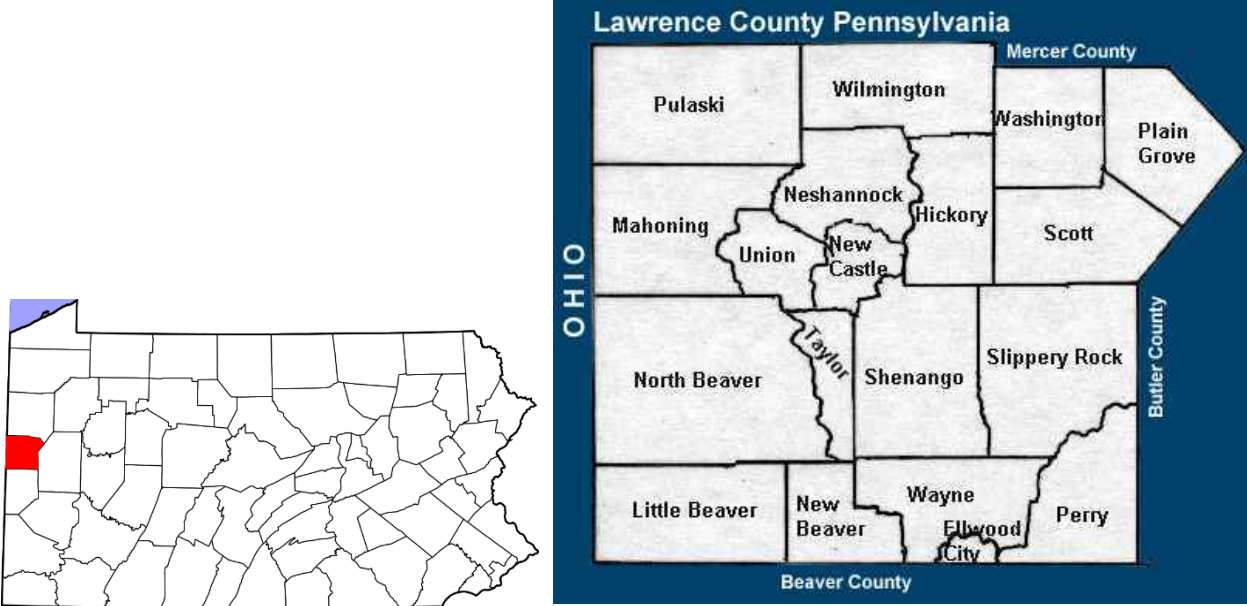


COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FOR LAWRENCE COUNTY, PA

March 2022



Produced by Lawrence County Community Action Partnership, with significant contributions by organization board members, staff, community-based partners, and community members.



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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Lawrence County Community Action Partnership's (LCCAP) purpose in conducting a Community Needs Assessment is to examine both the strengths of the community and its areas for improvement. Through the Community Needs Assessment, LCCAP will be able to develop a clear understanding of Lawrence County and develop proactive plans with community partners to address any areas of concern.

The Community Needs Assessment will examine the basic composition of the County, the key partnerships and collaborations held by LCCAP, and key indicators of the area's quality of life.

The availability of assets, affordability of the indicator, and quality of each indicator will be examined. This examination will highlight the resources available to Lawrence County residents as well as clarify any areas of need that if developed could improve services and resources in the County.

LCCAP Mission Statement

The partnership is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life within Lawrence County by eliminating and preventing the causes and effects of poverty by mobilizing and directing resources to assist, educate, and promote self-sufficiency.

Role of the Community Action Agency

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are nonprofit organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's War on Poverty. Their mission is to help people help themselves in achieving self-sufficiency.

LCCAP is the designated community action agency of Lawrence County and is also part of a larger CAA Network: National Community Action Partnership, National Community Action Foundation, Community Action Association of Pennsylvania, and regional CAA partner collaborations.

LCCAP Profile

LCCAP is comprised of three agencies: Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. (LCSS), Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc. (ACTS), and United Community Services, Inc. (UCS). These three agencies are housed together, intermingling programming, leveraging funding streams, and embodied under the same fiscal management, thereby fostering efficient and effective communication across the organization.

The majority of LCCAP's programs and services are geared toward low-income individuals and families experiencing crisis and/or in need of services to overcome issues negatively impacting self-sufficiency such as employment, education, health, housing, transportation, and childcare. LCCAP provides the above-mentioned services to a variety of populations across the lifespan, with some programs/services geared to meet the needs of certain cohorts such as infants,

toddlers, and preschoolers, at-risk youth, older youth ages 16-24, senior citizens, disabled individuals, minorities, and veterans.

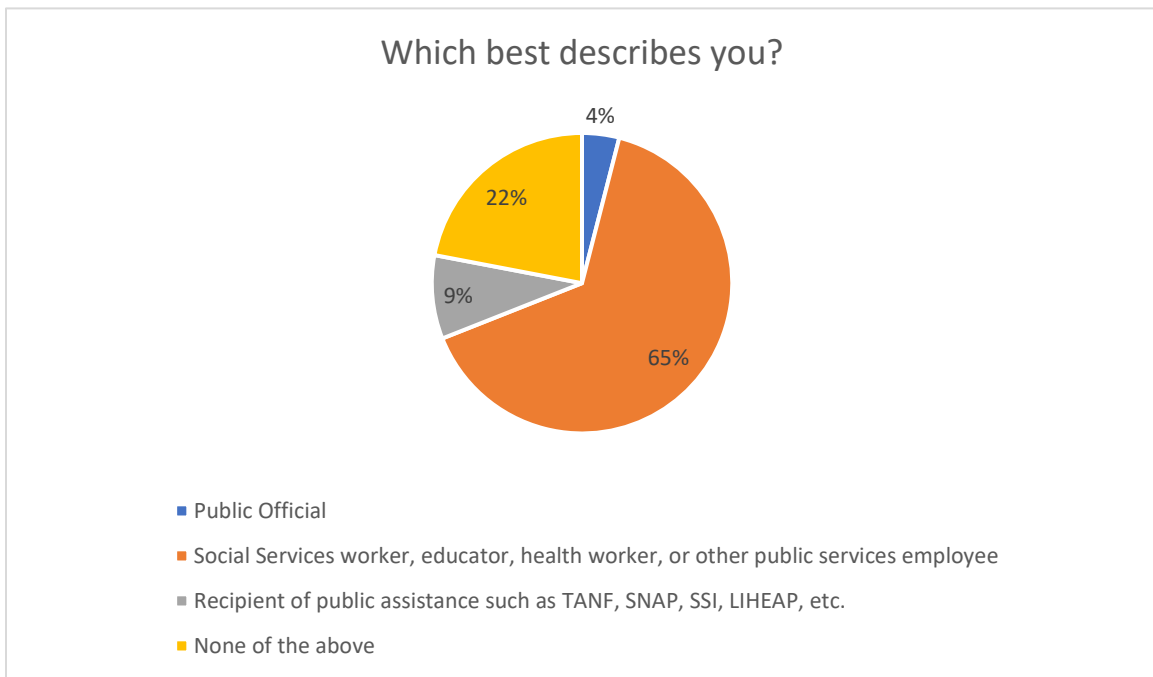
LCCAP has become the regional administrator of several programs, currently encompassing 17 counties across Pennsylvania.

This community needs assessment will focus on Lawrence County only.

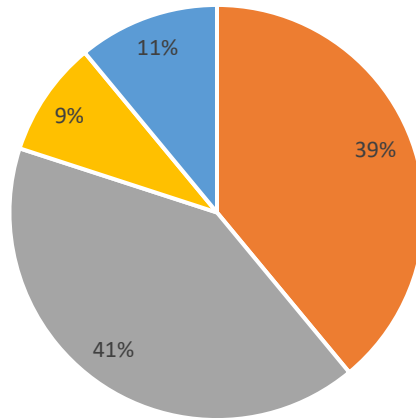
The Assessment Process

The choices about what to assess and how to undertake the assessment process engaged all key LCCAP decision-makers and other staff who are primary users of the information and analysis, including the Board of Directors. An assessment team was established and charged with the responsibility of the compilation and analysis of the data and information.

LCCAP’s Assessment Team first developed a Community Needs Assessment Survey to poll community citizens to get public insight on priorities, needs, and gaps in services within Lawrence County. A total of 54 individuals representing all ages, sectors of the community, and both urban and rural areas of the community responded. Results are as follows:

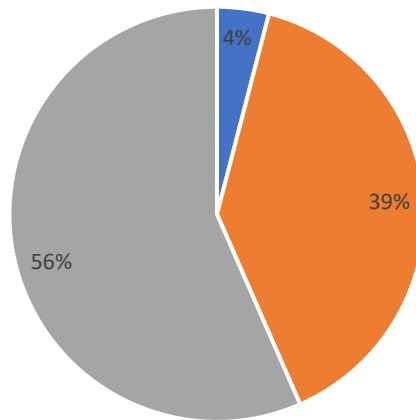


What is your age?



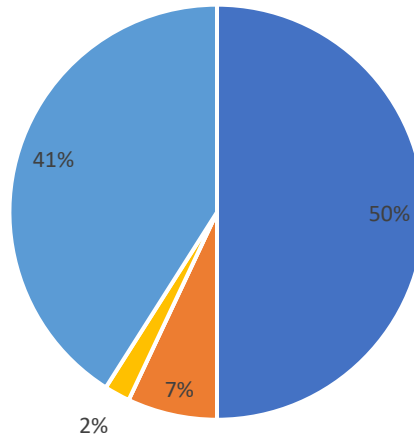
■ 20 or younger ■ 21-40 years old ■ 41-54 years old ■ 55-65 years old ■ 66 or older

Where in Lawrence County do you reside?



■ Ellwood City ■ New Castle ■ Township/Borough

If you have children, what type of school do they go to?



■ Public School ■ Charter School ■ Private School ■ Homeschooling ■ Other

In your opinion, please indicate below whether you feel the items listed are a strength or need in Lawrence County.

Items	Strength	Need
Access to grocery stores and food	37	17
Activities for youth	5	49
Adequate and affordable housing options	23	30
Caring community	26	27
Charities and social services	42	12
Churches	53	0
Community events and activities	16	38
Cost of living	34	20
Cultural diversity and race relations	28	25
Day care – Adult	30	24
Day care – Children	40	14
Domestic violence services	38	16
Employment options and job security	22	32
Entertainment and social gatherings	14	40
Health care	26	28
Home repair and maintenance	24	30
Hometown pride	28	26
Infrastructure (sewage, roads, etc.)	11	43
Leadership	19	35
Mental Health Services	30	24
Quality of employment	14	38
Recreational opportunities	9	44
Retail shopping options	7	46
Safety and crime rate	12	42
Schools and academic institutions	36	18
Services and opportunities for the disabled	31	22
Services and opportunities for the elderly	30	23
Substance abuse and addiction services	37	17
Transportation options	26	27
Veteran services	26	26
Volunteer opportunities	32	21

Do you believe it is easy to find these services in Lawrence County?

Service	Yes	No
Activities for youth	7	47
Domestic violence services	41	13
Employment	33	21
Education	39	15
Free or low cost legal services	21	32
Fresh produce and nutritional foods	39	15
Home repair/maintenance	25	29
Housing or utility assistance	39	15
Legal documents (birth certificate, marriage license, court documents, etc.	44	10
Mental health	35	19
Public assistance/welfare benefits	48	6
Substance abuse	41	13
Transportation	30	24
Veteran services	30	22
Volunteer services	33	20

Have you applied for any services due to the COVID-19 pandemic after March 13, 2020?

Service	Yes	Receive the service?	No
Activities for youth	3	2	50
Domestic violence services	6	1	48
Employment	5	1	44
Education	2	1	49
Free or low cost legal services	2	1	49
Fresh produce & nutritional food	6	4	46
Food/grocery delivery or pick up	12	9	39
Housing or utility assistance	3	2	49
Legal documents (birth certificate, marriage license, court documents, etc.)	3	2	49
Mental health	5	2	47
Public assistance/welfare benefits	8	5	44
Substance abuse	5	0	49
Transportation	6	2	45

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every 3 years, Lawrence County Community Action Partnership completes an assessment of needs and assets for Lawrence County. Current top findings per service domain are as follows:

Employment

Many jobs available within the county are in industries not providing a living wage. Therefore, many people even when employed are considered underemployed because they do not work full time hours and/or are reliant upon government subsidies to make ends meet. The median household income in 2019 for Lawrence County is \$50,204.

Education & Cognitive Development

The county's drop-out rate is lower and graduation rate is higher than the State average although the attainment of post-secondary degrees and certifications are lower than both State and National averages. Early childhood education continues to be an area of increased need in order to help low-income children ages 0-5 become Kindergarten-ready both developmentally and cognitively.

Income, Infrastructure, & Asset Building

New Castle, PA, the main city and government seat of Lawrence County, was designated a financially distressed municipality under the PA Act 47 in 2007. Total county population steadily declines each year. In the past this occurred as both the state and national population rates increase. However, in the past two years, there has been a steady decline in the state of Pennsylvania as well. The poverty rate is higher than both State and National averages. Lawrence County's Blueprint Communities team, which consists of a diverse group of local leaders and stakeholders, are working diligently on community revitalization plans. The current, ongoing pandemic, Covid-19, has contributed to the continued decline of the area, in the form of economic issues.

Housing

Housing has consistently been a top need within the county for the past decade. A significant number of households are cost-burdened, meaning that more than 30% of their household income goes to housing costs. Lawrence County's Department of Planning and Community Development developed The Housing and Implementation Plan, which was adopted in November 2018, specifically to address this issue. Starting in March of 2020, Lawrence County was affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. LCCAP received more than \$3.35 million in CARES Act funding to help county residents who are struggling with homelessness or the threat of homelessness. This funding is provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and ensured that housing was available for residents and working families at a time when safe, affordable shelter is critical.

Health/Social Behavioral Development

Lawrence County ranks higher than State and National averages for being at risk for many health concerns. Lawrence County, for 2021, is ranked in the 0-25% range for both healthy outcomes and health factors in the State of Pennsylvania. Items of consideration that were factored into these figures are, for outcomes, premature deaths, poor to fair health, poor physical days, poor mental health days, low birth weight. Items for consideration for factors are smoking, obesity, food environment, physical activity, access to exercise opportunities, excessive drinking and teen births. This is per countyhealthrankings.org.

There is currently only one hospital for Lawrence County, UPMC-Jameson. Ellwood City Hospital closed. However, there are a multitude of assets provided to the county, via UPMC and their affiliates, for residents to receive care & treatment. There are also sites for residents to engage in positive social and physical activities, which aid in overall health and wellbeing.

Civic Engagement & Community Involvement

Lawrence County has many social and human service agencies offering one or more services to support low-income families with difficulties they may be facing. These services are usually maintained with assistance from outside volunteers. A plethora of other local groups organized through schools, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, and private enterprises offer programs, services and activities to build community engagement across the lifespan. In order to tackle the growing challenges of the community, youth and young adult involvement and more private business participation are needed. Since March 2020, volunteerism has almost been at a standstill. During this time, the focus of agencies and local groups has been food security.

2022 Federal Family Poverty Guidelines

2022 Federal Family Poverty Guideline Effective 1/25/22

Size of Family Unit	100% of Poverty Level	125% of Poverty Level	130% of Poverty Level	150% of Poverty Level	200% of Poverty Level	235% of Poverty Level	250% of Poverty Level	300% of Poverty Level
1	\$13,590	\$16,988	\$17,667	\$20,385	\$27,180	\$31,937	\$33,975	\$40,770
2	\$18,310	\$22,888	\$23,803	\$27,465	\$36,620	\$43,029	\$45,775	\$54,930
3	\$23,030	\$28,788	\$29,939	\$34,545	\$46,060	\$54,121	\$57,575	\$69,090
4	\$27,750	\$34,688	\$36,075	\$41,625	\$55,500	\$65,213	\$69,375	\$83,250
5	\$32,470	\$40,588	\$42,211	\$48,705	\$64,940	\$76,305	\$81,175	\$97,410
6	\$37,190	\$46,488	\$48,347	\$55,785	\$74,380	\$87,397	\$92,975	\$111,570
7	\$41,910	\$52,388	\$54,483	\$62,865	\$83,820	\$98,489	\$104,775	\$125,730
8	\$46,630	\$58,288	\$60,619	\$69,945	\$93,260	\$109,581	\$116,575	\$139,890

For family units with more than eight (8) members

Each Additional Family Member								
	\$4,720	\$5,900	\$6,136	\$7,080	\$9,440	\$11,092	\$11,800	\$12,480

2021 Area Median Income 7/1/2021

0%-30%	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
	\$13,850	\$15,800	\$17,800	\$19,750	\$21,350	\$22,950	\$24,500	\$26,100
31%-59% very low income	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
	\$23,050	\$26,350	\$29,650	\$32,900	\$35,550	\$38,200	\$40,800	\$43,450
60%-79%	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
	\$27,660	\$31,620	\$35,580	\$39,480	\$42,660	\$45,480	\$48,960	\$52,140
80% Low income	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
	\$36,900	\$42,150	\$47,400	\$52,650	\$56,900	\$61,100	\$65,300	\$69,500
100%	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
	\$46,167	\$52,667	\$59,333	\$65,833	\$71,167	\$76,500	\$81,667	\$87,000

LCSS Forms/Client File Forms & Stickers/ 2022 Poverty Guidelines

Updated 1/25/22

COMMUNITY AND POPULATION PROFILE OF LAWRENCE COUNTY

Lawrence County, Pennsylvania is a relatively small county (approximately 360 square miles) that is bounded to the north by Mercer County, to the east by Butler County, to the south by Beaver County, and to the west by the State of Ohio. The County itself is subdivided into twenty-seven municipalities. The city of New Castle, situated very near the geographical center of the county, is the county seat. Lawrence County is designated a rural county, with 59% of its population living within its urban areas.

Lawrence County's proximity to major cities and transportation routes make it a crossroads to Ohio and points south, north, and east, such as Pittsburgh, Erie, and New York City, respectively, via routes I-80, I-79, and I-76 (the Pennsylvania Turnpike). Despite its prime location, Lawrence County's economy began a gradual, steady decline in the late 1970s, with losses of jobs, population, and tax base. Economic security and community well-being diminished, and a majority of the public believe it has not yet been recovered.

In 2020 with an estimated 86,070 people (U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts), Lawrence County is the 33rd most populated county of Pennsylvania amongst a total of 67 counties. Total county population steadily declines each year as both the state and national population rates increase. According to DATA USA, the median household income is \$50,204 and the median age of residents is 45.2. Average household size is 2.28 and average family size is 3.00. 92.9% of the population is White/Caucasian. Median Property Value is \$111,300 and the homeownership rate is 74.5%. The average car ownership is 2 cars per household. The unemployment rate for December 2021 for Lawrence County and the state unemployment rate was the same at 5.7%.

The federal poverty rate of individuals within the county remains stagnant overall, though has increased within the urban areas over the past few decades and is currently 13.8% which is higher than the state average of 12.4% and the national average of 12.3%. Lawrence County has a host of social service, human service, faith-based, community-based, and non-profit organizations assisting families through supportive services and programs to address economic insecurity (food, clothing, housing, employment, transportation, etc.), as well as other services for vulnerable populations and those in need (mental health, D&A, childcare, education, mentoring, etc.). This multitude of services and partnerships amongst these entities are a strength of the county.

Understanding both the needs and the assets of the community are imperative to the assessment process, results/outcomes, and strategic plan for progress. A comprehensive and organized assessment will derive more meaningful and effective action plans. The following tables, graphs, and narrative include additional data regarding the county's population profile.

Population Change

Population change within the report area from 2010-2020 is shown below. During the period, total population estimates for the report area declined by -5.53 percent, decreasing from 91,108 persons in 2010 to 86,070 persons in 2020.

Report Area	Total Population, 2020 ACS	Total Population, 2010 Census	Population Change from 2010-2020 Census/ACS	Percent Change from 2010-2020 Census/ACS
Lawrence County, PA	86,070	91,108	-5,038	-5.53%
Pennsylvania	13,002,700	12,702,379	300,321	2.36%
United States	331,449,281	308,745,538	2,270,375	7.35%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Quick Facts 2020

Age and Gender Demographics

Population by gender within the report area is shown below.

Report Area	0 to 4 Male	0 to 4 Female	5 to 17 Male	5 to 17 Female	18 to 64 Male	18 to 64 Female	Over 64 Male	Over 64 Female
Lawrence County, PA	2,189	2,329	6,243	6,218	24,925	24,539	8,177	10,892
Pennsylvania	365,756	338,905	990,288	946,376	3,878,031	3,903,415	1,047,452	1,340,766
United States	9,938,937	9,465,898	27,382,690	26,180,260	100,223,065	100,947,645	24,044,281	30,029,747

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County

Adult Ages (18 - 65)

Report Area	18 to 24 Male	18 to 24 Female	25 to 34 Male	25 to 34 Female	35 to 44 Male	35 to 44 Female	45 to 54 Male	45 to 54 Female	55 to 64 Male	55 to 64 Female
Lawrence County, PA	3,651	3,244	4,956	4,658	4,612	4,509	5,324	5,349	6,382	6,779
Pennsylvania	578,590	563,038	869,539	835,309	759,312	760,867	793,205	812,434	877,385	931,767
United States	15,556,254	14,816,916	23,099,299	22,479,176	20,920,715	20,994,130	20,155,362	20,707,745	20,491,435	21,976,678

Hispanic Ages (Male and Female Combined)

Report Area	0 to 4	5 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	Over 65
Lawrence County, PA	121	325	167	166	219	93	65	105
Pennsylvania	92,640	199,693	116,341	154,743	129,469	99,369	64,239	51,122
United States	5,106,555	13,350,069	6,758,665	9,232,392	8,409,995	6,798,614	4,657,233	4,165,820

Data Source: US Census Bureau- American Community Survey 2019 Source: geography county

Race Demographics

Population by racer within the report area is shown below.

Report Area	White Total	Black Total	American Indian Total	Asian Total	Native Hawaiian Total	Other Race Total
Lawrence County, PA	76,303	3,664	103	323	7	652
Pennsylvania	9,750,687	1,423,169	31,052	510,501	4,276	508,531
United States	204,277,273	41,104,200	3,727,135	19,886,049	689,966	27,915,715

Race Demographics – Male and Female Combined

Report Area	White	Black	American Indian	Asian Total	Native Hawaiian	Mixed Race
Lawrence County, PA	76,303	3,664	103	323	7	5,018
Pennsylvania	9,750,687	1,423,169	31,052	510,501	4,276	774,484
United States	204,277,273	41,104,200	3,727,135	19,886,049	689,966	33,848,943

Ethnicity Demographics – Male and Female Combined

Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic / Latino
Lawrence County, PA	1,655	84,415	1.92%	98.08%
Pennsylvania	1,049,615	11,953,085	8.07%%	91.93%
United States	62,080,044	269,369,237	18.73%	81.27%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2020 DEC Redistricting Data

Hispanic Population

This indicator reports the percentage of population that is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.

Report Area	Total Population	Non-Hispanic Population	Percent Population Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino Population	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino
Lawrence County, PA	86,070	84,415	98.1%	1,655	1.9%
Pennsylvania	13,002,700	11,953,085	91.9%	1,049,615	8.1%
United States	331,449,281	269,369,237	81.3%	62,080,044	18.7%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2020 DEC Redistricting Data

Hispanic Population by Age Group

Report Area	0 to 4	5 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	Over 65
Lawrence County, PA	121	325	167	166	219	93	65	105
Pennsylvania	92,640	199,693	116,341	154,743	129,469	99,369	64,239	51,122
United States	5,106,555	13,350,069	6,758,665	9,232,392	8,409,995	6,798,614	4,657,233	4,165,820

Data Source: US Census Bureau- American Community Survey 2019 Source: geography county

Household Types

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 37,282 households in the report area in 2019. Single person households comprised of 30.1 percent of the total, two person households comprised 37.6 percent of the total, three person households comprised 14.2 percent of the total and four or more person households comprised 17.5 percent of the total.

Report Area	Total Households	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 or More People
Lawrence County, PA	37,282	11,434	14,016	5,309	6,523
Pennsylvania	5,119,249	1,543,550	1,822,714	754,524	998,461
United States	122,802,852	34,752,631	42,095,164	18,798,040	27,157,017

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019. Source geography: county

Veterans Age and Gender Demographics

Veterans are men and women who have served (even for a short time), but are not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians are classified as nonveterans. While it is possible for 17 year olds to be veterans of the Armed Forces, ACS data products are restricted to the population 18 years and older.

Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics show the number of veterans living in the report area. 9.77% of the adult population in the report area are veterans, which is more than the national average of 8.01%.

Report Area	Veterans Total	Veterans Male	Veterans Female	% Pop over 18 Total	% Pop over 18 Males	% Pop over 18 Females
Lawrence County, PA	6,374	6,081	293	9.77%	19.13%	1.23%
Pennsylvania	710,375	658,026	52,349	8.34%	16.2%	0.99%
United States	17,418,351	15,781,864	1,636,487	8.01%	15.17%	1.26%

Report Area	Veteran Age Males 18-34	Veteran Age Females 18-34	Veteran Age Males 35-54	Veteran Age Females 35-54	Veteran Age Males 55-64	Veteran Age Females 55-64	Veteran Age Males Over 65	Veteran Age Females Over 65
Lawrence County, PA	424	93	1,601	62	711	38	1,542	100
Pennsylvania	38,899	8,027	122,682	19,644	110,606	12,915	184,674	11,763
United States	1,202,707	265,690	3,415,383	629,342	2,732,633	402,172	8,431,141	339,283

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019. Source geography: County

Crime

According to www.neighborhoodscout.com, the City of New Castle, the seat of Lawrence County PA, has a Crime Index of 8 (100 is the safest), which means it is safer than 8% of U.S. Cities for 2020. The chance of becoming a victim of a violent crime in New Castle is 1 in 143, as compared to 1 in 261 in Pennsylvania. The chance of becoming a victim of property crime in New Castle is 1 in 33, as compared to 1 in 62 in Pennsylvania.

