

ALGER COUNTY HEALTH CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2025

Munising Memorial Hospital





PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

Community Health Care Needs Assessment – Munising Memorial Hospital

Over the years, Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH) has utilized a variety of strategies to assess and respond to the health care needs of Alger County residents. In compliance with federal regulations governing nonprofit hospitals, MMH is required to conduct a comprehensive community health care needs assessment (CHNA) every three years. The results of this assessment must be documented and submitted as part of the hospital's corporate tax filings with the Internal Revenue Service.

A county-wide health care needs assessment evaluated current healthcare challenges and service gaps in the community. This assessment was completed by the Greater Munising Bay Partnership for Commerce Development (GMBPCD) for Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH). This process included the analysis of local health data, consultations with healthcare leaders, and the distribution of a publicly accessible online survey. The survey was actively promoted for a three-month period and provided valuable input directly from residents.

This collaborative approach has allowed both MMH and its community partners to better understand and prioritize the health needs of Alger County, ensuring that health care services continue to evolve in alignment with the community's well-being.

EXISTING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND OTHER RESOURCES

Munising Memorial Hospital: A Century of Community Care

Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH) has proudly served the residents of Alger County for more than a century. Originally established in 1910, the hospital's first facility was built on Maple Street in Munising and funded by the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company. This generous contribution was one of many significant gifts the company made to communities across the region during that era.

In 1947, MMH transitioned into a nonprofit organization upon receiving 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service. From that moment forward, MMH has operated as a true community hospital—locally governed and mission-driven.

The original Maple Street structure was replaced in 1961 with a new facility on Sand Point Road. Nearly five decades later, that building was removed to make way for a modern hospital complex, which opened in 2008. Today, MMH's main campus—located at 1500 Sand Point Road in Munising—features the hospital, Bay Care Medical Center, an Urgent Care center, and an adjacent medical office building.

As an 11-bed Critical Access Hospital, MMH offers a range of essential healthcare services, including:

- Outpatient diagnostic testing
- Swing bed rehabilitation
- Level 4 Emergency Services
- Onsite Urgent Care (added in 2015 to provide an affordable after-hours alternative to the ER)

Although the hospital typically averages just one inpatient per day, its presence is vital to the health and wellbeing of the community.

MMH's mission is clear: to be the **provider of choice** for primary medical and hospital care in Alger County. Physicians, mid-level providers, and staff members strive to deliver the highest quality of care available, guided by unwavering personal and professional integrity.

Due to its rural nature and critical access designation, MMH specializes in **primary care**. Patients who require more advanced specialty or tertiary services are typically referred to providers in Marquette or outside the Upper Peninsula.

Today, MMH stands not only as a healthcare provider but also as the **primary employer of physicians and mid-level providers** in Alger County, ensuring access to essential care through its Bay Care Clinic.

Munising Memorial Organizational Information

Governance, Licensing, and Accreditation

Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH) is owned and operated by a **nonprofit corporation** organized under the laws of the State of Michigan. The organization is recognized as **tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3)** of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is dedicated to serving the health care needs of Alger County with integrity and accountability.

The hospital is **licensed by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)** to operate as a Critical Access Hospital. Additionally, specific hospital departments and services maintain required licensure or oversight by other federal and state regulatory bodies.

To ensure quality and regulatory compliance, the **U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** contracts with MDCH to conduct operational and quality assurance surveys.

Currently, several MMH services hold nationally recognized accreditations:

- **American College of Radiology** – Accreditation for Mammography services
- **COLA (Commission on Office Laboratory Accreditation)** – Accreditation of the hospital laboratory
- **American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF)** – Accreditation of Bay Care Clinic surgical services

These accreditations reflect MMH's commitment to delivering safe, high-quality care while meeting rigorous clinical standards.

MMH is also a **member of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA)**, a statewide organization that supports hospitals through advocacy, education, and quality improvement initiatives.

Munising Memorial Hospital Quality Metrics

Commitment to Quality and Patient Safety

Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH) has made an **organization-wide commitment to improving patient safety and the overall quality of care** it provides to the community. This commitment is reflected in the hospital's ongoing participation in quality improvement initiatives and its recognition at both the state and national levels.

As a **Critical Access Hospital (CAH)**, MMH participates in **performance-based reimbursement programs**, including those from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM), which link payment to quality performance metrics. In addition, MMH collects and reports data on nationally recognized **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** quality measures. However, due to the hospital's size and patient volume, many of these measures do not meet the public reporting thresholds.

Despite these limitations, MMH has **consistently earned recognition for its quality efforts**, including multiple **Governor's Awards for Improving Patient Safety and Quality of Care in the Critical Access Hospital Setting**.

In **2024**, MMH achieved a significant milestone by being named one of the **Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in the nation for Leadership in Quality**—a testament to the hospital's dedication to clinical excellence, patient-centered care, and continuous improvement.

Munising Memorial Hospital Facilities and Services

The corporation owns and operates the hospital, which, as a CAH, is licensed for 11 acute care beds and five dual licensed swing beds to provide rehabilitation services. All acute care beds are situated in six rooms facing Munising Bay of Lake Superior. All inpatient care and most outpatient services are delivered under one roof in the hospital facility. An independent physician office and space for visiting specialists are attached to the hospital facility.

The scope of services provided by MMH is generally like that provided by other CAHs. The hospital facility contains the following areas:

- Completely digitized, the **Radiology Department** includes a digital X-ray room, CT, Fluoroscopy, 4D Ultrasound, Dexascan and digital mammography.
- **Laboratory** services were designed to accommodate two private drawing rooms and several upgrades to equipment, computer systems and space.
- The **Outpatient Rehabilitation** department allows for easier access for patients, including a complete gym, four treatment rooms and a shower for gym participants.
- The **Emergency Department** includes three private exam rooms and a three-bay trauma room. The two-bay ambulance garage includes a decontamination area.
- Six **inpatient rooms** display a hotel-like, comfortable atmosphere. The rooms are equipped with flat panel televisions and face the lake with a beautiful view.

- Two **conference rooms** can be used for support groups, educational programs and administrative meetings.
- **Bay Care Medical Center** has ten exam rooms and one procedure room and is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with availability until 6pm on select days by appointment only. There are also small clinics in Grand Marais and Au Train.
- **Chronic Care Management Services** works with individuals to manage and engage in their health.
- **Medication Assisted Therapy** is for individuals struggling with opioid addiction.
- **Collaborative Care** is for individuals struggling with mental health concerns. The program is overseen by a consulting psychiatrist who offers recommendations for treatment of depression, anxiety, PTSD, to your primary care provider.
- Munising Memorial offers a **swing bed program** for Medicare patients needing to recover/ rehabilitate after an acute hospital stay. MMH has 5 swing bed licenses.
- Munising Memorial partners with **Great Lakes Recovery** to provide services at the hospital for those individuals seeking substance abuse treatment.
- MMH is now partnering and housing **Senior Life Solutions**. Senior Life Solutions is an outpatient hospital program designed to support the mental health of older adults experiencing depression, anxiety, or other mental challenges often associated with aging.
- MMH has two specialty clinics, **Dermatology and Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose & Throat)**.
- Munising Memorial Hospital also offers **chronic care management** services at Bay Care Clinic that works with people to set goals, educating on medications, and glucose monitoring.
- **Behavioral health support** from Bay Care to the Emergency Department.

Inpatient beds are used for observation, hospitalization, and short-term rehabilitation. The hospital's emergency department is classified as a Level IV trauma center by the American College of Surgeons. A Level IV trauma center provides initial evaluation, stabilization, diagnostic capabilities, and transfer to a higher level of care. MMH maintains a transfer agreement with UP Health System-Marquette, which operates a Level II trauma center, to which nearly all transfers are directed.

The county's emergency medical service (EMS) is operated by the Alger County Sheriff's Department. In many situations, serious trauma cases, especially those resulting from incidents occurring west of the hospital facility, will be transported directly to UP Health System-Marquette.

The hospital also offers telemedicine services to those patients who require, and can benefit from, healthcare services outside of the area.

Munising Memorial Medical Staff

Regarding medical staffing, MMH currently has:

- Chief Medical Officer
- Emergency Department Director, a DO with Board Certification in Emergency Medicine
- Chief of Staff who is a DO that provides Family Practice Services
- An MD hospitalist that provides care to the inpatient and rehabilitation patients
- Seven NP/PAs that provide Urgent Care Services/ Emergency Room Service
- Two MDs that provide primary care in Bay Care Clinic and serve as hospitalists
- MMH MD/DOs provide medical care at MediLodge
- Three PAs servicing Bay Care Clinic

Other Alger County Health Services and Facilities

Besides MMH, there are several Alger County health care facilities/services in Munising, including:

- Two dental offices
- Four mental health services
- Two primary care clinics and walk-ins
- One tribal health center
- The health department servicing Alger County
- One chiropractic office
- One optometrist office

There are three small primary care clinics with limited hours located in Grand Marais, Au Train and Trenary. The facility in Trenary is operated by UP Health System, offering the following services:

- Allergy injections
- EKG services
- Laboratory services
- Minor surgery (skin BX, mole removal, cryotherapy)
- Referrals to home health, other medical specialists, or behavioral health services
- Immunizations for adults and children
- Sports physicals
- Same-day appointments
- Well-child/well-baby exams
- Laceration repair
- Routine gynecological care
- “Welcome to Medicare” exams
- OMM services

Long-term facilities in Alger County include:

- One nursing home
- One assisted living facility with six adult foster care apartments
- One adult day care center
- One assisted living facility

In addition, there is one home health care and hospice organization in Munising and the Alger County Commission on Aging.

Recent Achievements

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) & Responsive Initiatives

Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH) actively uses data and insights gathered through **Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs)** to guide strategic planning and prioritize health initiatives that align with the evolving needs of Alger County residents.

Since the completion of the **2022 CHNA**, MMH has implemented a range of improvements and new services to address identified community health concerns. These efforts include:

- MMH has coordinated care, ensuring resources that are needed and secured.
- Bay Care implemented the Collaborative Care Program, working with a consulting psychiatrist to offer guidance and recommendations for behavioral health treatment to a primary care team, using individual systematic case reviews.
- Bay Care implemented a program for substance use disorder and treatment, working with outside counseling agencies as well.
- MMH participates in federal 340B, thus reducing costs of prescriptions for patients.
- MMH works with Putvin Drug Store, Alger County's local pharmacy, to provide educational materials that make customers aware of options available to reduce the cost of their prescriptions.
- MMH has continued purchasing bus tickets from the local transportation service ALTRAN, and has collaborated with ALTRAN to transport area residents to MMH programming.
- MMH has partnered with Alger Commission on Aging to assist in providing meals on wheels.
- MMH is now partnering and housing Senior Life Solutions. Senior Life Solutions is an outpatient hospital program designed to support the mental health of older adults experiencing depression, anxiety, or other mental challenges often associated with aging.
- MMH is partnering with Psychiatric Medical Care for staffing the outpatient hospital program.
- MMH Bay Care Clinic has recently opened an off-site clinic location in Au Train. The clinic holds office hours on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, located at the township hall.

GREATER MUNISING BAY PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT/ ALGER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Greater Munising Bay Partnership for Commerce Development (GMBPCD) was chosen to assist in facilitating the community health needs assessment due to the office's relationship with the Alger County community, organizations, businesses, and leaders. GMBPCD staff, Dr. Katherine A Reynolds, chief executive officer with the assistance of Pat Sanderson, officer manager, held meetings with local health care leaders, created and promoted an online survey to help gather data from Alger County residents, and prepared the overall report.

Dr. Reynolds has a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University and is well versed in research, writing, and community relations. She also has over 20 years of previous work experience in higher education and additional work experience in rural health organizations, non-profit organizations and the for-profit sector. Pat Sanderson has over three decades of customer service experience in both office and retail management. Pat provides administrative management support and acts as a liaison to the chamber members and visitors alike. Both Dr. Reynolds and Pat Sanderson have been in their respective positions for over 14 years.

The GMBPCD promotes tourism and economic development in Alger County, which contributes to the overall wellbeing of the municipalities, townships, and villages in Alger County. The office collaborates with and supports the area and its businesses by formulating sound economic programs and policies that attract, maintain, and provide incentives to business and property owners. They also help mobilize the area's resources, creating consistent marketing strategies to increase tourism by promoting natural resources, attractions, and events throughout the area. The GMBPCD works to enhance and open more lines of communication between public and private businesses, associations, agencies, and organizations.

The Greater Munising Bay Partnership for Commerce Development/Alger County Chamber of Commerce is located at 129 E. Munising Ave., Munising. The office is also known as the Fuzzy Boyak Welcome Center and is ideally located in the center of town along the main state highway and adjacent to Munising's waterfront and Binsfeld Bayshore Park.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION & MARKET AREA

Munising Memorial Hospital is in the city of Munising, Michigan in Alger County near the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (PRNL) and Hiawatha National Forest. The population (according to United States Census Bureau 2023 estimated statistics) of Alger County is 8,813. MMH defines its market area as all residents of Alger County. The area's economy is supported by small businesses, industries and corporations, and tourism.

Unlike many other small rural towns across the Midwest, Alger County is fortunate to have a diversified economy. Mativ in Munising is one of the most successful paper and packaging manufacturing businesses in the Midwest, targeting specialized products. Other large employers in the area are Timber Products and Alger Correctional Facility.

Approximately 900,000 – 1 million visitors annually travel from all over the world to Alger County to visit the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. The large influx of visitors over the past 10-15 years has led to a boom in small business growth throughout the county, making tourism the largest economic driver in the area.

City & Townships Within Alger County
 American Community Survey 2023 Estimated Population Statistics
 And Population Trends

Unit of Government	Population				Percentage Change
	2000	2010	2020	2023 Est.	2000-2020
Au Train Township	1,172	1,138	1,019	1,163	-13%
Burt Township	480	522	411	366	-14%
City of Munising	2,539	2,355	1,986	1,907	-22%
Grand Island Township	45	47	35	21	-22%
Limestone Township	407	438	392	443	-4%
Mathias Township	571	554	532	516	-7%
Munising Township	3,125	2,983	2,865	2,833	-8%
Onota Township	310	352	371	541	+20%
Rock River Township	1,213	1,212	1,231	1,023	+1%
Alger County	9,862	9,601	8,842	8,813	-10%
Upper Peninsula	317,616	311,361	301,608	303,123	-5%
Michigan	9,938,444	9,883,640	10,077,331	10,083,356	1.4%

U.S. Census

Alger County, Michigan Demographics (2023 Estimates)		
	Estimate	Percent
SEX AND AGE		
Total population	8,813	
Male	4,997	56.7%
Female	3,816	43.3%
Under 5 years	309	3.5%
5 to 9 years	319	3.6%
10 to 14 years	397	4.5%
15 to 19 years	433	4.9%
20 to 24 years	517	5.9%
25 to 34 years	1,039	11.8%
35 to 44 years	938	10.6%
45 to 54 years	1,058	12.0%
55 to 59 years	735	8.3%
60 to 64 years	726	8.2%
65 to 74 years	1,483	16.8%
75 to 84 years	675	7.7%
85 years and over	184	2.1%
Median age (years)	48.8	
Under 18 years	1,322	15.0%
65 years and over	2,342	26.6%
Male (65 years & over)	1,186	50.6%
Female (65 years & over)	1,156	49.4%
RACE		
Total population	8,813	
One race	8,302	94.2%
Two or More Races	511	5.8%
One race	8,302	94.2%

Alger County, Michigan Demographics (2023 Estimates)		
	Estimate	Percent
White	7,234	82.1%
Black or African American	694	7.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	234	2.7%
Aztec	0	0.0%
Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana	5	0.1%
Maya	0	0.0%
Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government	0	0.0%
Navajo Nation	0	0.0%
Nome Eskimo Community	0	0.0%
Other American Indian and Alaska Native	229	2.6%
Asian	25	0.3%
Asian Indian	0	0.0%
Chinese	16	0.2%
Filipino	0	0.0%
Japanese	5	0.1%
Korean	0	0.0%
Vietnamese	0	0.0%
Other Asian	4	0.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Chamorro	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian	0	0.0%
Samoan	0	0.0%

Alger County, Michigan Demographics (2023 Estimates)		
	Estimate	Percent
Other Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Some Other Race	115	1.3%
Two or More Races	511	5.8%
White and Black or African American	38	0.4%
White and American Indian and Alaska Native	303	3.4%
White and Asian	18	0.2%
White and Some Other Race	97	1.1%
Black or African American and American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Black or African American and Some Other Race	0	0.0%

U.S. Census

HOUSEHOLDS 2023	
Total households	3,490
Average household size	2.23
Total families	2,250
Average family size	2.73
Total housing units	6,205
Households with own children of the householder under 18 years	660
Under 6 years only	25.5%
Under 6 years and 6 to 17 years	18.9%
6 to 17 years only	55.6%
Households with one or more people under 18 years	20.5%
Households with one or more people 60 years and over	54.9%
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	43.9%
Householder living alone	27.4%
65 years and over	15.1%
1-unit structures	85.8%
2-or-more-unit structures	8.5%
Mobile homes and all other types of units	5.6%
Owner-occupied housing units	84.3%
Renter-occupied housing units	15.7%

U.S. Census

Characteristics of Population & Households 2023	
Housing Units	6,169
Homeownership rate	84.3%
Median Gross Rent	\$712
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units	\$165,700
Total employer establishments	225
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	24.1
Median Household Income-State of Michigan	\$69,183
Median Household Income-Alger County	\$59,403
Poverty Level-State of Michigan	13.5%
Poverty Level—Alger County	10.2%

U.S. Census

Major Employers in Alger County & 2023 Employment Statistics (FTEs)	
Mativ	238
Michigan Department of Corrections	226
Timber Products	128
Munising Public Schools	99
MediLodge	78
Christmas Kewadin Casino	63
Munising Memorial Hospital	61
Hiawatha Communications	58
County of Alger	56
Superior Central Schools	49
Peoples State Bank	36
Pat's Foods	24
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (does not include seasonal positions)	22
Pictured Rocks Cruises (Full-time and seasonal)	97
Paddling Michigan (Full-time and seasonal)	83
Pictured Rocks Kayaking (Full-time and seasonal)	38

Greater Munising Bay Partnership, Munising, MI

Educational Attainment (25 years and over) 2023

Less than high 9th grade	1.7%
9th to 12th grade	4.6%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	41.1%
Some college, no degree	22.4%
Associate degree	9.8%
Bachelor's degree	13.8%
Graduate or professional degree	6.4%

2023 American Community Survey

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE 2023	
Uninsured (The largest group percentage of uninsured is the 26-34 age group 15.1%)	5.1%
Insured By gender, of the total number of insured persons, 51.6% is men and 48.4% women.	94.9%
Employer-Based Health Insurance	35.2%
Medicaid	17.3%
Medicare	22.4%
Non-group	17.5%
Military or VA	2.41%

2023 American Community Survey

PRIMARY DATA

At the beginning of the development of the 2025 Alger County Health Care Needs Assessment, the Greater Munising Bay Partnership met with key Alger County health care stakeholders. There were two meetings, one at the beginning of the process and once after the survey ended. The topics covered in the first meeting were: the health care needs of the county, the health care needs assessment process and their input on questions for the survey participants. The second meeting discussed some of the survey results, a few of the tables where data stood out and any additional topics that had come up during the process.

