



# Sullivan County COVID-19 Needs Assessment

SOWK 382 | Fall 2020

Human Behavior in the Social Environment: A Synthesis

Melissa McCollister  
Department of Social Work

This report represents original student work and recommendations prepared by students in the Indiana State University Sustainable City Program for the City of Sullivan. Text and images contained in this report may not be used without permission from Indiana State University. All information provided is not subject to publication.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to acknowledge and thank Richard Payonk, the Executive Director for the United Way of the Wabash Valley, for helping make this project possible. We would also like to thank the participating agencies in the community needs assessment for their participation.

**Richard Payonk**, *United Way of the Wabash Valley*

## **ABOUT SC**

The Sustainable Cities (SC) Program is an experiential learning partnership focusing on sustainability and cities in Indiana. Disciplines across the institution are tasked with addressing sustainability issues in a specific community by integrating these into experiential projects for ISU students. These problems range from strategic planning recommendations to community needs assessment, to understanding the impacts of waste strategies, and to mapping trail systems, and many other issues.

This is a year-long partnership, in which students and faculty in courses collaborate with one specific community partner on these projects. Communities throughout Indiana have leaders who want to make real change. These leaders are passionate about moving their cities forward into the future, but are often limited by lack of resources, staff, and budget.

The SC Program utilizes the innovation and energy of students and faculty to provide ideas that will address these issues. This relationship reinforces and strengthens our Indiana communities.

Each ISU course and community partner will produce tangible and relevant outcomes for the community partner while providing ISU students with real world project completion. This report serves as this outcome.

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Garrett Hurley, Interim Sustainability Coordinator

## ABOUT SULLIVAN, IN

Sullivan, IN is the county seat of Sullivan County and serves as a hub for the towns of Carlisle, Dugger, Farmersburg, Hymera, Merom, and Shelburn. Sullivan, IN was founded in 1853 and became the county seat. The total city limits is 1.88 square miles, but there are more residents living outside of this area that contribute to the community of Sullivan. Today, Sullivan has the largest estimated population as an incorporated town in Sullivan County.

Sullivan faces many similar social, environmental, and economic challenges to other rural Hoosier towns and others that are unique to the city itself. There are approximately 8,500 people available for the labor force in Sullivan County. Since 2009, the unemployment rate has steadily decreased in the county. There's approximately 2,500 people that live in Sullivan but work in other counties. Some of the major employers in Sullivan are Raybestos Powertrain LLC, Hoosier Energy Emergency, Peabody Energy Corp., Sullivan County Community Hospital, and Raybestos Products Co.

A common thought among Sullivan community members is that students that go to college graduate and don't return to Sullivan. The highest degree attainment of folks 25 and older in Sullivan County is a high school diploma. Trade programs and certifications are a community concern from folks.

Sullivan has a vast history and many points of interest in the community. The Sullivan County Public Library is one of 1,679 libraries designated as a Carnegie library. The Sullivan Civic Center was recently renovated to provide a central location for community member sin Sullivan. The Heart of Sullivan is a civic organization that hosts many large events throughout the year. One of the largest events hosted in Sullivan is the Sullivan Annual Rotary Corn Festival.

This community is full of potential and is being led through a strategic plan intended to bolster its standing for Hoosiers. The ISU Sustainable Cities program intends to help reach that potential.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sullivan responded and continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. A community needs assessment was performed through the SOWK 382 course in partnership with United Way of the Wabash Valley. The needs assessment revealed how the community has responded in relation to mental health and addiction, food, schooling, and stability. The assessment reveals how Sullivan should respond to further help the community members during this pandemic.

## INTRODUCTION

Sullivan identified the COVID-19 pandemic as a pressing issue that they needed assistance in addressing. One of the identifiable goals related to this was to find out exactly how community members were impacted by the pandemic. SOWK 382 was able to take this on as a project within its course structure to deliver a completed needs assessment of the Sullivan community.

In support of the city of Sullivan, a partnership was formed through the United Way of the Wabash Valley to identify needs of the community.

United Way of the Wabash Valley has had experience in identifying local issues in Vigo County in partnership with Indiana State University. Sullivan, IN and Sullivan County are neighboring to Vigo County and experience similar local issues. However, it is a unique community and the members have their own experience to local issues. Additionally, COVID-19 caused an opening for new issues and highlighted concurrent

ones. Therefore, this course identified a way to assist the city of Sullivan and United Way of the Wabash Valley in response to the pressing needs in relation to COVID-19.

