

# DELMARVA COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.



# 2022 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Santo A. Grande, Ed.D  
President/CEO



# OVERVIEW

By federal statute (Community Service Block Grant Act) the Delmarva Community Services, Inc. (DCS) Community Action Division is required to complete an inclusive community needs assessment every three years to support development of a robust and active strategic plan. The CSBG Organizational Standards guide this research and planning work, as well as all other aspects of Community Action Program (CAP) administration. The Organizational Standards were designed to ensure that local CAPs have the capacity to provide high-quality services to low-income families and communities. The CSBG Organizational Standards relevant to this work were cited in the Delmarva Community Services, Inc. Community Action Program requested scope of services and are presented in the table below. They fall within the following categories:

- Category 1: Consumer Input and Involvement, which asserts the value of elevating the voice of people with lived experience.
- Category 2: Community Engagement, which cites the importance of cross-sector, cross-agency partnerships and transparent communication with the community.
- Category 3: Community Assessment, which outlines the need for regular, inclusive assessment of community needs and resources.
- Category 4: Organizational Leadership, which delineates the role of a well-functioning board and key administrative functions.
- Category 6: Strategic Planning, which guides CAP strategic planning.

**Figure 1 – Delmarva Community Services, Inc. Community Action Program Needs Assessment Required CSBG Organizational Standards**

Standard	Description
1.1	Analyze information collected directly from low-income individuals as part of the community assessment
2.2	Utilize information gathered from key sectors of the community to assess needs and resources, during the community assessment process. These sectors would include at minimum: community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions
2.3	The organization communicates its activities and its results to the community.
3.1	Conduct community assessment and issue a report every 3 year
3.2	Collects current poverty data and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s)
3.3	Collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data for all community service areas.
3.4	Includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed
3.5	Governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment
4.2	Informs an outcome-based and anti-poverty focused Community Action Plan
6.4	Customer satisfaction data and customer input is collected as part of the community assessment and included in the strategic planning process.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this assessment is to develop a deeper understanding of our customers’ needs and goals for self-sufficiency, economic security and strengthening civic and community engagement. While DCS service delivery area encompasses Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline and Kent Counties in Maryland and Sussex County in Delaware, for the purposes of this assessment, we surveyed and collected data and input from residents of Dorchester County only as DCS serves as the designated Community Action Agency for this County.



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Community Profile data was gathered from the National Community Action Partnership Data hub. This online tool uses multiple features that allow for the efficient use of data and mapping as part of a larger Community Needs Assessment process. It allows us to measure and visually represent the fundamental drivers of poverty in the community through an array of census data sets.

To find this tool, visit [www.communityactionpartnership.com/onlinetools](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/onlinetools)



Data for Dorchester County, Maryland follows on the next (13) pages.

# Community Action Partnership Report

## Location

Dorchester County, MD

## Population Profile

### Total Population

A total of 32,486 people live in the 540.76 square mile report area defined for this assessment according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-21 5-year estimates. The population density for this area, estimated at 60 persons per square mile, is less than the national average population density of 93 persons per square mile.

Report Area	Total Population	Total Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Density (Per Square Mile)
Dorchester County, MD	32,486	540.76	60
Maryland	6,148,545	9,711.24	633
United States	329,725,481	3,533,041.03	93

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*. 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

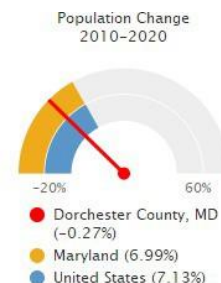
### Total Population Change, 2010-2020

According to the United States Census Bureau Decennial Census, between 2010 and 2020 the population in the report area fell by -87 persons, a change of -0.27%. A significant positive or negative shift in total population over time impacts healthcare providers and the utilization of community resources.

Report Area	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population, 2020 Census	Population Change, 2010-2020	Population Change, 2010-2020, Percent
Dorchester County, MD	32,618	32,531	-87	-0.27%
Maryland	5,773,552	6,177,224	403,672	6.99%
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	22,263,994	7.13%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *Decennial Census*. 2020. Source geography: Tract



### Median Age

Of the estimated 32,486 total population in the report area, the median age of all persons is 44.1. This indicates that the report population as a whole generally trends older than the state, which has a median age of 38.9. These data are based on the latest U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Report Area	Total Population	Median Age
Dorchester County, MD	32,486	44.1
Maryland	6,148,545	38.9
United States	329,725,481	38.4

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*. 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

### Non-Hispanic White Population

The estimated population that is non-Hispanic white in the report area is 20,259. This represents 62.36% of the total report area population, which is greater than the national rate of 59.45%.

Report Area	Total Population	Non-Hispanic White Population	Percent Population Non-Hispanic White
Dorchester County, MD	32,486	20,259	62.36%
Maryland	6,148,545	3,035,807	49.37%
United States	329,725,481	196,010,370	59.45%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

## Hispanic Population

The estimated population that is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin in the report area is 1,923. This represents 5.92% of the total report area population, which is less than the national rate of 18.44%. Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.

Report Area	Total Population	Non-Hispanic Population	Percent Population Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino Population	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino
Dorchester County, MD	32,486	30,563	94.08%	1,923	5.92%
Maryland	6,148,545	5,498,188	89.42%	650,357	10.58%
United States	329,725,481	268,918,512	81.56%	60,806,969	18.44%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

## Black or African American Population

The estimated population that is Black or African American in the report area is 8,226. This represents 25.32% of the total report area population, which is greater than the national rate of 12.55%.

Report Area	Total Population	Black or African American Population	Percent Population Black or African American
Dorchester County, MD	32,486	8,226	25.32%
Maryland	6,148,545	1,833,987	29.83%
United States	329,725,481	41,393,012	12.55%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

## Veteran Population

This indicator reports the percentage of the population age 18 and older that served (even for a short time), but is not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or that served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. Of the 25,610 population of the report area, 2,216 or 8.65% are veterans.

Report Area	Total Population Age 18+	Total Veterans	Veterans, Percent of Total Population
Dorchester County, MD	25,610	2,216	8.65%
Maryland	4,741,625	352,738	7.44%
United States	254,296,179	17,431,290	6.85%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

## Families with Children

According to the most recent American Community Survey estimates, 26.83% of all occupied households in the report area are family households with one or more child(ren) under the age of 18. As defined by the US Census Bureau, a family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. A non-family household is any household occupied by the householder alone, or by the householder and one or more unrelated individuals.

Report Area	Total Households	Total Family Households	Families with Children (Age 0-17)	Families with Children (Age 0-17), Percent of Total Households
Dorchester County, MD	13,123	8,420	3,521	26.83%
Maryland	2,294,270	1,516,689	715,218	31.17%
United States	124,010,992	80,755,759	37,558,302	30.29%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

## Income

### Income Levels

Two common measures of income are Median Household Income and Per Capita Income based on American Community Survey 5 year estimates. Both measures are shown for the report area below.

Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Dorchester County, MD	\$55,652	\$31,983
Maryland	\$91,431	\$45,915
United States	\$69,021	\$37,638

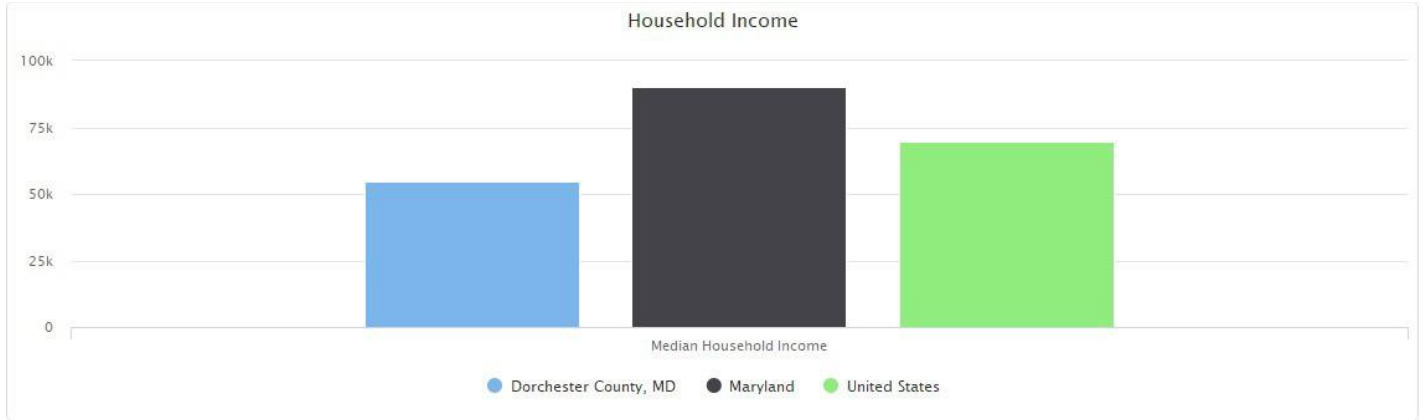
Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2017-2021. Source geography: County

### Household Income

Median annual household incomes in the report area for 2021 are shown in the table below. Since this reports a median amount, a "Report Area" value is not able to be calculated.

Report Area	Estimated Population	Median Household Income
Dorchester County, MD	32,047	\$54,731
Maryland	6,027,466	\$90,129
United States	323,384,188	\$69,717

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#), 2021. Source geography: County



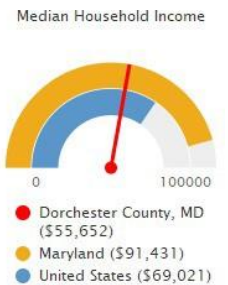
## Income - Median Household Income

This indicator reports median household income based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. There are 13,123 households in the report area, with an average income of \$75,871 and a median income of \$55,652.

Report Area	Total Households	Average Household Income	Median Household Income
Dorchester County, MD	13,123	\$75,871	<b>\$55,652</b>
Maryland	2,294,270	\$120,234	\$91,431
United States	124,010,992	\$97,196	\$69,021

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract



## Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in the report area from 2011 to 2021 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area decreased by -2.5%, compared to a national change of -3.1%.

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2011	Poverty Rate 2011	Persons in Poverty 2021	Poverty Rate 2021	Change in Poverty Rate 2011-2021
Dorchester County, MD	5,608	17.5%	4,807	15.0%	<b>-2.5%</b>
Maryland	581,244	10.2%	620,829	10.3%	0.1%
United States	48,452,035	15.9%	41,393,176	12.8%	-3.1%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2021. Source geography: County



## Poverty - Population Below 185% FPL

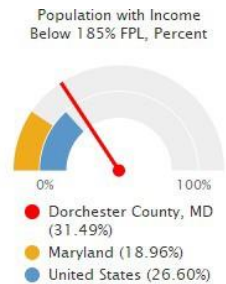
In the report area 31.49% or 10,090 individuals for whom poverty status is determined are living in households with income below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

*Note: The total population measurements for poverty reports are lower, as poverty data collection does not include people in group quarters. See Methodology for more details.*

Report Area	Total Population	Population with Income Below 185% FPL	Population with Income Below 185% FPL, Percent
Dorchester County, MD	32,044	10,090	<b>31.49%</b>
Maryland	6,006,777	1,139,136	18.96%
United States	321,897,703	85,630,280	26.60%

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract*



## Poverty - Population Below 100% FPL

Poverty is considered a *key driver* of health status.

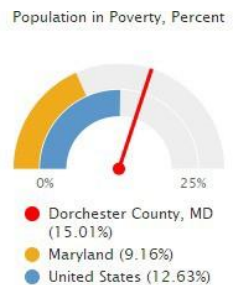
Within the report area 15.01% or 4,809 individuals for whom poverty status is determined are living in households with income below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

*Note: The total population measurements for poverty reports are lower, as poverty data collection does not include people in group quarters. See Methodology for more details.*

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Population in Poverty, Percent
Dorchester County, MD	32,044	4,809	<b>15.01%</b>
Maryland	6,006,777	550,074	9.16%
United States	321,897,703	40,661,636	12.63%

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract*



## Households in Poverty

The number and percentage of households in poverty are shown in the report area. In 2021, it is estimated that there were 2,016 households, or 15.4%, living in poverty within the report area.

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Percent Households in Poverty
Dorchester County, MD	13,123	2,016	<b>15.4%</b>
Maryland	2,294,270	209,776	9.1%

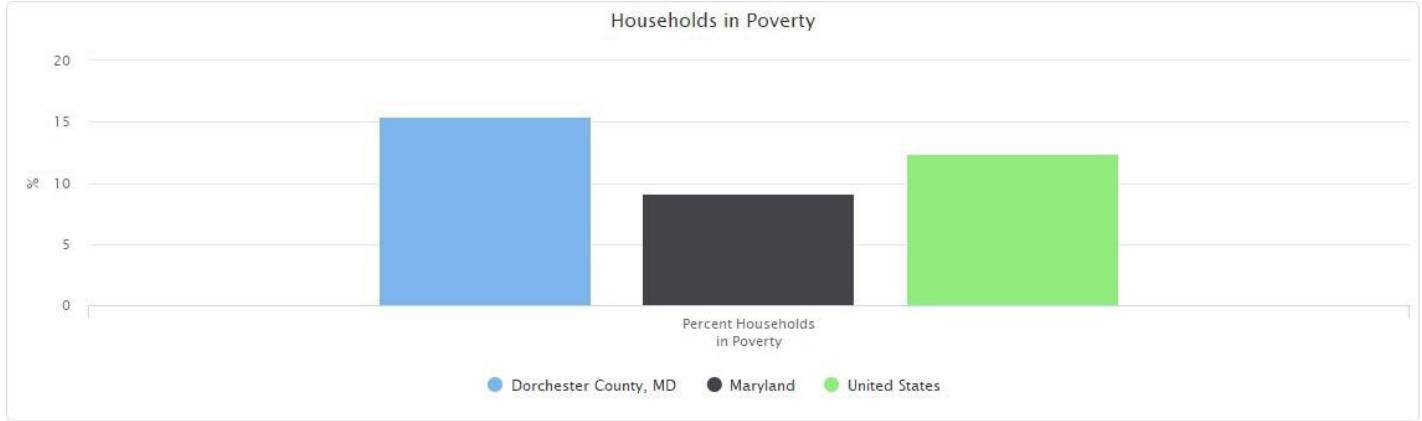




United States	124,010,992	15,381,768	12.4%
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Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: County



