Somerset County Local Management Board Community Needs Assessment

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Executive Summary

The Somerset County Local Management Board (SCLMB), in partnership with Clear Impact, initiated a community needs assessment process in January 2022. This process sought to garner community feedback about the areas of most need and strength in Somerset County related to children, youth and families. This feedback allows the SCLMB to use community-driven data to prioritize areas of focus for the next three years in alignment with the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim's Services. The needs assessment included existing data collection, particularly focused on state-identified indicators, community conversations, and a community survey. Those indicators that were identified as a high need in two or more data sources were flagged for further review and discussion. These indicators included the following:

Education
- Educational Attainment: Percent of Youth Ages 18-24 with a High School Diploma (Including Equivalence) or Higher
- Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate
- Young people getting into college, vocational or trade schools*

Health
- Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6 – 8 and 9-12 Reporting Depressive Episode
- Mental and Behavioral Health*
- Youth Using Drugs*

Economy
- Percent of 16-24 Year Olds in Labor Force who are Unemployed
- Percent of High School Graduates Who Complete a Career & Technology Education (CTE) Program
- Percent of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty
- Percent of Families Spending >35% Income on Rent
- Percent of Youth Ages 16-24 Not in School and Not Working
- Transportation Access*

Community Safety
- Rate of Violent Crimes Committed per 1,000 Persons
- Rate of Juvenile Felony Offense Referrals for Youth Ages 11-17 per 100,000

* Indicates local indicator

The implementation team and Board of Directors for the SCLMB came together to review the findings and prioritize the results areas and associated indicators based on the community input process. This led to the following results and indicators being prioritized for the SCLMB to focus its efforts in the coming years:

Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families	Youth Will Complete School	Healthy Children
Crime: Rate of Violent Crimes Committed per 1,000 Persons	High School Completion: 4 - year Cohort Graduation Rate	Mental and Behavioral Health *indicator to be determined*

Introduction

Each Local Management Board (LMB) in Maryland is designated as such by the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim's Services Children and Youth Division (GOCPYVS). Each jurisdiction in the state has an LMB in place. The Somerset County Local Management Board (SCLMB) emphasizes prevention, early intervention, and community-based services, with a main goal of promoting a safe, healthy and stable environment for all Somerset County children and families. As of 2022, the SCLMB funds six programs focused on parenting classes, underage drinking, afterschool mentoring, community gardens and cooking classes, and home visiting supports.

Each jurisdiction's LMB is required to complete a community needs assessment every three years that focuses on identifying priority results and indicators within each county rooted in community voice. This needs assessment process helps LMBs to surface needs so that programming within the county is aligned to those needs while also lifting up community assets that are supporting families.

SCLMB contracted with Clear Impact to facilitate the needs assessment process between January and June 2022. This process aligned to the requirements of GOCPYVS as outlined in the following sections.

Results and Indicators

GOCPYVS utilizes a Results-Based Accountability framework to understand the impact of Local Management Boards and their funded programs at the state-and jurisdictional-levels. LMBs are required to align their work to the eight results areas for child well-being determined by the state and the associated indicators for each result area that help quantify achievement of those results. The eight results areas are:

1. Babies Born Healthy
2. Children Enter School Ready to Learn
3. Children are Successful in School
4. Healthy Children
5. Youth will Complete School
6. Youth have Opportunities for Employment and Career Readiness
7. Families are Economically Stable
8. Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families

The SCLMB needs assessment aligned to the eights results areas by grouping them into themes. These themes allowed for community conversation and survey questions to remain broad enough for input while still gathering information related to the specific areas of focus. The themes were organized as follows:

Education	Health	Economy	Community Safety
Children Enter School Ready to Learn	Babies Born Healthy	Families are Economically Stable	Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families
Children are Successful in School	Healthy Children	Youth have Opportunities for Employment and Career Readiness	
Youth will Complete School			

Data Collection Process

The process to collect data for this report included three phases: completing an existing data review, particularly focused on indicator data disaggregated by race /ethnicity and comparison jurisdictions, facilitating community conversations, and administering a community survey. A seven-person implementation team was established to support the process and included members from various sectors.

The existing data review focused on examining the indicators most recently approved by the Maryland Children's Cabinet in 2020, along with other local reports from Somerset County as noted in the References section.

There were three virtual community conversation sessions planned to include community service providers, parents of Somerset County students, and students from Somerset County. These sessions were communicated out by the implementation team and registration was organized on EventBrite. The first session was held with service providers in April 2022. The parent and student sessions scheduled for April 2022 had low enrollment, so new dates were selected and shared out. Ultimately, there was little interest in the parent session, so it was not held. The student session was organized in collaboration with the school district and held in May 2022. In total, twenty people participated in the community conversations which included twelve service providers and eight students.

The survey was administered from April 18, 2022 to May 18, 2022. It was available in an online format in English and Spanish. There were 96 responses, and of those, there were 33 that selected a language for the survey and then exited. Those responses were removed from the analysis. This left sixty-three usable surveys with one or more completed responses. One question asked the respondent how long they lived in Somerset County. There were six respondents who indicated they did not live in Somerset County. Those responses were also removed from the analysis to ensure it was representative of individuals who lived in the jurisdiction. The final usable survey count was fifty-seven.

The survey results in a small sample of community residents. Of those who took the survey, the majority were over age 25, white, and women. This is not in alignment with the population of Somerset County. This information should be considered when reviewing the results. It is likely that the virtual elements of the process and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic played a role in community conversation and survey engagement. Though attempts were made to engage a diverse population of residents, future needs assessments should identify other ways to engage community in this process. The charts below display the demographics of survey respondents.

Chart 1: Survey Respondents by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%
Asian	0%
Black or African American	11%
Hispanic or Latino	0%
Native Hawaiian	0%
Pacific Islander	0%
Two or more races	2%
White	58%
Unknown/no response	30%
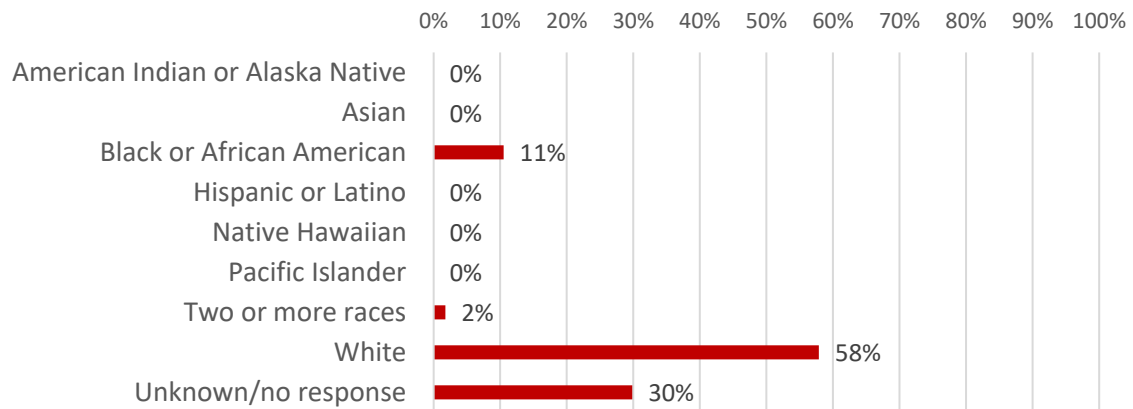
Chart 2: Survey Respondents by Gender Identity

Gender Identity	Percentage
Man	9%
Woman	58%
Unknown/no response	33%
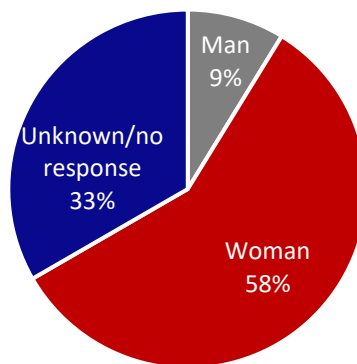
Chart 3: Survey Respondents by Age Range

Age Range	Percentage
Under 16 years old	0%
16-24 years old	0%
25-50 years old	46%
Over 50 years old	30%
Unknown/no response	25%
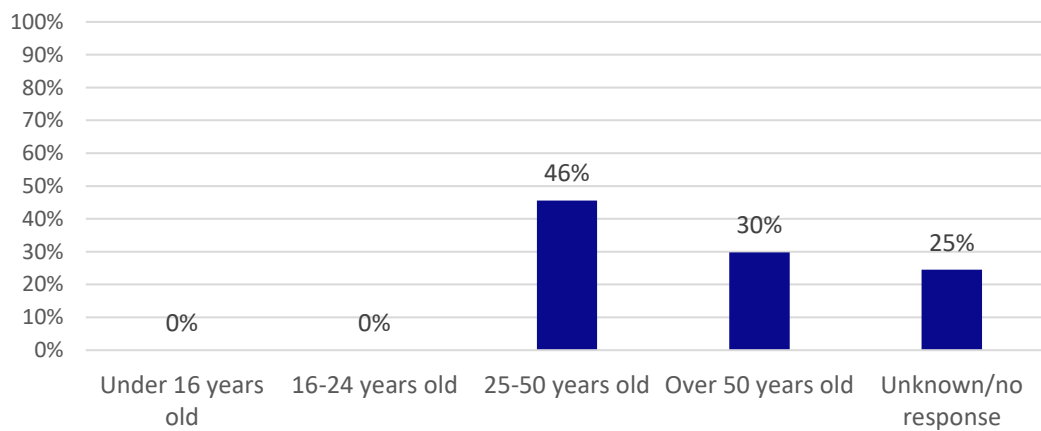
Chart 4: Survey Respondents by Role*

	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Parent in Somerset County				34%							
Student in Somerset County	2%										
Resident of Somerset County					38%						
Program provider/vendor for Somerset County LMB	4%										
Somerset County LMB board member	3%										
Local official	0%										
Other	2%										
Unknown/no response		15%									
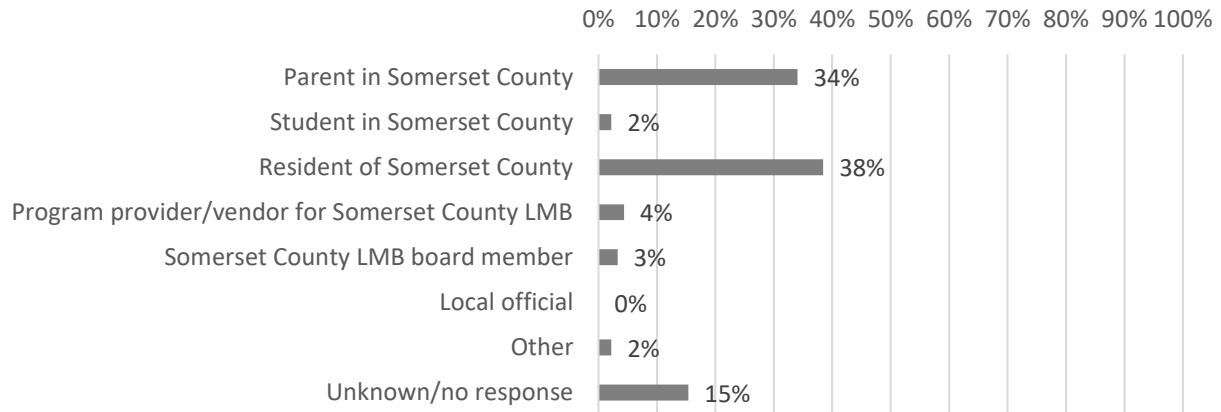
respondents could select more than one role

Chart 5: Survey Respondents by Years of Residency

- Less than three years 4%
- 3-5 years 7%
- Unknown/no response 25%
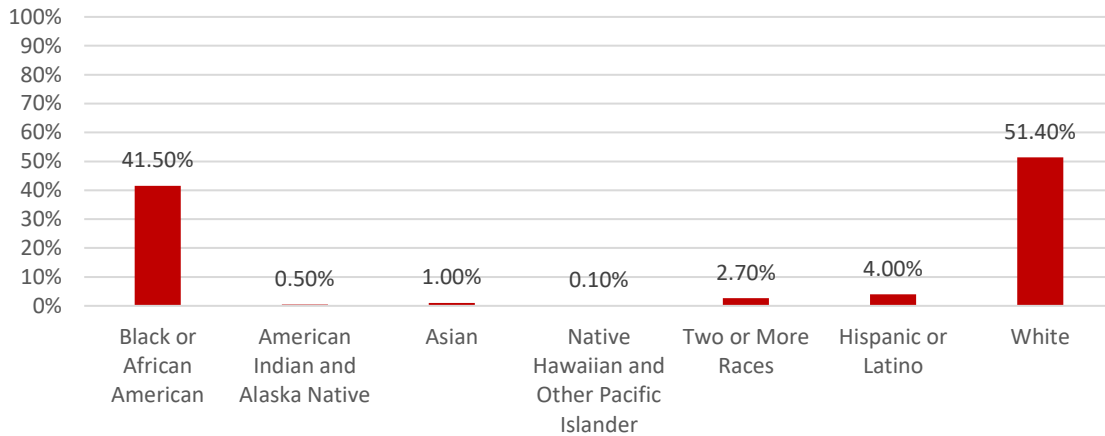- More than 5 years 65%
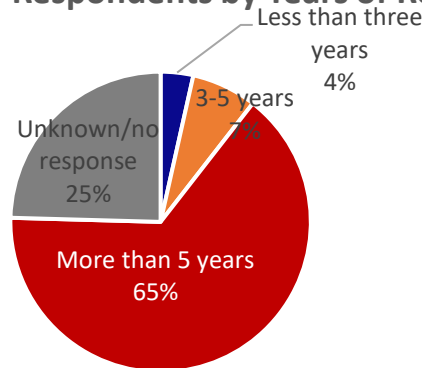
County Geography and Demographics

Somerset County is in the southeast corner of the State of Maryland. It was created in 1666 and Princess Anne serves as the county seat (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018). The county is surrounded by water with the Wicomico River to the northwest, the Pokomoke River to the southeast, and the Pokomoke Sound and Tangier Sound to the south and west, respectively (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018). There are multiple wildlife management areas, parks, and a wildlife refuge (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018).

