

2024 SAN JUAN COUNTY Needs Assessment



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Community Needs Assessment

San Juan County, New Mexico

Completed September, 2024

Compiled & written by

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for

San Juan County Partnership, Inc.

Commissioned by:

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San Juan County Partnership

**Working together with people of all ages and cultures
to develop community wellness and prevention awareness.**



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INTRODUCTION



San Juan County Partnership began conducting county-wide community Needs Assessments in 1996, and has conducted a follow-up assessment in some form every four years since. This report presents the results of two surveys, a Resident Household Needs Assessment Survey and a Key Informant Survey; six focus groups conducted with community members, experts and stakeholders; along with a comprehensive review of community health and social indicator data from a wide range of topic areas. Complementary data from the 100% San Juan County Initiative Community Survey are also included. The purpose of this assessment is to contribute to an ever growing understanding of the needs, strengths and priorities of the residents, service providers, and community leaders of San Juan County. It is intended to be a resource for planning, funding applications, and community organizing.

I. Resident Household Needs Assessment Survey Methodology & Sample

A total of 1,626 surveys were collected in November & December, 2023, including 1,414 online and 212 paper surveys. The survey was widely publicized through invitations inserted in the Farmington Utility bills, posters and flyers distributed in a variety of places throughout the community, and online through email, websites, and social media. A drawing was offered as an incentive for one of two \$1,000 gift cards. A unique domain with a one-page website was graphically designed to align with publicity materials and provide a welcome message, and also give additional information about the needs assessment, including contact information and other ways to get involved. The online survey platform Alchemer was used to ensure an anonymous and reliable experience.

Paper surveys were conducted to reach more rural areas less likely to have Internet access, and to invite community members historically less likely to complete surveys, including those experiencing homelessness. Gift cards worth \$20 were offered as an incentive for completing paper surveys. The survey was also translated and available in Spanish. The residents of the three Farmington zip codes were asked additional questions related to housing to support the City of Farmington's Community Development Block Grant.

In order to better reflect the demographic characteristics of the county, data were statistically weighted by sex and by race/ethnicity to align with Census demographics, given that the sample overrepresented females and White residents. All data in this document use the weighted data as shown below.

Table 1.1. Demographics, San Juan County & Survey Sample (n=1,626)

Demographic	Census*	Survey Sample	Weighted %
Male	49.7%	n=348 (22.0)%	47.6%
Female	50.3%	n=1203 (76%)	50.3%
Native American	43.4%	n=591 (37.3%)	41.7%
Hispanic	21.8%	n=220 (13.9%)	20.5%
White not-Hispanic	34.9%	n=696 (43.9%)	32.7%
Other race/ethnicity	5.0%	n=79 (5.0%)	5.1%

*U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates (2022). Note: 40 respondents did not answer race/ethnicity question, or selected "prefer not to answer;" 75 respondents did not answer gender question, or selected "prefer not to answer" or "non-binary."

I. Resident Household Needs Assessment Survey, cont. Sample Characteristics and Response Locations

Table 1.2. Response Locations

The overall distribution of survey responses across areas of the county was generally reflective of the population distribution. The combined Farmington zip codes were somewhat over-representative of Farmington overall, but the relative representation of smaller cities and rural areas, including Aztec, Shiprock, Bloomfield, Kirtland-Fruitland, was generally accurate and sufficient for comparisons.

Zip Code	Community / Area	Survey Sample	Survey Weighted %
87401	Farmington (south/west)	616	39.9%
87410	Aztec	215	12.2%
87402	Farmington (north/east)	174	11.0%
87420	Shiprock	138	9.3%
87413	Bloomfield	156	8.4%
87417	Kirtland	83	5.5%
87416	Fruitland	43	2.8%
87415	Flora Vista	36	2.1%
87421	Waterflow	23	1.8%
87455	Newcomb	15	1.4%
87418	La Plata	18	1.2%
87037	Nageezi	14	1.1%
87412	Blanco	16	1.0%
87364/28	Sheep Springs/Crystal	14	.8%
87461	Sanostee	9	.8%
87499	Farmington	5	.2%
87419	Navajo Dam	4	.2%

Note: 47 respondents did not provide a zip code or selected "prefer not to answer."

Table 1.3. Socioeconomic Characteristics, San Juan County & Survey Sample

The distribution of the survey sample's education level was somewhat higher, compared to the population. Income breakdowns of the sample were generally reflective of the Census.

Demographic	Census*	Survey Weighted %
Highest Education Level Attained		
Less than high school	14.8%	3.5%
High school or equivalent	28.6%	22.4%
Associates or Bachelor's degree	23.5%	31.3%
Graduate degree/Professional school	7.6%	12.5%
Household Income		
Less than \$30,000	31.2%	32.4%
\$30-\$75,000	35.5%	39.2%
More than \$75,000	33.4%	28.4%

*U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates (2022). Note: 370 respondents did not answer income question or selected prefer not to answer; 265 respondents did not answer education question, or selected "prefer not to answer."

II. Key Informant Survey

Methodology & Sectors Represented

A total of 49 completed Key Informant surveys were collected in April and May, 2024. A total of 78 respondents began taking the survey and completed the first page only; all 78 responses will be included to a question on the first page that asked, "What is your organization's or business's greatest need to grow or thrive?" Otherwise, ratings and open-ended responses are based on 49 responses.

The Key Informant survey was publicized via email contact lists and through extending invitations to representatives of service providers, educators, government and business groups and other community organizations. Respondents were able to select multiple sectors they represented:

- Healthcare Provider, Organization or Pharmacy (3)
- Behavioral Health or Substance Use Counseling (16)
- Business Owner, Retail, Entertainment (1)
- Church, Faith-based or Spiritual Leader (3)
- Education (PK-12, Higher Ed) (5)
- Public Office, Government, Tribal Administration (8)
- Law Enforcement, Legal services, Criminal Justice, Public Safety (5)
- Housing, Shelter (6)
- Social Services, Community Agency, Prevention (17)
- Media, News, Radio (1)

III. Focus Groups

Methodology & Topics

Six topic-specific focus groups, using the Nominal Group Technique (NGT)*, were facilitated by San Juan County Partnership staff, from April through June, 2024. Topics were informed by current issues that have been highlighted in other assessments, in Coalition and Health Council Meetings, and also by preliminary results of the Needs Assessment Survey. Topics addressed were: Transportation, Access to Healthcare, Crime/Public Safety, Education, Business/Economics, and Housing.

The NGT is a structured approach that involves providing the group with a focused question about a specific topic, followed by a silent time during which each participant privately identifies their answer to the question. Then, each member shares their answers and the group discusses, consolidates and finally votes on answers to the question in order to prioritize the groups overall answers or solutions. This approach was chosen in order to optimize participation and brainstorm as many possible solutions to the complex issues and topics discussed.

Participants were invited to attend based on their knowledge of community, and their experience or expertise related to the topic. Focus group sizes ranged from six to 13 participants.

**(Delbecq, A. L.; VandeVen, A. H (1971). "A Group Process Model for Problem Identification and Program Planning". Journal of Applied Behavioral Science.)*

IV. 100% San Juan County Initiative Survey

Reference

The 100% San Juan County survey was administered between April 2022 and December 2023, with 778 respondents (531 online and 247 paper). The survey was sponsored and organized by the 100% San Juan Team, in partnership with New Mexico State University, following the 100% Community Initiative Framework provided by the Anna, Age Eight Institute. The survey asked residents about their access to the "ten vital services for surviving and thriving," in order to identify needs and barriers to the services. Being able to include results of the 100% San Juan County survey in this report is a welcome and appreciated addition to the results of the Household Resident and Key informant surveys conducted as part of this assessment. Complete results and more information about the survey and San Juan County's 100% Initiative can be found at: www.100nm.org/sanjuan.

Introduction to Data Sections

Data and results are organized into eight sections, as outlined below. Each section summarizes relevant questions from the Needs Assessment Survey, the Key Informant Survey, and the San Juan County 100% Survey, along with a summary of the Focus Group discussions. Social indicator/community health data from a range of state and national data sources, (e.g., U.S. Census, New Mexico Dept. of Health, Centers for Disease Control, New Mexico Public Education Dept., and FBI Uniform Crime Reports) are also incorporated to round out and complement survey data.

1. Economics/Employment
2. Housing
3. Health and Wellness
4. Substance Use & Consequences
5. Education
6. Crime & Safety
7. Transportation, Recreation and the Physical Environment
8. System-wide Coordination

Additional Data Notes

Throughout the review of community-level social indicator data, every effort has been made to report the most current data available as of this writing. However, many of these indicator data are updated annually or biannually by respective state and national data sources, and will be outdated within a year of the September 2024 publication. This includes updates that are currently being made to NM Dept. of Health data as they update data based on new U.S. Census population estimates. In addition to checking the sources provided throughout this document, you may also be interested in visiting the data website maintained and updated by the author for San Juan County Partnership (sanjuancountydata.org) for the most current community-level data available.

ECONOMICS & EMPLOYMENT



“Economic security and good health for individuals and households are necessary for whole communities to thrive.” (County Health Rankings)

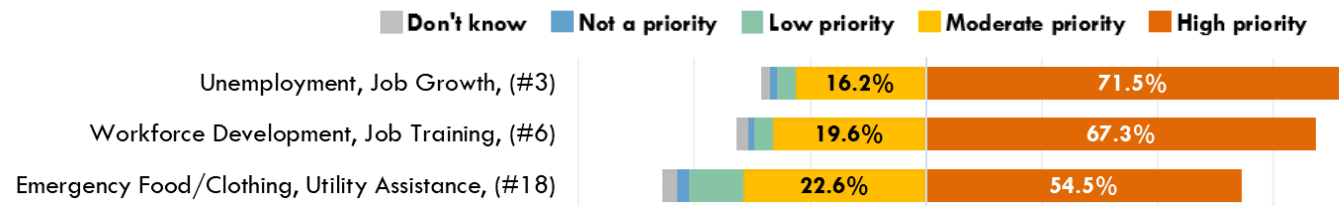
Introduction: The choices that are available in a community are impacted by social and economic factors, including factors such as income, education, and employment. A living wage shapes opportunities for myriad choices, from housing, child care and food to medical care and managing stress. This section gives an overview of recent employment and industry data, along with residents’ experiences and input from the Needs Assessment and other surveys for helping to identify current challenges and solutions for growing and expanding.

Need for Focus on Employment & Workforce

On the Resident Needs Assessment Survey, “Unemployment/Job Growth” was among the top-ranked priorities (#3 out of 27 items), with 72% of the respondents rating this item as a “high priority” in need of additional focus. “Workforce Development, Job Training” was also a top-ranked priority (#6), rated a “high priority” by 67% of the respondents. “Emergency assistance for food/clothing and utilities” was ranked #18 with just over half of the respondents rating this item as a “high priority.”

Ratings of Job Growth, Workforce & Emergency Assistance

San Juan County Resident Needs Assessment Survey (2023)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,629)

Residents’ Ratings: Additional Comparisons

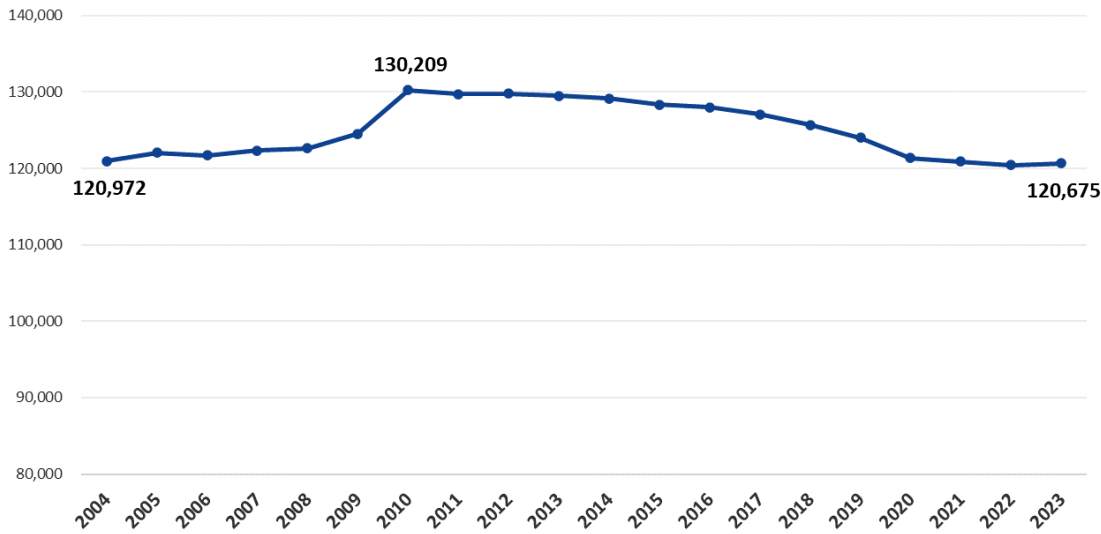
By **income level**, ratings of the need to focus on “Unemployment/Job Growth” and on “Workforce Development” were generally similar: 75% of those respondents with household incomes below \$30,000 rated unemployment as a “high priority,” as did 69% of those with household incomes \$30-75k, and 70% of those with household incomes over \$75k. “Emergency food/shelter,” however, was rated a “high priority” by significantly more respondents with household incomes below \$30k (74%) compared to those with incomes \$30-75k (52%), and those with incomes above \$75k (40%).

By **employment status**, a somewhat higher percentage of respondents whose current employment status was unemployed rated “Unemployment” as a high priority (81%) compared to those currently employed (73%). “Workforce development” was rated similarly by respondents regardless of current employment status.

POPULATION GROWTH / DECLINE

Trend, Population: San Juan County, NM (Census. 2004 - 2023)

Population growth and decline is an important economic consideration, as it reflects the labor pool from which businesses and organizations can draw upon for staff, as well as for clientele/customers, as businesses decide whether to invest or establish themselves in a given area. From the 2010 Census through 2023, San Juan County’s population declined by 7.3%, seeming to have reached a plateau after about 2020, and is now in the range of what it was 20 years ago in 2004.



Source: U.S. Census, Decennial Census (2010) and American Community Survey, 1-year estimates: U.S. Census Bureau, Resident Population in San Juan County, NM [NMSANJ0POP], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/NMSANJ0POP>, September 1, 2024.

Table 2.1. Population Estimates & Trends by Race/Ethnicity (U.S. Census, 2016/2022)

As the overall population declined, trends have varied by subpopulation (Race/Ethnicity) as shown below by 5-year Census estimates, from 2016 to 2022.

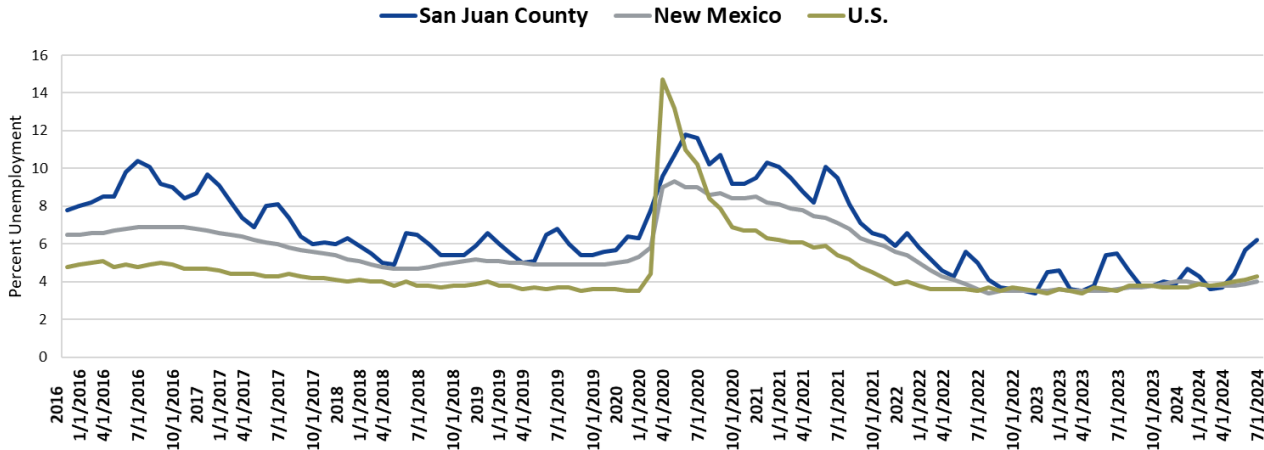
Population Changes by Race/Ethnicity (2016 & 2022)		
Subpopulation	2016 (5-year estimate)	2022 (5-year estimate)
San Juan County	122,537	121,798
Native American	39.5%	42.2%
Hispanic	19.8%	21.7%
White non-Hispanic	40.8%	36.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (Note: 5-year estimates have slightly different values than 1-year estimates found in other areas in this report. Most recent five-year estimates, available for 2018-2022, are used for this table to ensure the most statistically stable population estimates for subpopulations.)

LABOR FORCE

Trends, Unemployment Rate: San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S. (January, 2016 - July, 2024)

The unemployment rate defined as the percentage of people in the labor force over age 16 who are unemployed, actively seeking employment and willing to work. The unemployment rate has been generally similar to the state and the U.S., but has inched up recently. The current rate (July, 2024) in San Juan County's is 6.2%, just above the state (4.0%) and the U.S. rates (4.3%).



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate [UNRATE], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org>, 9/22/2024

Employment/Workforce Questions (Needs Assessment Survey, 2023)

On the Needs Assessment survey, one-fourth (25.7%) reported that they or someone in their household had lost a job in the past year. Questions also asked respondents about experiences finding work, and whether they thought there are enough jobs in the county.

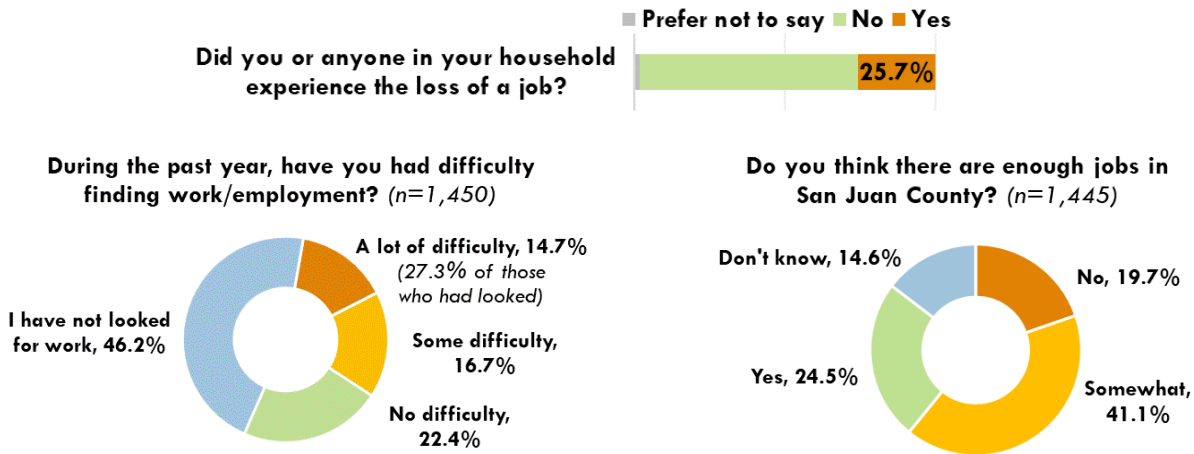


Table 2.2. Employment/Workforce Indicators (Needs Assessment Survey, 2023)

Respondents' experiences differed depending on their education background. For example, those with less than a postsecondary education reported it was more difficult to find work.

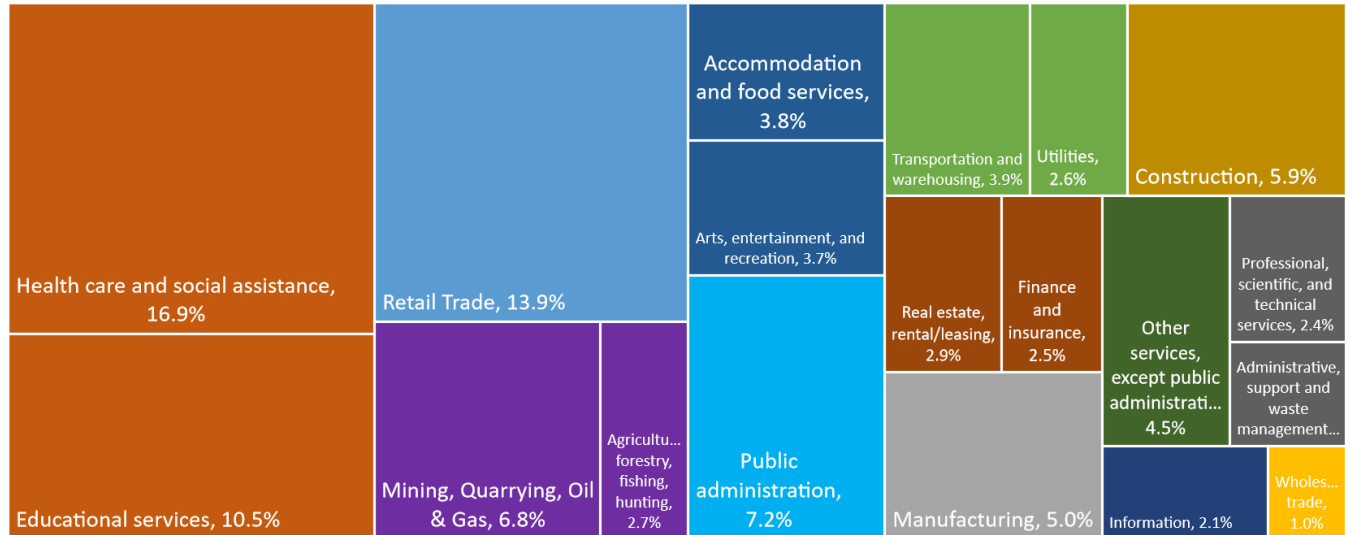
Workforce & Employment Survey Questions by Education Level					
Survey Question	Overall	Less than H.S.	High School Grad/GED	Associate's or Bachelor's	Professional School (MD, PhD)
Currently Unemployed*	7.4%	8.3%	16.5%	3.7%	1.2%
Difficulty Finding Work* (% A lot)	27.3%	33.2%	34.4%	21.8%	12.4%
Enough Jobs (% No)	19.7%	28.1%	23.2%	16.4%	21.3%

Source: San Juan County Partnership, Needs Assessment Survey (2023). Percentage of "Difficulty finding work" is among those who have looked for work. **Currently unemployed" are those who selected "unemployed, looking for work."

INDUSTRY

Employment by Industry: San Juan County, NM (Census, 2023)

Together, the “Healthcare and Social Assistance” represents the largest industry of employment category in San Juan County, followed by “Retail Trade.”



Source: US Census Bureau: American Community Survey, 2023, 1-year estimates (Table S2404). (Data note, Census tables showing industries by subcategory - above - use different models and estimates of the employed population for calculating employment by industry, therefore, numbers in the graph above differ slightly from table below.)

Table 2.3. Percent Employment by Industry (Census, 2016 & 2023)

The table below represents the most recent job industry changes available (2023). From 2022 to 2023 alone there were significant shifts, including a 4.3% drop in the proportion of employment in the “Educational Services/Healthcare” industry. Over the past 7 years, from 2016 to 2023, “Education Services/Healthcare” and “Mining/Oil & Gas” saw the largest decreases overall. Industries of “Accommodation & Food Services” and “Retail Trade” saw the largest growth, currently the second and third largest industries of employment.

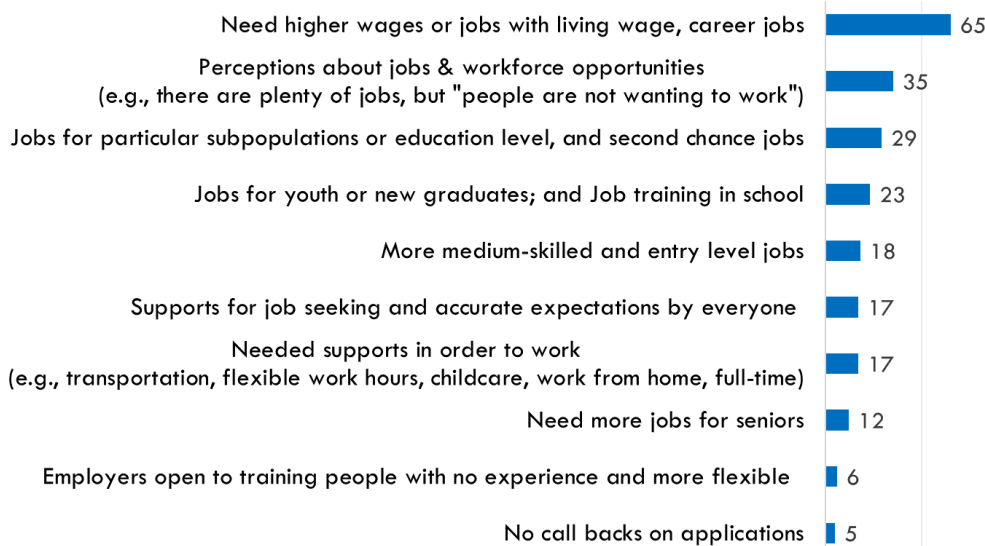
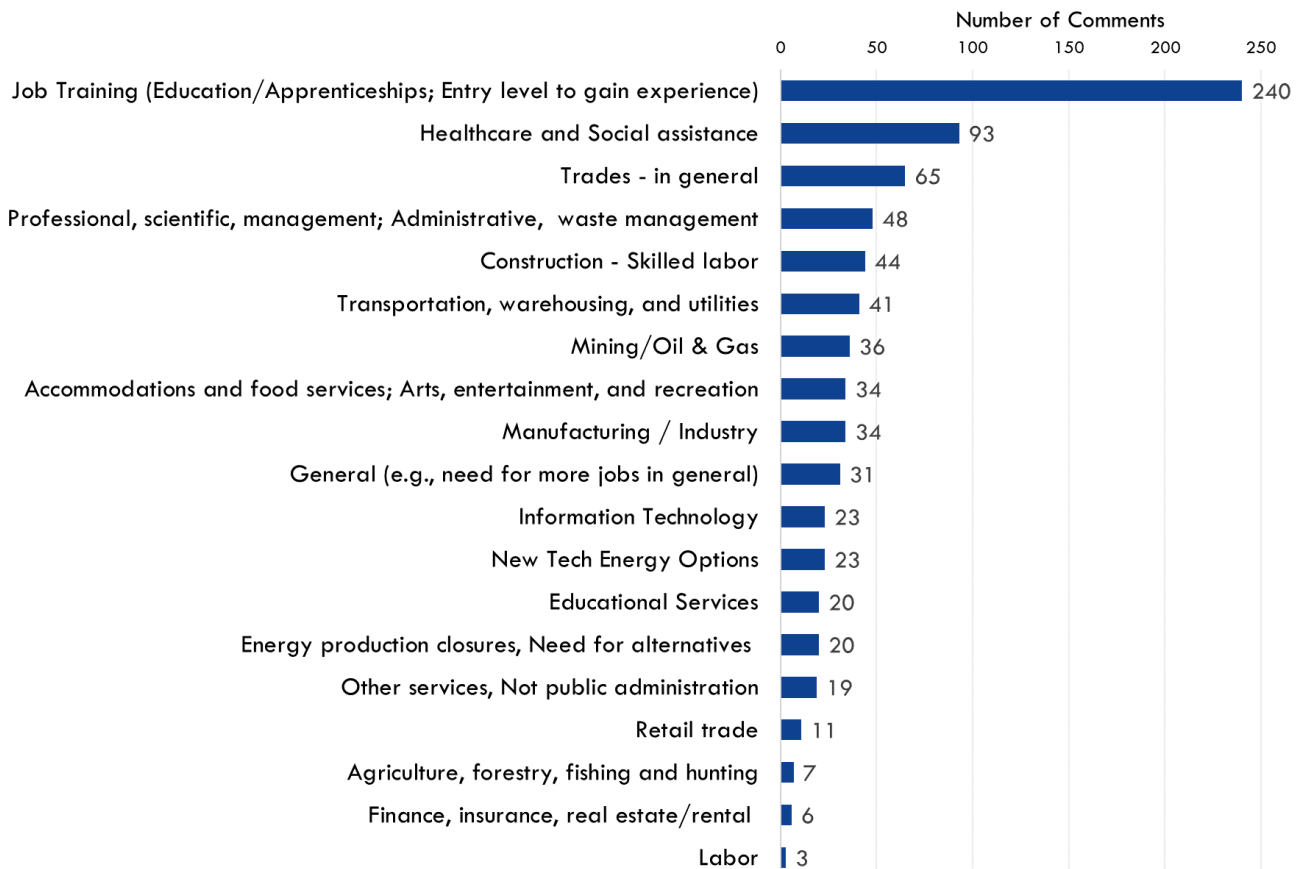
Percent of Employment by Industry Category			
Industry	2016	2023	%Change
Educational Services, Healthcare & Social Assistance	28.8%	25.4%	-3.4%
Retail Trade	11.5%	14.0%	+2.5%
Accommodation & Food Services; Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.8%	13.3%	+3.5%
Mining (Oil & Gas), Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11.0%	7.9%	-3.1%
Construction	7.1%	6.4%	-0.7%
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	8.1%	6.1%	-2.0%
Public Administration	4.3%	5.6%	+1.3%
Manufacturing	2.9%	4.9%	+2.0%
Other Services (Except public administration)	4.8%	4.6%	-0.2%
Professional, Scientific, and Management, and Administrative and Waste Management Services	5.4%	4.6%	-0.8%
Finance and Insurance; Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	3.1%	4.4%	+1.3%
Information	1.2%	1.7%	+0.5%
Wholesale Trade	2.1%	1.0%	-1.1%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2016 & 2023, 1-Year Estimates. (Tables S2401/DP03). One-year estimates have larger margin of error than 5-year, but are used here to illustrate the most recent changes.

WORKFORCE/INDUSTRY NEEDS

“What specific types of jobs, employment opportunities or job training programs do you think there need to be more of in San Juan County?” (n=798, n=249)

An open-ended question on the Needs Assessment survey asked what types of jobs and opportunities they wanted to see grow and expand. The most frequent job/industry category (*top graph*) was “Job training” programs” (30% of the responses). General comments (*bottom graph*) highlighted the need for higher wages and jobs that pay a living wage. (See *selected comments on the next page.*)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023. A total of 798 answered the question with specific types of jobs. These responses were generally coded according to Census industry categories shown on previous page, for comparison. Another 249 responses were related to types of workforce/job supports that were needed.

COMMENTS ABOUT JOB MARKET & TRAINING

“What specific types of jobs, employment opportunities or job training programs do you think there need to be more of in San Juan County?” (Needs Assessment Survey, 2023)

Representative comments from the general categories (see graph above) are shown below.

Job Training, Apprenticeships, Entry-level Positions (n=240):

- In junior high I think they should start teaching real world jobs, things you need when you graduate high school like plumbing work gardening work how to fix bikes I heard Bloomfield does this, which I think people can work in bike shops instead of getting unemployment and work there, it's a job, woodworking automotive level, learn how to pay bills and how to budget so they can buy a car or house.
- Any affordable vocational training. I have a job but would like to change career. I do not qualify for Pell grant.
- Basic training for interacting with other people, technical skills, trade skills.
- Businesses willing to train. And not overlook those without college degrees
- Certified Nursing assistant training, computer training, and any kind of training to get a job is better than none.
- Apprenticeship. It's what we need for our youth
- I have had difficulty as a single mother of special needs children finding jobs that weren't fast food or retail that paid enough during school hours to finance the things we need, like a reliable car or clothing. I would like to see more computer training opportunities, better access to schooling opportunities, and internship programs for jobs that pay more than minimum wage.
- Financial Literacy and on job training. I know of people who received their CDL and cannot find work due to lack of experience.
- I think the high schools and SJC need to be offering classes in the fields of electricians, plumbers, HVAC, all the construction trades.
- I would like to see more on-the-job training for high school age and twenty-something men and women. It would encourage young people to learn a skill and hopefully own a business that would service San Juan county residents.
- More scholarship programs for those wanting to learn a trade that could benefit the county, internships that pay well, and employment opportunities that offer benefits.
- More vocational training in areas such as carpentry, plumbing, welding, machining, and electrical.
- Training for teens & adults struggling with reading. Training for employers in job retention and community support available for their employees.
- Administrative and with the aging baby boomers that want to work, employers should tap that market. City should offer free software classes for this sect of the working class. For example, Excel and Word. Also, a typing class to speed up on and enhance skills.
- Need official/structured apprenticeship for people to learn marketable skills (not company programs that are very "loose" in quality & rules).
- Need more training for our young people around interviewing and expectations of holding a job, i.e., arriving on or before scheduled time, team player, etc.
- San Juan County is going to have to get some viable businesses in here IF it wants to keep the population it has. Once the businesses are here, train people to work them.
- Low cost office/computer classes, programs to help people get back in the system due being a felon or not enough working experience due to homelessness or unfortunate circumstances
- The trade/technical schools (apprenticeships), as not everyone wants the higher education journey and/or not everyone is higher education material. The lack of options and the "---" stigma associated with anything that is not higher education is harming and hurting Farmington, San Juan County and New Mexico as a whole. The energy has been financially beneficial when the pendulum has been on the upswing. The downside has been the "---" impact on our environment, climate and health. Higher education is extremely costly and this debt is unforgiving as well as taking years to reach completion (= long term expensive goal). Trade/technical schools are often shorter completion times and most often at lower costs. However because they are not valued by society as a whole, wages and salaries reflect this and therefore are often lower and may not be adequate (=a reasonable living wage). Life is not a one-size fits all, whether it is education, employment, housing, healthcare and/or any other life area

COMMENTS ABOUT JOB MARKET & TRAINING, CONT

Need for Higher Paying / Living Wage Jobs (n=65):

- Career-oriented jobs, where people can advance and have good retirement and private healthcare
- Good paying jobs, not fast food!
- Higher-level jobs where pay can let you afford to live in the area. The service industry pay is ridiculous
- Ones that pay a livable wage that is not in the oil field.
- There are jobs available however they do not pay enough for a single person to afford to live on their own
- You have to either make burgers or have degrees. You cant live on making burgers with only one income. Can't find flexible jobs for school or considerations when you have to care for someone else too. If you do or work part time they don't pay enough to live on. Part time work is not as flexible as you think either.
- Jobs that allow person to work 1 job to support themselves/family. Fast food type jobs should be entry-level for teens, not people working several entry-level jobs to support their families. Maybe we need a rule/law?
- More jobs above minimum wage. I feel if people could be trained for better jobs it would help so many of our social problems. Who can have a decent life trying to live on minimum wages
- High paying jobs. Retail & restaurants aren't enough. If you bring in jobs that pay a livable wage, many of the other problems resolve themselves. Oil & gas is not coming back. Outside of medical, SJC lacks industries that pay well.
- There needs to be more jobs that only require a certificate rather than a degree. Wages need to be higher, people are really struggling. It is by the grace of God that I do not struggle for these things. I have worked very hard to be able to provide for my family. Employers in San Juan county need to work with people who have a past. People who are trying to change their life, but have made some bad choices in the past. Landlords also need to give people like this a chance. It is next to impossible for someone with a record to find housing.
- They hire for part time so they don't have to offer insurance or sick leave you literally have to work 2 jobs to make enough hours to get by and minimum wage and not be able to afford food and not be able to get food stamps.
- We need better paying jobs. I have lived in several other states and San Juan County has some of the lowest paying jobs, meanwhile housing and overall living costs here have caught up with everywhere else. It is not sustainable to make these wages and be able to afford to live here.
- Families need real jobs to pay for mortgages and rent not 3 minimum wage jobs. Bring in an actual industry a product or manufacture

Perceptions about Jobs and Employment Contexts (n=35):

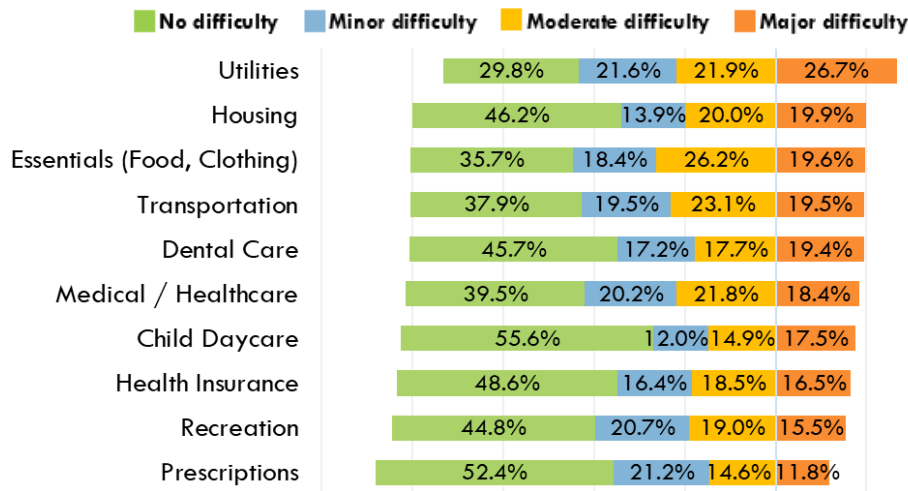
- I think we have job opportunities. But, we have a lot of individuals that don't want to work. We also have people that have maintained steady employment but the cost of living make it difficult to survive on the earned wages.
- Seems like everywhere is hiring yet tons of people can't find work....so I don't know if adding more jobs would fix the problem. Maybe the right kind of jobs are not available?
- There are so many places looking for employees but seems like there refusing to hire people. So maybe see why these companies are refusing to hire. Maybe start with people who are on unemployment make classes mandatory, work place skills or community service until they find a job.
- More people who actually want to work. There is too much unnecessary assistance out there so people would rather take that than work. Our community cannot continue to afford this.
- I don't know what the solution to this is post-covid, people just don't want to work, there is no longevity or loyalty in employees now. job skipping and walking out are common, perhaps the cap on public assistance would put people back to work.
- Honestly, people looking for work just need to understand the meaning of job is working, not a socialized environment when nothing gets done
- There are too many incentives not to work anymore.

HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES & COST OF LIVING

Difficulty Affording Household Expenses Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

The Needs Assessment survey asked respondents to rate their difficulty affording expenses, from “no difficulty” to “major difficulty.” Ranked in order of major difficulty, “Utilities” and “Housing” were rated the most difficult, followed by “Basic Essentials (Food & Clothing).” Compared to 2016, “Basic Essentials” increased from 33% (moderate + major) in 2016, to 46% on the current 2023 survey.

In the past year, did you or someone in your household have difficulty affording the following?



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023. Percentages exclude those who selected “n/a.”

Table 2.4. Difficulty Affording Household Expenses (Needs Assessment Survey, 2023)

Results for affording expenses are shown by household income level. Income makes the greatest difference for “Utilities,” “Basic Essentials,” and “Transportation.” Difficulty affording “Medical / Healthcare” and “Prescription Medication” is most similar by oncome level.

Difficulty Affording Expenses by Level of Household Income								
Household Expense	Overall		Income < \$30,000		Income \$30-75k		Income > \$75,000	
	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Major
Utilities	21.9%	26.7%	26.0%	44.7%	24.9%	25.2%	11.9%	11.2%
Basic Essentials (food/clothing)	26.2%	19.6%	33.2%	37.1%	30.2%	15.5%	14.5%	5.7%
Transportation	23.1%	19.5%	31.3%	34.0%	23.9%	18.5%	13.3%	5.4%
Medical/Healthcare	21.8%	18.4%	27.6%	19.2%	22.6%	18.3%	16.6%	14.0%
Housing	20.0%	19.9%	24.6%	36.5%	24.7%	17.5%	8.9%	6.8%
Dental Care	17.7%	19.4%	19.9%	30.0%	19.6%	18.0%	12.0%	8.9%
Health Insurance	18.5%	16.5%	18.5%	23.7%	22.4%	15.0%	12.6%	10.6%
Recreational Activities	19.0%	15.5%	25.8%	23.2%	20.9%	13.9%	9.0%	9.5%
Child Daycare	14.9%	17.5%	18.7%	24.5%	14.5%	15.7%	9.0%	14.8%
Prescription Medications	14.6%	11.8%	17.0%	15.2%	15.8%	10.0%	9.3%	8.2%

Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey (2023). Household Income levels were determined from natural breaks with approximately one-third of the respondents in each category: Lower < \$30,000, 32% of survey sample; Medium, \$30,000-75,000, 39%; Higher, >\$75,000, 28% of sample.

LIVING WAGE & EXPENSES

Table 2.5. Living Wage and Typical Expenses by Family Type

The “Cost of Living Index” is a simplified index of estimating how far an income will go in different contexts, with “100” being the national average or benchmark. San Juan County's cost of living index is estimated to be 79.5 (12 points below New Mexico's index of 88.4). and 20 points below the U.S. Typical expenses, from housing through healthcare, are estimated to be lower in San Juan County, compared to the state and U.S.

A “Living Wage” is a more refined look at what level of income is required to meet expenses in a given context (e.g., county) for different types of households or family situations. The living wage and household expenses data below are from the “Living Wage Calculator,” developed by MIT Professor of Economics. It does not include saving for retirement or other types of expenses such as gifts or pet care, but rather gives general estimates for typical expenses and the income required to meet them for different household arrangements. From the Living Wage Calculator Website: “*The Living Wage is the hourly rate that an individual in a household must earn to support themselves and/or their family, working full-time, or 2080 hours per year. In households with two working adults, all hourly values reflect what one working adult requires to earn to meet their families’ basic needs, assuming the other adult also earns the same. Poverty wage estimates come from the Department of Health and Human Services’ Poverty Guidelines for 2024 and have been converted from an annual value to an hourly wage for ease of comparison.*”

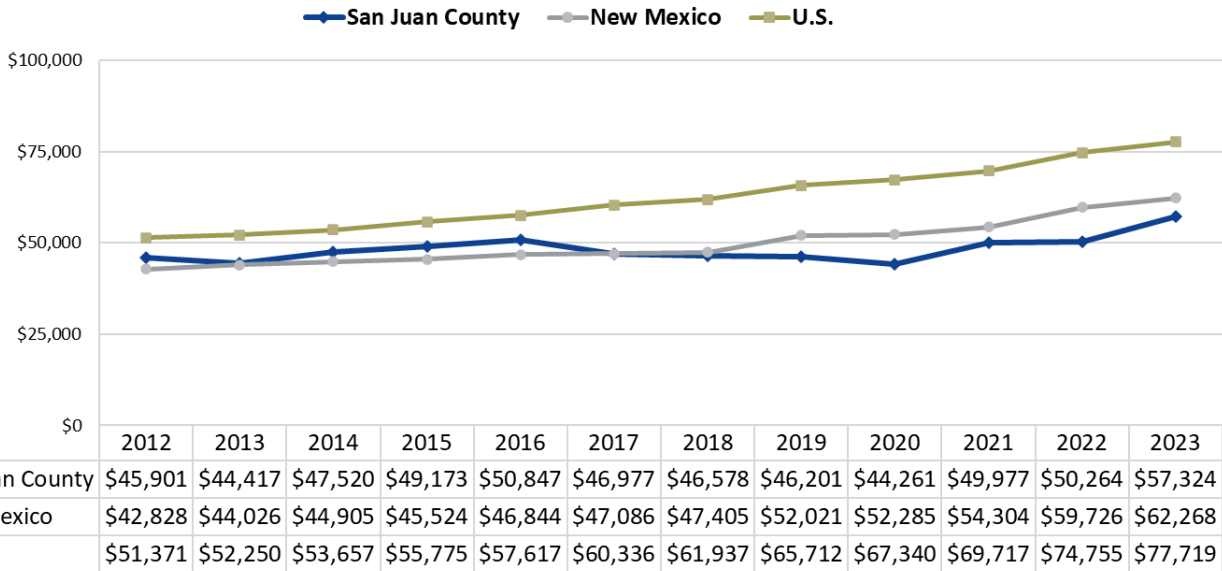
Living Wage & Typical Expenses by Family Type, San Juan County												
	One Adult				2 Adults (1 Working)				2 Adults (Both Working)			
	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Child	1 Children	2 Children	3 Children
Living Wage	\$20.79	\$34.21	\$42.39	\$55.38	\$28.48	\$33.99	\$38.83	\$41.45	\$14.24	\$19.42	\$24.06	\$27.34
Poverty Wage	\$7.24	\$9.83	\$12.41	\$15.00	\$9.83	\$12.41	\$15.00	\$17.59	\$4.91	\$6.21	\$7.50	\$8.79
Required Income*	\$43,244	\$71,165	\$88,178	\$115,190	\$59,248	\$70,692	\$80,769	\$86,213	\$59,248	\$80,782	\$100,109	\$113,744
Typical Expenses												
Food	\$3,988	\$5,879	\$8,818	\$11,720	\$7,311	\$9,101	\$11,721	\$14,291	\$7,311	\$9,101	\$11,721	\$14,291
Child care	\$0	\$8,583	\$16,491	\$23,068	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,583	\$16,491	\$23,068
Medical	\$3,043	\$8,457	\$8,345	\$8,808	\$6,434	\$8,345	\$8,808	\$8,403	\$6,434	\$8,345	\$8,808	\$8,403
Housing	\$10,168	\$12,207	\$12,207	\$17,201	\$10,217	\$12,207	\$12,207	\$17,201	\$10,217	\$12,207	\$12,207	\$17,201
Transportation	\$10,424	\$12,063	\$15,195	\$17,484	\$12,063	\$15,195	\$17,484	\$17,464	\$12,063	\$15,195	\$17,484	\$17,464
Civic	\$3,032	\$5,335	\$6,715	\$7,776	\$5,335	\$6,715	\$7,776	\$7,269	\$5,335	\$6,715	\$7,776	\$7,269
Internet/Mobile	\$1,663	\$1,663	\$1,663	\$1,663	\$2,257	\$2,257	\$2,257	\$2,257	\$2,257	\$2,257	\$2,257	\$2,257
Other	\$4,739	\$8,459	\$8,994	\$12,431	\$8,459	\$8,994	\$12,431	\$11,950	\$8,459	\$8,994	\$12,431	\$11,950

Source: Data are from the Living Wage Calculator website, developed by MIT Professor of Economics, Amy Glasmeier: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/35045> *The Required Income is the annual household income before taxes. The current minimum wage in San Juan County is \$12 an hour.

INCOME

Trends, Median Household Income: San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S. Census (2013-2023)

After a period of losing ground from 2016 to 2020, most recently, since 2020, median household income has shown positive improvements, including estimates from the most recent 2023 Census.



Source: US Census: American Community Survey (ACS), 2012 - 2023, 1-year estimates (Table S1901)

Table 2.6. Median Household Incomes by Household Type (Census, 2023)

Median household income (in 2023 inflation-adjusted dollars) is shown for selected family household types.

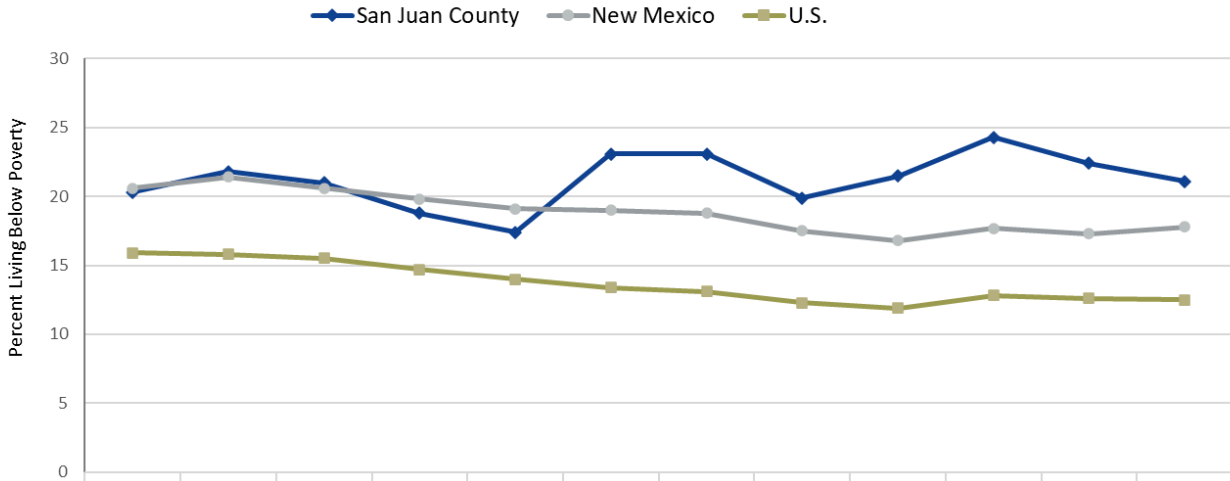
Median Household Income by Household Type (2023)			
Household Type	Median Household Income		
	San Juan County	New Mexico	U.S.
Households - Overall (n=42,670)	\$57,324	\$62,268	\$77,719
Hispanic	\$46,602		
Native American	\$48,333		
White, not Hispanic	\$71,259		
Non-Family Households - Overall (n=12,661)	\$38,951	\$42,058	\$47,090
Female Living Alone, No Children	\$32,378		
Male Living Alone, No Children	\$29,807		
Family Households - Overall (n=30,009)	\$69,965	\$75,197	\$96,401
Family Households with Children under 18	\$55,306		
Female Head, Alone, with Children	\$24,932		
Male Head, Alone, with Children	\$41,231		
Married-couple Families (n=19,444)	\$92,258	\$95,566	\$113,728
Family Household with 1 Earner	\$52,960		
Family Household with 2 Earners	\$99,128		

Source: Census, American Community Survey, 2023, 1-year estimates (Table S1903). Note subcategories are not mutually exclusive, but are all types of examples of the general category.

POVERTY

Trends, Poverty, All Ages: San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S. (Census, 2012-2023)

Similar to the trend in Household Income, 2016 was a turning point: San Juan County's poverty rate increased from 2016 through 2021, and while it is still above the poverty rates across New Mexico and the U.S., poverty across the county decreased somewhat from 2021 to 2023, with 21.1% of the population living below the poverty level.



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
San Juan County	20.3	21.8	21.0	18.8	17.4	23.1	23.1	19.9	21.5	24.3	22.4	21.1
New Mexico	20.6	21.4	20.6	19.8	19.1	19.0	18.8	17.5	16.8	17.7	17.3	17.8
U.S.	15.9	15.8	15.5	14.7	14.0	13.4	13.1	12.3	11.9	12.8	12.6	12.5

Source: US Census: American Community Survey (ACS), 2012 - 2023, 1-year estimates (Table S1701)

Table 2.7. Poverty by Subpopulation (Census, 2023)

Disparities for poverty level are shown below. Overall, 49% of those who are living below the federal poverty level participate in food assistance programs (e.g., SNAP). Participation relative to poverty level is lower for Hispanic-headed households and for female headed households with children.

Percent Below Poverty by Race/Ethnicity & for Female Headed Households		
	Below Poverty 2023	% Receiving Food Stamps (SNAP)* 2023
San Juan County, Overall	21.1%	21.0%
Hispanic	23.8%	21.0%
Native American	25.9%	49.2%
White not-Hispanic	15.5%	25.0%
Female Headed Family Households, with children under 18 years	39.2%	27.7%

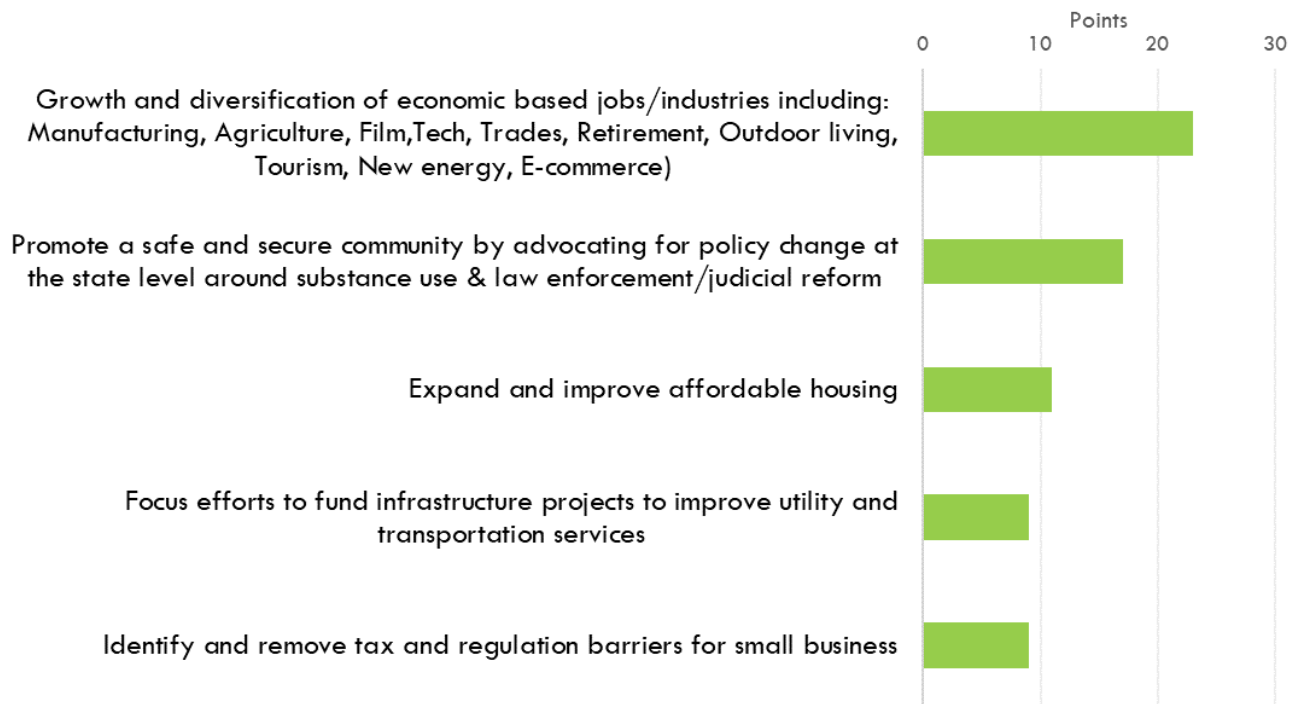
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023, 1-year estimates. (Table S1701, S1702 & S2201,) *Percent households receiving food stamps (SNAP) are for households by origin of householder as noted.

WORKFORCE: FOCUS GROUP & ACCESS TO JOB TRAINING

A Focus Group with 6 business/economic leaders in the community (e.g., business owners, members of the Small Business Center and Chamber of Commerce) was conducted in June, 2024 to get their perspective on improving the economy in San Juan County. The group’s conclusions were in alignment with results of the Needs Assessment survey and other Key Informants’ input.

The group responded to the question below, with each participant providing their individual responses, followed by a group vote and assigning points to identify the priorities. General categories are shown with the number of votes, along with subtopics included under each category.

“What should be the focus in developing an action plan for expanding / improving the economy in San Juan County?” (n=6)



Additional ideas suggested by group members included: Explore private and public partnerships, tourism shop featuring local artists, promote collaboration and market efforts; Employee retention such as affordable childcare, transportation (especially outside of Farmington), quality of life for employees; Expand human capital with training programs, and feeder programs for medical, tech and AI; Beautification of San Juan County, Promote and increase pride in San Juan County and NM; Expand healthcare providers

Access to Job Training Programs

100% San Juan County Initiative Survey (2023)

A question on the 100% San Juan County Survey found 18% of the respondents reported needing job training programs. Of those who sought job training programs, 38% reported difficulty accessing the programs.

