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Okanogan County Community Needs Assessment, 2022



*For: Okanogan County
Community Action Council*

From: Points Consulting

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Contents

1. Introduction & Executive Summary	1
2. Demographics & Socioeconomics.....	2
Population Factors	2
Income & Poverty	5
Employment.....	9
Veterans.....	13
Housing	14
Homelessness and Youth Homelessness	16
3. Community Survey Results	17
Introduction	17
Respondents’ Survey Responses.....	18
Respondents’ Demographic Characteristics	30
Appendix: Detailed Data Tables.....	34

1. Introduction & Executive Summary

In the following report, Points Consulting (PC) provides a comprehensive analysis of demographics and observed needs in Okanogan County. This report will provide the Okanogan Community Action Council (OCCAC) and stakeholders in Okanogan County with information and insight on the previous, current, or new issues and needs in all communities. Being familiar with Okanogan County after conducting a Housing Needs Assessment in 2020, Points Consulting and the OCCAC continue to work together to address current community challenges.

In conducting this analysis, PC conducted a county wide survey to determine the most relevant needs for the communities and reviewed both census reports and previous needs assessments from the OCCAC. The OCCAC assisted PC by providing data, contacts, and survey management as the analysis was being conducted.

The report is organized as follows:

- Chapter I. Introduction & Executive Summary
- Chapter II. Demographics & Socioeconomics
- Chapter III. Community Survey Results
- Appendix

Populations in the area are quite diverse in terms of income, race/ethnicity, political views, government resources, hierarchy of individual needs, etc. The following bullet points highlight the observed needs in the area from a quantitative standpoint. Further details are explained in the report.

- At-risk households including those in poverty and low-income status are more concentrated in Okanogan County than surrounding counties in the state.
- Living-wage employment is one of several pressing issues for residents, due in part to 2015 plywood mill shutdown, and trends in earnings that are not keeping pace with state-level benchmarks.
- Multiple intense fire seasons over the past several years, impacting housing availability and agricultural employment, the most predominant of Okanogan County's industries.
- Affordable housing is a continuing need along with new inputs for substance abuse facilities, access to mental health services, and increased demand of services for assistance overall.
- Homelessness and homeless youth are of critical concern with at least 237 individuals homeless in 2021, while the OCCAC served 108 homeless youths in the same year.

2. Demographics & Socioeconomics

Population Factors

In order to properly assess the needs of the community in Okanogan County, it is necessary to understand the region's current demographics as well as the population trends in recent years. The population within Okanogan County's cities has fluctuated in the period between 2017 and 2020, and a decrease in population, or lack of growth, are the most common trends.

Table 1 below shows the change in population for the largest cities and unincorporated areas in Okanogan County. Within incorporated areas, the largest growth rate over this period occurred in Tonasket, with an increase of 21.9%, while Oroville saw the biggest population decline, decreasing 9.4%. The largest city in the county, Omak, also experienced a slight 0.6% increase in population. In keeping with the residency trends of the county, unincorporated areas grew more than any city, with a net increase of 932 persons (3.6%).

Table 2 illustrates how Okanogan County's population growth increased at a slightly faster rate than the U.S., meanwhile the growth of Washington State exceeded both that of Okanogan and the United States.

Table 1: Okanogan County Population Change 2017-2020 by Area

Area	2017 Population	2020 Population	Numerical Change	% Change
Omak	4,770	4,801	31	0.6%
Okanogan City	2,572	2,585	13	0.5%
Brewster	2,460	2,323	(137)	(5.6%)
Oroville	2,033	1,842	(191)	(9.4%)
Twisp	1,129	1,005	124	11.0%
Tonasket	928	1,131	203	21.9%
Pateros	749	718	(31)	(4.1%)
Rest of County	26,736	27,699	963	3.6%
Total	41,377	42,104	727	1.8%

Source: US Census Bureau, DEC Redistricting Data, 2020

Table 2: Okanogan County, Washington State Total, and US Total Population Change, 2017-2020

Area	2017 Population	2020 Population	Numerical Change	% Change
Okanogan County	41,377	42,104	727	1.8%
Washington State (Millions)	7.3	7.7	0.4	5.4%
USA (Millions)	325.1	329.4	4.4	1.3%

Source: US Census, Annual Population Estimates, 2010-2020

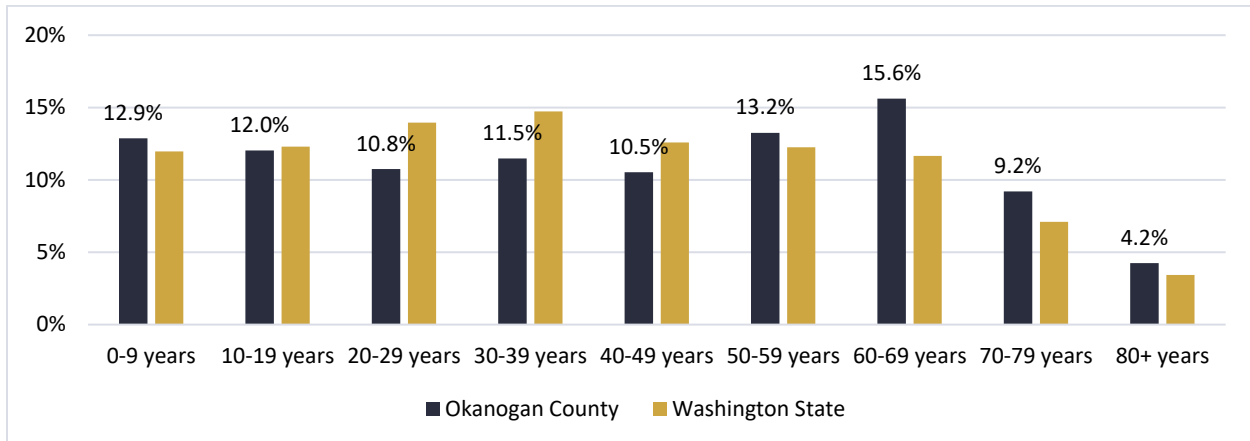
In smaller towns and counties across the United States, older age cohorts (65 years and older) have been growing in recent years.¹ Okanogan County is one of the many examples that showcase that trend, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 below. The age cohorts of 50-to-59 and 60-to-69 years of age compose

¹U.S. Census Bureau: The U.S. Joins Other Countries with Large Aging Populations

<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2018/03/graying-america.html#:~:text=Starting%20in%202030%2C%20when%20all,add%20a%20half%20million%20centenarians>

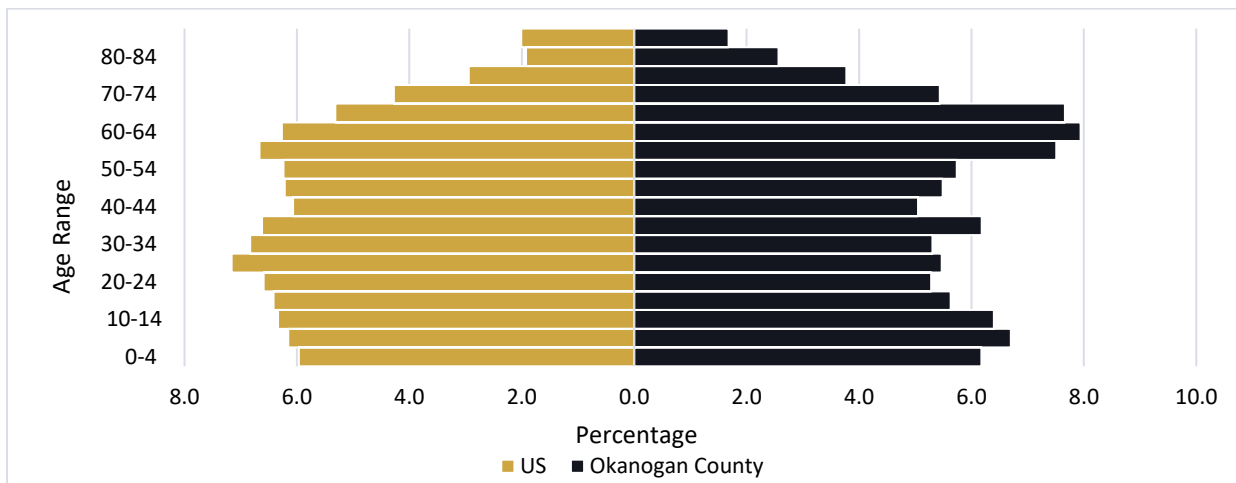
around 28% of Okanogan County’s population. The same cannot be said for Washington State as a whole, given the largest age cohort in the state is the 20-to-39-year-old group. Compared to the United States, the number of older age groups seems larger in the county, but the general trend toward an aging nation is expected to continue as Baby Boomers drive the aging trend.

Figure 1: Age Cohort Distribution, Okanogan County, and Washington State



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 2: Okanogan County vs US Total Population by Age Range, 2019



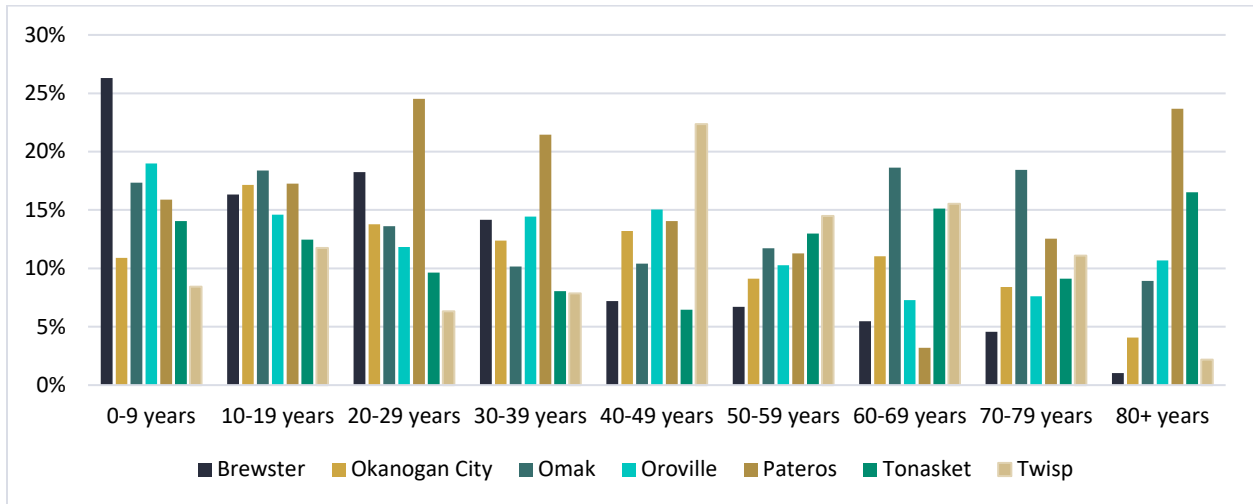
Source: US Census Bureau, DEC Redistricting Data, 2020

Figure 3 shows the age cohort distribution in the largest cities within Okanogan County. The county’s largest city, Omak, hosts an older population in general, with the largest proportion of 60-to-79-year-olds among the cities. Okanogan City, the county’s second largest city, has a comparatively young population, with their largest age cohort being 10-to-19-year-olds.

The size of the cohorts for Okanogan City decline consistently as ages increase, meaning that the city has the third-smallest group of persons over 70 when compared to the rest of the cities. Brewster stands out as having a large number of young people, particularly those in the 0-to-9-year-old cohort. On the other end of the spectrum, Pateros has the highest proportion of persons over the age of 80. Characteristic of

the Methow Valley, Twisp is highly concentrated among those in the Generation X and Baby Boomer generations, but particularly those in the 40-to-49-year-old cohort.

Figure 3: Age Cohort Distribution by City



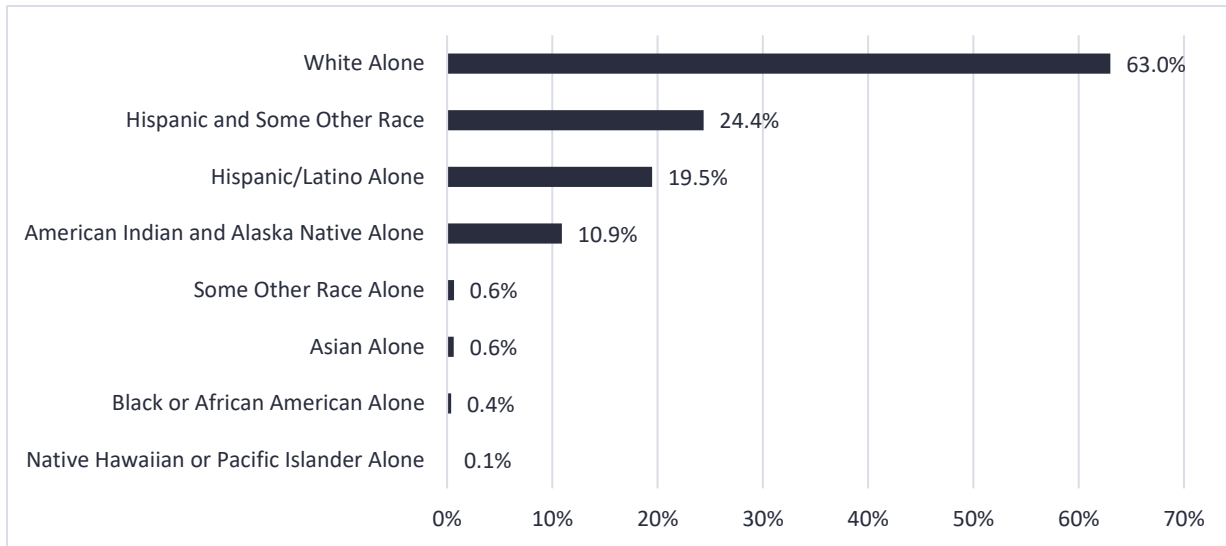
Source: US Census Bureau, DEC Redistricting Data, 2020

Okanogan County is a majority-white county, however there are also a significant number of Hispanics and Native Americans in the region. Figure 4 below shows the distribution of Okanogan County’s population by race. Many of the American Indian residents, which comprise 10.9% of the population, reside on the Colville Reservation in the southeastern part of the county. In fact, the Colville Reservation CCD accounts for 73% of the county’s American Indian and Alaska Native population. It is important to note, however, that the Reservation CCD also expands into neighboring Ferry County. The Colville Reservation has a population of about 7,200, and about 3,000 Reservation residents live in Okanogan County.

