Lambton County

Community Safety & Well-Being Data Report

May 5, 2021

DRAFT

Acknowledgements

In addition to the members of the CSWB Advisory Committee (AC) and Oversight Committee (OC), the following individuals and organizations have been instrumental in creating this report.

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- The Regional Municipality of Halton- sharing their CSWB Plan indicators used in the creation of their CSWB Plan

1.0 Introduction

A)   Report Purpose & Structure

This summary report of data accumulated to date regarding the Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Plan is intended to be used by the project's Advisory Committee (AC) as they establish the recommended priorities for the Plan. These recommendations will be discussed by the Oversight Committee (OC) and the priorities confirmed. Each priority will then have Implementation and Evaluation aspects added. The data shared here is meant to also be useful in establishing the actions and metrics for the priorities.

The Priorities along with the Implementation and Evaluation components will form the Community Safety & Well-being Plan for Lambton County which is required through Ontario-wide legislation as part of the *Police Services Act* (effective January 1, 2019) and the *Safer Ontario Act* (2018),

On February 5, 2020 Lambton County Council approved that one County-wide Plan would be created rather than an individual plan for each lower-tier municipality.

This report begins with an Introduction and a description of the Methodology used and then is organized in three broad sections – Safety, Well-being and Health, with sub-themes identified for each. Within each section, the information is organized by the three data sources: Indicators, Community Survey results and the Asset Mapping component. Periodically, quotes have been inserted from the survey and these are intended to be anonymous. A Glossary and the References used, primarily for the Indicators, can be found at the end of the Report.

2.0   Methodology for Data Gathering

It should be noted that this data collection was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. This may have had some impact on the responses from both the community (to the survey) and the community organizations (with the information for Indicators).

A)   Indicators

The list of indicators was adapted from those generated by the Regional Municipality of Halton in the creation of their Community Safety & Well-being Plan.

Known sources of local and provincial data such as Statistics Canada were then culled, and community agencies associated with the local Advisory and Oversight Committees were queried for the most recent results related to safety, well-being, and health. Results are presented to provide context on how Lambton County compares to the rest of Ontario. Where data for the county as a whole was not available, data for

Sarnia is presented. Sarnia data does not include First Nations but County of Lambton data does include the three local First Nations Communities.

The Reference section at the end of this Report provides the links to the sources of the data for the indicators provided that are publicly available should more detail be helpful.

B) Community Survey

An online survey was conducted in order to engage residents of Lambton County on topics related to safety, health, and well-being. The survey was open to any resident of Lambton County. The sample for this survey was non-random, as any eligible resident was able to participate. Community input was sought through 42 questions that were largely adapted from other CSWB community surveys across Ontario and the opportunity given to the two local committees to review. The survey was launched, using Survey Monkey, on March 9th (in English) and was open until March 31st, 2021. The French version ran from March 29th through April 7th. The results presented in this report represent the combined results of the French and English responses, unless otherwise mentioned. Promotion of both surveys was done primarily through social media and other electronic means, via posting the digital assets on organizational Web sites and sharing the link with the various networks associated with the members of the two local CSWB committees.

The survey received 902 responses. There were 101 respondents who completed 10% of the survey or less; these were removed from the analysis, resulting in an analytic sample of 802. 97% of responses were received in English. Lambton County was identified as the primary residence of 98% of respondents. 3 people lived on a First Nation and 16 were part-time or seasonal residents of the County. While 453 respondents did not provide their gender, 76% of those who did were women or girls. 24% were men or boys, and <1% were non-binary or another gender. Just over half of respondents said that they were perceived or treated as a person of colour (53%), while 45% did not answer the question, and under 2% were perceived as a person of colour. 9 respondents (1.9%) identified as either First Nations or Métis. Residential postal codes were used to determine residence in urban or rural areas; 39% of respondents lived in a rural area, while 61% lived in an urban area of Lambton County. The age group, education, and household income of respondents breakdown of respondents are as follows:

Table 1: Age group of respondents (n=460)

Age group	Frequency (%)
Under 19	<1%
20-29	9%
30-39	18%
40-49	18%

Age group	Frequency (%)
50-59	22%
60-69	25%
70-79	7%
80+	<1%

Table 2: Highest level of formal education (n=458)

Education level	Frequency (%)
High school	14%
College or trade school	45%
University Bachelor's degree	30%
Master's degree	9%
Doctoral or professional degree	1%

Table 3: Before-tax annual household income in 2020 (n=396)

Annual household income	Frequency (%)
Less than $10,000	2%
$10,000 to less than $40,000	16%
$40,000 to less than $80,000	31%
$80,000 to less than $100,000	17%
$100,000 to less than $150,000	18%
$150,000 or more	17%

C) Asset Mapping

Accumulating this information is a component of CSWB planning recommended by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and they describe it as a means to help identify where there is already work underway in the community to address a specific issue and to avoid duplication; identify existing strengths and resources; determine where there may be gaps in services or required resources; and capture opportunities. Two specific types of assets were gathered from the members of the AC and OC – local plans that are already in place that relate to safety and/or well-being and committees (as a generic term) that are currently in place. Summarized in this report are the names of each plan and committee, which are largely self-explanatory of the

purpose, with additional information available as needed. The local momentum underway on several topics related to safety and well-being along with what is NOT happening should help inform the setting of priorities.

3.0 Results - General

The results are presented in three sections: Safety, Well-being and Health. Within each section, the information is organized by the data source: first the Indicators, then the Survey results and finally the asset mapping.

Through the Community Survey, general insights were gained that do not fall specifically into one of the three categories so are shared here first.

A) What is Liked Best?

Respondents were asked **what they liked most about living in their community**. The Word Cloud illustrates the key concepts and the frequency with which they occurred in the 670 responses received to this question.

Many of the 650 people who responded to this question provided multiple responses and positive comments made up the overwhelming majority of responses.