Source: 100% San Juan County Survey (2023)

Difficulty Accessing Job Training Programs (100% San Juan County Initiative Survey)

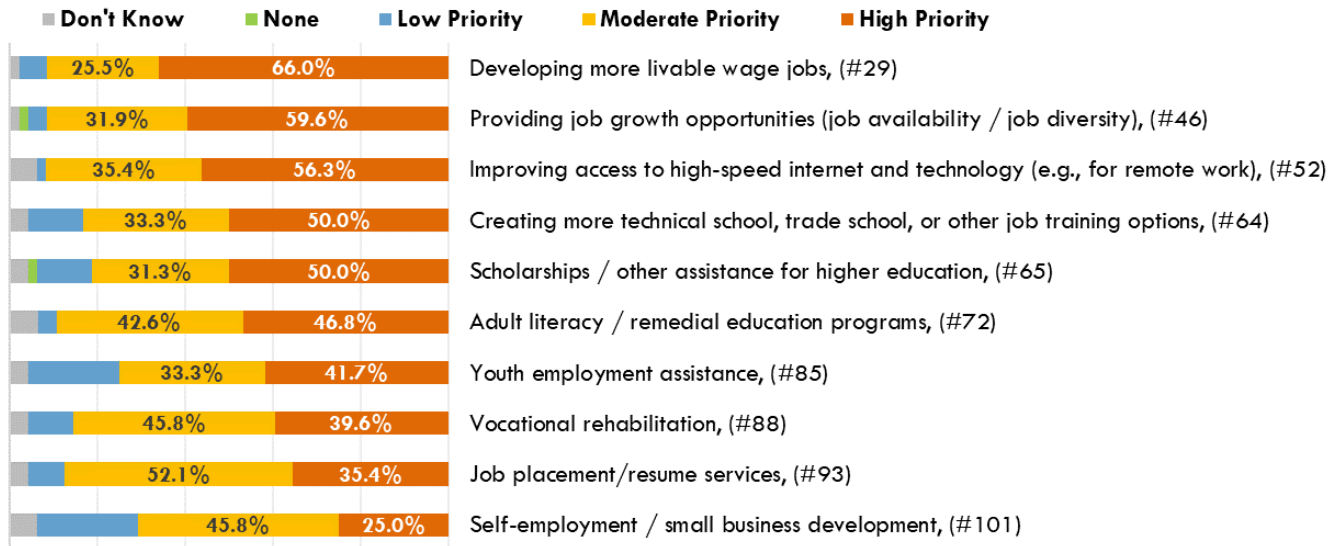


WORKFORCE/EMPLOYMENT: KEY INFORMANTS

Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each (n=49)

JOB MARKET & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

On the Key Informant survey, “developing more livable wage jobs” was the top-ranked issue/need within employment, rated a high priority by two thirds (66%) of the respondents and ranked #29 overall out of 106 issues/needs.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Employment and related services?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority” within the topic Employment, Key Informants highlighted “living wage” and higher paying jobs as critical in the areas of building a stable and secure economy.

- Higher pay / Living wage (8)
- Job training, life skills / job skills (6)
- Youth opportunities and services for job searching skills (5)
- Diversification of economy- alternatives to oil and gas (5)
- Literacy / education level of workforce (3)
- Awareness/Education (3)
- Priorities mentioned by two Key Informants included: Job growth opportunities; Local trade and interested businesses; High speed internet; Affordable college / higher ed; More jobs in general
- Priorities mentioned by one Key Informant included: Education / parents - values; Transportation to work; Attract more business to area / hub; Individual strengths and life skills; Virtual opportunities; Values, people who care; Documentation

Assisting young adults in finding employment and/or trade school that fits their strengths and interests.

Increasing job training and job growth opportunities for people of all ages with minimal background experience.

Job creations that are very diversified. Most preference is given to Oil and Gas and Energy initiatives for a dying industry only benefits a small few.

Building on individuals' strengths and helping them look for employment first and foremost and building from that point forward. May need basic documents of valid ID, SS card, a reliable mailing address.

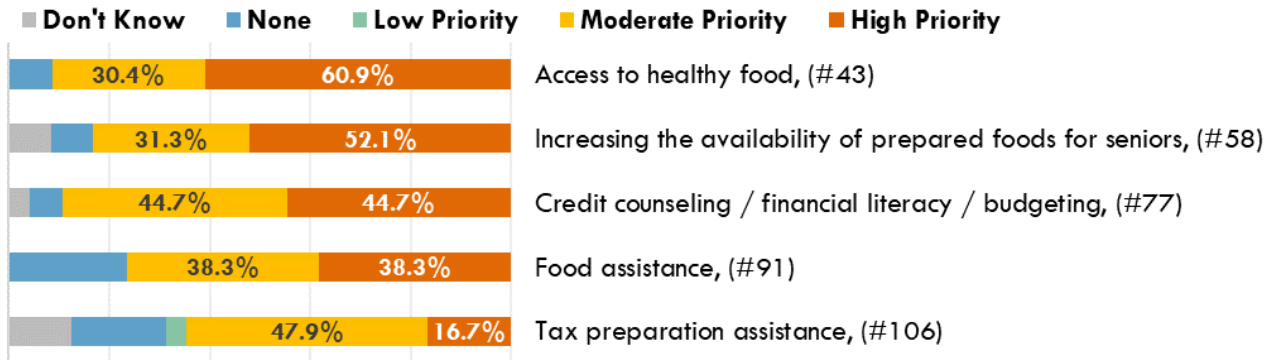
Providing more education on how to get a job and how to keep a job. So many are able to get the job but unable to sustain employment.

FINANCES & ASSISTANCE: KEY INFORMANTS

Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each (n=49)

FINANCES/EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Within the area of financial assistance and emergency assistance such as food assistance programs, “Access to healthy food” was rated a priority by 61% of the Key Informants.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Finances / Assistance and related services?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority” within the topic Finances, Key Informants highlighted budgeting classes and financial education as the priority.

1. Budgeting, financial education (13)
2. Food assistance (6)
3. Access to healthy food (6)
4. Educate about resources (4)
5. Educate about title loans, loan sharks, predators (3)
6. Job placement, workforce readiness (2)
7. Values and work ethic (2)
8. Additional priorities mentioned by one Key Informant included: Collaborate with caseworkers; More attention on tribal and rural needs; Financial services assistance (e.g., help with taxes); General cost of living; Utilities assistance

“Providing support for food for those in crisis, helping them apply for supports, such as food stamps. May not have skills to complete application on-line, may need more direct help and guidance and understanding that continued check-in with these agencies is needed to keep assistance.”

“Educating on budgets, how to reduce debt and how to start an emergency fund.”

“Access to programs that assist individuals and families with food assistance and credit counseling. Removing the high interest loan lenders.”

KEY FINDINGS

Economics & Employment

- On the Needs Assessment survey, the need to address “Unemployment/Job Growth” and to increase “Workforce Development, Job Training” opportunities were among the top-ranked priorities (#3 and #6) out of 27 items.
- The unemployment rate in San Juan County is generally similar to New Mexico and the U.S., averaging 4.2% in the past two years (Aug 2022 - July 2024).
- The experience of having lost a job in 2023 was relatively common: one-fourth of respondents reported that they or someone in their household had lost a job within the past year, and 27% of those who had looked for work had “a lot of difficulty” finding employment.
- When asked about the current job market in San Juan County, 20% of the respondents think there are “not enough” jobs; 41% think there are “somewhat” enough.
- Respondents with a high school education were more likely to report being currently unemployed, compared to other levels of educational attainment, and were also more likely to experience difficulty finding work.
- “Educational Services/Healthcare & Social Services” is the largest employing industry, although the industry saw a downturn from 2022 to 2023, and an overall decrease since 2016. “Mining/Oil & Gas” has decreased as well, by 3% since 2016, but is still the 4th leading employing industry. The Industries of “Accommodation & Food Services” and “Retail Trade” saw the largest growth, currently the second and third largest industries of employment.
- In written comments, respondents’ most frequent comment was the need for Job Training, including apprenticeships and entry level positions for gaining experiencing; followed by the desire for more jobs in Healthcare/Social assistance and in Trades.
- The need for higher wages and jobs that pay a “living wage” was the next most frequent category of comments on the Needs Assessment Resident Survey.
- On the Key Informant survey, the top-ranked item within Employment was the need to “Develop more livable wage jobs,” ranked #29 out of 106, and rated a “high priority” by two-thirds of the respondents.
- The priority identified by the Focus Group on “Expanding and Improving the Economy” was the need for “Growth and Diversification of economic-based jobs/industries.” Similar to comments by respondents on the Needs Assessment survey, Focus Group participants identified areas for growth as Trades and Manufacturing, New Energy, and Tourism, among others.
- Most recent Census estimates from 2022 to 2023 showed a positive turn in household income and poverty. More years are needed to determine if these economic improvements represent actual trends.
- Compared to the 2016 survey, the ability to afford household expenses has become much more difficult. On the current 2023 Needs Assessment survey, 46% reported difficulty affording “Basic Essentials,” a significant increase from 33% in 2016.
- On the Key Informant survey, in the topic area of Finances/Emergency Assistance, “Access to healthy food” was a top-ranked concern, and ‘Budgeting/financial education,’ along with ‘Food assistance’ were most frequently listed as number one priorities in open-ended comments.

HOUSING



“Our homes, and those of our neighbors, play a critical role in shaping our health and the health of the whole community.” (County Health Rankings)

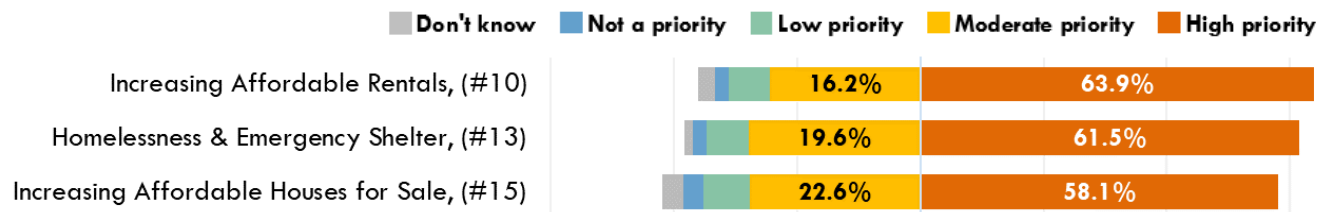
Introduction: The affordability and stability of housing are important factors for a healthy, thriving community. Housing is a substantial expense, reflecting the largest single monthly expense for most individuals and families. Being “cost burdened” decreases the likelihood of being able to pay utility bills, to have a usual source of medical care, or having a sufficient supply of food or prescribed medicines. Having low income and being cost burdened also increases the likelihood of housing instability and homelessness. The neighborhoods in which our homes are located can have a profound impact on health, influencing the availability and accessibility of resources such as public transportation, grocery stores, and safe spaces to exercise, which are all correlated with improved health outcomes.

Need for Focus on Housing

On the Resident Survey, “Affordable rentals” was among the top-ranked priorities (#10), with 64% of the respondents rating this item as a “high priority” in need of additional focus. Community needs related to “Homelessness and emergency shelter” and “Affordable houses for sale” were mid-ranked priorities, ranked #13 and #15 respectively out of a total of 27 issues.

Ratings of Housing Needs

Resident Needs Assessment Survey (2023)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,1626)

Residents' Ratings: Additional Comparisons

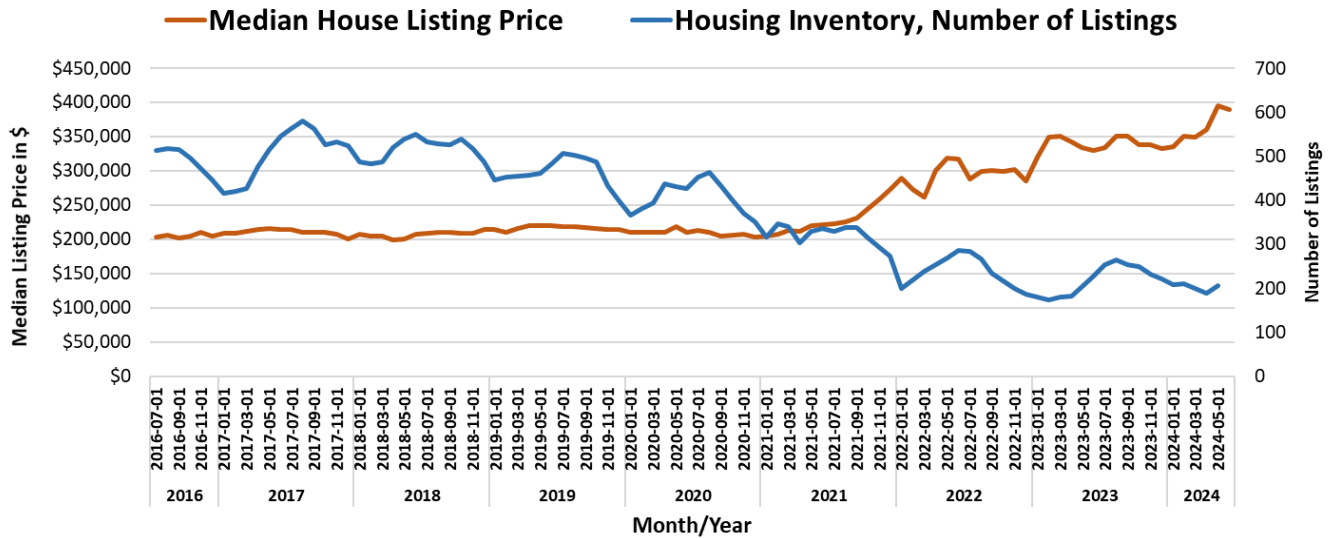
By **income**, respondents with household income below \$30,000 were more likely to prioritize the need for addressing “Homelessness and Emergency Shelter” (75%), as well as the other two housing-related needs/issues, including “Affordable Rentals” (74%) and the need for “Affordable Houses for Sale” (70%), compared to those with incomes above \$30k.

By **current housing situation**, a higher percentage of respondents who reported they are currently renting a house or apartment gave higher priority ratings to the need for “Affordable Rentals” (rated a high priority by 80% of renters, compared to 56% of homeowners), as well as the need for “Affordable Houses” (rated a high priority by 70% of renters compared to 51% of homeowners).

HOUSING MARKET

Real-Estate Market: Cost and Availability of Housing Listings (July 2016 - May, 2024)

Most recent market data (through May, 2024) shows the increase in price and decrease in availability of houses for sale. These trends are not unique to San Juan County. The inventory and availability of houses for sale has steadily decreased, and the median price has increased. From May 2020 to May 2024 there was an 81% increase in median house prices on the market, and a 52% decrease in the number of listings.



Source: Realtor.com, Housing Inventory: Total Listing Count in San Juan County, NM [TOTLISCOU35045], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/TOTLISCOU35045>, August 12, 2024.

Table 3.1. Housing Inventory, San Juan County (Census, 2023)

Of the estimated 48,435 total housing units across the County, 88% (42,670) were occupied. Of all housing units, 30.8% are mobile homes in San Juan County, compared to 5.6% across the U.S.

Housing Units by Owner/Renter and Type of Housing				
Indicator	Occupied Housing Units	Owner-occupied		Renter-occupied
		With Mortgage	Without Mortgage	
Number	42,670	14,324	16,661	11,685
<i>Percent of total</i>		33.6%	39.0%	27.4%
Median Home Value	\$201,700	\$217,400	\$121,700	--
Ave. persons per household	--	2.79		2.84
Single Unit	59.0%	--		--
Mobile Home	30.8%	--		--
Multi-Unit	9.7%	--		--

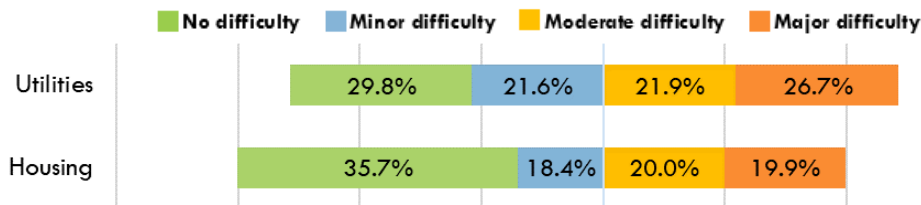
Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2023: 1-year estimates (Table DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics)

HOUSING COSTS

Difficulty Affording Housing Costs, Past Year: San Juan County, NM Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

When asked if respondents or household members had difficulty affording different types of expenses, “Utilities” was the top-rated #1 expense of the 10 expenses listed, with 48.6% reporting difficulty affording (26.7% major difficulty and 21.9% moderate difficulty). “Housing” was ranked #5 of the 10 expenses, with a total of 39.9% indicating difficulty (19.9% major and 20.0% moderate). There was a significant difference between homeowners’ and renters’ degree of difficulty affording housing and utilities: 71.3% of renters indicated difficulty affording utilities (including 45% major difficulty), compared to 37.7% of homeowners, (with 17.6% reporting major difficulty); 67.8% of renters indicated difficulty affording housing (31.0% major difficulty), compared to 24.1% of homeowners (11.0% major difficulty).

In the past year, did you or someone in your household have difficulty affording any the following?



Note: Percentages exclude those who selected "Does not apply."

Table 3.2. Housing Costs, San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S. (Census, 2023)

Householders are considered “housing cost-burdened” when they spend 30% or more of their household income on housing costs, and *extremely* cost-burdened at 35% or more. Renters experience the greatest cost burden overall. Compared to the state and U.S., renters in San Juan County are somewhat less cost-burdened overall. For example, in San Juan County, 42.8% of renters are cost burdened, compared to 49.4% in New Mexico and 51.8% across the U.S.

Housing Expenses by Type (2023)								
Indicator	San Juan County				New Mexico		U.S.	
	Overall	Homeowners		Renters	Home-owners*	Renters	Home-owners*	Renters
		With Mortgage	Without Mortgage					
Housing Expenses	\$904	\$1450	\$488	\$965	\$1500	\$1084	\$1904	\$1406
Housing Cost-burdened								
30%+ Income	28.0%	30.8%	15.0%	42.8%	28.4%	49.4%	28.6%	51.8%
30-34.9%	--	4.9%	3.4%	13.2%	6.0%	8.6%	6.7%	9.3%
35% or more	--	25.9%	11.6%	29.6%	22.4%	40.8%	21.9%	42.5%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2023 1-year estimates (Table DP04) *Housing costs for Homeowners with a mortgage. These data are the most recent Census data available, but do not reflect market changes over the past year.

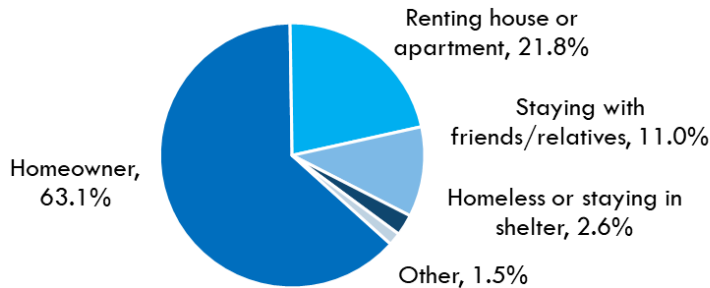
EXPERIENCES WITH CURRENT HOUSING

Housing Situation

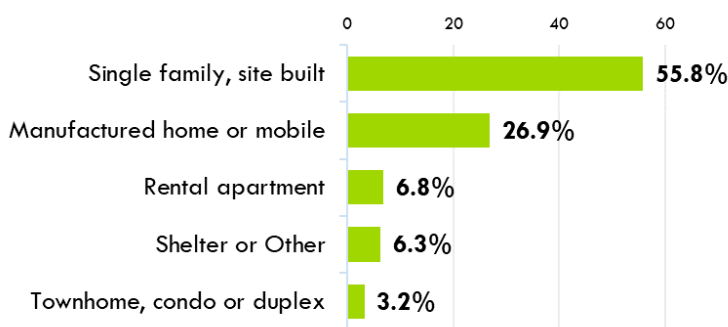
Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

On the Needs Assessment survey, 63% respondents were living in owner-occupied housing and 22% in rentals. Another 15% reported they were staying with friends/relatives (11.0%), were currently homeless or staying in shelter (2.6%) or in “other” living situations (1.5%). Most of those who specified “other” described living in an RV or camp trailer, or being in transition between housing.

What is your current living situation? (n=1,489)



What is your current housing type? (n=1,480)



By Zip Code/Area of County

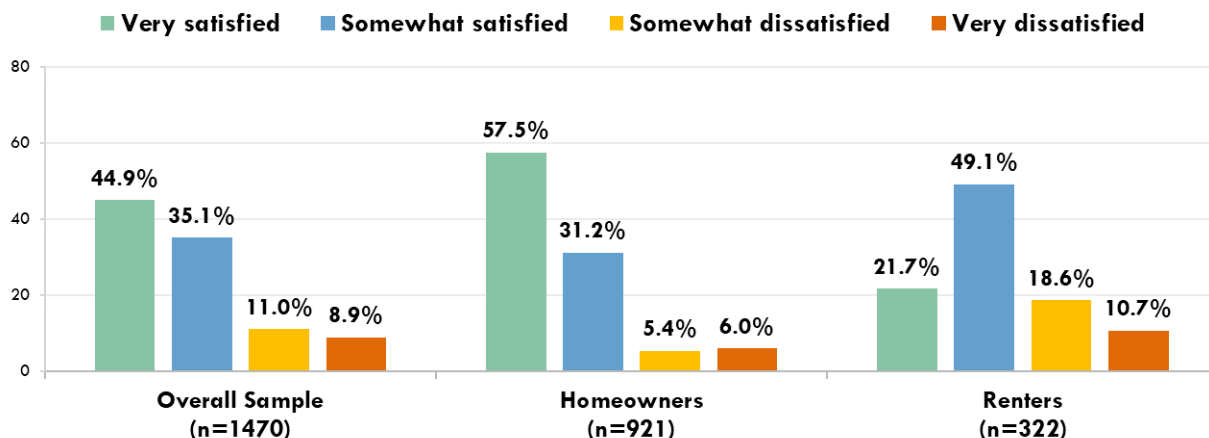
Living Situation. Homeowner living situations were more common among respondents living in Aztec (76%), Rural parts of the county (70%) and Bloomfield (65%), compared to other areas, Farmington (60%), Kirtland-Fruitland (59%) and Shiprock (54%). Renting was more common in Farmington (28%), followed by Bloomfield (24%), Shiprock (18%), Kirtland-Fruitland (16%), Aztec (16%), and rural areas of the county (7%).

Housing Type. Mobile Homes were more commonly selected by respondents from Aztec (54%) followed by Bloomfield and Kirtland/Fruitland (45%), and rural areas (32%), whereas site-built homes were most common in Farmington (65%) and Shiprock (55%).

“How would you rate your satisfaction with your current living situation?”

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

Housing satisfaction is significantly different for those in different living situations. Just over half (57.5%) of the homeowners reported they are “Very satisfied” with their housing, compared to 21.7% of the renters.



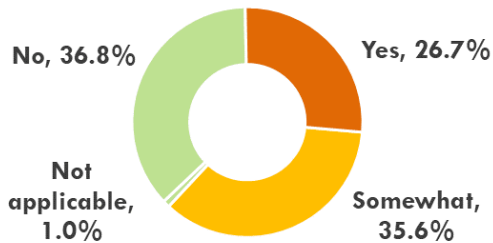
Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

NEEDS FOR HOUSING IMPROVEMENT

Need for Repairs / Home Improvement

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

Is your current housing in need of major repairs (n=1,467)



Just over one out of four respondents (26.7%, “yes”) on the Needs Assessment Survey reported their house or apartment was “in need of major repairs.”

By Housing Situation: Respondents living in Manufactured/Mobile Homes were most likely to report their housing needed major repairs (Yes, 38%), followed by those in Rental Apartments (Yes, 29.6%), Townhomes (Yes, 25.1%) and finally by Site-built Homes (Yes, 19.1%).

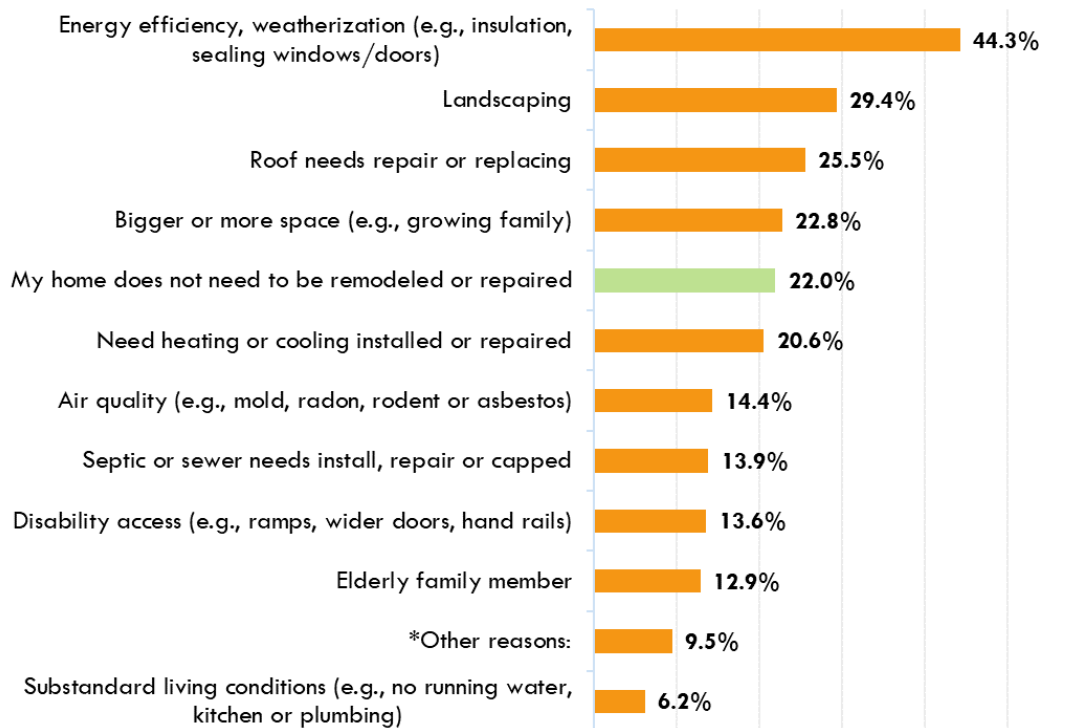
Reasons for Needing Remodeling/Repairs

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

The most common reason for needing remodeling or repairs was for “Energy efficiency”, selected by 44% of the respondents on the survey.

By Housing Situation: Among those who selected needing “Energy Efficiency,” 52% were living in Mobile Homes, 42% in Site-built homes, and 25% in Rental Apartments. Needing repairs to address “Substandard living conditions” was selected by a higher percentage of those living in Rental Apartments (11.5%) followed by those in Mobile Homes (7.4%).

Does your home or apartment need to be remodeled or changed for any of the following reasons? (n=1,405) (Select all that apply.)



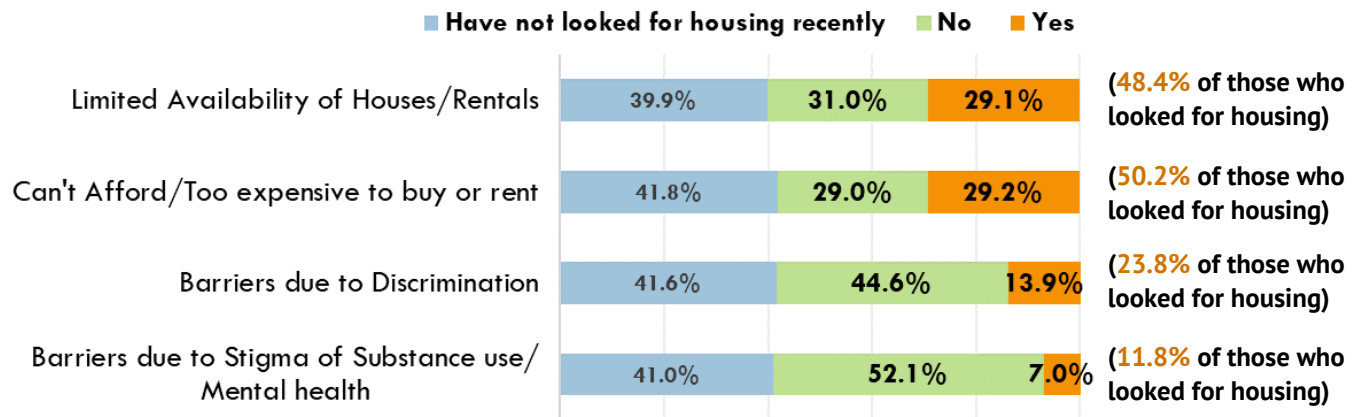
Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

BARRIERS TO FINDING HOUSING

Barriers to Finding Housing in San Juan County Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

Approximately 60% of the respondents on the Needs Assessment survey responded that they had looked for housing in the past three years, and among those who looked, 48.4% reported difficulty finding a place to live because of *availability*, and 50.2% reported difficulty because of *affordability*. Other questions asked about barriers due to discrimination or stigma.

In the past three years, have you experienced difficulty finding a place to live in San Juan County because of ...



Sources: SJCP Needs Assessment, Resident Survey (Fall, 2023). Barriers due to discrimination asks: "Have you experienced barriers in San Juan County to renting or buying a home or apartment because of race/ethnicity, national origin, religion, family status, gender, disability, or sexual orientation?"

Table 3.3. Barriers to Finding Housing: San Juan County, NM Needs Assessment Survey, 2023

Among those who had looked for housing, affordability and availability were rated similarly within categories of current housing situations. Respondents currently staying with friends/family or experiencing homelessness were more likely to report barriers due to discrimination or stigma.

Barriers to Finding Housing by Living Situation					
Indicator	Overall (n=868)	Current Renters (n=259)	Current Homeowners (n=465)	Staying with Friends/Relatives (n=99)	Homeless/in Shelter (n=26)
Limited Availability of Houses/Rentals	48.4%	74.1%	25.8%	81.5%	83.7%
Can't Afford/Too Expensive to Buy or Rent	50.2%	75.5%	22.6%	80.2%	79.5%
Barriers Due to Discrimination*	23.8%	28.5%	12.2%	45.3%	66.5%
Barriers due to Stigma of Substance Use/Mental Health	11.8%	14.9%	5.2%	19.8%	47.1%

Sources: SJCP Needs Assessment, Resident Survey (Fall, 2023). *"Have you experienced barriers in San Juan County to renting or buying a home or apartment because of race/ethnicity, national origin, religion, family status, gender, disability, or sexual orientation?"

HOUSING INSTABILITY / INSECURITY

Based on CDC's adult survey and Census data (2022), it is estimated that:

One out of five adults in San Juan County (**21.6%**) experiences **"housing insecurity,"** or not being able to pay mortgage, rent, or utility bill in the past 12 months.



It is also estimated that **15% experienced a "utility services threat,"** reporting that an electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off services at any time during the prior 12 months. (Source: PLACES. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/places>).

In the past year (August 2023 - 2024), there were **582 eviction filings** in San Juan County against **4.6%** of current renters. <https://evictionlab.org/eviction-tracking/new-mexico/>

Housing Instability, Adults Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

On the Needs Assessment survey, 6.7% reported they did not have a stable, permanent place to live in the past month.

By Income: Those with incomes below \$30,000 were significantly more likely to report the experience (14.8%) compared with 2.8% with incomes between \$30 - 75,000 and 0.4% of those with incomes above \$75k.

Do you have a permanent and stable place to live? (n=1,585)



Housing Instability, Youth YRRS/YRBS (2023)

On the youth survey (YRRS, 2023), 3.6% of high school youth reported they slept somewhere other than their parent's/guardian's home in the past month, the definition of homelessness used by the NM Public Education Dept. This percentage is similar to 3% across the U.S. and 3.2% across New Mexico.

Youth: Where usually sleep is in a parent's or guardians' home



On the 2021 YRRS, when asked about reasons for sleeping somewhere other than home, 4.6% reported they had run away, been kicked out or abandoned.

Additional Analyses

On the Resident Needs Assessment survey, those who reported they did not have a permanent, stable place to live were significantly more likely to report stressful life events in the prior year, including three times the likelihood of having been a victim of crime (30.5%) compared to those with stable housing (10.2%), and twice as likely to have lost a job in the past year (55.1%) compared to 23.3% of those with stable housing.

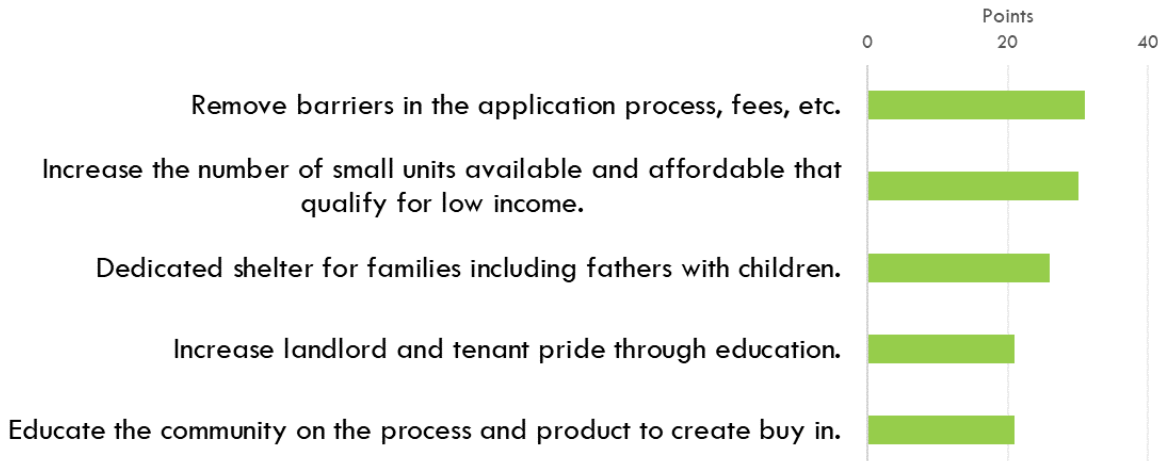
ACCESS TO HOUSING PROGRAMS

HOUSING FOCUS GROUP

A Focus Group with 13 housing stakeholders and providers, including representation from non-profits, housing and homeless shelter programs, counseling and social services, was conducted in March, 2024 to get their perspective on access to housing in San Juan County.

The group responded to the question below, with each participant providing their individual responses, followed by a group vote and assigning points to identify the priorities.

“How can we best facilitate positive changes within housing in San Juan County?” (n=13)



Difficulty Accessing Affordable Housing Security Services

100% San Juan County Initiative Survey (2023)

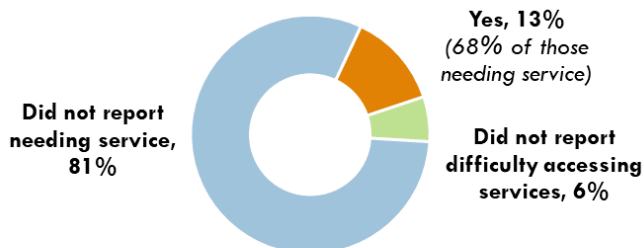
Affordable housing security programs include services such as housing voucher programs to be able to provide rental assistance and case management to those in unstable housing situations, experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing housing.

On the 100% San Juan County Survey, **19%** reported needing housing security programs at some time. Those more likely to report needing it were single-parents (32.2%), young parents (25.1%), Native Americans (33.2%) and those living in extended family/Tribal communities (38.6%).

Among the 19% who reported needing these programs/services, 68% reported difficulty accessing them. The most frequently selected barriers among those needing it were:

- Wait list is too long: (69%)
- I was told I don't qualify: (42%)
- Takes too long to get an appointment: (32%)
- I don't qualify: (31%)
- I don't know where to get this service: (29%)

Difficulty accessing housing security programs
(100% San Juan County Initiative Survey)

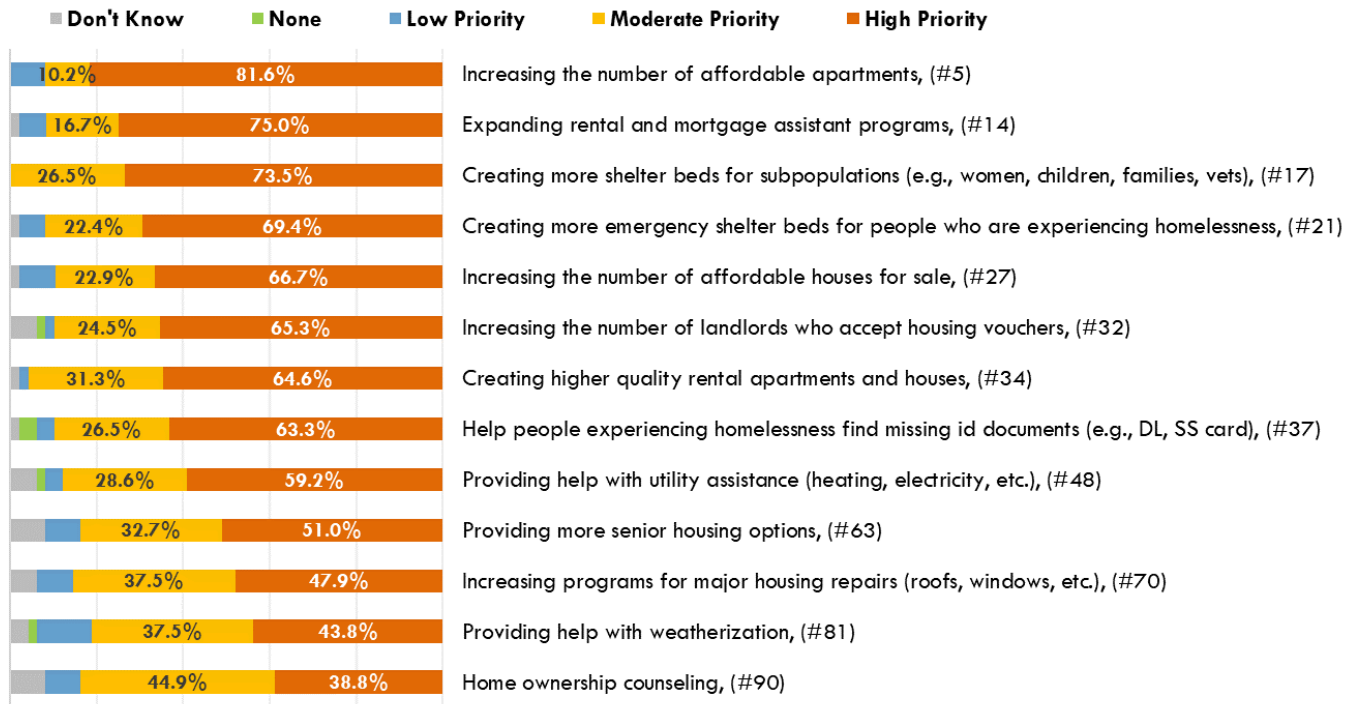


Source: 100% San Juan County Survey (2023)

HOUSING PRIORITIES: KEY INFORMANTS

“Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each” (n=49)

On the Key Informant Survey, ‘increasing the number of affordable apartments’ emerged as a top priority, ranked #5 overall among 106 issues/needs and rated a high priority by 81.6% of the respondents. Other priorities included expanding housing assistance programs and shelter beds for subpopulations and for those experiencing homelessness overall.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Housing?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority,” Key Informants echoed a number of the options listed/ranked above. Categories of responses are shown below, along with a few representative quotes:

1. Affordable Housing Options (32.7%)
2. Availability/Housing Inventory (16.3%)
3. Security programs/services (16.3%)
4. Homelessness/Shelter (14.3%)
5. Collaborating with Landlords (8.2%)
6. Housing for those with lower incomes (8.2%)
7. Education about resources (6.1%)

Additional priorities mentioned were addressing general societal issues, such as mental health, substance use, transportation, education level in general, and the overall economy.

“I would probably say at this moment it would be the increase of number of landlords who accept housing vouchers. Second, more emergency shelters for people experiencing homelessness.”

“We need more affordable housing options, especially for seniors, vets, single parents, and disabled individuals.”

“Assistance for home buyers”

“Increase one-bedroom units in community environments where there is a sense of community.”

“Development of subdivisions, condos, affordable middle class builds/construction.”

COMMENTS ABOUT HOUSING

“What other community needs or priorities do you think need more attention and focus?” Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

An open-ended question following the list of Community Needs/Issues that respondents were asked to rate asked about what *other* needs or issues need more focus. Many comments elaborated or reiterated those already in the list. There were **76 comments about Housing**. Representative comments in subcategories related to housing are shown below.

Affordable / Available Housing (n=25)

- I want to move or buy a home but it's so expensive
- Affordable housing and inventory to purchase
- Housing market is too high
- Affordable food and housing
- Greatest need is affordable housing that allow pets
- More housing options that are reasonably priced
- More affordable housing for new graduates

Utilities (n=22)

- Utility assistance
- Natural Gas Access to all Farmington Residents! Doing away with "Base Charge & Repair/Replacement Charge" for the retired residents of water services!
- Affordable utilities, that is affecting a lot of people here.
- People need help, especially during the Winter, with gas and electric utilities. No one should have these cut off and suffer from cold
- Help for low income and elderly to pay for utilities. With inflations so high, I'd like to see a fund that would subsidize what the family or individual can't cover.
- The electricity and gas bills are becoming outrageous

Rental Housing (n=14)

- Landlord/Tenant issues for mobile homes...make landlords get places rent ready....I just moved to the area and I can't believe what landlords are renting. Can't believe they are getting away with this Helping the homeless.
- The homeless and low income people it's very hard to come up with all of the move in costs
- Rental prices too high
- Anonymous Noise compliance with apartment complexes.

Other Suggestions (n=11)

- Reservation homes need more attention. Some people homes are damaged and cannot get help. For instance, HUD turned me down because my house was unlivable. They told me I have a house.
- Restrict corporate ownership of single family homes in San Juan County. Houses should be for families to live in, not a way for hedge funds and rental slumlords to make easy money. Did you know that 44% of single family homes sold in 2023 were snatched up by investment companies? The American Dream of owning a home is increasingly out of reach for my generation.

COMMENTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

“What other community needs or priorities do you think need more attention and focus?” Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

An open-ended question following the list of Community Needs/Issues that respondents were asked to rate asked about what *other* needs or issues need more focus. Many comments elaborated or reiterated those already in the list. There were **91 comments about Homelessness**. Representative examples in the most frequent subcategories for homelessness are shown below.

More Shelters / Help (n=36)

- The homelessness is such a huge problem in San Juan County. We need more shelters for not only women and their children but for men as well. The PATH has way too many requirements for a person to live there. We need more shelters, and affordable housing.
- I think the community needs to focus on the homeless and homeless shelters. There are many people who freeze during the winter time. Yes there is the detox center but some people tell me they can't be there no more because of an issue that had happened. I think there should be more help with people with families.
- Red Lion needs to be a homeless option for families in transition
- Better sober living facilities
- Help make our community safer by helping those in need such as the homeless and people on the street.
- A place to feed the homeless at least twice a day
- A desperate need of a day-in /day-out Shelter and shelter for families
- The community priorities are the homeless and hunger rate.
- The homeless community needs the most focus and attention. It is getting worse each year, especially around the cold months.
- Need more victim advocates to guide to resources.
- Maybe a youth home for teens

Specific Issues Described & Other Suggestions (n=34)

- I feel what the community can really use in Shiprock or bordering areas is place where the homeless can sleep with heat and food served for those in need. We have a lot of Native Americans who wander during the late night and the nights are very cold in this area. We had a death last year in Shiprock, by the Cesar pizza due to cold conditions.
- Address the poverty like people living in run down structures or their cars, no food for the very poor and poor children in schools and poor dental health.
- I know the transients and people with substance abuse is a real issue. Sometimes I don't want to take my family and nieces and nephews places because of the concern of being harassed or impeded by them. I feel like you always have to be in guard and watchful.
- People loitering around the city sleeping outside buildings and parks
- The people living in their car are trying to find jobs most of them are waiting on assistance to have a place to have a address. More help for the ones trying to better themselves and not trying to take advantage of the help.
- A place for women who struggled to keep a stable job or who have to stay in an abusive relationship because they have nowhere else to go
- Housing/shelter for women and children, that aren't coming from a DV situation, therefore women shelter isn't available, also if they have substance abuse/mental illness the PATH isn't available either. So where does someone in that situation go? There is nowhere I know of and that leads to single parents to make poor choices of where to stay due to desperation and lack of resources.
- Immediate housing and follow up for 18 plus youth and displaced disabled who need immediate housing and services
- Change the definition of homeless, people living in cars or couch surfing etc are not considered homeless because they have shelter they have to live on the streets, under bridges, under bushes in trailers that walls ceiling are full of holes, rat infested etc so make the changes of homeless
- Needing emergency shelter, food, place to wash up for free for homeless families that have children that are attending school thru elementary thru high school for those that stay in Walmart parking lots or that stay in their vehicles in the freezing cold. Like make a Foster a Family Program for those that can't work that are on disability or that are able bodied & needing that help to search for work & get back on their feet. Also a program that can possibly house for free with utilities included with transportation cost such as free bus fare or vehicle payments until the persons struggling can afford to be on their own or until they can do for themselves & for those with disability to get ongoing free cost of living help for they're on a fixed income.

KEY FINDINGS

Housing

- On the Needs Assessment survey, “Increasing affordable rentals” was the top-rated item within housing (#10 out of 27), followed by “Homelessness & Emergency Shelter” needs (#13) and “Increasing Affordable Houses for Sale” (#15).
- The last several years have seen dramatic changes in the housing market, with increased home prices and a decrease in the inventory of available housing.
- Compared to many other areas across the U.S., the actual percentages of housing cost burden among renters and homeowners is lower in San Juan County. Nevertheless, on the Needs Assessment Resident survey, half the respondents reported challenges affording utilities, and 40% reported challenge affording housing in general.
- The level of satisfaction with housing is similar to results of the 2016 needs assessment. However, a significantly larger percentage reported that their home or apartment needs to be remodeled for energy efficiency (44%, compared to 37% in 2016). The need for “Landscaping” was also a high-ranked need by 29% of the respondents, followed by needing a roof repair or replacement (25.5%) and more space for a growing family (23%).
- Availability and affordability of housing pose equal levels of difficulty for those seeking housing. Half of the respondents who had looked for housing in the previous three years experienced barriers due to limited availability (48%), and half had experienced barriers due to cost (50%).
- It is estimated that one out of five adults in San Juan County experiences “housing insecurity,” defined as not being able to pay mortgage, rent, or utility bill in the past year.
- The experience of housing instability, or not having a stable, permanent place to live is associated with higher risk of stressful life events and mental health challenges for youth and adults.
- Of the one out of five people (19%) reporting they needed housing security programs, over two thirds (68%) experienced difficulty accessing the services.
- The Focus Group on housing identified the importance of removing barriers for those seeking housing, along with increasing the number of available rentals for those with lower incomes.
- Key Informants rated the need to “Increase the number of affordable apartments” as a top-ranked issue (#5 out of 106), along with needs to “Expand rental and mortgage assistance programs (#14) and more shelter situations in general (#17) and for specific subpopulations (#21).
- On written comments, Key Informants highlighted affordability of housing options in general as the top priority within housing.

HEALTH & WELLNESS



*“Access to affordable, quality health care is important to physical, social, and mental health.”
(County Health Rankings)*

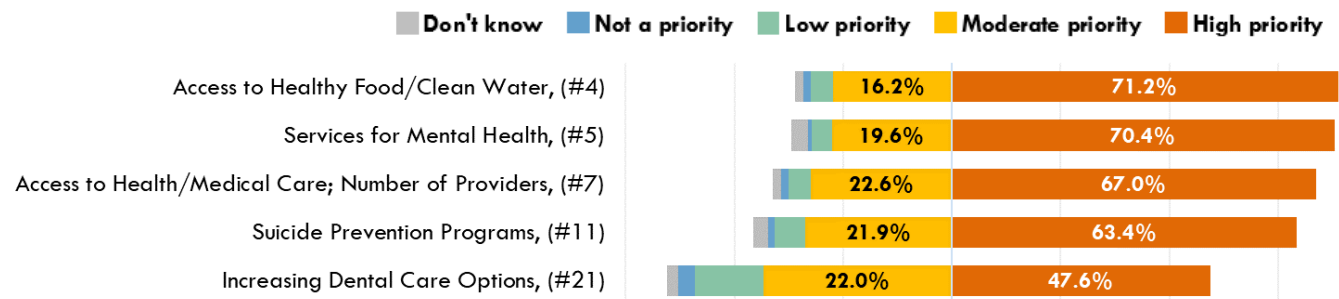
Introduction: Many different factors contribute to living longer, healthier lives, and there is no single determinant. Health behaviors such as diet and exercise, access to affordable healthcare, the physical environment and housing conditions, as well as socioeconomic factors such as education, income, employment, family and social support, as well as safety, are all intersecting, contributing factors. This section focuses on some of the major indicators of health and mental health, and summarizes unique items from the resident household Needs Assessment survey and the 100% San Juan County Initiative survey.

Need for Focus on Access to Healthcare & Mental Health Services

On the Resident Survey, “Access to healthy food/clean water” emerged as one of the top-ranked priorities (#4 of 27 issues), with 71% of the respondents rating this item as a “high priority.” In open-ended comments, respondents referred to current challenges of affordability of food, concerns about the environment, and the importance of healthy diets and nutrition. “Services for Mental Health” was also a top-ranked priority (#5), as was “Access to Healthcare/Number of Providers” (#7).

Ratings of Health-related Issues

Resident Needs Assessment Survey (2023)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

Additional Comparisons: Residents' Ratings by Income Level

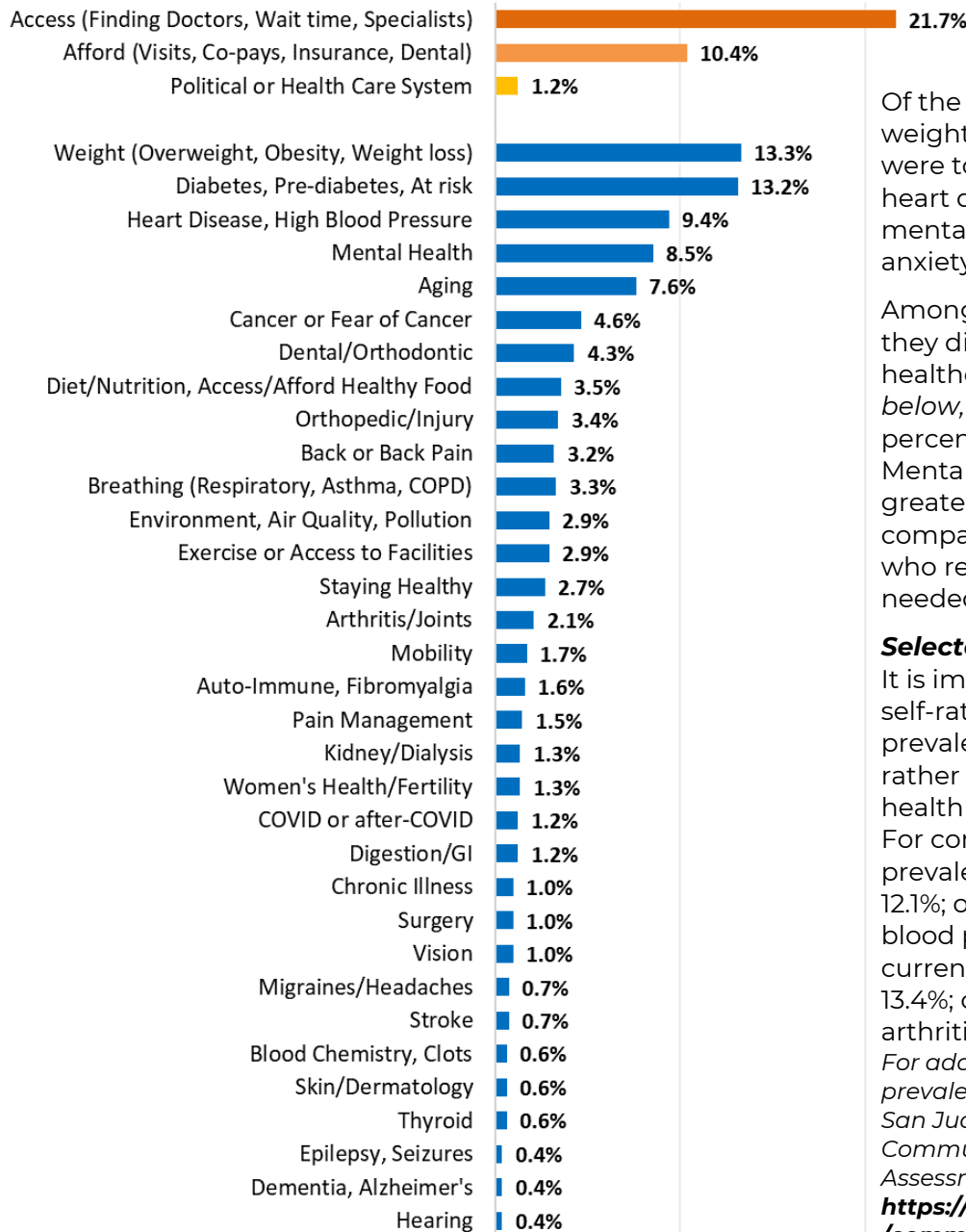
By Income: Ratings of “Access to Healthcare/Number of Providers” were similar regardless of income level (in the range of 66%-69%). Those with incomes below \$30,000 gave significantly higher priority ratings to “Dental Care Options”, and somewhat higher ratings overall. Those with incomes below \$30k and above \$75,000 rated the need for focus on “Mental Health Services” above other health priorities, whereas for those in the middle income bracket (\$30,000-75,000) rated “Access to Healthy Food/Clean Water” as the top-ranked community health issue.

PERSONAL HEALTH CONCERNS

“What is your greatest health concern?”

Needs Assessment Survey (2023, n=821)

On an open-ended question, top-rated health concerns were not always specific conditions. Instead, the most frequently reported health concerns were related to access to healthcare (21.7%) or affording healthcare (10.7%), a total of 32.1%. This was a significant increase from the 2016 survey, when access to healthcare was described as a greatest health concern by 10.3% of respondents.



Of the health conditions listed, weight/obesity and diabetes were top concerns, followed by heart disease/hypertension, mental health (depression, anxiety) and aging.

Among those who reported they did not receive needed healthcare in the past year (see below, pg. 42), a higher percentage (12.5%) reported that Mental Health was their greatest health concern, compared to 7.7% among those who reported they did receive needed care.

Selected Prevalence:

It is important to note that these self-ratings do not reflect actual prevalence of any condition; rather they are the subjective health concerns of respondents. For comparison, the estimated prevalence of current diabetes is 12.1%; of obesity is 33.5%; of high blood pressure is 30.4%; of current asthma among adults is 13.4%; of COPD is 9.0%; and of arthritis is 25.1%. (Source: CDC)

For additional data about prevalence of conditions, see San Juan Regional Medical Center's Community Health Needs Assessment:

<https://www.sanjuanregional.com/community-assessment>

Additional concerns listed by two people (.17%) included: Allergies, Liver, & Substance Use/Addiction. Concerns listed by one person (.08%) included: Anemia, Flu-Colds, Gallbladder, Alopecia, Hernia, Infection, Neuropathy, Osteoporosis, Pancreatitis, Parasites, Pituitary, Seasonal Health Issue, Sleep/Insomnia, TBI, and Tremors.

Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023. Note: percentages exclude those who did not answer or indicated “none” or n/a. A total of 882 answered the question, 61 wrote none or n/a. When responses included multiple concerns, each concern was coded and included, with a total of 1,194 coded concerns.

