

Frederick County Office for Children and Families

2018-2019 Data Collaborative State of the Populations Report



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INTRODUCTION

The Frederick County Office for Children and Families (OCF) is a department within the Citizens Services Division of the Frederick County Government. The OCF seeks to create a more efficient and effective system of care for the children and families of Frederick County through:

- Developing service, family, community, and financial partnerships;
- Designing goal-directed services that are client centered and family focused;
- Targeting resources to families with the greatest needs; and,
- Implementing a monitoring system to determine client and cost outcomes.

The OCF is home to the Frederick County Local Management Board (LMB) which serves as an advisory board in the management and oversight of the implementation of the Frederick County OCF and the creation of the results-based interagency service delivery system for children, youth and families. In 1990, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislature mandating that each jurisdiction have an entity, known as a Local Management Board, which would operate with the focus of improving results for children, youth, and families. By 1998, all twenty-four jurisdictions, including Frederick County, had an operating LMB.

The shared mission of the OCF and LMB is to enhance the quality of life for children, youth and families in Frederick County, Maryland. This encompasses planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating a comprehensive, integrated human service delivery system for children, youth and families and building on their capacity to be self-sufficient, safe, and healthy.

As part of its efforts, the Frederick County OCF and LMB complete a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years. The purpose of the CNA is to gather local data regarding the current needs of children, youth, and families in Frederick County, community strengths and areas for improvement, and available and needed programs, services, and resources. The findings of the most recent assessment (“Child Well-Being Community Needs Assessment”) completed in 2016 has been used to plan, develop, and implement services and strategies in Frederick County to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

In 2018, the County decided that in addition to its CNA there was a need for a comprehensive data collaborative report that focused on estimating the size of the population in need within four Strategic Goal Areas originally established by the Maryland Governor’s Office for Children (GOC). These four Strategic Goal Areas and their respective populations include:

- Improving outcomes for disconnected/opportunity youth – Population is comprised of youth, aged 16 to 24, who are not working and are not going to school;
- Reducing the impact of incarceration on children, families, and the community – Population is comprised of families with a parent under some form of correctional supervision (parole, probation, jail, or prison);
- Reducing youth homelessness – Population is comprised of homeless youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and who are between the ages of 14 and 25; and,

- Reducing childhood hunger – Population is comprised of food insecure children.

The Data Collaborative process included phases related to obtaining and analyzing quantitative data, compiling an inventory of existing services and resources, identifying gaps in community need and those services/resources, and developing priorities and action plans to address those gaps. Ultimately, this report will be used to assist the LMB in planning, developing, coordinating, and implementing programs within the jurisdiction to eliminate fragmentation and duplication of services, while fulfilling its mandate to create an effective, efficient, responsive, accountable, and sustainable system of services, supports, and opportunities that improve outcomes for children, youth and families.

Further details regarding the process components as well as findings by Goal Area are discussed in the following sections.

METHODOLOGY AND KEY PROCESS COMPONENTS

Study Design

The Frederick County OCF and LMB worked in partnership with the firm Ascendient Healthcare Advisors (Ascendient) to complete a multi-step process to assess the total community need, existing services and resources, and the need that remains unmet by those resources for Frederick County. Multiple sources of publicly available information along with input from diverse community organizations were incorporated throughout the study to paint a more complete picture of the need within Frederick County. Specifically, the following data types were collected and analyzed:

Quantitative Data

Research conducted by Ascendient staff and input received via qualitative data sources provided an initial list of more than 30 data measures related to the four Strategic Goal Areas. Data for those 30+ measures were collected, and the list of most relevant measures narrowed to only those that directly correspond to one of the Strategic Goal populations.

Ten direct data measures ultimately remained for county-level data. One direct measure was available for disconnected/opportunity youth, four measures were available for children impacted by incarceration, two measures were available for youth homelessness, and three measures were available for childhood hunger.

In addition, sub-county estimates were also calculated for each Goal Area population, excluding children impacted by incarceration which was not estimated at a sub-county level due to current data limitations. Additionally, estimates were also calculated for Frederick's six peer counties (Washington, Carroll, Montgomery, Howard, Harford, and Calvert counties) as Goal Area data were available.

Qualitative Data

Multiple variations of qualitative data were collected via this collaborative process including initial interviews, a web-based survey of all LMB Directors across Maryland, web-based surveys for providers serving the population targeted within each of the four Goal Areas, and one-on-one discussions with organizations serving those populations. Each of these data sources are discussed below.

Ascendient staff completed ten initial interviews with representatives from the following agencies at the start of the data collection process to better understand what data sources were available and preferred within the community:

- Blessings in a Backpack
- Children of Incarceration Parent's Partnership
- Family Partnership of Frederick County
- Frederick County Mental Health Association
- Frederick County Workforce Services

- Housing Authority of the City of Frederick
- New Horizons
- UMD School of Social Work

A web-based survey was then distributed to all LMB Directors across the state. Survey questions related to their experiences with data and initiatives associated with each of the four Goal Areas. Directors from the following 13 LMBs completed the survey:

- Allegany County
- Anne Arundel County
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- Caroline County
- Carroll County
- Cecil County
- Harford County
- Howard County
- Kent County
- Talbot County
- Washington County
- Worcester County

In addition, one web-based survey for each of the four Goal Areas was developed and sent to existing organizations serving these populations. In total, surveys were distributed to 163 total programs within 126 unduplicated organizations. Surveys remained “live” from December 10 through December 21, 2018. Follow-up emails were sent to each contact through the “live” period to serve as a reminder and encourage survey participation. Questions focused on:

- Successful programs/initiatives implemented by organizations and the scale of success of those programs
- Methods used to identify individuals to participate in programs/initiatives
- Duplication of services within the community
- Geographic areas of focus for organizational efforts
- Gaps in existing services
- Estimated number and percentage of target population served annually

Representatives from the following fifteen non-duplicated organizations completed at least some portion of the surveys:

- Asian American Center of Frederick
- Blessings in a Backpack, Frederick
- Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County
- Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership
- Department of Juvenile Services
- Developmental Disabilities Administration
- Frederick County Department of Social Services
- Frederick County Judy Center
- Frederick Memorial Hospital
- Heartly House
- Lead4Life, Inc.
- Middletown Valley Food Bank
- Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership
- United Way of Frederick County
- YMCA of Frederick County

Input from an additional eighteen representatives was obtained via these surveys with full survey completion by Goal Area as follows:

- Disconnected/opportunity youth: 8 full completions
- Children and families impacted by incarceration: 4 full completions
- Youth homelessness: 0 full completions
- Childhood hunger: 6 full completions

Lastly, in addition to the initial interviews and organizations participating in the existing service provider survey, Ascendant staff also reached out to the following organizations to try to obtain estimates of the number of individuals served by goal area:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian American Center of Frederick • Family Partnership of Frederick County • Frederick Community Action Agency • Frederick County Detention Center
Inmate Services Division • Frederick County Public Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heartly House • Mental Health Association of
Frederick County • SHIP and FCPS • Way Station, Frederick County • Workforce Development Center,
Frederick County |
|--|--|

Study Limitations

This study utilized a broad range of data to gauge the need within Frederick County for each Goal Area; however, limitations in the data do exist.

Specifically, quantitative data are typically available at a lag time of one to three years from the data occurrence. As a result, one limitation in the data analyses process relates to the staleness of the data which may not depict the most recent occurrences experienced within the community.

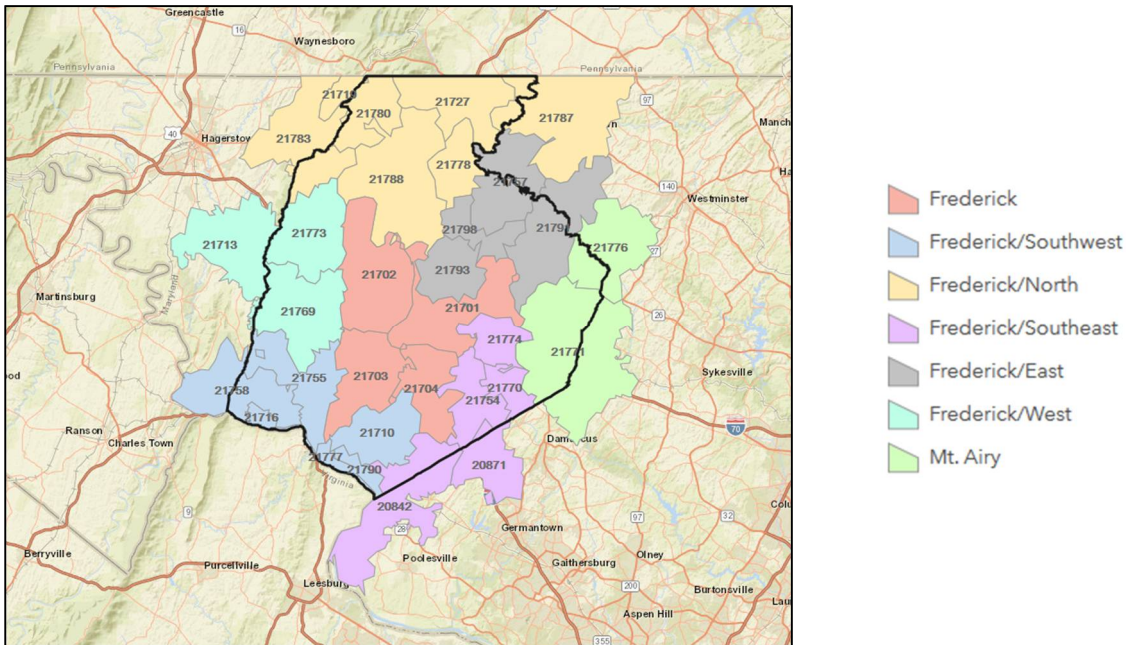
Additionally, data that precisely align with the population definitions set by the GOC were not commonly available. This was an issue prevalent within both the quantitative and qualitative data collected. While best attempts were made to refine quantitative data as closely as possible to the population definition, there are instances where the calculated estimated need are broader in scope than the population definition. Regarding quantitative data, one of the largest limitations of this study was that many organizations within the community do not track program participants by the very specific population definitions outlined by the GOC, which made efforts to quantify gaps in services for these populations very difficult.

Last, gaps in data availability for particular sub-segments of the population exist. Many of the available data do not isolate low-income persons or certain minority groups.

SUMMARY FINDINGS AND KEY PROCESS OUTCOMES

Common themes emerged as Frederick County's priority issues to address among the four Goal Areas, including housing, transportation, the need for additional service availability outside of Frederick City, and the need to mitigate the additional barriers facing non-English speakers.

Not only did the OCF and LMB want to better understand the need within each Goal Area for Frederick County, they also wanted to get a sense for how the need varied in severity among different communities within the County as well. As such, there are references to sub-markets of Frederick County throughout this document. Each sub-market was defined at the ZIP-code level and data related to each of the Goal Areas were stratified accordingly (as available*). Please refer to the map below for a definition of each of the seven sub-markets within the County.