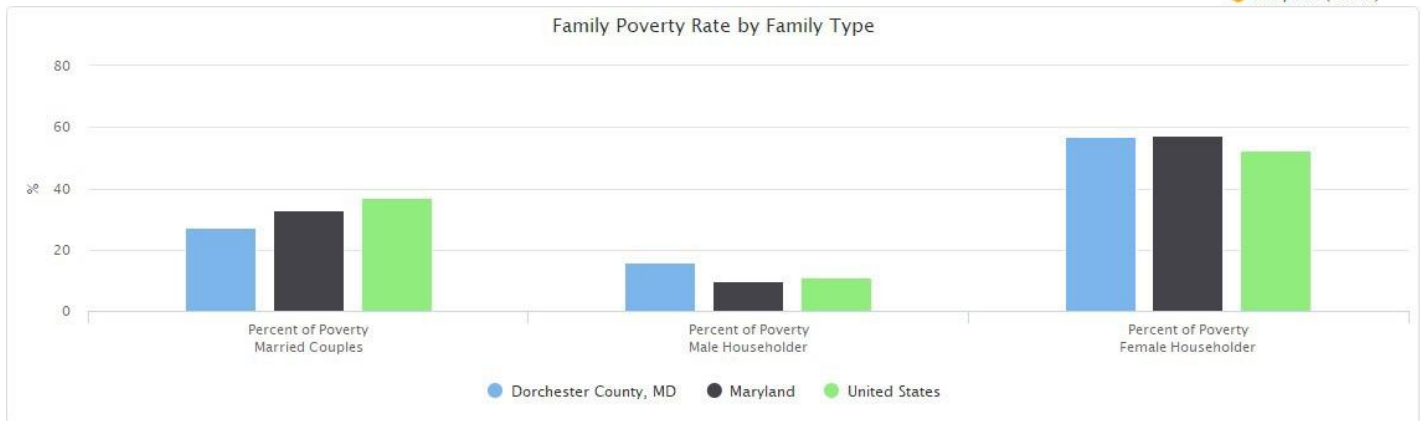
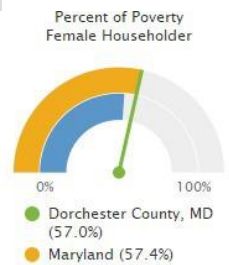
## Family Poverty Rate by Family Type

The percentage of households in poverty by household type are shown for the report area. It is estimated that 9.4% of all households were living in poverty within the report area, compared to the national average of 8.9%. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 57.0% of all households in poverty, compared to 27.2% and 15.8% of households headed by males and married couples, respectively.

Report Area	Poverty Rate All Types	Percent of Poverty Married Couples	Percent of Poverty Male Householder	Percent of Poverty Female Householder
Dorchester County, MD	9.4%	27.2%	15.8%	57.0%
Maryland	6.2%	33.0%	9.6%	57.4%
United States	8.9%	37.0%	10.8%	52.2%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: County



## Poverty - Children Below 200% FPL

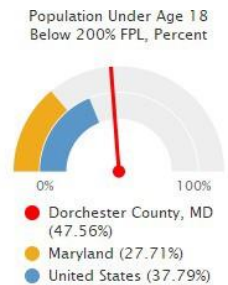
In the report area 47.56% or 3,240 children are living in households with income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

*Note: The total population measurements for poverty reports are lower, as poverty data collection does not include people in group quarters. See Methodology for more details.*

Report Area	Total Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 Below 200% FPL	Population Under Age 18 Below 200% FPL, Percent
Dorchester County, MD	6,812	3,240	<b>47.56%</b>
Maryland	1,351,905	374,664	27.71%
United States	72,996,065	27,587,656	37.79%

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract*



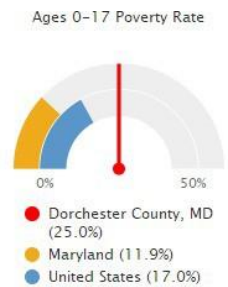
## Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-17

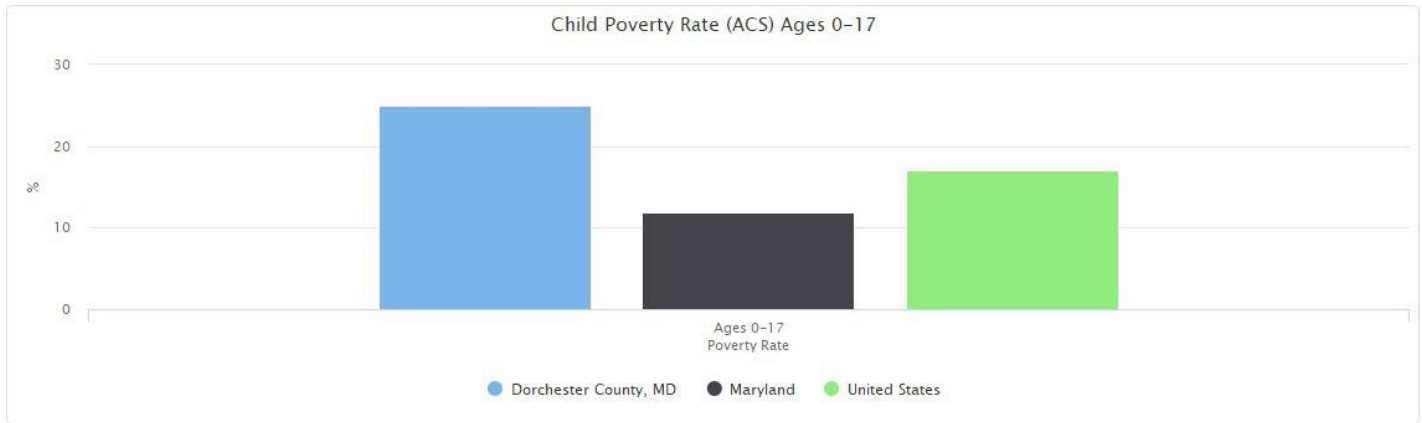
Population and poverty estimates for children age 0-17 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5-year data, an average of 25.0% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is less than the national average of 17.0%.

Report Area	Ages 0-17 Total Population	Ages 0-17 In Poverty	Ages 0-17 Poverty Rate
Dorchester County, MD	6,812	1,706	<b>25.0%</b>
Maryland	1,351,905	160,878	11.9%
United States	72,996,065	12,443,424	17.0%

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

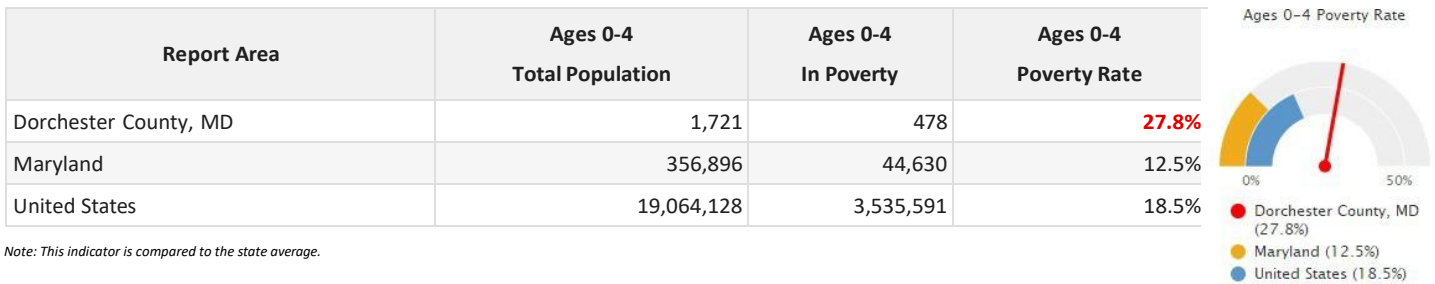
*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: County*





