

Somerset County Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Fiscal Year 2014



Compiled by:

The Somerset County Local Management Board

Table of Contents

List of Tables.....	4
Executive Summary.....	6
Summary of Findings and Recommendations.....	7
Methodology.....	9
Study Area Profile and Demographics.....	12
Study Findings.....	18
Part I – Result Area Findings.....	18
Result Area 1: Babies Born Healthy.....	19
Indicator 1: Infant Mortality.....	19
Indicator 2: Low Birth Weight.....	20
Indicator 3: Births to Adolescents.....	21
Result Area 2: Healthy Children.....	23
Indicator 1: Health Insurance Coverage.....	23
Indicator 2: Immunizations.....	23
Indicator 3: Deaths.....	24
Indicator 4: Obesity.....	24
Indicator 5: Hospitalizations.....	24
Indicator 6: Substance Abuse.....	25
Indicator 7: Asthma.....	28
Result Area 3: School Readiness.....	30
Indicator 1: Kindergarten Assessment.....	30
Result Area 4: School Success.....	32
Indicator 1: Academic Performance.....	32
Indicator 2: School Truancy.....	35
Indicator 3: Bullying and Harassment.....	36
Result Area 5: School Completion.....	38
Indicator 1: High School Graduation Rate.....	38
Indicator 2: High School Program Completion.....	39
Indicator 3: Graduation/School Completion of Students with Disabilities.....	39
Result Area 6: School Transition.....	41
Indicator 1: Educational Attainment.....	41
Indicator 2: Youth Employment.....	41
Indicator 3: Post Graduation Plans.....	42
Result Area 7: Safety.....	43

Indicator 1: Child Maltreatment.....	43
Indicator 2: Juvenile Violent Offenses.....	44
Indicator 3: Juvenile Serious Non-Violent Offenses.....	44
Indicator 4: Recidivism Rate.....	47
Result Area 8: Stability.....	48
Indicator 1: Child Poverty.....	48
Indicator 2: Hunger.....	49
Indicator 3: Out of Home Placements.....	49
Indicator 4: Homelessness.....	50
Part II – Additional Questions.....	53
Part III – Community Resources, Mapping, Strengths and Gaps.....	55
Part IV – Awareness and Adequacy of Existing Service Data.....	63
Appendix A – Community Survey Questionnaire.....	64

List of Tables

Table 1: Farms and Acres of Land in Farm.....	12
Table 2: Incorporated Place Population – 2000 Census and 2008 Estimates.....	13
Table 3: Rates of Growth for County and State.....	13
Table 4: Population by Age (2010 Census).....	13
Table 5: Anticipated Growth by Age Group (2030).....	14
Table 6: Educational Attainment.....	15
Table 7: Median Household Income.....	15
Table 8: Median Family Income of Families with “Own” Children Under Age 18.....	16
Table 9: Per Capita Income.....	16
Table 10: Owner-Occupied Properties Median Value FY2010.....	17
Table 11: Insured and Uninsured Residents.....	17
Table 12: Kids Count CLIKS Online Data 2012.....	19
Table 13: Community Survey Regarding Child Deaths.....	20
Table 14: Number and Percent of Low Weight Births.....	20
Table 15: Community Survey Regarding Low Birth Weight Babies.....	21
Table 16: Number of Births and Birth Rates among Adolescents Ages 15 – 19.....	21
Table 17: Community Survey Regarding Adolescent Pregnancy.....	22
Table 18: Children Without Health Insurance Coverage.....	23
Table 19: Children Starting School with All Immunizations.....	24
Table 20: Child Injuries and Injury Numbers Due to Unintentional Injuries Requiring Hospitalization, Age 15 and Under.....	25
Table 21: Comparison of MAS Results 1998-2007, Percent of Students Reporting Substance Use by Grade Level in the Last 30 Days.....	27
Table 22: Community Survey Regarding Underage Drinking.....	28
Table 23: Community Survey Regarding Illegal Drug Use by Teenagers.....	28
Table 24: Recorded Cases of Diagnosed Asthma, Rate per 10,000.....	28
Table 25: Kids Count CLIKS Online Data 2012.....	30
Table 26: Community Survey Regarding Preschool Readiness.....	31
Table 27: Percent of Students in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Reading and Math Scoring at Advanced, Proficient, and Basic Levels on the Maryland School Assessments (MSA) – School Years 08/09 through 12/13.....	33
Table 28: Percent of Students in Grades 9, 10, 11, 12, Algebra, Biology, and English Scoring at Advanced, Proficient, and Basic Levels on the High School Assessments (HSA) - School Years 08/09 through 12/13.....	35
Table 29: Community Survey Regarding Performance on MSA Test.....	35

Table 30: Percent of Students in All Grades Missing More than 20 Days of School.....	36
Table 31: Community Survey Regarding Chronic Absenteeism.....	36
Table 32: Graduation Rate for 2010 through 2012.....	38
Table 33: Community Survey Regarding Drop Out Rates.....	38
Table 34: Percent of Students Completing High School University Preparatory and Career Programs.....	39
Table 35: Percent Special Education Students Graduating/Completing Program.....	40
Table 36: Educational Attainment - 3 year estimate.....	41
Table 37: Number of Students with Reported Post Graduate Plans.....	42
Table 38: Child Abuse and Neglect Indicated and Unsubstantiated Cases and Rate per 1,000 Youth under 18.....	43
Table 39: Community Survey Regarding Child Abuse and Neglect.....	44
Table 40: Juvenile Violent Offense Arrests, Number of Arrests.....	45
Table 41: Juvenile Serious Non-Violent Offense Arrests, Number of Arrests.....	45
Table 42: Community Survey Regarding Non-Violent Crime by Teenagers.....	46
Table 43: Community Survey Regarding Violent Crime by Teenagers.....	46
Table 44: Kids Count CLIKS Online Data 2012.....	48
Table 45: Community Survey Regarding Poverty.....	49
Table 46: Summer Food Service Program Average Daily Participation.....	49
Table 47: Out-Of-Home Placement Entry Rate per 1,000 Children, FY09 to FY11.....	50
Table 48: Number and Rates of Adults and Children Receiving Homeless Services per 100,000 Residents.....	51
Table 49: Community Survey Regarding Homelessness.....	51
Table 50: Community Survey Regarding Domestic Violence.....	53
Table 51: Community Survey Regarding Quality Child Care.....	53
Table 52: Community Survey Regarding After School Programming.....	54
Table 53: Community Survey Regarding Affordable Housing.....	54
Table 54: Community Survey Regarding Availability of Transportation.....	54
Table 55: Community Survey Opinions Regarding Awareness of Services.....	63

Executive Summary

In November of 2012, the Somerset County Local Management Board began the process of collecting data for a comprehensive assessment of the needs of families and children in the county. This process is done every three years to ensure that the Somerset County Local Management Board will have the most current assessment of the county to advocate for the needs identified.

To provide a comprehensive assessment of the needs of families and children in Somerset County, a multi-method plan was developed which included two different sources of data: community surveys for adult stakeholders and community partners, and a secondary data analysis. All data collection was done between November of 2012 and June of 2013.

Summary of Findings and Recommendations

Community Surveys

Six Community Survey events were held, covering the Crisfield and Princess Anne areas, as well as the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The following themes emerged as common areas of concern:

- Youth drug and alcohol use
- Homelessness
- Affordable housing
- Poverty
- Accessible child care and after school programming

A major theme of resource deficiencies arose, especially for low income families. Specific resource concerns varied from community to community but included: health care, mental health services, child care, and transportation services.

Secondary Data

A number of secondary data sources were reviewed and the data were recorded by problem areas. Though it is impossible to prioritize the issues reported because prioritizing requires the evaluation and weighting of the Local Management Board, a few of the most prominent issues identified by comparative analysis with state or national norms are:

- High percentage of children and families living in poverty
- High rates of substance use among children and adolescents
- Poor performance by county youth on Maryland School Assessment (MSA)
- High rate of high school dropouts
- High rate of reported child abuse and neglect

Recommendations

The needs assessment process is inherently subjective since the concept of need itself is dependent upon human values and desires. A comprehensive needs assessment, with as many sources of data as this one provides, presents decision makers with a wealth of information. In the end, it is up to local officials to weigh the data in the light of community values and goals to determine the direction that best meets the county's interest.

To aid in this process, we have aggregated the responses from all of the sources of data weighting the responses as objectively as possible given the disparity of the data sources. It is impossible to claim that this ranking is the result of a totally objective process since it involves the combining of qualitative and quantitative data; however, after extensive review of the primary sources, the following is a fair representation of the county needs as determined by this assessment.

The highest ranking county concerns or problems related to families and children based

on the number and intensity of the times that they appeared in the data are:

- Youth substance abuse, its causes and treatment
- Poverty, its causes and consequences from educational attainment to job opportunities and poor housing
- School performance including dropping out prior to graduation
- Child abuse and neglect

The needs listed may go beyond the mission of the Somerset County Local Management Board; however, there are many needs clearly within that purview. The array of identified needs provides the Somerset County Local Management Board and its partner organizations a guide to address the needs of children and families in Somerset County.

Methodology

To provide a comprehensive needs assessment, a multi-methodology plan was adopted. Each individual methodology alone has its own strengths and weaknesses, but together the several methodologies provide a multi-layer assessment of the county's needs. To ensure scientific and community credibility, it was essential that the assessment process be both well designed and public. Therefore, a two prong strategy was used.

First, community members were surveyed during open events throughout the county, providing access to a variety of county residents and key stakeholders. Second, county and state level data was collected for statistical comparison. This approach permitted wide participation in identification of needs by the citizens and stakeholders of Somerset County which, when combined with existing secondary data about the area, provided a full picture of the county and its needs.

Community Surveys

Surveys were conducted from November 19, 2012 to June 15, 2013. The surveys were collected at various events held in Crisfield, Princess Anne, and at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Collectively the surveys were completed by 295 individuals: 213 (72.2%) female and 75 (25.4%) male, 57 (19.3%) white and 213 (72.2%) African American. The majority of the survey takers were under 30 years of age, at 115 participants (38.9%). Please note, figures will not add up to 100% due to participants that chose not to answer the demographic information.

Surveys were handed out during community events, and all data collected was received anonymously to protect the identities of the survey takers. Staff was available to answer any questions of the survey takers regarding the meaning of the questions; however, no guidance or suggestions were given regarding how to answer the questions.

Secondary Data Analysis

A secondary data analysis provided an overview of local social indicators through the review of existing data from sources such as the local and state offices of Juvenile Justice, the local health department, police agencies, and the Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS) for substance use.

In offering any statistical data on Somerset County, a word of caution is warranted as to the impact that Somerset County's often small sample sizes may have on data. Small sample sizes may account for large annual swings in trend data. Isolated incidences in small populations, such as infant mortality, may give the appearance of much larger "rates" per 100,000 population than would be born out over a longer, more statistically significant period of time. With that in mind, in the *Study Findings* section below, relevant data are recorded and offered as indicators of issues that may merit further exploration.

A Note about Trendlines

As part of the presentation of secondary data for each indicator, a trendline, based on the most recent five years of available data, is projected for the next five year period. While helpful, these trendlines should be considered with the following cautions.

First, the more historical data available on which to base a trendline, the more reliable the trendline will be. Because the historical data in this study was limited to five years, the reliability of the trendlines is limited, as well. This is especially true in smaller jurisdictions where small sample sizes often show significant variation during short periods of time.

Second, and perhaps most importantly, forecasting is not just about the best mathematical formula. Forecasting is about knowledgeable people around a table considering all the factors influencing changes in data—both positive and negative—and offering their best judgments about the most likely future scenarios. Often more than one forecast is given (e.g. optimistic, pessimistic, most likely). This process can be informed by mathematical modeling, but should not be driven by it.

