



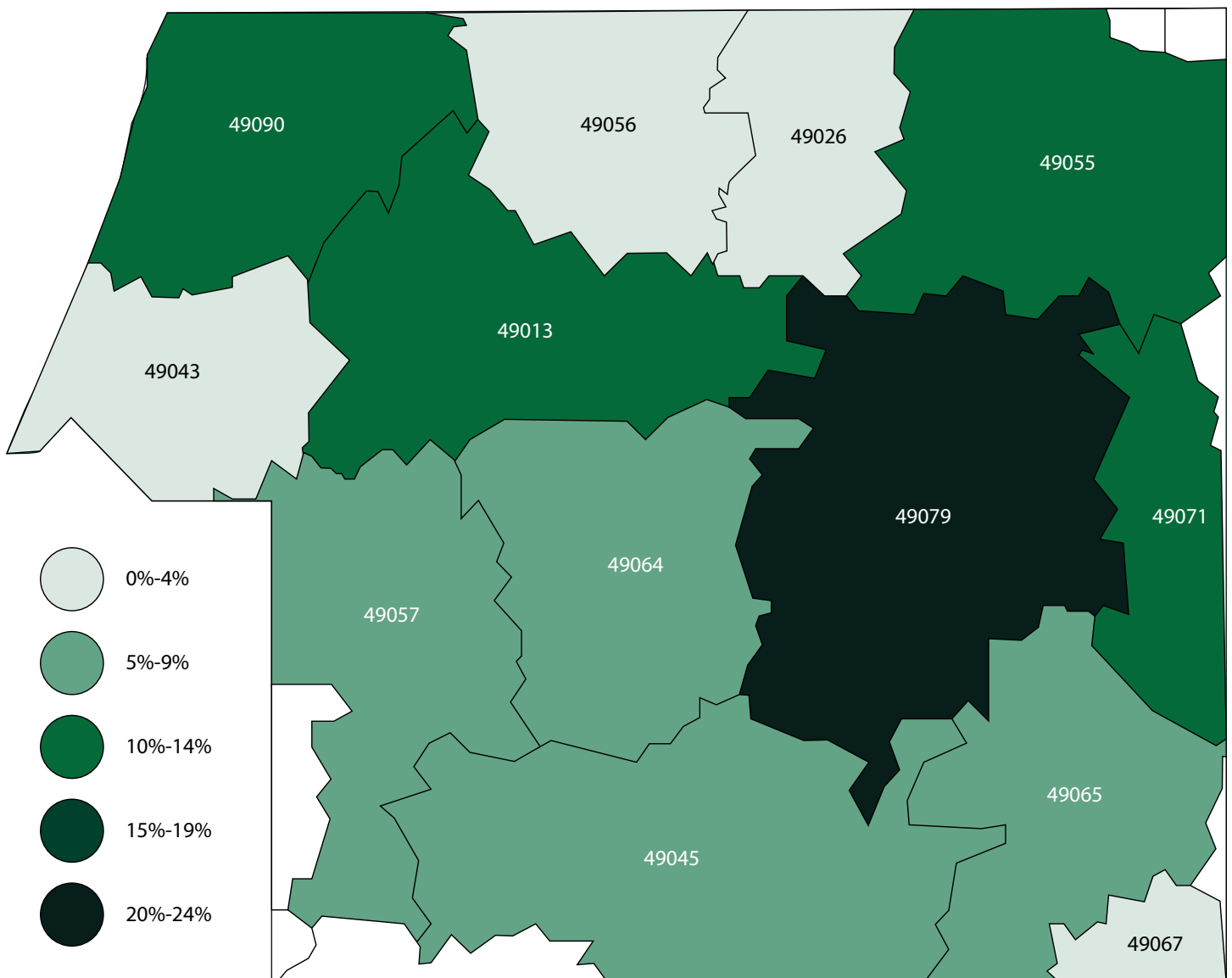
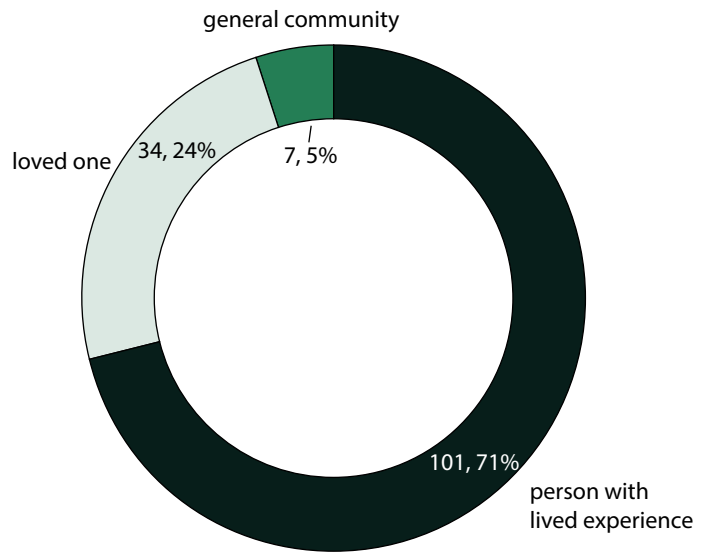
**Van Buren County
2024 Community Assessment
Executive Report**



