



# Richland County Quality of Life Assessment 2023 – 2028



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## Executive Summary

This document is a summation of a community building process that is on-going. It is the vision of Richland County and the *Communities in Action* Steering Committee to continually review and update the assessment materials included in this document. In recent years, this process has proven to be extremely important in dealing with quality-of-life challenges that have come with the increase and then the decrease of oil production in our county and surrounding areas. Having a process in place has been valuable in identifying challenges quickly and a mechanism in place to address the challenges. In addition, engaging in this practice creates and maintains partnerships that are sustained through continual engagement in the community building process to Assess, Plan, Act, and Evaluate.

The foundation for the community building process is “Mobilizing for Action through Partnership and Planning” or MAPP. MAPP is a community-driven strategic planning process that provides a structure for communities to assess their most pressing population health issues and align resources across sectors for strategic action. A committed steering committee of county leaders and representatives from each action group guides the process.

This document is meant to be dynamic in the sense that it’s meant to be a living document that does not sit on a shelf. The identified action steps have been assigned to *action groups* that are made up of organizations, agencies, community groups, and individuals that wish to contribute to solutions by sharing resources. Starting with the September 2023 Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting representatives from the action groups prioritized the areas of concern provided in this assessment and the goals they wanted to set for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). It is the goal of Richland County and the steering committee members to maintain this community building process for many years to come.

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## **Communities in Action's Vision:**

Common goals. Capacity Building. Collective impact.

### ***Values:***

Service

Respect

Teamwork

Communication

### ***Communities in Action Mission:***

*The mission of Communities in Action is to provide a structured community platform and foster partnerships to improve quality of life in Richland County.*

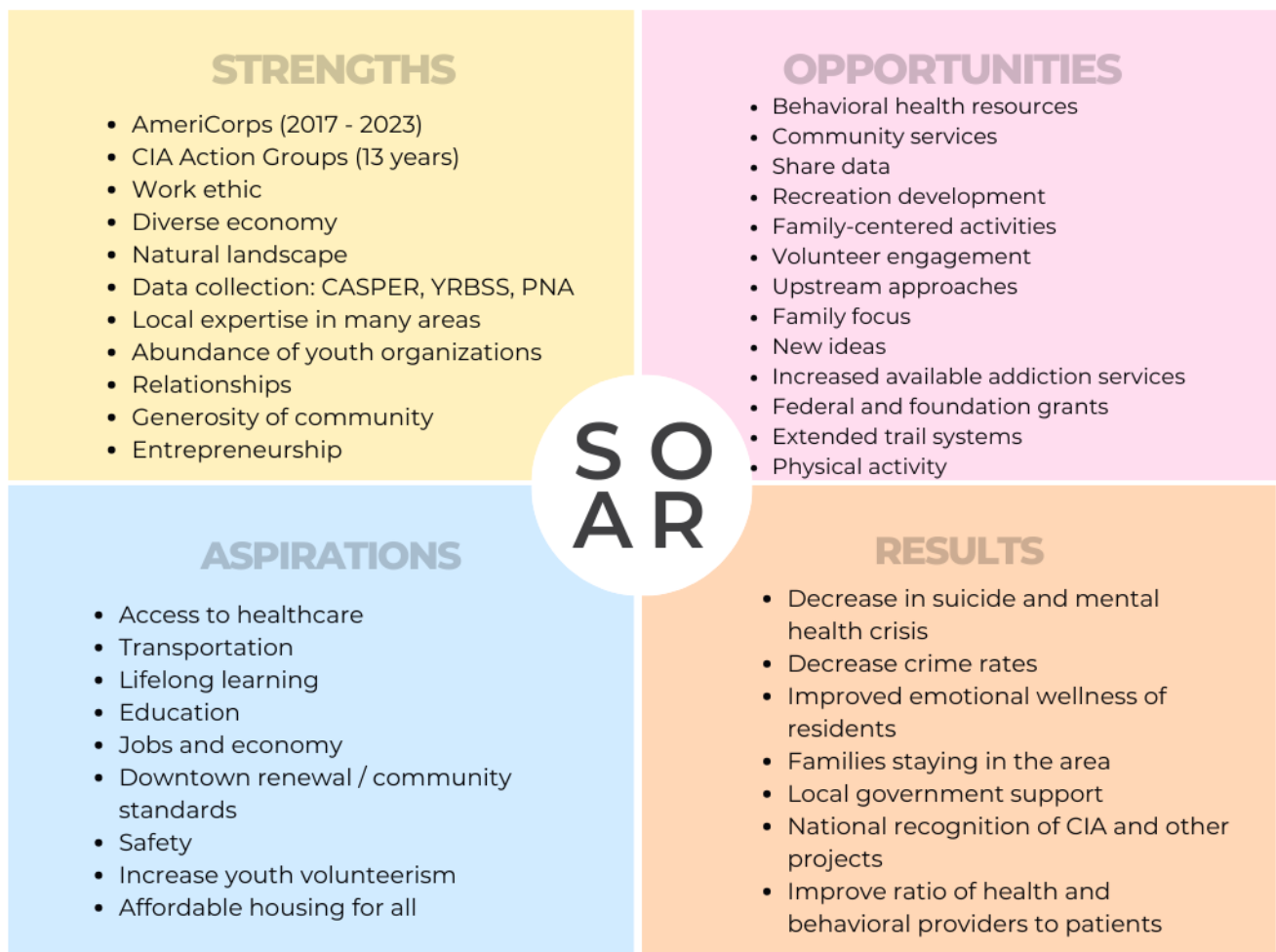


# Method of Assessing: SOAR Analysis

## SOAR: Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results

According to the *American Service Quality Division*, a SOAR analysis is a strategic planning tool that focuses an organization on its current strengths and vision of the future for developing its strategic goals.

This tool engages all levels and functional areas of an organization and community by enhancing what is *currently* done well and using those strengths to achieve the desired opportunities, aspirations, and results. The following SOAR analysis was reviewed and updated at the September 2023 Steering Committee Planning Meeting.



# Introduction

County challenges in this document were identified by utilizing the Richland County Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER). The changes to Vision and Values were reviewed and updated by the steering committee in September 2023. Communities in Action's Mission was collectively established at a 2018 Steering Committee meeting and remains the same.

This assessment is modeled after the Healthy People 2030 Objectives and the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Healthy People identifies public health priorities to help individuals, organizations, and communities across the United States improve health and well-being. Within these priorities are the SDOH which are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. The strengths, or weaknesses, of these conditions lead to the outcomes and risks of the community's quality of life.

The five domains of SDOH are:

1. Economic Stability
2. Education Access and Quality
3. Health Care Access and Quality
4. Neighborhood and Built Environment
5. Social and Community Context



Richland County Health Department (RCHD), Sidney Health Center, and the Public Health and Safety Division (PHSD) collaborated to complete a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER). This was to gather primary data from Richland County residents to understand the needs and health status of residents for a community health assessment, to establish a volunteer network, and to complete an emergency preparedness exercise. On June 8, 2022, the interview teams conducted 208 interviews. The 208 interviewed households were randomly selected from 31 different clusters across Richland County.

Successful collaborations helped strengthen relationships and define roles of partners during a CASPER. Practicing the technique is invaluable to the county and state in the event a CASPER is needed during an emergency or disaster situation. Lessons learned during the process will help refine the technique for use in Richland County and in other Montana counties. RCHD was able to successfully find and utilize a volunteer network within the community through the Health Department's AmeriCorps Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP).

The CASPER met the stated purposes of understanding the needs and health status of Richland County residents, developing a volunteer workforce, and completing an emergency preparedness exercise. RCHD and local public health system partners gained valuable local data that can be used in addition to other secondary data sources to provide resources and improve services. Areas for potential public health interventions include continued efforts to decrease smoking and other substance use, increase behavioral health resources, improve access to health care, and strengthen the local economy and education.

Acknowledgment of a limitation for the CASPER is the interviews were conducted during the workday. 47% of respondents stated they are employed full-time. 11% are employed part time, and 42% of respondents identified as unemployed due to retirement, being a stay-at-home parent, or being ill or injured. This leaves a large majority of the working-class population not represented.

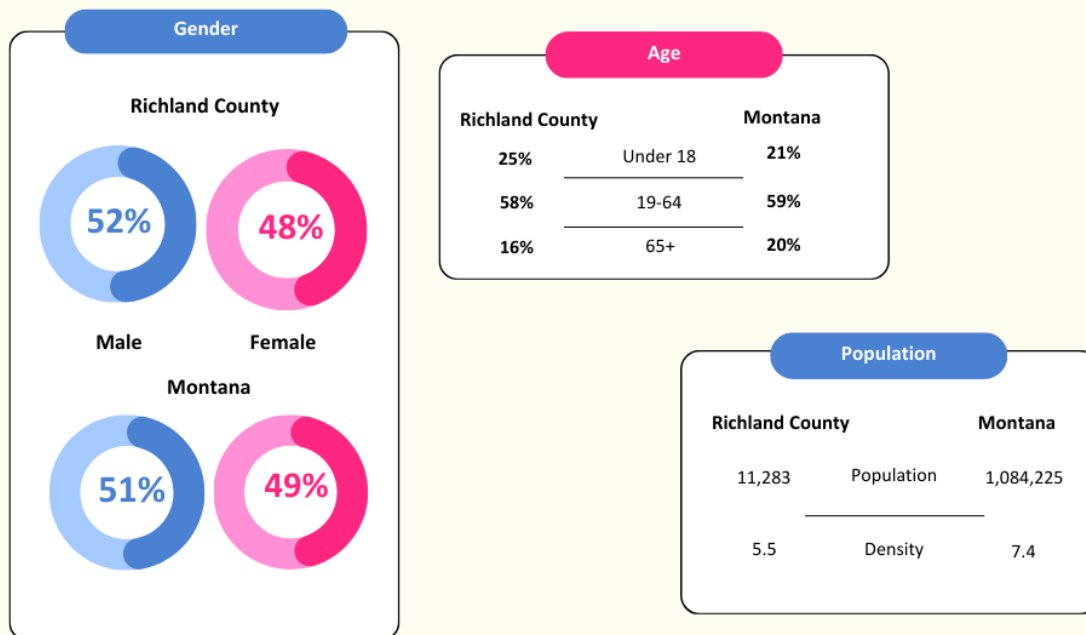
This Quality-of-Life Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a compilation of CASPER resident data, the 2022 Sidney Health Center Community Health Needs Assessment, and other state and national secondary data.

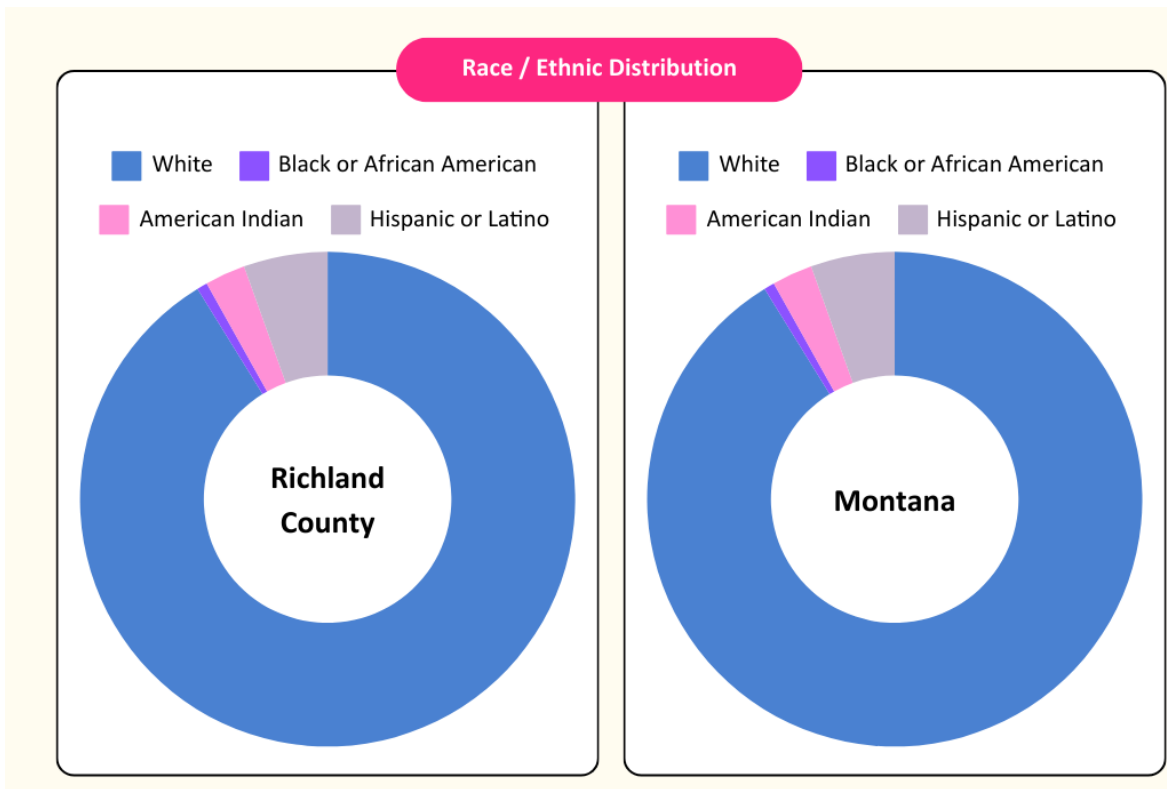
# Demographics

Founded in 1914, located in northeast Montana on the border of North Dakota, Richland County has a comparatively short but indelibly rich history, as a primarily ranching and agricultural community, grounded by strong familial ties and a deep connection to the land. Spanning 2,084 square miles, the county is the 19th most populous in Montana, with a population of roughly 11,283 and a population density of 5.5 people per square mile. Richland County is subsequently classified as frontier. Sidney, the county seat, is Montana’s 19th largest city with a population of 6,257 as of 2022. Four additional municipalities are located within the county: Crane, Fairview, Lambert and Savage. Since 2015, Richland County has experienced a decrease in population due to decreased oil production in what is called “The Bakken” formation. Richland County’s population experienced a rapid growth from the oil boom in 2015, but the county experienced a decline in population due to a decrease in oil activity, although the population has not declined to pre-2010 levels.

