

Partners for a Healthier Holmes County

## 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment

**Executive Summary** 



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### 1.1 Background

In an effort to identify the health needs of Holmes County residents, as well as maximize community resources and enhance community agency coordination and collaboration, Pomerene Hospital and Holmes County General Health District have convened social service, educational, and non-profit partners to perform the 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment.

Health has many dimensions, and is largely affected by a complex interplay of social, biological, clinical, and environmental factors. How these factors influence health is of increasing focus for public health and healthcare systems alike. The community health needs assessment is a powerful tool to determine how these factors contribute to the health-related needs of a given community through the systematic collection of both qualitative and quantitative data. Planned in coordination with a total of 13 Holmes County agencies and funded by Pomerene Hospital, Holmes County General Health District, and the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes Counties, the 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment was comprised of the following activities:

**1.** Collection and relative ranking of 176 secondary data measures from 11 publically available data sources, as represented by the following content areas: population, education, economic status, housing, pollution, built environment, healthcare access and utilization, health insurance and healthcare cost, injury and accidents, crime and violence, substance use and abuse, mental health, obstetrics, sexual behavior and STDs, infectious disease, cancer, and chronic disease.

**2.** Distribution of an 149-question survey to Holmes County residents, in both mailed paper and electronic formats.

3. Distribution of a nine-question survey to 27 Holmes County community leaders.

**4.** Conduction of two community resident focus groups, in order to provide additional context to community health concerns identified during secondary data collection.

Given the rapidly evolving nature of the current COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the timeliness necessary for the reporting of COVID-19 data, COVID-19 was not incorporated in the included data ranking processes, nor in this respective report. However, COVID-19-focused survey questions were included in the community resident survey, and these findings will be explored further in the 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment Technical Report. Exclusion from this report is in no way intended to undermine the vast and immediate health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **1.2 Acknowledgements**

Several Holmes County community partners comprise *Partners for a Healthier Holmes County*, the latter of which actively participated in and advised the 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment. These partners are included below.

#### ANAZAO Community Partners

Mark Woods, Executive Director

East Holmes School District

Erik Beun, Superintendent

Family and Children First Council

of Holmes County

Pam Semenya, Council Coordinator

Holmes County Board

#### of Developmental Disabilities

Marianne Mader, Superintendent

#### Holmes County Emergency Management Agency

Gary Mellor, Director

Luke Hall, Deputy Director

#### Holmes County General Health District

Michael Derr, Health Commissioner

Jennifer Talkington, Deputy Health Commissioner

#### Mental Health and Recovery Board of

#### Wayne and Holmes Counties

Judy Wood, *Executive Director* 

Joanna Edwards, Associate Director of Recovery

#### Ohio University

Melissa Thomas, Assistant Professor

#### **OneEighty Foundation**

Tim Zickefoose, Victim Advocate and Outreach Specialist

Rhiannon Whalen-Harris, *Community Relations and Prevention Director* 

#### Pomerene Hospital

Ayla Uhl, Health and Wellness Manager, Pomerene Kinetics

Rachel Kandel, Provider Relations

#### The Counseling Center of Wayne and Holmes Counties

Jim Foley, *Director, Community Mental Health Education, Prevention, and Consultation* 

#### Viola Startzman Clinic

Jaime Parsons, Executive Director

#### West Holmes Local Schools

Aaron Kaufman, Superintendent

### **1.3 Agency Overview**

Established in 1919 as a not-for-profit, **Pomerene Hospital** first opened it's doors to the Holmes County community in 1937 as a county hospital with 12 beds, three wards, and a five-crib nursery. Fast-forward to the present day, and Pomerene is one of the largest employers in Holmes County with nearly 325 employees and 80 physicians, 55 licensed beds, and more than 30 departments. With inpatient, outpatient, and emergency services, Pomerene Hospital performs approximately 1,400 surgeries and 600 births annually, while receiving nearly 12,000 emergency room visits.

The quality of healthcare services provided by Pomerene Hospital has garnered a 5-star quality rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a NorthCoast 99 Award as a top Northeast Ohio employer, and the *Guardian of Excellence Award* from Press Ganey Associates.

