

Community Strengths and Needs Assessment Data Monroe County, Indiana

Data

ICADV Youth Council data about Safe, Stable, and Nurturing Relationships and Environments. <https://icadvinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/321129-treasure-map.pdf>

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT 2021, published 3/2022

- https://www.co.monroe.in.us/egov/documents/1654172317_58587.pdf
- The City webpage with infographics created from the above data!!
<https://www.co.monroe.in.us/topic/index.php?topicid=304&structureid=12>

Indiana Kid's Count Data (can search by County, Monroe County Indiana)

<https://www.iyi.org/indiana-kids-count-data-book/>

For curiosity about the Social Ecological Model

This is one of my favorite versions

Graphics: <https://mch.umn.edu/resources/mhecomodel/>

Text only:

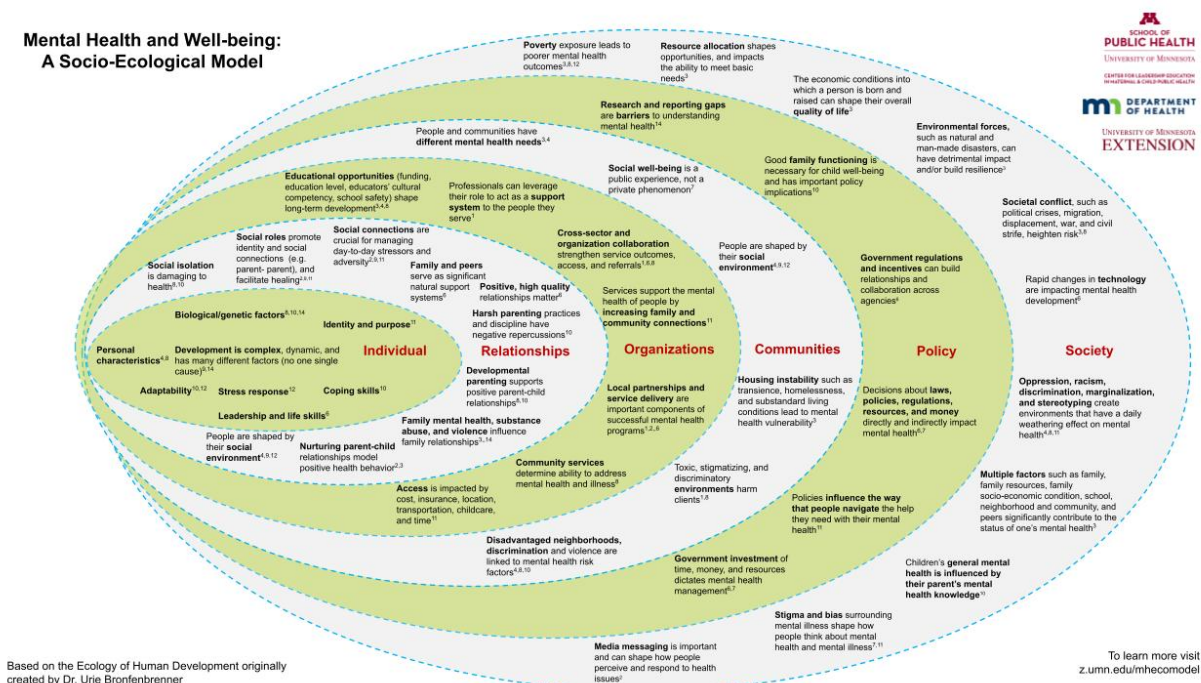
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qBzy7PJUb2J-wteafWjrKnLPwufQWR_G9-RcZhCscKQ/edit

Findings

Talha:

Some findings as I went through these... The 3 below that aren't highlighted should still be mentioned, but we shouldn't do as much research because we don't want to overwhelm the audience with stats and data of all these different challenges. These shouldn't even be mentioned in the conclusion, but we can reiterate the concept we brought by bringing them up to begin with.

1. Access to proper health care
2. Physical Activity Programs
3. Substance Use
4. Food insecurity
5. Poverty, nearly a fifth of the youth in monroe county have reported housing insecurity



Access to proper medical care

<https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/indiana/monroe-county>

Poverty

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/news/local/2016/06/25/childhood-experiences-can-make-it-harder-to-escape-poverty/117618400/>

<https://specials.idsnews.com/eviction-monroe-county-tenants/>— wonderful anecdotes

<https://www.monroeunitedway.org/WakeUp-Evictions>

^^^

Motive for both of these that I've been noticing is that COVID actually decreased the amount of evictions and increased hiring/salary rates across the state, but now that the "smoke is clearing up," these challenges are going to come back to hit us twice as hard. If we aren't equipped with the right tools and information, it'll be even more difficult to recover than it already is.

1. Monroe County has been designated as a medically underserved area (MUA). Some of the surrounding counties like Lawrence, Owen, and Morgan have also been included in being designated as health professional shortage areas, especially in terms of mental health. "According to County Health Rankings 2021 data, Monroe County continues to rank lower for access to primary care providers than Indiana overall (1,690:1 vs. 1,500:1). It also has fewer dentists than Indiana overall (1,860:1 vs. 1,750:1)." Although state legislators have been claiming that this is one of their top priorities the statistics have only risen in recent years. "Area residents continue to report long wait times to get a new patient appointment with primary care physicians and psychiatrists. Other barriers mentioned included high cost of healthcare, lack of insurance (or challenges with insurance), lack of transportation and stigma surrounding mental health issues." "The numbers of uninsured adults rose slightly from 9% to 11% in recent years. This matches with Indiana overall (11%) as does the number of uninsured children (7%) (County Health Rankings 2021)." That said, it is important to acknowledge that care surrounding substance use, misuse, and abuse has shown great advancements. "The availability of treatment for substance use disorder has improved greatly within the last few years due to changes in federal policies and funding. According to Helping Bloomington Monroe, a referral website/program, there are 6 treatment facilities within

Monroe County that offer medication assisted treatment, such as Suboxone, methadone and naltrexone.”

2. Monroe County was scored with a 49/100 for access to health care. What’s interesting though is that the county was still rated 89/100 for health equity? An entirely opposite score, and why? Because all they looked at for equity is they said, are there toxins in the air? No? We’re equitable! Now yes they did look at low birth weight and premature death disparities, but the income equity score is a 37/100. **Transition and tie back**
3. Nearly a fifth of Monroe County’s children have been living in poverty since 2009. Most of these children live in single parent households, and that’s true statewide. Can someone tell me what the cliff effect is? “Working poor families in Monroe County who do receive housing, nutrition and other government benefits, Patton said, also are often “trapped” by those support systems in a way that makes it difficult to climb out of poverty.” That even means that when families do get a boost in their income, whether they got a raise or a second, third job, that government support automatically disappears and they are left in poverty. Why, because yes technically that means that those people can feed themselves great. They can pay rent. They can’t save up to move. They can’t build a college fund for their children. And you can only imagine what happens if their car breaks down. Or when one of their kids gets sick and the hospital bill comes in. See the problem here is not directly with Monroe county. There are plenty of nonprofit organizations here that are dedicated, but if we want to go any further than that, we need the state government to listen to us. We need to have things to say. Yes there are food pantries and emergency crisis services, but the average household here gets \$243 in food stamps. To put this in perspective “the average monthly cost of food for a Monroe County family consisting of an adult and a preschool-aged child is \$381, according to the Indiana Institute for Working Families.” **Struggling with involving the state in this, would a power map work here.**
4. After hearing all of this it makes sense why **research** says that about 20 percent of the children in Monroe County are in poverty and have been since the end of the great recession, and why we were scored 39/100 in income inequity, and why many families and individuals are experiencing housing insecurities, but especially why many people do not have access to proper health care, including mental health services. Even those that are financially stable often find themselves having to drive 30-40 minutes away

to go to the dentist. An hour away to get a physical exam. That's not sustainable. The longer it does stay like that, the fewer people will access it because driving 40 minutes away sometimes means having someone else cover your shift at work for what otherwise is a simple 30 minute appointment.

— put in anecdotes and activities

<https://specials.idsnews.com/eviction-monroe-county-tenants/>

Find a flip side story too.

1. Anecdote about eviction: During the peak of COVID, a man had to attend his eviction hearing via zoom, which allowed the judge to quite literally see his situation. “On Nov. 17, Stephen Wilbur joined court from his cellphone. The judge, attorneys, landlord and mediators saw a man sitting on the floor in a dimly lit room, a dog curled up on his lap with its head on his chest.” “They did not know that Wilbur sits on the mattress he keeps on his floor because his multiple sclerosis limits his mobility to the point that some days, like Nov. 17, he cannot physically climb up onto his bed. His one-room apartment is dimly lit because it does not have any lights — but it was the only place he could find to stay. The dog curled up on his lap was one of his emotional support animals and sensed his anxiety. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, prone to seizures and struggling with anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder, Wilbur relies on his dogs to assist him with his physical and mental health. However, his dogs were the reason he was being evicted. Wilbur prepared to fight to keep his home. He compiled all the paperwork concerning his lease, collected documents verifying his dogs as emotional support animals, attempted to contact the medical professionals who certified his dogs as emotional support animals, met with pro-bono lawyers and called local housing nonprofits. In a system he felt expected him to go quietly, Wilbur said he wanted to learn his rights and stand up for himself. ‘I just want my day to get in front of the judge and go, ‘Look this is bull, Your Honor,’” Wilbur said. “This is discrimination and they had this planned from the beginning.” Yet, when the time came, all Wilbur could do was explain his situation and hope for understanding. “The last two years have been rough on me,” Wilbur said. “I’ve lived in motels, I’ve lived on the streets. When I came here I’d been looking since April of this year, trying to find a place. I just want to stay where I’m at until I can

find a bigger place.” Wilbur told the court his struggles and tried to make them understand that he exhausted every possible effort to avoid this situation. All there was left for him to do was to listen and wait.”