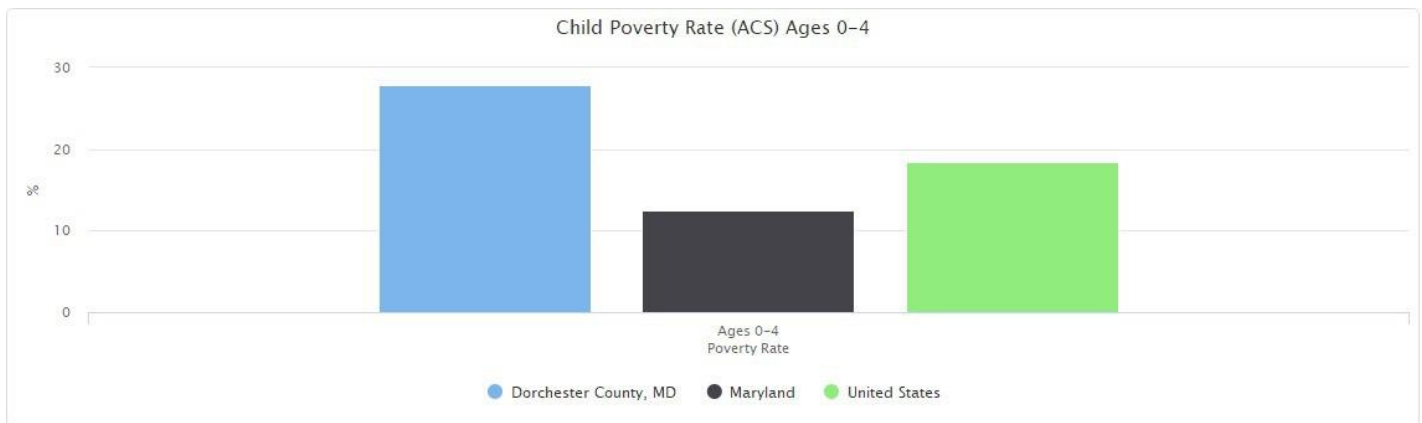
## Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-4

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0-4 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5-year data, an average of 27.8% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is greater than the national average of 18.5%.



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: County



## Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 5-17

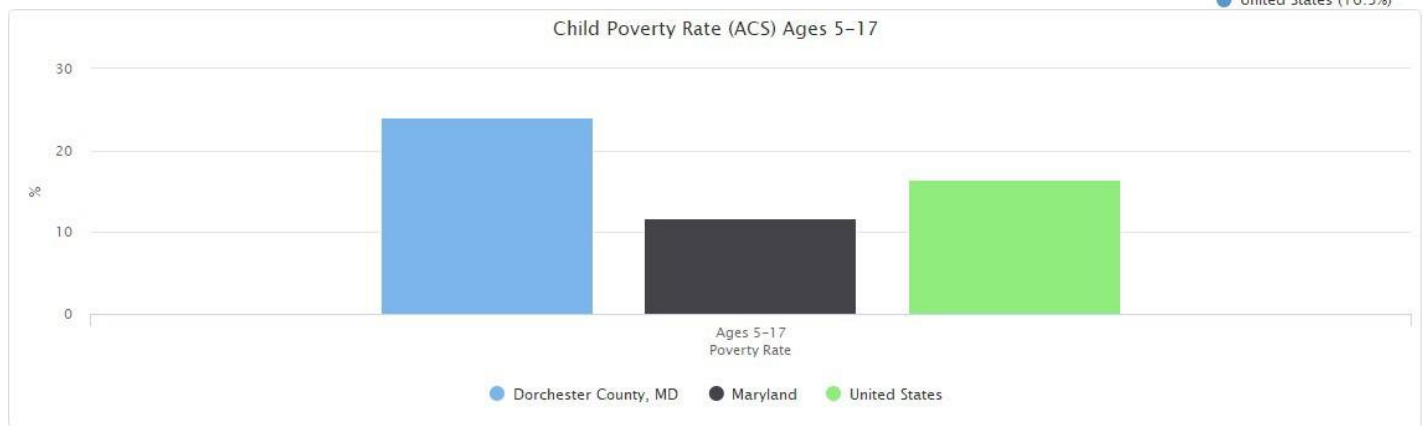
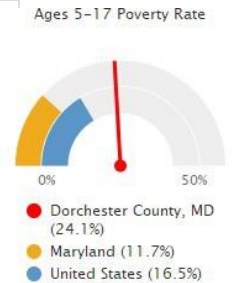
Population and poverty estimates for children age 5-17 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5-year

data, an average of 24.1% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is greater than the national average of 16.5%.

Report Area	Ages 5-17 Total Population	Ages 5-17 In Poverty	Ages 5-17 Poverty Rate
Dorchester County, MD	5,091	1,228	<b>24.1</b>
Maryland	995,009	116,248	11.7
United States	53,931,937	8,907,833	16.5

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: County



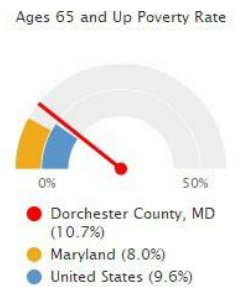
## Seniors in Poverty

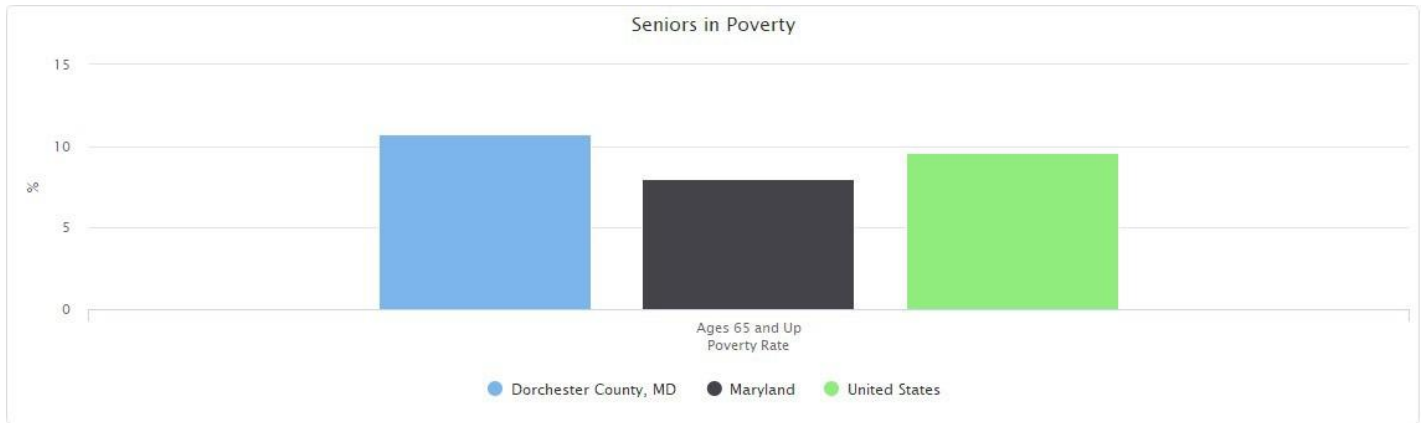
Population and poverty estimates for persons age 65 and up are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, an average of 10.7% of people lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for people living in the report area is less than the national average of 9.6%.