Munising Memorial Hospital Health Needs Assessment (MMH HNA) Zoom Meeting Notes January 27, 2025

Kathy Reynolds
Pat Sanderson
Kris Lindquist, AC Comm on Aging (ACCoA)
Robin Brown, Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH)
Bobbi Ayotte, LMAS District Health Dept (LMAS DHD)
Jim Parker, Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH)
Barb Cromell, Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH)
Marilyn Beverly, MMH Board
Rondi Olson, Superior Walk-In (SWI)
Debbie Nedeau, Putvin Drug Store (Putvin)
Christi Salo, Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH)

Strengths

- Altran public transportation services
- ACCoA home delivered meals – collaboration with MMH to make it happen
- ACCoA in-home services offered to 100-110 clients per month (steady over the years)
- Community resources and agencies work together; partnerships with other businesses/organizations
- Community outreach
- Increase in medical providers
- Increase in services available
- Services available in the schools, including mental health services and vision screenings
- Harm reduction program for people with substance abuse; peer counseling
- Collaborative environment in the area with other hospitals & providers in extended area
- Access to transportation
- Available indoor and outdoor activities to improve health, good resources w/Rhonda Lassila & APRD
- Availability of quick local testing and services in a timely manner, collaboration

- In-service and ER care close by
- Local pharmacy that goes above and beyond
- Good backup within the community
- Individuals and organizations stepping up to help those that can't afford meds
- Senior Life Solutions Program (mental health program for older adults)
- Alger Community Food Pantry

Weaknesses/Deficiencies

- Lack of staffing and qualified staffing at many positions
- Decrease in dental providers
- Lack of funding for existing programs or to launch new programs
- Sharing events and participating together without competing
- Transportation costs
- Access to behavioral/mental health services
- Drug addiction services not covered by insurance
- Housing for locals – cost and availability
- Transportation for admittance to higher level care facilities
- Affordable childcare for employees, lack of funding for childcare
- Lack of healthy nutrition education, teaching healthy habits
- Transportation issues in bad weather
- Cannot offer med flights from Alger County due to no paved airport
- Pathways too short staffed to offer needed care
- Special Ed at schools struggling to find qualified staffing
- Alger County is #1 in the state for narcotic abuse
- Prescription drug abuse remains a problem
- Large amount of 25-45 yr olds abusing and are addicted to Ritalin or Adderall
- Medicare Part D changes causing issues for some people getting their prescriptions
- Many have addictive personalities leading to bad lifestyle choices
- No place for respite care
- Long waits to get into the DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans

Munising Memorial Hospital Health Needs Assessment (MMH HNA) Zoom Meeting Notes August 21, 2025

Kathy Reynolds
 Pat Sanderson
 Kris Lindquist, AC Comm on Aging (ACCoA)
 Robin Brown, Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH)
 Marilyn Beverly, MMH Board

UPCAP and SAIL are two agencies that are great resources to help those in need of some services.

Although very important in overall health, many people skip dental and optical visits. This may be due to lack of dental or optical insurance, lack of funds, fear of the dentist, or fear of what they might find out that would result in additional treatment.

Kathy discussed many of the stats she used from the 2023 American Communities Survey (ACS), part of the US Census Bureau. She explained that while the ACS reports stats for the actual residents of Alger County, Alger County itself reports actual deaths and births that occur in Alger County, regardless of where the people may have lived.

The hospital will need to communicate to the public that they are working to address their concerns regarding any deficiencies.

The survey respondents did not represent a cross section of the community. Well over 90% have insurance, are 65-75 years old and have incomes of \$60,000+.

Good nutrition continues to be a downfall in the community with a lack of resources available for fresh produce. Family's funds are stretched, and healthy food tends to be more expensive food.

There is a program beginning to get seniors involved with youth through AC3.

Respondents offered a chance to leave general comments or suggestions; many times, they were negative.

Kathy said it appears many more people have insurance since the Affordable Care Act was introduced.

Marilyn said more community leaders need to be involved (such as service organizations and other support networks) to help solve the deficiencies. Robin said that MMH has a good network and reaches out for those in need of help to solve their issues. 211 (through UPCAP) is a terrific resource for many things across the UP.

SECONDARY DATA

For secondary data, research was obtained from County Health Rankings, Michigan Vital Statistics, and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute/Robert Wood Foundation. According to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps 2022, Alger County, MI is ranked 22 in the state of Michigan for health outcomes and 25 for health factors.

2023 Natality and Mortality Data for Alger County

Category	Metric	Value
Natality	Live Births	64
	Teenage Mothers	4
	Low Weight Births	8
	First Births	23
Mortality	Total Deaths	265
	Male Deaths	144
	Female Deaths	121
	Infant Deaths	2
	Postneonatal Deaths	2

Michigan Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics

Number of Deaths by Age and Sex Alger County, Michigan 2023

Age In Years	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Under 1	2	-	2
1-14	-	-	-
15-24	1	1	-
25-34	5	3	2
35-44	11	7	4
45-54	14	11	3
55-64	23	15	8
65-74	61	32	29
75-84	77	46	31
85 & Over	71	29	42
All Ages	265	144	121

Michigan Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics

Deaths, Births and Population of Alger County 1980-2023

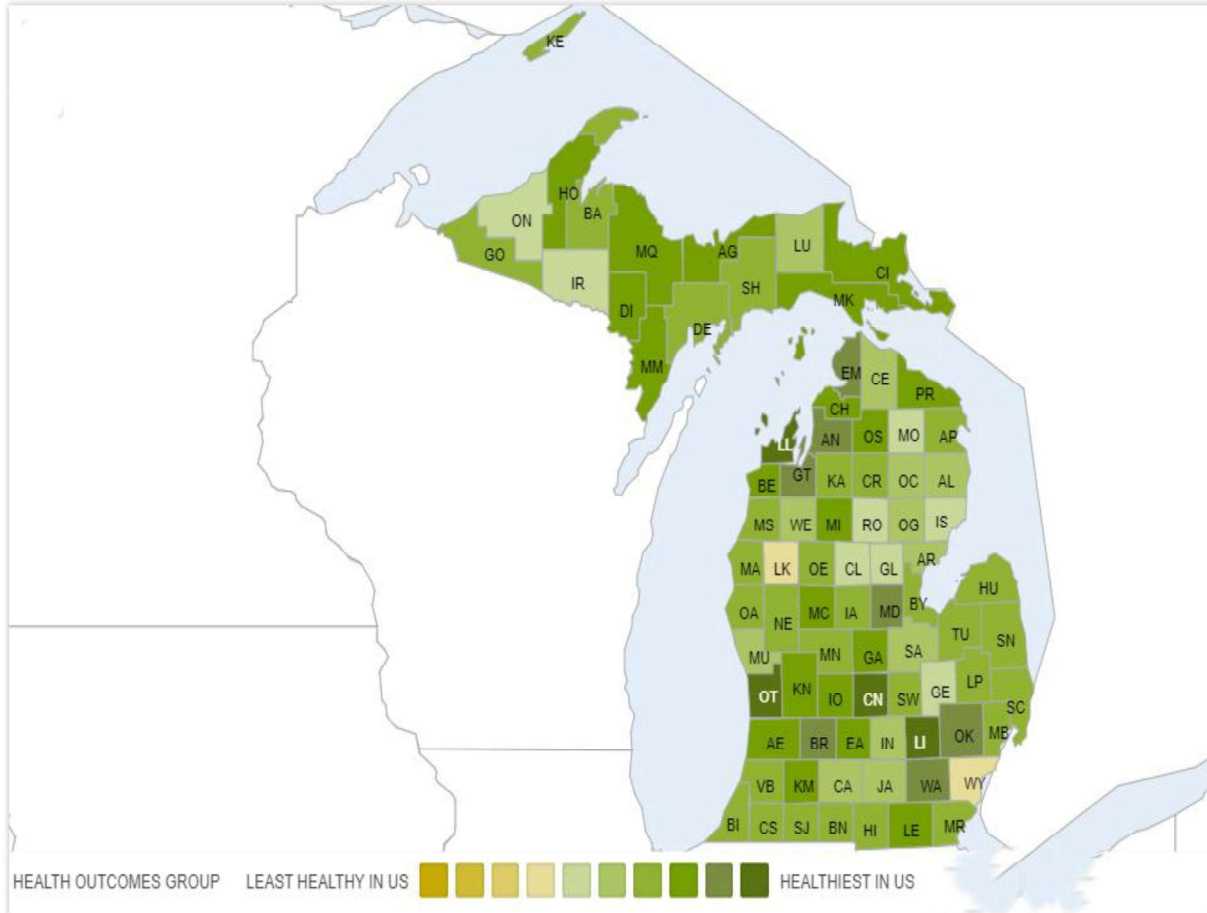
Year	All Ages	Births	Population
2023	265	64	8813
2022	108	53	8773
2021	117	69	8821
2020	97	64	9015
2019	109	59	9078
2018	118	54	9105
2017	105	63	9152
2016	113	59	9138
2015	127	61	9265
2014	137	56	9370
2013	105	70	9445
2012	113	55	9456
2011	106	53	9516
2010	99	56	9578
2005	100	87	9633
2000	118	73	9819
1995	101	87	9870
1990	125	105	8972
1985	101		8944
1980	101		9225

Source: 2023 Michigan Resident Death Files. Alger County Residents. Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services.

Leading Cause of Deaths for Ten Leading Causes by Age Alger County, Michigan 2023

Cause of Death	All Ages	Under 25 Years	25-54 Years	55-64 Years	65-74 Years	75-84 Years	85+ Years
All Causes of Death	265	3	30	23	61	77	71
1.Heart Disease	66	-	7	6	14	20	19
2.Cancer	44	-	3	7	14	15	5
3.Unintentional Injuries	21	1	9	2	5	3	1
4.Stroke	18	-	2	1	1	5	9
5.Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	10	-	-	-	4	1	5
6.Alzheimer's Disease	10	-	-	-	-	4	6
7.Diabetes Mellitus	7	-	1	2	1	2	1
8.Kidney Disease	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
9.COVID-19	6	-	-	-	2	3	1
10.Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	4	-	1	1	1	1	-
All Other Causes	77	2	7	4	18	22	24

Michigan Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics



University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute-Robert Wood Johnson, County Health Rankings

The patient to clinician ratio in Alger County is 1,260 to 1.

Ambulatory Care Sensitive Hospitalizations By Selected Age Group Alger County Residents, Both Sexes, Michigan 2022

(Click on Selected Age Group for Hospitalizations by Leading Diagnoses)

AGE GROUP	AMBULATORY CARE SENSITIVE HOSPITALIZATIONS View ICD-CM Codes	PERCENT OF ALL HOSPITALIZATIONS		RATE PER 10,000 POPULATION	
	ALGER	ALGER	MICHIGAN	ALGER	MICHIGAN
All Ages	143	18.4	23.4	163.2	248.4
Less than 18 Years	2	2.6	10.2	15.7	69.2
18-24 Years	2	8.0	9.9	30.5	43.2
25-44 Years	4	3.7	11.9	19.3	88.6
45-64 Years	36	24.0	26.7	153.3	252.4
65-74 Years	44	21.7	29.3	299.7	510.4
75-84 Years	39	25.2	32.0	550.9	925.2
85 Years & Older	16	26.7	38.1	698.7	1,734.5

Michigan Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics

**Ten Leading Causes of Ambulatory Care Sensitive Hospitalizations
For Patients of All Ages, Both Sexes
Alger County Residents, Michigan 2022**

LEADING AMBULATORY CARE SENSITIVE CONDITIONS View ICD-CM Codes	AMBULATORY CARE SENSITIVE HOSPITALIZATIONS		ALGER RANK	MICHIGAN RANK
	NUMBER	PERCENT		
ALL AMBULATORY CARE SENSITIVE CONDITIONS	145	100.0		
Diabetes	25	17.2	1	1
Bacterial Pneumonia	17	11.7	2	3
Congestive Heart Failure	16	11.0	3	2
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary	12	8.3	4	4
Cellulitis	4	2.8	5	6
Convulsions	2	1.4	7	10
Gastroenteritis	2	1.4	7	9
Grand Mal & Other Epileptic Conditions	2	1.4	7	5
Dehydration	0	0.0	.	.
Asthma	0	0.0	.	.
All Other Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions	0	0.0		

Michigan Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics

2022 County Health Rankings—Alger County, Michigan

	Alger County	Error Margin	Top U.S. Performers *	Michigan	Rank (of 83)
Health Outcomes					22
Health Factors					25
Premature death	5,700	3,700-7,600	5,600	7,900	
Quality of Life					
Poor or fair health	19%	17-22%	15%	18%	
Poor physical health days	4.5	4.2-4.7	3.4	4.2	
Poor mental health days	5.3	5.0-5.6	4.0	5.2	
Low birthweight	9%	6-11%	6%	9%	
Health Behaviors					
Adult smoking	22%	20-25%	15%	20%	
Adult obesity	38%	36-40%	30%	36%	
Food environment index	7.6		8.8	7.1	
Physical inactivity	27%	25-30%	23%	25%	
Access to exercise opportunities	81%		86%	77%	
Excessive drinking	21%	20-22%	15%	20%	
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	0%	0-20%	10%	29%	

Sexually transmitted infections	87.8		161.8	501.7
Teen births	15	9-23	11	17
Clinical Care				
Uninsured	8%	7-10%	6%	7%
Primary care physicians	1,300:1		1,010:1	1,250:1
Dentists	2,250:1		1,210:1	1,290:1
Mental health providers	1,500:1		250:1	330:1
Preventable hospital stays	1,613		2,233	4,357
Flu vaccinations	30%		55%	47%
Mammography screening	45%		52%	45%
Social & Economic Factors				
High school graduation	92%	90-94%	94%	91%
Some college	43%	35-50%	74%	69%
Unemployment	10.7%		4.0%	9.9%
Children in poverty	16%	10-23%	9%	17%
Income inequality	3.8	3.2-4.3	3.7	4.6
Children in single-parent households	11%	6-16%	14%	26%
Social associations	11.0		18.1	9.7

Violent crime	207		63	443
Injury deaths	66	44-94	61	81
Physical Environment				
Air pollution - particulate matter	6.1		5.9	7.4
Drinking water violations	No			
Severe housing problems	11%	8-13%	9%	14%
Driving alone to work	67%	63-72%	72%	81%
Long commute - driving alone	34%	27-41%	16%	34%

Note: Blank values reflect unreliable or missing data

Source: County Health Rankings, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

The total number of hospitalizations for Alger County Residents in 2022 was 778. The ten leading diagnoses for hospitalizations for Alger County Residents for the year 2022 were:

Principal Diagnosis	Number	Percent
Heart Disease	104	13.3
Injury and Poisoning	74	9.5
Newborns and Neonates (Less than 7 days)	59	7.6
Females with Deliveries	46	5.9
Septicemia	33	4.2
Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms)	32	4.1
COVID-19	25	3.2
Cerebrovascular Diseases	24	3.1
Mood (affective) Disorders	22	2.8
Pneumonia	17	2.2

Source: Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health. State of Michigan, 2023.

