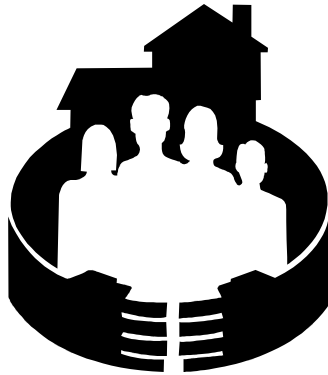


# McDOWELL COUNTY 2008 SURVEY



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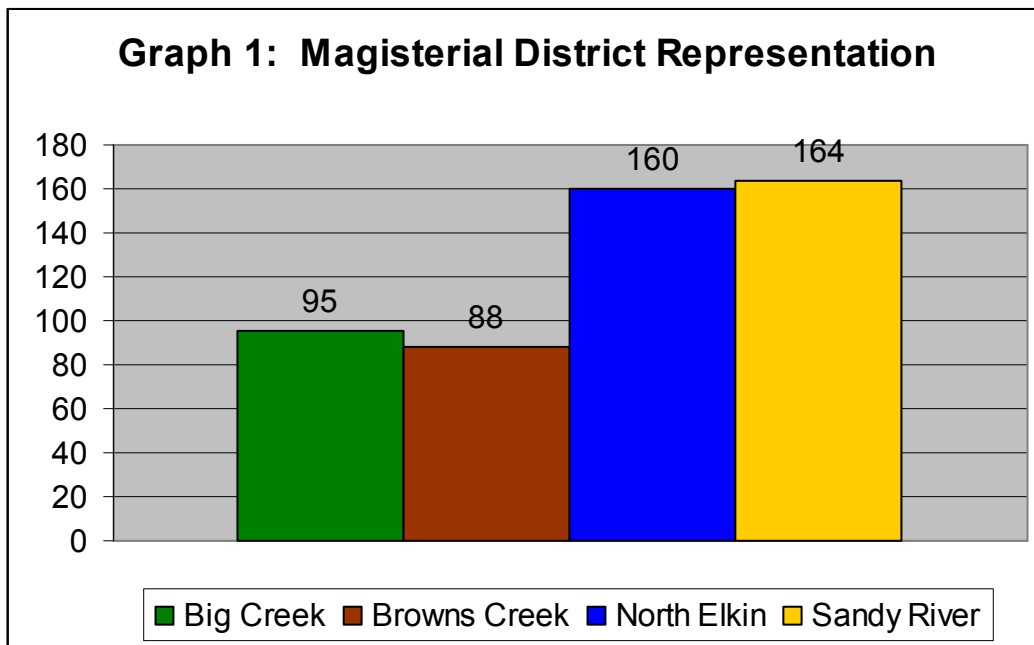
## **INTRODUCTION**

McDowell County FACES (Families, Agencies, Children Enhancing Services) is the Family Resource Network for McDowell. FACES completes assessment of needs and resources, strategic planning around the gaps in services, mobilizing around the identified issues, implementation of programs, and evaluating of the process. The concentration of Family Resources Networks is creating a service delivery system that families and children can readily access. The first step in assisting families is to identify issues, resources or gaps in services.

The McDowell County 2008 Survey was conducted in January through March, 2008 via web, phone, and paper. Forms completed by phone and paper were placed in the web survey by staff and a copy was filed for reference. Survey analysis was completed by Survey Monkey, a web-based survey tool purchased by FACES. Thirty seven (37) questions were asked on the survey consisting of multiple choices, fill-in, ranking, and drop-down options. A complete response file is on file at FACES for future referencing.

## DISTRICT REPRESENTATION

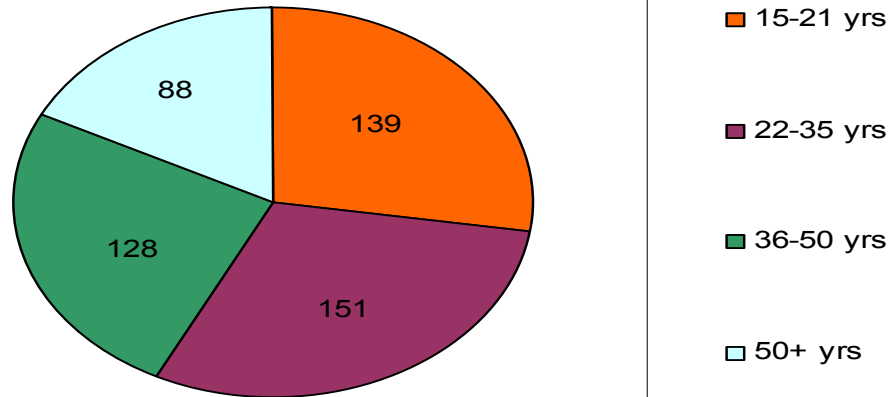
McDowell County is divided into four Magisterial Districts: Big Creek, Browns Creek, North Elkins, and Sandy River. The districts are not intended to separate the people and are irrelevant except to identify resources and plan for specific needs. For example, during flood recovery, faith-based and state agencies used the district divisions to serve families and were able to use the districts to prevent overlapping or duplication of services. The districts were also used to assist agencies in additional assistance in areas where increases in the numbers moving off TANF roles. Each month FACES provided information to faith-based pantries the numbers to expect which allowed them to better meet the needs. *Graph 1* demonstrates the district numbers.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

There were 509 respondents for the survey with 385 females and 122 males representing an average age of 39.3 years (age restrictions were 15 years plus). The survey respondents included 464 (91.2%) Caucasian (white); 40 (7.9%) African-American (black); 3 (0.6%) American Indian, and 1 (0.2%) each Vietnamese or other each. *Graph 2* demonstrates the age groupings for the survey demonstrating a good representation from all age groups.

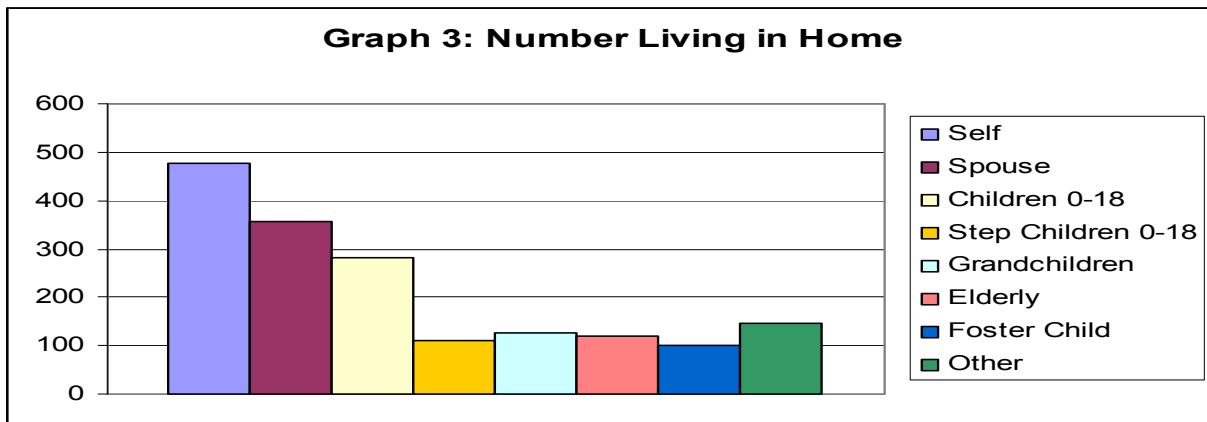
**Graph 2: Age Representation**



## HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

The survey provided information on individuals living in the households, the annual household income, and source of the income. After self, the highest other category for individuals living in the home was spouse and children. *Graph 3* demonstrates the findings.