According to the 2021 Census population estimates, there are 24,584 residents in Somerset County and the population is on the decline when compared to 2010 Census data (United States Census Bureau, 2021). The charts below show the population breakdown by race and ethnicity.

Chart 6: Somerset County Population by Race*

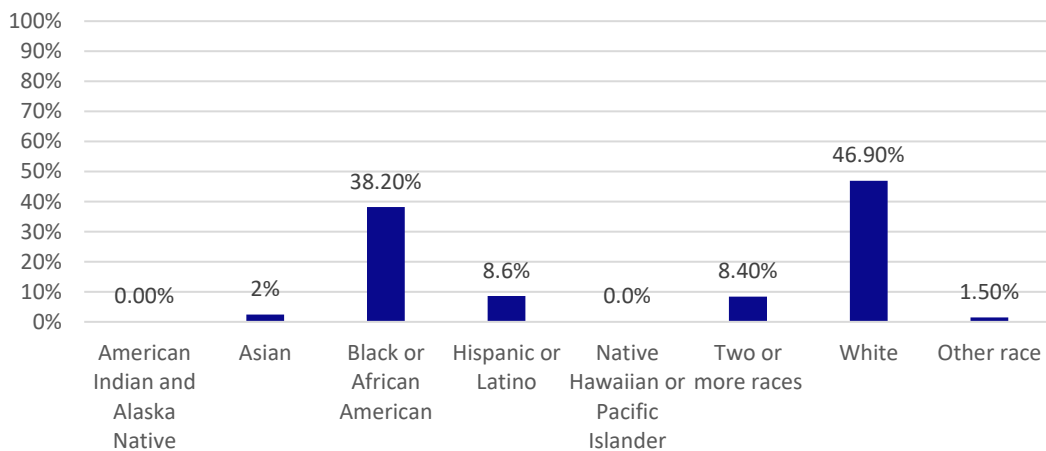|	
Black or African American	41.50%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.50%
Asian	1.00%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.10%
Two or More Races	2.70%
Hispanic or Latino	4.00%
White	51.40%

(United States Census Bureau, 2021)
Hispanic or Latino residents are also included in the percentage for any races with which they identify

The work of the Local Management Board primarily focuses on children and youth. In the county, just shy of 17 percent of residents are under 18 (United States Census Bureau, 2021). The chart below shows the population of young people in the county disaggregated by race/ethnicity.

Chart 7: Somerset County Population Under 18 by Race/Ethnicity*

American Indian and Alaska Native	0.00%
Asian	2%
Black or African American	38.20%
Hispanic or Latino	8.6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%
Two or more races	8.40%
White	46.90%
Other race	1.50%

(The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019)
Hispanic or Latino residents are also included in the percentage for any races with which they identify

Needs Identification

This process identified many needs in Somerset County. The use of three criteria helped elevate the needs that rose to the surface from one than one data source in the process. Throughout the report, specific indicators are highlighted based on meeting *two or more* of the following criterion:

- More than one year of data heading in the wrong direction;
- Greater than or equal to 10% of responses identifying it as a need on the survey; and
- Discussed in the community conversations.

Additionally, there are several local indicators introduced by the implementation team, survey, or conversations that are also discussed in this report. All other GOCPYVS indicators that did not meet the criteria listed above can be found in Appendix A. The remainder of the report identifies the indicators that met two or more criteria organized by theme and result. The indicator data is shown with three neighboring comparison counties and the State of Maryland for reference. Indicators are also disaggregated by race wherever possible.

Education

In Somerset County, there are nine public schools: five elementary schools, one intermediate school, two high schools, and one career and technical center (Somerset County Public Schools, 2021). There are 2,741 students enrolled in the public school system (Somerset County Public Schools, 2021). In addition to the public school system, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore is located in Princess Anne (University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 2022).

The education theme contains the results and indicators as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Education Results and Indicators	
Result	**Indicator**
Children Enter School Ready to Learn	Percent of Students Demonstrating Readiness on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
	Percent of Children Enrolled in Publicly-Funded Pre-K the Year Prior to Kindergarten
Children are Successful in School	Percent of Public School Students in Grades 3 and 8 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4 on the Math Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program
	Percent of Public School Students in Grades 3 and 8 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4 on the Reading/ELA Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program
	Percent of Students in Grades 8 and 11 Scoring at or Above Proficient on English/ELA Alternate MCAP
	Percent of Students in Grades 8 and 11 Scoring at or Above Proficient on the Math Alternate MCAP
	Chronic Absenteeism: Students Enrolled in School at Least 10 Days Who are Absent for 10% or More Days
Youth Will Complete School	Educational Attainment: Percent of Youth Ages 18-24 with a High School Diploma (Including Equivalence) or Higher
	Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate
	Percent of Students with Disabilities Who Graduated with High School Diploma

Children Enter School Ready to Learn

There were no indicators from this results area that met the needs criteria. Refer to Appendix A for *Children Enter School Ready to Learn* indicator charts.

Children are Successful in School

There were no standard indicators from this results area that met the needs criteria. However, there was one local indicator.

Local Indicator: Young people getting into college, vocational or trade schools

In addition to completion of high school, college, vocational or trade schools as shown by the educational attainment indicator in *Youth Will Complete School*, another local indicator popped up through this process. This local indicator is focused on young people getting into college, vocational or trade schools. This topic came up in the community conversations and received 13 percent of the responses identifying it as an education-related need.

Youth will Complete School

There were two indicators that met the needs criteria under the *Youth Will Complete School* results area. Additionally, there was one local indicator that emerged.

Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

The Somerset County high school graduation rate was discussed in the community conversations and had two years of decline as shown by the data. In the community conversations, participants discussed that the graduation rate was one of the lowest in the state and some felt COVID-19 exacerbated the issue. Participants discussed that there are limited well-paying jobs in the area, and as a result, some students may not see the benefit of graduation.
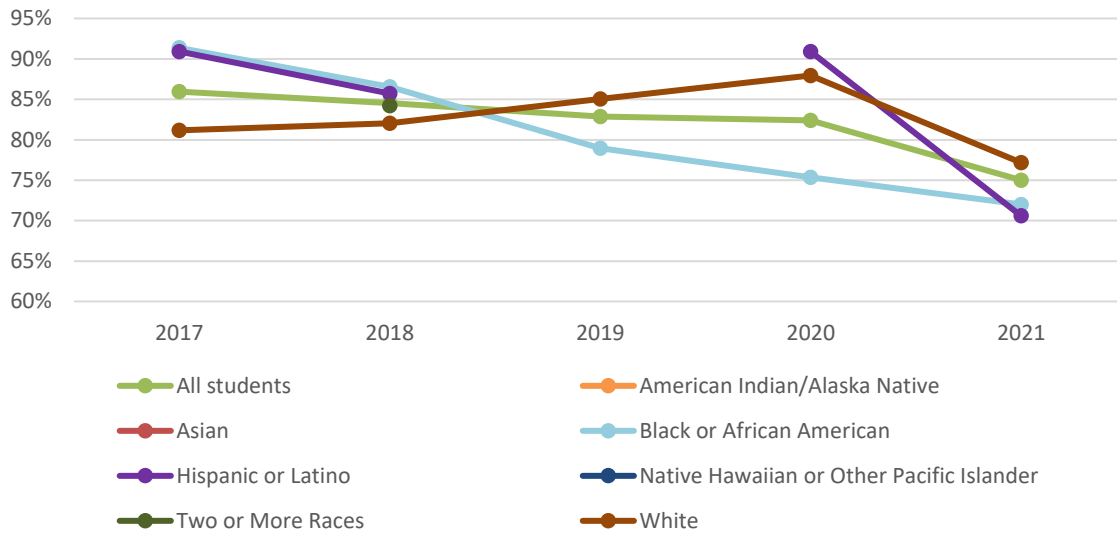
The graduation rate per the Maryland State Report Card dipped to 75 percent in 2021 (Maryland State Department of Education, 2021). The 2021 rate was the lowest when compared to comparison counties and the state as a whole (Maryland State Department of Education, 2021). When these data are disaggregated by race as shown in Chart 9, it shows that Black or African American students have a downward trend in graduation rate over the last several years and Hispanic or Latino students had a sharp decline in the most recent school year.

Chart 8: Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate by County/State
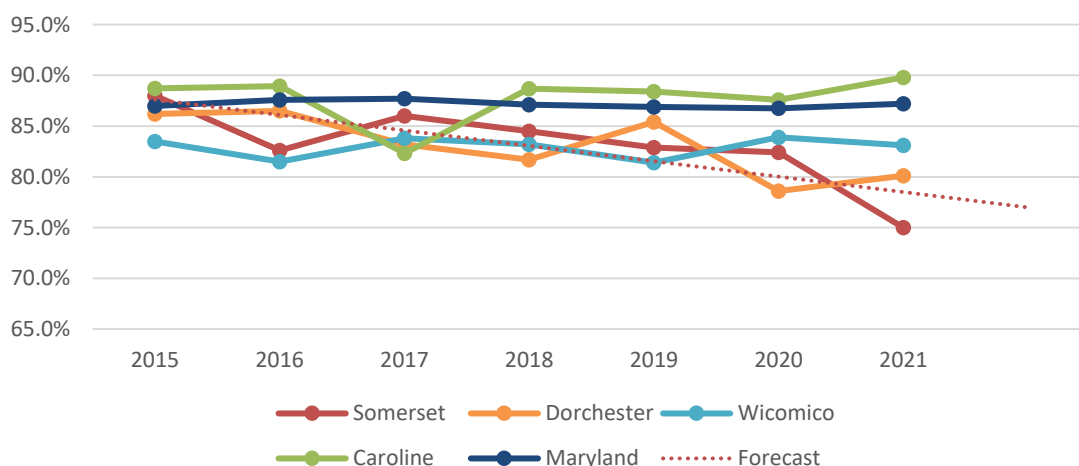
(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Chart 9: Somerset County Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity

Legend:
- All students
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Two or More Races
- White

(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Educational Attainment: Percent of Youth Ages 18-24 with a High School Diploma (Including Equivalence) or Higher

In terms of educational attainment, Somerset had one of the higher rates when compared to other counties by this has declined in recent years. This indicator met all three criteria, as the rate has been declining over the last three years, 16 percent of survey responses indicated this as a need and it was discussed in community conversations. Participants discussed the low high school graduation rate and an overall lack of post-secondary options in the area for young people who do not want to go to traditional college. The US Census data only provides these data disaggregated by race for five-year estimates for 2010 and 2015 and are not included due to the data being outdated.

Chart 10: Educational Attainment: Percent of Youth Ages 18-24 with a High School Diploma (Including Equivalence) or Higher by County/State
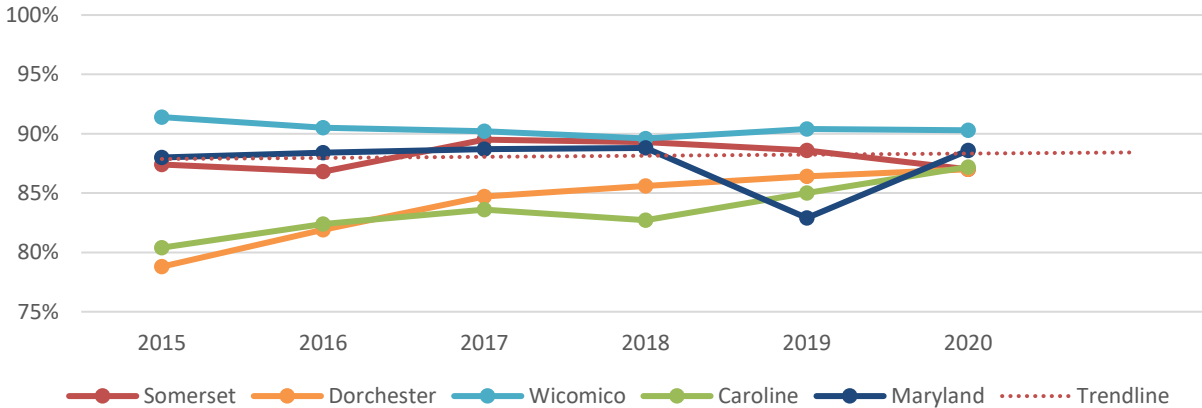
(United States Census Bureau, 2020)

Other Education-Focused Community Insights

In community conversations, the following topics came up beyond those noted earlier in this section:

- Limited resources in schools;
- Teacher shortages;
- Students repeating grades;
- In-school fighting;
- School reputations;
- Parental supervision and involvement in education;
- Parent education around budgeting, healthy habits, etc.;
- Lack of childcare options; and
- Talking and listening about change happens, but then limited action.

In qualitative responses on the survey, the following topics came up:

- Well-trained teachers in schools;
- Accountability of students, educators and parents;
- Supports for homeschooled students; and
- Access to vocational school for young people who attend private school.

