

Listening to our community.

VILLAGE OF SUMMIT NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS | 2025





Summit Community Network

ABOUT THE NETWORK: The Summit Community Network is a coalition of local service providers, public servants and residents, whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for Summit area children, youth, and families by working together to increase partnerships and resources that support positive personal, educational and social outcomes for residents. The group has more than 60 members and accomplishes its goals by bringing together key stakeholders to create a more robust social service infrastructure and engage institutions, community leaders and those with lived experience in making Summit a community where all families can thrive.





Made Possible By

SGA Youth & Family Services is proud that the collaboration we started in the Village of Summit more than five years ago has become an example of how individuals and organizations can come together with a shared purpose and make positive change. In October 2023 the commitment and success of SCN was recognized by United Way of Metro Chicago, which was working in partnership with Cook County to expand United Way Neighborhood Networks into the south suburbs. Neighborhood Networks work alongside local neighborhood leaders to help identify community priorities and create a resident-driven neighborhood strategy to improve the quality of life for all residents.

The Neighborhood Networks expansion is part of the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development Transforming Places pilot program, funded by Cook County's Equity Fund. Transforming Places focuses on place-based, community-driven, sustainable economic development in Cook County communities and addresses the need for increased investment in historically excluded areas.

In November 2023, the Village of Summit was selected as a Transforming Places community of focus, with Summit Community Network as its United Way Neighborhood Network. SGA is proud to serve as the "Community Quarterback" convening the Summit Community Network.

Together, Cook County, United Way of Metro Chicago and SGA are working with our Summit Community Network partners to develop a vision focused on affordable housing, family wrap-around services, business ownership, arts and culture, and more.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	8
About Summit	9
Survey Respondents	11
Community Challenges	14
Community Strengths	22
Opportunity Areas	28
Community Priorities	30
Appendix 1: Economic Development	38
Appendix 2: Health Needs	40
Appendix 3: Housing Access and Cost	45
Appendix 4: Environmental Impacts	48
Appendix 5: Public Safety	51
Data Tables	54
References	63



Dear Summit Community Residents and Stakeholders,

For more than 100 years, SGA Youth & Family Services has provided free and comprehensive services to children and families in Chicago, suburban Cook County, Lake County, and Will County's most underserved neighborhoods. SGA is breaking the cycle of poverty and providing a Cycle of Opportunity® through comprehensive wraparound services—from cradle to career—in parenting, early childhood education, education supports, and workforce development. The Cycle of Opportunity relies on strong, collaborative partnerships to share resources and provide a safety net for vulnerable families.

Five years ago, SGA brought together a handful of community partners to form a small collaboration to support families in the Village of Summit who were struggling through the pandemic. The group met monthly to network and coordinate services. Their work demonstrated how grassroots collaborations can be a catalyst for positive change. Today, with the support of United Way Metro Chicago and Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, Summit Community Network has grown to include more than 60 organizations from Summit and adjacent communities, working to address service gaps impacting residents.

In January 2025, Summit Community Network launched a comprehensive Needs Assessment to gather broad feedback from residents, service providers, civic leaders and businesses about today's needs and tomorrow's vision for the community.

Through this document, we are excited to share the findings and recommendations of that Needs Assessment process. The resulting priority areas and objectives provide a clear roadmap for Summit Community Network to best utilize its resources and volunteer leadership in the service of the community.

This was a shared effort requiring time, partnership and open communication. Thank you to United Way of Metro Chicago, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development and our Summit Community Network Steering Committee members for their guidance during this process. Thank you to Summit Village President Sergio Rodriguez and his team for their active support. Thank you to the hundreds of Summit residents, Summit Community Network partners and other stakeholders who completed the Needs Assessment survey and participated in our community forums. We look forward to continuing the dialogue through ongoing gatherings, programming initiatives and events.

The Village of Summit is a vibrant and special community with a rich history and promising future. SGA is proud that Summit Community Network is playing a role in empowering Summit residents to achieve that promise.

With gratitude,

Martha Guerrero

CEO

SGA Youth & Family Services



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Needs Assessment

The Summit Community Needs Assessment was conducted by SGA Youth & Family Services, with support from the SCN and its members and partners, United Way, and Cook County Bureau of Economic Development to understand the community's challenges, strengths, and priorities. The assessment's goal was to capture the voice of Summit residents and guide future collaborative action, in alignment with what is being done across the 17 neighborhoods involved in United Way's Neighborhood Network Initiative.

Process

The project utilized a four-phase, community-driven process, starting with a review of existing public data, resulting in a set of four data summaries. This fed into extensive engagement through a multi-lingual survey, listening sessions, and interviews, which successfully identified the community's top three priority pillars. These were reviewed and confirmed, with goals and objectives drafted in partnership with the community through Community Forums. Finally, the findings and priorities were summarized and documented, providing a clear, strategic roadmap for the Network's engagement with the community moving forward.

Survey Snapshot

The survey data was collected between March and September 2025. A total of 223 residents participated. To maximize accessibility, the survey was offered in English and Spanish in both paper and electronic formats. Extensive outreach efforts included attending community events, canvassing local businesses, placing flyers in high-visibility areas, and sharing the survey widely with Summit Community Network members. The results highlighted a community with a strong asset base, but one facing clear needs. The respondents' demographics broadly reflected those of the community.

Key Findings

- Schools were overwhelmingly cited as the top resource by nearly half of respondents (47%), often noted as a key draw for families.
- Youth Programs were identified as the most frequent challenge (41%) and emerged as a top overall priority for improvement (37%), alongside Community Events & Engagement (37%), and Crime and Safety (29%).
- Community Events & Engagement (37% challenge, 22% priority) and Crime & Safety (29% challenge, 28% priority) are recognized as major areas for improvement, with residents seeking greater connection, communication, and stronger prevention efforts.
- Demographic Subgroups Have Distinct Concerns: While priorities are shared, the degree of concern varied; for example, younger residents prioritized youth programs, while long-term residents and Black/African American respondents showed notably higher concern regarding housing and village resources.

Opportunity Areas: Community Priorities for Improvement

The Summit Community Network (SCN) has identified three pillars focusing on the most pressing needs identified by the community survey.

Priority Area	Goal
1. Youth Programs	Expand safe, affordable, and diverse programming that supports youth development, academic readiness, and family stability.
2. Community Events & Engagement	Foster a cohesive, vibrant community by enhancing engagement, transparency, and inclusive participation.
3. Crime & Safety	Enhance community safety and well-being by strengthening prevention, trust, and neighborhood collaboration.

ABOUT SUMMIT

Demographic Indicators

Summit, IL, located in Cook County just outside of Chicago, spans 2.12 square miles with a population of 10,896 residents.¹

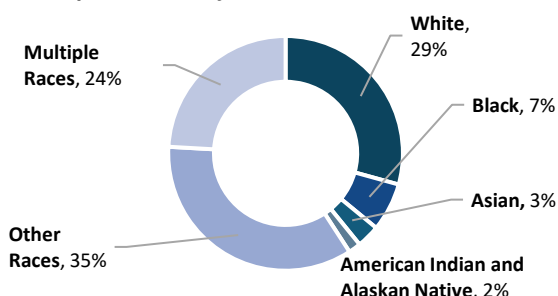
Racial and Ethnic Distribution: The racial and ethnic composition has shifted since its founding, growing to 76% Hispanic or Latino in 2023. Racial composition includes; White (29%), Black (7%), Asian (3%), American Indian and Alaska Native (2%), other races (35%), and individuals of multiple races (24%).¹

Immigrant Population: Over 42% of Summit residents were born in countries other than the United States, more than double the rates in the Chicago metro area (18%) and Illinois overall (15%).¹ The majority (86%) of foreign-born residents in Summit are from Latin America, followed by Asia (8%) and Europe (7%).¹

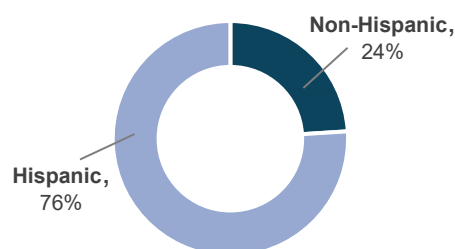
Age Distribution: The median age in Summit is 38.5, nearly identical to the median ages in both the Chicago metro area and Illinois (40). 24% of Summit residents are under 18, 60% are adults ages 18 to 64, and 17% are 65 or older.¹

Summit's **diversity** has increased over time.

Population by Race¹



Population by Ethnicity¹





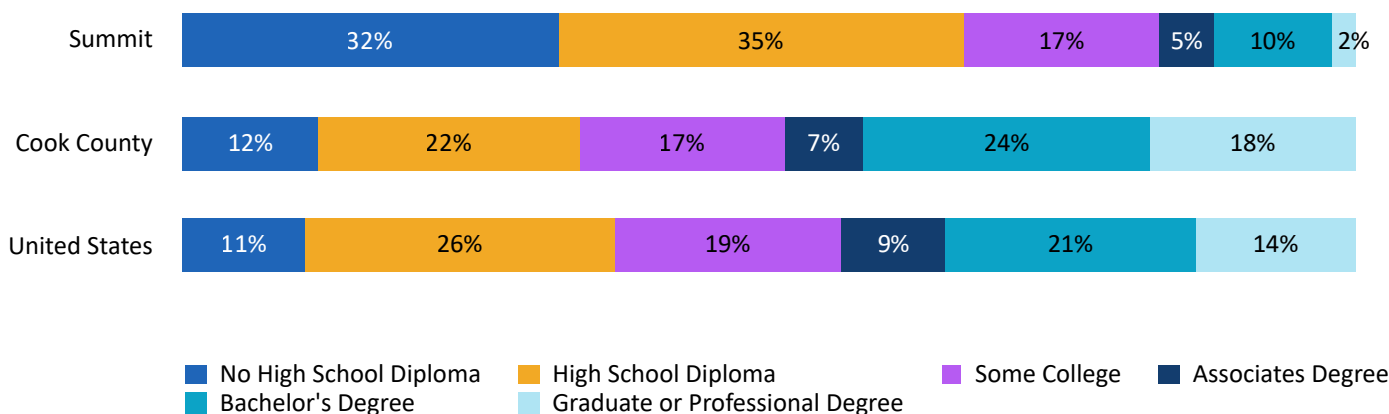
Demographic Indicators

Language

36% of residents ages five and older have limited English proficiency, which may impact workforce participation and access to services.¹ This compares to 14% of Cook county residents with limited language proficiency and 8% of United States residents.¹ In Summit, nearly two-thirds (65%) of residents ages five and older speak Spanish at home, more than four times the statewide rate (14%). About 5% of Summit residents speak European languages at home such as Russian, Polish, or other Indo-European languages.¹

Education Achievement

Summit, IL, has a higher percentage of residents without a high school diploma (32%) compared to Cook County (12%). Additionally, 10% of Summit residents hold a bachelor's degree, which is lower than the county average of 24%.¹



SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Response Overview: The survey was distributed by SGA Youth & Family Services between March and September 2025 and received 223 total responses. To maximize accessibility, the survey was available in English and Spanish and offered in both paper form and through a QR code linking to the online version.

Outreach efforts were extensive and designed to reach residents and community members in multiple settings. Staff attended community events at the library, park, and local schools, where they distributed paper surveys and promoted QR code access. The survey was also shared widely with Summit Community Network members, who were provided with draft language and social media posts to extend outreach through their own channels. In addition, staff conducted business and store canvassing and placed flyers in high-visibility areas across the community to reach individuals in their daily routines. By combining paper surveys with QR-code access, bilingual materials, and strong partnership networks, the survey process aimed to capture a broad set of voices that reflect the experiences and perspectives of Summit residents and those connected to the community.

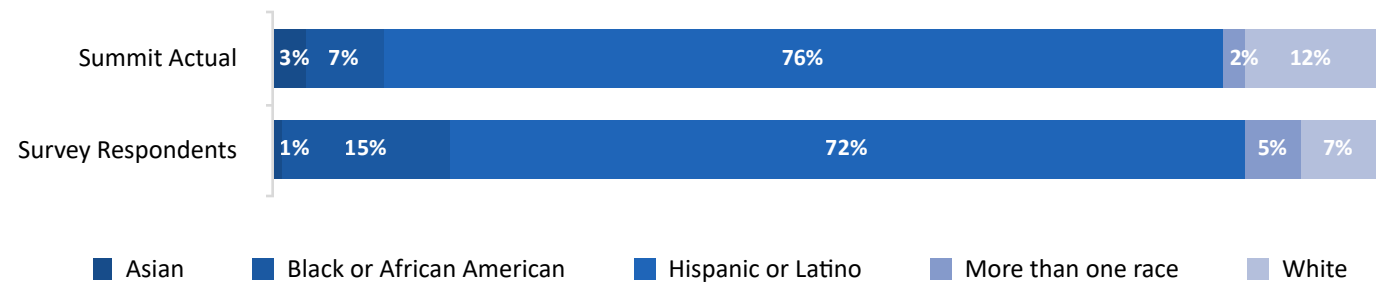
While 223 people participated in the survey overall, not every respondent answered each question. As a result, the number of responses varies across questions, and totals reported in later sections reflect only those who provided an answer.