#### **Mission Statement**

Caring for our community's health.

#### Vision Statement

We will be a leader and partner in providing high quality, cost effective healthcare for all residents of greater Holmes County.

When **Holmes County General Health District** (HCGHD) was initially established in 1943, the agency was comprised of one physician and a vital statistics registrar. Nearly 80 years later, HCGHD employs 23 staff members and serves approximately 44,000 residents. Composed of three principle divisions, including Environmental Health, Personal Health Services, and Nursing, HCGHD manages 2,500 health inspections, provides 1,200 immunizations, issues approximately 2,800 birth and death certificates, and delivers more than 200 community health presentations annually.

HCGHD also supports the health of the most vulnerable populations in Holmes County by way of programs such as Women, Infants, and Children, Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps, and Get Vaccinated Ohio.

#### **Mission Statement**

To protect and improve the health and environment of those who live, work, and play in Holmes County.

#### **Vision Statement**

To promote an atmosphere where healthy people live together in a safe and healthy community.

### **1.4 Community Served**

Service area for both Pomerene Hospital and Holmes County General Health District is defined as Holmes County for the purposes of this assessment. Accordingly, secondary data compiled for the purposes of this report were collected at the county level, and compared against national, state, comparison county, and Healthy People 2020 goals. Community resident and community leader surveys were distributed to Holmes County residents and leaders, respectively.

#### Holmes County consists of 21 townships and villages, including:

Baltic Village Berlin Township Clark Township Glenmont Village Hardy Township Holmesville Village Killbuck Township Killbuck Village Knox Township Loudonville Village Mechanic Township Millersburg Village Monroe Township Nashville Village Paint Township Prairie Township Richland Township Ripley Township Salt Creek Township Walnut Creek Township Washington Township





### **1.4 Community Served**

Holmes County, initially formed in 1824 from portions of Coshocton, Tuscarawas, and Wayne counties, is adjacent to neighboring Ashland, Wayne, Stark, Tuscarawas, Coshocton, and Knox counties, home to 43,960 residents, and situated approximately 60 miles West of the Pennsylvania state border. Accounting for nearly 42% of the population, the county's Amish residents represent the second largest Amish settlement in the United States, eclipsed only by Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. According to the United States Census Bureau 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Holmes County residents are predominately non-Hispanic Caucasian (98%), under 65 years of age (86%), high school graduates (58%), and homeowners (76%), with a median annual household income of \$62,111. Less than one-half (46%) of all county residents spoke a language other than English at home, and 19% described their English fluency as less than "very well".

With a geographic footprint of 423 square miles and characterized predominately by rural land use, Holmes County is one of 32 Ohio Appalachian counties, and part of the East Central Ohio Appalachian region. The county is bisected by US Route 62 and Ohio State Route 39, and retains a total of 1,304 employers and 12,437 households.

The 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment identified a total of 49 county specific health concerns across six quantitative and qualitative assessment components. The included prioritization matrix (Table 1) identifies for each assessment component where a particular health concern was identified.

Measure	Secondary Data	Resident Survey	Resident Survey (Qualitative)	Community Leader Survey	Focus Group Survey	Focus Group Themes (Qualitative)
Access to a Mental Health Provider	✓	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Access to a Primary Care Providers	✓	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Adults That Are Not Physically Active	✓	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Lack of Broadband Internet	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Individuals 19 to 64 Years of Age Without Health Insurance	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Individuals 65 Years of Age and Older Without Health Insurance	✓	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	✓	
Individuals Under 19 Years of Age Without Health Insurance	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Lack of Recreation and Fitness Facility Access	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Households Without Access to a Vehicle	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Lack of an Annual Flu Vaccination Among Those 65 Years of Age and Older	✓	✓		✓	$\checkmark$	
Radon	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	

Table 1. Health Concerns Identified During the 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment

Table 1. Health Concerns Identified During the 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment (continued)