HEALTH OUTCOMES

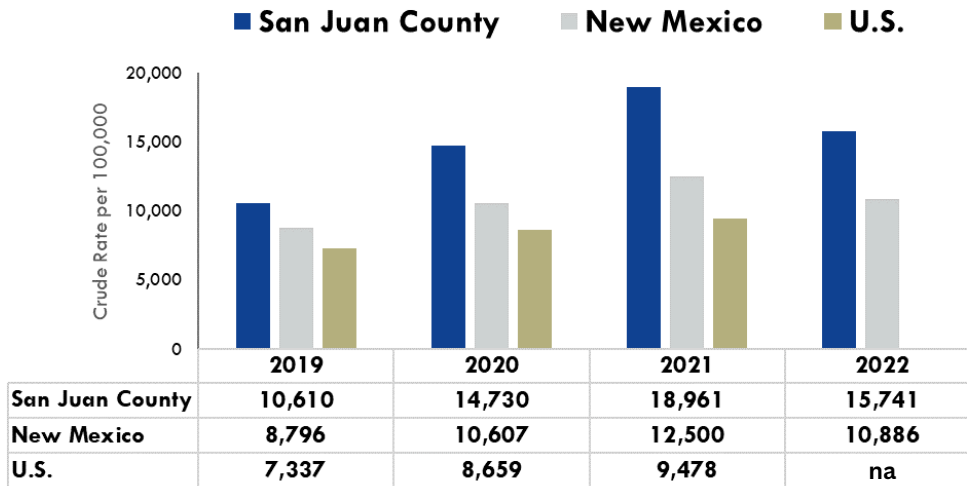
Indicators of community health outcomes include length of life and premature death, and self-rated quality of life. Based on rankings for these outcomes, according to County Health Rankings (<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>), San Juan County is faring worse than the average county in New Mexico for these overall Health Outcomes, and worse than the average county in the nation.

Life Expectancy

In 2022, the life expectancy from birth for San Juan County residents was 70.9 years (66.6 years for men and 75.7 for women). San Juan County's life expectancy is below New Mexico (75.0 years) and the U.S. (75.5 years).

Premature Death, Trends & Comparisons: San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S. Years of Potential Life Lost (2019-2022)

San Juan County has significantly higher rates of premature death, compared to the state and the nation. The Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL), a measure of premature or early death, is an estimate of the number of years people in a community would have lived if they had not died prematurely, before age 75. YPLL is a widely used indicator of overall community health and well-being, reflecting what are often preventable deaths at younger ages. Rates of premature death increased considerably during the pandemic, and are still above pre-pandemic levels. In 2021, San Juan's rate was twice the U.S. rate.



Source: New Mexico Dept. of Health (NM-IBIS) and CDC National Center for Health Statistics

Table 4.1. Disparities in Early Death by Race/Ethnicity & Sex, San Juan County, NM

The table below shows the disparities in premature death. YPLL is higher among males, compared to females, and among Native Americans, compared to other races/ethnicities. The highest rate of YPLL is among Native American males.

Rates, YPLL per 100,000 (2022)			
San Juan County	Overall	Males	Females
Caucasian	10,034	12,850	7,331
Hispanic	8,931	11,928	5,865
Native American	25,341	33,515	17,554

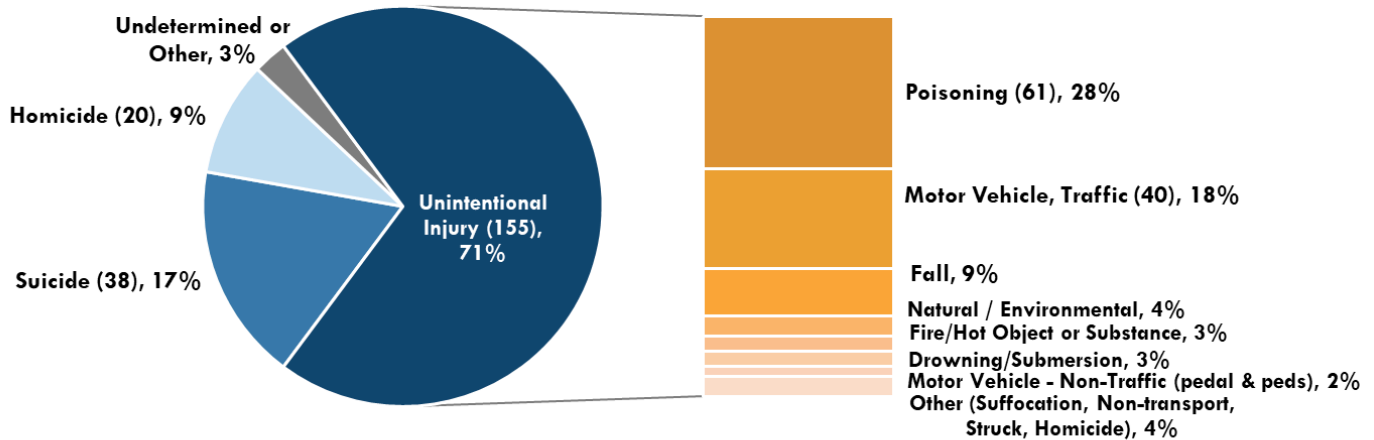
Source: New Mexico Dept. of Health, Indicator-based Information System (NM-IBIS)

HEALTH OUTCOMES, CONT.

Injury Death: San Juan County, NM

Injury Intent and Causes of Unintentional Injury (2022)

Among those under 45 years old, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death. It is the third leading cause of death overall, and the largest contributor to premature death. In 2022 there were 155 unintentional injury deaths, including 61 poisoning. Death due to poisoning, including drug and alcohol overdose, is leading cause of unintentional injury, representing 28% of all injury deaths and 39% of unintentional injury deaths. There were 38 deaths by suicide (self-inflicted, intentional) and 20 homicide deaths in 2022.



Source: New Mexico Dept. of Health, Indicator-based Information System (NM-IBIS)

Table 4.2. Injury Death: San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S. (2022)

Injury death rates in San Juan County, including unintentional injury and suicide, are over twice the U.S. rates. Rates of all types of injury death among males are significantly above rates for females.

Injury Death, Age-adjusted Rates per 100k: San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S. (2022)			
	Total Injury Death	Unintentional Injury	Suicide
San Juan County	187.9	131.3	33.6
<i>Males</i>	286.0	194.0	52.7
<i>Females</i>	94.7	73.2	14.8
New Mexico	134.4	92.2	24.2
U.S.	92.3	68.1	14.2

Source: New Mexico Dept. of Health, Indicator-based Information System (NM-IBIS)

Additional Statistics: Suicide Rate by Subpopulation

By age group, the largest increase in suicide rate has been among those age 35 to 44 years, which increased from a three-year average of 19.3 suicide deaths per 100,000 in 2014-16, to 63.9 most recently in 2020-22. The next highest suicide rate by age group is among those age 25-34 (63.5 per 100,000). Among adolescents and young adults age 15-24, the rate of 32.8 suicide deaths per 100,000 is over three times the national suicide rate (of 13.6) for this age group. Rates are somewhat higher, but not statistically different, among Native Americans (37.9) compared to Caucasians (34.5) and Hispanics (22.6). (NM DOH, 3-year averages, 2020-22)

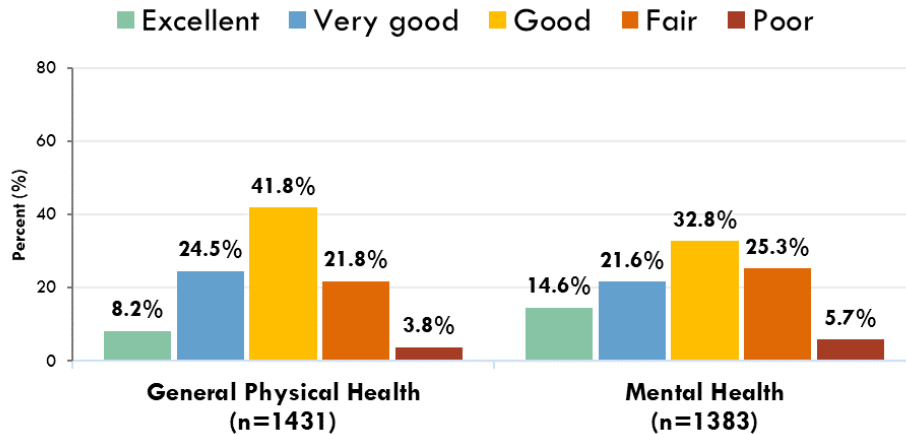
QUALITY OF LIFE & ADULT MENTAL HEALTH

“Quality of Life” is another important overall health outcome, as measured by self-rated physical health and mental health status (ratings of “poor” or “fair” health), and doctor-diagnosed depression.

“How would you rate your overall health and mental health?”

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

On the Needs Assessment survey, one out of four (25.6%) of the respondents residents rated their physical health as “fair” or “poor,” and 31% rated their mental health as “fair” or “poor.”



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

Additional Statistics: Comparisons

The questions above replicate items on CDC’s BRFSS, a national survey of adults. For comparison, on the 2022 BRFSS, 25% adults in San Juan County rated their health as “fair” or “poor,” and 20% of New Mexicans and 17% across the U.S. rated their health as “fair” or “poor.” (Source: CDC BRFSS Prevalence & Trends, 2022: <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/>)

Table 4.3. Quality of Life Indicators: San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S.

Adults in San Juan County have higher self-ratings of frequent mental and physical distress (14 or more days “not good”), compared to the U.S. median. The prevalence of having been ever told by a doctor that “you have a depressive disorder” increased from 17.6% in 2021 to an estimated 25% in 2022. Data available by race/ethnicity and by sex (from 2021) showed higher rates of doctor-diagnosed depression among females compared to males, and somewhat higher among Whites (22.3%) compared to Hispanic residents (18.2%) and Native Americans (12.3%). However, “frequent mental distress” as measured by “14 or more mental health days ‘not good’” were the same by race/ethnicity (17%).

Quality of Life Indicators, Comparison (2022)			
	14+ Days Physical Health “not good”	14+ Days Mental Health “not good”	Doctor-diagnosed Depression
San Juan County	18.0%	22.3%	25.1%
New Mexico	15.9%	20.5%	21.0%
United States	12.4%	14.7% (2021)	21.7%

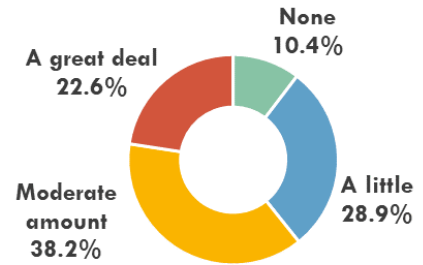
Sources: New Mexico Dept. of Health, *Health Behaviors and Conditions of Adult New Mexicans, 2022 Annual Report*; Race-ethnicity comparisons, NM IBIS (Indicator-based Information System); CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) (<https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/>); CDC Places: <https://experience.arcgis.com/>

LIFE EVENTS & STRESSORS

Anxiety and chronic stress have a significant impact on physical and mental health. Stress and anxiety can contribute to substance use and depression. Chronic stress can also be a contributing factor in physical problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure, digestive issues, sleep problems and weight gain, as well as difficulty concentrating, among other health issues. Having a better understanding of the levels and sources of stress experienced by community residents can aid in empathy and developing holistic solutions.

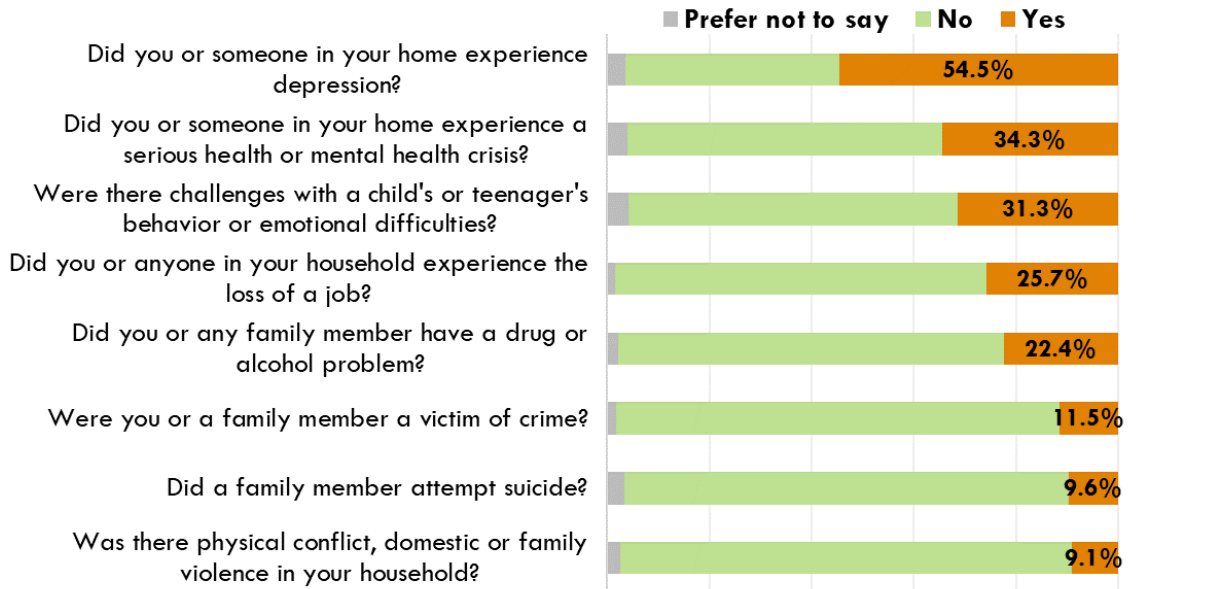
“How much anxiety or stress do you experience on a regular basis?” (n=1,489) Needs Assessment Survey, 2023

In response to a question about stress, over one out of five respondents (22.6%) indicated they experience “a great deal” of stress on a regular basis, and over one-third (38.2%) experience a “moderate amount.”



Challenging Life Events/Situations Needs Assessment Survey, 2023

To gain an understanding of current life challenges, a question on the Needs Assessment survey asked quite personal questions about possible stressful or difficult situations they had faced in the past year. Just over half of the respondents indicated that they or someone in their home had experienced depression, and one-third noted they or someone in their household had experienced a serious health or mental health crisis. Challenges with a child’s behavioral health, the loss of job and substance use were also frequent challenges.



Additional Analyses

Those experiencing higher levels of stress were more likely to indicate that they had faced *multiple* personal or household challenges. Those who indicated they experience “a great deal” of stress or anxiety selected an average of 3.2 challenges in the past year; those with a “moderate level” of stress selected an average of 2. The challenges most associated with highest levels of stress were family suicide attempts, physical conflict in the home, and being a victim of crime.

WELL-BEING & SOCIAL SUPPORT

“What activities do you do to support your health & well-being?” (n=1,469) Needs Assessment Survey, 2023

The Needs Assessment survey asked about activities residents do to support their health and well-being. Spending time with family” was the top-ranked activity, followed by “Taking time for oneself” and “Going for walks or hikes.” Compared to responses to the same question on the 2016 Needs Assessment survey, a somewhat smaller percentage selected each activity, except “Seeing a counselor,” which increased from 7% in 2016 to 15%. For example, “Spending time with family” decreased somewhat from 85% in 2016 to 79%, “Taking time for yourself” decreased from 69% to 56%, and “Going for walks or hikes” decreased from 61% to 53%.



“Other” activities specified in write-in additions with 2 or more responses included: Hobbies, 11 respondents; Read, 7; Stay Busy, Clean House, 7; Gardening/Farming, 6; Other Physical Activities (e.g., dance, yoga), 6; Take care of / spend time with Pets, 5; Maintain Positive Attitude, 4; Games/Gaming, 4; Spiritual/Traditional, 4; Family Activities, 3; Community Involvement, 3; Medication, 3; Music - Play/Listen, 2; Listen to Uplifting Audio (e.g., podcasts), 2; Work 2; Go to Movies, 2; Pray, 2; Talk with Peers, Friends, 2

Table 4.4. Social Connection Indicators: San Juan County and U.S.

Loneliness and lack of social connection are a common experience that can negatively impact physical health, mental health and well-being. A higher percentage of San Juan County residents report feeling socially isolated, compared to the U.S. And among youth, a higher percentage of youth ages 16-19 are disconnected from education, employment or services opportunities. On the 100% San Juan County Survey, Caucasian respondents were more likely to report lacking feelings of family support (27.2%), compared to Hispanic respondents (18.8%) and Native Americans (18.0%)

Social Connection, Comparison (2022)				
	Social Isolation/ Loneliness	Lack of Social & Emotional Support	Lack Feelings of Family Support	Disconnected Youth (16-19)
San Juan County	40.2%	27.8%	22.8%	13.4%
United States	32.1%	24.1%	na	7%

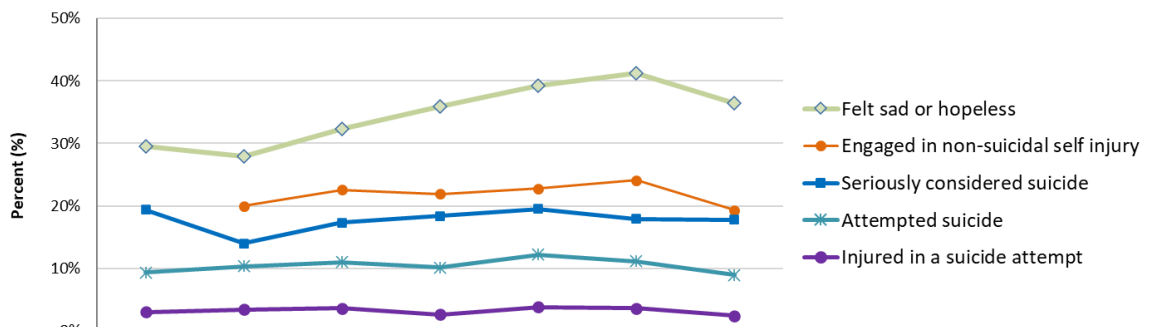
Sources: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS); CDC PLACES: <https://experience.arcgis.com/> and CDC “Loneliness, Lack of Social and Emotional Support, and Mental Health Issues — United States, 2022” (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7324a1.htm#B1_down).

(Question definitions: Two questions on CDC’s adult survey (BRFSS) ask about loneliness/feeling socially isolated (“How often do you feel socially isolated from others?” always/usually/sometimes) and lack of social emotional support (“How often do you get the social and emotional support that you need?” sometimes/rarely/never). The 100% San Juan County Survey also asks about family support (“How much do you agree with the statement, ‘I have extended family support living near me that I can depend on - other family members and friends who help me and my family with child care, emotional support, etc.?’” Disagree/Strongly disagree). The Census defines “disconnected youth” as the percentage of youth, ages 16-19, who are not enrolled in school and who are unemployed or not in the labor force.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Trends, Mental Health Indicators: High School Youth, San Juan County Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (2011-2023)

Most recent data from the 2023 youth survey (YRRS) showed signs of possible improvement for youth mental health. Persistent feelings of sadness / hopelessness (“every day for two weeks or more in the past year”) among high school youth had increased significantly from 2013 to 2021, reaching a peak of 41% in 2021, but most recently decreased to 36% in 2023. Modest improvements from 2021 to 2023 on other mental health indicators were noted as well.



	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Felt sad or hopeless	29.5%	27.9%	32.3%	35.9%	39.2%	41.2%	36.4%
Engaged in non-suicidal self injury		20.0%	22.6%	21.9%	22.8%	24.1%	19.3%
Seriously considered suicide	19.4%	14.0%	17.3%	18.4%	19.5%	17.9%	17.8%
Attempted suicide	9.3%	10.3%	11.0%	10.1%	12.2%	11.1%	8.9%
Injured in a suicide attempt	3.0%	3.4%	3.6%	2.6%	3.8%	3.6%	2.4%

Sources: New Mexico Dept. of Health, Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (YRRS)

Table 4.5. Youth Mental Health Indicators: San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S.

Just over one-fourth of high school youth (26%) reported experiencing “poor mental health,” or feelings of stress, anxiety or depression “most of time” or “always.” Overall, self report among San Juan County youth on mental health indicators is similar to youth across the state and U.S.

Youth Mental Health Indicators, Comparisons (2023)			
	Sadness/Hopelessness	Poor Mental Health*	Attempted Suicide
San Juan County	36.4%	26.2%	8.9%
<i>Females</i>	38.6%	30.2%	11.1%
<i>Males</i>	33.8%	21.8%	6.4%
New Mexico	36.7%	24.4%	8.4%
United States	40%	29%	9%

Sources: New Mexico Dept. of Health Youth Risk Resiliency Survey (YRRS) and CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). (The question about frequent mental distress, or poor mental health, was introduced in 2021. It asks “How often in the past month was your mental health ‘not good?’”)

Additional Statistics: Middle School Youth

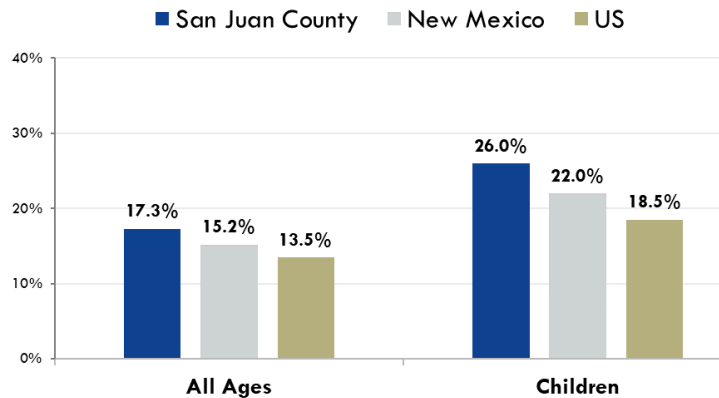
The 2021 Middle School YRRS survey asked how often in the past 30 days their mental health was “not good:” 22% reported “most of the time” or “always,” similar to New Mexico’s 25%. On other questions related to mental health, just over one-fourth of middle school students reported having considered suicide at some time in their lives, 17.2% reported having ever made a suicide plan and 12.2% reported having attempted suicide at some point. These rates are similar to New Mexico overall. (2023 Middle school YRRS data were not available at the time of this report.)

NUTRITION & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Food Insecurity: San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S. (2022)

Just over one out of four children (26%) is estimated to experience food insecurity, defined by the US Dept. of Agriculture as the “lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life.” San Juan County’s rates of “food insecurity,” are above U.S. rates, particularly among children. Participation in food assistance programs has shown to help reduce food insecurity.

A question on the Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (2023) found 17.3% of high school students reported going hungry sometimes, most of the time, or always, because there was not enough food in the home.



Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture “Feeding America” (2022)

Access to Food Security Programs

100% San Juan County Initiative Survey (2023)

The 100% San Juan County Survey found that nearly one half (46%) of respondents reported needing food security programs. Of those needing food security programs, 39% reported difficulty accessing it. Respondents who were significantly more likely to report needing food assistance programs included: women, Native Americans, and young parents. Those living in rural areas outside Farmington and Aztec were more likely to report “difficulty accessing” the programs.

Difficulty Accessing Food Security Programs (100% San Juan County Initiative Survey)



Source: 100% San Juan County Survey (2023)

Table 4.6. Recommended Nutrition and Physical Activity Indicators

Compared to the state and U.S., San Juan County is statistically similar on self-ratings of receiving recommended nutrition (5+ daily fruits/vegetables), physical inactivity and weight.

Nutrition, Physical Inactivity and Weight, Comparisons (2021)						
	ADULTS (2021)			YOUTH		
	Do Get Rcmd Nutrition	Physical Inactivity	Overweight/ Obese	Do Get Rcmd Nutrition	Physical Inactivity	Overweight/ Obese (2023, SJC & NM)
San Juan	14%	25%	72%	21%	17%	36.9%
<i>Males</i>	14%	22%	76%	24%	15%	37.6%
<i>Females</i>	13%	28%	69%	17%	19%	36.2%
New Mexico	13%	23%	71%	16%	18%	34.4%
U.S.	na	24%	68%	na	16%	32% (2021)

Sources: New Mexico Dept. of Health (NM-IBIS); Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS); CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS).

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Barriers to Medical Healthcare

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

On the Needs Assessment survey, 16% of the respondents reported they were not able to get needed healthcare in the past year.

"Were you able to receive needed healthcare in the past year?" (n=1,512)

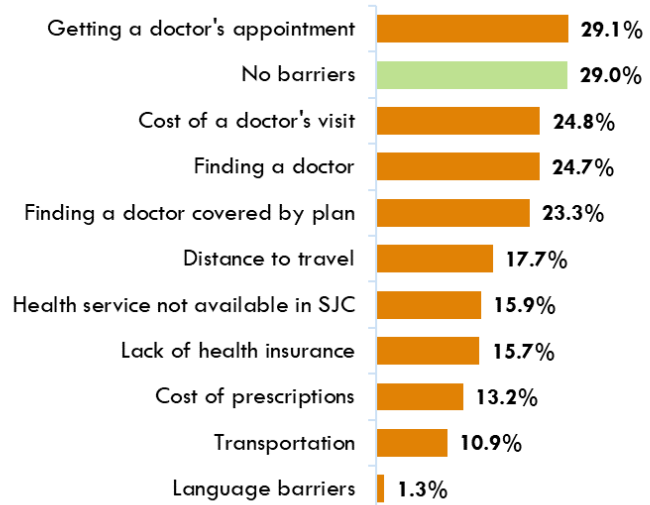


Source: San Juan County Partnership, Needs Assessment Survey (Fall, 2023)

Among those who did *not* receive needed healthcare, the greatest barriers were: (1) "finding a doctor" (39%); (2) "cost of a doctor's visit" (38%); and (3) "lack of health insurance" (37%).

The most frequently selected barriers were "getting a doctor's appointment," "cost," "finding a doctor" and "finding a doctor covered by insurance plan."

"What barriers, if any, have you encountered in getting needed health care in the past year?" (n=1,412) (Select all that apply.)



Additional Statistics: Access to Healthcare by Income

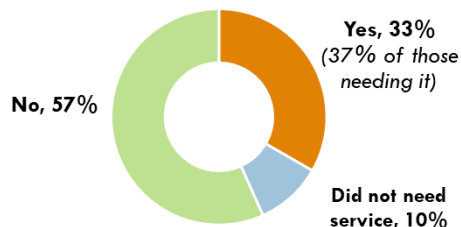
On the Needs Assessment survey, those with incomes below \$30,000 were more likely to report they did not receive needed care (24.1%), compared to those with incomes \$30-75,000 (13.7%) and above \$75,000 (10.1%). Among those with incomes below \$30k, the leading barriers were: "getting a doctor's appt" (29.9%) "distance to travel" (28.1%), finding a doctor (27.3%) and transportation (23.9%) were barriers. Those with incomes \$30-75,000 were more likely to report "cost of a doctor's visit" was a barrier (29.0%) compared to those with incomes below \$30k (22.4%) and above \$75k (22.5%).

Difficulty Accessing Medical Care

100% San Juan County Initiative Survey (2023)

A complimentary question on the 100% San Juan County Survey found that a total of one-third reported difficulty accessing medical care at some time (37% of those needing the service).

Reported Difficulty Accessing Medical Care (100% San Juan County Initiative Survey)



On the 100% San Juan County Survey, the most frequently selected barriers among those needing services were:

- It takes too long to get an appointment (64%)
- Costs too much (37%)
- I can't find a specialist near me (31%)
- I can't find a provider accepting new patients (29%)
- They don't accept my insurance (28%)
- Appointment times don't work for me (28%)

Source: 100% San Juan County Survey (2023). www.100nm.org/sanjuan

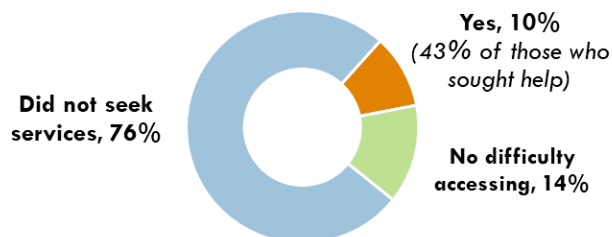
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, CONT.

Access to Behavioral Healthcare Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

On the Needs Assessment survey, 24% of the respondents reported they sought help or treatment for mental health or drug/alcohol problems in the past year. Among those who sought help, 43% had difficulty accessing counseling or treatment services.

Source: San Juan County Partnership, Needs Assessment Survey (Fall, 2023)

Difficulty accessing professional mental health or drug/alcohol counseling/treatment services (n=1,356)



100% San Juan County Initiative Survey (2023)

A complimentary question on the 100% San Juan County Survey found 40% of the respondents reported needing mental health services at some time.

Difficulty accessing mental health/behavioral health care (100% San Juan County Initiative Survey)



Among the 40% needing services, 53% reported difficulty accessing the mental health services they needed. Barriers to accessing behavioral healthcare included:

- It takes too long to get an appointment (68%)
- I can't find a quality provider (39%)
- I can't find a provider accepting new patients (36%)
- Appointment times don't work for me (34%)
- They don't accept my insurance (28%)

Source: 100% San Juan County Survey (2023)

Table 4.7. Healthcare Access Indicators (Census, 2023 & CDC BRFSS)

On Census and adult survey items related to healthcare access, San Juan County is above U.S. rates for the percentage of people who lack health insurance, who reported not having a Primary Care Provider (PCP), and who say they needed healthcare in the past year but were unable to get care due to cost. On the most recent CDC adult survey (BRFSS, 2022), an estimated 64.2% of San Juan County adults reported they received an annual routine health check-up in the past year, compared to 71.8% across the U.S. (2021).

Healthcare Access Barriers: San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S. (2021/2023)			
	Lack Health Insurance (2023)	No PCP (2021)	Unable to get care due to cost (2021)
San Juan County	11.7%	27.5%	11.9%
<i>Native American</i>	16.7%	36.5%	15.6%
<i>Hispanic</i>	11.7%	27.9%	12.8%
<i>White</i>	6.2%	18.4%	8.8%
New Mexico	9.1%	28.0%	8.9%
U.S.	7.9%	15.9%	8.7%

Sources: Lack Health Insurance, All Adults: U.S. Census, ACS (2023) 1-year estimates; No Primary Care Physician (PCP) and Cost Barrier: CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS, 2021). (Note that 1-year Census estimates have a greater margin of error compared to 5-year estimates, but are reported here to provide the most recent data available.)

INPUT/COMMENTS ABOUT ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

San Juan Regional Medical Center's Community Health Needs Assessment (2023) (<https://www.sanjuanregional.com/community-assessment>) identified "Access to Healthcare" as their top priority. Following their 2023 health needs assessment, one of the hospital's goals is to "work diligently to bridge the gaps in healthcare access by collaborating with stakeholders, advocating for policy changes, and implementing initiatives that ensure everyone in our community can receive the care they need when they need it." On their Community Health Survey, 41.4% of survey respondents experienced difficulties or delays in receiving needed healthcare, and 28.8% sought health services outside the area (including 66.1% of these for specialty care and 3.4% for mental health services). The representative comments below from this Needs Assessment Survey affirm the need to address healthcare access and offer a window into people's experience.

"What is your greatest health concern?"

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

As noted above on page 33, the most frequently described "health concerns" were related to Access to Healthcare (21.7%) and Affording Healthcare (10.7%). Representative comments are shown below.

Access to Healthcare (n=178)

Comments related to difficulties *accessing* healthcare included: not being able to find a doctor (n=65 comments); not finding specialists or the lack of specialists (n=45); issues with insurance not being accepted (n=21); long wait times (n=16); and, transportation (n=6 comments).

- Need more doctors that take new patients and not have to wait months to get in.
- There aren't enough physicians in San Juan County, especially dermatologists and some other specialties.
- Finding competent [doctors] and specialists that you don't have to wait 6 months to a year to see. And not have to wait hours in the ER to even be taken to the back.
- That there are no specialty doctors in the area. Distance is a major concern, a 3 hour drive to Albuquerque or even being told that travel to another state is needed is very hard to handle at times.
- Mental health service availability and healthcare provider wait lists.
- Lack of specialized doctors or surgeons in the area. Lack of a child psychiatrist to work with kids. Lack of an adolescent treatment center that is hospital based.
- Not being able to find a primary care provider
- Insurance costs, moving to Medicare and the number of providers that won't accept part c plans. The amount of time it takes to see providers, ex. 90+ days when scheduling an appointment. Monopoly that San Juan Regional Medical center enjoys through its "San Juan Health Partners". Private physicians use of San Juan IPA for insurance plan contracting.
- It's hard to find alternate healthcare here. I prefer natural dr or doctors that do both. But it's very hard to find that type of care here. Especially ones that would take health insurance.
- I just would like to know that my doctor is here to stay.
- I live alone in a rural area. In an emergency I may not be able to call for help.
- Not enough access to doctors who listen, are not overloaded with patients
- Being able to get necessary care and testing in a timely fashion. It can take weeks or months to get appointments.

Affording Healthcare (n=97)

Comments related to difficulties *affording* healthcare included: cost of doctor visits, tests, co-pays (45 comments), affording insurance (19), affording prescriptions (15) and affording dental care (6).

- No healthcare because it is not affordable. I am happy that some clinics are doing monthly fees and that will help a lot of people.
- Affording my premiums and copays and co-insurance, and the 5% added on. etc. etc.
- Although I have medical [insurance] through employment, my husband and I refuse to go to the drs because of co-pay, lab cost so much. It really sucks, we both work but money goes to bills
- I need dental work done. It's so unaffordable. We pay out of pocket for most medical services as well until we reach a very high deductible and we put off basic medical care because of that.
- Not being able to locate affordable home healthcare if I need it.
- Ability to pay for modern age, high tech medications that would/could improve my health. Increasing physical activities in an affordable and safe environment for the elderly.
- The cost of medical insurance and the quality of doctors is of great concern. I definitely do not trust doctors/hospitals after the "covid" shutdowns and exposure of the medical system. I would like to see more natural healing centers instead.
- The increase of health costs have skyrocketed because of inflation. To those with limited income it is a struggle.

AVAILABILITY OF CARE PROVIDERS

Health Professional Shortages

San Juan County is among the 32 of the 33 counties in New Mexico experiencing a shortage of health professionals. New Mexico is ranked 26th for primary care physicians out of 50 states. The shortage of primary care providers is a national crisis. As described above, top barriers to getting healthcare, reported on this and other Needs Assessment surveys, include getting a doctor's appointment, finding a doctor or specialist, and long wait times for appointments. Survey respondents and Key Informants on this and other surveys pinpoint the number of providers as a pivotal issue.

Shortage Area Designation

Overall, according to the HRSA (2024), San Juan County is a designated "High needs geographic Health Professional Shortage Area." The benchmark for the minimum adequate population-to-primary care provider ratio for "high needs" populations is considered to be 3,000 population to 1 "provider full-time equivalent." San Juan County's ratio is currently under this minimum standard, at 3,236 to 1. This overall ratio incorporates Primary Care, Dental Care, and Mental Health.

Provider Ratios

A main data source for availability of providers is the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), based on data released annually by the Bureau of Health Workforce. The County Health Rankings (CHR) website, referring to HRSA data, reported that in the year 2021, there was 1 primary care physician per 1,890 designated population in San Juan County, an increase (*worse*) from 2015 when the ratio was 1,600 to 1. This is also significantly worse than the ratio across New Mexico of 1,340 to 1, and across the U.S. of 1,330 to 1. The CHR website also shows that in 2023, there was 1 mental health provider per 360 people (360:1), worse than across New Mexico, with a ratio of 220:1, and also above the U.S. with a ratio of 320:1. And, in 2022, there was 1 registered dentist to 930 designated population, a decrease (*improvement*) from 1,180:1 in 2015. In 2022, the ratio across the state was 1,440:1 and across the U.S. was 1,360:1. (*See note below regarding ratios.*)

Number of Providers

According to the data directly available from the most recent HRSA "Area Health Resource Files" there were 74 active "Primary care physicians," a rate of 61.2 PCPs per 100k population, and a decrease from 80 (a rate of 64.9) in 2020-21. Additional data from the HRSA are shown below.

Trends, Number of Health Care Providers (2020-2023)			
San Juan County	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
San Juan County (population)*	123,312	123,312	120,993
Primary Care Physicians**	80 (64.88)	78 (64.47)	74 (61.16)
Dentists	76 (61.63)	75 (61.99)	68 (56.20)
Psychiatrists	6 (4.96)	6 (4.96)	4 (3.31)
All active M.D.s	185 (150.03)	183 (151.25)	183 (151.25)
All active Physicians (M.D.s and D.O.s)	204 (165.43)	205 (169.43)	203 (167.78)

Sources: U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Area Health Resource File (2024)

(<https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/ahrf>). County Health Rankings (<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>)

Note: Health Professionals data are sometimes reported as a "ratio" of one provider to the number of people (smaller number of people is better), or as a "rate" of the number of providers to 100,000 population (larger number of providers is better).

*Population used by HSRA to calculate rates.

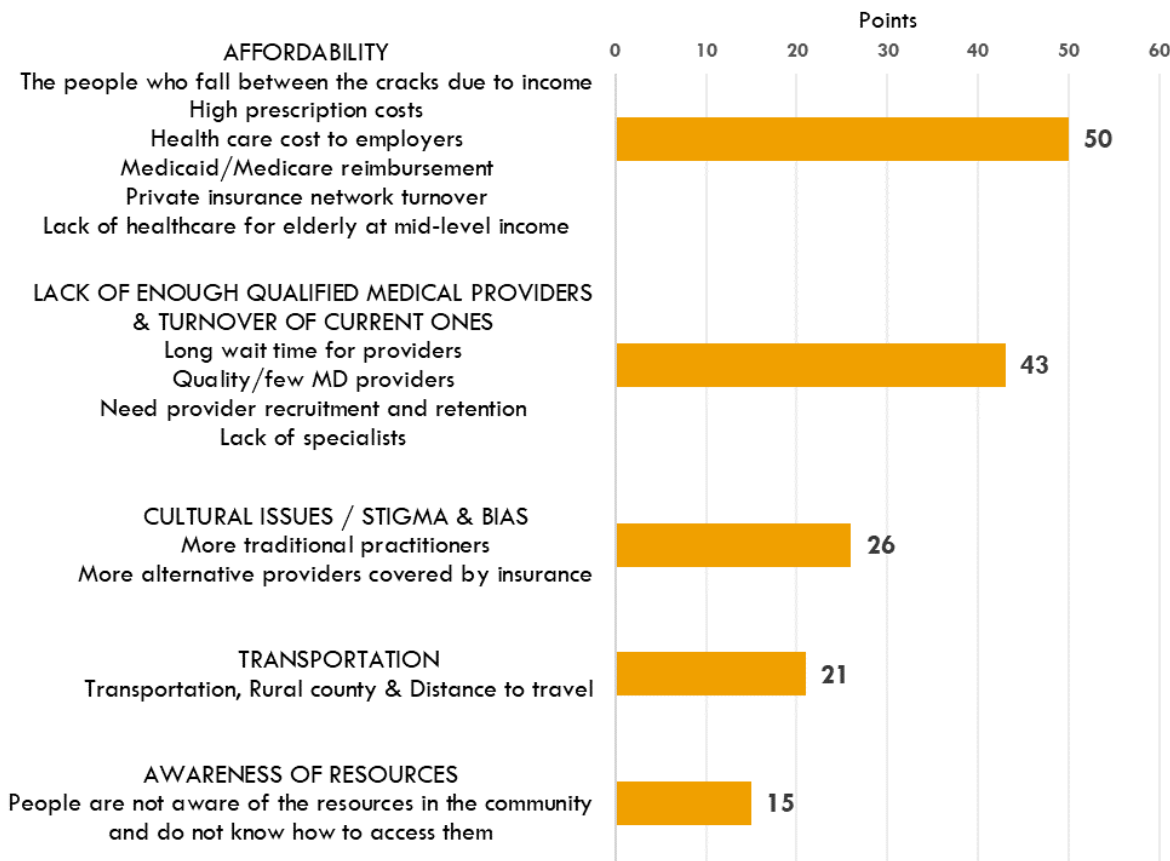
**Primary Care Physicians (HRSA's Physician's County Level File) includes Primary Care M.D.s and D.O.s with active status.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS: FOCUS GROUP

A Focus Group with 12 healthcare stakeholders/providers was conducted in March, 2024 to get their perspective on access to healthcare in San Juan County. The group’s conclusions were in alignment with results of the Needs Assessment survey and other social indicator data shown above.

The group responded to the question below, with each participant providing their individual responses, followed by a group discussion and vote, assigning points to identify the priorities. General categories are shown with the number of votes, along with subtopics included under each category.

“What are the issues and needs that require attention to increase access to quality healthcare?” (n=12)

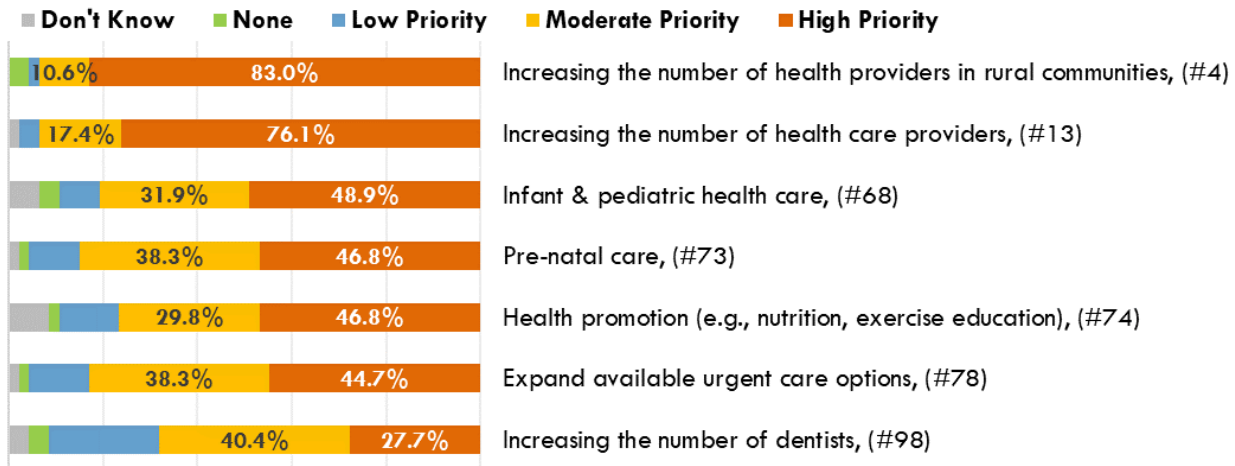


Additional topics discussed during the brainstorming session included: Undocumented peoples’ needs, Telehealth availability (9 points); Internet access availability; Lack of ways for people to access care if they don’t use technology; More specific small scale population data to support needed resources (3 points); Lack of gender-affirming care; Shortage of bilingual providers; Lack of patient information sharing between providers (4 points); Lack of awareness/disconnect of the issues by providers and those making decisions around medical laws, insurance, etc.

HEALTHCARE & ACCESS: KEY INFORMANTS

“Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each?” (n=49)

On the Key Informant Survey, “Increasing the number of providers in rural communities” and “Increasing providers” in general were the top ranked priorities within the topic of Healthcare Access and Services. Increasing the number of providers in rural communities was ranked #4, out of 106 issues, with 83% of the Key Informants selecting this as a “High priority.” Increasing the number of health care providers in general was ranked #13.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Healthcare and Human Services?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority” within the topic Healthcare, Key Informants highlighted increasing, recruiting and retaining the number of providers, both health and mental health, as the number one priority.

1. Number of Providers - Health or Mental Health (18)
2. General values and awareness/education around health & healthy choices (6)
3. Additional priorities mentioned by two Key Informants each included: Facilities e.g., mobile units, Affordability in general, Services for Specific Subpopulations (e.g., homeless, seniors); Increasing overall quality of care; Benefits for providers; Air quality / pollution; Improving access to care in general; Need providers not associated with SJR Hospital
4. Priorities mentioned by one Key Informant included: Coordinate services/systems; Home healthcare; Expanding acceptance of insurance; Reducing wait times; Transportation; and Supervisory skills within healthcare

Quality of healthcare options is lacking in our area. Would like better, more knowledgeable physicians to choose San Juan County.

Recruiting and retaining competent medical and mental health care providers.

Education of healthy lifestyles needs to be offered from the start of a child's life.

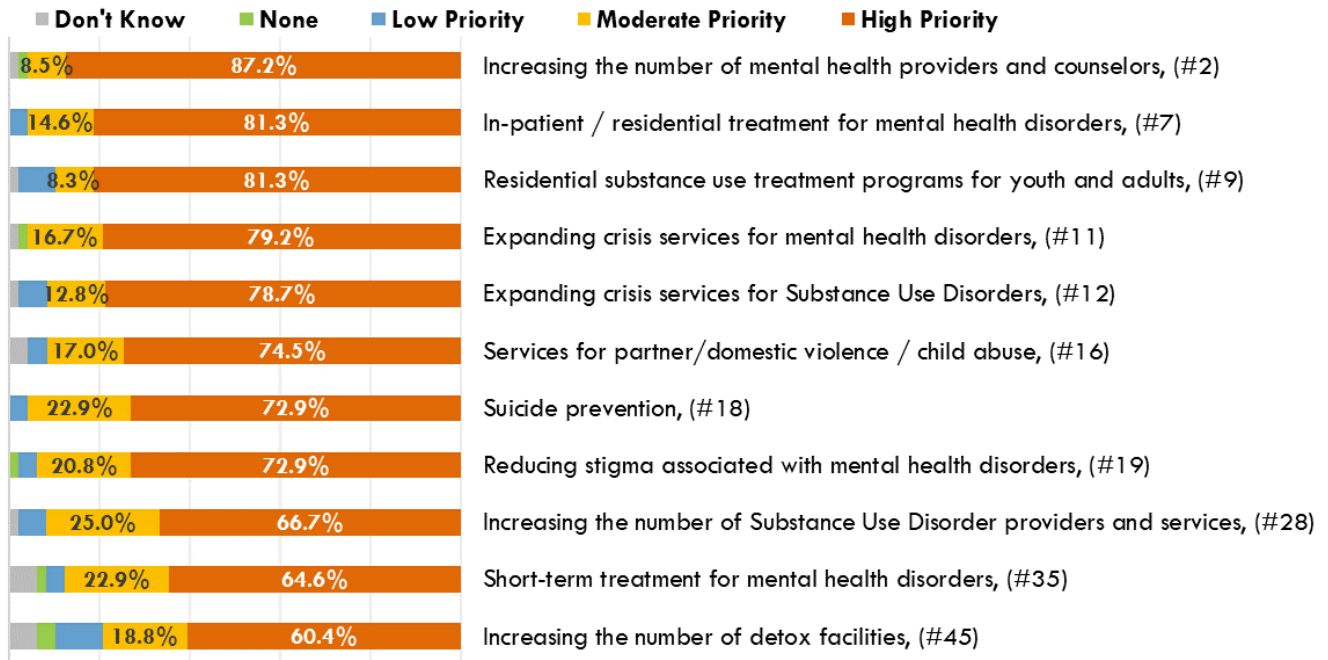
Healthcare for the Homeless would be beneficial, understanding prevention care versus emergency and urgent care. Being respectful and showing dignity for those who need help.

Expanding mobile clinic to meet the health care needs of people in rural communities. Transportation is often a barrier for people to travel 1.5 hours or more to seek health care providers.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE: KEY INFORMANTS

“Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each?” (n=49)

Services related to mental health, behavioral healthcare and substance use counseling/treatment were top-ranked priorities: 8 of the top 20 issues were within this category. Increasing the number of mental health providers/counselors” was ranked near the top, #2 overall, out of the 106 issues/needs.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Mental Health and Substance Use related services?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority” within the topic of Behavioral Health, Key Informants highlighted once again the number of providers/services, as well as residential treatment and other facilities. (See also the Substance Use section of this document for additional Key Informant comments.)

1. Number of Providers / Services - Health or Mental Health (12)
2. Facilities/treatment options - e.g., residential, short-term, crisis center (8)
3. Reducing stigma associated with substance use and mental illness (3)
4. Priorities mentioned by two Key Informants included: School-based services; More varied treatment options e.g., non-mainstream approaches; Awareness/education about mental health/substance use; Collaborate with Navajo Nation
5. Priorities mentioned by one Key Informant included: Alternative sentencing; Therapists who specialize; Data sharing with other providers; Improving quality of service; Crisis services; Training medical personnel in mental health / substance use; Prevention; Laws / policies; Funding

Increasing the number of mental health providers and counselors and expanding in-patient/residential treatment for mental health disorders.

I think [what] needs immediate attention is providing Residential Substance Use Disorders and other Mental health disorders for youth and adults and then reducing the stigma associated with substance misuse.

To not funnel every person who is experiencing MH issues into one system(s) but to enlist tribal health programs that are anchored in holistic health practices.

Competent residential treatment facilities for adolescents, and teens in San Juan County. Prevention programs in the public school system for elementary, middle, and high school students.

SERVICES FOR SELECTED SUBPOPULATIONS

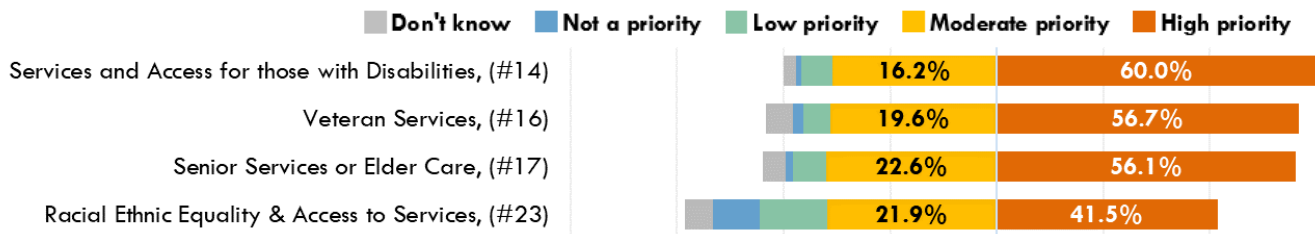
An estimated 37.5% of the adult population in San Juan County experiences one or more disabilities (such as, a physical mobility, self-care, challenge living independently, or cognitive or sensory disability), compared to 26.8% across the U.S. This includes 12.6% of adults with independent living disability, compared to 7.4% in the U.S. (CDC BRFSS). There are 6,952 Veterans in San Juan County, 7.7% of the adult population 18 years and over. And, there are nearly 20,000 adults age 65 or over, an increase of 2,600 since 2016 (Census ACS, 2016 and 2022, 1-year estimates).

Need for Focus on Services for Subpopulations

Items on the Needs Assessment Survey related to services for selected subpopulations are shown below. Ratings of the need for services for veterans, seniors and those experiencing disabilities were similar (56-60% “high priority” focus), and in the “mid-range” of the 27 issues that were ranked.

Ratings of Selected Services

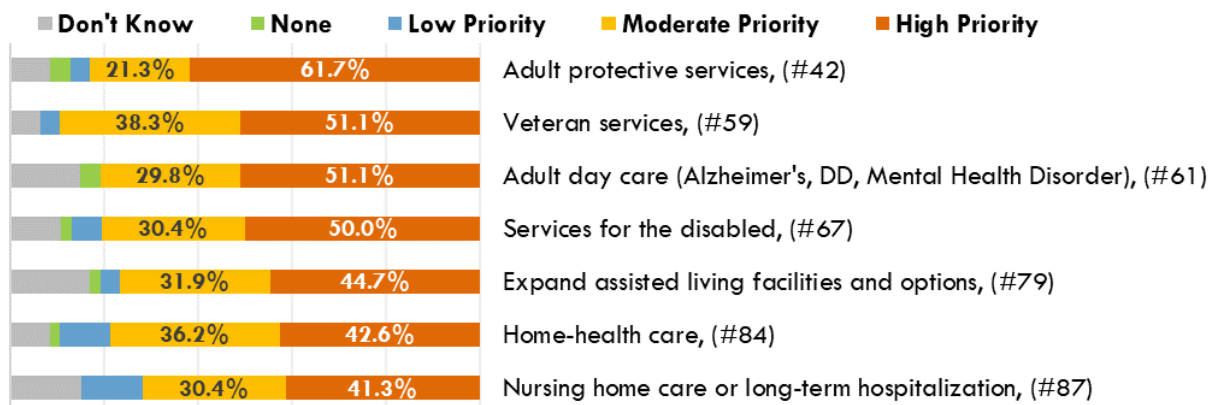
Needs Assessment Survey (2023)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,629)

On the **Key Informant Survey**, the high priority need for services for selected subpopulations (veterans, seniors, those with disabilities) were in the mid-range of the 106 issues ranked, with 40-60% of the Key Informants highlighting these services as a “high priority.”

“Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each?” (n=49)



Additional Subpopulations

The Key Informant Survey included an open-ended question asking respondents which additional or specific subpopulations of the county were in need of additional or expanded services:”

- Youth or “very young” (n=4)
- Those who identify as LGBTQIA (n=4)
- Those experiencing homelessness (n=3)
- People living in the Navajo Reservation, including Elders needing financial assistance and Native women in crisis, experiencing domestic violence, at risk of being murdered” (n=3)
- Those with mental illness (n=2)
- Elderly (n=2)
- People in transition, e.g., leaving substance use treatment or transitioning from jail (n=2)

COMMENTS: SUPPORT TO GROW & FLOURISH

“What additional opportunities or amenities in your community would support you to grow and flourish?”

Needs Assessment Survey (2023) (n=614)

An open-ended question following the list of “**Activities that support well-being**” (above, page 38) asked what other supportive opportunities people in San Juan County felt would be helpful. There were 614 responses covering a range of topics, from recreational opportunities and outdoor activities, to specific resources for jobs, assistance and housing covered in other sections of this document. There was also a strong component related to a desire for mental health support, social support and community engagement. Numerous comments from this question are shared below to illustrate the variety of ideas generated from over 600 comments on the survey.

Recreational/Community Centers and Fitness Classes, Sports, Arts/Crafts (n=70)

- Community centers to just go and walk around at. Maybe an indoor space since it's getting cold.
- Walking group or exercise outdoor group.
- More dance classes or groups
- More opportunities for recreational activities, pickle ball, basketball, yoga, Tai Chi, martial arts.
- In the Shiprock community is in need of a fitness center. Possibly a 24 hour center or long hours.
- Local volleyball tournaments
- Gym for exercise or community involvement sports Crafts and arts
- Finding an affordable place for the whole family to go to get some physical exercise and not have to worry about the younger kids.
- I think a rock climbing gym would be a nice addition to help people explore opportunities a little more

Outdoor activities/areas (safe and clean) (n=65)

- A safe and truly connected and functional biking trail through the city. Our streets our unusable for biking...dangerous...love riding the trails around the river, but would love them to go more the length of town...also keep cleaning up and making the river more useable and accessible...one of our big assets.
- The park on Apache that is supposed to be built. I'm looking forward to that and will use it often. Many love the track and am glad a track will still be available. I hope it gets started soon.
- Outdoor Recreation with access to beautiful open (undeveloped) spaces/ trails/ areas. Access to (clean water) rivers & riparian areas. Tight regulations for air, water, and public lands.
- Expand hiking and bike trails along the river
- Walking trails, can't use the schools like we used to because of the security with the shootings, everything is fenced off and locked down.
- More bike trails that are accessible to people who cannot haul their bike somewhere else to ride a trail. SJ College is great. Our city parks & pools are great and well cared for; we use them a lot and very much appreciate!
- A safe well lite place to walk in the evening. During December we will walk around the civic center only because it is well lite.
- This place is great! I'm an outdoor person so there's so much stuff I can do for free!
- More outdoor activities that are available to a broad range of physical abilities and ages

Resources (Direct help or Jobs, Housing, Recovery) (n=63)

- Additional support with jobs that allow work from home when a person isn't able to be physically at work. So more hybrid work environment
- More access to food, we got cut off of food stamps and the local food pantries mainly have breads and sweets to give out. Meat is very scarce and expensive. More thrift shops with clothes for work and school. More advertisements of local resources so that I know about them and collaborations between organizations to get the resources I need.
- Increasing economic opportunities for my kids
- Chapters need to be consolidated to offer more services to community members
- More literatures and how to find resources for family and friends struggling Emotionally and financially
- I would like to obtain a job and get stable housing for myself and my children. Number one goal.

COMMENTS: SUPPORT TO GROW & FLOURISH, CONT.