*Given data availability, disconnected/opportunity youth estimated need figures were calculated using ZIP code tabulation areas which vary slightly from ZIP code definitions shown in the map above. In addition, the under 18 population figures used to calculate rates were also calculated using ZIP code tabulation areas. ZIP code and ZIP code tabulation areas were then adjusted to account for only the portion of each ZIP's residential population inside the county borders.

Summary findings for each Goal Area are presented below.

Outcomes for Disconnected Youth

Disconnected youth are teenagers and young adults who are between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor in school. This population is also known as "Opportunity Youth" because of the positive economic impact they can have when they are supported on pathways to self-sufficiency.

Frederick County has an estimated 2,481 teenagers and young adults who are neither working nor in school (rate of 87.0 per 1,000 total population ages 16-24). The Frederick sub-market is estimated to have

the largest number of disconnected youth (964) while the Frederick/Southwest sub-market is estimated to have the largest rate of disconnected youth (161.5 per 1,000 population).

Impact of Parental Incarceration

The population impacted by parental incarceration is defined as children and youth who have a parent under some form of correctional supervision (parole, probation, jail, or prison).

Frederick County has an estimated 4,453 children impacted by incarceration based on local, state, and federal prison populations for a rate of 76.7 impacted children per 1,000 total children under the age of 18.

Youth Homelessness

The population of interest for the youth homelessness Goal Area is defined as unaccompanied youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and who are between the ages of 14 and 25.

Two quantitative data sources were utilized to obtain data related to unaccompanied homeless youth – Frederick County Public School data and data from Youth REACH MD (Reach out, Engage, Assist, & Count to end Homelessness). These sources provided different estimates of unaccompanied homeless youth and should be viewed as supplemental (but not necessarily additional) data sources.

Data related to the number of Frederick County Public School students who were homeless and unaccompanied were utilized to obtain both county-level and sub-market data. Based on these data, Frederick County had 107 unaccompanied homeless students across all grade levels as of March 26, 2019 (161 for full SY 2018). The estimated rate of unaccompanied homeless students is 2.53 per 1,000 Frederick County Public Schools' total enrollment. The Frederick sub-market has the largest number of unaccompanied homeless youth (84) while the Frederick/North sub-market has the largest estimated rate of unaccompanied homeless youth (5.44 per 1,000).

Youth REACH MD data were utilized to obtain county-level estimates of unaccompanied homeless youth. Based on these data, Frederick County had 145 unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 25. The rate of unaccompanied homeless students is 1.82 per 1,000 total youth under the age of 25. Note, these findings are based on the first year that the Youth REACH survey was conducted in Frederick County. Based on the experience of other Maryland counties, subsequent survey years typically yield higher figures as the process is adjusted to account for the uniquenesses of a given community.

Childhood Hunger

Childhood hunger is broadly defined as food insecure children.

Frederick County has 10,977 students enrolled in free and reduced meals and an additional 3,569 food insecure children who are likely ineligible for federal nutrition assistance. In total, this yields 14,546 children with hunger-related issues. The Frederick submarket is estimated to have the highest rate of childhood hunger at 312.7 per 1,000 children under 18 years old.

RELEVANT STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

Detailed quantitative and qualitative findings for each Goal Area are discussed throughout this section.

Outcomes for Disconnected Youth

Disconnected youth are teenagers and young adults who are between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor in school. This population is also known as “Opportunity Youth” because of the positive economic impact they can have when they are supported on pathways to self-sufficiency.

Quantitative Data

Estimated county-level data were available but numerous data sources/measures were leveraged to arrive at estimated need by sub-market. As demonstrated in the table below, Frederick County is home to 2,481 teenagers and young adults who are neither working nor in school (rate of 87.0 per 1,000 total population ages 16-24). Within the County, the Frederick sub-market is estimated to have the largest number of disconnected youth (964) while the Frederick/Southwest sub-market is estimated to have the largest rate of disconnected youth (161.5 per 1,000 population).

Geography	# of Disconnected Youth	# of Total Youth	Rate per 1,000 Population
Frederick	964	14,570	66.1
Frederick/East	264	1,892	139.6
Frederick/North	340	4,117	82.7
Frederick/Southwest	351	2,171	161.5
Frederick/Southeast	236	2,646	89.1
Frederick/West	163	1,568	103.7
Mt. Airy	164	1,556	105.3
Frederick County	2,481	28,520	87.0

County Source(s): Measure of America 2012-2016 data. Not in school means that a young person has not attended any educational institution and has also not been home schooled at any time in the three months prior to the survey date. Not working means that a young person is either unemployed or not in the labor force at the time they responded to the survey. Disconnected youth are young people who are simultaneously not in school and not working. This population cannot be estimated by simply adding the number of young people not enrolled in school to the number of young people not working because many students in this age range do not work and many young workers are not in school.

Sub-market Source(s): Data by sub-market were estimated by applying the percent distribution of those ages 16-19 not enrolled in school (both high school graduates (including equivalency) and those not in high school) and either unemployed or not in the labor force by sub-market based on the American Community Survey 2013-2017 Table B14005 zip code tabulation area data to the total number of Frederick County 16-24 year olds neither working nor in school.

Notes/Caveats: Data years between sources utilized do not match. Data for Frederick County as shown above is assumed to equal the sum of all seven sub-markets.

When compared to its peer counties, Frederick County has a higher or equivalent rate of disconnected youth per 1,000 population than four of its six peer counties, as shown in the following table.