Measure	Secondary Data	Resident Survey	Resident Survey (Qualitative)	Community Leader Survey	Focus Group Survey	Focus Group Themes (Qualitative)
Non-fluent English Speaking Residents	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Individuals in the Labor Force Without Health Insurance	~	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Population With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	~	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Population with an Associate's Degree or Higher	~	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Women 18 years of Age and Older Not Receiving a Pap Smear	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Individuals 16 to 19 Years of Age Not in School and Not Working	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Availability of Head Start Facilities	√	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Female Breast Cancer Deaths	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
High School Graduation Rate	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
Female Ovarian Cancer	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
Prostate Cancer Deaths	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		

Table 1. Health Concerns Identified During the 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment (continued)

Measure	Secondary Data	Resident Survey	Resident Survey (Qualitative)	Community Leader Survey	Focus Group Survey	Focus Group Themes (Qualitative)
Lack of Colonoscopy Screenings Among Those 50 Years of Age and Older	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
Population Without a High School Diploma	~	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
Schizophrenia/ Psychotic Disorders	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
SNAP-Authorized Food Stores	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
Student-Teacher Ratio	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
Unintentional Injury Deaths	✓	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
Female Uterine Cancer	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
West Nile Virus	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$	
Women Not Receiving a Mammogram	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		
Alcohol Abuse			$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$
Drug Abuse			$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$
Air Pollution	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$				
Mental Health			$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$
Cancer			$\checkmark$			
Diabetes			$\checkmark$			
Diet Quality			$\checkmark$			

Table 1. Health Concerns Identified During the 2020 Holmes County Community Health Needs Assessment (continued)

Measure	Secondary Data	Resident Survey	Resident Survey (Qualitative)	Community Leader Survey	Focus Group Survey	Focus Group Themes (Qualitative)
Heart Disease			$\checkmark$			
Lack of Dental Providers Accepting Medicare/Medicaid						$\checkmark$
Lack of Support for Female Reproductive Rights						✓
Availability of Home Health Care						$\checkmark$
Lack of Necessary Ambulatory Care						$\checkmark$
Lack of Regular Immunization			$\checkmark$			
Lack of Retail Pharmacies						$\checkmark$
Obesity			$\checkmark$			
Technology Literacy						$\checkmark$
Acceptance of Nontraditional Gender Identity						$\checkmark$

### 2.1 Access to Care

Measure	Definition	Healthy People 2020			
Access to a Primary Care Provider (2017)	The rate of primary care physicians per 100,000 population. Doctors classified as primary care physicians by the American Medical Association include: General Family Medicine MDs and DOs, General Practice MDs and DOs, General Internal Medicine MDs, and General Pediatrics MDs.	N/A	76.6 per 100,000 population	76.2 per 100,000 population	<b>25.1</b> per 100,000 population
Access to a Mental Health Provider (2019)	The rate of the county population to the number of mental health providers, including psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, and counsellors that specialize in mental health care (per 100,000 population).	N/A	202.8 per 100,000 population	244.3 per 100,000 population	<b>13.7</b> per 100,000 population

**6** I would say that I'm concerned about the **lack of** primary care providers. We are losing one in the next year to retirement so we don't seem to have a lot of new ones coming in. And our primary care physicians are very local. Killbuck does not have a doctor. Glenmont does not have a doctor. Y'know, most of our small towns, there is no doctor, we either go to Millersburg or Berlin. 99

We don't have a mental health facility that we can place people here. So we're looking at local cities, and it takes a while, and by what I hear they're overrun... We don't have the resources to help these people...even people who bring themselves in and saying, "God, I need help" they're aware of their mental state and they came...for help and we're chaining them to a bed for three days telling them they can't leave 9 🥊

- Focus Group Participant

- Focus Group Participant



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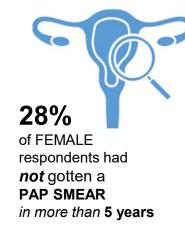
### **2020 Resident Survey Results**

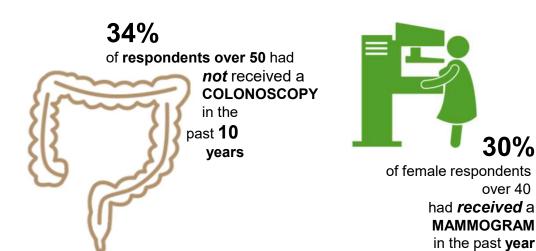
Additional health care access concerns reported included home health care, necessary ambulatory care, and dental providers accepting Medicaid/Medicare

