Community Data & Feedback Summary Report

Prepared for Paterson One Square Mile

PATERSON
ONE SQUARE MILE

March 2024

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Key Findings

Paterson One Square Mile is a hyper-local, place-based, cross-sector initiative with the goal of accelerating the revitalization of a concentrated area in Paterson, New Jersey. Montclair State University (MSU) reached out to Transform Consulting Group (TCG) for assistance in implementing Paterson One Square Mile. TCG is using a collective impact framework to guide this planning process for Paterson One Square Mile.

MSU and TCG formed a Paterson One Square Mile Community Advisory Committee to guide the initiative. The Advisory Committee is a diverse group of representatives from education, social and human service organizations, businesses, and the government.

To inform planning for Paterson One Square Mile, TCG conducted research and gathered information from the following sources:

1. US Census Bureau American Community Survey data provides context on residents living in Paterson One Square Mile. Data includes population demographics, languages spoken at home, income and poverty, and educational attainment.

2. Community feedback from residents was gathered at two holiday social events and a number of listening sessions, which were hosted by Advisory Committee partners. The process of collecting feedback was called "Gathering Voices"

A wide variety of residents took part in the Gathering Voices community feedback. From young adults to older adults, business owners and the unhoused as well as a variety of races and ethnicities, including Spanish-speaking and Muslims. Through this diversity, the same topics surfaced. People love Paterson. People want to see change.
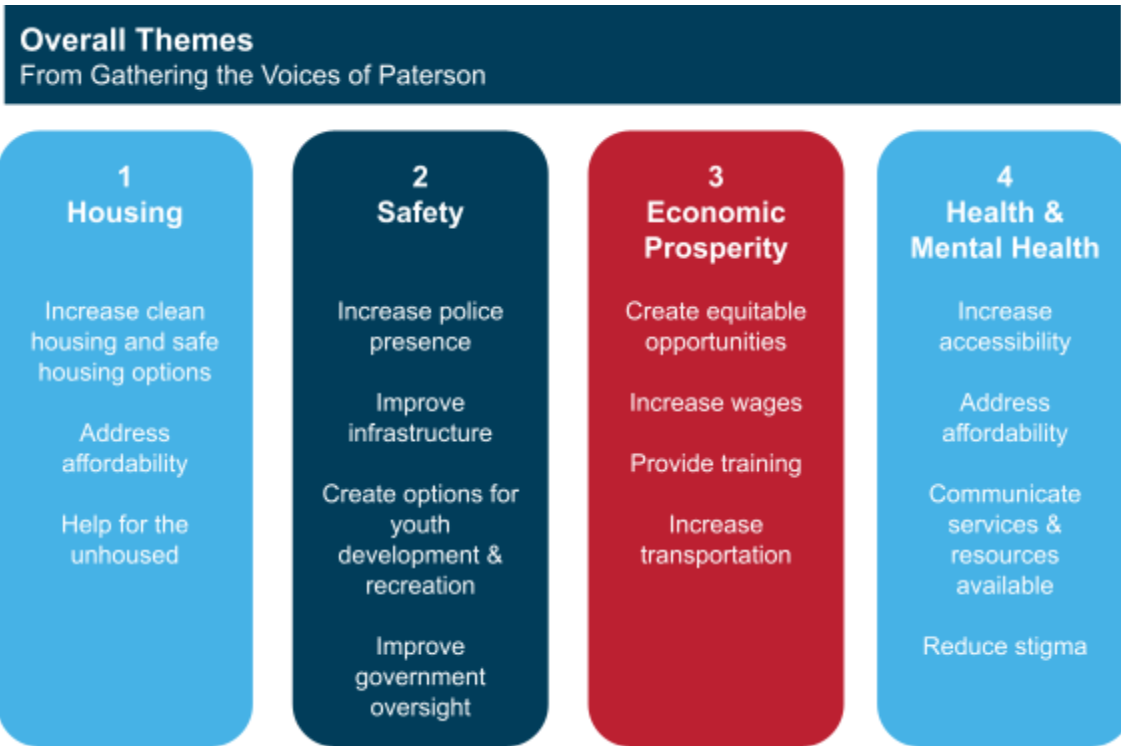
1. **Positive Sense of Community** - Patersonians love their city! The residents of Paterson love the diversity of cultures and all that brings, including a variety of foods and opportunities to learn from others. People are proud that their city has a rich history. Residents like that it is easy to get around, but that Paterson still offers a "city feel."

   People want others - those outside the city - to see the value in Paterson, and want the community to unite in making it a better place for the future.

2. **Top Concerns** - Residents identified housing, safety, economic prosperity, and health & mental health as their top concerns.
   a. Housing - Residents want safe, clean, and affordable housing, and help for the unhoused.
   b. Safety - From street lighting and cleaner streets to more police presence and better government oversight, people want to see a safer Paterson. Residents also want safe places for their kids to go after school.
   c. Economic Prosperity - Residents want more equitable job opportunities and better wages to match Paterson's cost of living. Some residents asked for training and transportation.
   d. Health & Mental Health - Residents want better and faster access, and want free or more affordable options. Residents do not always understand the services that

are available to them. Many say there is a stigma around seeking help for mental health.

Overall Themes
From Gathering the Voices of Paterson

1
Housing

Increase clean housing and safe housing options

Address affordability

Help for the unhoused

2
Safety

Increase police presence

Improve infrastructure

Create options for youth development & recreation

Improve government oversight

3
Economic Prosperity

Create equitable opportunities

Increase wages

Provide training

Increase transportation

4
Health & Mental Health

Increase accessibility

Address affordability

Communicate services & resources available

Reduce stigma

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Introduction

Paterson One Square Mile is a hyper-local, place-based, cross-sector initiative with the goal of accelerating the revitalization of a concentrated area in Paterson, New Jersey. Utilizing strategically organized community engagement efforts focused on a bounded area within the city of Paterson, this community-led collective impact initiative aims to improve equitable outcomes in health, education, and economic opportunity for the residents of Paterson.

Montclair State University (MSU) reached out to Transform Consulting Group (TCG) for assistance in implementing Paterson One Square Mile. MSU and TCG formed a Paterson One Square Mile Community Advisory Committee to guide the initiative. The Advisory Committee is a diverse group of representatives from education, social and human service organizations, businesses, and the government.

TCG is using a collective impact framework to guide this planning process for Paterson One Square Mile.

We are at the "second step" in the process of Understanding the Landscape of Paterson One Square Mile. In order to complete this step in the process, TCG and the Paterson One Square Mile Advisory Committee sought feedback from residents of Paterson One Square Mile, as well as other key information to inform Paterson One Square Mile's community plan. TCG conducted research and gathered information from the following sources:

1. US Census Bureau American Community Survey data provides context on residents living in Paterson One Square Mile. Data includes population demographics, languages spoken at home, income and poverty, and educational attainment. This information is detailed in the Paterson Community Profile section.

2. Community feedback from residents was gathered at two holiday social events and a number of listening sessions, which were hosted by Advisory Committee partners. The process of collecting feedback was called "Gathering Voices" and is summarized in that section of this report. Through these events, 317 community members participated in providing feedback.
   - Holiday Socials - 210 participants
   - Listening Sessions - 107 participants over 10 sessions

Paterson One Square Mile Advisory Committee Next Steps

At the March 21st Advisory Committee Zoom meeting, we will review the data and information in this report. We will discuss the key findings and hope to focus on a potential area(s). We will also identify any additional data or information needed to inform our planning process. **TCG requests that all committee participants read this report in advance of the March 21st meeting**. We will take your feedback to create a webinar and infographic fact sheet to share the findings with the community.

The next step in the process is to create a plan for the future. We are holding a Paterson One Square Mile strategy session on Friday, May 3, 2024 at Passaic County Community College. The purpose of the planning meeting is to use the knowledge gathered from the research and community feedback to determine the goals and strategies that will be included in the strategic action plan. The goals and strategies will be shared with the community through social events in June, so the community has the opportunity to prioritize the identified strategies.

Then we will take their feedback to create the final strategic action plan that we hope to unveil and launch in September/ October.

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Paterson Community Profile

TCG identified nine census tracts that align most closely within the boundaries of Paterson One Square Mile to help us understand the community.[1]

Population

Paterson One Square Mile is primarily defined by the 4th and 5th wards as well as some of the 1st ward of the city of Paterson, NJ. Paterson is located in Passaic County, which is New Jersey's 8th most populous county.

In 2022, Passaic County had a total population of over half a million (519,986) people. Approximately one third (30%; 157,864) of the county population reside in the city of Paterson.

Looking more closely at the defined area of Paterson One Square Mile, approximately **35,000 residents live within the Paterson One Square Mile radius** (nine census tracts), representing over one fifth (22%) of Paterson's and nearly one tenth (7%) of Passaic County's population.
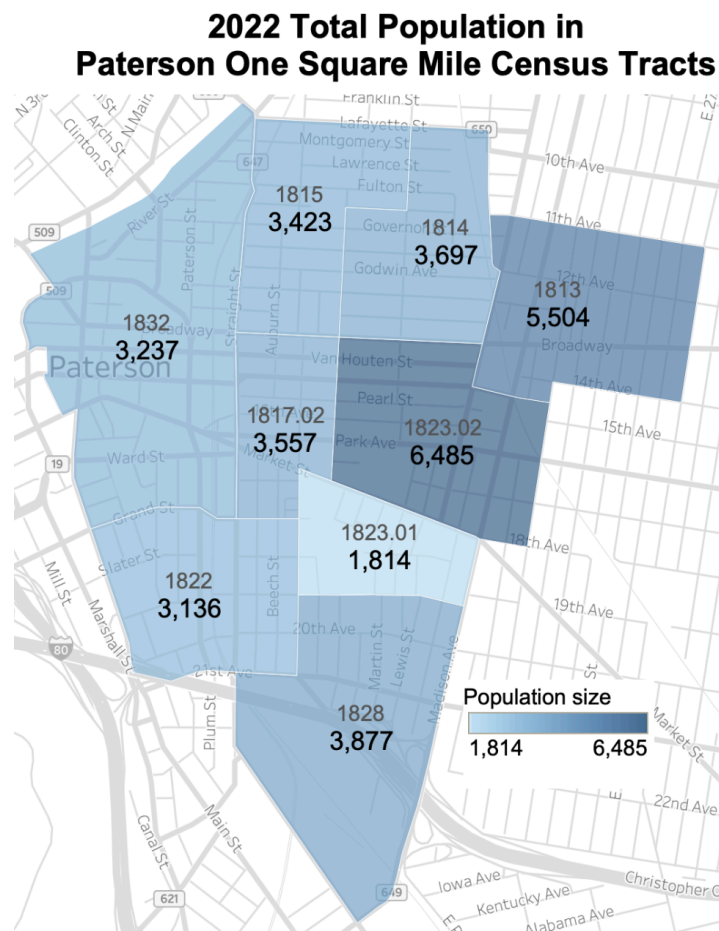
2022 Total Population in Paterson One Square Mile Census Tracts

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New Jersey experienced statewide population growth in 2022 compared to 2015. The census tracts within Paterson One Square Mile increased by an astounding 11.2% from 2015 to 2022. This is over four times the rate of Passaic County (2.4%). The city of Paterson (7.4%) also increased in population size by more than triple the rate of the county.

2015 to 2022 Population Change					
	Passaic County	Paterson	Paterson One Square Mile	Newark	Statewide New Jersey
2015 Population	507,574	146,987	31,241	279,793	8,904,413
2022 Population	519,986	157,864	34,730	307,355	9,249,063
Change in Population	⇧ **2.4%**	⇧ **7.4%**	⇧ **11.2%**	⇧ **9.9%**	⇧ **3.9%**

Age
Approximately one fourth (27%) of Paterson's population are children and youth under 18 years old, slightly more than in Passaic County (24%) overall. Paterson and Passaic County have the same representation of adults ages 18 to 64 (61%). Paterson's population of individuals 65 years and older is slightly fewer compared to the county (12% and 15%, respectively).

Paterson One Square Mile represents a similar pattern to the city with slightly more children. Almost one third (30%) of the population of Paterson One Square Mile are under 18 years old, over half (57%) are between ages 18 and 64, and the remaining (13%) are 65 years and older.

Gender
Paterson is evenly split between the male and female population. Males account for 49% of the population, while females account for 51%. In Paterson One Square Mile, males account for 47% of the population, and females account for 53%.

Race and Ethnicity
Paterson One Square Mile is more racially diverse than the city of Paterson and the county as a whole. Within Paterson One Square Mile, approximately one third (30%) of the population are Black or African American, a higher representation than Paterson (24%), Passaic County (11%), and the state of New Jersey (13%).

The opposite is true for White residents. Less than one tenth (8%) of residents in Paterson One Square Mile are White, compared to less than one fifth (18%) of Paterson residents, about half (51%) of county residents, and nearly two thirds (60%) of the state.

Asian individuals represent 1% of Paterson One Square Mile residents, slightly less than the city (5%) and county residents (5%). Half (52%) of the residents in One Square Mile identify as some other race, compared to more than one third (36%) of city residents and only 17% of

county residents. The remaining nine percent of One Square Mile residents identify themselves as two or more races.

Paterson One Square Mile is also more ethnically diverse compared to the city and county, as two thirds (67%) of the residents identify as Hispanic or Latino. Nearly two thirds (63%) of Paterson residents identified as Hispanic, but this is still 20% more than the county (43%).