Health

The Somerset County Health Department offers various programs and services to residents including emergency preparedness, behavioral health, community health, environmental health, health-related transit, preventative health, environmental health, vital health services, and supports for those who are unhoused (Somerset County Health Department, 2022).

However, in Somerset County, there are only 34.7 medical doctors per 100,000 residents which is considerably lower than the state rate of 88.1 and the national rate of 75.5 (Child Trends and the Forum for Youth Investment, 2019). In 2019, the Peninsula Regional Medical Center partnered with the Somerset County Health Department and others to complete a health-focused needs assessment that included Somerset County (Penninsula Regional Medical Center, 2019). This assessment which included focus groups, interviews and a survey, resulted in three health focus areas for the tri-county region: behavioral health (mental health and mental disorders + substance use,) diabetes, and cancer (Penninsula Regional Medical Center, 2019). Behavioral and mental health along with substance use also emerged as needs in this process as outlined below.

The health theme contains the results and indicators as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Health Results and Indicators	
Result	Indicator
Babies Born Healthy	Percent of women with prenatal care in the first trimester
	Infant Mortality: Number of Deaths Occurring to Infants (< 1year) per 1,000 Live Births
	Percent of Low Birth Weight (< 2500 g) Infants
	Adolescent Birth Rate per 1,000 Women (ages 15-19 years)
Healthy Children	Percent of Children who Have Health Insurance Coverage
	Percent of Children Ages 19-35 Months who Have Received the Full Schedule of Recommended Immunizations
	Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Self-Inflicted Injuries to Children Ages 0-21 per 100,000 of the Population
	Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 Reporting Depressive Episode
	Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 Reporting Electronic Vapor Product Use
	Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 Reporting Physical Activity for 60 Minutes in Last 7 Days
	Percent of Public School Students in Grades 9-12 Who are Overweight or Obese

Babies Born Healthy

There are no indicators from this results area that met the needs criteria. Refer to Appendix A for the indicator charts for *Babies Born Healthy*.

Healthy Children

Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 Reporting Depressive Episode
The Youth Behavioral Risk Survey is administered every two years to youth in grades six through twelve (Maryland Department of Health, 2019). This survey covers various health and behavior topics. Indicators from this data source include EVP use, obesity, physical activity, and depressive episodes.

The percent of young people in Somerset County in grades 6-8 and 9-12 reporting depressive episodes is trending up for both age groups (Maryland Department of Health, 2019). In grades 6-8, the percent has increased for the last two years, and in grades 9-12, it has increased for the last four years. In the survey, 15 percent of responses identified depressive episodes in young people as a high need in the

community and this topic also came up in the community conversations. When these data are disaggregated by race, as shown in Charts 12 and 14, Hispanic or Latino students have a higher rate in the most recent year for youth in grades 6-8 and Black students have a consistent increase in rates of depressive episodes, while for grades 9-12, the rates are trending up for all youth and White young people have a rate about 10 percent higher in the most recent year than Black young people.

Chart 11: Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6-8 Reporting Depressive Episode by County/State
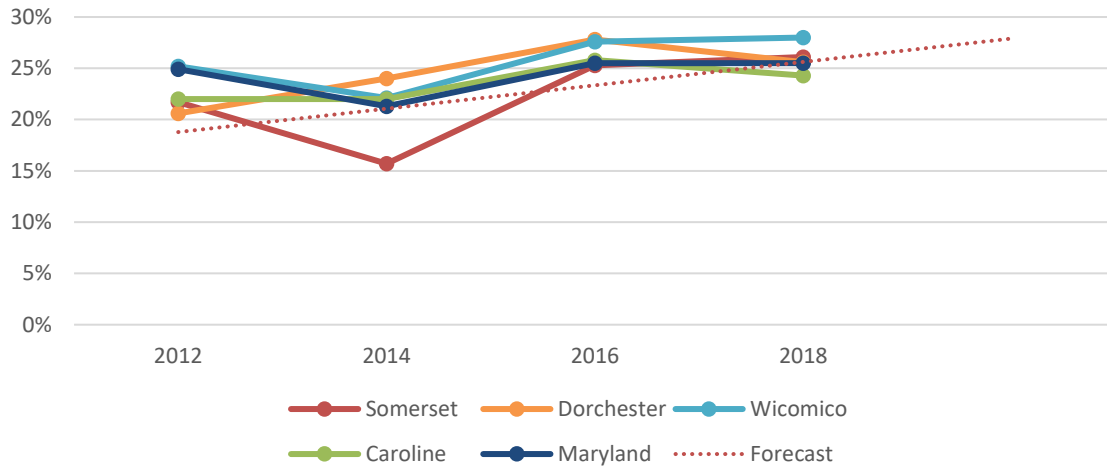
(Maryland Department of Health, 2019)

**Chart 12: Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6-8 Reporting Depressive Episode by Race**
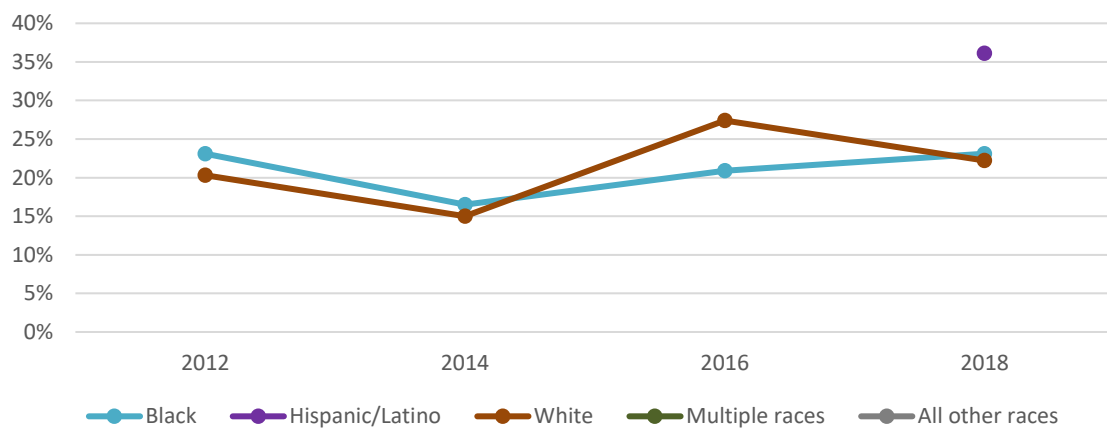
(Maryland Department of Health, 2019)

Chart 13: Percent of Public School Students in Grades 9-12 Reporting Depressive Episode by County/State

Somerset   Dorchester   Wicomico   Caroline   Maryland ·········· Forecast
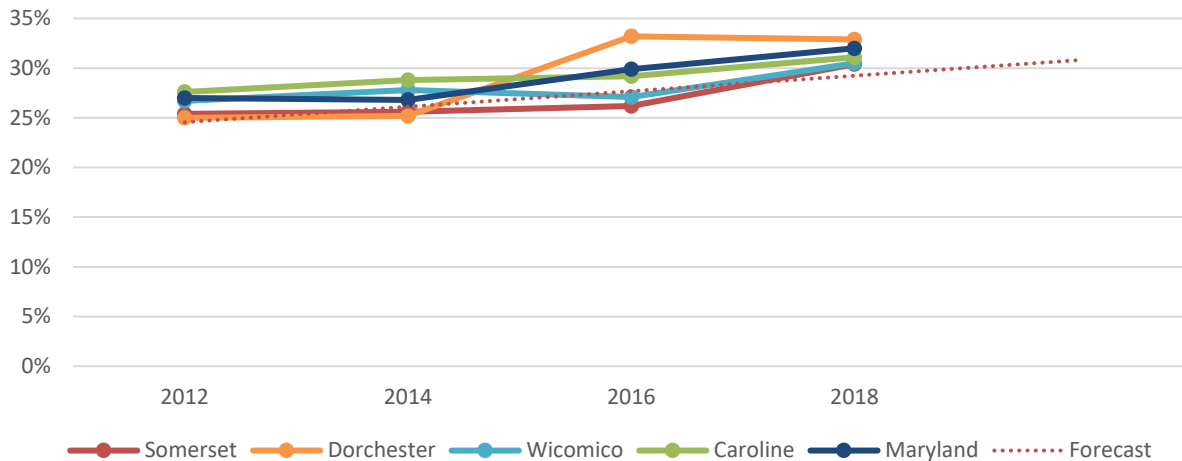
(Maryland Department of Health, 2019)

Chart 14: Percent of Public School Students in Grades 9-12 Reporting Depressive Episode by Race

Black   Hispanic/Latino   White   Multiple races   All other races
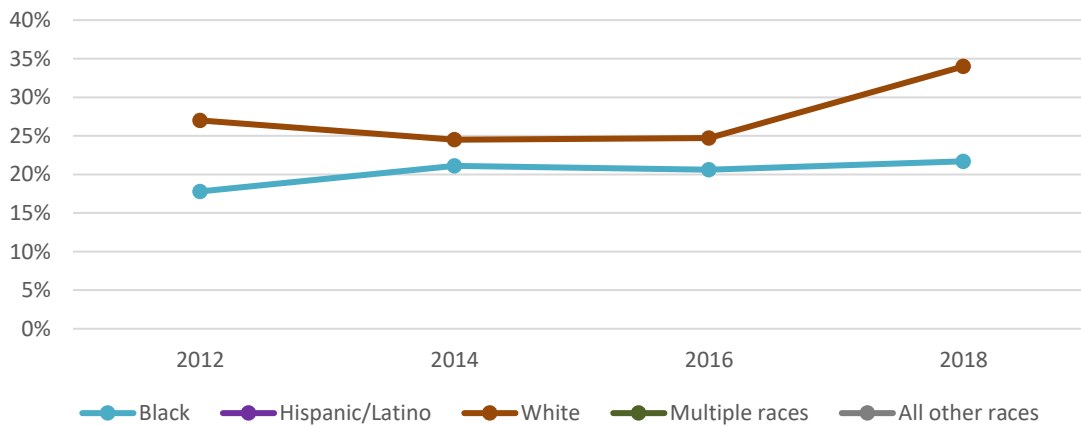
(Maryland Department of Health, 2019)

Local Indicator: Mental and Behavioral Health

The implementation team identified mental and behavioral health as a need that should be included in the survey beyond the depressive episodes and self-inflicted hospitalizations indicators. Throughout the community conversations, the topic of mental health came up repeatedly. Participants shared that there are limited options for outpatient treatment and no options for inpatient treatment within the county. There are also long waiting lists for mental health services. In the survey, 33 percent of responses identified general mental and behavioral health as a high need.

The implementation team also recommended that youth drug use be an additional response choice on the survey. It received 15 percent of the responses on the survey and also came up in community conversations.

Other Health-Focused Community Insights

Aside from the needs already noted, participants shared the following in community conversations:

- Healthcare access;
- Hygiene; and
- Teen pregnancy.

Qualitative responses from the survey focused on the following:

- Obesity;
- Social/emotional learning; and
- Prenatal care.

Economy

According to a Maryland Department of Commerce report, Somerset County generates $492 million in economic output from the private sector (Maryland Department of Commerce, 2019). There are several large employers in the area and the seafood and poultry industries are prominent (Maryland Department of Commerce, 2019). The median household income is $44,980 as of 2020 and just over 22 percent of residents live in poverty (United States Census Bureau, 2021).

The economic theme contains the results and indicators as shown in Table 3.

| Table 3: Economy Results and Indicators	
Result	**Indicator**
Families are Economically Stable	Percent of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty
	Percent of Public School Children who are Unhoused
	Percent of Families Spending >35% Income on Housing (Rent)
	Percent of Families Spending >35% Income on Housing (Mortgage)
Youth Have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness	Percent of 16-24 Year Olds in the Labor Force who are Employed
	Percent of 16-24 Year Olds in Labor Force Who are Unemployed
	Youth Disconnection: Percent of Youth Not Working and Not in School
	Percent of High School Graduates Who Complete a Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program

Families are Economically Stable

Percent of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty

When compared to the state and comparable counties, Somerset County has the highest percent of children living in poverty for most recent years. In 2020, this rate hovered around 25%, but the rate has a one-year downward trend (The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2020). Additionally, child poverty was lifted up during the community conversations. Chart 16 shows the percent of children living in poverty
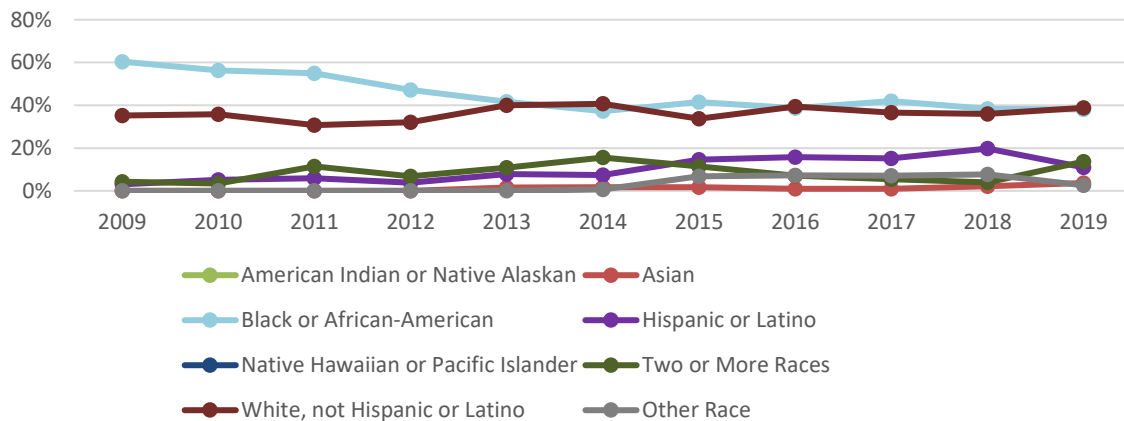
disaggregated by race, of the children living in poverty, Black and White youth have the highest poverty rates (The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019).

