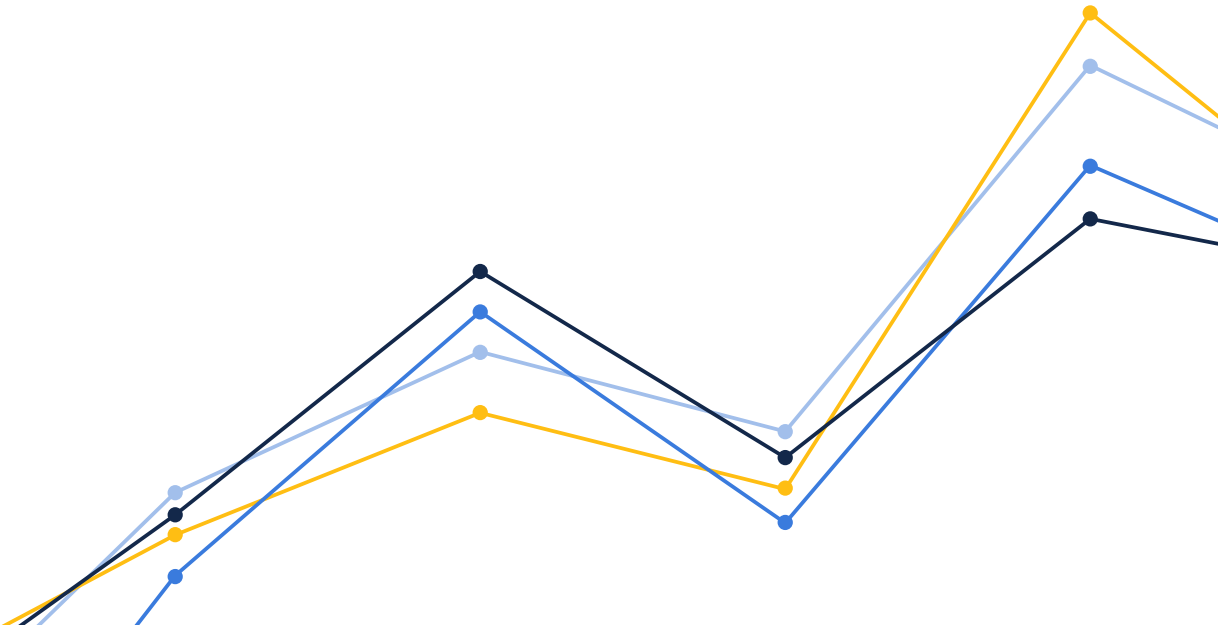

United Way of Northwest Alabama Needs Assessment Fall 2022

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Presented to the United Way of Northwest Alabama

November 1, 2022



Overview

The purpose of this needs assessment is to inform the Board of Directors, staff, funders, and grantees of the United Way of Northwest Alabama about specific issues that are confronting residents of Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, and Marion Counties in Northwest Alabama.

The scope of the needs assessment followed the impact goals determined by the Board of Directors during a strategic planning retreat on March 18, 2022. Details of that process of determination are summarized in the *2022 Strategic Plan* report. At the end of the retreat, the board had selected seven impact goals, but strategies to meet those goals were yet to be determined. This needs assessment, alongside other data collection and research being completed by the United Way staff, the University of North Alabama, and Practical Statistics, will be used to inform specific strategies that will have an impact on these seven areas.

The seven impact areas selected were:

- Improve mental health (among adults)
- Improve mental health (among K-12 students)
- Increase access to health care
- Increase 4th grade literacy
- Improve financial skills among adults
- Increase access to transportation
- Increase access to affordable quality low income housing

The survey design and reporting were completed by:

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Survey implementation and funding for participant incentives were provided by the United Way of Northwest Alabama. Questions may be directed to COO Kerry Del Pizzo at kerry@uwshoals.org or 256-764-5892 x106.

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Methods

Survey Development

The seven impact areas were used as a basis for constructing the needs assessment survey. Questions related to baseline measures of each outcome, barriers, and opportunities were considered for each, as well as basic demographic information that would be useful for breaking down responses. Because the public would be asked to complete the surveys with limited incentive, the survey was decreased to 25 questions, with several skip patterns to streamline the experience for participants.

Data Collection

Surveys were administered online via Qualtrics, and participants were asked to complete the surveys on their personal devices or via a tablet provided by United Way staff. The survey was distributed through social media, email distribution lists, and advertised with paper flyers throughout the catchment area.

Participants were incentivized to complete the survey with an opportunity to participate in a raffle for one of two prizes each week (\$25 Starbucks gift cards or \$50 gas gift cards), or one grand prize at the end of the data collection period (\$500 Walmart gift card). Raffle winner information was collected with a separate survey that asked participants their name and address.

Participants

A total of 1,308 people participated in the survey; 1,043 of these answered the question asking for their county of residence. Survey respondents are shown below by county, alongside 2019 population estimates for each. The response breakdown by county roughly mirrors the distribution of the population within the area (within 6% for each).

	Proportion of Survey Responses (n=1043)	Proportion of Area Population (n=208,659*)
Lauderdale	38% (n=394)	44% (92,556)
Colbert	32% (n=336)	26% (54,771)
Franklin	20% (n=211)	15% (31,466)
Marion	10% (n=102)	14% (29,866)

**Population data is from the 2019 ACS Estimates released by the US Census Bureau.*

Additional demographics may be found in the demographic section of the report below.

Data Analysis

Data analysis was completed in the form of output tables, frequently broken out by county. Additional follow-up analysis were completed for intersections of responses to two survey questions.

Tables demonstrate the percentages of the variable listed within each **row**, calculated within each **column**.

Caution should be taken when interpreting percentages within tables that have a low sample size.

Findings

Tables are provided for each section of the survey. Each table is preceded by a header which includes information about which participants were asked the question (based on survey skip logic) and the question text. Response options are shown at the left but may have been altered for clarity in reporting, and some calculated variables are included (and noted when applicable). For exact response options please see the full survey in the appendix.

