



# Lincoln County Community Planning Assessment

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Community-Based Child Abuse  
Prevention via the Colorado  
Department of Early Childhood  
November 2023

Prepared by the Butler Institute for Families at the University of Denver  
Graduate School of Social Work



# Lincoln County Community Planning

## Highlights

- Fifty-one individuals completed the Lincoln County community assessment survey. Respondents were mostly White women whose education and income levels skewed higher than the county's population as a whole.
- Medical services, libraries, religious and faith organizations, and sport or recreational programs were the most regularly used community resources. Substance use services, center-based childcare, family resource centers, and emergency respite care were among the least commonly used.
- Respondents generally perceived their community positively, with the exception of the availability of childcare.
- Many respondents reported giving and receiving help in their community, but the type of help given and received depended on respondent demographics. For example, older respondents reported giving less help and families with lower incomes reported receiving more help.
- Respondents generally reported high levels of family functioning and positive parenting behaviors.

## Introduction

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) administers federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds in Colorado to support cohorts of communities to create local child maltreatment prevention plans aligned with the Colorado Child Maltreatment Prevention Framework for Action.<sup>1</sup> The federal CBCAP program is designed to provide support to families prior to the occurrence of harm and funds activities such as<sup>2</sup>:

- Home visiting programs
- Family resource centers
- Community-based family and parent support programs and services
- Early childhood and childcare programs
- Coordination between families and mental and behavioral health services

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<sup>1</sup> Colorado Department of Human Services. (2023). *Child maltreatment framework*. CO4Kids. <https://co4kids.org/professional-resources/child-maltreatment-framework/>

<sup>2</sup> Fabricius, J. (2021, May 12). *Continuing the conversation with federal policy makers to invest in prevention*. Illuminate Colorado. <https://illuminatecolorado.org/continuing-the-conversation-with-federal-policy-makers-to-invest-in-prevention/>

In 2023, Lincoln County was awarded CBCAP funds through the Family Strengthening Unit of the CDEC. As part of the contractual requirements of the award, Lincoln County conducted a survey of family/parental perspectives on community support and norms, local resources, family norms, and demographic information. This report will detail the results of that survey to inform future CBCAP grant planning efforts.

## Methods

The Family Strengthening Unit of the CDEC contracted with the Butler Institute for Families at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work (Butler) to conduct the community planning assessment in Lincoln County. Butler evaluators worked with CBCAP facilitators, who liaised directly with community partners in Lincoln County, to prepare a tailored CBCAP assessment to meet Lincoln County's specific administration needs. The final survey consisted of 86 items across eight sets of questions addressing respondents' familiarity with and utilization of local resources, perspectives of the community, the giving and receiving of help, family interactions, and parenting reflections, in addition to a ninth section that collected respondent demographics. Exact measures included:

- Fourteen items assessing familiarity with local resources and another 14 items assessing previous use of the same resources on a yes/no basis
- Twelve items rated on a 4-point scale (from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree") assessing perspectives on various aspects of the community
- Six items rated on a 4-point scale (from "not at all" to "all of the time") asking participants if each statement described their community
- Six items assessing the regularity of giving help to other members of the community (i.e., "no," "once," and "more than once") and six matching items assessing the regularity of receiving help
- Eight items assessing the regularity (i.e., "rarely," "on occasion," and "most of the time") of different family practices
- Ten items assessing the regularity (i.e., "rarely," "on occasion," and "most of the time") of various parenting practices engaged with the youngest child living in the home
- Ten demographic items

Please see **Appendix A** for a full list of survey questions where deviations to the standard CBCAP assessment are noted.

The Lincoln County community planning assessment was administered August 20 – September 30, 2023. Flyers advertising the survey and recruiting participants were developed in both English and Spanish and were distributed by members of the Lincoln County Child Maltreatment Prevention planning team throughout the course of survey administration. All

recruitment materials allowed participants to access the survey anonymously via a QR code and/or link enabling them to take the survey on their own mobile digital devices. Paper copies of the survey were also printed and made available to respondents at community events and meetings. Lincoln County community members entered data from any paper surveys into the online data collection platform. All versions of the survey were available in both English and Spanish.

## Demographics

Fifty-one individuals completed the Lincoln County community planning assessment survey. There was one Spanish-language survey respondent, and 50 individuals took the survey in English. Of those 51 respondents, only 41 (80%) answered all demographic questions and 47 (92%) answered at least one demographic question. The demographics presented in this section primarily reflect those 47 individuals, but deviations in sample size are noted.<sup>3</sup> Throughout the report, survey respondents are referred to interchangeably as respondents and parents. “Parents” is used as a proxy here, as most respondents are assumed to be parents. However, individuals in another guardianship or responsible role within the home may also have replied.

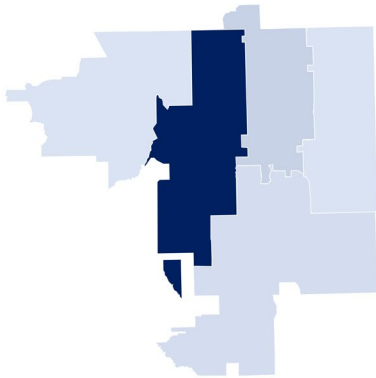
Respondent age ranged from 16 to 71 years old, with an average age of 39.6 years ( $SD = 10.8$ ). Based on the responses, the participant who reported an age of 16 is likely an older sibling answering on behalf of the family. Most respondents (87%) were female (13% male). Forty-six individuals reported a range of educational attainments. Nearly half (44%) reported having a college degree or higher while the remainder (57%) reported having attended some college or less. This same set of respondents ( $N = 46$ ) also reported a range of income levels. Respondents most commonly reported an income level of \$60,000 – \$79,999 (20%), which falls just below the Colorado median income of \$80,000. Half (52%) reported incomes below \$60,000, and just over a quarter of respondents (28%) reported incomes over \$80,000 annually. These income and education figures should be kept in mind when interpreting results throughout this report, as this respondent sample skews more educated and wealthier than Lincoln County as a whole. According to the most recent United States Census Bureau data, 17% of adults over age 25 in Lincoln County hold a bachelor’s degree or higher (compared to 46% of survey participants). The median household income in Lincoln County is \$46,800, compared to the respondent sample median, which fell between \$55,000 and \$59,999. The racial composition of the sample was

*The participating sample was more highly educated and had a higher income than the “average” Lincoln County resident, though the racial/ethnic makeup of the sample was more representative.*

<sup>3</sup> Throughout the report, whole number percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

representative of Lincoln County, where 88% of residents report their race as White alone – in the sample, 87% of respondents selected only White as their race/ethnicity.<sup>4</sup> Of the 45 respondents who responded to the military affiliation item, 18% reported that there was an active or retired member of the military in the family.