**Graph 3: Number Living in Home**

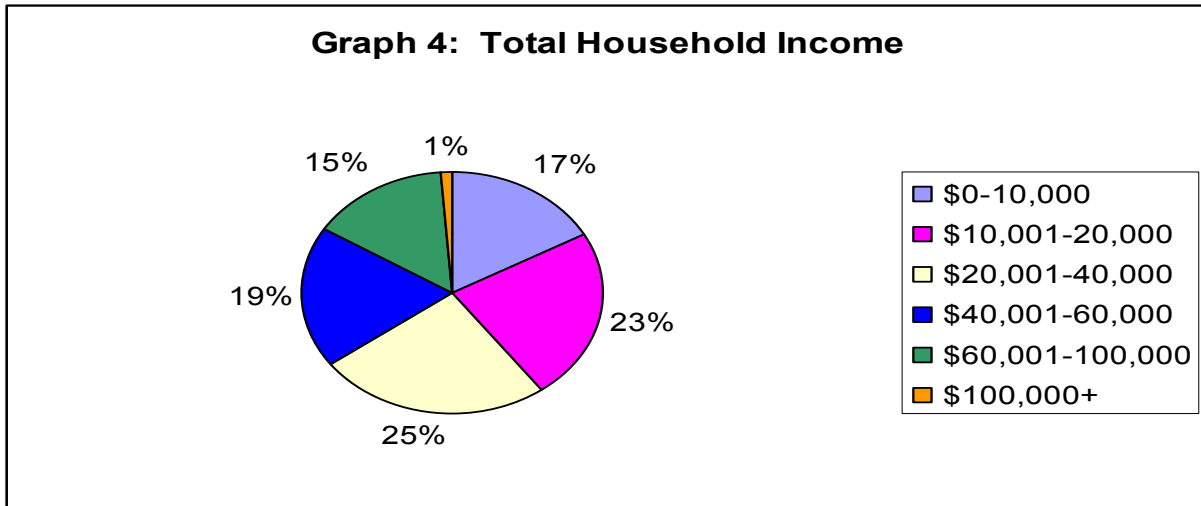


## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

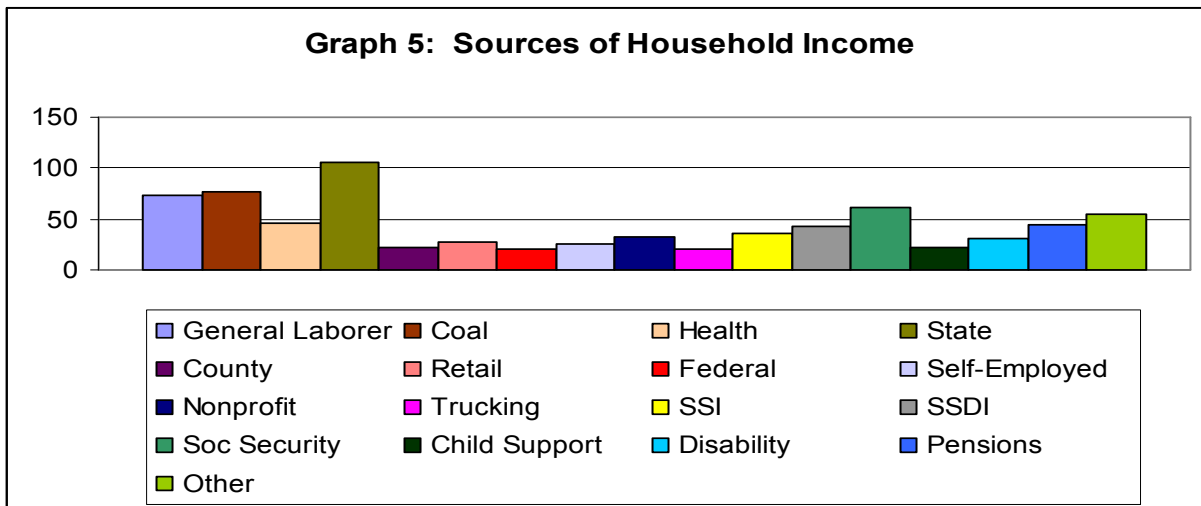
In 2000 the percentage of children in McDowell County that qualified for free and reduced meals was 47.0%. In 2005 that percentage was 84.6% and increase of 80%. There are some schools in which this percentage is in the 90-94%. According to Kids Count 45.4% of children under 18 lived in poverty in 2004 however according to Blueprint Communities the poverty rate for

families with children headed by females with no husband present was 86.9% which is much closer to the number of children qualifying for free and reduced meals.

Respondents were asked to list their incomes based on the legend in *Graph 4* below. The highest number of respondents fell into the \$20,001 - \$40,000 annual income level followed closely by \$10,001 - \$20,000. These two categories account for 48% of the total respondents.

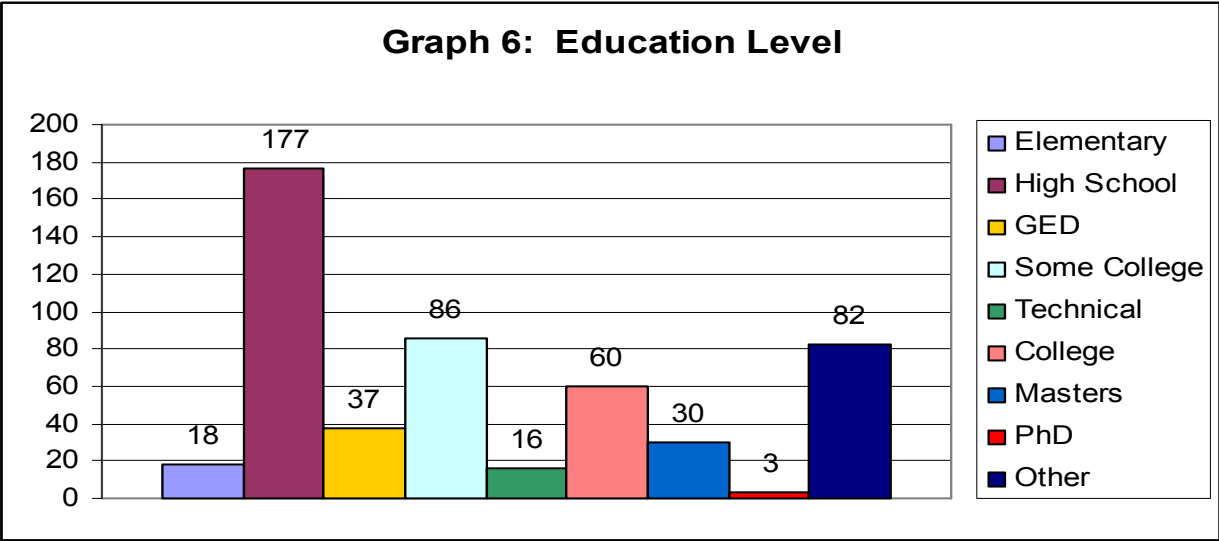


State Agencies including the Board of Education, DHHR, hospitals, and Division of Corrections were the highest source of income, followed by the coal industry, general laborer, and social security benefits and pensions. *Graph 5* provides all the sources of income categories offered.



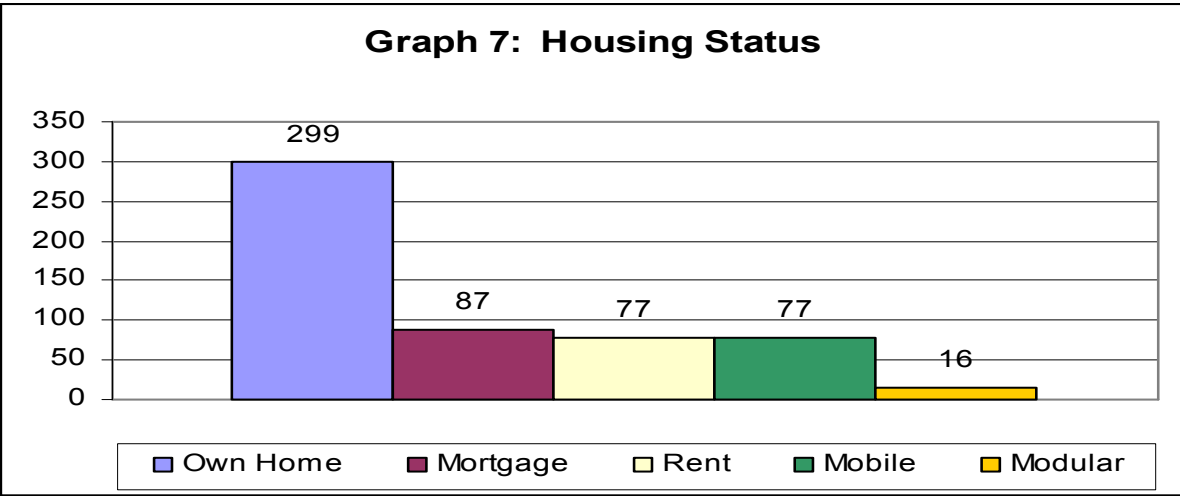
## EDUCATION

*Graph 6* demonstrates the education level of the respondents with 34% either in or completing high school, 12% completing college, 6% with a masters degree and 1% with a PhD.