The three most frequently mentioned responses were:

1. The **feel of the community** was described repeatedly with words such as quiet, friendly, small, clean, rural and peaceful. (n=183)
2. The **natural environment** in which the beach, lake, river, trails and fresh air were identified as the most commonly appreciated aspects. (n=180)
3. The **friendly, neighbourly people** in the community were described as family-friendly, supportive, caring, and respectful. (n=158)

The second cluster of themes, with between 56 and 11 responses each, in descending order of frequency were:

- Amenities (n= 56)
- Sense of Community (n=30)
- Community Safety (n=30)
- Community Support (n=21)
- Walkable Community (n=20)
- Geographical Location (n=18)
- The Built Environment (n=15)
- Sense of History in the Community (n=11)

> *"I have always thought Sarnia was one of Ontario's best-kept secrets. I like the small city atmosphere, the well-laid out streets, the lack of traffic congestion, the beaches, the parks, the warm and friendly people of Sarnia."*

Not all responses were positive. Seventeen individuals expressed a variety of concerns, all of which were explored in more detail in other, more specific, sections of the survey. The most common concerns were an increase in crime and an associated feeling of reduced safety. Where reasons were offered, the concerns were related to a growing population, those using drugs who steal things to support their habit, the development in the community, and the influx of tourists from outside the community. Other concerns were having less confidence in local government and less of a police presence in the community.

> *"It used to be low crime rate. However, with the increase in mental health and drug abuse these crimes have gone up. We have never had as many murders this year as we have in the past."*

B) Needed Improvements

Respondents were asked **"Where do you feel improvements are needed to increase safety and well-being in your community?".** They were asked to rank 11 possible categories and the results from 655 respondents are presented below.

RANKING	CATEGORY							CHOSEN #1 BY ...
1	**Addictions / Substance Misuse** (e.g., alcohol, cannabis, prescription drug misuse; gambling; access to addictions services; coordination between addiction services in the community)							37.24%
2	**Crime Prevention** (e.g., animal cruelty; arson; break & enters; child abuse; drug trafficking; elder abuse; fraud; gang activity; homicide; human trafficking; domestic violence; identity theft; physical or sexual assault)							21.57%
3	**Mental Health** (e.g., mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder; emotional or psychological trauma; suicide; access, availability or affordability of mental health services; coordination between mental health services in the community)							9.12%
4	**Housing & Homelessness** (e.g., access, availability, affordability, safety or quality of housing; homelessness)							6.41%
5	**Education & Employment** (e.g., availability of or access to education opportunities; affordability of education opportunities; education quality; availability of or access to job opportunities; job quality; opportunities to develop employment skills)							3.97%
6	**Poverty & Income** (e.g., ability to pay bills and meet basic needs; ability to enjoy life and participate in leisure activities; stress related to financial concerns; availability of or access to financial supports)							6.13%
7	**Emotional Violence, Bullying and Harassment** (e.g., emotional violence, bullying and/or harassment in homes, schools, workplaces, businesses, public spaces, neighbourhoods or communities)							1.91%
8	**Community Belonging & the Neighbourhood Environment** (e.g., relationships with neighbours; unsafe or unwanted behaviours or activities in the neighbourhood; resident safety; support for newcomers, older adults, vulnerable youth; traffic safety)							7.83%
9	**Discrimination** (e.g., ableism; ageism; homophobia; transphobia; racism; sexism)							2.90%
10	**Family & Peer Situation** (e.g., availability, access or affordability of leisure activities for children, of childcare; positive role models/peer groups; stable & nurturing home environments; availability or access to social supports for children; coordination between social support services for children in the community)							2.40%
11	**Physical Health** (e.g., access to or availability of health services, of services for persons with a physical disability, of exercise opportunities and healthy food; access to a supportive built environment which consists of man-made structures, features and facilities that support healthy living such as community gardens, walkable sidewalks and parks)							3.45%

Each of the above 11 categories are explored in more detail in the three sections of Safety, Well-being or Health below.

4.0 Results - Safety

A) Indicators

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey was designed to measure the incidence of crime in Canadian society and its characteristics. Statistics Canada reports on the severity of crime over time,[1] and rates of crime per 100,000.[2]

Non-Violent Crime Severity Index, 1998-2019 [1]

The Crime Severity Index for **non-violent crime** was **higher** for Sarnia than Ontario. While the severity index for Ontario has decreased over time, the severity index for Sarnia has remained stable.

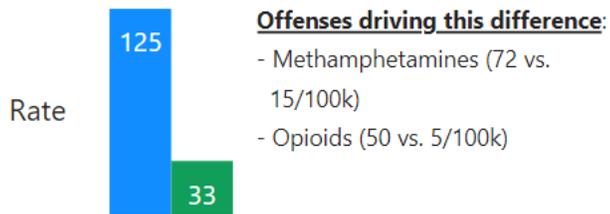### Violent Crime Severity Index, 1998-2019 [1]

The Crime Severity Index for **violent crime** was **similar** for Sarnia and Ontario. Over time, the severity index for Sarnia has generally remained similar to the severity index for Ontario.
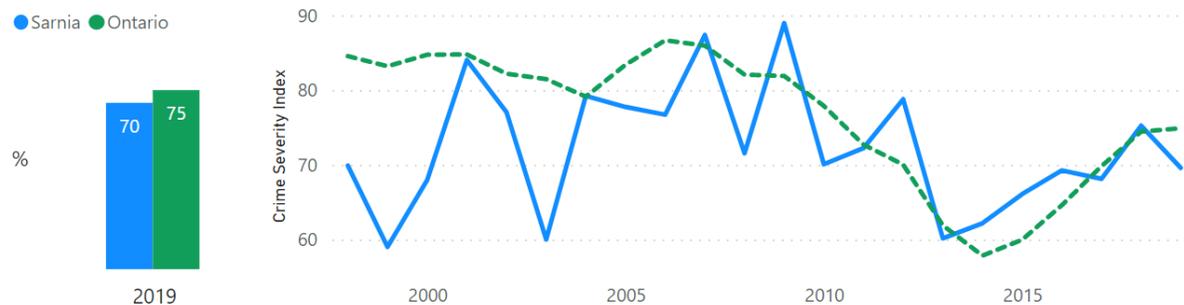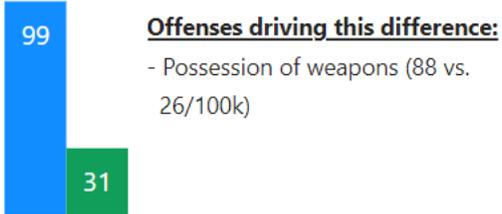
Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population, 2019 [2]

For the following crimes, the crime rate per 100,000 in Sarnia was much higher than the rate in Ontario.

