



HEALTHY SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

2026 Community Health Assessment Data Visualizations

Prepared by the Sheboygan County
Division of Public Health

Community Profile

Cities:
Plymouth
Sheboygan
Sheboygan Falls

Villages
Adell
Cascade
Cedar Grove
Elkhart Lake
Glenbeulah
Howards Grove
Kohler
Oostburg
Random Lake
Waldo

Towns:
Greenbush
Herman
Holland
Lima
Lyndon
Mitchell
Mosell
Plymouth
Rhine
Russell
Scott
Sheboygan
Sheboygan Falls
Sherman
Wilson

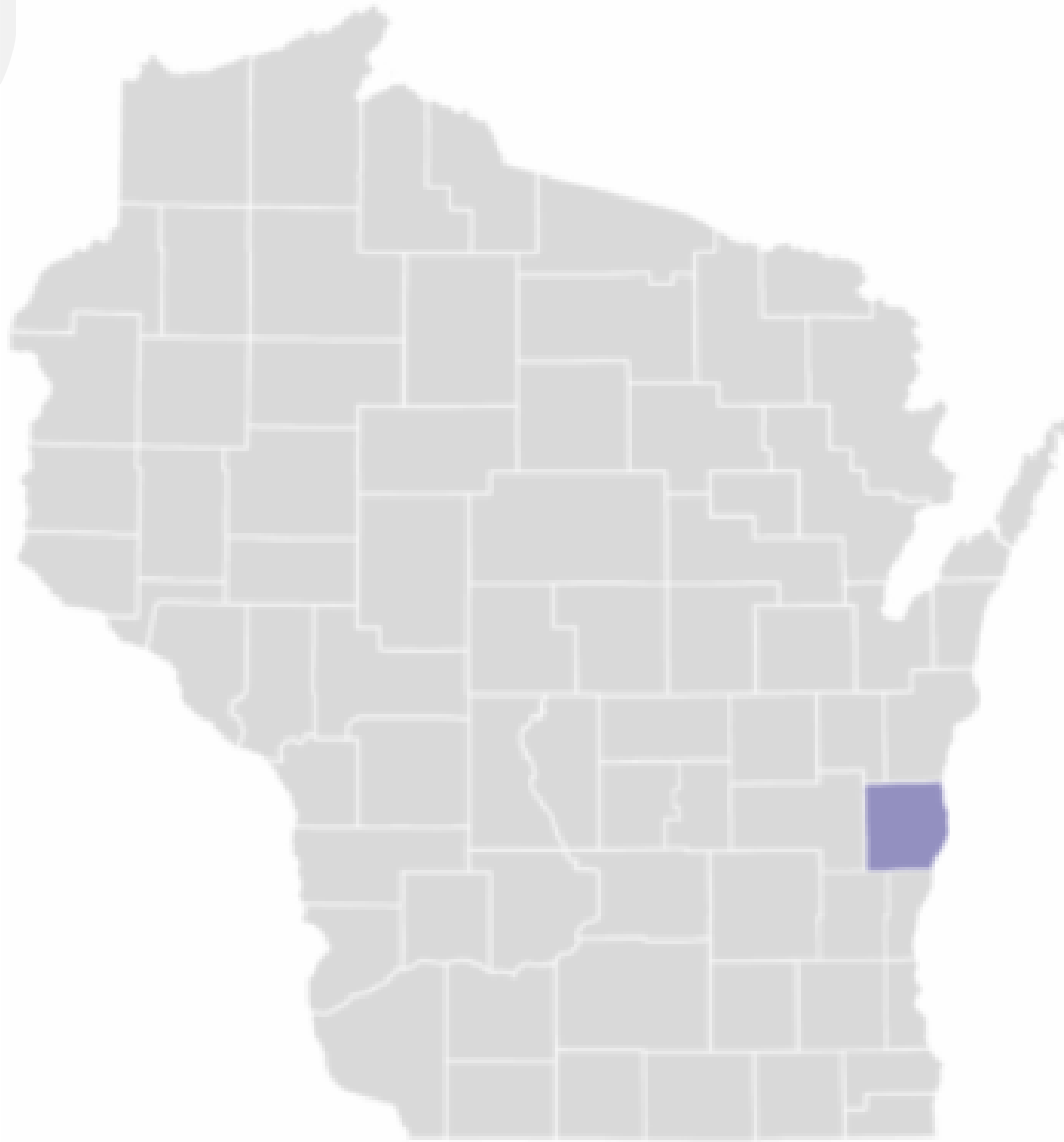
- Race** ^[1]
- White – 81.5%
 - Black or African American – 2.3%
 - American Indian and Alaska Native – 0.5%
 - Asian – 5.6%
 - Some Other Race – 1.1%
 - Hispanic or Latino (of any race) – 8.2%

*It is possible to identify with one or more groups within established concepts of race and ethnicity, or to identify as outside of pre-established racial or ethnic groups

Median Age ^[2]
42 years

Median Household Income ^[2]
\$71,992

Total population:
118,331 ^[2]



The data below tells us about who took our community input survey. Our goal was to get 1,200 survey responses, about 1% of the total population of the county.

Median Household Income ^[3]
\$50,000 to \$74,999

Median Age ^[3]
51.0 years

- Race** ^[3]
- White – 75.4%
 - Black or African American – 4.6%
 - American Indian and Alaska Native – 1.4%
 - Asian – 5.8%
 - Some Other Race – 0.7%
 - Hispanic or Latino (alone) – 6.3%

*It is possible to identify with one or more groups within established concepts of race and ethnicity, or to identify as outside of pre-established racial or ethnic groups

Total survey responses:
1,541

[1] United States Census Bureau
[2] Census Reporter

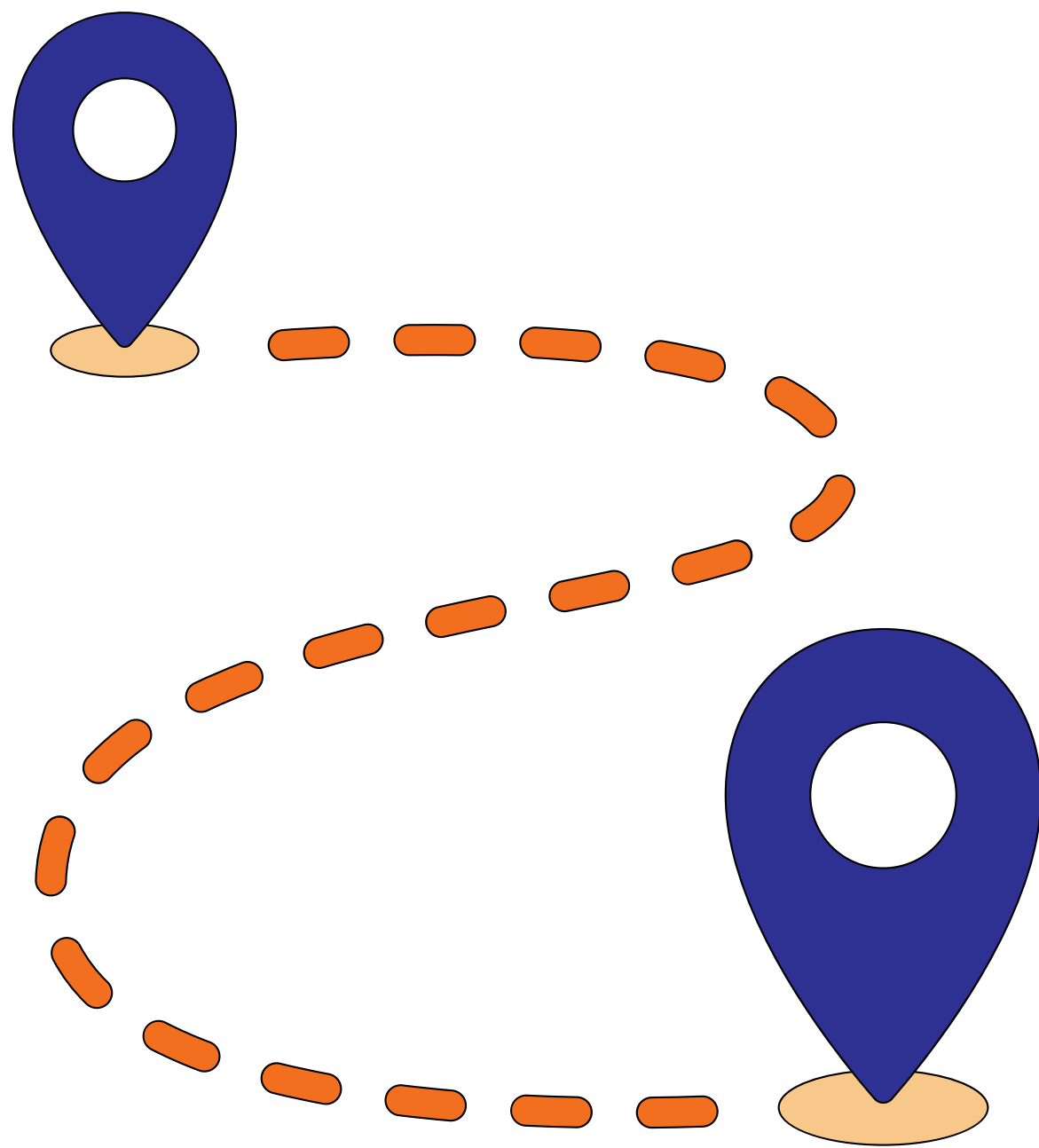
[3] Sheboygan County 2026 Community Health Needs Assessment Community Input Survey Report