The course instructor collaborated with Richard Payonk, the Executive Director of United Way of the Wabash Valley, to identify goals for the project and disseminate the end results. The course integrated a community needs assessment as part of a mutual aid service. The goal was to assist a local community by addressing self-identified local issues or stagnant projects.

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Two sections of SOWK 382 students were tasked with designing a needs assessment that could realistically depict local issues related to COVID-19. The course also utilized the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) COVID-19 reports as a nationwide example to follow. Their reports identified Males, individuals 65 and older, people of color (with special attention to African Americans and Native Americans), and people with underlying health conditions have experienced disproportionately higher rates of infection and/or complications/death as a result of the pandemic. The survey constructed included 39 questions (Appendix A) and was disseminated to affiliated agencies through United Way of the Wabash Valley.

Students were put into groups of 3 or 5 to create possible needs assessment questions around impacts residents may have faced in Sullivan County during this pandemic based upon the NCAP reports and information. Each group determined one specific need that community residents might have that could be assessed. Then, the group created questions that were uploaded to Qualtrics for the county health and human service workers to complete via an online link.

The survey was created in Qualtrics and the link was emailed to Richard Payonk, the Executive Director of the United Way of the Wabash Valley. Then it was disseminated to affiliated agencies and six agencies participated. Data collection took place on November 23 and 24, and December 1 and 2, of 2020. All responses were anonymous and did not have identifiable information.

## MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION

One student group developed specific questions related to mental health and behavioral resources. They also included questions about substance abuse and addiction as it relates to the current pandemic. The needs assessment revealed that community members have struggled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to these issues.

People in the community are struggling with mental health during the pandemic as indicated by 100% of respondents reporting “yes” and “might have” to rises of mental instability. There is not enough support for mental health issues related to COVID-19. Respondents also indicated lack of transportation to existing mental health resources as an influence on the negative trend in mental health.

According to questions in this category and others, mental health decline can be associated with layoffs, job losses, and the economic crisis brought on by COVID-19.

**Systems theory** helps analyze how environments, surroundings and people can influence what we do. Using this to view the

results of the needs assessment can help understand why some results are indicated. Without direct access to mental health and addiction resources, folks can fall into cycles. When an event, like COVID-19, has a direct and rippling effect on a community that is negative then it can have an influence on our individual mental health.

**Person-in-Environment Theory** helps understand how the individual environmental context influences individual choices and behaviors. It helps to view the individual within the environment and system without judgment. The number of folks that have relapsed or reported mental instability must be analyzed in relation to COVID-19. This could have caused unhealthy coping mechanisms.

### RELEVANT QUESTIONS

Q2 According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, children react to traumatic stressors in different ways. Signs that traumatic stressors, such as COVID-19, may be affecting a child can include but are not limited to the following symptoms/changes in behavior. These stressors can cause disruptions in sleep such as, difficulty falling asleep, having nightmares, and fears of sleeping alone. Children may also begin having difficulty paying attention and learning while at school during times of extreme stress. They may show symptoms like headaches or stomach aches for no reason and sometimes may exhibit unusually aggressive or risky behavior. According to the symptoms/changes in behavior listed above, have your clients noticed any of these changes in their child’s behavior that could be attributed to their mental health and ability to cope with the stressors of COVID-19.

This applies to clients I serve (33%)

This DOES NOT apply to clients I serve (33%)

This question does not apply to me (33%)

Q18 Community health resources will be stretched thin as resources devoted to those sick with COVID-19 will limit resources available to others. Limited Intensive Care and other hospital services in this community would mean others NOT directly affected by COVID-19 might lack access to care.

This applies to my community (83%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community (16%)

Q19 Behavioral health resources will need to be available in new and increased ways to deal with the many different stressors/traumas caused by the pandemic, especially its impact over an extended time period. Issues such as domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, drug abuse, suicide and other indicators of behavioral health issues are a particular concern in this community.

This applies to my community (83%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community (16%)

Q24 The impacts of COVID-19 on community resources are numerous and include a reduction in the availability of resources (access to group activities, commercial services), a scarcity of some resources (health care, food and emergency supplies) and/or needs for resources that have not previously been required in this community in any significant capacity.