## Richland County and Montana Demographic Measures

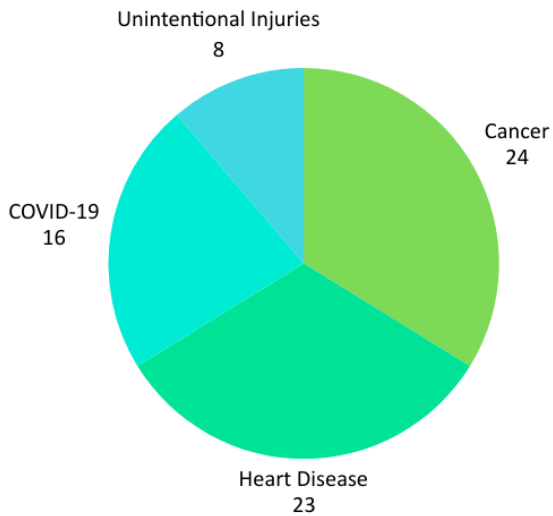
### 2021 CENSUS



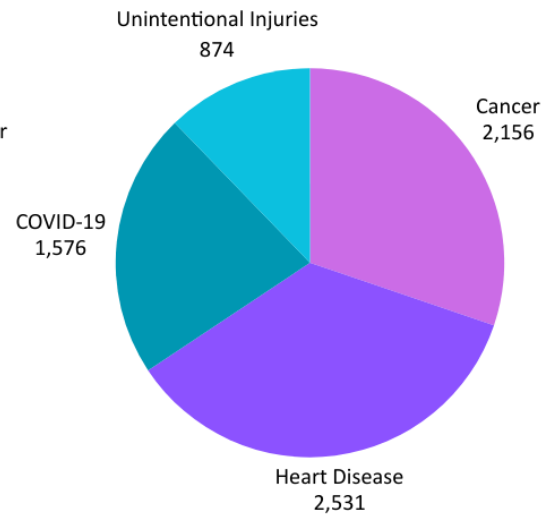


## LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH, 2021 (NUMBER)

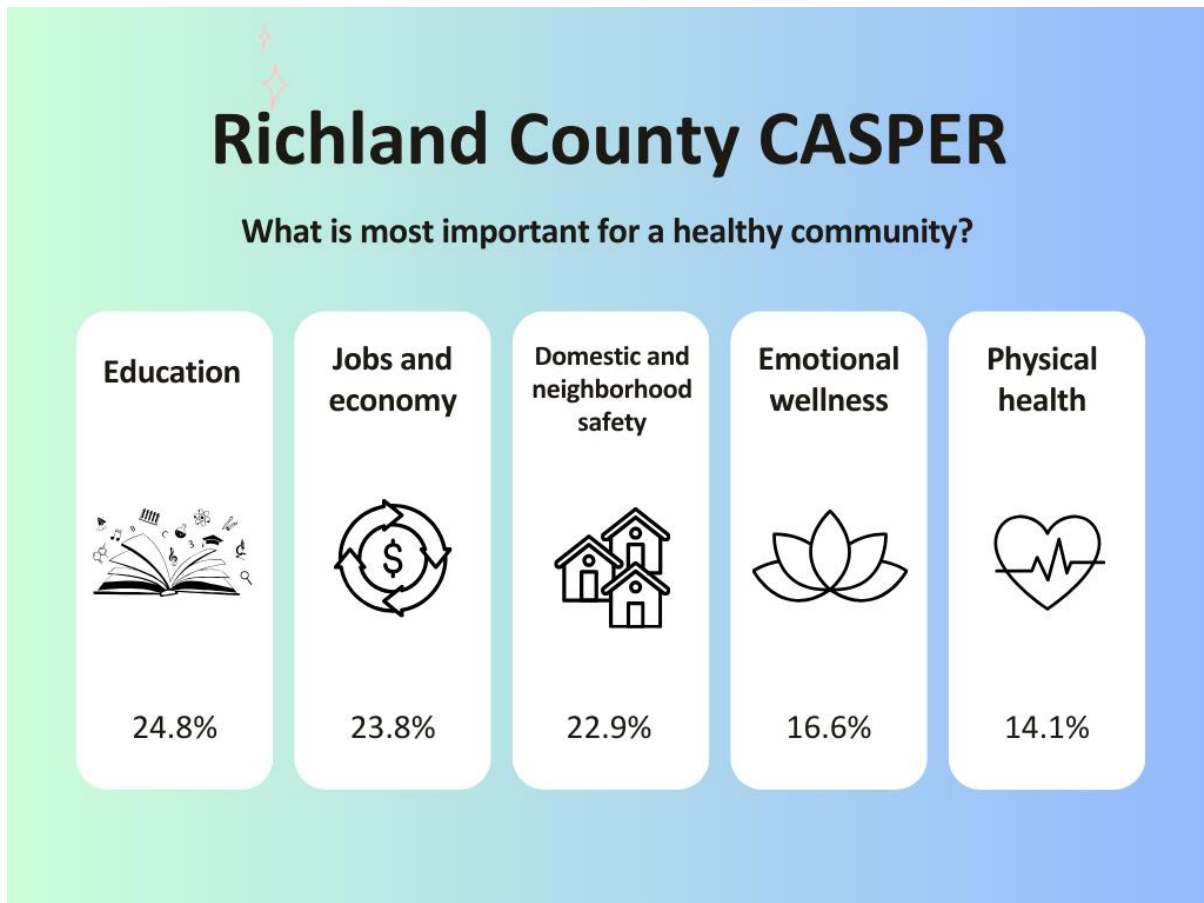
### Richland County



### Montana



During the 2022 CASPER, Richland County residents were asked to rank the most important items for a healthy community. According to respondents, education, the economy, and neighborhood safety are the top three items for a healthy community. This assessment is organized according to these results.





People with access to quality education are more likely to be healthier and live longer. Graduating from high school provides an opportunity for safe, high-paying jobs. Children from low-income families struggle from social discrimination like bullying and are more likely to struggle in school. Interventions to help children and adolescents do well in school can have long-term health benefits ([Healthy People 2030](#)).

### [Richland County Childcare/Preschools](#)

There are 9 daycares in Sidney, 1 in Fairview, 1 in Lambert; as for preschools Sidney has 4, Fairview has 2, Lambert has 1, and Savage has 1. These daycares and preschools are certified with the state.

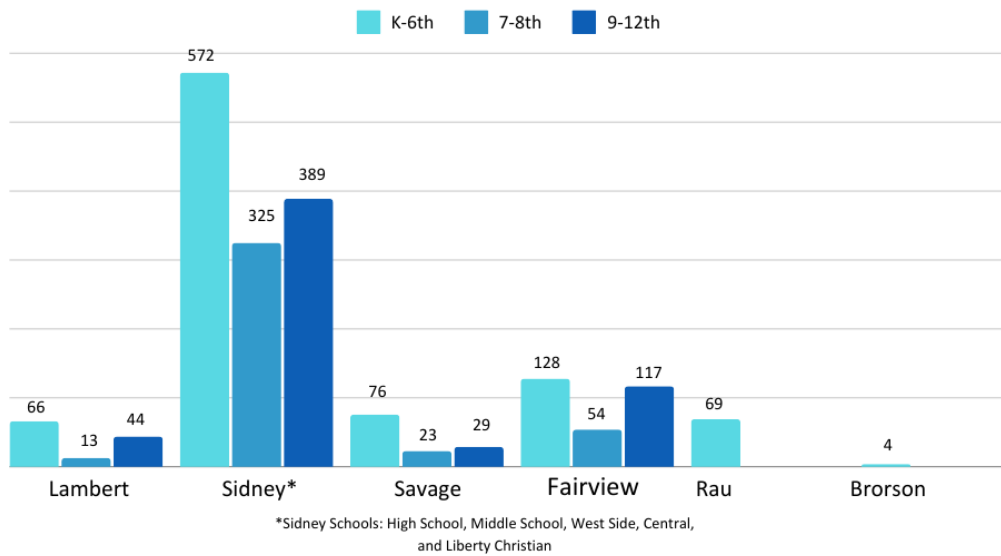
### [School System](#)

Educational facilities in Richland County include elementary and secondary facilities (K-12) with a total of approximately 1,857 students; the County does not have a post-secondary facility. The closest college is Dawson Community College in Glendive. Schools experience drastic student enrollment changes throughout the year due to the oil production fluctuation. The largest concern moving forward is having qualified staff that can afford to live in Richland County. The districts cannot pay high enough wages for some teachers, who have left to work elsewhere. Brorson, Lambert, Fairview, Savage, and Sidney all have developed housing for teachers. The Sidney School Board also voted to change to a four-day school week beginning in 2020 to recruit and retain high-quality teachers.

Education	Richland County	Montana
High School Graduation (adults aged 25+ with a high school diploma or equivalent)	94%	94%
Some College (adults aged 25-44 with some post-secondary)	63%	70%

County Health Rankings, 2022

## 2022-2023 Richland County Schools Enrollment



## 2022 Richland County CASPER

What educational classes would you be most interested in taking if provided (percentage)?

Education classes	Percentage	Education classes	Percentage
Nutrition / weight loss / fitness / health and wellness	69.5	First Aid / CPR	27.1
Alzheimer's / healthy aging	26.7	Mental health	17.6
Pulmonary health / heart disease	13.8	Health insurance	12.9
Grief counseling	12.4	Alcohol / substance abuse / smoking cessation	12.4
Diabetes	11.4	Early childhood development	10.5
Cancer	6.2	Parenting support group	4.3



In the United States, 1 in 10 people live in poverty and many people can't afford things like healthy foods, health care, and housing. People with steady employment are less likely to live in poverty and more likely to be healthy. Employment programs, career counseling, and high-quality child care opportunities can help more people find and keep jobs ([Healthy People 2030](#)).