The classification of Hispanic and some other race makes up close to a quarter of the population in the county, while those who identify as Hispanic or Latino alone comprise almost 20%. From 2010 to 2021, there was a 3.7% increase in the county’s Hispanic population—the largest increase out of any race in that period.² Most of the county’s Hispanic residents live in the Brewster-Wakefield, Okanogan City, Omak, and Tonasket.

² Esri Business Analyst, Okanogan County Community Profile. (2021)

Figure 4: Okanogan County Population by Race 2020



Source: US Census Bureau, DEC Redistricting Data, 2020

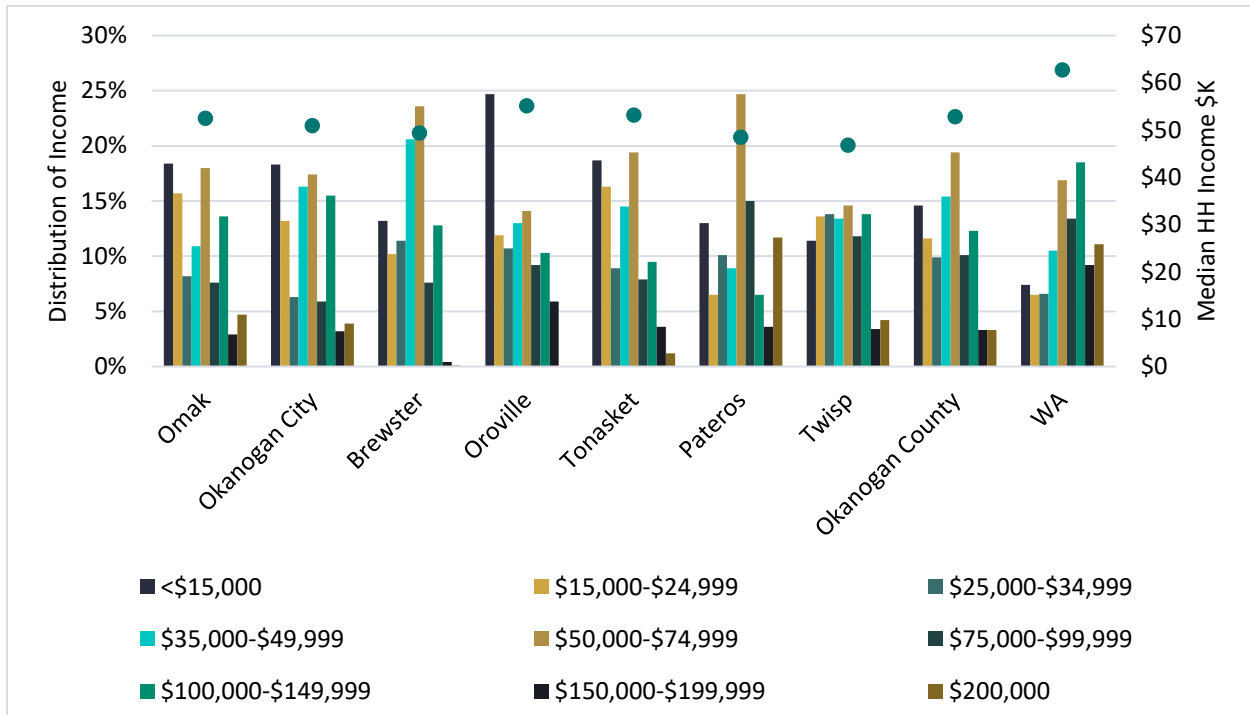
Income & Poverty

Income

Figure 5 below show the median household income for the largest cities in Okanogan County, as well as the totals for the county and the state. The county and the largest cities within it all have median household incomes below the state totals.

The highest median household income for the county in 2021 was Oroville, with a median income of \$55,161. Displaying the high levels of income disparity within the region, Oroville also had the highest proportion of household incomes below \$15K. The highest proportion of incomes above \$200K is in Pateros. Interestingly, Pateros also had the second lowest median household income. On the lower end was Twisp, with a median household income of \$46,856, which is 11% lower than the county total, and 25% lower than that of Washington State. Tables 3 and 4 below show a detailed breakdown of household income distribution by city with the percentage and number of households in each income bracket.

Figure 5: Distribution of Household Income



Source: Points Consulting, 2021 using Esri Business Analyst

Table 3: Okanogan County Median Household Income by Area

Household Income Base	Oroville	Tonasket	Omak	Okanogan City	Brewster	Pateros	Twisp	Okanogan County	WA
<\$15K	24.7%	18.7%	18.4%	18.3%	13.2%	13.0%	11.4%	14.6%	7.4%
\$15K - \$25K	11.9%	16.3%	15.7%	13.2%	10.2%	6.5%	13.6%	11.6%	6.5%
\$25K - \$35K	10.7%	8.9%	8.2%	6.3%	11.4%	10.1%	13.8%	9.9%	6.6%
\$35K - \$50K	13.0%	14.5%	10.9%	16.3%	20.6%	8.9%	13.4%	15.4%	10.5%
\$50K - \$75K	14.1%	19.4%	18.0%	17.4%	23.6%	24.7%	14.6%	19.4%	16.9%
\$75K - \$100K	9.2%	7.9%	7.6%	5.9%	7.6%	15.0%	11.8%	10.1%	13.4%
\$100K - \$150K	10.3%	9.5%	13.6%	15.5%	12.8%	6.5%	13.8%	12.3%	18.5%
\$150K - \$200K	5.9%	3.6%	2.9%	3.2%	0.4%	3.6%	3.4%	3.3%	9.2%
\$200K+	0.0%	1.2%	4.7%	3.9%	0.1%	11.7%	4.2%	3.3%	11.1%
Median HH Income	\$55,161	\$53,207	\$52,513	\$50,993	\$49,439	\$48,547	\$46,856	\$52,868	\$62,724

Source: Points Consulting, 2021 using Esri Business Analyst

Table 4: Number of Households by Median Income

Median Household Income	Omak	Okanogan City	Brewster	Oroville	Tonasket	Pateros	Twisp	Okanogan County	WA
<\$15K	404	196	96	201	94	32	57	2,659	224,398
\$15K-\$25K	345	142	74	97	82	16	68	2,125	195,864
\$25K-\$35K	181	68	83	87	45	25	69	1,803	200,273
\$35K-\$50K	239	175	149	106	73	22	67	2,817	319,234
\$50K-\$75K	397	187	171	115	98	61	73	3,547	510,982
\$75K-\$99K	167	63	55	75	40	37	59	1,846	405,953
\$100K-\$150K	300	166	93	84	48	16	69	2,238	559,707
\$150K-\$200K	64	34	3	48	18	9	17	599	277,747
\$200K	104	42	1	0	6	29	21	607	337,174

Source: Points Consulting, 2021 using Esri Business Analyst

Poverty

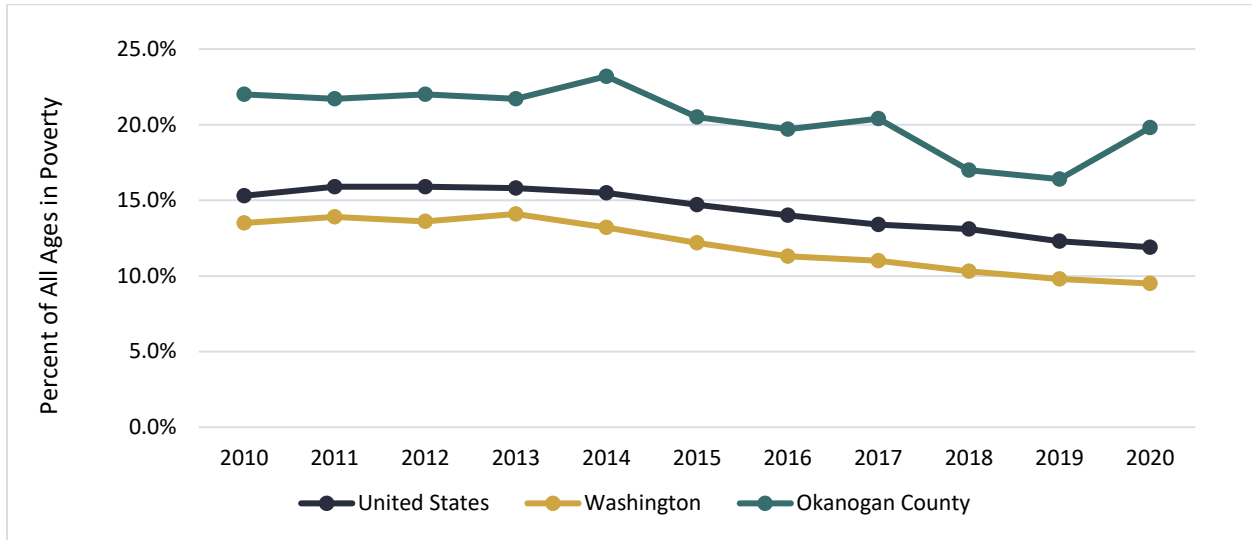
Official poverty as measured by the Census has been decreasing since the 1960s across the US.³ Official poverty is calculated by comparing a families before tax income (not including capital gains or noncash benefits) and comparing it against thresholds that vary by the size of a family and the age of its members. Table 1A in the [Appendix](#) illustrates the federal poverty guidelines by persons in a household. The reduction in poverty levels can be attributed in part to the programs implemented under The War on Poverty in the 1960s, along with the economic security programs that were introduced later on. Programs such as food assistance, tax credits for working families, health care coverage, and worker employment support have aided in lifting millions of Americans out of poverty, with 37 million people coming out of poverty in 2018.⁴

This reduction in poverty can be observed in Figure 6 below, where all three regions experienced varying degrees of a decrease in their population in poverty. Washington had the biggest decrease in the period from 2010 to 2020, going down 4%. Whereas Okanogan County’s population in poverty went down by roughly half that proportion, dropping 2%—about one and a half percent less than the national decrease.

³ Poverty in the United States: 50-Year Trends and Safety Net Impacts. A. Chaudry (2016) <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/pdf/154286/50YearTrends.pdf>

⁴ Economic Security Programs Cut Poverty Nearly in Half Over Last 50 Years. M. Saenz & D. Trisi (2019) <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/economic-security-programs-cut-poverty-nearly-in-half-over-last-50>

Figure 6: Population of All Ages in Poverty in Okanogan County, Washington, and United States, 2010-2020

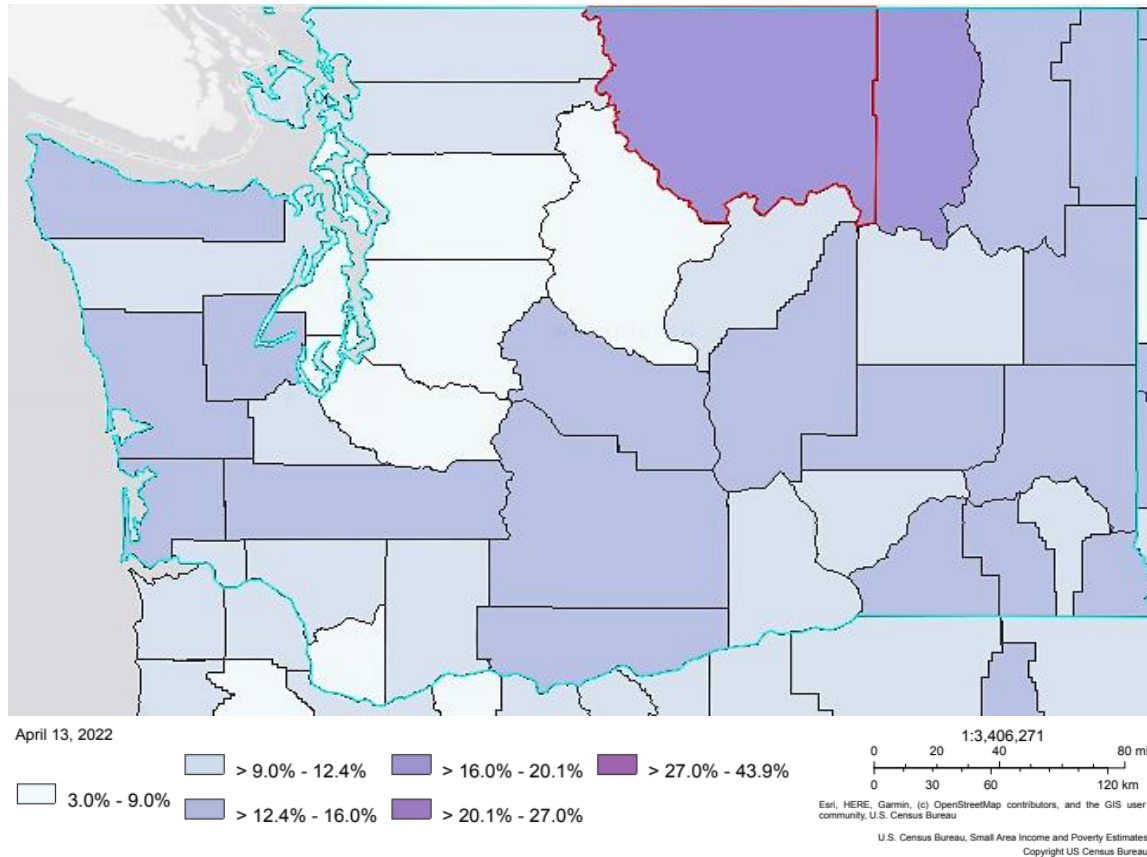


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2020

Recovering from the national and worldwide pandemic in 2020/21 has been a challenge for many sectors of the community, regardless of population size or average household income. By 2020, there were more than 8,500 people below the poverty line, which is 20% of Okanogan County’s population. During the last few years, the county has made progress in bringing down the amount of those in poverty. However, the unfortunate events of the pandemic altered that course, and poverty Figures are back up to a percentage slightly above the amount in 2015.

