



A partnership among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Johnson College, Keystone College, King's College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Scranton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, The Wright Center, University of Scranton, and Wilkes University

CSC Head Start of the Lehigh Valley Needs Assessment 2018

Report prepared by The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development

Reviewed and Edited by Community Services for Children, Inc. 8/28/2020

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Research Team

The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development at Wilkes University

Teri Ooms, Executive Director

Andrew Chew, Senior Research & Policy Analyst

Christopher Ritter, Research Analyst

Kara McGrane, Research Assistant

Joe Gallo, Research Assistant

Priya Bharatha, Research Intern

Kalie Reed, Research Intern

William Stone, Research Intern

Introduction

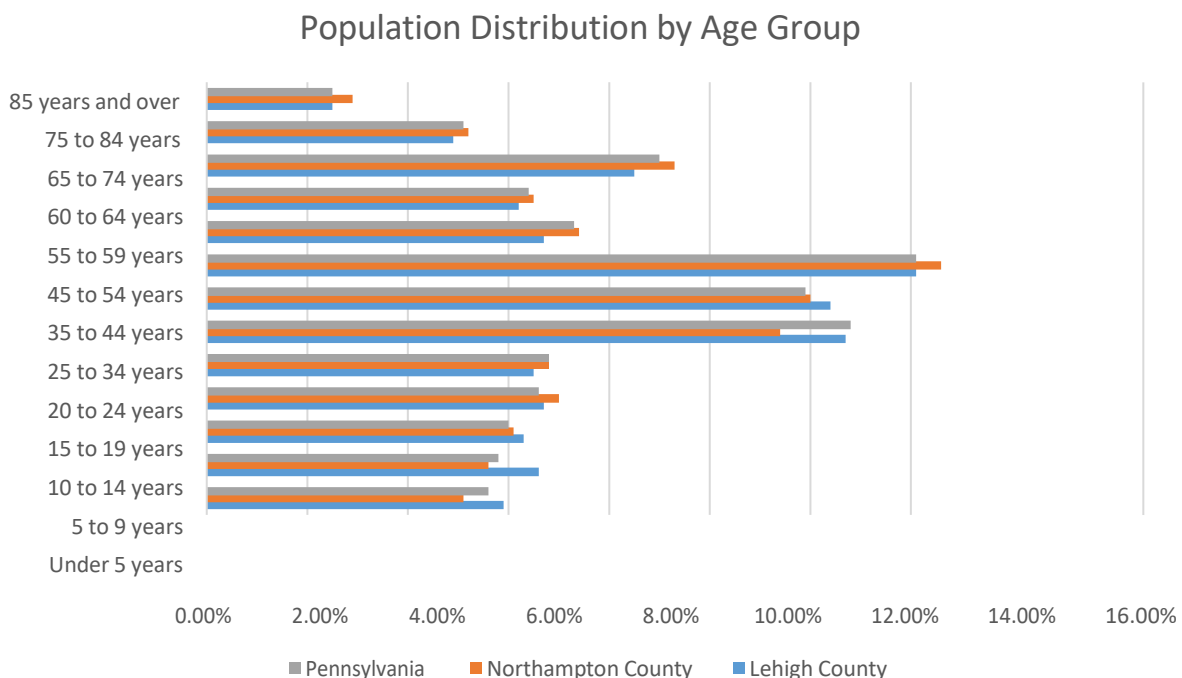
This needs assessment was undertaken in order to better understand the demand for subsidized early childhood education services in Lehigh and Northampton counties and analyze the role of Community Services for Children Inc. (CSC) in addressing those needs. This report identifies key outcomes and action items for Head Start of the Lehigh Valley programming and is also designed to fulfill the federal requirement to undertake a community needs assessment every three years.

Community Demographic & Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Characteristics

Population by Age and Race

The counties of Lehigh and Northampton comprise a combined 714.84 square miles in total area across Eastern Pennsylvania. Both counties saw population increases from 2010 to 2017; Lehigh grew 4.8 percent and Northampton grew 1.9 percent, in comparison with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which grew 5.5 percent. Both counties' largest age range is the 25-54 year old population. The 20-34 year olds make up 19.2 percent of the population. The Pennsylvania State Data Center projects a positive change in population from 2010 to 2040 of 14.9 percent for Lehigh and 9.5 percent for Northampton.



Lehigh and Northampton's average Black or African American population (5.6 percent) is lower than the state-wide population (11 percent), and less than half of the nationwide population (13.4 percent). Conversely, Lehigh County's Hispanic population is nearly three times that of the state (21.8 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively), which is closer to the national average of 18.1 percent. Similarly, Northampton has double the state percentage (12.1 percent) of Hispanic residents of any race.

Race	Population By Race and Ethnicity					
	Lehigh		Northampton		Pennsylvania	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
White	282,360	78.7%	259,549	86.4%	10,402,743	81.4%
Black or African American	24,174	6.7%	15,282	5.1%	1,410,563	11.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	701	0.2%	1,132	0.4%	24,947	0.2%
Asian	11,680	3.3%	8,132	2.7%	401,979	3.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	134	0.0%	53	0.0%	4,463	0.0%
Some other race	29,356	8.2%	6,790	2.3%	253,514	2.0%
Two or more races	10,387	2.9%	9,582	3.2%	285,768	2.2%
Ethnicity						
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	78,318	21.8%	36,294	12.1%	843,164	6.6%
Not Hispanic or Latino	280,474	78.2%	264,226	87.9%	11,940,813	93.4%

Language

Both counties also have high percentages of people who speak languages other than English (23.1 percent in Lehigh and 12.9 percent in Northampton), compared to the state (10.8 percent). Lehigh is the closer of the two counties to the national percentage (21.1 percent). From 2010 to 2017, Lehigh Valley had a net migration of 14,422 international persons and Northampton 2,323. This could account for the higher percentage of the population speaking languages other than English.

Population By Language						
	Lehigh		Northampton		Pennsylvania	
Population 5 years and over	337,453		285,320		12,069,379	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
English only	259,649	76.9%	248,380	87.1%	10,762,972	89.2%
Language other than English	77,804	23.1%	36,940	12.9%	1,306,407	10.8%
Speak English less than "very well"	30,226	9.0%	12,787	4.5%	501,180	4.2%
Spanish	53,652	15.9%	21,988	7.7%	563,727	4.7%
Speak English less than "very well"	22,004	6.5%	8,106	2.8%	222,065	1.8%
Other Indo-European languages	11,527	3.4%	10,234	3.6%	432,380	3.60%
Speak English less than "very well"	2,980	0.9%	2,938	1.0%	139,897	1.2%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	5,390	1.6%	3,336	1.2%	233,842	1.9%
Speak English less than "very well"	2,557	0.8%	1,295	0.5%	115,278	1.0%
Other languages	7,235	2.1%	1,382	0.5%	76,458	0.6%
Speak English less than "very well"	2,685	0.8%	448	0.2%	23,940	0.2%

The majority of the people in both Lehigh and Northampton counties speak only English, although there has been a small decrease in this number since the previous ACS five-year estimates (2007-2011) were released. A trend involving English-only non-English speakers developed from 2010 to 2016. Each year in Lehigh County and in Pennsylvania overall, the non-English-speaking population has grown while the exclusively English-speaking one has shrunk as a percentage of the total population. In 2010, those who spoke only English made up 79.6 percent in Lehigh County and 90.1 percent in Pennsylvania. In 2016, these populations measured 76.9 percent and 89.2 percent, respectively. In Northampton County, however, the same populations fluxed between 2010 and 2016. The English-only population grew from 2010 to 2013, but then decreased in 2016.

The use of Spanish increased more than any other language reported in the survey. The Spanish-speaking population rose from 13.8 percent to 15.9 percent in Lehigh County and from 6.7 percent to 7.7 percent in Northampton County, in comparison to the increase of .05 percentage points throughout the state.