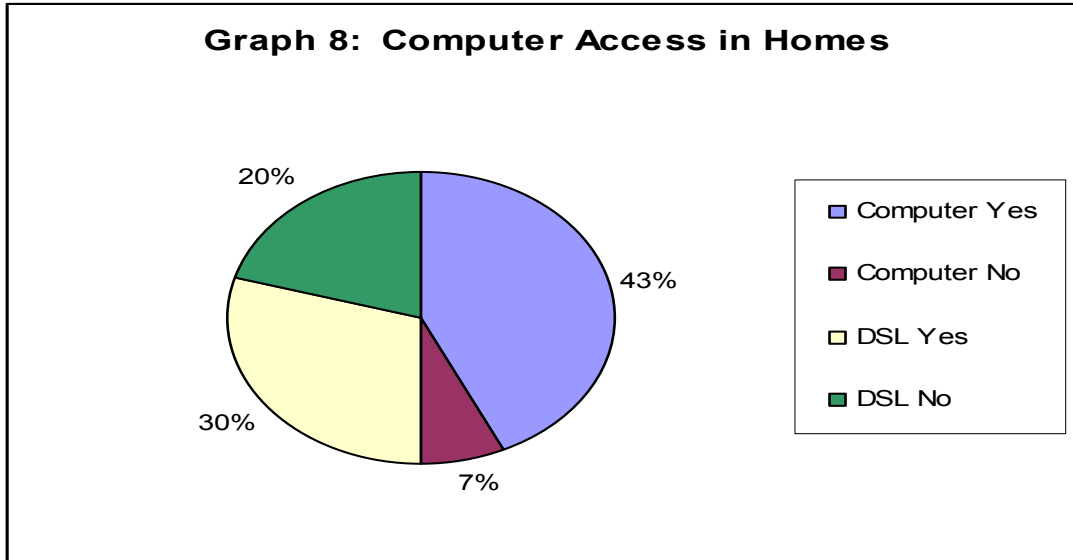


## HOUSING

Residents demonstrated a high percentage of individuals that own their homes and 62 residents stated they had mortgages but did not mark own home. The oldest home was built in 1880. Modular homes have not caught up to mobile homes even though they are comparable in price but more energy efficient, become part of a deed, and can be insured as a home without depreciation. The *Graph 7* below demonstrates the different types of housing in McDowell County.



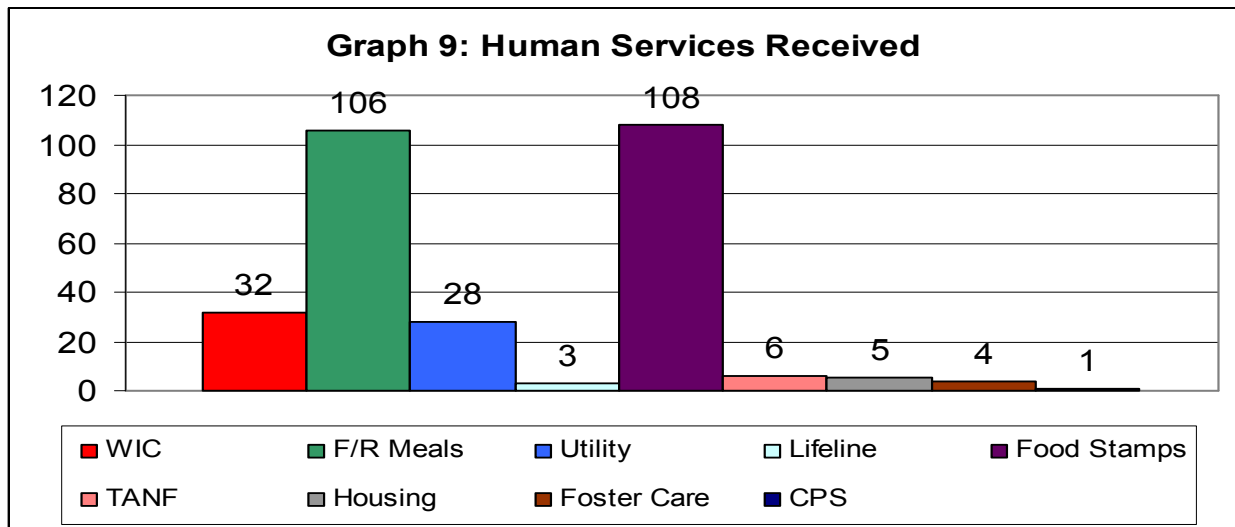
*Graph 8* demonstrates the number of respondents that have access to computers and high-speed internet which was higher than expected.



## HUMAN/SOCIAL SERVICES

Respondents were asked what types of human and social services they received. *Human services* are those programs that are necessary to provide for basic needs such as food, employment, housing, safety, and utilities. There were 322 (66.9%) respondents reporting that they did not receive any services.

Food stamps were documented as the number one human service utilized by respondents at 21.8% followed closely by free and reduced meals at school at 21.4%. No one reported utilizing Stop Abusive Family Environments (SAFE) or Adult Protective Services (APS). **Graph 9** demonstrates the total findings with numeric values.

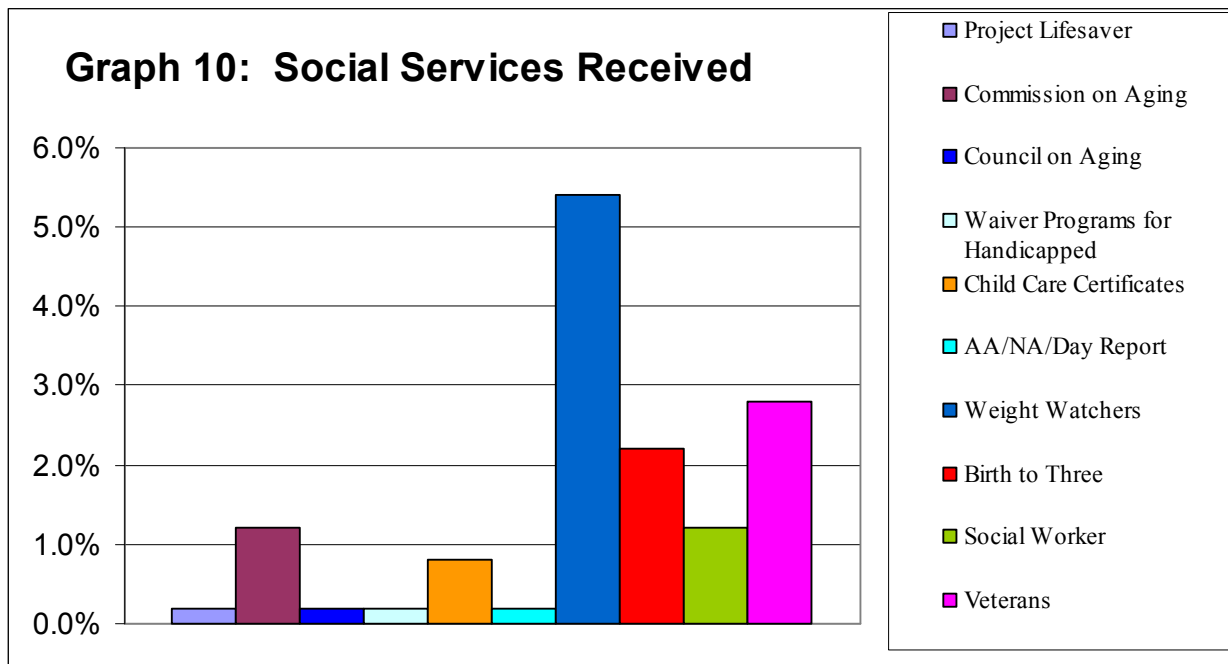


*Social services* are those programs that provide for a better quality of life including but not limited to support for elderly, child services, health, crime advocacy, military, education, and drug reduction. There were 434 (87.5%) individuals reporting they did not receive any of the

listed social programs. Of the responses reporting using social services Weight Watchers or PEIA weight management programs were the highest (5.4%).

