

COMMUNITY

SNAPSHOT

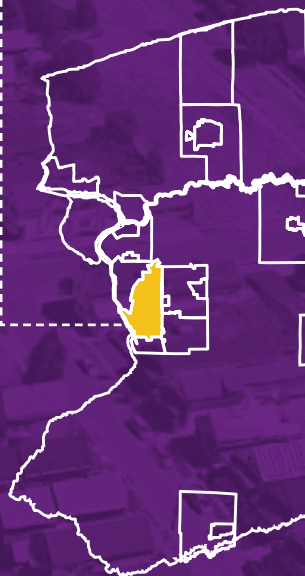
78,900+

live in or near
poverty

CITY OF
Buffalo
(East of Main St)

SEPTEMBER 2019

Since 2011, those
living in or near
**poverty increased
by 2%**, while the
total **population
declined by 3%**.



**Numbers
in Need**

IN BUFFALO NIAGARA



A Mobile Safety Net Team
initiative established by
The John R. Oishei Foundation



Prepared by



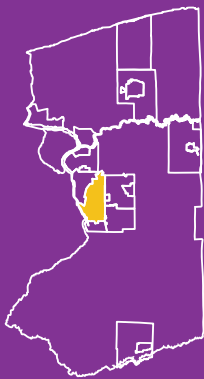
University at Buffalo

Regional Institute

School of Architecture and Planning

City of Buffalo (East of Main St)

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Numbers In Need is an initiative designed to strengthen the safety-net of human services in Buffalo Niagara communities that are most in need.

Visit NumbersInNeed.org

About this Report

This report offers a snapshot of findings for the City of Buffalo (east of Main Street), with new data on the community's population that lives in or near poverty. It includes the perspectives of human services providers, the landscape of providers, and strategies that could strengthen the safety-net for individuals and families.

Research in this report was led by the University at Buffalo Regional Institute in partnership with the Mobile Safety-Net Team. It was commissioned by The John R. Oishei Foundation. This work updates and expands upon a community report completed by the research team in 2014.

A Mobile Safety Net Team
initiative established by
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School of Architecture and Planning

Defining Need

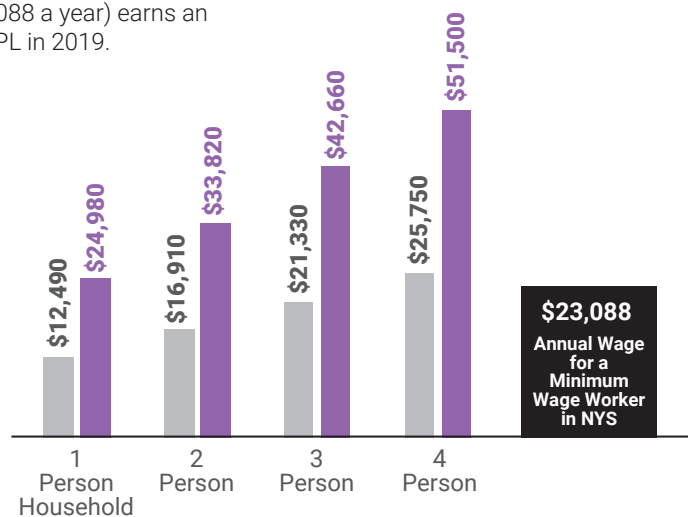
Nearly 79,000 residents east of Main Street in the City of Buffalo live in or near poverty with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line.

The federal poverty line (FPL) is \$12,490 for a household of one, \$16,910 for a two-person household, \$21,330 for a family of three and \$25,750, for a family of four. A single parent of two who works full time, year round at the minimum wage in NYS (\$11.10 per hour or \$23,088 a year) earns an income just above the FPL in 2019.

The FPL is adjusted annually by the federal government and varies by household size. It is often used to determine eligibility for programs that assist individuals and families with basic living expenses such as food, utilities, and rental housing. Households with incomes that exceed two hundred percent of the FPL (up to \$51,500 for a family of four) generally do not meet income guidelines for most programs.

Federal Poverty Guidelines, 2019

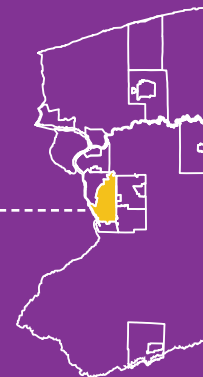
■ Federal Poverty Level
■ 200% of Federal Poverty Level



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Reports for this Community

This report is part of a comprehensive suite of reports for the **City of Buffalo (East of Main Street)**, one of 12 representative communities in the Buffalo Niagara Region selected for assessment and investment as part of the Numbers in Need project.