Percentage of Population by Race and Ethnicity					
	Passaic County	Paterson	Paterson One Square Mile	Newark	Statewide New Jersey
Population by Race					
American Indian and Alaska Native	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Asian	5%	5%	<1%	2%	10%
Black or African American	11%	24%	30%	47%	13%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Some Other Race	17%	36%	52%	20%	8%
Two or More Races	15%	16%	9%	11%	9%
White	51%	18%	8%	20%	60%
Population by Ethnicity					
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	43%	63%	67%	37%	21%

Language
Approximately one third (36%) of the population over 5 years old in Paterson One Square Mile speak English at home, more than the city's population (34%), but less than the county's (50%). There is a higher portion of non-English speaking individuals in Paterson One Square Mile, the city of Paterson, and Passaic County in 2022 compared to 2015.

Paterson One Square Mile residents represent the highest percentage (64%) of Spanish-speaking individuals compared to the city (57%) and county (37%).
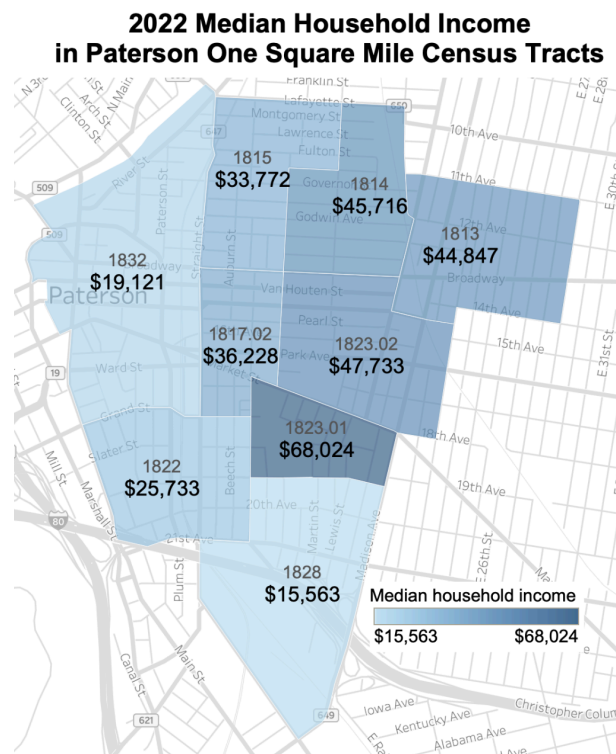
The remaining (2%) Paterson One Square Mile residents speak another Indo-European language or Asian and Pacific Islander language. This is a lower percentage than the city and county.

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Population by Language Spoken at Home			
	Passaic County	Paterson	Paterson One Square Mile
English Only	50%	34%	36%
Spanish	37%	57%	62%
Other Indo-European Languages	8%	6%	<1%
Asian and Pacific Islander Languages	3%	1%	<1%
Other Languages	3%	2%	1%

Income and Poverty

The median household income in the city of Paterson is much lower than the county. The 2022 overall median household income in Paterson is $52,092, over $32,000 less than the county median household income ($84,465). The median household income within Paterson One Square Mile ranges from $15,563 to $68,024.

2022 Median Household Income in Paterson One Square Mile Census Tracts

2022 Median Household Income	
Paterson One Square Mile	$37,415
Paterson	$52,092
Passaic County	$84,465
Newark	$46,460
New Jersey	$97,126

The 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines state a single-person household earning $15,060 or less live in poverty, or a three-person household earning $25,820 live in poverty. In **Paterson One Square Mile, almost one third (29%) of the residents live in poverty**, which is higher than the city (24%), county (13%), and state (10%). Compared to 2015 (39%), the percentage of people living in poverty in Paterson One Square Mile has decreased by ten percentage points.

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Adults that grew up in Paterson are likely to earn low incomes and live within poverty, regardless of where they live as adults. The Opportunity Atlas reports the average outcomes in adulthood of people who grew up in each Census tract and were born between 1978 and 1983. The data is mapped based on where children grew up, regardless of where they live as adults. In Paterson, the average annual household income for adults at age 35 does not exceed $48,000. Most areas within Paterson One Square Mile report earning below $30,000 annually.[2]

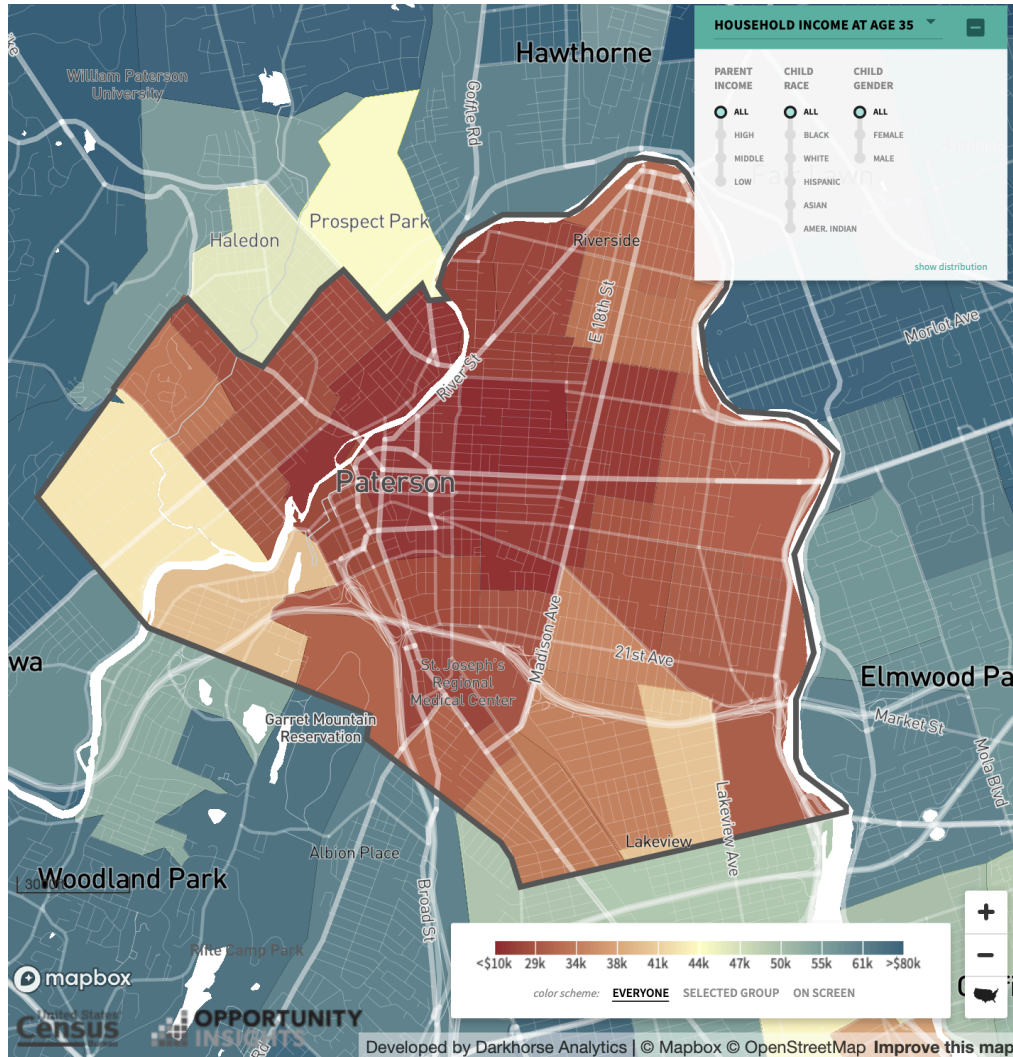### Household Income at Age 35 of Children Raised within Paterson

Image sourced from The Opportunity Atlas, https://www.opportunityatlas.org/

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[2] Opportunity Insights, *The Opportunity Atlas,* retrieved here: https://www.opportunityatlas.org/

Incarceration

Children raised within Paterson are more likely to be incarcerated as an adult compared to adults raised within other communities surrounding Paterson. Incarceration affects people's ability to acquire housing, get jobs, and earn higher incomes. The incarceration rate of adults raised within Paterson One Square Mile ranges from 1.8% to 11%. The rate of 11% within the northern tract of Paterson One Square Mile is the sixth highest (out of over 1,900 census tracts) in the state of New Jersey. Areas within Atlantic City, NJ and Camden, NJ report higher incarceration rates.[3]
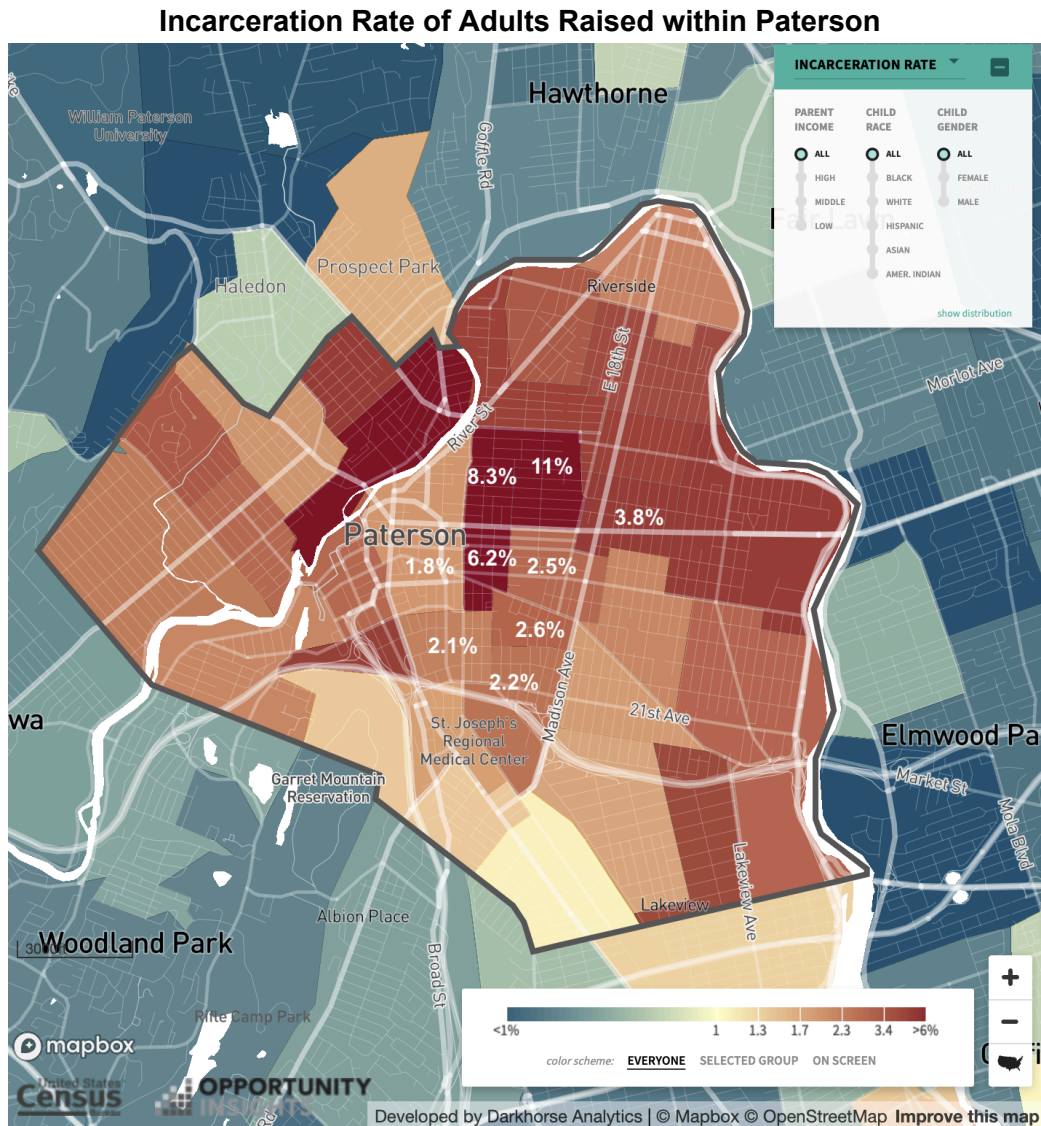
Incarceration Rate of Adults Raised within Paterson

Image sourced from The Opportunity Atlas, https://www.opportunityatlas.org/

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[3] Ibid.

