

Warren County Needs Assessment 2020

Warren County

Warren County Human **Services Advisory Council**

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PART 1



Executive Summary

Narrative: In the Words of the County

Mission Statement:

The Warren County Department of Human Services has collaborated with the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) to conduct a Needs Assessment as directed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The HSAC Needs Assessment required a survey, created by DCF, to be distributed to community members living and working in Warren County. A series of focus groups and key informant interviews were also conducted to analyze information about the services that exist in the community and how those who work and reside in the county perceive these services. The surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews functioned as an opportunity for community members to have their voices heard regarding these need areas.

A review of the data compiled by Rutgers for the needs assessment revealed information on Warren County regarding basic needs and service needs. The Rutgers data showed some positive information such as low crime rate, low juvenile arrests, and low domestic violence incidents. But the data also revealed high cost of transportation as a percentage of income, high age adjusted frequency of mental health distress and high change in suspected opioid abuse. The Warren County Department of Human Services plans to use the survey, focus group recommendations and Rutgers Data to enhance the services in the county.

During the process of the Needs Assessment, there were a number of barriers identified within the county framework. Transportation and lack of awareness of services were the two most selected barriers. These barriers also seem to affect the more rural areas of the county. Many participants described that there is a divide in the county between towns. The more rural towns toward the north of the county seem to be very distant and lack services and/or transportation and knowledge of services themselves.

Many focus group participants noted that if they were unaware of a service they would search online to find the service, otherwise they'd be connected by word of mouth or through an agency they are already connected with. With that, there was also the discussion that the technology to research services is not as accessible to all members of the community.

The highest needs selected in Warren County were Housing and Employment/Career Services. Many focus groups discussed the challenges associated with housing were transportation, wait lists and lack of awareness of services. Suggestions for housing in the county included allowing those with a criminal record to apply for housing and lowering the eligibility requirements. Suggestions for Employment and

Career Services included more internet connectability, more career related trainings offered and more services offered in the northern end of the county.

The highest specialized need services was Behavioral/Mental Health Services for both children and adults. Discussed in the focus groups and interviews, there is a lack of available clinicians in our county. Again, with the same idea that the northern, more rural towns in Warren County are lacking services as well as the knowledge of and transportation to services. Regarding Behavioral/Mental Health Services for children, there is a very common theme of the general public being unaware of the Children's System of Care. The organizations within CSOC are continuously trying, through meetings, networking and social media to get the word out there. The focus group participants suggested having a large database of services on the Warren County website. Whenever the topic of mental health is brought up, the barrier of stigma will typically come up as well. Stigma is one of the main reasons adults will not seek help for themselves or seek help for their children/family members. With initiatives through the county, we are working to combat the issue of stigma.

When it comes to the connectedness in Warren County, it is apparent, through focus group participants, that the organizations in the county are very well connected and aware of each other. The agencies attend the same meetings, have similar goals, have the desire to connect and share all services with each other and with the community. Despite these intentions, the community members are still not as connected and aware of services. The sooner we are able to combat this issue, the sooner we will be a stronger community.

Purpose:

The NJ Department of Children and Families has funded the county's Human Services Advisory Council to complete this needs assessment in order to collect both quantitative and qualitative data documenting; local needs, social connections, community networks and the impact on subpopulations, trends over time, key barriers to service delivery and considerations for action. Results will be used to help identify and assist not only the NJ Department of Children and Family and it's various divisions but it will be used by the Warren County Department of Human Services; its Division of Aging and Disabilities Services, the Division of Temporary Assistance and Social Service and Division of Administration and the advisory councils under it especially the Human Services Advisory Council. This needs assessment will be used to improve the delivery of services to all county residents and to strengthen Warren County families.

Process Model and Research:

The NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF) in consultation with a workgroup composed of state and county human service leaders from across the state developed the tools, protocols and materials necessary to complete this Needs Assessment. The process consists of a survey tool (developed by

DCF), focus group and key informant interviews. In addition to providing the template on how to complete this project the State provided the county with Profile of Family and Community Indicators; developed by Rutgers' School of Social Work in cooperation with DCF.

In addition to the data provided by DCF the county incorporated data from the following sources: or this document along with the ChildStat 2019 presentation, The Substance Use Navigator Needs Assessment Summary of the Tri-County Vicinage of Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties (2019), the American Community Survey, the Data.Censu.gov; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, New Jersey State Police and the NJ Department of Human Services.

COUNTY PROFILE

Demographics:

There are 105,779 individuals who call Warren County home and reside in 41,587 households.

Children under the age of 5 represent 4.5% of the population, children between the ages of 5 -18 represent 15.5% of the population while adults 18-65 represents 62.4% of the population and individuals over the age of 65 represents 17.6% of the population.

88.5% percent on the population are White; 9.3% are Hispanic/Latino; 4.5% of the population are Black/African American, 2.7% are Asian 1.8% are Other and .2% are American Indian/Alaska Native. (NOTE: In the 2017 American Community Survey respondents were able to select more than one race, therefore the percentages add up to more than 100%.)

The median household income in the county is \$81,307.

Housing:

There are 45,473 housing units in the county 65% are single unit houses, 34% are multi unit housing complexes and 1% are mobile homes.

Approximately 65% of all housing are owner occupied.

Home owners with a mortgage paid a median of \$2,154 per month while those with a mortgage paid an average of \$941 per month.

The foreclosure rate in Warren County is less that 2%. Renters paid \$1,171 per month, this does not include utility payments, HOA fees or other costs associated with a rental property.

Food:

According to Feeding America, Inc it is estimated that 13.4% of the general public and 20.5% of children are dealing with food insecurity.

In 2019, 2,966 children were receiving NJ SNAP benefits.

In 2019 1,274 women and their children were enrolled in WIC.

Approximately 3,267 children received free or reduced lunch in the 2018 school year.
There are an estimated 25 food pantries in Warren County.

Health Care:

Most county residents have some health care coverage, 62.4 % have health care coverage through work, 13.6% receive Medicaid, 20.5% receive Medicare, and 1% receives benefits via military or VA plans.

There are close to 400 physicians in Warren County, 29 are primary care physicians. The patient to physician ratio for the county is 1670:1.

The county has two hospitals: one located in Phillipsburg and one located in Hackettstown. In addition, there is also an Ambulatory Surgery Center in Phillipsburg. There are approximately 7 urgent care centers and 1 federally qualified health center within the county borders.

Community Safety:

New Jersey State Police Barracks located in Hope and Mansfield provide coverage to 9 municipalities; 8 municipalities provide their own police coverage and 5 municipalities have shared police coverage.

In 2016, Warren County had 73 reported violent crimes, (1 murder, 7 rapes, 43 aggravated assaults, and 22 robberies). During that same time the county also had 4 reported arsons, 47 motor vehicle thefts, 236 burglaries and 924 cases of larceny.

In 2018, there were a total of 156 juveniles arrested in Warren County. They were arrested for the following: 27 violent offenses; 10 weapons offenses; 51 property offenses, 32 substance offenses, 4 special needs, 13 Public Order/Status and 19 other.

Employment and Career Services:

Warren County's unemployment rate for May 2019 was 2.7%

According to 2018 an estimated 21,172 residents worked in the county, 26,695 worked in state and 6,336 residents worked in either New York or Pennsylvania.

The average commute to work is 36 minutes.

The average cost of maintaining a vehicle in the county is \$11,076.

Child Care:

There are 55 licensed child care centers in Warren County, equaling 3,628 child care slots.

There are 4 head start programs (2 centers in Phillipsburg, 1 in Hackettstown and 1 in Washington).

Both Washington and Hackettstown have Early Head Start programs. The county has 28 registered family child care homes and 1 approved home, all are licensed/approved by the state Department of Children and Families.

The cost of child care in Warren County is expensive. The average cost of infant care is \$1,126, toddler care is \$996 and PreK is \$775. Infant care is higher than the average household income, while toddler care is about the same cost as the average household income.

Behavioral/Mental Health Services for Adults

Mental health professionals there are 214 mental health providers in the county, which results in a 490:1 ratio. Neither hospital in the county has any psychiatric care beds.

Behavioral/Mental Health Services for Children:

Warren County's youth suicide attempt rate was 11.7% per 100,000 residents.

The county's Mobile Response (MRSS) agency reported that in 2018, 290 dispatched calls involved Warren County families. In 2019, 268 dispatched calls and in 2020, 256 dispatched calls. C-SSRS (Suicide Assessment) was given to 30% of all Warren County dispatched calls in 2020, 2% (6 youth) of the youth were linked directly to Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS) during a MRSS dispatch.

Substance Use Disorder Services:

Addiction services admissions in 2018 totaled 1,329 county residents, 828 were unduplicated and 6 were under the age of 18. For 2019 there were 1,275 total admissions, 808 unduplicated and 10 were under the age of 18.

The top three primary drugs for admission were: heroin/other opiates, alcohol and marijuana. There are 8 licensed treatment providers in the county.

Domestic Violence Services:

Between calendar years 2012-2016 there were a total of 6,550 (average of 1,310 per year) domestic violence incidents in Warren County. The highest recorded number occurred in 2015 with 1,369 cases and the lowest occurred in 2016 with 1,175 cases recorded.

Parenting Skills:

The County's only Family Success Center is a program under NORWESCAP. This program offers families a one-stop wrap-around of resources and support.

The County's Family Support Organization is shared between three counties: Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren. The program provides peer support groups, advocacy and support and education to families with children who are experiencing emotional and behavioral issues.

Legal/Advocacy Services:

In Warren County children in the foster care system have access to the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA-SHaW). New Jersey's average legal rate is \$272, in Warren county the rate is \$156.

Survey Tools

Methodology:

A standard survey tool was provided to the county by the State Department of Children and Family to gather data about the key topic areas outlined in the previous data profile section in addition to identifying areas of strength and weakness in county based supports and services. Due to the ongoing restrictions set forth by the New Jersey's Governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state provided the county with a hyperlink to an online version of the survey with instructions on how to complete it prior to focus group meetings, however it was soon discovered that many did not complete the survey. All focus group participants were reminded of the importance of the survey.

Focus Groups:

Methodology:

From October 2020 to January 2021 a total of 8 focus groups were conducted via ZOOM or Webex (due to restrictions placed on us by the Governor and County Administration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic) by HSAC staff, using the script provided by NJDCF staff. The sessions lasted between 45 minutes and 2 hours, depending on the amount of people attending and the dialogue. The size of the focus groups ranged from one member to fifteen members. These focus groups represented the predetermined set of focus groups: community members currently or previously served by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), community members currently or previously served by the Children's System of Care (CSOC) community members currently or previously served by a community based organization, youth/young adults, community members at large group (in Warren County we selected to focus on members of the disabled population), community members at large (in Warren County we selected to focus on the Hispanic community), community based health and human service provider organizations, community leaders and influential people, members of public service organizations, and local business owners. The HSAC Planning Committee along with HSAC staff selected focus group participants from various sources including members of various Department Advisory Groups including Youth Services Committee, CIACC, the Disability Council, the Mental Health Board, Local Advisory Council on Substance Use and Municipal Alliance Coordinators. Staff from agencies involved with these committees were also identified to be invited to participate in focus groups. In addition, key county employees were also invited to participate. The county was not able to organize focus groups for community members currently or previously serviced by either DCP&P or CSOC.

Key Informant Interviews:

Methodology

From October 2020 to January 2021 a total of 3 interviews were conducted via Webex or telephone calls (due to the existing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions imposed by state and county officials) by

HSAC staff using the script provided by DCF. The sessions were approximately one to two hours long with only one person per interview. HSAC staff selected individual key informants from the human services community that represent the above focus groups. In addition, key staff members of the Department of Human Services were interviewed.

Strategic Analysis

The goal of the New Jersey Department of Children and Family and the county Human Services Advisory Council's 2020 County Needs Assessment coordinated by the Warren County Department of Human Services staff was to collect data to document local needs, social connections and community networks, key barriers to service delivery, action steps needed to assist the county's underserved populations. The needs assessment questions were broken into two sections: Basic Need Areas (Housing, Food, Health Care, Community Safety, Employment & Career Services, Child Care) and Service Needs(Behavioral Health/Mental Health Services for Children, Behavioral Health/Mental Health Services for Adults, Substance Use Disorder Services, Domestic Violence Services, Services for Families Caring for Children of a Relative, Parenting Skills Services, Legal Advisory Services).

The Human Services Advisory Council Planning Committee is expected to meet via Webex to review the Executive Summary.

