ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

2017

LAKES & PRAIRIES COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Adopted by the Lakes & Prairies Board of Directors on March 23, 2017

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"There are so many people waiting to catch the train to prosperity."

-MN Lt. Governor Tina Smith

2017 Community Needs Assessment

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership
# 2017 Community Needs Assessment

Introduction

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership is part of a nation-wide anti-poverty network and our promise is that "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other." Our mission is to "Eliminate Poverty, Empower Families and Engage Communities." In an effort to identify the causes and conditions of poverty in the communities we serve, we conduct an assessment of community needs once every 3 years. **This Community Needs Assessment** identifies the strengths and resources available in the **community** to meet the **needs** of children, youth, seniors, individuals and families. The **assessment** focuses on the capabilities of the **community**, including its citizens, agencies, and organizations. This assessment was completed in March of 2017 and includes an analysis of the trending changes in demographics of the communities we serve as well as an in-depth review of the services, gaps, and needs. Methods used to collect the data for this assessment include a compilation of quantitative data as well as qualitative data collected through a survey of current customer and community partners as well as focus groups.

This assessment includes the Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership primary service area of **Clay and Wilkin Counties in West Central Minnesota.** The total population of the service area is **68,810** which has grown over 14% over the last 14 years. Within the 2-county service area, over 90% of the population resides in Clay County primarily within the regional hub of the city of Moorhead. The remaining communities are defined as rural in nature with populations of 4,000 people or less. **The needs within these communities vary widely** as Moorhead residents tend to have closer proximity to employment, shopping, and transportation. The population within the city of Moorhead has a higher percentage of younger household heads and working poor, as well as a higher rate of households experiencing homelessness. **The rural areas within Clay and Wilkin County are facing a declining population** as they are experiencing a reduction in employment, difficulty with transportation and an overall aging population. Within both counties, the **unemployment rate is lower than the national average**, and has been steadily declining over the past 5 years. At the same time, **poverty rates have increased an average of 3.5%** over the past several years. Median household income is below the Minnesota Average by almost 10%. Detailed information on the changing trends and demographics within the region are included in this assessment.
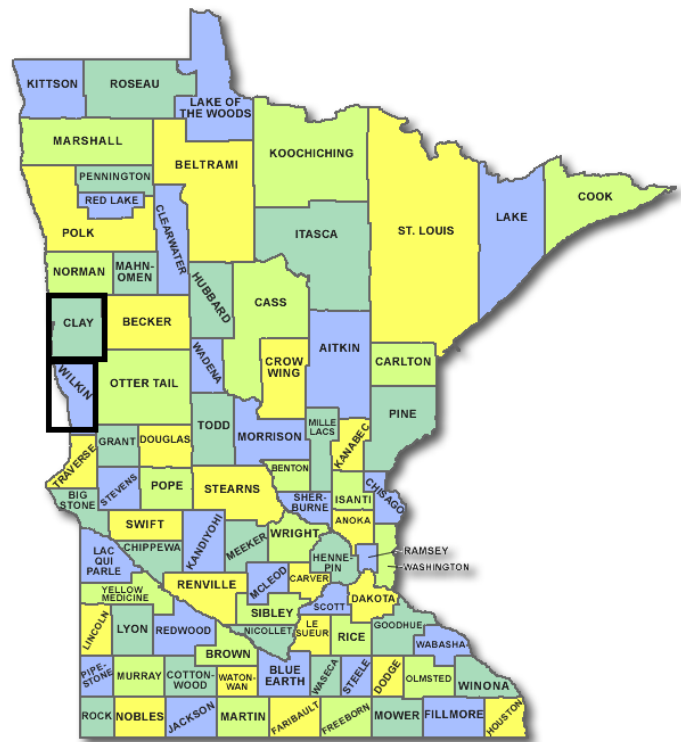
Population

The total population of Clay & Wilkin Counties as of the 2010 census was 65,575 people. 58,999 resided in Clay County and 6,576 resided in Wilkin County. As the map below illustrates, Clay County is more densely populated than Wilkin County or any of the other neighboring counties. The largest city in Clay County is Moorhead, with just over 38,000 residents. The largest city in Wilkin County is Breckenridge, with just over 3,300 residents.
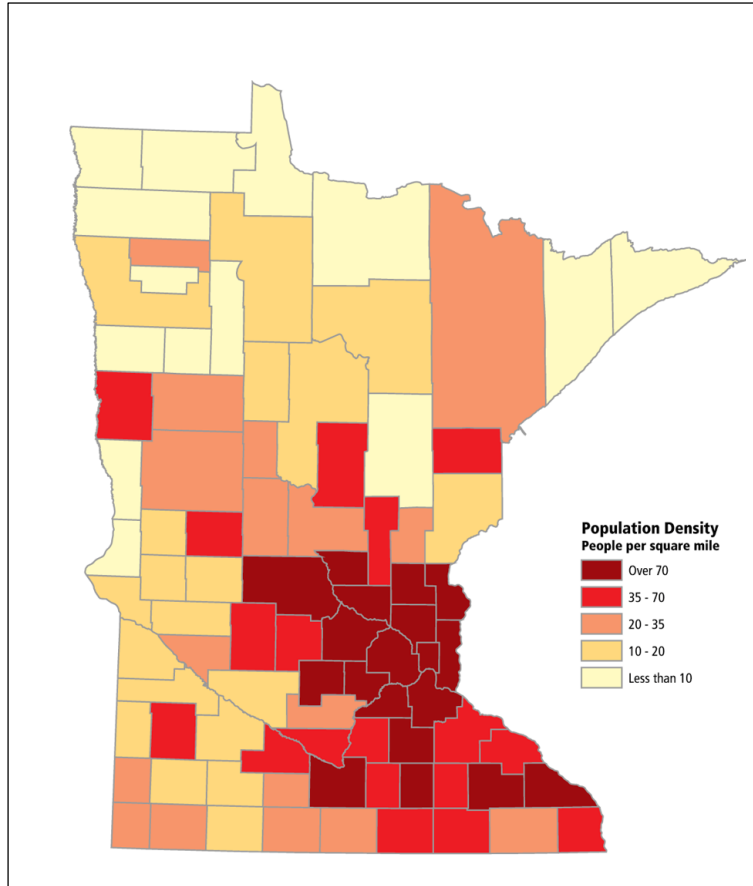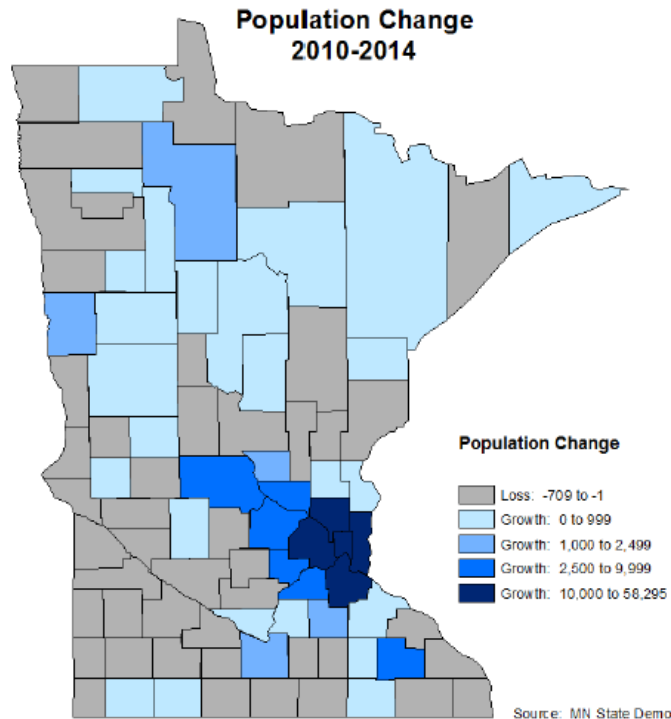

Below is a breakdown of the cities in each county and the total population within each community as of the 2010 census:

| Clay County 58,999		Wilkin County 6,576	
City	Population	City	Population
Moorhead	38,065	Breckenridge	3,386
Dilworth	4,024	Campbell	158
Barnesville	2,563	Wolverton	142
Hawley	2,067	Foxhome	116
Glyndon	1,394	Kent	81
Ulen	547	Nashua	68
Sabin	522	Tenney	5
Hitterdal	201		
Felton	177		
Georgetown	129		
Comstock	93		

Population Change

Population change within the 2-county area from 2000-2014 is shown in the table below. During the fourteen-year period, total population estimates for the report area grew by 14.47 percent, increasing from 58,367 persons in 2000 to 66,810 persons in 2014. This growth rate was significantly higher than both the growth rate within the state of Minnesota and the US during the same time frame. It is important to note that the growth in Clay County during this time frame was 17.61%, while the Wilkin County population actually fell by 8.08%. This shift in population is consistent with the regional trend of declining and aging population in rural communities, while regional hubs such as Moorhead are quickly growing. According to the MN State demographer, Moorhead is one of the top 10 fastest growing cities in Minnesota, adding an estimated 3,116 people from 2010-2014.

Population Change 2010-2014

Population Change
- Loss: -709 to -1
- Growth: 0 to 999
- Growth: 1,000 to 2,499
- Growth: 2,500 to 9,999
- Growth: 10,000 to 58,295

Source: MN State Demographic Center and the Metropolitan Council

| Report Area	Total Population, 2014 ACS	Total Population, 2000 Census	Population Change from 2000-2014 Census/ACS	Percent Change from 2000-2014 Census/ACS
Report Area	66,810	58,367	8,443	14.47%
Clay County	60,249	51,229	9,020	17.61%
Wilkin County	6,561	7,138	-577	-8.08%
Minnesota	5,383,661	4,919,479	464,182	9.44%
United States	314,107,083	281,421,906	32,685,177	11.61%
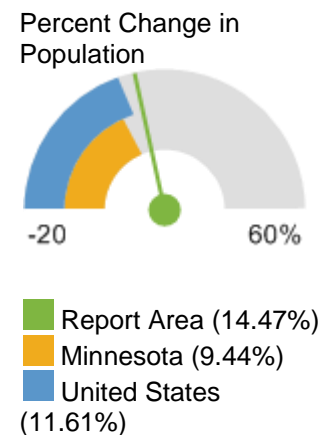
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2010-14. Source geography: County

Percent Change in Population

-20   60%

- Report Area (14.47%)
- Minnesota (9.44%)
- United States (11.61%)
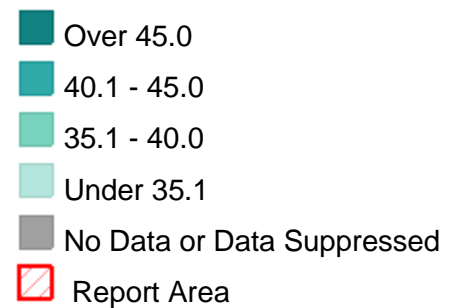
Age & Gender Demographics

Population by gender within the service area is shown below. According to ACS 2010-2014 5 year population estimates for the report area, the female population comprised 50.74% of the report area, while the male population represented 49.26%. The median age in Wilkin County was much higher than the median age of Clay County which is again consistent with the regional trend of the aging of rural areas.

Report Area	0 to 4 Male	0 to 4 Female	5 to 17 Male	5 to 17 Female	18 to 64 Male	18 to 64 Female	Over 64 Male	Over 64 Female
Report Area	2,425	2,170	5,668	5,222	21,304	21,485	3,296	4,798
Clay County	2,212	2,005	5,054	4,668	19,336	19,616	2,787	4,153
Wilkin County	213	165	614	554	1,968	1,869	509	645
MN	179,042	170,867	476,195	453,918	1,696,549	1,676,708	286,224	407,814
United States	10,205,881	9,767,830	27,510,156	26,293,790	97,973,928	99,177,536	16,888,374	24,352,764

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: County
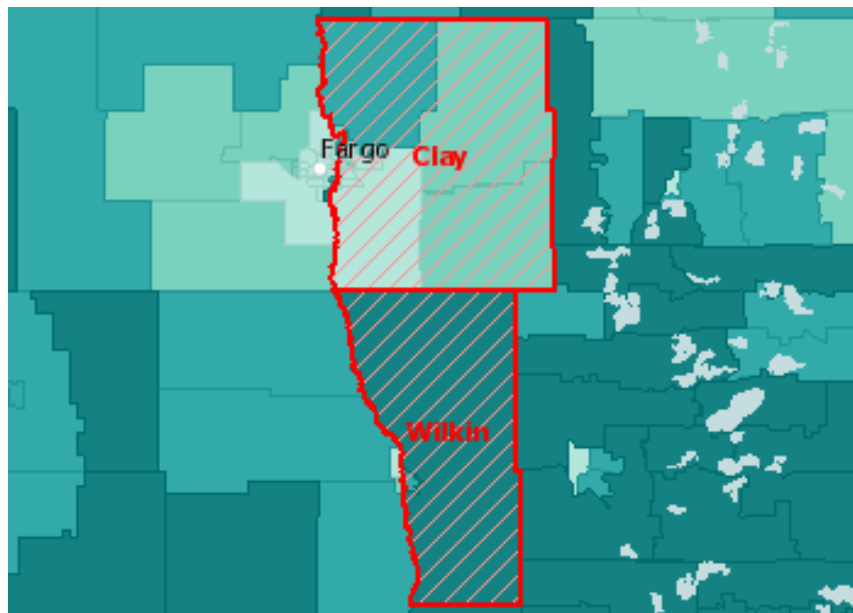
Median Age by Tract, ACS 2010-14

- Over 45.0
- 40.1 - 45.0
- 35.1 - 40.0
- Under 35.1
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

Race Demographics

Population by racial group within the service area is shown below. According to ACS 2010-2014 5 year population estimates, the white population comprised 93.56% of the report area, black population represented 1.48%, and other races combined were 4.96%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 2.63% of the population. In comparison to the general population in the broader community, the agency customer base is far more diverse, with only 73.4% of the population served identifying as white. We also see much higher percentages of Black, American Indian, and Mixed Race population identified within our customer base. These number directly correlate with the racial disparity of poverty we see across our community and state which will be discussed later in this report.

| Report Area	White Total	Black Total	American Indian Total	Asian Total	Native Hawaiian Total	Mixed Race Total
Report Area	93.6%	1.4%	1.2%	1.1%	.03%	2.6%
Clay County	93.2%	1.6%	1.3%	1.6%	.03%	2.7%
Wilkin County	97.1%	.3%	.9%	.15%	.00%	1.4%
LPCAP Customers	73.3%	8.9%	6.9%	1.0%	.14%	9.7%
Minnesota	86.4%	5.5%	1.1%	4.3%	.04%	2.6%

Data Sources: CAP 60; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14.
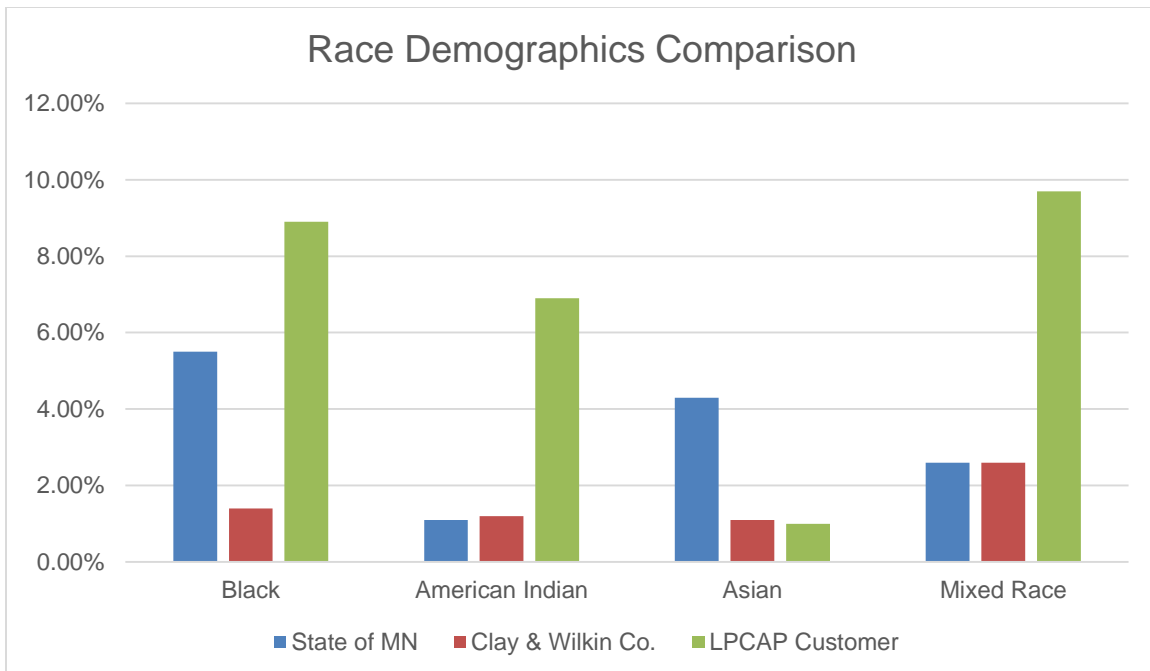
<u>Languages Spoken</u>

Within Clay and Wilkin Counties the primary language spoken at home other than English is Spanish. There is broad diversity in languages spoken at home within Clay County, with Indo-European, Arabic, German, Scandinavian, and African languages as the most common. In Wilkin County, Spanish, German, Vietnamese, and other Indo-European languages are most common.