Crime statistics for Ellwood City, PA, the only other city in the county are as follows: Crime Index of 27. Chance of being a victim of a violent crime is 1 in 546. Chance of being a victim of property crime is 1 in 56.

Occurrences of violent crime for the county as a whole is reported at 153 for 2020. Occurrences of property crime is reported at 669.

County Adult Probation and Parole

The table below shows number of probation and parole individual in the report area in 2018.

Report Area	Parole	Probation	Intermediate Punishment	ARD	Inactive	Absconders	Total Caseload
Lawrence County, PA	194	251	106	161	444	181	1,337
Pennsylvania	52,618	77,684	15,446	26,806	30,364	27,361	246,995

Data Source: Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. Source: Annual Statistical Report 2018

Offense Grade Numbers

Report Area	Felony	Misdemeanor	Other	Unknown	Total Offenders
Lawrence County, PA	714	586	37	-	1,337
Pennsylvania	80,245	130,565	14,168	22,017	246,995

Data Source: Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. Source: Annual Statistical Report 2018

Race/Origin of Offenders

Report Area	White	Black or African American	American Indian Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	Other	Not Known	Data Not Available	Total Offenders
Lawrence County, PA	1,001	281	1	3	-	51	-	-	1,337
Pennsylvania	146,224	68,229	308	1,574	414	2,933	4,786	22,527	246,995

Data Source: Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. Source: Annual Statistical Report 2018

Number of Probation and Parole by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Unknown	Total Offenders
Lawrence County, PA	1,035	302	-	1,337
Pennsylvania	162,022	57,324	27,649	246,995

Data Source: Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. Source: Annual Statistical Report 2018

Specialty Courts

Report Area	Domestic Violence	Driving Under The Influence	Drug	Job	Mental Health	Re-Entry	Veterans	Other Courts	Total Specialty Courts
Lawrence County, PA	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	2

Data Source: Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. Source: Annual Statistical Report 2018

Juvenile Probation

According to the 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report, Lawrence County's total population is 85,512. The population in the county for juveniles ages 10 to 17 is 7,889. There were 15,033 Delinquency-Related Allegations in Pennsylvania. This number reflects a 37.0% drop from 2016 and a 33.8% drop from 2019. Lawrence County had 76 Delinquency Allegations.

Delinquency Allegations

Report Area	Delinquency Allegations	Statewide Percentage	Male	Female	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
Lawrence County, PA	76	.5%	57	19	55	18	1	1	1

Data Source: Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Source: 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report

Delinquency Allegations by Offense

Report Area	Person	Property	Drug	Other	Total
Lawrence County, PA	25	19	12	20	76
Pennsylvania	4,199	3,543	2,299	4,992	15,033

Data Source: Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Source: 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report

SERVICES AND STRATEGIES

Employment

Covid-19 has affected Lawrence County's employment base much like the rest of the nation. According to DATA USA, the economy of Lawrence County, PA employs 39,582 people in the year 2019. The economy of Lawrence County, PA is specialized in Manufacturing; Utilities; and Healthcare & Social Assistance which employ respectively 1.53; 1.3; and 1.26 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. Healthcare & Social Assistance (6,927), Manufacturing (6,051), and Retail trade (4,726) were the largest industries in Lawrence County during this time, while the highest paying industries were Utilities (\$81,979), Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction (\$60,750), and Transportation & Warehousing, & Utilities (\$53,280). Median household income in Lawrence County, PA was \$50,204. This represents a 2.75% one-year growth rate for the county from 2018 to 2019.

Local Employment Services and Assets

LCCAP offers a variety of life skills, social skills, job readiness, employment & education, workforce development support programs, and general employment support and case management services for low-income, disabled, and vulnerable populations. Services include interest and aptitude assessments, intensive individualized case management and employment-focused group workshops work-based learning, job shadowing, internships, community service assignments, paid work experience, and subsidized employment opportunities.

Residents with disabilities seeking to find employment can benefit from services provided through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). The mission of OVR is to assist Pennsylvanians with disabilities to secure and maintain employment and independence. OVR works with participants to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment which considers different types of careers, transferable skills, chances for employment, potential earnings, family responsibilities, and required training. Other services available for participants are: diagnostic services, vocational evaluation, counseling, restoration services, training, and placement.

West Central Job Partnership (WCJP) administers the federally funded Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act's Title I Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker programs for residents of Lawrence and Mercer Counties. WCJP contributes to the PA CareerLink® one stop system by offering Basic Services under WIOA. Some of these Basic Services include providing Labor Market Information to groups through an orientation, going into the school districts as well to provide LMI, referring to pre-apprenticeship courses, a resume workshop, and an Assessment and Credentialing Lab. WCJP also offers those enrolled into Adult, Youth, and/or DW programs more intensive Career Services such as Case Management, National Career Readiness Certificate, upgrading basic skills, and a staff assisted job search program that focuses on assisting individuals to gain suitable employment. Throughout their Career Services enrollment, individuals are able to participate in many other employment related programs and services that are offered at the PA CareerLink® centers by other partner agencies. WCJP also offers Training Services which include Individual Training Accounts to attend post-secondary school, On the Job Training, Paid Work Experience for Youth, and Transitional Jobs for Adults and Dislocated Workers.

As the agency overseeing the workforce development programs in Lawrence and Mercer counties it is the mission of WCJP to develop a world-class career development system which complements the Commonwealth's overall education and economic strategy and which guides federal, state and local resources in a customer focused and user-friendly manner, to promote a high quality, globally competitive workforce. As job seekers needs are assessed such as childcare, transportation, housing, medical, and criminal history they are referred to other community partners offering these services. The focus is to eliminate barriers to employment so that job seekers can maintain jobs that offer self/family sustaining wages.

Pathstone, a private, not-for-profit community development and human service organization, is the local project sponsor of SCSEP (Senior Community Services Employment Program). This program offers part-time employment opportunities in community service activities for low-income individuals' age 55+ who have poor employment prospects. Participants learn job skills, earn money, and help their community. The program also encourages mature workers to expand their job skills through computer training and other relevant courses. The program is intended to assist older workers by increasing opportunities for unsubsidized employment.

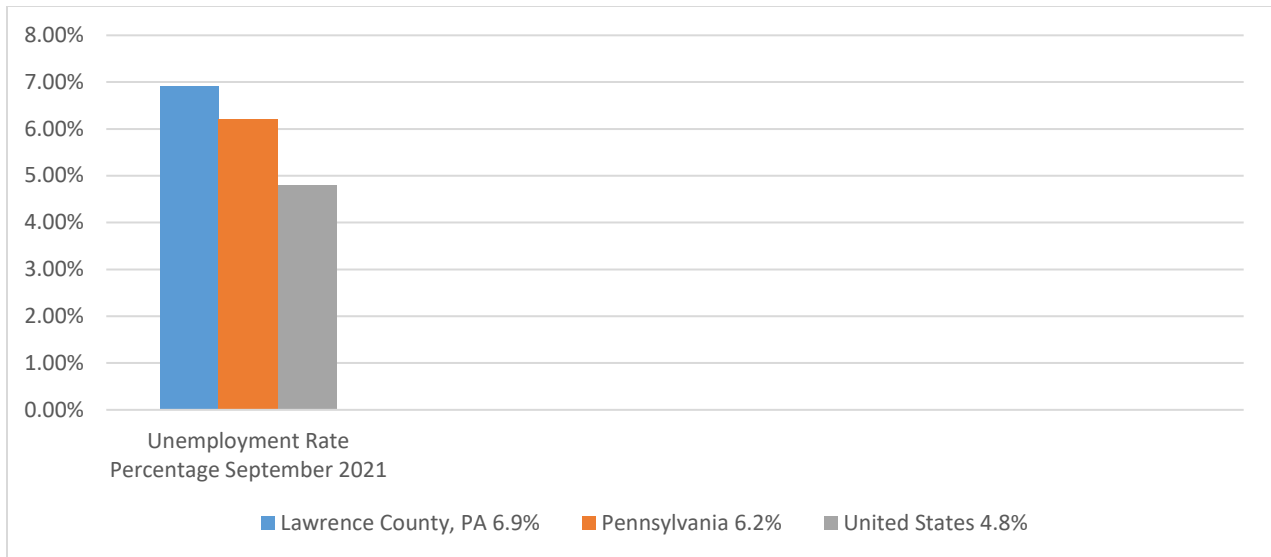
Lark Enterprises, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that has been providing employment related services since 1957. Lark primarily works with individuals with disabilities but also serves other populations with special employment needs. Lark's services include Vocational Evaluation: Lark uses a variety of assessment techniques to assist individuals in determining their skills, interests, and abilities. Results are used to assist individuals in selecting their career plan. Pre-Vocational Service: Individuals prepare for future employment by working at one of Lark's production sites. Participants learn attitudes and the appropriate work traits necessary to secure and retain competitive employment. Transitional Work Service: Individuals transition to integrated competitive employment by performing jobs contracted by Lark at the customer's location. Training and support is provided daily by Lark. Competitive Employment: Individuals, assisted by Employment Specialists, seek, obtain, and maintain jobs in the community. Services may include, but are not limited to: assistance with resumes, interviews, job training, and follow up support.

Current Unemployment

Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for each county in the report area is provided in the table below. Overall, the report area experienced an average 6.9% percent unemployment rate in September 2021.

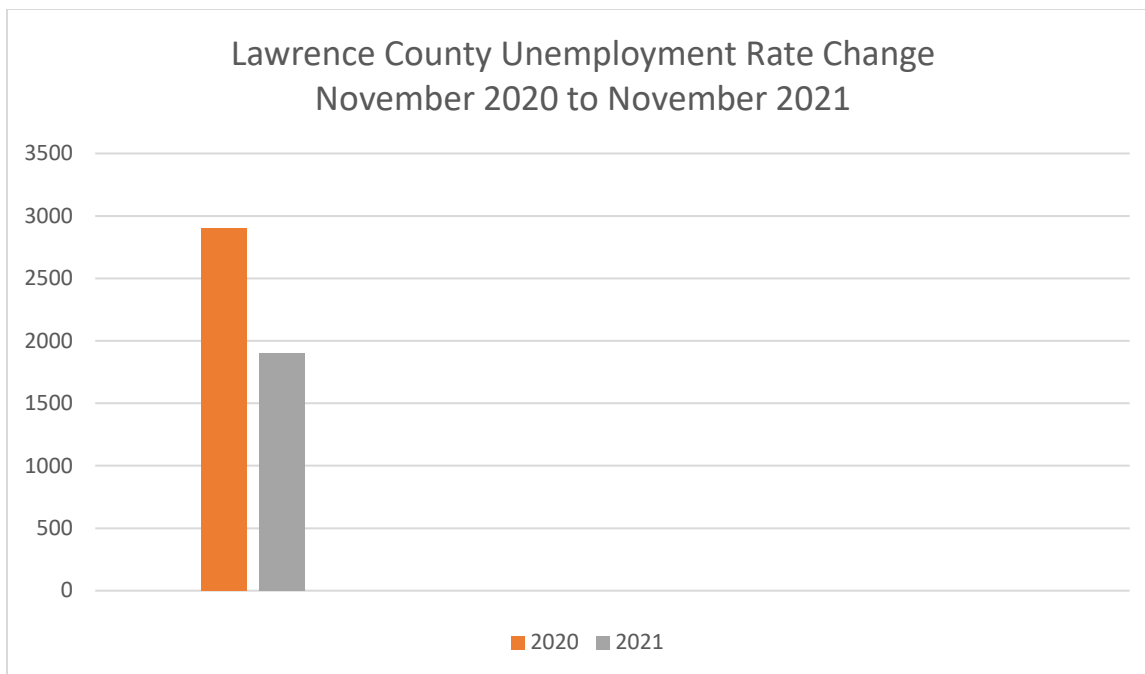
Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Lawrence County, PA	39,100	36,400	2,700	6.9%
Pennsylvania	6,277,000	5,886,000	390,000	6.2%
United States	161,354,000	153,680,000	7,674,000	4.8%

Data Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry



Unemployment Change

Unemployment change within the report area during the 1-year period from November 2020 to November 2021 is shown in the chart below. According to the PA Department of Labor and Industry, unemployment for this one year period dropped from 2,900 persons to 1,900 persons.



Report Area	Time Period	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Lawrence County, PA	November 2020	39,500	36,500	2,900	7.5%
Pennsylvania	November 2020	6,303,000	5,895,000	408,000	6.5%

Source: PA Dept. of Labor and Industry-Center for Workforce Information & Analysis

Report Area	Time Period	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Lawrence County, PA	November 2021	38,300	36,400	1,900	5%
Pennsylvania	November 2021	6,219,000	5,952,000	267,000	4.3%

Source: PA Dept. of Labor and Industry-Center for Workforce Information & Analysis

The five-year unemployment rate per the PA Department of Labor and Industry-Center for Workforce Information & Analysis for the report area is shown in the chart below covering the period from November 2016 to November 2021. During this time frame, PA unemployment was at 5.8% for 2016 and dropped to 5%.

Report Area	Time Period	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Lawrence County, PA	November 2016	40,900	38,600	2,400	5.8%
Lawrence County, PA	November 2021	38,300	36,400	1,900	5%

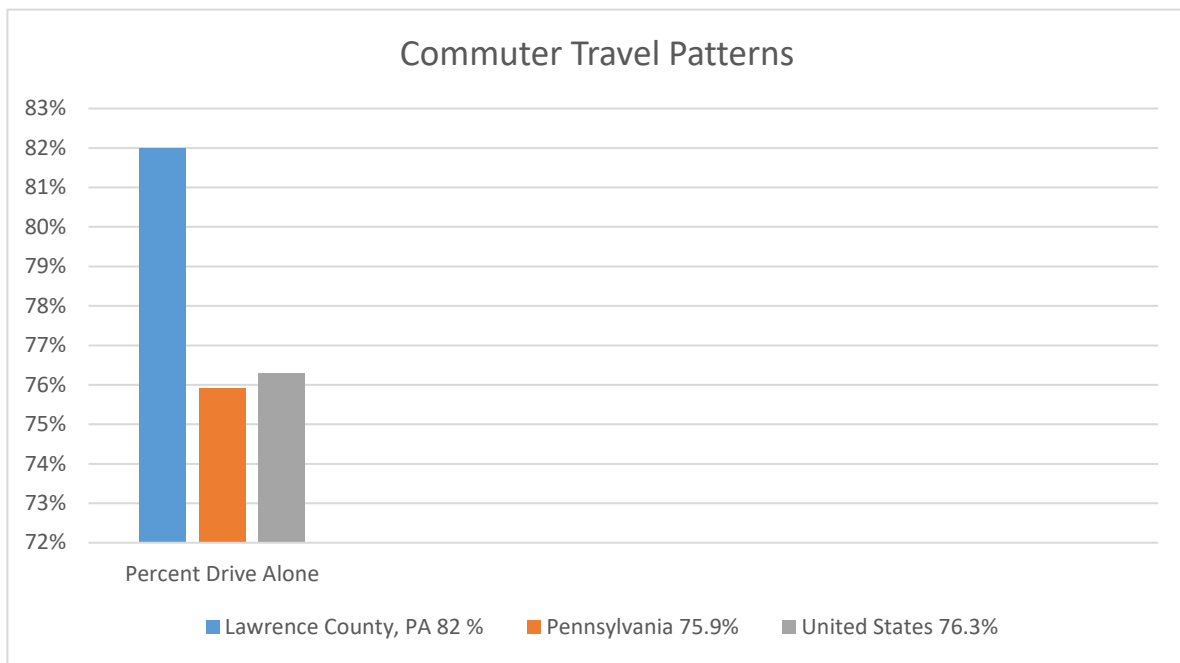
Source: PA Dept. of Labor and Industry-Center for Workforce Information & Analysis

Commuter Travel Patterns

Of the 38,823 commuting workers in the report area, 82% drove to work alone while 10.6% carpooled. 1% of all workers reported that they used some form of public transportation, while others used some optional means including 2.1% walking and .7% by other means. The percent of work at home workers is 3.7% compared to the state of Pennsylvania rate of 4.9%.

Report Area	Workers 16 and Up	Percent Drive Alone	Percent Carpool	Percent Public Transportation	Percent Walk	Percent Other	Percent Work at Home
Lawrence County, PA	38,823	82 %	10.6%	1%	2.1%	0.7%	3.7%
Pennsylvania	6,553,389	75.9%	8.5%	5.6%	3.6%	1.5%	4.9%
United States	164,629,492	76.3%	9.0%	5.0%	2.7%	1.8%	5.2%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. – 5 year estimates- 2019

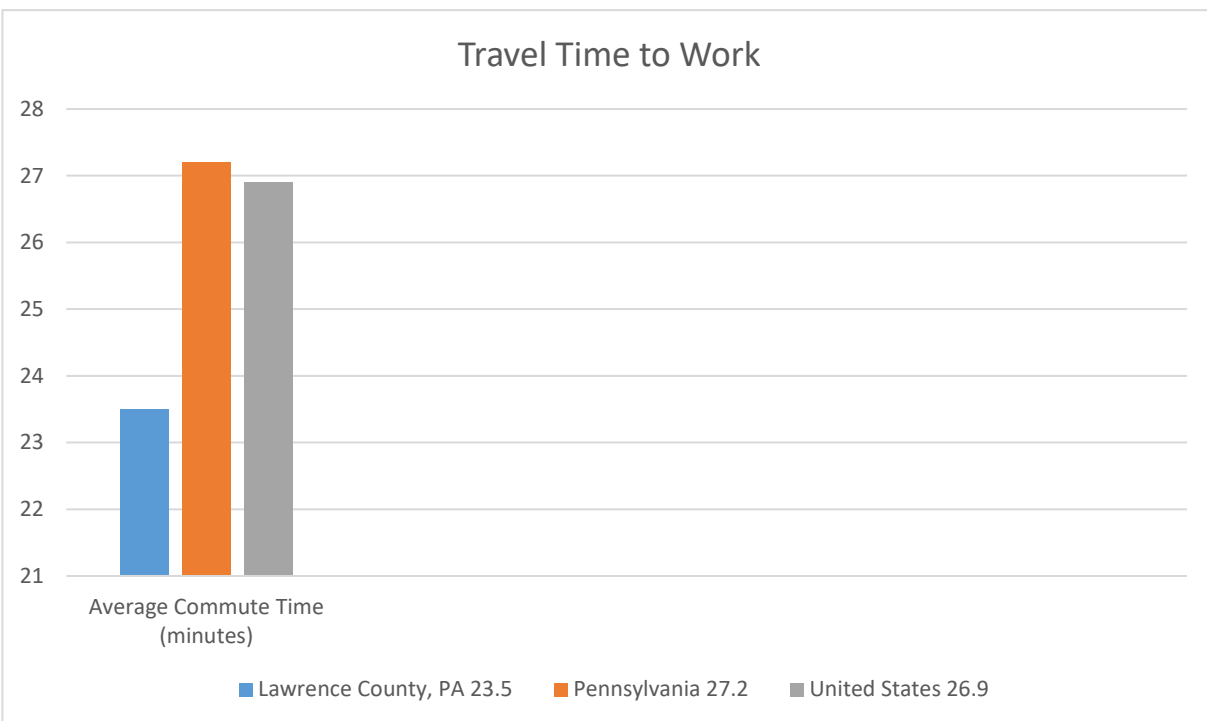


Travel Time to Work

Travel times for workers who travel to work (do not work at home) is shown below for the report area. The average time spent commuting was 23.5 minutes, which compares to the statewide average of 27.2 minutes.

Report Area	Workers 16 and Up	Average Commute Time (mins)
Lawrence County, PA	38,823	23.5
Pennsylvania	6,081,077	27.2
United States	152,735,781	26.9

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. – 5 year estimates- 2019

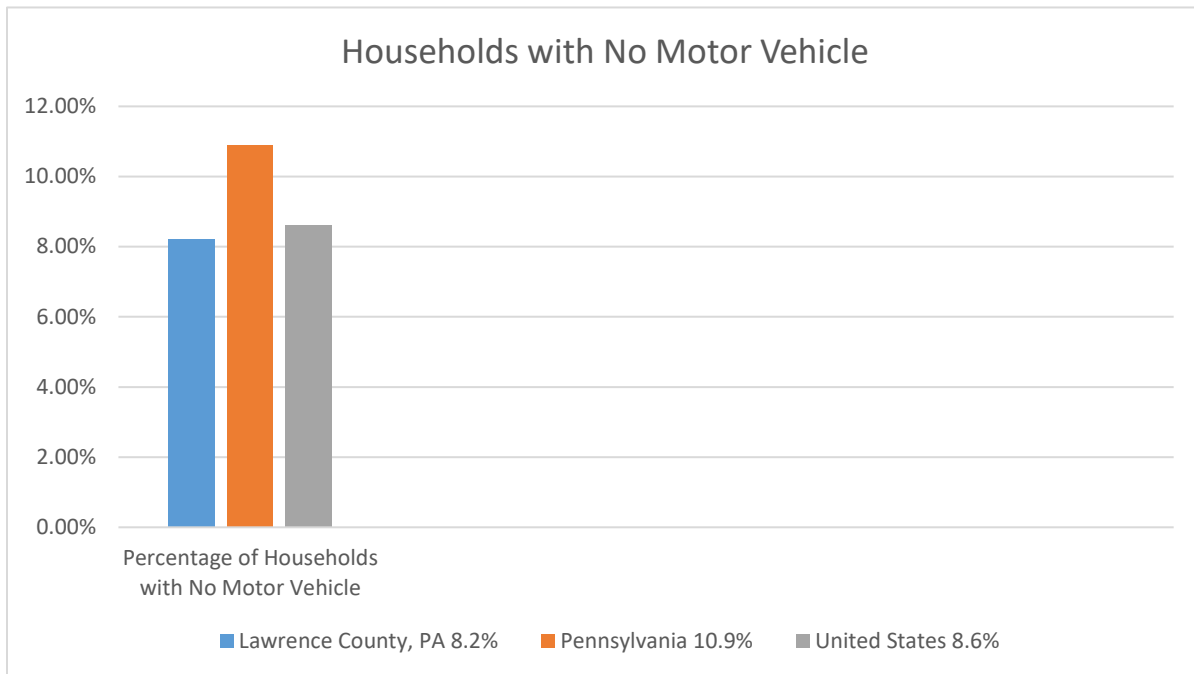


Households with No Motor Vehicle

This indicator reports the number and percentage of households with no motor vehicle based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates.

Report Area	Total Occupied Households	Households with No Motor Vehicle	Percentage of Households with No Motor Vehicle
Lawrence County, PA	37,055	3,054	8.2%
Pennsylvania	5,053,106	552,961	10.9%
United States	120,756,048	10,395,713	8.6%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019.



Top Employers

Lists the top 50 employers, by county, for the 1st quarter of 2021	Rank	Employer
Lawrence	1	UPMC Jameson
Lawrence	2	DON Services Inc
Lawrence	3	Excel Companion Care LLC
Lawrence	4	New Castle Area School District
Lawrence	5	Wal-Mart Associates Inc

Lawrence	6	County of Lawrence
Lawrence	7	Westminster College
Lawrence	8	State Government
Lawrence	9	The Tamarkin Company
Lawrence	10	ISS Facility Services Inc
Lawrence	11	Dairy Farmers of America Inc
Lawrence	12	Chippewa Inc
Lawrence	13	Mohawk Area School District
Lawrence	14	Ellwood City Area School District
Lawrence	15	Preston Management Inc
Lawrence	16	Ellwood City Forge Company
Lawrence	17	Ellwood Quality Steels
Lawrence	18	Federal Government
Lawrence	19	Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
Lawrence	20	Laurel School District
Lawrence	21	Refresh Dental Management
Lawrence	22	Shenango Area School District
Lawrence	23	Neshannock Township Schools
Lawrence	24	Human Service Center
Lawrence	25	Lawrence County Social Services Inc
Lawrence	26	McKesson Corporation
Lawrence	27	Liberty Mutual Group Inc
Lawrence	28	Lowe's Home Centers LLC
Lawrence	29	Wilmington Area School District
Lawrence	30	Bruce & Merrilees Electric Co
Lawrence	31	Infocision Management Corp
Lawrence	32	Union Area School District
Lawrence	33	Haven Convalescent Home Inc
Lawrence	34	Wilson Excavating and Utility Const
Lawrence	35	Dolgencorp LLC
Lawrence	36	OSA Global LLC

Lawrence	37	New Castle City Finance Office
Lawrence	38	Quality Life Services New Castle
Lawrence	39	Lawrence County ARC
Lawrence	40	The Eric Ryan Corporation
Lawrence	41	Presbyterian Senior Care
Lawrence	42	Universal Refractories Inc
Lawrence	43	Ellwood Mill Products Company
Lawrence	44	UPMC Community Medicine Inc
Lawrence	45	Steelite International USA Inc
Lawrence	46	United Parcel Service Inc
Lawrence	47	Vocational Services Company
Lawrence	48	International Metals Reclamation Co
Lawrence	49	Signature Building Services Inc
Lawrence	50	Young Galvanizing Inc

Data Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry

Workforce Investment Areas

The table below lists Workforce Investment Areas (WIA) for the selected report area.

County	Workforce Investment Area	Workforce Investment Board	Phone Number	Web Address
Lawrence	West Central WDA	West Central WDB	(724) 347-7855	www.wcjp.org
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	State WDB	(717) 772-4966	www.dli.pa.gov./Businesses/Workforce-Development/wdb

Data Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry. Source: workforce development

Education & Cognitive Development

School Enrollment

These tables show the total public and non-public school enrollment for 2019-2020. In this report area, a total of 12,313 persons were enrolled in school. In this report, private schools refer to both private and nonpublic institutions. Five hundred thirty-two students were enrolled in private schools, representing 4.3% of the student population.

