# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SUMMARY
SUMMARY

VoiceByronCenter is a community survey that aims to better understand Byron Center area residents' experiences, perceptions, and opinions. The survey asks about resident characteristics, basic needs, transportation, service participation, neighborhoods, housing, employment, and health care as well as on topics such as discrimination, racism, social interactions, and the environment.

2015 served as a pilot year for the VoiceByronCenter survey. Data was collected via paper surveys and an online survey platform hosted by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy’s Community Research Institute (CRI) at Grand Valley State University. Data collection started July 21, 2015 and concluded October 31, 2015. CRI and Byron Community Ministries conducted the main recruitment efforts by administering the survey at community events, connecting with community organizations to encourage Byron Center residents to participate, and sharing the survey link electronically with their constituents.

As 2015 was a pilot year for the VoiceByronCenter survey, the overall purpose was to gauge the response interest in the Byron Center area for this kind of survey and provide initial results about the Byron Center area to community organizations for the purpose of planning future community needs assessments in the area. Overall, the respondents of the survey were not fully representative of the underlying population, and therefore, strong conclusions should not be drawn about the Byron Center area as a whole based on this year’s results of VoiceByronCenter. For this year, the results of VoiceByronCenter will be able to provide an initial understanding of the Byron Center area as it pertains to the survey respondent demographics. In order to continue to move towards representativeness in the survey, CRI would recommend conducting additional years of the VoiceByronCenter survey.

Throughout this report, survey results will be presented in three response categories: Overall responses, Near or Below poverty responses, and caregiver responses. All survey questions will be presented in the overall response and select questions will be presented in the near or below 200% poverty and caregiver response categories. Survey respondents may overlap in the near or below 200% poverty and caregiver response categories.

OVERALL RESPONSES:

The overall response includes all the survey respondents. The number of respondents varies per question due to incomplete or lack of responses. The approximate number of respondents is 578.

NEAR OR BELOW POVERTY RESPONSES:

About 38% of survey respondents were living near or below 200% poverty. Poverty level is calculated from the questions on income and the number of people living in a household. The number of respondents varies per question to incomplete or lack of responses. The approximate number of these respondents is 190.

CAREGIVER RESPONSES:

About 15% of survey respondents identified as a caregiver for their parents, spouses, or another adult who was elderly or disabled. The number of respondents varies per question to incomplete or lack of responses. The approximate number of these respondents is 86.
REPORT TOPICS
### Demographics

#### Primary Language

- **Spanish**: 95.3%
- **Arabic**: 1.7%
- **Mandarin**: 0.9%
- **Other**: 0.9%
- **English**: 95.3%

#### Sexual Orientation

- **Gay/Lesbian**: 92.8%
- **Bisexual**: 1.2%
- **None of the above**: 0.7%
- **Don’t Know/Not Sure**: 0.7%

#### Relationship Status

- **Single**: 16.0%
- **Married**: 61.0%
- **Widowed**: 8.9%
- **Divorced**: 3.8%
- **Separated**: 2.4%
- **Committed Relationship**: 7.0%
- **Other**: 0.9%

#### Poverty

Poverty level was calculated from the questions on income and the number of people living in a household.

- **Near or below 100% poverty**: Yes-19.3%, No-80.7%
- **Near or below 200% poverty**: Yes-38.2%, No-61.8%
RELIGIOUS OR FAITH PREFERENCE

OVERALL | N=578

- Christian (e.g., Protestant, Baptist): 73.9%
- Spiritual, Non-religious: 11.5%
- Buddhist: 1.7%
- Catholic: 2.6%
- Agnostic: 2.4%
- Atheist: 1.4%
- Jewish: 1.0%
- Hindu: 0.7%
- Muslim: 1.6%
- None: 3.6%
- Other: 3.4%

ON AVERAGE, HOW MANY TIMES PER MONTH DO YOU ATTEND CHURCH/WORSHIP?

OVERALL | N=578

- Four times per month: 55.3%
- Two to three times per month: 14.4%
- Once per month: 6.0%
- Less than once per month: 11.1%
- Does not attend/Not applicable: 13.3%

ARE YOU THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER FOR YOUR PARENT(S), SPOUSE, OR OTHER ADULT WHO IS ELDERLY OR DISABLED?