Activities/Events (All ages, Cultures) (n=57)

- More walk-a-thons and 5k - 10k marathons would be so nice. I also love events on Main Street such as the chili cook off, fall festival, art walks, river fest and makers market, etc. More of those would be nice. (I know they aren't always supported by the community however.)
- More diversity cultural events that engage underrepresented community is African Americans/Asians
- Activities that are substance free aside from parks!
- Teen center/ Just something for young people to do everyday
- Accessible activities, events, meeting spaces for adults, everything here is currently only for children and seniors.
- Opportunities to socialize and meet people in a safe environment. Community Bingo! Community Dances!
- The community offering more fun activities to do with family for free

Mental Behavioral Support / Counseling (n=52)

- Better & more accessible consistent mental health care!! I believe this is our biggest community concern.
- I would like to see Farmington bring some more spa services or personal development options to the area. Take a play right out of Durango's playbook. We can have spa services, corporate retreats, and health and wellness focused recreation activities that would really help people reconnect to themselves and nature. These would go hand in hand with our investments in outdoor recreation and tourism. I also think we need to work on bringing more high quality therapists and counselors to the area and speeding up/incentivizing the training process for those who wish to become therapists and counselors in this area.
- Our area needs more mental health therapists
- Activities specifically made for mental health
- Better mental health availability. We need more medical mental health people that can prescribe medications and not just social workers such as MSW.
- Counseling by phone/ FaceTime due to transportation issues
- Stop the stigma with mental health. If crimes happen and there is a mental health issue, we need to treat that or the crimes will keep happening. It is a vicious circle and it needs to be broken.
- It would be nice if there was a single phone number one could call when seeking mental health care.. a clearing house that was up to date on who is accepting new clients.
- Mental health facilities
- Mental health and substance abuse care
- A mental hospital with longer programs, 30 days does not fix someone
- It is difficult many times for youth to get into see a mental health provider in a timely manner.
- We need more counselors and psychologist for children in this area instead of having our children shipped to another county. Because we do not offer it here
- I would like more Native based informational classes for those going through mental health issues especially those that are between the ages of 10 to 18 years of age.
- Mental wellness center in Newcomb

Additional comments referred to specific needs, for example, for anxiety, depression, autism, grief counseling, pet therapy, marriage counseling, and REM.

Groups (Socializing and Support Groups), Mentors (n=31)

- A mentor or support person other than a family member to call upon
- Support groups
- Women's groups by ages just visit and talk about what we're going through connecting with other women going through the same stuff we're going thru
- Support groups for stay at home moms/dads
- More options for older women to network about various topics, activities, resources, etc. That would be nice.
- social gathering for singles
- I would love to see more organizations for young people. Like, a group for young professionals, political groups, book clubs, art clubs, sports clubs, something to meet more people. I feel like my biggest challenge out here is finding ways to meet people with shared interests
- Clubs for adults, hiking, skiing, masters swimming, road biking, triathlon
- A female support group not involving church or liquor, just a room full of females feeling comfortable and safe
- Support groups for substance use/abuse; for grief/loss of a loved one. In my case, loss of my husband.
- Group for baby boomers to connect and help each other out with skills or opportunities because the group prefers to work and contribute to society.

COMMENTS: SUPPORT TO GROW & FLOURISH, CONT.

Community Engagement (Information & Volunteering) (n=31)

- To help me grow and flourish in the community, I would say is continue to meet new people and stay in contact with community workers
- I have a side by side and would love to support and efforts to clean up some of the trash on BLM / public lands.
- A single communication outlet for communities and businesses to post events/classes...
- SJC does an excellent job offering opportunities for residents. It would be nice to have a booklet listing everything available in our area. Mail the booklet to residents so residents without social media also know what is available.
- There are activities if you seek them out and participate in them. Having a quality newspaper or newsletter would be helpful.
- Would love to see a wildlife rehab center built here. Would be interested in supporting volunteering and being a key player. It would be a great education facility for our youth.
- More volunteer opportunities locally to be a part of all or learn how to create volunteering services with others in the community that I live in.

Restaurants, Music, Places and Things to Do for Fun (n=30)

- Local Theatre group, open mic, or community yoga.
- I would love to see more live music.
- Places to go for nights out, date nights, family nights etc.
- More music concerts (small bands and headline bands) Soccer games Pickleball games River raft rides
- Things to do in our community, water park would be amazing . Brookside park is no water park, more things to keep our youth busy so they stay out of trouble. We have movie theaters that are over priced, a skate park that not every one uses because they don't skateboard, bowling that again is over priced and used by leagues most of the time since we only have one bowling alley now. Would love a night club to go country dancing, even a dance hall for teenagers on weekends would be awesome .
- More local restaurants to dine with friends. Better Restaurants, not fast food.
- We need to invest more in the arts here as well.
- More diverse and quality performing arts opportunities.
- Somewhere to go dancing
- More places to shop and enjoy.

Learning Opportunities (n=27)

- I enjoy art. Workshops teaching basic arts, like photography or painting could be beneficial.
- Classes for maintaining your home, like basic knowledge about plumbing, electric, repairs, and yard work.
- Attending weekend workshops to learn something new.
- Healthy food prep classes in Shiprock.
- Healthy living and cultural awareness programs
- Community college courses again. Loved those
- More arts and crafts in evenings
- community learning annex
- I have gone to a few cooking and canning classes recently. These types of classes would help people learn to cook healthier while meeting people and making friends.
- Teaching events with Elders
- more low-cost continuing ed. for adults/teens to learn hobbies
- Offer gardening classes

Additional Categories of Comments

Additional comments in categories of fewer than 20 each included: needed supports around healthcare (e.g., Home healthcare resources), spiritual support (e.g., Online Church Services; Ceremonial teaching about wellness), support for seniors (e.g., Connect with other seniors), as well as inclusivity training for cultural awareness and reducing stigma (e.g., Focus as much or more on our shared healthy values, similarities, commonalities), along with stores/businesses and the need for expanding local health food (More healthy restaurants and fresh food options; A book store would be great...like a Barnes and Noble; A stronger local food system).

KEY FINDINGS

Health & Mental Health

- On the Residents Needs Assessment Survey, health-related issues were among the top-ranked priorities, including “Services for Mental Health” (#5), “Access to Healthcare/Number of Providers” (#7), and “Suicide prevention programs” (#11). “Access to healthy food/clean water” emerged as one of the top-ranked priorities (#4 of 27 issues), with 71% of the respondents rating this item as a “high priority.” Respondents referred to current challenges of affordability of food, concerns about the environment, and the importance of healthy diets and nutrition.
- On written comments about health concerns, “Access to healthcare” and “Affording care” were the most frequent comments by 32% of the respondents, including difficulty finding doctors, lack of specialists, wait time, and the cost of doctor’s visits/co-pays. This was a significant increase from 10% on the 2016 Needs Assessment survey who described access/affordability as their greatest health concern.
- On the Needs Assessment survey, 16% of respondents reported they did not get needed healthcare in the past year. And, on the 100% San Juan Survey, 37% reported difficulty accessing healthcare. The most frequently selected barrier to getting healthcare was “Getting a doctor’s appt,” followed by “Cost” and “Finding a doctor.”
- When asked about accessing mental health/substance use counseling or treatment, approximately half of those who sought help (43-53% on two separate surveys) reported difficulty accessing mental health/behavioral healthcare.
- Among adolescents and young adults age 15-24 in San Juan County, the rate of 32.8 suicide deaths per 100,000 is over three times the national suicide rate (of 13.6) for this age group.
- Access to healthcare, including “Affordability” and the “Lack of Sufficient Number of Medical Providers” were prioritized by Focus Group participants and also by Key Informants.
- In support of these ratings and experiences expressed on the Needs Assessment survey, San Juan County is designated a “High Needs geographic Health Professional Shortage Area” by the Health Resources & Services Administration.
- The need to Increase mental health providers and counselors was a top-ranked need (#2 overall out of 106), rated a high priority by 87% of the Key Informants. The need to “Increase the number of health providers,” in rural communities and in general, were also top-ranked concerns (#4 and #13) by Key Informants.
- Overall, San Juan County shows lower health outcomes, including shorter life expectancy and higher rates of injury death.
- Current health challenges are relatively common: Over half (55%) of respondents reported a household challenge of depression, and one third (34%) reported they or someone in their home experienced a health or mental health crisis in the past year. One out of 10 respondents reported a family member had attempted suicide, an experience associated with the highest levels of stress/anxiety.
- Over three-fourths (79%) of respondents reported that they “Spend time with family” as the most frequently selected way to support health and well-being.
- The most recent youth survey (2023 YRRS) showed continued concerns for youth mental health, but also showed signs of possible improvement.
- The need for services for selected subpopulations were mid-ranked items on both the Needs Assessment survey and on the Key Informant survey, rated high priorities by 40-60% of the respondents.

SUBSTANCE USE



“Adopting and implementing strategies to reduce excessive use of alcohol and misuse of prescription drugs [and other substances] can improve the health and well-being of communities.” (County Health Rankings)

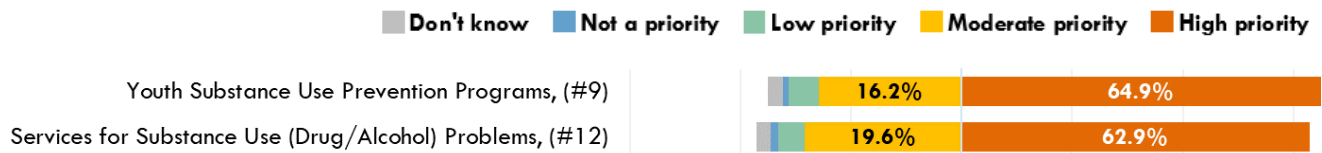
Introduction: Substance misuse or the excessive use of alcohol and other substances can have harmful personal and community consequences, from personal and family distress, poorer health and mental health, to economic costs, injury and death. Substance use among youth can give rise to mental and cognitive health problems such as depression and development lags. Factors that contribute to substance misuse, particularly in rural areas, include poverty, lack of access to mental healthcare, isolation, and a greater sense of stigma. (<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/substance-use>)

Need for Focus on Substance Use Programs & Services

On the Resident survey, “Youth substance use prevention problems” was among the top 10 ranked community needs (#9), rated a “high priority” by two-thirds (65%) of the respondents. “Services for substance use problems” was also a top-ranked priority (#12), similarly rated a high priority by 63% of the respondents.

Ratings of Substance Use-Related Needs

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

Residents' Ratings: Additional Comparisons

The need for “Youth substance use prevention programs” was more likely to be seen as a “high priority” by parents (72%) compared to non-parents (60%), and also by more females (74%) compared to males (56%). A similar pattern of responses was found for “Services for substance use problems.”

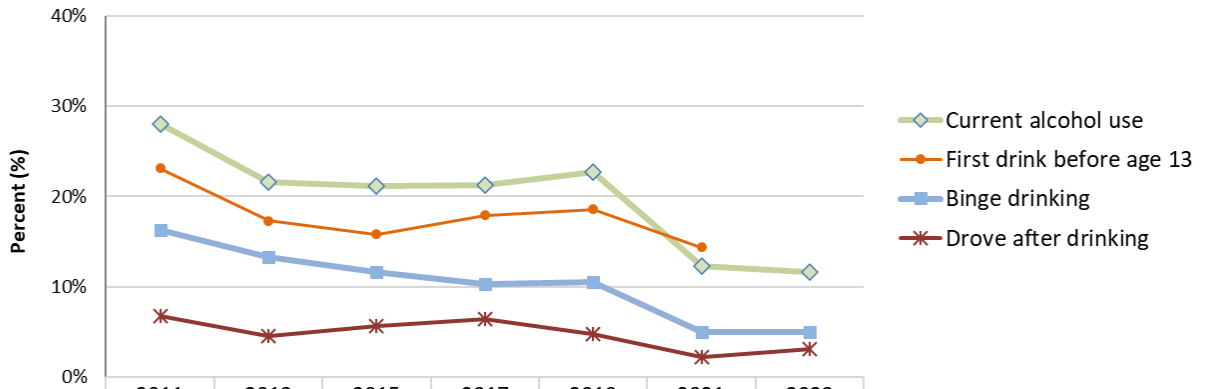
A higher proportion of those who had experienced a household challenge with drug/alcohol problems in the previous year rated the need for “Youth substance use prevention programs” and “Services for Substance use problems” as a high priority, both rated a “high priority” by 73%.

YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE (ALCOHOL)

Trends, Alcohol Use Indicators: High School Youth

Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (2011-2023)

Self-report of alcohol use among youth has decreased significantly over the past several years, particularly of current (past 30-day) alcohol use, which decreased from 28% in 2011 to 12% in 2023, and binge drinking, which decreased from 16% to 5%.



	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Current alcohol use	28.0%	21.6%	21.2%	21.3%	22.7%	12.3%	11.7%
First drink before age 13	23.1%	17.3%	15.8%	17.9%	18.6%	14.4%	na
Binge drinking	16.3%	13.3%	11.6%	10.3%	10.5%	5.0%	5.0%
Drove after drinking	6.8%	4.6%	5.7%	6.4%	4.8%	2.2%	3.1%

Table 5.1. Alcohol Use Among Youth: County, State and National Comparisons

Alcohol use indicators among San Juan County youth are just below self-report of use across New Mexico and the U.S. For example, 5% of San Juan County high school students reported binge drinking in the past month, compared to 10.5% across the U.S. (in 2021). San Juan County self-report of past 30-day binge drinking is statistically similar but somewhat higher among White (7.0%) and Hispanic (8.2%) youth, compared to Native American youth (2.2%). San Juan County is ranked 25th among New Mexico's 33 counties for binge drinking among youth.

Alcohol Use Indicators: High School, 2021/2023 YRRS/YRBS				
Indicator	Use before age 13 (2021)	Past 30-day use (2023)	Binge drinking* (2023)	Drove after drinking (2023)
San Juan County	14.4%	11.7%	5.0%	3.1%
New Mexico	17.8%	16.4%	7.0%	4.2%
U.S.	15.0%	22%	10.5% (2021)	4.6% (2021)

Source: New Mexico Dept. of Health, YRRS (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey) and CDC YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) (Binge drinking is defined as 5 or more drinks for boys, or 4 or more drinks for girls, on an occasion.) Note that the most recent YRRS and YRBS were administered in Fall, 2023; most recent results are included as available.

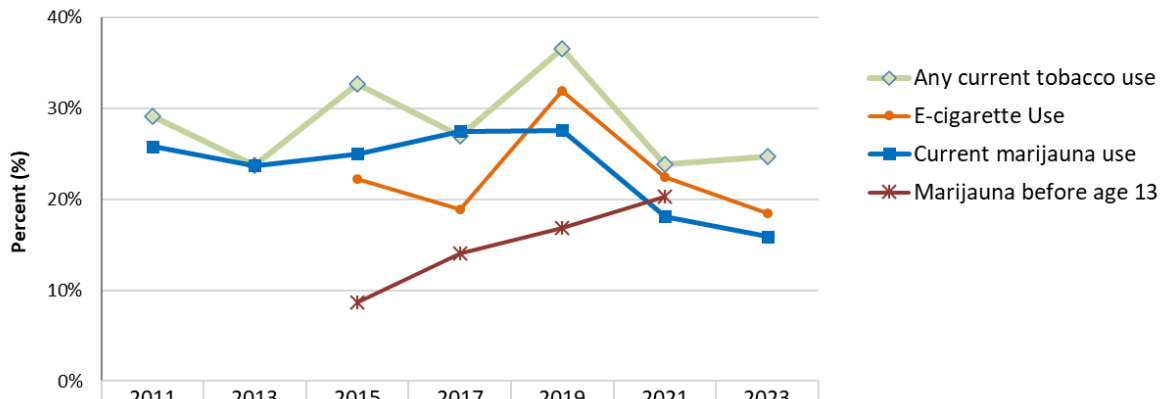
Additional Statistics: Middle School

On the 2021 YRRS, 16.1% of middle school students reported using alcohol at some time in their lives, with 8.5% reporting early onset of use prior to age 11. And, 4.7% reported using alcohol in the past month, compared to 7.6% across New Mexico.

YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE (TOBACCO & CANNABIS)

Trends, Tobacco, Vaping and Cannabis Use, High School Youth Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (2011-2023)

E-cigarette use (vaping) and the use of cannabis (marijuana) have become the most frequently used substances among youth, used by more youth than alcohol. Cigarette smoking decreased, (from 8.4% in 2011 to 3.1% in 2021), whereas the use of e-cigarettes has increased to become the most frequent mode of use. Heavy cannabis use (20+ times per month) is reported by 6.7% of high school students (2021), and driving after use of cannabis is reported by 6.8% (2023 YRRS).



	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Any current tobacco use	29.1%	23.8%	32.7%	27.0%	36.6%	23.9%	24.7%
E-cigarette Use	na	na	22.2%	18.9%	31.9%	22.5%	18.5%
Current marijuana use	25.8%	23.7%	25.0%	27.5%	27.6%	18.1%	15.9%
Marijuana before age 13	na	na	8.7%	14.1%	16.9%	20.3%	na

Table 5.2. Tobacco, Vaping and Cannabis: San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S.

Self-report of e-cigarette and cannabis use among San Juan County youth are similar to the state and U.S. Early onset of cannabis use (before 13) among youth in San Juan County is significantly above the rate across the U.S.

Tobacco/Vaping & Cannabis Use: High School, 2021/2023 YRRS/YRBS				
Indicator	Any Nicotine Product (2023)	E-Cig/Vaping (2023)	Cannabis Use (2023)	Cannabis use before age 13 (2021)
San Juan County	24.7%	18.5%	15.9%	10.7%
New Mexico	22.2%	18.8%	17.9%	11.1%
U.S.	18.7% (2021)	18.0% (2021)	17%	4.9%

Sources: NM Dept. of Health, YRRS (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey) and CDC YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey). "Any nicotine product" includes use of at least one of the following tobacco products: cigarettes, cigars, spit tobacco, hookah, or electronic vapor products. "Current use" questions above refer to use in the past 30 days.

Additional Statistics: Middle School

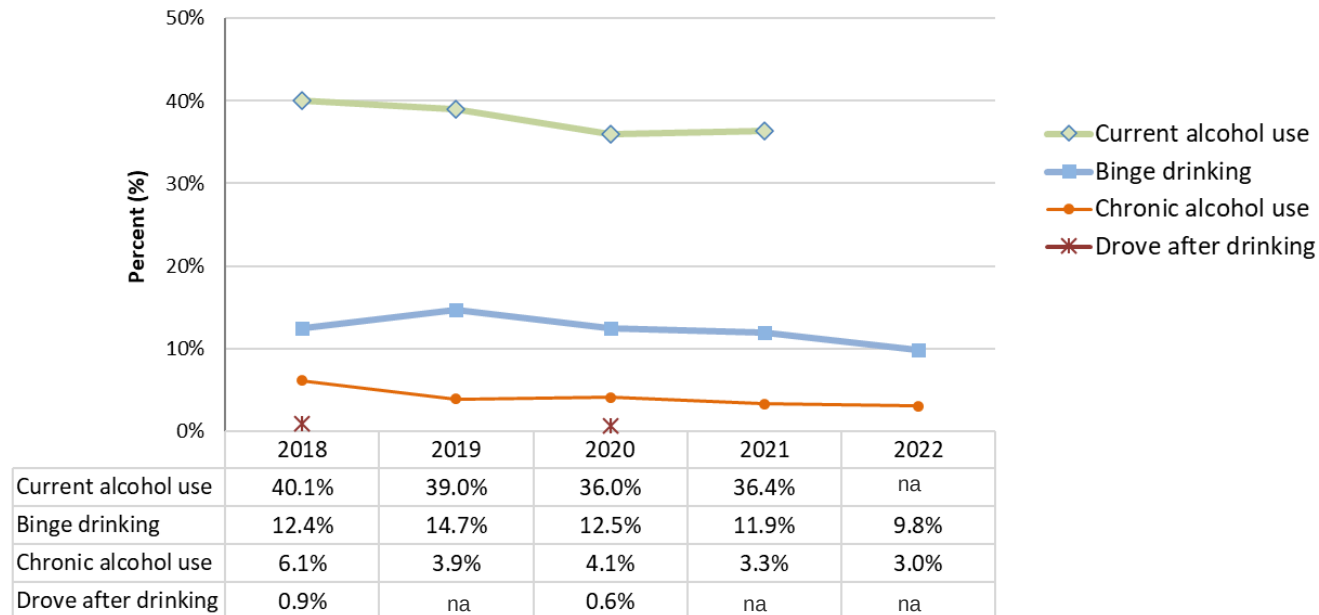
On the 2021 YRRS, 10.5% of middle school students reported past 30-day use of any tobacco products, and 9.2% reported vaping in the past month. This rate is similar to 10.6% middle schoolers across New Mexico.

ADULT SUBSTANCE USE (ALCOHOL)

Trends, Alcohol Use Indicators: Adults 18+

CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey (BRFSS, 2018-2022)

On CDC's adult survey, self-report of substance use among adults in San Juan County has remained relatively consistent, with a modest decrease in binge drinking since 2018.



Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, available via New Mexico Dept. of Health IBIS.

NOTES: "Current use" refers to past 30-day use. "Chronic drinking" refers to more than two drinks per day for males, and more than one drink per day for females. "Binge drinking" is defined as 5 or more drinks for males, or 4 or more drinks for females, on an occasion.

Table 5.3. Alcohol Use Among Adults: San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S.

Self-report of alcohol use, including heavy episodic (binge) and chronic drinking, among San Juan County adults is somewhat below state and U.S., rates, but not statistically different. For example, on the 2022 survey, 11.9% of San Juan County adults reported past month binge drinking, compared to 15.4% across the U.S.

Alcohol Use Among Adults: 2021/2022* BRFSS				
Indicator	Alcohol Use (2021)	Binge Drinking (2022)	Chronic Drinking (2022)	Drove after Drinking (2020)
San Juan County	36.4%	11.9%	3.3%	0.6%
New Mexico	48.4%	14.7%	5.1%	0.6%
U.S.	53.6%	15.4%	6.7%	2.2%

Source: CDC BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey).

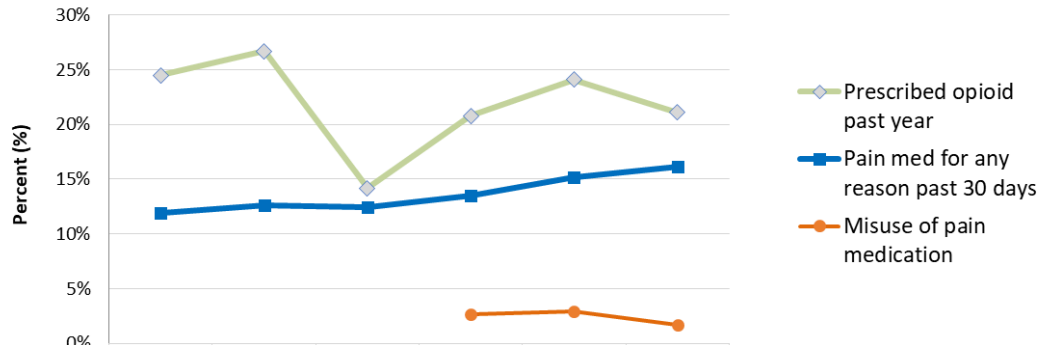
Additional Statistics: Subpopulation

Binge drinking is higher among males (15% in 2021) compared to females (8.7%). There is not a significant difference in alcohol use by race-ethnicity. For example, binge drinking is somewhat lower, but not statistically different, among Native Americans (11.7%, 3-year average 2019-21), compared to Caucasian (14.3%) and Hispanic (13.9%) adults.

ADULT SUBSTANCE USE (RX PAIN MEDICATION)

Trends, Prescription Opioid Use Indicators: Adults 18+ New Mexico Community Survey (2019 - 2024)

Improper use of prescription opioid pain medication is included as a substance use indicator because it increases the risk of overdose. Prescribing of opioid pain medication is somewhat lower than it was in 2020. Self-reported past 30-day use of opioid pain medication “for any reason” (including prescribed, medical or non-medical) has increased incrementally, from 12% to 16%, over the past six years; misuse (for non-medical reasons), a new question added to the survey in 2022, is generally consistent, but decreased slightly in 2024.



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Prescribed opioid past year	24.5%	26.7%	14.2%	20.8%	24.1%	21.1%
Pain med for any reason past 30 days	11.9%	12.6%	12.4%	13.5%	15.2%	16.1%
Misuse of pain medication	na	na	na	2.7%	2.9%	1.7%

Source: New Mexico Community Survey (NMCS), San Juan County (2024, n=617; average sample size, 2019-2023, n=985). *Misuse (improper use) is defined as taking prescription opioid pain medication for non-medical or reasons other than prescribed. Note the NMCS is a convenience sample survey implemented by OSAP-funded programs across New Mexico. Some degree of caution should be used, as they do not necessary generalize to the entire population.

**Table 5.4. Opioid Pain Medication: San Juan County and New Mexico
New Mexico Community Survey (NMCS, 2024)**

Self-report of use and misuse of prescription opioid pain medication is somewhat lower among San Juan County residents, compared to the results across the state.

Opioid Use/Misuse Indicators: 2024			
Indicator	Prescribed Rx Opioid (Past year)	Use of Opioid Pain Medication (For any reason, past month)	Misuse of Opioid Pain Medication*
San Juan County	21.1%	16.1%	1.7%
Females	22.3%	17.6%	1.5%
Males	21.1%	15.0%	2.0%
New Mexico	23.9%	18.6%	5.9% (2023)

Source: New Mexico Community Survey, San Juan County (n=617, SJC; n=6942, NM). *Improper use (misuse) is defined as taking prescription opioid pain medication for non-medical reasons or for reasons other than prescribed.

Additional Statistics: Narcan/naloxone

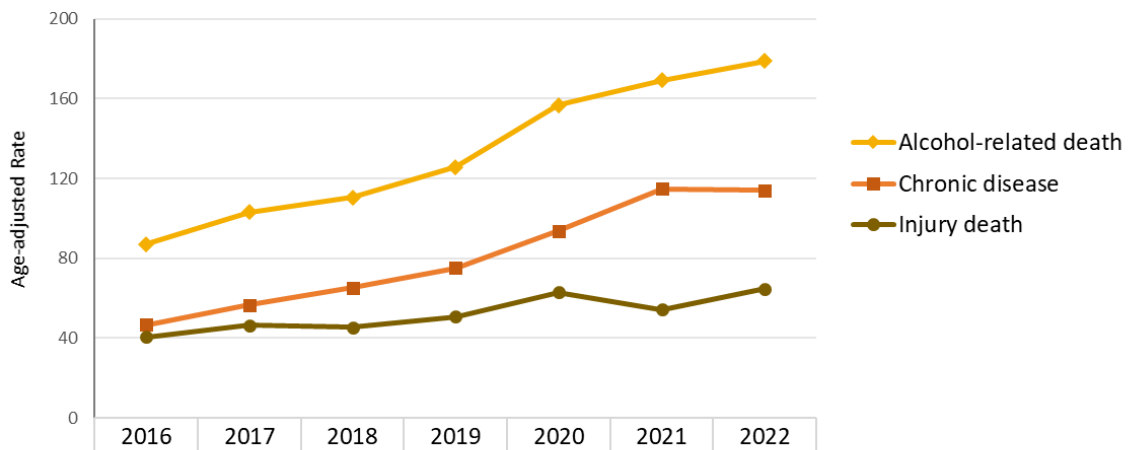
A positive recent increase on the NMCS was noted in the availability of Narcan/naloxone to help prevent opioid overdose. Among those who report past 30-day use of prescription opioid pain medication, 30.5% reported they had Narcan available, up from 20% in 2022 and 2023. And, 23% of those who have family members / friends who frequently use opioids reported they have Narcan available to help prevent overdose.

CONSEQUENCES (ALCOHOL)

Consequences of excessive or heavy alcohol use include negative health outcomes, increased risk of injury and death. Alcohol-related death numbers and rates as available from the NM Department of Health include those deaths in which alcohol was the primary cause (e.g., alcohol poisoning and alcohol-related liver disease), as well as a percentage of deaths in which alcohol was a contributor, and injury deaths involving alcohol.

Trends, Alcohol-related Death New Mexico Department of Health (2016 - 2022)

In 2022 there were 208 alcohol-related deaths across San Juan County (giving a rate of 178.8 deaths per 100,000), including those in which alcohol contributed to acute events (74 deaths) such as alcohol-involved injury or alcohol poisoning, and deaths due to alcohol-related chronic disease (134 deaths) such as liver disease. As shown below, rates have increased significantly over the past several years.



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Alcohol-related death	87.1	103.2	110.6	125.7	156.7	169.3	178.8
Chronic disease	46.6	56.7	65.1	75.1	93.6	114.9	114.1
Injury death	40.5	46.4	45.5	50.6	63.0	54.4	64.7

Source: New Mexico Department of Health (NM-Indicator-based Information System)

Table 5.5. Alcohol-related Death: San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S. (2022)

The rate of alcohol-related death in San Juan County is nearly twice the rate across New Mexico, and three to four times the rate across the U.S. San Juan County has consistently ranked among the worst counties in New Mexico for the burden of alcohol-related consequences, in particular, alcohol-related death and injury. And, New Mexico is among the worst states in the nation.

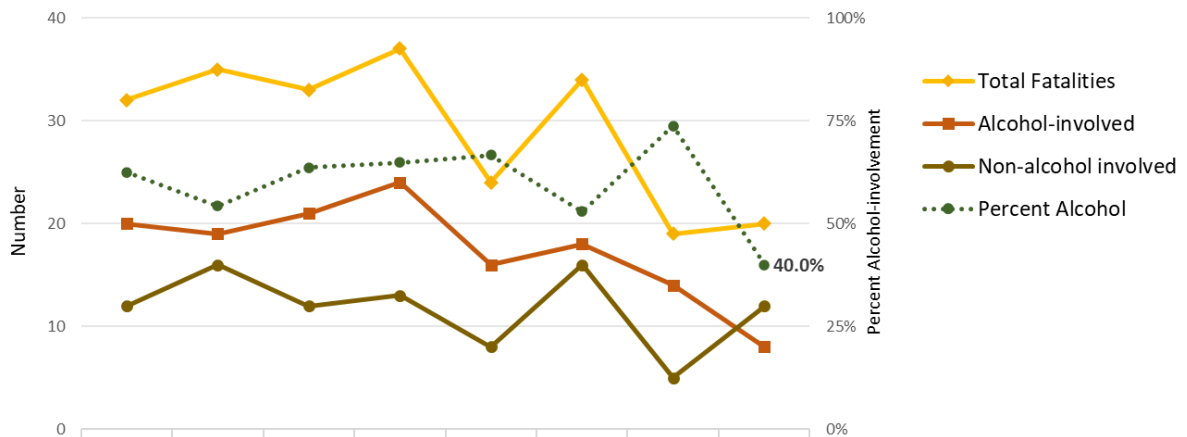
Age-adjust Rates per 100,000 (Total, Chronic Disease & Injury): 2022			
Indicator	Alcohol-related death	Chronic Disease	Injury Death
San Juan County	178.8	114.1	64.7
New Mexico	93.8	52.8	41.0
U.S. (2020-21)	47.6	29.4	18.2

Source: New Mexico Department of Health (NM-IBIS). U.S. rates are two-year averages for years 2020-2021, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CONSEQUENCES (ALCOHOL & TRAFFIC)

Trends, Number of Alcohol-involved Motor Vehicle Fatalities New Mexico Department of Transportation (2016 - 2023)

Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities is a subset of alcohol-involved injury deaths, shown above. In 2023 there were 20 traffic deaths across San Juan County, 8 of which (40%) were alcohol-involved. The number of alcohol-involved traffic fatalities has trended downward since 2019. The percent of alcohol-involvement has historically been above 50%. In 2023 there was a decrease in alcohol-involvement, from 74% in 2022 to 40% in 2023.



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Fatalities	32	35	33	37	24	34	19	20
Alcohol-involved	20	19	21	24	16	18	14	8
Non-alcohol involved	12	16	12	13	8	16	5	12
Percent Alcohol	62.5%	54.3%	63.6%	64.9%	66.7%	52.9%	73.7%	40.0%

Source: New Mexico Department of Transportation available from UNM Geospatial and Population Studies: <https://gps.unm.edu/tru/reports/fatality-reports/index.html>

Additional Statistics: County, State and U.S. Comparison

For years 2016-2020, the rate of motor vehicle traffic fatalities across San Juan County was 9.7 fatalities per 100,000, twice the U.S. rate of 4.6 (in 2020), and above New Mexico's rate of 5.7. (Source: NM DOH Substance Use Epidemiology Profile, 2022)

Table 5.6. Selected Alcohol-Related Driving Indicators (NM Traffic Safety, 2022)

San Juan County is 6% of the New Mexico population, but represented 13.5% of the DWI Arrests and 17.4% of the DWI convictions. The number of alcohol-involved crashes has been consistent overall since 2016, but increased in 2021 and 2022, from a 5-year average of 168 alcohol-involved crashes (2016-2020) to above 200. Below are selected indicators overall and by age group.

Alcohol-Related Driving Consequences (2022)			
Indicator	Alcohol Crashes	DWI Arrests	DWI Convictions
San Juan County Total	211	1131	849
Teen Drivers (Age 15-19)	11	39	37
Young Adult Drivers (20-24)	39	181	136

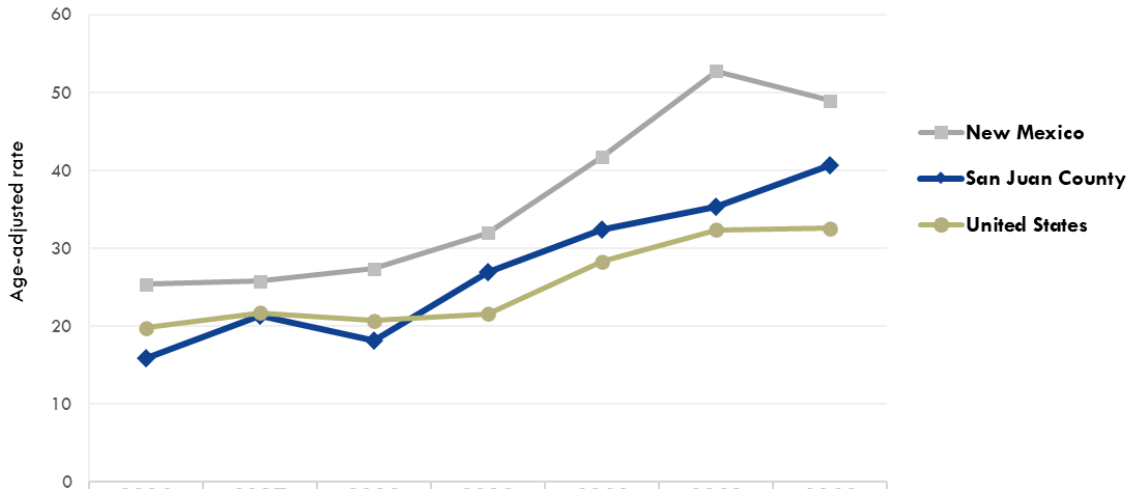
Source: New Mexico Department of Transportation, UNM Geospatial and Population Studies.

CONSEQUENCES (DRUG OVERDOSE)

Trends, Overdose Death

New Mexico Department of Health (2016 - 2022)

In 2022 there were 47 overdose deaths across San Juan County (giving a rate of 40.7 deaths per 100,000), 22 of these overdose deaths involved methamphetamine, 21 involved “any opioid” (prescription or illicit), and of the 21 opioid-related deaths, 18 involved fentanyl. San Juan County’s rate doubled from 2016 to 2022. The county’s rate is between the U.S. and state rates.



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New Mexico	25.4	25.8	27.4	32	41.8	52.8	49.0
San Juan County	15.9	21.3	18.2	26.9	32.4	35.4	40.7
United States	19.8	21.7	20.7	21.6	28.3	32.4	32.6

Source: New Mexico Department of Health (NM-IBIS)

Additional Statistics: Alcohol Overdose

Alcohol poisoning, also known as “alcohol overdose,” is not included in “drug overdose” rates. In 2022, there were 19 deaths in which toxic effects of alcohol was a contributing factor, either as the primary cause of death (18) or as an additional, contributing cause (1). For the years 2018-22, alcohol poisoning was a contributing factor in 18% of drug overdose deaths. (CDC WONDER)

Table 5.7. Drug Overdose Rates by Subpopulations

Looking at two time frames, rates of drug overdose increased for all subpopulations, except females. In addition to the subpopulations below, by age group, drug overdose is highest among those age 35-44 (70.3, 11 deaths in 2022) followed by other mid-adult age groups, 45-55 and 25-34.

Overdose death age-adjusted rates by sex, age and race/ethnicity (Two Time Frames)		
Indicator	2017-2019	2020-2022
San Juan County Overall Rate	22.1	36.2
<i>Males</i>	24.8	50.8
<i>Females</i>	19.4	21.7
<i>Caucasian</i>	24.8	42.5
<i>Hispanic</i>	23.5	36.2
<i>Native American</i>	17.1	30.1

Source: New Mexico Department of Health (NM-IBIS).

NEED TO ADDRESS SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Household Challenges

Resident Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

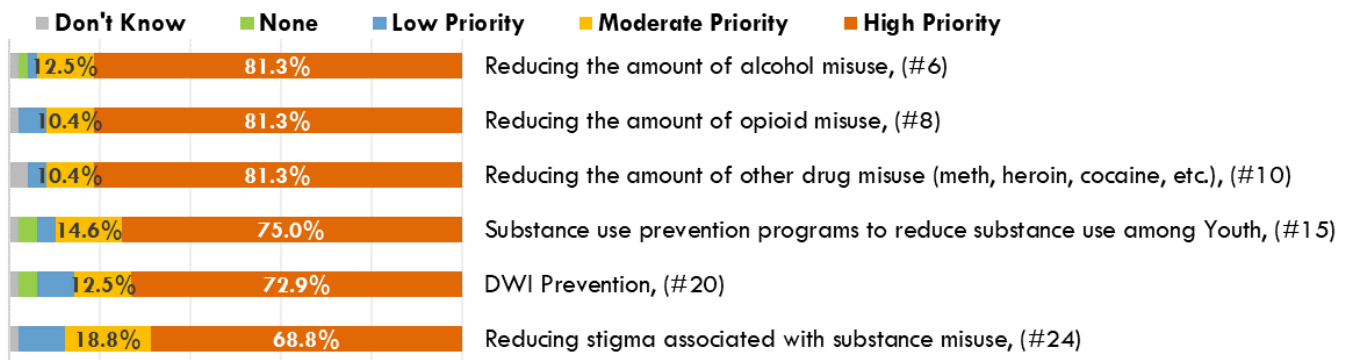
On the Needs Assessment survey, 22.4% of the respondents reported that they or someone in their household experienced a problem with drugs or alcohol in the past year. The experience is correlated with level of stress/anxiety, asked on a separate question. As with other household challenges and stressful life events, a household challenge with drugs/alcohol was more prevalent among those who reported a “great deal” of anxiety/stress (32.4%), compared to those experiencing a “moderate” level of stress (23.8%), “a little” stress (17.0%) or “no stress” (11.3%).



KEY INFORMANT SURVEY

Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each (n=49)

Ratings of substance-use specific issues and needs were highly prioritized issues among Key Informants, all of which are in the top 24 among 106 service needs and issues.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding substance use related services?”

Of the 11 Key Informant responses related to needs for substance use prevention or the need to address specific substances, prevention-specific programs were most frequently highlighted, followed by the need for substance-specific (e.g., opioid, alcohol) programs. (Additional ratings and comments about substance use-related counseling and treatment services can be found in the “Health & Wellness” section of this document.)

- Program/Service or Prevention-specific (4)
 - (Examples: “Awareness/Education”; “Sharing of data and resources”; “Prevention”; “Crisis services and stigma reduction are top priorities.”)
- Opioid-specific (3)
 - (Examples: “Before these drugs like fentanyl, opioids get here, educate our communities”; “Opioid addiction”; “Preventing opioids from hitting the street.”)
- Alcohol-specific (2)
 - (Examples: “These are all high priority, substance misuse/alcohol is probably the most pervasive;” “Substance use in this community needs to be addressed. Our resources are exhausted. Every place sells alcohol, which is the leading cause of the substance use in the community. Limit the places to only liquor stores.”)
- Cannabis (1)
- Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (meth, heroin, cocaine, etc.) (1)

KEY FINDINGS

Substance Use & Consequences

- On the Needs Assessment survey, “Youth substance use prevention programs” was among the 10 top-ranked issues in need of additional attention and focus (#9 out of 27). “Services for substance use (drug/alcohol) problems” was ranked #12.
- There have been substantial reductions in youth substance use, particularly alcohol and related risk behaviors.
- Self-report of substance use/misuse among adults had not changed significantly. However, the harmful consequences of misuse have increased over the past several years, including alcohol-involved injury and chronic disease deaths, and drug overdose.
- The alcohol-related death rate in San Juan County is over three and a half times the U.S. rate.
- Focus Group participants across multiple topic areas identified substance use as a contributing factor to challenges in a variety of sectors, including crime, economics, mental health and transportation.
- On the Needs Assessment survey, 22% reported that they or someone in their family had experienced a drug or alcohol problem in the past year, and among those who sought services for substance use/mental health, 43% experienced difficulty accessing those treatment or counseling services (*see page 42 in Health*).
- On the Key Informant survey, reducing substance misuse was among the top 10 ranked concerns. Reducing the amount of alcohol misuse was ranked #6 out of 106 issues, reducing opioid misuse was ranked #8, and the need to reduce other illicit drug use was ranked #10. All three issues were rated a “high priority” by 81% of the respondents.

EDUCATION



“Communities and educators can work together to increase educational attainment for children and adults, better preparing the individuals and families of today and tomorrow to live long, healthy lives.” (County Health Rankings)

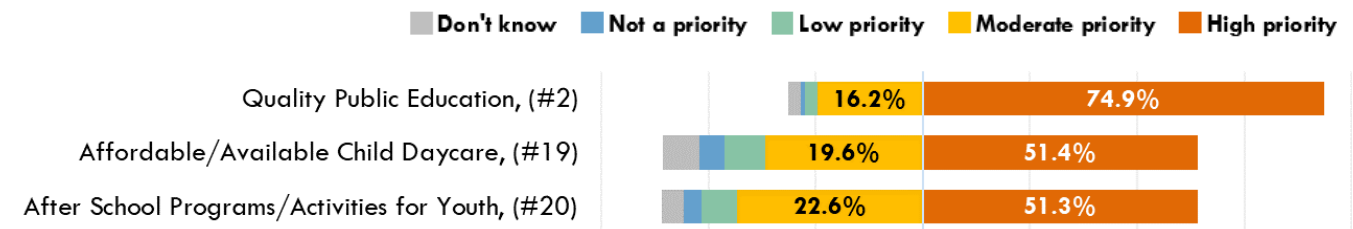
Introduction: Education is linked to a number of positive health and life outcomes. Better education is associated with higher incomes and more options for employment. Education is also linked to better health outcomes, thriving, healthier lifestyle decisions, and fewer chronic conditions which contribute to longer lifespan. Stress and poor health early in life are more common among those whose parents have lower levels of education.

Need for Focus on Education

On the Resident Survey, “Quality of public education” was one of the top-ranked community needs (#2), rated a “high priority” by 3 out of 4 (75%) respondents. Just over half of the respondents (51%) rated “Affordable/available child daycare” and “After school programs” as high priorities.

Ratings of Education

San Juan County Resident Needs Assessment Survey (2023)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

Residents’ Ratings: Additional Comparisons

Ratings of “Public education” as a priority were similar across parent and education status. Parents’ ratings were only slightly higher (77%) compared to non-parents (74%), and ratings by respondents with college degrees (77%) were just slightly higher than those without (74%). In other words, respondents’ ratings were less influenced by personal experiences and backgrounds.

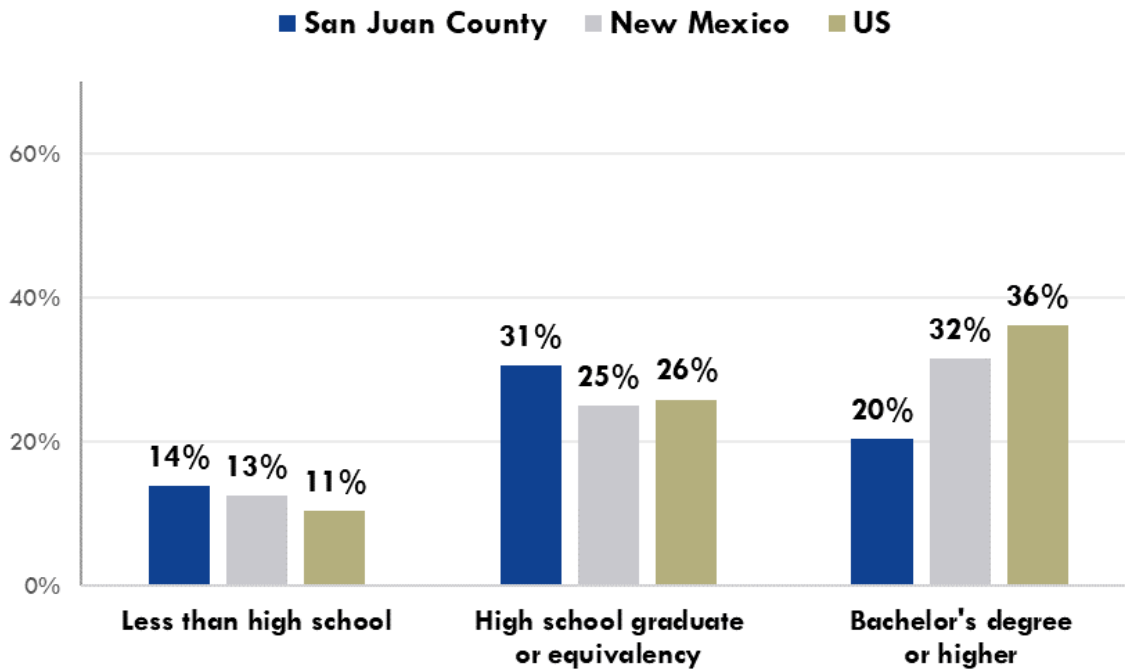
By race-ethnicity, ratings of education as a “high priority” were higher among Hispanic respondents (81%), compared to Caucasian (73%) and Native American (73%) respondents. By gender, a higher percentage of females rated education as a high priority (77%) compared to males (70%).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational Attainment: San Juan County, New Mexico and U.S.

Highest level of education achieved among those age 25 and older Census (2023)

In San Juan County, in 2023, about 14% of adults older than 24 had less than a high school diploma or equivalent, compared to 11% across the U.S., and 20% of adults older than 24 in San Juan County have a Bachelor's degree or higher postsecondary education. New Mexico is ranked 42nd in the U.S. for level of educational attainment; San Juan County is just below New Mexico's level.



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey (2023) 1-year estimates

Table 6.1. Educational Attainment and Income (Census, 2023)

Those with less education than a high school diploma earn half as much as those with a 4-year college degree. San Juan County's level of income is lower at all levels of education, compared to the state and U.S.

Median Earnings by Level of Education: County, State and U.S. (2023)			
	Less than High School	High School Graduate or Equivalency	Bachelor's Degree
San Juan County	\$26,746	\$31,327	\$51,180
New Mexico	\$28,500	\$33,075	\$55,421
U.S.	\$31,660	\$39,428	\$67,256

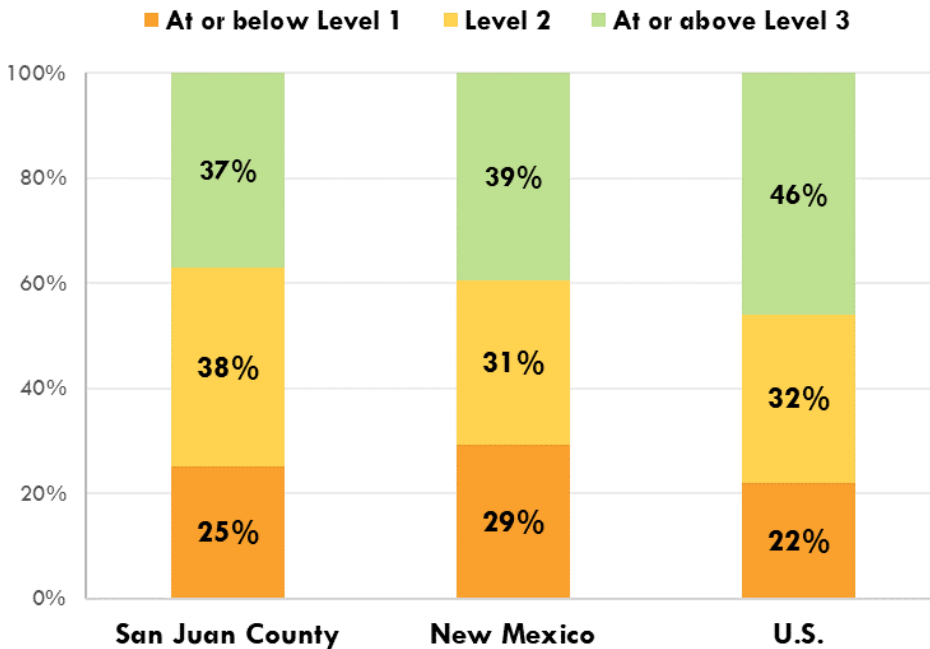
Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey (2023), 1-year estimates (Table S1501)

ADULT LITERACY

Adult Literacy, Comparisons (San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S.)

New Mexico is among the states with the highest percentage (29%) of those with “no or low literacy skills” (At or Below Level 1). San Juan County’s percentage of those with no-to-low literacy skills (25%) is between the U.S. and New Mexico. Literacy skills can impact one’s ability to navigate the job search and fill out a job application, and, workplace skills often rely on literacy.

New Mexico also ranks among the 10 states with the lowest percentage of those who read at a high proficiency level of 39% (At or above Level 3). San Juan County’s percentage of 37% is just below New Mexico’s and well below the U.S. value of 46%.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), 2012/2014/2017. (Note: the adult skills assessment is an adult skills test with adults age 16-65, which results in standardized scores at 5 levels. “Below Level 1” are those who experience “functional illiteracy”; “Level 1” are those with “low literacy skills.” The NCES groups “Level 1” and “Below,” shown in the dark orange color in the graph, at the bottom area of the columns. Note that the skills assessment is in English, and therefore the rates apply to English literacy, and does not account for literacy skills in other language such as Spanish.)

Language at Home

The literacy assessments described above are in English, and apply to English literacy only. In San Juan County, it is estimated that 29% of the population 5 years and over speaks a language other than English, and 10% speak English less than “very well.”

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey (2023) 1-year estimates.

Additional Statistics: Numeracy

The PIAAC adult skills assessment also estimates adult “numeracy” or the ability to access, use, interpret and communicate mathematical information and ideas. Across the U.S., 32% of adults (age 16-65) have low to little numeracy skills (Level 1 or below). Across New Mexico, 40% score at or below Level 1 for numeracy. As with literacy, San Juan County is between the U.S. and New Mexico, with 37% adults in the county who experience low to no numeracy skills.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Schools and Districts in San Juan County

There are four public preK-12 school districts in San Juan County, with a total of 51 schools serving 21,384 students enrolled in the 2023-24 school year. In addition, the Shiprock Associated Schools, Inc. (SASI) is a Tribal grant school entity located in the Navajo Nation in Shiprock, NM, with a community (prek-6) school, a middle and high school. San Juan County is also home to Navajo Preparatory School, owned by the Navajo Nation and serving native and non-native students.

In addition to preK-12, higher education opportunities include San Juan College, a community college with a “credit enrollment” of 8,795 and “workforce training” enrollment of 3,883. There are also local satellite/extension campuses of Dine College (Shiprock North Campus), University of New Mexico (San Juan Center) and New Mexico Highlands University (Farmington Branch).

Much of the data presented in this section are publicly available from the NM Public Education Dept. (NM PED) or reported by the NM PED to the National Center Educational Statistics (NCES.gov), which do not include data from SASI, Navajo Prep, or other privately or tribally run schools.

Table 6.2. Public Pk-12 School District Demographics (2022-2023)

For reference, demographics and additional information is provided below for the four school districts in San Juan County. Postsecondary enrollment refers to the percentage of high school graduates who are enrolled in postsecondary education, which includes two-year and four-year colleges, as well as other options. Across the U.S., in 2022, 61.8% of recent high school graduates were enrolled in postsecondary education, and 55.5% across New Mexico. San Juan County’s weighted average of 56.5% across districts was similar to New Mexico and 5% below the U.S.

Demographics by San Juan County School Districts								
School District	Schools	Students	Child Poverty (Ages 5-17)	Post-secondary Enrollment	Overall Demographics			
					Native American	Hispanic	White, not Hispanic	Other
Aztec Municipal	7	2,562	24.0%	56.9%	11.0%	24.3%	62.1%	2.9%
Bloomfield Schools	7	2,584	32.3%	52.7%	28.8%	33.9%	37.1%	0.4%
Central Consolidated	17	5,037	39.3%	47.4%	84.7%	4.6%	11.4%	0.8%
Farmington Municipal	20	11,201	27.9%	61.4%	34.0%	25.8%	40.7%	1.7%
Total/Ave	51	21,384	30.5%	*56.5%	42.2%	21.7	36.2	1.5%

Sources: Students enrolled and schools are for the 2023-24 school year, provided by the CCD via the National Center for Education Statistics (nces.ed.gov/cdc/). Child poverty and demographics by school district are available from the U.S. Census/American Community Survey, 2022 5-year estimates. Post secondary enrollments are available for individual school districts from the NMPED (nmvistas.org) *The overall county average for postsecondary enrollment is not available, and was calculated as a weighted average for this report utilizing the 2022 district enrollment.

PROFICIENCY

Proficiency Across Subject Areas (San Juan County and New Mexico)

The proficiency percentages refer to those students whose test scores are in the range of “proficient or above.” For example, approximately two-thirds (68%) of school children do not read at the “expected” level (*proficient or above*) for the student’s grade. Proficiency averages across San Juan County school districts are 5-7% below the New Mexico averages for Math, Reading and Science. New Mexico ranks among the worst states in the U.S., with significantly lower scores than the national averages for math and reading proficiency.

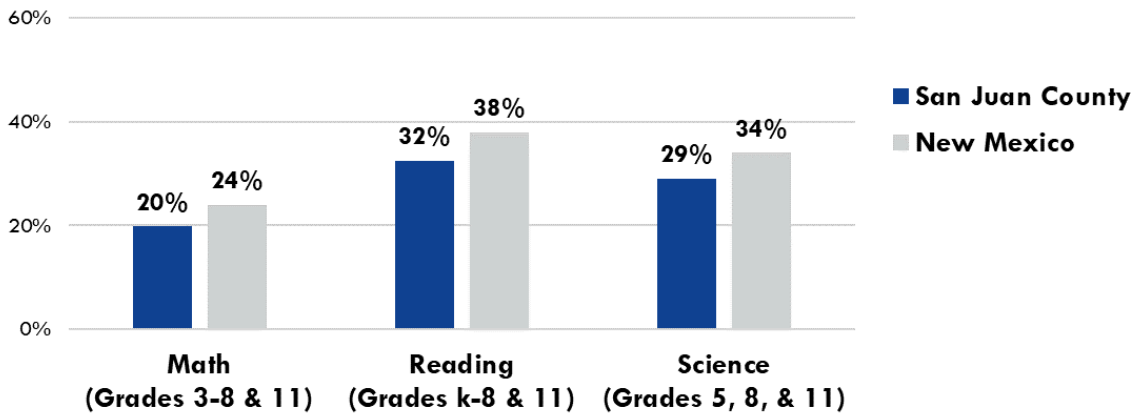


Table 6.3. Child Proficiency by School District (2022-2023)

Proficiency averages for San Juan County school districts are shown below.

Proficiency by School Districts and New Mexico, and by Content Area			
School District	Math	Reading	Science
Aztec	19%	38%	28%
Bloomfield	20%	30%	28%
Central Consolidated	13%	23%	17%
Farmington	23%	36%	35%
Wtd. Average of SJC School Districts*	19.8%	32.5%	29.1%
New Mexico	24%	38%	34%

Source: New Mexico Public Education Dept.: NM Vistas (<https://nmvistas.org/>). (Data Notes: Proficiency ratings for school districts provided by the NM PED are not grade-specific and are not directly comparable with national NAEP results for 4th, 8th and 12th grade reading, math and science proficiency. See state profiles at <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/>.*Only district level data area available from NM PED. The overall county average was calculated as a weighted average for this report utilizing the 2022 district enrollment.

