

# Randolph County Assessment Findings

// RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 11.7.22



# Three main conclusions

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1

Families in Randolph County are increasingly overburdened

2

Increased needs of families are driving child welfare, foster care, and county expenses up

3

Randolph County residents can come together to change this pattern

# Assessment process

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Analysis of  
population health  
and DSS data



An environmental  
scan of assets  
and opportunities



Over 100 resident  
interviews (81  
caregivers, 26  
community influencers)

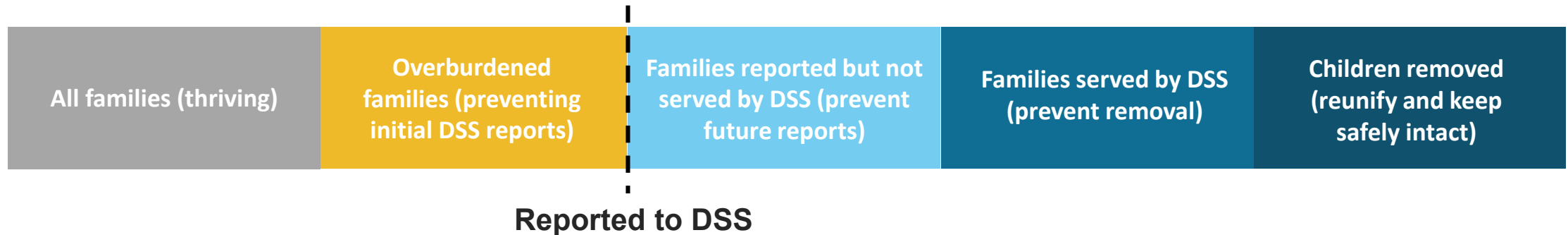


Media analysis of  
stories about child  
maltreatment

# Upstream in child welfare



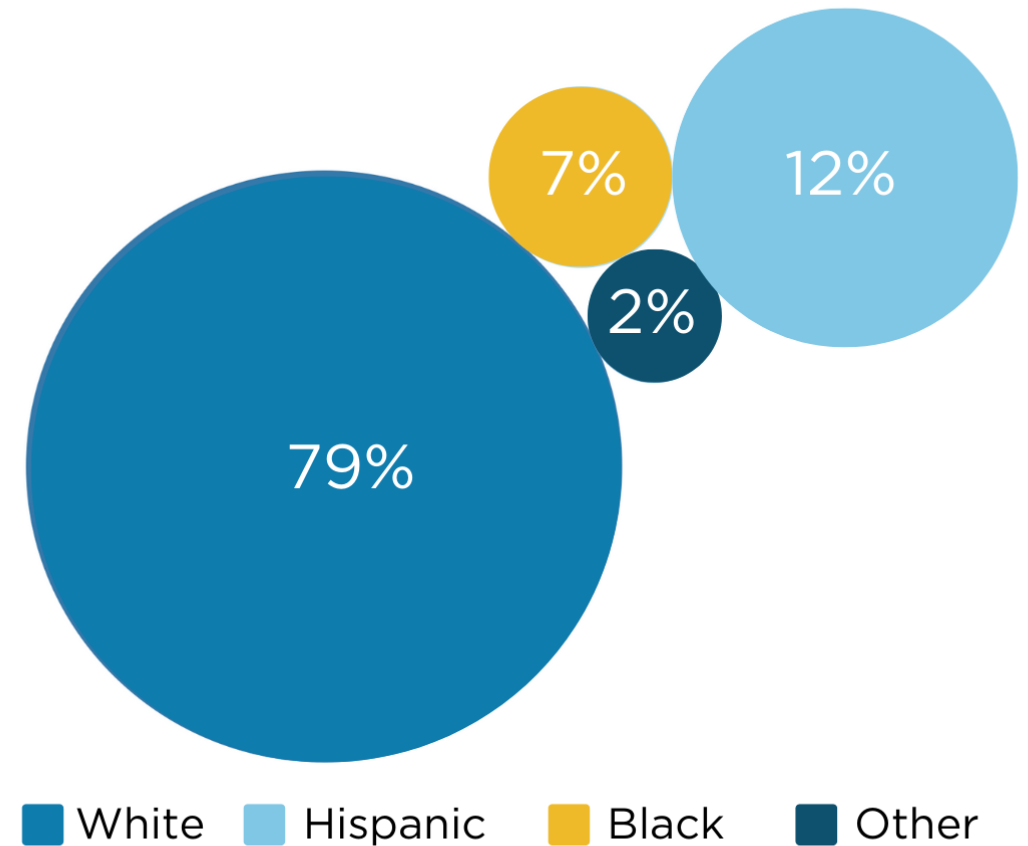
## Families of focus (Goal)



For the purpose of this report, upstream referred to the **grey and yellow** areas on the continuum

# Demographic Trends

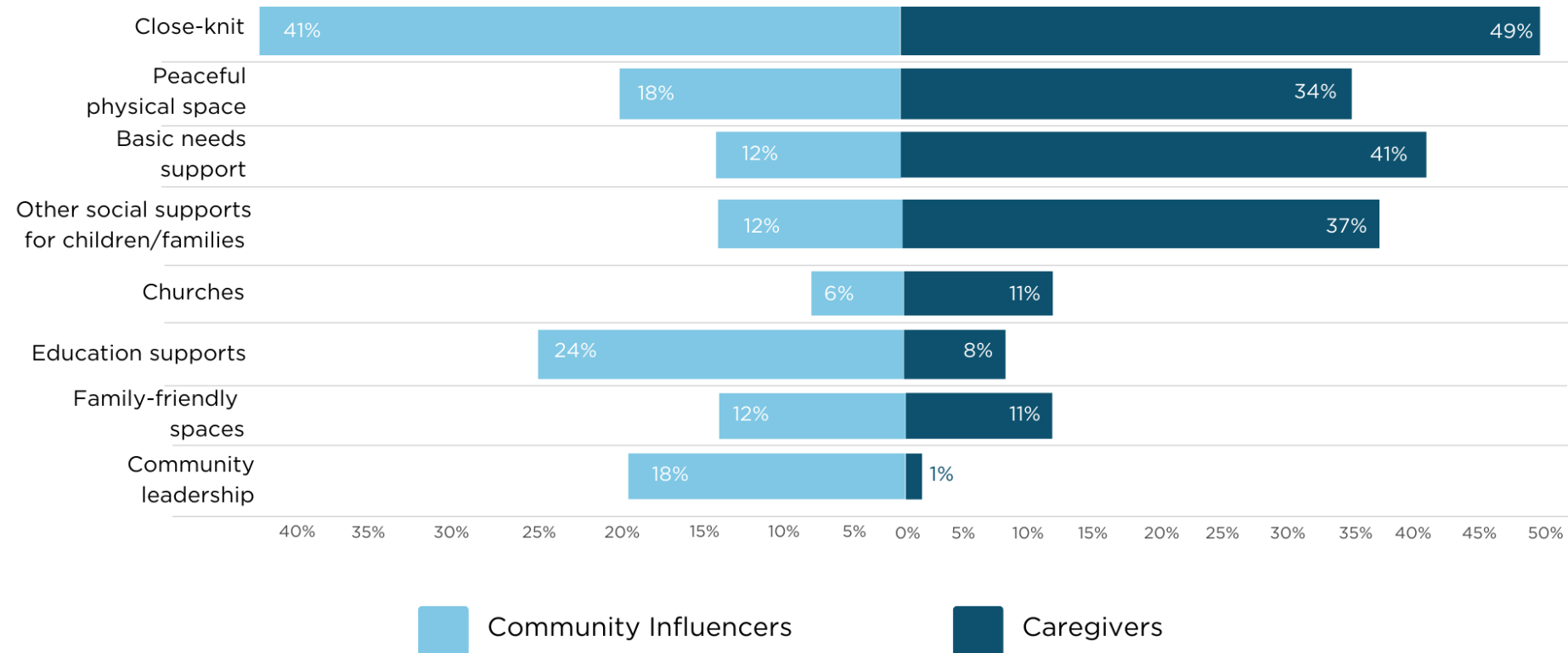
- County rank = 20<sup>th</sup>
- Slower growth than NC
- Child population declining
- Primarily white but populations of color increasing