Access and Navigation

What do you think are the three most important community needs that have to be addressed to improve health for everyone in the community? ^[1]

The top 6 responses were all access related

- 46% Access to affordable housing
- 45% Access to affordable healthcare
- 41% Access to affordable mental health services
- 25% Access to affordable child care
- 19% Access to affordable, nutritious foods
- 17% Access to social services for people who are struggling



Access to Affordable Housing

- 25% of survey respondents reported having issue(s) with their current housing situation ^[1]
 - 23% are in need of permanent housing
 - 17% are unable to locate affordable housing
- 16 of 34 Key Informants identified safe and affordable housing as a top 2 social determinant of health ^[2]

Access to Affordable Mental Health Services

- 19% of survey respondents did not get the mental health care they needed in the past 12 months ^[1]
 - 48% indentified cost/finances
 - 34% said the wait was too long
- 30 out of 34 Key Informants identified mental health as a top 2 health condition in Sheboygan County ^[2]



Access to Affordable and Quality Health Care

- 23% of survey respondents did not get the ^[1] medical care they needed in the past 12 months
 - 63% identified cost/finances
 - 22% said they had no insurance
 - 21% said the wait was too long
- 10 out of 34 Key Informants identified this as a top 2 social determinant of health ^[2]



Access and Navigation barriers were regularly mentioned in all 7 focus groups during conversations about housing, mental health, substance use, and activity & nutrition ^[3]

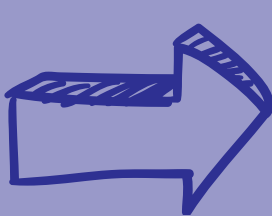
[1] Sheboygan County 2026 Community Health Needs Assessment Community Input Survey Report
[2] Sheboygan County 2026 Health Needs Assessment Key Stakeholder Summary Report
[3] Sheboygan County 2026 Community Focus Group Report

Access to Affordable, High-Quality Child Care

2026 Community Input Survey

41% of survey respondents said child care resources are **not affordable**

25% of survey respondents said child care resources are **not available**



Compared to **45%** of survey respondents in 2023

Compared to **36%** of survey respondents in 2023

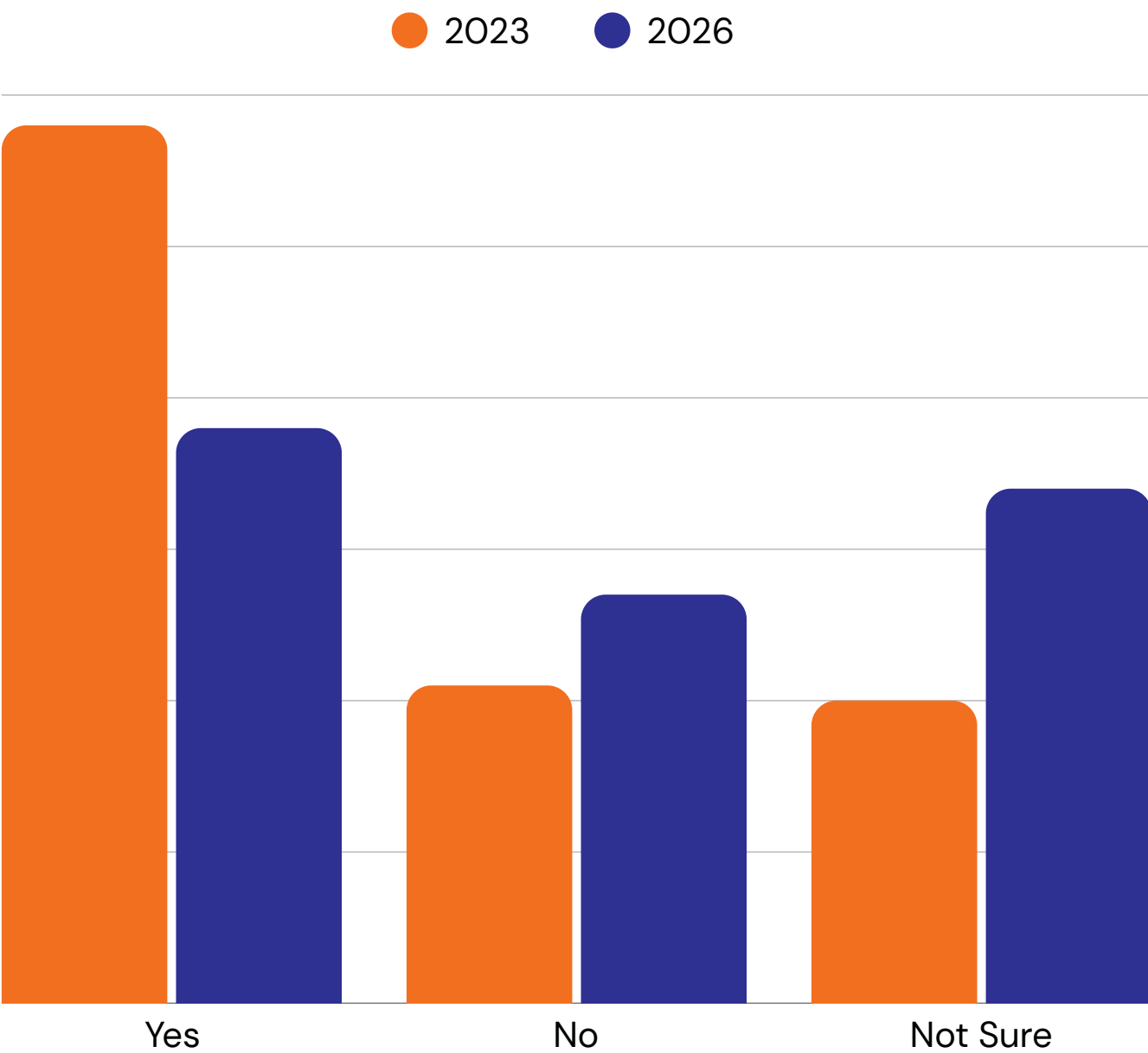
Among respondents who are not currently working (10% of those surveyed) **4%** cited the high cost of child care as the reason

25%

of survey respondents identified access to affordable child care as a top 3 community need



There are Plenty of Well-Paying Jobs Available



Secondary Data

Number of Child Care Centers per 1,000 Population Under 5 years old ^[1]