CAREGIVER | N=86

- Yes: 15.4%
- No: 84.6%
Demographics

**OVERALL | N=578**

- Youth (Under 18): 5.6%
- Young Adult (18-25): 7.8%
- Middle Aged Adult (26-45): 26.3%
- Mature Adult (45-64): 33.6%
- Senior (65 and older): 26.7%

**200% POVERTY | N=190**

- Youth (Under 18): 6.2%
- Young Adult (18-25): 12.3%
- Middle Aged Adult (26-45): 28.5%
- Mature Adult (45-64): 31.3%
- Senior (65 and older): 21.8%

**CAREGIVER | N=86**

- Youth (Under 18): 1.2%
- Young Adult (18-25): 6.0%
- Middle Aged Adult (26-45): 16.9%
- Mature Adult (45-64): 38.6%
- Senior (65 and older): 37.4%
Demographics

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

OVERALL | N=578

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than or some high school</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate or GED</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college/in college (no degree)</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree (AA or 2-year college) Technical Certification</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate degree or higher</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of all respondents, **13.1%** identified as students

200% POVERTY | N=190

<table>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than or some high school</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate or GED</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college/in college (no degree)</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree (AA or 2-year college) Technical Certification</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate degree or higher</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAREGIVER | N=86

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>4.7%</td>
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<td>or GED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>High school graduate or GED</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college/in college (no degree)</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate degree (AA or 2-year college) Technical Certification</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate degree or higher</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Basic needs

BASIC NEEDS

Overall, 85.4% indicated they could meet their basic needs (food, including water; shelter; utilities; and clothing) very or fairly well. However, of those 14.6% that could not very well or not at all meet their basic needs, 56.3% indicated that they did know anyone or a place that could help them meet their basic needs. These statistics varied by 200% poverty and caregiver status, with more respondents who could not meet their basic needs in those groups.

OVERALL | N=578

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Ability</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very well</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very well</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE OR A PLACE THAT COULD HELP YOU WITH THE BASIC NEEDS YOU WORRY ABOUT THE MOST?

Of the 14% of respondents who could not very well or not at all meet their basic needs...

56.3% SAID YES

200% POVERTY | N=190

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Ability</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very well</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very well</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE OR A PLACE THAT COULD HELP YOU WITH THE BASIC NEEDS YOU WORRY ABOUT THE MOST?

Of the 31% of respondents who could not very well or not at all meet their basic needs...

54.2% SAID YES

CAREGIVER | N=86

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Ability</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very well</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very well</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE OR A PLACE THAT COULD HELP YOU WITH THE BASIC NEEDS YOU WORRY ABOUT THE MOST?

Of the 18% of respondents who could not very well or not at all meet their basic needs...

41.0% SAID YES
**WHICH BASIC NEED DO YOU WORRY ABOUT MOST?**

**OVERALL | N=578**

Of the 14% of respondents who could not very well or not at all meet their basic needs...

- Food, including water: 36.8%
- Utilities: 25.8%
- Shelter: 25.2%
- Clothing: 12.3%

**200% POVERTY | N=190**

Of the 31% of respondents who could not very well or not at all meet their basic needs...

- Food, including water: 35.3%
- Utilities: 26.5%
- Shelter: 27.2%
- Clothing: 11.0%

**CAREGIVER | N=86**

Of the 18% of respondents who could not very well or not at all meet their basic needs...

- Food, including water: 37.6%
- Utilities: 26.2%
- Shelter: 24.4%
- Clothing: 11.4%
The top reasons respondents reported for having trouble getting to where they needed to go varied between the overall, 200% poverty, and caregiver groups.

### OVERALL | N=578

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Less than Once per Month</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Daily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation was inconvenient</td>
<td>88.7%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You were unable to afford public transportation</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You did not have enough money for gas</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation was unreliable</td>
<td>84.4%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You did not have a vehicle</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of traffic</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of construction</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of poor road conditions (e.g., potholes; excluding)</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 200% POVERTY | N=190

<table>
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<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Daily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation was inconvenient</td>
<td>80.7%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You were unable to afford public transportation</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You did not have enough money for gas</td>
<td>62.0%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation was unreliable</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You did not have a vehicle</td>
<td>73.5%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CAREGIVER | N=86

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Less than Once per Month</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Daily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation was inconvenient</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You were unable to afford public transportation</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You did not have enough money for gas</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation was unreliable</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You did not have a vehicle</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### OVERALL | N=578