Access to Health Care

All respondents:

Q4 During the past 12 months, did you or anyone in your household delay or go without medical or dental care that you needed? (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=1308)	Lauderdale (n=388)	Colbert (n=335)	Franklin (n=211)	Marion (n=102)
Went without medical care	47%	41%	42%	50%	46%
Went without dental care	35%	27%	36%	41%	54%
Did not go without care	28%	43%	31%	20%	9%

Follow Up Analysis: Households where someone went without medical or dental care (Q4) by respondent's insurance status (Q53).

About 25% more uninsured people indicated someone in their household went without either medical or dental care, compared with people who did have insurance. Among those who were insured, 33% of their households got the care they needed, compared with 6% of households among those who were not insured.

	Uninsured (n=109)	Insured (n=1075)
Went without medical care	69%	42%
Went without dental care	58%	32%
Did not go without care	6%	33%

Note: The question about medical and dental care was asked of anyone in the household, whereas the question about insurance was asked only of the survey respondent. While this table is suggestive it is not definitive.

Among those who went without MEDICAL CARE:

Q5 If yes, why did you, or someone in your household, not get all the MEDICAL care needed? (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=525)	Lauderdale (n=159)	Colbert (n=141)	Franklin (n=105)	Marion (n=47)
Cost too much	40%	55%	34%	39%	38%
No insurance	35%	40%	35%	38%	38%
Health problem not covered by insurance	32%	29%	33%	31%	38%
Couldn't find a provider who accepts our insurance (including Medicaid or Medicare)	20%	14%	25%	22%	17%
Provider not available in our area/too far away	16%	14%	11%	17%	32%
Transportation problems (couldn't get to appointment)	16%	9%	19%	23%	30%
No convenient time/could not get an appointment	19%	13%	17%	20%	30%
Could not take off work	11%	9%	16%	10%	15%
Could not find child care	5%	1%	5%	8%	15%
Concerned about unfair treatment or consequences	6%	4%	8%	8%	13%
Other	2%	4%	1%	1%	0%

Note: Among those who selected "Other" (n=10 across all counties), explanations included high deductible, specific issues with vision insurance, and delaying care due to concerns about COVID.

Follow Up Analysis: Reasons someone in the household did not get the medical care they needed (Q5), by respondent’s insurance status (Q53).

Among those who have insurance, the most common reasons someone in their household did not get the medical care they needed were: cost, no insurance, issues with the insurance (not covered, provider doesn’t accept their insurance), or inability to find an appointment time.

Among those who do not have insurance, cost and lack of insurance were the most common reasons someone in their household did not get the medical care they needed.

	Uninsured (n=75)	Insured (n=448)
Cost too much	61%	37%
No insurance	73%	29%
Health problem not covered by insurance	12%	35%
Couldn’t find a provider who accepts our insurance (including Medicaid or Medicare)	9%	21%
Provider not available in our area/too far away	12%	17%
Transportation problems (couldn’t get to appointment)	17%	16%
No convenient time/could not get an appointment	13%	20%
Could not take off work	15%	11%
Could not find child care	3%	5%
Concerned about unfair treatment or consequences	7%	6%
Other	1%	2%

Note: The question about barriers to receiving medical care was asked of anyone in the household, whereas the question about insurance was asked only of the survey respondent. While this table is suggestive it is not definitive. This also explains why several individuals with medical insurance indicated that lack of insurance was a barrier to medical care for someone in their household.

Among those who went without DENTAL care:

Q48 If yes, why did you, or someone in your household, not get all the DENTAL care needed? (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=403)	Lauderdale (n=102)	Colbert (n=119)	Franklin (n=86)	Marion (n=55)
Cost too much	50%	66%	51%	41%	38%
No insurance	43%	49%	36%	48%	51%
Health problem not covered by insurance	26%	19%	33%	27%	16%
Couldn't find a provider who accepts our insurance (including Medicaid or Medicare)	19%	7%	17%	35%	25%
Provider not available in our area/too far away	16%	11%	13%	17%	27%
Transportation problems (couldn't get to appointment)	15%	9%	10%	20%	27%
No convenient time/could not get an appointment	18%	14%	14%	22%	40%
Could not take off work	19%	20%	20%	21%	18%
Could not find child care	7%	3%	10%	9%	4%
Concerned about unfair treatment or consequences	5%	7%	7%	7%	0%
Other (please explain):	1%	4%	2%	0%	0%

Note: Among those who selected "Other" (n=7 across all counties), explanations included COVID concerns, fear of dentist/interpersonal relationship with dentist, and difficulty accessing community clinic.

Follow Up Analysis: Reasons someone in the household did not get the dental care they needed (Q48), by respondent’s insurance status (Q53).

Among those who have insurance, the most common reasons someone in their household did not get the dental care they needed were: cost, no insurance, issues with the insurance (not covered, provider doesn’t accept their insurance), inability to find an appointment time, or inability to take off work. This list is almost identical to the reasons people could not access medical care, with the addition of challenges related to leaving work. Among those who do not have insurance, cost and lack of insurance were the most common reasons someone in their household did not get the dental care they needed, which closely mirror challenges with medical care for this population.

	Uninsured (n=63)	Insured (n=339)
Cost too much	67%	46%
No insurance	71%	38%
Health problem not covered by insurance	14%	27%
Couldn’t find a provider who accepts our insurance (including Medicaid or Medicare)	13%	20%
Provider not available in our area/too far away	11%	17%
Transportation problems (couldn’t get to appointment)	14%	16%
No convenient time/could not get an appointment	6%	20%
Could not take off work	10%	20%
Could not find childcare	6%	7%
Concerned about unfair treatment or consequences	2%	6%
Other (please explain):	2%	1%

Note: The question about barriers to receiving dental care was asked of anyone in the household, whereas the question about insurance was asked only of the survey respondent. While this table is suggestive it is not definitive. This may be one reason why several individuals with medical insurance indicated that lack of insurance was a barrier to dental care for someone in their household; another reason may be that we asked only about whether individuals have medical insurance and not whether their insurance covers dental care.