Each of these reports for this community is available online at NumbersinNeed.org

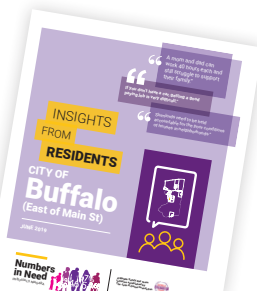
Community Snapshot

This report, **Community Snapshot**, presents an overview of findings from the research in this community, with new data and information on the people living in or near poverty, their barriers to programs and services, the landscape of service providers, and strategies for strengthening the community so that all residents can thrive economically. This report draws from more detailed findings available on the Numbers in Need website, as well as from Insights from Residents and Insights from Providers. Agency and community leaders can use this report to understand key findings and identify topics for further exploring.



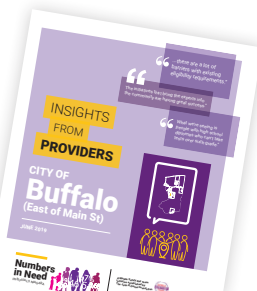
Insights from Residents

Insights from Residents presents a more detailed look at the community's vulnerable populations, their needs, urgent concerns, and barriers to programs and services. A survey of residents and conversations with residents inform findings in this report. Agency and community leaders can use this document as they develop programs and services that respond to the needs of residents and remove barriers to jobs, programs, and services faced by residents.



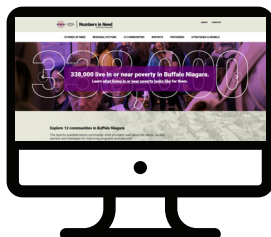
Insights from Providers

Insights from Providers explores the perspectives of service providers in the community with respect to gaps in the landscape of services, barriers to reaching residents, promising developments, and strategies for strengthening the landscape of programs and services. A focus group with agency leaders informed the findings presented in this document. Agency and community leaders can use this report to shape programs and services that respond to identified gaps and barriers, while leveraging system strengths and promising developments.



Visit us online at NumbersinNeed.org

NumbersInNeed.org is an online tool that leaders can use to understand economically vulnerable populations in the Buffalo Niagara Region, their urgent needs and concerns, barriers to services and factors that matter such as access to good paying jobs, educational attainment, and transportation options. The website features individual stories, community and regional indicators, interactive lists and maps of service providers, strategies for strengthening communities and models to consider.



Poverty, Need and Economic Vulnerability

Nearly 79,000 individuals in the City of Buffalo east of Main Street live in or near poverty. This number represents 57% of the total population in the community. Many of these families have urgent concerns and face barriers to the programs and services that could help them. Most live paycheck to paycheck, juggling financial obligations and making trade-offs as they try to make ends meet on limited incomes.

Economic need in this community grew slightly between 2011 and 2017. **Today, the community has more people living in or near poverty than it did six years ago.** These 78,982 individuals account for a slightly larger percentage of the total population than they did in 2011.

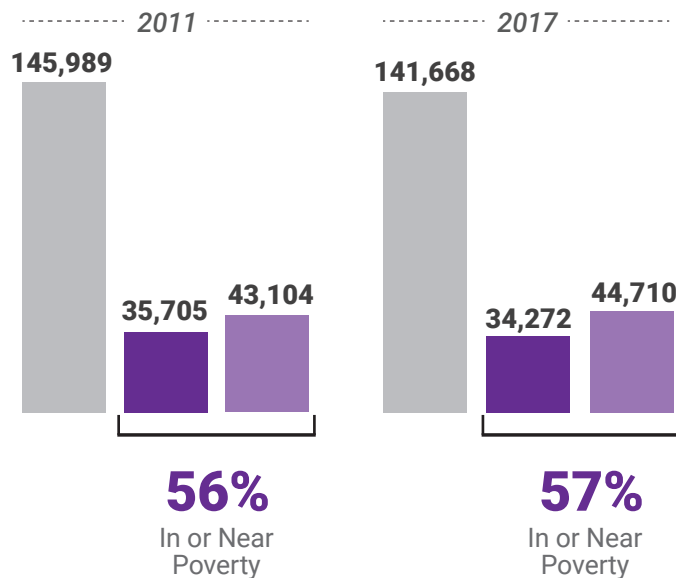
Single parents, children and foreign-born residents are most in need. About half of children in the community - over 17,000 altogether - live in a family that is surviving under the federal poverty level.

Half of single parents live in poverty. This rate is more than double the poverty rate for married couples with children. Challenges faced by foreign born residents put them at greater risk for poverty, as over a third of all immigrants or refugees live in poverty.

More than half the population faces poverty or lives on an income close to the poverty line. As population declines, economic need is on the rise.