### Top 5 Industries in Richland County

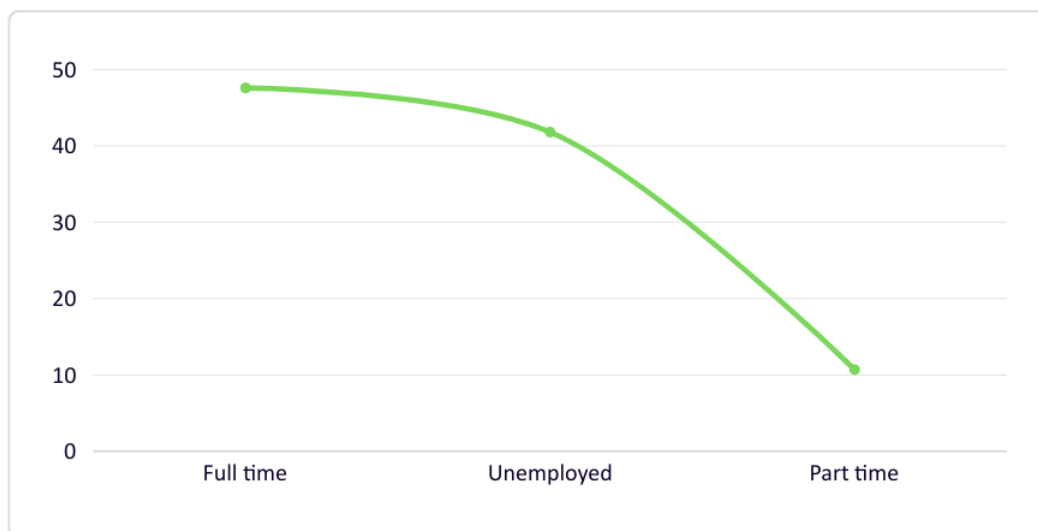


Socioeconomic Measures	Richland County	Montana
Median Income	\$69,169	\$57,730
Unemployment Rate	6.4%	5.9%
Uninsured Adults (age <65)	11%	12%
Uninsured Children (age <19)	8%	6%
Children in Single Parent Household	13%	20%
Children in Poverty (<18)	10%	15%
Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	25%	40%

County Health Rankings, 2022

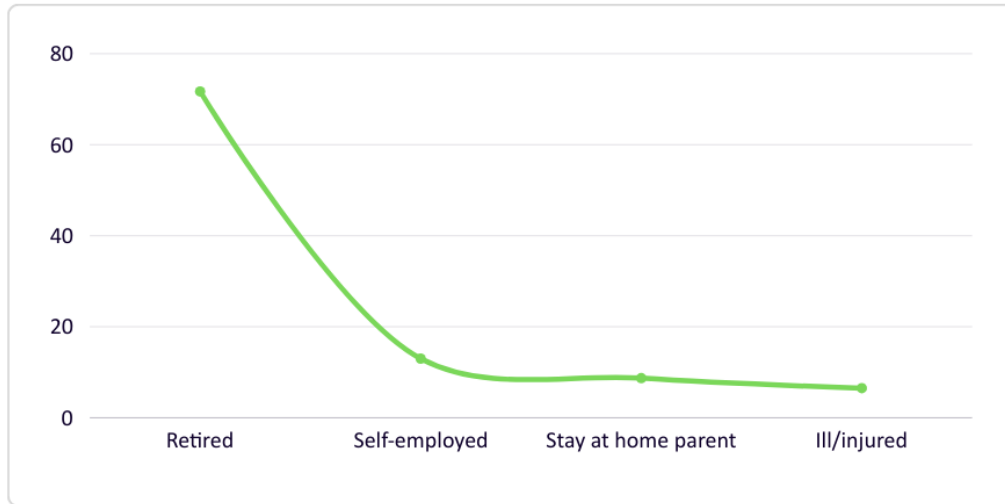
## 2022 Richland County CASPER

What is your employment status (percentage)?



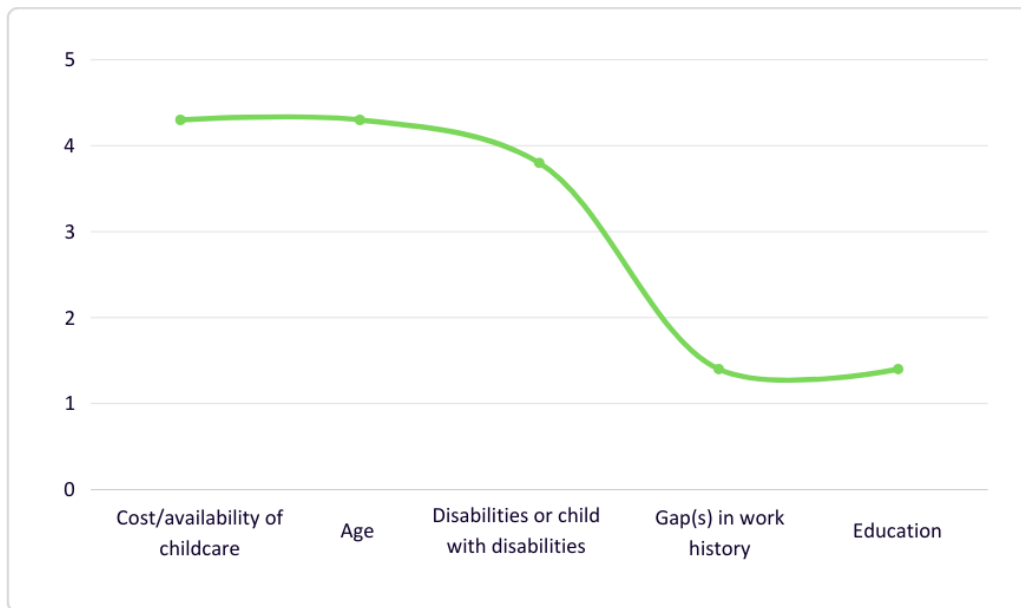
## 2022 Richland County CASPER

If unemployed, which of the following is true (percentage)?



## 2022 Richland County CASPER

What are some barriers preventing you from working full time (percentage)?



## 2022 Richland County CASPER

What job-related trainings would you like to see offered (percentage)?



### Job Resources

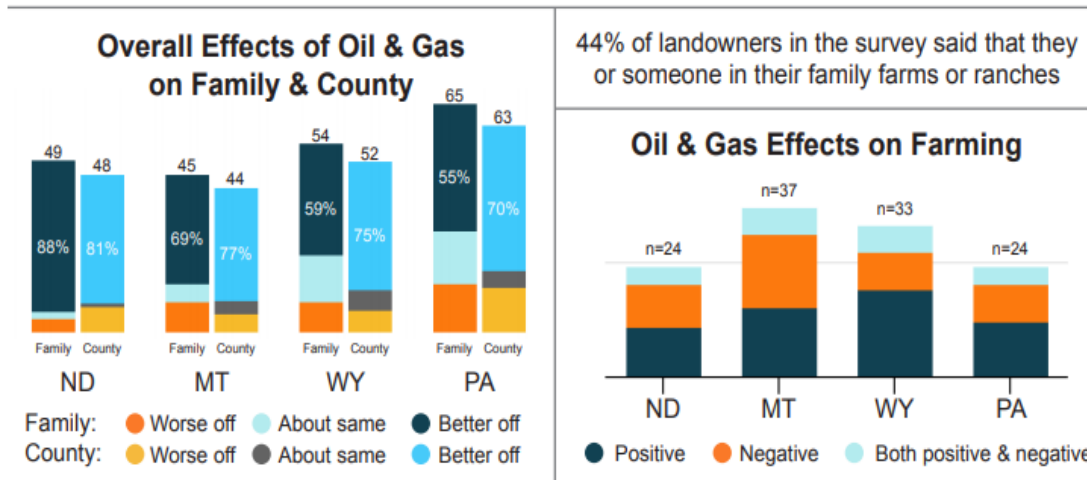
Sidney Job Service  
211 N Central Ave  
(406) 433-1204

- View current job openings and find training and tools to begin a career.
- Assist with resume and cover letters.
- Coaching on job interviews and conduct mock interviews.
- Find potential employers that may provide on-the-job training.
- Explore financial resources for job search activities or training if eligible.
- Use assessments combined with interests and skills levels to guide clients to a new career.
- Access to computers, internet resources, copy and fax machines, printers, telephones and career planning resources.

### Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

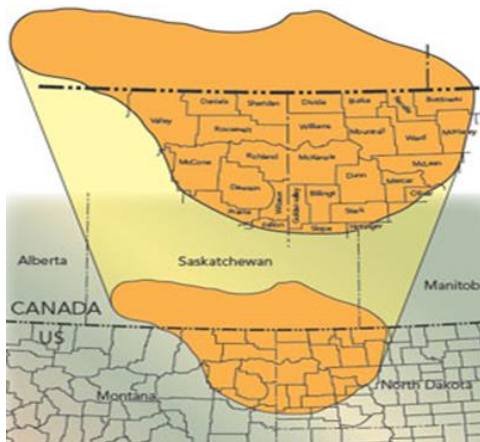
- 138 Richland County residents are receiving assistance through WIC as of September of 2022.

## OIL & GAS IMPACTS ON LANDOWNERS



Montana State University Project Funded by USDA NIFA, 2018

Richland County is located in the Bakken Formation (part of the larger Three Forks Formation), which is one of the largest North American oil plays in recent decades. In April 2013, the US Geological Survey released a report that estimated the amount of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil in the Bakken/Three Forks Formations to be 7.4 billion barrels; the amount of undiscovered, technically recoverable natural gas was 6.7 trillion cubic feet. Technically, recoverable resources are those that are producible using currently available technology and industry practices. The amount of recoverable oil and gas may increase as new technologies are developed.

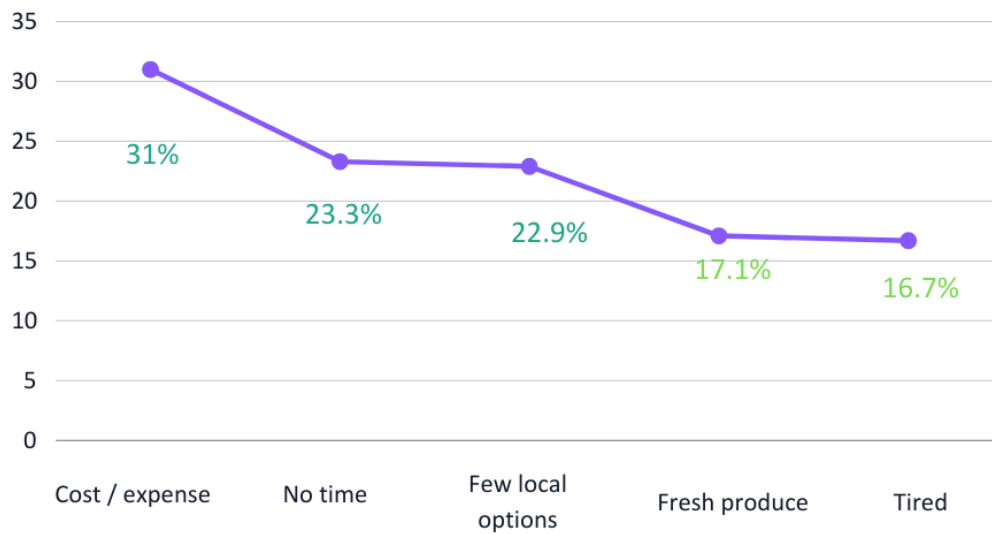




The neighborhoods people live in have a major impact on their health and well-being. Interventions and changes can help reduce health and safety risks and promote health. For example, providing opportunities for people to walk and bike in their communities can increase safety and help improve health and quality of life ([Healthy People 2030](#)).

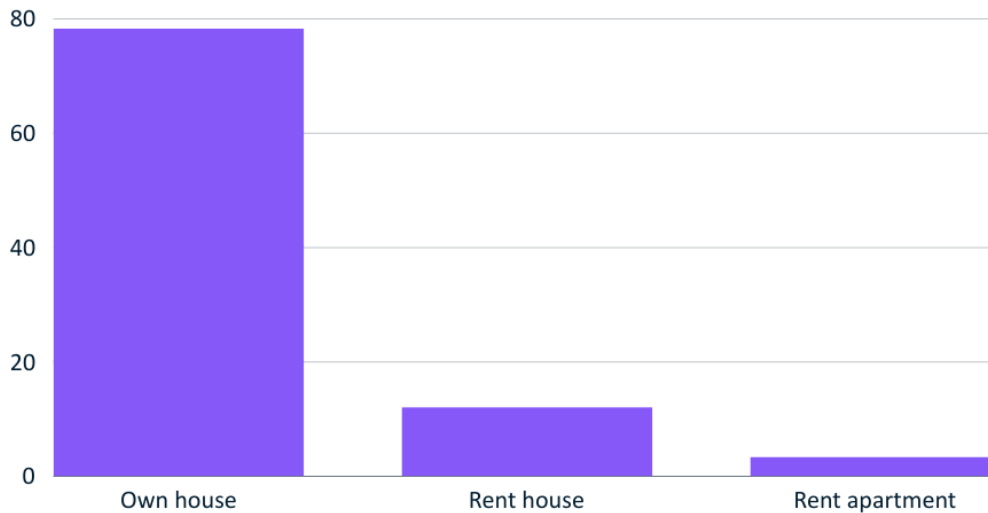
### 2022 Richland County CASPER

What obstacles prevent you from eating healthier?



## 2022 RICHLAND COUNTY CASPER

WHAT TYPE OF HOUSING DO YOU LIVE IN (PERCENTAGE)?