Languages in Clay County
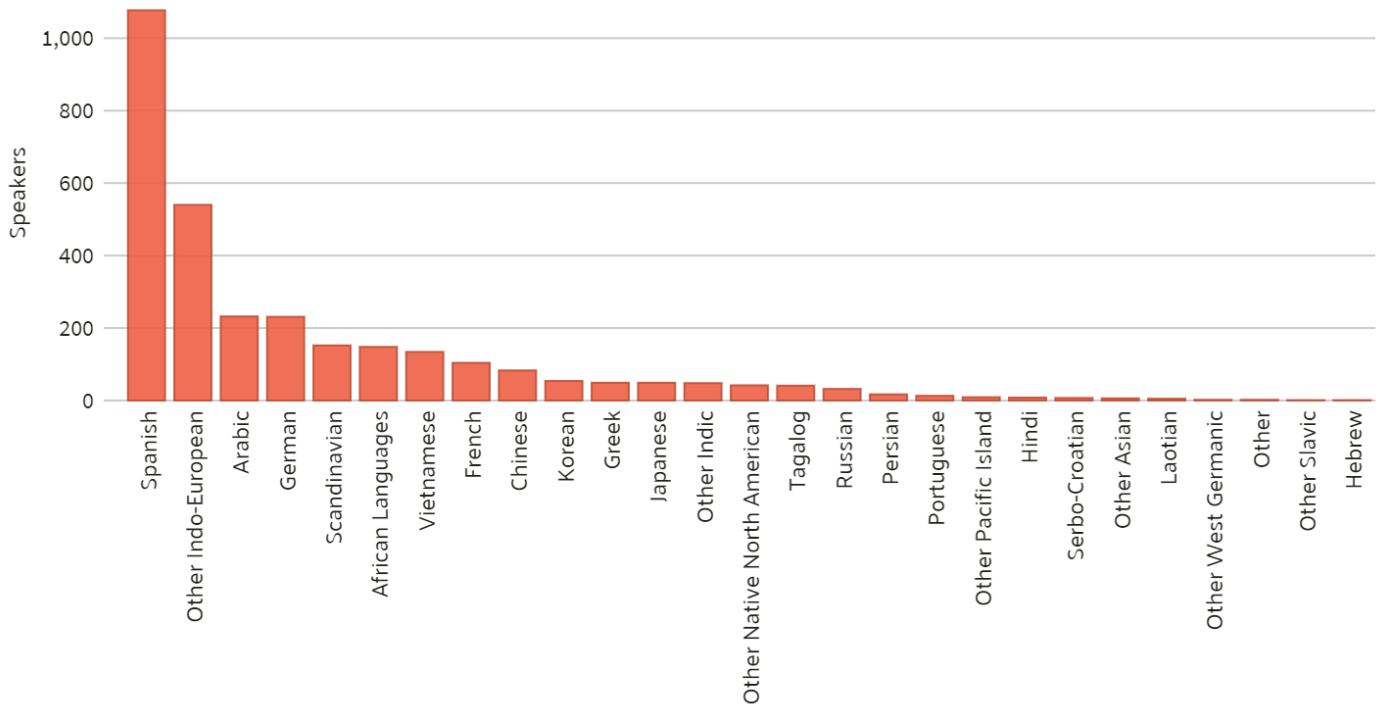
Languages in Wilkin County, MN
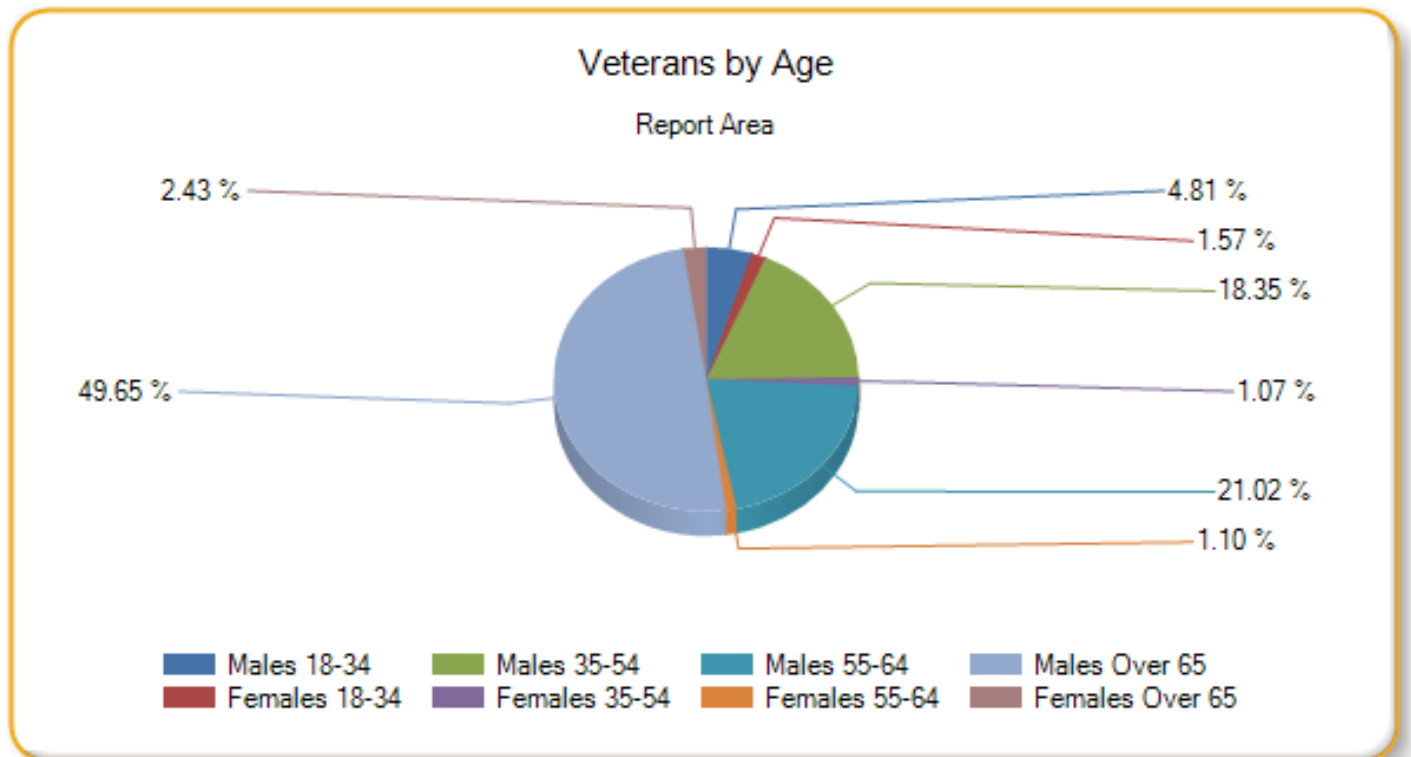
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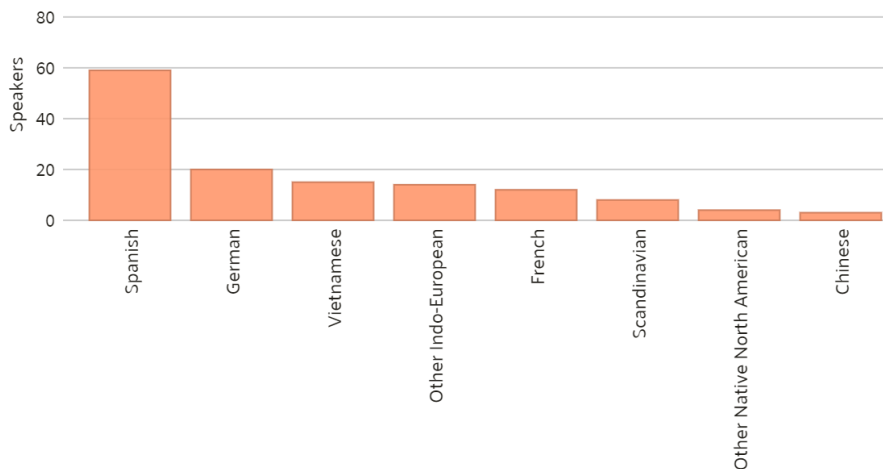
Veterans

Veterans Demographics show the number of veterans living in the report area by age and gender. 7.46% of the adult population in the report area are veterans, which is less than the national average of 8.99%. However it should be noted, that there is a high percentage of Male Veterans in Wilkin County at 21.43%. The largest group of veterans (49.5%) are males over the age of 65.

Report Area	Veterans Total	Veterans Male	Veterans Female	% Pop over 18 Total	% Pop over 18 Males	% Pop over 18 Females
Report Area	3,825	3,589	236	7.46%	14.35%	0.9%
Clay County	3,270	3,053	217	7.07%	13.57%	0.91%
Wilkin County	555	536	19	11.07%	21.43%	0.76%
Minnesota	355,366	334,877	20,489	8.66%	16.6%	0.98%
United States	20,700,712	19,125,266	1,575,445	8.65%	16.5%	1.28%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: County

Veterans by Age
Report Area

2.43 %
4.81 %
1.57 %
18.35 %
49.65 %
1.07 %
21.02 %
1.10 %

Males 18-34 — Males 35-54 — Males 55-64 — Males Over 65
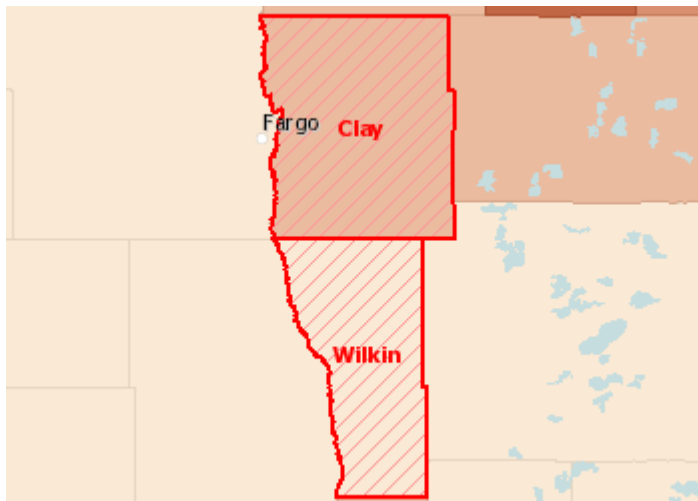Females 18-34 — Females 35-54 — Females 55-64 — Females Over 65

Poverty

2014 poverty estimates show a total of 8,357 persons living below 100% of the federal poverty guideline in our 2-county service area. The overall poverty rate for the 2-county area is 13%, which is greater than the Minnesota statewide average of 11.4%, but still less than the national average of 15.5%. The percentage of poverty is much higher in Clay County at 13.3%, than it is in Wilkin County at 10.3%.
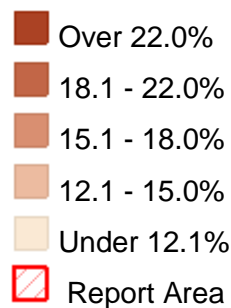
Report Area	All Ages No of Persons	All Ages Poverty Rate	Age 0-17 No of Persons	Age 0-17 Poverty Rate	Age 5-17 No of Persons	Age 5-17 Poverty Rate
Report Area	8,357	13.00%	2,247	14.51%	1,469	13.31%
Clay County	7,704	13.3%	2,063	14.7%	1,344	13.5%
Wilkin County	653	10.3%	184	12.7%	125	11.6%
Minnesota	1,215,740	11.40%	372,050	14.78%	246,106	13.50%
United States	48,208,387	15.5%	15,686,012	21.7%	10,714,518	20.4%
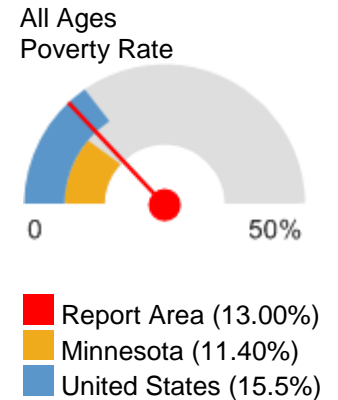
All Ages Poverty Rate

- Report Area (13.00%)
- Minnesota (11.40%)
- United States (15.5%)

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income Poverty Estimates. 2014. Source geography: County

Population Below the Poverty Level, Percent by County, SAIPE 2014

- Over 22.0%
- 18.1 - 22.0%
- 15.1 - 18.0%
- 12.1 - 15.0%
- Under 12.1%
- Report Area

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Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in the report area from 2000 to 2014 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 3.32%, compared to a national increase of 4.2%.

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2000	Poverty Rate 2000	Persons in Poverty 2014	Poverty Rate 2014	Change in Poverty Rate 2000-2014
Report Area	5,347	9.69%	8,357	13%	3.32%
Clay County	4,781	9.9%	7,704	13.3%	3.4%
Wilkin County	566	8.2%	653	10.3%	2.1%
Minnesota	673,188	6.89%	1,215,740	11.4%	4.51%
United States	31,581,086	11.3%	48,208,387	15.5%	4.2%

Change in Poverty Rate 2000-2014

■ Report Area (3.32)
■ Minnesota (4.51)
■ United States (4.2)

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income Poverty Estimates. 2014. Source geography: county

Population in Poverty by Gender

The poverty rate for both genders overall is greater than the statewide average, but below the national average. Women on average report higher rates of poverty than their male counterparts, which is consistent with both statewide and national data.

| Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Report Area	3,505	4,304	11.17%	13.8%
Clay County	3,276	3,948	11.65%	14.07%
Wilkin County	229	356	7.03%	11.38%
Minnesota	277,732	328,029	10.64%	12.38%
United States	21,461,752	26,293,856	14.33%	16.81%

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Poverty by Race & Ethnicity

The tables and charts below illustrate the incidence of poverty by race and ethnicity. There are significantly higher rates of poverty reported across all minority race and ethnicity groups. Within the report area, 27.7% of all Hispanic/Latino population, 38.16% of the Black population, 52.29% of the Native American population, and 36.5% of the Asian Population are living below the poverty line. This is especially shocking given that the poverty rate among the White population is only 10.71%.

Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic / Latino
Report Area	655	7,154	27.87%	11.88%
Clay County	636	6,588	28.91%	12.2%
Wilkin County	19	566	12.67%	9.08%
Minnesota	62,901	542,860	24.42%	10.85%
United States	12,880,559	34,875,048	24.77%	13.72%
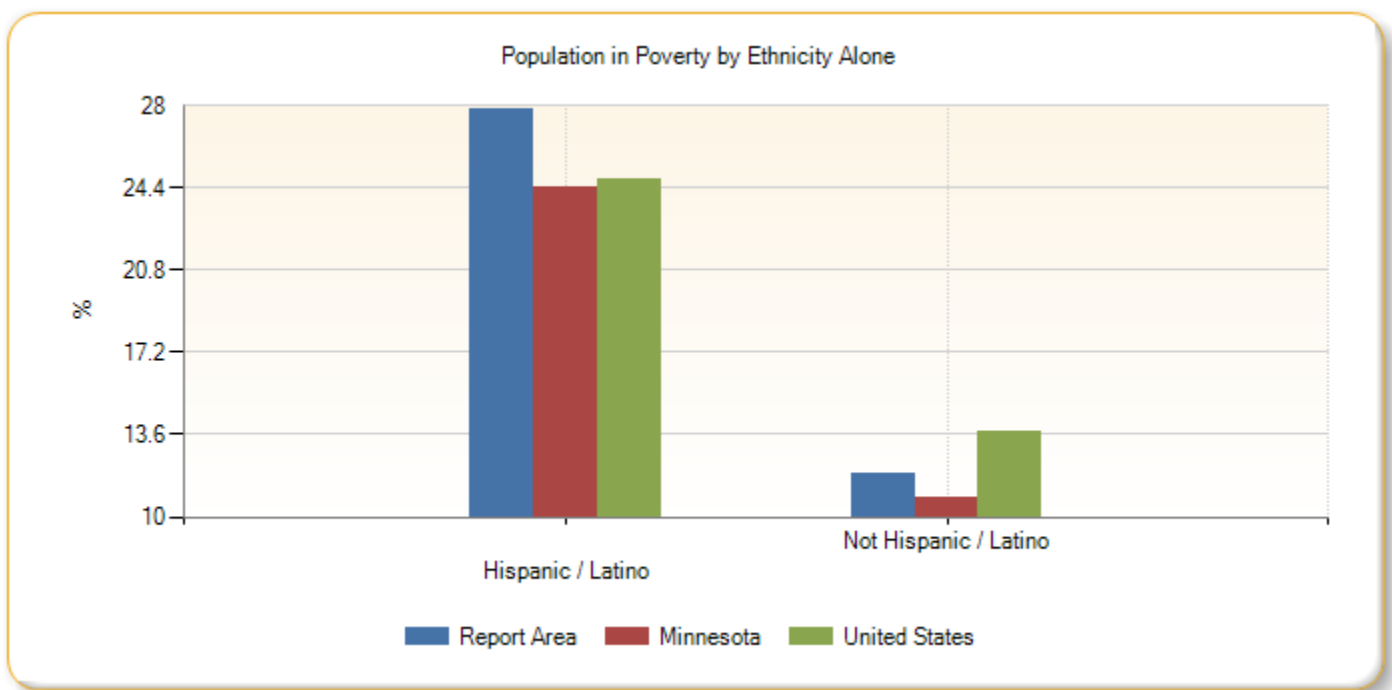
Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Report Area	10.71%	38.16%	52.29%	36.54%	0%	18.33%	33.01%
Clay County	10.91%	37.8%	56.92%	37.16%	0%	18.47%	34.08%
Wilkin County	9.07%	52.38%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13.1%
Minnesota	8.86%	36.55%	36.03%	16.64%	20.16%	25.44%	21.97%
United States	12.76%	27.33%	28.79%	12.7%	20.73%	27.09%	20.33%

Population in Poverty Race Alone, Percent

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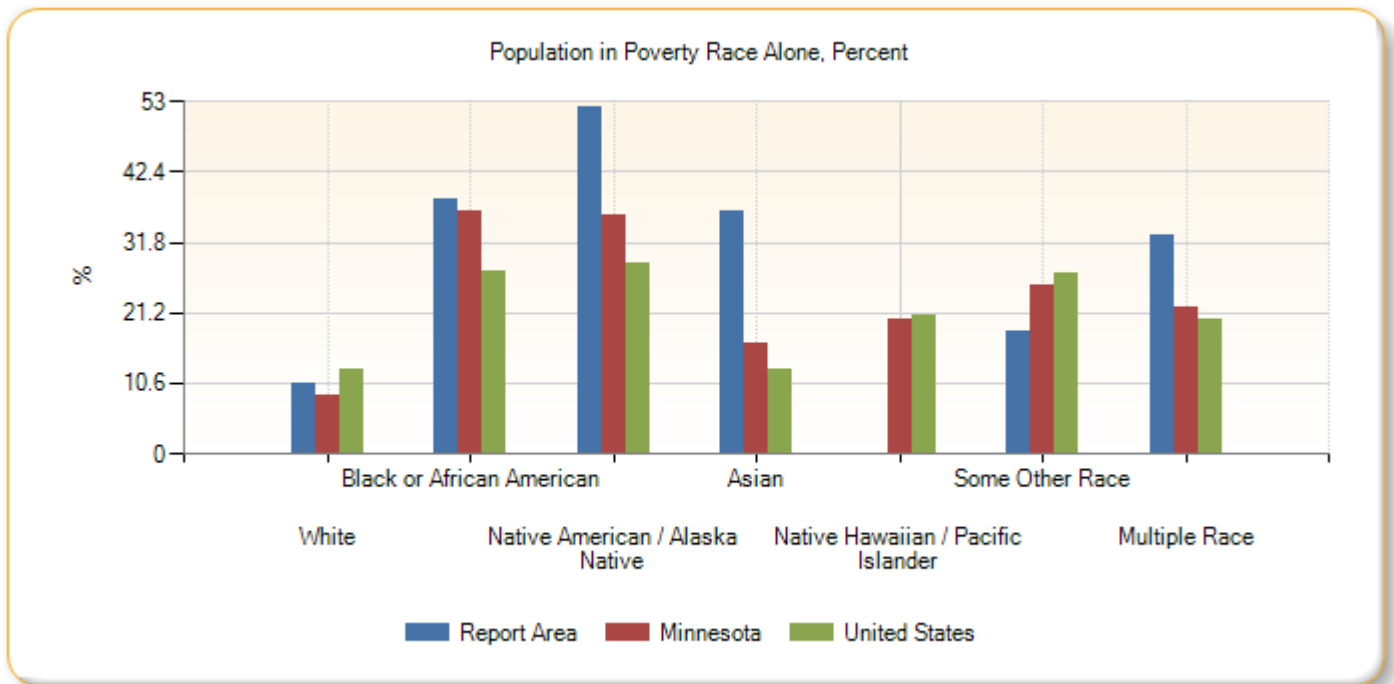
Families in Poverty by Family Type

The number of families in poverty by type are shown in the report area. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there were 1,298 families living in poverty within the report area. Almost 60% of the families in poverty in our service area are female headed households.

