

The Mifflin Juniata Human Services **Needs Assessment** **2013**

(UPDATED 2023)



Prepared by
Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department

PROJECT PARTNERS

Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department

The Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department is responsible for promoting policies and programs that protect and support human service activities in Mifflin and Juniata counties. The Department coordinates and facilitates the provision of services and programs that work to address economic self-sufficiency and promote the social well-being of residents in both counties. These services include basic needs (food, shelter, utility, health and safety, rehabilitative services, family services, and aging services).

For more information, go to <https://mifflincountypa.gov/human-services>

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Note on 2023 Update:

From September – November 2023, a former Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department employee and owner of Blue Juniata Grants LLC, Kristen Price updated the Human Services Needs Assessment with more recent information. The Needs Assessment was originally created in 2013 and previously updated in 2016 by Alana Felton (Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department intern and a student at Brown University). Sources of the updated information include, but were not limited to, the following: County Health Rankings, U.S Census Bureau/American FactFinder, Pennsylvania Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, PA Department of Health, PA Department of Education, and the Center for Rural PA.

Partners in the original 2013 Needs Assessment include Geisinger Lewistown Hospital, Penn State Extension and United Way of Mifflin Juniata. For more information go to

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Preface

Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department is proud to present the Human Services Needs Assessment for 2023. This document provides a data-based assessment of the most pressing human service needs of Mifflin and Juniata counties. It is based off of the original 2013 document that was created in partnership with Geisinger Lewistown Hospital, Penn State Extension and United Way of Mifflin Juniata.

The human service project partners hope to establish a shared vision for the future by creating a collective understanding of key community interests, aspirations, assets, and concerns that represent the perspectives of diverse groups, individuals, and sectors. The vision may be focused on a single issue or may be a comprehensive community agenda.

Building the community vision will be ongoing work. It will involve community members in conversation along with healthy debate. We anticipate using the needs assessment as a guide to first select strategies and then identify implementation steps with ongoing monitoring and evaluation to show measurable results at the community level.

This assessment will be used as a guidepost for funding decisions. Human service programs and their outcomes as related to the emerging priorities in this assessment will be used to confirm, expand, and enhance funding decisions. The ultimate goal will be to ensure maximum impact.

The Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Needs Assessment serves two primary purposes:

1. To assess the basic human service needs of the community. This information provides the data needed for local legislators, key leaders, county commissioners, human service board members, etc. to make informed and proactive decisions on the needs and patterns of human service delivery within each county. It is intended to be a dynamic document. Since data sources update periodically – applicable websites are listed in the document and appendix in order to allow the user to find the most current statistics available.
2. To plan for the future and create measurable results at the community level such as – lives changed, communities strengthened, and community problems that diminish in magnitude over time. This assessment identified three key areas: EDUCATION, INCOME and HEALTH. Within these key areas, emerging priorities were identified.

Great things can happen when local governments join with nonprofits and community residents around a common purpose. We hope the information in this report galvanizes all sectors of Mifflin and Juniata counties to work together toward common outcomes and to guide informed program and policy decisions.

Background

In 2005, the first needs assessment for Mifflin and Juniata counties was designed to present an accurate picture of the critical areas of need for individuals, families, and the community. The original partners in this effort were the Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department (MJCHSD), United Way of Mifflin-Juniata (UWMJ), and Penn State Extension. The primary goal of the assessment was to identify where funding for human services in the county would be most beneficial. Previously, funding decisions were based on outdated information and/or the perception of a small number of people.

During the time frame of 2005 – 2013, the needs assessment data was used to help local government officials, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and individuals develop strategies and direct resources to meet local needs and benefit residents.

Since 2005, there have been economic, demographic, political and environmental changes. The need to refresh local data is critical in order to ensure that resources are being used to meet local needs. It is anticipated that the human service needs assessment will be updated every ten years in conjunction with the census.

For the 2013 Needs Assessment, the MJCHSD, UWMJ, and Penn State Extension extended their partnership to include Geisinger Lewistown Hospital (then called Lewistown Hospital). Together these organizations formed the core team responsible for conducting the needs assessment process. The needs assessment was started in September 2011 and was completed early in 2013.

The project team was comprised of:

1. Allison Fisher, Director, Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department
2. Neal Fogle, Economic and Community Development Extension Educator, Penn State Extension
3. Phyllis Mitchell, Vice President of Marketing and Community Affairs, Lewistown Hospital
4. Marie Mulvihill, Executive Director, United Way of Mifflin-Juniata
5. Lisa Stalnaker, Grant Writer, Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department
6. Walt Whitmer, Senior Associate, Penn State Extension

The assessment encompassed a six-tiered data collection approach which included:

1. A survey of human service providers
2. A random-sample citizen survey
3. A community leaders' forum conducted with service providers, public officials, agency directors, and community stakeholders
4. Five community-based focus groups
5. Collection of relevant secondary data
6. Development of system-wide priorities

The Needs Assessment Process

In order to effectively assess the current views, perceptions, and priorities of a wide range of stakeholders in Mifflin and Juniata Counties, the needs assessment project team employed a multifaceted approach for data collection. In addition to secondary data analysis, a survey was conducted of human service providers, a random-sample citizen survey was conducted in the two-county area and a community leaders' forum was held along with five community focus groups. A brief description of each is included below. Additional information on all of these is included in the appendix and available upon request.

Secondary Data Analysis

In addition to our primary data collection efforts (see below), The Project Team compiled and analyzed a wide array of publicly available secondary data sources – including health, education, income, economic, poverty, housing, and general population characteristics – from a variety of federal, state, and local sources. The specific references for each are identified sources throughout this report.

Human Service Providers Survey

To assess the priorities of the service provider network an anonymous survey of 51 human service-related organizations, public officials, and agencies in the two-county area was done in November and December of 2011. The response rate was 80.4%.

The survey focused on five major topic areas:

1. Health care
2. Access to health care
3. Child and family well-being
4. Transportation and housing
5. Community and economic development

Random-Sample Citizen Survey

The random-sample survey was sent to 3,000 residents (1,500 per county) during the months of February and March 2012. Due to address changes and other factors, 2,256 of the surveys were delivered and 383 were returned resulting in an effective response rate of 17%. While this response rate is somewhat less than anticipated, it can be estimated (with a 95% confidence level) that the responses received accurately reflect (within a margin of error of +/- 5%) those that would have been expected if all 70,000 residents in Mifflin and Juniata counties were surveyed.

The survey focused on the same five major topic areas as the *Human Service Providers Survey*:

1. Health care
2. Access to health care
3. Well-being of children and families
4. Transportation and housing
5. Community and economic development

Community Leaders' Forum

To assess an in-depth and solutions-oriented perspective of the findings in our two aforementioned surveys, a four-hour Community Leaders' Forum was conducted with 20 agency, organization, and government leaders. This was held in May of 2012. The purpose of the session was to discuss potential strategies and approaches the two-county area must take to move forward in an effective and comprehensive manner.

Topics from the Community Leaders' Forum included:

- Assets to build upon
- Major challenges to overcome
- Priorities in children and family well-being
- Health care
- Overall human services
- Human service office priorities

Focus Groups

Five community-based focus groups were conducted in September of 2012. The purpose was to pursue the goal of acquiring broad participation and perspectives. We conducted two focus groups on each topic (one per county) with the exception of the Income Focus Group which included representatives from both counties. A total of 51 leaders, public officials, and interested residents attended one or more focus groups.

These meetings focused on the topics that emerged in the previous data collection efforts and included:

- EDUCATION
- HEALTH
- INCOME

Within these three areas emerging priorities were identified.

This data is captured in the following sections.

Education

The need for increased value to be placed upon education has been an ongoing issue in Mifflin and Juniata counties. While locally, many groups are working to enhance educational opportunities, data from the assessment shows the need for lifelong learning opportunities at every point in the community – from early childhood education to workforce training. The need for improvement and expansion of job readiness and workforce training along with increasing family/household education has been identified as key indicators in this report.

Inventory of Educational Resources

- Juniata County School District operates two high schools, one junior high school, and two elementary schools. The Juniata County School District provided public educational services to 2,328 students in 2022-2023.
- The Mifflin County School District operates one high school (Grades 10-12), one junior high school (Grades 8-9), one middle school (Grades 6-7), one elementary/intermediate school (grades K-3 & grades 4-5), one intermediate school (Grades 4-5) and three elementary schools (Grades K-3). The schools provided public educational services to 4,636 students in 2022-2023.
- The Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology is located in Lewistown in Mifflin County. The Mifflin County School District operates The Academy and students from Mifflin County High School, Juniata High School, and East Juniata High School may attend. The student body is comprised of students completing at least grade nine from one of three area schools as well as students that attend non-public schools in the two counties. The Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology provided educational services to 388 students in 2022-2023. The Pennsylvania Department of Education approves the vocational-technical educational programs offered at The Academy, and upon successful completion of each planned course, students receive academic credit from their home-based high school.

Table 1: Education

School District Enrollment	2014-2015	2022-2023	Percent Increase/Decrease
Juniata County	2,930	2,328	20.7% decrease
Mifflin County	5,180	4,636	10.5% decrease
Pennsylvania	1,739,559	1,686,844	3.0% decrease

Source: Pennsylvania State Department of Education, Enrollment Reports and Projections
<https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Enrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

- Private Schools – While private schools are subject to all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations relative to business operations, curriculum development and delivery is essentially in the school's hands. Private schools are regulated but independent.
 - Mifflin County has 46 private schools which account for a total enrollment of 1,430 students in 2022-2023, which is 30.8% of total . (Table 4: Education – see Appendix for a detailed list.)
 - Juniata County has 19 private schools which account for a total enrollment of 678 students in 2022-2023. (Table 3: Education – see Appendix for a detailed list.)

- Charter and cyber charter schools are an alternative education choice. The schools are self-managed public schools that are approved by local school districts and the PA Department of Education. Both are created and controlled by parents, teachers, community leaders, and colleges or universities. PA Department of Education uses a variety of cyber and charter schools; locally, there are eight options. For the 2022-2023 school year, 186 children in Mifflin County were enrolled, representing 4% of the total student population. In Juniata County, 164 children were enrolled, representing 7% of the total student population.

Table 2: Education

Charter and Cyber Charter Schools	Juniata	Mifflin
21st Century Cyber CS	0	19
Agora Cyber CS	4	14
Commonwealth Charter Academy CS	97	87
Pennsylvania Cyber CS	7	16
Pennsylvania Distance Learning CS	0	0
Pennsylvania Leadership CS	7	9
Pennsylvania Virtual	8	6
New Day CS	41	35
TOTAL	164	186
TOTAL SCHOOL 2022-2023	2,492	4,822

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education (<https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Charter%20Schools/Pages/Annual-Reports-Data-and-Resources.aspx>)

- Higher education needs within Mifflin and Juniata County are supported by a variety of degree-granting colleges, universities, and technical schools located throughout central Pennsylvania. These include The Pennsylvania State University (PSU), Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), Bucknell University, Juniata College, Susquehanna University, the Pennsylvania College of Technology and South Hills School of Business and Technology, the Geisinger Lewistown School of Nursing, and Tuscarora Intermediate Unit #11/Career Link.

Lifelong Learning Opportunities and Factors

The need for and benefit of education and learning is relevant for people of all ages. This can be at a personal or professional level, in a formal or non-formal setting, and can enhance one's knowledge, attitude, and skills. Lifelong learning is not confined to childhood or the classroom. The need for increased educational opportunities was expressed throughout our needs assessment process. The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) reported in 2016-2017 that the benefits of quality early education to children and families translate into a more competitive workforce and greater tax base while reducing public expenses in special education costs, public assistance, crime control, and lost taxes.¹ "Lifelong learning begins at birth" is a statement supported by information found in the OCDEL Program Reach and Risk Assessment

¹ Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, "Annual Report 2016-2017 (revised 2019)," <https://s35729.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Reach-and-Risk-2016-17-Final-01142019.pdf>

www.ocdelresearch.org) and the PA Promise for Children website (www.papromiseforchildren.com) – “The First Five Years Matter”).

Poverty Levels for Children

Mifflin and Juniata counties are above the state averages for impoverished children (Table 3: Education). The OCDEL 2016-2017 Annual Report showed that the number one indicator of whether or not a child ends up in poverty is whether they are born to mothers with less than a high school education.² In Mifflin and Juniata counties in 2016-2017, the number of children living in poverty and children born to mothers with less than a high school education was significantly higher than the state average. That same research confirms that children who live with a mother who has not completed high school are less likely to receive cognitive stimulation and high-quality child care during crucial development periods and are more likely to have diminished reading skills.³

Table 3: Education

Indicator	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Children living in economically at-risk families (up to 300% of poverty - this translates to a family of 4 making \$73,800 in 2017)	71.6 %	86.2 %	59.4 %
Births to mothers with less than a high school degree	30.0 %	33.9 %	12.2 %
Children in public-funded early education programs	31.9 %	28.9 %	34.3 %

Source: Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning – Annual Report 2016-2017 and (www.ocdelresearch.org) (www.pakeys.org/getting-started/research-and-results/)

OCDEL research shows that children who are living in economically stressed families are more likely to have poor nutrition, chronic health problems, and have less preparation for and more difficulty in school.⁴ Locally, food instability is a significant issue for many of our children as noted in (Table 4: Education).

Table 4: Education

Free/Reduced Lunch Enrollment	2014-2015	2022-2023	Percent Increase/Decrease
Juniata County	43.7%	49.4%	13% increase
Mifflin County	49.4%	61.2%	23.9% increase

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, National School Lunch Program Reports, (<https://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Food-Nutrition/reports/Pages/National-School-Lunch-Program-reports.aspx>)

² Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, “Annual Report 2016-2017 (revised 2019).”

³ Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, “Annual Report 2016-2017 (revised 2019).”

⁴ Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, “Annual Report 2016-2017 (revised 2019).”

School Preparedness/Reading Proficiency Scores

When children affected by risk factors, such as poverty or low maternal education have access to quality early education before age five, they can often make up for such setbacks, enabling them to enter kindergarten on par with their peers. The benefits of quality early education for children and families include reduced public expenses in special education. The need for increased educational opportunities was expressed throughout the data collection processes.

Data shows that Mifflin and Juniata counties have on average fewer children under five being reached by school preparedness programs than the state average. If private programs are included, the number of children participating in early education programs only increases to about 50% in each county as reported to the PA Department of Public Welfare as part of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant, April of 2011.⁵ Another risk factor for local children is indicated in reading proficiency scores. The correlation between early reading experience and the high school dropout rate is proven repeatedly in academic studies. The 2011 report “Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation showed that low-income children who are not reading on grade level by third grade are six times more likely to drop out of high school than their peers.⁶ This report also indicated that low-income children of color who are not at grade level by third grade are eight times more likely to drop out of high school.⁷

Table 5: Education

Indicator	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Number of children birth to five	1,378	2,830	714,337
Percent of children under five served in early education programs (<i>Nurse-Family Partnership, Parent-Child Home Program, Head Start, PA Pre-K Counts, PA Pact for Pre-K, School Based Pre-K, Early Intervention, and Keystone Stars</i>)	39.1%	28.9%	34.5%
Percent of 3 rd graders scoring below proficient on 2019 PSSA reading test	25%	20.4%	18.6%

Source: Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, “Annual Report 2016-2017 (revised 2019).”

(www.ocdelresearch.org, www.pakeys.org/getting-started/research-and-results/, Pennsylvania Department of Education - PSSA Results (www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Assessments/Pages/PSSA-Results.aspx)

Low Birth Weights

Babies born at low birth weights are at risk for serious health complications, which can often result in the need for remediation once they begin school. Visual and auditory impairments, learning disorders, behavioral problems, grade retention, and school failure have all been linked to low birth weight. Taking into account socio-demographic risk factors, low birth weight children still score significantly lower on intelligence tests than children born at normal weights. They are also more likely to be diagnosed with attention-related disorders.⁸

⁵ Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, “Annual Report 2016-2017 revised 2019.”

⁶ Annie E. Casey Foundation, “Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters,” Resources, January 1, 2010, <http://www.aecf.org/resources/early-warning-why-reading-by-the-end-of-third-grade-matters/>.

⁷ Annie E. Casey Foundation, “Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters.”

⁸ Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, “Annual Report 2016-2017 revised 2019.”

Table 6: Education

Indicator	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
% Babies Born With Low Birth Weight (Under 2,500 Grams), 2016-20	6.6%	7%	8.4%
% Reported Pregnancies of Women Under 18 Years Old	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%
% Born to Unmarried Mothers	27.0%	33.5%	41.2%
% Born to Mothers Who Did Not Receive Prenatal Care in 1 st Trimester, 2016-20	35.1%	39.0%	26.2%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, (<https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>)

Table 7: Education

Indicator	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Children enrolled in special education, 2021-2022	14.6%	14.5%	15.9%

Source: PA Department of Education, 2022-2023 Report, Special Education Data Reporting, (<https://penndata.hbg.psu.edu/Public-Reporting/Data-at-a-Glance>)

Improving/Expanding Job Readiness and Workforce Training Opportunities

The assessment for education identified that access to and changes in the delivery of workforce training could be improved. This discussion included various services needed to prepare participants for job searching and employment. The services discussed include computer training, education, technical training, and resume preparation. Additional programs could help people prepare for work by providing workshops on workplace behavior and dress and interviewing skills. The population that would benefit the most includes adults and youth who are unemployed or underemployed and those who need assistance developing the skills needed to find and maintain employment that pays living wages.

Dropout Rates

Dropout rates have a ripple effect on the local economy. Dropouts cost U.S. taxpayers between \$320 billion and \$350 billion a year in areas including but not limited to lost wages, taxable income, healthcare expenses, welfare, and incarceration costs.⁹ High school dropouts are a liability to themselves as well. Of the 3.8 million students that start high school this year, one-quarter will not receive a diploma, and dropouts are not eligible for 90% of the jobs in our economy.¹⁰ The National Center for Education Statistics in 2021 reports that the median income of persons ages 18 to 67 who had not completed high school was roughly \$32,500.¹¹

⁹ “High School Dropouts: How They Affect Taxpayers And The Economy,” *The Huffington Post*, September 24, 2011, accessed July 19, 2016, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/07/25/high-school-dropouts-how-_n_908600.html.

¹⁰ “High School Dropouts: How They Affect Taxpayers And The Economy,” *The Huffington Post*.

¹¹ National Center for Education Statistics, “Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2019”, accessed Oct. 2023 <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2020/2020117.pdf>

Table 8: Education

Juniata County School District	Total Enrollment (7-12)	Dropouts MALE	Dropouts FEMALE	Dropouts TOTAL	Rate	PA Rate
2014-2015	1,414	7	7	14	.99%	1.45%
2021-2022	1,185	12	8	20	1.59%	1.68%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Dropouts Public by School 2021-2022,” Dropout Data and Statistics (<http://www.education.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/Pages/Dropouts.aspx#tab-.1>). Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Dropouts Public by School 2021-22,” Dropout Data and Statistics, (<http://www.education.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/Pages/Dropouts.aspx#tab-.1>).

Table 9: Education

Mifflin County School District	Total Enrollment (7-12)	Dropouts MALE	Dropouts FEMALE	Dropouts TOTAL	Rate	PA Rate
2014-2015	2,493	25	11	36	1.44%	1.45%
2021-2022	2,315	30	21	51	2.20%	1.68%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Dropouts Public by School 2021-2022,” Dropout Data and Statistics, (<http://www.education.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/Pages/Dropouts.aspx#tab-.1>).

Family/Household Education

The desire to increase family and household education received attention during this assessment. Residents might seek additional education at a personal or professional level, in a formal or non-formal setting, with the intent to enhance their knowledge, attitude, and skills.

Of residents 25 and older in Juniata County, 17.0% do not have a high school diploma. In Mifflin County, the number is 14.7%. These numbers are much higher than the state average of 8.6%. Census data shows that in Juniata County 14.5% hold a bachelor’s degree or higher while in Mifflin County the number is 13.3%, both much lower than the state average of 33.1% (See Table 10: Education).

Table 10: Education

Indicator	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Enrollment change 2022-23 from 2014-15	-20.5%	-10.5%	-3.0%
Graduation Rate (4-year Cohort), 2021-22	92.6%	84.3%	87.0%
% Population with No High School Diploma	17.0%	14.7%	8.6%
% Population with Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	14.5%	13.3%	33.1%

Source: Pennsylvania State Department of Education, Enrollment Reports and Projections, (www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Pages/Enrollment.aspx1); The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, (<https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles.cfm>).

Table 11: Education*

Year	Mifflin	Juniata	East Juniata
PA Ranking 2023-24	454	297	419
National Ranking 2023-24	12,008	7,107	10,756

Source: U.S. News Reports and World Report, Pennsylvania School Districts (<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/pennsylvania/districts>).