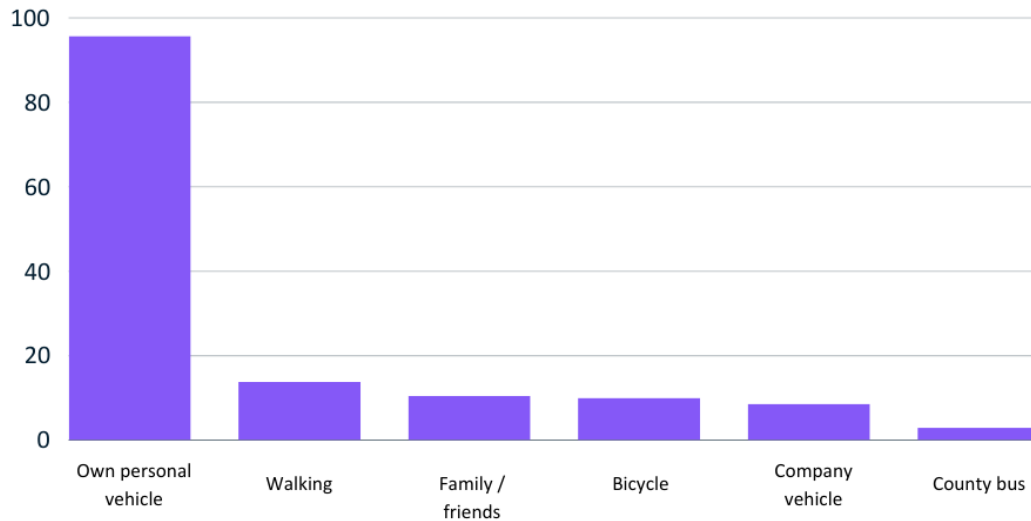


### Housing

Affordability continues to be the greatest housing issue facing Richland County and Montana residents. According to the Billings Association of Realtors, home prices have increased 20-30% over the last few years and 75% of people that could afford a home 2 years ago cannot today. As the job market continues to fluctuate and we see the loss of jobs in our local area, housing will face a crippling future for our residents without more services and low-income development. Low-income housing will be in more demand with little to no growth in that sector as the costs for rental units soar to meet the costs for owners. The Richland County Housing Authority offers 232 federally subsidized housing units through several programs, as well as tenant-based Section 8 vouchers for those with private landlords. These programs provide income-based rent to those individuals and families who qualify and are considered low to extremely low-income.

## 2022 RICHLAND COUNTY CASPER

WHAT TYPES OF TRANSPORTATION DO YOU HAVE (PERCENTAGE)?



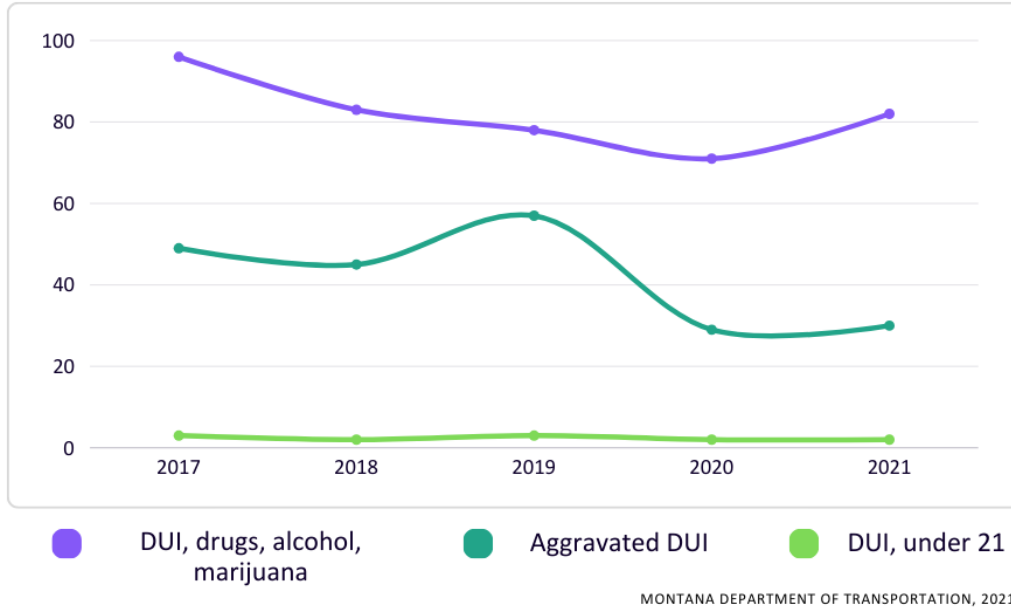
### Transportation

Richland County Transportation Service (RCTS) is a public transit service that welcomes passengers of ALL ages (passengers under 8 cannot ride unattended) and for all destinations within our service area. RCTS is happy to offer free rides Monday – Friday, 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, as they serve all of Richland County's major towns/cities (Sidney, Fairview, Lambert, Savage) at least one time each week. RCTS has 8 vehicles. All vehicles are ADA accessible, and many have special features to accommodate a range of passengers.

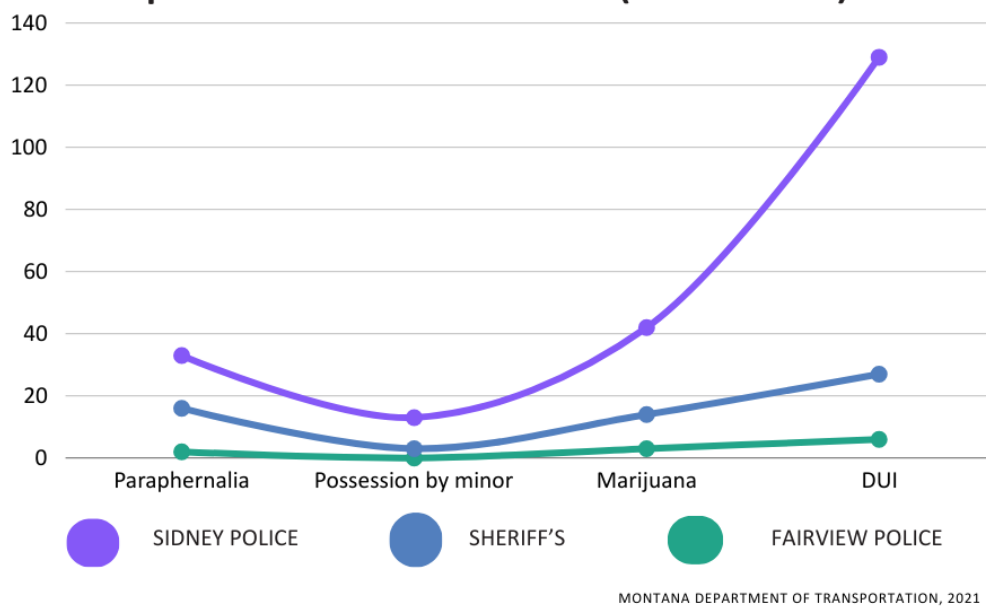
There is also an airport with five flights each day to Billings, Montana.



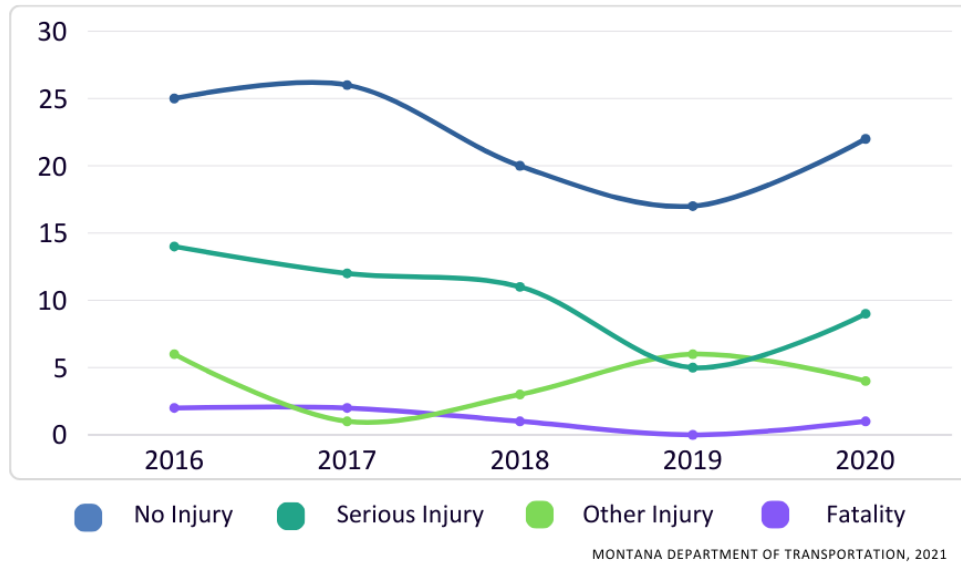
## DUI Richland County Violations (number)



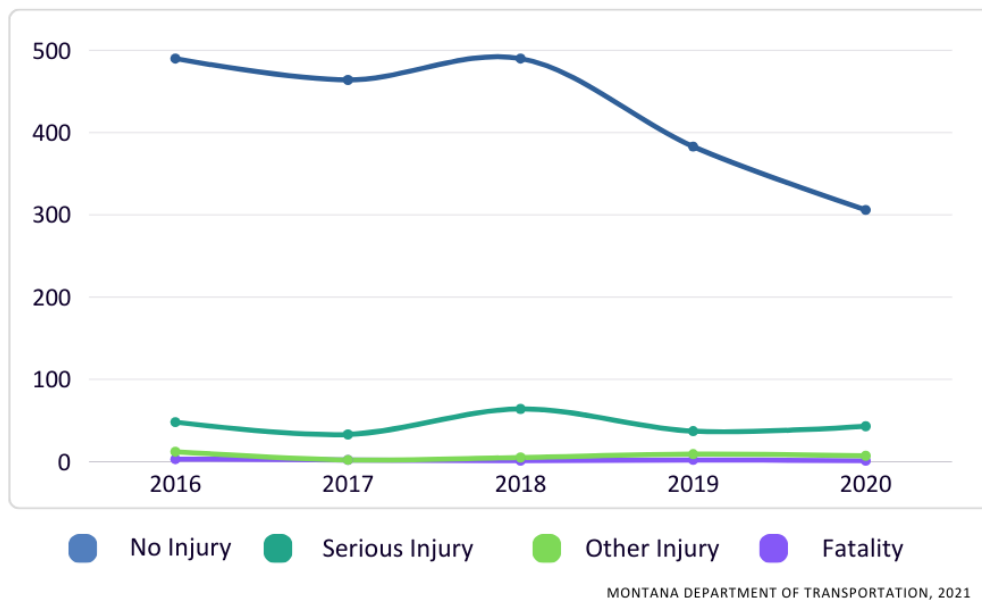
## Police DUI Drug arrests for possession or DUI (number)



## Richland County Impaired Driver Involved (number)



## Richland County All Crashes (number)

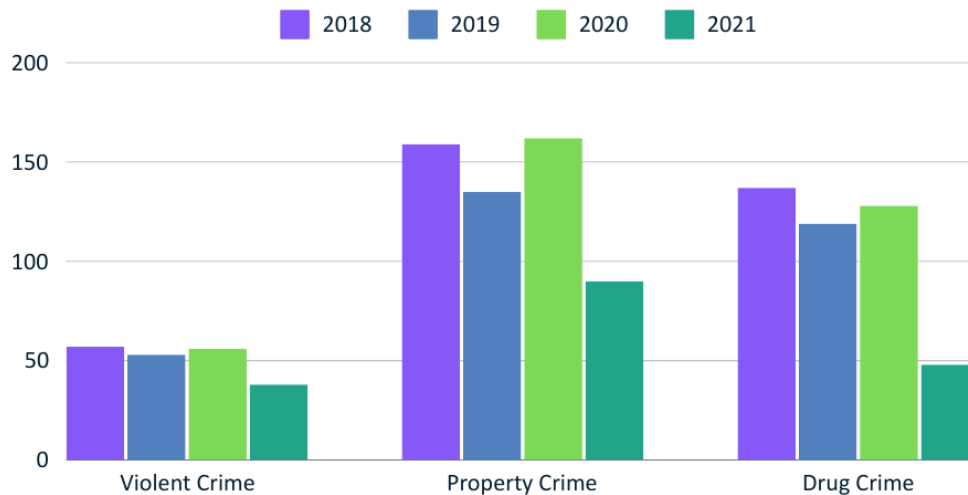


## Injury Indicators per 100,000 population

INJURY INDICATORS, 2019-2021	RICHLAND COUNTY	MONTANA
ALL INJURY EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED) VISIT RATE	10,423	6,838
ALL INJURY HOSPITAL ADMISSION RATE	604	437
UNINTENTIONAL INJURY HOSPITAL ADMISSION RATE	422	269
INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM INJURY ED VISIT RATE	150	146
INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM INJURY HOSPITAL ADMISSION	76	62
ASSAULT INJURY ED SITE VISIT RATE	263	262
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ED VISIT RATE	363	354
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HOSPITAL ADMISSION RATE	67	65
UNINTENTIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC INJURY ED VISIT RATE	534	418

COMMUNITY HEALTH INSIGHTS, 2021

## RICHLAND COUNTY CRIME DATA (NUMBER)



Montana Incident-Based Reporting System, 2021

## 2022 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Violent Crime: a rate of 282 reported violent crime offenses per 100,000 population for Richland County.