Therefore, trendlines for each indicator are best used as points of discussion by stakeholders as they consider the implications of statistical data for local planning.

Study Findings

The data in Part I of the Study Findings are divided according to the eight Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being identified by the Governor's Task Force on Children, Youth, and Family Systems Reform. These results areas are:

- 1 Babies Born Healthy
- 2 Healthy Children
- 3 School Readiness
- 4 School Success
- 5 School Completion
- 6 School Transition
- 7 Safety
- 8 Stability

Introductory descriptions of each Result Area's indicators (types of data used to measure progress in each Result Area) and short rationales for their inclusion as indicators are taken from the State of Maryland Children's Cabinet, Governor's Office for Children (GOC) publication, *Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being 2012*. Data from *Kids Count CLIKS (Community-Level Information on Kids) Online Data 2012* "Somerset County Profile," are presented first in each section exactly as they appear in CLIKS. (Data are reported in percentages or rates only; where annual rates would need to be based on small absolute numbers, rates are calculated on multi-year averaging). *Kids Count CLIKS* posts data for the most recent five years available. Somerset County's ranking among the state's 24 county jurisdictions for the most recent data-year available is also presented. Comparative rates or percentages are presented for the

state, as well.

The CLIKS data are followed by additional information, presented section-by-section according to indicator, from other state and local sources. It is important to note that it is the policy of the Governor's Office for Children to delete annual data with less than six (6) cases to preserve confidentiality. Additionally, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene no longer offers rates when counties have fewer than five (5) incidents as such rates are likely to be unstable. To maintain consistency in presenting data in this Needs Assessment, the Somerset County Local Management Board will adhere to these guidelines as well in reporting available data—with one exception. Because CLIKS rates are yielded through a multi-year analysis which combines five (5) years of data to produce a more stable and reliable rate where warranted, CLIKS rates and rankings will be reported where offered. Rates and rankings produced through multi-year averaging will be noted.

Specific questions on the GOC Result Areas were also part of the information gathered through community surveys. Essentially, the Result Areas provide the primary structure of Part 1 of the Study Findings section.

Issues arising from additional questions are discussed in Parts I and II of Study Findings, while Community Mapping is covered in Part III.

Study Area Profile and Demographics

Geographic Characteristics

Somerset County, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is the state's southernmost county, bordered by the Maryland counties of Worcester to its east and Wicomico to its north. The Chesapeake Bay forms its western boundary and Virginia lies to its south.

The rivers, marshes, islands of the area, and over six hundred miles of shoreline along the Chesapeake Bay have supported traditions of fishing, hunting, and sailing for over 300 years. After centuries, watermen in Crisfield and Deal Island still ply the waters of the creeks and bays harvesting crabs and oysters. The numerous historic homes, churches, and landmarks give testimony to the past and invite exploration. The whole town of Princess Anne, the county seat, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Essentially a rural jurisdiction, Somerset County encompasses 319.72 square miles of land and 284 square miles of water. The county stretches approximately 27 miles from north to south and 28.5 miles from east to west (U. S. Dept. of Geography from U.S. Census Bureau). The county's population density is 82.8 persons per square mile; compared to a statewide density of 594.8.

According to the most recent data available (2007 Census of Agriculture), the county saw a 9.15% increase in the number of farms from 301 in 2002 to 329 in 2007. This compares to a 5.21% increase seen statewide during those same five years. The number of acres of land in farms also *increased* during that same time period by 6.35%, compared to a 1.26% *decrease* statewide.

Table 1
Somerset County Farms and Acres of Land in Farms

	Number of Farms			Acres of Land in Farms		
	2002	2007	% Change 2002-2007	2002 in 1000s	2007 in 1000s	% Change 2002-2007
<i>Somerset</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>329</i>	<i>9.15%</i>	<i>56.7</i>	<i>60.3</i>	<i>6.35%</i>
Maryland	12,198	12,834	5.21%	2,077	2,051	-1.26%

Source: Md. Dept of Planning, Extracted from 2007 Census of Agriculture

According to the 2000 Census, a little over half (51.6%) of the county population lives in areas described as "rural." No population is reported to live in "urban" areas while a little less than half (48.4%) live in "urban clusters." An urban cluster is defined as a population center of between 2,500 and 50,000 not near an urbanized area (MDP, Planning Data Services, May 2002 from 2000 Census [SF 2]).

While, according to the Census, about half of the county population lives in "urban clusters," only about one-fifth of the county population (22.1% in 2008) lives in incorporated places. The following table illustrates the 2000 census population and 2008 population estimates for Somerset County's incorporated areas.

Table 2

Somerset County Incorporated Place Population - 2000 Census and 2008 Population Estimates

Place	July 1, 2008 Population	Census 2000 Population	Percent Change
Total Municipal Population	5,764	5,063	13.8%
Percent of County	22.1%	20.5%	
CRISFIELD CITY	2,749	2,732	0.6%
PRINCESS ANNE TOWN	3,015	2,331	29.3%
Balance of Somerset County	20,355	19,684	3.4%
Percent of County	77.9%	79.5%	

Source: MDP from U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (July 1, 2009)

Population Characteristics

Somerset County's population grew by 6.5% between 2000 and 2010, slightly less of the state's overall growth rate of 10.3% (calculated from US Census, 2010).

Table 3

Rates of Growth for County and State

	2000 census	2010 census	Percent change from 2000 census
SOMERSET	24,747	26,470	+6.5%
Maryland	5,296,516	5,773,552	+8.3%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2010

Maryland's Department of Planning projects that by 2030 the county's population will grow to 29,350, an 18.6% increase over 2000 census figures (calculated from MDP Planning Data Services, December, 2008). This projected increase for Somerset County is well below the projected statewide growth rate of 26.2%.

Population by Age

Table 4

Somerset County Population by Age (2010 Census)

0-4	5-19	20-44	45-64	65+	Total
1,277	4,979	9,634	6,920	3,660	26,470

Source: U. S. Census, 2010

According to the 2010 U. S. Census, 23.6% of Somerset County's population or 6,256 individuals are under 19 years of age compared to 28.2% statewide. On the other end of the age spectrum, 13.8% of the county's population or 3,660 individuals are age 65 or over compared to Maryland's statewide figure of 11.3%. Overall, then, in 2010 Somerset County residents were somewhat older than residents across the state.

However, despite the county's population status as "older" than the statewide

population—according to the Census—by 2030 the state as a whole is expected to grow in the over-65 age group at more than twice the rate of Somerset County’s expected over-65 increase. As can be seen from the table below, an increase of 75% in the over-65 age group is anticipated to occur in Somerset by 2030 while statewide that figure is expected to exceed 122%. A decrease of 3.1% is expected in the county’s birth-to-4 age group, but an increase of 10.6% is expected in the school-age population of 5 to 19 years of age. This anticipated increase in Somerset’s school-age percentage is less than the anticipated growth rate of 15.9% by 2030 for the school-age population statewide.

Table 5
Anticipated Growth by Age Group (2030)

	SOMERSET COUNTY			Maryland
	Projected Number 2030	Number Change From 2000	Percentage Change From 2000	Comparative Percentage Change
0-4	1,160	-38	-3.1%	18.8%
5-19	5,100	492	10.6%	15.8%
20-44	11,000	1,055	10.6%	9.7%
45-64	5,940	447	8.1%	17.2%
65+	6,150	2,647	75.5%	122%
Total	29,350	4,603	18.6%	26.2%

Source: MD Office of Planning, “Demographic and Socioeconomic Outlook,” February 2009 (calculated)

In absolute numbers, these percentages mean an approximate decrease of 38 children in the 4 years or under age range in the county by 2030, a decrease from 1,198 to around 1,160. On the other hand, Somerset’s anticipated 10.6% increase for the same period in the number of children between the ages of 5 and 19 means roughly 492 more school age children than the 2000 census figure of 4,608 for a total of around 5,100 (calculated from MDP, Population Projections – February 2009).

Population by Race

According to the 2010 Census, in Somerset County, 54.6% of the population is white (alone), 42.4% black (alone), 0.4% American Indian and Alaska Native alone, 0.8% Asian alone, 3.6% Hispanic or Latino, and 1.8% two or more races.

Among youth under age 19, the population by race appears to divide into somewhat different percentages as seen in the total population (all ages). The 2010 Census indicated that among youth, 43.2% are white (alone), 49.0% black (alone), 0.2% American Indian and Alaska Native alone, 0.6% Asian alone, 6.1% Hispanic or Latino, and 3.9% two or more races.

Language Spoken at Home

According to the 2000 Census, 463 or 1.8% of the county’s 25,150 residents age 5 years and over, report speaking English less than “very well.”

Somerset County Households

According to the 2010 Census, there are 8,494 total households in Somerset County with an average household size of 2.26, slightly lower than the state's 2.64. Of these 8,494 households, family households make up 61.3% (5,205). Of the non-family households (3,289), persons living alone make up 80.2% (2,638) with 31.4% of those living alone being age 65 or over (U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010).

Families with Children

According to the 2010 Census, 1,892 families or 36.3% of the county's 5,205 total families report having "related" children under age 18 in their households. Of the 1,892 county families that report having their "own" children under age 18 living with them, 964 (50.9%) are married couple families; 215 (11.4%) are single males with no wife present, and 713 (37.7%) are single females with no husband present (U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010).

Educational Attainment

Somerset County's population shows lower educational attainment than statewide population figures which, in turn, impacts employment and economic status. As can be seen in the table below, data indicate that 20.2% of all county residents (age 25 and over) have less than a high school diploma; this compares with a statewide figure of 11.5%. On the other end of the educational spectrum, only 15.3% of county residents have attained a bachelor's degree or above, in comparison to the statewide figure of 36.3%.

Table 6
Somerset County Educational Attainment

Population age 25 years and over	Percent less than HS diploma	Percent HS diploma or above	Percent Bachelor's degree or above
SOMERSET COUNTY	20.2%	79.8%	15.3%
Maryland	11.5%	88.5%	36.3%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2010

Selected Economic Characteristics

Somerset County is ranked 24th of 24 jurisdictions in terms of median household income which runs over \$22,000 below the state figure.

Table 7
Median Household Income

	1999 (Census)	2010 (Census)
SOMERSET COUNTY	\$29,900	\$41,558
Maryland	\$52,850	\$72,999

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2010

For families with their "own" children under age 18, according to the 2000 U.S.

Census definition, the following table illustrates median incomes by family type.

Table 8
Median Family Income of Families with “Own” Children under Age 18

Family Type	Number of Families	Median Family Income
Families with own children under age 18	5,205	\$53,426

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2010

Per Capita Income

Somerset fell below the state per capita income figure in 1999 and, in fact, was ranked 24th among Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions. Per Capita Income comparisons between the county and state are detailed below.

Table 9
Per Capita Income

	1999	2010
SOMERSET COUNTY	\$17,445	\$17,168
Maryland	\$31,796	\$36,056

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2010

Unemployment

As reported by the U. S. Census Bureau, 3.1% of the county population age 16 years and over are currently unemployed, as compared to 5.4% in the State of Maryland.

Individuals, Families, and Children Living Below Poverty

According to the 2010 Census, 5,399 individuals or 20.4% of county residents live below poverty. This compares with a statewide individual poverty percentage of 9.4%. (MDP from 2010 census).

Among county families, 749 or 14.4% live in poverty (2010 figures). This compares to a statewide figure of 6.5% (Census 2010).

Adding the presence of related children under age 18 in a family increases the likelihood that a family is living in poverty. Across the state, 9.9% of all families with related children under the age of 18 live in poverty; in Somerset County that figure is significantly higher at 24.5% (Census 2010).