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Dorchester County, MD	6,858	731	<b>10.7%</b>
Maryland	928,248	74,031	8.0%
United States	51,705,664	4,938,116	9.6%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: County





## Employment

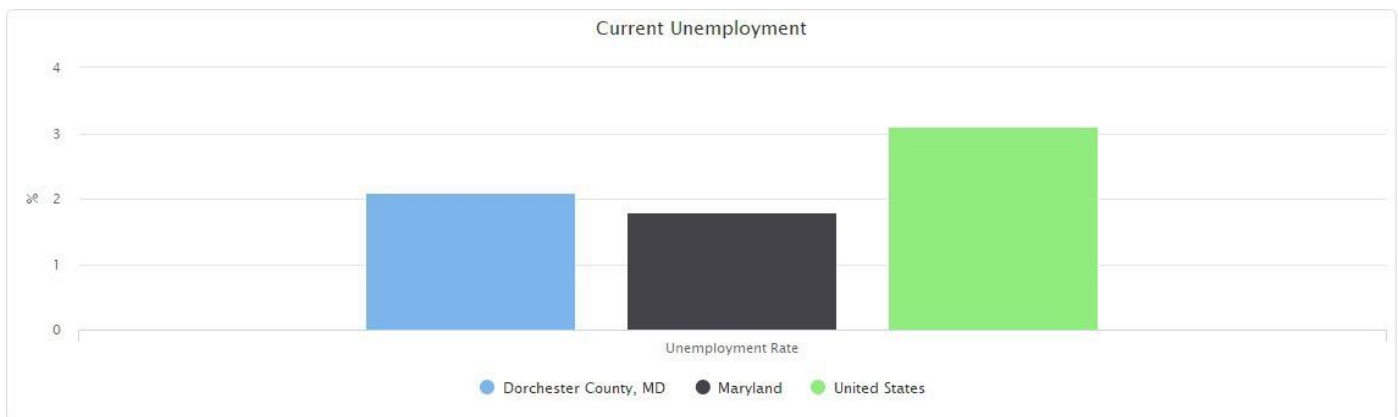
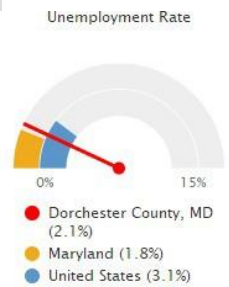
### Current Unemployment

Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for each county in the report area is provided in the table below. Overall, the report area experienced an average 2.1% unemployment rate in April 2023.

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Dorchester County, MD	15,613	15,281	332	<b>2.1%</b>
Maryland	3,182,865	3,123,993	58,872	1.8%
United States	167,398,153	162,185,614	5,212,540	3.1%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

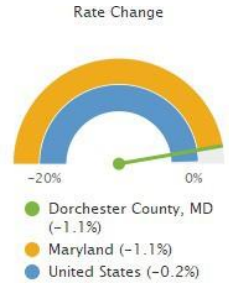
Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2023 - April. Source geography: County



### Unemployment Change

Unemployment change within the report area from April 2022 to April 2023 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this one year period fell from 3.2% to 2.1%.

Report Area	Unemployment April 2022	Unemployment April 2023	Unemployment Rate April 2022	Unemployment Rate April 2023	Rate Change
Dorchester County, MD	490	332	3.2%	2.1%	-1.1%
Maryland	91,435	58,872	2.9%	1.8%	-1.1%
United States	5,543,125	5,212,540	3.4%	3.1%	-0.2%



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2023 - April. Source geography: County



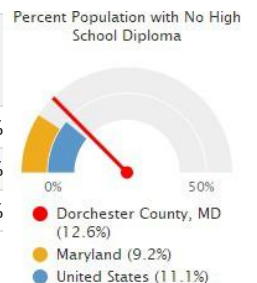
## Education

### Attainment - Overview

Educational Attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area, and helps schools and businesses to understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 years old, and is an estimated average for the period from 2017 to 2021.

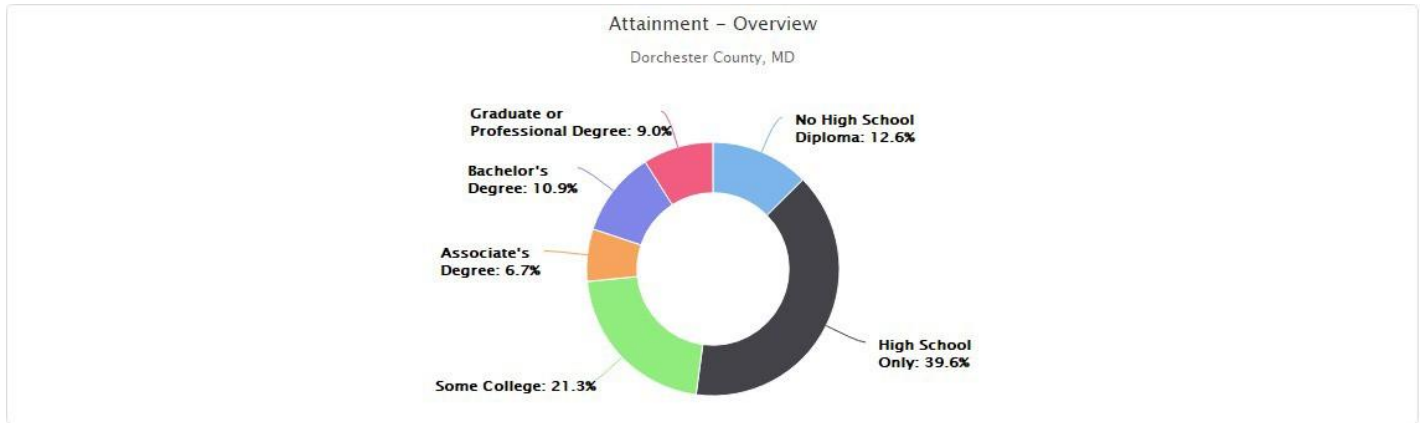
For the selected area, 10.9% have at least a college bachelor's degree, while 39.6% stopped their formal educational attainment after high school.

Report Area	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Dorchester County, MD	12.6%	39.6%	21.3%	6.7%	10.9%	9.0%
Maryland	9.2%	23.9%	18.4%	6.9%	22.0%	19.5%
United States	11.1%	26.5%	20.0%	8.7%	20.6%	13.1%



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract



## Housing

### Households - Overview

This indicator reports the total number and percentage of households by composition (married couple family, nonfamily, etc.). According to the American Community Survey subject definitions, a family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption\*. A non-family household is any household occupied by the householder alone, or by the householder and one or more unrelated individuals.

*\*Family households and married-couple families do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples. Same sex couple households are included in the family households category if there is at least one additional person related to the householder by birth or adoption.*

Report Area	Total Households	Family Households	Family Households, Percent	Non-Family Households	Non-Family Households, Percent
Dorchester County, MD	13,123	8,420	64.16%	4,703	35.84%
Maryland	2,294,270	1,516,689	66.11%	777,581	33.89%
United States	124,010,992	80,755,759	65.12%	43,255,233	34.88%

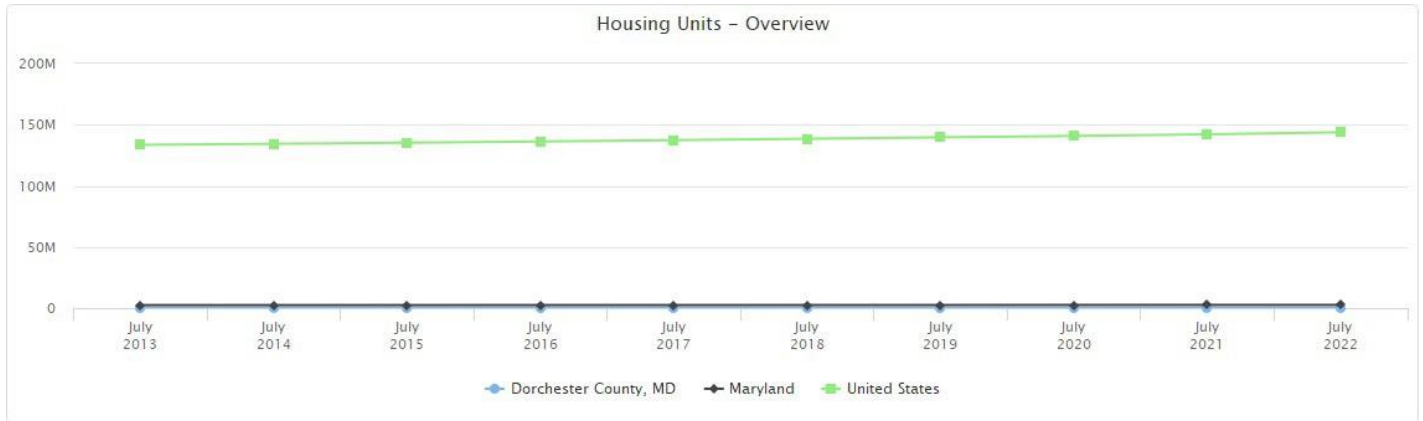
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

### Housing Units - Overview

The number of housing units within the report area in July of each year from 2013-2022 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, there were a total of 16,433 housing units in the report area in 2022, an decrease of -295 (or -1.76%) since 2013 compared to a 6.44% increase statewide.

