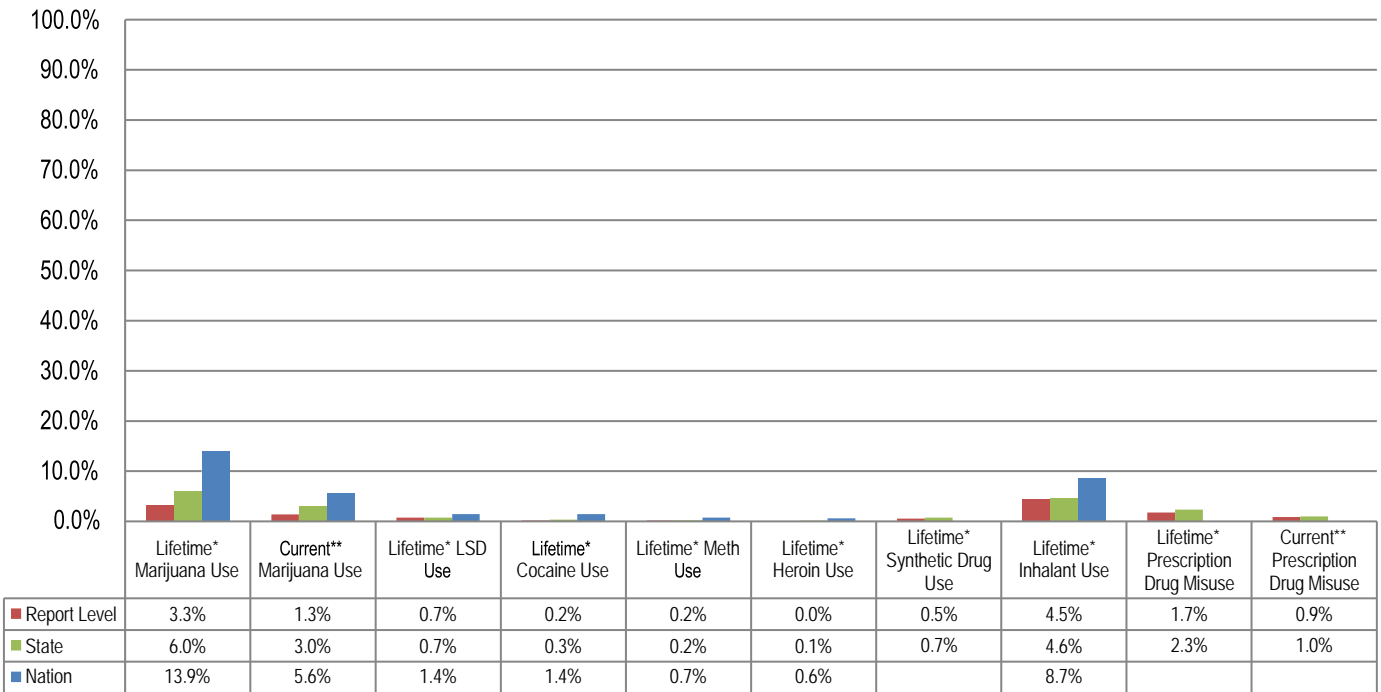


### 8th Grade Substance Use: Alcohol and Tobacco, 2018



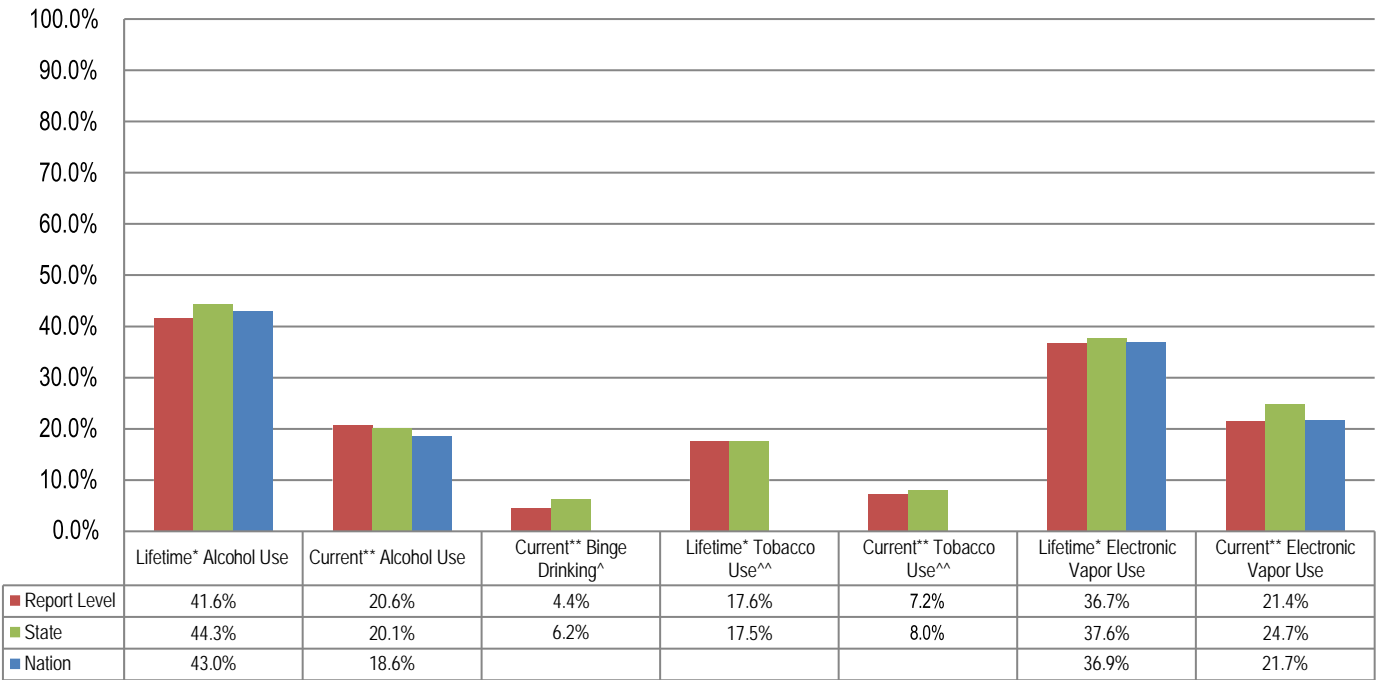
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days. ^Percentage who reported having five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours. ^^Tobacco use includes cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Individual results for each can be found in Appendix A.

### 8th Grade Substance Use: Other Drugs, 2018



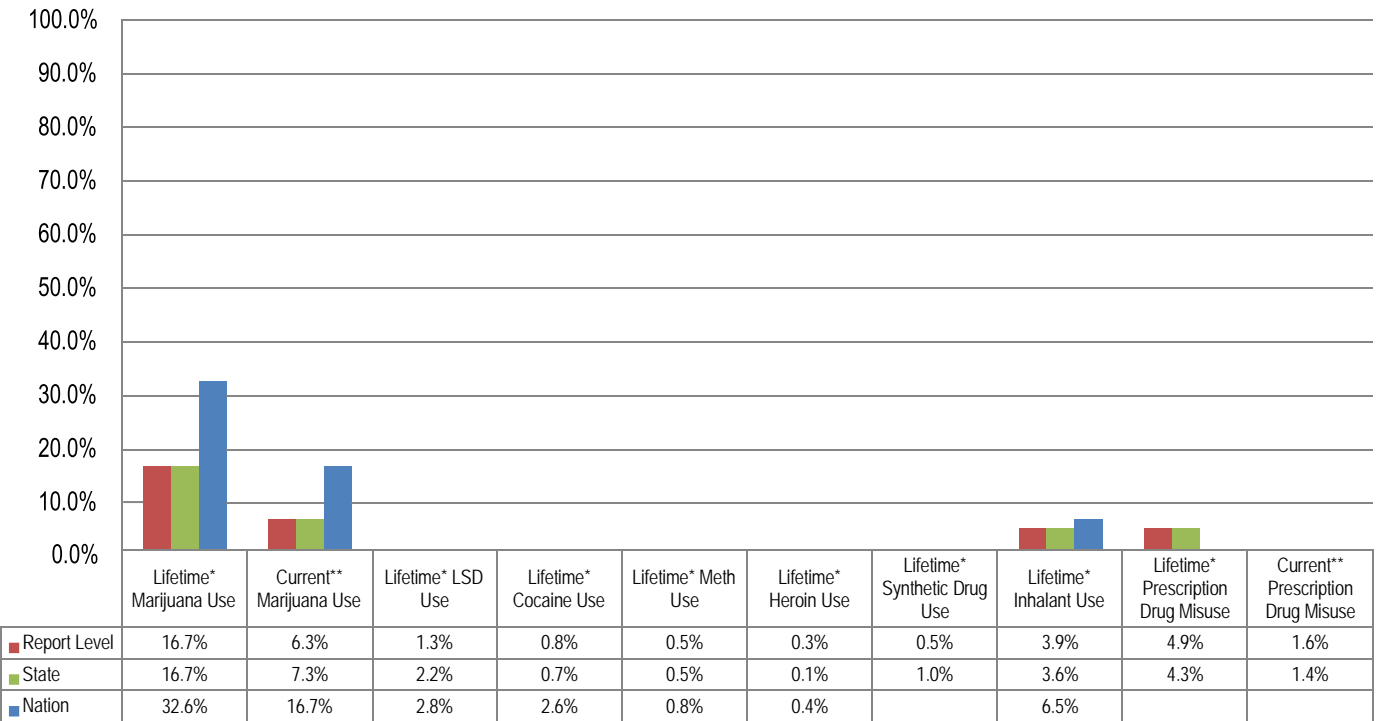
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days.

10th Grade Substance Use: Alcohol and Tobacco, 2018



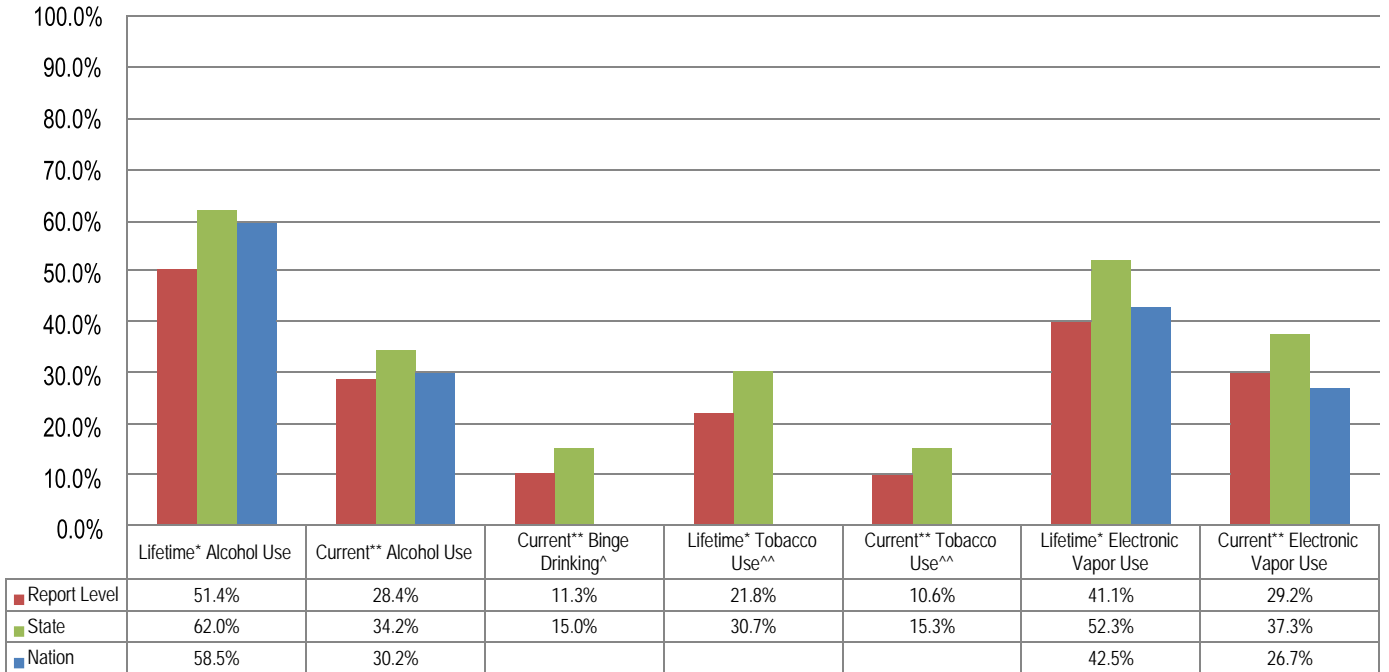
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days. ^Percentage who reported having five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours. ^^Tobacco use includes cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Individual results for each can be found in Appendix A.

10th Grade Substance Use: Other Drugs, 2018



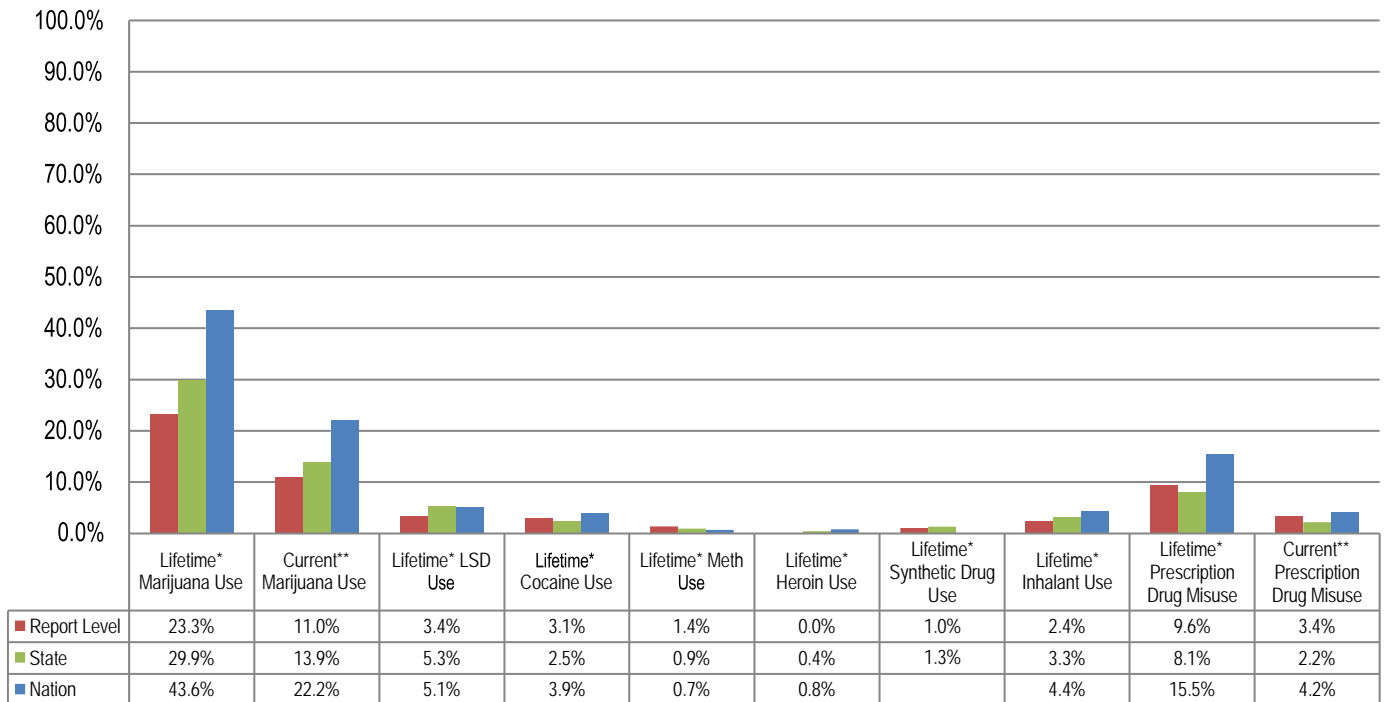
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days.

12th Grade Substance Use: Alcohol and Tobacco, 2018



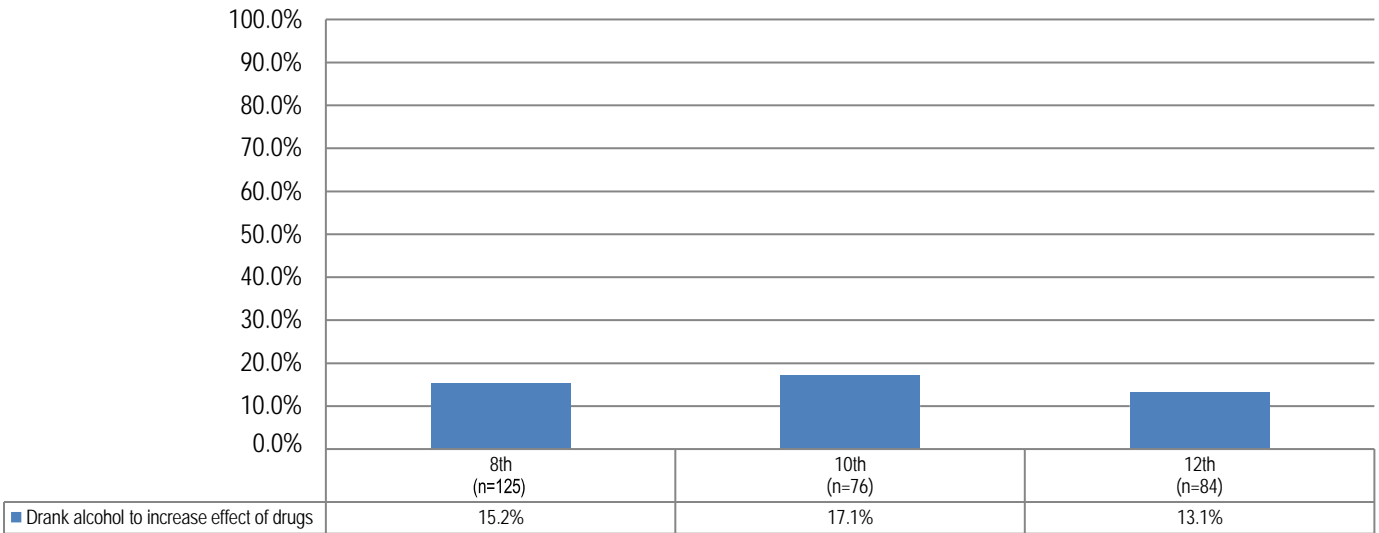
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days. ^Percentage who reported having five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours. ^^Tobacco use includes cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Individual results for each can be found in Appendix A.

12th Grade Substance Use: Other Drugs, 2018



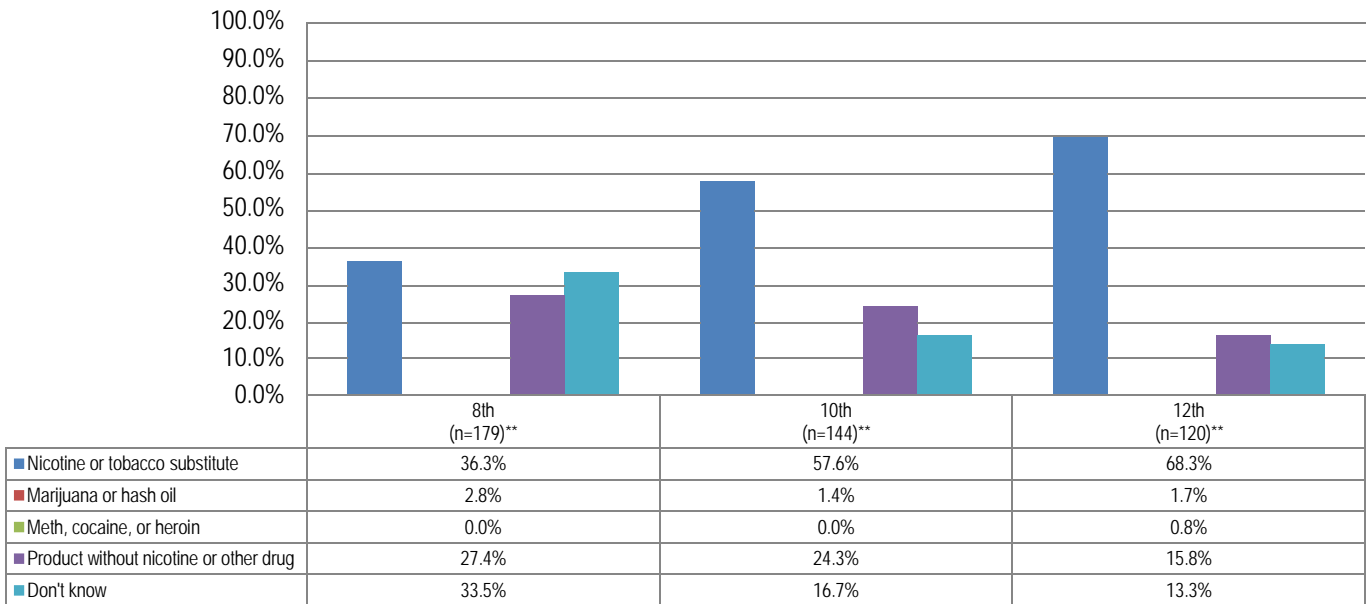
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days.

Percentage Reporting Drinking Alcohol to Increase Effect of Some Other Drug, among Students who Reported Drinking in the Past 30 Days\*, 2018



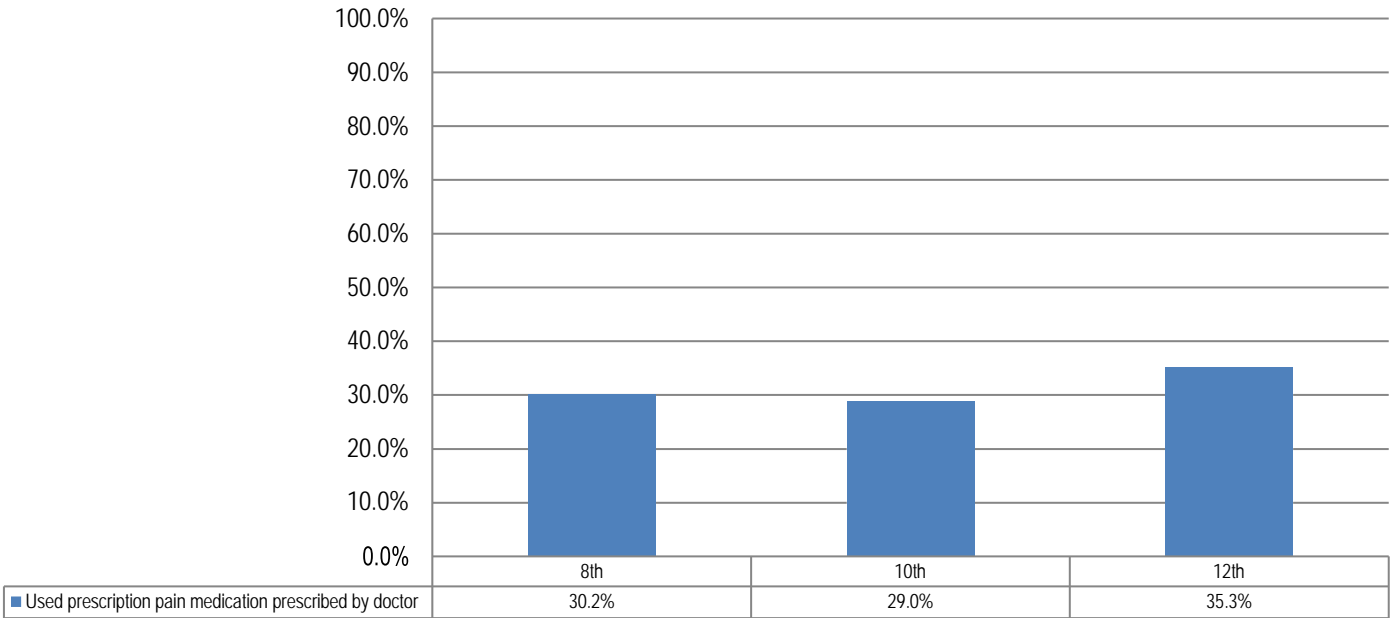
Notes. \*Among past 30 day alcohol users, the percentage who reported drinking alcohol one or more times to increase the effect of some of other drug or drugs during the past 30 days.

Type of Mist Inhaled in Electronic Vaporizer, among Students who Reported Using an E-cigarette or Vaping Device\*, 2018



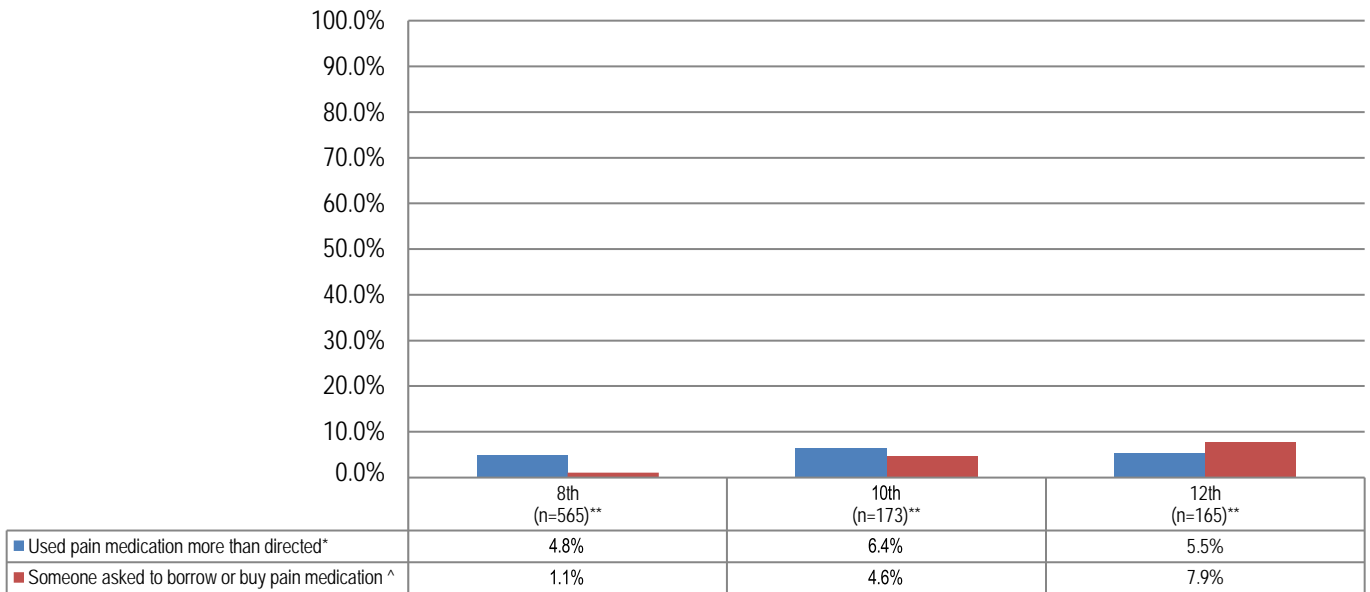
Notes. \*Based on the question "The last time you used an electronic vaporizer such as an e-cigarette, what was in the mist you inhaled?" \*\*The n-size displayed is the same for all types of mist given that type of mist inhaled in an electronic vaporizer is asked as one question.

Percentage Reporting Using Pain Medication Prescribed by a Doctor during the Past 12 Months\*, 2018



Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "During the past 12 months, did you use pain medications that a doctor prescribed for you?"

Other Pain Medication Topics, among Students who Reported Receiving Prescription Pain Medication from a Doctor, 2018

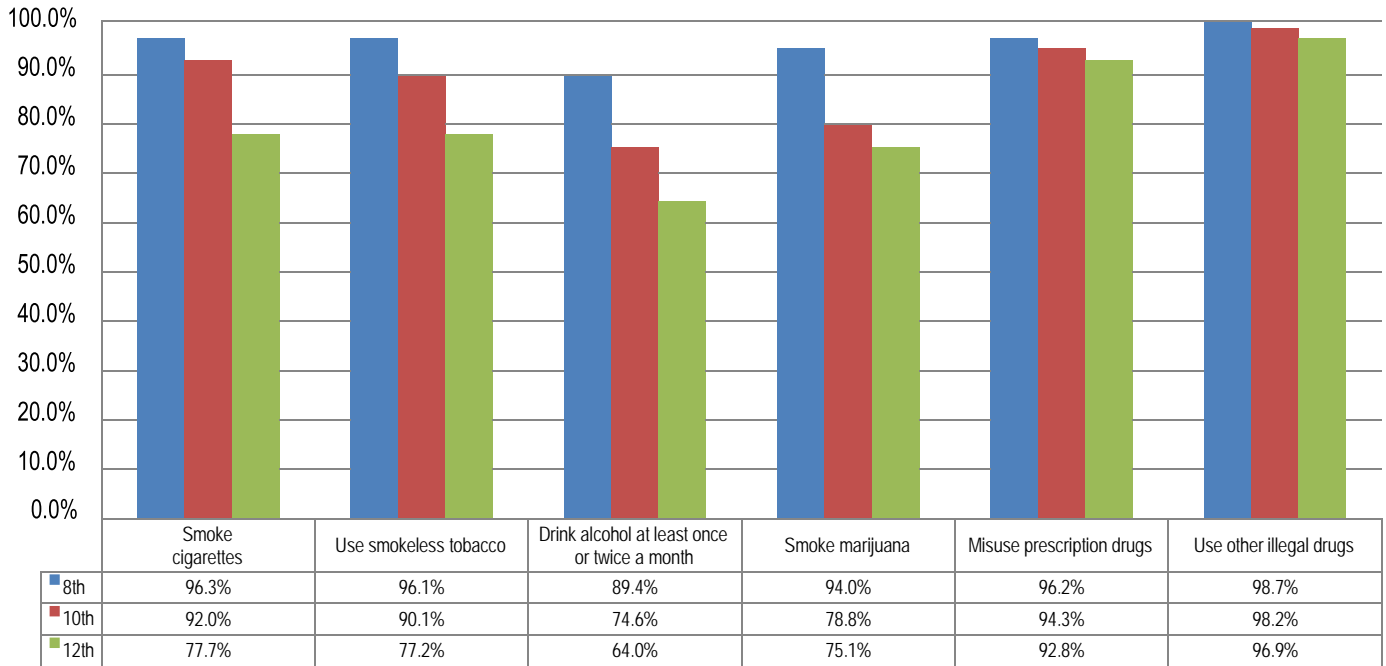


Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "The last time a doctor prescribed a pain medication for you, did you use any of the pain medication more frequently or in higher doses than directed by a doctor?" ^Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "The last time a doctor prescribed a pain medication for you, did anyone ask you about borrowing or buying some of your medication?" \*\*The n-size displayed is the largest n-size across these questions. Because each question is asked individually, the n-size may vary.



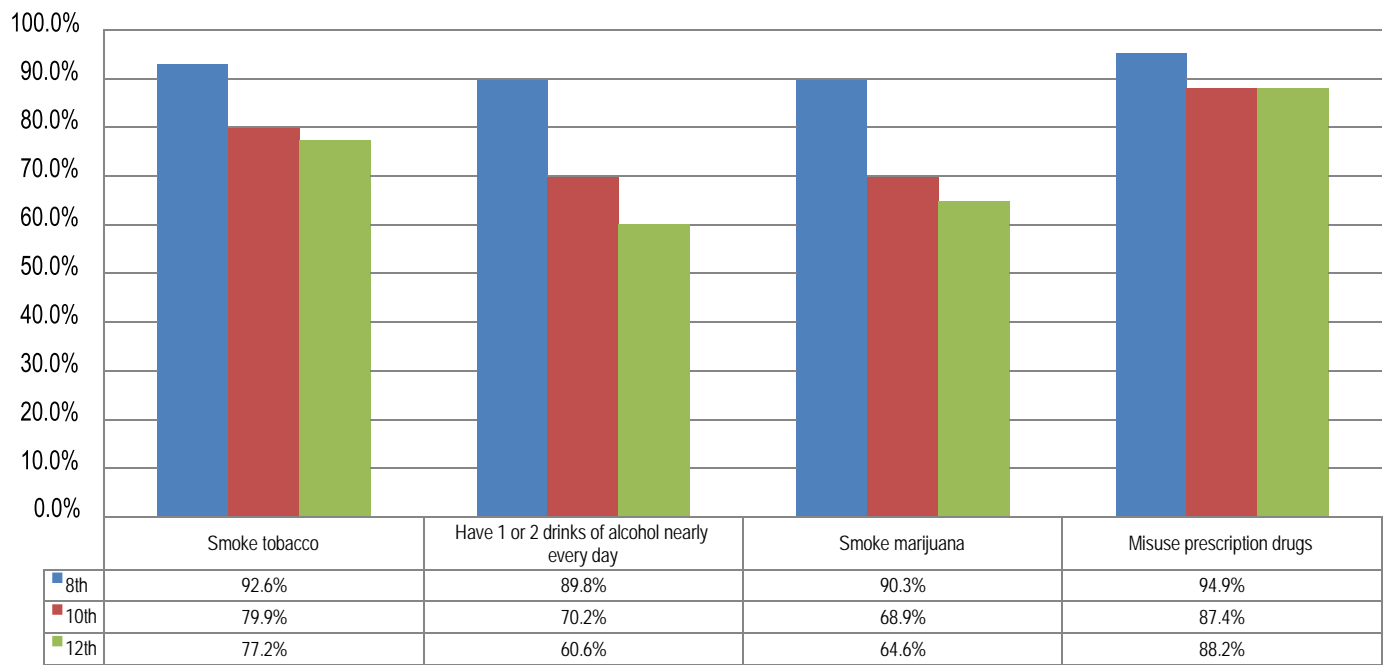
Attitudes toward Substance Use

Percentage Reporting Wrong or Very Wrong to Substance Use Behavior\*, 2018



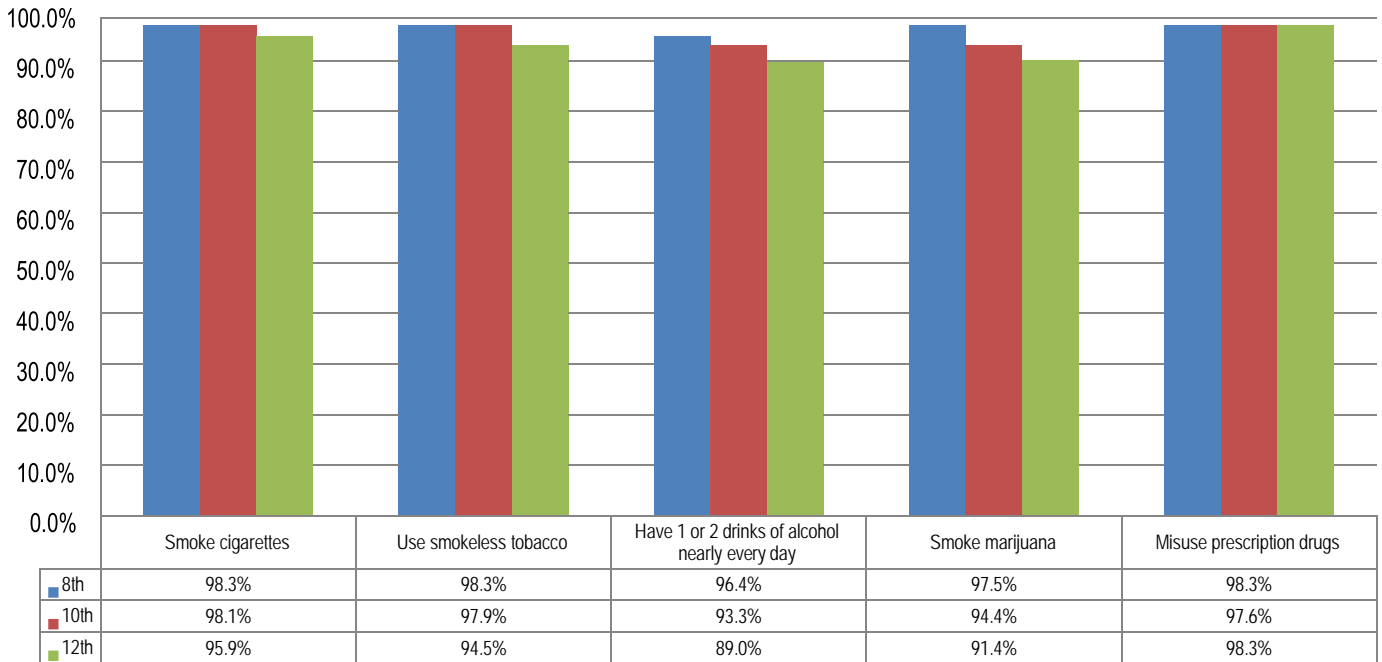
Note. \*Percentage who reported how wrong they think different substance behaviors are based on the following scale: Very wrong, Wrong, A little bit wrong, Not wrong at all.

Percentage Reporting Peer Wrong or Very Wrong to Substance Use Behavior\*, 2018



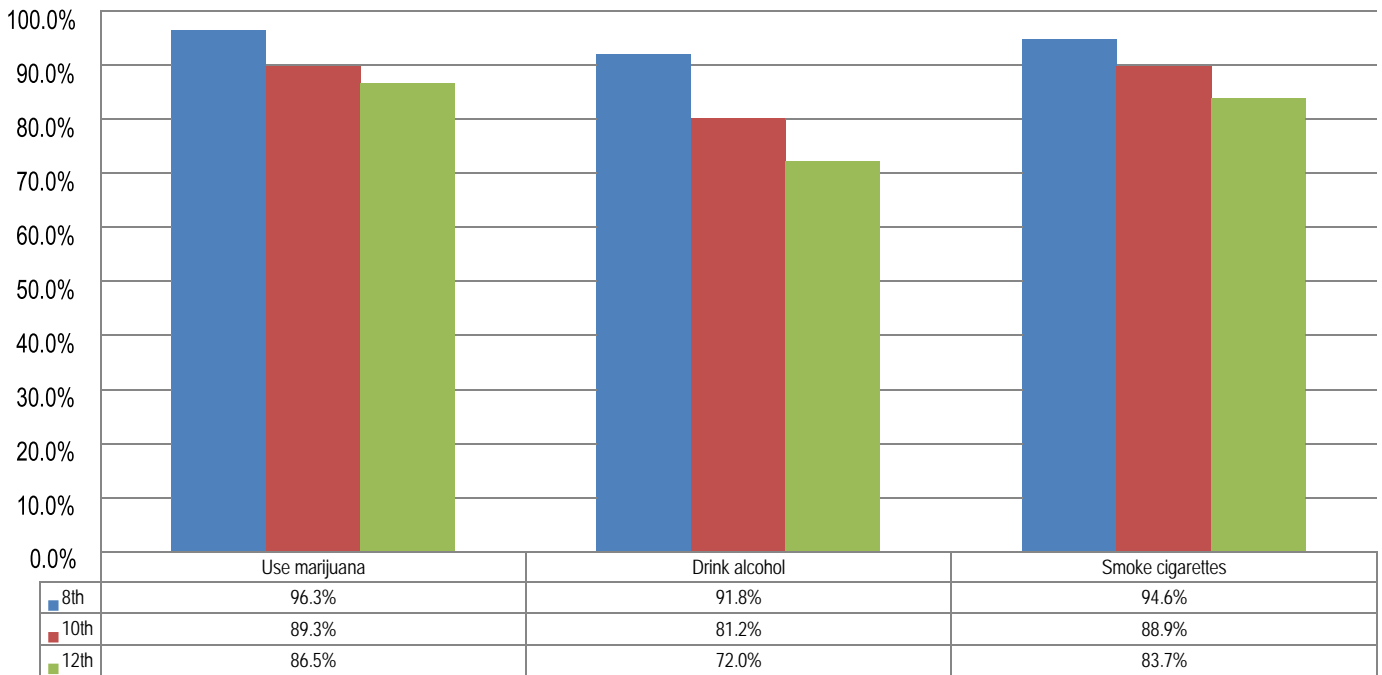
Note. \*Percentage who reported how wrong their friends would think different substance behaviors are based on the following scale: Very wrong, Wrong, A little bit wrong, Not wrong at all.

Percentage Reporting Parent Wrong or Very Wrong to Substance Use Behavior\*, 2018



Note: \*Percentage who reported how wrong their parents would think different substance behaviors are based on the following scale: Very wrong, Wrong, A little bit wrong, Not wrong at all.

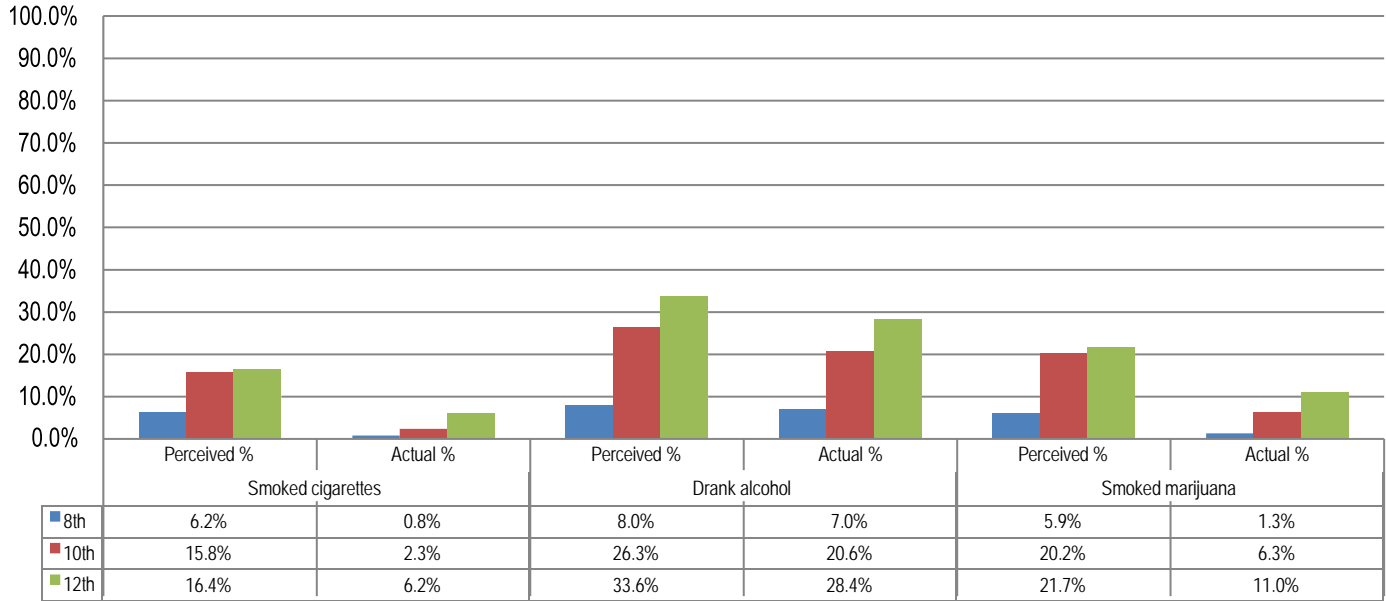
Percentage Reporting Adults in Neighborhood Wrong or Very Wrong to Substance Use Behavior\*, 2018



Note: \*Percentage who reported how wrong adults in their neighborhood would think different substance behaviors are based on the following scale: Very wrong, Wrong, A little bit wrong, Not wrong at all.

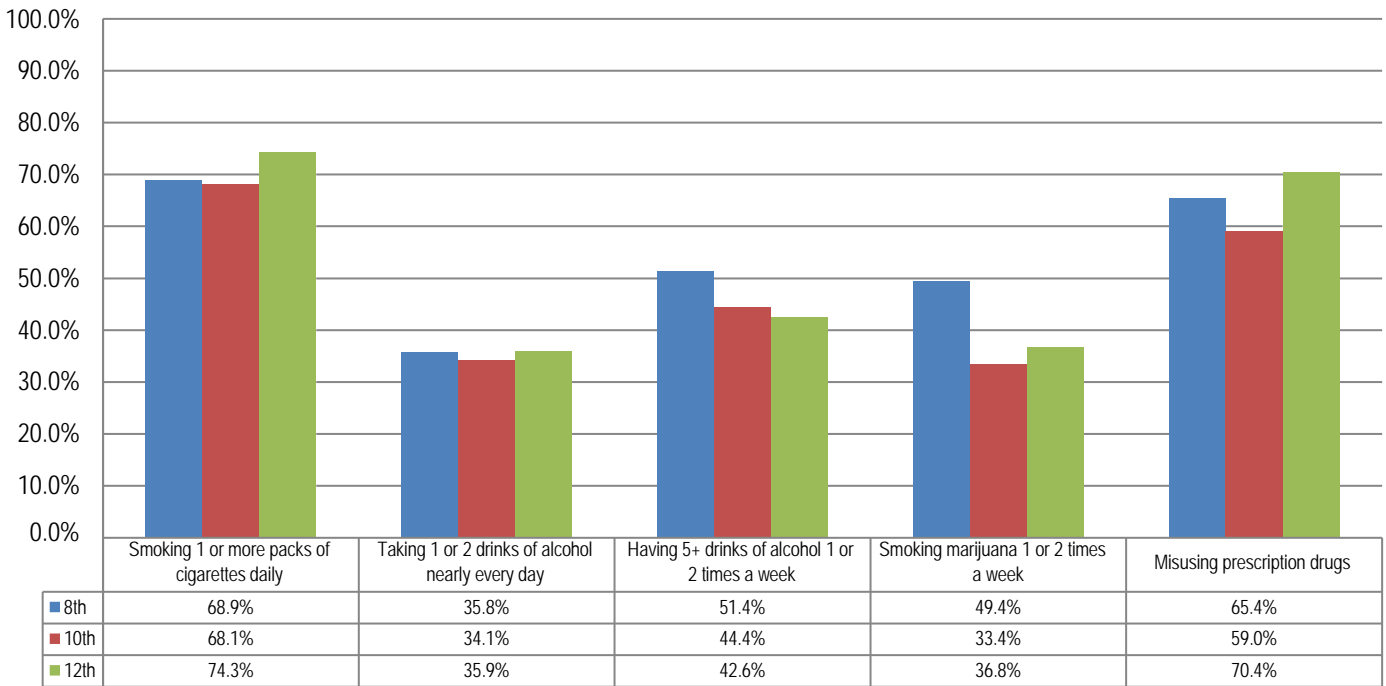
Perceptions of Substance Use

Perceived\* and Actual Past 30 Day Substance Use, 2018



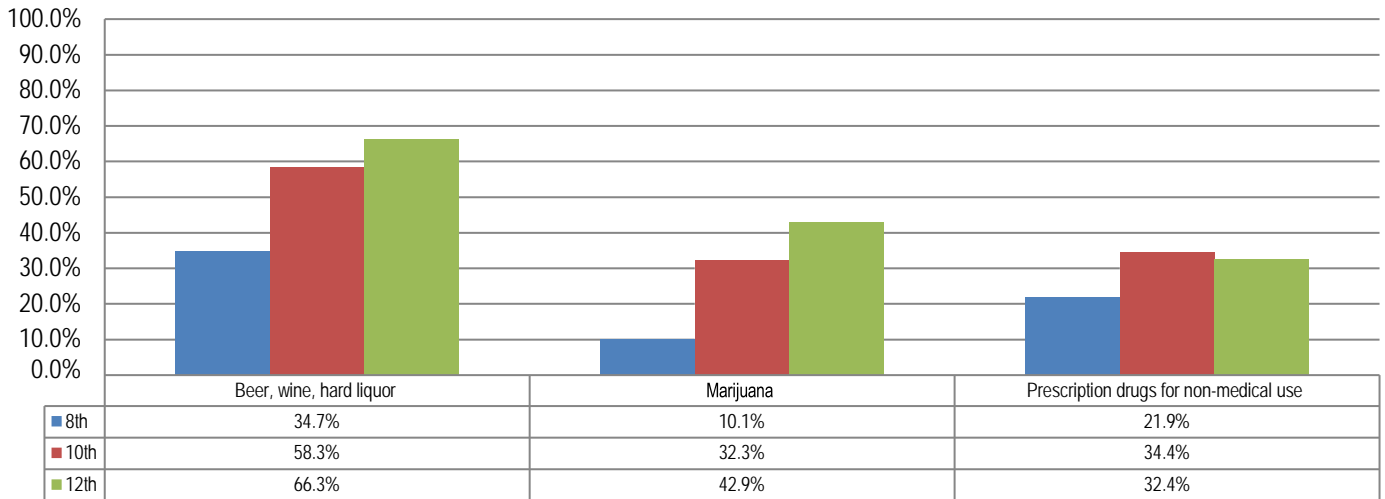
Note. \*Perception based on following question: "Now thinking about all the students in your grade at your school. How many of them do you think: <insert substance use behavior> during the past 30 days?"

Percentage Reporting that the Following Substance Use Behaviors Place People at Great Risk\*, 2018



Note. \*Percentage who reported great risk associated with each substance behaviors based on the following scale: No risk, Slight risk, Moderate risk, Great risk. Based on the question "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they: <insert substance use behavior>."

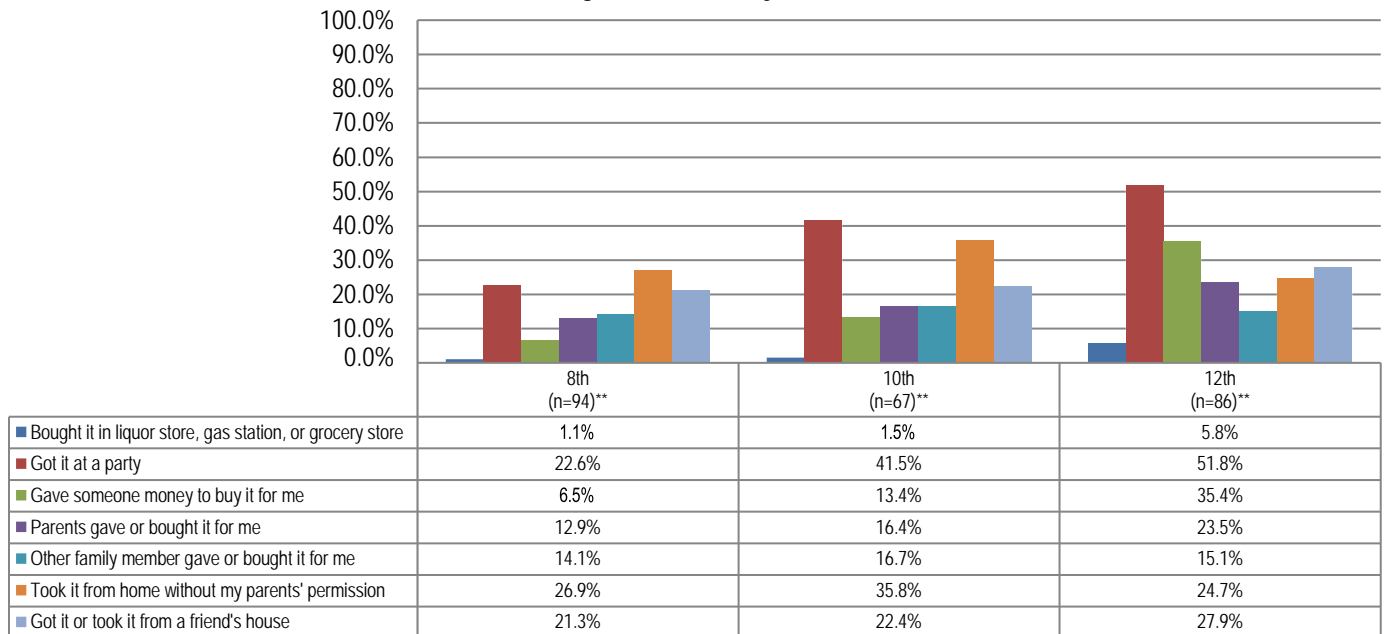
Percentage Reporting that the Following Substances are Sort of Easy or Very Easy to Obtain\*, 2018



Note: \*Percentage who reported it is sort of or very easy to obtain each substances based on the following scale: Very hard, Sort of hard, Sort of easy, Very easy. Based on the question "If you wanted to, how easy would it be for you to get: <insert substance use behavior>."

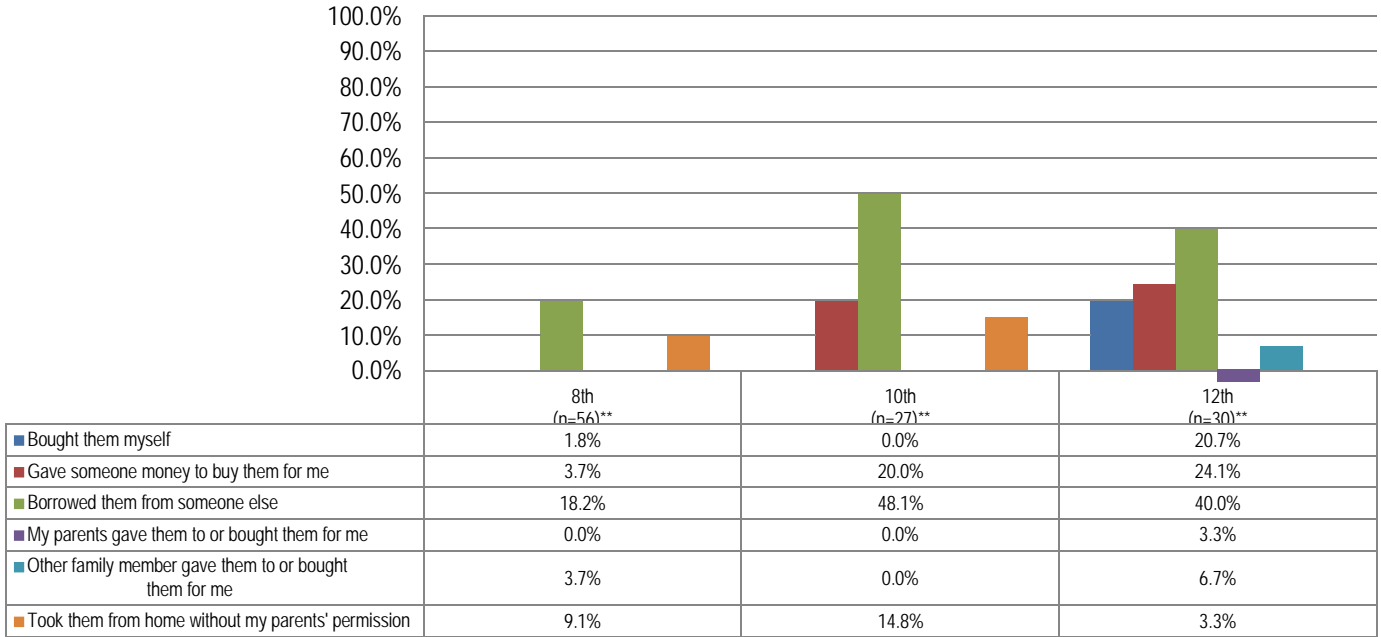
Sources of Substances

Sources for Obtaining Alcohol during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Reported Drinking during the Past 30 Days\*, 2018



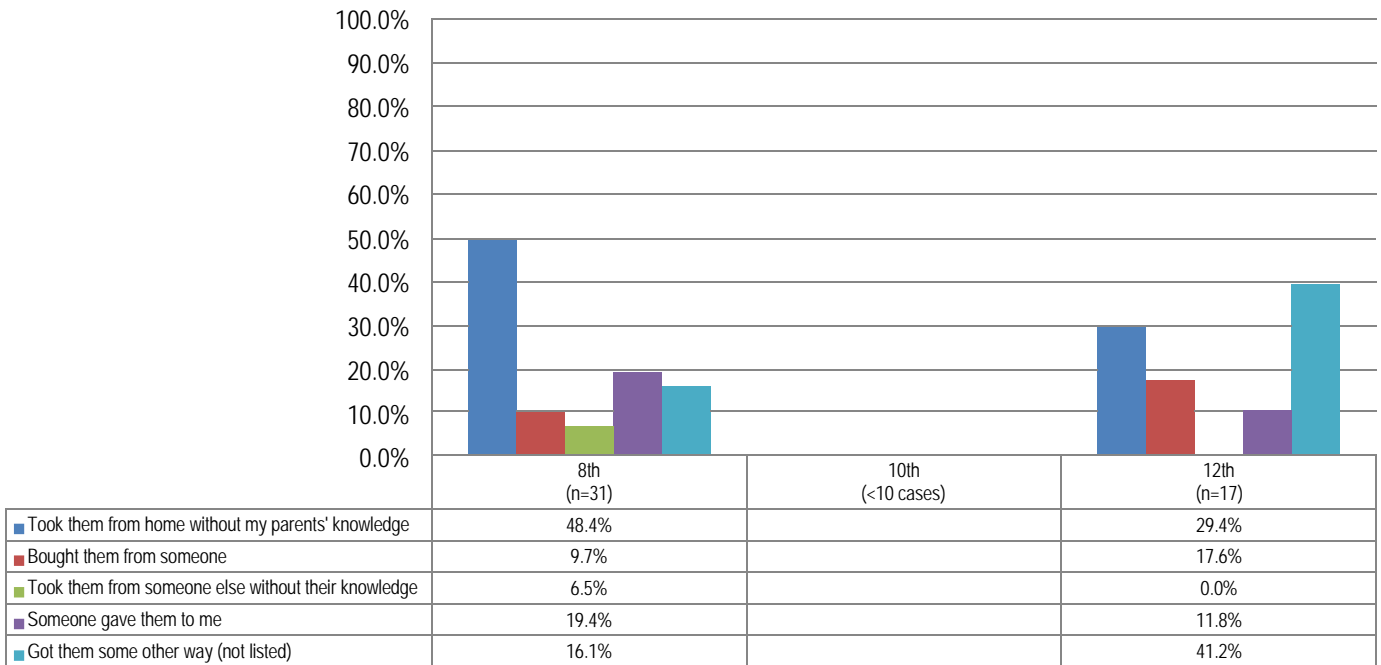
Notes: \*Among past 30 day alcohol users, the percentage who reported obtaining alcohol in each manner during the past 30 days. \*\*The n-size displayed is the largest n-size across these questions. Because each source is asked individually, the n-size may vary across sources.