Race and Ethnicity: The survey captured the perspectives of community members across different racial and ethnic backgrounds. The largest share of respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino (72%), followed by Black or African American (15%) and White (7%).

Smaller numbers of respondents identified as multi-racial (5%) or as Asian (less than 1%). The multi-racial category included respondents who reported overlapping identities, most often combining Hispanic or Latino and White, or Hispanic or Latino, White, and Indigenous.

The share of Hispanic or Latino respondents (72%) in the survey was closely aligned with Summit’s overall population (76%). Black or African American residents made up a larger share of survey respondents (15%) compared to the community (7%), while White residents accounted for a smaller share (7% of respondents compared to 29% of the population).

Smaller groups such as Asian (<1% vs. 3%) and those identifying as multi-racial (5% vs. 2%) also differed between the survey and community proportions.



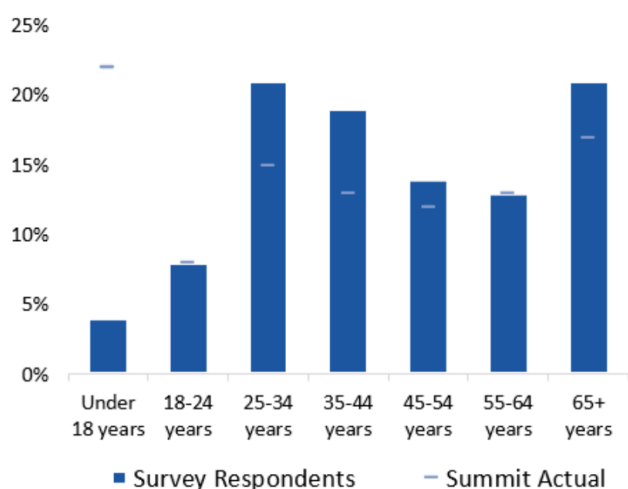


Survey Respondents

Education levels: Survey participants represented a variety of educational backgrounds. The most common response was a high school diploma or GED (56 respondents, 27%), followed by those with some college but no degree (49 respondents, 23%). Other respondents reported completing a bachelor's degree (35 respondents, 17%), an associate's degree (26 respondents, 12%), or a graduate or professional degree (14 respondents, 7%). Additionally, 30 respondents (14%) indicated they had completed some high school. Overall, the majority of respondents had completed a high school education, with smaller groups pursuing additional degrees at the associate, bachelor's, or graduate level.

Survey participants reported higher levels of formal education compared to the Summit population overall. While 14% of respondents had not completed high school, this is lower than the 32% of residents without a high school diploma community-wide.

At the other end of the spectrum, 36% of survey respondents reported post-secondary education (associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degree) compared to 17% of Summit residents. These differences indicate that the survey reflects a larger share of residents with post-secondary education and a smaller share of those without a high school diploma.

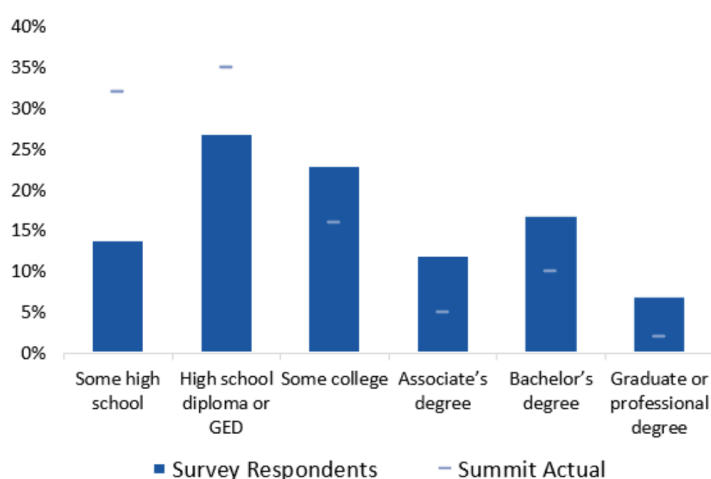


Age Distribution: Survey respondents represented a wide variety of ages, with the largest share coming from adults ages 25–34 (47 respondents, 21%) and 65 and older (46 respondents, 21%). Adults in the 35–44 age range (43 respondents, 19%) were also well represented, followed by 45–54-year-olds (32 respondents, 14%) and 55–64-year-olds (29 respondents, 13%). Smaller groups included young adults ages 18–24 (18 respondents, 8%) and youth under 18 (8 respondents, 4%).

Compared to Summit's overall population, the survey included a larger share of adults ages 25–34 (21% of respondents vs. 15% of the community) and 35–44 (19% vs. 13%).

Adults 65 and older also made up a somewhat larger share in the survey (21%) than in the community overall (17%). In contrast, children and youth under 18—who account for nearly one in four Summit residents—were less present in the survey (4%), which is expected given the survey's design.

Representation of 18–24-year-olds (8% in both the survey and community), 45–54-year-olds (14% vs. 12%), and 55–64-year-olds (13% in both) was generally consistent between the sample and the community overall.

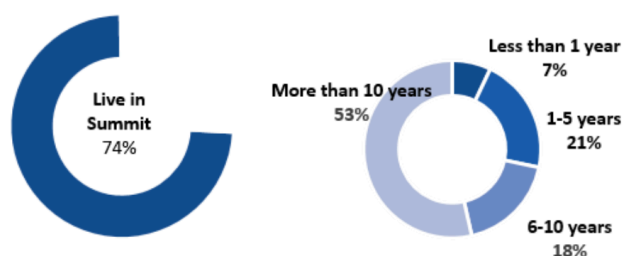




Survey Respondents

Living in Summit: Most survey participants were current residents of Summit, with 154 respondents (74%) reporting that they live in the village. An additional 54 respondents (26%) indicated that, while they do not currently live in Summit, they have family, work, or community connections that tie them to Summit.

Among current residents who responded shared how long they had lived in Summit, nearly half (55 respondents, 53%) reported living in Summit for more than 10 years, reflecting a long-term commitment to the community. Another 22 respondents (21%) had lived in Summit between 1 and 5 years, and 19 respondents (18%) reported living in Summit between 6 and 10 years. A smaller group of 7 respondents (7%) indicated living in Summit for less than one year.



Community Connections: Survey participants reported a variety of ways they are connected to Summit beyond residency. The most common ties were through attending social events (56%) and having family in Summit (53%). Many also reported shopping at local businesses (43%) or sending children to school in Summit (40%). A smaller share noted that they work in Summit (20%) or access local social and human services such as youth programs, medical services, or senior programs (17%).

Among the 26% of survey respondents who do not live in Summit, the majority described their connection as living nearby. Others most often connected through employment in or near Summit or through participation in local programs and community organizations. A smaller group reported ties through family or property in Summit, while a few noted previous residency or other connections such as attending courses or collaborating as community partners.

Representativeness of Respondents: The survey respondents provide strong insight into the experiences of Summit community members, while also reflecting some differences from the community overall. Adults ages 25–44 and 65 and older participated at higher rates. In terms of race and ethnicity, the survey closely reflected Summit’s Hispanic/Latino majority while other racial groups differed from other community surveys. Education levels also differed, with respondents more likely to have completed post-secondary education and less likely to have left school before earning a diploma. These community-wide benchmarks are drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS, 2019–2023), which provides the most recent available demographic profile for Summit. Together, the comparison helps identify whose voices are most visible in the survey and where additional outreach may be useful to capture the perspectives of all community members.



COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

Survey respondents identified challenges facing Summit, with five areas emerging most frequently: youth programs, community events and engagement, housing, village resources, and crime and safety. These issues reflect both practical needs, such as access to affordable services and safe infrastructure, and broader concerns about community connection and quality of life.

The following section provides an overview of each of the top 5 challenges as identified by residents.



Youth Programs (41%)

The most frequently cited challenge. Concerns centered on access, affordability, and availability of youth programming, especially after-school and summer options. Younger residents and newer families were more likely to identify this as a priority.



Community Events and Engagement (37%)

Respondents expressed a desire for more frequent, inclusive, and better-communicated events. Long-term residents highlighted gaps in outreach and representation, while others noted improvements in recent years but still called for greater coordination.



Housing (35%)

Affordability, property taxes, and limited options, particularly for seniors and families, emerged as primary concerns. Long-term residents were more likely to identify housing as a challenge, with many raising issues about costs of maintaining homes and the need for repairs.



Village Resources (34%)

Many residents pointed to limited information and outdated infrastructure. Calls included better communication about available resources, improved library and park facilities, and attention to basic needs such as flooding, sidewalks, and alleys.



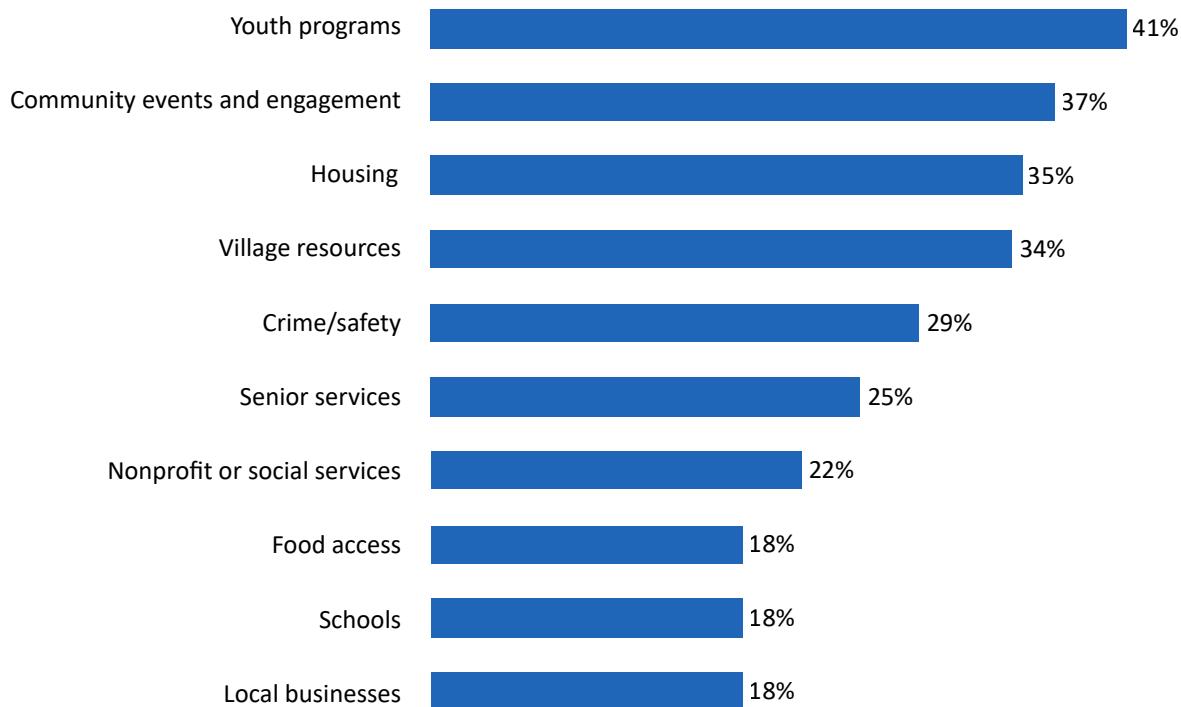
Crime and Safety (29%)

Safety concerns included gun violence, gang activity, and lack of police presence, though some respondents reported feeling generally safe. Residents emphasized the need for stronger community policing, traffic enforcement, and youth engagement to reduce crime.



Top 10 Community Challenges in Summit

Percent of respondents that reported each item as a top challenge.





Identified Challenge 1: Youth Programs

Youth programs were the most frequently identified challenge in the survey, selected by 41% of respondents.

Who does youth programming matter most to?

Younger adults more likely to cite as a challenge. Younger adults were more likely to cite youth programs, with 58% of respondents 18-44 identifying it as a challenge compared with about 32% of those ages 45+. These patterns suggest that younger residents, many of whom may be raising children, experience greater need for accessible, affordable, and diverse youth programming.

Most cited among newer residents. Among all respondents living in Summit, 29% identified youth programs as a challenge. This share was notably higher among newer residents, with 35% of those who had lived in Summit fewer than 5 years citing it as a challenge. By contrast, residents who had lived in Summit longer were less likely to identify it (27%), suggesting that newer families may experience greater barriers to accessing youth programming or feel fewer options are available to them.