When comparing Okanogan County to other counties in Washington, Okanogan has the highest percentage of individuals of all ages in poverty, apart from neighboring Ferry County. This is illustrated in Figure 7 below. The remaining counties have 16% or less of their total population below poverty levels. Table 2A in the [Appendix](#) has a full ranking of Washington counties by their poverty rate.

Figure 7: Poverty Percentage Estimates per County in Washington State, 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2020

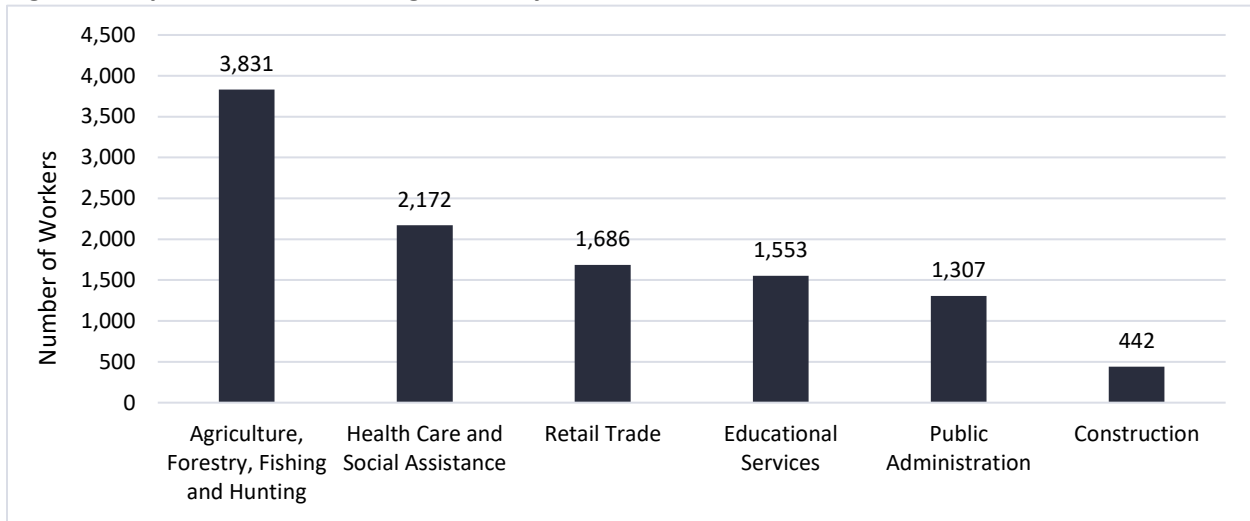
Employment

The foundational economic drivers in Okanogan County are Agriculture and Forestry.⁵ Figure 8 shows the employment numbers for the top industries in Okanogan County for 2020. The region has most employment concentrated in industries such as Agriculture (3,831), Health Care (2,172), Retail Trade (1,686), Education (1,553), Public Administration (1,307), and Construction (442).

Table 5 shows the average monthly earnings for these industries and compares them to the Figures for Washington State and the US. Earnings across these industries fall below the averages for both the state and the nation. The highest average earnings in the county are in the health care and social assistance industry, which differs from Washington State and the US, where the highest average earners are those in the construction industry.

⁵Okanogan County Washington: Demographics, https://www.okanogancounty.org/residents/about_us/demographics.php

Figure 8: Top industries in Okanogan County, 2020 Q1-Q4



Source: Points Consulting using United States Census LEHD Quarterly Workforce Indicators

Table 5: Average Monthly Earnings in Okanogan County, Washington, and United States in Top Industries, 2020 Q1-Q4

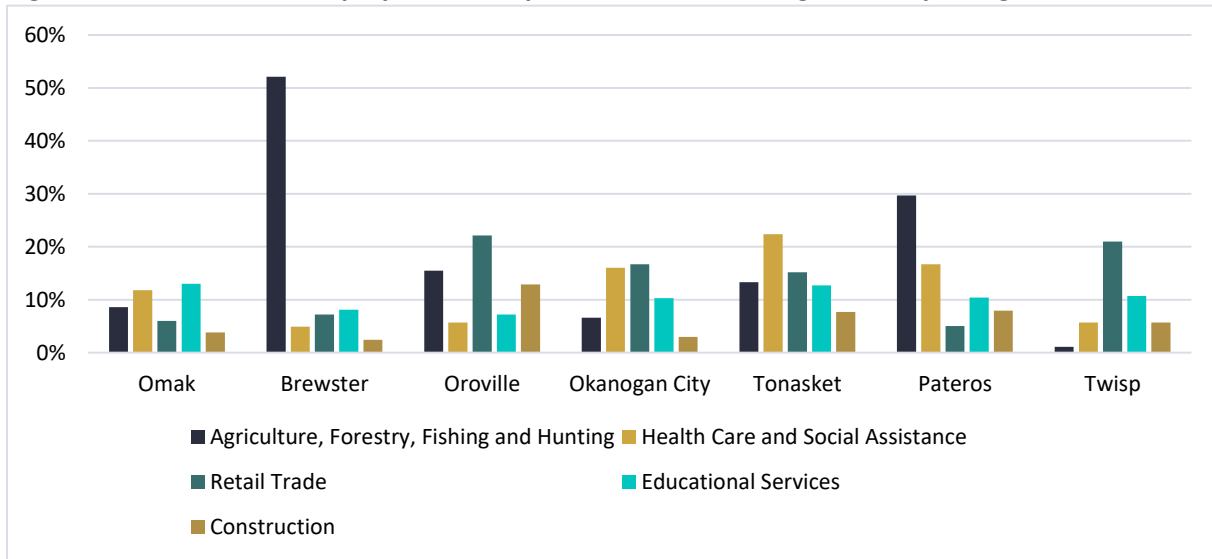
Industry	Okanogan County	Washington	United States
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$2,703	\$3,359	\$3,480
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$3,135	\$5,011	\$4,714
Retail Trade	\$2,901	\$5,889	\$3,288
Educational Services	\$2,045	\$4,075	\$4,767
Construction	\$3,432	\$6,072	\$5,600

Source: United States Census LEHD Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2020

Figures 9 and 10 below show how employment is distributed across the cities in Okanogan County and the racial makeup of each industry. Brewster stands out with a 52% employment rate in agriculture and forestry, meaning that the majority of its labor force is employed in this industry. Pateros follows Brewster with 30% of employment concentrated in agriculture. Omak has 13% of its employment in educational services, which is due in part to the presence of Wenatchee Valley College. Okanogan City has 17% of its employment in retail trade closely followed by 16% in Health Care and Social Assistance. Twisp, along side Oroville, have 22% of employment in retail trade and its second highest in educational services.

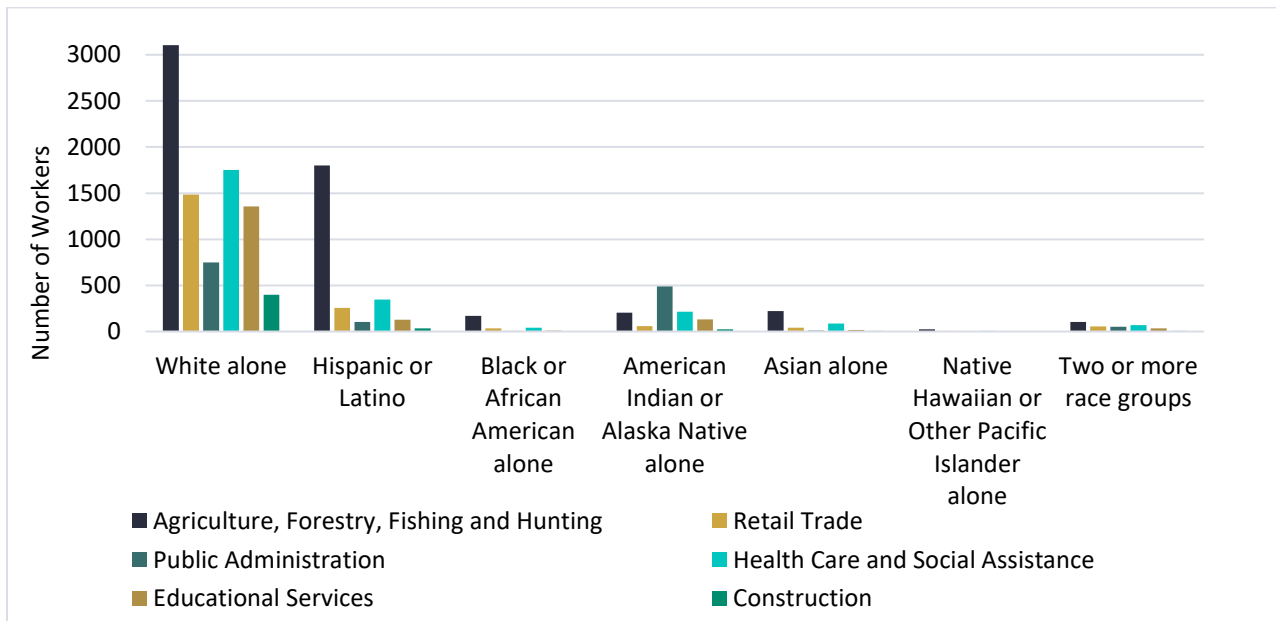
As noted in previous sections, Okanogan County consists mostly of individuals that identify as White alone, followed by those identifying as Hispanic or Latino. These are the racial groups that also make up the majority of the local workforce. Whites and Hispanics have the same employment distribution, but in different quantities. Both are mostly concentrated in agriculture, followed by health care, and then educational services. Every other race has much of its labor force employed in construction except Native Americans, who mostly work in public administration.

Figure 9: Distribution of Employment in Top Industries for Okanogan County's Largest Cities



Source: Points Consulting using Esri Business Analyst, 2021

Figure 10: Top Industry Employment by Race/Ethnicity Groups, 2020 Q1-Q4



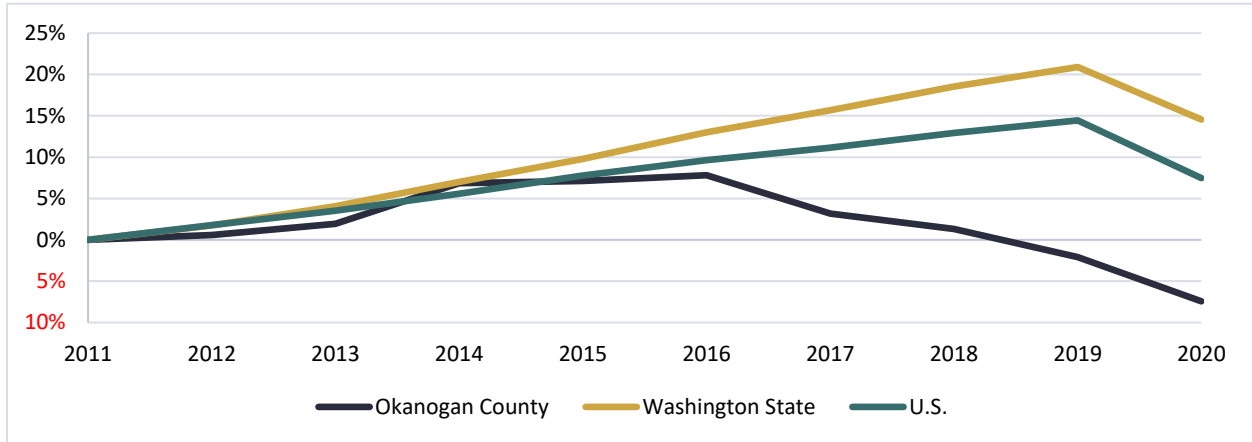
Source: Points Consulting using United States Census LEHD Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2020

Figures 11 to 13 illustrate how employment, wages, and establishment growth rates have changed in the county, the state, and the US from 2011 to 2020. In terms of employment, the county kept up with the state and national levels up to 2016, where Okanogan County's employment growth rate began steadily declining—entering negative territory in 2017. A contributing factor to the decline beginning in

2016 was the fact that Omak Forest Products went out of business in that year; shedding 217 jobs in what was at that time the county’s largest manufacturer.⁶

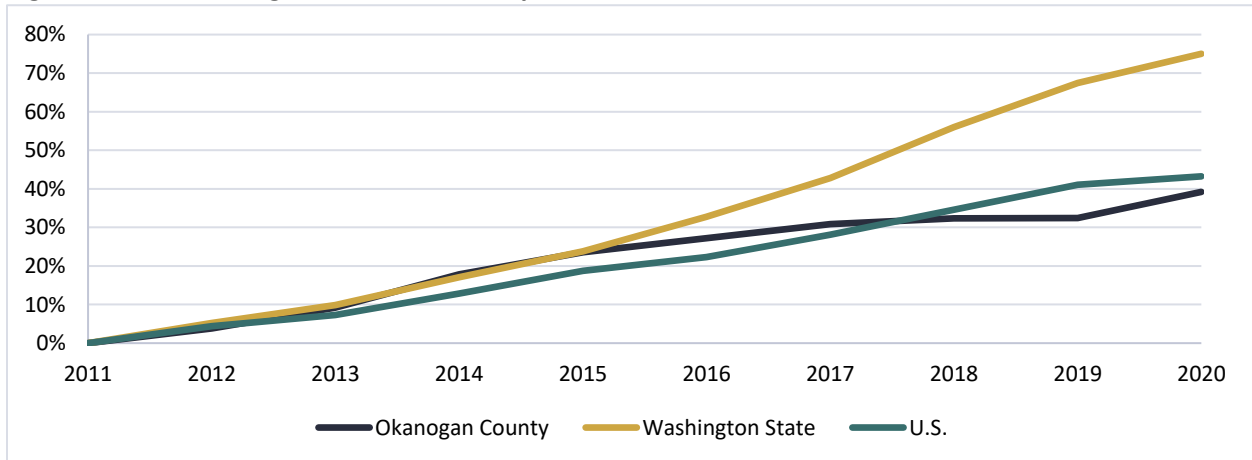
Despite the decline in employment growth, wage growth has been quite steady when comparing it against the rates for the US. The state’s wages grew faster than both the county and the nation for this period. However, Washington is an exception among most states when it comes to wage growth, since it ranked 5th in terms of average wages in 2019.⁷ The county also had a decrease in establishments, indicating business closures throughout the county in this period.