**Figure 1. Respondent Density**



Geographically by zip code, the sample (N = 45) was mostly based in or near the city of Limon (78%). Additional participants (18%) lived in surrounding cities including Genoa, Agate, Arriba, and Hugo. A small minority of participants reported residing outside of Lincoln County (4%) in either Yuma or east Colorado Springs, but were deemed close enough to potentially receive services in Lincoln County and thus included in this report. **Figure 1** shows a density map of respondents in Lincoln County. Forty-two respondents reported the number of children under the age of 18 living in their home. Most (95%) reported having between one and four children, with the majority reporting two children (38%).

Additional respondents (5%) reported having more than four children, with a maximum of eight children. The average number of children was 2.5 ( $SD = 1.3$ ). Forty respondents indicated the age of the youngest child living in the home. The most common age of the youngest child was 10 years old (18%), and children’s ages ranged from less than 12 months to 16 years. The average age of the youngest child was 8.8 years old ( $SD = 4.9$ ). Most respondents reported sharing caregiving responsibilities for their children with at least one other adult on a regular basis (71%).

## Community Resources

Survey respondents first reported their familiarity with 14 different community resources and then their use of those same 14 resources. Using these two response sets, evaluators calculated a third percentage to represent the percentage of individuals who had reported they were familiar with the resource and had used it (i.e., excluding those who had never heard of it). The percentage of respondents who fell into each of these three categories is in **Table 1**.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: State of Colorado and Lincoln County, Colorado*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved November 2, 2023, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/lincolncountycolorado,CO/BZA210221>



**Table 1. Community Resource Familiarity and Usage**

<b>Resource and/or Organization</b>	<b>Percentage “Familiar With”</b>	<b>Percentage “Have Used”</b>	<b>Percentage “Have Used” if Familiar</b>
Religious or faith organizations	78%	74%	85%
Hospital/urgent care clinics	88%	86%	91%
Primary care doctors or pediatricians	90%	84%	91%
Parent organizations that work with schools like the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or school improvement councils	71%	42%	54%
Sport or recreational programs for children and youth (e.g., Little League, scouting, music/dance programs)	86%	78%	84%
Programs for preschool children (2-4 years of age)	77%	56%	68%
Center-based childcare	67%	36%	47%
Libraries	90%	82%	87%
Parenting education/support programs	63%	40%	58%
Home visiting programs	53%	44%	74%
Family resource centers	53%	36%	52%
Respite or emergency care for young children	43%	39%	73%
Behavioral/mental health services	77%	45%	54%
Substance use services	49%	26%	44%

As evidenced above, the most well-known community resources included basic medical care (e.g., hospitals/urgent care, primary care physicians, and behavioral health services) and universal resources such as libraries, sport or recreational programs for children, preschool programs, and religious/faith organizations, each of which was familiar to more than 75% of the survey respondents. Among the least familiar organizations were family and parenting support resources such as parenting education programs (63%), home visiting (53%), family resource centers (53%), and respite or emergency care (43%). Many participants reported they were not familiar with substance use services (49%). Perhaps unsurprisingly, less than 45% of participants used these services. Participants also reported being more familiar with other resources, but did not commonly use them. Over two-thirds (71%) of participants were familiar with parent teacher associations, but only 42% had used them. Over half of the sample (67%)

were familiar with center-based childcare, but only 36% percent had used it. Behavioral and mental health services were among the most familiar resources to respondents, but less than half (45%) reported using them. Participants reported using substance use services the least (26%).

Evaluators explored the relationship between respondents' familiarity with and usage of community resources and respondent demographics. One difference emerged when looking at those who were familiar with resources compared to those who were not; families familiar with respite and emergency care for young children had younger children than families not familiar with this resource.<sup>5</sup>

Respondents who had used substance use services had younger children in the home.

Differences among respondents who used and had not used various community resources were more extensive. Those who had used center-based childcare, libraries, family resource centers (FRCs), respite and emergency care, and substance use services all had younger children than those who had not used these services.<sup>6</sup> Families who had used center-based childcare and family resource centers also had more children in the home than those who had not used these services.<sup>7</sup> One relationship emerged based on the age of the responding parent: Respondents who had used sport or recreational programs were older than those who had not used such programs for their children.<sup>8</sup>

Parents who used sport or recreational programs for their children were older.

<sup>5</sup> Families who were familiar with emergency respite care services had younger children ( $M = 6.95$ ,  $SD = 5.08$ ) than those not familiar ( $M = 10.52$ ,  $SD = 4.11$ );  $t(38) = 2.46$ ,  $p = .019$ .

<sup>6</sup> Those who had used center-based child care had younger children ( $M = 5.93$ ,  $SD = 4.61$ ) than those who did not ( $M = 10.56$ ,  $SD = 4.24$ );  $t(38) = 3.23$ ,  $p = .003$ . Those who used libraries had younger children ( $M = 8.03$ ,  $SD = 4.85$ ) than those who did not ( $M = 12.00$ ,  $SD = 3.78$ );  $t(38) = 2.15$ ,  $p = .038$ . Those who used FRCs had younger children ( $M = 6.67$ ,  $SD = 4.52$ ) than those who did not ( $M = 10.12$ ,  $SD = 4.71$ );  $t(38) = 2.28$ ,  $p = .028$ . Those who used respite emergency care had younger children ( $M = 7.00$ ,  $SD = 5.03$ ) than those who did not ( $M = 10.17$ ,  $SD = 4.41$ );  $t(38) = 2.12$ ,  $p = .040$ . Those who used substance use services had younger children ( $M = 5.60$ ,  $SD = 4.22$ ) than those who did not ( $M = 9.90$ ,  $SD = 4.66$ );  $t(38) = 2.58$ ,  $p = .014$ .