Educational Attainment

According to the 2022 Lumina Foundation Stronger Nation Report, Passaic County had the third lowest educational attainment rate (percentage of people with an associate degree or higher) of adults compared to the other 20 counties in the state. Passaic County's adult population ages 25-64 with an associate's degree or higher is 37%, which is up 4.5 percentage points from 2009. The educational attainment rate across New Jersey is at 53%, up 8.5 percentage points from 2009.[4]

2022 Passaic County Educational Attainment Compared to Other New Jersey Counties
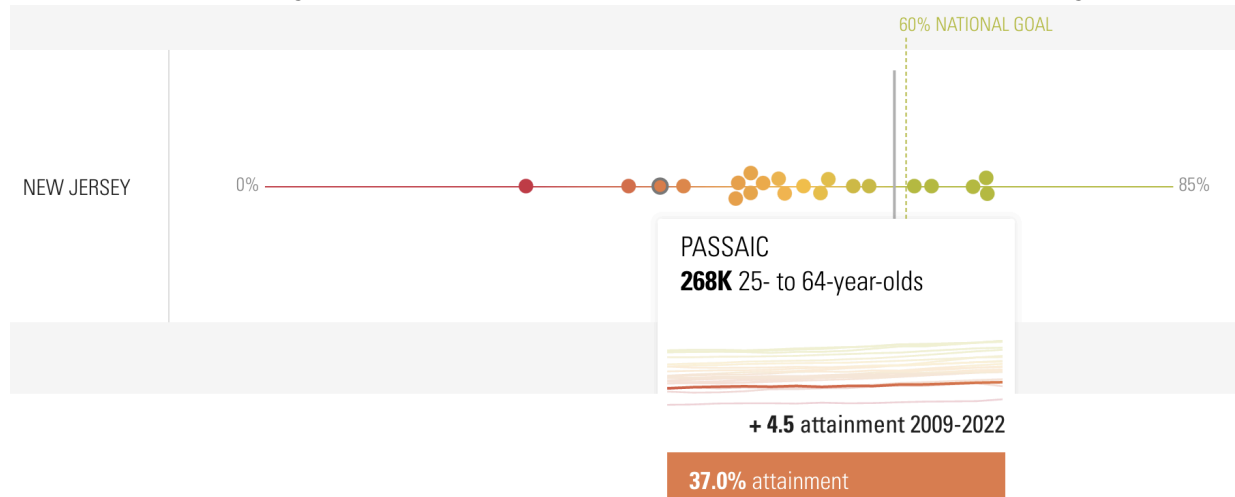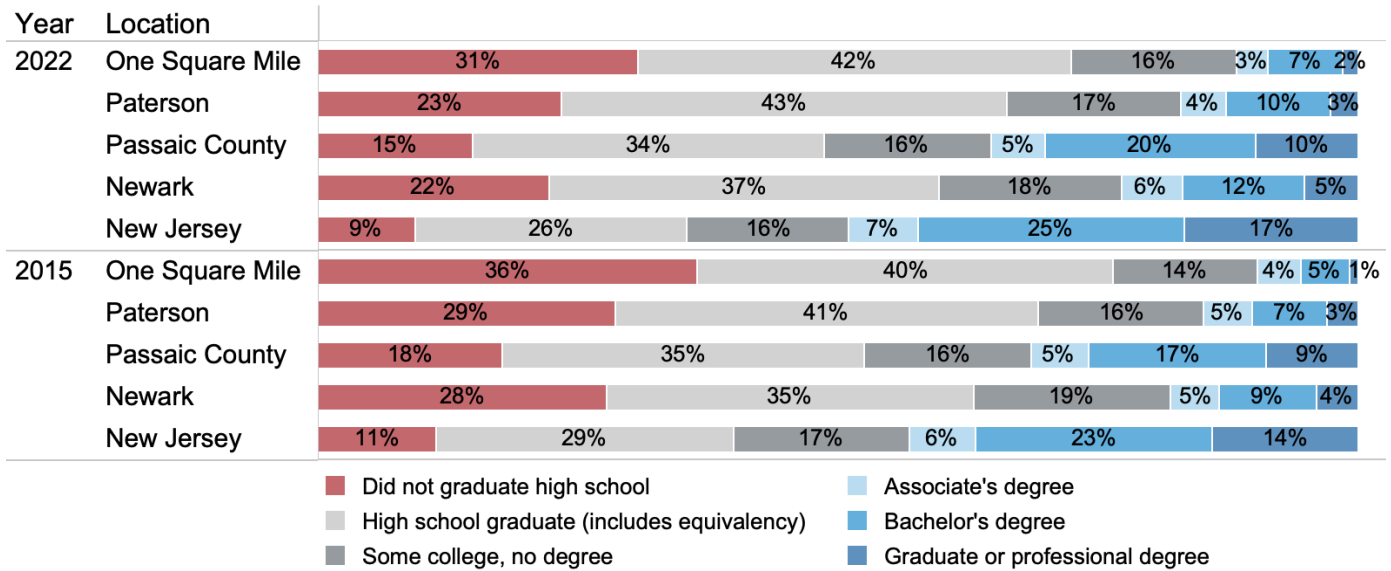

Image sourced from the Lumina Foundation Stronger Nation, 2024 New Jersey Report

For the state of New Jersey, the postsecondary educational attainment is 39% for the Black population and 32% for the Hispanic population, which is lower compared to the state overall (53%) and the White population (61%).

In order to look more closely at Passaic County and areas within Paterson One Square Mile, data was gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau on the educational attainment for adults 25 and older. Within Paterson One Square Mile and the city of Paterson, there is a higher percentage of adults who did not graduate high school compared to Passaic County and New Jersey. **Nearly one third (31%) of adults in Paterson One Square Mile have not graduated high school**, but this is a slight improvement compared to 2015 when 36% of adults did not graduate high school. Over 40% of Paterson One Square Mile residents graduated high school and did not pursue higher education. From 2015 to 2022, there has not been much change in the number of adults who earned an associate's degree or higher. In 2015, 10% of adults in Paterson One Square Mile earned an associate's degree or higher and in 2022, 12% of adults earned a degree.

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[4] Reference the Lumina Foundation Stronger Nation Report for the 2024 New Jersey Report here: https://www.luminafoundation.org/c42088d4-4279-441e-9a21-ba7d52f39aa0

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Adults 25 and Older by Educational Attainment Level

Year	Location	Did not graduate high school	High school graduate (includes equivalency)	Some college, no degree	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
2022	One Square Mile	31%	42%	16%	3%	7%	2%
	Paterson	23%	43%	17%	4%	10%	3%
	Passaic County	15%	34%	16%	5%	20%	10%
	Newark	22%	37%	18%	6%	12%	5%
	New Jersey	9%	26%	16%	7%	25%	17%
2015	One Square Mile	36%	40%	14%	4%	5%	1%
	Paterson	29%	41%	16%	5%	7%	3%
	Passaic County	18%	35%	16%	5%	17%	9%
	Newark	28%	35%	19%	5%	9%	4%
	New Jersey	11%	29%	17%	6%	23%	14%

Childhood Opportunity Index

The Childhood Opportunity Index is a project from diversitydatakids.org. This tool helps communities identify the relationship between neighborhoods and child health and wellbeing. This index is calculated through 29 neighborhood conditions related to education, health, and social and economic factors. Examples of conditions in each index category include the following:

- Education Index: Early childhood education access and enrollment, quality early childhood education, math and reading proficiency, high school graduation rate, advancement placement, college enrollment, teacher experience, and adult educational attainment.
- Health and Environment Index: Access to healthy food, access to green space, walkability, housing vacancy rate, toxic exposure, and health insurance coverage.
- Social and Economic Index: Employment rate, commute time, poverty rate, public assistance rate, homeownership rate, high skill employment, and median household income.

On a rating scale from very low to very high, **the Childhood Opportunity Index in Paterson One Square Mile is rated "very low".** This means children experience conditions that cause them to lack access to neighborhood opportunity. Areas with a higher representation of Black population are likely to have a lower Childhood Opportunity Index.[5]

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[5] https://www.diversitydatakids.org/child-opportunity-index. 2022. Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. Waltham, MA. *This source is expected to be updated in March 2024.*

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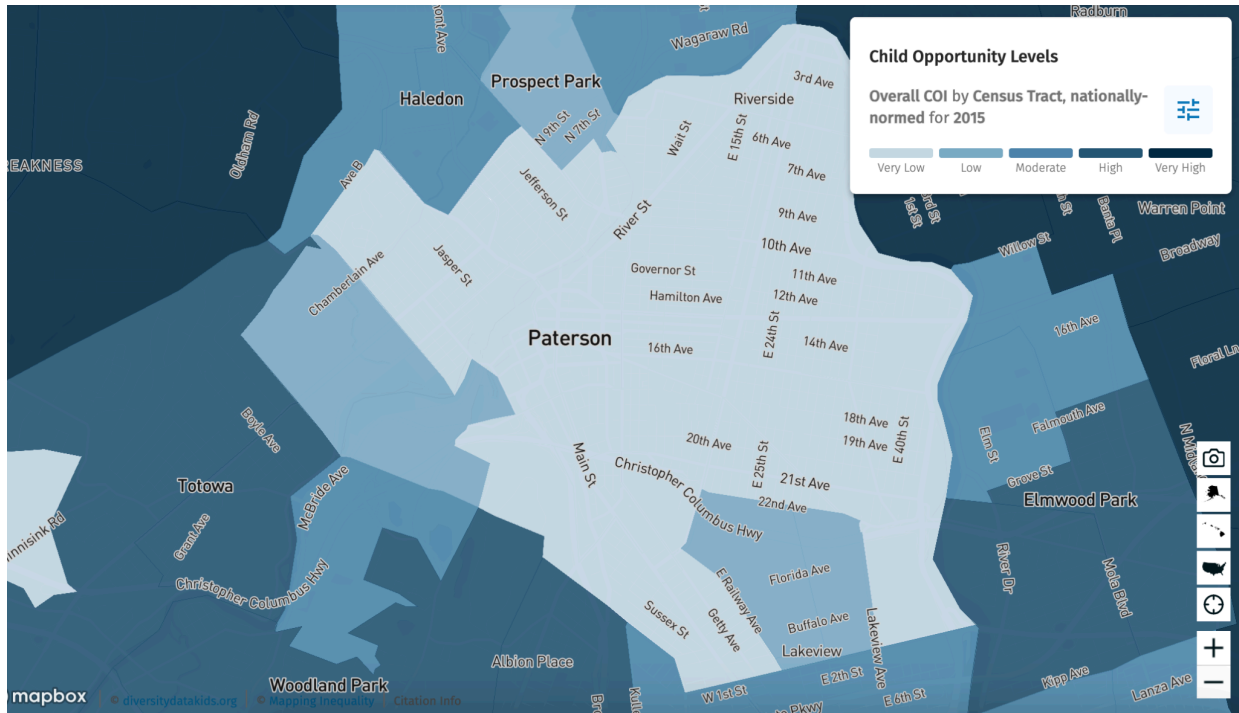## Child Opportunity Index in Paterson

Image sourced from the diversitydatakids.org, Child Opportunity Index

Once the Advisory Committee focuses on some key areas, TCG can gather additional community data to better understand Paterson One Square Mile related to the specific focus areas.

Gathering Voices

To better understand what it is like living within the Paterson One Square Mile community, TCG, MSU, and partners through the Advisory Committee, engaged a variety of audiences to gather community feedback, and referred to this process as "Gathering Voices." At the Paterson One Square Mile Advisory Committee meeting on November 17, 2023, TCG presented three ways to reach out to the community for feedback: a resident survey, listening sessions hosted by Paterson One Square Mile partners, and Holiday Social events with data carousels. Each of these methods intended to reach the residents of the 1st, 4th, and 5th Wards in order to understand what life is like for the residents in Paterson One Square Mile. MSU provided $50 gift cards to participants. **MSU, TCG, and Advisory Committee partners worked to gather information from all populations, including Latinx, Muslims, older adults, and businesses.** Information from these groups largely overlapped with all of the information collected.

Holiday Socials

MSU hosted Holiday Socials at The Circle in Center City Mall, on Friday, December 1, 2023, from 5-8 pm, and Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 9 am - 12 pm. **Attendance far exceeded expectations, with over 200 participants.** Due to the exceptional response at the Holiday Socials, and promising numbers from the listening sessions, MSU and TCG decided to focus on gathering community feedback through the more personal interactions of the Socials and listening sessions, and not conduct the resident survey.

Holiday Social participants shared what it is like to live in Paterson by sticking post-it notes with their answers to poster boards with various questions. Holiday Social facilitators encouraged participants to answer as many questions as they could, but said it was OK to skip questions that did not apply to them or that they did not have an answer for.

Listening Sessions

Partners from the Paterson One Square Mile Advisory Committee hosted listening sessions, with small groups of approximately seven to 12 people. These partners hosted 10 listening sessions, reaching 107 participants beginning on November 30, 2023, and concluding on February 15, 2024. During the listening sessions, MSU and TCG asked deeper questions about what it is like to live in Paterson, beyond what was asked during the Holiday Socials.

The summary below is divided into the categories of questions asked during the Holiday Socials and listening sessions. While there were common categories of questions asked, there were also some differences in the questions participants were asked.

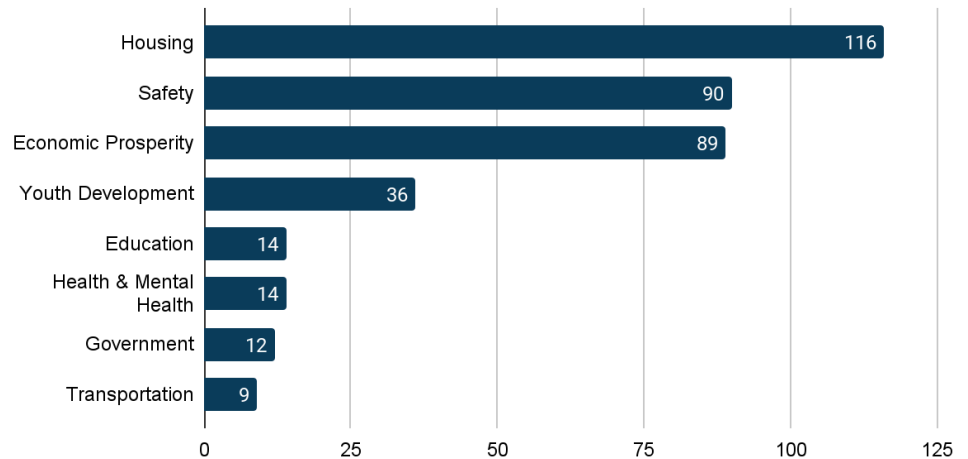| Holiday Social Question Categories	Listening Session Question Categories
● Sense of community ● Economic prosperity ● Education ● Health and Mental Health ● Most pressing needs in Paterson	● Sense of community ● Economic prosperity ● Education ● Health and Mental Health ● Housing ● Safety ● Substance use

Finances, healthy foods, recreational activities, and transportation were also addressed during listening sessions but did not garner many comments. These four topic areas are not discussed separately in the summary below due to the inconsequential feedback but overlap in some of the other areas. For example, some people said transportation is a barrier and challenge to having job opportunities that provide livable wages, which was discussed during the "economic prosperity" section.

