



DuPage County ROSC Community Survey - February 2025

Background

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the prevalence within, and the perception of substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health challenges (MHC) within DuPage County, highlighting critical insights into the challenges faced by the community and professionals in possessing the agility to maneuver around, or in meeting these challenges. It underscores the growing need for effective interventions and support systems, as substance use disorder and mental health challenges continue to impact individuals and families across the county. IDHS SUPR and DuPage ROSC play a pivotal role in observing and addressing these concerns, working to shift public perception and reduce stigma associated with these conditions, promote harm reduction, and prioritizing equity in delivering services for and meeting these challenges and areas of need. Through its efforts, ROSC has identified key areas of need, including expanded access to treatment, enhanced community education, and the integration of recovery oriented services to foster healthier communities and greater outcomes of success in recovery. This report serves as a resource for understanding the current landscape, areas of need, and in guiding future initiatives in meeting and addressing these needs and gaps.

The information gathered from the community on SUD and MHC was determined through the employment of a community needs assessment survey disseminated to the community. The questions making up this survey consisted of half that were developed by the state, and another half independently from within DuPage ROSC, specifically to try and elucidate some of the finer-resolution perceptions, areas of need, reducing associated stigmas, promoting Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR), harm reduction, prioritizing equity, and ensuring effective delivery of services and their impact in the community. Survey participant makeup consisted of a wide sampling of community members from a variety of industries, professions, socioeconomic,

cultural, and racial backgrounds, Persons with Lived Experiences (PLEs), Mental Health Challenge Experiencing Persons (MHCEP), and persons who have no experience with SUD or MHC.

The survey was disseminated via promoted and provided survey links and QR codes at the following meetings: DuPage ROSC Council, Prevention Leadership Team, DuPage Council on Strengthening the System, DuPage Health Department Behavioral Health Collaborative, and Catholic Charities.

Via email blast by the following organizations: DuPage ROSC, DuPage Narcan Program, Prevention Leadership Team, DuPage Health Department Behavioral Health Collaborative.

Surveys were given to clients of Serenity House at the men's halfway house, women's halfway house, and recovery homes.

Survey was promoted across both DuPage ROSC and Serenity House's social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.

Flyers promoting the survey with QR codes to the survey were hung on community bulletin boards at area libraries: Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Addison, Naperville, Carol Stream, Villa Park, West Chicago.

In the context of this document SP refers to "Survey Participants."

Executive Summary/Key Findings:

- SPs felt as though there have been positive changes in the perception of SUD and MHC, but still room for further shifting in that.
- The efforts of IDHS SUPR, DuPage ROSC, and Federal efforts in addressing the opioid/fentanyl crisis have been successful in responding to the crisis.
- SPs have appetite for further funding and expanded efforts in providing services and community efforts in meeting and treating SUD/MHC.
- SPs felt as though DuPage County suffers from being a desert with regards to needs specifically for inpatient treatment, transitional housing for SUD, MHC, and emergency or temporary housing for the unhoused.
- SPs indicated that they felt like finding generalized SUD treatment in DuPage County was not difficult, but that the economic/insurance/linguistic/minority-identifying aspects of that were not accessible to everyone equally.
- SPs have empathy for people with SUD, MHC, and the unhoused.
- SPs felt that some of the more polarizing harm reduction efforts such as MAT (methadone specifically, not merely buprenorphine/Suboxone[®]) and needle-exchange programs are effective methods and in need of expanded efforts.
- SPs indicated overwhelming ambivalence about the ability of the court system to treat SUD.

- SPs described common difficulty in transportation to/from services if not privately, in navigating insurance coverage w/r/t specific treatment entities, and in not having insurance coverage.

Gaps/Concerns:

- Transitional housing and sober living; frequency of vacancies at the available options.
- Treatment options for uninsured.
- Public transportation.
- Lack of providers that accept Medicare and Medicaid.
- Lack of distinct inpatient/residential/sober living options for SUD/MHC within DuPage County.
- MHC inpatient/residential treatment options do not have as many options as for SUD, if at all.
- Not an immediate distinguishable place in the public consciousness about knowledge of *where* to go for treatment, in the same way as knowing to go to which hospital; awareness of distinct options.
- Childcare while in treatment.
- Lack of programs that will take people who are unhoused and single, unlike as with parents with children.
- Communication barriers if English is not their first language.

Observations:

- SPs noted the lack of available inpatient, sober living, and transitional housing facilities specifically within DuPage County.
- A common theme among the open ended question about coverage/needs gaps in DuPage County was lack of treatment options for those with public insurance, or without insurance, and the costs being prohibitively expensive if uninsured, or completely unavailable.
- Filtering by age shows a general trend of less knowledge about “where to go for treatment without insurance” as the age range moves higher.
- Filtering by income level impacted whether or not someone answered with ‘transportation’ being an issue in their own words within DuPage County.
- Filtering by income level shows a trend towards decreasing difficulty in finding treatment as income gets higher, giving support to the increased need of places with a public insurance option, or affordable-cost.
- Question 19 would need a “N/A” option, as what initially seems like overwhelming ambiguity is more than likely an attempt to indicate they have never been justice involved.
- Answers to results remained mostly consistent across age and income level. Ability to meaningfully infer across race was unremarkable due to lack of data.

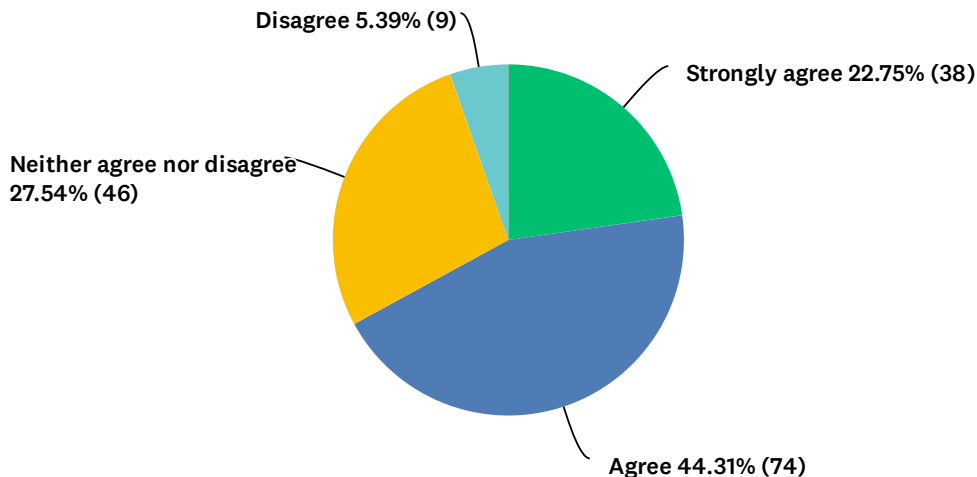
- While a sizeable amount of meaningful data was collected from the survey questions, the open-ended section was illuminating to areas not anticipated in the questions, or in increasing the resolution of the results.
- SPs indicated that a lack of education was a key challenge for those seeking recovery in DuPage County.