Chart 15: Percent of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty by County/State
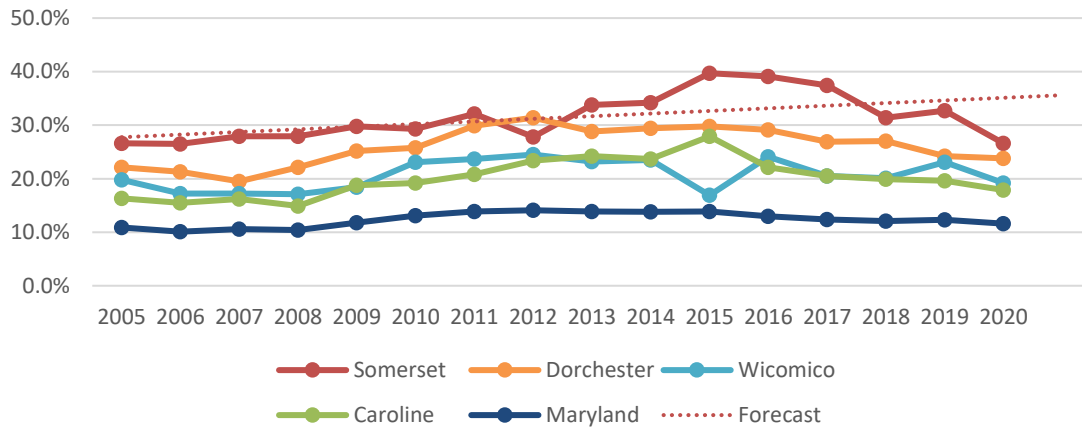
Chart 16: Percent of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty by Race

Percent of Families Spending >35% Income on Housing (Rent)

The percent of families in Somerset County who are housing burdened renters is the highest of all comparable counties and the state at close to 60% (United States Census Bureau, 2020). This has stayed fairly consistent year-over-year. The comparison counties and state are all below 50% (United States Census Bureau, 2020). In community conversations, participants talked about the increasing housing costs for renters and waiting lists for related supports. The survey showed 10 percent of responses flagging this as a high need. The data source allows for disaggregation by race, however, it appears that

the numbers for Somerset County are too small and the data does not populate (only populates for MD as a whole and counties with large populations).

Chart 17: Percent of Families Spending >35% of Income on Rent by County/State
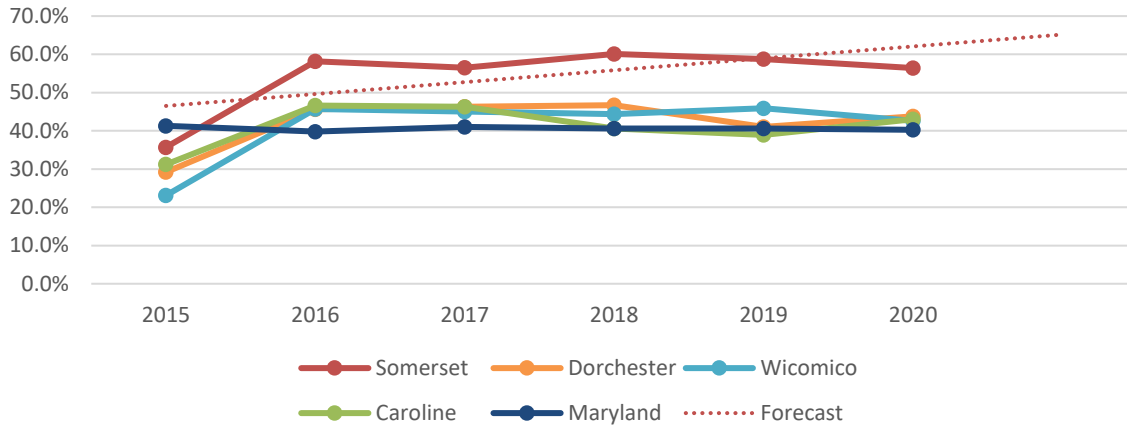
Local Indicator: Transportation Access

During this process, transportation access was lifted up as a community need. Participants in community conversations talked about lack of public transit options and the difficulty people have getting around if they do not have a vehicle. This need also came up in 10 percent of the survey responses.

Youth have Opportunities for Employment and Career Readiness

Percent of Youth Not Working and Not in School

The percent of youth not working and not in school has been between 15 and 20 percent over the last five reported years (Child Trends and the Forum for Youth Investment, 2019). The rate has been dropping over time, but it still on the higher end when compared to other counties and the state. These data are not provided disaggregated by race from the available data source.

Chart 18: Percent of Youth Ages 16-24 Not in School and Not Working by County/School
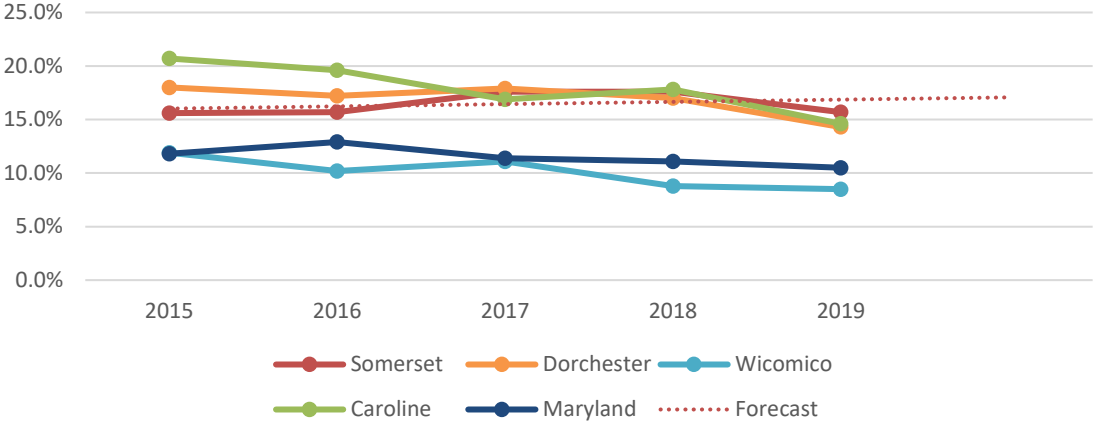

(Child Trends and the Forum for Youth Investment, 2019)

Percent of High School Graduates Who Complete a Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program
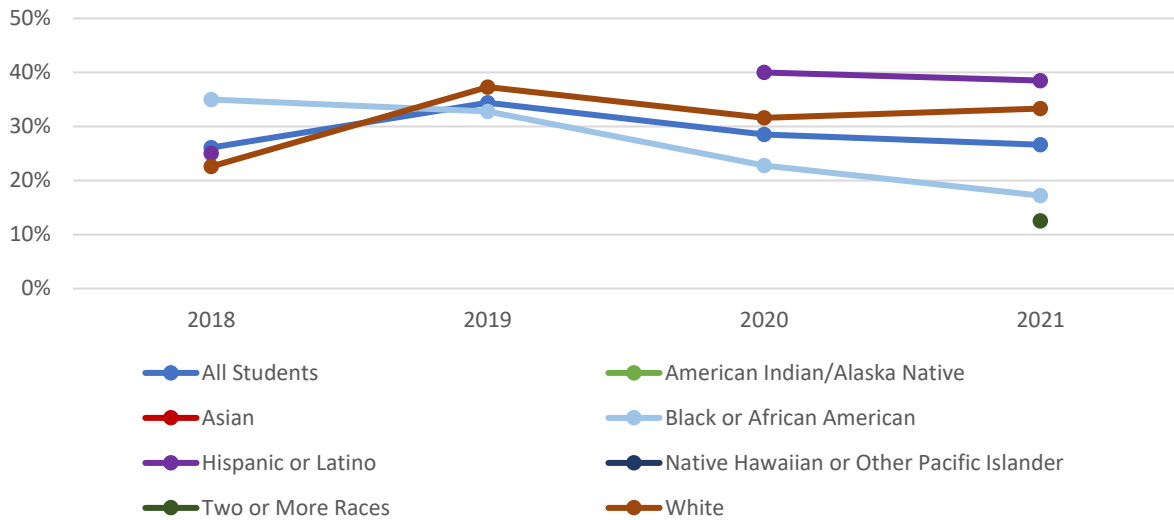
The percent of graduates who completed a CTE program is higher in Somerset County than any comparable county or the state at just under 30% with other counties and the state falling under 15% (Maryland State Department of Education, 2021). However, this rate has been declining year-over-year. The data disaggregated by race, as shown in Chart 20, shows that the rate of completion for young people of two or more races is the lowest in 2021 and the rate for Black or African American students has been declining at a fast rate, while the rate for White students is trending up in the most recent year (Maryland State Department of Education, 2021).

Chart 19: Percent of High School Graduates Who Complete a Career & Technology Education (CTE) Program by County/State
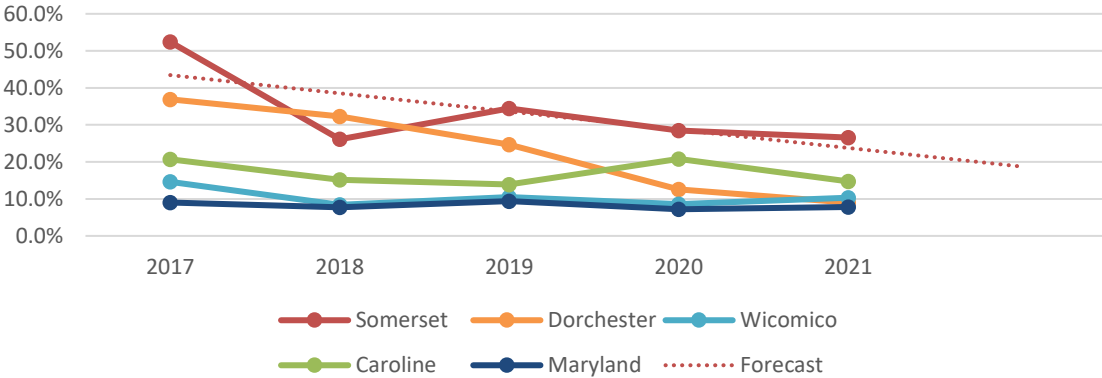
(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Chart 20: Percent of Graduates Who Complete CTE Program by Race/Ethnicity

Legend:
- All Students
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Two or More Races
- White

(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Percent of 16-24 Year Olds in Labor Force Who are Unemployed

The unemployment rate for youth ages 16-24 in Somerset had been lower than comparison counties and the state, but has been trending up in recent years and is now one of the higher rates (United States Census Bureau, 2020). Unemployment was discussed in the community conversations. Though these data can be disaggregated by race in the data source, the numbers appear too small to show and cannot be presented here.

Chart 21: Percent of 16-24 Year Olds in Labor Force who are Unemployed by County/State

Legend:
- Somerset
- Dorchester
- Wicomico
- Caroline
- Maryland
- Forecast
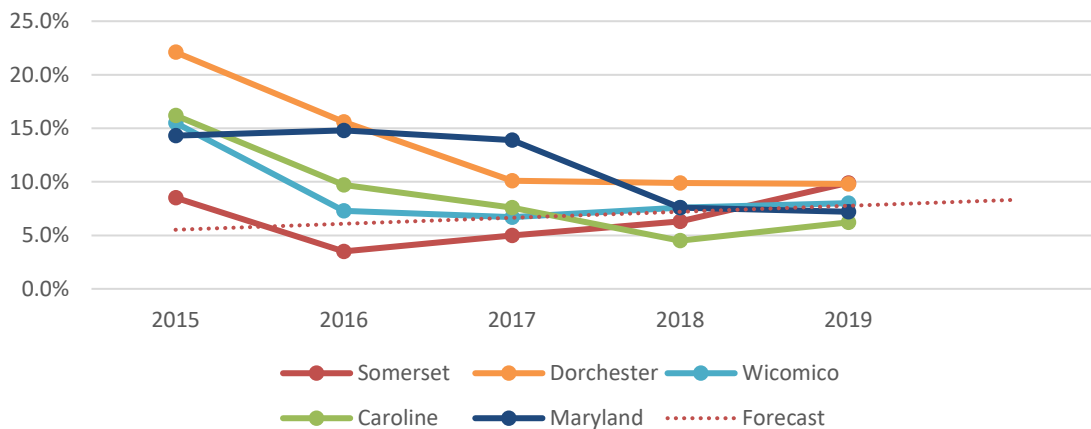
(United States Census Bureau, 2020)

Other Economic-Focused Community Insights

Other than the previously noted needs, participants in community conversations talked about:

- Students who are looking to work in high school have limited options and age restrictions with some jobs;
- Lack of housing rentals; and
- Lack of high-speed internet throughout the county.

Qualitative comments from the survey focused on:

- Better paying jobs; and
- Childcare.