Report Area	Total Families	Families in Poverty Total	Families in Poverty Married Couples	Families in Poverty Male Householder	Families in Poverty Female Householder
Report Area	16,405	1,298	425	95	778
Clay County	14,610	1,168	376	68	724
Wilkin County	1,795	130	49	27	54
Minnesota	1,372,311	103,119	34,322	12,285	56,512
United States	76,958,064	8,824,660	3,200,772	948,419	4,675,469

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: County
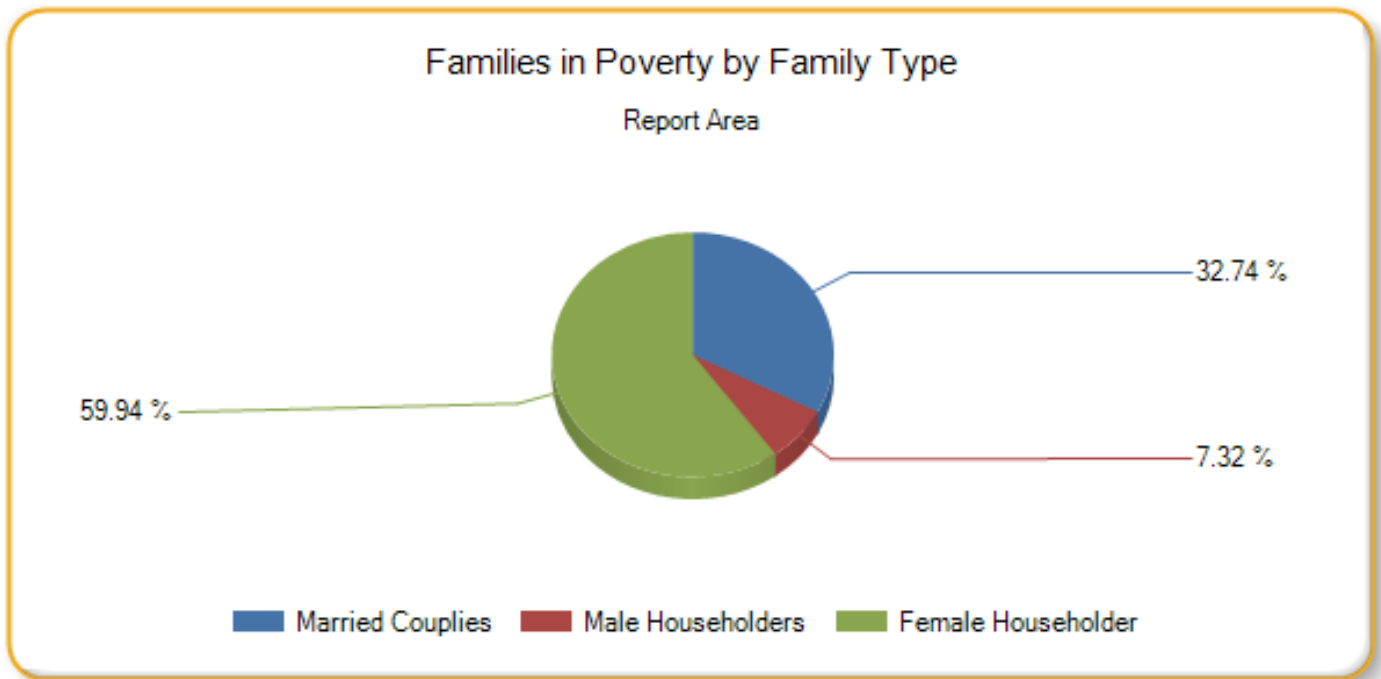
Child Poverty Rate Ages 0-17

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0-17 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5 year data, an average of 13.7% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is less than the national average of 21.9 percent but is consistent with the stateside average of 14.8%.

Report Area	Ages 0-17 Total Population	Ages 0-17 In Poverty	Ages 0-17 Poverty Rate
Report Area	15,271	2,087	13.7%
Clay County	13,766	1,955	14.2%
Wilkin County	1,505	132	8.8%
Minnesota	1,261,113	186,585	14.8%
United States	72,637,888	15,907,395	21.9%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: County

Ages 0-17 Poverty Rate

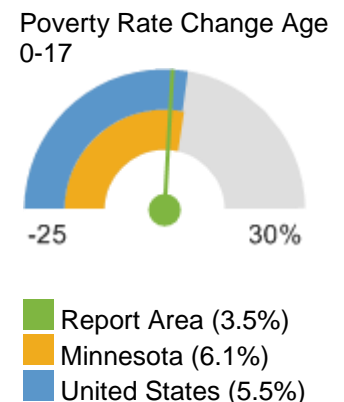Report Area (13.7%)
Minnesota (14.8%)
United States (21.9%)
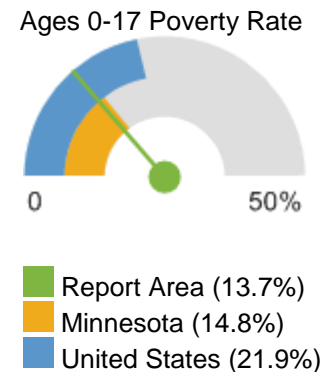
Poverty Rate Change (Age 0-17)

The poverty rate change for all children in the report area from 2000 to 2013 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 3.5%, compared to a national increase of 6 percent.

Report Area	Poverty Age 0-17 2000	Poverty Rate Age 0-17 2000	Poverty Age 0-17 2014	Poverty Rate Age 0-17 2014	Difference in Rate Age 0-17 2000 - 2014
Report Area	1,539	11%	2,247	14.5%	3.5%
Clay County	1,367	11.2%	2,063	14.7%	3.5%
Wilkin County	172	9.3%	184	12.7%	3.4%
Minnesota	217,383	8.7%	372,050	14.8%	6.1%
United States	34,760,451	16.2%	47,056,426	21.7%	5.5%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income Poverty Estimates. 2014. Source geography: County

Poverty Rate Change Age 0-17

Report Area (3.5%)
Minnesota (6.1%)
United States (5.5%)

Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-4

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0-4 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5 year data, an average of 19.6% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is less than the national average of 24.9 percent, however this rate is significantly higher than the overall poverty rate in the service area of 13.3%.

Report Area	Ages 0-4 Total Population	Ages 0-4 In Poverty	Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate
Report Area	4,549	893	19.6%
Clay County	4,171	846	20.3%
Wilkin County	378	47	12.4%
Minnesota	345,429	59,569	17.2%
United States	19,665,142	4,892,716	24.9%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: County

Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate

Report Area (19.6%)
Minnesota (17.2%)
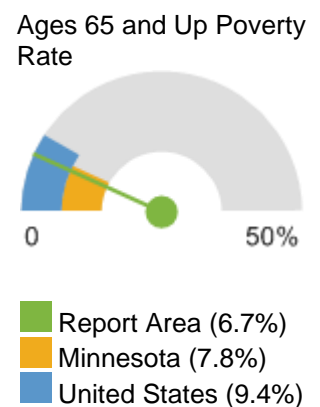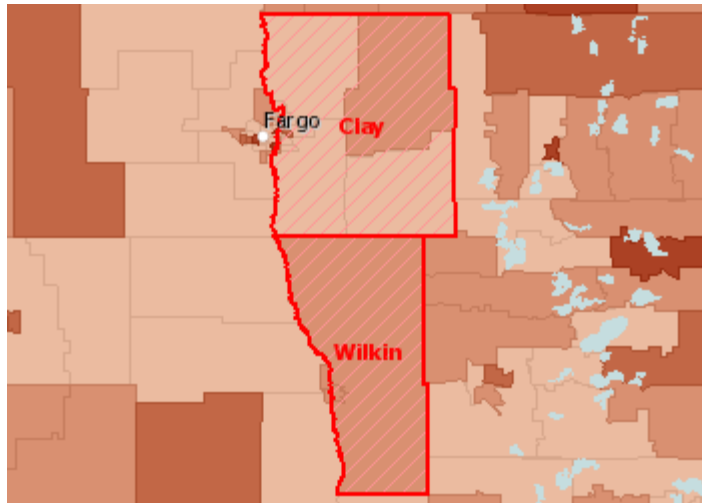United States (24.9%)
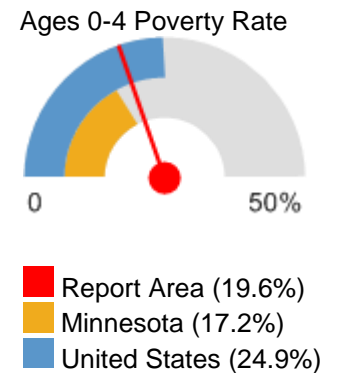
Seniors in Poverty

Poverty rates for seniors (persons age 65 and over) are shown below. According to American Community Survey estimates, there were 539 seniors, or 6.7% percent, living in poverty within the report area.
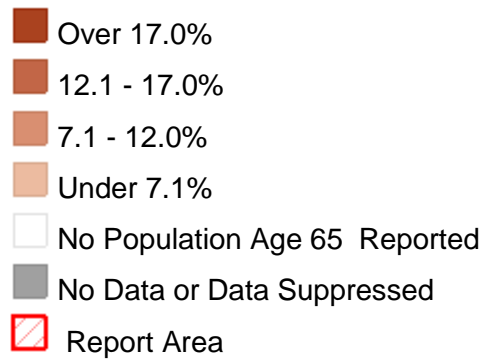
Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Report Area	8,081	539	6.7%
Clay County	7,002	447	6.4%
Wilkin County	1,079	92	8.5%
Minnesota	700,231	54,818	7.8%
United States	41,871,248	3,926,219	9.4%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: county

Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate

Report Area (6.7%)
Minnesota (7.8%)
United States (9.4%)

Population Below the Poverty Level, Senior (Age 65), Percent by Tract, ACS 2010-14

- Over 17.0%
- 12.1 - 17.0%
- 7.1 - 12.0%
- Under 7.1%
- No Population Age 65 Reported
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

Poverty by Gender: Age 65 and Up

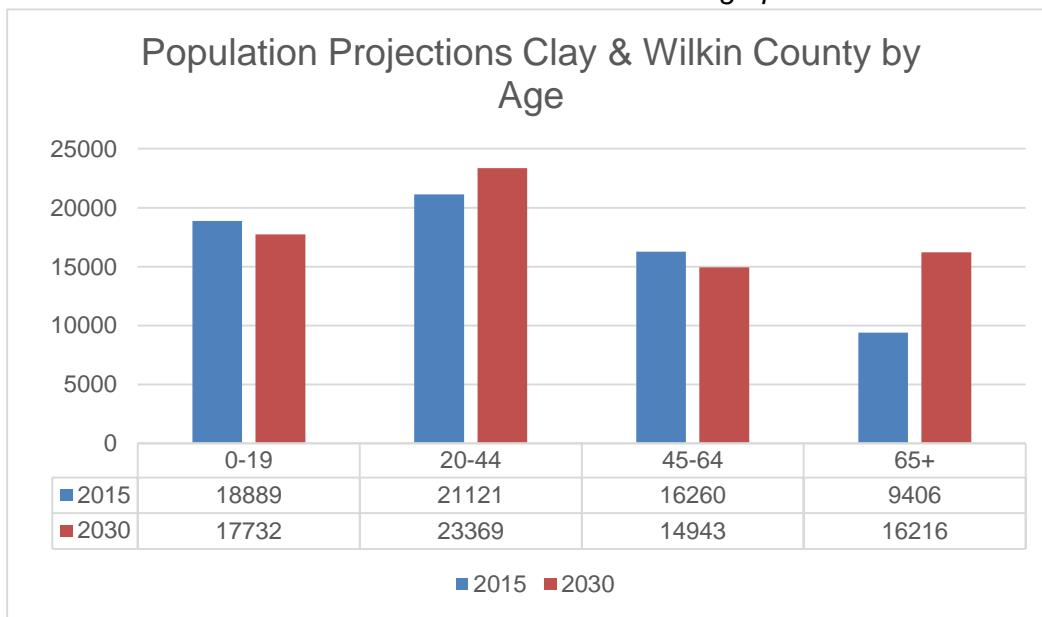| Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Report Area	179	360	4.91%	8.12%
Clay County	135	312	4.29%	8.09%
Wilkin County	44	48	8.78%	8.3%
Minnesota	17,612	37,206	5.64%	9.6%
United States	1,322,918	2,603,301	7.19%	11.1%
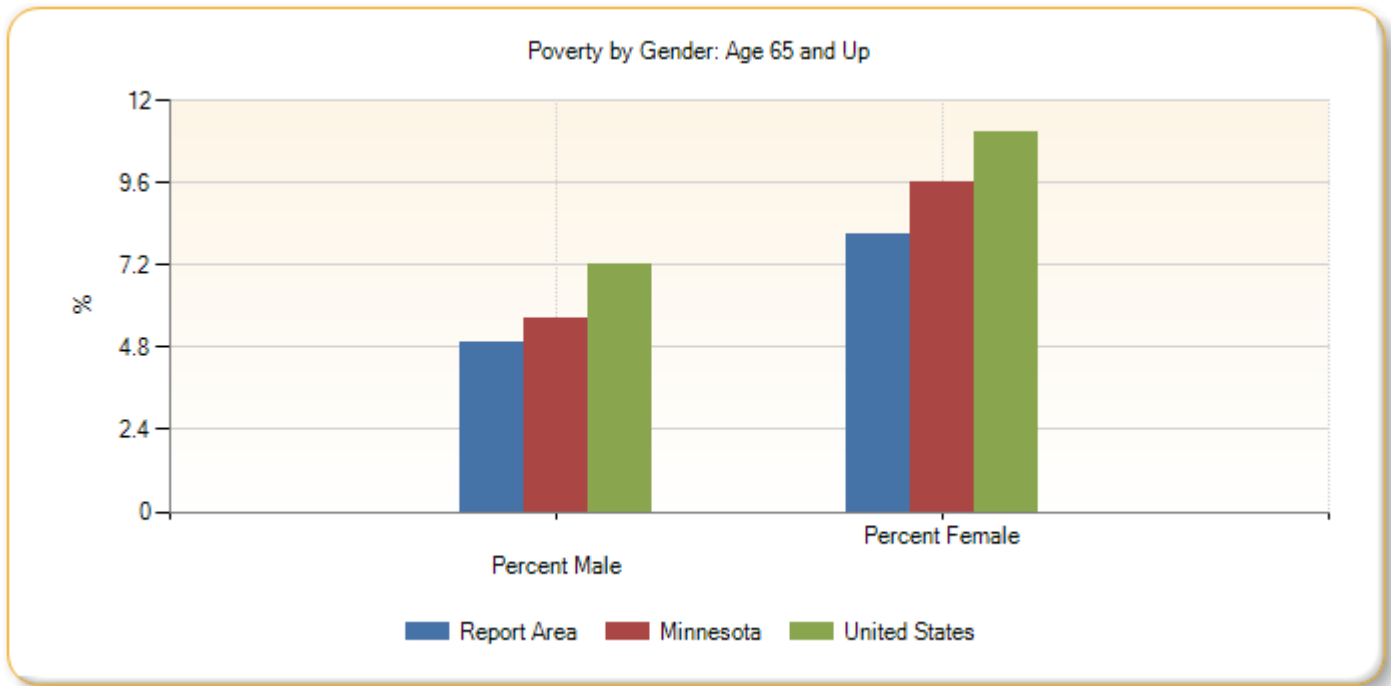
Aging Trends

According to the MN State Demographer, the total number of adults age 65+ is anticipated to double between 2010 and 2030. That will result in more than 1 in 5 Minnesotans will be an older adult, including all of the Baby Boomers. By around 2020, Minnesota's population that is 65 and over is expected to eclipse the K-12 population fo the first time in history. The number of Minnesotans turning 65 this decade will be greater than the past four decades combined. With this unprecedented growth in the senior population will come an unprecedented demand on public, private and non-profit resources. Within the 2-county region that Lakes & Prairies serves, there are currently over 8,200 people aged 65 and older. While the total number of seniors that fall within this age group is higher in Clay County, the percentage of the overall population is much higher in Wilkin County. 12% of the total population of Clay County is seniors over age 65, while 18% of the total population of Wilkin County is 65+.
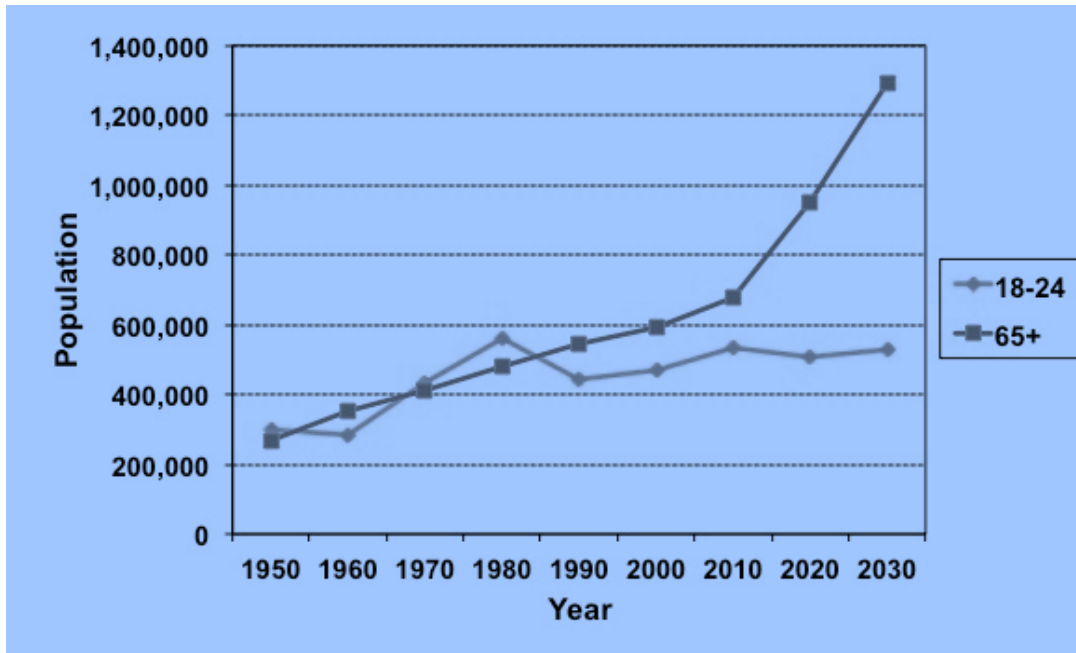
Data Source: Minnesota State Demographer

Population Projections Clay & Wilkin County by Age

|	0-19	20-44	45-64	65+
2015	18889	21121	16260	9406
2030	17732	23369	14943	16216

■2015 ■2030

Employment

Current Unemployment

Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for each county in the report area is provided in the table below. Overall, the report area experienced an average 3.2% percent unemployment rate in July 2016. The unemployment rate is below both the statewide and national averages. It is projected that by as early as 2018, the number of available jobs in the region will outnumber the number of available workers. This is resulting in a projected workforce shortage.

