

LIFE IN THE CAPITAL REGION

2014

ASSESSMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY



DAUPHIN COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA



HARRISBURG REGIONAL
CHAMBER & CREDC

theFoundation
for Enhancing Communities

West Shore
Chamber of Commerce
Inspiring Business



Community

Community

self-organized network
common interests, cause
social group whose mem
no geographical limitation



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Background and Introduction

For the last five years, there has been a steady increase in the demand for health and human service programs in the Capital Region. To identify and understand the needs in our community, United Way of the Capital Region formed a partnership with the **Harrisburg Regional Chamber, West Shore Chamber of Commerce, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, Cumberland County, Dauphin County and Perry County.**

Throughout 2014, this partnership conducted a comprehensive assessment of life in our community, which captured data about trends in health and human service needs, as well as community perceptions about the issues and opportunities facing the Capital Region. The result is a unique and comprehensive look at our community.

“Life in the Capital Region: 2014 Assessment of Our Community” examines health and human service issues in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties through the lens of community “building blocks” of health, education, income and basic needs, as these are essential for a good quality of life and strong community. In all building block areas, transportation, cultural competency and attention to diversity, (as well as special populations such as senior citizens and people with disabilities), are important considerations that cannot be overlooked. These considerations underlie each of the expressed needs and were incorporated fully in development of the report.

This executive summary summarizes the process and key findings of this valued study.





Assessment Overview

This assessment was conducted by representatives from Messiah College, Dering Consulting Group, Keystone Research Center, Penn State Harrisburg and Temple University. The study was comprised of the following components:

1. *Review and Analysis of Existing Data:*
 - Regional demographics by county.
 - Data indicators on the building block issues. Each section highlights and measures key “data indicators” in our community.
2. *Community Engagement Survey:* Temple University Harrisburg’s Nonprofit Evaluation Services and Training (NEST) provided services pertaining to the survey component of the community assessment. The survey was distributed to 16,483 e-mail addresses and received 2,194 responses.
3. *Community Conversations:* A series of five public meetings were held throughout the region to gain perceptions of the community’s most pressing needs. The sessions were facilitated by Dering Consulting Group and a total of 262 individuals participated.

Demographics

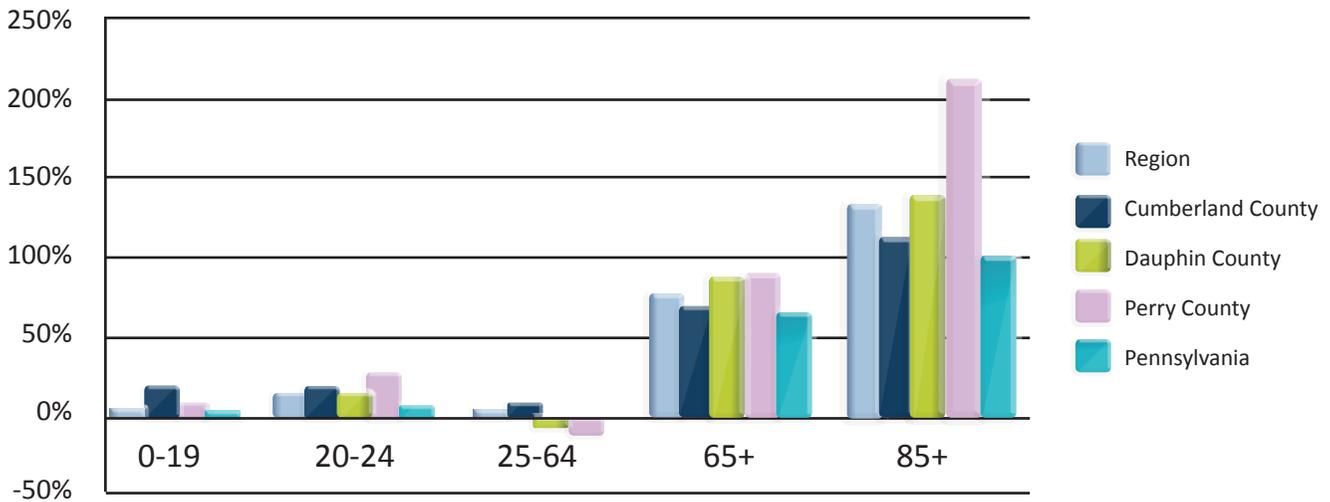
Our region's demographic data are an essential beginning point for understanding who we are as a community, how we have changed over time and the challenges and opportunities we will face in the future.



