Community Health Data

All Montanans deserve equal opportunity to make choices that lead to good health for them and their families. To ensure such opportunity, public health leaders and partners need an understanding of the health of our homes, schools, and communities. The environments in which we live, learn, work, and play affect everyone’s health and wellbeing. This factsheet presents dashboards maintained by various local, state, tribal, and national organizations that provide community-level data organized by the Social Determinants of Health categories established by Healthy People 2030, shown below.

Additionally, the American Indian Governance and Policy Institute at the University of Montana has developed a model for “Key Social Factors Influencing American Indian/Alaska Native Health in Indian Country,” which you can find on the last page of this resource.
There is a lot of information, or data, that can help you learn more about the health of your community. Some words used to describe data are:

- Primary data (data collected by you),
- Secondary data (data collected by someone else),
- Qualitative data (words, like from focus groups and interviews), and
- Quantitative data (numbers, like from surveys with multiple choice questions).

Public health departments have access to secondary quantitative data that can tell you about your community in terms of chronic disease and disability, communicable and infectious disease, behavioral health, and more. The MT DPHHS Public Health and Safety Division is releasing a new public-facing dashboard in 2022 that will support a comprehensive community health assessment process. However, when working with cross-sector partners, it may be helpful to refer to the dashboards included below to be more inclusive of data sources with which your partners and stakeholders may be more familiar or have more experience using.

Explore the Public Health and Safety Division Map Gallery to learn more about public health resources in your community. Topics include community-based programs to prevent and manage chronic disease, EMS and hospital resources, WIC locations, and more.

Use the Montana Public Health Data Resource Guide to learn more about what data public health professionals collect, use, and share.

Reach out to HHSAHealthierMontana@mt.gov to be connected to a public health professional who could answer questions about the data or suggest additional resources.

Please remember:

- That all data come with limitations.
- The data sources listed here are meant to start a conversation within your community.

**Things to consider**

There are several things to keep in mind while using this resource. First, the best data to describe your community is collected by the community for the community.

Second, each dashboard is maintained by different agencies on different timelines using different methods that may not be comparable with each other across years and/or geographic areas. For example, some are maintained by government entities at the state or national level and others by non-profit organizations, among other groups and sectors. Users should consider the following for each dashboard:

- Funding source,
- Methods used in data analysis and display,
- Data sources, and
- Publication date.
Lastly, many of these data sources come from institutions that historically implemented policies and practices that led to data underrepresenting or misrepresenting some groups, like people living in rural areas. This can contribute to social, environmental, and economic barriers to people living their healthiest lives. Some questions you can ask as you review the data to avoid adding to these barriers include:

1. Do the data reflect what I see in my community?
2. Do the data reflect all the populations in my community?
3. Who needs to be at the table to discuss what these data points mean?
4. What other data do I need to collect to have a better picture of the health of my community?
5. How do these data contribute to differences in health status for groups in my community that are unfair and can be changed?
6. What year(s) do these data reflect? What has happened since they were published and how could those events have influenced a difference between the reported data and our current lived experience? For example, data published in 2019 or earlier won’t reflect changes in communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit the A Healthier Montana website for more resources about collaboratively improving the health of Montanans and using the State Health Improvement Plan, which includes shared health priorities identified by cross-sector partners, objectives for monitoring improvement over time, and proposed strategies for driving improvement.

**Social and Community Context Data**

**Tool name: Montana Children’s Health Data Dashboard**

- **Tool type:** Interactive dashboard
- **Web address:** [https://montanakidscount.org/montana-childrens-health-data-dashboard](https://montanakidscount.org/montana-childrens-health-data-dashboard)

Notes: This dashboard highlights ten shared measures identified by early childhood health stakeholders. Stakeholders and early childhood coalitions can use these measures to track outcomes and demonstrate the impact of their work. This work was led by Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies and the Montana Children’s Health Data Partnership Project.

**Tool name: Prevention Needs Assessment**

- **Tool type:** Interactive dashboard
- **Web address:** [https://www.bach-harrison.com/montanawebtool/Default.aspx](https://www.bach-harrison.com/montanawebtool/Default.aspx)

Notes: The Prevention Needs Assessment is a survey among students in grades 8 through 12 assessing risky behaviors, such as use of alcohol and commercial tobacco, school dropout, delinquency, and violence, as well as risk and protective factors.
**Tool name: Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

Tool type: Factsheets and reports


Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? Not by individual reservations, but results for students on or near reservations and in urban schools are available.