Sources for Obtaining Cigarettes during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Reported Smoking during the Past 30 Days\*, 2018



Notes. \*Among past 30 day cigarette users, the percentage who reported obtaining cigarettes in each manner during the past 30 days. These scores may include students 18 and older.\*\*The n-size displayed is the largest n-size across these questions. Because each source is asked individually, the n-size may vary across sources.

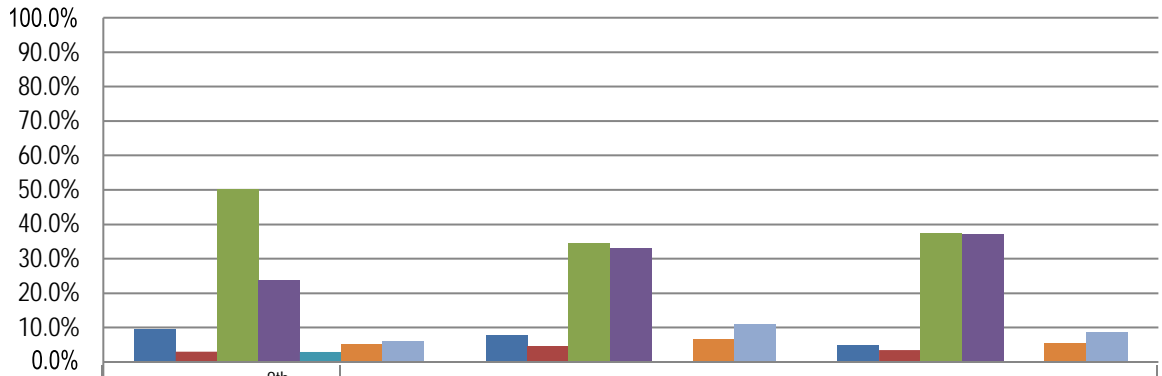
Sources for Obtaining Prescription Drugs during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Reported Taking Prescription Drugs during the Past 30 Days\*, 2018



Notes. \*Among past 30 day prescription drug users, the percentage who reported obtaining prescription drugs in each manner during the past 30 days.

Other Substance-Related Topics

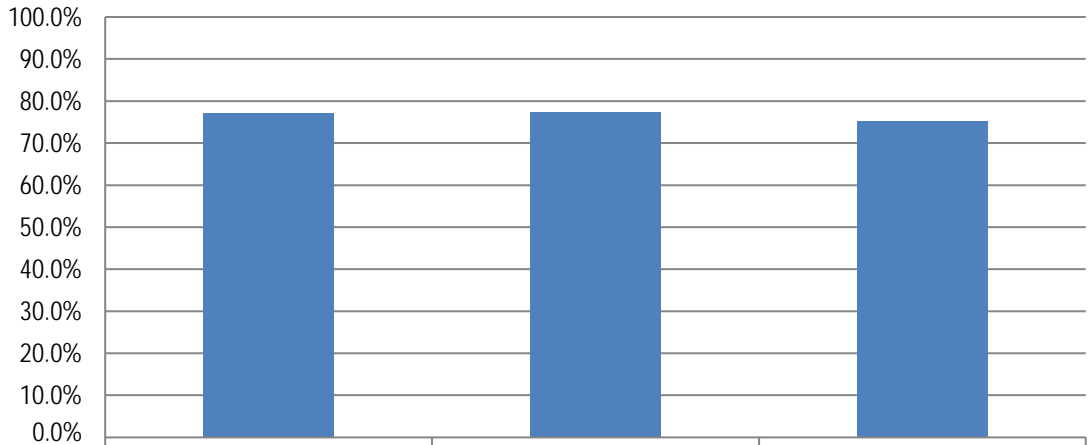
First Person to go to for Drug or Alcohol Problem\*, 2018



	8th (n=1267)**	10th (n=369)**	12th (n=291)**
A counselor in school	9.6%	7.6%	4.8%
Another adult in school	2.9%	4.6%	3.4%
Parents or caregivers	50.0%	34.4%	37.5%
Friends	23.6%	33.1%	37.1%
Counselor or program outside of school	2.8%	3.0%	3.1%
Another adult outside of school	5.0%	6.5%	5.5%
Wouldn't go to anyone	6.1%	10.8%	8.6%

Notes. \*Based on the question "If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who is the first person you would go to?" \*\*The n-size displayed is the same for all sources given that source of help for a drug or alcohol problem is asked as one question.

Percentage Reporting Seeing or Hearing Anti-Alcohol or Anti-Drug Messages during the Past 12 Months\*, 2018



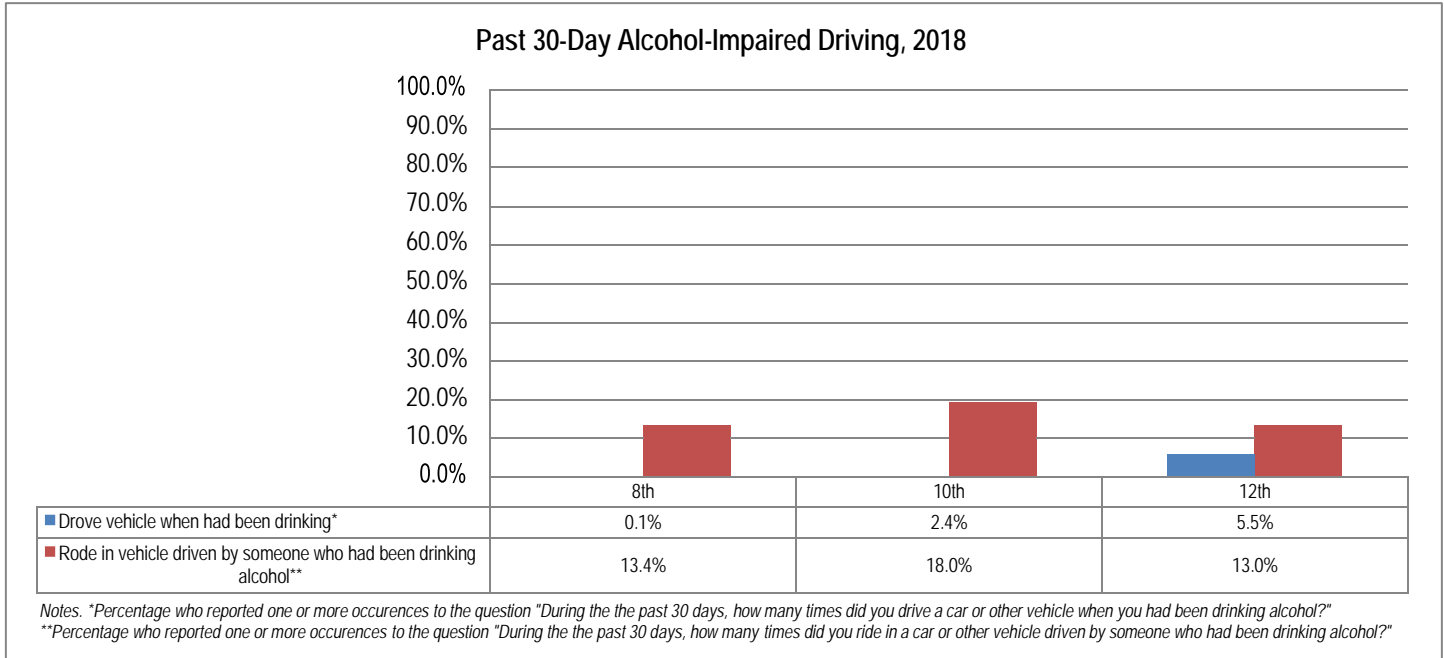
	8th	10th	12th
Seen or heard anti-alcohol or anti-drug messages	77.1%	77.4%	75.3%

Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "In the past 12 months, have you seen or heard any anti-alcohol or anti-drug messages on TV, the internet, the radio, or in newspapers or magazines?"

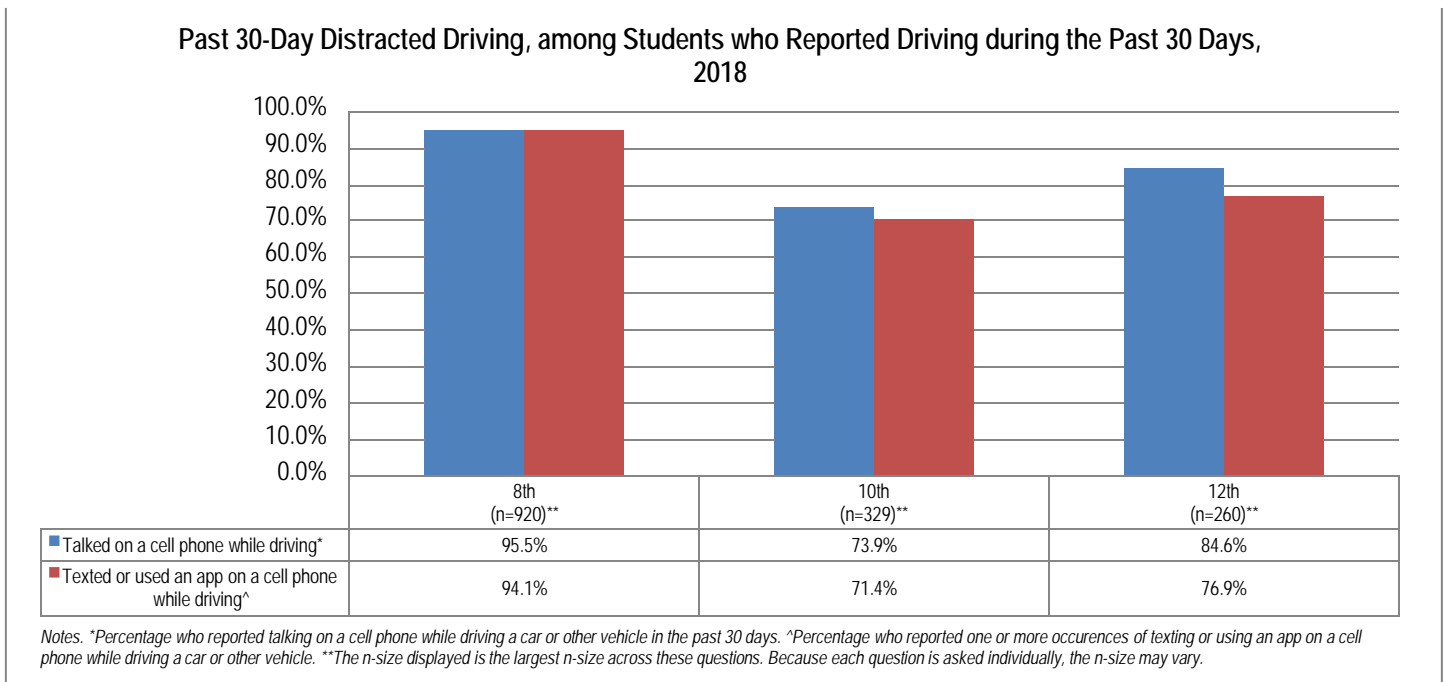
Transportation Safety

This section contains information on transportation safety relating to alcohol-impaired and distracted driving among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska.

Past 30 Day Alcohol-Impaired Driving



Past 30 Day Distracted Driving

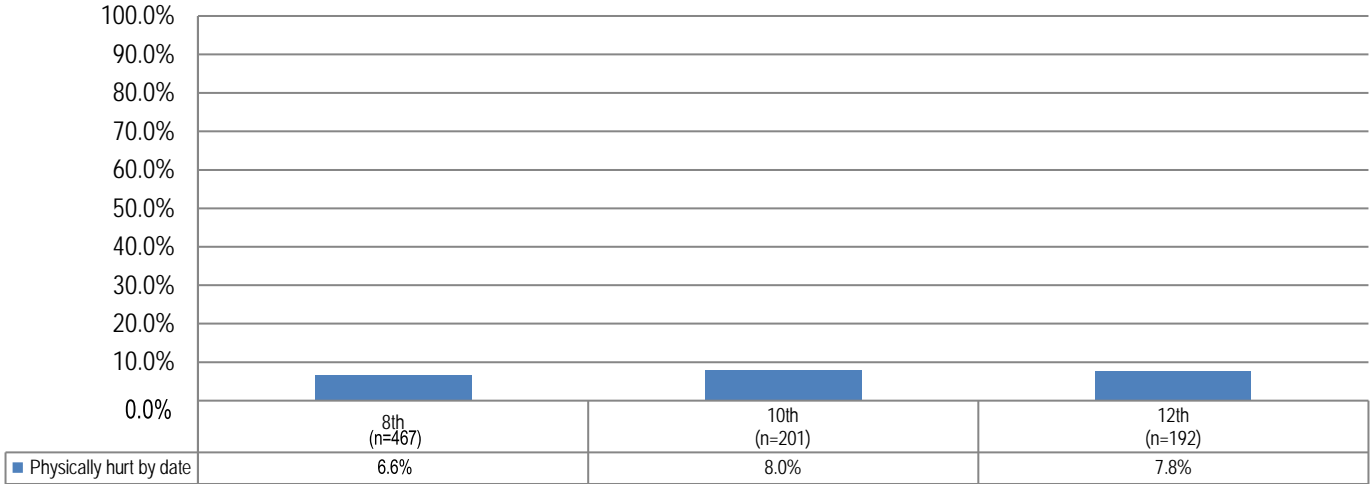


**Violence, Bullying, and Mental Health**

This section contains information on dating violence, bullying, anxiety, depression, suicide, and attitudes toward the future among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska.

**Dating Violence during the Past 12 Months**

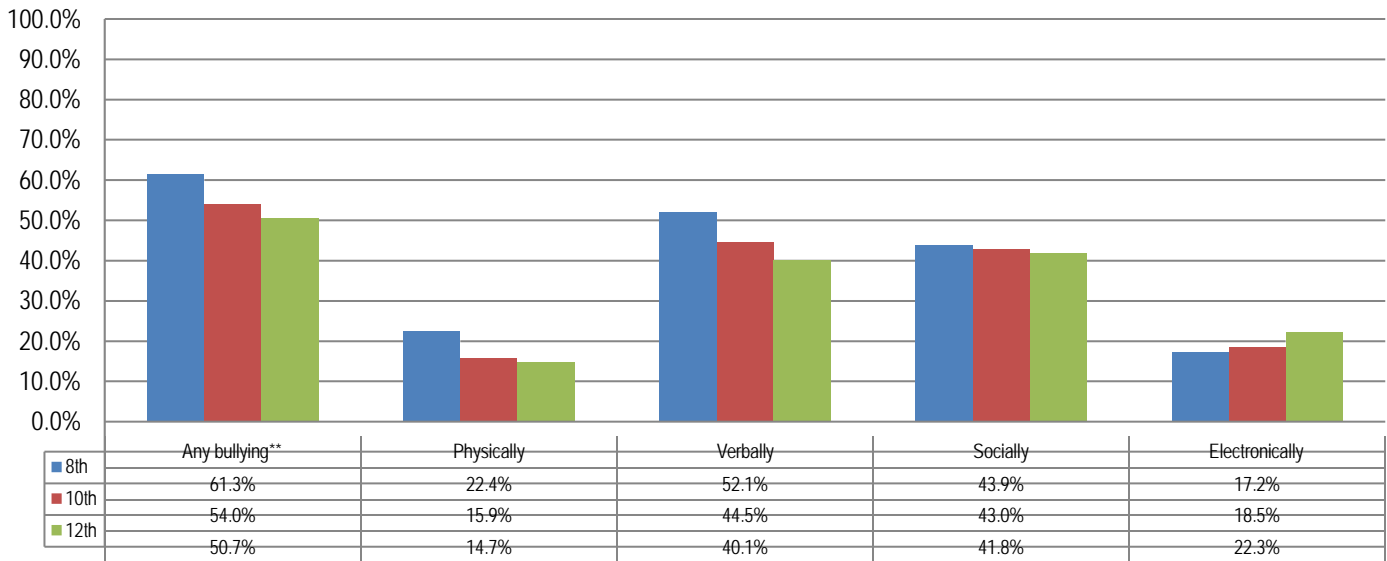
Percentage Reporting Physical Dating Violence, among Students who Reported Dating during the Past 12 Months\*, 2018



Notes. \*Percentage who reported being physically hurt on purpose one or more times by someone they were dating or going out with during the past 12 months.

**Bullying during the Past 12 Months**

Percentage that were Bullied during the Past 12 Months, by Type of Bullying\*, 2018

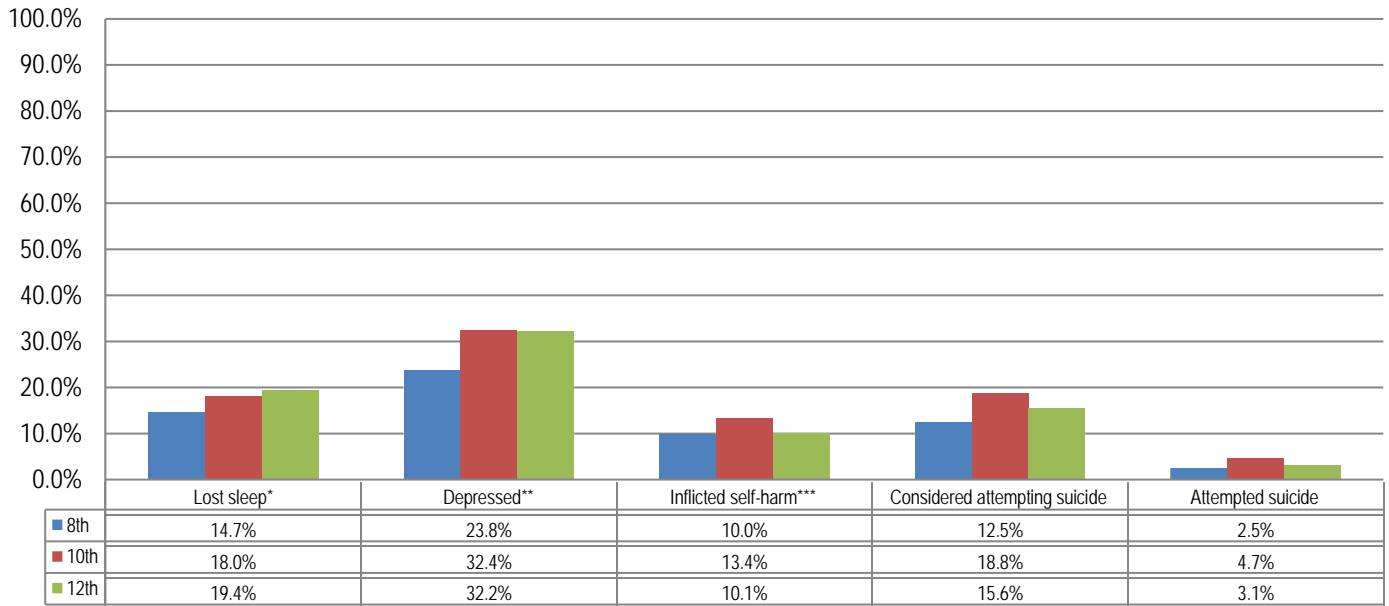


Note. \*Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each type of bullying. \*\*Percentage of students who reported one or more occurrences of one or more of these types of bullying.



Anxiety, Depression, and Suicide during the Past 12 Months

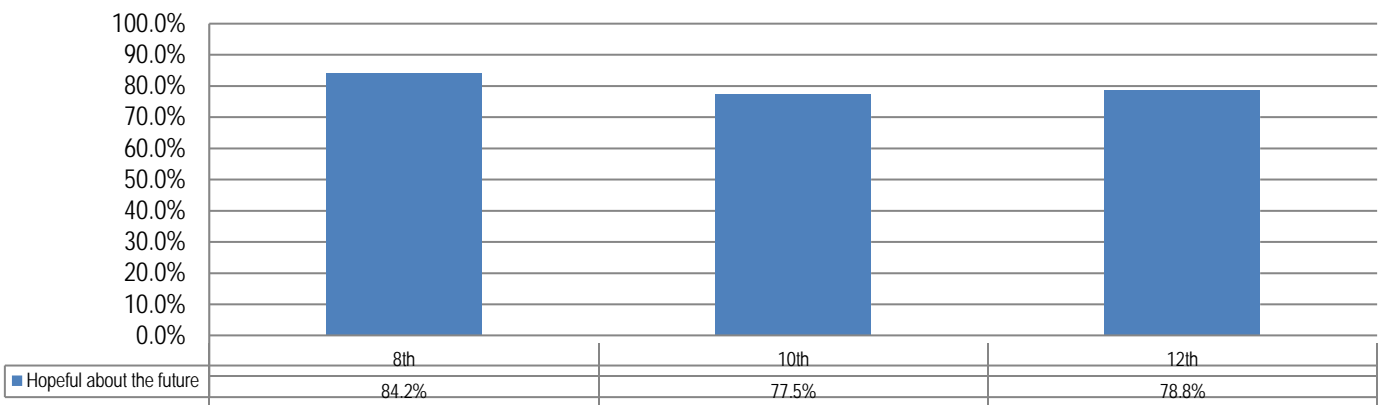
Percentage Reporting Anxiety, Depression, and Suicide during the Past 12 Months, 2018



Notes: \*Percentage who reported during the past 12 months being so worried about something they could not sleep well at night most of the time or always based on the following scale: Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Most of the time, Always. \*\*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?" \*\*\*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "During the past 12 months, did you hurt or injure yourself on purpose without wanting to die?"

Attitudes toward the Future

Percentage Reporting they were Hopeful About the Future during the Past Week\*, 2018

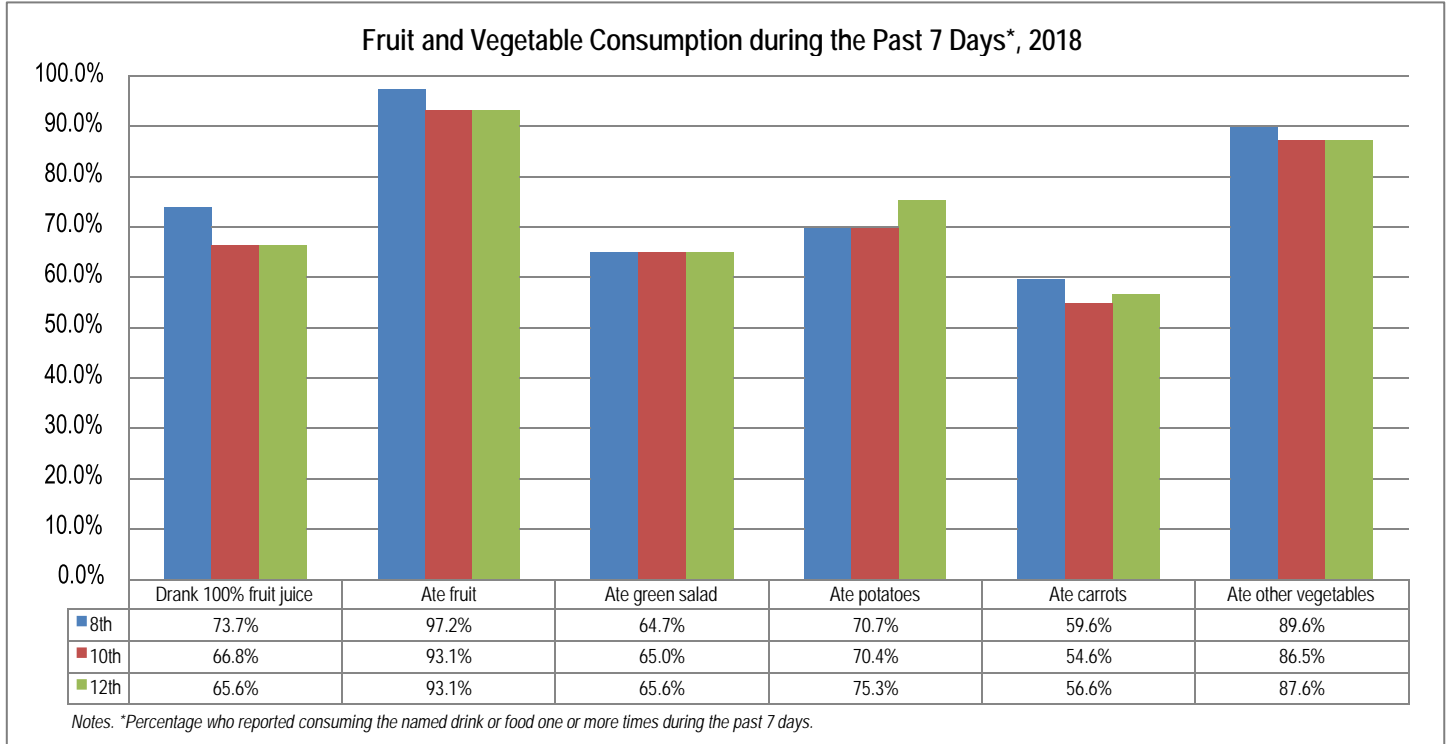


Notes: \*Percentage who reported they "Agree" or "Strongly agree" to the question "In the past week, I have felt hopeful about the future." Based on the following scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree.

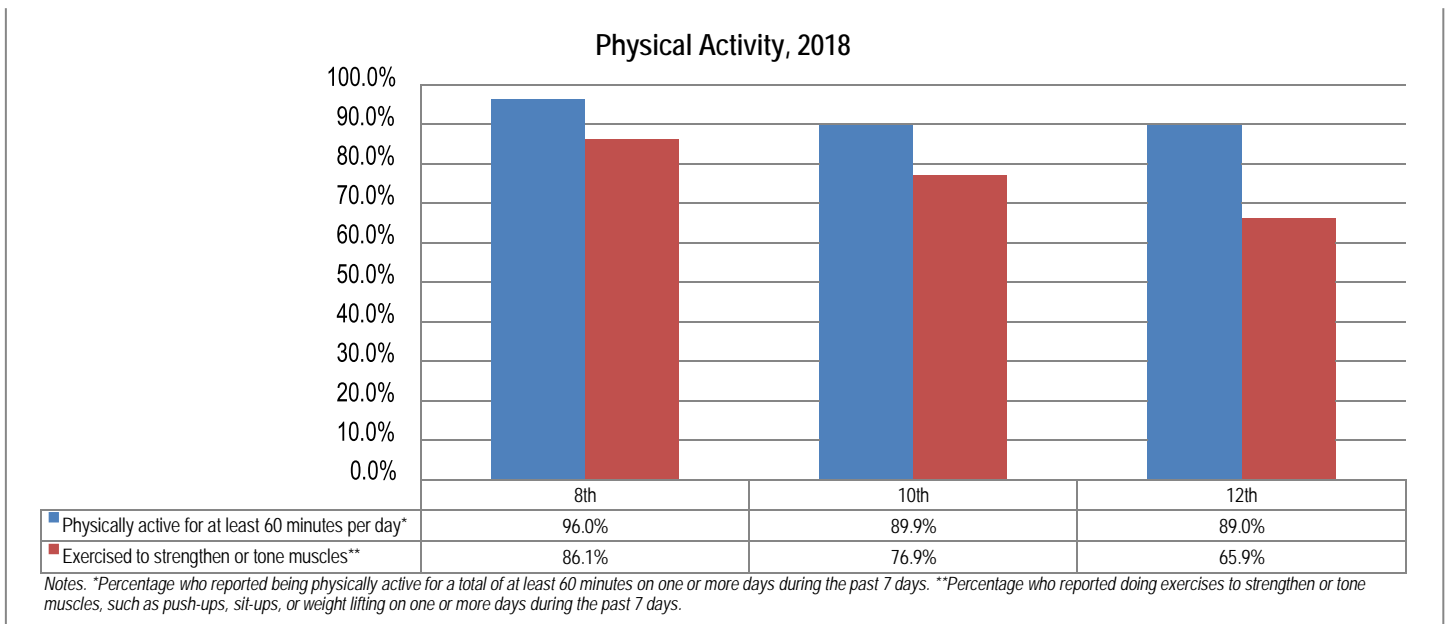
**Nutrition and Physical Activity**

This section contains information on fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska.

**Fruit and Vegetable Consumption during the Past 7 Days**



**Physical Activity**

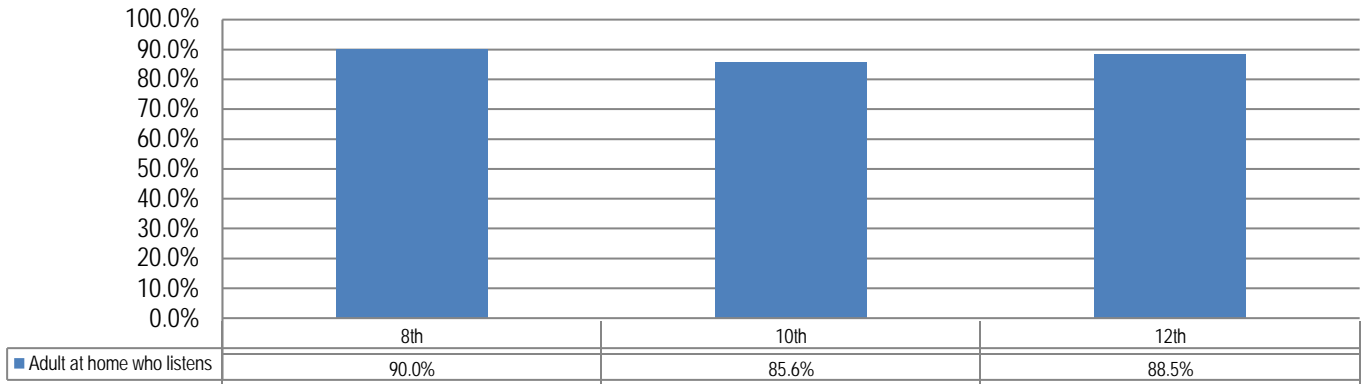


Feelings and Experiences at Home, School, and in the Community

This section contains information on feelings and experiences with family, at school, and in the community for 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska.

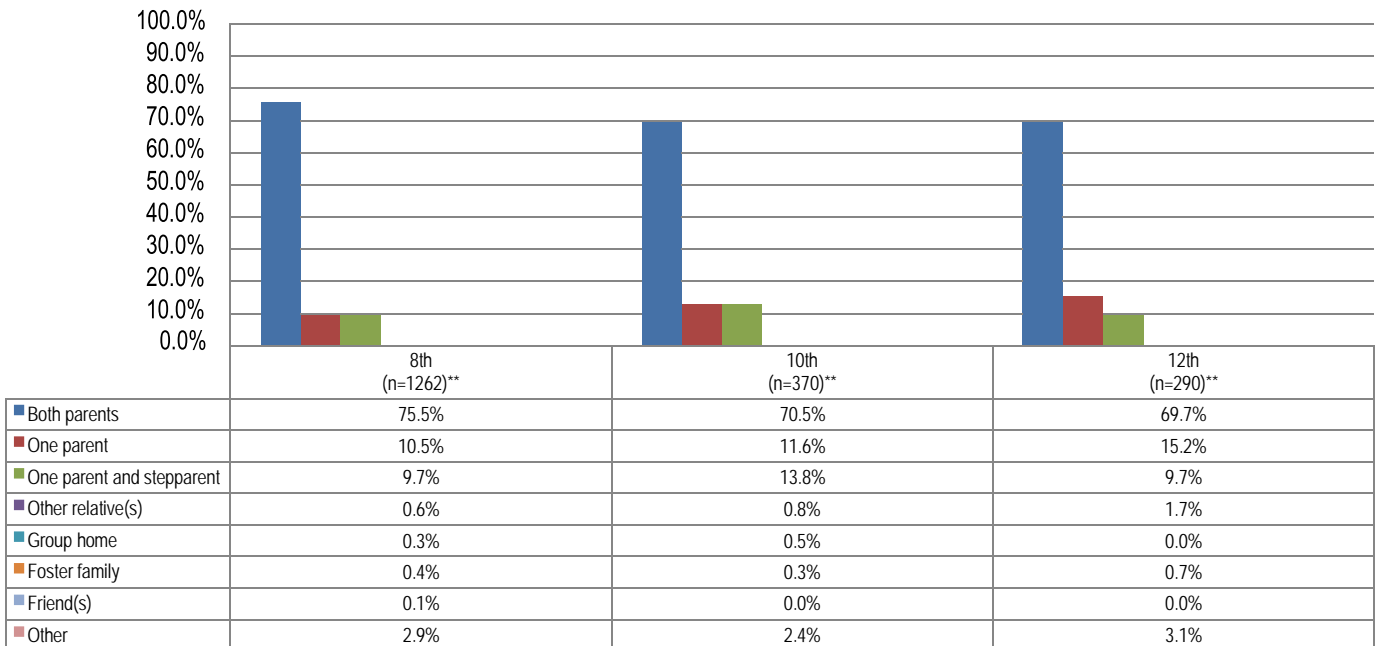
Feelings and Experiences with Family

Percentage Reporting Adult at Homes Who Listens\*, 2018



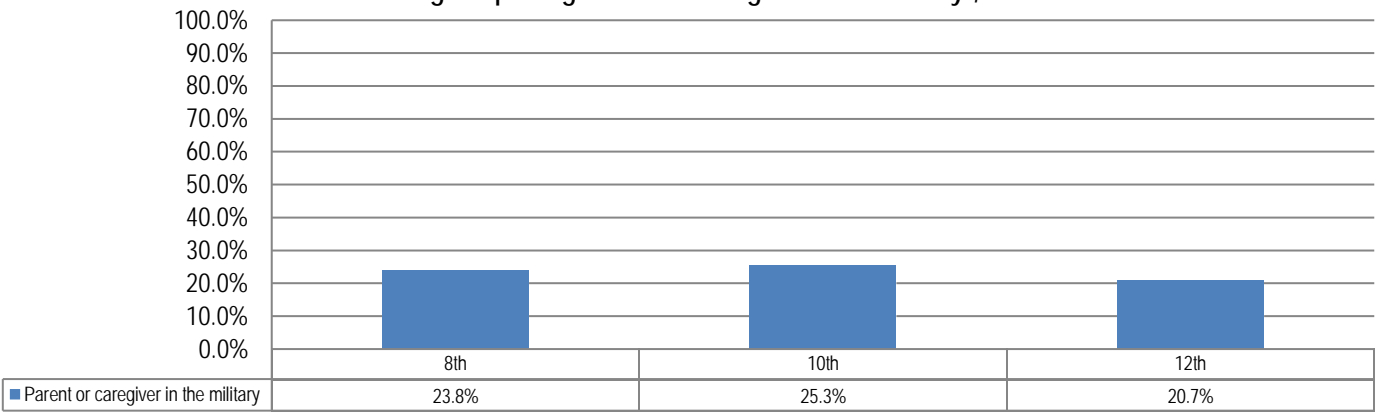
Notes. \*Percentage who reported they "Agree" or "Strongly agree" to the statement "In my home, there is an adult who listens to me when I have something to say." Based on the following scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree.

Percentage Reporting Living with the Following People\*, 2018



Notes. \*Based on the question "Do you live with:". \*\*The n-size displayed is the same for all people given that who they live with is asked as one question.

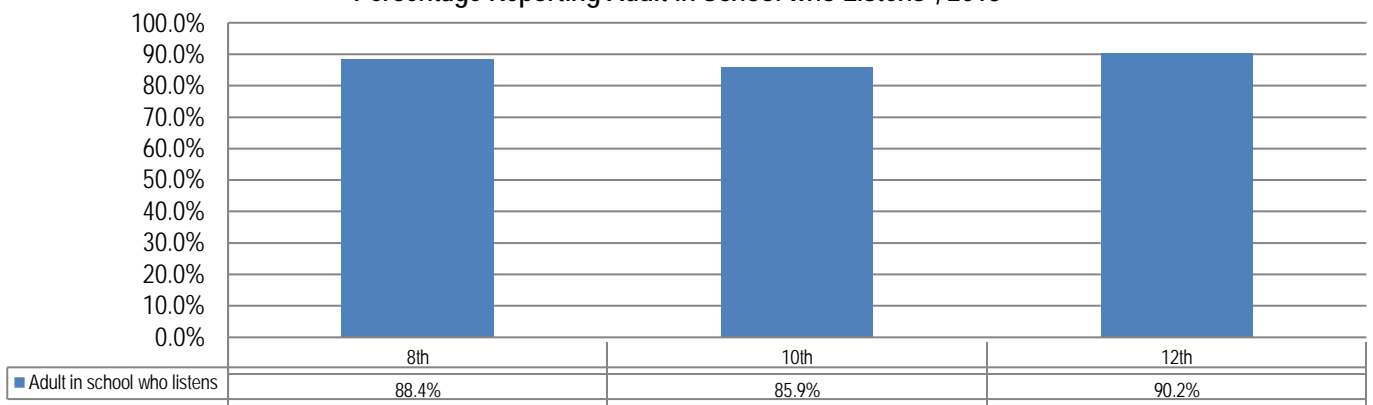
Percentage Reporting Parent or Caregiver in the Military\*, 2018



Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "During any time in your life, have any of your parents or caregivers served in the military?"

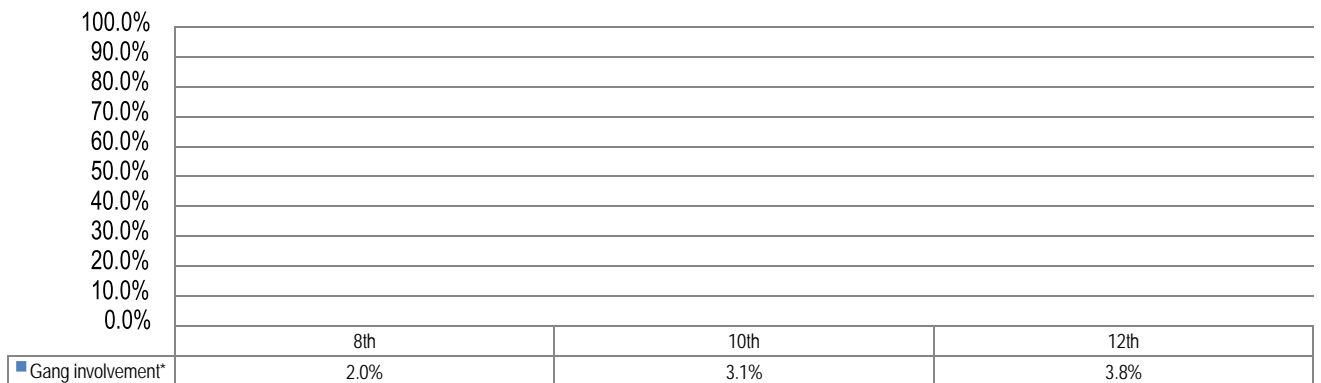
Feelings and Experiences at School and in the Community

Percentage Reporting Adult in School who Listens\*, 2018



Notes. \*Percentage who reported they "Agree" or "Strongly agree" to the statement "In my school, there is an adult (such as a counselor, teacher, or coach) who listens to me when I have something to say." Based on the following scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree.

Percentage Reporting Gang Involvement\*, 2018



Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "Do you belong to a gang?"

**Tips for Using the NRPFSS Results**

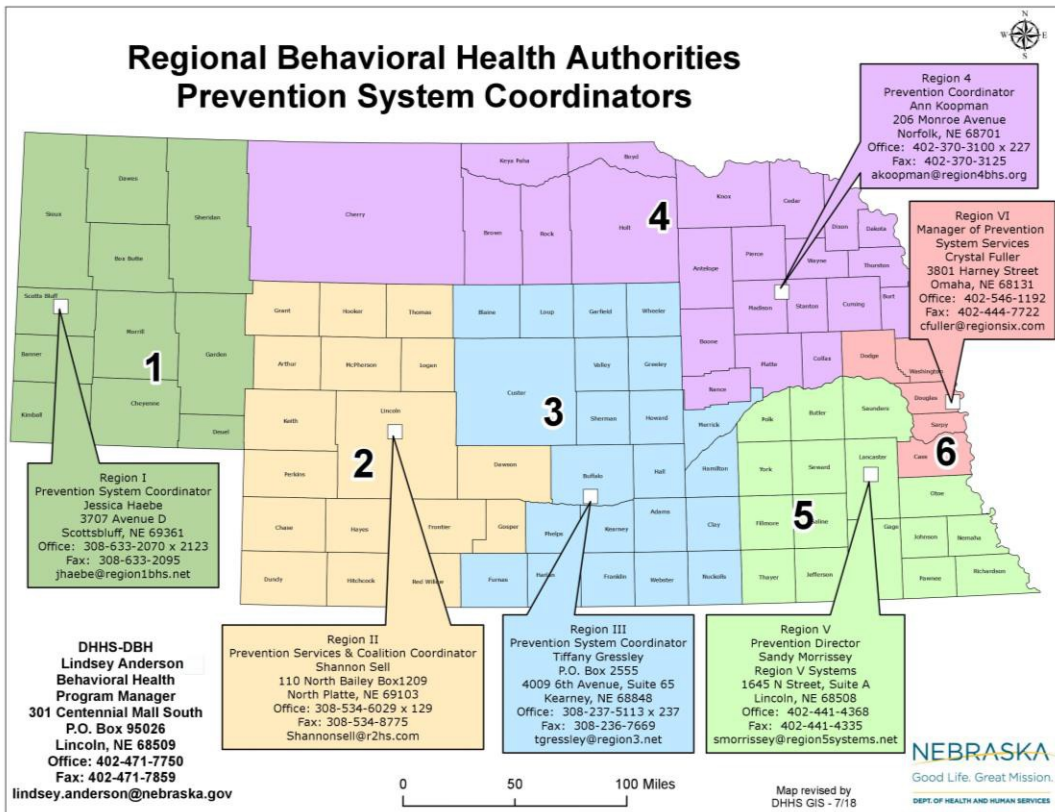
As a valued stakeholder in your community, you play an important role in prevention by teaching skills, imparting knowledge, and in helping to establish a strong foundation of character and values based on wellness, including prevention of substance use, suicide, and other risky behaviors. Preventing mental and/or substance use disorders and related problems in children, adolescents, and young adults is critical to promoting physical health and overall wellness.

There are a variety of strategies (or interventions) that can be used to increase protective factors and reduce the impact of risk factors. Prevention in schools is often completed through educational programs and school policies and procedures that contribute to the achievement of broader health goals and prevent problem behavior.

Prevention strategies typically fall into two categories:

- **Environmental Strategies**
  - These strategies effect the entire school environment and the youth within it.
    - An example of an environmental strategy would be changing school policy to not allow athletes to play if they are caught using substances.
- **Individual Strategies**
  - These strategies target individual youth to help them build knowledge, wellness, and resiliency.
    - An example of an individual strategy would be providing a curriculum as part of a health class about the harms of substances.

If you would like to implement strategies in your school or community, please contact your regional representative as shown on the map below.



You may also wish to do your own research. The following websites provide listings of evidence-based practices:

- **The Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center**
  - This is a searchable online evidence-based repository and review system designed to provide the public with reliable information on mental health and substance use interventions that are available for implementation.
  - **Website:** <https://www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center>
- **The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Model Programs Guide (MPG)**
  - This contains information about evidence-based juvenile justice and youth prevention, intervention, and reentry programs. It is a resource for practitioners and communities about what works, what is promising, and what does not work in juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and child protection and safety.
  - **Website:** <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/>
- **The Suicide Prevention Resource Center**
  - This has a variety of suicide prevention resources available.
  - **Website:** <http://www.sprc.org/>

In accordance with LB923, public school staff in Nebraska are required to complete at least 1 hour of suicide awareness and prevention training each year. To learn more, visit the Nebraska Department of Education website at <https://www.education.ne.gov/Safety/index.html>. Resources on Bullying Prevention and Suicide Prevention are listed.

A variety of print materials on behavioral health topics including depression, trauma, anxiety, and suicide are available from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Materials include toolkits for school personnel, educational fact sheets for parents and caregivers, wallet cards and magnets with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The direct link to the SAMHSA store is <https://store.samhsa.gov/>.

Another resource for kids, teens, and young adults is the **Boys Town National Hotline**, specifically the **Your Life Your Voice campaign**. Wallet cards and other promotional materials are available at no cost for distribution to students, school staff, parents, etc. <http://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org/Pages/home.aspx>. Remember, talking about suicide with a student does not put an idea of attempting suicide in a student's mind.

Additional contacts for tips on data use and prevention resources can be found in Appendix B.

APPENDIX A: Trend Data

Outcomes	Definition	8th					10th					12th				
		2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Lifetime Substance Use	Alcohol	22.1%	18.6%	14.2%	19.8%	21.1%	44.2%	39.7%	32.7%	31.9%	41.6%	63.3%	58.5%	51.1%	50.1%	51.4%
	Cigarettes	11.8%	8.1%	7.3%	6.8%	3.1%	23.7%	23.9%	17.1%	12.5%	12.7%	39.9%	34.6%	28.8%	18.8%	15.8%
	Smokeless tobacco	3.3%	3.5%	1.9%	2.6%	2.0%	10.1%	6.7%	5.7%	5.0%	8.0%	19.7%	17.9%	10.1%	10.6%	13.4%
	Marijuana	7.0%	5.2%	4.9%	5.7%	3.3%	18.9%	21.8%	19.3%	12.9%	16.7%	34.0%	31.5%	32.4%	27.8%	23.3%
	LSD/other psychedelics	1.1%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%	2.4%	1.3%	2.2%	3.1%	1.3%	5.1%	3.2%	5.5%	5.6%	3.4%
	Cocaine/crack	0.7%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.9%	0.6%	1.0%	0.8%	4.8%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	3.1%
	Meth	0.6%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.7%	1.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	2.3%	0.9%	0.6%	1.0%	1.4%
	Inhalants	5.8%	4.5%	3.4%	4.4%	4.5%	3.5%	3.3%	3.4%	2.9%	3.9%	5.4%	3.2%	1.1%	2.4%	2.4%
Prescription drugs	2.5%	1.9%	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%	6.1%	5.7%	5.9%	5.6%	4.9%	11.9%	9.7%	12.2%	8.2%	9.6%	
Past 30 Day Substance Use	Alcohol	5.6%	6.4%	3.0%	7.0%	7.0%	23.5%	16.5%	9.5%	13.6%	20.6%	34.4%	32.4%	27.2%	26.9%	28.4%
	Binge drinking	2.6%	2.1%	1.1%	0.5%	0.3%	13.2%	9.2%	5.9%	4.0%	4.4%	23.4%	22.1%	18.1%	9.7%	11.3%
	Cigarettes	4.2%	2.2%	2.3%	1.6%	0.8%	7.5%	7.9%	6.0%	4.2%	2.3%	19.8%	15.0%	12.6%	7.7%	6.2%
	Smokeless tobacco	1.1%	1.0%	0.8%	1.3%	1.5%	4.2%	3.1%	3.3%	3.3%	5.4%	9.8%	8.1%	5.4%	6.7%	6.5%
	Marijuana	2.9%	1.8%	2.2%	3.0%	1.3%	8.4%	12.1%	9.4%	6.7%	6.3%	15.9%	13.2%	18.7%	14.3%	11.0%
	Prescription drugs	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%	0.3%	0.9%	2.4%	3.5%	3.1%	2.3%	1.6%	5.4%	4.0%	4.3%	5.6%	3.4%
Age of First Use (12 or Younger)	Smoked cigarettes	7.1%	5.6%	4.7%	4.9%	2.1%	10.1%	9.1%	6.4%	5.8%	3.4%	11.2%	7.2%	4.8%	3.8%	4.5%
	Drank alcohol	17.4%	13.1%	11.8%	14.8%	13.3%	11.7%	9.9%	9.8%	9.3%	10.6%	10.6%	7.5%	5.0%	7.0%	5.5%
	Smoked marijuana	2.3%	3.0%	1.9%	2.6%	1.1%	3.6%	3.2%	2.6%	2.3%	2.1%	2.5%	1.7%	1.9%	1.2%	2.1%
Experiences at School	Grades were A's and B's	87.8%	90.5%	90.8%	85.7%	90.8%	83.7%	74.3%	82.0%	84.8%	85.8%	75.8%	84.2%	85.2%	82.3%	86.1%
	Felt safe	91.8%	89.0%	89.6%	87.9%	92.6%	87.0%	86.9%	89.0%	86.2%	87.7%	87.4%	91.7%	92.6%	89.9%	92.9%
Experiences with Families	Help for personal problems <sup>1</sup>	81.5%	83.9%	83.7%	86.6%	85.3%	77.0%	79.2%	77.1%	84.5%	84.4%	79.8%	80.9%	81.5%	85.2%	87.2%
	Discussed dangers of alcohol <sup>1</sup>	54.9%	52.4%	54.6%	42.4%	52.6%	51.4%	47.8%	46.1%	37.8%	44.4%	42.8%	47.8%	49.3%	38.2%	45.9%

<sup>1</sup>Prior to 2016, the question asked students about their "parents" or "mom or dad". In 2016, the wording was changed to "parents or caregivers".

Note. The number of students and/or school districts included from year to year could vary due to schools participating in some administrations and not others. As a result, these trend findings should be approached with some caution.

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**APPENDIX B: Contacts for Prevention**

---

**Division of Behavioral Health**

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
Lindsey Hanlon, Network and Prevention Manager  
lindsey.hanlon@nebraska.gov  
301 Centennial Mall South  
P.O. Box 95026 Lincoln,  
NE 68509-5026  
(402) 471-7750 phone  
(402) 471-7859 fax  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Behavioral-Health.aspx>

**Tobacco Free Nebraska**

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
Amanda Mortensen  
Tobacco Free Nebraska Program Manager  
amanda.mortensen@nebraska.gov  
301 Centennial Mall South  
P.O. Box 95026 Lincoln,  
NE 68509-5026  
(402) 471-9270 phone  
(402) 471-6446 fax  
[www.dhhs.ne.gov/tfn](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/tfn)

**Nebraska Department of Education**

Chris Junker, Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator  
chris.junker@nebraska.gov  
123 N. Marian Road  
Hastings, NE 68901  
(402) 462-4187 ext. 166 phone  
(402) 460-4773 fax  
[www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov)

**Nebraska Department of Highway Safety**

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mark.segerstrom@nebraska.gov  
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# Lincoln Vital Signs 2019 Report

Be Informed. Get Involved.





## Prepared By



The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is a university-wide, multidisciplinary research and outreach center committed to addressing complex issues by linking academic research, stakeholder opinions, and practical experience through innovative and creative solutions.

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# Executive Summary

Since 2014, **Lincoln Vital Signs**, authored by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, has been a community-wide data resource. The 2019 Lincoln Vital Signs report is sponsored by Lincoln's and Nebraska's largest public and private charitable organizations. Lincoln Vital Signs 2019 continues the tradition of providing credible, reliable information about Lincoln, compared to its recent past and to other communities in the United States. Data from the report are used by organizations and individuals to inform decisions, spark connections, and spur collaboration. You can view the report, along with new interactive graphs, at **[lincolnvitalsigns.org](http://lincolnvitalsigns.org)**.

Lincoln Vital Signs presents data in chapters covering: Community Profile, Economy & Workforce, Basic Needs, Education, Health, and Safety & Security.

## **In 2019, Lincoln Vital Signs finds:**

- 1. Lincoln is prospering and growing stronger.**
- 2. Persistent weaknesses stymie progress.**

The opportunities and challenges identified in past Lincoln Vital Signs reports led to the creation of Prosper Lincoln ([prosperlincoln.org](http://prosperlincoln.org)), promoting collective impact action in: Early Childhood, Innovative Workforce, Affordable Housing, Strong Neighborhoods, and Civic Investments.

Learn more at **[lincolnvitalsigns.org](http://lincolnvitalsigns.org)**

# About the Report



Lincoln Vital Signs

## Be informed. Get Involved.

---

Lincoln Vital Signs 2019 presents over 100 charts, graphs, and maps to illustrate trends in our community. When looked at holistically, the data suggest areas of improvement and continued challenges.

### The 2019 Lincoln Vital Signs Report Finds:

#### 1. Lincoln is prospering and growing stronger.

Already strong, Lincoln is flourishing. Adults are educated and engaged in work. New and existing businesses are creating jobs. Buildings and civic spaces are appearing. Our streets are safe. Greater proportions of our youth are from diverse backgrounds. Working together, Lincoln has bent the trajectories of homelessness, need for crisis services, and lack of access to high quality childcare.

#### 2. Persistent weaknesses stymie progress.

In a time of growth, not everyone is prospering. Most Lincoln families have not regained pre-Great Recession income levels. Lincoln's low cost of living does not offset our lower incomes. Persons from racial and ethnic minority populations struggle to achieve equity in educational attainment, employment, and income. We have unprecedented geographic concentrations of extreme poverty and poor health.

Learn more at [lincolnvitalsigns.org](http://lincolnvitalsigns.org)

## Lincoln Vital Signs: Helping Lincoln Prosper

---

Lincoln Vital Signs helped Lincoln become aware of our opportunities and challenges and led to a community-wide agenda-setting process, Prosper Lincoln ([prosperlincoln.org](http://prosperlincoln.org)). Thousands of people were involved in setting the 2017-2019 community agenda (Early Childhood, Employment Skills, and Innovation).

The results of 2017-2019 have been impressive, including: hundreds of new high-quality early childhood placements; \$600,000 raised to support access to early childhood programs for low-income families; local companies mobilizing to support access to high-quality early childhood care for young families; hundreds of businesses connecting with public agencies to recruit employees; thousands of university and high school students connecting to internships and careers offered by local employers; and businesses implementing new practices to remove barriers and recruit valued employees.