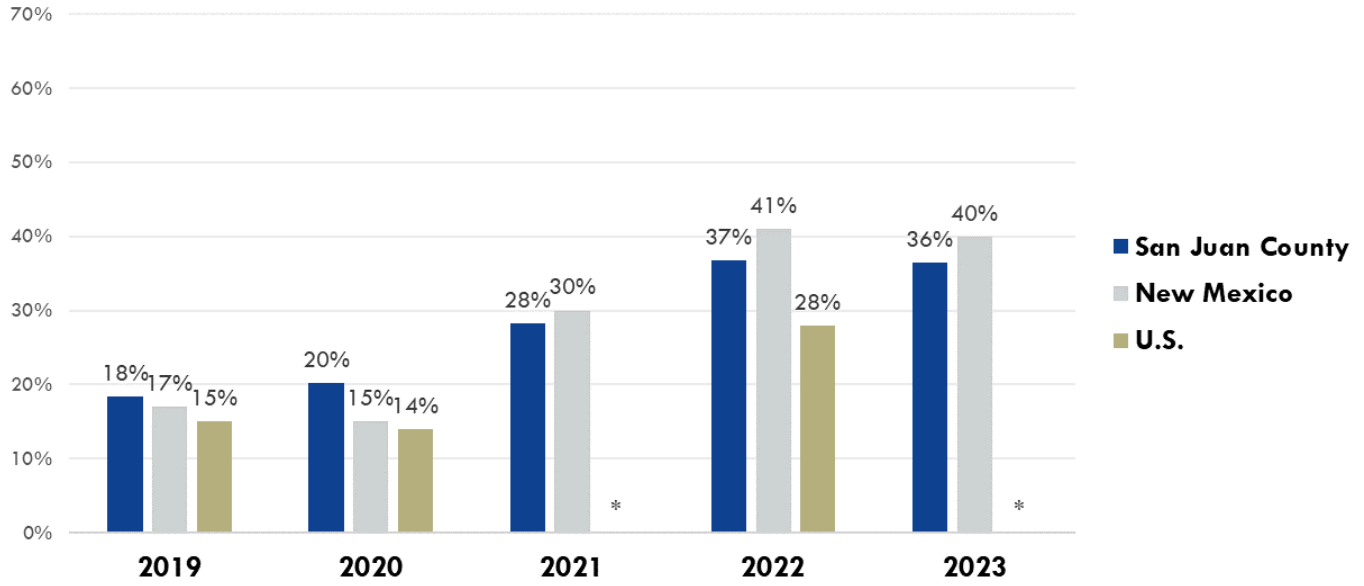
Additional Information: Levels of Proficiency

The percentages in the graph and table above show those students who whose skills are “Proficient or above.” Other levels include “Basic” and “Below.” Percentages for these levels were not available at the district level from NM PED. In 2018, across New Mexico, for 4th and 8th grade proficiency in Reading, Science and Math, the percentage of students who scored in the “Basic” level was in the range of 29% - 42%, and the range of those students who scored in the “Below Basic” range was 21% - 46%.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE / ABSENTEEISM

Chronic Absenteeism, Comparisons (San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S.)

Attendance measures the percentage of students who are enrolled at the school that attend school on more than 90% of school days. Conversely, chronic absenteeism are the percentage of students who did not attend on more than 90%. In 2019, 15% of students across the U.S. were “chronically absent.” Absenteeism rose during the pandemic and leveled off from 2022 to 2023. County and state absenteeism rates were above the U.S. average in 2022.



Source: Data from ed.gov, available at <https://www.returntolearntacker.net/> *Note:* *U.S. averages not available because insufficient number of states/districts reported absenteeism during these years. (See note below regarding SJC averages.)

Table 6.4. Trends, Absenteeism by School Districts

Absenteeism rose during the pandemic, but has not resumed to pre-pandemic attendance. Across the state and among districts in San Juan County, more than one-third of students do not attend school 90% of the time..

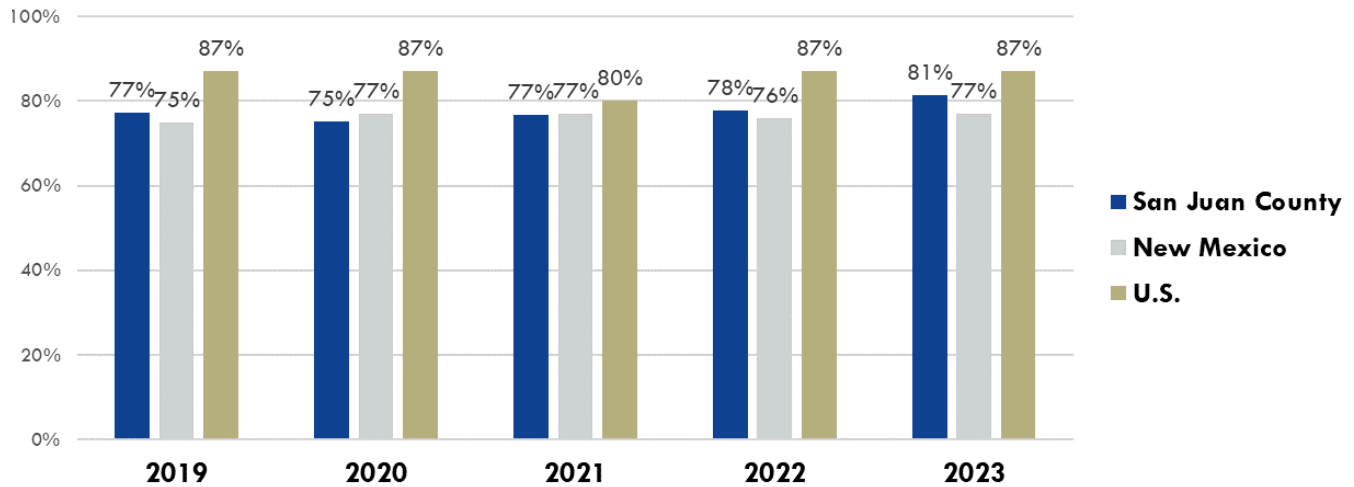
Chronic Absenteeism: SJC School Districts, New Mexico & U.S.					
School District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Aztec	21%	21%	50%	30%	40%
Bloomfield	21%	21%	27%	39%	34%
Central Consolidated	23%	22%	14%	45%	37%
Farmington	15%	19%	30%	34%	36%
Wtd. Average of SJC School Districts*	18.3%	20.2%	28.3%	36.7%	36.5%
New Mexico	17%	15%	30%	41%	40%
U.S.	15%	14%	**	28%	**

Source: Data from Ed.gov, available at <https://www.returntolearntacker.net/> (*Weighted county averages were calculated based on the 2022 district enrollment. **U.S. averages not available because insufficient number of states/districts reported absenteeism during these years. Data from NM PED/nmvistas.org may be slightly different due to rounding error and time of school year reporting.)

GRADUATION RATES

Graduation Rates, Comparisons (San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S.)

In 2023, the U.S. average 4-year cohort graduation rate was 87%. The average rate across the U.S. declined during the pandemic, but did not change as much across San Juan County and New Mexico. Preliminary NM PED data for 2023 showed an improvement in San Juan County's average graduation rate, from 78% to 81%, which is between New Mexico and U.S. rates. New Mexico's graduation rate is ranked among the states with the lowest graduation rates in the U.S.



Sources: County and State rates, from New Mexico Public Education Dept.; U.S. rates from National Center for Education Statistics. (*Weighted county averages were estimated based on the 2022 district enrollment and may differ slightly from NM PED and other sources.)

Table 6.5. Trends, Graduation Rates by School District

San Juan County's average graduation rate was 77.7% for the class of 2022, with a positive overall increase to 81%, according to preliminary results for 2023.

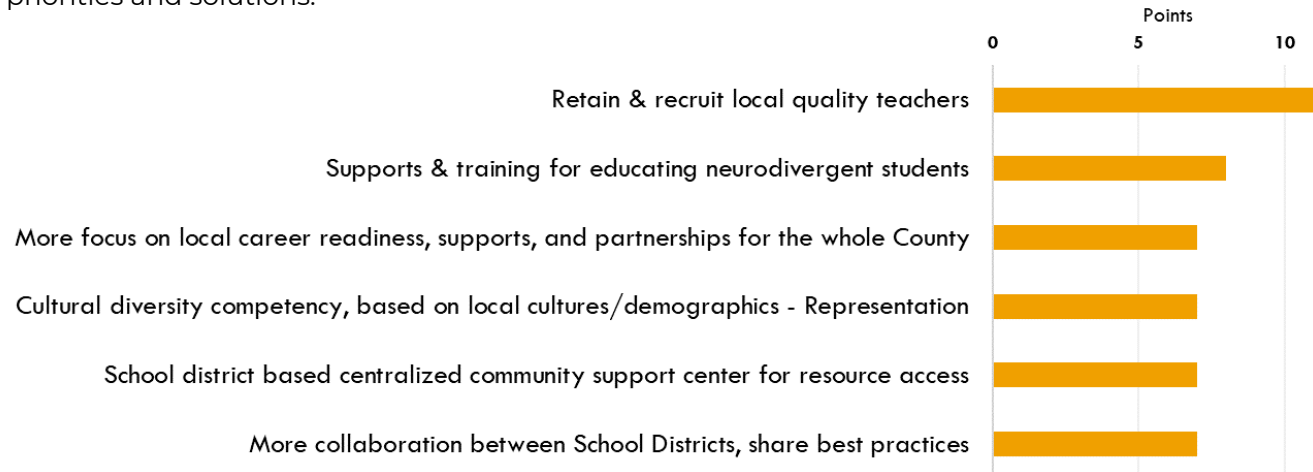
4-Year Graduation Rates: SJC School Districts, New Mexico & U.S.					
School District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Aztec	76%	76%	73%	67%	67%
Bloomfield	77%	81%	84%	81%	84%
Central Consolidated	72%	68%	70%	72%	77%
Farmington	80%	77%	79%	82%	86%
Wtd. Average of SJC School Districts*	77.3%	75.2%	76.8%	77.7%	81.4%
New Mexico	75%	77%	77%	76%	77%
U.S.	87%	87%	80%	87%	87%

Sources: New Mexico Public Education Dept. & National Center for Education Statistics. (*Weighted county averages were estimated based on the 2022 district enrollment and may differ from NM PED and other sources which are able to utilize specific enrollment for each cohort.)

FOCUS GROUP & ADDITIONAL INDICATORS

“What are the issues and needs that require attention to improve the quality of public education?” (n=6)

A Focus Group with 6 school staff and administrators was conducted in March, 2024 to get their perspective. Participants in the group responded to the question above, with each participant providing their individual responses, followed by a group vote and assigning points to identify top priorities and solutions:



The term “neurodivergent” refers to those with brain differences that affect how the brain works, resulting in different strengths and challenges. These possible differences can include medical conditions, learning disabilities, and autism.

Table 6.6. Expenditures, Student-Teacher Ratios and Teacher Experience

Note that expenditure data for districts are from SY2020-21 and do not entirely reflect recent New Mexico state budget increases for education. Budget increases over the past 5 years are estimated to have increased per-pupil expenditures by approximately \$4,100. Currently, the average per-pupil expenditure of \$13,997 is approximately \$1700 below New Mexico and \$4600 below the national average. The percentage of teachers who have been teaching for “5 years or less” is somewhat better than New Mexico, but slightly above the U.S. average.

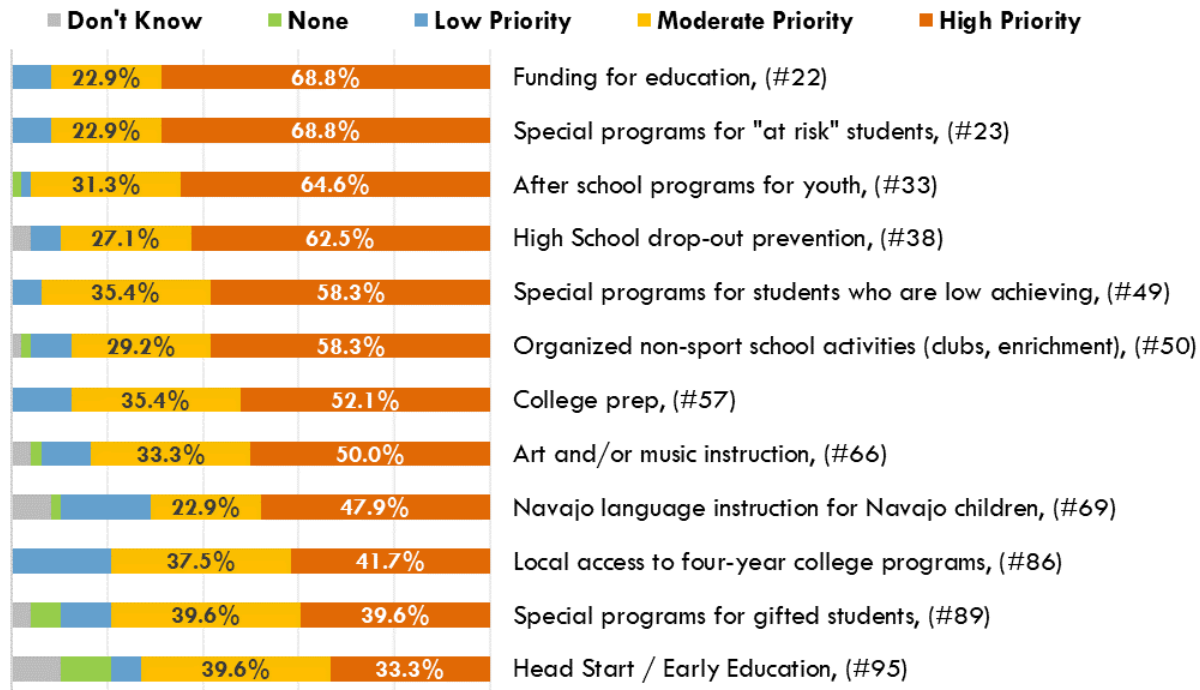
Additional Indicators: SJC School Districts, New Mexico & U.S.			
School District	Student-Teacher Ratio (# students : teacher)	Per-pupil Expenditures (Percent Local Revenue)	Teacher Experience (5 years or less)
Aztec	14.9 : 1	\$14,391 (20%)	23.6%
Bloomfield	14.6 : 1	\$14,212 (21%)	18.3%
Central Consolidated	13.7 : 1	\$18,721 (8%)	19.1%
Farmington	15.4 : 1	\$11,732 (12%)	24.4%
Wtd. Average of SJC School Districts*	14.8 : 1	\$13,997 (13%)	22.3%
New Mexico	14.8 : 1	\$15,708 (17.9%)	24.9%
U.S.	15.4 : 1	\$18,614 (42.7%)	20.0%

Sources: District financial and student-teacher ratio data are from the National Center for Education Statistics (District details, SY 2022-23; SY Fiscal data from 2020-21); State expenditure and teacher experience data from NM PED (NMVistas.org); Local funding contributions for State and Nation, U.S. Census, 2022 Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finance. *Weighted county averages were calculated based on the 2022 district enrollment and may differ somewhat from other sources.

EDUCATION: KEY INFORMANTS

“Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each.” (n=49)

Within the topic of Education, just over two-thirds of the Key Informants ranked “Funding for education” and “Programs for at-risk students” as high priorities, followed by the need for “After school programs for youth” and “High School drop-out prevention.”



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Education & related services?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority,” Key Informants highlighted increasing programs and options for youth within the education system. Categories of responses are shown below, along with a few representative quotes:

1. Increased options/programming/activities (e.g. high risk, gifted, non-sports, vocational, after school, early ed.) (14)
2. Awareness and Value of education - fostering children's potential (6)
3. Infrastructure Supports - (.e.g., educator wages, control, class sizes, policies) (5)
4. Literacy (4)
5. Funding - for college, for schools in general, equitable funding (4)
6. Support for families - involvement, transportation (3)
7. Items that were mentioned by 2 Key Informants included: Awareness of resources and collaboration; Drop out rate; and Incorporating culture

“Education and reading programs are needed, also STEM. I think being creative in how they are presented to show that these skills are fun and helpful and needed skills.”

“School / District policy does not always meet students where they are in the community. Often schools overlook the human factor of students. The concept of you can't see the forest for the trees. Often kids are not seen or heard until they are in trouble and by then it's too late. CCSS services for "high" risk students is vital to fill in the gap between the school and community.”

“Minimize overloaded classrooms, better monitoring of students and grades, more benefits for educators”

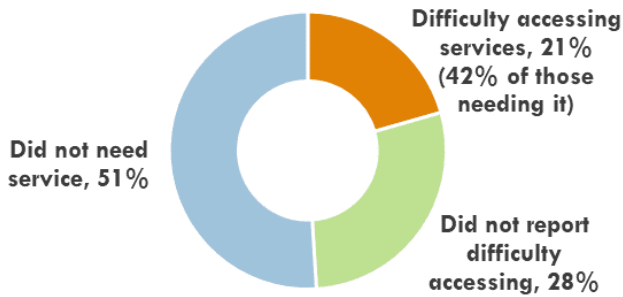
“Literacy Rates MUST improve in our community - we have focused on test taking and it is obvious that has not helped.”

PARENT/FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

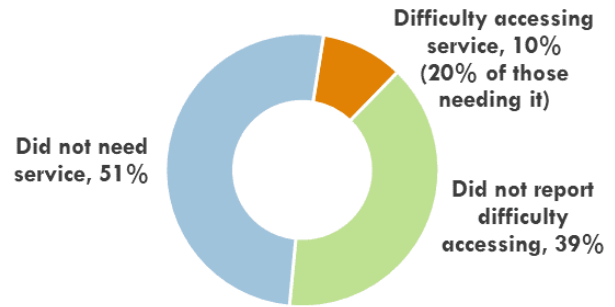
Services that support parents and education capacity include accessible and affordable child daycare, after school programs, and school-based behavioral health services.

Difficulty Accessing Affordable Parent/Family Support Services 100% San Juan County Survey (2023)

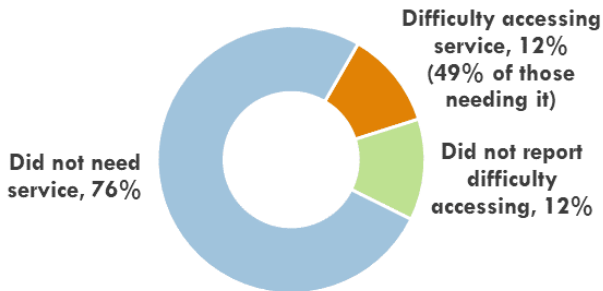
49% reported needing **childcare services**, and of those, 42% of those reported difficulty accessing it



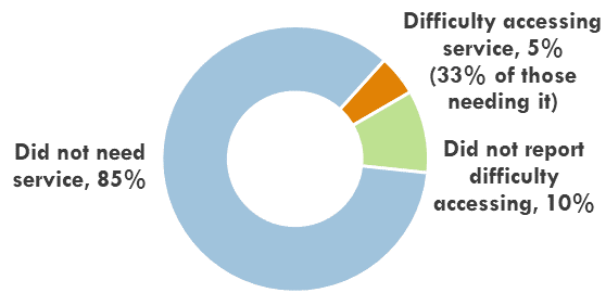
49% reported needing **pre-school services**, 20% of those reported difficulty accessing it



24% reported needing **school-based behavioral health care**, 49% of those reported difficulty accessing it



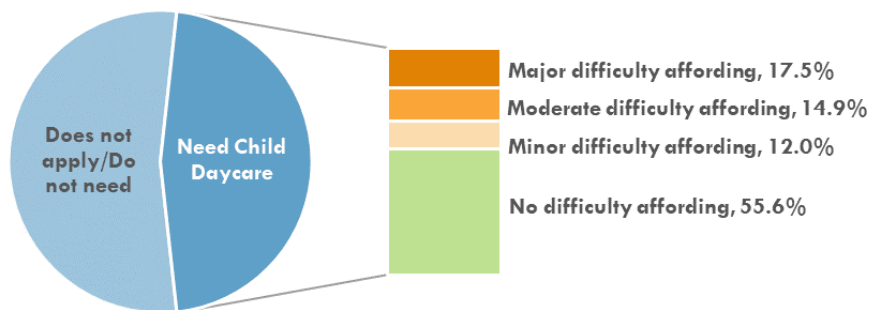
15% reported needing **youth mentoring programs**, 33% of those reported difficulty accessing it



Difficulty Affording Childcare Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

On the Needs Assessment respondents were asked whether they or someone in their household had difficulty affording childcare services.

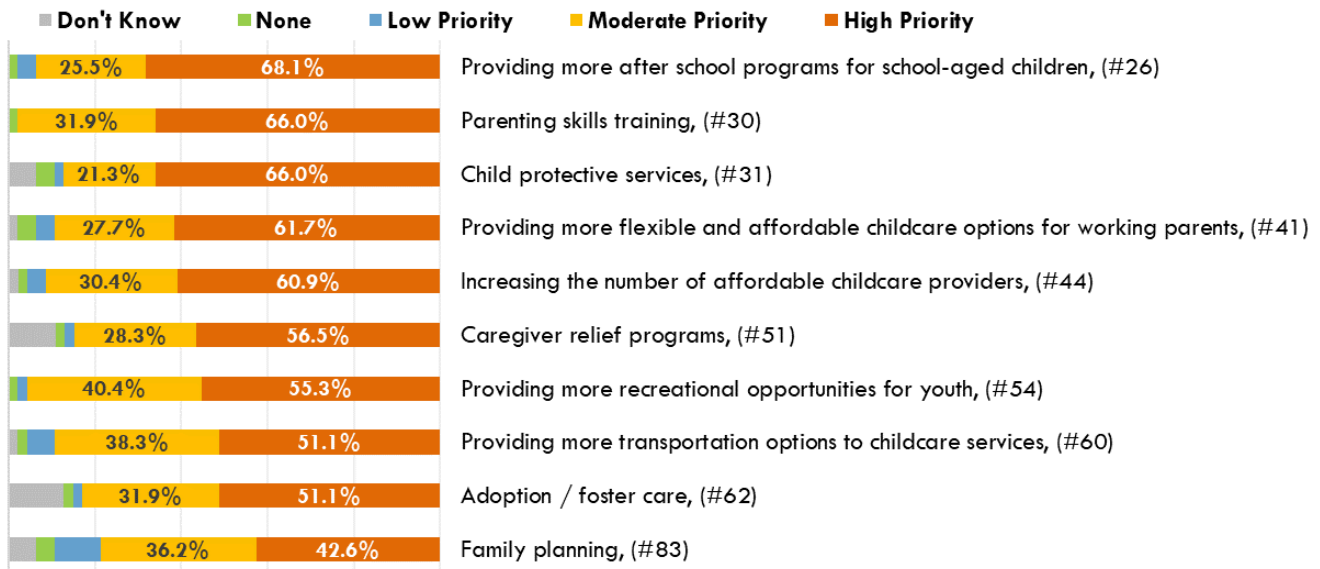
- 47% needed child daycare (out of n=1,422),
- Of those who needed child care services, nearly one-third experienced “moderate” to “major” difficulty affording it.



PARENT/FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES: KEY INFORMANTS

“Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each.” (n=49)

Key Informants ranked a number of services pertaining to parents, families and youth, from after school programs for younger children, ranked #26 among 106 total issues ranked on the survey, through available and affordable childcare (ranked #41 and #44) through assistance with transportation to childcare (#60).



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Family Support and related social services?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority” for Family Support services, Key Informants highlighted affordable childcare options, as well as a variety of activities and services for youth and parents. Categories of responses are shown below, along with a few representative quotes:

1. Child care support - options and work flexibility (8)
2. Improved adult/family services - parenting classes, elder care, counseling (7)
3. Improved child services - welfare, protective, foster care (6)
4. More support/awareness (in general) (6)
5. Resource access - strict criteria, transportation/location, culture (5)
6. More jobs and funding for this priority (4)
7. More activities/programs - youth and family, after school (3)

“Affordable, quality after school programs. Accessible, affordable, and competent parenting education for families. Early intervention services for at risk infants and new parents.”

“Families need easier/more affordable access to family counseling.”

“Being transparent in what services are available to families and working with them on understanding their needs. Parenting is needed to build positive foundations and more culturally appropriate to what population you are working with.”

“Affordable and flexible childcare is badly needed here. Recreation options for youth (for everyone) are also badly needed. There is nothing to do outside of movies and messing around on BLM trails. A family arcade center, putt-putt, teen dance hall ... we need options. Child abuse is rampant here. Those programs need to be re-evaluated and strengthened.”

COMMENTS ABOUT EDUCATION

“What other community needs or priorities do you think need more attention and focus?” COMMENTS from the Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

An open-ended question following the list of Community Needs asked about what *other* needs or issues need more focus. Many comments elaborated or reiterated those already in the list. For example, there were **57 comments about Education**. Representative examples are below.

- Obtaining qualified teaching staff and retaining them
- We need the schools to have better outcomes in student test scores and student learning
- Monies to teacher and substitutes to care for school children in after school programs. Some parents work late. Payments for school drivers to bus the children home as well.
- Access to in school help for children with mental health issues
- Teachers being trained in mental health awareness
- I think that all staff members of municipal schools need to be monitored and their behavior and communication skills with parents. When you report something to the school they don't have a process on who they're gonna report it to. I just feel like there's no communication between upper level staff and lower level staff.
- Wages need to be increased and teachers must be allowed to continue teaching students about diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- When I pay my property taxes, half goes to School taxes, bonds, and mill levies. That's way too much in school taxes.
- More future education, like more [about] what to expect when becoming an adult and being able to provide on their own.
- Real life education for adolescents (taxes, interview skills, etc.)
- Programs for arts and trade skills
- The only true problem that I have noticed is in the educational system
- Better education for our children
- Better focus on education. Education system/Government that doesn't keep families in survival mode so that kids have better experiences in school and after school with family.
- More support for schools. Our education system sucks. Kids are graduating without basic life skills knowledge because the focus is on testing results instead of actual teaching
- Focus on quality education in public schools. Hold parents responsible for truant, chronically disruptive students.
- Technology: affordable internet, assistance for low income students for tech instead of traditional school supplies Better school websites and easier access to information online, prioritize communication through social media and online platforms rather than printed notes
- Schools to bring back the basic life skills classes like how to balance a checkbook, home economics, gardening, shop class, how to address an envelope, etc. Some middle schoolers can't even tell you what their address is!
- Higher education. Sports at San Juan College
- Opportunities for homeschool families and other educational institutions like part time schooling in conjunction with homeschool.
- Literacy - we are 50th in the nation for 4th graders and 3 out of 5 adults are in the lowest two tiers of literacy.
- More police in the schools. Two police officers to cover 21 campuses in Farmington is ridiculous!
- Bullying prevention in schools. The schools needs to start getting stricter on disciplining students. Students shouldn't be afraid to go to school.

KEY FINDINGS

Education

- On the Needs Assessment survey, “Quality public education” was a top-ranked priority, #2 overall out of 27 community needs and concerns.
- Relative to the state and U.S. overall, San Juan County has a lower level of education attainment, with a somewhat higher percentage of those with a less than high school education and a smaller percentage of college graduates.
- Low literacy levels can add to challenges in obtaining and maintaining employment. An estimated one out of four adults have low to no literacy skills, making it difficult for them to access services and higher paying jobs.
- Based on national testing standards, average reading, math and science proficiency levels are lower overall among children in San Juan County schools, compared to averages across the state and U.S.
- School attendance has emerged as a significant concern across the U.S., with absenteeism levels not yet returning to pre-pandemic levels. Across the county, just over one-third of students do not attend school at least 90% of the time, considered to be “chronically absent.”
- High school graduation rates across the county are just above New Mexico, but significantly below the U.S. average.
- New Mexico’s budget increases for education are expected to continue to increase available funds for expenditures. Currently, the average per-pupil expenditure of \$14k in San Juan County is approximately \$4,600 below the national average.
- The Focus Group on the topic of Education emphasized “recruiting and retaining local quality teachers” as the priority in need of attention for improving the quality of public education, followed by “supports and training” for neurodivergent students.
- On the Key Informant survey, “Funding for education” was the top-rated issue within the topic of Education, ranked #22 out of 106 community needs, followed closely by programs for “at-risk” students (#23). Increasing options and special programming, for example, for high-risk and gifted students, vocational, after school and early education programs, was the top priority as described by Key Informants in written comments.
- On the Needs Assessment Resident survey, parent, family and education support programs and services, specifically, “Increasing affordable/available daycare” and “After school programs for youth,” were mid-ranked priorities (#19 and #20 out of 27), rated a high priority by approximately half of the respondents.
- On the Key Informant survey, “After school programs,” “Parenting skills training” and “Child-protective services” were ranked #26, #30 and #31 respectively, out of 106 issues. “Child care support” in general, including increasing options and work flexibility, was identified as the top priority in written comments.

CRIME & SAFETY



“High levels of neighborhood violent crime are negatively associated with health behaviors, and physical and mental health.” (County Health Rankings)

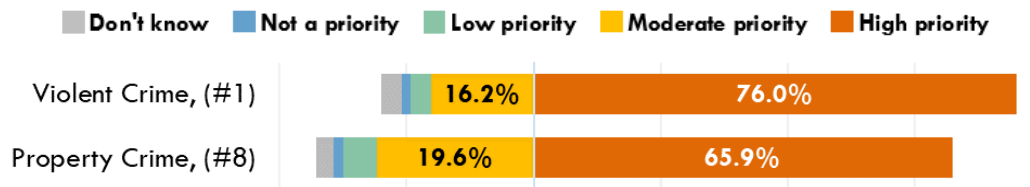
Introduction: Crime and violence can impact all levels of community health and well-being. Accidents and violence affect health and the quality of life in both the short and long-term, for those who are directly and indirectly affected. Fear of violence can keep people indoors, away from social support, exercise, and other healthy activities. Businesses may be less willing to invest in unsafe communities, adding further economic and workforce challenges. Respondents on the Needs Assessment survey rated the need to reduce “violent crime” as the number one community priority.

Need for Focus on Reducing Crime

On the Resident survey, “Violent crime” was the top-ranked community need (#1), rated a “high priority” by 3 out of 4 (76%) respondents. Two-thirds (66%) rated “Property crime” as a high priority, ranked #8 overall out of a total of 27 issues.

Ratings of Crime-related Issues

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

Personal Experiences with Crime & Safety

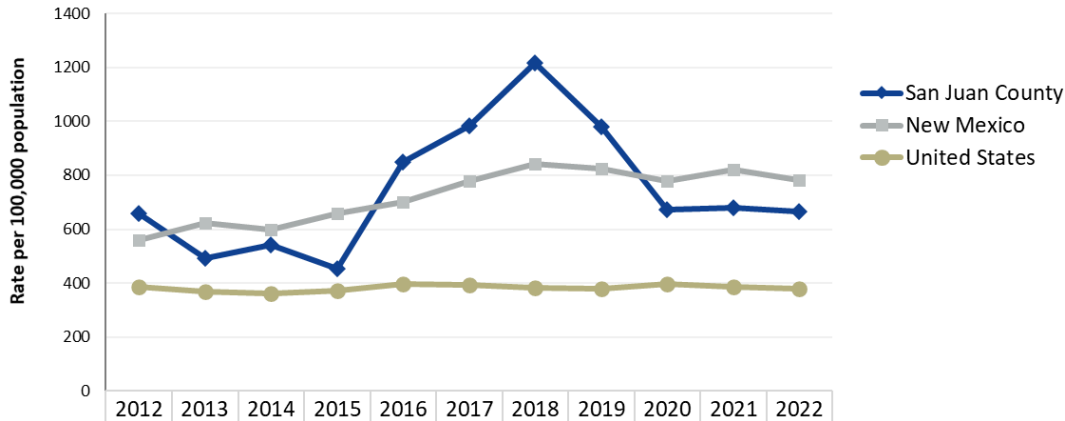
On the Needs Assessment survey, **12%** of the respondents on the Resident Survey reported they had been a victim of crime in the past year. By gender, males were more likely to report having been a victim of crime (14%), compared to females (10%). By race-ethnicity, Native Americans were more likely to report being a crime victim (15%), followed by Hispanics (12%) and Caucasians (7%). By age group, young adults age 18-25 (13%) and those age 45-54 (18%) were somewhat more likely to report having been a victim of crime.

On the Needs Assessment survey, **9%** of the respondents reported a challenge with physical conflict or violence in the home. By gender, females were more likely to report physical conflict at home (12%) compared to males (7%). By race-ethnicity, Native Americans were somewhat more likely to report this challenge (14%), followed by Hispanics (9%) and Caucasian (4%).

VIOLENT CRIME

Trends, Violent Crime: San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S. FBI Uniform Crime Reports (2012-2022)

In 2022, there were 804 violent crimes reported to the FBI Uniform Crime Reports, by four reporting Law Enforcement agencies in San Juan County,* giving a rate/index of 666 crimes per 100,000 population. San Juan County’s rate is just below New Mexico’s, which was the worst state in the nation for violent crime in 2022.



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
San Juan County	657	494	541	455	851	985	1216	979	674	681	666
New Mexico	560	623	598	657	699	779	843	824	778	821	781
United States	388	369	362	374	398	395	383	381	399	387	381

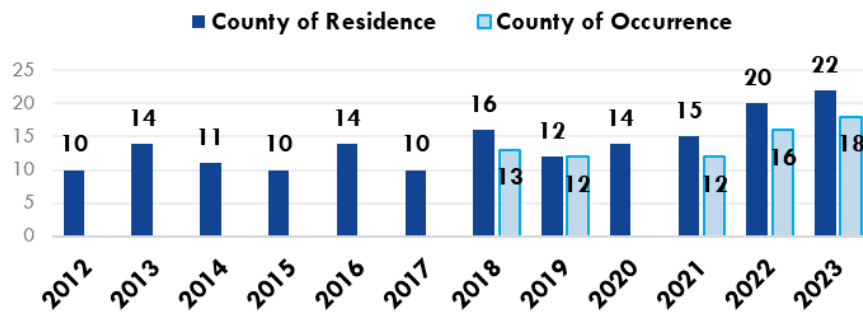
Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports - Crime Data Explorer. (Reporting to the FBI UCR is voluntary; data may not consistently reflect complete numbers. *Data include reports by Aztec PD, Bloomfield PD, Farmington PD and San Juan County Sheriff’s Office. FBI Uniform Crime Report data for San Juan County do not include data from Navajo Police or NM State Police.)

Additional Statistics: Types of Violent Crime Offenses

Violent crime is composed of four offenses. By types of offenses, of the 804 violent crime offenses reported by the four reporting LE agencies in 2022, there were: 6 homicides (murder or nonnegligent manslaughter), 131 forcible rapes, 37 robberies, and 630 aggravated assaults.

Trends, Homicide Deaths, San Juan County CDC WONDER (2012-2023)

Homicide data from the CDC, based on death certificates, are available for the *location* where a death took place (county of occurrence), and also by a decedent’s county of residence. In 2022, there were 16 homicide deaths that occurred *within* San Juan County, and preliminary CDC data for 2023 show 18 homicides within the county.



Source: CDC WONDER, MCD (Multiple Cause of Death) files. Important data notes: Data cover all San Juan County, including the area that is within the Navajo Nation. The “county of residence” and “county of occurrence” are separate data points; they are not additive and the overlap is unknown. “County of occurrence” was available for years 2018-23; 2020 was not available because it was less than 11. Preliminary data for 2023 may not reflect final numbers.

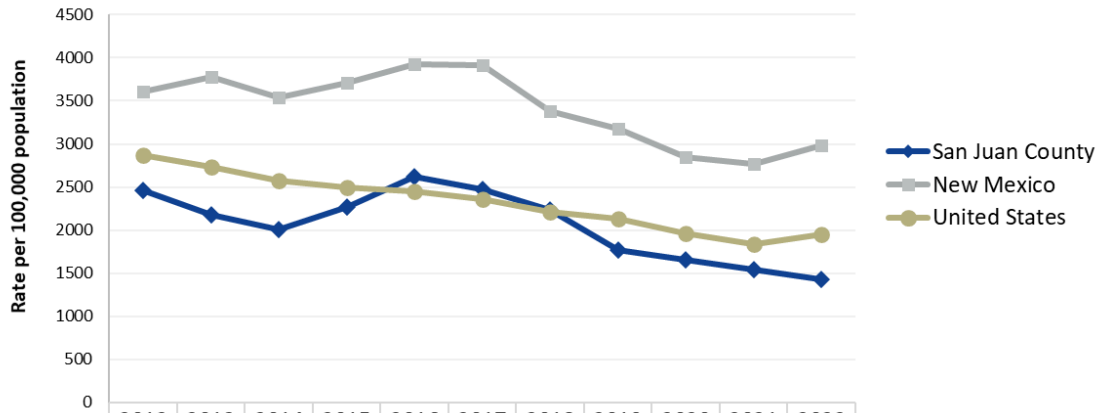
Additional Statistics

In 2022, the homicide death rate across the U.S. was 7.5 deaths per 100,000. New Mexico was ranked the 4th highest state in the U.S. with a homicide death rate of 14.5. With 20 resident deaths, San Juan County’s age-adjusted rate of 17.9 was over twice the U.S. rate (NM DOH, NM- IBIS).

PROPERTY CRIME

Trends, Property Crime: San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S. FBI Uniform Crime Reports (2012-2022)

The property crime rate has been steadily decreasing since 2016, when it reached a peak at 2,621, nearly twice what it is now. In 2022, there were 1,827 property crime offenses reported to the FBI Uniform Crime Reports by four reporting Law Enforcement agencies in San Juan County,* giving a rate (crime index) of 1,424 crimes per 100,000 population. San Juan County's rate is below rates across New Mexico's and the U.S.



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
San Juan County	2459	2178	2008	2272	2621	2477	2238	1772	1651	1538	1424
New Mexico	3604	3784	3542	3712	3929	3911	3379	3179	2842	2772	2984
United States	2868	2734	2574	2501	2452	2363	2210	2131	1958	1832	1954

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports - Crime Data Explorer. (Reporting to the FBI UCR is voluntary. Data may not consistently reflect complete numbers. Data do not include Navajo Police or State Police.)

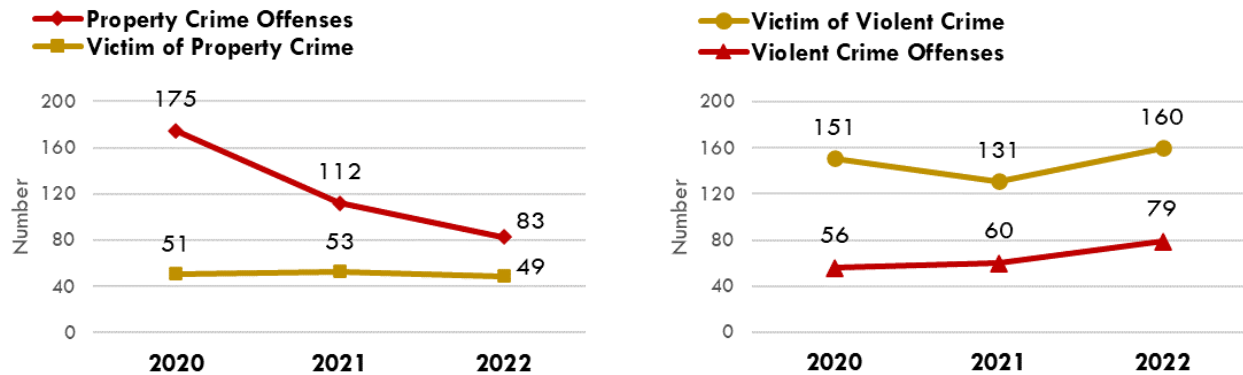
Additional Statistics: Examples of Property Crime Offenses

Property crimes involve private property and are usually committed to obtain money, property, or another benefit. They can be divided into destroyed property and stolen property. By types of offenses reported by the four reporting LE agencies in 2022, there were: 23 arson, 315 burglaries, 1,275 larceny-thefts and 214 motor vehicle thefts.

JUVENILE CRIME INVOLVEMENT

Trends, Juvenile Crime Involvement FBI Uniform Crime Reports (2020-2022)

Youth under the age of 20 are more likely to be victims of violent crime than offenders, whereas they are more likely to be offenders of property crimes than victims. Of the 804 violent crimes reported to the FBI UCR in 2022, 79 (10%) were offenses by youth under age 20. And, of the 1,827 property crime offenses, 83 (5%) were. Over the three years of available data, property crime offenses decreased for this age group, and property crime victimization was unchanged. Both violent crime offenses and being a victim of violent crimes trended upward.



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports - Crime Data Explorer. (Reporting to the FBI UCR is voluntary. Data may not consistently reflect complete numbers. Data do not include Navajo Police or State Police.)

**Table 7.1. Trends, Juvenile Arrests
New Mexico Juvenile Justice, CYFD (2017-2021)**

There has been a significant decline in juvenile referrals, across the county and across New Mexico. An increase was seen across the state in FY22 and 23, but these county-level data are not yet available. San Juan County's rates are consistently above rates for New Mexico counties overall.

Juvenile Arrests & Rates (Number of Referrals & Rates per 1,000 Youth ages 10-17)					
Indicator	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Delinquent Referrals (Number)	664	594	549	324	273
<i>Petition</i>	254	316	247	216	145
<i>Non-Petition</i>	410	278	302	108	128
Non-delinquent (Status) Referrals	234	283	223	161	148
San Juan County, Rate	56.8	56.6	50.1	31.7	27.5
New Mexico, Rate	48.0	47.0	42.4	23.7	19.3

Sources: Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts, 2021 (<https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaco/>). (Definitions from the CYFD JJS, <https://www.cyfd.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/FY-2023-JJS-Annual-Report.pdf>: "delinquent referrals" are acts "committed by a child that would be designated as a crime under the law if committed by an adult." "Non-delinquent offenses" are "a violation only if committed by a juvenile and include runaway and truancy offenses.") The number of referrals does not refer to the unique number of youths, as there can be duplicates across referrals.

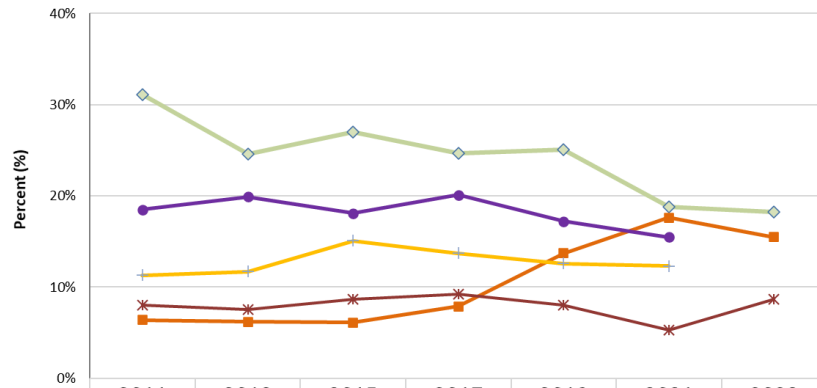
Additional Statistics - Juvenile Justice Services (<https://www.cyfd.nm.gov/jjs/>)

According to CYFD's Juvenile Justice Services, in FY22, there were 227 San Juan County clients with delinquent referrals. The most common offenses for delinquent referrals were: Battery (48); Battery involving a household member (41); Possession of synthetic cannabinoids (20); Resisting/evading or obstructing an officer (20); and, Use or possession of drug paraphernalia (18). The average daily population at the San Juan County Juvenile Detention Center in FY22 was 9.5 males and 2.8 females, with an average length of stay of 21.9 days; with a slight increase in FY23 to 14.0 males and 2.4 females, with an average length of stay of 27.2 days.

YOUTH SAFETY & VIOLENCE-RELATED RISK

Trends, Safety and Violence-related Risk Behavior, High School Youth Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (2011-2023)

Self-report of youth skipping school in the past 30 days because of “feeling unsafe at school or on the way to school” significantly increased from when it was 6% in 2011, but decreased slightly in 2023. There has been significant decrease in self-report of having been in a physical fight in the past year.



	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
◆ In a physical fight	31.1%	24.6%	27.0%	24.7%	25.1%	18.8%	18.2%
■ Skipped school because of safety concerns	6.4%	6.2%	6.1%	7.9%	13.7%	17.6%	15.5%
● Bullied on school property	18.5%	19.9%	18.1%	20.1%	17.2%	15.5%	na
+ Electronically Bullied	11.30%	11.7%	15.1%	13.7%	12.6%	12.3%	na
* Carried a gun	8.0%	7.5%	8.7%	9.2%	8.0%	5.3%	8.7%

Sources: Sources: NM Dept. of Health, YRRS (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey) Selected indicators were provided by request from the NM Dept. of Health for most recent 2023 data.

Table 7.2. Comparisons, Safety Indicators: San Juan County, New Mexico & U.S. Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (2021/2023)

High school youth in San Juan County are somewhat above the U.S. for skipping school because of safety concerns, and generally similar on other safety-related indicators.

Violence & Safety Indicators			
Indicator	San Juan County	New Mexico	U.S. (2023)
Skipped school because of safety concerns (2023)	15.5%	15.0%	13%
Females	17.7%		16%
Males	13.0%		10%
Bullied on school property (2021)	15.5%	13.6%	19%
Females	17.3%		22%
Males	13.3%		17%
Electronically bullied (2021)	12.3%	12.5%	16%
Females	15.8%		21%
Males	8.7%		12%

Sources: Sources: NM Dept. of Health, YRRS (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey) and CDC YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey). Selected indicators were provided by special request from the NM Dept. of Health for most recent 2023 data.

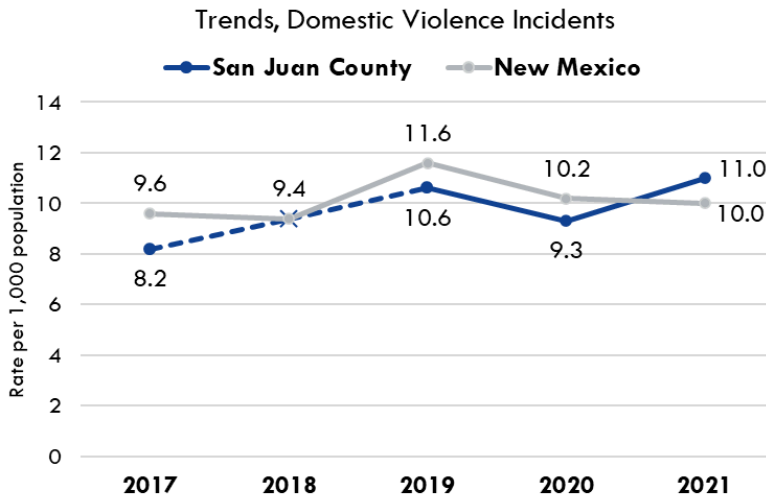
Additional Statistics: Middle School

On the 2021 YRRS, 32.4% of middle school students reported they had been in a fight at some time in their lives, just below 39.8% across the state. And, 39.5% reported having ever been bullied at school, 26.3% reported having been electronically bullied at some time.

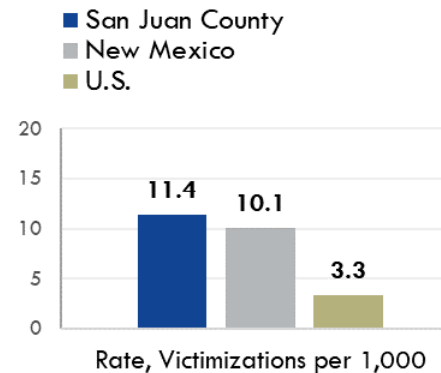
DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE & ABUSE

Trends and Comparisons, Domestic Violence

San Juan County's rate of incidents of domestic violence is similar to New Mexico. With a rate of 11.0 based on the number of law-enforcement reported *incidents* per 1,000 population, San Juan County is ranked 6th highest in the state. The domestic violence victimization rate, based on the number of *victims*, (below, right) is over three times the U.S. rate. (*National data for 2022 showed an increase from 3.3 to 4.9 DV victims per 1,000.*)



Violent Victimization (2021)



Sources: New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs: Incidence and Nature of Domestic Violence In New Mexico XX: An Analysis of [multiple years] Data From The New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository, Betty Caponara. (Incidence rate for San Juan County in 2018 is not available.) U.S. Statistics: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Criminal Victimization, 2022. (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cv22.pdf>).

Table 7.3. Trends, Domestic Violence Incidents, Rates and Clients Served New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (2017-2021)

In 2021, there were 1,328 domestic violence incidents (involving 1,384 victims), reported by the four reporting Law Enforcement agencies*. Of the 1,384 victims, there were 415 clients (30%) served. The ratio of adult victims served in 2021 was 1 served for every 7.2 adult victims, compared to 1 to 3.2 overall across the state.

Domestic Violence Indicators					
Indicator	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
San Juan County DV Incidents	1047	1122	1313	1172	1328
DV Victims	na	na	1344	1302	1384
Clients Served by DV Service Providers	636	645	613	401	415
Adults	281	295	247	162	185
Children	225	189	226	113	108
Offenders	130	161	140	126	122
San Juan County rate per 1,000	8.2	na	10.6	9.3	11.0
Percent alcohol/drug use (SJC)	52%	38%	40%	44%	49%
New Mexico Rate per 1,000	9.6	9.4	11.6	10.2	10.0
Percent alcohol/drug use (NM)	27%	28%	29%	30%	28%

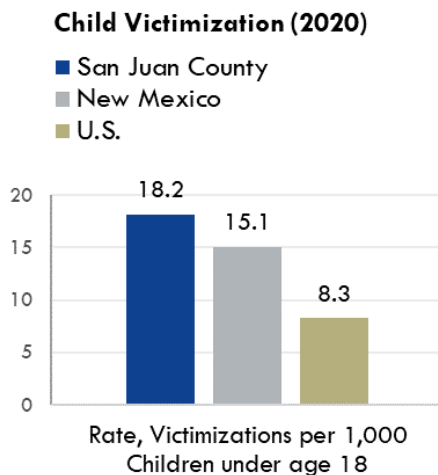
Sources: New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs: Incidence and Nature of Domestic Violence In New Mexico XX: An Analysis of [multiple years] Data From The New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository, Betty Caponara. (*The reporting LE agencies are Aztec PD, Bloomfield PD, Farmington PD and San Juan County Sheriff's Office.)

CHILD/YOUTH SAFETY

Child Abuse, Maltreatment/Neglect Cases

New Mexico Dept. of Health and U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (2020)

According to the New Mexico Dept. of Health (NM-IBIS), in 2020, there were 599 child abuse victims in San Juan County, resulting from child maltreatment, physical neglect, abuse physical and/or sexual abuse, giving a rate of 18.2 victims per 1,000 children under age 18.



With a rate of 18.2 child abuse victims per 1,000 children, San Juan County was ranked 13th highest among the 33 counties in New Mexico, which has an overall rate of 15.1. New Mexico is among the 10 states with the highest rates of child abuse. The rate in San Juan County in 2020 was over twice the rate across the U.S. of 8.3. *(The rate across the U.S. dropped slightly to 8.1 in 2021.)*

Sources: NM Dept. of Health (NM-IBIS). U.S. statistic: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services: Child Maltreatment, 2021. (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2021.pdf>)

Table 7.4 Trends, Child Abuse, Maltreatment/Neglect Cases Investigated
New Mexico Children, Youth & Family Dept. (2016-2020)

According to the New Mexico CYFD, in the most recent state fiscal year “360 Annual Report” for FY21, covering July 2020- June 2021, there were 347 substantiated investigations of child abuse/neglect in San Juan County, with 578 unique victims. The number of reports investigated and substantiated by CYFD increased from 2016, but has not shown a consistent pattern over the past five years.

Child Abuse/Maltreatment, San Juan County					
Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Reports Child Abuse Investigated	920	1315	1172	1231	1165
Unsubstantiated	626	905	806	831	769
Substantiated	294	410	366	400	396

Sources: New Mexico Children Youth and Family Department (<https://www.cyfd.nm.gov/resources/publications-reports/>) SFY21 Annual report: https://www.cyfd.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/360ANNUAL_FY21_FINAL.pdf. Data are taken from the 360 Quarterly State & County Profile reports, tallied for calendar years.

Table 7.5. Comparisons, Youth Self-report of Sexual & Intimate Partner Violence
Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (YRRS, 2023) and National YRBS

Self-report among high school youth in San Juan County are statistically similar to the state and U.S. for intimate partner and having experienced sexual violence in the past year.

Interpersonal Safety & Violence Among Youth			
Indicator	San Juan County	New Mexico	U.S.
Physical dating violence (physically hurt, past year)	6.2%	5.6%	na
Sexually assaulted (forced to do sexual things, past year)	11.3%	9.5%	11%

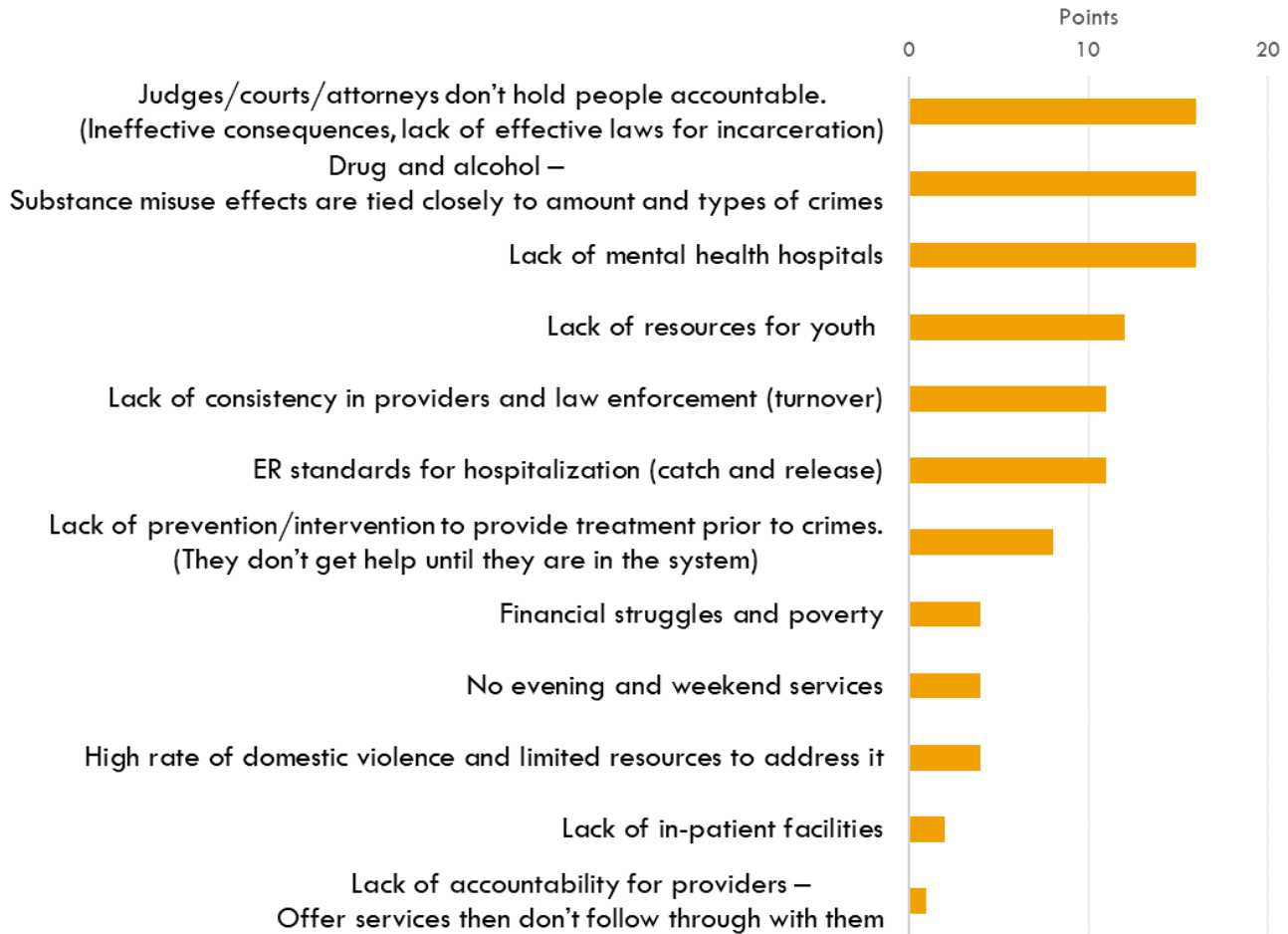
Sources: Sources: NM Dept. of Health, YRRS (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey) and CDC YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey).