All respondents:

Q53 Do you currently have health insurance (including prepaid plans such as HMOs or government plans such as Medicare or Indian Health Service)? (Select yes or no)

	Total (n=1192)	Lauderdale (n=393)	Colbert (n=336)	Franklin (n=211)	Marion (n=102)
Has insurance	91%	93%	93%	86%	86%

Follow Up Analysis: Breakdown of health insurance (Q53) by current employment status (Q33), for all counties.

13% more respondents who were currently employed indicated they have health insurance than those who were not currently employed.

	Not Employed (n=141)	Employed (n=914)
Has insurance	79%	92%

Among those who indicated they do NOT have health insurance:

Q12 Please indicate if any of the following are a reason you do not have health insurance. (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=105)	Lauderdale (n=28)	Colbert (n=24)	Franklin (n=28)	Marion (n=14)
Lost job/changed employers	34%	18%	38%	36%	64%
A family member's job that provided coverage ended	21%	14%	25%	32%	7%
Employer does not offer coverage or not eligible for coverage	24%	29%	8%	29%	21%
No longer eligible (under public insurance or parent's policy)	16%	11%	21%	18%	14%
Cost is too high	44%	64%	42%	39%	29%
Don't need insurance because I am in good health	4%	0%	8%	4%	0%
Don't know how to get insurance	9%	7%	12%	4%	14%
Some other reason	3%	4%	8%	0%	0%

Note: There were very few people from each county who did not have health insurance. See previous question; over 86% of people in each county were insured. Among those who selected "Other" (n=4 across all counties), all explanations related to a change in employment or disability status.

Follow Up Analysis: Reasons for not having health insurance (Q12) by current employment status (Q33).

Regardless of employment status, cost was the biggest reason individuals gave for not having health insurance. Among those who were currently employed, a change in employment for themselves or their family member, other change in eligibility, or coverage not offered by their employer were other the biggest reasons they did not have health insurance. Among those who were currently unemployed, the change in employment was the only other significant reason for not having health insurance.

	Currently Unemployed (n=29)	Currently Employed (n=66)
Lost job/changed employers	48%	29%
A family member's job that provided coverage ended	10%	26%
Employer does not offer coverage or not eligible for coverage	7%	29%
No longer eligible (under public insurance or parent's policy)	7%	21%
Cost is too high	52%	44%
Don't need insurance because I am in good health	0%	6%
Don't know how to get insurance	17%	5%
Some other reason	7%	2%

All respondents:

Q13 What is the one place you usually go when you are sick or need to see a medical professional? (Select one)

	Total (n=1178)	Lauderdale (n=393)	Colbert (n=335)	Franklin (n=211)	Marion (n=100)
Doctor Office/Clinic	46%	54%	46%	34%	30%
Community Health Clinic	19%	13%	24%	22%	24%
ER	12%	8%	10%	18%	9%
Urgent Care	14%	17%	12%	15%	17%
School Clinic	4%	2%	4%	6%	11%
No regular place	4%	5%	3%	4%	9%
Other	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%

Note: Among those who selected "Other" (n=9 across all counties), the only location cited that didn't fit our list was the VA.

Mental Health

All respondents:

Q20 Have you or any member of your household ever experienced any of the following? (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=1169)	Lauderdale (n=392)	Colbert (n=334)	Franklin (n=209)	Marion (n=102)
Depression	40%	47%	43%	30%	37%
Anxiety disorder	52%	55%	52%	51%	36%
Addiction or substance use disorder	26%	23%	26%	31%	37%
Other mental health problem	17%	20%	19%	16%	16%
None of these	20%	21%	18%	19%	23%
<i>Any of these</i>	80%	79%	82%	81%	79%

Note: For Marion County, "None of these" and "Any of these" add to more than 100% because there were two people who selected "None" and one other option.

Follow Up Analysis: Rates of reported household mental illness (Q20) by access to reliable transportation (Q52).

Rates of depression and anxiety were not related to access to reliable transportation. However, those without reliable transportation reported "other mental health problem" in their household at about twice the rate as those who do have reliable transportation. Those with reliable transportation reported about a 9% higher rate of addiction or substance use disorder than those without.

	Have Reliable Transportation (n=1021)	No Reliable Transportation (n=104)
Depression	41%	40%
Anxiety disorder	52%	54%
Addiction or substance use disorder	28%	17%
Other mental health problem	16%	31%
None of these	19%	18%

Follow Up Analysis: Rates of reported household mental illness (Q20) by housing stability (Q26).

Rates of anxiety and “other mental health problem” were not related to housing stability. However, people with unstable housing reported twice the rate of addiction or substance use disorder than those with stable housing, and those with stable housing reported a 14% higher rate of depression than those with unstable housing.

	Not Worried About Housing (n=615)	Worried About Housing (n=508)
Depression	47%	33%
Anxiety disorder	51%	53%
Addiction or substance use disorder	18%	37%
Other mental health problem	18%	17%
None of these	31%	5%

Follow Up Analysis: Households with reported mental problems (Q20) by household financial security (Q50).

Conversely, those who are worried their household may not have enough money to feed, clothe, and house their family for the month had higher rates of all mental problems, about 12-15% higher for each, when compared to those who were not worried about having enough money for the month.

	Have Enough Money This Month (n=916)	May Not Have Enough Money This Month (n=206)
Depression	39%	51%
Anxiety disorder	49%	65%
Addiction or substance use disorder	26%	33%
Other mental health problem	15%	30%
None of these	21%	9%

Note: Responses of “no” and “not sure” to question 50 asking about having enough money to meet monthly expenses were both coded into the category labeled “may not have enough money this month.”