Geography	# of Disconnected Youth	# of Total Youth	Rate per 1,000 Population
Washington County	3,191	15,795	202.0
Carroll County	1,431	19,600	73.0
Montgomery County	9,475	108,912	87.0
Howard County	2,533	35,182	72.0
Harford County	2,929	28,163	104.0
Calvert County	839	10,617	79.0
Frederick County	2,481	28,520	87.0

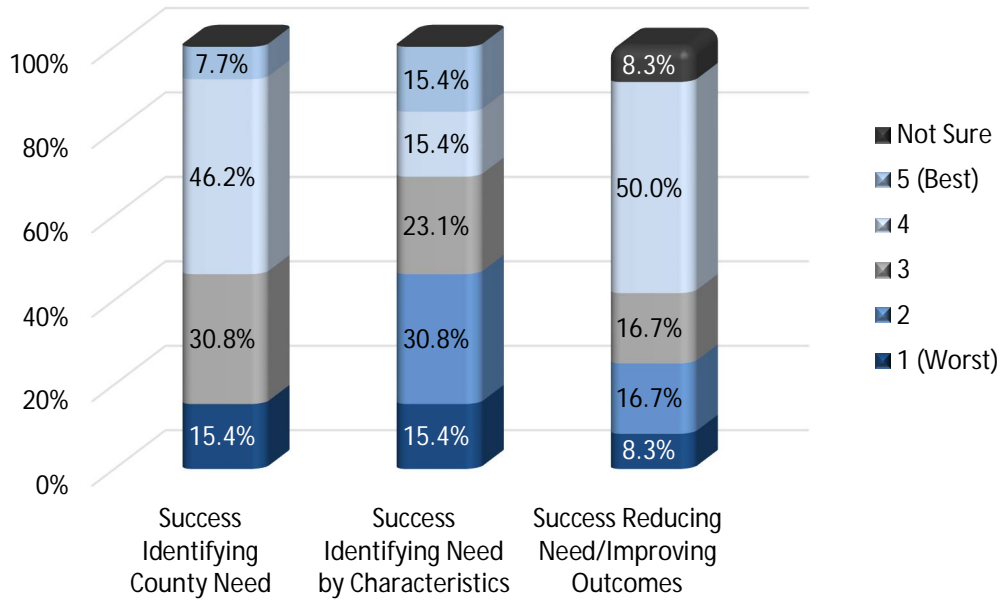
County Source(s): Measure of America 2012-2016 data. Not in school means that a young person has not attended any educational institution and has also not been home schooled at any time in the three months prior to the survey date. Not working means that a young person is either unemployed or not in the labor force at the time they responded to the survey. Disconnected youth are young people who are simultaneously not in school and not working. This population cannot be estimated by simply adding the number of young people not enrolled in school to the number of young people not working because many students in this age range do not work and many young workers are not in school.

Notes/Caveats: Data years between sources utilized do not match. Data for Frederick County as shown above is assumed to equal the sum of all seven sub-markets.

Qualitative Data

The Maryland LMB Director's survey asked questions specific to each LMB's success identifying the level of need within their respective county, the success isolating that need by various characteristics such as geography, demographics, and socioeconomic levels, and the success reducing the need/improving the outcome for the Goal Area.

Respondents were asked to score how successful they feel their LMB has been in each of these areas on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best). Summary findings for each of these three questions relative to the disconnected youth Goal Area can be found on the following page.



Average Score	3.3	2.8	3.2
# Respondents	13	13	12

Note: Response counts may vary by question and Strategic Goal Area. Responses attributed to “Not Sure” were not included in the average score calculations shown above but are included in the counts of # Respondents.

Based on surveys completed by and conversations with providers serving the disconnected youth population, there seems to be a significant need within the County that is currently not being served. The following organizations noted that they serve a total of 193 disconnected youth that meet the specified population definition:

- Asian American Center of Frederick
- Family Partnership of Frederick County
- Frederick County Department of Social Services
- Mental Health Association of Frederick County
- YMCA of Frederick County

Given that the total Frederick County need population is estimated to be 2,481 youth, this means that approximately 92 percent of that need is currently unserved. Note, while these data can be used directionally, they are imperfect estimates since many organizations do not specially track those served by all of the population criteria as defined by the GOC. As such, the estimated number of those served by existing programs may not be complete or fully accurate.

When asked for specific gaps/needs that exist within the disconnected youth population, respondents frequently mentioned transportation, housing, trauma therapy, and mental health/substance use services. In addition, better community awareness of existing services, particularly targeted towards non-

English speaking families, is an area for improvement. Increased focus on health disparities among the population as well as more job training opportunities for immigrant youth are additional areas that could be improved.

Various promising existing programs and services were also noted by LMB Directors and community providers. Common themes among successful offerings noted included:

- case management programs;
- mentoring programs;
- employee and employer trainings;
- life skills trainings;
- mental, emotional, and substance use disorder treatment and support; and,
- socioeconomic support related to transportation costs.

It was frequently mentioned that in order to be successful, programs must focus on building mentor/mentee relationships, provide consistency, and begin early in life to provide comprehensive service from birth to adulthood.

Impact of Parental Incarceration

The population impacted by parental incarceration is defined as children and youth who have a parent under some form of correctional supervision (parole, probation, jail, or prison).

Quantitative Data

Based on interviews conducted, the best local data available were based on a monthly report generated by the Frederick County Adult Detention Center via information provided by inmates during the intake process. Survey results from other LMB directors from across the state affirmed the use of detention center data as a primary data source. Additional data sources related to inmates housed in state and federal prisons were also leveraged.

Based on data availability/limitations, county-level data were estimated; however, adequate data to estimate sub-market level information were not available. As demonstrated in the table below, Frederick County has an estimated 4,453 children impacted by incarceration based on local, state, and federal prison populations for a rate of 76.7 impacted children per 1,000 total children under the age of 18.

Due to the lack of data availability for parental incarceration at local facilities within the peer counties, the estimated number of Frederick County children impacted by incarceration at state and federal facilities has only been provided to allow for a comparative analysis to its peer counties. When compared to its peer counties, Frederick County has a lower rate of children impacted by parental incarceration in state and federal facilities than all but one peer county (Howard County).