CRIME: FOCUS GROUP

A Focus Group with 7 stakeholders involved in law enforcement, judicial system and social services, including the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, was conducted in March, 2024 to get their perspective on crime.

The group responded to the question below, with each participant providing their individual responses, followed by a group vote and assigning points to identify the priorities. General categories are shown with the number of votes, along with subtopics included under each category.

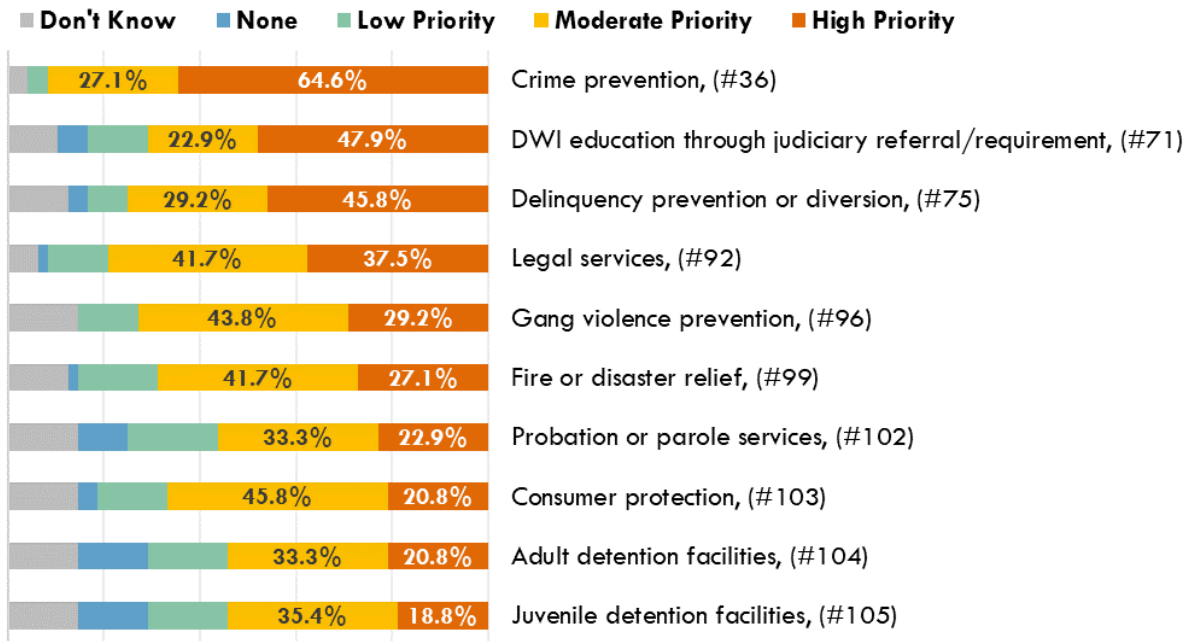
“What are the major issues facing the community in regard to crime? (n=7)”



PUBLIC SAFETY: KEY INFORMANTS

“Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each?” (n=49)

On the Key Informant Survey, the top-ranked issue within the area of Crime and Public Safety was general “Crime Prevention,” rated as a “high priority” by 65% of the respondents, and ranked #36 overall among the 106 issues/service needs.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Public Safety and Legal services?”

In response to the written comments about the “number one priority” within the topic of Crime and Public Safety. Key Informants who responded highlighted the need for general crime prevention and education about crime as the priority, followed by addressing substance (alcohol/drug) use, as it is closely intertwined.

1. General Crime Prevention & Education (7)
2. Substance Use (e.g., treatment prevention) (4)
3. Legal Services and Education (3)
4. Early Intervention (e.g., in schools) (3)
5. Public Relations with LE (3)
6. At-risk populations crime reduction & education (3)
7. Criminal Justice System (e.g., investing, expanding, better monitoring systems) (3)
8. Public Education/Literacy (1)
9. Cross commission agreements with Navajo (1)
10. Safety for all race/ethnicities (1)
11. Funding for public safety (1)
12. General Community Resources (1)
13. Address Root Cause of Crime (1)

“Building awareness and knowledge on public safety for all, crime prevention. Having more positive interactions with these agencies and the public with positive interactions versus negative. Such as being a part of community gatherings and information events.”

“Need to bring back Police services for intervention programs at the local school level.”

“Stop catch and release and insist on addiction recovery education and resource use. More residential treatment opportunities, sober living homes and intensive outpatient treatment is needed.”

“Improve education in the detention facilities while adults or juvenile's are incarcerated.”

COMMENTS ABOUT CRIME & SAFETY

“What other community needs or priorities do you think need more attention and focus?” COMMENTS from the Needs Assessment Survey (2023, n=116)

An open-ended question following the list of Community Needs asked about what *other* needs or issues need more focus. Many written comments elaborated or reiterated those already in the list. As in overall ratings, the most frequent topic of comments was about Crime & Safety, with a total of **116 comments**. Representative comments are below.

Types of Crimes to Focus On & Crime Prevention (n=53)

- Taking care of violent crimes and drugs needs to take a high priority, even the San Juan County Sheriff's deputies are saying we are "Little Albuquerque," we need to get this under control, none of us want to live like the people of Albuquerque.
- Juvenile intervention programs so these kids get out of hand there is no help for parents to go to for help when they need it. I know because I was that parent that was in need of help concerning mental health and juvenile intervention.
- Missing murdered indigenous people communities between law enforcement and agencies family's and navigation
- Support and Advocates for the Elderly and single parents of Domestic Violence
- The crime level for theft and burglary is out of control and really makes a difference in housing sales.
- Programs that help home owners to protect their homes and families. police are minutes away, and death and destruction are seconds away

Additional comments referred to specific needs, such as: Domestic violence, Crime involving youth, Sexual assault services, Sex trafficking, LGBTQ+ protection, Victim advocacy, and Crime prevention

More Law Enforcement Resources & Presence (n=32)

- We need more deputies in the Sheriffs office. These men and women have to cover a huge area.
- Higher pay for police officers
- Need more police presence in the community
- More support for law enforcement
- More police going through neighborhoods so people can feel safe out and about.
- Better and more complete training of the police force with closer, more thorough, and more effective oversight as well as in-depth mental, emotional and behavioral testing before being hired or allowed to carry a weapon. When one wears a badge, that person should be held to the highest standards of behavior in the community.
- More police presence in the county rural areas

Safety, including in public and at night (n=26)

- Safety of residents. Across the board
- Safety in our beautiful parks that already exist. The rive4 walk in particular. I love walking the whole length of the trail, however, my husband will not let me walk it alone any longer because of safety issues. I know much of the under growth and some trees were removed which has helped visibility and don't know what else can be done but I wish the trail was a little more safe.
- It would be nice to have some more street lights in places that are dark. When I take my daughter to dance it is very dark now and the street does not have enough light.
- The homeless people at the parks really makes it a lot less family friendly areas. I don't know the solution but its definitely a big issue.
- Install security lights in subdivision in Kirkland Housing area with sidewalks
- Security and Safety of buildings for employees who work nights and some in areas with no access to more lights around buildings or parking lots.

Accountability (n=19)

- Less letting the criminals go. Stronger minded judicial system. Quit treating them better than the victims
- Parents to be held accountable for violent crimes committed by their children, especially guns
- More punishment for dwi offenders and domestic violence
- The Child and Youth protective services are not all satisfactory in New Mexico. More needs to be done to protect children. Repeat criminal offenders need to be incarcerated and not allowed to harm citizens again and again without timely consequences
- Hold people responsible for breaking the law. Prosecute and incarcerate criminals.

KEY FINDINGS

Crime

- On the Resident Needs Assessment Survey, reducing “Violent Crime” was the top-ranked priority, with three out of four respondents rating it a “high priority.” Reducing “Property Crime” was also among the high-ranked issues (at #8 out of 27).
- Also, 12% of the respondents reported they had been a victim of crime in the past year, somewhat lower than 16% in 2016. And, 9% reported the experience of violence or physical conflict in the home. These experiences are highly correlated with chronic stress.
- The rate of violent crime (in the most recent data available for 2022) is significantly higher than across the nation. New Mexico’s violent crime index was the worst in the U.S. in 2022. San Juan County’s rate was just below violent crime rates in New Mexico.
- Looking at trends as reported by four of the LE agencies, to FBI Uniform Crime Reports, the rate of violent crime is improved from what it was during the years 2016 through 2019. The rate of reported property crime has also decreased from a peak in 2016.
- Juvenile crime involvement has decreased overall, including a decrease in property crime offenses and delinquent referrals.
- Rates of family/partner violence and child abuse/neglect have not changed significantly over the past several years of available data. Rates are significantly above those reported across the U.S. Compared to New Mexico overall, there are fewer available resources in San Juan County to provide services for victims of domestic violence, with 1 of 7 victims receiving services, compared to 1 of 3 across New Mexico.
- Focus Group participants identified a number of interrelated factors, with the top four issues being: 1) the need for greater accountability in the judicial process; 2) addressing substance use (drugs/alcohol); 3) the need for mental health treatment and in-patient care; 4) establishing resources for youth.
- Key Informants rated “Crime prevention” in the top third of priorities, #36 out of 106. Similar to issues identified by the Focus Group, Key Informants’ comments highlighted the need for general crime prevention, substance use (treatment/prevention), and other supportive services and early intervention strategies as important priorities in the area of crime.
- Written comments suggested building on existing Law Enforcement strategies for reducing crime and increasing safety, such as increased street lighting, police presence in neighborhoods and community prevention programs.

TRANSPORTATION, RECREATION & THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT



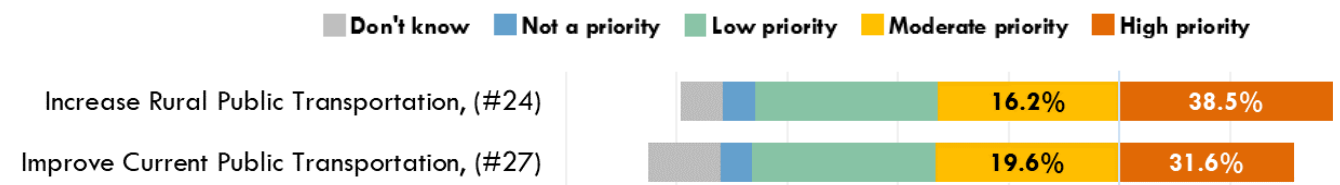
“The physical environment is where individuals live, learn, work and play. People interact with their physical environment through the air they breathe, the water they drink, the homes in which they live and the transportation they use.” (County Health Rankings)

Introduction: The natural and built environments in a community have a significant impact on residents’ health, well-being and opportunities to thrive and flourish. Not only are clean air and safe water necessary for good health, the ability to access and use transportation systems that support daily commutes to work and school, doctor’s appointments, trips to the grocery store or a friend’s house, also impact the health of individuals and communities. There are also economic benefits of public transportation, along with the potential for increased physical activity, reduced air pollution and stress-related illnesses.

Need for Focus on Transportation

On the Resident Needs Assessment Survey, the two transportation items from the “Community Needs” included in this section were generally lower ranked items overall. Transportation items, included “Increasing Rural Public Transportation,” ranked #24, and “Improving Current Public Transportation,” ranked #27 of the 27 issues/needs.

Ratings of Transportation Needs Assessment Survey (2023)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

Related Needs/Issues: Road Maintenance & Trash Clean-up

When asked what additional community needs respondents thought were high priorities, in addition to the list provided, the need for “**Road Improvement/Road Maintenance**” was the most frequently mentioned issue not covered in the list. “**Fuel Prices**” was also highlighted in written comments related to Transportation.

Residents’ Ratings: Additional Comparisons by Zip Code

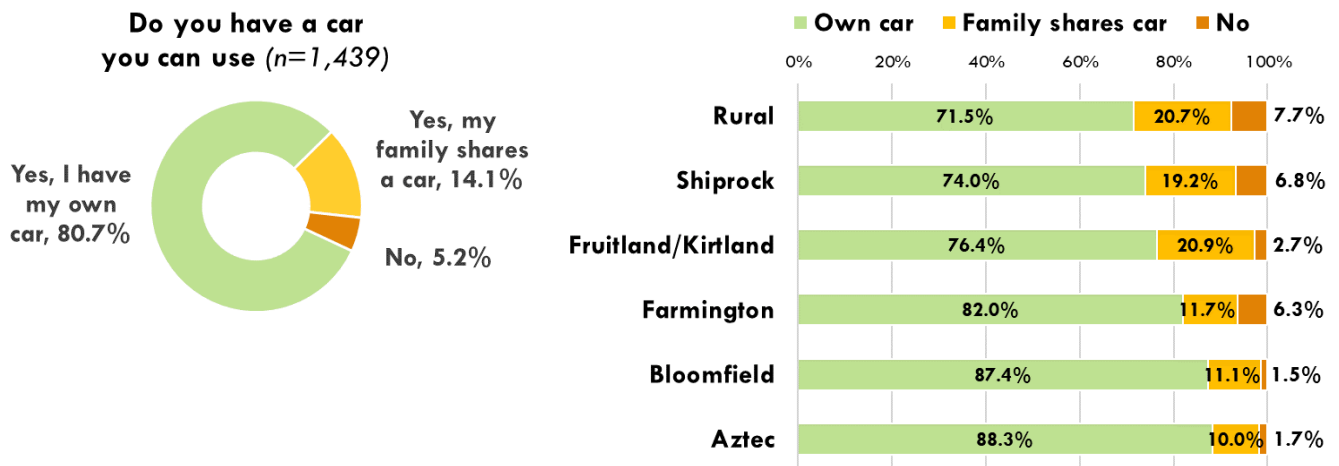
By zip code, a higher percentage of residents of Shiprock and Kirtland/Fruitland gave “high priority” ratings to the need for focusing on/improving “Current Public Transportation” (52.7% and 43.6%) and the need for “Increasing Rural Public Transportation” (69.4% and 54.1%), compared to ratings by residents living in other areas of the county.

PATTERNS OF TRANSPORTATION

Based on the CDC’s adult survey (BRFSS, 2022) it is estimated that one out of seven adults (15.4%) in San Juan County experienced a “lack of reliable transportation,” which kept them from medical appointments, meetings, work, or from getting things needed for daily living in the past 12 months.

Personal Transportation Options San Juan County Needs Assessment (2023)

The majority of survey respondents reported they have their own car for transportation (80.7%). An additional 14.1% reported their family shares a car, and 5.2% overall reported they do not have a car. By zip code / area of the county, those who reported they are least likely to have a car they can use are living in rural areas (7.7%), Shiprock (6.8%) or Farmington (6.3%).



Residents’ Experience: Additional Comparisons by Income

By income: Among those respondents with incomes less than \$30,000, 12.1% reported they do not have a car they can use; 28.3% reported their family shares a car, and 59.6% reported they have their own car.

Table 8.1. Commuting to Work and Vehicle Availability (Census, 2023)

Compared to New Mexico and the U.S., San Juan County working residents are somewhat more likely to drive alone to work, less likely to work from home, and more likely to have multiple vehicles available for getting to work. Among workers 16 or older, a very small percentage (0.9%) report they do not have a vehicle available. San Juan County and New Mexico are similar in their use of public transportation (<1%), less than the U.S. (3.5%).

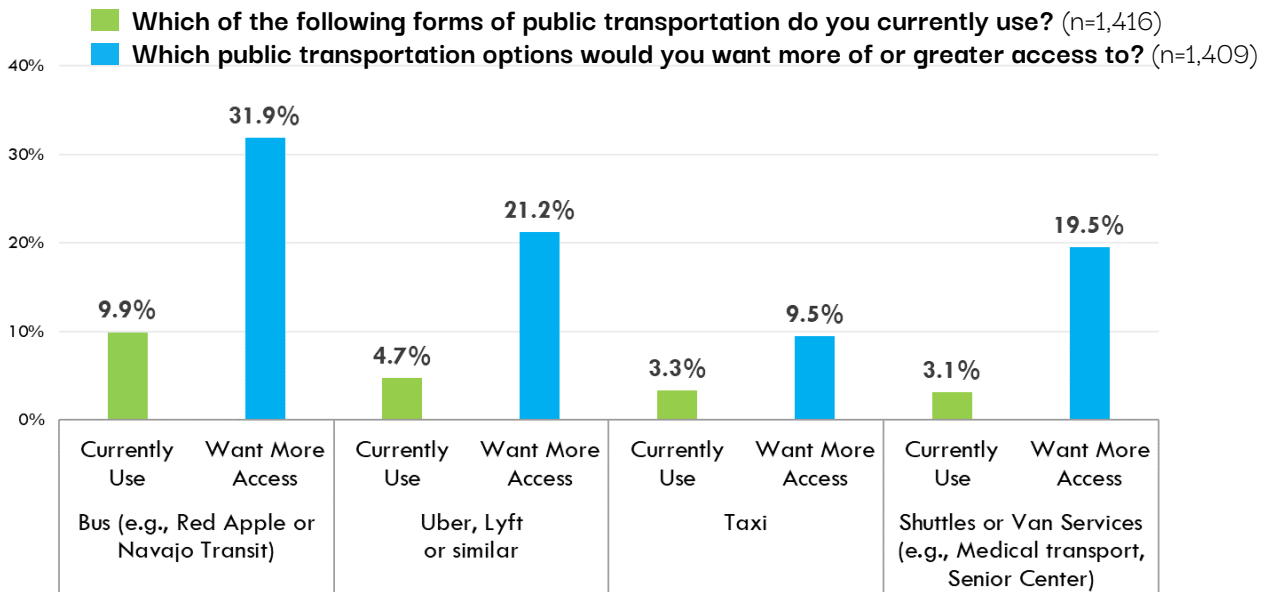
Transportation to Work & Vehicles Available								
Indicator	Drove alone	Car-pooled	Public transportation	Worked from home	Travel time to work (mean)	No vehicle available	One vehicle	3 or more vehicles
San Juan County	86.0%	5.8%	0.2%	6.0%	23.4 min	0.9%	15.8%	46.6%
New Mexico	74.8%	10.1%	0.7%	10.7%	23.2 min	2.3%	20.2%	39.5%
U.S.	69.2%	9.0%	3.5%	13.8%	26.8 min	4.6%	21.4%	34.2%

Source: U.S. Census / American Community Survey (2023) 1-year estimates. (Table S0802)

USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Use of Public Transportation in San Juan County Needs Assessment (2023)

The most frequently selected public transportation option that respondents currently use was the “Bus (Red Apple or Navajo Transit),” selected by 9.9% of the respondents. The Bus was also the option that respondents wanted to be expanded or have greater access to, selected by 31.9%.



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

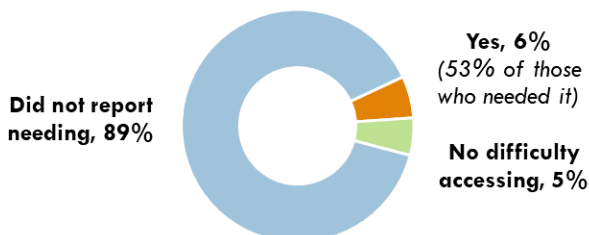
Use and Need for Public Transportation: Additional Comparisons

By zip code and area of the county, current use of the bus was generally similar in Farmington (11.9%) and Shiprock (11.7%), followed by Kirtland/Fruitland (9.8%), Rural areas (7.7%) Bloomfield (6.7%) and Aztec (5.3%). However, a higher percentage of Kirtland/Fruitland respondents reported they *wanted* greater access to a bus system (43.1%), followed by Shiprock (36.9%), rural areas of the county (33.5%), Farmington (32%), and Aztec & Bloomfield (both 26%). By income, those with incomes below \$30,000 were more likely to report using the bus (20.7%), and also more likely to report wanting more access (45.9%), followed by those with incomes of \$30-45k (30.1%).

Difficulty Accessing Public Transportation 100% San Juan County Survey (2023)

On the 100% San Juan County Survey, 11% reported needing public transportation at some time. Those more likely to report needing it were those with incomes below \$25,000 (21.9%) and those living in extended family/Tribal communities (17.2%).

Difficulty Accessing Public Transportation (100% San Juan County Initiative Survey)



Among the 11% who reported needing it, 53% reported difficulty accessing public transportation. The most frequently selected barriers among those needing it were:

- Public transportation doesn't run during the times I need it [*Schedules*]: (58%)
- Public transportation doesn't go where I need to go [*Routes*]: (55%)
- It takes too long to use public transportation: (50%)
- It doesn't come to where I live: (45%)
- It isn't safe: (34%)

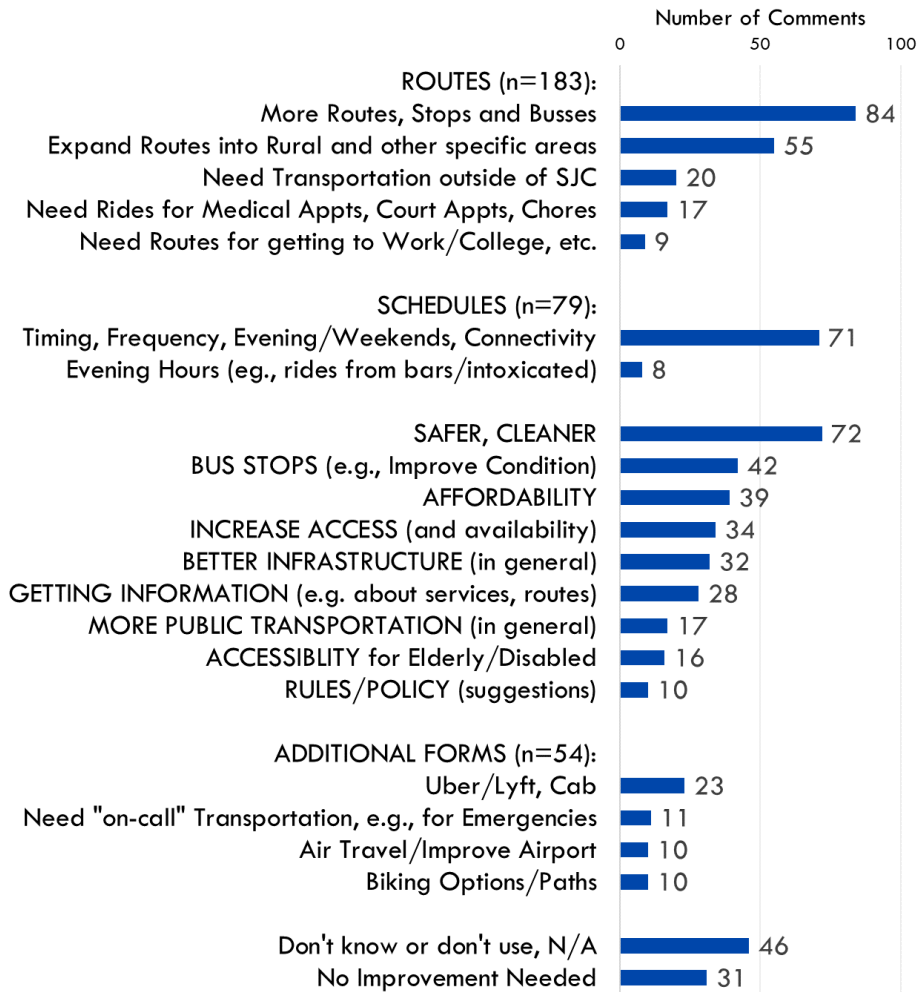
Source: 100% San Juan County Survey (2023).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INPUT

“What specific improvements to any of the public transportation options would you suggest?”

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

An open-ended question asked for suggestions for public transportation options. The most frequent comments were categorized as relating to expanding “Routes” and “Schedules,” and for improving the conditions of existing transportation services (e.g., making them feel Safer and/or Cleaner.



Additional information. The two primary public transportation options are the Red Apple Transit and Navajo Transit System.

From their website, Red Apple Transit provides transportation for Farmington and surrounding areas including Aztec, Bloomfield and Kirtland, with both a fixed route and dial-a-ride services. Red Apple Transit has expanded to 11,000 riders per month, and offers service to major shopping and employment centers and healthcare facilities, with transfers including Navajo Transit, San Juan College, Social Services and others available on call.

<https://www.fmtn.org/279/Red-Apple-Transit>

Navajo Transit System serves and operates on the Navajo Nation, with 17 routes throughout the Navajo Nation and within Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. The system provides service to 41 of the 110 Navajo Chapter communities.

<https://navajotransit.navajo-nsn.gov/Home/Transit-Background/About-Us>

COMMENTS FROM TRANSPORTATION INPUT

The analysis of responses to the question about suggestions for improvement is shown above. Example of representative comments in the most common categories are below.

ROUTES (n=183) & SCHEDULES (n=79)

- To be really useful, a public transportation system needs to have frequent pick up times for each stop and multiple stops so that passengers do not need to walk too far. I don't know if that's really viable in Farmington
- Increased public transportation capacity - number of buses, size of buses, and longer hours of service.
- Increased transportation to outlying communities.
- When the Navajo Nation bus runs up to Farmington they only stop at certain places and these people need to go all the way out to eastern portion of town, they're late for work and get fired or let go because of tardiness.
- Transportation for those that need a ride to work starting early hours . Here in Farmington the bus route is limited and so are the routes.
- We need a Red Apple in Waterflow. There are several people on the road hitch hiking from the hogback area that stand around at the hogback store looking for a ride
- The four corners area is a very broad area its hard to provide public transportation to the general population. My guess is have a option that brings people from the further areas in the morning and then they can ride in town on various transportation methods. Then in the afternoon be able to leave on the same ride that brought them in the morning
- More inclusive routes. Shorter times between start and destination arrival times. Shortening and lessening the entire round trip time (practical vs cumbersome). More pick up and drop-off points. Making it cost effective
- Better scheduling. I don't use it myself, but I know many people who do. Many of my coworkers who used it felt it wasn't reliable, and spent either a long time waiting in advance to ensure they got to work on time, or lost jobs because of the unreliability.
- Increase the routes to and from Aztec to help people get to court and help reduce our FTA [failure to appear] rates. Bring back the Bloomfield routes too! So many people need better access to and from court!
- Expand and make Dial-a-Ride available for everyone for less than \$5 dollars.
- The forms of public transportation I have used were in bigger cities and would not be an efficient use of resources here. I have not used local public transportation.

Additional comments about routes referred to needs from Kirtland, Fruitland, Shiprock, La Plata highway to town, Crouch Mesa, Wildflower, as well as within Farmington.

SAFETY, CLEANLINESS (n=72) & BUS STOPS (n=42)

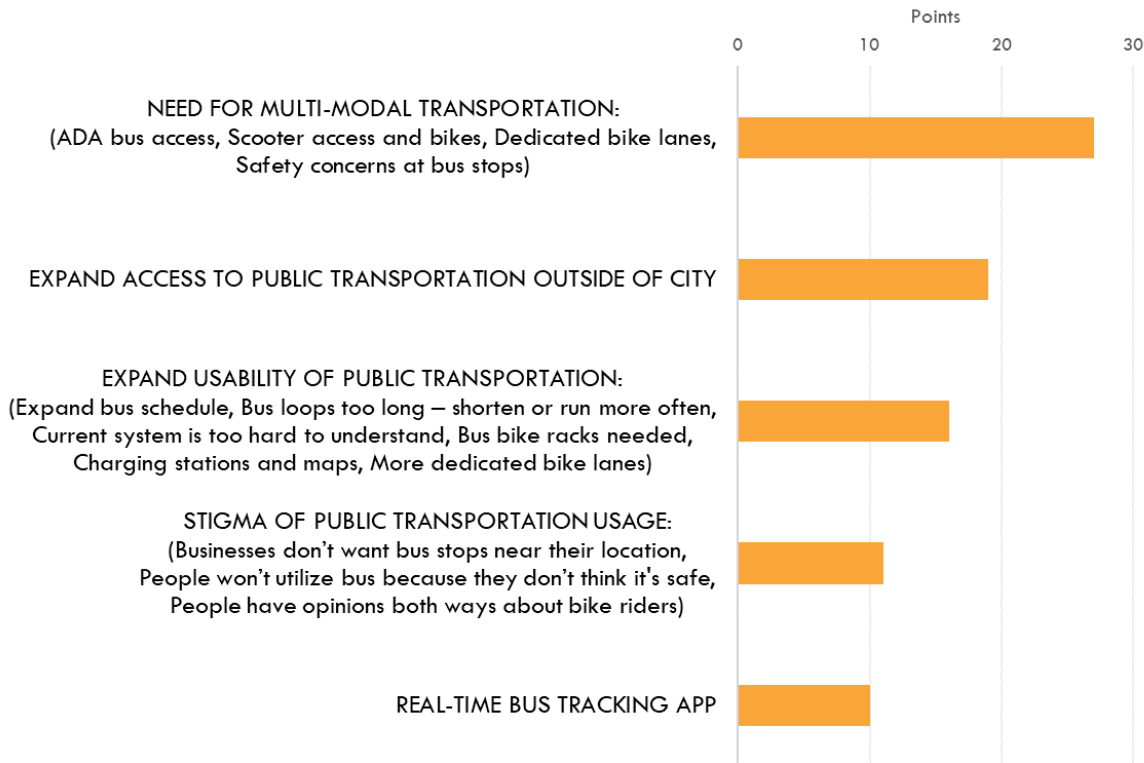
- The cleanliness of the vehicle. Safety plan to ensure other passengers' safety of someone under the influence [of alcohol/drugs] or something else
- When using red apple transit sometimes I don't feel safe because of riders being intoxicated or using drugs on the bus
- Love that there is the transit systems, however I feel like it's unsafe. Suggesting more secure waiting locations. More appealing. I really don't know if it's safe.
- Having the Red Apple Transit stop in the middle of the road on 20th by the public library is going to get someone killed, maybe a safer place to stop and pick up that doesn't involve endangering the lives of everyone on the sidewalk and on the road could be a great place to start for safety.
- Safety for moms & children without intoxicated people begging for money or attempting to talk to them
- It would be great for teens to be able to ride alone to pool, movie, etc., so enhanced safety, the public image of the system.
- I've never used public transportation, but if I did I would say that there needs to be an officer or "body guard" type person on public transport at all times.
- Enhance safety of public transportation such as child seats for babies
- Make bus stops accessible (closer to business entrances), safer (combat frequent crime), closer to neighborhoods, with covered shelters and benches at all stops
- Make bus stops safe to where you won't be harassed by the homeless or people who have been drinking
- Better lighting, places to sit at all stops.
- Actual [bus] stops with seats and some type of weather barrier and provides shade. Cameras installed at each stop to help with safety.

TRANSPORTATION: FOCUS GROUP

A Focus Group with 6 transportation stakeholders/providers, including representation from the County, Behavioral Health and Public Transportation, was conducted in April, 2024 to get their perspective on transportation in San Juan County.

The group responded to the question below, with each participant providing their individual responses, followed by a group vote and assigning points to identify the priorities. General categories are shown with the number of votes, along with subtopics included under each category.

“What are the priority issues to address transportation in San Juan County? (n=6)

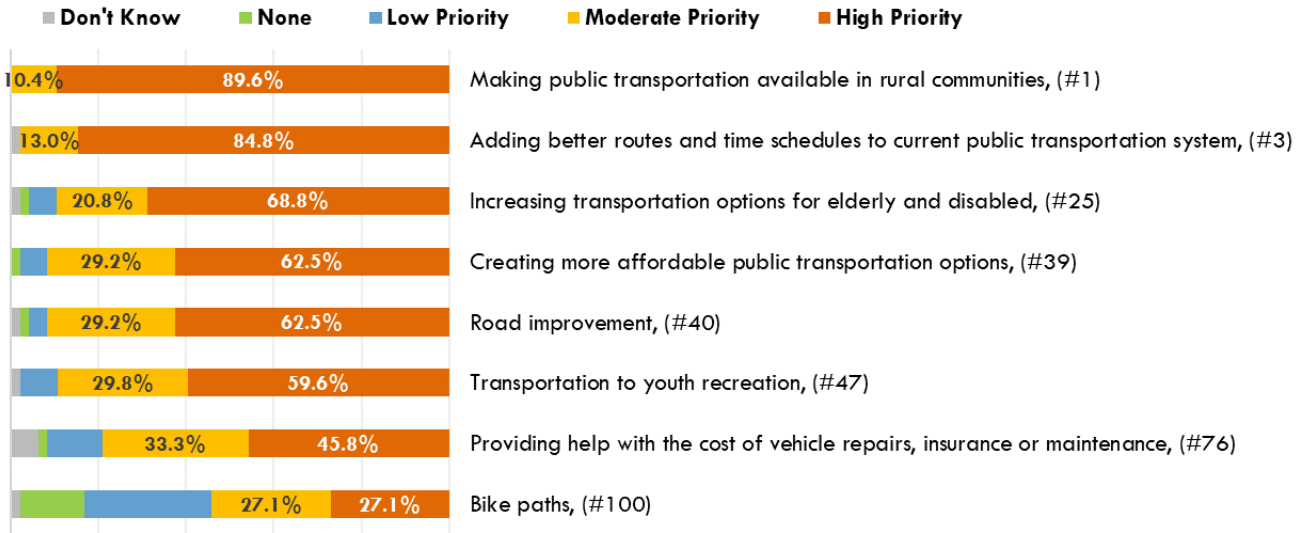


Additional topics raised by members of the group included the need for “Signage and fee schedule for buses, which may be currently too difficult to understand” (7 points); “Creating driving partnerships, such as with drivers ed. students and with elderly” (6 points); and “Incentives for driving for Uber, Lyft, etc.”

TRANSPORTATION: KEY INFORMANTS

Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each (n=49)

On the Key Informant Survey, “Making public transportation available in rural communities” was the number 1 ranked high priority, by 90% of the respondents. “Adding better routes and time schedules to current public transportation system” was ranked #3, rated a high priority by 85%. Other transportation options in the mid-range included increasing options for subpopulations, for example, the elderly and those with disabilities (#25) and youth (#47 and #53). “Road improvement” was a ranked (#40), rated a “high priority” by 63% of the respondents.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Transportation services and options?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority” within the topic Transportation. The 39 Key Informants who wrote about transportation highlighted the need for expanded schedules and routes. Six respondents simply stated that a better or more reliable system in general is the priority.

1. Expanded schedule/times of services (6)
2. Expanded routes, in general (4), or specifically to rural areas or communities outside of Farmington (5)
3. General need for better Public Transportation (6)
4. Safety/Reliability (2)
5. Affordability (2)
6. Customer service, e.g., of drivers (2)
7. Bike paths/routes (2)
8. Coordinate Systems, e.g., Red Apple, NM DOT, Navajo Transit (1)
9. Provide financial assistance with Personal Transportation (e.g., vehicle maintenance/repair) (1)
10. Road conditions in rural areas (1)

“Better public transportation with expanded routes and times.”

“County-wide access to affordable, accessible public transportation services, 24/7.”

“Adding routes on a regular basis to the communities outside of Farmington.”

“The need for public transportation that works is a huge need.”

“Bike paths and routes. make them safe so that people want to use alternative transportation.”

RECREATION & THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

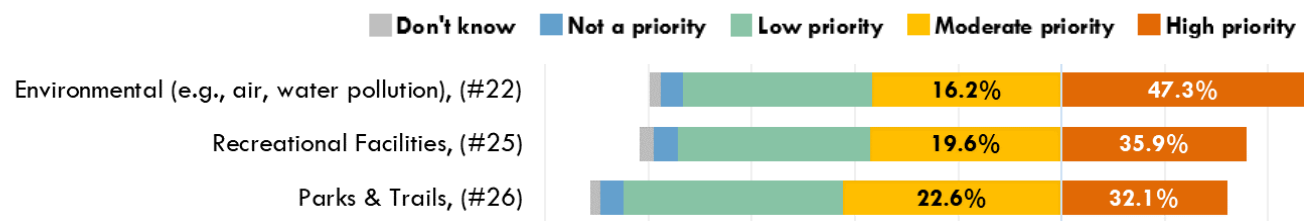
Introduction: Green spaces can include parks, walkable tree-lined streets, planted lots, and community gardens. Recreational green space typically refers to parks and trails that are open and accessible. The importance of a clean, healthy physical environment cannot be overstated. Air pollution is associated with increased asthma rates and lung diseases and an increase in premature deaths from heart and lung disease. Contaminated water can lead to illness, infection and increased risks of cancer.

Need for Focus on Recreation & the Environment

On the Resident survey, concern about the “Environment (e.g., air, water pollution)” was ranked #22 out of 27 needs/issues, rated a “high priority” by nearly half (47.3%) of the respondents. “Recreational Facilities” and “Parks & Trails” were relatively low-ranked items, #25 and #26, but still rated a “high priority” by approximately one-third of the respondents on the survey.

Ratings of Recreation & Environment

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)



Source: San Juan County Partnership, Resident Needs Assessment Survey, Fall, 2023 (n=1,626)

Related Needs/Issues: “Trash Clean-up”

When asked in an open-ended question what *additional* community needs respondents thought were high priorities, the need for “**Trash Clean-up**” was a frequently mentioned topic that was highlighted in written comments related to the Environment.

“What additional opportunities or amenities in your community would support you to grow and flourish?”

Although the items in this section received fewer “high priority” ratings overall, when asked in an open-ended question about what opportunities / amenities supported residents in flourishing, the most frequently mentioned responses were ‘Recreation/Community Centers and Opportunities,’ followed closely by ‘Outdoor Activities/Areas.’ In other words, they are considered valuable and important assets to the well-being of the community.

Residents’ Ratings: Additional Comparisons by Zip Code

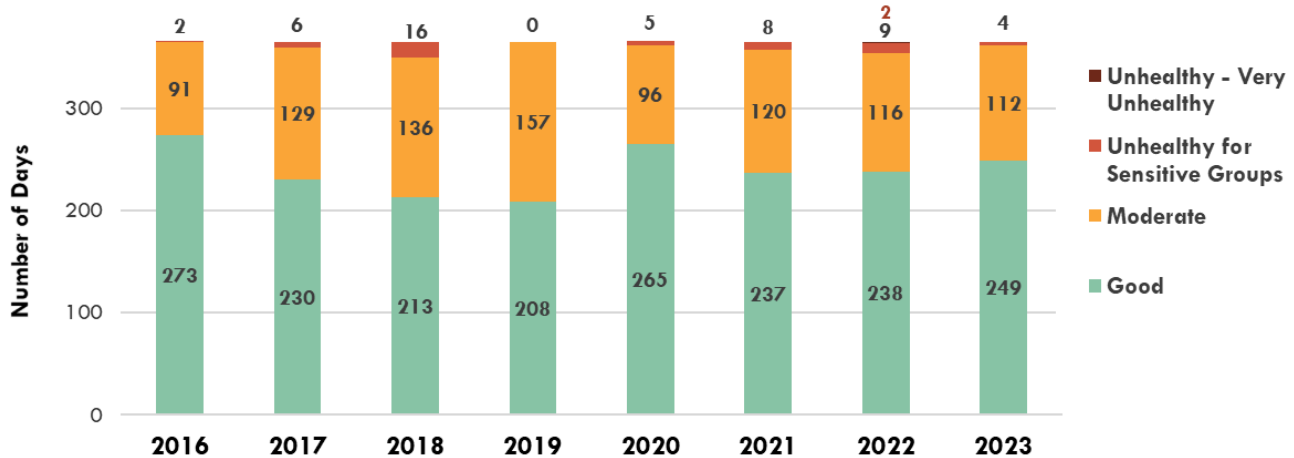
By zip code, a higher percentage of residents living in Shiprock and in rural areas of the county gave “high priority” ratings to concerns about the “Environment (air/water pollution)” (62%), followed closely by residents of Kirtland-Fruitland area (57.6%). A similar pattern was found for ratings of the need for additional focus on Parks/Trails and Recreational Facilities, with Shiprock, Kirtland/Fruitland and rural residents rating these needs higher, relative to other areas of the county.

ENVIRONMENT: AIR QUALITY

Trends, Air Quality Index: San Juan County, NM

The average number of “Good” days over the past 8 years was 239 per year, and an average of 120 days of “Moderate” Air Quality. ‘Good’ days are those in which the Air Quality Index (AQI) is 0-50; ‘Moderate’ air quality values are 51-100. In 2022, there were 9 days considered “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” (AQI, 101-150) and 2 days of “Unhealthy or Very Unhealthy,” AQI above 150.

Number of Days, Levels of Air Quality (EPA, 2016-2023)



Source: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) <https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data/air-quality-index-report>, SEE CURRENT AQI: <https://www.airnow.gov>

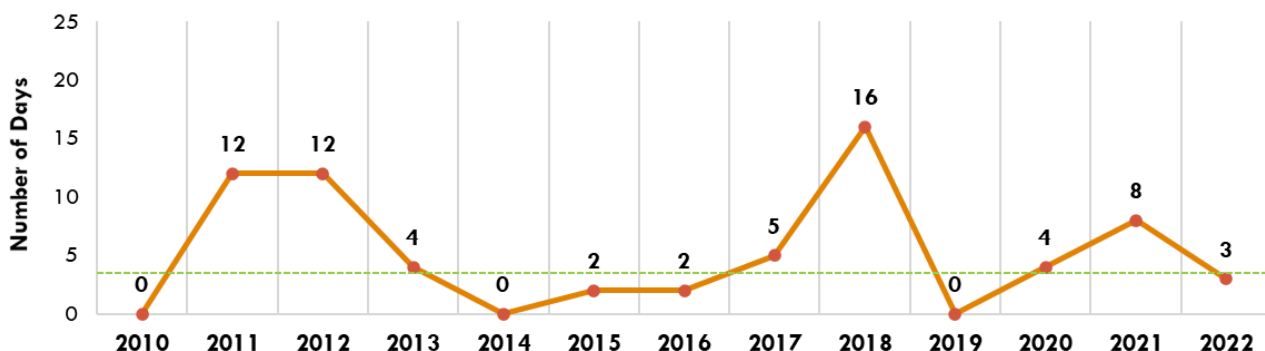
Air Quality Index: Additional Information and Comparisons

Air Quality Index is a measure of the concentrations of five air pollutants, on a scale of 0-500, with the range of “Good” being 0-50. The average AQI across the U.S. in 2021 was 39.9 and across New Mexico was 42.8. In 2023, the median Air Quality Index (AQI) in San Juan County in 2023 was 46, with half of the days being above this value and half below.

Trends, “High Ozone Days”: San Juan County, NM

Ozone is the pollutant most responsible for any diminishment in air quality, and is more likely to increase during summer months with warmer temperatures. The American Lung Association’s acceptable “cut off” is considered 3.2 days. Three of the past five years of data exceeded this cut-off, the worst in 2018 with 16 days that exceeded the National Air quality Standard for Ozone level.

Ozone (O3): Number of “High Ozone” Days Over National Air Quality Standard

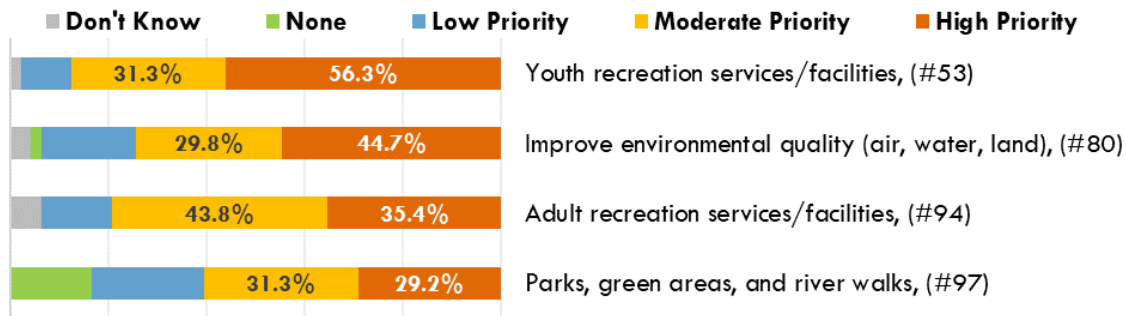


Source: CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (<https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/DataExplorer/>)

RECREATION & THE ENVIRONMENT: KEY INFORMANTS

Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each (n=49)

On the Key Informant Survey, “Youth recreation services/facilities” was a mid-ranked priority, with 56.3% of the respondents rating it a “high priority.” “Adult recreation services/facilities” and “Parks, green areas, river walks” were lower priority issues in need of additional focus, ranked #94 and #97 out of 106. These needs/issues were more likely to be viewed as a “low priority” or as not needing additional attention because they are already met.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Recreation Services and the Environment?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority” within the topic Recreation. The 8 Key Informants who wrote about recreation or the environment highlighted the need for youth-specific opportunities and the need to protect the valuable outdoor spaces. Respondents also mentioned the positive accomplishments in the area of having already established an abundance of parks and recreational opportunities.

1. Need for Youth-specific opportunities (2)
2. Protecting the physical environment (2)
3. Positive affirmations of existing parks/green areas (2)
4. Safe public spaces (1)
5. Recreational opportunities in areas outside of Farmington, e.g., with a county-wide recreational program (1)
6. General need for building recreational services for the community that are active and physical (1)

“We have so much open area to build recreating services for community that are more active and physical activities. Less off-roading and tearing up our natural environment.”

“The county has done a great job increasing access to green space and recreation.”

“Youth recreation facilities open through weekends.”

“Quit developing the Glade and Kinsey's Ridge. It's our last piece of vacant land to play on.”

COMMENTS ABOUT ROADS & TRAFFIC SAFETY

“What other community needs or priorities do you think need more attention and focus?” Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

An open-ended question following the list of Community Needs asked about what *other* needs or issues need more focus. Many comments elaborated or reiterated those already in the list. For example there were **60 comments about Transportation**. Comments related to Public Transportation are covered above, on page 91. Additional comments not covered under Public Transportation included those related to **Traffic Safety**, examples of which are below. A frequently mentioned topic that was not in the list was **Road Work/Maintenance (91 comments)**.

Road Work & Maintenance (n=91)

- I think we need more focus on improving our roads and infrastructure.
- Our roads and bridges need significant improvement. Traffic around town is a nightmare thanks to poor urban design and an influx of new residents from other western states like California. No matter what people have complained and said, the roundabouts in downtown were a wonderful idea, and have sped up the flow of traffic in the area by far compared to when I first moved here. But, we still need more 4 lane roads to get around, and improvements on the ones that do exist. The repaving on E Main St was a great start, but please don't let that be the end.
- The current road conditions in SJC are ridiculous. From city to the county maintained dirt roads. I have been same address for 13 yrs, and has never improved always less and less with yet more taxes being paid.
- Roads, highways, bridges falling apart in this county. Where is all the state and federal infrastructure money? Why are only 4 miles in sections of various highways maintained and it takes 2 years. Paint stripes in US 64 east of Bloomfield, not just the 3 miles of resurfaced area
- Stop with the never-ending plague of construction cones. We do NOT need to waste millions of dollars building a "road to nowhere" from Pinion Hills and Main, all the way to Wildflower trailer-ville.
- Our roads are horrible. Drive around the country and ours are definitely some of the worst.
- Roads are full of potholes and cracks
- Better paved roads, maintenance to bus roads on Navajo Nation. Culvert pipes on farm area used by bus to transport children to school and used by elderly need replacement on 5th lane, Mesa farm.

Traffic Safety (n=30)

- More emphasis on traffic safety. We need enough law enforcement that we can get a handle on the rampant careless and reckless driving, without taking away from preventing and addressing crime in a timely manner.
- Safer areas for children to cross/walk to school
- Main feeder streets to Pinon Hills Blvd in Farmington need to be re assessed. Several accidents have occurred because many people think 50MPH is the normal speed limit on Dustin Ave in Farmington. There are curves, parks, medians, kids, pedestrians, and residential driveways along that street. Recommend providing speed humps to keep people to at least 25mph
- Roadway safety (lots of areas where stop lights are needed)
- SJC also needs to have more efficient roadways since there is a huge amount of people who come to the area to shop on the weekends. The current traffic situation is beginning to cause safety issues since traffic is sometimes blocked across intersections during the weekends and holidays
- Alternate routes to alleviate traffic congestion during peak travel times
- Attention to vehicles speeding, everyone is speeding and I feel unsafe on the roads
- I am in a electric wheelchair and I find that the assault on most street corners is a barrier to be able to cross the street. Yellow in crosswalks is fine(should be on all corners) but I cannot cross all corners. It should be even with the street

COMMENTS ABOUT TRASH CLEAN-UP & ANIMAL SERVICES

“What other community needs or priorities do you think need more attention and focus?” Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

An open-ended question following the list of Community Needs asked about what *other* issues need more focus. Two additional topics not on the list were comments about **Trash Clean-up** and **Animal Control, Services**.

Trash Clean-up (n=53)

- Cleaning up the junk and trash throughout San Juan County.
- The dump needs to be addressed too, higher prices to dump, no longer free for county residents; [cost and] being closed on Sunday seems to be leading to more illegal dumping in the county.
- I believe more attention should be put on making our community better aesthetically. We should add landscaping, tear down junky, old building, require businesses to paint and landscape their buildings.
- The cleanliness of the rural areas should be more of a priority. Monitor dumping more closely. Tarping loads while driving down highways should be monitored to help with the sides of the highways being clean. Or implement a cleanup program to where once a month a crew is required to go to a different area each time and clean up.
- Cleaning up trash, vacant lots with weeds and abandoned buildings or houses
- Remove dead trees and remove sand and weeds from sidewalks.
- Also it would be nice to see the county get cleaned up people are dumping trash all over in the hills another nice thing would be to have some rules, etc. for peoples yards in Bloomfield. There seems to be no regulation on trash, weeds, etc. Some of us are trying to make things nice and it's beyond frustrating when you are surrounded by homes that are falling apart and with trash / weeds everywhere. Most of these people don't even work and could be cleaning up their yards. It doesn't cost money to pull weeds and throw away trash. (I'm talking about in town regulations!)
- Littering and dumping in outdoor spaces, but in town and in the county, have gotten much worse in my time here.
- The Waste Management on the Navajo Nation needs to be dealt with more effectively. People dump trash everywhere and anywhere.
- Graffiti vandalism
- Trash on the streets needs to be addressed. There are a lot of empty alcoholic containers littered around the sidewalks and roadways. There is a slight increase in general garbage around Farmington.
- Overgrown weeds cause health problems for asthmatic residents.
- Roads of San Juan County are a mess. Trash, weeds; dead animals, damaged signs and damaged rail guards everywhere along the roads. I have spent numerous hours cleaning up the trash along our county road. I also report dead animals and they pick up the dead animals but don't pick up complete bags of trash alongside of the roads before they break open and spread all over the place. A few ideas: 1. Have somebody who drives the roads daily and cleans up large pieces of trash. 2. Have a hotline that people can call to report trash and dead animals that will respond to the calls. 3. Use the federally illegal marijuana tax money being brought in to fund clean roads. 4. Require trash clean up before mowing road sides. I noticed road 5500 and pretty much everywhere they mowed the roadside weeds and also just mowed all the trash into tiny pieces. Shredding paper, cans, plastic into millions of pieces that will surely cause problems for generations to come. There should be a law requiring state and counties to clean up the trash before mowing the roadsides. 5. Better enforcement of littering and illegal dumping. 6. Road signs with numbers to call to report trash and violations. 7. Invest in machinery or trucks that can pick up the roadside trash at industrial levels. It is frustrating to drive down the roads of New Mexico and San Juan County with all the trash, weeds, dead animals, damaged signs and guard rails. So much for taking a joy ride around here. Where do I send my invoice for doing the county's job keeping our roads clean? *[Author's note: Edited from a longer comment and removed identifying information. Comment provided in full as requested.]*

Animal Control & Services (n=37)

- Affordable programs to spay or have emergency vet visits when need or affordable animal care.
- Better animal control availability - especially after hours
- Allocate more financial support for Animal Control Services. Develop an outreach program to all county residences regarding services available to them for their animals. Maintain enough staff to enforce the ordinances, and help save San Juan County's animals. Allow the time and resources to enforce accountability. Make no mistake, animal control issues are real and affect communities every day.
- Animal safety, no more free roaming dogs
- Protection and care for abandoned and abused animals.
- A trap and release program for the feral cats in the neighborhoods. They are getting out of control.

SUMMARY

Transportation

- On the Residents Needs Assessment Survey, “Improving Public Transportation” and the need for “Increasing Rural Transportation Options” were among the lowest ranked items, ranked #24 and #27 out of a total of 27 items.
- A total of 15.7% of respondents reported using at least one form of public transportation on a regular basis, including 10% who reported using the Bus (either Red Apple or Navajo Transit).
- When asked which options they wanted to see expanded, 32% reported they wanted greater access or expansion of the bus system.
 - By zip code, residents of the Kirtland-Fruitland area, followed by Shiprock, rural areas and Farmington, reported the highest levels of interest in expanding public transportation.
 - By income, those with incomes below \$30,000 reported the highest level of use (with 26.7% reporting using some form of public transportation) and also reported the highest need for increased public transportation options, and were less likely to report having personal transportation options, such as having a car they can use.
- On the Key Informant survey, “Making public transportation available in rural communities” was the highest ranked priority, out of 106 issues/needs. “Adding better routes and time schedules to current public transportation system” was ranked #3.
- Key Informant’s perspectives are likely aligned with the need recognized by certain areas of the county and by those with lower incomes. One Key Informant wrote, “People find jobs to survive and make a living, but without the transportation access.”
- Specific input about needed improvements across all current data sources, including the resident survey, focus group, and key informant survey were:
 - 1) the need to increase access and routes, particularly just outside of Farmington and into areas such as Kirtland/Fruitland, Shiprock
 - 2) the need for expanded schedules/timing of availability
 - 3) addressing safety concerns and improving cleanliness
 - 4) improving the condition of bus stops (e.g., lighting, shelters, places to sit)

Recreation & The Environment

- Items related to the need for additional focus on “Recreational facilities” and “Parks/Trails” were not high ranking priorities in need of additional attention on the Resident Survey or the Key Informant Survey. Rather they were existing amenities, strengths and assets that were appreciated in written comments.
- Key Informants also recognized and appreciated the progress that has been already accomplished for increasing green areas, parks and outdoor recreational areas.
- Written comments about community amenities/opportunities that support well-being and thriving highlighted the high value that residents place on these valuable community assets.
- Concerns about the “Environment (air/water pollution)” was rated a “high priority” by nearly half (47%) of the respondents on the Resident Survey. Environmental pollution was also specifically mentioned by 3% of the respondents as their greatest health concern, and was mentioned in relation to concerns about access to healthy food and water, a highly ranked priority in topic of health. (See *Health & Well-being*.)

SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION



Need for Focus on System-wide Coordination of Services

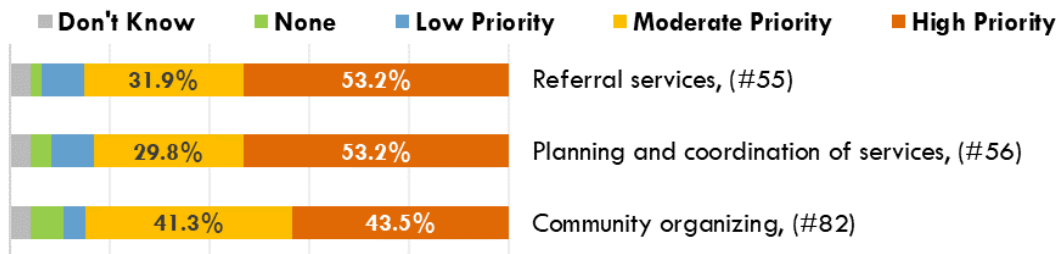
The need for better referral processes and coordination between agencies and across sectors has been identified in other assessments as a priority that is needed to improve overall service delivery and communication.