# Community Strengths

# Strengths identified by residents (open-ended)

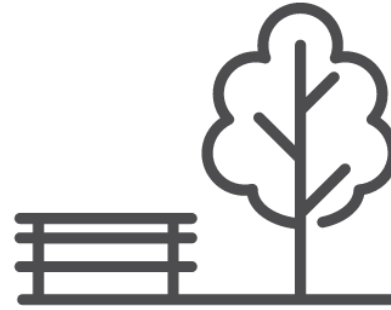


“I do like the sense of community...we are very willing to help each other.” -Community Influencer

# Community Strengths

How accessible are specific resources that support families?

- Four assets noted by both groups as most accessible



Parks



Churches



Well-resourced  
schools



Support from  
family/friends

# Community Needs and Opportunities



# Community Needs

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Data showed economic hardship is impacting families in Randolph

- More children in poverty
- Lower median income (more than \$10,500 less than NC)

“[We need] better jobs and better benefits within the job.”

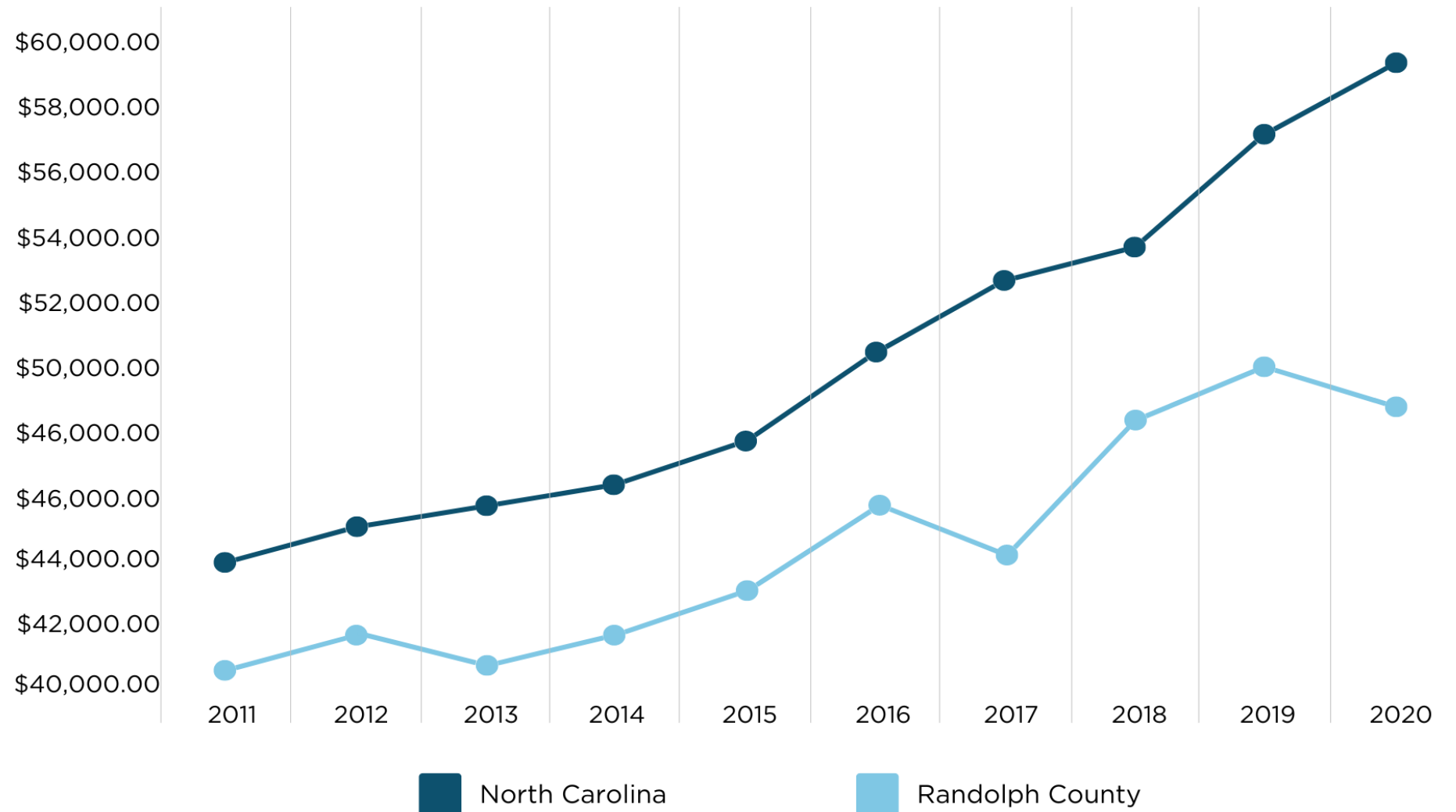
- Randolph County Caregiver

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“Families make too much to receive things like food stamps, but they still struggle because they do not make enough to get by.”

- Randolph County Caregiver

# Median income growth in Randolph hasn't kept pace with North Carolina





# What do families need?

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## ACCORDING TO CAREGIVERS:

“I am in school and the entry level job I can get would not pay enough for childcare. My boyfriend makes too much for childcare support, and we are not poor, but we are stuck in the middle.”

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“Whatever amount of income you make should not eliminate service and support when needed...minimum wage needs adjustment to keep in stride.”

“I want to see more jobs, housing, low-income housing.”