Notes: The YRBS data provides insight into health-risk behaviors as self-reported by Montana youth in six health-risk areas. Unintentional injuries and violence, commercial tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unhealthy dietary behaviors, and physical inactivity are all included.

**Tool name: Population Dashboard**

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: [https://ceic.mt.gov/People-and-Housing/Population](https://ceic.mt.gov/People-and-Housing/Population)

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: The CEIC also provides links at this website to tables and maps that show county populations for single or multiple years and by both age and race. You can also access population projections.

**Tool name: Whole Community Approach to Emergency Planning**

Tool type: Factsheets

Web address: [http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/?page_id=6292](http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/?page_id=6292)

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: The factsheets available from the Montana Disability and Health Program show US Census Bureau data by county for the six functional needs categories. Of particular interest may be number or percent of community members that identify as having: 1) hearing difficulty, 2) vision difficulty, 3) cognitive difficulty, 4) mobility or ambulatory difficulty, 5) self-care difficulty, and 6) independent living difficulty.
**Tool name: Population Migration Dashboard**

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: [https://lmi.mt.gov/Home/population-migration](https://lmi.mt.gov/Home/population-migration)

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: This dashboard shows state-to-state migration rates, or the number of people who have moved in to and out of Montana. It also shows how many people have moved from one Montana county to another.

**Tool name: Public Assistance Dashboard**

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: [https://dphhs.mt.gov/interactivedashboards/publicassistedashboard](https://dphhs.mt.gov/interactivedashboards/publicassistedashboard)

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: This dashboard shows the number of applicants from Montanans for public assistance programs (SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid) as well as the total number of participating individuals and households across the state and by county.

**Tool name: Social Vulnerability Index**

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: [https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html](https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html)

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: This map allows you to click on each county in the state to access a vulnerability score that was developed for use in a community’s emergency planning efforts. This score describes a community’s ability to handle and/or respond to a disaster.
Economic Stability Data

Tool name: Local Area Profiles Dashboard

Tool type: Interactive dashboard
Web address: https://lmi.mt.gov/LocalAreaProfiles
Available by county? Yes
Available by reservation? Yes

Notes: The dashboard provides labor force statistics, including employment and unemployment rates, employment industries, wages, and income.

Tool name: Job Tracking Dashboard

Tool type: Interactive dashboard
Web address: https://lmi.mt.gov/Home/Job-Tracking
Available by county? Yes
Available by reservation? Yes

Notes: This dashboard shows the size of the current labor force in Montana compared with the country and other states. You can also compare counties and reservations in Montana with each other to show change over time.

Tool name: Living Wage Calculator

Tool type: Webpage
Web address: https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/30/locations
Available by county? Yes
Available by reservation? No

Notes: This website has tables developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to show the living wage, poverty wage, and minimum wage for households with 1 adult, 2 adults (1 working), and 2 adults (both working), as well as the cost of typical expenses for a family and the typical annual salary for working adults in the area.

Tool name: Poverty USA Maps & Data

Tool type: Interactive dashboard
Web address: https://www.povertyusa.org/data/2018/MT
Available by county? Yes
Available by reservation? No

Notes: This dashboard shows information about the number of people, both statewide and by county, living in poverty. It includes estimates for the number of people living in poverty by race, gender, employment status, age, and disability status.
Tool name: Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States by Poverty

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: [https://opioidmisusetool.norc.org/](https://opioidmisusetool.norc.org/)

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: This tool shows poverty levels, educational attainment, broadband access, median household income, and other indicators of economic wellbeing by county alongside drug overdose rates.

Tool name: Montana's Registered Apprenticeship Program

Tool type: Interactive dashboard


Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: This dashboard shows active apprenticeship opportunities by occupation in Montana counties.

Education Access and Quality Data

Tool name: Growth and Enhancement of Montana Students (GEMS)

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: [https://gems.opi.mt.gov/](https://gems.opi.mt.gov/)

Available by county? Yes, if referenced by school district.

Available by reservation? No

Notes: The GEMS dashboard provides data about Montana’s educational community to help inform users about the current status and successes of Montana schools.

Tool name: Montana University System Dashboards

Tool type: Interactive dashboards

Web address: [https://mus.edu/data/dashboards/](https://mus.edu/data/dashboards/)

Available by county: No, data are available by campus in the Montana University System.

Available by reservation: No, data are available for American Indian students overall by campus but not by reservation or tribal affiliation.