In McDowell County, no one reported receiving services from First Alert, Hospice or VOCA (Victims of Crime).

**Graph 10** demonstrates all categories and the percentage of use by respondents.



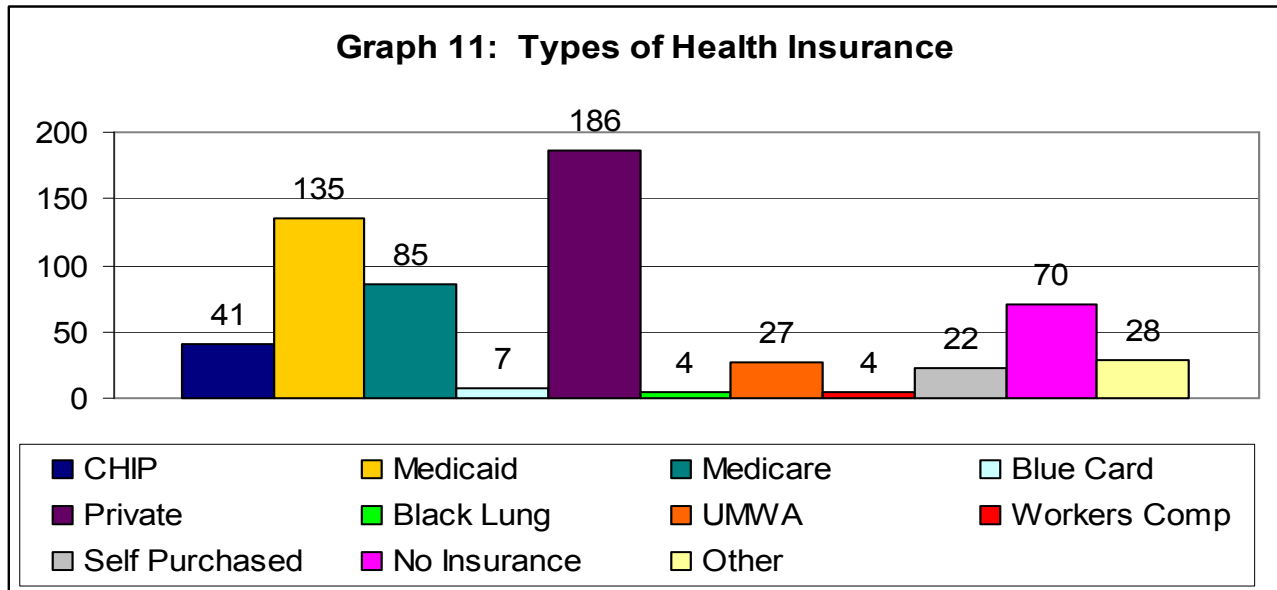
## HEALTH INSURANCE

There were 459 individuals that chose to respond to this question. Of those individuals, 70 reported having no health insurance for themselves and/or their families. Private insurance such as Public Employees or Blue Cross/Blue Shield was the number one type of insurance which 186 (40.5%) individuals reported having. Medicaid was the second highest listed which 135 (29.4%) individuals reported having.

Of the 459 responses, 41 (8.9%) reported participation in the CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program). WVCHIP was created to help working families who do not have health insurance for their children. Services covered by WVCHIP include doctor visits, check-ups, hospital visits, immunizations, prescriptions, tests and x-rays, dental care, vision care (not covered for premium plan), emergency care, mental health, diabetic supplies, urgent care or after hour clinic visits, case management for special needs and more.

Another program available but under utilized (1.5%) is the “Blue Card” from Welch Community Hospital. Self-purchased insurance was used by 4.8% of the respondents.

**Graph 11** demonstrates the breakdown for the types of health insurance used by respondents.



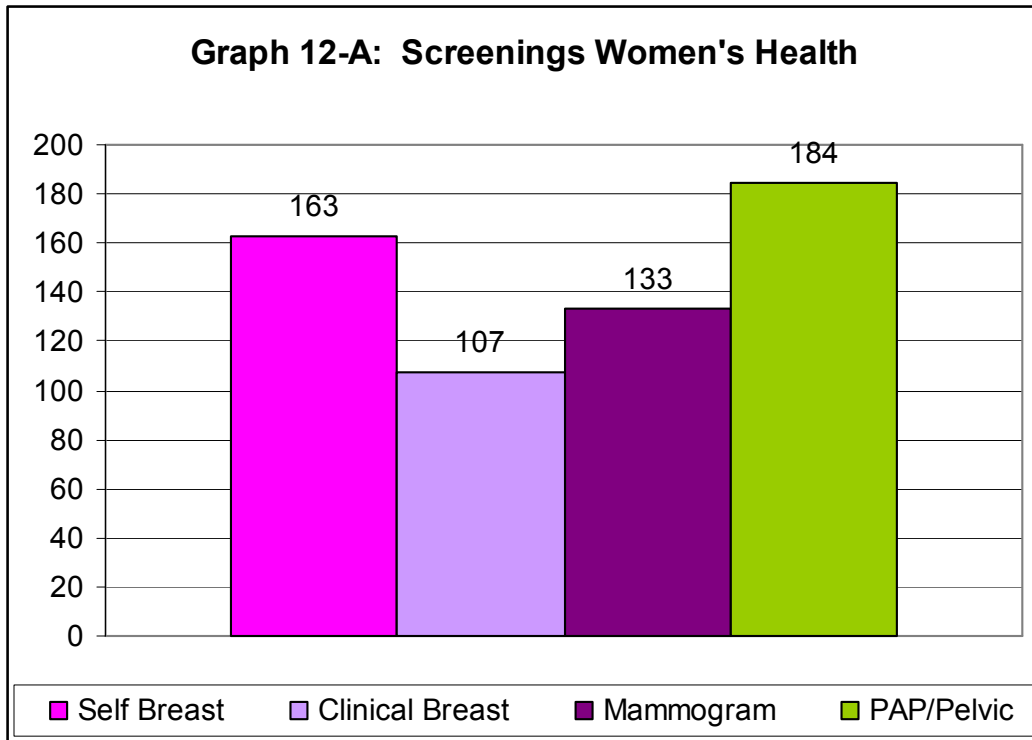
## HEALTH SCREENINGS

Individuals were asked if they participate in any free medication assistance programs and 91.3% said that they did not. Individuals were also asked if they participated in regular self and/or clinical preventive screenings. Of those responding, 19.8% reported they did not participate in any screenings whether self or clinical. The highest rate of preventive screenings was for blood pressure, vision, pap or pelvic and dental cleaning and exams. Results demonstrated that 136 monitor blood sugar levels however only 33 complete diabetic foot checks. Thirteen percent documented having colon screenings.