Overall Themes

This chart shows how many times topics were mentioned at the Holiday Socials. **Housing, safety and economic prosperity were the top three most frequently mentioned topics.**
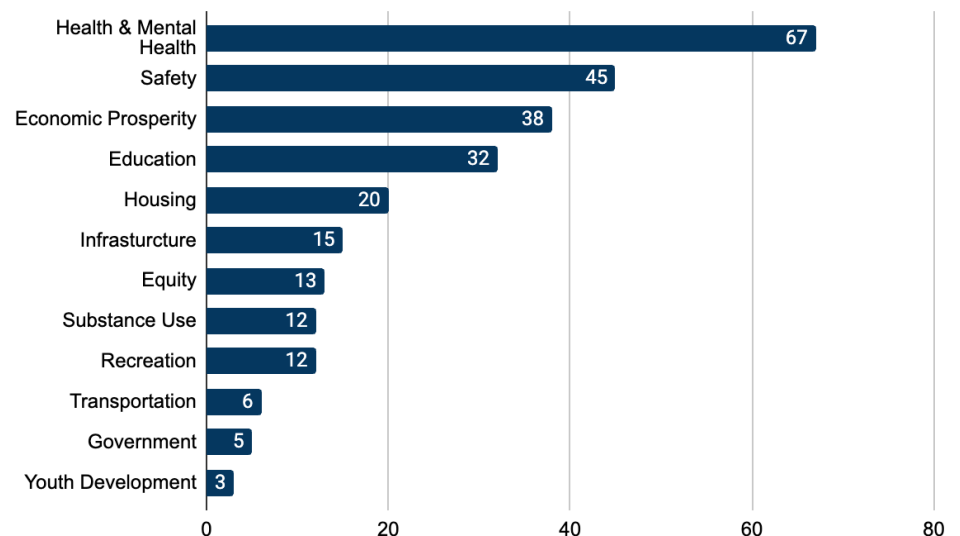
What were the most frequently mentioned topics during the Holiday Socials?

Topic	Count
Housing	116
Safety	90
Economic Prosperity	89
Youth Development	36
Education	14
Health & Mental Health	14
Government	12
Transportation	9

This chart shows how many times topics were mentioned during listening sessions. **Safety, economic prosperity, and health were the top three most frequently mentioned topics**.

What were the most frequently mentioned topics during the listening sessions?

Topic	Count
Health & Mental Health	67
Safety	45
Economic Prosperity	38
Education	32
Housing	20
Infrasturcture	15
Equity	13
Substance Use	12
Recreation	12
Transportation	6
Government	5
Youth Development	3

A wide variety of residents
took part in the Gathering Voices community feedback. From young adults to older adults, business owners and the unhoused as well as a variety of races and ethnicities, including
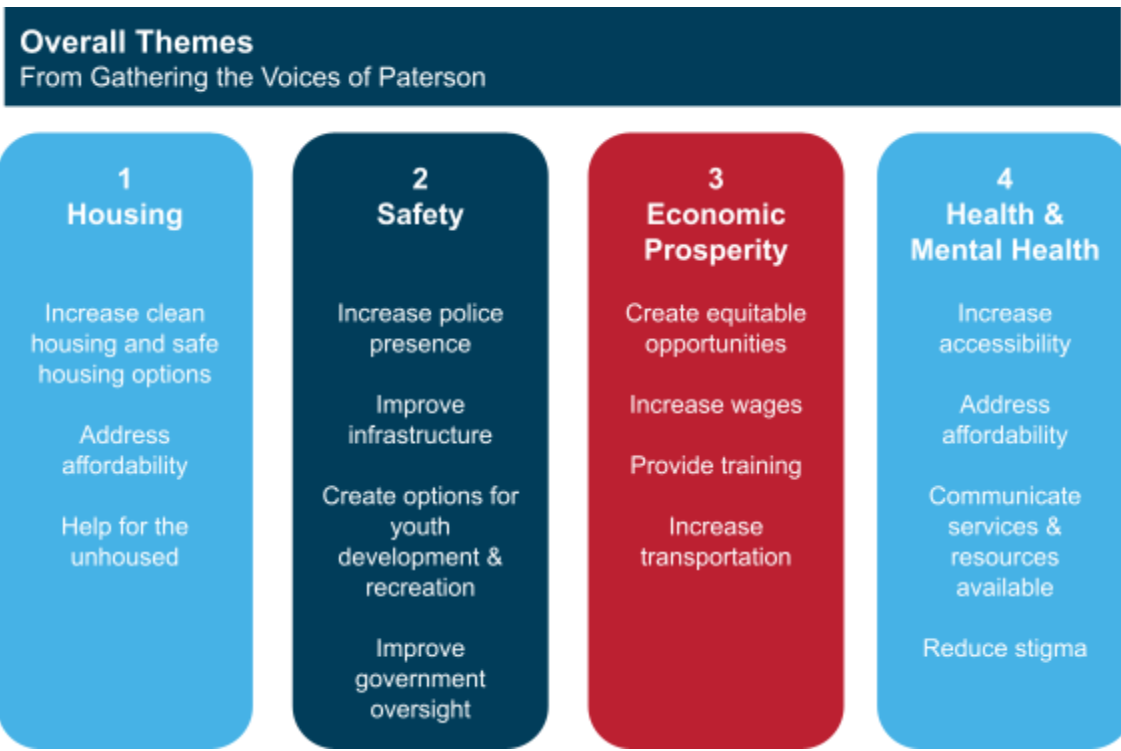
Spanish-speaking and Muslims. Through this diversity, the same topics surfaced. People love Paterson. People want to see change.

1. **Positive Sense of Community** - Patersonians love their city! The residents of Paterson love the diversity of cultures and all that brings, including a variety of foods and opportunities to learn from others. People are proud that their city has a rich history. Residents like that it is easy to get around, but that Paterson still offers a "city feel."

   People want others - those outside the city - to see the value in Paterson, and want the community to unite in making it a better place for the future.

2. **Top Concerns** - Residents identified housing, safety, economic prosperity, and health & mental health as their top concerns.
   a. Housing - Residents want safe, clean, and affordable housing, and help for the unhoused.
   b. Safety - From street lighting and cleaner streets to more police presence and better government oversight, people want to see a safer Paterson. Residents also want safe places for their kids to go after school.
   c. Economic Prosperity - Residents want more equitable job opportunities and better wages to match Paterson's cost of living. Some residents asked for training and transportation.
   d. Health & Mental Health - Residents want better and faster access, and want free or more affordable options. Residents do not always understand the services that are available to them. Many say there is a stigma around seeking help for mental health.

Overall Themes
From Gathering the Voices of Paterson

1 Housing	2 Safety	3 Economic Prosperity	4 Health & Mental Health
Increase clean housing and safe housing options	Increase police presence	Create equitable opportunities	Increase accessibility
Address affordability	Improve infrastructure	Increase wages	Address affordability
Help for the unhoused	Create options for youth development & recreation	Provide training	Communicate services & resources available
	Improve government oversight	Increase transportation	Reduce stigma

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The following section is separated by the question categories explained above, first sharing the feedback from the Holiday Socials, followed by the listening session summary for each category. Holiday Socials data includes categories that were mentioned three or more times. Listening session feedback for housing, safety, substance use, are included at the end of this section.

Sense of Community

How connected do you feel in Paterson?

Holiday Social attendees overwhelmingly answered that they feel "very connected" to Paterson. Eighty-five people indicated they are very connected with answers, such as, "very," "very connected," or "very much," and 20 people said they felt very connected because they were "born and raised" in Paterson.

Fifteen attendees indicated they do not feel connected in Paterson. Answers included, "no," "not connected," or "not connected at all." One person said, "Paterson is my hometown. I've been here ever since I was a kid. I feel like I don't know Paterson anymore."

Five people indicated they are "somewhat connected," with answers like "kind of," "OK," and "in the middle."

How connected do you feel in Paterson?
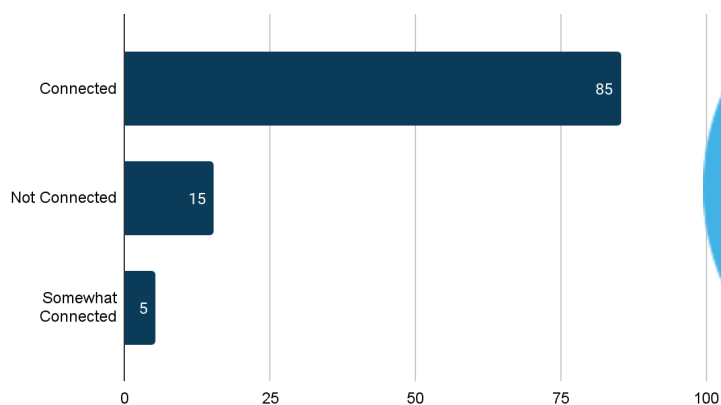
"Born and raised in Paterson! Feeling very connected."

-Holiday Social Attendee

What would help you feel more connected in Paterson?
TCG categorized the responses into the following themes:
- Community Engagement and Activities (19 responses)
- Employment and Economic Opportunities (15 responses)
- Safety and Security (10 responses)
- Cleanliness and Infrastructure (7 responses)
- Housing and Urban Planning (7 responses)
- Government and Leadership (5 responses)
- Information and Communication (3 responses)

What would help you feel more connected in Paterson?

Category	Value
Community Engagement and Activities	19
Employment and Economic Opportunities	15
Safety and Security	10
Cleanliness and Infrastructure	7
Housing and Urban Planning	7
Government and Leadership	5
Information and Communication	3
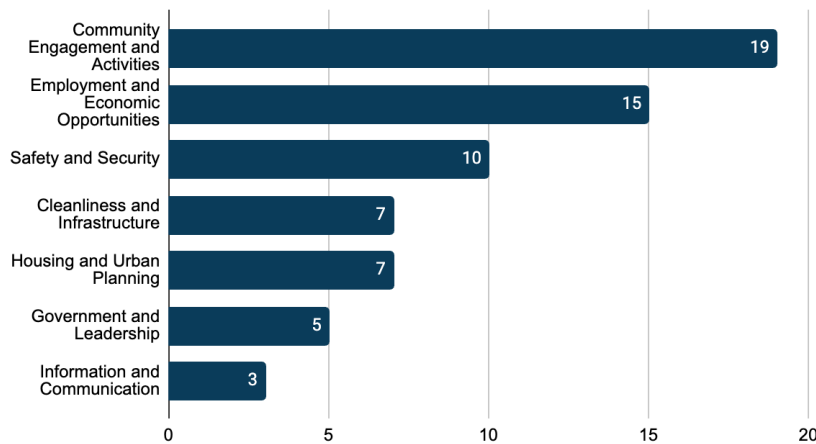
Most participant responses related to **Community Engagement and Activities.** Participants suggested that Paterson have more community/city activities and events, and some specified that activities and events should be geared towards children and families. Five people suggested there be regular community/city meetings for "Patersonians."

The second most common type of responses to help more residents feel more connected in Paterson focused on **Employment and Economic Opportunities**. "More jobs," "employment," and "job opportunities," were the most common answers among participants suggesting that Employment and Economic Opportunities would help them feel more connected in Paterson. Other suggestions included more job opportunities for youth, felons, and for people who speak English. One person suggested "better networking."

People reporting that **Safety and Security** would help them feel more connected in Patterson. They shared examples such as "more police presence," "better policemen," and "more protection" would be beneficial. Other participants said "more gun control policies," and "ensure that the homelessness are no longer sleeping in the streets."

Participants noted that **Cleanliness and Infrastructure** would help them feel more connected in Paterson. "Keeping the city clean" was the common suggestion for those citing **Cleanliness and Infrastructure**.

Participants suggested **Housing and Urban Planning** improvements would help them feel more connected in Paterson. They shared examples such as "better housing for all and safe streets," "more affordable housing," "more parks for kids," and "more places to go to" are needed.

Participants also identified responses relating to improvements in **Government and Leadership** to help them feel more connected in Paterson. Specific examples shared include "Paterson needs better leadership," the "mayor of Paterson [needs to be] more present," "new administration and council body," and "more transparency with politics."

Lastly, participants identified **Information and Communication** efforts would help them feel more connected in Paterson. They suggested "sharing more information," "more information outlets," and "more information about events."

What do you love about Paterson?
TCG categorized responses into the following themes:
- Scenery, Community, and People (35 responses)

- Geographical and Historical Aspects (16 responses)
- Positive Aspects and Sentiments (12 responses)
- City Life and Infrastructure (10 responses)
- Community Services and Support (10 responses)
- Personal Connection and Longevity (7 responses)

What do you love about Paterson?