POPULATION ESTIMATES BY AGE GROUP – 2012

Area	Age 0-19	Age 20-24	Age 25-64	Age 65+	Age 85+	Total
Region	135,547	36,085	297,812	84,536	12,279	566,259
Cumberland County	56,411	17,007	126,402	38,794	5,968	244,582
Dauphin County	67,731	16,450	146,451	39,033	5,574	275,239
Perry County	11,405	2,628	24,959	6,709	737	46,438
Pennsylvania	3,113,628	889,526	6,717,521	2,042,861	322,052	13,085,588
United States	82,504,800	22,583,203	165,680,681	43,145,356	5,887,330	319,801,370

Projected Percent Increase in Age Groups 2000–2040



Source: The Pennsylvania State Data Center, Penn State Harrisburg for Populations Projections

Demographics continued...

POPULATION BY RACE						
2008 – 2012 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates						
Area	White	Black	Asian	Native American/ Alaska Native/ Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races
Region	455,832 83%	54,824 10%	15,045 2.7%	1,226 0.2%	8,036 1.5%	14,325 2.6%
Cumberland County	214,006 90.9%	7,324 3.1%	6,571 2.8%	430 0.2%	1,794 0.8%	5,189 2.2%
Dauphin County	197,274 73.6%	47,186 17.6%	8,387 3.1%	423 0.2%	5,950 2.2%	8,635 3.2%
Perry County	44,552 96.6%	314 0.7%	87 0.2%	373 0.8%	292 0.6%	501 1.1%
Pennsylvania	10,475,818 82.6%	1,372,144 10.8%	351,626 2.8%	4,193 0.0%	244,336 1.9%	232,597 1.8%
United States	229,298,906 74.8%	38,825,848 12.7%	14,859,795 4.8%	514,774 0.2%	14,814 4.8%	8,296,291 2.7%

Note: The Hispanic or Latino population is not included in this chart because it is considered an ethnicity and is distinct from race. Someone who identifies themselves as Hispanic/Latino can be of any race or race group.

Key Findings

- By 2040, the region is expected to grow to nearly 628,000 residents.
- The 65+ age group is expected to grow nearly 80 percent by 2040.
- The 85+ age group is expected to grow more than 132 percent by 2040.
- Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the region.
- The region is outpacing the growth rate of Pennsylvania for all age groups except the 25-64 age group.
- The region is becoming more diverse in race and ethnicity.
- Dauphin County has the largest number of Hispanics/Latinos (18,828), followed by Cumberland County (6,507) and Perry County (602).
- Residents with limited English proficiency comprise three percent of the region. Since 2000, the number of people in the region with limited English proficiency has grown by 30 percent.
- The region has seen a 13 percent increase in female headed households with children (14,431) since 2010.
- There are 23,488 people age 65+ living alone in the Capital Region. This represents a 13 percent increase since 2000.

Health

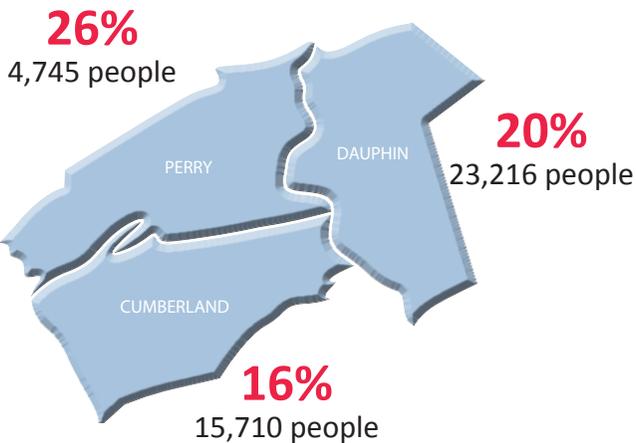
Health is an important building block for an individual's ability to lead a fulfilling life, support a family and contribute to the community. There are many factors that influence the health of residents in the Capital Region.