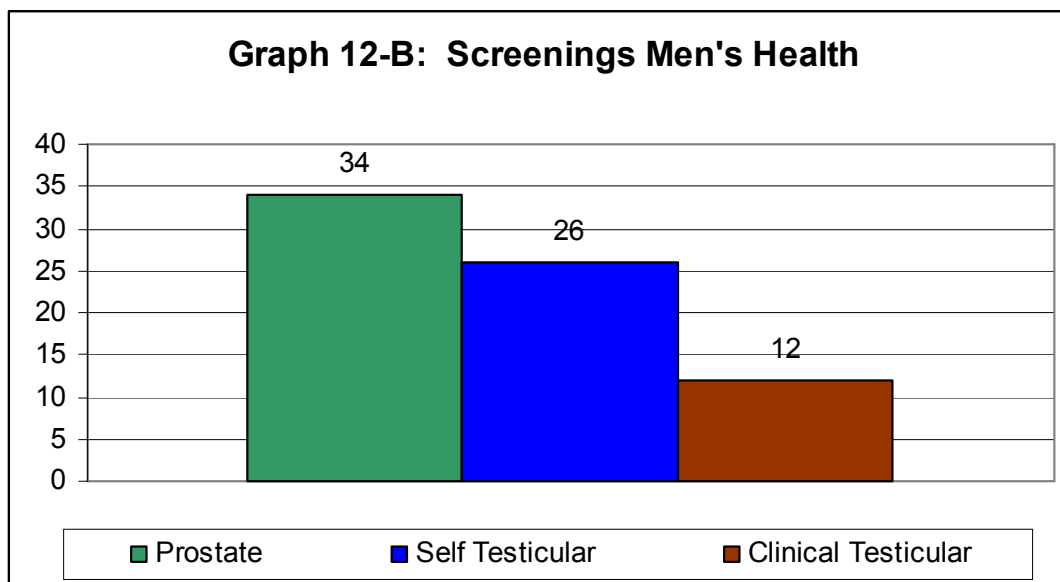
When asked if individuals participated in any free health screening events in the county, 317 (69.1%) reported that they did not.

There were 385 females responding and only 8 individuals reported completing prenatal check-ups. This statistic may not be relevant since the survey did not ask if the respondent was pregnant at the time of the survey.

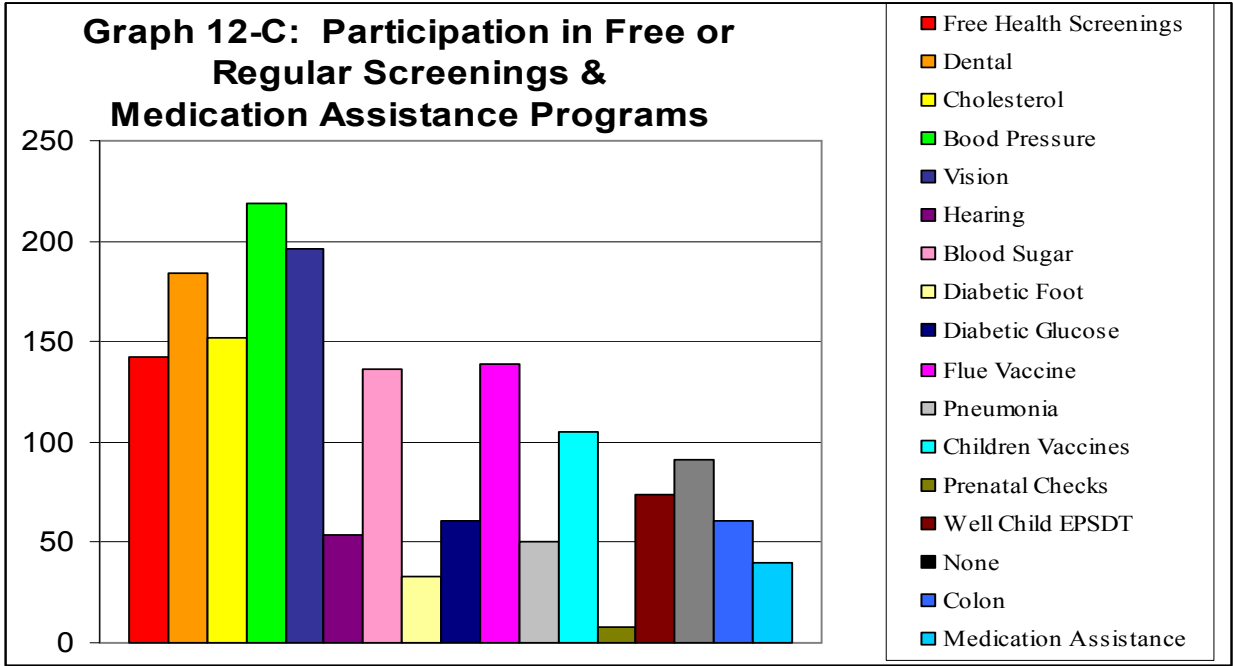
**Graph 12-A** represents women's health screenings. Breast and cervical cancer can be detected early through these simple screenings and women are not doing them. The figures indicate that of the 385 females completing the survey only 42% do self breast examinations. 27.7% complete clinical breast examinations, 34.5% have mammograms, and 47.9% complete pap and pelvic exams.



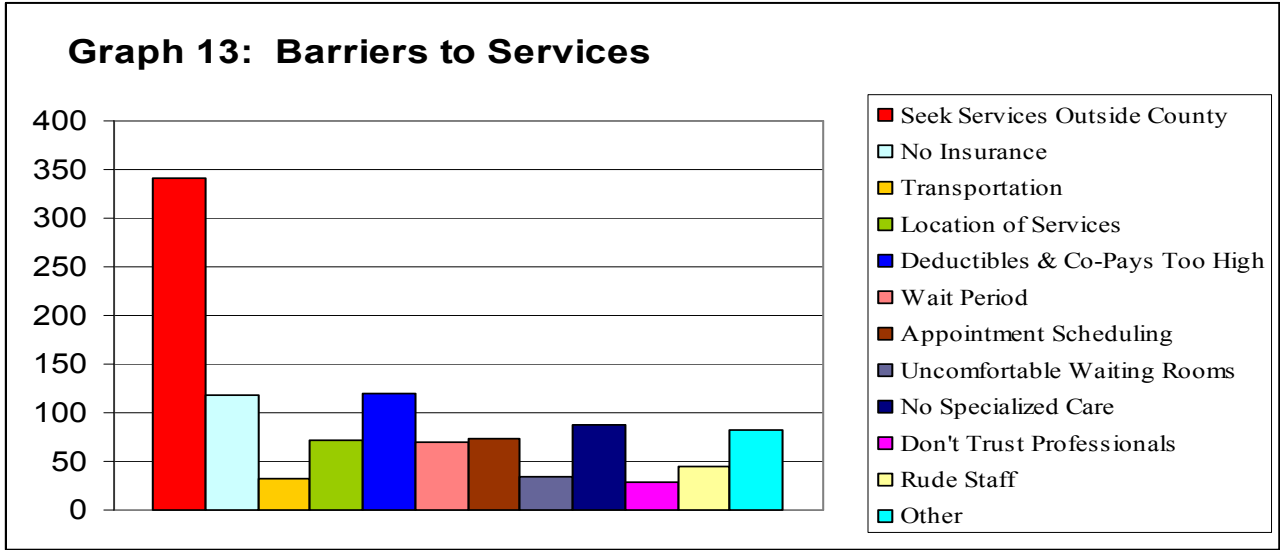
**Graph 12-B** represents men's health screenings. Breast cancer in men is on the rise therefore men should also be doing breast examinations for early detection. Self testicular screenings may give early warnings that other issues are present. Findings indicate that only 27.8% have prostate examinations, 21.3% complete self testicular examinations, and 9.8% complete clinical testicular screenings.



**Graph 12-C** provides a complete list of other screenings and responses as well as whether individuals participate in free health screenings and free or reduced medication assistance programs. Respondents reported that they sought health services out of the county.