This applies to my community (83%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community (16%)

Q30 During the COVID-19 pandemic, have your client's expressed having a rise in mental health instability due to financial circumstance?

Definitely yes (50%)

Probably yes (16%)

Might or might not (33%)

Probably not

Definitely not

This question does not apply to me

Q33 Have you noticed an increase in drug and alcohol addiction issues or relapses in your community due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Definitely yes

Probably yes (50%)

Might or might not (16%)

Probably not

Definitely not

This question does not apply to me (33%)

Q34 Our community has enough mental health and substance addiction services to assist people during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Definitely yes

Probably yes

Might or might not

Probably not (50%)

Definitely not (33%)

This question does not apply to me (16%)

Q38 Despite having to stay home more due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has online platforms and programs helped the community residents increase social supports and stay connected with friends and family?

Definitely yes (16%)

Probably yes (16%)

Might or might not (16%)

Probably not (33%)

Definitely not (16%)

This question does not apply to me

## FOOD

One student group developed specific questions related to food and food insecurity in the community. Other questions related to nutrition from school resources influence analysis for food access. The needs assessment revealed that community members reported low levels of food insecurity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally, it was expected that folks would need more access to pantries, school lunch programs, or other food sources. This is in alignment with what is seen across the country and in neighboring counties like Vigo County. However, the needs assessment revealed that most community members represented by the agencies were secure in their access to food.

There is the caveat that some community members were impacted by school closures but were able to make up for missed meals or are no longer impacted. This could be due to the relation to COVID-19 specific questions. It could be that the clientele served by the selected agencies do not serve folks that have food insecurity issues. This needs assessment indicates less food insecurity during the pandemic compared to other areas.

## RELEVANT QUESTIONS

Q3 Has it been more difficult for your client's to receive food stamps due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Often

Frequently (33%)

Never (33%)

Q10 During any time over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have your clients reported food shortages?

Often (33%)

Frequently (33%)

Never (16%)

This question does not apply to me (16%)

Q14 During any time over the past year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, have your clients reported that changes in stores hours impacted their ability to provide resources for their family?

Often (16%)

Frequently (33%)

Never (50%)

This question does not apply to me

Q20 Nutrition for school-aged children previously accessing free/reduced breakfast, lunch, and snacks is impacted as many are now removed from that food source due to school closures.

This applies to my community (66%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community (33%)

Q24 The impacts of COVID-19 on community resources are numerous and include a reduction in the availability of resources (access to group activities, commercial services), a scarcity of some resources (health care, food and emergency supplies) and/or needs for resources that have not previously been required in this community in any significant capacity.

This applies to my community (83%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community (16%)

## SCHOOLS

One student group developed questions that were specific to school changes for families and other school-aged children specific questions. Other groups developed questions that also related to school-aged children. The needs assessment revealed that families were heavily impacted by the change in schooling, but some needs were still fulfilled in the community.

Since schools provide many resources that meet nutritional, technological, and other needs, COVID-19 led to immediate systemic modifications and insufficiencies in meeting needs. The needs assessment shows that Sullivan County and its leaders ensured students had access to internet for school. About 75% of the respondents reported their clients had access, while 25% said it did not apply to their clients.

However, the needs assessment showed food access as an issue for children that were relying on meals at school. This highlights how nay issue that impacts school closures can result in hunger. The needs assessment also revealed that some children dealt with higher levels of stress from the impact of COVID-19 and its ripple effects. Childcare

was impacted, which further rippled the system by impacting jobs.

In an **ecological systems theory** perspective, the influence and ripples can be more easily identified for future impacts and events similar to COVID-19. At the **meso level** of the system, schools closing caused hybrid or fully online schooling which impacted the micro level. At the **micro level**, children and families were impacted by lack of resources typically provided at the school. This then impacted the security some families have felt, which reciprocally impacts the meso level of the environment. This is one example of how the system reverberates impact, and it can be traced through systemic impact to individual and vis versa.

## RELEVANT QUESTIONS

Q4 Children received accommodations in public school if they did not have access to the internet.

This applies to my community (100%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community

This question does not apply to me (33%)

Q20 Nutrition for school-aged children previously accessing free/reduced breakfast, lunch, and snacks is impacted as many are now removed from that food source due to school closures.