Total Population and Population In or Near Poverty, 2011 and 2017

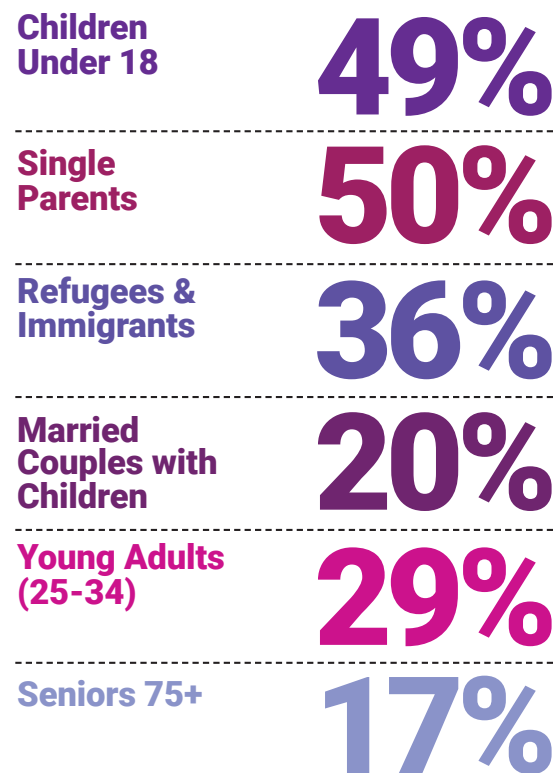
Population: Total Near Poverty In Poverty



Source: American Community Survey, 2007-11 5-Year Estimates; American Community Survey, 2011-17 5-Year Estimates

49% of children under 18 are in poverty, nearly 3 times greater than the rate of seniors 75 and older.

Vulnerable Populations In Poverty, 2017



Source: American Community Survey, 2017, 5-Year Estimates.

Factors That Matter

Many factors contribute to poverty and economic vulnerability. These include access to higher-paying jobs with career pathways, education and workforce development, high-quality, affordable housing, transportation to jobs and resources, and safe places to live, work and play.

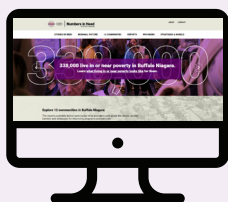
Education may be the strongest anti-poverty strategy as it prepares students for employment and career advancement. Most adults in this community could boost their income by attaining a college degree or completing a training program that leads to a higher-paying, mid-skill job. For youth, the declining number of juvenile arrests over recent years will expand their future career prospects.

Access to job training and pathways to employment near where residents live in the community are particularly important since one in three households does not have a car. The comparatively high cost of rental housing in the community may contribute. Four out of five lower-income households that rent pay nearly a third or more of their income on housing, leaving little income left for other household expenses or a savings for future purchases.

Community Data

Visit us online at
NumbersInNeed.org

Explore more about this community and others in Buffalo Niagara through interactive features and stories.



WORK AND INCOME

Healthcare providers account for six out of 10 of the largest employers in this community. Expanding opportunity through career pathways in this industry could lead to higher-paying, middle-skill jobs for residents.

Top 10 Employers, 2019

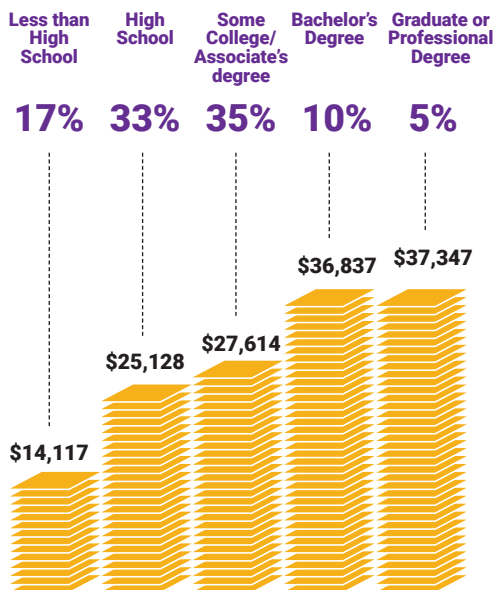
- | | |
|--|---|
| #1 Buffalo General Hospital | #6 Sisters Of Charity Hospital |
| #2 Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center | #7 Buffalo VA Medical Center |
| #3 Erie County Medical Center | #8 Mercy Hospital Of Buffalo |
| #4 Buffalo City School District | #9 Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority |
| #5 University at Buffalo | #10 Lactalis |

Source: InfoGroup, ReferenceUSA Business Database, 2019; Buffalo Business First, Book of Lists, 2018

EDUCATION

A majority of adults in the community (85% of the total) have potential to boost their earnings significantly by pursuing vocational training or completing a college degree.

Educational Attainment and Median Earnings of Adults Age 25+, 2017



Source: American Community Survey, 2017, 5-Year Estimates.

HOUSING

Housing is a relatively large expense for low-income households. Housing costs are particularly burdensome on renters—82% of whom spend about a third or more of their income on housing.

% Lower-Income Households (earning less than \$35k/yr) that are Cost-Burdened, 2017

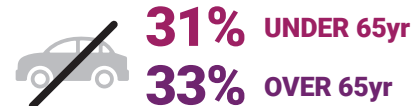


Source: American Community Survey, 2017, 5-Year Estimates.

TRANSPORTATION

About one in three households do not own a vehicle. This points to the need for increased access to jobs and services close to where people live.