Report Area	July 2013	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016	July 2017	July 2018	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021	July 2022
Dorchester County, MD	16,728	16,720	16,705	16,700	16,751	16,758	16,765	16,384	16,403	16,433
Maryland	2,404,438	2,416,438	2,426,669	2,437,416	2,448,604	2,458,577	2,470,316	2,533,870	2,546,344	2,559,195
United States	133,538,615	134,388,318	135,285,123	136,286,436	137,366,902	138,516,439	139,684,244	140,805,345	142,153,010	143,786,655

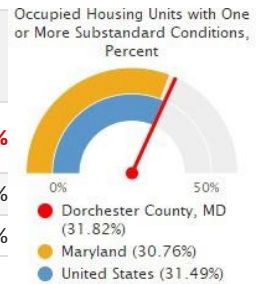
Data Source: US Census Bureau, US Census Population Estimates. Source geography: County



## Housing Quality - Substandard Housing

This indicator reports the number and percentage of owner- and renter-occupied housing units having at least one of the following conditions: 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%. Selected conditions provide information in assessing the quality of the housing inventory and its occupants. This data is used to easily identify homes where the quality of living and housing can be considered substandard. Of the 13,123 total occupied housing units in the report area, 4,176 or 31.82% have one or more substandard conditions.

Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions, Percent
Dorchester County, MD	13,123	4,176	<b>31.82%</b>
Maryland	2,294,270	705,818	30.76%
United States	124,010,992	39,049,569	31.49%



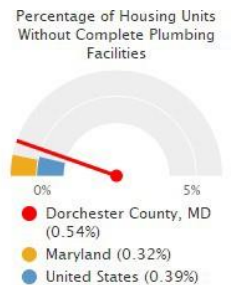
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: Tract

## Number of Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes

The number and percentage of occupied housing units without plumbing are shown for the report area. U.S. Census data shows 165 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2000 and ACS 5 year estimates show 71 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2021.

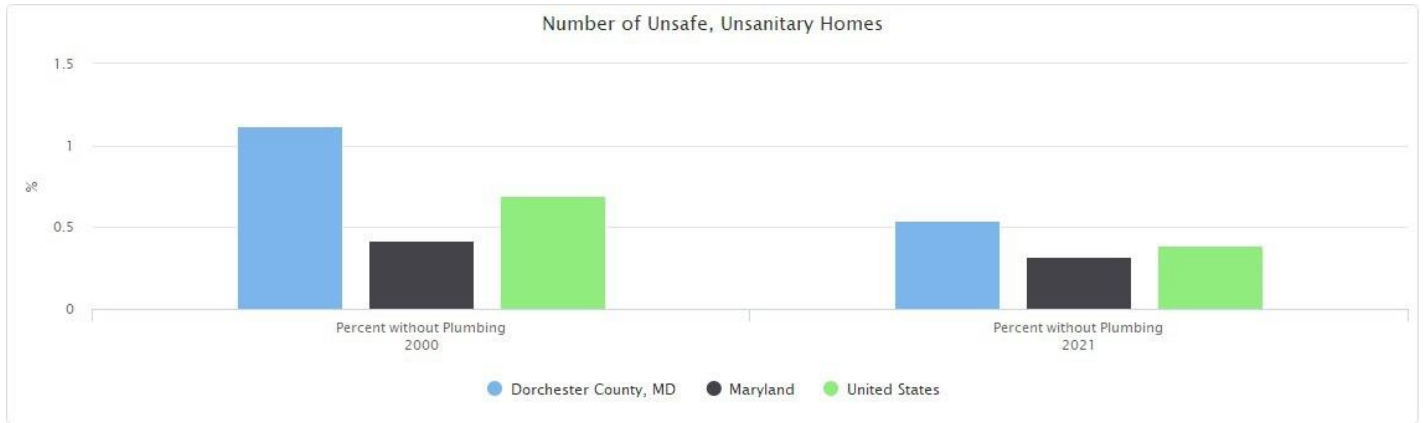
Report Area	Occupied Housing Units 2000	Housing Units without Plumbing 2000	Percent without Plumbing 2000	Occupied Housing Units 2021	Housing Units without Plumbing 2021	Percent without Plumbing 2021
Dorchester County, MD	12,706	165	1.12%	13,123	71	<b>0.54%</b>
Maryland	1,980,859	9,033	0.42%	2,294,270	7,289	0.32%
United States	106,741,426	736,626	0.69%	125,207,782	491,394	0.39%



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21. Source geography: County





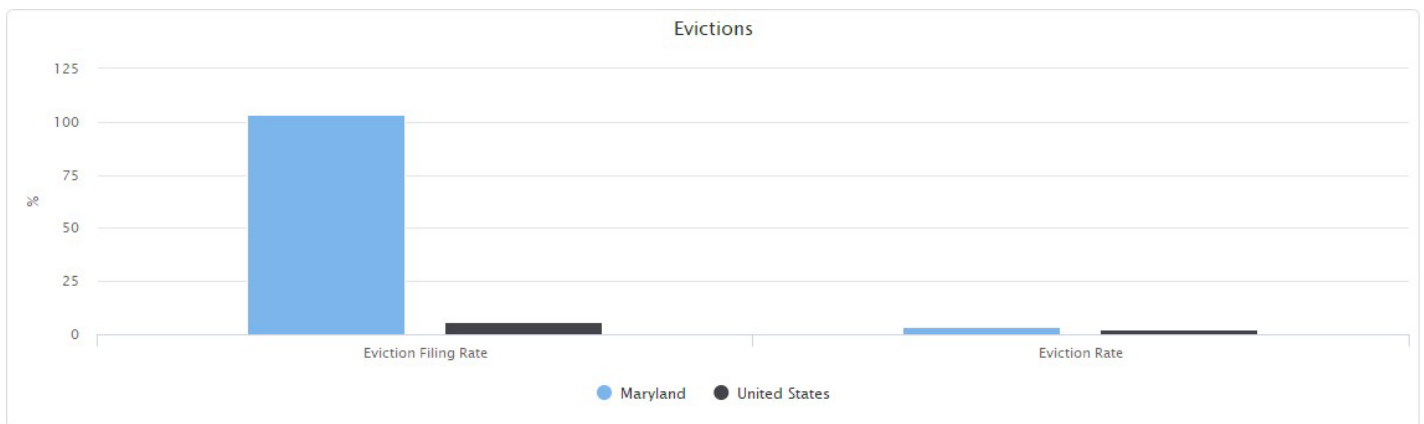
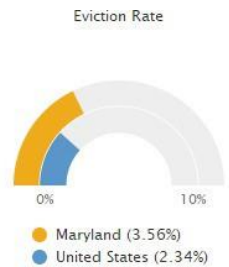
## Evictions

This indicator reports information about formal evictions based on court records from 48 states and the District of Columbia, compiled by the Eviction Lab. The number evictions and eviction filings within the report area is shown in below. The “filing rate” is the ratio of the number of evictions filed in an area over the number of renter-occupied homes in that area. An “eviction rate” is the subset of those homes that received an eviction judgment in which renters were ordered to leave.