Geography	# of children impacted by incarceration at local facilities	# of children impacted by incarceration at state facilities	# of children impacted by incarceration at federal facilities	Total Estimate of Children Impacted by Incarceration	Total Rate per 1,000 Under 18 Population
Washington County	Not Available	4,168	128	4,296	128.8
Carroll County	Not Available	3,703	65	3,768	101.0
Montgomery County	Not Available	13,414	304	13,718	56.4
Howard County	Not Available	3,342	84	3,427	44.9
Harford County	Not Available	7,168	175	7,343	129.0
Calvert County	Not Available	2,234	60	2,293	105.3
Frederick County	1,459	2,882	112	4,453	76.7
Frederick County excluding incarceration at local facilities				2,994	51.6

County Source(s): Local Facilities: Frederick County Adult Detention Center Intake Statistics Report from 9/1/2017 through 9/30/2018. The report provides the number of dependents reported by each inmate (both Frederick and non-Frederick County residents) which was used to calculate the total number of children impacted by inmates at this detention center. That percent distribution of number of children was then applied to only the Frederick County residents as shown in the report to estimate the number of children of Frederick County resident inmates only. Data for non-Frederick County facilities were not available.

State Facilities: Data as provided by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for Frederick County as of April 2019. Estimates of children impacted were calculated by summing the number of currently incarcerated individuals in Maryland State prison and the number of individuals under parole and probation criminal supervision (excluding those in the Drinking Driver Monitoring Program) by gender and county and then multiplying the corresponding sums by the 2007 Bureau of Justice Statistics gender-specific state average of those in state facilities who were parents and the gender-specific average number of children for inmates.

Federal Facilities: Prison Policy, Maryland correctional control pie chart 2016. The number of both federal and state prisoners were pulled for Maryland overall. The percent of total Maryland state prisoners attributable to each County per the Governor's source was then applied to the Maryland overall number of federal prisoners to estimate the number of federal prisoners attributable to each County. The number of impacted children was then estimated by multiplying the number of estimated federal inmates by the 2007 Bureau of Justice Statistics gender-specific state average of those in state facilities who were parents and the gender-specific average number of children for inmates.

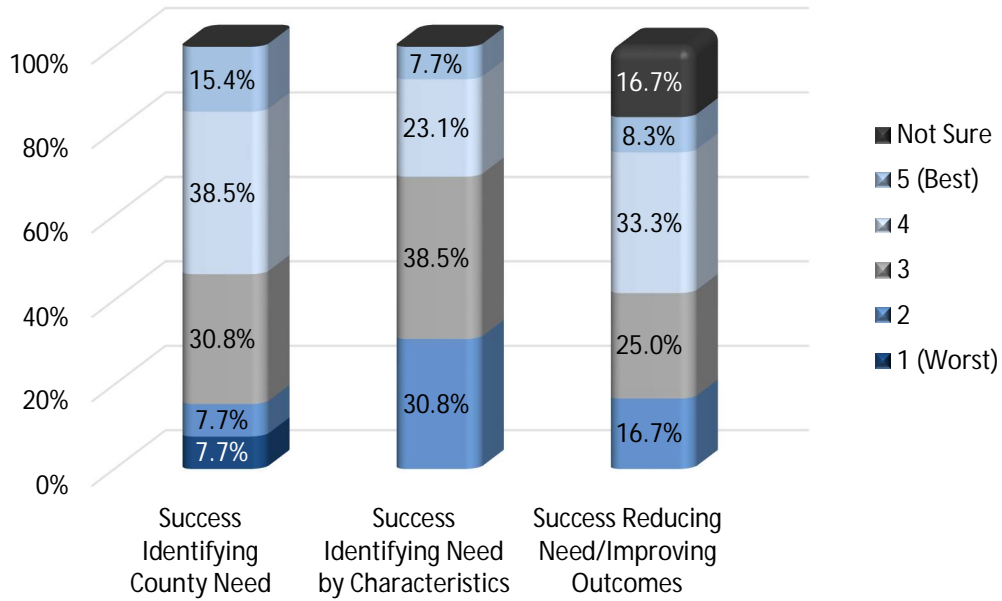
Sub-market Source(s): Not available.

Notes/Caveats: Data years between sources utilized do not match.

Qualitative Data

The Maryland LMB Director's survey asked questions specific to each LMB's success identifying the scale of need within their respective county, the success isolating that need by various characteristics such as geography, demographics, and socioeconomic levels, and the success reducing the need/improving the outcome for the Goal Area.

Respondents were asked to score how successful they feel their LMB has been in each of these areas on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best). Summary findings for each of these three questions relative to the impact of parental incarceration Goal Area can be found below.



Average Score	3.5	3.1	3.4
# Respondents	13	13	12

Note: Response counts may vary by question and Strategic Goal Area. Responses attributed to “Not Sure” were not included in the average score calculations shown above but are included in the counts of # Respondents.

Based on surveys completed by and conversations with providers serving the population impacted by parental incarceration, there seems to be a significant need within the County that is currently not being served. The following organizations noted that they serve a total of 303 children and youth who meet the specified population definition:

- Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership
- Mental Health Association of Frederick County

Given that the total Frederick County need population is estimated to be 4,453 children and youth, this means that approximately 93 percent of that need is currently unserved. Note, while these data can be used directionally, they are imperfect estimates since many organizations do not specially track those served by all of the population criteria as defined by the GOC. As such, the estimated number of those served by existing programs may not be complete or fully accurate.