For families with children under age 18, the family type significantly influences poverty status. Of the county’s families with related children under age 18, a total of 24.5% live in poverty. Of these families in poverty, married couple families account for 4.7%, and single-mother families account for 47.9%.

Housing Costs

As reported in Census 2010, there are 11,187 housing units in Somerset County. Of these, 68.4% are owner occupied while 31.6% are renter occupied. These percentages

are comparable to the state as a whole where 68.1% are owner occupied (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010).

More recently, the median value of owner-occupied properties in 2010 shows the disparity in property value in Somerset County as compared to the state. The Table below illustrates these rates.

Table 10
Owner-Occupied Properties Median Value 2010

	Somerset County	Maryland
Less than \$50,000	9.1%	2.9%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	15.5%	3.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	19.1%	6.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	19.8%	10.4%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	20.8%	26.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	9.0%	31.8%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	4.2%	16.2%
\$1,000,000 or more	2.5%	3.0%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2010

Uninsured

According to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, 13.3% of Somerset County residents of all ages do not have health insurance, as compared to 10.7% for the State of Maryland. For residents under 18, the county has a better rate, with 2.3% of the population uninsured as compared to 4.6% for the state.

Table 11
Insured and Uninsured Residents

	Somerset County	Maryland
All residents with insurance coverage	86.7%	89.3%
With private health insurance	63.8%	75.4%
With public health insurance	37.1%	25.2%
All residents with no health insurance	13.3%	10.7%
Under 18 with no insurance	2.3%	4.6%

STUDY FINDINGS

Part I - Result Area Findings

Result Area 1: Babies Born Healthy

The Babies Born Healthy result area is composed of three state indicators:

- Infant Mortality
- Low Birth Weight
- Birth to Adolescents

Table 12
Kids Count CLIKS Online Data 2012

Child Well-Being Indicator	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Infant Mortality‡					
<i>SOMERSET COUNTY</i>	<i>LNE*</i>	<i>LNE*</i>	<i>LNE*</i>	<i>LNE*</i>	<i>LNE*</i>
Maryland	8.0	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.3
Births to Teens +++					
<i>SOMERSET COUNTY</i>	<i>35.5%</i>	<i>34.8%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>24.4%</i>	<i>30.4%</i>
Maryland	32.7%	31.2%	27.2%	24.7%	22.1%
Low Birth Weights					
<i>SOMERSET COUNTY</i>	<i>10.8%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>7.4%</i>	<i>10.1%</i>	<i>7.6%</i>
Maryland	9.3%	9.2%	8.8%	8.9%	8.8%

* LNE (Low Number Event): Is a value of 5 or less events and thus is not reported

‡per 1,000 live births. Due to the small number of events at the county level, especially for the smaller counties, these rates are yielded through a multi-year analysis which combines 5 years of data to produce a more stable and more reliable rate. Please be aware when evaluating these data the data label may say 2004 but is actually an analysis of data from 2000-2004.

+++ per 1,000 women ages 15-19.

Indicator 1: Infant Mortality

This indicator is associated with family access to health care and of prenatal, family, and environmental risks to a child's healthy start. Infant mortality data measure the rate of deaths (per 1,000 live births) occurring to infants under one year of age.

Secondary Data Analysis

The only available data comes from CLIKS, presenting rates based on multi-year averaging, and the resultant county rankings of those averaged rates. According to this data, Somerset had fewer than five incidents in the past five years, making Somerset County data irrelevant.

Community Survey Data

Question: On a scale of 1 to 10, How big of a problem is the death rate of children (by accident, murder, or suicide)?. Of those surveyed, the largest percentage of respondents, 26.44% (78 of 295) cited infant mortality as a serious problem.

Table 13
Community Survey - Child Deaths

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	39	17.1%
Somewhat of a Problem	42	18.4%
Problem	27	11.8%
Serious Problem	120	52.6%
Total	228	100%

Don't know or no opinion: 67

Indicator 2: Low Birth Weight

Infant birth weight is associated with infant survival, health, and overall development. Infants weighing less than 2,500 grams are more likely to have physical and developmental problems including mental retardation, developmental delays, vision and hearing deficits, chronic respiratory problems, and learning difficulties.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the percent of *all births* and births in various racial and ethnic groups (by race of mother) with *low birth weights* of less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds) and *very low birth weights* of less than 1,500 grams (about 3.3 pounds). The following table illustrates these data for low birth weight babies. Data disaggregated for children of "Other Races Combined" were not included in this table; in no year, did those births total more than six (6).

Table 14
Number and Percent of Low Weight Births *

	All Races**		White		Black	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<i>SOMERSET / 2008</i>	30	10.8%	7	4.1%	23	21.5%
Maryland / 2008	7,163	9.3%	3,262	7.2%	3,449	13.2%
<i>SOMERSET / 2009</i>	14	5.7%	5	3.2%	8	9.3%
Maryland / 2009	6,865	9.2%	3,043	7.0%	3,286	13.0%
<i>SOMERSET / 2010</i>	20	7.4%	15	11.3%	4	LNE***
Maryland / 2010	6,491	8.8%	2,335	6.9%	2,949	12.1%
<i>SOMERSET / 2011</i>	26	10.1%	4	LNE***	18	16.5%
Maryland / 2011	6,471	8.9%	2,240	6.7%	3,001	12.6%
<i>SOMERSET / 2012</i>	20	7.6%	5	4.1%	14	12.3%
Maryland / 2012	6,420	8.8%	2,247	6.8%	2,997	12.6%

Source: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Annual Vital Statistics Reports (2008-2012)

*Weighing 2,499 grams or less

**By race of mother

*** LNE - less than 5 incidents in one year

Between 2008 and 2012, Somerset’s percentage of low birth-weight babies for all races combined exceeded the state rate in two of those years. The data also shows that among all races, the percentage of low birth-weight babies has decreased for all races in Somerset County. As is found across the state, within Somerset County the five-year data indicate that African American babies are more likely to be born at a low birth weight than white babies (2010 in an exception to that trend in Somerset County).

Community Survey Data

Question: *On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem are low birth-weight babies in Somerset County?*

Table 15
Community Survey - Low Birth Weights

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	44	19.0%
Somewhat of a Problem	51	22.0%
Problem	45	19.4%
Serious Problem	92	39.7%
Total	232	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 63

Indicator 3: Births to Adolescents

Adolescent mothers are more likely to drop out of high school, experience unemployment, or if employed, earn lower wages than women who begin childbearing after age 20. Children born to teen mothers face increased risks of low birth weight, developmental problems, and poverty.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the number of births among women in the 15-19 year old age group.

Table 16
Number of Births among Adolescents Ages 15-19

	Somerset	Maryland
	Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000
2008	35.5	32.7
2009	34.8	31.2
2010	31.6	27.2
2011	24.4	24.7
2012	30.4	22.1

Source: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Annual Vital Statistics Reports, 2008-2012

Somerset County has seen a steady decrease in the number of births to teens between

the ages of 15 and 19, from a high of 44 in 2007 to the current rate of 30.4 in 2012.

Community Survey Data

Question: *On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is adolescent motherhood in Somerset County?*

The data below indicate that 50% of the sample viewed adolescent pregnancy as a “serious problem,” making it an area of wide-spread concern.

Table 17
Community Survey Regarding Adolescent Pregnancy

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	31	13.4%
Somewhat of a Problem	38	16.4%
Problem	47	20.3%
Serious Problem	116	50.0%
Total	232	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 63

Discussion of Result Area 1 Findings

The issues related to indicators of the “Babies Born Healthy” result area did not register as a significant issue relative to the other result areas in this needs assessment. The secondary data present a different picture from that of the impressionistic data provided by the community survey, that is, according to the Kids Count CLIKS data shows Somerset County rates low in infant mortality, low birth weight babies, and births to teens, yet teen births ranks as a moderate are of concern among the residents surveyed. The difference between public perception of a problem and the actual occurrence of a problem can be understood as a consequence of the fact that the total number of people affected by teen parenting is far greater than the total number of people touched by low birth weight babies and infant mortality. The good news is that the trends for all three indicators are either unstable or declining.

Result Area 2: Healthy Children

The Healthy Children result area is composed of four state indicators:

- Health Insurance Coverage
- Immunizations
- Deaths
- Obesity
- Hospitalizations
- Substance Use
- Asthma

Indicator 1: Health Insurance Coverage

The availability of health insurance for children provides better access to preventive and routine care, increasing the chances of health risks being detected earlier and treated more effectively.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the number of children in Somerset County without health insurance coverage.

Table 18
Children Without Health Insurance Coverage

	Somerset	Maryland
2007	8.6%	9.5%
2008	7.0%	5.5%
2009	7.1%	5.3%
2010	6.3%	5.4%
2011	5.7%	5.0%

Source: Kids Count Data Center, online data, 2012

Community Survey Data

No question specific to health insurance was asked in the community survey.

Indicator 2: Immunizations

The immunization status of young children is an almost perfect predictor of avoidance of death, disability, or developmental delays associated with immunization-preventable diseases.

Secondary Data Analysis

As this is a new measure for collection, only data from 2012 is available at this time.

Table 19
Children Starting School With All Immunizations

	Somerset	Maryland
2012	98.9%	99.0%

Source: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, online data

Community Survey Data

No question specific to immunizations was asked in the community survey.

Indicator 3: Deaths

This indicator measures the ultimate poor health outcome for children. The rates and causes of death indicate specific risks for children of different ages, genders, and racial/ethnic backgrounds.

Secondary Data Analysis

In no year between 2008 and 2012 (most recent data available) did child deaths in Somerset County exceed the minimum reporting threshold of five incidences. There are not adequate data on which to base a trendline for the county.

Community Survey Data

Results for a similar question can be found under table 12, in Result Area 1: Indicator 1: Infant Mortality.

Indicator 4: Obesity

This indicator measures the poor health outcome for children in reference to weight and health factors related to obesity.

Secondary Data Analysis

There is no secondary data published at the local level for this indicator at this time.

Community Survey Data

No question specific to obesity was asked in the community survey.

Indicator 5: Hospitalizations

Childhood injuries requiring inpatient hospitalization present risks of long-term illness and disability. Nationally, each year unintentional injuries disable over 92,000 children and hurt one (1) in four (4) children seriously enough to require medical attention. The injuries cost the U.S. healthcare system \$347 billion per year.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the number of injuries to children that require inpatient hospitalization in three broad injury categories: unintentional injuries (motor vehicle or other), assaults, or self-inflicted injuries. Reported in the table below are the number of

unintentional injuries that require inpatient hospitalization.

Table 20
Child Injuries Due to Unintentional Injuries Requiring Hospitalization Age 15 and Under

	Somerset	Maryland
2002	21	5,868
2003	24	6,022
2004	29	6,582
2005	20	6,440
2006	32	6,713
2009	8	1,864

Source: Governor's Office for Children from HSCRC 2006 Hospital Discharge Dataset
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Online data

Looking at the county's absolute numbers, there was an increase in unintentional injuries requiring hospitalization for all races combined as well as among white children across the five year period. The data set changed from 2006 to 2009, resulting in missing data in 2007 and 2008, and lower reporting in 2009.

Community Survey Data

No question specific to child injuries was asked in the community survey.

Indicator 6: Youth Substance Abuse

Use of various substances poses major health risks to youth. Early use of some substances (e.g. tobacco) is associated with later use of other substances.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the percentage of public school students who report using alcohol, tobacco, and other illegal drugs within the last 30 days by type of substance and by age/grade (6th, 8th, 10th, 12th) as presented in the Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS).

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) administers the Maryland Adolescent Survey to assess information and attitudes on the nature, extent and trends in alcohol, tobacco and drug use in middle and high school populations. The survey is conducted biennially and has been designed to parallel the National Institute on Drug Abuse's annual national survey "Monitoring the Future."