Sheboygan County - **6**

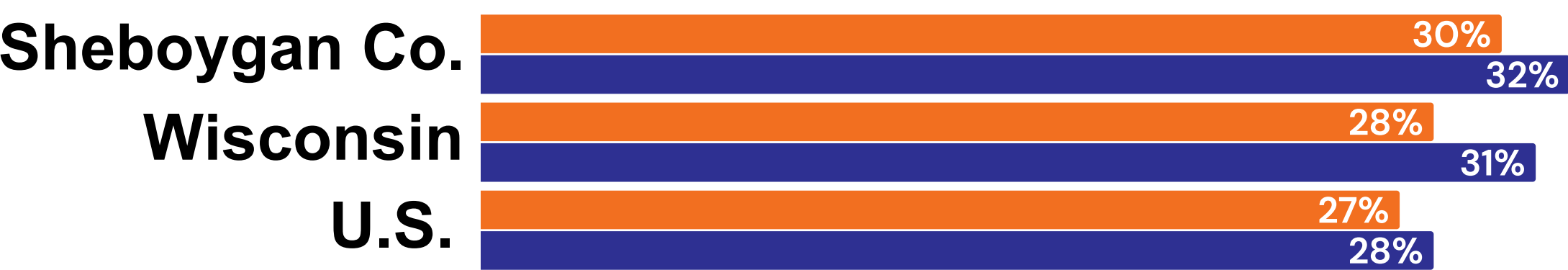
Wisconsin - **6**

United States - **7**

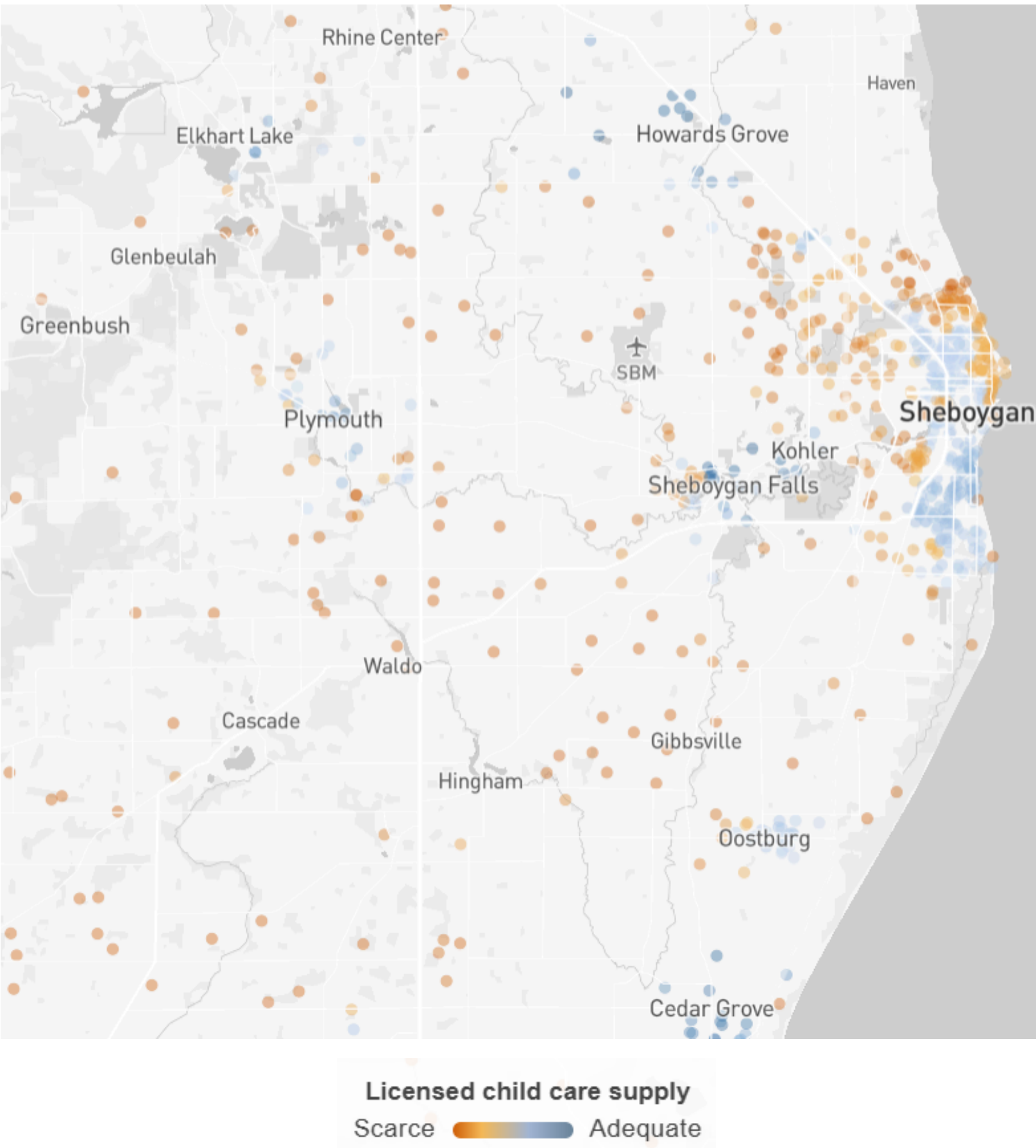
Child Care Cost Burden ^[1]

Child care costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income

● 2023 ● 2025



Sheboygan County Child Care Deserts ^[2]



[1] County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

[2] ChildCareDeserts.org

Access to Affordable, High-Quality Child Care

Focus Group

Themes:

- **System Navigation** - Every participant stated that the child care system is complex and difficult to navigate
- **Access** - Many participants noted one of the barriers to accessing child care is the incredibly long waitlists
- **Training** - Participants noted that proper training and education for child care providers was very important to them

Recommendations:

- Increase parent/caregiver awareness of existing supports to help them navigate the child care system
- Provide support and incentives for child care centers to adopt non-traditional operating hours
- Expand initiatives to support ongoing training for providers

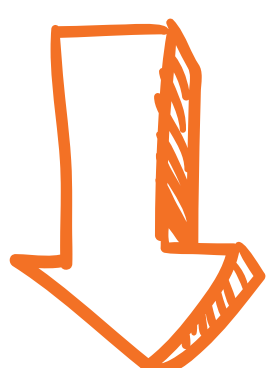
Conclusions:

Participants experience child care as a structural necessity, but it's often still treated as a niche issue, and child care workers are often seen as caretakers rather than educators.

“It's a luxury to have anything [other] than logistical considerations like location, availability”

3

out of 34 key informants interviewed indicated child care as a **top 2 social determinant of health**