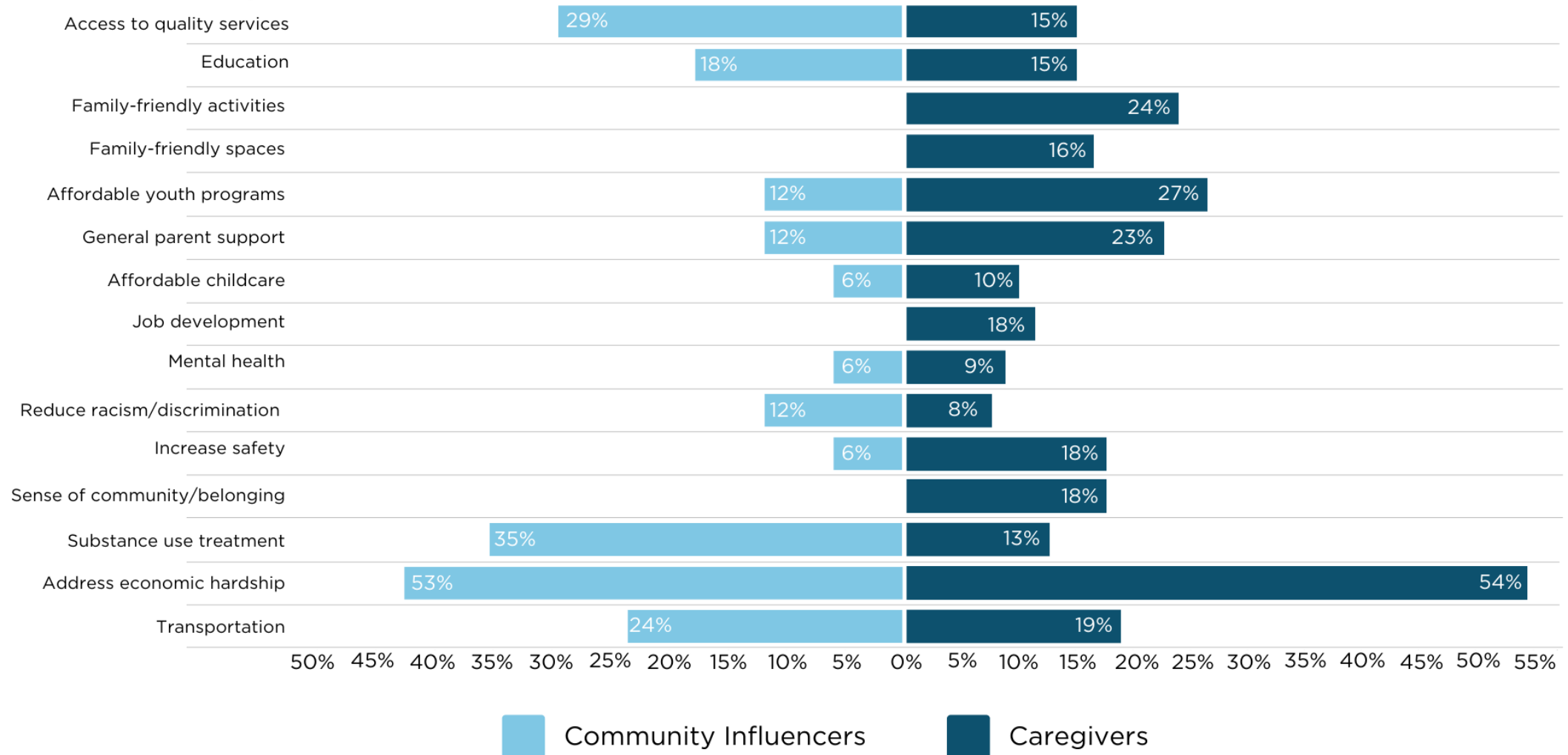
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“Minimum wage of 7.25 isn't working, county should do more.”

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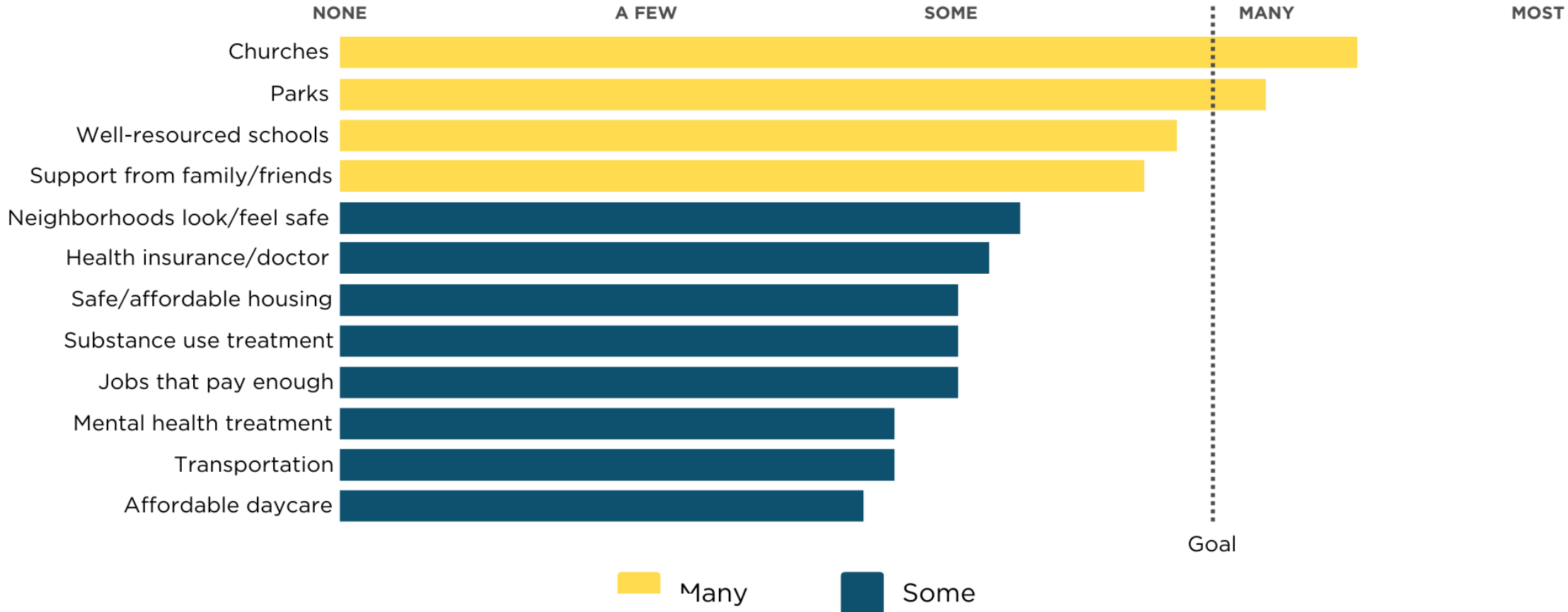
“Making neighborhoods safer and getting jobs that pay more money.”

