



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF MID-NEBRASKA



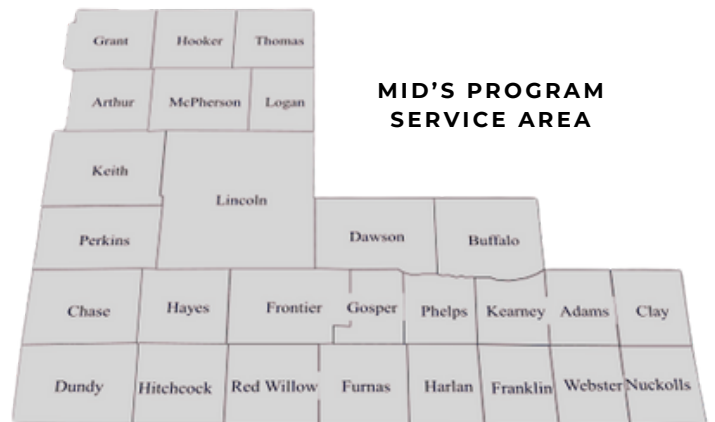
2025
REGIONAL
COMMUNITY
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF MID-NEBRASKA

Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska (Mid) is a private, non-profit organization serving 27 counties in south central Nebraska. Mid works to alleviate poverty conditions and improve and strengthen local resources. Our mission is to provide essential programs that help individuals, families, and communities reach their fullest potential through advocacy and partnerships. Our dedicated staff provides access to opportunities in education, health, housing, nutrition, and transportation. These services empower people to make a positive difference in their lives and communities.

There are nine separate Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in Nebraska and over 1,000 nationwide. CAAs are locally operated and collaborate with various community partners mobilizing resources and creating innovative programs which improve lives and build stronger communities throughout Nebraska and across the nation.

In 2024, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska served 16,361 individuals, with services in education, health, housing, nutrition, and transportation. Mid is governed by a tripartite 15-member Board of Directors comprised of 1/3 consumer members, 1/3 public members, and 1/3 private members. Mid program services include the following:



- Community Services/Case Management
- Community Health Workers
- Financial Literacy Training
- Health Services
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Housing Programs
- Nutrition Programs
- Public Transportation
- Senior Centers
- Volunteer Services

COMMUNITY ACTION BRAND PROMISE

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska (Mid) is a non-profit agency that serves low-income individuals, families, and communities throughout the south central region of Nebraska.

Founded in 1965, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska was created as part of Lyndon B. Johnson's 'War on Poverty' initiative, which sought to develop positive solutions to poverty. By alleviating poverty conditions and enhancing the economic, educational, health, housing, nutrition, and transportation circumstances of those we serve, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska continues to uphold its vision of helping people, changing lives, and making communities a better places to live.

Mid conducts a Regional Community Needs Assessment on a three-year basis, with census updates added to the assessment annually. In March of 2025, 650 Community Needs Assessment surveys were sent by postal mail to roughly 350 randomly sampled recipients and 300 current or past recipients of a Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska program/service. In addition to the mailed surveys, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska also made the survey available online for easy completion. The online survey was published on Mid's social media accounts and website. After roughly a month and a half of survey distribution, the survey period ended in April of 2025, yielding a 32% return rate.



This report identifies the most pressing challenges in our service area. Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska will utilize this data to improve or add program services to address those challenges and barriers. For further information about Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska or the following report, please use the contact information below or visit us at www.communityactionmidne.com.

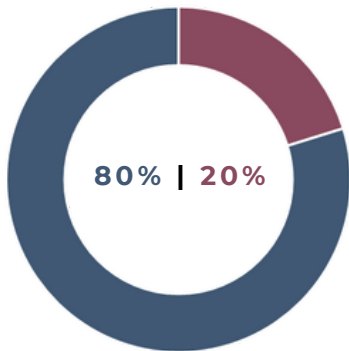
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DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

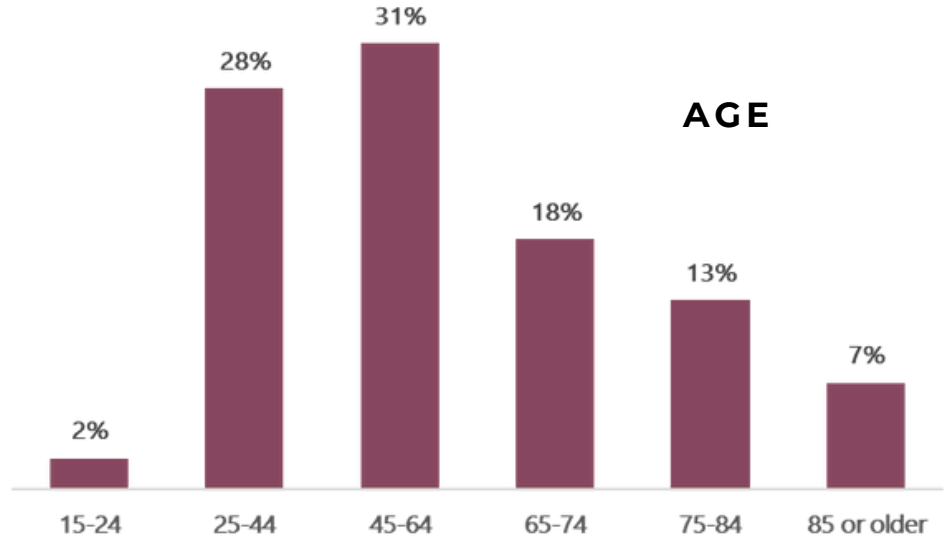
As part of the Regional Community Needs Assessment, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska asked participants to fill out a brief, but optional, demographic section, including information regarding gender, age, race, family structure, and educational attainment. Please note that the following demographics are an analysis of survey responses only.