As seen in Table 21, the MAS indicates that Somerset's youth show an overall increase in the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other illegal drugs as they progress through their adolescent years. With one interesting exception, data across years and grade levels indicate that alcohol is the "drug of choice" for Somerset youth. The exception is found in 2004 data for 6th graders which indicated that "any form of drug" had been used in the past 30 days by 10.9% of students while "any form of alcohol" had been used by 9.5%.

Perhaps a more helpful way to consider the data is to look at the trend of substance use within the county at each grade level over time. Between 1998 and 2007, the percentage of Somerset children in Grade 6 who reported using a given substance within the past 30 days decreased in 18 of 24 categories, remained the same in 2, and increased in the remaining 4. Although the percentages of use are relatively small, it may be of some concern that the categories of substances in which increased use was reported by 6th graders between 1998 and 2007 included the illegal drugs of other forms of cocaine (0.5%), steroids for body building (0.5%), other hallucinogens (0.5%), and narcotics (0.5%).

Unlike 6th graders, the percentage of children in Grade 8 who reported using a given substance decreased in 13 of 24 categories while there was an increased percentage of students reported using substances in 11 categories between 1998 and 2007. As was observed among county 6th graders, substance categories including other forms of cocaine (1.1%), other hallucinogens (1.6%), steroids for body building (0.5%), and narcotics (1.1%) showed increased percentages of use over time.

In only 3 of the 24 categories of substances did Somerset's 10th graders show an increased percentage of use between 1998 and 2007. Those categories were inhalants (3.6%), designer drugs (1.2%) and needle use (1.2%). Tenth graders showed a noteworthy drop in reported use of cigarettes, various categories of alcohol, marijuana, and "any drug other than alcohol or tobacco" over time.

Finally, the percentage of students in Grade 12 who reported using substances increased in 7 categories, and decreased for 17. Increased percentages of reported use between 1998 and 2007 included cigarettes (36.5%), steroids for body building (2.7%), designer drugs (2.7%), and amphetamines (6.8%) among others. More encouraging, however, was the decreased percentage of reported use in the major categories "any form of alcohol" and "any drug other than alcohol or tobacco."

Table 21 – Comparison of **Somerset** MAS Results 1998 – 2007
 Percent of Students reporting Substance Use by Grade Level in the last 30 days

Substance	Grade 6					Grade 8					Grade 10					Grade 12				
	98	01	02	04	07	98	01	02	04	07	98	01	02	04	07	98	01	02	04	07
Cigarettes	15.5	11.6	6.7	8.8	3.7	14.6	23.3	17.8	17.3	5.5	27.2	22.2	18.7	17.0	9.0	35.1	30.1	21.4	22.5	36.5
Smokeless Tobacco	5.8	4.4	2.1	1.5	2.1	4.4	4.3	3.0	1.9	1.6	3.9	4.4	1.3	0.7	2.4	4.8	4.1	4.4	10.0	2.7
Beer, wine (other than for religious use), or wine coolers	23.2	14.7	9.0	5.8	8.4	21.9	32.9	23.7	23.7	16.9	50.6	34.7	26.7	23.7	31.7	59.0	40.5	44.2	46.7	48.6
Liquor (such as rum, vodka, or whiskey)	9.2	7.0	3.0	5.1	5.8	16.0	20.0	14.6	16.7	14.2	38.5	29.9	16.2	22.2	27.5	49.7	36.1	34.3	37.5	43.2
5 or more servings of alcohol on the same occasion	8.9	7.7	3.5	5.1	4.7	9.1	15.5	14.1	10.9	8.2	37.8	24.6	13.6	11.9	21.0	43.5	33.5	28.5	34.2	31.1
Marijuana (pot, grass, hashish)	4.7	4.8	1.4	4.4	0.5	13.3	21.3	14.2	9.0	8.7	25.8	19.7	14.4	13.3	11.4	39.5	23.3	18.7	17.5	37.8
Inhalants	3.4	4.9	1.6	4.4	2.1	2.6	7.0	3.0	1.3	2.7	2.1	2.7	0.0	0.7	3.6	6.0	1.1	0.0	3.3	2.7
Amyl or butyl nitrates (locker room, rush)	0.0	1.6	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	1.1	1.3	2.5	0.0	1.5	0.6	2.4	0.0	0.0	3.3	1.4
Crack (rock)	0.9	2.1	2.0	1.5	0.5	1.2	2.7	3.0	2.6	1.1	2.8	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.6	2.4	2.1	4.0	3.3	0.0
Other forms of cocaine	0.0	2.6	0.5	2.2	0.5	0.0	2.7	2.5	1.3	1.1	4.2	1.9	0.7	2.2	0.6	8.4	2.1	4.4	5.0	2.7
LSD (acid, stickers)	0.9	3.3	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	3.6	2.6	1.3	0.5	3.0	2.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	2.6	2.2	3.6	2.5	1.4
PCP (angel dust, love boat, green)	0.9	2.2	1.0	1.5	0.0	2.6	3.5	4.1	1.9	1.1	3.6	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.9	4.0	2.5	0.0
Other hallucinogens (mescaline, shrooms)	0.0	2.2	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	3.4	3.1	1.3	1.6	3.0	2.8	0.0	0.7	0.6	3.2	1.1	3.6	4.2	2.7
Steroids for body building	0.0	2.7	0.9	1.5	0.5	0.0	0.7	2.5	1.3	0.5	1.3	0.9	1.3	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	1.3	2.5	2.7
Methamphetamines (meth, speed, crank)	0.9	2.6	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	2.0	0.6	1.1	2.9	2.5	0.7	0.7	0.6	3.3	1.0	4.4	2.5	1.4
Designer drugs (MDMA, ecstasy)	0.7	1.6	0.5	0.0	0.5	1.0	2.6	3.6	0.0	1.6	0.8	2.2	0.7	1.5	1.2	0.8	2.2	1.3	2.5	2.7
Heroin (smack, stuff)	0.0	2.1	1.0	0.7	0.0	2.1	2.2	2.5	0.6	1.1	1.5	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.2	3.5	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.4
Needle to inject cocaine, heroin or other illegal drugs	0.9	2.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	1.2	1.4	2.0	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.2	2.7	0.0	1.3	1.7	1.4
Amphetamines (uppers, bennies, speed, dexies)	2.5	3.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.0	1.4	3.0	2.6	2.7	5.7	4.7	2.8	0.7	1.8	5.1	0.9	7.2	3.3	6.8
Barbiturates and/or tranquilizers (reds, downers, Valium)	0.9	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.5	1.3	2.2	1.4	3.3	0.7	1.5	1.2	6.0	0.9	3.6	3.3	6.8
Narcotics (Codeine, Morphine, Percodan, Methadone)	0.0	2.0	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.0	2.0	2.0	1.3	1.1	2.8	3.6	1.4	0.7	1.8	4.3	0.0	1.3	5.0	5.4
Ritalin	0.9	3.1	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.0	2.7	2.0	0.6	2.2	2.1	0.9	0.0	0.7	1.8	2.4	0.0	2.7	2.5	4.1
Any form of alcohol	24.1	16.4	9.5	9.5	8.9	26.7	34.9	27.2	26.9	20.2	54.5	40.1	27.7	28.9	34.7	63.4	48.7	48.7	48.3	54.1
Any drug other than alcohol or tobacco	7.2	10.1	6.5	10.9	2.6	14.3	28.2	17.2	14.7	11.5	28.5	22.9	15.1	15.6	15.6	41.9	25.4	23.7	19.2	39.2

* Percentages reflect ILLEGAL use of prescription drugs, not use by students as prescribed by physicians.

Source: Maryland Adolescent Survey, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2007

Community Survey Data

There were two questions related to this indicator:

- (1) On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is underage drinking in Somerset County?
- (2) On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is adolescent drug abuse in Somerset County?

The data in the two tables below indicate that underage drinking and use of illegal drugs are considered very serious problems by the respondents of the survey as they ranked drinking and drug use as the top two concerns.

Table 22
Community Survey Regarding Underage Drinking

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	26	10.1%
Somewhat of a Problem	19	7.4%
Problem	42	16.3%
Serious Problem	171	66.3%
Total	258	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 37

Table 23
Community Survey Regarding Illegal Drug Use by Teenagers

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	20	7.7%
Somewhat of a Problem	24	9.2%
Problem	42	16.1%
Serious Problem	175	67.0%
Total	261	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 34

Indicator 7: Asthma

Asthma is becoming a more prevalent problem across the state, leading to additional health concerns for children as they reach adolescence and adulthood.

Secondary Data Analysis

As this is a new measure for collection, only data from 2009 is available at this time.

Table 24
Recorded Cases of Diagnosed Asthma, rate per 10,000

	Somerset	Maryland
2009	60.9	48.2

Source: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, online data

Community Survey Data

No question specific to asthma was asked in the community survey.

Discussion of Result 2 Area Findings

The result area Healthy Children presents a mixed picture depending upon the indicator that one interprets. Immunizations, injuries, and childhood fatalities are not viewed by the public as problematic, and the secondary data supports the same conclusion as county rates mirror state figures; however, youth substance abuse was rated as the most serious by survey respondents. From the amassed secondary data there is evidence to support both the public alarm, at the number of youth who use drugs and alcohol, and public hope, for those who see evidence that prevention programs are successful in beginning to “turn the curve” towards a decrease in substance abuse as evidenced by the direction indicator trendline.

Result Area 3: School Readiness

The School Readiness result area is composed of one state indicator:

- Kindergarten Assessment

Traditionally, the early childhood education profession has measured the success of early childhood experiences by documenting inputs, such as early education enrollment figures. Recently, however, the national trend of measuring school readiness has incorporated quantitative measures of the skills and knowledge that children should be able to demonstrate across all developmental domains by the time they enter school, typically as kindergarten students.

Indicator 1: Kindergarten Assessment

Secondary Data Analysis

Kindergarten Assessment ratings are based on the percent of students who have reached one of three levels of readiness on the Work Sampling System™ Kindergarten Assessment: full readiness, approaching readiness, or developing readiness. The three levels of readiness are based upon teacher ratings in the following seven domains: social and personal, language and literacy, mathematical thinking, scientific thinking, social studies, the arts, and physical development. Full readiness is defined as consistently demonstrating skills, behaviors, and abilities that are needed to meet kindergarten expectations successfully. Approaching readiness indicates that a student is inconsistently meeting those goals and requires targeted instructional support. Students who are developing readiness do not successfully meet kindergarten readiness goals and require considerable support.

Table 25
Kids Count CLIKS Online Data 2012

Child Well-Being Indicator	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Kindergarten Readiness					
<i>SOMERSET COUNTY</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>85%</i>	<i>71%</i>
Maryland	65%	70%	73%	95%	74%

As they entered kindergarten, children in Somerset County have shown a historically high percentage of students at “Full Readiness” in the past; however, the last two years of data has seen a decline in the percentage of children entering school ready to learn.

Additional Result Area 3 Data

Community Survey

Question: On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is preschoolers’ readiness for school in Somerset County?

Table 26
 Community Survey Regarding Preschool Readiness

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	42	19.0%
Somewhat of a Problem	40	18.1%
Problem	57	25.8%
Serious Problem	82	37.1%
Total	221	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 74

Discussion of Result Area 3 Findings

Result Area 3: Children Enter School Ready to Learn has only one indicator, Kindergarten Readiness. Given the subsequent challenges faced by county students as they progress in school, it is impressive that early school preparation efforts are so successful.