If these services were available, would you participate in the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
<th>Don't know (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career Counseling</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>69.7%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Development Skill Building</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy Resources</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mental Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grief Support</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol/Substance Abuse Counseling</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambling Abuse Counseling</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly Support Services</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Parents (who are supporting adult)</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>80.7%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 200% POVERTY | N=190

If these services were available, would you participate in the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
<th>Don't know (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career Counseling</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Development Skill Building</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy Resources</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>77.9%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grief Support</td>
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<td>70.9%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol/Substance Abuse Counseling</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambling Abuse Counseling</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly Support Services</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Parents (who are supporting adult children)</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>82.7%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CAREGIVER | N=86

If these services were available, would you participate in the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
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<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy Resources</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
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<td>Mental Health</td>
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<td>14.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for Parents (who are supporting adult children)</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RATINGS OF NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY RESPONDENTS LIVED IN

OVERALL | N=578

- **A- Excellent**: 1.7%
- **B-Good**: 6.3%
- **C-Fair**: 10.1%
- **D-Poor**: 32.9%
- **F-Failing**: 6.3%

200% POVERTY | N=190

- **A- Excellent**: 6.3%
- **B-Good**: 38.1%
- **C-Fair**: 4.8%
- **D-Poor**: 2.4%
- **F-Failing**: 12.2%

CAREGIVER | N=86

- **A- Excellent**: 4.8%
- **B-Good**: 38.1%
- **C-Fair**: 2.4%
- **D-Poor**: 2.4%
- **F-Failing**: 12.2%

RATINGS OF BRYON CENTER AS A PLACE TO LIVE OVERALL

OVERALL | N=578

- **A- Excellent**: 53.0%
- **B-Good**: 41.6%
- **C-Fair**: 0.6%
- **D-Poor**: 1.4%
- **F-Failing**: 0.6%

200% POVERTY | N=190

- **A- Excellent**: 47.5%
- **B-Good**: 48.0%
- **C-Fair**: 0.6%
- **D-Poor**: 0.6%
- **F-Failing**: 0.6%

CAREGIVER | N=86

- **A- Excellent**: 53.6%
- **B-Good**: 38.1%
- **C-Fair**: 2.4%
- **D-Poor**: 2.4%
- **F-Failing**: 12.2%
**Neighborhoods**

**How much do you feel like you belong in your neighborhood?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeling</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completely</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How much of a positive difference do you believe you can make in your neighborhood?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A large difference</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some difference</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Do you want to move out of your neighborhood in sometime in the future?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For respondents who wanted to move out of their neighborhood, respondents wanted to move in **3.6 years** on average.
**Neighborhoods**

### OVERALL | N=578

**What do you think is the biggest issue in your neighborhood?**

- **Community, people**: 64.0%
- **Infrastructure**: 35.0%
- **Crime**: 8.0%
- **Other**: 19.0%
- **None**: 14.0%

**What do you think is the biggest strength in your neighborhood?**

- **Community, people**: 64.0%
- **Location**: 7.0%
- **Safety**: 8.0%
- **Other**: 19.0%
- **None**: 2.0%

### INFRASTRUCTURE

- “Too many houses being built. Losing farmland. Traffic.”
- “No place for kids to play or ride bikes except the street.”
- “Highway in back yard.”
- “Becoming Industrialized.”

### COMMUNITY

- “There is little connection among people.”
- “Not welcoming to diversity and not a vibrant downtown area.”
- “Lack of community—everyone is busy, distracted, etc.”
- “Byron Center doesn’t have much diversity as far as race, sexual orientation or religion.”

### OTHER

- “Too many dogs.”
- “Size (too small).”
- “Soliciting.”

### LOCATION

- “Country like setting close to great amenities—restaurants, shopping, entertainment, theatre.”
- “Nice place to raise a family, while still close to the core city of GR.”
- “Love the location! Close to everything.”
- “Easy access to expressways and grocery stores.”
- “Love the location! Close to everything.”

### SAFETY

- “Safe as you can be in this day.”
- “It is a safe neighborhood.”

- **Overlook**
- **I-196**
- **Traffic**
- **I-196**
- **Traffic**
Due to low sample size, qualitative results from caregivers are not provided in this report.
Housing and Homelessness

WHY DO YOU WANT TO MOVE?