Among households where at least one person has ever had at least one mental health problem:

Q21 Did you (or your household member) try to get counseling or treatment for the depression, anxiety, addiction and/or mental health problem? (Can check both yes and no)

	Total (n=938)	Lauderdale (n=308)	Colbert (n=273)	Franklin (n=169)	Marion (n=81)
Tried to get treatment	89%	85%	89%	92%	93%
Did not try to get treatment	12%	16%	12%	9%	7%

Among households where at least one person tried to get counseling or treatment:

Q22 Where did you (or your household member) receive counseling or treatment for the depression, anxiety, addiction and/or mental health problem? (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=834)	Lauderdale (n=261)	Colbert (n=243)	Franklin (n=155)	Marion (n=75)
Private counselor, therapist, social worker, or other provider who specializes in mental health	44%	54%	40%	37%	40%
Primary care doctor or nurse	39%	36%	45%	34%	33%
Riverbend or other community mental health center	36%	26%	38%	51%	40%
Church, temple, or other place of worship	14%	9%	13%	21%	32%
None/could not find help	5%	7%	5%	6%	5%
Other	3%	4%	3%	3%	0%

Note: Among those who selected "Other" (n=25 across all counties), other locations listed included at school/university, Al-Anon and AA, Bradford, New Beginning, rehab, VA, "out of state," virtual/app, The Healing Place, and urgent care (for medications).

Follow Up Analysis: Where people received counseling or treatment (Q22) by which mental health problem they reported (Q20).

A greater proportion of people with depression (56%) sought mental health treatment with a counselor, therapist, or social worker, or their primary care doctor (45%) than those with any other mental health problem. Those with “other” mental illness sought care from a community mental health center at a higher rate (43%), and a greater proportion of people with addiction or “other” mental illness looked for help at a place of worship, possibly through programs like AA.

	Depression in Household (n=401)	Anxiety in Household (n=525)	Addiction in Household (n=292)	Other Mental Illness in Household (n=182)
Private counselor, therapist, social worker, or other provider who specializes in mental health	56%	48%	44%	42%
Primary care doctor or nurse	45%	41%	42%	31%
Riverbend or other community mental health center	29%	35%	39%	43%
Church, temple, or other place of worship	13%	11%	20%	22%
None/could not find help	5%	5%	8%	11%
Other	4%	4%	4%	5%

Follow Up Analysis: Households where at least one person could not find help for their mental health problem (Q22) by income (Q37) and survey respondent’s insurance status (Q53).

Lack of ability to find help for a mental health problem was not largely explained by income, although the proportion of those in the highest income bracket who were able to find help was slightly higher. Among those from households where the survey respondent did not have health insurance, a higher proportion could not find help for their mental health problem (10%) than households where the respondent does have health insurance (5%).

	Household Income <\$25,000 (n=153)	Household Income \$25,001- \$50,000 (n=222)	Household Income \$50,001- \$100,000 (n=269)	Household Income >\$100,000 (n=57)	Uninsured (n=63)	Insured (n=770)
Couldn't find help	7%	6%	6%	2%	10%	5%

Note: Ability to find help and income were both reported at the household level, whereas insurance status was only asked of the individual responding to the survey.

**Among all households where at least one person DIDN'T TRY to get counseling or treatment OR where at least one person COULD NOT FIND counseling or treatment:
Q54 Do any of these statements explain why you (or your household member) did not get treatment? (Check all that apply)**

	Total (n=153)	Lauderdale (n=67)	Colbert (n=45)	Franklin (n=24)	Marion (n=10)
Didn't believe treatment would help.	13%	13%	7%	12%	10%
Was concerned seeking treatment might cause family, friends, neighbors, and others to have a negative opinion.	22%	9%	29%	33%	50%
Was concerned seeking treatment or counseling might have a negative effect on my/their job.	20%	21%	18%	8%	40%
Our health insurance does not cover any or pay enough for mental health treatment or counseling.	25%	13%	24%	58%	30%
Could not afford the cost.	31%	42%	24%	25%	20%
Had a hard time getting an appointment with a psychiatrist.	14%	10%	18%	12%	20%
Was concerned I/they might be committed to a psychiatric hospital or might have to take medicine.	13%	9%	7%	33%	20%
Did not know where to go to get services.	20%	19%	18%	29%	20%
Did not have transportation.	7%	3%	9%	12%	20%
Did not have childcare.	8%	3%	11%	17%	10%
None of these.	18%	15%	29%	12%	0%
Other	8%	10%	7%	4%	0%

Note: Among those who selected "Other" (n=12 across all counties), none provided further explanation.

Needs for Services

All respondents:

Q25 In the past 12 months, did you or any member of your household need and/or use any of the community services listed below? (Check one per row)

	Total	Lauderdale	Colbert	Franklin	Marion
Services for children/youth with emotional problems or delinquent behavior	(n=1100)	(n=383)	(n=320)	(n=203)	(n=100)
Did not need	49%	63%	47%	42%	31%
Needed and used	36%	30%	33%	35%	53%
Needed but did not use	13%	6%	18%	21%	14%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Parenting information, training, or classes	(n=1089)	(n=378)	(n=317)	(n=202)	(n=98)
Did not need	45%	61%	45%	29%	20%
Needed and used	34%	23%	29%	44%	47%
Needed but did not use	19%	13%	25%	24%	30%
Don't know	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Housing services (rental/utility bill assistance or shelters)	(n=1088)	(n=378)	(n=320)	(n=198)	(n=99)
Did not need	40%	54%	42%	31%	15%
Needed and used	35%	32%	30%	33%	47%
Needed but did not use	22%	12%	24%	31%	33%
Don't know	3%	2%	4%	6%	4%
Transportation assistance services (vouchers, reimbursements)	(n=1084)	(n=378)	(n=317)	(n=197)	(n=98)
Did not need	43%	61%	45%	26%	17%
Needed and used	31%	22%	24%	34%	50%
Needed but did not use	23%	15%	28%	35%	28%
Don't know	3%	2%	3%	5%	5%

All respondents:

Q52 Do you have consistent access to reliable transportation? (Yes or no)

	Total (n=1129)	Lauderdale (n=391)	Colbert (n=334)	Franklin (n=205)	Marion (n=101)
Has transportation	91%	94%	92%	87%	84%

Note: Marion and Franklin County residents had the lowest reported consistent access to reliable transportation. This was also reflected in the previous question (25); a higher percentage of residents from these counties reported that they needed transportation assistance, whether or not they used it.