# How Randolph can better support families, according to respondents (open-ended)





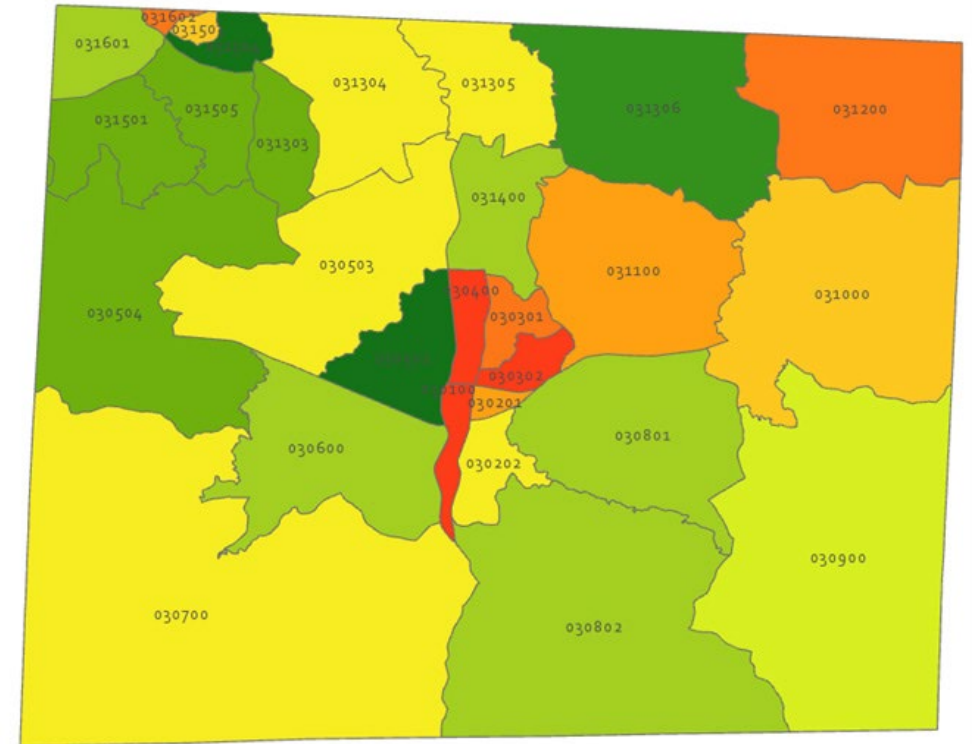
# Number of families that have access to resources, according to respondents (predetermined list)



# Community Needs

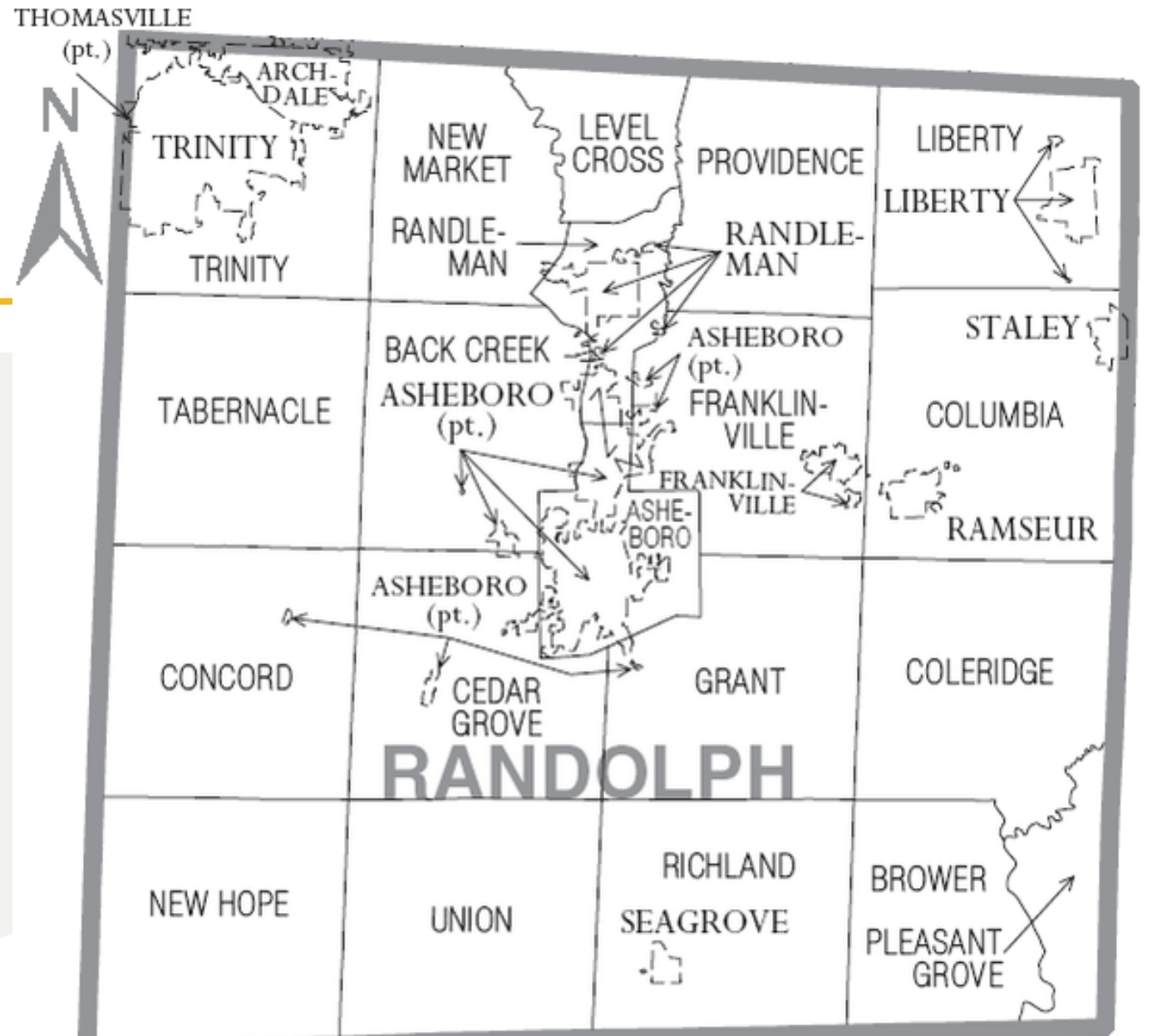
Geographic distribution of community health factors

- Assessed 27 factors
- Five domains: economic, health, education, and neighborhood environment
- Created composite wellness score



Five of the six census tracts with the lowest wellness scores were in zip code 27203