Key Themes

Access and affordability

- ❖ Requests for clearer information on how to find/enroll in program.
- ❖ Trust/communication gaps and mentions of cost and need for inclusive programming (e.g., welcoming to diverse needs).

“We need low- no cost consistent and affordable youth programs.”

“Two top youth programs have closed or are closing in the area. Many parents are requesting for more affordability or free sports or after-school programs for elementary and middle school age.”

Coverage and timing

- ❖ Needs during after-school, summer, and school-breaks.
- ❖ Interest in options for both teens and early childhood/toddlers.

“Need a program for when school is out.”

“Need to have things after 5:30 for working parents. Lack of programs. Low-cost programs.”

Quality and variety

- ❖ Calls for more/upgraded offerings through parks and library, alongside school-based activities.

“Lack of programming at the park or limited capacity. They used to have several youth leagues, not just soccer.”

“Summit does not have access [to] Robotics, Agriculture, Entrepreneurship, Computer Science, Engineering, Investing, Art, Marketing, Sports Training, Sciences, and Language.”



Identified Challenge 2: Community Events and Engagement

Community events and engagement were the second most frequently cited challenge, identified by 37% of respondents.

Who does community events and engagement matter most to?

Broad challenge across ages. Responses were generally consistent across age groups, with no notable differences observed.

Most noted by long-term residents. Among respondents living in Summit, 36% identified community events and engagement as a challenge. This share was notably higher among residents living in Summit for more than 5 years (40%) compared to those living in Summit for less than 5 years (24%). This suggests that while newer residents notice some gaps, the concern is more heavily voiced by those who have lived in Summit longer and may have more experience with how events and community engagement have been offered over time.

Key Themes

Communication and promotion

- ❖ Concerns about limited information on events and difficulty reaching residents

“There’s lack of communication on what’s going around the village.”

“Limited amount of events or not advertised.”

Representation and inclusion

- ❖ Questions about whether leadership and events reflect the diversity of the community

“When attending community meetings, I barely see representation of the majority population of the village.”

Coordination and collaboration

- ❖ Desire for more unified efforts instead of siloed activities

“Different entities doing their own things. Would be nice if all get together as community.”

Participation and visibility

- ❖ Reflections on limited turnout and gaps in engagement

“Residents not participating.”

“Few events, most are dedicated to seniors.”

Acknowledgment of progress

- ❖ Recognition that some improvements are being made

“I think Summit is improving with having more events. This year in comparison to previous, I see a difference.”



Identified Challenge 3: Housing

Housing was identified as a challenge by 35% of survey respondents, making it one of the top five issues highlighted in the survey. Concerns about housing touched on affordability, property taxes, housing quality, and availability for both families and seniors.

Who does housing matter most to?

Consistently a challenge across ages. Housing challenges were noted across all age groups, but respondents over age 55 were slightly more (38%) likely to identify housing as a concern compared to younger age groups (33%). Comments from older residents often focused on maintaining their homes and the burden of high property taxes, while younger respondents highlighted affordability and access to housing options.

Notably higher among residents living in the community more than 5 years. Among respondents living in Summit, housing was cited as a challenge by 14% of newer residents (those in the community fewer than 5 years) compared to 36% of long-term residents (those in the community more than 5 years).

Key Themes

Affordability and taxes

- ❖ Respondents frequently raised concerns about the cost of both renting and purchasing homes in Summit. Many described housing as “too expensive” and pointed to high rents as barriers. They also cited the tax burden in Summit.

“The taxes are very high.”

“Taxes are too high which are causing long-term homeowners to leave. New home buyers are also not buying because of the taxes and the homes need a lot of remodeling.”

Quality and upkeep

- ❖ Several respondents mentioned challenges related to the physical condition of homes and the difficulty of maintaining them.

“Seniors cannot afford to maintain their homes and they are falling apart.”

Availability and housing types

- ❖ Respondents mentioned a need for more apartments and more single-family housing, as well as options for vulnerable groups.

“Would like to see more single family homes over multi unit buildings.”

“Lack of housing and shelters for homeless” and “Limited senior housing opportunities.”

Neighborhood and infrastructure issues

- ❖ A few comments highlighted how housing concerns spill into broader neighborhood issues, such as alley upkeep and parking.

“No place to park vehicles. Commercial vehicles park on residential streets.”

“Pave the alleys which are in miserable condition.”



Identified Challenge 4: Village Resources

Village resources were identified as a challenge by 34% of survey respondents, placing it among the top five community concerns. Responses reflected both the availability of resources and how they are communicated or accessed.

Who do village resources matter most to?

Most noted by adults over age 45. Concerns about village resources appeared across all age groups, though respondents age 45+ were more likely (40%) to identify it as a challenge compared to younger respondents (29%). Their comments often reflected frustrations with communication, representation, and coordination of services.

Most likely to be cited by residents living in the community more than 5 years. Differences by residency were notable. Only 17% of respondents living in Summit fewer than 5 years identified village resources as a challenge, compared to 45% of those living in Summit more than 5 years.

Key Themes

Communication and awareness

- ❖ Many respondents felt they were not adequately informed about available resources or how to access them.

“Not announced enough. As a life long resident, I don’t know where to seek these resources or information.”

“Limited information about resources.”

Accessibility and timing

- ❖ Respondents noted difficulties reaching village offices or finding resources outside standard hours.

“Time frames are not set up for the community working after 5pm. You can never reach anyone or need to leave a voicemail.”

“They don’t post anything until a couple days before. Don’t have any after work hours.”

Facilities and infrastructure

- ❖ Some residents linked concerns to the state of public facilities and local infrastructure.

“Our park is so outdated our library doesn’t attract the little ones.”

“I walk the neighborhood and so many crumbling sidewalks including newer ones. Gravel alleys and need to install paved.”

Ideas for improvement

Several respondents suggested ways to strengthen village resources:

“Need a central hub for all resources”

“Just reaching out to more of the community to also spread the word.”



Identified Challenge 5: Crime and Safety

Crime and safety were identified as a challenge by 29% of survey respondents, making it one of the top five issues raised in the survey. Concerns centered on both neighborhood safety and broader issues of crime prevention and enforcement.

Who does crime and safety matter most to?

Consistently noted across age groups. Concerns about crime and safety were raised across all age groups, suggesting that safety is viewed as a community-wide challenge rather than one tied to a particular stage of life. Residents of different ages emphasized similar themes, including the need for safer neighborhoods and stronger prevention efforts.

Frequency grows with length of residency. Differences were evident based on how long respondents had lived in Summit. Among residents living in Summit for more than 5 years, 40% identified crime and safety as a challenge, compared to 24% of those who had lived in Summit fewer than 5 years.

Key Themes

Crime and violence

- ❖ Several respondents described incidents of crime, shootings, and ongoing concerns with gangs.

“There is still a little gang activity. There was a shooting and killing like a month ago in Summit.”

Police presence and enforcement

- ❖ Many comments pointed to the need for stronger enforcement and visibility of police.

“More police presence is needed.”

“Crime and drug activity is not addressed.”

“Police be more involved with the kids.”

Community environment and disorder

- ❖ Respondents also highlighted the broader environment of disorder that contributes to feelings of being unsafe.

“Liquor, bars, and gambling/slots centered businesses. We need to improve business diversity.”

“Overall feel safe but about concerned about unoccupied retail locations, beer bottles littering near library.”

Traffic safety

- ❖ Some concerns focused on unsafe driving.

“People driving wrong ways streets and very fast.”

“It is missing a lot of signs for people to cross the streets.”



Degree of concern for each identified challenge varied across population subgroups.

To better understand how different groups within the community experience challenges, survey responses were analyzed by education, age, length of residency, and race/ethnicity. This deeper look shows that while all groups recognized youth programs, community events, housing, village resources, and crime/safety as priorities, the degree of concern varied across subgroups.

Education: Residents with higher education levels were more likely to point to housing as a challenge. More than four in ten respondents with a bachelor's (43%) or graduate/professional degree (44%) cited housing, compared with 19% of those with only some high school and 33% of those with a high school diploma or GED. Other challenges showed less variation by education.

Age: Housing challenges were more frequently reported among older adults, with 41% of those ages 55–64 citing housing compared with about 30–33% of those under 45. Village resources were also a greater concern for older age groups, particularly those ages 45–54 (41%) and 65+ (35%), compared with younger groups (17–36%). In contrast, youth programs were more often cited by younger residents: 42–50% of respondents under 45 identified this as a challenge compared with 24–30% of those ages 55 and older.

Residency: Long-term residents (10+ years) were more likely to identify housing (36%) and crime/safety (49%) as challenges compared with newer residents (14% for housing; 27% for crime/safety among those living in Summit 1–5 years). Residents with 6–10 years in the community stood out for naming community events (53%) and village resources (47%) as challenges, while newer residents (1–5 years) were more likely to cite youth programs (45%) compared with 27% of those who had lived in Summit more than 10 years.

Race and Ethnicity: Black or African American respondents were more likely to identify housing (57%) and village resources (50%) as challenges, a notably higher share than other groups. White respondents most frequently cited crime/safety (38%), while Hispanic/Latino residents, who made up the majority of survey respondents, were most likely to name community events (42%) and youth programs (36%) as key challenges. Multiracial respondents also reported a relatively high concern with youth programs (56%).



COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Survey respondents identified several resources that they view as central to the strength and quality of life in Summit. Five areas emerged most frequently: schools, healthcare, youth programs, housing, and senior services. These reflect both foundational supports as well as broader community assets that contribute to stability, connection, and well-being. While schools stood out as the most frequently named strength by a wide margin, the remaining top resources were cited at very similar rates, with only a few percentage points separating them. The following section provides an overview of each of the top 5 resources as identified by residents.



Schools (47%)

The most frequently cited community strength. Nearly half of respondents identified schools as Summit's top resource, making it the most highly rated asset in the community by a wide margin. Schools were especially noted by newer residents and families, and comments highlighted the availability of dual language programs, after-school activities, and sufficient options for all children.



Healthcare (17%)

Residents emphasized the availability of healthcare resources, noting a variety of services in the community that meet a wide range of needs. Access for individuals without insurance was particularly valued, with respondents highlighting the presence of multiple programs for those without coverage.



Housing (16%)

Although housing was also identified as a challenge by many, a smaller share of residents (16%) viewed it as a strength. These respondents highlighted the role that housing plays in drawing families to Summit. Perceptions varied somewhat across groups, with older and long-term residents more likely to note housing as a concern, while some newer and younger respondents were more inclined to frame it as an asset that supports community growth.



Youth Programs (15%)

Respondents pointed to the presence of youth programming as a strength, especially resources provided through the park district. While concerns about outreach were noted, the availability of events and activities for children and youth were recognized as important contributions to community life.



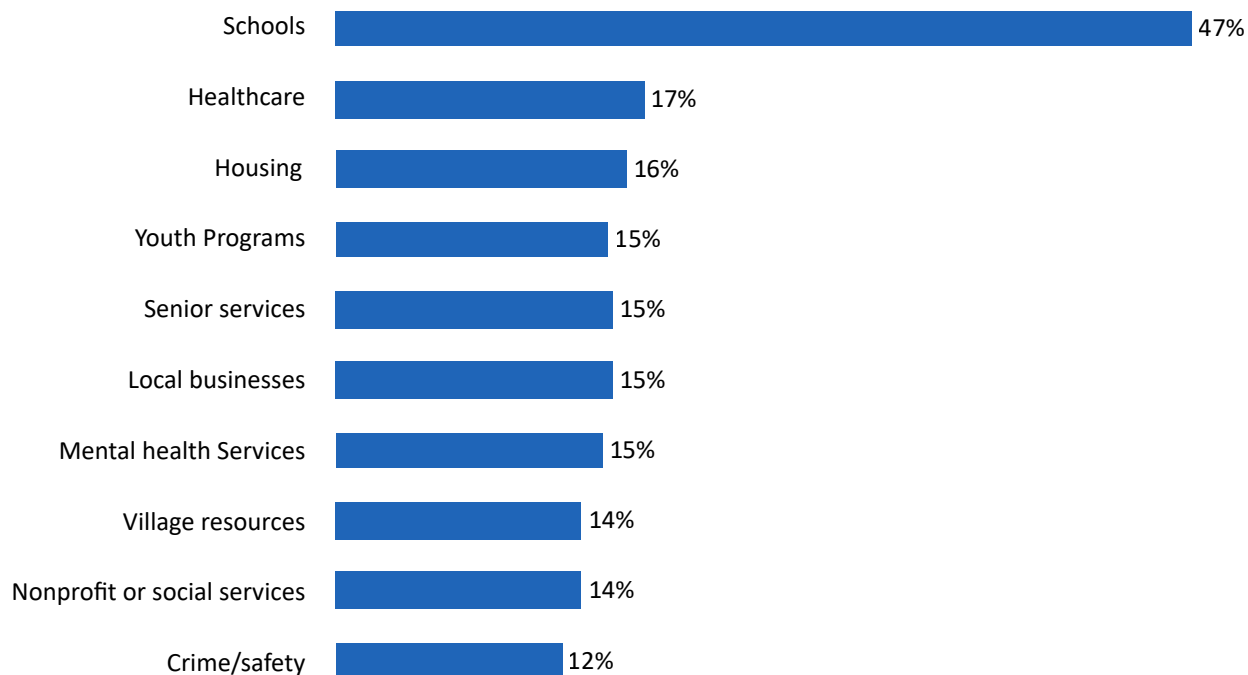
Senior Services (15%)

Residents recognized the presence of services and programs for older adults as a valued resource. Comments emphasized that "there are many" programs available and that these services help support aging residents in the community.