GENDER



80% of survey respondents were female.

AGE



0% | 8th grade or less

3% | 9th, 10th, or 11th grade

24% | High School diploma

19% | Some college but no degree

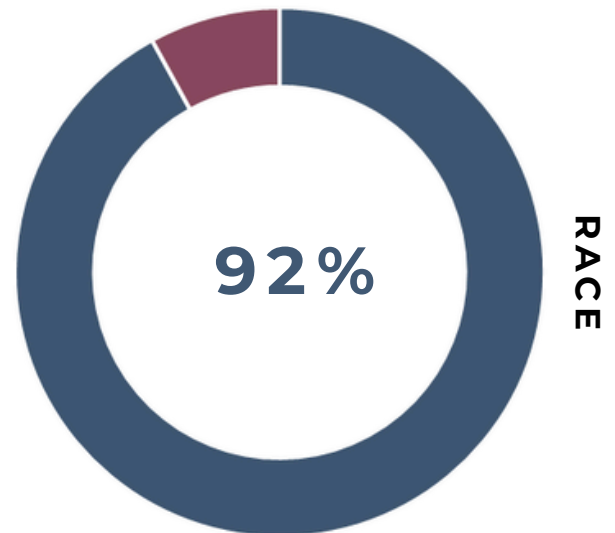
19% | Tech/voc school or Associates

29% | Bachelor's degree

5% | Master's degree

1% | Doctorate or professional degree

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

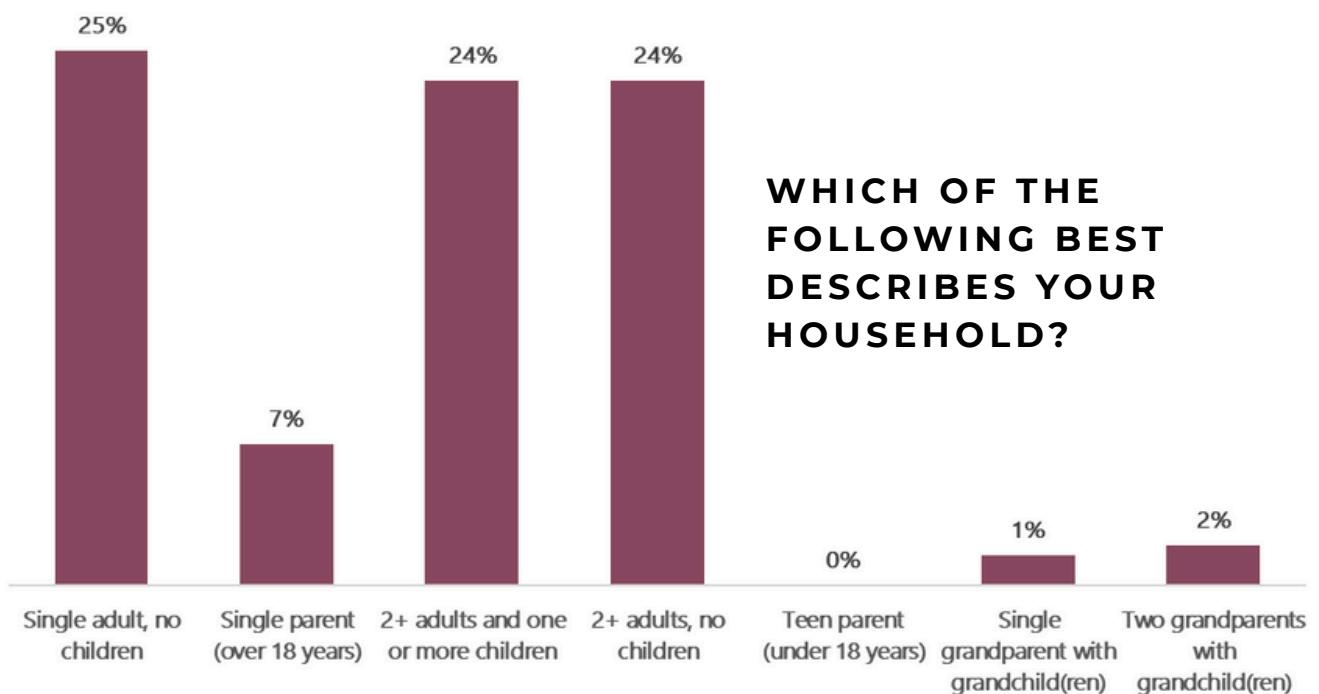
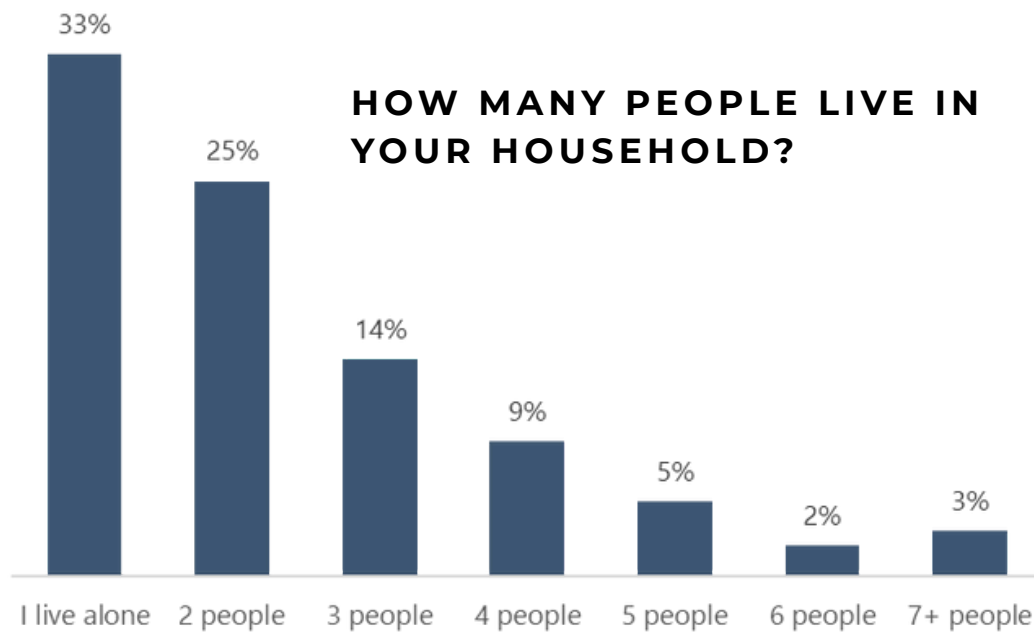