Community Safety

Community safety incorporates not just crime, but also environmental factors, infrastructure, safe housing, community resilience, and other aspects. Somerset County has the following county public safety-focused services: fire marshal, emergency services center including 911, animal control, and a detention center.

The community safety theme contains the results and indicators in Table 4.

Table 4: Community Safety Results and Indicators	
Result	**Indicator**
Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families	Rate of Violent Crimes Committed per 1,000 Persons
	Rate of Juvenile Felony Offense Referrals for Youth Ages 11-17 per 100,000
	Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Assault Injuries to Children and Youth Ages 0-21 per 100,000 of the Population
	Child Maltreatment: Rate of Unduplicated Children (Ages 0-17) with Indicated/ Unsubstantiated Child Abuse/Neglect Findings per 1,000
	Percent of Children < 72 Months of Age with Confirmed Blood Lead Levels (BLL) > 5 µg/Dl
	Rate of Children Placed in Out-of-Home Placements per 1,000 Children ages 0-18

Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families

Rate of Violent Crimes Committed per 1,000 Persons

The violent crime rate in Somerset County trended up in the most recent year available, 2020, but remains lower than all but one comparison county (GOCPYVS, 2022). The violent crime rate is not available disaggregated by race.

**Chart 22: Rate of Violent Crimes Committed per 1,000 Persons by County/State**
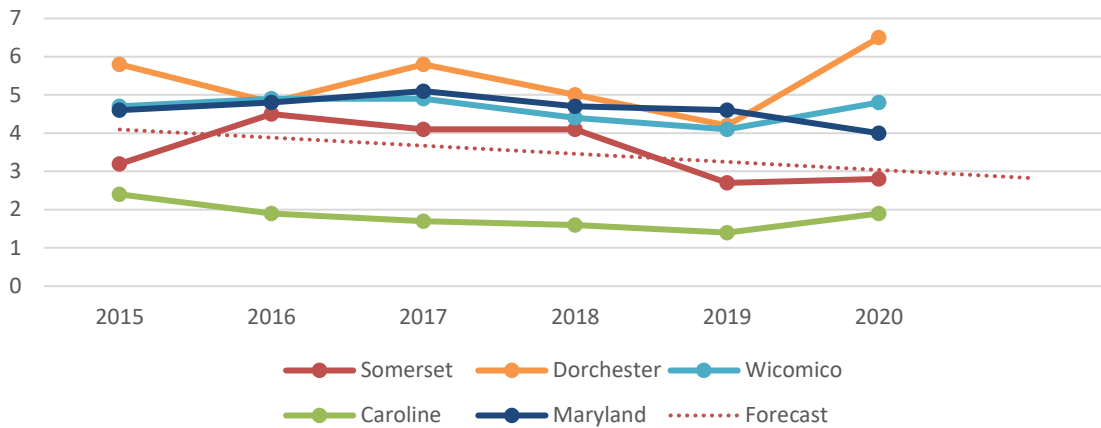
(GOCPYVS, 2022)

Rate of Juvenile Felony Offense Referrals for Youth Ages 11-17 per 100,000

The juvenile felony offense rate has been trending up in the last three fiscal years available. Somerset County had the highest juvenile felony offense rate of comparable counties and the state in FY2020 (Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, 2021). The data source provides data disaggregated by race for intake complaints, but not the felony offense referral rate specifically.

Chart 23: Rate of Juvenile Felony Offense Referrals for Youth Ages 11-17 per 100,000 by County/State
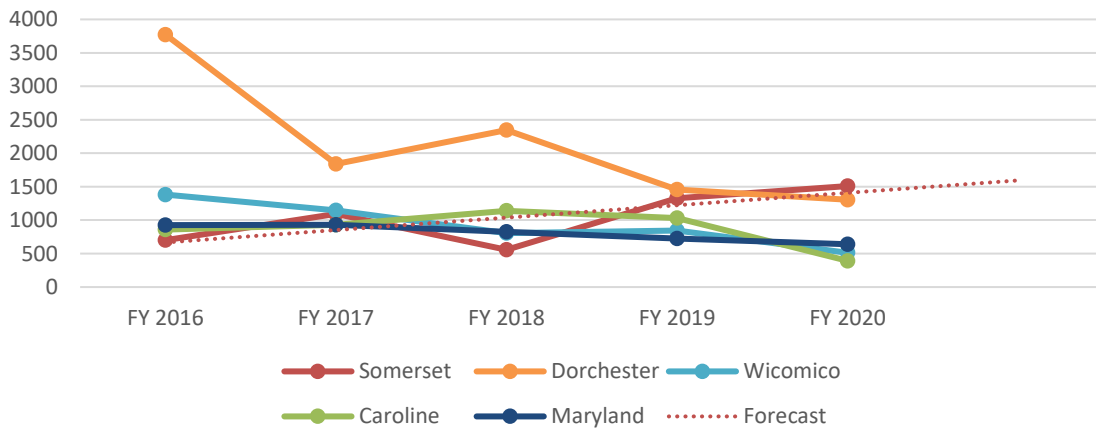
(Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, 2021)

Other Community Safety-Focused Community Insights

During the community conversations, the following topics arose:

- Not enough law enforcement officers;
- Fights in schools;
- Pockets of crime often connected to drug use; and

- School bomb threats.

Qualitative comments from the survey focused on:

- Caring adult influences in children's lives;
- Infrastructure like street lights;
- Things for children to do in places that are safe havens; and
- Bullying.

Additional Community Insights

During the community conversations, participants talked about the strengths of the community and ideas they had about what was already working and could work to better support children, youth and families. Topics beyond those of the indicators came up in these conversations and are summarized below.

Community Strengths

All of the groups talked about how everyone looks out for everyone else and the area has a small community feel. Folks shared that the community unity, environment, landscape and outdoor activities make Somerset a nice place to live. Groups also shared that local agencies and resources work together to advocate and bring needed supports and programs for children, youth, and families.

Community members shared ideas about resources and supports that are already working well for residents. This included food pantries in schools, food backpack program for weekend meals, school-provided meals during the school day, unhoused case management, and in-school health offerings. There are a few afterschool, tutoring, and college prep programs that are supporting students along with some extra curriculars like sports and clubs. The medical transport and commuter transit options are helpful, but limited in scope.

What Works

Participants shared ideas about what the county could offer to support children, youth and families. A big theme that came up was a recreation or community center that contained a gym and pool, along with more playgrounds where young people and families could go to participate in various activities. Related to mental health, groups discussed general education about mental health to reduce stigmas, mental health counseling and support services, along with harm reduction education and services for those who use substances. Further discussion on transportation included suggestions about door-to-door services being created since mass transit may take more time and resources to stand up.

Other ideas included more trade schools with training on subjects like cosmetology, so young people have more employment options. Changes were suggested within schools to use funding for things such as better food, improved sports equipment, more fine arts offerings, and building renovations. Participants suggested more afterschool programs, school-based education programs like DARE, general program funding, and more opportunities for youth to engage with their community.

Additional suggestions for supports for children youth and families included help for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, financial literacy programming, increased access for immigrant families including more translators and ensuring all communications (beyond just written documents) are available to families in their home language, and more healthcare facilities and qualified healthcare

professionals in the area. Students wanted local businesses and places like libraries to create more opportunities for volunteerism, community service hours, and community residents to come together for activities. Young people also talked about more internship and employment opportunities to be developed in the area. As this process moves from needs assessment to community planning, the feedback provided by community about what would work should be included.

Summary

This process unearthed needs that the community feels the Somerset County Local Management Board should help address through focusing its funds and efforts. Below is a summary of the needs that were consistently raised across the available data sources.

Table 5: Top Needs	
Theme	**Indicator**
Education	Educational Attainment: Percent of Youth Ages 18-24 with a High School Diploma (Including Equivalence) or Higher
	Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate
	Young people getting into college, vocational or trade schools*
Health	Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6 – 8 and 9-12 Reporting Depressive Episode
	Mental and Behavioral Health*
	Youth Using Drugs*
Economy	Percent of 16-24 Year Olds in Labor Force who are Unemployed
	Percent of High School Graduates Who Complete a Career & Technology Education (CTE) Program
	Percent of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty
	Percent of Families Spending >35% Income on Rent
	Percent of Youth Ages 16-24 Not in School and Not Working
	Transportation Access*
Community Safety	Rate of Violent Crimes Committed per 1,000 Persons
	Rate of Juvenile Felony Offense Referrals for Youth Ages 11-17 per 100,000

The SCLMB Board of Directors and Implementation Team used the information from this report to prioritize the results areas and associated indicators where they should concentrate their work in the next three years as outlined below.

Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families	Youth Will Complete School	Healthy Children
Rate of Violent Crimes Committed per 1,000 Persons	Four-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate	Mental and Behavioral Health *indicator to be determined*

Next Steps

This process provided space for community input and a data review so that the SCLMB could prioritize the three results and indicators as shown above. In the next phase, the SCLMB needs to identify a local indicator that will help them understand mental and behavioral health in their communities. Then, the

community should be included in further conversations around root causes and "what works" to move the needle for children, youth, and families in Somerset County. This should build on the information already gathered through this process, and isolate specific strategies the SCLMB could implement in the next three years that address the root causes of the crime rate, high school graduation rate, and mental and behavioral health.

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Appendix A: Indicator Charts

This Appendix contains the indicator charts with historical baseline data and forecasts for any indicators that did not meet the needs criteria and therefore were not represented in the main report.
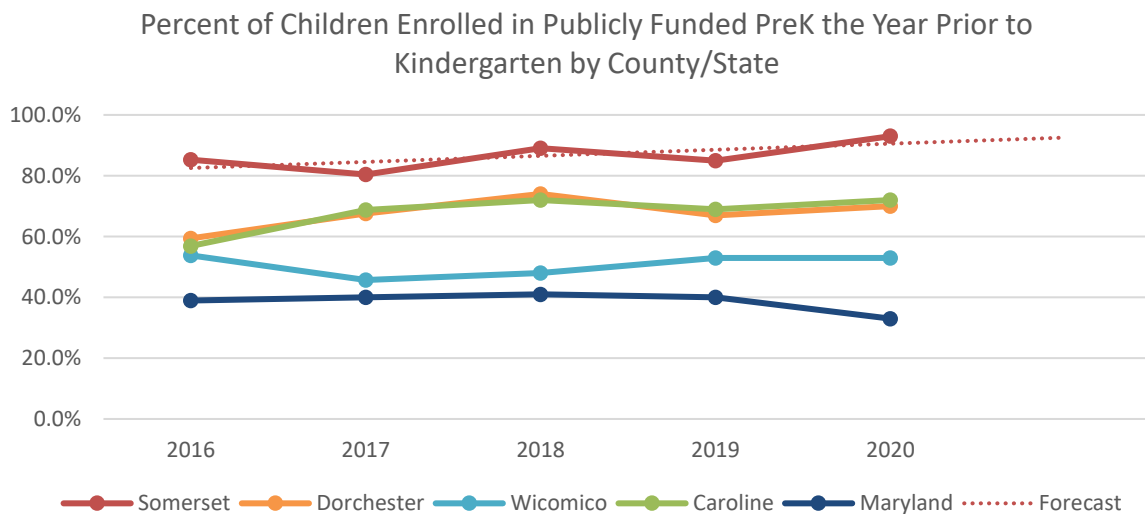
Education

Children Enter School Ready to Learn

Percent of Students Demonstrating Readiness on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Percent of Students Demonstrating Readiness on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment by County/State
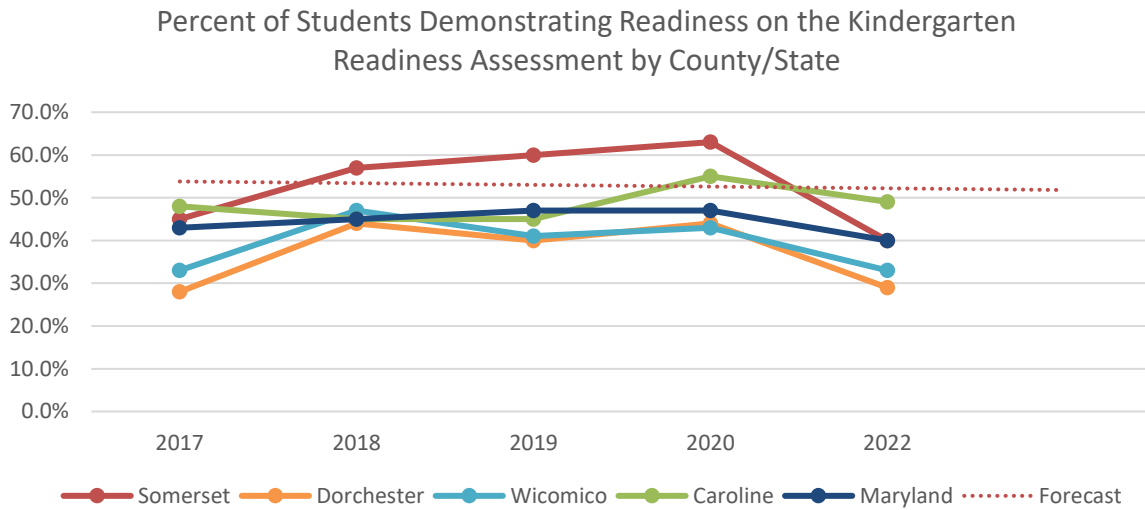
(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)
* No KRA administered in SY20-21

Percent of Children Enrolled in Publicly-Funded Pre-K the Year Prior to Kindergarten