Conclusion

Warren County Department of Human of Services staff in collaboration with it Human Service Advisory Council completed the 2019 DCF Needs Assessment as directed by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families with the overall goal of collecting data that documents: local needs, community networks, the impact of services on underserved populations, key barriers to service delivery and actions that can be taken to help eliminate these barriers.

Individuals who participated in either focus group meetings or key informant interviews provided a framework the county can use to assist in developing a plan of action to improve access to services as well as look at future program ideas.

Although some recommendations can be accomplished, there is little the county can do in terms of increasing the inventory or capacity of services without additional financial support.

Introduction

Purpose

The N.J. Department of Children and Families is partnering with human services organizations in each county to undertake an assessment of local strengths and needs. The goal of this assessment is to collect the information needed to make sure the right mix of services and activities are available in every county in New Jersey to support families. The findings from the needs assessment can be used to support the development of local recommendations to assist with decision making; the identification of high priority human service needs and barriers to service delivery for New Jersey's communities; the coordination and improvement of services to the Departments' target populations; the planning, funding, coordination and implementation of Department Initiatives.

This statewide approach to county-specific needs assessments aligns with DCF's existing county based continuous quality improvement review cycle, in which each county is evaluated every two years. The findings from the needs assessment will be embedded into the DCF's existing ChildStat process and shared with DCF staff and stakeholders during the county's ChildStat session. ChildStat is a learning, management, and accountability tool used by DCF to support continuous quality improvement, foster a shared sense of accountability and promote system-wide problem solving around critical issues affecting child and family outcomes. A ChildStat session incorporates analysis and interpretation of administrative data to support planning and dialogue between DCF executive management and senior leadership and system partners.

County Description

Narrative: In the Words of the County

Basic Overall View of the County

Warren County is located in the Northwest corner of the state and shares borders with Hunterdon, Morris and Sussex Counties in New Jersey. The county also shares a border with Northampton and Monroe Counties in Pennsylvania, across from the Delaware River. The county covers approximately 364 square acres of land, making it the ninth largest county by size, however the county ranks 19th in overall population. The county's landscape includes close to 260 miles of federal, state and county roads. Interstate Routes 22 and 78 pass through the southern part of the county while interstate Route 46 and 80 pass through the northern part. State routes 31 and 57 also pass through the county. Due to the close proximity to New York City, Newark, NJ, Philadelphia, Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton Pennsylvania. Warehouses are being developed throughout the county, especially along the Routes 22/78 corridor, housing is also being developed along the area.

A majority of county residents leave the county daily for employment opportunities in other NJ counties, Pennsylvania and New York City.

Warren County population is approximately 105,779 individuals, ranking the county 19th, only Salem County and Cape May County have fewer residents.

There are 22 municipalities in the county: Allamuchy Township, Alpha Borough, the Town of Belvidere, Blairstown Township, Franklin Township, Frelinghuysen Township, Greenwich Township, the Town of Hackettstown, Hardwick Township, Harmony Township, Hope Township, Independence Township, Knowlton Township, Liberty Township, Lopatcong Township, Mansfield Township, Oxford Township, the Town of Phillipsburg, Pohatcong Township, Washington Borough, Washington Township and White Township.

These municipalities range in size from the smallest the county seat of Belvidere (1.35 square miles) to the largest Hardwick (37.80 square miles). Hardwick Township in the northern end of the county has the smallest population with 1,667 residents; while the Town of Phillipsburg is the most populated with 14,515 residents.

There are approximately 45,473 households in Warren County with an average size of 2.63 individuals per household. (ACS estimates). Fifty percent of the households are married couples, 6.5% at

cohabitants, 24.5% of households are female head of house while 17% are male head of house. Approximately 23% of the households have children under the age of 18.(ACS estimates).

Ninety-one percent of the populations is white, 5% Black/African, 4% Asian, 9% are Hispanic/Latino based on ACS estimates. Phillipsburg and Hackettstown are the most diverse municipalities in the county while Harmony is the least diverse. Only nine percent of Warren County's residents were born outside of the United States, compared to NJ average of 22%. Eighty-eight percent of Warren County residents speak on English.

The median age of county residents is 38.1, approximately 21% of the county's population is under the age of 18. (ACS estimates).

While Warren County is eleventh in the median income for families with children in 2016 according to NJ 2018 Kids Count. Ten percent of the families in Warren County live in poverty.

The median property value in Warren County is \$264,200, (ACS estimates). Housing costs range from a low of \$135,500 in Phillipsburg to a high of \$379,200 in Hope. Most of the housing is currently occupied by the owner. Rental costs in the county range from \$687 in Oxford to a high of \$1,702 in Hardwick. In 2018 there were a total of 508 foreclosure sales and 1,250 landlord eviction filings were recorded.

In Warren County 10% of the county's children live in poverty, this is 2 percent less than the state percentage and seven percent less than the national average of 17%. Phillipsburg and Washington Borough have the highest rates at 27% and 26% respectfully. Blirstown has the smallest percentage at 5%. Ninety-one percent of county residents over the age of 25 have received their high school diploma or higher. 33% have received a college degree or higher. 8.5% of the residents 25 and older have not finished high school.

In a county of over 105,000 residents there are only 7 supermarkets. The county also has two Target and 2 Wal-Mart mega stores that provide groceries. The municipalities of, Belvidere and Blirstown have small markets. The County's largest municipality, Phillipsburg does not have any supermarkets within its borders. During the summer months various farm-markets are available throughout the county. The county also has 25 food pantries, however most of them are not open on a daily basis. There are no soup kitchens in the county that provide meals on a daily basis.

According to recent census information there are 87,625 county residents over the age of sixteen, 63.2% are employed. Most of the jobs are in the following areas: Education, Health Care, Retail, and Manufacturing. Approximately 14.5% of the workforce are government employees. The unemployment for the county is 3.7% below the state average of 4%.

Public transportation in the county consists of the following: NJ Transit Route 890 and 891, which offers limited service in Phillipsburg and Lopatcong in NJ and Easton, PA. NJ Transit rail service in Hackettstown which offers 6 trips Newark Penn Station, however these trips require at least one transfer and take between 2 hours and 14 minutes to 3 hours. Transbridge bus line also provides transportation from Phillipsburg. The County's transportation program is contracted to Easton Coach Company provides both demand response services and modified fixed route.

The average commute to work is 35.4 minutes this is 9 nine minutes longer than the national average and almost 4 minutes longer than the state average of 31.4 minutes.

According to the information provided, Warren County ranks number 5 in the percentage of residents who are in some type of mental health distress. Approximately 14.5% of the population has reported being in some type of mental health distress, this is 2.4% higher than the state average of 12,1%, and the numbers seem to be rising.

The County is part of the Tri-County Continuum of Care (CoC) with Hunterdon and Sussex Counties. The lead agency for this program is Sussex County's Family Promise program and is responsible for completing and implementing the HUD application. The Tri-County COC is responsible for identifying ways to coordinate and link resources across the counties to avoid duplication of services, facilitate assisting residents in moving towards permanent housing, evaluating and monitoring all HUD funded agencies. This CoC is responsible for oversight of the Homeless Assistance Grant application process.

Needs Assessment Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative data from various sources and stakeholders related to housing, food, health care, community safety, employment and career services, child care, services for families caring for a child of a relative, behavioral/mental health services for children, behavioral/mental health services for adults, substance use disorder services, domestic violence services, parenting skills services and legal and advocacy services were collected to inform this needs assessment.

County Data Profile

DCF provided a county data profile to the county Human Service Advisory Council (HSAC) to support the HSAC in identifying key topics to be explored in more depth. The data profile consists of the most recently available administrative data related to demographic population and selected indicators of poverty, housing, food security, childcare, health care, transportation, employment, community safety, mental health and substance use. The sources for the data included in the profile include a combination of federal databases. The primary purpose of the county data profiles is to support the HSAC needs assessment team in identifying key areas to prioritize during the focus group data collection efforts.

Approach for Prioritizing Needs

Department staff and the HSAC Planning Committee agreed to allow each focus group and key informant group to select what priority needs they wanted to discuss. The groups felt that pre-selecting needs areas would limit the survey process and the conversations that followed and would discourage participants.

The four need areas selected by the county to be the focus areas and primary topics in the qualitative data (e.g. focus groups and key informant interviews) collection included:

1. Housing
2. Employment and Career Services
3. Behavioral/ Mental Health Services - Adults
4. Behavioral/Mental Health Services - Children

Focus Groups

In an effort to implement a uniform needs assessment approach across counties to support statewide trend analysis, DCF required HSACs to conduct a series of focus groups. The purpose of the focus groups was to collect qualitative information to better understand the scope, nature and local context related to addressing community needs that influence families.

Focus groups sessions were scheduled for approximately one and half hours with the first thirty minutes being designated for introductions and survey completion and the remaining hour being designated for the focus group dialogue. In each focus group session, participants were asked to complete a standard survey to gather data about the key topic areas outlined in the aforementioned data profiles. The survey was developed to identify areas of strength and areas in need of improvement related to county-based supports and service array. The survey consists of demographic data and approximately 10 questions related to each of the eleven basic and service needs. Six of the questions are based on a five-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree.

Upon completion of the surveys, the focus group participants were asked to transition into the dialogue component of the session. The dialogue requirement was intended to allow participants to highlight their experiences and perceptions as community members and provide opportunity for a deeper discussion and assessment of top barriers in each area of need. Group members discussed two selected basic and service need priority areas. Facilitators use a structured protocol to explain the purpose, goals, confidentiality and informed consent and objectives of the focus group.

Recruitment.

Department staff in conjunction with the HSAC Planning committee agreed that this group would be the first focus group. The committee discussed the DCF needs assessment and its requirements. Members of this initial focus group were asked to assist the Department staff in identifying individuals, agencies or groups that might be able to participate in one of the ten focus groups listed in the plan. Emails were sent to all identified sources asking them to complete the survey and participate in a focus group. Staff also participated in various county-based meetings inviting members to participate in focus group meetings and to complete the survey.

Focus Group Participants. A total of 8 virtual focus groups were conducted in this county as part of this needs assessment. These focus groups were conducted from October 1, 2020 to February 1, 2021. There was a total number of 51 participants. The number of participants in each focus group ranged from a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 participants. During the focus group sessions, a total of 68 surveys were completed.

Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews were conducted to gather additional feedback from County Human Services Directors and other identified individual selected by the HSACs regarding considerations for addressing the needs and concerns that were highlighted in the data profiles and focus group sessions. Facilitators use a structured protocol to explain the purpose, goals and objectives of the focus group.

Recruitment.

Department staff identified key community members, who were knowledgeable about services available in their area. Outreach was made by phone calls, emails, letters and networking during different county meetings.

Key Informant Interview Participants. A total of 3 interviews were conducted in this county as part of this needs assessment. The total number of participants included was 3. These interviews were conducted from October 1, 2020 to February 1, 2021. There was a total of 3 surveys completed during the interview sessions.

Participant Demographics

As described in the above sections, both focus group and interview participants completed the needs assessment survey. Below we combine information for all participants to provide an overview of the participant demographics.

Role in the Community (not mutually exclusive)	Number of Participants
County Resident	51
Staff or Volunteer with a Community-Based Organization (e.g., Health and Human Services providers, Planning Board Participants)	35
Staff or Volunteer with a Public Service Organization (e.g., paramedics, fire fighter, police officers, air force, judges)	6
Local Business Owner in the County	1
Community leader and advocate in the county (e.g., hold a volunteer office, clergy, activist)	7
Other	4

Age	Number of Participants
Under 18	0
18-24	1
25-34	12
35-44	11
45-54	13
55-64	19

65 and over	12
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Gender	Number of Participants
Female	60
Male	7
Non-binary, third gender/transgender	0
Prefer Not to Say	0
Other	1

Race	Number of Participants
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian	0
Black or African-American	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
White or Caucasian	63
Multi-Race (2 or More of the Previous)	0
Other	1

Ethnicity	Number of Participants
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origins	4
No Hispanic Latino or Spanish Origins	51

Education Level	Number of Participants
Grades Preschool-8	0
Grades 9-12-Non-Graduate	0
High School Graduate or GED	13
High School/GED <u>and</u> Some College/Trade	16
2 or 4-Year College/Trade School Graduate	18
Graduate or Other Post-Secondary School	21

Employment Status	Number of Participants
Employed: Full-Time	45
Employed: Part-Time	8
Unemployed-Looking for Work	3
Unemployed-Not Looking for Work	2
Retired	6
Student	0
Self Employed	0
Unable to Work	4

Years of Community membership	Number of Participants	Range
How many years have you been a member of this community?	68	Less than 1 to over 30 years

Services Accessed by a Household Member within the last 2 Years	Number of Participants
Yes	22
No	44

Household Member History of Involvement with NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency	Number of Participants
Yes	2
No	65

Participants represented the following municipalities

21 of the respondents were from Phillipsburg, 5 respondents live in Lopatcong, 5 live in Washington Borough, 3 live in Washington Township and 3 individuals listed Washington, Alpha, Blairstown and Mansfield all had 3 residents respond, 2 individuals stated they live in Belvidere, Harmony or Oxford, 1 individual lived in Hackettstown, Pohatcong, White Township, Independence, Knowlton or Franklin. 1 individual stated they live in Warren County, 3 stated they live in Warren, 2 in Sussex County, 1 in Morris County and 2 in PA.