Figure 11: Annual Employment Growth Rate Comparison, 2011-2020



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2011-2020

Figure 12: Annual Wage Growth Rate Comparison, 2011-2020



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2011-2020

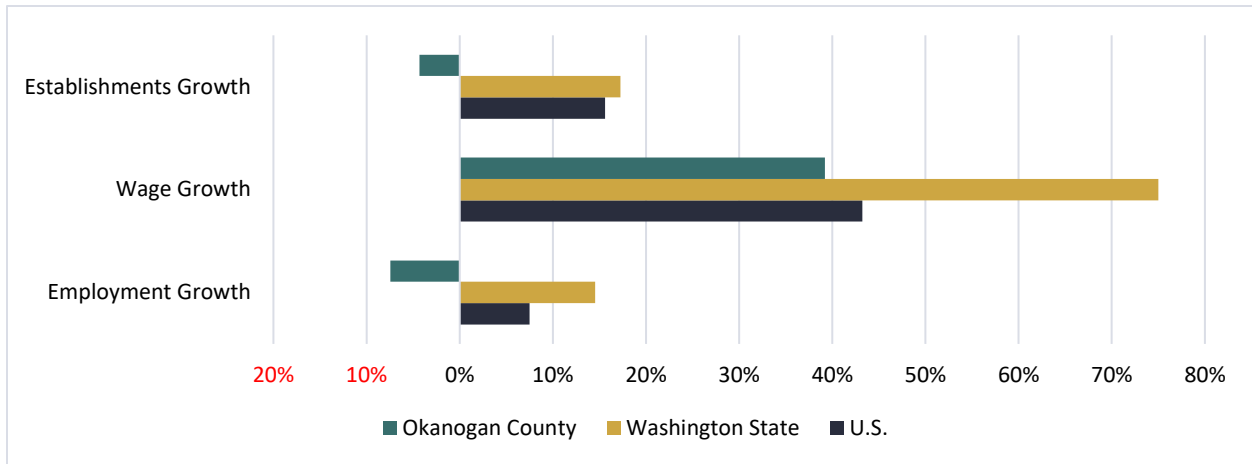
⁶ Okanogan County profile. D. Meseck (2022)

<https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/county-profiles/okanogan>

⁷ Washington and U.S. average wages. (2019)

<https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/statewide-data/washington-trends/economic-trends/washington-and-us-average-wages>

Figure 13: Comparison of Establishment, Wage, and Employment Growth, 2011-2020

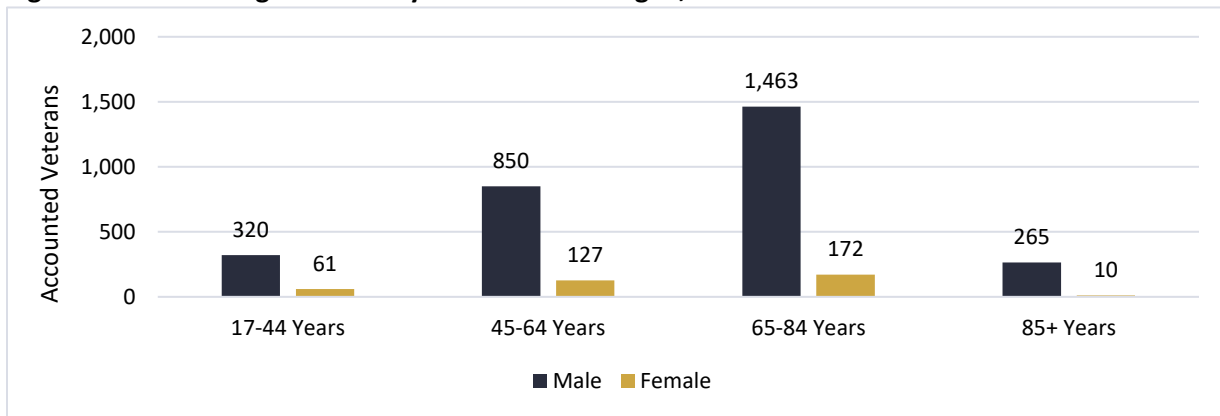


Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2011-2020

Veterans

In 2020, the estimated number of Veterans in the county was over 3,200, which is 7.8% of Okanogan County’s population. Figure 14 shows the number of Veterans by gender and age in the county for 2020. Those who are 65-to-84-years old compose 8.4% of the overall Veteran population within the county, which signals the continued need for preventative health care, assistance, and accessibility of resources. While male Veterans are more common than females, the female Veteran population still composes 0.9% of Okanogan County’s population.

Figure 14: Veteran Age Cohorts by Gender in Okanogan, 2020

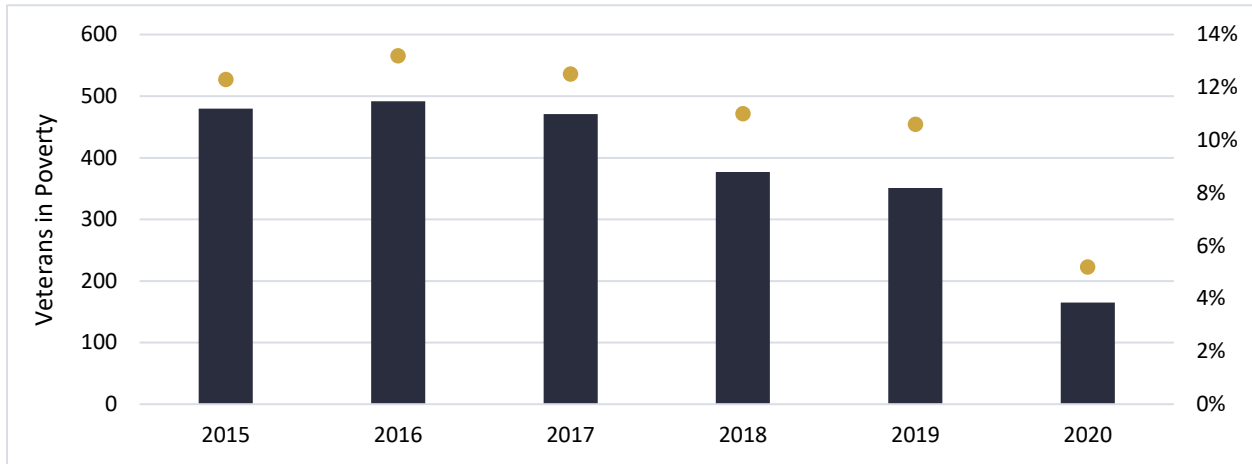


Source: U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, 2020

Figure 15 shows the number of Veterans in poverty between 2015 and 2020. Veteran poverty peaked in 2016, where 13.2% of Veterans in the county were under the federal poverty line. Following that point, however, poverty rates for Veterans have steadily decreased to a low in 2020 of 165 Veterans in poverty, or just 5% of the county’s Veterans. The steep decrease in 2020 is likely due in part to the government aid issued in 2020 to help Americans during the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact of the VA Supportive Service for Veterans and Families program that assists veterans facing homelessness or

the threat of homelessness (this program is implemented by OCCAC). According to census data, the stimulus payments issued that year helped lift millions of Americans out of poverty.⁸

Figure 15: Veterans in Poverty in Okanogan, 2015-2020



Source: US Census Bureau, DEC Redistricting Data, 2020

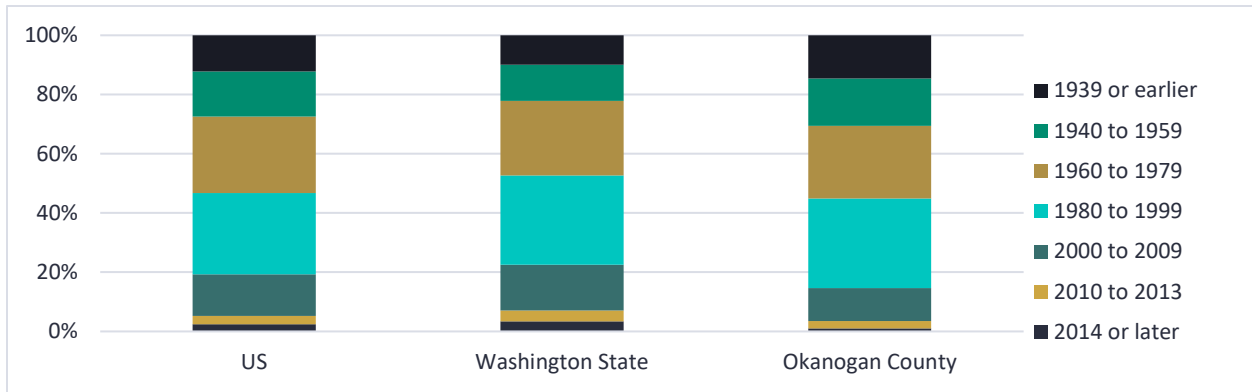
Housing

Okanogan County had a total of 17,884 housing units as of 2020. Owner-occupied units composed 66% of all units, while 34% of them were renter occupied. Figure 16 shows how most homes in the county were made between 1980 and 1999, which is also the case in the state as a whole and in the US. In fact, the distribution in the age of housing stock in the county exactly mirrors that of the US, with Washington state having a larger share of its homes built after the year 2000.

Okanogan County diverges considerably from the state and the US in the types of units available. Single-family detached homes make up most of the housing stock in all three regions, however Okanogan County has a significantly higher share of mobile or manufactured homes. It also has fewer large apartment complexes of varying sizes. It is also more common for homeowners to have the current value of their houses in Okanogan County to be valued between \$200,000 to \$500,000 as shown in Figure 18. Although, lower than average income levels in the area pose a challenge for most individuals in relation to housing.

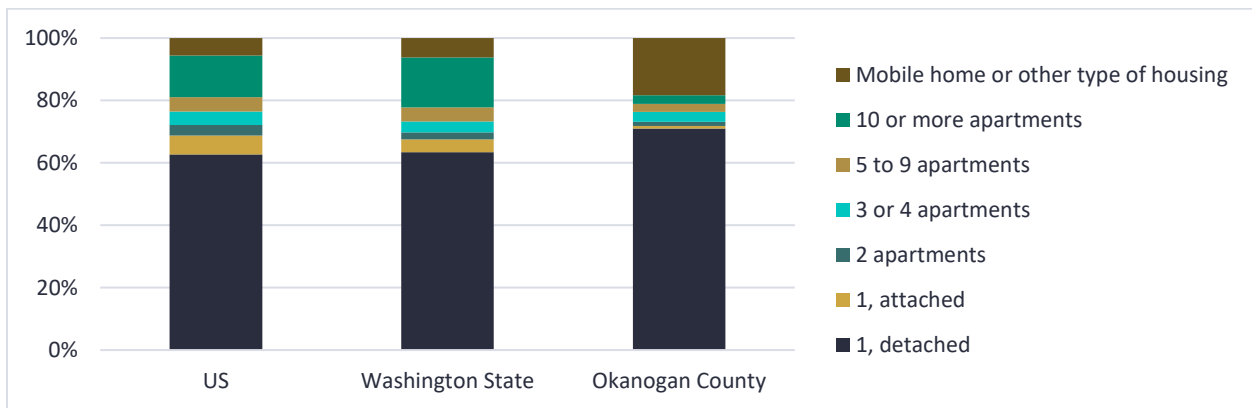
⁸ U.S. government aid helped reduce poverty in 2020, Census data shows. J. Marte (2021) <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-median-income-dropped-2020-poverty-rose-census-data-shows-2021-09-14/>

Figure 16: Housing Stock by Period of Development



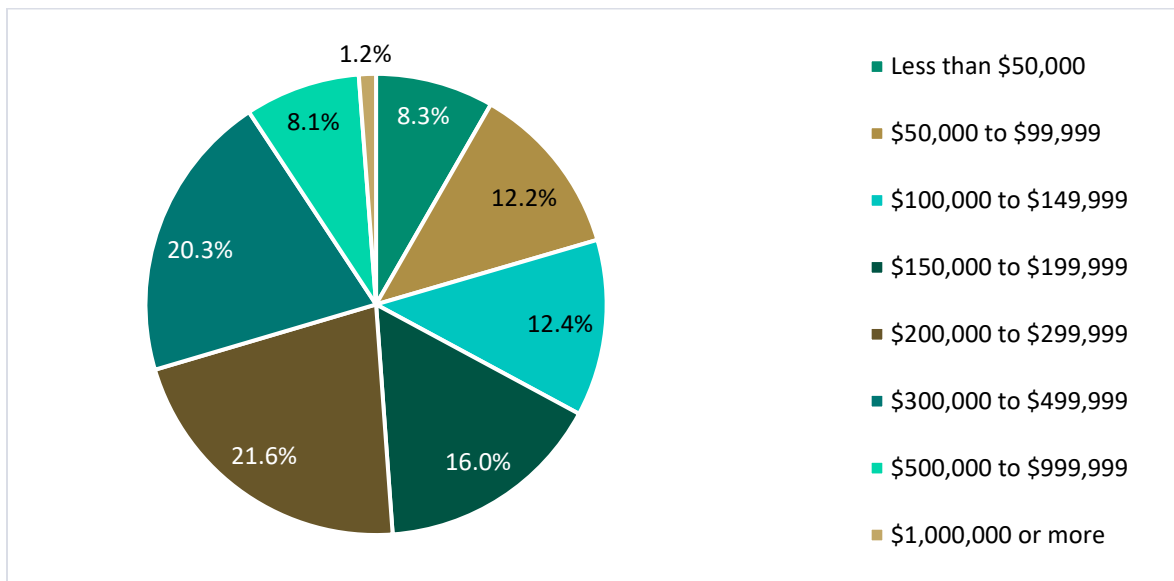
Source: U.S. Census ACS S2504

Figure 17: Units in Structures, 2020



Source: U.S. Census ACS S2504

Figure 18: Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in Okanogan County, 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Homelessness and Youth Homelessness

In 2020, Washington State reported the highest number of homeless individuals within the Pacific Northwest region of over 22K people (3.8%). Of these individuals, 2,100 are family households, over 1,600 are Veterans, and 1,700 are young adults between 18- to 24-years old.