*The above rankings are District Academic Achievement Rankings based upon state-required tests, college preparedness, and graduation rates.

In order to effectively assess the current views, perceptions and priorities of a wide range of stakeholders in Mifflin and Juniata Counties, the needs assessment project team employed a multifaceted approach for data collection. The following are the highlights from:

Human Service Providers Survey
Random-Sample Citizen Survey
Community Leaders' Forum
Focus Groups

A summary of Emerging Priorities from all data sources is provided at the end of this section. This focus group data is from 2016. This information will be updated as additional focus groups are conducted.

What Service Providers Told Us

Among respondents to our *Human Service Providers Survey*, educational considerations were seen as an important component of all our major issue categories. High priorities included:

- Providing better schools
- Educating citizens regarding health care resources available in the county
- Increasing educational levels of the workforce for new and emerging businesses
- Educating and instilling civic values in our youth
- Enhancing pre-school quality and availability
- Teaching and modeling respectfulness in public discussions

What the Public Told Us

Respondents to our *Random- Sample Citizens Survey* identified several important educational and information issues. The top-ranked concerns included:

- Increasing parental engagement in the education of their children
- Improving job training opportunities
- Increasing access to higher education opportunities
- Improving family financial management skills and education
- Educating about healthy lifestyles
- Providing education to teen parents
- Increasing literacy training



What We Learned from the Community Leaders' Forum

Consistent with the findings from our other information gathering efforts, education was seen as a key component and high strategic priority in our *Community Leaders' Forum*. Indeed 'investing in youth' and 'improving school districts' were considered the first and third most important issues respectively among the overall goals this group identified. Additional education-related topics include:

- Increasing education related to healthy lifestyles
- Improving family financial skills
- Increasing parental involvement in the education of their children
- Encouraging educationally supportive environments throughout the county
- Providing training for present and future leaders
- Reinventing the workforce to meet new technologies and jobs

What the Focus Groups Told Us

The two *Focus Group* discussions identified three overall goals as well as a wide array of implementation considerations. The most consistent theme of each was fostering a comprehensive and continuous learning environment for all residents. In addition, substantial discussion focused on the challenge of improving school districts in a rapidly changing and demanding environment. The following emerging issues were considered the most critical areas of improvement.

- Improving lifelong learning opportunities for all (birth through adult)
 - For all stakeholders, increasing preschool access and quality, information related to school programs and activities, decreasing drop-out rate, improving adult education, employment training, and long-term skill development were priorities
- Improving/expanding job readiness, workforce training and opportunities
 - Match to current and future employer needs, basic skills, attentiveness to all skill levels
- Increasing family/household education
 - Healthy lifestyles, family financial management, parenting education, available resources, community engagement

Emerging Priorities for Education

After careful analysis of all the primary and secondary data and subsequent discussions, several important education priorities emerged. Each has consistently been identified as a critical area to address as we move forward. We hope that these priorities will form the foundation of a wide range of initiatives to address human service needs, be incorporated into our partners planning and funding considerations, and become areas around which we can begin to assess measurable impact in the two-county area.

- Improving lifelong learning opportunities for all
 - Decrease the poverty rate, especially for children.
 - Increase the number of children reached by school preparedness programs
 - Decrease the number of low-weight births
 - Increase reading proficiency scores as indicated by 3rd-grade test scores
- Improving/expanding job readiness and workforce training opportunities
 - Decrease the dropout rate
 - Diversify the local job market
- Increasing family/household education
 - Increase educational opportunities
 - Encourage healthy lifestyles
 - Increase knowledge of local resources
 - Encourage community engagement at all ages

Health

The assessment for health care identified where changes in the healthcare delivery system can improve both patient care and preventive services for those at risk for health problems. Mifflin and Juniata counties have several underlying socio-demographic characteristics that impact many of the health indicators in this report. Both counties face a growing elderly population, increased numbers of people living in poverty, and an increased number of people with limited or no health insurance. A significant number of people have limited education and technical qualifications thus limiting their job opportunities.

There are also several health behaviors that fail to meet the state and national benchmarks and present opportunities for improvement. These behaviors include smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, and the teen birth rate. Mifflin County ranks 53 out of 67 counties in Pennsylvania for positive health behaviors (with higher numbers indicating a worse rating).¹² Juniata County ranks 12.¹³

Access to Health Care

Growing concern over access to healthcare services is evident throughout the research in this assessment. It is also a key issue in the healthcare reform initiative that is now underway in the United States. From the random sample survey and service provider survey responses to the meetings with community leaders and focus groups, there is concern regarding the large percentage of residents without health insurance or who have limited insurance coverage. According to Healthy People 2030, people with no health insurance are more likely to lack a usual source of medical care, such as a primary care physician, and are more likely to skip routine medical care due to costs, thus increasing their risk for serious and disabling health conditions.¹⁴

There are two distinct areas within Mifflin and Juniata counties that qualify as medically underserved areas. The index of medical under-service consists of four components:

- The percentage of the population below the poverty level
- The percentage of the population that is elderly
- The infant mortality rate
- The availability of primary care physicians

For Juniata County, underserved areas include the following townships: Lack and Tuscarora.¹⁵ In Mifflin County, underserved areas include the following townships: Brown, Menno, Union, Bratton, McVeytown, Kistler, Wayne, Oliver, and Newton Hamilton.¹⁶

¹² County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, Pennsylvania 2023, <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/pennsylvania/juniata?year=2023>

¹³ County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, Pennsylvania 2023 .

¹⁴ Healthy People 2030, Leading Health Indicators, <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2030/Leading-Health-Indicators>.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, MUA Find, HRSA Data Warehouse, <https://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/tools/analyzers/MuaSearchResults.aspx>.

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, MUA Find, HRSA Data Warehouse, <https://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/tools/analyzers/MuaSearchResults.aspx>.

Primary/Specialty Care Access

Access to primary care in both Juniata and Mifflin counties lags behind the national benchmark due in part to the national shortage of primary care physicians and the difficulty in recruiting physicians to rural areas. The primary care office serves as a “medical home” for the patient, ensuring that the patient receives appropriate preventive care and monitoring. Without this important link to sufficient primary care, many residents in Juniata and Mifflin counties are missing the necessary guidance needed to successfully and cost-effectively manage their overall healthcare needs.

For acute health services, Geisinger Lewistown Hospital serves both Mifflin and Juniata counties. This 133-bed hospital provides inpatient, outpatient, wellness, and community services. Geisinger Lewistown Hospital’s medical staff consists of 1,857 licensed medical staff, providing most of the basic healthcare services such as primary care, general surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics/gynecology, cardiology, oncology, pulmonology, and urology.

The majority of physicians in the area, for both primary and specialty care, are employed by two group practices: Family Health Associates of Geisinger Lewistown Hospital and Geisinger Medical Group. Several specialty care physicians remain independent practitioners in the areas of OB/GYN, Oncology, Podiatry, Neurology, Pediatrics, and Surgery. In addition, University Orthopedics offers a comprehensive range of orthopedic care in Lewistown. Recently, Penn State Hershey Medical Group opened an office in Lewistown for cardiology services.

Table 1: Health

Clinical Healthcare Factors	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Uninsured	13 %	12 %	8 %
Ratio of primary care physicians to population	6,155:1	1,772:1	1,220:1
Ratio of mental health providers to population	2,330:1	756:1	400:1
Ratio of dentists to population	5,824:1	2,714:1	1,410:1

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Pennsylvania 2023, (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>).

Mental Health Access

Mental health received attention during this assessment with a need to expand mental health options and services to improve access to care. The number of mental health providers in both counties falls well below the state average (Table 1: Health).

According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), about one in five American adults have a mental illness. Mental health disorders are the leading cause of disability in the United States, accounting for a quarter of all years of life lost to disability and premature mortality.¹⁷ In 2021, suicide was one of the top 9 leading causes of death in the United States, accounting for 46,412 deaths of adults.¹⁸ The Mifflin County suicide rate, at 18.5%, is above the state average. According to Healthy People 2030, mental health and physical health go

¹⁷ National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), “National Institute of Mental Health Strategic Plan 2008 - updated 2022.”

¹⁸ National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), “National Institute of Mental Health Strategic Plan 2008 - updated 2022.”

hand in hand. Mental illnesses affect people’s ability to participate in health-promoting behaviors. Additionally, physical health issues, such as chronic diseases, can have a serious impact on mental health and decrease a person’s ability to participate in treatment and recovery.¹⁹

The Federal Government has begun to implement health reform legislation, which has brought more attention to the need for providing mental health services to individuals struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, and related health issues. This has led to new opportunities for coverage and treatment. Locally, there is much that can be done to address some of the most prevalent issues surrounding mental health consumers.

Table 2: Health – Suicide Rate

Suicide Rate (2018-2021)	Juniata	Mifflin	PA	Healthy People 2030 Benchmark
Per 100,000 population	15.2	18.5	13.9	12.8 (per 100,000 population)

Source: PA Department of Health, 2021. (www.health.pa.gov).

Table 3: Health – Suicide Rate per 100,000, Pennsylvania

	2030 Goal	PA 2021	PA 2020	PA 2019	PA 2018	PA 2013
All Persons	12.8	14.1	13.5	13.9	14.2	13.3
Males	12.8	22.8	22.0	22.4	22.8	21.5
Females	12.8	5.7	5.5	6.0	6.2	5.6
Whites	12.8	15.7	15.2	15.8	16.2	14.2
Blacks	12.8	8.4	7.5	7.2	7.1	5.6
Hispanics	12.8	7.9	7.5	7.3	7.4	6.9
Persons 5-11	NA	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	2.2
Persons 12-17	NA	6.5	6.3	6.3	7.0	7.9
Persons 18-24	NA	17.8	16.6	16.1	16.4	15.6

Healthy People 2030, “Healthy People 2030 Pennsylvania,” <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/Pages/health-statistics.aspx>

The Juniata Valley Behavioral Health and Development Services (JVBDS) is not aware of any local primary care facilities that provide distinct mental health treatment on-site. However, many primary care physicians prescribe psychotropic medications to their patients, mostly for depression and anxiety disorders. JVBDS is attempting to bridge the gap between physical health and behavioral health through the implementation of a Health Home Navigator Team as part of a mobile psychiatric rehabilitation model. The team consists of a registered nurse along with trained psychiatric rehabilitation staff who can monitor common physical conditions that are often comorbid with mental illness including heart disease, diabetes, GERD, and COPD. This model can liaise with the participant’s primary care physician to help ‘navigate’ both systems and provide integrated care. Community Care Behavioral Health (CCBH) is involved in Mifflin and Juniata counties in assisting low-income individuals get behavioral health insurance in order to receive treatment. In addition to those individuals, there are others with private insurance or no insurance receiving care from the JVBDS.

¹⁹ Healthy People 2030, “Mental Health Disorders,” 2030 Topics & Objectives, accessed October 2023, <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/leading-health-indicators>

Table 4: Health –Inpatient paid claims (through 6/30/2013) with Major Depression Diagnosis

County	Age Group	Distinct Users
Juniata	Child/Adolescent	2
Juniata	Adult	9
Mifflin	Child/Adolescent	10
Mifflin	Adult	67

Source: Juniata Valley Behavioral Health and Development Services (JVBDS)

Table 5: Health – Community Care Behavioral Health (CCBH) members enrolled to receive mental health services (2012)

County	Age Group	Members Enrolled. 2012	Total Population*	Estimated % Total Population Receiving Mental Health Services through CCBH
Juniata	Child/Adolescent (0-20)	1,280	6,790	18.9%
Juniata	Adult (21+)	1,303	17,856	7.3%
Mifflin	Child/Adolescent (0-20)	3,511	12,302	28.5%
Mifflin	Adult (+21)	4,063	34,380	11.8%

Source: Juniata Valley Behavioral Health and Development Services (JVBDS); U.S. Census Bureau, “2010 Census: Single Years of Age and Sex,” American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

Table 6: Health – County Funded/No Medical Assistance or Managed Care (2012)

County	Age Group (includes early intervention)	Members Enrolled, 2012	Total Population*	Estimated % Total Population Receiving Mental Health Services through CCBH
Juniata	Child/Adolescent (0-20)	126	6,790	1.9%
Juniata	Adult (21+)	342	17,856	1.9%
Mifflin	Child/Adolescent (0-20)	60	12,302	0.5%
Mifflin	Adult (+21)	100	34,380	0.3%

Source: Juniata Valley Behavioral Health and Development Services (JVBDS); U.S. Census Bureau, “2010 Census: Single Years of Age and Sex,” American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

*The numbers for the total population are from the 2010 Census and the numbers of members enrolled in mental health services through CCBH are from 2012, therefore the percent of the total population receiving mental health services through CCBH is estimated and may not be exact.

It is clear that there is much room for growth around services to this population.

Table 7: Health – Persons with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders who are receiving treatment for both disorders

County	Age Group	MH/D&A	Distinct Users
Juniata	Child/Adolescent (0-20)	Mental Health	219
Juniata	Child/Adolescent (0-20)	Drug & Alcohol	6
Juniata	Adult (21+)	Mental Health	295
Juniata	Adult (21+)	Drug & Alcohol	68
Mifflin	Child/Adolescent (0-20)	Mental Health	667
Mifflin	Child/Adolescent (0-20)	Drug & Alcohol	25
Mifflin	Adult (21+)	Mental Health	1,183
Mifflin	Adult (21+)	Drug & Alcohol	305

Source: Juniata Valley Behavioral Health and Development Services (JVBDS)

According to Healthy People 2030, 22.8% of American adults suffer from a mental illness and 5.5% suffer from a “seriously debilitating mental illness.”²⁰ Having a mental illness can shape nearly all aspects of a person’s life, from personal interactions to employment. In fact, neuropsychiatric disorders are the main cause of disability in America, representing 18.7% of “all years lost to disability and premature mortality.”²¹ Mental health is not restricted to mental state, but can also affect physical health, making it an important indicator of overall health. Depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and other mental illnesses can keep a person from eating nutritious foods, exercising, and other necessary healthy activities that can prevent the development of chronic diseases that are often difficult to recover from due to mental illnesses.²² It is because of these difficulties surrounding mental illness that early intervention is important. According to research from the U.S. Preventive Task Force, screening adolescents (12-18 years of age) and children (7-11 years of age) for major depressive disorder (MDD) can reduce depressive symptoms and therefore, improve quality of life, decrease health care costs, and decrease suicide risk.²³ Screening for adults was also recommended, but research found that it was only useful with staff-assisted depression care.²⁴

²⁰ Healthy People 2030, “Mental Health and Mental Disorders,” Overview, accessed October 2023
<https://www.healthypeople.gov/2030/topics-objectives/topic/mental-health-and-mental-disorders>.

²¹ Healthy People 2030, “Mental Health and Mental Disorders.”

²² Healthy People 2030, “Mental Health and Mental Disorders.”

²³ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, “Depression in Children and Adolescents: Screening, March 2016,” accessed October 2023 ,
<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/depression-in-children-and-adolescents-screening>

²⁴ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, “Depression in Adults: Screening, June 2023,” accessed October 2023,
<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/screening-depression-suicide-risk-adults#fullrecommendationstart>.

Local statistics are not readily available for which primary care providers perform depression screening for their patients. However, two initiatives increase the availability of depression screening for target populations. Early Intervention (EI) Services offer screening to all caregivers of children receiving EI Services. Also, the mental health system is working with Area Agency on Aging to develop a process by which older adults can receive depression screenings. Mental health screenings are done with local jail inmates. The Healthy Families America Program also does a mental health screening as part of its program intake. More programs should be provided with the ability to screen for mental health issues.

Putting a number on the population of homeless adults with mental health problems who receive mental health services is difficult. Even combining Shelter Services data and Point-in-Time data does not accurately depict the number of individuals who are homeless and mentally ill. However, given that Point-in-Time data is limited in scope, Shelter Services data can be used to obtain a baseline. According to Shelter Services, 118 individuals were housed in 2023. Of this total, 82 individuals, representing 70% of the total homeless served by Shelter Services, identified themselves as having a mental illness.

The local mental health system uses the Clubhouse model of psychiatric rehabilitation to support vocational training and employment opportunities. The Clubhouse model tracks the employment of members in three categories: Transitional Employment Placements (TEP), Supported Employment Placements (SEP), and Independent Employment Placements (IEP). Below are the statistics for fiscal year 2012-2013 (Table 8: Health).

Table 8: Health –Individuals with Mental Health Issues Finding Employment through TEP, SEP, and IEP

Category	Individuals (monthly average)	Amount Earned (monthly average)
Transitional Employment Placements (TEP)	3.72	\$16,805.75
Supported Employment Placements (SEP)	2.92	\$22,904
Independent Employment Placements (IEP)	14.0	\$101,246.56

Source: Juniata Valley Behavioral Health and Development Services (JVBDS)

Adolescent mental health is also an emerging area of concern locally. Every two years in both Mifflin and Juniata counties, the Pennsylvania Youth Survey is conducted. This survey captures data regarding perception and behavior among middle and high school-age students. According to local trending data from 2010-2014, major depressive episodes among adolescents are on the rise (Table 9: Health). However, in the state of Pennsylvania, fewer people received mental health treatment than expressed the need for it (Table 10: Health).

Recent PAYS data for both Juniata and Mifflin counties indicate a variety of issues concerning our youth (Data Tables 92-94)). In particular, Mifflin County youth report mental health concerns far above the state average on every single issue.

Table 9: Health – Past Year Major Depressive Episode (MDE) Among Adolescents Aged 12-17 in Pennsylvania and the United States

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2019-2020
Pennsylvania	8.7%	9.5%	10.7%	11.8%
United States	8.7%	9.9%	11.0%	20.1%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Behavioral Health Barometer: Pennsylvania, 2019,”

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/>.

https://mhanational.org/sites/default/files/2021%20State%20of%20Mental%20Health%20in%20America_0.pdf

Table 10: Health – Past Year Treatment for Depression among Adolescents Aged 12-17 with Major Depressive Episode (MDE) in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania 2019-2020	
Received Treatment for Depression	40.6 %
Did Not Receive Treatment for Depression	59.4 %

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Behavioral Health Barometer: Pennsylvania, 2019,”

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/>., <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/behavioral-health-barometer-pennsylvania-volume-6>

Table 11: Health – Past Year Serious Thoughts of Suicide among Adults Aged 18 or Older in Pennsylvania and the United States

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2019-2020
Pennsylvania	3.9%	3.9%	4.0%	4.2%
United States	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	4.3%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Behavioral Health Barometer: Pennsylvania, 2019,”

<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/reports-by-geography?tid=660&map=1>.

https://mhanational.org/sites/default/files/2021%20State%20of%20Mental%20Health%20in%20America_0.pdf,

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/behavioral-health-barometer-pennsylvania-volume-6>

Table 12: Health – Past Year Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Among Adults Aged 18 or Older in Pennsylvania and the United States

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2019-2020
Pennsylvania	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
United States	4.0%	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Behavioral Health Barometer: Pennsylvania, 2019,”

<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/reports-by-geography?tid=660&map=1>.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/behavioral-health-barometer-pennsylvania-volume-6>

Table 13: Health – Past Year Mental Health Treatment/Counseling among Adults Aged 18 or Older with Any Mental Illness (AMI) in Pennsylvania and the United States

Pennsylvania 2019-2020	
Received Treatment for Depression	47.0%
Did Not Receive Treatment for Depression	53.0%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Behavioral Health Barometer: Pennsylvania, 2019,”

<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/reports-by-geography?tid=660&map=1>

Table 14: Health – Pennsylvania Adults, 2021 (with 95% Confidence Intervals) Ever Told Have Some Form of Depressive Disorder

	% Population	Confidence Interval
All Adults	19%	18-20
Male	14%	13-16
Female	24%	22-25
Age 18-29	26%	22-30
Age 30-44	20%	17-22
Age 45-64	19%	17-21
Age 65+	14%	12-17
<High School Education	20%	15-27
High School Education	20%	18-22
Some College Education	21%	18-23
College Degree	17%	15-18
<\$15,000 Household Income	34%	27-41
\$15,000-\$24,999 Household Income	29%	24-35
\$50,000-\$74,999 Household Income	19%	16-23
\$75,000+ Household Income	14%	13-16
White, Non-Hispanic	20%	18-21
Black, Non-Hispanic	17%	14-20
Hispanic	16%	12-21
Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual	45%	38-53
Straight	17%	16-19

Source: PA Department of Health, “2021 Behavioral Risks of Pennsylvania Adults,”

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/BehavioralStatistics/BehavioralRiskPAAdults/Documents/State%20Report/2021trends.aspx>

Table 15: Health – Adult Mental Health Consumers Served in the Public Mental Health System in Pennsylvania, by Age Group and Employment Status (2020)

	Total	18-20	21-64	65 or Older
Employed	9,898	632	9,236	30
Unemployed	33,796	1,980	31,593	223
In Labor Force*	43,694	2,612	40,829	253
With Known Employment Status**	43,698	2,613	40,832	253

*In Labor Force is the sum of consumers employed and unemployed.