Note: Indicator data do not include information about "informal evictions", or those that happen outside of the courtroom.

Report Area	Renter Occupied Households	Eviction Filings	Evictions	Eviction Filing Rate	Eviction Rate
Dorchester County, MD	4,677	No data	No data	No data	No data
Maryland	131,919	136,740	4,694	103.65%	3.56%
United States	38,372,860	2,350,042	898,479	6.12%	2.34%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: Eviction Lab, 2016. Source geography: County



## Homeless Children & Youth

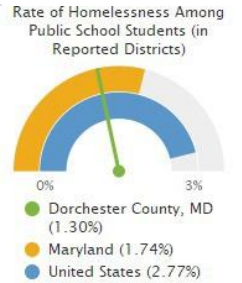
This indicator reports the number of homeless children and youth enrolled in the public school system during the school year 2019-2020. According to the data source definitions, homelessness is defined as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Those who are homeless may be sharing the housing of other persons, living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds, in emergency transitional shelters, or may be unsheltered. Data are aggregated to the report-area level based on school-district summaries where three or more homeless children are counted.

In the report area, of all the 4,710 students enrolled in reported districts during the school year 2019-2020, there were 60 or 1.30% homeless students,

which is lower than the statewide rate of 1.74%.

*Note: Data are available for 100.00% school districts in the report area, representing 100.00% of the public school student population.*

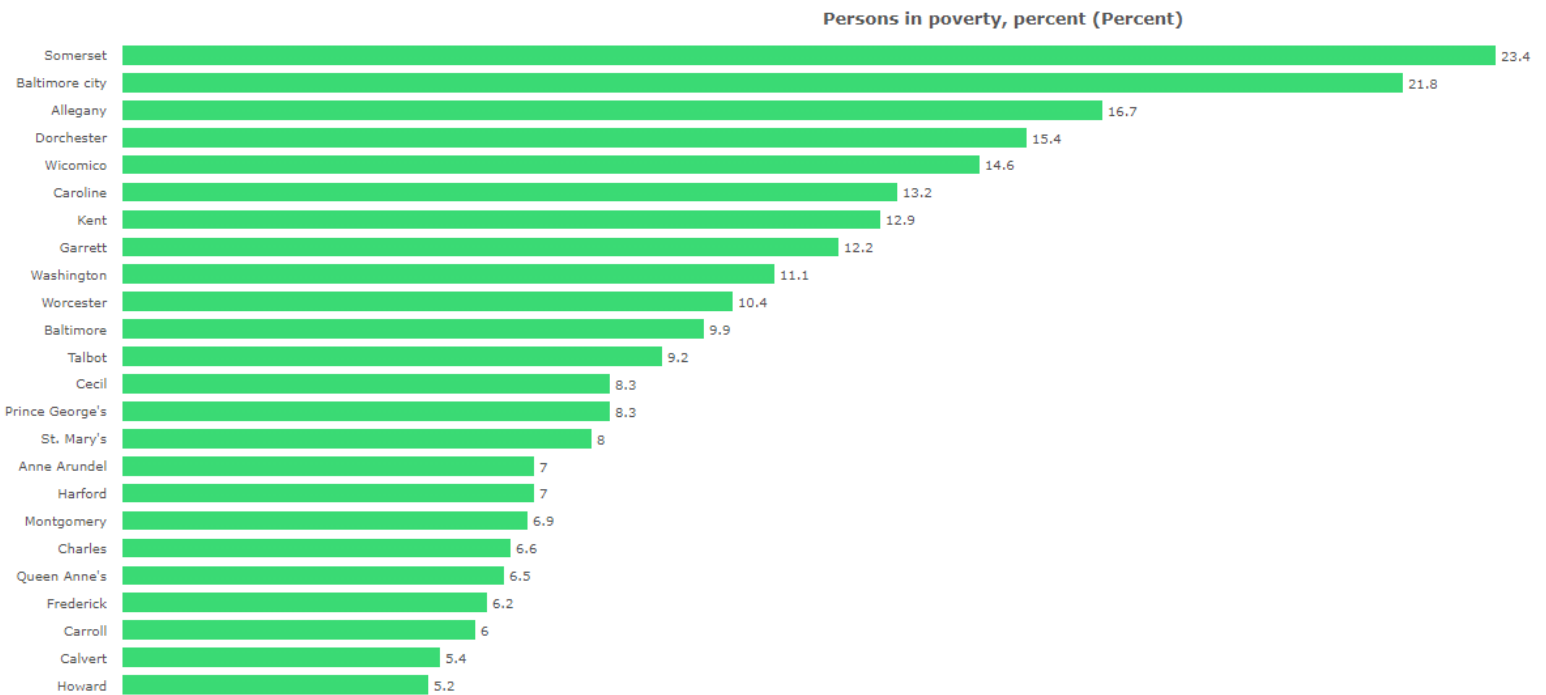
Report Area	Students in Reported Districts	Homeless Students	Homeless Students, Percent	Districts Reporting	Students in Reported Districts
Dorchester County, MD	4,710	60	1.30%	100.00%	100.00%
Maryland	909,404	15,798	1.74%	100.00%	100.00%
United States	47,386,316	1,311,089	2.77%	86.95%	97.47%



*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Department of Education, EDData. Additional data analysis by CARES. 2019-2020. Source geography: School District*

## MARYLAND PERCENT OF POVERTY RATE BY COUNTY



## ALICE IN DORCHESTER COUNTY

ALICE is an acronym for **Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed** — households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can't afford the essentials.

### 2021 POINT-IN-TIME-DATA

Population:32,486

Number of Households: Number of Households: 13,123 (0% change from 2019)

Median Household Income:\$55,652 (state average: \$90,203)

Labor Force Participation Rate:60% (state average: 67%)

ALICE Households:30% (state average 28%) Households in Poverty:15% (state average 10%)

### Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Dorchester County

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures in 2021, it also spurred unprecedented public assistance through pandemic relief measures. In 2019, 829,475 households in Maryland were below the ALICE Threshold; by 2021 that number had changed to 899,798.

### The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, a smartphone plan, and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. In 2021, household costs in every county in Maryland were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,880 for a single adult and \$26.500 for a family of four.

Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing - Rent	\$594	\$514	\$514	\$514	\$610	\$610	\$594	\$514
Housing - Utilities	\$154	\$239	\$239	\$239	\$292	\$292	\$154	\$239
Child Care	\$0	\$201	\$537	\$0	\$402	\$1,158	\$0	\$0
Food	\$400	\$678	\$609	\$733	\$1,195	\$1,090	\$369	\$676
Transportation	\$351	\$449	\$449	\$527	\$828	\$828	\$304	\$433
Health Care	\$221	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$853	\$853	\$601	\$1,202
Technology	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$180	\$273	\$300	\$270	\$429	\$494	\$210	\$317
Tax Payments	\$391	\$606	\$686	\$531	\$999	\$1,197	\$483	\$810
Tax Credits	\$0	(\$354)	(\$577)	\$0	(\$708)	(\$1,198)	\$0	\$0
Monthly Total	\$2,366	\$3,256	\$3,407	\$3,499	\$5,010	\$5,434	\$2,790	\$4,301
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$28,392	\$39,072	\$40,884	\$41,988	\$60,120	\$65,208	\$33,480	\$51,612
Hourly Wage	\$14.20	\$19.54	\$20.44	\$20.99	\$30.06	\$32.60	\$16.74	\$25.81



# ASSESSMENT RESULTS

## QUALITATIVE NARRATIVE OF PRIORITIES AND KEY FINDINGS

The **2022 Community Needs Assessment** aims to discover the most pressing challenges residents of Dorchester County face, the needs of the community, and the causes and conditions of poverty in the service area, so that Delmarva Community Services, Inc. (DCS) can be better prepared to address the issues.

### COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

Phase 1-(August 1 -August 31, 2022) - More than 250 surveys were either mailed or handed out to Dorchester County residents visiting the center during the specified period. Individuals were encouraged to complete the needs assessment survey in an effort to assist us in identifying the greatest needs facing themselves and their family.

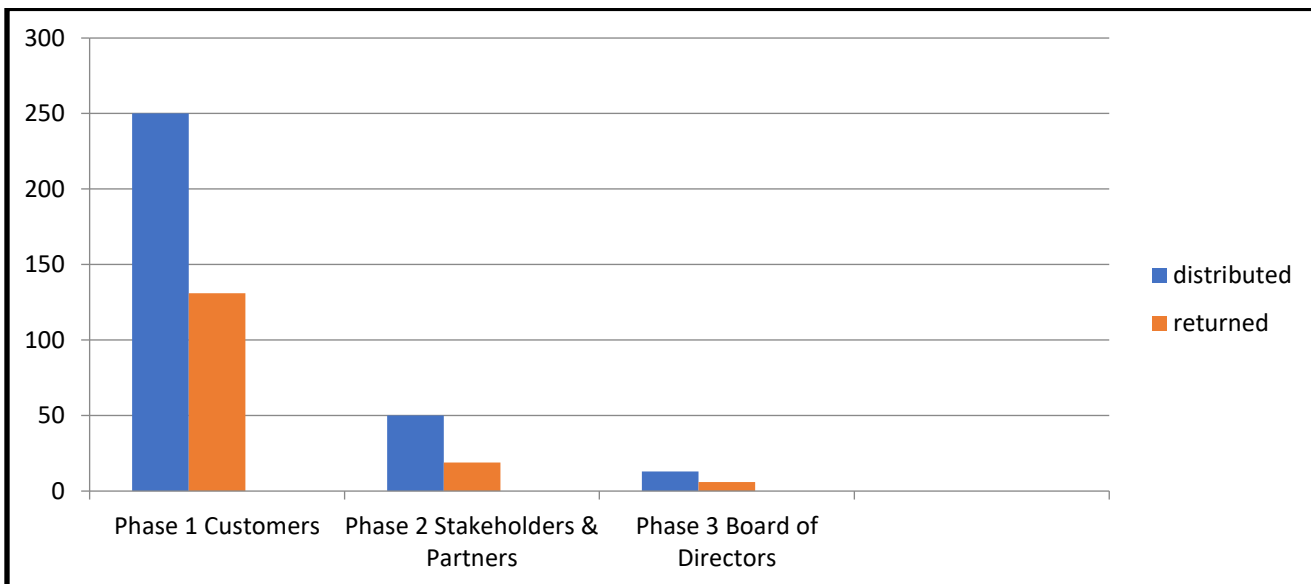
Phase 2 -(August 8 -September 9, 2022) Community Partners and Stakeholders are asked to complete surveys using survey monkey online tool to help us identify commonality in areas of need for the populations we mutually serve, to identify unmet needs and to identify services being duplicated or replicated within the service area.

The Board of Directors were mailed a survey to complete offering suggestions for areas of concern as they see it and from the perspective of consumers who may-live in their community/jurisdictions.

Continuous Evaluation/Assessment - Quarterly meetings are held with DCS program coordinators to identify the needs and concerns of the community. Discussions are held with community partners on a regular basis to determine the general needs of the community.

The following is a breakdown of the survey respondents:

### KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:



Phase 1 – (250) Customer Surveys distributed (131) returned – **52%**

Phase 2 – (50) Community Partner and Stakeholder surveys emailed (19) returned – **38%**

Phase 3 – (13) Board of Director surveys mailed – (6) responded – **46%**

**PRIORITITES:**

CONSUMER	PARTNER/STAKEHOLDER	BOARD OF DIRECTOR
<b>HOUSING</b> Housing for homeless families Affordable housing rental assistance Housing rehab	<b>HEALTH</b> Preventative health care Mental health screening and access to affordable services Prescription assistance especially for senior citizens	<b>EDUCATION</b> Workforce Readiness Skills and Training Life skills training/parenting skills training
<b>HUNGER &amp; NUTRITION</b> Help with food each month Affordable food Help with formula	<b>HUNGER &amp; NUTRITION</b> Rising cost of food is major concern for families who are still struggling to emerge from the pandemic Healthy options/less processed food (more fruits and vegetables in food pantries)	<b>HOUSING</b> Community coalition to address affordable housing concerns Funding to support housing for low income families
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b> Better paying jobs More routes to access transportation to/from work	<b>HOUSING</b> Growing number of homeless persons who cannot find affordable housing Additional financial assistance to secure permanent housing options for families	<b>HUNGER &amp; NUTRITION</b> Access to food in outlying areas of the County

**OTHER CONCERNS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Many families continue to struggle following the pandemic crisis. How can the community provide long-lasting support beyond CARES funding that is ending?

Continue to build on the solid relationships already formed with partners in the community with honest, open dialog about ways to develop affordable housing in Dorchester County

There’s a generation of children who have fallen behind during the pandemic that will likely need additional resources in the coming years to help them regain ground and meet their developmental milestones. DCS can assist in identifying families who are struggling and connect them with the Board of Education for supportive services.



# PLAN OF ACTION

Delmarva Community Services, Inc. (DCS) will use the data gathered to set priorities for the annual CSBG plan over the next 3 years. Additionally, we recognize responses to the survey were lackluster and attribute part of that to the pandemic crisis. We will continue to provide surveys to gauge the satisfaction/dissatisfaction of our consumers and will seek the input and advice of our community partners and stakeholders, as well as continued input from the Board of Directors.

Data will also be shared with the 2GEN guiding coalition to determine ways in which we can address the common concerns and priorities of DCS and other guiding coalition member agencies. Additionally, this data will be used as the agency continues to develop effective strategies that align with the CSBG Organizational Standards

This data will also be used as the agency completes their five-year Strategic plan update in 2023-2024. During this process, consumers, community partners and stakeholders, Board of Directors, management and direct care support personnel and staff of the agency will come together and assess the direction of the agency as well as the priorities of the community at large and how DCS can play an integral role in empowering the families we serve.

This assessment is hereby presented to the Board of Directors at the June 28, 2023 meeting for review, additional input, and approval. Upon approval, the report will be made available on the DCS website and hard copies will be available in the consumer lobby area for review.



# POVERTY STATISTIC RESOURCES

## **MARYLAND POVERTY QUICK FACTS**

<https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/maryland/percent-of-people-of-all-ages-in-poverty#chart>

## **NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOL**

[https://communityactionpartnership.com/online\\_tools/community-needs-assessment-tool-2/](https://communityactionpartnership.com/online_tools/community-needs-assessment-tool-2/)

## **UNITED WAY LOWER EASTERN SHORE ALICE REPORT**

<https://www.uwles.org/sites/uwles.org/files/Dorchester%20ALICE%20Report.pdf>

## **ADDITIONAL FORMS TO FOLLOW:**

- CONSUMER COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY (2 pages)
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY (1 page)