



# COOK COUNTY 2023-2027 COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

## PURPOSE

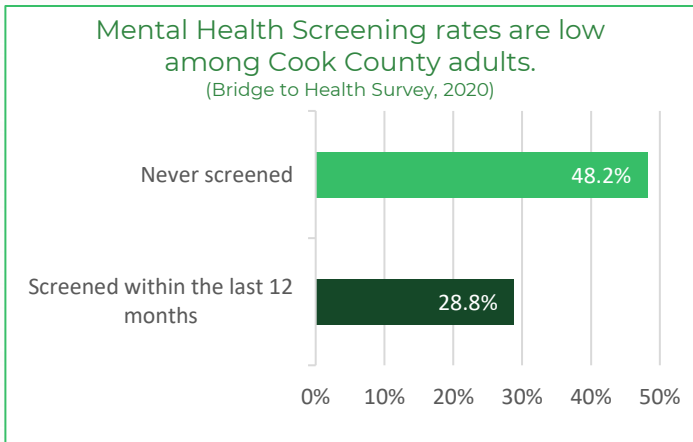
Community health assessments use data to determine priority health areas most impacting a community's health. This includes assessing the conditions in which we live, learn, work, and play. Local health departments collaborate with community members and partners to select these priority health areas.

## PROCESS

After Cook County Public Health and community partners determine priority health areas, they work together to assess potential strategies that could make an impact. Public health and partners are building a community health improvement plan to address priority health areas over the next 5 years.

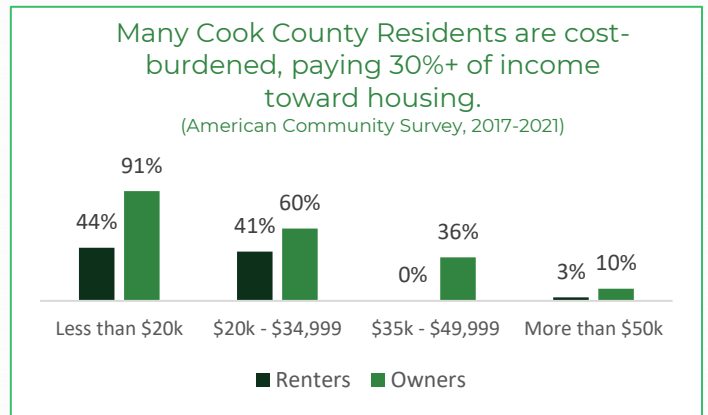
## PRIORITY: MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES & SUPPORT FOR WELL- BEING

Not everyone has the same access to experiences and resources that support mental health. Nearly half of Cook County residents have never been screened for mental health issues, according to the 2020 Bridge to Health Survey. This is similar across the region. Men were more common (56.6%) than women (40.0%) to report never receiving a screening in Cook County.



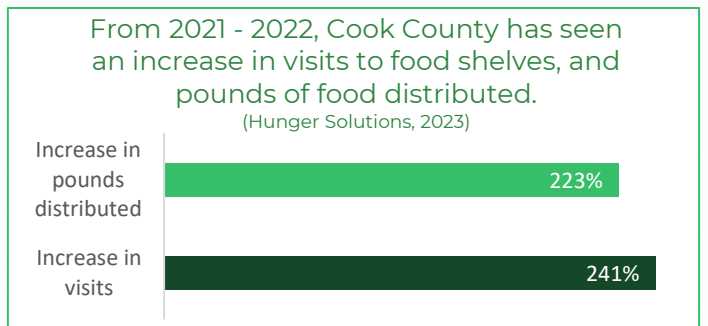
## PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing strongly impacts person's overall health and well-being. A 2022 needs assessment of housing in Cook County (Loci Consulting, 2022) found that there is a shortage of all types of housing (rental housing, housing for sale, senior housing, and special needs housing). When people struggle to find, and afford safe housing options that meet their needs, it becomes a huge stressor and can, ultimately lead to people leaving the community.



## PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE, HEALTHY FOODS

Cook County's increase in food shelf visits and pounds of food distributed from 2021 – 2022 mirrors state-level trends. Hunger Solutions Minnesota links these trends to inflation in the price of food during this time, alongside the loss of certain economic support programs implemented during the pandemic (such as stimulus payments, child tax-credit advance payments, emergency SNAP).