RACE

Majority of survey respondents identified as White, with 4% being Hispanic, 2% being Black, 1% American Indian/Native American, 1% Middle Eastern, and 1% Other.

HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS

In addition to the gender, age, race, and educational demographics, survey participants were also asked two questions regarding their household demographic. These questions inquired about the number of individuals living in one household and how the recipients would best describe their household. Both questions were multiple choice and the average responses are provided below.



HEALTH CARE

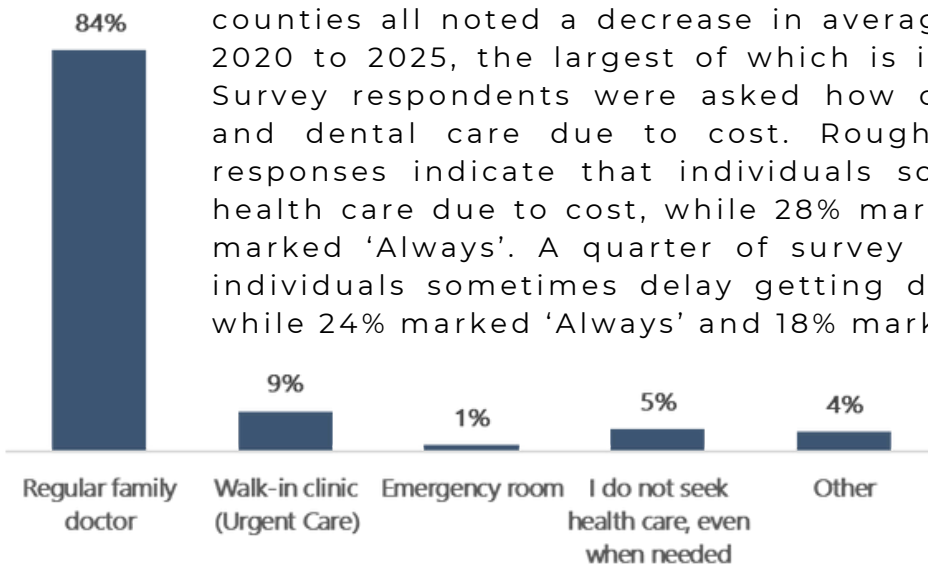
According to the United States Census Bureau’s 2022 County Business Patterns report, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska’s 27-county service area has a total of 778 health care and social assistance establishments. This figure is an increase of 21 health care establishments from 2019. Nearly one third of these establishments are located in Buffalo County, while 17% are located in Lincoln County and 15% in Adams County. There are seven counties within Mid’s service area that do not have any health care establishments, including Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, and Hayes counties. This figure has decreased by one since 2019, with Hitchcock county going from zero health care establishments in 2019 to four in 2022.

When asked where they go when in need of routine health care, majority (84%) of survey respondents marked that they go to a regular family doctor when in need of health care services.

According to the County Health Rankings report in 2025, an average of 8% of residents living in Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska’s 27-county service area do not have health insurance coverage. This is a decrease of 4% from 2019.

When considering the rate at which individuals are uninsured by county, data from the 2020 and 2025 County Health Rankings report show three counties that remained the same - Gosper, Grant, and Nuckolls - and

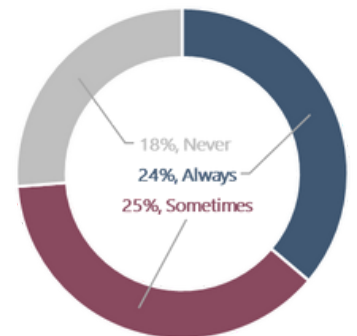
one county that increased by 1% - Hooker. The remaining 23 counties all noted a decrease in average uninsured rates from 2020 to 2025, the largest of which is in Hayes County by 19%. Survey respondents were asked how often they delay health and dental care due to cost. Roughly one-third of survey responses indicate that individuals sometimes delay getting health care due to cost, while 28% marked ‘Never’ and only 9% marked ‘Always’. A quarter of survey responses indicate that individuals sometimes delay getting dental care due to cost, while 24% marked ‘Always’ and 18% marked ‘Never.’