Injury Deaths: 96 deaths per 100,000 population due to injury vs. 94 in MT. \*\*53 total injury deaths in Richland County.

Firearm Fatalities: 27 deaths per 100,000 population due to firearms vs. 20 in MT.

## Water Supply

Groundwater is the source of all public water supplies in Richland County with the exception of Montana Dakota Utilities, which uses the Yellowstone River as a surface water source. In Montana, most individual wells are not required to be filed with the state, however, in order to assure a water right, filing with the state is necessary.

Statistics from the Ground-Water Information Center of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology indicate 5,034 drilled wells in Richland County; 2,034 are for domestic use. Recent county-wide developments of recreational vehicle campsites, workforce housing and land leases for residential use in the past years have caused a spike in the number of wells drilled. Year 2012 was the highest recorded year for number of new wells followed by year 2018. The majority of well uses have been for stock water and residential purposes, which coincides with the County's request to begin preserving prime farmland from disjointed, sprawl-like rural residential development.

## County Well Data Per Year

NEW DRILLED WELLS ONLY	NUMBER
2021	47
2020	35
2019	28
2018	134
2017	68
2016	67
2015	102
2014	111
2013	120
2012	143
2011	85
2010	79

MONTANA BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGY, 2022

### Projected Trends

Water will continue to be a vital resource to agricultural users, especially LYIP, and the continued use and guarantee of available water will undoubtedly shape the future of farming in Richland County. If LYIP is forced to pump water, it could adversely impact local farmers and others that rely on LYIP for accessible water. New guidelines that delineate stream buffers, easement recordings and setbacks from LYIP canals and outlets will ensure future water users and landowners have a clear understanding of the impacts when development occurs. In addition, coordination needs to occur among jurisdictions regarding developments on the urban fringes to protect water resources and mitigate impacts.

### 2022 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

In 2022, there were no health-related drinking water violations in Richland County.

Air pollution-particulate matter: 5.3 per cubic meter in Richland County vs. 6.0 per cubic meter in MT.

Severe housing problems (overcrowding, high housing costs, or lack of kitchen and/or plumbing facilities): 12% in Richland County vs. 12% in MT.

### Rivers, Streams, Lakes and Wetlands

Richland County is located in the Missouri River watershed. The northern border of the county is defined by the Missouri River. The Yellowstone River flows in a northeasterly direction across

the southeast corner of the county, meeting the Missouri River three miles east of the county boundary in Williams County, North Dakota. Lone Tree Creek travels along the western border of Sidney and creates a flooding hazard for the city.

Wetlands play an integral part in supporting wildlife and livestock. They also improve water quality by filtering sediments, pollutants and chemicals while recharging groundwater. There are approximately 28,133 acres of wetlands in the county as classified by the National Wetlands Inventory.

The Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP), administered by the US Department of Reclamation, is a 58,000-acre irrigation project located in eastern Montana and western North Dakota. The project is operated and maintained by the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District Board of Control under contract with Reclamation. The LYIP includes the Intake Diversion Dam, a screened headworks structure, 71 miles of main canal, 225 miles of laterals and 118 miles of drains, three pumping plants on the Main Canal, four supplemental pumps on the Yellowstone River and one supplemental pump on the Missouri River. One of the unintended consequences was it prevented the Pallid Sturgeon (an endangered fish species) from reaching its spawning beds. To make things easier for the sturgeon, a new intake structure, including screens designed to keep the fish out of the irrigation canals, was completed in 2012, a joint project of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources. The Bypass Channel Alternative, completed in 2022, includes the construction of an 11,150-foot-long bypass channel for pallid sturgeon fish passage.

### [Parks and Other Outdoor Recreation](#)

There are a total of 27 parks in Richland County. 23 in Sidney, 2 in Fairview, 1 in Savage, and 1 in Lambert. Sidney has the Sherry Arnold Fitness Trail which is three miles long and sustains foot and cycling traffic. Sidney offers a bike path for cyclists to utilize along main roads.

## Social and Community Context

Support Systems  
Stress

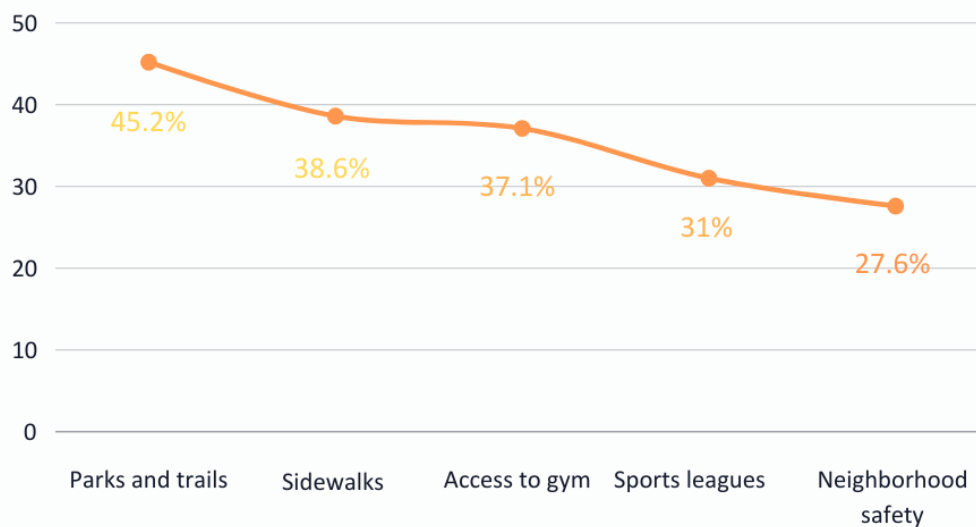


Community  
Engagement

People's relationships and interactions with family, friends, co-workers, and community members can have a major impact on their health and well-being. Positive relationships at home, at work, and in the community can help reduce negative impacts such as isolation or bullying. Interventions to help people get the social and community support they need are critical for improving health and well-being ([Healthy People 2030](#)).

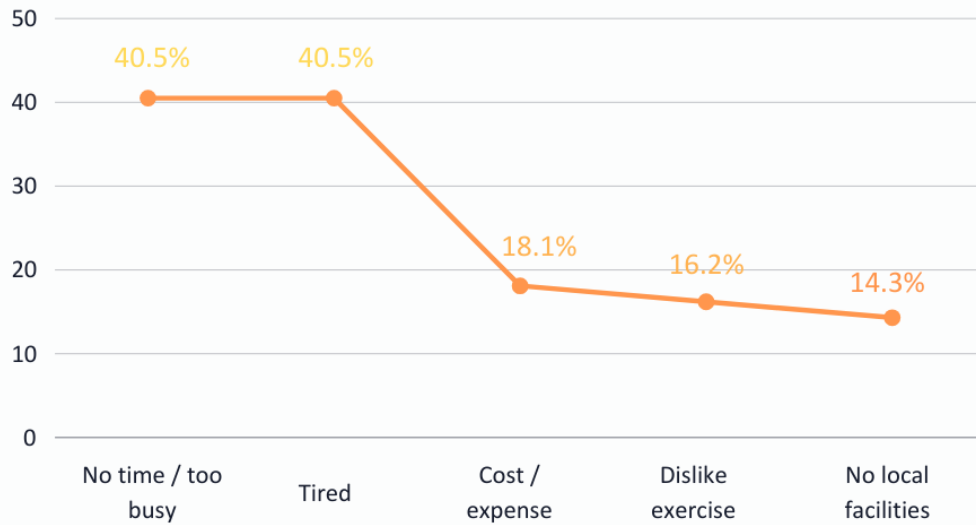
### 2022 Richland County CASPER

What will help you be more physically active?



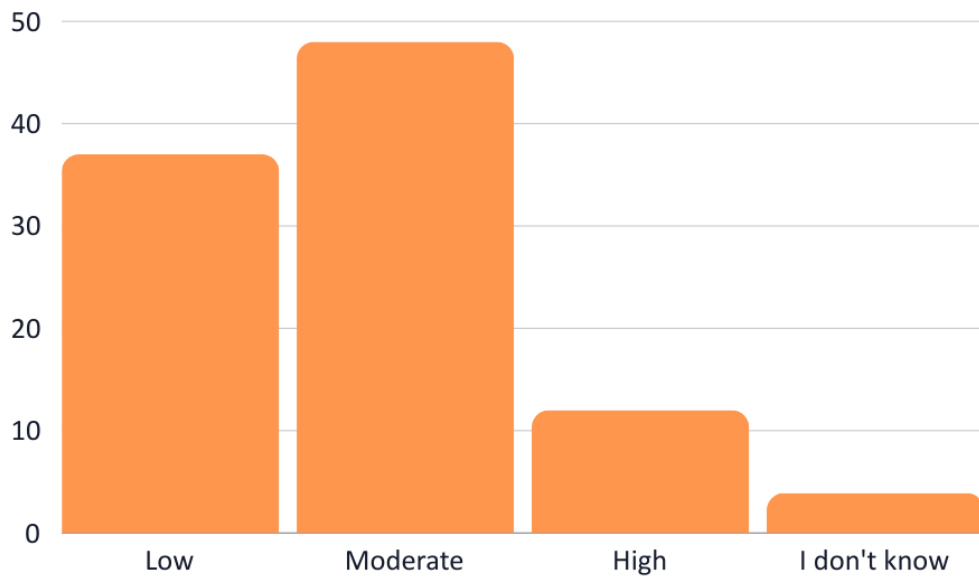
## 2022 Richland County CASPER

What gets in the way of being more physically active?



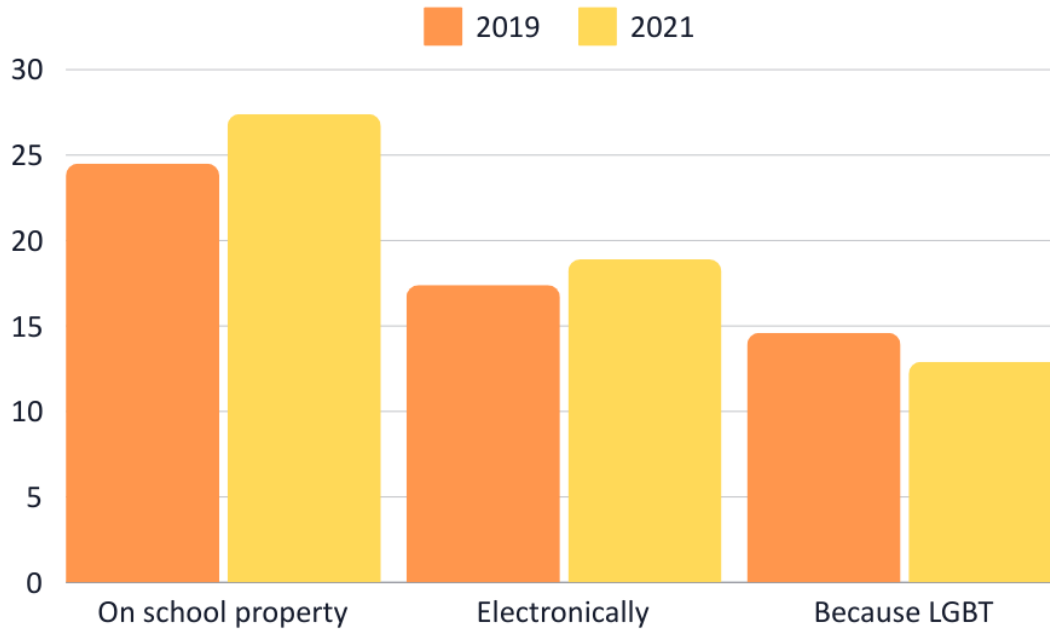
## 2022 Richland County CASPER

How would you describe your day-to-day level of stress (percentage)?



# Youth Bullying

2021 YRBS (percentage)





Many people in the United States don't get the health care services they need. About 1 in 10 people don't have health insurance. Strategies to increase insurance coverage rates are critical for making sure more people get important health care services, like preventive care and treatment for chronic illnesses. Interventions to increase access to health care professionals and improve communication, in person or remotely, can help more people get the care they need ([Healthy People 2030](#)).