Category	Responses
Scenery, Community, and People	35
Geographical and Historical Aspects	16
Positive Aspects and Sentiments	12
City Life and Infrastructure	10
Community Services and Support	10
Personal Connection and Longevity	7
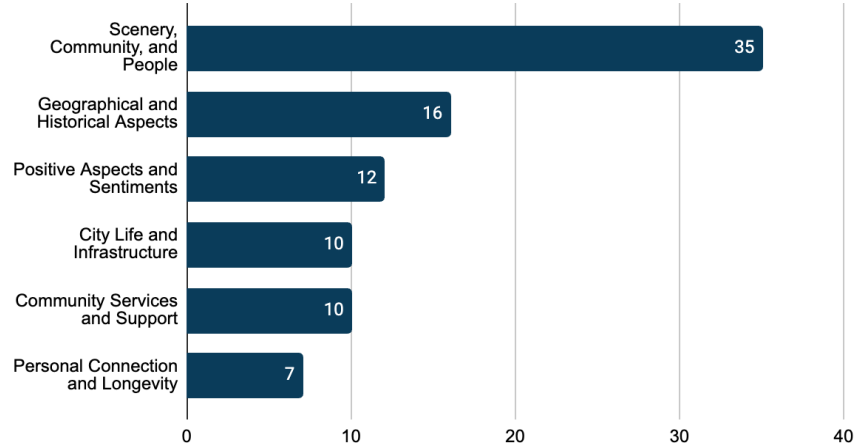
Most people who commented that they love Paterson because of the **Scenery, Community, and People**, enjoy that Paterson is "diverse," or "very diverse," that there are "different cultures," "different people," and that Paterson is a "melting pot." Seven people specifically said "the people" make the city. Several mentioned the variety of ethnic foods available and that they love "the community."

Those who said they love Paterson because of **Geographic and Historical Aspects** said they love the "history," some specifying "Silk City," "historical places," and the "castle." Others said they love "the falls" and "parks." A few mentioned that they like the location of Paterson because it's close to the city and/or to Upstate New York.

"I love the food and people and community."

-Holiday Social Attendee

Six people said they love "everything" about Paterson. Other responses themed under **Positive Aspects and Sentiments** included, that it is "home," the "many opportunities," "the downtown area and the public safety," and "*It gives me a home feel and I think there is hope*."

Some like that Paterson is a city, with "city life," and a "city feel." Other responses in **City Life and Infrastructure** included there is a "large shopping district," "that everything is close," it's "convenient living," and there is "easy access to food and transportation."

A few Holiday Social participants said they love Paterson because there are community and public services that are helping people. Other responses filtered under **Community Services and Support** included, "help," "support groups," and "food pantries."

Some love Paterson because they "live here," were "born here" or "raised here," or have been in Paterson "all my life." These responses are included in the **Personal Connection and Longevity** category.

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When asked, "What do you love about Paterson?" three people said "nothing." One sentiment was "*I love the city, but they need help more.*"

What do you hope for the future community of Paterson?

TCG categorized responses into the following themes:

- Safety and Crime Prevention (25 responses)
- Community Development and Improvement (15 responses)
- Housing and Homelessness (13 responses)
- Youth and Recreation (10 responses)
- Employment and Economic Opportunities (10 responses)
- Health and Environment (10 responses)
- Unity and Community (9 responses)
- Education (4)

What do you hope for the community of Paterson?

Category	Responses
Safety and Crime Prevention	25
Community Development and Improvement	15
Housing and Homelessness	13
Youth and Recreation	10
Employment and Economic Opportunities	10
Health and Environment	10
Unity and Community	9
Education	4
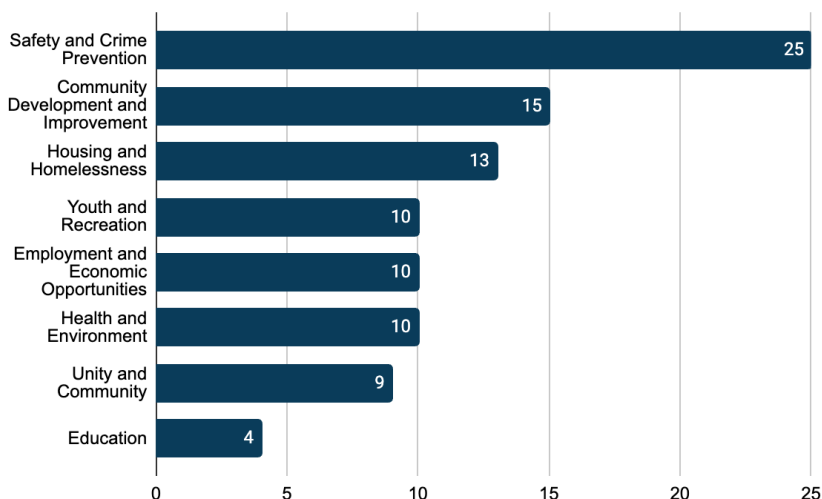
The highest number of responses focused on **Safety and Crime Prevention**. "To be a safer place," "safety," "more safe," and "make it safer," were common responses. Others said "for the violence to stop," "less crime," and "more police."

Community Development and Improvement was the second highest category of responses and included responses like "better schools," "better roads," "better cleaning of streets and improvement to impoverished areas," and "more improvement," overall.

Six of the 13 responses under **Housing and Homelessness** said they hope for "help for the homeless" through programming, work, and shelters. Others said "more housing," "better housing," and "more affordable housing."

Youth and Recreation was another common category of responses that included, "more recreation areas," "more youth recreation," and "more help and activities for the youth."

"Better employment," "more job opportunities," and "more funding, adding more services," were some of the comments for **Employment and Economic Opportunities**.

Comments around **Health and Environment** included "that it looks cleaner," "healthier environment for all," and "more peaceful safe haven."

Unity and Community responses included, "more unity," "togetherness," and one sentiment was, "I hope we can all come together and treat each other like we are all residents here."

"Better schools," and "better college," are a couple of responses filtered under **Education**.

Three people stated, "get better," or "be better" when responding to their hope for the future community of Paterson.

Listening Session Feedback for Community Connectedness
Listening session participants expressed a sense of connection to their community. Many residents appreciate the sense of community, friendships, and the welcoming nature of the people in Paterson. In addition to expressing their connection to Paterson, residents envisioned a future for the community marked by various improvements and initiatives to enhance the city's livability and foster community well-being.

| Positive Connections	Hope for Changes and the Future
- Appreciation for cultural diversity - Involvement in faith-based institutions and local nonprofits - Lifelong connection to the community - Shared hopes and dreams for Pateron's future - Enjoyment of parks and recreational spaces. - Strong sense of community and welcoming nature - Strong connection to Paterson's history and architecture - Appreciation of Paterson's services and programs - Walkability of the community	- Improved civic responsibility and increased community engagement - Involvement in faith-based institutions and local nonprofits - Lifelong connection to the community - Shared hopes and dreams for Pateron's future - Enjoyment of parks and recreational spaces - Strong sense of community and welcoming nature - Strong connection to Paterson's history and architecture - Appreciation of Paterson's services and programs - Walkability of the community

Economic Prosperity

How are the job opportunities in Paterson?
TCG categorized responses to this question in the following themes:
- Limited Opportunities and Compensation (35 responses)
- Negative Perceptions (20 responses)
- Positive or Optimistic Perceptions (16 responses)
- Neutral (5 responses)

The most common responses focused on the **Limited Opportunities and Compensation** related to job. Some of the specific comments included, "very few," "scarce," "need more," "lacking," and "not enough opportunities." Some participants were more specific, saying, "none can be found in the city that pays what's needed to be sustained," "depends on what you're looking for," and it's "hard if you are not bilingual."

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How are the job opportunities in Paterson?
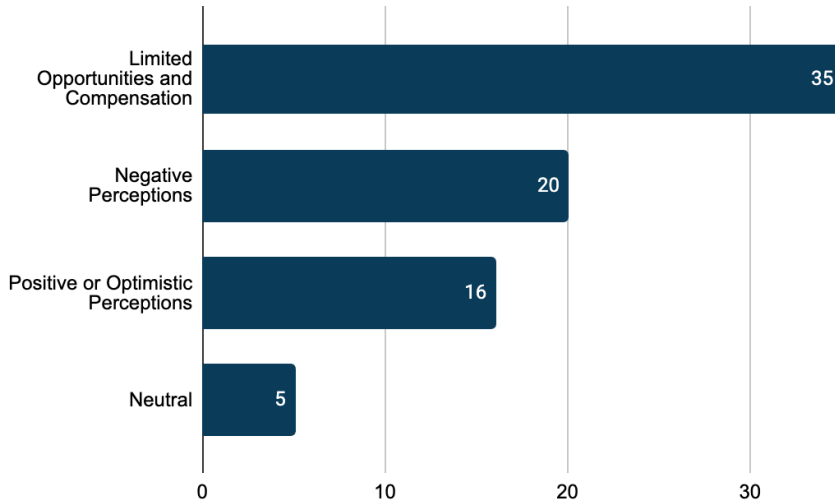
Those who had **Negative Perceptions** said job opportunities are "not good," "needs improvement," and "Not good at all!"

Seven people who had **Positive or Optimistic Perceptions** said job opportunities are "good." Others commenters said "yes," "excellent," and that jobs are "diverse."

**Neutral** responses were "okay," "fair," and "alright."

What do you like about the job opportunities in Paterson?

TCG categorized the responses into the following two categories:
- Negative Perceptions (61 responses)
- Positive or Neutral Perceptions (11 responses)

Participants whose comments about job opportunities were **Negative Perceptions** said "I don't like it," "nothing," "no opportunities," "poor," "terrible," "none," and "needs improvement."

What do you like about the job opportunities in Paterson?
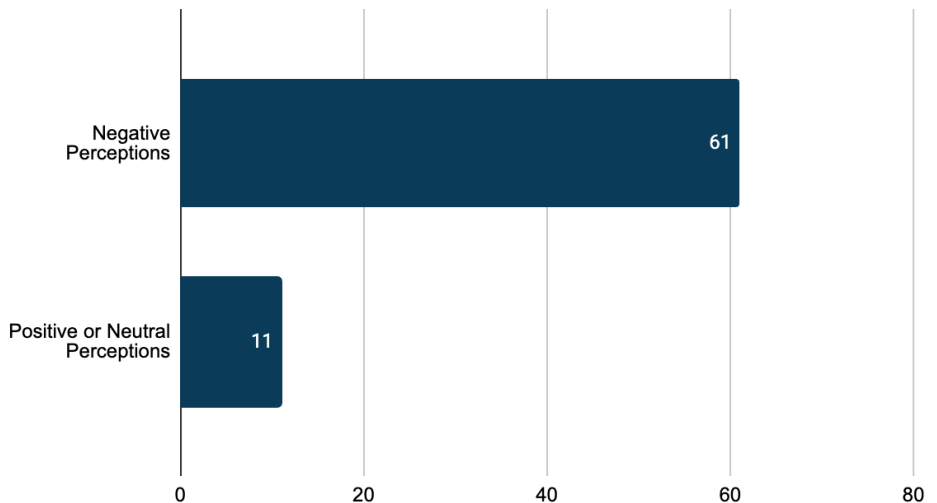
Some of the **Positive or Neutral Perceptions** were "I like that most jobs are clean and respectful," "everything is close by," and "great opportunities."

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What are the barriers and challenges to having job opportunities that provide livable wages in Paterson?

TCG categorized the responses for this question into the following themes:

- Social and Equality Issues (19 responses)
- Economic Factors (10 responses)
- Transportation (9 responses)
- Language and Cultural Barriers (6 responses)

What are the barriers and challenges to having job opportunities that provide livable wages in Paterson?

Category	Value
Social and Equality Issues	19
Economic Factors	10
Transportation	9
Language and Cultural Barriers	6

The most common responses for job barriers and challenges focused on **Social and Equality Issues**. For example, the responses included "not enough livable wages," "not enough fair wages," and two people said they do not have the skills/education for a local job. Two people said 'nepotism" is an issue, and two said felonies are a barrier.

Five people mentioned "rent," when commenting on the barriers and challenges to job opportunities, two saying "rent control" is needed, and one explained, "rent is not affordable to commensurate with your wage." Another **Economic Factors** comment was "they don't offer enough money."

Transportation responses indicated that people either work close to their home or commute. One person said that "permit parking for the streets," can be a barrier and challenge to job opportunities.

Two people cited "immigration," and one person said, "you can't get a job if you're not bilingual." Other **Language and Cultural Barriers** comments included, "the jobs in Paterson need to be open to hiring minorities," "all races should be looked at to better the entire community," and "provide more for Black people."