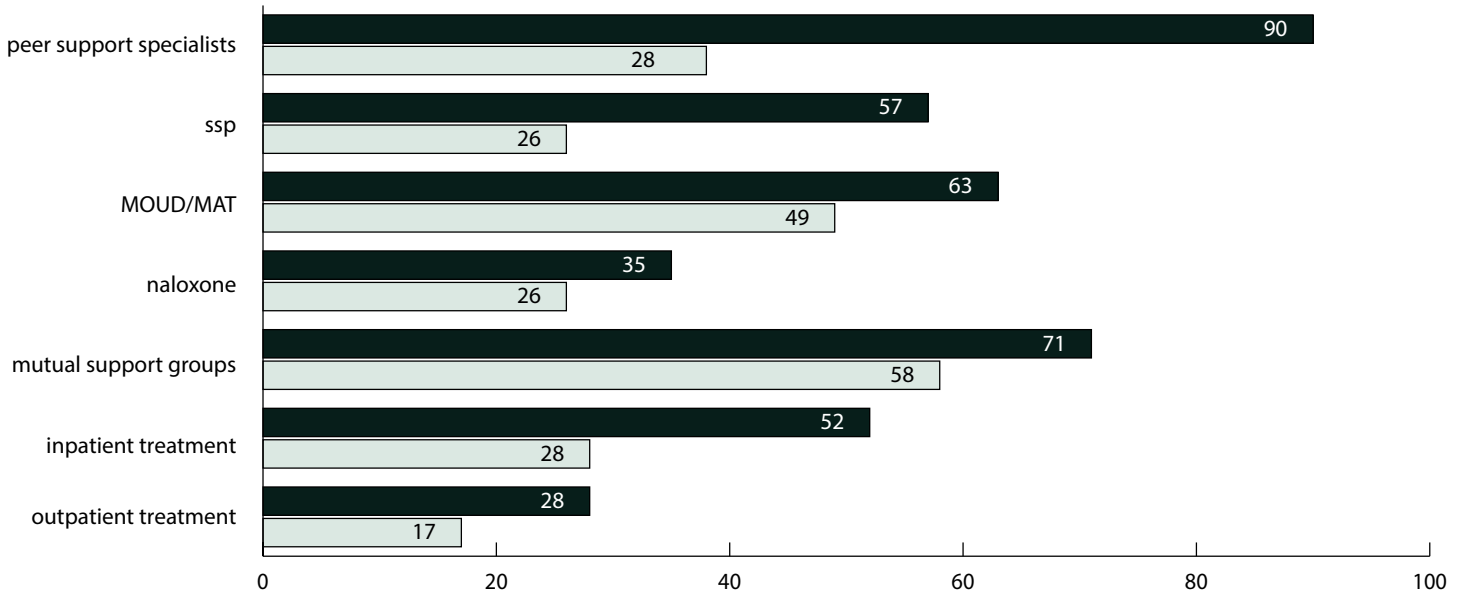
Identity of Community Respondents

Data collection for the community assessment consisted of two surveys, a community survey and an organization survey, along with five focus groups, one for people with lived experience (PWLE), one for loved ones, and three for professionals. Response rate from the community survey was mostly consisting of PWLE. The emphasis on reaching and hearing from PWLE was important to this assessment and the goal was achieved.

Zip codes were collected from all respondents taking the community survey. This allowed for verification that they were within the county, and the below heat map of respondents locations.