Ranking of Resident Health Status Out of 67 Counties



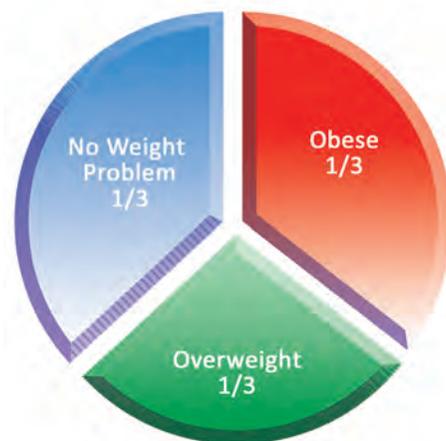
Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

Residents in the Capital Region Without Medical Insurance



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2011

Weight Issues in the Capital Region

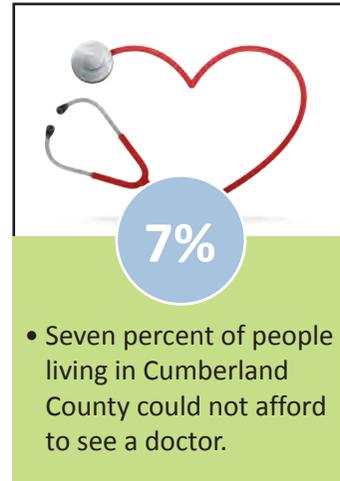
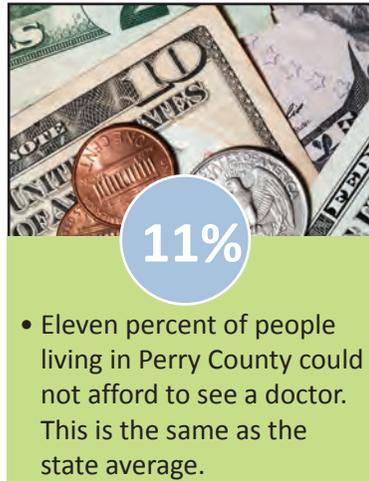
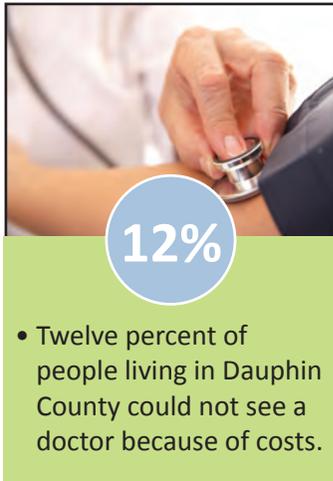


Source: County Health Rankings, RWJF (CDC BRFS)

Health continued...

Key Findings

In the Capital Region, 43,671 people are without medical insurance.



- In the region, 21 percent (87,413 people) of the population lacks adequate social or emotional support, which mirrors state and national percentages.
 - Twenty-five percent (49,991 people) of the population in Dauphin County lacks adequate social or emotional support.
 - Twenty-four percent (8,240 people) of the population in Perry County lacks adequate social or emotional support.
 - Sixteen percent (29,262 people) of the population in Cumberland County lacks adequate social or emotional support.
- Perry County has the highest rate of suicide in the region (15 suicides per 100,000 people). The state average is 12 suicides per 100,000 people.
- Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the Capital Region. The state average is 187 deaths per 100,000 people. In Cumberland County the rate is 190 per 100,000 people, 212 per 100,000 people in Dauphin County and 216 per 100,000 people in Perry County.

Top Three Concerns from the Community Engagement Survey of Local Residents

- Access to affordable healthcare
- Access to nutritious foods
- Access to prescription drugs and maintaining a healthy lifestyle (received the same rating)

Top Three Concerns from the Community Conversations (public meetings held in the fall)