**OVERALL | N=578**

- **Other**: 32.0%
- **Downsizing**: 18.0%
- **Upsizing**: 18.0%
- **Age/retirement**: 11.0%
- **Location**: 9.0%
- **Education/job**: 7.0%
- **Live alone/move out of parent’s house**: 5.0%

**UPSIZING/UPGRADE**
- "Want more land."
- "To have a larger house when we have kids in the future."
- "Want my own home to live in."

**DOWNSIZING**
- "Kids moving away."
- "Downsizing to a condo."
- "Less house and yard work."

WHAT THINGS ARE STOPPING YOU FROM MOVING, IF ANY?

**OVERALL | N=578**

- **Finances**: 33.0%
- **Other**: 21.0%
- **None**: 13.0%
- **Family**: 11.0%
- **Still in school**: 7.0%
- **Not ready**: 5.0%
- **Selling a house**: 4.0%
- **Like the location**: 3.0%
- **Haven't decided where to move**: 3.0%

**FINANCES**
- "Financial stability as I am only working part time and attending grad school the other time money and credit."
- "...Underwater on mortgage."
- "More affordable to live with roommates in my apartment."

**OTHER**
- "We want to update our house first, and live in it for at least 5 years to understand what needs we will have for our next house."
- "Deep roots."
- "Wife likes yard work."
- "We have more than enough space for the two of us so we are saving up money while we enjoy our early married years before we start a family and need more room."
WHY DO YOU WANT TO MOVE?

**200% POVERTY | N=190**

- **Other**: 39.0%
- **Upsizing/Upgrade**: 16.0%
- **Location**: 10.0%
- **Downsizing**: 9.0%
- **Live alone/move out of parent’s house**: 7.0%
- **College/school**: 6.0%
- **Age, retirement**: 5.0%
- **Family**: 4.0%
- **Job**: 4.0%

** OTHER**
- “Cannot afford to live here.”
- “Don’t like it here.”
- “More privacy.”
- “New start.”

**UPSIZING/UPGRADE**
- “Larger home.”
- “To buy a home.”
- “My fiancé and I are currently living with roommates and would like our own place.”

**LOCATION**
- “...Better location.”
- “Different location.”
- “Prefer to live in the country.”

**WHAT THINGS ARE STOPPING YOU FROM MOVING, IF ANY?**

**200% POVERTY | N=190**

- **Finances**: 44.0%
- **None**: 18.0%
- **Other**: 15.0%
- **Education**: 7.0%
- **Family**: 6.0%
- **Like the location**: 4.0%
- **Haven’t decided where to move**: 4.0%
- **Not ready**: 2.0%

** OTHER**
- “A three year lease.”
- “my girlfriend.”
- “Health.”

**FINANCES**
- “Paying for my graduate school out of pocket.”
- “Cost of land and house together unable to afford now.”
- “Nothing cheaper in Byron Center. We need gov. assisted housing for seniors who cannot afford to purchase.”

Of the people who mentioned that “Finances” were keeping them from moving, 62.5% (30 out of 48 people who answered “finances”) were at 200% of the poverty line (had to exclude 1 person who answered “finances” due to missing value).

Due to low sample size, qualitative results from caregivers are not provided in this report.
IN THE PAST YEAR HAS YOUR RENT....

OVERALL | N=578

- Stayed the same: 50.7%
- Increased: 35.4%
- Decreased: 12.5%
- Don't know: 1.4%

IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW MANY TIMES DID YOUR UTILITIES GET TURNED OFF DUE TO LACK OF PAYMENT?

OVERALL | N=578

- Never: 92.3%
- Once: 3.2%
- 2-4 times: 2.6%
- More than 4 times: 1.9%

HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

OVERALL | N=578

- Very Safe: 60.1%
- Somewhat Safe: 20.9%
- Neutral: 5.3%
- Somewhat Unsafe: 4.3%
- Very Unsafe: 9.4%

HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS FOR CHILDREN?

OVERALL | N=578

- Very Safe: 62.6%
- Somewhat Safe: 24.9%
- Neutral: 8.8%
- Somewhat Unsafe: 6.0%
- Very Unsafe: 8.4%

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS?

OVERALL | N=578

- Yes, in the past year: 3.2%
- Yes, more than one year ago: 3.6%
- No: 93.3%

IN THE PAST YEAR, HAVE YOU FACED FORECLOSURE OR BEEN EVICTED FOR NON-PAYMENT?