Recommendations:

- Continued advocacy for sober, supportive housing at various levels: campaigns, education/presentations for community partners, grassroots activism targeted at a city/township level.
- Creation and oversight of scholarship/voucher program that will provide medical transportation via rideshare apps like Uber Health.
- Increase the knowledge base of DuPage residents on the amount of SUD/MH services available via educations, collaborative resource events, and the expansion of ROSC projects like the Resource Guide and Map.
- Advocacy for reliable, inexpensive childcare for parents needed treatment, or more treatment centers and sober living options that can accommodate children.
- ROSC will expand our Spanish-language access for referrals to service, but all organizations working on the recovery continuum should have alternatives to English whenever possible. This includes looking beyond only Spanish as primary language, as DuPage is home to several different groups speaking other languages (Polish, Russian, etc).
- Promotion of all pathways of Medication Assisted Recovery, including Methadone.
- Follow-up key informant interviews for the following sectors in 2025: gathering qualitative data from community members who do not have an attachment to recovery, SUD/MH, etc.

Q1 Do you feel that the public programs responding to the fentanyl crisis have had a beneficial impact on the crisis?

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

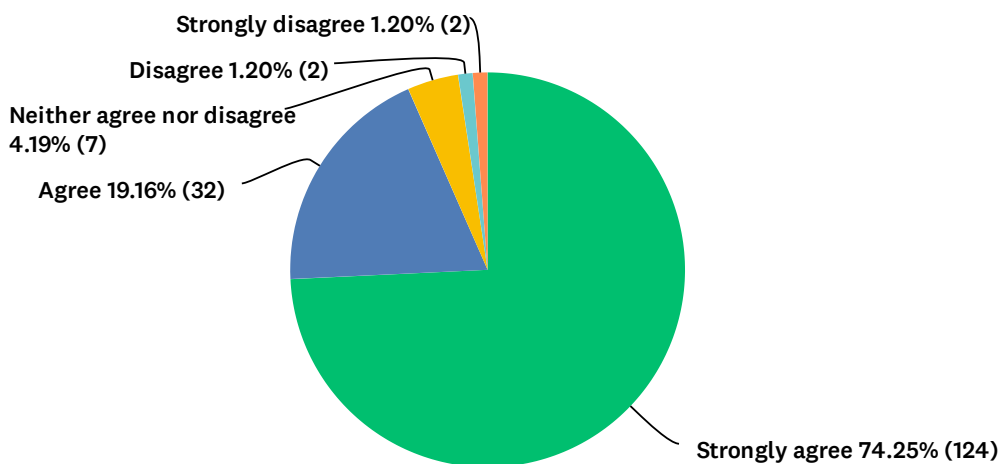


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	22.75%	38
Agree	44.31%	74
Neither agree nor disagree	27.54%	46
Disagree	5.39%	9
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		167

Q2 . We should increase government funding on treatment options for mental health and substance use disorders.

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

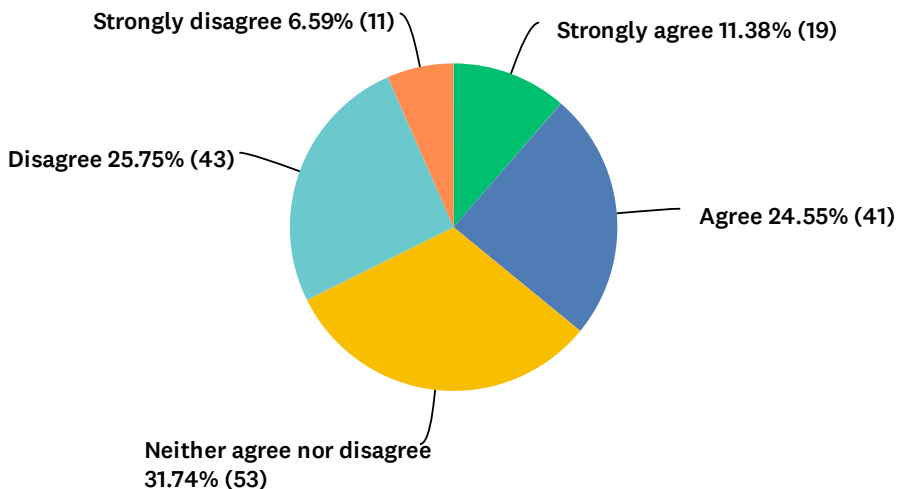
Community Needs Assessment Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	74.25%	124
Agree	19.16%	32
Neither agree nor disagree	4.19%	7
Disagree	1.20%	2
Strongly disagree	1.20%	2
TOTAL		167

Q3 I feel that current prevention education programs in schools are effective at reducing rates of substance abuse.

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

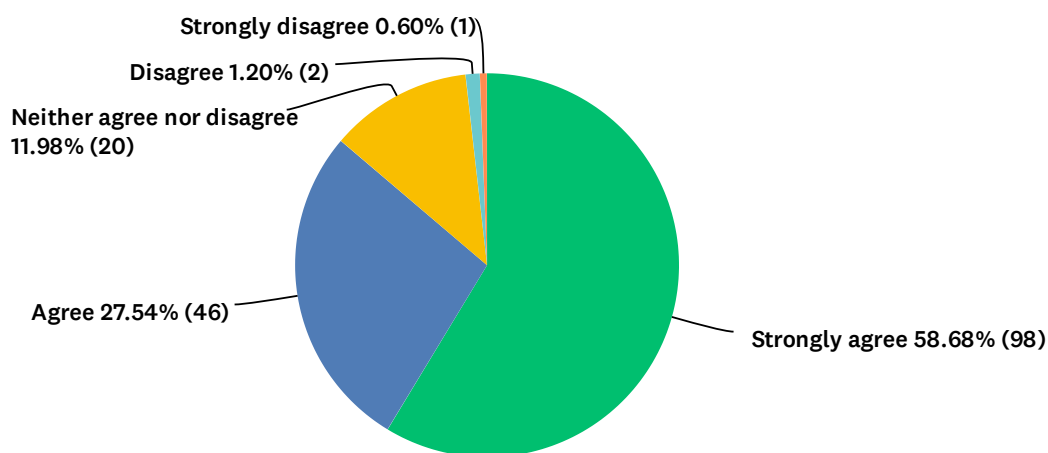


Community Needs Assessment Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11.38%	19
Agree	24.55%	41
Neither agree nor disagree	31.74%	53
Disagree	25.75%	43
Strongly disagree	6.59%	11
TOTAL		167

Q4 People who use drugs deserve respect.