Additional Data Collection Methodologies

The county department has not completed a needs assessment in several years, however there are individual plans within Mental Health, Substance Use, Municipal Alliance, and Transportation. The

Human Services Department will be begin discussing and planning to conduct a needs assessment within the next two years. It has become apparent that the Department along with the various councils/boards and need to develop a comprehensive county wide needs assessment within the next two to three years. The HSAC should be the lead council in this endeavor.

PART 2



Key Findings Across Needs

Based on the Profile of Family and Community Indicators provided to the Rutgers School of Social Work the data shows that Warren County is generally in the middle of scale for most basic need areas and service need areas. This does not necessarily present the true picture of lives of Warren County residents. According to the 2019 Census reports, Warren County is the third least populated county; only the counties of Cape May and Salem counties have fewer residents. This makes it difficult to secure private foundation grants, federal and state grants.

The median household income is \$75,500; significantly, lower than our neighboring counties: Hunterdon (\$110,969), Morris (\$107,034) and Sussex (\$89,238), and slightly lower than the state average income of \$76,475. According to the United Way Asset, Limited, Income, Constrained, Employed (known as ALICE), this program assists working families who are above the Federal Poverty levels but earn less than the basic cost of living for the county. In Warren County 30% of our families are eligible for services under the ALICE program.

Common barriers to services include Lack of Transportation, Lack of Awareness of Services, Waiting Lists and Stigma. At least one, if not all of these barriers have been identified as barriers to services. Many focus groups stated that services appear to be available to county residents who live near the Route 57 corridor. Participants went on to say that residents in the northern most areas of the county feel underserved. Focus Group participants raised the issue of limited and reliable internet access as well as access to devices. Since the COVID-19 Pandemic started, the need to better internet access has been apparent, families are working remotely, and students are in virtual classroom and agencies seeing clients via telehealth.

Most survey and focus groups identified Transportation as a barrier to services. Transportation is available via the county paratransit program Monday – Friday for county residents who meet various funding eligibility requirements. The program also operates the Route 57 Shuttle service; this is a modified fixed route service operating Monday – Friday with limited Saturday service. Taxi services, UBER and LYFT services are available in certain areas of the county and are expensive.

Like

transportation, the lack of awareness was reviewed as a barrier to services on numerous surveys and focus groups. The county's website is not user friendly and has outdated information (the county is currently in the process of updating its website). It was suggested that the HSAC as well as other councils under the Department have more of a community presence in print, in person and on the internet.

Waiting Lists due to the rural nature of the county and the lack of medical services available in the county. As focus group, participants have stated there is a lack of Behavioral/ Mental Health

professionals in the county. Participants went on to say the lack of professionals that accept Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement rates place another barrier to services. Warren County is a unique situation; both hospitals are part of larger hospital networks: Hackettstown Hospital is operated by Atlantic Health System and Warren Hospital by St Luke's University Health Network in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. To complicate the matter further NJ Medicaid and NJ Medicare are state sponsored, therefore are not accepted in Pennsylvania. Logisticare, the State's Medicaid Transportation provider, has a 20-mile limit on its transportation services, again creating a barrier for services in rural areas of the county.

There are also waiting lists at various public housing authority, some of the housing authorities report that people are on the list for as long as three years. The County's Section 8 housing agency has closed its wait list. Stigma: The County Mental Health Board's Stigma Free Community Initiative, a countywide program aims to eradicate the stigma associated with mental illness and substance use disorders. This effort brings people together to facilitate inclusive communities and individual healing by bringing awareness, building knowledge and fostering compassion through advocacy. This is one of the many initiatives the HSAC will be learning more of the upcoming year.



Need Area: Housing**Status: Prioritized Need Area**

Housing includes the availability of affordable, stable, permanent and acceptable living accommodations. This need area seeks to assess the sufficiency of housing in the county and the degree to which residents are homeless or threatened with eviction, as well as the existence of community supports (e.g., subsidy, vouchers, etc.) and services aimed at ensuring housing for all (e.g., Homelessness Prevention Program, Housing Resource Center, community shelters, County Board of Social Services, Section 8, affordable housing, housing authorities, etc.)

In Warren County, 15 percent of households experienced severe cost burden (50% of income or more is spent on housing) for housing in 2017. This percentage is less than the percentage for the state of New Jersey (American Community Survey; see *County Data Profile for Additional Source Information*). In 2017 the latest year of data made available in the county profile packet, 13 percent of households experienced at least one of four severe housing problems: 1.) overcrowding determined by high person-per-room, persons-per-bedroom, or unit square footage-per-person; 2) severe cost burden, 3) lack of kitchen facilities, or 4) lack of plumbing facilities (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy; data compiled by HUD; see *Data Profile for Additional Source Information*).

Need Assessment Key Findings**Summary: Scope of the Need**

Like many of our neighboring counties housing continues to be an issue. In Warren County the issues are lack of affordable rentals, the lack of long-term rental assistance, and the overall costs associated with home ownership. Affordable housing units throughout the county are not near the Route 57 modified fixed route system, making it difficult for residents to afford both housing and transportation costs. The county's inventory for both rentals and homes is limited, and often buyers are not able to compete in the market. Apartments for seniors and those with a disability are difficult to find, and again are not near any transportation. The county does not have a homeless shelter, single adults may seek housing in Easton, Pa or in a neighboring county. Homeless families were provided shelter by the County's Family Promise - Interfaith Hospitality program, however due to the pandemic, this service is closed.

Warren County has a 45,473 housing units located throughout the county, 65% are single unit houses, 34% are multi-unit housing complexes. Approximately 65% of all housing units are occupied. Home owners pay \$2,154 in mortgage payments while those who own their home pay an average of \$941.

The foreclosure rate in the county is less than 2%. According to the county sheriff's department in 2019, 283 homes sold at auction, 2018; 508 homes were sold and in 2017; 584 homes were sold.

Renters pay an average of \$1,171 monthly, this does not include utility or HOA fees. During calendar year 2019 there were 1,308 eviction filings and in 2018 a total of 1,250 eviction filings.

Home owners and renters alike agree that public transportation is very limited throughout the county. The only modified fixed route travels between Phillipsburg, Washington and Hackettstown along the route 57 corridor, however this is not accessible to many apartment complexes in those areas.

The county has very limited resources to help those individuals who are homeless, or in need of homeless prevention services. The county's only shelter is the Domestic Abuse Sexual Assault - Shelter program for victims of domestic violence. There are few rooming homes in the county and four hotels that offer weekly and monthly rates. The town of Phillipsburg has several rental assistance housing developments, however there are waiting lists. Along with Phillipsburg there are several apartment complexes throughout the county offering rental assistance. The county's rental assistance program has closed its application process due to its long waiting list.

Funding for homeless prevention services are provided by the County Board of Commissioners, NJ DCF and federal grants. DCF - SSH/SSH TANF dollars are used to address emergency shelter, security deposits and utility costs to eligible clients. Federal funds are passed through the Tri-County CoC and are used to support the rapid rehousing program, and rental support, clients must be chronically homeless.

Number of individuals who answered this question: 62. According to the survey results 38 individuals (61.29%) disagreed with the statement "There are enough services available to help those who need this help"; 28 individuals (45.16%) disagreed with the statement "Anyone in the county is able to access services"; 36 individuals (58.06%) disagreed with the statement "Services are advertised and known in the county"; 22 individuals (35.48%) agreed services take into account race, gender, ethnicity and more; 37 individuals (56.68%) agreed that Facilities were of good quality and 40 individuals (64.52%) stated Staff was well-trained and knowledgeable.

Summary: Nature of the Need

Housing has been identified as the number one basic need in Warren County, thirty-two percent of the surveys identified this service as their number one priority. A total of 38% of the surveys indicated there were not enough resources available in the county to help those in need.

Thirty-six percent stated there was an overall lack of awareness of what services are available, and 28% stated access to services was an issue. Barriers to services included long waiting lists 66.13%, lack of awareness of services 54.84% and 45.16% transportation.

Focus group participants stated that background checks, poor credit reports, history of past evictions prevent them or their clients the opportunity to secure adequate housing. Individuals who caused their

own homelessness are excluded from services. Lack of funding for case management services was also identified as a barrier.

Warren County lacks emergency homeless shelter and drop in services for the following populations: single adults, families, individuals who are not eligible for assistance through TASS services, individuals who have had a behavioral/ mental health and young adults.

When asked about the barriers making it difficult to access services, the issues identified were: Wait List 41 individuals (66.13%), Lack of awareness of services 34 individuals (54.84%); Transportation 28 individuals (45.16%); Services do not exist 21 individuals (33.87%); Services provided are one-size fits all, 19 individuals (30.65%) and Eligibility requirements 19 individuals (30.65%). When asked for additional information comments included: pets and lack of funds to properly manage caseloads.

When asked if eligibility requirements are a barrier the following comments were recorded: "Lifetime limit under emergency assistance, Many people work and still struggle. Struggling more so than usual during this pandemic. People barely above low income aren't eligible for services.; Must be homeless, live in certain areas and make a certain amount of money; You need to have kids and everyone deserves housing not just people with children. "I was homeless and felt I needed to have a baby so I could find a place to live."; Federal poverty guidelines are ridiculously low.; Not everyone has all the information to check all boxes for eligibility. There needs to be a flexibility and each case should be considered individually.; People want help to come to them.; People just above minimum requirements still in dire need.; Seniors struggle with housing costs, especially property taxes and utilities.; Housing issues often exclude people that cause their own homelessness.; Max income limit is low for the high cost of living in NJ.; If someone is homeless they have to wait to apply for GA and SNAP services, but they don't have time to wait.; Too many people aren't served because they make too much or don't have kids. These people are "punished" and can't get help.; Financial - many times a family in the process of losing a home within days and will be denied services since they technically have a home.; Some families are just over the poverty guidelines, and do not qualify for assistance.; If you live on the border or just above, meeting eligibility of service requirements is difficult , sometimes you are in a worse position than someone who has lower income.; and Homeless prevention eligibility is rigid.

When asked what county leaders should know, the following comments were made: "The county needs a homeless shelter.; It is not always easy to find assessible housing that is clean and/or bug free.; While families cannot get evicted, they are accumulating debt, since they do not have an eviction notice it is difficult to find help. State guidelines for the maximum rent does not coincide with the reality of the cost of rent.; We need a better grip on the influx of subsidized housing.; a housing trust fund should be established.; no homeless shelter for clients, must leave the county for a shelter.; No homeless shelter for single adults.; We need to do better. Putting children in hotels/motels with bed bugs or drugs is not acceptable.; Not enough low income housing.; Not enough housing for developmentally disabled adults on SSI.; More transportation is needed since housing isn't always within transportation

routes, people are challenged with seeking employment due to lack of transportation.; Housing is unaffordable for families. There are wait lists for low income housing. Wait list for Public Housing is long, transitional housing does not exist, no shelters exist. Foreclosed homes could be converted to rent to own properties.; and have a one stop shop for housing needs that includes services such as: financial advisor, senior housing and how to get affordable housing, etc".

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Focus groups discussed the lack of overall information on what services are available in the county. The lack of awareness of subsidized housing vouchers from local, county, state and federal grants. Federal poverty guidelines are low, guidelines should be based on cost of living expenses for the state, not the county.

Lifetime limit in emergency assistance was raised as a concern. Case management, financial advisor services are needed to assist individuals in completing the necessary documentation, finding and securing housing and follow-up services.

More affordable senior housing is needed throughout the county.

A centralized intake phone number was discussed by the participants.