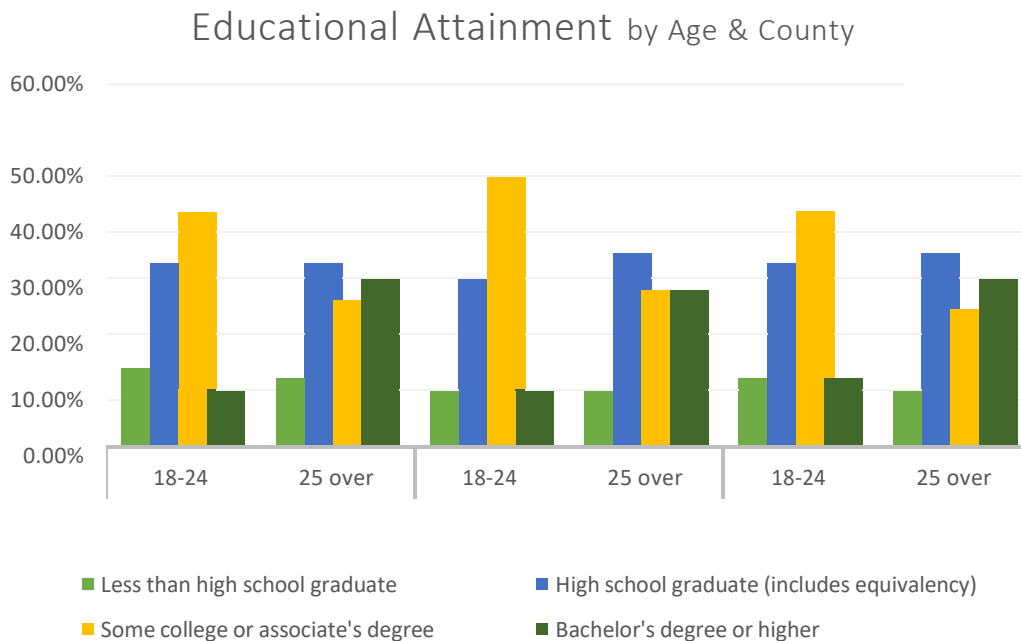
Population by Language Spoken at Home

Population 5 years and over	Lehigh		Northampton		Pennsylvania	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Speak only English	259,649	76.9%	248,380	87.10%	10,762,972	89.20%
Speak English only or speak English "very well"	307,227	91.0%	272,533	95.5%	11,568,199	95.8%
Speak English less than "very well"	30,226	9.0%	12,787	4.5%	501,180	4.2%
Speak a language other than English	77,804	23.1%	36,940	12.9%	1,306,407	10.8%
Speak English only or speak English "very well"	47,578	61.2%	24,153	65.4%	805,227	61.6%
Speak English less than "very well"	30,226	38.8%	12,787	34.6%	501,180	38.4%
Population 18 years and over	262,636		230,618		9,725,847	
Speak English only or speak English "very well"	243,544	92.7%	222,723	96.6%	9,462,808	97.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	19,092	7.3%	7,895	3.4%	263,039	2.7%
Speak only English	211,407	80.5%	205,894	89.3%	8,944,437	92.0%
Speak a language other than English	51,229	19.5%	24,724	10.7%	781,410	8.0%
Speak English only or speak English "very well"	32,137	62.7%	16,829	68.1%	518,371	66.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	19,092	37.3%	7,895	31.9%	263,039	33.7%
Spanish	35,608	13.6%	14,916	6.5%	345,909	3.6%
Speak English only or speak English "very well"	21,612	60.7%	9,816	65.8%	227,646	65.8%
Speak English less than "very well"	13,996	39.3%	5,100	34.2%	118,263	34.2%
Other Languages	15,621	5.9%	9,808	4.3%	435,501	4.5%
Speak English only or speak English "very well"	10,525	67.4%	7,013	71.5%	290,725	66.8%
Speak English less than "very well"	5,096	32.6%	2,795	28.5%	144,776	33.2%

Education Characteristics

Education Attainment Levels

Reported levels of education have increased over time. In 2011, the state reported 26.7 percent of people 25 years and older to have Bachelor degrees or higher, rising to 29.3 percent in 2016. In Lehigh County, there was an increase from 27.3 percent in 2011 to 28.9 percent in 2016 and in Northampton County from 26.7 percent in 2011 to 27.9 percent in 2016. Overall, educational attainment levels have grown across the 25+ age group. Over a third of the 25-or-older populations in Lehigh County, Northampton County, and Pennsylvania have high school diplomas (or equivalent) as their highest level of education. People with Bachelor's degrees (or higher) comprise the second-highest percentage of the population. A majority of individuals 18 to 24 years old have some college or associate's degrees.



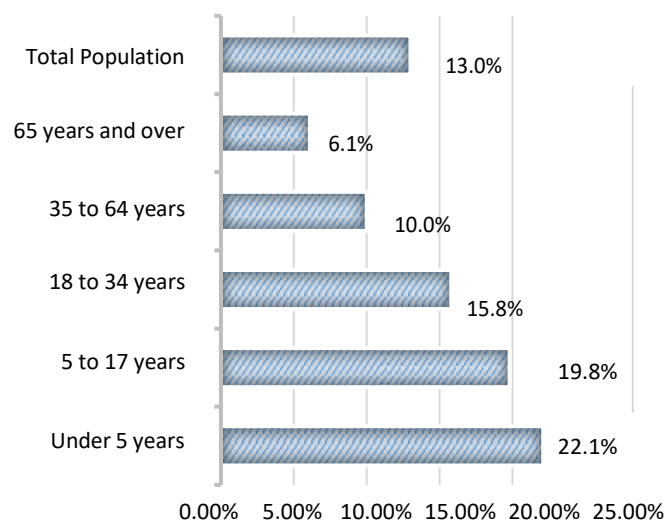
Economic Characteristics

Labor Force

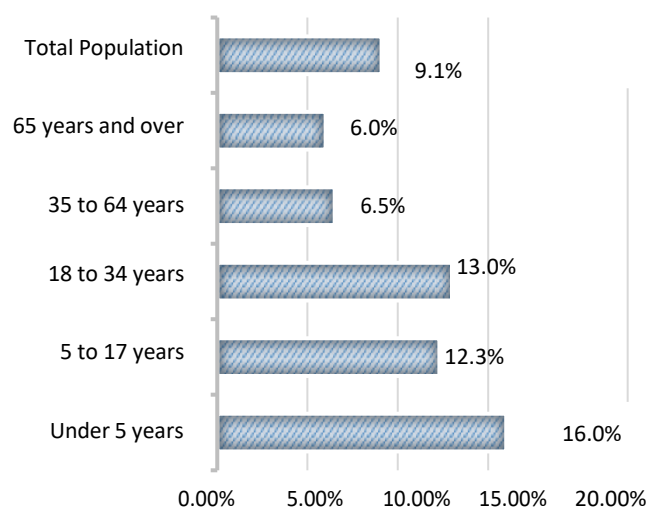
Since 2013, the unemployment rates in Lehigh County, Northampton County, and Pennsylvania have been declining. The employment rate has been rising and the labor force participation rate has largely remained the same, with some slight fluctuations.

Total Population 16 years and over			
	Lehigh	Northampton	Pennsylvania
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.5%	63.9%	62.6%
Employment/ Population Ratio	60.4%	59.6%	58.1%
Unemployment rate	7.7%	6.7%	7.2%

POVERTY STATUS, LEHIGH COUNTY 2016



POVERTY STATUS, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY 2016



Lehigh and Northampton's median household income and per capita income are above the state and national averages. The average income level for both counties falls between \$50,000 and \$74,999.

However, in the two counties, the percentage of households with incomes below \$25,000 per year was 20 percent and 17 percent, respectively.

