

Community Services

Key Findings

The 2009 assessment project identified healthcare as a very important community service. Allen County adults reported the single most important service that an organization is providing or should provide to the community is job training/employment services.

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As part of the community survey, respondents were presented with the following table and asked to rank each of the following services as very important, important, somewhat important, or not important.

2002 Allen County Comparisons

- ❖ In 2002, Allen County adults ranked the following services as the top 5 very important services:
 1. Care of the elderly
 2. Health care
 3. Crime prevention services
 4. Services for people with disabilities
 5. Youth programs

(Source: 2002 Community Needs Assessment)

This table is sorted in order of respondents' opinion of the importance of each community service.

Tell us what you think about the importance of each service:		Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
1	Health care	61%	30%	9%	0%
2	Care of the elderly	57%	38%	4%	1%
3	Crime prevention services	53%	32%	14%	1%
4	Job training/employment services	51%	35%	13%	1%
5	Services for people with disabilities	48%	44%	7%	1%
6	Youth programs (such as after school, summer, weekends)	39%	44%	16%	1%
7	Child care	38%	44%	15%	2%
8	Poverty relief programs	38%	39%	19%	4%
9	Alcohol and substance abuse	34%	47%	18%	1%
10	Neighborhood services (property upkeep, noise & traffic control)	25%	41%	29%	5%

Source: 2009 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment

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Respondents' Most Important Community Service

The survey asked respondents to write in their answer to an open-ended question about community services. Respondents wrote in their answer to the following question:

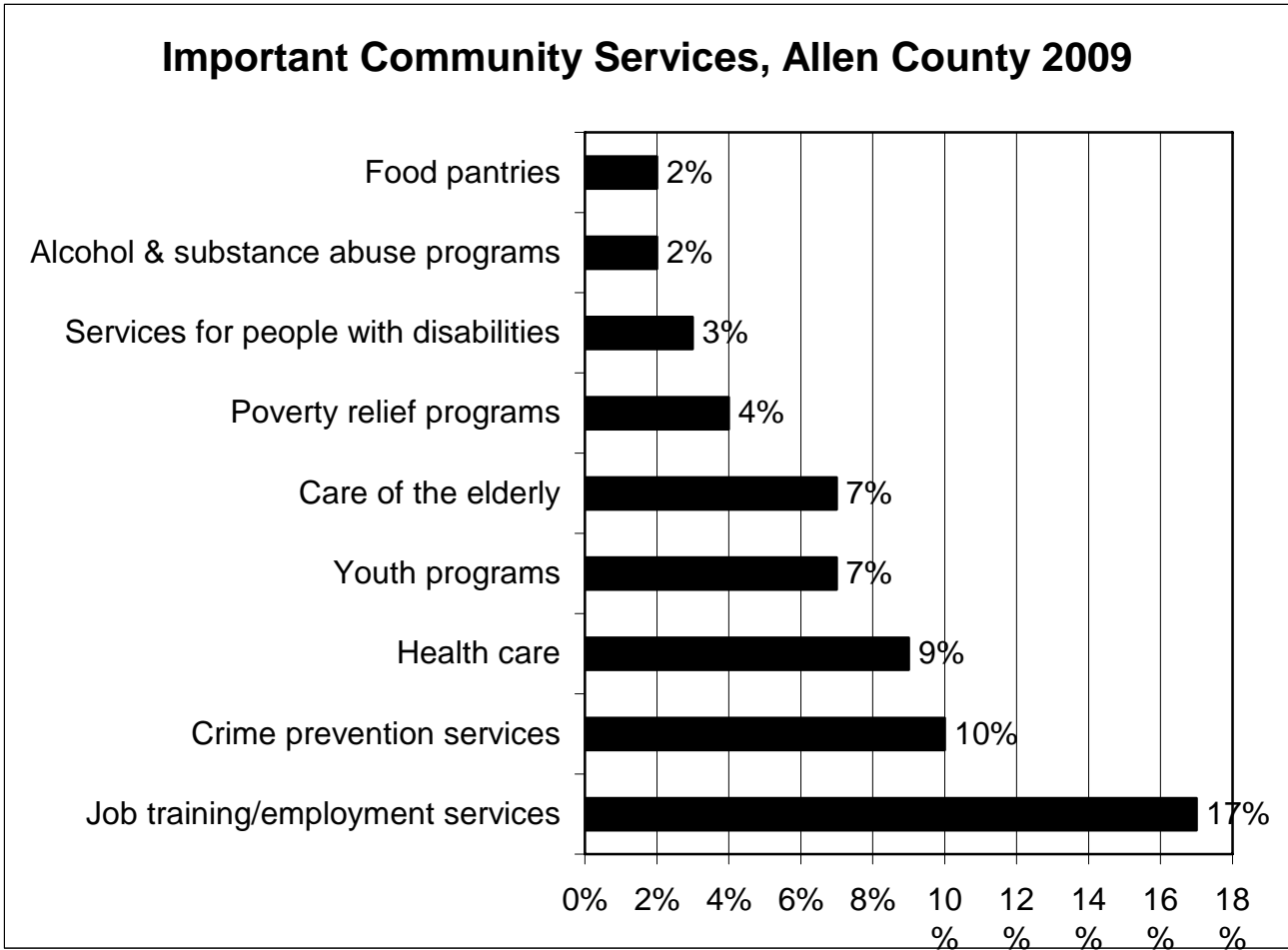
What is the most important service that an organization is providing or should provide to your community at the present time?

- ◆ Allen County adults reported the following: job training/employment services (17%), crime prevention services (10%), health care (9%), youth programs (7%), care of the elderly (7%), poverty relief programs (4%), services for people with disabilities (3%), alcohol and substance abuse programs (2%), and food pantries (2%).

2002 Allen County Comparisons

- ◆ In 2002, Allen County adults reported the top 5 most important services were:
 1. Youth programs
 2. Job training
 3. Crime prevention services
 4. Elderly care
 5. Health care

(Source: 2002 Community Needs Assessment)



Source: 2009 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment

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Community Services – A Longitudinal Analysis

During previous community needs assessments, the United Way of greater Lima surveyed Allen County on what were the **most needed** community services. The 2002 and 2009 Community Needs Assessments surveys asked adult county residents to list the single **most important** service that an organization is providing or should provide to the community. The following table compares how Allen County residents ranked community services through the years in terms of the most needed/most important community services.

	2009	2002	1997	1991
#1	Job training/employment services	Youth programs (after school, summer programs, etc.)	Job training/employment	Job creation
#2	Crime prevention services	Job training/employment services	Crime prevention	Alcohol & substance abuse treatment
#3	Health care	Crime prevention services	Treatment & prevention of alcohol & substance abuse and related domestic violence	Illiteracy training TIE WITH Family services, including domestic violence & crisis counseling re: child & elder abuse
#4	Youth programs	Care of the elderly	Elder care: services permitting seniors to remain in homes: health, nutrition & housekeeping	Teen pregnancy prevention and parenting support
#5	Care of the elderly	Health care	Youth programs (after school, weekend and summer programs)	Comprehensive health care
#6	Poverty relief programs	Poverty relief programs	Health care, including medications for chronic conditions	Job training & employment
#7	Services for people with disabilities	Child care TIE WITH Alcohol/substance abuse programs	Child care	Crisis intervention
#8	Alcohol & substance abuse programs	Fire and rescue services	Services for people with disabilities	Juvenile offender intervention
#9	Food pantries	Services for people with disabilities	Neighborhood issues; property upkeep	Service referral & interagency cooperation

Source: 1991, 1997, 2002, & 2009 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment