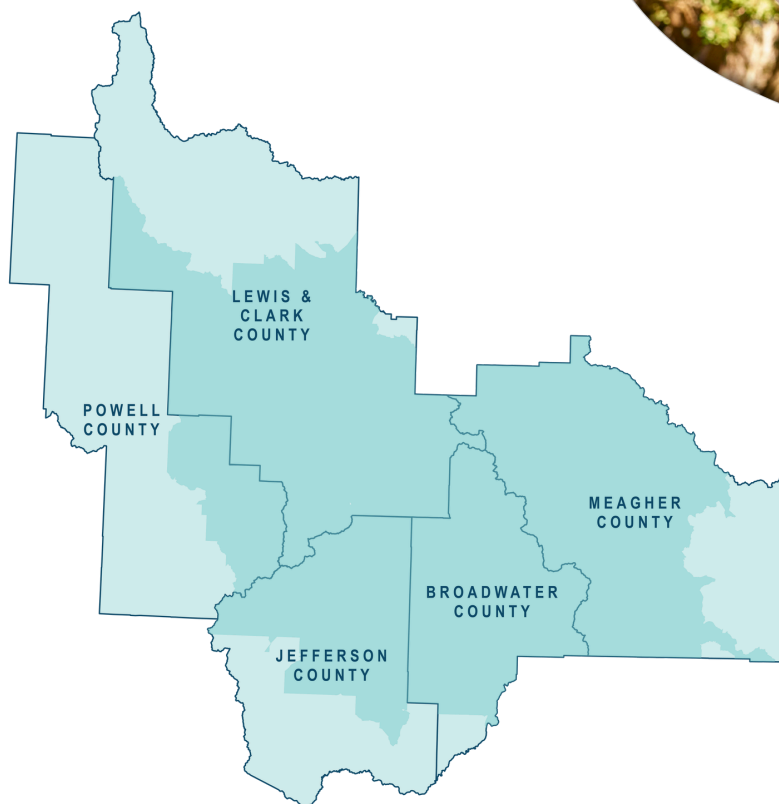


# COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY INSIGHTS

# 2024

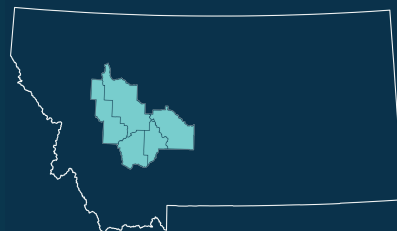


ST. PETER'S HEALTH  
SERVICE AREA

## COUNTIES

Lewis and Clark  
Jefferson  
Powell  
Broadwater  
Meagher

Montana



# CASPER SURVEY



## What is the CASPER survey?

The CDC's CASPER survey (Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response) is a method used to quickly gather information about the health and needs of a community.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/casper/php/overview/index.html>

## What makes it different from other types of surveys?

CASPER is unique because it's designed to be fast and efficient. It uses a specific method to randomly select households, making sure the results represent the entire community. This approach allows public health officials to get reliable data quickly.

## How are surveyed areas and homes selected?

In CASPER, the area to be surveyed is divided into smaller sections, called "clusters." Then, a certain number of these clusters are randomly chosen. Within each selected cluster, a specific number of households are randomly picked to participate in the survey. This random selection ensures that the results represent the whole community.

## Why were there two groups and separate analyses for counties?

Because of the very rural (low population and density) nature of Broadwater and Meagher counties, the traditional CASPER methodology used for Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, and Powell counties was not possible. A slightly different approach was used to make sure the most populated areas were adequately surveyed. While we could not combine the two groups of counties for a single estimate of the entire area, the two groups' data are comparable to each other.

## **How did the two groups of counties compare?**

For the majority of results, the two groups of counties reflected very similar perspectives and concerns. In an effort to keep the report at a manageable length, the numbers you see reported reflect those for Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, and Powell counties (except for Demographics which each have their own designated page). If you would like to access the complete datasets and detailed results for each county group, please see the Appendix: Data Access.