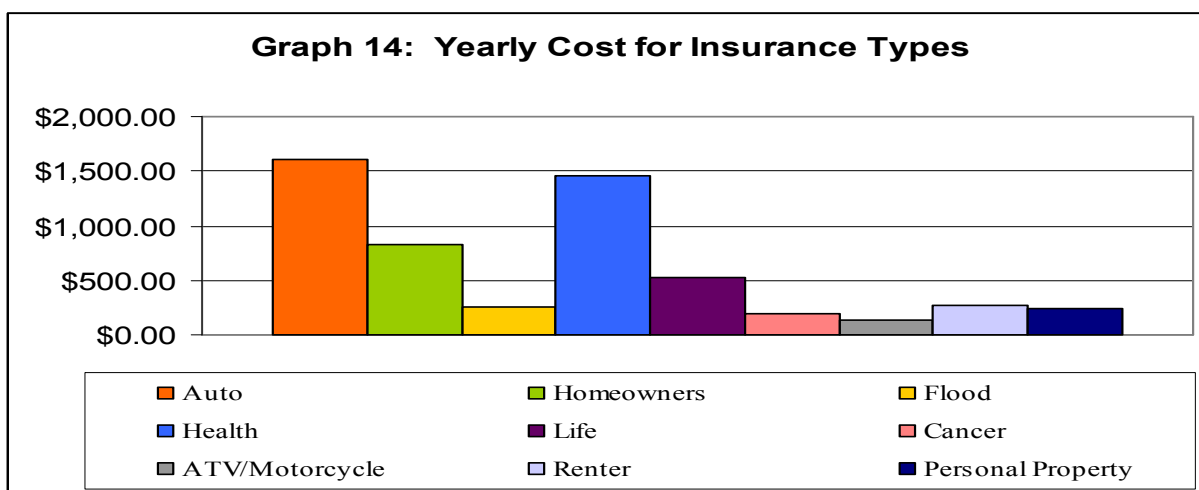


**Graph 13** provides information by respondents on barriers to services. Individuals were asked if they sought medical services outside McDowell County and 341 (74.3%) indicated they did while 50 did not respond to the question and 118 (25.7%) indicated they did not seek services outside McDowell. Respondents, when asked what the barriers were for seeking services in McDowell County, listed the following. Comments by respondents included scheduling conflicts with work, not knowing about them, and the cost.



## INSURANCE PREMIUMS

With the legislative changes in insurance practices in West Virginia, FACES wanted to find out how much people in McDowell County pay for insurance and what types of insurance they were paying for. **Graph 14** demonstrates the findings and validates the comments shared by residents across the county that to be one of the most impoverished counties in the country, McDowell residents pay higher insurance rates than 95% of the rest of the country. It also had comments that after legislative changes, auto and home premiums increased while face value diminished and rolled over to replacement value. In McDowell, if you have auto, home, health, life, and cancer policies you could easily be spending more than \$4,500 in premiums for a year. Forty nine (49) McDowell residents report not having insurance of any type. Not unexpected, the highest amounts paid for insurance was for auto coverage at over \$1,600 per year average. Health insurance was second averaging \$1,465 per year and homeowners showed \$833 average per year.



## EDUCATION

The FACES survey asked several questions about education, school safety, preparation for the future, the PRIDE Survey, and services offered by the Board. The purpose of the questions was to assist in the education of families about the programs and their benefits to the children as well as identify gaps where programs and services may need to be improved.

When asked if individuals felt their children were receiving adequate education in McDowell County schools, 31.5% (143) said yes, 25.6% (116) said no, and 43.2% (196) said they did not have children in the school system.

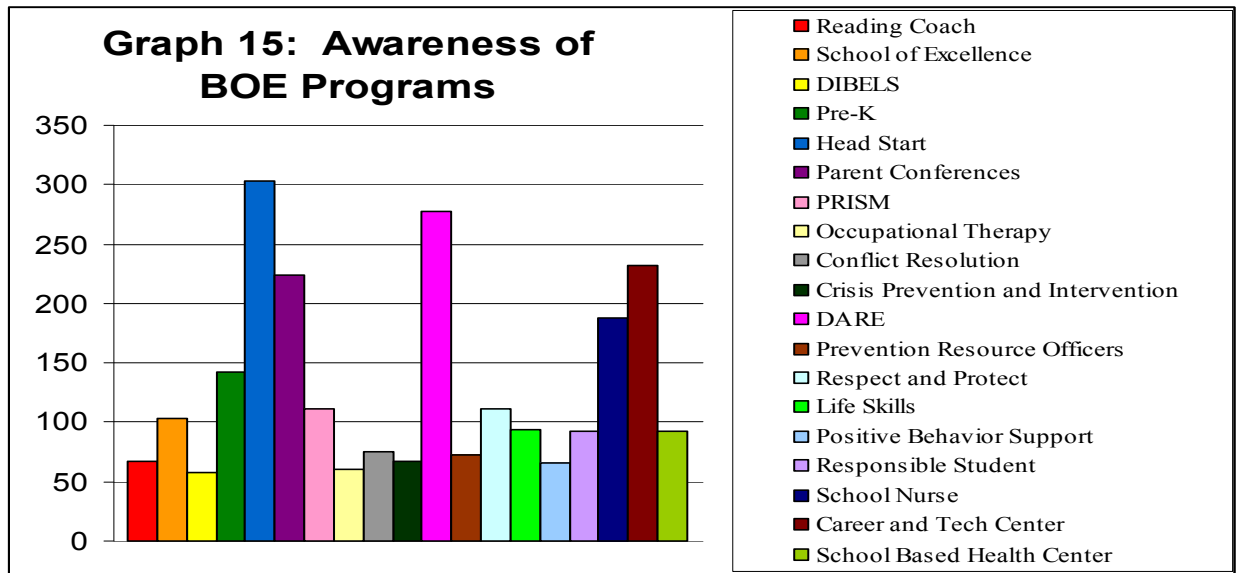
Respondents were asked if they felt that McDowell County Schools provide opportunities for youth to be well prepared for the future, 45.8% (194) said yes while 54.5% (231) said no.

When asked if the children have adequate supplies for their education, including textbooks, paper, projects, libraries, computer access, etc. 69.3% (257) responded yes while 31.0% (115)

said no. Opportunity was given for comments and the most repeated concerns of respondents involved the sharing of text books, the inability to take books home, and the lack of supplies for classrooms. All comments are listed in appendix one (1).

When asked if children were safe at school, school activities, and on the school bus, 42.7% said yes, 23.1% said no and 34.4% said the question was not applicable to them.

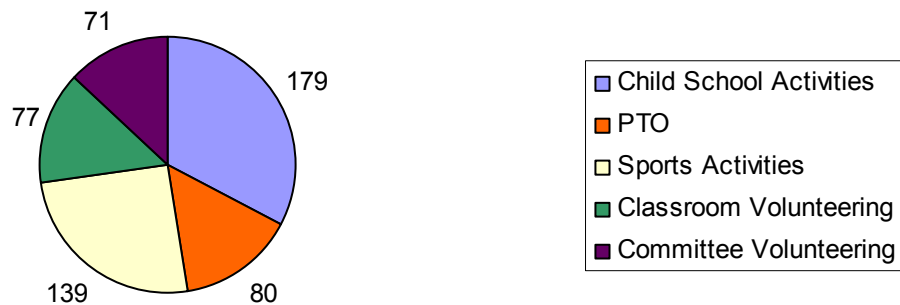
Of the 22 programs offered by the McDowell Board of Education, it was not surprising that the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) was the program most individuals were familiar with. Parent conferences and Career and Technology were the second and third in familiarity. Seventy (70) individuals reported having no familiarity with any programs listed on the survey. **Graph 15** below represent what programs individuals were aware of and **graph 16** demonstrates what programs they may participate in. Others not listed, representing interest under 50 responses, include County Teacher Leadership, Learning Evaluation, Parent Ed Resource Center, Reality Works/Baby Think it Over, Discover Health Connection, Character Education, Youth Connection, Student Health and None Listed.



Parent involvement is one of the protective factors for children that assist in preventing drug use and abuse. Individuals were asked about their participation in youth education and recreation programs. In graph 16 there were 241 respondents that skipped the question. This is possibly connected to the number of individuals that responded saying they had no children in the school system.

Of those responding, 66% participated in school activities such as parties, 51.9% participated in sports activities, 29.9% participated in PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), 28.7% were active in classroom volunteering, and 26.5% reported working as volunteers on committees such as Boosters and Project Graduation.

**Graph 16: Participation in School/Sports Activities**



When individuals were asked if they were familiar with the PRIDE Survey, 13.1% (59) said yes while 87.1% (393) said no. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) of 2001 supports states and local education agencies in creating safe, disciplined and drug-free learning environments. Pride Surveys make it easier for school personnel to collect information that is required under this Act. The Act specifically requires that indicators be measured, including “the incidence and prevalence, age of onset, perception of social disapproval of drug use and violence by youth in schools and communities.” The SDFSCA Act, authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act, also requires that “collected data shall include incident reports by school officials, anonymous student surveys, and anonymous teacher surveys.” The PRIDE Survey is utilized by agencies within the county to identify services, programs, etc. to address drug use and abuse and support prevention efforts. The PRIDE Survey can be accessed through the McDowell County Board of Education website with linking to Drug Free Schools. Parents need to know what their children are saying and use the survey as a conversation tool. The PRIDE Survey is not designed to confront youth on their opinions and comments.

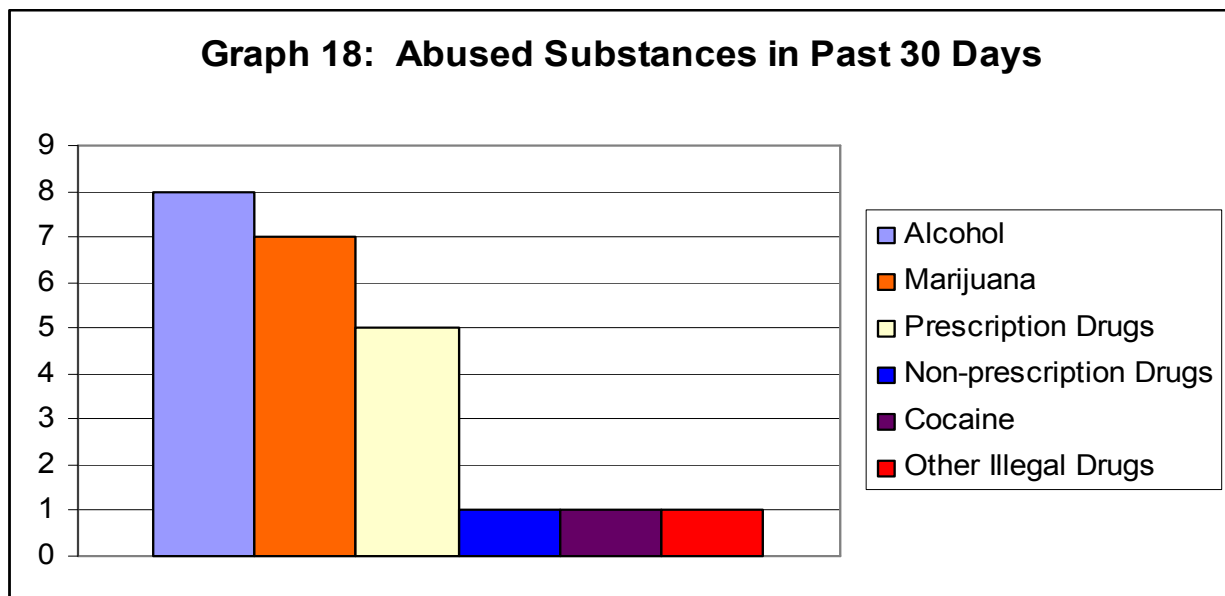
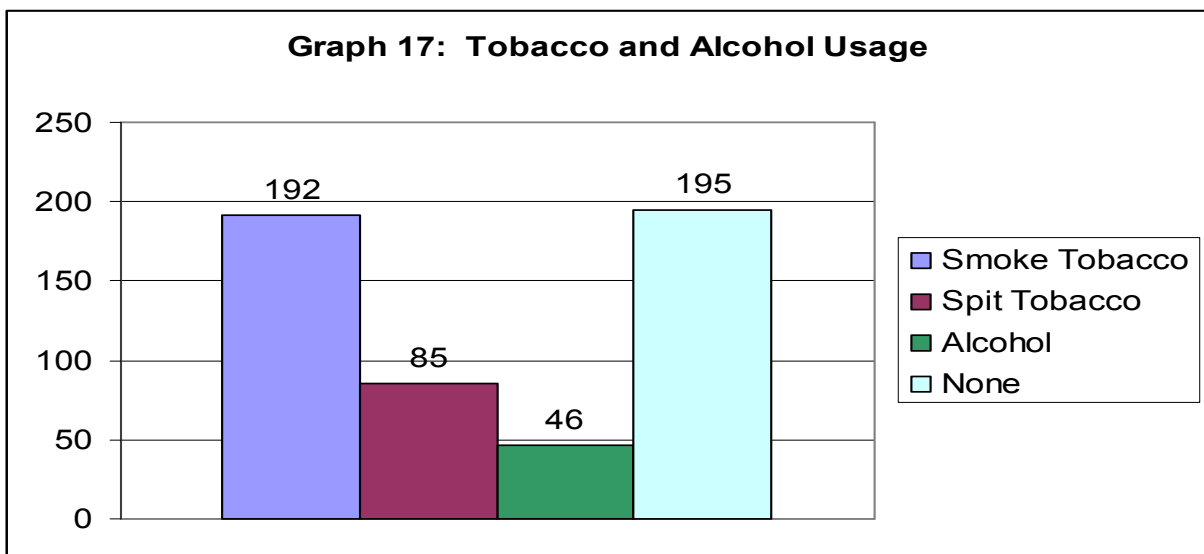
## **ALCOHOL TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Respondents were asked several questions related to ATOD (alcohol, tobacco and other drugs), number of deaths due to drugs, community safety, and whether they would participate in neighborhood watch programs where available.

When asked their opinion of how many people in McDowell County have died each month through the last year from overdosing on drugs, the average response was 30.09 with 447 individuals answering the question (62 skipped the question). The actual number over the past year according to the McDowell County Sheriff’s Office is 6-8 individuals dying from drug overdose per month. That accounts for approximately 72-96 people per year.

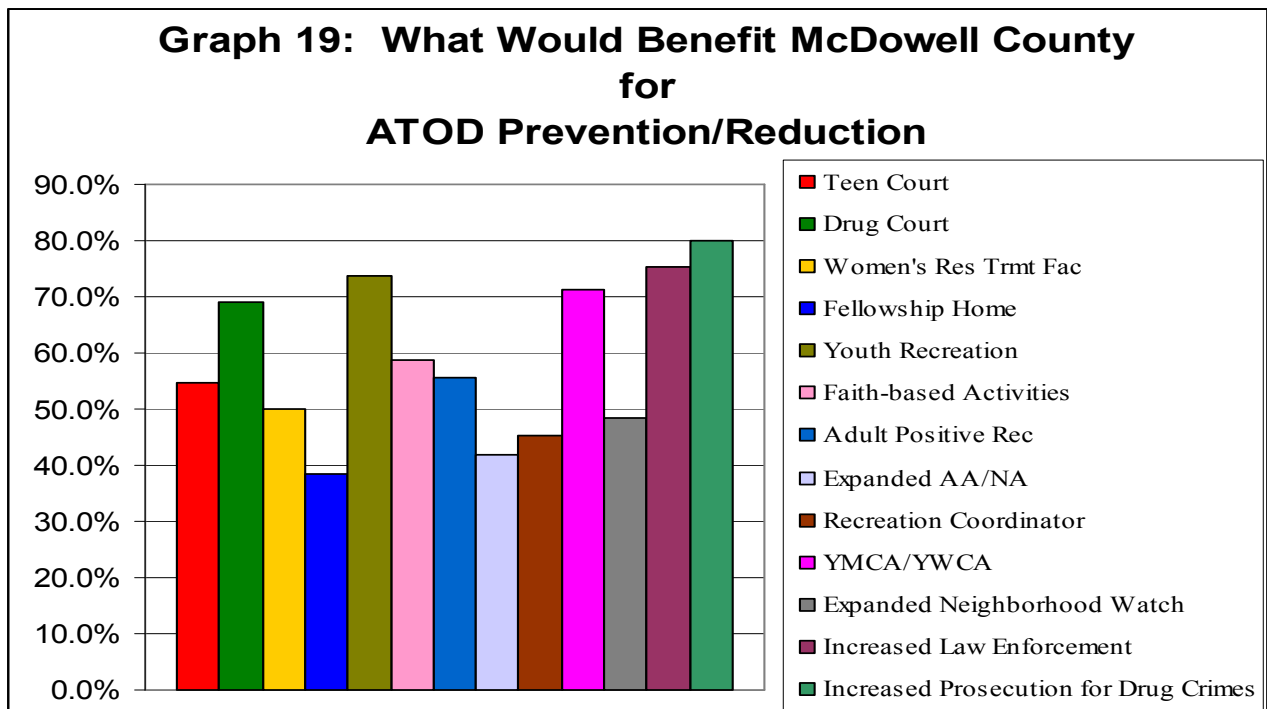
When asked if the community in which they live had a Neighborhood Watch 82 individuals said yes while 296 said no and 69 responded that they did not know. There were 303 respondents that said they would participate in a Neighborhood Watch program if it were available while 134 answered they would not.