Top 10 Strengths in Summit

Percent of respondents that reported each item as a strength.





Identified Strength 1: Schools

Schools were the most frequently identified strength in the community, with nearly half of respondents (47%) naming them as Summit's top resource. This was overwhelmingly the highest-rated strength, with 30 percentage points more respondents selecting schools than the next highest resource.

Who values schools?

Younger adults consistently reported this as a strength. Adults in the under 45 years were especially likely to highlight schools with half (51%) citing schools as a top resource, compared with lower shares among older residents 55+ (35%). These patterns suggest that residents raising school-aged children experience and value the quality, programming, and accessibility of local schools most directly.

About half of residents cited schools as a strength. Among all Summit residents, 52% identified schools as the top resource. This share was highest among those living in Summit for 1–5 years (74%) and 6–10 years (57%), compared with 43% of those who had lived in Summit more than 10 years. This indicates that newer families moving into the community often view the schools as a key draw and a primary strength.

Key Themes

Overall quality and reputation

- ❖ Residents consistently praised the schools as strong community assets.

"Schools are great."

After-school opportunities

- ❖ Families appreciated the variety of activities and events available outside of the classroom.

"I'm always hearing many events after school."

Draw for families

- ❖ Some residents linked concerns to the state of public facilities and local infrastructure.

"I moved from Chicago to Summit because of the schools."

Special programs

- ❖ Residents highlighted unique offerings such as dual-language instruction.

"Graves and Heritage have a dual language program."



Identified Strength 2: Healthcare

Healthcare was identified as a key community strength, with 17% of respondents naming it as one of the best local resources. This highlights the value residents place on access to medical care and the presence of services that meet a variety of needs.

Healthcare was selected at similar rates across most demographic groups, with no single age, education, or residency group standing out dramatically. This consistency suggests that residents across the community see healthcare access as a reliable and valued resource.

Key Themes

Availability of resources

- ❖ Residents highlighted the strong presence of healthcare providers in the community.

“Number of resources.”

Support for the uninsured

- ❖ Programs that expand access for individuals without health coverage were especially valued.

“Multiple programs available for individuals who do not have health care coverage.”

Identified Strength 3: Youth Programs

Youth programs were recognized as a strength by 15% of respondents, placing them among the top community resources identified. This indicates that while many residents also saw youth programs as a challenge, there is simultaneous recognition of their value and importance within Summit.

Youth programs were identified as a strength by 13% of Summit residents. Recognition was not widespread, but patterns appeared across age and residency. The support was strongest among newer residents (20%) (less than one year in Summit). Younger adults (18–24) (27%) and older adults (55 and above) (26%) were the most likely to identify youth programs as a community strength, while middle-aged groups were less likely to do so. These findings suggest that while not universally recognized, youth programs may be especially valued some as an important community asset.

Key Themes

Awareness and Outreach

- ❖ Respondents emphasized the importance of the Park District’s work

“I feel like the park district does offer many events it is just getting the word out & having more outreach.”



Identified Strength 4: Housing

Housing was identified as a community strength by 16% of respondents, making it the third most cited best resource in Summit.

People who have lived in Summit less than 5 years most commonly reporting housing as a strength. Specifically, variation appeared by length of residency: 21% of those who had lived in Summit 1–5 years identified housing as a top resource, compared to 13% of those with more than 10 years in the community. This suggests that newer residents may be more likely to view local housing as a strength, while longer-term residents are less likely to do so.

Identified Strength 3: Senior Services

Senior services were identified as a strength by 15% of respondents. This recognition highlights the value residents place on the programs and supports available to older adults in the community.

Senior services were more frequently cited by residents ages 55 and older (23%) compared with younger adults under 44 (10%). This difference suggests that while the resource is broadly recognized, older residents are more likely to view these services as vital to community well-being.

Respondents noted that a range of services and programs exist for older adults: “There are many” and “Many programs available.”

Other Community Resources

The top five resources were followed by a set of other resources that were all noted as a community strength at very similar levels. These included local businesses, mental health services, village resources, nonprofit or social services, and crime and safety.

Residents also highlighted several other assets that contribute to community well-being. Emergency services were noted as a valued source of support, with residents recognizing their presence and reliability: “The community has emergency services. [Firemen are] always available to support the community.” This reflects appreciation for both institutional response systems and individuals who play a visible role in assisting residents.

Some also mentioned transportation as a strength, noting the “variety of transportation options” available. While less frequently cited overall, these comments suggest that beyond schools, healthcare, youth programs, housing and senior services, residents recognize and value the infrastructure and people that help maintain safety, mobility, and support within the community.





Survey responses highlight that residents recognize a wide range of community strengths, though some resources were more strongly emphasized by certain groups.

Survey responses highlight that residents recognize a wide range of community strengths, though some resources were more strongly emphasized by certain groups. Schools clearly stood out across all responses, but healthcare, youth programs, and senior services were also noted across different segments of the population.

Education: Respondents with less than a bachelor's degree were slightly more likely to identify schools as a top community resource. Almost half (49%) of these respondents highlighted schools, compared with a smaller share (37%) of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Age: Schools emerged as a strength most strongly among respondents under 45 years, with 51% identifying them as the top resource. By contrast, older adults (55+) were less likely to do so (35%). Youth programs were more often cited as a strength by both the youngest (under 24) and oldest (55+) groups, suggesting intergenerational recognition of their value. Senior services stood out among older adults, with 23% of those over 55 identifying them compared with only 10% of those under 44.

Residency: Newer residents (1–5 years) were the most likely to highlight schools, with nearly three-quarters (74%) identifying them as Summit's strongest resource. Those living in the community 6–10 years also frequently cited schools (57%). Long-term residents of more than 10 years, while still naming schools most often, did so at a lower rate (43%). This pattern suggests that newer residents may especially recognize the role of schools in attracting families to Summit.

Race and Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino residents, who made up the majority of survey respondents, were especially likely to identify schools as a top resource (50%), alongside Black or African American respondents (44%). Multiracial respondents also cited schools at high levels (56%). White respondents were less likely to highlight schools (29%) but were more likely to cite youth programs (14%) as a strength when compared to other groups. Across groups, schools stood out as the most widely shared community strength, with healthcare, senior services, and youth programs consistently named but at lower rates.



OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Survey respondents were asked to select their top three priorities for improvement in Summit. The results show substantial overlap with areas identified as community challenges and strengths. Youth programs, housing, crime and safety, village resources, and community events/engagement emerged as the five most frequently mentioned priorities. These reflect a mix of practical needs as well as broader concerns around safety, communication, and community connectedness.

Youth Programs (37%)

Youth programming emerged as the most frequently cited priority. Respondents called for more accessible, affordable, and consistent opportunities for children and teens, including sports, arts, career development, and after-school care. As one resident noted, “We need to expand programs for the children by art, music, sports and community service.” Another added, “Childcare and youth programs, there are very few and it’s hard to get in if you miss deadlines.” Others emphasized the importance of linking youth programs with prevention and safety, stating, “More youth programs, employment opportunities for our youth. Career developments for our youth.”

Housing (37%)

Affordable and a variety housing was another top priority. Several respondents directly called for expanded low-income housing options and housing for families and seniors: “Affordable housing!” and “Housing rent to own programs.” and “I would like to see more single family homes over multi unit buildings.” Others highlighted frustration with rising costs, noting that “Taxes are too high which are causing long-term homeowners to leave.” These responses underscore the dual challenge of affordability and access, with many connecting concerns about taxes and housing costs to broader community well-being.

Crime and Safety (28%)

Residents placed a strong emphasis on safety improvements, calling for reduced violence, greater police visibility, and preventive measures for youth. Comments included, “Take care of the gangs more so kids can be more safe,” and “Stop cars speeding down the streets.” Others connected safety with community trust and guidance, such as, “Crime/safety, plus guidance for families to improve.” and “Crime has gotten worse over years.”

Community Events & Engagement (22%)

Many residents want to see a return to vibrant, community-wide activities that bring neighbors together. As one respondent reflected, “Summit once had many community events but it had the residents that would volunteer at these events that made them successful. Now it is just a few of the same people.” and “Seek to engage and maintain those of us who grew up in the community to stay.” and “Different entities doing their own things. It would be nice if all get together as community.” Others asked for more inclusive and intergenerational offerings, such as “more family activity centers” and “programs for all ages & events in summer.” Several also noted, “There's lack of communication on what's going around the village.”

Village Resources (22%)

Residents highlighted the need for stronger communication, better access to resources, and improved local infrastructure. Some emphasized language accessibility: “More communication in the community in Spanish.” Others pointed to the need for modernized services and educational support, noting, “The website is not user friendly.” and “As a life long resident, I don’t know where to seek these resources or information. I’m not even sure if we offer these services if I’m being completely honest. Maybe this should be included in the newsletter that residents receive periodically.” Infrastructure issues were also raised, with calls for improvements in parks, libraries, and walkability.



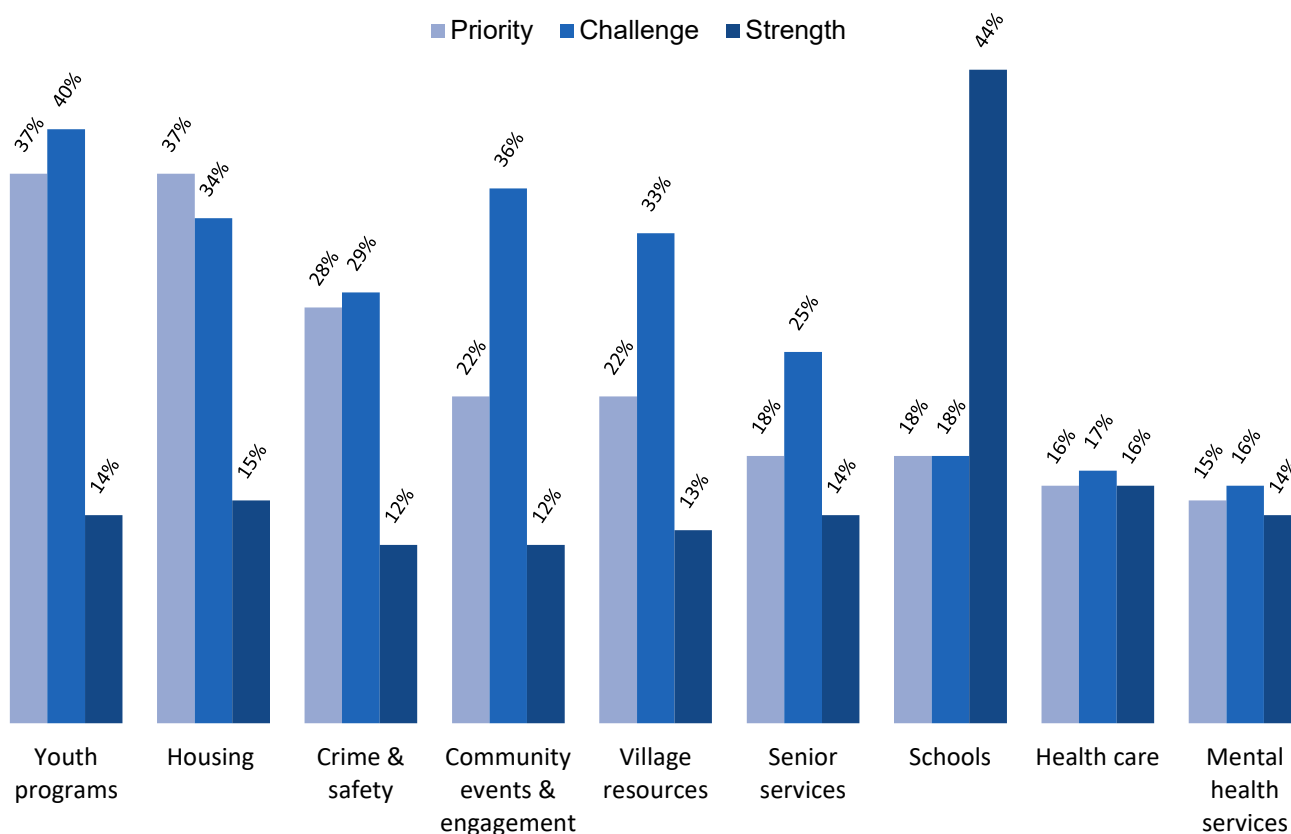
Community Opportunities for Improvement

Comparing the reports of community challenges, strengths, and priorities offers additional insight to opportunities for improvement.