<sup>7</sup> Those who used center based childcare had more children ( $M = 3.07$ ,  $SD = 1.77$ ) than those who did not use center based child care ( $M = 2.18$ ,  $SD = 0.98$ );  $t(40) = -2.11$ ,  $p = .041$ . Those who used FRCs had more children ( $M = 3.13$ ,  $SD = 1.77$ ) than those who did not ( $M = 2.11$ ,  $SD = 0.89$ );  $t(18.04) = -2.10$ ,  $p = .050$ .

<sup>8</sup> Those who used OST programs were older ( $M = 41.32$ ,  $SD = 10.45$ ) than those who did not use OST programs ( $M = 32.67$ ,  $SD = 10.19$ );  $t(45) = -2.24$ ,  $p = .030$ .

To assess differences based on demographic variables such as gender, race, income, and education, evaluators created sum scores of resource use and familiarity to assess if the total amount of resources familiar with and used differed among:

- Men and women respondents
- Those who were White alone or non-White alone
- Those reporting household incomes over and under the Colorado median
- Those who held a bachelor's degree or higher or less than a bachelor's degree

These same dichotomized groups are used throughout this report. Sum scores for resource use and familiarity were not significantly different for respondents of different genders or income levels. Participants who held a bachelor's degree or higher used fewer resources than those who reported having some college education or a high school education.<sup>9</sup> Non-White participants were both familiar with and used fewer resources than participants who reported their race as White alone.<sup>10</sup>



Non-White respondents were familiar with and used fewer resources in the community.

## Views on Community

Next, respondents indicated their agreement with twelve statements about their community in Lincoln County. The distribution of the percentage of respondents agreeing with each statement is in **Table 2**, along with the overall mean score (from a low of 1 to a high of 4) for each item and the overall scale mean. In addition, the child-focused statements (#5, #7, and #9) were averaged into a child-focused description mean, and the mental health-focused statements (#8, #9, #11, and #12) were averaged into a mental-health focused description mean.

<sup>9</sup> Those with a bachelor's degree or higher ( $M = 6.20$ ,  $SD = 3.17$ ) had lower resource use sum scores than those with less than a bachelor's degree ( $M = 9.08$ ,  $SD = 4.18$ );  $t(44) = 2.56$ ,  $p = .014$ .

<sup>10</sup> Non-White participants had lower resource familiarity sum scores ( $M = 6.17$ ,  $SD = 5.31$ ) than White participants ( $M = 10.73$ ,  $SD = 3.26$ );  $t(45) = 2.950$ ,  $p = .005$ . Non-White participants had lower resource use sum scores ( $M = 4.67$ ,  $SD = 3.61$ ) than White participants ( $M = 8.22$ ,  $SD = 3.86$ );  $t(45) = 2.12$ ,  $p = .040$ .



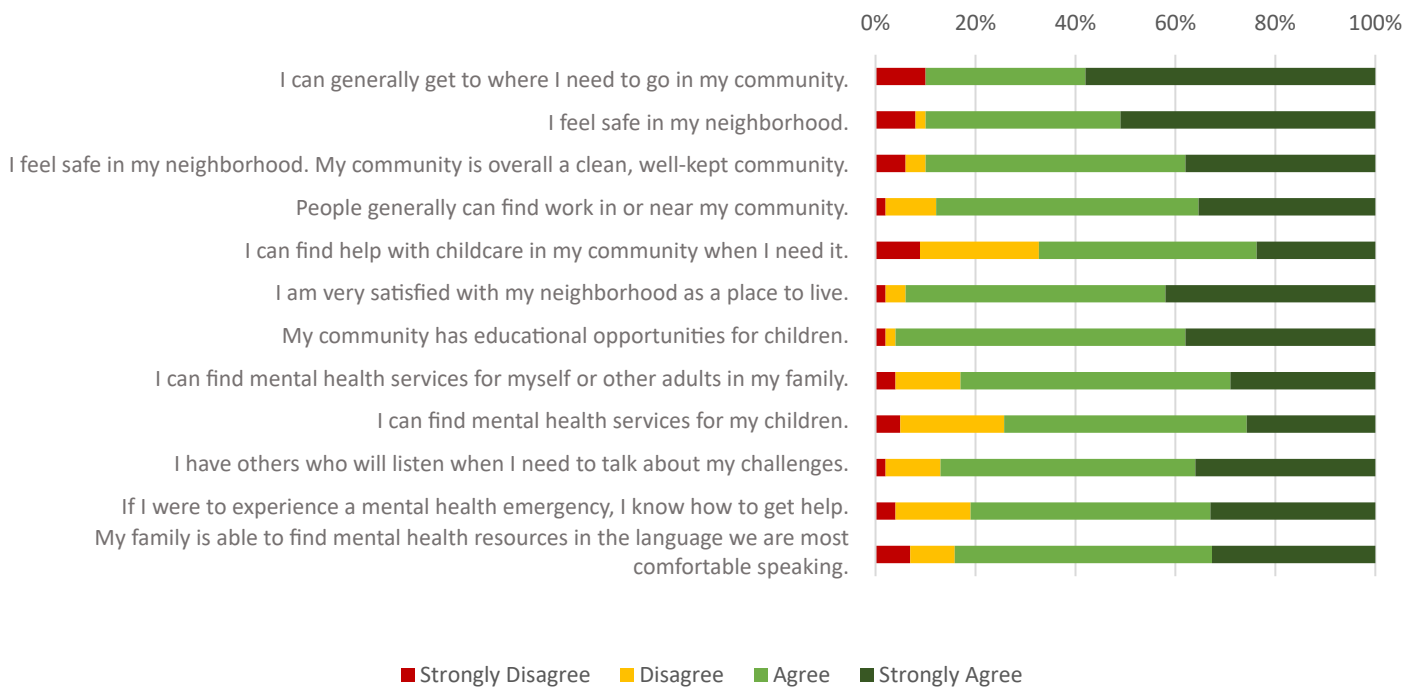
**Table 2. Agreement With Descriptions of the Community**