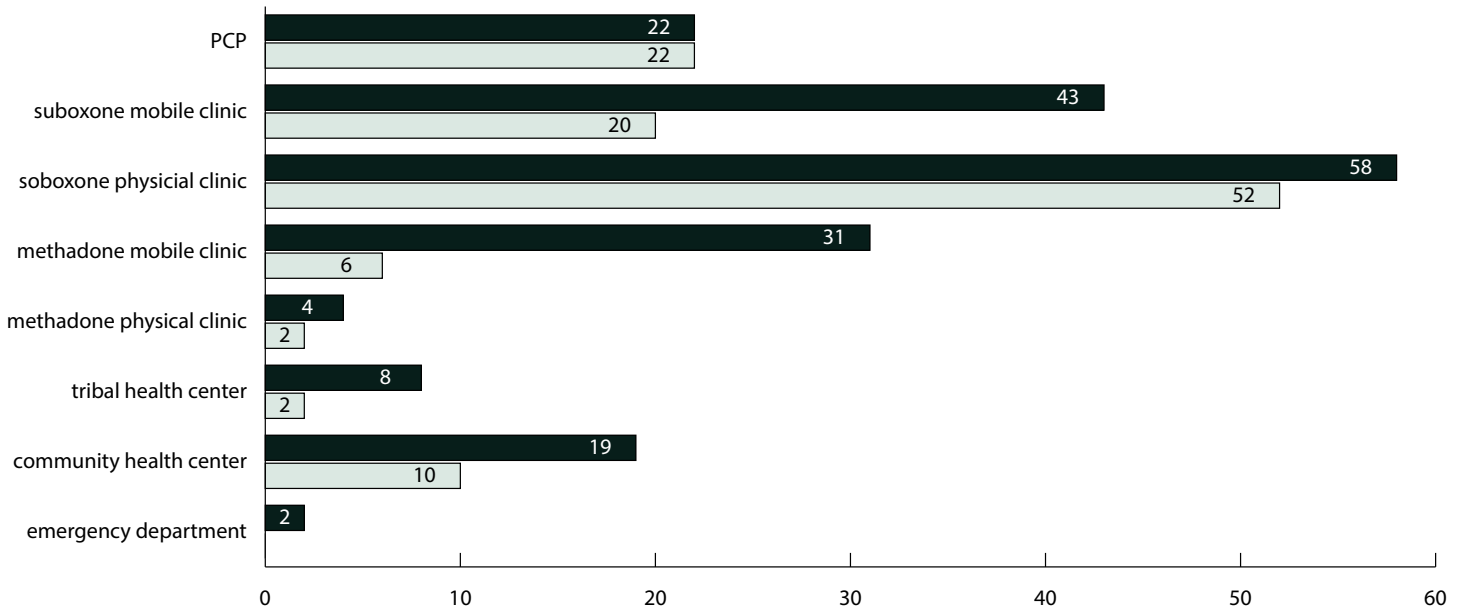
Programs/Services Accessed



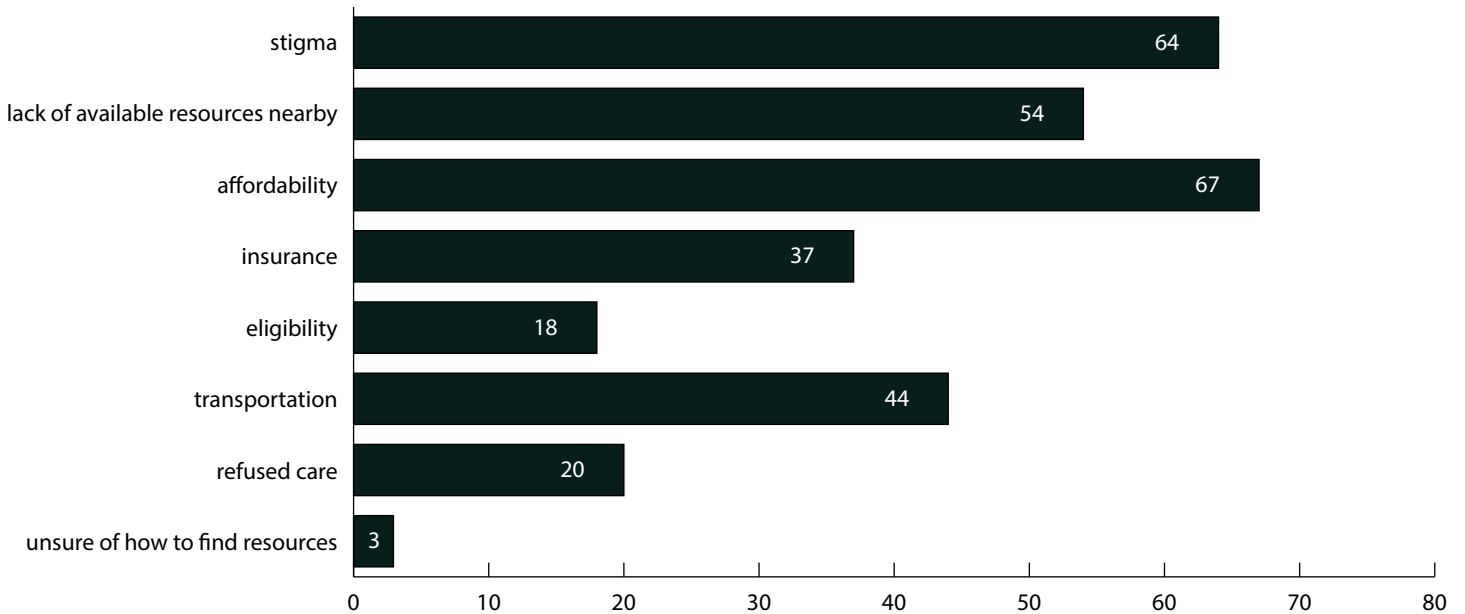
When surveying PWLE, they were asked about programs and services that they have accessed. They were also asked which of those programs and services were within Van Buren County. The above chart displays the programs and services accessed in dark green and the programs and services within county in light green.

If the respondent indicated that they have accessed Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) or Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), they were asked where they received that care. They were also asked which of those locations were within Van Buren County. The chart below displays the locations accessed in dark green and the locations within county in light green.