Key Informant Ratings of Community Systems

Key Informant Survey (2024)

Considering the availability of services relative to the current need, indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each (n=49)

On the Key Informant Survey, “Referral services” and “Planning and coordination of services” were mid-ranked priorities, #55 and #56 out of 106 issues/needs, with just over half of the key informant survey respondents rating these issues as “high priorities.” “Community organizing” as a priority was ranked somewhat lower.



“What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding system-wide coordination of services?”

In response to the open-ended question about the “number one priority,” Key Informants highlighted a general need for organizations to collaborate and work together, followed by the need to build community awareness about services in the community and between organizations. Categories of responses are shown below, along with a few representative quotes:

1. Cooperation / Collaboration (10)
2. Awareness of Resources (6)
3. Networking - Learn about other agencies, including educating each other about issues such as substance use and mental health (4)
4. Referral system or central hub, e.g., for warm handoffs (3)
5. Coordinate for specific services (e.g., victim services, those at risk, transportation) (3)
6. Reduce service duplication (2)
7. Simplify process for accessing services (2)
8. Address jurisdiction/policy issues (2)

“It seems like there are good resources available but not well-known. Sometimes it feels like several agencies or organizations are re-inventing the same wheel. Collaboration and cooperation could expand the availability of resources.”

“Many services go unused because people don't know about them, or because the process is too complicated.”

“We need one location, like a one-stop-shop, for families and individuals to go to receive services or a warm handoff to services.”

“More advertisement of who is doing what in our community.”

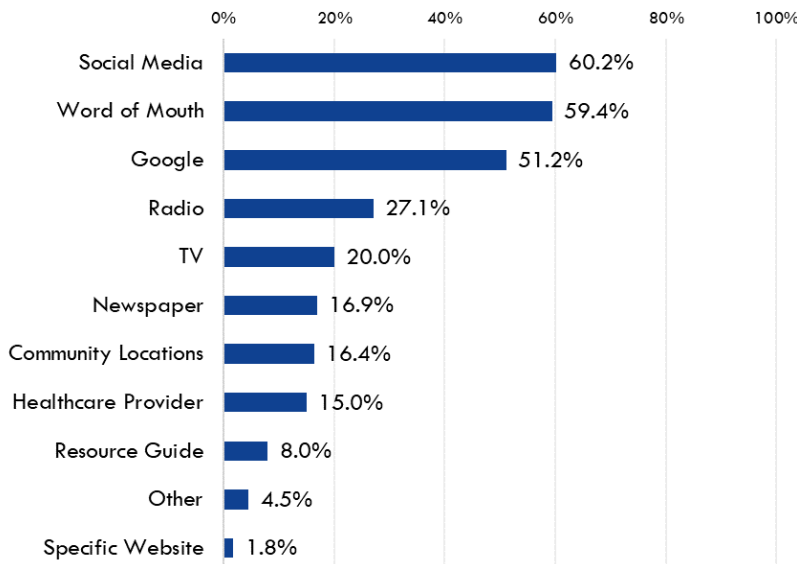
Four Key Informants described coordinating activities are already taking place, or indicated the need is already addressed.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Communication Media Preferences Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

The ability to communicate information about resources is an important community asset. Learning about how the community accesses information is a valuable tool for building awareness.

How do you generally find out about local services and resources? (Select all that apply) (n=1588)

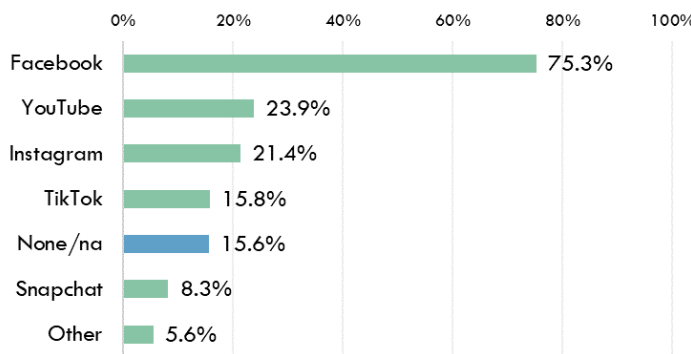


The most popular ways that respondents reported getting their information about local services and resources were through “Social Media,” “Word of Mouth,” and “Google” Internet searches.

Other” sources that were specified included: schools, places of work, the Library, Chapter meetings, the Senior Center, and flyers included in official county/city mailings.

The most frequently mentioned specific local websites were the City of Farmington, San Juan College, San Juan County, and school websites.

Which of the following social media sites do you use to get information? (Select all that apply)



Among those who use social media, *Facebook* was by far the leading platform, used by 75% of the respondents.

Next Door was the most frequently mentioned “Other” form of social media that respondents used to get information.

Awareness of Selected Services/Resources Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

Additional questions on the Needs Assessment survey asked respondents about their awareness or use of selected services:

- **32.0%** of the survey respondents reported that they were aware of the San Juan County Mental Wellness Resource Center (n=1513)
- **24.8%** indicated they or a member of their household had used a service provided by a local non-profit, for example, for food or housing assistance, family support or counseling (n=1518)
- **2.6%** reported they had used the 211 United Way Helpline for resources or assistance (n=1517).

(Note: The United Way 211 is a relatively new and growing free helpline which provides connections and referrals to local services and resources for help with basic needs such as food assistance programs, mental health, family and senior services. 211 provides callers with referrals in over 240 languages, including Navajo and Spanish.)

COMMUNITY-SYSTEMS COMMENTS

“What other community needs or priorities do you think need more attention and focus?” **Needs Assessment Survey (2023)**

Following a list of Community Needs/Issues that respondents were asked to rate and prioritize, an open-ended question asked about what *other* needs or issues need more focus. Many comments reiterated or explained those already in the list, and examples of those comments are in the respective sections.

Community-systems (n=77)

Of the topics *not listed*, the second most frequently mentioned topic was “Community-systems” related (n=71), with a variety of comments about resources, outreach, events, information and unity. Subcategories of this topic are below, with representative quotes. (*“Road work - repair and maintenance” was the most frequently mentioned topic, by 91 respondents. These are described in the section on Transportation.*)

1. Systems focus (eg. fiscal/taxes, civic amenities, growth, government policies) (n=31):

- Comments in this subcategory reflected residents’ perspectives on taxes, spending, improving communication avenues between agencies, government and the public, and considerations for growing an economically, socially healthier community.

“Awareness projects that involve community input so that funding can be allocated properly. Paper trails and transparency from municipalities that handle public funds.”

“I’d prefer to see more private support, businesses and non-profits fill these roles. I do not think it’s the government’s responsibility to fix all these problems. If we can financially help support these non-profits or businesses, the town could benefit without always having to take care of it.”

“Request all state and local agencies that relate to human services, environmental health and social services to update website information, point of contact and phone numbers.”

“Inclusion and diversity. Economic development with the surrounding Native American reservations. They are a valuable resource.”

“REDUCE government spending so people have more money in their pockets, which will lead to better communities in all of these areas.”

“Make the area attractive for tourists that bring more revenue and therefore unique and local restaurants not just fast food. Leadership create and align around a vision for the communities and encourage locals to take pride and join in the vision of this beautiful area. Integrate and capitalize on the ethnic diversity. Ways to bring new people together. Stronger volunteer system.”

Additional specific suggestions included: Having online county records like La Plata and Rio Arriba have; Sewer system expansion in Kirtland and Fruitland; Library services; A community center on the north side of town. Sycamore does a great job, but it is a long drive/lot of gas to get there for some people; Increased options for high-speed internet; Less regulations and lower property taxes; Maintaining existing facilities and programs, instead of creating new ones; Focusing on the programs we have and really evaluate what is working and what is not working and quit pouring tax payer money into programs that are not working; Prioritize development efforts in keeping with the social needs of the communities those activities would impact.

COMMUNITY-SYSTEMS COMMENTS, CONT.

2. Specific resources/outreach and classes (n=15):

- This subcategory included suggestions for resources, classes and outreach.
“Education for how to live better, growing a garden, recycling, helping people in the community. Having pride in their property and their neighborhood, city, county, state and country.”
“Community events that educate community members of resources available in the community.”
“More LGBTQIA+ outreach and support / services and resources.”

Additional suggestions included: More support for youth transitioning out of foster care; Shooting range, firearm education; A place to use computers printers and Wi-Fi; Finance educational classes; More outreach to underserved unrepresented people - African Americans, Asians to mention a few; A community health fair for general sexual health concerns and education; Conflict resolution classes.

3. Events - Activities (n=11):

- This subcategory included specific desired activities and supportive spaces.
“More culture/community spaces for culture, courses and arts provided by and for the community near rural areas.”
“We need more fun activities for ALL ages, not meaning to hike or ride a four-wheeler.”
“Community events such as concerts, marathons, carnivals, and basic entertainment.”
“Activities need to be more in the surrounding areas of Aztec, Bloomfield, Shiprock, Kirtland.”

Additional specific suggestions included: Public lectures at SJC; I would love to see more interfaith events; Activities geared for families Activities geared for single people; More hands on with culture / traditional activities.

3. Unity, Inclusivity Community Building (n=11):

- This subcategory described a desire for a greater sense of community coming together.
“Community building, more opportunities for the community across all boundaries to gather together. Meet, learn, and join in friendship and partnership.”
“I believe our community needs more unity gatherings. More things that bring people together. To have a higher sense of community.”
“I feel our community needs more of a sense of unity. We need more things to bring us together. More local activities. More advertising of those activities so more people will go.”

4. Information - e.g., about Events and Local News (n=10):

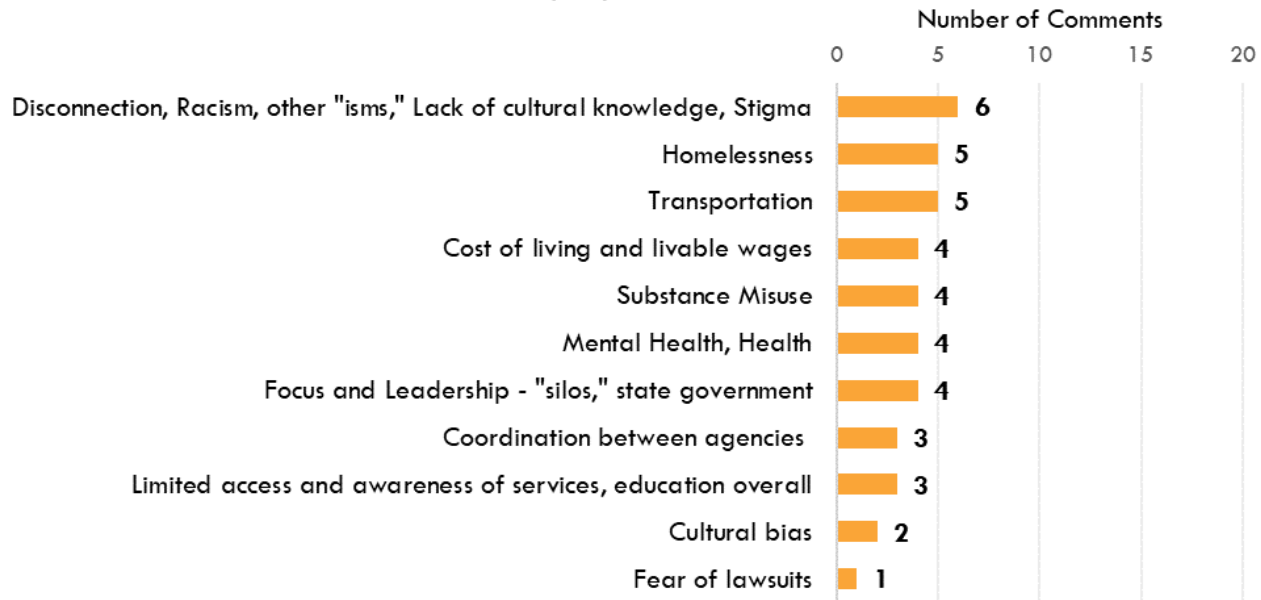
- Comments in this subcategory described the need for better information channels.
“I think we need to work on better local communication when it comes to local events, programs, drives, etc. to help people get engaged and feel welcomed into the community so that we can keep growing Farmington and attracting new businesses, residents, and tourists.”
“Local business/resident/school marketing plan of community events and opportunities. Lots of folks simply don't know how much their community offers them. How can we get more folks aware of, and thus participating in, community events and assets?”
“Lack of information shared about programs that are available here. An annual or bi-annual mailer with this information that is sent to each address, including ALL available resources (health services, classes, recreation, whom to contact, etc.), would be beneficial.”
“Community Involvement and information. We don't have our own community news, so people are uninformed about what is happening at the time it is happening. Like when there was an active shooter, there was no station to turn to!”

SYSTEMIC NEEDS & BARRIERS TO SERVICE

“Are there any systemic problems in our community which limit the effectiveness of services?”

Key Informant Survey (2024, n=49)

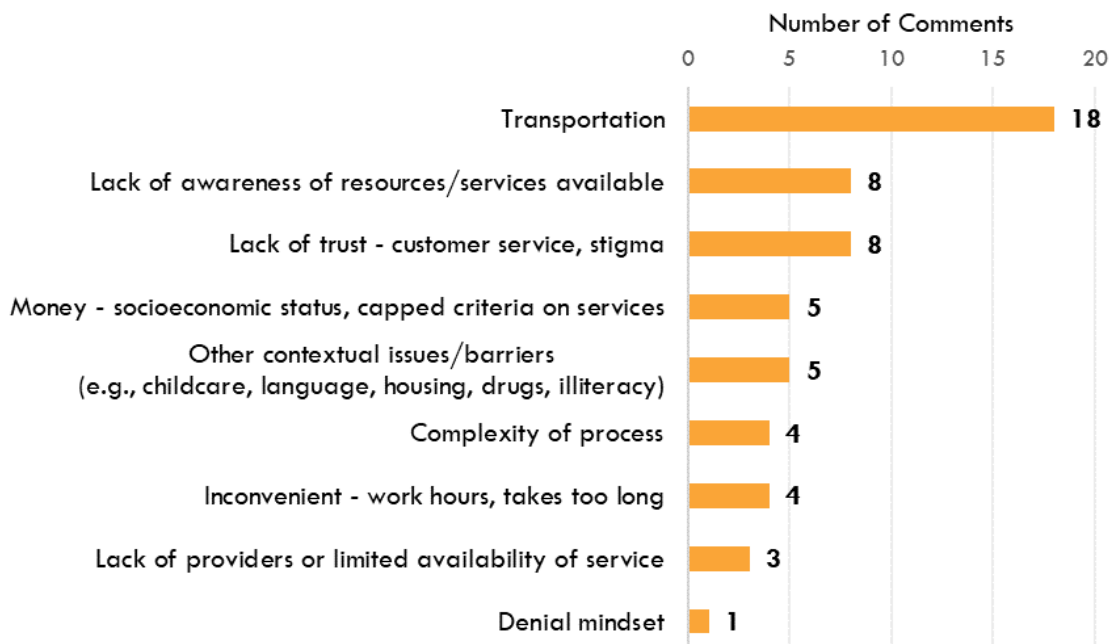
Key Informants’ identification of systemic issues or concerns which limit the effectiveness of services covered a wide scope of topics:



“Please indicate any barriers that might prevent people from using existing services in San Juan County.”

Key Informant Survey (2024, n=49)

Key Informants’ highlighted Transportation as the greatest barrier that prevents people from using existing services, followed by community awareness of services & resources, and a lack of trust experienced by some clients/customers.

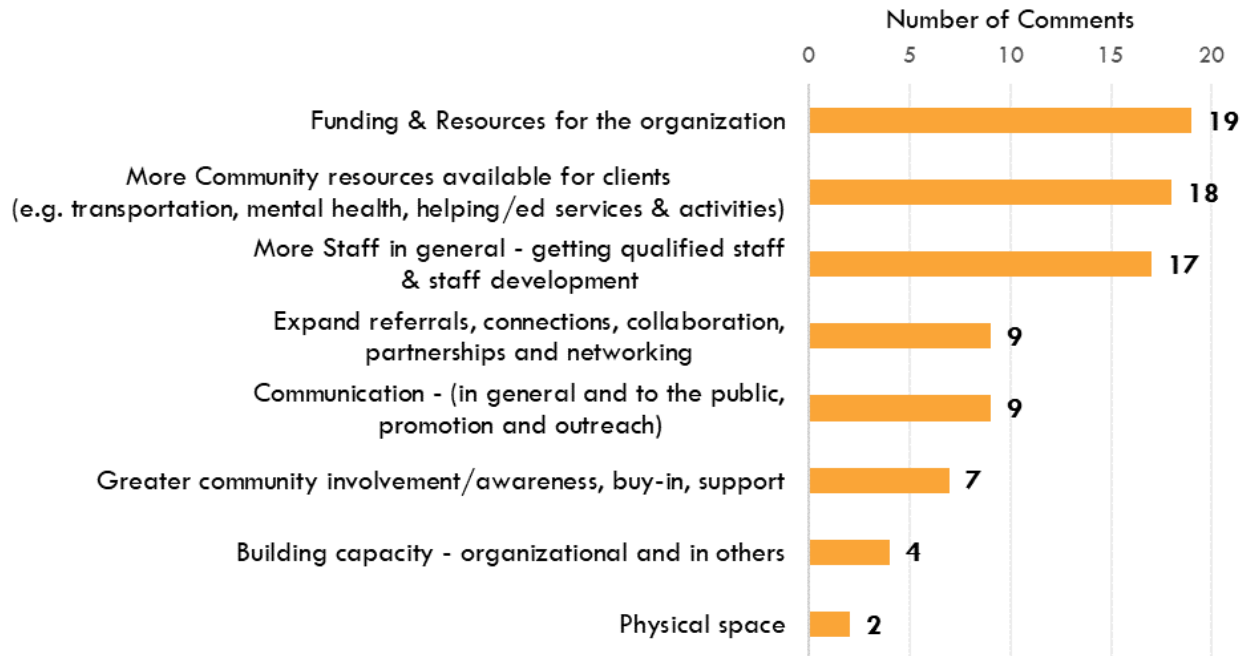


ORGANIZATIONS' GREATEST NEED

“What is your organization's or business's greatest need to grow or thrive?”

Key Informant Survey (2024, n=78)

In response to the open-ended question about organizational and business needs, the top three needs Key Informants described were: 1) the need for Funding; followed by 2) Community resources for their clients, such as transportation, mental health and other services; and 3) Recruiting, Hiring and Retaining staff.



KEY FINDINGS

System-wide Coordination

- On the Key Informant survey, issues related to system-wide coordination were mid-ranked concerns, including “Referral services” (#55 out of 106), “Planning and coordination” (#56) and “Community organizing” (#82).
- Related to communication avenues, the Needs Assessment survey asked respondents about how they obtain information about services and resources. Social media and Word of mouth were top-rated avenues. Within social media, Facebook is by far the most popular platform. “Next door” was also mentioned in open-ended comments.
- Within comments about “other” community needs that were not in the list, respondents on the Needs Assessment survey described a need for a greater focus on systems, community events and activities, community building efforts and increasing access to information about current events, emergency situations and local news.

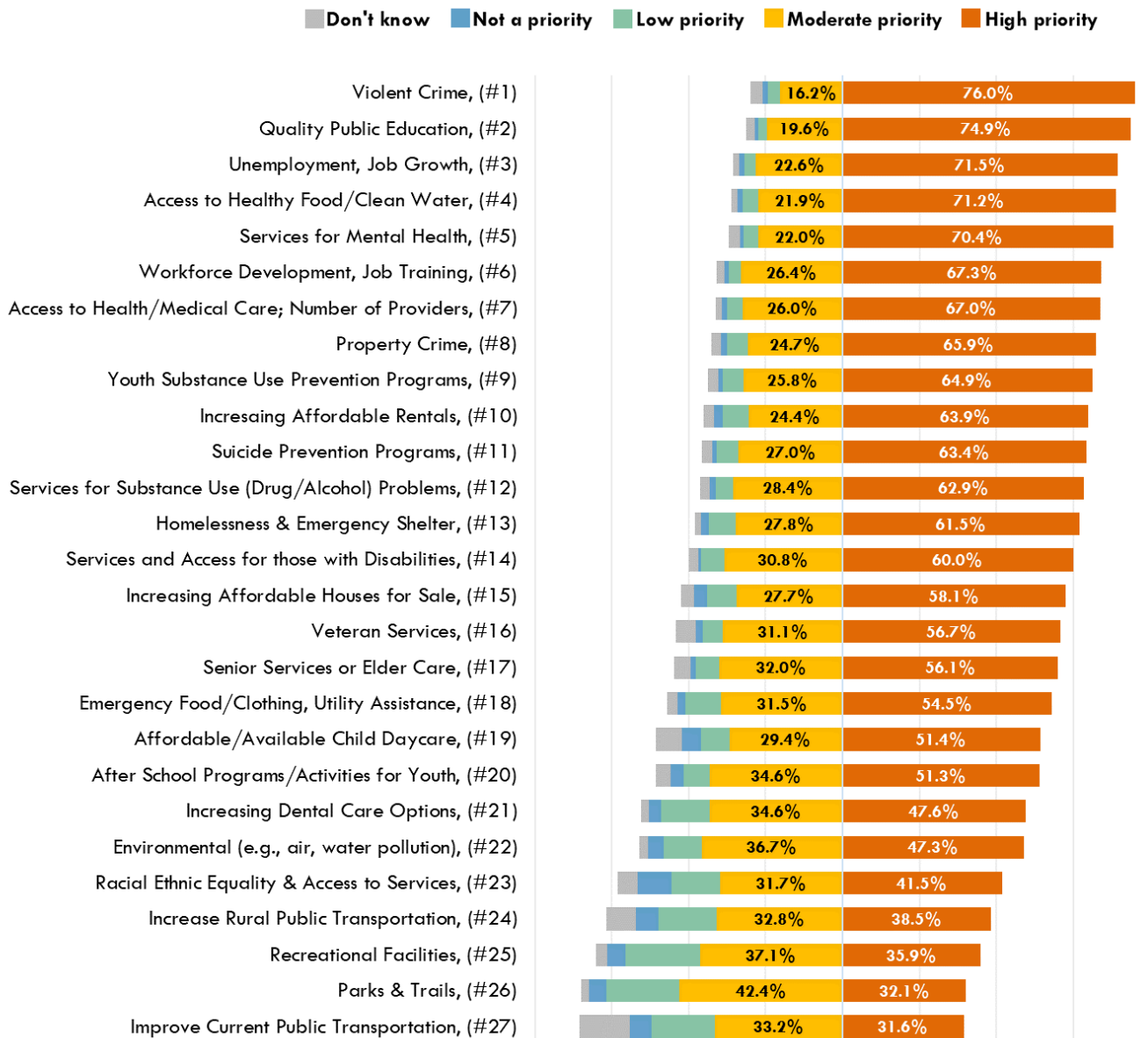
OVERALL RATINGS, STRENGTHS & ASSETS



Community Needs & Issues: San Juan County, NM Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

The Needs Assessment Survey gave a list of 27 community needs and issues for respondents to rate in terms of how much additional attention or focus is needed for each, from “Not a priority” through “High priority.” Ranked in order of “high priority” ratings, the top-rated needs are reducing Violent Crime and improving Public Education. Employment, Job growth and Workforce development were also high ranked priorities. Health related concerns (e.g., access to healthy nutrition, the number of providers), Mental Health Services, and Substance Use Prevention programs for Youth were also among the top 10 ranked issues.

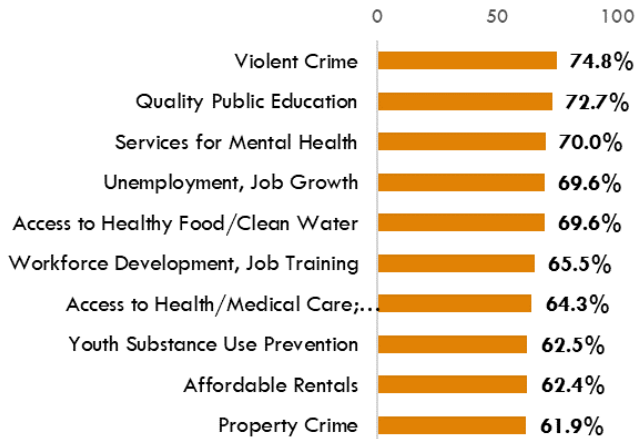
How much additional attention or focus should each need/issue be given from “Not a priority” (no more focus needed) to “High priority” (much more focus needed)? (n=1,545)



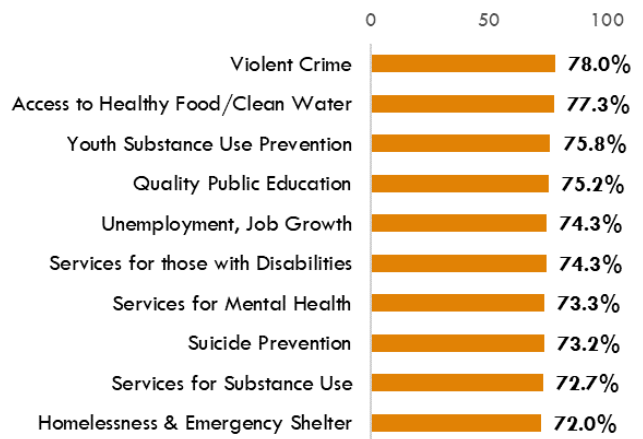
COMMUNITY NEEDS & ISSUES, CONT.

Ratings of the priority needs and issues varied somewhat by zip code and area of the county. The top 10 community needs are shown below, as categorized by zip code / area.

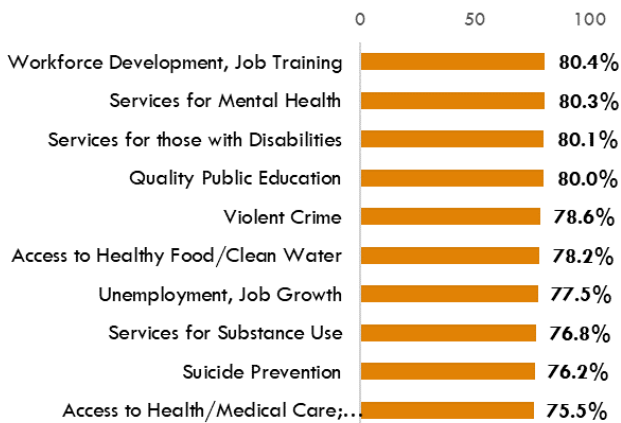
Farmington Residents (n=753)



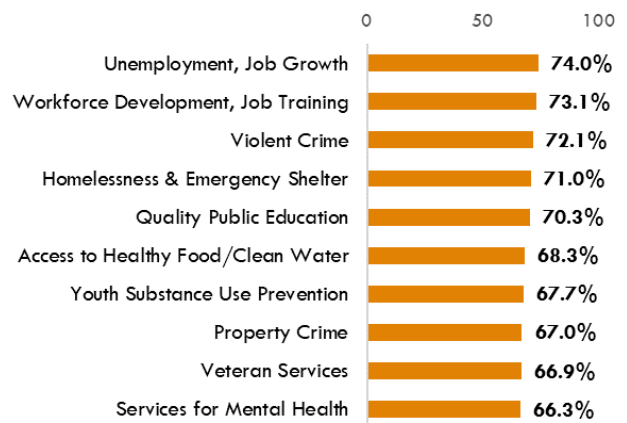
Kirtland/Fruitland Residents (n=122)



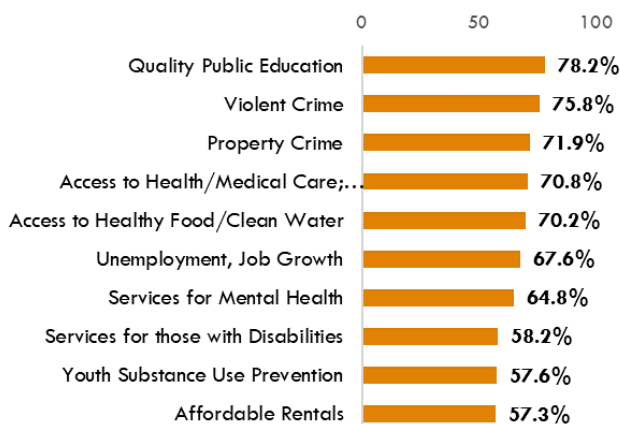
Shiprock Residents (n=134)



Rural Residents (n=142)



Aztec Residents (n=208)



Bloomfield Residents (n=146)



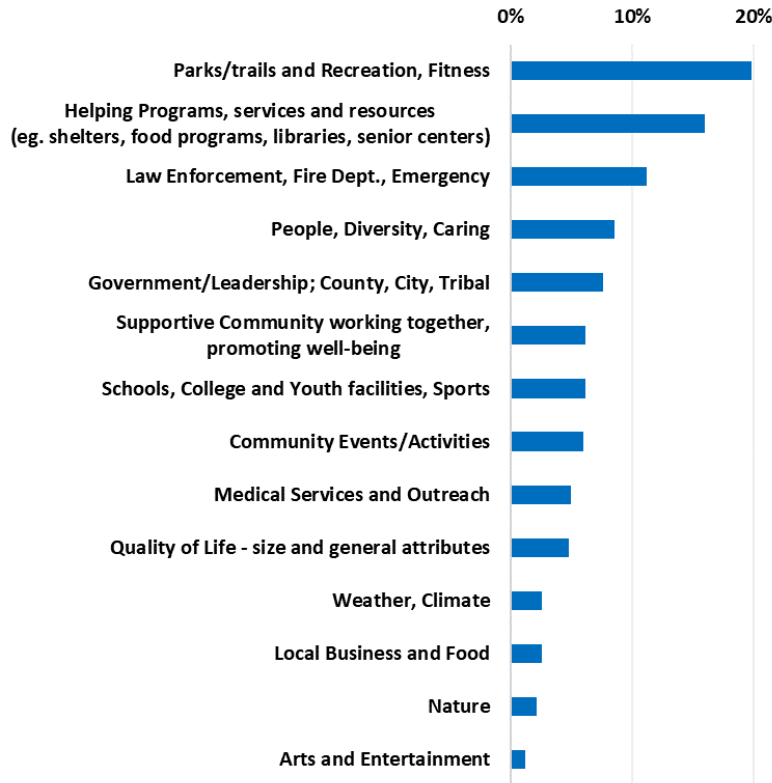
COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

“What are the strengths and assets of San Juan County or your local community that support residents’ health, happiness, safety and/or well-being?”

Needs Assessment Survey (2023)

To illustrate the perspectives of residents from different parts of the county, written comments about strengths and assets are grouped by respondents’ zip code/county area.

Farmington Residents (n=500 Comments)

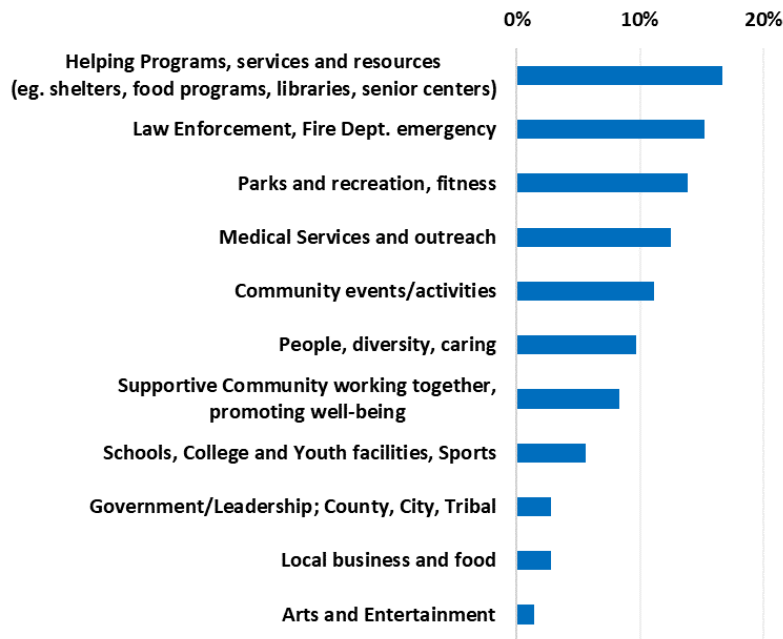


- A lot of good people working for government, schools, and businesses.
- Great opportunity, centrally located, good schools, nice hospital and generally good doctors, trustworthy elected officials that actually advocate for the people they serve
- Collaboration among organizations and community members to find solutions to challenges in our county and municipalities
- Good senior center and programs for seniors. Food bank is strong with products and volunteers. Police and Sheriff’s Office are amazing.
- I feel that our local governments work very very well together and with local organizations towards similar goals (homelessness, transient, child care, victim advocates)...
- I know there are many [strengths], I’ve lived here for 25 years and I loved raising my kids here. I have been seeing our town grow and have been pleased with programs that are around. Growth is good in our San Juan area.

- In Farmington in particular, I love the remodel of the old section of Main Street, the music, the sculptures and statues, bike pump and benches, and street art! Also the new bike trails through town and the river walk. I’d love to see it extended to the dog park part of the trail. Also the well kept medians and parks. I’ve lived here for my whole life and it’s only gotten better. Thanks!
- I appreciate the Farmington Police Chief. He seems to work well with the whole community especially with racial diversity.
- I think there are a lot of resources and opportunities for recreation as well as programs to serve those who are hungry, in need of jobs or are in abusive situations. My impression is that we do quite a bit to help those in need.
- I think the City of Farmington does an excellent job at repairing street lights, sidewalks, water leaks and keeping the city, parks, clean. I think the people of San Juan county are amazing after what we’ve been through with covid and the price increases, I think we do a fair job at treating each other with respect.
- I do believe that the Sheriff’s Office and FPD provides strength and safety this county needs. The Farmers Market in Farmington gives great access to fresh food and accepts EBT/SNAP benefits.
- I feel that the people of San Juan county still hold each other accountable for bettering our community. We work hard and we serve each other. There are many needs and we come together to lift and love one another. Less government programs allows and encourages us to work together, while more government programs takes opportunities away from us to work harder and grow from hard situations.
- Acknowledging and supporting each other’s common goals, priorities, values, missions and visions by partnerships, collaborations, and supporting one another’s strengths. Supporting local businesses (for-profit and nonprofit). Any area activity that supports our commonalities as well as our incredible diversities. River/lake activities, parks, nature trails, river walks, gyms, spas, etc
- Being a Border town, accept different ethnic group, law enforcements are quick to respond. The public has fair knowledge of resources which they get help in what they need.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS, CONT.

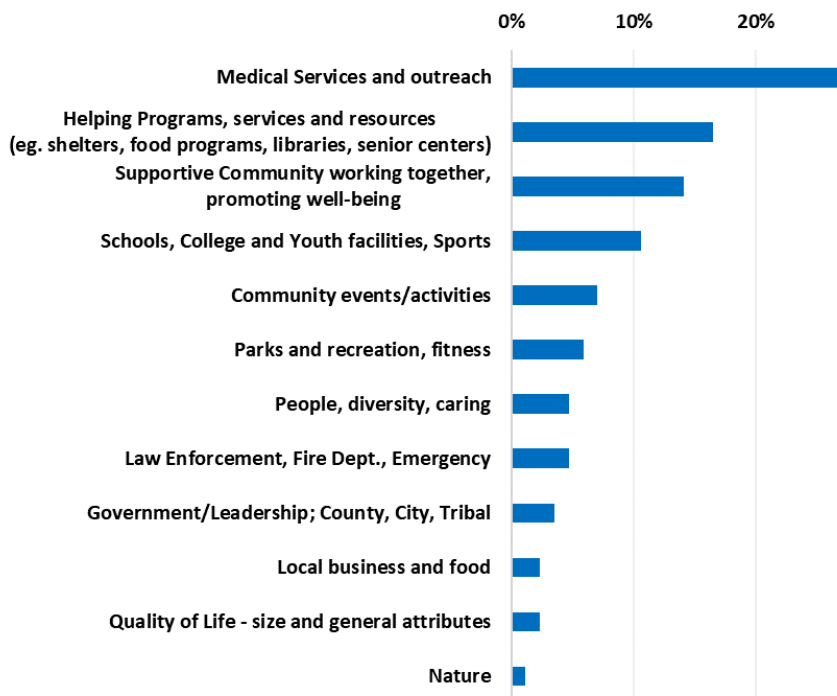
Kirtland-Fruitland Residents (n=72 Comments)



- The community resources in San Juan County either centers or medical services always make you feel so welcomed.
- County Sheriff's Dept. and local first responders doing a good job.
- The parks and trail systems, either in place or those that are being developed, support the well-being of residents.
- Police, keeping crimes down and on top of their job
- PMS will help with health care even if the person can't pay at the time they receive services, and the PATH is a good resource for winter months for those who are not sheltered.
- With what available resources that are available, they are doing their best to contribute to those willingly to ask for help.

- Community celebrations-River Fest, 4th of July, Christmas parade, Connie Mack, San Juan County Fair, Northern Navajo Fair and parade. San Juan Regional doing all it can to stay open and retain its workforce. San Juan County LEO working with NN Tribal Police on establishing an MOU/MOA to operate on nearby Navajo Nation reservation. Our San Juan County High School sports always making an appearance at the State level competition.

Shiprock Residents (n=85 Comments)

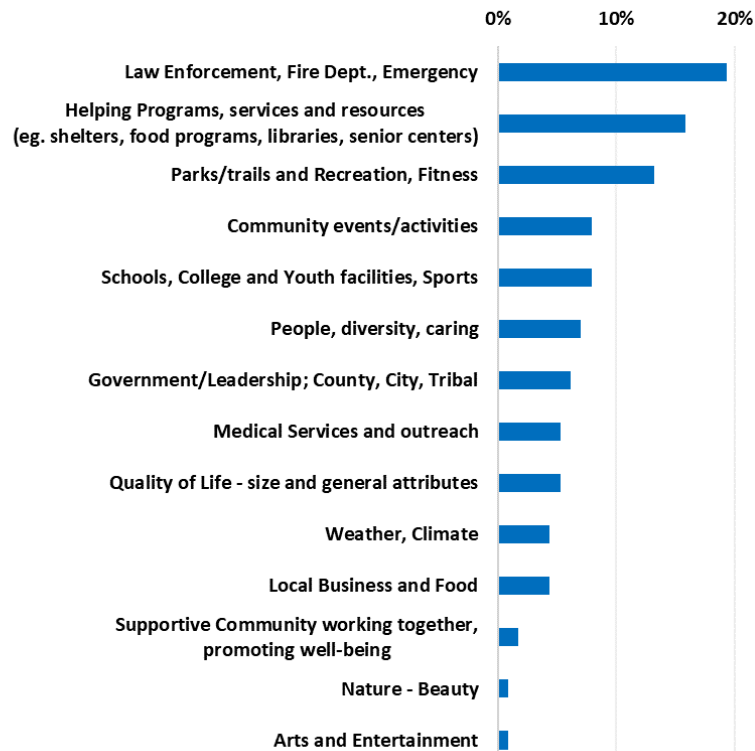


- San Juan County has been a great county to live in and I've enjoyed having access to healthcare services, grocery stores, retail stores and parks/recreation areas
- Going out to school events to support our local sports
- Outreach programs do their best to help I see them throughout the community
- The local Chapter House does a good job of providing assistance with food and other needs when the community is in need.
- Native American Healthcare Services, youth centers for young Navajo kids, diabetes health programs.
- Having caretakers checking and on those who can't get out of their houses
- Free Health Care for Native Americans

- Just Move It, Walk and Run Events, Restoring Cultural Family Wellness events, ASIST training, Suicide prevention trainings, Free CPR classes, Free food handlers classes, NM First Born visitor, 988 Training, Halloween trunk or treats, Christmas bazaars

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS, CONT.

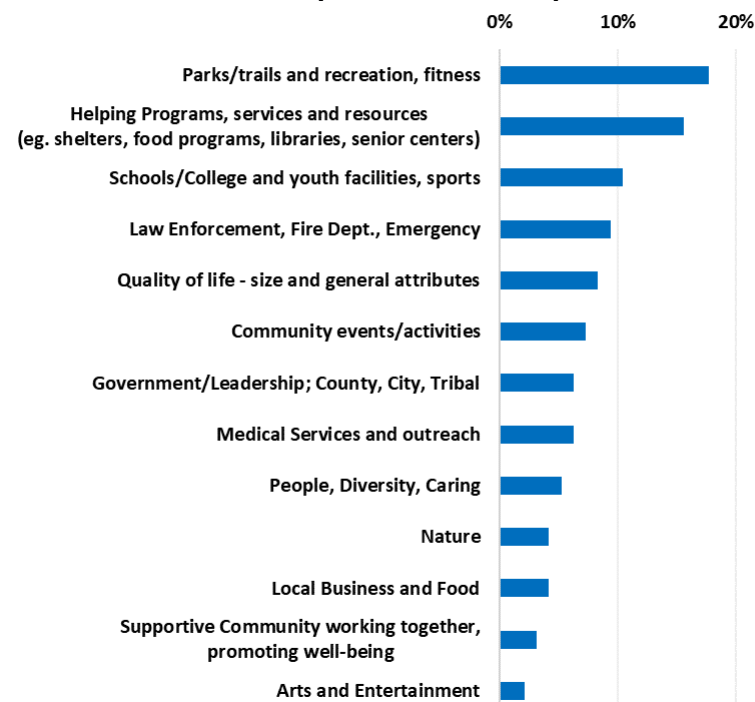
Aztec Residents (n=114 Comments)



- One of our strengths is we have good law enforcement.
- This county government is very concerned about its residents and does what they can to improve the area and living conditions.
- Aztec Public Library!
- Good climate and lots of sunshine
- Senior centers provide a lot of services for my age group. This includes food, educational and fitness programs, as well as things like tax assistance.
- San Juan County has a very diverse community, Native, Hispanic and Whites make up our residents. This diversity allows us to understand our neighbors and appreciate our own culture.
- I am in Aztec and they really decorate for Christmas. I think the whole tri city area should try to do that. It increases happiness.
- I think San Juan county has become a lot more aware of mental health and accepting that it is an issue but needs more resources or access/ability to access these resources easily.

- Overall San Juan County supports law enforcement & that is huge in feeling safe as a citizen. SJC has supported the 2nd amendment also important for individual safety. There are many various community events. The parks are beautiful & well kept. There are so many good options for exercise. The college health programs are excellent & affordable. Somehow in the midst of all of the racial tension in the US, SJC, which has a large representation of people from various heritages, has managed to remain reasonably kind & calm.

Bloomfield Residents (n=96 Comments)

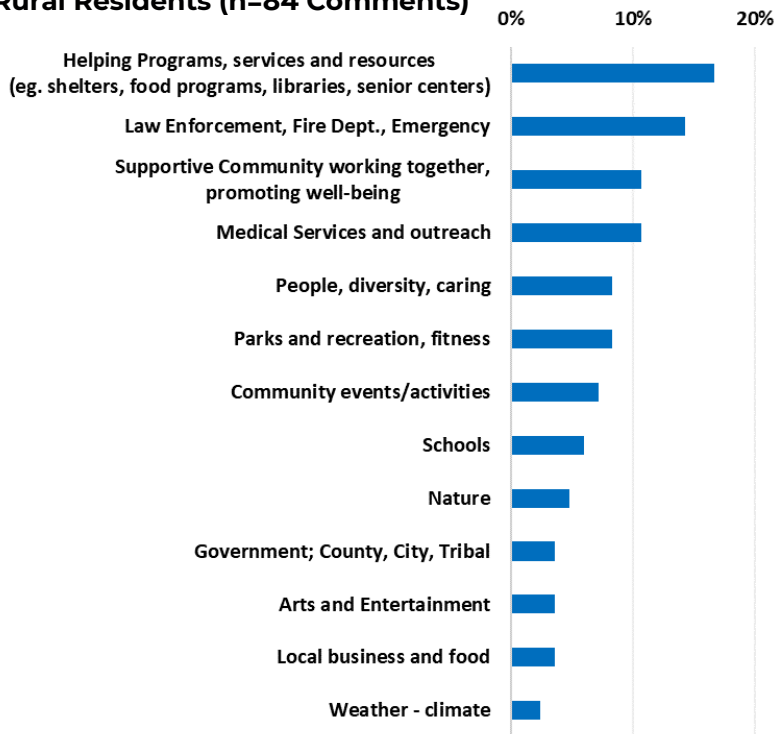


- Parks, senior citizen centers, walkways, cultural events
- Small town with involved police that care about the community. Great local school districts that have hometown pride. Beautiful parks and lots of outdoor activities. Great place to raise children.
- Bloomfield swimming pool best asset we have and need to support it!
- I have been (recently) going to the Bloomfield Senior Center for lunch. It offers good food for \$3.00 per person.
- With the resources we have we are doing the best we can.
- Having caring leaders like our Sheriff.
- Involved police that care about the community.
- San Juan county is great when it comes to helping our community for the most part! Funding seems to be an issue that causes set backs for some people
- We have awesome people here. We have citizens that understand the REAL need for help for all ages and all economic levels.

- Our community has always been immensely supportive for others, other than our own personal families and friends. We are a big family together. When tragedies come, pandemics hit, and/or natural disasters come upon us, together as San Juan County, we all become united and share the strength & love we have/can to give. I do love living in San Juan County.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS, CONT.

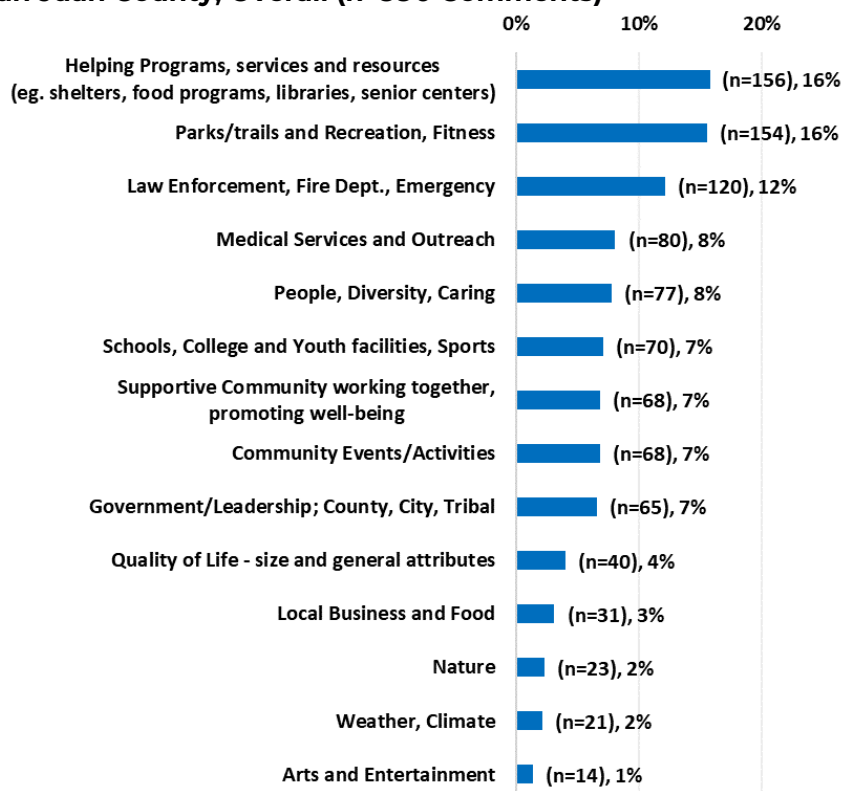
Rural Residents (n=84 Comments)



- I believe our strength is our people. Residents of San Juan County have the biggest hearts & love our community. The desire for more community interaction and involvement is there, however, the vehicle to achieve that is not always easily accessible.
- Our local businesses are also a huge asset, which we need help supporting them.
- Police Chief does strong work to support his officers and also to keep San Juan county abreast of breaking news.
- The local government takes pride in the appearance and maintenance of the parks and community centers.
- Strengths of our community is the amount of police/sheriffs officers that work hand in hand even with the Navajo Nation PD.
- D-Z Clinic / Street Medicine
- It's great to see local sheriff and police departments hosting community safety classes. I feel it builds relationships with the community and enhances safety.

- The strengths of San Juan County are in the amount of good people who rally together in solidarity to volunteer, donate and assist others when the need is there. Despite the fact that the negative gets spotlighted in the media, there are so many people in this area who are more than willing to go above and beyond. There are so many wonderful and unique things to love about this area.

San Juan County, Overall (n=990 Comments)



The graph at the left shows the overall rank from the analysis of comments about strengths and assets. Helping Programs/Community Services and Resources, along with Parks and Trails & Recreational Opportunities were top-ranked, followed by appreciation for Law Enforcement and First Responders.

On a similar question on the 2016 Needs Assessment survey, the only similarity was the top-ranked Parks & Trails. Whereas, on the current survey, there is significantly greater recognition of helping programs, community services and resources, law enforcement, medical services and supportive, caring people working together.

KEY INFORMANT RATINGS

Community Needs & Issues: San Juan County, NM Key Informant Survey (2024)

On the Key Informant Survey participants were presented with a long list of issues and needs, in sections organized by topic. A total of 106 items were rated, from “not a priority/need already met” to “high priority/much more attention needed.” Items ranked by “high priority” are below.

Table 10.1. Key Informant Ratings (1-20)

Topic Area	Need / Issue	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Rank
Transportation & Recreation	Making public transportation available in rural communities	89.6%	10.4%	1
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Increasing the number of mental health providers and counselors	87.2%	8.5%	2
Transportation & Recreation	Adding better routes and time schedules to current public transportation system	84.8%	13.0%	3
Healthcare & Human Services	Increasing the number of health providers in rural communities	83.0%	10.6%	4
Housing	Increasing the number of affordable apartments	81.6%	10.2%	5
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Reducing the amount of alcohol misuse	81.3%	14.6%	6
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	In-patient / residential treatment for mental health disorders	81.3%	12.5%	7
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Reducing the amount of opioid misuse	81.3%	10.4%	8
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Residential substance use treatment programs for youth and adults	81.3%	10.4%	9
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (meth, heroin, cocaine, etc.)	81.3%	8.3%	10
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Expanding crisis services for mental health disorders	79.2%	16.7%	11
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Expanding crisis services for Substance Use Disorders	78.7%	12.8%	12
Healthcare & Human Services	Increasing the number of health care providers	76.1%	17.4%	13
Housing	Expanding rental and mortgage assistant programs	75.0%	16.7%	14
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Substance use prevention programs to reduce substance use among Youth	75.0%	14.6%	15
Family Support Services	Services for partner/domestic violence / child abuse	74.5%	17.0%	16
Housing	Creating more shelter beds for subpopulations (children, women, families, veterans, etc.)	73.5%	26.5%	17
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Suicide prevention	72.9%	22.9%	18
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Reducing stigma associated with mental health disorders	72.9%	20.8%	19
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	DWI Prevention	72.9%	12.5%	20

KEY INFORMANT RATINGS, CONT.

Table 10.2. Key Informant Ratings (21-42)

Topic Area	Need / Issue	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Rank
Housing	Creating more emergency shelter beds for people who are experiencing homelessness	69.4%	22.4%	21
Education	Funding for education	68.8%	22.9%	22
Education	Special programs for "at risk" students	68.8%	22.9%	23
Transportation & Recreation	Increasing transportation options for elderly and disabled	68.8%	20.8%	24
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Reducing stigma associated with substance misuse	68.8%	18.8%	25
Family Support Services	Providing more after school programs for school-aged children	68.1%	25.5%	26
Housing	Increasing the number of affordable houses for sale	66.7%	22.9%	27
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Increasing the number of Substance Use Disorder providers and services	66.7%	25.0%	28
Family Support Services	Parenting skills training:Family Support & Social Services	66.0%	31.9%	29
Employment	Developing more livable wage jobs	66.0%	25.5%	30
Family Support Services	Child protective services	66.0%	21.3%	31
Housing	Increasing the number of landlords who accept housing vouchers	65.3%	24.5%	32
Housing	Creating higher quality rental apartments and houses	64.6%	31.3%	33
Education	After school programs for youth	64.6%	31.3%	34
Public Safety, Legal Services	Crime prevention	64.6%	27.1%	35
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Short-term treatment for mental health disorders	64.6%	22.9%	36
Housing	Helping more people who are experiencing homelessness to find their missing identification documents	63.3%	26.5%	37
Transportation & Recreation	Creating more affordable public transportation options	62.5%	29.2%	38
Transportation & Recreation	Road improvement	62.5%	29.2%	39
Education	High School drop-out prevention	62.5%	27.1%	40
Family Support Services	Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)	61.7%	27.7%	41
Family Support Services	Adult protective services	61.7%	21.3%	42

KEY INFORMANT RATINGS, CONT.

Table 10.3. Key Informant Ratings (43-64)

Topic Area	Need / Issue	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Rank
Personal Finance, Basic Needs	Access to healthy food	60.9%	30.4%	43
Family Support Services	Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers	60.9%	30.4%	44
Mental Health & Substance Use Services	Increasing the number of detox facilities	60.4%	18.8%	45
Employment	Providing job growth opportunities (job availability / job diversity)	59.6%	31.9%	46
Transportation & Recreation	Transportation to youth recreation	59.6%	29.8%	47
Housing	Providing help with utility assistance (heating, electricity, etc.)	59.2%	28.6%	48
Education	Special programs for students who are low achieving	58.3%	35.4%	49
Education	Organized non-sport school activities (clubs, enrichment)	58.3%	29.2%	50
Family Support Services	Caregiver relief programs	56.5%	28.3%	51
Employment	Improving access to high-speed internet and technology (e.g. for remote work)	56.3%	35.4%	52
Transportation & Recreation	Youth recreation services/facilities	56.3%	31.3%	53
Family Support Services	Providing more recreational opportunities for youth	55.3%	40.4%	54
System-wide Coordination	Planning and coordination of services	53.2%	31.9%	55
System-wide Coordination	Referral services	53.2%	29.8%	56
Education	College prep	52.1%	35.4%	57
Personal Finance, Basic Needs	Increasing the availability of prepared foods for seniors (Meals on Wheels, etc.)	52.1%	31.3%	58
Healthcare & Human Services	Veteran services	51.1%	38.3%	59
Family Support Services	Providing more transportation options to childcare services	51.1%	38.3%	60
Family Support Services	Adult day care (Alzheimer's, DD, Mental Health Disorder)	51.1%	31.9%	61
Family Support Services	Adoption / foster care: Family Support & Social Services	51.1%	29.8%	62
Housing	Providing more senior housing options	51.0%	32.7%	63
Employment	Creating more technical school, trade school, or other job training options	50.0%	31.3%	64

KEY INFORMANT RATINGS, CONT.

Table 10.4. Key Informant Ratings (65-86)

Topic Area	Need / Issue	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Rank
Employment	Scholarships / other assistance for higher education	50.0%	33.3%	65
Education	Art and/or music instruction	50.0%	33.3%	66
Healthcare & Human Services	Services for the disabled	50.0%	30.4%	67
Healthcare & Human Services	Infant & pediatric health care	48.9%	31.9%	68
Housing	Increasing programs for major housing repairs (roofs, windows, etc.)	47.9%	37.5%	69
Education	Navajo language instruction for Navajo children	47.9%	22.9%	70
Public Safety, Legal Services	DWI education through judiciary referral/requirement	47.9%	22.9%	71
Employment	Adult literacy / remedial education programs	46.8%	42.6%	72
Healthcare & Human Services	Health promotion (e.g., nutrition, exercise education)	46.8%	38.3%	73
Healthcare & Human Services	Pre-natal care	46.8%	29.8%	74
Transportation & Recreation	Providing help with the cost of vehicle repairs, insurance or maintenance	45.8%	33.3%	75
Public Safety, Legal Services	Delinquency prevention or diversion	45.8%	29.2%	76
Personal Finance, Basic Needs	Credit counseling / financial literacy / budgeting	44.7%	44.7%	77
Healthcare & Human Services	Expand available urgent care options	44.7%	38.3%	78
Family Support Services	Expand assisted living facilities and options	44.7%	31.9%	79
Healthcare & Human Services	Improve environmental quality (air, water, land)	44.7%	29.8%	80
Housing	Providing help with weatherization	43.8%	37.5%	81
System-wide Coordination	Community organizing	43.5%	41.3%	82
Healthcare & Human Services	Family planning	42.6%	36.2%	83
Healthcare & Human Services	Home-health care	42.6%	36.2%	84
Education	Local access to four-year college programs	41.7%	37.5%	85
Employment	Youth employment assistance	41.7%	33.3%	86

KEY INFORMANT RATINGS, CONT.