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Mean (SD)</b>
I can generally get to where I need to go in my community.	10%	0%	32%	58%	3.38 (0.92)
I feel safe in my neighborhood.	8%	2%	39%	51%	3.33 (0.88)
My community is overall a clean, well-kept community.	6%	4%	52%	38%	3.22 (0.79)
People generally can find work in or near my community.	2%	10%	52%	35%	3.21 (0.71)
I can find help with childcare in my community when I need it.	9%	24%	44%	24%	2.83 (0.90)
I am very satisfied with my neighborhood as a place to live.	2%	4%	52%	42%	3.34 (0.66)
My community has educational opportunities for children.	2%	2%	58%	38%	3.32 (0.62)
I can find mental health services for myself or other adults in my family.	4%	13%	54%	29%	3.08 (0.77)
I can find mental health services for my children.	5%	21%	49%	26%	2.95 (0.82)
I have others who will listen when I need to talk about my challenges.	2%	11%	51%	36%	3.21 (0.72)
If I were to experience a mental health emergency, I know how to get help.	4%	15%	48%	33%	3.09 (0.81)
My family is able to find mental health resources in the language we are most comfortable speaking.	7%	9%	52%	33%	3.11 (0.82)
<b>Overall Mean</b>					<b>3.18 (0.54)</b>
<i>Child-Focused Mean</i>					3.06 (0.60)
<i>Mental Health-Focused Mean</i>					3.05 (0.71)

As evidenced by the fact that the overall mean was between “agree” and “strongly agree,” respondents had a generally high opinion of life in Lincoln County. The item with the highest mean (3.38) indicates that the community is generally accessible, with 90% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing that they can get to where they need to go in the community. However, this may not be true for all community members, as this item also had the highest percentage of respondents who strongly disagreed (10%). At least 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with several other statements, including, “I feel safe in my neighborhood” (90%), “My community is overall a clean, well-kept community” (90%), “I am very satisfied with my neighborhood as a place to live” (94%), and “My community has educational opportunities for children (96%).

The child-focused mean, at 3.06, was slightly lower than the overall mean, largely driven by two items in this subscale having means between “disagree” and “agree” on the 4-point scale. One-third of the sample either strongly disagreed (9%) or disagreed (24%) that they could find help with childcare when needed, while a quarter of the sample strongly disagreed (5%) or disagreed (21%) that they could find mental health services for their children. This second item also contributed to the mental health-focused mean (3.05) being slightly lower. The distribution of responses is displayed visually in **Figure 2**.

**Figure 2. Agreement With Community Descriptions**



Parents with less than a bachelor's degree more strongly agreed they know where to get help during a mental health emergency.

None of the individual scale items, nor the overall mean or subscale means, significantly correlated with age of respondent, age of the youngest child in the home, or number of children in the home. Evaluators assessed comparisons for gender, income, education, and racial groups, and one significant difference emerged. Parents with less than a bachelor's degree agreed more strongly that they know where to get help in a mental health emergency compared to those who held a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>11</sup>

Next, participants indicated how well they thought six statements described their community, ranging from a low of 1 ("not at all") to a high of 4 ("all of the time"). **Table 3** displays the distribution of responses across all six items, along with an average of individual items and the overall scale score.

**Table 3. Assessment of Community Perspective Statements**

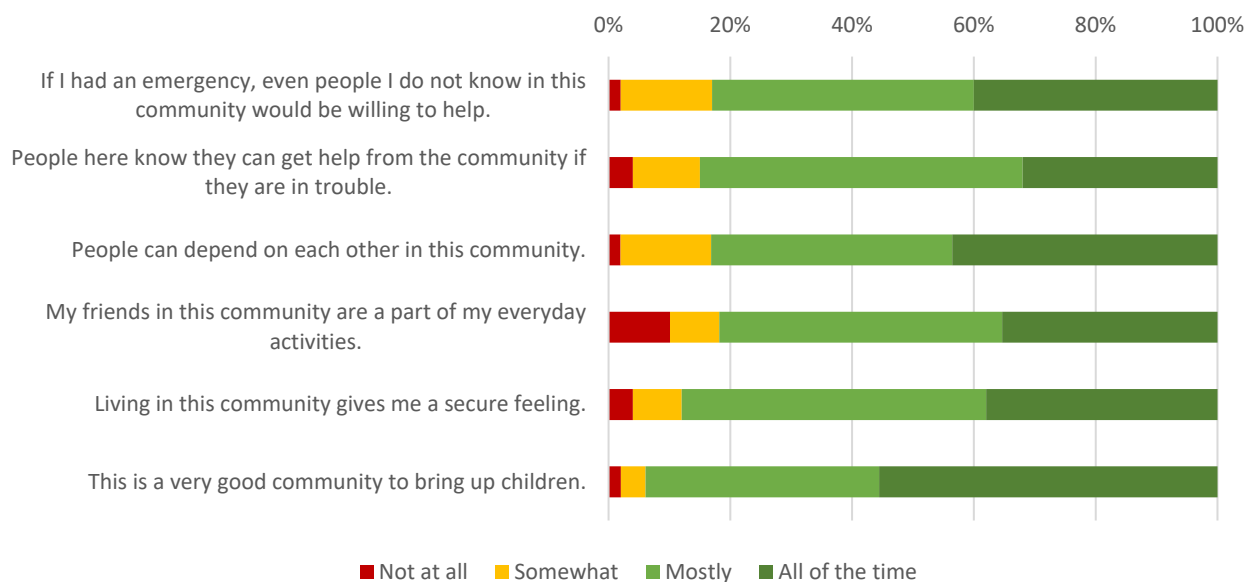
	Not at All	Some what	Mostly	All of the Time	Mean (SD)
If I had an emergency, even people I do not know in this community would be willing to help.	2%	15%	43%	40%	3.21 (0.78)
People here know they can get help from the community if they are in trouble.	4%	11%	53%	32%	3.13 (0.77)
People can depend on each other in this community.	2%	15%	40%	44%	3.25 (0.79)
My friends in this community are a part of my everyday activities.	10%	8%	46%	35%	3.06 (0.93)
Living in this community gives me a secure feeling.	4%	8%	50%	38%	3.21 (0.77)
This is a very good community to bring up children.	2%	4%	38%	55%	3.47 (0.69)
<b>Overall Mean</b>					<b>3.19 (0.65)</b>

<sup>11</sup> Those with less than a bachelor's degree more strongly agreed that they know where to get help in a mental health emergency ( $M = 3.35, SD = 0.78$ ) compared to those who held a bachelor's degree or higher ( $M = 2.79, SD = 0.86$ );  $t(40) = 1.92, p = .032$ .