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Report Area	39,468	38,195	1,273	3.2%
Clay County	35,836	34,684	1,152	3.2%
Wilkin County	3,632	3,511	121	3.3%
Minnesota	3,043,633	2,929,793	113,840	3.7%
United States	161,840,590	153,430,373	8,410,217	5.2%

Unemployment Rate

- Report Area (3.2%)
- Minnesota (3.7%)
- United States (5.2%)
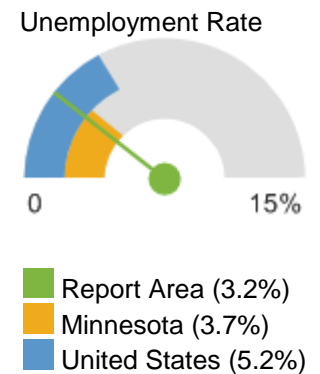
Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2016 - July.
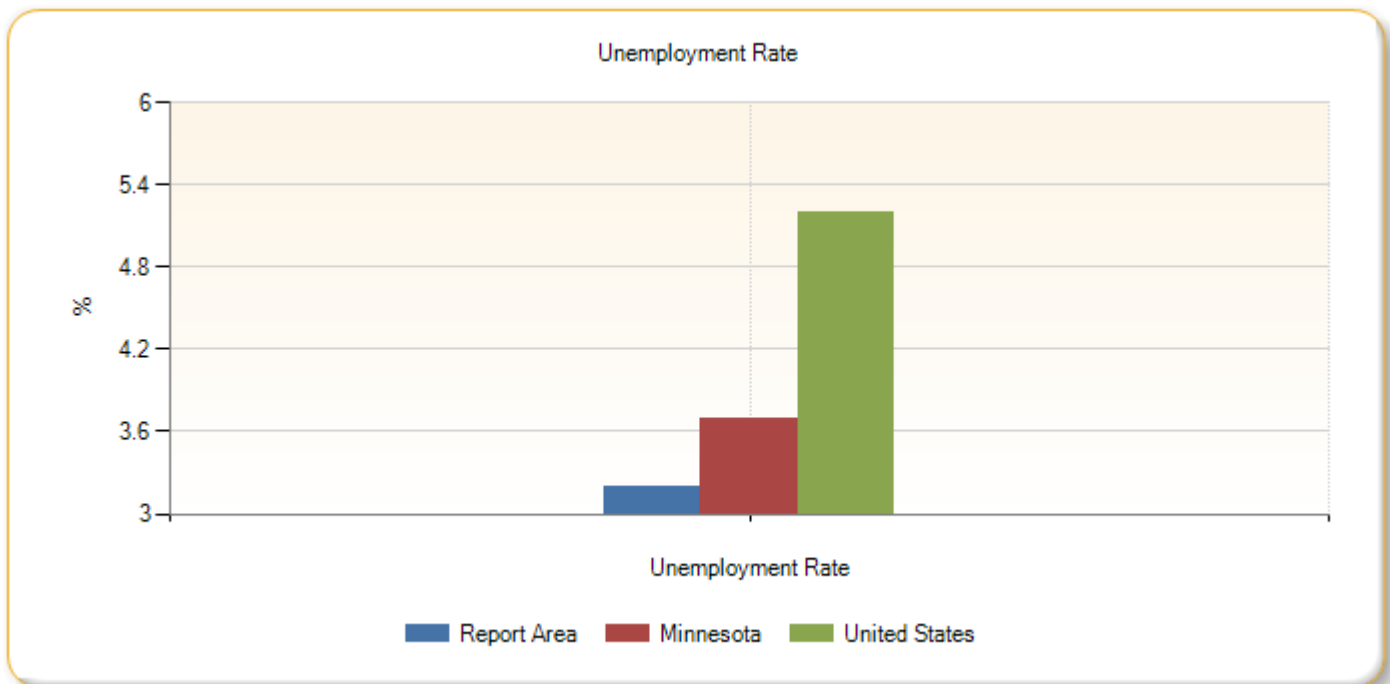
Five Year Unemployment Rate

In the five year period from 2010-2015, the total employment grew by 2% and the unemployment rate decline by the same rate. Unemployment change within the report area from July 2012 to July 2016 is shown in the chart below in comparison to the statewide and national averages.

Data	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Employment	115,766	115,225	116,061	117,286	129,128	130,872
Change over previous year (%)	-0.2	-0.5	0.1	1	1.1	2.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	4	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.4
Average Annual Wage	$38,220	$40,196	$41,964	$42,868	$45,968	$46,540
Average Annual Wage Growth (%)	2.5	5.2	4.4	2.2	1	2.0

Employment by IndustrySource: Job Service ND; LAUS and QCEW

Report Area	July 2012	July 2013	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016
Report Area	5.1%	4.37%	3.4%	3.15%	3.23%
Clay County	5.11%	4.39%	3.4%	3.1%	3.21%
Wilkin County	4.99%	4.15%	3.4%	3.62%	3.33%
Minnesota	5.77%	4.94%	4.06%	3.66%	3.74%
United States	8.61%	7.74%	6.59%	5.59%	5.2%

Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Unemployment 5 year Rate

- Report Area (3.23%)
- Minnesota (3.74%)
- United States (5.2%)
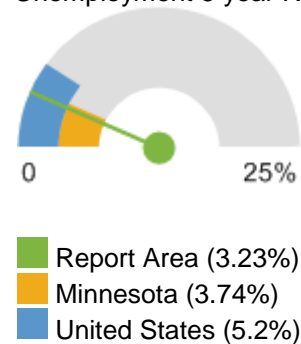
Income

Median annual household incomes in the report area are shown below. The median household income in both counties is lower than the statewide median income, but is similar to the national median income. The average weekly wage within the region in 2015 was $727.
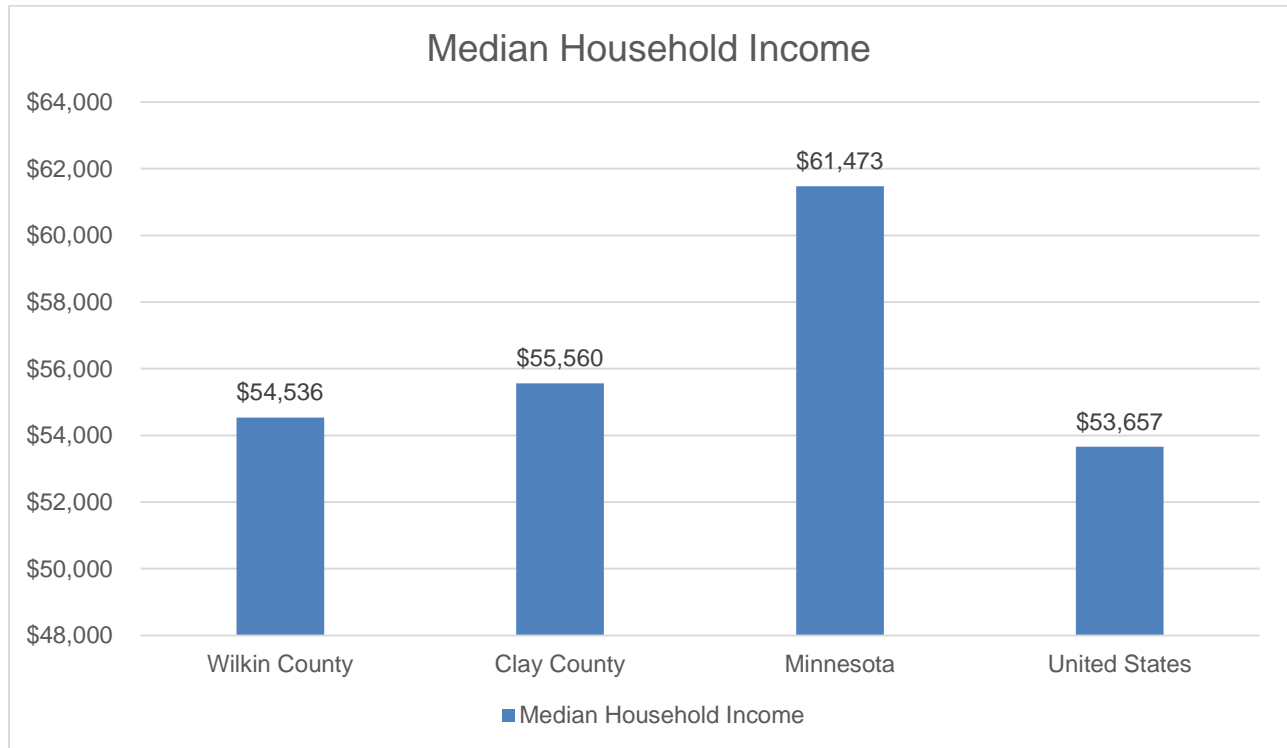
Median Household Income

Wilkin County	$54,536
Clay County	$55,560
Minnesota	$61,473
United States	$53,657

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income Poverty Estimates. 2014. Source geography: County

Transportation

Commuter Travel Patterns

This table shows the method of transportation workers used to travel to work for the report area. Of the 35,539 workers in the report area, 78.5% drove to work alone while 8.1% carpooled. 0.9% of all workers reported that they used some form of public transportation, while others used some optional means including 5.9% walking or riding bicycles, and 0.8% used taxicabs to travel to work.

Report Area	Workers 16 +	% Drive Alone	% Carpool	% Public Transportation	% Bicycle or Walk	% Taxi or Other	% Work at Home
Report Area	35,539	78.5%	8.1%	0.9%	5.9%	0.8%	5.8%
Clay County	32,208	78.6%	8%	1%	6%	0.9%	5.6%
Wilkin County	3,331	77.6%	9.2%	0.1%	4.4%	0.4%	8.3%
Minnesota	2,733,199	78.1%	8.8%	3.5%	3.6%	0.9%	5.2%
United States	141,337,152	76.4%	9.6%	5.1%	3.4%	1.2%	4.4%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: County
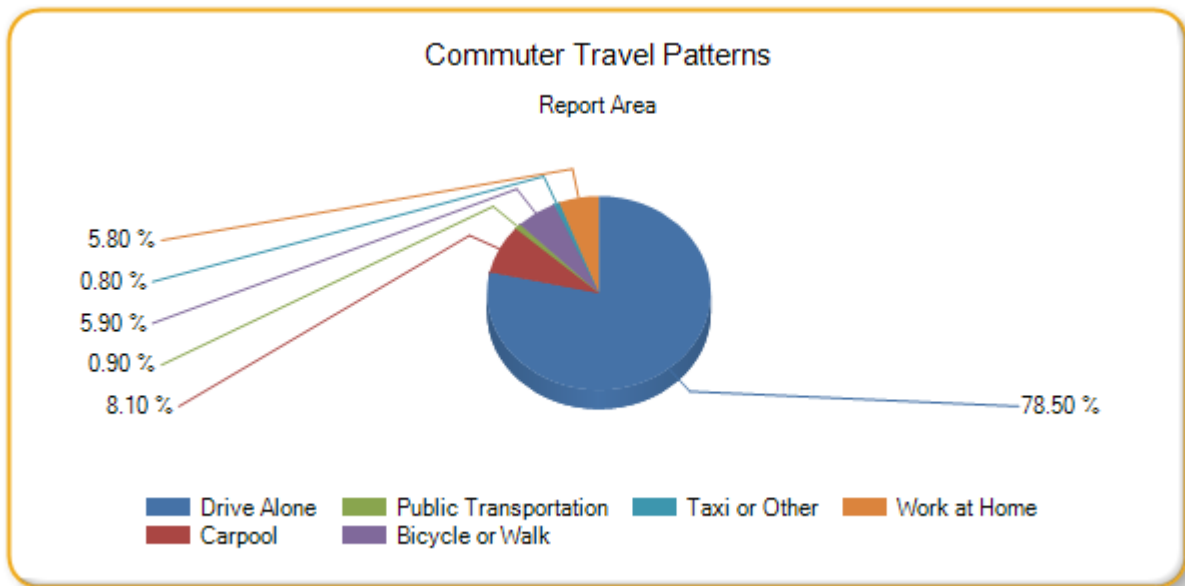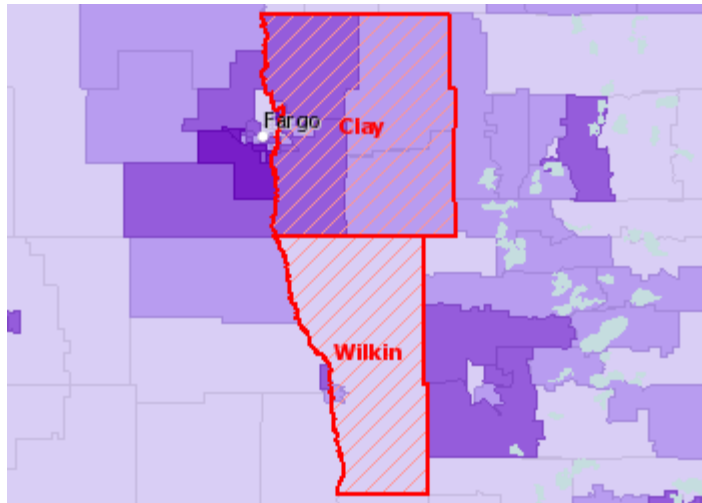
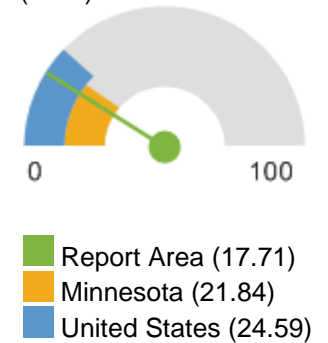**Workers Traveling to Work by Car, Percent by Tract, ACS 2010-14**

- Over 95.0%
- 91.1 - 95.0%
- 87.1 - 91.0%
- Under 87.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed
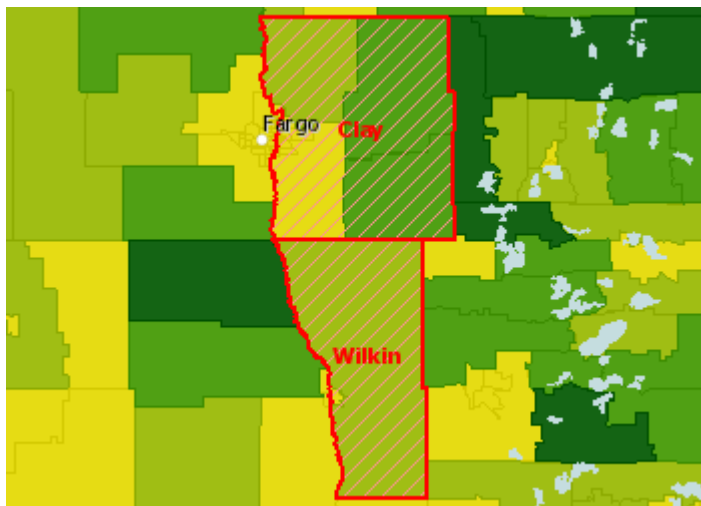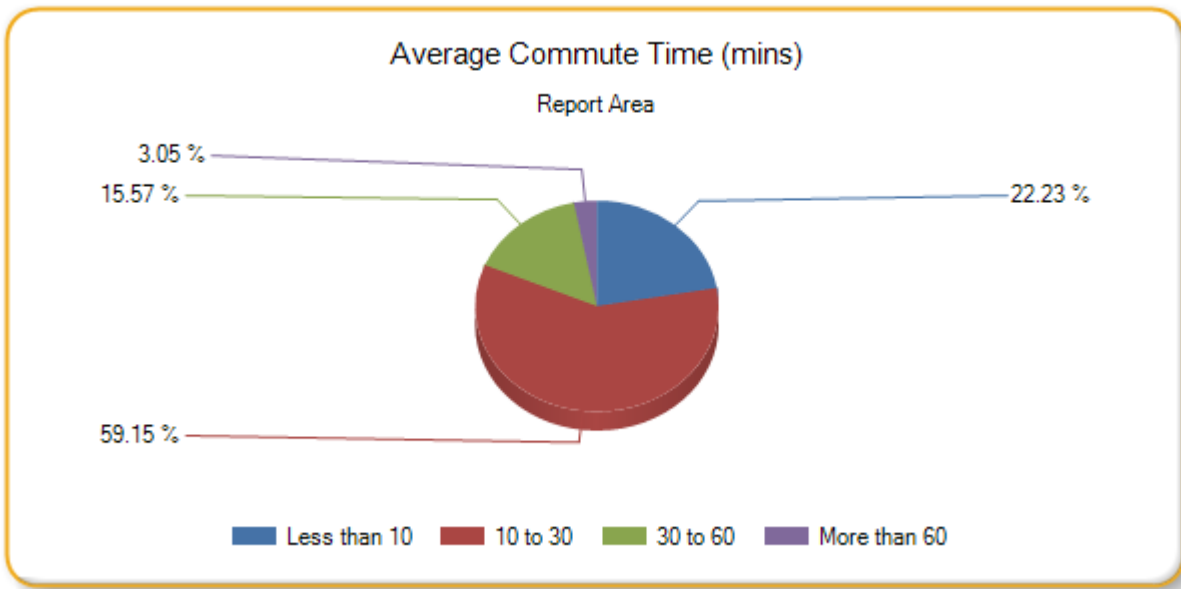- Report Area

Travel Time to Work

Travel times for workers who travel (do not work at home) to work is shown for the report area. The median commute time for the report area of 17.71 minutes is shorter than the national median commute time of 24.6 minutes.

Average Commute Time (mins)

- Report Area (17.71)
- Minnesota (21.84)
- United States (24.59)

Report Area	Workers 16 and Up	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) Less than 10	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) 10 to 30	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) 30 to 60	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) More than 60	Average Commute Time (mins)
Report Area	35,539	20.94	55.71	14.67	2.87	17.71
Clay County	32,208	21.03	60.96	14.93	3.08	17.77
Wilkin County	3,331	34.18	41.13	22	2.69	17.1
Minnesota	2,733,199	16.66	52.66	25.4	5.28	21.84
United States	141,337,152	13.26	50.57	27.88	8.29	24.59

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14.