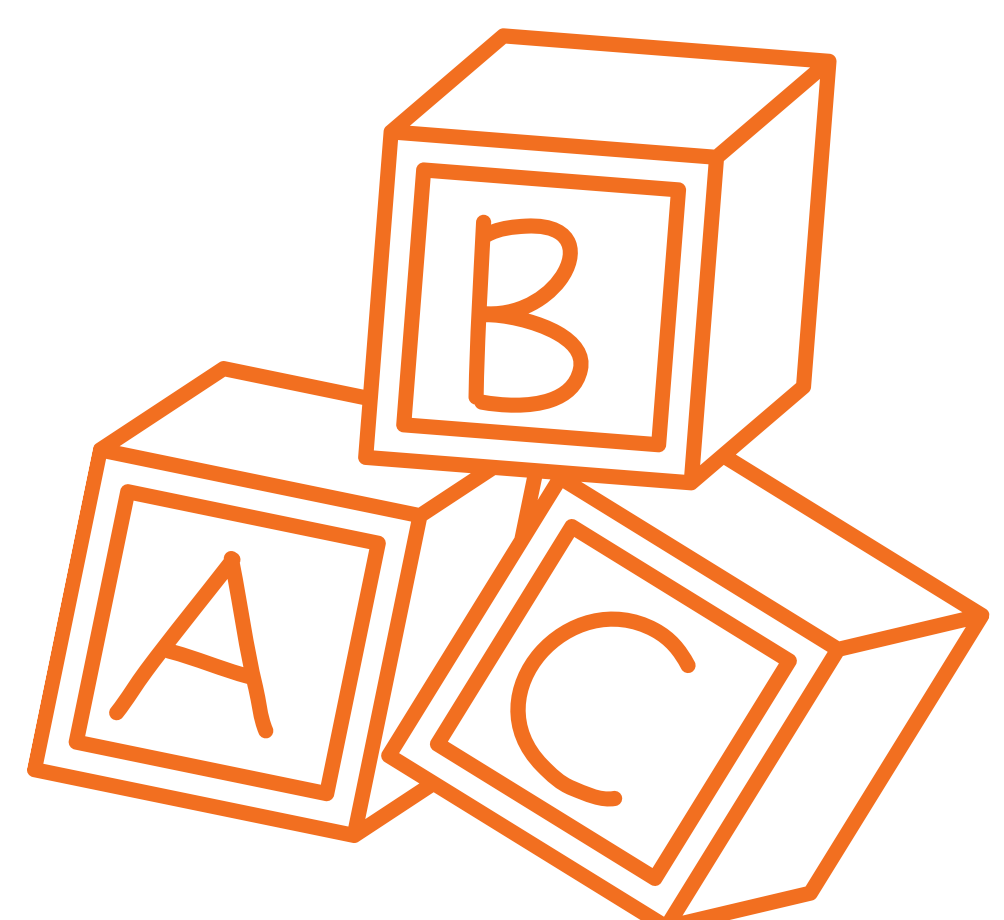


2

out of those 3 indicated child care as the **top social determinant of health**

Child Care Barriers Identified in Key Informant Interviews

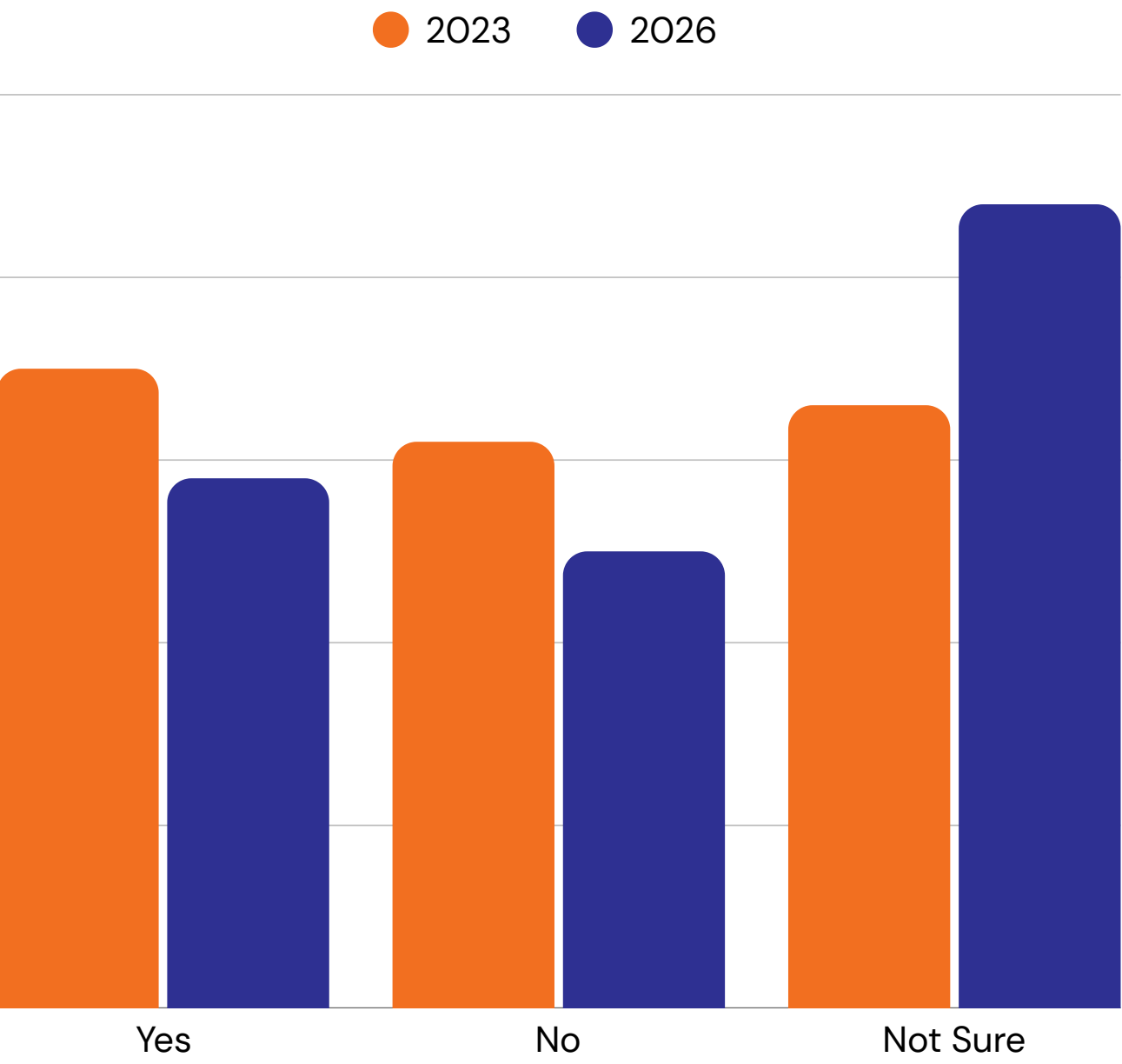
- Financial instability
- Few open child care slots
- Poor pay for child care workers
- High operating costs for providers
- High workforce turnover
- Financial support programs ending



Access to Affordable Housing

2026 Community Input Survey

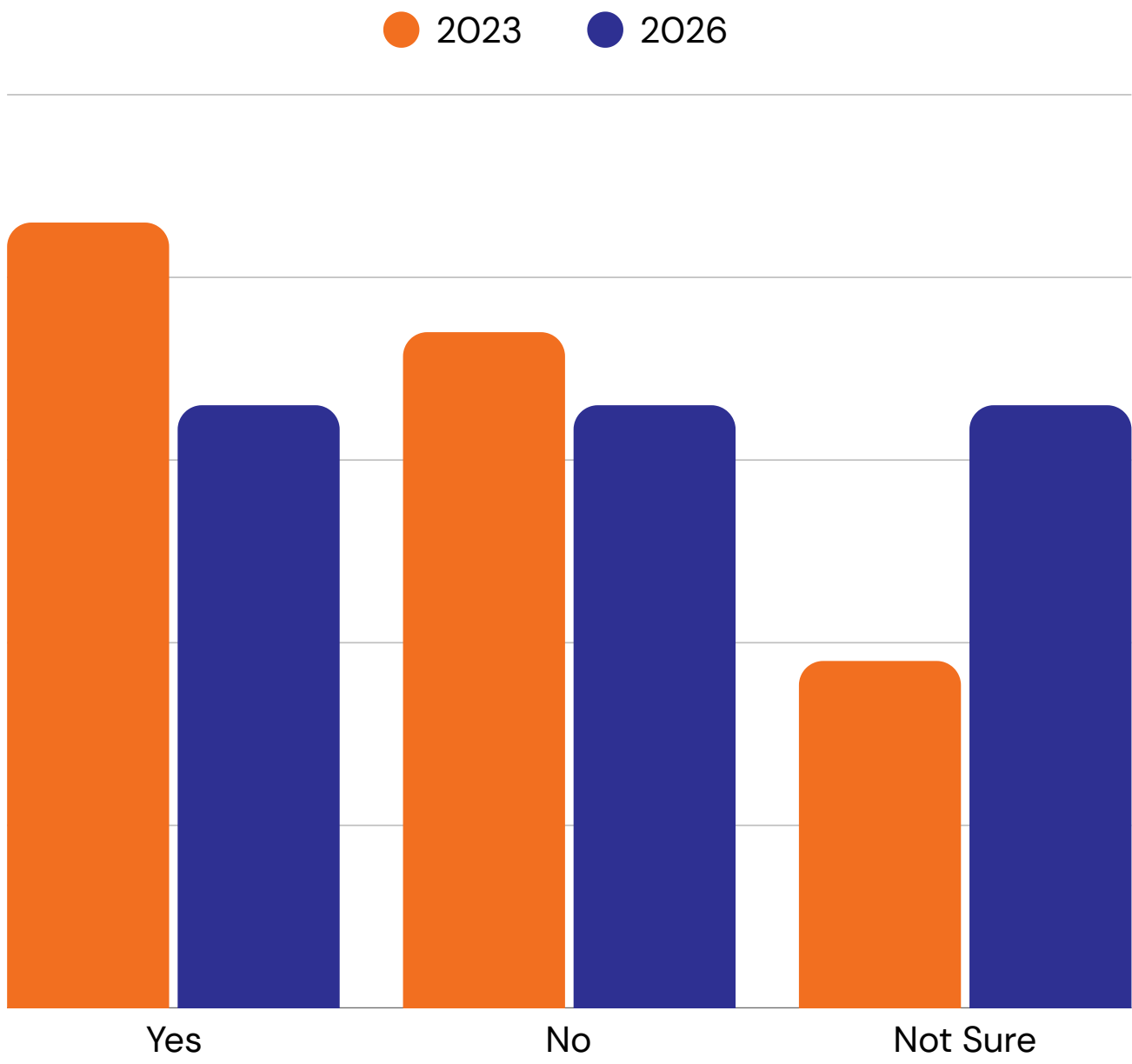
Rental Properties in my Community are Well Maintained



Of **385** Survey Respondents Reporting Housing Issues:

- 34%** Indicated the cost of rent
- 28%** Indicated utilities are too expensive and/or do not work reliably
- 23%** Indicated they need permanent housing

There are Affordable Places to Live in my Community



46%
of survey respondents identified access to affordable housing as a top 3 community need

13%
of survey respondents do not have a steady place to live or are worried about losing their housing

Secondary Data

Percentage of Households that Spend 50% or More of their Household Income on Housing ^[1]