This applies to my community (66%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community (33%)

Q21 Closings of public schools in Sullivan County are having an immediate impact on children's education. Children with less access to resources (broadband internet, computers/tablets, technology expertise, language barriers, etc.) are most at-risk for suffering learning loss during a potentially protracted period of school closure.

This applies to my community (100%)

This DOES NOT apply to community

Q22 Caregivers of school-age children must secure day care arrangements for their children or sacrifice employment to care for their children. These same caregivers are also expected to be primary teachers for their children during the period of the closure. Parents with limited resources face numerous challenges as a result of this situation and educational outcomes for their children will be affected.

This applies to my community (100%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community

Q36 When considering the financial inadequacies of families and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, did parents report having to take time off from work to care for their children?

Definitely yes (33%)

Probably yes (33%)

Might or might not

Probably not

Definitely not (16%)

This question does not apply to me (16%)

Q37 Were parents in Sullivan County provided the right materials and training to teach their children at home?

Definitely yes

Probably yes (50%)

Might or might not

Probably not

Definitely not (50%)

This question does not apply to me

## STABILITY

Two student groups were tasked with developing questions related to financial stability and general stability, and their questions had major overlap with their questions and other group's questions. The needs assessment revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic has helped exacerbate pre-existing community issues and developed new pressing issues for individual financial stability.

The needs assessment revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic has helped perpetuate the cycle of poverty familiar to the theoretical perspectives in rural environments. It also has worsened the effects of growing decline in job opportunities for the area. Due to the preexisting issues with job opportunities in Sullivan, the pandemic created a ripple effect that has exacerbated the decline of available jobs that are unlikely to become open in the near future. Approximately 75% of respondents said clients reported there were not enough jobs locally. Some folks are also experiencing concerns about the security of their current jobs.

The needs assessment revealed the financial assistance during this pandemic gave temporary alleviation but did not sustain any relevant mitigation as seen by the continuing impact in job opportunities. Pay-check reliant members of the community needed substantial assistance for things like transportation and housing.

There will be long term problems for these folks if attention is not paid to the system that is preventing successful work. The needs assessment revealed that this financial insecurity impacted housing security and concerns for folks in the community. This can also be seen in relation to the cycle of poverty perspective.

## RELEVANT QUESTIONS

Q1 The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of client's I have had that are seeking services due to lack of housing

Often (16%)

Frequently (33%)

Never (0)

This question does not apply to me (50%)

Q5 Clients that have reported losing their job in light of COVID-19 expressed doubts in obtaining other job opportunities

This applies to my community (100%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community

This question does not apply to me

Q6 There are enough job opportunities for community residents that are available to them locally

This applies to my community (16%)

This DOES NOT apply to my community (66%)

This question does not apply to me (16%)

Q8 For individuals in my community that have lost their jobs recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment payments have been sufficient

Yes (16%)

No (83%)

This question does not apply to me

Q9 The government stimulus package distributed during the COVID-19 pandemic was helpful for the clients I serve

Yes (100%)

No (0)

The question does not apply to me

Q12 Are any of the clients that you serve that are employed in need of housing assistance due to reduced work hours?

Many

Some (83%)

None

This question does not apply to me (16%)

Q13 During the COVID-19 pandemic, my clients reported that mortgage loaners or landlords worked with my client's financial challenges?

Often (16%)

Frequently (50%)

None

This question does not apply to me (16%)

Q14 During any time over the past year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, have your clients reported that changes in stores hours impacted their ability to provide resources for their family?

Often (16%)

Frequently (33%)

Never (50%)

This question does not apply to me

Q26 If your client was laid off from their job during COVID-19, was any assistance such as a severance package provided for them by their employer?

Yes

No (50%)

This question does not apply to me (50%)

Q27 Did any community residents of Sullivan County report falling behind in paying bills due to long wait times in receiving their government stipend?

Definitely yes (83%)

Probably yes (16%)

Might or might not

Probably not

Definitely not

This question does not apply to me

## CONCLUSION

The community needs assessment surveyed six agencies that work with community members in Sullivan County. This is not representative of the whole of the community, but it provides great insight into what the impact was and continues to be for folks in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Sullivan community by exacerbating existing issues such as job opportunities, housing security, and more. However, the needs assessment highlighted how the community responded well to other pressing needs from COVID-19. Technological needs for school-aged children were met sufficiently according to the assessment. Food insecurity was not a pressing issue for the community needs assessment. The community needs assessment revealed what needs are important to focus on to help the people in the community.