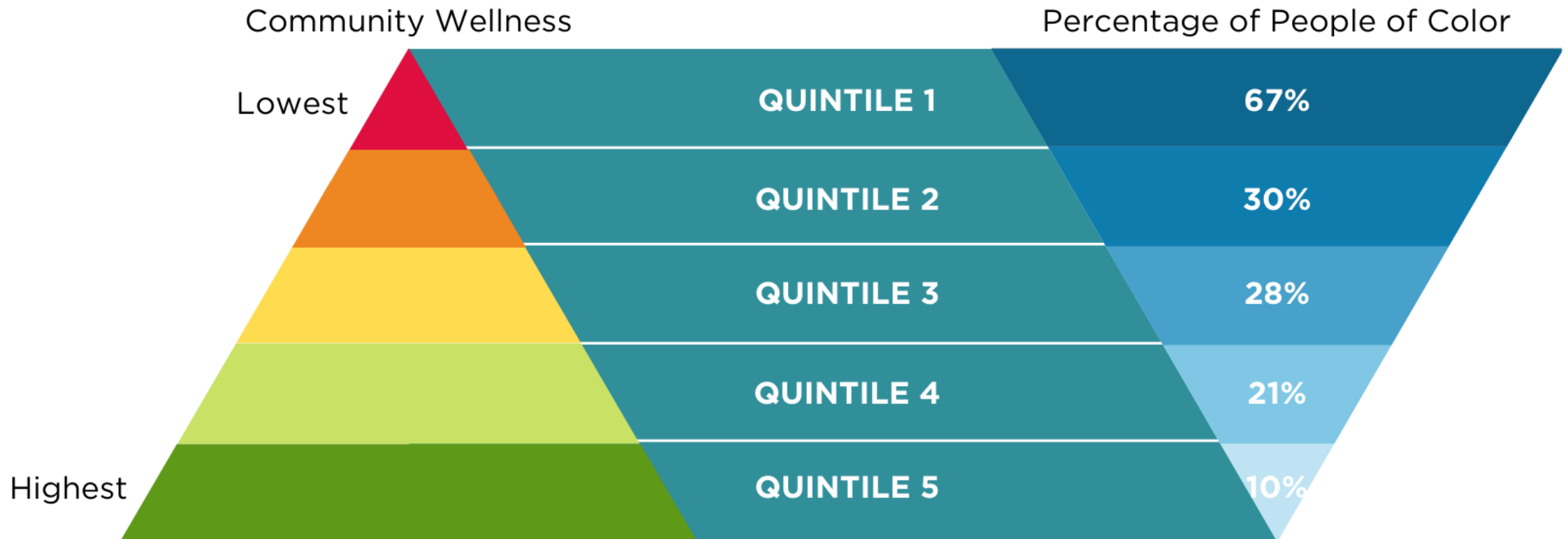
# Randolph County City and Townships





# Greater percentages of people of color live in areas with lower community health supports

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Contributing factors to this pattern in other communities have included historical policies and practices, sustained trauma across generations, inherited poverty/wealth, and investment patterns. More exploration is needed for Randolph County.



# Community Dynamics and Readiness for change

# Vague Awareness stage

## STAGE MEANING

- Few community leaders have limited knowledge
- Limited resources that can further effort
- Something should be done but not sure what to do and not clear who should act

## HELPFUL STRATEGIES

- Present information at local groups/events
- Tell stories of more typical experiences
- Publish articles, editorials, billboards with local information
- Teach community how they can be part of the solution

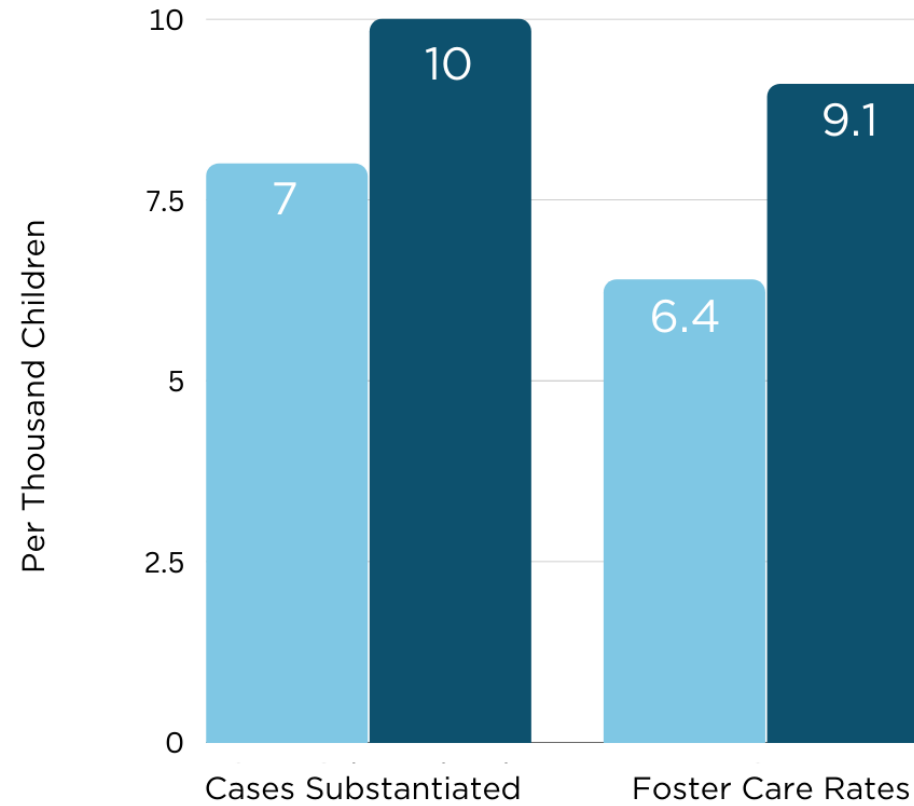
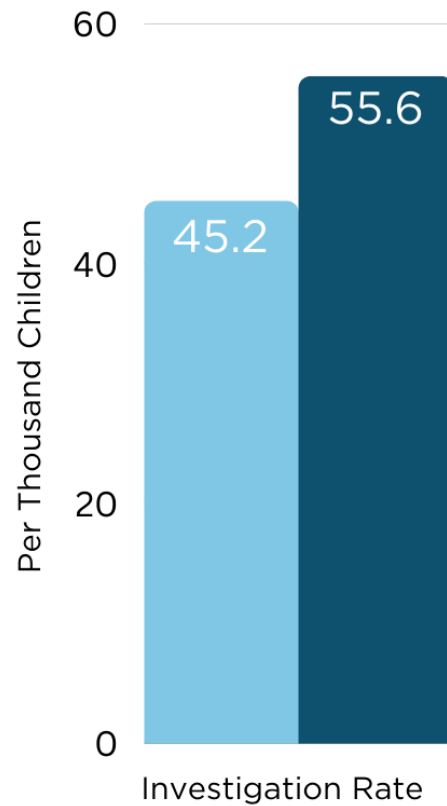