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

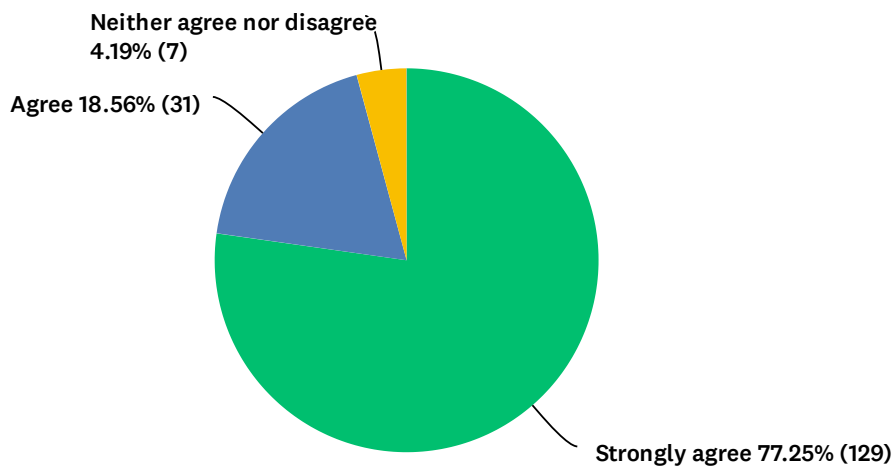


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	58.68%	98
Agree	27.54%	46
Neither agree nor disagree	11.98%	20
Disagree	1.20%	2
Strongly disagree	0.60%	1
TOTAL		167

Q5 People with a mental illness deserve respect.

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

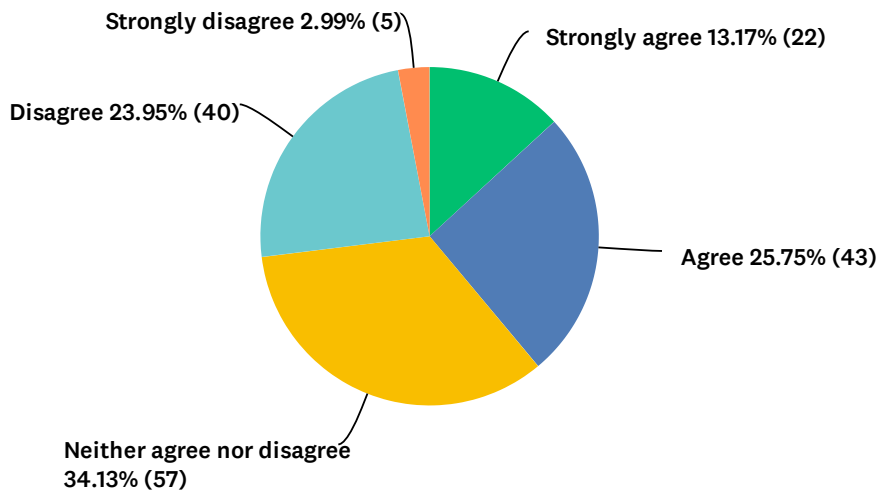
Community Needs Assessment Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	77.25%	129
Agree	18.56%	31
Neither agree nor disagree	4.19%	7
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		167

Q6 I feel that the stigmas surrounding substance abuse in DuPage County are as strong as they were three years ago.

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

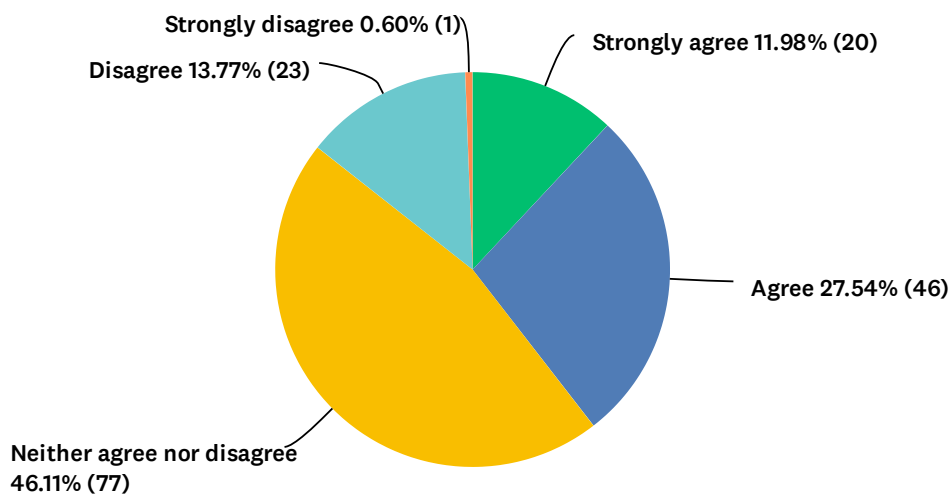


Community Needs Assessment Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	13.17%	22
Agree	25.75%	43
Neither agree nor disagree	34.13%	57
Disagree	23.95%	40
Strongly disagree	2.99%	5
TOTAL		167

Q7 I feel that most of the unhoused people in DuPage County have a substance abuse challenge.

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

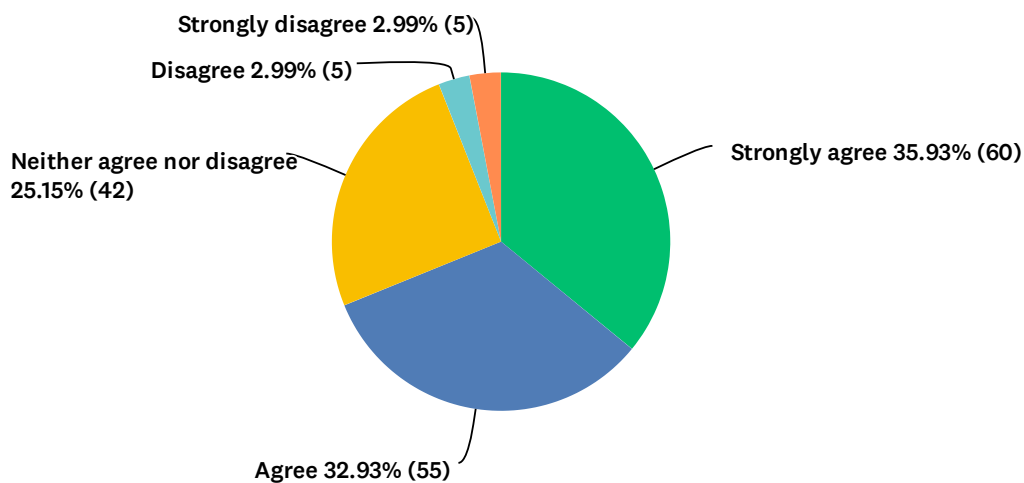


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11.98%	20
Agree	27.54%	46
Neither agree nor disagree	46.11%	77
Disagree	13.77%	23
Strongly disagree	0.60%	1
TOTAL		167

Q8 Medication Assisted Recovery-MAR (which is the use of medications to treat substance use disorders e.g., methadone or buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder) is an effective treatment for substance use disorders.