OVERALL | N=578

- Yes: 3.9%
- No: 96.1%
Housing and Homelessness

**OVERALL | N=578**

Average household income

- $50,000 - $60,000

**200% POVERTY | N=190**

Average household income

- $15,000 - $20,000
### Housing and Homelessness

**CAREGIVER | N=86**

![Bar chart showing distribution of average household income by income range.](chart)

### OVERALL

On average, respondents who own a home and paid a mortgage pay between 16% and 20% of their annual household income for their mortgage payment.

![Pie chart showing current housing status distribution.](chart)

- **31.9%** Own, no mortgage
- **40.4%** Own, paying mortgage
- **12.6%** Rent (including subsidized housing or college housing)
- **7.6%** Living with someone (friends, relative, etc.) and not paying rent
- **2.5%** Living with someone (friends, relative, etc.) and paying rent
- **2.0%** Homeless
- **1.5%** Other

**On average, respondents lived in their neighborhood for 15 YEARS.**

- **For home owners, the average mortgage payment was $1,053 per month.**
- **For renters, the average cost of rent is $692 per month.**

On average, renters pay between 29% and 39% of their annual household income for rent.

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200% POVERTY

N=190

On average, respondents living near or below 200% poverty paid between 25% and 31% of their annual household income for their mortgage payment.

On average, respondents lived in their neighborhood for 11 YEARS.

For home owners, the average mortgage payment was $864 per month.

For renters, the average cost of rent is $655 per month.

For those living near or below 200% poverty, on average, renters paid between 34% and 46% of their annual household income for rent.

CAREGIVER

N=86

On average, respondents who were caretakers paid between 19% and 23% of their annual household income for their mortgage payment.

On average, respondents lived in their neighborhood for 16 YEARS.

For home owners, the average mortgage payment was $902 per month.

For renters, the average cost of rent is $708 per month.

For caretakers, on average, renters paid between 31% and 42% of their annual household income for rent.


**EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFITS**

Of all respondents that were still in the workforce, 65.8% of respondents were **employed full-time**, 28.8% of respondents were **employed part-time**, and 5.4% were **unemployed**.

**11.5%** of respondents were looking for employment. For those that were out of the workforce, the top reason was **retirement**.

---

**ARE YOU CURRENTLY OUT OF THE WORKFORCE DUE TO:**

![Bar chart showing reasons for being out of the workforce](chart)

- Not applicable: 47.9%
- Retirement: 24.9%
- Disability: 7.1%
- Being Laid Off: 2.1%
- Quit Previous Job: 1.3%
- Choice (e.g., stay-at-home parent): 6.0%
- Other: 5.1%

---

**HAVE YOU BEEN OFFERED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS THROUGH ANY OF YOUR CURRENT JOB(S)?**

![Bar chart showing benefits offered](chart)

- Health Insurance: 38.9%
- Dental Insurance: 32.4%
- Vision/Optical Insurance: 28.3%
- Vacation (e.g., paid time off): 36.8%
- Sick Time: 29.8%
- Maternity/Paternity Leave: 19.7%
- Life Insurance: 23.7%
- Retirement Plan: 34.3%
- None: 22.4%
- Other: 3.6%
DO YOU RECEIVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS)?

OVERALL | N=578

- Childcare Assistance: 1.7%
- Medicaid: 12.6%
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families): 1.7%
- Cash Assistance: 1.5%
- Food Assistance: 8.3%
- State Emergency Relief: 2.1%
- None: 75.9%
- Other: 1.1%

DO YOU RECEIVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS?

OVERALL | N=578

- Social Security: 32.9%
- Medicare: 25.5%
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children): 3.0%
- HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development): 1.3%
- MSHDA Assistance (Michigan State Housing Development Authority): 1.9%
- None: 53.0%
- Other: 3.0%

ARE YOU CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT?

- Overall | N=578
  - Yes: 11.5%
  - No: 88.5%

- 200% Poverty | N=190
  - Yes: 17.0%
  - No: 83.0%

- Caregiver | N=86
  - Yes: 16.9%
  - No: 83.1%
Perceptions of Discrimination

IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU FELT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST WHILE IN BYRON CENTER?