Respondents' views were largely positive, with all single items averaging at least a 3 on the 4-point scale and the overall scale mean above a 3 (3.19). On all single items, at least 80% of respondents felt the statement was true at least "mostly." Respondents most strongly believed that Lincoln County is a very good community to bring up children, with 93% believing this was true either "mostly" (38%) or "all of the time" (55%). The items that participants felt least positively about deal with community interconnectivity. Nearly one in five participants felt that their friends are a part of their everyday lives only "somewhat" (8%) or "not at all" (10%). Fifteen percent of respondents felt that others would be willing to help in an emergency and that people in the community can depend on each other "somewhat" with an additional 2% feeling that these statements were "not at all" true. The distribution of responses is displayed in **Figure 3**.

**Figure 3. Assessment of Community Perspectives**



↑  
Non-White parents more often felt that Lincoln County is a good community to bring up children.

As with the community descriptions section above (Table 2), none of the community perception items, nor the scale mean, were significantly correlated with respondent age, age of the youngest child, or number of children in the home. Group differences for gender, income, and education also were not significant. However, one item was perceived significantly differently by respondents reporting their race as White alone versus those who were not White alone. Non-

White respondents felt that Lincoln is a good community to bring up children more often than White respondents.<sup>12</sup>

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the two community scales discussed in this section were positively associated with each other—respondents who had a higher score/felt more positively toward the community on one also tended to score more highly on the other.<sup>13</sup>

## Giving and Receiving Help

Respondents were presented with a list of six items and asked to indicate both how often they had given that type of assistance to others in their community and how often they had received it. Answer options were “no,” “once,” and “more than once.” In addition to the percentage of respondents who answered with each of these options in **Table 4**, overall giving and receiving sum scores were created as a proxy for the overall help each respondent gave or received. For these sum scores, a score of 0 was assigned to answers of “no,” 1 to “once,” and 2 to “more than once.” These sum scores were used to create continuous variables that could range from 0 to 12 for analysis purposes.

**Table 4. Reported Frequency of Giving and Receiving Help**

In the past 30 days, have you helped a neighbor or friend by:	No	Once	More Than Once
Taking care of their child(ren) on a regular (e.g., weekly or daily) basis?	31%	20%	49%
Taking care of their child(ren) when something is unexpected?	33%	25%	42%
Running an errand for them, helping them shop, giving them a ride somewhere, or helping them around the house with a chore/repair?	38%	13%	50%
Lending them things like money, tools, food, or clothing?	42%	19%	40%
Giving them some advice or information about raising child(ren)?	29%	25%	46%
Listening as they share about challenges regarding parenting?	29%	23%	48%

<sup>12</sup> Non-White respondents felt that Lincoln is a good community to bring up children more often ( $M = 4.00$ ,  $SD = 0.00$ ) than White respondents ( $M = 3.38$ ,  $SD = 0.71$ );  $t(38) = -5.40$ ,  $p < .001$ .

<sup>13</sup>  $r = 0.60$  ( $p < 0.001$ ,  $n = 49$ ).



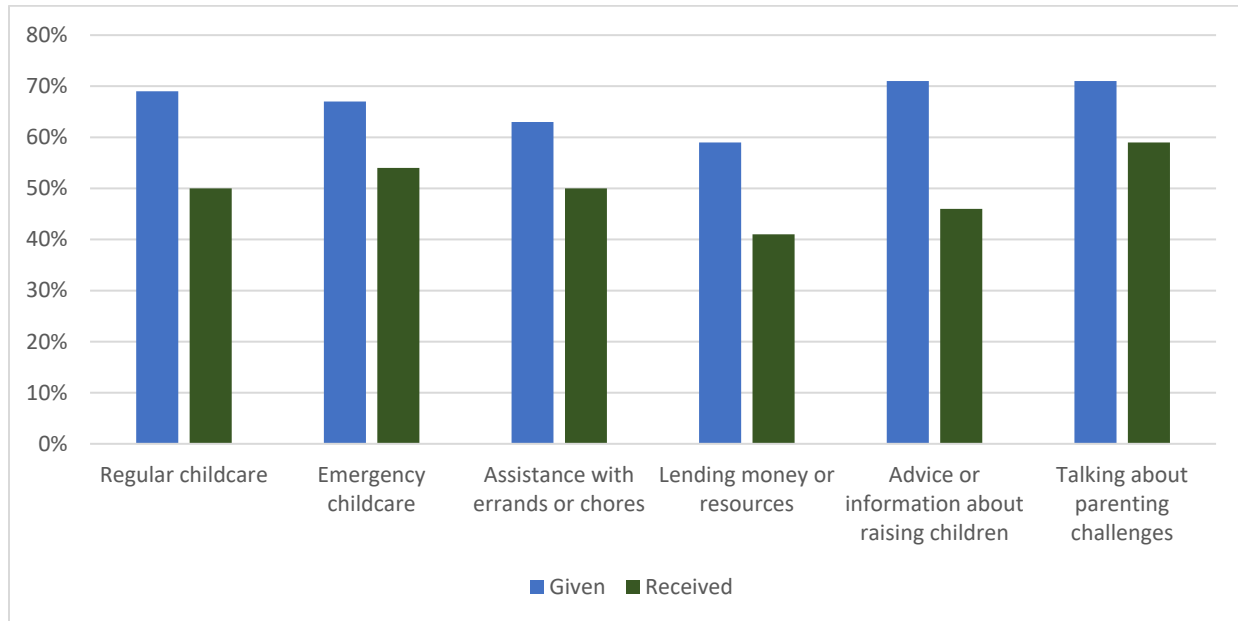
<b>Now thinking about this in terms of help you might have needed, in the past 30 days, have you asked a neighbor or friend to:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Once</b>	<b>More Than Once</b>
Look after your child(ren) on a regular (e.g., weekly or daily) basis?	50%	23%	27%
Look after your child(ren) when something unexpected happened?	46%	31%	23%
Run an errand for you, help you with shopping, give you a ride somewhere, or help you around the house with a chore/repair?	50%	21%	29%
Lend you things like money, tools, food, or clothing?	58%	10%	31%
Give you some advice or information about raising child(ren)?	54%	17%	29%
Listen and talk about parenting challenges?	42%	27%	31%