When asked for specific gaps/needs that exist within the population of those impacted by parental incarceration, respondents frequently mentioned transportation, housing, employment and education opportunities, financial support, and resources for caregivers. In addition, there is opportunity for growth in collaborative efforts between community agencies.

Various promising existing programs and services were also noted by LMB Directors and community providers. Common themes among successful offerings noted included:

- in-jail programs encompassing both parenting classes for those incarcerated and face-to-face visits with their minor children;
- support and companionship groups for children and caregivers impacted;
- services focused on the re-entry of incarcerated individual into society;
- mentoring programs; and,
- case management services.

It was also mentioned that benefits have been seen when organizations hire individuals who are either well-known members of the community or have local family ties as it helps to inspire families to seek out services and become more engaged.

Youth Homelessness

The population of interest for the youth homelessness Goal Area is defined as unaccompanied youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and who are between the ages of 14 and 25.

Quantitative Data

Two quantitative data sources were utilized to obtain data related to unaccompanied homeless youth – Frederick County Public School data and data from Youth REACH MD (Reach out, Engage, Assist, & Count to end Homelessness). These sources provided different estimates of unaccompanied homeless youth and should be viewed as supplemental (but not necessarily additional) data sources.

Data related to the number of Frederick County Public School students who were homeless and unaccompanied were utilized to obtain both county-level and sub-market data. Based on these data, Frederick County had 107 unaccompanied homeless students across all grade levels as of March 26, 2019 (161 for full SY 2018). The rate of unaccompanied homeless students is 2.53 per 1,000 Frederick County Public Schools' total enrollment. The Frederick sub-market has the largest number of unaccompanied homeless youth (84) while the Frederick/North sub-market has the largest rate of unaccompanied homeless youth (5.44 per 1,000).

Geography	# of Unaccompanied Homeless Public-School Students	# of Total Public-School Students	Rate per 1,000 Population
Frederick	84	20,028	4.19
Frederick/East	0*	3,528	0.00*
Frederick/North	13	2,389	5.44
Frederick/Southwest	6	3,150	1.90
Frederick/Southeast	4	8,897	0.45
Frederick/West	0*	3,407	0.00*
Mt. Airy	0*	891	0.00*
Frederick County	107	42,291	2.53

County Source(s): Frederick County Public School data as of March 26, 2019. School year 2017-2018 total public-school enrollment data were used to calculate the percentage of total enrolled public-school students who were unaccompanied homeless.

Sub-market Source(s): Frederick County Public School data as of March 26, 2019. School year 2017-2018 total public-school enrollment data were used to calculate the percentage of total enrolled public-school students who were unaccompanied homeless.

Notes/Caveats: Data are not restricted to the population ages 14 to 25 but rather include all public-school students across all grade levels. Data only include public school students. Data by sub-market were estimated based on the ZIP code of the school rather than the ZIP code of student residence due to data limitations. Due to data limitations, peer county comparisons were not available.

*It is likely that these students have just not yet been identified since counts of unaccompanied homeless youth start over every year.

Youth REACH MD data were also utilized to obtain county-level estimates of unaccompanied homeless youth within Frederick and its peer counties. Based on these data, Frederick County had 145 unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 25. The rate of unaccompanied homeless students is 1.82 per 1,000 total youth under the age of 25. Data were available of four of Frederick County's six peer counties. Frederick County had a higher rate of unaccompanied homeless youth per 1,000 population under the age of 25 than all four peer geographies for which data were available.

Geography	# of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Surveyed + HMIS*)	# of Under 25 Population	Rate per 1,000 Population
Washington County	54	45,251	1.19
Carroll County	42	51,828	0.81
Montgomery County	317	325,440	0.97
Howard County	85	102,178	0.83
Harford County	Not Available	77,819	Not Available
Calvert County	Not Available	29,628	Not Available

Frederick County	145	79,576	1.82
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County Source(s): Maryland Youth Count 2018: A Report on the Findings from Youth REACH MD's Third Survey of Unaccompanied Youth & Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness; May 2019; Table 8.

Sub-market Source(s): Not available.

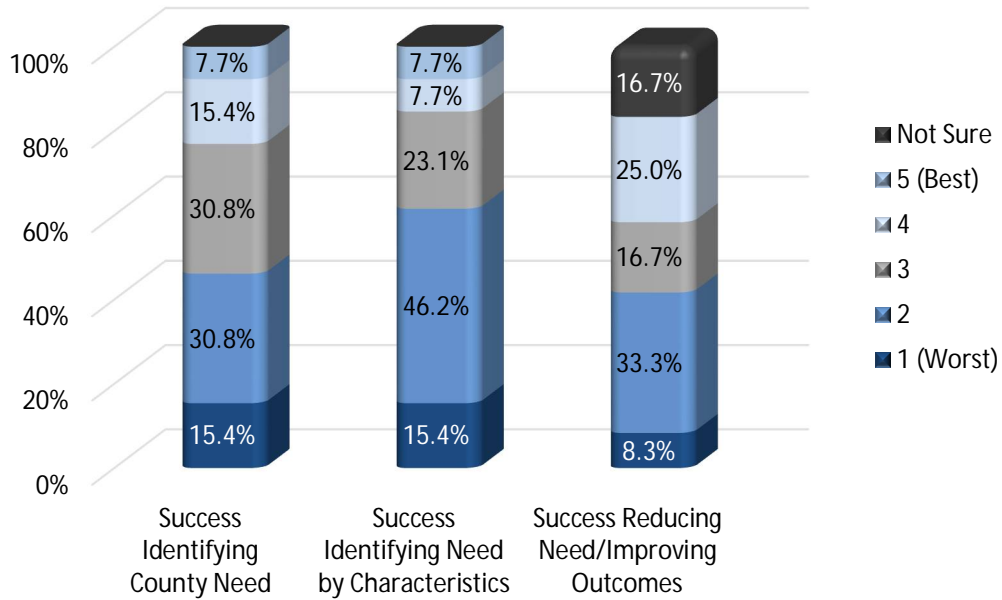
Notes/Caveats: The Youth REACH MD doesn't match the definition noted on the Governor's website. The Youth REACH MD definition of youth homelessness defines unaccompanied homeless youth as youth who either chose to leave their parent or guardian, their parent or guardian asked them to leave, and/or their parent or guardian was unable to care for them because of death, illness, incarceration, or immigration-related issues. The Youth REACH count on its own is not a census of youth who are unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness. The survey results should be understood a representative sample that yields the best understanding to date of the characteristics and nature of youth homelessness in Maryland. These survey results, in conjunction with administrative HMIS data, provide information on the scope of youth homelessness in Maryland; however, these results are still likely an undercount because of the difficulty of connecting with youth experiencing homelessness and the current lack of services designed for youth experiencing homelessness across Maryland.