% of Residents Without a Vehicle, 2017

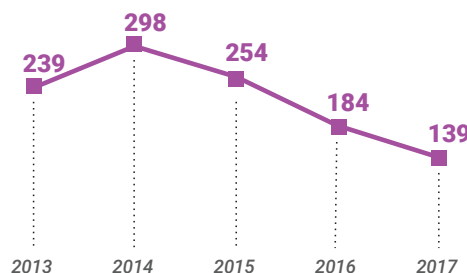


Source: American Community Survey, 2017, 5-Year Estimates.

CRIME

The total number of juvenile arrests in the City of Buffalo declined by 42% between 2013 and 2017, from 239 to 139.

Juvenile Arrests, 2013-2017



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Niagara County and Erie County, 2013-2017.

The Landscape of Providers

243

SERVICE PROVIDERS
in the City of Buffalo
(East of Main St)

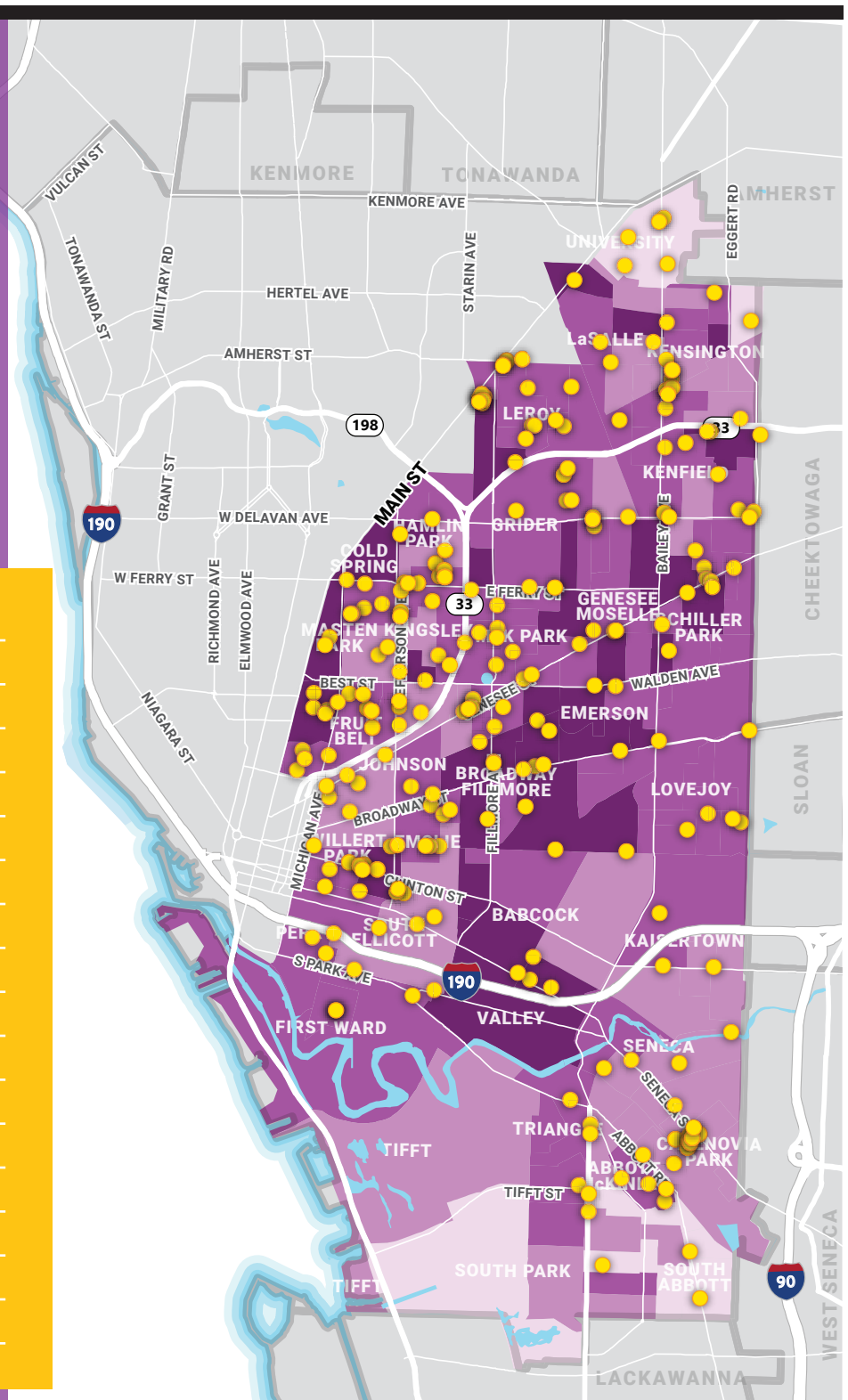


Types of services provided, by %

58%	Education/Training
30%	Food
30%	Youth Programs
27%	Information/Referral
19%	Mental Health/Addiction
17%	Health/Wellness
12%	Crime/Juvenile
11%	Clothing
10%	Financial Literacy
9%	Affordable Housing
8%	Senior Programs
6%	Homeless Services
4%	Transportation
4%	Teen Parent Programs
3%	Veteran Services
2%	Legal

See more online

Visit NumbersInNeed.org to view additional maps and the listing of service providers.