Percent of Children Enrolled in Publicly Funded PreK the Year Prior to Kindergarten by County/State

(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Children are Successful in School

Chronic Absenteeism: Students Enrolled in School at Least 10 Days Who are Absent for 10% or More Days

Chronic Absenteeism : Students Enrolled in School at Least 10 days
Who are Absent for 10% or More Days by County/State
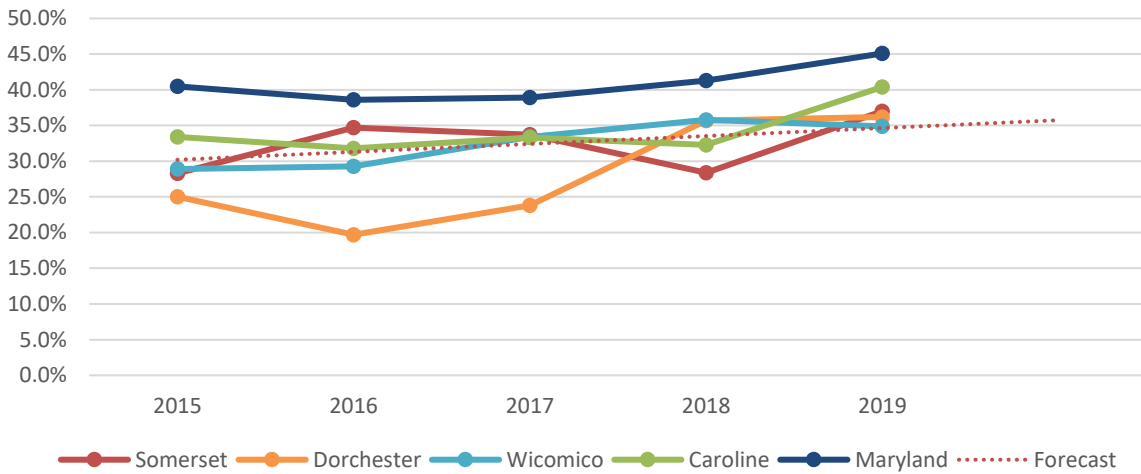

(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Percent of Public School Students in Grades 3 and 8 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4 on the Math Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program

Percent of Public School Students in Grade 3 Performing at or above
Performance Level 4 on the Math MCAP by County/State

(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Percent of Public School Students in Grade 8 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4 on the Math MCAP by County/State

(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Percent of Public School Students in Grades 3 and 8 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4 on the Reading/ELA Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program

Percent of Public School Students in Grade 3 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4 on the Reading/ELA MCAP by County/State

(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Percent of Public School Students in Grade 8 Performing at or Above
Performance Level 4 on the Reading/ELA MCAP by County/State

Percent of Students (Grade 8 and 11) Scoring at or Above Proficient on the Math Alternate MCAP

Percent of students in Grade 8 Scoring at or Above Proficient on the
Math Alternate MCAP by County/State

Grade 11 data not provided as Somerset County numbers are too small to show.

Percent of Students in Grades 8 and 11 Scoring at or Above Proficient on the English/ELA Alternate MCAP

Percent of Students in Grade 8 Scoring at or Above Proficient on the English/ELA Alternate MCAP by County/State
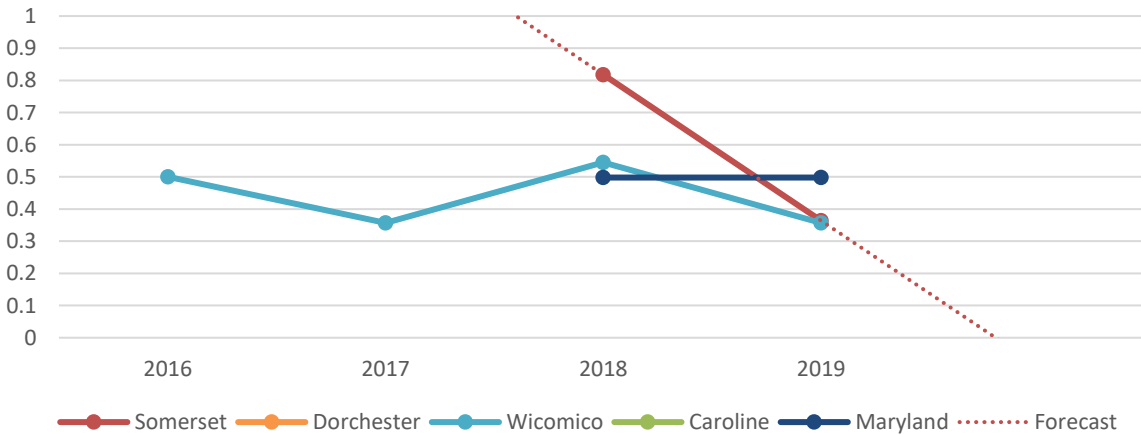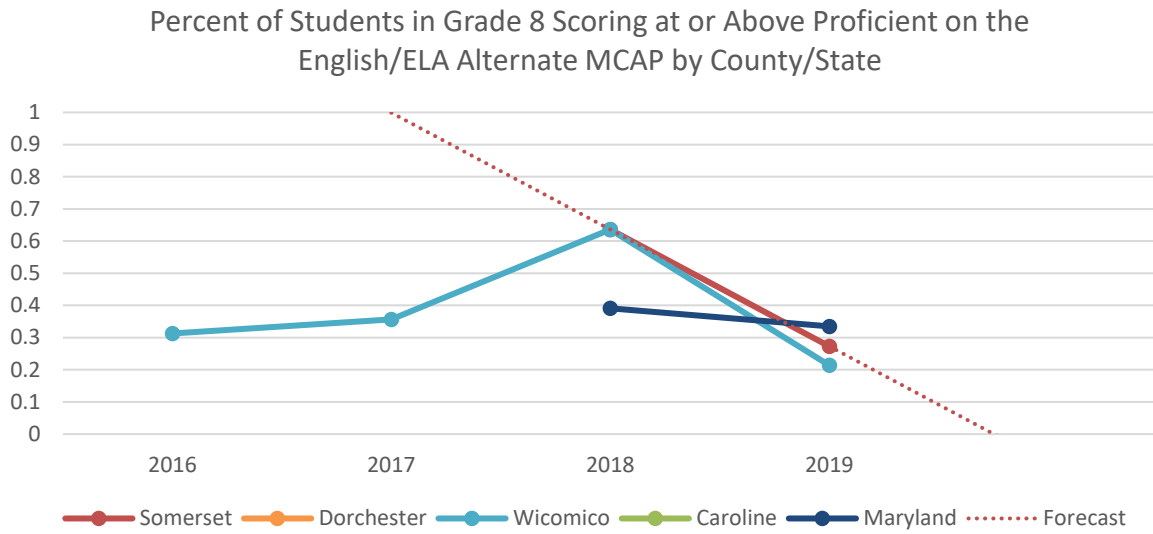
(Maryland State Department of Education, 2021)

Grade 11 data not provided as Somerset County numbers are too small to show.

Youth Will Complete School

Percent of Students with Disabilities Who Graduated with High School Diploma

Percent of Students with Disabilities Who Graduated with High School Diploma by County/State
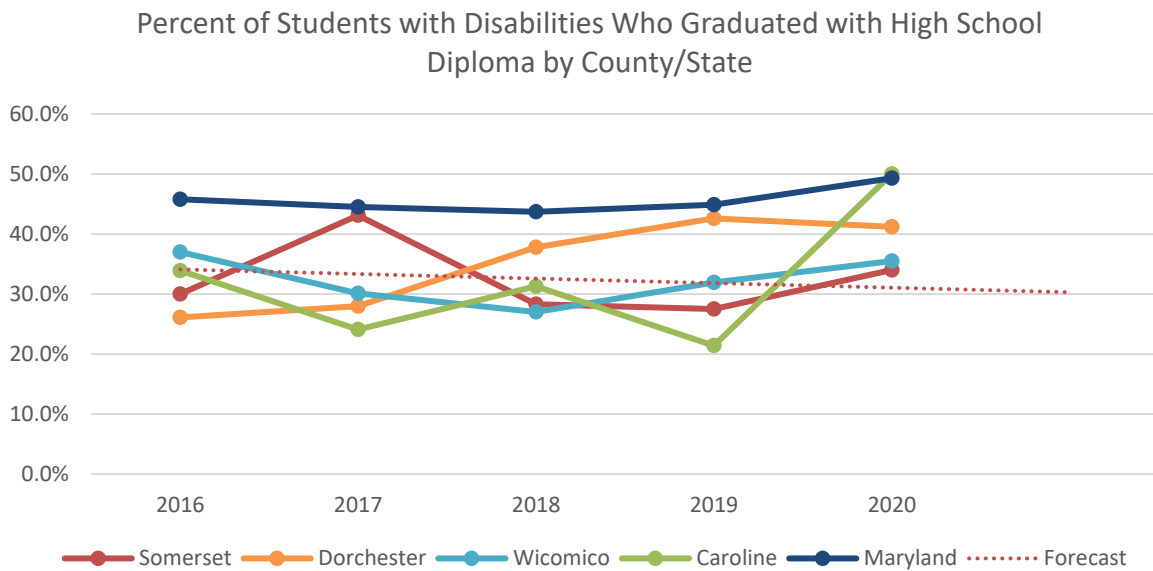
(Maryland State Department of Education, 2020)

Health

Babies Born Healthy

Infant Mortality: Number of Deaths Occurring to Infants (< 1year) per 1,000 Live Births

Infant Mortality: Number of Deaths Occurring to Infants (<1 year) per 1,000 Live Births by County/State
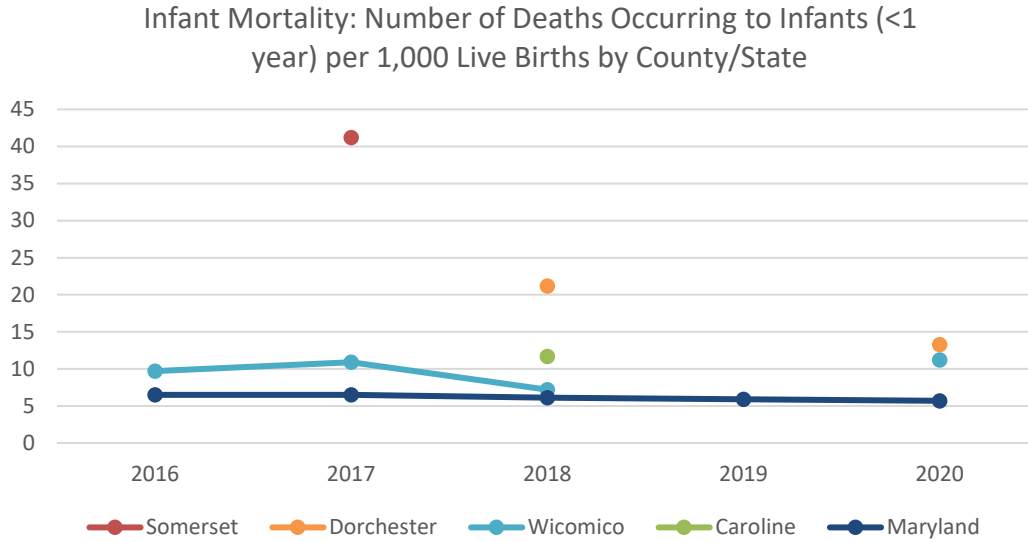
(Maryland Department of Health, 2020)
forecast not presented for Somerset County as only one data point is available

*Percent of Low Birth Weight (< 2500 g) Infants*
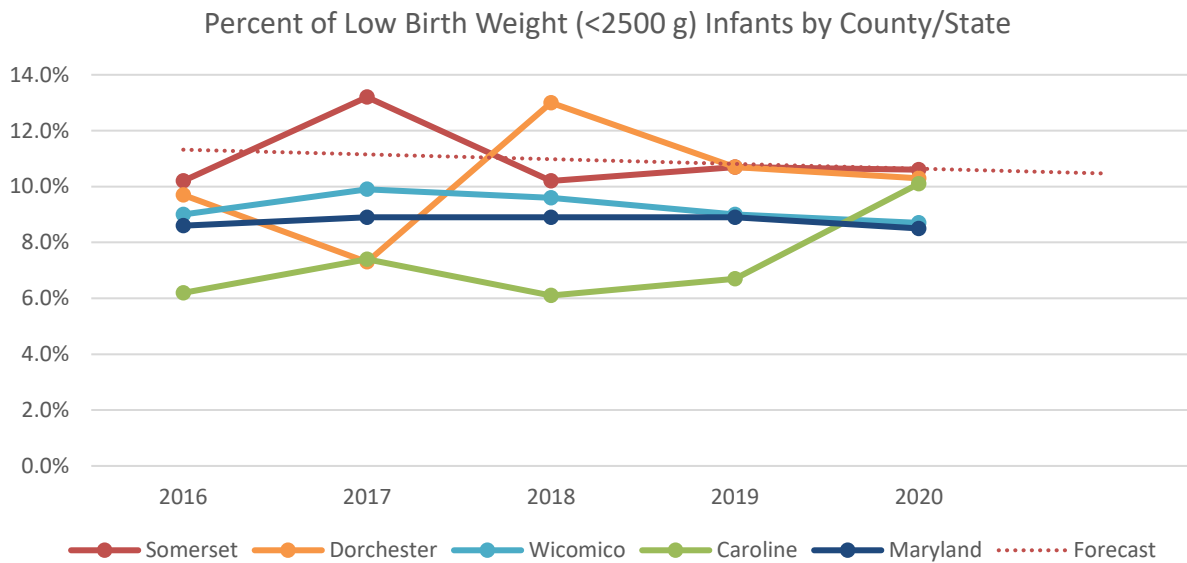
Percent of Low Birth Weight (<2500 g) Infants by County/State