**With Known Employment Status is the sum of consumers employed, unemployed, and not in the labor force.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Behavioral Health Barometer: Pennsylvania, 2019,”

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt35269/Pennsylvania.pdf>

Table 16: Health – Mental Health Consumers in Pennsylvania and the United States Reporting Improved Functioning from Treatment Received in the Public Mental Health System (2020)

	Children and Adolescents (Aged 17 or Younger)	Adults (Aged 18 or Older)
Pennsylvania	81.6%	77.3%
United States	75.3%	80.4%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Behavioral Health Barometer: Pennsylvania, 2019,” <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt35269/Pennsylvania.pdf>

Mental health issues, and in particular depression and suicide, are prevalent in Juniata and Mifflin County School Districts according to the 2015 Pennsylvania Youth Survey. Programming should be developed that is specific to adolescent mental health issues.

Data demonstrates that mental health issues correlate with chronic health issues.

Table 17: Health – % U.S. Adults with Chronic Health Problems, by Poverty Status, 2011

% People with Chronic Health Problems	In Poverty	Not in Poverty	Difference (percentage points)
% Depression	30.9	15.8	15.1
% Asthma	17.1	11.0	6.1
% Obesity	31.8	26.0	5.8
% Diabetes	14.8	10.1	4.7
% High Blood Pressure	31.8	29.1	2.7
% Heart Attack	5.8	3.8	2.0
% Cancer	6.3	7.1	-0.8
% High Cholesterol	25.0	26.0	-1.0

Source: GALLUP, “Chronic Health Problems Among U.S. Adults, by Poverty Status – 2011,” Well-Being, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/158417/poverty-comes-depression-illness.aspx>.

Table 18: Health – Percentage of Persons with Depression by Age and Poverty Status: United States, 2005-2006

	12-17 years old	18-39 years old	40-59 years old	60 years old and older	Total
Below Poverty Level	13.1%	6.4%	11.5%	22.4%	7.4%
At or Above Poverty Level	4.4%	4.0%	3.5%	5.9%	3.8%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Depression in the United States Household Population, 2005 – 2006,” Data Briefs, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db07.htm>

Poverty is another component in this area of concern. A variety of studies link depression, poverty, and parenting:

- A Child Trends' study of a group of low-income mothers in Maryland shows that more than half of the group experienced depression and feelings of hopelessness in the past year and around a third of them also lost interest and pleasure in doing things.²⁵
- The Urban Institute discovered that 14.5% of mothers with young children of all income levels experienced depression, while" mothers with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level were more likely to experience severe depression" whereas mothers with higher incomes experienced mild to moderate depression.²⁶
- Parents with depression are less likely to practice good parenting skills and observe health and safety practices for themselves and their children. This leads to children of depressed low-income parents to be more likely to struggle in school, have behavioral problems, and delayed social and cognitive development.²⁷
- "One in nine poor infants lives with a mother experiencing severe depression and more than half live with a mother experiencing some level of depressive symptoms."²⁸
- More than one-third of low-income mothers with major depressive disorder go untreated.²⁹

Because Mifflin County youth are above the state average in all of these issues, strategies should be adopted to address them. Schools are a natural setting to address mental health concerns in youth. 2005 data indicates that over one-third of school districts provide mental health services through school or district staff and that more than 25% used outside agencies to make mental health services available in schools.³⁰ Providing mental health access in schools is a focus of the federal government as well as school districts and nonprofit organizations. President Obama's Now Is the Time plan, as well as the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Institute of Medicine have increased efforts to implement early identification and treatment of mental illnesses in schools.³¹ Students of high school age and younger spend most of their time in school, which means creating a safe, supportive, and non-stigmatizing environment for students and their families to seek access to mental health programs. According to a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health, "adolescents are more comfortable accessing health care services through school-based clinics and like the idea of accessing a range of health and social services in a single location."

Some ways that communities could implement mental health services for students are:

²⁵ Child Trends, "A Troubling Combination: Depression, Poverty, and Parenting," July 31, 2013, accessed August, 10, 2016 <http://www.childtrends.org/a-troubling-combination-depression-poverty-and-parenting/>.

²⁶ Child Trends, "A Troubling Combination: Depression, Poverty, and Parenting."

²⁷ Child Trends, "A Troubling Combination: Depression, Poverty, and Parenting."

²⁸ Center for Law and Social Policy, "Maternal Depression: Why It Matters to an Anti-Poverty Agenda for Parents and Children," March 2014, <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/Maternal-Depression-and-Poverty-Brief-1.pdf>.

²⁹ Center for Law and Social Policy, "Maternal Depression: Why It Matters to an Anti-Poverty Agenda for Parents and Children."

³⁰ Youth.gov, "School-Based Supports," Mental Health, accessed October 2023, <http://youth.gov/youth-topics/youth-mental-health/school-based>.

³¹ Youth.gov, "School-Based Supports."

- Develop and extend evidence-based programs to create positive environments in schools while promoting student behavior that deters bullying, conflicts, substance abuse, and drinking while encouraging problem-solving, healthy relationships, and beneficial activities.³² Current programs that do strive toward those goals include, the Strengthening Families Program, Communities that Care (CTC), Project YES, The Abuse Networks, Inc., Clear Concepts Counseling, Juniata Valley Tri-County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission, Juniata Valley Behavioral & Developmental Services, Compass Community Connections, Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 Community Education and Workforce Services, United Way of Mifflin – Juniata, Lumina Center, Mifflin County Children and Youth Services, and Snyder, Union Mifflin Child Development.
- Develop and extend early intervention programs and services for students who need more support through skill groups that work with grief, anger, sadness, anxiety, etc.³³ Services that fulfill some of these goals already include guidance counselors at the elementary and high school level and the Student Assistance Program (SAP).
- Develop treatment programs and services that address a range of mental health needs common to students.³⁴
- Develop resources to assist both students and families.³⁵
- Develop a school culture that encourages and equips teachers and staff to recognize the early warning signs of mental health issues in children and youth.³⁶ This can be done through the implementation of Mental Health First Aid Training for teachers and others who work with students and Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for police officers, emergency medical technicians, and others who work with public emergencies.
- Develop a referral process that allows all students equal access to mental health services and support systems.³⁷

According to youth.gov, studies have shown that developing wide-ranging mental health programs is valuable in helping students reach academic success and build social skills, leadership skills, confidence, and connections to family, adults, and community.³⁸ Collaborating with community organizations has also been shown to amplify efforts to assist students in succeeding academically as well as decrease school disciplinary rates, increase graduation rates, and build a positive school climate.³⁹

³² Youth.gov, “School-Based Supports.”

³³ Youth.gov, “School-Based Supports.”

³⁴ Youth.gov, “School-Based Supports.”

³⁵ Youth.gov, “School-Based Supports.”

³⁶ Youth.gov, “School-Based Supports.”

³⁷ Youth.gov, “School-Based Supports.”

³⁸ Youth.gov, “School-Based Supports.”

³⁹ Youth.gov, “School-Based Supports.”

Another sector of our population that is affected disproportionately with mental health issues appears to be veterans.

Table 19: Health – Civilian and Veteran Population 18 years and over (2021 estimate):

	Total Population	Veteran Population	Veteran % Total Population	Non-veteran Population	Non-veteran % Total Population
Juniata County	18,255	1,278	7.0%	16,977	93.0%
Mifflin County	35,725	3,142	8.8%	32,583	91.2%
Pennsylvania	10,341,435	638,436	6.2%	9,702,999	93.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, “Veteran Status, 2021 estimates,” American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.
<https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2021.S2101?t=Veterans&g=050XX00US42067>

Table 20: Health – Veteran Period of Service

	Gulf War (9/2001 or later) veterans	Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) veterans	Vietnam War Veterans	Korean War Veterans	World War II Veterans
Juniata County	10.8%	13%	43.9%	9.1%	2.1%
Mifflin County	11.2%	21.2%	36.0%	9.3%	4.5%
Pennsylvania	19.8%	19.9%	36.3%	5.2%	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, “Veteran Status, 2021 estimates,” American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

Table 21: Health – Gender of Veterans

	Male	Female
Juniata County	96.2%	3.8%
Mifflin County	90.0%	10.0%
Pennsylvania	91.8%	8.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, “Veteran Status, 2021 estimates,” American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

Table 22: Health – Age of Veterans

	18-34 years	35-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over
Juniata County	6.8%	17.4%	19.2%	29.6%	27.0%
Mifflin County	6.0%	24.5%	14.6%	25.5%	29.4%
Pennsylvania	6.8%	20.4%	17.6%	23.9%	31.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, “Veteran Status, 2021 estimates,” American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 23: Health – Median Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)

	All Veterans (18 years and over)	Male Veterans (18 years and over)	Female Veterans (18 years and over)
Juniata County	\$33,451	\$33,669	\$29,464
Mifflin County	\$37,595	\$38,528	\$29,921

Pennsylvania	\$46,046	\$46,514	\$40,740
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Veteran Status, 2021 estimates," American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 24: Health – Veterans' Educational Attainment

	Veteran Population (25 years and over)	Less than high school graduate	High school graduate (includes equivalency)	Some college or associate's degree	Bachelor's degree or higher
Juniata County	1,270	16.9%	51.0%	25.6%	6.5%
Mifflin County	3,117	6.5%	59.6%	22.4%	11.5%
Pennsylvania	634,120	4.8%	39.2%	30.1%	25.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Veteran Status, 2021 estimates," American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 25: Health – Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months

	Non-veteran population 18 yr. and over for whom poverty status is determined	Veteran population 18 years and over for whom poverty status is determined	Non-veteran population below poverty in the past 12 months	Veteran population below poverty in the past 12 months
Juniata County	16,786	3,077	8.5%	1.1%
Mifflin County	32,050	4,148	12.9%	7.3%
Pennsylvania	9,337,632	625,640	11.2%	7.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Veteran Status, 2021 estimates," American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 26: Health – Disability Status

	Non-veteran Population 18 years and over for whom poverty status is determined	Veteran Population 18 years and over for whom poverty status is determined	Non-veteran population with any disability	Veteran population with any disability
Juniata County	16,786	1,250	14.8%	40.1%
Mifflin County	32,050	3,077	16.8%	33.1%
Pennsylvania	9,337,632	625,640	16.1%	30.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Veteran Status, 2021 estimates," American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Some items to keep in mind concerning veterans and mental health:

- "Approximately 13.5% of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression."⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, "Veterans and Military Families," Topics, accessed July 4, 2016, <http://www.samhsa.gov/veterans-military-families>.

- Approximately half of returning service members seek help for mental health, but only a little more than half receive adequate care.⁴¹
- “Among recent Afghanistan and Iraq veterans, 63% diagnosed with Substance Use Disorders also met the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).”⁴²
- “In 2016, the suicide rate was 1.5 times greater for veterans than for non-veteran adults, after adjusting for age and gender.”⁴³
- “In 2022, there were 18.37 million veterans in the civilian non-institutional population 18 years and over. Of those veterans, 8.81 million were in the civilian labor force and 8.56 million were employed.”⁴⁴
- Between 60% and 70% of veterans who screen positive for serious emotional problems do not seek help from mental health professionals.⁴⁵

Dental Care Access

The need for expanding dental care was discussed throughout the assessment process. There remains a significant shortage of dentists in both counties (Table 1: Health). The lack of dental insurance and the cost of dental care were other deterrents for individuals seeking dental care. In July 2015, The Primary Health Network opened the Lewistown Dental Center. This Center provides dental cleaning and dentistry services to anyone, whether or not they have medical insurance, and offers sliding fee billing to anyone who qualifies. It was noted during the community focus group meeting, that many of our local dentists are over the age of 50 and as they retire over the next several years this will further increase the shortage of dental providers. According to the Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health, from 2015 to 2021, the dental workforce was 10% in the commonwealth.⁴⁶

Oral diseases are more prevalent in low-income families. PA Department of Health research shows that children in households with an annual income of less than \$20,000 in Pennsylvania are three times more likely to have untreated dental cavities than children in households with an annual income of more than \$100,000.⁴⁷ In addition, more than half the population in Pennsylvania does not have fluoridated water, with Juniata County included in that count.⁴⁸

⁴¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Veterans and Military Families.”

⁴² NIDA. Substance Use and Military Life DrugFacts. National Institute on Drug Abuse website. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/substance-use-military-life>. October 23, 2019, Accessed October 31, 2023.

⁴³ NIDA. Substance Use and Military Life DrugFacts. National Institute on Drug Abuse website. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/substance-use-military-life>. October 23, 2019, Accessed October 31, 2023.

⁴⁴ U.S. Department of Labor. Veterans Unemployment Rates. U.S. Department of Labor website. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/latest-numbers>. October 2023, Accessed October 2023

⁴⁵ American Psychological Association, “The Critical Need for Mental Health Professionals Trained to Treat Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.”

⁴⁶ <https://paoralhealth.org/>

⁴⁷ Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, “Importance of Access to and Utilization of Oral Health Care in Pennsylvania,” updated March 2013, accessed July 19, 2016, <http://pachc.com/pdfs/Importance%20of%20Access%20to%20and%20Utilization%20of%20Oral%20Health%20Care%20in%20Pennsylvania.pdf>.

⁴⁸ Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, “Importance of Access to and Utilization of Oral Health Care in Pennsylvania.”

Chronic Disease Quality of Care

It became clear from the needs assessment, as well as the secondary data, that improving care for chronic disease is a priority. Heart disease, cancer, and stroke are the leading causes of death in both Mifflin and Juniata counties.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, chronic diseases – such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and arthritis – are among the most common, costly, and preventable health problems in the United States.

- Heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are the leading causes of death and disability in the United States (2022).⁴⁹
- About one in two adults do not get enough aerobic physical activity.⁵⁰
- Arthritis is the most common cause of disability. 32% of adults in Pennsylvania reported being diagnosed with arthritis.⁵¹
- Diabetes continues to be the leading cause of kidney failure, non-traumatic lower extremity amputations, and blindness among adults, aged 20-74.⁵²
- Excessive alcohol consumption is the third leading preventable death in the United States behind diet and physical activity and tobacco.⁵³

Table 27: Health – Cause of Death

Cause of Death 2021	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Heart disease	67	148	32,423
Cancer	59	115	28,456
Stroke	10	33	6,769
Chronic lower respiratory disease	11	23	5,551

Source: PA Department of Health, Death Statistics 2021,
(<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/DeathStatistics/Pages/death-statistics.aspx>).

Life Style and Behavioral Risk Factors

Leading a healthy lifestyle (avoiding tobacco use, being physically active, and eating well) greatly reduces a person's risk for developing chronic disease.

Table 28: Health – Health Behaviors

Health Behavior	Juniata	Mifflin	PA	National Benchmark
Adult Obesity	37 %	37%	33%	32%

⁴⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Chronic Diseases: The Leading Causes of Death and Disability in the United States," Chronic Disease Overview, <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/index.htm>

⁵⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "The Power of Prevention: Chronic disease . . . the public health challenge of the 21st century," 2009, <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/pdf/2009-Power-of-Prevention.pdf>.

⁵¹ Pennsylvania Department of Health, "Chronic Disease in Pennsylvania," 2011, accessed October 2023 , https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Programs/ChronicDiseaseBurdenReport_8-18-2021.pdf.pdf.

⁵² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Chronic Diseases: The Leading Causes of Death and Disability in the United States."

⁵³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Chronic Diseases: The Leading Causes of Death and Disability in the United States."

Physical Inactivity (do not engage in leisure time physical activity)	31%	32%	25%	26%
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	8.5%	7.7%	8.4%	7.8%
Adult Smoking	24%	26%	18%	16%

Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, Pennsylvania 2022, (www.countyhealthrankings.org).

Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Overweight/Obesity

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, regular physical activity can improve the health and quality of life for all ages, regardless of disability. Among adults, physical activity can lower the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, breast and colon cancer, falls, and depression. Among children and adolescents, physical activity can improve bone health, improve cardio-respiratory and muscular fitness, decrease levels of body fat, and reduce symptoms of depression. Mifflin and Juniata counties fail to meet the national benchmark for obesity and physical inactivity.⁵⁴

Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, Pennsylvania has required school districts to conduct Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings for grades K-12. Obese children are more likely to become obese adults with the potential for other serious health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and some cancers.

Table 29: Health – Childhood Obesity

Childhood obesity (>=95th Percentile)	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Grades K-6, 2017-18	23.11%	16.33%	16.80%
Grades 7-12, 2017-18	26.60%	13.16%	19.52%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, “Growth Screens/BMI-For-Age Percentiles by Health District and County, September 25, 2019, (<http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/School%20Health/Documents/>
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/School%20Health/2017-18%20BMI%20by%20Co.pdf>).

Table 30: Health – Childhood Obesity and Overweight

Childhood obesity & overweight (>85th to >95th Percentile)	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Grades K-6, 2017-2018	15.83%	14.26%	15.70%
Grades 7-12, 2017-2018	17.47%	9.82%	16.88%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, “Growth Screens/BMI-For-Age Percentiles by Health District and County, September 25, 2019, (<http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/School%20Health/Documents/>
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/School%20Health/2017-18%20BMI%20by%20Co.pdf>).

The Nutrition and Weight Status objectives for Healthy People 2030 reflect strong science supporting the health benefits of eating a healthful diet and maintaining a healthy body weight. The objectives also emphasize that efforts to change diet and weight should address individual behaviors, as well as the policies and environments that support these behaviors in settings such as schools, worksites, healthcare organizations, and communities. The goal of promoting healthful diets and healthy weight encompasses increasing household food security and

⁵⁴ US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, “Physical activity guidelines advisory committee report,” 2008, accessed July 19, 2016, <http://health.gov/paguidelines/Report/>.

eliminating hunger.⁵⁵

Healthy Food Access

Good nutrition is important and a healthful diet helps reduce risks for many health conditions including overweight and obesity, malnutrition, heart disease, high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, oral disease, and some cancers.⁵⁶

Although Mifflin and Juniata counties offer access to and availability of healthier foods, it does not seem to be a strong factor when it comes to a resident's diet. However, the places where people eat do appear to influence diet. For example, foods eaten away from home often have lower nutritional quality than foods prepared at home.⁵⁷

Serving 27 counties, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is the largest non-profit food distribution organization in central PA. The Food Bank solicits inventories and distributes food and other donated products to more than 700 partner agencies (food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, etc.) that directly serve people struggling with hunger. During the past year, the Food Bank distributed more than 22 million pounds of food.

For Mifflin and Juniata counties, the Central PA Food Bank works with the following food pantries:

- Calvary Bible Church – Lewistown
- Grace Covenant Church – Lewistown
- Bible Baptist - Burnham
- Salvation Army – Lewistown
- Juniata County Food Pantry – Mifflintown

In addition, many residents and businesses support the food pantries through food drives and donations.

Table 31: Health - Food Pantry Participation

⁵⁵ Health People 2020, Nutrition and Weight Status, accessed July 19, 2016, <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/nutrition-and-weight-status>.

⁵⁶ US Department of Health and Human Services and US Department of Agriculture (USDA), "Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2005," January 2005, accessed July 19, 2016, <http://health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2005/document/>.

⁵⁷ Frazao, Elizabeth, Guthrie, Joanne F., Lin, Biing-Hwan, "Role of Food Prepared Away from Home in the American Diet, 1977-78 versus 1994-96: Changes and Consequences, 2002, accessed July 19, 2016, <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1499404606600833>.

State Food Purchase Program Food Pantry Participant	Number of individuals served - 2015	Number of persons served with boxes- 2015	Number of individuals served - 2020	Number of persons served with boxes- 2020
Calvary Bible	785	6,244	779	4,954
Bible Baptist/New Life	268	2,268	430	767
Hand of Grace	1,508	8,079	879	4,128
Mifflin Co. Salvation Army	738	1,650	430	767
Totals	4,548	21,726	*2,518	*10,616

Source: Mifflin Juniata Human Services Department

*Due to the extra SNAP benefits available because of the pandemic, there was a decrease in the total number of individuals served and the number of persons served with boxes in 2020. As of 2023, pantries are experiencing an increase in the number of clients participating in the program.

Community and Worksite Wellness Programs

Efforts by Mifflin County Meltdown to encourage community-wide weight loss and healthy behavior have helped promote a healthier lifestyle. This program started in 2010 and succeeded in raising awareness of the need to take responsibility for one's health – to become fit, have fun exercising, and as a by-product, lose weight if needed. The 2011 Meltdown helped 522 participants lose more than 3,400 pounds in six weeks.