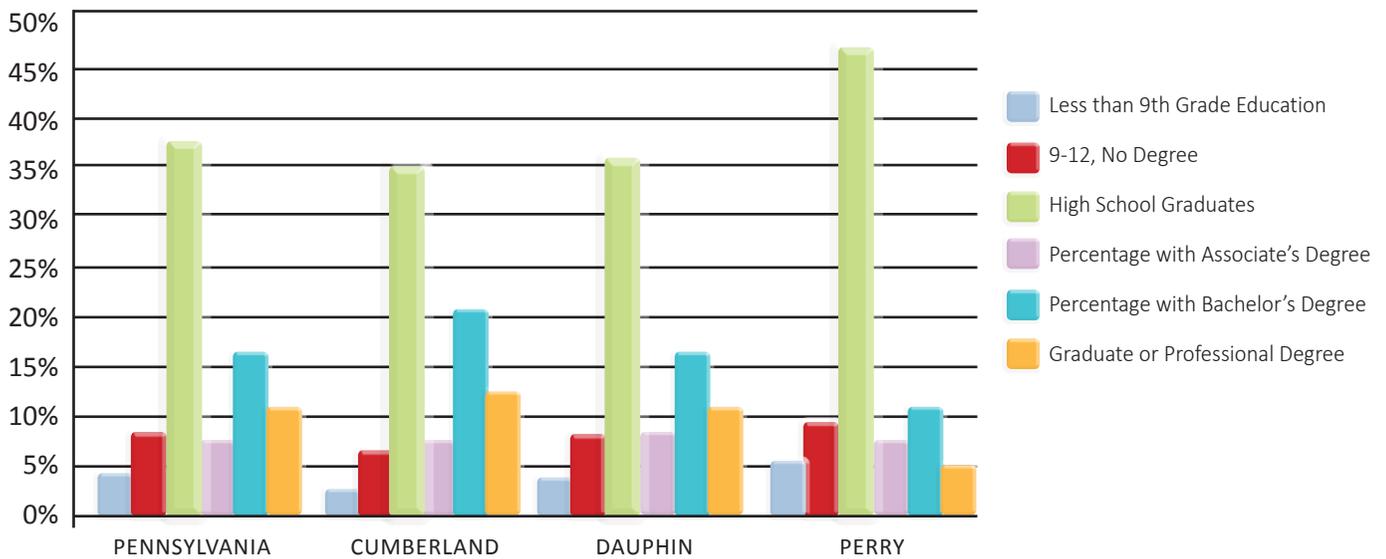
- Access to affordable healthcare
- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Access to nutritious food



Education

Education plays a major role in individual success and provides a foundation for a community to grow in a positive direction. There are many factors within the Capital Region that may impact how a child performs in school.

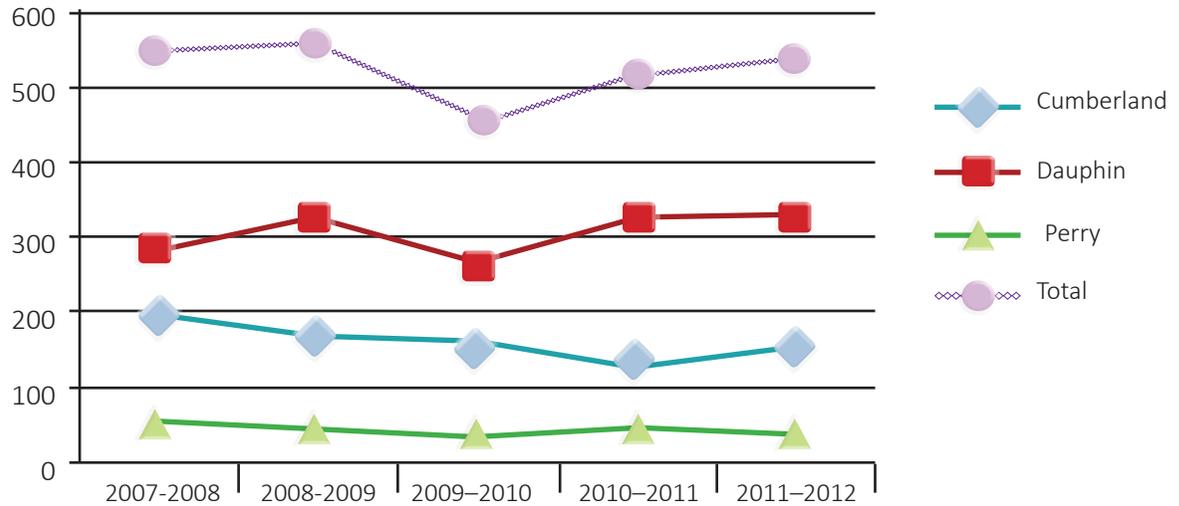
Educational Attainment by County



Source: .US. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008 - 2012

Education continued...

Number of Students Who Drop Out of High School



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education Dropout Data and Statistics

Key Findings



79%

- In Cumberland County, 79 percent (4,105) of children age three to four lack access to quality pre-kindergarten programming.



75%

- In Dauphin County, 75 percent (5,065) of children age three to four lack access to quality pre-kindergarten programming.