All respondents:

Q26 Are you worried that you may not have a stable place to live in the near future? (Yes or no)

	Total (n=1127)	Lauderdale (n=391)	Colbert (n=333)	Franklin (n=204)	Marion (n=101)
Worried about housing	45%	31%	43%	57%	61%

Note: Marion and Franklin County residents had the most concerns about stable housing. This was also reflected in question 25; a higher percentage of residents from these counties reported that they needed housing services, whether or not they used them.

All respondents:

Q50 Do you believe your family has enough money to feed, clothe, and house yourselves this month? (Select one)

	Total (n=1126)	Lauderdale (n=393)	Colbert (n=333)	Franklin (n=202)	Marion (n=101)
Yes	82%	84%	82%	79%	78%
No	10%	8%	10%	12%	9%
Not Sure	8%	8%	8%	8%	13%

All respondents:

Q49 Would you be interested in working with someone to help you with any of the following? (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=1135)	Lauderdale (n=391)	Colbert (n=333)	Franklin (n=211)	Marion (n=100)
Accessing financial assistance	33%	28%	35%	36%	42%
Increasing your income	43%	35%	39%	59%	55%
Stretching your money to go further to meet your monthly needs	26%	19%	23%	28%	43%
None of these	32%	48%	32%	19%	6%

Children

All respondents:

Q39 Do you have children in any of the following age groups? (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=1134)	Lauderdale (n=393)	Colbert (n=335)	Franklin (n=210)	Marion (n=102)
Younger than Kindergarten	24%	26%	21%	25%	31%
Kindergarten-3 rd Grade	36%	24%	40%	43%	34%
4 th -12 th Grade	30%	27%	36%	28%	37%
None of these	25%	37%	21%	19%	7%
<i>Infant-3rd Grade</i>	54%	43%	54%	62%	60%
<i>Infant-12th Grade</i>	76%	63%	79%	82%	93%

ACES

Among respondents who have children infant-12th grade:

Q45 Please select all of the settings where your child(ren) have developed a positive close relationship with an adult other than yourself or their other parent(s)/guardian(s). (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=856)	Lauderdale (n=249)	Colbert (n=265)	Franklin (n=173)	Marion (n=95)
Extended family	49%	59%	48%	42%	49%
Family friend	55%	61%	57%	51%	58%
Church	30%	34%	32%	27%	15%
School	43%	46%	48%	43%	38%
Daycare/babysitter	16%	12%	15%	18%	29%
After school/summer program (YMCA, etc)	9%	9%	9%	8%	15%
None of the above	2%	3%	2%	2%	5%
Other	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%

Note: Among those who selected "Other" (n=15 across all counties), several respondents listed "Sports" and other extracurricular activities (dance, Girl Scouts) as settings where their child has developed a close relationship with an adult. One respondent listed foster care.

Follow Up Analysis: Number of settings where the respondent’s child has developed a positive close relationship with an adult. (Calculated from Q45)

While there isn’t much difference in the number of settings that children develop positive relationships with adults by county, the means show that Lauderdale children have a slightly higher number of positive adult relationships in their lives and Franklin children have a slightly lower number. Colbert children (closely followed by Lauderdale) had the highest variability in the number of positive adult relationships reported.

Number of settings	Total (n=856)	Lauderdale (n=249)	Colbert (n=265)	Franklin (n=173)	Marion (n=95)
0	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
1	43%	34%	44%	45%	41%
2	24%	27%	23%	28%	24%
3	17%	20%	14%	18%	21%
4	11%	13%	12%	6%	12%
5	3%	4%	5%	2%	1%
6	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Mean number of settings	2.05	2.23	2.11	1.91	2.04
Standard deviation	(1.21)	(1.25)	(1.31)	(1.04)	(1.11)

Among respondents who have children Infant-12th grade:

Q47 Have any of your children EVER experienced hunger, housing insecurity, violence in the family, abuse, or neglect? (Remember your answers are anonymous and cannot be traced back to you.) (Yes or no)

	Total (n=834)	Lauderdale (n=247)	Colbert (n=261)	Franklin (n=169)	Marion (n=93)
Has ever experienced 1+ of the listed traumas	47%	37%	52%	51%	47%

Note: The higher rates in Franklin and Marion also mirror the higher rates of worries about housing and income in these counties (Q 25, 26, 50, 49).

Follow Up Analysis: Households with reported trauma experiences (Q47) by households with a reported mental health problem (Q20).

Households with any mental illness reported a much higher rate of childhood traumatic experiences than households with no mental illnesses. However, this could partially be explained by mental illnesses in children which resulted from the trauma experiences, since the mental illness question asked about “any member” of the household.

	Rate of reported trauma among households with no mental illness (n=129)	Rate of reported trauma among households with any mental illness (n=703)
Has ever experienced 1+ of the listed traumas	9%	54%

Follow Up Analysis: Households with reported trauma experiences (Q47) by households that reported unstable housing (Q26) OR financial insecurity (Q50).

Among households with reported trauma experiences among children, 90% also reported insecure financial or housing situations. Since hunger and housing insecurity were two of the five trauma experiences asked about, it is possible that these circumstances explain up to 90% of the childhood trauma reported in question 47.

	Total (n=1124)	Households with no reported trauma among children (n=432)	Households with 1+ reported trauma among children (n=390)
Households with insecure finance or housing	54%	40%	90%

Follow Up Analysis: Need for services for children/youth with emotional problems or delinquent behavior (Q25) among households with/without reported trauma experiences among children (Q47).

As may be expected, households with one or more reported trauma had higher rates of both need and use for services for children/youth with emotional problems or delinquent behavior. Among these, nearly 60% used services but over a quarter (27%) of families said they needed but did not use services.

	Households with no reported trauma among children (n=426)	Households with 1+ reported trauma among children (n=388)
Did not need	57%	13%
Needed and used	33%	59%
Needed but did not use	8%	27%
Don't know	1%	1%

Follow Up Analysis: Need parenting classes (Q25) among households with reported trauma experiences among children (Q47).