### **From 2020-2024, Prosper Lincoln is deepening and broadening of the work with five areas of focus:**

- 1. Early Childhood - All children will have access to high quality early childhood care and education** leading to a more available workforce today and a smarter workforce tomorrow.
- 2. Innovative Workplace - People will have careers and employers retain skilled talent in a culture of innovation** to fuel economic success for businesses and lift workers out of poverty.
- 3. Affordable Housing - All residents will live in affordable housing** leading to healthier and more stable families.
- 4. Strong Neighborhoods - Neighborhoods will thrive through investments in people and places** creating robust and attractive places for residents to live.
- 5. Civic Investment - Major new civic investments will create sustainable opportunities to work, live, and play** resulting in a stronger and more vibrant city.



Be informed.  
Get involved.

Lincoln Vital Signs





## Community Profile

Lincoln is a growing community. In the past decade, **Lincoln's overall population has grown by 33,391 residents, or 13%**. Since 2009, Lincoln's **growth rate of the retirement-age population has outpaced that of the working age and younger populations**. Lincoln is **becoming more racially and ethnically diverse**: Lincoln's White non-Hispanic/Latinx population has dropped from comprising 85% of Lincoln's overall population in 2009 to now comprising 79%. Compared to other cities across the United States, Lincoln is in the **top third for overall well-being**.

# Population

Lincoln's population has grown 13% Since 2009

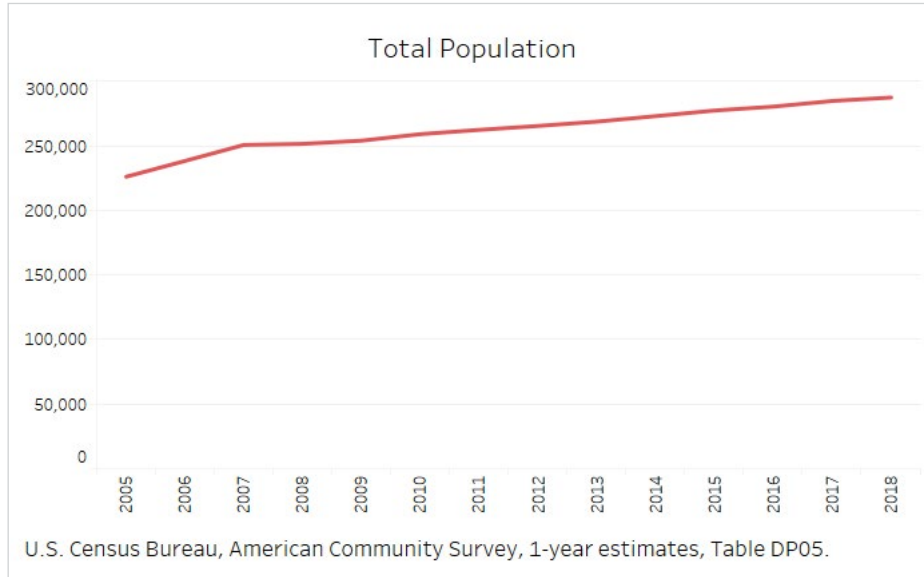


Figure 1

Similar to other urbanized communities in Nebraska, Lincoln has experienced population growth over the past decade.

- Lincoln now has more than 287,000 residents; 33,391 more since 2009.
- Lincoln's population has grown 13% since 2009.

# Population Growth

Lincoln's growth rate has been low for the past decade

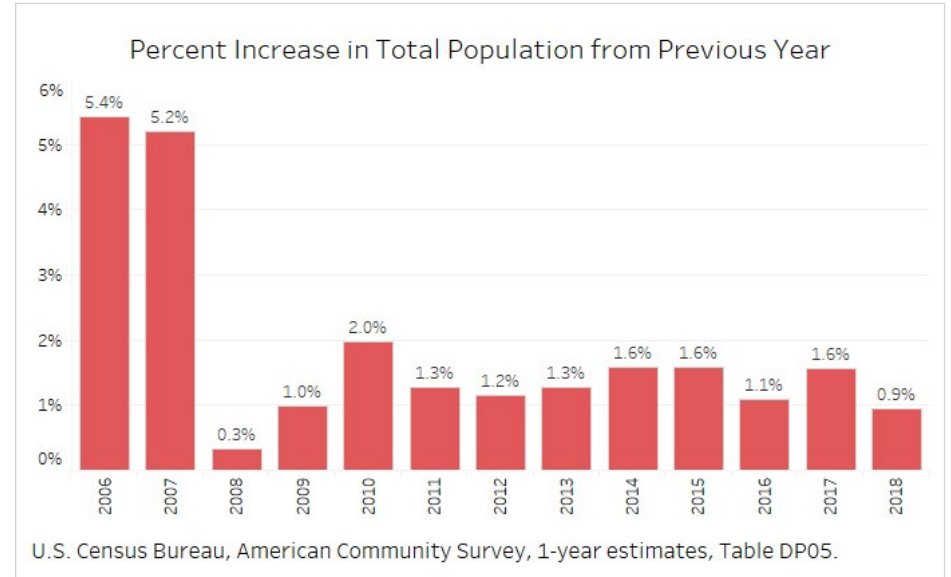


Figure 2

- Since 2009, Lincoln's population has grown annually at a rate of 1% to 2% per year.
- From 2006 to 2007, Lincoln's growth rate was over 5% per year.

## Population by Age Group

Lincoln's 65+ age group has grown the most since 2009

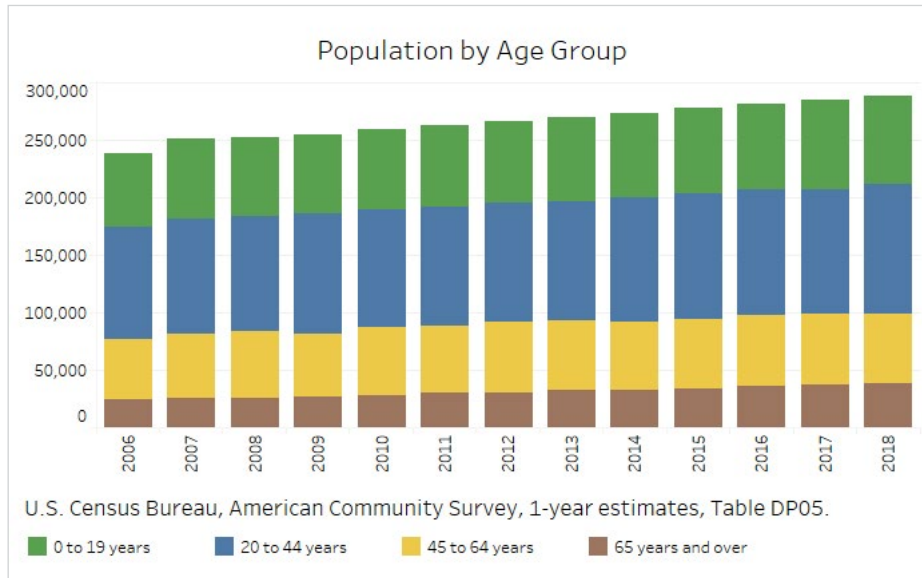


Figure 3

- The 65 years and over age group has added more persons than any other age group in the past decade, with 11,156 more persons, since 2009.

## Population Growth by Age Group

Lincoln's 65+ age group is growing at a faster rate than other age groups

	2009 Population	2018 Population	Percent Growth	Population Growth
0 to 19 years	68,608	75,789	10.5%	7,181
20 to 44 years	103,773	112,517	8.4%	8,744
45 to 64 years	54,919	61,229	11.5%	6,310
65 years and over	26,708	37,864	41.8%	11,156

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP05.

Table 1

- Since 2009, the 65 years and over age group has shown the fastest rate of growth compared to other age groups (42% growth vs. around 10% growth for other age groups).

## Birth & Death Rates

Lincoln's natural growth rate is higher than the U.S. overall

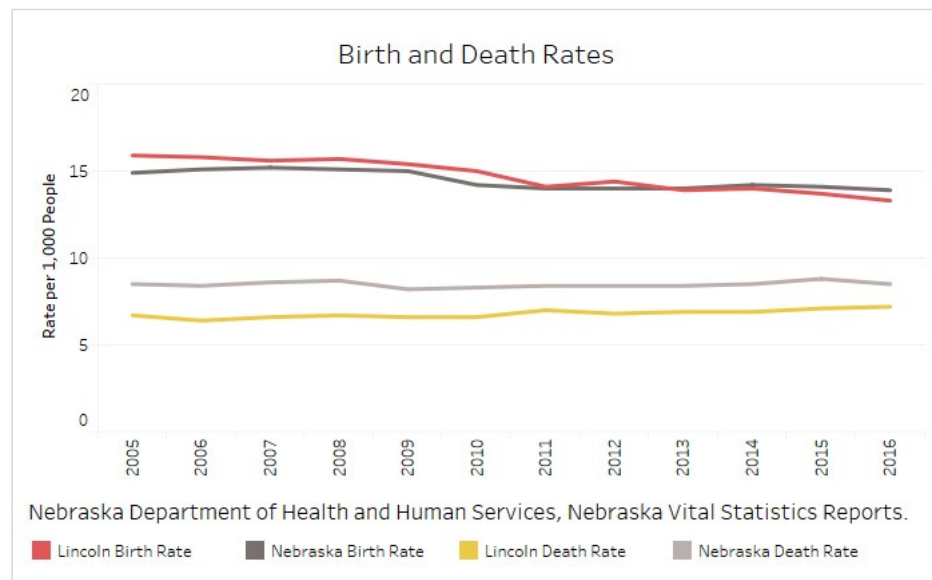


Figure 4

- Lincoln's natural growth rate (birth rate minus death rate) added less than 1% to Lincoln's population in 2016 (the most recent year available).
- Lincoln has a higher growth rate than the U.S. as a whole.
  - Lincoln rate is 6.1 per 1,000 persons.
  - U.S. rate is 3.7 per 1,000 persons.

## Lincoln Newcomers

Lincoln's growth is attributable to people moving to Lincoln

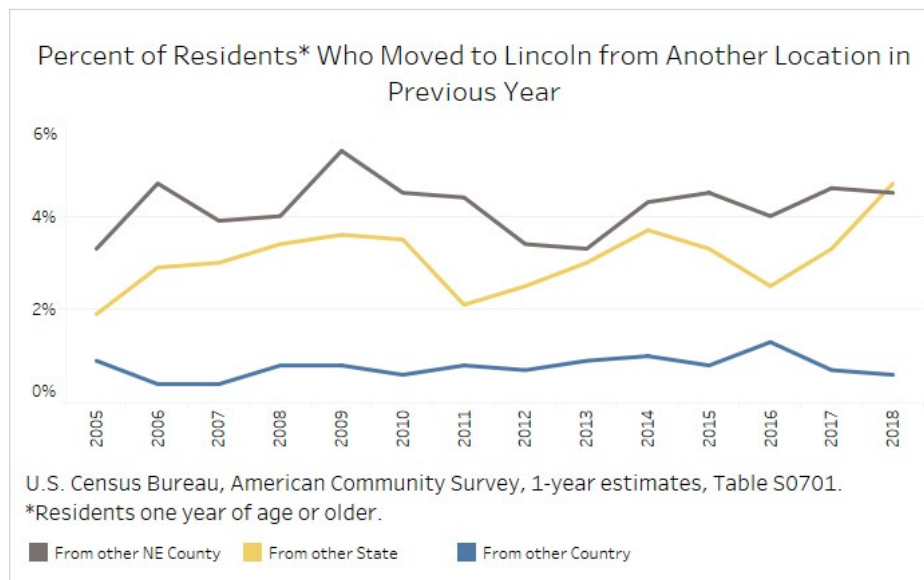


Figure 5

Over the last decade, on average, almost 10% of Lincoln's population moved to the city in the previous 12 months. In 2018, newcomers to Lincoln had moved from:

- Other places in Nebraska (4.5%)
- Other places in the United States outside Nebraska (4.7%)
- Other places in the world outside the United States (0.6%)

## Newcomer Demographics

Lincoln newcomers are young, White adults with higher rates of poverty

	Number of Newcomers	Percent of Newcomers
1 to 17 years	2,813	12.9%
18 to 24 years	9,721	44.5%
25 to 44 years	5,845	26.7%
45 to 64 years	2,345	10.7%
65 and over	979	4.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,703</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table S0701. Residents one year of age or older.

Table 2

For the past five years, on average, almost half (44%) of newcomers to Lincoln have been young adults between 18 and 24 years of age.

- The influx of young people may be attributable to Lincoln’s multiple post-secondary institutions.
- Approximately 70% of newcomers to Lincoln were White non-Hispanic/Latinx.
- The proportion of White non-Hispanic/Latinx newcomers has remained steady since 2011.

Newcomers to Lincoln have twice the percentage of people living below the poverty threshold (28%) than those who have lived in Lincoln longer than one year (13%).<sup>1</sup>

## Newcomer Educational Attainment

Newcomers are as educated as the rest of Lincoln’s population

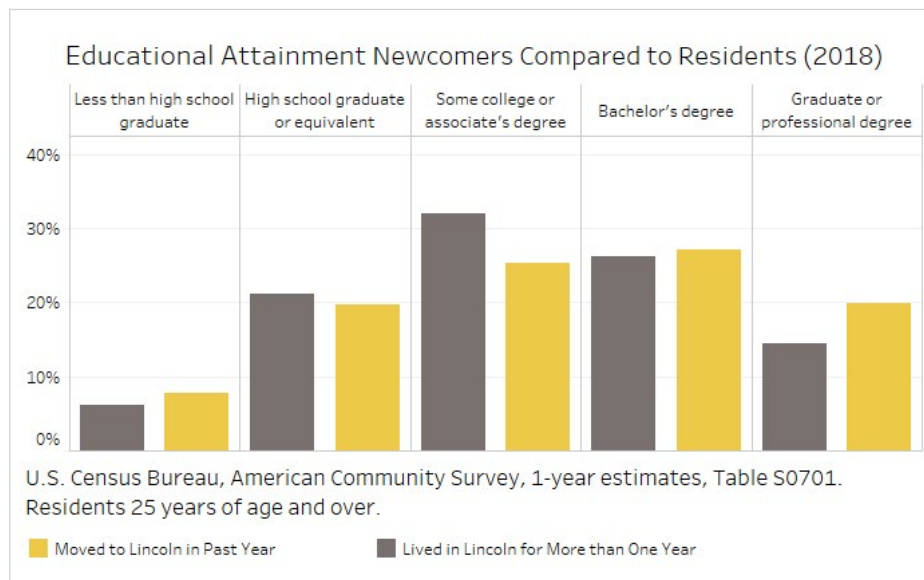


Figure 6

- The educational attainment of newcomers to Lincoln in 2018 is similar to the rest of Lincoln’s population.

## Race/Ethnicity

Lincoln is becoming more diverse

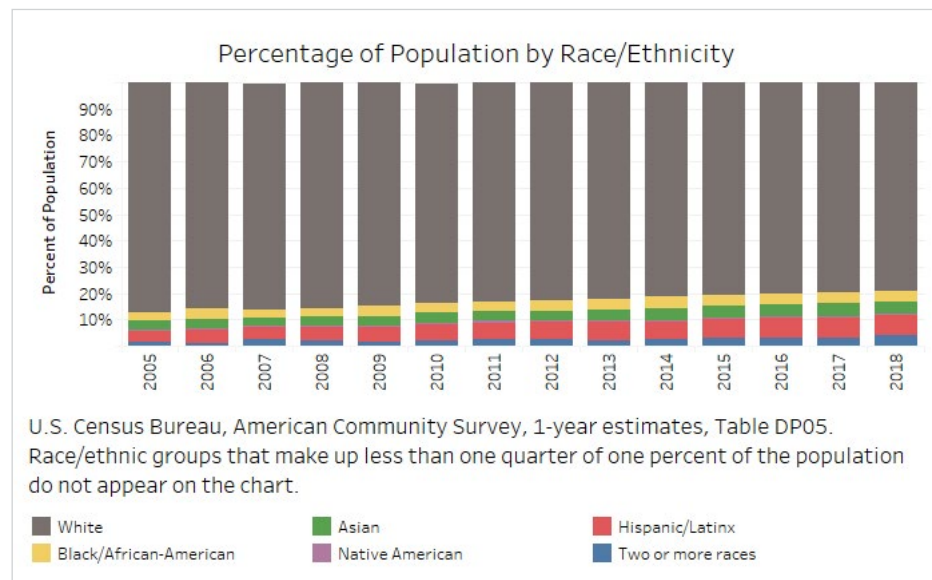


Figure 7

- The majority (79%) of Lincoln’s population identifies as White non-Hispanic/Latinx.
- The past decade has seen Lincoln steadily becoming a more ethnically and racially diverse community.
  - From 2009 to 2018, Lincoln’s non-White population has increased 56% while the White-alone population has increased 5%.
  - Lincoln’s Hispanic/Latinx population has more than doubled (from 13,729 persons to 22,339 persons).

## Race/Ethnicity by Age

Lincoln’s children/youth are more ethnically/racially diverse than the adult population

	Younger than 18 Years	18 Years or Older
White	70.2%	83.6%
Hispanic/Latinx	12.4%	5.8%
Black/African-American	5.9%	4.0%
Asian	4.6%	4.7%
Native American	0.6%	0.6%
Two or More Races	8.3%	1.8%

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table B01001 series.  
Hispanic/Latinx category has some overlap with other categories. Groups that make up less than one quarter of one percent of the population do not appear in the table.

Table 3

Lincoln’s child/youth age group (younger than 18 years of age) is more diverse than the adult population (18 years or older).

- Within the age group younger than 18 years of age, the White-alone population comprised about two-thirds of the population in 2017 (70%).
- In contrast, within the age group 18 years or older, the White-alone population comprised more than four-fifths of the population (84%).

## Well-Being Rankings

Lincoln ranks in the top third of cities in the U.S. for well-being

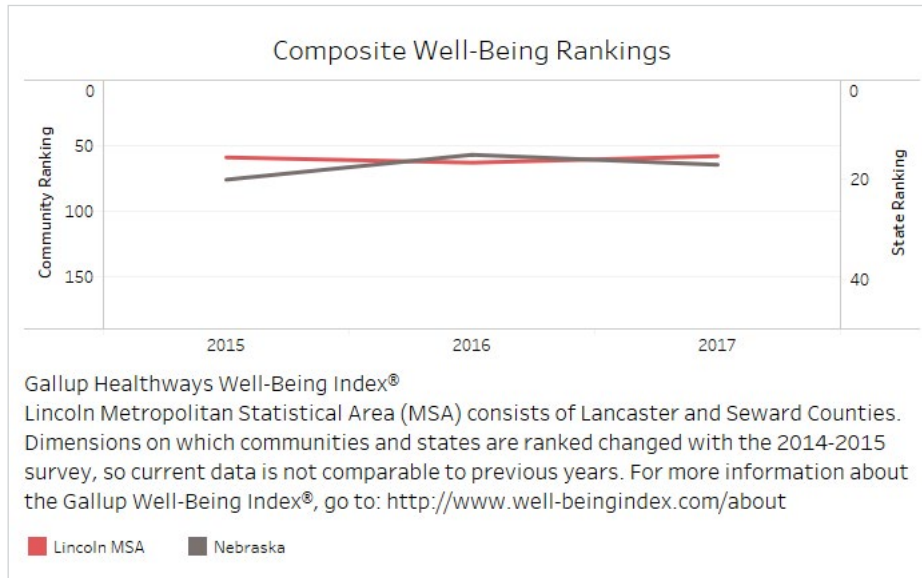


Figure 8

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index® is based on phone surveys of people living in more than 180 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs).

- Of the MSAs whose residents were surveyed as part of the 2016-17 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index®, the Lincoln MSA (consisting of Lancaster and Seward counties) was ranked 58th in overall well-being.
- In the past three years, Lincoln's rankings have been similar to Nebraska's when adjusted for the number of places used in the comparison (50 for states, 186 for communities in 2017).

## Well-Being Components

Lincoln ranks in the top 15% of cities for financial well-being, and in the top 25% of cities for community well-being

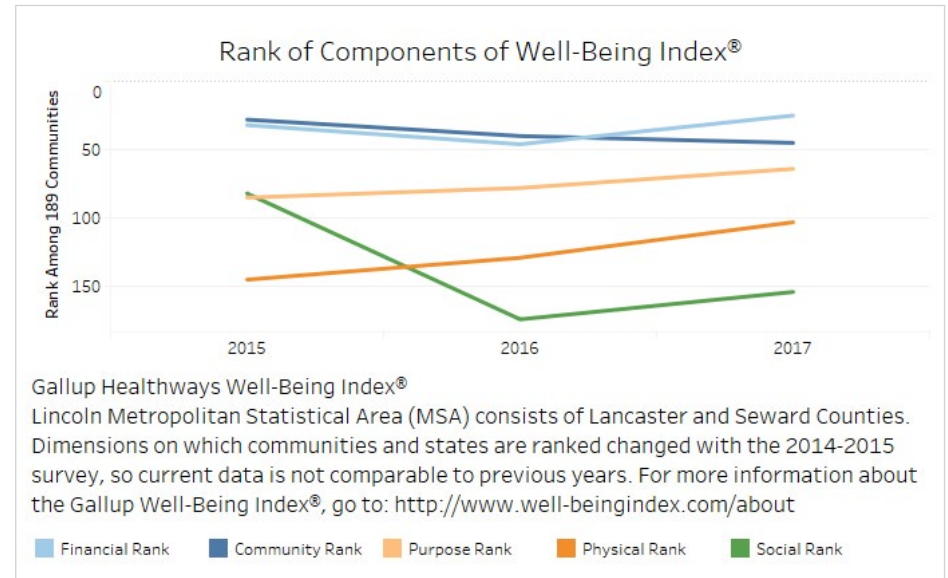


Figure 9

Beginning with the 2014-15 survey, well-being dimensions include: purpose, social, financial, community, and physical.<sup>2</sup>

- Lincoln ranks well on the financial well-being (rank = 25) and community well-being (rank = 45).
- Lincoln falls just outside of the top third of rankings on purpose well-being (rank = 64).
- Lincoln has previously ranked poorly on physical well-being (rank = 103), but is improving.
- Lincoln has ranked poorly on the social well-being (rank = 154) over the past two years.



# Community Profile Notes

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1. In 2018, the poverty threshold was \$25,465 for a family of four that included two related children less than 18 years of age.
2. The specific dimensions on which communities and states are ranked changed with the 2014-15 survey. There are no community-level data for Lincoln in 2014. For more information about the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index®, go to <http://www.well-beingindex.com/about>



## Economy and Workforce

Lincoln has an active and educated workforce: **high rates of workforce participation, low unemployment**, over half of **adults with post-secondary degrees**, and **high marks for quality** from local businesses. However, most Lincoln households have **not regained pre-Great Recession incomes**, even when adjusting for inflation, though Lincoln's most affluent households are thriving. **Declining or stagnant measures for entrepreneurship and STEM** jobs signal signs of weakness in Lincoln's economy. The **high percentage of children with all parents in the workforce** signals the need for high quality childcare, but costs may consume a significant proportion of a household income.

# Unemployment

Lincoln's unemployment rate continues to be low

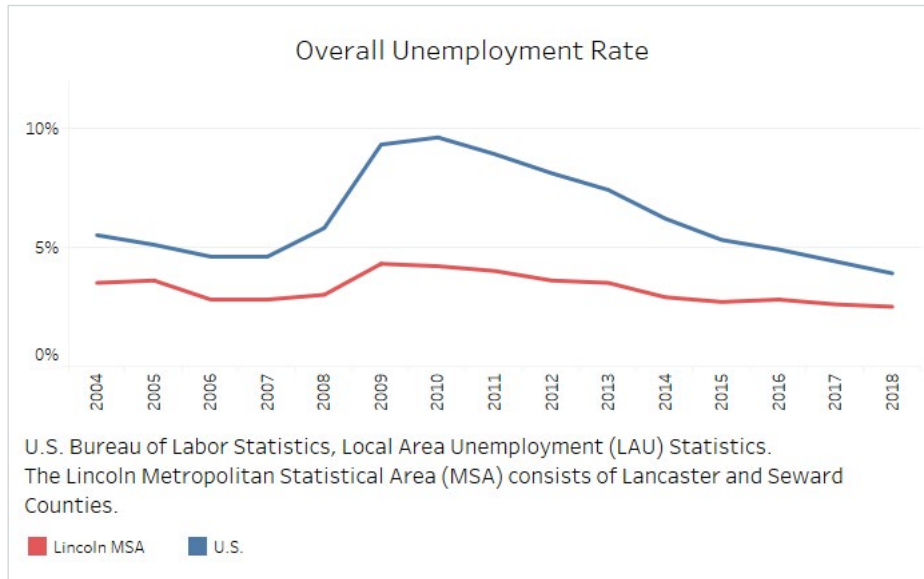


Figure 10

- Lincoln's unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate.
- Lincoln's current unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in 15 years.

# Multiple Jobholders

Nebraska has a high rate of multiple jobholders

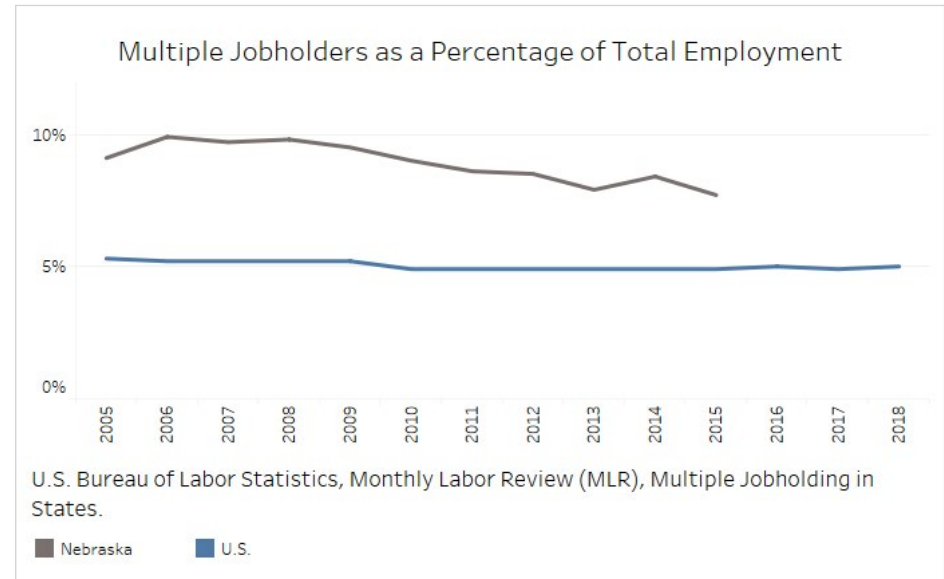


Figure 11

- The most recent multiple jobholder data for Nebraska is 2016. Statewide data are the smallest geographic data available.
- The rate of multiple jobholders in Nebraska has averaged nearly 9% over the past decade, and has been significantly higher than the national average of 5% since 2009.
  - The rate of multiple jobholders in Nebraska peaked in 2006 at 9.9%, decreasing to 8.9% in 2016.

# Workforce Participation

Workforce participation in Lincoln is high

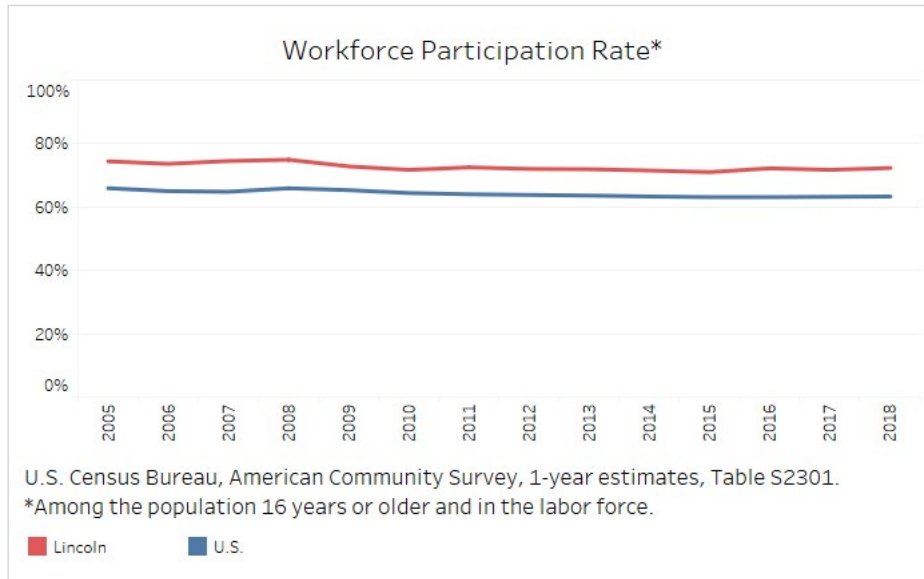


Figure 12

- In Lincoln, a higher percentage of persons over the age of 16 participate in the workforce than is the average nationally, exceeding the national rate by at least 7% over the past decade.
- In 2018, Lincoln’s workforce participation was 72%, while the national rate was 63%.

# Parents in Workforce

Most parents work

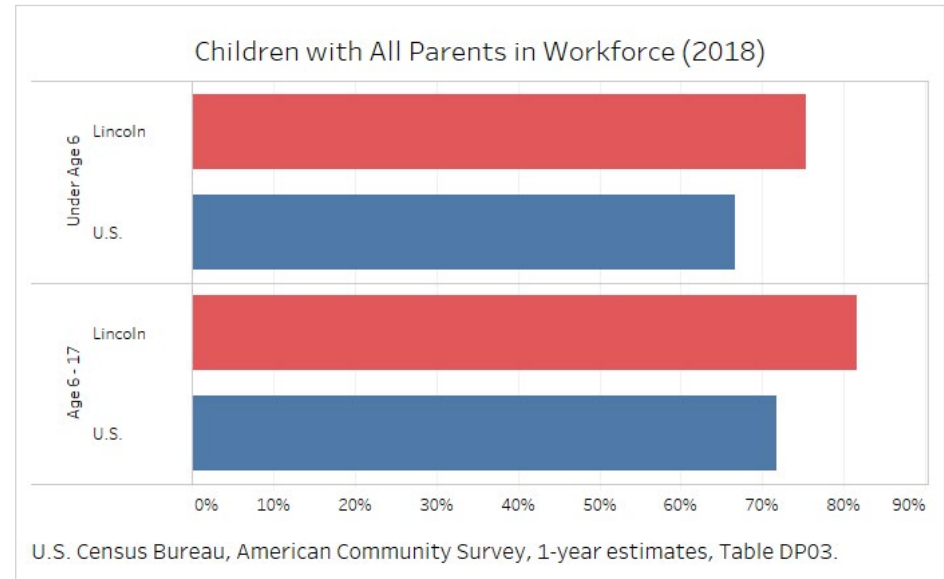


Figure 13

- In Lincoln, 75% of children under 6 years of age have all parents in the workforce; for children from 6 through 17 years of age, the percentage is nearly 82%.
  - All parents in the workforce is defined as two-parent families, both of whom work, and one-parent families with that parent working.
- Lincoln has a much higher percentage of families with all parents in the workforce than the national average.
- Nebraska, along with other upper Great Plains states, regularly ranks as one of the top states for percentage of children with all parents in the workforce.

## Workforce Participation by Race/Ethnicity

Those identifying as Hispanic/Latinx and Black/African American have the highest workforce participation rates

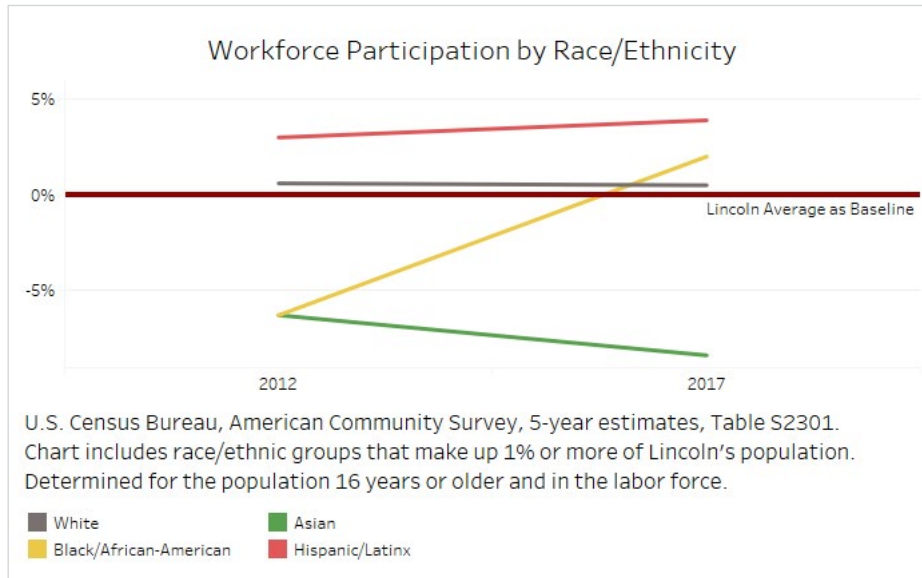


Figure 14

The workforce participation rate is the percentage of people in the working age population (those 16 years or older) who are either employed or actively seeking employment.

- Workforce participation rates vary by race and ethnicity.
- Hispanics/Latinx have the highest workforce participation rates, followed by Blacks/African Americans.

## Unemployment by Race/Ethnicity

Those identifying as Blacks/African-American and Hispanic/Latinx have the highest rates of unemployment

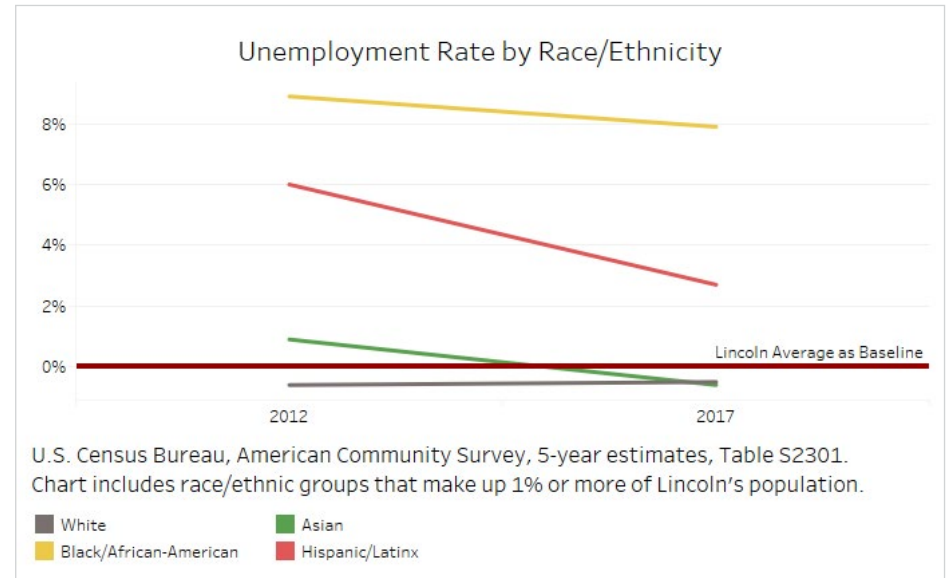


Figure 15

The unemployment rate is the percentage of people in the workforce who are not employed, and are actively seeking employment.

- Unemployment rates vary by race and ethnicity.
- Blacks/African-Americans have a rate of unemployment that is three times that of Lincoln as a whole.

# Childcare Costs

Childcare costs continue to increase

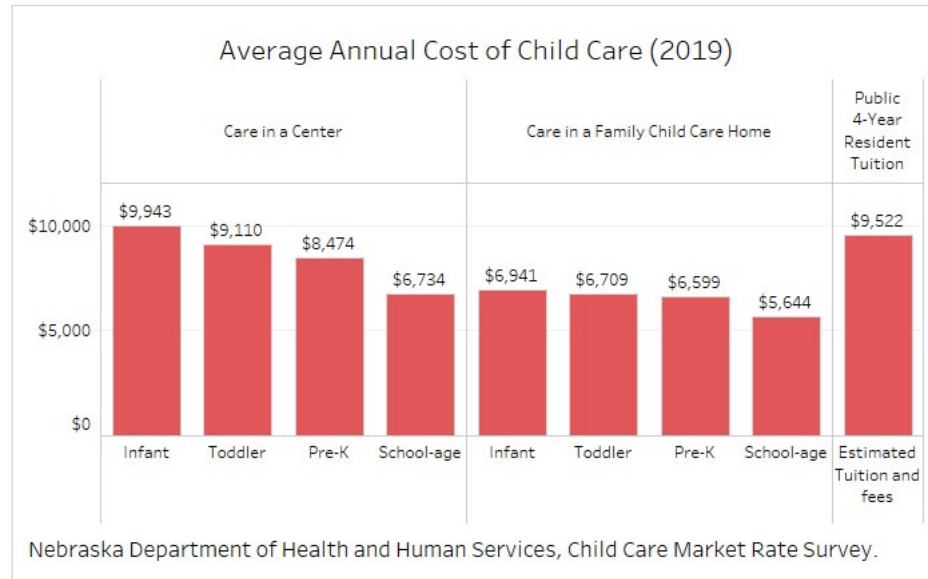


Figure 16

The cost of childcare is often a significant proportion of working parents' income and, in some cases, may be a barrier to participation in the workforce.

- In 2019, the annual cost of care for an infant in a childcare center was more than resident tuition and fees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

# Childcare Infant Cost

Childcare costs are a significant percentage of income for families

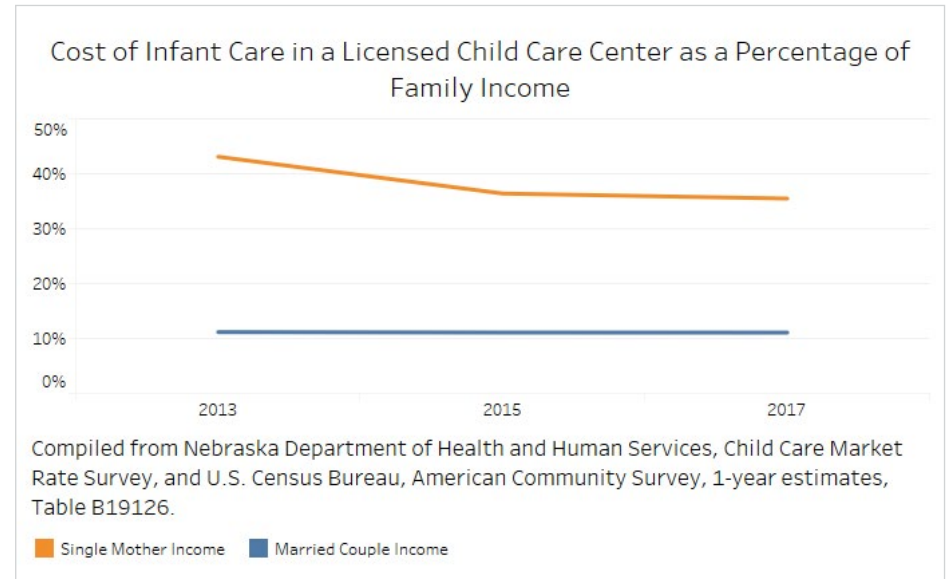


Figure 17

In 2017, the annual cost of childcare for an infant was:

- 11% of the median family income of a typical married couple.
- 35% of the median income of a typical single mother.

Childcare workers have low wages. In 2018, the average annual income of a childcare worker in Lincoln was \$23,880.<sup>1</sup>

## Cost of Living

Lincoln's living costs are lower than in the U.S. as a whole, as is per capita income

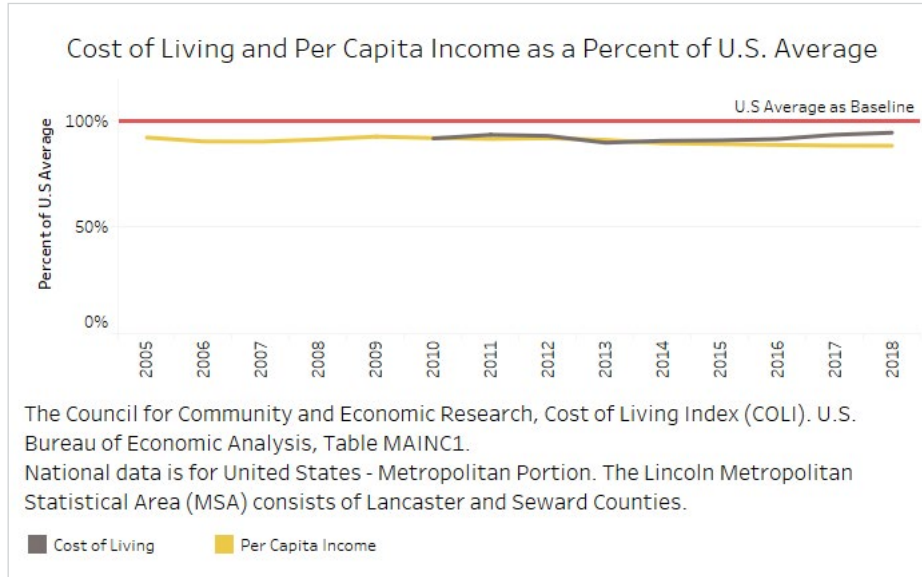


Figure 18

- Living in Lincoln costs less, on average, than does living in other parts of the United States.
- Lincoln's per capita income is less, on average, than the U.S. as a whole.
- Over the past five years, Lincoln's per capita income has stayed about the same as cost of living has risen.

## Per Capita Income

Lincoln's low cost of living does not fully compensate for workers' lower per capita incomes

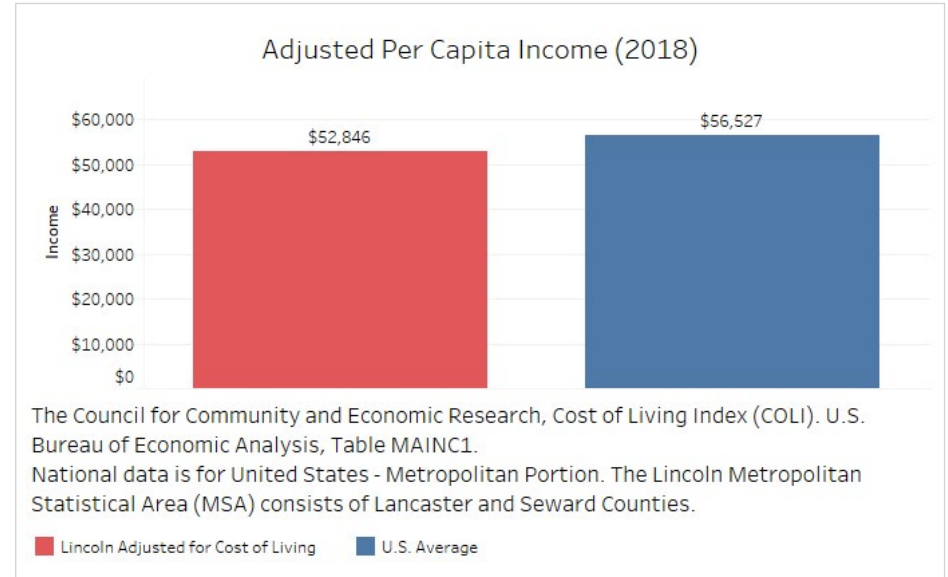


Figure 19

Adjusting per capita income by cost of living provides an indicator of relative buying power and recognizes that a dollar of income in Lincoln has more buying power than a dollar of income in other areas of the U.S.

- Since 2011, adjusting for Lincoln's low cost of living has not made up for Lincoln's low per capita income.
- In 2018, Lincoln trailed the national average per capita income by \$3,682.

## Household Income

Most Lincoln household incomes have not regained pre-Great Recession levels

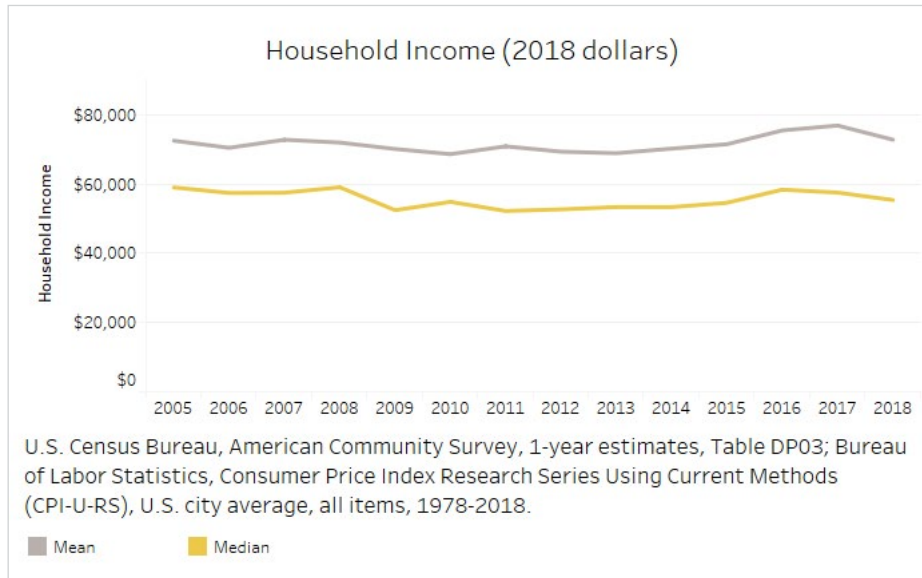


Figure 20

Most demographers use *median* income as the preferred measure of average household income, rather than the *mean*. This is because very high incomes skew the mean, inflating what the income is for most households.

- Lincoln’s median household income, even when adjusted to 2018 dollars, has not recovered from 2008 and the Great Recession.
- Lincoln’s mean household income, when adjusted to 2018 dollars, now exceeds that from pre-2008.

## Median vs. Mean Household Income

The gap between low income and high income earners has been steady over the past decade

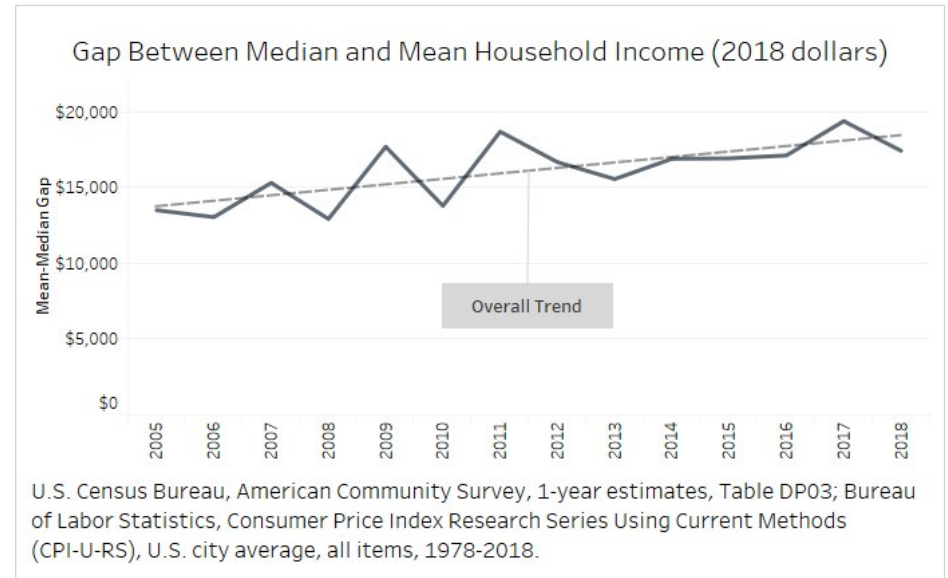


Figure 21

- The gap between the mean and the median income has hovered around 25%–36% of the median income.



## Workforce Status & Poverty

Most persons who fall below the poverty threshold are in the workforce

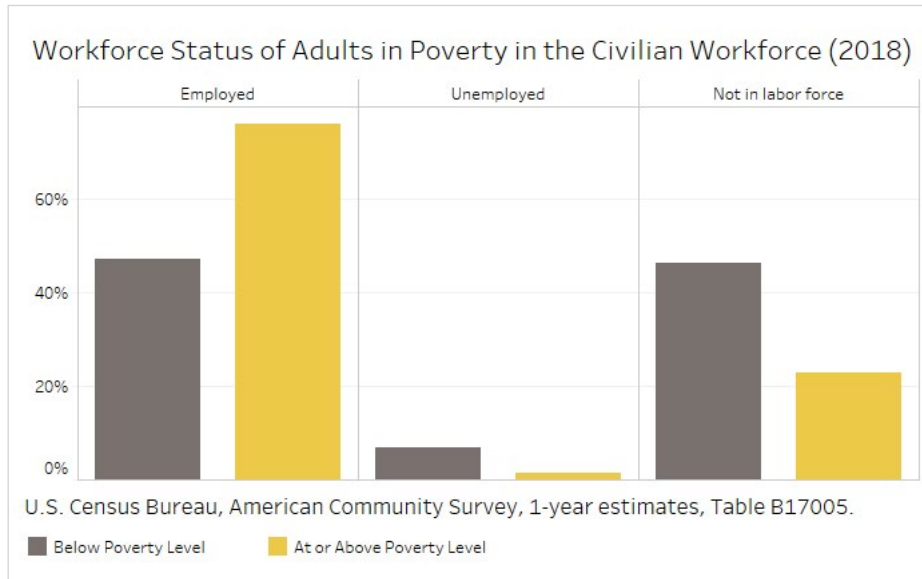


Figure 22

- The majority (54%) of adults in poverty are in the workforce.

## Employment Status & Poverty

Most adults in poverty in the workforce are employed

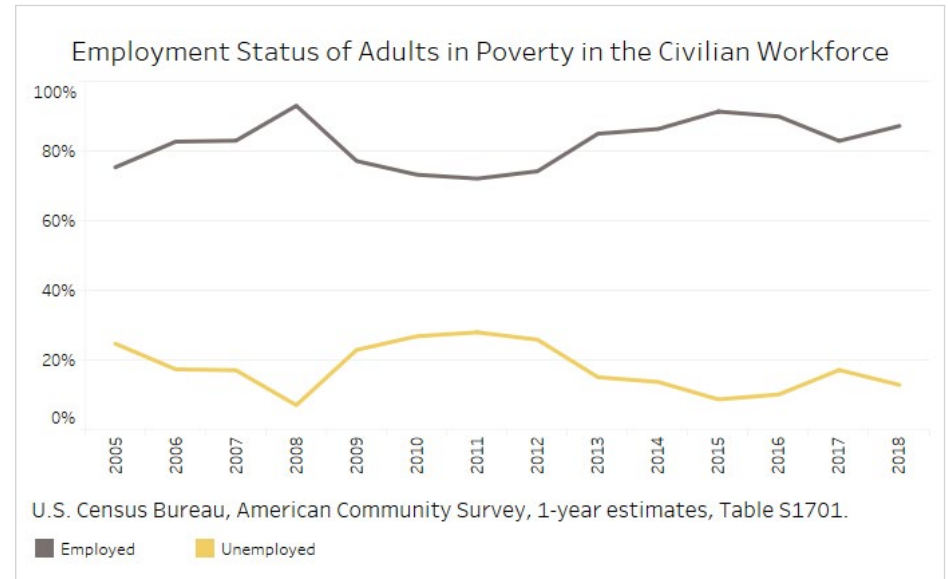


Figure 23

- The vast majority (87%) of persons in poverty in the workforce are employed.

## Work Type & Poverty

Most adults in poverty worked part-time or part-year

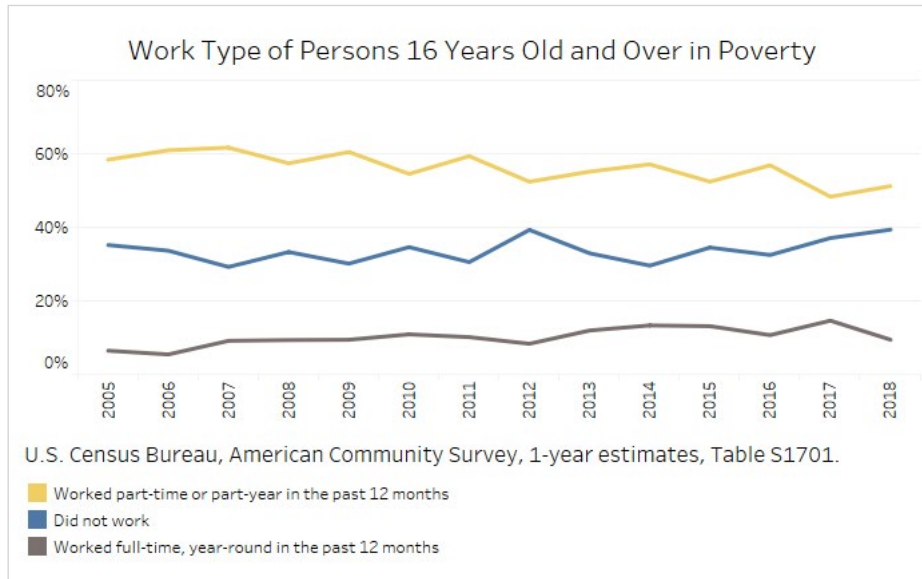


Figure 24

- Over half (51%) of adults in poverty worked part-time or part-year, suggesting that underemployment, job losses, or barriers to employment contribute to poverty.
- Only 9% of adults in poverty worked full-time, year-round.

## Mean Hours & Poverty

Mean hours worked and poverty rates have not returned to pre-Great Recession levels

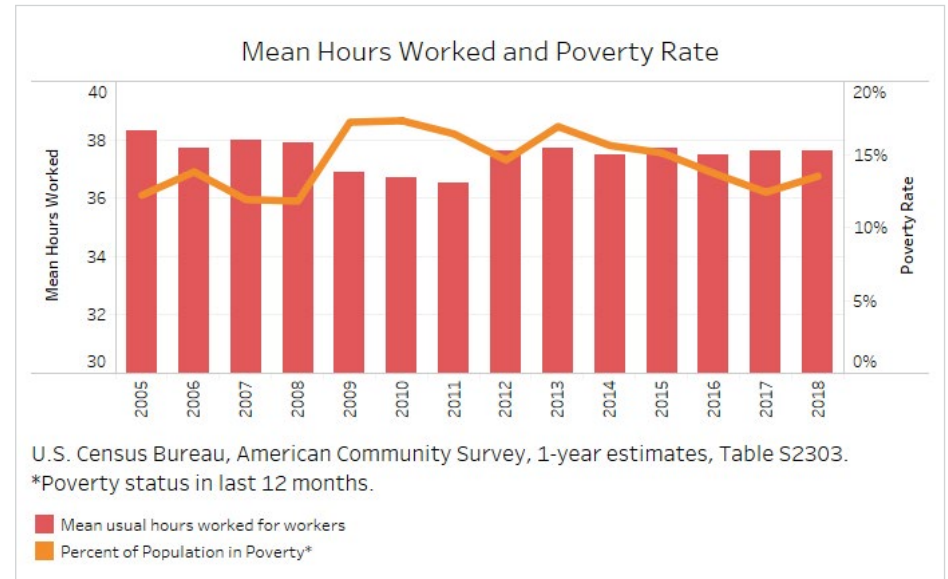


Figure 25

- Average number of hours worked has not regained pre-Great Recession highs.
- The rate of poverty exceeds pre-Great Recession lows.
- Average hours worked and poverty rate are negatively correlated, meaning that when mean hours worked is lower, poverty is higher.