Over the last few years homelessness and homelessness of the youth have, unfortunately, grown in Okanogan County. Recent reports indicate nearly 100 individuals between ages of 18- to 24-years old and less than 11 minors are homeless or have unstable homes. Detailed demographic information of homeless people or unstably housed in the county are displayed in Table 6, followed by those who are accounted for as homeless chronically or newly.

Table 6: Homelessness in Okanogan County

Homeless or Unstably Housed: New and Continuing Persons							
Minor Only, None Under 12	Minor Only, at least one under 12	Youth (18-24) w/o Minors	Adults (25+) w/o Minors	Single Parent with Minors	Two Parents with Minors	Unknown	Total
<11	0	99	584	161	90	0	935
Homeless only (Emergency Shelter or Unsheltered), New and Continuing Persons							
<11	0	29	191	23	29	0	273

Source: Snapshot of Homelessness in Washington State for January 2021. https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SnapshotWA_January-2021.pdf

Table 7: Homeless or Unstably Housed, New and Continuing Persons in Okanogan County

Race/Ethnicity	Youth and Young Adults (including pregnant and parenting YYA)	Households with no children (25+)	Households with adults and children (25+)	Unknown	Total
White, Non-Hispanic	39	292	133	0	464
Black/African American	<11	14	<11	0	27
Hispanic	13	75	41	0	129
Asian	<11	<11	<11	0	<11
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	<11	0	0	<11
American Indian/Alaskan Native	49	243	88	0	380
Unknown	<11	<11	<11	0	<11

Source: Snapshot of Homelessness in Washington State for January 2021. https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SnapshotWA_January-2021.pdf

As shown above in Table 7, those who identify as White and no other race are the cohort most reported as homeless, followed by Hispanics. What is also noteworthy, is the 380 reported American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals that are homeless, but it is not disclosed if they are accounted for on or off the Reservation or both. Not only are households and adults that are homeless an ongoing presence in Okanogan County, the number of homeless students in the area are in a great need of assistance. Washington State publishes annual 'report cards' of each school district in the state of

enrollment sizes, graduates, test scores, demographic information etc. The percent of homeless students are available in each district report, with increasing numbers throughout the years.

The OCCAC has programs to serve homeless youth and in the last year gave 108 individuals their assistance. Given the County is one of the largest poverty areas in the State and more households fall into lower income cohorts, looking to the future generations and the current impacts they face, there are equal needs for current young adults and adults in need.

Table 8 displays the number of students in each school district that are homeless with the percentage compared to the total number of students enrolled in each school. Though there is not a consistent trend between total size of the school and those attending who are homeless, there is a trend that each district does have homeless or displaced students.

Table 8: Homeless Students in Okanogan County by School District

School District	Count	Percentage	Total Students
Omak	64	1.0%	6,385
Tonasket	157	13.4%	1,175
Okanogan	47	4.5%	1,055
Brewster	31	3.2%	970
Oroville	2	0.4%	533
Pateros	16	5.5%	291
Nespelem	9	0.7%	135

Source: Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction – Report Card, 2021.

<https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard>

3. Community Survey Results

Introduction

Points Consulting and The Okanogan County Community Action Council (OCCCAC) conducted the 2022 Okanogan Community Needs Survey between April and May. PC primarily solicited responses electronically but provided the opportunity for paper-based responses at a few specific events. Our outreach focused on Okanogan County residents exclusively. A total of 160 unique responses were collected, the majority of which through the electronic method. When the OCCAC conducted a similar survey in 2017, the response was higher, receiving 154 more responses.

The 2017 report has the top three needs in Okanogan County as affordable housing, jobs and education. While the 2022 survey lists affordable housing, healthcare and food assistance as its top needs. Another comparison in responses related to homelessness, when asked if the respondent knew someone who is homeless currently in 2017 those who said yes made up 8.5% of the survey takers, while this year jumped up to 64.4% of respondents.

The survey included a mix of both fixed responses questions (e.g., multiple and single choice) and open-ended questions. PC utilized a thematic coding method to group open-ended responses into categories that are largely similar.

Respondents' Survey Responses

Figure 19: "Your Zip codes"

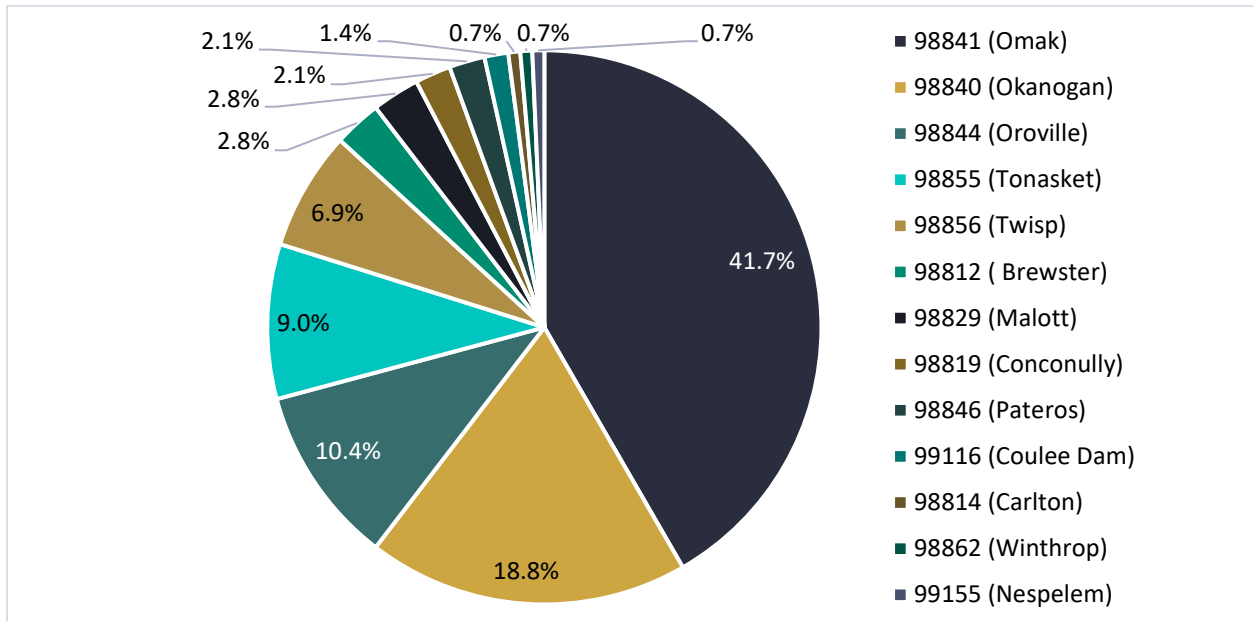


Table 9: In your opinion, what are the greatest needs for Okanogan County?

	Count	Percentage
Affordable Housing	142	24.4%
Healthcare	65	11.1%
Food Assistance	64	11.0%
Energy/heat Assistance	61	10.5%
Transportation	54	9.3%
Jobs	49	8.4%
Education	45	7.7%
Family Counseling	45	7.7%
Legal Assistance	35	6.0%
Other:	23	3.9%
Total	583	100.0%

Figure 20: Coded Responses: In your opinion, what are the greatest needs for Okanogan County?

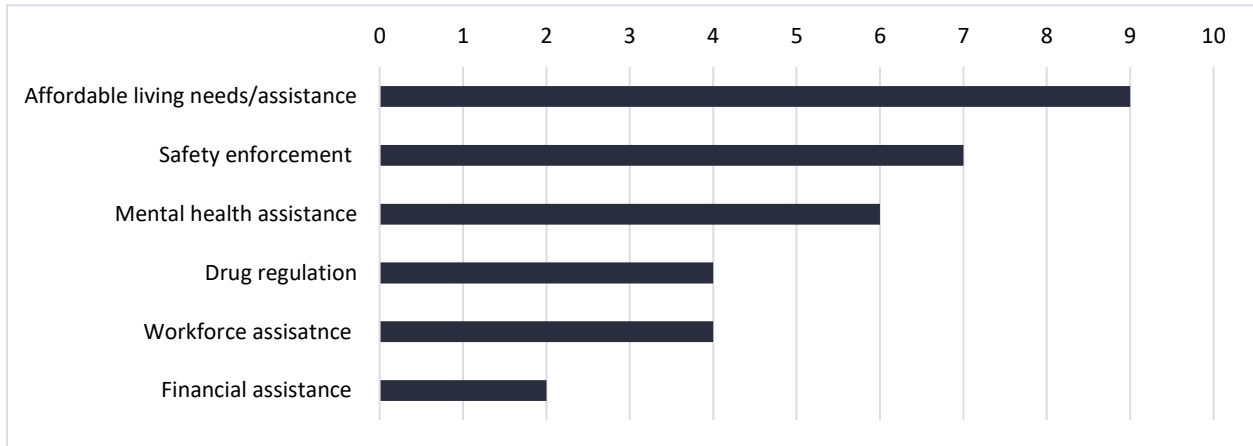


Table 10: What do you think is the biggest obstacle for Economic Development in Okanogan County?

	Count	Percentage
Job Opportunities	81	28.2%
Resistance to change	60	20.9%
Distance from urban areas	46	16.0%
Transportation	39	13.6%
Financing	38	13.2%
Other:	23	8.0%
Total	287	100.0%

Figure 21: Coded Responses: What do you think is the biggest obstacle for Economic Development in Okanogan County? ('Other'):

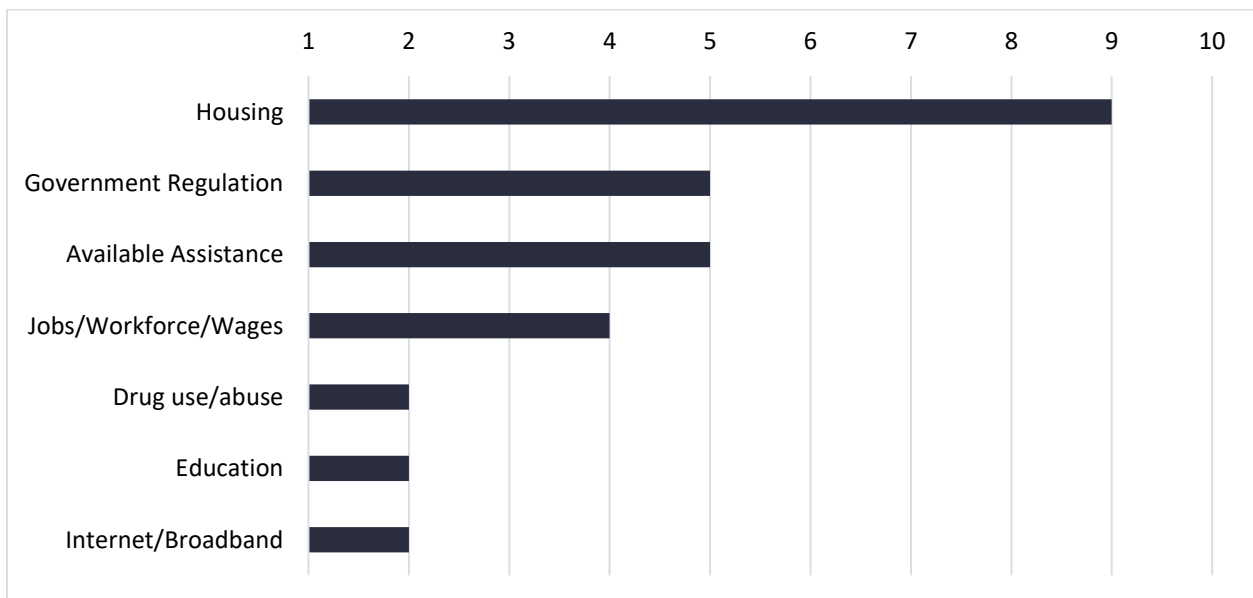


Table 11: Do you feel there is enough training/education available for quality jobs?

	Count	Percentage
No	93	63.7%
Unsure	35	24.0%
Yes	18	12.3%
Total	146	100.0%

Table 12: What types of employment training do you think is needed in our community?