As with the need for services for children with emotional problems or delinquent behavior, more households where one or more child trauma was reported also indicated they had a need for parenting classes. These families needed and used, or needed and did not use, parenting classes at about the same rates as child services. However, about 10% more households without reported child trauma indicated they needed but did not use parenting classes, compared with their reported unfulfilled need for emotional/behavioral services for children.

	Households with no reported trauma among children (n=426)	Households with 1+ reported trauma among children (n=388)
Did not need	47%	12%
Needed and used	32%	54%
Needed but did not use	18%	32%
Don't know	3%	3%

Literacy

Among respondents who have children who are “younger than Kindergarten”:

Q41 Thinking of your child(ren) who are not yet in Kindergarten, do you plan for them to attend preschool or Head Start outside of your home? (Check all that apply)

	Total (n=265)	Lauderdale (n=102)	Colbert (n=68)	Franklin (n=51)	Marion (n=30)
Yes - my child is currently attending preschool or Head Start	49%	54%	50%	41%	33%
Yes - my child will attend when old enough	43%	47%	47%	24%	67%
Maybe - if my child can get in	15%	11%	15%	27%	13%
Maybe - I haven't decided	9%	6%	7%	18%	7%
No - I can't find an available opening for my child	7%	2%	7%	12%	13%
No - I don't want my child to attend	4%	4%	4%	8%	0%
No - I can't find an affordable option	3%	2%	1%	8%	0%
<i>Yes (all)</i>	80%	87%	84%	57%	83%
<i>Maybe (all)</i>	22%	15%	22%	41%	17%
<i>No (all)</i>	13%	7%	12%	27%	13%

**Among respondents who have children Infant-3rd grade:
 [Question labeled “Baby-3rd Grade”] Thinking of your child(ren) ages infant-3rd Grade, what would help you/someone else read to them more? (Check all that apply)**

	Total (n=585)	Lauderdale (n=165)	Colbert (n=180)	Franklin (n=124)	Marion (n=59)
Having more books to read at home	35%	35%	27%	27%	39%
Having better access to the library	37%	38%	41%	43%	42%
Having more time	37%	46%	32%	43%	29%
Having better English or reading skills	24%	19%	32%	29%	19%
N/A - don't want to read	7%	3%	5%	10%	20%
N/A - we already read together every day!	13%	18%	14%	10%	5%
Other	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%
<i>Checked anything other than “already read together every day”</i>	91%	85%	88%	94%	98%

Note: Among those who selected “Other” (n=5 across all counties), the only explanation was that one respondent’s daughter doesn’t allow them to read to her now that she can read on her own.

Follow Up Analysis: Need further support to read with their children every day ([Question labeled “Baby-3rd Grade”) by household income (Q37).

There was very little difference in need for support for daily reading among households of different incomes, other than the households with the highest income (over \$100,000).

	Household income of <\$25,000 (n=106)	Household income of \$25,001- \$50,000 (n=183)	Household income of \$50,001- \$100,000 (n=169)	Household income of >\$100,000 (n=32)
Need additional reading support	93%	91%	88%	69%

Note: Needing further reading support was defined as everyone who checked ANYTHING other than “already read together every day” on [Question labeled “Baby-3rd Grade” (see bottom line in previous table).

Among respondents who have children Kindergarten-3rd grade:

Q46 Thinking of your child(ren) ages Kindergarten-3rd Grade, which of the following is true about them? (Select one for each):

	Total	Lauderdale	Colbert	Franklin	Marion
Attended Preschool or Head Start	(n=352)	(n=93)	(n=132)	(n=88)	(n=35)
True for all	44%	57%	45%	28%	43%
True for some	49%	37%	52%	58%	54%
True for none	7%	6%	3%	14%	3%
Misses Less Than 2 Days of School Per Month, On Average	(n=355)	(n=94)	(n=131)	(n=89)	(n=35)
True for all	50%	62%	48%	43%	40%
True for some	38%	27%	42%	42%	46%
True for none	12%	12%	10%	16%	14%
Attends a Summer Learning Program	(n=354)	(n=92)	(n=131)	(n=90)	(n=35)
True for all	37%	39%	31%	36%	54%
True for some	33%	25%	33%	39%	34%
True for none	31%	36%	37%	26%	11%
Has Teachers Who Motivate Them to Learn	(n=356)	(n=94)	(n=131)	(n=90)	(n=35)
True for all	44%	55%	37%	40%	54%
True for some	42%	38%	50%	38%	31%
True for none	14%	6%	13%	22%	14%

Follow Up Analysis: Proportion of participants who report ALL their children have ALL of these four protective factors for 4th grade literacy (calculated from the above):

Most participants (88%) reported that at least one of their children was missing at least one of the four protective factors for fourth grade literacy.

	Total (n=354)
No	88%
Yes	12%

Note: These four protective factors were based on research written in 2013 by Leila Fiester, senior consultant to the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, in ["Early Warning Confirmed: A Research Update on Third-Grade Reading."](#)

Demographics

All respondents:

Q33 Are you currently employed? (Yes or no)

	Total (n=1056)	Lauderdale (n=391)	Colbert (n=334)	Franklin (n=206)	Marion (n=102)
Employed	87%	82%	88%	91%	91%

All respondents:

Q36 What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Select one)

	Total (n=1064)	Lauderdale (n=393)	Colbert (n=335)	Franklin (n=211)	Marion (n=102)
Less than 9th grade	4%	7%	2%	1%	6%
9th through 12th - No Diploma	8%	4%	11%	11%	1%
High School Diploma or GED	16%	13%	18%	18%	17%
Some College - No Degree	24%	23%	21%	26%	37%
Associate's Degree	14%	8%	13%	22%	19%
Bachelor's Degree	22%	28%	21%	17%	17%
Graduate or Professional Degree	12%	17%	13%	5%	4%

All respondents:

Q37 What was your household's total income before taxes in 2021? (Select one)