## **APPENDIX A.**

Community needs assessment report.

# **Sullivan County, Indiana COVID-19 Needs Assessment**

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Developed and Analyzed by SOWK HBSE 382 001 & 002 Students

Indiana State University, Department of Social Work  
College of Health and Human Services  
Professor Melissa K. McCollister, Ph.D., MSW  
Fall Semester 2020

In Partnership with ISU Sustainable Cities &  
Mr. Richard Payonk, Executive Director  
United Way of the Wabash Valley

## Introduction

According to the National Community Action Partnership (2020, p. 3) “the immediate impacts of COVID-19 have been felt across all sectors of society.” In particular, some of the greatest impacts relevant to organizations and agencies affiliated with such places like the United Way of the Wabash Valley are in the “areas of health, education, employment, human services provision, and community resources”.... “Areas of highest vulnerability are in those communities with high population density, high uninsured rates and a high proportion of older residents” (p. 4).

NCAP (2020, p. 4) reports that “nationwide, early data suggest that the following groups have experienced disproportionately higher rates of infection and/or complications/death as a result the COVID-19 pandemic”:

- Males
- Individuals 65+ years old
- People of color, particularly African Americans and Native Americans
- People with underlying health conditions (especially, lung disease, asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, liver disease, severe obesity, and individuals with immunocompromised conditions)

It is unknown what types of immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been experienced by those that live across the Wabash Valley. To address these concern, this needs assessment, adapted from the NCAP (2020), was designed, implemented, and analyzed by undergraduate social work students participating in the Indiana State University Fall 2020 Sustainable Cities Project. The purpose of this needs assessment was to help assist the United Way of the Wabash Valley to identify some of the COVID-19 impacts experienced by the community residents surrounding Sullivan County, Indiana.

In this survey, there are a total of 39 questions, with 4 questions removed for no response. The survey was created in the Qualtrics software provided by ISU and the link was emailed to Mr. Richard Payonk, Executive Director of the United Way of the Wabash Valley to distribute to affiliated agencies. A total of six agencies participated. Data collection took place on November 23 and 24, and December 1 and 2, of 2020. All responses were anonymously collected and did not ask for any identifiable information. Results are reported in the percentages next to the answers in the following questions below.

**Q1 The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of client's I have had that are seeking services due to lack of housing.**

- Often (16%)
- Frequently (33%)
- Never (0)
- This question does not apply to me (50%)

**Q2 According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, children react to traumatic stressors in different ways. Signs that traumatic stressors, such as COVID-19, may be affecting a child can include but are not limited to the following symptoms/changes in behavior. These stressors can cause disruptions in sleep such as, difficulty falling asleep, having nightmares, and fears of sleeping alone. Children may also begin having difficulty paying attention and learning while at school during times of extreme stress. They may show symptoms like headaches or stomach aches for no reason and sometimes may exhibit unusually aggressive or risky behavior. According to the symptoms/changes in behavior listed above, have your clients noticed any of these changes in their child's behavior that could be attributed to their mental health and ability to cope with the stressors of COVID-19.**

- This applies to clients I serve (33%)
- This DOES NOT apply to clients I serve (33%)
- This question does not apply to me (33%)

**Q3 Has it been more difficult for your client's to receive food stamps due to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

- Often (0)
- Frequently (33%)
- Never (33%)
- This question does not apply to me (33%)

**Q4 Children received accommodations in public school if they did not have access to the internet.**

- This applies to my community (66%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (0)
- This question does not apply to me (33%)

**Q5 Clients that have reported losing their job in light of COVID-19 expressed doubts in obtaining other job opportunities.**

- This applies to my community (100%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (0)
- This question does not apply to me (0)

**Q6 There are enough job opportunities for community residents that are available to them locally.**

- This applies to my community (16%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (66%)
- This question does not apply to me (16%)

**Q7 Do your clients report problems with transportation issues in relation to getting to and from their job?**

- Yes (83%)
- No (16%)
- This question does not apply to me (0)