	Count	Percentage
Vocational	93	19.9%
On the Job	79	16.9%
Technology	73	15.6%
Interpersonal Skills/Communication	62	13.3%
Entry Level	58	12.4%
Business/Entrepreneur	48	10.3%
Job Search/Resume	45	9.6%
Other	9	1.9%
Total	467	100.0%

Figure 22: Coded Responses: What type of employment training do you think is needed in our community? ('Other'):



Table 13: What do you think are the greatest barriers to obtaining employment in our community?

	Count	Percentage
Affordable Housing	89	18.7%
Child Care	79	16.6%
Training	68	14.3%
Local Education & Training	63	13.3%
Transportation	58	12.2%
Transitional support for people leaving Government programs	54	11.4%
Education	49	10.3%
Other:	15	3.2%
Total	475	100.0%

Figure 23: Coded Responses: What do you think are the greatest barriers to obtaining employment in our community? ('Other'):

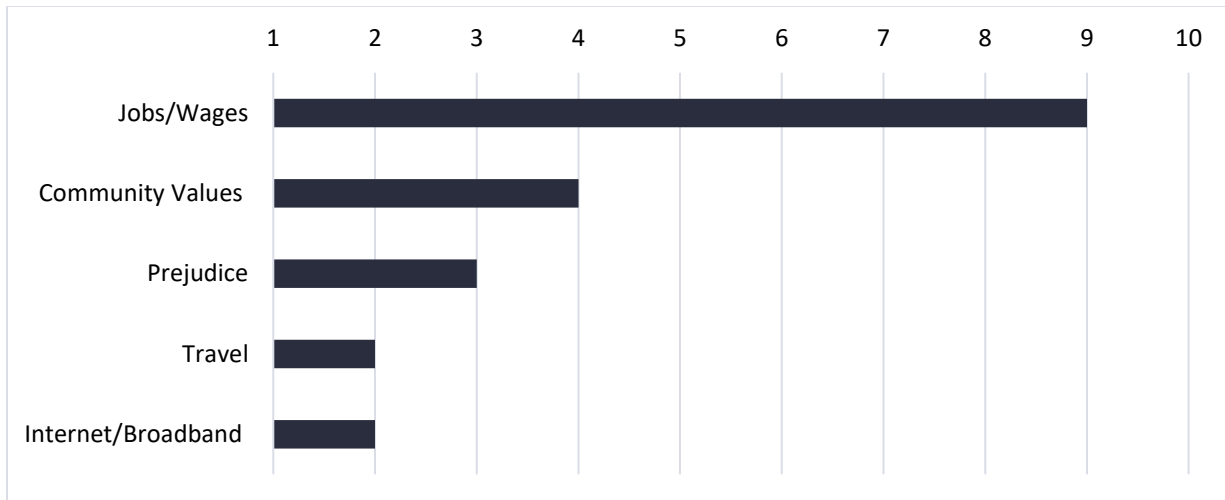


Table 14: Are you a Veteran/currently serving? (Those not a Veteran or serving were asked to skip related questions)

	Count	Percentage
No	135	95.7%
Yes	5	3.5%
Don't Know/Not Applicable	1	0.7%
Total	141	100.0%

Table 15: What services do you feel are most important in aiding the Veteran population?

	Count	Percentage
Affordable Housing	4	18.2%
Healthcare	4	18.2%
Jobs	4	18.2%
Legal Assistance	3	13.6%
Transportation	2	9.1%
Other	2	9.1%
Food Assistance	1	4.5%
Education	1	4.5%
Family Counseling	1	4.5%
Energy/Heat Assistance	0	0.0%
Don't Know/Not Applicable	0	0.0%
Total	22	100.0%

Table 16: How would you rate the services provided by our community to meet Veteran's' needs?

	Count	Percentage
Adequate	4	66.7%
Poor	1	16.7%
Unsure	1	16.7%
Excellent	0	0.0%
Total	6	100.0%

Table 17: Are you currently homeless or in danger of becoming homeless?

	Count	Percentage
No	126	91.3%
Yes	12	8.7%
Total	138	100.0%

Figure 24: Coded Responses: If you are currently homeless, how long have you been homeless?

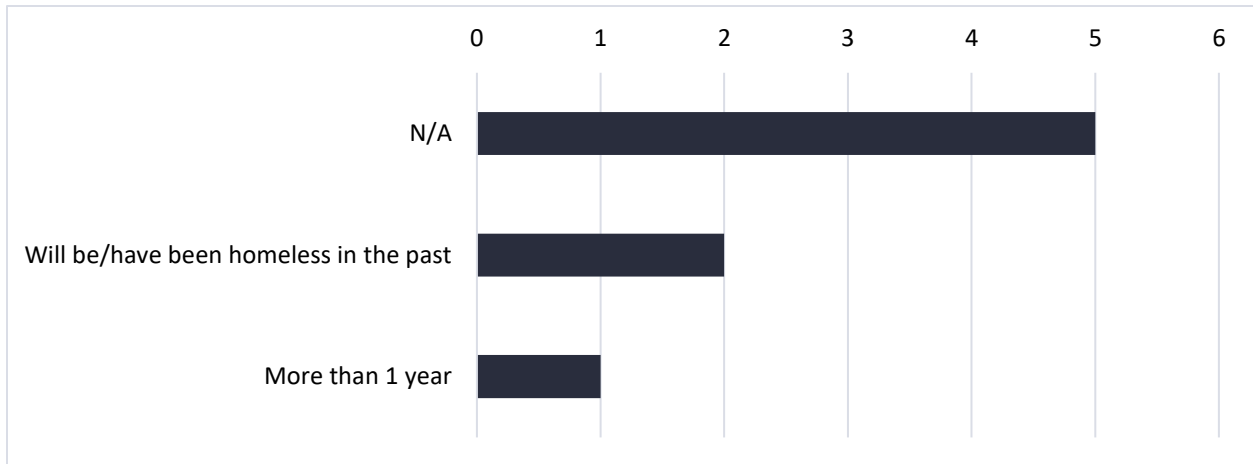


Figure 25: How many times have you been homeless in the last 3 years?

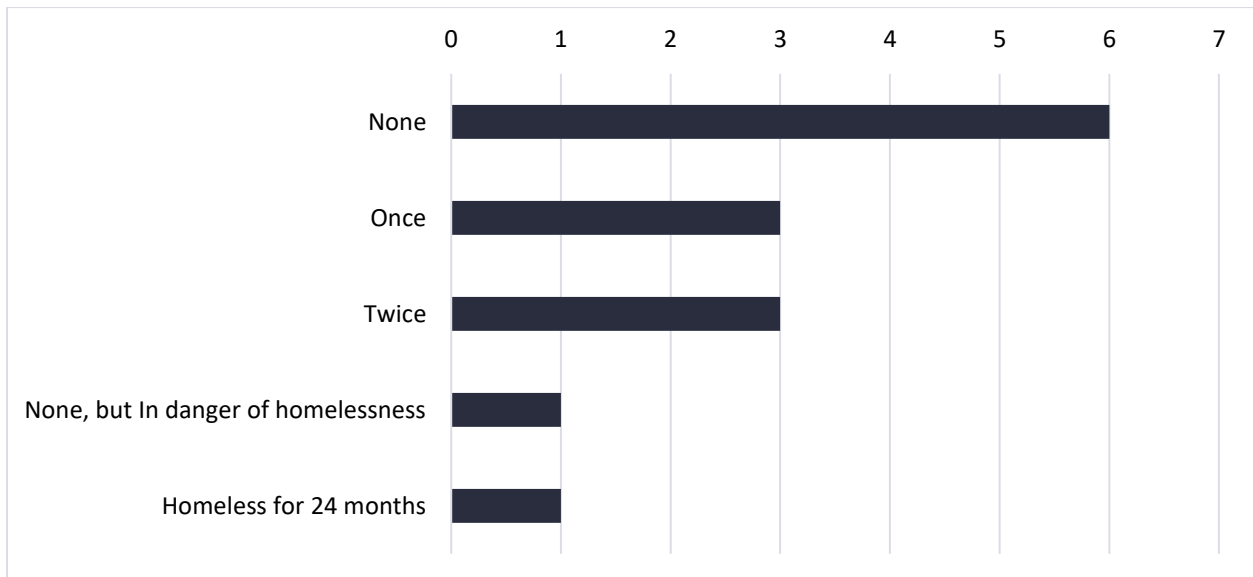


Table 18: Do you know people who are homeless?

	Count	Percentage
Yes	87	64.4%
No	48	35.6%
Total	135	100.0%

Table 19: Do you think homelessness is a problem for our country?

	Count	Percentage
Yes	137	97.9%
No	3	2.1%
Total	140	100.0%

Table 20: What do you think is needed to end homelessness in our country?

	Count	Percentage
More affordable homes	112	18.7%
Mental healthcare facilities	94	15.7%
Substance abuse facilities	91	15.2%
Transitional housing	83	13.8%
Shelter	77	12.8%
Rapid re-housing	52	8.7%
Higher living wages	51	8.5%
Fines for loitering	21	3.5%
Other:	19	3.2%
Total	600	100.0%

Figure 26: Coded Responses: What do you think is needed to end homelessness in our country? ('Other'):

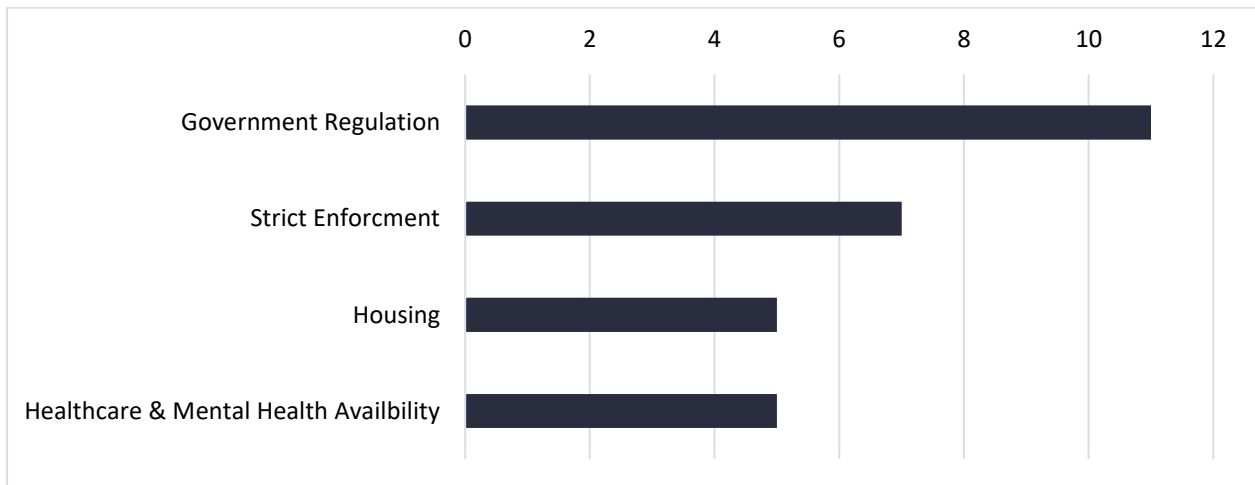


Table 21: What do you think are our community’s greatest barriers as relates to housing?

	Count	Percentage
Supply of affordable housing	134	34.8%
Need for higher living wages	68	17.7%
Safe sustainable housing	67	17.4%
Purchase Financing	44	11.4%
Tenant education classes	38	9.9%
Local building regulations & fees	28	7.3%
Other:	6	1.6%
Total	385	100.0%

Figure 27: Coded Responses: What do you think are our community’s greatest barriers as related to housing? ('Other'):

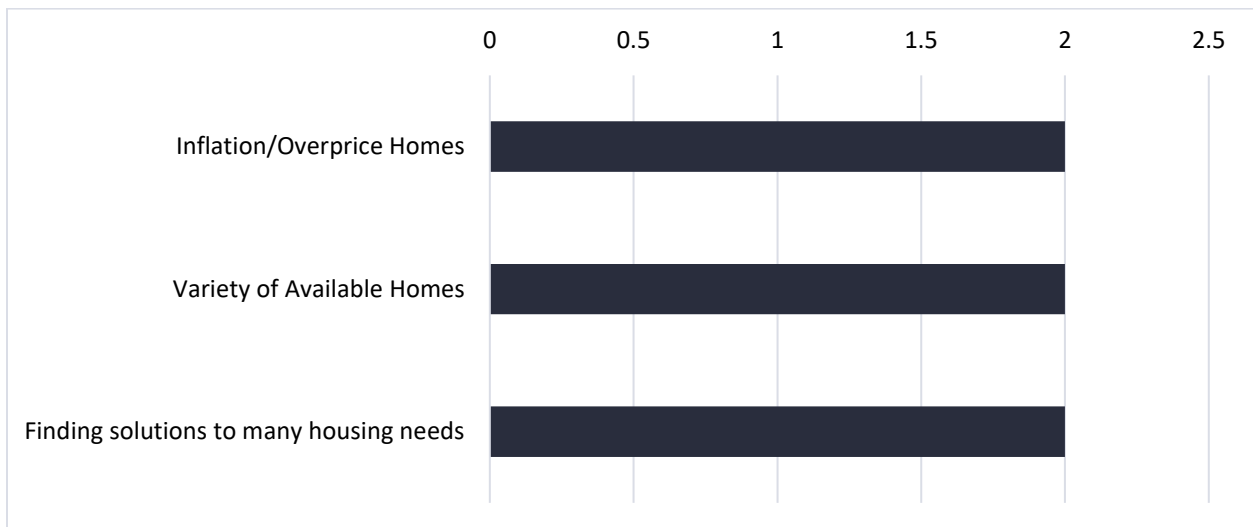


Table 22: Are you Interested in Volunteering with OCCAC?

	Count	Percentage
Yes	22	16.3%
No	113	83.7%
Total	135	100.0%

Table 23: If yes, which activities would you be interested in volunteering for?