## Educational Attainment

Lincoln is becoming an even more highly educated population

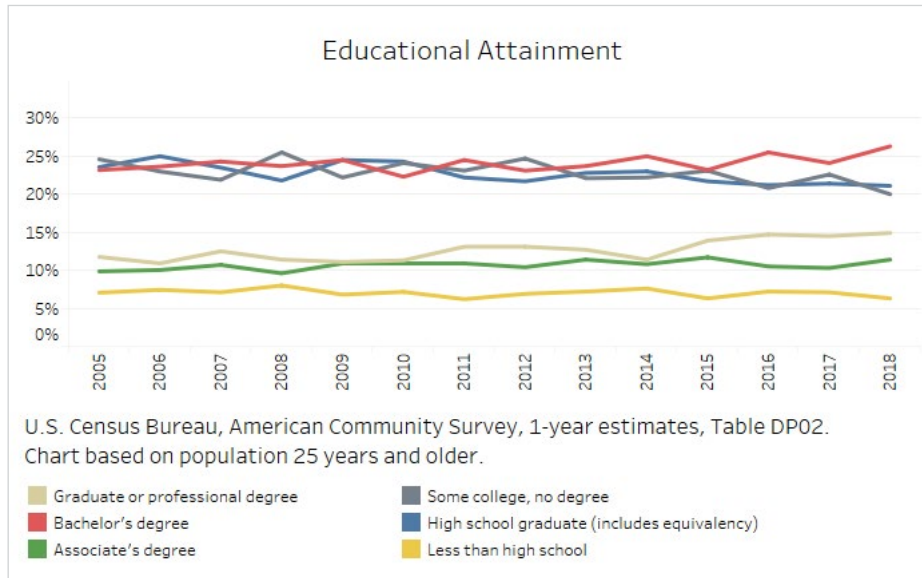


Figure 26

- Over half of adults in Lincoln (53%) have a post-secondary degree (an increase of 13% from 2009).
  - 11% have an associate's degree
  - 26% have a bachelor's degree
  - 15% have a graduate or professional degree

## High School Diploma

Lincoln has a high percentage of adults with a high school diploma or higher

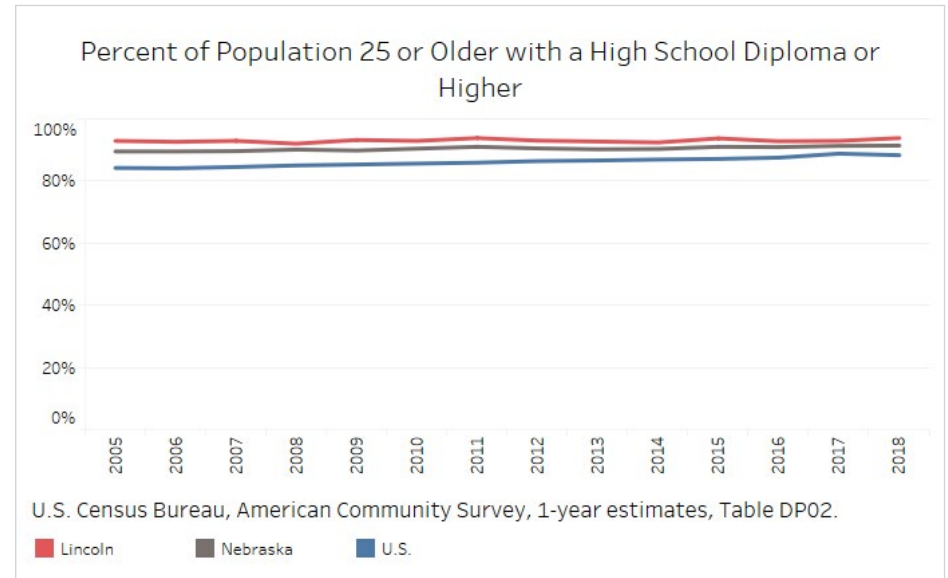


Figure 27

- Lincoln has a higher percentage of adults with a high school diploma or higher (93.8%) than does Nebraska (91.4%) or the US. (88.3%).
- Lincoln's percentage of adults who have a high school diploma or higher has been steady over the past 14 years.

## Graduate/Professional Degree

Lincoln has a high percentage of adults with a graduate or professional degree

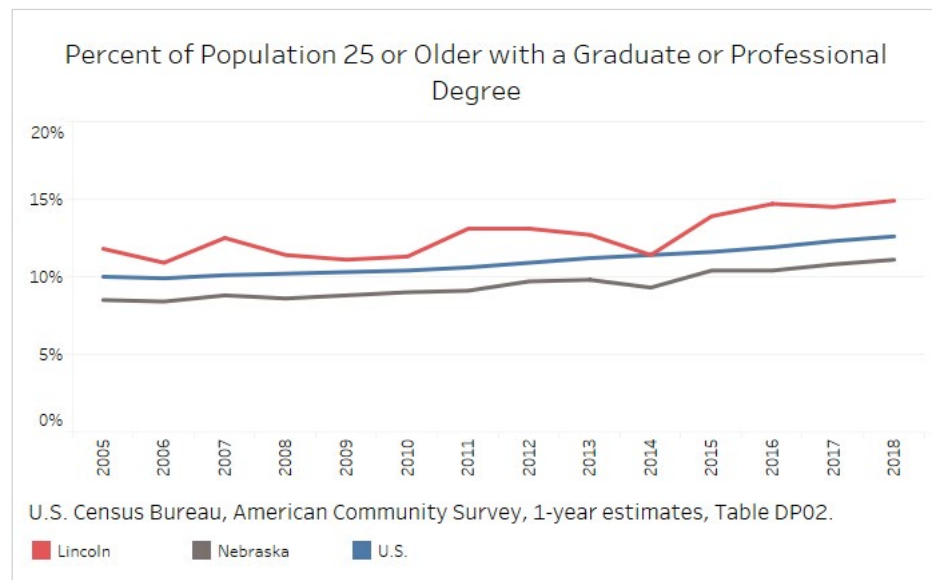


Figure 28

- Lincoln has a higher percentage of adults with a graduate or professional degree (15%) than Nebraska (11%) or the U.S. (12%).

## Unemployment Rate by Education

Unemployment is low across the educational attainment spectrum

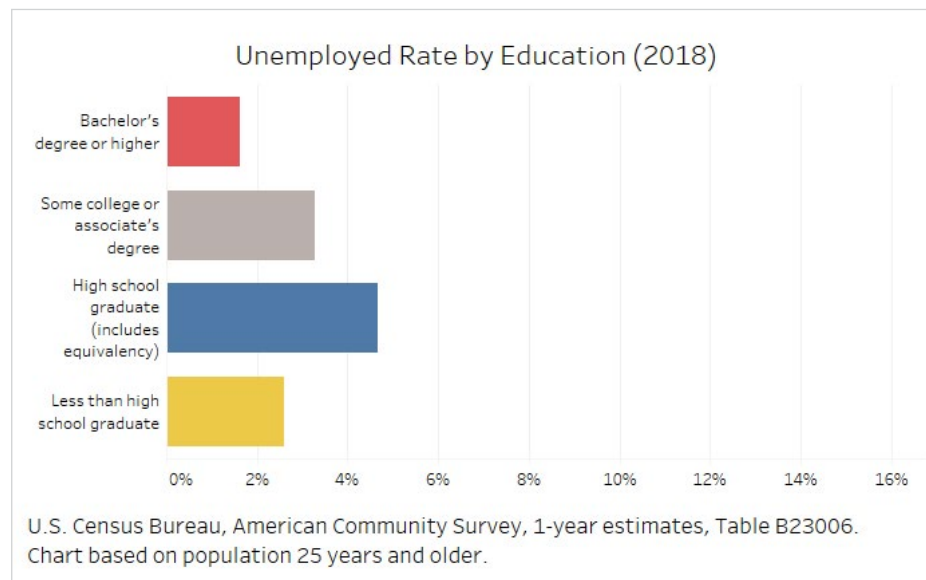


Figure 29

- Persons with bachelor's degrees or higher have the lowest unemployment rate among educational attainment categories.
- It is notable, that in 2018, persons who are high school graduates have a higher unemployment rate than those with less than a high school diploma.

## Median Earnings by Education

Adults with higher education earn more income

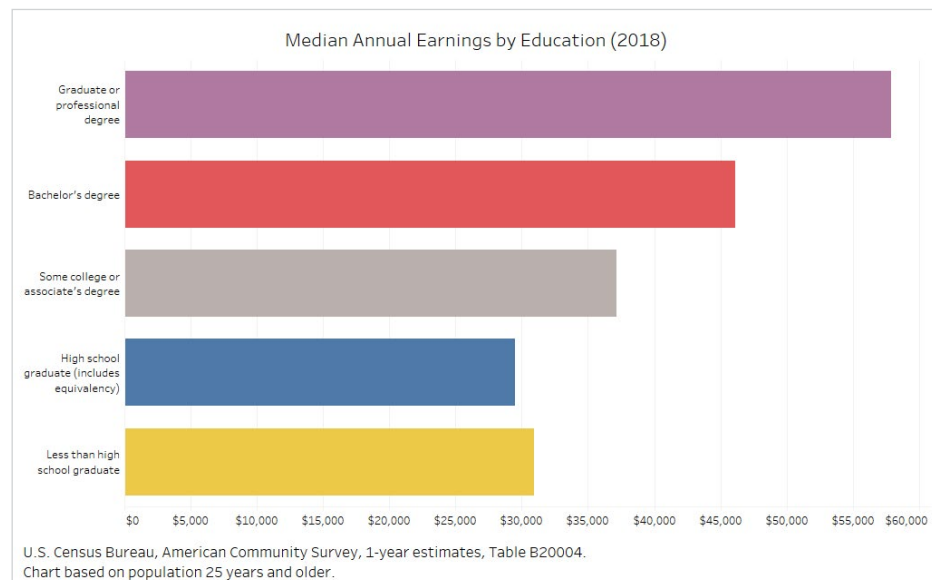


Figure 30

- In general, adults with higher educational attainment have higher earnings.
- It is notable that, in 2018, persons with less than a high school diploma had higher earnings than those with only a high school diploma.

## Projected Employment Growth

Nationally, jobs requiring a master's degree are growing in demand from 2018-2028

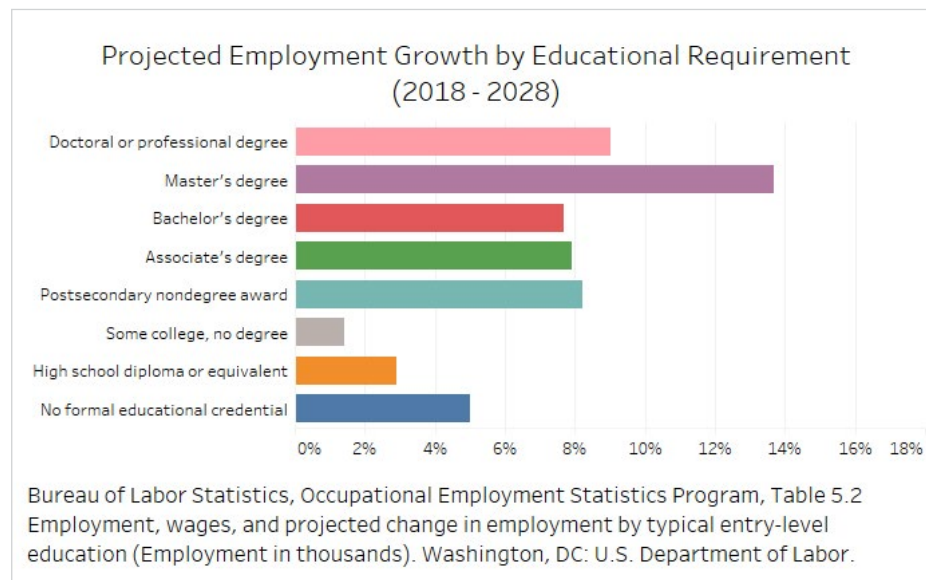


Figure 31

- It is difficult to know exactly what skills Lincoln residents will need to meet the demands of the future.
- Nationally, jobs requiring a master's degree are expected to grow the fastest.

## Quality of Workforce

Employers give Lincoln's workforce high ratings



Figure 32

- Lincoln's workforce receives high ratings for quality from local area businesses.
- The majority of businesses (73%) rated the quality of Lincoln's workforce as *Above Average* or higher.

## Availability of Skilled Workforce

Employers give the availability of skilled workers low ratings

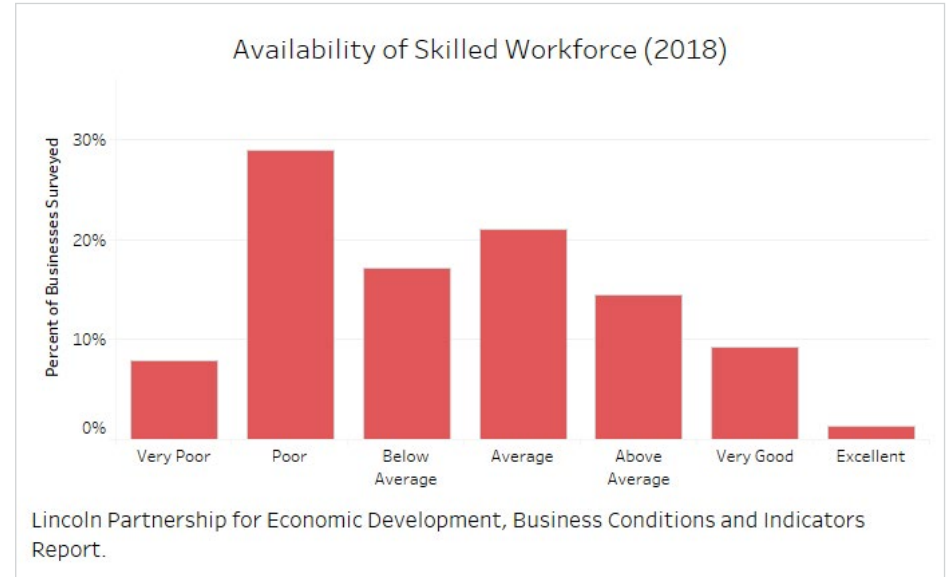


Figure 33

- Lincoln businesses report some difficulty finding qualified applicants to fill the jobs they have available.
- The majority of businesses (54%) rated the availability of skilled workforce as *Below Average* or lower.

# Employment by Sector

Most persons work in private companies

	Number Employed	Percent Employed
Private wage and salary workers	122,529	76.2%
Government workers	28,546	17.8%
Self-employed in own (not incorporated) business workers	9,692	6.0%

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP03.

Table 4

- In Lincoln in 2018, civilian workers were employed by the following type of employer:
  - 76% were private wage and salary workers
  - 18% were federal, state, or local government workers
  - 6% were self-employed in their own (not incorporated) business

# Net Job Creation

Net job creation has increased over the past decade

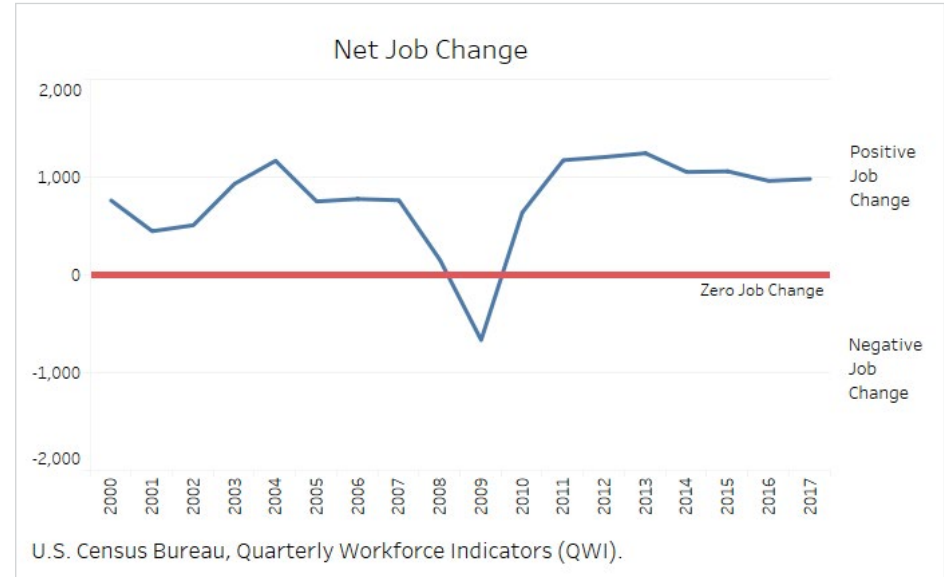


Figure 34

- Net job change was negative in 2009 during the Great Recession, but recovered in the years following.
- Net job change peaked in 2013 and has decreased slightly and stabilized from 2014-2017.

## Jobs Created by New Businesses

New businesses (0-5 years old) are creating jobs

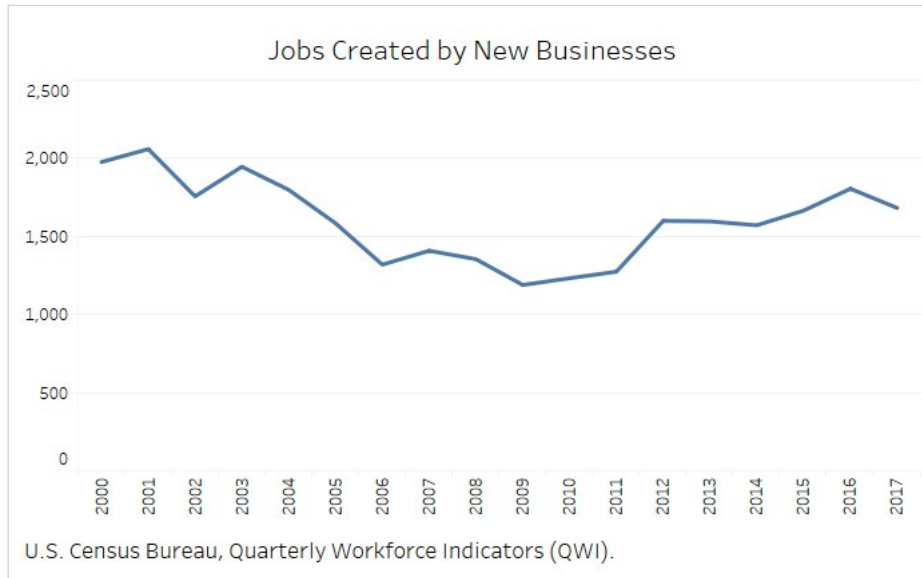


Figure 35

- There has been a 24% increase in the number of jobs created by new businesses (aged 0-5 years) from 2008 to 2017.
- Job creation by new businesses has risen slowly, but steadily, since the Great Recession, with a spike in 2016.

## Establishment Entry Rate

The establishment entry rate of new businesses has been mostly level for the past four years

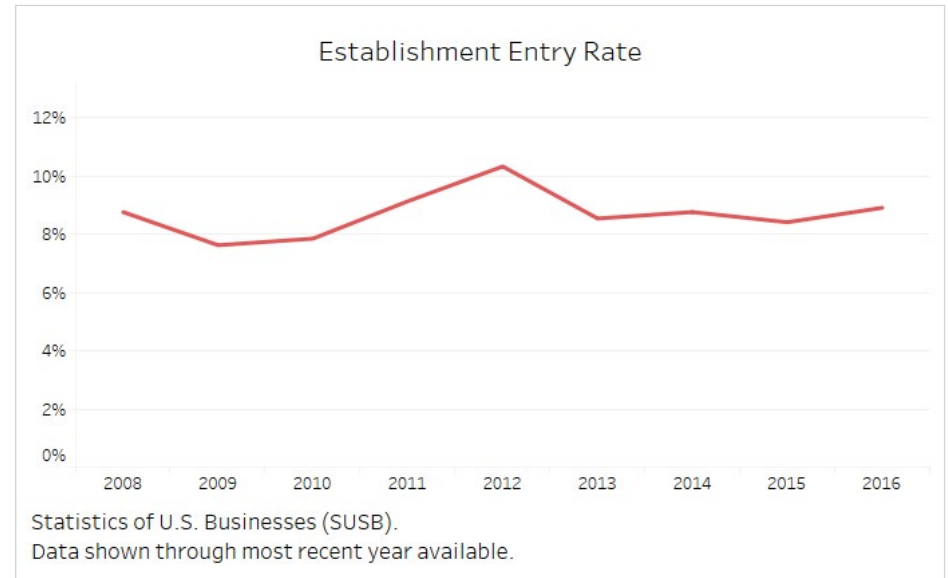


Figure 36

- The establishment of new businesses (as a percentage of existing businesses) is a measure of business growth.
- The establishment business rate dipped during the years following the Great Recession, but recovered and peaked in 2012 (10.3%).
  - The establishment business rate has remained level, with a slight uptick in the most recent year data are available (2016).



# Patents

Innovation has been increasing since 2011

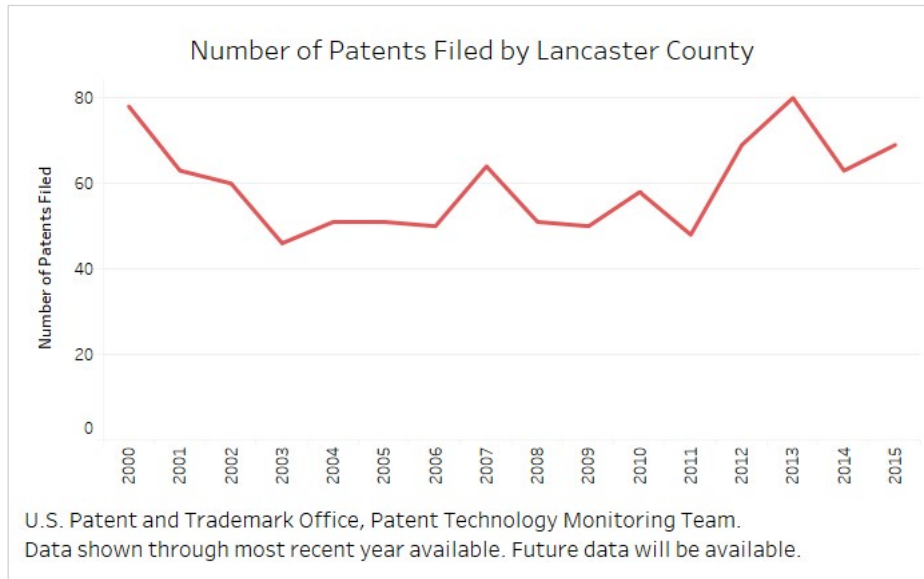


Figure 37

Patent filing is a reasonable proxy for innovation in a community.<sup>2</sup>

- The first decade of the 21st century was fairly flat, but the number of patents in the last several years has increased.

# STEM Occupations

Lincoln's percentage of STEM occupations is rebounding

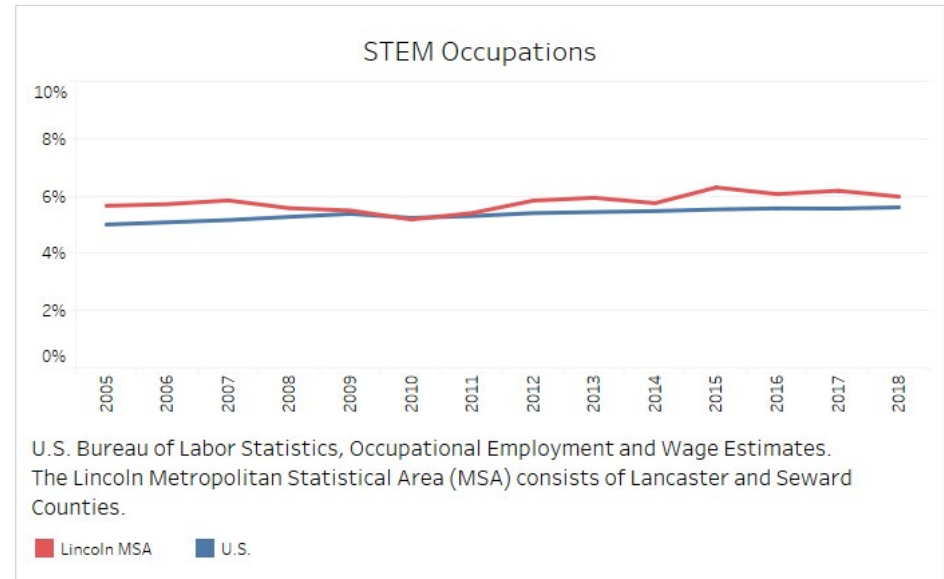


Figure 38

There is a general consensus that the United States' long-term global competitiveness will partially hinge on the supply and quality of workers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.<sup>3</sup> STEM careers are important to communities because they offer high wage jobs that will result in reinvestments back into local economies.<sup>4</sup>

- In the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA: Lancaster and Seward Counties), STEM occupations had decreased during and after the recession, but have rebounded since 2010.
- In Lincoln, 6.0% of all occupations are classified as STEM.
  - This is slightly higher than the national percentage of 5.6% of all occupations in STEM.

# Commercial & Residential Construction

Construction has grown in the past decade

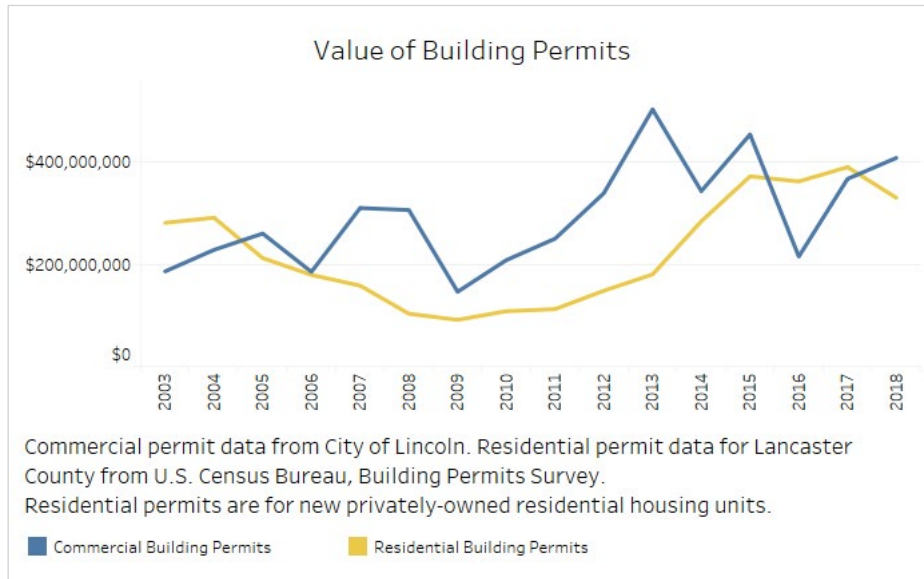


Figure 39

- Lincoln continues to invest in new commercial buildings and residences.
- The value of commercial building and residential permits have been on a general upward trend since 2009.

# Economy and Workforce Notes

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1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, 2018.
2. Acs, Z. J., Anselin, L., & Varga, A. (2002). Patents and innovation counts as measures of regional production of new knowledge. *Research Policy*, 31, 1069-1085.
3. Committee on Prospering in the Global Economy of the 21st Century. (2007). *Rising above the gathering storm: Energizing and employing America for a brighter economic future*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.
4. Rothwell, J. (2013). The hidden STEM economy. *Metropolitan Policy Program*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institute.



## Basic Needs

**Lincoln's poverty rate has dropped to 14%**, and roughly tracks the overall poverty trends of the nation. **Over 38% of public school students currently receive free lunch.** The number of households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP; formerly known as food stamps) has been stable since the Great Recession, averaging 9%. Lincoln has **seven neighborhoods in extreme poverty** (more than 40% of residents in poverty). Other trends have been going in a more positive direction: the **number of homeless in Lincoln has dropped to its lowest levels in the past 10 years**, and rates of food insecure households and individuals without health insurance have gradually decreased.

## Poverty Rate

Lincoln's number of persons in poverty has decreased 11% in the past decade

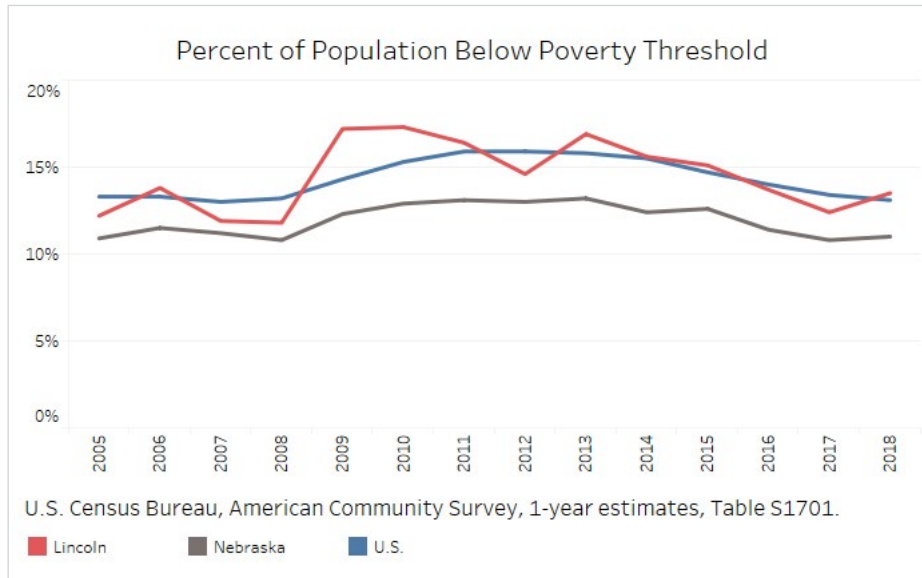


Figure 40

The federal poverty level is determined annually based on size of the family, the number of children, and a measure of income needed to purchase food and other essential goods and services.<sup>1</sup> In 2018, for example, the poverty threshold was \$25,465 for a family of four that included two related children less than 19 years of age.

- In Lincoln in 2018, 14% (37,004 persons) lived in households falling below the poverty threshold.
- Since 2009, there has been an 11% decrease in the number of persons below the poverty threshold. This represents a decrease of 4,624 persons in poverty.
- Since the year 2009, the poverty rate in Lincoln peaked in 2010 with 17% of households falling below the poverty threshold.

## Population Change by Poverty Level

Lincoln has experienced an increase in the population in poverty after several years of decreases

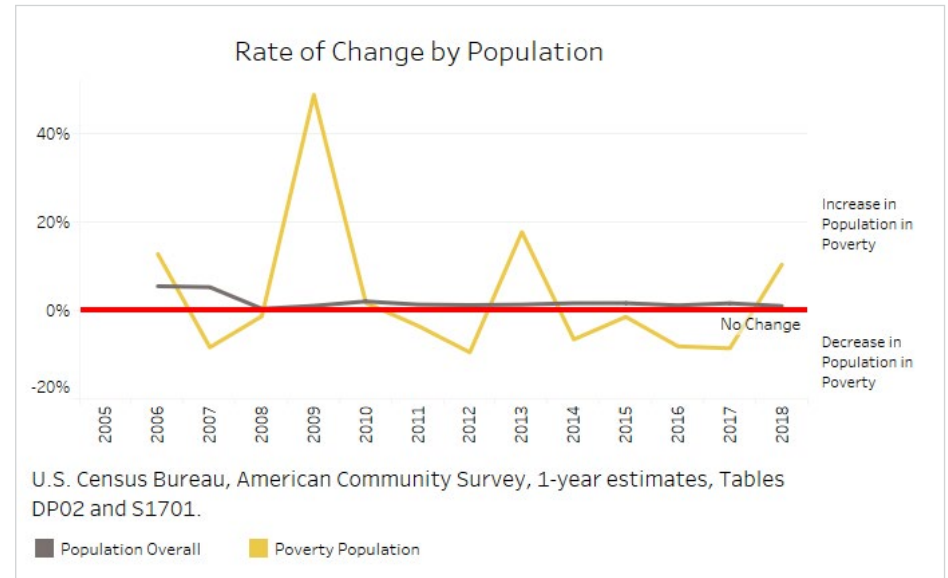


Figure 41

- In 2018, there was an increase in Lincoln's population living in poverty of 10% from the previous year. This increase represented 3,450 more people in poverty since 2017.
- From 2015 to 2017, there were successive decreases in the rate of Lincoln's population living in poverty.

## Households in/near Poverty

Approximately 30% of Lincoln's households are in or near poverty

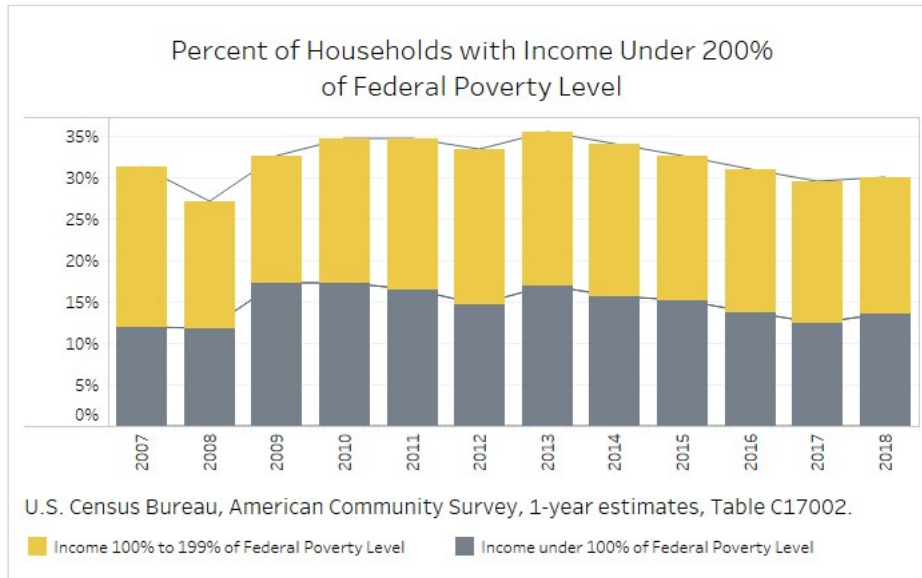


Figure 42

Households with incomes at 200% the federal poverty level or below are sometimes referred to as households “in or near poverty.”

- In 2018, the households with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level comprised 30% of Lincoln's households.

## Children in Poverty

The percentage of Lincoln's children in poverty remains below Great Recession levels

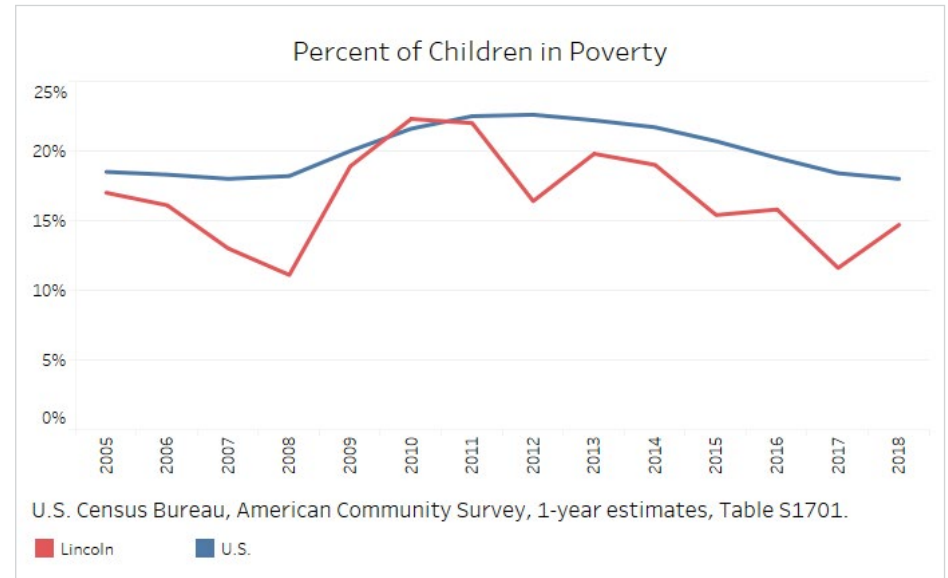


Figure 43

Children who live in poverty face tougher odds for achievement than do other children. Children who live in poverty for at least half of their childhoods are 90% more likely to leave high school without a diploma and four times more likely to be an unwed teen parent when compared with people who were never poor as children.<sup>2</sup>

- In 2018, 15% of Lincoln's children lived in poverty.
- Since 2009, there has been a 22% decrease in the number of children living in poverty.

## Poverty by Age Group

Poverty rates among children and adults aged 18 to 64 years have decreased since the Great Recession

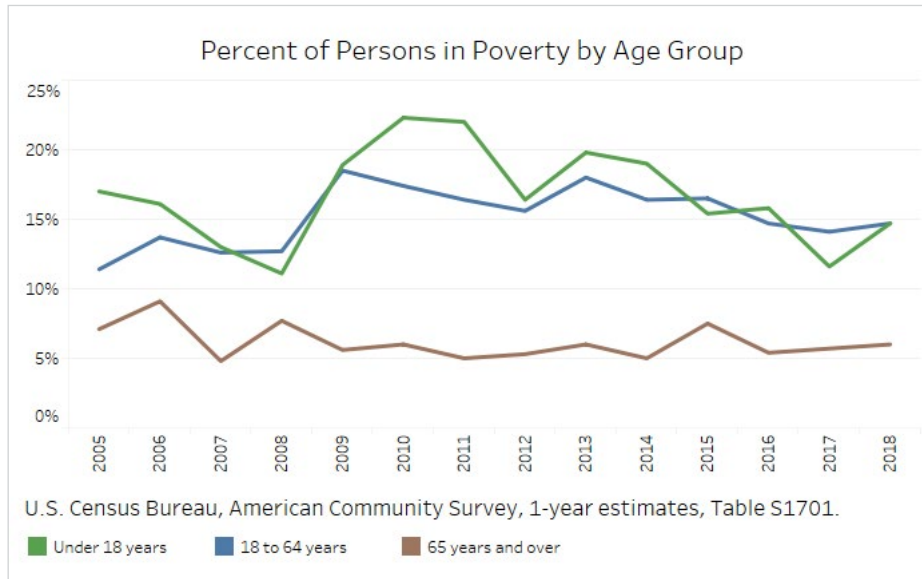


Figure 44

- Children (15%) and working-age adults (15%) have the same rate of poverty.
- Persons 65 years or older have a lower rate of poverty (6%) than other age groups.

## Families in Poverty

Single female head of household families are more likely to be living in poverty compared to all other families

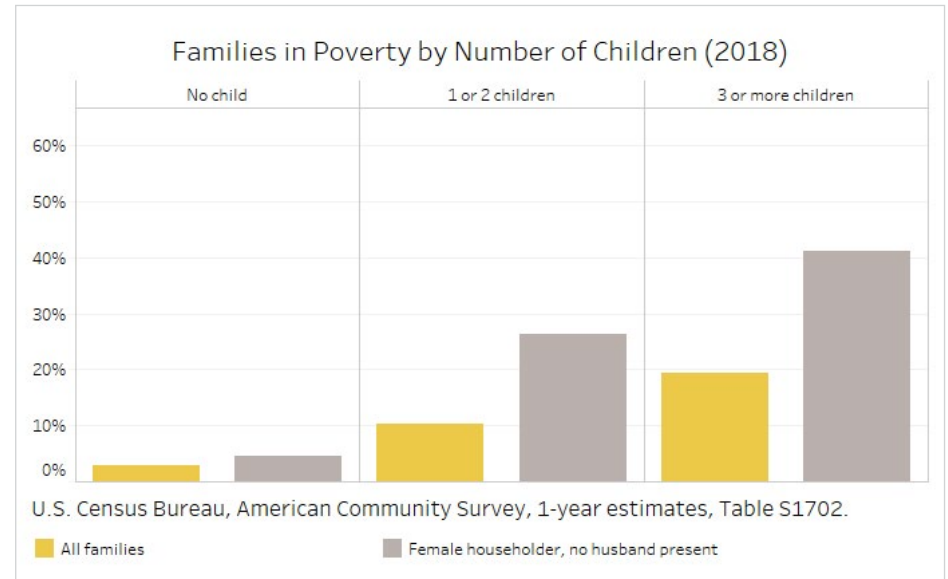


Figure 45

Of all families with one or two children, 10% are living in poverty.

- For single female head-of-household families with one or two children, 26% are in poverty.

For all families with three or more children, the poverty rate is 19%.

- Single female head-of-household families with three or more children have a poverty rate of 41%.

## Families in Poverty Over Time

Families with greater numbers of children are more likely to be in poverty

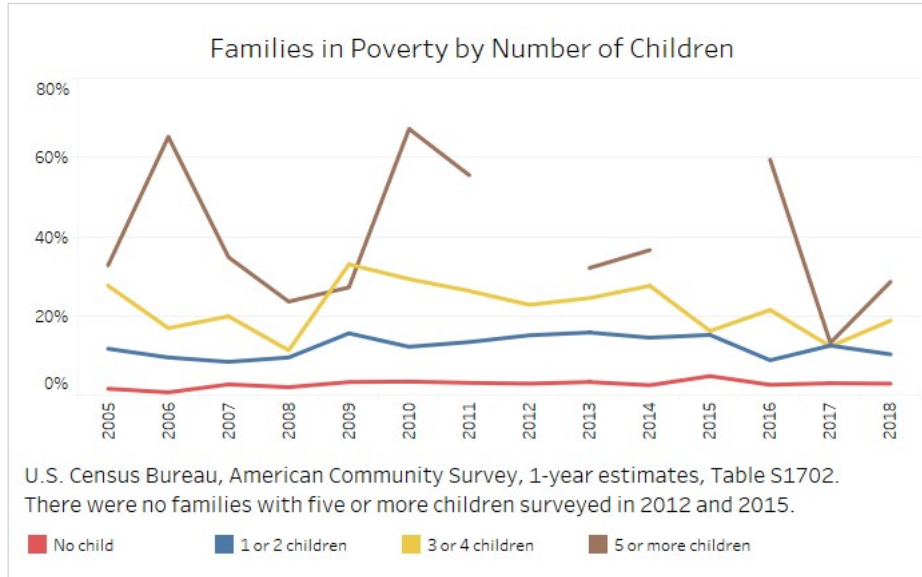


Figure 46

For all families, the number of children increases the likelihood of living in poverty.

- Since 2009, families with no children had a poverty rate between 2% and 5%.
- In the same timeframe, families with one or two children had a poverty rate between 8% and 16%.
- Families with three or four children had a poverty rate between 12% and 33%.

## Poverty & Race/Ethnicity - Number

The number of persons in poverty increased among most racial/ethnic groups in Lincoln in the past year

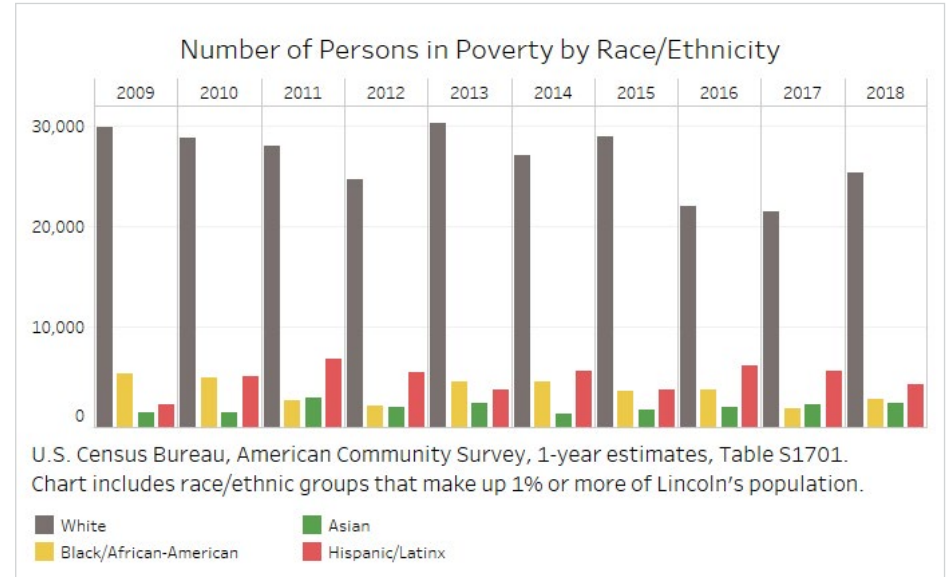


Figure 47

- The number of persons in poverty increased among all racial/ethnic groups in Lincoln except those of Hispanic/Latinx origin.
- Most individuals in poverty in Lincoln are White non-Hispanic/Latinx (25,277 in 2018).



## Poverty & Race/Ethnicity – Percent

Racial and ethnic minorities have higher rates of poverty than White non-Hispanic/Latinx persons

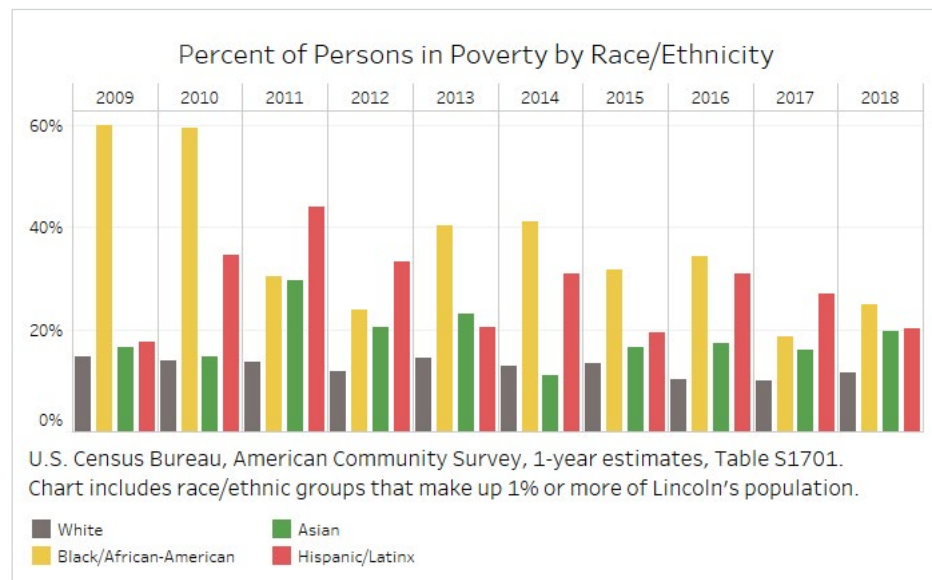


Figure 48

Poverty rates vary by race and ethnicity.

- Rates of poverty for Whites have held steady at about 13% since 2009, and have been the lowest of all races/ethnicities.
- The rate of poverty among Blacks/African-Americans has dropped from 60% to 25%, but is still the highest rate of poverty among major races/ethnicities in Lincoln.

Given Lincoln's increasingly diverse population, the high poverty rates among racial and ethnic minorities are cause for concern.

## New Americans in Poverty

Newer New Americans in Lincoln have higher poverty rates

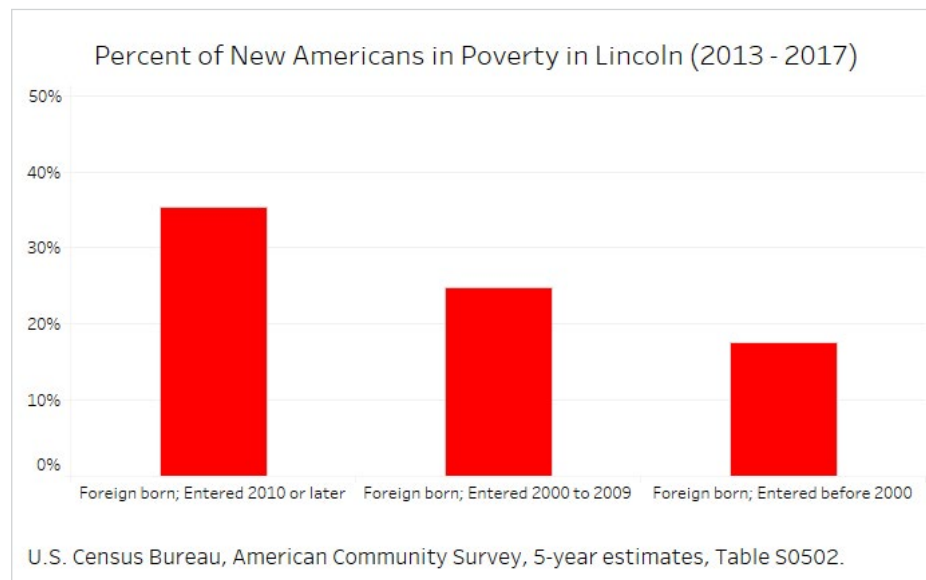


Figure 49

- Among foreign-born persons who live in Lincoln, persons who entered the United States prior to 2000 have poverty rates of 18%, whereas those who entered between 2000 to 2009 have a poverty rate of 25%, and those who entered after 2010 have a poverty rate of 35%.

## Poverty by Education

Poverty rates are higher among those with less educational attainment

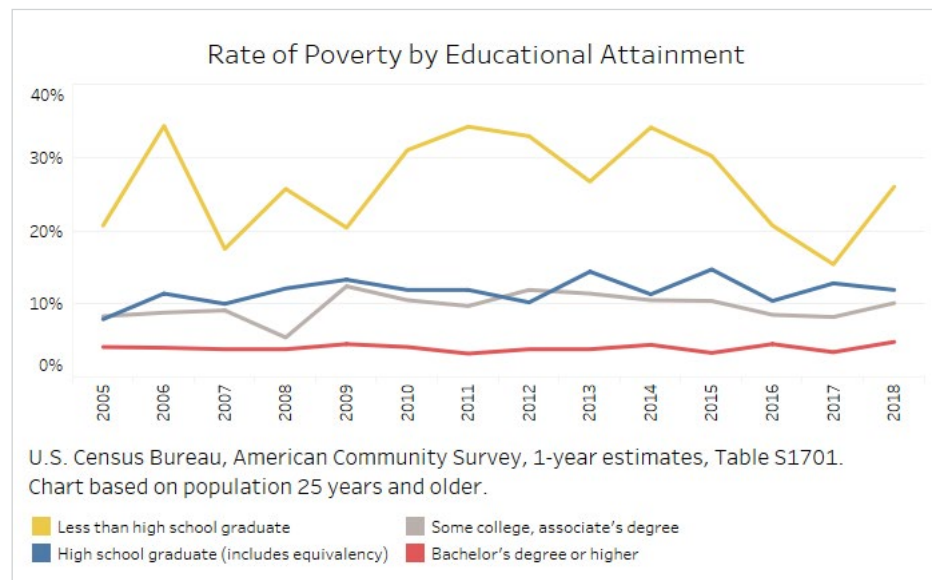


Figure 50

Lincoln residents with less than a high school diploma had higher poverty rates than those who achieved greater levels of educational attainment:

- 26% - Did not complete high school
- 12% - High school graduate or equivalent
- 10% - Some college, associate's degree
- 5% - Bachelor's degree or higher

The poverty rate for those with less than a high school diploma has varied widely in the past decade, and has been quite high in years since the Great Recession.

The poverty rate for other educational attainment groups was not greatly impacted by the Great Recession and has remained fairly level for the past decade.

## Poverty by School Enrollment

Approximately 48% of those in poverty are enrolled in school

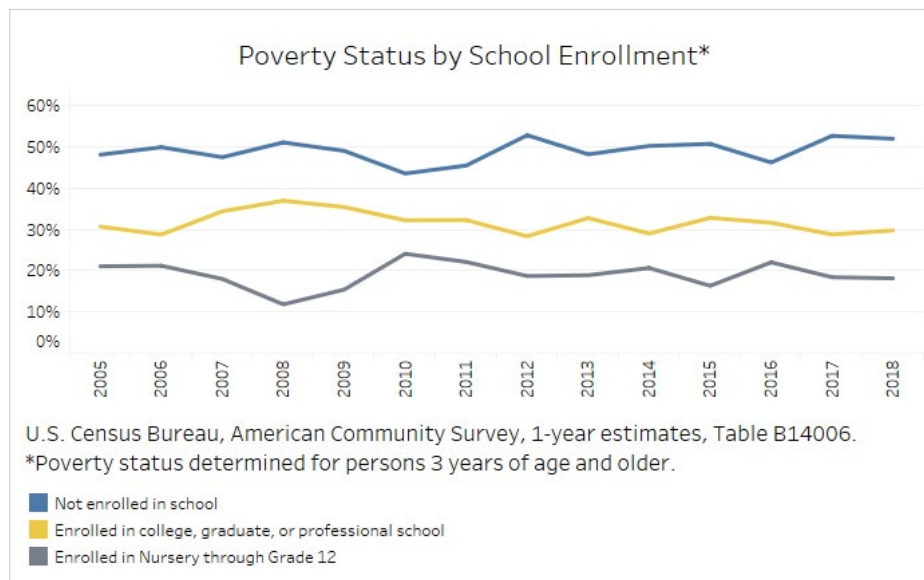


Figure 51

- Of persons in poverty, 52% are not enrolled in school.
- Approximately 30% of persons in poverty are enrolled in college or graduate/professional schools.
- Approximately 18% of persons in poverty are children enrolled in nursery school through grade 12.

# Census Tracts in Extreme Poverty

There are seven neighborhoods in extreme poverty

Lincoln Census Tracts in Extreme Poverty

Census Tract	2010	2013	2015	2017
4*	42%	39%	36%	40%
5	60%	47%	46%	59%
7	32%	46%	40%	41%
8*	24%	28%	30%	43%
17^	38%	45%	36%	34%
18	26%	33%	43%	44%
19*	38%	36%	37%	47%
20.01	55%	46%	43%	45%
20.02^	40%	44%	42%	32%
31.03^	47%	40%	30%	25%
33.01^	41%	44%	35%	32%

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table S1701.

\*Added since the Lincoln Vital Signs 2017 report. ^No longer in extreme poverty. Does not include Census Tracts 6, 35, or 36.01.

Table 5

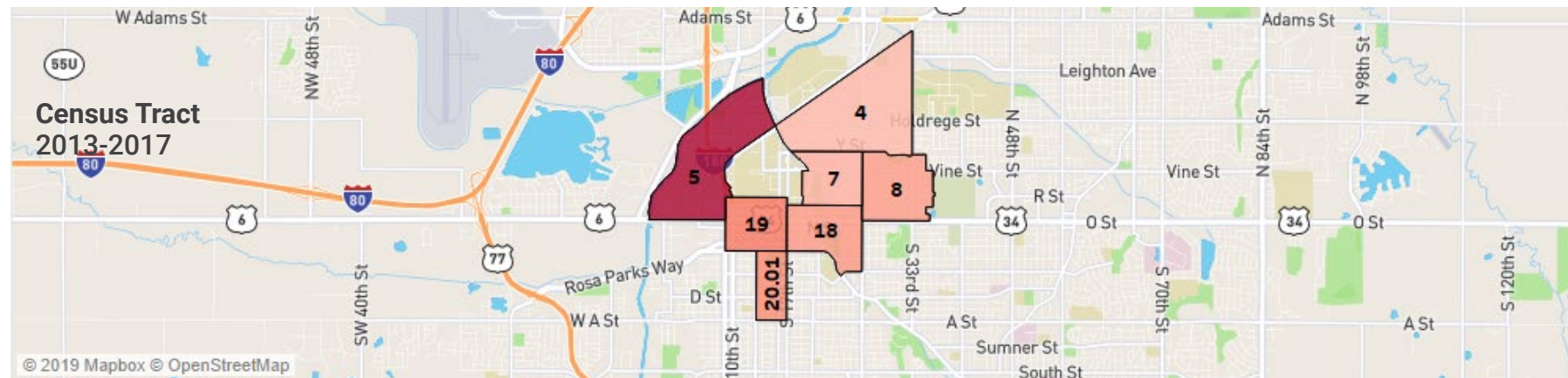
Neighborhoods in extreme poverty are generally considered to be those with more than 40% of residents in poverty. At this concentrated level of poverty, individuals begin to face cultural and social constraints that isolate them from opportunities for economic advancement.<sup>3,4</sup>

- In 2000, Lincoln had no neighborhoods in extreme poverty.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2015, Lincoln had five neighborhoods in extreme poverty.

- In 2017, Lincoln had seven neighborhoods in extreme poverty. Neighborhoods in extreme poverty fluctuate over time, particularly for neighborhoods with poverty rates hovering close to 40%.
- Census Tracts 4, 8, and 19 are new extreme poverty neighborhoods in this report (at 40%, 43%, and 47% respectively).