Possession - other controlled substances

Rate

125

33

Offenses driving this difference:
- Methamphetamines (72 vs. 15/100k)
- Opioids (50 vs. 5/100k)

Weapons Violations

99

31

Offenses driving this difference:
- Possession of weapons (88 vs. 26/100k)

B) Community Survey

Perceived crime level in community, compared to other areas of Ontario

Most respondents thought that the level of crime in their community was lower than or the same as other areas of Ontario. Generally, this perception is accurate with respect to violent crime, but not non-violent crime (see page 8).

Percent

40%

20%

0%

47% Lower

40% Same

13% Higher
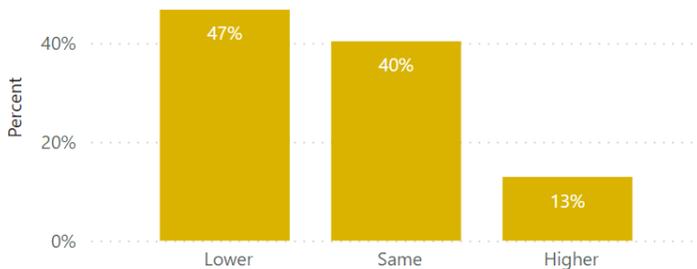
Perceived change in amount of crime in community over past 5 years

Most respondents thought that the level of crime in their community had increased or stayed the same over the past 5 years.
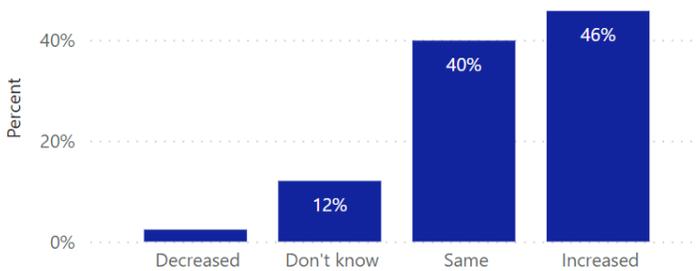
Priorities for Action: Crime Prevention

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to crime prevention, the highest ranked priorities were:

Child abuse   **Break and enters**   **Domestic violence**   **Drug trafficking**

In addition to the priorities selected from the options provided, respondents identified that some of the other important priorities in Crime Prevention were a stronger police presence, a stronger sense of trust in the police, social programs such as transitional housing, the prevention of abuse of vulnerable people such as the elderly and those with a disability, road safety, stronger penalties for those convicted of crimes, and greater community awareness of crime prevention through programs such as Block Parents, Neighbourhood Watch, and seminars.

Priorities for action: Emotional violence, bullying & harassment

When asked to rank top priority settings for action related to emotional violence, bullying, and harassment prevention, the highest ranked settings were:

Schools   **Homes**   **Workplaces**

In addition to the setting-based responses, the "other" important topics related to emotional violence, bullying and harassment mentioned most often by 41 respondents were:

● The presence of bullying in an on-line format was specifically mentioned by seven people.
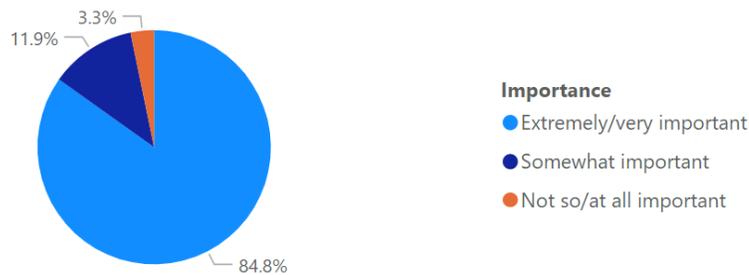
- Four identified the need for more supports for those in this situation (e.g., for youth, self-care opportunities, hiring those in these situations)
- A few mentioned a lack of trust in the "system" making it difficult or impossible to come forward with concerns.

The workplace setting received specific mention in the comments.

"I know of several severe incidences of workplace bullying and have experienced first-

"The verbal abuse towards store staff is abhorrent. I have a teen daughter who is sworn at, screamed at and verbally abused by customers every single shift."

Opinion: Role of Policing in Ensuring Community Safety

3.3%
11.9%
84.8%

Importance
- Extremely/very important
- Somewhat important
- Not so/at all important

There were 517 comments to accompany this question onpolicing, the summary of which can be seen in the Word Cloud below.

The area with the greatest number of comments addressed policing, with 155 responses, want **more police presence** such that there is greater visibility and a better response time. These comments represented a combination of a greater presence in neighbourhoods with patrols and stations located closer, especially given recent changes to where stations and detachments are. Frequently, the "downtown" areas and rural areas were mentioned as being in particular need of an increased presence. Four comments specifically spoke to increased enforcement and apprehension while nine recommended a Neighbourhood Watch approach be adopted.

Not all comments were supportive of an increased police presence. Thirty-five wanted to see **changes to police services** such that there was better accountability, and less corruption. Better enforcement was also frequently mentioned in this category. Five comments recommended the "de-fund" police approach, one of which recommended the funds be used to support a mental health-based approach to community safety and well-being.

"*With most crime being predominantly drug-related, and with the opioid crisis here in Sarnia that's been crippling many families, getting those addicted the help they need is paramount. The City needs to help fight the stigma of substance abuse disorders and do the best they can on their part to reduce the crimes that stem from this crisis*"

"Drugs" were the second most frequently mentioned area of comment regarding personal safety with 123 comments. Most recommended "getting the drug problem under control". There were several specific aspects, as well as he more generic comment, on the topic of drugs with the most prevalent being the **crime**, such as home and vehicle thefts and break-ins, associated with the "drug culture". Many mentioned that this type of crime has increased significantly in recent years both in frequency and reach into smaller towns and rural areas. Other drug-related influences on personal safety, mentioned by only a few people each, were drug houses, the opioid crisis, methamphetamine use, and human/dog trafficking.