Many responses stated there were issues with landlords and need to educate them. Allow individuals with vouchers a chance. Landlords need to have services available to them to assist in addressing the needs of behavioral health consumers in times of crisis.

One local non-profit agency is exploring the possibility of leasing an apartment and allowing clients to reside in it, almost becoming a landlord/tenant arrangement.

Update the county housing guide, work with various county departments and non profits.

Lack of a county homeless shelter and transitional housing opportunities. These services need to be accessible to transportation routes and services.

It was suggested that county and municipal housing trust funds be created to provide services to prevent homelessness and to create affordable housing options.

Group members also stated that DCF needs to create more housing services for aging out youth.

Section 8 housing either has a long waiting list or is not available.

More case managers are needed to guide families to the right services, help families complete necessary paper work and do continued follow up.

Criminal reports should be examined on a case by case basis, especially for those in recovery.

The county should monitor municipalities to ensure they are meeting their affordable housing requirements. Create a housing trust fund.

Education is needed on what resources are needed.

No shelter for families in the county.

The eligibility requirements for assistance through Social Services should be re-evaluated,

Foreclosed houses should be redeveloped for low income/homeless families; all the work should be done by trade school students.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	62	24.19 %	37.10 %	20.97 %	4.84 %	12.90 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	62	17.74 %	27.42 %	32.26 %	9.69 %	12.90 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	62	22.58 %	35.48 %	25.81 %	6.45 %	9.68 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	62	16.13 %	16.13 %	29.03 %	6.45 %	32.26 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	62	6.45 %	8.06 %	43.55 %	16.13 %	25.81 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	62	6.45 %	3.23 %	41.94 %	22.58 %	25.81 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	62	41	66.13
Services do not exist	62	21	33.87
Transportation	62	28	45.16
Cannot contact the service provider	62	5	8.06
Too expensive	62	9	14.52
Lack of awareness of service	62	34	54.84
Cultural Barriers	62	7	11.29
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	62	19	30.65
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	62	15	24.19
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	62	19	30.65
Other (explain below)	62	7	11.29

Need Area: Food

Status: General Need Area

Food security is the availability and ability to acquire nutritionally adequate and safe foods. This area of need seeks to assess the level to which residents throughout the county have adequate food and the existence of community services and supports to address unmet food needs (e.g., food banks, soup kitchen, local pantry, community-based organization, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), food stamps, Women, Infants, Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program, etc.)

In **Warren County**, the food insecurity rate for households was approximately 8.7 percent in **2017**, the most recent date of available data (U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey and U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service; *see County Data Profile for Additional Source Information*). This percentage is **less than** the percentage rate for New Jersey.

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

In Warren County there are only eight supermarkets and four megastores (2 Targets and 2 Walmarts) all of these stores are located south of Route 46. There are 6 dollar tree stores scattered throughout the county. The largest town, Phillipsburg does not have a supermarket within its borders residents can access some grocery items at the Big Lots store however it is not very accessible. Several municipalities have small convenience stores, however items are typically more expensive. In the late spring to early fall farm stands are available throughout the county, again many municipalities will hold a Saturday or Sunday farmer market. The county also has approximately 33 food pantries, since most are operated by volunteers they are only open on certain dates and times.

The county's transportation program offers trips to certain supermarkets on a bi-weekly basis, trips to farmer stands are available to seniors.

In 2019 there were 1,274 women and children receiving WIC benefits. NJ SNAP (formerly referred to as Food Stamps) reported there were 2,966 children receiving this benefit. In the 2018 school year 3,267 children were eligible to receive free or reduced lunches. The county's food bank agency also provides free summer meals to children in the Town of Phillipsburg (4,000 in 2018) from July through the end of August. During the school year the program provide backpacks to at risk students.

According to Feeding America in 2017 it was estimated that 13.4% of the general population and 20.5% of children are dealing with food insecurity.

A total of 57 participants answered this question, here are the results. According the survey results: 34 individuals (59.65%) agreed There are enough services to help those in need; 33 individuals (59.90%) agreed Anyone is able to access services; 27 individuals (47.37%) agreed Services are widely

advertised.; 22 individuals (38.60%) agreed Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account; 43 individuals (75.44%) agreed Facilities are clean; and 41 individuals (71.93%) agreed Staff is well trained.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked to identify barriers to access services the following services were identified: Transportation, 37 responses (64.91%); Lack of awareness of services, 25 responses (43.86%) and Stigma leads to avoidance, 14 responses (24.56%). Comments included: Not enough food pantries in the county and supplies are low since donations are down.

When asked if eligibility requirements are a barrier the following comments were provided: Need to have certain specific qualifications: no transportation, specific paperwork must be provided before you receive services.; Product is limited, some food pantries limit eligibility to residents.; State maximum income guidelines limit the amount of people who qualify for the SNAP program, when they are still living in poverty.; Some places require you to have an address to receive food, how do the homeless get food?

When asked what would you like the county leaders to know the following comments were made: Food is not always of good nutrition. Lack of food and hunger are issues many residents are experiencing.; Residents need access to fresh food. Phillipsburg the county's largest municipality does not have any grocery stores. It is wonderful that schools are able to provide free meals for all students during this time, however the meals are woefully inadequate of nutrition. They are frozen, and the food is somewhat inedible. Families deserve healthier, ready-to-eat options. Food pantries generally provide low quality or expired food. Food insecurity continues to be an increasing need; families lack transportation and access to transportation is limited. Food delivery services are scarce. Statistics show there are food insecurity issues in the county. A clear one stop shop where all agencies that support vulnerable populations would be helpful.

Food was not identified as a priority need in Warren County, although it was discussed at several focus group meetings. Out of the total number of residents who responded to the survey only 37.8% stated food was priority.

When asked about barrier to obtaining food, transportation was ranked as the number one need. As stated previously although transportation services exist in the county, they do not meet the needs of residents due in some part to the eligibility requirements placed by funding sources. Services for shopping are available every two weeks, unless you happen to live along the Route 57 Shuttle modified fixed route system.

Lack of awareness was also considered a barrier in obtaining food.

The stigma of seeking assistance has been identified as a barrier to services as well. It was suggested that services be available at more municipal buildings, libraries, child care centers and schools.

Focus group participants commented on the need to meet certain qualifications such as obtain specific documentation before you get services.

Due to the lack of transportation focus group members expressed a need for affordable home delivery of groceries.

Participants also stated the although food is provided it is not always good or have any nutritional value. They went on to state that food at various food pantries is of low quality and sometimes expired.

Focus Group members stated there is stigma for children associated with standing in line waiting for a food pantry to open. The NORWESCAP Backpack program should be expanded.

Transportation to food pantries is an issue.

Food pantries have open limited days and times, a major barrier for working families.

The largest municipality does not have any grocery stores within its borders.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a prioritized need area.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	57	8.77 %	21.05 %	40.35 %	19.30 %	10.53 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	57	12.29 %	21.05 %	42.11 %	15.79 %	8.77 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	57	7.02 %	33.33 %	38.60 %	8.77 %	12.28 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	57	12.28 %	21.05 %	28.07 %	10.53 %	28.07 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	57	3.51 %	0 %	50.88 %	24.56 %	21.05 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	57	3.51 %	1.75 %	47.37 %	24.56 %	22.81 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	57	4	7.02
Services do not exist	57	4	7.02
Transportation	57	37	64.91
Cannot contact the service provider	57	2	3.51
Too expensive	57	1	1.75
Lack of awareness of service	57	25	43.86
Cultural Barriers	57	6	10.53
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	57	6	10.53
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	57	14	24.56
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	57	7	12.29
Other (explain below)	57	7	12.29

Need Area: Health Care

Status: General Need Area

Health care service providers deliver medical care, including health promotion, disease prevention and diagnosis and treatment services, to children and adults. This need area seeks to determine the level of residents in the county with health care needs, the availability of insurance coverage, and the existence of community services and supports that address health and wellness (e.g., doctors and clinics, hospitals, Medicaid Services, Home Visiting Programs, Family Success Centers, etc.)

In **Warren County**, the estimated proportion of children under 18 years old (minors) with no health insurance coverage was 3.7 percent in 2017. This percentage is **less than** the estimated percentage of minors with no health insurance for New Jersey in the same year (ACS; see Data Profile for Additional Source Information).

In Warren County in **2017**, there were 36 reports of lack of or no prenatal care. This was **decrease** of six case reports from the previous year (Center for Disease Control and Prevention; see *Data Profile for Additional Source Information*).

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

Sixty-two percent of Warren County residents have employer sponsored health insurance, 13% receive Medicaid and 20% receive Medicare. Less than four percent of Warren County's children under the age of 18 are without health insurance. This is less than the State percentage of 4.4% and the national percentage of 5.7%, this is due in part to the high number of county residents receiving health insurance coverage through their employer.

Warren County ranks 3rd lowest in the state for the number families that participate the NJ Family Care Medicaid program. Only Sussex and Hunterdon Counties have lower participation rates. Over 96% percent of Warren County's children are meeting their immunization requirements in 2018-2019, this is higher than the state average, only Cumberland County has a higher percentage.

The county has two hospital within its borders, St Luke's in Phillipsburg and Atlantic Health Care in Hackettstown and one ambulatory Surgery Center. There are approximately seven urgent care centers and one federally qualified health care center. It is estimated to be 371 physicians and 29 primary care physicians in the county, making the patient to physician ratio 1670:1. St. Luke's hospital is accessible by the county's Route 57 shuttle and NJ Transit Wheels services, Atlantic Health Care and the Surgery Center are not accessible. Residents who need to see a doctor or go to either hospital can access the county's demand response services.

The county lacks maternity/birthing centers; expecting mothers must travel to Newton Hospital in Sussex County, Morristown Hospital in Morris County, Hunterdon Medical Center in Hunterdon County

or travel into Pennsylvania. Residents who are in crisis and need inpatient behavioral health services must also travel to hospitals outside the county border.

Residents who have Medicaid or Medicare cannot access care in Pennsylvania, which in many cases is closer than traveling to a neighboring county.

A total of 55 participants answered this question.

According to the results of the survey, 28 individuals (50.91%) agreed There are enough services available in the county; 24 individuals (43.64%) agreed Anyone in the county could access services; 27 individuals (49.09%) disagreed with the statement: Services are widely advertised and known; 21 individuals (38.18%) disagreed with the statement: Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account; 26 individuals (65.46%) agreed; facilities are of good quality and 34 individuals agreed that staff is well trained.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked what barriers make it difficult to access services 30 individuals (54.55%) stated Transportation was the largest barrier; 21 individuals (38.18%) stated Lack of awareness of services; and 12 individuals (21.82%) stated services were too expensive.

When asked to provide comments the following comments were made: There should be clinic's or traveling clinics that people know about.; Transportation is a big issue.; Doctors are spread out and hard to reach.; Not enough providers accept Medicaid. Hospitals are used as the primary go to. We need to educate the public on wellness and options for basic medical care. Mental health issues are not necessarily an ER visit.; Lack of internet connections and devices to access telehealth services; Excellent physicians are outside the county. Neither hospital has a maternity ward.

When asked if eligibility requirements are a barrier the following comments were made: If you don't have state insurance you are not getting in.; Must have a particular insurance but they may not be a qualified health provider that is all that knowledgeable.; Not many health care providers in the area who accept Medicaid/NJ Family Care Insurance.; People are just above the eligibility requirements and still in dire need. Some families do not qualify for employer insurance but are over the income levels for Medicaid which forces them to pay out of pocket and leads to large expenses. Cultural barriers to the importance of medical visits and preventive healthcare services.

The county's transportation program can provide services up to 5 miles outside the county border. Lack of both private transportation and public transportation are key barriers. Doctors are spread out throughout the lower end of county making it difficult for residents in the northern part of the county

to access service.; and the eligibly requirements for Medicaid need to be re-examined, the requirements prevent the non-insured working poor access to medical services.

LogistiCare services are limited to 20 miles from the client's place of residence.

Create mobile medical vans.

The State should investigate the possibility of allowing Medicaid recipients to travel to Pennsylvania for services.

Undocumented individuals fear seeking medical attention.