Report Area	Total Enrollment	Public Enrollment	% total Public	Private Enrollment	% total Private
Lawrence County, PA	12,313	11,781	95.7%	532	4.3%
Pennsylvania	1,957,029	1,724,454	88.1%	232,575	11.9%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: county

Elementary School Enrollment

Report Area	Total Elementary	Public Elementary	% Public	Private Elementary	% Private
Lawrence County, PA	6,675	6,157	92.2%	518	7.8%
Pennsylvania	1,026,689	879,665	85.7%	147,024	14.3%

Secondary Enrollment

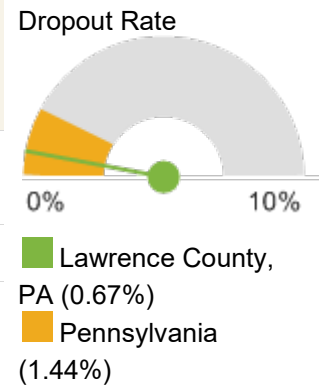
Report Area	Total Secondary	Public Secondary	% Public	Private Secondary	% Private
Lawrence County, PA	5,528	5,514	99.7%	14	0.3%
Pennsylvania	878,468	814,654	92.7%	63,814	7.3%

High School Dropouts

The table below shows the annual High School Dropout rate which is defined as the number of students who, for any reason other than death, leave school before graduation without transferring to another school or institution. For the academic year 2019-2020, 37 students of 5,498 students in grades 7-12.

Report Area	Enrollment Grades 7-12	Dropouts Male	Dropouts Female	Dropouts Total	Dropout Rate
Lawrence County, PA	5,498	23	14	37	0.67%
Pennsylvania	812,630	6,842	4,823	11,665	1.44%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: county



High School Graduation Rate (EdFacts)

This indicator reports the cohort high school graduation rate, which measures the percentage of students receiving their high school diploma within four years. Data represents the 2018-2019 school year. The state and county data is above the US average of 86%. This indicator is relevant because low levels of education are often linked to poverty and poor health.

Report Area	Total Student Cohort	Estimated Number of Diplomas Issued	Cohort Graduation Rate
Lawrence County, PA	911	866	95.1%
Pennsylvania	138,406	119,750	86.5%

Data Source: US Department of Education, ED Facts. Accessed via DATA.GOV. Additional data analysis by CARES. 2018-2019. Source geography: School District

Population with No High School Diploma

This indicator reports the percentage of the population aged 25 and older without a high school diploma (or equivalency) or higher. This indicator is relevant educational attainment is a key driver of population health.

Report Area	Total Population Age 25	Population Age 25 with No High School Diploma	Percent Population Age 25 with No High School Diploma
Lawrence County, PA	61,638	4,604	7.5%
Pennsylvania	9,028,036	811,832	8.9%
United States	224,898,568	25,618,541	11.4%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019. Source geography: Tract

Population with No High School Diploma by Gender

Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Lawrence County, PA	2,448	2,156	53.2%	46.8%
Pennsylvania	412,793	399,039	50.8%	49.2%
United States	13,086,930	12,531,611	51.1%	48.9%

Pennsylvania Systems of School Assessment

The annual Pennsylvania Systems of School Assessment is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment which provides students, parents, educators and citizens with an understanding of student and school performance related to the attainment of proficiency of the academic standards. These standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science/Technology identify what a student should know and be able to do at varying grade levels. School districts possess the freedom to design curriculum and instruction to ensure that students meet or exceed the standards' expectations.

Every Pennsylvania student in grades 3 through 8 is assessed in English Language Arts and Math. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 4 and 8 is assessed in science.

Schools are evaluated on achievement using the PSSA, participation in those tests, and on attendance (at the elementary/middle school level) and graduation rate (at the high school level). These measurements make up a school's Adequate Yearly Progress, commonly known as AYP, as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

These expectations apply not only to the school or district as a whole, but to the performance of subgroups, including racial/ethnic categories, low-income students, students with disabilities, and English Language Learners. The New Castle Area School District, having the highest concentration of low-income students in the county, faces particularly challenging circumstances with regard to AYP.

Achievements in Math - by Group

This indicator shows the Math proficiency results from the 2019 Pennsylvania Systems of Schools Assessment (PSSA) Academic Achievement Report for each school district in the report area, broken down by All Students and Historically Underperforming. Data for groups with 10 or fewer students were replaced by blanks and subgroups with no student assessed were removed. Percentages were rounded to the nearest tenth. Proficiency percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Achievements in Math - ELLWOOD CITY AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Math	Advanced Math	Proficient Math	Basic Math	Below Basic Math
HARTMAN INTRMDT SCH	All Students	256	13.7%	28.5%	42.2%	15.6%
HARTMAN INTRMDT SCH	Historically Underperforming	135	4.4%	23.7%	46.7%	25.2%
LINCOLN JSHS	All Students	235	10.6%	28.1%	30.6%	30.6%
LINCOLN JSHS	Historically Underperforming	126	4.0%	24.6%	29.4%	42.1%
PERRY LOWER INTRMD SCH	All Students	252	21.4%	28.2%	30.6%	19.8%
PERRY LOWER INTRMD SCH	Historically Underperforming	136	16.9%	25.7%	28.7%	28.7%

Achievements in Math - LAUREL SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Math	Advanced Math	Proficient Math	Basic Math	Below Basic Math
LAUREL EL SCH	All Students	309	23.0%	36.2%	28.8%	12.0%
LAUREL EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	100	16.0%	23.0%	36.0%	25.0%
LAUREL MS	All Students	163	14.7%	25.8%	25.2%	34.4%
LAUREL MS	Historically Underperforming	55	1.8%	20.0%	23.6%	54.5%

Achievements in Math - MOHAWK AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Math	Advanced Math	Proficient Math	Basic Math	Below Basic Math
MOHAWK EL SCH	All Students	441	17.9%	36.7%	30.4%	15.0%
MOHAWK EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	207	9.7%	30.0%	35.3%	25.1%
MOHAWK JHS	All Students	232	19.4%	28.4%	28.0%	24.1%
MOHAWK JHS	Historically Underperforming	82	4.9%	20.7%	31.7%	42.7%

Achievements in Math - NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Math	Advanced Math	Proficient Math	Basic Math	Below Basic Math
NESHANNOCK JSHS	All Students	190	17.4%	26.3%	33.7%	22.0%
NESHANNOCK JSHS	Historically Underperforming	54	11.1%	7.4%	29.6%	51.9%
NESHANNOCK MEMORIAL	All Students	333	29.4%	34.8%	28.2%	7.5%
NESHANNOCK MEMORIAL	Historically Underperforming	100	15.0%	30.0%	37.0%	18.0%

Achievements in Math - NEW CASTLE AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Math	Advanced Math	Proficient Math	Basic Math	Below Basic Math
NEW CASTLE JHS	All Students	448	3.3%	13.2%	27.2%	56.3%
NEW CASTLE JHS	Historically Underperforming	311	2.9%	8.4%	23.8%	65.0%
WASHINGTON INTRMD EL	All Students	904	5.4%	14.6%	30.0%	50.0%
WASHINGTON INTRMD EL	Historically Underperforming	730	3.0%	11.9%	29.9%	55.2%

Achievements in Math - SHENANGO AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Math	Advanced Math	Proficient Math	Basic Math	Below Basic Math
SHENANGO AREA JHS	All Students	153	15.7%	20.9%	33.3%	30.1%
SHENANGO AREA JHS	Historically Underperforming	63	11.1%	15.9%	22.2%	50.8%
SHENANGO EL SCH	All Students	341	18.8%	35.5%	30.2%	15.5%
SHENANGO EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	156	9.0%	26.9%	39.1%	25.0%

Achievements in Math - UNION AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Math	Advanced Math	Proficient Math	Basic Math	Below Basic Math
UNION AREA MS	All Students	149	10.1%	34.9%	28.2%	26.8%
UNION AREA MS	Historically Underperforming	78	9.0%	20.5%	32.1%	38.5%
UNION MEMORIAL EL SCH	All Students	160	28.8%	31.3%	26.9%	13.1%
UNION MEMORIAL EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	101	23.8%	26.7%	30.7%	18.8%

Achievements in Math - WILMINGTON AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Math	Advanced Math	Proficient Math	Basic Math	Below Basic Math
NEW WILMINGTON EL SCH	All Students	151	21.2%	27.2%	38.4%	13.2%
NEW WILMINGTON EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	72	4.2%	26.4%	47.2%	22.2%
WILMINGTON AREA MS	All Students	311	13.5%	29.6%	33.4%	23.5%
WILMINGTON AREA MS	Historically Underperforming	140	5.7%	21.4%	33.6%	39.3%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County

Achievements in English Language Arts - by Group

This indicator shows the English Language Arts proficiency results from the 2019 Pennsylvania Systems of Schools Assessment (PSSA) Academic Achievement Report for each school district in the report area, broken down by All Students and Historically Underperforming. Data for groups with 10 or fewer students were replaced by blanks and subgroups with no student assessed were removed. Percentages were rounded to the nearest tenth. Proficiency percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Achievements in English Language Arts - ELLWOOD CITY AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in English Language Arts	Advanced English Language Arts	Proficient English Language Arts	Basic English Language Arts	Below Basic English Language Arts
HARTMAN INTRMDT SCH	All Students	257	20.2%	52.1%	24.9%	2.7%
HARTMAN INTRMDT SCH	Historically Underperforming	135	11.1%	48.9%	34.8%	5.2%
LINCOLN JSHS	All Students	236	17.4%	50.0%	27.5%	5.1%
LINCOLN JSHS	Historically Underperforming	126	8.7%	43.7%	38.9%	8.7%
PERRY LOWER INTRMD SCH	All Students	252	19.4%	54.0%	22.6%	4.0%
PERRY LOWER INTRMD SCH	Historically Underperforming	136	13.2%	53.7%	27.2%	5.9%

Achievements in English Language Arts - LAUREL SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in English Language Arts	Advanced English Language Arts	Proficient English Language Arts	Basic English Language Arts	Below Basic English Language Arts
LAUREL EL SCH	All Students	310	25.2%	42.9%	28.4%	3.5%
LAUREL EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	100	18.0%	34.0%	38.0%	10.0%
LAUREL MS	All Students	163	12.9%	47.9%	35.0%	4.3%
LAUREL MS	Historically Underperforming	55	3.6%	40.0%	45.5%	10.9%

Achievements in English Language Arts - MOHAWK AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in English Language Arts	Advanced English Language Arts	Proficient English Language Arts	Basic English Language Arts	Below Basic English Language Arts
MOHAWK EL SCH	All Students	441	21.3%	44.9%	28.6%	5.2%
MOHAWK EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	207	11.1%	41.5%	39.1%	8.2%
MOHAWK JHS	All Students	232	14.7%	54.7%	28.0%	2.6%
MOHAWK JHS	Historically Underperforming	82	3.7%	50.0%	40.2%	6.1%

Achievements in English Language Arts - NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in English Language Arts	Advanced English Language Arts	Proficient English Language Arts	Basic English Language Arts	Below Basic English Language Arts
NESHANNOCK JSHS	All Students	191	17.3%	48.7%	29.3%	4.7%
NESHANNOCK JSHS	Historically Underperforming	54	9.3%	29.6%	48.1%	13.0%
NESHANNOCK MEMORIAL	All Students	333	31.8%	48.6%	16.5%	3.0%
NESHANNOCK MEMORIAL	Historically Underperforming	100	15.0%	46.0%	32.0%	7.0%

Achievements in English Language Arts - NEW CASTLE AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in English Language Arts	Advanced English Language Arts	Proficient English Language Arts	Basic English Language Arts	Below Basic English Language Arts
NEW CASTLE JHS	All Students	446	2.5%	30.5%	53.1%	13.9%
NEW CASTLE JHS	Historically Underperforming	309	1.3%	25.2%	56.0%	17.5%
WASHINGTON INTRMD EL	All Students	907	6.1%	34.3%	43.0%	16.6%
WASHINGTON INTRMD EL	Historically Underperforming	733	4.2%	30.8%	46.1%	18.8%

Achievements in English Language Arts - SHENANGO AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in English Language Arts	Advanced English Language Arts	Proficient English Language Arts	Basic English Language Arts	Below Basic English Language Arts
SHENANGO AREA HS	All Students	154	24.0%	46.8%	25.3%	3.9%
SHENANGO AREA HS	Historically Underperforming	64	15.6%	35.9%	39.1%	9.4%
SHENANGO EL SCH	All Students	341	26.7%	43.1%	23.5%	6.7%
SHENANGO EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	156	16.7%	39.1%	32.7%	11.5%

Achievements in English Language Arts - UNION AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in English Language Arts	Advanced English Language Arts	Proficient English Language Arts	Basic English Language Arts	Below Basic English Language Arts
UNION AREA MS	All Students	149	17.4%	42.3%	32.2%	8.1%
UNION AREA MS	Historically Underperforming	79	12.7%	31.6%	41.8%	13.9%
UNION MEMORIAL EL SCH	All Students	161	28.0%	43.5%	18.6%	9.9%
UNION MEMORIAL EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	102	22.5%	36.3%	25.5%	15.7%

Achievements in English Language Arts - WILMINGTON AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in English Language Arts	Advanced English Language Arts	Proficient English Language Arts	Basic English Language Arts	Below Basic English Language Arts
NEW WILMINGTON EL SCH	All Students	151	23.2%	45.0%	26.5%	5.3%
NEW WILMINGTON EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	72	8.3%	43.1%	38.9%	9.7%
WILMINGTON AREA MS	All Students	312	11.9%	47.4%	34.0%	6.7%
WILMINGTON AREA MS	Historically Underperforming	141	5.0%	35.5%	46.1%	13.5%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County

Achievements in Science - by Group

This indicator shows the Science proficiency results from the 2019 Pennsylvania Systems of Schools Assessment (PSSA) Academic Achievement Report for each school district in the report area, broken down by All Students and Historically Underperforming. Data for groups with 10 or fewer students were replaced by blanks and subgroups with no student assessed were removed. Percentages were rounded to the nearest tenth. Proficiency percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Achievements in Science - ELLWOOD CITY AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Science	Advanced Science	Proficient Science	Basic Science	Below Basic Science
LINCOLN JSHS	All Students	114	26.3%	39.5%	18.4%	15.8%
LINCOLN JSHS	Historically Underperforming	57	10.5%	40.4%	24.6%	24.6%
PERRY LOWER INTRMD SCH	All Students	129	45.7%	44.2%	10.1%	0.0%
PERRY LOWER INTRMD SCH	Historically Underperforming	69	39.1%	47.8%	13.0%	0.0%

Achievements in Science - LAUREL SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Science	Advanced Science	Proficient Science	Basic Science	Below Basic Science
LAUREL EL SCH	All Students	77	54.5%	36.4%	9.1%	0.0%
LAUREL EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	28	42.9%	42.9%	14.3%	0.0%
LAUREL JHS	All Students	88	39.8%	25.0%	20.5%	14.8%
LAUREL JHS	Historically Underperforming	31	25.8%	35.5%	9.7%	29.0%

Achievements in Science - MOHAWK AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Science	Advanced Science	Proficient Science	Basic Science	Below Basic Science
MOHAWK EL SCH	All Students	106	50.0%	42.5%	5.7%	1.9%
MOHAWK EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	55	45.5%	47.3%	3.6%	3.6%
MOHAWK JHS	All Students	95	26.3%	42.1%	17.9%	13.7%
MOHAWK JHS	Historically Underperforming	35	14.3%	37.1%	22.9%	25.7%

Achievements in Science - NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Science	Advanced Science	Proficient Science	Basic Science	Below Basic Science
NESHANNOCK JSHS	All Students	104	30.8%	30.8%	19.2%	19.2%
NESHANNOCK JSHS	Historically Underperforming	29	17.2%	13.8%	31.0%	37.9%
NESHANNOCK MEMORIAL	All Students	66	66.7%	24.2%	9.1%	0.0%
NESHANNOCK MEMORIAL	Historically Underperforming	17	41.2%	23.5%	35.3%	0.0%

Achievements in Science - NEW CASTLE AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Science	Advanced Science	Proficient Science	Basic Science	Below Basic Science
NEW CASTLE JHS	All Students	218	9.6%	31.7%	28.9%	29.8%
NEW CASTLE JHS	Historically Underperforming	144	5.6%	26.4%	29.9%	38.2%
WASHINGTON INTRMD EL	All Students	220	18.6%	41.4%	32.3%	7.7%
WASHINGTON INTRMD EL	Historically Underperforming	180	14.4%	40.0%	36.7%	8.9%

Achievements in Science - SHENANGO AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Science	Advanced Science	Proficient Science	Basic Science	Below Basic Science
SHENANGO AREA HS	All Students	90	37.8%	34.4%	20.0%	7.8%
SHENANGO AREA HS	Historically Underperforming	38	23.7%	28.9%	34.2%	13.2%
SHENANGO EL SCH	All Students	68	63.2%	25.0%	7.4%	4.4%
SHENANGO EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	33	60.6%	18.2%	12.1%	9.1%

Achievements in Science - UNION AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Science	Advanced Science	Proficient Science	Basic Science	Below Basic Science
UNION ARE MS	All Students	41	17.7%	43.9%	31.7%	7.3%
UNION AREA MS	Historically Underperforming	18	5.6%	38.9%	38.9%	16.7%
UNION MEMORIAL EL SCH	All Students	59	57.6%	28.8%	10.2%	3.4%
UNION MEMORIAL EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	32	43.8%	34.4%	15.6%	6.3%

Achievements in Science - WILMINGTON AREA SD, LAWRENCE COUNTY

School	Group	Number Scored in Science	Advanced Science	Proficient Science	Basic Science	Below Basic Science
NEW WILMINGTON EL SCH	All Students	86	40.7%	44.2%	14.0%	1.2%
NEW WILMINGTON EL SCH	Historically Underperforming	42	21.4%	54.8%	21.4%	2.4%
WILMINGTON AREA MS	All Students	90	16.7%	40.0%	21.1%	22.2%
WILMINGTON AREA MS	Historically Underperforming	40	12.5%	25.0%	27.5%	35.0%

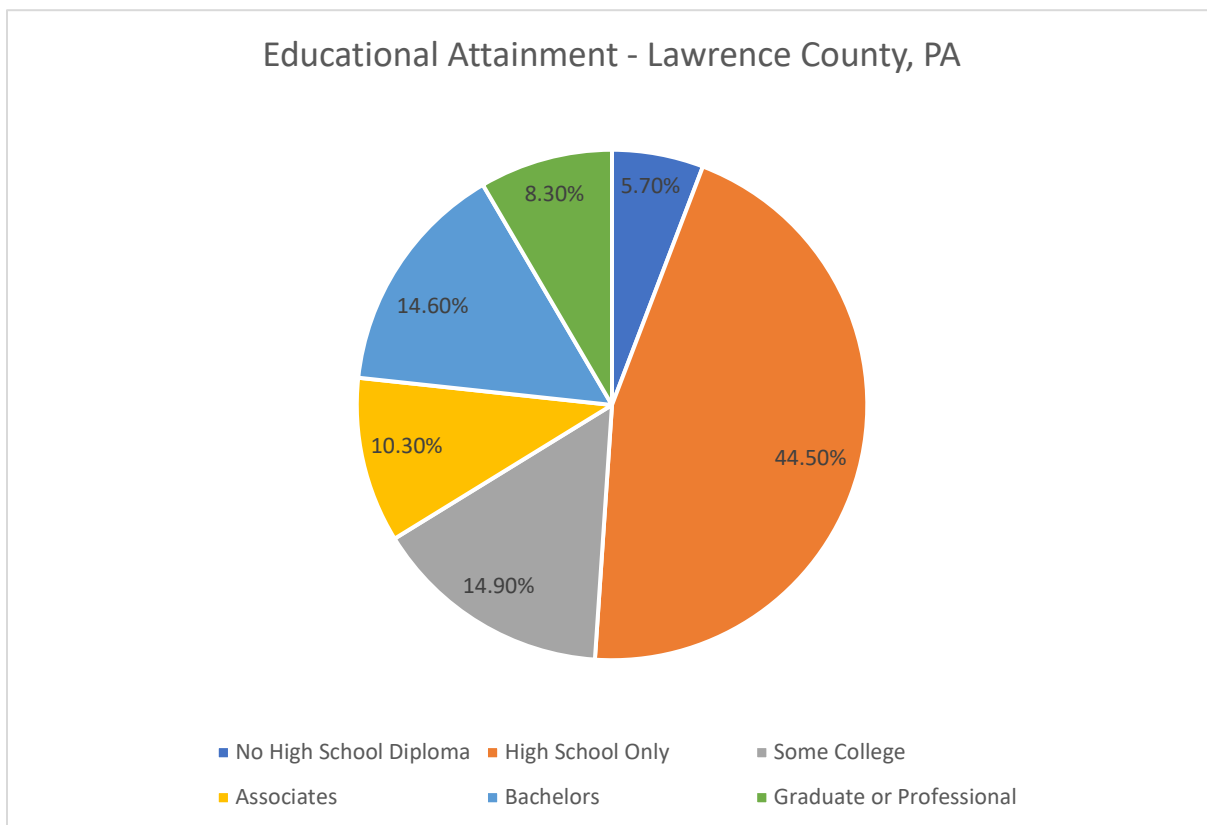
Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: County

Educational Attainment

This table shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in the area region. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 except where noted and is an average for 2019. The area equaled 5.7%. The statewide percentage of persons with no High School Diploma is 6.0%, while the national percentage is 6.6%.

Report Area	Over Age 18 and No High School Diploma	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associates	Bachelors	Graduate/ Prof.
Lawrence County, PA	11.3%	5.7%	44.5%	14.9%	10.3%	14.6%	8.3%
Pennsylvania	12.0%	6.0%	34.4%	15.7%	8.6%	19.5%	12.8%
United States	12.1%	6.6%	26.9%	20.0%	8.6%	20.3%	12.8%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019. Source geography: tract



Education Level Persons over 25, Non-Hispanic

Report Area	Population	High School, Some College and Associates	Bachelor's Degree and Up
Lawrence County, PA	67,231	80.3%	19.7%
Pennsylvania	9082,324	73.3%	26.7%
United States	187,718,254	71.7%	28.3%

Education Level Persons over 25, Hispanic

Report Area	Population	High School, Some College and Associates	Bachelor's Degree and Up
Pennsylvania	486,783	81.5%	18.5%
United States	30,787,744	80.0%	20.0%

Colleges, Universities and Trade Schools

A listing of colleges, universities, and trade Schools in the report area are shown in the below table. This listing includes not only main campuses, but also branch and satellite offices as well.

County	Institution Name	Web Address
Lawrence	New Castle School of Trades	www.ncstrades.com
Lawrence	Westminster College	www.westminster.edu
Lawrence	Butler County Community College, Lawrence Crossing	www.bc3.edu
Lawrence	New Castle Beauty Academy	www.beautyacademies.net
Lawrence	UPMC Jameson School of Nursing	www.upmc.com

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: county

Free and Reduced Lunch Program

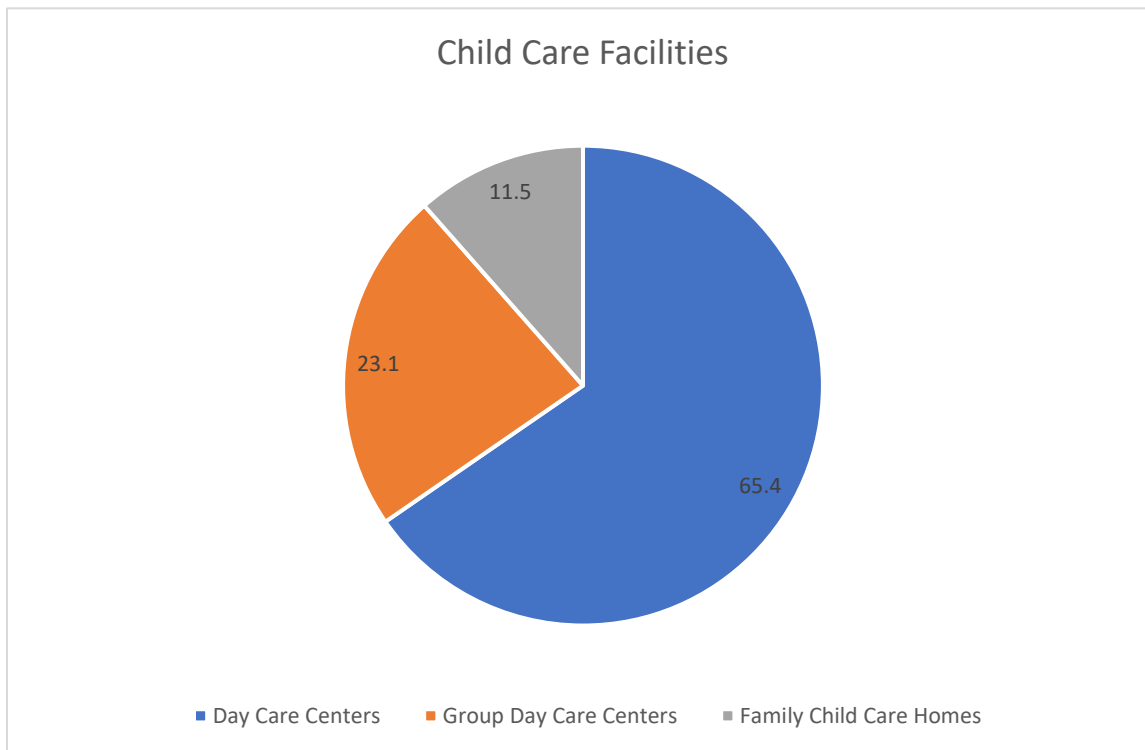
The table below shows the number of students eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program in 2019. The figures below include public, private and parochial schools, and residential childcare institutional figures.