Population In or Near Poverty, 2017

0%-25% 26%-50% 51%-75% 76%-100%

● Providers

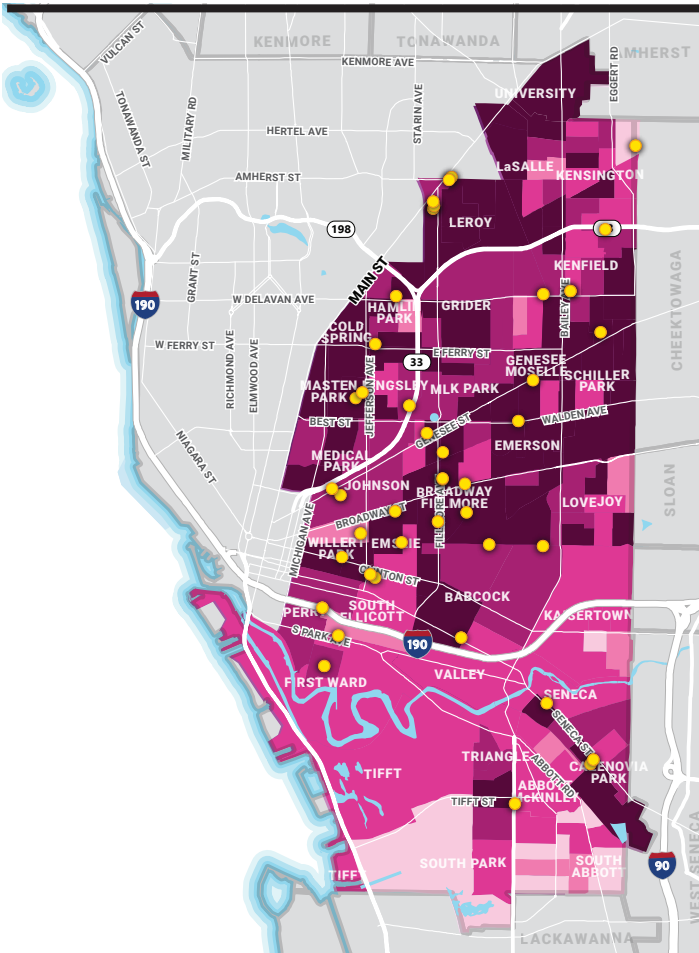
Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2013-2017.

Provider Services and Needs of Residents

% Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Housing Costs, 2017

0%-10% 11%-20% 21%-30% 31%-40% Over 40%

Providers offering Housing and Financial services

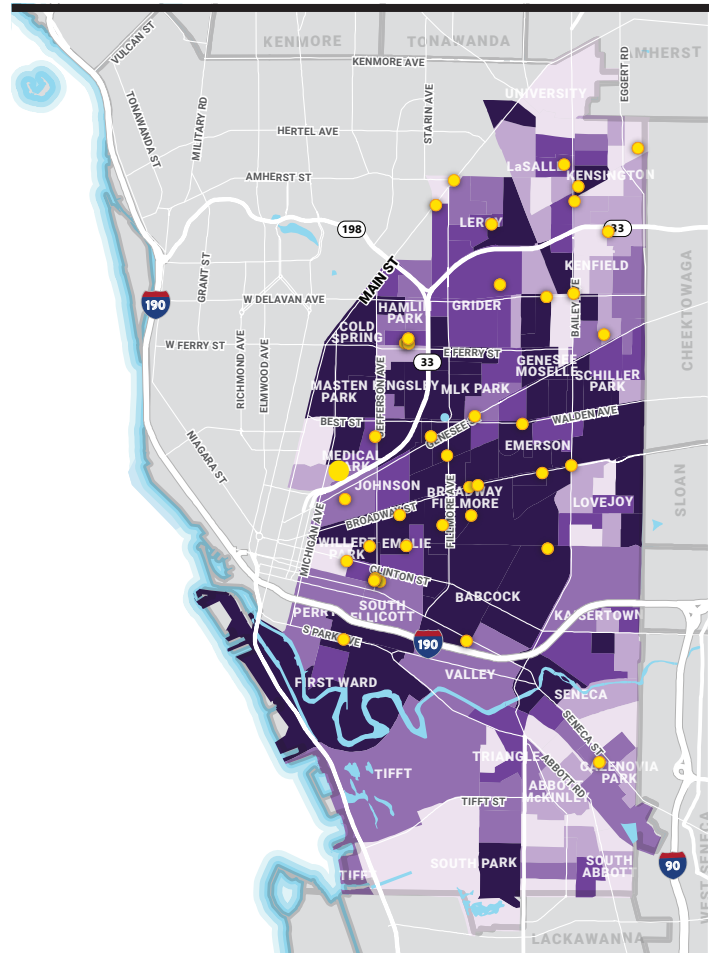


Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2013-2017.