When asked what county leaders should know the following comments were made: Insufficient health providers with the county unless transportation is available.; Healthcare should be free.; The income guidelines are ridiculously low and therefore there are many adults without health insurance.; We need more walk-in care in densely populated areas.; Lack of health insurance is an issues and lack of specialists makes families travel out of county, some families cannot travel.; Not everyone has access to the county site. May not know what services are available.; Additional federally qualified health centers would be helpful. Dental Care is lacking. And few Medicaid providers, especially for children. County Medicaid recipients should be able to seek medical treatment in PA, the county and state should investigate the possibility of establishing MOU's with certain doctors and facilities. State Health insurance providers are not in county, most are over 45 minutes away.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a prioritized need area.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	55	14.55 %	25.45 %	38.18 %	12.73 %	9.09 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	55	16.36 %	27.27 %	34.55 %	9.09 %	12.73 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	55	10.91 %	38.18 %	30.91 %	7.27 %	12.73 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	55	5.45 %	10.91 %	43.64 %	21.82 %	18.18 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	55	5.45 %	10.91 %	43.64 %	21.82 %	18.18 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	55	3.64 %	10.91 %	45.45 %	16.36 %	23.64 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	55	10	18.18
Services do not exist	55	7	12.73
Transportation	55	30	54.55
Cannot contact the service provider	55	8	14.55
Too expensive	55	12	21.82
Lack of awareness of service	55	21	39.18
Cultural Barriers	55	7	12.73
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	55	9	16.36
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	55	9	16.36
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	55	10	18.18
Other (explain below)	55	11	20

Need Area: Community Safety

Status: General Need Area

Community safety is the ability to be and feel safe from crime or violence in one's community and public spaces. This need area seeks to assess the level to which residents throughout the county are safe from crime or violence and the existence of community services and supports to assist residents with being and feeling safe in their community (e.g., local police, DCF's Child Protection and Permanency, Family Success Centers, security companies, neighborhood watch, safe havens, hospitals, etc.)

In Warren County there was a total of 73 violent crimes in 2016 and the *violent crime* rate per 1,000 was less than one percent (NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of NJ State Police, Uniform Crime Reports, Updated 8/15/19; see Data Profile for Additional Source Information). Of the *non-violent* crimes committed there was a total of 4 arson, 47 motor vehicle theft, 934 larceny and 236 burglary in Warren County (NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of NJ State Police, Uniform Crime Report, Updated 8/15/19; see Data Profile for Additional Source Information).

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

In Warren County, ten municipalities have their own police departments (Belvidere, Blairstown, Greenwich, Hackettstown, Independence, Lopatcong, Mansfield, Phillipsburg, Pohatcong, and Washington Township. Alpha is patrolled by Phillipsburg, and Washington Township patrols Oxford and Washington Borough. The NJ State Police Barracks located in Hope and Mansfield patrol the following nine municipalities: Allamuchy, Franklin, Frelinghuysen, Hardwick, Harmony, Hope, Knowlton, Liberty and White.

In 2012, the total amount of juvenile arrests was 221, compared to 137 in 2016, this represents a 38% decrease. The county continues to record one of lowest number of juvenile arrests in the state. The juvenile arrest ratio is 6:1000, compared the statewide ratio of 10:1000 this is the second lowest rate in the state.

Juvenile admissions to detention centers totaled 22 in 2015 and 8 in 2016, representing a 64% decrease. Most of the juveniles were arrested for the following offenses: substance abuse, property offenses, public order, weapons and violent offenses.

According to survey monkey results only 49 individuals responded to questions concerning community safety. Twenty-eight or (57.15%) of the responses agreed there are enough services available; 34 individuals (69.38%) agreed Anyone in the county can access services; 27 individuals (55.1%) agreed Services are widely known; 20 individuals (40.81%) agreed that race, age, gender, ethnicity and more are taken into account; 29 individuals (59.18%) agreed facilities are clean and 32 individuals (65.30%) agree staff is well trained.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked what the barriers to services exist the following areas were identified: Lack of awareness 23 individuals (46.94%); Stigma leads to avoidance 14 individuals (28.57%); Transportation 12 individuals (24.49%) and Cultural barriers 12 individuals (24.49%)

When asked for comments the following were made: There is a need for facilities to address domestic violence, teach women about safety, safety for children from bullying.; There is a great fear in community for a variety of reasons, not at least of which is the rhetoric over the last 3-4 years. ICE has been a significant issue for this community.

When asked what you would like county leaders to know the following comments were provided: all need to feel safe, especially if they are alone.; Mental health services are difficult to get and the local police departments put a high value on community policing.

More Public Awareness programs are needed especially for the elderly, topics should include Scams, (both mail and internet) and Elder Abuse.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a prioritized need area.

If Applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	49	4.08 %	28.57 %	42.86 %	14.29 %	10.20 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	49	4.08 %	18.37 %	57.14 %	12.24 %	8.16 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	49	2.04 %	30.61 %	42.86 %	12.24 %	12.24 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	49	6.12 %	24.49 %	32.65 %	8.16 %	28.57 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	49	2.04 %	2.04 %	46.94 %	12.24 %	36.73 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	49	2.04 %	4.08 %	53.06 %	12.24 %	28.57 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	49	2	4.08
Services do not exist	49	6	12.24
Transportation	49	12	24.49
Cannot contact the service provider	49	5	10.20
Too expensive	49	0	0
Lack of awareness of service	49	23	46.94
Cultural Barriers	49	12	24.49
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	49	5	10.20
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	49	14	28.57
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	49	1	2.04
Other (explain below)	49	9	18.37

Need Area: Employment and Career Services

Status: Prioritized Need Area

Employment is the condition of having paid work or an alternate ability to earn a living. This need area seeks to determine the employment status (e.g., full or part-time, permanent or temporary) of county residents and the employment opportunities within a county, as well as the existence of community services and supports to assist in ensuring employment (e.g., unemployment services, career development, County One-Stop Centers, Family Success Centers, County Board of Social Services, etc.)

The NJ Department of Labor reports that Warren County's monthly unemployment rate from June 2018 to May 2019 of 2.7% is slightly lower than the statewide rate on 3%. In 2019, the US Housing and Urban Development created EnVision Centers to offer families support and federal resources to help them achieve self-sufficiency. EnVision Centers are premised on the fact that financial support alone is insufficient to solve poverty. Focused collective efforts across various organizations are needed to realize a more holistic path to foster lasting self-sufficiency. The town of Phillipsburg was awarded on the first EnVision Center in New Jersey to provide families with much needed support in the epicenter. The EnVision Center provides local residents with a pathway to self-sufficiency and economic empowerment. Located on or near public housing developments, EnVision Centers provide communities with a centralized hub to access support under the following four pillars: Economic Empowerment, Educational Advancement, Health and Wellness, and Character and Leadership.

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

According to 2018 data approximately 21,172 county residents are employed by business located in the county, more the 26,695 residents worked in different NJ counties and 6,336 residents travel to either New York or Pennsylvania for employment.

The average commute to work is 36 minutes. Due to the rural nature of the county, there is very limited public transportation. The NJ Transit Wheels Program operates a modified fixed route system from certain areas of Phillipsburg, Lopatcong and Pohatcong to Easton, PA operates Monday-Saturday from 6:55 am to 6 pm. The only train station in the county is in Hackettstown and is part of the Morris/Boonton lines, train service is only available 5 times a day and there is no weekend service. The County's Route 57 shuttle operates 6 am to 6 pm Monday - Friday and has limited service on Saturday.

According to 2019 Census information 29.8% of Warren County residents 25 years of age and older have completed high school, 29.7% have had some college, 25.1% have a college degree and 8.8% have a professional degree. There are 25 Public School districts, 1 charter school, 4 non-public schools and 2 colleges/universities. There are 5 high schools and one vocational/technical high school in the county, student wishing to attend a non-public high school travel to Hunterdon, Somerset, and Morris counties in NJ or to PA.

Most jobs in the county are in the following industries: health care, retail, education, government both at the municipal and county levels and social service agencies. There are several warehouse centers currently under construction in various locations throughout the county, these developments should offer jobs to county residents.

The median income in Warren County is \$75,500, compared to the state rate of \$76,475 and the US median income of \$57,652. The median income the county ranges from a high of \$82,578 in Oxford to a low of \$49,274 in Phillipsburg.

The county's one stop career center is located in Phillipsburg and is not very accessible to many county residents.

A total of 49 individuals answered this question, below are the results.

According to the survey results 21 (42.86%) respondents thought there were enough services available in county to meet the needs, 23 (51.02%) thought anyone could access services, 16 (32.56%) percent stated services were widely advertised, 20 (41.81%) stated services take race, gender, age and ethnicity into account, 29 (59.18%) thought facilities were adequate to meet the needs of the consumers and 27 (55.18%) thought staff was well trained.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked about barriers to service the following barriers were identified: lack of awareness (51.02%) transportation (48.98%) Services provided are one-size fits all, cultural barriers (18.37%) and services do not exist (16.33%)

Comments included: We need one place to go to for people to get help with learning skills to get work.; The platform for employment may not work for all depending on the job and transportation.; and Lack of experience leads to ineligibility for clients to start somewhere. Lack of a county website that can direct people for job training services. There is a lack of flexibility in the hours of employment, should consider child care, and transportation issues for their employees. No more personal referrals for jobs, or individuals walking into a business asking for a job.

When asked if eligibility requirements are a barrier the following comments were made: People need a diploma or help getting one, taught computer skills and help to understand the job skills and descriptions.; Many people need supports like DVRS provides to their clients.; Lack of experience leads to ineligibility-clients need to start somewhere. Low education and literacy levels affecting employment.

When asked what you like county leaders to know the following comments were made: Services should come with on-the-job training, with long term employment in view., Employment opportunities out there do not pay enough to support the cost of living, and many employees would prefer part time workers.; The Envision center has great success in employment and the providers are excellent, but we

struggle with people wanting to work.; Very few jobs in Warren County, most are low paying..; Childcare is a huge barrier to accessing employment services.; The increasingly aging population and its significant unemployment, part of job training should be re-imagining work-life.; Due to the Highlands Act there is little new industries/business development.; Services are disconnected from each other due to funding streams.; Services may be stigmatized. Access to the internet.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Individuals stated that employment opportunities do not pay enough to support the cost of living, and that many employers prefer part time workers. There are few high paying jobs in the county, most are low wage earning jobs. Child care is a huge barrier for employment. Although people are willing to work they are fearful of losing benefits such as child care, housing, medical insurance and SNAP, these services need to be maintained for several months and then gradually reduced.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

Training programs are limited to NJ Youth Corp program and the One Stop Career Center both programs have eligibility requirements that limit access to the general public. Criteria include age, in need of a GED, and current income.

Transition programs for families who have recently been divorced, widowed.

Members also commented on the need for internet access and devices so that applications could be completed on line.

High School students should be taught: dress for interviews, how to complete an employment application, how to establish credit and how to manage money.

Transportation services limit the ability to seek both job training and employment opportunities. The Route 57 travels in the southern parts of the county, excluding many county residents. The county demand response program is limited in its hours of operation and eligibility requirements. There is limited Saturday service and no Sunday service.

The county website should include information on local employment opportunities, the area chambers of commerce, transportation, and training opportunities that are available.

The One-Stop Career center should have satellite offices throughout the county.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	49	8.16 %	38.78 %	40.82 %	2.04 %	10.20 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	49	10.20 %	28.57 %	46.97 %	4.08 %	10.20 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	49	8.16 %	53.06 %	28.57 %	4.08 %	6.12 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	49	6.12 %	22.45 %	24.69 %	6.12 %	30.61 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	49	2.04 %	8.16 %	48.98 %	10.2 %	30.61 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	49	2.04 %	12.24 %	44.90 %	10.20 %	30.61 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	49	6	12.24
Services do not exist	49	8	16.33
Transportation	49	24	48.98
Cannot contact the service provider	49	4	8.16
Too expensive	49	1	2.04
Lack of awareness of service	49	25	51.02
Cultural Barriers	49	9	18.37
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	49	11	22.45
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	49	4	8.16
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	49	6	12.24
Other (explain below)	49	9	18.37

Need Area: CHILD CARE**Status: General Need Area**

Child care services include agencies that provide care and supervision to children; as well as, before- and after- school care programs. This need area seeks to assess the level to which residents throughout the county need child care and before and after school care and the existence of community services and supports that address the need for child care (e.g., licensed daycares providers, subsidized and unsubsidized childcare, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, Family Success Centers, County Board of Social Services, etc.)

In Warren County in 2017 the median monthly center-based child care cost for an infant was less than the median monthly cost for NJ. The median monthly center-based child care cost for a toddler was less than the median monthly cost for NJ. Median monthly center-based child care cost child care cost for Pre-K in Warren County was less than the median monthly cost for NJ.