County	District	Type	Enrollment	Free Lunch Eligible	Free Lunch Enrollment	Reduced Lunch Eligible	Reduced Lunch Enrollment	Free and Reduced Lunch Enrollment
LAWRENCE	ELLWOOD CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	1,623	699	43.1%	79	4.8%	47.9%
LAWRENCE	LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	1,051	262	24.9%	21	1.9%	30.4%
LAWRENCE	LAWRENCE COUNTY CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER	Public School	375	364	97.0%	0	0%	97.0%
LAWRENCE	MOHAWK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	1,480	543	36.7%	58	3.9%	40.6%
LAWRENCE	NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	1,252	205	16.4%	19	1.5%	17.9%
LAWRENCE	NEW CASTLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	3,194	3,194	100%	0	0%	100%
LAWRENCE	SHENANGO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	1,082	333	30.8%	39	3.6%	34.4%
LAWRENCE	UNION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	737	395	53.6%	16	2.2%	55.8%
LAWRENCE	WILMINGTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	1,074	322	30.0%	30	2.8%	32.8%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Source geography: county

Child Care Facilities

The number of day care centers and group day care homes within the report area are shown below. According to the Pennsylvania Departments of Public Welfare and Education, there were a total of 26 licensed child care facilities in the report area in 2020.



Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Source geography: county

Certified Child Care Facilities

The table below is a listing of Certified Child Care Providers provided by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) as of September, 2020.

* Child Care Center: A child care facility in which 7 or more children who are not related to the operator receive child care.

* Family Child Care Home: A child care facility located in a home in which 4 to 6 children who are not related to the caregiver receive child care.

* Group Child Care Home: A child care facility in which 7 to 12 children of various ages or in which 7 to 15 children from 4th grade through 15 years of age who are not related to the operator receive child care.

County	Number of Certified Providers	Certified Provider Type *
Lawrence	17	Child Care Center
Lawrence	3	Family Child Care Home
Lawrence	6	Group Child Care Home

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Source geography: county

Child Care Ceiling Rates

The table below is a listing of the daily Maximum Child Care Allowances (MCCA) determined by the Department of Public Welfare (DPW), effective January 1 2022. This is the maximum base amount paid by Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies for child care assistance for eligible families enrolled in the CCIS program. The family pays a co-pay which is subtracted from the amount paid to the provider by the CCIS office. DPW does periodic provider rate assessments and determines the MCCA amounts by utilizing the 75 percentile of actual child care provider costs in the county by type and age range. The rates listed below provide an estimated average daily rate by Provider Type and the Child's Age Range. Both full time and part time rates are listed below.

County	Type of Provider	Infant	Young Toddler	Old Toddler	Pre-School	School-Age
Full Time Rates						
Lawrence	Child Care Center	\$39.00	\$38.00	\$37.00	\$36.00	\$35.00
Lawrence	Group Child Care Home	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$33.00	\$32.00	\$32.00
Lawrence	Family Child Care Home	\$32.50	\$30.03	\$30.03	\$30.00	\$30.00
Lawrence	Unregulated	\$16.63	\$15.51	\$15.28	\$15.28	\$15.28
Part Rime Rates						
Lawrence	Child Care Center	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$30.00	\$29.25	\$25.00
Lawrence	Group Child Care Home	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$24.60
Lawrence	Family Child Care Home	\$25.42	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Lawrence	Unregulated	\$13.24	\$13.24	\$12.10	\$11.26	\$12.10

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Source geography: County

Income, Infrastructure & Asset Building

Profile of community infrastructure

Lawrence County has a lot to offer to the community, although the need for better job opportunities as well as more education and skills for applicants has a direct effect on the community infrastructure. There is also a need for more family-owned businesses and maker space/business incubators that can offer space and low cost start up for new businesses. Making New Castle a livable, walkable community with modern-day amenities to attract the younger generations as well as provide safe, quality neighborhoods to raise a family and retire are important goals. The need for blight removal, upper floor living, river access points, public art, and homeownership are the areas that continue to be a work in progress.

Wages

Report Area	Total Employees	Avg. Weekly Wage	Federal Employees	State Employees	NonFarm Employees
Lawrence County, PA	26,557	\$826	208	314	2,718
Pennsylvania	5,489,856	\$1,226	97,174	72,000	5,760,800

Data Source: 2021 US Bureau of Labor & Statistics

Living Wage

The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an individual must earn 40 hours per week in order to meet the basic living expenses of their family. The Minimum Hourly Wage for Pennsylvania is \$7.25. In the table below, for families with two adults the assumptions are that one adult is staying home with the children so there are no childcare costs, and the family has access to only one vehicle. Additional resources can be found at Livingwage.mit.edu

Hourly Wages	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	1 Adult 3 Children	2 Adults (1 Working)	2 Adults (1 Working) 1 Child	2 Adults (1 Working) 2 Children	2 Adults (1 Working) 3 Children	2 Adults (1 Working Part Time) 1 Child*	2 Adults 1 Child	2 Adults 2 Children	2 Adults 3 Children
Living Wage	\$13.39	\$27.57	\$34.67	\$44.62	\$21.54	\$25.66	\$29.08	\$31.33	\$15.12	\$15.12	\$19.12	\$22.54
Poverty Wage	\$6.31	\$8.29	\$10.44	\$12.60	\$8.29	\$10.44	\$12.60	\$14.75		\$5.22	\$6.30	\$7.38
Minimum Wage	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25		\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25

Data Source is Community Commons. Community Health Needs Assessment 2021

Income Levels

Three common measures of income are Median Household Income, Per Capita Income, and Average Income based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates. The average income for earners in this report area is \$39,565. The Census Bureau defines an earner as someone age 15 and older that receives any form of income, whether it be wages, salaries, benefits, or other type of income.

Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Average % of Poverty Rate
Lawrence County, PA	\$50,204	\$28,926	12.9%
Pennsylvania	\$61,744	\$34,352	10.9%
United States	\$62,843	\$34,103	11.4%

Data Source: data.census.gov/topics/pov.empoverishedfamilies & [census.gov.library.publications](https://census.gov/library/publications/)(2021)

Income by Family Size

The table below shows median household income broken out by family size. For a Household of 3 persons, Lawrence County has a median household income of \$67,073. The Pennsylvania average for a household of 3 is \$84,536 and national average is \$81,087.

Report Area	Household of One	Household of Two	Household of Three	Household of Four	Household of Five	Household of Six	Household of Seven
Lawrence County, PA	\$24,185	\$55,685	\$67,073	\$85,790	\$86,538	\$84,427	\$69,500
Pennsylvania	\$30,528	\$69,203	\$84,536	\$99,131	\$93,394	\$89,202	\$82,877
United States	\$32,008	\$70,231	\$81,087	\$93,831	\$86,817	\$83,852	\$88,580

Data Source: Community Commons/Community Health Needs Assessment 2021.

Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

The Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) displayed in table below are issued every year by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and are the measure used for determining financial eligibility for all federal and many state programs

Federal Poverty Income Guidelines- 100%, 2022

County	Family of 1	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4	Family of 5	Family of 6	Family of 7	Family of 8
Lawrence County, PA	\$13,590	\$18,310	\$23,030	\$27,750	\$32,470	\$37,190	\$41,910	\$46,630

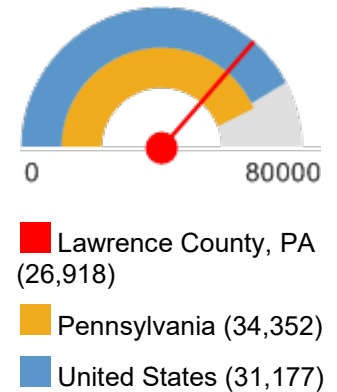
Median Family income

This indicator reports median family income based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. A family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. Family income includes the incomes of all family members aged 15 and older. Lawrence County has 74.5% own vs rent/other. (2019data.usa)

Report Area	Total Family Households	Median Family Income
Lawrence County, PA	37,282	\$26,918
Pennsylvania	3,208,388	\$34,352
United States	120,756,048	\$31,177

Data Source: worldpopulationreview.com & bestplaces.net/economy/county/lawrence/ 2021

Median Family Income



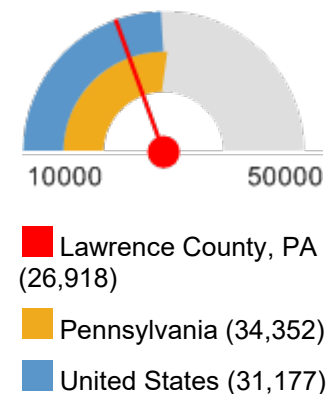
Income Per Capita

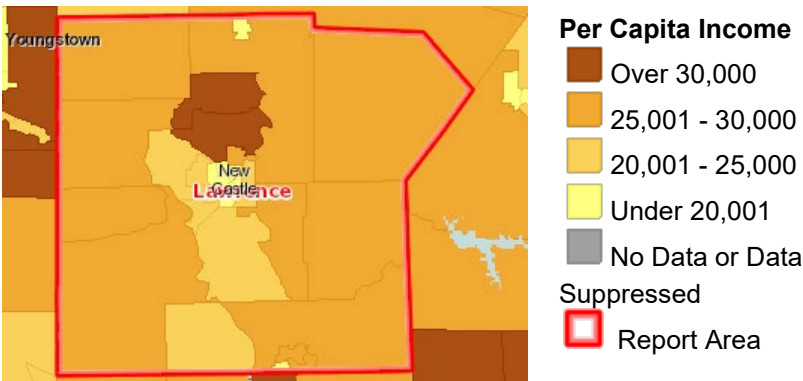
This indicator reports per capita income for 2021. Total income includes all reported income from wages and salaries as well as income from self-employment, interest or dividends, public assistance, retirement, and other sources. Per capita income is the average (mean) income computed for every man, woman, and child in a specified area.

Report Area	Total Population	Total Income (\$)	Per Capita Income (\$)
Lawrence County, PA	86,727	\$4,368,699,171	\$26,918
Pennsylvania	13,002,700	\$911,710,315,900	\$34,352
United States	331,449,231	\$22,379,786,902,401	\$31,177

Data Source: worldpopulationreview.com & bestplaces.net/economy/county/lawrence/2021

Per Capita Income (\$)





Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance

The table below shows the average monthly unduplicated number of persons eligible for medical assistance for the fiscal year 2021. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for the area shown, there was a total of 24,682 adult persons eligible, 9,662 children were eligible for medical assistance and 15,885 were eligible for SNAP.

Report Area	Total Population	Persons Eligible
Lawrence County, PA	86,727	24,682
Pennsylvania	13,002,700	388,000

Data Source: DHS.PA.GOV & www.spotlightpa.org/2021

Supplemental Security Income

The number of Supplemental Security Income recipients and expenditures in the report area are shown in below. The number of recipients in the area totaled 24,285 receiving \$19,015,155.00 in payments with an average payment of \$783.00 per month.

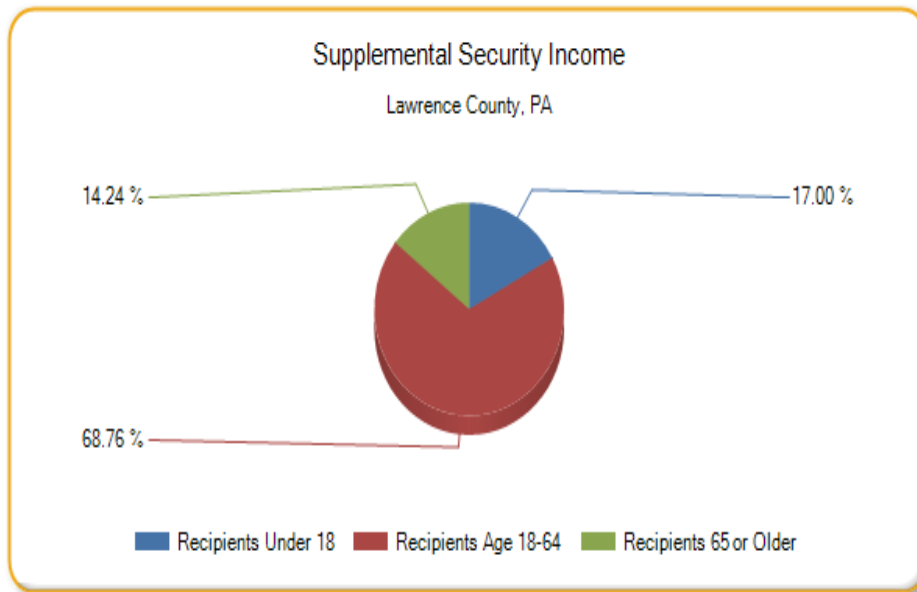
Report Area	Total Recipients	Average Monthly Payment
Lawrence County, PA	24,285	\$783.00
Pennsylvania	2,877,728	\$783.00

Data Source: DHS.PA.GOV & www.spotlightpa.org/2021

Social Security Distribution Breakdown:

By Group:	Lawrence County:	Pennsylvania:
Retired	16,495	2,056,241
Spouses	875	90,913
Children	185	26,011
Widow/Widower	1895	177,327
Children	665	82,186
Disabled	3545	379,681
Spouses	45	4,177
Children	580	61,192
Men 65 +	7,945	972,902
Women 65+	10,225	1,242,789

Data Source: United States Social Security Administration 2021



Self-sufficiency for Lawrence County is a difficult goal to achieve. A household is considered to be self-sufficient when the adult (with one child) is working 2080 hours/year at a pay rate of \$20.40/hour. That is an annual salary of \$42,432. The largest industry in Lawrence County is the Healthcare industry, employing almost 20% of the population. The average wage for occupations in the Healthcare industry is \$33,895; placing the household approximately \$8500 short of meeting basic needs to include but not limited to: housing, food, child care, transportation, and medical.

Also, there is a gap in skilled positions and employees trained to fill those positions, thus limiting employment opportunities. As a result, many are forced to accept minimum wage (\$7.25/ hour) jobs. The same household make-up, consisting of one adult and one child, with the adult working full-time hours (2080 hours/year), will earn an annual salary of only \$15,080. That is an astounding \$27,352 deficit in being able to provide the basic necessities of life. Those that are fortunate enough to earn a degree beyond high school are still forced to accept employment

below the “living wage” level. This is because the local economy is not able to provide a reasonable return on their education because the community is so impoverished.

Generational poverty is an issue that needs to be addressed in Lawrence County. Children often model the lifestyle of their parents/guardians, thus perpetuating poverty in our community.

Available Assets: Home Ownership

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

PHFA offers home purchase loans with low interest rates and fees. The Keystone Home Loan has the fewest eligibility requirements and the highest income and purchase price limits. Depending on where the home is located, applicants may not even need to be a first-time homebuyer. Buyers who meet a few additional conditions may be eligible for a Keystone Home Loan PLUS, which offers the lowest interest rate available and the possibility of up to \$2,000 in closing cost assistance. Buyers under either program may be eligible for up to \$15,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance through the Homestead program, if they and the home they are buying meet certain conditions.

For buyers with a disability or who have a household member with a disability, PHFA offers additional opportunities. The PHFA Access Modification loan allows eligible buyers to receive a no-interest second mortgage to finance modifications to the home they are purchasing. These buyers may also qualify for a special closing cost and down payment assistance loan available only to those buyers using the Access Modification Program. For buyers who want to make access modifications but don't qualify for a PHFA home loan, they may be able to combine the Fannie Mae Community Home Choice™ loan with PHFA Access Modification assistance.

Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLBank)

The homebuyer grant program of the FHLBank of Pittsburgh offers:

- *First-time homebuyers may now get up to \$5,000 in cash for down payment and closing costs.
- *New registration process makes applying easier than ever.
- *Approvals now made in 7 business days or less.
- *Homeownership counseling minimum requirement lowered from 8 hours to 4.

Through First Front Door, FHLBank member financial institutions, housing counseling agencies, REALTORS®, community-based organizations and others with a stake in homeownership can open the door for first-time homebuyers. This critical grant can help strong, worthy buyers achieve an American dream they may have never before thought possible.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat is founded on the conviction that

every man, woman and child should have a simple, decent, affordable place to live in dignity and safety.

USDA Rural Development

Rural Housing Direct Loans are loans that are directly funded by the Government. These loans are available for low- and very low-income households to obtain homeownership. Applicants may obtain 100% financing to purchase an existing dwelling, purchase a site and construct a dwelling, or purchase newly constructed dwellings located in rural areas. Mortgage payments are based on the household's adjusted income. These loans are commonly referred to as Section 502 Direct Loans. Section 502 loans are primarily used to help low-income individuals or households purchase homes in rural areas. Funds can be used to build, repair, renovate or relocate a home, or to purchase and prepare sites, including providing water and sewage facilities. Applicants for direct loans must have very low or low incomes. Very low income is defined as below 50 percent of the area median income (AMI); low income is between 50 and 80 percent of AMI; moderate income is 80 to 100 percent of AMI. Families must be without adequate housing, but be able to afford the mortgage payments, including taxes and insurance, which are typically within 22 to 26 percent of an applicant's income. However, payment subsidy is available to applicants to enhance repayment ability. Applicants must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere yet have reasonable credit histories. Elderly and disabled persons applying for the program may have incomes up to 80 percent of area median income (AMI).

Community Development Block Grant

Municipalities with more than 51% of households with low and moderate incomes can qualify for housing assistance programs through the Community Development Block Grant.

Rental Issues

Code Enforcement

In recent years, local code enforcement officials have found it necessary to close rental properties due to the increasing number of violations on the properties. Although these units were of poor quality, these units were often the only units with affordable rents to low income families. For this reason, the County Commissioners have prioritized their Act 137 funds for affordable housing and the upgrading of the physical condition of the available housing stock.

Brownfields

Lawrence County landlords have the opportunity to upgrade their current properties through a grant program that provides a \$1 to \$1 match for the completion of projects. This program stabilizes the area's tax base, guarantees the provision and continuation of affordable housing, and continues the process of the enhancement of areas that may be considered desired to future employers.

Available Assets: Health Care

Hospitals/Health Care Providers

Within a one-hour drive, residents can benefit from the care provided by major hospitals and health care networks including: Humility of Mary Health Partners (Youngstown, OH), Children's Hospital (Pittsburgh, PA), Sharon Regional Health System (Sharon, PA), University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (Various Locations), West Penn Allegheny Health System (Various Locations), Akron Children's (Youngstown), St. Elizabeth's (Youngstown)

UPMC Jameson

Locally, residents can obtain health care via UPMC Jameson Health System. Formerly Jameson Health System, the mission of UPMC Jameson, Inc. is to provide a continuum of quality health and human services to all individuals in need who reside within the service area regardless of their ability to pay for available health and human services. UPMC Jameson seeks to provide services and programs that will aid in the advancement and improvement of the quality of life of the citizens in the areas the health system serves. UPMC Jameson also has scatter sites available in the area which provides specialty services.

A description of the site/services provided by UPMC Jameson follows:

- Imaging Centers
 - Magee Women's Imaging Center
 - Lawrence County MRI-Diagnostic
 - UPMC College Fields
- Personal Care
 - Jameson Skilled Nursing Care
 - Jameson Place
- Outpatient
 - UPMC Outpatient Center –Westgate
 - UPMC Jameson Partial Hospitalization
 - UPMC Centers for Rehab services-Westgate
 - UPMC Hillman Center
 - Jameson Center for Cardiac Health
 - UPMC Centers for Rehab- Nesbitt
 - UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute

Ellwood City Hospital

- Closed.

Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV

Teen Parenting provides support services to pregnant and parenting teens including personal and career counseling, parenting skills, liaison with community agencies, career exploration workshops, and childcare services for parenting teens. The program's focus is to help students graduate from high school, prepare for their future, and become successful parents. Over three-fourths of participants received prenatal care in the first trimester and over 99% received care

by the second trimester. 98% of participants are up to date on recommended childhood immunizations. 6.3% of teens who gave birth in Pennsylvania delivered babies that were of low-birth weight (5lbs., 9 oz. or less). The percentage of babies born to teens in MIU IV's program was significantly lower at 4.0%.

Primary Health Network

Primary Health Network is the region's federally qualified health center, and operates various locations in the Lawrence County area, providing comprehensive primary care and preventive care, including health, oral, and mental health/substance abuse services to persons of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay. Locally, PHN provides a complement of services including pharmacy, complementary medicine, and primary care.

Challenges: Options in Aging (Lawrence County Area Agency on Aging)

Challenges offers one-stop access to services for adults 60+. Supportive services include: care management, assistance with bathing, in-home meals, Medicare insurance counseling, and caregiver support. The Senior Community Center located in the building offers meals, recreation, and health and wellness programs for adults 50+ such as exercise sessions, fitness room, Yoga, Zumba, blood pressure screening, health-related topics, cards, knitting, and bingo.

Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County - ARISE

Since 1981, the Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County has been meeting the needs of rape and domestic violence. Free services provided include emergency shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, emotional abuse, rape, sexual assault, and child molestation. The agency was recently renamed Arise.

New Castle Community YMCA

The mission of the New Castle Community YMCA is "to become an Association of members dedicated to providing innovative programs, legendary service, and availability to all in our community". The New Castle YMCA provides social, educational, and recreational services and activities including:

- 25 yd. Swimming Pool. (Free Swim Lessons for Youth and Adults)
- Wellness/Nautilus Center with Cardio Theater, 165 pieces of equipment (Grade 9 - Adult)
- Gymnasium - volleyball, basketball, youth programs and more
- Racquetball/Handball Courts
- Free Weight Room (Grade 9 through Adult)
- Fitness Classes, including Spinning®, Pilates and Yoga
- Family Center complete with computers, video games, activities and more
- Outdoor Kids Gym
- Youth and Teen Center
- Men's and Women's Fitness Centers with saunas
- Child Watch – free to family members, \$1 per hour for individual members
- Minimal Program Fees

- Free Programs
- Family Programs
- Handicapped Accessible Locker Rooms
- Fully-Licensed Daycare and Preschool

Available Assets: Food & Nutrition

For families needing assistance with nutrition, food pantries are available throughout the County.

Food Pantry	Area Served
Bessemer Borough	Bessemer Borough
Camp Allegheny	Ellwood City
Catholic Charities	New Castle
City Rescue Mission	Lawrence County, including New Castle
East Side Bread Basket	New Castle
Epworth United Methodist Church	Lawrence County, including New Castle
First Baptist Church	New Castle
Hickory Township	Hickory Township
Holy Redeemer Social Services	Ellport Borough, Ellwood City, Perry Township, Wampum Borough, Wayne Township
Lawrence County Assistance	New Castle
Lawrence County Association for the Blind	Consumers of the Association's services only
Lawrence County Housing Authority	Residents of Lawrence Manor, McGrath Manor, Skyview Towers
Lawrence Manor	Residents of building only
Lillyville Church of God	Ellwood City
Little Beaver Township	Little Beaver and Enon Valley
Mahoning Township	Mahoning Township
McGrath Manor	Residents of building only
Neshannock Township	Neshannock Township
Neshannock Woods	Residents of building only
New Beaver Borough	New Beaver Borough
North Beaver Township	North Beaver Township
People in Need	New Castle
Riverside Apartments	Residents of building only
Salvation Army, Ellwood City	Ellwood City (zip codes: 16117, 16120, 16123, 16157, 16160)
Salvation Army, New Castle	New Castle (zip codes: 16101, 16102, 16103, 16104, 16112, 16116, 16132, 16155)
Salvation Army, New Wilmington Service Unit	Pulaski Township (zip codes: 16140, 16142, 16143, 16156)
Solid Rock Ministry	Lawrence County, including New Castle
St. Joseph	New Castle
St. Mary	New Castle

St. Vitus	New Castle
Taylor Township	Taylor Township
Union Township	Union Township
United Way	New Castle
Vista South Apartments	Residents of building only
Wallace Memorial	New Wilmington
Washington Township	Plain Grove Township, Volant Borough, Washington Township

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The mission of WIC is “to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care”. WIC targets families with incomes up to 185% of the Federal poverty income guidelines who are nutritionally at risk including:

- Pregnant women (through pregnancy and up to 6 weeks after birth or after pregnancy ends).
- Breastfeeding women (up to infant's 1st birthday)
- non-breastfeeding postpartum women (up to 6 months after the birth of an infant or after pregnancy ends)
- Infants (up to 1st birthday). In 2020, WIC served approximately 6.2 million participants per month, of all infants born in the United States of America. Federal cost is \$4.9 Billion for the fiscal year of 2020. *Children up to their 5th birthday.

Site: www.wicstatistics2020

The following benefits are provided to WIC participants:

- Supplemental nutritious foods
- Nutrition education and counseling at WIC clinics
- Screening and referrals to other health, welfare and social services

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps people with little or no income buy nutritious food. Families with incomes up to 125% of poverty can qualify for assistance. Families receiving SNAP can use them to purchase:

- Any food intended for human consumption including soft drinks, candy, ice cream, coffee and spices.
- Seeds and plants to grow food for personal consumption by eligible households.
- Meals prepared and served by:
 - an authorized meal delivery service;
 - a communal dining facility for the elderly and/or SSI household;
 - a group living arrangement such as:
 - a rehabilitation center for drug addicts or alcoholics;
 - a shelter for battered women and children;
 - an authorized provider of meals for the homeless; and
 - an authorized restaurant serving meals to the homeless, elderly or disabled.

SNAP cannot be used to purchase:

- Alcoholic beverages, pet foods, and hot foods prepared for immediate consumption
- Non-food items such as paper products, soap, household supplies, medicines, and cigarettes.

Food stamp benefits may not be used to pay off a bill for food purchased on credit or to pay in advance for the receipt of foods except for purchase from a non-profit cooperative food-purchasing venture.

Lawrence County Social Services (LCSS) Assists with SNAP:

The case manager for the SNAP program assists with access to the COMPASS website. Assisting individuals who are not computer savvy or those who do not have access to a computer, register for benefits. This service may be done in person or over the phone.