% Housing Units that are Vacant, 2017

0%-5% 6%-10% 11%-15% 16%-20% Over 20%

Providers offering Crime/Juvenile and Homeless services



Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2013-2017.

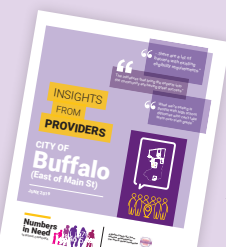
Many locations offer financial literacy and affordable housing services east of Main Street, but some neighborhoods where need is high may be underserved. In total, 43 service providers east of Main Street offer housing or financial support services. Comparing these locations to where cost-burdened households are concentrated can show neighborhoods with a heightened need for these services. Compared to other parts of the community, the Lovejoy, Emerson, and Schiller Park neighborhoods have a high share of households burdened by housing costs, but relatively few locations offering services to connect residents with affordable housing and financial support opportunities.

Neighborhoods with higher residential vacancy rates tend to have fewer service providers dealing with issues tied to vacancy, such as homelessness and crime. Neighborhoods east of Main Street have some of the highest residential vacancy rates in the region. High rates of vacancy are often correlated with crime and homelessness. The community has 38 organizations offering services for crime and homelessness, but these are less common in neighborhoods hit hardest by vacancy. Areas where over 20% of housing units sit vacant, like the Babcock and Schiller Park neighborhoods, contain most of the community's vacant units, but less than half of the service providers for crime and homelessness.

Opportunities and Challenges for Providers

Read more Insights from Providers

A detailed report exploring the perspectives from providers in this community.



What's happened over the past 5 years?

In some respects, the landscape of services is stronger than it was. In 2014, providers described how there was not enough programming for youth and how there was a need for greater vocational training for adults. This time, youth programs emerged as a programmatic strength identified by providers. Providers also identified Education/ Training as a strength and talked about several workforce development programs in the community that are preparing residents for jobs in manufacturing, energy and healthcare. Providers did say that not enough training programs offer the wraparound services that residents in poverty need to succeed. Transportation continues to be barrier to jobs, training, and services outside of neighborhoods. To address transportation challenges, an increasing number of providers are partnering to bring services into neighborhoods at locations that residents are already using. They describe these partnerships as successful and an opportunity for reaching even more residents.



← - Available online at NumbersInNeed.org



Strengths of the system

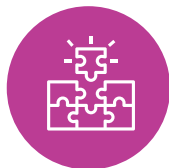
Nearly 250 service providers are located in the community.

There are more providers here than in any other community in the Buffalo Niagara Region.

Over half of providers offer education and workforce training, which is a core component of a strong anti-poverty strategy.

One in three providers offer food as part of their programs. Providers identified food as a strength of the community, even though not having enough money for food was a top urgent concern of residents surveyed.

Dozens of providers offer out-of-school programs for youth. These programs offer a range of supports and resources that support the thousands of children living in the community who are growing up in poverty.



Gaps that Exist

Domestic violence is not always recognized.

Terminology plays a role. Providers say that a push to rename domestic violence as "intimate partner violence" would support expanded identification of victims.

Services for domestic violence survivors are not always sufficient in supporting survivors in leaving their abuser and living independently.

Buffalo's older housing stock is expensive to repair which creates challenges to aging in place. While some helpful programs exist, funding is limited and income eligibility creates barriers.

Landlord abuse is prevalent. Providers say housing conditions sometimes threaten safety and health of residents.



Barriers

Transportation is an enormous barrier to jobs and services.

Many jobs are located far away from neighborhoods.

The cost of public transit creates barriers for both providers and residents.

Walkability of streets and sidewalks creates challenges to getting around within neighborhoods.

Some high school graduates are not job ready and lack basic reading and math skills.

Underemployed workers do not qualify for funding for training.

Not enough trainers offer the wraparound services that residents need to succeed.

Some individuals with urgent health needs face long waits for a medical appointment.



Promising Developments

Northland Workforce Training Center prepares students for good paying jobs, while offering wraparound services that reduce student barriers.

Eight Days of Hope will assist 100 homeowners in the University District with repairs in 2019.

Agency partnerships are expanding service availability at the neighborhood level.

Harvest House trains 1,300 annually for living wage jobs in healthcare.

More households will qualify for home assistance through the Homes and Community Renewal Program due to the program's recently expanded income eligibility limits.

\$50 million in capital investments will benefit commercial corridors that play a role in job creation, walkability, livability, and service access.

Survey Results of Economically Vulnerable Residents

595 residents in need took the survey

Immediate repercussions of not having enough money were some of the most frequently reported urgent concerns among residents. Residents facing hunger, cold winters, or the choice between working and providing childcare, might be more likely to take on debt to help them pay utility, food, and childcare costs, resulting in outstanding debt that is difficult to pay off. But getting help with these challenges can be a challenge of its own. A fifth of residents face several barriers to services, such as difficulty traveling, confusing processes, limited Internet access and more.