One key difference that we noted is that Broadwater and Meagher residents have a more difficult time accessing services because of how far they need to travel to get to Helena or other major cities.

## **What do the percentages mean?**

A “Weighted Percentage” adjusts the survey results to better reflect the actual population of the community. The survey results are corrected to account for differences in the size or characteristics of the population. Each individual or household is assigned a weight that reflects how representative they are of the larger population. These weights are used to adjust the responses to generalize findings to the entire population.

## **Why are there no comparisons among different questions?**

To put it most simply, the design of a CASPER survey does not allow for this. The way the percentages are calculated in the survey is specific to each question. If we try to compare how people answered one question to how they answered another, it could give us wrong or misleading results. This is because the numbers we used to adjust the survey responses are designed for each question by itself, not for comparing between questions. Additionally, the way the survey was organized (with clusters of people being surveyed together) makes these comparisons tricky and potentially unreliable.

## **Data privacy and accuracy**

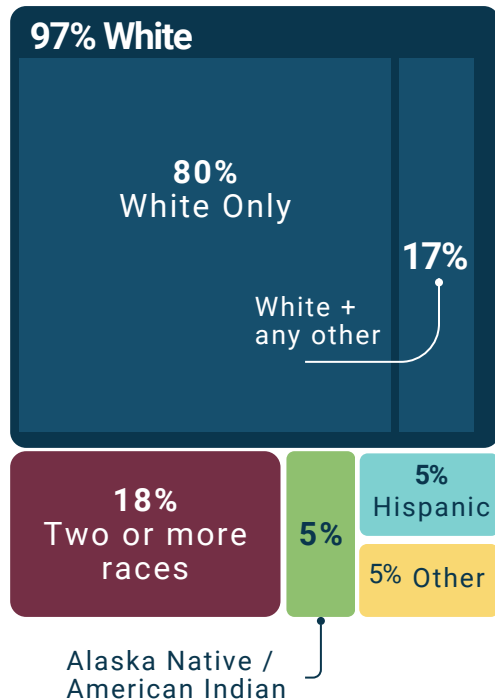
Any results with fewer than 5 responses were not reported or displayed for two main reasons:

1. This respects and protects the privacy of respondents, and,
2. Estimations for the general population based on such a small number would not be dependable and likely inaccurate.

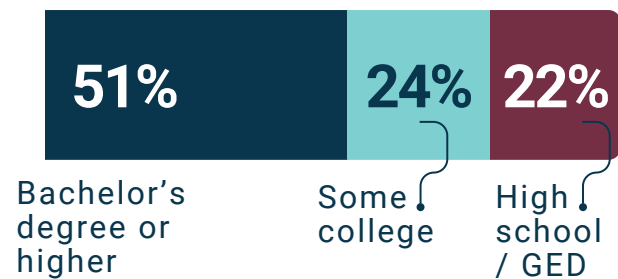
If you see missing options in this report, or “Data Suppressed” within any data downloads or online tables, this is why.

# DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS

Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, and Powell Counties

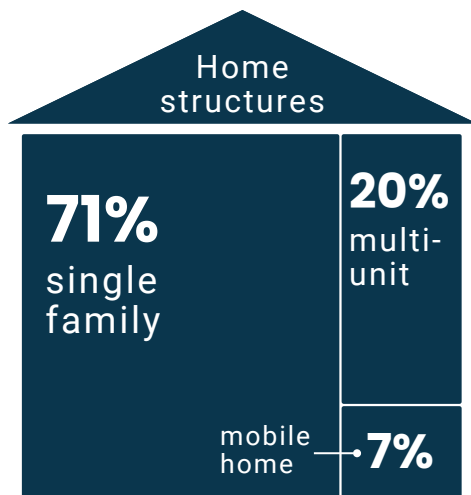


## Highest education level in household

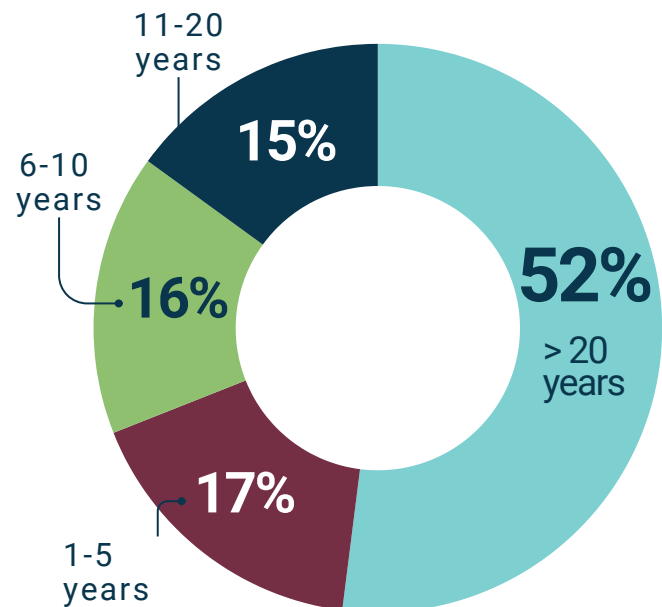


**77%** | Own home

**21%** | Rent home



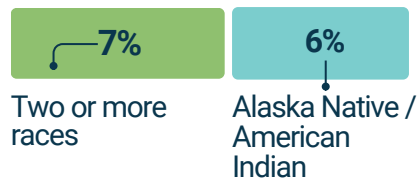
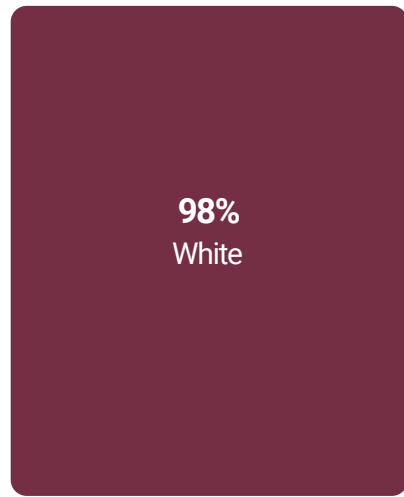
## Time living in the county