OVERALL | N=578

- Never: 88.2%
- Less than once per month: 6.1%
- Monthly: 1.6%
- Weekly: 1.0%
- Daily: 3.2%

FOR WHAT REASONS, DID YOU FEEL DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?

Of the 12% of respondents who had felt discriminated against while in Byron Center...

OVERALL | N=578

- Race or Ethnicity: 35.6%
- Gender: 30.5%
- Age: 25.4%
- Religion: 28.8%
- Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity: 15.3%
- Appearance: 27.1%
- Economic Status: 15.3%
- Marital Status: 18.6%
- Language: 10.2%
- Disability: 15.3%
- Have Children: 13.6%
- Do Not Have Children: 10.2%
- Pregnancy Status: 11.9%
- Other: 18.6%
IN WHICH SYSTEM/SITUATIONS, DID YOU EXPERIENCE DISCRIMINATION?

OVERALL | N=578

- Housing: 24.1%
- Banking: 13.8%
- Education/School: 31.0%
- Employment: 22.4%
- Business: 20.7%
- Government: 15.5%
- Social Interactions (with people I don't know): 15.5%
- Social Interactions (with people I know): 13.8%
- Other: 13.8%

To what extent do you think racism is an issue in the U.S.?
- Very much: 29.5%
- Somewhat: 53.0%
- Not Really: 6.2%
- Undecided: 9.4%

To what extent do you think racism is an issue in Byron Center?
- Very much: 8.9%
- Somewhat: 28.8%
- Not Really: 26.2%
- Undecided: 26.8%

To what extent do you think racism is an issue in your neighborhood?
- Very much: 5.4%
- Somewhat: 16.1%
- Not Really: 31.9%
- Undecided: 18.1%
Perceptions of the Local Police and Courts

OVERALL | N=578

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How well do you think the local police treat each of these groups of people?</th>
<th>Very Well</th>
<th>Fairly Well</th>
<th>Not Very Well</th>
<th>Not Well at All</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/ Alaska Native</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/ Latino</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, asexual)</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL | N=578

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How well do you think the local courts treat each of these groups of people?</th>
<th>Very Well</th>
<th>Fairly Well</th>
<th>Not Very Well</th>
<th>Not Well at All</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/ Alaska Native</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/ Latino</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, asexual)</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

OVERALL | N=578

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Of the people you interacted with in the past week, how many were:</th>
<th>Most</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Few</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>53.1%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/ Alaska Native</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/ Latino</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similar to you economically</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, asexual)</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health and Access to Healthcare

IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH?

OVERALL | N=578

- A- Excellent: 23.9%
- B- Good: 52.5%
- C- Fair: 16.4%
- D- Poor: 5.3%
- F- Failing: 1.8%

200% POVERTY | N=190

- A- Excellent: 28.0%
- B- Good: 46.3%
- C- Fair: 17.7%
- D- Poor: 8.0%
- F- Failing: 0.0%

CAREGIVER | N=86

- A- Excellent: 23.4%
- B- Good: 55.8%
- C- Fair: 13.0%
- D- Poor: 3.9%
- F- Failing: 3.9%

IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH?

OVERALL | N=578

- A- Excellent: 33.7%
- B- Good: 48.7%
- C- Fair: 1.8%
- D- Poor: 4.3%
- F- Failing: 1.0%

200% POVERTY | N=190

- A- Excellent: 34.3%
- B- Good: 46.1%
- C- Fair: 14.6%
- D- Poor: 3.3%
- F- Failing: 1.7%

CAREGIVER | N=86

- A- Excellent: 18.2%
- B- Good: 54.6%
- C- Fair: 15.6%
- D- Poor: 6.5%
- F- Failing: 5.2%
### Health and Access to Healthcare

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Blood Pressure</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADD/ ADHD</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Poisoning</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Cholesterol</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Blood Glucose (A1C)</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES THE HEALTHCARE COVERAGE YOU HAVE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance (through employer)</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance (through spouse or domestic partner)</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance (through parent(s))</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Health Insurance</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare or Medicare Supplement</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Michigan Plan</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable Care Act (ACA, MiCare or Obama Care)</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-paid health insurance (I pay the premiums myself)</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran’s Administration (TRICARE)</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Health Service (Tribal Health Insurance)</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Health and Access to Healthcare

#### HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING DISABILITIES?

**OVERALL | N=578**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual (ex. blindness or cataracts)</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory (ex. deafness)</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical (ex. arthritis or limited limb functions)</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental (ex. low mental functions or a closed head injury)</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ARE YOU CURRENTLY PREGNANT?