Read more Insights from Residents

A detailed report exploring the community's vulnerable populations, their needs, urgent concerns and barriers to support services.



42%

REPORTED HAVING SOME TYPE OF URGENT CONCERN

TOP 3 URGENT CONCERNS REPORTED BY THESE RESIDENTS



HEALTH CARE NEEDS

47%



of vulnerable residents are in need of some type of healthcare but can't afford it.

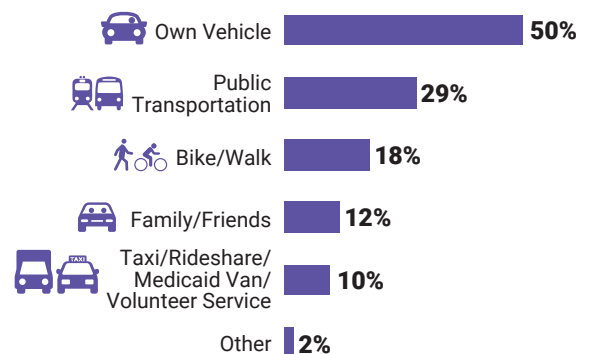
Only one in eight respondents reported not having insurance, but nearly half of respondents needed healthcare that they could not afford. This might indicate that simply having insurance is not enough, if it does not cover all of the necessary costs to provide quality, holistic healthcare.



TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

Half of respondents use their own vehicle to get around, but other methods of transportation like public transit, biking and walking are just as prevalent. More than one in ten respondents relied on family and friends to help them get around, and about the same amount used taxis, rideshare, Medicaid vans or volunteer services.

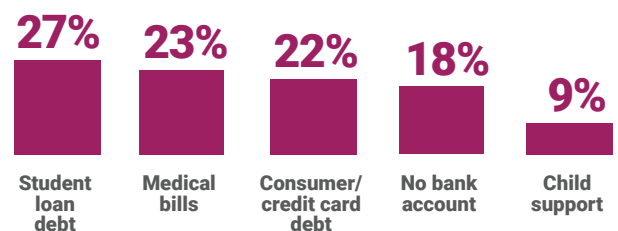
How respondents get around



FINANCIAL NEEDS

In addition to low incomes, residents face other financial challenges. Half of respondents are dealing with some kind of debt, and another quarter have medical bills to pay. Respondents often turn to taking on debt to help cover household expenses when regular income is insufficient, but have a hard time paying off that debt later due to low income.

Top 5 Financial Challenges in Household



Regional Strategies and Models to Consider



Finding solutions to community challenges begins with laying out strategies for addressing their root cause. Strategies outline potential action steps that can be implemented, name some of the actors who could be involved in completing those actions, and be supported by models of their implementation. Models from other places in the region, country, and world demonstrate how other communities have carried out a similar strategy, and serve as a starting point for understanding how strategies can be successfully implemented in this community.

The following strategies and models are only examples of all the possible solutions to this community's challenges. **Please visit NumbersInNeed.org to view a more comprehensive collection of strategies and models that cover a broader range of topics.**



Transportation

Enhance and promote public transit to increase access to jobs and services.

For those without a personal car, access to services and opportunities can be limited. The region has over 60,000 households without a vehicle, many of whom live in poverty, but many service providers and amenities are not within walking distance of a transit stop. Service providers can consider transit accessibility in how they provide services, by locating facilities near transit stops, or offering transportation for customers without a vehicle. Service providers can look to offer transportation themselves, or form partnerships with transit agencies and ridesharing companies to fill in transportation gaps in areas underserved by transit.

Potential Action Steps

Partner with ridesharing companies like Uber and Lyft to provide first- and last-mile connections for residents and services beyond walking distance of a transit stop.

Develop transit hubs that connect multiple modes of transportation to enable multi-modal trips.

Provide funding for transit trips to essential services, like employment, health care, and education.

Partner with transportation providers and other social service organizations to fill in transportation gaps.

Promote the use of volunteers, and innovative funding among service organizations to provide transportation for customers, clients, and workers.

Potential Actors in the Community

NFTA

Lyft and Uber

Paratransit

Taxi Services

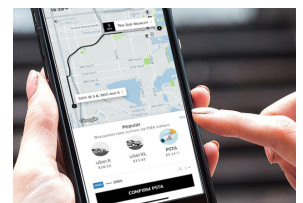
Local governments

Economic and community development organizations

Models to Consider

PSTA & Uber - St. Petersburg, FL
uber.com/blog/tampa-bay/uber-psta-dc/

RTA Connect On-Demand - Dayton, OH
i-riderta.org/rta-connect/on-demand



Regional Strategies and Models to Consider, cont'd.



Workforce Development

Reduce barriers to training and employment by incorporating wraparound support services into training models.