**Q8 For individuals in my community that have lost their jobs recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment payments have been sufficient.**

- Yes (16%)
- No (83%)
- This question does not apply to me (0)

**Q9 The government stimulus package distributed during the COVID-19 pandemic was helpful for the clients I serve.**

- Yes (100%)
- No (0)
- This question does not apply to me (0)

**Q10 During any time over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have your clients reported food shortages?**

- Often (33%)
- Frequently (%33%)
- Never (16%)
- This question does not apply to me (16%)

**Q11 The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of clients I serve who have reported losing their homes.**

- Often (0)
- Frequently (16%)
- Never (50%)
- This question does not apply to me (33%)

**Q12 Are any of the clients that you serve that are employed in need of housing assistance due to reduced work hours?**

- Many (0)
- Some (83%)
- None (0)
- This question does not apply to me (16%)

**Q13 During the Covid-19 pandemic, my clients reported that mortgage loaners or landlords worked with my client's financial challenges?**

- Often (16%)
- Frequently (50%)
- Never (16%)
- This question does not apply to me (16%)

**Q14 During any time over the past year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, have your clients reported that changes in stores hours impacted their ability to provide resources for their family?**

- Often (16%)
- Frequently (33%)
- Never (50%)
- This question does not apply to me (0)

**Q15 Please briefly explain any client needs for housing assistance that have resulted from financial restraints that have occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- Briefly explain (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- **Response 1:** *“Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some families have lost jobs completely and some just receiving a cut in hours, reducing the amount of income. Making it hard to manage money to pay housing, utilities and buy food.”*
- **Response 2:** *“Many of our tenants (Public Housing) have had to come in for rent adjustments. Rent is based on income.”*
- **Response 3:** *“Searching for community resource assistance for rent/mortgage payments.”*
- **Response 4:** *“Most need rent assistance.”*

**Q16 During the past year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, were any pop up locations created for those unable to get transportation to your organization's main location? (ex: temporary location)**

- This applies to my community (0)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (100%)

**Q17 Individuals over 65, especially those with underlying health conditions have been shown to be at particular risk for severe health implications from COVID-19. Those in congregate settings (e.g. nursing homes) are a particular concern in this community.**

- This applies to my community (100%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (0)

**Q18 Community health resources will be stretched thin as resources devoted to those sick with COVID-19 will limit resources available to others. Limited Intensive Care and other hospital services in this community would mean others NOT directly affected by COVID-19 might lack access to care.**

- This applies to my community (83%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (16%)

**Q19 Behavioral health resources will need to be available in new and increased ways to deal with the many different stressors/traumas caused by the pandemic, especially its impact over an extended time period. Issues such as domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, drug abuse, suicide and other indicators of behavioral health issues are a particular concern in this community.**

- This applies to my community (83%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (16%)

**Q20 Nutrition for school-aged children previously accessing free/reduced breakfast, lunch, and snacks is impacted as many are now removed from that food source due to school closures.**

- This applies to my community (66%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (33%)

**Q21 Closings of public schools in Sullivan County are having an immediate impact on children's education. Children with less access to resources (broadband internet, computers/tablets, technology expertise, language barriers, etc.) are most at-risk for suffering learning loss during a potentially protracted period of school closure.**

- This applies to my community (100%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (0)

**Q22 Caregivers of school-age children must secure day care arrangements for their children or sacrifice employment to care for their children. These same caregivers are also expected to be primary teachers for their children during the period of the closure. Parents with limited resources face numerous challenges as a result of this situation and educational outcomes for their children will be affected.**

- This applies to my community (100%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (0)

**Q23 Services to vulnerable populations are being curtailed or drastically changed. Some service providers are not operating, leaving gaps in services to the community. Other service providers have had to alter their service provision in significant ways, leaving some family needs unmet. Finally, for those service providers continuing to operate, the changed circumstances have required significant, immediate adaptations that will require additional resources to support over a longer period of time:**

- This applies to my community (83%)
- This DOES NOT apply to m community (16%)

**Q24 The impacts of COVID-19 on community resources are numerous and include a reduction in the availability of resources (access to group activities, commercial services), a scarcity of some resources (health care, food and emergency supplies) and/or needs for resources that have not previously been required in this community in any significant capacity.**

- This applies to my community (83%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (16%)