2017 Community Needs Assessment

Average Commute Time (mins)
Report Area

- 22.23 % — Less than 10
- 59.15 % — 10 to 30
- 15.57 % — 30 to 60
- 3.05 % — More than 60

Average Work Commute Time (Minutes), Average by Tract, ACS 2010-14

- Over 28 Minutes
- 25 - 28 Minutes
- 21 - 24 Minutes
- Under 21 Minutes
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

Education

Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in the report area. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, and is an average for the period from 2010 to 2014. However educational attainment within our customers is significantly lower than the general population with over 32% of our Head Start families reporting no high school diploma or GED.
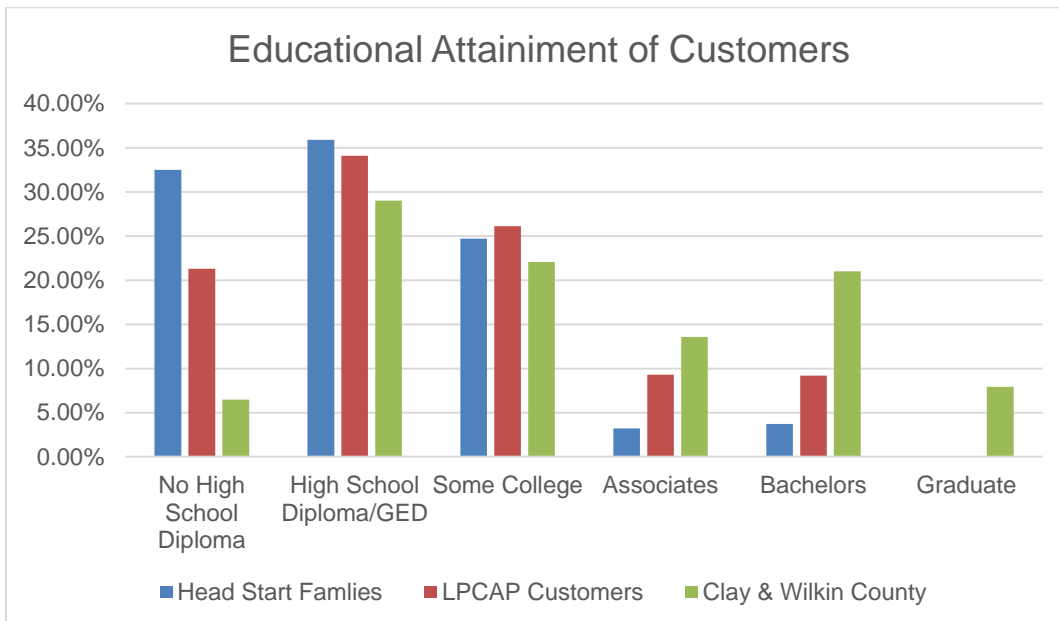
Report Area	Percent No High School Diploma	Percent High School Only	Percent Some College	Percent Associates Degree	Percent Bachelors Degree	Percent Graduate or Professional Degree
Report Area	6.47%	29.02%	22.04%	13.56%	21%	7.91%
Clay County	6.1%	28.8%	21.8%	12.8%	22.1%	8.4%
Wilkin County	9.32%	31%	24%	19.3%	12.6%	3.8%
Head Start Families	32.5%	35.9%	24.7%	3.2%	3.7%	0%
LPCAP Customers	21.3%	34.1%	26.1%	9.3%	9.2%	0%
Minnesota	7.72%	26.4%	22.2%	10.5%	22.3%	10.9%
United States	13.67%	28%	21.2%	7.9%	18.3%	11%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14.

Percent Population with No High School Diploma

Report Area (6.47%)
Minnesota (7.72%)
United States (13.67%)

Educational Attainiment of Customers

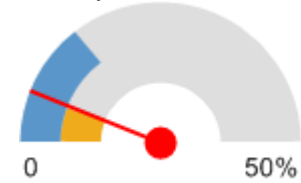■ Head Start Famlies   ■ LPCAP Customers   ■ Clay & Wilkin County

<u>Adult Literacy</u>

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) produces estimates for adult literacy based on educational attainment, poverty, and other factors in each county. Within the 2-county area the adult literacy rate is consistent with the remainder of the state.

Report Area	Estimated Population over 16	Percent Lacking Literacy Skills
Report Area	43,790	6.01%
Clay County	38,453	6%
Wilkin County	5,337	6%
Minnesota	3,852,097	6%
United States	219,016,209	14.64%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Estimates of Low Literacy. Source geography: County

Percentage of Adults Lacking Literacy Skills

■ Report Area (6.01%)
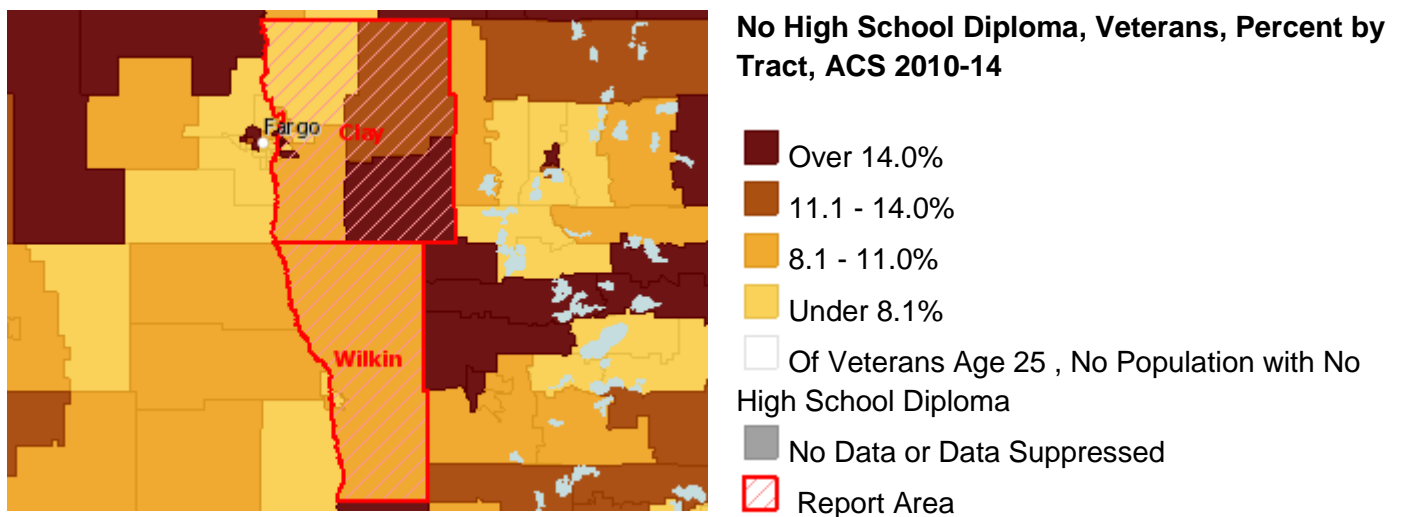■ Minnesota (6%)
■ United States (14.64%)
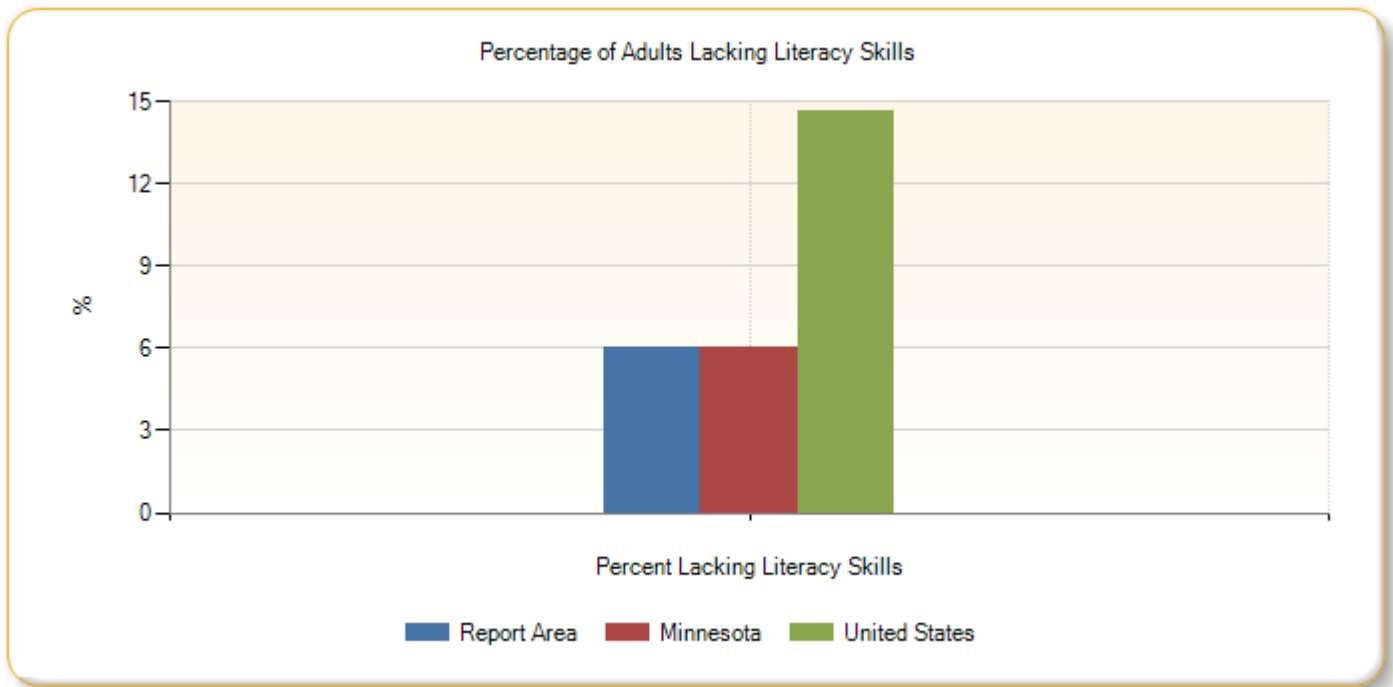
Veterans - Educational Attainment

Veterans Educational Attainment contrasts the distribution of educational attainment levels between military veterans and non-veterans in the region. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, and is an average for the period from 2010 to 2014.

Report Area	Veterans % No Diploma	Veterans % High School Diploma	Veterans % Some College Diploma	Veterans % Bachelors or Higher Diploma	Non-Veterans % No Diploma	Non-Veterans % High School Diploma	Non-Veterans % Some College Diploma	Non-Veterans % Bachelors or Higher Diploma
Report Area	9.79%	34.65%	34.01%	21.55%	6.14%	28.48%	35.79%	29.59%
Clay County	10.33%	34.29%	32.39%	23%	5.7%	28.27%	34.87%	31.15%
Wilkin County	6.69%	36.71%	43.4%	13.2%	9.68%	30.21%	43.26%	16.85%
Minnesota	7.26%	32.41%	34.82%	25.51%	7.77%	25.8%	32.43%	34%
United States	7.41%	29.32%	36.62%	26.64%	14.4%	27.85%	28.21%	29.54%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: County

No High School Diploma, Veterans, Percent by Tract, ACS 2010-14

- Over 14.0%
- 11.1 - 14.0%
- 8.1 - 11.0%
- Under 8.1%
- Of Veterans Age 25 , No Population with No High School Diploma
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

Housing

Homeownership

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 15,594 homeowners in the report area in 2000, and 72.79% owner occupied homes in the report area for the 5 year estimated period from 2010 - 2014. The homeownership rate is slightly higher in Wilkin County, however the total number of owner occupied homes has fallen across the 2-county area since 2000.

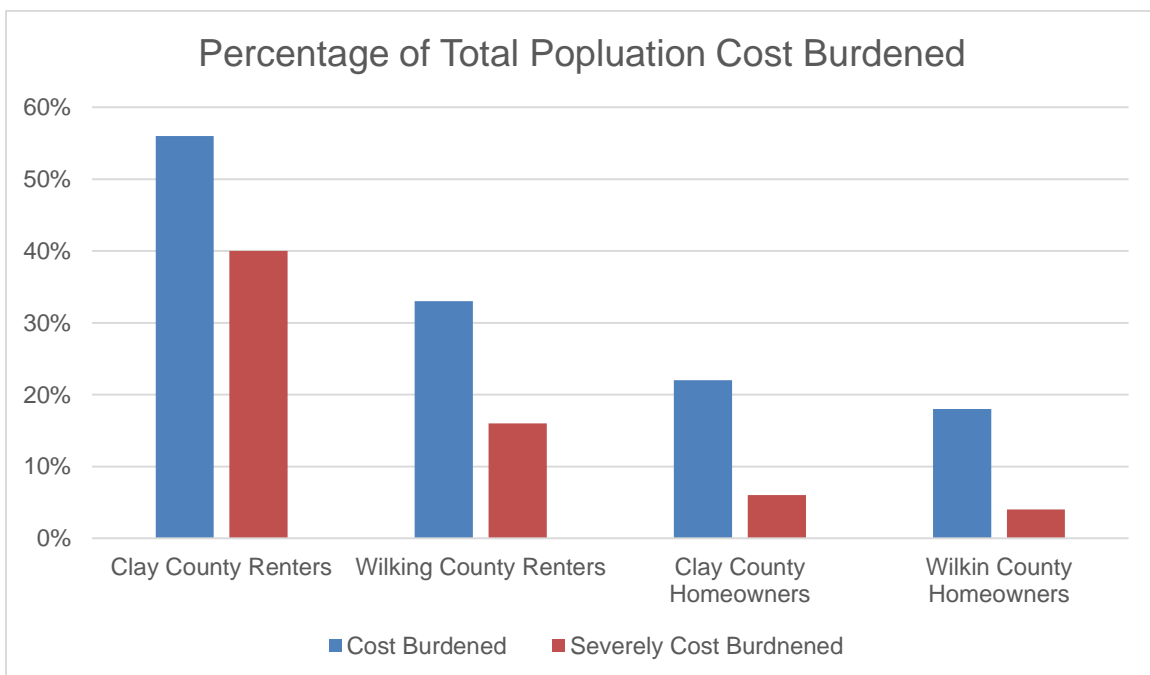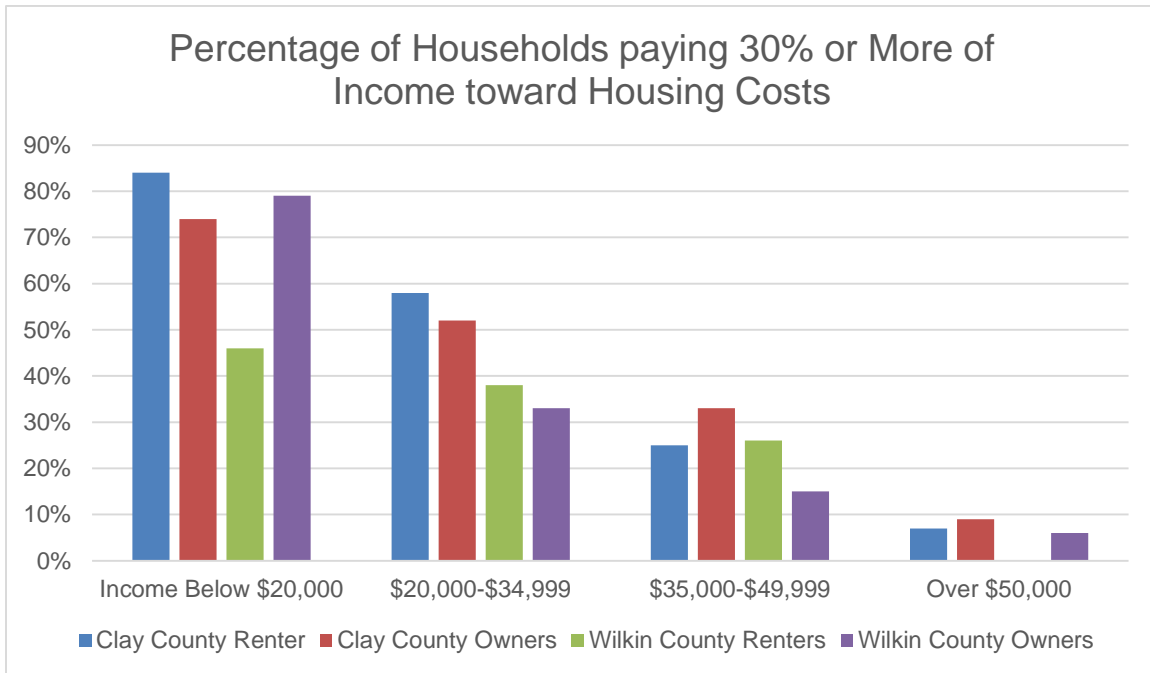| Report Area	Owner Occupied Homes 2000	Owner Occupied Homes 2000	Owner Occupied Homes 2014	Owner Occupied Homes 2014
Report Area	15,594	72.79%	17,776	64.76%
Clay County	13,371	71.62%	15,657	64.2%
Wilkin County	2,223	80.78%	2,119	69.18%
Minnesota	1,412,865	74.55%	1,525,201	64.51%
United States	69,815,753	66.19%	74,787,460	56.34%

Owner Occupied Homes 2014
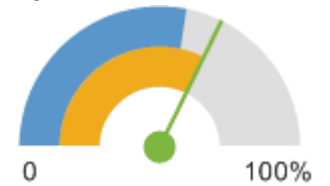
■ Report Area (64.76%)
■ Minnesota (64.51%)
■ United States (56.34%)

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: County
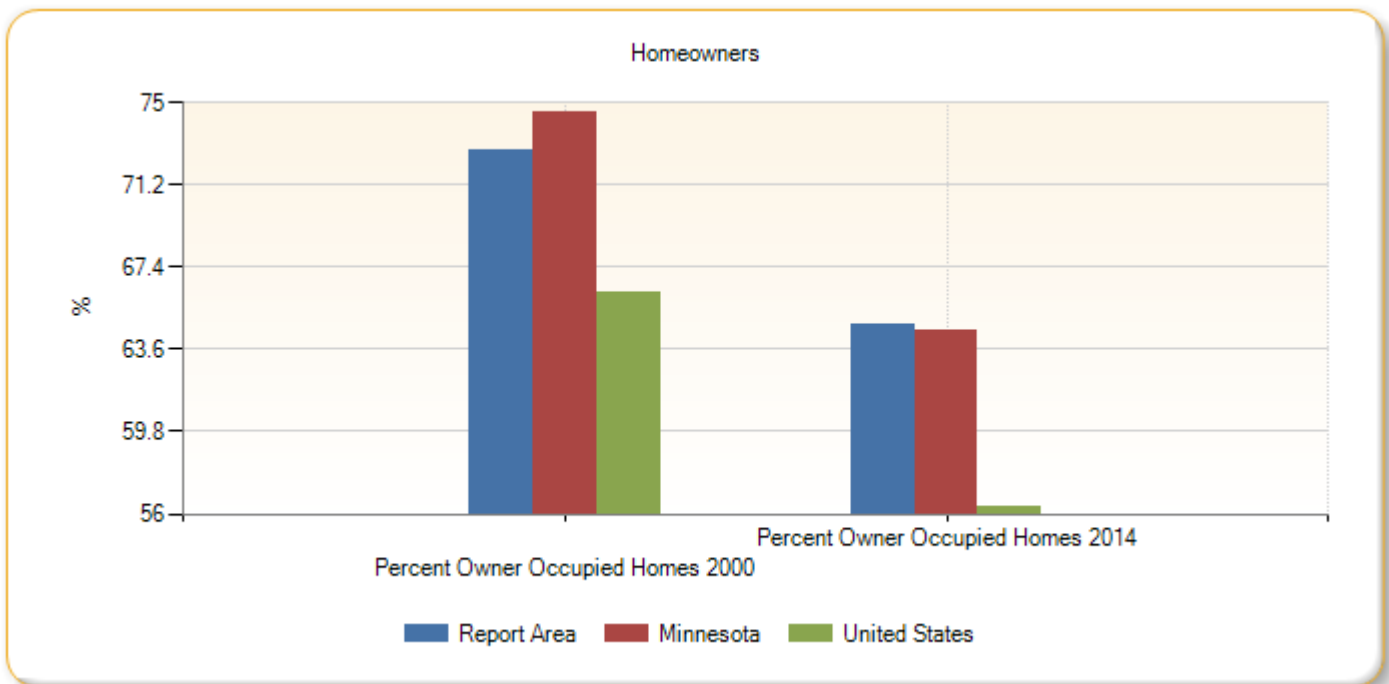
Housing Costs

The proportion of households paying 30% or more of income for housing cost are on the rise within the service area. Across all income levels, 56% of Clay County renters and 33% of Wilkin County renters are paying over 30% of their income towards housing costs. In addition, 30% of Clay County Renters and 16% of Wilkin County renters are paying over half of their income for housing. According to Minnesota Housing Partnership, an earner making $8.00 per hour must work 64 hours per week to afford the rent for a modest 2-bedroom apartment in this region. Clay County is ranked 80 out of 87 counties for available affordable housing.