# Census Tract Poverty Map

## Extreme poverty neighborhoods in Lincoln, 2012 to 2017



Census Tracts	Poverty Rate	HS Grad Rate	Family Households	Unemployment Rate	College Enrollment
5	59.1%	19.5%	18.0%	13.1%	88.6%
19	46.9%	5.3%	18.6%	8.4%	89.4%
20.01	45.0%	22.4%	20.1%	5.8%	51.7%
18	43.8%	29.4%	37.4%	7.2%	46.0%
8	43.3%	31.4%	56.2%	7.8%	47.7%
7	41.1%	16.5%	56.3%	9.8%	66.9%
4	40.3%	38.2%	47.1%	9.0%	79.7%
Lincoln Overall	12.4%	22.2%	58.4%	4.1%	60.4%

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Tables B14006, DP02, DP03, DP05, S1401, S1602, S1701. Highlighted and labeled areas are census tracts in extreme poverty.

### Map 1

Extreme poverty neighborhoods are characterized by higher unemployment rates, high numbers of college students, higher numbers of racial/ethnic minorities, and lower educational attainment compared to Lincoln as a whole.

Although each of the extreme poverty neighborhoods has a unique profile, as of 2017 there were some similarities:

- All of them have an unemployment rate ranging from 6% to 13%, which is higher than the average for Lincoln as a whole (4%).
- Three of them (5, 7, 19) have a high school graduation rate lower

than the average rate for Lincoln as a whole (22%).

- Among individuals aged 18-24, four of them (4, 5, 6, 19) had higher numbers of individuals enrolled in college or graduate school than Lincoln overall.
- Among the population 25 years or older, all but one Census Tract (19) had lower rates of those with a bachelor's degree compared to the average rate for Lincoln as a whole (24%).
- All but one Census Tract (19) had a higher percentage of racial/ethnic minorities than Lincoln overall.

## SNAP Benefits

SNAP program participation has declined in recent years

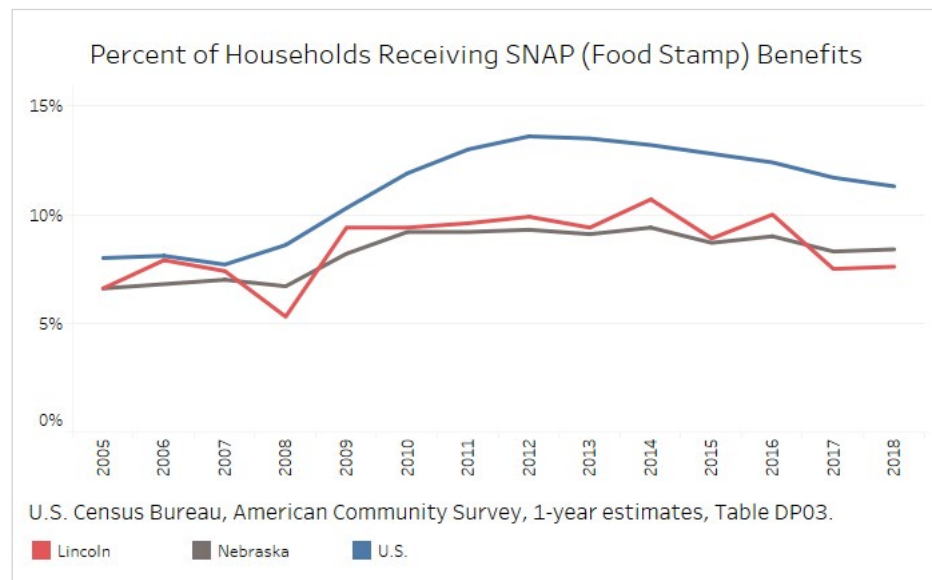


Figure 52

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP; formerly called food stamps) provides financial assistance for food purchases to households with incomes below 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.<sup>6</sup>

- Participation in SNAP has declined in the past decade, from 9.4% in 2009 to 7.6% in 2018.
- Lincoln's rate of SNAP participation is lower than the level of households that receive SNAP benefits in Nebraska (8.4%) and nationally (11.3%).

## Free/Reduced Lunch

Free lunch participation has increased steadily over the past decade

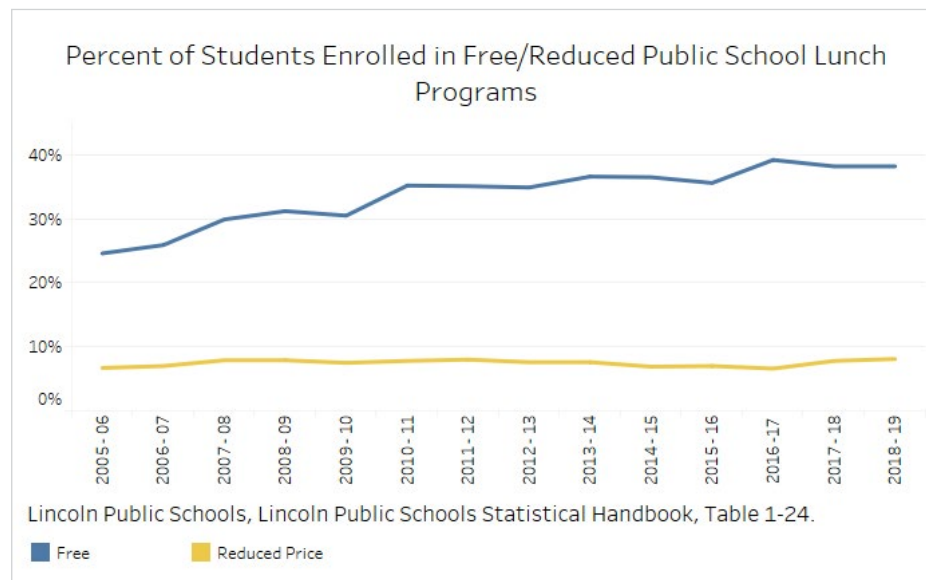


Figure 53

- In the 2018–19 school year, there were 3,262 students receiving reduced price lunches, and 15,377 receiving free lunches at Lincoln Public Schools, representing 46% of students.<sup>7</sup>
- The number of Lincoln Public School students receiving free or reduced lunch has grown 81% in the past decade.
- For more than a decade, students receiving reduced price lunch has held steady. This suggests that families facing great economic hardship have enrolled (eligible for free lunch), while families facing lesser economic hardship have not enrolled (eligible for reduced price lunch).

# Food Insecurity

Lancaster County has the same rate of food insecurity as the United States and Nebraska as a whole

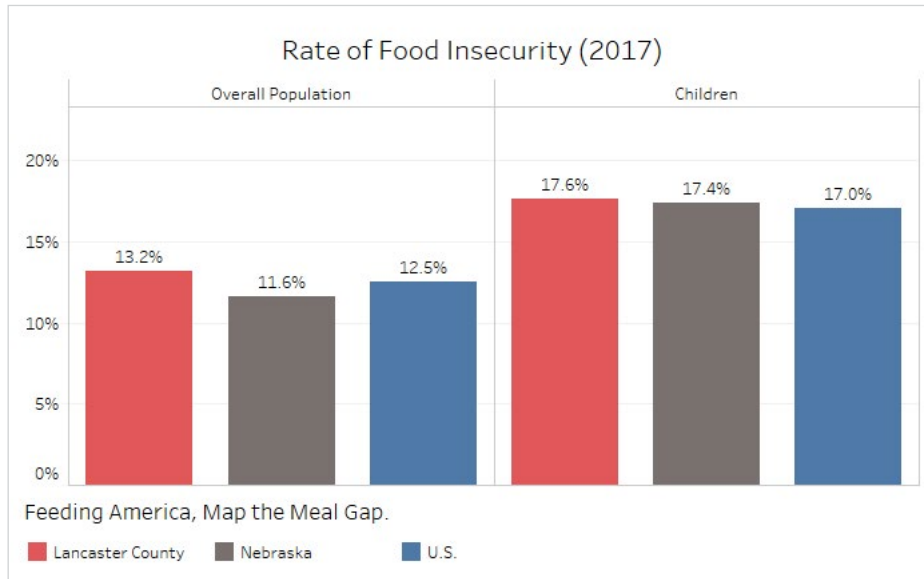


Figure 54

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as limited or uncertain access to adequate food.<sup>8</sup> Food insecurity negatively impacts health.<sup>9</sup> For children, it can also impede physical and mental development.<sup>10</sup>

- Lancaster County has the same rate of food insecurity as the rest of the United States (13%).
- Food insecurity in Lancaster County is higher for children (18%) than for the overall population (13%).

# Food Insecurity Assistance Ineligibility

Lancaster County has higher rates of food insecure persons who are ineligible for federal nutrition programs compared to the United States

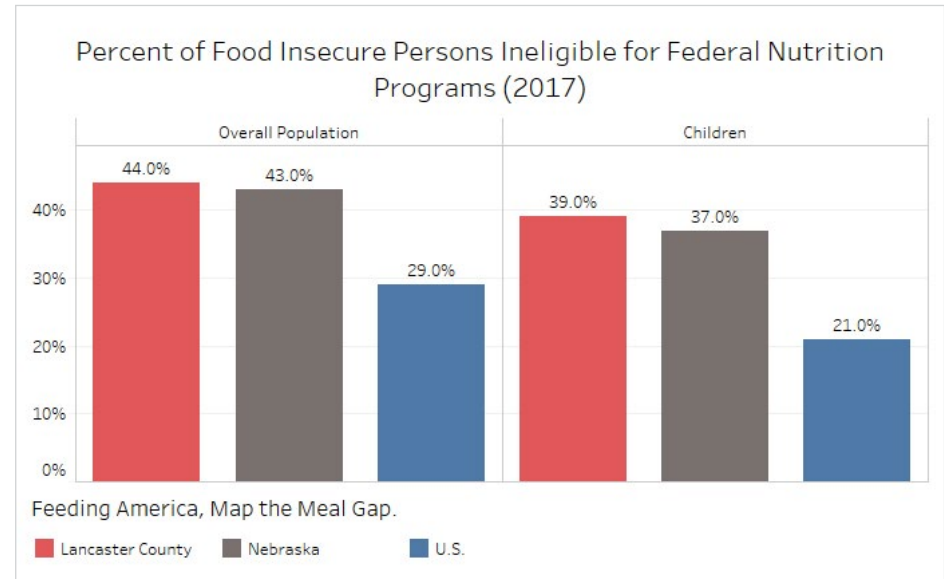


Figure 55

Those who are food insecure are the ones who can benefit most from federal nutrition programs.

- Lancaster County has a higher rate of food insecure persons who are ineligible for federal nutrition programs compared to the United States overall.
  - 44% of people overall, and 39% of children, who are food insecure in Lancaster County are not eligible to receive federal nutrition benefits.

## Uninsured Population

The uninsured population in Lincoln has fluctuated between 9% and 17% over the past decade

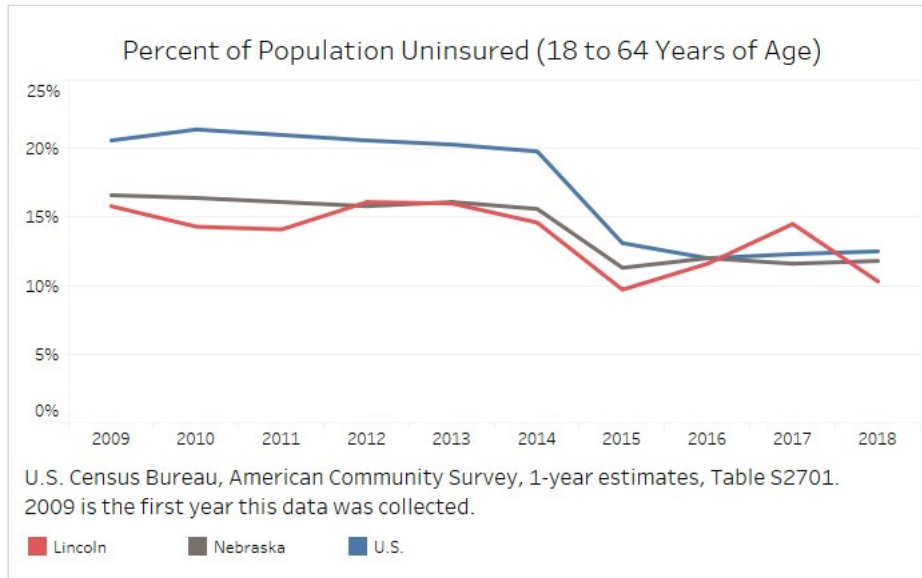


Figure 56

To identify the uninsured, it is common practice to focus on the population 18 to 64 years of age, because there are programs that ensure availability of health insurance to children (the Children's Health Insurance Program, called Kids Connection in Nebraska) and elders (Medicare).

- The percentage of the population 18 to 64 years of age without health insurance in Lincoln is lower than the U.S. average.
- In 2018, there were 21,225 uninsured people in Lincoln's 18 to 64 age group.

## Medicaid-Only Coverage

The rate of adults in Lincoln covered only by Medicaid is lower than the United States overall

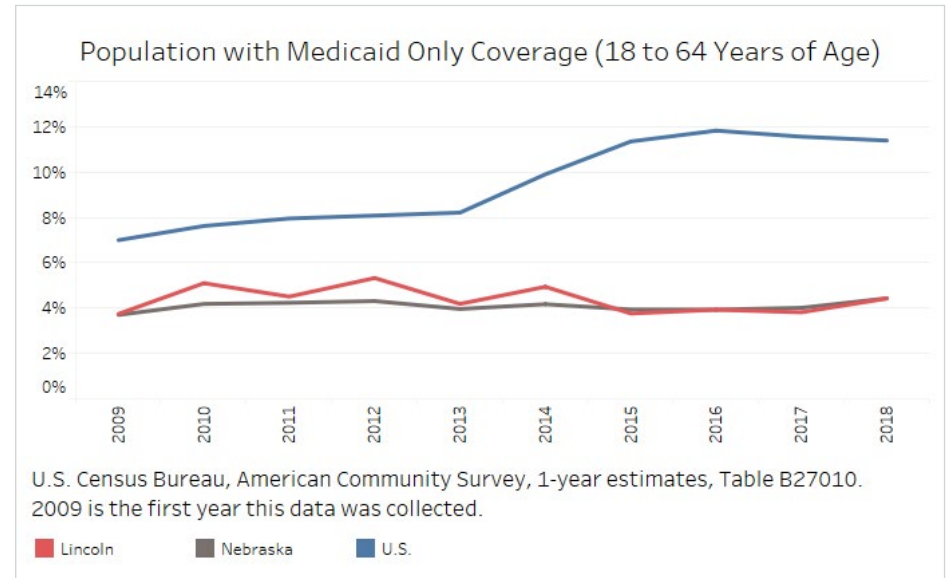


Figure 57

- In 2018, there were 7,835 people in the 18 to 64 age group in Lincoln with Medicaid-only health coverage.
- The rate of those with Medicaid-only coverage has remained fairly steady over the past decade.

# Healthcare Coverage by Age

Insurance profile varies by age group

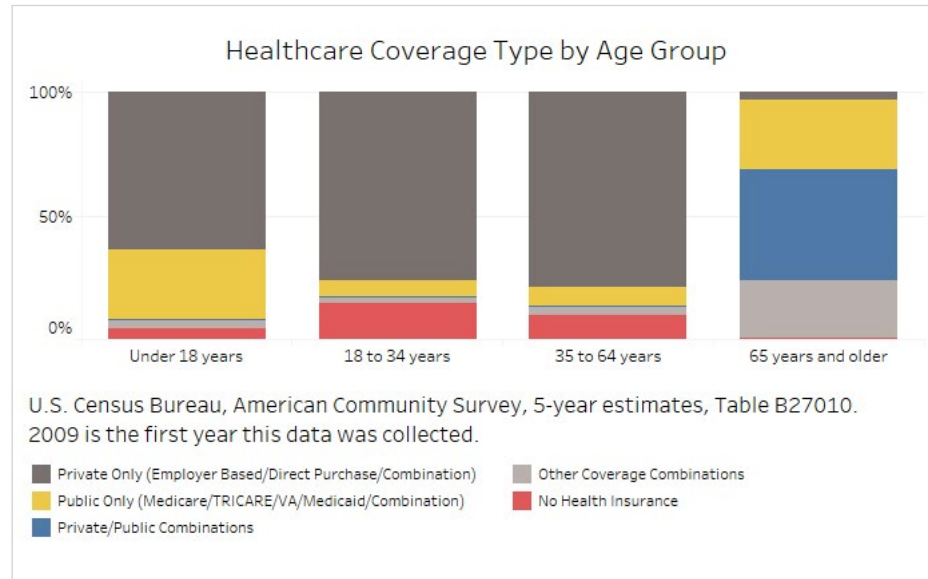


Figure 58

- Children and those 65 years and over have higher rates of publicly funded health insurance than do working age adults (18 to 64 years old).
- The working age population has the highest rates of no health insurance.

# Cost of Living Index

Housing costs in Lincoln are low

	Cost of Living Index - Lincoln, NE	
	Overall	Housing
2018	94%	81%
2017	93%	83%
2016	91%	79%
2015	91%	79%
2014	91%	76%
2013	90%	76%
2012	93%	82%
2011	93%	84%
2010	92%	82%

The Council for Community and Economic Research, Cost of Living Index (COLI).

Table 6

In Lincoln, low housing costs are a significant component of the low cost of living.

- In 2018, the cost of housing in Lincoln was 81% of the national average.
- Low housing costs do not appear to be caused by oversupply: In Lincoln, homeowner and rental vacancy rates are lower than those in the rest of Nebraska and the nation.<sup>11</sup>



## Housing Costs

Over one-third of renters in Lincoln are spending a large portion of their income on housing

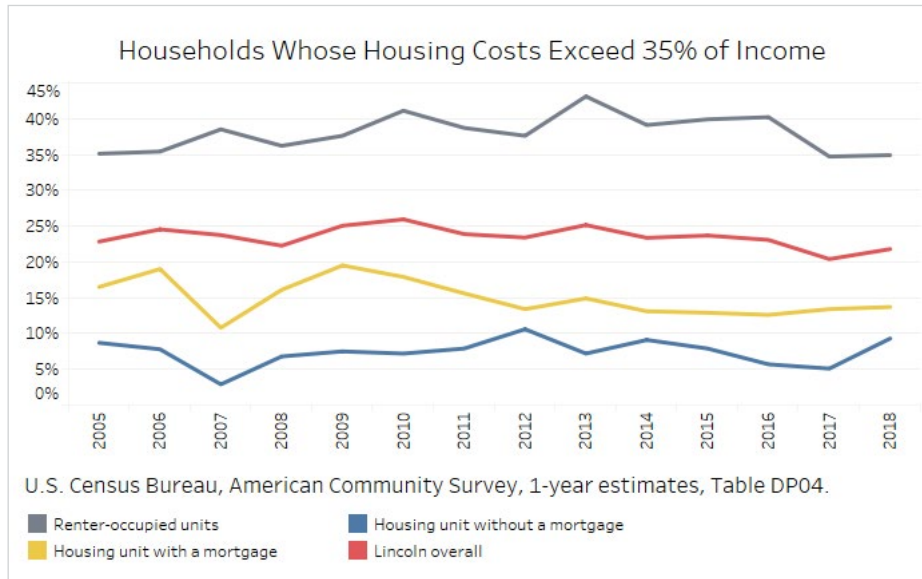


Figure 59

A standard measure of housing affordability is the percentage of household income devoted to housing costs. In general, many experts believe that housing costs should not exceed 30% of a household's income, and that the percentage should decrease for lower income households.<sup>12</sup>

- 35% of all renting households pay 35% or more of their income on housing.<sup>13</sup>
- 14% of homeowners carrying a mortgage pay 35% or more of their income on housing.
- 9% of homeowners with no mortgage pay 35% or more of their income on housing.<sup>14</sup>

## Homeless Count

Homelessness in Lincoln is declining

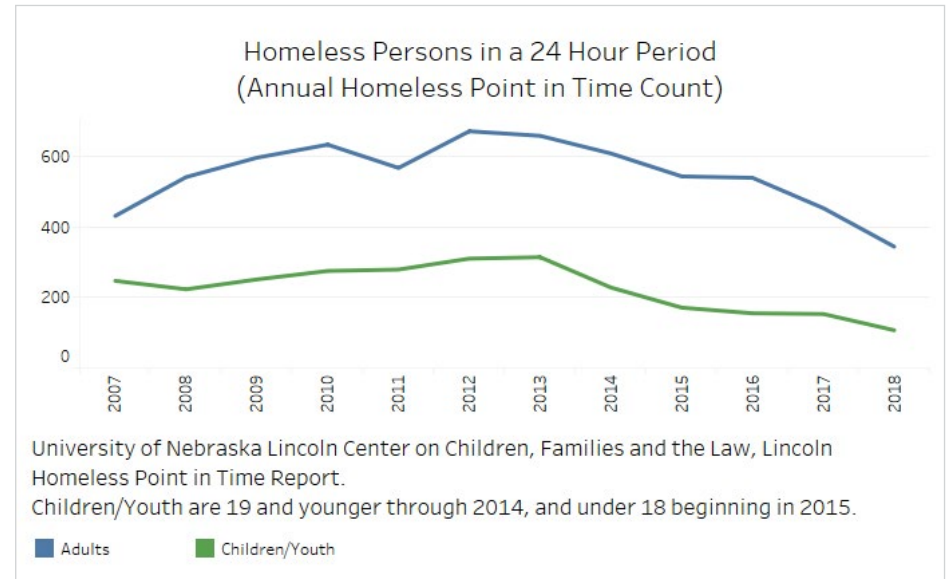


Figure 60

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development mandates that an annual count be conducted of homeless individuals<sup>15</sup> on a specified date. The most recent data reported is from the count conducted in 2018.

- In 2018, 451 persons in Lincoln were counted as homeless in the annual homeless Point-in-Time Count.
- In 2018, a little less than one quarter of homeless individuals were children under 18 years of age (107 children).
- The homeless count hit a high in 2012 of 981 persons (310 children and 671 adults), and has been declining since.<sup>16</sup>
  - The number of homeless children is 65% lower than in 2012 (310 in 2012 vs. 107 in 2018).
  - The number of homeless adults is 49% lower than in 2012 (671 in 2012 vs. 344 in 2018).

# Homeless Rate by Age

The rates of homelessness among youth and adults are at their lowest in the last decade

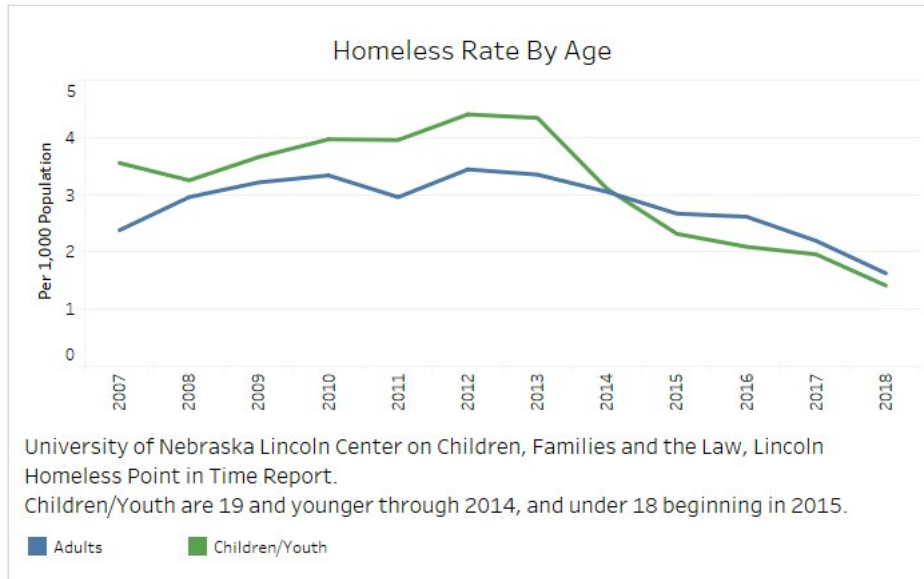


Figure 61

When homelessness is viewed as a proportion of the population, a larger proportion of the 19 and under population in Lincoln was homeless compared to the 20 and over population through 2014. Since 2015, the homeless rate among youth is lower than the rate among adults.

- Homelessness peaked in Lincoln in 2012, when there was a homeless rate of 4.4 children per 1000, and 3.4 adults per 1000.
- In 2018, the homeless rate among children was 1.4 per 1000, and 1.6 per 1000 among adults.
  - These are the lowest homelessness rates per 1000 among both children and adults in the past decade.

# Basic Needs Notes

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1. Critics have said that the Federal Poverty Threshold, developed in the early 1960s, should be improved. The measure uses food costs and a multiplier of three to calculate needed income. Needed income is compared to gross income and does not include in-kind benefits, nor does it recognize increased labor participation of women (and related child care costs), variability in health care costs across populations, or variability of expenses across geographies. These and other factors may underestimate poverty for persons in working families and overestimate poverty for persons in families receiving public assistance.
2. Fiester, L. (2013). *Early warning confirmed: A research update on third-grade reading*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E Casey Foundation.
3. Quane, J. M., & Wilson, W. J. (2012). Critical commentary: Making the connection between the socialisation and the social isolation of the inner-city poor. *Urban Studies*, 49(14), 2977-2987. doi: 10.1177/0042098012453857.
4. Wilson, W. J. (2010). Why both social structure and culture matter in a holistic analysis of inner-city poverty. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 629,200-219. doi: 10.1177/0002716209357403
5. Due to changes in the Census' methodology for sampling populations, caution must be exercised when comparing 2000 decennial data with the newer American Community Survey data. Lincoln has 72 Census Tract neighborhoods. Neighborhoods for which extreme poverty was calculated exclude Census Tract 6, situated directly over the main campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Census Tract 35, situated over the Lincoln Regional Center; and Census Tract 36.01, covering the State Penitentiary.
6. Federal Poverty Guidelines are based on size of household and income. In fiscal year 2018, a four-person household with an income less than \$31,980 (the equivalent of 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) would be eligible for SNAP benefits. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). (2018). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) FY 2018 Income Eligibility Standards. Retrieved from <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/snap/FY18-Income-Eligibility-Standards.pdf>
7. In general, students are eligible for free lunch if their household income is less than 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and eligible for reduced lunch if their household income is less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In the 2018-19 school year, students in a family of four with a household income less than \$32,630 would be eligible for free lunch, and those with a household income less than \$46,435 would be eligible for

## Basic Needs Notes Cont.

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reduced lunch. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2018). Child nutrition programs: Income eligibility guidelines. Federal Register/Vol. 83, No. 89/Tuesday, May 8, 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-05-08/pdf/2018-09679.pdf>

8. United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. (Last Updated September 4, 2019). Definitions of Food Security. Retrieved November 4, 2019 from: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx>
9. Healthy People 2020. (n.d.) Social Determinants of Health. Retrieved November 4, 2019 from: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>
10. Feeding America (n.d.) Child Hunger in America. Retrieved November 4, 2019 from: <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/child-hunger/>
11. U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey. American Community Survey 2017 1-year estimates. Table DP04.
12. Schwartz, M., & Wilson, E., (n.d.) Who can afford to live in a home?: A look at data from the 2006 American Community Survey. Washington, DC: United States Census Bureau.
13. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters.
14. Costs for households without a mortgage may include home equity loans, real estate taxes, homeowner's insurance, association fees, and utilities.
15. The HUD definition of homelessness for the purpose of a Point-in-Time homeless count includes only people who are living unsheltered on the streets, in a vehicle or another place not fit for human habitation, or in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. Many people and families considered homeless, or at risk of homelessness, including those in prison/jail, living in hotels/motels, or "couch surfing" are NOT included in the count.
16. The decrease in homelessness is believed to be attributable to increased support of homeless persons through the Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and domestic violence housing programs.



## Education

Communities with educated populations are more productive, more innovative, and earn higher salaries.<sup>1</sup> In Lincoln, **more early childhood providers are participating in quality improvement initiatives** that should lead to improved outcomes for Lincoln children. Lincoln Public Schools' enrollment is growing. Lincoln Public School students **score higher than the state averages** for third grade language arts, fourth grade writing, and eighth grade math proficiencies. However, Lincoln Public Schools' **graduation rate has fallen below both the national and statewide average**. From the earliest standardized tests through graduation rates, children from racial/ethnic minorities and from low-income households face **disparities in educational achievement and attainment**.

## Providers Participating in SUTQ

Childcare providers continue to enroll in the Step Up to Quality program

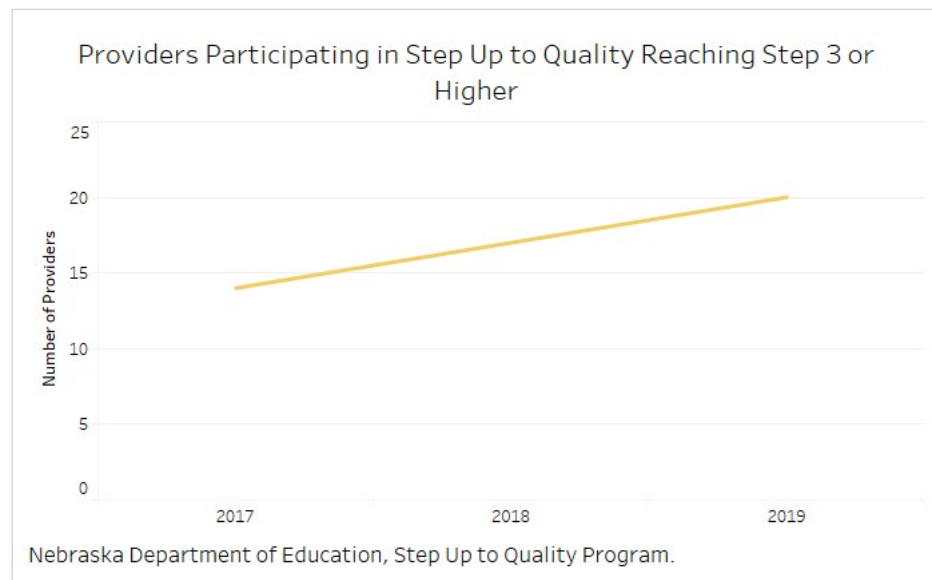


Figure 62

In 2013, Nebraska passed the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act.<sup>2</sup> This act provides training and subsidies to encourage childcare providers' participation in a quality rating system. The program's first year of operation was 2015.

- As of 2019, 20 childcare providers in Lincoln have currently reached Step 3 in the Step Up to Quality program. This has steadily increased from 14 childcare providers in 2017, and 17 in 2018.

## Young Children Enrolled in SUTQ Providers

A third of all children in Lincoln aged 0-5 are enrolled with childcare providers participating in Step Up to Quality

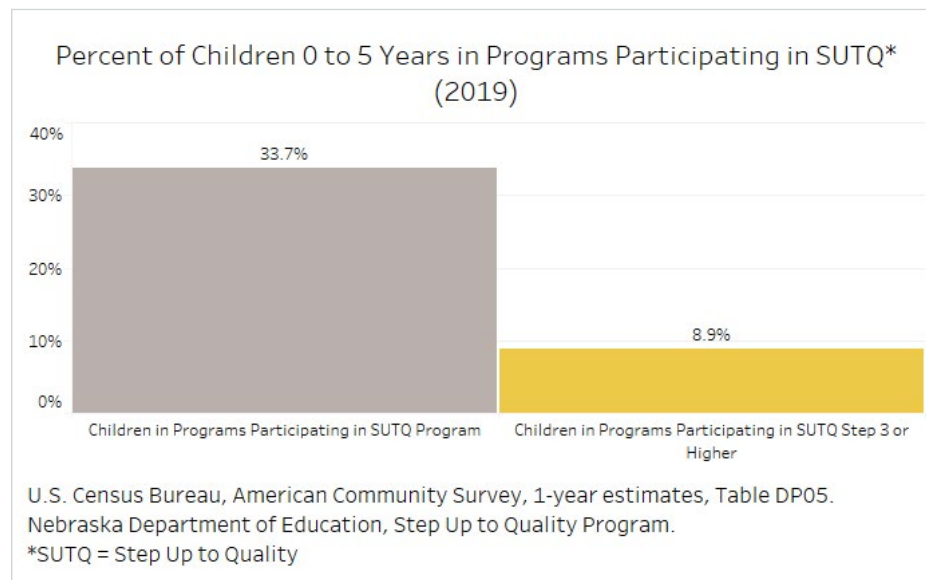


Figure 63

- 34% of all children aged 0-5 are enrolled with childcare providers participating in the Step Up to Quality program.
- 9% of all children aged 0-5 are enrolled with providers that have obtained Step 3 or higher in the Step Up to Quality program. This is nearly double the amount from 2017, when 5% of Lincoln pre-kindergarten children were enrolled with Step 3 or higher providers in the Step Up to Quality program.

## Students Enrolled in LPS K-12 Schools

K-12 enrollment in Lincoln Public Schools has grown 19% since 2009

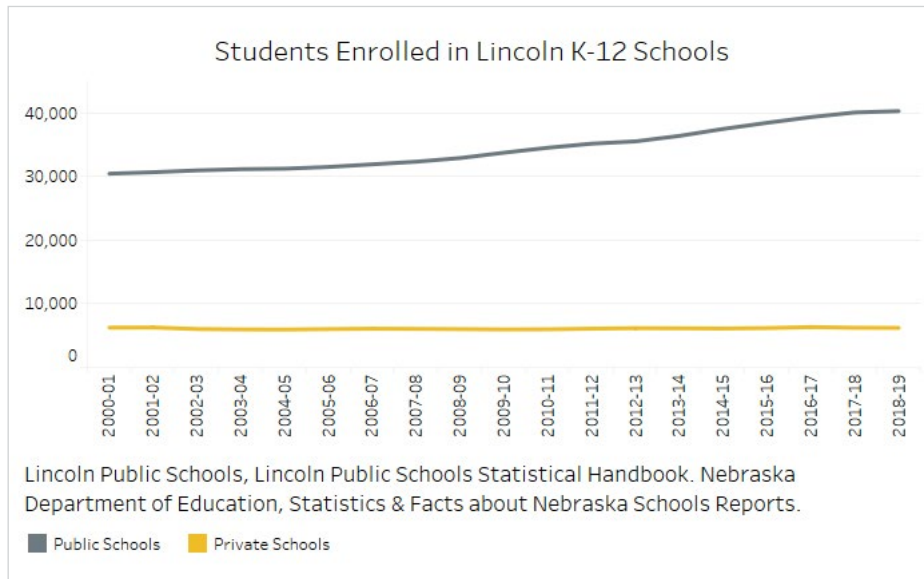


Figure 64

In 2018, 86% of students were enrolled in Lincoln’s public schools.

- Public school enrollment has increased 19% in the past decade (33,757 children in 2009 compared to 40,295 in 2018).
- Private school enrollment has increased 4% in the past decade (5,962 children in 2009 compared to 6,207 in 2018).
- Lincoln public schools also provides services, such as special education, to eligible private school students.

Figure 65

Third grade language arts proficiency is the earliest standardized test given to all public school students in Nebraska. Third grade language arts proficiency measures student achievement at a critical transition point in their educational careers: “Until the end of third grade, most students are learning to read. Beginning in fourth grade,

## Third Grade Language Proficiency

Third grade language proficiency is important indicator of future success

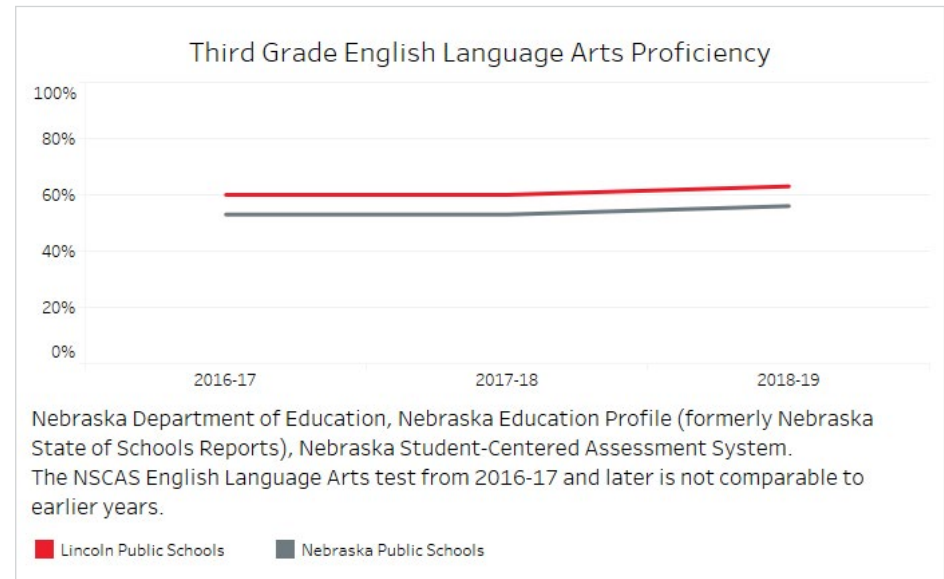


Figure 65

however, students begin reading to learn.<sup>3</sup> Students who do not read proficiently at third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma,<sup>4</sup> while third graders who read at or above their level are more likely to graduate and attend college.<sup>5</sup>

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) is the statewide assessment system for language arts skills that public schools have employed since 2016-17. It is not comparable to the older NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) assessment.

- Third grade language arts proficiency among LPS students is 63%, compared to 56% of students statewide.
- For the past three years, a higher proportion of LPS third graders were language arts proficient than for Nebraska public school students as a whole.

## Third Grade Language Arts Differential

There are significant disparities by race and ethnicity and income in third grade language arts proficiency

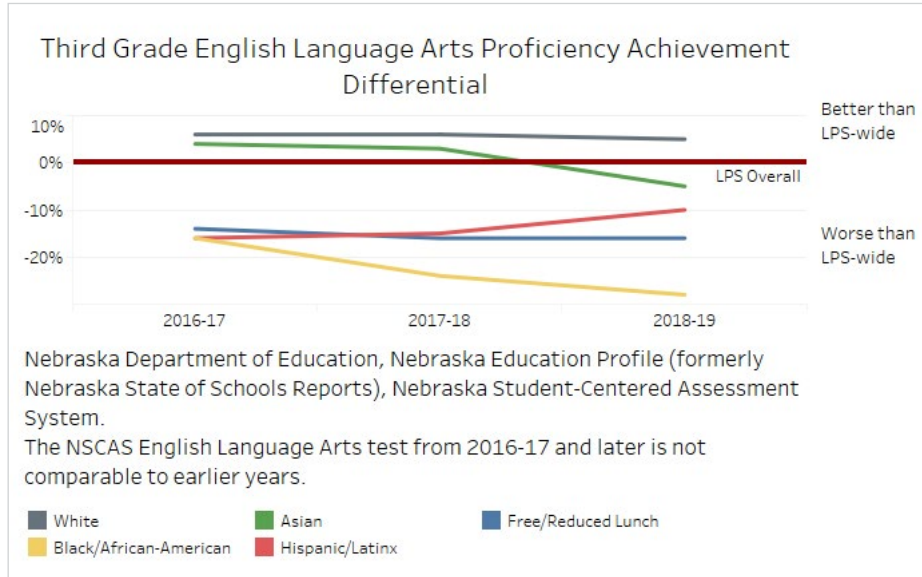


Figure 66

- Among racial and ethnic minorities, Asians trail the overall LPS population by 5%, Hispanics/Latinx trail by 10%, and Black/African-Americans trail by 28%.
- Students who receive free/reduced lunch (a proxy for low income<sup>6</sup>) trail the overall LPS population by 16%.
- Research suggests that the source of variation in educational achievement is mainly linked to family economic status and not race/ethnicity alone.<sup>7,8</sup>

## Fourth Grade Writing Proficiency

Fourth grade writing is a component of literacy.

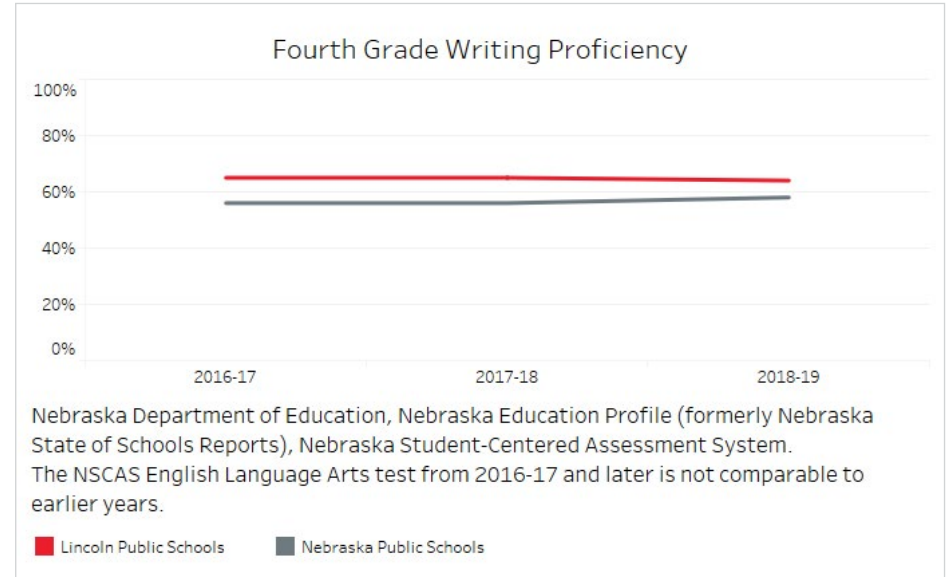


Figure 67

Along with reading, writing is an important component of literacy. In fourth grade, Nebraska public school students take a writing proficiency test as part of the NSCAS.

- In 2018-19, fourth grade writing proficiency among LPS students was 64%, compared to 58% of public school students statewide.
- Over the past three years, a higher proportion of LPS fourth graders were writing proficient compared to public school fourth graders statewide.



## Fourth Grade Writing Proficiency Differential

There are significant disparities by race and ethnicity and income in fourth grade writing proficiency

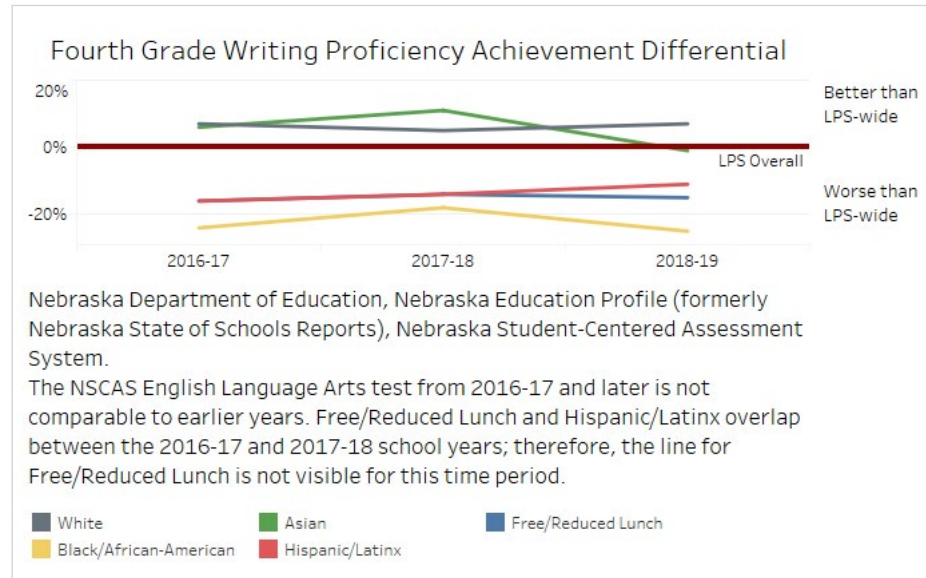


Figure 68

- Among racial and ethnic minorities, Asians trail the overall LPS population by 1%, Hispanics/Latinx trail by 11%, and Black/African-Americans trail by 25%.
- Students who receive free/reduced lunch trail the overall LPS population by 15%.

## Eighth Grade Math Proficiency

Eighth grade math proficiency has declined in the past year

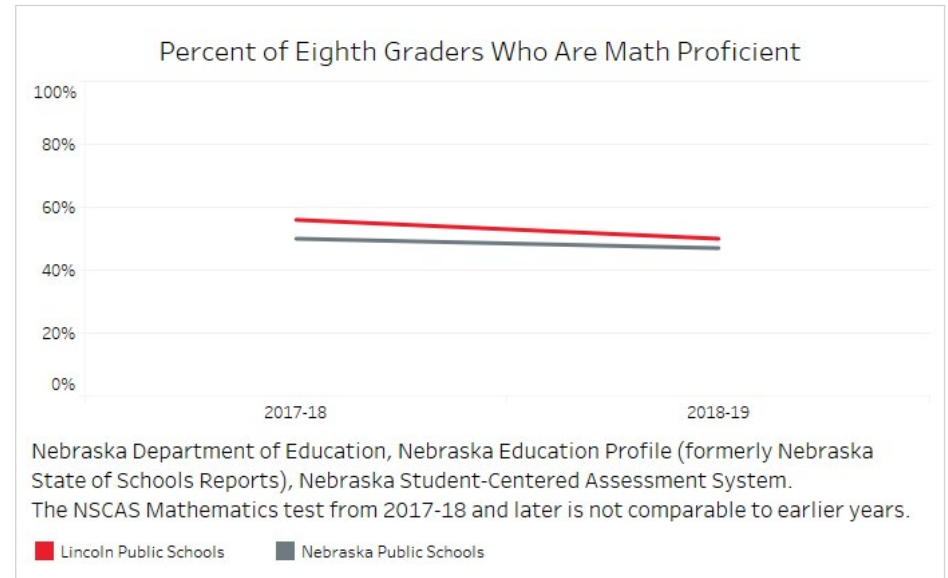


Figure 69

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) assessment for mathematics was first used in the 2017-18 school year.

- In 2018, math proficient scores dropped 11% from the previous year.
- LPS eighth grade students have a higher math proficiency score than eighth grade public school students statewide.

## Eighth Grade Math Proficiency Differential

There are significant disparities by race and ethnicity in eighth grade math proficiency

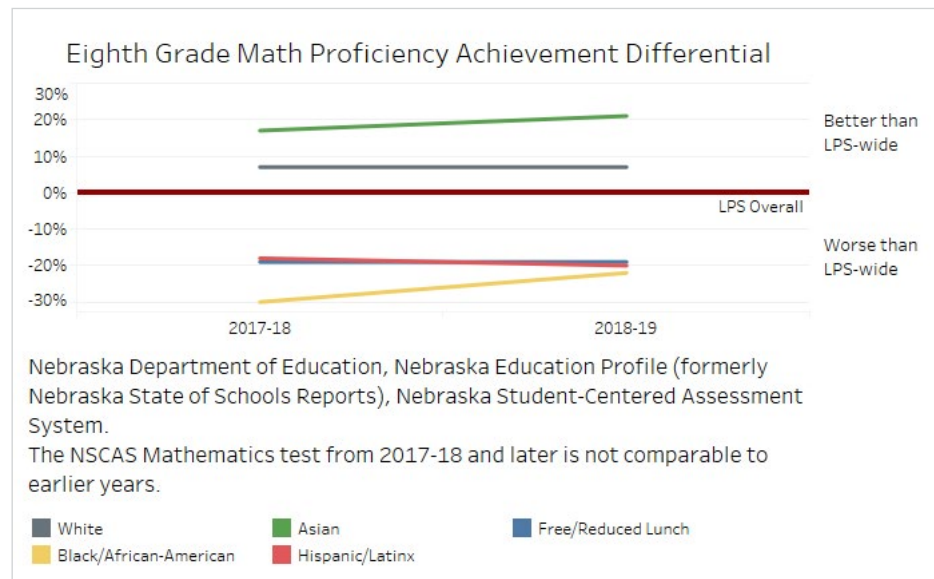


Figure 70

- Asian students have the highest eighth grade math proficiency, 21% above the overall LPS population. Whites also achieve above the overall LPS population by 7%.
- Hispanics/Latinx trail the overall LPS population by 20%, and Black/African-Americans trail by 22%.
- Students who receive free/reduced lunch trail the overall LPS population by 19%.

## Graduation Rate

LPS high school graduation rates are lower than the national average

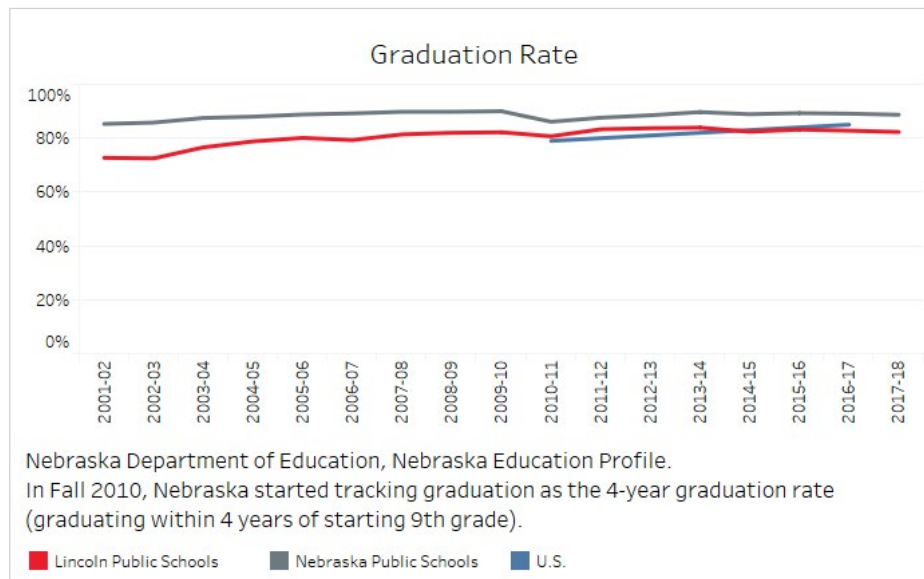


Figure 71

The national high school graduation rate exceeds the graduation rate for Lincoln Public Schools. This is due to an increase in the national rate over the past five years, while LPS graduation rates have been flat.

- Nationally, 85% of public high school students receive their high school diploma within four years of starting high school (for students graduating in the 2016-17 school year).<sup>9,10</sup>
- In the 2016-17 school year, the LPS high school graduation rate was 83%, whereas Nebraska's graduation rate was 89%.

Note: For the purposes of comparability, this report uses the state/national methodology for calculating graduation rate.

## Graduation Rate Differential

There are significant disparities by race and ethnicity and income in high school graduation rates

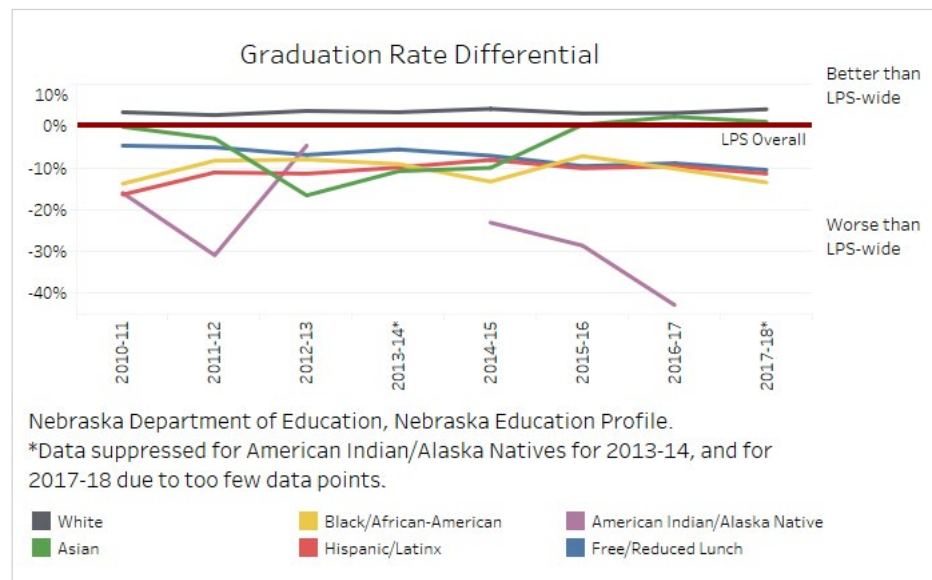


Figure 72

High school graduation rates vary widely by race, ethnicity, and income.

- Since 2010, Whites exceed the overall LPS graduation rate an average of 3%.
- Among racial and ethnic minorities since 2010, Asians trail the overall LPS graduation rate an average of 5%, Black/African-Americans trail an average of 10%, and Hispanics/Latinx trail an average of 11%.
- Graduation rate data is missing for American Indian/Alaska Native students for the 2013-14 and 2017-18 years. For existing data, American Indian/Alaska Native students trail the overall LPS graduation rate an average of 24%.
- Students who receive free/reduced lunch trail the LPS rate an average of 7%.

## Dropout Rate

LPS high school dropout rates have declined

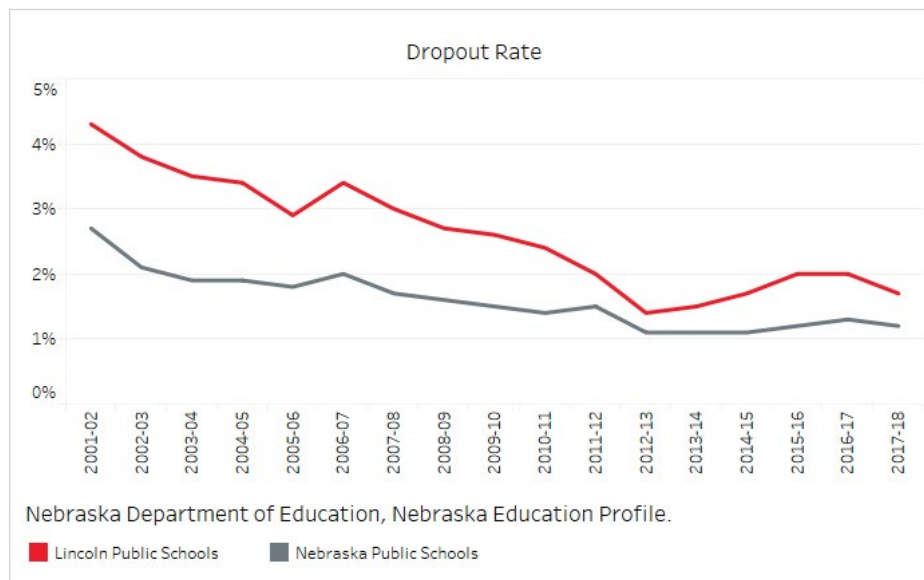


Figure 73

- The LPS high school dropout rate is 1.7%, slightly higher than the statewide dropout rate of 1.2%.

## Dropout Rate Differential

There are significant disparities by race and ethnicity in high school dropout rates

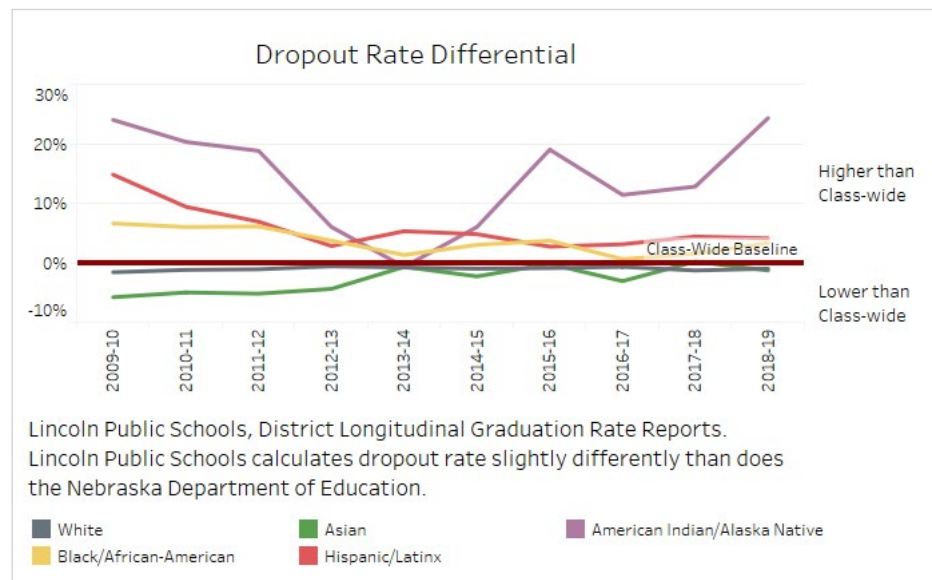


Figure 74

High school graduation rates have varied widely by race and ethnicity.