**Q25 The broad impacts of COVID-19 on this community have created an even more urgent need for coordination and collaboration of resources among the public sector, the public health sector, first responders, educators, the business community, the faith community and many others.**

- This applies to my community (100%)
- This DOES NOT apply to my community (0)

**Q26 If your client was laid off from their job during COVID-19, was any assistance such as a severance package provided for them by their employer?**

- Yes (0)
- No (50%)
- This question does not apply to me (50%)

**Q27 Did any community residents of Sullivan County report falling behind in paying bills due to long wait times in receiving their government stipend?**

- Definitely yes (83%)
- Probably yes (16%)
- Might or might not (0)
- Probably not (0)
- Definitely not (0)
- This question does not apply to me (0)

**\*\*\*Q28-29-31 Omitted**

**Q30 During the COVID-19 pandemic, have your client's expressed having a rise in mental health instability due to financial circumstance?**

- Definitely yes (50%)
- Probably yes (16%)
- Might or might not (33%)
- Probably not (0)
- Definitely not (0)
- This question does not apply to me (0)

**Q32 What are the biggest challenges that residents have had to face in Sullivan County when it comes to gaining access to mental health and/or addiction resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

- Briefly explain (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- **Response 1:** *“Transportation is probably the biggest issue regardless of the pandemic. There are no taxi’s or buses so if the resident doesn’t have a car their options are limited.”*
- **Response 2:** *“Transportation to/from, restrictions on in person visits, access to local emergent care outside the ER.”*
- **Response 3:** *“Difficulty in knowing where to go for help with a diagnosis and fear of being labeled with a mental health condition in the future.”*
- **Response 4:** *“The ability to pay for services and offices being closed.”*

**Q33 Have you noticed an increase in drug and alcohol addiction issues or relapses in your community due to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

- Definitely yes (0)
- Probably yes (50%)
- Might or might not (16%)
- Probably not (0)
- Definitely not (0)
- This question does not apply to me (33%)

**Q34 Our community has enough mental health and substance addiction services to assist people during this COVID-19 pandemic.**

- Definitely yes (0)
- Probably yes (0)
- Might or might not (0)
- Probably not (50%)
- Definitely not (33%)
- This question does not apply to me (16%)

**\*\*\*\*Q35 Omitted**

**Q36 When considering the financial inadequacies of families and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, did parents report having to take time off from work to care for their children?**

- Definitely yes (33%)
- Probably yes (33%)
- Might or might not (0)
- Probably not (0)
- Definitely not (16%)
- This question does not apply to me (16%)

**Q37 Were parents in Sullivan County provided the right materials and training to teach their children at home?**

- Definitely yes (0)
- Probably yes (50%)
- Might or might not (0)
- Probably not (0)
- Definitely not (50%)
- This question does not apply to me (0)

**Q38 Despite having to stay home more due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has online platforms and programs helped the community residents increase social supports and stay connected with friends and family?**

- Definitely yes (16%)
- Probably yes (16%)
- Might or might not (16%)
- Probably not (33%)
- Definitely not (16%)
- This question does not apply to me (0)

**Q39 Please share any other individual, family, community or organizational impacts that you have noticed due to the COVID-19 pandemic that have created significant problems in the quality of life for community residents of Sullivan County.**

Briefly explain (1) \_\_\_\_\_

- **Response 1:** *"I believe that as a whole families have been impacted by the lack of ability to gather at Church, ball games, kids in general not being able to spend time with their friends. It has really effected the elderly as they are seeing their families less and are so fearful of getting the virus that they feel trapped in their homes. I have a tenant that has been in my office several times and she has gotten to the point that she is almost fearful of her shadow. She wears two mask, gloves, she cries, she tells me how worried she is. Her son died and she couldn't attend the funeral."*
- **Response 2:** *"Most residents have lost jobs or hours cut back. They are stressed and do not know where to turn. We try to help with the food issue but they still have many other issues that we cannot resolve. Medical, mental, child care, help with children at home trying to do school work."*

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## References

National Community Action Partnership. (2020, April 14). *Community assessment tools*.  
[https://communityactionpartnership.com/publication\\_toolkit/covid-19-community-assessment-update-template-data-resource-guide/](https://communityactionpartnership.com/publication_toolkit/covid-19-community-assessment-update-template-data-resource-guide/)