Youth programs and housing were both reported as high challenge and high priority in Summit, suggesting strong community investment paired with unmet needs. Similarly, crime and safety, as well as community events and engagement, were noted as areas where residents see both importance and difficulty, reflecting ongoing efforts to build stronger, safer, and more connected neighborhoods. In contrast, schools were overwhelmingly viewed as a community strength, while healthcare and mental health services received lower attention across all measures.



Percent of survey respondents that reported each community facet as a priority, challenge, strength.



COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Youth Programs

Goal: Expand safe, affordable, and diverse programming that supports youth development, academic readiness, and family stability.

Implementation Priorities:

- Increase access by reducing financial and logistical barriers through scholarships, centralized enrollment events, and resource navigation.
- Expand enrichment pathways with career readiness, financial literacy, arts, sports, and intergenerational programming.
- Align hours and coverage to support working families, ensuring after-school, evening, and school-break opportunities.
- Strengthen adult mentorship and professional development for program staff and volunteers.



Community Events and Engagement

Goal: Foster a cohesive, vibrant community by enhancing engagement, transparency, and inclusive participation.

Implementation Priorities:

- Establish a unified communication strategy, including bilingual information hubs and consistent outreach.
- Activate public spaces with recurring community events, family-friendly programming, and annual celebrations.
- Increase inclusion by empowering residents, especially long-term community members, to lead and co-design events.
- Address participation barriers by offering accessible venues, transportation support, and intergenerational activities.

Crime and Safety

Goal: Enhance community safety and well-being by strengthening prevention, trust, and neighborhood collaboration.

Implementation Priorities:

- Integrate existing social supports (schools, SCN service provider members, health providers) into early intervention for at-risk youth.
- Increase police presence, visibility, and community trust through workshops, resident forums, and stronger relationships.
- Support resident mobilization via neighborhood watch, reporting channels, and advocacy on safety priorities.
- Address environmental disorder with visible safety measures (lighting, cameras, walkability improvements).





Priority #1: Youth Programs

Expanding access to safe, affordable, and diverse youth programming, including after-school activities, summer opportunities, sports, arts, and enrichment programs, emerged as the most pressing priority for residents. In the community survey, 41% of respondents identified youth programs as a challenge, underscoring both unmet demand and a clear opportunity for investment. Younger adults (ages 18–44), many of whom are raising school-age children, were the most likely to highlight this need, while newer residents cited it at higher rates than long-term residents, suggesting that families moving into Summit may face additional barriers in navigating or accessing existing opportunities. Expanding youth programming is expected to strengthen family stability, reduce risky behaviors, and enhance community safety by providing constructive outlets for young people. Beyond meeting immediate needs, robust programming can foster leadership skills, build social connection, increase community pride, and prepare youth for long-term educational and career success. Currently, Summit offers some youth activities through the park district and schools, but residents consistently reported limited variety, high costs, enrollment challenges, and a lack of communication about available options. Parents voiced frustration with missed deadlines, inadequate after-school care, and few specialized programs tailored to children's interests or developmental needs.

Goal: Secure the future success of Summit's youth by expanding access to safe, affordable, and diverse year-round programming that enhances academic readiness, skill development, and family stability.

Summit Community Network Focus: The Summit Community Network (SCN) will serve as the central convener and resource bridge, coordinating between key partners (SGA, United Way, School District, Park District, etc.) to drive systemic improvements in program accessibility, quality, and outreach.





Priority #1: Youth Programs

Key Strategy	Objective	SCN Activity
Strategy 1: Systematically Reduce Barriers to Participation	Eliminate financial and logistical obstacles that prevent families from accessing youth programming.	1. Establish Cross-Organization Resources: Unify partner resources (including SGA and United Way) to create and communicate scholarships and fee-waiver programs.
		2. Host Centralized Enrollment and Resource Navigation Events: Organize recurring "One-Stop-Shop" enrollment sessions in trusted locations (e.g., Library, schools) after standard business hours, ensuring all partners are present to assist working parents with registration and aid applications.
Strategy 2: Expand Enrichment and Skill-Building Pathways	Introduce a diverse array of high-demand, high-quality programs that close educational and workforce skill gaps for all youth populations.	1. Facilitate Youth Employment, Financial Literacy, and Career Readiness Initiatives: Support the development of formalized partnerships between the Summit agencies and external institutions (colleges, businesses) to bring robust Financial Literacy, STEM, and digital literacy workshops for teens.
		2. Mobilize Community Assets for Intergenerational Enrichment: Coordinate SCN partners to utilize public facilities to launch new intergenerational programming focused on essential life skills, arts, and craftsmanship (e.g., home economics, sewing, knitting).
		3. Provide Entrepreneurial Support for Families: Develop and host workshops, mentorship, and networking opportunities to support parents (many running home-based businesses) in growing their ventures, thus fostering economic stability within family units.
Strategy 3: Optimize Program Timing and Coverage	Ensure continuous, safe, and supervised options are available for youth during critical non-school hours, accommodating the needs of working families.	1. Convene and Organization: Bring together leadership from the Park District, School District, and non-profits to map and align operating hours, specifically targeting coverage after 5:30 PM and during school holidays to meet parent needs.
		2. Pursue Collaborative Program Grants: Proactively identify and apply for major grant funding that requires and rewards inter-agency collaboration, dedicating resources to the staffing and operational costs necessary to sustain extended hours and consistent school-break camps.
		3. Support the Professional Development and Mentorship: Develop and provide PD and mentoring opportunities to build d volunteers and mentors to ensure positive adult role models.



Priority #2: Community Events and Engagement

Community events and engagement emerged as a central concern for residents, with 37% identifying it as a challenge and 22% citing it as a top priority for improvement. Residents consistently expressed a desire to return to the vibrant, village-wide activities that once brought people together and built civic pride. Long-term residents were more likely to note this issue, with 36% of those living in Summit more than five years identifying it as a challenge, compared to 24% of newer residents. Respondents highlighted several barriers to engagement, most notably limited communication and outreach. Together, these perspectives suggest that residents value events as a vehicle for social connection, representation, and trust-building, but stronger coordination, inclusivity, and communication are needed to ensure that community engagement becomes a true strength for Summit.

Goal: Cultivate a cohesive and vibrant community environment by enhancing engagement, improving communication transparency, and activating public spaces to foster intergenerational connection and civic trust.

Summit Community Network Focus: The Summit Community Network (SCN) will serve as the coordination hub to break down informational silos, ensure event planning reflects the community's diversity, and leverage engagement opportunities to address infrastructure concerns (communication, transport, public space quality).





Priority #2: Community Events and Engagement

Key Strategy	Objective	SCN Activity
Strategy 1: Establish a Unified Communication Strategy	Provide all residents with consistent, reliable, and bilingual access to event, service, and civic information.	1. Support the development of an information hub: Formalize and maintain a collaborative platform with all SCN partner events and resources, ensuring user-friendliness and Spanish translation.
		2. Develop a Communication Strategy: Coordinate the production of timely and impactful communications for major events and resources, distributed consistently through schools, the library, and high-visibility business locations.
Strategy 2: Activate Public Spaces for Social Cohesion	Increase the frequency and quality of family-friendly, intergenerational social opportunities, fostering a culture of community participation.	1. Pilot Recurring "Third-Place" Community Socials: Coordinate the use of public spaces (Library, Park facilities) for regular, after-hours, low-cost/no-cost social events (e.g., family game nights, music, skill-share workshops) to serve as vital "third places."
		2. Facilitate Strategic Public Space Investment: Convene key SCN members and other community entities to identify and advocate for capital improvements that prioritize walkability, sidewalk repair, and/or facility upgrades (e.g., rubber flooring, modern equipment) to make spaces more usable and safe.
		3. Support and Scale Proven Annual Events: Leverage the success of existing, well-attended events (e.g., Grito Fest, 4th of July) by coordinating SCN partner support and resources
Strategy 3: Enhance Inclusion and Resident Ownership	Ensure that civic and social activities reflect the diversity of the community and empower long-term residents and majority populations to lead engagement efforts.	1. Support Resident-Led communication efforts: Provide guidance and capacity to a diverse body of residents to co-plan and promote major community events, acting as community liaisons
		2. Facilitate Inter-Agency Collaboration Meetings: Coordinate and host quarterly "Collaboration & Information-Sharing" sessions between the Village, School District, Park District, and SCN members (and others) to ensure a unified approach and minimize siloed activities, supporting resource sharing.
		3. Support and lift up community leaders and advocates: Proactively identify, mentor, and prepare residents for leadership roles, focusing on the skills necessary to advocate effectively within Village committees, non-profit boards, and other civic institutions.
Strategy 4: Mitigate Transportation and Logistical Barriers	Develop short-term, collaborative solutions to overcome accessibility issues and connect residents to services and events.	1. Pilot Event-Specific Accessibility Services: Coordinate with SCN partners to secure funding for, or arrange, event-specific shuttle services from key residential/senior areas to major community events and "One-Stop-Shop" resource nights.
		2. Advocate for Infrastructure Walkability Audits: Partner with key agencies to conduct a comprehensive safety audit, prioritizing findings that connect key community anchors (schools, library, park) to residential neighborhoods.
		3. Continue Integrated Event Outreach: Use community events as outreach points for service providers (e.g., healthcare, legal aid, social services) to proactively connect residents with essential resources while they are already engaged.



Priority #3: Crime & Safety

Crime and safety emerged as a top concern for community members, with 29% identifying it as one of their three biggest priorities for improvement. This issue cut across all age groups, underscoring that safety is a community-wide priority however, some differences appeared by residency length: 40% of those living in Summit more than five years identified crime and safety as a challenge, compared to 24% of newer residents. This suggests that long-term residents may be more aware of ongoing patterns or neighborhood-level safety issues. Trust in enforcement surfaced as a key theme. Many felt that police presence was insufficient and that crime and drug activity were not being adequately addressed. Suggestions included increased patrols, stronger community-police relationships, and more visible preventive measures, such as cameras and neighborhood watch programs. Improving crime and safety is expected to have ripple effects across the community. Strengthening trust, increasing visible safety measures, and addressing underlying disorder can create a safer environment for families, improve perceptions of quality of life, and foster greater community confidence in Summit's future.

Goal: Enhance community safety and well-being by maximizing the impact of existing social supports and empowering residents to advocate for positive neighborhood change.

Summit Community Network Focus: The Summit Community Network (SCN) will prioritize the seamless integration of social supports for vulnerable youth and the mobilization of resident knowledge to address neighborhood challenges.





Priority #3: Crime & Safety

Key Strategy	Objective	SCN Activity
Strategy 1: Integrate Existing Social Prevention Efforts	Ensure that SCN members' existing social services and youth programs are strategically leveraged for crime prevention and early intervention.	1. Expand awareness of Youth Intervention and Prevention Supports: Create and Share key communications of available sources from SCN members (schools, SGA, mental health providers) and others to ensure youth exhibiting high-risk behaviors are quickly connected to existing intervention and counseling services.
		2. Support the Expansion of High-Impact Youth Programming: Focus SCN advocacy and fundraising efforts on extending the hours and capacity of proven youth programs (Priority 1) that demonstrably provide positive outlets and mentorship to vulnerable teens.
		3. Facilitate Skills Programming for Economic Opportunity: Support structured relationships to connect youth from SCN partner programs directly to existing local adult education and job-readiness organizations (e.g., community colleges, vocational centers) for career pathways.
Strategy 2: Mobilize Resident Knowledge for Safety	Empower residents to utilize existing Village reporting channels and provide actionable safety feedback to improve neighborhood conditions.	1. Organize Workshops: Partner with the Village and Police Department to host bilingual workshops that educate residents on exactly how and where to report safety, infrastructure, or quality-of-life concerns (e.g., lighting, traffic) using existing municipal tools.
		2. Consolidate Resident Safety Concerns for Advocacy: Utilize the SCN network to gather, consolidate, and present unified resident feedback on neighborhood safety priorities (e.g., traffic hot spots, required lighting) to the appropriate agencies.