(Maryland Department of Health, 2020)

34

Percent of women with prenatal care in the first trimester

Percent of Women Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester by County/State
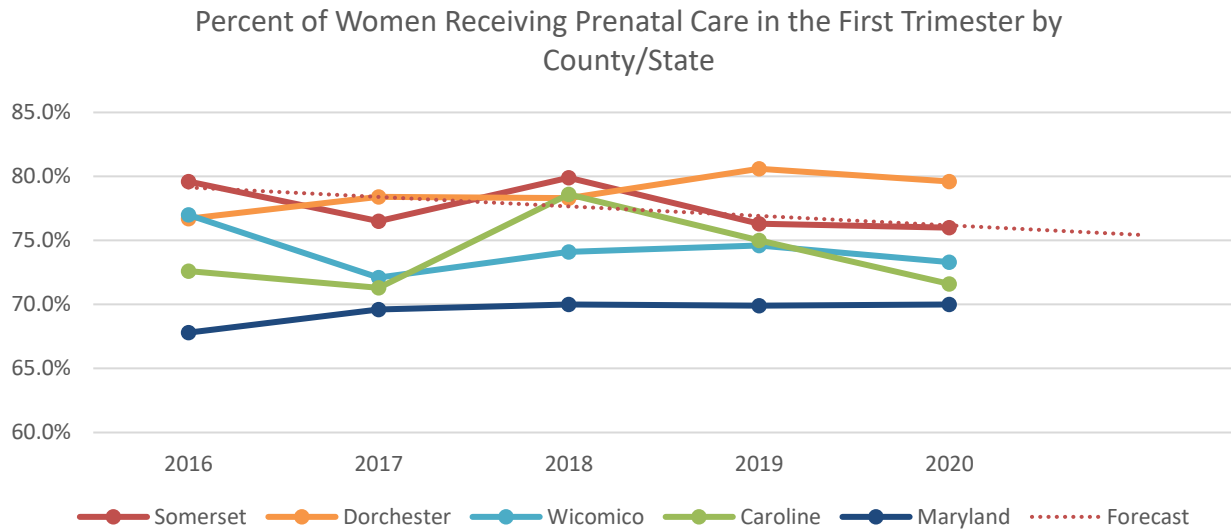
(Maryland Department of Health, 2020)

Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women (ages 15-19 years)

Adolescent Birth Rate per 1,000 women (ages 15-19 years) by County/State
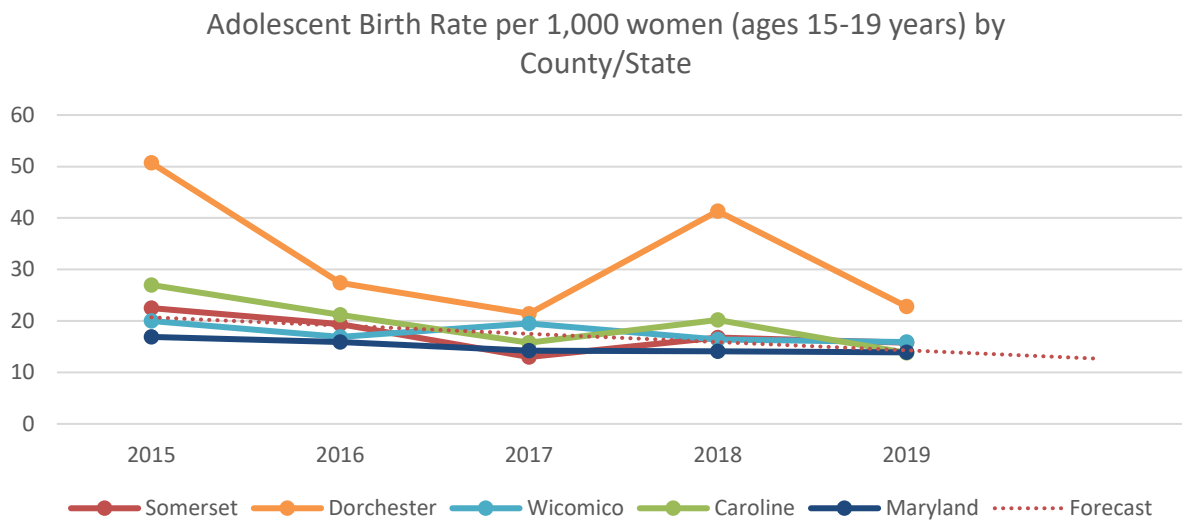
(Maryland Department of Health, 2020)

Healthy Children

Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Self-Inflicted Injuries to Children Ages 0-21 per 100,000 of the Population

The data is too small to show.

(Maryland Department of Health, 2019)

Percent of Children Ages 19-35 Months who Have Received the Full Schedule of Recommended Immunizations

Immunization data is currently only publicly available at the state-level.

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017)

*Percent of Children who Have Health Insurance Coverage*

Percent of Children Who Have Health Insurance Coverage by County/State
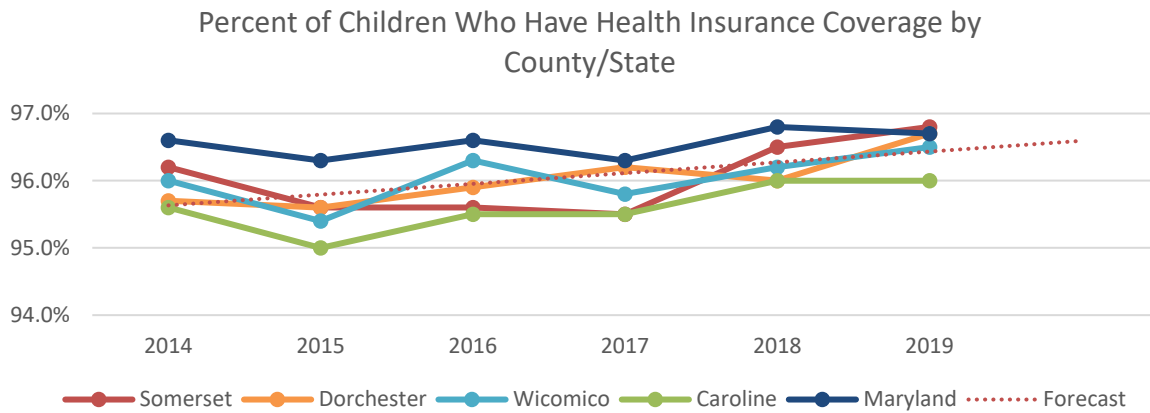
(The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019)

Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 Reporting Electronic Vapor Product (EVP) Use
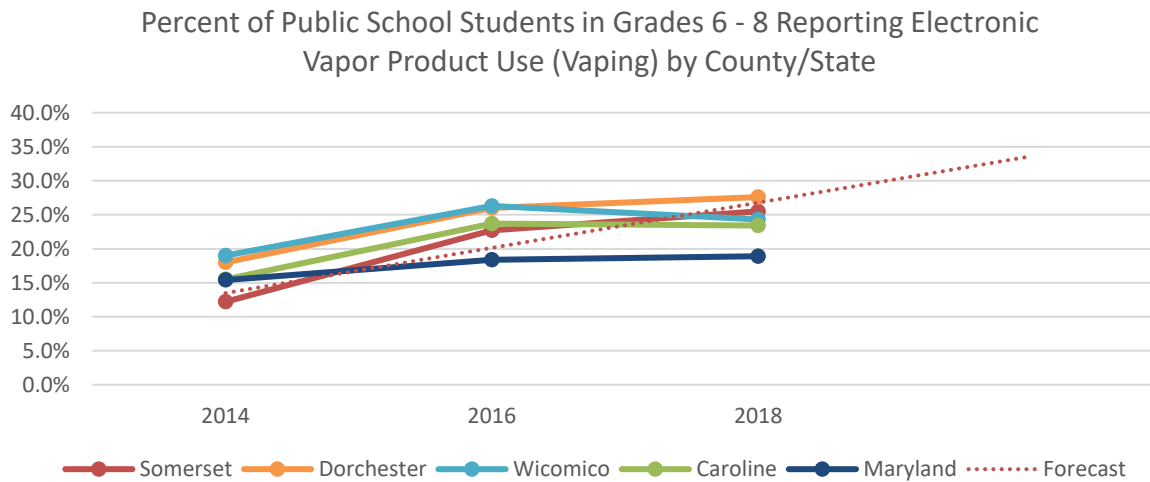
Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6 - 8 Reporting Electronic Vapor Product Use (Vaping) by County/State

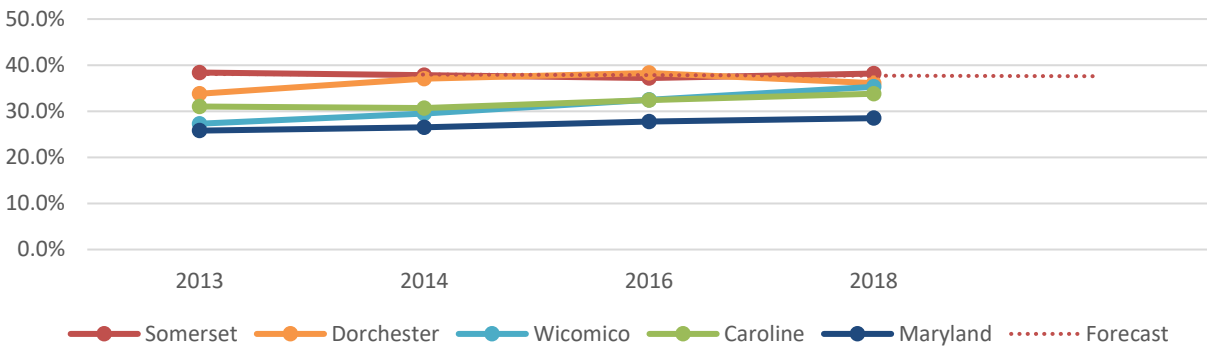(Maryland Department of Health, 2019)

Percent of Public School Students in Grades 9 - 12 Reporting Electronic Vapor Product Use (Vaping) by County/State
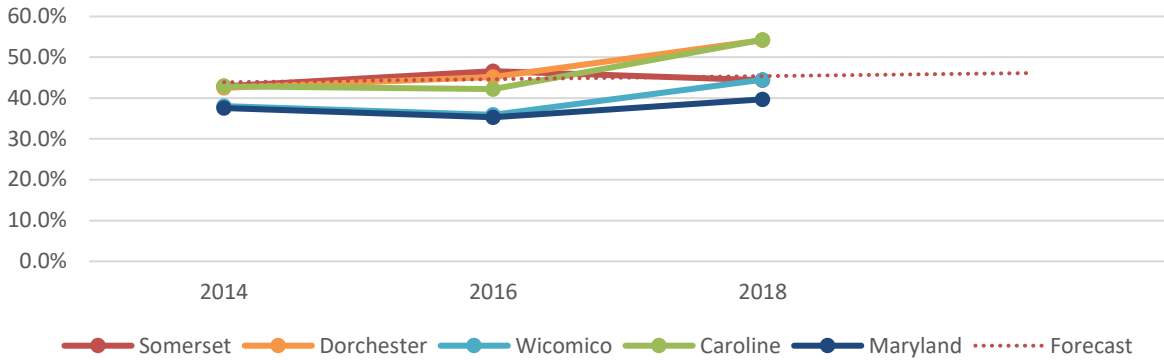
(Maryland Department of Health, 2019)