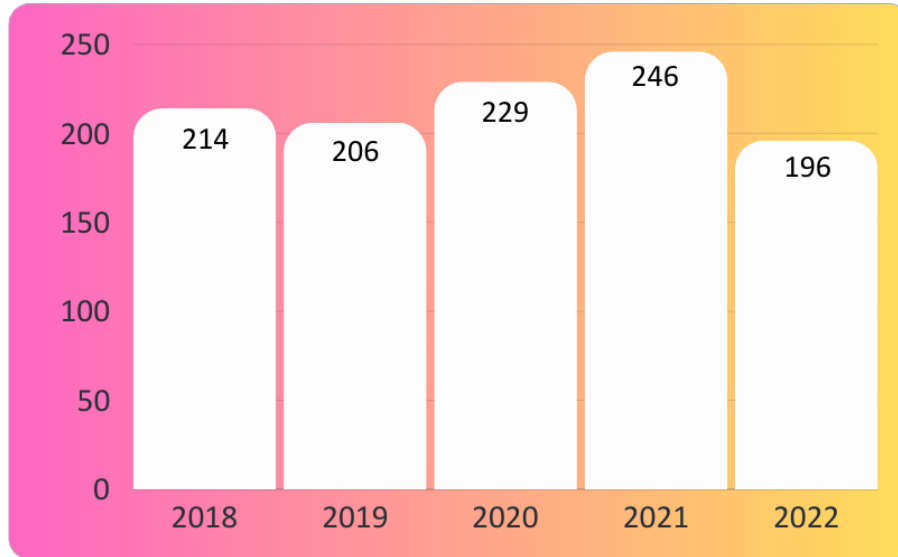
## AREAS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Sidney Health Center Community Health Needs Assessment



## Births at Sidney Health Center

Sidney Health Center, 2023



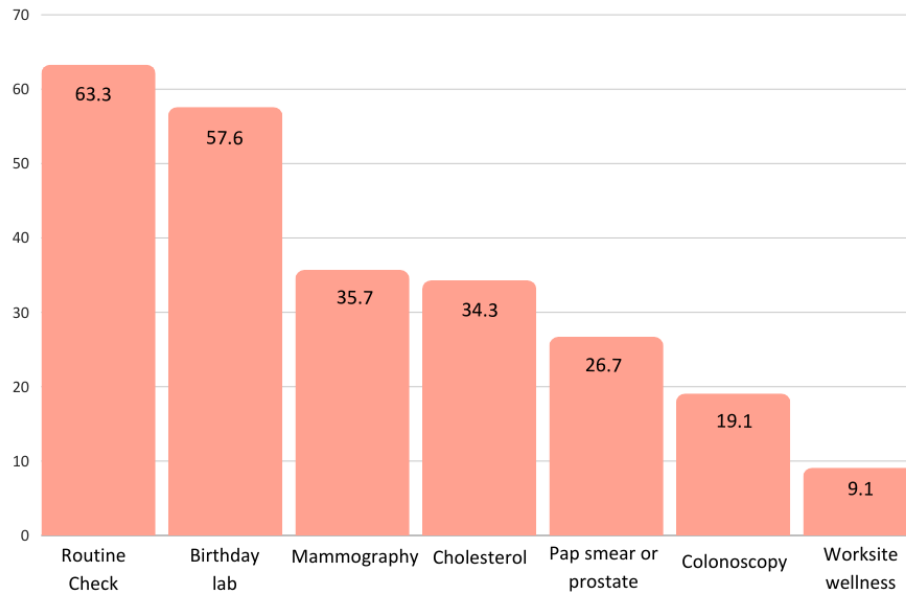
## RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH CARE

Health Care	Richland County	Montana
Dentist Access (ratio of population to dentists)	2,209:1	1,346:1
Mammography Screening, Medicare enrollees age 67-69	47%	44%
Mental Health providers (ratio of population)	789:1	298:1
Primary Care physicians (ratio of population)	2,161:1	1,215:1
Live births with low birth weight	5%	8%
Teen births per 1,000 (ages 15-19 for 2014-2020)	26	20

County Health Rankings, 2022

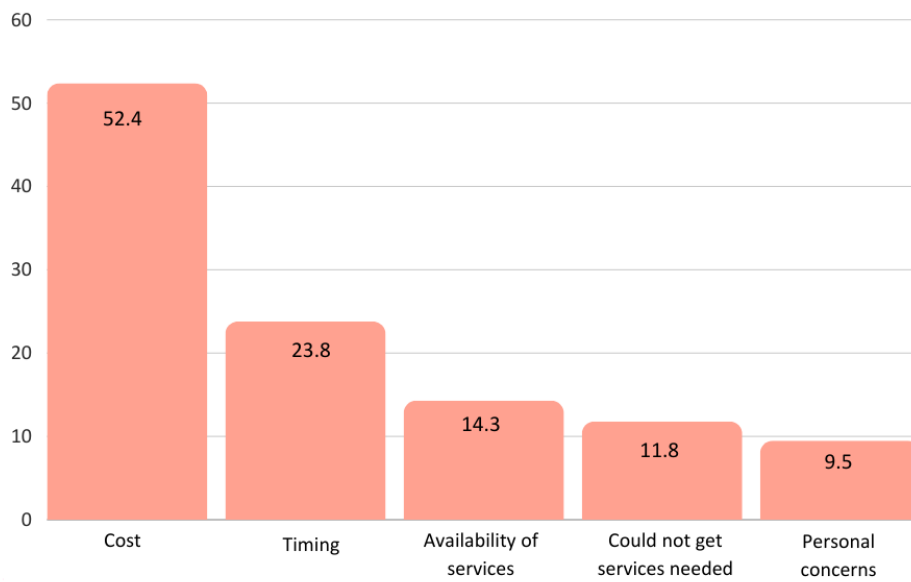
## 2022 RICHLAND COUNTY CASPER

Preventative services in the past year (percentage)

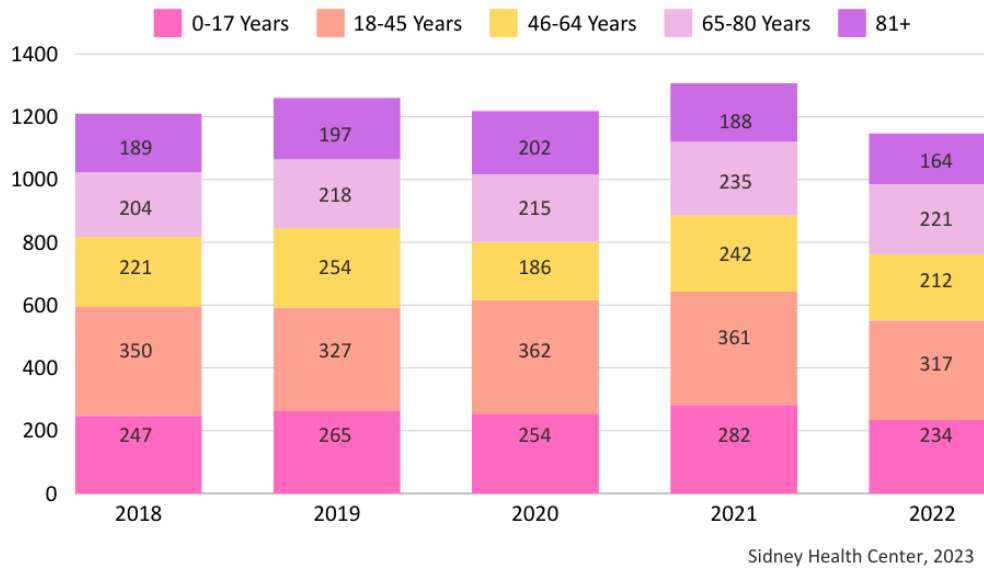


## 2022 RICHLAND COUNTY CASPER

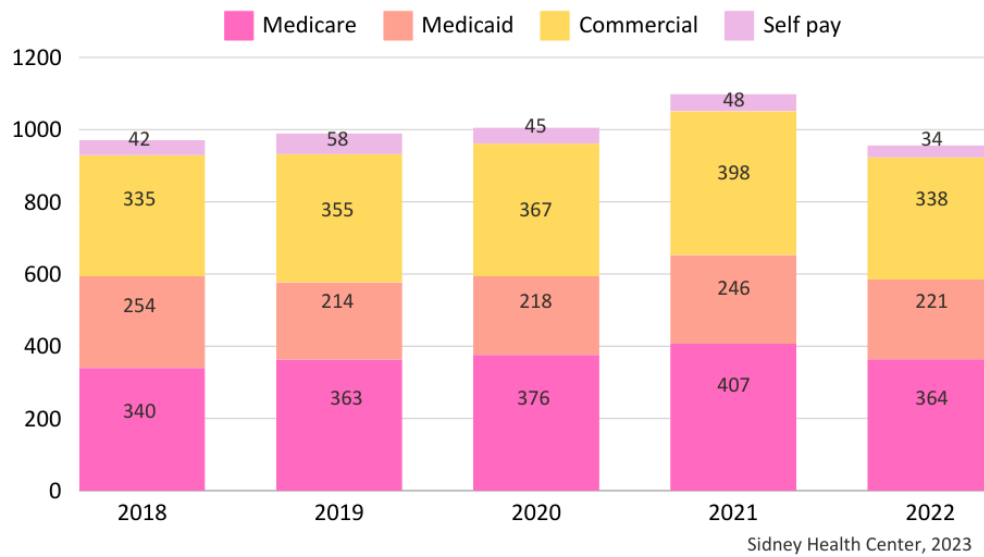
Barriers to receiving health care services (percentage)



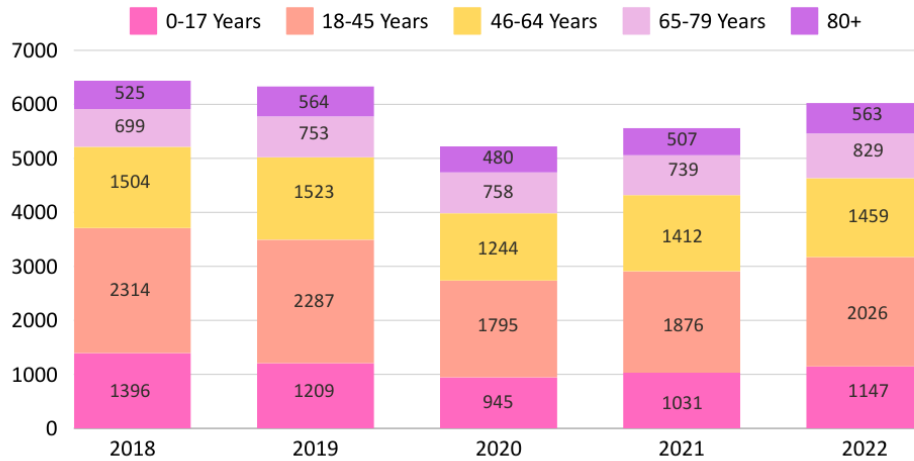
## Inpatient Admissions at Sidney Health Center, by Age



