

## VI. COMMUNITY PERCEPTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Community perceptions were gathered through multiple methods: telephone interviews with residents of Out-Wayne and Monroe Counties, focus groups, key informant interviews and mailed surveys to stakeholder groups. For each data source basic demographics were collected. Community demographics are presented first followed by each group's perceptions about substance abuse as a societal problem; as well as the need for, capacity and quality of, substance abuse treatment and prevention services.

### Demographics

Roughly two-thirds of telephone survey respondents in both counties were females. Over half of Key informants were female, and one-fifth to one-third of Stakeholder survey Group respondents were female. Only among focus group participants did males predominate.

Telephone Poll Demographics Half of telephone poll respondents are married and one-fifth is single, followed by widowed and divorced individuals. In [Monroe County](#) 44% of respondents were in their forties and fifties, while this age group made up 47% of respondents in [Wayne County](#). Less than 10% of the respondents are in the 18 to 21 years of age category or the 75 to 84 age group. Over three-quarters of respondents have children who attended school in their community. See Tables and Charts in [Appendix Q](#).

Approximately one-half of participants are employed full time with the rate being higher in Monroe (54.1%) than in Wayne (47.7%). Wayne County had higher rates of persons employed part-time or unemployed than Monroe respondents. One-quarter of respondents in Wayne County had a high school diploma or GED as did over one-third of Monroe County respondents. More Monroe County participants had Associates degrees (15.6%) than Wayne County (10.2%), but more Wayne respondents had Bachelors degrees (21.7%) than Monroe respondents (10.1%). See Tables and Charts in [Appendix Q](#).

Key Informants Demographics There were 33 key informants who completed the optional Demographic Survey of these, one-third ( $n = 10$ ) were from Monroe County and 39% ( $n = 13$ ) were from Wayne County. The remaining key informants were either State or Regional level contacts ( $n = 10$ ). More Caucasian's participated in the key informant interviews than African-Americans. The percentage of the African-American Informants in Wayne County (23.1%) is half of their proportion in the overall population (42%). All key informants were employed full-time. See Tables and Charts in [Appendix Q](#).

Stakeholder Survey Group Demographics Females comprised one-fifth to one-third of respondents, with the exception of the law enforcement group which was entirely males. All of the law enforcement respondents were white, as was 95% of the school system respondents and 61% of treatment and prevention providers. These same percentages apply to the respondents' marital status with 100% of law enforcement personnel being married, 95% of school system respondents, and 61% of providers. With the exception of 2 providers all the respondents across survey groups are employed full time. See Tables and Charts in [Appendix Q](#).

Focus Group Demographics Most focus group participants were males. Females predominated in one group only, the MCHSB where they comprised 60.9% of participants. Females constituted half of the participants in the treatment provider group. Well over half of all participants were Caucasians, except for the Highland Park group which was entirely African American. Focus group participants were predominately married ranging from 66.7% among SEMCA providers, to 100% for law enforcement representatives. The exception was consumers, nearly three-quarters of consumers were single (71.9%). The consumer group also had the highest number of divorced persons (15.6%) and separations (6.3%). See Tables and Charts in [Appendix Q](#).

All Community Data Sources Community Connections Telephone survey participants have deep roots in the community. In Monroe County 40% have lived in the community for over 21 years and in Wayne County 43% have resided in the County for over 21 years. One-third of respondents in both counties have lived in their respective communities for less than 10 years. Data on years of residency are distributed in Table 8. Of the thirty-two key informants who reside in the community, 73.7% resided in the community for over 30 years. One-third of stakeholder groups have lived in their community for over 30 years, this percentage was highest among school system respondents (42%). Among focus group respondents MCHSCB members (64.7%) have lived in Monroe County over 30 years, 50% of Highland Park residents and 25% of consumers also resided in their community over 30 years.

Telephone Poll Although telephone poll respondents have lived in their respective communities for some time, only one-third belong to local civic organizations. These rates are below those of focus group participants and key informants. Telephone poll respondents have resided in the community nearly half as long as key informants. Across all three key informant groups roughly 30% belonged to a faith-based organization. More informants belonged to a civic organization than a faith-based organization, in Monroe County 87.5% and 66.7% of Wayne County informants belong to a civic organization.

Stakeholder Survey Among mailed stakeholder survey groups, 38% of school respondents belong to faith-based organization and 65% belong to civic organization. Over half of providers belong to faith-based organization (55%) and the same percentage also belongs to a civic organization. Half of law enforcement respondents belong to a faith-based organization within the community and 80% belong to a civic organization.

Focus Groups Of focus group participants consumers are the least likely group to belong to a civic organization (16%). Consumers are also less likely than other groups, except for treatment providers to belong to a faith-based organization (42%). Half of Highland Park representatives belong to a faith-based organization, and they all report belonging to a civic organization ( $n = 4$ ). Over half of MCHSCB participants belong to a faith-based (61%) and/or a civic organization (65%). Half of all law enforcement representatives belong to a faith-based organization and 75% belong to civic organizations. Prevention providers are more likely to belong to a faith-based organization than the other focus group participants (66%), but less likely to belong to a civic organization (22%). One-third of treatment provider attendees belong to a faith-based organization (33%), and half belong to civic organizations.

All Community Data Sources Experience with Substance Abuse Twenty-two or 68.8% of all [key informants](#) ( $N = 32$ ) report having a family member who has experienced a substance abuse problem with only six indicating their relationship to that family member. Responses were diverse, these six individuals each cited a different family member: sibling, spouse, aunt, uncle, parent and grandparent. In Monroe County 77.8% had a family member with a substance abuse problem, but no responses were given for the relationship of that person to the key informant. For Wayne County 62% reported that a family member had experienced a substance abuse problem. Only 3 informants offered who that family member was: a spouse, parent, and sibling.

Among stakeholder survey groups 44% of providers, 20% of law enforcement representatives and 16% of school respondents report having a family member who has experience a substance abuse problem. Of those reporting family member having experienced substance abuse problem, school system and law enforcement respondents did not provide information about the nature of that relationship. Only four of 11 providers provided relationship information: Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent and Cousin.

Most focus group participants have had first hand experiences with substance abuse via family members. All focus groups had some participants with a family member who had ever experienced a substance abuse problem. More prevention providers and consumers reported this phenomenon than the other groups. Treatment providers and law enforcement were less likely than the other focus group categories to report a family member ever having a substance abuse problem. Law enforcement and Highland Park focus group members did not report on the relationship of these family members, nor did half to 75% of those in the other focus groups indicating they did have a family member who had experienced a substance abuse problem. Of those who did offer a family relationship to this individual ( $n = 20$ ), 30% were parents, followed by grandparents (15%) and siblings (15%). This reluctance to provide information about a family member ever experiencing a substance abuse problem across all data source groups is indicative of the stigma associated with this issue.