# Child welfare data analysis

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# Randolph County child welfare rates compared to North Carolina

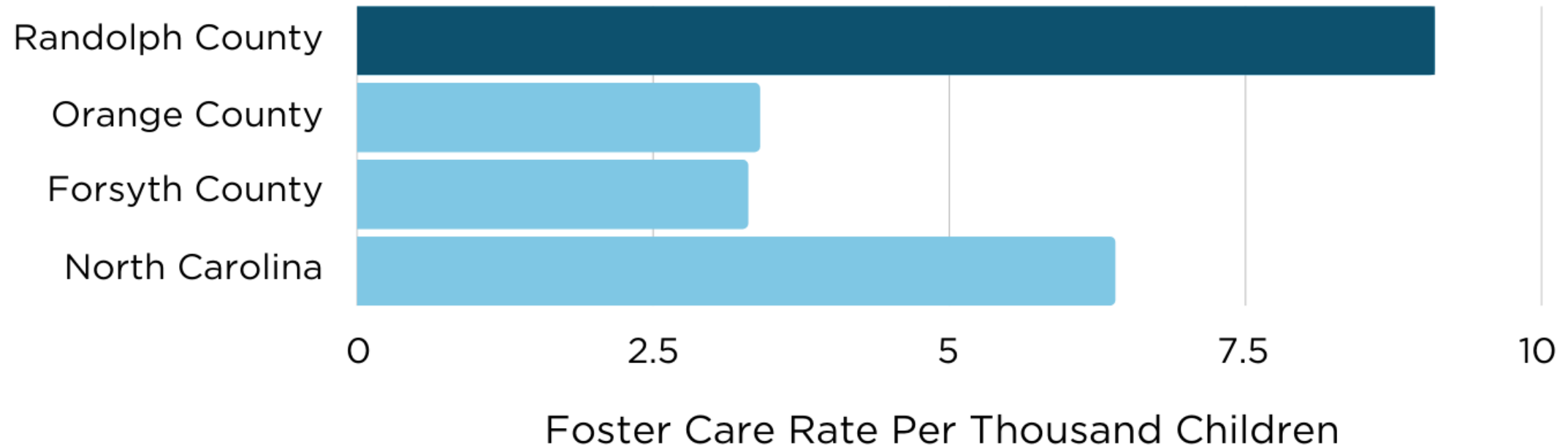
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North Carolina Randolph County

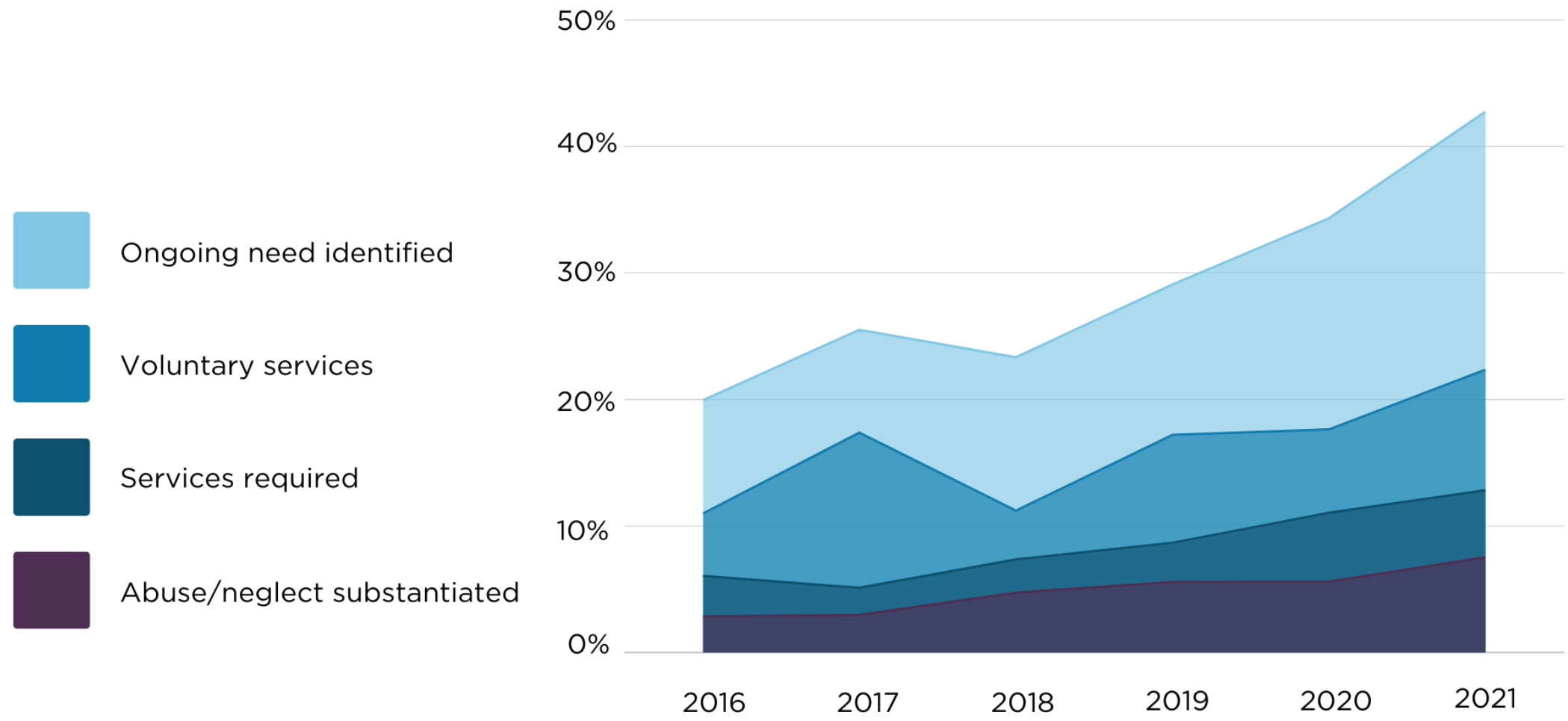
# Foster care rates compared to state and other counties