HEALTH CARE



DENTAL

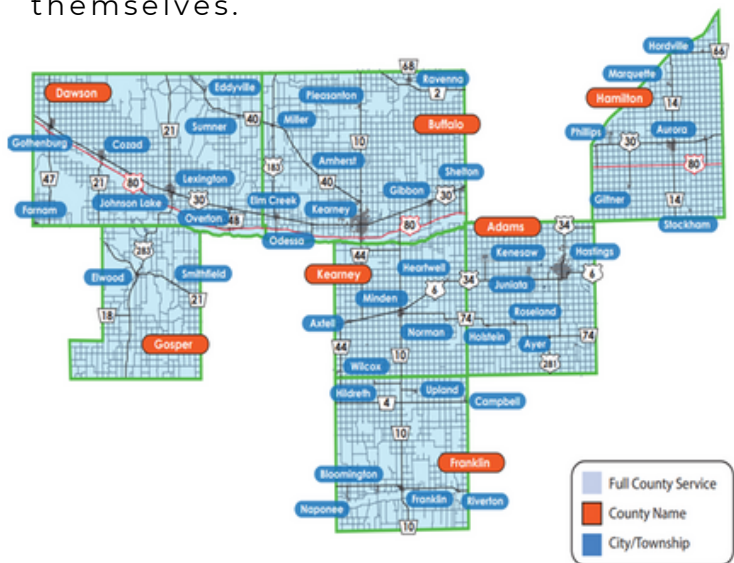


TRANSPORTATION

According to the 2023 Annual Nebraska Licensed Drivers by County report, 71% of Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska’s 27-county population are classified as licensed drivers. On average, 3% of respondents to the 2025 Community Needs Assessment indicated that they did not have access to reliable transportation, which is a decrease by 1% from 2022 data.

County	Licensed Drivers	% of population w/out a vehicle
Adams	78%	5%
Arthur	90%	3%
Buffalo	76%	4%
Chase	83%	2%
Clay	81%	3%
Dawson	78%	6%
Dundy	90%	3%
Franklin	85%	4%
Frontier	80%	2%
Furnas	85%	4%
Gosper	84%	1%
Grant	91%	4%
Harlan	89%	2%
Hayes	85%	3%
Hitchcock	89%	4%
Hooker	91%	6%
Kearney	78%	2%
Keith	83%	6%
Lincoln	84%	4%
Logan	86%	0%
McPherson	99%	5%
Nuckolls	87%	3%
Perkins	85%	3%
Phelps	82%	6%
Red Willow	79%	9%
Thomas	83%	2%
Webster	83%	4%

Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska’s RYDE Transit Program operates buses in Buffalo, Adams, Dawson, Franklin, Hamilton, Kearney, and Gosper counties as well as the City of Ravenna. In 2024, RYDE Transit recorded 85,778 total boardings in these service areas. Additionally, RYDE Transit also makes a twice-a-month service trip from Lexington, NE to North Platte, NE; making stops in Cozad, Gothenburg, Brady, and Maxwell along the way. With curb-to-curb assistance and a variety of routes and locations, RYDE is able to provide transportation to and from medical appointments, shopping centers, congregate dinners, and social activities at a reasonable cost for those without reliable transportation of their own or who are unable to drive themselves.



CHILD CARE

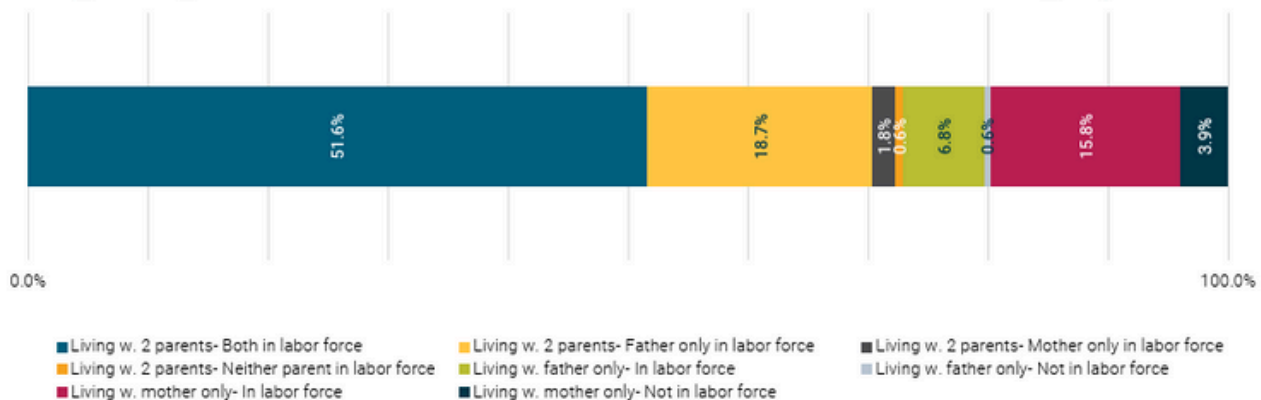
The US Census Bureau 2019-2023 American Community Survey indicates that on average, 6% of Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska's service population is 0-4 years old, with an average of 23% being under the age of 18. Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska's target population is presumed to have children residing in their household; however, the majority (64%) of survey respondents indicated that they do not have children living in their home.

According to the Buffett Early Childhood Institute 2025 report, more than 74.6% of Nebraska children under the age of six live in homes where all adults work, with 80% of mothers with children under the age of six participating in the labor force. This leaves nearly 111,000 children under the age of six in need of quality child care. Unfortunately, data indicates that roughly 90% of counties in Nebraska do not have the capacity to provide affordable and quality care for children of working parents.

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute 2025 report indicates that 35% of Nebraska children aged 0-8 live in households below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, with Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Native children disproportionately affected. Within Nebraska alone, the gap between child care need and actual capacity is estimated to exceed 17,500 spaces.