What changes would help to improve the job opportunities that provide livable wages in Paterson?
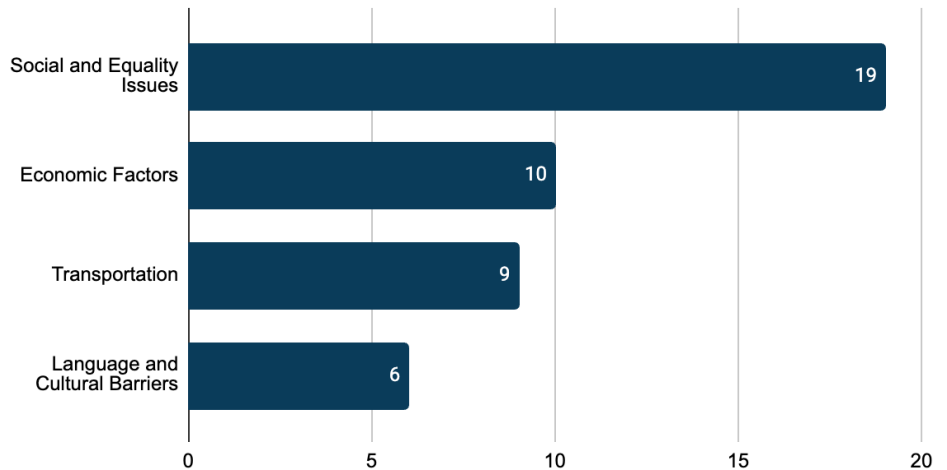
TCG categorized responses to this question into the following themes:

- Job Availability and Opportunities (14 responses)
- Fair Hiring Practices (10 responses)
- Increase Wages (7 responses)
- Government and Policy Changes (4 responses)
- Training and Education (3 responses)

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What changes would help to improve the job opportunities that provide livable wages in Paterson?

Category	Value
Job Availability and Opportunities	14
Fair Hiring Practices	10
Wage Increase and Better Pay	7
Government and Policy Changes	4
Training and Education	3
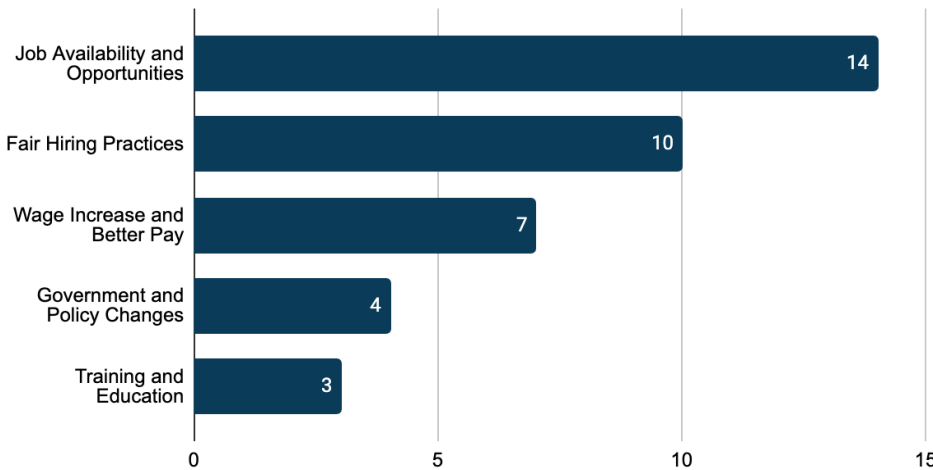
Job Availability and Opportunities responses were general with comments such as "more opportunities," "more jobs," and "more places to work."

Fair Hiring Practices comments said employers in Paterson should be better about hiring "felons," and "Black people," and that they should "stop hiring friends and family, and hire qualified people." Other comments said employers should be "fair," and "stop being prejudiced with your hiring."

"Better pay," and "higher pay" were the general comments around **Increase Wages**.

Comments regarding **Government and Policy Changes** included "changes in government office staff," "elected officials," and one person suggested, "tax breaks to lure big companies to headquarter or operate a flagship location."

Three people suggested better "training" or "vocational" programs. One person in the **Training and Education** category was more specific suggesting, "free classes and training lead to job replacement or futuristic careers."

Listening Session Feedback for Job Opportunities
Do you have access to job opportunities that provide livable wages in Paterson? | What do you need to have better access to job opportunities that provide livable wages in Paterson?
Listening session participants shared challenges in accessing job opportunities that provide livable wages. Listening session facilitators asked participants if they have access to job opportunities that provide a livable wage and the resources they need to either establish or increase this access. Respondents mostly expressed the lack of opportunities. In order to improve access to job opportunities and financial stability for residents, participants offered some suggestions and noted challenges and barriers.

Improvements	Challenges and Barriers
● Enhanced resources ● Training programs ● Support systems	● Concerns persist about the city's need for more diverse job types and opportunities ● Language barriers

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|	● More job opportunities are needed ● Limited access to information about job opportunities ● Specific qualifications required for certain positions ● Advocacy for second chance opportunities for individuals with felony records ● Lack of transportation

Education

How is the education for you and your children in Paterson?

TCG categorized responses to this question into the following themes:

- Positive Assessments (22 responses)
- Room for Improvement (22 responses)
- Concerns and Criticisms (22 responses)
- Neutral or Uncertain Responses (12 responses)

How is the education for you and your children in Paterson?

Category	Value
Positive Assessments	22
Room for Improvement	22
Concerns and Criticisms	22
Neutral or Uncertain Responses	12
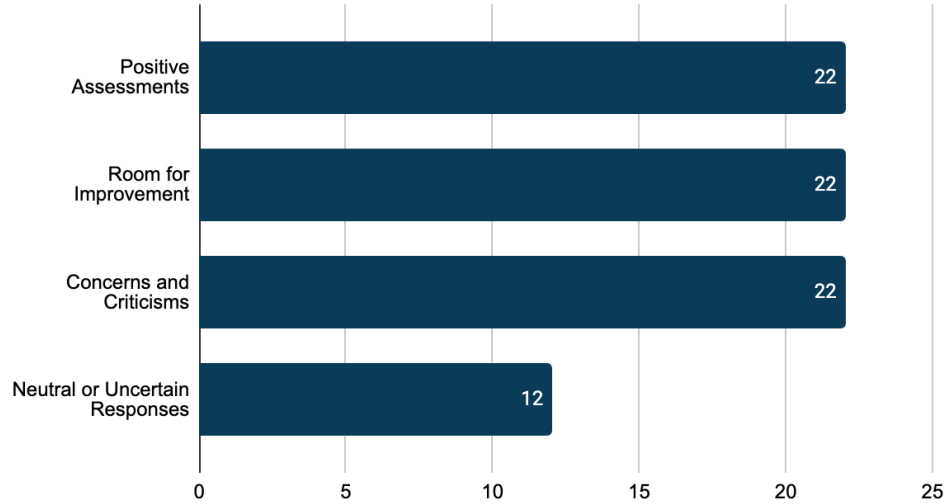
"As a parent advocate, I love my childrens' school, but there is always room for improvement."

-Holiday Social Attendee

Positive Assessments included people who said education is "good," or "very good," and three said "great." One sentiment was, "Not good! It's great!"

Eight people said education "needs work," or "needs improvement," and another five people said "can be better," or "could be better." Other responses in the **Room for Improvement** category included "fair," "it's okay to a certain extent," and "not bad but we need more help."

Nine people who had **Concerns and Criticisms** responded "no good," or "not good," to this question. Some of the other comments in this category were, "education is poor," "lacking," and "struggling."

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Neutral or Uncertain Responses included "alright," "OK," and "it's OK to a certain extent."

What do you like about the education for you and your children in Paterson?

TCG categorized the responses to this question into the following themes. It is important to note many of the responses were requests and recommendations, rather than commenting on what they liked about the education in Paterson.

- Requests for Support and Funding (12)
- Teacher and Curriculum (8 responses)
- Programs and Activities (7 responses)
- Recommendations for Improvement (6 responses)

What do you like about the education for you and your children in Paterson?

Category	Value
Requests for Support and Funding	12
Teacher and Curriculum	8
Programs and Activities	7
Recommendations for Improvement	6
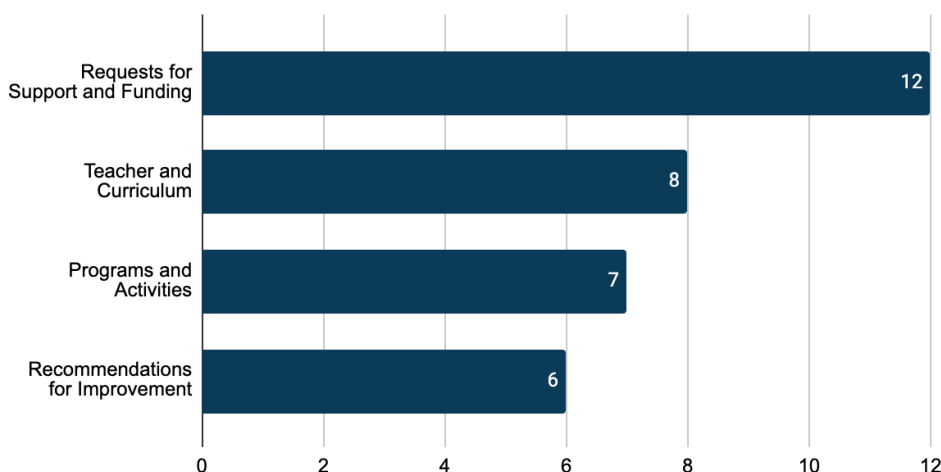
The most common responses focused on Requests for Support and Funding. For example, participants shared comments, such as "need more funding," "better funding," and "more teachers".

Three people commented positively about the teachers, and two people mentioned they like that the education is "hands-on" in the **Teacher and Curriculum** category.

In the **Programs and Activities** category, three people said they like the after school programming, and others mentioned the programs and activities the schools offer.

Recommendations for Improvement comments included two people who said "less crime." Other comments were, "I recommend that teachers step the game up, and children try harder," "To create more elements that help the education of children," and "More communication with parents."

What are the barriers and challenges to having the education you and your children need in Paterson?

Responses to this question were categorized into the following themes:
- Systemic and Structural Challenges (15 responses)
- Resource and Funding Challenges (14 responses)
- After School Programs and Extracurricular Challenges (12 responses)
- Neighborhood and Safety Challenges (7 responses)
- Teacher-related Challenges (7 responses)

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- Language Challenges (4 responses)

What are the barriers and challenges to having the education you and your children need in Paterson?
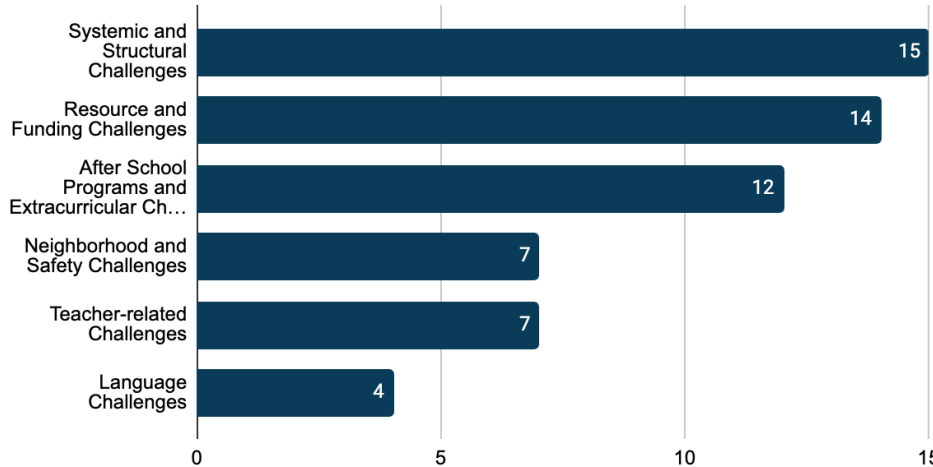
The most common responses focused on **Systemic and Structural Challenges** to having the education you and your children need. Some of the comments included "better education system," "better education," and "could use improvement."

"Resources," "more funding," and "not enough resources," were common comments in the **Resources and Funding Challenges** category.

"After school programs," "aftercare," "more activities," and "more sports" were comments in the **After School Programs and Extracurricular Challenges** category.

Neighborhood and Safety Challenges included comments like "violence," "crime," "drugs," "bad neighborhoods," and "bullying."

Teacher-related Challenges comments included, "better teachers," "more teachers," "pay teachers more," and two people indicated that 'teachers don't care."

Three people reported **Language Challenges** as a barrier, and one suggested "introducing more strategic learning plans."

What changes would help to improve the education for you and your children in Paterson?
Changes to help improve education were categorized into the following themes:
- Neighborhood and Environment Enhancements (22 responses)
- Curriculum and Educational Resources (21 responses)
- Resources (16 responses)

What changes would help to improve the education for you and your children in Paterson?

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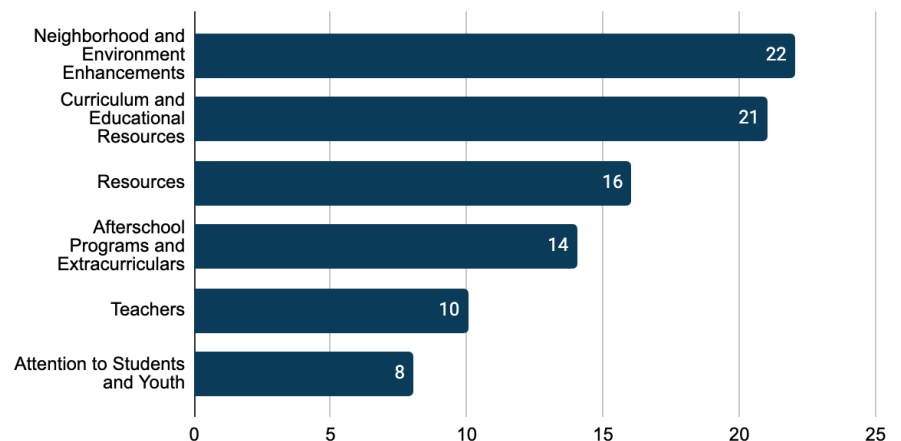
- Afterschool Programs and Extracurriculars (14 responses)
- Teachers (10 responses)
- Attention to Students and Youth (8 responses)

The most common responses to improving education focused on **Neighborhood and Environmental Enhancements.** Seven people suggested "more schools," and seven indicated safer schools through comments such as, "less crime," "expansion of drug-free school zones," "more control," "more police officers," and "more security." Other responses included "better neighborhoods," "electing leaders who care about the people," and more college courses.