Fifteen individuals identified feeling unsafe or uncomfortable because of **those around them**. Most often this was related to people in the street, perceived as being under the influence of a substance or with mental health disorders. Other reasons cited were the increased foot and bicycle traffic in residential areas by unfamiliar people to the neighbourhood perceived to be looking for things to steal, or a home for those in recovery from addiction being introduced to the nearby community.

Twenty-five commented on the need for better supports, care and assistance for those dealing with addictions, and/or those experiencing homelessness.

These suggestions included safe injection sites, better housing, rehabilitation and treatment facilities, outreach programs, and more mental health workers and programs.

"I have more of an unsettled feeling walking alone mostly in the evening, as there are a lot of unfamiliar people and youth with little to do present and hanging in the core of the town. Many appear to be under some influence."

"I truly believe that compassion and care are necessary if we are ever to solve the serious societal problems of addiction, homelessness, and extreme poverty. However, these solutions must be embarked on responsibly in order to protect the community from the fallout of these decisions."

Ranking third in the number of comments per topic affecting personal safety was **road safety**. This included comments on the following themes, many of which included specific locations:

- Additional and better path and street lighting (n=27) plus leaving residential outside lights on at night (n=2)
- Traffic control and enforcement measures to reduce speeding (n=28)
- Additional and cleared (of snow and bicycle riders) sidewalks (n=10)
- Additional and improved traffic lights and crosswalks (n=8)
- Improved road infrastructure such as wider shoulders and general repairs (n=7)
- Greater enforcement of traffic laws, in general (n=5).

Elements related to the **justice system** were mentioned 18 times with the most prevalent focus for the comments being to deliver a punishment for crimes committed and make those penalties "stiffer" (n=9) and to keep offenders in jail (n=8).

"There has been a significant increase in addicts walking around our central Sarnia neighbourhood and it is very different since March 2020. Noticeably so. I would love for when traffickers are caught and SPD brings them to jail, they don't just get out on bail hearing. The cycle continues and neighbourhoods feel unsafe. We no longer walk at night."

"I would like to see less criminals walking around. I see strange people acting weird walking down the street. I think we have too much drug induced behaviour here. I don't feel safe walking the trails alone. We need more of these folks off the streets."

Satisfaction With Own Personal Safety in the Community

Not satisfied 22%

Satisfied 78%
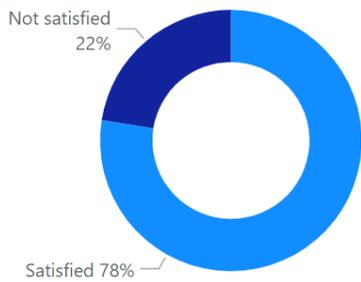
Perceived Safety When Walking Alone After Dark
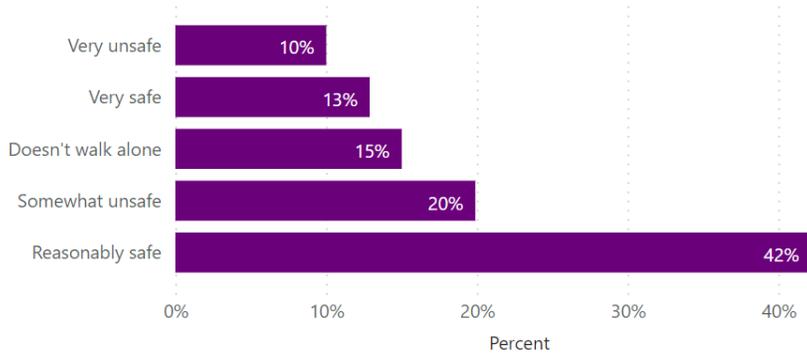
1 in 10 respondents felt very unsafe walking alone at dark in their area.

Category	Percent
Very unsafe	10%
Very safe	13%
Doesn't walk alone	15%
Somewhat unsafe	20%
Reasonably safe	42%

Perceived Impact of Feelings about Safety/Crime On Day To Day Activities

Respondents were split about how their feelings about crime and safety impacted what they did and where they went.

Very little 32%

Somewhat 37%

Quite a bit 32%
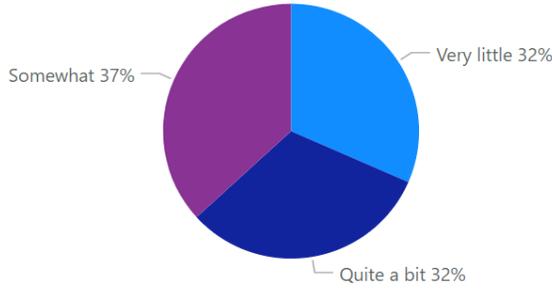
C) Asset Mapping - Safety

EXISTING PLANS	EXISTING NETWORKS
County of Lambton Emergency Response Plan	Coordinating Committee on Violence Against Women for Sarnia-Lambton (Emotional Violence, Bullying & Harassment)
	County Emergency Control Group
	EMPIRE Group
	Lambton Safe Roads
	Lambton Seniors Association Falls Prevention Awareness Initiative
	Rainbow Health - Community of Practice
	Rainbow Health - Initiative Working Group
	Seniors Information Network
	Situation Table

4.0 Results – Well-Being

A) Indicators

In Lambton County, the proportion of people living in low-income households was lower than the Ontario proportion in 2016.[3] However, in spring 2021, a large number of people in Lambton County were experiencing homelessness.[4]

% In Low-Income Households, 2016 [3]

● Lambton County ● Ontario

%

6.3	9.8

2016

People Experiencing Homelessness in Lambton County, 2021 [4]

280

Unemployment Rate, 2001-2020

The unemployment rate for the Windsor-Sarnia Economic Region (ER) was higher than the Ontario rate in 2020. Unemployment for both jurisdictions grew dramatically in 2020. Data for 2021 is not available at this time.

● Windsor-Sarnia ER ● Ontario

%

10.7	9.6

2020

% Unemployment

12
10
8
6

2005   2010   2015   2020
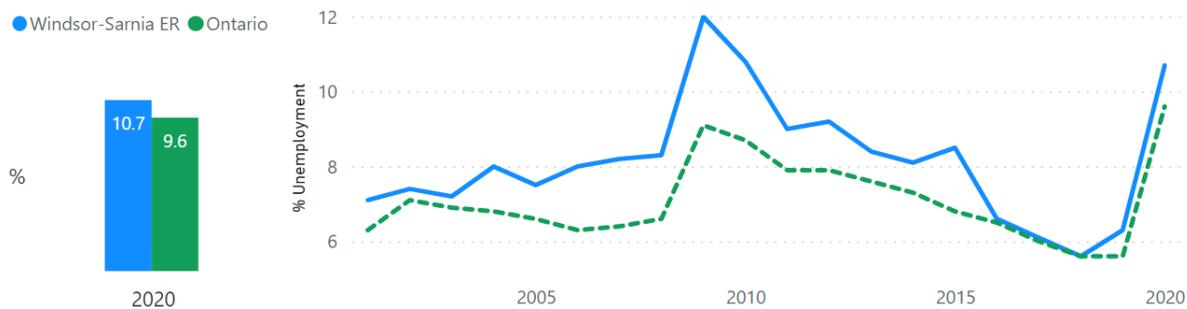
% Lambton County Kindergarten Children Vulnerable On Domains Of The Early Development Instrument, 2017-2018 [5]
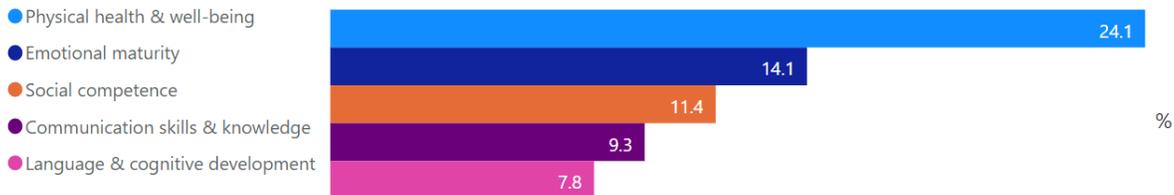
According to the Early Developmental Instrument (EDI), 1 in 4 Kindergarten students in Lambton County were classified as vulnerable in terms of physical health and well-being in 2017-2018 (5). This number doubled compared to the EDI from 2017-2018.


- Physical health & well-being
- Emotional maturity
- Social competence
- Communication skills & knowledge
- Language & cognitive development

Domain	%
Physical health & well-being	24.1
Emotional maturity	14.1
Social competence	11.4
Communication skills & knowledge	9.3
Language & cognitive development	7.8

% Students Completing High School Within 5 Years of Starting Grade 9, 2019 [6]

In 2019, 87.2% of Ontario high school students graduated within five years.[6] The five-year graduation rates for local school boards are presented below.[6] In 2016, 62.8% of adults in Lambton County had completed a post-secondary education.[3]

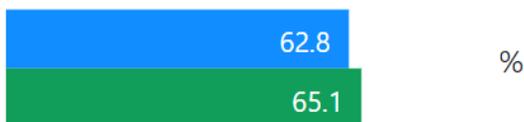Lambton-Kent District School Board: 77.1

St. Clair Catholic District School Board: 87.2
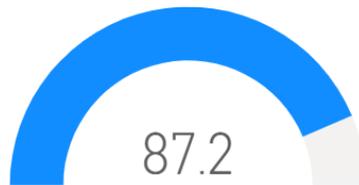
% Adults Aged 25-64 Who Completed Post-Secondary Education, 2016 [3]

- Lambton County
- Ontario

	%
Lambton County	62.8
Ontario	65.1

B) Community Survey

The next section of results from the Community Survey breaks down the area of Well-being into each specific theme ranked above. Following the question that asked respondents to rank the provided priorities within that theme, they were given the opportunity to provide comments on each theme. The Priorities within each theme are presented in rank order and the top three or four priorities in each theme have been provided. Unless otherwise mentioned, in most cases the top priorities presented for each theme were very closely clustered together and appear to have the same priority.

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to **poverty and income**, the highest ranked priorities were:

Priorities for Action: Poverty and Income

Ability to pay bills and meet basic needs

Availability of financial supports

Ability to enjoy life and participate in leisure activities

Thirty-five comments identified other topics within this theme that were deemed to be important. There were two general types of comments: those addressing the need for increased income through either a Universal/Guaranteed Basic Income or other government supports such as ODSP and OW (n= 13) and those that addressed the underlying causes of poverty in the areas of housing, employment, education and transportation. Many of the comments generated in this latter category reinforce and cross-over other themes addressed in the survey.
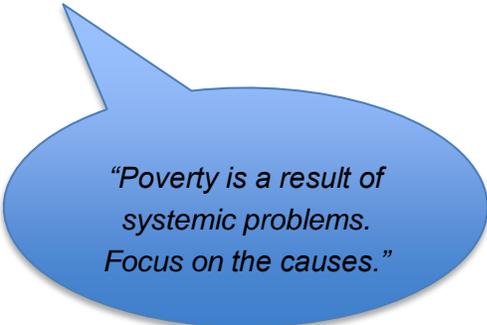
"Poverty is a result of systemic problems. Focus on the causes."

Priorities for Action: Housing and Homelessness

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to **housing and homelessness**, the highest ranked priorities were:

Affordability of housing

Access and availability of housing

Homelessness

Safety of housing

Of the 35 comments received on this theme, 20 (55%) focused on the cost of housing, which reflects the results on the previous question which ranked "Affordability of housing" as the area of highest importance. The comments related to cost came from two ends of the spectrum with 12 comments recommending more housing for those living in low income situations, including rental and mobile home properties and six commenting on the "ridiculously high price of homes".

Other themes in the comments related to the needs of specific populations such as single adults, rural areas, those with disabilities and, mentioned most often, those mental health challenges (n=8), the poor quality and of housing standards, especially in rental markets (n=4).