APPENDICES

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF SUCCESS IN SUMMIT, IL

2025 Key Social Needs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | HEALTH | HOUSING | ENVIRONMENT | SAFETY

In addition to the Summit Community Network's community survey and forums, we also analyzed data from five key Social Drivers of Success—Economic Development, Health, Housing, Environment, and Safety—to understand the systems shaping opportunity and quality of life in Summit, Illinois. Together, these factors reflect the conditions that support or challenge residents' stability, health, and long-term success.

Data Approach

Findings were developed by scanning existing local, county, state, and national datasets to identify relevant indicators for Summit. Data were drawn from sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau (American Community Survey), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC PLACES), Cook County Department of Public Health, Health Resources and Services Administration, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EJScreen), among others. This method ensures a consistent, data-driven comparison between Summit, Cook County, Illinois, and national benchmarks.

Summaries

- **Economic Development:** Assesses income, employment, and poverty. Nearly half of Summit households earn below \$50,000, and workforce participation trails county and state averages.
- **Health:** Explores insurance coverage, chronic disease, and access to care. Summit faces provider shortages and higher uninsurance rates, especially among adults.
- **Housing:** Reviews affordability, quality, and access. Over half of households are cost-burdened, and a large share of homes were built before 1960.
- **Environment:** Highlights air quality, traffic exposure, and industrial proximity. Summit ranks among the top national percentiles for diesel pollution and air-toxins risk.
- **Safety:** Examines crime, emergency response, and perceptions of safety. Though overall crime rates are lower than Cook County's, residents report higher perceived violence and lower trust in law enforcement.

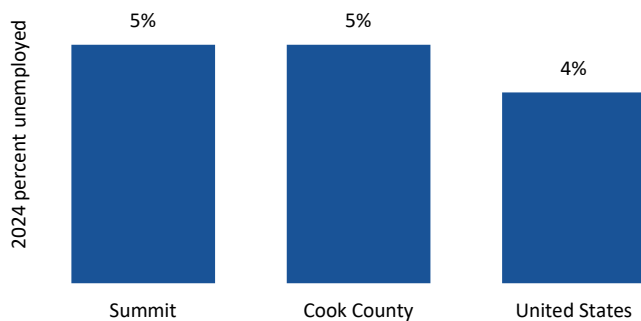
Together, these findings offer additional context of Summit's community conditions and help guide strategies that promote equity, resilience, and opportunity.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic conditions shape access to opportunity, long-term stability, and overall quality of life. In Summit, several economic indicators reveal challenges for residents when compared to Cook County, Illinois, and national benchmarks. Labor force participation in Summit is lower than regional and national averages, and household incomes fall well below the median.¹ Nearly half of all households earn less than \$50,000 annually, and 45% of residents live below 200% of the federal poverty level.¹ Additionally, high rates of reliance on SNAP benefits and fewer residents have college degrees compared to the county average, which may limit access to higher-wage employment opportunities.¹

Employment and Labor Force

Current Employment: The unemployment rate in Summit is 5%, matching the Cook County rate but higher than the national average of 4%.²



Labor Force Participation: Summit has a labor force participation rate of 56%, lower than county (66%), state (65%), and national (64%) averages. This indicates a smaller proportion of working-age residents are either employed or actively seeking employment.¹

Employment Status: Among working residents of Summit ages 16-64:¹

- 80% work full-time (35+ hours/week),
- 16% work part-time (15-34 hours/week), and
- 4% work less than 15 hours/week.

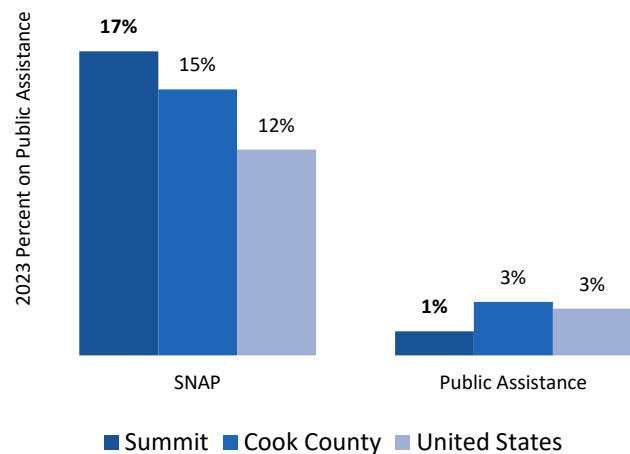
Employment Type: Of the 4,565 employed residents in Summit:¹

- 77% work for private for-profit companies,
- 8% work in government positions (federal, state, local),
- 8% work for private non-profits, and
- 7% are self-employed.

Public Assistance

Public Assistance: 1% of households receive direct public assistance income (TANF or general assistance).¹

SANP: 17% of households receive SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), compared to the national average of 12%.¹

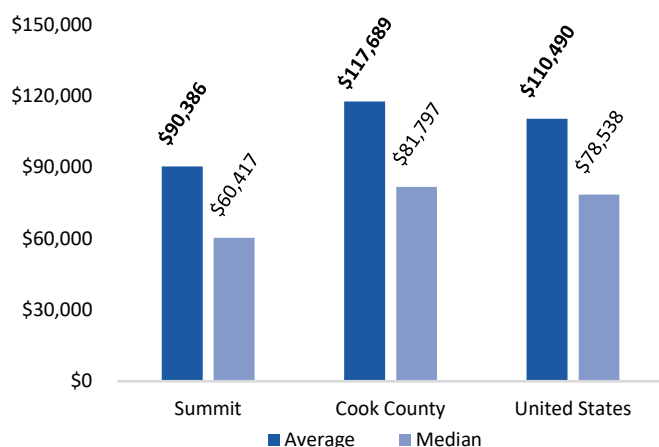


Free or Reduced Lunch: 69% of public-school students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, which is greater than the county (55%), state (46%), and national (53%) students qualifying.³



Income and Poverty

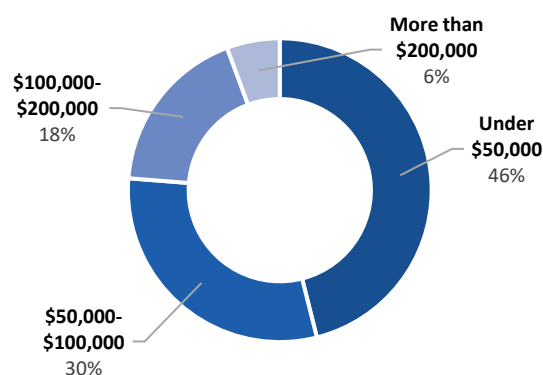
Household Income: The household income includes the income of all individuals 15 years old and older in the household whether they are related to the householder or not. There are 3,617 households included in the Summit area. The median household income is \$60,417, which is below the county (\$81,797), state (\$81,702), and national (\$78,538) medians¹



Per Capita Income: This includes all reported income from wages and salaries, as well as income from self-employment, interest or dividends, public assistance, retirement, and other sources. This number is the average income computed for every individual (including children) in the area. At \$30,446, Summit's per capita income differs from county (\$47,800), state (\$45,104), and national (\$43,288) averages.¹

Income Distribution:¹

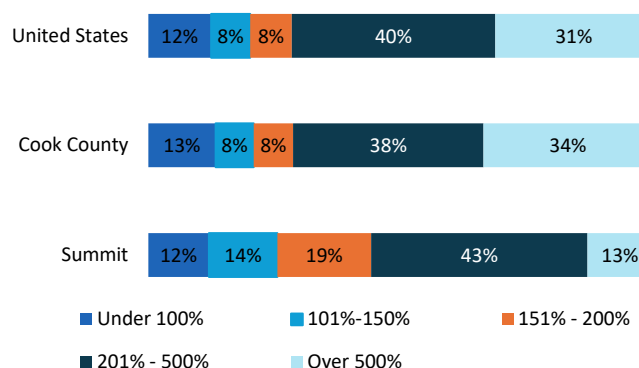
- 46% of households earn less than \$50,000 annually
- 30% earn between \$50,000-\$100,000
- 18% earn between \$100,000-\$200,000
- 6% earn over \$200,000



Poverty Rates:

In Summit, 57% of children live below 200% of the FPL, compared to Cook County (38%), Illinois (34%), and the country (37%).¹

In the chart below, 45% of the total population lives below 200% of the FPL in Summit compared to 29% in Cook County, and 28% in the country.¹



Transportation

Summit residents utilize various transportation methods to reach their workplaces:¹

- 66% drive alone (compared to 70% nationally),
- 18% carpool (compared to 9% nationally),
- 9% use public transportation (compared to 4% nationally),
- 3% walk or bike (compared to 3% nationally),
- 3% work from home (compared to 14% nationally), and
- 0.6% use taxis or other means

HEALTH NEEDS

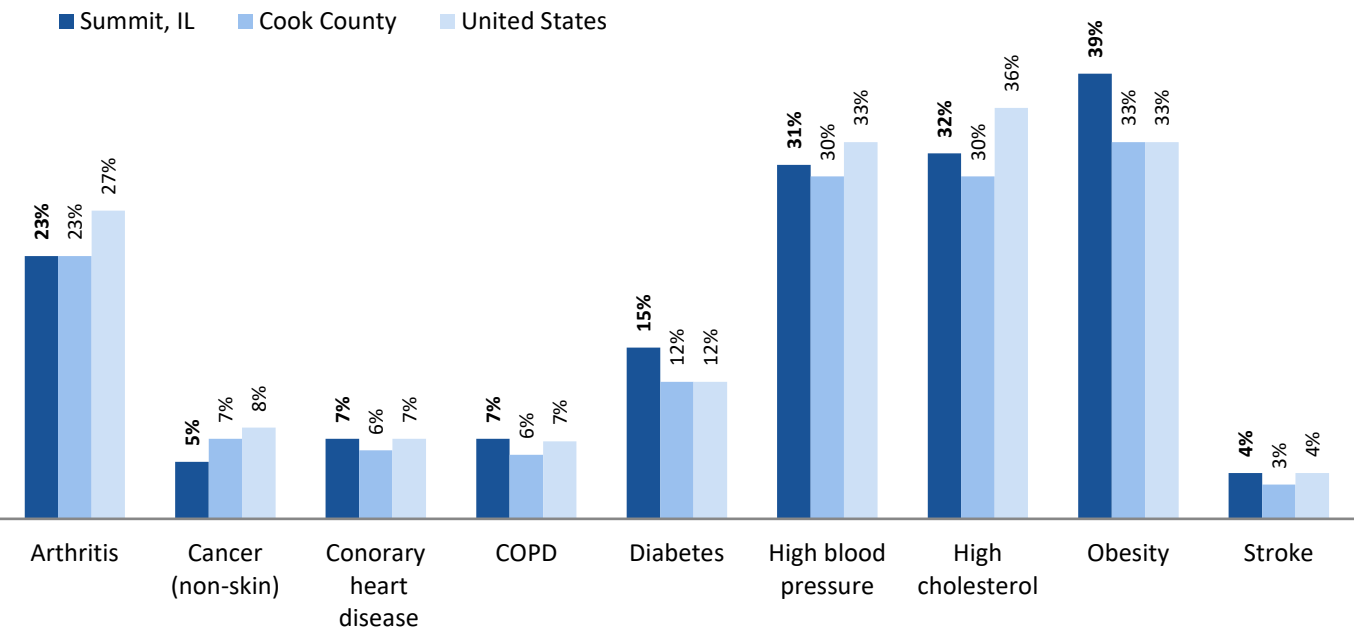
Health is a crucial factor when assessing a community’s needs. Metrics such as insurance coverage, healthcare utilization, and disparities in health outcomes or morbidity can offer valuable insights. **In Summit, most health indicators are comparable to those in Cook County and the broader United States.** Overall health outcomes and mortality data in Summit do not show any stark disparities between Summit and Cook county or the country. However, there are some differences that stand out. Most notably, 16% of Summit residents have no health insurance, much higher than the Illinois and national rates and close to half of its residents rely on public insurance (Medicare, Medicaid, VA or Military).¹ Additionally, Summit faces substantial shortages in providers for mental health, dental, and primary care services and healthcare utilization rates are consistently lower in Summit compared to other areas.¹

Health Outcomes

Health outcomes provide an important way to assess overall community well-being. In Summit, the most common chronic conditions include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and obesity.⁴ Roughly one in ten Summit residents have high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol and one in four are obese. These conditions closely reflect trends in both Cook County and across the United States.

While the overall rates are similar, self-reported data suggest that Summit residents may face a greater burden of poor health. About 30% of adults in Summit rate their health as “fair” or “poor,” compared to 18% in Cook County.⁴ In addition, 17% of adults in Summit report frequent physical distress, meaning they experienced poor physical health for 14 or more days in the past month.⁴ This is higher than the national average of 13% and may point to deeper health challenges in the community.⁴

Prevalence of top health outcomes in Summit, IL compared Cook County and the United States.⁴





Health Outcomes Continued

Behavioral Health: Mental health plays a crucial role in overall well-being, affecting daily functioning and quality of life.

- **Poor Mental Health:** In 2022, 19% of adults ages 18 and older in Summit reported experiencing poor mental health for at least 14 days, compared to 17% of adults across the U.S.⁴
- **Depression Prevalence:** In 2022, 19% of adults ages 18 and older in Summit were diagnosed with depression, compared to 23% of adults across the U.S.⁴

Disability: Disability is an important factor in overall health, as individuals with disabilities may experience barriers to accessing care and services. In Summit, residents with a disability include those with: ⁴

- **Any disability:** 34% of adults aged 18+,
- **Hearing disability:** 6% of adults 18+,
- **Vision disability:** 9% of individuals aged 10+,
- **Cognitive disability:** 18% of adults 18+, and
- **Mobility disability:** 17% of adults 18+.

Maternal and Infant Health: Late or no prenatal care, defined as receiving pregnancy-related healthcare in the third trimester or not at all, is associated with increased health risk for both mothers and infants. Summit has a higher rate of late or no prenatal care compared to national figures. Specifically, in Summit, 35% of pregnancies began prenatal care in the third trimester or did not receive prenatal care at all, compared to 22% nationally.⁵ While local data on maternal and infant mortality, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits related to maternal care are not currently available, these measures remain important for assessing and addressing maternal and infant health in the community.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Infections:

Communicable or infectious diseases are caused by viruses or bacteria and can spread from person to person. In Summit, average prevalence rates are higher than national rates for several conditions:⁶

- **Chlamydia:** Summit's prevalence rate is 790 cases per 100,000, compared to the U.S. rate of 492 per 100,000,
- **Gonorrhea:** Summit's prevalence rate is 319 cases per 100,000, compared to the U.S. rate of 179, and
- **HIV:** Summit's prevalence rate is 595 per 100,000, compared to the U.S. rate of 386 per 100,000.





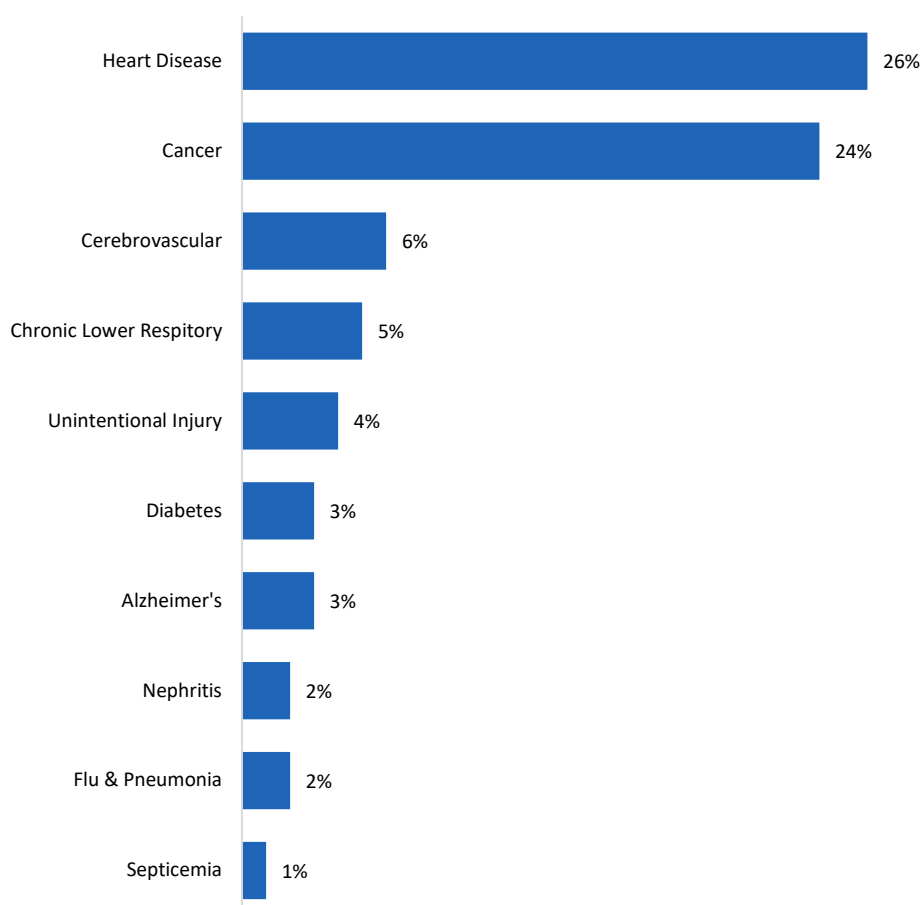
Mortality

Mortality Rates

Summit's all-cause mortality rate is 658 deaths per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the national rate of 730.⁷ Mortality rates for leading causes of death, including heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, are also at or below national averages.⁷ In Summit, the mortality rate for heart disease is 134 per 100,000, cancer is 153, and diabetes is 48, compared to U.S. rates of 167, 161, and 67, respectively.⁷

While cause-specific mortality data for other conditions in Summit is not available, regional data from Southwest Suburban Cook County, which includes Summit, suggests similar patterns may be present locally.⁸

Percent of total deaths for top 10 leading causes of death in Southwest Suburban Cook County 2012 – 2016:⁸

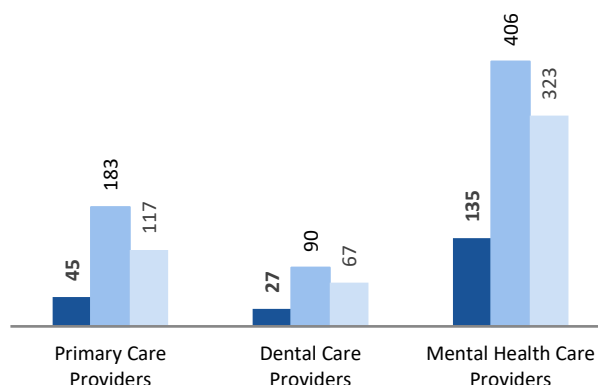




Healthcare Access, Utilization, and Selected Risk Factors

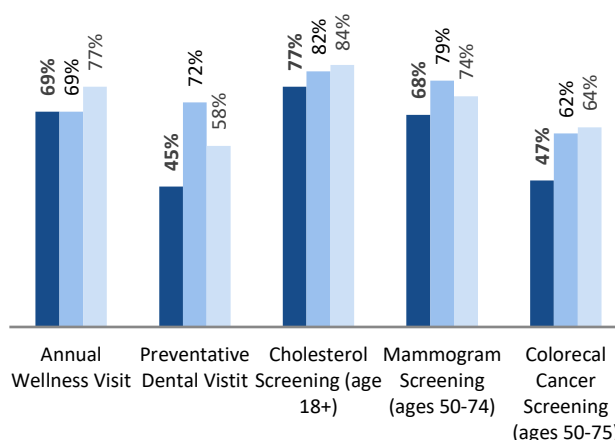
Healthcare Workforce: Access to healthcare depends not only on insurance coverage but also on the availability of healthcare providers. Summit has been designated a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) since 2001, with a score of 54.6 on the MUA index.⁹ This scale ranges from 0 to 100, where lower scores indicate greater levels of underservice. MUAs are defined by shortages in primary care services for specific populations within a given area. Summit has fewer primary care, dental, and mental health care providers per 100,000 residents compared to county, state, and national averages; however, it is common for residents to cross city limits to access care when local options are limited.¹⁰

Access to Providers per 100,000 people^{10,11}



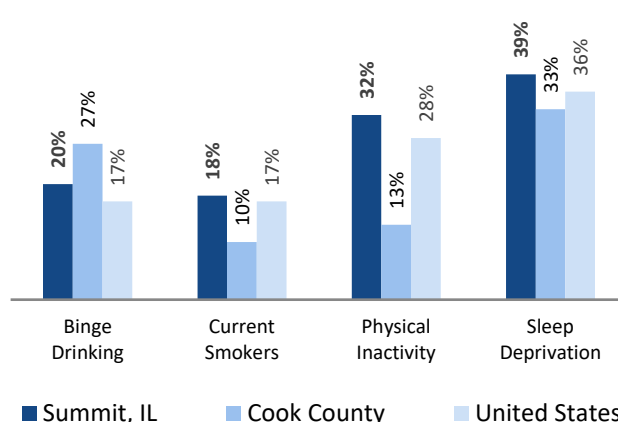
Healthcare Utilization: Several factors influence how often people access healthcare services, including insurance coverage, availability of providers, access to public transportation, and the level of urbanization. These factors affect both preventive care, such as routine checkups and recommended screenings, and more urgent needs like emergency care. Across all reported measures, healthcare utilization is lower in Summit than in Cook County and the United States overall.⁴ Some measures, such as dental visits and colorectal cancer screenings, show particularly noticeable differences.

Percent healthcare utilization⁴



Health Risk Factors: Preventable risk factors play a role in the development of chronic diseases and contribute to poor health outcomes. Health behaviors such as poor nutrition, inadequate sleep, and tobacco use can increase the risk for chronic conditions and other health issues. Data from Summit shows similar rates of these behaviors when compared to Cook County or the United States overall. One local protective factor is access to outdoor recreational spaces. An estimated 86% of Summit residents live within a half mile of a park, well above the state average of 55% and national average of 38%, which may help support physical activity and other healthy behaviors.¹¹

Percent with health risk factors⁴





Health Insurance Coverage

Insurance status is a key factor that influences access to health care. Without coverage, individuals may delay or avoid needed care, face higher out-of-pocket costs, and experience poorer health outcomes.

Uninsured Population: Lack of health insurance can lead individuals to delay or skip needed care, increase their financial burden, and contribute to poorer health outcomes. In Summit, 12% of adults ages 18-64 and 3% of children under 18 are uninsured.¹¹ Among adults, this rate is slightly higher than the Illinois average of nine percent and the national average of 11%. For children, Summit's uninsurance rate is equal to the state rate and lower than the national rate of five percent.¹¹

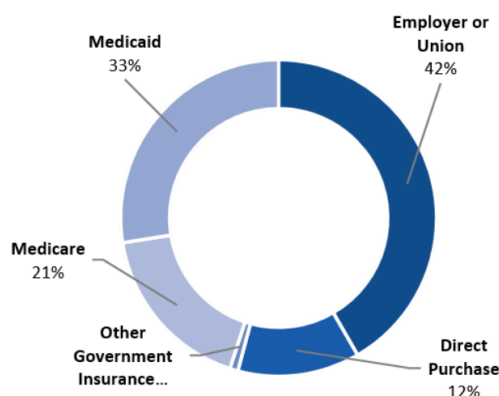
Insurance coverage is not equally distributed across racial groups. The uninsured rates in Summit are:¹¹

- American Indian or Alaska Native: 24%,
- Asian: 17%,
- Black: 11%,
- Multiracial Individuals: 20%,
- Some Other Race: 11%, and
- White: 14%.

These disparities mirror broader state and national patterns, but Summit consistently reports higher rates across most groups. Among Hispanic residents, 17% are uninsured, similar to the national rate and slightly above the state average of 15%.¹¹ These figures point to the importance of addressing barriers to coverage in the community.

Insured Population: Among the 84% of Summit residents who have health insurance, nearly half are covered through public programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, VA benefits, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).¹¹ Medicaid enrollment in Summit is ten percent higher than the national average. And employer-sponsored insurance, the most common form of coverage nationwide, is 10% lower in Summit than the U.S. average of 60%.¹¹

Insurance coverage by provider type in Summit ¹¹



Percentages exceed 100% as individuals may have more than one form of health insurance. For example, individuals who are dually eligible receive both Medicare and Medicaid.

HOUSING ACCESS AND COST

Housing is a foundational component of community well-being, influencing access to education, employment opportunities, healthcare, and social support systems. In Summit, understanding the current housing landscape, specifically availability, affordability, and quality is essential to identifying local needs and addressing housing instability. Summit spans just 2.12 square miles, with a total of 7,578 housing units.¹² However, housing affordability remains a significant concern, with over half of all households in Summit spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs.¹³ This rate is notably higher than both the Cook County and Illinois state averages.