Percent of Public School Students in Grades 9-12 Who are Overweight or Obese
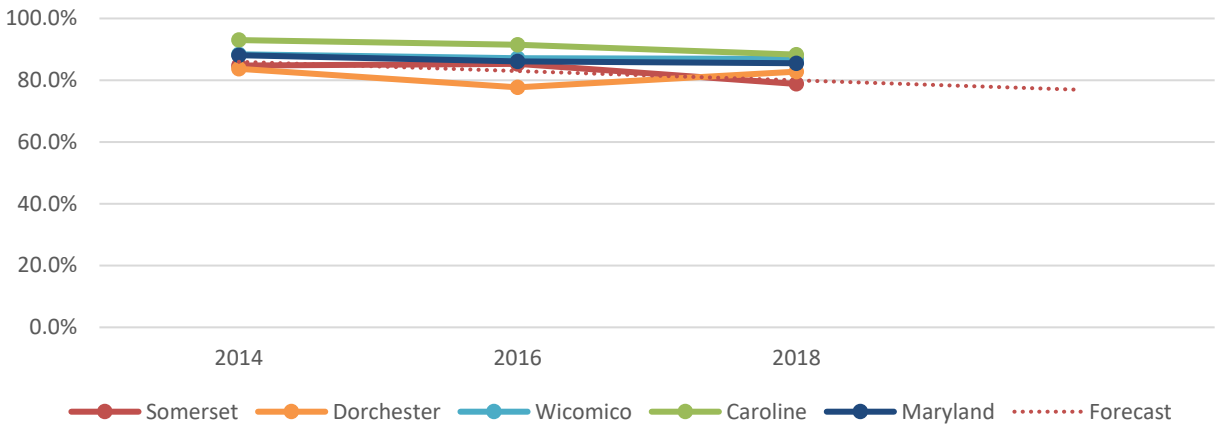
Percent of Public School Students in Grades 9-12 Who Are Overweight or Obese by County/State
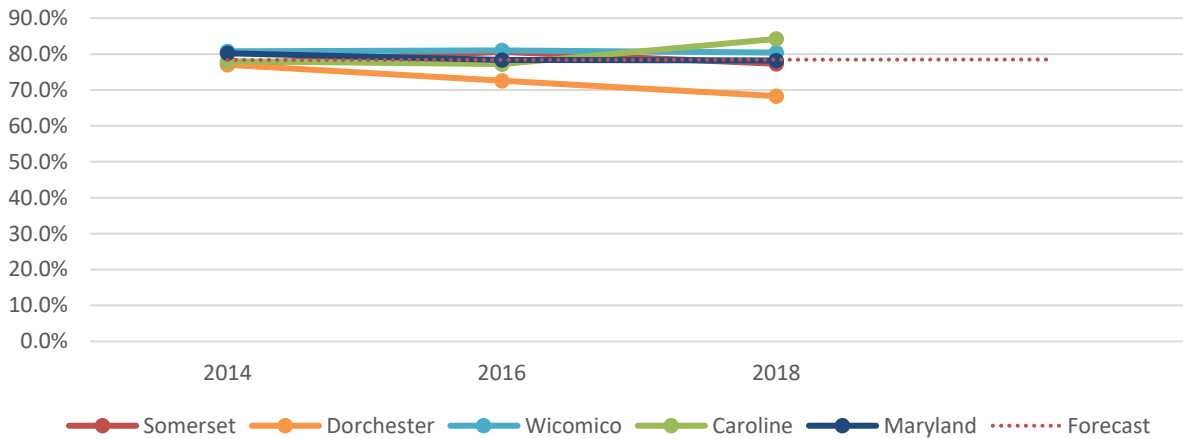

(Maryland Department of Health, 2019)

Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 Reporting Physical Activity for 60 Minutes in Last 7 Days

Percent of Public School Students in Grades 6 - 8 Reporting Physical Activity
for 60 Minutes in Last 7 Days by County/State

Percent of Public School Students in Grades 9 - 12 Reporting Physical
Activity for 60 Minutes in Last 7 Days by County/State

Economy

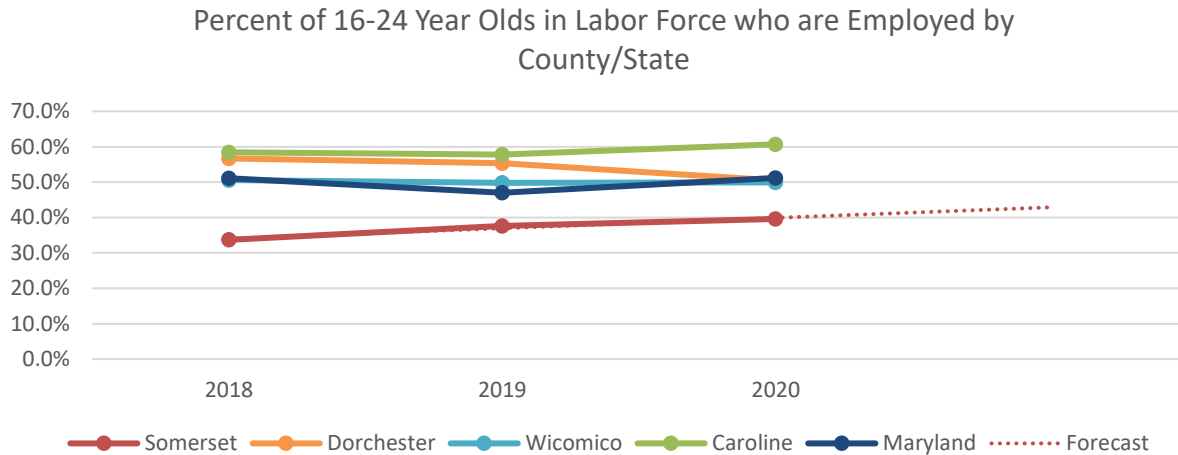**Youth Have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness**

Percent of 16-24 Year Olds in the Labor Force who are Employed

Percent of 16-24 Year Olds in Labor Force who are Employed by County/State

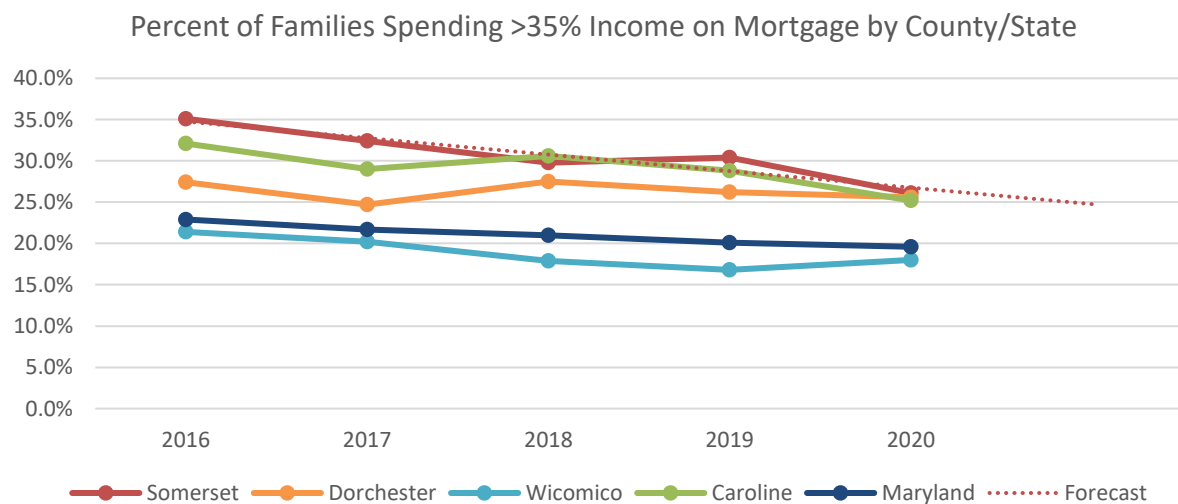(United States Census Bureau, 2020)

Families are Economically Stable

Percent of Public School Children who are Unhoused

The Somerset County data is too small to show.

(Maryland State Department of Education, 2019)

*Percent of Families Spending >35% Income on Housing (Mortgage)*

Percent of Families Spending >35% Income on Mortgage by County/State

(United States Census Bureau, 2020)

Community Safety

Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families

Rate of Unduplicated Children (Ages 0-17) with Indicated/ Unsubstantiated Child Abuse/Neglect Findings per 1,000


Rate of Unduplicated Children (Ages 0-17) with Indicated/ Unsubstantiated Child Abuse/Neglect Findings per 1,000 by County/State
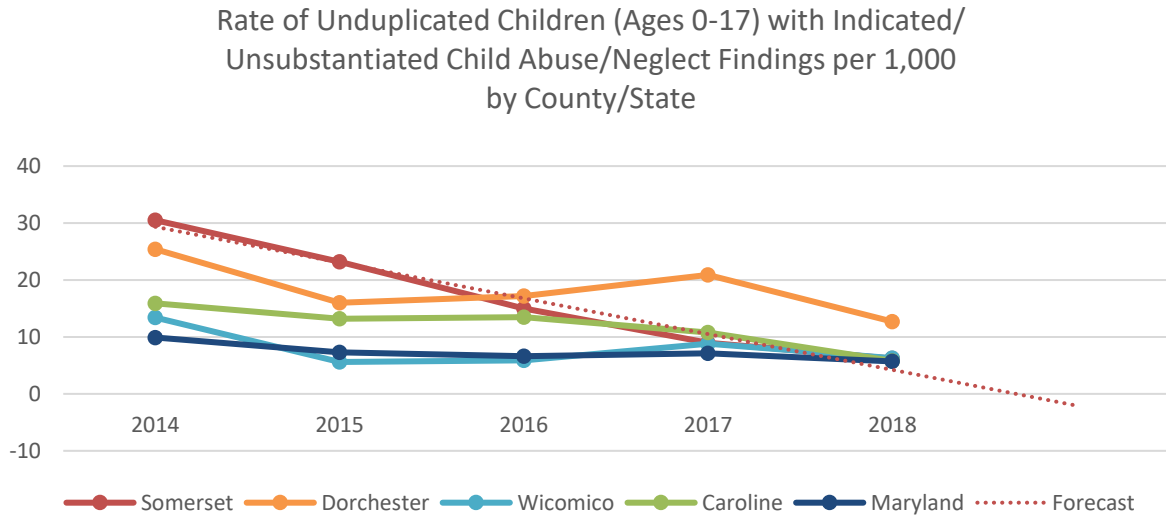
(Maryland Department of Human Resources, 2017)

Rate of Children Placed in Out-of-Home Placements per 1,000 Children Ages 0-18

Rate of New Placement Settings per 1,000 Children Ages 0-18 by County/State
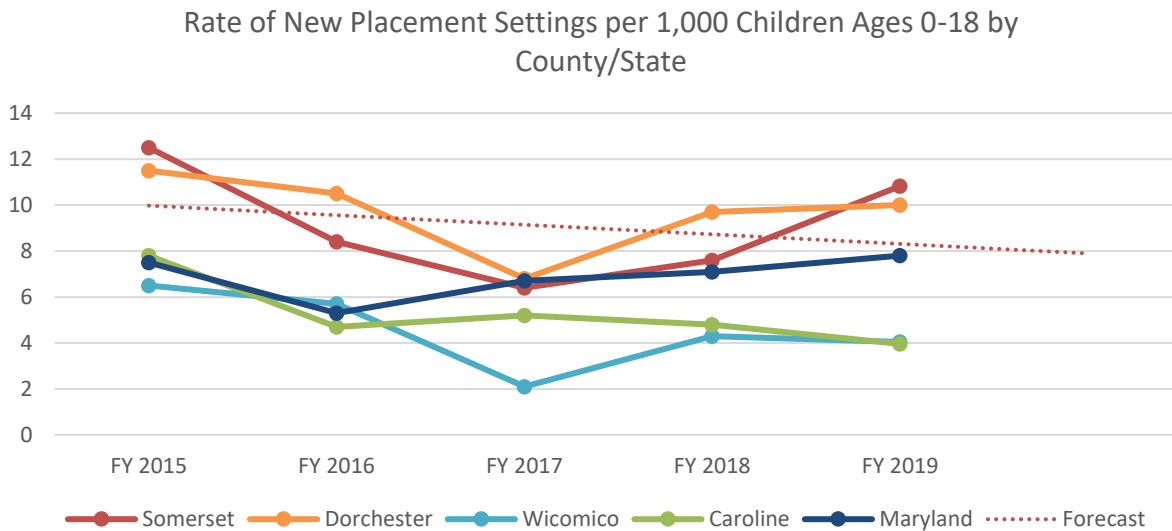
(Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim's Services, 2019)

Percent of Children < 72 Months of Age with Confirmed Blood Lead Levels (BLL) > 5 μg/dL

Percent of children < 72 months of Age with Confirmed Blood Lead Levels
(BLL) 5 μg/dL by County/State
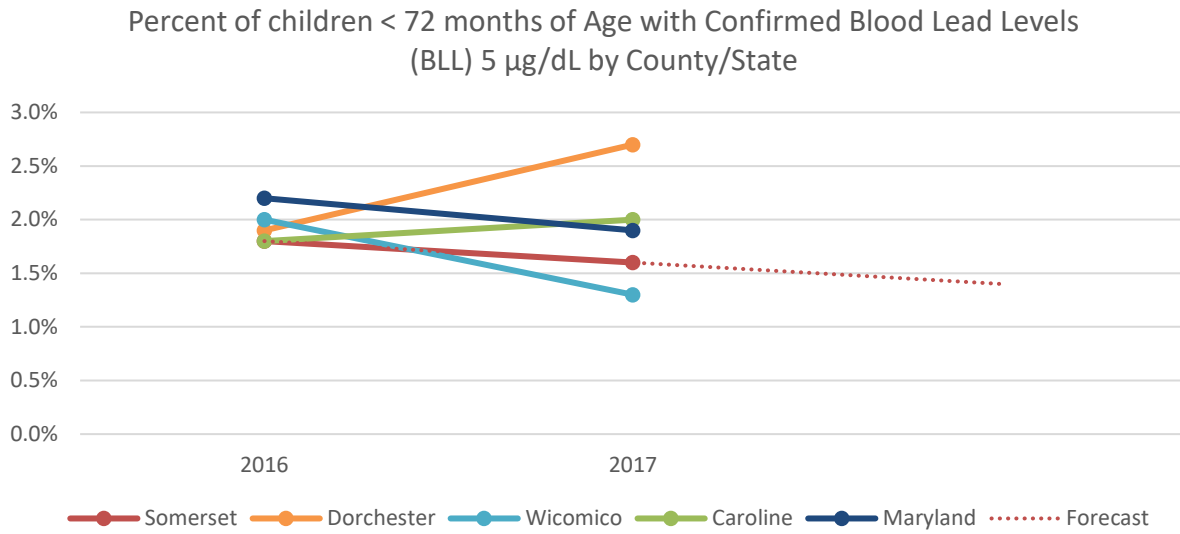
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017)

Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Assault Injuries to Children and Youth Ages 0-21 per 100,000 of the Population

The nonfatal assault injury data is too small to show.

(Maryland Department of Health, 2018)