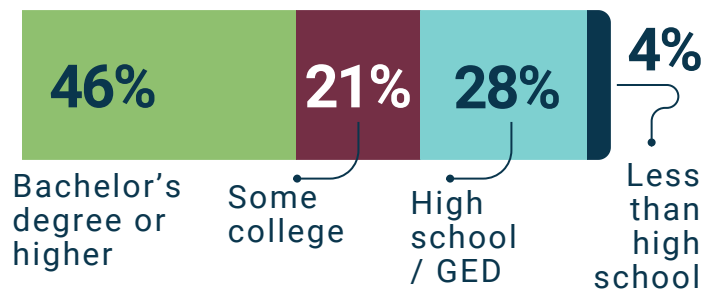


# DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS

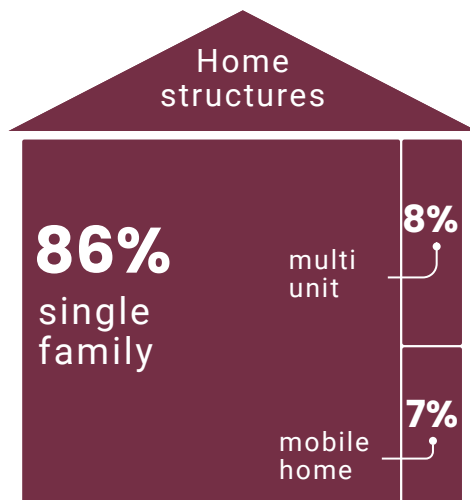
Broadwater and  
Meagher Counties



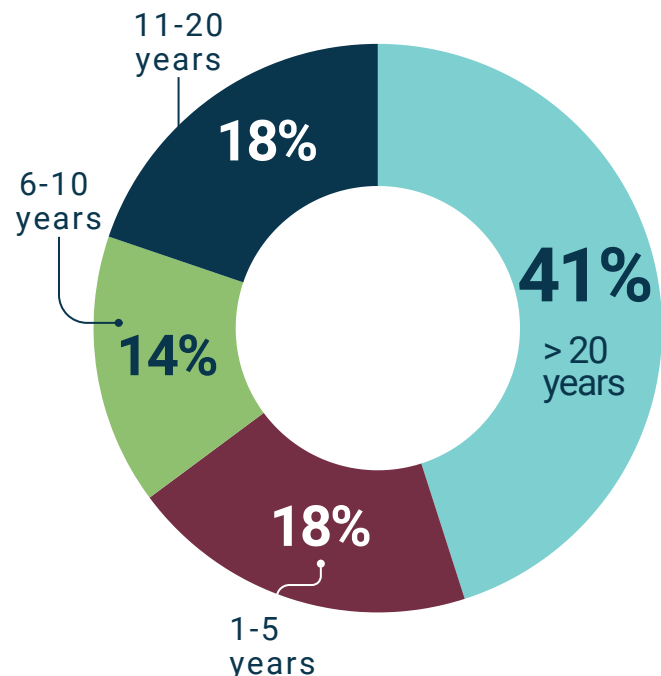
## Highest education level in household



- 86%** | Own home
- 15%** | Rent home
- 4%** | Occupy without rent



## Time living in the county



# OUR BIGGEST STRENGTHS



80%

Rated their health as  
**"Good" or "Excellent"**

94%

Feel generally **safe** within our  
community

91%

Believe our community is a **good  
place to raise children**

78%

Believe we can typically get health  
care when we need it

88%

Believe our  
community is a **good  
place to grow old**



# TOP ITEMS VOTED AS MOST IMPORTANT FOR **HEALTHY COMMUNITY**



Access to healthcare

**50%**

Good schools

**28%**

Healthy economy

**28%**

Affordable housing

**48%**

Low crime

**27%**



# TOP MOST SERIOUS **HEALTH CONCERNS**

**Alcohol and  
substance  
misuse  
64%**

**Mental  
Health  
47%**

**Depression  
and Anxiety  
26%**

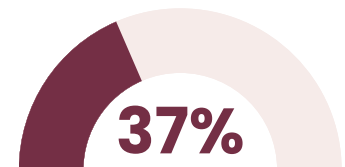
**Lack of  
access to  
healthcare  
19%**



# BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

**Survey question:** Now thinking about your mental health, including stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?

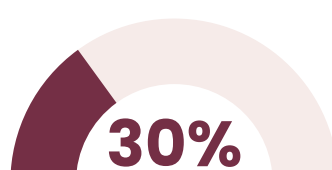
Not at all	61 %
Several Days	28 %
More than half the days	6 %
Nearly every day	3 %



Reported that their mental health was not good for several days or more within the last month



Feel socially isolated sometimes or always



Stressed about medical bills sometimes or more



Worried about rent or mortgage sometimes or more

# ACCESS TO

# HEALTHCARE

**39%**

Delayed or chose not to get healthcare when they thought they needed it

## TOP REASONS:

Could not get appointment | **28%**

Too long of a wait | **22%**

Insurance would not cover it | **17%**

Too expensive | **16%**

## Unique to Broadwater and Meagher residents:

Services are not close enough | **33%**

**97%**

Said they had access to a reliable vehicle

**26%**

Utilized telehealth in the past year

**13%**

Needed prescriptions but did not get them because of cost (within the last year)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The information and insights we were able to gather about our community would not have been possible without the help from all organizations who participate in the Healthy Together Steering Committee. A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers, as well as everyone who was willing to take the time to share their experiences and stories with us. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services staff provided much guidance to the CASPER survey implementation, as well as the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For questions, please contact Lewis and Clark Public Health at: 406-457-8900



## HEALTHY TOGETHER STEERING COMMITTEE:



United Way of the  
Lewis & Clark Area