Average House Price in ^[2] Sheboygan County

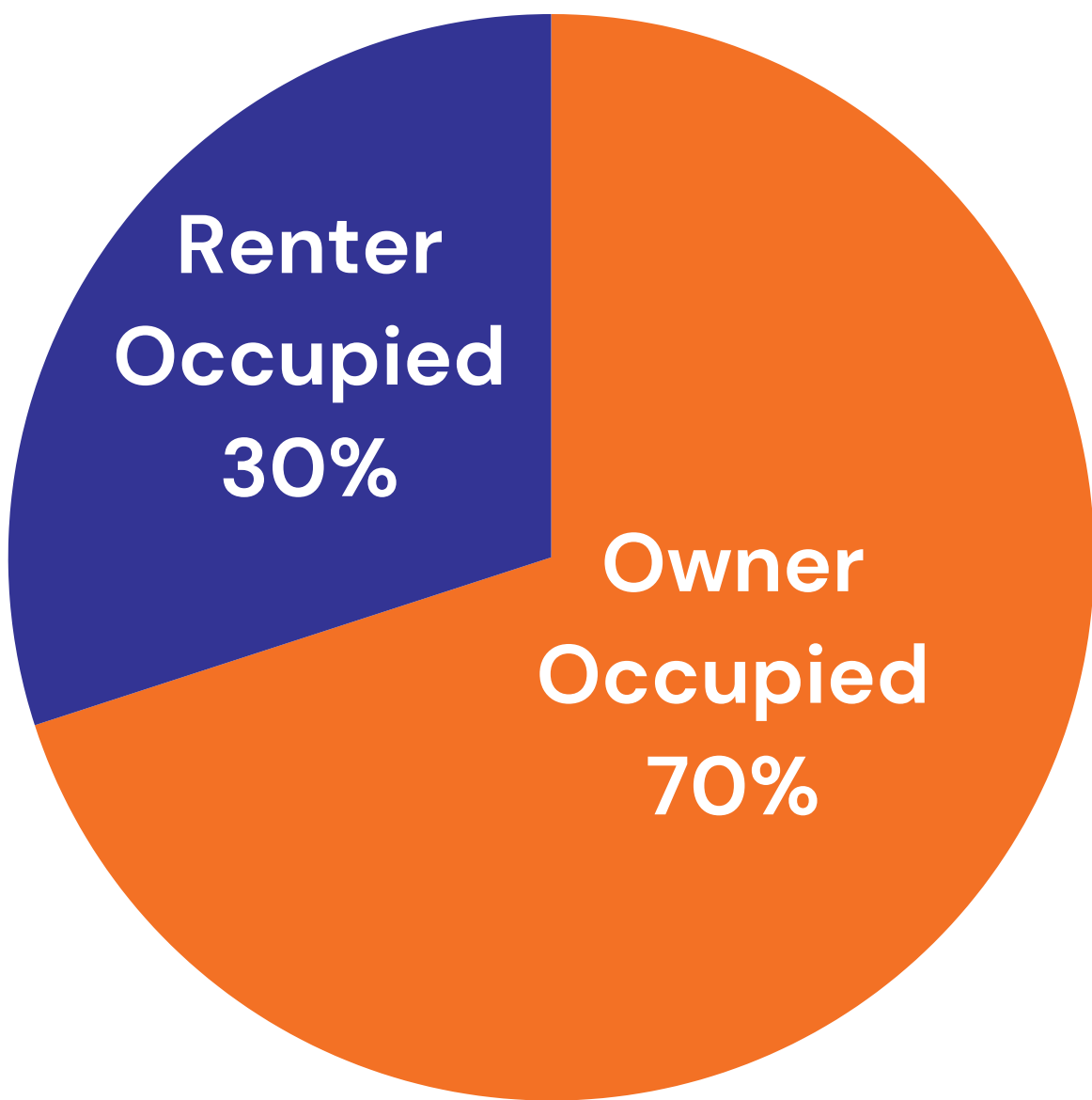
\$299,900

Compared to \$340,000 WI Average

10% ^[1]
of households report having at least 1 of 4 severe housing problems:

- overcrowding
- high housing costs
- lack of kitchen facilities
- lack of plumbing facilities

Housing Units in Sheboygan County ^[3]



[1] County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

[2] Wisconsin Realtors Association

[3] U.S. Census Bureau

Access to Affordable Housing

Focus Group

Themes:

- **Housing Availability** - Participants frequently mentioned the lack of affordable housing options
- **System Navigation** - Difficulty finding programs/assistance they are qualified for
- **Cost** - Rent continues to increase. Units that are affordable are often “less than humane conditions”
- **Fear of Retaliation** - Participants state they’re less likely to advocate for themselves for fear they will be forced out of their housing

“Our home is making us too rich [to qualify for assistance], even though the home is what we can't afford.”

Recommendations:

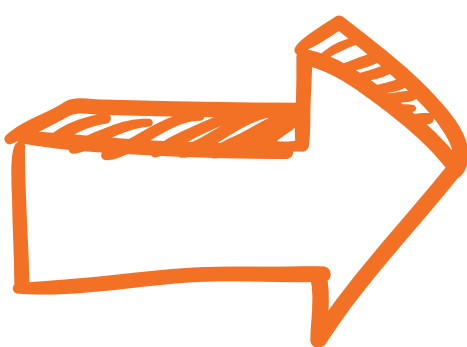
- Develop a dedicated navigation assistance service that clearly outlines eligibility, application process, and prioritization criteria
- Re-evaluate eligibility thresholds to support residents before they fall behind
- Incentivize the development of affordable, high-quality housing units that cater to residents on fixed incomes

Conclusions:

Housing instability is a complex, systematic challenge rather than an individual issue. The current landscape often requires one to reach a crisis point before qualifying for aid.

16

out of 34 key informants interviewed indicated safe and affordable housing as a top 2 social determinant of health



7

out of those 16 indicated housing as the top social determinant of health

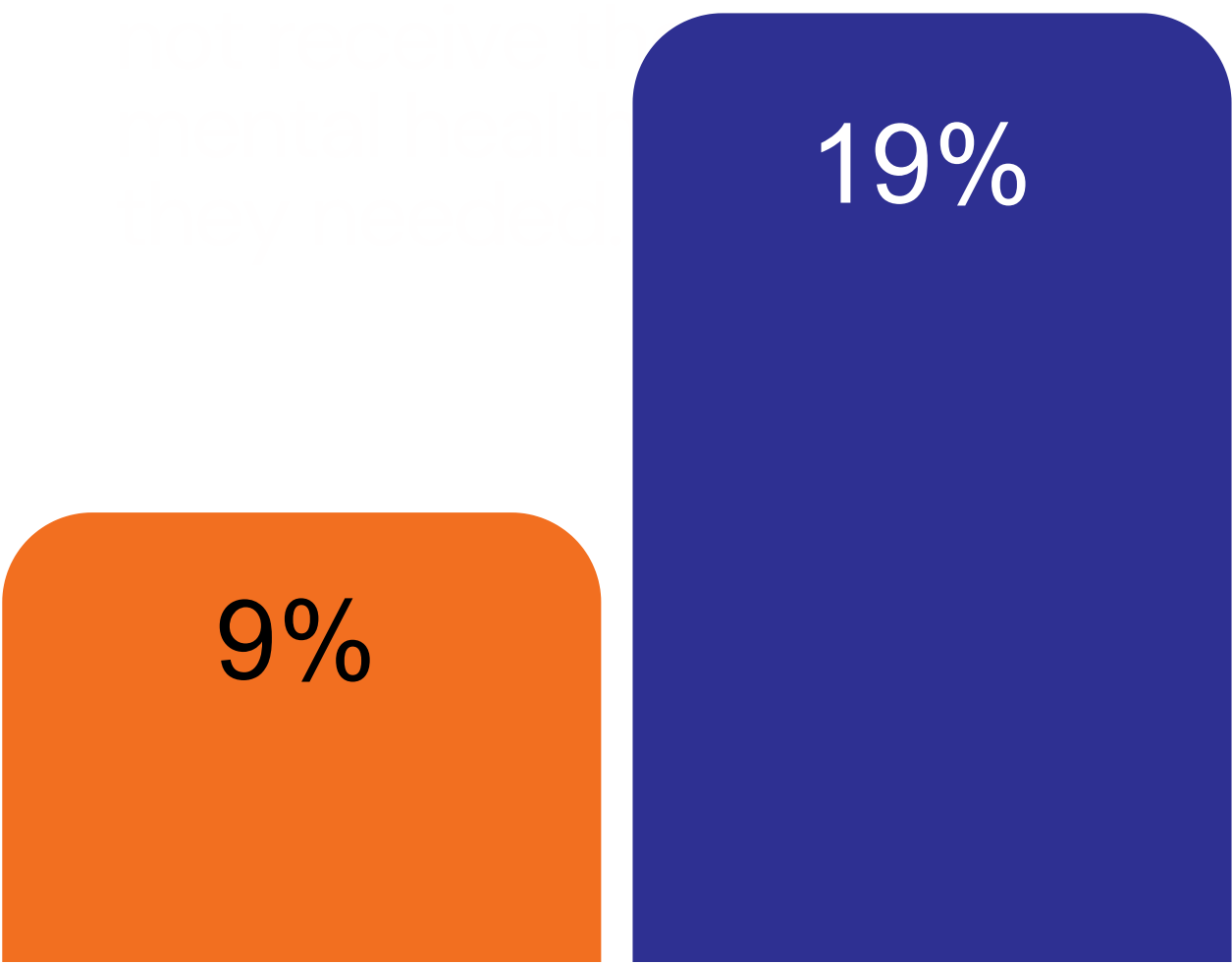
Safe and Affordable Housing Barriers Identified in Key Informant Interviews

- Lack of affordable housing
- Long wait lists
- Lack of finding accessible resources
- Lack of landlord accountability
- A past eviction
- Unmet criteria for state/federal programs
- Lack of senior residential housing
- Financial instability