	Total (n=972)	Lauderdale (n=356)	Colbert (n=312)	Franklin (n=185)	Marion (n=99)
<\$25,000	22%	18%	25%	23%	21%
\$25,001-\$50,000	30%	32%	26%	34%	30%
\$50,001-\$100,000	37%	35%	38%	39%	40%
>\$100,000	11%	15%	11%	4%	8%

All respondents:

Q51 What county do you live in? (Select one)

	Total (n=1043)
Lauderdale	38%
Colbert	32%
Franklin	20%
Marion	10%

Appendices

Data Cleaning

Documentation of cleaning methods used:

- Q20 – Mental health problems: For “any” mental health problem, included any of the first four responses (depression, anxiety, addiction or substance use disorder, and other mental health problem).
- Q50 – Financial security, for follow-up analysis for Q20 - Responses of “no” and “not sure” to question 50 were both coded into the category labeled “may not have enough money this month.”
- Q52 – Transportation, for follow-up analysis for Q20 - Responses Coded unreliable transportation as “yes” if they answered “no” to question 52 (reverse coded)
- Q45 – Follow up to number of caring adults – Number of adults was sum of all responses other than “none of the above”
- [Question labeled “Baby-3rd Grade”] – Follow up to barriers to daily reading: For “needs reading help,” included those who responded to any of the categories other than “read together every day,” regardless of whether they also checked “read together every day.”
- Q37 – Total income before taxes: Split income into four categories (<\$25,000, \$25,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, >\$100,000).
- Q51 – County of residence: Cleaned Florence to Lauderdale and removed all other responses from the county breakdown (but kept them in the total).

Notes for Future Surveys

- Q12 and 53 ask about health insurance but only for the person taking the survey. According to the responses from Q5, there is a bigger issue with health insurance among households than was represented by the individuals completing the survey. Consider adjusting 12 and 53 to be more broad.
- Q45 asks about healthy adult relationships; add extracurricular activities and especially sports/dance/gymnastics coaches to the list of options.
- Question labeled “Baby-3rd Grade” – add “child reads independently every day”
- Demos we would have used: public/private school (for kids), are you the primary income in your house?, age, gender, race
- Ensure only surveying individuals 18+

Interpretation Notes/More Info Needed

- Q22 – Do doctors know they are a primary source of mental health treatment?

- Q26 – Marion County has overall lack of housing following tornado, many people never rebuilt
- Question labeled “Baby-3rd Grade” – why can’t people use the library?
- Q46b – why are kids missing school? Illness? Other reason?
- Q46d – why do parents feel their children’s teachers don’t motivate them to learn?

Survey Questions with Skip Patterns and Coding Labels

United Way Needs Assessment 2022

THANK YOU for completing this survey - it should take you just a few minutes.

The purpose of this survey is to help the United Way of Northwest Alabama learn how to better serve the people of Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, and Marion counties.

Your responses are completely ANONYMOUS and won't be connected to you in any way. So, please answer HONESTLY to help us make good decisions as we plan. You can skip questions or stop taking the survey at any time, but we hope you will complete the whole thing.

After the last question, you will be sent to a separate page that will let you enter our RAFFLE for one of the following weekly drawings:

- 2 people will win \$25 Starbucks gift cards
- 6 people will win \$50 gas station gift cards
- 1 person will win a \$500 Walmart gift card

The contact information you enter there will NOT be linked in any way to your survey responses.

This survey is being conducted by the United Way of Northwest Alabama in partnership with Dr. Michael Floren at the University of North Alabama and Kiley Floren at Practical Statistics LLC.

If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Del Pizzo at the United Way at kerry@uwshoals.org or 256-764-5892 x106.

Q4 During the past 12 months, did you or anyone in your household delay or go without medical or dental care that you needed? (Check all that apply)

- Yes, went without medical care (1)
- Yes, went without dental care (2)
- No, did not go without care (3)

Display This Question:

If Q4 = 1

Q5 If yes, why did you, or someone in your household, not get all the MEDICAL care needed?
(Check all that apply)

- Cost too much (1)
- No insurance (2)
- Health problem not covered by insurance (3)
- Couldn't find a provider who accepts our insurance (including Medicaid or Medicare) (4)
- Provider not available in our area/too far away (5)
- Transportation problems (couldn't get to appointment) (6)
- No convenient time/could not get an appointment (7)
- Could not take off work (8)
- Could not find child care (9)
- Concerned about unfair treatment or consequences (10)
- Other (please explain): (11)

Display This Question:

If Q4 = 2

Q48 If yes, why did you, or someone in your household, not get all the DENTAL care needed?
(Check all that apply)

- Cost too much (1)
- No insurance (2)
- Health problem not covered by insurance (3)
- Couldn't find a provider who accepts our insurance (including Medicaid or Medicare) (4)
- Provider not available in our area/too far away (5)
- Transportation problems (couldn't get to appointment) (6)
- No convenient time/could not get an appointment (7)
- Could not take off work (8)
- Could not find child care (9)
- Concerned about unfair treatment or consequences (10)
- Other (please explain): (11)

Q53 Do you currently have health insurance (including prepaid plans such as HMOs or government plans such as Medicare or Indian Health Service)?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Display This Question:

If Q53 = 2

Q12 Please indicate if any of the following are a reason you do not have health insurance. (Check all that apply)

Lost job/changed employers (1)

A family member's job that provided coverage ended (2)

Employer does not offer coverage or not eligible for coverage (3)

No longer eligible (under public insurance or parent's policy) (4)

Cost is too high (5)

Don't need insurance because I am in good health (6)

Don't know how to get insurance (7)

Some other reason (explain): (8)

Q13 What is the one place you usually go when you are sick or need to see a medical professional?