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

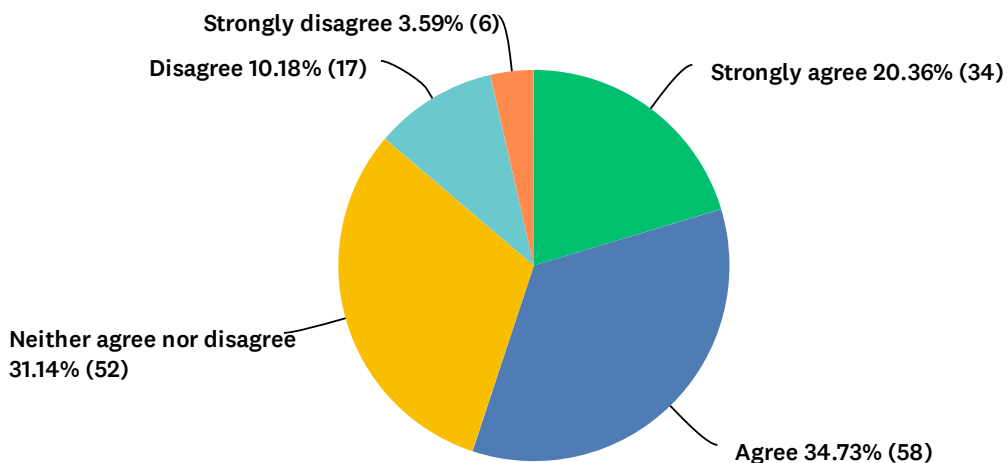
Community Needs Assessment Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	35.93%	60
Agree	32.93%	55
Neither agree nor disagree	25.15%	42
Disagree	2.99%	5
Strongly disagree	2.99%	5
TOTAL		167

Q9 Do you think Methadone is a helpful medication for those living with opioid use challenges?

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

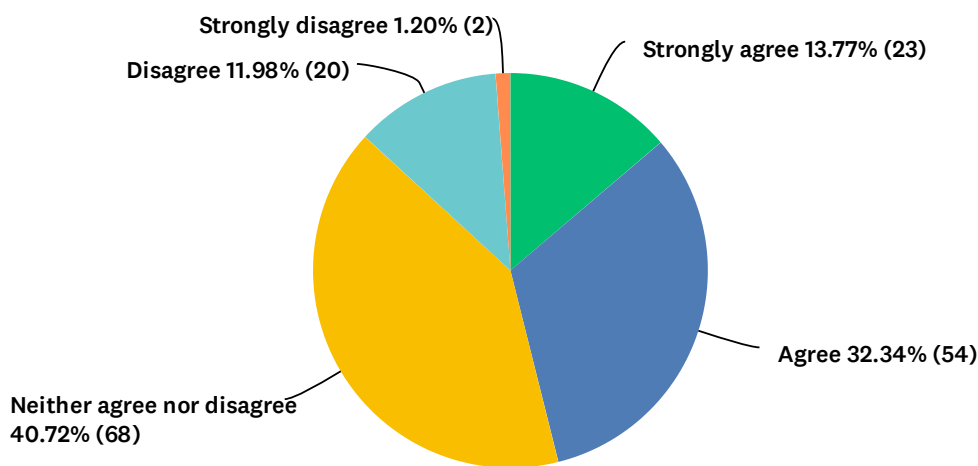


Community Needs Assessment Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	20.36%	34
Agree	34.73%	58
Neither agree nor disagree	31.14%	52
Disagree	10.18%	17
Strongly disagree	3.59%	6
TOTAL		167

Q10 It is difficult to find healthcare providers who offer Medication Assisted Recovery-MAR (which is the use of medications to treat substance use disorders e.g., methadone or buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder) in my community.

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

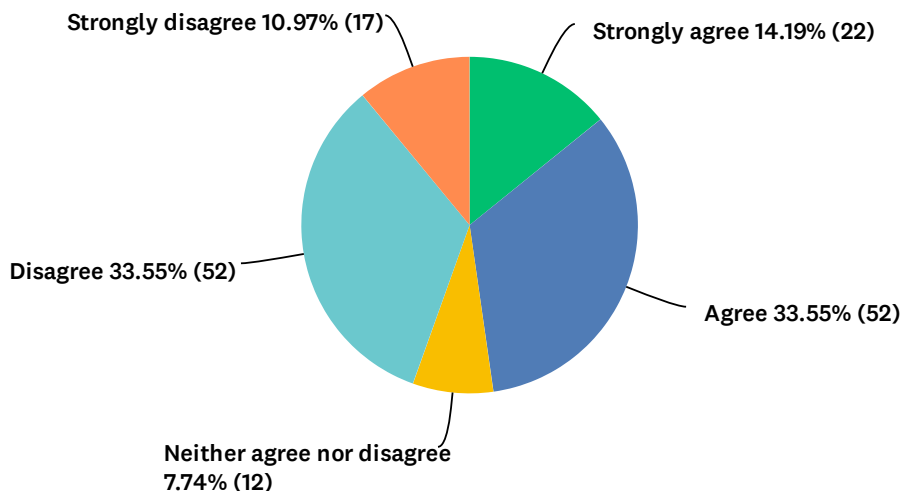


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	13.77%	23
Agree	32.34%	54
Neither agree nor disagree	40.72%	68
Disagree	11.98%	20
Strongly disagree	1.20%	2
TOTAL		167

Q11 I know where to go for substance use treatment services if I do not have health insurance.