*A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness that each CoC is responsible for implementing and utilizing to manage care and report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Qualitative Data

The Maryland LMB Director’s survey asked questions specific to each LMB’s success identifying the scale of need within their respective county, the success isolating that need by various characteristics such as geography, demographics, and socioeconomic levels, and the success reducing the need/improving the outcome for the Goal Area.

Respondents were asked to score how successful they feel their LMB has been in each of these areas on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best). Summary findings for each of these three questions relative to the unaccompanied youth homelessness Goal Area can be found on the following page.



Average Score	2.7	2.5	2.7
# Respondents	13	13	12

Note: Response counts may vary by question and Strategic Goal Area. Responses attributed to “Not Sure” were not included in the average score calculations shown above but are included in the counts of # Respondents.

Based on surveys completed by and conversations with providers serving the unaccompanied youth population, there seems to be a need within the County that is currently not being served. The State Health Improvement Process and Frederick County Public School organizations noted that they serve a total of 52 children and youth who meet the specified population definition.

Since there were two quantitative data sources from which the Frederick County unaccompanied youth homelessness need was estimated, the average of those sources was relied upon to calculate the unmet need. The average Frederick County need population is estimated to be 126 unaccompanied homeless youth. As such, approximately 59 percent of that need is currently unserved. Note, while these data can

be used directionally, they are imperfect estimates since many organizations do not specially track those served by all of the population criteria as defined by the GOC. As such, the estimated number of those served by existing programs may not be complete or fully accurate.

When asked for specific gaps/needs that exist within the population of unaccompanied homeless youth, respondents frequently mentioned the need for services in areas located outside of Frederick City, sheltering/housing, and additional partnerships and collaborations with schools and other community resources.

Various promising existing programs and services were also noted by LMB Directors and community providers. Common themes among successful offerings noted included street outreach initiatives, partnerships with local shelters and food pantries, and support services to help with educational attainment and breaking the cycle of poverty. However, some directors indicated that they do not currently have any direct programs related to this area.

Childhood Hunger

Childhood hunger is broadly defined as food insecure children.

Quantitative Data

Frederick County has 10,977 students enrolled in free and reduced meals and an additional 3,569 food insecure children who were likely ineligible for federal nutrition assistance. In total, this yields 14,546 children with hunger-related issues. The Frederick submarket has the highest rate of childhood hunger at 312.7 per 1,000 children under 18 years old.

Geography	# of Students Enrolled in Free and Reduced Meals	# of Food Insecure Children Likely Ineligible for Federal Nutrition Assistance	Total Estimate of Childhood Hunger	Total Rate per 1,000 Under 18 Population
Frederick	7,365	2,394	9,759	312.7
Frederick/East	902	293	1,195	310.3
Frederick/North	748	243	991	215.8
Frederick/Southwest	820	266	1,086	225.1
Frederick/Southeast	641	208	849	126.5
Frederick/West	375	122	497	127.3
Mt. Airy	127	41	168	56.3
Frederick County	10,977	3,569	14,546	250.4

County Source(s): Maryland School Data School Year 2017-2018 by county enrollment data (Includes public, NPPS (non-public school services), and RCCI (residential childcare institutions) students at all sites where children have access to a meal). Feeding America 2016 data for food insecure children living in households with incomes above 185% of the federal poverty guideline.

Sub-market Source(s): Frederick County School Data School Year 2017-2018 enrollment data (Includes public, NPPS (non-public school services), and RCCI (residential childcare institutions) students at all sites where children have access to a meal). To estimate food insecure children likely ineligible, the Frederick County School Data percent distribution of FARMs enrollment was applied to the county-level number of food insecure likely ineligible to estimate by sub-market.

Notes/Caveats: Data by sub-market were estimated based on the ZIP code of the school rather than the ZIP code of student residence due to data limitations. Data years between sources utilized do not match. The 3,569 food insecure children likely ineligible for federal nutrition assistance comprises 24.6% of the total estimate of childhood hunger as shown above. This coincides with the Frederick County ALICE report which estimates that 24% of family households with children are ALICE households.

When compared to its peer counties, Frederick County has a higher rate of children experiencing hunger per 1,000 population than three of its six peer counties.