Population Distribution by Income Level: Households and Per Capita

	Lehigh 135,363		Northampton 112,819		Pennsylvania 4,961,929	
Total households	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Less than \$10,000	7,534	5.6%	4,644	4.1%	334,227	6.7%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	6,556	4.8%	4,663	4.1%	252,508	5.1%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	13,325	9.8%	10,184	9.0%	519,697	10.5%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	12,939	9.6%	10,351	9.2%	495,689	10.0%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	18,644	13.8%	14,562	12.9%	664,171	13.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	25,731	19.0%	21,341	18.9%	907,408	18.3%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	17,799	13.1%	16,138	14.3%	622,834	12.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	19,335	14.3%	18,355	16.3%	672,053	13.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7,267	5.4%	6,892	6.1%	249,749	5.0%
\$200,000 or more	6,233	4.6%	5,689	5.0%	243,593	4.9%
Median household income (dollars)	57,685		62,753		54,895	
Per capita income (dollars)	29,587		31,086		30,137	

Poverty Status

The largest percentage of population affected by poverty consists of children under five years old, with poverty status decreasing with age in both Lehigh and Northampton counties (as well as statewide).

The table below shows the population of each county at various ratios of the federal poverty level. In both counties combined, there are over 31,000 individuals in households below 50 percent of the poverty level. When expanding to 125 percent of the poverty level, the total approaches 98,000 residents.

All Individuals With Income Below The Following Poverty Ratios

	Lehigh	Northampton	Pennsylvania
50 percent of poverty level	20,352	11,096	738,125
100 percent of poverty level	45,552	26,379	1,647,762
125 percent of poverty level	61,624	36,222	2,146,038
150 percent of poverty level	78,283	45,864	2,669,742
185 percent of poverty level	99,085	61,767	3,418,878
200 percent of poverty level	107,633	70,273	3,736,519
300 percent of poverty level	166,926	118,549	5,829,829
400 percent of poverty level	217,976	163,181	7,609,371
500 percent of poverty level	257,516	203,978	9,008,498

The amount of children in poverty (below 100 percent of the federal poverty level) has minimally fluctuated from 2011 to 2017. Bearing those fluxes in mind, the percentage of children in poverty has decreased, albeit marginally, over the past few years.

Children in Poverty					
	2011	2014	2015	2016	2017
Lehigh	22%	19%	22%	20%	19%
Northampton	13%	16%	13%	14%	13%
Pennsylvania	19%	20%	19%	19%	19%

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2017 County Health Rankings

Health and Well-Being Characteristics

Infant and Child Health Indicators

One key metric of infant and child health in a region is the mortality rate for both populations. Atypical infant or child mortality rates can reveal a glimpse into a region's quality of community health, poverty, and the proliferation of high-quality healthcare services. The infant mortality rate,

defined as the number of infant deaths occurring before the first birthday, stands at 6 per 1,000 live births in Lehigh County and 5.6 in Northampton County. The child mortality rate, defined as the number of deaths among children under the age of 18, is 45.6 deaths per population of 100,000 in Lehigh County, and 31.6 in Northampton County. However, while both counties' infant and child mortality rates fall beneath Pennsylvania averages, some discrepancies emerge along racial lines.

Most notably, the child mortality rate for African-American children is precipitously higher than either Hispanic or White children born in both counties.

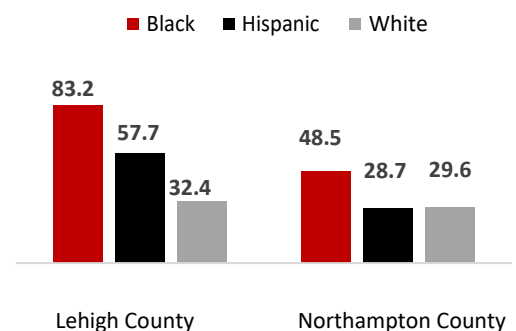
From 2012 to 2016, the majority (54.9 percent) of infants and children in Lehigh County between the ages of 0 to 5 years died due to a range of conditions specific to the perinatal period, followed by birth defects (13.2 percent)

and assault (3.5 percent). In Northampton County, perinatal conditions were also responsible for exactly half of child deaths under the age of 5, followed by birth defects (20.5 percent) and motor vehicle accidents (2.3 percent). Finally, the causes of death for the 0 to 5 population in both

Infant and Child Mortality Rates		
	Infant	Child
Lehigh County	6.0	45.6
Northampton County	5.6	31.6
Pennsylvania	6.5	49.6

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

CHILD MORTALITY BY RACE (2017)



counties are not particularly unusual when compared to overall indicators on the state level. In fact, unlike state-level data, Lehigh and Northampton counties reported no infant deaths attributable to cerebrovascular diseases, diabetes, atherosclerosis, chronic liver disease or cirrhosis, kidney disease, or anemia. Conversely, causes of death with incidences above state averages in Lehigh and Northampton counties include cancer, assault, and birth defects.

Cause of Death, Children and Infants Under the Age of 5			
Cause of Death	Lehigh	Northampton	Pennsylvania
Heart Disease	2 (1.4%)	0 (0.0%)	82 (1.6%)
Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)	3 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	64 (1.2%)
Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke, TIA, Hemorrhage)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	33 (0.6%)
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2 (1.4%)	2 (2.3%)	77 (1.5%)
All Other Accidents	3 (2.1%)	1 (0.7%)	266 (5.2%)
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (0.1%)
Diabetes Mellitus	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.1%)
Influenza and Pneumonia	1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	49 (1.0%)
Atherosclerosis (Arterial Plaque)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)
Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)
Perinatal Conditions	79 (54.9%)	44 (50.0%)	2,534 (49.2%)
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome & Nephrosis (Kidney Disease)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	15 (0.3%)
Assault (Homicide)	5 (3.5%)	1 (0.7%)	97 (1.9%)
Congenital Malformations, Deformations & Chromosomal Abnormalities (Birth Defects)	19 (13.2%)	18 (20.5%)	802 (15.6%)
Septicemia (Blood Infection)	2 (1.4%)	0 (0.0%)	49 (1.0%)
In Situ, Benign and Uncertain Neoplasms	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	16 (0.3%)

Anemias	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (0.1%)
All Other Causes	27 (18.8%)	17 (20.1%)	1,051 (20.4%)
TOTAL FATALITIES	144 (100.0%)	88 (100.0%)	5,151 (100.0%)
<i>Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health (2016)</i>			

The above information on causes of death, while illustrative, belies a particular difficulty in reporting data attributed to the term “perinatal conditions.” Theoretically, the term can include any medical intervention for a fetus or newborn during pregnancy or delivery, which means it can include not only conditions specific to childbirth (for example, stillborn babies, premature deliveries, or low birthweight), but also afflictions that can occur at any age (for example, sepsis, anemia, or HIV/AIDS). Many infant mortality data repositories also do not consistently report deaths attributable to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), a highly preventable ailment with prenatal care and instruction, on a county or regional level. Complications may also arise when organizations develop varying definitions of the prenatal period. For example, while the World Health Organization measures the perinatal period from 22 weeks of gestation to 7 days after birth, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expand the timeframe from 20 weeks of gestation to 28 days after birth. The Pennsylvania Department of Health, the repository of the data shown above, does not appear to formally define “perinatal conditions,” or the timeframe by which the perinatal period is measured, for the purposes of its data reports.

Finally, another indicator of a high-quality health environment for infants and children is the incidence of low-birthweight babies – those babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams, or 5 pounds and 8 ounces. Low-birthweight babies may face challenges in eating, fighting infections, or simply gaining weight, as well as long term challenges like neurodevelopmental handicaps, congenital anomalies, and respiratory tract difficulties. Furthermore, parents with certain chronic health conditions or infections may face a higher risk of having a low-birthweight baby, including high blood pressure, diabetes, and conditions of the heart, lung, and kidneys. Approximately 8 percent of Lehigh County infants have a low birthweight, compared to 8.5 percent of Northampton County infants and 8.2 percent statewide. As with child mortality, however, racial disparities emerge – while approximately 7 to 8 percent of White

babies born in both counties weighed below 2,500 grams, the incidence nearly doubled among African-American infants.