The most common forms of assistance that participants reported giving dealt with discussions about parenting. Over two-thirds of the sample reported that they had given a friend or neighbor advice or information about parenting (71%) and had listened to a friend or neighbor’s parenting challenges (71%) at least once in the last month. Talking to someone else about parenting challenges was also the most common form of help respondents received, with 58% of the sample reporting they had asked a neighbor or friend to talk about this topic with them at least once. Lending money or other resources was the least common form of help respondents gave and received, with 59% reporting they had lent such resources to their neighbors at least once and just 41% reporting they had asked for this type of assistance at least once.

Respondents reported giving help more often than they received help across all six types of aid. **Figure 4** shows the percentage of individuals who indicated they had given and/or received each of the six types of aid at least once in a side-by-side comparison. With an average help given sum score of 6.61 ( $SD = 4.57$ ) and an average help received sum score of 4.71 ( $SD = 4.47$ ), respondents were 1.4 times as likely to say they had given help than received it. However, reports of giving and receiving help were significantly correlated – participants who reported giving more help also reported receiving more help and vice versa.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup>  $r = .54, p < .001, n = 48$ .

**Figure 4. Percentage of Respondents Giving and Receiving Help at Least Once**



Older respondents gave less help across a variety of types of aid.

Evaluators assessed correlational relationships between scale items and respondent age, age of the youngest child, and number of children in the home. Respondent age was significantly associated with several items. Older respondents reported giving less regular and unexpected childcare and help with errands and tasks and listening less often to a friend or neighbor talk about parenting challenges.<sup>15</sup> The number of

children living in the home was also associated with several giving help items. Parents with more children in the home reported lending more resources, giving more advice and information about parenting, and listening more often to parenting challenges.<sup>16</sup> The age of the youngest child in the home was associated with several giving and receiving help items. Parents with older children reported lending fewer resources, giving less advice about parenting, and listening to

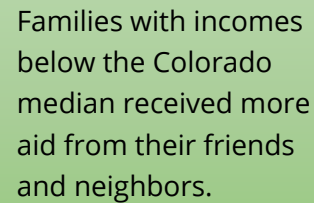
Parents with more children gave more help by lending resources, giving parenting advice, and listening to parenting challenges.

<sup>15</sup> There was a negative correlation between age and giving help with regular childcare ( $r = -.38, p = .008, n = 47$ ); unexpected childcare ( $r = -.35, p = .018, n = 46$ ); errands, chores, and tasks ( $r = -.36, p = .013, n = 46$ ); and listening about parenting challenges ( $r = -.32, p = .029, n = 46$ ).

<sup>16</sup> There was a positive correlation between number of children in the home and lending resources ( $r = .33, p = .031, n = 42$ ); giving advice about parenting ( $r = .320, p = .040, n = 42$ ); and listening to parenting challenges ( $r = .43, p = .004, n = 42$ ).

parenting challenges less often.<sup>17</sup> Parents with older children in the home also reported receiving less regular and unexpected childcare, help with errands, lent resources, and advice about parenting.<sup>18</sup>

There were several differences among the receiving help items, and the overall receiving help sum score, between respondents reporting household incomes above and below the Colorado median income. Those with incomes below the median reported receiving more help with errands and tasks, lent resources, and advice about parenting than those with higher incomes.<sup>19</sup> Congruently, those with lower household



Families with incomes below the Colorado median received more aid from their friends and neighbors.

incomes also had higher receiving help sum scores. There were also some differences between those holding less than a bachelor's degree and those having a bachelor's degree or higher; those with less than a bachelor's degree reported giving more help with regular childcare and had higher giving help sum scores than those holding at least a bachelor's degree.<sup>20</sup>

## Family and Parenting

Using a 3-point response scale of "rarely," "on occasion," and "most of the time," respondents answered eight items assessing their family dynamics and relationships. As shown in **Table 5**, most respondents reported high levels of positive family functioning, with at least 70% stating that their family did each item "most of the time." This pattern of positive responses is underscored by the overall average score, which at 2.75 ( $SD = 0.42$ ) was close to the maximum value of 3.

<sup>17</sup> There was a negative correlation between age of the youngest child in the home and lending resources ( $r = -.32, p = .046, n = 40$ ); giving advice about parenting ( $r = -.48, p = .002, n = 40$ ); and listening to parenting challenges ( $r = -.49, p = .001, n = 40$ ).

<sup>18</sup> There was a negative correlation between age of the youngest child in the home and receiving regular childcare ( $r = -.35, p = .029, n = 40$ ); unexpected childcare ( $r = -.44, p = .005, n = 40$ ); help with errands ( $r = -.37, p = .019, n = 40$ ); lent resources ( $r = -.42, p = .008, n = 40$ ); and advice about parenting ( $r = -.34, p = .035, n = 40$ ).

<sup>19</sup> Those with incomes below the Colorado median reported receiving more help with errands and tasks ( $M = 1.00, SD = 0.90$ ) than those above the median income ( $M = 0.38, SD = 0.65$ );  $t(44) = 2.24, p = .030$ ; more help with resources ( $M = 0.91, SD = 0.95$ ) than those above the median income ( $M = 0.23, SD = 0.60$ );  $t(34.67) = 2.90, p = .006$ ; and more advice about parenting ( $M = 0.97, SD = 0.92$ ) than those above the median income ( $M = 0.31, SD = 0.63$ );  $t(32.04) = 2.80, p = .009$ .

<sup>20</sup> Those with less than a bachelor's degree reported giving more regular childcare ( $M = 1.46, SD = 0.76$ ) than those with a bachelor's degree or higher ( $M = 0.95, SD = 0.95$ );  $t(44) = 2.04, p = .048$  and had higher giving help sum scores ( $M = 8.19, SD = 3.93$ ) than those with a bachelor's degree or higher ( $M = 5.40, SD = 4.73$ );  $t(44) = 2.19, p = .034$ .