Result Area 4: School Success

The School Success result area is composed of three state indicators:

- Academic Performance
- School Truancy
- Bullying and Harassment

Indicator 1: Academic Performance

The Maryland School Assessment requires students in 3rd through 8th grade to demonstrate what they know about reading and math and requires older students to demonstrate proficiency in English and geometry. The reading and math test produces a score that describes how well a student masters the discipline content specified in the Maryland Content Standards. Each child receives a score in each content area that will categorize their performance as basic, proficient, or advanced. These data will provide parents with objective information on where their child stands academically.

Secondary Data Analysis

The MSA school performance data is displayed with three achievement levels of basic, proficient, and advanced aligned to statewide standards.

- *Advanced* is a highly challenging and exemplary level of achievement indicating outstanding accomplishment in meeting the needs of students.
- *Proficient* is a realistic and rigorous level of achievement indicating proficiency in meeting the needs of students.
- *Basic* is a level of achievement indicating that more work is needed to attain proficiency in meeting the needs of students. Student performance in each content area is reported in terms of these three achievement levels.

Reading:

Basic - Students at this level are unable to adequately read and comprehend grade appropriate literature and informational passages.

Proficient - Students at this level can read grade appropriate text and demonstrate the ability to comprehend literature and informational passages.

Advanced - Students at this level can regularly read above-grade level text and demonstrate the ability to comprehend complex literature and informational passages.

Mathematics:

Basic - Students at this level demonstrate only partial mastery of the skills and concepts defined in the Maryland Mathematics Content Standards.

Proficient - Students at this level demonstrate an understanding of fundamental grade level skills and concepts and can generally solve entry-level problems in mathematics.

Advanced - Students at this level can regularly solve complex problems in mathematics and demonstrate superior ability to reason mathematically.

Table 27

Percent of Students in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Reading and Math - Scoring at Advanced, Proficient, and Basic Levels on the Maryland School Assessments (MSA) School Years 2008/2009 through 2012/2013

Grade 3												
Year	State of Maryland						Somerset County					
	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Advanced		Proficient		Basic	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
08/09	21.9	28.8	63	55.5	15.1	15.7	9.0	18.1	71.4	62.9	19.5	19.0
09/10	21.2	34.1	62.8	541.9	16.0	14.0	8.2	22.2	73.4	63.8	18.4	14.0
10/11	20.5	25.4	64.6	50.9	14.9	13.7	84	19.2	70.6	65.4	21.0	15.4
11/12	20.6	38.7	64.4	49.0	15.0	12.2	15.1	28.0	72.6	62.8	12.8	9.2
12/13	22.1	28.9	60.5	53.3	17.4	17.8	9.8	25.7	69.7	61.6	20.5	12.7

Grade 4												
Year	State of Maryland						Somerset County					
	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Advanced		Proficient		Basic	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
08/09	26.8	44.9	59.9	44.3	13.4	10.8	11.2	25.5	74.0	56.6	14.8	17.9
09/10	29.5	46.6	57.9	43.6	12.6	9.8	16.4	31.8	71.1	57.2	12.4	10.9
10/11	29.4	49.7	59.3	40.6	11.3	9.7	23.0	44.5	66.0	45.9	11.0	9.6
11/12	34.2	51.2	55.6	38.6	10.2	10.1	19.0	47.8	70.0	43.1	11.0	9.1
12/13	29.8	46.7	58.4	42.1	11.8	11.2	19.5	44.8	68.1	49.5	12.4	5.7

Grade 5												
Year	State of Maryland						Somerset County					
	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Advanced		Proficient		Basic	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
08/09	49.6	25.1	39.9	56.1	10.5	18.8	47.0	17.6	44.0	62.4	9.0	20.0
09/10	53.3	25.3	36.1	57.9	10.6	16.9	41.6	10.5	45.5	69.4	12.9	20.1
10/11	55.8	22.8	34.4	59.4	9.8	17.7	45.5	15.7	46.5	74.7	8.0	9.6
11/12	55.1	30.5	34.9	54.8	10.1	14.7	46.9	19.2	44.1	70.9	8.9	9.9
12/13	56.6	25.3	31.8	55.1	11.6	19.1	44.8	16.7	43.8	67.5	11.3	15.8

Grade 6												
Year	State of Maryland						Somerset County					
	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Advanced		Proficient		Basic	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
08/09	40.2	29.0	43.3	47.0	16.6	24.0	31.9	17.7	45.4	60.2	22.7	22.0
09/10	43.3	29.7	42.8	50.1	13.9	20.2	36.5	29.8	51.7	60.7	11.8	9.6
10/11	42.8	32.1	41.0	48.9	16.2	19.0	36.2	34.7	47.2	54.8	16.6	10.6
11/12	41.8	35.5	42.7	47.6	15.5	17.0	30.4	35.3	56.0	57.4	13.6	7.4
12/13	43.5	29.1	40.6	48.0	15.9	22.9	36.6	31.0	47.9	57.3	15.5	11.7

Grade 7												
Year	State of Maryland						Somerset County					
	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Advanced		Proficient		Basic	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
08/09	43.7	23.0	38.1	49.0	18.3	28.0	32.0	9.8	49.3	56.4	18.7	33.8
09/10	45.1	23.4	36.8	49.2	18.2	27.4	37.1	14.5	47.3	64.0	15.6	21.5
10/11	43.4	25.4	40.6	48.9	15.9	25.7	33.5	22.2	55.1	60.2	11.4	17.6
11/12	45.7	26.9	35.5	49.5	18.8	23.7	38.9	19.2	48.2	62.7	13.1	18.1
12/13	48.1	23.3	36.9	49.3	15.0	27.4	40.2	17.5	41.3	67.2	18.5	15.3

Grade 8												
Year	State of Maryland						Somerset County					
	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Advanced		Proficient		Basic	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
08/09	36.9	28.6	43.3	37.1	19.8	34.2	18.3	13.2	49.3	32.6	32.3	54.2
09/10	44.8	29.5	35.5	35.9	19.6	34.6	24.9	10.2	45.9	31.7	29.3	58.0
10/11	45.9	32.4	36.8	33.7	17.3	33.9	39.9	16.6	42.0	48.7	18.1	34.8
11/12	44.2	33.1	36.6	36.2	19.2	30.7	34.1	20.5	40.5	45.4	25.4	34.1
12/13	46.1	30.6	34.9	36.4	19.0	33.0	29.3	22.8	46.5	41.1	24.2	36.0

Source: Maryland's Report Card: 2009 - 2013 Performance Report (MSDE)

Because MSA data is so detailed, it is recommended that specific areas of interest or concern be further studied and considered if needed in future planning efforts.

County MSA scores in math and reading improved in most grade levels from 2009 to 2013; however, the county scores still remain well below the state average as a whole.

The High School Assessment (HSA) school performance data is displayed with three achievement levels of basic, proficient, and advanced aligned to statewide standards.

- *Advanced* is a highly challenging and exemplary level of achievement indicating outstanding accomplishment in meeting the needs of students.
- *Proficient* is a realistic and rigorous level of achievement indicating proficiency in meeting the needs of students.
- *Basic* is a level of achievement indicating that more work is needed to attain proficiency in meeting the needs of students. Student performance in each content area is reported in terms of these three achievement levels.

Table 28

Percent of Students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, Algebra, Biology, and English - Scoring at Advanced, Proficient, and Basic Levels on the High School Assessments (HSA) School Years 2008/2009 through 2012/2013

High School Assessment																		
Year	Maryland									Somerset								
	Advanced			Proficient			Basic			Advanced			Proficient			Basic		
	Alg.	Bio.	Eng.	Alg.	Bio.	Eng.	Alg.	Bio.	Eng.	Alg.	Bio.	Eng.	Alg.	Bio.	Eng.	Alg.	Bio.	Eng.
08/09	28.3	18.7	33.0	56.8	63.9	50.5	14.9	17.5	16.5	21.3	5.6	18.1	60.6	65.2	56.3	18.1	29.2	25.6
09/10	30.1	17.4	28.9	53.5	63.5	51.3	16.4	19.0	19.9	18.6	8.2	21.0	60.5	67.8	55.1	20.9	24.0	24.0
10/11	30.0	19.8	28.4	53.6	61.5	53.4	16.4	18.7	18.3	20.2	6.5	17.0	58.9	64.9	58.8	20.9	28.6	24.2
11/12	30.8	22.1	28.2	53.1	59.6	54.9	16.1	18.3	16.9	19.8	14.2	19.1	57.6	66.5	60.1	22.6	19.3	20.8
12/13	30.8	21.9	27.8	53.4	60.7	55.3	15.8	17.4	17.0	18.2	11.2	14.1	59.7	67.4	60.5	22.2	21.3	25.4

Source: Maryland's Report Card: 2009 - 2013 Performance Report (MSDE)

As with the MSA scores, Somerset County high school students scored lower than the state average on the HSA. Unlike the MSA scores, the HSA results for Advanced level have decreased from 2009 to 2013 in Algebra and English, but increased in Biology.

Community Survey Data

There was one question related to this indicator: *The next issue is about the Maryland School Assessment test, the state's standardized educational test. On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is Somerset County school children's performance on the test?*

Table 29

Community Survey Regarding Performance on Maryland School Assessment Test

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	42	19.4%
Somewhat of a Problem	29	13.4%
Problem	47	21.7%
Serious Problem	99	45.6%
Total	217	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 78

Indicator 2: School Truancy

Absenteeism and truancy indicate a loss of opportunity to learn and have negative long-term consequences. High levels of school absence are associated with a higher risk of school failure, dropping out of school, delinquent behavior, substance abuse, and other high-risk behaviors.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the percentage of students in all grades who are absent more than 20 days of the school year annually. It is important to note that these data do not differentiate between students with "excused" versus "unexcused" absences. Local school systems have detailed data on reasons for absences. Nor does the measure include students enrolled for

fewer than 91 days during the school year. Attendance data for Somerset County public schools are found below.

Table 30
Percent of Students in all Grades Missing More than 20 Days of School

	Somerset	Maryland
08/09 School Year	11.5%	11.3%
09/10 School Year	13.5%	11.2%
10/11 School Year	11.7%	11.3%
11/12 School Year	10.5%	10.8%
12/13 School Year	13.9%	11.1%

Source: Maryland's Report Card: 2009 through 2013 (MSDE)

From 2009 through 2013, Somerset students (all grades combined) averaged above the state average each year, with the exception of 2012.

Community Survey Data

There was one question related to this indicator: *The next issue is chronic absenteeism from school, that is, missing 20 or more days of school a year. On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is chronic absenteeism from school in Somerset County?*

Table 31
Community Survey Regarding Chronic Absenteeism

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	40	17.8%
Somewhat of a Problem	24	10.7%
Problem	52	23.1%
Serious Problem	109	48.4%
Total	225	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 70

Indicator 3: Bullying and Harassment

The safety and security of students in the school environment affects graduation, adult achievement, and life skills.

Secondary Data Analysis

There is currently no county level data for this indicator available.

Community Survey Data

There was no question specific to this indicator.

Discussion of Result Area 4 Findings

Result Area 4: School Completion includes three indicators, academic success, school truancy, and bullying and harassment. In contrast to school preparedness where students scored best in the state, county students have difficulty demonstrating success once they are in school. The secondary data are consistent, and the indicators logically reinforce one another towards a common conclusion; there are serious concerns with the county public school system. First, Somerset county youth have poor attendance in high school. Second, county students in all three school levels, elementary, middle, and high have higher absenteeism rates than the state average at comparable levels, and the trends for middle and high school students are all on the rise. Finally, as might be expected, high absenteeism is associated with and may actually be a harbinger of lower academic performance as evidenced by low test scores. The earlier analysis of the MSA test scores documents the gap between the performance of county youth and statewide performance standards.

Concerns about academic performance were echoed in the community as well.