Low Birthweights as a Percentage of Total Births				
	LBW	Black	Hispanic	White
Lehigh County	8.0%	11.7%	8.6%	7.1%
Northampton County	8.5%	13.0%	9.1%	7.9%
Pennsylvania	8.2%	-	-	-

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2017)

Prenatal Care

Elevated incidences of infant mortality or low-birthweight babies are tied inextricably to the quality of prenatal care in a given community. However, between 2012 and 2015, births to mothers who did not receive early prenatal care increased slightly from 27.6 to 28.2 percent statewide. Lehigh and Northampton counties fall on both sides of that average. In Lehigh County, 36.8 percent of births were from mothers who failed to receive early prenatal care, while 26.3 percent of Northampton County births are similarly classified. While above average, Lehigh County's prenatal care metric skyrocketed from 25.8 percent in 2014 to 36.8 percent in 2015, compared to a more modest growth in Northampton County from 23.5 to 26.3 percent.

Successful prenatal care regimes involve frequent monitoring and counseling between physicians and pregnant patients, not only to track fetal development, but also to identify risk factors – both immutable and preventable. For example, from 2006 to 2015, births to mothers who used tobacco during pregnancy has declined by nearly 37 percent, from 15.1 to 9.5 percent. In Northampton County, maternal tobacco use has declined by 27 percent, from 15.9 to 11.6 percent. Both counties remain under the statewide average for maternal tobacco usage, at 12.5 percent. However, while maternal tobacco use may reflect declining tobacco usage trends among the general population, maternal and neonatal substance abuse-related hospital stays remain on the rise. Maternal stays include all substance-abuse related hospitalizations involving either a pregnant mother or a mother giving birth. Neonatal hospital stays encompass substance abuse-related hospitalizations for infants under one year old, and also include infants admitted with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). NAS develops in newborns exposed to addictive drugs while in the womb, and experience withdrawal signs after delivery. According to the PA Health Care Cost Containment Council, neonatal hospital stays related to substance use skyrocketed by 250 percent from 2000 to 2015, while maternal drug-related hospitalizations increased by 119 percent during the same period. Most startlingly, diagnoses of NAS

have increased by 1,096 percent from 2000 to 2017, from 1.2 to 15.0 per 1,000 newborn stays.

Despite statewide increases, however, both Lehigh and Northampton counties remain significantly below statewide averages. In Lehigh County, approximately 20 out of every 1,000 maternal hospitalizations are related to substance abuse, 8 out of every 1,000 neonatal stays are related to drug abuse, and 5 out of every 1,000 newborns in Lehigh County are diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome. While Northampton County enjoys a slightly lower substance abuse-related maternal hospitalization rate than its neighbor (18.5 per 1,000 hospitalizations), the county's neonatal hospitalization (11.2 per 1,000 hospitalizations) and NAS diagnosis (8.4 per 1,000 newborns) rates are significantly higher.

Substance Abuse Hospitalizations: Maternal and Neonatal			
	Substance-Related Maternal Stays	Substance-Related Neonatal Stays	Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Lehigh County	20.3	8.0	4.6
Northampton County	18.5	11.2	8.4
Pennsylvania	32.4	19.5	15.0

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (2017)

Lehigh and Northampton counties are in the top 30 percent of Pennsylvania county health rankings, with Northampton in 11th place and Lehigh in 18th of the 67 Commonwealth counties. These measures include obesity, premature death, availability of exercise, sexually transmitted infections. Among these, the PA Department of Health also measures alcohol and tobacco use. Alcohol and tobacco are among the top causes of preventable deaths in the United States. With 15 percent of adults in both counties currently smoking and 20 percent partaking in excessive drinking, it is no surprise that the counties health behavior rankings are similar to their overall health ranking in the state with Northampton in 12th place and Lehigh in 20th.

It should also be noted that the amount of driving deaths involving alcohol in the two county area is substantially higher than the state and national average. 26 percent of all driving deaths in the US in 2016 involved alcohol, with PA similarly at 24 percent. Comparatively, alcohol related fatalities make up 36 percent of all driving deaths in Lehigh County and 48 percent in Northampton County.

	Tobacco Use: 2014-2016		Alcohol Consumption ¹	
	Current Smoker (smokes every day or some days)	Currently uses chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus every day or some days	At risk for heavy drinking	Binge Drinking
Carbon, Lehigh,				
Northampton	19%	2%	6%	16%
Pennsylvania	18%	4%	6%	18%

Source: PA Department of Health

County Health Factors and Behaviors: 2017		
	Adult Smoking (Tobacco Use)	Excessive Drinking
Lehigh	17%	18%
Northampton	17%	18%
Pennsylvania	18%	18%

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2017 County Health

Rankings

Child Abuse Rates of Reporting and Substantiation by County, 2016

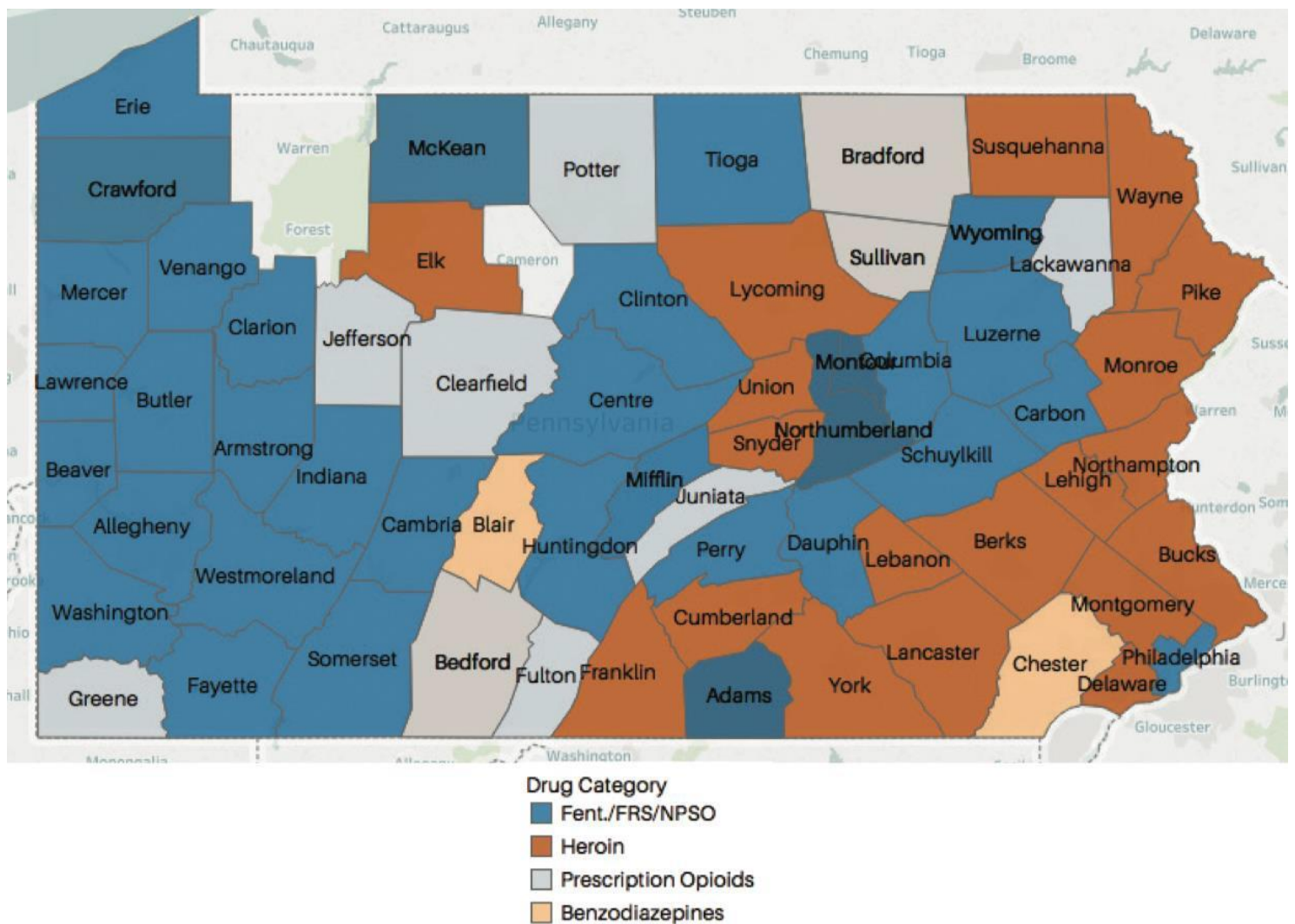
	Total reports per 1000 children	Substantiated reports per 1,000 children
Lehigh	19.4	1.6
Northampton	19.8	2.6
Pennsylvania	17.6	1.8

¹ At risk for heavy drinking (males having more than 2 drinks per day and females having more than 1 drink per day), binge drinkers (males having 5 or more drinks on one occasion, females having 4 or more drinks on one occasion), binge drinking (defined as having more than 5 drinks more than 1 time in the past month).

Substance Abuse

One prominent source of frustration for many families across Lehigh and Northampton counties involves substance abuse – whether alcohol or drugs. According to the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin’s Population Health Institute, approximately 20 percent of adults in both Lehigh and Northampton counties report either heavy or binge drinking as of 2016 – a metric that is slightly below the commonwealth average of 21%. Moreover, according to a July 2017 joint report issued by the University of Pittsburgh and the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Philadelphia Division found that the

MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED DRUG CATEGORY IN DRUG-RELATED OVERDOSE DECEDENTS



Source: Pennsylvania Coroner/Medical Examiner Data (2016)

most frequently reported drug category in drug-related overdoses in both Lehigh and Northampton counties was related to heroin usage.

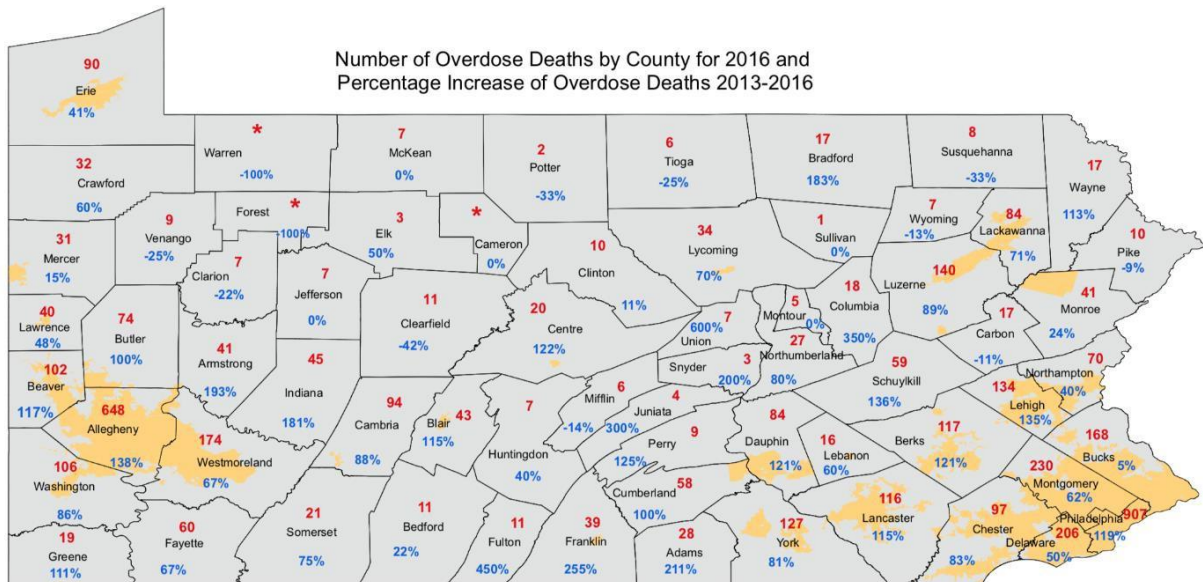
According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, approximately 1,785 admissions to state-supported medical facilities were reported from Lehigh and Northampton counties for the purposes of drug and alcohol treatment as of 2016. Of these clients, approximately 63 percent were admitted for drug abuse, while another 32 percent were admitted for alcohol abuse. Moreover, the Pennsylvania State Coroners Association finds that the hospitalization rate for opioid overdose per 100,000 residents in Lehigh County stands at 23.9, compared to 31.9 for Northampton County. Each county hovers on either side of the commonwealth average hospitalization rate of 31.1.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Admissions

	Clients Admitted	Drug Abuse	Alcohol Abuse	Other
Lehigh County	1,079	696 (64.5%)	330 (30.6%)	53 (4.9%)
Northampton County	706	425 (60.2%)	244 (34.6%)	37 (5.2%)
Total	1,785	1,121 (62.8%)	574 (32.2%)	90 (5.0%)

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health (2016)

According to the USDA's 2018 Pennsylvania Opioid Task Force report, Northampton County suffered 70 drug overdose deaths in 2016 – a 40 percent increase since 2013. Even more alarming, however, is the skyrocket of deaths in Lehigh County, which reported 134 drug overdoses – a staggering 135 percent increase in drug overdose from 2013 to 2016. In 2016, Lehigh County reported the eighth highest total of drug overdoses statewide. However, both Lehigh and Northampton counties currently experience below-average drug overdose mortality rates per 100,000 people – 21 and 23, respectively – compared to the commonwealth average of 28.



Source: US Department of Agriculture (2018)

Housing Characteristics

Homelessness

In general, homelessness in PA has decreased 7.8 percent from 2016 to 2017 while the national rate increased by 0.7 percent. Simultaneously, the state's rate of unsheltered persons went up by 7.3 percent from the previous Point-in-Time count compared to the sheltered persons population which decreased by 9.7 percent.

Homelessness in the US- Estimates of homeless people : 2017

	Pennsylvania	% change	Nationwide	Change in homelessness (2016-2017)
All homeless people	14,138	-7.8%	553,742	0.7%
Sheltered people	12,340	-9.7%	360,867	-3.4%
Unsheltered people	1,798	7.3%	192,875	9.4%

Source: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office Of Community Planning And Development

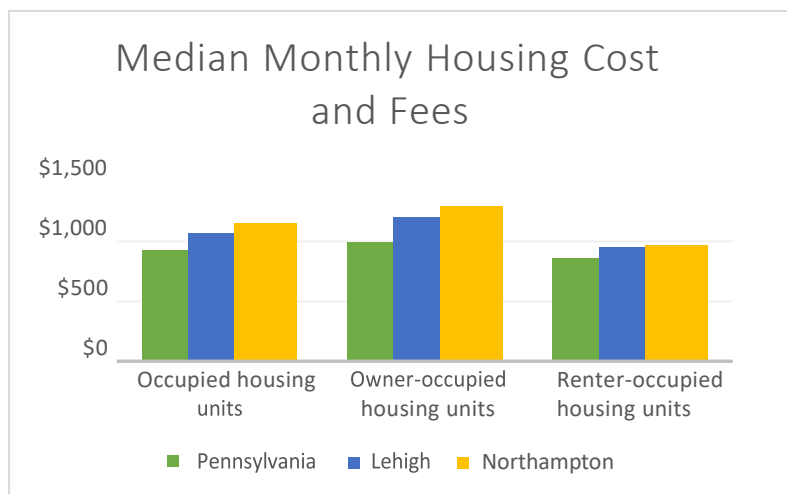
In terms of local data, there were most recently 496 homeless households in the two counties. In Lehigh County, the largest number of these households were in emergency shelter, while in Northampton County, the largest number were in transitional shelter. Among homeless households with children 17 and under and at least one adult, there were 49 in Lehigh County and 64 in Northampton County; all such households were sheltered. There were also 13 households with only children age 17 and under. These households were only counted in Northampton County and all were sheltered in emergency shelter. Local data on specific age groups under age 17 were not readily available for this report, but it is likely that the homeless children under 17 span a variety of ages.

Lehigh and Northampton Counties: Homeless Households 2017

	Total		Sheltered people				Unsheltered people	
			Emergency		Transitional			
	L	N	L	N	L	N	L	N
All homeless households	239	257	123	88	79	107	37	62
Households with at least one adult and one child	49	64	30	0	19	64	0	0
Households without children	190	180	93	75	60	43	37	62
Households with only children (Age 17 and Under)	0	13	0	13	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless families	5	0	5	0			0	0

Housing Affordability

The cost of housing is higher in Northampton County than Lehigh County. Housing costs and values are 10.2 percent more expensive in Northampton County. There is at least a \$100 difference between the state and both Lehigh and Northampton counties when looking at median rent and median monthly housing costs (without a mortgage). For all housing financial characteristics save monthly housing cost with a mortgage, housing in the two-county area is less affordable than the state average.



Housing Financial Characteristics: 2016

	Median Gross Rent	Median Value of mobile homes	Owner occupied units with a mortgage			Owner occupied units without a mortgage		
			Monthly housing cost (median)	Median Real Estate Taxes:	Value	Monthly housing cost (median)	Median Real Estate Taxes:	Value
Lehigh	\$955	\$24,000	\$1,572	\$3,636	\$197,100	\$599	\$3,373	\$183,100
Northampton	\$969	\$35,000	\$1,653	\$4,114	\$214,800	\$637	\$3,638	\$194,200
Pennsylvania	\$859	\$31,400	\$1,426	\$2,894	\$182,200	\$503	\$2,123	\$145,400

Child Abuse and Neglect

While increasing reports of child abuse and neglect appear to be on the rise across Pennsylvania, the total rate of reported instances of child abuse and neglect in Lehigh County has increased precipitously, from a roughly average rate of 9.9 cases per 1000 children in 2013, to one of the highest rates of 19.4 per 1000 children in 2017. This represents a nearly 96 percent increase in total child abuse and neglect reports from 2013 to 2017, compared to a 79 percent increase throughout the rest of the state, as well as a 78 percent increase in Northampton County. Of course, not every allegation of child abuse is substantiated, even after investigations by child welfare services. In 2017, approximately 8 percent of all child abuse and neglect allegations in Lehigh County were considered founded or indicated by regional child welfare services – a modest increase from the 7 percent of substantiated cases in 2015. However, while the total number of child abuse substantiations have risen annually, Lehigh County's

substantiation rates still hover slightly beneath the statewide average. In Northampton County, child abuse substantiations slightly declined from 14 percent of total allegations in 2013 to 13 percent by 2017; conversely, Northampton County substantiations remain above the statewide average rate.

Child Abuse and Neglect Rates

	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Total	Verified	Total	Verified	Total	Verified	Total	Verified	Total	Verified
Lehigh	9.9	0.7	12.1	0.7	16.9	0.7	17.9	1.6	19.4	1.6
Northampton	11.1	1.6	11.6	1.1	17.4	1.1	17.3	1.9	19.8	2.6
Pennsylvania	9.8	1.3	10.8	1.2	15.1	1.6	16.3	1.7	17.6	1.8

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (2017)

Across Lehigh and Northampton counties, as well as the state more generally, children between the ages of 5 and 8 represent the highest number of child abuse and neglect reports, followed by children between the ages of 12 and 14. Children between the ages of 9 and 11 are the third highest represented in Lehigh County, as opposed to

Child Abuse and Neglect by Age Group

	Lehigh	Northampton	Pennsylvania
Ages 0-2	11.5%	11.9%	12.3%
Ages 3-4	9.4%	10.5%	10.5%
Ages 5-8	25.8%	23.9%	25.6%
Ages 9-11	14.7%	19.0%	16.2%
Ages 12-14	20.0%	19.1%	18.8%
Ages 15-17	18.6%	15.6%	16.6%

Source: PA Kids Count (2015)

children between the ages of 15 and 17 in Northampton County and statewide. Children between the ages of 0 and 4 consist of 20.9 percent of child abuse and neglect reports in Lehigh County, as well as 22.4 percent in Northampton County and 22.8 percent statewide.

The circumstances precipitating acts of child abuse at home vary in incidence by county. In both Lehigh and Northampton counties, the plurality of child abuse allegations (at 17 and 21 percent, respectively) stem from the substance abuse of a parent or parents, followed by behavioral issues emanating from the child (at 11 and 13 percent, respectively). However, substance abuse, whether by the parent or child, consists of nearly 20 percent of all child abuse reports in Lehigh County, compared to 24 percent in Northampton County and statewide. Child abuse causes endemic to Lehigh County include: parental behavioral issues (10 percent), homelessness or inadequate shelter (9 percent), and endangering conduct by a parent (8 percent). In Northampton County, child abuse reports also stem from endangering conduct (10 percent), parental behavioral health (9 percent), and homelessness or inadequate shelter (8 percent). More significant divergences include inadequate health care, in which Lehigh County incidences double Northampton County and statewide incidents, as well as child substance abuse, which is seen at twice the rate in Northampton County than in Lehigh County or statewide.

Child Abuse Allegations by Type			
	Lehigh	Northampton	Pennsylvania
Total Suspected Allegations	1,593	1,973	93,308
Parent substance abuse	17.0%	21.2%	21.5%
Parent conduct	7.9%	9.9%	9.2%
Homelessness/inadequate shelter	8.8%	8.2%	9.9%
Child behavior problems	10.8%	12.9%	8.9%
Educational neglect	6.6%	5.0%	7.6%
Parent behavioral health	9.8%	9.4%	6.4%
Domestic violence	6.9%	7.0%	6.2%
Lack of supervision	3.7%	2.7%	4.3%
Inadequate basic needs	4.6%	4.0%	4.8%
Inappropriate discipline	3.8%	2.1%	3.4%
Inadequate caregivers	3.8%	5.0%	3.4%
Other	4.9%	2.2%	4.3%
Inadequate health care	4.1%	2.1%	2.7%
Parent/child conflict	1.0%	2.0%	1.5%
Child drug withdrawal	2.1%	1.0%	1.3%
Child acting out sexually	1.7%	1.9%	1.5%
Abandonment/lack of caretaker	1.7%	1.3%	1.4%
Child substance abuse	0.7%	1.7%	0.9%
Exposure to hazards	0.1%	0.4%	0.8%
<i>Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (2017)</i>			

Child Welfare Data

The data presented in the tables below are sourced from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children. They cover topics related to children enrolled or who could enroll in Head Start programs. The data on disabilities in the two counties were taken from the ACS five-year estimates.

Both counties' Pre-K age group populations are mostly white, with 46.9 percent in Lehigh County and 63.8 percent in Northampton County. The Hispanic population is the second largest, at 38.6 percent in Lehigh County and 23.1 percent in Northampton County. African American children make up 13.3 percent of the state's pre-k age group, whereas they only constitute 7.4 percent and 6.44 percent of Lehigh and Northampton counties.

Pre-K Age Children		
	Lehigh County	Northampton County
Total children age 0 - 4	21,557	14,983
% White, Non-Hispanic	46.88%	63.08%
% Hispanic or Latino, of any race	38.63%	23.08%
% African American, Non-Hispanic	7.39%	6.44%
% Non-Hispanic, 2 or more races	3.61%	4.47%

There are 10,712 children enrolled in SNAP in Lehigh and Northampton counties combined. This number represents 29.3 percent of all children aged 0-4 in the area.