	Count	Percentage
Food Bank	9	28.1%
Produce Gleaning	5	15.6%
Garden Mentoring	5	15.6%
Event Planning	5	15.6%

Financial Literacy Coaching	4	12.5%
Other:	4	12.5%
Total	32	100.0%

Figure 28: Coded Responses: If yes, which activities would you be interested in volunteering for? ('Other')

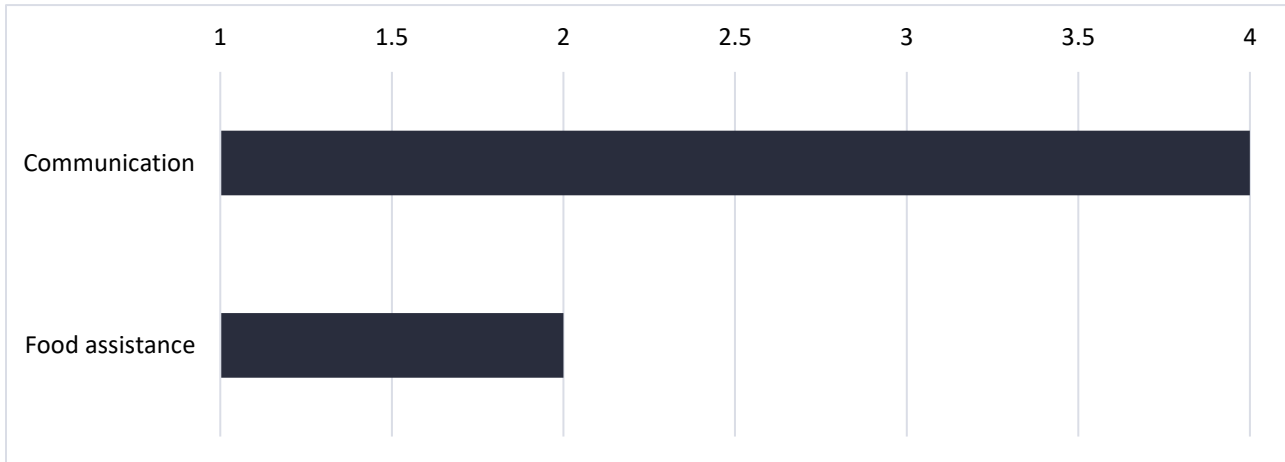


Table 24: In Okanogan County, 25% of the population are living at or below poverty level. Please check the services you view as most important in lifting people out of poverty.

	Count	Percentage
Affordable Housing	118	17.6%
Education Opportunities	91	13.6%
Financial Counseling	71	10.6%
Energy/Heat Assistance	67	10.0%
Transportation	65	9.7%
Food Stamps	55	8.2%
Food Bank	53	7.9%
Healthcare Services	49	7.3%
Family Counseling	46	6.9%
Legal Assistance	37	5.5%
Other:	18	2.7%
Total	670	100.0%

Figure 29: Coded Responses: In Okanogan County, 25% of the population are living at or below poverty level. Please check the services you view as most important in lifting people out of poverty ('Other'):

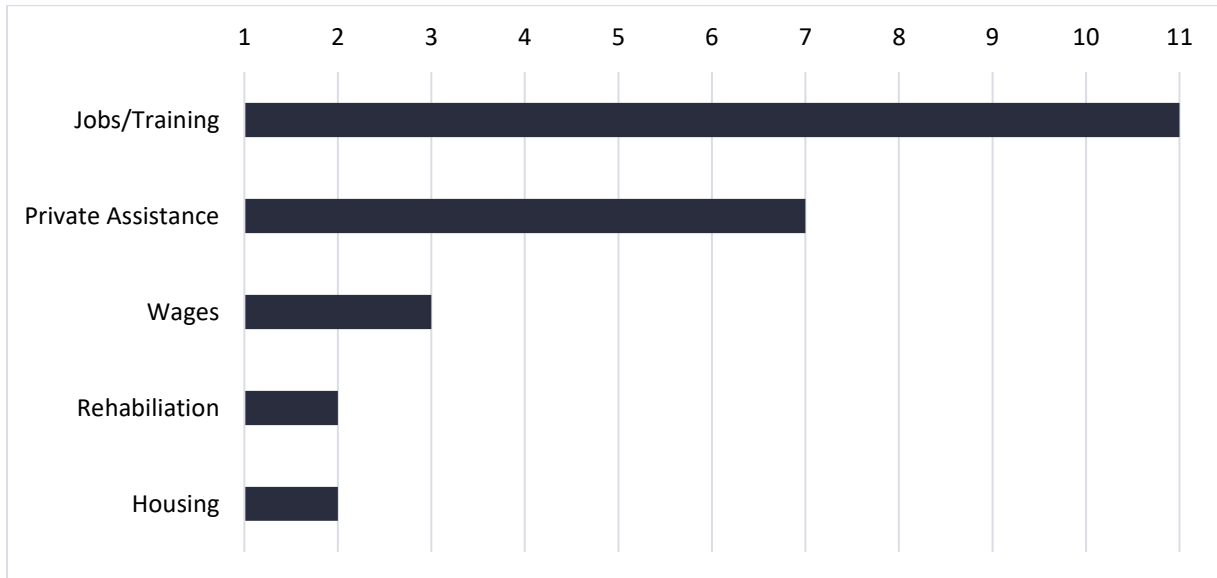


Table 25: Are you familiar with Okanogan County Community Action Council and the services we provide?

	Count	Percentage
Yes	115	84.6%
No	21	15.4%
Total	136	100.0%

Table 26: How would you rate our services?

	Count	Percentage
Excellent	49	35.8%
Adequate	46	33.6%
Unsure	35	25.5%
Poor	7	5.1%
Total	137	100.0%

Figure 30: Coded Responses: Please explain your rate that you gave our services:

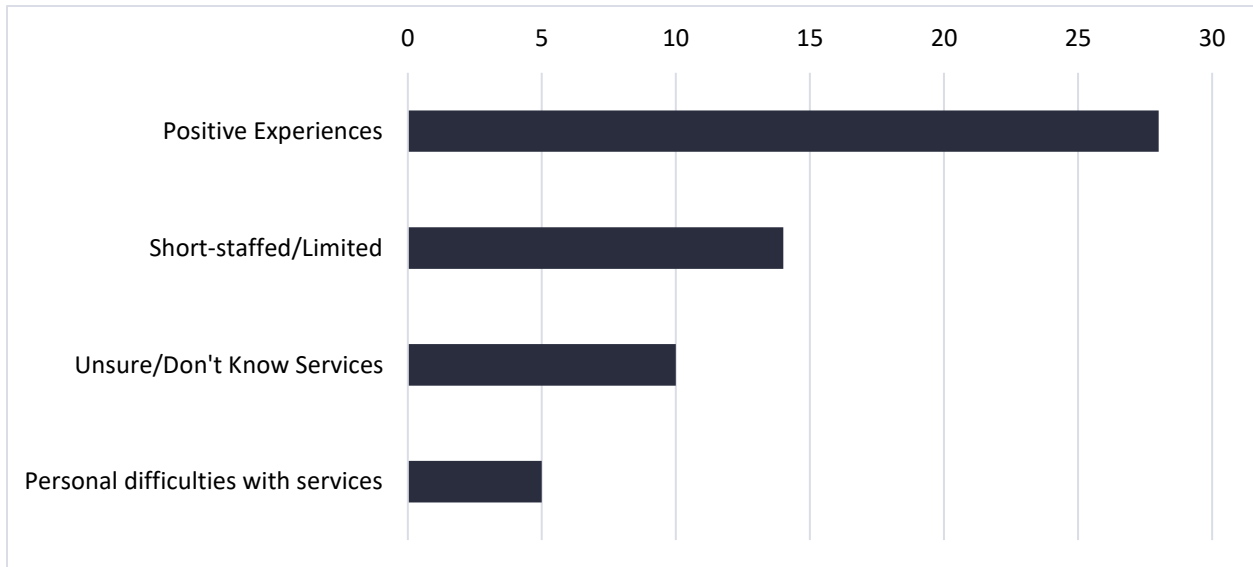


Table 27: What is your biggest need when it comes to credit?

	Count	Percentage
Don't Know/Not Applicable	63	38.2%
Affordable mortgage	45	27.3%
Debt Counseling	37	22.4%
Credit cards	16	9.7%
Other:	4	2.4%
Total	165	100.0%

Figure 31: Coded Responses: What is your biggest need when it comes to credit? ('Other')

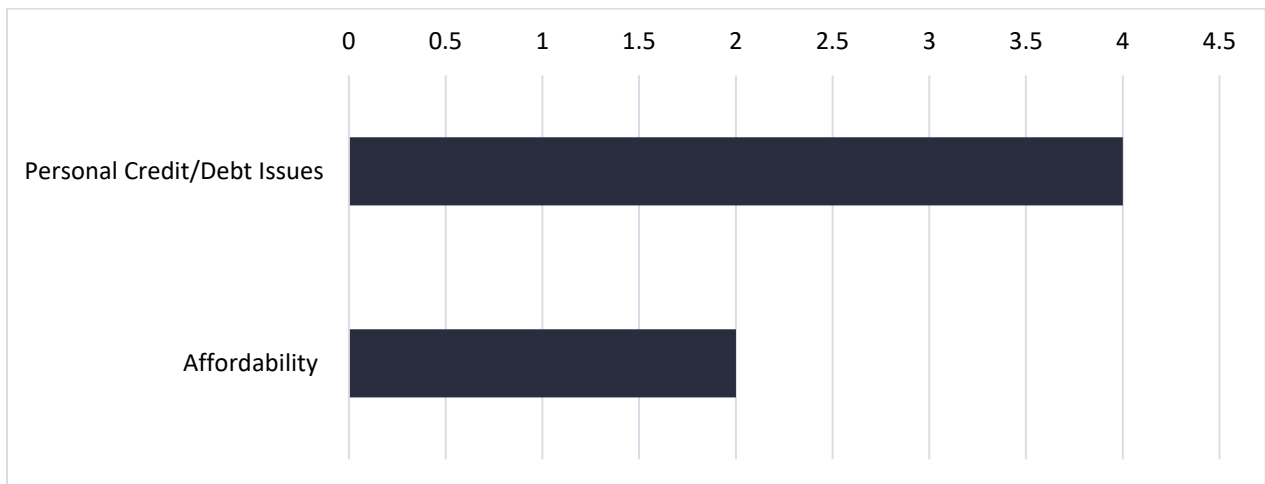
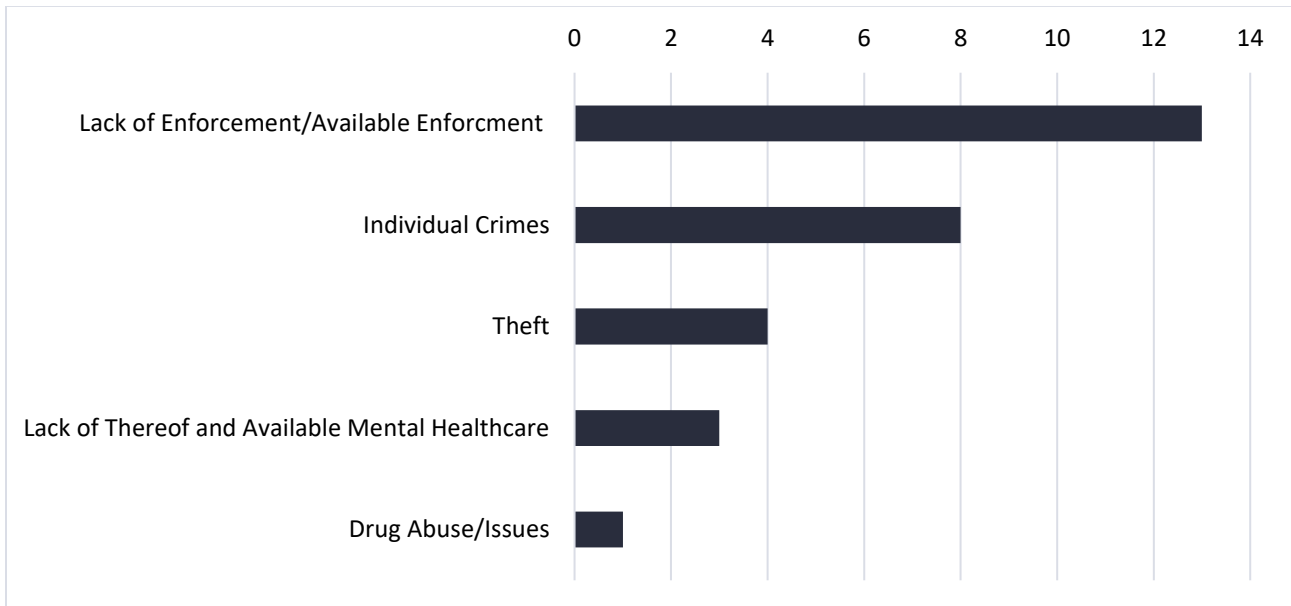


Table 28: What are your concerns as it relates to crime and public safety in our community?

	Count	Percentage
Drug addicts	106	23.1%
Drug traffic	99	21.6%
Child abuse/neglect	66	14.4%
Homeless people	66	14.4%
Community policing	40	8.7%
Neighborhood watch	33	7.2%
Gang violence	29	6.3%
Other:	20	4.4%
Total	459	100.0%

Figure 32: Coded Responses: What are your concerns as it relates to crime and public safety in our community? ('Other')



Respondents' Demographic Characteristics

Table 29: Please indicate your gender:

	Count	Percentage
Male	18	13.2%
Female	109	80.1%
Prefer not to answer	9	6.6%
Total	136	100.0%

Table 30: What is your age?