92%

- In Perry County, 92 percent (1,026) of children age three to four lack access to quality pre-kindergarten programming.

- During the 2012-2013 school year, 808 students were reported as homeless in the Capital Region.
- Pennsylvania ranks 45th in the nation for state-funded education.



Students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely not to graduate high school.

- In Cumberland County, 17 percent of the students are not proficient in math and 20 percent are not proficient in reading.
- In Dauphin County, 29 percent of the students are not proficient in math and 33 are not proficient in reading.
- In Perry County, 23 percent of the students are not proficient in math and 28 percent are not proficient in reading.

Based on 2012 Pennsylvania System of Assessment (PSSA) scores

Education continued...

Top Three Concerns from the Community Engagement Survey of Local Residents

- Access to quality education
- Safety of schools
- Illiteracy

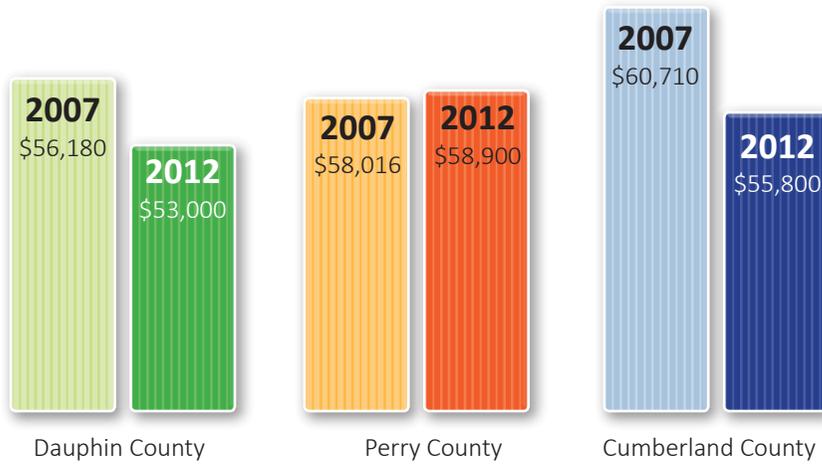
Top Three Concerns from the Community Conversations (public meetings held in the fall)

- Reading at grade level
- Bullying
- Substance abuse among minors

Income

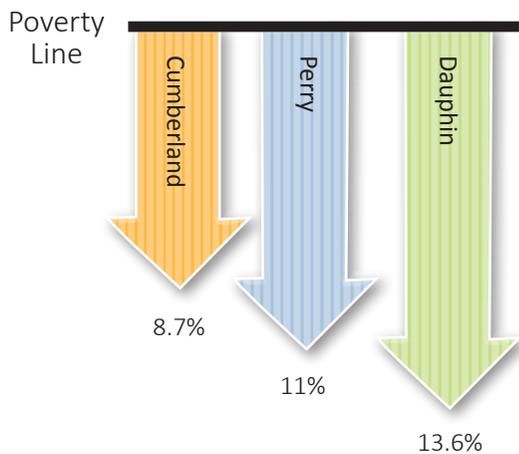
Having a stable income is essential for families to be successful and for a community to remain strong and vibrant.

Median Household Income From 2007-2012



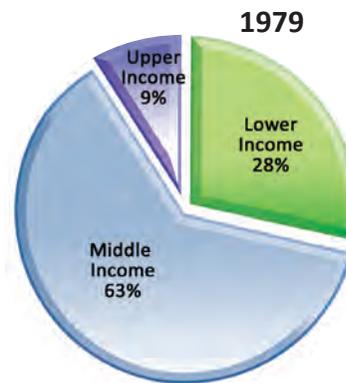
Sources: Keystone Research Center; U.S. Census; American Community Survey Data

Percentage of Residents Living Below the Poverty Line

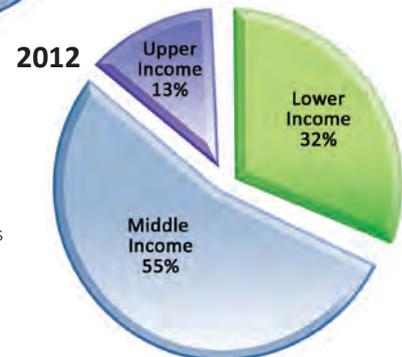


Sources: Keystone Research Center; U.S. Census; American Community Survey Data

Shrinking Middle Income



Note. The middle class is defined as an income between 67% and 200% of the median household income per person in the region. In the 1980 Census, median household income (per person) for 1979 was \$33,705. In 2012, using the 2010–2012 American Community Survey 3-year estimates, the median household income in the region (per person) was \$38,038.