Percentage of Households paying 30% or More of Income toward Housing Costs

Legend: Clay County Renter, Clay County Owners, Wilkin County Renters, Wilkin County Owners

Percentage of Total Popluation Cost Burdened

Legend: Cost Burdened, Severely Cost Burdnened

Vacancy Rates

The U.S. Postal Service provided information quarterly to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on addresses identified as vacant in the previous quarter. Residential and business vacancy rates for the report area in the first quarter of 2015 are reported. For this reporting period, a total of 380 residential addresses were identified as vacant in the report area, a vacancy rate of 1.3%, and 171 business addresses were also reported as vacant, a rate of 9.5% .

Report Area	Residential Addresses	Vacant Residential Addresses	Residential Vacancy Rate	Business Addresses	Vacant Business Addresses	Business Vacancy Rate
Report Area	29,276	380	1.3%	1,809	171	9.5%
Clay County	26,667	320	1.2%	1,610	158	9.8%
Wilkin County	2,609	60	2.3%	199	13	6.5%
MN	2,406,663	97,447	4%	186,051	25,889	13.9%
US	142,865,596	4,520,991	3.2%	13,410,665	1,334,421	10%

Residential Vacancy Rate

Report Area (1.3%)
Minnesota (4%)
United States (3.2%)
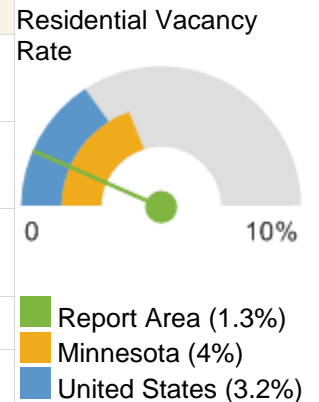
Data Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2015-Q1.
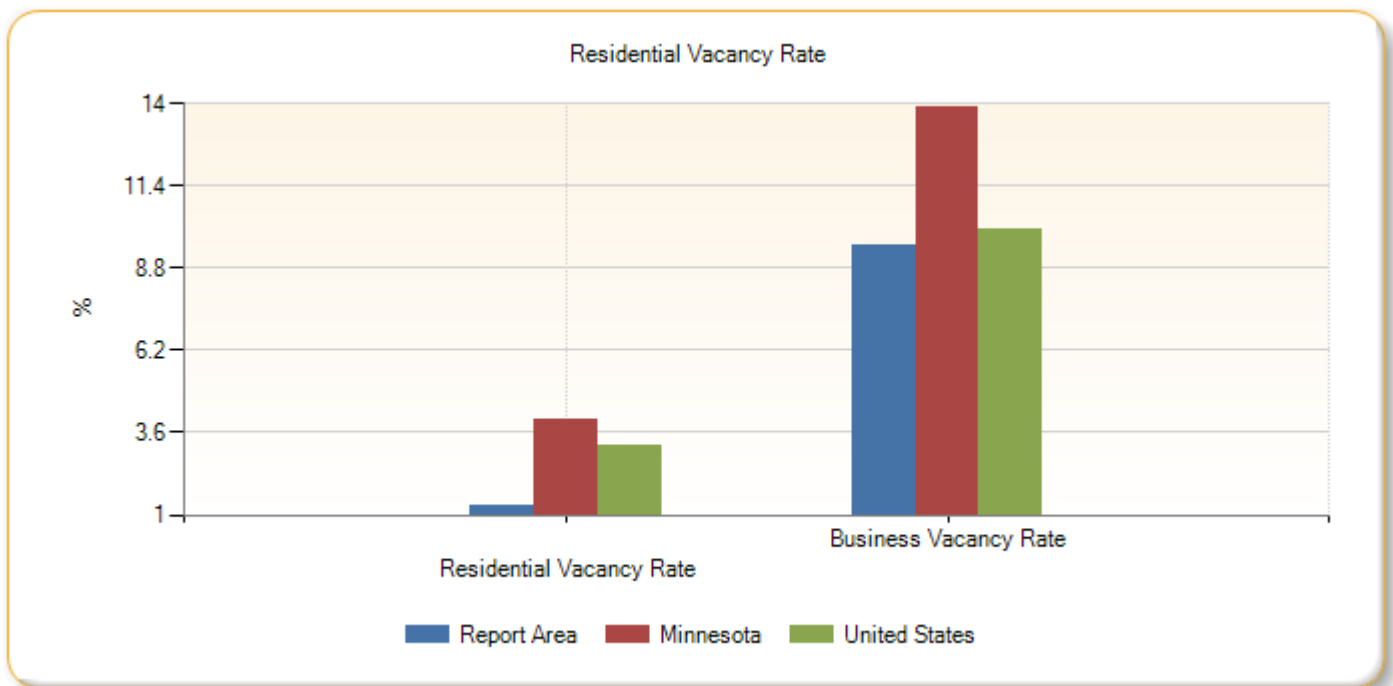
<u>Housing Age</u>

Total housing units, median year built and median age in 2014 for the report area are shown below. Housing units used in housing age include only those where the year built is known. The median age of housing units is significantly higher in Wilkin County, with over 47% of the total units constructed prior to 1960.

Report Area	Total Housing Units	Median Year Built	Median Age (from 2014)
Clay County	24,387	1974	39
Wilkin County	3,063	1962	51
Minnesota	2,364,149	1975	38
United States	132,741,032	1976	37

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14.
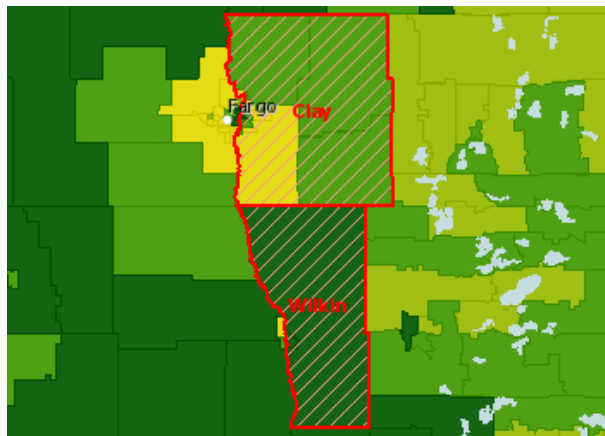
Housing Units Constructed Before 1960

- Over 45.0%
- 30.1 - 45.0%
- 20.1 - 30.0%
- Under 20.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed
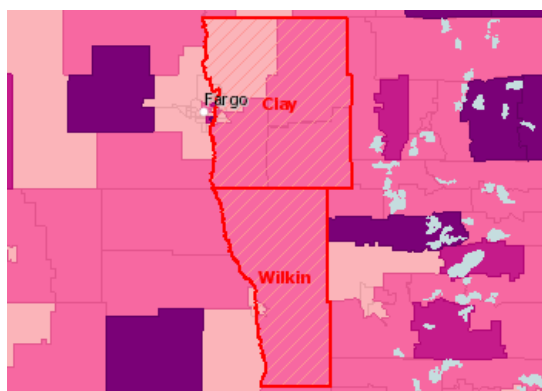- Report Area
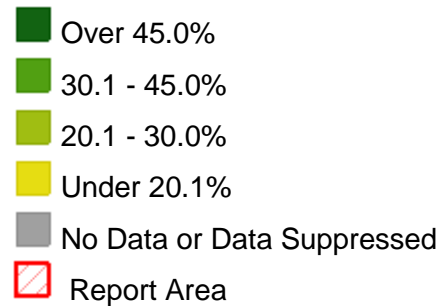
<u>Number of Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes</u>

The number and percentage of occupied housing units without plumbing are shown for the report area. U.S. Census data shows 53 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2000 and ACS five year estimates show 36 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2014. Overall the rate of housing units without plumbing in the region is only .14%.

Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities

- Over 2.0%
- 1.1 - 2.0%
- 0.1 - 1.0%
- 0.0%
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

2017 Community Needs Assessment
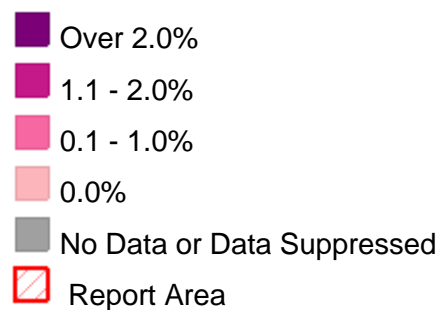
Homelessness

Over the past decade, homelessness has been on a steady increase in the area. However, according to the most recent Wilder Research Study on Homelessness, that number is beginning to decline. In the most recent study conducted in the Fargo-Moorhead area, there were 591 people experiencing homelessness identified. This number is down 32% from the study conducted in 2012. Most of the decline was in non-shelter locations and is largely due to an increase in emergency shelter capacity.

	2009	2012	2015	% Change 2012-2015
Children (Under age 18) with parents	146	151	127	-16%
Unaccompanied minors (age 17 and under)	12	19	14	-26%
Young Adults (age 18-21)	52	64	49	-23%
Adults (age 22-54)	467	532	330	-38%
Older adults (age 55+)	86	108	71	-34%
Total	763	874	591	-32%

More recently, Churches United for the Homeless which is the largest emergency shelter located within our service area reported a 27% increase in households housed from 2015 to 2016. In 2016 Churches United reported serving the following:

	2016
Individuals Served	698
Households Housed	144
Average length of stay	51 days
Meals served	84,000

Much of the gains that we have seen in our community in recent years in preventing and ending homelessness can be attributed to the broad community collaboration to support CARES (Coordinated Assessment Referral and Evaluation System), as well as an increase in community resources to address the identified needs. The CARES system has been part of the broader solution to address the housing crisis in our community and has given us the data needed to better target resources across the entire community.
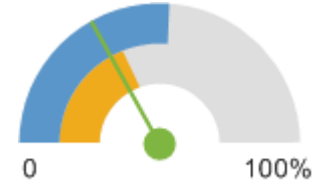
Nutrition

Free and Reduced Lunch Program

The following report shows that 3,559 students (or 33.61 percent) were eligible for free or reduced price lunches during the 2013 - 2014 school year, which is less than the national average of 52.35 percent. This percentage is much higher in Wilkin County with over 40% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Report Area	Total Students	Number Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible	Percent Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible
Report Area	10,589	3,559	33.61%
Clay County	9,515	3,128	32.87%
Wilkin County	1,074	431	40.13%
Minnesota	850,454	326,864	38.44%
United States	50,195,195	26,012,902	52.35%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2013-14.

Percent Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

- Report Area (33.61%)
- Minnesota (38.44%)
- United States (52.35%)

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)

The below table shows that 2,232 households (or 8.8%) received SNAP payments during 2014. During this same period there were 1,998 households (or 91.2%) with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments.
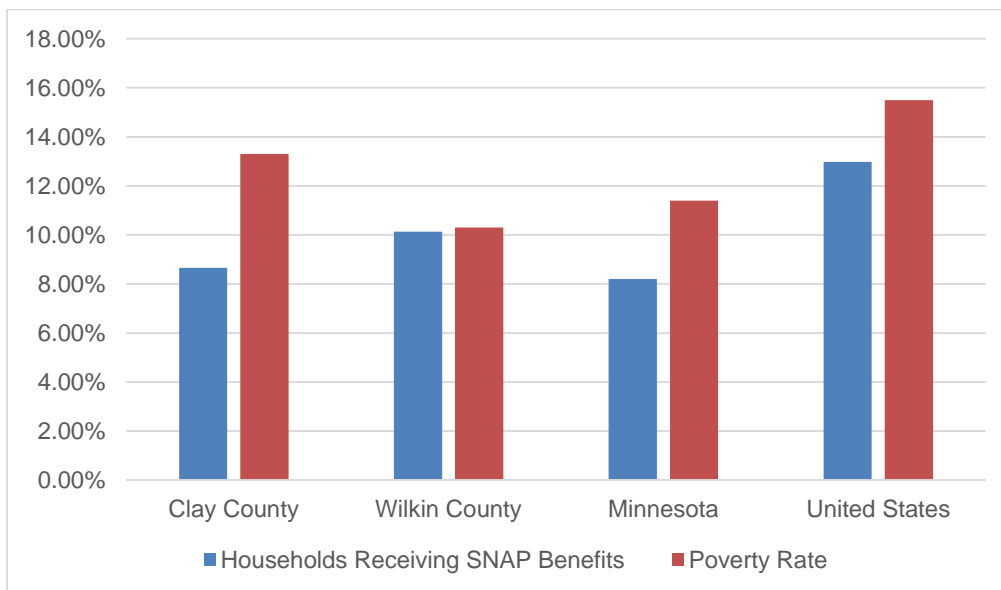
Health Care

Medicare and Medicaid Providers

Total institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics and community mental health centers for the report area are shown. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 12 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in the report area in the third quarter of 2015.

Report Area	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Report Area	12	1	5	1	1	1
Clay County	8	0	4	1	1	1
Wilkin County	4	1	1	0	0	0
Minnesota	1,376	152	377	55	86	2
United States	72,358	7,166	15,646	7,313	4,120	185

Data Source: US Department of Health Human Services, Center for Medicare Medicaid Services, Provider of Services File. Jun. 2016. Source geography: County

■ **All Providers of Service, POS Jun. 2016**
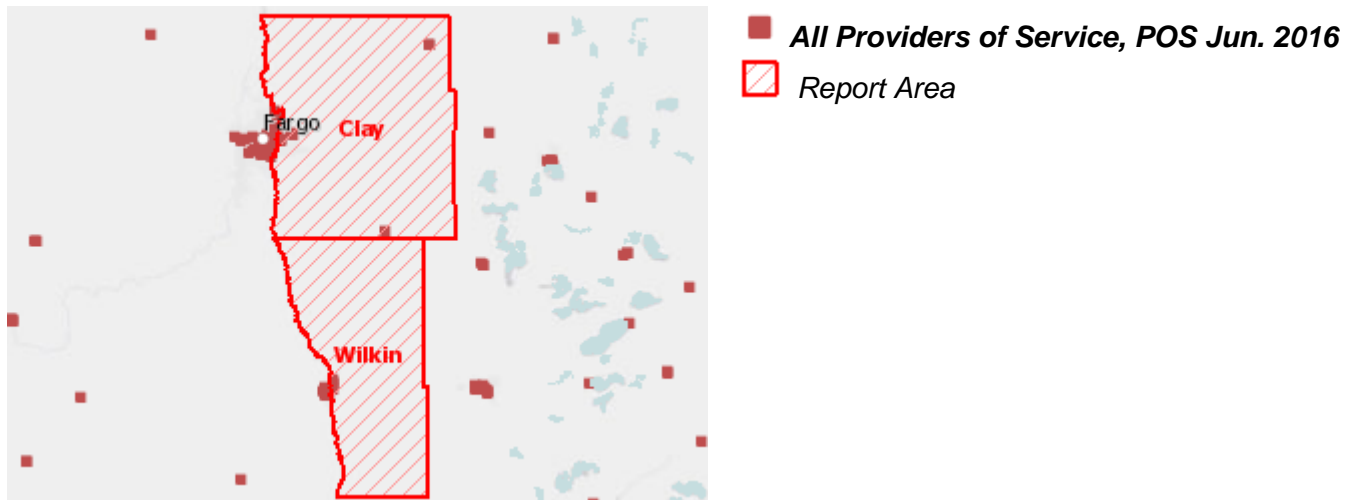
▨ *Report Area*

Persons Receiving Medicare

The total number of persons receiving Medicare is shown, broken down by number over 65 and number of disabled persons receiving Medicare for the report area. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that a total of 10,778 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in the report area in 2013.

Report Area	Persons Over 65 Receiving Medicare	Disabled Persons Receiving Medicare	Total Persons Receiving Medicare
Report Area	8,973	1,805	10,778
Clay County	7,698	1,582	9,280
Wilkin County	1,275	223	1,498
Minnesota	757,506	148,248	905,754
United States	43,739,904	10,384,773	54,124,727

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2009-13. Source geography: County
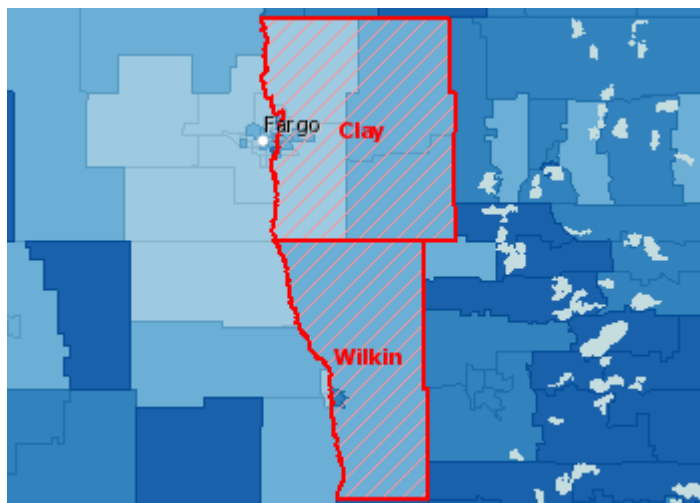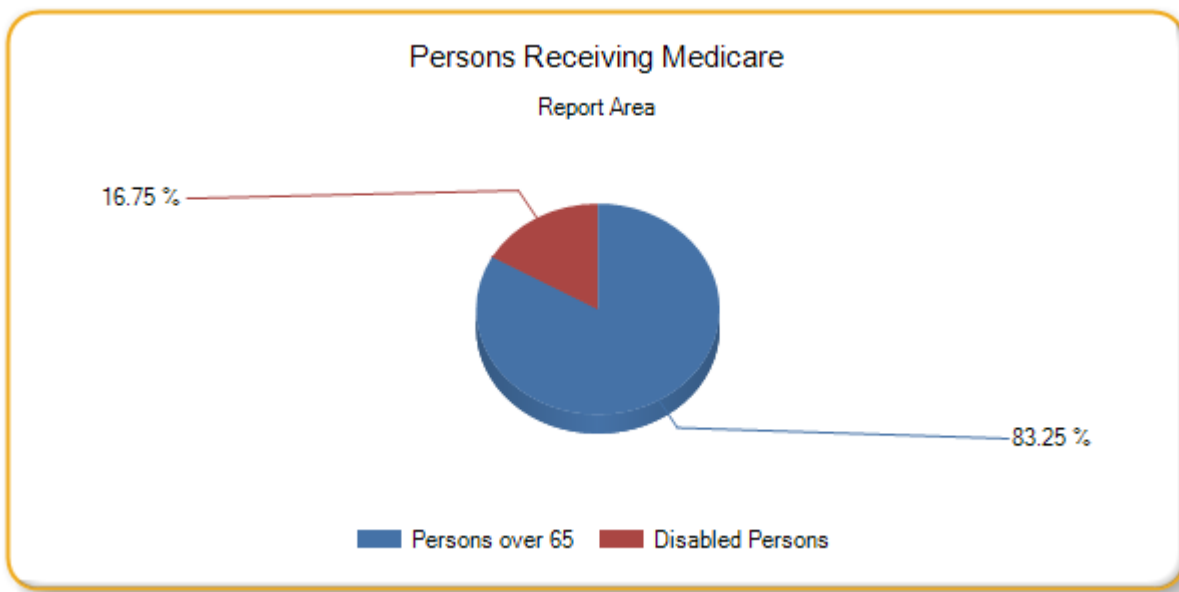

Insured, Medicare, Percent by Tract, ACS 2009-13

- Over 25.0%
- 20.1 - 25.0%
- 15.1 - 20.0%
- Under 15.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area
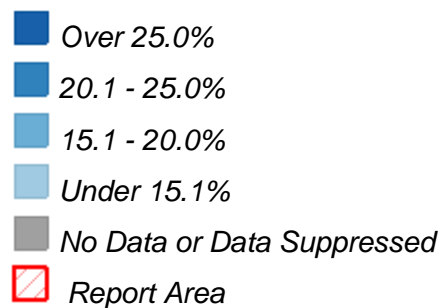
Uninsured Population

The uninsured population is calculated by estimating the number of persons eligible for insurance (generally those under 65) minus the estimated number of insured persons. The total rate of uninsured persons in the service area in 2004 was 4.79%, which is lower than both the statewide and national average.