Need Assessment Key Findings**Summary: Scope of the Need**

There are 55 licensed child care centers in Warren County, providing 3,628 child care slots. The county has 28 registered family child care homes and 1 approved home. All centers and homes are licensed/approved by the NJ Department of Children and Families. There are four head start programs in the county as well. These centers are located in Hackettstown, Phillipsburg and Washington, early head start programs are located in Hackettstown and Phillipsburg.

The costs associated with child care are high, in Warren County the monthly cost for a PreK program is \$775, only \$75 dollars more than the lowest median cost for NJ families. The cost for toddler care is \$996 over \$296 dollars more than the state's lowest median cost, and infant care is \$1,126, \$426 higher than the lowest median cost. Infant care is higher than the household income for a working parent in the county.

To assist in the costs associated with child care, the county provides funding to NORWESCAP to provide vouchers to eligible county residents. These vouchers assist families in meeting the co-pays, Several centers offer reduced costs or scholarships to families.

There were 48 participants who responded to this question, below are the results. According to the survey results 25 individuals (52.08%) disagreed to the statement there are enough services available in the county to help those in need.; 21 (43.75% disagree that anyone in the county is able to access services; 31 (60.42) disagreed that services are advertised, 21 (43.75%) thought services took into account race, age, gender, ethnicity into account, 26 (54.17%) thought facilities were of good quality and 23 (47.92%) thought staff was well trained.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked about the Barriers make it difficult to address this need the most identified response was contacting a service provider 23 (47.92%) followed by transportation 22 (45.83%); Lack of awareness 19 (39.58%); waitlist 12 (25%) of the responses and services do not exist 11 (22.92 responses). Comments included: Parents should be taught skills to help them care for their children.; Not enough quality and affordable daycare centers in Warren County.; Centers closing.

When asked if eligibility requirements were a barrier the following comments were made: More financial assistance for those working minimum wage jobs.; The requirement that the applicant work 30 hours to receive child care assistance, many employers want part-time employees; work/school requirement can be a barrier.; Clients must be working a minimum number of hours. Clients who request childcare so they can find a job may not be eligible.; Clients cannot afford childcare and may be ineligible for subsidy due to employment/student statuses. Childcare centers are full.; The work/school requirement for subsidy can be a barrier.

When asked what county leaders should know the following comments were made: parents to work, they need on-site child care and more neighborhood child care.; Clients cannot work due to needing childcare that they cannot afford and they cannot afford childcare because they cannot work.

Focus group participants commented that the state eligibility requirements for child care subsidy need to be re-evaluated. More awareness of child care programs is needed.

Lack of child care centers throughout the county, especially for children who are physically or developmental disabled.

Child Care respite programs needs to be created.

Non-traditional hours (swing shift and weekends) for child care are needed, especially for parents just entering the workforce.

It's too expensive and time consuming to become a licensed child care center.

Transportation is needed especially for before and after school programs. Schools should allow buses to provide services to local child care centers.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a prioritized need area.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	48	14.58 %	37.50 %	22.92 %	2.08 %	22.92 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	48	8.33 %	35.422 %	27.08 %	4.17 %	25.00 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	48	6.25 %	54.17 %	18.75 %	308 %	18.75 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	48	6.25 %	14.58 %	37.50 %	6.25 %	35.42 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	48	2.08 %	8.33 %	41.67 %	12.50 %	35.42 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	48	2.08 %	10.42 %	27.50 %	10.42 %	39.58 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	48	12	25
Services do not exist	48	11	22.92
Transportation	48	22	45.83
Cannot contact the service provider	48	1	2.08
Too expensive	48	23	47.92
Lack of awareness of service	48	19	39.58
Cultural Barriers	48	4	8.33
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	48	9	18.75
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	48	1	2.08
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	48	9	18.75
Other (explain below)	48	8	16.67

Need Area: Services for Families Caring for a Child of a Relative

Status: General Need Area

Kinship services are supports for caregivers who have taken on the responsibility of caring for kin, including financial assistance, support groups, navigation of government benefits and assistance, and more. This need area seeks to assess the level to which residents require kinship services and the existence of community services and supports to support caregivers' ability to care for their kin (e.g., Kinship Navigator Program, DCF's Division of Child Protection and Permanency, Family Success Centers, County Board of Social Services, etc.)

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

Data was not provided on the number of county residents who are caring for a child or a family member or friend,

Of the 43 individuals who responded to these questions an overwhelming majority had no opinions. The survey results illustrate that between 46.51% and 60.47% of those individuals who responded to the questions answered Do not know.

There is not enough data to identify this as a county service priority.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked what the barriers are that make it difficult to address this need 29 individuals (67.44%) stated lack of awareness, 11 individuals (25.58%) stated transportation was a barrier.

When asked for comments the following comments were made: Need child to be checked for undetected illness and for undiagnosed mental and/or learning problems; and this is a growing problem with many grandparents raising their grandchildren.

When asked if eligibility requirements were a barrier the following comment was made: some child may be ignored due to being stand offish because of fear of learning problems

When asked what county leaders should know the following comments were made: All children have the right to be thoroughly examined, so they can grow and learn better; Families do not know about Kinship navigator should expand the financial eligibility; and More grandparents raising grandchildren due to addiction issues.

Focus group members stated that parenting classes are too expensive when they are offered in the community.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a prioritized need area.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	43	11.63 %	20.93 %	20.93 %	0 %	46.51 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	43	6.98 %	25.58 %	18.60 %	0 %	48.84 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	43	9.30 %	39.53 %	4.65 %	0 %	46.51 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	43	4.65 %	6.98 %	23.26 %	4.65 %	60.47 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	43	2.33 %	4.65 %	27.91 %	4.65 %	60.47 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	43	2.33 %	6.98 %	25.58 %	6.98 %	58.14 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	43	4	9.30
Services do not exist	43	4	9.30
Transportation	43	11	25.58
Cannot contact the service provider	43	2	4.65
Too expensive	43	3	6.98
Lack of awareness of service	43	29	67.44
Cultural Barriers	43	4	9.30
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	43	3	6.98
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	43	5	11.63
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	43	3	6.98
Other (explain below)	43	12	27.91

Need Area: Behavioral/Mental Health Services for Children

Status: Prioritized Need Area

Child behavioral/mental health services are services designed to assess, address and support the emotional, psychological and social well-being of children. This need area seeks to assess the level to which children throughout the county have behavioral/mental health disorders, their ability to cope and function, and the existence of community services and supports to address children's behavioral/mental health needs (e.g., hospitals, in/out-patient therapy, individualized counseling, medication management, PerformCare, DCF's Children's System of Care, Family Support Organizations, etc.)

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

The Tri-County Mobile Response program provided the committee with the following information for Warren County: 2018 - 1266 total dispatches, 23% or 290 calls were to Warren County families; 2019 - 1,214 dispatches, 22% or 268 calls to Warren County families; and 2020 - 1,008 calls 25% or 256 to Warren County families. The agency reported that 30% of all dispatches in Warren County were given a C-SSRS, a Suicide Assessment). 2% of the youth were linked directly to Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS).

According to survey results a total of 42 individuals responded to this question. A total of 23 individuals (54.78%) did not support the statement, There are enough services available in the county.; 17 individuals (40.48%) did not support the statement Anyone in the county is able to access services.; 25 individuals (59.52%) did not support the statement Services are widely advertised and known.; 19 individuals (45.24%) agreed that facilities were of good quality and staff are well trained.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked what barriers make it difficult to access services, the following comments were made: Lack of awareness of service 27 individuals (64.29%); transportation 22 individuals (52.39%); Stigma leads to avoidance 14 individuals (33.33%); Wait lists 13 individuals (30.95%) and Services provided are one-size fits all and don't meet individual needs 11 responses (26.19%).

When asked for additional comments, the following comments were made: The family may have a problem getting to the facility.; and Unaware of options, but an essential resource.

When asked if eligibility requirements are a barrier the following comments were made: Limited access to services as there are not enough providers who accept certain medical insurance and no transportation to get to the Drs who do.; Must meet special qualifications in order to be seen by the

doctors.; and Families ineligible for mental health services due to a lack of insurance or insurance that does not cover mental health counseling,.

When asked if there is anything the county leaders should know the following comments were made: It is extremely difficult to find mental health services for teenagers and it can be very frustrating for parents who want to help their children.; When needed this kind of service for my family I could not get a call back from the provider.; Mental health services for adults and children are lacking, there are long wait lists or out of county referrals that families cannot get to due to lack of transportation.; and Education is needed on what kinds of mental health services/therapies are available and what you should expect.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Agencies need to do a better job connecting with families and resources via the internet.

The Stigma-Free Committees Initiative - more information is needed on this initiative.

Lack of Awareness for families who need services from a child;

There are not enough therapists available to provide services, most are expensive and are not covered by health insurance.

School staff need to be educated on services that are available both within the school district and the community. The Educational Partnership Subcommittee of CIACC has been providing information to Warren County Schools - all schools were provided a digital page to share on their website along with a Desk Reference Guide with local and state resources for youth experiencing a behavioral or mental health crisis. This Committee has virtually presented information to the Phillipsburg Area School District's Student Assistance Counselors in October 2020, two more presentations have been scheduled for Washington Borough Elementary School and the Warren County School Board Association in March. Warren Hills Special Education has also requested a future presentation.

The county needs to improve on its delivery of information.

The County's CIACC subcommittee should offer a county wide in service day. The ED Committee is willing to make presentations at individual schools' in-service days.

More funding for school-based youth services programs are needed, especially in middle schools.

No bilingual staff is available

Waiting list, clients are expected to follow-up with agency

Transportation, services are not located in the county.

Pediatric doctors are not necessarily comfortable referring families to mental health services. The Pediatric Collaborative has been working with Warren County pediatricians for the last two plus years to help educate them on mental health services and resources for youth.; Family Guidance Center followed suit and has begun outreach to physicians' offices serving families with children.

Family doctors are not aware of services

Parents need to be educated on mental health issues and services, suggested schools have programs geared to parents to help the normalize the issues.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	42	14.29 %	40.48 %	19.05 %	2.28 %	23.81 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	42	14.29 %	26.19 %	23.81 %	4.76 %	30.95 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	42	9.52 %	50 %	9.52 %	4.76 %	26.19 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	42	7.14 %	16.67 %	26.19 %	7.14 %	42.86 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	42	4.76 %	11.90 %	38.10 %	7.14 %	38.10 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	42	4.76 %	9.52 %	33.33 %	11.90 %	40.48 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	13	13	30.95
Services do not exist	9	9	21.43
Transportation	22	22	52.38
Cannot contact the service provider	6	6	14.29
Too expensive	9	9	21.43
Lack of awareness of service	27	27	64.29
Cultural Barriers	8	8	19.05
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	11	11	26.19
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	14	14	33.33
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	6	6	14.29
Other (explain below)	9	9	21.43

Need Area: Behavioral/Mental Health Services for Adults

Status: Prioritized Need Area

Adult behavioral/mental health services include services designed to assess, address and support the emotional, psychological and social well-being of adults. This need area seeks to assess the level to which adult residents throughout the county have behavioral/mental health disorders, their ability to function and the existence of community services and supports to address adult behavioral/mental health needs (e.g., hospitals, in/out-patient therapy, individualized counseling, medication management, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, PerformCare, etc.)

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

According to the survey results 41 individuals responded to this question. Twenty-one individuals (51.22%) disagreed with the statement: There are enough services available in the county to help those in need.; 16 individuals (39.03%) disagreed with the statement: Anyone in the county is able to access services.; 26 individuals (63.42%) disagreed with the statement: Services are widely advertised.; 15 individuals (36.59%) agreed that Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.; 21 individuals (51.22%) agreed that facilities were clean,; and 21 individuals (51.22%) agreed staff is well trained.

In 2019, Warren County participated in the North Jersey Health Collaborative needs assessment, utilizing the Community Voice Survey and various data sources to determine the overall health of the community. In regards to Adult Mental Health, the Community Voice Survey found, 54% of respondents stated that people have access to good quality mental health care. The 2017 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Survey showed that 19.2% of Warren County residents report ever being told that they have a form of depression, versus 14.8% of New Jersey residents. According to the New Jersey State Health Assessment Data (NJSHAD), Warren County's suicide rate is 11.7 per 100,000 residents, while New Jersey's rate is 8 per 100,000 residents. According to the secondary data analysis, Warren County ranks poorly for age adjusted rate due to suicide, when compared to the other New Jersey counties and New Jersey overall. In addition, NJSHAD Data Query Building Tool for 2017 puts Warren County within the top five counties in the State with individuals reporting mental distress 14 plus days of the past 30 days, with a 14.5% rate in comparison to the 12.1% as the state average. As a community of just over 100,000 residents, that is significant when compared to larger counties with lower rates.