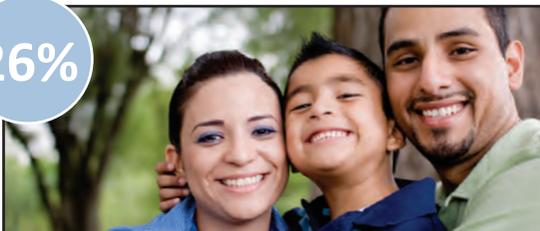
Source: Keystone Research Center based on U.S. Census and American Community Survey data.



Income continued...

Key Findings

26%



- In the Capital Region, 26 percent of workers are earning poverty-level wages. Economists use 200 percent of poverty as a rough proxy for an income that supports a family without public assistance.

34%



- Thirty-four percent of children in the Capital Region live in families below 200 percent of the poverty line.

- Nineteen percent (20,000) of children in the Capital Region live in households with uncertain access to food.
- In 2012, the share of the population that was employed in the Capital Region was 62 percent. In 2008, it peaked at 65 percent.
- Employment-to-population ratios in the region are consistently about four percentage points above the statewide average.

Top Three Concerns from the Community Engagement Survey of Local Residents

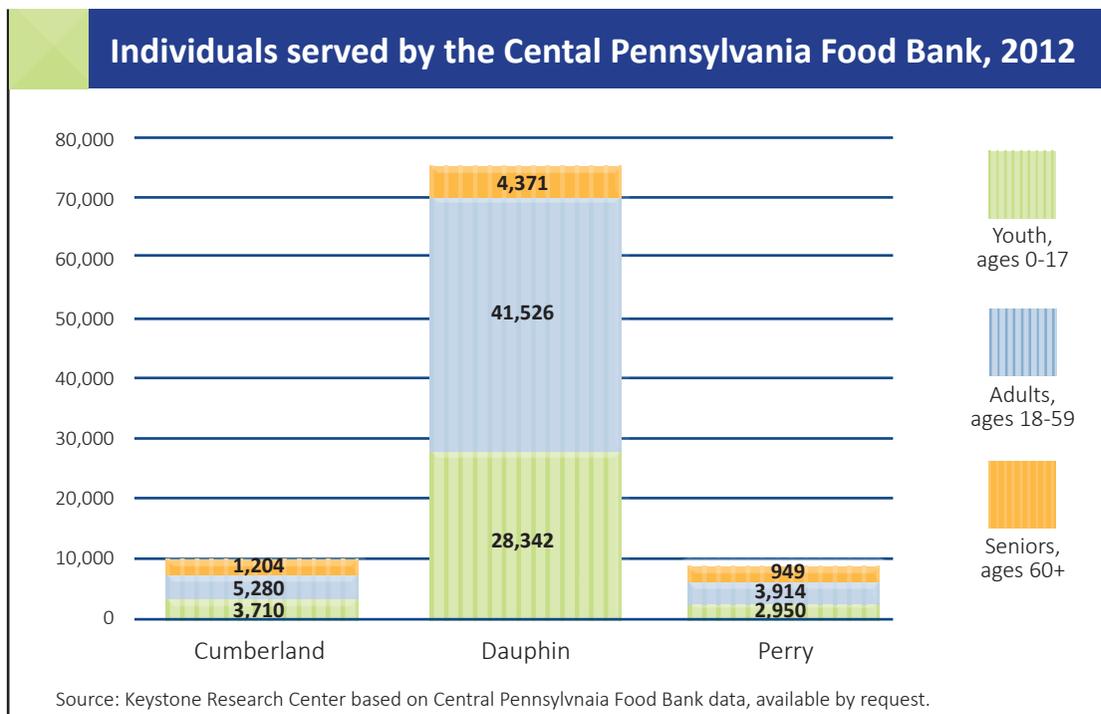
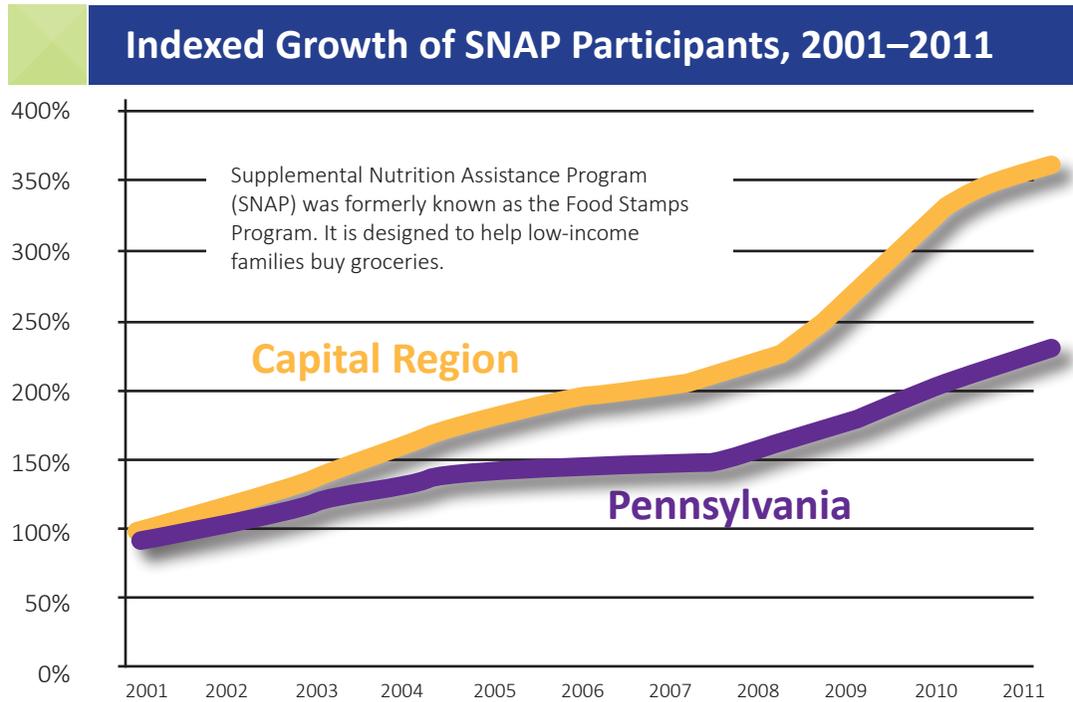
- Availability of family sustaining jobs
- Overall availability of jobs/
Unemployment
- Affordable Housing