Report Area	Insurance Population (2014 Estimate)	Number Insured	Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
Report Area	66,810	52,309	3,202	4.79%
Clay County	60,249	47,360	2,887	5.7%
Wilkin County	6,561	4,949	315	6%
Minnesota	5,383,661	4,277,958	308,991	5.74%
United States	314,107,084	229,973,140	36,013,970	11.47%

Percent Uninsured

Report Area (4.79%)
Minnesota (5.74%)
United States (11.47%)
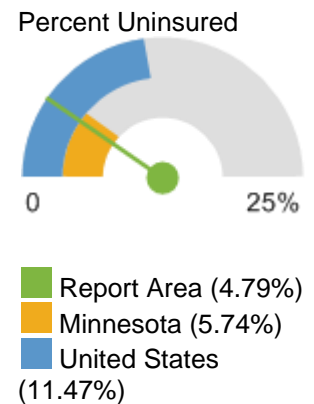
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. 2014. Source geography: County
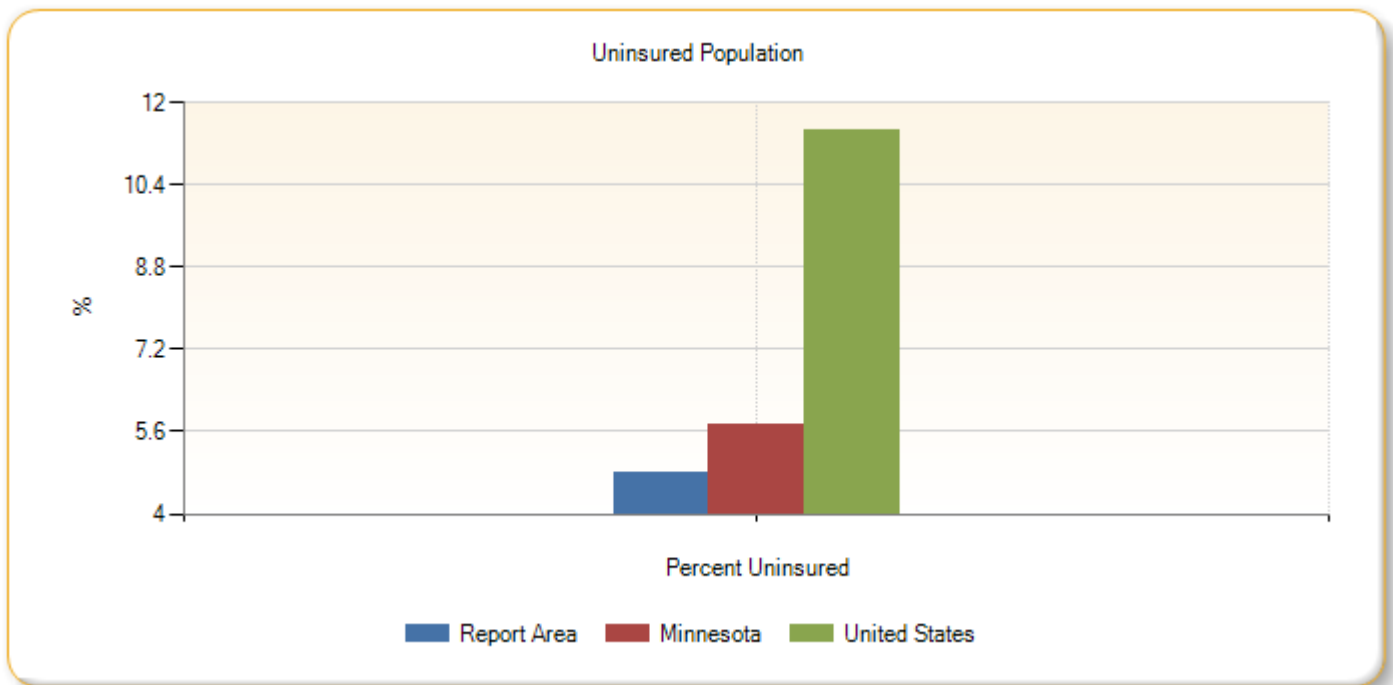
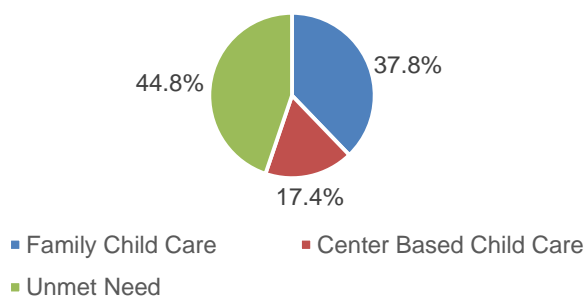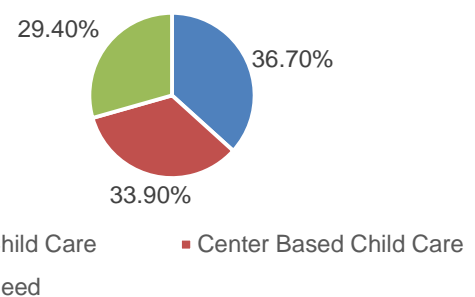# Child Care

Affordable, high-quality childcare is out of reach for many families in our community. The total number of childcare slots available within Clay & Wilkin Counties is only enough for 59% of the total population of children ages 0-6 years of age. In addition, Minnesota is currently ranked as one of the most expensive states for child care. The average tuition and fees for a public 4-year college in Minnesota is $10,527 annually which is far less than the average cost of full-time care in a child care center for an infant at $14,366. Between 2005 and 2015 communities in greater Minnesota lost over 15,000 net child care slots. This is largely due to family child care providers exiting the industry. Every region of the state is experiencing a shortfall between the number of children potentially needing child care and the number of child care slots available. Within the West Central Region of Minnesota that shortfall is currently 2,096 slots.

Report Area	Number of Children Under Age 6	# of Family Child Care Provider Licensed Slots	% of Total Child Care Slots	# of Center-Based Child Care Slots	% of Total Child Care Slots	Presumed Unmet Need	% Unmet Need
Clay County	4,965	1,831	65.9%	946	34.1%	2,188	44.1%
Wilkin County	462	218	100%	0	0%	244	52.8%
Minnesota	303,102	111,312	51.9%	102,750	48.1%	89,040	29.4%
United States	15,025,082	1,372,200	16.4%	6,980,400	83.6%	6,672,482	44.4%

Service Area Child Care Slots

37.8% Family Child Care, 17.4% Center Based Child Care, 44.8% Unmet Need

State of MN Child Care Slots

36.70% Family Child Care, 33.90% Center Based Child Care, 29.40% Unmet Need

Report Area	Average Cost of Family –Based Infant Care	Average Cost of Family –Based Preschool Care	Average Cost of Center-Based Infant Care	Average Cost of Center-Based Preschool Care
Clay Co.	$6,649	$6,078	$9,237	$7,623
Wilkin Co.	$5,522	$4,942	N/A	N/A

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<u>Preschool Programs</u>

In addition to the childcare providers within the counties served, there are publicly funded preschool programs within each of the public school districts, as well as the Early Head Start/Head Start program provided by Lakes & Prairies. Below is a chart of the preschool services and home visiting programs provided in the communities served:

Preschool Location	Capacity	Publicly Funded Slots	Home Visiting Programs	Capacity
Moorhead	280	180	Nurse-Family Partnership	105
Breckenridge	80	80	Healthy Families America	21
Hawley	120	5	Maternal Child Health/TANF	231
DGF	122	8		
Barnesville	70			
Ulen/Hitterdal	40	9		
Rothsay	54	54		
Campbell	20	20		

Estimate of number of children under age 5 eligible for Early Head Start/Head Start in proposed service area. In addition to the children served in the Early Head Start/Head Start program, the only other comparable program is provided by Public Health and the Nurse Home Visiting Program.

| County	# Children Under Age 5	Child Poverty Rate	# of Eligible children	Currently Enrolled in EHS/HS	Estimated # Unserved
Clay County	4,217	14.7%	620	279	341
Wilkin County	378	12.7%	48	5	43

In 2016, we served 105 clients under the Nurse-Family Partnership Program, 21 clients under the Health Families America Program and 231 clients under our Maternal Child Health and TANF programs. Let me know if you need more information.

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Child Health & Wellness

Children in Foster Care
Out of home placements have increased over 66% in Clay County between 2012-2016. During the same time frame the state of Minnesota reported an increase of just over 30%, and Wilkin County has maintained or even declined in out of home placements. These increases can be attributed to an increase in the number of children entering the child protection system as well as increases in placement length. The average number of days in care have increased to over a year statewide. Statewide there has been a 125% increase in out of home placements due to parental drug abuse.

Out of Home Placements
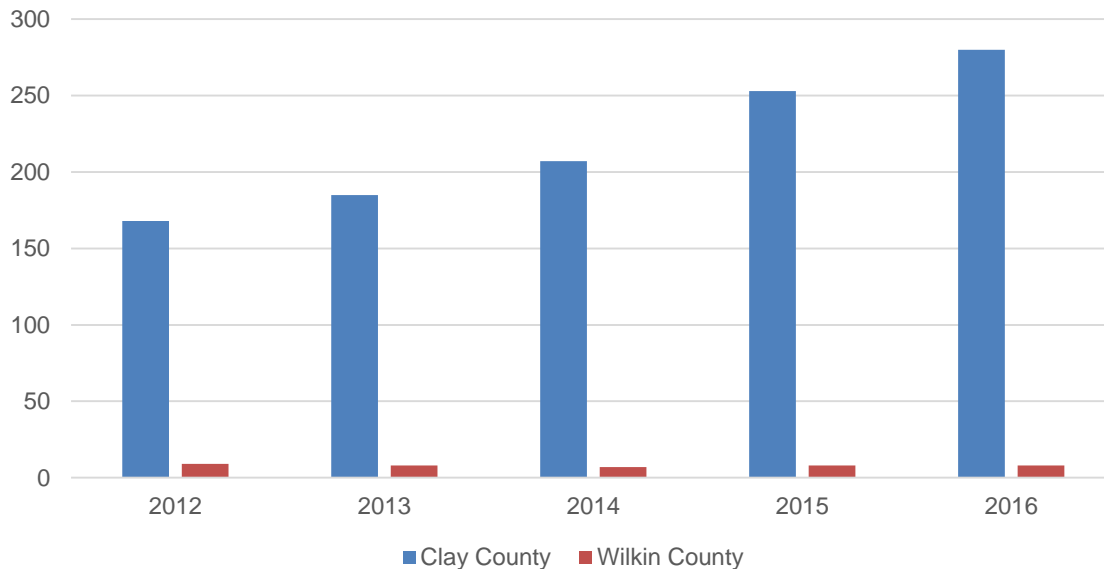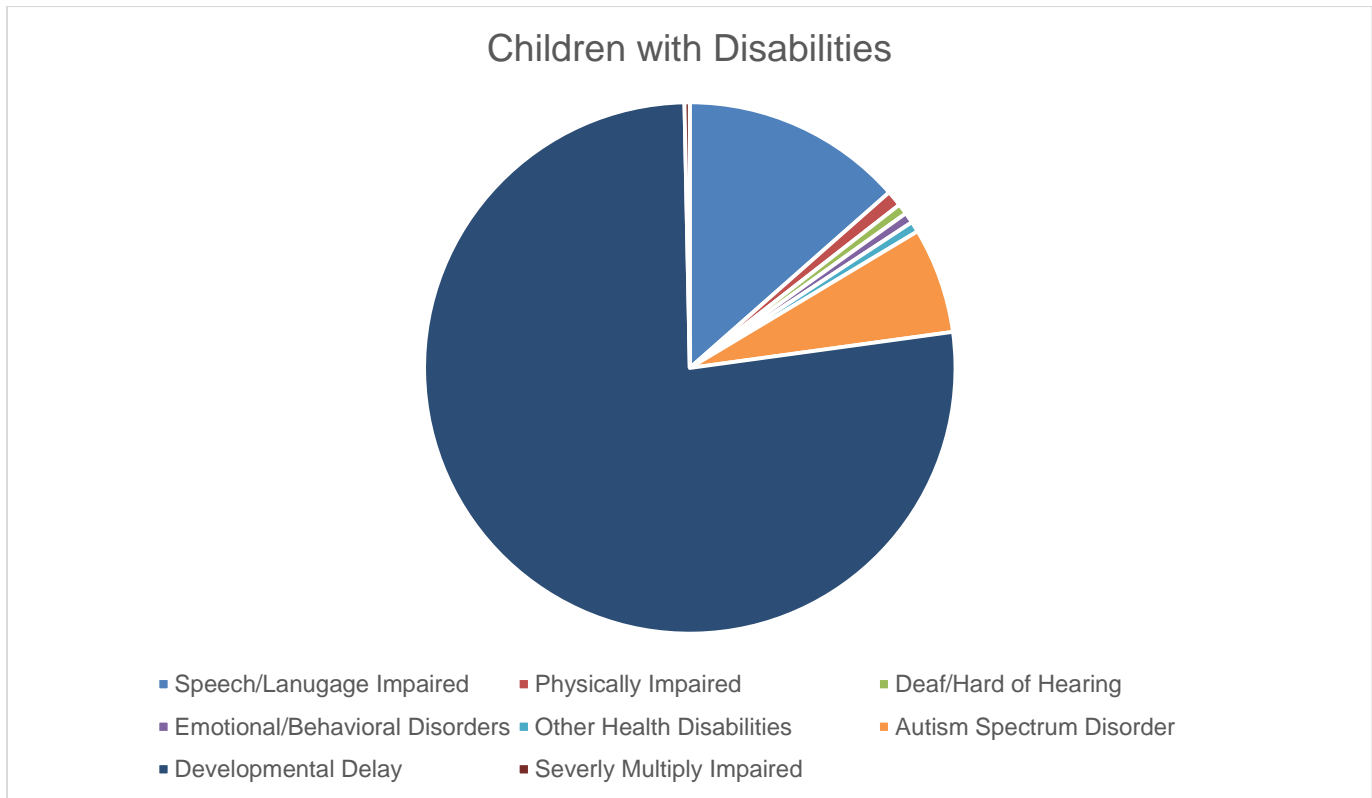

Source: MN Department of Human Services

Child Health & Safety

The following data indicate child health and well-being within each county. The percentage of low birth weight babies was significantly higher in both Clay and Wilkin Counties when compared to the statewide average. In addition, the percentage of babies born to unwed mothers and with no father listed on the birth certificate were much higher in Wilkin County than both Clay County and the statewide average.

County	Birth Rate	% of Babies born to unwed mothers	Teen Birth Rate	% Babies born no father on birth certificate	% Low Birth Weight Babies	Child Abuse & Neglect Rate
Clay County	13.8	29%	8.5	5.9%	8.9%	2.3
Wilkin County	11.9	35.1%	6.5	18.2%	7.8%	.7
Minnesota	12.8	32.3%	8.5	11.9%	4.9%	3.3

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Children with disabilities/IEPS

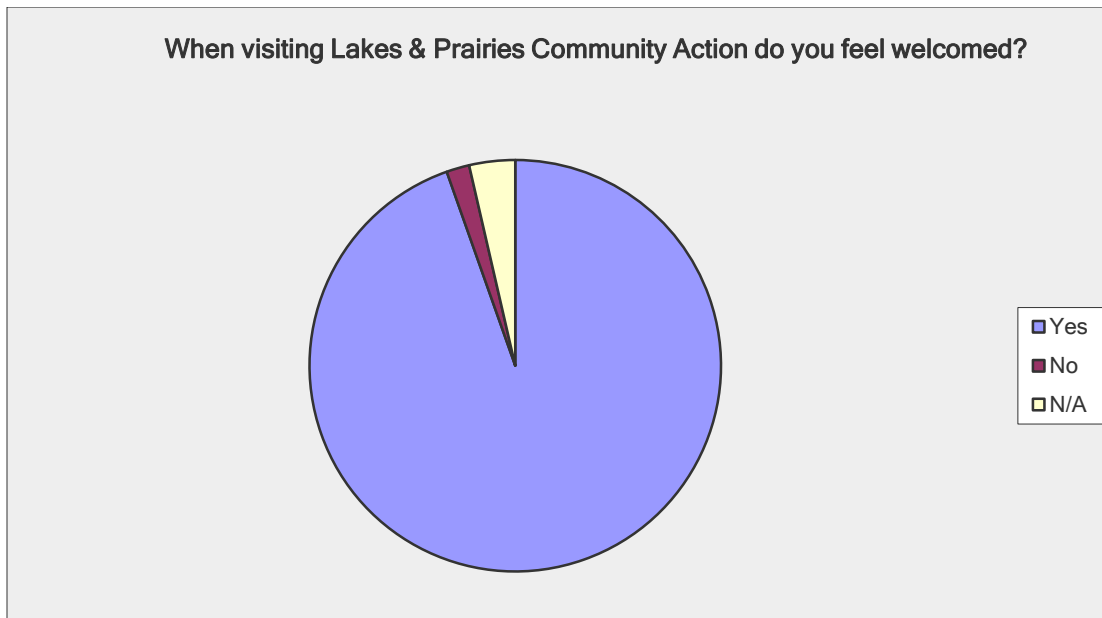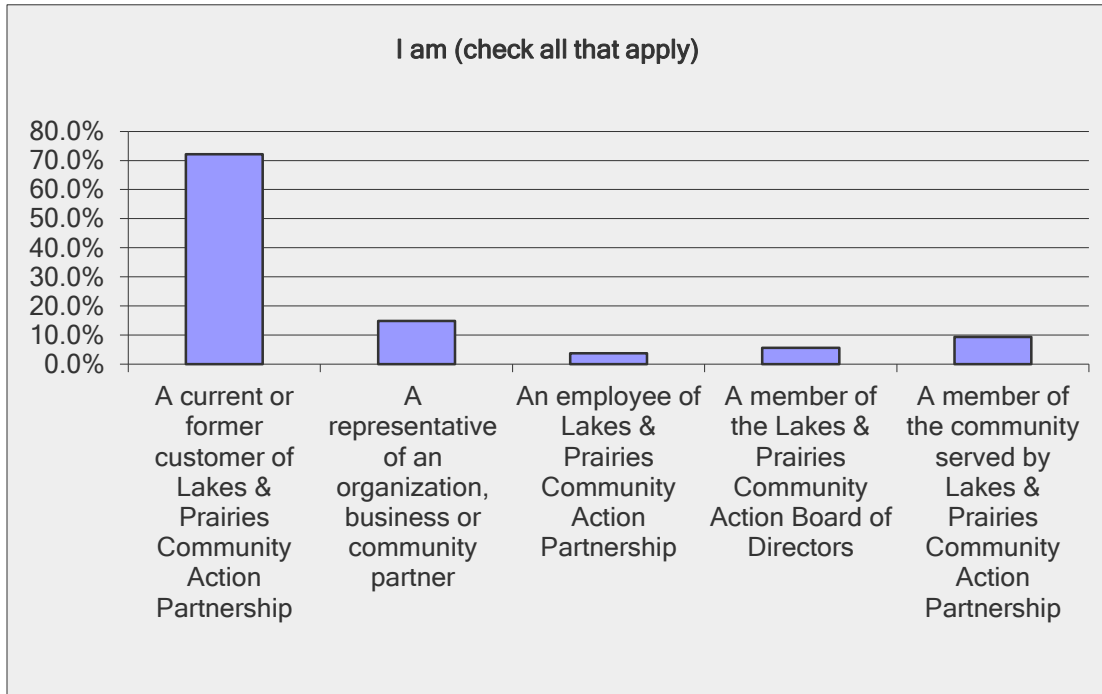The chart below details the number of student currently enrolled in Early Intervention Services. This does not take into account students currently in the referral/evaluation process.