Result Area 5: School Completion

The School Completion result area is composed of three state indicators:

- High School Graduation Rate
- High School Program Completion
- Graduation/School Completion of Students with Disabilities

Indicator 1: High School Graduation Rate

Failure to complete high school is closely linked with decreased employment opportunities, low pay, and limited paths to advancement.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator reports the percentage of public school students in 12th grade who successfully graduated or completed a Maryland approved educational program during the July to June academic year. The following chart presents a comparison of Somerset County and State students' graduation rates for the past three years.

Table 32

Graduation Rate: 2010-2012

	2010	2011	2012
<i>SOMERSET COUNTY</i>	80.5%	76.6%	83.6%
Maryland	82.0%	82.8%	83.6%

Source: Kids Count CLIKS Online Data 2012

Over the past three years, Somerset County has consistently fallen short of the state average for graduation rates, except for 2012, where Somerset met the state average.

Community Survey Data

Question: On a scale of 1 to 10, how big of a problem is high school drop outs in Somerset County?

Table 33

Community Survey Regarding Drop Out Rates

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	32	15.2%
Somewhat of a Problem	28	13.3%
Problem	33	15.6%
Serious Problem	118	55.9%
Total	211	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 84

Indicator 2: High School Program Completion

The completion of program requirements indicates students' potential readiness for post-secondary education and/or employment.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the percent of high school graduates who complete minimum course requirements needed for approved Career and Technology programs, or who completed course requirements that would qualify them for admission to the University System of Maryland, or who complete both. The following chart illustrates the percentages for both state and local students over the past five years who completed either the University of Maryland entry requirements, course requirements for the career and technology programs, or both.

Table 34

Percent of Students Completing High School University Preparatory and Career Programs

	Somerset County	Maryland
2013 University of Maryland	39.2%	61.2%
2013 Career and Technology	45.5%	8.1%
2013 Both UofM and C&T	LNE*	11.1%
Rigorous High School Tract	20.5%	24.6%
One or more of above	88.6%	80.8%

Source: Maryland Report Card, Data Download, 2013

*LNE - less than 5 incidents in one year

Somerset students complete Career and Technology programs at far greater rates than students across the state. Additionally, students in Somerset County completed one or more of the preparatory and career programs at a higher rate than the state.

Community Survey Data

No question specific to the graduation rate was asked in the community survey.

Indicator 3: Graduation/School Completion of Students with Disabilities

High school graduation/completion is an indicator of adequate functioning for children with mental illness. The National Mental Health Association found that children with serious emotional disturbances have the highest school dropout rate of any group of children with disabilities (National Mental Health Associations' 1993 Report, "All Systems Failure").

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator reports the percent of children with Emotional Disturbances (ED) who exit special education by graduating or completing school. It does not include those students

with ED who exited the program to return to general education or to transfer to another program.

Table 35
Percent of Special Education Students Graduating/Completing Program Requirements

	Somerset	Maryland
2008 School Year	57.7%	80.7%
2009 School Year	80.8%	78.3%
2010 School Year	70.4%	77.7%
2011 School Year	83.3%	76.7%
2012 School Year	80.0%	77.1%

Source: Maryland Report Card, 2012

With the exception of the 2008 and 2010 school years, Somerset County students in the special education program had a higher success rate in completing school requirements than those of the state over the past five years.

Community Survey Data

No question specific to this indicator was asked in the community survey.

Discussion of Result Area 5 Findings

As with Result Area 4: School Success, Result Area 5: School Completion is one that provides evidence of the challenges faced by the county public educational system. Somerset County has seen a continued issue with students successfully graduating high school as compared to the state, and has a lower level of students completing college preparation courses as compared to the state. Public reaction to the issue of completing school is similar to that of academic performance, with community members showing high level of concern regarding drop-out rates.

Result Area 6: School Transition

The School Transition result area is composed of three state indicators:

- Educational Attainment
- Youth Employment
- Post Graduation Plans

Indicator 1: Educational Attainment

The educational attainment of the adults in the community can have a positive or negative effect on the attainment goals of the youth in the county, as well as the overall economic health and stability of the community.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator reports the percentage of residents ages 25 and older who have achieved high school diplomas or higher. The following chart presents a comparison of Somerset County and State residents rates over the past three years as an average.

Table 36

Educational Attainment - 3 year estimate

2010-2012	Somerset	Maryland
Less than High School Diploma	21.5%	11.4%
High School Diploma	41.1%	25.9%
Some College	16.8%	19.8%
Bachelor's Degree	10.3%	20.0%

Source: American Community Survey, 2012

Somerset county has lower averages for college attainment than the state average, but higher than state average regarding completion of high school diplomas.

Community Survey Data

No question specific to the graduation rate was asked in the community survey.

Indicator 2: Youth Employment

Youth employment helps contribute to both the local work force as well as the life experiences necessary for success in life.

Secondary Data Analysis

There is currently no data collected locally for this indicator.

Community Survey Data

No question specific to the graduation rate was asked in the community survey.

Indicator 3: Post Graduation Plans

Post graduation plans give a strong indication of the intentions and motivation of the graduating youth for their intended course in life, either through education or workforce preparation.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator reports the number of children graduating high school with plans to attend college, business school, or enter the workforce.

Table 37

Number of Students with Reported Post Graduation Plans

	Total	College Full Time	College Part Time	Business School	Work Force	Military	Other
<i>09/10 Somerset</i>	182	109	36	10	27	11	14
09/10 Maryland	52,131	37,457	6,505	2,248	6,885	2,244	2,214
<i>10/11 Somerset</i>	190	89	50	1	38	8	24
10/11 Maryland	50,840	35,335	6,738	1,155	7,386	1,782	3,926
<i>11/12 Somerset</i>	185	93	47	8	48	11	12
11/12 Maryland	51,886	36,155	7,113	1,235	8,700	2,053	3,012

Source: Maryland Fact Book, 2012

In the past three years Somerset County and Maryland state have both seen a decline in the total number of students reporting post graduation plans, although Somerset County still shows an increase from 2010 to 2012.

Community Survey Data

No question specific to this indicator was asked in the community survey.

Discussion of Result Area 6 Findings

Result Area 6: School Transition is one that provides evidence of the challenges faced by the students as they leave the public school system and prepare for college or workforce entry. There is little data regarding the community perceptions on this result area; however, the secondary data shows a need for continued interventions and programs to increase the success of our county youth.

Result Area 7: Safety

The Safety result area is composed of four state indicators:

- Child Maltreatment
- Juvenile Violent Offenses
- Juvenile Serious Non-Violent Offenses
- Recidivism Rate

Indicator 1: Child Maltreatment

This indicator measures the extent to which important adults threaten children’s security. Child abuse or neglect can result in physical harm, developmental delays, behavioral problems, or death. Abused and neglected children are at greater risk for delinquency and mistreatment of their own children.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator is defined as the rate (per 1,000 children under age 18) of child abuse or neglect that Child Protective Service investigations ruled “indicated” (where credible evidence is not satisfactorily refuted) or “unsubstantiated” (where insufficient evidence is found to support a finding as either indicated or ruled out). The Department of Human Resources does not track the number of investigations ruled out because state law requires that they be expunged. Rates are based on the under-18 population estimates from the Vital Statistics Administration. The following chart indicates the number of investigations, those found indicated and those found unsubstantiated, and the per 1,000 child rate.

Table 38

Child Abuse and Neglect Indicated and Unsubstantiated Cases and Rate per 1,000 youth under 18

	Total Investigations		Indicated		Unsubstantiated	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<i>SOMERSET / 04</i>	128	28.0	65	14.2	63	13.8
<i>Maryland / 04</i>	13,926	10.1	6,342	4.6	7,584	5.5
<i>SOMERSET / 05</i>	130	27.4	55	11.6	75	15.8
<i>Maryland / 05</i>	13,749	9.9	6,196	4.4	7,553	5.4
<i>SOMERSET / 06</i>	No Data		No Data		No Data	
<i>Maryland / 06</i>	No Data		No Data		No Data	
<i>SOMERSET / 07</i>	No Data		No Data		No Data	
<i>Maryland / 07</i>	No Data		No Data		No Data	
<i>SOMERSET / 08</i>	134	28.5	62	13.2	72	15.3
<i>Maryland / 08</i>	11,610	8.5	5,815	4.3	5,795	4.3

Source: Governor’s Office of Children from Department of Human Resources

Between 2004 and 2008 (most recent data available), the rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 youth under the age of 18 showed Somerset County at a substantially higher rate of

total, indicated, and unsubstantiated child abuse and neglect investigation findings than the rate across the state. Further inquiry into the cause(s) of these above average data may clarify underlying causes (such as needed changes in the child welfare system, how cases are dispositioned, etc.). There is no data available for 2006 and 2007 due to the conversion to the CHESSIE data collection system within the Department of Human Resources.

Community Survey Data

There was one question related to this indicator: *The next issue is child abuse and neglect. On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is child abuse and neglect in Somerset County?*

Table 39
Community Survey Regarding Child Abuse and Neglect

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	33	13.1%
Somewhat of a Problem	30	11.9%
Problem	48	19.0%
Serious Problem	141	56.0%
Total	252	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 43

Indicator 2: Juvenile Violent Offense Arrests and

Indicator 3: Juvenile Serious Non-Violent Offense Arrests

Involvement in violent offenses increases the risk of injury or death. Risk factors for juvenile delinquency—including serious non-violent offenses—include a lack of educational and job training opportunities, poverty, family violence, and inadequate supervision. Poor school performance, including absence from school and falling behind one or more grade levels, increases the likelihood of involvement in delinquent activity.

Secondary Data Analysis

The table below depicts the number of violent offense arrests attributed to Somerset County youth in the Department of Juvenile Services Annual Report. The number of arrests are reported for Somerset County's 11 to 17 year old age group.

Table 40

Juvenile Violent Offense Arrests – Number of Arrests for 11 to 17 years old

	Manslaughter and Murder	Sex Felony	Robbery	Aggravated Assault
<i>Somerset / 06</i>	0	0	0	8
Maryland / 06	51	245	1,338	809
<i>Somerset / 07</i>	0	3	1	1
Maryland / 07	37	277	1,364	699
<i>Somerset / 08</i>	0	5	4	2
Maryland / 08	29	286	1,416	671
<i>Somerset / 09</i>	0	3	3	9
Maryland / 09	29	259	1,523	623
<i>Somerset / 10</i>	0	4	0	3
Maryland / 10	21	215	1,337	522

Source: Department of Juvenile Services Annual Statistical Reports, Fiscal Years 2006 Through 2010

Violent offense rates are calculated using data from the following offense categories in Maryland's Uniform Crime Report: murder and non-negligent manslaughter; forcible rape; robbery; and felonious assault. Statistically speaking, Somerset County has seen an decrease in Juvenile Violent Offense Arrests from 2006 to 2010 in all areas except forcible rape/sex felony.

The table below depicts the number of arrests of serious non-violent offense arrests attributed to Somerset County youth in the Department of Juvenile Services Annual Report. As in the chart above (violent offenses), both the number of arrests are reported for Somerset's 11 to 17 year old age group.

Table 41

Juvenile Serious Non-Violent Offense Arrests – Number of Arrests for 11 to 17 years old

	Breaking and Entering	Larceny / Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft
<i>Somerset / 06</i>	13	35	0
Maryland / 06	2,775	8,361	1,291
<i>Somerset / 07</i>	25	44	1
Maryland / 07	2,457	8,737	1,085
<i>Somerset / 08</i>	13	34	3
Maryland / 08	2,458	9,165	1,030
<i>Somerset / 09</i>	15	36	0
Maryland / 09	2,381	9,283	762
<i>Somerset / 10</i>	8	27	2
Maryland / 10	1,887	7,771	586

Source: Department of Juvenile Services Annual Statistical Reports, Fiscal Years 2006 Through 2010

Serious non-violent offense rates are calculated using data from the following offense categories in Maryland's Uniform Crime Report: breaking and entering; larceny-theft; and motor vehicle theft.