Many people enrolled in training programs require additional supports to achieve successful outcomes. Single parents looking to enhance job opportunities need child care, which is often cost prohibitive. Others need transportation to access training and job opportunities. Some need help transitioning into careers after being homeless or incarcerated. Many others need soft skills development, job placement, literacy training, counseling, and financial assistance. Without support services to address these issues, trainees are more likely to drop out of programs or lose their jobs.

Potential Action Steps

Partner with transportation providers or volunteers to provide or help pay for transportation for those without a personal vehicle or with mobility challenges.

Provide support or counseling services for those dealing with addiction, or other mental health issues.

Offer parents in workforce training programs assistance to help them find, finance, and use childcare.

Provide individual academic advisement and case management to learn each individuals' unique challenges and address their needs for training and support services.

Deliver training for soft skills, such as time management, resume writing workshops, financial literacy, and preparation for job interviews.

Potential Actors in the Community

K-12 schools

Colleges and universities

Workforce trainers

Local employers and industry organizations

NYS Department of Labor and other government agencies

Economic and community development organizations

Religious organizations

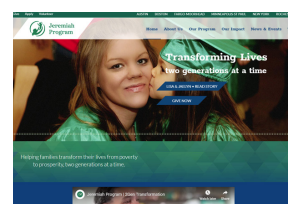
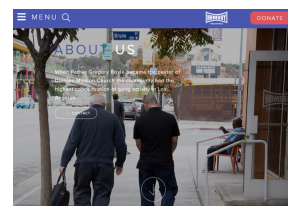
Models to Consider

Homeboy Industries - Los Angeles, CA

homeboyindustries.org

Jeremiah Program - Austin, Boston, Fargo, Minneapolis, New York, Rochester (MN)

jeremiahprogram.org



Data Sources & Notes

Cover

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

US Census Bureau, US Decennial Census, 2000.

Defining Need, Page 2

Federal Poverty Level: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2019.

Minimum Wage: New York State Department of Labor, Minimum Wage (effective 12/31/18).

Poverty Map, Page 3

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

Community boundaries align with census tract boundaries. Boundaries are 99.95% accurate based on where homes are located.

Poverty, Need and Economic Vulnerability, Page 4

Population in or Near Poverty: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-11 5-Year Estimates; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-17 5-Year Estimates.

Vulnerable Populations: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

Factors that Matter, Page 5

Work and Income: InfoGroup, ReferenceUSA Business Database, 2019; Buffalo Business First, Book of Lists, 2018. Top employers were first downloaded from ReferenceUSA and mapped to confirm location within the boundaries of the 12 communities. Top businesses by number of employees were cross-referenced with the Buffalo Business First Book of Lists (2018)

to ensure accuracy in number of employees at the business location, when available.

Education: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017. All income by education numbers are actual medians except those for graduate or professional degrees; these have been calculated by weighted averages of the medians, because combined medians were not available via Social Explorer.

Housing: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017. Low-income households in this instance are defined as households with incomes below \$35,000/year.

Transportation: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

Crime: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Niagara County and Erie County, 2013-2017. Crime data for the City of Buffalo is not available at a level less than citywide, so data for the whole city is provided for Buffalo West and Buffalo East.

In 2017 NYS passed Raise the Age legislation that deals with non-felony offenses committed by 16- and 17-year olds outside of the criminal justice system. The law went into effect for 16 year olds on October 1, 2018 and will be effective for 17 year olds on October 1, 2019. While this law did not affect the juvenile arrest data shown in this report, it may affect trends in future years, beginning in 2018.

The Landscape of Providers, Page 6

Poverty Map: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

Provider Data: Information submitted by agency providers through a provider questionnaire updated a listing of providers developed for the 2014 community report for Buffalo (east of Main Street).

Providers provided information on program and service locations, agency location, geographic scope and more. Most service providers are not-for-profit and public sector providers.

Tax records available through the IRS and National Center for Charitable Statistics were used to identify new not-for-profits with locations in the community since 2014.

Provider Services and Needs of Residents, Page 7

Poverty Map: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

Provider Data: See note for page 6.

Opportunities and Challenges for Providers, Page 8

Provider Focus Group, April 5, 2019.

Survey Results of Economically Vulnerable Residents, Page 9

Resident Survey, January - June 2019

Strategies and Models

Workforce Development, Page 11

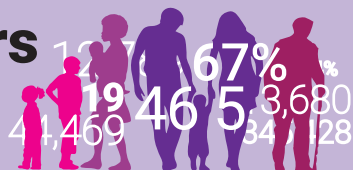
The number of households across the Buffalo Niagara Region without a vehicle is from the U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2017.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT City of Buffalo (East of Main St)

SEPTEMBER 2019

Numbers in Need

IN BUFFALO NIAGARA



A Mobile Safety Net Team
initiative established by
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Prepared by

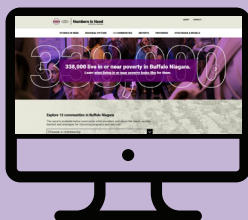


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