Positive Mental Health

2026 Community Input Survey

Respondents who said they did not receive the mental health care they needed

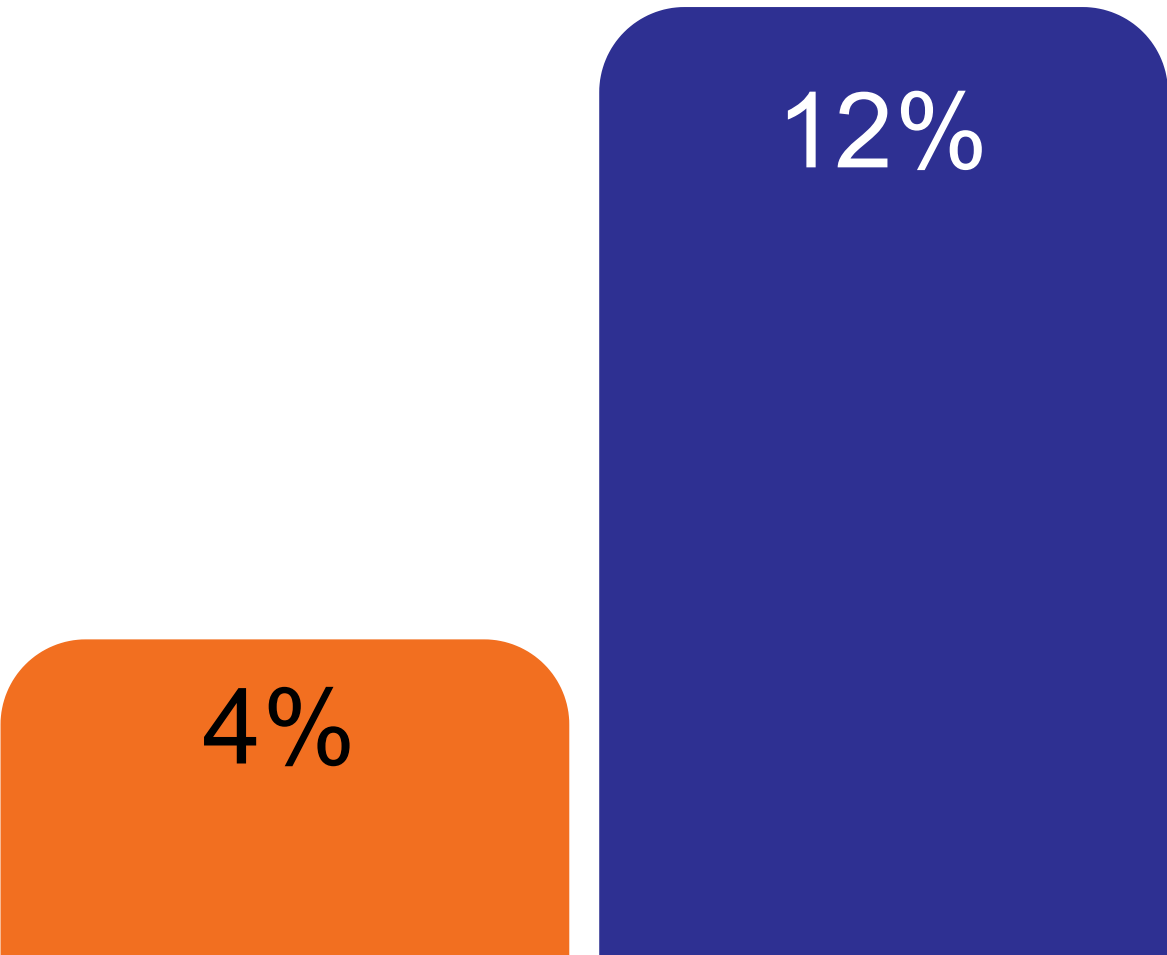


2023 2026

Reasons Given:

48% Cost/Finances
34% Wait is too long

Respondents who said they felt so overwhelmed they considered suicide in the past year



2023 2026

10%

of survey respondents reported they always or nearly always felt sad, blue or depressed in the past month.

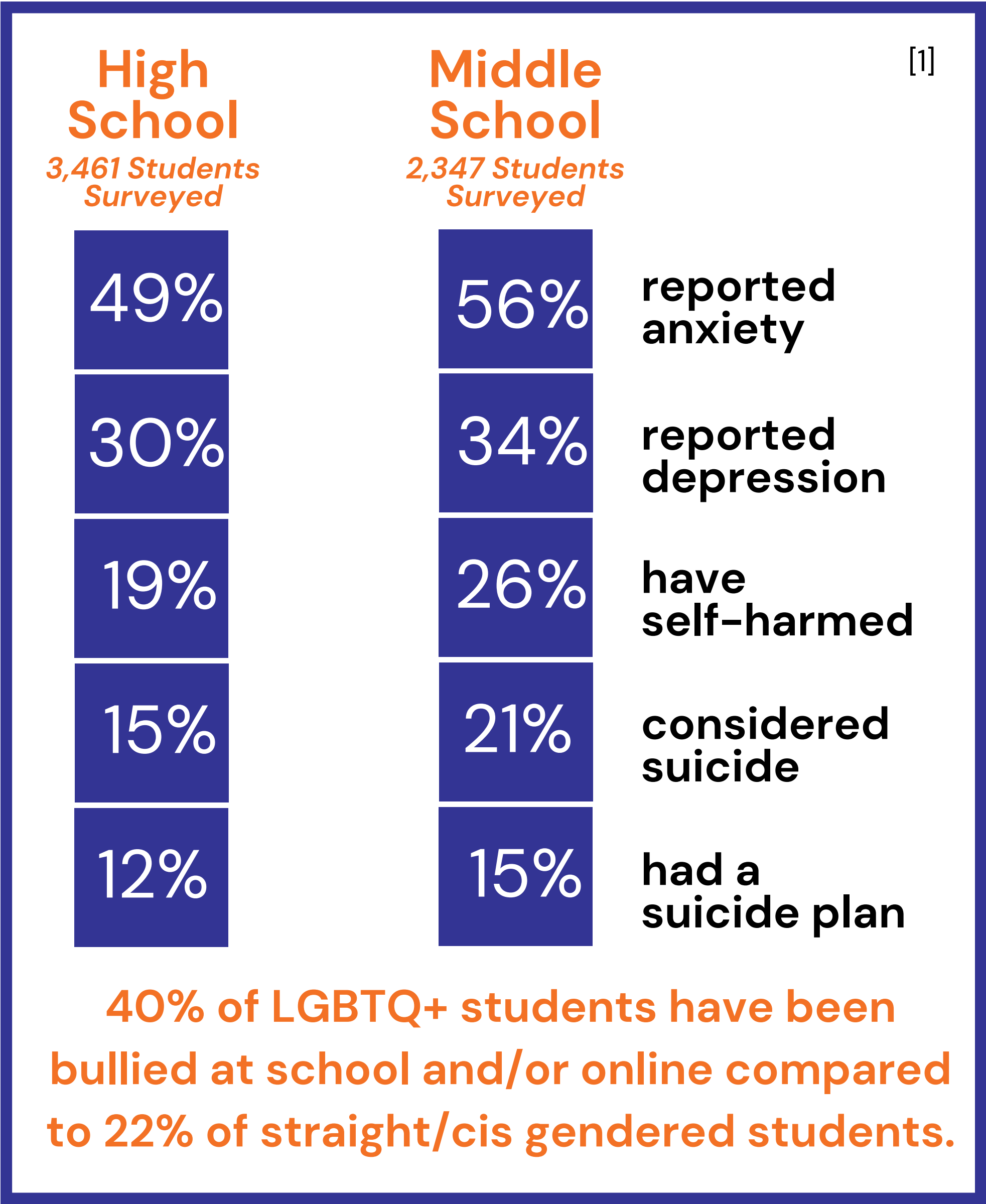
41%

of survey respondents identified access to affordable mental health services as one of the top 3 important community needs

55%

of survey respondents identified mental health as one of the top 3 important health issues/conditions

Secondary Data



In 2024, percent of deaths caused by suicide: [2]

Sheboygan County	1.31%
Wisconsin	1.63%

Provider Ratio of Population to Mental Health Providers [3]

Sheboygan County	553 : 1
Wisconsin	375 : 1
US	300 : 1

[1] 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey
[2] WI DHS – WISH
[3] County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Positive Mental Health

Focus Group

Themes:

- **Access** - Participants frequently mentioned that access to mental health care is a barrier, including insurance coverage, long wait times, and difficulty finding the right provider
- **Education** - Participants expressed the importance of educating family support systems and the community at large to increase the success of programs and services
- **Stigma** - Participants felt that mental health conditions continue to have a negative label and hinders open dialog and normalization of therapy
- **Resource Navigation** - It is difficult to navigate resources that are available to them, especially after initial assistance is provided

Recommendations:

- Combat stigma through public discourse
- Enhance resource navigation
- Reduce access barriers
- Community and family education

Conclusions:

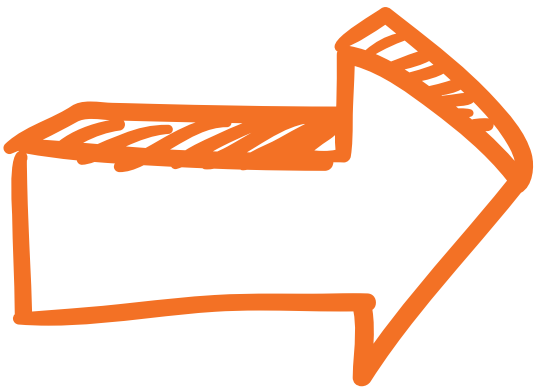
Addressing mental health requires a multi-faceted approach that goes beyond provider availability. While resource exist, the system is hindered by barriers in system and resource navigation, long wait times, and persistent stigma.

“It's at least a six month wait to find someone. And when you're in that state of mind, waiting six months to talk to someone is too late.”



- Positive Mental Health Barriers Identified in Key Informant Interviews**
- Lack of access to facilities/staff
 - Long wait lists/timely care
 - Stigma
 - Health insurance
 - Resource navigation
 - Lack of education
 - Lack of crisis stabilization center
 - Language/culture

30
out of 34 key informants interviewed indicated mental health as a top 2 health condition in Sheboygan County



21
out of those 30 indicated mental health as the top health issue

Substance Safety

2026 Community Input Survey

In the past 12 months, was there a time that you or anyone in your household needed or considered seeking alcohol/substance use treatment but did not get services?