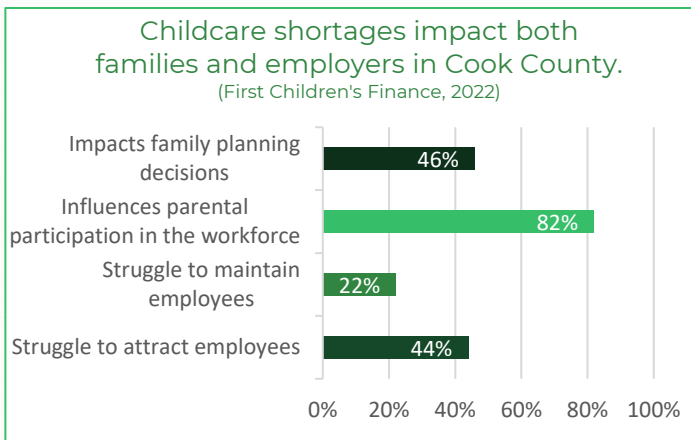


Work continues to address these priority health areas through the Cook County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Learn more below.

LEARN MORE at [Cook County, MN Public Health](https://www.cookcountyhealth.org/) | CONTACT [grace.grinager@co.cook.mn.us](mailto:grace.grinager@co.cook.mn.us)

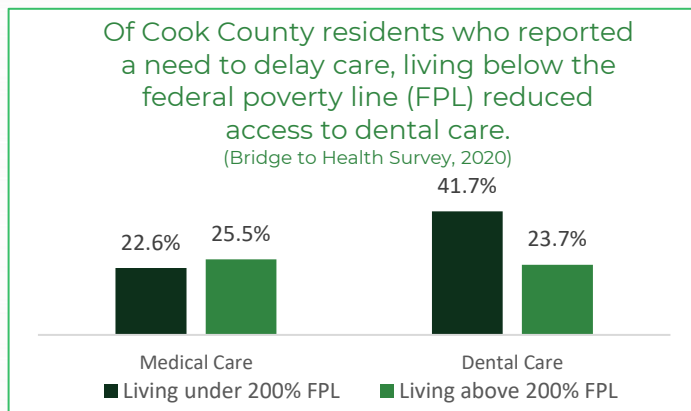
## PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE, QUALITY CHILDCARE

A 2022 Supply and Demand Gap Analysis by First Children’s Finance showed that there is an unmet need for at least 114 childcare slots to meet the demand of families with children 0-5 in Cook County and Grand Portage. Both stability in the childcare workforce and families’ ability to afford care impact both the accessibility of childcare and workforce participation.



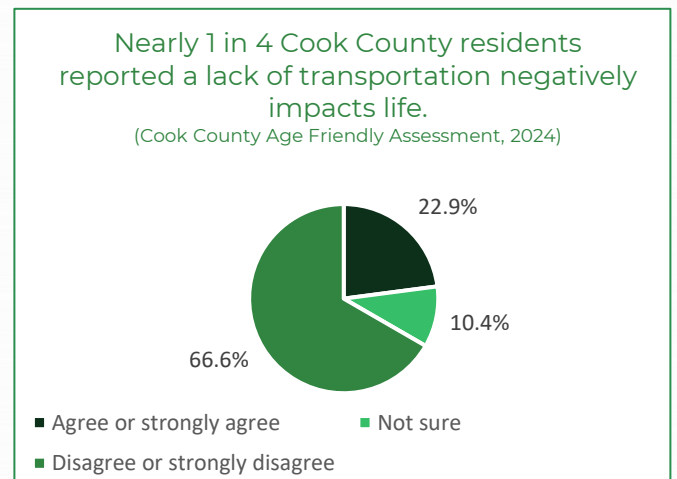
## PRIORITY: PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES

Cook County is focusing on timeliness of health services, which is the ability to provide care when the need for it is recognized. There are many reasons this can happen: lack of transportation, lack of an established provider, insurance status, work hours, etc. In Cook County, poverty is a factor that influences dental care access, shown by Bridge to Health Survey.



## PRIORITY: TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Struggles with transportation impact more than just health care access; they can also influence a person’s ability to travel to work or school, the ability to purchase groceries, recreational opportunities, and the ability to visit friends and family. All these things have an impact on health. A recent survey in Cook County assessing the ease in which residents view they can age within the community, many residents reported difficulty with transportation, specifically when visiting family or friends (26.9%).



## CONCLUSIONS + NEXT STEPS CONTINUED

Where we live, learn, work, and play influences our overall health. Cook County Public Health and community partners will be working collaboratively to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) based on these priority health areas, striving to create a place where opportunities for optimal health are available to everyone. We also plan to use an “Age-Friendly” perspective to look at how needs in these priority health areas can differ across the lifespan.