- Among racial and ethnic minorities, Asians have trailed the overall LPS dropout rate an average of 3%. Black/African-Americans exceeded the overall LPS dropout rate an average of 4%, Hispanics/Latinx exceeded the overall rate an average of 6%, and American Indian/Alaska Native students exceeded the overall LPS rate an average of 14%.

## Postsecondary Enrollment of LPS Graduates

Most Lincoln Public School graduates enter postsecondary institutions

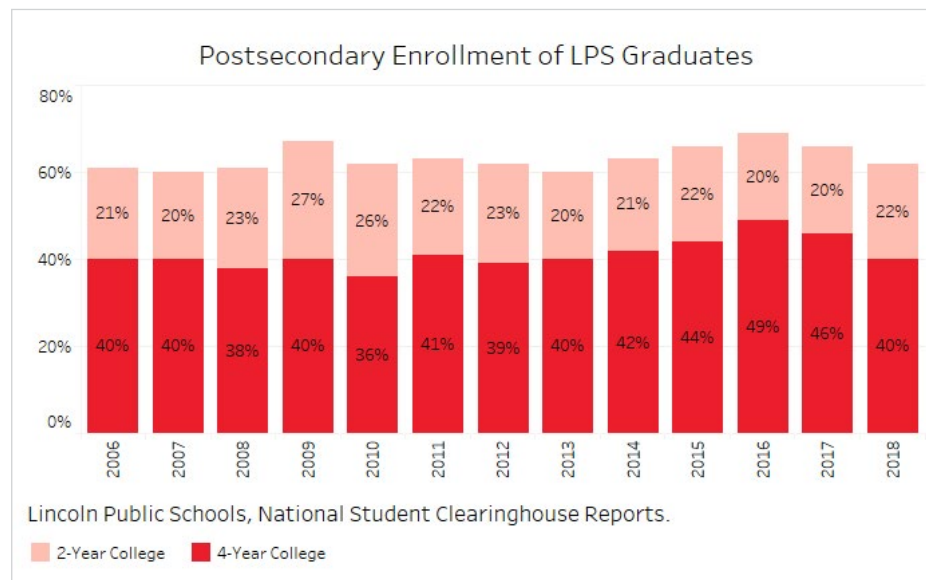


Figure 75

- In 2018, 40% of Lincoln Public School graduates entered 4-year colleges.
- In 2018, 22% of Lincoln Public School graduates entered 2-year colleges.

## Ages 18–24 in College or Graduate School

In Lincoln, almost two-thirds of people aged 18–24 years old are enrolled in college or graduate school

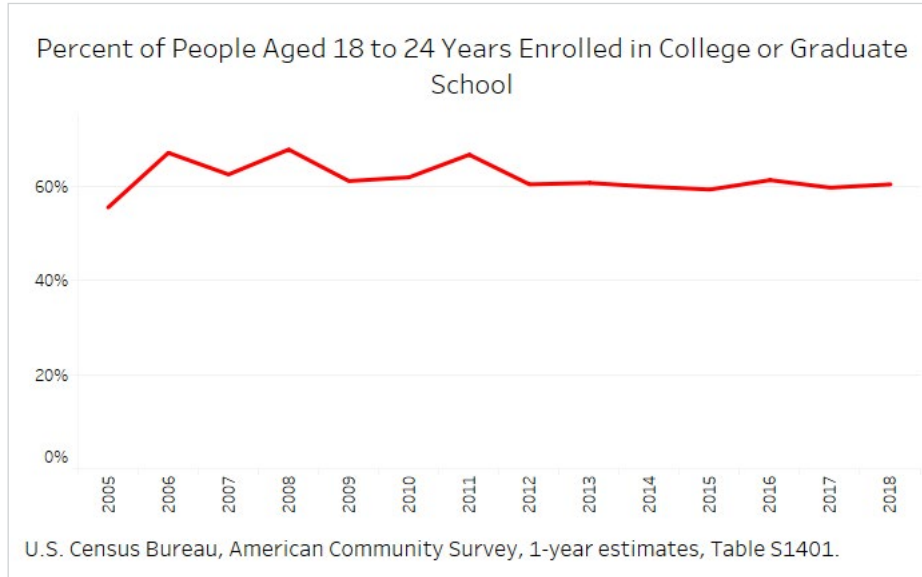


Figure 76

Lincoln is home to several postsecondary educational institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Union College, Southeast Community College, and other private institutions.

- In 2018, 60% of persons in Lincoln 18 to 24 years of age were enrolled in college or graduate school.

## Adults W/ H.S. Diploma or Bachelor's Degree

Lincoln has a higher rate of people with high school diplomas and bachelor's degrees compared to Nebraska and the nation

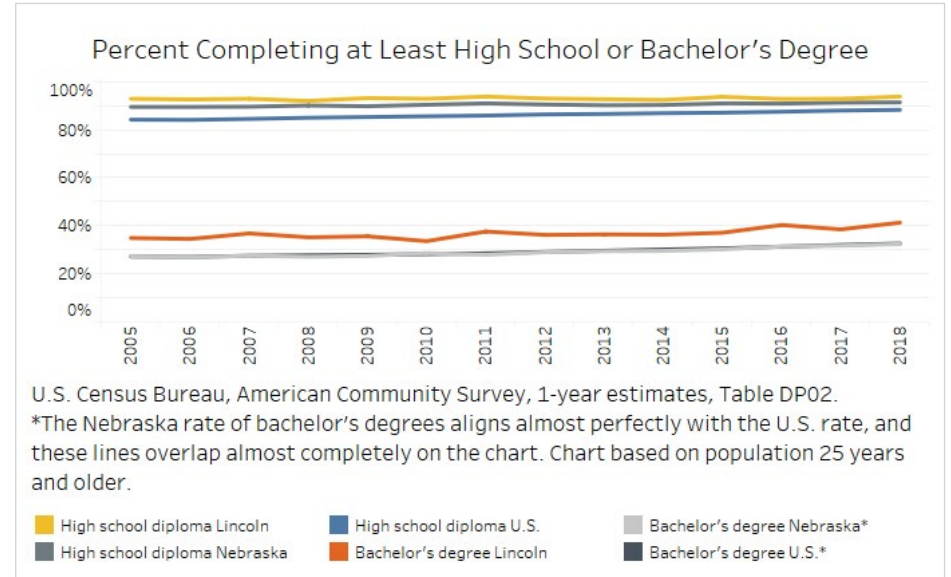


Figure 77

- In 2018 in Lincoln, 94% of the population had a high school diploma. This compares favorably to:
  - 91% for Nebraska
  - 88% nationally
- Likewise, 41% of Lincoln residents had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to:
  - 32% for Nebraska
  - 33% nationally

# Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity

Educational attainment varies by race and ethnicity

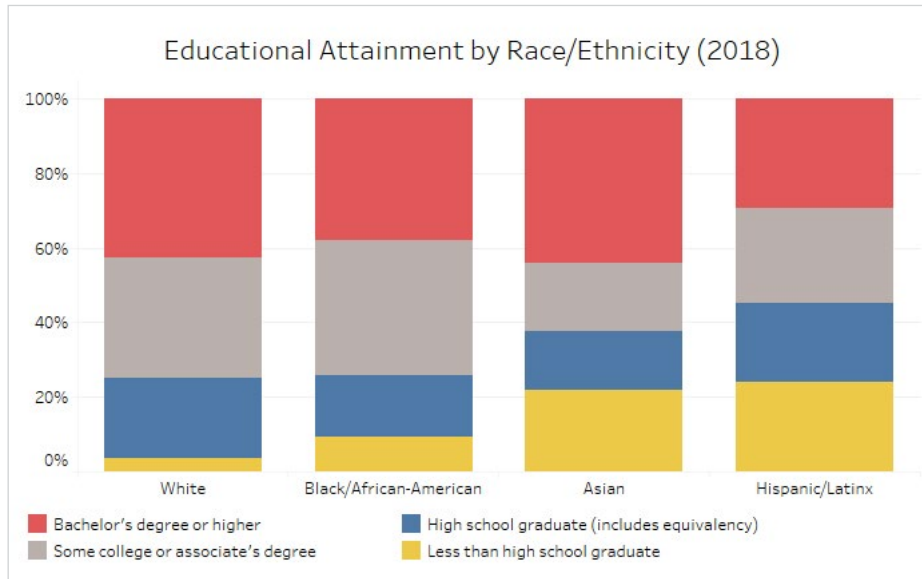


Figure 78

Educational attainment varies by race/ethnicity.

- Whites have the lowest proportion of those achieving, at most, a high school diploma or equivalency.
- Blacks/African-Americans and Whites have the highest proportion of individuals who have some college, but no degree.
- The Hispanic/Latinx population has the highest proportion of individuals with less than a high school education, and also the smallest proportion of those having received a bachelor's degree or higher.

# Education Notes

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1. Glaeser, E. (2011). *Triumph of the city*. New York, NY: Penguin Books.
2. Step Up to Quality Child Care Act, Nebraska Revised Statute 71-1961.
3. Lesnick, J., Goerge, R. M., Smithgall, C., & Gwynne, J. (2010). Reading on grade level in third grade: How is it related to high school performance and college enrollment? Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
4. Fiester, L. (2013). Early warning confirmed: A research update on third-grade reading. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
5. Lesnick, et al., 2010.
6. In general, students are eligible for free lunch if their household income is less than 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and eligible for reduced lunch if their household income is less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In the 2018-19 school year, students in a family of four with a household income less than \$32,630 would be eligible for free lunch, and those with a household income less than \$46,435 would be eligible for reduced lunch. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2018). Child nutrition programs: Income eligibility guidelines. Federal Register/Vol. 83, No. 89/Tuesday, May 8, 2018. Retrieved 11.10.2019 from <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-05-08/pdf/2018-09679.pdf>
7. Entwisle, D. R., & Alexander, K. L. (1992). Summer setback: Race, poverty, school composition, and mathematics achievement in the first two years of school. *American Sociological Review*, 57(1), 72-84. doi: 10.2307/2096145
8. Hernandez, D. J. (2011). Double jeopardy: How third-grade reading skills and poverty influence high school graduation. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
9. This is the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate for the nation, considered the most accurate estimate of four year graduation rates. McFarland, J., Hussar, B., Zhang, J., Wang, X., Wang, K., Hein, S., Diliberti, M., Forrest Cataldi, E., Bullock Mann, F., and Barmer, A. (2019). *The Condition of Education 2019* (NCES 2019-144). U.S. Department of
10. Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved 11.12.2019 from <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2019144>.
11. A 100% graduation rate is unlikely, in part because some special education students continue to receive educational services beyond four years of high school, some students graduate but in more than four years, and due to student mobility out of districts and state.



# Health

It is widely known that **Americans' health status has declined**. Lincoln, like the U.S., is experiencing increasing rates of obesity, diabetes, physical inactivity, heart disease deaths, and other indicators. Lincoln, however, still has lower rates than the U.S. as a whole on many measures.

In Lincoln, there are **large geographic disparities in a number of health measures**, such as medical care, youth fitness, tobacco use, and overall life expectancy.

In sum, Lincoln's overall health is deteriorating, but not as rapidly as the U.S. as a whole. Both Lincoln and the United States have much ground to regain in reversing current poor health trends.



# Health Risk Factors

Adult chronic health factors are better than the U.S. as a whole

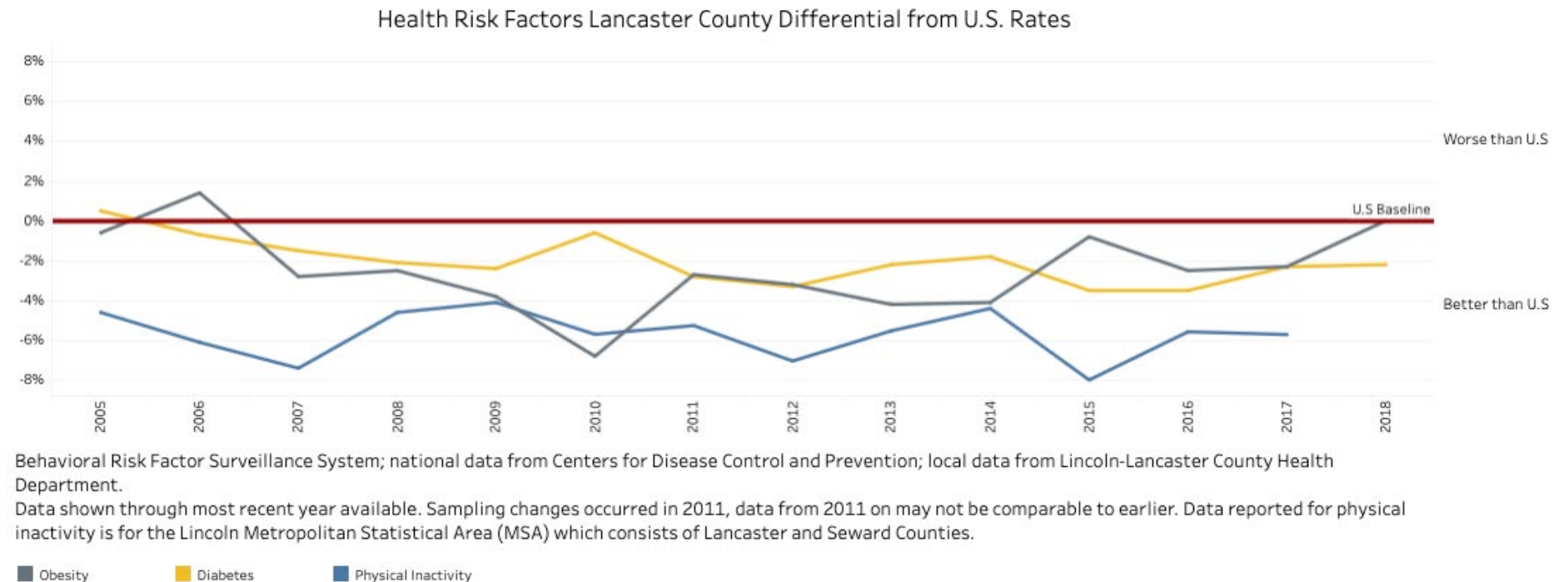


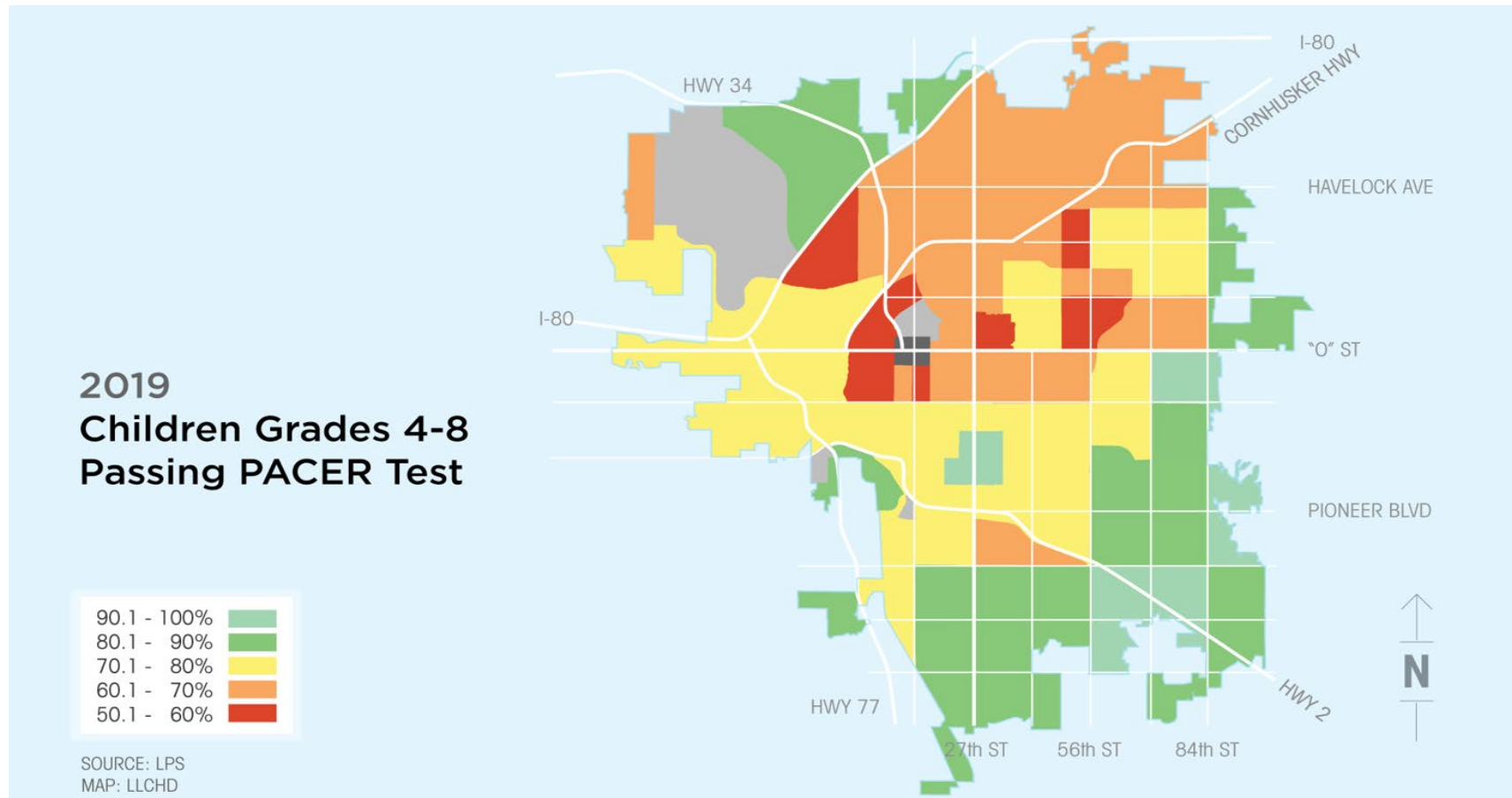
Figure 79

Of the ten leading causes of death in the United States, seven are chronic diseases,<sup>1</sup> and almost half of all Americans live with at least one chronic illness.<sup>2</sup> Underlying many chronic health conditions are risk factors such as tobacco use and exposure, physical inactivity, and poor nutrition. Engaging in healthy behaviors greatly reduces the risk for illness and death due to chronic diseases.

- Lancaster County’s obesity rate has increased 30% since 2005, a greater increase than the U.S. increase (27%).
- Since 2007, Lancaster County’s obesity rate<sup>3</sup> had been lower than the national rate, but in 2018 mirrors the national rate.
- Lancaster County’s diabetes rate<sup>4</sup> has fluctuated, and has generally been lower than the national rate.
- The physical inactivity<sup>5</sup> rate in the Lancaster and Seward counties has been lower than the national rate in the past several years.

# Youth Fitness by Geography

Lincoln's youth fitness rate varies by geography



Map 2 - Courtesy of Community Health Endowment, *Place Matters Report 2019*.

The Community Health Endowment Place Matters 2019 report maps the percentage of children grades 4–8 who passed the Fitnessgram PACER test measuring aerobic capacity. Children living in many areas of Lincoln did not meet the Lincoln Public Schools’ goal of an average 80% pass rate.

# Chlamydia

Lincoln’s rate of chlamydia cases is increasing

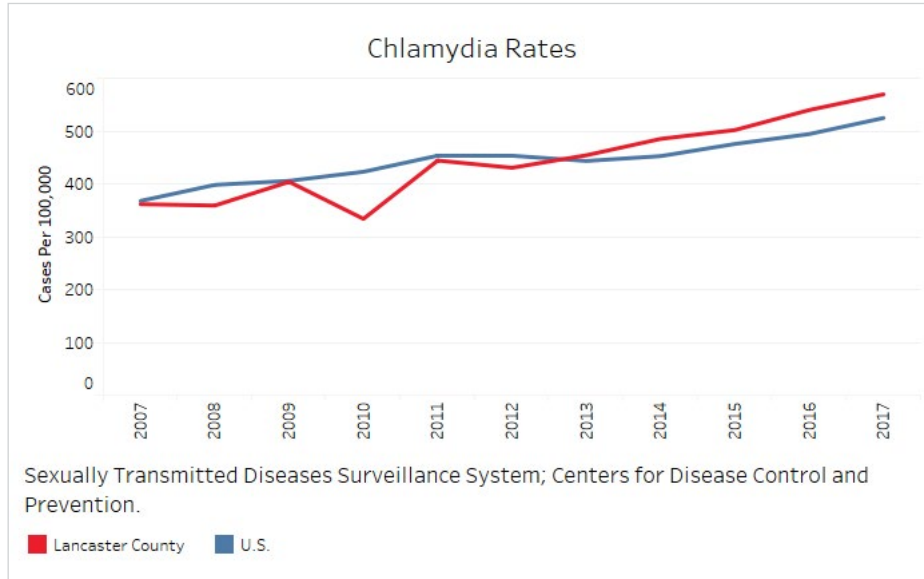


Figure 80

- The rate of chlamydia has been increasing nationally and locally.
- The Lancaster County rate has been higher than the national rate since 2013.

# Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Lancaster County sexually transmitted diseases diverge from national rates

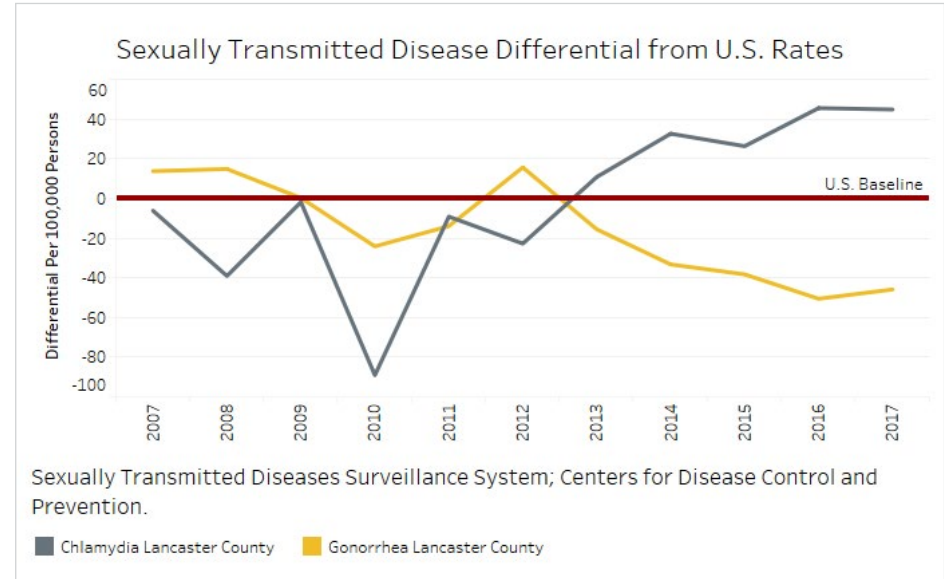
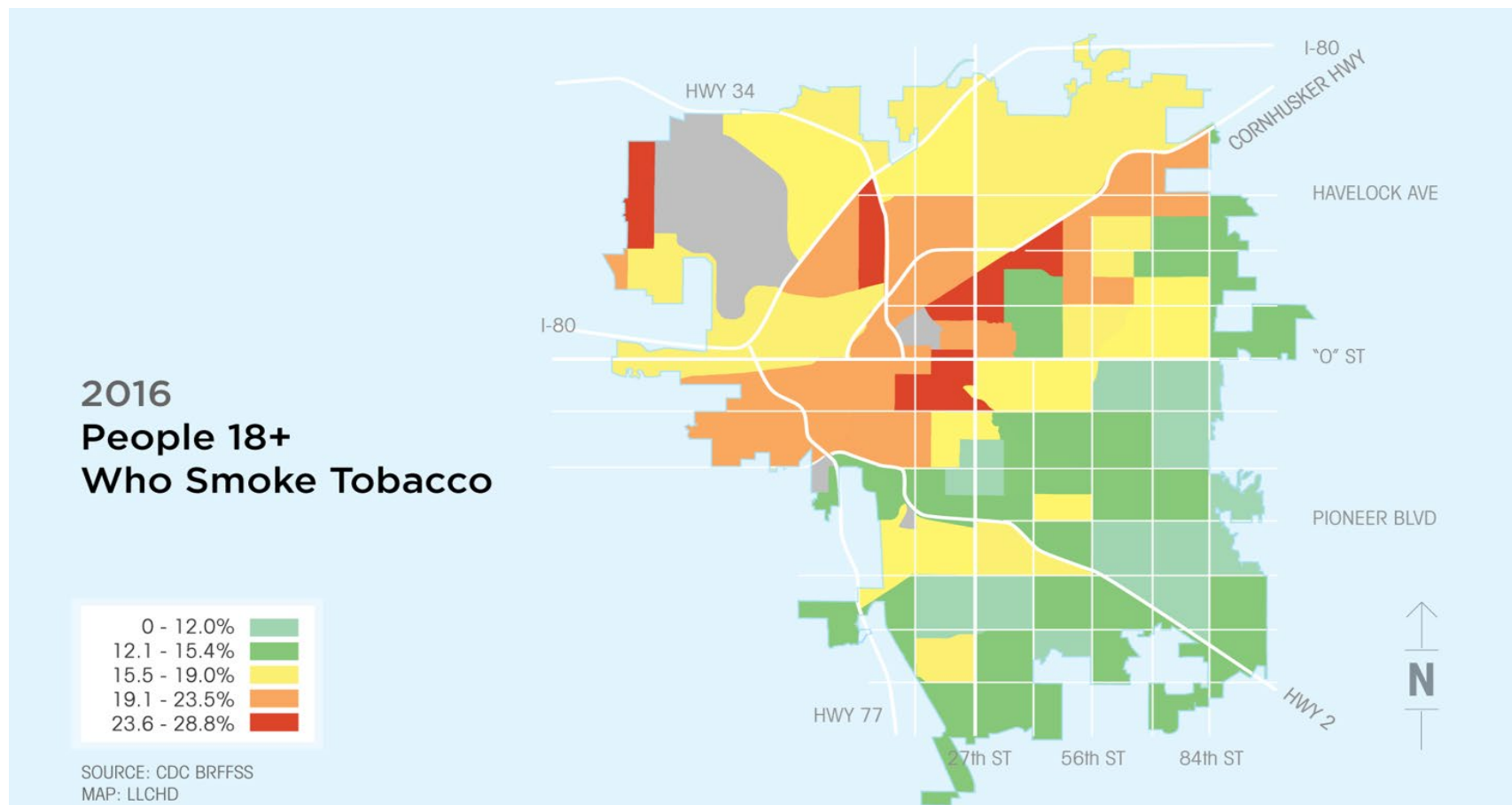


Figure 81

- Lancaster County’s chlamydia rate exceeds that of the U.S.
- Lancaster County’s gonorrhea rate is lower than that of the U.S.

# Tobacco Use by Geography

Rate of adults who smoke tobacco varies throughout Lincoln neighborhoods



Map 3 - Courtesy of Community Health Endowment, *Place Matters Report 2019*.

The Community Health Endowment Place Matters 2019 report maps the percentage of adults who smoke tobacco. In 2016, there were 8 Census Tracts reporting that more than 23.6% of residents smoked.

## Cancer Deaths

Lancaster County's rate of deaths from cancer is lower than the U.S. overall

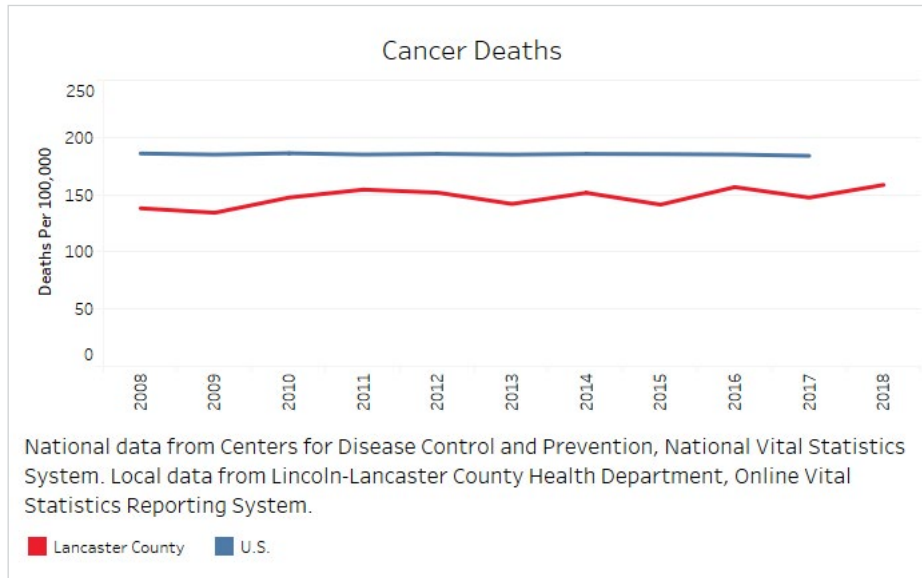


Figure 82

An indicator of health in a community is the number of individuals who die due to chronic diseases.

- Lancaster County trails the U.S. in deaths due to cancer.

## Heart Disease Deaths

Lancaster County's rate of deaths from heart disease is lower than the U.S. rate

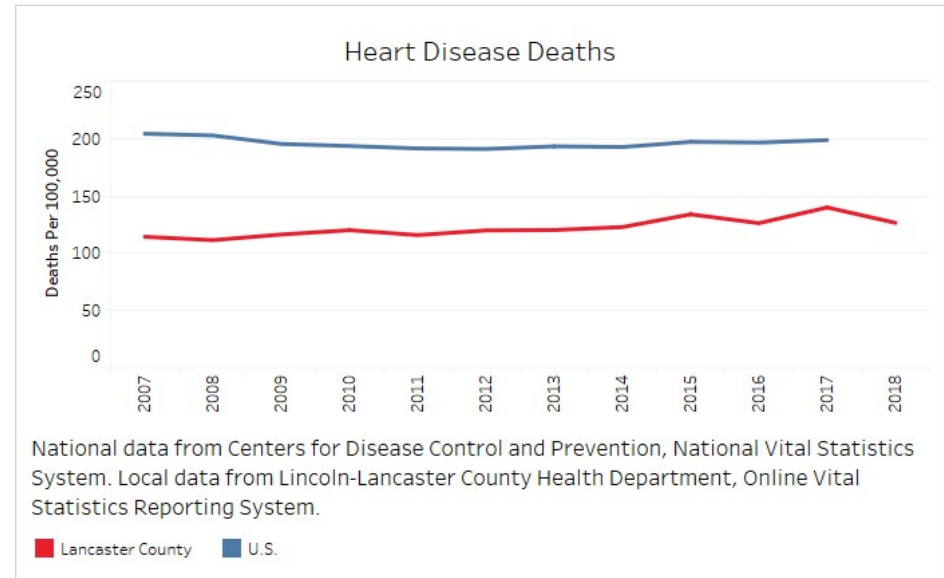


Figure 83

An indicator of health in a community is the number of individuals who die due to chronic diseases.

- Lancaster County trails the U.S. in the rate of deaths due to heart disease.

# Diabetes Deaths

Deaths due to diabetes trail the U.S. rate

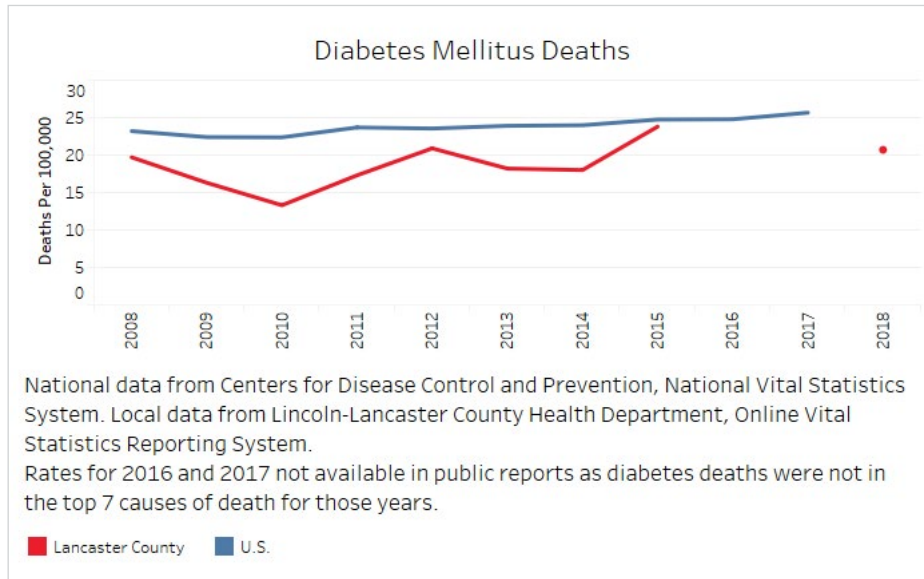
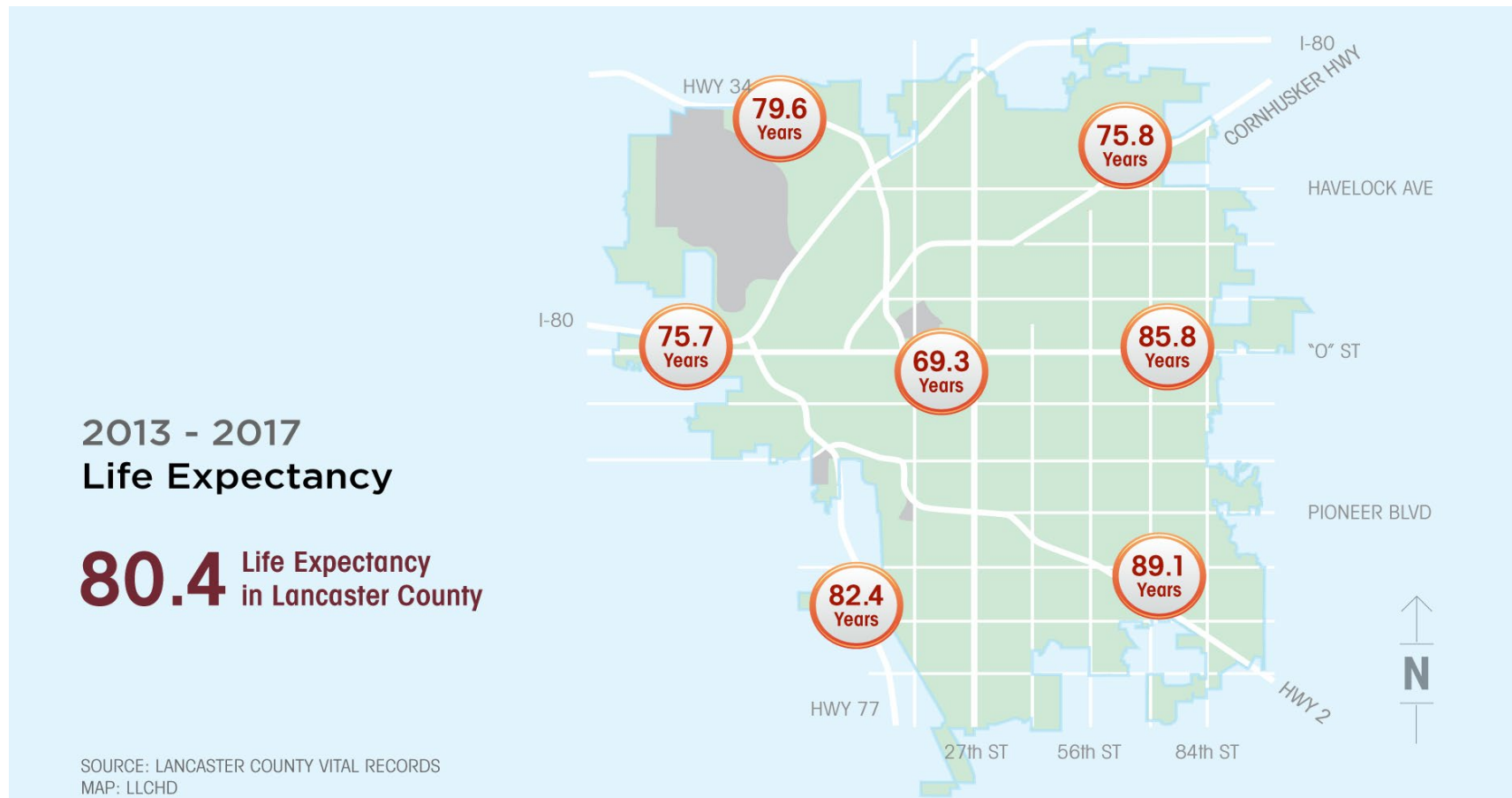


Figure 84

- Lancaster County has trailed the U.S. in deaths due to diabetes since 2008.

# Life Expectancy

Life expectancy varies throughout Lincoln neighborhoods



Map 4 - Courtesy of Community Health Endowment, *Place Matters Report 2019*.

The Community Health Endowment Place Matters 2019 report maps the probable age a baby born this year will reach before dying. The expectancy calculation is based on mortality patterns of the population. In Lincoln, life expectancy ranges from 69.3 years (central Lincoln) to 89.1 years (southeast Lincoln).

## Low Birth Weight

Lancaster County has a lower percentage of low birth weight infants

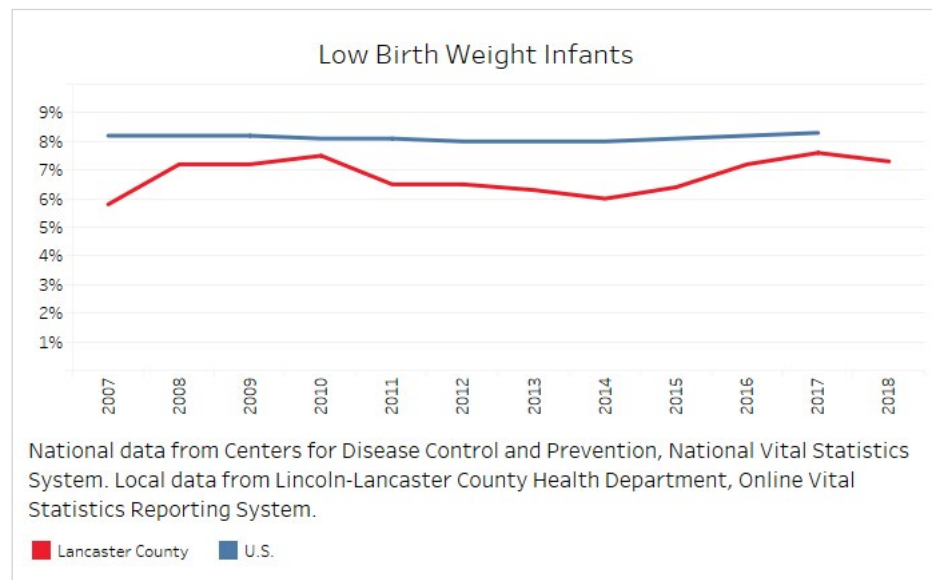


Figure 85

Children who are born at a low birth weight (less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces) have an increased risk of long-term disability and impaired development. Low birth weight may indicate inadequate prenatal care.

- Lancaster County has a lower percentage of low birth weight infants than does the U.S. overall.

## Births to Teen Mothers

Births to Lincoln teen mothers is the same as the national rate

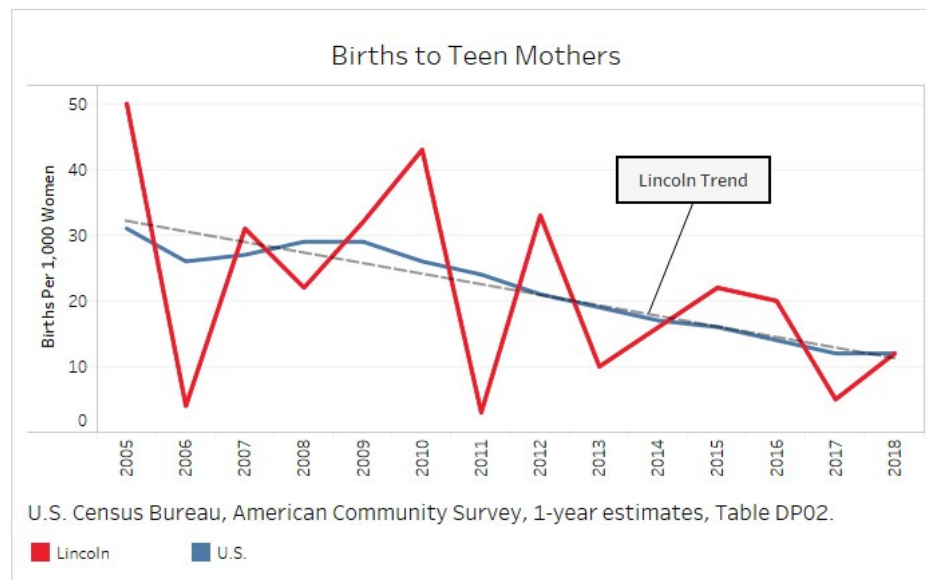


Figure 86

Teenage girls who give birth are more likely to drop out of high school and more likely to be in poverty. Research suggests that children born to teen mothers are more likely to be low birth weight, have long-term health problems, and have worse educational outcomes; these issues are likely the result of associated socio-economic (e.g. poverty) and cultural issues rather than the actual fact of young motherhood.<sup>6</sup>

- Both Lincoln and national rates of births to teen mothers have declined in the past decade.
- In Lincoln, the rate of births to teen mothers (aged 15 to 19 years of age) has fluctuated, some years much higher than the national rate and other years much lower.
- Lincoln's average rate since 2005 mirrors the national rate (22 births per 1,000 women 15 to 19 years of age).



## Mental Health Days

Poor mental health days have been level

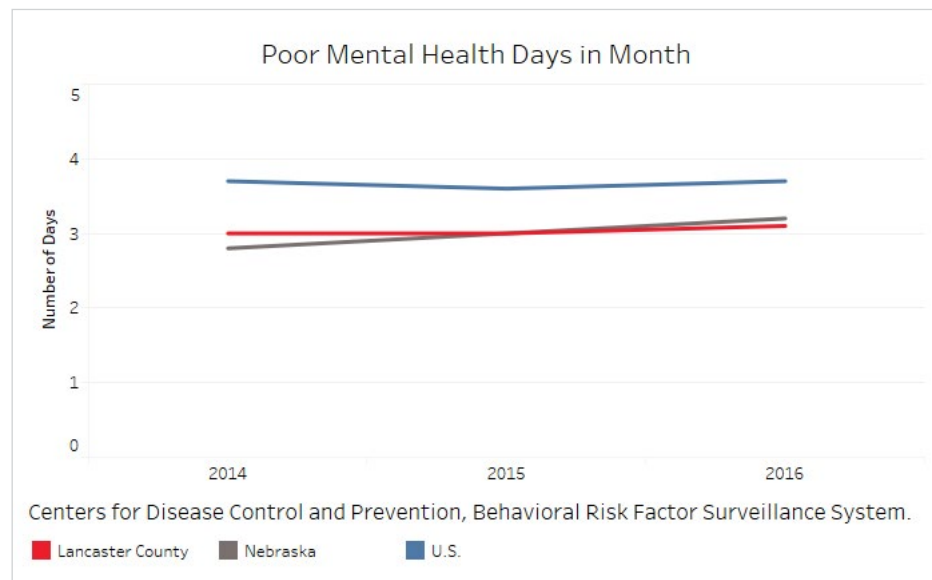


Figure 87

Mental health is a key component of overall well-being. Mental illness is the leading cause of disability in the United States. Nationally, between 5% to 7% of adults experience a serious mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia, manic-depressive disorder, and severe depressive disorders).<sup>7</sup>

- In Lancaster County, residents report experiencing fewer poor mental health days in a month than U.S. residents overall.

## Police Mental Health Investigations

Police investigations involving mental health needs have increased by 44%

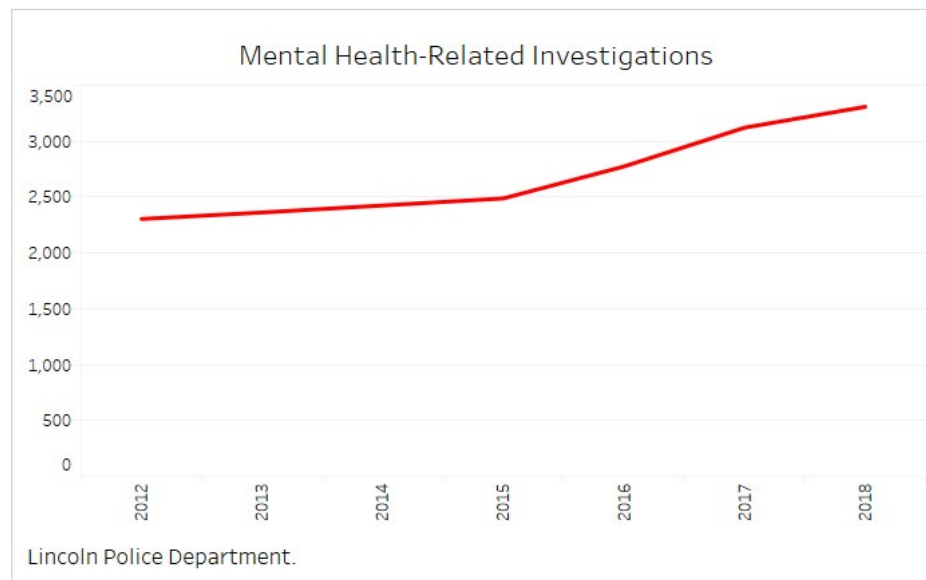


Figure 88

The Lincoln Police Department has officers trained to respond to calls involving mental health issues. When a person is located who may need mental health services, and they are not dangerous, they are provided information about available services. Their contact information is also provided to a peer support program that follows up on all contacts.

- The number of investigations involving mental health needs has increased 44% since 2012.

## Suicide

Lincoln Police respond to one call per day related to suicide

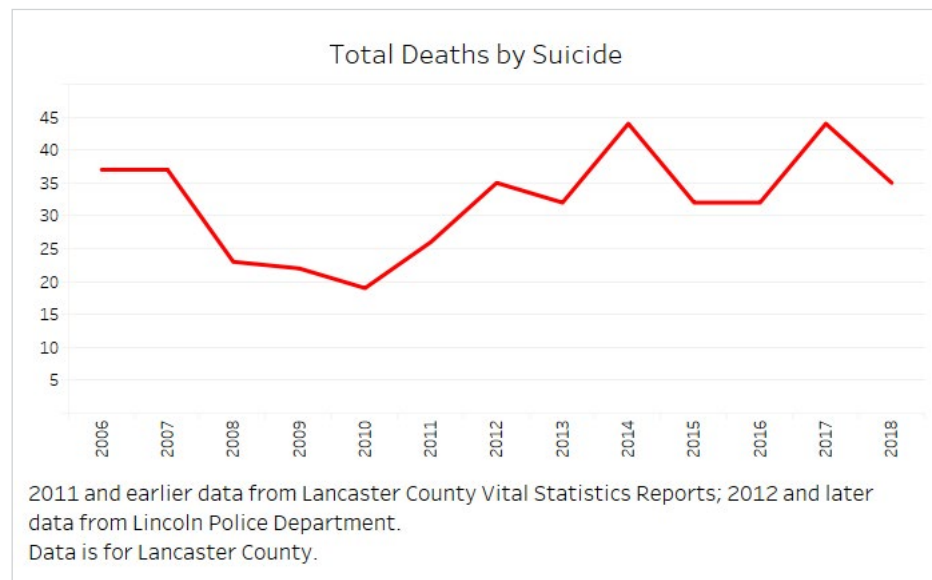


Figure 89

- Lincoln police respond to an average of one call per day related to suicide.
- Since 2006, Lincoln has averaged 32 suicides per year.
- Most suicides (83%) over the past five years have been among working age adults (age 19 to 64).
- Suicide is the 9th leading causes of death in Lancaster County.<sup>8</sup>

## Youth Marijuana Use

Youth drug use rates are declining in Lancaster County and the U.S.

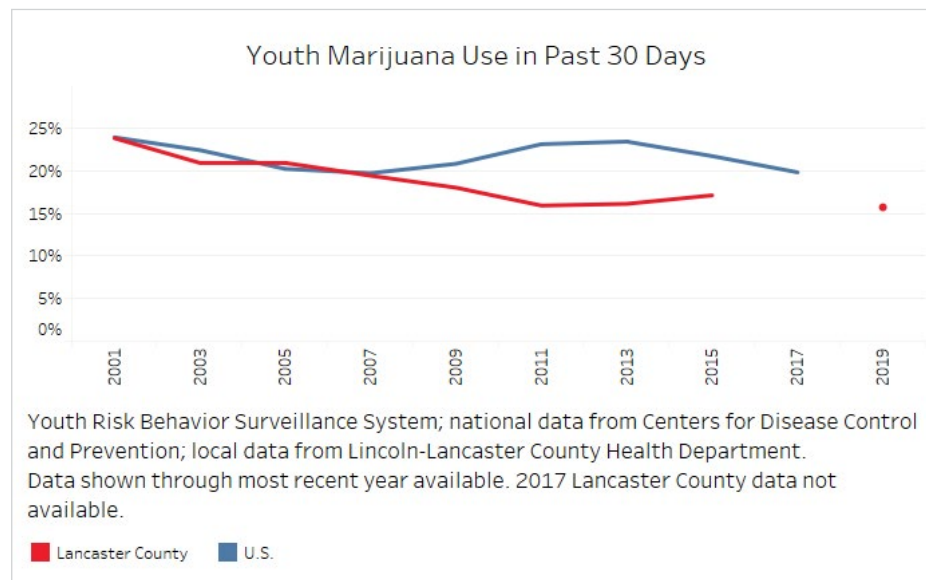


Figure 90

Illicit drug and alcohol use by youth increase their risk for injury, violence, HIV infection, and other diseases,<sup>9</sup> and is related to lower academic achievement.<sup>10</sup>

- Since 2001, Lancaster County has seen a 34% decline in marijuana use among teens. 23.8% of students reported 30-day marijuana use in 2005, dropping to 15.7% in 2015.
- Marijuana use is lower among teens in Lancaster County than nationally, though comparable annual data have not been available since 2015.

## Youth Alcohol and Cigarette Use

Youth alcohol and cigarette use rates are declining in Lancaster County and the U.S.

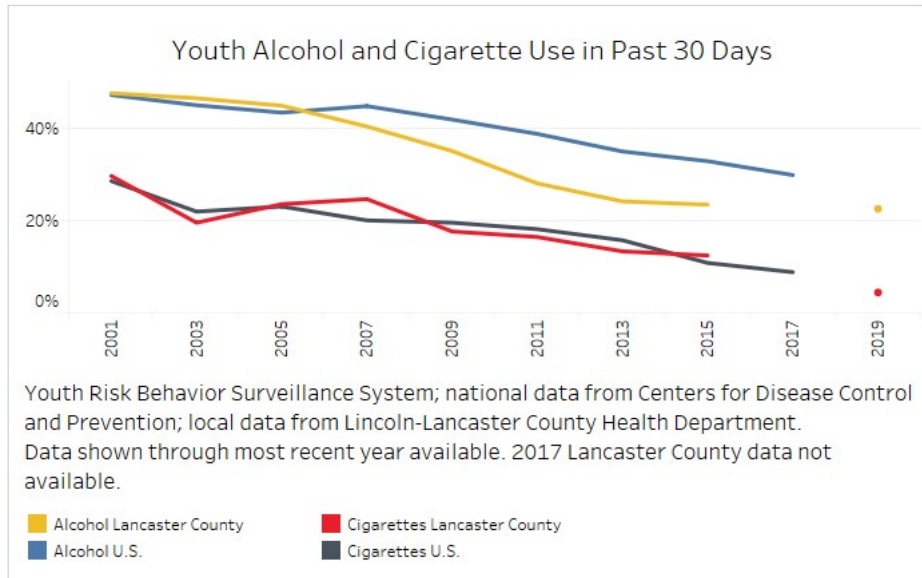


Figure 91

Alcohol use is lower among Lancaster County teens than nationally.

- Alcohol use among teens in Lancaster County has declined 53% since 2001.
  - 47.5% of students reported 30-day alcohol use in 2005, dropping to 22.5% in 2019.

Teen cigarette use mirrors the national rate.

- Cigarette use among teens in Lancaster County has declined 85% since 2001.
  - 29.6% of students reported 30-day cigarette use in 2001, dropping to 4.4% in 2019.

## Police Alcohol/Drug Related Incidents

Almost one-fifth of police responses involve alcohol and/or drugs

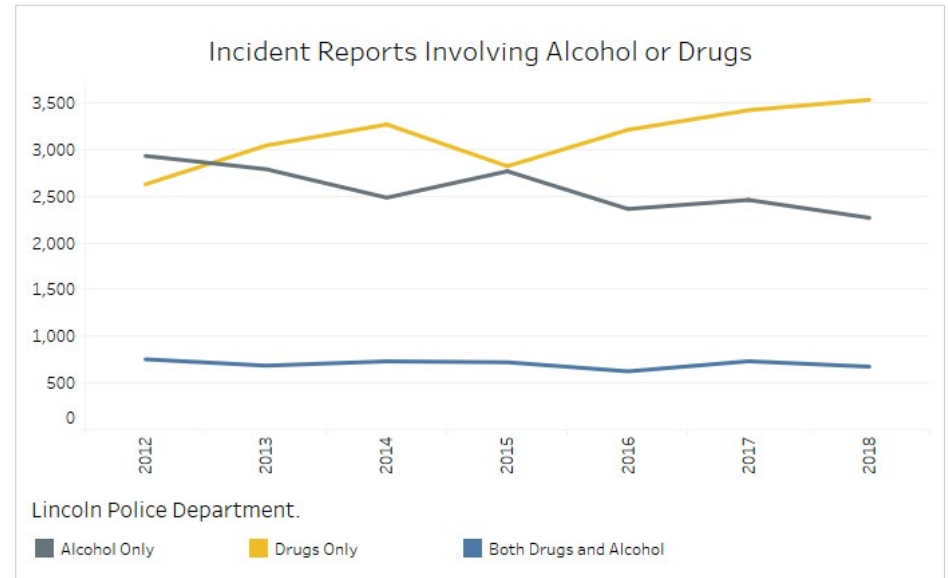


Figure 92

- 18.7% of all police responses are for incidents involving alcohol and/or drugs (6,474 calls in 2018).