LCSS will also post flyers and speak at community events, giving individuals and families the information and guidance needed to register for the program. There are separate guidelines for income for those 59 and younger as well as for 60 and over. The County Assistance Office, using predetermined guidelines based on household income, notifies those who are eligible what amount of benefits they will receive.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels provide home delivered meals for shut-ins and people with disabilities. Frozen meals that meet one-third RDA requirements are provided for disabled individuals or for persons recovering from an illness who are unable to prepare meals.

Lawrence County Social Services Supports Nutrition Services

Summer Food Service Program

The SFSP provides kids and teens in strategically placed areas with meals during the summer months when school is not in session.

During Summer 2021, LCCAP partnered with community and faith-based organizations in order to provide these meals. LCCAP's partners include:

1. **Blueprint Communities** is a group of local organizations who introduced the Summer Playground Program. The program provided free summer activities in the neighborhoods of four playgrounds, one on each side of town, for ages 6-13 years of age. The playgrounds were **Park Avenue Playground** (North Hill); **Muff Sallie Playground** (South Side); **Farrell Playground** (East Side); and **Bollinger Playground** (West Side). LCCAP provided daily and weekend lunches and snacks to the playground sits.
2. **New Castle Public Library** operated their Youth Summer Reading program. We provided the library with weekly bundled meals of breakfast and lunch for 7 days, which included a fresh lunch on the day of distribution.
3. **Grace United Methodist Church** is a faith-based organization that partners with LCCAP every year to offer summer meals. This past program year, the church provided

weekly bundled meals of breakfast and lunch for 7 days, which also included a fresh meal on the day of distribution.

4. **YMCA & Y-Zone** - provides childcare and Summer Camp recreational and educational activities. During the summer, LCCAP supplied these groups with lunch and snacks Monday -Friday.
5. **City Reach Church** is another faith-based organization who adopted the **Neshannock Public Housing Development** and volunteered to pass out daily and weekend breakfast and lunch sponsored by LCCAP.
6. **Project NOW** - A faith-based organization who has been an intricate of the community who supplied the community at large with food for the families, as well as summer meals for the youth. In partnership with LCCAP, Project NOW adopted the **Cascade Galleria** site and passed out bundled meals for 7 days on a bi-monthly basis.
7. **Girl Scouts** - LCCAP provide them with lunch and snack for their week long summer camp held at the **Agawam Park site**.
8. **Frew Mill Campus** - LCCAP's own site, which provided drive-thru service on a weekly basis and served 7 days of bundled meals of breakfast and lunch, to include a fresh lunch on the day of pick-up.

In summary, LCCAP served 1187 youth with over 75,000 meals (breakfast, lunch, snack). This was accomplished with 188 volunteers donating over 4337 hours of their time.

TEAM

TEAM is a community food program organized and operated by LCCAP. Through the ACTS office, individuals who qualify will receive groceries delivered to their residence at no cost (food or delivery). Clients must meet income eligibility, be 60 or older, and/or those who have a disability. These deliveries are made on a weekly basis. LCCAP has collaborated with 6 faith-based organizations who have not only donated but supplied 31 members from their congregation as volunteers. The members bagged groceries on average of 3 times per week totaling around 420 hours in 2020. LCCAP has also received donations from individuals in the community and local businesses. One such example would be a donation made from First Commonwealth Bank for \$2,500.00 to assist with the purchase of food items.

Since the inception of this program over 35,000 meals have been provided to almost 900 unduplicated residents. A total of 16 businesses, 26 individuals, 4 churches and 3 agencies have pulled together to assist with the TEAM program.

Family Meals

LCCAP provided groceries to veterans, early learning families, non-early learning families, such as our housing, and workforce clients. In 2020, between March and December, we provided 4124 meals to 85 families.

Family Meals – Veteran Services

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families emergency housing funds provide temporary assistance towards emergency food for enrolled veterans and their families. These meals are provided through CARES funding for individuals and families affected by the Pandemic. Food items are purchased from the following partners and include but are not limited to the following:

US Food Bank, The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Marburger Farm Dairy, Nickle's Bakery, Sam's Club, and Jefferson Poultry. On average LCCAP's SSVF Program is providing meals and delivering the items directly to approximately 30 veterans per month.

Available Assets: Transportation

New Castle Transit Authority

Public transportation is provided through the New Castle Area Transit Authority. The NCATA has a fleet of 29 fully accessible buses operating on 25 fixed routes serving the city of New Castle and greater Lawrence County. NCATA services are offered six days a week throughout Lawrence County and daily weekday services are offered to and from Pittsburgh. The NCATA is now serving over 1,000,000 passengers annually and has 51 employees.

Allied Coordinated Transportation Services

Through cooperation with the PA Department of Transportation and Lawrence County Commissioners, ACTS maintains a fleet of wheelchair accessible buses that service all of Lawrence County and provide weekly service to Pittsburgh and Butler. Anyone is able to ride the ACTS Buses, and many individuals are eligible for free or reduced fares. As a response to food insecurity at the onset of Covid-19 in March 2020, ACTS created The Temporary Emergency Assistance through Meals (TEAM) program and began delivering fresh and frozen meals to adults with disabilities and seniors 65 years of age and older. This program has continued into 2022.

The New Castle Municipal Airport

The New Castle Municipal Airport is located on 350 acres in Union Township with access from Routes 60, 224, and 422. The mission and scope of the airport is county-wide, our air transportation gateway to Lawrence County. There are 46 T-hangars, 3 conventional hangars, and tie-down areas housing more than 65 aircraft. Annual passenger load for New Castle is 30,188. 75% of general aviation flights are business or transportation related.

Greyhound

Greyhound, North America's largest intercity bus company, has a local bus station located on Rt. 422 at the New Castle Park-n-Ride. Greyhound provides local residents with access to long distance traveling 3,100 destinations in the United States and Canada.

Available Assets: Disability Services

Lawrence County residents with disabilities (including mental health) have a variety of resources and services available to them.

Human Services Center

The Human Services Center (HSC) is the region's largest provider of outpatient mental health services offering the community, comprehensive behavioral health services. Licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare, The Center provides the following array of services:

Service	Description
Outpatient Psychotherapy	Adult, Child, and Family Outpatient Services
Housing	Short-Term, Long-Term, and Supportive Housing
Horizon House	Housing and Intensive Day Treatment
Drop-In Center	Community-Hospital Integration Program
Brighter Visions	School-based partial hospitalization for children ages 6-12
Student Assistance Program	Collaboration with teachers, counselors, and administrators in identifying and serving students with emotional problems
Family Based Services	Intensive, comprehensive services within the home and community for children and adolescents with severe behavioral and/or emotional problems and their families
Intensive Case Management	Services for adults and children with serious mental illness
Crisis Intervention	Respond to psychiatric emergencies seven days a week, 24 hours a day
Mental Retardation Services	Provides intake, evaluation and case management for individuals with developmental delays and mental retardation
Resource Case Management	Services meant to connect clients with other services in the community
Medical Services	Psychiatric services for children, adolescents and adults. Board certified psychiatrists conduct diagnostic evaluations, prescribe and monitor medication, and consult with staff on treatment plans.
Pinnacle Partial Program	Daytime treatment and education for adolescents with moderate to severe difficulty in their interpersonal relationships
Mobile Medication Services	Services provide support education and skill building for individuals to become independent and responsible for their medications

Disability Options Network

Disability Options Network is a grass roots advocacy organization concentrating on disability rights issues, as well as skills training, peer support, and information and referral services. Disability Options Network's primary goal is to empower people with disabilities to live as independently as they choose with. The organization strives to provide independence and empowerment at a systemic level as well as at an individual level and frame the issues as civil rights for all people with disabilities.

Service	Description
Advocacy	Assists persons in working together to allow for individual and system changes to provide equal access to opportunities
Peer Support	Allows people with disabilities the opportunity to share experiences with the goal of empowering each other
Skills Training	Assist individuals in developing necessary daily living skills including budgeting, meal preparation, and attendant care skills
Information and Referral	Links individuals to other community resources
Home and Community Based Services	Provides services for OBRA, Independence and Comm. Care Waiver in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer Counties

People in Need

People in Need is a private, non-profit social service agency that is the only dually licensed Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Outpatient Clinic in Lawrence County. People In Need offers:

- Individual, child, parent, and relational counseling
- Play therapy
- Psychological and psychiatric testing and evaluation
- School evaluations
- Risk assessment for violence and suicide
- Parenting classes.

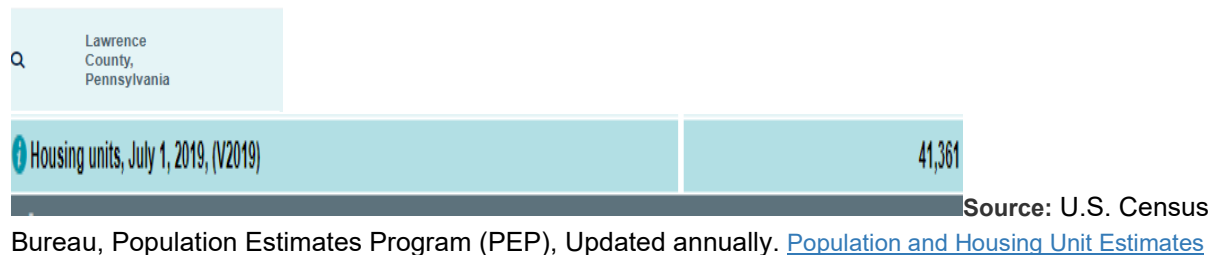
Housing

Housing is a significant concern in the county. Housing issues include:

- Homelessness and at risk for homelessness
- Double up, couch hopping, & not enough beds
- Evictions
- Crisis due to COVID 19 Pandemic (CARES funding)
- Utility shut – off notices
- Need for more suitable / affordable housing
- Meeting McKinney – Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act but not meeting HUD’s definition

Housing Units

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the number of housing units for each year since the most recent decennial census. With each annual release of housing unit estimates, the entire time series of estimates beginning with April 1, 2010 is revised and updated. Housing unit estimates are produced for all states and counties. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. **There was a slight increase of Housing Units of .10 % from 2017.**



Housing Age

Total housing units, median year built and median age in 2019 for the report area are shown below. Housing units used in housing age include only those where the year built is known. The area equaled 41,361.

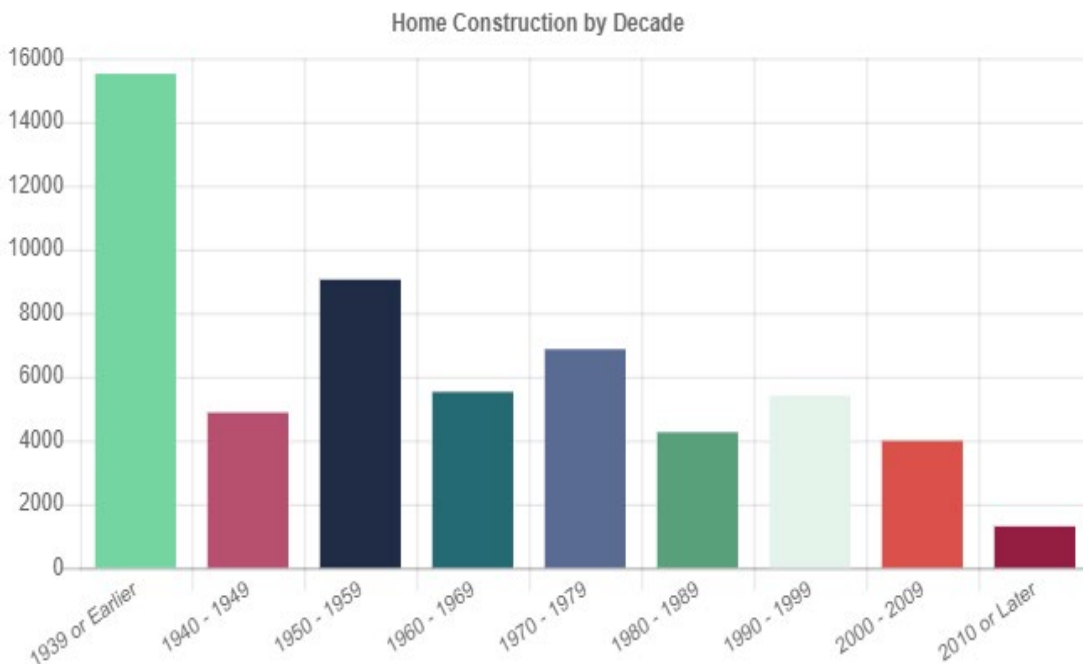
Report Area	Total Housing Units	Median Year built	Built After 2000	Built 1980 - 1999	Built 1960 - 1979	Built Before 1960
Lawrence County, PA	41,361	1970	3,990	9,666	5,525	29,445

Data Source: Point2Homes.com Source geography: county

Housing in Lawrence County

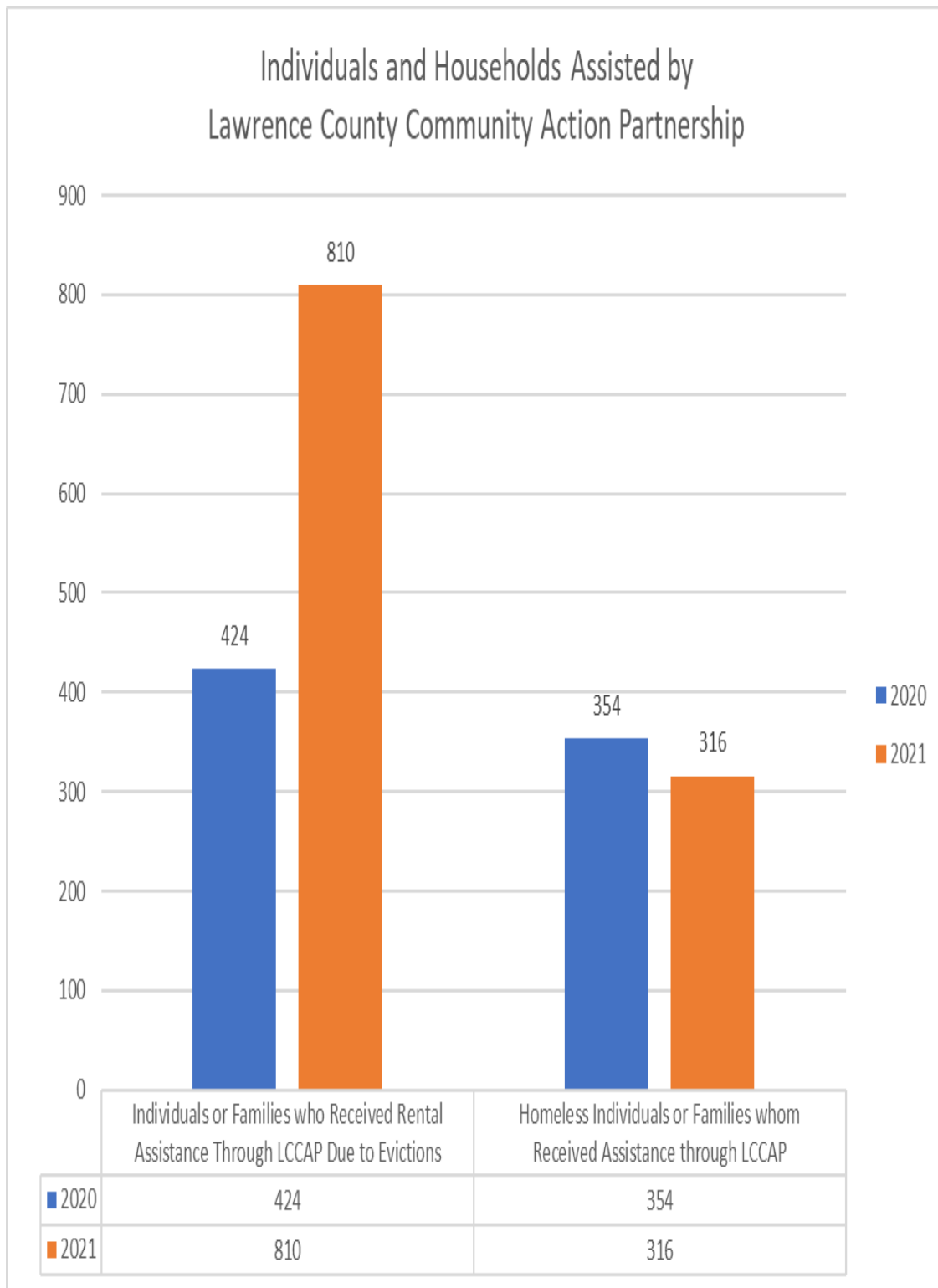
		Y-o-Y Change
Median Year Built	1970	0.1%
Built in 1939 or Earlier	15,516	2.1%
Built between 1940 and 1949	4,877	-3.7%
Built between 1950 and 1959	9,052	-0.7%
Built between 1960 and 1969	5,525	-0.3%
Built between 1970 and 1979	6,866	0.8%
Built between 1980 and 1989	4,259	6.9%
Built between 1990 and 1999	5,407	-2.3%
Built between 2000 and 2009	3,990	-3.9%
Built in 2010 or Later	1,303	10.7%

top ^

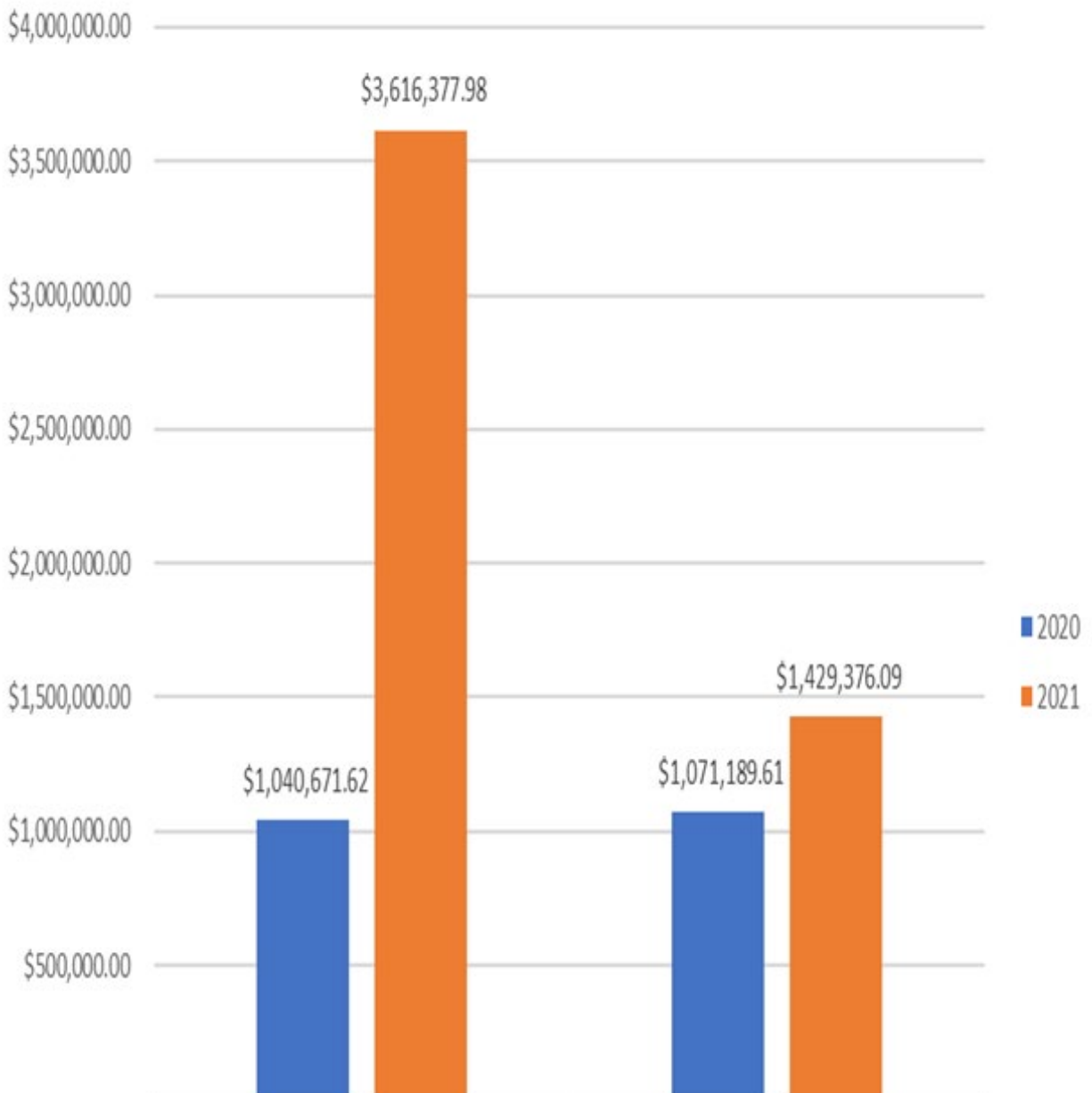


LCCAP is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life within Lawrence County by eliminating and preventing the causes and effects of poverty by mobilizing and directing resources to assist, educate and promote self-sufficiency. The Emergency and Community Department within LCCAP offers a variety of services to eligible individuals facing a housing crisis. Services include, locating and obtaining permanent housing, obtaining help with household goods, and utility services. Through a variety of funding sources, first month's rent, security deposit, or stop

an eviction through payments to landlords may be provided. Housing programs also provide assistance including help with ongoing rental costs, employment services, help with money management, and connections to other community resources and services. The graphs below show individuals and households assisted by the Emergency and Community Department due to literal homeless status or by eviction and the amount of temporary financial assistance provided to those individuals or households for the years of 2020 and 2021.



Housing Assistance Provided by Lawrence County Community Action Partnership



	Financial Assistance Provided to Individuals and Families Facing Eviction	Financial Assistance Provided to Homeless Individuals and Families
■ 2020	\$1,040,671.62	\$1,071,189.61
■ 2021	\$3,616,377.98	\$1,429,376.09

a. Homeless Shelters

Lawrence County residents without permanent housing can find temporary shelter in one of three local shelters.

Organization	# of Beds Available	Population Served
Hope Place	14	Single Women; Single women with children
City Rescue Mission	24	Single Men
Arise	34	Single Women with or without children experiencing domestic violence and/or sexual assault

Homeowners

An overview of homeownership for Lawrence County, PA 2015-2019, 2020 for building permits according to Census.gov

Housing		Lawrence County, Pennsylvania
Land area in square miles, 2010		358.18
PEOPLE		
Housing		
Housing units, July 1, 2019, (V2019)		41,361
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2015-2019		74.5%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2015-2019		\$111,300
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2015-2019		\$1,121
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2015-2019		\$464
Median gross rent, 2015-2019		\$696
Building permits, 2020		64

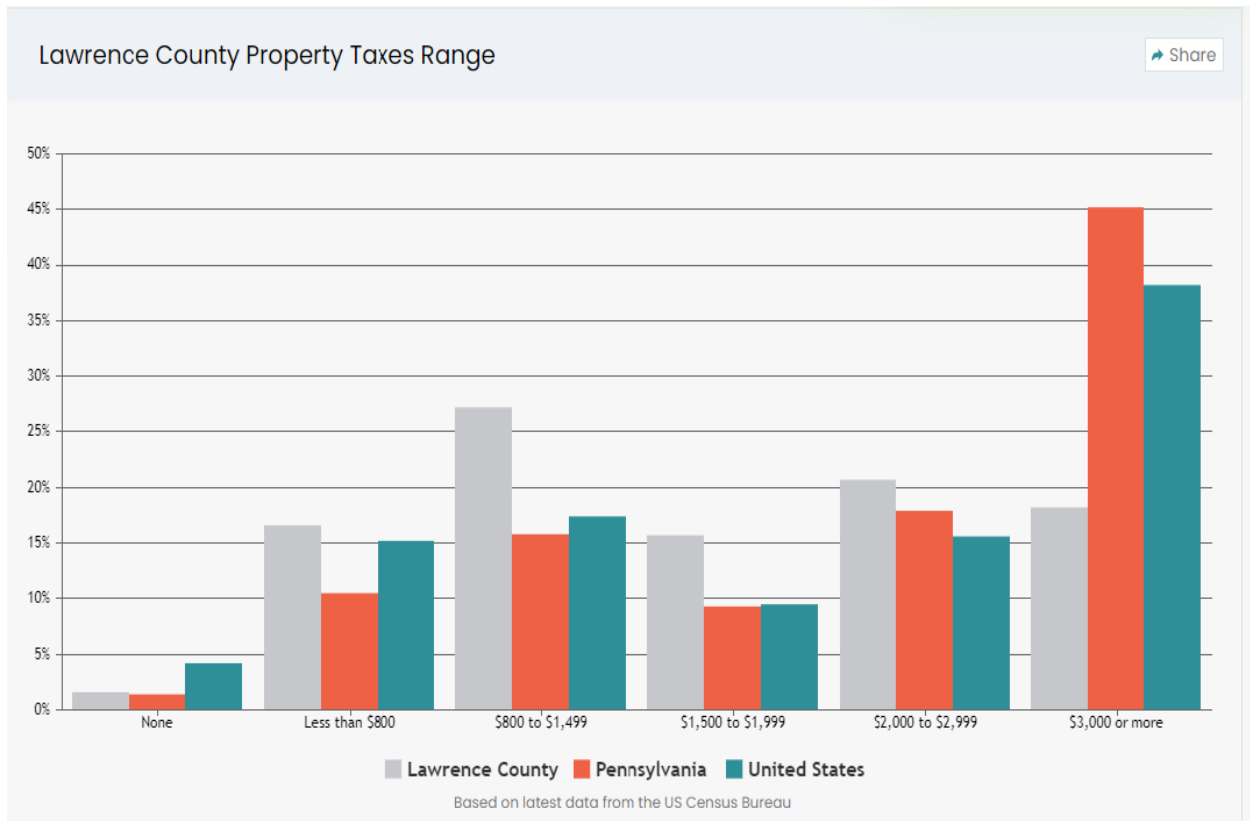
Data Source: Census.Gov

Property Tax

\$800-\$1.5k

Average Range

This chart shows the households in Lawrence County, PA distributed between a series of property tax buckets compared to the national averages for each bucket. In Lawrence County, PA the largest share of households pay taxes in the \$900-\$1.6k range.