8% of survey respondents answered Yes

Reasons Given:

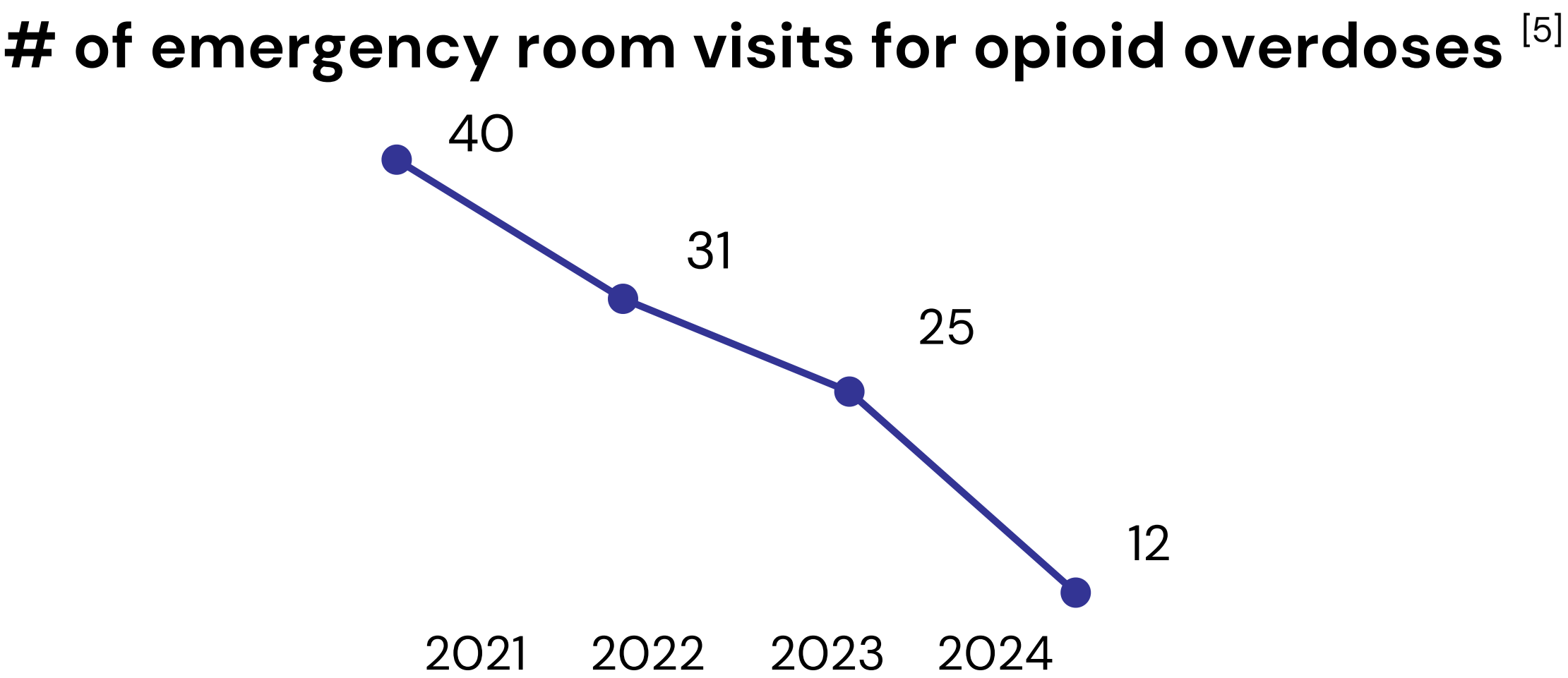
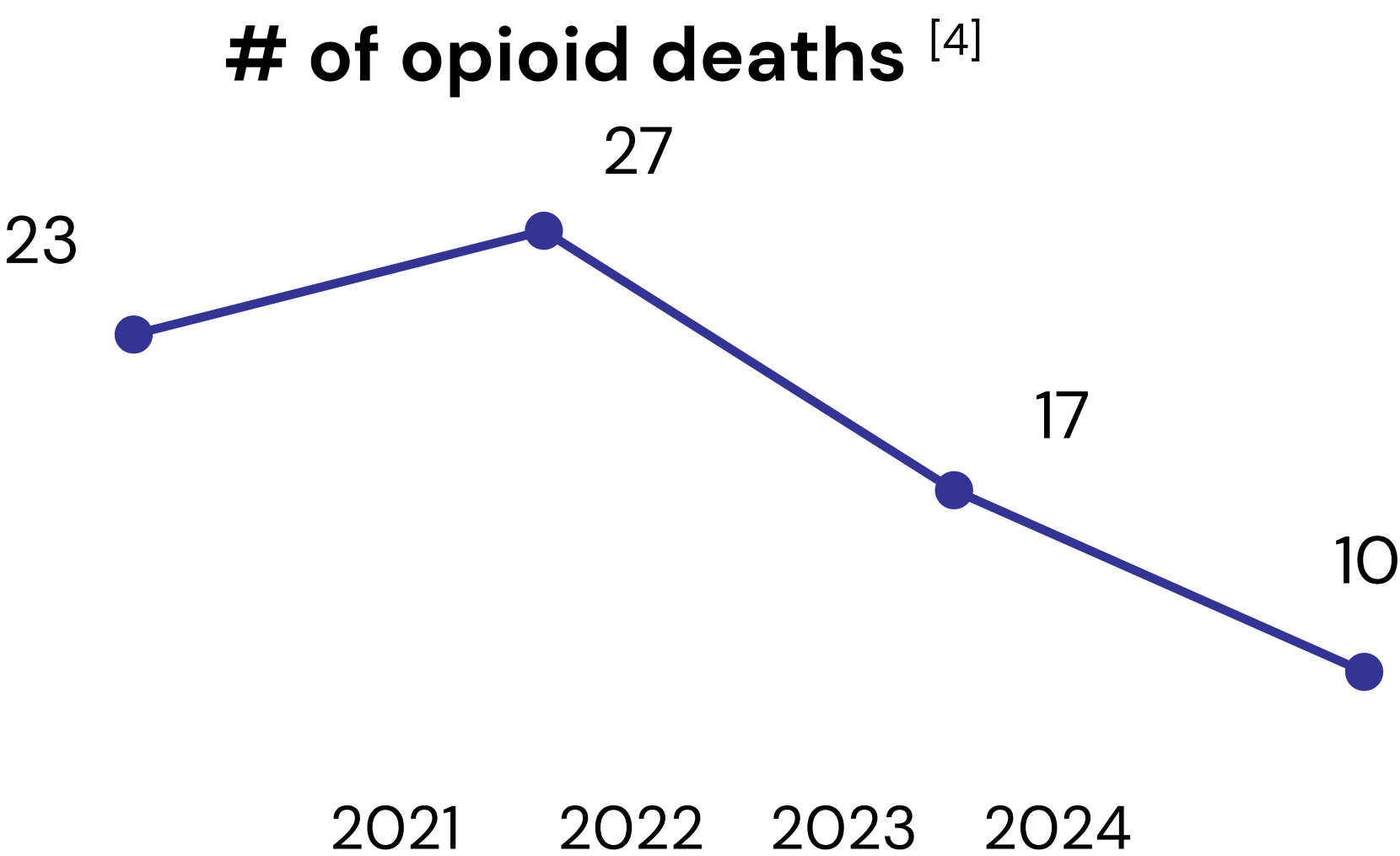
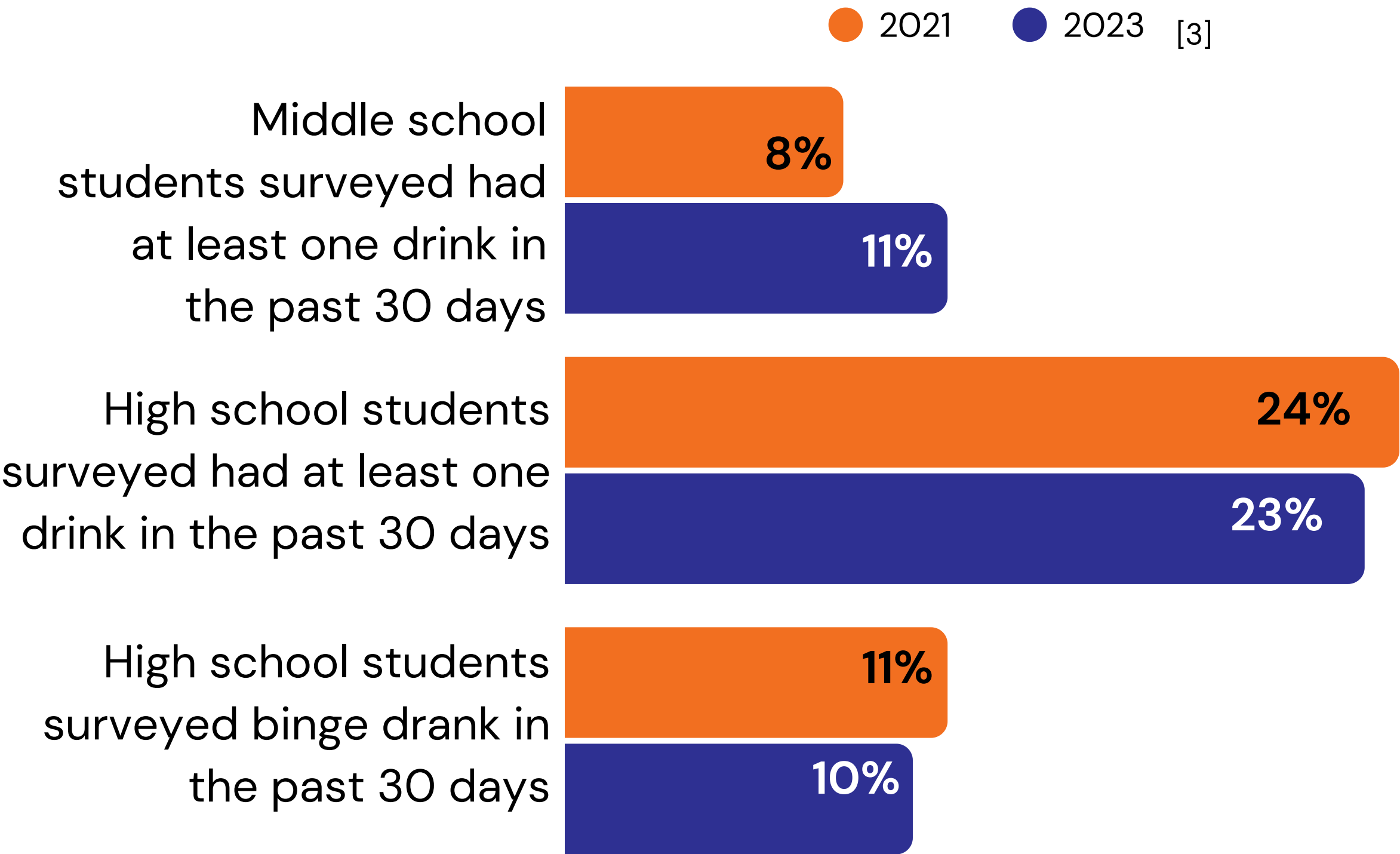
- 48% Lack of transportation
- 34% Cost/finances
- 30% No insurance
- 22% No doctor nearby
- 21% Hours did not fit in my schedule
- 18% I worried that others would judge me