According to 2017 emergency room data; mental illness diagnoses accounted for over 20% of Warren County residents visits to the emergency room. The highest prevalence of mental illness diagnoses from Warren County residents include anxiety disorders, mood disorders, suicide and intentional self-inflicted injury.

Not only was mental health access determined as the number one need area for Warren County through the North Jersey Health Collaborative's Community Voice Survey, but was among the top three priority needs within the St. Luke's University Health Network's 2019 Hospital Needs Assessment. In fact, based on the data collected, Warren County respondents scored the worst in comparison to national and state levels for poor mental health days and access to mental health providers, as can be found in the Network CHNA Report at <https://www.slhn.org/community-health/community-health-needs-assessment>.

The majority of respondents for the St. Luke's needs assessment, 93.5%, identified as White and 4.3% identifying as Black/African American. Over 95% identified as non-Hispanic, with just 5% identifying as Hispanic. While there was not a breakdown for race or ethnicity in the Warren County Community Health Needs Assessment, it does state the Hispanic population more than doubled from 2000 to 2018, from 3.7% to 9.5%, with a majority White population within the county.

The Warren County Department of Human Services worked with the Warren County Health Department to survey county residents on their perceptions of available services and access to services. While only a low number of responses were received, the feedback was valuable in determining needs. In regards to access, 54% of respondents felt cost would prevent them from seeking mental health services, with the majority reporting limited availability of services for those that have private health insurance and the high co-pay costs. Wait times for appointments also were reported as a barrier to seeking services.

Warren County has a fairly substantial outpatient network of providers for mental health services, according to the guide listed at https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/home/hotlines/MH_Dir_COMPLETE.pdf. Warren County has an active Mental Health Board, 1 Integrated Case Management Service (ICMS), 1 Involuntary Outpatient Commitment program, 1 Outpatient Treatment program listed and 2 additional not listed on this site, 1 Partial Care program, 1 Residential Service program, 1 Self Help Center, 1 Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), 1 Screening Center, 1 Intensive Outpatient Program, 1 Homeless Services program (PATH), 1 Supported Employment program listed and another not listed, 1 Legal Systems Advocacy program, and 2 Community Support Services. While not listed, Warren County also has a Residential Support Team (RIST) as well. What Warren County is lacking, is an inpatient treatment program that frequently requires residents to be sent far from home to receive quality care with varying success in linking to appropriate aftercare following discharge.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked to identify barriers to services: Transportation and Lack of awareness to services were both identified by 25 individuals or 60.98% of the respondents. Wait list was identified by 17 (41.46%) individuals, followed by Stigma leads to avoidance 16 individuals (39.02%).; Services do not exist and Too expensive were both identified by 10 individuals or 24.39% of the respondents.

When for asked for other comments, the following comments were made: May need a specialized care but are unable to reach the facility.; There is a huge lack of service providers for the mental health community.; and more funding is needed for community based behavioral health services.

When asked if eligibility requirements are a barrier the following responses were made: There are not sufficient providers who accept the health insurance of the participant nor transportation to get to the provider.; Certain mental illnesses may be addressed more quickly than others.; Health insurance often does not cover mental health services, if it does it can still be very expensive. Not a lot of mental health services for the uninsured and underinsured who are often the most in need of these services.

When asked if there was anything else the county leaders should know the following responses were made: Many need to be re-diagnosed or need medications to be changed.; Families on Medicaid options for mental health services are limited.; More services should be offered, more awareness of services for developmentally disabled adults.; and Education is greatly needed on what mental health services are available, what they treat, what are the different kinds of therapy available and what you should expect from a mental health clinician.

Few Medicaid providers especially for children. County Medicaid recipients should be able to seek medical treatment in PA, the county and state should investigate the possibility of establishing MOU's with certain doctors and facilities.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Warren County has a variety of outpatient treatment services available to adults with Medicaid or who are uninsured, but has limited resources for individuals with insurance and high co-pays. Additionally, wait times can be a hinderance to those seeking immediate relief from a mental health crisis that does require hospitalization. The lack of inpatient care is the greatest need the county faces in regards to mental health services often resulting in long emergency department stays for individuals waiting for an available bed in an already stressed system.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	41	12.20 %	39.02 %	17.07 %	7.32 %	24.39 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	41	9.76 %	29.27 %	29.27 %	4.88 %	26.83 %	100
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	41	9.76 %	53.66 %	14.63 %	2.44 %	19.51 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	41	9.76 %	17.07 %	31.71 %	4.88 %	36.59 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	41	4.88 %	9.76 %	43.90 %	7.32 %	34.15 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	41	4.88 %	9.78 %	41.46 %	9.76 %	34.15 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	41	17	41.46
Services do not exist	41	10	24.39
Transportation	41	25	60.99
Cannot contact the service provider	41	3	7.32
Too expensive	41	10	24.39
Lack of awareness of service	41	25	60.99
Cultural Barriers	41	6	14.63
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	41	6	14.63
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	41	16	39.02
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	41	6	14.63
Other (explain below)	41	8	19.51

Need Area: Substance Use Disorder and Prevention Services (Adults and Adolescents)

Status: General Need Area

Substance use treatment services includes services that provide a range of assessment and supportive treatment for substance use disorders. This need area seeks to gauge the substance use needs and the existence of community services and supports to address substance use disorder needs throughout the county (e.g., detoxification, short- and long-term inpatient treatment services, outpatient treatment services, medication management, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, NJ 2-1-1, etc.)

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

According to the New Jersey Substance Abuse Monitoring System (NJSAMS), Warren County had 1,275 total admissions, 808 of whom were unduplicated admissions for 2019. The primary drugs for admission were heroin/other opiates at 46%, which was slightly below the statewide average of 48.3%, and alcohol at 35%, slightly higher than the 31.1% statewide average. Over half of these individuals received treatment in an outpatient (28.8%) or intensive outpatient (28.5%) program located within the county. Of those receiving treatment, 76.4% had received some prior treatment, slightly higher than the State average of the same time period (74.8%). The total duplicated county admissions under 1% of the county adult population, indicating that many individuals who may be seeking it are not receiving treatment. Per the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (NJDMHAS) Substance Abuse Overview report for 2019, the County breakdown per location had Phillipsburg, with an adult population of 14,344 at that time, with 371 admissions for substance use treatment. The Statewide overview reported Warren County having a 36.7% unmet demand of total demand for the County in 2019.

Of the total Warren County admissions in 2019, 10 were individuals under 18 representing under 1% of the total county admissions rate. The highest percentage based on age for admission ranged from 30 to 54 years, with the highest percentage at 23.3% for the 35-44 year range. This is consistent with the Statewide admissions data of the same time period.

The racial and ethnic breakdown of people seeking treatment in 2019 in Warren County was as follows:

White, non-Hispanic individuals represented 85.9% of treatment admissions, in which this group represented 89.2% of the Warren County population in 2019. Black, non-Hispanic represented 7.6% of treatment admissions, and represented 5.7% of the population during this time period. Admissions of individuals of Hispanic Origin was 5.3%, in which they represented 10.2% of the Warren County population in 2019.

Warren County admissions related to Probation/Parole-involved individuals was 27.1% in 2019, 8.9% for individuals with a DUI license suspension, and 13% of individuals involved with Drug Court. The majority of individuals admitted to treatment during this timeframe were male at 61.2%, whereas females admitted into treatment were at 38.8%. Just under a quarter of individuals receiving treatment did not have health insurance, with the majority receiving Medicaid at 63.4%.

According to NJ Cares data from the Office of the Attorney General, Suspected Drug Overdose Deaths reduced in 2019 from 36 in 2017, the peak year, and 30 in 2018. It should be noted, the NJ Department of Health's Opioid Overdose Dashboard shows an increase in 2020, with suspected drug overdose deaths from January 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020 at 34, with the peak month being April at the beginning of the public health crisis.

As demonstrated by this data, although substance use is clearly a documented problem in Warren County, community perceptions captured by a Community Voice Survey completed by the North Jersey Health Collaborative in 2018, tell a different story. Of the respondents, 98% reported that they did not take more medication than what their doctor instructed, or used medicine that was not prescribed to them. Additionally, about 97% agreed that they did not use drugs to excess, and that drugs did not cause problems in their lives. Similarly, 96% indicated that they did not drink alcohol to excess, and alcohol did not cause problems in their lives. Perhaps, more surprisingly, only 81% of respondents indicated that they knew where to find information on substance use prevention for themselves or someone they know. Tobacco, in addition to marijuana, are also substances that are of concern to the public's health. The adult smoking rate in Warren County is 16%, which is slightly higher than the New Jersey rate, which is 14%.⁸ According to the Community Voice Survey, 87% of respondents reported that they did not use cigarettes, vaporizers, or smokeless tobacco. As youth move away from traditional cigarettes, to sleeker, less easily detected vaping devices, the Surgeon General has declared an e-cigarette epidemic among youth. Popular e-cigarettes, including the Juul, are unregulated by the FDA, and contain 5% nicotine by volume, which is more than double the concentration of nicotine in similar e-cigarette devices. This high concentration of nicotine can increase the risk of addiction. E-cigarette "juice" comes in kid-friendly flavors, including mango, fruity pebbles, and crème brûlée, and these devices can also be used to deliver other drugs, including marijuana. In addition, marijuana has been legalized in New Jersey effective 2021, requiring governmental agencies, community-based organizations and community members to work together to determine the risks, educate the public and develop an action plan for moving forward.

Warren County has a variety of outpatient treatment services available to adults with Medicaid or who are uninsured, but has limited resources for individuals with insurance and high co-pays. Additionally, wait times can be a hinderance to those seeking immediate relief from a substance use disorder that does require hospitalization. Warren County does not have inpatient care within the county and residents have to travel often over 50 miles to receive care. Often times, the distance from family,

employment and other support services results in shortened treatment stays or poor discharge planning with warm handoffs to outpatient providers once the individual returns to the community.

According to the survey results 39 individuals responded to question concerning substance use disorder. When asked if there were enough services available in the county 20 individuals (41.28%) disagreed with the statement.; 22 individuals (56.41%) disagree with the statement services are widely advertised.; 16 individuals (41.02%) agreed that anyone in the county could access services.; 15 (38.46%) of the responses agreed that services take race, age, gender, ethnicity into account.; 20 (51.28%) of the responses agreed that Facilities were of good quality.; and 21 individuals (53.85%) agreed that State is well trained.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked about barriers to service 19 (48.72%) individuals stated lack of awareness of services.; 17 individuals (43.59%) stated, Transportation.; 16 (41.03%) individuals stated Stigma leads to avoidance, and 11 individuals (28.21%) stated waiting lists are the barrier to services.

When asked if there were additional comments, the following comments were made: More specialized treatment may be needed, depending on the drugs taken and length of time drugs have been used.; Not enough service providers to support the need. There needs to be more awareness around substance abuse what it is, who can help and where abuse leads.; and not sure how well aware the average resident is aware of services.

When asked if eligibility requirements are a barrier the following comments were made: Depending on whether they have money or their circumstances fit the facility that they are being put in.; and Insurance coverage for certain service providers, and a certain time period.

When asked if there was anything else the county leaders should know the following comments were made: each case must be thoroughly evaluated and each one examined carefully by a doctor.; if a 14 year old chooses not to seek treatment, a parent cannot force them. This leaves a parent in a very difficult spot because they cannot force help.; There are not enough of an array of services. No detox or inpatient, outpatient is sufficient; and one barrier that would be an easier fix than others is to again have one stop shop of all substance abuse services available in the county.

Focus Group participants indicated:

Lack of knowledge about what services are available;

Getting information into the schools is difficult, the Student Assistance Counselor's (SAC's) need better training;

The County Website needs to be updated and become user friendly; more presence on social media platforms

Transportation is an issue, especially in the northern portion of the county, especially for residents who live in the Blairstown area of the county.

More support groups are needed to assist residents who are disabled, Spanish speaking, Teenagers, LBGTQ community.

Lack of diversity in the field.