Home Ownership Issues

a. Median Costs

The following table demonstrates the median costs required by Lawrence County homeowners to maintain their homes.

Median Mortgage	Median % of Income Required to Pay Mortgage
\$738.00	30.0

b. Home Purchase

1.) Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

PHFA offers homebuyers the opportunity to receive homebuyer counseling and education through its approved counseling agencies, as well as an online program. Housing Counselors provide guidance and advice to help families and individuals improve their housing conditions and meet the responsibility of homeownership. Topics included in Homebuyer Counseling sessions are evaluating mortgage readiness, fair housing, credit report analysis, budgeting for mortgage payments and improving money management skills. Other guidance provided is how to apply for special programs available to potential homebuyers and referrals to community services and regulatory agencies.

Borrowers with a middle credit score at or above 680 may complete the PHFA Online Homebuyer course. Borrowers with a middle credit score lower than 680 are required to complete an in-person course at a counseling agency prior to closing on their loan. These services are paid for by PHFA, with the exception of the credit report fee that may be charged by the counseling agency. Note: credit reports used for mortgage financing purposes generally return three scores; the "middle" score would be the one between the low and high scores.

2.) Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLBank)

The First Front Door (FFD) helps FHLBank Pittsburgh members open the door for first-time homebuyers. With FFD grants, they match the qualified homebuyer's contribution for down payment and closing costs 3-to-1. For every \$1 the homebuyer contributes, FHLBank will provide \$3 in in grant assistance, up to a maximum of \$6,500. Household's income must be at or below 80% of the Area Medium Income (AMI).

3) Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat is founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, decent, affordable place to live in dignity and safety.

4.) USDA Rural Development

c. Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP)

The Pennsylvania General Assembly enacted Act 91 in December 1983, which created HEMAP. HEMAP is a state-funded loan program that offers valuable protections for homeowners and could help you keep your home. This program assists homeowners who are suffering financial hardship and are temporarily unable to pay their mortgage due to circumstances beyond their control. PHFA (Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency) administers HEMAP and determines which applications are eligible for HEMAP assistance. HEMAP funds loaned to prevent foreclosure are not a grant. These funds are a loan and must be repaid. Two

types of assistance are available and both methods require recipients to make mandatory monthly minimum payments. The two types of assistance are continuing mortgage assistance loans and non-continuing mortgage assistance loans.

Some of the eligibility criteria for HEMAP loans (both continuing and non-continuing), you must live in the home, your mortgage cannot be more than 24 months or \$60,000 delinquent, and you must have a reasonable prospect of resuming full mortgage payments within 24 months. The monthly minimum payment by law to HEMAP must be \$25 per month per mortgage assisted.

The closest sites to Lawrence County for HEMAP assistance is Housing Opportunities of Beaver County located on Wilmington Road in Neshannock Township..

d. Reverse Mortgages

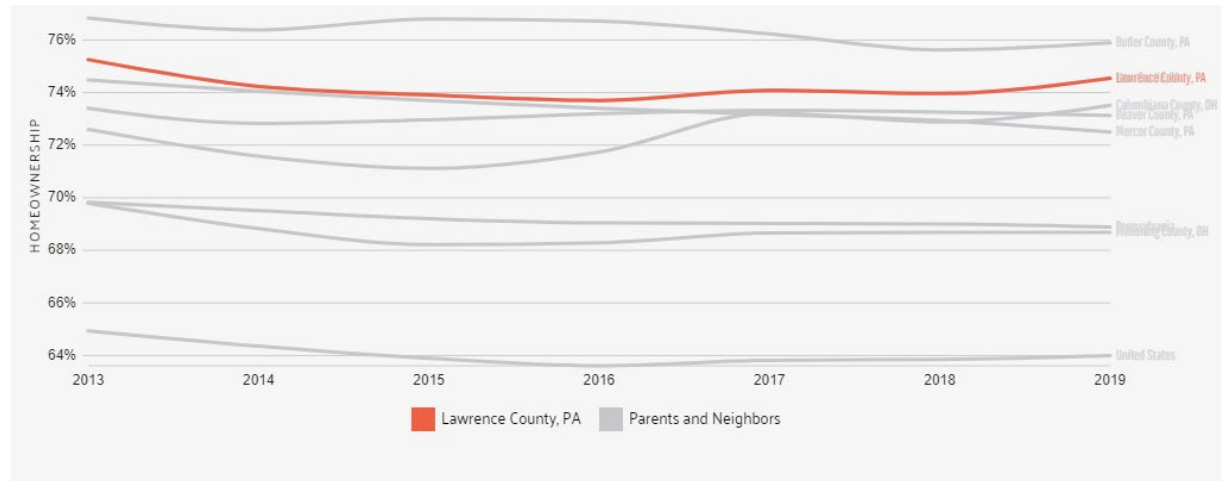
The only reverse mortgage insured by the U.S. Federal Government is called a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), and is only available through an FHA-approved lender. The HECM is FHA's reverse mortgage program that enables you to withdraw a portion of your home's equity. The amount that will be available for withdrawal varies by borrower and depends on age of the youngest borrower or eligible non-borrowing spouse, current interest rate and if lesser of appraised value or the HECM FHA mortgage limit or the sales price. To consider if a HECM is right for you, you must meet with a HECM counselor to discuss program eligibility requirements, financial implications and alternatives to obtaining a HECM and repaying the loan.

There are borrower and property eligibility requirements that must be met. To meet the requirements, you must be 62 years of age or older, own the property outright or paid-down a considerable amount, occupy the property as your principal residence, not be delinquent on any federal debt, have financial resources to continue to make timely payment of ongoing property charges such as property taxes, insurance and Homeowner Association fees, etc. and participate in a consumer information session given by a HUD-approved HECM counselor. There are also property and financial requirements as well. The closest agency to complete these can be located by searching online for a HECM counselor or contacting (800) 569-4287. The closest agency is Advantage Credit Counseling Service in Pittsburgh, PA.

Rent vs. Own

In 2019, 74.5% of the housing units in Lawrence County, PA were occupied by their owner. This percentage grew from the previous year's rate of 74%.

This percentage of owner-occupation is higher than the national average of 64.1%. This chart shows the ownership percentage in Lawrence County, PA compared to parent and neighboring geographies.



1) Lead Based Paint

Lawrence County Social Services provides technical assistance to municipalities, lenders, and property owners in regard to the assessment and management of lead-based paint. Services available include: risk assessments, inspections, clearance testing, and complete program/and or project design.

2) In Home Services

United Community Services, Inc. provides In Home services to the elderly, disabled, and mentally handicapped residents in Lawrence County. This program is designed to make every aspect of daily life more comfortable and safer for those who need an extra hand. Services include light housekeeping, errands, laundry, and chore services as they relate to health and safety issues.

3) Weatherization

The Weatherization Assistance Program is an energy conservation program, funded by federal money and administered through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The objective is to conserve energy consumption in low-income households which meet the poverty level guidelines set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services. The scope of services includes performing standard weatherization services consisting of installation of door kits, door sweeps, attic insulation, repair of broken glass in windows, primary door repair/installation, hot water tank wraps, caulking and glazing windows, and general air infiltration work.

Furnace Modification/Retrofit is performed by cleaning and tuning gas and oil furnaces to achieve maximum efficiency of the heating unit, carbon monoxide testing, safety checks and repairs.

Services are provided to homeowners and renters, as well as mobile home occupants. The Weatherization Assistance Program services Lawrence County residents who meet the income guidelines. Priority is given to elderly, age 60 and over, handicapped, and households with small children.

4 Housing Rehabilitation

The City of New Castle, Shenango Township, Union Township, and Ellwood City Borough each operates an Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation program. These programs provide non-monetary liens via government grants for the elimination of code deficiencies and additional enhancements to the home. Participants must meet eligibility criteria to qualify for this lottery program.

5) Pennsylvania Regional Lead Hazard Control Grant

On behalf of Pennsylvania Regional areas, Lawrence County operates a Lead Hazard Control Grant that works to prevent childhood lead poisoning through remediating lead hazards in owner occupied units. Administered by LCCAP, the federal funds are used for the elimination and/or the control of all identified lead hazards in 210 housing units involving low to very low-income families with children less than six years of age. The targeted areas located within numerous municipalities of Pennsylvania. These targeted areas developed the PA Regional Lead Hazard Control Grant (PAR-LHCG) Consortium of over 70 working partners and their own supporting agencies and organizations.

6) USDA Rural Development

Rural Housing Repair and Rehabilitation Loans are loans funded directly by the Government. These loans are available to very low-income rural residents who own and occupy a dwelling in need of repairs. Funds are available for repairs to improve or modernize a home, or to remove health and safety hazards. This loan is a 1% loan that may be repaid over a 20-year period. To obtain a loan, homeowner-occupants must be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere and must have very low incomes, defined as below 50 percent of the area median income. They must need to make repairs and improvements to make the dwelling safer and more sanitary or to remove health and safety hazards. Grants are only available to homeowners who are 62 years old or older and cannot repay a Section 504 loan. Loans of up to \$20,000 and grants of up to \$7,500 are available. Loans are for up to 20 years at 1 percent interest. A real estate mortgage and full title services are required for loans of \$7,500 or more. Grants may be recaptured if the property is sold in less than 3 years. Grant funds may be used only to pay for repairs and improvements resulting in the removal of health and safety hazards. A grant/loan combination is made if the applicant can repay part of the cost. Loans and grants can be combined for up to \$27,500 in assistance.

Housing-Cost Burden (Renters)

Rental Issues

a. Rental Costs

Median Contract Rent	Median Gross Rent	No Cash Rent
\$522.00	\$695.00	1,092 households

b. National Low-Income Housing Coalition

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition works to ensure that every American is able to afford a home. The following is a summary of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's findings regarding the affordability of rent in Lawrence County. ***A unit is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter's income.***

- In Lawrence County, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$790. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$2,476 monthly or \$29,720 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$14.15.
- In Lawrence County, a minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$7.25. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 79 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, a household must include 1.9 minimum wage earner(s) working 40 hours per week year-round in order to make the two bedroom FMR affordable.
- In Lawrence County, the estimated mean (average) wage for a renter is \$9.88 an hour. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment at this wage, a renter must work 58 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 1.4 worker(s) earning the mean renter wage in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.
- Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$772 in Lawrence County. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, \$232 in monthly rent is affordable, while the FMR for a one-bedroom is \$600.

c. Rental Assistance

Households who are or at risk of becoming homeless may qualify for rental assistance via Lawrence County Social Services and/or the Department of Public Welfare. Households must be able to provide proof of their housing emergency and meet income eligibility guidelines. Families may qualify for up to \$1500 in funds to stop an eviction or secure permanent housing. Rental Assistance funds are in high demand in Lawrence County

Resources for Vulnerable Renters- COVID 19 Response

The [Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(ERAP\)](#) is available in every county in Pennsylvania.

- On August 25th, the [White House released additional information](#) on how it is trying to prevent evictions through U.S. Treasury updates to ERAP and updates to programs administered by other government agencies including the USDA and the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- The U.S. Treasury issued a [revised FAQ](#) on 8/25/21 and an associated [Press Release](#). Revisions provide further clarification on the use of self-attestation, paying rental and utility arrearages at previous addresses, and how to speed up payments to eligible households, to name a few.

d. Affordable Housing Units

Lawrence County has a variety of Affordable Housing Developments. This listing includes both privately and publicly owned developments.

Location	Development	Total Units	Elderly	Family/General	Accessible
Ellwood City	Crescent Place	50	47	0	3
Ellwood City	RJ Schill Manor	72	58	0	14
Ellwood City	Walnut Ridge	100	0	95	5
New Castle	Big Run	22	18	0	4
New Castle	Brinton Hill	50	22	20	8
New Castle	Castleton Apt. Complex	73	72	0	1
New Castle	Oakleaf Gardens	184	0	184	0
New Castle	Harbor Heights	76	0	72	4
New Castle	Hileman Apts.	40	0	38	2
New Castle	Lawrence Manor	150	143	0	7
New Castle	McGrath Manor	92	87	0	5
New Castle	Neshannock Village	69	0	65	4
New Castle	Neshannock Woods	80	72	0	8
New Castle	North Jefferson Building	29	26	0	3
New Castle	Oakview	10	0	0	10
New Castle	Riverside Apts.	128	128	0	0
New Castle	St. Francis Vista South	52	50	0	2
New Castle	Sciota Street	52	0	50	2
New Castle	Shenango Treetops	34	31	0	3
New Castle	Sky View Towers	120	114	0	6
New Castle	West Grant Street Homes	100	0	95	5
New Castle	West Lincoln Terrace	50	0	48	2
New Castle	Westview Terrace	98	0	98	0
West Pittsburg	Taylor Terrace Apts.	30	0	28	2
TOTALS		1761	868	793	95

e. Section 8 Housing

Lawrence County resident's opportunity of obtaining a Section 8 voucher are decreasing. Lawrence County's Section 8 Waiting List officially reopened on September 5, 2018. No indication of how long the list will remain open has been given.

3. Homelessness

In order to provide homeless households with affordable housing opportunities, a variety of supportive housing programs have been developed.

a. Transitional Housing

The addition of transitional housing options to Lawrence County has permitted local homeless families to obtain the skills and resources needed for success in permanent housing while living in a supportive environment.

Organization	# of Beds	Population
City Rescue Mission	8	Single Men
Human Services Center	22	Individuals with Mental Health Issues
Arise	12	Single Women with or without children experiencing domestic violence and/or sexual assault

b. Permanent Supportive Housing

Recognizing that some homeless households require extensive support without time restraints, three organizations offer permanent housing options.

Organization	# of Beds Available	Population
LCCAP	12	Individuals with Chronic Substance Abuse Issues
LCCAP	10	Chronically homeless individuals with a disability
LCCAP	24	Seriously mentally ill individuals in a housing crisis
City Rescue Mission	11	Single Men
Human Services Center	43	Individuals with Mental Health Issues
LCCAP	24	Chronically Homeless Individuals or Families with a Disability or Homeless Individuals or Families with a Disability

Quality

1. Home Ownership Issues

a. Characteristics of Lawrence County Homes

Many Lawrence County residents are residing in substandard housing. The following tables demonstrate some of the indicators of the quality of Lawrence County homes.

House Heating Fuel	Number	Percent
Utility Gas	22,409	62.5
Electricity	6,253	17.5
Fuel Oil, kerosene, etc.	5,246	14.6
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	840	2.3
Wood	651	1.8
Coal or coke	202	0.6
Other Fuel	164	0.5
No fuel used	56	0.2
Solar Energy	5	0

Home Characteristics	Number	Percent
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	304	0.8
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	282	0.8
No telephone service	1,290	3.6
Built prior to 1959	25,131	62.2
Value less than \$50,000	5,078	18.1
Built in 1939 or earlier		33.4

2. Rental Issues

a. Code Enforcement

In recent years, local code enforcement officials have found it necessary to close rental properties due to the increasing number of violations on the properties. Although these units were of poor quality, these units were often the only units with affordable rents to low-income families. For this reason, the County Commissioners have prioritized their Act 137 funds for affordable housing and the upgrading of the physical condition of the available housing stock.

b. Brownfields

Lawrence County landlords have the opportunity to upgrade their current properties through a grant program that provides a \$1 to \$1 match for the completion of projects. This program stabilizes the area's tax base, guarantees the provision and continuation of affordable housing, and continues the process of the enhancement of areas that may be considered desired to future employers.

3. Homelessness

Local shelters ensure that their residents have access to clean, safe shelter. Shelters provide their residents with new linens, access to nutritious meals, access to telephones, and links to area agencies and resources.

Areas of Need

1. Affordable Housing

The need for improvements to Lawrence County's affordable housing stock is based on four factors: a large percentage of low/moderate income persons, an increase in the elderly population, a high percentage of homes built prior to 1940, and a high percentage of owner-occupied homes. In order to meet the need for affordable housing in Lawrence County, concerted efforts must be made to develop new housing options as well as maintain the housing stock already available.

2. Economic Development

Through the development of decent housing, the Lawrence County community becomes more attractive to both prospective residents and new businesses. As such, the development of housing can stimulate greater job creation and the needed economic growth to bring more of its residents out of poverty.

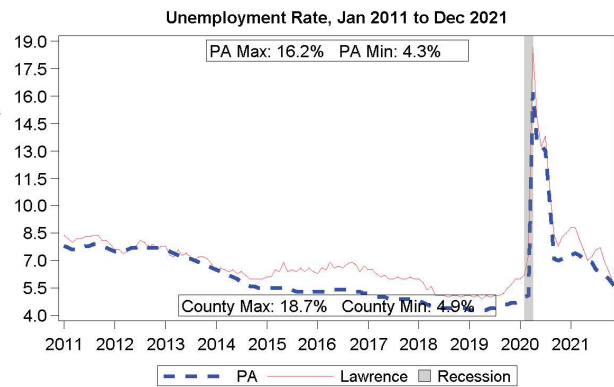
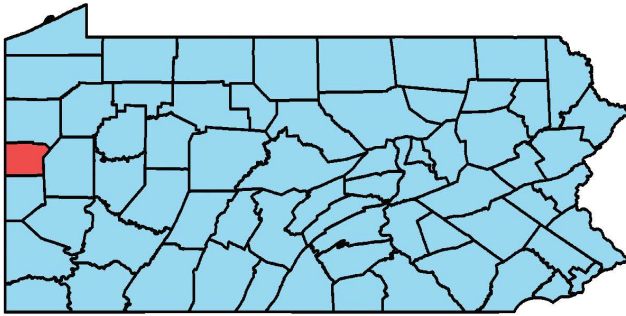
Local Area Unemployment Statistics –December 2021		
	Lawrence County	PA
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.7%
Labor Force	38,600	6,259,000
Employed	36,400	5,899,000
Unemployed	2,200	359,000

Report done by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Center for Workforce Information and Analysis.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 12.9% of individuals living in Lawrence County are living in poverty.

Lawrence County Profile

January 2022



2019 Population		
Demographic	County	PA
Total Population	86,727	12,791,530
Female	44,780	6,526,417
Male	41,947	6,265,113
Population by Race		
White	93.1%	80.5%
Black	3.6%	11.2%
Other	3.3%	8.3%
Hispanic Origin (all races)	1.5%	7.3%
Population by Age		
Ages 0 to 17	19.9%	20.8%
Ages 18 to 24	8.3%	9.2%
Ages 25 to 34	10.7%	13.1%
Ages 35 to 44	10.8%	11.7%
Ages 45 to 54	13.1%	13.2%
Ages 55 to 64	15.7%	14.1%
Ages 65 to 74	11.6%	10.0%
Ages 75 and Older	10.0%	7.9%
Median Age	45.2	40.8

Source: U.S. Census 5 Year Estimate 2015-2019 (Tables: DP05 and B01001)

Online Job Postings	County	PA
December 2021	288	109,835
December 2020	295	92,207
Annual Volume Change	-7	17,628
Annual Percent Change	-2.4%	19.1%

Source: Burning Glass Technologies Help Wanted OnLine™

2019 Veterans	County	PA
Total Veterans	6,299	759,474
Veteran Median Income	\$31,780	\$38,725
Non-Veteran Median Income	\$26,177	\$31,116
Veteran Unemployment Rate	5.6%	4.6%
Non-Veteran Unemployment Rate	6.3%	5.3%

Source: U.S. Census 5 Year Estimate 2015-2019 (Table: S2101)

2019 Resident Income	County	PA
Per Capita Income	\$45,252	\$58,032
Total Personal Income (in thousands)	\$3,869,619	\$742,924,296
Total Earnings (in thousands)	\$2,220,249	\$467,779,834
Total Dividends/Interest/Rent (in thousands)	\$534,660	\$131,208,117
Total Transfer Payments (in thousands)	\$1,114,710	\$143,936,345

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Local Area Unemployment Statistics		
Dec 2021	County	PA
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.4%
Labor Force	38,200	6,241,000
Employed	36,300	5,903,000
Unemployed	1,900	337,000

Notes: Current month's data are preliminary. Data are Seasonally Adjusted.

Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees				
Jan 2021 to Dec 2021	Volume		Percent of Total	
	County	PA	County	PA
Natural Resources & Mining	20	1,760	1.5%	1.0%
Construction	170	14,880	12.5%	8.0%
Manufacturing	220	17,190	16.0%	9.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	210	35,360	15.5%	19.5%
Information	10	2,040	0.5%	1.0%
Financial Activities	40	6,440	3.0%	3.5%
Professional & Business Services	180	27,310	13.0%	15.0%
Education & Health Services	260	32,910	19.0%	18.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	180	29,880	13.0%	16.5%
Other Services	30	6,730	2.0%	3.5%
Government	40	6,160	3.0%	3.5%
Info Not Available	10	1,340	0.5%	0.5%
Total	1,370	182,000	100%	100%

Note: Percentages less than 0.5% will be displayed as 0.0%.
Source: Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation System

Top 10 Employers by Employment in Q2 of 2021
UPMC Jameson
DON Services Inc
Excel Companion Care LLC
New Castle Area School District
County of Lawrence
Wal-Mart Associates Inc
State Government
ISS Facility Services Inc
Westminster College
The Tamarkin Company

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Center for Workforce Information & Analysis

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2020 Annual Averages									
NAICS	NAICS Description	Estab.		Employment		Employment %		Wages	
		County	LQ	County	PA	County	PA	County	PA
	Total, All Industries	1,988	1.00	26,557	5,489,656	100.0%	100.0%	\$45,213	\$62,071
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	17	0.84	103	25,441	0.4%	0.5%	\$34,227	\$38,500
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil & Gas	11	1.21	132	22,505	0.5%	0.4%	\$65,666	\$88,369
22	Utilities	14	1.73	285	34,019	1.1%	0.6%	\$109,300	\$102,137
23	Construction	200	1.67	2,017	249,632	7.6%	4.5%	\$69,147	\$70,075
31-33	Manufacturing	142	1.31	3,398	538,188	12.8%	9.8%	\$60,015	\$66,967
42	Wholesale Trade	86	0.76	751	204,302	2.8%	3.7%	\$55,561	\$86,362
44-45	Retail Trade	251	1.11	3,049	569,847	11.5%	10.4%	\$30,519	\$33,162
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	69	0.68	1,023	309,513	3.9%	5.6%	\$50,652	\$52,554
51	Information	14	0.44	184	86,364	0.7%	1.6%	\$50,081	\$105,107
52	Finance and Insurance	91	0.70	899	266,895	3.4%	4.9%	\$59,001	\$103,588
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	42	0.73	220	61,911	0.8%	1.1%	\$37,205	\$68,118
54	Professional and Technical Services	130	0.43	757	361,637	2.9%	6.6%	\$52,519	\$103,752
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	22	0.90	551	126,974	2.1%	2.3%	\$73,254	\$139,607
56	Administrative and Waste Services	88	0.82	1,135	286,444	4.3%	5.2%	\$29,996	\$42,122
61	Educational Services	40	1.00	2,245	463,106	8.5%	8.4%	\$51,144	\$62,215
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	341	1.09	5,523	1,050,527	20.8%	19.1%	\$38,942	\$55,974
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	27	0.62	208	69,616	0.8%	1.3%	\$27,072	\$40,214
72	Accommodation and Food Services	158	1.24	2,143	357,118	8.1%	6.5%	\$14,365	\$19,732
81	Other Services (Except Public Administration)	196	1.07	890	171,263	3.4%	3.1%	\$32,636	\$39,485
92	Public Administration	49	0.92	1,044	234,354	3.9%	4.3%	\$45,421	\$66,086
	Total, Suppressed Local Industries	0		0		0.0%			
Company Ownership									
	Total, All Ownership	1,988	1.00	26,557	5,489,656	100.0%	100.0%	\$45,213	\$62,071
	Private Ownership	1,886	1.00	23,317	4,830,414	87.8%	88.0%	\$44,332	\$61,976
	Federal Ownership	18	0.42	208	101,283	0.8%	1.8%	\$56,704	\$78,719
	State Ownership	18	0.51	314	128,526	1.2%	2.3%	\$55,346	\$66,625
	Local Ownership	66	1.31	2,718	429,433	10.2%	7.8%	\$50,722	\$57,854

Notes: 'Estab.'-Establishments. 'LQ'-(Location Quotient) is the percent of county employment by sector divided by the percent of PA's employment by sector.

Occupational Wages, 2020 Annual Averages					
SOC Code	Major Occupational Group	Entry-Level Wage		Average Wage	
		County	PA	County	PA
00-0000	Total, All Occupations	\$20,890	\$24,250	\$42,680	\$53,950
11-0000	Management	\$50,720	\$64,660	\$99,440	\$127,660
13-0000	Business & Financial Operations	\$40,200	\$46,690	\$71,240	\$78,750
15-0000	Computer & Mathematical	\$35,940	\$52,000	\$56,330	\$87,970
17-0000	Architecture & Engineering	\$44,970	\$50,300	\$68,970	\$83,300
19-0000	Life, Physical & Social Science	\$40,610	\$41,190	\$81,850	\$75,530
21-0000	Community & Social Services	\$25,460	\$30,970	\$39,800	\$48,360
23-0000	Legal	\$38,220	\$45,780	\$68,280	\$105,870
25-0000	Education, Training & Library	\$26,310	\$30,440	\$54,430	\$63,960
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	\$18,610	\$26,650	\$33,620	\$55,550
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$29,690	\$41,350	\$65,070	\$80,640
31-0000	Healthcare Support	\$22,290	\$22,730	\$26,580	\$30,250
33-0000	Protective Service	\$24,450	\$24,850	\$42,500	\$50,080
35-0000	Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$17,900	\$18,060	\$21,610	\$26,130
37-0000	Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	\$20,350	\$21,440	\$29,480	\$31,770
39-0000	Personal Care & Service	\$18,820	\$18,610	\$26,250	\$30,030
41-0000	Sales & Related	\$18,970	\$20,570	\$39,430	\$45,270
43-0000	Office & Administrative Support	\$23,760	\$26,560	\$37,930	\$41,890
45-0000	Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$29,740	\$21,760	\$47,020	\$36,120
47-0000	Construction & Extraction	\$30,400	\$33,540	\$50,470	\$55,570
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$31,790	\$31,590	\$53,660	\$52,270
51-0000	Production	\$25,770	\$26,500	\$39,550	\$42,010
53-0000	Transportation & Material Moving	\$19,740	\$23,770	\$35,360	\$37,870

Note: 'ND' represents Non-Disclosable information.