Businesses and organizations recognize the importance of promoting wellness for employees. Geisinger Lewistown Hospital offers a wellness program that includes three modules: Wellness Profile & Employee Interest Survey, Biometric Health Screenings, and Wellness Interventions. All activities are tracked and employees can earn a discount on their health insurance for completing all module activities.

Teen Pregnancy

Prevention of teen and unplanned pregnancy is an important part of a healthy community. According to the U.S. Department of Human Services, 158,043 infants were born to 15 to 19-year-olds in 2020 in the nation. Birth rates for teenagers aged 15–17 and 18–19 were 6.3 and 28.9 births per 1,000 females in 2020. ⁵⁸ Birth rates for teenagers aged 15-19 were 5.0 per 1,000 females in 2020. ⁵⁹

Teen childbearing in Pennsylvania cost taxpayers \$9.4 million in 2010, according to an updated analysis from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.⁶⁰ Most of the public sector costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the children of teen mothers, during their childhood

⁵⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Trends in Teen Pregnancy and Childbearing," Office of Adolescent Health, accessed October 2023, <https://opa.hhs.gov/adolescent-health/reproductive-health-and-teen-pregnancy/trends-teen-pregnancy-and-childbearing>.

⁵⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Trends in Teen Pregnancy and Childbearing," Office of Adolescent Health, accessed October 2023, <https://opa.hhs.gov/adolescent-health/reproductive-health-and-teen-pregnancy/trends-teen-pregnancy-and-childbearing>.

⁶⁰ Pennsylvania Data Power to Decide, " <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/national-state-data/pennsylvania>.

and young adult years.⁶¹ Annual taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers include public health care (Medicaid and CHIP), child welfare, and among those children who have reached adolescence and young adulthood, increased rates of incarceration, and lost tax revenue due to decreased earnings and spending.⁶² Pennsylvania has seen a 55% decline in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2013.⁶³

Table 32: Health – Teen Birth Rate 2016-2020

	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000 female population, ages 15-19)	15.4	19.8	11.5

Source: Maps: Births, PA County Health Profiles, Pennsylvania 2016-2020, (<http://www.health.pa.gov>)

Prenatal Care

In addition, a significant number of women in both counties did not receive any prenatal care in the first trimester. According to the CDC, low birth weight, premature births, neonatal mortality, infant mortality, and maternal mortality are linked to insufficient prenatal care.⁶⁴

Table 33: Health – Prenatal Care

% Women Not Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester (2016-19)	Juniata	Mifflin	PA	Healthy People 2030 Objective
All ages	35.1%	39.0%	26.2%	80.5%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, (<https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles.cfm>)

Healthy People 2030, “Healthy People 2030 Pennsylvania”, accessed October 2023 <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/increase-proportion-pregnant-women-who-receive-early-and-adequate-prenatal-care-mich-08/data>

⁶¹ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, “Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing: Key Data,” Research & Reports, December 2013, accessed July 20, 2016, <http://thenationalcampaign.org/resource/counting-it-key-data-2013>.

⁶² The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, “Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing.”

⁶³ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, “Pennsylvania Adolescent Reproductive Health Facts,” accessed July 20, 2016, <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-health-topics/reproductive-health/factsheets/state.html?s=pennsylvania>.

⁶⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Infant Mortality,” Reproductive Health, accessed July 20, 2016, <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MaternalInfantHealth/InfantMortality.htm>.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Illegal Drug Use

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States.

According to a report from the Tri-County Drug & Alcohol Commission in 2012, from 2007 to 2009, Mifflin County saw slight increases in alcohol, smokeless tobacco, and marijuana use as well as binge drinking.

Cigarette use stayed the same and inhalants saw the largest increase of 60%.⁶⁵ Juniata County saw overall increases in smokeless tobacco and inhalant use from 2007 to 2009.⁶⁶

Excessive alcohol consumption contributes to over 54 different diseases and injuries, including cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, liver, colon, and breast, liver diseases, and other cardiovascular, neurological, psychiatric, and gastrointestinal health problems.⁶⁷

According to the 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey for Juniata County and Mifflin County School Districts, alcohol and tobacco usage amongst students in grades 6-12 is quite high, usually equal to or higher than the state average.

Table 34: Health – Percent of students in grades 6-12 indicating alcohol use 1-2 times in the past 30 days.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	9.9%	10.5%	6.4%
Mifflin	14.6%	15.4%	8.8%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 35: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 indicating marijuana use 1-2 times in the past 30 days.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	1.1%	2.4%	1.3%
Mifflin	4.6%	5.2%	3.1%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 36: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 indicating inhalant use 1-2 times in the past 30 days.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Mifflin	1.4%	2.3%	1.1%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

⁶⁵ Tri-County Drug & Alcohol Commission, 2012 Report.

⁶⁶ Tri-County Drug & Alcohol Commission, 2012 Report.

⁶⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Alcohol and Public Health, accessed July 20, 2016, <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/index.htm>.

Table 37: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 indicating cigarette use 1-2 times in the past 30 days.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	3.9%	4.4%	2.0%
Mifflin	14.5%	13.4%	7.7%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 38: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 indicating smokeless tobacco use 1-2 times in the past 30 days.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	2.8%	3.4%	1.0%
Mifflin	6.0%	5.7%	4.1%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 39: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 indicating narcotic prescription drug use 1-2 times in the past 30 days.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	1.2%	0.8%	0.5%
Mifflin	1.4%	1.3%	0.7%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 40: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 indicating prescription stimulants use 1-2 times in the past 30 days.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	0.3%	0.4%	0.8%
Mifflin	0.9%	1.7%	0.2%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 41: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 indicating heroin use 1-2 times in the past 30 days.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Mifflin	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Domestic Violence

The Abuse Network serves victims and their significant others who have been victimized by interpersonal crimes such as domestic violence, sexual violence, and other violent crimes such as domestic violence, sexual violence, and other violent crimes in Mifflin, Juniata, and Huntingdon counties. In fiscal year 2015-2016, the agency assisted 885 new victims and significant others experiencing victimization. Of the 885 individuals

served, 456 received services for domestic violence, 338 received services for sexual assault, and 91 victims of other interpersonal crimes were served.

Community members may not realize how often sexual and domestic violence and other violent crimes touch our residents. The Abuse Network can assist victims of these crimes even if the victimization does not result in criminal charges against the perpetrator. In the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the agency provided shelter to 21 residents of Mifflin and Juniata counties displaced by or fleeing domestic violence. Additionally, agency advocates provided 2,579 direct services for a total of 3,319 hours of direct services to clientele including services such as 24-hour hotline counseling, crisis intervention and supportive counseling, legal and medical advocacy and accompaniment, support groups, and resource management including referrals to other agencies that may be of assistance.

The agency also provides free educational programs about violence and the impact of violence to schools, professionals, and civic groups. In fiscal year 2023/2024, training was provided to 3,514 adults and children in the service delivery area. Education is one way to inform the public about the frequency of violence, the complex dynamics associated with violence, and ways to reduce risk and safely intervene in violent situations.

Healthcare Quality

The issue of healthcare quality was another prominent theme throughout this assessment. From a healthcare consumer perspective, quality issues centered on cost, affordability, access to services, wait times to see a healthcare provider, and satisfaction with healthcare providers.

With healthcare reform underway in the U.S., healthcare systems and providers are also focused on quality issues. Quality in the form of reduced waste and improved efficiency drives down costs while also improving patient satisfaction through the avoidance of complications, infections, longer stays in the hospital, longer waiting times, and higher costs.⁶⁸

There are several challenges to reshaping the healthcare delivery system to focus on increased quality and reduced cost. Growth in healthcare costs has caused federal and state governments to look at deficit reduction which means Medicare beneficiaries could face reductions in healthcare coverage. There will not be much relief on the uninsured challenges for several years, with continued high levels of uninsured patients and bad debt for health systems as individuals will need to assume more of the cost of their care.

Health systems are looking at the intersections of all settings of care to provide greater access and improved quality for patients to address the deficit reduction. Better coordination of care can help improve hospital readmission rates, improve clinical outcomes, and help patients navigate more easily through a complex set of healthcare services.⁶⁹

⁶⁸ American Hospital Association, Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development, and American College of Healthcare Executives, "FutureScan 2012: Healthcare Trends and Implications 2012-2017," 2012, accessed July 21, 2016, <http://www.worldcat.org/title/futurescan-2012-healthcare-trends-and-implications-2012-2017/oclc/777955222>.

⁶⁹ American Hospital Association, Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development, and American College of Healthcare Executives, "FutureScan 2012: Healthcare Trends and Implications 2012-2017."

To improve quality, healthcare providers are focusing on wellness services, solutions for chronic disease management, and better access to primary care services. Community-based services can also offer support for disease management, food and nutrition, and wellness services. Additionally, providers can work with nontraditional caregivers, such as homeless shelters and federally qualified and urgent-care clinics to help improve the efficiency of care.

In order to effectively assess the current views, perceptions and priorities of a wide range of stakeholders in Mifflin and Juniata counties, the needs assessment project team employed a multifaceted approach for data collection. The following are the highlights from:

Human Service Providers Survey

Random-Sample Citizen Survey

Community Leaders' Forum

Focus Groups

With the final results being the “Emerging Priorities”

What Service Providers Told Us

Among respondents to our *Human Service Providers Survey*, healthcare considerations were seen as the foundation for addressing many of the other issues identified throughout our needs assessment process. High priorities included:

- Providing low-cost alternatives to the uninsured and underinsured
- Increasing access to all health care services and expanding the number of physicians serving the area
- Expanding dental care and mental health care services
- Improving emergency care services
- Increasing health education and improving preventive health care opportunities

What the Public Told Us

Respondents to our *Random- Sample Citizens Survey* identified several important health care concerns. The most frequently cited priorities included:

- Decreasing drug and alcohol use among teens and adults
- Addressing domestic violence and abuse
- Providing low-cost alternatives to uninsured and underinsured
- Improving access to cancer care
- Improving chronic illness care, primary care, and emergency room services
- Improving health care quality



What We Learned from the Community Leaders' Forum

Consistent with the findings from other sources, healthcare was seen as a key component and high strategic priority in our *Community Leaders' Forum*. Of 14 overall goals these groups identified the following three as the most important priorities:

- access to healthcare services
- quality improvement and
- providing affordable care

Other priorities in this category included:

- Improving access to mental health services
- Providing affordable healthcare options and services
- Improving overall healthcare quality
- Expanding specialized medical care services, dental care, and wellness programs
- Reducing lifestyle diseases and behavioral risk factors (diabetes, obesity, smoking)

What the Focus Groups Told Us

Our *Focus Group* for health care identified three critical priorities. The most consistent aspect of this discussion was that all goals needed to be inclusive. The priorities for this group were:

- Improving overall health care quality
 - Emergency, specialized, chronic, mental, dental, health/behavioral health integration
- Improving primary care access and affordability
 - Preventive care, family planning, service information and costs, insurance affordability, urgent care, wait times
- Reducing lifestyle diseases (diabetes, obesity, smoking, drug and alcohol)
 - Effective education and information, recreation and exercise provision, community care clinics

Emerging Priorities for Health

After careful analysis of all the primary and secondary data and subsequent discussions, several important health priorities emerged. Each has consistently been identified as a critical area to address as we move forward. We hope that these priorities will form the foundation of a wide range of initiatives to address human service needs, be incorporated into our partners planning and funding considerations, and become areas around which we can begin to assess measurable impact in the two-county area.

- Access to health care was a key theme and participants throughout the assessment process noted the following issues related to access:
 - Increase the percentage of insured
 - Increase resources to pay for healthcare services
 - Increase the number of healthcare providers to raise the availability of receiving appropriate services (primary care, mental health care, dental care)
 - Increase awareness of mental health resources, particularly to underserved peoples (adolescents and veterans)
- Improving the quality of healthcare was seen as a priority. However, how individuals defined quality varied significantly. For example, healthcare quality was defined in the following ways:
 - Decrease the length of time it takes to see a healthcare provider
 - Increase satisfaction with physician office hours and physician
 - Decrease the length of waiting time in the physician's office or the hospital emergency department
 - Increase the ability to find a physician that accepts all health insurance plans
- Providing additional resources around making healthy lifestyle choices was seen as an important factor in improving the overall health of the community.
 - Increase the opportunities to participate in community events that encourage physical activity
 - Change cultural norms around diet and exercise
 - Increase opportunities to provide education about healthy food choices
 - Address specific youth risk behaviors, including teen pregnancy, use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, and violence prevention

To effectively address the healthcare needs in the community, it will take a multidisciplinary approach that addresses individual behaviors as well as the policies and environments that support these behaviors. This approach should focus on developing partnerships that include schools, worksites, human resource agencies, health care organizations, and governmental agencies.

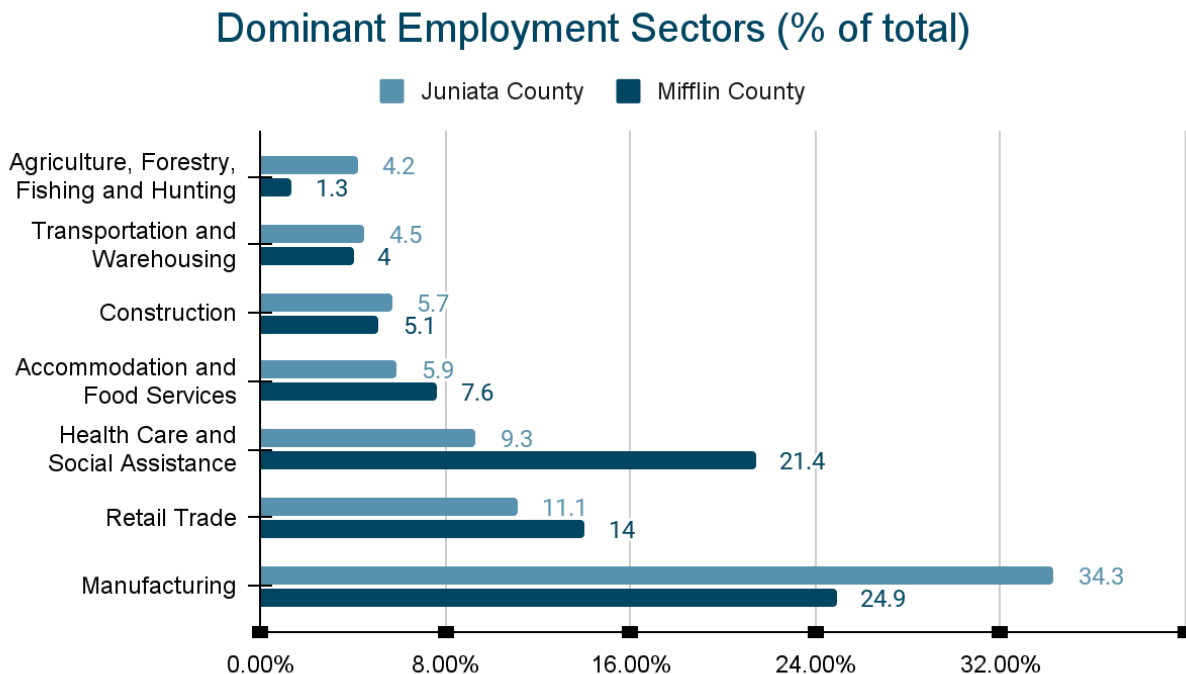
Income

In this section we highlight both sides of the income perspective: employment and income. While these two considerations are related, they are also in some ways separate issues in terms of human services. Not all residents in the counties (e.g. children, disabled people, those in poor health, and the elderly) can work regardless of the employment picture and outlook. All residents, the fully employed, the un- and underemployed, and those who are unable to work are of concern when considering human service needs. Therefore, the focus is on income generation, wealth, and household financial issues.

Employment

While there are differences between the two counties, manufacturing continues to dominate other employment sectors in both and though generally declining, remains well above state averages. It is worth noting, however, that manufacturing average wages remain consistently below the state average. The economy in both counties (based on employment) is primarily dependent on six sectors: manufacturing, retail trade, healthcare/social assistance, educational services, accommodation/food services, construction, and transportation/warehousing. While future projections are beyond the scope of this report, it is worth noting that expanding total employment in manufacturing (which both counties rely fairly heavily on) while indeed possible will continue to face a challenging environment as will local government (Chart 1: Income). Diversity of the employment base will continue to be an issue for both future economic stability as well as workforce training.

Chart 1: Income



Source: Pennsylvania Center for Workforce Information & Analysis, "County Profiles," Accessed October 2023
<http://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Products/CountyProfiles/Pages/default.aspx>.

Although the mid-2000s saw overall employment increase higher than the state and regional averages, these numbers declined overall in Mifflin and Juniata counties in the years since the economic downturn (2007 – 2010). Unemployment increased 6.0% and 3.9% respectively for Mifflin and Juniata counties between 2000 and 2010.⁷⁰ The employment picture, however, has begun to improve since 2010. The unemployment rate in 2021 was 6.1%, 5.0%, and 6.4% respectively for Mifflin County, Juniata County, and Pennsylvania.⁷¹

Future economic development challenges in both counties will continue to be how to develop strategies that take advantage of current strengths and sector developments while building an effective workforce to meet current and future business requirements.

Workforce Training

Workforce training was an issue identified in both the Education and Income components of our needs assessment. As the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan and others have highlighted, there is a considerable mismatch between residents’ skills and interests and employers’ needs. In addition, workforce training opportunities are not currently aligned as effectively as they could be with current and future employment requirements, and increasingly many residents commute outside the counties for employment.

In Mifflin County, 71.3% of residents work in Mifflin County, but in Juniata County, the number is lower as only 52.6% residents work in Juniata County (Appendix Table 57). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average travel time to work in 2021 for Juniata County and Mifflin County was 28.5 minutes.⁷² Education and targeted training of the community’s workforce to support higher-skilled employment opportunities is key to the area’s ability to both expand current business opportunities as well as attract new employers.

Income and Poverty

As indicated in Table 1 below, income levels in each of the two counties remain below the state average. While poverty rates in Juniata County are (and have historically been) below the state average, Mifflin County’s poverty rate remains above the state average. Census data compiled by the Center for Rural PA for 2021, however, indicates that when we consider children (0-17 yrs.) the relative percentages fluctuate somewhat: PA 16.4%; Juniata 14.9% and Mifflin 24.9% (See Table 1 below).

Table 1: Income

Indicator	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Median Household Income, 2021	\$56,382	\$54,738	\$67,587
Total Poverty Rate, 2021	9.6%	15.3%	11.8%
Poverty Rate for Children (under 18 years old), 2021	14.9%	24.9%	16.4%
Per Capita Personal Income, 2021	\$28,263	\$27,424	\$37,725

⁷⁰ Pennsylvania Center for Workforce Information & Analysis, “Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS),” Research and Historical Data, accessed October 2023, <http://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Research/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁷¹ Pennsylvania Center for Workforce Information & Analysis, “Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS).”

⁷² The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Source: Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, (http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.)

Additional Factors That Shape Income And Poverty Outcomes

In addition to the Education (see Education section) and the issues raised above, several other factors related to household economic well-being are also important to consider including: 1) percentage of income spent on housing costs; 2) income from transfer payments; 3) children living in poverty; 4) and wage levels.

Percentage of Income Spent On Housing Costs

The percentage of renters paying more than 30% of their income for housing, while lower than the state average, remains higher than what the average homeowner pays for housing costs. While rental rates are still below the state average, it is important to note that for both counties, numbers are trending upwards. However, in Juniata County, (which has no public housing authority), the rates are considerably higher than the state average.

Table 2: Income

Indicator	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Percent Renters, 2021	26.0%	27.7%	30.8%
Percent Homeowners, 2021	74.0%	72.3%	69.2%
Percent of renters paying above 30% of income on rent, 2021	18.2%	22.3%	23.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, “2021 American Community Survey,” American FactFinder, accessed October 2023,

<https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/>

Income from Transfer Payments

Table 3 highlights income from selected transfer payments – an important indicator of household economic well-being. For both Mifflin and Juniata counties, the percentage of those receiving cash assistance is somewhat lower than the state average. For each of the other factors highlighted, Mifflin County is generally higher than the state while Juniata County’s percentages are lower. Each of these, in addition to the child poverty rates below (see Table 4), is also indicative of related challenges families and households in both counties are facing. This does, and almost certainly will continue to place a strain on the local human services community to meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents – especially as budget resources continue to decline.