Community Needs Assessment Survey

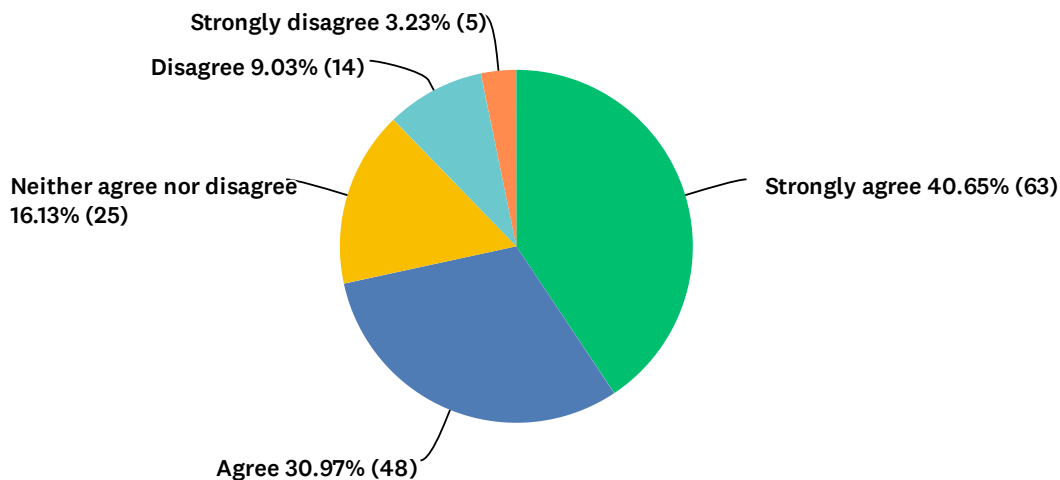
Answered: 155 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	14.19%	22
Agree	33.55%	52
Neither agree nor disagree	7.74%	12
Disagree	33.55%	52
Strongly disagree	10.97%	17
TOTAL		155

Q12 Harm reduction services like Narcan and syringe service programs reduce the risks of drug use.

Answered: 155 Skipped: 12

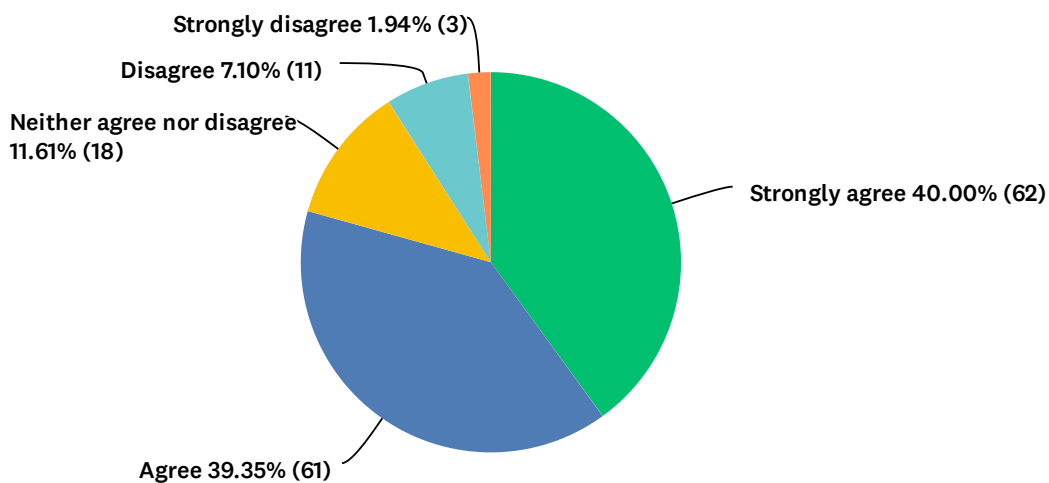


Community Needs Assessment Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	40.65%	63
Agree	30.97%	48
Neither agree nor disagree	16.13%	25
Disagree	9.03%	14
Strongly disagree	3.23%	5
TOTAL		155

Q13 Needle exchanges, or syringe distribution programs, are an effective form of harm reduction.

Answered: 155 Skipped: 12

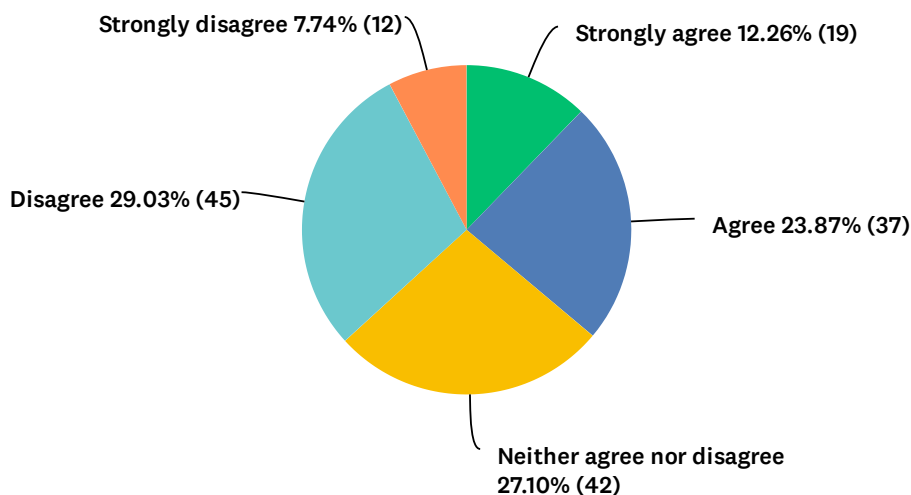


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	40.00%	62
Agree	39.35%	61
Neither agree nor disagree	11.61%	18
Disagree	7.10%	11
Strongly disagree	1.94%	3
TOTAL		155

Q14 It is difficult to find harm reduction services like Narcan and syringe service programs in my community.

Answered: 155 Skipped: 12

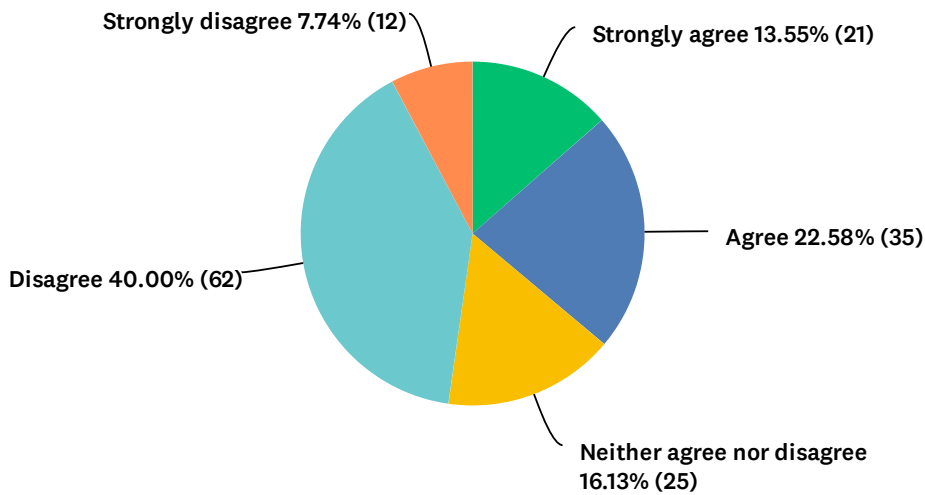
Community Needs Assessment Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	12.26%	19
Agree	23.87%	37
Neither agree nor disagree	27.10%	42
Disagree	29.03%	45
Strongly disagree	7.74%	12
TOTAL		155

Q15 It is difficult to find mental health and substance use treatment services in my community.