> *"You absolutely must stop developing more and more wealthy suburbs. Please familiarize yourself with "Strong Towns".*

with

enforcement

Priorities for Action: Education and Employment

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to **education and employment**, the highest ranked priorities were:

Availability of education opportunities

Availability of job opportunities

Affordability of education opportunities

Access to education opportunities

Priorities for Action: Family and Peers

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to **family and peers,** the highest ranked priorities were:

Thirty additional comments were generated. With respect to activities, about one-third of these noted that

Stable and nurturing home environment

Availability of child care

Affordability of leisure activities for children

Affordability of child care

there are plenty of activities available for children (pre-COVID) although some improvements, such as affordable transportation, the lack of quality education summer programs and the need for more pools in the summertime, were suggested. There were two who made mention of the "opposite side of the coin", particularly in Sarnia, as illustrated by the following quotes:

- "*Sarnia has generational and systemic problems that are too complicated to fix. I strongly feel that this city offers nothing to children, further perpetuating this hopeless cycle.*"

- *"Making children feel like Sarnia cares about children too. Not happening right now."*

Seven comments recommended more leisure activities for teens and young adults and an additional three focused on the need for better opportunities for those with disabilities.

Eight individuals provided suggestions regarding necessary additional supports to families. These have been grouped into the following areas:
- Support for particular populations:
  - Peer support for parents and caregivers, especially in the COVID recovery plan.
  - Supports for single parents with low incomes.
  - Adults with autism, who tend to not have many friends, if any don't know how to meet others or join in.

"There are children born during COVID, coming up to one year old, who have never seen or interacted with another child."

- Supports in the general population:
  - Support and awareness of programs like Circles
  - Public education about ACEs (adverse childhood experiences)
  - Disability integration
- Child Protection
  - The parental influence should not be undermined, and supportive organizations should not be abusive nor part of systemic abuse or discrimination. Faith based child raising needs protection.
  - More investigations when placing children with grandparents.

Priorities for Action: Community Belonging

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to **community belonging**, the highest ranked priorities were:

Unsafe/unwanted activities in my community

Resident safety

Support for vulnerable youth

Relationships with neighbours

Several themes emerged in the comments about Community Belonging. Most related to support for additional marginalized populations to those listed specifically in the question. These included the LGBTQ population, those with disabilities, those without affordable and appropriate homes and those living in poverty. There were also many who mentioned their desire for more community activities and festivals, especially for youth, when this can be done post-pandemic. Affordable and accessible transportation, including bike paths and sidewalks, was also mentioned.

Priorities for Action: Discrimination

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to **discrimination**, the highest ranked priorities were:

Racism
Homophobia
Sexism
Ableism (discrimination based on ability)

In addition to the aspect of discrimination offered as choices in this area, other comments identified the need to address discrimination based on religion, income and mental health challenges.

Specific singular comments not already included in the responses to other survey sections include:
- Restricting housing purchases by people who live out of town and rent the unit(s) at "big city" process that people here cannot afford.
- Providing support for expensive home repairs.
- Go beyond covering expenses that creates dependence on the state by encouraging those in poverty to become entrepreneurs or getting trained to get out of poverty.
- Diversify the employment opportunities in Lambton.
- Have financial management skill development available in the community.
- Improve the human rights of the poor as they have no strength to fight their situation, especially against entitled people.

C) Asset Mapping

The following existing Plans and Networks have been identified for this Category. The term Network is used as a very general, catch-all term. The group might actually be called a Committee, Coalition, Working Group, or something else. A short description has been provided where needed. More details regarding mandates and contact people are available as necessary.

EXISTING PLANS	EXISTING NETWORKS
Housing & Homelessness Plan 2020-2024	Age-Friendly Sarnia (Steering Committee & sub-committees)
Lambton Child Services Plan	Caring Connections
Lambton Early Years Plan	Community Homeless Initiative Network
Petrolia Community Well-being Master Plan (Sept. 2018	Lambton Children and Family Network (LCFN)
	Lambton-Kent District School Board (LDKSB) Parent Involvement Committee
	Lambton County Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee
	Mitton Village Community Development Advisory Committee

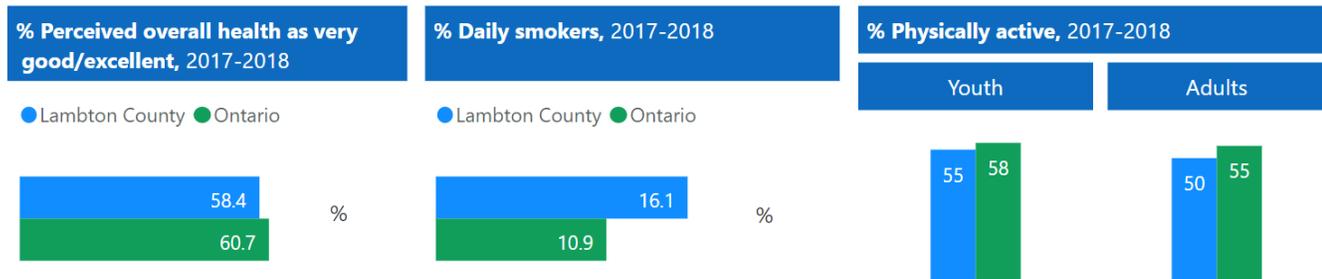| EXISTING PLANS	EXISTING NETWORKS
	Petrolia Neighbourhood Advisory
	Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership
	Youth HUB (Gaps in Youth)

4.0 Results - Health

A) Indicators

The 2017-2018 Canadian Community Health Survey [7] found that residents of Lambton County fared similarly to the rest of Ontario in terms of perceived health, and physical activity. Significantly more Lambton County residents were daily smokers, and were classified as engaging in heavy drinking. The survey found other significant disparities in terms of mental health: Lambton County residents were less likely to rate their own mental health as very good or excellent, and more likely to report being diagnosed with a mood disorder compared to the rest of Ontario.
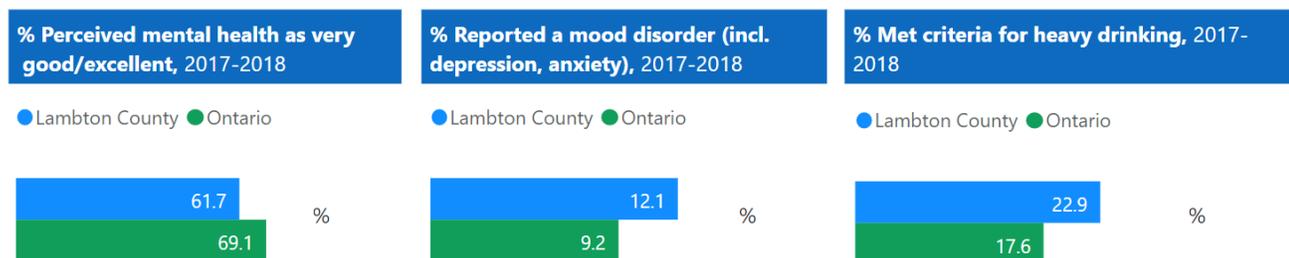
Physical Health [7]

The proportion of people who smoke daily was significantly higher for Lambton County, compared to Ontario. In terms of perceived overall health, and physical activity, there were no significant differences between Lambton County and Ontario.