Accessed MOUD/MAT Locations



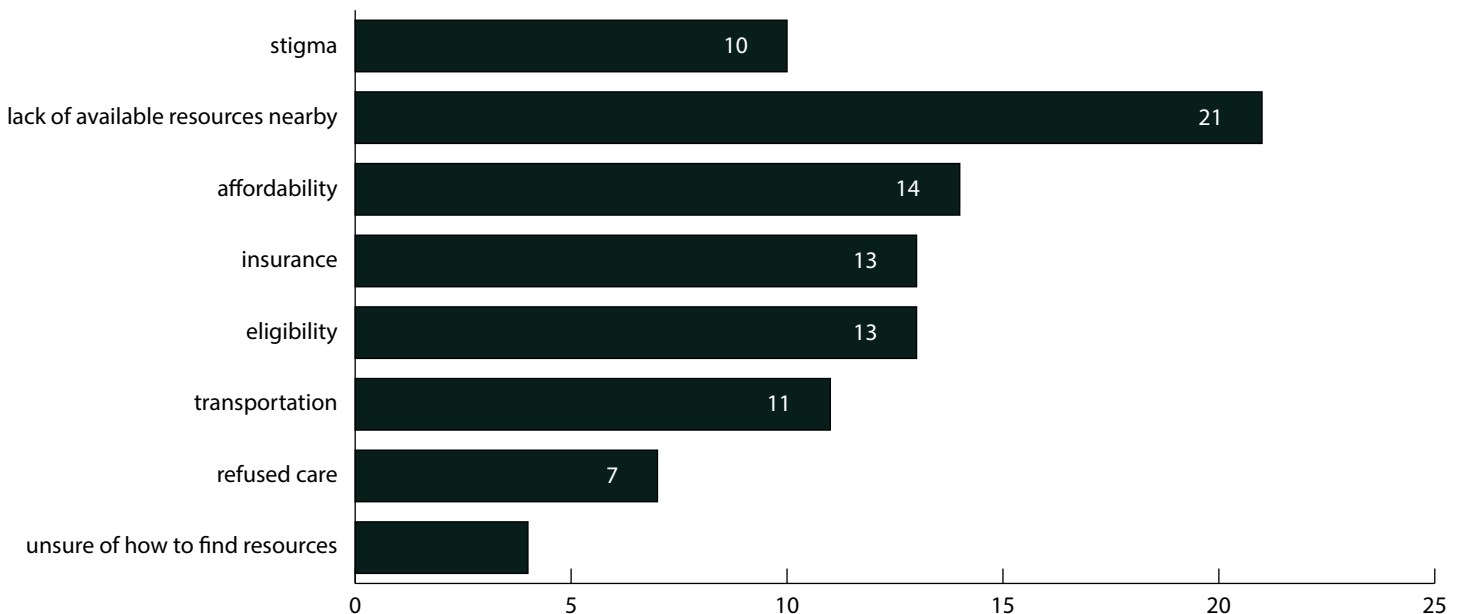
Barriers Encountered by PWLE



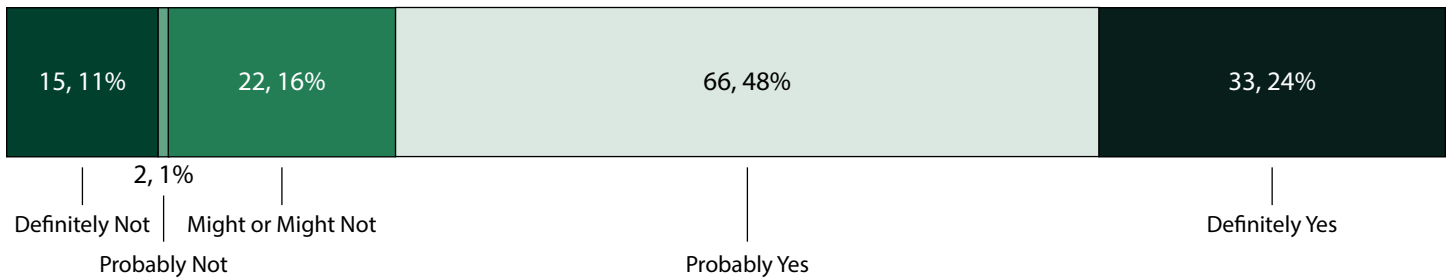
In the community survey, both PWLE and loved ones were asked what barriers they have encountered. As shown in the chart above, PWLE answered that affordability, closely followed by stigma, were the number one and two barriers, respectively, that they encountered. The third most answered barrier encountered was a lack of nearby resources available.

When loved ones were asked the same question, as shown below, they indicated that a lack of nearby available resources was the most common barrier they encountered. This was followed by affordability with the second most responses, and insurance and eligibility tied for the third most responses.

Barriers Encountered by Loved Ones

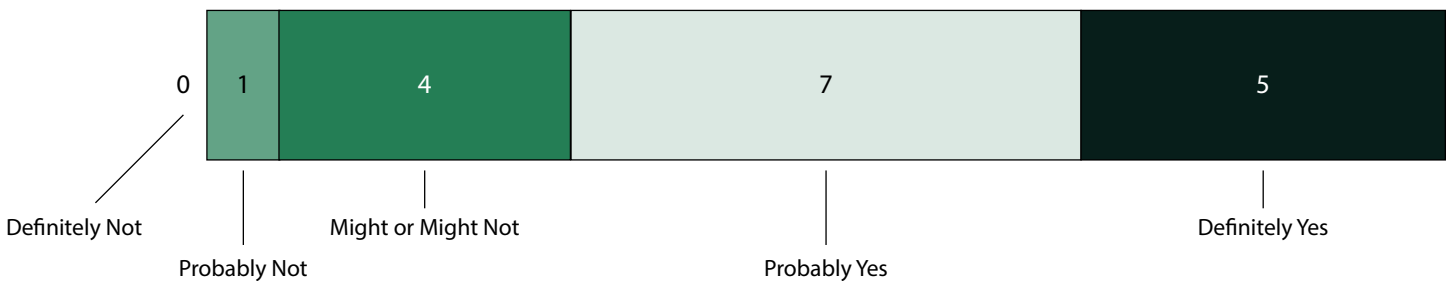


Community Benefit from SUD Education/Training



All community and organization respondents were asked if they felt the community or their organization would benefit from substance use disorder education or training, as seen in the charts above and below. The majority of community respondents answered either probably yes or definitely yes, with 72% of respondents. When organizations were asked that question, most respondents also answered definitely yes or probably yes, with 12 out of 17 respondents.

Organization Benefit from SUD Education/Training



From the information gathered, MSU recommends focusing on capacity building within the community, increasing community education opportunities, and creation of a county-wide resource list. For further data and analysis, please review the Van Buren Community Assessment Final Report.