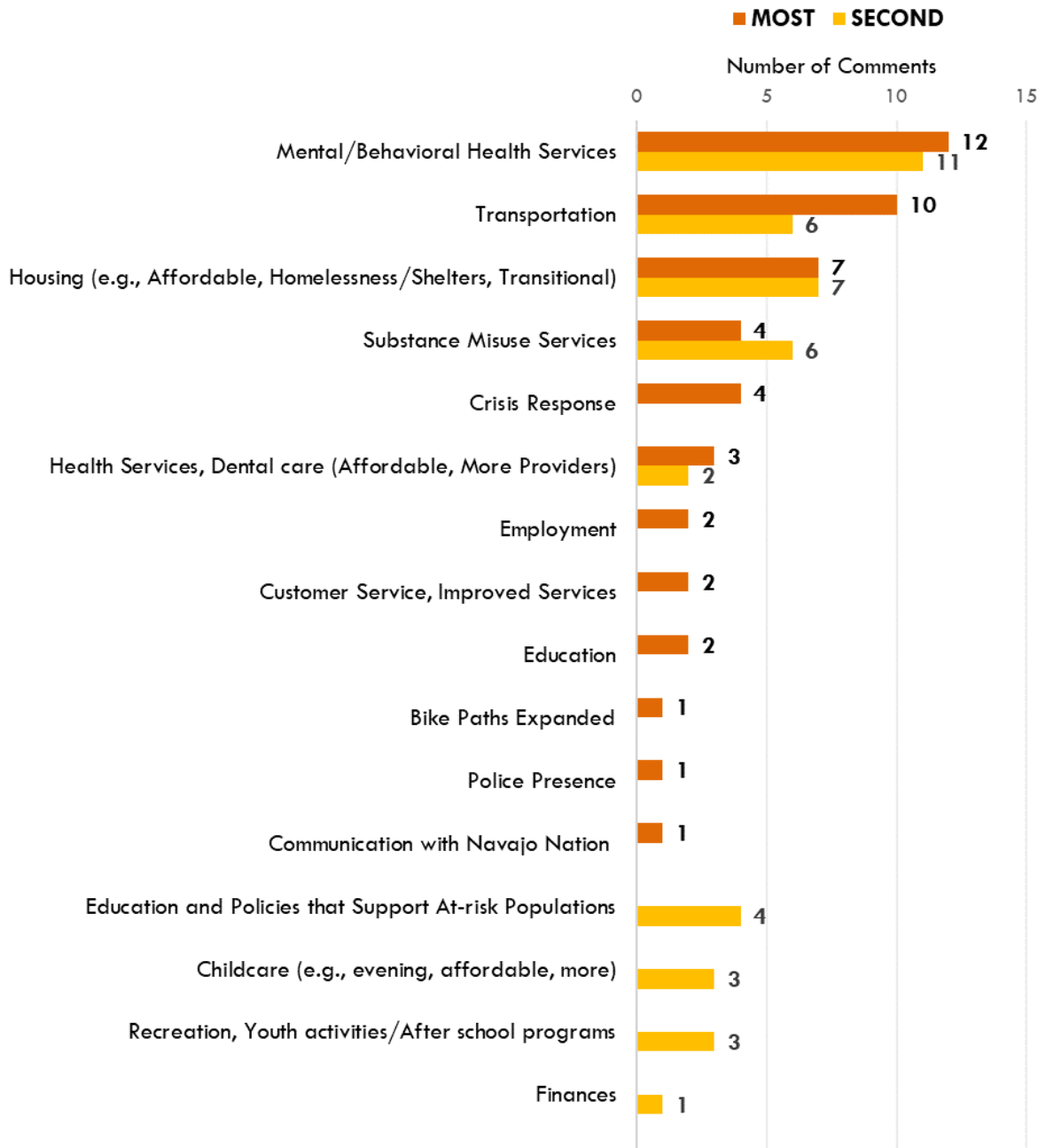
Table 10.5. Key Informant Ratings (87-106)

Topic Area	Need / Issue	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Rank
Healthcare & Human Services	Nursing home care or long-term hospitalization	41.3%	30.4%	87
Employment	Vocational rehabilitation	39.6%	45.8%	88
Education	Special programs for gifted students	39.6%	39.6%	89
Housing	Home ownership counseling	38.8%	44.9%	90
Personal Finance, Basic Needs	Food assistance	38.3%	38.3%	91
Public Safety, Legal Services	Legal services	37.5%	41.7%	92
Employment	Job placement/resume services	35.4%	52.1%	93
Transportation & Recreation	Adult recreation services/facilities	35.4%	43.8%	94
Education	Head Start / Early Education	33.3%	39.6%	95
Public Safety, Legal Services	Gang violence prevention	29.2%	43.8%	96
Transportation & Recreation	Parks, green areas, and river walks	29.2%	31.3%	97
Healthcare & Human Services	Increasing the number of dentists	27.7%	40.4%	98
Public Safety, Legal Services	Fire or disaster relief	27.1%	41.7%	99
Transportation & Recreation	Bike paths	27.1%	27.1%	100
Employment	Self-employment / small business development	25.0%	45.8%	101
Public Safety, Legal Services	Probation or parole services	22.9%	33.3%	102
Public Safety, Legal Services	Consumer protection	20.8%	45.8%	103
Public Safety, Legal Services	Adult detention facilities	20.8%	33.3%	104
Public Safety, Legal Services	Juvenile detention facilities	18.8%	35.4%	105
Personal Finance, Basic Needs	Tax preparation assistance	16.7%	47.9%	106

KEY INFORMANTS: PRIORITIES FOR EXPANSION

In your opinion, what [are] the OVERALL services (across all sectors) that are “MOST” & “SECOND MOST” in need of expansion or improvement in San Juan County? Key Informant Survey (2024)

Key Informants highlighted the need for expanding/improving “Mental/Behavioral Health Services” as the number one priority, ranked first as the service MOST in need of expansion, and also as the SECOND MOST in need of expansion.



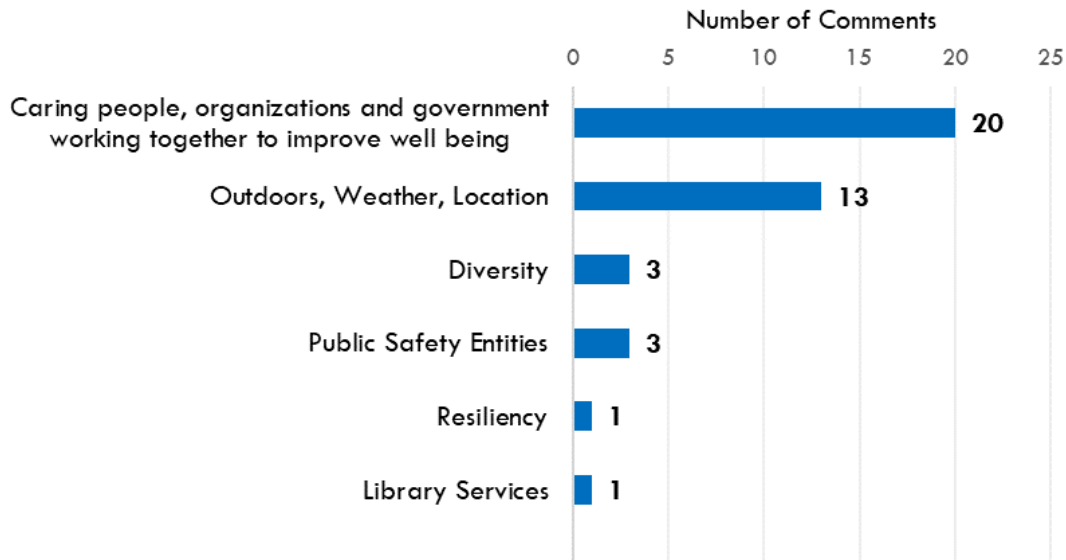
Finally, Key Informants were asked to “list any services that should be cut back or eliminated, or what resources could be shifted or redirected to be more effective.” The few comments in response suggested examining ways that funding could be better utilized (e.g., *Evaluate programs that are not improving lives and either cut them completely or scale them back.*) and reducing duplication of services (e.g., *Duplication of any services, should be combined and not working against each other or competing.*)

KEY INFORMANTS: ASSETS

“What is the County's greatest asset or strength that contributes to residents' well-being?”

Key Informant Survey (2024, n=49)

An open-ended question asked about the county's assets or strengths that contribute to well-being. Similar to multiple responses on the general Needs Assessment survey, Key Informants highlighted the caring people working together throughout the community and across organizations and government. Representative quotes are below.



Caring People, Organizations (n=20)

- *We have a strong base of people that are working toward positive change.*
- *We have many organizations and entities that are working to make improvements.*
- *The County continues to address the issues of mental health and wellness.*
- *Collaboration of governmental and non-profit agencies*
- *Religious community of caring people*
- *Cooperation between government social services and religious organizations to address the needs of the at risk populations*

Outdoors, Weather & Location (n=13)

- *Recreation. Living here is FUN! If you're an outdoor person, this place is paradise.*
- *Parks and trails by the river*
- *Quality parks/ nature access*

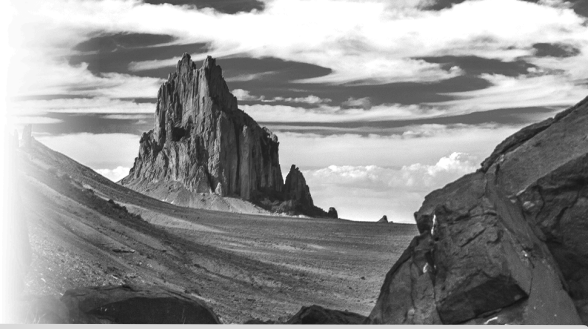
Diversity (n=3)

- *That we are a multi-cultural community, building on our strengths and building positive bridges to work together.*

Public Safety (n=3)

- *First responder interaction with the public*

CONCLUSIONS: PRIORITIES & THEMES



Where to Begin...

The completion of this document is just the beginning. The magnitude and variety of data presented in this document may feel overwhelming to community members, leaders and providers. And, while at least some of the data illustrate information that is already known, it's our hope that there are also new or fresh perspectives that can be gleaned and utilized in strategic planning, funding applications and community organizing. It is also recognized that needs identified historically, and on this and on other assessments continue to be pressing concerns, such as poverty, substance use, and unintentional injury.

Identify Priorities

In keeping with the general purpose of a community needs assessment, we can identify areas of agreement among the various data sources. We can look for priorities pointed to by community members across San Juan County, key informants and stakeholders who completed surveys and participated in focus groups, and social indicator and community health data that also allow us to compare the county with the state and the U.S.

Identify Themes

In addition to priorities, a comprehensive assessment allows strategic planners within respective fields an opportunity to recognize themes that cut across or that weave throughout various topic areas. Examples of themes are "concerns for safety" and "substance use" explored below. In doing so, these themes may help to consolidate common goals and lead to greater far-reaching solutions.

Identify Perspectives

Readers may have been aware that there are also occasionally differing viewpoints and data. For example, on the Key Informant survey, transportation was rated a top priority, particularly as a barrier to access to healthcare, employment and other services. However, on the Resident Needs Assessment Survey, transportation was among the lowest ranked issues and needs, including by those in rural contexts. Whereas those with incomes below \$30k rated the need for transportation higher, even among those who did not receive needed healthcare and among those with lower incomes, other issues like the cost of healthcare and insurance, not being able to locate a doctor or specialist, and wait times for appointments were more pressing barriers.

Conflicting data is not necessarily a question of who is "right," however. Readers are encouraged to consider ratings in terms of the perspective of the respondents, such as their role or part of the county. For example, many of the key informants who completed the survey are healthcare, social services and mental health providers who hear from their clients that transportation was a reason they were unable to access resources and services. Perhaps issues related to transportation are feasible 'next steps' that could be addressed in the short-term, while working toward resolving long-term, more global issues that are part of larger even national crises, such as the shortage of healthcare professionals. And that leads us to the next suggestion for how to use this document.

Identify "Next Steps"

The authors can *summarize* the data, but it is the professionals and community members making action plans within respective topic areas who recognize first, what is most important, and related to that, what are the 'differences that will make the difference;' and second, what are the next most feasible or doable steps. Finally, and ideally, the results of an assessment expand our thinking to explore *new* solutions. The Needs Assessment survey generated a wealth of heartfelt, thoughtful and unique perspectives. We've attempted to share a variety of representative quotes and ideas from open-ended questions to represent their feelings and ideas. Sponsors and organizations are welcome to request a complete set of written responses by topic area, by subpopulation and/or by zip code/area of the county. Some quotes were respectfully edited to ensure anonymity.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Ratings on the Resident Needs Assessment Survey are very much in alignment with social indicator data, particularly when key indicators are compared to the state and nation. The five priorities below follow from ratings and written responses by residents and key informants, from focus group input, and are also informed and supported by community-level social indicator data.

Reduce Violent Crime & Increase Public Safety

Crime and safety are pressing concerns among residents and leaders in San Juan County. Reducing violent crime and increasing public safety is a priority for a number of reasons. It was ranked number one by respondents on the Resident survey. The violent crime index is lower than it was eight years ago, but is still significantly above rates across the U.S. The homicide rate and domestic violence victimization rate are also well above U.S. rates. In their written comments, Residents, Focus Groups, and Key Informants identified several interrelated issues that may help guide or expand collaborative efforts, and build confidence that the community of San Juan County can reduce violent crime and continue to build a community of safety.

Residents called for proven strategies for building on existing community crime prevention programs and security systems to promote feelings of safety and actual safer contexts, from security lights and street lights in subdivisions and near office buildings, to increased positive police presence in neighborhoods, more resources for police, and community- and school-based crime prevention programs.

In written comments on the Resident survey residents expressed much appreciation for the ways in which law enforcement and LE agency leaders are working with the community to provide strength, mutual support and safety. Law Enforcement is seen as one of the county's top strengths and assets.

Improve Public Education Outcomes

The need to improve education outcomes was ranked second by respondents on the Resident Needs Assessment Survey. There is much room for improvement in a number of important indicators, including overall educational achievement, adult literacy, and child proficiency in math, reading and science. Written comments by residents, key informants and input from the focus group pointed to potential benefits of increased funding, recruiting and retaining experienced teachers, coordination across districts, and programs for at-risk students. The desire for expanding after-school programming and support for families were also highlighted by some.

School attendance has been identified as a national priority that is pivotal, as school attendance has not resumed to what it was prior to the pandemic. Recommended strategies to help reconnect youth that are working in some districts across the U.S. include: increasing family communication; visiting families at home to help find supportive solutions; making school more relevant for students so they want to be there; and helping meet basic needs through connecting families to supports such as health care, housing, and child care.

The high rank of Public Education as a community issue has prompted more questions. For example, learning from more teachers and school personnel about their experiences and recommendations for improving outcomes may be a next step, as their perspective is vital. On a recent PEW Research Center survey* centered around "*What it's like to be a Teacher,*" teachers expressed their concerns about the future of education, citing poverty, absenteeism and mental health as pressing issues. A similar survey with San Juan County teachers could shed light on ways to improve education outcomes locally. Learning more from students who are chronically absent, and from parents as well, may also provide valuable guidance for what specific positive changes will be effective.

*<https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2024/04/04/whats-it-like-to-be-a-teacher-in-america-today/>

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES, CONT.

Support Workforce, Employment & the Economy

This priority combines three highly ranked items on the Needs Assessment Survey, including the need to increase employment and job growth opportunities, the desire for workforce development and access to and affordability of basic essentials, such as healthy food. Although the unemployment rate in San Juan County has been similar to New Mexico and the U.S., one-fourth of the survey respondents looking for work expressed a lot of difficulty finding work, and written comments as well as focus group participants called out for a more diverse and sustainable job market, along with expanded opportunities to make a living wage.

Suggestions for the job market included increased opportunities for trades and skilled labor, apprenticeships and on the job training, as well as attracting large employers such as manufacturing and transportation warehousing, tourism and e-commerce.

Economic challenges and difficulties affording basic essentials have grown significantly over the past several years, as evidenced by questions on the Needs Assessment Survey, and Census data continue to reflect disparate income and poverty levels. Written comments expressed that one of the great strengths across the county are the many “helping programs” for those who are struggling financially and with basic life supports.

Expand Mental Health Services & Access to Healthcare

The need for expanding services for mental health was identified across the board as a pressing priority, by respondents, key informants and focus group participants. It was described as the overall service *most* in need of expansion and improvement by Key Informants. The focus group on the topic of crime identified the lack of mental health hospitals as a major issue related to crime.

Desired services included: an in-patient/residential mental health facility, psychiatric care, mental health services for children and adolescents, and increasing the number of mental health/substance use therapists. Increasing the number of behavioral health providers was right up there with the strong desire for increasing medical/health providers in general for increasing access to healthcare.

As compared to the 2016 needs assessment, questions on the Resident survey revealed San Juan County residents are experiencing significantly higher levels of stress/anxiety, but less engagement in activities that support their well being, such as time with family and friends. Continuing campaigns that increase social support and networking activities are well-placed. Written comments by residents on the survey expressed the desire for supportive/social groups, as well as appreciation for existing activities and events that bring people together and help them reconnect.

Continue To Focus On Housing & Related Support

Housing and utility costs are placing a large burden on individuals and families across income levels. Housing insecurity, or not being able to pay mortgage, rent or utility bills, is a reality for one out of five adults (22%) in San Juan County. Barriers to housing included both availability and affordability. There have been major shifts in the housing market, and while San Juan County fares somewhat better than many places across the U.S., a substantial portion of the population, including 47% of renters, experiences housing cost burden along with major difficulty affording utilities. The need for affordable rentals and apartments was among the top 10 issues on the resident survey, and also a high priority identified by Key Informants.

Questions on the Resident Needs Assessment Survey highlighted particular improvements needed to current housing, including energy efficiency, needed by 44% of the respondents, and basic livability factors, such as roof, septic and heating.

Homelessness and the need for increasing shelter was a commonly expressed concern on the resident survey, and comments also recognized that existing housing programs, and other helping programs and resources represent a real strength in San Juan County.

THEME: DESIRE FOR A SAFE COMMUNITY

Concerns about safety/security was a theme expressed across domains.

One of the most poignant themes that emerged across domains and data sources was related to safety, security and meeting basic needs, including food, health and physical safety, secure housing, and needs for social support, a sense of connection and belonging. Throughout written comments and multiple data sources, there was a clear desire for a safe community. This summary may serve to identify additional ways for the community to come together with shared perspectives and goals.

Data across domains that support and point to the need for a safe community include:

- **Crime & Public Safety:** Crime & safety are interrelated with so many community outcomes, from mental health, to education and economics. In turn, positive community outcomes contribute to lower rates of crime. Related to feelings of safety, comments on the Needs Assessment survey about “Community Strengths” acknowledged existing Law Enforcement approaches, specifically, the ways in which Law Enforcement leaders, communication from LE, and crime prevention activities made residents feel safe. For example, a Farmington resident wrote, “I do believe that the Sheriff’s Office and FPD provide strength and safety this county needs.” An Aztec resident commented, “Overall San Juan County supports law enforcement & that is huge in feeling safe as a citizen.”
- **Transportation and Traffic Safety:** As the quotes above tangibly illustrate (*see page 91*), safety concerns is one of the major deterrents to using public transportation. Concerns for safety ranged from fears of being approached, to safety concerns for teens, the desire for child seats, for security guards on busses, for sheltered, well-lit bus stops or even cameras. Safety issues was a theme that emerged for general traffic as well, including concerns about speeding and reckless driving, the desire for more stop lights at busy intersections, for maintained roads and better ADA accessibility at cross walks. .
- **Mental Health:** There is a clear relationship in research between social support and mental health. That in fact, close social networks help provide a felt sense of safety or “safety net.” Compared to the 2016 Needs Assessment, post-pandemic levels of social interaction have not quite resumed to what they were (*pg. 38*). It is estimated that 40% of San Juan County residents experience social isolation/loneliness, 28% feel they lack social and emotional support, and 23% experience a lack of feelings of family support (*Sources: CDC PLACES & 100% Survey*). In written comments about what they wanted in order to grow and flourish, a large proportion of comments referred to wanting more opportunities for community engagement, social and mental health support, events and activities for meeting and being with others, in other words, a sense of belonging.
- **Health:** Good health and confidence to access healthcare when needed are fundamental in feeling a sense of personal safety. When asked about their “greatest health concern,” the most frequent concerns were related to not being able to access or afford the health care they needed. And, 16% of residents reported they did not receive needed healthcare in the past year. Related to fundamental needs, in overall ratings, improving “Access to healthy food/clean water” was ranked a “high priority” by over 70% of respondents. It is estimated that over one-fourth of children in San Juan County experience “food insecurity” or the lack of access at times to enough food for a healthy, active lifestyle. On the 100% San Juan County survey, 39% of those needing food security programs/assistance had difficulty accessing the program.

THEME: DESIRE FOR A SAFE COMMUNITY, CONT.

- **Education.** As described above in priorities, higher rates of chronic absenteeism emerged during the pandemic, and school attendance has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, posing a serious challenge across many districts in the U.S., including San Juan County. Over one-third (37%) of students across the county were “chronically absent” (pg. 68). On the 2023 San Juan County youth survey (YRRS), 15.5% of high school youth reported they had skipped school because of “safety concerns,” and 16% reported they had been bullied on school property (2021). These data suggest possible safety-related concerns as reasons for absenteeism; but there may be other dynamics as well that could be investigated. On the 100% San Juan Survey, half (49%) of those who needed school-based behavioral health care had difficulty accessing it.
- **Substance Use:** Substance use can introduce increased potential for a variety of harms or consequences, and thus decreased safety. “Harm reduction” approaches are gaining momentum in substance misuse prevention programs, aimed specifically at reducing negative consequences associated with substance (drug/alcohol) use, and reducing social stigma that may prevent people from seeking or receiving help or treatment. On the NM Community Survey, we’ve seen a significant increase in the availability of Narcan (naloxone) in San Juan County to help prevent opioid overdose. Other prevention programs like those implemented by San Juan County Partnership are also aimed at reducing access to substances by youth through encouraging safe storage by adults, through increasing family communication about the risks of substance use, and through positive social norms messages that highlight the reality that, while there is continued concern and need for education, the majority of youth do *not* use substances.
- **Housing:** The threat of losing the secure environment of one’s housing or home puts tremendous stress on individuals and families. As one example, 15% experienced the threat of having their utility services shut off, and nearly 5% of renters (approximately 600 households) had an eviction notice filed against them in the past year. On the Needs Assessment survey, those who said they were not currently in “stable or permanent housing” situations were over twice as likely to be experiencing high levels (“great deal”) of stress/anxiety (46.5%) compared to 20.7% of those in stable housing situations. People currently renting also experience higher levels of stress (29.7%) compared to current homeowners (17.7%).
- **Economics.** Financial stress is linked to relationship difficulties, psychological distress (depression, anxiety, substance misuse), and decline in work performance. When asked what their “greatest health concern” was, one person wrote, “my greatest health concern is that I won’t be able to afford to feed my kids healthy food.” On the Needs Assessment Resident survey, 25.7% of respondents reported that they or someone in their household had lost a job in they past year. Also, on the Resident survey, 46% reported “moderate” to “major” difficulty affording “Basic essentials (e.g., food and clothing),” a 13% increase from 33% in 2016. As mentioned above, when asked about strengths and assets of the county, comments expressed deep appreciation for the value of helping programs, such as food assistance programs, homeless shelters, libraries and senior centers, and also for the diversity and abundance of caring people across the county in general.

“Safe communities are communities where people have what they need.”

As eloquently summarized by the Wilder Foundation, community conditions where safety thrives include: Economic stability [and housing security], Neighborhood connections, Positive community engagement, Quality education, Quality health care, and Quality [safe] physical environments. <https://www.wilder.org/articles/what-keeps-us-safe-how-social-conditions-create-community-safety>

By identifying and describing a “theme” that tells a story, or that runs throughout data and people’s experiences and priorities as described in comments, this may be yet another way in to identify shared goals and strategies.

THEME: THE ROLE OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Substance use continues to be a theme that cuts across multiple domains.

San Juan County bears a large burden of consequences of substance use, and is also home to innovative and creative solutions. For example, in 2017, Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS) - Totah Behavioral Health Authority (TBHA) was selected to receive the “Innovative Program Star Award,” following the 2016 expansion of its existing behavioral health services to include the Sobering Center and Paul’s Place, as part of a collaborative effort with San Juan County and Farmington officials, San Juan Regional Hospital, FPD, and other community partners, for providing recovery services, counseling and referrals to help address overuse of alcohol, mental health, Substance Use Disorder and homelessness. Many other agencies and organizations have been devoted to reducing the harms of substance use, including youth substance use prevention and education, peer support, recovery support groups and cultural teachings, DWI enforcement efforts, family counseling, harm reduction and drug overdose prevention.

The data below by topic areas may help raise awareness and possibly point to additional innovative ways to expand services or engage new partners.

- **Crime & Public Safety:** The Focus Group on crime identified effects of substance misuse as one of the interrelated issues facing the community in regard to crime. As an example, half (49%) of domestic violence incidents in 2021 in San Juan County involved alcohol/drug use. High-risk substance use can be a factor on both sides of the equation. On the Needs Assessment survey, those who reported that they or someone in their household had a drug or alcohol problem were 3.5 times as likely to report they had been a victim of crime. In national research, youth who use substances are eight times more likely to be a victim of crime.
- **Traffic Safety and Transportation:** DWI prevention efforts in San Juan County have played a central role in reducing alcohol involved crashes and traffic fatalities. Over the past three years, alcohol use was involved in 55% of traffic fatalities across the county, down from 65% the previous three years. On the Needs Assessment survey, a frequently reported reason for feeling unsafe in current public transportation, and for avoiding it, is the experience or fear of being approached by someone who is under the influence of alcohol or other substances.
- **Health:** Excessive and high-risk alcohol and other substance use is associated with a number of health consequences. In 2022, in San Juan County, there were 134 chronic disease deaths related to alcohol, a primary contributor to liver disease, as well as a contributor to other health conditions, including heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Substance use is also a leading contributor to unintentional injury (e.g., drug overdose and alcohol-related injury); and unintentional injury is in turn the leading cause of death among those under age 45 and of high rates of premature death in general in San Juan County. Excessive alcohol use can also place demands on existing healthcare systems. In 2020, there were 2,719 SJRMC Hospital Emergency Department visits with a primary reason of “Alcohol Dependence,” at a rate that is over twice the rate across New Mexico (NM Dept. of Health, NM-IBIS).
- **Mental Health:** Substance use and mental health challenges tend to be interconnected. It is estimated across the U.S. that 37% of people with alcohol use disorders and 53% of those with a substances/drug use disorder also have at least one serious mental health problem. And it is estimated that “over 70 percent of adolescents receiving drug or alcohol addiction treatment experienced childhood trauma.” On the Needs Assessment survey, those experiencing high-intensity stressors in their lives (e.g., job loss, attempted suicide of a family member) were significantly more likely to report they or someone in their household had a problem with drugs or alcohol. And, 43% of those who sought help, treatment or counseling for mental health or substance use experienced difficulty getting the help they needed.

THEME: THE ROLE OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE, CONT.

- **Housing:** Unstable housing situations and homelessness put people at great risk for myriad challenges. On the New Mexico YRRS, youth in unstable housing situations are six times as likely to engage in high intensity binge drinking (10 or more drinks on an occasion), over four times as likely to attempt suicide, and over three and a half times as likely to be sexually assaulted. Stigma related to substance use can also become a further barrier. Among adults on the Needs Assessment survey, nearly half (47%) of those currently experiencing homelessness reported they experienced stigma related to substance use/mental health as a barrier to obtaining housing.
- **Education:** Youth substance use can have a lasting negative impact on emotional and cognitive development, particularly because the brain of a young person is not fully developed until the early 20's. National research has consistently demonstrated that youth who use substances on a regular basis (alcohol, cannabis or other substances) get lower grades, are less likely to graduate from high school and also less likely to continue education. Youth substance use in San Juan County has decreased dramatically over the past several years. In 2011, 16% of high school youth reported binge drinking in the prior month; on the most recent 2023 YRRS, 5% reported doing so.

Acknowledging that some of the above statistics can be quite challenging. It is important to remember that over many years, dedicated and caring people and agencies across the community of San Juan County have worked toward noteworthy improvements in reducing consequences, such as reducing alcohol crashes and fatalities and preventing youth substance use, as well as addressing emerging issues such as opioid-related overdose, and identifying a broad range of contributing factors, such as poverty, homelessness, inequity and trauma. The data point to ongoing concerns. For example, the alcohol-involved death rate and overdose death rates in San Juan County have continued to rise over the past ten years. It is hoped that data represented above as a theme serve to broaden our understanding of the role of substance use across domains, such that strategies may be strengthened and new partnerships formed.

A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

Throughout this needs assessment, community strengths, like those shared below, reveal a great deal of heartfelt appreciation for the helping programs, law enforcement, and for the caring, strong people in San Juan County. **These are indicators of a resilient community.**

It's been identified that one of the most important characteristics of a resilient community is social connectedness. When community members consider themselves a part of a greater whole, they participate in and feel valued by their community. This fosters a sense of togetherness, belonging, and connection.

"There is a positive sense of community with lots of multicultural events and celebrations! Friendly people that care about others."

"The strengths of San Juan County are in the amount of good people who rally together in solidarity to volunteer, donate and assist others when the need is there. Despite the fact that the negative gets spotlighted in the media, there are so many people in this area who are more than willing to go above and beyond. There are so many wonderful and unique things to love about this area."

"Local community groups that are forming. People helping people and getting to know others."

It's important for communities to be supported both emotionally and tangibly, like having contacts and connections to needed resources. In strong communities, this connectedness can come both in the form of interpersonal relationships and a familiarity and trust with local organizations and programs, law enforcement and healthcare.

"Proactive law enforcement that help the community and protect the community. City and County officials that seem to listen to our concerns and make positive changes."

"Collaboration among organizations and community members to find solutions to challenges in our county and municipalities."

Local organizations foster a sense of social connectedness through expanded access to resources like food banks, housing security programs and behavioral health. When a community has greater access to resources they need, resiliency grows.

"The programs available for those who are in poverty, experiencing homelessness or food insecurity, among other things, are unmatched compared to even cities with far bigger populations."

"We have many dedicated volunteers and nonprofits groups and churches that reach out to the community. Our small businesses are a great resource. Our diversity should be a plus."

A community with robust social networks and local systems is prepared to immediately take action after difficulties. Strong health systems, local governments, and other organizations can support recovery with resources available for those affected by adversity, inequity or limited access.

"We are wealthy with available community resources in this county. Not only are there facilities for our children and seniors that give them places to thrive, if someone is in need, all they have to do is make contact with one of several programs and they can be directed to assistance. We also have so many private organizations and churches who are providing support in food, clothing, counseling...this is a very giving community when someone is truly in need and wants help getting back on their feet."

"Our community has always been immensely supportive for others, other than our own personal families and friends. We are a big family together. When tragedies come, pandemics hit, and/or natural disasters come upon us, together as San Juan County, we all become united and share the strength & love we have/can to give. I do love living in San Juan County."

APPENDIX: SURVEYS



Resident Survey Publicity & “Landing Page”

Below is a screenshot of the “landing page” that linked to the Resident Needs Assessment Survey, and an example of media used to publicize the survey. The web address (sanjuancountynm.org) included a short welcome message, a link to the survey, along with additional information about the county-wide needs assessment and other ways to get involved. The webpage is still active and will serve as one of the locations for downloading the final results. For reference, the following pages of this section include the two surveys used: the Resident Needs Assessment Survey and the Key Informant Survey.

The image shows a screenshot of the San Juan County Needs Assessment landing page and a separate publicity flyer. The landing page features the San Juan County Partnership (SJCP) logo, a welcome message, a "Needs Assessment Survey" section with a "Survey has closed" button, and sections for "County-wide Assessment" (listing In-Person Surveys, Focus Groups, and Key Informants) and "Results?". The publicity flyer has a green header with the text "Your input counts!" and a photo of hands holding a glowing orb. It includes the text "Take the San Juan County Needs Assessment Survey", the URL "Go to: www.sanjuancountynm.org", and a large green "Enter to win \$1000!" call to action. A QR code is provided for mobile access, along with a brief description of the survey's purpose and a QR code for the San Juan County Partnership logo. At the bottom of the flyer, it states: "The survey is being conducted by San Juan County Partnership, in collaboration with agencies across the county and with sponsorship by San Juan County, United Way, and the City of Farmington. You must be 18 or older and live in San Juan County. Ends Dec. 20th."



Location: _____

Date: _____

San Juan County Needs Assessment

Fall, 2023

The purpose of this survey is to help identify ways to better serve and benefit the residents of San Juan County. The survey will help identify the priorities and possible solutions from the perspective of residents, as well as the barriers/gaps that may prevent residents from accessing community services.

The survey should take you approximately 20 minutes to complete. **To take the survey, you must live in San Juan County and be 18 years of age or older.**

Your answers are confidential and anonymous. No names or identifying information will ever be connected with your answers on the survey. There is a slight risk that some of the questions may feel upsetting to you. Your participation is voluntary and you may skip questions you do not want to answer.

GIFT CARD: To show our appreciation, upon completing this survey, you will receive a \$20 gift card.

CONTACT: The survey is being conducted by San Juan County Partnership (SJCP), in collaboration with agencies and government entities across the county, and with sponsorship from San Juan County, United Way and the City of Farmington. If you have questions about the survey or how the results will be used, please contact Anna Krutsky, Executive Director of SJCP, at 505-566-5867 or by email, office@sjcpartnership.org.

Demographics

This first section asks a few demographic questions to help ensure we are representing the county's population. As a reminder, your answers are anonymous and confidential.

1. What is the zip code where you live?

If you don't know your zip code, what community or area of the county do you live in:

2. How long have you lived in San Juan County, NM?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 – 5 years
- More than 5 years
- I don't live in San Juan County

Please note: We are asking the survey to be completed only by San Juan County residents.

3. What is your age?

- Under 18 (*Please note: You must be 18 or older to complete the survey.*)
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 or older

4. Which of the following describes you? (Please select all that apply.)

- Native American or Alaska Native
- White or Caucasian
- Hispanic, Latino/Latina
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Another race
- I prefer not to say

5. Are you:

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary or other gender identity
- Prefer not to say

6. Are you a parent or caretaker of someone under 21 currently living in your household?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

7. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Military Reserves, or National Guard?

- No
- Veteran
- Active Duty

8. For the past 30 days, have you had a permanent and stable place to live?

- Yes
- No

Part A. Community Focus & Priorities

The following section lists a number of COMMUNITY Needs and asks you to decide how much additional attention or focus each issue should be given, from “Not a priority” (no more focus needed) to “High priority” (much more focus needed).

1. How much focus should be given to the following COMMUNITY needs:

	Not a priority	Low priority	Moderate priority	High priority	Don't Know
Environmental concerns (e.g., air or water pollution)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment, job growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workforce development and job training opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homelessness and emergency shelter for people who are homeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing affordable rental housing/apartments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing the number of affordable houses for sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Property crime (e.g., vandalism, theft)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Violent crime (e.g., assault, rape)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Racial/ethnic equality & access to services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better routes and time schedules to current public transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing public transportation in rural communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of public education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Available/affordable child day care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational facilities or fitness programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency food/clothing or utility assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to health / medical care options and number of providers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing dental care options	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After school programs, activities for Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior services or elder care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veteran services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services for mental health problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suicide prevention programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth substance use prevention programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services for substance use (drug/alcohol) problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services and access for those with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to healthy food/clean water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. What other COMMUNITY needs or priorities do you think need more attention and focus?

3. How do you generally find out about local services and resources? (Select all that apply.)

- Google or general internet search
- Social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
- Newspaper
- TV
- Radio
- Resource guides
- Word of mouth (friends, family, co-workers)
- Healthcare or Social service providers
- Community locations (e.g., Community Center, Chapter House, Senior Center, etc.)
- Specific website or online directory: _____
- Other: (Please specify.) _____

4. Which of the following social media sites do you use to get information? (Select all that apply.)

- Facebook
- Instagram
- TikTok
- Snapchat
- YouTube
- None or not applicable
- Other: _____

5. What are the strengths and assets of San Juan County or your local community that support residents' health, happiness, safety and/or well-being?

Part B. Personal, Family & Household Experiences, Priorities and Concerns

To identify residents' strengths, needs and challenges, the following sections ask questions related to your PERSONAL, FAMILY & HOUSEHOLD priorities and concerns.

HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION

1. What is your current living situation?

- Homeowner
- Renting a house or apartment
- Staying with friends/relatives
- Homeless or staying in shelter
- Other: _____

2. What is your current housing type?

- Single family, site-built home
- Townhome, condo or duplex
- Rental apartment
- Manufactured home
- Homeless or staying with friends/relatives
- Other: (Please specify) _____

3. How many people live in your household? _____

4. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with your current housing situation?

- Very Dissatisfied Somewhat Dissatisfied Somewhat Satisfied Very Satisfied

5. Is your current housing in need of major repairs?

- No Somewhat Yes

**6. Does your home or apartment need to be remodeled or changed for any of the following reasons:
(Check all that apply.)**

- Bigger or more space (e.g., growing family, number of children)
- Disability access (e.g., ramps, wider doors, hand rails)
- Elderly household member
- Substandard living conditions (e.g., no running water, kitchen or plumbing)
- Roof needs repair or replacing
- Need heating or cooling installed or repaired
- Air quality improvement (e.g., mold, radon, rodent, or asbestos removal or remediation)
- Septic or sewer needs install, repair or capped
- Energy efficiency, weatherization (e.g., insulation, sealing windows/doors)
- Landscaping
- My home does not need to be repaired or remodeled
- Other reasons: _____

7. During the past 3 years, have you had trouble finding a place to live in San Juan County that you could afford, because rent or mortgage was too expensive?

- Yes No I have not looked for housing recently

8. During the past 3 years, have you had trouble finding a place to live in San Juan County because of limited availability, in other words, there weren't places available to rent or buy?

- Yes No I have not looked for housing recently

9. Have you experienced barriers in San Juan County to renting or buying a home or apartment because of race/ethnicity, national origin, religion, family status, gender, disability, or sexual orientation?

- Yes No I have not tried to find housing

10. Have you experienced barriers in San Juan County to renting or buying a home or apartment because of stigma related to substance use or mental health?

- Yes No I have not tried to find housing

11. Do you have a car you can use?

- Yes, I have my own car Yes, my family/household shares a vehicle No

12. Which of the following forms of public transportation do you use at least occasionally or more often?

- Bus (e.g., Red Apple or Navajo Transit)
 Taxi
 Uber, Lyft or similar
 Shuttles or Van services (e.g., medical transport, senior center, Medicaid)
 None, don't use public transportation
 Other: (Please specify) _____

13. Which public transportation options would you want more of or greater access to?

- Bus (e.g., Red Apple or Navajo Transit)
 Taxi
 Uber, Lyft or similar
 Shuttle or Van service (e.g., medical transport, senior center, Medicaid)
 None, don't intend to use public transportation
 Other: (Please specify/explain) _____

14. What specific improvements to any of the public transportation options would you suggest, for example, to enhance safety, or increase access and availability?

FINANCIAL & EMPLOYMENT

1. During the past year, did you or someone in your household experience difficulty paying for or affording any of the following:

<i>Please mark an answer in each row.</i>	No difficulty	Minor difficulty	Moderate difficulty	Major difficulty	Does not apply
Essentials, such as food and clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utility bills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation (e.g., vehicle, auto repair)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical / health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prescription medications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child daycare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. If you were interested in getting financial counseling or taking classes to learn about managing finances, how would you want to do so? (Select all that apply.)

- Online class
- Online one-on-one meeting or counseling
- In person, one-on-one meeting or counseling
- In-person, group class
- Not applicable

3. During the past year, have you had difficulty finding work/employment in San Juan County?

- A lot of difficulty finding work
- Some difficulty
- No difficulty
- I have not looked for a job recently, or I do not work

4. Do you feel there are enough jobs in San Juan County?

- No Somewhat Yes Don't know

5. What specific types of jobs, employment opportunities or job training programs do you think there need to be more of in San Juan County?

6. Have you ever used the 211 Help Line for resources or assistance?

- Yes No

7. In the past year, have you or a member of your household used a service provided by a local non-profit, for example, for food or housing assistance, family support, or counseling?

- Yes No Don't know

8. Are you aware that the County has a Mental Wellness Resource Center?

- Yes No

To ensure we are representing experiences of all residents, these demographic questions are related to finances and employment.

9. What is your total annual household income?

- Less than \$15,000
 Between \$15,000 and \$29,999
 \$30,000 to \$49,999
 \$50,000 to \$74,999
 \$75,000 to \$99,999
 \$100,000 to \$150,000
 Over \$150,000
 I prefer not to say

10. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

- Full-time employed
 Part-time employed
 Self-employed
 Not employed / Looking for work
 Not employed / Not looking for work
 Homemaker or Caregiver (e.g., children, elderly)
 Student
 Retired
 Not able to work, (e.g., Disability)
 Other
 I prefer not to say

11. What is your highest level of education?

- Less than high school
 High school diploma or equivalent, e.g., GED
 Currently an undergraduate in college
 Some college or technical school
 Associates or Bachelor's degree
 Professional school (e.g., Master's, PhD, MD)
 I prefer not to say

HEALTH & ACCESS TO SERVICES

1. Would you say that your general health is?

- Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

2. What is your greatest health concern, if any?

3. Have you been able to receive needed health care in the past year?

- Yes No Does not apply

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered in getting needed health care in the past year? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of prescriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Distance to travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Getting a doctor's appointment | <input type="checkbox"/> Language barriers | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of health insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of doctor visit | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding a doctor | <input type="checkbox"/> No barriers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health service not available in SJ County | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding a doctor covered by plan | Other: _____ |

5. Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, or other emotional challenges, would you say that in general your mental health is?

- Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

6. In the past year, how much anxiety or stress have you felt on a regular basis?

- None A little A moderate amount A great deal

These next questions are about possible stressors or difficult situations some people face. They are sensitive questions and we recognize that they might cause uncomfortable feelings. Your answers to these questions are voluntary, and you can skip questions you do not want to answer. Please remember your answers are anonymous; the results are used to recommend services in San Juan County.

7. During the past year...:	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
have you experienced challenges with a child's or teenager's behavior or emotional difficulties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
did you or someone in your home experience depression?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
did you or someone in your family experience a serious health or mental health crisis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
did any family member attempt suicide?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
was there physical conflict, domestic or family violence in your household?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
did you or any family member have a drug or alcohol problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
were you or a family member a victim of crime (e.g., assault, burglary)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
did you or anyone in your household experience the loss of a job?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. In the past year, did you seek professional help or counseling for your emotions, nerves, mental health, or your use of alcohol or drugs?

- Yes No Does not apply

9. During the past year, have you or someone in your family had difficulty accessing treatment in San Juan County for a mental health or substance use problem?

- Yes No Does not apply

10. What activities do you engage in to support your health and well-being? (*Check all that apply.*)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spend time with family | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise regularly | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spend time with friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Eat healthy food | <input type="checkbox"/> See a counselor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take time for yourself | <input type="checkbox"/> Go for walks or hikes | <input type="checkbox"/> Church, spiritual or traditional practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice optimism | <input type="checkbox"/> Take classes or learn something new |

Other: _____

11. What additional opportunities or amenities in your community would support you to grow & flourish?

That is the end of the main survey.

**Thank you so much for participating in the Needs Assessment Survey!
Your input is very valuable.**

NEXT SECTION FOR RESIDENTS OF FARMINGTON ONLY

If you are a resident of Farmington, the City of Farmington would appreciate a few extra moments of your time to answer a few housing-specific questions, beginning on the next page.

When you are finished, please place your survey in the box provided.

City of Farmington

The City of Farmington has some additional questions for residents of Farmington only. Thank you for taking a few extra moments to answer these questions

1. Do you or does any member of your family have a disability or physical accessibility needs?

Yes

No

2. Does your (or your family members) home currently meet your accessibility needs?

Yes

No

Don't know

3. What kind of improvements are needed to make your (or your family members) home more accessible? *(Check any and all that apply.)*

Ramps, wider doors, hand rails

Wheel chair access

Wider front door

Other: _____

None of the above or Not applicable

4. Do you know who you should contact to report housing discrimination?

Yes

No

Not sure

5. In your opinion, which of the following reasons for housing discrimination occur most frequently, if at all, in Farmington? *(Check any and all that apply.)*

Religion

Gender

National origin

Sexual orientation

Criminal record

Substance use

Mental illness

Families with children/ pregnant women

Disability (e.g., physical, mental, HIV/AIDS)

Race/Ethnicity

None of the above

Other: _____

6. How would you get information about your fair housing rights? (Check any and all that apply.)

- Government agency
- BBB/Chamber of Commerce
- HUD website
- City of Farmington website
- Library
- Housing Authority
- Call a lawyer/ACLU/Legal Aid
- Call City Council/Mayor
- Real Estate Offices/Realtors
- Internet search
- Phone Book
- Don't know
- Other: _____

7. In your opinion, do all neighborhoods in Farmington have equal access to the following public services?	Yes – Services are provided equally	No – Services are not provided equally	Not sure
Neighborhood revitalization activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Code enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water and sewer infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stormwater infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency Management Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trash pick-up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband, Internet access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to healthy food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Thank you so much for participating in the Needs Assessment Survey
and for taking the extra time to answer City of Farmington questions!
Your input is very valuable.**

Please place your completed survey in the box provided.

Key Informant Needs Assessment Survey

Introduction

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this survey for San Juan County Partnership's County-wide Needs Assessment. The purpose of this survey is to gain a better understanding of what the needs and priorities are within a variety of service categories.

You have been selected to complete the survey because you have experience with one or more of the sectors of the community.

The results of the Needs Assessment are shared with residents, government/Tribal leaders and service providers across the county, and help to focus funding and other efforts for improving or expanding those services.

Your responses to the survey are confidential. You will not be identified by name or by organization in any of the shared results. Your responses are also voluntary. We are asking that you please complete as much of the survey as possible. However, if there are parts of the survey that you are completely unfamiliar with, you can either skip that section or choose the "don't know/not sure" options.

Background

1) Please select your specialty area or sector(s) you represent: (*Select all that apply.*)

- Healthcare Provider or Organization; Pharmacy
- Mental/Behavioral Health, Substance Use Counseling
- Business-owner, Retail, Entertainment
- Church or Spiritual Leader, Faith-based
- k-12 Education, School District Personnel, Higher Ed
- Public Office, Government or Tribal Administration, Community Leader
- Law Enforcement, Legal services, Criminal Justice, Public Safety
- Housing, Shelter, Real estate, or Financial Services
- Social Services, Community agency, Prevention
- Media, News, Radio

2) Geographic area of county or the community served by you or your organization:

3) What is your organization's or business's greatest need to grow or thrive?

4) Housing Needs & Services

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

- 1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed
- 2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed
- 3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed
- 4= High priority / Much more focus is needed
- 5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Increasing the number of affordable apartments	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing the number of affordable houses for sale	()	()	()	()	()
Creating higher quality rental apartments and houses	()	()	()	()	()
Expanding rental and mortgage assistant programs	()	()	()	()	()
Home ownership counseling	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing the number of landlords who accept housing vouchers	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing programs for major housing repairs (roofs, windows, etc.)	()	()	()	()	()
Providing help with weatherization	()	()	()	()	()
Providing help with utility assistance (heating, electricity, etc.)	()	()	()	()	()
Providing more senior housing options	()	()	()	()	()
Creating more emergency shelter beds for people who are experiencing homelessness	()	()	()	()	()
Creating more shelter beds for certain subpopulations (children, women, families, veterans, etc.)	()	()	()	()	()
Helping more people who are experiencing homelessness to find their missing identification documents (driver's license, social security number, etc.)	()	()	()	()	()

5) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Housing?

6) Personal Finance & Services for Basic Needs

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed

2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed

3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed

4= High priority / Much more focus is needed

5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Food assistance	()	()	()	()	()
Access to healthy food	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing the availability of prepared foods for seniors (Meals on Wheels, etc.)	()	()	()	()	()
Credit counseling / financial literacy / budgeting	()	()	()	()	()
Tax preparation assistance	()	()	()	()	()

7) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Personal Finance and services for Basic Needs?

8) Employment & Related Services

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed

2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed

3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed

4= High priority / Much more focus is needed

5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Providing job growth opportunities (job availability / job diversity)	()	()	()	()	()
Developing more livable wage jobs	()	()	()	()	()
Self-employment / small business development	()	()	()	()	()
Creating more technical school, trade school, or other job training options	()	()	()	()	()
Vocational rehabilitation	()	()	()	()	()
Improving access to high-speed internet and technology (e.g., for remote work)	()	()	()	()	()
Job placement/resume services	()	()	()	()	()
Youth employment assistance	()	()	()	()	()
Adult literacy / remedial education programs	()	()	()	()	()
Scholarships / other assistance for higher education	()	()	()	()	()

9) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Employment and related services?

10) Health & Human Services

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed

2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed

3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed

4= High priority / Much more focus is needed

5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Increasing the number of health care providers	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing the number of dentists	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing the number of health providers in rural communities	()	()	()	()	()
Expand available urgent care options	()	()	()	()	()
Pre-natal care	()	()	()	()	()
Family planning	()	()	()	()	()
Infant & pediatric health care	()	()	()	()	()
Health promotion (e.g., nutrition, exercise education)	()	()	()	()	()
Home-health care	()	()	()	()	()
Services for the disabled	()	()	()	()	()
Veteran services	()	()	()	()	()
Nursing home care or long-term hospitalization	()	()	()	()	()
Improve environmental quality (air, water, land)	()	()	()	()	()

11) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Health and Human Services?

12) Family Support & Social Services

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed

2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed

3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed

4= High priority / Much more focus is needed

5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers	()	()	()	()	()
Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)	()	()	()	()	()
Providing more transportation options to childcare services	()	()	()	()	()
Providing more after school programs for school-aged children	()	()	()	()	()
Providing more recreational opportunities for youth	()	()	()	()	()
Parenting skills training	()	()	()	()	()
Adoption / foster care	()	()	()	()	()
Expand assisted living facilities and options	()	()	()	()	()
Adult day care (Alzheimer's, DD, Mental Health Disorder)	()	()	()	()	()
Caregiver relief programs	()	()	()	()	()
Child protective services	()	()	()	()	()
Adult protective services	()	()	()	()	()
Services for partner/domestic violence / child abuse	()	()	()	()	()

13) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Family Support and related social services?

14) Education

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed

2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed

3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed

4= High priority / Much more focus is needed

5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Head Start / Early Education	()	()	()	()	()
Local access to four-year college programs	()	()	()	()	()
High School drop-out prevention	()	()	()	()	()
Funding for education	()	()	()	()	()
College prep	()	()	()	()	()
Art and/or music instruction	()	()	()	()	()
Special programs for gifted students	()	()	()	()	()
Special programs for "at risk" students	()	()	()	()	()
Special programs for students who are low achieving	()	()	()	()	()
Navajo language instruction for Navajo children	()	()	()	()	()
After school programs for youth	()	()	()	()	()
Organized non-sport school activities (clubs, enrichment)	()	()	()	()	()

15) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Education and related services?

16) Public Safety & Legal Services

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed

2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed

3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed

4= High priority / Much more focus is needed

5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Legal services	()	()	()	()	()
Crime prevention	()	()	()	()	()
Fire or disaster relief	()	()	()	()	()
Consumer protection	()	()	()	()	()
Adult detention facilities	()	()	()	()	()
Gang violence prevention	()	()	()	()	()
Juvenile detention facilities	()	()	()	()	()
Probation or parole services	()	()	()	()	()
Delinquency prevention or diversion	()	()	()	()	()
DWI education through judiciary referral/requirement	()	()	()	()	()

17) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Public Safety and Legal services?

18) Transportation & Recreation

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed

2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed

3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed

4= High priority / Much more focus is needed

5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Adding better routes and time schedules to current public transportation system	()	()	()	()	()
Making public transportation available in rural communities	()	()	()	()	()
Creating more affordable public transportation options	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing transportation options for elderly and disabled	()	()	()	()	()
Providing help with the cost of vehicle repairs, insurance or maintenance	()	()	()	()	()
Adult recreation services/facilities	()	()	()	()	()
Youth recreation services/facilities	()	()	()	()	()
Transportation to youth recreation	()	()	()	()	()
Parks, green areas, and river walks	()	()	()	()	()
Bike paths	()	()	()	()	()
Road improvement	()	()	()	()	()

19) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Transportation and Recreation services and options?

20) System-wide Issues

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

- 1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed
- 2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed
- 3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed
- 4= High priority / Much more focus is needed
- 5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Community organizing	()	()	()	()	()
Referral services	()	()	()	()	()
Planning and coordination of services	()	()	()	()	()

21) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding system-wide coordination of services?

22) Mental Health & Substance Use Related Services

For the items listed below, please consider the availability of services relative to the current need, and indicate how much focus or attention for improvement should be given to each: *Mark an answer in each row.*

- 1= Need is met / Additional focus is not needed
- 2= Low priority / A little more focus is needed
- 3= Moderate priority / Somewhat more focus is needed
- 4= High priority / Much more focus is needed
- 5= Don't know / Not sure

	1	2	3	4	5
Increasing the number of mental health providers and counselors	()	()	()	()	()
Short-term treatment for mental health disorders	()	()	()	()	()
In-patient / residential treatment for mental health disorders	()	()	()	()	()
Suicide prevention	()	()	()	()	()

Expanding crisis services for mental health disorders	()	()	()	()	()
Reducing stigma associated with mental health disorders	()	()	()	()	()
DWI Prevention	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing the number of Substance Use Disorder providers and services	()	()	()	()	()
Reducing the amount of alcohol misuse	()	()	()	()	()
Reducing the amount of opioid misuse	()	()	()	()	()
Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (meth, heroin, cocaine, etc.)	()	()	()	()	()
Substance use prevention programs to reduce substance use among Youth	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing the number of detox facilities	()	()	()	()	()
Residential substance use treatment programs for youth and adults	()	()	()	()	()
Reducing stigma associated with substance misuse	()	()	()	()	()
Expanding crisis services for Substance Use Disorders	()	()	()	()	()

23) What would you say is San Juan County's number one priority for improving or expanding Mental Health and Substance Use related services?

24) There is a growing recognition of stigma as a factor that contributes to reduced access to services, such as housing, employment and health.

Please indicate the level of stigma or discrimination (none, low, moderate or high) that is experienced by the following subpopulations? (Mark an answer in each row.)

	None	Low	Moderate	High
People who use illicit drugs/substances (e.g., meth, heroin)	()	()	()	()
People experiencing or displaying signs of mental health disorder	()	()	()	()
People who are homeless	()	()	()	()

Those with alcoholism or who misuse alcohol (e.g., excessive or high-risk use)	()	()	()	()
Racial or ethnic minorities	()	()	()	()
People of low socio-economic status or working in low-paying jobs	()	()	()	()
Seniors or the elderly	()	()	()	()

General

25) In your opinion, what is the OVERALL service (across all sectors) MOST in need of expansion or improvement in San Juan County (or, if the service is unavailable, is most in need of being created):

26) In your opinion, what is the service SECOND MOST in need of expansion or creation:

27) List any services that should be cut back or eliminated. Can any resources be shifted or redirected to be more effective? If so, please explain.

28) What is the County's greatest asset or strength that contributes to residents' well-being?

29) Are there any systemic problems in our community which limit the effectiveness of services? If so, please explain.

30) Please indicate any barriers that might prevent people from using existing services in San Juan County.

31) Are there subpopulations of the County you think are in need of additional or expanded services? If so, please explain:

Thank You!