Table 3: Income

Indicator	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Percent Households receiving Social Security, 2021	37.1%	40.0%	34.9%
Percent Households receiving Supplemental Security Income, 2021	6.1%	6.8%	5.6%
Percent Households receiving public assistance, 2021	10.9%	14.9%	14.3%
Population Participating in Food Stamp Program (SNAP), 2020	2,302	6,909	1,855,969
Population Participating in Food Stamp Program (SNAP), 2021	2,331	6,935	1,852,173
Population Participating in Food Stamp Program (SNAP), 2022	2,469	7,403	1,911,694

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, (<https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles.cfm>)

Children Living In Poverty

The poverty rate for children in Mifflin and Juniata counties has been generally increasing as it has for the state and nation. Additionally, as indicated in Table 4, the number of students eligible for free and reduced lunches in the two-county area has increased. The number of uninsured children in our area is also above the state average. As noted earlier, each of these has been identified throughout our needs assessment efforts and influences a range of other outcomes and concerns including workforce development, economic development, education, health, and family well-being.

Table 4: Income

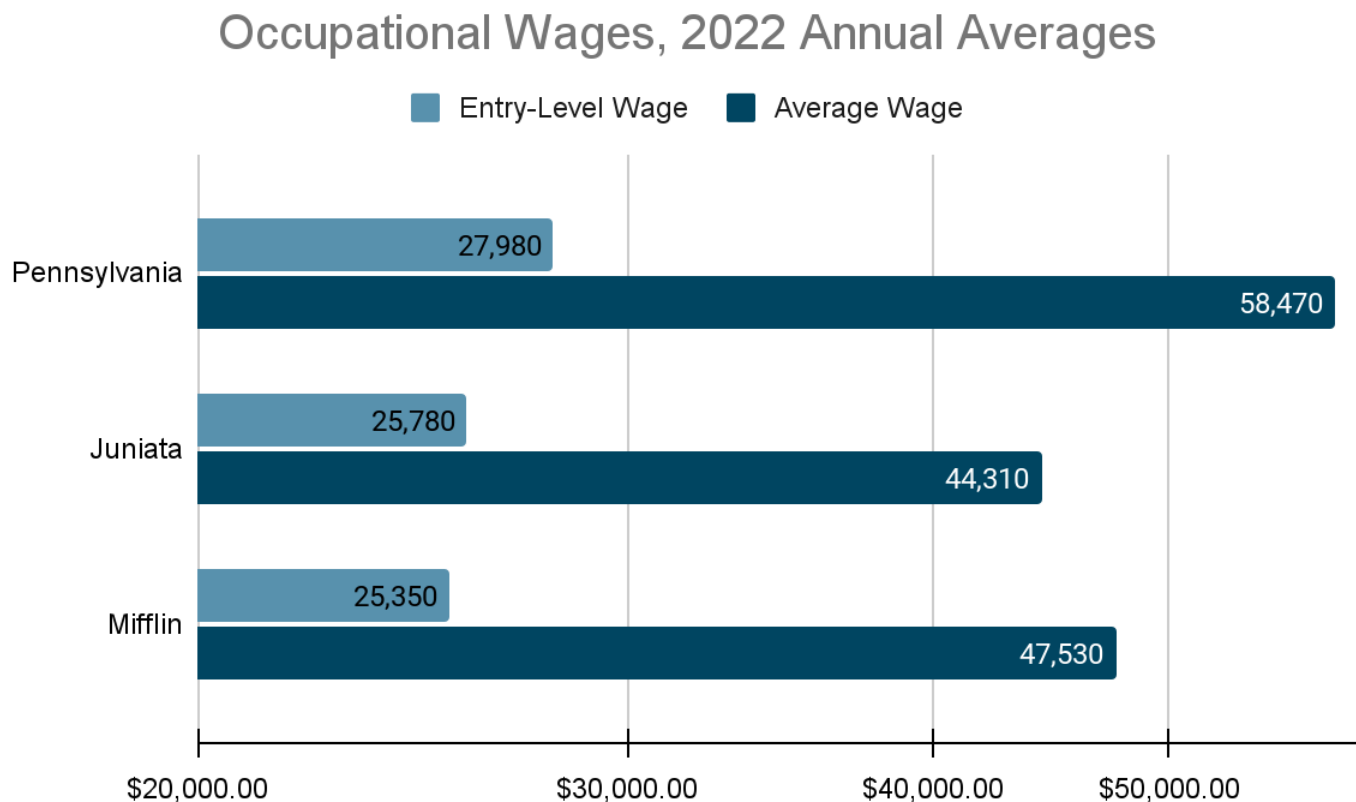
Indicator	Juniata	Mifflin	PA
Poverty Rate (%) Children (<18) – 2013	17.5%	24.4%	19.2%
Poverty Rate (%) Children (<18) - 2014	18.4%	25.0%	19.2%
Poverty Rate (%) Children (<18) - 2021	14.9	24.9%	16.4%
Percent children (<18) uninsured - 2014	8.0%	19.1%	19.2%
Percent children (<18) uninsured - 2021	20.7%	21.2%	4.6%
*Percent students enrolled for free/reduced lunches – 2022-23	42.0%	58.0%	51.0%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, (http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.); Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Building Data Yearly Reports: % Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch,” National School Lunch Program Reports, <https://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Food-Nutrition/reports/Pages/National-School-Lunch-Program-Reports.aspx>.

Wage Levels and Self-Sufficiency Standards

According to the Department of Labor and Industry, the average wage levels in both counties remain below the state average. Chart 2 highlights the overall average annual wage for Mifflin and Juniata counties and the state for those sectors represented in each county.

Chart 2: Income



Source: Pennsylvania Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, “Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW),” Research and Historical Data, <http://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Research/Pages/default.aspx>.

* The county self-sufficiency data used in the chart above is the data of wages per adult for a household with two adults, one preschooler child, and one school-age child.

When we consider wage levels concerning established self-sufficiency standards (reflecting the local cost of living with all factors and tax credits included), the average annual wage for each county is approximately on par with for a majority of household types (see Self-Sufficiency Standard Data Tables in Appendix pages 62 and 63). The wages received across employment/occupation types vary considerably and obscures the difficulty some employees have earning a living wage – a concern raised often is our needs assessment data.

In order to effectively assess the current views, perceptions and priorities of a wide range of stakeholders in Mifflin and Juniata counties, the needs assessment project team employed a multifaceted approach for data collection. The following are the highlights from:

Human Service Providers Survey

Random-Sample Citizen Survey

Community Leaders' Forum

Focus Groups

A summary of Emerging Priorities from all data sources is provided at the end of this section.

What Service Providers Told Us

Among respondents to our *Human Service Providers Survey*, income considerations were seen as the foundation for addressing many of the other issues identified throughout our needs assessment process. High priorities included:

- Improving the ability of the area to attract new industries
- Expanding workforce training of all types
- Improving coordination among agencies, local governments, and organizations dealing with economic development
- Providing funds for improving existing buildings rather than building new ones
- Increasing funding for both economic development and human support and training services
- Attracting new families to move to the area.
- Increasing educational levels of the workforce for new and emerging businesses
- Improving the quality of life and recreational opportunities to enhance area attractiveness to businesses and industries
- Providing low cost alternatives to the uninsured and underinsured
- Increasing community support for affordable and mixed housing

What the Public Told Us

Respondents to our *Random- Sample Citizens Survey* identified several important income and employment concerns. The most frequently cited priorities include:

- Increasing types and the number of jobs available for all skill levels
- Improving job training opportunities
- Reducing prevalence and impacts of poverty
- Increasing affordable housing and day care for the elderly
- Ensuring adequate housing for all income levels
- Improving family financial skills
- Increasing utility assistance and weatherization assistance
- Increasing rent/mortgage assistance

What We Learned from the Community Leaders' Forum

Consistent with the findings from other sources, income, and employment were seen as key components and high strategic priority in our *Community Leaders' Forum* with community leaders. This group identified 'attracting new and young families to locate to the area' and 'increasing the area's standard of living' as the second and fourth most important priorities respectively. Additional income and economic development related priorities include:

- Addressing the need to attract new industries and businesses to the area
- Reinventing the workforce in preparation for emerging technologies and jobs
- Matching skills of graduating students to skills of area employers
- Working as a team to bring human service providers and the business community together
- Encouraging educationally supportive environments throughout the county
- Providing training for present and future leaders
- Reinventing the workforce to meet new technologies and jobs

What the Focus Groups Told Us

Our *Focus Group* for income identified three critical priorities as well as a wide range of implementation considerations.

- Expanding job opportunities and economic diversity
- Increasing workforce development and training
- Providing adequate human services funding to provide services for all those that need it.

The most consistent aspect of this discussion was that all goals will most effectively be met if they are seen, and addressed inclusively and broadly, especially as they relate to education, training, services, and enhancing quality of life. There is also a strong need to identify future and current employment needs and how we can best position residents to meet the skill requirements of area employers.

Emerging Priorities for Income

After careful analysis of all the primary and secondary data and subsequent discussions, several important income priorities emerged. Each has consistently been identified as a critical area to address as we move forward. It is our hope that these priorities will form the foundation of a wide range of initiatives to address human service needs, be incorporated into our partners planning and funding considerations, and become areas around which we can begin to assess measurable impact across the two-county area.

- Expanding job opportunities and economic diversity
 - Increase opportunities for families to earn a living wage
 - Increase the diversity of the economic sector
- Increasing workforce development and training
 - Increase coordination of programs offering education and training
 - Improve incentives for moving into the workforce
- Ensuring adequate human service resources to meet community needs
 - Increase collaborative opportunities for funding
 - Increase opportunities for family financial management education
 - Increase opportunities for new housing models, especially around affordable housing

Executive Summary - The Mifflin Juniata Human Services Needs Assessment 2013

A two-county community human services needs assessment was commissioned by the Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department to include an assessment of needs in Mifflin and Juniata counties in Pennsylvania. The two-county area is known as the Juniata Valley.

Along with the Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department, partner agencies participating in the assessment process included United Way of Mifflin- Juniata, Penn State Extension, and Lewistown Hospital.

The community needs assessment focused on education, health, and income with questions related to the following areas:

- Health care access and quality
- Child and family well-being
- Transportation
- Housing
- Community and economic development

The first step in the community needs assessment was to assess the priorities of the human services sector. Fifty-one surveys were sent to service-related organizations and public officials in the two-county area. The response rate was 80.4 percent.

Following the human service provider survey, a random-sample citizen survey was sent to 3,000 residents in Mifflin and Juniata counties. The response rate was 17 percent. Based on this response, it can be estimated (with a 95 percent confidence level) that the responses received accurately reflect (with a margin of error of +/-5 percent) those that would have been expected if all 70,000 residents in Mifflin and Juniata counties were surveyed.

During the third phase of the assessment, a community leaders' forum was held to assess an in-depth and solutions-oriented perspective of the findings in the citizen survey and the human service provider survey. Participants in the leaders' forum discussed potential strategies and approaches the two-county area could take to move forward in addressing human service needs.

In the fourth phase, five focus groups were conducted with community members and agency representatives to discuss needs in the community. The purpose was to acquire broad participation and perspectives. A total of fifty-one leaders, public officials, and interested residents attended one or more focus groups. Secondary data that was also considered in the process included a comprehensive analysis of the health status, educational, and socio-economic environmental factors for both Mifflin and Juniata Counties.

The Human Services Needs Assessment identified significant needs in our community around the following key themes.

Education:

- Improving lifelong learning opportunities
- Improving/expanding job readiness and workforce training opportunities
- Increasing family/household education

Health:

- Improving access to health care
- Improving the quality of health care
- Providing resources for healthy lifestyle choices

Income:

- Expanding job opportunities and economic diversity
- Increasing workforce development and training
- Ensuring adequate human service resources to meet community need
- The full report provides additional details related to the needs in the areas of education, health, and income.

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Appendix I

Needs Assessment Partners

Geisinger Lewistown Hospital

Geisinger Health System Foundation is the parent corporation that owns and operates the Geisinger Lewistown Hospital, Family Health Associates of Geisinger Lewistown Hospital, and Lewistown Ambulatory Care Corporation.

Vision

- To be the leading community healthcare organization in Central Pennsylvania. To provide direct access to specialty services through collaboration with advanced medical specialty centers.
- To improve the health status of our communities.

Mission

To provide personal, high-quality, economical healthcare for our communities.

Our Strategic Directions

To be an organization that:

- Assures access to essential healthcare services for its communities.
- Values safe and quality healthcare.
- Embraces an empowered, positive workforce.
- Is fully integrated and patient-centered.
- Is appealing, safe, and customer-oriented.

Geisinger Lewistown Hospital serves approximately 80,000 residents throughout the Central Pennsylvania region. Geisinger Lewistown Hospital has been in operation since 1905, and currently is a 123-bed acute care community hospital accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and offers a comprehensive range of inpatient and outpatient services. Family Health Associates of Geisinger Lewistown Hospital is a multi-specialty group practice with 18 physicians and seven mid-level providers located at nine different office locations in Mifflin and Juniata counties. Lewistown Ambulatory Care Corporation (LACC) is a not-for-profit entity operating primarily as a real estate holding company, which includes all properties owned by Geisinger Lewistown Hospital except for the main hospital facility.

Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department

The MJCHSD is responsible for promoting policies and programs that protect and support human service activities in Mifflin and Juniata counties. The Department coordinates and facilitates the provision of services and programs that work to address economic self-sufficiency and promote the social well-being of residents in both counties. The Department is responsible for planning for the human services needs of county residents, developing needed programs, administering funding, and monitoring and evaluating program performance.

Vision

The MJCHSD meets the needs of our community and empowers individuals and families through accessible and responsive services that meet their needs most effectively and efficiently.

Mission

The mission of the MJCHSD is to strengthen and secure maximum independence for individuals and families through comprehensive services.

In 2004, the Mifflin and Juniata County Commissioners agreed to combine the Human Services Departments for both counties. From this agreement, the Mifflin Juniata County Human Services Department was created. The Department serves as the administering agency for several human-service-related grants received by the counties. The MJCHSD provides linkage between the County Commissioners and publicly and privately funded human service system providers in both counties.

A large part of administering funding for the county relates to the allocation and oversight of state and federal funds to provide comprehensive human service delivery in Mifflin and Juniata counties. These funds include the Homeless Assistance Program (HAP), Human Service Development Fund (HSDF), Community Service Block Grants (CSBG), Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) and the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP).

The MJCHSD is also responsible for the coordination of the grant application process for county row offices including researching sources of funding for new grants and submitting applications for such funding. The Department also provides grant-related technical assistance to municipalities, local and regional police departments, emergency services, and nonprofit agencies serving county residents.

Penn State Extension

Penn State Extension is an educational network that gives people in Pennsylvania's 67 counties access to the University's resources and expertise.

Helps individuals, families, businesses, and communities throughout Pennsylvania with information and a broad range of educational programs designed to:

- Support productive, profitable, and competitive businesses and a strong agriculture and food system
- Strengthen families, children and youth, and the elderly
- Build caring, safe, and healthy communities
- Ensure the long-term vitality of Pennsylvania's natural resources
- Enable people to better understand and deal with complex public issues

What is Extension?

It is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and state and county governments. Through this county-based partnership, Penn State Extension educators, faculty, and local volunteers work together to share unbiased, research-based information with residents. Here are just a few of the many ways Penn State Extension can help

Individuals

- Managing time and stress
- Enhancing employment opportunities
- Maintaining your home
- Improving nutrition, diet, and health
- Developing the potential of youth through 4-H
- Becoming a master gardener
- Improving the lives of the elderly

- Increasing agricultural profitability
- Evaluating community and regional resources
- Delivering quality child care
- Certifying food safety
- Troubleshooting production problems
- Starting home-based businesses
- Preparing tax forms properly
- Using technology appropriately
- Supporting the food and forest products industries

Families

- Managing family resources
- Making sound and economical nutrition and food choices
- Preparing and preserving food safely
- Improving your parenting skills
- Caring for children and seniors
- Balancing work and family
- Gardening and landscaping

Communities

- Strengthening community leadership
- Revitalizing communities through economic development
- Expanding and retaining businesses
- Educating county and local officials
- Improving community relations
- Managing water, soil, and forest resources
- Promoting cooperation among agencies

Businesses

United Way of Mifflin-Juniata

Mission

Improving People's Lives by Mobilizing the Caring Power of the Community.

History

The local United Way was started in 1934 when organizations met to discuss the feasibility of a community fund under the umbrella of the Mifflin County Chamber of Commerce. This was done to meet the needs of financially disadvantaged families in the area. Juniata County came on board as a partner in 1963 and the name was changed to the Mifflin-Juniata United Community Fund. In 1978, the name was changed again to the United Way of Mifflin-Juniata.

In the 1990s, the United Way, along with funding traditional partners, began initiatives like Youth Day of Caring, Day of Caring, Success by 6, Summer Food Program, Money In Your Pocket Income Tax Assistance, and 2-1-1. The United Way budget is primarily driven by the generosity of the local community. In 2012, \$538,600 was raised to invest in the stability of our children, families, special needs populations, and the elderly. In addition to local funds, staff seeks out other funding opportunities such as grants and foundation dollars.

United Way is managed by a local volunteer board and while part of an international system, its decisions are autonomous to address local needs. Money raised is distributed through an annual Request for Proposal process. Any human service agency meeting minimum standards and providing a program that meets a community need is encouraged to apply. Teams of community volunteers review the proposals and make recommendations to the board of directors for final approval. Programs are funded that show impact on needs addressed in this assessment.

Surveys

TOPIC AREA: Education⁷³

Priority Issues and Considerations⁷⁴

Education

- Improving/providing better schools (K-12)
- Improving/expanding job training/workforce development opportunities
- Increasing affordability and access to higher education
- Decreasing the high school drop-out rate
- Increasing involvement of parents in their children's education
- Increasing family financial management skills
- Expanding parenting education for teens and adults
- Expanding education regarding available services and opportunities
- Educating about healthy life styles
- Improving access to and quality of pre-school services
- Improving match between employer skill needs and employee skills ability
- Improving school information
- Improving leadership training opportunities for all ages

Related Considerations

- Improving recreational/educationally enriching activities and programs for youth
- Increasing volunteerism and community engagement of youth
- Attract more young families to the area.
- Overcome negative perceptions of many about the area

⁷³ Summarized findings from 1) random sample residential survey; 2) human service provider survey; 3) two county strategic planning session

⁷⁴ Most frequently cited, in approximate order of decreasing importance

TOPIC AREA: Health⁷⁵
Priority Issues and Considerations⁷⁶

Health Care

- Improving health care quality
- Improving primary care access and affordability
- Improving chronic health care services
- Expanding mental health services
- Improving emergency care services
- Expanding preventative care services
- Improving/expanding specialist care and services
- Expanding dental health services
- Providing low-cost alternatives to uninsured and under-insured
- Expanding wellness programs
- Expanding education regarding available services
- Improving health/behavioral health integration
- Improving/expanding family planning services

Related Considerations

- Increasing affordability and access to insurance
- Reduce lifestyle diseases (diabetes, obesity, smoking etc)
- Reducing drug and alcohol abuse among adults and teens
- Improving transportation to services
- Improving parental skills regarding basic care for children

⁷⁵ Summarized findings from 1) random sample residential survey; 2) human service provider survey; 3) two county strategic planning session

⁷⁶ Most frequently cited, in approximate order of decreasing importance

TOPIC AREA: Income⁷⁷

Priority Issues and Considerations⁷⁸

Jobs and Income

- Increasing job opportunities at all skill levels
- Expanding job opportunities for young people and families to earn a living wage
- Attract more and more diverse industries and businesses

Income Support and Services

- Providing adequate funding to ensure human services are available to all those that need them.
- Increasing incentives for unemployed or under-employed to move into the workforce
- Increasing assistance for and development of affordable housing (rentals and ownership)
- Increasing support services for elderly and child care
- Improving family financial management skills
- Decreasing poverty – multi-faceted approaches
- Increasing emergency assistance: food, housing etc

Related Considerations

- Increasing level of education of workforce for new and emerging businesses
- increasing/improving job and workforce development and training to better match employer needs and employee skills
- Improving coordination and provision of training and other employment-related services/opportunities
- Increasing transportation services
- Improving K-12 education
- Increasing access to higher education
- Helping youth develop life skills

⁷⁷ Summarized findings from 1) random sample residential survey; 2) human service provider survey; and 3) two county strategic planning session