Geography	# of Students Enrolled in Free and Reduced Meals	# of Food Insecure Children Likely Ineligible for Federal Nutrition Assistance	Total Estimate of Childhood Hunger	Total Rate per 1,000 Under 18 Population
Washington County	10,037	1,875	11,912	357.2
Carroll County	4,718	2,952	7,670	205.6
Montgomery County	55,517	11,611	67,128	276.1
Howard County	12,282	5,228	17,509	229.6
Harford County	11,542	3,859	15,401	270.6
Calvert County	3,158	1,459	4,616	211.9
Frederick County	10,977	3,569	14,546	250.4

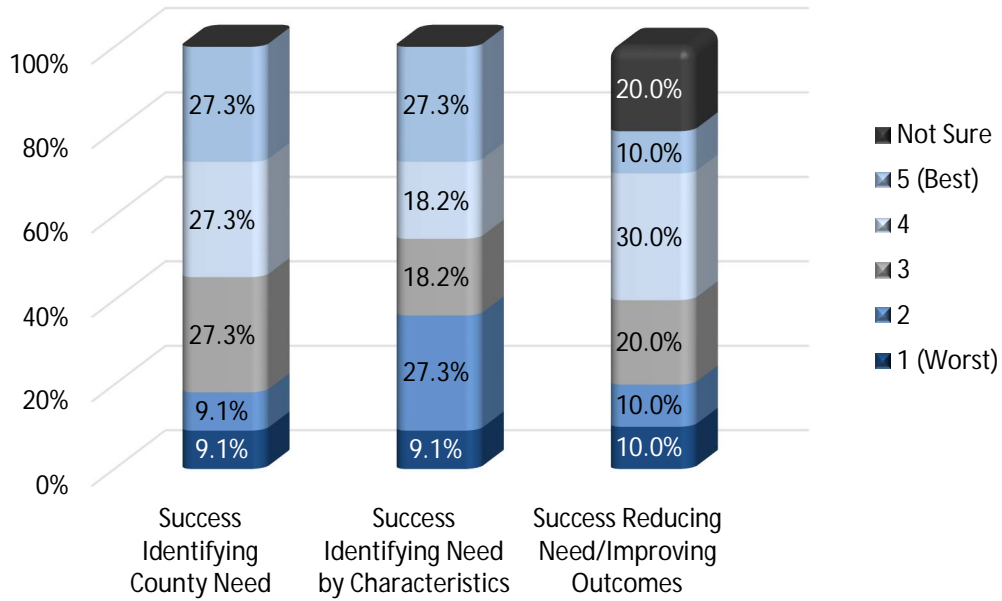
County Source(s): Maryland School Data School Year 2017-2018 by county enrollment data (Includes public, NPPS (non-public school services), and RCCI (residential childcare institutions) students at all sites where children have access to a meal). Feeding America 2016 data for food insecure children living in households with incomes above 185% of the federal poverty guideline.

Notes/Caveats: Data by sub-market were estimated based on the ZIP code of the school rather than the ZIP code of student residence due to data limitations. Data years between sources utilized do not match. The 3,569 food insecure children likely ineligible for federal nutrition assistance comprises 24.6% of the total estimate of childhood hunger as shown above. This coincides with the Frederick County ALICE report which estimates that 24% of family households with children are ALICE households.

Qualitative Data

The Maryland LMB Director’s survey asked questions specific to each LMB’s success identifying the scale of need within their respective county, the success isolating that need by various characteristics such as geography, demographics, and socioeconomic levels, and the success reducing the need/improving the outcome for the Goal Area.

Respondents were asked to score how successful they feel their LMB has been in each of these areas on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best). Summary findings for each of these three questions relative to the childhood hunger Goal Area can be found on the following page.



Average Score	3.5	3.3	3.3
# Respondents	11	11	10

Note: Response counts may vary by question and Strategic Goal Area. Responses attributed to “Not Sure” were not included in the average score calculations shown above but are included in the counts of # Respondents.

Based on surveys completed by and conversations with providers serving food insecure children, there seems to be a need within the County that is currently not being served. The following organizations noted that they serve a total of 3,937 children and youth who meet the specified population definition:

- Asian American Center of Frederick
- Blessings in a Backpack, Frederick
- Frederick County Judy Center
- Middletown Valley Food Bank
- United Way of Frederick County

Given that the total Frederick County need population is estimated to be 14,546 children experiencing hunger, this means that approximately 73 percent of that need is currently unserved. Although 10,977 students are also enrolled in the free and reduced meal program, that count has been excluded from the total being served given that food insecurity for those students is still a real concern outside of school hours. Note, while these data can be used directionally, they are imperfect estimates since many organizations do not specially track those served by all of the population criteria as defined by the GOC. As such, the estimated number of those served by existing programs may not be complete or fully accurate.

When asked for specific gaps/needs that exist within the population of unaccompanied homeless youth, respondents frequently mentioned transportation, the provision of meals during summer months, access to fresh food and produce, and a focus on promoting and ensuring accessible resources to those who are limited English-speaking. Additionally, the availability of high-quality, healthy foods and nutrition educational programs are areas for improvement in the community. Often children who are not in the public-school system, those in families whose income does not allow to qualify for existing services, children in pre-kindergarten programs, and those who are living in communities outside of Frederick City experience additional barriers to receiving aid.

Various promising existing programs and services were also noted by LMB Directors and community providers. Commonly mentioned successful offerings included:

- after-school programs to school-aged children;
- providing meals and snacks to children and youth throughout the summer;
- nutritional education programs; and,
- programs focused more broadly on social determinants of health.

It should also be noted that some directors indicated that they do not currently have any direct programs related to this area.

NEXT STEPS

Moving forward, the OCF intends to keep the provided Excel document that houses the data Ascendient leveraged to arrive at the quantitative conclusions presented throughout this report up to date. Quarterly check-ins for more recent data are recommended. It is also recommended that continual reevaluations of existing successful programs occur. Lastly, efforts to encourage community organizations to implement processes to better track those served within each of the four Goal Area definitions will benefit the future identification of gaps in services.