Top Three Concerns from the Community Conversations (public meetings held in the fall)

- Availability of family sustaining jobs
- Unemployment
- Poverty

Basic Needs

Since the recession, we have seen an increase in the number of families needing unemployment insurance, food stamps and other temporary assistance from local health and human service agencies to make ends meet.





Key Findings

- in 2011, 50,000 residents in the region participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Twelve percent of households lack access to adequate food.
- In the Capital Region, there were 9.6 child abuse reports per 1,000 children in 2012, up from 8.5 reports in 2010 and similar to the statewide rate of 9.7 reports per 1,000 children.



- In Dauphin County, 3,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2012.



- In Cumberland County, 1,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2012.



- In Perry County, 138 children received subsidized child care per month in 2012.

- In 2013, the American Red Cross of the Susquehanna Valley responded to 126 disaster incidents in the Capital Region. Fifty-five percent of the incidents occurred in Dauphin County.
- In 2012, 206 rapes and 575 sex offenses were reported in the region.

Top Three Concerns from the Community Engagement Survey of Local Residents

- Crime reduction
- Protecting the environment
- Crisis response

Top Three Concerns from the Community Conversations (public meetings held in the fall)

- Domestic violence
- Access to transportation
- Racism and discrimination



Acknowledgements

This assessment along with this executive summary could not have been accomplished without the active involvement and support of many individuals and organizations. Funding for the Community Assessment was provided by The United Way of the Capital Region Foundation, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities and the Dauphin County Commissioners.

A special thank you is in order to all of the partners facilitating this project: **Harrisburg Regional Chamber, West Shore Chamber of Commerce, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, Cumberland County, Dauphin County, Perry County and United Way of the Capital Region.**

We express our appreciation for guidance on the development of the assessment process and data collection instruments by the United Way of the Capital Region Research Committee. The committee members are: Michael Behney, Barry Nazar, Charles Seitz, James "Andy" Skelton, Amber Stephenson and Christina Reardon.

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For the complete assessment, visit uwcr.org or contact any of the partners in this project.