	Count	Percentage
Under 18	0	0.0%
19-24	3	2.2%
25-34	17	12.7%
35-44	26	19.4%
45-54	25	18.7%
55-64	32	23.9%
65 and older	31	23.1%
Total	134	100.0%

Figure 33: What is your age?

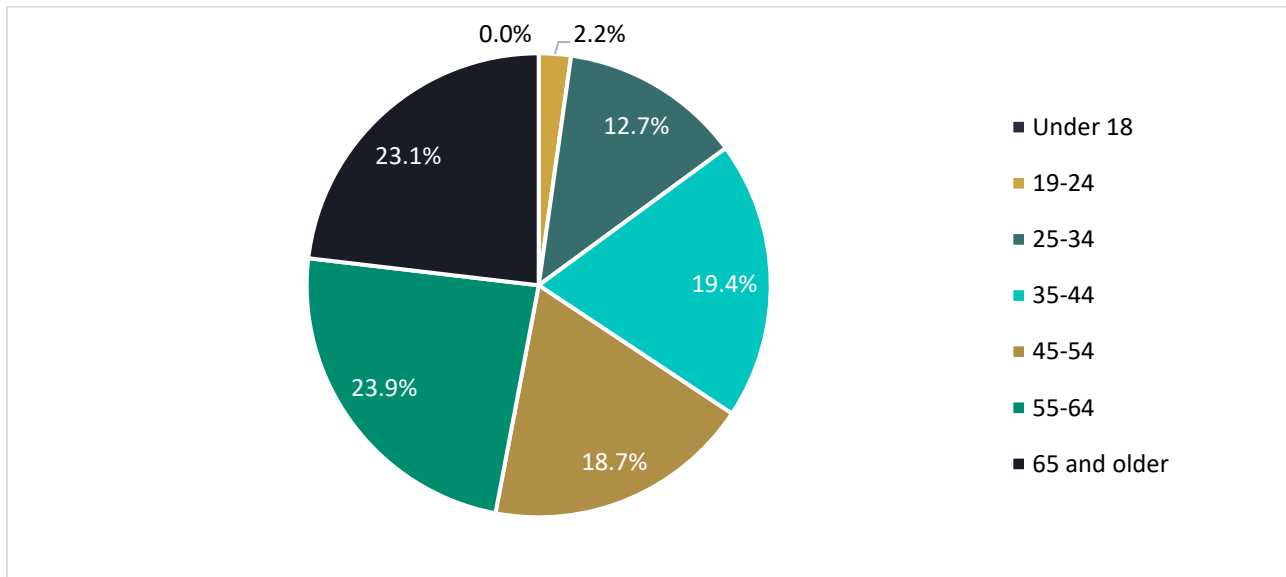


Table 31: How would you classify yourself?

	Count	Percentage
White	99	68.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	15	10.3%
Mixed/Multi-Racial	14	9.7%
Hispanic or Latino	11	7.6%
Other:	5	3.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1	0.7%
Black or African American	0	0.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
Total	145	100.0%

Table 32: What is your marital status?

	Count	Percentage
Married/Domestic Partnership	65	48.9%
Single	34	25.6%
Divorced	15	11.3%
Widowed	11	8.3%
Separated	6	4.5%
Other:	2	1.5%
Total	133	100.0%

Table 33: What is your highest level of education achieved?

	Count	Percentage
University/College Graduate	41	30.4%
High School Diploma/GED	36	26.7%
13-16 (Non-grad)	21	15.6%
Post Graduate Degree	15	11.1%
Technical/Vocational Training	12	8.9%
9-12 (Non-grad)	6	4.4%
Other:	3	2.2%
0-8	1	0.7%
Total	135	100.0%

Table 34: What is your current employment status?

	Count	Percentage
Employed (Full-Time)	55	41.0%
Retired	27	20.1%
Self-Employed	11	8.2%
Unemployed (currently looking for work)	10	7.5%
Unemployed (not looking for work/unable to work)	9	6.7%
Employed (Part-Time)	8	6.0%
Other:	7	5.2%
Homemaker	6	4.5%
Student	1	0.7%
Military	0	0.0%
Total	134	100.0%

Table 35: How many people are currently living in your household?

	Count	Percentage
One	30	22.6%
Two	48	36.1%
Three	17	12.8%
Four	18	13.5%
Five or more	20	15.0%
Total	133	100.0%

Table 36: What is your household income?

	Count	Percentage
0-11K	16	12%
12-15K	13	10%
15-25K	17	13%
26-35K	20	15%
36-45K	19	14%
46-60K	17	13%
61-90K	16	12%
91K and over	16	12%
Total	134	100%

Figure 34: What is your household income?

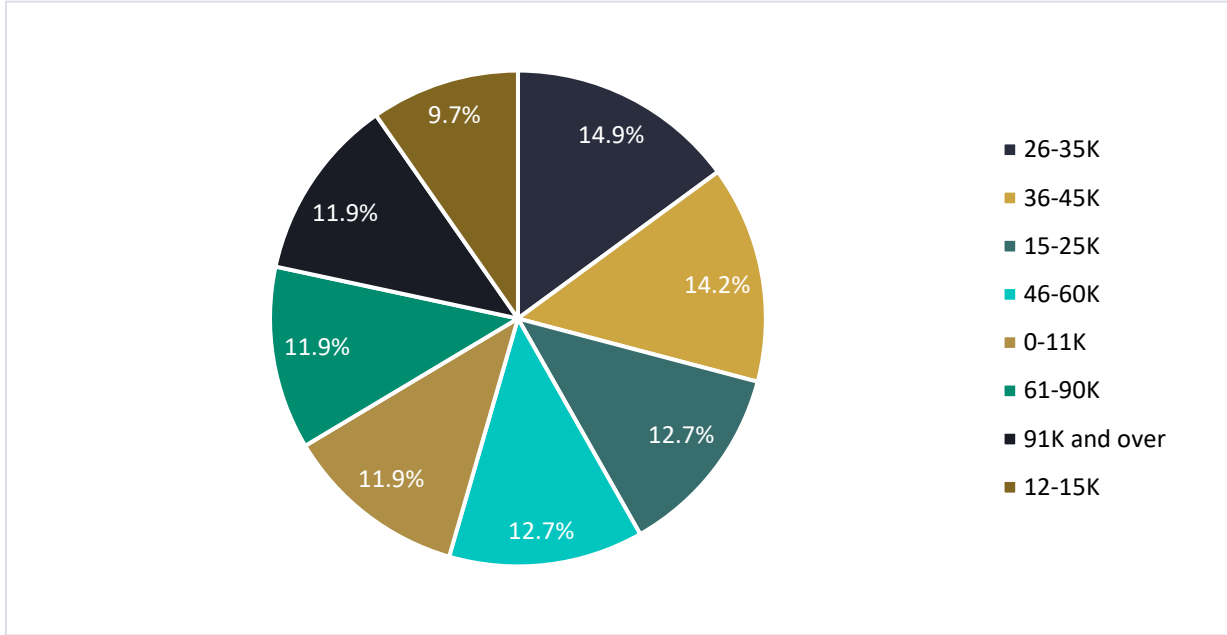
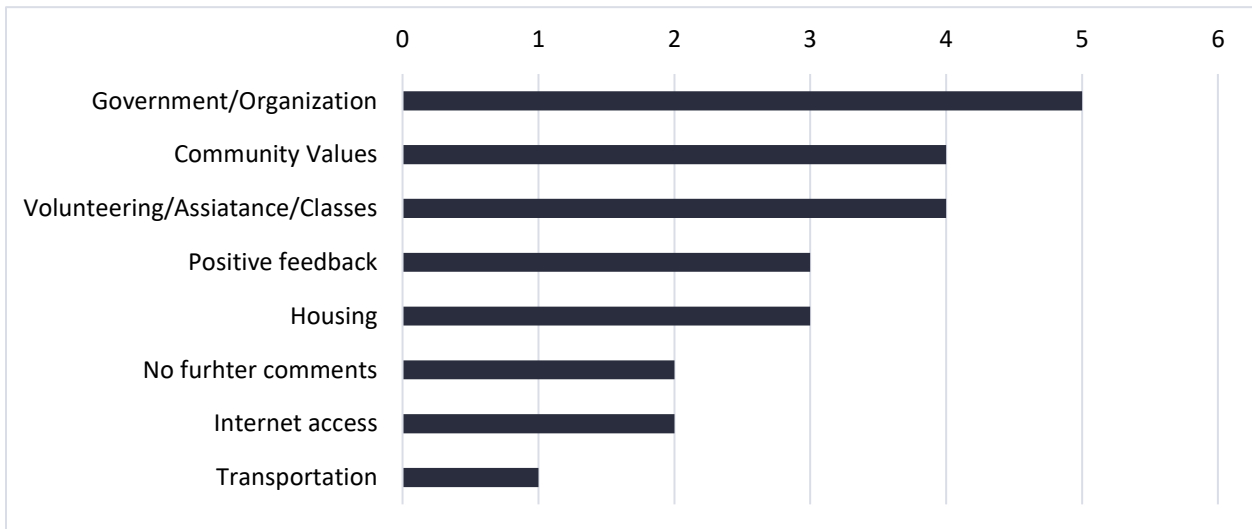


Table 37: Did you or anyone else in your household lose a job as a result of COVID-19?

	Count	Percentage
Yes	21	18.8%
No	91	81.3%
Total	112	100.0%

Figure 35: Coded Responses: Please leave additional comments below, they are greatly appreciated!



Appendix: Detailed Data Tables

Table 1A: Federal Poverty Guidelines by Persons in Household

Persons in family/household ⁹	Poverty guideline
1	\$12,880
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500
5	\$31,040
6	\$35,580
7	\$40,120
8	\$44,660

Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2021

Table 2A: Poverty by County in Washington State

Region	Percentage in Poverty	Rank
Okanogan County	19.8%	1
Ferry County	18.4%	2
Whitman County	15.7%	3
Grays Harbor County	15.1%	4
Stevens County	15.0%	5
Yakima County	14.8%	6
Pend Oreille County	14.7%	7
Asotin County	14.1%	8
Klickitat County	14.0%	9
Grant County	13.6%	10
Pacific County	13.6%	11
Spokane County	13.4%	12
Clallam County	13.3%	13
Lewis County	13.3%	14
Kittitas County	12.9%	15
Walla Walla County	12.9%	16
Adams County	12.7%	17
Columbia County	12.6%	18
Mason County	12.6%	19
Franklin County	12.4%	20
Cowlitz County	11.9%	21
Whatcom County	11.9%	22
Garfield County	11.7%	23
Lincoln County	11.4%	24

⁹ For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,540 for each additional person.

Wahkiakum County	11.4%	25
Jefferson County	10.7%	26
Skamania County	10.6%	27
Douglas County	10.6%	28
Thurston County	10.5%	29
San Juan County	9.7%	30
Skagit County	9.6%	31
Benton County	9.5%	32
Clark County	9.5%	33
Pierce County	9.1%	34
Chelan County	8.7%	35
Kitsap County	8.7%	36
King County	8.3%	37
Snohomish County	8.3%	38
Island County	7.6%	39
Washington	7.1%	-
United States	6.5%	-

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2020

Table 3A: Employment by Industry in Okanogan County, 2021

Industry	Employed	Percent	Location Quotient
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing	2,742	16.1%	12.38
Health Care/Social Assistance	2,189	12.8%	0.85
Retail Trade	2,063	12.1%	1.25
Public Administration	1,720	10.1%	2.1
Educational Services	1,683	9.9%	1.02
Construction	1,366	8%	1.08
Transportation/Warehousing	739	4.3%	0.91
Other Services (Excluding Public)	732	4.3%	0.93
Accommodation/Food Services	682	4%	0.71
Manufacturing	575	3.4%	0.32
Professional/Scientific/Tech	569	3.3%	0.4
Utilities	436	2.6%	2.89
Finance/Insurance	382	2.2%	0.45
Real Estate/Rental/Leasing	320	1.9%	0.9
Admin/Support/Waste Management	318	1.9%	0.49
Wholesale Trade	263	1.5%	0.6
Information	161	0.9%	0.5
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	117	0.7%	0.44
Mining/Quarrying/Oil & Gas	13	0.1%	0.2
Management of Companies	-	-	-
Grand Total	17,070	100%	-

Source: Points Consulting using Esri Business Analyst, 2021

Table 4A: Average Monthly Earnings in Top Industries by Race/Ethnicity in Okanogan County, 2020

Industry	White Alone	Hispanic or Latino Alone	Black or African American Alone	American Native or Alaskan Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Alone	Two or more Race Groups
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$2,760	\$2,514	\$2,397	\$2,487	\$2,392	\$2,259	\$2,419
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$3,197	\$2,654	\$3,252	\$2,790	\$2,501	\$4,114	\$2,683
Retail Trade	\$2,917	\$2,640	\$2,622	\$2,373	\$3,281	\$2,435	\$2,951
Educational Services	\$1,847	N/A	N/A	\$3,637	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Admin ¹⁰	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	\$1,695	\$1,597	\$1,570	\$1,434	\$1,695	\$1,814	\$1,500

Source: Points Consulting using United States Census LEHD Quarterly Workforce Indicators

Table 5A: Employment in Top Industries for Okanogan County's Largest Cities

Industry	Omak	Brewster	Oroville	Okanogon City	Tonasket	Pateros	Twisp
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	166	512	118	55	48	94	4
Health Care and Social Assistance	229	48	43	133	81	53	21
Retail Trade	117	71	168	139	55	16	77
Educational Services	251	80	55	86	46	33	39
Construction	73	24	98	25	28	25	21
Total	836	735	482	438	258	221	162

Source: Points Consulting using Esri Business Analyst, 2021

¹⁰ Data collected by the Census Bureau was unavailable at the time or did not meet the U.S. Census Bureau of Publication standards.