⁷⁸ Most frequently cited, in decreasing order of importance

Self-Sufficiency Standard

Juniata County

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for
Juniata County, PA 2021

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + preschooler	Adult + infant + preschooler	Adult + preschooler + school-age	Adult + school-age + teenager	Adult + infant + preschooler + school-age	2 Adults + infant + preschooler	2 Adults + preschooler + school-age
Housing	\$550	\$724	\$724	\$724	\$724	\$901	\$724	\$724
Child Care	\$0	\$879	\$1,513	\$1,443	\$564	\$2,076	\$1,513	\$1,443
Food	\$284	\$429	\$564	\$650	\$754	\$766	\$792	\$874
Transportation	\$277	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$544	\$544
Health Care	\$233	\$594	\$630	\$644	\$682	\$679	\$717	\$731
Miscellaneous	\$134	\$291	\$372	\$375	\$301	\$471	\$429	\$432
Taxes	\$276	\$651	\$859	\$869	\$577	\$1,146	\$960	\$969
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$141)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$50)	(\$100)	(\$100)	(\$110)	(\$100)	(\$100)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$167)	(\$333)	(\$333)	(\$311)	(\$500)	(\$333)	(\$333)
Self-Sufficiency Wage								
Hourly	\$9.97	\$20.67	\$25.64	\$25.88	\$18.90	\$32.52	\$14.90	\$15.01
							<i>per adult</i>	<i>per adult</i>
Monthly	\$1,754	\$3,638	\$4,513	\$4,555	\$3,326	\$5,724	\$5,246	\$5,282
Annual	\$21,054	\$43,653	\$54,157	\$54,663	\$39,909	\$68,692	\$62,948	\$63,384

Source: Center for Women's Welfare, Self Sufficiency Standard for Pennsylvania 2021," Pennsylvania, accessed October 2023,
<https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/pennsylvania/>

Self-Sufficiency Standard**Mifflin County****The Self-Sufficiency Standard for
Mifflin County, PA 2021**

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + preschooler	Adult + infant + preschooler	Adult + preschooler + school-age	Adult + school-age + teenager	Adult + infant + preschooler + school-age	2 Adults + infant + preschooler	2 Adults + preschooler + school-age
Housing	\$616	\$724	\$724	\$724	\$724	\$970	\$724	\$724
Child Care	\$0	\$954	\$1,856	\$1,610	\$656	\$2,511	\$1,856	\$1,610
Food	\$238	\$360	\$473	\$544	\$631	\$641	\$664	\$732
Transportation	\$277	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$544	\$544
Health Care	\$266	\$704	\$740	\$753	\$792	\$789	\$827	\$840
Miscellaneous	\$140	\$303	\$408	\$392	\$309	\$520	\$461	\$445
Taxes	\$301	\$708	\$1,006	\$949	\$624	\$1,400	\$1,097	\$1,040
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$109)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$50)	(\$100)	(\$100)	(\$105)	(\$100)	(\$100)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$167)	(\$333)	(\$333)	(\$333)	(\$500)	(\$333)	(\$333)
Self- Sufficiency Wage								
Hourly	\$10.43	\$21.17	\$28.73	\$27.41	\$19.73	\$37.03	\$16.31	\$15.63
							<i>per adult</i>	<i>per adult</i>
Monthly	\$1,836	\$3,821	\$5,057	\$4,824	\$3,473	\$6,517	\$5,739	\$5,501
Annual	\$22,034	\$45,849	\$60,686	\$57,885	\$41,677	\$78,200	\$68,873	\$66,013

Source: Source: Center for Women's Welfare, Self-Sufficiency Standard for Pennsylvania 2021," Pennsylvania, accessed Oct. 2023 , <https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/pennsylvania/>

Education Tables

Table 1: Juniata County Public Schools

<i>Juniata County Public Schools</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Enrollment 2022-2023</i>
East Juniata El Sch	K-6	390
East Juniata JSHS	7-12	406
Juniata El Sch	K-5	676
Juniata SHS	9-12	546
Tuscarora MS	6-8	312
TOTAL Public Enrollment		2,330

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Public School Enrollments 2022-2023 ,” Enrollment Reports and Projections, accessed November 2023, <http://www.education.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/Pages/Enrollment%20Reports%20and%20Projections.aspx#tab-1>.

Table 2: Mifflin County Public Schools

<i>Mifflin County Public Schools</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Enrollment 2022-2023</i>
Mifflin County High School	10-12	1,086
Mifflin County Junior High School	8-9	768
Mifflin County Middle School	6-7	689
Lewistown Elementary School	K-3	486
Lewistown Intermediate School	4-5	503
Indian Valley Elementary School	K-3	368
East Derry Elementary School	K-3	276
Strodes Mills Elementary School	K-3	237
Indian Valley Intermediate School	4-5	218
TOTAL Public Enrollment		4,631

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Public School Enrollments 2022-2023 ,” Enrollment Reports and Projections, <http://www.education.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/Pages/Enrollment%20Reports%20and%20Projections.aspx#tab-1>.

Table 3: Juniata County Private Schools Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2022-2023 Private & Non-Public Schools Enrollment Reports, www.pde.state.pa.us

<i>Juniata County Private Schools</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Enrollment 2022-2023</i>
Breezy Hollow Amish School	1-9	30
Red Rock School	1-8	22
Cocolamus Christian Mennonite School	1-9	30
Mountain View Amish School	1-9	29
Windy Acres School	1-9	23
Delaware Creek School	1-9	30
Cedar Springs Parochial School	1-9	24
Black Rock Amish School	1-8	28
East Salem Amish Parochial Sch	1-9	25
Juniata Christian School	K-12	213
Goodwill Menn Chrst Day School	1-9	0
Walker Mennonite School	1-9	58
Kurtz Valley Amish School	1-9	33
Laurel Run Amish School	1-7	0
Rockland Sunbeams Amish School	K-7	3
Ridgeside School	1-9	5
Shade Mountain Christian School	1-10	78
Cedar View School	1-9	26
Soaring Heights School - Mifflin	K-12	22
TOTAL Private Enrollment		679

Table 4: Mifflin County Private Schools

<i>Mifflin County Private Schools</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Enrollment 2022-2023</i>
Orchard Side School	1-8	19
Green Lane School House	1-8	30
Allison Gap School	1-8	31
Soft Run School	1-8	27
Hill Top Special Ed School	1-8	0
Barefoot School	1-8	29
Coffee Run Private Parochial School	1-8	17
Locust Hill Amish School	1-8	25
Back Mountain Amish School	1-8	27
Beth-El Christian Day School	1-12	62
Belleville Mennonite School	PK-12	229
Green Gate Amish School	1-8	19

Church Lane Amish School	1-8	27
Clearview Amish School	1-8	27
Barrville Amish School	1-8	38
Decatur Amish Parochial School	1-8	0
Shale Bank Amish School	1-8	28
Dry Hollow Amish School	1-8	27
Sunrise Special Education Amish School	1-8	1
Gospel Light School	2-9	0
Hickory Grove Special School	1-8	9
Hollow View School	1-7	29
Kish Creek School	1-8	28
Meadow View Amish School	1-8	33
Treaster Valley Amish School	1-8	26
Fog Hollow Amish School	1-8	0
Mifflin County Christian Academy	PK-12	115
Mountain View Amish School	1-8	22
Sunrise Amish School	1-8	25
Ka Vee Amish School	1-8	28
Poplar Grove School	1-12	28
Rock Haven Christian School	K-9	25
Sunny Sunbeam Special Amish School	1-8	9
Pine Grove Amish School	1-8	19
Sacred Heart of Jesus School	PK – 5	63
Shady Acre School	1-8	30
Shady Grove Amish School	1-8	28
Wylie Brook Amish School	1-8	26
Stony Hill School	1-8	22
Sunnyside Amish School	1-8	25
Sunnyview School	1-8	26
Valley View Christian School	1-12	73
Waynesburg Amish School	1-8	28
Living Springs Christian School	1-8	0
White Hall Amish School	1-8	24
Woodland Amish School	1-8	26
TOTAL Private Enrollment		1,430

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2022-2023 Private & Non-Public Schools Enrollment Reports (www.pde.state.pa.us)

Table 5: Education

<i>Alternative Education</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Enrollment 2022-2023</i>
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Alpha Program (Mifflin)	7-12	132 full-time, 343 part-time
MC Online (Mifflin)	K-5	38 full-time
Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology *	10-12	388
Juniata County Virtual Academy	3-12	71
TOTAL Alternative Enrollment		972

Source: mcsdk12.org; jcsdk12.org

* Includes students from Mifflin County High School, East Juniata High School, and Juniata High School

Appendix V

Data Tables

Table 1: Population

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Population, 1900	6,302,115	16,054	23,160
Population, 1950	10,498,012	15,243	43,691
Population, 1990	11,881,643	20,625	46,197
Population, 2000	12,281,054	22,821	46,486
Population, 2010	12,702,379	24,636	46,682
Population, 2020	13,002,700	23,509	46,143
% Change, 2000-10	3.4%	8.0%	0.4%
% Change, 2010-20	2.4%	-4.6%	-1.1%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 2: Population Projections

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total Population (Projections), 2020	13,230,170	24,681	48,102
Total Population (Projections), 2030	13,759,594	25,013	49,578
Total Population (Projections), 2040	14,132,588	25,094	50,709

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 3: Area and Population Density

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Land Area in Square Miles, 2020	44,742.2	391.4	411.0
Population Per Square Mile	290.6	60.1	112.3

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 4: Municipalities by Population Size

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
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# Municipalities, 2020	2,560	17	16
With Population Less Than 2,500	59.4 %	82.4%	56.3 %
With Population of 2,500 to 4,999	18.3 %	17.6%	31.3%
With Population 5,000 to 9,999	12.0 %	0.0%	12.5 %
With Population 10,000+	10.3%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

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Table 5: Rural & Urban Municipalities

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Rural Municipalities, 2020	1,649	17	15
# Urban Municipalities, 2020	911	0	1

Source:: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 6: Age Cohorts

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
% Population <18 Years Old	20.9%	22.7%	22.6%
% Population 18 to 34 Years Old	22.0%	18.5%	18.4%
% Population 35 to 64 Years Old	38.9%	38.6%	37.8%
% Population 65+ Years Old	18.2 %	20.2 %	21.2 %
Median Age, 1990	35.1	35.1	35.1
Median Age, 2000	38.0	38.0	38.0
Median Age, 2010	39.8	40.2	41.7
Median Age, 2021	40.8	42.6	43.6

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

Pennsylvania Data Center, “Detailed Population and Housing Data, 2021 ,” Local 2021 Census Data Released for Pennsylvania, <https://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/Data/Census2010/tabid/1489/Default.aspx>

Table 7: Households/Families

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Households, 2010-14	4,957,736	9,329	18,822
# Families, 2010-14	3,203,939	6,620	12,531
# Households, 2021	5,147,783	8,756	18,641
# Families, 2021	3,270,091	5,941	13,008

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

Table 8: Types of Households

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total # Households, 2021	5,147,783	8,756	18,641
Married-couples With Own Children (<18)	16.8%	19.5%	16.4%
Married-couples With No Own Children	30.4%	36.8%	38.0%
Single Parents (Male/Female, No Spouse, Children <18)	8.2%	6.4%	8.5%
Single person Households	30.0%	27.2%	25.5%
Other types of Households	14.6%	10.1%	11.5%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

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Table 9: Persons per Household

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Avg. # Person in Households, 1990	2.57	2.66	2.58
Avg. # Person in Households, 2000	2.48	2.60	2.49
Avg. # Person in Households, 2010	2.45	2.57	2.46
Avg. # Person in Households, 2021	2.44	2.67	2.44

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 10: Housing

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Housing Units, 2010-14	5,578,393	10,998	21,539
# Housing Units, 2021	5,728,788	10,506	21,347

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 11: Vacant Housing Units

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Vacant Housing Units, 2021	581,005	1,750	2,706
Housing Units Vacant	10.1%	16.7%	12.7%
Vacant Units that are Seasonal, Recreational, Occasional Use	27.3%	59.8%	53.6%
Vacant Units for Rent/Sale	30.5%	13.9%	15.8%
Vacant Units for Other Reasons	42.2%	26.3%	30.6%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 12: Housing Units by Type

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total # Housing Units, 2021	5,728,788	10,506	21,347
Single Family Home (Detached 1 Unit)	56.8%	76.2%	71.5%
Duplex/Townhouse/Row Home (Attached 1 Unit)	18.9%	2.8%	8.2%

Small Apartment Building (2 to 9 Units)	11.4%	6.2%	8.9%
Large Apartment Building (10 or More Units)	9.1%	4.6%	3.4%
Mobile Home & Other Types of Units	3.7%	10.2%	8.1%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

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Table 13: Homeownership

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Occupied Housing Units, 2021	5,147,783	8,756	18,641
Homeownership Rate (Owner-Occupied Units)	69.2%	74.0%	72.3%
Renters (Renter-Occupied Units)	30.8%	26.0%	27.7%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

Table 14: Housing Values & Rent

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Median Housing Value, 2021	\$197,300	\$161,000	\$119,400
Average Housing Value, 2021	\$244,415	\$238,869	\$145,702
Median Gross Monthly Rent, 2021	\$1,013	\$672	\$721
Average Gross Monthly Rent, 2021	\$1,105	\$719	\$719

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 15: Income to Housing Costs

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Homeowners Paying Less than 30% of Income for Housing	76.3%	78.7%	74.8%
Homeowners Paying 50%+ of Income for Housing	9.1%	6.3%	6.6%
# Renters With Income and Paying Cash Rent, 2021	1,470,336	1,935	4,709
Renters Paying Less than 30% of Income for Housing	53.1%	65.6%	60.8%
Renters Paying 30% to 49% of Income for Housing	23.1%	18.2%	22.3%
Renters Paying 50%+ of Income for Housing	23.9%	16.2%	16.9%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

Table 16: Building Permits

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Construction Permits, 2012	18,796	31	38
Construction Permits, 2013	21,650	41	51
Construction Permits, 2014	25,059	34	56
Construction Permits, 2020	28,008	53	91

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

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Table 17: Household Income

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Median Household Income, 2012	\$52,818	\$43,576	\$39,409
Median Household Income, 2013	\$52,849	\$46,932	\$43,258
Median Household Income, 2014	\$53,224	\$48,944	\$40,957
Median Household Income, 2021	\$86,142	\$74,497	\$63,280

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 18: Range of Household Incomes

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Households with Income, 2021	5,147,783	8,756	18,641
Household Income (<\$50,000)	37.5%	43.8%	43.8%
Household Income (\$50,000 to \$99,999)	30.3%	33.6%	38.9%
Household Income (\$100,000-\$149,999)	16.4%	15.2%	12.3%
Household Income (\$150,000+)	15.8%	7.4%	4.9%
Average Household Income, 2021	\$92,849	\$71,966	\$67,395

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

Table 19: Selected Sources of Household Income (Totals do not all add up to 100% due to multiple income sources)

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Households with Income, 2021	5,147,783	8,756	18,641
Households with Income from Wages & Salaries	75.8%	70.2%	73.7%
Households with Income from Social Security	34.9%	37.1%	40.1%
Households with Income from Supplemental Security Income	5.6%	6.1%	6.8%

Households with Income from Public Assistance	14.3%	10.9%	14.9%
Household with Income from Retirement	24.8%	23.8%	25.6%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

Table 20: Per Capita Income

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Per Capita Personal Income, 2012	\$47,206	\$34,746	\$32,562
Per Capita Personal Income, 2013	\$46,775	\$35,783	\$32,910
Per Capita Personal Income, 2014	\$47,679	\$36,607	\$33,621
Per Capita Personal Income, 2021	\$37,725	\$28,263	\$27,424

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

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Table 21: Sources of Income

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total Personal Income (\$1,000), 2021	\$833,314,466	\$1,314,469	\$2,157,711
% Income from Wages & Salaries	63.8%	63.3%	57.7%
% Income from Dividends, Interest, & Rent	17.0%	14.0%	13.0%
% Income from Transfer Payments	19.2%	22.7%	29.3%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2016 County Profiles," Demographics, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Regional GDP & Personal Income", <https://www.bea.gov/itable/regional-gdp-and-personal-income>

Table 22: Poverty

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total Poverty Rate, 2012	13.7%	12.0%	16.3%
Total Poverty Rate, 2013	13.7%	11.8%	14.5%
Total Poverty Rate, 2014	13.6%	12.3%	16.3%
Total Poverty Rate, 2021	11.8%	9.6%	15.3%
Poverty Rate for Children (< 18), 2012	19.6%	17.2%	27.0%
Poverty Rate for Children (< 18), 2013	19.2%	17.5%	24.4%
Poverty Rate for Children (< 18), 2014	19.2%	18.4%	25.0%
Poverty Rate for Children (<18), 2021	16.4%	14.9%	24.9%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 23: Public Assistance

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Population Receiving Cash Assistance, 2021	70,932	12	221
Population Eligible for Medical Assistance, 2021	3,387,014	4,886	12,524
Population Participating in Food Stamp Program, 2021	1,852,173	2,331	6,935

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 24: PACE (Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly)

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total Number Enrolled in PACE/PACENET, 2021	227,032	786	1,798
65+ Population Enrolled in PACE/PACENET, 2021	9.3%	15.1%	17.5%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

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Table 25: Educational Attainment

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Persons, 25 Years Old & Older, 2021	9,111,497	16,513	32,369
No High School Diploma	8.6%	17.0%	14.7%
High School Diploma or Equivalency	33.8%	49.1%	49.7%
Some College, No Degree	15.7 %	12.1 %	14.2 %
Associate's Degree	8.7%	7.2%	8.2%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	33.1%	14.5%	13.3%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 26: School Districts & Number of Students

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
School Districts 2021-2022	500	1	1
Students (Average Daily Membership), 2021-22	1,515,928	2,330	4,717
Projected Enrollment, 2021-22	1,596,251	2,811	4,784

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 27: Public and Private School Enrollment

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total # Students Enrolled in Grades K-12, 2021	1,974,605	3,644	6,822
% Enrolled in Public Schools	85.7%	72.6%	75.4%
% Enrolled in Private Schools	14.3%	27.4%	24.6%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 28: School Revenues

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
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Total School Revenues (\$1,000), 2020-2021	\$33,672,354	\$45,318	\$85,330
Revenues from Local Sources	55.9%	42.0%	42.8%
Revenues from State Sources	36.0%	49.4%	48.0%
Revenues from Federal & Other Sources	8.1%	8.6%	9.2%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

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Table 29: School Expenditures

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total Expenditures Per Student, 2020-2021	\$19,719	\$16,211	\$16,493

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 30: Low Income Students

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Students Eligible for Free & Reduced School Lunches, 2012	41.5%	40.6%	48.9%
Students Eligible for Free & Reduced School Lunches, 2013	42.6%	41.3%	49.8%
Students Eligible for Free & Reduced School Lunches, 2014	46.9%	43.7%	52.8%
Students Eligible for Free & Reduced School Lunches, 2021	53.5%	43.9%	53.9%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 31: Graduation Rate and Postsecondary Participation Rates

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Graduation Rate (4-year Cohort), 2018-19	88.4%	94.7%	90.9%
Graduation Rate (4-year Cohort), 2019-20	89.2%	91.9%	89.8%
Graduation Rate (4-year Cohort), 2020-21	88.2%	88.9%	86.2%
High School Grads who Plan on Post-secondary Education, 2011-12	76.2%	51.7%	57.1%
High School Grads who Plan on Post-secondary Education, 2012-13	76.6%	61.6%	66.5%
High School Grads who Plan on Post-secondary Education, 2021-22	62.3%	50.6%	40.9%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

PA Department of Education Definitions:

Cohort: Students who together entered high school (defined by 9th Grade) for the first time during the same school year. Determined by the data field "Grade 09 Entry Date" in the Student Template of PIMS.

Cohort Graduation Rate: A measurement of what percentage of a cohort have graduated within a specific time-frame. For example, the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate is the percentage of students who entered 9th Grade four years ago that have graduated by the end of the four years.

Graduates: Students who earned and graduated with a regular high school diploma by the end of the measurement period. DOES NOT include students who earned a GED or students who walk with their class but did not earn their diploma at that time.

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LEA: Local Educational Agency

- Local educational agency: As defined in ESEA, a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school districts or counties that is recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.⁷⁹

PIMS: Pennsylvania Information Management System - State-wide data collection database.

- Pennsylvania Information Management Systems (PIMS): The Pennsylvania Department of Education's statewide longitudinal data system is improving data capabilities by enhancing school districts' capacities to meet student-level data reporting requirements and provide robust decision support tools. PIMS is based on open internet standards that enable sharing among diverse, otherwise incompatible systems and includes safeguards for data quality and security.⁸⁰

Table 32: A quick reference of which graduation rates correspond to which 9th Grade Cohorts:

Cohort	Cohort Graduation Rate		
	4-Year	5-Year	6-Year
2012-13	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18

⁷⁹ U.S. Department of Education, "Local Educational Agency," Definitions, accessed July 21, 2016, <http://www.ed.gov/race-top/district-competition/definitions>.

⁸⁰ Pennsylvania Department of Education, "Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS)," accessed July 21, 2016, <http://www.education.pa.gov/teachers%20-%20administrators/pims/pages/default.aspx#tab-1>.