Doctor's office, medical practice, or private clinic (1)

Community health clinic that offers a discounted fee (e.g. Shoals Community Clinic) (2)

24/7 emergency room (hospital-based or free-standing) (3)

Urgent care center or clinic that is inside a retail store or pharmacy (4)

School, college or university clinic (5)

I do not have a regular place for health care (6)

Other (explain): (7) _____

Q20 Have you or any member of your household ever experienced any of the following? (Check all that apply)

Depression (1)

Anxiety disorder (2)

Addiction or substance use disorder (3)

Other mental health problem (4)

None of these (5)

Display This Question:

If Q20 = 1

Or Q20 = 2

Or Q20 = 3

Or Q20 = 4

Q21 Did you (or your household member) try to get counseling or treatment for the depression, anxiety, addiction and/or mental health problem?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Display This Question:

If Q21 = 1

Q22 Where did you (or your household member) receive counseling or treatment for the depression, anxiety, addiction and/or mental health problem?

Private counselor, therapist, social worker, or other provider who specializes in mental health (1)

Primary care doctor or nurse (2)

Riverbend or other community mental health center (3)

Church, temple, or other place of worship (4)

None/could not find help (5)

Other (explain): (6)

Display This Question:

If Q21 = 2

Or Q22 = 5

Q54 Do any of these statements explain why you (or your household member) did not get treatment? (Check all that apply)

Didn't believe treatment would help. (1)

Was concerned seeking treatment might cause family, friends, neighbors, and others to have a negative opinion. (2)

Was concerned seeking treatment or counseling might have a negative effect on my/their job. (3)

Our health insurance does not cover any or pay enough for mental health treatment or counseling. (4)

Could not afford the cost. (5)

Had a hard time getting an appointment with a psychiatrist. (6)

Was concerned I/they might be committed to a psychiatric hospital or might have to take medicine. (7)

Did not know where to go to get services. (8)

Did not have transportation. (9)

Did not have childcare. (10)

None of these. (11)

Other (explain): (12)

Q25 In the past 12 months, did you or any member of your household need and/or use any of the community services listed below?

Services for children/youth with emotional problems or delinquent behavior (1)	Did not need (1)	Needed and used (2)	Needed but did not use (3)	Don't know (4)
Parenting information, training, or classes (6)	Did not need (1)	Needed and used (2)	Needed but did not use (3)	Don't know (4)
Housing services (rental/utility bill assistance or shelters) (12)	Did not need (1)	Needed and used (2)	Needed but did not use (3)	Don't know (4)
Transportation assistance services (vouchers, reimbursements) (13)	Did not need (1)	Needed and used (2)	Needed but did not use (3)	Don't know (4)

Q52 Do you have consistent access to reliable transportation?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Q26 Are you worried that you may not have a stable place to live in the near future?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Q50 Do you believe your family has enough money to feed, clothe, and house yourselves this month?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Not sure (3)

Q49 Would you be interested in working with someone to help you with any of the following?
(Check all that apply)

Accessing financial assistance (1)

Increasing your income (2)

Stretching your money to go further to meet your monthly needs (3)

None of these (4)

Q39 Do you have children in any of the following age groups? (Check all that apply)

Younger than Kindergarten (1)

Kindergarten-3rd Grade (2)

4th-12th Grade (3)

None of these (4)

Display This Question:

If Q39 = 1

Or Q39 = 2

Or Q39 = 3

Q45 Please select all of the settings where your child(ren) have developed a positive close relationship with an adult other than yourself or their other parent(s)/guardian(s).

Extended family (1)

Family friend (2)

Church (3)

School (4)

Daycare/babysitter (5)

After school/summer program (YMCA, etc) (6)

None of the above (7)

Other: (8)

Display This Question:

If Q39 = 1

Or Q39 = 2

Or Q39 = 3

Q47 Have any of your children EVER experienced hunger, housing insecurity, violence in the family, abuse, or neglect? (Remember your answers are anonymous and cannot be traced back to you.)

Yes (1)

No (2)

Display This Question:

If Q39 = 1

Q41 Thinking of your child(ren) who are not yet in Kindergarten, do you plan for them to attend preschool or Head Start outside of your home?

Yes - my child is currently attending preschool or Head Start (1)

Yes - my child will attend when old enough (2)

Maybe - if my child can get in (3)

Maybe - I haven't decided (4)

No - I can't find an available opening for my child (5)

No - I don't want my child to attend (6)

No - I can't find an affordable option (7)

Display This Question:

If Q39 = 1

Or Q39 = 2

Baby-3rd Grade Thinking of your child(ren) ages infant-3rd Grade, what would help you/someone else read to them more? (Check all that apply)

Having more books to read at home (1)

Having better access to the library (2)

Having more time (3)

Having better English or reading skills (4)

N/A - don't want to read (5)

N/A - we already read together every day! (6)

Other: (7) _____

Display This Question:

If Q39 = 2

Q46 Thinking of your child(ren) ages Kindergarten-3rd Grade, which of the following is true about them?

Attended preschool or Head Start (1)	True for all of them (1)	True for some but not all of them (2)	True for none of them (3)
Misses less than 2 days of school per month, on average (in the last year) (2)	True for all of them (1)	True for some but not all of them (2)	True for none of them (3)
Attends a summer learning program (3)	True for all of them (1)	True for some but not all of them (2)	True for none of them (3)
Has teachers who motivate them to learn (4)	True for all of them (1)	True for some but not all of them (2)	True for none of them (3)
None of these (5)	True for all of them (1)	True for some but not all of them (2)	True for none of them (3)

Q33 Are you currently employed?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Q36 What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Less than 9th grade (1)

9th-12th grade, no diploma (2)

High school diploma or GED (3)

Some college, no degree (4)

Associate's degree (e.g. AA, AS) (5)

Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, AB, BS) (6)

Graduate or professional degree (7)

Q37 What was your household's total income before taxes in 2021?

▼ \$12,000 or less (1) ... \$118,001 or more (20)

Q51 What county do you live in?

Lauderdale (1)

Colbert (2)

Franklin (3)

Marion (4)

Other/Don't Know (list city instead): (5)

THANK YOU again for taking the time to complete the survey! Your responses will help the United Way as we make plans to serve our community over the next several years. If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Del Pizzo at kerry@uwshoals.org or 256-764-5892 x106.

The next page will send you to a separate website where you can enter the raffle to win one of the following:

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