#### 2.2 Cancer

Measure	Definition	Healthy People 2020			
Female Ovarian Cancer (2015-2017)	Age-adjusted invasive ovarian cancer incidence rate per 100,000 female population.	N/A	<b>10.7</b> per 100,000 females	<b>10.3</b> per 100,000 females	<b>14.1</b> per 100,000 females
Female Breast Cancer Deaths (2014-2018)	Age-adjusted female breast cancer death rate per 100,000 population. Figures are age-adjusted to year 2000 standard, and are summarized for report areas from county level data where data is available.	20.7 per 100,000 population	<b>20.1</b> per 100,000 population	<b>22.0</b> per 100,000 population	<b>26.8</b> per 100,000 population
Female Uterine Cancer (2017)	Age-adjusted invasive uterine cancer incidence rate per 100,000 female population.	<b>7.3</b> per 100,000 females	<b>10.2</b> per 100,000 females	<b>32.2</b> per 100,000 females	<b>32.3</b> per 100,000 females
Prostate Cancer Deaths (2014-2017)	Age-adjusted invasive prostate cancer death rate per 100,000 male population.	<b>21.8</b> per 100,000 males	<b>18.9</b> per 100,000 males	<b>19.2</b> per 100,000 males	<b>30.5</b> per 100,000 males
Women 18 Years of Age and Older Not Receiving a Pap Smear (2006-2012)	Percentage of women 18 years of age and older who received a pap smear in the last 3 years.	66.2%	78.5%	78.7%	77.2%
Women Not Receiving a Mammogram (2017)	Percentage of female Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older who had a mammogram in most recent reporting year.	81.1%	32.0%	32.0%	29.9%
Lack of Colonoscopy Screenings Among Those 50 Years of Age and Older (2006-2012)	Percentage of adults 50 years of age and older who had a colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy in their lifetime.	70.5%	61.3%	60.0%	37.8%