**Table 5. Reported Frequency of Family Behaviors**

	Rarely	On Occasion	Most of the Time
In my family, we talk about problems.	6%	21%	73%
In my family, we take time to listen to each other.	2%	21%	77%
My family pulls together when things are stressful.	2%	21%	77%
My family is able to solve our problems.	2%	17%	81%
My family can consistently meet our basic material needs (e.g., food, clothing, and shelter).	2%	13%	85%
My family enjoys spending time together.	2%	21%	77%
Members of my family are emotionally and physically healthy.	2%	23%	75%
My family is able to find resources in the community when we need them.	2%	23%	75%
<b>Overall Mean</b>			<b>2.75 (0.42)</b>

Positively, the most highly rated item was, “My family can consistently meet our basic material needs” with 85% of respondents indicating this is true “most of the time.” Respondents also commonly reported that their family is able to solve their problems, with 81% feeling this is true “most of the time.” The item with the most dissent was, “In my family, we talk about our problems” with a quarter of respondents feeling this was true only “rarely” (6%) or “on occasion” (21%).

The evaluators assessed the correlational relationships between the individual scale items and overall scale average and respondent age, number of children, and age of the youngest child. Group comparisons were also conducted for gender, income, education, and racial groups. None of these relationships proved significant.

Parents were also asked to report how often they felt certain emotions or performed certain behaviors related to their parenting, again on a “rarely” to “most of the time” scale. The distribution of responses is shown in **Table 6**. For this scale, two items were reverse scored (“I believe my child misbehaves just to upset me” and “When I discipline my child, I lose control”) before creating the overall scale score. As with the family behaviors scale, the average score (2.70 out of 3) was close to the maximum value, indicating that parents felt they frequently engaged in positive parenting strategies. At least 65% of respondents reported they engaged in positive behaviors and thinking “most of the time.”

**Table 6. Reported Frequency of Parenting Behaviors**

	Rarely	On Occasion	Most of the Time
I know how to help my child.	8%	13%	79%
I believe my child misbehaves just to upset me.	65%	23%	13%
I praise my child when he/she behaves well.	4%	15%	81%
When I discipline my child, I lose control.	73%	10%	17%
I am happy being with my child.	4%	10%	85%
My child and I are very close to each other.	8%	13%	79%
I am able to soothe my child when he/she is upset.	6%	17%	77%
I spend time with my child doing what he/she likes to do.	4%	21%	75%
I know what to expect from my child as he/she grows and develops.	6%	10%	83%
I generally feel confident parenting my child.	4%	17%	79%
<b>Overall Mean</b>			<b>2.70 (0.42)</b>

Respondent age was significantly correlated with one item: older parents more often felt that they know what to expect as their child grows and develops.<sup>21</sup> No significant group differences were observed for gender, education, income, or racial groups.

The evaluators explored the relationships between items on the family and parenting scales, and nearly all of these items were significantly correlated.<sup>22</sup> As such, it may be more compelling to explore which variables were *not* significantly related. A respondent believing that their child misbehaved to upset them was not significantly associated with any variables on the family behaviors scale (Table 5), nor was a parent reporting that they lose control when disciplining their child. However, these two items were significantly correlated: parents who more often believed their child misbehaved to upset them more often reported losing control when disciplining.<sup>23</sup> Parents who reported losing control during discipline also tended to have lower

<sup>21</sup> There was a positive relationship between respondent age and knowing what to expect as their child grows and develops ( $r = .29, p = .048, n = 47$ ).

<sup>22</sup> A printout of single item correlations is available upon request.

<sup>23</sup> There was a positive relationship between believing a child intentionally misbehaves and losing control when disciplining ( $r = .62, p < .001, n = 48$ ).



average parenting scores overall.<sup>24</sup> Several positive behaviors were also not correlated. A parent knowing how to help their child was not associated with reports of families taking time to listen to each other or pulling together under stress. A parent reporting they were close with their child was not related to reports of pulling together under stress, enjoying time together, or their ability to find resources in the community. As expected, due to the large quantity of single item correlations, the overall scale means for the family and parenting scales were also correlated.<sup>25</sup>

## Conclusions

The overall results of the community assessment reflect positively on Lincoln County. Respondents generally reported very high levels of satisfaction with life in Lincoln County, feeling that it is a safe, satisfying, and accessible place to live and that they have the ability to access a variety of resources and supports within the county. Many individuals had received help from and/or given help to others in the community, suggesting that there are opportunities for interpersonal connection between families and an ability to lean on others for support. Furthermore, most parents who participated reported high levels of positive family interactions and engagement in positive parenting practices.

However, there is still an opportunity to improve the protective network for families in Lincoln County. Few families had utilized resources specifically designed to aid families and parenting, such as family resource centers and emergency respite care. Families also seem to struggle with childcare needs, as finding childcare was one of the only items individuals were not overwhelmingly satisfied with living in Lincoln County, and center-based childcare was not commonly accessed. While participants reported giving and receiving many types of aid, differences emerged across a variety of demographics, indicating specific populations may be leaning on their neighbors for resources they can't access in the community.

By using the data presented in this report as a starting point for deeper conversations and explorations of community protective factors, the strengths of the community may be built upon to provide a positive foundation for all the youth and families in Lincoln County.

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<sup>24</sup> There was a negative relationship between losing control during discipline and the average parenting scale score ( $r = -.31, p = .034, n = 48$ ).

<sup>25</sup> There was a positive relationship between the family and parenting mean scores ( $r = .56, p < .001, n = 48$ ).

## Appendix A. Full Lincoln County Community Planning Assessment

### Community Supports<sup>26</sup>

We are interested in learning more about how the supports and resources parents often find in the communities in which they live can help them care for their children. These first few questions ask about the resources available in your community.

**Communities often have organizations that support families. Please indicate if you are familiar with the following organizations or institutions in your community.**

Please select all that apply.