- Percent of survey respondents that identified substance safety as one of the top 3 important health issues
- 43% Alcohol Use/Misuse
 - 39% Substance Use/Misuse
 - 12% Cigarette and Other Tobacco Use
 - 6% E-Cigarette Use

Secondary Data

In 2024 in Sheboygan County, excessive alcohol consumption contributed to:

-  37.8 per 100,000 alcohol attributable deaths ^[1]
-  617 chronic alcohol emergency department visits ^[2]
-  791 chronic alcohol inpatient visits ^[2]



[1] WI DHS – Alcohol: Attributable Deaths

[2] WI DHS – Hospitalizations

[3] 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

[4] WI DHS – Opioid Deaths

[5] WI DHS – Opioid Hospitalizations

Substance Safety

Focus Group

Themes:

- **Access** - to rehabilitation, transitional housing, and harm reduction services (needle exchange, disposal, substance test strips) would improve their ability to make positive changes
- **Continuity of Care** - Participants noted a need for wraparound services, closed loop referrals, and providers working together as a network for holistic care
- **Support Systems** - Participants expressed the importance of support of friends and family, and safe, substance-free spaces
- **Resource Navigation** - Many participants find it difficult to navigate resources that are available to them

Recommendations:

- Implement a unified ‘closed-loop’ referral network
- Prioritize a ‘whole-person’ approach by formalizing the integration of mental health services
- Develop and support community-based ‘safe spaces’ that offer socialization and resources free from substances

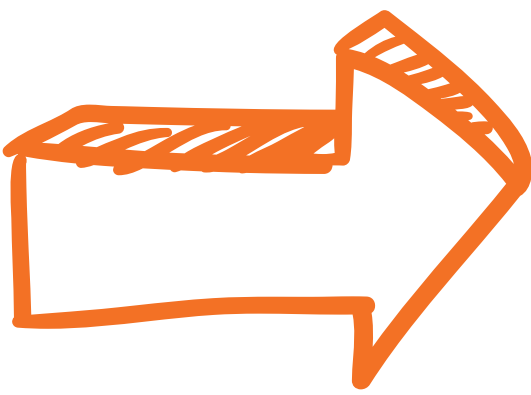
Conclusions:

Addressing acute substance use is only the first step in a much longer recovery process. To ensure long-term success and prevent relapse, we need to transition to a model that prioritizes integrated, sustained support systems.

“Mental health plays a big factor in that because for me, a lot of what I was doing was self-medicating for my mental health and taking care of that first made it a lot easier for me to stay sober.”

17

out of 34 key informants interviewed indicated substance use as a top 2 health condition in Sheboygan County



8

out of those 17 indicated substance use as the top health issue

Substance Safety Barriers Identified in Key Informant Interviews

- Alcohol culture
- Stigma of needing help
- Mental health
- Education
- Lack of funding
- Being involved in the criminal justice system



Activity & Nutrition

2026 Community Input Survey

Percent of survey respondents who ate less than they felt they should because there wasn't enough money for food (in the last 12 months)

2023 2026



25%

of respondents are not physically active outside of their daily routine

Top reasons for not being active

57% - lack of motivation/energy

41% - lack of time

Percent of survey respondents that identified one of the top 3 important health issues or community needs

31% Chronic Disease

16% Nutrition & Healthy Eating

19% Physical Activity & Exercise

9% Access to Affordable, Nutritious Foods

5% Access to community parks/recreation

15%

of respondents receive food from a church, clinic, food pantry, or free community meal at least monthly

Secondary Data

Sheboygan County Adult Disease Rates^[1]

5.3% of adults have Coronary Heart Disease

7% of adults have cancer (excluding skin cancer)

2.7% of adults had a stroke

9.3% of adults have diabetes

36.4% of adults are obese

21.9% of adults have arthritis

10.3% of adults have asthma

5.3% of adults have COPD

13% of high school students surveyed reported exercising zero days in the past week

61% of high school students surveyed reported exercising 4 to 7 days in the past week

[2]

40%

of high school students surveyed ate vegetables every day for the past seven days

41%

of high school students surveyed ate fruit every day for the past seven days

80%

of high school students surveyed drank plain water every day for the past seven days

[2]

Common causes of chronic disease include:



Tobacco use

Poor nutrition

Physical inactivity

Excessive alcohol use

[1] PLACES: Local Data for Better Health

[2] 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Activity & Nutrition

Focus Groups

Themes:

- **Access** - Many participants mentioned that they found resources were most often shared by word of mouth, and learning how the process works made it easier for them to access food in the community
- **Education** - Participants frequently mentioned the need for more education on what is considered healthy eating
- **Cost** - Many participants stated that food costs have risen significantly while food benefits have not gone up. They also stated that “unhealthy” food is often less expensive
- **Motivation** - Participants noted that community events and other social activities make it easier to find motivation to make more nutritious food choices and engage in physical activity more frequently

Conclusions:

The rising cost of living creates a stark trade-off where nutritional quality is frequently sacrificed for budget stability. However, participants express a clear desire for community-led solutions, indicating that health and nutrition are not just individual choices but outcomes heavily influenced by social connectivity and access to education.

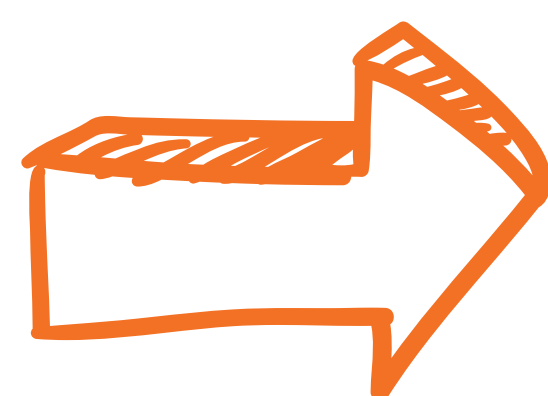
Recommendations:

- Expand food distribution models to include mobile pantries or delivery services
- Increase the presence of multilingual staff or volunteers at pantry sites
- Launch community-based cooking workshops and nutritional education campaigns that are integrated into social settings
- Support initiatives that increase the affordability of nutritious foods

“Right now our financial assistance has been reduced and we are left with little money to buy food. We eat whatever we can afford now.”

16

out of 34 key informants interviewed indicated food insecurity, chronic disease, nutrition, or physical activity as a top 2 priority in Sheboygan County



3

out of those 16 indicated one of those as the top priority

Activity and Nutrition Barriers Identified in Key Informant Interviews

- Lack of accessible resources in rural areas
- “unhealthy” food is easy/convenient/cheap
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of education around nutrition/physical activity
- Economic stability
- Limited accessibility/affordability of nutritious foods
- Lack of self-motivation