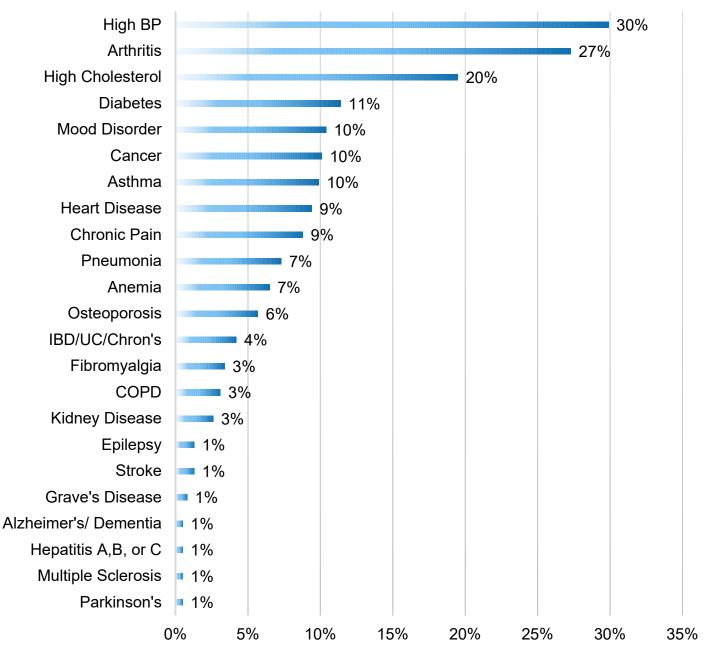
### **2020 Resident Survey Results**





2.3 Chronic Disease





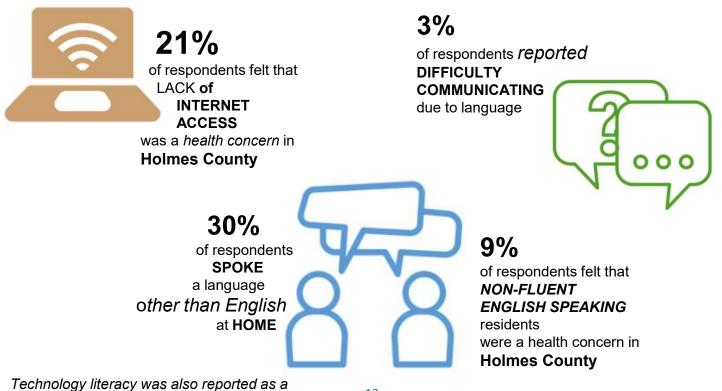
### 2.4 Communication

Measure	Definition	Healthy People 2020			
Non-Fluent English Speaking Residents (2014-2018)	Percentage of the population five years of age and older who speak a language other than English at home, and speak English less than "very well", as identified by the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.	N/A	8.5%	2.5%	18.7%
Lack of Broadband Internet (2014-2018)	Percentage of households with a broadband internet subscription, based on 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.	83.2%	80.4%	79.7%	53.8%

We live in the poor end of the county and a lot of our folks do not have internet access. And I think that's dangerous. It's like, it used to be not having a phone – internet is now a telephone. 99

- Focus Group Participant

### **2020 Resident Survey Results**



health concern by focus group participants

### 2.5 Education

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Measure	Definition	Healthy People 2020			
Availability of Head Start Facilities (2019)	Rate of Head Start program facilities per 10,000 children under five years of age (data from HHS Head Start Locator).	N/A	<b>7.2</b> per 10,000 children	8.6 per 10,000 children	<b>5.0</b> per 10,000 children
Student-Teacher Ratio (2017-2019)	Ratio of students to teachers.	N/A	16.0:1	15.3:1	19.6:1
Individuals 16 to 19 Years of Age Not in School and Not Working (2013-2017)	Percentage of youth 16 to 19 years of age who are not currently enrolled in school and who are not employed.	N/A	7.0%	5.7%	7.7%
Population Without a High School Diploma (2014-2018)	Percentage of persons aged 25 and older without a high school diploma (or equivalency) or higher.	N/A	12.3%	9.9%	42.4%
High School Graduation Rate (2017-2018)	Percentage of students receiving their high school diploma within four years (date range represents school year).	87.0%	87.4%	88.3%	84.5%
Population with an Associate's Degree or Higher (2014-2018)	Percentage of the population 25 years of age and older with an Associate's Degree or higher.	N/A	39.9%	36.4%	12.8%
Population with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2014-2018)	Percentage of the population 25 years of age and older with a Bachelor's Degree or higher.	N/A	31.5%	27.8%	8.9%

### **2020 Resident Survey Results**



### 4%

of respondents *felt* that the LACK of **HEAD START PROGRAMS** was a health concern in **Holmes County** 



6% of respondents felt that STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS were a *health concern* in Holmes County



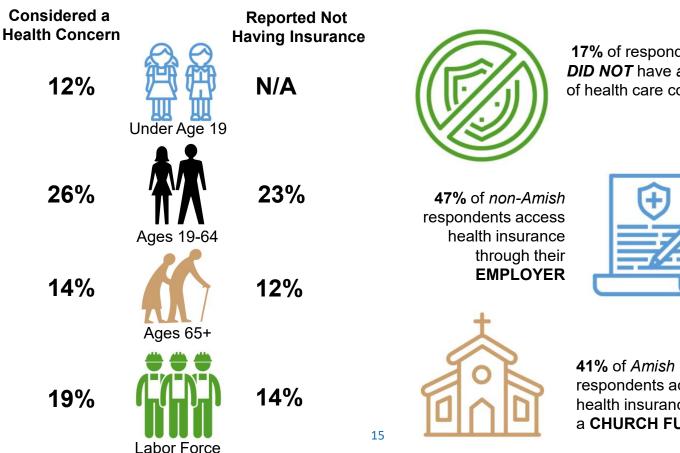
### 20%

of respondents reported YOUNG PEOPLE **NOT** *in school or working* was a health concern in **Holmes County** 