*The average annual (2017-2021) number of hospitalizations declined from 857.

Ambulatory Care Sensitive Hospitalizations Trends Alger County Residents, Michigan 2006-2022

YEAR	ALGER COUNTY			MICHIGAN
	AMBULATORY CARE SENSITIVE HOSPITALIZATIONS*	ALL HOSPITALIZATIONS	PERCENT	PERCENT
2022	145	778	18.6	23.5
2021	174	861	20.2	22.6
2020	140	703	19.9	22.6
2019	156	920	17.0	23.7
2018	162	868	18.7	23.6
2017	134	922	14.5	22.8
2016	159	889	17.9	21.6
2015	166	925	18.0	20.5
2014	167	889	18.8	19.9
2013	190	908	20.9	20.1
2012	208	915	22.7	20.2
2011	250	1,005	24.9	20.6
2010	225	1,075	20.9	20.5
2009	247	1,230	20.1	20.5
2008	250	1,331	18.8	20.4
2007	243	1,261	19.3	20.1
2006	270	1,317	20.5	19.8

Source: Michigan Resident Inpatient Files created by the Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, using data from the Michigan Inpatient Database obtained with permission from the Michigan Health & Hospital Association Service Corporation (MHASC).

*Ambulatory Care Sensitive Hospitalizations are hospitalizations for conditions where timely and effective ambulatory care can decrease hospitalizations by preventing the onset of an illness or condition, controlling an acute episode of an illness or managing a chronic disease or condition.

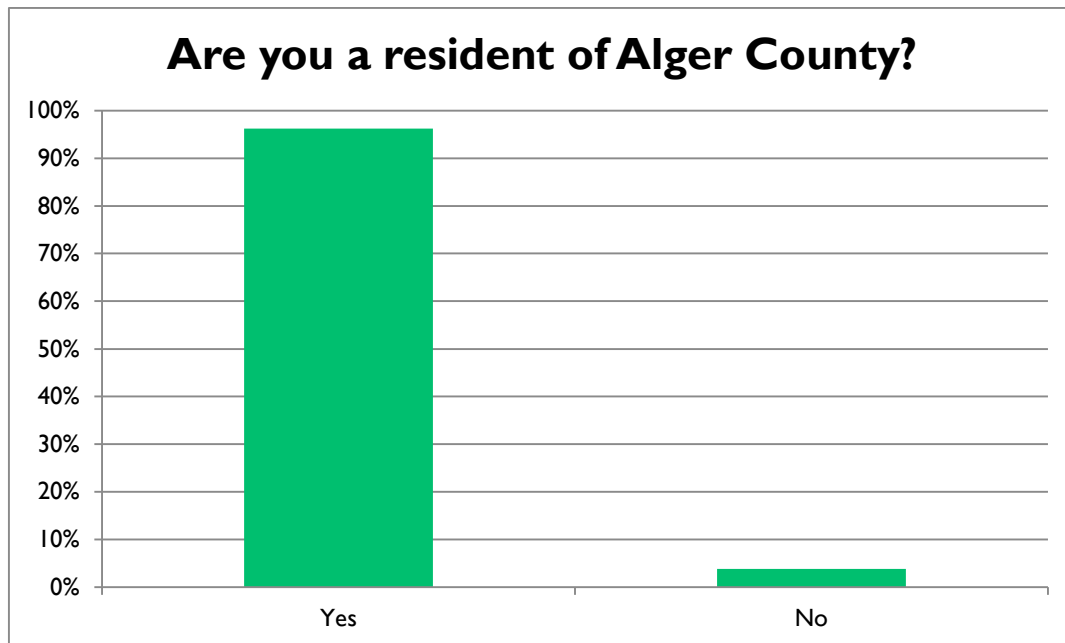
2025 Alger County Health Needs Survey Results

There were 263 responses to the surveys. There were two social media ads on FB, multiple ads in the local newspaper and shopper and paper copies that were available at the Fuzzy Boyak Welcome Center, Baycare Clinic and Alger Commission on Aging. The surveys were available for three months.

Question 1: Are you a resident of Alger County?

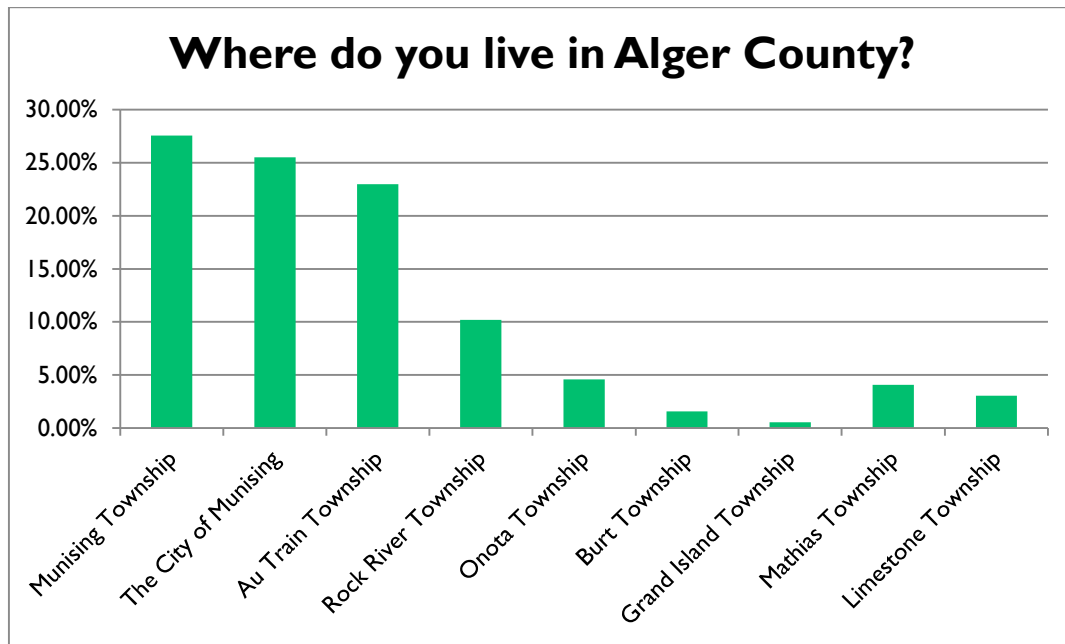
Yes 96.20%

No 3.80%



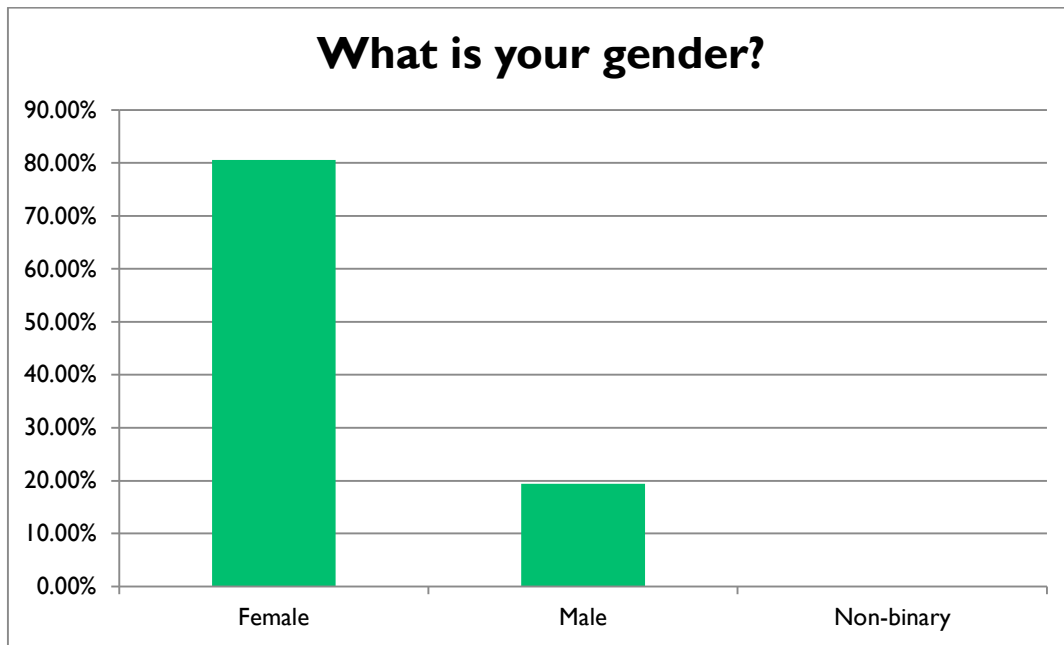
Question 2: Where do you live in Alger County?

Munising Township	27.55%
The City of Munising	25.51%
Au Train Township	22.96%
Rock River Township	10.20%
Onota Township	4.59%
Burt Township	1.53%
Grand Island Township	0.51%
Mathias Township	4.08%
Limestone Township	3.06%



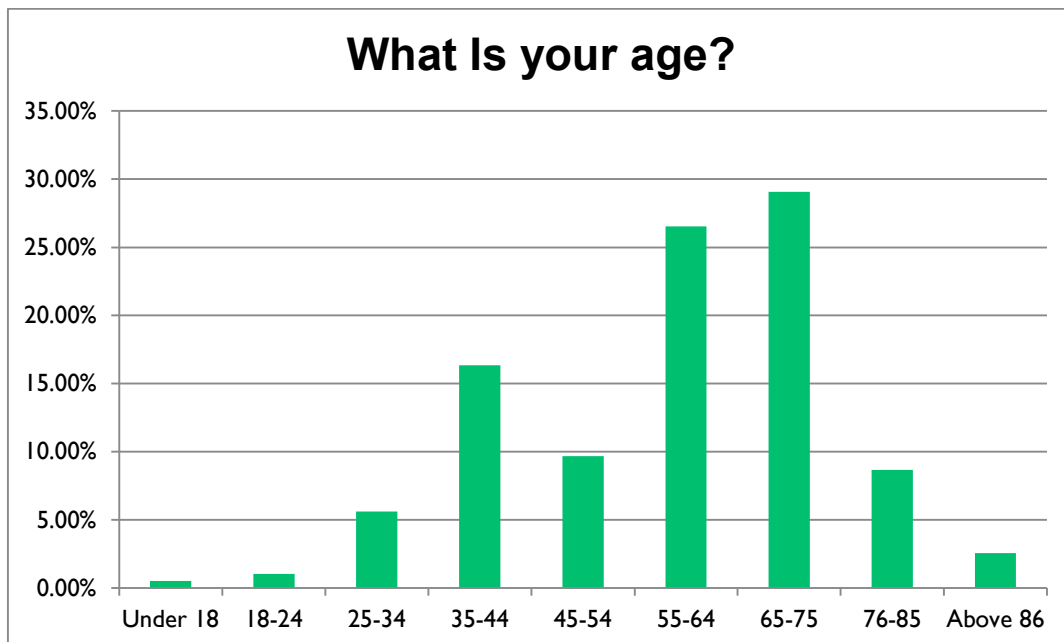
Question 3: What is your gender?

Female	80.61%
Male	19.39%
Non-binary	0.00%



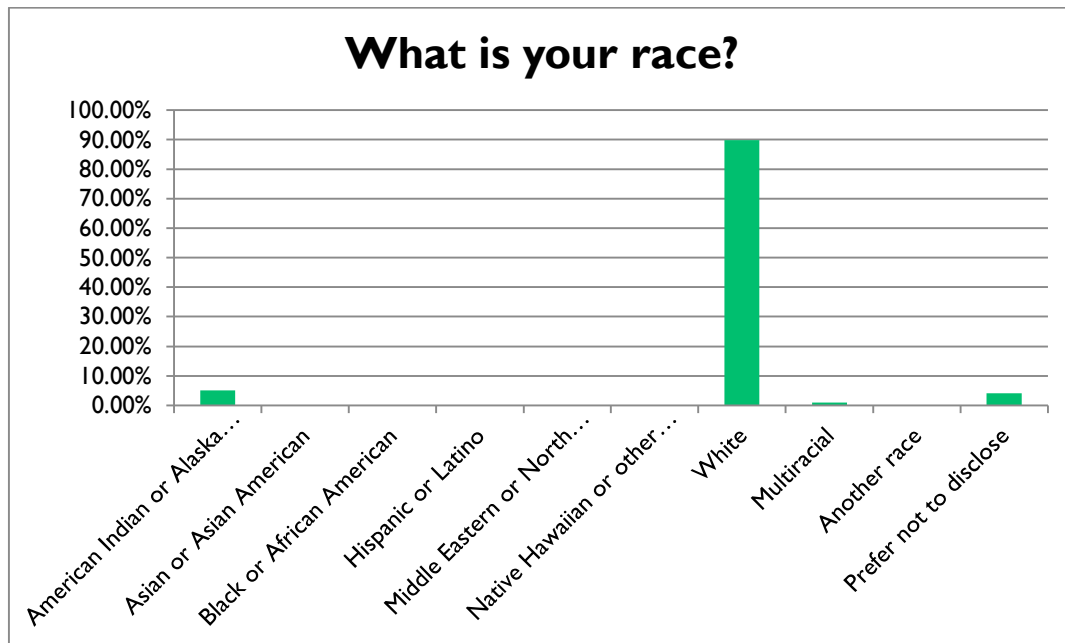
Question 4: What is your age?

Under 18	0.51%
18-24	1.02%
25-34	5.61%
35-44	16.33%
45-54	9.69%
55-64	26.53%
65-75	29.08%
76-85	8.67%
Above 86	2.55%



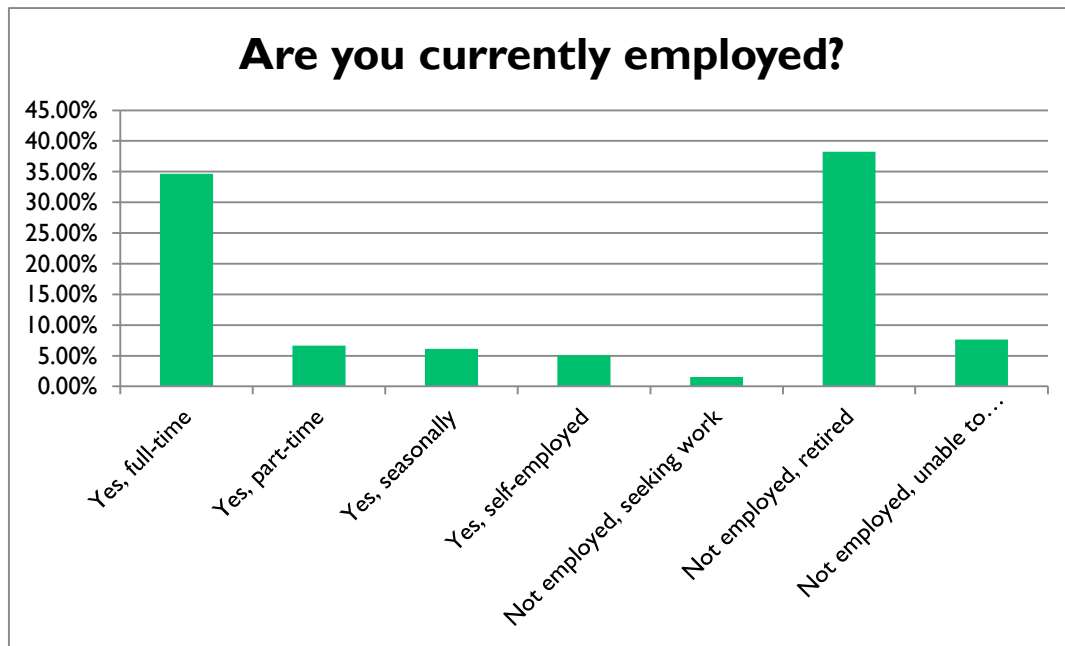
Question 5: What is your race?