**OVERALL | N=578**

- **Yes**: 3.5%
- **No**: 96.5%

#### Body Mass Index (BMI) Category

**OVERALL | N=578**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Mass Index (BMI) Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Weight</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**200% POVERTY | N=190**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Mass Index (BMI) Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Weight</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CAREGIVER | N=86**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Mass Index (BMI) Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Weight</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IN THE PAST 7 DAYS, ON HOW MANY DAYS WERE YOU PHYSICALLY ACTIVE FOR A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 30 MINUTES?

- Seven Days: 14.6%
- Six Days: 4.7%
- Five Days: 14.9%
- Four Days: 9.7%
- Three Days: 21.0%
- Two Days: 14.2%
- One Day: 8.0%
- Zero Days: 12.8%
DO YOU HAVE ONE PERSON THAT YOU THINK OF AS YOUR PERSONAL DOCTOR OR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER?

OVERALL | N=578

- Yes: 88.0%
- No: 12.0%

IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW OFTEN DID YOU USE URGENT CARE FACILITIES FOR YOURSELF INSTEAD OF A PERSONAL DOCTOR OR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER?

OVERALL | N=578

- Never: 60.5%
- 1-11 times per year: 2.7%
- Monthly: 11.7%
- Weekly: 0.8%
- Less than once per month: 24.4%

IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW OFTEN DID YOU GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM FOR YOURSELF INSTEAD OF A PERSONAL DOCTOR OR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER?

OVERALL | N=578

- Never: 73.8%
- 1-11 times per year: 0.2%
- Monthly: 13.3%
- Weekly: 0.2%
- Less than once per year: 12.5%
The top five environmental issues respondents thought should be prioritized were: Protection of Lake Michigan, Conservation of pristine natural areas, Pollution in the body of water near me, Litter and Pollution in the Grand River and tributaries.

**OVERALL | N=578**

Which of the following environmental issues do you think should be prioritized in West Michigan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Issue</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor air quality</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor air quality</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees in my neighborhood</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to natural areas</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution causing climate change</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change impacts in West Michigan</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste disposal/ Incineration</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation of pristine natural areas</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution in the body of water near me</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution in the Grand River and tributaries</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of Lake Michigan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural resource extraction (timber, oil, gas, etc.)</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top five environmental issues respondents thought should be prioritized were: Protection of Lake Michigan, Conservation of pristine natural areas, Pollution in the body of water near me, Litter and Pollution in the Grand River and tributaries.

**HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE OVERALL WATER QUALITY?**

**OVERALL | N=578**

- A- Excellent: 3.3%
- B- Good: 26.7%
- C- Fair: 47.6%
- D- Poor: 18.5%
- F- Failing: 4.0%

**HOW OFTEN DO YOU RECYCLE TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD WASTE, EXCLUDING BEVERAGE CANS AND BOTTLES WITH A DEPOSIT?**

**OVERALL | N=578**

- Daily: 32.9%
- Weekly: 18.1%
- Monthly: 21.7%
- Less than once per month: 13.8%
- Never: 13.6%
DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN?

OVERALL | N=578

- Yes: 70.9%
- No: 29.1%

DO ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN CURRENTLY ATTEND:

- Public School: 26.6%
- Other Public School: 4.9%
- Charter Schools: 3.8%
- Private Schools: 7.5%
- Homeschools: 3.8%
- Other: 9.4%
- None of the above: 43.8%

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE NUMBER OF CHOICES AVAILABLE WHEN CHOOSING A LOCAL SCHOOL OR DISTRICT?

OVERALL | N=578

- Excellent: 44.6%
- Good: 32.7%
- Fair: 7.3%
- Poor: 3.3%
- Don't know/Can't say: 11.9%

I BELIEVE THE SCHOOLS IN MY COMMUNITY ARE COMMITTED TO BUILDING EACH CHILD’S STRENGTHS.

OVERALL | N=578

- Strongly Agree: 38.7%
- Agree: 41.0%
- Not Sure: 2.0%
- Disagree: 9.5%
- Strongly Disagree: 2.0%

I BELIEVE THE TEACHERS IN MY COMMUNITY’S SCHOOLS EXCITE CHILDREN ABOUT THE FUTURE.