Children with Disabilities

- Speech/Lanugage Impaired
- Physically Impaired
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Emotional/Behavioral Disorders
- Other Health Disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Developmental Delay
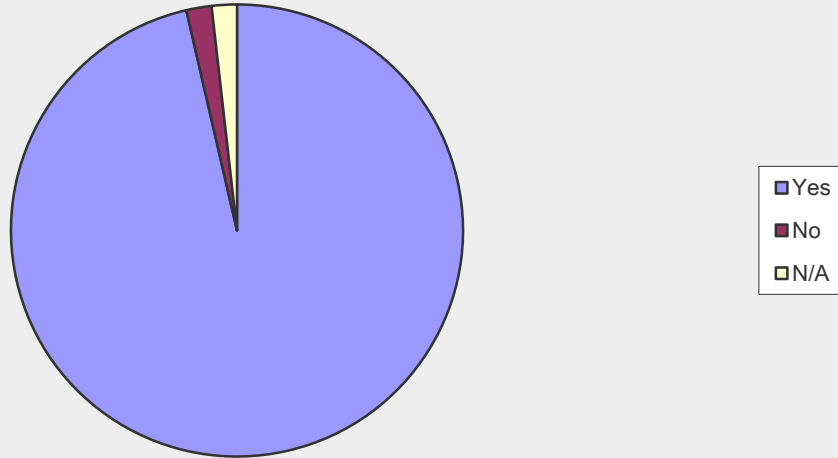- Severly Multiply Impaired

Customer & Community Feedback

Customer Feedback Surveys

As part of the data collection process for the Community Needs Assessment, Lakes & Prairies sought feedback from customers through the use of an online survey tool. 56 people completed the survey. One area that was analyzed through this survey tool was customer satisfaction. Overall, responses were very positive with over 90% of respondents indicating that they had a positive experience in their interactions with Lakes & Prairies programs. 98% of those surveyed would recommend Lakes & Prairies to a family member or friend. Results of the survey questions are shown in the charts below.

I am (check all that apply)

A bar chart showing percentages for: A current or former customer of Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership (~72%); A representative of an organization, business or community partner (~15%); An employee of Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership (~4%); A member of the Lakes & Prairies Community Action Board of Directors (~6%); A member of the community served by Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership (~9%).

When visiting Lakes & Prairies Community Action do you feel welcomed?

A pie chart with legend: Yes, No, N/A. The majority is Yes.

Are you treated with respect by Lakes & Prairies employees and volunteers?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

Do you receive help in a timely manner?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

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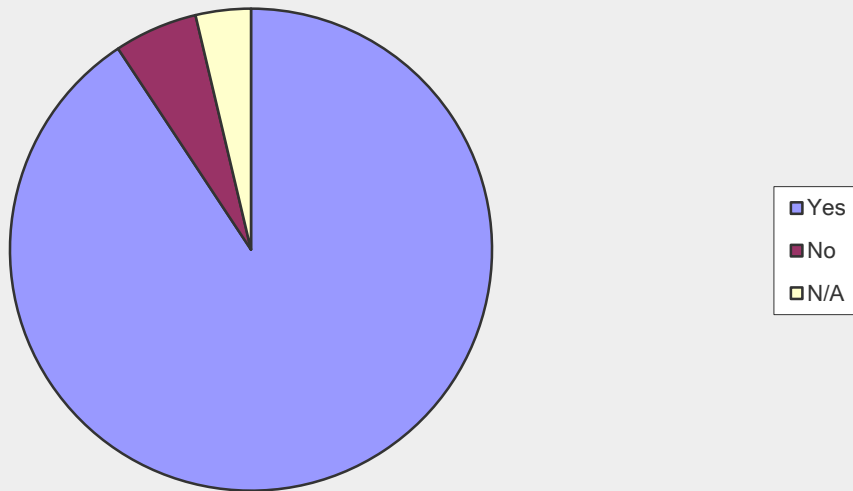
Do you receive the information and services you needed?

Legend:
- Yes
- No
- N/A
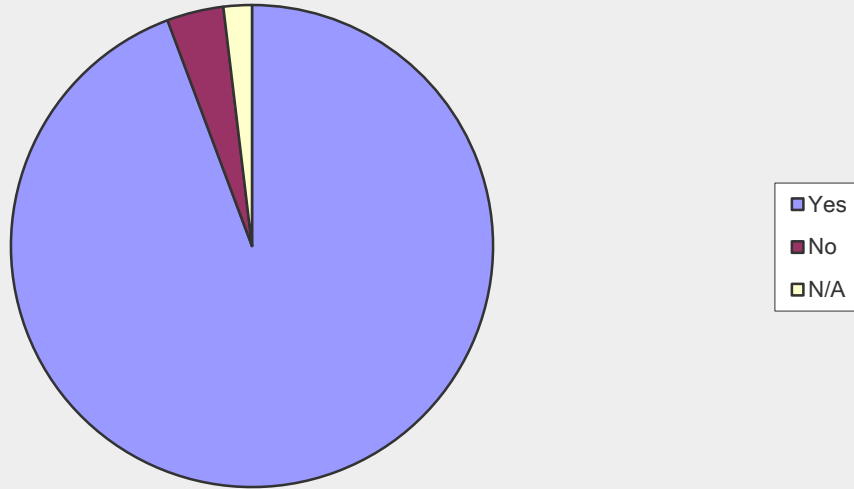
Are you provided with information about other services available at Lakes & Prairies?

Legend:
- Yes
- No
- N/A

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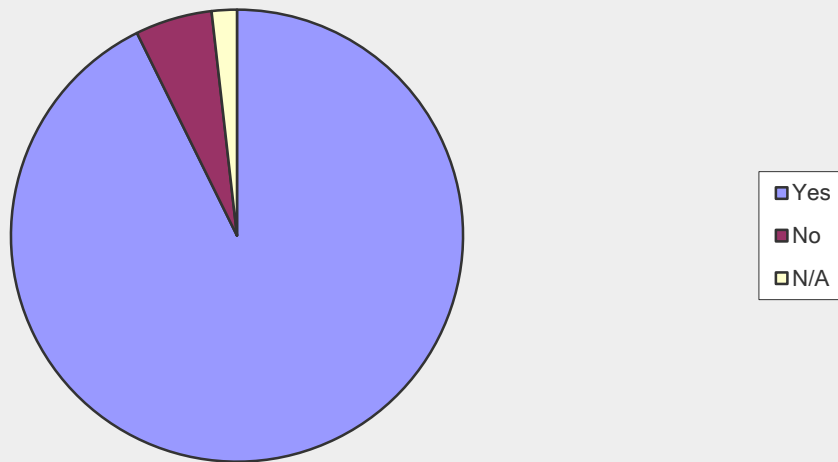
Would you recommend Lakes & Prairies Community Action to a friend or family member?

- Yes
- No
- N/A
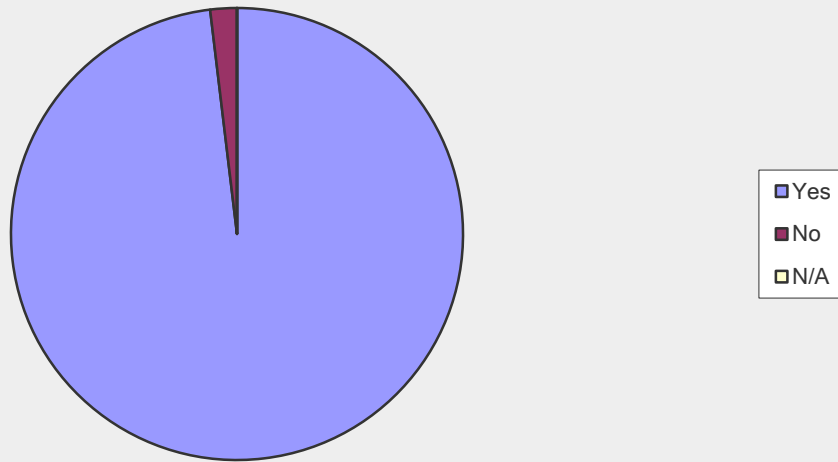
Comments

Very friendly and professional
Very Welcomed, just the services I needed weren't available due to my condition.
Exceptionally Awesome!
Even a FT employee making almost twice the amount of minimum wage is still considered low income and eligible for assistance. A sobering thought?
Without this program I would probably stuck at home doing nothing, but I feel much helpful and learn a lot from this program, I would like to thank you for this program.
This is an awesome opportunity for those of us that would not have been afforded otherwise. Lakes & Prairies has helped me with transportation, education and opportunity!
The NW CCA District partners with our Region 2 CCA work. Thank you all for your support, accessibility, and great communication!
The Child Care Aware office at Lakes and Prairies is fantastic. They are professional, responsive and innovative. It is an honor to partner with them.
I think daycare assistance should have stricter rules for families on assistance.... and a way to help collect copays when the family tries to stiff the provider.... clearly some of the parents on assistance do not understand what daycare assistance covers and doesnt cover....
Yes I would recommend Lakes & Prairies but they could be more friendly and smile more
There are some issues here and moving forward, it would be nice to see them adressed.
appreciate the communication and knowing staff on a first name basis
I was not happy. I need help with insurance and no one was available for 3 weeks.

In addition to customer satisfaction, data was also collected through the surveys regarding the needs families have, the resources they are lacking, and what they feel is most important in lifting them out of poverty. The images below provide an overview of the top issues identified.

What are the top 3 concerns that you have for your family or your child?

Mental Health Learn Financial Communication
Housing Finances Transportation
Assistance Education Kids Child Care
Family Children Child's Speech

What are the top 3 gaps in services that have affected you or your family?

Job Health Services Family Child Care
Money Housing

What would be the most helpful to you as you work to improve your financial situation (ex. Good paying job, child care, transportation, etc.)?

Better Paying Job Insurance Child Care Assistance
Good Paying Job Transportation

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<u>Customer Focus Groups</u>

In an effort to better understand the issues raised by our customers, Lakes & Prairies also hosted two focus groups with low-income individuals. The purpose of these focus group was to identify the existing needs of our community, help us determine whether the needs of our residents have changed, and to help us determine whether new programs need to be created to assist our area residents. In general, the major themes that emerged from the focus groups were similar to the issues identified through other means, including:

- **Housing**
  Housing was one of the most common concerns identified through customer focus groups. Areas that were found to be particularly difficult include housing for people who have felonies or criminal backgrounds.   Many interviewees stated that even if the felonies are old it still makes it tough getting into a housing. In addition to housing programs for those who may have felonies on their record, there was an expressed need housing programs that meet the needs of various situations such as those who have mental health or different family make-ups.

  Recommendation: Participants identified the need for more hands-on help with housing. Many interviewees explained how they are often told that someone is helping them in their process of finding housing, but there is little follow-up or proof of follow through unless they have been selected for a program. It was suggested that having a more hands-on approach would allow for more questions they have answered more efficiently. For many of the interviewees, they were not familiar with the FM area. Within a housing search they thought it would be helpful for information on bus routes, what services are available in the area, who are the landlords that rent to low-income, felons, etc.

- **Employment**
  When it came to employment, finding a job within the area seemed to be a concern. Many people have trouble finding employment due to felonies even if they are qualified for a position. Many interviewees expressed the need for finding employment that will hire those with backgrounds. Struggles finding employment were also related to the lack of access to transportation which will be talked about in more detail below.

  Recommendation: There was a stated need from interviewees on programs to help get work clothes and shoes for those who are low-income. Essentially for people who have jobs but need clothing/shoes for their job. Included in this, there was an additional need for programs that will help obtain clothes for job interviews.

- **Transportation**
  The topic of transportation was also prevalent during the discussion. Transportation is needed for people to look for housing and look for employment. Interviewees discussed how extremely helpful it would be to have transportation programs that help people with obtaining transportation; in addition to those that are already in place and help people with disabilities and so on. It was stressed how important it is to have access to transportation because with a lot of the agencies our community members are working with, they must go to the agency, the agency never comes to them.

  Recommendation: Many interviewees explained coordinated carpooling would be something that would be greatly used and appreciated within our area. Interviewees brought up idea of a carpooling

system that would be helpful especially if they have more than one person going to the same place (such as school events for their children who are going to the same school).

- **Childcare:**
  Child care assistance was brought up that child care assistance would be helpful for those who are low-income and need to job search and eventually work. Because they cannot work yet, they cannot afford child care. Also, if they do not have child care, they cannot go out and look for employment.

- **Resources:**
  Many resources are working well including Churches United, Lakes & Prairies and Treatment Facilities. The group also identified other areas of needed resources that they see as gaps in the community:
  - **Access to Internet -** It was voiced that having access to the internet is extremely important when trying to apartment search; whether it is getting access to library or something else. A lot of apartment companies will post renting information online and having access to that will allow people to obtain this information they need. Being able to access the internet would also allow people to check their emails since a lot of place will respond quicker to an email. Interviewees mentioned that if there was access to the internet they would be able to turn in job applications since most of applying for jobs is online or via email.
  - **A general address/phone number -** From many interviewees experiences, if they do not have a physical address they cannot receive assistance from certain programs. It was explained how P.O boxes will not work. If they had a general address that would work, they would be able to apply for assistance, make doctors' appointments, and apply for jobs. Having an access point to sign up for "Obama Phones"/lifeline phones so people could receive messages regarding housing and employment was also suggested. One interviewee stated that in a place where they were from they would have people who would set up one spot where they could go and sign up if they were eligible. All in all, easier access to cell phones because many community members do not know where they can get them.
  - **Community Bus Pass -** Access to transportation is not always accessible. Interviewees explained that if there is access to transportation, it cannot always be used for simple job searching or getting to know the area. A community bus pass was brought up by community members so they could use this pass to look for housing and employment, or simply, going out to get to know what is in the area.

Community Focus Groups

Feedback was also collected from community partners including members of the Lakes & Prairies Board of Directors, non-profit partners, faith-based organizations, and education partners. Two separate community meetings were held, one with the Board of Directors and one in Wilkin County.

Top Concerns for Children & Families in our Community:

- Child care – especially in Wilkin County
- Mental Health and Chemical Dependency
- Affordable Housing (especially 3 + bedrooms)
- Lack of education/job skills for available jobs
- Nutritious Food
- Affordable health care
- Complex, multi-generational poverty

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- Advocacy for families
- Lack of living wage jobs

Top Gaps in Services in our Community:

- Coordinated Case Management/Funding for Supportive Services
- Transportation
- Mental Health facilities (especially in Wilkin County)
- Affordable, income-based family housing
- Child Care
- Job training
- Life skills training

Most helpful to eliminate poverty:

- Living Wage Jobs
- Ongoing job placement/coaching
- Multi-generational approach
- Coordinated services approach
- Coordinated care – service providers working together – what does each agency do
- Preventative Programs (not reactive, emergency programs)

Vision for Lakes & Prairies in the next 5 years:

- Continue to shift services from being reactive to proactive and preventative
- Education for birth-5 as well as workforce development
- Housing programs
- Growth in unrestricted income to cover gaps in services and grow
- Continue to grow partnerships and collaborations
- Senor programs – new models for service to growing population
- Coordinated service model approach

Summary of Community Needs Identified

Through the 2017 Community Needs Assessment several key trends were identified that are critical indicators of the causes and conditions of poverty in our community. Through an assessment of community-level data, 5 key indicators of community changes have been identified as having a significant effect on the causes and conditions of poverty in our community.

1. **Shifting Population** – The population within the 2 county service area is shifting to the regional hub of Moorhead. The city of Moorhead is one of the top 10 fastest growing cities in the state of Minnesota. The population of Clay County grew 17.61% from 2000 to 2014, while the population of Wilkin County declined by 8.08% during the same time frame. This is consistent with statewide population shifts to regional population hubs.
2. **Aging Population** – Within the 2-county region that Lakes & Prairies serves, there are currently over 8,200 people aged 65 and older. By 2030 that number is projected to double. While the total number of seniors that fall within this age group is higher in Clay County, the percentage of the overall population is much higher in Wilkin County. 12% of the total population of Clay County is seniors over age 65, while 18% of the total population of Wilkin County is 65+.
3. **Lack of Affordable Housing** - The **residential vacancy rate is dangerously low at 1.3%,** compared to the statewide average of 4% and a "healthy" vacancy rate of 5%. In addition, over 56% of Clay County and 33% of Wilkin County renters are considered "cost burdened" paying more than 30% of their income towards housing.
4. **Unemployment –** There is a significant labor skills gap between available jobs and the labor market. The unemployment rate in the area continues to decline and the number of available jobs is projected to outnumber skilled workers by 2020.
5. **Inequality of Poverty –** Poverty rates among minority populations are disproportionate to the population. Within our service are 27.7% of Hispanic/Latino population, 38.1% of Black population, and 52.3% of the Native American population are living below the poverty line. This is especially shocking given that the poverty rate among the White population is only 10.7%. These significant disparities between outcomes and opportunities must be addressed.

In addition to the changing demographic trends in our community, this assessment also included community-level data collected from low-income individuals in our community. According to this assessment the highest areas of need identified were:

1. **Transportation** – Reliable, accessible transportation is a barrier especially for those residing in the rural areas of Clay and Wilkin County.
2. **Child Care**- High quality, affordable childcare is unobtainable for many families.
3. **Education & Training** – Households lack the education required to obtain family sustaining wages.
4. **Living Wage Employment** – While the unemployment rate is very low, many entry level positions do not pay a living wage.
5. **Affordable Housing** – The cost of rent has outpaced the wages leaving housing unaffordable for far too many families.

The data collected through this assessment of community needs will be utilized to guide the strategic planning and direction of Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership programs, resources and services over the next three years. Assessment information will be updated annually as community resources, needs and gaps change over time.

For more information about Lakes & Prairies programs and services please contact us at:

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2017 Community Needs Assessment