### 2.6 Health Insurance

Measure	Definition	Healthy People 2020			
Individuals Under 19 Years of Age Without Health Insurance (2014-2018)	Percentage of population under age 19 without health insurance, per the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.	0%	5.2%	4.4%	48.3%
Individuals 19 to 64 Years of Age Without Health Insurance (2014-2018)	Percentage of civilian non- institutionalized population 19 to 64 years of age, per the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.	0%	13.2%	8.9%	40.2%
Individuals 65 Years of Age and Older Without Health Insurance (2014-2018)	Percentage of population 65 years and older without health insurance, per the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.	0%	0.8%	0.5%	11.4%
Individuals in the Labor Force Without Health Insurance (2014-2018)	Percentage of population in labor force without health insurance, per the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.	0%	12.6%	8.6%	36.3%

### **2020 Resident Survey Results**



17% of respondents DID NOT have any kind of health care coverage

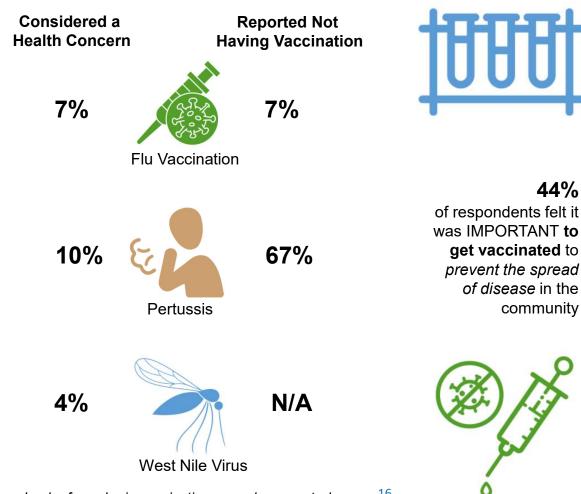


respondents access health insurance through a CHURCH FUND

### 2.7 Infectious Disease

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Measure	Definition	Healthy People 2020			
Lack of an Annual Flu Vaccination Among Those 65 Years of Age and Older (2017)	Percentage of fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees that had an annual flu vaccination.	70.0%	46.0.%	49.0%	45.0%
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (2018)	Pertussis incidence rate per 100,000 population (including probable and confirmed cases).	N/A	<b>4.8</b> per 100,000 population	<b>5.7</b> per 100,000 population	<b>15.9</b> per 100,000 population
West Nile Virus (2018)	West Nile virus incidence rate per 100,000 population.	N/A	0.8 per 100,000 population	<b>0.6</b> per 100,000 population	<b>4.6</b> per 100,000 population

### **2020 Resident Survey Results**



13% of respondents felt that vaccines may CAUSE CHRONIC **DISEASE** and are *not tested* enough for safety



44%

community

37% of respondents felt that they could get a **SERIOUS DISEASE** if they were not vaccinated

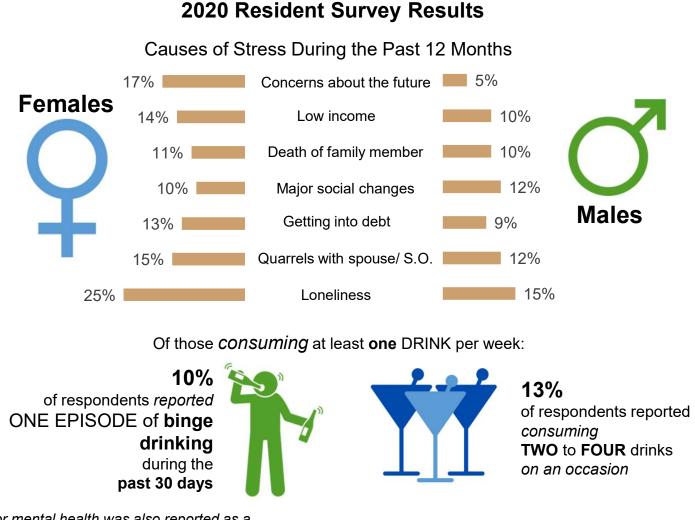
Lack of regular immunization was also reported as a health concern by focus group participants

2.8 Mental Health and Substance Abuse



As someone who needed mental health assistance much, much sooner than the point where I moved out and I was able to go by it on my own, and also financial availability of mental health, like first of all it's not something you'll find in this county, you have to go to Wooster. And it's expensive, it's really expensive to get help.