Answered: 155 Skipped: 12

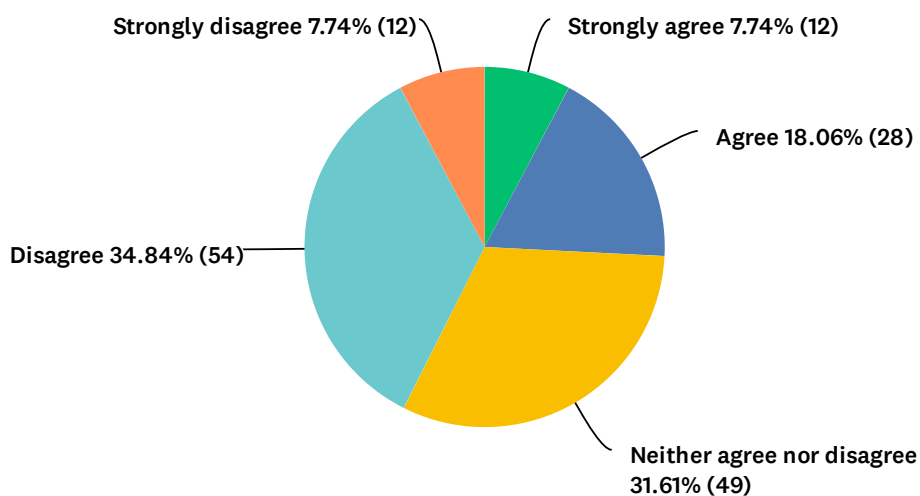


Community Needs Assessment Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	13.55%	21
Agree	22.58%	35
Neither agree nor disagree	16.13%	25
Disagree	40.00%	62
Strongly disagree	7.74%	12
TOTAL		155

Q16 I feel that DuPage County offers enough culturally-competent substance abuse treatment services.

Answered: 155 Skipped: 12

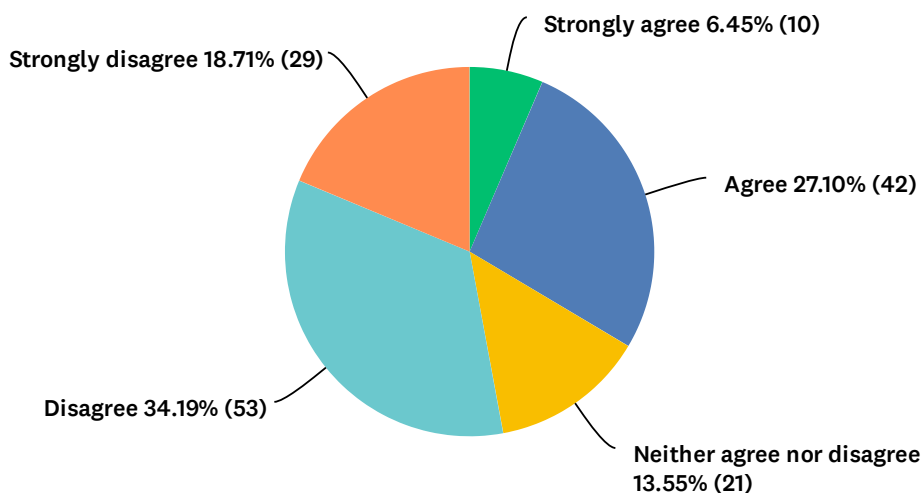


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	7.74%	12
Agree	18.06%	28
Neither agree nor disagree	31.61%	49
Disagree	34.84%	54
Strongly disagree	7.74%	12
TOTAL		155

Q17 Everyone in my community can get help for mental health regardless of income level, insurance status, race, ethnicity, primary language, disabilities, gender identity, sexual orientation, or citizenship status.

Answered: 155 Skipped: 12

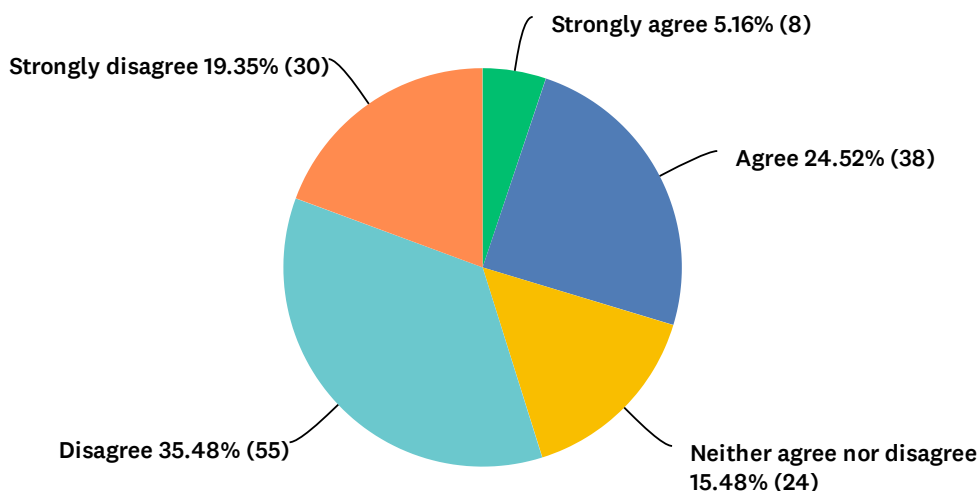
Community Needs Assessment Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	6.45%	10
Agree	27.10%	42
Neither agree nor disagree	13.55%	21
Disagree	34.19%	53
Strongly disagree	18.71%	29
TOTAL		155

Q18 Everyone in my community can get help for substance use regardless of income level, insurance status, race, ethnicity, primary language, disabilities, gender identity, sexual orientation, or citizenship status.