When asked to select from a list of multiple choice options what main issues households face with children in the home, the top three issues identified include 1) cost of child care, 2) lack of child care openings, and 3) lack of sick child care. To supplement this information, survey respondents were also asked to identify the type(s) of educational services for their children (0-5) that they would like to see within their communities. While majority of respondents to this question marked that they have no children aged 0-5 years old, those that did have young children indicated that preschool (3-5 years) was needed most along with early childhood care (birth to 3) and full day educational services.

Living Arrangements & Parental Labor Force Status of NE Children Under Age 6, 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table B23008: Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents. Data.census.gov.

HOUSING

Based on data gathered from the United States Census Bureau in 2020, an average of 74% of housing units within Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska's service area are owner occupied with a median value of \$112,103.70. This is a 3% increase in owner occupied housing units since 2017, and a \$10,996.70 increase in median value. Average annual housing costs for residents in Mid's 27-county service area are roughly \$1,100.00 with a mortgage and \$450 without a mortgage, with a median gross rent of just over \$650 per month.

County	Owner Occupied Housing Unit Rate	Median Value	Monthly Cost w/ Mortgage	Monthly Cost w/out Mortgage	Median Gross Rent
Adams	68%	\$137,700	\$1,222	\$536	\$729
Arthur	70%	\$129,200	\$1,750	\$569	\$758
Buffalo	66%	\$185,300	\$1,460	\$573	\$797
Chase	78%	\$139,200	\$1,263	\$505	\$688
Clay	81%	\$102,500	\$1,124	\$473	\$586
Dawson	65%	\$113,700	\$1,120	\$489	\$766
Dundy	77%	\$76,900	\$1,015	\$419	\$491
Franklin	82%	\$77,100	\$989	\$389	\$529
Frontier	69%	\$111,100	\$1,041	\$492	\$607
Furnas	79%	\$73,700	\$967	\$452	\$686
Gosper	76%	\$165,500	\$1,195	\$551	\$673
Grant	69%	\$72,500	\$1,000	\$485	\$825
Harlan	78%	\$113,900	\$1,146	\$443	\$677
Hayes	71%	\$81,000	\$1,049	\$417	\$456
Hitchcock	77%	\$75,900	\$935	\$361	\$642
Hooker	60%	\$94,000	\$1,077	\$477	\$533
Kearney	73%	\$162,200	\$1,294	\$524	\$692
Keith	72%	\$135,000	\$1,107	\$505	\$668
Lincoln	68%	\$153,200	\$1,273	\$539	\$763
Logan	77%	\$107,900	\$1,333	\$481	\$614
McPherson	79%	\$78,900	\$1,042	\$354	\$575
Nuckolls	80%	\$73,900	\$913	\$418	\$518
Perkins	79%	\$118,400	\$1,085	\$493	\$713
Phelps	71%	\$139,900	\$1,164	\$525	\$648
Red Willow	72%	\$113,600	\$1,127	\$492	\$650
Thomas	68%	\$120,000	\$1,089	\$423	\$588
Webster	81%	\$74,600	\$971	\$141	\$537

HOUSING

Survey respondents were asked five questions regarding their housing situation and residence, including their need for residential repairs, ownership status, reasons for not owning a home, monthly rent or mortgage payments, and monthly utility costs. Overall, 75% of survey participants own their own home. One-third of respondents marked that they do not have a monthly rent or mortgage payment, while 25% pay \$1,000 or more per month. When asked how much they pay for utilities, one-third of survey respondents marked that they pay anywhere from \$300-\$399 per month. About 6% do not have utility payments, while 8% pay \$500 or more per month for utilities.

With home ownership comes specific repair and financial needs. Survey respondents were asked to select from a list what repair needs they had as well as the financial barriers they experience when considering the purchase of their own home. Majority of responses (34%) indicated that the structure of their home (roof, walls, foundation, etc.) needed repaired, while 33% marked that they had no need for repairs to their home. Just over a quarter of respondents marked that they needed repairs to their plumbing and/or electrical; 17% need heating and cooling system repairs; 15% needing appliance repairs; and 16% marking 'Other', writing the following needs:

- BACK STEPS
- BATHROOM REMODEL
- CARPETS
- DOORS
- DRYWALL
- FENCE
- FLOORS
- FRONT PORCH
- GUTTERS
- PAINT
- INSULATION
- ROOF
- SIDING
- WINDOWS
- YARD

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) helps low-income families, especially the elderly, disabled, and children, reduce energy costs while ensuring health and safety. In doing so, WAP makes it possible for low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills. Contractors or crews install efficiency measures in homes occupied by qualifying low-income families free of charge. Weatherization services include furnace and water heater inspections; adding insulation and ventilation; weather stripping and caulking; and mitigation of heat waste.

16% | Other

15% | Appliances

28% | Plumbing and/or electrical

17% | Heating and cooling system

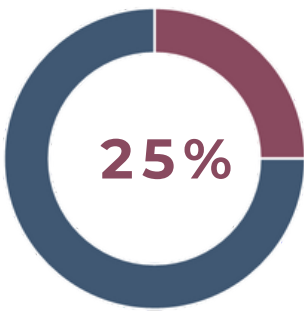
34% | Structure (roof, walls, foundation)

33% | No repairs are needed

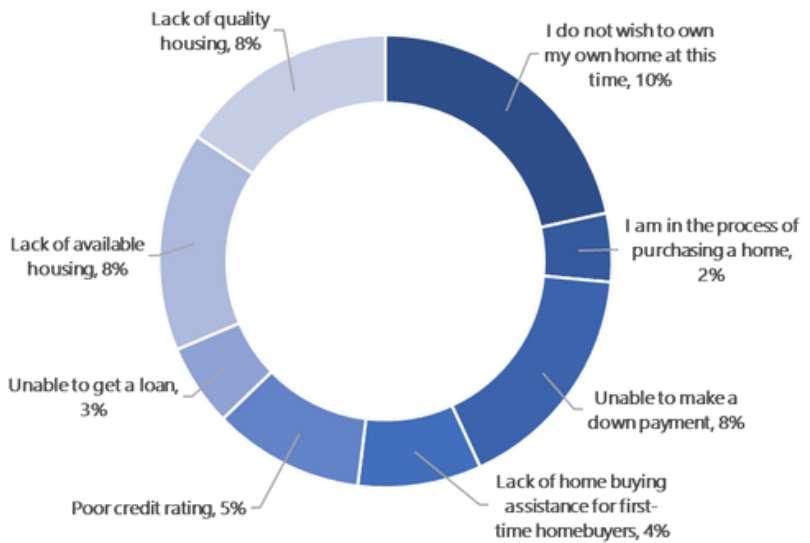
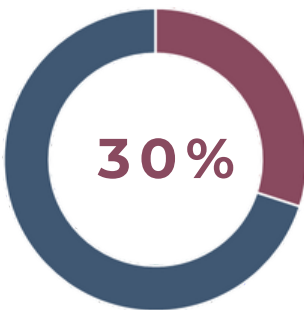
HOUSING

When asked what the main reasons were for individuals not owning a home, the majority of survey respondents chose not to answer the question. Those who did respond indicated these top three barriers to homeownership - 1) Lack of quality housing; 2) Lack of available housing; and 3) Unable to make a down payment. The remaining barriers to homeownership can be seen in the graph below.

RENT/MORTGAGE

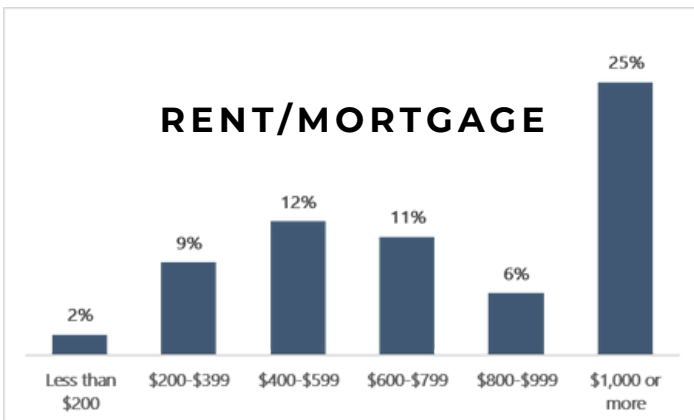


UTILITIES



For low-income residents in particular, the monthly costs associated with owning or renting a home can be a major barrier in homeownership. To understand these barriers further, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska included two questions concerning the monthly costs survey

respondents face, including monthly rent or mortgage payments as well as monthly utility bills. Overall, for those survey respondents who have a monthly rent or mortgage payment (60%), 25% are paying \$1,000 or more. For those who pay monthly utility bills (94%), 30% pay \$300-\$399 in utilities per month.



UNEMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL STATUS

According to the 2024 Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization in Nebraska report, found on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website, “the number of individuals considered to be marginally attached to the labor force in Nebraska was 7,900” in 2024. In contrast to marginally attached individuals, the number of discouraged workers in 2024 in Nebraska was 600. Discouraged workers are a subset of the marginally attached and are defined as “persons who are not currently

“People marginally attached to the labor force are not working, but indicate that they would like to work, are available to work, and have looked for work at some time during the past 12 months...”

-US Bureau of Labor Statistics

looking for work because they believe no jobs are available to them.” Overall, the unemployment rate for Nebraska in 2024 was 2.6%, reflecting an increase of 0.3% from the previous year’s rate. The unemployment rates for the 27 counties in Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska’s service area are shown in the chart below.

County	Unemployment Rate
Adams	2.8%
Arthur	2.8%
Buffalo	2.0%
Chase	2.6%
Clay	3.1%
Dawson	3.0%
Dundy	2.0%
Franklin	2.5%
Frontier	3.1%
Furnas	2.7%
Gosper	2.9%
Grant	3.3%
Harlan	2.0%
Hayes	3.0%
Hitchcock	2.8%
Hooker	8.6%
Kearney	2.1%
Keith	2.4%
Lincoln	2.5%
Logan	2.9%
McPherson	3.5%
Nuckolls	2.4%
Perkins	2.2%
Phelps	2.1%
Red Willow	2.1%
Thomas	3.8%
Webster	2.8%

Survey respondents were asked if any adult living in their household was unemployed, to which 32% of respondents marked ‘Yes’. Respondents were then asked what barriers were preventing him/her from finding employment. Seven percent marked that they were not looking for employment, while 14% indicated that health problems/disability were the leading barriers preventing them from seeking employment.

13% | Other

0% | Inadequate transportation

14% | Health problems/disability

1% | Lack of required education

1% | Lack of specific job skills

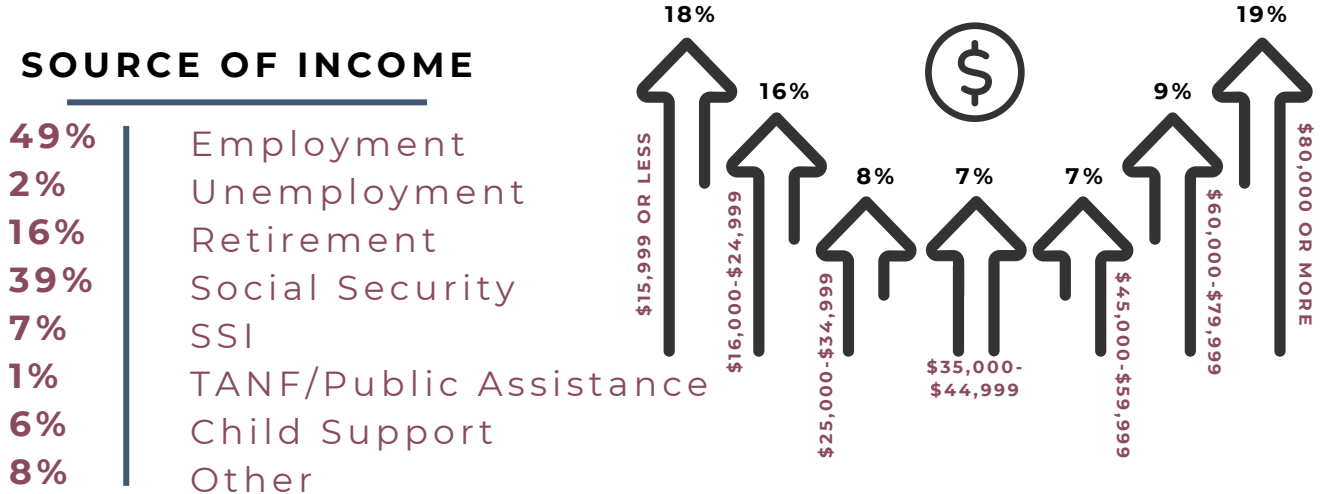
4% | Lack of available jobs

1% | Lack of childcare

7% | Not looking for employment

INCOME AND POVERTY

Moving from information about housing and financial status, the Regional Community Needs Assessment then asked respondents a number of questions regarding their income and perceptions of poverty. When asked to identify all sources of income, nearly half of survey respondents selected employment as one of their primary sources of income. When asked about how much income their household made in the previous year prior to taxes, 18% marked \$15,999 or less, as indicated in the graphic below.

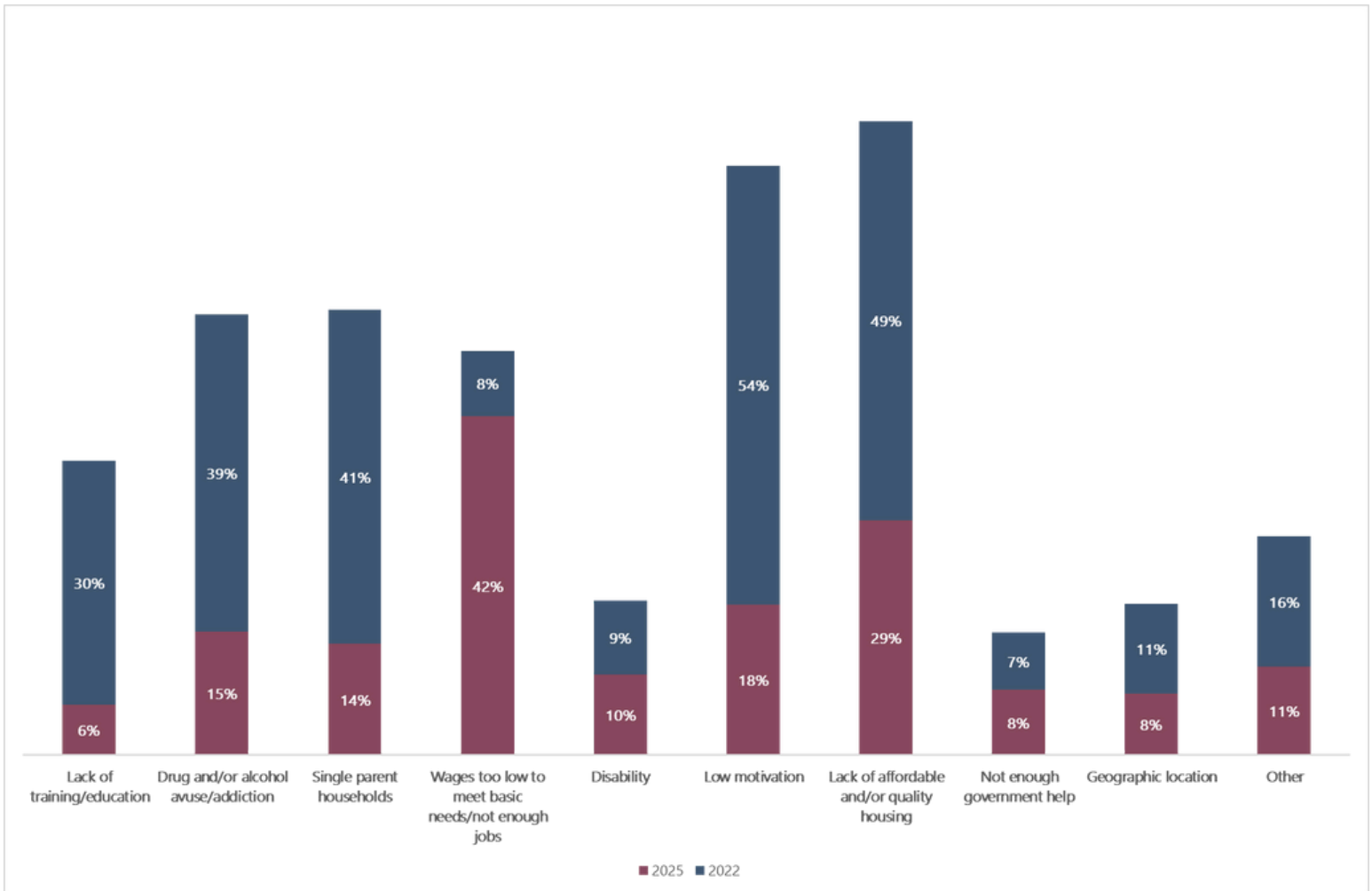


In order to get an accurate understanding of the financial status of our target population, data regarding household size was correlated with the income data shown above. The results show that out of the 211 respondents to the Regional Community Needs Assessment, 19% fall below the 2025 Federal Poverty Level (100% FPL) for their respective household size, as indicated by the blue-filled cells in the chart below. This is an increase of 17% from the last Regional Community Needs Assessment report completed in 2022, which showed that 2% of survey participants fell below the Federal Poverty Level.