2013-14	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
2014-15	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
2015-16	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
2016-17	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22

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Table 33: 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2019-20 ⁸¹

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
Pennsylvania Totals	123,956	138,470	89.52%	62,057	70,836	87.61%	61,899	67,634	91.52%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data (Mifflin County High School)	393	418	94.02%	n/a	n/a	91.32%	n/a	n/a	96.98%
Mifflin County SC Totals – PIMS data	393	418	94.02%	n/a	n/a	91.32%	n/a	n/a	96.98%

Table 34: 6-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2019-20 ⁸²

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
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⁸¹ PA Department of Education, “2019-2020 Pennsylvania 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁸² PA Department of Education, “2019-2020 Pennsylvania 6-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

Pennsylvania Totals	124,955	139,058	89.86%	62,549	70,940	88.17%	62,406	68,118	91.61%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data (Mifflin County High School)	420	447	93.96%	n/a	n/a	93.25%	n/a	n/a	94.76%
Mifflin County SC Totals – PIMS data	420	447	93.96%	n/a	n/a	93.25%	n/a	n/a	94.76%

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Table 35: 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2018-19 ⁸³

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
Pennsylvania Totals	119,750	138,406	86.52%	59,628	70,793	84.23%	60,122	67,613	88.92%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data (Mifflin County High School)	378	416	90.87%	n/a	n/a	86.61%	n/a	n/a	92.75%
Mifflin County SC Totals – PIMS data	378	416	90.87%	n/a	n/a	87.16%	n/a	n/a	94.95%

Table 36: 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2018-19 ⁸⁴

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
Pennsylvania Totals	123,580	139,032	88.89%	61,782	70,940	87.09%	61,796	68,092	90.76%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data	417	446	93.50%	n/a	n/a	92.41%	n/a	n/a	94.74%

⁸³ PA Department of Education, “2018-2019 Pennsylvania 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁸⁴ PA Department of Education, “2018-2019 Pennsylvania 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>

(Mifflin County High School)									
Mifflin County SC Totals – PIMS data	417	446	93.50%	n/a	n/a	92.41%	n/a	n/a	94.74%

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Table 37: 6-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2018-19 ⁸⁵

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
Pennsylvania Totals	124,229	138,393	89.77%	62,413	70,764	88.20%	61,816	67,629	91.40%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data (Mifflin County High School)	360	398	90.451 %	n/a	n/a	87.98%	n/a	n/a	92.56%
Mifflin County SC Totals – PIMS data	360	395	91.14%	n/a	n/a	89.44%	n/a	n/a	92.56 %

Table 38: 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2017-18 ⁸⁶

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
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⁸⁵ PA Department of Education, “2018-2019 Pennsylvania 6-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁸⁶ PA Department of Education, “2017-2018 Pennsylvania 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

Pennsylvania Totals	119,765	139,510	85.85%	59,463	71,247	83.46%	60,302	68,263	88.34%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data (Mifflin County High School)	405	444	91.22%	n/a	n/a	89.36%	n/a	n/a	93.30%
Mifflin County SC Totals – PIMS data	405	444	91.22%	n/a	n/a	89.36%	n/a	n/a	93.30%

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Table 39: 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2017-18 ⁸⁷

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
Pennsylvania Totals	122,818	138,800	88.49%	61,556	71,021	86.67%	61,262	67,779	90.38%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data (Mifflin County High School)	355	397	89.42%	n/a	n/a	86.74%	n/a	n/a	91.67%
Mifflin County SC Totals – PIMS data	355	394	90.10%	n/a	n/a	88.20%	n/a	n/a	91.67%

Table 40: 6-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2017-18 ⁸⁸

⁸⁷ PA Department of Education, “2017-2018 Pennsylvania 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁸⁸ PA Department of Education, “2017-2018 Pennsylvania 6-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
Pennsylvania Totals	123,606	138,061	89.53%	62,294	70,890	87.87%	61,312	67.17	91.28%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data (Mifflin County High School)	364	393	92.62%	n/a	n/a	90.05%	n/a	n/a	95.60%
Mifflin County SC Totals – PIMS data	364	389	93.57%	n/a	n/a	91.35%	n/a	n/a	96.13%

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Table 41: 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2016-17⁸⁹

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
Pennsylvania Totals	118,366	136,731	86.57%	58,884	69,750	84.42%	59,482	66,981	88.80%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data	342	385	88.83%	n/a	n/a	85.55%	n/a	n/a	91.51%
Mifflin County High School – PIMS data	342	382	89.53%	n/a	n/a	87.06%	n/a	n/a	91.51%

Table 42: 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2016-17⁹⁰

⁸⁹ PA Department of Education, “2016-2017 Pennsylvania 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁹⁰ PA Department of Education, “2016-2017 Pennsylvania 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rates,” Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
Pennsylvania Totals	121,603	136,251	89.25%	61,053	69,685	87.61%	60,550	66,566	90.96%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data	360	388	92.78%	n/a	n/a	89.86%	n/a	n/a	96.13%
Mifflin County High School – PIMS data	360	385	93.99%	n/a	n/a	91.63%	n/a	n/a	96.67%

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Table 43: 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate 2016-2017 ⁹¹

Measure	Total Grads	Total Cohort	Total Grad Rate	Male Grads	Male Cohort	Male Grad Rate	Female Grads	Female Cohort	Female Grad Rate
Pennsylvania Totals	118,366	136,731	86.57%	58,884	69,750	84.42%	59,482	66,981	88.80%
Mifflin County SD Totals – LEA data	342	385	88.83%	n/a	n/a	85.55%	n/a	n/a	91.51%
Mifflin County High School – PIMS data	342	382	89.53%	n/a	n/a	87.06%	n/a	n/a	91.51%

DROPOUT DATA AND STATISTICS⁹²

The Division of Data Quality collects data on secondary-level students who dropout of school.

Data used in calculating dropout rates was collected via the Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS) starting in 2007-08. In prior years, this data was collected via the Public School Enrollment Report (ESPE) and the Public School Dropout Survey (EDGR). These instruments provided a "snapshot" of the fall

⁹¹ PA Department of Education, "2016-2017 Pennsylvania 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates," Cohort Graduation Rate, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/CohortGradRate/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁹²No, <http://www.education.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/Pages/Dropouts.aspx#tab-1>.

enrollment in grades 7 through 12 and the total number of dropouts in those grades throughout a single school year.

The following definitions apply:

DROPOUT - A student who, for any reason other than death, leaves school before graduation without transferring to another school/institution.

DROPOUT RATE - An annual or "event" rate that measures the proportion of students enrolled who drop out during a single school year. The total number of dropouts for the school year is divided by the fall enrollment for the same year.

The total number of dropouts is counted for the 12-month period from October 1 to September 30, but the total secondary enrollment was obtained on October 1 (a snapshot view).

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Table 44: Dropouts - School Year: 2019-20⁹³

School	Oct 1 Enrollment Grades 7-12	Male Dropouts	Female Dropouts	Dropouts	Dropout Rate
Mifflin County HS	1,165	15	12	27	2.32%
Mifflin County JHS	776	1	1	2	0.26%
Mifflin County MS	384	0	0	0	0.00%
School District Total (LEA)	2,325	16	13	29	2.58%

⁹³ PA Department of Education, "Dropouts Public by School 2019-2020," Dropout Data and Statistics, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Dropouts/Pages/default.aspx>.

Table 45: Dropouts - School Year: 2018-19⁹⁴

School	Oct 1 Enrollment Grades 7-12	Male Dropouts	Female Dropouts	Dropouts	Dropout Rate
Mifflin County HS	1,186	16	7	23	1.94%
Mifflin County JHS	789	7	1	8	1.01%
Mifflin County MS	388	0	0	0	0.00%
School District Total (LEA)	2,363	23	8	31	2.95%

Table 46: Dropouts - School Year: 2017-18⁹⁵

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School	Oct 1 Enrollment Grades 7-12	Male Dropouts	Female Dropouts	Dropouts	Dropout Rate
Mifflin County HS	1,216	16	10	26	2.14%
Mifflin County JHS	793	5	2	7	0.88%
Mifflin County MS	386	0	0	0	0.00%
School District Total (LEA)	2,395	21	12	33	3.02%

Table 47: Dropouts - School Year: 2016-17⁹⁶

School	Oct 1 Enrollment Grades 7-12	Male Dropouts	Female Dropouts	Dropouts	Dropout Rate
Mifflin County HS	1,228	15	19	34	2.77%

⁹⁴ PA Department of Education, "Dropouts Public by School 2018-2019," Dropout Data and Statistics, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Dropouts/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁹⁵ PA Department of Education, "Dropouts Public by School 2017-2018," Dropout Data and Statistics, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Dropouts/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁹⁶ PA Department of Education, "Dropouts Public by School 2016-2017," Dropout Data and Statistics, accessed November 2023, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Dropouts/Pages/default.aspx>.

Mifflin County JHS	809	4	1	5	0.62%
Mifflin County MS	394	0	0	0	0.00%
School District Total (LEA)	2,431	19	20	39	3.39%

Table 48: Dropouts - School Year: 2015-16⁹⁷

School	Oct 1 Enrollment Grades 7-12	Male Dropouts	Female Dropouts	Dropouts	Dropout Rate
Mifflin County HS	1,201	21	10	31	2.58%
Mifflin County JHS	849	5	2	7	0.82%
Mifflin County MS	402	0	0	0	0.00%
School District Total (LEA)	2,452	26	12	38	3.41%

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Table 49: Postsecondary Institutions (Excludes Branch Campuses)

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Degree-Granting Institutions (colleges & universities), 2021	225	0	0
Non-Degree Granting Institutions (trade & technical schools), 2021	113	0	2

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, "Pennsylvania Education Directory/Maps"

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/Education-Directory-and-Maps.aspx>.

Table 50: Employment by Sector

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total # Employed Persons, 2021	6,295,594	10,887	21,435
Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance	26.2%	17.1%	24.1%
Manufacturing	11.7%	19.1%	21.1%
Retail Trade	10.9%	12.3%	10.0%
Prof., Scientific, Management, Admin., and Related Services	10.8%	5.4%	5.4%
Arts, Entertainment, Rec. and Accommodation and Food Services	7.8%	4.0%	5.7%
Finance and Insurance, and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6.6%	3.9%	4.7%
Construction	6.0%	11.2%	8.8%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	5.9%	7.7%	6.0%

⁹⁷ PA Department of Education, "Dropouts Public by School 2015-2016," Dropout Data and Statistics, accessed November 2023,

<https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Dropouts/Pages/default.aspx>.

Other Services	4.7%	4.7%	5.6%
Public Administration	4.0%	7.1%	5.9%
Wholesale Trade	2.6%	2.2%	1.8%
Information	1.6%	0.6%	0.8%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining	1.2%	4.6%	2.6%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Employed Persons, 2021	6,295,594	10,887	21,435
Management, Business, and Financial Occupations	16.0%	11.3%	10.4%
Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations	6.2%	1.9%	2.5%
Education, Legal, Community Services, Arts, and Media Occupations	11.1%	8.6%	6.5%
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	7.3%	4.3%	6.6%
Service Occupations	16.7%	12.6%	19.9%
Sales and Office Occupations	20.5%	20.2%	17.9%
Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance Occupations	7.9%	16.3%	12.5%
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations	14.3%	24.8%	23.8%

Table 51: Employment by Occupation

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

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Table 52: Unemployment Rate 2018-2021

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Unemployment Rate 2018	4.5%	4.2%	4.9%
Unemployment Rate 2019	4.5%	4.5%	4.8%
Unemployment Rate 2020	9.1%	7.2%	8.5%
Unemployment Rate 2021	6.4%	5.0%	6.1%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

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Table 53: Unemployment

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Average Unemployment Rate, 2019	4.5%	4.5%	4.8%
Average Unemployment Rate, 2020	9.1%	7.2%	8.5%
Average Unemployment Rate, 2021	6.4%	5.0%	6.1%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>

Table 54: Business Size

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total # Establishments, 2019	327,501	550	1,074
Total # Establishments, 2020	325,825	542	1,062
Total # Establishments, 2021	327,501	500	1,074

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 55: Business Establishments

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
#Business Establishments, 2nd Quarter 2019	326,844	536	1,061
#Business Establishments, 2nd Quarter 2020	325,825	542	1,062
#Business Establishments, 2nd Quarter 2021	327,501	550	1,074

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 56: Employment

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Avg. Employment, 2nd Quarter, 2019	5,769,607	6,879	16,220
Average Employment, 2nd Quarter, 2020	4,917,800	6,051	14,613
Average Employment, 2nd Quarter, 2021	5,427,602	6,691	15,516

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

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Table 57: Place of Work

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Employed Persons 16 Years & Older, 2021	6,173,679	10,813	21,248
Worked in County of Residence	71.9%	52.6%	71.3%
Worked Outside County of Residence,	23.2%	47.0%	27.3%
Worked Outside PA	4.8%	0.4%	1.4%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

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Table 58: Commuting Time

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Avg. Time to Work (Min.), 1990	21.6	26.0	18.4
Avg. Time to Work (Min.), 2000	25.2	32.6	22.1

Avg. Time to Work (Min.), 2010-14	26.1	29.6	23.3
Avg. Time to Work (Min.), 2021	26.9	33.4	23.6

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 59: Banking

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Bank Branch Offices, June 2015	4,394	12	19
% Change in Branch Offices, 2011-15	-6.7%	0.0%	-5.0%
Bank Deposits (millions), June 2015	\$356,316	\$424	\$719
Deposits Per Capita, 2015	\$27,865	\$17,100	\$15,445
% Change in Bank Deposits, 2011-15	12.2%	-4.1%	-1.4%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2016 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 60: Disability by Age

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Non-Institutionalized Persons (all ages) with Disability, 2021	1,778,737	3,161	6,741
Population (all ages)with Disability	13.9%	13.5%	14.8%
# Non-Institutionalized Persons 65+ with Disability, 2021	742,760	1,496	3,152
Population 65+ with Disability	32.5%	32.8%	33.4%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

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Table 61: Birth and Death Rates

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Live Births Per 1,000 Residents, 1983	13.3	14.5	13.8
Live Births Per 1,000 Residents, 1993	13.2	13.4	13.1
Live Births Per 1,000 Residents, 2003	11.8	12.6	12.9
Live Births Per 1,000 Residents, 2013	11.0	10.7	11.9
Live Births Per 1,000 Residents, 2020	10.1	13.2	11.4
Deaths Per 1,000 Residents, 1983	10.2	9.6	9.6
Deaths Per 1,000 Residents, 1993	10.4	9.6	10.5
Deaths Per 1,000 Residents, 2003	10.4	8.5	11.4
Deaths Per 1,000 Residents, 2013	10.1	9.9	11.0
Deaths Per 1,000 Residents, 2020	12.0	14.2	15.9

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm

Table 62: Mortality

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Resident Deaths, 2016-20	692,429	1,350	2,995
Death Rate Per 1,000 Residents, All Causes	10.8	11.0	13.0
Heart Disease Death Rate Per 1,000 Residents	2.52	2.67	2.81
Cancer Death Rate Per 1,000 Residents	2.19	2.35	2.79
Suicide Death Rate Per 1,000 Residents	0.15	0.19	0.20
Drug Overdose Death Rate Per 1,000 Residents	0.34	0.11	0.19

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 63: Reported Pregnancies

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Reported Pregnancies 2015-19	808,373	1,453	3,033
Resulting in Live Births	85.1%	95.7%	95.7%
Ending in Fetal Deaths	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%
Ending in Induced Abortions	14.9%	3.2%	3.5%
Reported Pregnancies Women < 18 Years Old	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

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Table 64: Teen Birth Rates

	United States (Total)	Pennsylvania (State Total)
Birth Rates per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19, 2014	24.2	19.3
Birth Rates per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19, 2011	24.9	31.3
Birth Rates per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19, 2021	13.9	25.6

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, "Pennsylvania Adolescent Reproductive Health Facts," Office of Adolescent Health, <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-health-topics/reproductive-health/states/pa.html>.

Table 65: Births Profile

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Born With Low Birth Weight (Under 2,500 Grams), 2016-20	8.4%	6.6%	7.0%
Born to Unmarried Mothers, 2016-20	41.2%	27.0%	33.5%

Born to Mothers Who Received Medicaid, 2016-20	34.4%	25.0%	29.6%
Born to Mothers Who Did Not Received Prenatal Care in 1st Trimester, 2016-20	26.2%	35.1%	39.0%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 66: Hospitals & Nursing Homes

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
General Acute Care Hospitals, 2021	147	0	1
Hospital Beds Set Up & Staffed, 2021	30,919	0	133
Beds Set Up & Staffed Per 1,000 Residents 2021	2.38	0.00	2.88
# Nursing Homes, 2020-21	689	3	3
# Total Licensed/Approved Nursing Home Beds, 2020-21	87,536	229	417
Total Licensed/Approved Nursing Home Beds Per 1,000 Residents, 2014	6.73	9.74	9.04

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

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Table 67: Health Data

	Juniata County (2022)	Mifflin County (2022)
% Person with Poor or Fair Health	21%	22%
Average Number of Poor Physical Health Days	4.6	4.8
Average Number of Poor Mental Health Days	5.3	5.5
% Low Birthweight Births	6.0%	7.0%
% Persons with Frequent Physical Distress	14.0%	15%
% Persons with Frequent Mental Distress	17.0%	18%
Adult Obesity	37%	37%
Physical Inactivity	31%	32%

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, “Juniata County 2023,” Health Rankings, accessed Oct. 2023, <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/pennsylvania?year=2023>

Table 68: Health Care Providers

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Active Physicians, 2021	49,074	6	70
Active Physicians Per 100,000 Residents, 2021	378.5	25.8	151.7
Active Dentists 2021	7,620	3	14
Active Dentists Per 100,000 Residents, 2021	58.8	12.9	30.3

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm

Table 69: Uninsured Persons

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Without Health Insurance Under 65 Years Old, 2011	12.0%	14.4%	14.9%
Without Health Insurance Under 65 Years Old, 2012	11.7%	14.1%	14.3%
Without Health Insurance Under 65 Years Old, 2013	11.6%	14.1%	13.5%
Without Health Insurance Under 65 Years Old, 2021	7.6%	13.8	12.9

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

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Table 70: Crime Rate

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Serious Crimes Per 100,000 Residents, 2019	1,748	767	1,090
Serious Crimes Per 100,000 Residents, 2020	1,502	778	1,038
Serious Crimes Per 100,000 Residents, 2021	1,484	1,133	785

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 71: Child Abuse

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Substantiated Cases of Abuse Per 1,000 Children, 2012	1.29	2.44	3.11
Substantiated Cases of Abuse Per 1,000 Children, 2013	1.25	1.06	1.99

Substantiated Cases of Abuse Per 1,000 Children, 2020	1.7	4.1	3.2
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Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, "Child Protective Services 2020 Annual Report" https://www.dhs.pa.gov/docs/Publications/Documents/Child%20Abuse%20Reports/2020%20Child%20Protective%20Services%20Report_FINAL.pdf

Table 72: Voter Participation

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Voter Turnout, Nov. 2000	52.5%	50.6%	41.7%
Voter Turnout, Nov. 2004	60.5%	57.3%	48.0%
Voter Turnout, Nov. 2008	61.4%	54.9%	46.7%
Voter Turnout, Nov. 2012	57.5%	51.2%	45.2%
Voter Turnout, Nov. 2016	70.1%	75.5%	71.7%
Voter Turnout, Nov. 2020	76.1%	83.1%	78.6%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 73: Planning & Zoning

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Municipalities, 2020	2,560	17	16
With Municipal Comprehensive Plans	67.0%	29.4%	81.3%
With Municipal Planning Commissions	64.9%	64.7%	50.0%
With Municipal and/or County Zoning Ordinances	78.1%	52.9%	68.8%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/county-profiles>.