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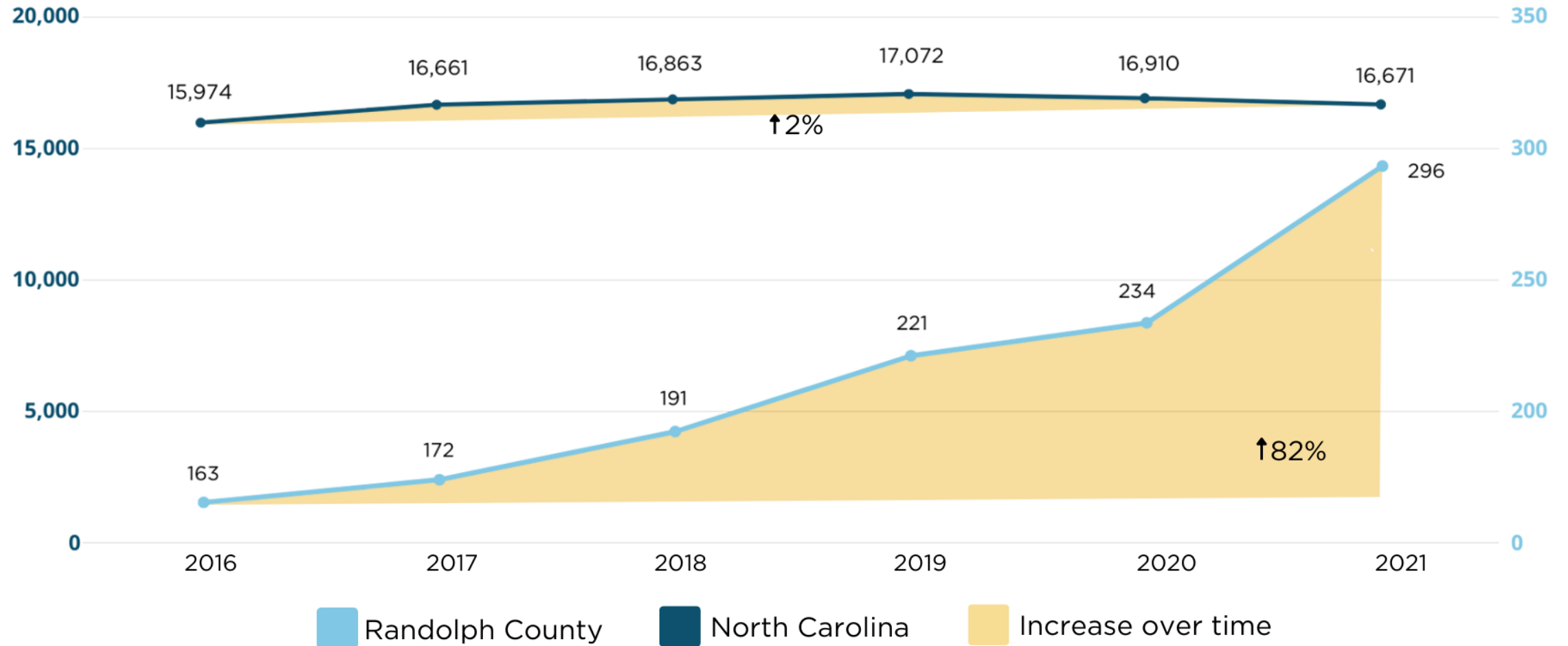




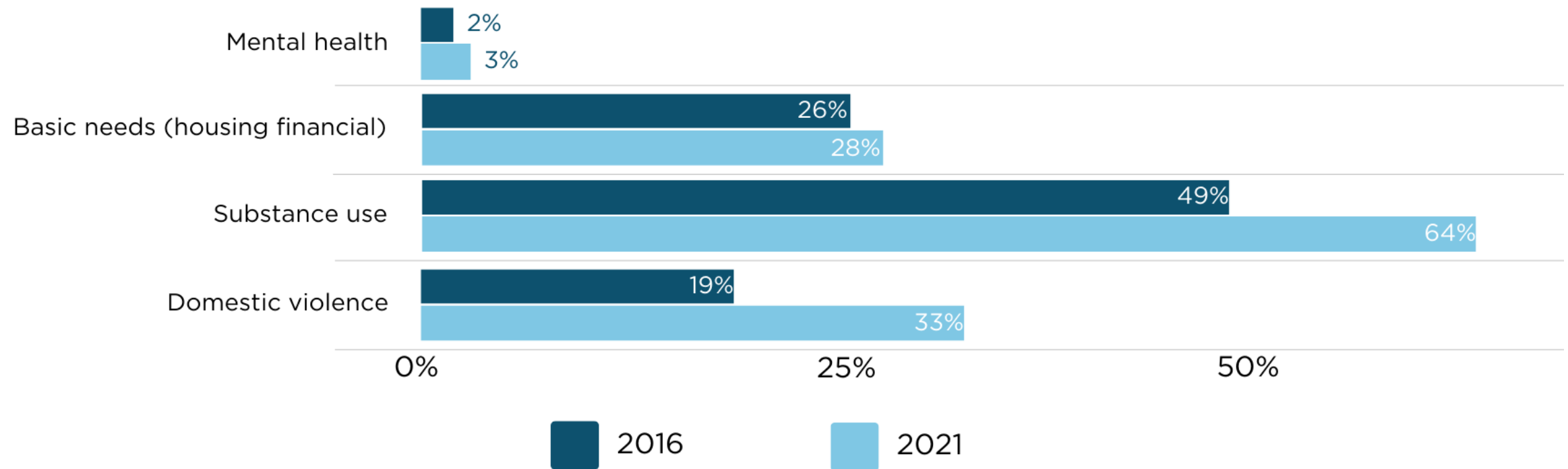
# The needs of families in DSS have become more complex across all levels of intensity



# Foster care has grown more in Randolph



# Factors for repeat reports to DSS



There was a general finding overall that more data is needed electronically to better understand the data trends.