American Indian or Alaska Native	5.10%
Asian or Asian American	0.00%
Black or African American	0.00%
Hispanic or Latino	0.00%
Middle Eastern or North African	0.00%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%
White	89.80%
Multiracial	1.02%
Another race	0.00%
Prefer not to disclose	4.08%



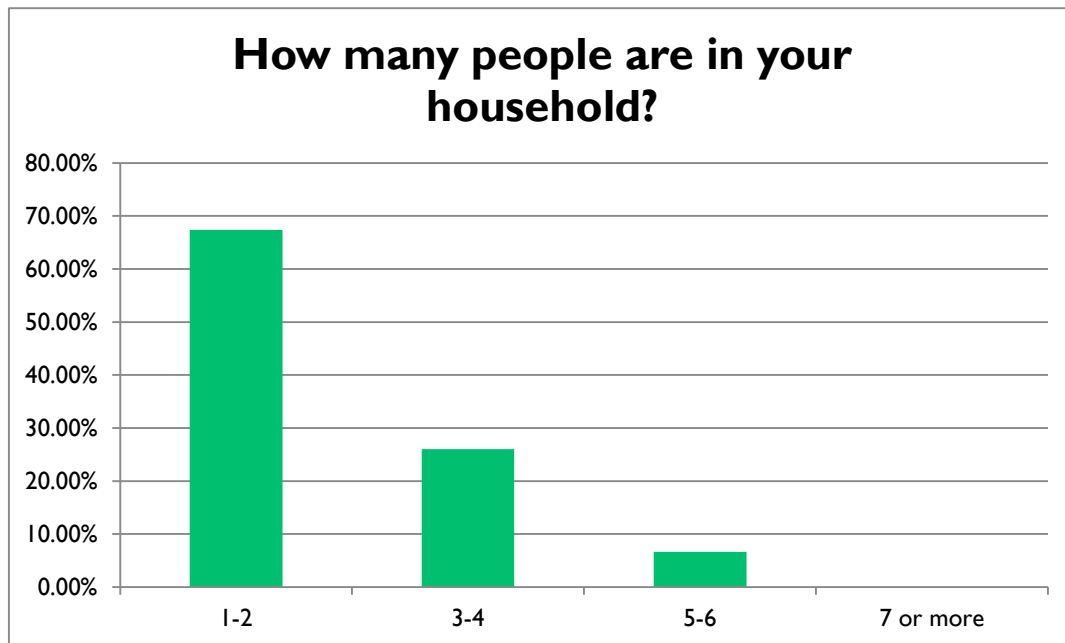
Question 6: Are you currently employed?

Yes, full-time	34.69%
Yes, part-time	6.63%
Yes, seasonally	6.12%
Yes, self-employed	5.10%
Not employed, seeking work	1.53%
Not employed, retired	38.27%
Not employed, unable to work or disabled	7.65%



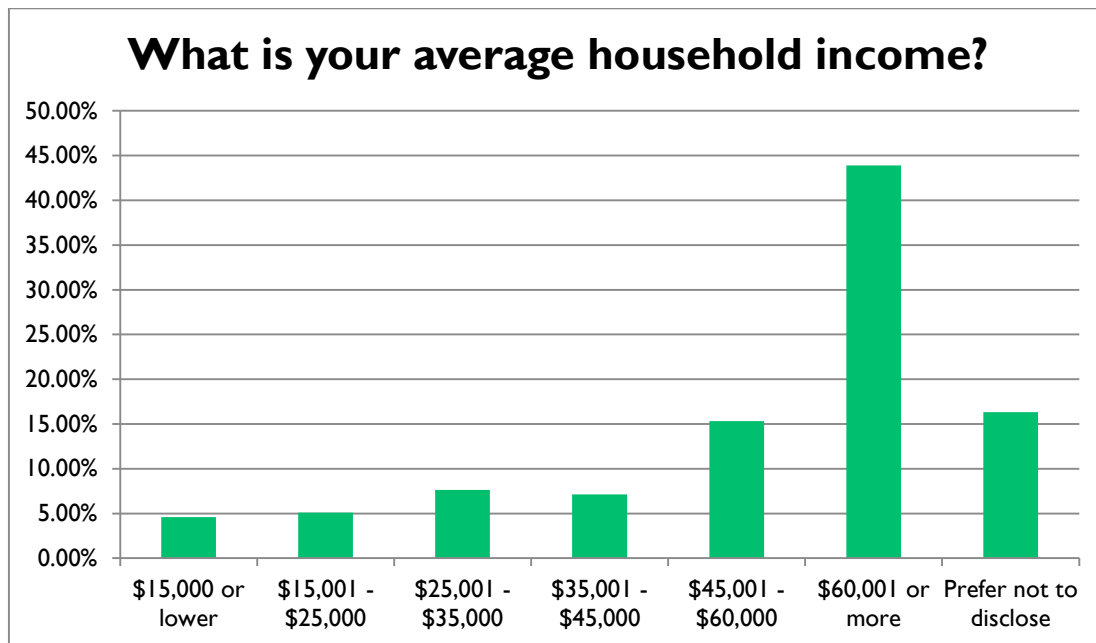
Question 7: How many people are in your household?

1-2	67.35%
3-4	26.02%
5-6	6.63%
7 or more	0.00%



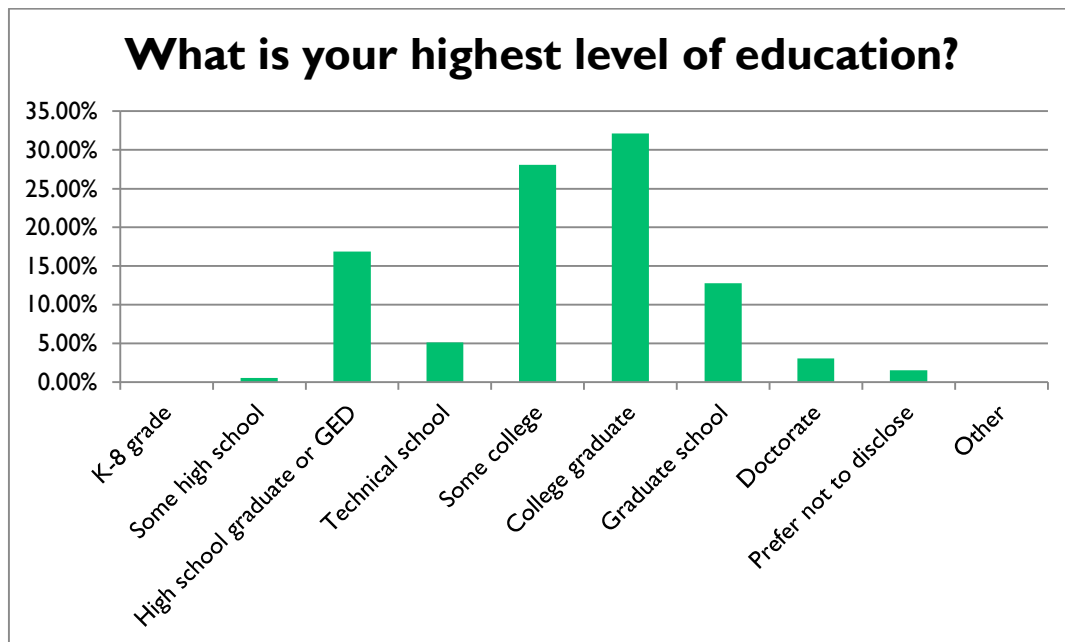
Question 8: What is your average household income?

\$15,000 or lower	4.59%
\$15,001 - \$25,000	5.10%
\$25,001 - \$35,000	7.65%
\$35,001 - \$45,000	7.14%
\$45,001 - \$60,000	15.31%
\$60,001 or more	43.88%
Prefer not to disclose	16.33%



Question 9: What is your highest level of education?

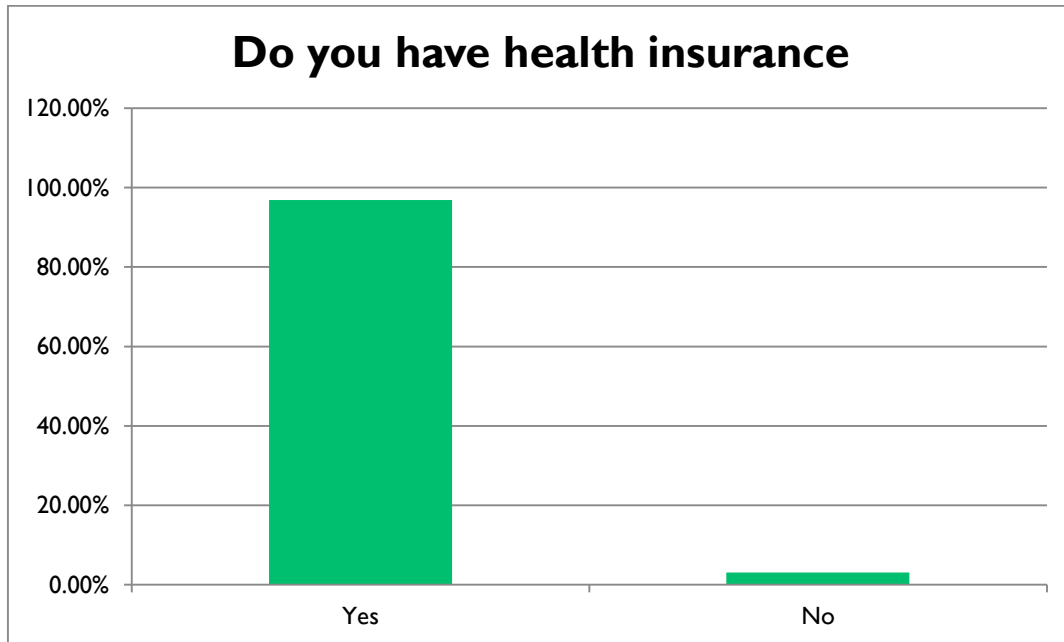
K-8 grade	0.00%
Some high school	0.51%
High school graduate or GED	16.84%
Technical school	5.10%
Some college	28.06%
College graduate	32.14%
Graduate school	12.76%
Doctorate	3.06%
Prefer not to disclose	1.53%
Other	0.00%



Question 10: Do you have health insurance?

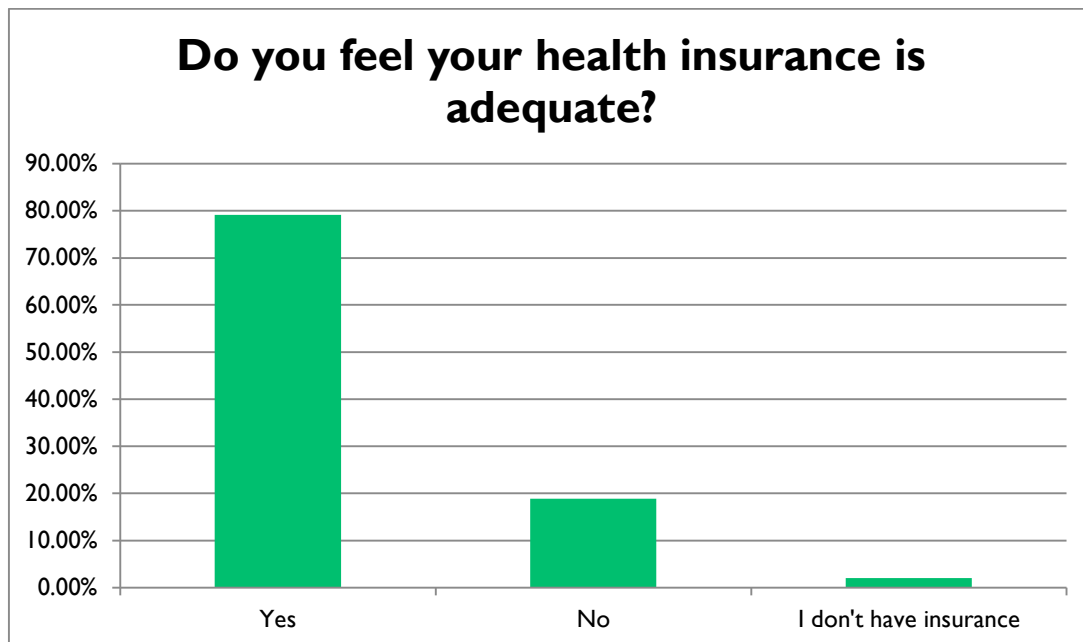
Yes 96.94%

No 3.06%



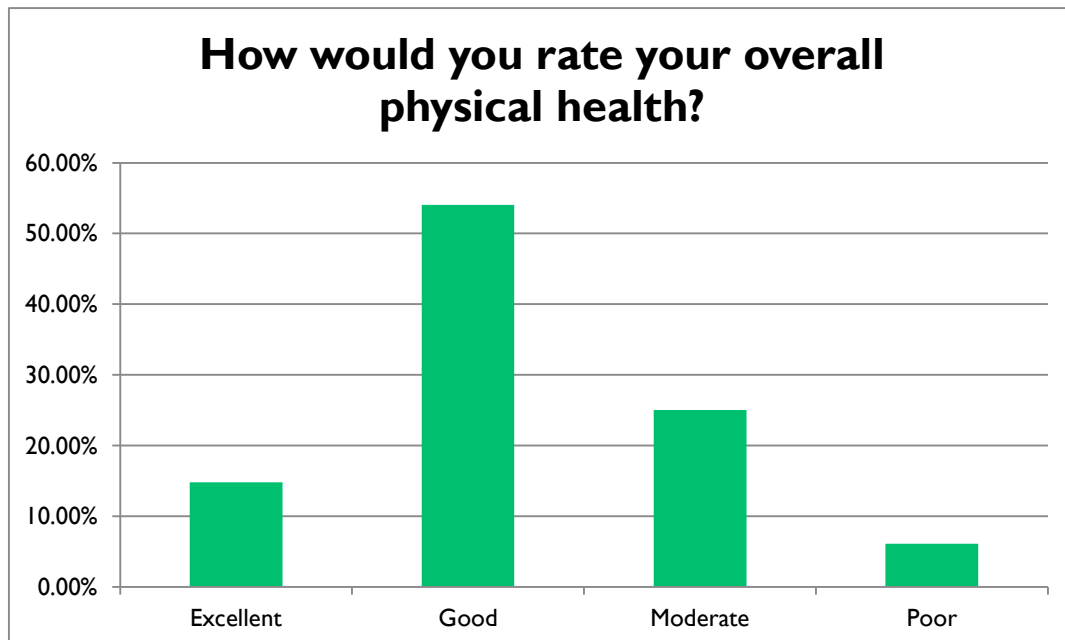
Question 11: Do you feel your health insurance is adequate?

Yes	79.08%
No	18.88%
I don't have insurance	2.04%



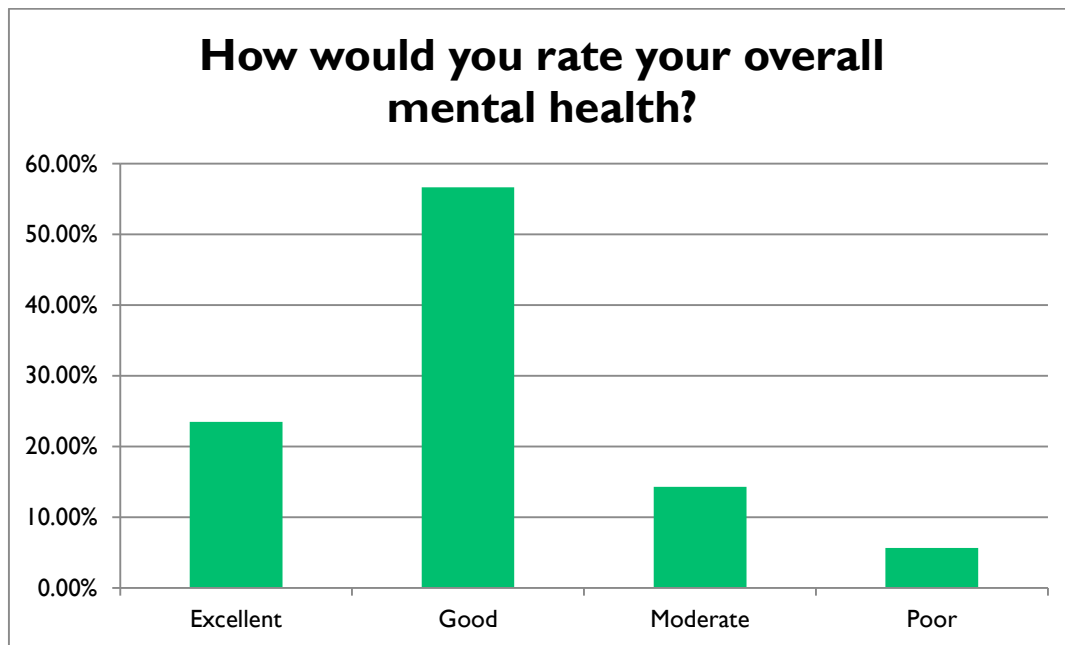
Question 12: How would you rate your overall physical health?

Excellent	14.80%
Good	54.08%
Moderate	25.00%
Poor	6.12%



Question 13: How would you rate your overall mental health?