Last year when looking at all police incidents:

- Drugs are 10% of all calls
- Alcohol are 7% of all calls
- Both alcohol and drugs are 2% of all calls

## Emergency Protective Custody

Mental health crisis services use is declining, but users often repeat crisis services

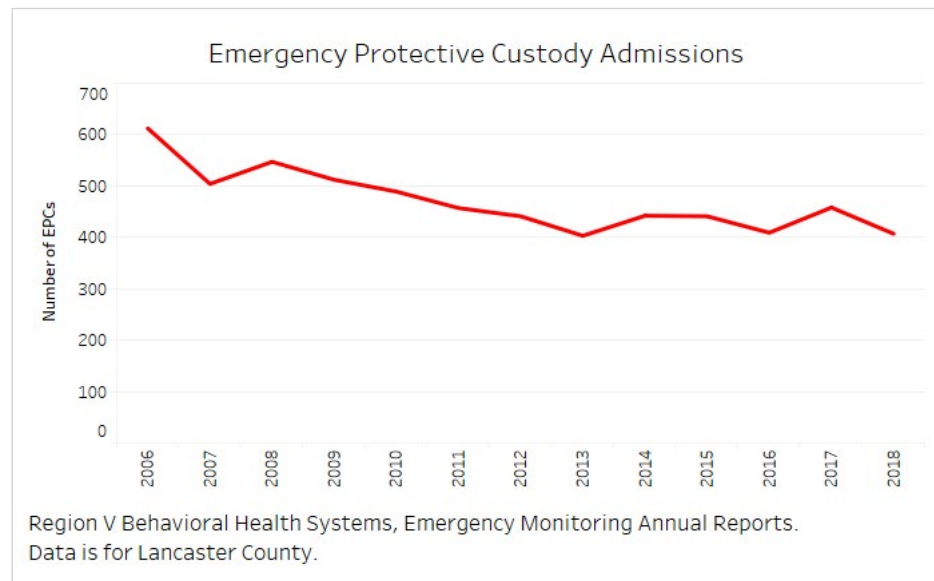


Figure 93

Through Emergency Protective Custody (EPC), law enforcement may take a person into involuntary custody who is mentally ill and dangerous to themselves or others, and who does not seek voluntary treatment when encouraged to do so by officers.

- The number of EPC admissions has declined 33% since 2006.
  - In 2005, police awareness training taught how to refer to services and offer the opportunity to go voluntarily.
- Approximately 40% of those admitted have previously been EPC'd sometime after 2012.
  - For those with repeat admissions, the majority (63%) return within 13 months.

## Civil Protective Custody

Substance abuse crisis services use is declining

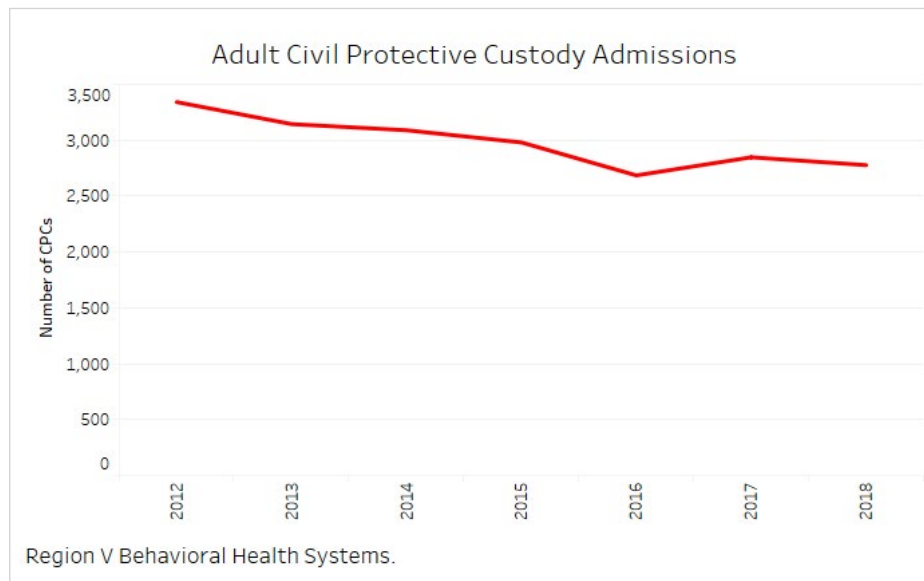


Figure 94

Civil Protective Custody (CPC) is used by law enforcement to detain a person who appears intoxicated and dangerous to himself, others, or is incapacitated on public property.

- Since 2012, the number of adult CPC admissions per year has decreased 16.9%.

# Behavioral Health Admissions

Substance abuse disorders are the most common diagnosis for persons entering behavioral health services

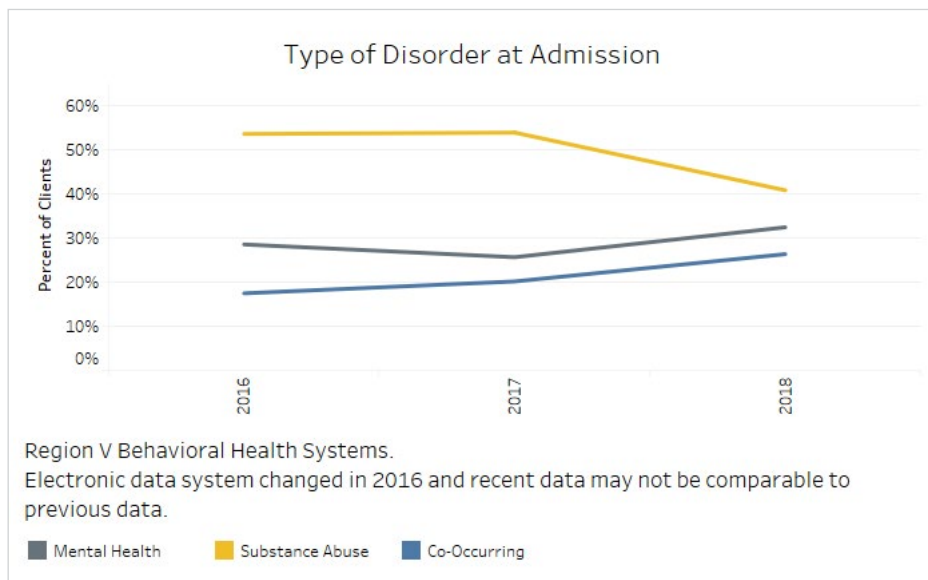


Figure 95

The state of Nebraska and local communities are responsible for delivering services to persons with severe and persistent behavioral health needs who are unable to pay for them. In Lincoln, Nebraska-funded services are paid for by the State of Nebraska, Lancaster County, behavioral health providers' charitable donations or other underwriting, and donors. Persons receiving Nebraska-funded care are only a subset of all individuals receiving services. For example, some persons pay for services through other public programs, such as Medicaid. Others may pay for services through other public or private insurance programs, or may self-fund care. In Lincoln, many persons with severe and persistent behavioral health needs cycle between Nebraska-funded and Medicaid-funded care.

When persons enter into any type of service, they are admitted. People may be admitted to multiple services simultaneously. Persons admitted may have a primary diagnosis of mental health disorder, substance abuse disorder, or co-occurring disorder. A co-occurring disorder is one that involves both mental health and substance abuse. When individuals have a co-occurring disorder, treatments that address both are associated with lower costs and better outcomes.<sup>11</sup>

- Among persons receiving Nebraska-funded services in 2018:
  - 41% had a substance abuse disorder
  - 33% had a mental health disorder
  - 26% had a co-occurring disorder

## Behavioral Health Housing

Housing rates vary among those with behavioral health disorders after receiving services

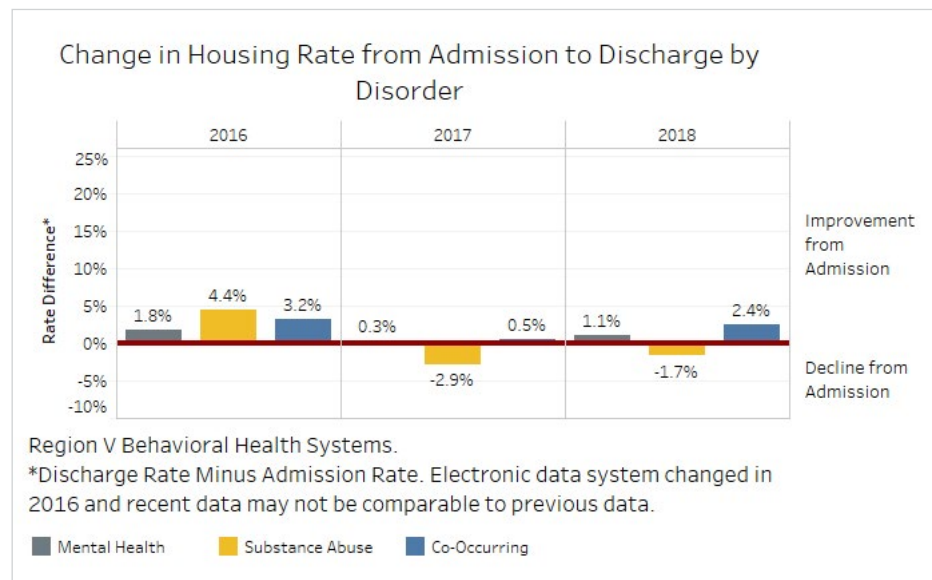


Figure 96

Persons with severe mental illness comprise a significant percentage of the homeless population.<sup>12</sup> In addition to treatment services, a wide array of agencies provide other supportive community services to aid those with severe and persistent behavioral health needs in Lincoln.

- Over the years, small gains have been made in housing homeless behavioral health clients.

## Behavioral Health Employment

Employment rates increase among those with behavioral health disorders after receiving services

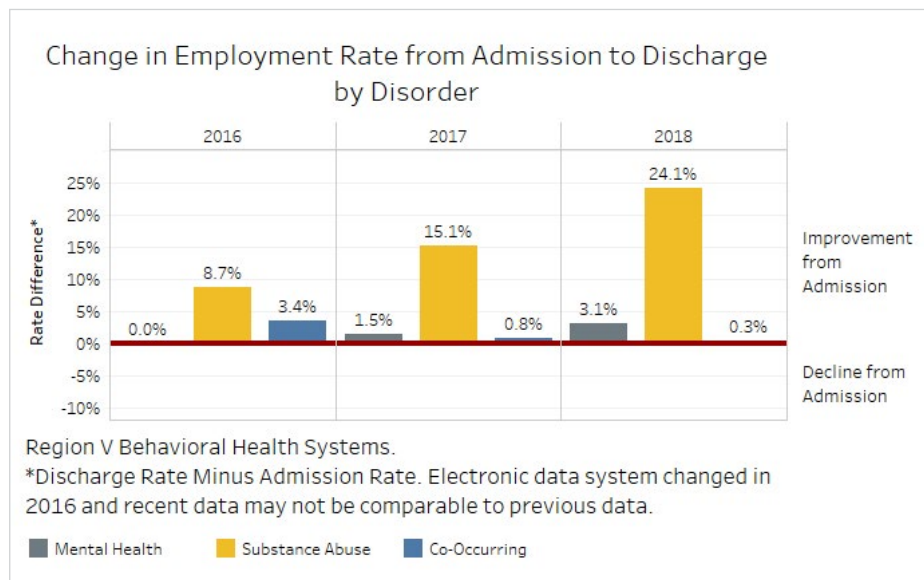


Figure 97

Persons with severe mental illness comprise a significant percentage of the unemployed populations.<sup>13</sup> In addition to treatment services, a wide array of agencies provide other supportive community services to aid those with severe and persistent behavioral health needs in Lincoln.

- Persons receiving behavioral health services find employment.
- Employment of persons with substance abuse issues almost doubled between admission (26% employed) and discharge (50% employed) in 2018.

# Health Notes Cont.

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1. Kochanek, K. D., Murphy, S. L., Xu, J., & Tejada-Vera, B. (June 30, 2016). Deaths: Final data for 2014. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 65(4), 1-121. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Updated October 25, 2013). *Preventing chronic diseases and reducing health risk factors*. Retrieved May 11, 2017 from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/programs/healthycommunitiesprogram/overview/diseasesandrisk.htm>
3. Obesity is defined as having a Body Mass Index of 30 to 99.8 and is calculated based on responses to questions about height and weight. Lancaster County data comes from Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department and is from a geographic over-sample of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention national sample for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Over-sampled data is weighted in the same manner as the national data. National data come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention national sample.
4. Diabetes rates are based on individual reports that they have been diagnosed with diabetes. Lancaster County data comes from Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department and is from a geographic over-sample of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention national sample for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Over-sampled data is weighted in the same manner as the national data. National data come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention national sample.
5. Physical inactivity is based on persons responding "no" to the question: *During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?* Lancaster County and national data are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department does not over-sample this question.
6. Geronimus, A. T., & Korenman, S. (1993). Maternal youth or family background? On the health disadvantages of infants with teenage mothers. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 137(2), 213-225.
7. Wang, P. S., Demler, O., & Kessler, R. C. (2002). Adequacy of treatment for serious mental illness in the United States. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92(1), 92-98. doi: 10.2105/ajph.92.1.92
8. R. Kakarlapudi , Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department, November 15, 2019.

# Health Notes Cont.

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9. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). *Alcohol and other drug use*. Retrieved October 2, 2013, from: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthycommunitiesprogram/overview/diseasesandrisk.htm>
10. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Alcohol and other drug use and academic achievement*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
11. Minkoff, K. (2001). Developing standards of care for individuals with co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders. *Psychiatric Services*, 52(5), 597-599.
12. National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2006). *Chronic Homelessness Brief*. Washington, DC: National Alliance to End Homelessness.
13. Dooley, D., Fielding, J., & Levi. (1996). Health and unemployment. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 17(1), 449-465. doi: 10.1146/annurev.pu.17.050196.002313.





## Safety and Security

People want to live in communities where they feel physically free from harm. Harm may occur through intentional victimization, as well as through accidents and health crises. For the third consecutive year, the number of violent-crime victims in the U.S. has increased, though the portion who have been victims of serious crimes has decreased.<sup>1</sup>

**Lincoln has less crime than other similarly-sized communities.** Persons living in Lincoln report feeling safe most or all of the time, traffic crash injuries have been low for the past decade, and medical and fire services are effective. However, the percentage of **children removed from their homes for their safety remains higher than nationwide.** Lincoln has also seen an **increase in the juvenile arrest rates for drug violations, and for property crimes,** when compared to the national rates.

# Crime Rate

Lincoln's crime rate remains low

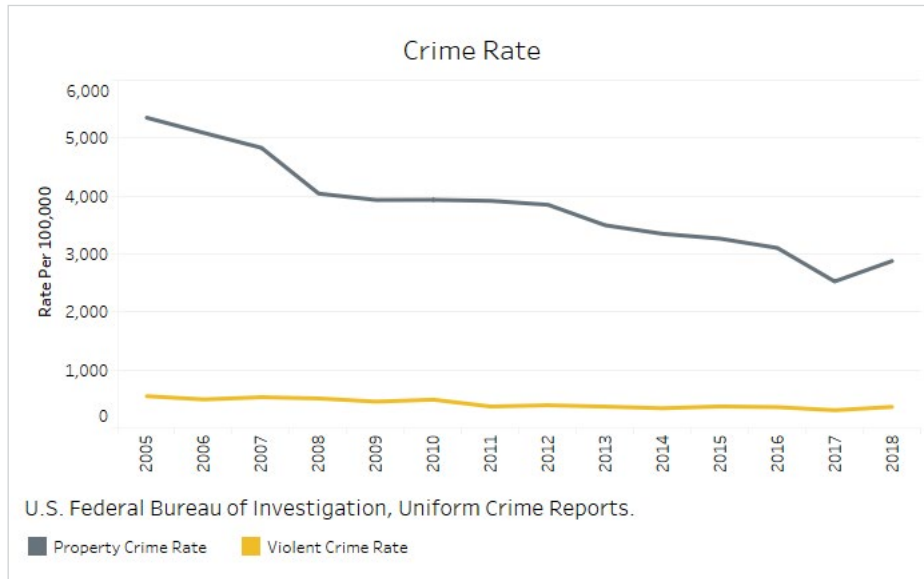


Figure 98

In Lincoln, property crimes are the most reported offenses, but have declined 27% in the past decade.

- Burglary comprises a small portion of property crime, but is a good proxy for property crime. The City of Lincoln has regularly met its goal of having fewer than 755 burglaries per 100,000 persons.
- The lowest rate of crime in Lincoln is for violent crime and it has declined 20% in the past decade (from 453 offenses per 100,000 persons in 2009 to 362 offenses per 100,000 persons in 2018).
- The City of Lincoln has regularly met its goal of having fewer than 555 violent crimes per 100,000 persons.

# Crime Rate Comparison

Lincoln's crime rate is lower than similar size cities

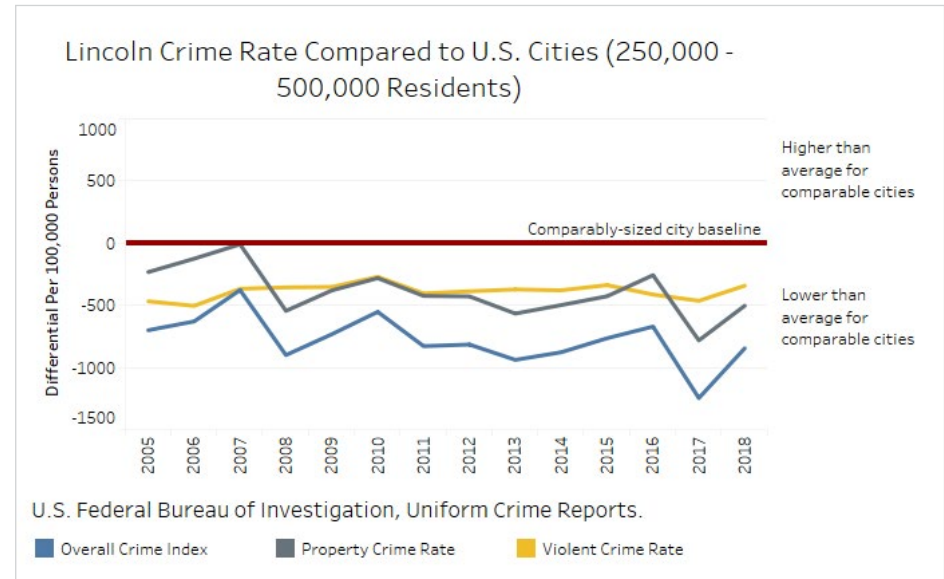


Figure 99

Lincoln's property and violent crime rates have consistently been lower than the rates of other cities across the United States with populations between 250,000 and 500,000 persons.

- Over the past decade, Lincoln's property crime rate dropped from 91% of the rate of comparably-sized cities to 85%.
- Over the past decade, Lincoln's violent crime rate has averaged 50% of the violent crime rate of other comparably-sized cities.

## Juvenile Arrest Comparison

Lincoln's juvenile arrest rates for drug violations and property crimes are increasing

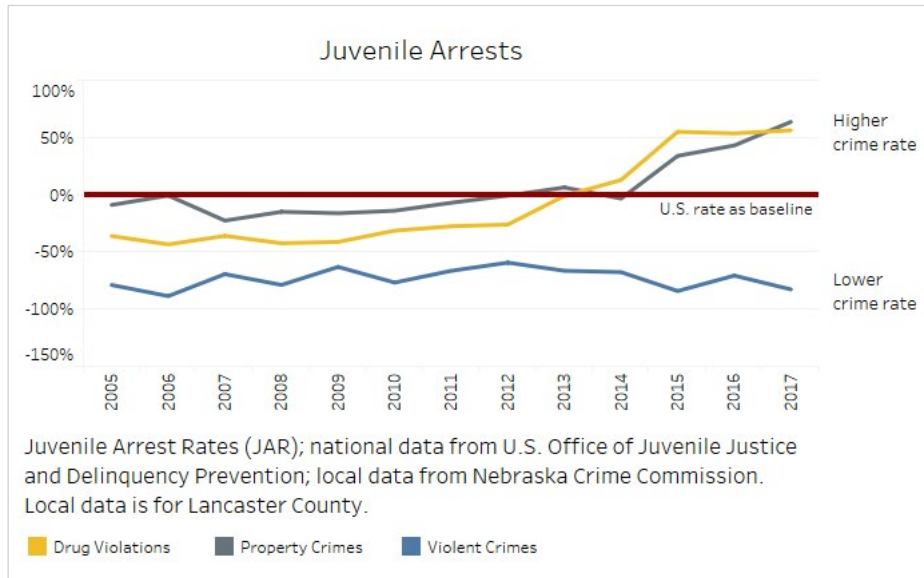


Figure 100

- Lincoln's juvenile drug arrest rate was previously lower than the national rate, but has been increasing in the past decade (since 2009), and is now 56% higher than the national rate.
- Although property crimes committed by juveniles have been decreasing annually in recent years,<sup>2</sup> since 2014 Lincoln has experienced an increase in the property crime arrest rate.<sup>3</sup>
- Lincoln's juvenile violent crime arrest rates have been on average 72% lower than the national rate over the past decade.

## Feeling Safe and Secure

People in Lincoln report feeling safe

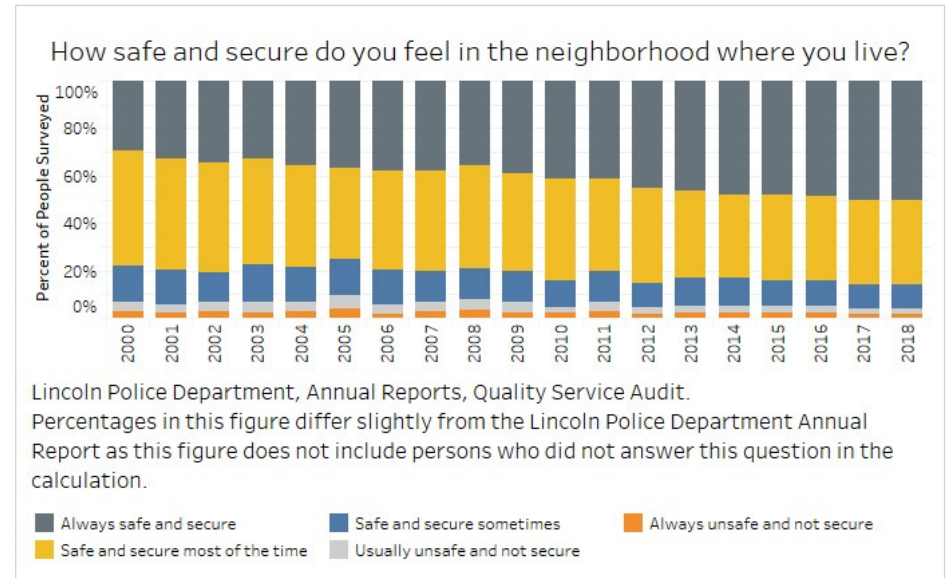


Figure 101

- The Lincoln Police Department, through a contract with Gallup, surveys all individuals who have contact with city police officers.
- In the past decade, 75-85% of respondents have indicated that they feel safe and secure either always or most of the time.
  - Of that group, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of individuals who say they always feel safe and secure (from 39% in 2009 to 50% in 2018).
- The high percentage of feelings of safety and security among this population are particularly notable since the group includes individuals who have had contact with the police department as the result of victimization.

# Traffic Crash Injuries

Lincoln is meeting its goal to keep traffic crash injuries low

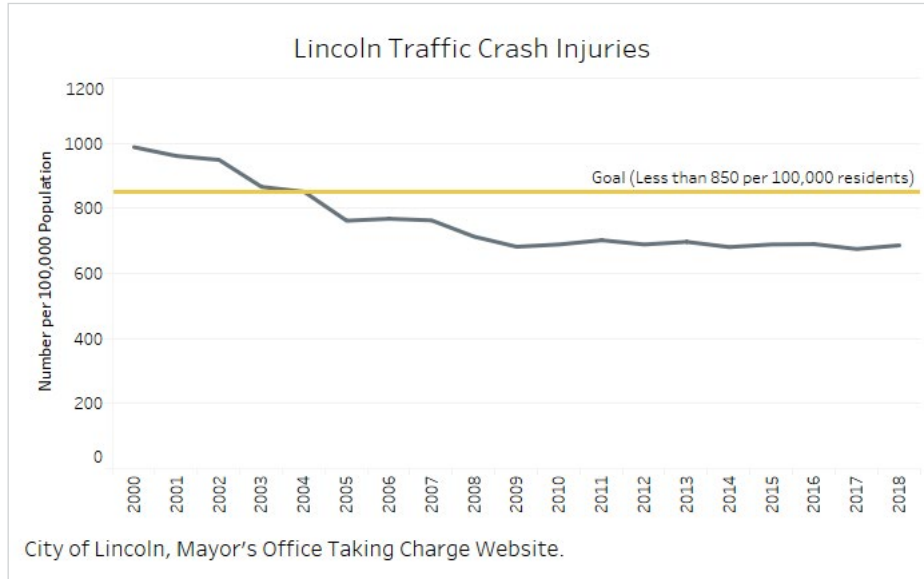


Figure 102

The rate of traffic crash-related injuries has averaged 688 injuries per 100,000 persons in the past decade.

- Since 2005, the rate has not exceeded the City of Lincoln's goal of fewer than 850 injuries per 100,000 persons.

# Ambulance Response Time

Medical emergency response trails city's goals

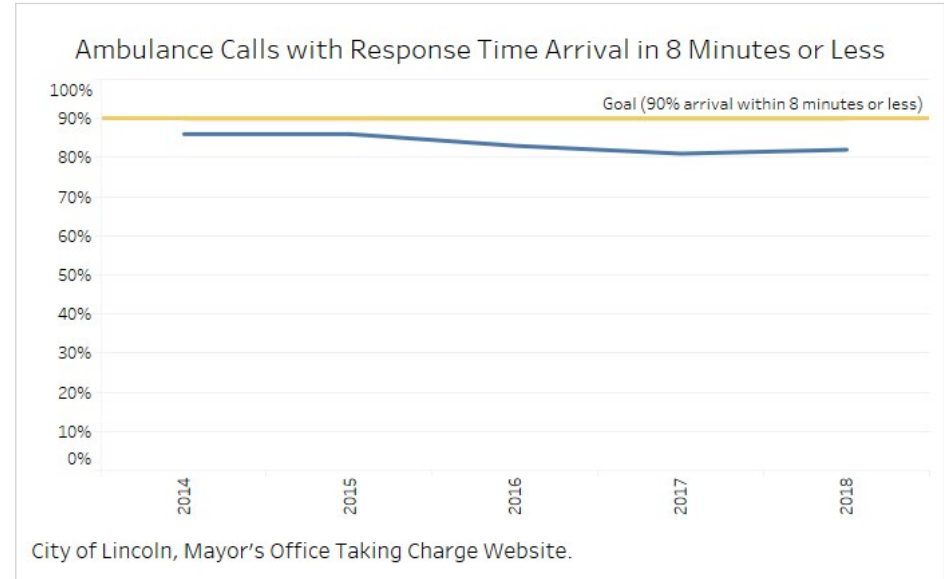


Figure 103

The City of Lincoln's goal is to achieve on-scene arrival of an ambulance in less than 8 minutes after receiving a medical call.

- For the past 5 years, the goal has not been reached.

## Property Saved from Fire

Property value saved from fire is high

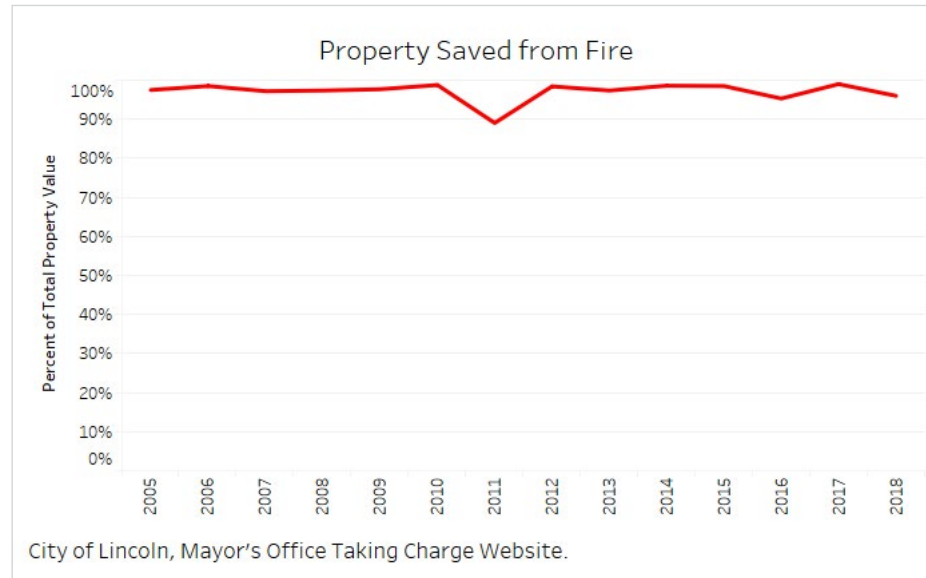


Figure 104

Lincoln Fire and Rescue track the percentage of total property value they save when responding to fires.

- Over the past decade, Lincoln Fire and Rescue saved 97% of property value.
  - The only single year this percentage dropped below 95% was in 2011, when the Lincoln Public Schools' district office was destroyed by fire.

## Domestic and Child Violence

Domestic and child violence rates have been steady over the past decade

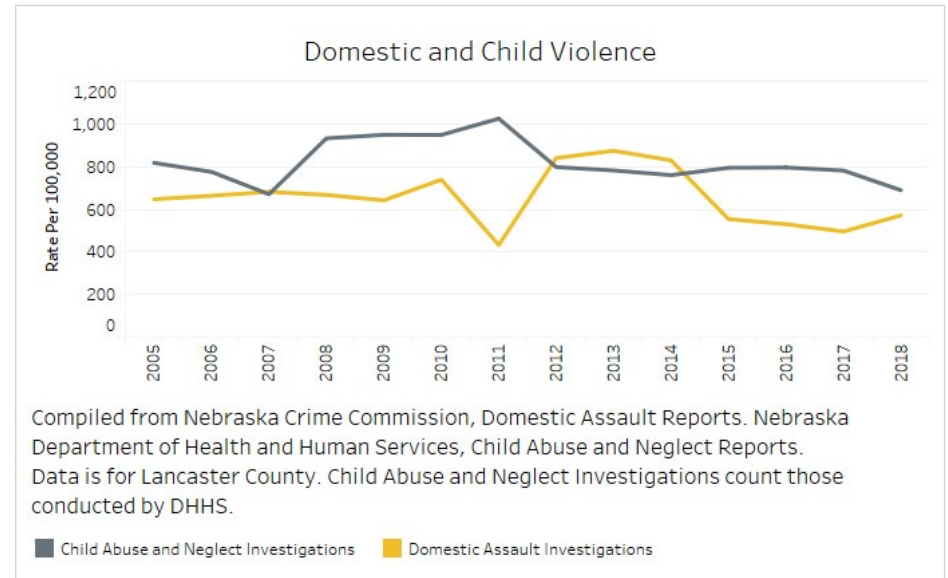


Figure 105

- Lancaster County's rate of child abuse and neglect investigations by Health and Human Services varies from year to year, and had decreased 33% recently from a high in 2011 (from 1,025 investigations per 100,000 persons in 2011 to 689 investigations per 100,000 persons in 2018.)<sup>4</sup>
- The rate of domestic assault investigations also varies from year to year, but overall has trended lower in the past four years.
- Recently, rates of domestic assault investigations have decreased 35% from a high in 2013 (from 874 investigations per 100,000 persons in 2013 to 571 investigations per 100,000 persons in 2018).

## Child Out-of-Home Placements

The percentage of children in out-of-home placements has increased in recent years

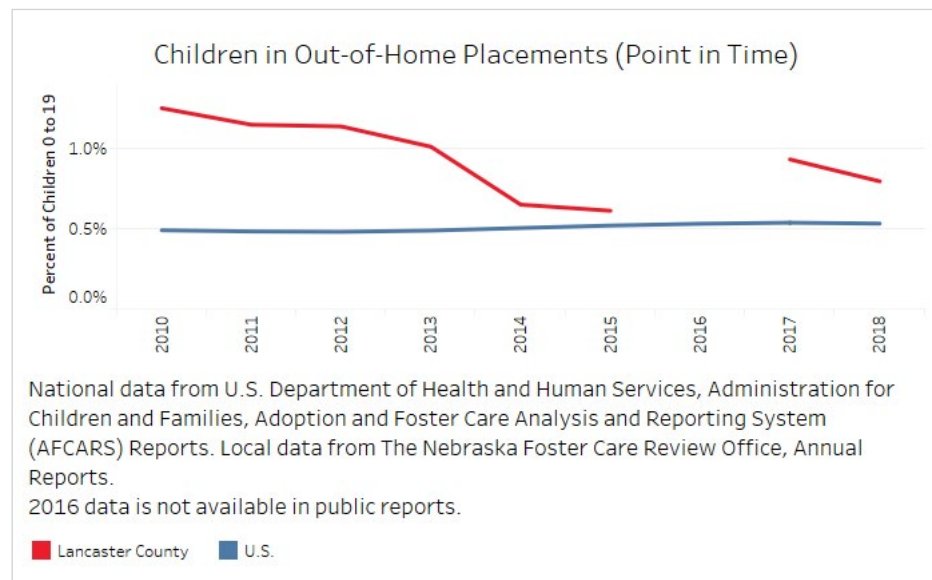


Figure 106

Nebraska's child protective custody system has been widely criticized for the high percentages of children that are placed in out-of-home care (such as foster care).

- In Lancaster County, the percentage of children in foster care continues to be higher than the national rate.<sup>5, 6</sup>
- Although the percentage of children in out-of-home placement (on a given day through a Point-in-Time Count) is a relatively small percentage of the population of children in Lincoln, the percentage does represent more than 600 children (in 2018, 673 children were in out-of-home placements).

## Child Out-of-Home Placement Reasons

Neglect and parent substance abuse are the most common reasons for children to be in out-of-home placements

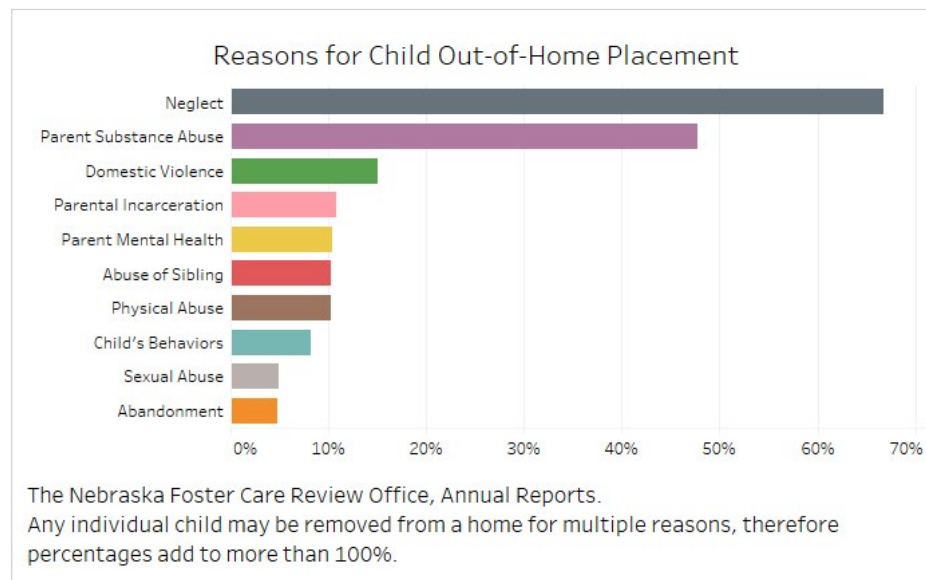


Figure 107

In 2019, there were several reasons children would be in out-of-home placements.

- Neglect was the reason for out-of-home placement for a majority of children.
- Parent substance abuse was a reason for almost half (48%) of out-of-home placements.
- These reasons have been the top two reasons for child out-of-home placements since 2012.

# Safety and Security Notes

---

1. Morgan, R. E. & Oudekerk, B. A. (September 2009). Criminal Victimization, 2018. *Technical Report NCJ 253043*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.
2. Statistical Briefing Book, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
3. Although juvenile arrest rates may largely reflect juvenile behavior, many other factors can affect the magnitude of these rates, such as the attitudes of citizens toward crime, the policies of local law enforcement agencies, and the policies of other components of the justice system.
4. Data for domestic violence offenses are not available for only the City of Lincoln, therefore Lancaster County data are used.
5. All data is Point-in-Time. Lancaster County data 2006 through 2009 for December 20; 2011 and later for June 30. National data is for September 30 of each year.
6. These figures exclude children who are removed from homes due to juvenile justice interventions.

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# Data Indicators/Sources

As was the case for past Lincoln Vital Signs reports, indicators for this study are measures of the strength and health of our community as well as the challenges. The indicators are meant to:

- **Reflect fundamental interests and concerns of the community, families, and individuals**
- **Serve as reliable sources using valid sampling and measurement approaches**
- **Be available for past years and repeatable for future years**
- **Measure outcomes, rather than inputs or outputs**

For a number of indicators, national, state, peer, or aspirational community data are provided. The authors have noted in various sections of the report where data are lacking for important aspects in our community's life. Data already available from public sources were used. The Appendix provides information about the data sources. Data were selected, where possible, to represent the City of Lincoln. The authors have noted when other geographic units were used (Lancaster County, of which Lincoln comprises 90% of the population; the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is Lancaster and Seward Counties; or Nebraska as a whole).

There is some variation in reporting of racial and ethnic categories within the study based on availability from the data source. For most data used in the study, categorization is based on self-identification. At a minimum, the Census Bureau reports five racial categories: White, Black/African-American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Persons may choose more than one race. When population sizes of racial groups are small, access to specific data about these populations may be suppressed by the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau also collects Hispanic/Latinx origin (popularly called "ethnicity"). Ethnicity is a separate and distinct concept from race. That is, an individual may claim any race along with Hispanic/Latinx origin. For purposes of presentation, race and ethnicity are often reported in a single graphic figure. Further, we have shortened titles of racial/ethnicity categories, in most cases.

## Data Indicators/Sources Cont.

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Over the years, the U.S. Census Bureau has varied its approach to reporting about persons living in group quarters (including data from populations living in college dormitories, correctional facilities, nursing homes). For example, beginning in 2006, race and educational attainment data include persons in group quarters. Calculations for persons in poverty EXCLUDE institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.

# Omitted Measures

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Some indicators that were in previous reports have been removed from this year's report, primarily because data are no longer available.

**This 2019 report no longer includes indicators from the following categories:**

## **Community Profile**

- Lincoln's peer themed cities map (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)

## **Economy and Workforce**

- Creative Industries share of all businesses (National Arts Index)
- Total nonprofit arts, culture, and humanities organizations per 100,000 population (National Arts Index)
- Total nonprofit arts, culture, and humanities revenue per capita (National Arts Index)

## **Education**

- Importance of Early Child Care and Education (Buffet Early Childhood Institute)
- Satisfaction with quality of early childhood care and education programs in Lincoln (Buffet Early Childhood Institute)
- Barriers to Accessing High Quality Early Child Care and Education (Buffet Early Childhood Institute)
- Cost of High Quality Early Childhood Care and Education as a Barrier to Access (Buffet Early Childhood Institute)

## **Safety and Security**

- Life Threatening Calls with Response Arrival in 4 Minutes or Less (City of Lincoln, Mayor's Office Taking Charge Website)

# Data Sources

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## **Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Annual Reports U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families**

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) collects case-level information from state and tribal title IV-E agencies on all children in foster care and those who have been adopted with title IV-E agency involvement. Title IV-E agencies are required to submit AFCARS data twice a year.

## **American Chamber of Commerce Research Association (ACCRA) Cost of Living Index (COLI) Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)**

Since 1968, the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) has collected and published cost of living data comparing city-to-city key consumer costs. However, the voluntary nature of the index means that not every area is covered. The Cost of Living Index is referenced in the U.S. Census Bureau's Statistical Abstract of the U.S. The index is cross-sectional in nature; the overall U.S. average is indexed to 100, and the individual area prices are expressed relative to the U.S. average. The data are reported quarterly.

## **American Community Survey United States Census Bureau**

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a relatively new survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It uses a series of monthly samples to produce annually updated data for the same small areas (census tracts and block groups) formerly surveyed via the decennial census long-form sample. Initially, 5 years of samples will be required to produce these small-area data. Once the Census Bureau has collected 5 years of data, new small-area data will be produced annually. The Census Bureau also will produce 3-year and 1-year data products for larger geographic areas. The ACS includes people living in both housing units (HUs) and group quarters (GQs). The ACS is conducted throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico.

## **Annual Domestic Violence Reports Nebraska Crime Commission**

Data is reported by all local jurisdictions and compiled by the Nebraska Crime Commission on an annual basis. Data collection began in 1999. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

# Data Sources Cont.

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## **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

The BRFSS is an ongoing, monthly, state-based telephone survey of the adult population. The survey provides state-specific information on behavioral risk factors and preventive health practices. Major changes to BRFSS survey methods began in 2011, meaning that comparison of data prior to 2011 to that after 2011 is not recommended.

## **Crime in the United States FBI Uniform Crime Reports**

Crime in the United States is an annual publication in which the FBI compiles the volume and rate of violent and property crime offenses for the nation, and by state. Individual law enforcement agency data are also provided for those contributors supplying 12 months complete offense data. This report also includes arrest, clearance, and law enforcement employee data. Use the new online UCR Data Tool to research crime statistics for the nation, by state, and by individual law enforcement agency.

## **Decennial Survey United States Census Bureau**

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and takes place every 10 years. The data collected by the decennial census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities. The 2010 Census represented the most massive participation movement ever witnessed in our country. Approximately 74 percent of the households returned their census forms by mail; the remaining households were counted by census workers walking neighborhoods throughout the United States. National and state population totals from the 2010 Census were released on December 21, 2010.

## **Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index® (formerly Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index®) Gallup**

The specific dimensions on which communities and states are ranked changed in 2014. The Well-Being Index now measures Americans' perceptions of their lives and their daily experiences through five interrelated elements that make up well-being: sense of purpose, social relationships, financial security, relationship to community, and physical health.

# Data Sources Cont.

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## **Lincoln/Lancaster County Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (Lincoln/Lancaster YRBS)**

### **Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department**

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey measures the prevalence of health-risk behaviors among adolescents through representative national, state, and local surveys conducted biennially. Data is available from surveys conducted in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015. The national and state surveys use multi-stage cluster sampling to obtain samples of students in grades 9-12 reflecting the geographic, urban-rural, racial, gender, and grade makeup of the population in those grade levels. In Lancaster County, the survey is conducted in all high schools, in randomly selected classrooms of a required period (second or English period). Parental consent was required beginning in 1997.

## **Lincoln Economic Dashboard and Business Conditions and Indicators Reports**

### **Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development**

The Lincoln Economic Dashboard is a joint effort of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research, the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development, and the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development Steering Committee. The Dashboard collects and presents data to measure Lincoln's economic performance in comparison to other communities. The Business Conditions & Indicators Reports is designed to inform business leaders, government officials, and the community about the perceptions of doing business in Lincoln by the primary employers/businesses.

## **Lincoln Homeless Point in Time Report**

### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires each Continuum of Care to conduct an unduplicated Point-in-Time Count of all persons who are homeless. Since 2006, the Lincoln Homeless Coalition has worked with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families, and the Law to conduct the unduplicated count. Included in the count are the number of homeless persons sheltered in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, and domestic violence shelters provide aggregate counts of unduplicated persons in their shelters. These persons represent the sheltered homeless counts. A street count (unsheltered persons) is conducted by the Lincoln Police Department, Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, Cedars Street Outreach, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Street count information is then cross referenced with CS-MIS sheltered information to remove duplicates identified in the street count from those identified as sheltered in the CS-MIS count.

# Data Sources Cont.

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## **Lincoln Police Department Quality Service Audit** **City of Lincoln Police Department**

Phone survey conducted by Gallup with people who had contact with a police officer (such as crime victims and people who received traffic tickets), but not arrested for a crime.

## **Lincoln Public Schools Statistical Handbooks** **Lincoln Public Schools**

The Annual Statistical Handbook contains basic statistical information about Lincoln Public Schools. It is intended to provide the user with current information about public education in the community of Lincoln, Nebraska.

## **Local Area Unemployment Statistics** **Bureau of Labor Statistics**

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program is a federal-state cooperative effort that produces monthly estimates of total employment and unemployment. These estimates are key indicators of local economic conditions. The concepts and definitions underlying LAUS data come from the Current Population Survey (CPS), the household survey that is the official measure of the labor force for the nation. Data from several sources, including the CPS, the CES program, State UI systems, annual population estimates, and the decennial census, are used to create estimates that are adjusted to the statewide measures of employment and unemployment.

## **Map the Meal Gap** **Feeding America**

The primary goal of the Map the Meal Gap analysis is to more accurately assess food insecurity at the community level. Map the Meal Gap generates two types of community-level data: county-level food insecurity and child food insecurity estimates by income categories, and an estimate of the food budget shortfall that food insecure individuals report they experience.

# Data Sources Cont.

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## **Monthly Labor Review (MLR)**

### **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**

Monthly Labor Review (MLR) is the principal journal of fact, analysis, and research from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Each month, economists, statisticians, and experts from the Bureau join with private sector professionals and state and local government specialists to provide a wealth of research in a wide variety of fields—the labor force, the economy, employment, inflation, productivity, occupational injuries and illnesses, wages, prices, and more.

## **National Center for Juvenile Justice**

### **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

Collects and presents information about juvenile participation in the justice system.

## **National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)**

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

The National Vital Statistics System is the oldest system of inter-governmental data sharing in Public Health. These data are provided through contracts between NCHS and vital registration systems operated in the various jurisdictions legally responsible for the registration of vital events—births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and fetal deaths. Mortality data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) are a fundamental source of demographic, geographic, and cause-of-death information.

## **Nebraska Education Profile (NEP) (formerly Nebraska State of the Schools Reports)**

The Nebraska Education Profile is the online portal that provides information and data about Nebraska public schools and student performance. The NEP highlights the performance of students by district and school building in reading, mathematics, writing, and science as well as performance by groups of students, including race and ethnicity, poverty, special education, and English Language Learners.

## **Nebraska Foster Care Review Office Annual Reports**

These are annual reports by the Nebraska Foster Care Review Office that summarize data about Nebraska children who are in out-of-home placement in Nebraska.



# Data Sources Cont.

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## **Nebraska Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (Nebraska YRBS) Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**

The survey is designed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and matches surveys used in other states. The CDC selects a sample for Nebraska using a two-stage cluster sampling design. In the first stage, a random sample of public high schools is selected with probability proportionate to school enrollment. Schools are then recruited to participate. In the second stage, within each of the participating schools, a random sample of classrooms is selected and all students in those classes are targeted for participation. Upon agreeing to participate, schools work with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR). BOSR, who assists the school in selecting an administration date, sends the school the surveys and instructions for administration, receives surveys back from the schools, and sends them to the CDC. The CDC weights the surveys to represent all public high school students in Nebraska.

## **Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates Bureau of Labor Statistics**

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program produces employment and wage estimates annually for over 800 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation as a whole, for individual states, and for metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas; national occupational estimates for specific industries are also available.

## **Online Vital Statistics Reporting System Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department**

Vital records data include information on births and deaths occurring to Lancaster County residents. Birth and death records are an excellent source of population data to determine rates of birth, pregnancy, prenatal care, birth weight, infant mortality, and numerous other birth outcomes and causes of death. Birth certificate data are collected from various sources; including the mother, clinic, and hospital with most of the information coming from the hospital and other medical records. As for the source of data from death certificates, the cause of death is reported by the attending physician or coroner/medical examiners. Funeral directors and the families often are the sources of information about the person's demographic characteristics.

# Data Sources Cont.

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## **Patent Technology Monitoring Team (PTMT) United States Patent and Trademark Office**

The PTMT annually updates and periodically issues general statistics and miscellaneous reports that profile patenting activity at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The PTMT annually updates the yearly number of applications and grants for utility, design, plant, and reissue patents granted since 1963 in their U.S. Patent Statistics Report.

## **Quarterly Workforce Indicators United States Census Bureau**

The Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) are a set of 32 economic indicators including employment, job creation/destruction, wages, hires, and other measures of employment flows. The QWI are reported based on detailed firm characteristics (geography, industry, age, size) and worker demographics (sex, age, education, race, ethnicity) and are available tabulated to national, state, metropolitan/micropolitan areas, county, and workforce investment areas (WIA). The QWI are unique in their ability to track both firm and worker characteristics over time.

## **Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Annual reports present surveillance information derived from the official statistics for the reported occurrence of nationally notifiable sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States, test positivity and prevalence data from numerous prevalence monitoring initiatives, sentinel surveillance, and national health care services surveys.

## **Statistical Briefing Book Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)**

The OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) is an online information source via OJJDP's website. Developed for OJJDP by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the SBB presents information about juvenile crime and victimization and about youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

## **Statistics of U.S. Businesses (SUSB) United States Census Bureau**

Statistics of U.S. Businesses (SUSB) is an annual series that provides national and subnational data on the distribution of economic data by enterprise size and industry. SUSB covers most of the country's economic activity. The series excludes data on non-employer businesses, private households, railroads, agricultural production, and most government entities.

# Data Sources Cont.

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## **Statistics & Facts About Nebraska Schools Reports Nebraska Department of Education**

This is a series of reports that were included in a publication called Statistics and Facts About Nebraska Schools. The reports include state-level reports, district and school level reports for public districts, nonpublic systems and State Operated systems (Special Purpose Schools). Most of the reports relate to the Fall Membership (student counts as of the last Friday in September, Nebraska's official counting day). Other reports include School District Census by County and Full-Time Equivalency (F.T.E) of Certificated Personnel by Assignment and Gender.

## **Taking Charge Reports City of Lincoln**

The City of Lincoln partnered with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center on the Taking Charge public engagement process since 2008 to make their voices heard on a variety of budget topics. Their input has helped shape the budgets released by the Mayor's office. Reports presenting the results of online surveys combined with face-to-face community conversation have been released annually since 2013, monitoring initiatives, sentinel surveillance, and national health care services surveys.

## **Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

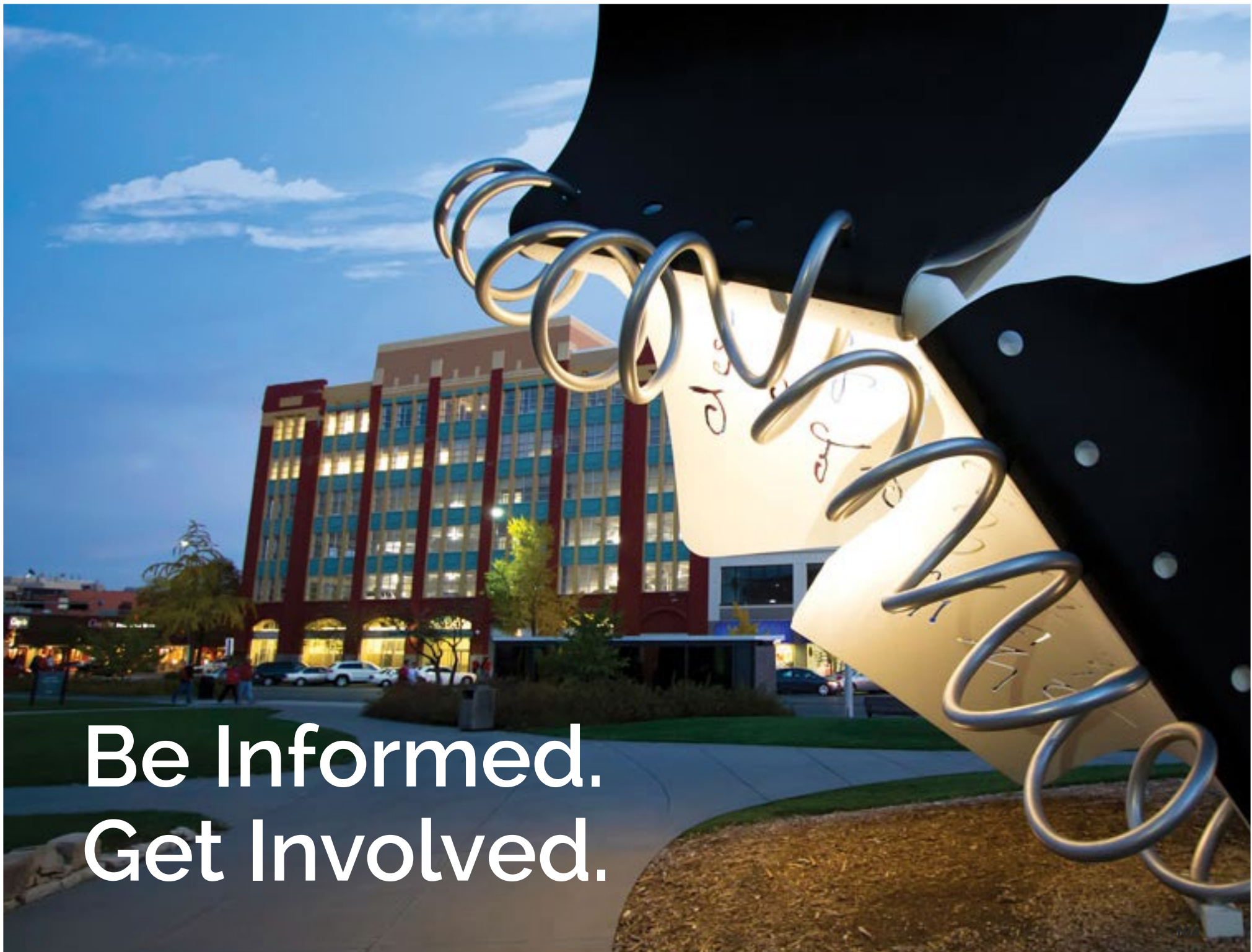
The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), established in 1991, monitors six categories of priority health-risk behaviors among youths and young adults: 1) behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; 2) sexual behaviors that contribute to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancy; 3) tobacco use; 4) alcohol and other drug use; 5) unhealthy dietary behaviors; and 6) physical inactivity. In addition, YRBSS monitors the prevalence of obesity and asthma among this population. YRBSS data are obtained from multiple sources, including a national school-based survey conducted by CDC as well as school-based state, territorial, tribal, and large urban school district surveys conducted by education and health agencies. These surveys have been conducted biennially since 1991 and include representative samples of students in grades 9–12.

# Versions

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Additions or deletions to the original publication of the 2019 Lincoln Vital Signs report are indicated below.

- **Version 1.0:** December 2019 - Original Publication.



**Be Informed.  
Get Involved.**



**Lincoln Vital Signs**

lincolnvitalsigns.org

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# LANCASTER COUNTY JDAI COLLABORATIVE MEETING

System Assessment Feedback Session  
July 25, 2018



**Lancaster County**

# Meeting Purpose and Objectives

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## Purpose:

- Review quantitative and qualitative information to begin process of detention reform planning and implementation.

## Objectives:

- Provide summary overview of JDAI.
- Present and discuss detention utilization study findings.
- Present and discuss system assessment observations and recommendations.
- Mobilize local stakeholders for the work ahead.
- Highlight next steps.



# JDAI is a data driven reform process designed to enable jurisdictions to safely reduce the reliance on secure detention

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## Purpose:

To demonstrate that jurisdictions can establish more effective and efficient systems to accomplish the purposes of juvenile detention.