	1 live alone	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people	7+ people
\$15,999 or less	25	5	1	0	0	0	0
\$16,000-\$24,999	17	8	2	0	0	0	0
\$25,000-\$34,999	2	5	0	0	0	0	1
\$35,000-\$44,999	1	3	0	0	2	0	0
\$45,000-\$59,999	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
\$60,000-\$79,999	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
\$80,000 or more	0	1	0	1	0	0	0

INCOME AND POVERTY

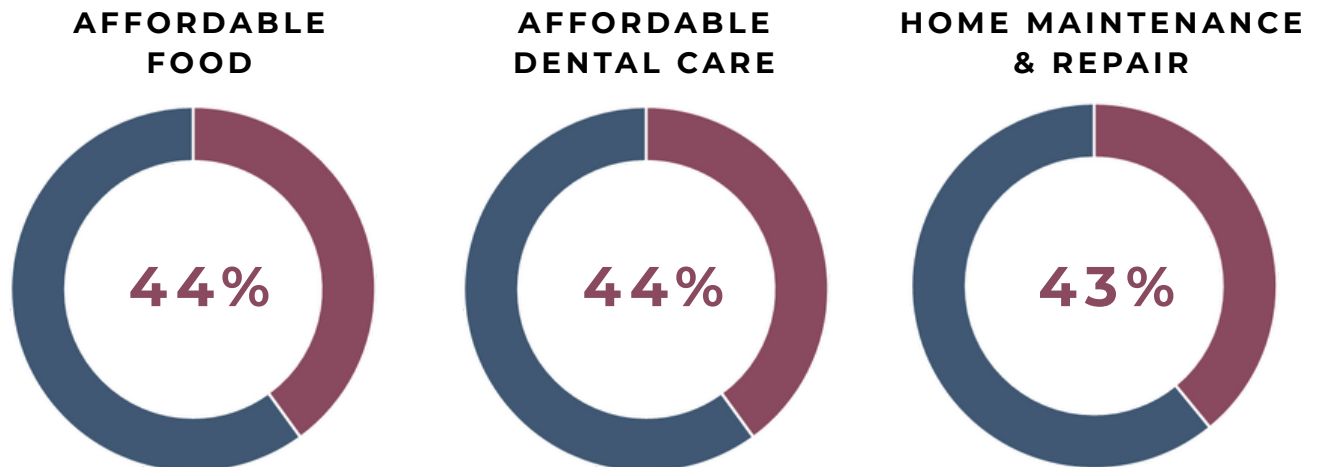
When asked to identify from a list of multiple options what they believed to be the top three causes of poverty, 42% said that wages were too low to meet basic needs and that there was a lack of enough jobs. After that, 29% said that the lack of affordable and/or quality housing was also a cause of poverty, as well as low motivation (18%), drug and/or alcohol abuse and addiction (15%), and single parent households (14%). To see how the results of this question have changed over the years, please refer to the graphic below, comparing the 2022 Regional Community Needs Assessment to the current results.



Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska's Community Service Coordinators and Support Services serve as the 'link' between Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska and its surrounding communities. By taking applications for many of our programs, the Community Service Coordinators offer supportive services to qualifying individuals, families, and communities, including Homeless Prevention and Emergency Assistance, in which income qualified individuals and families can obtain emergency food, clothing, shelter, and/or transportation.

TOP NEEDS IDENTIFIED

The final portion of Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska's 2025 Regional Community Needs Assessment asked survey respondents to indicate how serious of a problem certain needs, services, and resources are for their household. Overall, the top three needs identified by this survey for Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska's 27-county service area are Affordable Food, Affordable Dental Care, and Home Maintenance/Repair.



In addition to asking survey participants to rate the severity of their needs, we also asked participants to provide qualitative data on what needs they feel are not being met within their communities and what additional services they would like to see be made available in their community. After collating all of the responses to these two questions, it was determined that the single most mentioned service was **affordable, accessible, and quality child care**. Additional programs and services that were frequently mentioned include the need for **food pantries/food services** as well as **affordable housing**.

REFERENCES

United States Census Bureau's 2022 County Business Patterns

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/tables.html>

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/findings-and-insights/2025-report>

Annual Nebraska Licensed Drivers by County

<https://dmv.nebraska.gov/about/dmv-searchable-data>

Community Action Partnership's Data Hub

<https://cap.engagementnetwork.org/>

Buffett Early Childhood Institute_By the Numbers: Early Childhood in Nebraska report

<https://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/resources>

Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Workforce Trends | March 2025 Issues

<https://dol.nebraska.gov/trends>

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization in Nebraska - 2024

https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/news-release/2025/laborunderutilization_nebraska_20250221.htm#:~:text=In%202024%2C%20the%20broadest%20measure,the%20U.S.%20Bureau%20of%20Labor