Comments in the **Curriculum and Educational Resources** category suggested specific classes, such as music, gym, special education, and gifted. Two people said to "teach Black children to read." Other comments include: "less crowded classrooms and up-to-date facilities," "more places for learning new skills," and "job-seeking training."

Resources comments included, generally, "better funding," and "more resources," and others commented on resources for students, such as "more buses," "transportation," "upgraded books," "more books," and "materials and supplies." "Teacher resources," "more information for parents of kids," an "better lunch for schools" were other suggestions.

Afterschool Programs and Extracurriculars comments included "after school programming," "more afterschool programming," and "more programming for children and adults." A couple people indicated that more extracurricular activities would help keep students "out of the streets."

"Better teachers," "more teachers," and "pay teachers more" were the most common responses in the **Teachers** category.

"Pay more attention to children," and "better parenting" were the common responses in the **Attention to Students and Youth** category.

Listening Session Feedback for Education
Do you have access to the education you need for you and your children? | What do you need to have better access to education for you and your children?
Listening session participants shared experiences of various challenges in accessing the education they need for themselves and their children. While there are numerous schools in the area, concerns persist regarding teacher shortages, resource deficiencies, and dissatisfaction with the current state of education.

Some comments mentioned specific schools performing well, including School 28, P. Tech, Norman S. Weir, and Alexander Hamilton.

Improvements	Challenges and Barriers
● Suggestion for parents to volunteer and actively participate	● Teacher shortages ● Dissatisfaction with the current state of

|	
in schools ● Need for more awareness for higher education programs ● Need for tutoring and academic programs ● Education efforts targeted at parents ● Recognition of the importance of wraparound services, but limitations in serving all children	education ● Lack of awareness among children, particularly in the Black community, about available education opportunities ● Lack of afterschool programs ● Deficiencies in basic skills among students

Health & Mental Health

How accessible is the healthcare including mental health and substance use support you need in Paterson?

TCG categorized comments for this question by the following themes:
- Positive Assessments (47 responses)
- Concerns and Areas for Improvement (21 responses)
- Negative Assessments (9 responses)
- Mixed Assessments (7 responses)

How accessible is the healthcare including mental health and substance use support you need in Paterson?
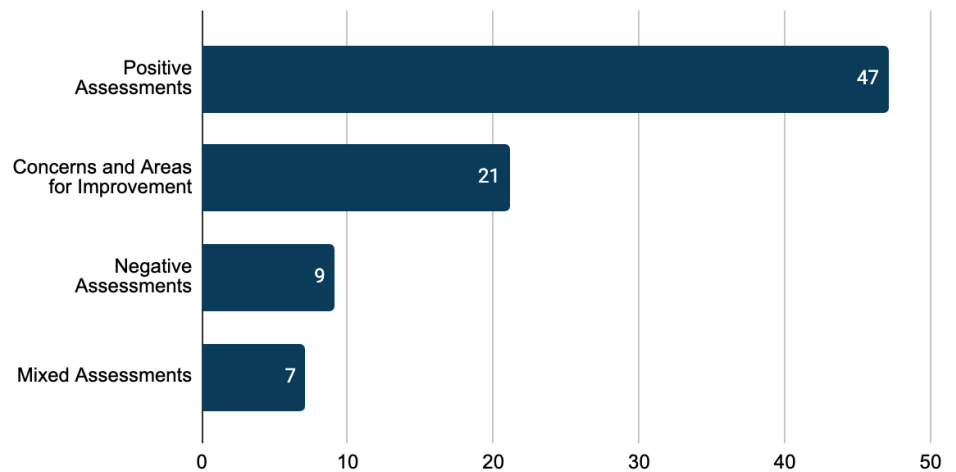
The most common responses from participants about access to healthcare were positive; they included "good," "very good," "very accessible," and "great".

Several participants' comments included **Concerns and Areas for Improvement,** such as there is "not enough" access to healthcare and mental healthcare, it "needs improvement," and more help is needed for substance use. One person said it can "take a long time to receive services."

There were nine comments that had **Negative Assessments** about healthcare, such as "Not good," "overcrowded," and "terrible."

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Mixed Assessments were more neutral comments, such as "fine," "decent," and "50/50," as a few of the comments.

What do you like about the healthcare in Paterson?

TCG categorized the responses to this question into the following themes:

- Positive Feedback (43 responses)
- Negative Feedback (34 responses)
- Neutral/Mixed Feedback (11 responses)

The most common responses included **Positive Feedback**, such as "it's free," "affordable," and accepts "medicare" or "medicaid."

What do you like about the healthcare in Paterson?

Category	Value
Positive Feedback	43
Negative Feedback	34
Neutral/Mixed Feedback	11

Others said it is "fair," or "available to all." Other participants like that "the nurses and doctors are very helpful," and that they receive good "attention."

Participants providing **Negative Feedback** said they "don't" like healthcare in Paterson, or that there is "nothing" they like. Three people mentioned they "do not have insurance."

"Could be better," "needs improvement" and "average" were common **Neutral/Mixed Feedback** responses.

What are the barriers and challenges to having access to healthcare in Paterson?
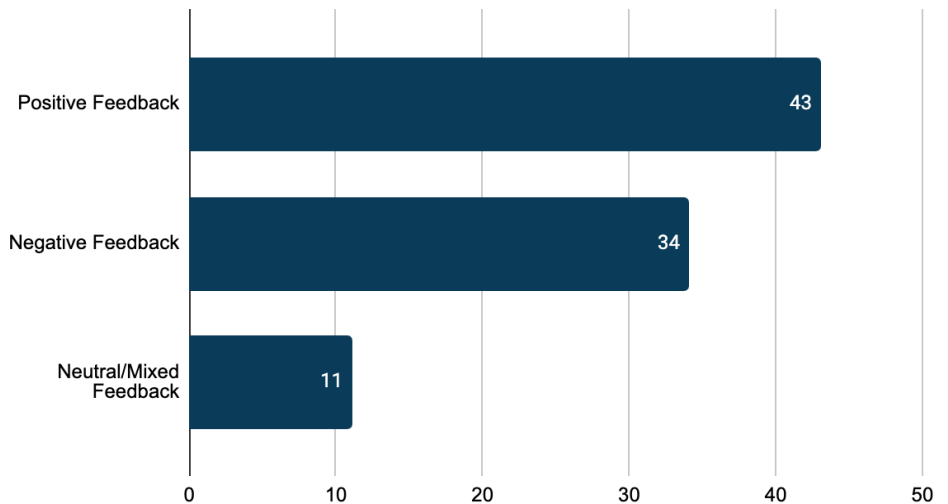
TCG categorized the responses to this question into the following themes:

- Information and Affordability (16 responses)
- No Barriers (12 responses)
- Accessibility (9 responses)
- Culture and Language (4 responses)

Commenters in the **Information and Affordability** category feel that healthcare

What are the barriers and challenges to having access to healthcare in Paterson?

Category	Value
Information and Affordability	16
No Barriers	12
Accessibility	9
Culture and Language	4

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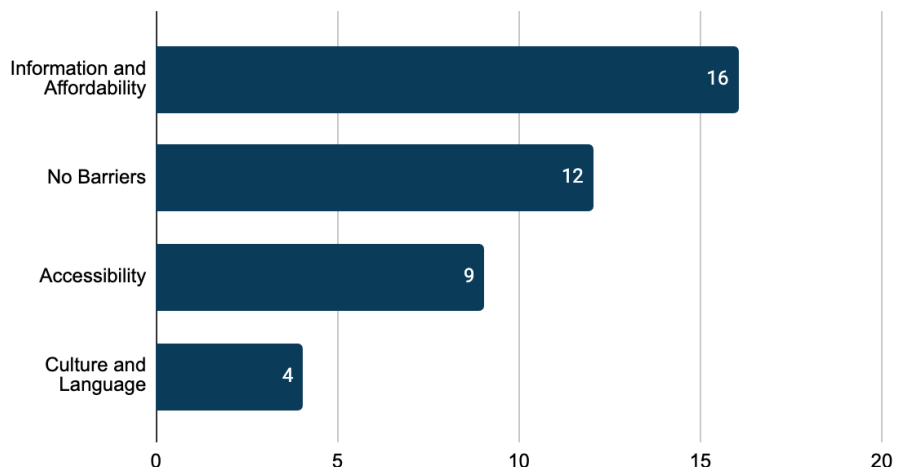
"should be free," saying they "do not have insurance," that "not everyone takes your insurance," "not all insurance covers all needed procedures," or they do not "know [what] insurance covers." Some say they need "more information."

Several participants stated that there are **No Barriers** with responses like "no," or "nothing."

People stating **Accessibility** issues said, "volume," "it could be more accessible," and that there's only "one hospital."
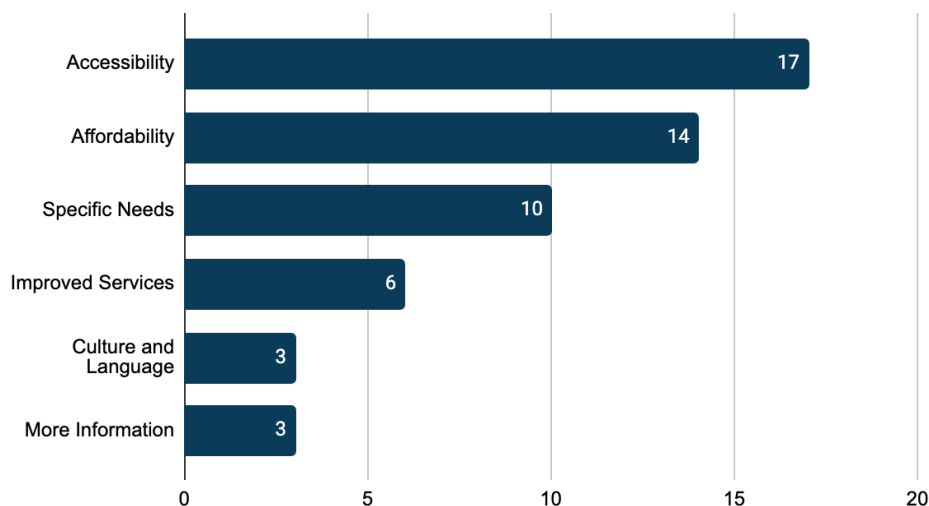
Some participants shared comments related to **Culture and Language**. Participants stated "language," "discrimination barriers that aren't addressed," and suggested that "it would help to simplify" Medicare and Medicaid paperwork.

What changes would help to improve healthcare in Paterson?

TCG categorized the responses to this question with the following themes:

- Accessibility (17 responses)
- Affordability (14 responses)
- Specific Needs (10 responses)
- Improved Services (6 responses)
- Culture and Language (3 responses)
- More Information (3 responses)

What changes would help to improve healthcare in Paterson?

Category	Value
Accessibility	17
Affordability	14
Specific Needs	10
Improved Services	6
Culture and Language	3
More Information	3

Participants shared the most comments related to **Accessibility.** Their comments specified "more accessibility," "more facilities," and more "hospitals."

Half of the participants who commented on **Affordability** suggested healthcare be "free." Other suggestions were "more benefits" and "lower cost of insurance." Other responses were "more benefits for the needy," and "making it accessible for the working poor."

Four of the **Specific Needs** responses suggested helping substance use. Other suggestions included "more programs for mental health," "more diversity and inclusion training," "handicap access," "help for our seniors" and "mobile units."

Some respondents said "better doctors," "better hospital care," and "better programs" are needed. These are examples of suggestions categorized as **Improved Services**. **Culture and Language** responses said that there is a "language barrier," and that "more translators" are needed.

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"Let people know about benefits" was the solution offered under **More Information**.

Listening Session Feedback for Healthcare and Mental Healthcare
Do you have access to the healthcare you need in Paterson? | What are some of the barriers you are experiencing with access to healthcare in Paterson?
Some listening session participants expressed positive experiences with primary healthcare access and recognition of community health centers, while others encounter significant challenges. These challenges include limited access to decent doctors, frustrations with social services, and discrepancies in the quality of care received from different providers.

Strengths	Challenges and Barriers
● Positive experiences with some Physician Assistants (P.A.) in Paterson ● Access to basic healthcare ● Recognition of community health centers ● Assistance for the immigrant population	● Turnover in social services ● Double book appointments ● Insurance affordability and eligibility ● Distance to providers ● Closures of health centers and pharmacies ● Lack of holistic and preventative care

Do you have access to mental healthcare you need in Paterson? | What are some of the barriers you are experiencing with access to mental healthcare in Paterson?
Listening session facilitators asked participants if they have access to mental healthcare, and if not, what are barriers to accessing these services. Although participants mostly agreed on the importance of mental health services, they also expressed numerous barriers preventing them from access. Despite positive experiences with certain mental health resources and services, overall, residents expressed the lack of access to mental healthcare is a severe and critical problem in the community. Residents highlighted the urgent need for improved resources and education in the community regarding mental health.

| Strengths	Challenges and Barriers
● Harbor House provides mental health care options ● St. Joseph's Health is appreciated for mental health support ● Positive experiences with accessing mental health support through telehealth options, such as telephone and video (Zoom) options	● Stigma surrounding mental health ● Limited awareness and education about available mental health services ● Long wait times for counseling services ● Shortage of mental health facilities and providers ● Lack of trust in mental health providers

Most Pressing Needs in Paterson

What is the most pressing need in Paterson?

The most common responses to the most pressing need in Paterson fell into the following categories:

- Housing (32 responses)
- Public Safety (11 responses)
- Homelessness (10 responses)
- Economic Opportunities (5 responses)
- Mental Health (4 responses)
- Education (3 responses)
- City Administration (3 responses)

What is the most pressing need in Paterson?

Category	Value
Housing	32
Public Saftey	11
Homelessness	10
Economic Opportunities	5
Mental Health	4
Education	3
City Administration	3
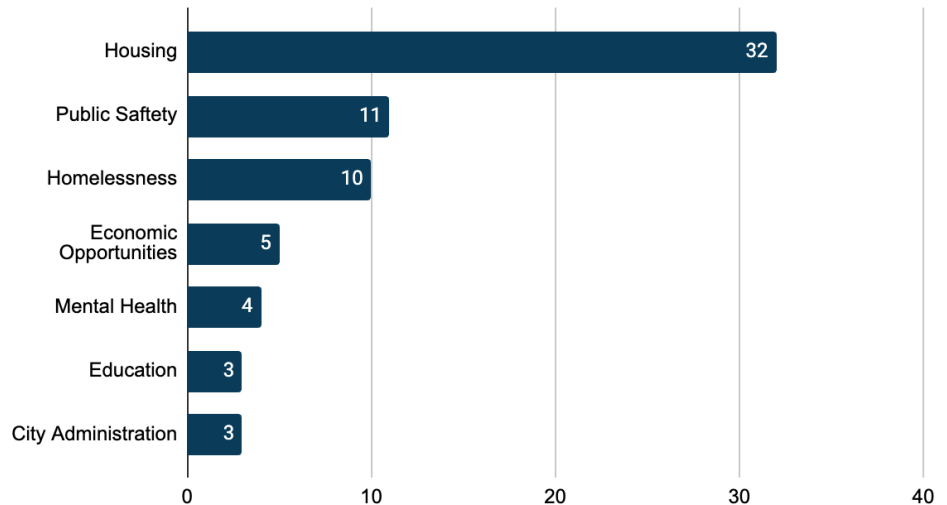
Participants overwhelmingly said that **Housing** is the most pressing need in Paterson. "More housing," "affordable housing," and "rent issues" and "rent control" were the most common responses in this area.

Respondents said **Public Safety** is a pressing need, and they have concerns about "safety and violence," and feel "more police presence and units" are needed.
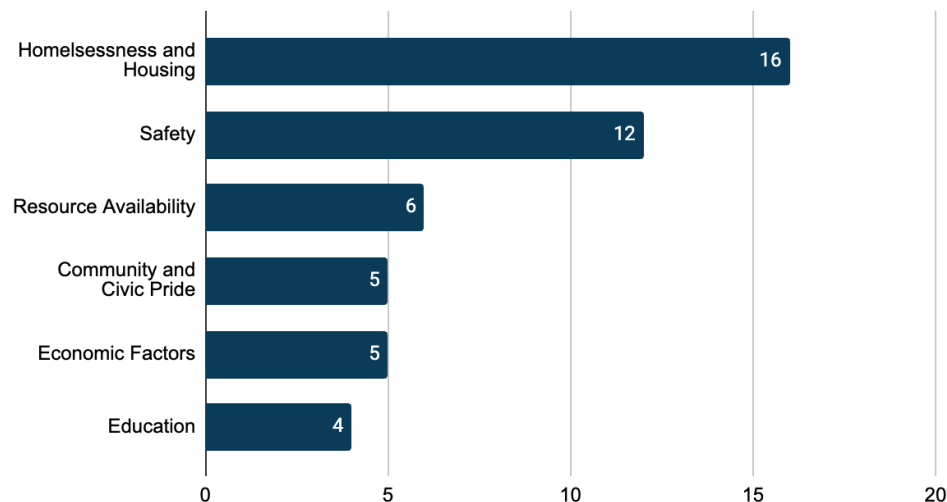
While **Homelessness** was identified as the third most pressing need, it is also a subcategory of Housing. Participants said "more shelters," and "safe havens" are needed.

What makes this need so important?

Responses to this question were categorized into the following themes:

- Homelessness and Housing (16 responses)
- Safety (12 responses)
- Resource Availability (6 responses)
- Community and Civic Pride (5 responses)
- Economic Factors (5 responses)
- Education (4 responses)

What makes this need so important?

Theme	Value
Homelsessness and Housing	16
Safety	12
Resource Availability	6
Community and Civic Pride	5
Economic Factors	5
Education	4

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Participants who provided responses in **Homelessness and Housing** said there are "too many homeless" and "too many people living on the street." Others said it is "too hard to find a place," and "rent is too high, landlords asking for too much."

"Safety of people," and "people's safety," were the most common **Safety** responses." Others said "people could die outside in winter months," and "people are dying."

"More help for older people" was the most common response under **Resource Availability**.

Community and Civic Pride examples included "to improve the community," and "to feel a sense of community and proud feeling to say where you live."

Economic Factors responses included "economy," "jobs and success," and "dictates why further better or ruins the city."

"Lack of education," and "education respect" were responses around **Education**.

How would you like to see the need addressed?
TCG categorized the responses to this question into the following themes:
- Shelters and Housing (17 responses)
- Safety and Law Enforcement (11 responses)
- Jobs and Economic Support (9 responses)
- Budget and Resources (5 responses)
- Community Involvement and Input (4 responses)

How would you like to see the need addressed?
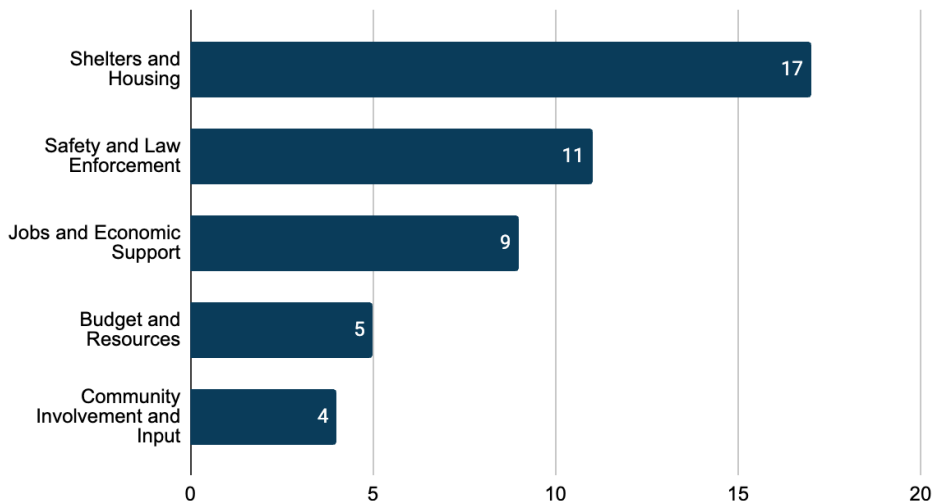
The most common responses focused on **Shelters and Housing.** Participants shared the following responses, "Shelters," "more shelters," "affordable housing," and "housing." .

"Better safety," "more safety," and "hire more police from the community," were common answers for **Safety and Law Enforcement**.

"Jobs," and "more benefits," were responses for **Jobs and Economic Support**.

"Better budget" was the most common response under **Budget and Resources**.

Participants whose responses were categorized as **Community Involvement** and Input said, "more community input," "community accountability," and "vote."

What improvements do you hope for?

Responses to this question were categorized into the following themes:

- Housing (21 responses)
- Public Safety (14 responses)
- Economic Opportunities (11 responses)
- Community Support (10 responses)
- General Improvement (9 responses)

What improvements do you hope for?

Category	Responses
Housing	21
Public Safety	14
Economic Opportunities	11
Community Support	10
General Improvement	9
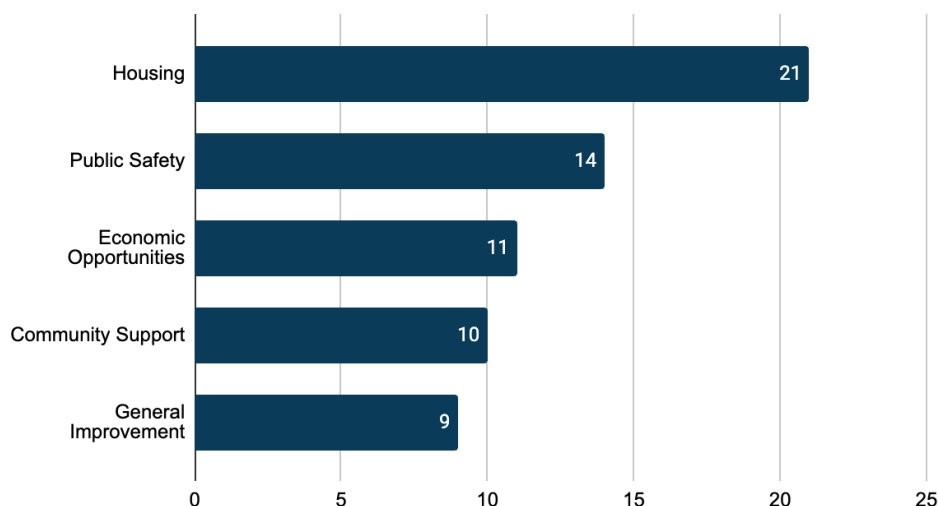
The most common category of responses when asked what improvement participants wanted focused on **Housing**. "More housing," "availability," and "affordable housing" were the most common responses under Housing. Other responses included "less rent," and housing for specific populations, such as, "homeless," "women," and "elderly."

The second most common category of responses focused on **Public Safety**. Participants' responses included "less crime," and "more police presence."

"More jobs" was the most common response for **Economic Opportunities**.

"More help for the homeless population," "more opportunities," and "more help for others," were the most common responses for **Community Support**.

"Everything," "a better place to live," and "better community" were all responses for **General Improvement**.

Listening Session Categories Not Covered at the Holiday Socials

The category topics below - housing, safety and substance use - were not specifically asked at the Holiday Socials, but were asked during the listening sessions. It's important to note, that despite not being addressed as topics or questions at the Holiday Socials, "housing," and "safety" came up in the comments shared at the Holiday Socials anyway.

Housing

Do you have access to safe and affordable housing in Paterson? | What do you need to have better access to safe and affordable housing in Paterson?

Participants in listening sessions expressed challenges regarding access to safe and affordable housing. They shared concerns about housing affordability and the lack of access to living spaces, and they also shared ideas to improve affordable housing. They also shared an urgency for homeless shelters, and subsidized housing.

Improvements	Challenges and Barriers
- More homeless shelters and assistance services - Lottery system for Section 8 housing - Advocating for better management by the housing authority to address systemic housing shortages	- Difficulties of housing authority not addressing systematic lack of housing - No access to safe and affordable housing - Concerns about traffic and new apartments - Pests - Too expensive

Safety

Do you feel safe in Paterson? | What would make you feel safer in Paterson?

Participants in listening sessions shared mixed sentiments regarding their sense of safety in the city. While some individuals feel safe in familiar environments, others harbor safety concerns, especially at night, citing incidents of crime and violence. Participants shared that they feel safe in familiar environments, such as their homes or churches. Participants shared ideas and challenges and barriers to improving public safety.

What would make you feel safer in Paterson? (n=18)

Law Enforcement Engagement	39%
Community Engagement	39%
Services and Resources	11%
Government Engagement	11%

Improvements	Challenges and Barriers
- Enhanced police presence, including foot patrols - Neighborhood crime watch initiatives	- Lack of activities and safe spaces for children - Fearful living conditions

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● Better training for law enforcement officers ● Increased support for homeless shelters ● Enhanced communication between residents and authorities to address safety concerns and create a more secure environment ● Fostering connections within the community ● Empowering youth through positive activities ● Promoting cultural diversity	● Incidents of crime and violence affecting residents ● Concerns about public safety ● Perceived biases in law enforcement interactions ● Limited access to mental health services

Substance Use

Do you feel people have access to substance use support and recovery services in Paterson? | What does the community need to have better access to substance use support and recovery services in Paterson?
Participants in listening sessions acknowledged the presence of various organizations and services currently available in the community to provide substance use and mental health support. Residents also identified some gaps and challenges in accessing the services. Paterson residents recognized the need for collective efforts involving advocacy and pharmaceutical companies to address the root causes of substance use issues comprehensively.

Strengths	Challenges and Barriers
● PIK, Cares, Turning Point, and Straight and Narrow ● Peer recovery programs and initiatives like the Pull Up Ride Share, which provides free transportation to clinics and rehabilitation services outside Paterson	● Discontinuation of detoxification treatments once insurance stops ● Disparities in care for minorities ● Challenges in providing social support, particularly for younger individuals struggling with substance use

Appendix

A map of the boundaries of Paterson One Square Mile:

PATERSON
ONE SQUARE MILE