## Inpatient Admissions at Sidney Health Center, by Primary Payer

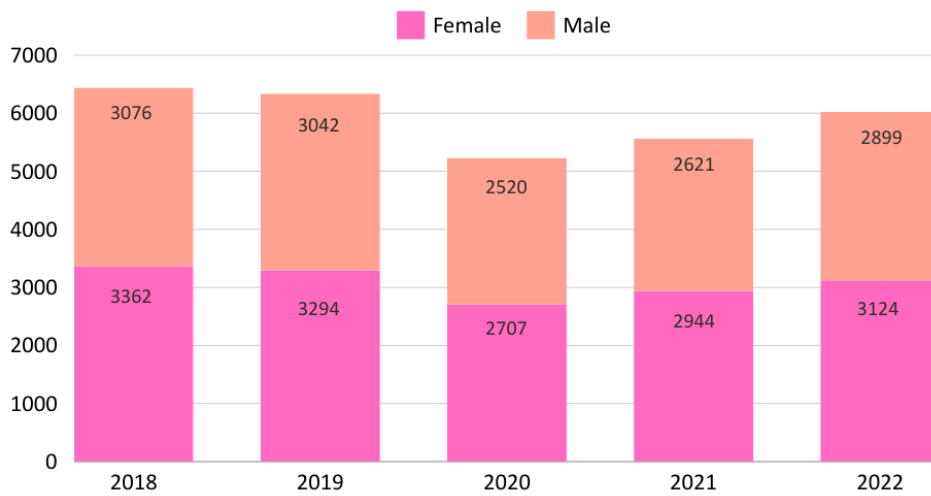


### Emergency Department Encounters at Sidney Health Center, by Age



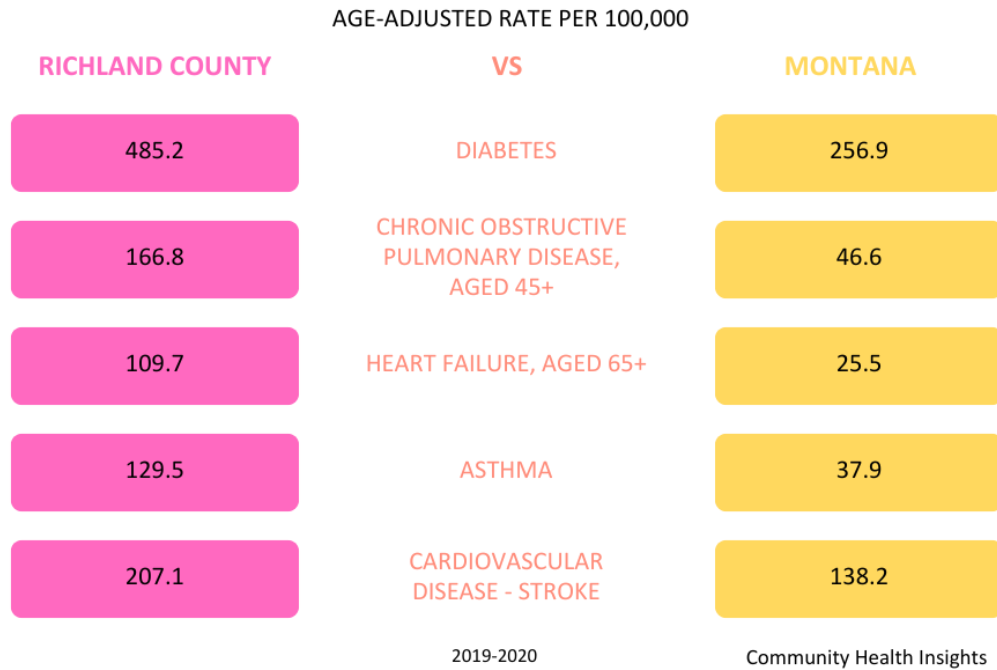
Sidney Health Center, 2023

### Emergency Department Encounters at Sidney Health Center, by Sex

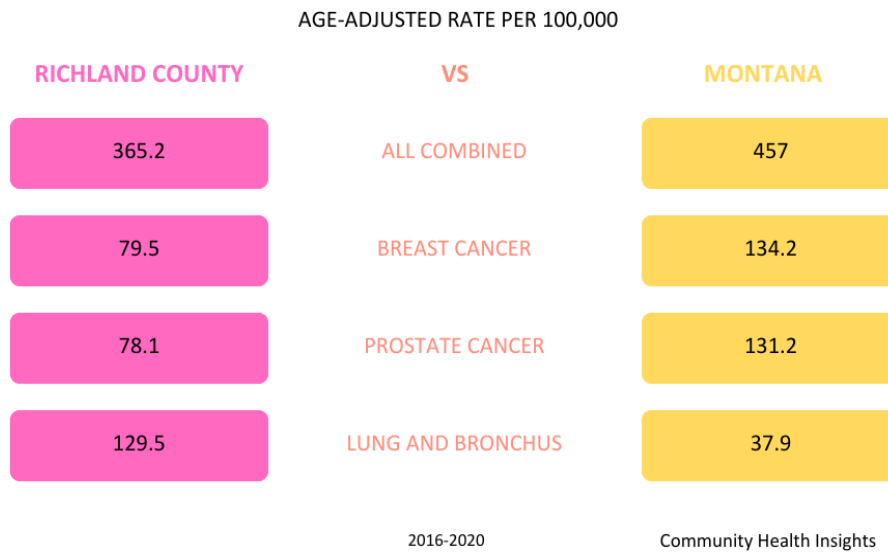


Sidney Health Center, 2023

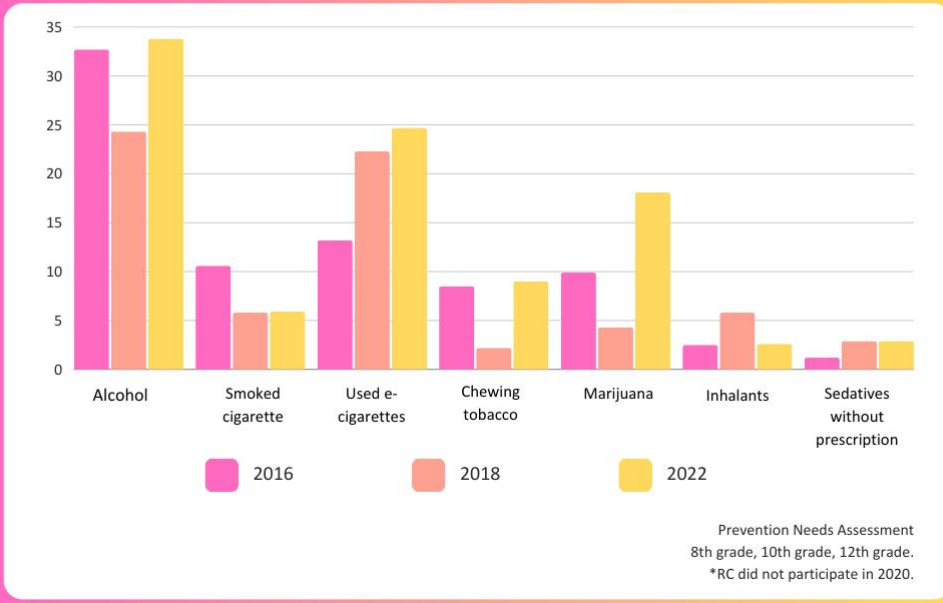
## CHRONIC DISEASE HOSPITALIZATION



## CANCER INCIDENCE RATE

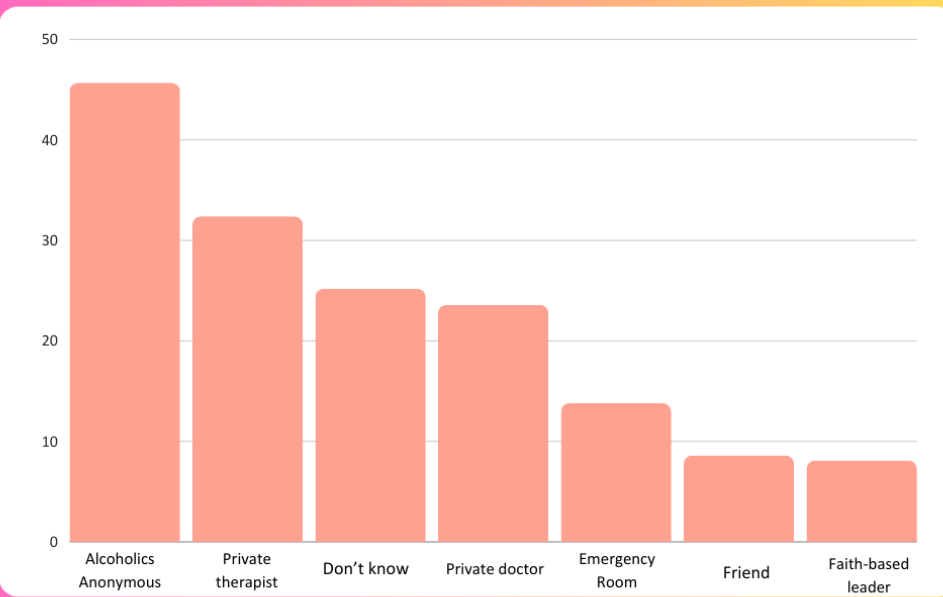


## YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE IN LAST 30 DAYS (PERCENTAGE)



## 2022 RICHLAND COUNTY CASPER

Where would you refer someone for substance abuse services (percentage)?



### [CONNECT: Montana Electronic Referral System](#)

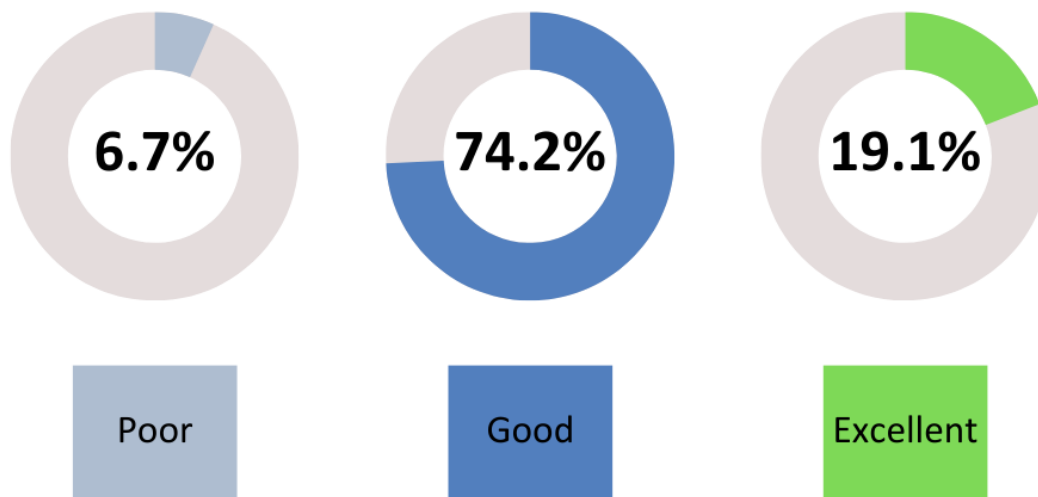
CONNECT is an electronic referral network that allows client contact information to be sent between service providers. The secure web-based system is available at no cost to approved organizations that make client referrals. The goal is to reduce common barriers for external referrals. According to the 2022 CASPER, 97.4% of residents are not aware of the CONNECT referral system.



Social determinants of health (SDOH) have a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life. Communities in Action and their partners in sectors like education, transportation, housing and healthcare are taking action, with the help of passionate community volunteers, to improve the conditions in Richland County's environments.

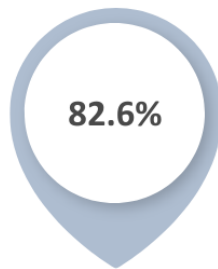
## 2022 RICHLAND COUNTY CASPER

In general, your physical health is:

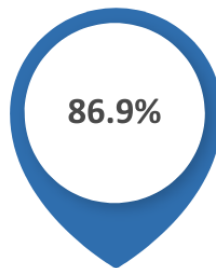


## RICHLAND COUNTY RESIDENTS

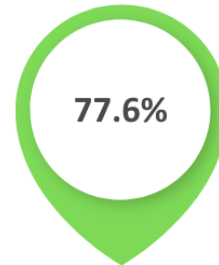
### Quality of Life



Feel safe walking alone at night



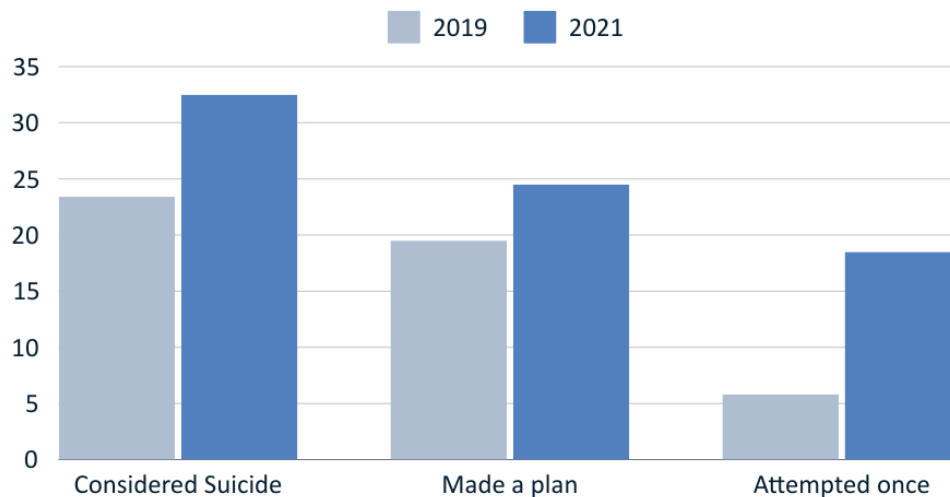
Felt hopeful consistently for more than 3 months



Did not feel anxious for more than 3 months

Richland County Casper, 2022

## YOUTH SUICIDE IN PAST 12 MONTHS (PERCENTAGE)



Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021

## YOUTH PREVALENCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS

MENTAL HEALTH IN AMERICA, 2022

MONTANA	VS	UNITED STATES
53.5%	DID NOT RECEIVE SERVICES	60.3%
15.1%	AT LEAST 1 MAJOR DEPRESSIVE EPISODE IN PAST YEAR	15.1%
11.4%	SEVERE MAJOR DEPRESSIVE EPISODE	10.6%
5.7%	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER	4.1%