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Table 74: Highways by Type

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total Miles of Highway, 2021	120,903	728	627
PennDOT and Other State & Federal Highways	35.2%	47.8%	39.0%
Local (Municipal) Highways	64.8%	52.2%	61.0%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 75: Licensed Drivers

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
# Licensed Drivers, Dec. 2021	9,100,879	16,718	30,283
Change in Licensed Drivers, 2017-21	1.8%	-0.1%	0.5%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 76: Vehicles

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
In-State Registered Vehicles, 2021	10,793,280	23,697	40,263
In-State Registered Vehicles Per 1,000 Residents	875	1,165	1,017
Change in In-State Registered Vehicles, 2010-14	1.4%	3.6%	2.8%

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,

http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 77: Size of Farms 2017

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Average Size of Farm (acres)	137	128	114
Farms by Size (1 -9 acres)	6,481	106	103
Farms by Size (10-49 acres)	15,901	188	184
Farms by Size (50-179 acres)	19,985	231	280
Farms by Size (180-499)	8,255	124	130
Farms by Size (500-999 acres)	1,790	13	10
Farms by Size (1000 + acres)	745	8	4

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,

http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Pennsylvania/cp42087.pdf

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level/Pennsylvania/st42_2_000_1_0001.pdf,

<https://www.rural.pa.gov/getfile.cfm?file=Resources/reports/assets/142/Analysis%20of%202017%20Census%20of%20Agriculture%20Data%202022.pdf&view=true>

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Table 78: Farm Sales

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
Total Market Value of Ag. Products Sold (\$1,000), 2017	\$7,758,884	\$126,760	\$139,994
Average Market Value of Products Sold Per Farm, 2017	\$145,962	\$189,194	\$196,897
Average Market Value of Products Sold Per Acre, 2017	\$1,066	\$1,480	\$1,729
Small Sale Farms (Sales Under \$10,000), 2017	50.8 %	46.9 %	46.0 %
Medium Sale Farms (Sales \$10,000-\$49,999), 2017	21.1 %	18.2 %	15.2 %
Large Sale Farms (Sales \$50,000+), 2017	28.1 %	34.9 %	38.8 %

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics,

http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

Table 79: Farmland Preservation

	Pennsylvania (State Total)	Juniata County	Mifflin County
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Preserved Farms, 2021	5,979	23	27
Acres Preserved Farmland, 2021	606,220	2,883	2,968

Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles,” Demographics,
http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm

Table 80: Health – Percent of students in grades 6-12 responding “yes” to harming themselves (cutting, scraping, burning) 3 to 5 times in the past 12 months.

2021	
Juniata	2.9%
Mifflin	5.2%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 81: Health – Percent of students in grades 6-12 responding “yes” to feeling depressed or sad MOST days in the past 12 months.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	23.0%	26.3%	22.2%
Mifflin	23.0%	27.5%	25.6%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

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Table 82: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 responding “yes” to sometimes thinking life is not worth it.

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	15.9%	16.9%	13.7%
Mifflin	15.0%	20.2%	12.7%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 83: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 responding “yes” to “At times I think I am no good at all.”

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	23.8%	25.8%	24.5%
Mifflin	22.3%	27.8%	26.7%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 84: Health – Percent of students in grades 6-12 responding “yes” to “All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure.”

	2017	2019	2021
Juniata	13.3%	16.1%	12.58%
Mifflin	12.3%	18.0%	2.0%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 85: Health – Percent of students in grades 6-12 who in the past 12 months were so sad they stopped doing usual activities.

	2019	2021
Juniata	27.9%	24.1%
Mifflin	29.4%	23.7%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 86: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 who in the past 12 months considered suicide.

	2019	2021
Juniata	15.5 %	12.8
Mifflin	20.2%	25.2%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

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Table 87: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 who in the past 12 months planned suicide.

	2019	2021
Juniata	15.5%	10.5%
Mifflin	15.9%	19.2%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 88: Health – Percent students in grades 6-12 who in the past 12 months attempted suicide 2 or 3 times.

	2019	2021
Juniata	2.1%	3.4%
Mifflin	4.3%	5.1%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 89: Health – Percent of students in grades 6-12 who in the past 12 months needed medical treatment for suicide attempt

	2019	2023
Juniata	3.5%	2.2%
Mifflin	3.1%	4.1%

Source: 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Mifflin County School District, Mental Health Concerns; 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, Juniata County School District, Mental Health Concerns

Table 90: Health – Employment Status

	Non-veteran labor force part. rate	Veteran Labor force part. rate	Non-veteran labor force 18-64 years	Veteran labor force 18-64 years	Non-veteran Unemployment Rate	Veteran Unemployment Rate
Juniata County	76.0 %	74.6 %	9,837	414	2.8 %	8.7 %
Mifflin County	77.4 %	80.1 %	18,971	1,136	3.8 %	2.0 %
PA State	78.2 %	78.3 %	5,880,255	223,597	4.4 %	3.2 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, “Veteran Status, 2021 estimates,” American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

Appendix VI

County Profiles

Juniata County

Juniata County is located slightly southeast of the center of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and covers 394 square miles of farmland and forest. Beautiful scenery near the Juniata River shows the county to be sparsely populated. The Juniata River, located within the region, is a source of recreation and natural beauty. Juniata County was established from Mifflin County in 1831.⁹⁸

Age

⁹⁸ “About Juniata County,” Juniata County Pennsylvania, accessed November 2023, <http://www.co.juniata.pa.us/about/>.

According to the 2021 Census information, Juniata County has a total population of 23,509.⁹⁹ This is a decrease from the 2010 Census when the population was 24,636.¹⁰⁰ The 2021 Census data shows that 23.0% of the total population for the region is under the age of eighteen years.¹⁰¹ For the same period of time, the Commonwealth has 20.9% of its population under the age of 18.¹⁰² In 2021, the population over the age of sixty-five totaled 20.2% of the total population in the county.¹⁰³ In Pennsylvania, this age group at this time period represented 18.2%.¹⁰⁴ In 2021, it increased to 42.6 from 40.2 in 2010 and 38.0 in 2000. Currently, Juniata County is close to Pennsylvania's median age at 40.8.¹⁰⁵

Employment

Before the Civil War, lumbering was one of the first industries in Juniata County. This industry gave way to several iron producing furnaces being created in the region.¹⁰⁶

Much of the land in Juniata County remains open farmland. The number of chickens and dairy cows far outweighs the number of people farming them - chicken hatcheries and grow-out facilities are some of the main employers in Juniata County.¹⁰⁷ The greatest employment by industry in Juniata County is the manufacturing

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Industry representing 19.1% of employed persons from 2017-2020.¹⁰⁸ This is a much higher percentage of persons employed in this sector during this time when compared to the Commonwealth at 11.7%.¹⁰⁹

The next highest employment sector in Juniata County is the Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance sector representing 17.1% of employed persons from 2017 to 2020.¹¹⁰ This is lower than the Commonwealth where it represents 26.2% of employed persons. The lowest employment sector in the county is Information representing 0.6% of employed persons.¹¹¹

⁹⁹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles," Demographics, accessed November 2023, http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm.

¹⁰⁰ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁰¹ Pennsylvania Data Center, "PA Counties – Total Population, under 18: 2017-2021," Local 2021 Census Data Released for Pennsylvania, accessed November 2023, <https://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/Data/Census2010/tabid/1489/Default.aspx>.

¹⁰² Pennsylvania Data Center, "PA Counties – Total Population, under 18: 2021."

¹⁰³ Pennsylvania Data Center, "Detailed Population and Housing Data, 2021."

¹⁰⁴ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁰⁵ Pennsylvania Data Center, "Detailed Population and Housing Data, 2021."

¹⁰⁶ "About Juniata County."

¹⁰⁷ "About Juniata County."

¹⁰⁸ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁰⁹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹¹⁰ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹¹¹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

As an area of limited industrial development, average unemployment in Juniata has traditionally run lower than the state average. In 2019, the unemployment rate for the county was 4.5%.¹¹² In 2020, the unemployment rate for the county increased to 7.2%, and in 2021 it decreased to 5.0%.¹¹³ In 2019 Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was 4.5%.¹¹⁴ In 2020, it increased to 9.1%, and in 2021, it decreased to 6.4%.¹¹⁵

Gender and Race

In 2020, the male/female ratio in Juniata County was the same as it was in 2015.¹¹⁶ In 2015, the population of Juniata County was 50.1% females and 49.9% males and was the same in 2020.¹¹⁷

In 2015, 94.8% of the population claimed white ethnicity, 1.2% of the population were African American or Black and 0.5% were Asian.¹¹⁸ In 2021, this number decreased slightly to 93.3%.¹¹⁹ This decrease can also be seen across the state. The 2021 census indicated that Pennsylvania's population was predominantly white with 75.0% of persons identifying as such.¹²⁰ Between 2015 and 2020 in Juniata County, the white population decreased by 1.6%.¹²¹

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Education

Juniata County is home to the Juniata County School District. There were 2,328 children enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade for the 2021-2022 school year.¹²² There were 1,686,844 children enrolled in public schools in the same period of time.¹²³ The county's graduation rate for the 2019-2020 school year was 91.9%.¹²⁴ This number has declined in the 2020-2021 school year to 88.9%.¹²⁵

¹¹² The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹¹³ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹¹⁴ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹¹⁵ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹¹⁶ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Juniata County, Pennsylvania," Data Tools, accessed November 2023, <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/42067.00>

¹¹⁷ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Juniata County, Pennsylvania."

¹¹⁸ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Juniata County, Pennsylvania."

¹¹⁹ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Juniata County, Pennsylvania."

¹²⁰ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Pennsylvania," Data Tools, accessed November 2023, <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/42.00>.

¹²¹ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Juniata County, Pennsylvania."

¹²² The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹²³ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹²⁴ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹²⁵ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

Residents 25 and older in Juniata County, 17.0% do not have a high school diploma.¹²⁶ These numbers are much higher than the state average of 8.6%. Census data shows that in Juniata County, 14.5% hold a bachelor's degree or higher, which is lower than the state average of 33.1%.¹²⁷

Health

The percentage of Juniata County residents without health insurance who are under the age of 65 was 13.8% in 2021.¹²⁸ This is significantly higher than the state at 7.6%.¹²⁹ In 2022, 21% of the population in Juniata County is considered to be in poor or fair health, and 37% of adults are obese.¹³⁰ In 2022, 17.0% of the Juniata County population experienced frequent mental distress.¹³¹

Income and Poverty

The per capita income for Juniata County residents has decreased in recent years. In 2014, it was \$36,607 and in 2021 it decreased to \$28,263.¹³² The per capita income for the Commonwealth in 2021 was almost \$10,000 higher than in Juniata County at \$37,725.¹³³

Appendix VI

The median household income for Juniata County was \$56,382 in 2021, which was an increase from 2014 when it was \$44,944.¹³⁴ However, it was still lower than the state median of \$67,587 in 2021, which also increased from the 2014 median income of \$53,224.¹³⁵

¹²⁶ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹²⁷ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹²⁸ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹²⁹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹³⁰ County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, "Juniata County 2021," Health Rankings, accessed November 2023, <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/pennsylvania/juniata?year=2021>.

¹³¹ County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, "Juniata County 2021."

¹³² The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹³³ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹³⁴ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹³⁵ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

The poverty rate in Juniata County was 9.6% in 2021, which is lower than the rate of Pennsylvania at 13.6% and has decreased from 12.3% in 2014.¹³⁶ The number of families living in poverty in 2021 was 11.8% for the Commonwealth.¹³⁷ The poverty rate for children of the county under the age of 18 years in 2021 was 14.9% which is lower than the Commonwealth at 16.4%.¹³⁸

Other Characteristics

From 2017-2020, Juniata County had 5,941 families who reside in the region.¹³⁹ Families are defined as the householder and all (one or more) other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption. From 2017-2020, there were 8,756 households in Juniata County.¹⁴⁰ A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit.¹⁴¹ Across the area in 2017-2020, estimated 74.0% of households owned their homes.¹⁴² The average size of a household in Juniata County was 2.67 persons between 2017-2020, as compared to the average household size for the state at 2.44 persons.¹⁴³ The most common form of housing in the county between 2017-2020 is single family detached homes at 76.2% followed by mobile homes/manufactured homes at 10.2%.¹⁴⁴

Appendix VI

Mifflin County

¹³⁶ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹³⁷ United States Census Bureau, “Pennsylvania Selected Economic Characteristics: 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates,” American Fact Finder, accessed November 2023, <https://data.census.gov/>.

¹³⁸ United States Census Bureau, “Pennsylvania Selected Economic Characteristics: 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.”

¹³⁹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁴⁰ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁴¹ U.S. Census Bureau, “Household,” Glossary, accessed November 2023, <https://data.census.gov/>.

¹⁴² The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁴³ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁴⁴ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

Mifflin County is located in South Central Pennsylvania. Named after Thomas Mifflin, the first Governor of Pennsylvania and Revolutionary War hero, Mifflin County was established on September 19, 1789 from Northumberland and Cumberland counties.¹⁴⁵ The county encompasses 431 square miles and much of this land is mountainous. The county is bisected by the Juniata River and has several mountain ranges including sections of the Appalachian Mountains. Agriculture and in particular dairy farming is widespread.¹⁴⁶ The county seat for the region is Lewistown.

According to the 2021 Census information, Mifflin County has a total population of 46,143¹⁴⁷ This is a slight decrease from the 2010 Census when the population was 46,682.¹⁴⁸ In spite of the decrease in total population, the number of youth under the age of 18 is stable. In 2010, 23.3% of the population was under 18 years old, and in 2021, that number increased slightly to 22.6%.¹⁴⁹

Of the population older than 65 years, in 2021 it made up 21.2% of the population.¹⁵⁰ For the state this rate has remained pretty stable at 18.2% in 2021.¹⁵¹ The median age of the population between 2017-2020 in Mifflin County is 43.6 while the median age for the Commonwealth is 40.8.¹⁵²

Employment

For over 60 years, the largest textile company in Mifflin County was the American Viscose Corporation. The role of manufacturing changed dramatically after the flood of 1972 caused by Hurricane Agnes, which resulted in the closure of the plant as well as many other plant layoffs in the area, including Standard Steel.¹⁵³

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¹⁴⁵ Sherman Day, "Mifflin County," Mifflin County Genealogy Project, 1843. Last modified June 6, 2015. Accessed July 7, 2016, <http://www.pagenweb.org/~mifflin/day-sherman.htm>.

¹⁴⁶ Cynthia Rosenbery, "A Short History of Mifflin County," Mifflin County Genealogy Project, Last modified June 6, 2015. Accessed July 7, 2016, <http://www.pagenweb.org/~mifflin/history2.html>.

¹⁴⁷ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁴⁸ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁴⁹ United States Census Bureau, "Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2021: 2021 Demographic Profile Data," American Fact Finder, accessed November 2023. <https://data.census.gov/>.

¹⁵⁰ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁵¹ United States Census Bureau, "Pennsylvania Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2021: 2021 Demographic Profile Data."

¹⁵² The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁵³ "Visions for the 21st Century: The Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan 2014," 7-3. April 24, 2012. Accessed July 7, 2016. http://www.co.mifflin.pa.us/dept/PlanningDev/Documents/MifCoCompPlan2014_SingleFile_wResolution.pdf.

The greatest employment by industry in Mifflin County is the Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance sector representing 24.1% of employed persons from 2017-2020.¹⁵⁴ This is a similar percentage of persons employed in this sector during this time when compared to the Commonwealth at 26.2%.¹⁵⁵ The next highest employment sector in Mifflin County is the Manufacturing sector representing 21.1% of employed persons from 2017 to 2020. This is higher than the Commonwealth where it represents 11.7% of employed persons. The lowest employment sector in the county is Information representing 0.8% of employed persons.¹⁵⁶

Mifflin County's highest subpopulation is of the working age between the ages of 16 – 64 years of age.¹⁵⁷ Between 2017-2020, this group represented 21,248 persons.¹⁵⁸

Unemployment increased 6.0% and 3.9% respectively for Mifflin and Juniata counties between 2000 and 2010. The employment picture, however, has begun to improve since 2010. The unemployment rate in 2021 was 6.1% in Mifflin County and 6.4% for Pennsylvania.¹⁵⁹

Gender and Race

In 2015, females in Mifflin County out-numbered males by 50.9% to 49.1%.¹⁶⁰ In 2021, females represented 50.8% of Mifflin County's population while males represented 49.2%.¹⁶¹ This trend is comparable to Pennsylvania's figures. In 2015, females accounted for 51.1% of Pennsylvania's population while males accounted for 49.9%.¹⁶² In 2021, females represented 50.7% of the population and males 49.3%.¹⁶³

In 2015, the white ethnicity in Mifflin County was 96.1% compared to 77.4% for the state.¹⁶⁴ In 2021, 95.2% of persons identified as white in Mifflin County, and 75.0% of persons identified as white in the state.¹⁶⁵

In 2021, 0.7% of the Mifflin County population identified as Black or African American.¹⁶⁶ In the state in 2021, the percentage of people identifying as Black or African American was much higher at 10.5% of the population.¹⁶⁷ In 2021 in Mifflin County, 1.7% of the population identified as Latino or Hispanic whereas in the

¹⁵⁴ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁵⁵ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁵⁶ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁵⁷ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁵⁸ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁵⁹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

¹⁶⁰ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Mifflin County, Pennsylvania," Data Tools, accessed November 2023, <https://data.census.gov/>

¹⁶¹ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Mifflin County, Pennsylvania."

¹⁶² United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Pennsylvania," Data Tools, accessed November 2023, <https://data.census.gov/>

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¹⁶⁵ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Mifflin County, Pennsylvania."

¹⁶⁶ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Mifflin County, Pennsylvania."

¹⁶⁷ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Pennsylvania."

Commonwealth at that time, 7.9% identified as Latino or Hispanic.¹⁶⁸ Between 2017 and 2020, the Asian population in Mifflin County decreased from 0.6% to 0.4%.¹⁶⁹

Education

Mifflin County is home to the Mifflin County and Mount Union School Districts. The estimated percentage of children enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade who attended a public school between 2017-2020 was 75.4% which was lower than the percentage enrolled in Pennsylvania at 85.7%.¹⁷⁰

The county's public school graduation rate for the 2018-2019 school year was 90.9%, which decreased to 89.8% in the 2019-2020 school year and decreased to 86.2% in the 2020-2021 school year.¹⁷¹ In the 2018-2019 school year in Pennsylvania the graduation rate was 88.4% and in the 2019-2020 school year it increased to 89.2% and in the 2020-2021 school year it decreased to 88.2%.¹⁷²

Residents 25 and older in Mifflin County, 14.7% do not have a high school diploma. These numbers are much higher than the state average of 8.6%.¹⁷³ Census data shows that in Mifflin County, 13.3% hold a bachelor's degree or higher which is lower than the state average of 33.1%.

Health

In 2022, 22% of the population in Mifflin County is considered to be in poor or fair health, and 37% of adults are obese.¹⁷⁴ In 2022, 18% of the Mifflin County population experiences frequent mental distress.¹⁷⁵ The percentage of Mifflin County residents without health insurance who are under the age of 65 was 12.9% in 2021.¹⁷⁶ This is significantly higher than the state at 7.6%.¹⁷⁷

¹⁶⁸ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Mifflin County, Pennsylvania."

¹⁶⁹ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Mifflin County, Pennsylvania."

¹⁷⁰ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "2021 County Profiles."

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¹⁷⁴ County Health Ratings & Roadmaps, "Mifflin County 2021," Health Rankings, accessed November 2023, <https://data.census.gov/>.

¹⁷⁵ County Health Ratings & Roadmaps, "Mifflin County 2016."

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Income and Poverty

The per capita income for Mifflin County residents has decreased in recent years. In 2014, it was \$33,621 and in 2021 it decreased to \$27,424.¹⁷⁸ The per capita income for the Commonwealth in 2021 was a little over \$10,000 higher than in Mifflin County at \$37,725.¹⁷⁹

The median household income for Mifflin County was \$54,738 in 2021, which was an increase from 2014 when it was \$40,957.¹⁸⁰ However, it was still lower than the state median of \$67,587 in 2021, which also increased from the 2014 median income of \$53,224.¹⁸¹

Historically, Mifflin County has a higher poverty rate than surrounding counties except for Centre County which includes a high student population. The poverty rate in Mifflin County was 15.3% in 2021, which is higher than the rate of Pennsylvania at 11.8% and has decreased from 16.3% in 2014.¹⁸² The poverty rate for children of the county under the age of 18 years in 2021 was 24.9% which is higher than the Commonwealth at 16.4%.¹⁸³

Other Characteristics

From 2017-2020, Mifflin County had 13,008 families who reside in the region.¹⁸⁴ Families are defined as the householder and all (one or more) other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption.¹⁸⁵ From 2017-2020, there were 18,641 households in Mifflin County.¹⁸⁶ A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit.¹⁸⁷ Across the area in 2017-2020, estimated 72.3% of households owned their homes¹⁸⁸ The average size of a household in Juniata County was 2.44 persons between 2017-2020, the same as the household size for the state.¹⁸⁹ The most common form of housing in the county between 2017-2020 is single family detached homes at 71.5% followed by small apartment buildings

¹⁷⁸ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁷⁹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁸⁰ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁸¹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

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¹⁸³ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁸⁴ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁸⁵ U.S. Census, “Families and primary individuals.”

¹⁸⁶ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁸⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, “Household.”

¹⁸⁸ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

¹⁸⁹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “2021 County Profiles.”

(with 2 to 9 units) at 8.9%.¹⁹⁰ The Census showed 12.7 % of housing units to be vacant, compared to 10.1% in the state from 2017-2020.

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