3. Elimination of Factors that Contribute to Poverty

Through the upgrade of their housing, Lawrence County residents will find themselves in an improved economic condition. For instance, through the installation of new windows and doors, residents' weather tight homes will require fewer funds to meet their utility costs. Therefore, the residents will have more expendable income to pay down debt, contribute to the local economy, and meet other household needs.

4. Tax Stabilization

Decent, affordable housing can help to bring tax stabilization to the County. By making substandard housing livable, residents will be able to purchase homes that were previously vacant. This process can help bring households back to areas that were previously undesirable and funnel valuable tax dollars back into the community.

5. Lead Education and Outreach

LCCAP offers a variety of lead education and outreach services in Lawrence County, and in other communities within the Northwest Pennsylvania region.

Health/Social Behavioral Development

The Southwest Regional Accountable Health Council (RAHC) consists of 39 subject matter experts from Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Health Systems, Behavioral Health Primary Contractors, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), PA Counties, and various health care providers. The council operates through workgroups focused on Health Equity Zone identification, governance and sustainability, community resources and engagement, and program integration.

Per the guidance and mission set out by DHS, this transformation plan has identified demographic groups impacted by health disparities, and geographic areas with significant health disparities. This plan will propose strategies for eliminating disparities in these groups and areas while meeting the additional requirements of the Department.

COVID-19

The direct impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic- local, state and national cases and casualties as reported by The New York Times are as follow:

Location:	Covid-19 Reported Cases:	Covid-19 Reported Deaths
Lawrence County	18,825	410
Pennsylvania	2.77M (Million)	43,992 (Thousand)
United States	79.6M (Million)	969K (Thousand)

Data Source: The New York Times: Cases:3/18/2022

Lawrence

The Lawrence zip codes, 16101, 16102 and 16117 make up an Health Equity Zone (HEZ) for the Southwest region. These zip codes exhibit poor Medicaid outcomes, an increased

prevalence of individuals living in poverty, and clear disparities in relation to social determinants of health.

HEZ Name/ Description	Zip Codes In HEZ	Briefly Describe Health Disparities in HEZ	HEZ's Racial and Income/Poverty Breakdown
Lawrence	16101	Medicaid Index: -0.51	ADI: 8.13 Persons below poverty: 16% Racially diverse population: 13%
	16102	Medicaid Index: -0.41	ADI: 7.34 Persons below poverty: 15% Racially diverse population: 9%
	16117	Medicaid Index: -0.45	ADI: 7.12 Persons below poverty: 13% Racially diverse population: 2%

The three worst performing Medicaid outcomes for the region include:

- Asthmatics on medications
- Diabetics with HbA1c Testing
- Child ED visits

Social determinant observations for the HEZ include:

- Lawrence has a low-income population
 - All Lawrence zip codes had a below average median household income
 - Most households in this HEZ spend more than 30% of household income on rent
- Internet access is an issue in 16101 where 26% of residents do not have an internet subscription at home and 32% do not have a smartphone

	PA State	Lawrence County	Health Equity Zone
<i>Medicaid population</i>	3,220,000	100,300	10,240*
<i>Life expectancy</i>	78.1	77.0	76.2
<i>Minority population (%)</i>	21	8	7.7
<i>Persons below poverty (%)</i>	12	14	14.7

*HEZ Medicaid population is based on data from 2018 while State and County-level data are most recently available

For each of the three identified Medicaid outcomes that are performing poorly, the following evidence correlates the outcomes with social determinants of health.

1. Asthmatics on medication

- Studies show that low income, minority populations tend to have issues with trusting their medication, with 7x higher odds of endorsing negative beliefs
- Poor housing conditions have a high impact on asthma patients
- 39% of asthma cases among children can be avoided by eradicating indoor exposure to allergens and poor conditions
- Addressing mold, poor ventilation, and bug infestation resulted in a 90% drop in ED visits and hospitalization for asthmatics

As seen in the SDOH root cause analysis in Table 12, the following observations can be tied back to the evidence-based correlations identified above:

- The low-income population in Lawrence may not trust the value of their medication
 - All Lawrence zip codes had below average median household income ranging from \$42k to \$53k, well below the state average of \$61.7k
 - The large proportion in each zip code that spends over 30% of income on housing (as high as 63% of 16102) may not have money to spend on the medication

2. Diabetics with HbA1c Testing

- Majority (57-75%) of households with income <\$49K have difficulty paying for food
- Diabetes prevalence is higher in food insecure households than others (10% vs 7%)
- Obesity and type 2 diabetes disproportionately impact U.S. racial and ethnic minority communities, rural populations, and low-income populations
- Large efficacy trials have demonstrated that lifestyle change and/or medication can prevent or delay progression of prediabetes to type 2 diabetes

As seen in the SDOH root cause analysis in Table 12, the following observations can be tied back to the evidence-based correlations identified above:

- Transportation issues make it difficult to get to testing locations
 - Lack of public transportation leaves a transportation gap for those who need to get tested; less than 1.5% of Lawrence relies on public transit leaving an issue for those without vehicle access
- Low income, high rent expenses, and resulting food insecurity are linked to diabetes and its testing rates
 - Zip codes 16101 and 16117 have higher than average (0.4 per 1,000) numbers of fast-food restaurants per 1,000 at 1.0 per 1,000 and 0.6 per 1,000 respectively
 - All Lawrence zip codes have low median household incomes ranging from \$42,000 in 16101, \$45,000 in 16102 and \$53,000 in 16117 along with over 30% of household income going to housing for most people in 16101 and 16102

3. Child ED Visits

- Commercially insured groups of people used the ED less A study in PA by the RWJF found two main reasons why individuals on Medicaid use the ER more than PCPs
 - Significant barriers to access PCPs: appt. availability, hours of operation, transportation covered by Medicaid must be arranged 3 days ahead, perceived quality of care, and specialist OOP when PCPs refer them
 - Delayed preventive or acute care – due to excessive strains from poverty and caregiver responsibilities – which lead to need for ED
- Those suffering from food insecurity are 140% more likely to have ED visits
- Respiratory ailments are the most common ED diagnosis for children

As seen in the SDOH root cause analysis in Table 12, the following observations can be tied back to the evidence-based correlations identified above:

- Respiratory ailments tend to be the primary cause of Child ED visits and poor housing conditions cause asthma-related ED visits
 - Asthma rates for Lawrence are above the state average while the proportion of asthmatics on medication is below, possibly leading to ED visits
- Low-income households without internet access cannot access telemedicine

- o - Low income and higher than average rate Medicaid enrollees (19% vs. 15% in PA)
- o Internet access was an issue in 16101 where 26% of residents do not have an internet subscription at home and 32% do not have a smartphone

Nutrition

According to the Lawrence County Comprehensive Plan, Lawrence County has the third worst score for all 67 Pennsylvania counties for the food environment index. Per the 2015 County Health Rankings, 12% of residents had limited access to healthy foods, compared to 4% in Pennsylvania. In looking at low-income areas, the most underserved locations in the County include the City of New Castle and Mahoning Township. 13% of Lawrence County residents reported food insecurity compared to 14% in Pennsylvania. There are a variety of Farmer's Markets located throughout the County. The City of New Castle offers a farmer's market on Saturdays from July through October. The Ellwood City Farmers' Market is also open on Saturdays from June through October and offers live musical performances. The New Wilmington Farmers' Market is also on Saturdays from June through October and features local produce and artisans' crafts. In addition, some local farms, such as Apple Castle, offer farmers markets year-round. Lawrence County has nine grocery stores, not including convenience stores. According to The Yellow book, Lawrence County has 182 stores to purchase grocery items. This number includes convenience stores, gas stations, fast food restaurants, and both privately owned and chain grocery stores. The Summer Food program, sponsored by LCCAP and The New Castle School district, served food to 23 different locations in the summer of 2021. In total, 95,181 meals were served to an unduplicated 1,187 children.

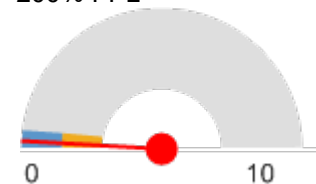
WIC-Authorized Food Store Access:

This indicator reports the number of food stores and other retail establishments that are authorized to accept WIC Program (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) benefits per 1,000 population below 200% FPL.

Report Area	Enrolled in Monthly	Number WIC-Authorized Food Stores	WIC-Authorized Food Store, Rate per 1,000
Lawrence County, PA	1,105	5	0.00452
Pennsylvania	157,588	2,120	0.01345
United States	6,247,414	47,488	0.00760

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, wic.datatables.usda/food+nutritionservices/pawic.com/2021

WIC-Authorized Food Stores per 1,000 Population below 200% FPL



■ Lawrence County, PA (0.00452)
■ Pennsylvania (0.01345)
■ United States (0.00760)

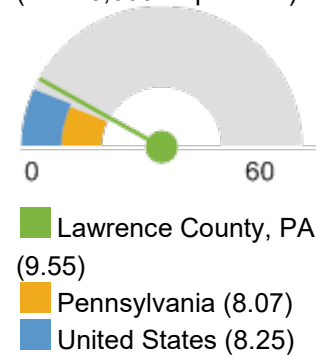
SNAP-Authorized Food Store Access:

This indicator reports the number of 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 SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits.

Report Area	Total Population	Total SNAP-Authorized Retailers	SNAP-Authorized Retailers, Rate per 10,000 Population
Lawrence County, PA	86,727	131	15.23
Pennsylvania	13,002,700	10,257	7.89
United States	331,449,281	257,596	7.77

Data Source: DHS.PA.GOV/2021

SNAP-Authorized Retailers, Rate (Per 10,000 Population)



Fruit/Vegetable Consumption:

In the report area an estimated 68,601, or 79.1% of adults over the age of 18 are consuming less than 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day. This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health, and because unhealthy eating habits may cause significant health issues, such as obesity and diabetes according to DHS.PA.GOV/2021.

Report Area	Total Population
Lawrence County, PA	86,727
Pennsylvania	13,002,700
United States	331,449,281

National Deficiency Based On:

	Pennsylvania	United States
Education:		
Less than High School	8.3%	8.1%
High School Graduate	3.2 %	6.0%
Some College	6.0%	8.3%
College Graduate	11.3%	10.5%
Income:		
Under 25K	5.4%	6.9%
\$25-\$49,999	4.2%	7.0%
\$50-\$74,999	6.7%	8.3%

\$75- and higher	9.8%	9.75%
Sex	Pennsylvania	United States
Female	8.9%	9.7%
Male	5.1%	6.5%
Age:	Pennsylvania	United States
18-44	8.5%	5.6%
45-64	6.1%	7.9%
65-+	5.6%	7.3%

Food Assistance in Lawrence County:

The following are resources in the county to assist families in obtaining food

Food Pantry	Area Served
Bessemer Borough	Bessemer Borough
Camp Allegheny	Ellwood City
Catholic Charities	New Castle
City Rescue Mission	Lawrence County, including New Castle
East Side Bread Basket	New Castle
Epworth United Methodist Church	Lawrence County, including New Castle
First Baptist Church	New Castle
Hickory Township	Hickory Township
Holy Redeemer Social Services	Ellport Borough, Ellwood City, Perry Township, Wampum Borough, Wayne Township
Lawrence County Assistance	New Castle
Lawrence County Association for the Blind	Consumers of the Association's services only
Lawrence County Housing Authority	Residents of Lawrence Manor, McGrath Manor, Skyview Towers
Lawrence Manor	Residents of building only
Lillyville Church of God	Ellwood City
Little Beaver Township	Little Beaver and Enon Valley
Mahoning Township	Mahoning Township
McGrath Manor	Residents of building only
Neshannock Township	Neshannock Township
Neshannock Woods	Residents of building only
New Beaver Borough	New Beaver Borough
North Beaver Township	North Beaver Township
People in Need	New Castle
Riverside Apartments	Residents of building only
Salvation Army, Ellwood City	Ellwood City (zip codes: 16117, 16120, 16123,16157,16160)

Salvation Army, New Castle	New Castle (zip codes: 16101, 16102, 16103, 16104, 16112, 16116, 16132, 16155)
Salvation Army, New Wilmington Service Unit	Pulaski Township (zip codes: 16140, 16142, 16143, 16156)
Solid Rock Ministry	Lawrence County, including New Castle
St. Joseph	New Castle
St. Mary	New Castle
St. Vitus	New Castle
Taylor Township	Taylor Township
Union Township	Union Township
United Way	New Castle
Vista South Apartments	Residents of building only
Wallace Memorial	New Wilmington
Washington Township	Plain Grove Township, Volant Borough, Washington Township

Medicare and Medicaid Providers:

The total number of institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics and community mental health centers for the report area is shown in the table below. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 19 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in the report area in the 1st quarter of 2018.

Report Area	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Lawrence County, PA	18	1	11	1	0	0
Pennsylvania	2,837	257	694	256	74	8
United States	73,553	7,152	15,635	8,350	4,246	142

Data Source: US Department of Health Human Services, Center for Medicare Medicaid Services, Provider of Services File. March 2018. Source geography: County

Health

According to the Lawrence County Comprehensive Plan, in terms of Health Outcomes, Lawrence County ranks particularly low (58th for length of life and 62nd for quality of life). According to the rankings, Lawrence County has a higher rate of premature deaths (before age 75) and lower rates of quality of life. Residents reported a higher number of poor physical health days and overall poor or fair health than other counties in Pennsylvania.

Health Factors

Health Factor	Lawrence County	Pennsylvania
Premature Death	9,000	7,500
Quality of Life/ Poor Health	18%	18%
Poor Physical Health Days	4.3%	4.0%
Poor Mental Health Days	5.3%	4.7%
Low Birthweight	9.0%	8.0%
Poor Health Behaviors	23%	18%
Adult Obesity	37%	31%
Food Environment Index	7.3%	8.4%
Poor Physical Activity	30%	22%
Access to Exercise Equipment	82%	84%
Excessive Drinking	21%	20%
Adult Impaired Driving Deaths	22%	26%
STDs	356.0%	463.4%
Teen Births	23%	17%

Data.usa2019

Persons Receiving Medicare:

The total number of persons receiving Medicare is shown, broken down by number over 65 and number of disabled persons receiving Medicare, for the report area in the table below. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that a total of 15,940 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in the report area in 2019. A large number of individuals in our society are aware that persons over 65 years of age receive Medicare; however, many of them are unaware that disabled persons also receive Medicare benefits.

Report Area	Persons Receiving Medicare
Lawrence County, PA	15,940
Pennsylvania	1,966,643
United States	48,541,096

Data Source: U.S.CensusBureau2019

Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Enrollment:

Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollment for households with anyone 18 and under is shown in the table below. Total enrollment in the selected area is 919 children: as of December 2021. Families who are at or above 200% of the FPG pay in part on a sliding scale for CHIP service.

Household Size:	Income:	Household Size:	Income:
Family of 1	\$38,640	Family of 6	\$106,740
Family of 2	\$52,260	Family of 7	\$120,360
Family of 3	\$65,880	Family of 8	\$133,980
Family of 4	\$79,500	Each additional, add	\$13,620
Family of 5	\$93,120		

Data Source: chipcoverspakids.com & partnership.org)(2021)

Prenatal Care:

Prenatal care significantly factors into the health of pregnant women and the birth of healthy babies. In 2020, the total number of women's first prenatal care visit occurring in the 1st trimester of pregnancy was 187; the total number of first visits during the 2nd trimester was 190; and, for the 3rd trimester the total was 41 first time visits. Women's first prenatal care visit in an unknown trimester totaled 37 occurrences. There were 6 cases in which no prenatal care occurred.

Report Area	First Trimester	Second Trimester	Third Trimester	Unknown Trimester	No Prenatal Care
Lawrence County, PA	187	190	41	37	6
Pennsylvania	89,371	23,944	6,943	4,128	2,662

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health. Source geography: County(2020)

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health in 2020, most live births occurred with mothers 20-30 years of age. The second largest group is mothers 30-40 years of age. Mothers over age 40 made up the remaining. Women under 19, with live births can work against families being self-sufficient. Teen mothers are statistically less likely to continue education through high school and college, without which many may earn only low-income wages. Teen mothers and their children face increased health risk due to lack of education and resources.

Report Area	Total Births	Mother Age Under 15	Mother Age 15-19	Mother Age 20-30	Mother Age 30-40	Mother Age Over 40	Age Unknown
Lawrence County, PA	823	1	43	450	312	18	0
Pennsylvania	134,247	162	5,252	61,948	62,810	4,163	15

Leading Causes of Death:

The table below lists the top five causes of death in the area region for 2019, along with the number of deaths associated with each cause.

County	Rank	Cause of Death	Total Number
Lawrence	1	Diseases of Heart	201.2
Lawrence	2	Cancer	174.3
Lawrence	3	Accidents	87.3
Lawrence	4	C.L.R.D.*	41.8
Lawrence	5	Alzheimers	25.6

Data Source: healthpa.gov(2020)

Health Statistics: 2020 Lawrence County and Pennsylvania Care Ratios:

Topic:	Description:	Lawrence County:	Pennsylvania:
Clinical Care	Uninsured	6%	7%
	Primary Care Physicians	2,390:1	1230:1
	Dentists	1,680:1	1,410:1
	Mental Health Providers	790:1	450:1
	Preventable Hospital Stays	4,763	4,464
	Mammogram Screening	40%	45%
Physical Environment	Air Pollution	10.1	9.0
	Drinking Water Violations	Yes	Yes
	Severe Housing Problem	13%	15%

www.countyhealthrankings.org(2020)

Services available via Main Health Care Provider of Lawrence County: UPMC

Bariatric Surgery	Occupation Health Services
Breast Health	Orthopedic Surgery
Behavior Health	Pain Management
Cancer Treatment	Prescription Services
Children's Advocacy	Primary Care
Diabetes Management	Pulmonology & Respiratory
Emergency Services	Neurodiagnostic Services
Endocrinology	Plastic & Reconstructive Services
Gastroenterology/ Endoscopy	Senior Communities
General Surgery	Sleep Medicine
Heart & Vascular Institute	Stroke Care
Hospice Care	Travel Medicine
Imaging Services	Urology
Infusion Center	Women's Health Care
Nutritional Services & Wellness	Wound Care

Access to Primary Care:

This indicator reports the number of primary care physicians per 100,000 population. Doctors classified as "primary care physicians" by the AMA include General Family Medicine MDs and DOs, General Practice MDs and DOs, General Internal Medicine MDs and General Pediatrics MDs. Physicians aged 75 and over and physicians practicing sub-specialties within the listed specialties are excluded. This indicator is relevant because a shortage of health professionals contributes to access and health status issues.

Report Area	Total Population, 2019	Primary Care Physicians, 2021	Primary Care Physicians, Rate per 100,000 Pop.
Lawrence County, PA	85,512	107	125.76
Pennsylvania	12,801,989	28,288	98.9
United States	318,857,056	295,000	87.8

Data Source: US Department of Health Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Area Health Resource File. 2021 Source geography: County

Access to Dentists:

This reports the number of dentists per 100,000 population. This indicator includes all dentists - qualified as having a doctorate in dental surgery (D.D.S.) or dental medicine (D.M.D.), who are licensed by the state to practice dentistry and who are practicing within the scope of that license.

Report Area	Total Population, 2019	Dentists, 2019	Dentists, Rate per 100,000 Pop.
Lawrence County, PA	8,512	51	52.22
Pennsylvania	12,801,989	8,368	65.4
United States	318,857,056	210,832	65.6

Data Source: US Department of Health Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Area Health Resource File. 2019. Source geography: County

Access to Mental Health Providers:

The chart below reports 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.

Report Area	Estimated Population	Number of Mental Health Providers	Ratio of Mental Health Providers to Population (1 Provider per x Persons)	Mental Health Care Provider Rate (Per 100,000 Population)
Lawrence County, PA	85,512	108	944.4	105.8
Pennsylvania	12,801,989	21,927	583	171.5
United States	318,857,056	643,219	493	202.8

Data Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings. 2019. Source geography: County

Facilities Designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas:

In the graph below, the number and location of health care facilities designated as "Health Professional Shortage Areas" (HPSAs), defined as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers. This indicator is relevant because a shortage of health professionals contributes to access and health status issues.

Report Area	Primary Care Facilities	Mental Health Care Facilities	Dental Health Care Facilities	Total HPSA Facility Designations
Lawrence County, PA	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	113	96	103	312
United States	3,599	3,171	3,071	9,836

Data Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings. 2019. Source geography: County

Lack of a Consistent Source of Primary Care:

Additionally, the percentage of adults aged 18 and older who self-report that they do not have at least one person who they think of as their personal doctor or health care provider. This indicator is relevant because access to regular primary care is important to preventing major health issues and emergency department visits.

Report Area	Survey Population (Adults Age 18+)	Total Adults Without Any Regular Doctor	Percent Adults Without Any Regular Doctor
Lawrence County, PA	55,895	5,037	9.01%
Pennsylvania	9,777,605	1,244,908	12.73%
United States	236,884,668	52,290,932	22.07%

The following is a list of Mental Health Resources in Lawrence County:

Independent Evaluators-

- Neighborhood Counseling Services
- John Uber
- Stephanie Whitsel-Anderson

Additional Evaluators-

- Vocational and Psychological Services
- Psychology and Learning Center
- Wesley Family Services

- Dr Albert Scott
- Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Behavioral Health Providers-

- Comprehensive Family Services
- Community Alternatives
- Family Behavioral Resources
- Sharon Regional
- Vocational and Psychological Services

Other Mental Health Resources-

- Children's Advocacy
- Human Services Center

Social and Behavioral Development

Lack of Social or Emotional Support:

This indicator reports the percentage of adults aged 18 and older who self-report that they receive insufficient social and emotional support all or most of the time. This indicator is relevant because social and emotional support is critical for navigating the challenges of daily life as well as for good mental health. Social and emotional support is also linked to educational achievement and economic stability.

Report Area	Total Population Age 18+	Estimated Population Without Adequate Social / Emotional Support	Crude Percentage	Age-Adjusted Percentage
Lawrence County, PA	71,781	12,418	17.3%	15.7%
Pennsylvania	9,857,384	2,070,051	21%	20.9%
United States	232,556,016	48,104,656	20.7%	20.7%

Data Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings. 2019. Source geography: County

Recreation and Fitness Facility Access:

The chart below reports the number per 100,000 population of recreation and fitness facilities as defined by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code 713940. This indicator is relevant because access to recreation and fitness facilities encourages physical activity and other healthy behaviors.

Report Area	Total Population	Number of Establishments	Establishments, Rate per 100,000 Population
Lawrence County, PA	91,108	6	6.59
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	1,450	11.42
United States	308,745,538	33,980	11.01

Data Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings. 2019. Source geography: County

Outdoor Recreational Facilities: (Lawrence County Comprehensive Plan)

Per the 2021 County Health Rankings, 77% of the County population has adequate access to locations for physical activity. Locations are defined as parks (local, state and national) or recreational facilities (gyms, community centers, YMCAs, dance studios and pools). Adequate access is defined as living within a half-mile of a park or within one mile of a recreational facility in urban census tracts or three miles of a recreational facility in rural census tracts. Figure 9 depicts the half-mile service area for local parks within the County. Future efforts to develop new parks or recreation facilities should target underserved areas.

- Lawrence County is known for large, regional public recreation destinations such as McConnell's Mill State Park and multiple state game lands.
- County-owned recreation facilities include: West Park Nature Center, a 108-acre county-owned park, located in Union Township, that offers a mountain bike trail, walking trails, a 25-acre certified Audubon Society Wildlife Sanctuary, pavilions and picnic areas, restrooms and a variety of interpretive and educational areas.
- Henry Bazzichi Park, a community playground located in and maintained by Wayne Township.
- Two multi-purpose trails: Stavich Bike Trail, located in Union and Mahoning Townships and the Neshannock Rail- Trail, located in Neshannock Township (see page 82 for more information).
- Multiple boat launches along the Shenango and Beaver Rivers.
- The County partners with its municipalities to obtain grants to develop and improve local parks. Most recently, the County partnered with the City of New Castle, Union Township and the Borough of Ellwood City to prepare master site plans to design improvements for six municipal parks.
- While the County appears to be well-served in terms of parks, its comparatively low statewide ranking for accessible recreation facilities is likely related to indoor facilities. Major indoor recreation facilities within the County include: **New Castle Community YMCA**, located in downtown New Castle on West Washington Street, is home to two floors of fitness and exercise equipment, child development center, aquatic center,

gymnasium, racquetball courts, spin center, aerobic studio, community room with Wi-Fi, child drop-in services and a youth center.