## Objectives:

1. Eliminate inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention
2. Minimize failures to appear and incidence of delinquent behavior
3. Redirect public finances to successful reform strategies
4. Improve conditions in secure detention facilities
5. Reduce racial and ethnic disparities

# Every JDAI Site looks different, but each one shares the eight core strategies

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Collaboration

Objective admission criteria

Case processing reforms

Deliberate commitment to reducing racial disparities

Use of accurate data

Alternatives to detention

Reducing the use of secure confinement for “special” cases

Improving the conditions of confinement

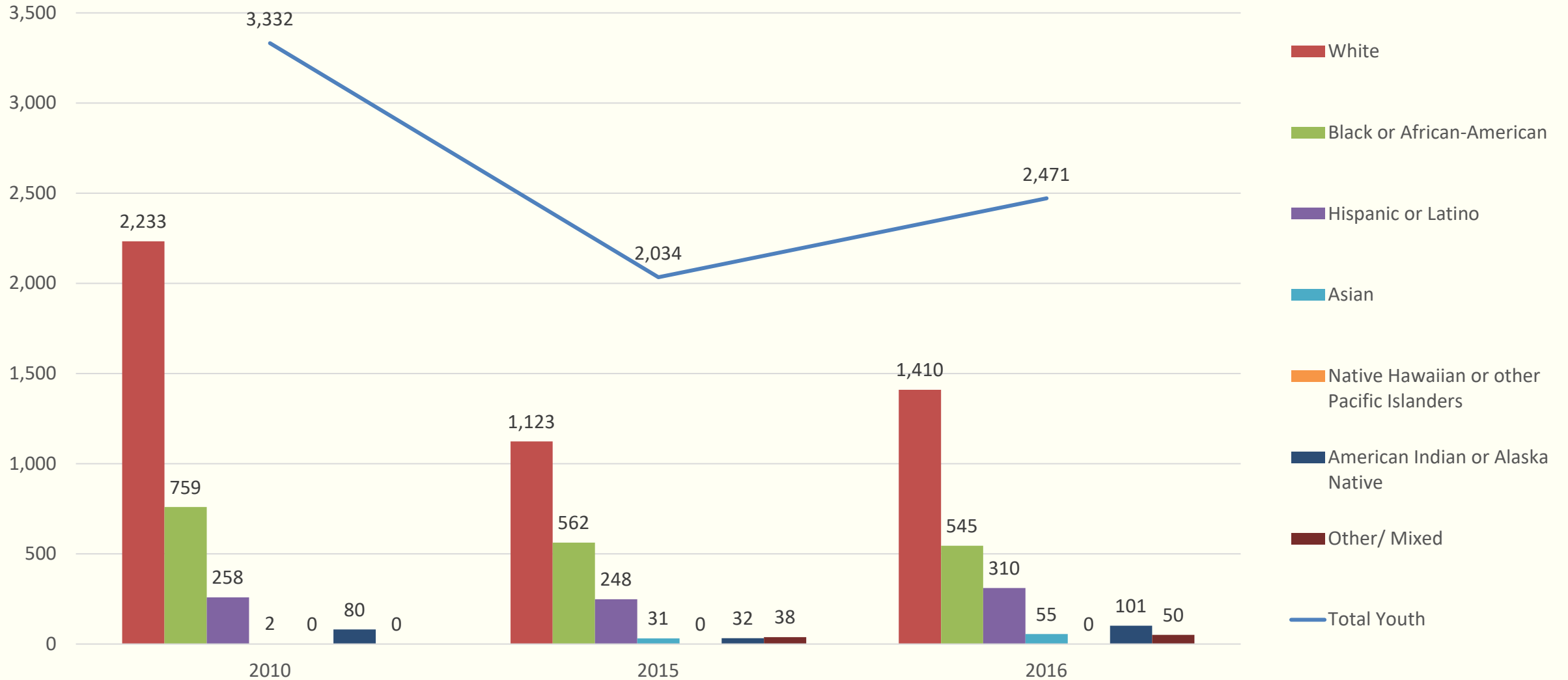
# Detention Utilization Study

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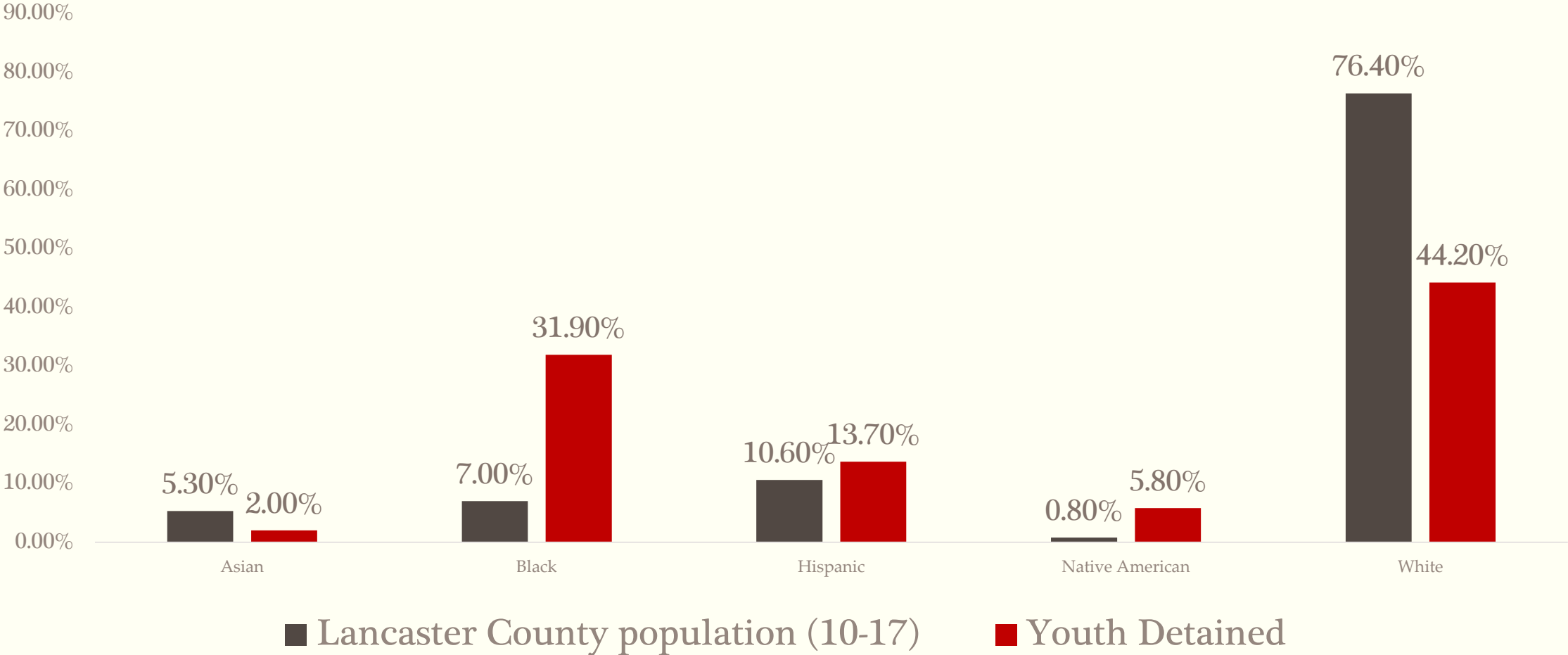
- Purpose
- Methodology
- Limitations



# Arrest Trends

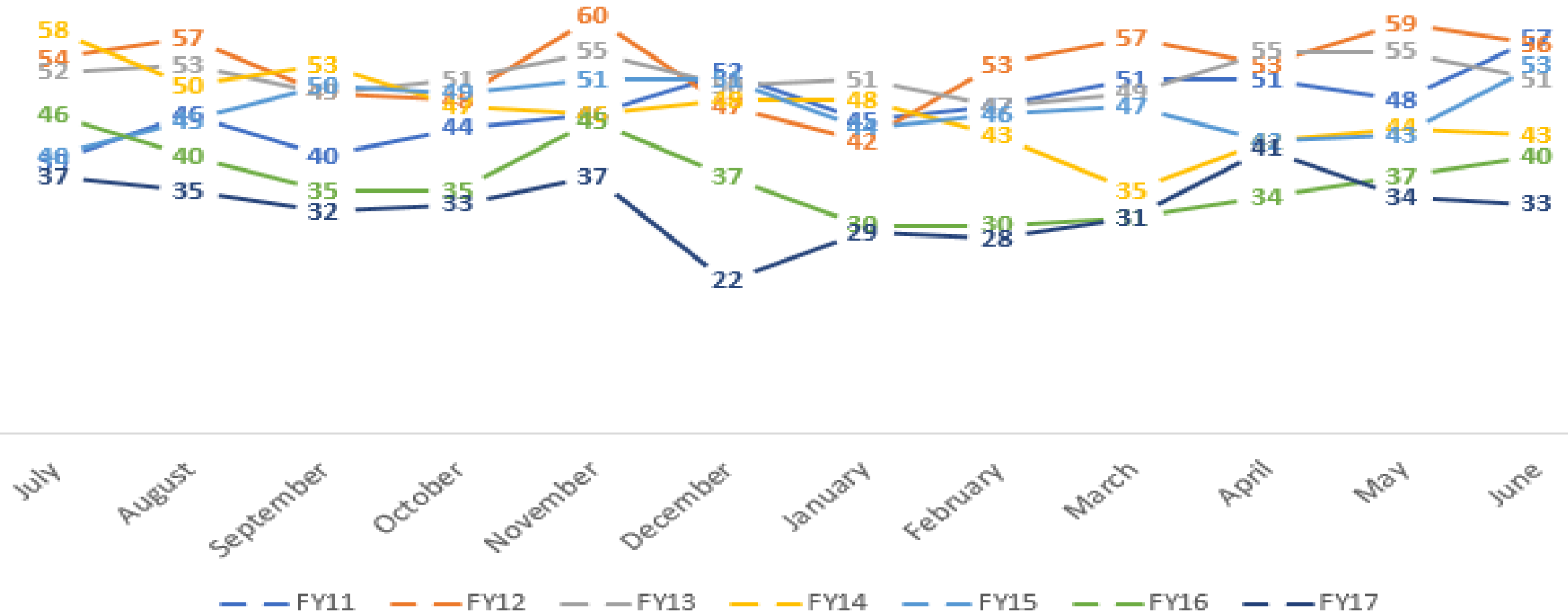


# Demographics of Lancaster County Youth Population vs. Youth Detained



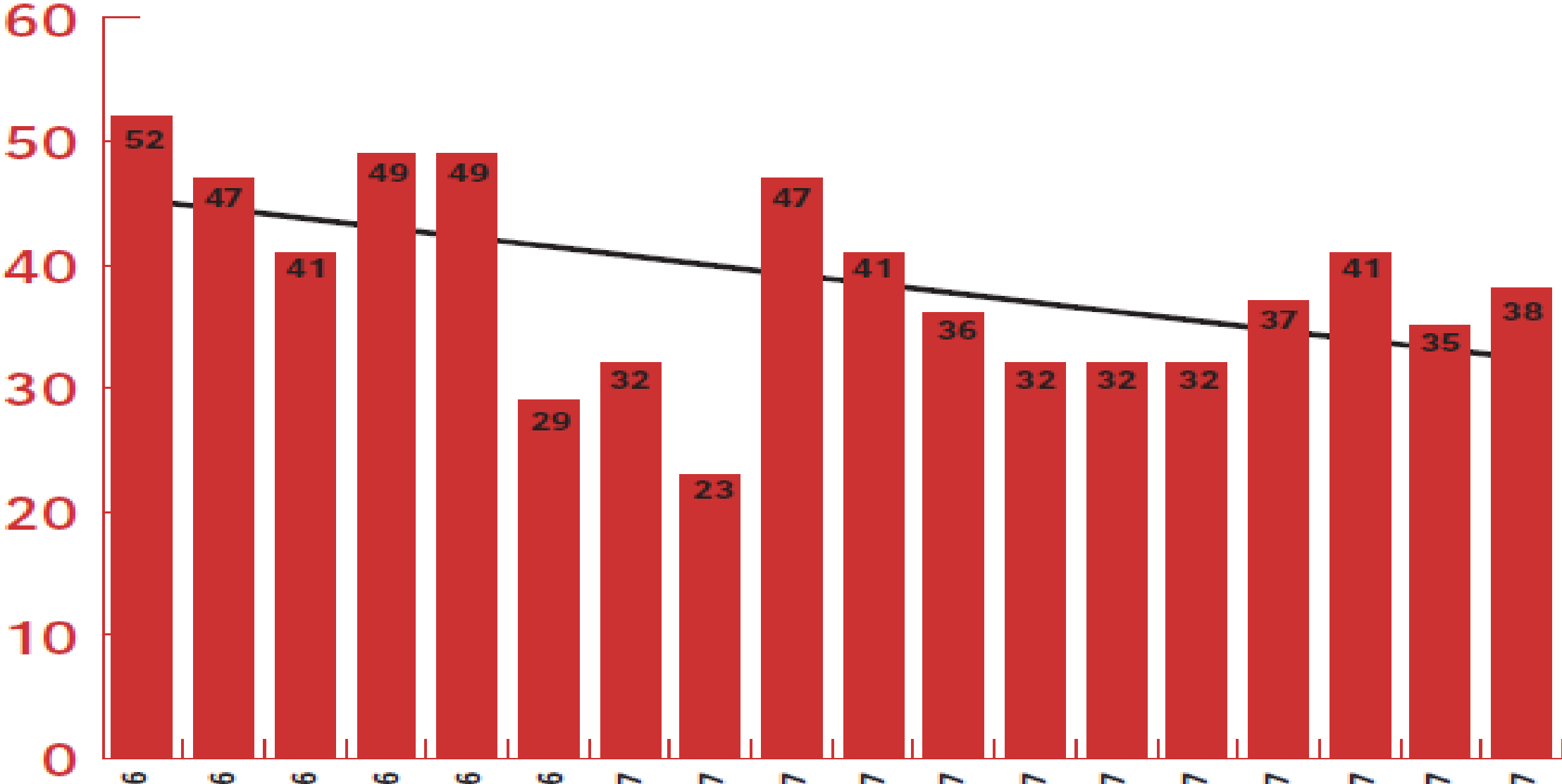
# Detention – Average Daily Population FY 2011- FY 2017

## 2011-2017 ADP BY MONTH



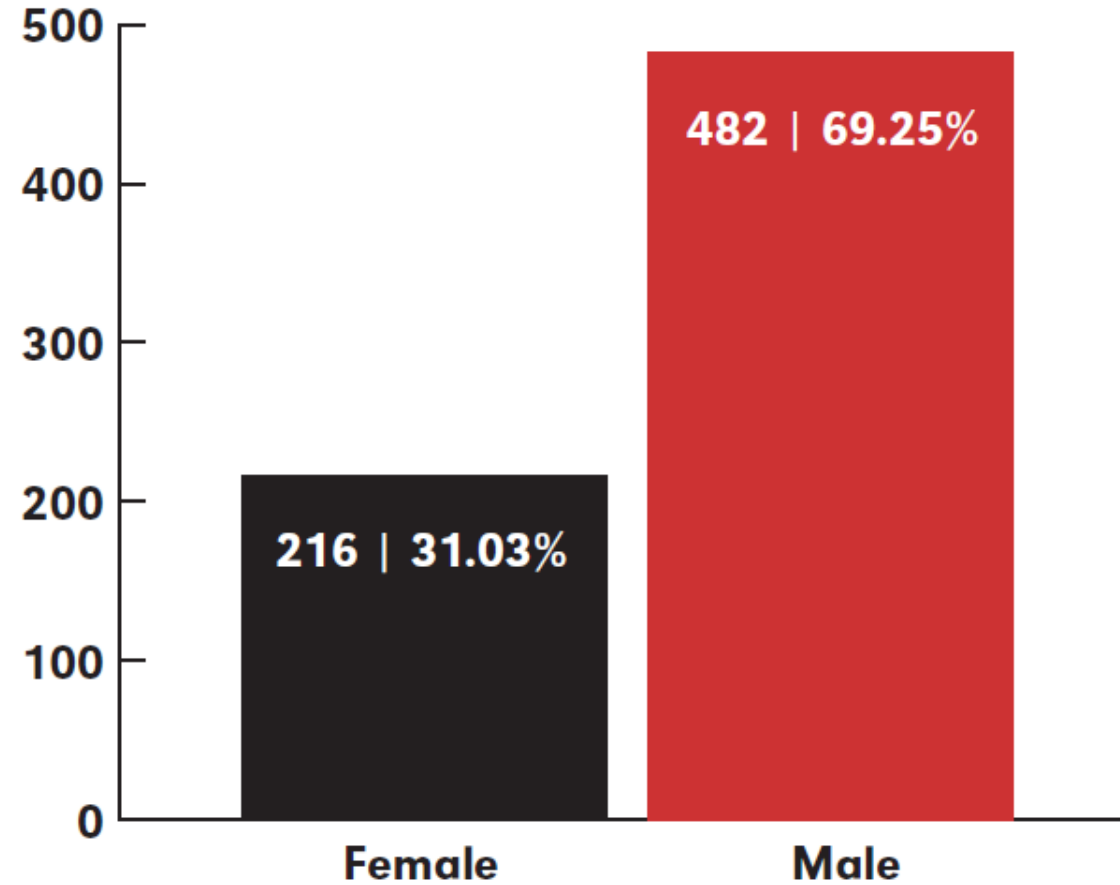
# Admissions to Detention July 2016 - December 2017

**Figure 1: Monthly Trends in Detention Utilization in Lancaster County  
July 2016 - December 2017**



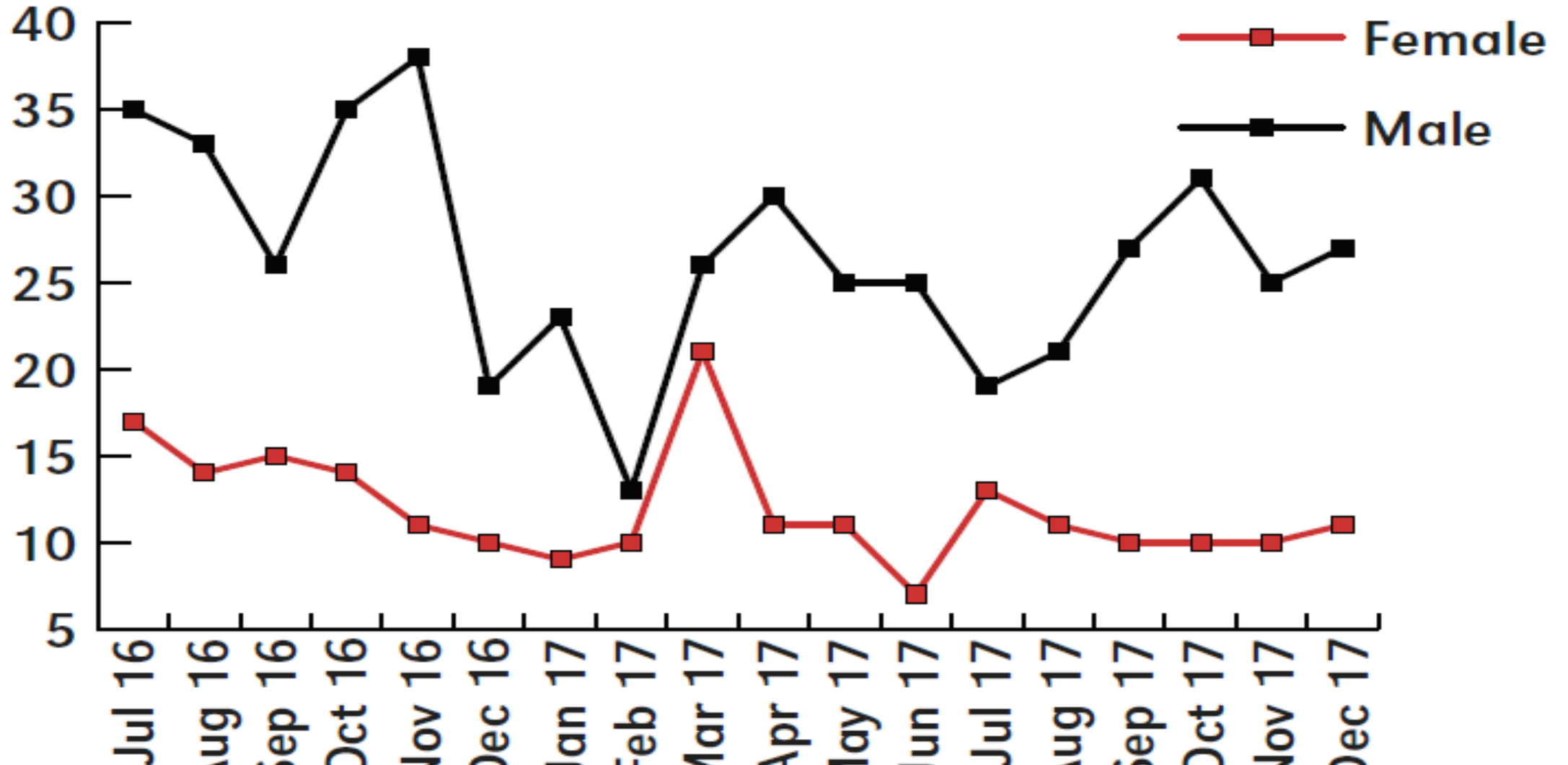
# Youth Booked In By Gender

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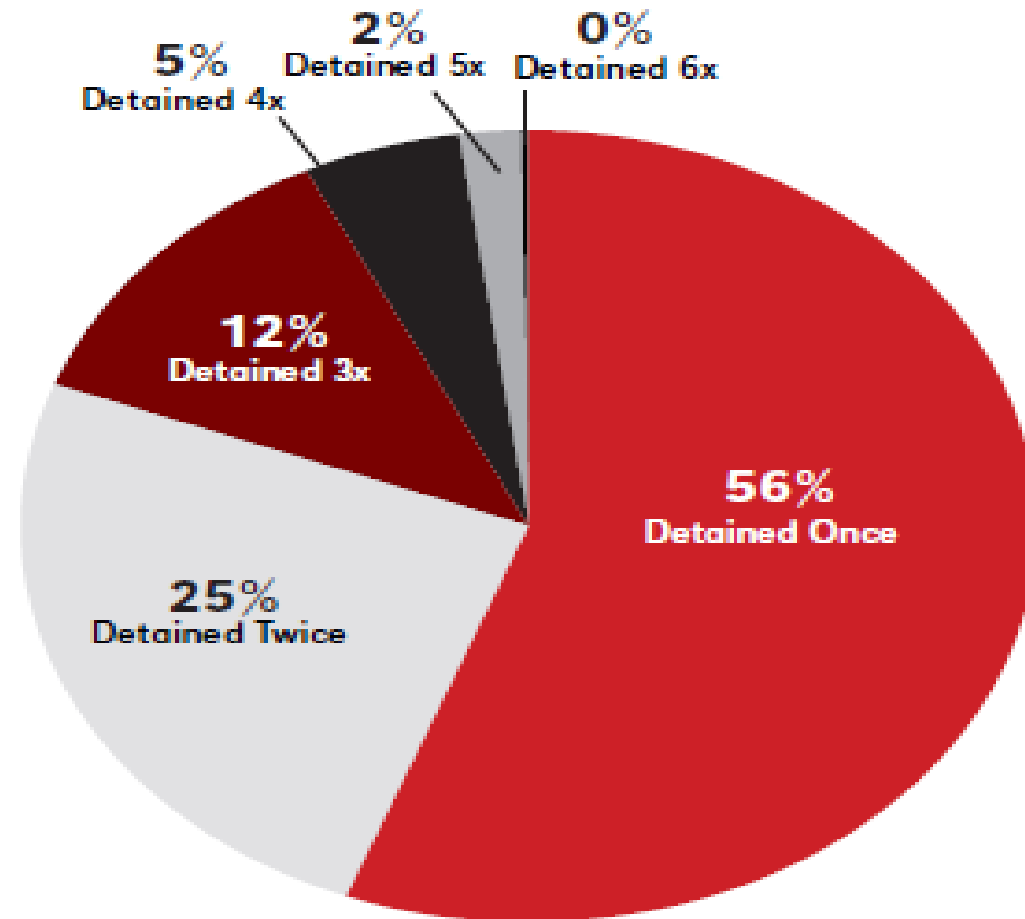
# Detention Admissions by Gender



# Number Of Times Youth Detained

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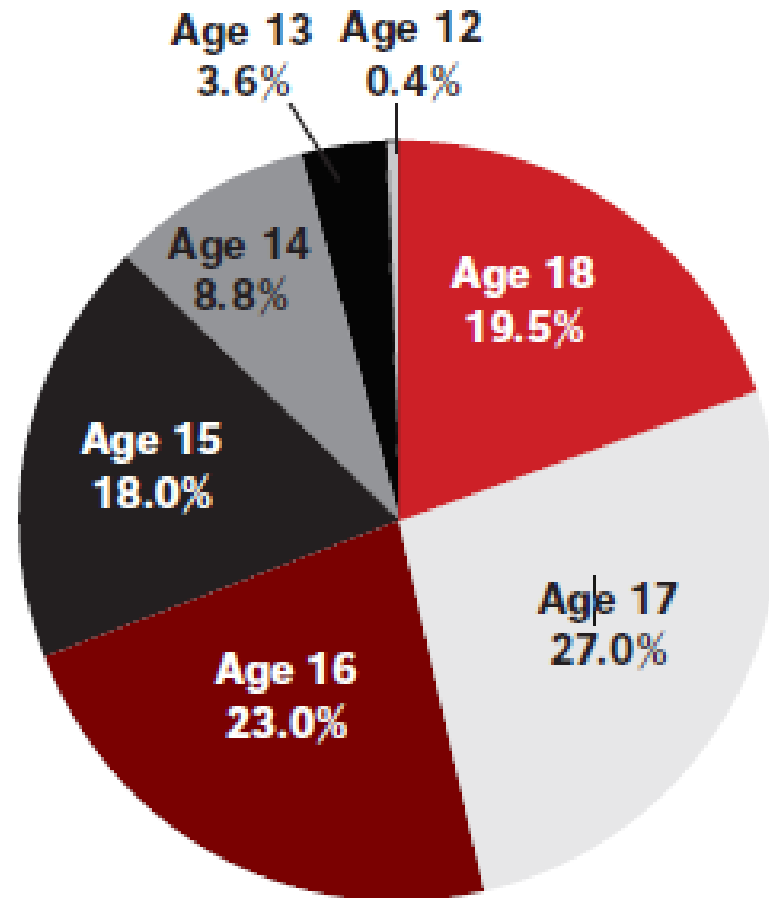
**Figure 3: Percentage of Youth Detained 1 to 6 Times**



# Youth Detained by Age

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**Figure 6: Age of Youth Booked-in to Lancaster County Youth Service Center**



# Length of Stay by Race & Gender

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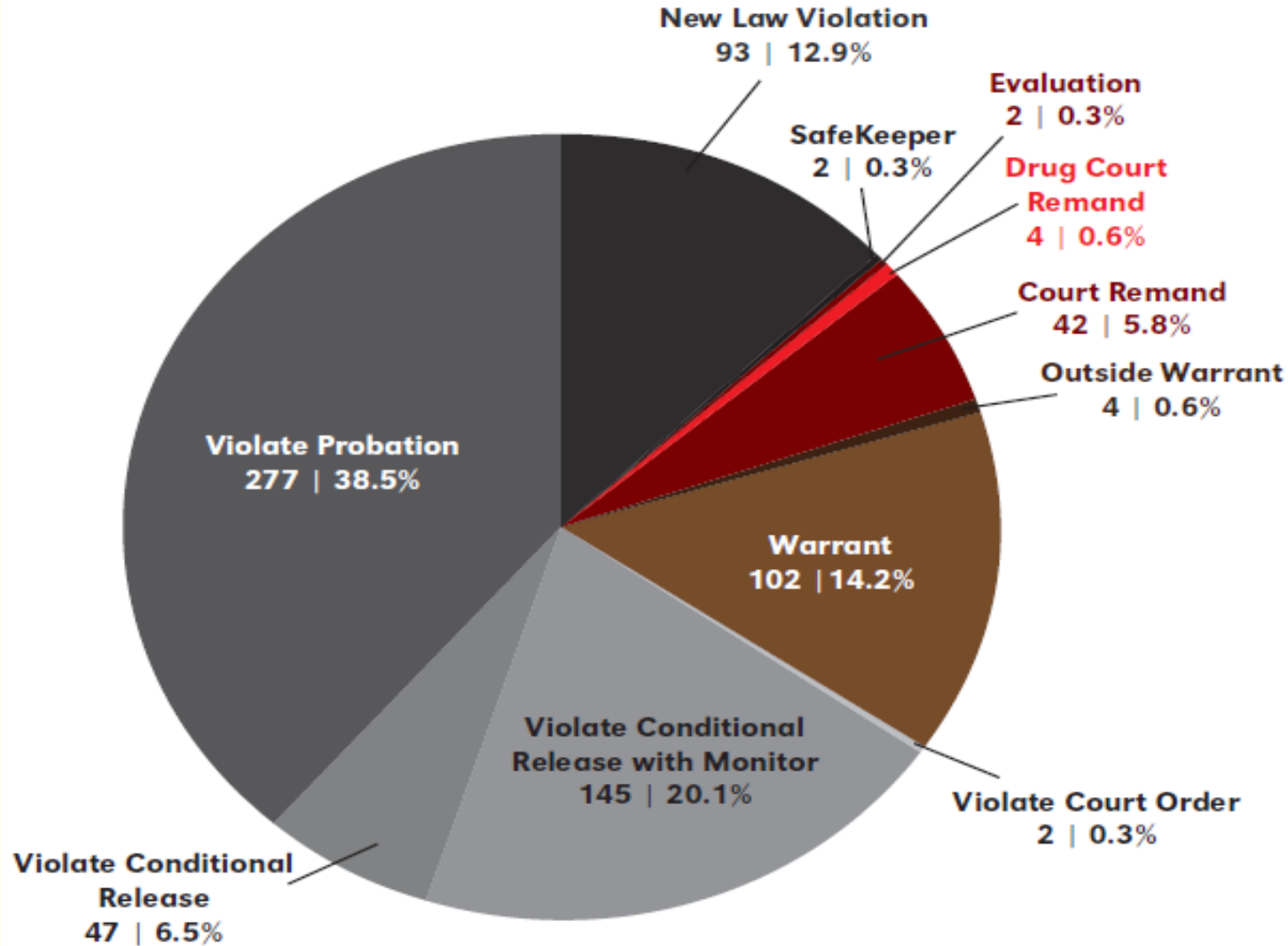
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<b>Table 6: Length of Stay in Days by Race and Ethnicity</b>			
<b>Race</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Asian	23.36	14	16.8
Black	24.03	221	24.3
Hispanic	23.73	95	23.2
Native American	24.53	40	26.0
Unknown	22.82	17	18.2
White	19.73	306	20.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.07</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>22.3</b>

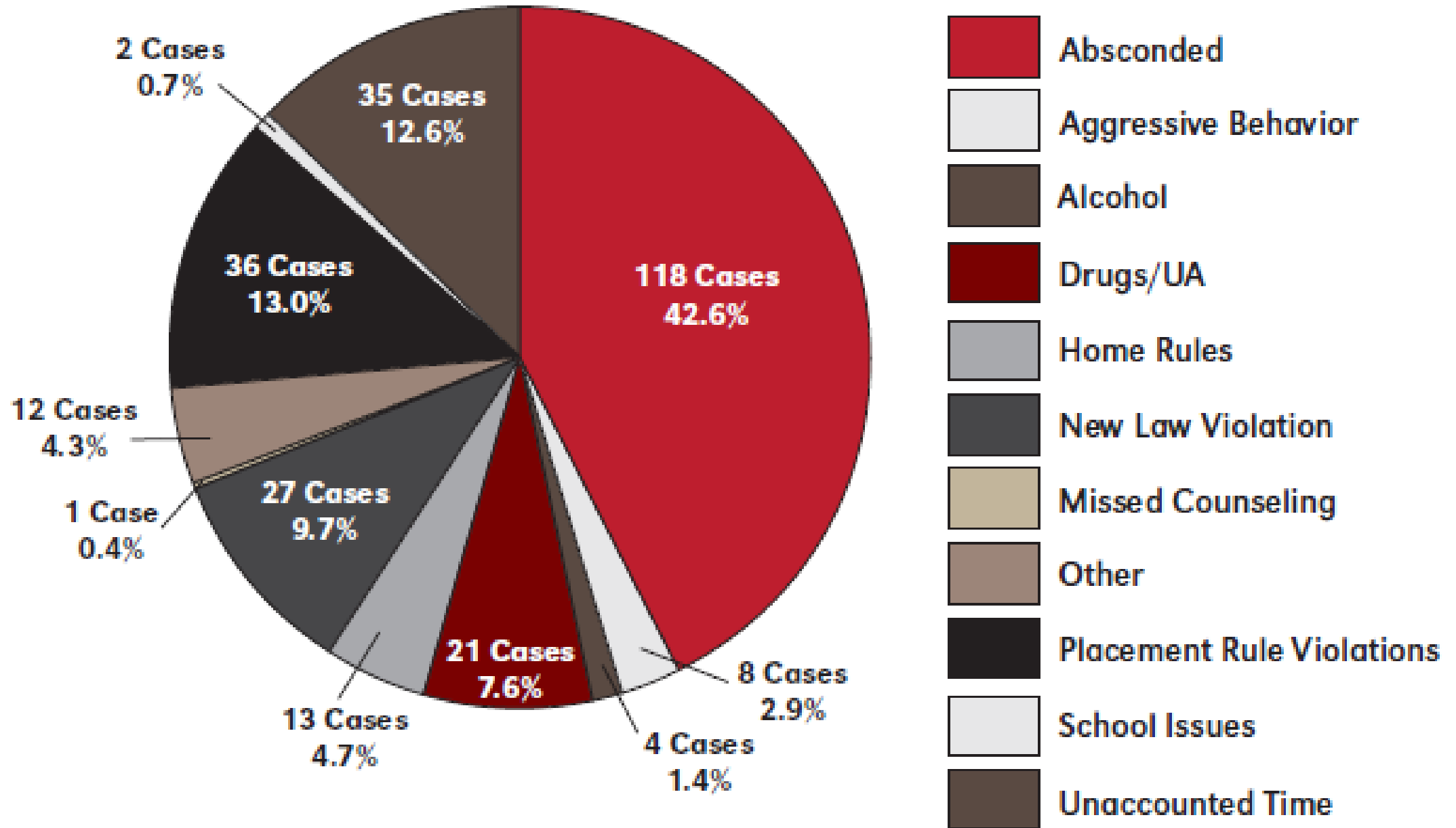
<b>Table 7: Length of Stay in Days by Gender</b>			
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Female	18.3	215	17.3
Male	23.8	478	23.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.07</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>22.3</b>

# Reason For Detention

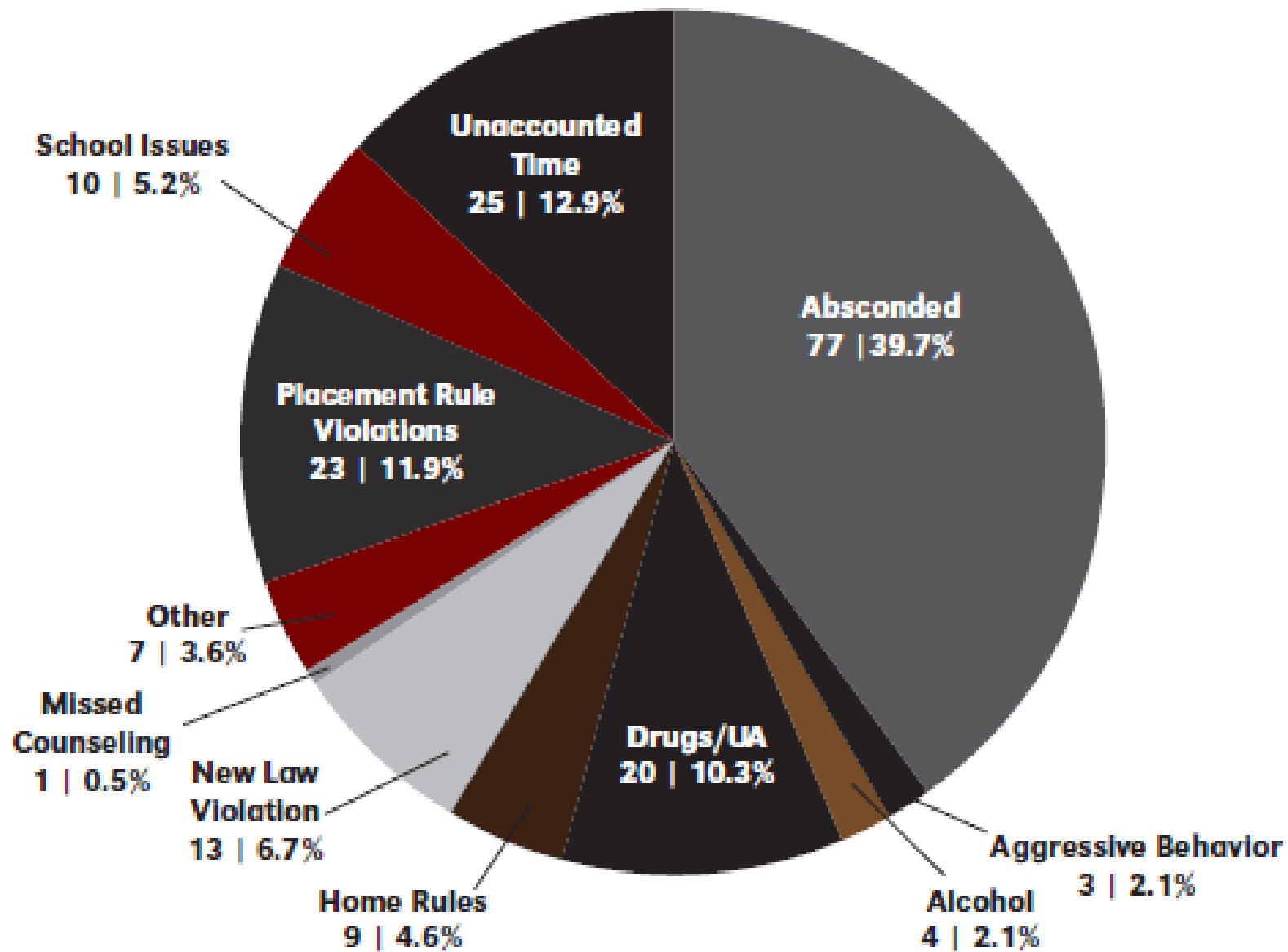
**Figure 10. Intake Reason**



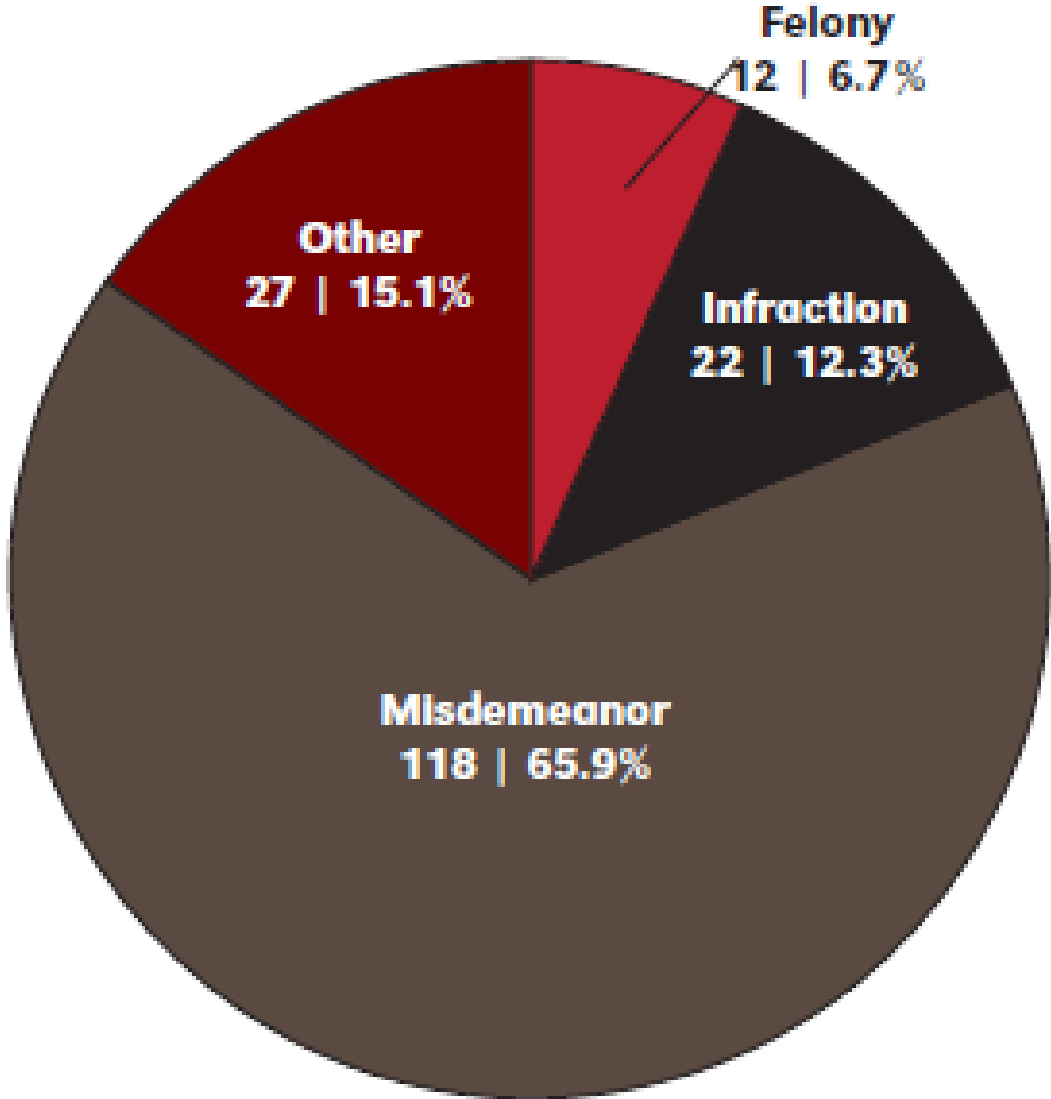
**Figure 11: Underlying Reasons for Violation of Probation**



**Figure 12. Underlying Reasons for Violation of Conditional Release**

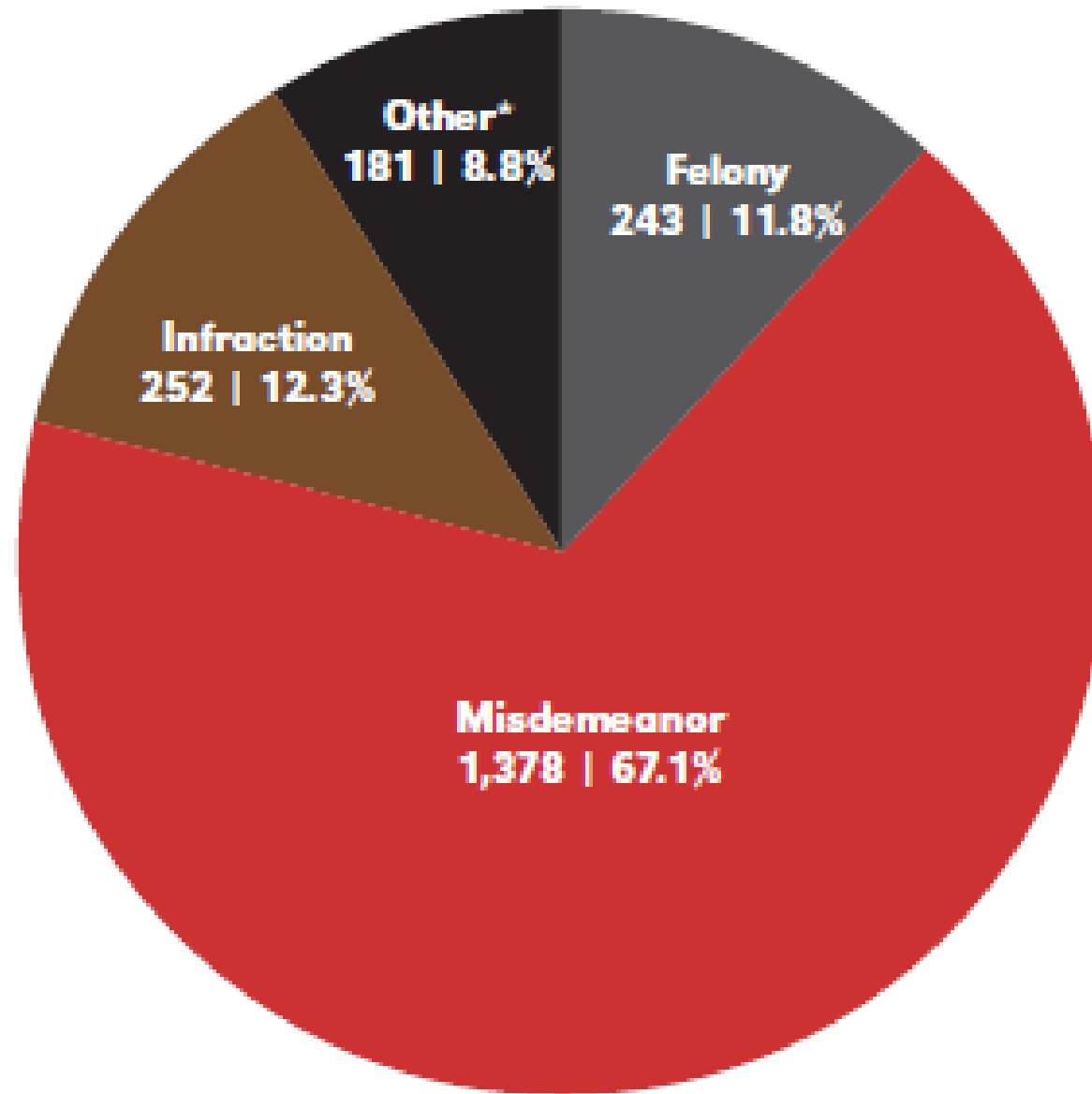


**Figure 13: Law Violations Associated with Youth Admitted to Detention**





**Figure 14. Type of Offense Alleged on Youth Detained**

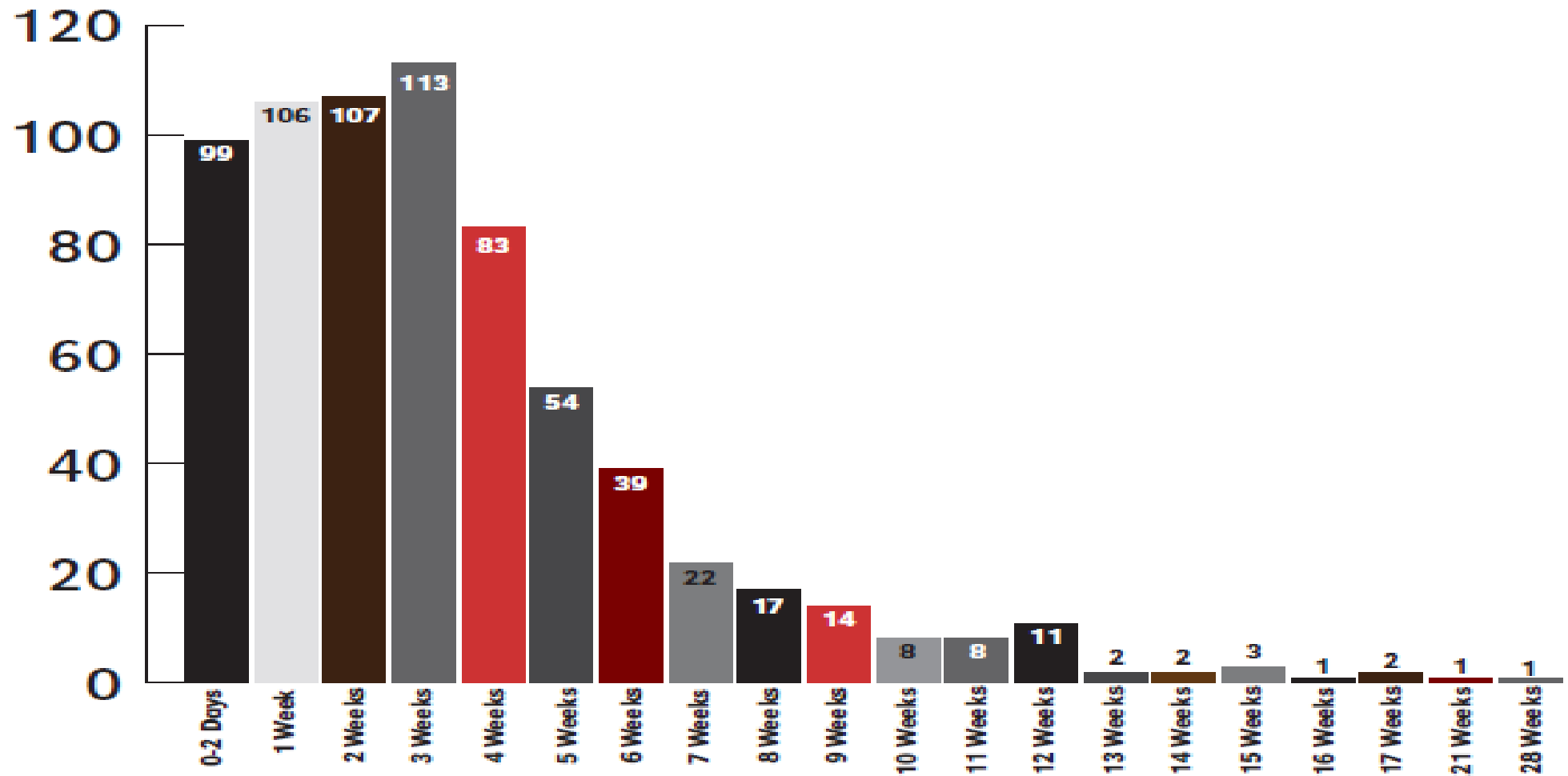


# Average Length of Stay (ALOS) Data

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- The average length of stay for all youth admitted during this time frame was **22.07 days** (SD 22.3). Most of the admissions (61.3%) spent less than four weeks in the facility, with **14.3% being released in a day or two**

# Detention Length of Stay by Weeks



# Summary of Findings from DUS

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- The data must be collected in a way that is transparent. Terms like “conditional release” “court remand” “hold” make it difficult to see why a youth is detained.
- Black and Native American youth are significantly overrepresented in youth admitted, whether this is youth admitted only once, or up to six times. While this likely illustrates cumulative disadvantage, and there are many variables that might provide explanation, it is a consistent pattern that should be noted and explored.
- Most youth are detained for violating some condition, rule or probation. Only 13% of youth are admitted for a new law violation.
- The average length of stay is 22.07 days. Youth remain in the facility for 1-3 weeks.

# Summary of Findings from DUS

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- Only 26% of youth placed in group homes are released to a group home in Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Youth who were placed out of state (either group home or with family) remained in detention an average of 50.1 days. Local options, or expediting interstate paperwork may be effective for reducing the average length of stay.
- The most common problem at the detention hearing appears to be the lack of placements for youth: 29.9% of the time, the court ruled that there was no less restrictive placement; in roughly 20% of the cases, Probation was looking for Placement. In 7% of cases, the youth appeared to be on a waiting list for a specific placement to open (Nova, Hastings, Boys Town, St. Monica's). Overall, in 56% of cases, the court and the professionals were waiting for an appropriate placement for the youth.

# Qualitative System Assessment

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- Organized by JDAI “core strategies”
- Based upon interviews with local stakeholders
- Intended to stimulate discussion (not assert conclusions)
- Should align with Detention Utilization Study (DUS)
- Can help to identify some “low-hanging fruit”

# Collaboration

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## Observations:

- Local stakeholders are committed to improving outcomes for youth and community safety.
- Familiar tensions across local agencies and between county and state.
- Different perspectives on “purpose of detention”.
- Need continued development of JDAI coordination efforts.



# Collaboration

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## Recommendations:

- Get organized:
  - Formally empanel JDAI collaborative
  - Identify a JDAI coordinator
  - Establish regular meeting schedule
- Immerse in JDAI:
  - Review developmental milestones
  - Complete on-line trainings
  - Read JDAI publications
  - Model site visit
- Schedule “purpose of detention” discussion
- Identify priorities and establish a work plan



# Data Driven Decision Making

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## Observations:

- Individual agencies have “raw” data but limited analytics and data sharing.
- Routine reports regarding detention utilization should be developed to drive decision making.



# Data Driven Decision Making

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## Recommendations:

- Review, in detail, DUS.
- Develop plan to produce quarterly utilization reports and daily/weekly population sheets.
- Establish data sharing agreements, as needed.

# Objective Admissions Policies & Practices

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## Observations:

- Statewide RAI screening is available 24/7.
- There are high levels of overrides and “administrative holds” (e.g., automatic detention cases).
- Uneven understanding of RAI screening process across stakeholders.



# Objective Admissions Policies & Practices

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## Recommendations:

- Analyze admissions to detention to better understand overrides and administrative holds.
- Train all relevant stakeholders on RAI process.
- Monitor pretrial outcomes.
- Link RAI scores to detention alternative placement.

# Alternatives to Detention (ATD)

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## Observations:

- Lancaster County has a wide array of programs.
- However, program selection criteria, target populations and other details need clarification.
- Service gaps noted included family crisis interventions, mental health (including drug/alcohol services) and interpreters.



# Alternatives to Detention (ATD)

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## Recommendations:

- ATD providers should be included in JDAI collaborative.
- Program purposes target selection criteria and target populations need to be clarified, to ensure young people are admitted to the right program.
- Intensive home-based services could reduce the “awaiting placement” population.

# Timely Case Processing (Eliminating Unnecessary Delays)

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## Observations:

- According to stakeholders, routine delinquency cases are resolved in a timely manner.
- Delays are most common when cases involve:
  - placement
  - transfers to adult court
  - psychological evaluations
  - translation services
- Use of “conditional release” often extends case processing times.



# Timely Case Processing (Eliminating Unnecessary Delays)

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## Recommendations:

- Review *Timely Justice*, a JDAI practice guide on case processing reform.
- Develop a “system map” and related data to better identify points of delay and to design options to expedite case processing.
- Examine the utilization of conditional release and when they are used in Lancaster County.



# “Special” Detention Cases

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## Observations:

- Detention utilization appears largely driven by awaiting placement, violation of probation and warrant cases (as opposed to new law violations).
- A system for responding to probation violations is under development.
- Mental health issues were often cited as cause of program and probation failures.
- New policy to allow screening of certain warrant cases for ATD participation has been developed but not studied.



# “Special” Detention Cases

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## Recommendations:

- Focus attention on out-of-home placements.
  - Inter-agency staffings.
  - Structured decision making tools.
  - Expedited placement procedures.
  - “No reject, no eject” contracts.
  - Intensive home-based services.
- Establish and implement a “response grid” to ensure timely, equitable and least restrictive actions in VOP cases.

# Conditions of Confinement

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## Observations:

- The detention center is generally considered well-run and well-staffed.
- Annual state reviews of conditions find facility in compliance with state standards.



# Conditions of Confinement

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## Recommendations:

- State and JDAI standards should be compared and, if appropriate, modified to ensure best possible facility operations.
- JDAI self-assessment process should be implemented or merged with state inspections process.

# Racial and Ethnic Disparities

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## Observations:

- There is considerable disparity between county youth population and detention population.
- New immigrant populations have been expanding in recent years.
- There is a racial and ethnic disparities (RED) committee that meets quarterly.
- Efforts to reduce RED have primarily been program focused.
- Opportunities for community input should be expanded.



# Racial and Ethnic Disparities

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## Recommendations:

- Existing RED committee should be incorporated in JDAI.
- All future data reports on detention system should disaggregate by race, ethnicity and gender.
- Community representatives, including racial justice advocates, should be included in JDAI collaborative and discussions.

# Next Steps

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- Next JDAI Collaborative Meeting
  - Friday September 7, 2018 1:00pm-3:00pm
- Next RED Meeting
  - Friday October 5, 2018 12:00pm-1:00pm
- Committee Work & Work Plans
  - Based on reports identify needed committee(s)
  - Develop data driven work plans
- Fundamentals Training



# Resources:

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- JDAI Connect: [www.jdaiconnect.org](http://www.jdaiconnect.org)
  - Pathway's Series
  - Practice Guides
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice: <http://juvjustice.org/reform-initiatives/juvenile-detention-alternatives-initiative>
- OJJDP: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/208804.pdf>
- Nebraska Crime Commission: [www.ncc.ne.gov](http://www.ncc.ne.gov)



# Contacts

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