Socioeconomic and Labor Force		
	Lehigh County	Northampton County
Children age 0 to 4 enrolled in SNAP	6,815	3,897
Children age 0 to 5 below 100% FPL	5,000	3,720
Labor force status of parents with children age 0 to 5 ² :	78% (20,900)	74.1% (12,400)
% of Single Parent Families with Parent in Labor Force	87.4%	86.8%
% of Two Parent Families with Both Parents in Labor Force	71.3%	67.5%

In a 2016 snapshot, there were 479 children in foster care in the two counties. A large portion of these children were preschool age or younger, and they represent a cross section of racial/ethnic backgrounds.

Children in Foster Care		
	Lehigh County	Northampton County
Total children in foster care (Sept. 30 2016 snapshot)	217	262
Children age 0 to 5 in foster care (Sept. 30 2016 snapshot)	82	102
% White, Non-Hispanic - All children in foster care	41.0%	48.9%
% Hispanic or Latino (any race) - All children in foster care	34.6%	24.8%
% African American, Non-Hispanic - All children in foster care	22.1%	16.4%
% Other Races, Non-Hispanic - All children in foster care	2.3%	5.57%

Of all children aged 3-4 in the two-county region, 75.8 percent in Lehigh and 81.3 percent in Northampton do not have access to high-quality pre-k. In both counties, about one in five children age 0 to 5 live below the federal poverty line, and more than half of children age 5 or younger live below 300 percent of the poverty level. While it is estimated that Head Start and Early Head Start programs served

² Figure in parentheses represent all parents in labor force with children 0-5.

over 1,100 children per this data source, the majority of children regardless lack access to high quality Pre-K. Additionally, nearly two-thirds of child care centers in the two counties met high quality standards, defined as 3 or 4 stars in the Keystone Stars model.

Pre-K Access		
	Lehigh County	Northampton County
Children with access to high quality Pre-K ³	2,126	1,284
Percent of all children ages 3-4	24.2%	18.7%
Percent of children under 100% FPL	18.8%	20.8%
Percent of children under 200% FPL	46.3%	32.4%
Percent of children under 300% FPL ⁴	58.6%	52.1%
Children served by EHS and HS programs	693	421
Percent of Child Care Centers meeting high-quality standards ⁵	35.5%	38.0%

A total of 348 children under 5 had identified hearing or vision disabilities in the two counties, while a larger number were receiving Early Intervention. Hearing difficulty is more common among children in Lehigh County, whereas vision difficulty is more common in Northampton County.

There are several limitations to availability of local data on children with disabilities. The Census estimates below are collected via survey and are subject to a margin of error. Furthermore, Census definitions of disabilities do not necessarily reflect all children eligible for and IEP/IFSP; Head Start of the Lehigh Valley's preschool program serves 200+ children with an IEP or IFSP. Additionally, autism is an important area of special need where insufficient data exists regarding the Lehigh Valley community.

Disabilities		
	Lehigh County	Northampton County
Number of children receiving Early Intervention ⁶	3,660	2,287
Under 5 years old with a hearing difficulty	119	112
Under 5 years old with a vision difficulty	87	150

³ Ages 3-4

⁴ Percent under various percentages of FPL reflect ages 0-5

⁵ Defined as 3-star or 4-star center.

⁶ Ages 0-5.

Addendum: Prenatal Data

In Northampton County, 2869 women ages 15 to 50 were pregnant in the past 12 months, of those women, 1,003 or 35% were unmarried (widowed, divorced, and never married)

In Lehigh County, 4440 women ages 15 to 50 were pregnant in the past 12 months, of those women, 2,079 or 46.8% were unmarried (widowed, divorced, and never married)

28 Newborns on Medicaid were born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in Lehigh County

33 Newborns on Medicaid were born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in Northampton County

Data was not found for children who were not on Medicaid born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in either county.

Women Who Did not Receive Prenatal Care

City	Total	Percent
Allentown	807	43.5%
Bethlehem	239	30.4%
Easton	112	35%
Pennsylvania	38,167	28.2%

Infant and Toddler Data

In Lehigh County, there are 12,469 children ages 0-2. Of those children, 18 are being served by Nurse Family Partnership, 18 are being served by Parents as Teachers, 181 are being served by Early Head Start, 1,486 being served by Keystone STARS facilities and 1,748 children are being served by Early Intervention. In total, 3,614 children 0-2 are being served or 29% of the total 0-2 population.

In Northampton County, there are 8,902 children ages 0-2. Of those children, 182 are served by Nurse Family Partnership, 30 are being served by Parents as Teachers, 52 are being served by Early Head Start, 868 are being served by Keystone STARS facilities and 947 are being served by Early Intervention. In total, 2,079 children 0-2 are being served or 23.4% of the total 0-2 population.

Community Services for Children is currently serving 233 of 0-2 children from both Lehigh and Northampton counties in the Early Head Start program or 1.09% of the entire 0-2 population.

School District Data

Lehigh County School Districts Served by Community Services for Children Infants and Toddlers

School District	# of Children 0-2	Early Head Start Children Served	Early Intervention Children Served	Keystone STARS Children Served	Total Children Served	% of children Ages 0-2 Served by All ECE Programs
Allentown City	5546	176	784	531	1491	26.9%
East Penn	1753	1	240	10	233	27%
Northern Lehigh	347	0	38	13	51	14.7%
Parkland	1693	0	257	314	571	34.9%
Salisbury Township	412	0	34	52	86	20.8%
Whitehall-Coplay	847	7	154	147	308	36.4%

Northampton County School Districts Served by Community Services for Children Infants and Toddlers

School District	# of Children 0-2	Early Head Start Children Served	Early Intervention Children Served	Keystone STARS Children Served	Total Children Served	% of children Ages 0-2 Served by All ECE Programs
Bangor Area	628	0	48	47	95	15.1%
Bethlehem Area	3698	29	381	394	804	21.7%
Easton Area	2011	23	252	247	522	26%
Northampton Area	1208	1	120	108	229	19%
Pen Argyle Area	318	0	36	35	71	22.4%

Lehigh County School Districts Served by Community Services for Children Pre-K

School District	# of Children 3-4	# of Children Served by Head Start State & Federal	% of Children Served by Head Start State & Federal	# of Children Served by PA Pre-K Counts	% of Children Served by PA Pre-K Counts	# of Children Served by School District Based Pre-K	% of Children Served by School District Based Pre-K
Allentown City	3471	628	7%	470	5.2%	0	0%
East Penn	1541	18	.5%	10	.3%	0	0%
Northern Lehigh	260	20	3.3%	0	0%	0	0%
Parkland	1131	0	0%	20	.7%	0	0%
Salisbury Township	330	20	2.7%	0	0%	0	0%
Whitehall-Coplay	431	7	.50%	0	0%	0	0%

Northampton County School Districts Served by Community Services for Children Pre-K

School District	# of Children 3-4	# of Children Served by Head Start State & Federal	% of Children Served by Head Start State & Federal	# of Children Served by PA Pre-K Counts	% of Children Served by PA Pre-K Counts	# of Children Served by School District Based Pre-K	% of Children Served by School District Based Pre-K
Bangor Area	474	20	1.8%	20	1.8%	0	0%
Bethlehem Area	2244	254	4.3%	149	2.5%	0	0%
Easton Area	1674	152	4.1%	134	3.6%	0	0%
Northampton Area	1991	21	1.1%	0	0%	20	1%
Pen Argyle Area	229	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