% Perceived overall health as very good/excellent, 2017-2018
● Lambton County ● Ontario

- Lambton County: 58.4 %
- Ontario: 60.7

% Daily smokers, 2017-2018
● Lambton County ● Ontario

- Lambton County: 16.1 %
- Ontario: 10.9

% Physically active, 2017-2018

Youth
- Lambton County: 55
- Ontario: 58

Adults
- Lambton County: 50
- Ontario: 55

Mental Health [7]

Lambton County residents were less likely to rate their mental health as good or excellent compared to the rest of Ontario. Additionally, a greater proportion of Lambton County reported heavy drinking, and diagnosed mood disorders.

% Perceived mental health as very good/excellent, 2017-2018
● Lambton County ● Ontario

- Lambton County: 61.7 %
- Ontario: 69.1

% Reported a mood disorder (incl. depression, anxiety), 2017-2018
● Lambton County ● Ontario

- Lambton County: 12.1 %
- Ontario: 9.2

% Met criteria for heavy drinking, 2017-2018
● Lambton County ● Ontario

- Lambton County: 22.9 %
- Ontario: 17.6

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to physical health, the highest ranked priorities were:

Access to health services

Access to services for people with disabilities

Affordability of healthy food

Access to a supportive built environment

B) Community Survey

Twenty-five responses were received, the majority (64%) of which built on the prompts from the previous question involving food, physical activity and the built environment. With respect to the food aspect, two perspectives were shared – the growing rate of food insecurity, accelerated by COVID that is placing even greater strain on food banks. The quality of food available at convenience and local grocery stores, particularly fresh produce and gluten-free options, was also identified as important.

Comments related to the built environment, which crossed into the natural environment as well, included single mentions of the following suggestions:

- Promote outside living opportunities such as walking with porta potties on trail/parks.
- Provide more green space, parks with more native trees and shade.
- City wide trails and bike trails that link the city not just higher income areas.
- More facilities for youth sports.

In terms of physical activity, there were five related comments with three identifying that plenty of opportunities currently exist while the other two suggested the need for more to be done in schools such as yoga and mandatory daily walks.

There were a few comments focused on health care services in the community, specifically related to the need for more family physicians, and free drug and dental plans.

One unique perspective was shared: *"Poverty causes the hypocrisy of condemning overweight and unhealthy people. Let's change unfairness and adopt a government like Finland, a social welfare state = democracy and human rights to the living!!"*

Priorities for Action: Mental Health

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to mental health, the highest ranked priorities were:

| Access to mental health services |
| Mental health conditions |
| Suicide |
| Affordability of mental health services |

Forty-five comments were received, with the largest number of them (75%) reinforcing the results to the previous question regarding the relative importance of "Access to mental health services". Additional details in this area included needing more professionals, more supports for those in crisis, help for caregivers, information on local resources available, classes to teach coping skills, supports in rural areas, and supports for landlords with tenants with mental health conditions. Accessibility was also cited as a problem regarding:

- Long wait times (n=5)
- A lack of availability of supports in the settings of schools and in homes was also mentioned. (n=2)
- Access to rehabilitation services
- Access to any mental health services without benefits through an employer
- Increased public access to Mental Health First Aid training
- Access by professionals to training in trauma-informed care and ACEs (adverse childhood experiences).

Three individuals specified mental health challenges related to situations of abuse – spousal, caregiver or substance related, as an important concern and two comments were made regarding the yet-unknown mental health implications of COVID.

Priorities for Action: Addictions and Substance Abuse

When asked to rank top priorities for action related to addictions and substance abuse, the highest ranked priorities were:

- Illicit drug misuse
- Access to addictions services
- Prescription drug misuse
- Coordination between addictions services in the community

The additional comments in this area fell into a few categories that are listed here in decreasing order of frequency. Most recommended solutions to the topics of potential concern are presented in the above results. Many of these comments reinforce the information gathered in a previous survey question that asked for their feelings about personal safety.

"Need an additional 24-unit independent living addiction recovery facility YESTERDAY. Stop arguing between the County and the City on who should be responsible and take concrete action NOW. And stop being afraid of how much it will cost to build or operate. What the County and City should be taking seriously instead, is the cost of NOT addressing the issue of drug addiction in the community: crime, property loss, fear in the community, policing, court costs, jail costs, EMS costs, repeated visits to ER costs, the revolving door of the 7 withdrawal management beds. These costs are far greater than the costs that would be involved in effectively solving the problem."

Providing help for those with addiction and mental health challenges was the most common suggestion with a specific emphasis on improved rehabilitation services, as illustrated by the quote provided. These comments also addressed the availability of alternative therapies.

Clustered together with very similar frequencies of response were the categories of:
- A stronger focus on harm reduction strategies
- A stronger justice system with stricter penalties, sentencing, repercussions and punishment.
- Supports for mental health challenges related to substance use. Mental health is explored in greater depth in a separate section of this report.
- Children and youth were identified as a particularly important population of concern by several respondents.
- Addressing the issue of homelessness.

C) Asset Mapping

The following existing Plans and Networks have been identified for this Category. The term Network is used as a very general, catch-all term. The group might actually be called a Committee, Coalition, Working Group, or something else. A short description has been provided where needed. More details regarding mandates and contact people are available as necessary.