- Focus Group Participant



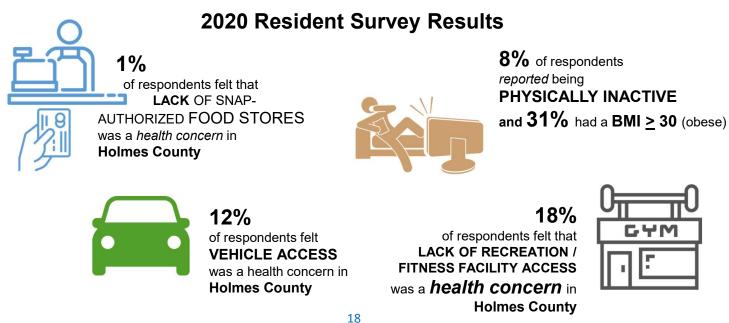
Poor mental health was also reported as a health concern

2.9 Nutrition and Physical Activity

				the second se	
Measure	Definition	Healthy People 2020			
SNAP-authorized Food Stores (2019)	SNAP-authorized food stores as a rate per 10,000 population. SNAP-authorized stores include grocery stores as well as supercenters, specialty food stores, and convenience stores that are authorized to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.	N/A	8.0 per 100,000 population	8.3 per 100,000 population	<b>4.4</b> per 100,000 population
Households Without Access to a Vehicle (2014-2018)	Percentage of occupied housing units with no vehicles available, based on the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.	N/A	8.7%	8.2%	29.5%
Adults That Are Not Physically Active (2016)	Adults 20 years of age and older who self-report no leisure time for activity, based on the question: "During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise"?	32.6%	22.8%	25.4%	28.0%
Recreation and Fitness Facility Access (2017)	The rate of recreation and fitness facilities, as defined by the North American Industry Classification System Code 713940, per 100,000 population.	N/A	<b>11.0</b> per 100,000 population	<b>9.8</b> per 100,000 population	0 per 100,000 population

**6** The health department does a great job with their fall prevention program and what not. It would be really nice if we had – I mean, I understand that we have kinetics, but if there were easier access to exercise programs and health programs and eating-as-an-old-person programs and a senior center with a swimming pool and exercise classes, that would be great.

- Focus Group Participant



2.10 Other

Measure	Definition	Healthy People 2020			
Unintentional Injury Deaths (2011-2018)	Age-adjusted rate of death due to unintentional injury per 100,000 population. (ICD Codes W20-X39; X50-59)	N/A	<b>6.8</b> per 100,000 population	<b>6.9</b> per 100,000 population	<b>8.9</b> per 100,000 population
Radon (2020)	Mean indoor radon level in picocuries.	N/A	1.3 picocuries	6.5 picocuries	<b>9.7</b> picocuries
Air Pollution (2012)	Mean daily ambient particulate matter 2.5.	N/A	<b>9.1</b> ug/m3	<b>11.3</b> ug/m3	<b>11.4</b> ug/m3

### Acceptance of Nontraditional Gender Identity

I don't want this to be a scary place for people in the LGBTQ community to grow up. I'm sure there's a lot of LGBTQ or a decent number in this area, but you don't let yourself be known. So everyone is so, so closeted that they will not make themselves known to people around them.

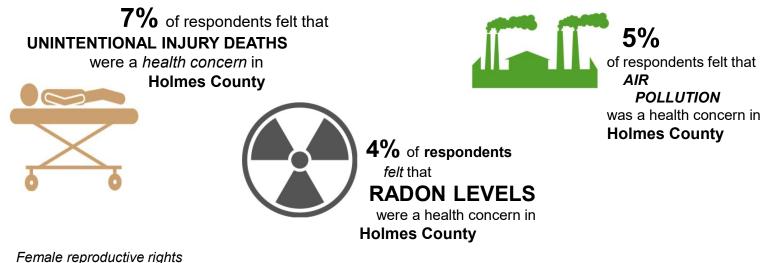
- Focus Group Participant

## Lack of Retail Pharmacies

We've got, what, three pharmacies in the entire county and two of those are basically across the street from each other. That's your access to go pick up your 'script after you get in to see the doctor.

- Focus Group Participant

### **2020 Resident Survey Results**



was also reported as a health concern