Risk Factors Data by School District

Lehigh County School Districts Served by Community Services for Children

School District	% of Children under 5 (100% FPL)	% of Children under 5 (300% FPL)	% of Children receiving free/reduced lunch	% of Students who do not graduation with a regular HS diploma
Allentown City	43.6%	87.4%	100%	36.4%
East Penn	10.2%	38.9%	25.1%	7.6%
Northern Lehigh	8.5%	56.7%	44.6%	12.9%
Parkland	8.3%	36.8%	22.7%	5.7%
Salisbury Township	11.8%	40.7%	33.8%	3.5%
Whitehall-Coplay	17.9%	62.3%	50%	8.9%

Northampton County School Districts Served by Community Services for Children

School District	% of Children under 5 (100% FPL)	% of Children under 5 (300% FPL)	% of Children receiving free/reduced lunch	% of Students who do not graduate with a regular HS diploma
Bangor Area	5.9%	61.5%	44.3%	11%
Bethlehem Area	23.6%	60.2%	52.7%	18.9%
Easton Area	14.6%	50.7%	51.9%	88.4%
Northampton Area	11.3%	51.3%	29.2%	9%
Pen Argyle Area	12.7%	57.3%	35%	8.8%

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#PA>

Crime Data

Allentown

The chance of being a victim in Allentown is 1 in 31. Relative to Pennsylvania, Allentown has a crime rate that is higher than 91% of the state's cities and towns of all sizes.

ALLENTOWN VIOLENT CRIMES

POPULATION: 120,443

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT
REPORT TOTAL	10	55	275	213
RATE PER 1,000	0.08	0.46	2.28	1.77

ALLENTOWN PROPERTY CRIMES

POPULATION: 120,443

	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
REPORT TOTAL	672	2,387	304
RATE PER 1,000	5.58	19.82	2.52

Violent Crimes in Allentown per 1,000 residents is 4.59 while in PA the number is 3.16.

Allentown Crimes per sq. mile is 217 while Pennsylvania is 49.

Bethlehem

The chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime in Bethlehem is 1 in 43. Relative to Pennsylvania, Bethlehem has a crime rate that is higher than 82% of the state's cities and towns of all sizes.

BETHLEHEM VIOLENT CRIMES

POPULATION: 75,293

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT
REPORT TOTAL	4	23	59	UNREPORTED
RATE PER 1,000	0.05	0.31	0.78	UNREPORTED

BETHLEHEM PROPERTY CRIMES

POPULATION: 75,293

	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
REPORT TOTAL	229	1,248	52
RATE PER 1,000	3.04	16.58	0.69

Violent Crimes in Bethlehem per 1,000 is 2.95 while in PA the number is 3.16.

Bethlehem Crimes per sq. mile is 90 while Pennsylvania is 49.

Easton

The chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime in Easton is 1 in 52. Relative to Pennsylvania, Easton has a crime rate that is higher than 74% of the state's cities and towns of all sizes.

EASTON VIOLENT CRIMES

POPULATION: 26,978

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT
REPORT TOTAL	1	7	34	32
RATE PER 1,000	0.04	0.26	1.26	1.19

EASTON PROPERTY CRIMES

POPULATION: 26,978

	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
REPORT TOTAL	47	366	32
RATE PER 1,000	1.74	13.57	1.19

Violent Crimes in Easton per 1,000 is 16.49 while in PA the number is 17.43.

Easton Crimes per sq. mile is 111 while Pennsylvania is 49.

**Neighborhood Scout, 2018; <https://www.neighborhoodscout.com/pa/allentown/crime>

Community Needs Assessment Analysis and Summary

Community Services for Children (CSC), the grantee for Head Start/Early Head Start of the Lehigh Valley, conducted its comprehensive Community Needs Assessment over a period of six months in 2018 gathering information and stakeholder input, analyzing regional and local data related to the population we serve across Lehigh and Northampton Counties. A comprehensive work plan was developed to ensure that all elements of the Performance Standards were met, and to fully inform our program planning process. CSC utilized the services of *The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development at Wilkes University* to assist us in data collection. In 2019 the program, community and state data sets were reviewed to ensure the Community Assessment data remained accurate and relevant.

Head Start/Early Head Start of the Lehigh Valley reaches across a geographical service area comprised of Lehigh and Northampton Counties with concentrations in the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton. The Lehigh Valley is the third largest metropolitan in the Pennsylvania. The Community Needs Assessment provides vital Lehigh Valley statistics in the areas of overall population, children and families living in poverty, languages spoken, health assessment and risks, educational attainment, labor force, prenatal care and birth outcomes, substance abuse, homelessness, child abuse and neglect, housing, early intervention, and early childhood education and care. The assessment also includes data from parent and stakeholder surveys and parent focus groups. This comprehensive assessment is used to inform the program and ensure that the program design and the implementation of services meet the needs of the local community. This Community Needs Assessment Summary will provide a quick snapshot of important statistics included in the full assessment document and implications for the program.

In the Lehigh Valley, the rate of poverty varies by both county and city locations. In 2016, 11% of all people living in the Lehigh Valley lived below the federal poverty level. For Lehigh County, 22.1% of children under the age of 5 are below 100% of poverty. This is a 4.2% increase in the percentage of children living in poverty from the previous year. In Northampton County, 16% of children under the age of 5 are living at or below the federal poverty level. This is 1.1% annual increase. Furthermore, pockets of poverty are also increasing in suburban and rural areas.

Children under the age of 5 are the largest population living in poverty. Unfortunately, due to funding constraints and the lack of safe, affordable space, Community Services for Children is only able to serve 12.6% of the eligible population for the Head Start and Early Head Start program; 13.5% in Lehigh County

and 11.5% in Northampton County.

Service Area	Total # of Children Under Age 5 in Poverty*	# Served by EHS/HS	% Served by EHS/HS
Lehigh County	5000	677	13.5%
Northampton County	3720	427	11.5%
Lehigh Valley	8720	1104	12.6%

* 2016 KIDS COUNT data center

Key findings and implications for the Head Start/Early Head Start program includes the following:

Key Findings

- Increased percentage in the poverty rate of children under the age of 5 in Lehigh and Northampton Counties
- Increased pockets of poverty for suburban and rural areas in Lehigh and Northampton Counties
- Substantial increase in drug overdose deaths (135% increase in Lehigh County)
- Increase in substance impacted babies born in Lehigh and Northampton Counties
- Increase in reported child abuse
- Increase in reported child abuse related to parental substance abuse
- Pregnant mothers (31%) failed to receive prenatal care
- Racial disparity in child mortality rate
- Lack of affordable family housing
- Increase in children with a verified disability for children under the age of 5

Implications for the Program

- Continue to seek expansion opportunities to better meet the needs of children birth to five at or below 100% of poverty.
- Align program services with areas of greatest need geographically.
- Implement program approaches for families facing homelessness, trauma impacts and substance use/misuse.
- Target pregnant women for increased outreach and enrollment in EHS.

- Increase partnerships and opportunities for joint service provision with other social service organizations to meet the needs of families, targeting substance use, homelessness, equity & equality, child & family literacy, family empowerment.
- Continued implementation of service models and delivery systems to children with special needs including those with disabilities, drug impact and in collaboration with Early Intervention, Child Welfare, and the Intermediate Units
- Continued advocacy to increase child mental health supports and access to diagnostics to address the increasingly complex needs of children birth to five exposed to adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress
- Continued implementation of intervention services to drug impacted children birth to three in order to address the current opioid crisis. In addition, continued focus on educating parents and staff of the opioid crisis.

Community Services for Children, Head Start of the Lehigh Valley is committed to understanding and addressing the most pressing needs faced by the children and families in our community. Through a comprehensive five-year plan, specific program goals, objectives and action steps have been identified. The five-year plan will strengthen the program's response to identified implications and increase support to children and their families. All goals and objectives have been selected based on the community assessment data provided within the full assessment report. Program, community, school district, and state data is reviewed annually and utilized to update the Community Assessment.