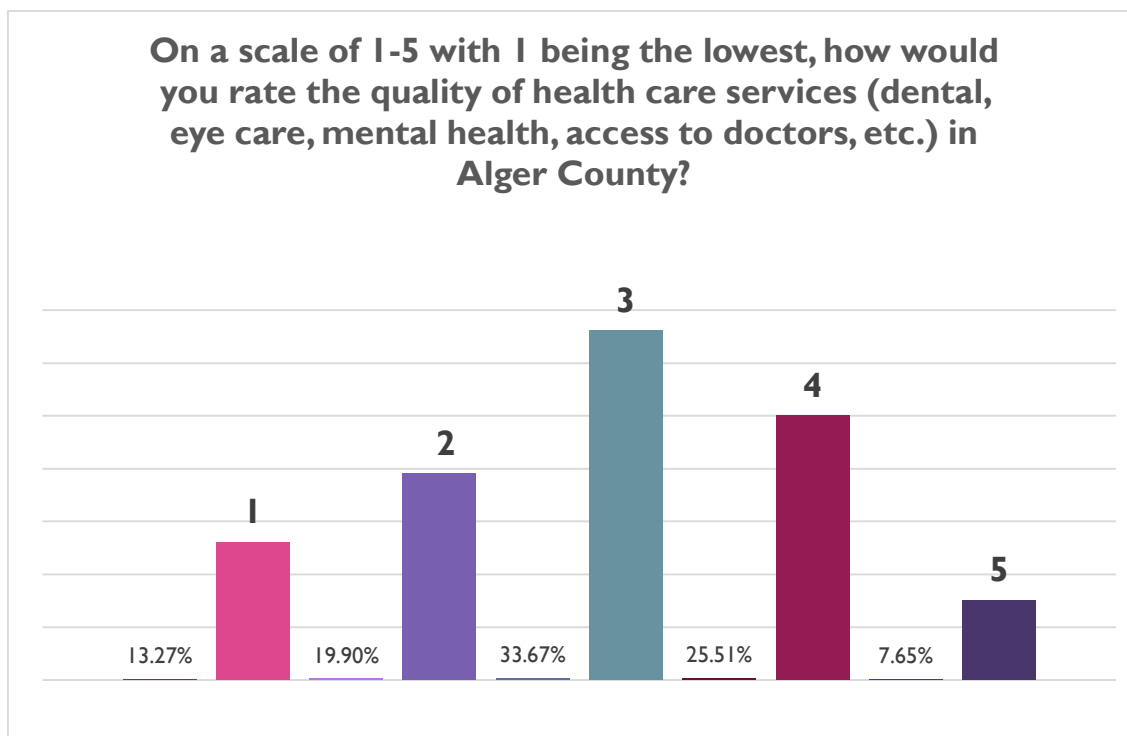
Excellent	23.47%
Good	56.63%
Moderate	14.29%
Poor	5.61%



Question 14: On a scale from 1-5, with 1 being the lowest, how would you rate the quality of healthcare services (dental, eye care, mental health, access to doctors, etc.) in Alger County?

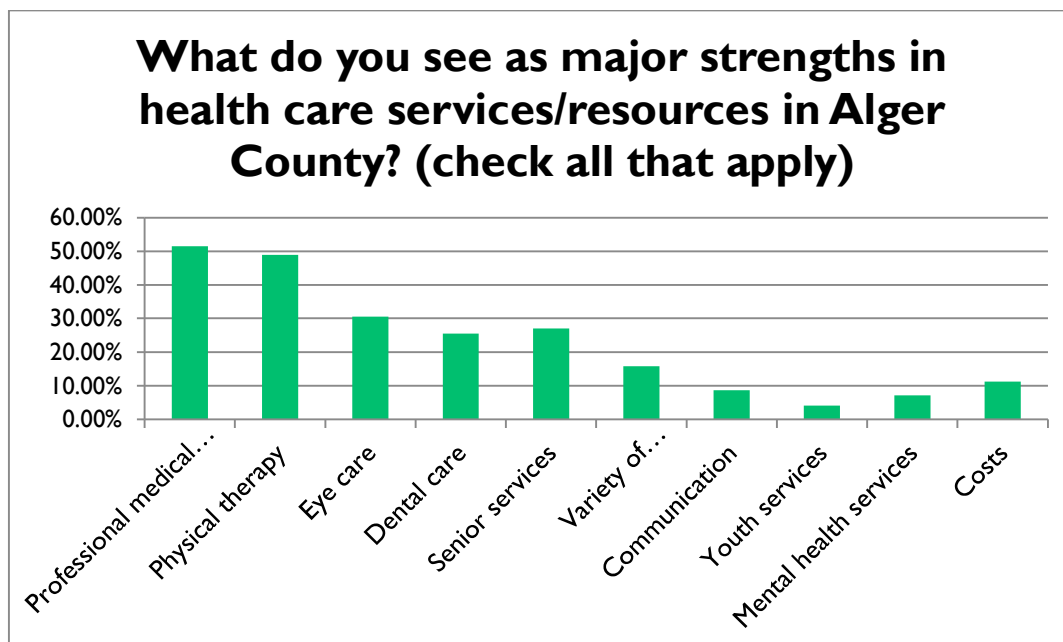
Rating of 1	Rating of 2	Rating of 3	Rating of 4	Rating of 5
13.27%	19.90%	33.67%	25.51%	7.65%

The total weighted average is: 2.94



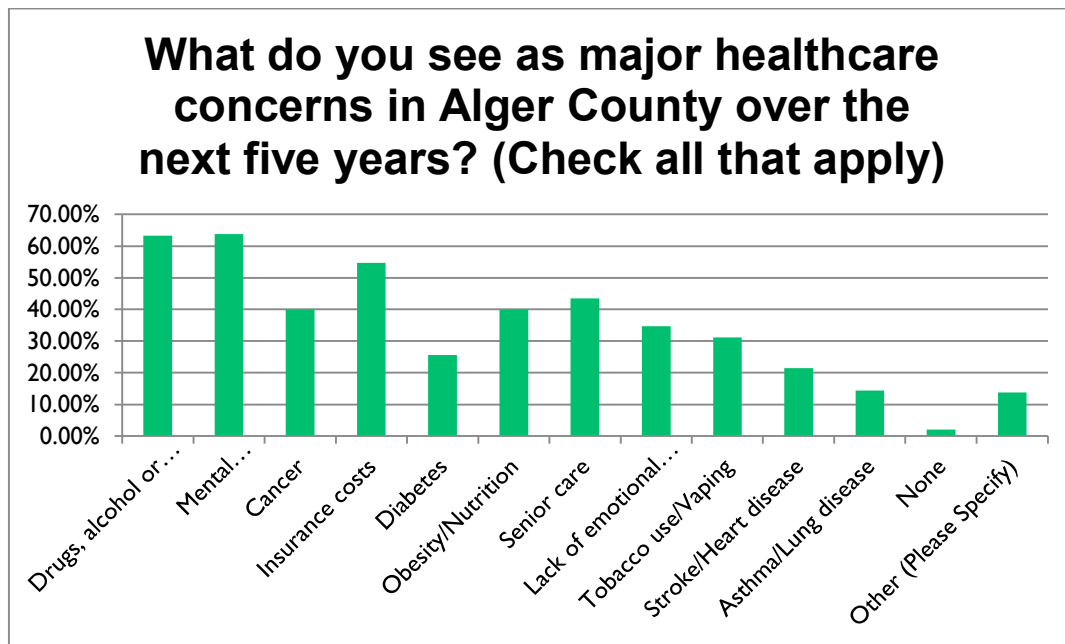
Question 15: What do you see as major strengths in health care services/resources in Alger County? (Check all that apply)

Professional medical staff (doctors, nurses, dentists, etc.)	51.53%
Physical therapy	48.98%
Eye care	30.61%
Dental care	25.51%
Senior services	27.04%
Variety of services/Resources offered	15.82%
Communication	8.67%
Youth services	4.08%
Mental health services	7.14%
Costs	11.22%



Question 16: What do you see as major healthcare concerns in Alger County over the next five years? (Check all that apply)

Drugs, alcohol or substance abuse	63.27%
Mental health/Depression/Suicide	63.78%
Cancer	39.80%
Insurance costs	54.59%
Diabetes	25.51%
Obesity/Nutrition	39.80%
Senior care	43.37%
Lack of emotional support in schools/Crisis intervention	34.69%
Tobacco use/Vaping	31.12%
Stroke/Heart disease	21.43%
Asthma/Lung disease	14.29%
None	2.04%
Other (Please Specify) *	13.78%



* “Other” answers to Question 16 (What do you see as major healthcare concerns in Alger County over the next five years?)

- Pediatric behavioral health
- Lack of doctors, dentists, etc.
- ER Department
- Kidney Disease
- MDs needed for ER & Urgent Care
- Physical and occupational rehabilitation and dental
- Foot issues
- All of it. We must go to Marquette or Mayo to be seen. Health care here sucks. Also, trying to find a way to get there.
- No activity, pediatrics
- Specialized services
- I don't know
- Emphasis on mental health
- Losing access because of poor legislative decisions
- Transportation for surgery in Marquette
- Lack of communication to know what Alger County has and how to access transportation
- Loss of services with medical professionals retiring, i.e., dentists
- Specialty Care
- We desperately need at least one more (affordable) assisted living
- Better emergency room services
- Physical and mental health education for the youth community. Cooking and food, science and nutrition. The youth need more focus and attention as they are our future.
- Basic health care. Real doctors in Bay Care and hospital. No more PAs
- Uninsured drain on community resources
- Need another dentist in town
- Lack of specialists
- Accessibility to specialists
- Dental
- Lack of access to high quality services

Question 17: What type of services/programs could be developed to improve health and health care in Alger County?

- Stop letting PA's run the emergency rooms in our hospital. They are rude, know nothing, and suck
- Dental and PT
- We have no availability for pediatric behavioral health
- Natural health and healthy eating
- Offering quality medical professionals, a great wage
- More doctors
- Doctors and dentists that will accept patients, mental health care specialists
- More dentists, services for seniors and mental health services.
- Mental health and counseling for our youth
- No idea
- Better mental health programs, a pool for PT, better staffed home health programs
- Senior care
- More one-on-one therapists and dentists
- Better mental health resources
- A dialysis machine
- Transportation in a vehicle with high seats and a ramp to enter and exit to take people to UPHS Marquette and medical appts in Marquette and Escanaba
- More specialty doctors practicing for at least 1 week in Alger Co.
- Need more mental health services and drug alcohol services
- Need for more dentists. Hearing care is badly needed (audiologists),
- Affordable healthcare for all
- Help for mental illness, therapists, psychologists, another dentist,
- I'm not sure
- Dental, PT, massage, chiropractic
- All the folks I have contact with go elsewhere for their medical care.
- We have one dentist in Alger County. No pediatric dentistry. Limited pediatric care availability.
- Transportation to appointments mom
- Affordable health care, more options for dentists, mental help, doctors, school counseling

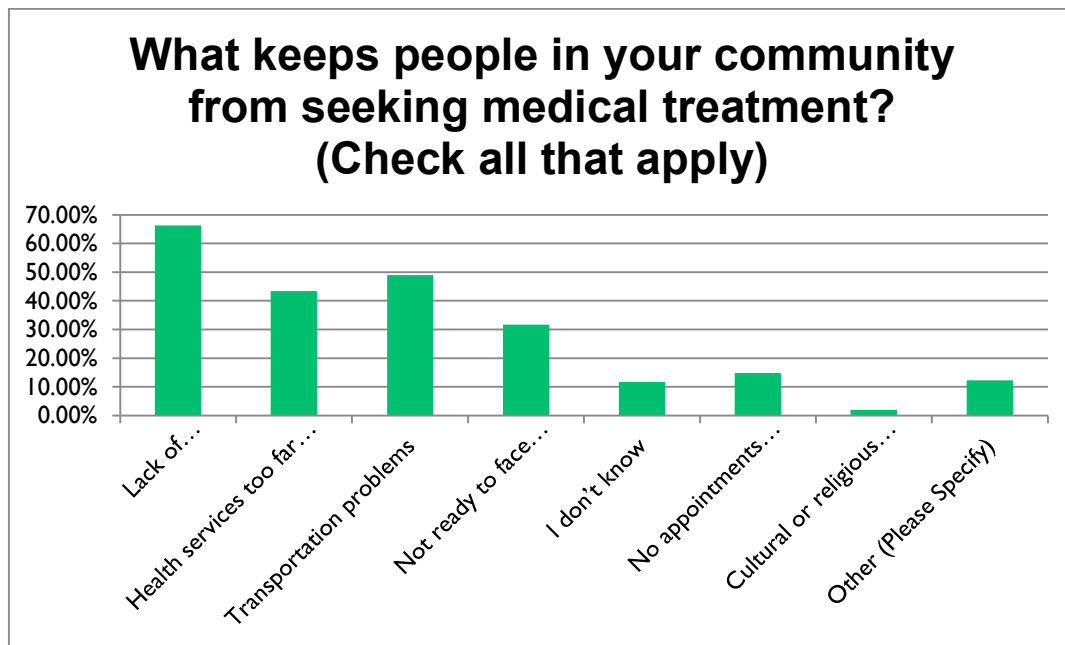
- Use our hospital like it was built for. Whenever I use hospital facilities there are no patients in beds
- Mental health support for all ages.
- Community outreach
- Podiatrist
- Break the stigma. Pathways is our main resource for mental health. And quite frankly they suck at it. The amount of documented and undocumented complaints about them is staggering. The Drop In is the only real resource for mental health. And if you go there, you're seen as crazy. It's not as bad as it used to be since Amanda took it over.
- Being able to get into dental offices...(won't take on additional patients!!)
- More doctors available
- We don't have paramedics so calling 911 means a long wait
- There's literally almost none. Munising Memorial simply doesn't have the resources
- More senior services (get together) as the population ages. Services for seniors assisting in the home. Therapists for mental health.
- Younger people need for help with housework for seniors. Older people shouldn't be sent to help with housework.
- All
- Have good quality physicians
- Visiting specialty clinics, senior dental care, school outreach on current issues like vaping
- More exercise classes are offered
- Better ER and Urgent Care staff
- Mental health services
- More mental health options
- Better mental health services
- Mental health care
- Unknown
- More financial assistance for the lower middle class. The income rate for assistance with medical bills is too low.
- Pathways expansion
- Someone that could drive you to Marquette for surgery when they won't let you drive after ...
- More services so we are not going to Marquette or Escanaba

- There is one child therapist within 25 mins. She doesn't take insurance (if we had it).
- Attract more medical professionals to practice here
- Home health care
- Unsure
- Cardiology clinic or just specialists in general so you don't have to go all the way to Marquette or even Green Bay
- More specialty providers to make waiting times quicker
- A family practice and a dentist. Also, doctors that accept new patients.
- Exercise classes in the area.
- Get rid of all the PA'S and get actual MDs
- Help with the cost of insurance.
- More programs for mental health, depression, addiction
- Regular substance abuse recovery treatments and mental health services
- Tobacco/Vaping/Drug cessation. Obesity elimination
- Dentist
- Insurance help
- Dental
- Juvenile facility for substance abuse
- Mental health
- Another dentist
- Quality caregivers
- Traveling specialists
- More specialists coming to Munising, mental health in schools, dental
- I don't know
- Good doctors
- Specialist clinics, maybe monthly
- Therapists that specialize in emotional trauma for kids/teens in divorced/blended family situations.
- Volunteer programs that connect seniors with youth. Also, assistance for seniors in rural parts of all of the UP.
- More actual doctors, orthopedic surgeons, colonoscopies
- Substance abuse and mental health programs
- Something to encourage YOUNG adults to move here. We have too many people that need care, and not enough young people to provide those services.
- Increased mental health services

- More specialists at the hospital. Improving drug and mental health access for people
- Outlying clinics for medical care
- Assistance with finding healthcare resources.
- Don't know
- Mental health services for youth
- Mental health programs
- Better coordination with Marquette hospital
- Rheumatology
- More doctors and specialty doctors
- Women's health, dental work
- Dental care, mental health services
- More dentists needed, senior transportation to appointments
- Mental health services
- Mental health care
- General wellness, exercise, food and diet
- Aid to seniors
- More dental, mental health and senior services

Question 18: What keeps people in your community from seeking medical treatment? (Check all that apply)

Lack of insurance/Financial reasons	66.33%
Health services are too far away	43.37%
Transportation problems	48.98%
Not ready to face health problem	31.63%
I don't know	11.73%
No appointments available	14.80%
Cultural or religious beliefs	2.04%
Other (Please Specify) *	12.24%



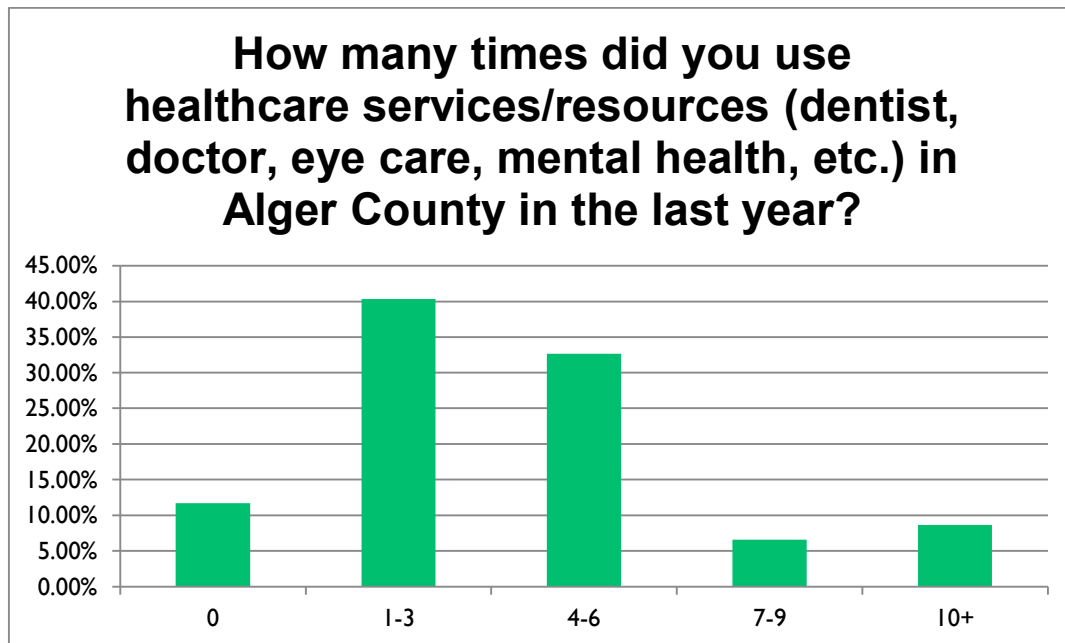
*“Other” answers to Question 18 (What keeps people in your community from seeking medical treatment.)