County Medicaid recipients should be able to seek medical treatment in PA, the county and state should investigate the possibility of establishing MOU's with certain doctors and facilities.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a prioritized need area.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	39	15.38 %	35.90 %	17.95 %	5.13 %	25.64%	100%
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	39	5.13 %	30.77 %	33.33 %	7.69 %	23.08%	100%
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	39	10.26 %	46.15 %	17.95 %	2.56 %	23.08%	100%
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	39	7.69 %	15.38 %	30.77 %	7.69 %	38.46%	100%
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	39	2.56 %	7.69 %	43.59 %	7.69 %	38.46%	100%
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	39	5.13 %	7.69 %	41.03 %	12.82 %	33.33%	100%

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	39	11	28.21
Services do not exist	39	8	20.51
Transportation	39	17	43.59
Cannot contact the service provider	39	2	5.13
Too expensive	39	9	23.08
Lack of awareness of service	39	19	48.72
Cultural Barriers	39	6	15.38
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	39	5	12.82
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	39	16	41.03
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	39	4	10.25
Availability of Substance Use Disorder Services	0	0	0
Availability of Substance Abuse Prevention Programs	0	0	0
Other (explain below)	9	9	23.08



Need Area: Domestic Violence Services

Status: General Need Area

Domestic violence is violence or other forms of abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting, e.g., husband and wife, child and parent, sibling and sibling, etc. This need area seeks to assess the level to which domestic violence impact residents throughout the county and the existence of community services and supports that will keep families safe from physical, sexual, financial, digital, mental and emotional forms of domestic violence (e.g., shelter services, victim services, batterers intervention services, DCF's Office of Domestic Violence Services, domestic violence liaisons, domestic violence hotline, Family Success Centers, etc.)

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

According to the NJ State Police annual domestic violence reports 2012 - 2016 the number of incidents has decreased from a high of 1,369 (2015) to 1,175 in 2016. Warren County has the third lowest number of domestic violence reports in 2016, only Salem County (735 incidents) and Hunterdon County (554 incidents).

The report continues to list the highest number of reported domestic violence report are: Phillipsburg (358 incidents); Washington Boro (358 incidents) Washington Township (147 incidents); Hackettstown (102 incidents) Lopatcong (72 incidents), Mansfield (65 incidents); Oxford (37 incidents); Franklin (34 incidents) Allamuchy (31 incidents) and Knowlton (31 incidents).

In Warren County individuals who are in an abusive situation are able to seek refuge at the county's Domestic Abuse Sexual Abuse Crisis Center (DASACC) shelter. The shelter has approximately 5 bedrooms and is frequently full. DASACC also provides community education programs on topics such as Human Trafficking, Campus Safety, Date Rape and Elder Abuse.

The results of the survey revealed that of the 39 responses: 16 responses (41.03%) agreed and stated there was enough services in the county for those who need help.; 20 responses (51.29%) agreed anyone could access services; 15 (38.46%) of the responses agreed services were widely advertised and known in the county; 17 (43.59%) agreed services took race, gender, ethnicity and more into account; 22 (56.41%) of the responses agreed facilities were in good quality and 23 (58.96%) agreed staff was well trained and knowledgeable.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked what barriers make it difficult to address this need, the following barriers were listed: transportation 20 responses (51.28%), Awareness of Services 19 responses (48.72%) and Stigma leads to avoidance 15 (38.46%) responses.

Other responses included: Each case must be examined by caring, understanding people familiar with the situation.; Extremely sensitive topic and one that is hard to start the conversations, and DASACC sometimes is full.

When asked about eligibility requirements two individuals commented: Be careful not to exclude certain cases of those not financially able to pay.; and eligibility for housing often includes recent or current home violence, this should be expanded.

What should county leaders know: Domestic violence is becoming a greater problem. No transitional housing is available in the county. No shelter for men who are fleeing an abusive relationship.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a prioritized need area.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	39	5.13 %	17.95 %	35.90 %	5.13 %	35.90 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	39	5.13 %	10.36 %	41.03 %	10.26 %	33.33 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	39	2.56 %	25.4 %	30.77 %	7.69 %	33.33 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	39	5.13 %	10.26 %	35.90 %	7.69 %	41.03 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	39	2.56 %	2.56 %	38.46 %	17.95 %	38.46 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	39	2.56 %	2.56 %	41.03 %	17.95 %	35.90 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	39	8	20.51
Services do not exist	39	2	5.13
Transportation	39	20	51.28
Cannot contact the service provider	39	1	2.56
Too expensive	39	0	0
Lack of awareness of service	39	19	48.72
Cultural Barriers	39	7	17.95
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	39	3	7.69
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	39	15	38.46
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	39	4	10.26
Other (explain below)	39	9	23.06



Need Area: Parenting Skills Services

Status: General Need Area

Parenting skills services are programs that aim to enhance parental capacity and skills, improve parenting practices and behaviors, and teach age appropriate child development skills and milestones. This need area seeks to assess the level to which residents require parenting skills services and the existence of community services and supports which address parenting skills (e.g., Home Visiting Program, Nurse-Family Partnership, Family Preservation, Family Success Centers, Family Service Organizations, Parents Anonymous, Parent Mentors, SPAN, etc.).

Need Assessment Key Findings

Summary: Scope of the Need

The county's Family Success Center program under the umbrella of NORWESCAP is funded by the Division of Family and Community Partnership. The program referred to as Traditions - Family Success Center is located in Phillipsburg, although services are available throughout the county. The program provides a "one-stop" shop that provides wrap-around resources and supports for families before they find themselves in crisis. The program brings together concerned community residents, leaders and agencies to address the problems that threaten the safety and stability of families. The Traditions program provides life skills training, parent education, home visitation, parent-child activities and family success planning.

The County's Family Support Organization shared between three counties (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren) provides peer support groups, advocacy/support/education to families with children who are experiencing emotional and behavioral issues.

Unfortunately, no data was provided by the state for this topic area.

When discussed at various focus groups sessions participants stated that parenting classes are expensive and involve several weeks of sessions.

Of the 38 responses received here are the results.

Seventeen individuals (44.74%) stated they disagree with the statement: There are enough services available in the county; 19 individuals (50%) disagreed with the statement: Services are widely advertised.; and the remaining statements: access to services, services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account, facilities are clean and staff are well-trained the majority of the responses: indicated they did not know.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked what barriers make it difficult to access services the following were identified: 22 individuals (57.89%) stated lack of awareness of services.; 12 (31.58%) responded transportation.; and 10 (26.32%) responded Services do not exist.

When asked for comments the following comment was made: Parenting skills should be taught when a woman is aware that she becomes pregnant.

When asked if eligibility requirements are a barrier the following comments were made: At the hospital, it can be determined the need of each person's need.; and poverty guidelines are so low that sometimes people don't qualify for services even though they are struggling.; Schedules, work availability, child care are consistent barriers.; language barriers also exist - need to be provided in Spanish.

When asked there is anything you would like the county leaders to know, the following comments were provided: Parenting classes are needed.; Parenting skills are available at various agencies.

Focus groups members stated parenting classes are too hard to find; People don't recognize they need parenting skills education unless they are mandated. There are few options in the county most classes are offered DCP&P and NORWESCAP. More providers for parenting classes at different times. Funding for classes and to cover the cost of child care. Lack of services, services should be individualized based on the families need. Spanish speaking staff is needed. Lack of resources in the northern portion of the county. The County's Tips for Teens should be available on-line and updated frequently.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a prioritized need area.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	38	10.53 %	34.21 %	10.53 %	0 %	44.74 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	38	5.28 %	31.58 %	18.42 %	2.63 %	42.11 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	38	10.53 %	30.47 %	10.53 %	0 %	39.47 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	38	5.26 %	15.79 %	23.68 %	2.63 %	52.63 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	38	5.26 %	5.26 %	23.68 %	5.26 %	60.53 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	38	5.26 %	7.89 %	21.05 %	10.53 %	55.26 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	38	4	10.53
Services do not exist	38	10	26.32
Transportation	38	12	31.58
Cannot contact the service provider	38	4	10.53
Too expensive	38	0	0
Lack of awareness of service	38	22	57.89
Cultural Barriers	38	8	21.05
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	38	4	10.53
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	38	5	13.16
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	38	2	5.26
Other (explain below)	38	7	18.42



Need Area: Legal and Advocacy Services**Status: General Need Area**

Legal and advisory services include legal assistance, advocacy and support in various types of legal matters, including child support, child custody, paternity, immigration, domestic violence, housing and eviction, criminal, etc. This need area seeks to assess if the level to which residents throughout the county have unresolved legal issues for which they need assistance and the existence of legal and advisory services to meet those needs (e.g., Legal Aid, pro-bono attorneys and clinics, court system, ombudsman, etc.)

Need Assessment Key Findings**Summary: Scope of the Need**

In Warren County, Legal Services of Northwest Jersey (Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Warren Counties) provides legal advice and representation to eligible county residents in the following areas: essential basic needs, financial stability, consumer fraud, family case law including domestic violence protection orders, child custody and child support, housing including: tenant issues, eviction defense and foreclosure. According to their 2019 Annual Report the agency provided legal assistance to 5,410 cases affecting essential needs. Legal Services work in 2019 helped 7,831 people including 2,614 children.

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Abused and Foster Children of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren (CASA, SHaW) provides trauma informed volunteers to serve as advocates in court for children living in foster care. The goal of this agency is to ensure that every child served has a safe, permanent home and resources and services needed to thrive.

According to the survey results only 37 individuals responded to this question. Fifteen individuals (40.55%) disagreed that there are enough services available in the county.; 17 individuals (45.95%) disagreed that Services are widely advertised. When asked: Anyone in the county is able to access services 13 individuals (35.14%) agreed with the statement. Sixteen individuals (43.24%) agreed that Staff is well trained and knowledgeable.

Summary: Nature of the Need

When asked what barriers make it difficult to address this need the following areas were identified: Lack of awareness, 18 individuals (48.65%).; and Transportation 12 individuals (32.43%).

When asked for comments the following comments were provided: All cases should be handled at the courthouse and alternate offices that handle particular case.; Financial eligibility is too low, therefore,

not everyone in need is eligible for services. They need to re-examine the income structure.; and there needs to be more than just Legal Services as a provider of legal supports to low-income residents.

When asked if eligibility requirements are a barrier the following comments were provided: Legal services predominantly assist those with minimal income.; Everyone should be eligible, especially those in need of legal services.; Income limits are too restrictive. Working families are typically not eligible for services.; Max income is too low for the high cost of living in the state.; and some services require an income eligibility and if a family does not meet it, they are also unable to afford an attorney. Lack of awareness.; Lack of awareness on the importance of having guardianships established before the age of 18 for young adults with a disability.

When asked if there was anything you would like county leaders to know, the following comments were made: These services are very scarce in this county. It would be helpful if there was a list of willing pro bono attorney's available to help those who do not meet the eligibility requirements for Legal Services. Limited consultation or pro-bono lawyers available.

The County should have awareness campaigns for this program, the county should help build programs that do exists.

Summary: Local Considerations for Addressing the Need for County Prioritized Need Area

Not a prioritized need area.

If applicable: Additional Notable Focus Group Trends for County Prioritized Need Area

No notable trends were discussed.

Need Area: Survey Results

Item	Total Number of Respondents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know	Total
1. There are enough services available in the county to help those who have this need.	37	5.41 %	35.14 %	18.92%	5.41 %	35.14 %	100 %
2. Anyone in the county is able to access services.	37	5.41 %	27.03 %	29.73%	5.41 %	32.43 %	100 %
3. Services are widely advertised and known by the county.	37	8.11 %	37.84 %	16.22%	8.11 %	29.73 %	100 %
4. Services take race, age, gender, ethnicity and more into account.	37	5.41 %	18.92 %	24.32%	8.11 %	43.24 %	100 %
5. Facilities that provide service to meet this need are of good quality (e.g., clean, well supplied).	37	2.70 %	5.41 %	29.73%	8.11 %	54.05 %	100 %
6. Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and provide good customer service.	37	2.70 %	8.11 %	29.73%	13.51 %	45.95 %	100 %

Key Barriers

Barrier	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Times Identified	Percentage of Responses
Wait Lists	37	5	13.51
Services do not exist	37	7	18.91
Transportation	37	12	32.43
Cannot contact the service provider	0	0	0
Too expensive	37	4	10.81
Lack of awareness of service	37	18	48.68
Cultural Barriers	37	5	13.51
Services provided are one-size fits all, and don't meet individual needs	37	3	8.11
Stigma Leads to Avoidance	37	3	8.11
Eligibility Requirement (explain below)	37	7	18.92
Other (explain below)	37	9	24.32