EXISTING PLANS	EXISTING NETWORKS
Lambton County Drug & Alcohol Strategy	ACCESS Open Minds Planning and Implementation Table
Mental Health Profile, Lambton County 2018	Bluewater Health Maternal Infant Child Table
Ontario Health Team Full Application Submission - "Innovating Together for Better Health"	Lambton County Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee
Sarnia-Lambton Youth Suicide Prevention Plan	Mike Harvey Foundation (Watford)
	Sarnia Lambton Suicide Prevention Committee
	West Lambton Community Health Centre (WLCHC) Community Engagement
	Working Together for Kids Mental Health

5.0 OTHER COMMENTS

There were 208 individuals that offered additional comments at the end of the survey. Almost all comments reiterated responses provided to previous questions. Only the new information gained through this question is shared here. Each thought is shared by one individual unless otherwise noted and many are shared in the form of a direct quote. Over and above the suggestions provided here by sector or theme, were several suggestions to better coordinate information and services across organizations in the community.

Policing / Enforcement / Justice

Suggestions in this category included:

- Regular police foot patrol in recognized crime areas
- Reinstate Peace Officers
- Install police surveillance cameras at high crime areas
- Make changes to increase the public's confidence and trust in police services; develop relationships with the community
- Address the bicycle thefts that are "out of hand"
- Bylaw needs to be changed to allow for the raising of backyard chickens (hens).
- Harsher punishment for mistreatment of all animals...domestic or wild.

> *"I feel our policing is very good and the community supports each other. I would like to learn more about how I could support safety in my community."*

> *"Believe that if better supports and access to them were available, the community would not look to the police to solve problems. Building in restorative practices and principles from the beginning so people understand how to build capacity to solve problems individually/together."*

Health

"This survey didn't ask about environmental and public health exposures that are directly related to safety in our county. Some cancer rates lead the province and sems to be ignored."

Pandemic

Several opinions were shared regarding the relative value of lockdown procedures. Of longer term importance were the health and economic implications of the current situation, which are largely unknown but anticipated with trepidation.

Inclusion

"Talk to people, so you know the neighbours."

"Make level entrances mandatory for all business places. So many have steps and not one handle to help those of us with mobility problems."

"I am a recent immigrant (10 years) and lately I have come to learn that there is a huge amount of misinformation (negative) about immigrants and refugees. There seems to be a growing amount of discrimination against us in the community based off of the idea that we are given lots of money and opportunities by the government when we come here."

Supporting Marginalized Populations

- Offer financial support and/or labour (perhaps through students looking for experience) to create safer home spaces for those who cannot afford or manage to do it on their own (e.g., putting up a fence to secure a yard)
- Provide the opportunity for small, affordable homes as a place to call a stable "home" that meets basic needs.

The following quotes serve to illustrate the unique perspectives in his section.

"There are so many organizations that the city could work with to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable citizens and so many citizens that would be willing to help make sure those programs work. But then, we're back to the one needing help not being too embarrassed to ask for that help."

"Growing up here I was extremely afraid of the mentality of my peers and older generations, and now that I'm back I am terrified of what the future holds. People are misinformed on basic issues of health, addiction, racism and intolerance. We are stuck in the past and we continue to lie to ourselves about the role the government can play in making this a better place to live. We need to stop succumbing to fear, hate, and greed. People need better education and we need to give people access to enough money to live and thrive, so they do not fall into the same traps generations before us have. Please do better."

"As a person who lives in poverty with a disability & has had to have financial assistance to raise my children as a single parent, I have seen many policies that just don't make sense, it requires many hoops to jump through to get services necessary to care for families. It's exhausting. Disheartening. I didn't ask to have an incurable illness. I didn't cause my husband to die & leave me a single parent. It's not my fault two of my children have autism. And yet I have been made to feel like I am less important than others. Any help I have received from the community I am very appreciative of."

"Lambton County Housing needs to let those with the portable supplement still be on list for Housing (geared-to-income, etc.) because portable supplement ENDS and is not forever. Also, those in abusive situations can't get out without having PERMANENT HOUSING. Priority housing only lasts one year and people can't afford to move again. Portable supplement isn't enough to let you move out to safety and you need Housing, but if you have portable supplement they don't let you use Housing as you are disqualified. This isn't right."

"Information about support services needs to be made more readily available for our vulnerable populations. Community outreach and harm reduction are so important to the health of the city's people suffering from addiction. Affordable housing needs to be made readily available to support a growing homeless population and we need to provide people moving from homelessness to housing with support services and education (budgeting, cooking, cleaning, making a schedule, etc.) to ensure once in housing they have an opportunity to thrive and progress in life."

Glossary

Crime Severity Index - Tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime by accounting for both the amount of crime reported by police in a given jurisdiction and the relative seriousness of these crimes. It tells us not only how much crime is coming to the attention of police, but also about the seriousness of that crime. Offences that tend to be subject to incarceration upon conviction, and crimes that receive longer custodial sentences are generally considered more serious.

Violent crime - Involves the use or threatened use of violence against a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault and robbery. Robbery is considered a crime against the person because unlike other theft offences it involves the use, or threat of, violence.

Non-violent crime - Includes any crime that does not fall into the category of violent offences.

Crime rate per 100,000 - For a given period of time, the number of police-reported incidents in a jurisdiction, divided by the population size and multiplied by 100,000. This measure allows for comparison of populations that differ in size, such as Lambton County and Ontario.

Low-income household - Measured using the low-income cut-off, after tax. Refers to economic families with an income level such that they would be expected to spend 20 percentage points or more of their after-tax income than average on food, shelter and clothing.

Windsor-Sarnia Economic Region - Includes Chatham-Kent, Essex and Lambton counties.

Early Development Instrument - A short questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers across Canada and internationally which measures children's ability to meet age appropriate developmental expectations.

Physically active (youth) - People age 12 to 17 who participate in an average of 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per day (at least 420 minutes over 7 days, regardless of the number of days with activity). Moderate exercise is defined as an activity that causes a person to breathe harder and sweat at least a little.

Physically active (adults) - People age 18 and older who participate in at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity aerobic physical activity per week, in bouts of 10 minutes or more. Moderate exercise is defined as an activity that causes a person to breathe harder and sweat at least a little.

Mood disorder - Population aged 12 and over who reported that they have been diagnosed by a health professional as having a mood disorder, such as depression, bipolar disorder, mania or dysthymia.

Heavy drinking - Males who reported having 5 or more drinks, or women who reported having 4 or more drinks, on one occasion, at least once a month in the past year.

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