Answered: 155 Skipped: 12

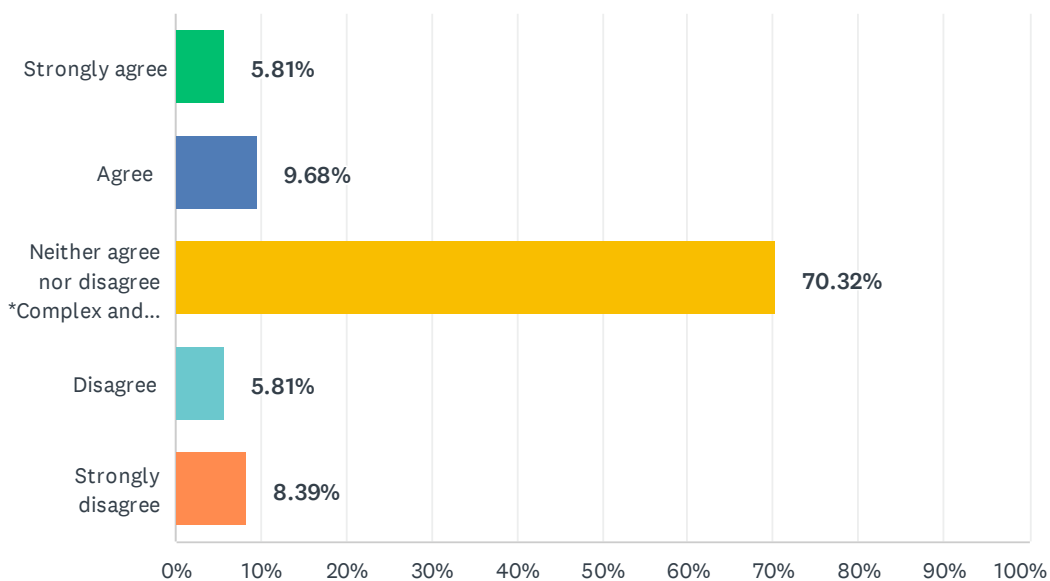


Community Needs Assessment Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	5.16%	8
Agree	24.52%	38
Neither agree nor disagree	15.48%	24
Disagree	35.48%	55
Strongly disagree	19.35%	30
TOTAL		155

Q19 If you currently are, or formerly were, involved in the criminal court system (probation, parole, court supervision, incarceration, etc.), do you feel you were offered enough treatment options to address your substance abuse challenges?

Answered: 155 Skipped: 12



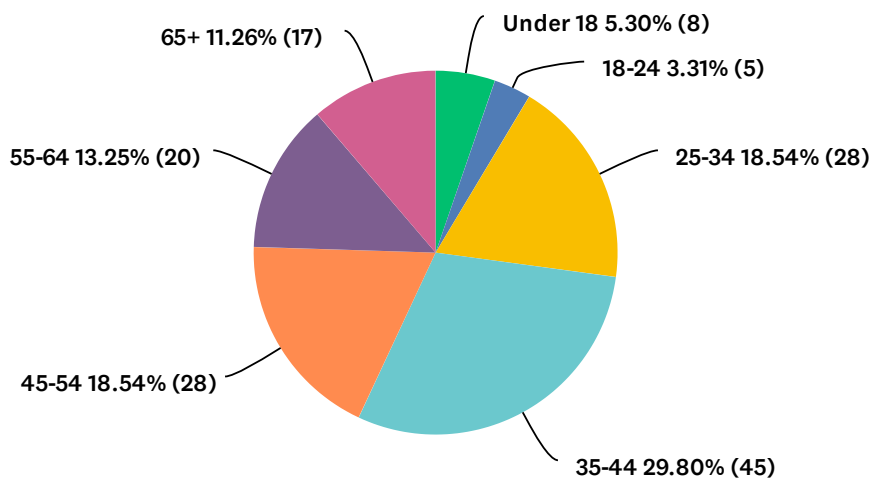
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	5.81%	9
Agree	9.68%	15
Neither agree nor disagree *Complex and unreliable due to lack of "N/A" option	70.32%	109
Disagree	5.81%	9
Strongly disagree	8.39%	13
TOTAL		155

Q20 In your own words, what are the major challenges facing people seeking recovery in DuPage County?

Answered: 155 Skipped: 12

Q21 Age:

Answered: 151 Skipped: 16

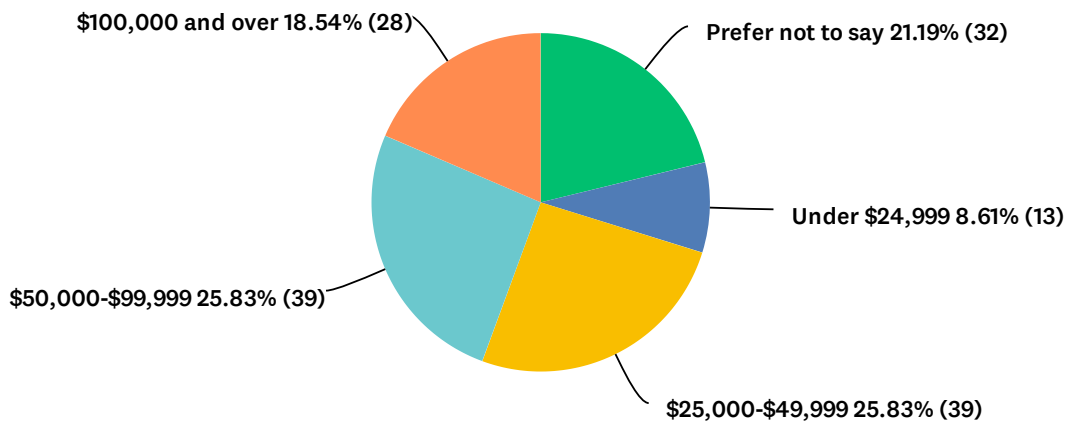


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	5.30%	8
18-24	3.31%	5
25-34	18.54%	28
35-44	29.80%	45
45-54	18.54%	28
55-64	13.25%	20
65+	11.26%	17
TOTAL		151

Q22 Income Level:

Answered: 151 Skipped: 16

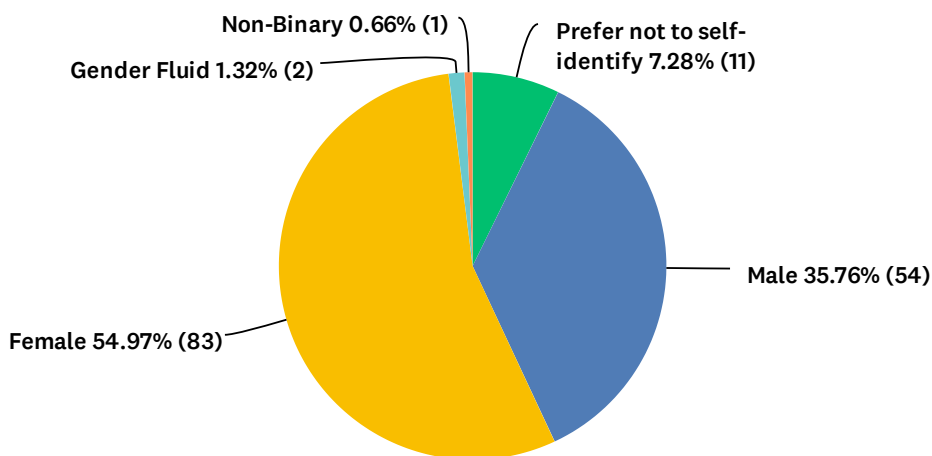
Community Needs Assessment Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prefer not to say	21.19%	32
Under \$24,999	8.61%	13
\$25,000-\$49,999	25.83%	39
\$50,000-\$99,999	25.83%	39
\$100,000 and over	18.54%	28
TOTAL		151