- No real doctors in our hospital. Waste of money.
- Lousy health and dental care.
- It's very frustrating that there are very few actual doctors and the PAs and NPs don't seem to know much about anything.
- Non-local facilities

- Some doctors don't listen to their patients
- Lack of MDs in routine patient care, Urgent Care and the ER
- No trust in the doctors at Baycare
- Poor prior experiences, too inaccurate in diagnoses
- Limited availability of health care providers.
- Proper health care is in other cities. Our current dental and health care options are horrid. Bedside manners for the hospital and Dr. Winkler are quite disgusting.
- Doctors don't believe seniors and tend to think your doctor shopping.
- They don't trust the PAs and staff at the hospital.
- Doctors are not very knowledgeable in Alger County.
- Medical care at the hospital is sub-par.
- Don't know
- Lack of education about their health and wellness.
- Doctors aren't educated enough, terrible bedside manners and no compassion. They lie to your face and lie in your medical chart.
- Lack of programs available—education and support
- Ridiculous mentality of “toughing it out” when feeling symptoms.
- Don't have everything available here, plus cost is too much.
- No confidence in physicians in the area.
- No specialists nearby.
- Not enough variety in options for health care.
- The doctors almost killed our children.

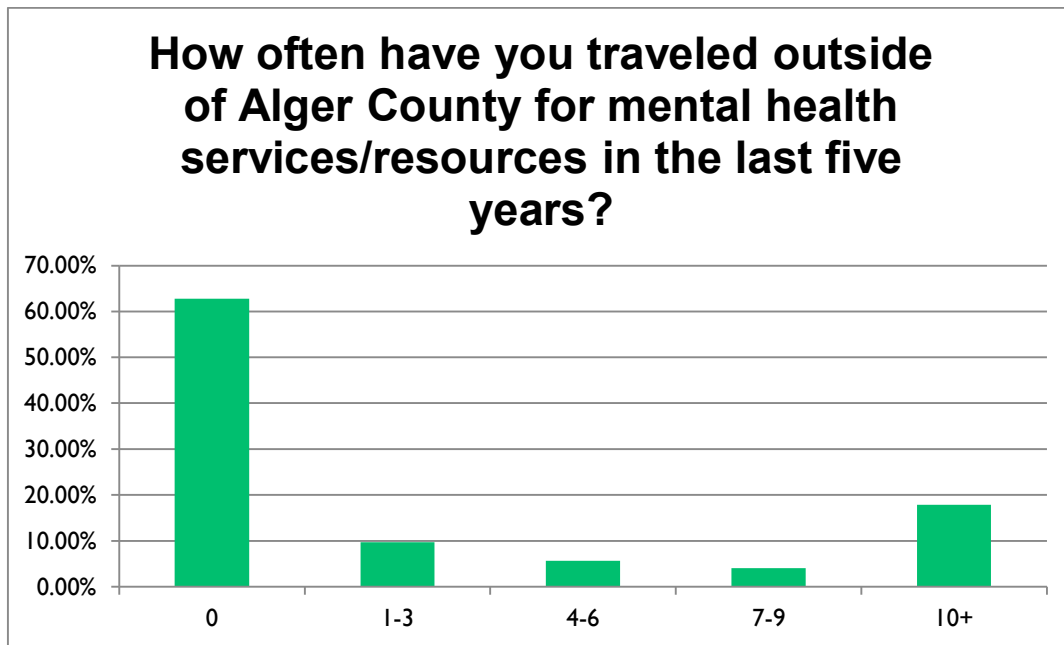
Question 19: How many times did you use health care services/resources (dentist, doctor, eye care, mental health, etc.) in Alger County in the last year?

0	11.73%
1-3	40.31%
4-6	32.65%
7-9	6.63%
10+	8.67%



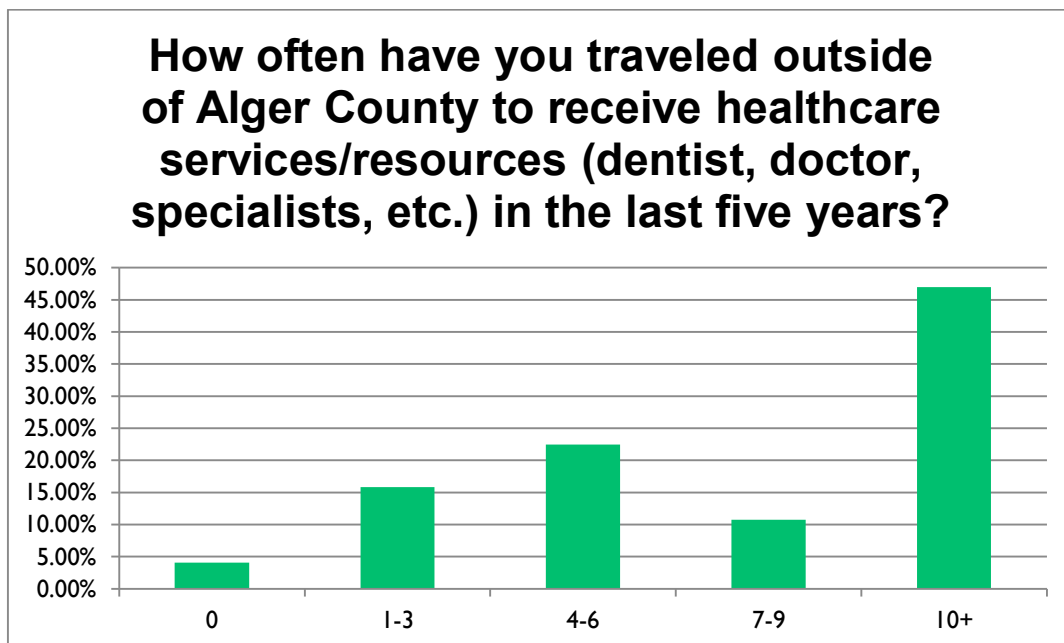
Question 20: How often have you traveled outside of Alger County for mental health services/resources in the last five years?

0	62.76%
1-3	9.69%
4-6	5.61%
7-9	4.08%
10+	17.86%



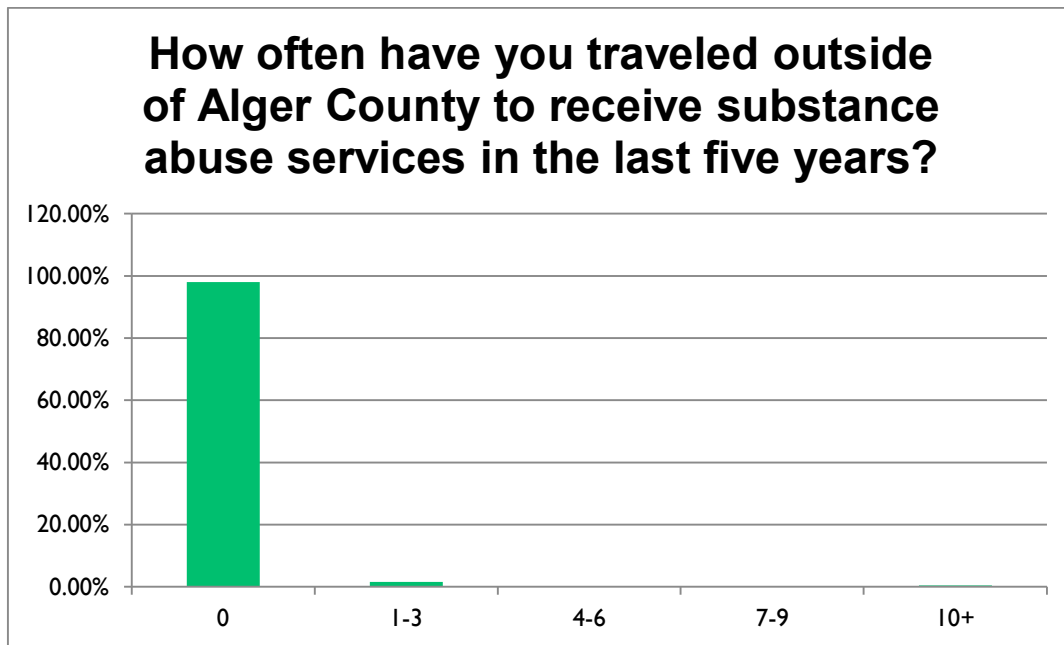
Question 2I: How often have you traveled outside of Alger County to receive health care services/resources (dentist, doctor, specialists, etc.) in the last five years?

0	4.08%
1-3	15.82%
4-6	22.45%
7-9	10.71%
10+	46.94%



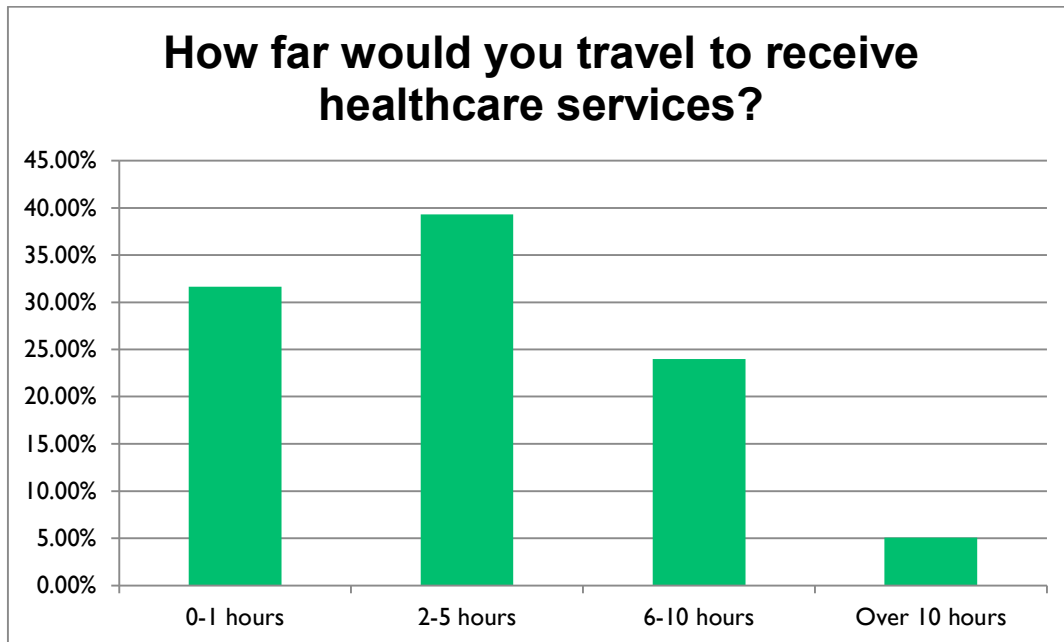
Question 22: How often have you traveled outside of Alger County to receive substance abuse services in the last five years?

0	97.96%
1-3	1.53%
4-6	0.00%
7-9	0.00%
10+	0.51%



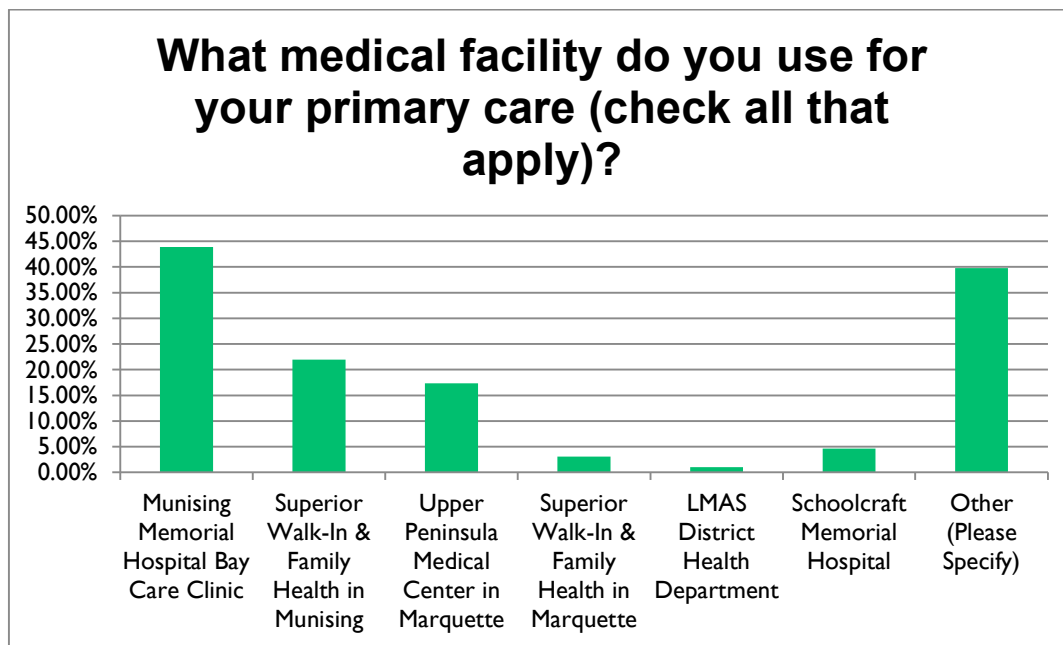
Question 23: How far would you travel to receive health care services?

0-1 hours	31.63%
2-5 hours	39.29%
6-10 hours	23.98%
Over 10 hours	5.10%



Question 24: What medical facility do you use for your primary care? (Check all that apply)

Munising Memorial Hospital Bay Care Clinic	43.88%
Superior Walk-In & Family Health in Munising	21.94%
Upper Peninsula Medical Center in Marquette	17.35%
Superior Walk-In & Family Health in Marquette	3.06%
LMAS District Health Department	1.02%
Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital	4.59%
Other (Please Specify) *	39.80%



*“Other” answers to Question 24 (What medical facility do you use for your primary care?)