## ADULT PREVALENCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS

MENTAL HEALTH IN AMERICA, 2022

MONTANA	VS	UNITED STATES
23.7%	DISABILITY / COULD NOT AFFORD A DOCTOR	29.7%
20.8%	ANY MENTAL ILLNESS	19.9%
10%	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER	7.7%
4.63%	SERIOUS THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE	4.58%

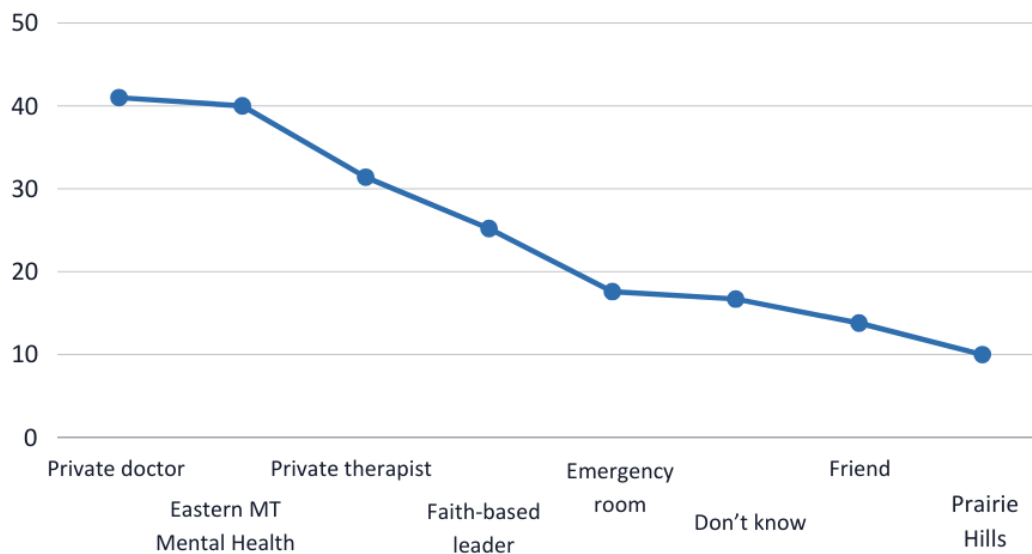
## Suicide Statistics

- Montana has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate of suicide.
- Suicide is the 9<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Montana vs. 12<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the USA.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for ages 10-44 in Montana.
- 48,183 Americans died by suicide in 2021. An estimated 1.70 million people attempted suicide.
- The age-adjusted suicide rate was 25.9 per 100,000 in Montana vs. 13.5 in the USA
- Men died by suicide 3.9 times more than women in USA.
- 74.9% of Montana communities do not have enough mental health providers to serve residents.
- Firearms accounted for 63% of suicide deaths in Montana vs. 54.6% in USA
- 94% of adults surveyed in the U.S. think suicide can be prevented.

American Foundation for Suicide, 2021

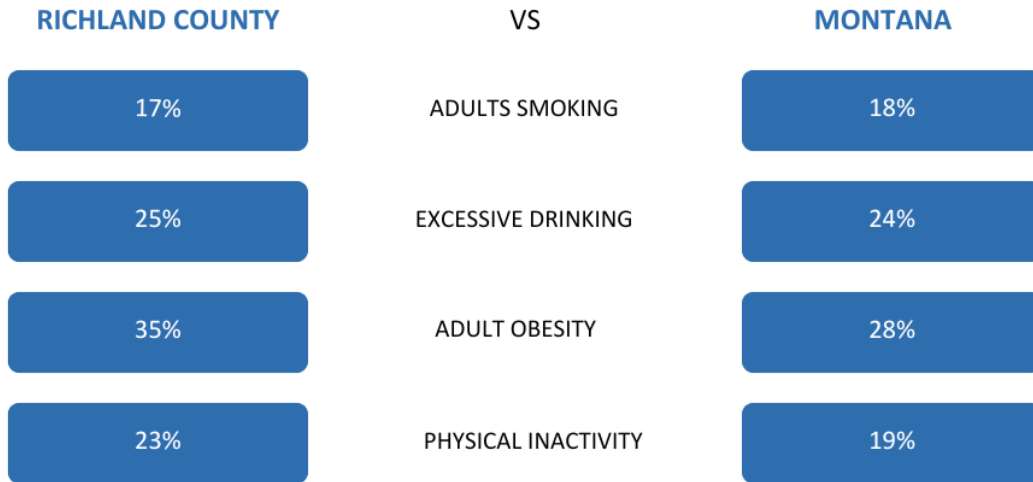
## 2022 Richland County CASPER

Where would you refer someone for mental health services (percentage)?



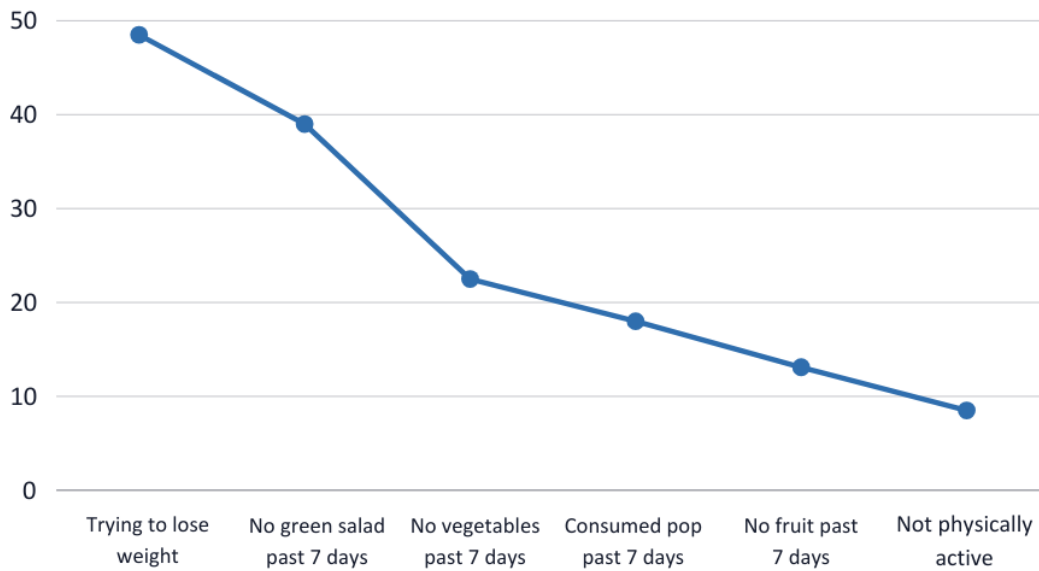
# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS, 2022



## Youth Healthy Behaviors

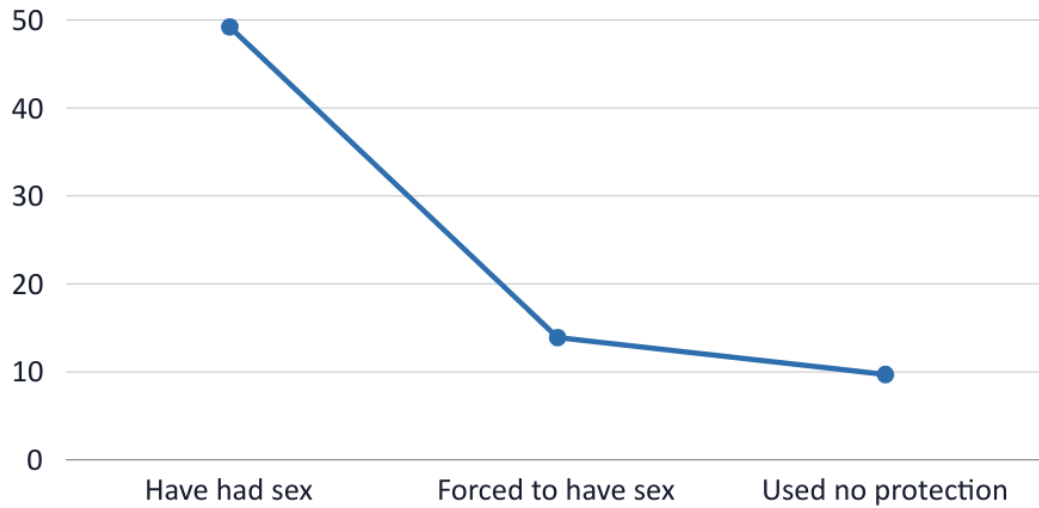
Percentage



Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021

## Youth Sexual Behavior

Percentage



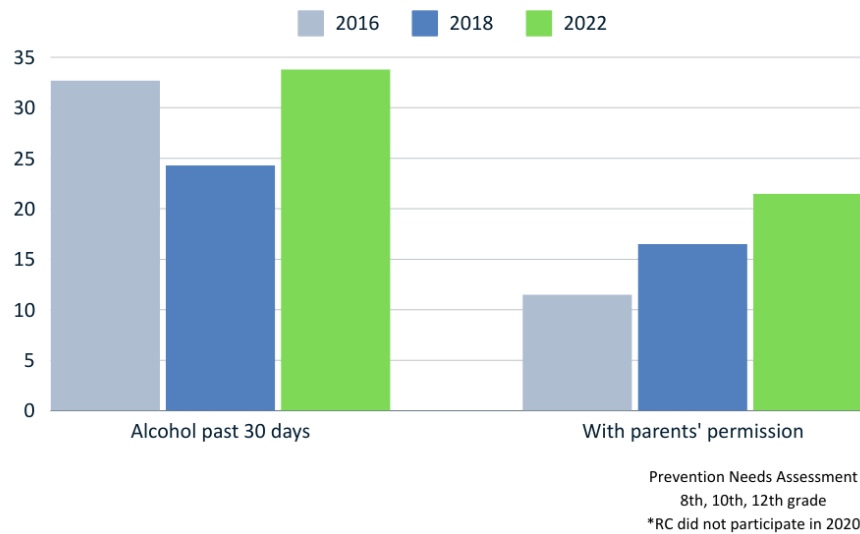
Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021

### [2022 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

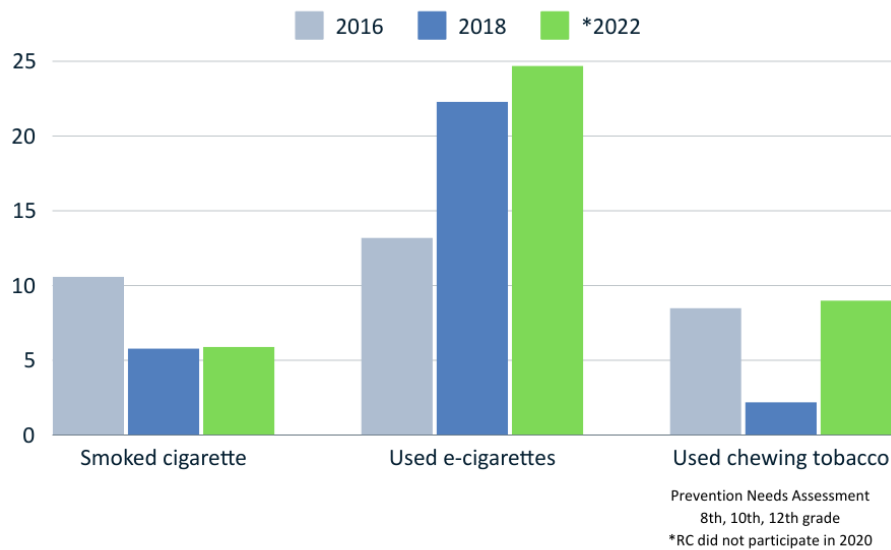
Chlamydia Cases: 41 Chlamydia cases reported in Richland County vs. 4,753 cases in MT.

Teen Birth Rate (15–19-year-olds) of 26 per 1,000 females vs. 20 per 1,000 females for MT.

## YOUTH ALCOHOL USE (PERCENTAGE)



## YOUTH TOBACCO USE PAST 30 DAYS (PERCENTAGE)



### [Youth Risk Behavior Survey, high school](#)

- 26% of students in 2021 were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property in the past 12 months vs 17.5% in 2019.
- 54.7% in 2021 have used an electronic vapor product in their lifetime vs 57.0% in 2019.

# Summary

The purpose of this Community Health Assessment is to provide the information needed to create the Richland County “Quality of Life” Strategic Plan (Community Health Improvement Plan). The assessment and resulting CHIP will be updated every 5 years.

*Creating the Community we want to become!*

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- Youth Risk Behavior Survey. (2021), [Montana Department of Health & Human Services](#).