Q23 Gender:

Answered: 151 Skipped: 16



Community Needs Assessment Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prefer not to self-identify	7.28%	11
Male	35.76%	54
Female	54.97%	83
Gender Fluid	1.32%	2
Non-Binary	0.66%	1
TOTAL		151

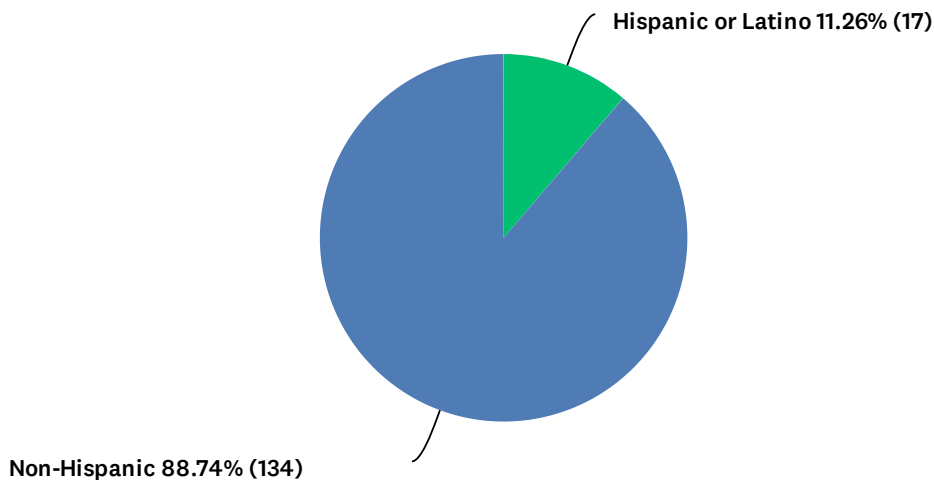
Q24 Location:

Answered: 151 Skipped: 16

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
County:	100.00%	151
Zip Code:	98.01%	148

Q25 Ethnicity

Answered: 151 Skipped: 16

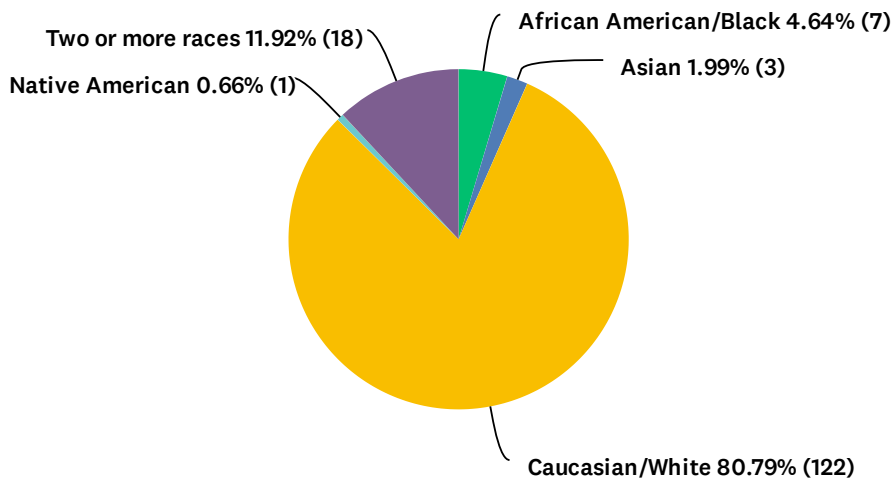


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hispanic or Latino	11.26%	17
Non-Hispanic	88.74%	134
TOTAL		151

Q26 Race:

Answered: 151 Skipped: 16

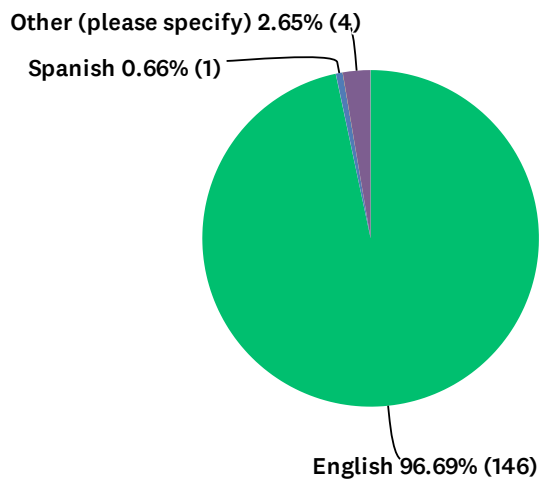
Community Needs Assessment Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
African American/Black	4.64%	7
Asian	1.99%	3
Caucasian/White	80.79%	122
Native American	0.66%	1
Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Two or more races	11.92%	18
TOTAL		151

Q27 Primary Language:

Answered: 151 Skipped: 16



Community Needs Assessment Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
English	96.69%	146
Spanish	0.66%	1
Mandarin	0.00%	0
French	0.00%	0
Arabic	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	2.65%	4
TOTAL		151

Q20 In your own words, what are the major challenges facing people seeking recovery in DuPage County?

people recovery programs rehab help standard go seeing certain needs t s offers

people community know help needs accessing

insurance stigma treatment times

transportation programs enough services options

options provide Stigma recovery Finding issues access Medicaid

people mental health lack programs insurance

addiction services resources transportation many need help treatment access care enough

mental health one enough lack need use housing transportation

services challenge treatment support access available Help Stigma

groups treatment go need enough DuPage County one

state reach access job support treatment education People Understanding mental



Community Survey

DuPage ROSC is conducting a community survey in collaboration with IDHS/SUPR

-The survey questions align with five priority goals of ROSCs in Illinois:

- Stigma reduction
- Promoting Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR)
- Promoting harm reduction
- Ensuring effective service delivery
- Prioritizing equity

-Information collected will be reported back to the state, and will be used to direct the ROSC's efforts in the coming year

English



Spanish