- **YMCA Y-ZONE**, located in Neshannock Township, is a sports and recreation center. Facilities include two basketball / volleyball courts, an indoor turf field, outdoor soccer fields, a batting cage and a fitness / wellness center.
- **The Family Center** in Ellwood City has an indoor basketball court (also used for soccer and other activities) and a weight room.
- **Hess Ice Rink**, owned by and located in Neshannock Township, is a single-sheet indoor rink open year-round and home to amateur programs as study was completed with regard to connecting the trail off-road from McConnell's Mill State Park in Lawrence County to Moraine State Park in Butler County, but due to landowner concerns, it is not a viable option at this time.
- **The Stavich Bike Trail** is an asphalt, ADA-compliant, designated National Recreation Trail that crosses three townships, two counties and two states from New Castle to Struthers, Ohio along the Mahoning River. The total length of the trail is 12 miles, with ten of it located in Lawrence County. The biggest needs for this trail include connecting to downtown New Castle to make it more accessible and increased signing and marketing of the trail. Long-term regional connections include Mercer County Trails Association to the north and the Ohio River Trail in Beaver County to the south. There is also an opportunity to offer a peddle-paddle as the Mahoning River water trail is developed.
- **The Neshannock Trail** opened in 2015 and is a 0.7-mile rail-trail located in the City of New Castle along Neshannock Creek. The County is working with the City of New Castle to connect the trail to the City's Riverwalk.
- **The Riverwalk** is a linear park along Neshannock Creek in downtown New Castle. The park hosts a variety of events and festivals. City of New Castle completed a Riverwalk Plan in 2015, which proposes routes to connect the trail to the downtown. There is potential to develop a peddle-paddle with Neshannock Creek, as the trail is extended.
- The **Park-Harbor Trail** opened in 2010 as a two-mile biking and hiking trail at West Park Nature Center in Union Township. If connected to the Stavich Bike Trail, West Park could serve as a trailhead.
- **Designated on-road bikeways** include the BicyclePA routes. BicyclePA Route A follows SR 488 from the south, through Ellwood City and Perry Township, to the north along US 19 into Mercer County. BicyclePA Route V follows SR 317 from the Ohio Border northwest to SR 108, through New Castle and Wilmington Township into Mercer County. However, local cyclists report that these are seldom used. There is a need to improve the shoulders along state routes to better accommodate cyclists.
- The City of New Castle has added **bike lanes** to the North Street Bridge as part of ongoing efforts to implement the Riverwalk project, which will connect the Neshannock Trail to the downtown. There is an opportunity for the Core Communities to establish bike plans, which would allow Penn DOT to incorporate as part of future maintenance work on designated routes.

Drug and Alcohol Consumption:

This indicator reports the percentage of adults aged 18 and older who self-report heavy alcohol consumption (defined as more than two drinks per day on average for men and one drink per day on average for women). This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as cirrhosis, cancers, and untreated mental and behavioral health needs. In addition, in 2021, 55 people died from a drug overdose.

Lawrence County has the 12th highest rate of overdose deaths per 100,000 people. Our birthing facilities reported 15 births of babies exposed to drugs and alcohol per 1,000 newborn stays.

Report Area	Total Population Age 18+	Estimated Adults Drinking Excessively	Estimated Adults Drinking Excessively (Crude Percentage)	Estimated Adults Drinking Excessively (Age-Adjusted Percentage)
Lawrence County, PA	71,781	7,896	11%	14.6%
Pennsylvania	9,857,384	1,705,327	17.3%	18.7%
United States	232,556,016	38,248,349	16.4%	16.9

Physical Inactivity:

Within the report area, 15,628 or 21% of adults aged 20 and older 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?" This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as obesity and poor cardiovascular health.

Report Area	Total Population Age 20+	Population with no Leisure Time Physical Activity	Percent Population with no Leisure Time Physical Activity
Lawrence County, PA	68,544	15,628	21%
Pennsylvania	9,697,156	2,244,307	22%
United States	234,207,619	52,147,893	21.8

Tobacco Usage - Former or Current Smokers:

In the report area, an estimated 26,965 adults, or 48.38%, report ever smoking 100 or more cigarettes. This indicator is relevant because tobacco use is linked to leading causes of death such as cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Report Area	Survey Population (Adults Age 18+)	Total Adults Ever Smoking 100 or More Cigarettes	Percent Adults Ever Smoking 100 or More Cigarettes
Lawrence County, PA	55,733	26,965	48.38%
Pennsylvania	9,707,875	4,595,088	47.33%
United States	235,151,778	103,842,020	44.16%

Walking or Biking to Work:

This chart below shows the percentage of the population that commutes to work by either walking or riding a bicycle.

Report Area	Population Age 16+	Population Walking or Biking to Work	Percentage Walking or Biking to Work
Lawrence County, PA	38,329	927	2.42%
Pennsylvania	5,922,289	256,316	4.33%
United States	145,861,221	4,908,725	3.37%

Civic Engagement & Community Involvement

Covid-19 has affected civic engagement in the local community much like it has the state and nation. Since March 2020, daily living has been a roller coaster ride with social distancing, infections, hospitalizations, and even deaths. Many local businesses moved to telework at some point during this time, while others shut down all together and some others not ever able to reopen their doors. Due to this, civic engagement and community involvement has been limited. Primary efforts to support one another at this time has been directed to a single focus of food insecurity. Several agency and community resources have been available during this time.

Temporary Emergency Assistance through Meals (TEAM)

The Temporary Emergency Assistance through Meals (TEAM) program began in March 2020 during a time when small neighborhood stores and public transit shut down. Larger grocery providers limited store hours and limited the number of shoppers at one time. Allied Coordinated Transportation Services (ACTS) program began delivering fresh and frozen meals to adults with disabilities and seniors 60 years of age and older. Since inception, TEAM has provided over 35,000 FREE, home-delivered meals to almost 900 unduplicated residents.

Family Meals

Also, at the onset of the pandemic LCCAP's early learning families were in need of food assistance, baby formula, wipes, and diapers when Head Start and childcare classrooms shut down. Families were granted assistance with food and supplies on a weekly basis depending on their household composition. Family Meals also delivered meals to Veterans. During summer months, the Summer Food Service Program operated in conjunction with the family meals.

N.O.W. Project

The Nourishing Others' Well-being Project has been led by Jubilee Ministries International and the Christian Chamber of Commerce Western Pennsylvania. Per a New Castle News article dated August 7, 2021, the N.O.W Project began distributing food boxes monthly in May 2020. Boxes contain dairy, produce, and shelf stable food items. As the need for this resource increased, the project outgrew multiple locations and finally settled in the parking lot at the downtown site of the Cascade Galleria.

New Visions for Lawrence County

New Visions for Lawrence County is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for building community. It is fostering a social change movement by carefully organizing volunteers, community partners, and strategies for growth and downtown revitalization. It is also intentional about building relationships, mobilizing, and inspiring others to get involved; offering avenues for people to 'become the change they want to see'. New Visions is building the capacity to support transformational community change.

The efforts of the organization are initially focused in downtown New Castle, as the County seat and largest municipality, but benefit efforts countywide and regionally. Activities range from

beautification, public art, and creative place-making to events like summer concerts, holiday parades, and pop-up markets. Each of these offer volunteer service opportunities, 'feed' the City's community and economic development plan and offer changes in perception and hope.

New Visions knows that 'a rising tide will lift us all' and is at the forefront of community organizing efforts. It is through collective impact, aka everyone offering a little, that together we will realize a thriving community that we all want to be a part of. During Covid in 2020, all larger events were cancelled, and civic community service was mostly limited to beautification projects outdoors. In 2021, we saw a resurgence and willingness that brought people out both to volunteer and attend events. Outdoor concerts were very well attended, as was the holiday parade and pop-up market.

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPENDIX

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs must design a program that meets community needs and builds on strengths and resources. To that end, a community assessment is conducted at least once every five years. These assessments must use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:

- ✓ The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
 - Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A))
 - Children in foster care
 - Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies
- ✓ The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being
- ✓ Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children
- ✓ Other child development, childcare centers, and family childcare programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served
- ✓ Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families, and
- ✓ Strengths of the community.

Children ages 0-5 living in Lawrence County have been designated as being at moderate-high risk for academic failure due to a number of social and economic conditions present vs. opportunities for access to high quality early childhood and family development services (PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning Reach and Risk Report, January 2019). Overall, the information and data contained in this LCCAP Community Assessment seems to concur, based on a variety of conditions in which Lawrence County residents, both children and adults, fare poorly against comparisons, in many categories, across the Commonwealth and nation.

LCCAP offers a full complement of early childhood development programming, designed to address these concerns, including Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership, PA Pre-K Counts and childcare services. In total, approximately 750 enrollment slots are available to young children in eight locations across the county. This affords relatively easy access to early learning programming no matter where a family might reside.

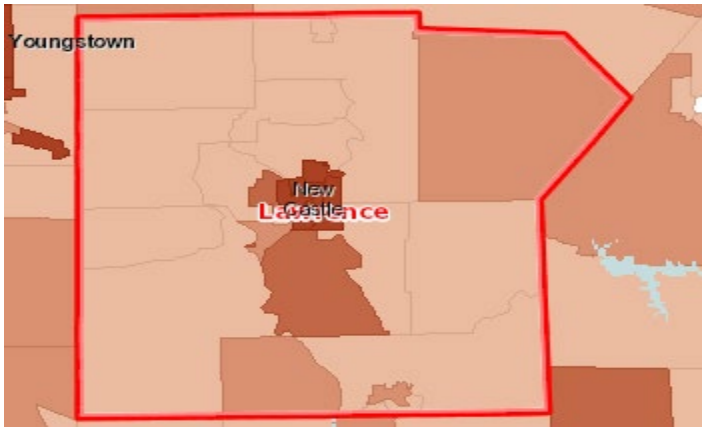
Child (0-4) Poverty Rate (ACS)

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0-4 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year data, an average of 26.5% of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The current poverty rate for children living in the report area is greater than the national average of 17.8%.the area equaled 4,518.

Historically, the 2015-2019 poverty rate for children in Lawrence County age 0-4 was 26.5%, as compared to the state average of 17.0% during the same period.

Report Area	Ages 0-4 Total Population	Ages 0-4 In Poverty	Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate
Lawrence County, PA	4,518	1,197	26.5%
Pennsylvania	695,661	118,512	17.0%
United States	19,404,835	3,457,689	17.8%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019.



Population Below the Poverty Level, Children (Age 0-4), Percent by Tract, ACS 2012-16

- Over 37.0%
- 27.1 - 37.0%
- 17.1 - 27.0%
- Under 17.1%
- No Population Age 0-4 Reported
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

Children in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone: Age 0 - 4

Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic or Latino
Lawrence County, PA	69	1,074	57.98%	24.8%
Pennsylvania	37,443	115,094	42.6%	18.65%
United States	1,683,545	2,931,388	33.36%	20.21%

Children in Poverty by Race Alone, Percent: Age 0 - 4

Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Lawrence County, PA	19.66%	75.3%	no data	0%	no data	71.05%	46.3%
Pennsylvania	13.72%	41.18%	39.56%	13.98%	32.96%	47.48%	31.23%
United States	14.39%	42.19%	40.15%	12.1%	28.49%	36.8%	23.78%

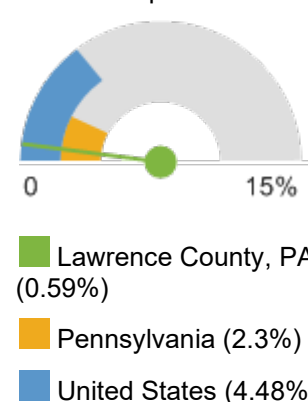
Population in Limited English Households

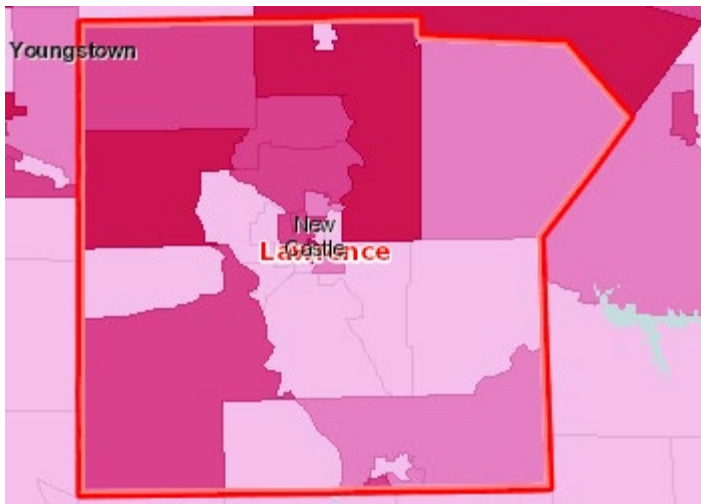
This indicator reports the percentage of the population aged 5 and older living in Limited English-speaking households. A “Limited English-speaking household” is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English at home or (2) speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English “Very well.” This indicator is significant as it identifies households and populations that may need English-language assistance.

Report Area	Total Population Age 5 <	Linguistically Isolated Population	Percent Linguistically Isolated Population
Lawrence County, PA	83,964	496	0.59%
Pennsylvania	12,069,379	277,936	2.3%
United States	298,691,202	13,393,615	4.48%

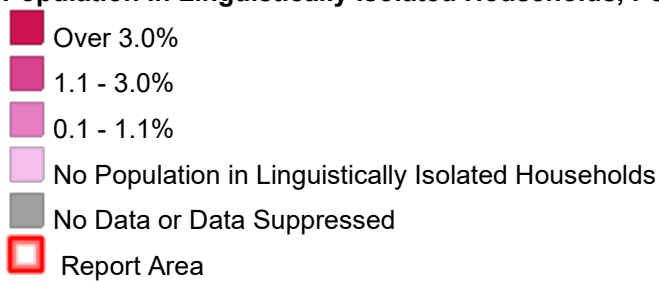
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: Tract

Percent Linguistically Isolated Population





Population in Linguistically Isolated Households, Percent by Tract, ACS 2012-16



There are 3,485 Lawrence County residents who speak a language other than (or in addition to) English.

Language	Total	5 to 17 years old	18 to 64 years old	65 years old and over
Spanish	757	162	514	81
Other Indo-European	2,342	337	1,307	698
Asian and Pacific Island	267	36	196	35
Other languages	119	9	75	35

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-16.

Children Experiencing Homelessness

For the 2019-2020 program year, there was a total unique count of 37,930 children and youth identified as experiencing homelessness and served by Pennsylvania’s Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness program. The population includes children under the age of five and youth enrolled in pre-K through grade 13. The unique count shown in the table below is based on where the child or youth was identified as homeless AND attributed to the entity (shelter, early intervention, pre-K program, etc.) or LEA (school district, comprehensive technical school, or charter/cyber charter school) based on either their Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) being attributed to that LEA or where the individual was identified

or enrolled the longest. The 'where identified' (duplicate) count is where the individual was identified as homeless; they may be identified in more than one LEA or entity. Children and youth identified by multiple entities are reported with their LEA(s), when applicable.

Lawrence County is located in Region 5 of PECYEH. Below is a table that shows how Lawrence County compares to the rest of Region 5's members.

County	Where Attributed	Where Identified
Butler	360	405
Clarion	103	119
Crawford	193	226
Erie	637	778
Forest	52	52
Lawrence	264	391
McKean	206	248
Mercer	247	271
Venango	201	222
Warren	105	124
Region 5 Totals	2,368	2,836

Data Source: Pennsylvania's Education of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program, 2019-2020 At A Glance Report

The Region 5 PA Homeless Children's Initiative (housed in Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV) reports that for the 2019-2020 school year, 318 children ages birth -2 and 198 children ages 3-5 were reported by LEAs to be homeless under the McKinney Vento Act.

Child Welfare in Lawrence County

Lawrence County's child welfare data for 2020 shows varied results. The following table allows for a comparison of key considerations between Lawrence County, counties of the same classification in the state, and the state as a whole. Two hundred fifty (290) children were in foster care during 2020.

2020	Lawrence County	Rural-Mix County Average	Pennsylvania
Children in foster care placement	250	2,928	21,689
Rate per 1,000 (0-20)	10.9	6.1	6.4
Percentage of children re-entering foster care placement	18.9	19.0	24.0

Data Source: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, 2021 Lawrence County State of the Child Profile

A two-year comparison of children (unduplicated), by age, served in the foster care system:

(Rate per 1,000 children)	Lawrence County		Rural-Mix County Average		Pennsylvania	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
By age: 0-2	20.2	22.8	21.9	23.6	20.2	20.9
3-5	18.9	21.2	19.2	19.9	17.8	17.8
6-8	13.7	13.2	14.5	12.9	13.8	13.5
9-11	9.4	7.7	10.9	10.7	11.7	11.7
12-14	12.9	14.0	11.8	11.6	12.3	12.6
15-17	18.9	20.0	17.7	17.5	18.5	17.9
18-20	6.0	No data	4.0	3.8	5.6	5.6
Infants (< 1)	11.6	14.0	13.6	15.4	12.9	13.2
Youth (13<)	34.3	30.8	29.8	29.3	32.6	32.3

Data Source: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, 2021 Lawrence County State of Child Welfare Report

The data above clearly indicates that an extremely high percentage of children in Lawrence County are placed in “out of home” foster care, and, are placed in foster care in general, as compared to similar rural-mix counties and the Commonwealth as a whole. This indicates a need for an increased number of foster homes in Lawrence County.

With regard to the two-year comparison data, indicating that younger children are placed into foster care in higher proportions as opposed to the Commonwealth as a whole, this may be attributed to the many social service and early childhood programs located in Lawrence County. This would naturally indicate a larger number of people classified as mandated reporters, and therefore, more reports of suspected abuse leading to foster placement.

Children with disabilities

Five hundred seventy-six children in Lawrence County ages 0-5 received early intervention services during 2019-2020.

Data Source: Kids Count Data Center

Lawrence County’s Department of Mental Health and Developmental Services (MH/DS) provides Early Intervention programming to children ages 0-3. Children ages 3-5 with disabilities who live in Lawrence County are served by the Midwestern Intermediate Unit (MIU) IV, which also serves Mercer and Butler counties.

The prevalence of types of disabilities of children ages 3-5 within the MIU IV service area is as follows, compared to children of the same age with disabilities in the whole of Pennsylvania:

Category of Disability	2012-13 MIU IV%	Most recent MIU IV %	2012-13 State %	Most recent State %
Autism	7.8	9.0	7.9	10.6
Developmental Delay	39.2	41.8	50.3	46.2
Hearing Impairment	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.2
Mental Retardation	--	--	0.4	0.4
Multiple Disabilities	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.3
Orthopedic Impairment	1.9	1.0	0.5	0.7
Other Health Impairment	1.3	3.3	1.2	2.3
Specific Learning Disability	--	--	0.1	0.1
Speech or Language Impairment	46.5	41.8	36.1	36.1
Traumatic Brain Injury	--	--	0.1	0.1
Visual Impairment	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.4

Red lettering more than state average.

Green lettering less than state average.

Data Source: Pennsylvania State Data Center, May 2018

Some of the services available to children with disabilities and their families include:

CONNECT Helpline (1-800-692-7288). The CONNECT Helpline assists families in locating resources and providing information regarding child development for children ages birth to age 5. In addition, CONNECT can assist parents by making a direct link to their county early intervention program or local preschool early intervention program.

Early Intervention Diagnostic Services offers assessment (including tests, systematic observation, communication techniques) to aid in the identification of a child's strengths and needs as well as the families concerns, priorities, and resources

Early Intervention Program provides screening, assessment, and classes for at-risk children, ages 3-5.

Early Intervention Classroom Programs offers a flexible program for 3–5-year-olds who have been identified as having developmental delays.

Early Intervention Service Coordination (0-3) through Human Services Center

Midwestern Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) is a group of persons interested in young children with special needs who work with state and local service agencies to ensure a family-focused system for quality Early Intervention Services.

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania links parents and families of children and adults with disabilities or special needs for the purposes of support and information.

Preschool Connection links parents with concerns about their child's development with information, referral and service about available programs in Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer counties.

Transition to Kindergarten helps parents plan for their child's entrance into a regular kindergarten program in their home school district.

Early Childhood Programming and Head Start Participation

The tables below reflect the following:

Children Served, Ages 0 - 2 includes children served in the following programs: Nurse Family Partnership, Parent Child Home program and Healthy Families America.

Children Served, Ages 3 - 4 includes children served in the following programs: Parent Child Program, Parents as Teachers, Head Start, PA Pre-K Counts, School District Pre - K, Early Intervention, and Keystone STARS.

Children served in Head Start and Early Head Start are also listed, as indicated by the Departments of Education and Public Welfare/Office of Child Development and Early Learning's Reach and Risk Report.

For the 2019-2020 year, the number of children ages 0-4 included in this report area totals 4,564, while those participating in an early childhood program or Head Start equaled 1,872, or 41.02%.

Report Area	Children Ages 0-2	Children Ages 3-4	Served Ages 0-2	Served Ages 3-4
Lawrence County, PA	2,787	1,777	680	1,192
Pennsylvania	419,263	295,074	98,950	144,865

Childhood Participants Ages 0-2, Ages 3-4

Report Area	Age 0-2 Participants Nurse Family Partnership	Age 0-2 Participants Healthy Families America	Age 3-4 Participants PA Pre-K Counts	Age 3-4 Participants School Based Pre-K
Lawrence County, PA	81	0	170	128
Pennsylvania	5,928	230	18,315	8,445

Childhood Participants Ages 0-4

Report Area	Age 0-4 Participants Parent-Child Home Program	Age 0-4 Participants Parents as Teachers	Age 0-4 Participants Early Intervention	Age 0-4 Participants Keystone STARS
Lawrence County, PA	0	103	337	410
Pennsylvania	197	6,580	65,443	103,013

Head Start Program Participants

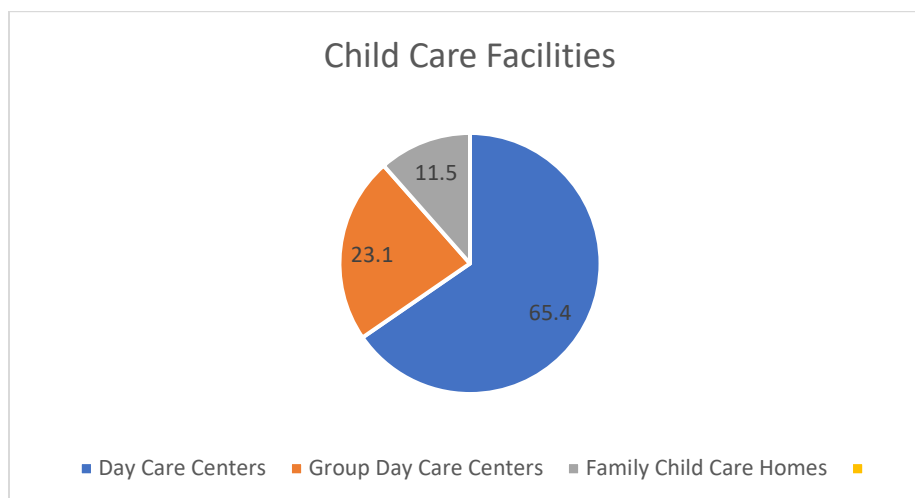
Report Area	Early Head Start (Age 0-2)	Head Start (Age 3-4)	Total Participants
Lawrence County, PA	176	643	819
Pennsylvania	5,872	35,664	41,536

Data Source: OCDEL Program Reach & Risk Assessment 2016-2017

Child Care Facilities

The number of day care centers and group day care homes within the report area are shown below. According to the Pennsylvania Departments of Public Welfare and Education, there were a total of 26 licensed childcare facilities in the report area in 2020. The area equaled 26.

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Source geography: county



Certified Child Care Facilities

The table below is a listing of Certified Child Care Providers provided by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) as of September 2020.

- **Child Care Center:** A childcare facility in which 7 or more children who are not related to the operator receive childcare.
- **Family Child Care Home:** A childcare facility located in a home in which 4 to 6 children who are not related to the caregiver receive child care.

- Group Child Care Home: A childcare facility in which 7 to 12 children of various ages or in which 7 to 15 children from 4th grade through 15 years of age who are not related to the operator receive child care.

County	Number of Certified Providers	Certified Provider Type *
Lawrence	17	Child Care Center
Lawrence	3	Family Child Care Home
Lawrence	6	Group Child Care Home

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Source geography: county

Child Care Ceiling Rates

The table below is a listing of the daily Maximum Child Care Allowances (MCCA) determined by the Department of Public Welfare (DPW), effective January 1, 2022. This is the maximum base amount paid by Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies for childcare assistance for eligible families enrolled in the CCIS program. The family pays a co-pay which is subtracted from the amount paid to the provider by the CCIS office. DPW does periodic provider rate assessments and determines the MCCA amounts by utilizing the 75 percentile of actual child care provider costs in the county by type and age range. The rates listed below provide an estimated average daily rate by Provider Type and the Child's Age Range. Both full time and part time rates are listed below. (Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Source geography: County)

County	Type of Provider	Infant	Young Toddler	Old Toddler	Pre-School	School-Age
Full Time Rates						
Lawrence	Child Care Center	\$39.00	\$38.00	\$37.00	\$36.00	\$35.00
Lawrence	Group Child Care Home	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$33.00	\$32.00	\$32.00
Lawrence	Family Child Care Home	\$32.50	\$30.03	\$30.03	\$30.00	\$30.00
Lawrence	Unregulated	\$16.63	\$15.51	\$15.28	\$15.28	\$15.28
Part Time Rates						
Lawrence	Child Care Center	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$30.00	\$29.25	\$25.00
Lawrence	Group Child Care Home	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$24.60
Lawrence	Family Child Care Home	\$25.42	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Lawrence	Unregulated	\$13.24	\$13.24	\$12.10	\$11.26	\$12.10

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This Community Needs Assessment report will be posted on the organization's website for download and review at www.lccap.org

The data, conditions, deficits, and assets described in this report may be of interest to other local, regional, and statewide partners or investors in order to build shared initiatives, determine areas of interest, and/or allocate resources.

LCCAP will proceed to create its long-term annual strategic plan, primarily based on this community needs assessment, internal agency scans, customer satisfaction analysis, ongoing Help Us to Help You coordinated intake assessments, and an analysis of indicators regarding national, state, and local performance goals.

LCCAP's Community Needs Assessment Focus Group will meet no less than annually to review and update this report, as necessary. It is anticipated that the next full assessment report will be published in March 2025.