OVERALL | N=578

- Strongly Agree: 27.0%
- Agree: 40.1%
- Not Sure: 28.2%
- Disagree: 2.8%
- Strongly Disagree: 2.0%
**IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW OFTEN DID YOU GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM FOR YOUR CHILDREN INSTEAD OF A PERSONAL DOCTOR OR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER?**

**OVERALL | N=578**

- Never: 67.0%
- Less than once per year: 16.7%
- Weekly: 14.6%
- Monthly: 1.5%
- 1-11 times per year: 0.8%
- More than once per year: 0.4%

**IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW OFTEN DID YOU USE URGENT CARE FACILITIES FOR YOUR CHILDREN INSTEAD OF A PERSONAL DOCTOR OR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER?**

**OVERALL | N=578**

- Never: 64.7%
- Less than once per year: 14.1%
- Weekly: 12.0%
- Monthly: 0.4%
- 1-11 times per year: 8.7%
- More than once per year: 0.8%

**DO ANY CHILDREN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?**

**OVERALL | N=578**

- Type 1 diabetes: 3.1%
- Type II diabetes: 1.5%
- Heart disease: 1.9%
- Depression: 7.7%
- Asthma: 8.4%
- ADD/ADHD: 11.5%
- Lead Poisoning: 1.5%
- No children in household: 11.9%
- None: 19.0%
VoiceByronCenter Report: 2015 Pilot Survey Report ~ Addendum 1

March 2016

Prepared by

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Laura Quist, MSW, Research Coordinator
Chyna Grove, Research Coordinator

Community Research Institute
Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy
Grand Valley State University

Summary

This document is an addendum to the VoiceByronCenter Report: 2015 Pilot Survey Report. VoiceByronCenter is a community survey that aims to better understand Byron Center area residents' experiences, perceptions, and opinions. The survey asks about resident characteristics, education, neighborhood, housing, work, basic needs, transportation, discrimination, racism, social interactions, health care, and environment.
Mental health, service participation, and basic needs

Respondents with mental health conditions
- Of the 578 total respondents, 124 indicated they had depression, anxiety, and/or a mental disability (24% of all respondents). This represents the category of respondents with mental health conditions. The number of total respondents varies for the results below based on how many respondents with mental health conditions answered the questions.

Mental health service participation
- 48 would participate in mental health services (including medication and/or counseling (41% of respondents with a mental health condition), 55 would not participate (47%), and 14 did not know (12%).
- Total respondents: 117
Basic needs

- Overall, 61 respondents could not very well afford to meet their basic needs (12%) and 14 respondents could not at all afford to meet their basic needs (3%). In comparison, 258 respondents could afford to meet their basic needs very well (35%) and 181 respondents could afford to meet their basic needs fairly well (50%).

- Of the respondents with mental health conditions, 26 respondents could not very well afford to meet their basic needs (22% of respondents with mental health conditions) and 7 respondents could not at all afford to meet their basic needs (6%). In comparison, 41 respondents could afford to meet their basic needs very well (34%) and 36 respondents could afford to meet their basic needs fairly well (38%).

- Total respondents: 120
Worry about basic needs
- Of respondents with mental health conditions that could not very well or not at all afford to meet their basic needs, food, including water, was of most concern (n=13, 50%), followed by shelter and utilities (n=5 each, 19% each), and then clothing (n=3, 12%).
- Total respondents: 26

Help with a basic needs
- Of respondents with mental health conditions that could not very well or not at all afford to meet their basic needs, 16 knew someone or place that could help them with their basic needs (50%).
- Total respondents: 32
**Education**

Overall, Byron Center area respondents had more favorable perceptions towards the schools and teachers in their community than greater Grand Rapids area respondents.

**I believe the schools in my community are committed to building each child's strengths.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Byron Center</th>
<th>Grand Rapids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**I believe the teachers in my community's schools excite children about the future.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Byron Center</th>
<th>Grand Rapids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall, Byron Center area respondents with children attending public schools in general had more favorable perceptions towards the schools and teachers in their community than greater Grand Rapids area respondents with children attending public schools in general.

**I believe the schools in my community are committed to building each child's strengths.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Byron Center</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**I believe the teachers in my community's schools excite children about the future.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Byron Center</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>