Notes: There are several dashboards to explore student experience in the Montana University System, including first time freshman, degrees awarded, headcounts, and workforce development that could be of importance to communities with a public higher education campus.
Neighborhood and Built Environment Data

**Tool name: Housing Dashboard**
- Tool type: Interactive dashboard
- Web address: [https://ceic.mt.gov/People-and-Housing/Housing](https://ceic.mt.gov/People-and-Housing/Housing)
- Available by county? Yes
- Available by reservation? Yes
- Notes: This dashboard maintained by Montana Department of Commerce can show data such as total housing units, occupancy types and status, home values, home ownership versus rental status.

**Tool name: Offense and Sentencing Data Dashboard**
- Tool type: Interactive dashboard
- Available by county? Yes
- Available by reservation? No
- Notes: This dashboard presents offenses by classification and sentence type and the top 10 offenses for both males and females, both statewide and by county.

**Tool name: Home Prices Dashboard**
- Web address: [https://lmi.mt.gov/Home/Home-Prices](https://lmi.mt.gov/Home/Home-Prices)
- Available by county? Yes, but not all.
- Available by reservation? No
- Notes: This dashboard shows home values in Montana compared with the US and some Montana counties.

**Tool name: Discover DEQ Throughout Montana**
- Tool type: Interactive map
- Web address: [https://discover-mtdeq.hub.arcgis.com/](https://discover-mtdeq.hub.arcgis.com/)
- Available by county? Yes, but the user needs to search by topic, not by county.
- Available by reservation? Yes, but the user needs to search by topic, not by reservation.
- Notes: This interactive map shows data collected by the Department of Environmental Quality, including cleanup and remediation, air quality, energy, mining, waste management, water quality, and permitting and compliance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool name: Crime Dashboards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tool type: Interactive dashboards</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Web address: <a href="https://mbcc.mt.gov/Data/Montana-Reports/Crime-Dashboards">https://mbcc.mt.gov/Data/Montana-Reports/Crime-Dashboards</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Available by county? Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available by reservation? No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes: This landing page lets the user navigate to dashboards on a variety of crime-related statistics, including violent crime and domestic violence.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool name: Heat &amp; Health Tracker</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tool type: Interactive dashboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web address: <a href="https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/Applications/heatTracker/">https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/Applications/heatTracker/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available by county? Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Available by reservation? No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes: This dashboard provides historic maximum daily temperatures, current season temperatures, and information about heat vulnerability in your community.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool name: Environmental Justice Dashboard</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tool type: Interactive dashboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web address: <a href="https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/Applications/ejdashboard/">https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/Applications/ejdashboard/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available by county? Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Available by reservation? No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes: This dashboard includes the percent of impervious surface, seniors living alone, current asthma, and mobile home housing units, as well as a map showing levels of PM 2.5, ozone, heat, precipitation, and flooding.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health Care Access and Quality Data

**Tool name: Spatial Analysis of Healthcare Needs in Montana**

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: [https://mt-dphhs-msu-disease-sscmsu.hub.arcgis.com/](https://mt-dphhs-msu-disease-sscmsu.hub.arcgis.com/)

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No, but tribal boundary lines are overlaid on the maps.

Notes: This collaboration between Montana DPHHS and Montana State University examines risk factors and spatial correlations between food deserts, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

**Tool name: Montana Response: COVID-19**

Tool type: Interactive dashboard


Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No


**Tool name: PLACES: Local Data for Better Health**

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: [https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html)

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: PLACES provides a county level estimation of the burden of disease in your county. PLACES uses BRFSS and Census data to estimate health outcomes, prevention behaviors, and unhealthy behaviors in a county. Select the indicator you are interested in and hover over your county to see the estimated prevalence.
Tool name: Montana Medicaid Births Dashboard

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: https://dphhs.mt.gov/interactivedashboards/mtmedicaidbirthsdashboard

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: The Montana Medicaid Births Dashboard shows information about all births in Montana compared with births covered by Medicaid. It features total number of births, adequate prenatal care, premature and low birthweight, and average age of mother.

Tool name: Montana Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/prams

Available by county? No, but information is available by county population size.

Available by reservation? No

Notes: Montana PRAMS collects data that is representative of Montana’s mothers and babies to track trends, set targets, and identify risk and protective factors for health outcomes. These data can be compared to PRAMS estimates for the country and other states.