Residents were asked what would benefit McDowell County to prevent and reduce drugs. The categories were extremely important, important, not too important, and not at all important. With the exception of Fellowship Home and Expanded AA/NA meetings that were ranked as important, all other programs were considered extremely important. Increased prosecution for drug crimes ranked the most important at 79.9% with increased law enforcement second at 75.2%. Youth recreational activities and camps were third at 73.8%. **Graphs 17 -18** represent the findings on ATOD issues:



Respondents were asked to identify what they felt would benefit McDowell County for drug prevention and reduction. Only 62 individuals skipped the question and the number one choice of extreme importance for prevention and reduction was increased prosecution for drug crimes followed closely by increased law enforcement, increased youth recreational activities, YMCA/YWCA and drug court. **Graph 19** identifies all programs or services and the percentage for whether the respondents felt they were extremely important.

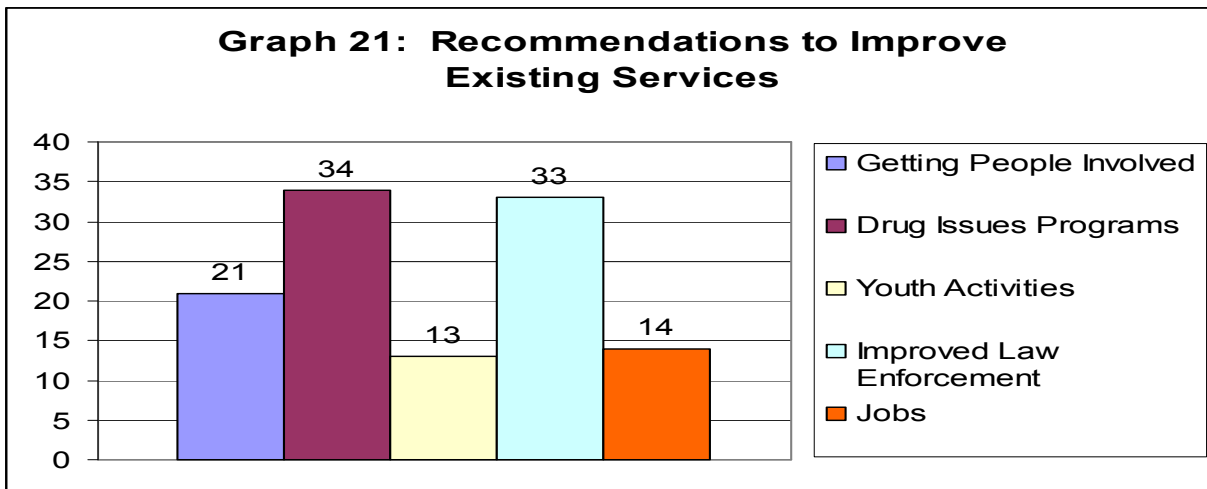
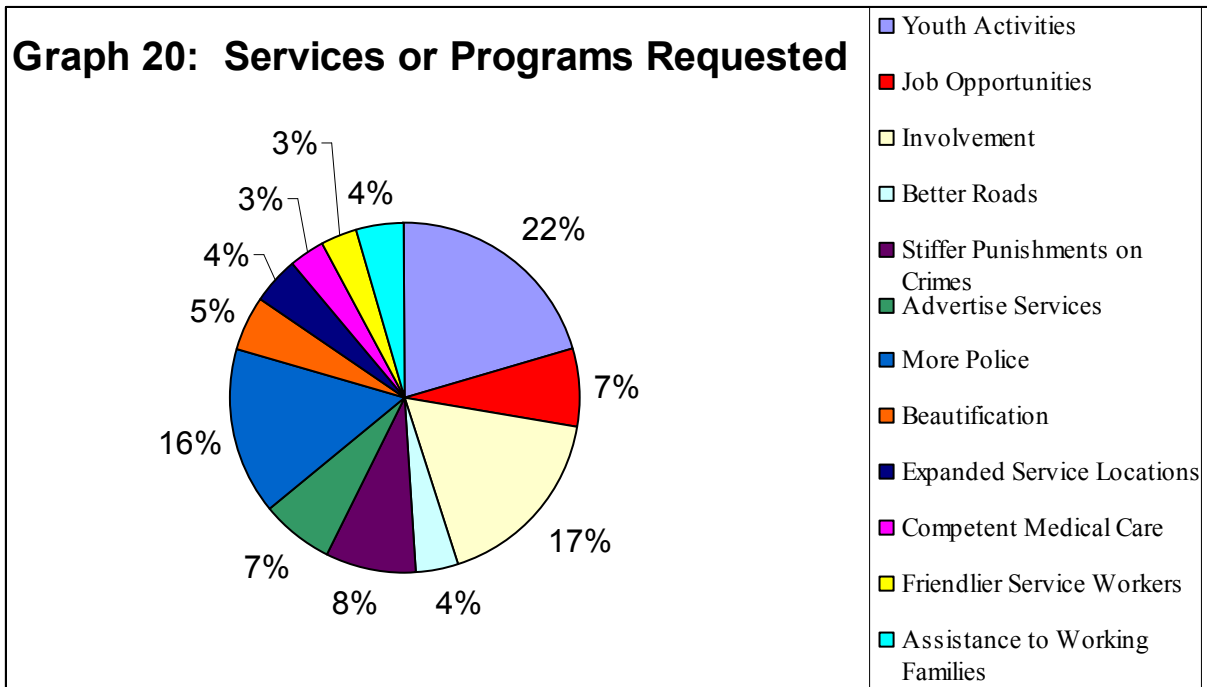
These rankings provide the HOPE (Health Opportunities for Positive Education) Coalition and County Government an idea of what the public feels are the greatest needs and what programs and services should be developed first. Quantitative comments by families have consistently expressed the need for increased prosecution for drug crimes and crimes in general. This concern is growing across the county and is expressed at neighborhood watch meetings regularly. Recreation for youth has been a priority among families in the county for years and little has been done to meet the need with the exception of a theater and a small skate park. While parks are available in most communities they are in disrepair and there are no trained recreation leaders to encourage usage. The parks are not marketed to the general public.



# SERVICES FOR MCDOWELL COUNTY'S FUTURE

Respondents were asked what services or programs would they like to see in McDowell County and what improvements they would like to see to current services or programs. The listings were vast.

FACES took responses that had at least five in agreement and highlighted them. **Graph 20** demonstrates that to get everyone involved in the county was listed as the highest priority followed closely by youth activities and the need for more police. **Graph 21** shows that drug issues programs was the way to improve current services best. Other comments on the lists are filed for reference.



FACES would like to thank each individual that completed the survey and especially those that indicated they were willing to do additional surveys in the future. Community involvement and input is the only measure we have of making a difference in services and programs offered.