As was suggested with violent offense numbers, perhaps the most helpful way to consider this data, too, is to look at the trend in Somerset's figures alone. In that regard, the numbers for all ages combined showed a generally downward trend between 2006 and 2010, although again with noteworthy year-to-year fluctuations, and again, as one might expect, the absolute total of arrests show the same unsteady pattern.

Community Survey Data

There were two questions related to this indicator:

Question (1): *The next issue is about non-violent property crime committed by teenagers, that is, crimes like vehicle theft, purse snatching, and breaking and entering. On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is non-violent crime in Somerset County?*

Question (2): *The next issue is about the amount of violent crime committed by teenagers, that is, crime like assault or rape. On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is violent crime in Somerset County?*

Table 42
Community Survey Regarding Non-violent Crime by Teenagers

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	18	8.0%
Somewhat of a Problem	33	14.6%
Problem	52	23.0%
Serious Problem	123	54.4%
Total	226	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 69

Table 43
Community Survey Regarding Violent Crime by Teenagers

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	31	13.7%
Somewhat of a Problem	36	15.9%
Problem	49	21.7%
Serious Problem	110	48.7%
Total	226	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 69

Indicator 4: Recidivism Rate

Recidivism in the Juvenile Justice system is affected by the quality of the program, the quality of the aftercare supervision, the community and/or family to which the youth return, local economic opportunities, and other factors outside the control of the department and the community.

Secondary Data Analysis

Data is not currently collected in the county for this indicator.

Community Survey Data

No question specific to this indicator was asked in the community survey.

Discussion of Result Area Findings

Result Area 7: Safety is a result area with four indicators, and there was a good deal of variation in the data related to each. The first indicator is child abuse and neglect. This is an indicator where the picture is unclear since secondary data suggest it is a serious issue given the county's statistics; however, there are questions regarding the validity of these rankings because of inconsistent data collection. Yet the trend lines are going up, which is not good, and community survey respondents rank it mid-way on their continuum of concerns. The second and third indicators are juvenile crime, both non-violent and violent. The picture in both of these areas is likewise hard to interpret because the secondary data for juveniles in the state tends to be several years old and occasionally incomplete. The final indicator, recidivism, has no viable data to form an opinion. Even with the inconsistency of the data, a broad generalization is possible. There are problems with child abuse, neglect, and violence that need further investigation and, quite possibly, more attention.

Result Area 8: Stability

The Stability result area is composed of four state indicators:

- Child Poverty
- Hunger
- Out-of-Home Placements
- Homelessness

Indicator 1: Child Poverty

Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to have unmet nutritional needs, live in substandard housing, be victims of crime and violence, lack basic health care, and have unequal access to educational opportunities.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the percent of children under 18 whose families have incomes below the poverty level. The measure is defined by GOC as the percentage of people under 18 (statistics from SAIFE) or related children under 18 (Current Population Survey) whose families have incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (*Statistical Policy Directive 14*). “Related children” include the householder’s children by birth, marriage, or adoption under age 18, as well as other persons under 18, such as nieces or nephews, who are related to the family head.

Table 44

Kids Count CLIKS Online Data 2012 (Only the following data in this Result Area are analyzed and posted by Kids Count)

Child Well-Being Indicator	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Child Poverty+					
<i>SOMERSET COUNTY</i>	<i>27.9%</i>	<i>29.8%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>32.1%</i>	<i>35.2%</i>
Maryland	10.4%	11.8%	13.1%	13.9%	14.1%

+Definitions: This data element is the percentage of all children 0-17 with incomes below the U.S. Poverty Threshold. **Data Source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census; Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

As seen in the table above, children in Somerset County experience poverty at a much higher rate than those across the state of Maryland, and the data shows the poverty level increasing from 2008 to 2012.

Community Survey Data

There was one question related to this indicator: *The next issue concerns poverty. On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is poverty in Somerset County?*

Table 45
Community Survey Regarding Poverty

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	17	6.6%
Somewhat of a Problem	22	8.5%
Problem	39	15.1%
Serious Problem	180	69.8%
Total	258	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 37

Indicator 2: Hunger

While hunger among children raises obvious physical and developmental health concerns, it also has ripple effects that appear in other areas of a child's life.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the number of children participating in the summer food program on a daily basis.

Table 46
Summer Food Service Program Average Daily Participation

	2009	2010	2011
Hunger			
<i>SOMERSET COUNTY</i>	347	380	281
Maryland	35,870	38,220	35,807

Data Source: Governor's Office for Children data collection

Community Survey Data

No question specific to this indicator was asked in the community survey.

Indicator 3: Out of Home Placements

Children need safe and stable homes in order to thrive. Family instability, abuse/neglect, extreme poverty, crime, violence, homelessness, substance abuse, and serious illness or disability may pose substantial risks to children and may contribute to the need for children to be placed in alternative care on a temporary basis.

Secondary Data Analysis

The indicator measures the rate of children placed in out-of-home care. It is defined as the number per 1,000 children placed in foster care, juvenile justice, mental health, substance abuse treatment, or educational out-of-home placements. The following table depicts the number and rate of entrants into alternative care by both Somerset County youth and youth from across the state during the most recent five years for which data is available.

Table 47

Out-of-Home Placement Entry Rate per 1,000 Children - FY 2009-2011

	2009	2010	2011
<i>SOMERSET</i>	11.9%	17.1%	15.4%
Maryland	11.4%	11.6%	11.2%

Source: Governor's Office for Children/Report on Out-of-Home Placements

The information in the table above includes out-of-home placement data from the Maryland Departments of Juvenile Services, Human Resources (Social Services), Health and Mental Hygiene, and Education. Maryland's Mental Hygiene Administration's purchase of care placements and its Department of Education public out-of-home placements are not reflected in the jurisdictional breakdowns. The Department of Human Resources (Social Services) data includes kinship care.

In all the three years reported, Somerset County youth have entered out-of-home placements at a higher rate than state youth as a group. The county, itself, evidenced a net increase in rate of placement over this three year period.

Community Survey Data

No question about out-of-home placement was asked in the community survey.

Indicator 4: Homelessness

Families cannot achieve economic self-sufficiency without stable housing conditions. Children who are homeless tend to have poorer health and to experience more developmental delays than children who are adequately housed.

Secondary Data Analysis

This indicator measures the rate of homeless adults and children per 100,000 residents served by programs funded by the Department of Human Resources and other shelter providers.

Because of the difficulties of counting the entire homeless population, Maryland's Office of Transitional Services (OTS) gathers information only on those people who have stayed in an emergency shelter, transitional housing program, or who have been given a motel placement. The number of people served is an unduplicated count of people served within, but not necessarily across, shelters. However, those homeless individuals or families who do not go to shelters are not counted. Therefore, the homeless statistics reported by OTS are not meant to be an absolute count; rather they render an approximation of the number of homeless people in Maryland.

Table 48

Number and Rates of Adults and Children Receiving Homeless Services per 100,000 Residents in Somerset County

	Number	Rate per 100,000
<i>SOMERSET / 03</i>	18	70.4
Maryland / 03	45,560	834.7
<i>SOMERSET / 04</i>	43	169.0
Maryland / 04	38,390	696.9
<i>SOMERSET / 05</i>	59	228.1
Maryland / 05	34,771	625.6
<i>SOMERSET / 06</i>	46	178.0
Maryland / 06	37,432	668.4
<i>SOMERSET / 07</i>	63	244.4
Maryland / 07	36,599	651.7

Source: Maryland DHR: Annual Reports on Homelessness Services in Maryland, 2003 – 2007. All rates provided by Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families.

Although there has been a net increase in both the number and rate of services to the homeless over the past five years, there has been some variability in the year-to-year data. No clear trend is observable. Perhaps the only constant in these data is the fact that Somerset County's rate has remained consistently and significantly below the state rate. However, because this indicator is more a measure of services to the homeless rather than of the number of homeless themselves, it is difficult to draw any inferences from these data. According to GOC, "The effort to track the number of homeless people during any period of time is at best imprecise." Local efforts to gather data from a point-in-time census survey of homeless individuals in Somerset County may add more information to a serious discussion of this issue.

Community Survey Data

There was one question related to this indicator: *The next issue concerns homeless adults and children. On a scale of 1 to 10, how big a problem is homelessness for families in Somerset County?*

Table 49

Community Survey Regarding Homelessness

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	34	13.9%
Somewhat of a Problem	16	6.6%
Problem	45	18.4%
Serious Problem	149	61.1%
Total	244	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 54

Discussion of Result Area 8 Findings

Result Area 8: Stability is composed of four indicators, child poverty, hunger, out-of-home placements, and homelessness. Of these indicators, child poverty stands out as the most pressing. The child poverty rate in Somerset County is the highest of any jurisdiction in the state. Poverty was the gravest problem discussed by the community and one that is strongly correlated with other county youth problems such as poor school performance, substance abuse, and juvenile delinquency.

Family instability, abuse/neglect, extreme poverty, crime, violence, homelessness, substance abuse, and serious illness/disability may pose substantial risks to children and may contribute to the need for children to be placed in alternative care on a temporary basis. Given the economic conditions already documented, it is not surprising that the county has an out-of-home placement rate almost twice the state average.

Measuring homelessness is a very difficult thing to do, particularly in a rural area. An examination of the secondary data indicates that homelessness is, at best, a modest problem in the county, and the survey data support that conclusion.

It is safe generalization to say that the challenges highlighted by the indicators in this result area are key to the myriad individual and social problems addressed in the other seven result areas.

Part II – Additional Questions

Non-Result Area Questions

There were five questions on the Community survey that did not fit into any of the eight Result Areas. These questions are specific to domestic violence, childcare, after school programs, housing, and transportation. Only the data sources with relevant information are indicated.

1. Domestic Violence Question: “The next issue is about issues of domestic violence. On a scale of 1 to 10, how large a problem is domestic violence in Somerset County?”

Community Survey Data

Table 50

Community Survey Regarding Domestic Violence (Non-Result Area Question)

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	36	14.6%
Somewhat of a Problem	16	6.5%
Problem	31	12.6%
Serious Problem	164	66.4%
Total	247	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 48

2. Child Care Question: “The next issue concerns child care. On a scale of 1 to 10, how big of a problem is availability of quality child care in Somerset County?”

Community Survey Data

Table 51

Community Survey Regarding Quality Child Care (Non-Result Area Question)

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	23	10.3%
Somewhat of a Problem	37	16.6%
Problem	48	21.5%
Serious Problem	115	51.6%
Total	223	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 72

3. Quality After School Program Question: “The next issue is about the availability of after school programming. On a scale of 1 to 10, how large a problem is a lack of quality after school programming in Somerset County?”

Community Survey Data

Table 52

Community Survey Regarding After School Programming (Non-Result Area Question)

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	36	15.4%
Somewhat of a Problem	38	16.2%
Problem	46	19.7%
Serious Problem	114	48.7%
Total	234	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 61

4. Affordable Housing Question: “The next issue is about the availability of affordable housing. On a scale of 1 to 10, how large a problem is a lack of affordable housing in Somerset County?”

Community Survey Data

Table 53

Community Survey Regarding Affordable Housing (Non-Result Area Question)

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	29	11.6%
Somewhat of a Problem	24	9.6%
Problem	39	15.6%
Serious Problem	158	63.2%
Total	250	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 45

5. Availability of Transportation Question: “The next issue is about the availability of transportation. On a scale of 1 to 10, how large a problem is the lack of viable transportation in Somerset County?”

Community Survey Data

Table 54

Community Survey Regarding Availability of Transportation (Non-Result Area Question)

	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	21	8.6%
Somewhat of a Problem	32	13.2%
Problem	44	18.1%
Serious Problem	146	60.1%
Total	243	100%

Don't know or no opinion = 52

Part III - Community Resources
Mapping, Strengths, and Gaps

Mapping of services available to the community within Somerset County:

Area of Expertise	Services Available	Location within County
Health Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health • Community Health • Core Service • Environmental • Health Promotions • Developmental Disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871
Department of Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Support • Family Investment • In-Home Services • Out-of-Home Placement • Foster Care & Adoption • Family Services • Adult Services • Adult Protection Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853
Department of Juvenile Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853
Recreation and Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After School sports activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871
Local Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program management • Information referral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871
Public Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free library access • Reading programs • Family activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853 • Crisfield / 21817 • Ewell / 21824
Safety and Protection Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Departments • Ambulance Squad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisfield / 21817 • Deal Island / 21821 • Ewell / 21824 • Fairmount / 21867 • Marion / 21838 • Princess Anne / 21853 • Tylerton / 21866
Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Investigations • Local Police • State Police • County Police • County Detention Ctr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853 • Crisfield / 21817 • Westover / 21871

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UMES Police Services 	
Rehabilitation Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDA services • Job applications, psychiatric rehab, residential rehab, life skills, housing • Employment, family support, day programs, individual supports, respite care, transportation services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871 • Princess Anne / 21853 • Marion / 21838
Mental Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child therapy, family therapy, behavioral problems, trauma, medication management, anger management, case management • Medication monitoring, money management, rehab services, family counseling, PRP services • Adult, child and adolescent mental health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21871 • Crisfield / 21817 • Westover / 21871
Consumer Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assistance • Pharmacy assistance • Thrift shop, support groups, case management, after school programs, health prevention advocacy, crisis alleviation, food programs • Pharmacy/Laboratory services, transportation services, rent/start up help, education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853 • Westover / 21871
Transportation Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation for elderly and handicapped • Transit services • Taxi Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853 • County wide • Crisfield / 21817
Addiction Services and Mental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853

Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug treatment • Parenting issues, grief and loss, sexual abuse, trauma, multi-racial issues • Outpatient treatment, co-occurring treatment, group counseling, adolescent treatment, translation services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocomoke / 21851 • Westover / 21871
Anger Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 week program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871
Aging and Elderly Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance for aged and functionally disabled • Adult protective services • Advocacy information and assistance • Adult day care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871 • Princess Anne / 21853
Housing Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless transitional services • Homeless Shelter • Subsidy programs • Permanent housing for disabled homeless • Transitional shelter, unsupervised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871 • Pocomoke / 21851 • Princess Anne / 21853
Hospital Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic medical and emergency services • Cardiac rehab services • Diabetes management • Diagnostic services • Surgical services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisfield / 21817
Nursing Home Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing home services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisfield / 21817 • Pocomoke / 21851 • Princess Anne / 21853

Court Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation services • Co-parenting education classes • Domestic relation mediation • Property mediation • Court process guidelines and instructions • Self help legal assistance • Family law assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853
Parenting Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting classes • Baby bundles • Kidshare program • Relatives as parents program • Parenting plus classes • Family Navigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853 • Westover / 21871
Prevention programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underage alcohol prevention • After school programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871 • Crisfield / 21817 • Princess Anne / 21853
Domestic Violence Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance abuse assessment • Referrals for monitoring the safety of children • Counseling for petitioners, respondents and children • Co-parenting classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871 • Princess Anne / 21853
Adult Day Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day programs for mental health, living skills, meals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Anne / 21853
Veteran Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical care • Preventive health and education • Referrals to specialized programs • Outpatient services • Medical screenings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocomoke / 21851

Faith Based Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing ministries • Christian academy • Food Bank • Emergency shelter • 12 step recovery • Soup kitchen • Youth Mentoring • Day care services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisfield / 21817 • Westover / 21871 • Princess Anne / 21853 • Marion / 21838
Public School System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student services • After school programs • Adult education • Special education services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westover / 21871 • Marion / 21838 • Crisfield / 21817 • Ewell / 21824 • Deal Island / 21821 • Princess Anne / 21853

Strengths and Gaps in available services within Somerset County:

Services Available	Strengths	Gaps
Addictions Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Counseling • Adult Groups • Women's Groups • Intensive Outpatient Therapy • Adolescent Treatment • Family Counseling • Relapse Support Groups • Aftercare Program • Social Drinkers Education • Dual Diagnosis Program • Anger Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inpatient and Outpatient care • Ambulatory Detoxification • DWI/DUI Education Courses
After School Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith Based Programs • Youth Centers • Activities at Parks and Recreation building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More locations in county • Wider variety of services for all age groups • Mentoring programs
Civic Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Legion • Lions/Lioness Club • Kiwanis Club • Elks Lodge • Ruritan Club • VFW Memorial Posts • Crisfield Pride Lodge 	
Court System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediation Services • Pro Se Litigants Assistance • Alternative Directions • Supervised Visitation and Monitoring Exchange (available out of county) • Truancy Court • Drug Court 	
Crisis Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Mobile Crisis 	
Crisis Shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Home Transitional Shelter • Out of county resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More in-county facilities for short-term shelter care
Day Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UMES Day Care Program • St. James UMC Day Care • Multiple privately owned small-scale day cares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More educationally driven day care programs • Affordable day care for working parents
Energy Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shore-Up • Seton Center Catholic Charities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding - all services are exhausted well before the end of the fiscal cycle

Faith Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic • Eastern Orthodox • Jehovah's Witness • Protestant • Methodist • Baptist • Church of God 	
Family Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Advocate • MD Coalition for Children's Mental Health • Parents Place in MD • Partners for Success • Lower Shore Friends • Somerset Family Link Family Navigator 	
Family Support Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Choice • BOE Parent Advocate • Family Preservation • Family Services through DSS • Healthy Families • Healthy Start • Family Services through Circuit Court • DJS Continuing Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment • Family Resource Center • Variety of Parent Education • Behavioral Services for Children/Adolescents • Recreational Opportunities
Foster Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple homes in Somerset County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homes for Infants • More therapeutic foster homes • Enough homes to maintain Somerset County children within the county
Hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCready Memorial Hospital in Crisfield • Atlantic General Hospital in Worcester County • Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Wicomico County 	
Hotlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Call for Help • Hate Crimes • Homerun Hotline • Life Crisis • MD State (AIDS) Hotline • MD Poison Center • National Center for Missing and Exploited Children • Rape Crisis Hotline • Runaway Switchboard 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Crisis Hotline 	
Housing Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go-Getters Inc. Housing Authority of Crisfield Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Shelter Plus Care Housing Somerset County Rental Allowance Program (RAP) Tri-County Alliance for the Homeless 	
In-Home Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Families Family Preservation 	
Outpatient Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Shore Tri Lower County Maple Shade Eastern Shore Psychological Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No inpatient services within county No local services for children
Pantries and Soup Kitchens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christ United Methodist Church God's Helping Hand Immanuel United Methodist Church Manna House Seton Center St. James United Methodist Church Dot's Pantry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited resources, all locations are depleted regularly
Parenting Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoptive Parents Support Group Co-Parenting Education Classes Kidshare Program Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Somerset County Parenting+ Classes Parenting Wisely 	
Respite Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Choice Maple Shade Go-Getters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No respite services for DDA population
School System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Public Elementary Schools 1 Public Intermediate School 2 Public High Schools 1 Alternative Learning Center 1 Intensive Outpatient Program 2 Head Starts 2 K-12 Christian Schools 	
Speech, Occupational, Physical Therapy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No local services within the county Need for bilingual therapists
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somerset Commuter Services Shore Transit Shore-Up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable transportation Reliable public transportation services

Part IV – Awareness and Adequacy of Existing Service Data

The second part of the community questionnaire addressed the awareness and adequacy of services in the county. Respondents were asked if they were aware of each of ten service areas: alcohol abuse, drug abuse, mental health for adults and families, mental health for children, juvenile delinquency, healthy mothers, preschoolers' preparation, parent education, domestic violence, and teen pregnancy prevention. They were then asked to "rate [the specific service] on a scale from 1 to 10 with 1 meaning services are not adequate to meet the community's needs, 10 meaning they are adequate to meet the community's needs."

The table below shows the results of this community survey.

Table 55
Community Survey Opinions Regarding Awareness of County Services

Type of Service*	Adequate	Somewhat Adequate	Slightly Adequate	Not Adequate	Don't Know *
Alcohol Abuse	7.0%	11.0%	18.9%	27.3%	35.7%
Drug Abuse	11.6%	11.6%	21.8%	28.4%	26.7%
Mental Health - Adults/Families	11.9%	13.7%	21.6%	28.6%	24.2%
Mental Health - Children	11.5%	11.5%	19.9%	29.6%	27.4%
Juvenile Delinquency	11.6%	15.3%	15.8%	27.9%	29.3%
Healthy Mothers	11.1%	10.6%	18.9%	30.9%	28.6%
Preschoolers Preparation	11.2%	10.2%	19.5%	32.2%	26.8%
Parent Education	12.1%	15.3%	15.8%	29.3%	27.4%
Domestic Violence	11.7%	12.2%	15.0%	31.0%	30.0%
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	11.6%	11.6%	17.6%	30.6%	28.7%

*Listed in the order in which they occurred on the survey

* Don't know equals no opinion / missing data

This survey indicates a broad lack of awareness of existing services on the part of the community, as respondents registered awareness of only about 50% of the service categories. This is a similar finding with neighboring counties and might suggest the need for public awareness campaigns to inform the public of available services.

Appendix A
Community Survey Questionnaire

**SOMERSET COUNTY FAMILY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY
ADULT SURVEY**

All questions are voluntary. Please skip any questions you don't want to answer.

The first questions are for demographic information only. Please fill in the blank or circle your answer.

- 1) How old are you? _____ 2) Are you? Male _____ Female _____
- 3) What is your race? _____ 4) What zip code do you live in? _____
- 5) How many children do you have under 21 years of age? _____

The next set of questions are to rate issues in Somerset County. Please rate them from 1 to 10 by circling your answer, with 1 meaning there is NO PROBLEM, and 10 meaning there is a SERIOUS PROBLEM.

- 6) How big of a problem is adolescent motherhood?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know
- 7) How big of a problem are low birth-weight (weighing less than 5 pounds)?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know
- 8) How big of a problem is pre-schooler's readiness for school?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know
- 9) How big of a problem is school children's performance on the Maryland School Assessment?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know
- 10) How big of a problem is domestic violence?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know
- 11) How big of a problem is child abuse and neglect?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know
- 12) How big of a problem is there in Somerset County with kids dropping out before completing high school?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know
- 13) How big of a problem is chronic school absenteeism (missing more than 20 days)?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know
- 14) How big of a problem is underage drinking?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know
- 15) How big of a problem is adolescent (teenage) drug abuse?

35a) If yes, on a scale of 1 to 10 from worst to best, how would you rate these services in the county?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know

36) Are you aware of services to prevent teen pregnancy?
Yes No I don't know

36a) If yes, on a scale of 1 to 10 from worst to best, how would you rate these services in the county?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know

37) In general, if you or someone in your family needed any of these services, are they easy for you to get to?
Yes No I don't know

The last set of questions are about the neighborhood you live in. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the following statements. 1 means you STRONGLY DISAGREE and 10 means you STRONGLY AGREE.

38) I feel safe and secure in my neighborhood.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know

39) Gang activity is a problem in my neighborhood.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know

40) I am worried about crime in my neighborhood.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know

41) My neighborhood needs more police protection.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Don't Know

Comments: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey and helping us in completing our assessment of the county. This helps us write for grants to bring more services and programs to your community.

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