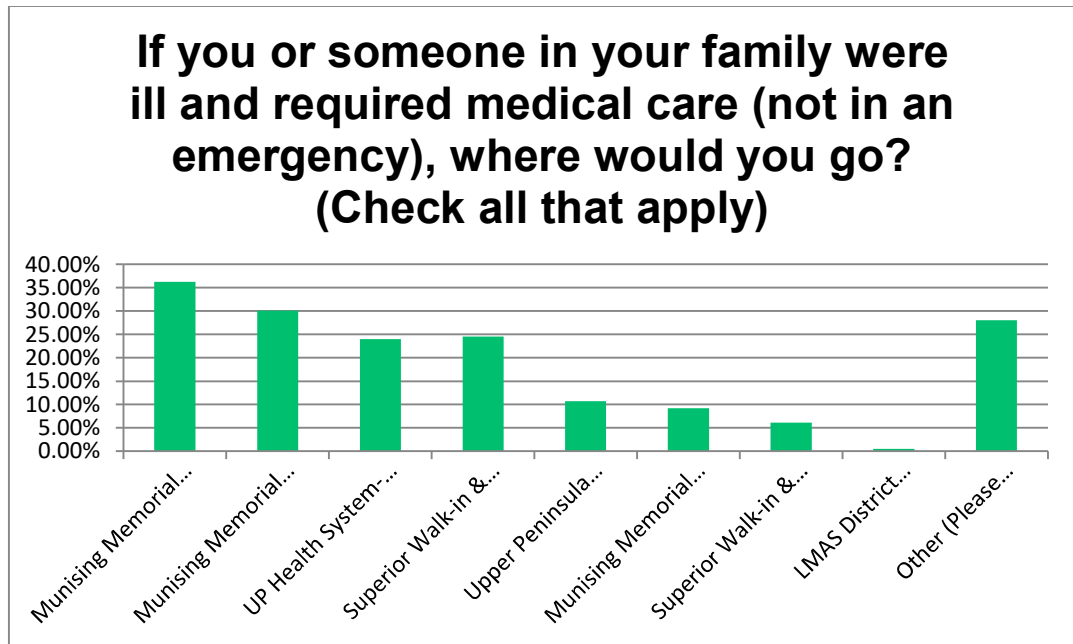
- South Shore Family Practice
- Marquette VA
- Access Family Medicine
- OSF
- UP Health Clinic in Trenary

- Green Bay, WI
- Access Family Medicine
- Lakewood Medical, UP Health in Harvey
- Dr. Ray, Harvey
- Dr. Ray, Harvey
- Access Family Medicine, Dr. Ray
- None
- OSF St. Francis, Escanaba
- Tribal
- Florida as we winter there but remain Alger Co. residents
- St. Vincent in Green Bay, WI
- Access Family Medicine
- Madison, WI
- Access Family Medicine in Harvey and the Marquette VA Clinic
- Sault Tribe Medical Center
- Trenary Clinic
- Tribal Center Clinic
- UP Health Care in Harvey
- South Bay Medicine
- Mayo
- Escanaba Doctors Park
- OSF
- I can't afford to go to the doctor
- Access Family Medicine
- Access Family Medicine
- Dr. Ray
- Marshfield Clinic in Marquette, MI
- Belin Health, Marquette
- Marquette doctor's office
- Private practice—Concierge Medicine
- University of Michigan
- Access Family Medicine
- Access Family Medicine
- Access Family Medicine
- Northern Michigan Health Center
- Tribal health center
- PCP Marquette

- Access Family Medicine
- Belin Health Marquette
- Access Family Medicine
- Tribal
- U.P. Holistic in Harvey
- Access Family Medicine in Harvey-Dr. Ray
- Lakewood Medical in Harvey
- UPHS Marquette
- Access Family Medicine
- OSF
- Dr. Balmer
- Belin Health
- Helen Newberry Joy
- Access Family Medicine
- Access Family Medicine
- UPHS Marquette

Question 25: If you or someone in your family were ill and required medical care (not in an emergency), where would you go? (Check all that apply)

Munising Memorial Hospital Bay Care Clinic	36.22%
Munising Memorial Hospital Urgent Care	30.10%
UP Health System-Marquette (Marquette hospital)	23.98%
Superior Walk-in & Family Health in Munising	24.49%
Upper Peninsula Medical Center in Marquette	10.71%
Munising Memorial Hospital Emergency Department	9.18%
Superior Walk-in & Family Health in Marquette	6.12%
LMAS District Health Department	0.51%
Other (Please Specify) *	28.06%



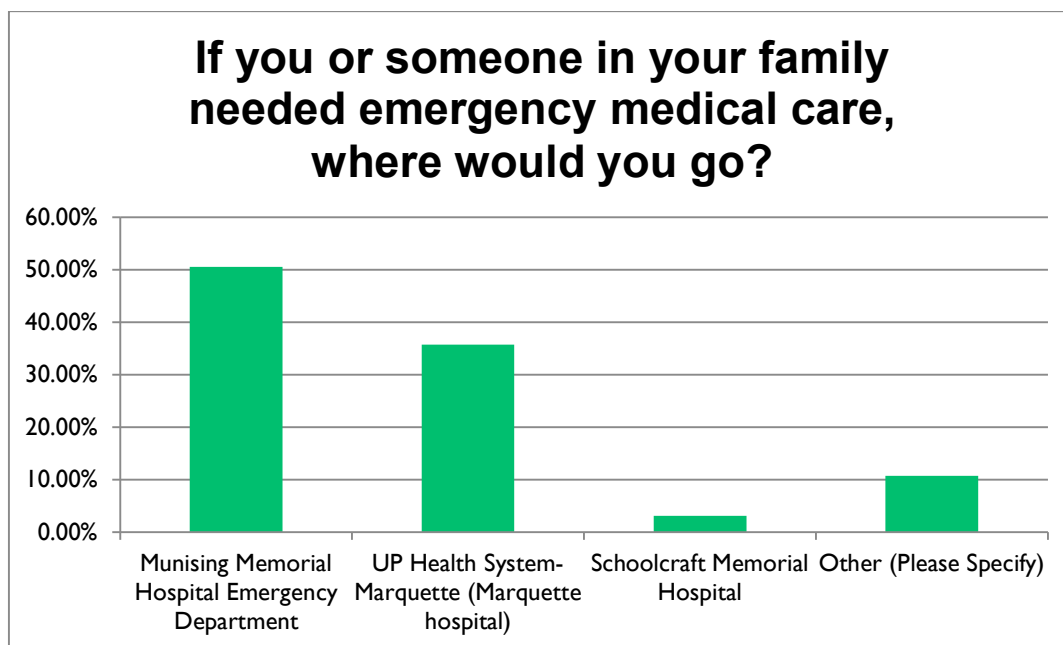
*“Other” answers to Question 25 (If you or someone in your family were ill and required medical care (not in an emergency), where would you go)?

- South Shore Family Practice
- Access Family Medicine
- OSF
- Iron Mountain Marshfield
- Access Family Medicine
- Downstate or Minnesota
- Primary care physician (Lakewood Medical, Harvey)
- Access Family Medicine, Dr. Ray
- Access Family Medicine, Dr. Ray
- OSF St. Francis, Escanaba
- Tribal
- Access Family Medicine
- Sault Tribal Medical Center
- Belin or Mayo Clinic
- Trenary Clinic
- Mayo Clinic
- South Bay Medicine
- Manistique
- Mayo, Green Bay Appleton, WI
- Belin in Escanaba
- Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital
- Access Family Medicine, Dr. Ray
- Primary doctor
- Marshfield Clinic in Marquette, MI
- Belin Health, Marquette
- Regular doctor in Marquette
- Mayo Clinic
- UP Health System-Bell
- University of Michigan
- Access Family Medicine
- Access Family Medicine
- Access Family Medicine
- Tribal Heal Center or OSF
- Access Family Medicine

- Tribal
- Family doctor
- Access Family Medicine
- VA for myself in Iron Mountain, Marquette or Gladstone. Spouse would go to Primary Care Physician private practice in Marquette.
- Access Family Medicine, Dr. Ray
- Belin in Escanaba
- Sault Tribe Health Clinic
- UP Holistic Medicine
- Trenary Clinic
- Access Family Medicine
- Heritage Health
- If it could be treated through the walk-in at MMH, I would go there. Otherwise, I'd call my PCP at Access Family Medicine.
- Schoolcraft
- Access Family Medicine in Harvey-Dr. Ray
- Lakewood Medical Harvey
- Green Bay

Question 26: If you or someone in your family needed emergency medical care, where would you go?

Munising Memorial Hospital Emergency Department	50.51%
UP Health System-Marquette (Marquette hospital)	35.71%
Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital	3.06%
Other (Please Specify)*	10.71%



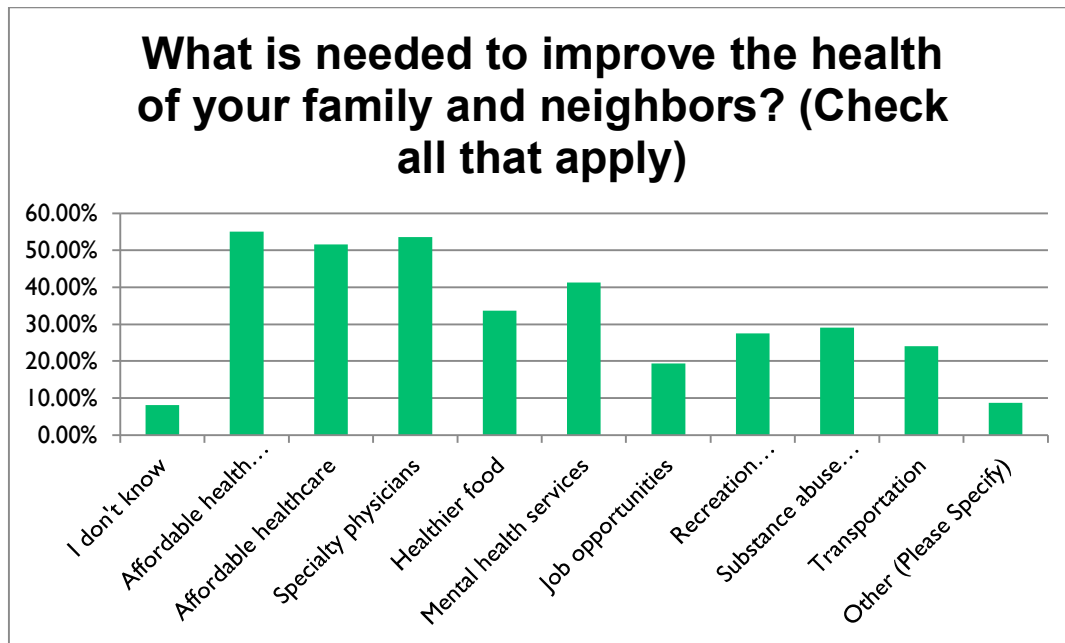
*“Other” answers to Question 26 (If you or someone in your family needed emergency medical care, where would you go?)

- Iron Mountain Marshfield
- We would go to Munising Memorial because it is the closest but depending on the severity of the issue, would prefer to be transferred to a better equipped hospital.

- All of the above...depending on where we are located at the time of the emergency.
- OSF St. Francis Escanaba
- Depending on how serious, Marquette or Munising.
- Green Bay
- It depends on the emergency.
- If it's an emergency the only thing available is Munising.
- Escanaba (St. Francis)
- Munising for a small emergency. Marquette for a major emergency.
- Marquette
- UP Health System—Marquette or Bell
- OSF
- Marquette if needed
- It depends on the emergency.
- OSF
- Bell Hospital and Mayo Clinic
- It depends on the emergency. UP Health Marquette for heart issues.
- Bell or Escanaba
- Whoever was closer.
- It depends on the nature of the emergency.

Question 27: What is needed to improve the health of your family and neighbors? (Check all that apply)

I don't know	8.16%
Affordable health insurance	55.10%
Affordable healthcare	51.53%
Specialty physicians	53.57%
Healthier food	33.67%
Mental health services	41.33%
Job opportunities	19.39%
Recreation facilities/Physical activity opportunities	27.55%
Substance abuse services and treatment	29.08%
Transportation	23.98%
Other (Please Specify)*	8.67%

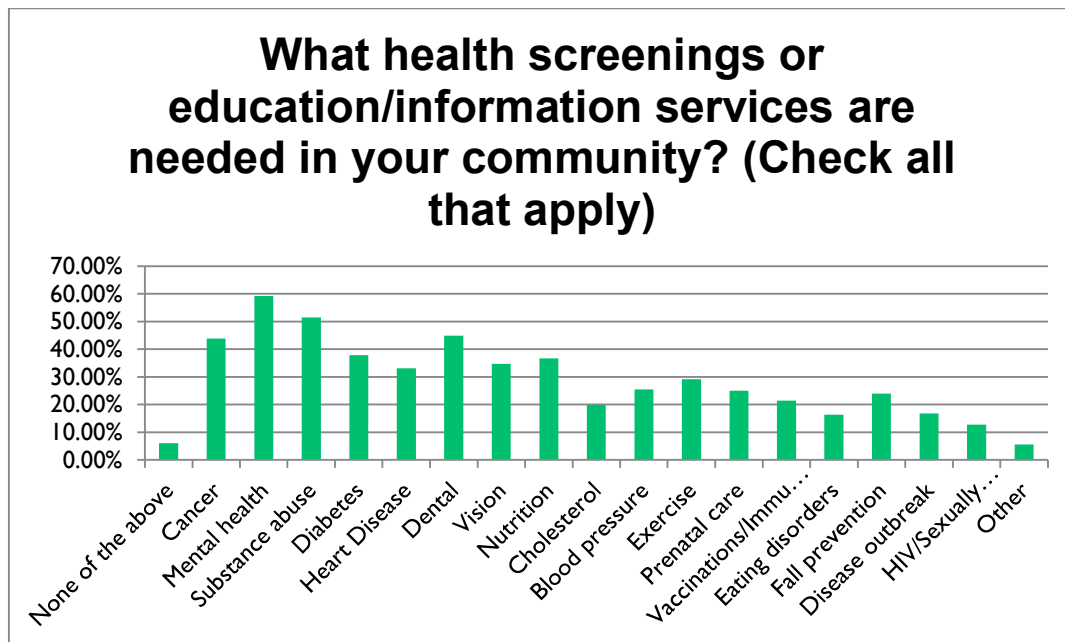


“Other” answers to Question 27 (What is needed to improve the health of your family and neighbors?)

- Available services
- Local health care options
- A dialysis machine
- MDs in routine patient care, ER and Urgent Care
- Unknown
- Access to less expensive food options
- Activities for older people outside of Munising
- Family physicians that stay in the community
- Doctors that don't judge. Most of them have horrible bedside manners.
- Someplace to offer aquatics
- Better ER and Urgent Care staff
- Less expensive food in the community
- More doctors to take new patients
- Better doctors in the emergency department
- At present my family is in good health, but I see others struggle with these needs
- Affordable housing
- Competent docs and less dependance of healthcare by PAs

Question 28: What health screenings or education/information services are needed in your community? (Check all that apply)

None of the above	6.12%
Cancer	43.88%
Mental health	59.18%
Substance abuse	51.53%
Diabetes	37.76%
Heart Disease	33.16%
Dental	44.90%
Vision	34.69%
Nutrition	36.73%
Cholesterol	19.90%
Blood pressure	25.51%
Exercise	29.08%
Prenatal care	25.00%
Vaccinations/Immunizations	21.43%
Eating disorders	16.33%
Fall prevention	23.98%
Disease outbreak	16.84%
HIV/Sexually transmitted diseases	12.76%
Other*	5.61%



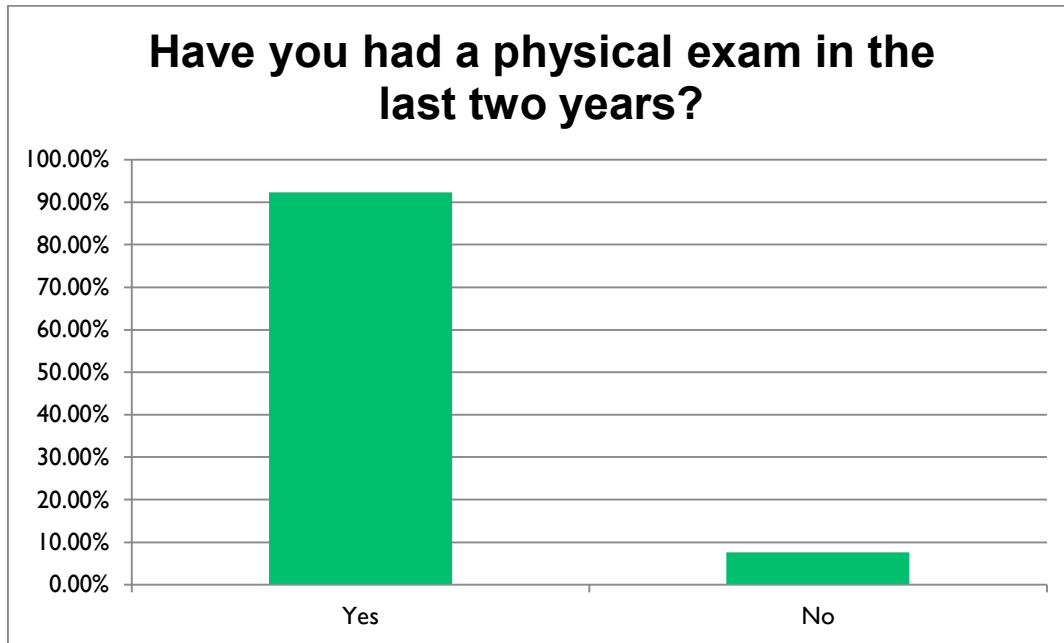
“Other” answers to Question 28 (What health screenings or education/information services are needed in your community?)

- General health care provided by a doctor and not a PA or RN
- I have no idea what other people need
- Hearing. Audiologists!
- No clue
- Did not indicate
- We need more residents to attract/justify a facility to provide all of these services.
- All of the above
- I have no idea
- I don't know
- Affordable mammograms/pap smears for those with no insurance.
- Clinics and educational lunch and learns could be presented to the community in all of these categories.