Tool name: Occupational Licensing Dashboard

Tool type: Interactive dashboard

Web address: https://dli.mt.gov/data-dashboards/Occupational-Licensing

Available by county? Yes

Available by reservation? No

Notes: This dashboard can show the number of licensed occupations by Montana Boards listed in your county, such as the Board of Nursing, Board of Behavioral Health, and more.
Summary Data Sources

The following organizations have developed comprehensive websites that use data to provide details about how where we live, work, learn, and play impact our health and the health of our communities that don’t fit in just one of the categories above. As mentioned earlier, tools are regularly added and updated at the [Public Health and Safety Division Map Gallery](#) on a variety of topics related to health in Montana.

**Montana State Library:** The library holds geographic information for Montana on a variety of topics that you can explore and work with a state employee to learn more about.

**Headwaters Economics:** This Montana-based research group provides a variety of free tools to learn more about the socioeconomic status of your community, at-risk neighborhoods, wildfire risk, and impacts of trails and outdoor recreation. Socioeconomic profiles are available for counties and some reservations.

**Kids Count Data:** The Kids Count Dashboard provides detailed data on demographic indicators, economic well-being indicators, education indicators, family and community indicators, health indicators, and safety and risky behaviors indicators. You can create a custom report by selecting “Create a Custom Report” and selecting your county and the indicators you are interested in.

**County Health Rankings and Roadmaps:** Many factors influence the health and wellbeing of your community. County health rankings and roadmaps uses data to estimate health measures in your community and rank the health of your state and county against others.

**ArcGIS Living Atlas of the World:** This collection of interactive maps spans topics from housing, neighborhoods, health, and education to infrastructure and the environment.

**Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC):** RMTEC maintains a dashboard about COVID-19 and another about the places people live, learn, work, and play that can impact health for tribal nations in Montana and Wyoming, including data on demographics, employment, insurance, education, and poverty.

Key Social Factors Influencing American Indian Alaska Native Health In Indian Country

![Key Social Factors Diagram](#)

- **Peoplehood – Tribal Sovereignty**
  - Ability of Tribal Peoples to Exercise Their Inherent Right to Self-Govern and to Determine Their Own Futures

- **Sociocultural Factors**
  - Historical and Contemporary Traumas Counterbalanced by the Demonstrated Resilience of Tribal Peoples and Cultures, Collective and Individual Self-Determination, ACEs/BCEs, Social and Community Context, Unique Strengths and Assets

- **Sociopolitical Factors**
  - Contemporary Tribal Governing Structures and Functioning, Adequate Revenue, Tribal Data Sovereignty, Nature of Intra- and Intergovernmental Relationships and Power Dynamics

- **Socioeconomic Factors**
  - Economy, Housing, Environment Including Access and Utilization of Traditional Lands, Food Systems, Access to Culturally Responsive Education and Quality Culturally Responsive Trauma-Informed Health Care

**Created by Heather Cahoon, PhD**
Getting Started Worksheet

Use this template for a guided way to begin exploring the resources shared above and start a conversation in your community about how to ensure all Montanans have equal opportunity to make healthy choices for themselves and their families. This template is based on work done by the Park County Health Department in its recent Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan cycle.

Describe the population in your community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic (sometimes called an indicator or a metric)</th>
<th>Your community (the percentage, rate, or count for the county or reservation of interest)</th>
<th>Benchmark (what the same data source says for the nation, state, or another county for comparison)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in 2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents under age 18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents over age 65</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents with veteran status</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents living with one or more disability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents enrolled in Medicaid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents with a high school diploma (or graduation rate)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other topic of interest</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other topic of interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other topic of interest</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe the early childhood and family support system in your community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic (sometimes called an indicator or a metric)</th>
<th>Your community (the percentage, rate, or count for the county or reservation of interest)</th>
<th>Benchmark (what the same data source says for the nation, state, or another county for comparison)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children enrolled in free or reduce-price lunch program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd grade reading proficiency level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare capacity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children enrolled in Healthy Montana Kids free or low-cost healthcare plan</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to teenage parents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Proximity to superfund sites or other environmental hazards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other topic of interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other topic of interest</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Describe the economic and housing situation in your community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic (sometimes called an indicator or a metric)</th>
<th>Your community (the percentage, rate, or count for the county or reservation of interest)</th>
<th>Benchmark (what the same data source says for the nation, state, or another county for comparison)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living wage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average home price</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Median rent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top employers or sectors for employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing availability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents experiencing food insecurity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other topic of interest</td>
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<td>Other topic of interest</td>
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