# Interview data

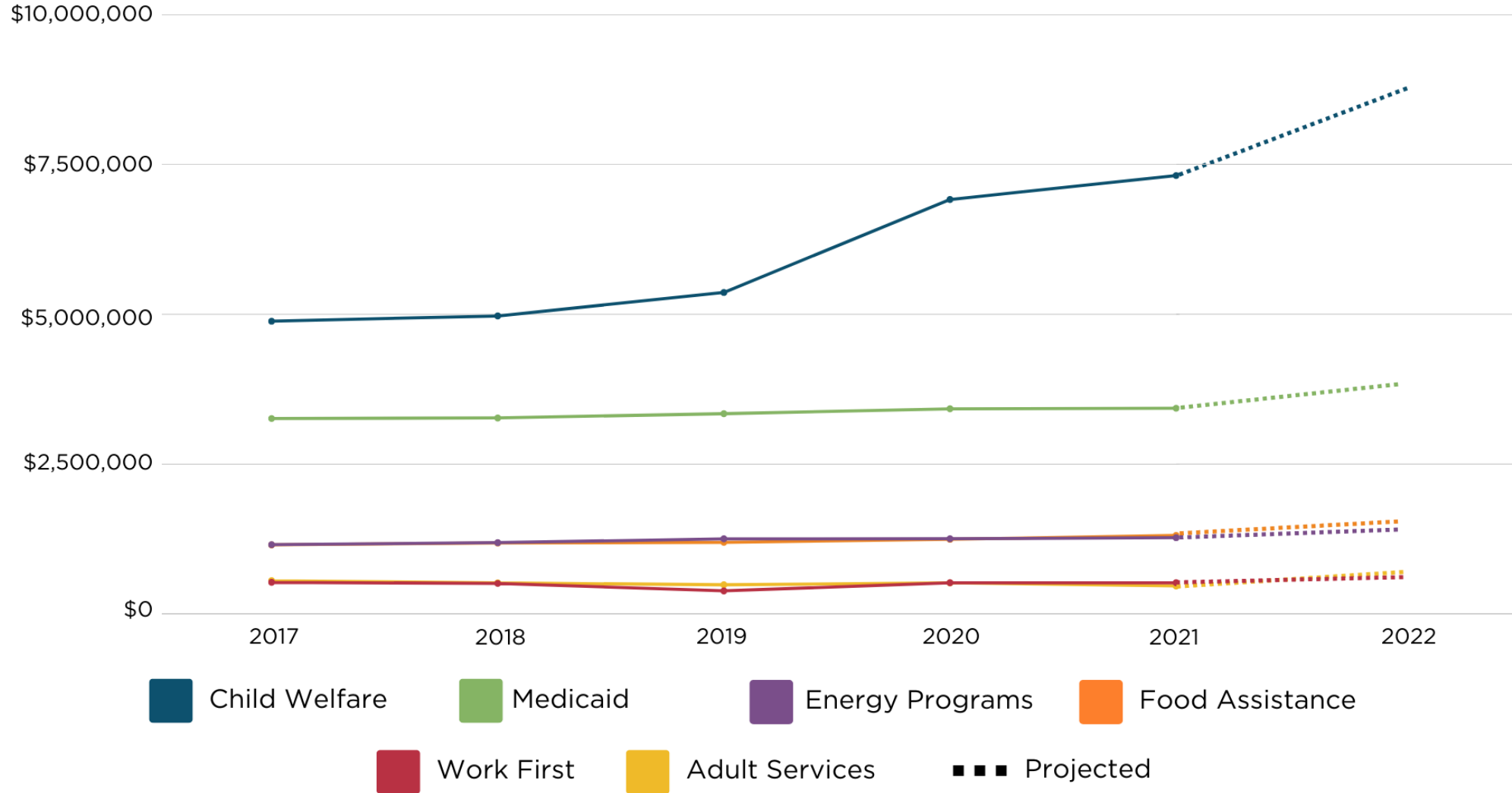
- 83% thought it was possible to prevent foster care
  - Increasing quality services
  - Reducing stressors that impact families
- Experts believe more family support for grandparents are needed



“[We need] more help for grandparents that are raising grandkids...[I’m] raising two grandbabies and trying to get [my] other grandbaby... because he got put into foster.”

- Caregiver

# Complex needs of families are driving costs up



# IFF Recommendations

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# Recommendations



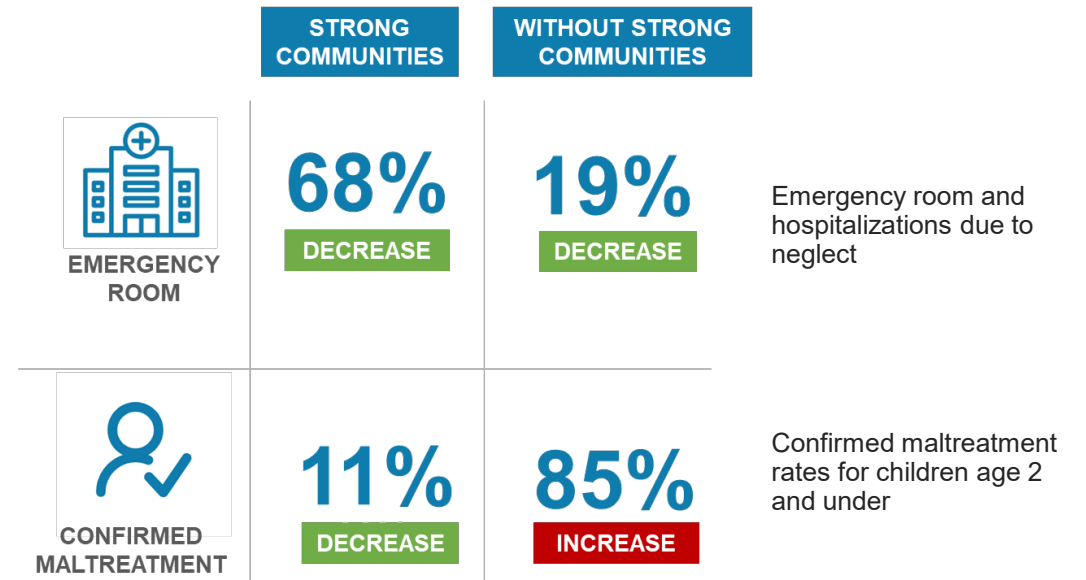
**Enhance relationships** between overburdened caregivers and historical decision-makers.



**Expand shared decision-making processes** that include caregivers that are the most overburdened and co-create new solutions.

## STRATEGY EXAMPLES:

### Strong Communities for Children



### Pilot participatory budgeting process

- Included residents in decision-making
- Increased trust and relationships
- Identified and addressed unknown needs

# Recommendations



**Invest in addressing the economic hardships that families are experiencing and transportation needs**



**Shift investments more upstream to prevent families from entering the child welfare system**

## STRATEGY EXAMPLES:

### [Public transportation, uber-like model \(Wilson, NC\)](#)

- Residents report increased ability to work
- Order through phone or mobile app (15-minutes)
- \$1.50 anywhere within city limits

### [Non-profit public transportation funded by community](#)

### [Micro-transit ride-sharing \(Birmingham On-Demand\)](#)

- Partnership with Community Foundation
- Promising initial pilot data

### [West Virginia Child Care Facility Credit](#)

- Incentivizes businesses to create childcare

### [Workforce Housing Gap Rental Assistance Pilot \(New Hanover County, NC\)](#)

- Those at 60-80% of area median income receive \$450 reimbursement subsidy per month

### [Guaranteed Income Pilots Dashboard](#)

### [Evidence-based prevention services/strategies](#)

# Recommendations



**Assess history** to identify how past policies, practices, and investment patterns may link to present conditions



**Prioritize resources** in areas with lower community health and wellness scores

“On a government level there is under resourcing. I would also like to see more work on racial issues.”

-Community Influencer

“Higher ups don't really pay attention to the impact of these areas that lack the access.”

-Caregiver



# Recommendations

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**Support the digitization of DSS data** to increase efficiency, information access, data-driven decisions, and ability to measure change over time



**Build community awareness** about factors that overburden families and how the community can help

“More places added on for interaction between families and kids...would like to see walking tracks and swing sets added to certain parts of Randolph.” Caregiver

# Questions and Next Steps

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## Community Breakfast

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

7:30-9:00 a.m.