Question 29: Have you had a physical exam in the last two years?

Yes 92.35%

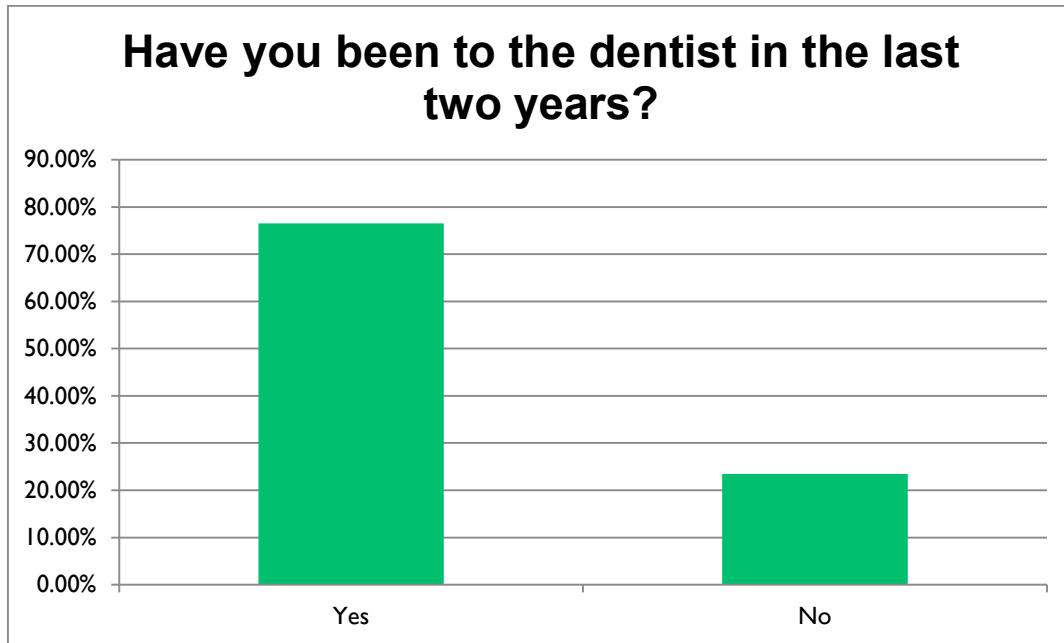
No 7.65%



Question 30: Have you been to the dentist in the last two years?

Yes 76.53%

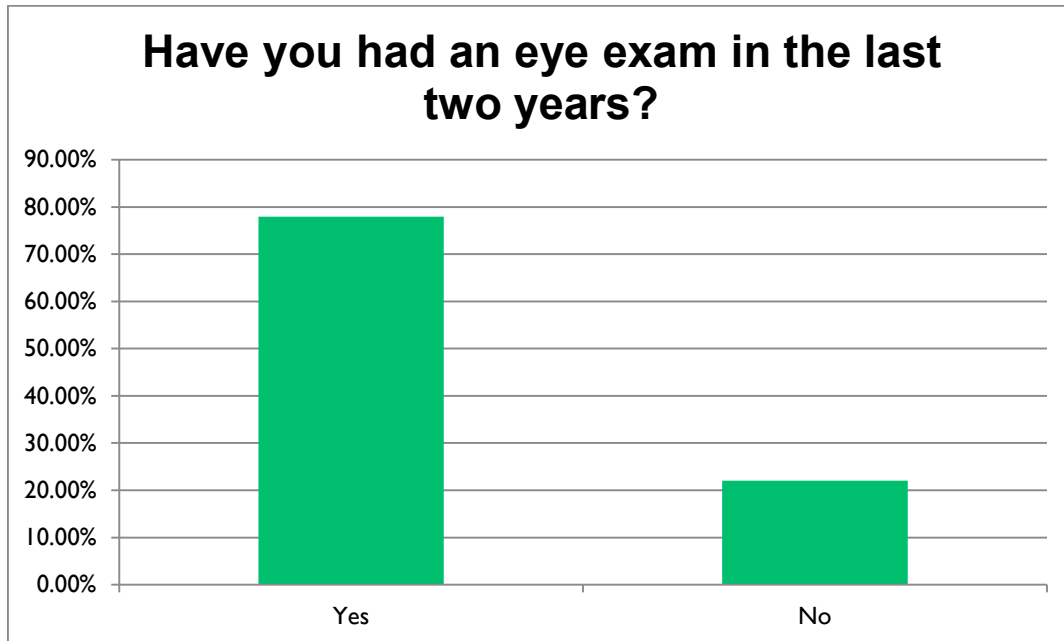
No 23.47%



Question 3 I: Have you had an eye exam in the last two years?

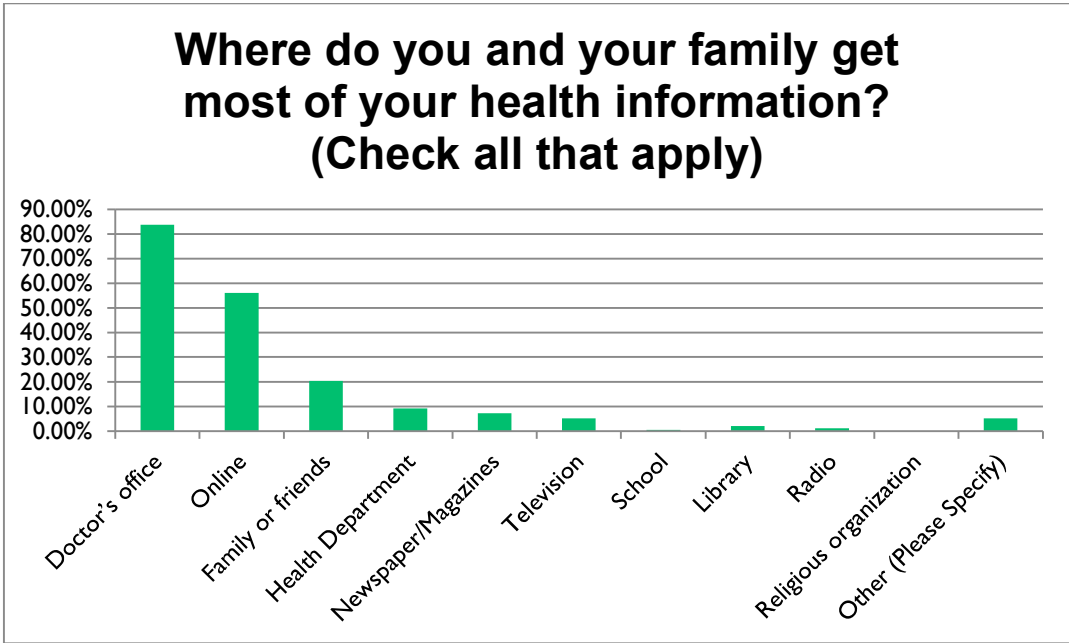
Yes 77.95%

No 22.05%



Question 32: Where do you and your family get most of your health information? (Check all that apply)

Doctor's office	83.67%
Online	56.12%
Family or friends	20.41%
Health Department	9.18%
Newspaper/Magazines	7.14%
Television	5.10%
School	0.51%
Library	2.04%
Radio	1.02%
Religious organization	0.00%
Other (Please Specify) *	5.10%



“Other” answers to Question 32 (Where do you and your family get most of your health information?)

- YouTube
- My background
- Worked in hospital for 20 years
- Insurance company
- Internet
- I work at the hospital
- Educational books and podcasts
- Medical School
- Valid research internet sites (leading medical/research hospitals)
- Internet
- Work in healthcare; books

Question 33: Other comments/concerns regarding healthcare in Alger County?

- I wish they would put real physicians in our emergency room instead of rude PA's that don't do anything for you. I swear if Munising had a real emergency with multiple patients we would be in big trouble.
- Health and dental care is pathetic in Alger Co.
- Lack of understanding, by healthcare peoples, of cultural norms. Lack of respect for rural people. Unacceptable assumptions regarding rural people. Lack of communication with patients. Doctors that do not accept new patients, or vet patients to see if they are worthy.
- Extreme need for substance abuse and mental health service
- I find it incredibly frustrating that there are people I know are dependent upon and receiving Norco medications in high quantities but when someone who has no history of drug abuse is in pain, we get the third degree and are told to take ibuprofen and acetaminophen. It's baffling
- People in general would rather see a Physician rather than a PA or NP.

- Dylan Koenig is an excellent healthcare provider at Baycare Medical Center and deserves a raise!
- We need a dialysis machine, so people do not have to make that trip to Marquette in the winter. You would get people from all around us. Chatham, Trenary, Grand Marais, Newberry, etc. Why don't you do a survey for a dialysis machine.
- Need OB doctors that can deliver babies here. We need a visiting pediatrician, urologist, and more hospital beds for swing program.
- My family doctor is now at OSF as all the good doctors here kept leaving. The ER here did not have an MD on duty. I left against advice as the PA would only do something that would put my life in danger, and he refused to call the MD to whom he reports. A few years before that, I went to the ER. I had to struggle through the ER waiting room in the dark, through a corridor, to voices at a station, & when I finally got to non-doctors, they were of no help. The ONLY time I tried the hospital Urgent Care, it was a non-doctor. The non-hospital Urgent Care has doctors. It is better than the hospital's. The optometrist's office needs a ramp for entry. I cannot do the steps. Our public school on M-28 promoted a May 2024 MARESA website that promoted The Puberty Years which gave school curriculum that taught woke nonsense on gender, how to put on condoms to kids, etc. I took screen shots. I can prove they did it. I am horrified my property taxes go to MARESA. I will NOT vote for MARESA funding ever again if they do that. I normally vote for education.
- Had I known they are indoctrinating children, I would not have voted for them. You FORCED me to answer questions I did NOT want to answer which means your data is skewed. I have done your survey in previous years since moving here. I almost wish (just like the other times) I had not bothered. KUDOS to ACCOA, the police, the sheriff dept, personnel, & the EMTs & ambulance.
- An audiologist is needed. Obesity is a problem in our nation, so we need to offer more information on how to be healthy
- We definitely need a psychiatrist even if we could get telehealth appointments with them.
- I live in Alger County during the summer only, and the majority of my healthcare needs are done in the Houston, TX area. The time I did use dermatologist and dentist here very impressed with getting in quickly and quality of service.

- Our EMS is fantastic!
- There seems like there is an overabundance of chronic, elder care options for people with well-established medical history. Unfortunately, I don't know anyone under the age of 50 that is able to use local resources for mental health issues (mostly telehealth through non-insurance apps while Pathways seems to only take new clients on if they are victims of a crime). Service industry workers are not going to regular doctors because it is so much cheaper to go to Urgent Care or the Walk-In because of their infrequency of using healthcare at all. The workforce who lives near county lines or in other counties do not take Alger County healthcare options seriously, so they take entire days off work for regular screenings instead of a half day or switch a shift to go to an Alger County doctor. I've had to go out of state for dental emergencies because there is not a dentist available on Friday, Saturday or Sunday in many smaller UP counties, so chain dentists (like Delta) are overbooked on these days in Marquette and Escanaba. I haven't had an eye exam since moving to Alger County eight years ago because of scheduling issues across the central UP.
- Given how established the seasonal-employment rates are for Alger County, with many seasonal employees in tourism, service industry, farming, and natural resources not having regular insurance options, there seems to be no effort by the healthcare options locally to meet our funding, scheduling or educational needs. I don't know how we as a community are able to keep a necessary diversity of options and services while openly excluding an increasing part of the regional population.
- Need a podiatrist in Munising
- Do better.
- We need more doctors, so we don't have to wait so long to get an appointment. Also, we need more professional staff at Munising Urgent Care.
- We need paramedics in Rock River Twp
- One stretched thin hospital doesn't suffice
- Maintain family medicine
- There is absolutely NO pediatric care here. Dental health is almost impossible to get when they never take new patients.
- The quality of healthcare in Munising is poor.

- We need good quality nurses and doctors to stay and make their home in the area
- ER STAFF AND URGENT CARE STAFF IS HORRIBLE, WON'T GO THERE UNLESS I'M DYING
- Mental Health treatment and substance abuse treatment are desperately needed in Alger County.
- Employee more doctors than PA or NP
- Dentists and eye doctors in Munising won't take my insurance. Causing me to travel over 100miles (round trip) for these services.
- Yes - I chose to buy a house in Munising instead of other UP towns because of the close proximity to the hospital. I have had uncontrolled epilepsy for over 25 years, and my husband has numerous chronic conditions like emphysema, neuropathy, and a spinal injury. Baycare is an absolute lifeline - the physicians there are better than I've experienced anywhere else. My husband hadn't seen a doctor in years and when he first went to Baycare we thought he was dying. He's shown massive improvements since. Travel is very difficult for us, so if we didn't have options in town we'd be doing much, much worse.
- Need more services offered in outlying communities. More intervention in schools.
- Us older people without immediate family to bring us to the Marquette hospital have to go without recommended surgeries....
- The problem is low population in this big county, you might need a Healthcare bus that visits each township once a month to cover basics, hand out additional info and help them (if needed) to set up necessary appointments and help with transportation suggestions.
- We've had so many bad experiences with the ER and inpatient at MMH, we will no longer use them. Examples are being discharged too early and having to seek additional care at UPHS-Marquette, Misdiagnosis, Doctors/providers not being able to answer questions, some nursing staff and providers are rude and don't listen to concerns, etc.
- Munising desperately needs another more affordable grocery store/food co-op. A mini version of the Marquette food co-op would be great!
- Qualified clinicians
- The diagnostic services at the hospital are great. Getting mammograms, bone density tests, ultrasounds, X-rays, blood tests, etc. are great resources to be provided locally, so you don't need to travel to MQT to get them

- No
- We love the walk-in clinic at Munising Memorial.
- You need better so-called doctors in urgent care and the emergency department!!!
- Munising Memorial hospital almost killed my mom when she had a TIA stroke she lost the vision in her left eye, and they told her she had cataracts. My aunt died after repeated visits to the ER about headaches and because of her mental health history they have her an Ativan and sent her home sometime later she had an aneurism, and it bursts, and she had a stroke and died in her car.
- They you for taking this survey.
- Need consistency in CEOs.
- We just need good doctors that are willing to make their home in the UP
- Apparently, there are not enough doctors in Munising. Completing an application form to determine if one is an "acceptable" patient is mind boggling. I rejected them based on this format.
- Our hospital is a band aid station
- It's unfortunate that there aren't more specialists in the U.P. Many people who have autoimmune disorders must travel to Green Bay/Appleton or down state to receive proper care and most can't afford that, or their insurance doesn't cover out of state.
- Having general surgery and orthopedics at Munising Memorial Hospital. Not letting Pathways deny people seeking mental health
- None
- More dentists, eye doctors, specialty doctors.
- Mental health is where Michigan fails overall
- I just wish there were more specialty doctors in Munising.
- Dental and vision services available are not good. We are going to Escanaba due to this.
- Happy with the Bay Care clinic! The PT clinic is also great.
- Definite lack of specialty care but not much to be done in a rural and low population area.
- I think Healthcare in Alger County has improved. We live in Deerton and I have heard we need more services in this area.

ASSESSMENT SURVEY CONCLUSIONS

This year's Alger County Health Needs Assessment utilized an online survey to obtain more data pertaining to area residents' healthcare needs and opinions. Based on the online survey of 296 Alger County participants, some of the highlights of the survey are listed below.

The highest percentage of survey participants indicated:

- Female
- Live in Munising Township, City of Munising and Au Train Township
- Are between the ages of 55-75
- White
- Employed full-time or retired
- 1-2 people in the household
- Average household income of \$60,000 or more
- Had at least some college as their highest level of education
- Had health insurance and felt it was adequate
- Rated their overall physical and mental health was at least "good"
- Weighted average of 2.94 (on a scale of 1-5) regarding the health care in Alger County
- Felt the major health care concerns were drugs/alcohol/substance abuse, mental health issues, insurance costs, senior care and obesity/nutrition
- Lack of insurance/financial reasons, health services were too far away, transportation problems were key issues with people in the community seeking medical treatment
- Over 95% have traveled outside of Alger County to receive health care services in the last five years
- The majority of the respondents would travel over two hours to receive health care services
- 44% of the respondents utilized MMH Bay Care for their primary care, while the remaining percentage utilized other facilities
- In an emergency, 50% would utilize MMH and the other 50% would use another health care facility
- The top four items to improve health care of family and neighbors were affordable health insurance, affordable health care, health care specialists and mental health services
- The top mentioned health care services/programs needed in the county were mental health, dentists, senior services, transportation to specialty health care and specialty care
- 92% had a physical in the last two years
- 77% have been to the dentist in the last two years
- 78% had an eye exam in the last two years

It is also noted in summarizing the comments, many respondents could benefit with additional local marketing and messaging of MMH, their providers, services, and success stories.