<b>Are you familiar with the organization?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Religious or faith organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hospital/urgent care clinics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Primary care doctors or pediatricians	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent organizations that work with schools like the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or school improvement councils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sport or recreational programs for children and youth (e.g., Little League, scouting, music/dance programs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for pre-school children (2-4 years of age)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Center-based childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parenting education/support programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visiting programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Resource Centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite or emergency care for young children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Behavioral/mental health services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance use services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<sup>26</sup> One item from the standard CBCAP assessment was removed from the Community Resource Use and Familiarity scale: "Neighborhood watch organization or resident, tenant, or homeowner's association."



**Communities often have organizations that support families. Please indicate if you have used the following organizations or institutions in your community.**

Please select all that apply.

<b>Have you used the organization?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Religious or faith organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hospital/urgent care clinics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Primary care doctors or pediatricians	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent organizations that work with schools like the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or school improvement councils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sport or recreational programs for children and youth (e.g., Little League, scouting, music/dance programs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for pre-school children (2-4 years of age)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Center-based childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parenting education/support programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visiting programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Resource Centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite or emergency care for young children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Behavioral/mental health services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance use services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.**

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
I can generally get to where I need to go in my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel safe in my neighborhood.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My community is overall a clean, well-kept community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People generally can find work in or near my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can find help with childcare in my community when I need it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am very satisfied with my neighborhood as a place to live.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My community has educational opportunities for children.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can find mental health services for myself or other adults in my family. <sup>27</sup>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can find mental health services for my children. <sup>28</sup>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have others who will listen when I need to talk about my challenges. <sup>29</sup>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If I were to experience a mental health emergency, I know how to get help. <sup>30</sup>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My family is able to find mental health resources in the language we are most comfortable speaking. <sup>31</sup>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<sup>27</sup> Item added to standard CBCAP assessment.

<sup>28</sup> Item added to standard CBCAP assessment.

<sup>29</sup> Item added to standard CBCAP assessment.

<sup>30</sup> Item added to standard CBCAP assessment.

<sup>31</sup> Item added to standard CBCAP assessment.



**People have different ways of describing their community. How well do the following statements describe people in your community?**

	Not at all	Somewhat	Mostly	All of the Time	Don't Know
If I had an emergency, even people I do not know in this community would be willing to help.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People here know they can get help from the community if they are in trouble.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People can depend on each other in this community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My friends in this community are a part of my everyday activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Living in this community gives me a secure feeling.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This is a very good community to bring up children.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



**From time to time, people in communities often offer help to each other to deal with simple issues around parenting. In the past 30 days, have you helped a neighbor or friend by:**

	No	Once	More Than Once
Taking care of their child(ren) on a regular (e.g., weekly or daily) basis?	0	0	0
Taking care of their child(ren) when something is unexpected?	0	0	0
Running an errand for them, helping them shop, giving them a ride somewhere, or helping them around the house with a chore/repair?	0	0	0
Lending them things like money, tools, food, or clothing?	0	0	0
Giving them some advice or information about raising child(ren)?	0	0	0
Listening as they share about challenges regarding parenting? <sup>32</sup>	0	0	0

**Now thinking about this in terms of help you might have needed, in the past 30 days, have you asked a neighbor or friend to:**

	No	Once	More Than Once
Look after your child(ren) on a regular (e.g., weekly or daily) basis?	0	0	0
Look after your child(ren) when something unexpected happened?	0	0	0
Run an errand for you, help you with shopping, give you a ride somewhere, or help you around the house with a chore/repair?	0	0	0
Lend you things like money, tools, food, or clothing?	0	0	0
Give you some advice or information about raising child(ren)?	0	0	0
Listen and talk about parenting challenges? <sup>33</sup>	0	0	0

<sup>32</sup> Item added to standard CBCAP assessment.

<sup>33</sup> Item added to standard CBCAP assessment.

## Family Supports

Thinking about your own family, the next few questions ask about how families can help each other support and care for their children.

**Many families have a number of strengths as well as challenges. From the statements listed below, please indicate how well each characteristic describes your family.**

	Rarely	On Occasion	Most of the Time
In my family, we talk about problems.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In my family, we take time to listen to each other.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My family pulls together when things are stressful.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My family is able to solve our problems.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My family can consistently meet our basic material needs (e.g., food, clothing, and shelter).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My family enjoys spending time together.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Members of my family are emotionally and physically healthy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My family is able to find resources in the community when we need them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Raising children can be challenging. Please indicate how often each statement applies to you in thinking about the relationship with your youngest child living in your home.**

	Rarely	On Occasion	Most of the Time
I know how to help my child.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe my child misbehaves just to upset me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I praise my child when he/she behaves well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When I discipline my child, I lose control.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am happy being with my child.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child and I are very close to each other.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am able to soothe my child when he/she is upset.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I spend time with my child doing what he/she likes to do.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know what to expect from my child as he/she grows and develops.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I generally feel confident parenting my child. <sup>34</sup>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<sup>34</sup> Item added to standard CBCAP assessment.

## General Description

This final set of questions will help us understand a bit more about you.

### In what year were you born?

#### Please specify your gender.

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary/Gender non-conforming
- Transgender
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe [open-ended]

#### Which ethnicity/race best describes you? Please select all that apply.

- African-American or Black
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian American
- Hispanic or Latino American
- Caucasian/White
- Other [open-ended]

#### What is your highest level of education?

- Less than high school
- High school graduate/GED
- Some college/post-secondary school/technical school
- College graduate
- Graduate degree(s)

#### What is your estimated annual income?

- Less than \$5,000
- \$5,000 - \$9,999
- \$10,000 - \$14,999
- \$15,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$24,999
- \$25,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$34,999
- \$35,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$44,999
- \$45,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$54,999
- \$55,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$124,999
- \$125,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$249,999
- \$250,000 or more

#### How many children under age 18 are currently living with you?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10+

#### What is the age of the youngest child currently living at home?

- Infant (under 1 year)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17



**Do you share caregiving responsibilities for your child(ren) with another adult on a regular basis?**

- Yes
- No

**Have you, or other adults who share caregiving responsibilities for your child(ren), ever served in the U.S. military?**

- Yes
- No

**Please list the ZIP Code in which you live:**

We thank you for your time taking this survey. Your response has been recorded.