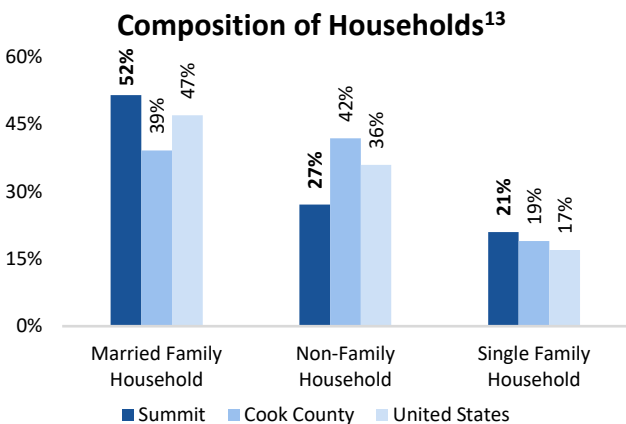
Housing

Summit has 2.12 square miles of land, most of the land in Summit (51%) is dedicated to transportation and related infrastructure, with industrial use (18%) comprising the next largest category.¹² Residential land makes up approximately 16%, highlighting limited space allocated for housing development.¹² In comparison, Cook County has 958 square miles of land with 26% of land dedicated to transportation infrastructure, six percent to industrial, and 35% to residential.¹² This spatial allocation may contribute to Summit’s housing affordability challenges due to land use constraints limiting new residential growth.

Housing units: Summit has a total of 7,578 housing units available, with 91% of units occupied. Nine percent of housing units are vacant in Summit comparable with Cook County (8%) and the United States (10%).¹³

Household Structure: Household structures of all occupied households in Summit:¹³

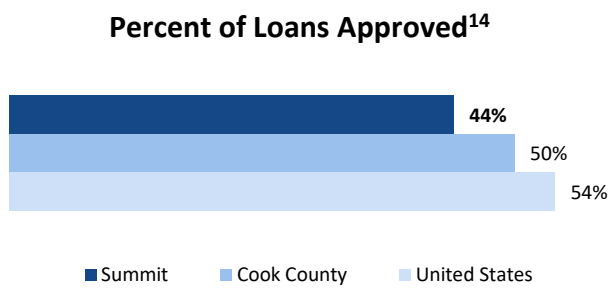
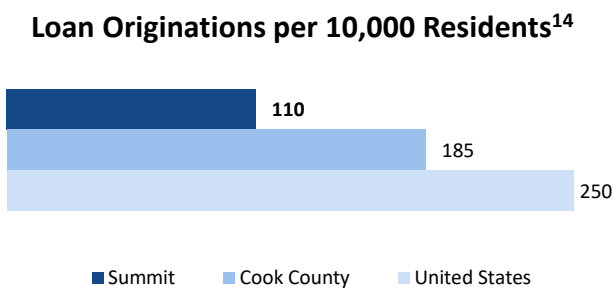
- 36% are families with children 0-17,
- 15% are single parent households, and
- 32% are senior households.



Loan Access: In 2022, Summit had a loan origination rate of just 110 people per 10,000, compared to 184.9 in Cook County, and 250 across the United States.¹⁴ Out of 280 loan applications in Summit, only 122 were approved.⁵

With an approval rate of just 44%, Summit residents appear to face more barriers to getting home loans, which may reflect economic challenges or limited access to lenders.¹⁴

Combining these two datapoints suggests that 48 Summit residents who apply for a loan were approved, compared to 92 in Cook County and 135 nationally.





Housing Quality

Overcrowding: Summit's overcrowding rate of 7% is more than double Cook County and the United State's rate of 3%.¹⁴ This indicates a notable density challenge in local rental and owner-occupied units.

Housing Conditions: 43% of Summit's occupied units have at least one substandard condition compared to the 36% in Cook County, highlighting a larger share of homes in Summit requiring repairs.¹³ Summit's rate of households with at least one severe problem is 19% exceeding Cook County's 15% emphasizing more acute affordability and quality issues.¹⁴ Summit has 52% of homes with potential lead paint exposure compared to Suburban Cook County with 37%.¹³

Age of Housing Stock: Fifty five percent of Summit homes were built before 1960, compared to 26% of United States' homes.¹³ Nine percent of Summit's housing was built after 1999 which is lower than Cook County at 12%.¹³

Connectivity: In Summit, 80% of adults report they have reliable internet access at home compared to 88% of Suburban Cook County.¹³ 54% of Summit adults report the sidewalks in their neighborhood are well maintained compared to 68% in Suburban Cook County.¹³ Additionally, 57% of adults in Summit report it being easy to walk or bike to a transit stop from home compared to 68% in Suburban Cook County.¹³

Housing Cost

Average Housing Monthly Cost: While average monthly housing costs in Summit are lower than those in Cook County and the United States overall, many residents still face significant cost burdens. A large share of both renters and homeowners pay over \$1,000 per month, with limited access to low-cost options.¹³

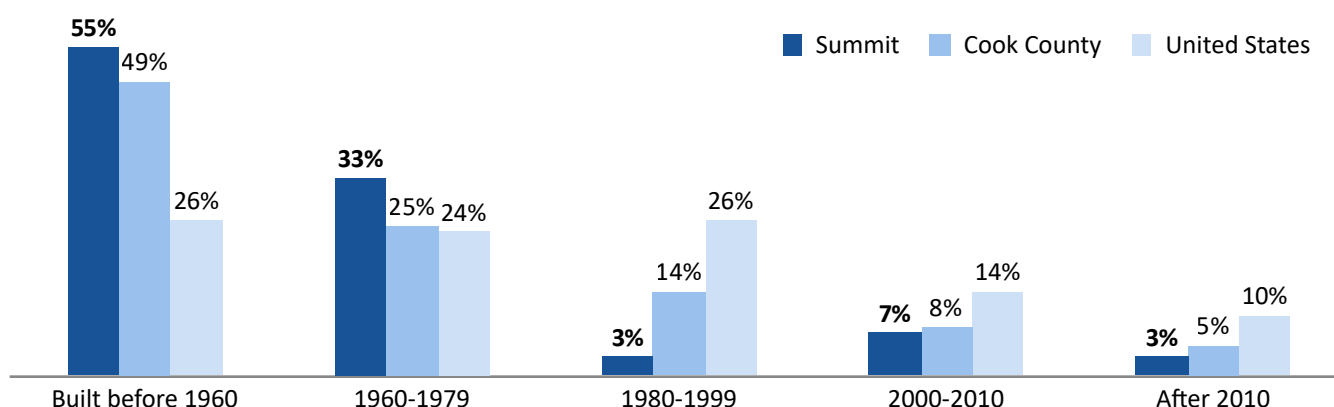
Affordable Housing: Summit has a total of 94 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing units, equal to about 288 units per 10,000 households, significantly lower than both Cook County (638 per 10,000) and the national average (414 per 10,000).¹⁶ Approximately 67% of these units are public housing, and 36% are Housing Choice Vouchers.⁶ In addition, 0.28% of Summit's population lives in group quarters such as nursing homes or other institutional or shared housing settings.¹³ This is well below the county (2%) and national (3%) percentages.¹³

Monthly Owner Cost: In Summit, 25% of mortgaged homeowners pay between \$1,000 and \$1,499 per month, while 45% pay between \$1,500 and \$2,499.¹³ An additional 15% pay \$2,500 or more, indicating a potentially high housing cost burden for some households.¹³ At the lower end, only 8% pay less than \$1,000, suggesting limited access to affordable mortgage options.¹³

Monthly Renter Cost: Among renters, 63% pay between \$900 and \$1,499 in gross rent each month.¹³ This includes 37% in the \$900 to \$1,249 range and 22% in the \$1,250 to \$1,499 range.¹³ Only 10% of renters pay less than \$750, reflecting a housing market with limited low-cost options for both renters and homeowners in Summit.¹³

Senior Housing: Summit has 78 units in a 4-story independent living community.¹⁶ The facility, which opened in 2011, offers housing for older adults with low income.¹⁶ Some units are designated as Public Housing or Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA), where residents pay 30% of their adjusted income and the Housing Authority of Cook County covers the remainder.¹⁶

Percentage of Homes by Year Built³





Housing Cost Burden

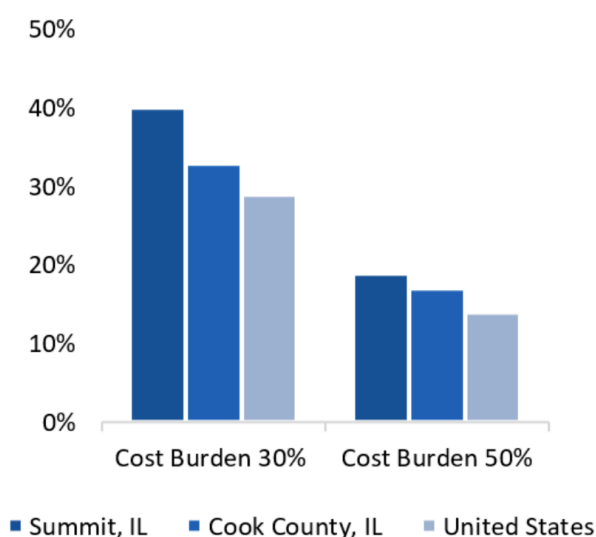
Housing Cost Burden: Housing cost burden refers to the share of household income spent on housing expenses, including rent or mortgage payments, utilities, insurance, and property taxes. Households are considered cost burdened if they spend more than 30% of their income on housing and severely cost burdened if they spend more than 50%.¹³

Cost Burdened by Tenure: Summit renters face a higher housing cost burden than renters in Cook County and the U.S. overall.¹³ Over half of renter households in Summit (55%) are cost burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs, compared to 45% in Cook County and 47% nationwide.¹³

Homeowners with mortgages in Summit are also more cost burdened than their counterparts elsewhere, 46% in Summit compared to 32% in Cook County and 27% nationally.¹³

Even among homeowners who no longer have a mortgage, 21% still experience housing cost burdens from expenses like taxes, insurance, and maintenance.¹³ This rate is slightly higher than Cook County (20%) and much higher than the U.S. average (14%).¹³

More Summit households are cost burdened than Cook or nationwide households³



These patterns suggest that both renters and owners in Summit are more likely to face housing cost pressures than those in surrounding areas or the country overall.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Summit, IL is a small but densely developed community located near I-55 and Harlem Avenue, bordered by the municipalities of Lyons, McCook, Bedford Park, and Chicago. Despite its size, just over two square miles, Summit is shaped by several environmental factors that impact public health and quality of life. The area experiences high levels of diesel air pollution, heavy traffic volume, and close proximity to industrial sites such as hazardous waste and chemical facilities. The Des Plaines River runs through the community, adding to concerns about wastewater discharge and water quality. Together, these environmental conditions highlight the importance of monitoring, mitigation, and community-centered solutions to reduce risk and promote well-being.

One common way to assess environmental factors is the Environmental Justice (EJ) Index. It combines environmental pollution data with demographic factors such as income, race, and language barriers to identify areas with elevated environmental and health risks. EJ Index scores can range from 0 to over 1,500, depending on the severity of environmental exposures and social vulnerability in a given area. Nationally, the average EJ index score is approximately 76.¹⁷

Air Quality

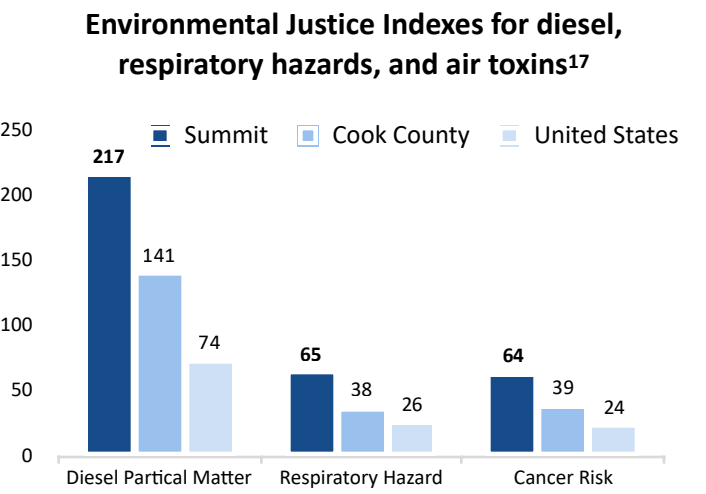
Diesel Pollution: Diesel particulate matter (PM) refers to tiny particles in the air from diesel engines that can be harmful when inhaled.¹⁷ These particles are linked to respiratory and heart problems, especially in communities with vulnerable populations. The Environmental Justice (EJ) index for diesel PM in Summit is 217, compared to 141 in Cook County and 74 nationally.¹⁷ These findings show that diesel pollution in Summit is a concern and may have a greater impact on residents who already face other health and economic challenges.

Air Toxics: Summit faces elevated risks from harmful air pollutants that can impact both long-term and day-to-day health.¹⁷ The air toxics cancer risk in Summit is 40 per million, higher than the levels in Cook County (32), and the United States (29). Summit ranks in the 97th percentile nationwide, meaning its cancer risk from air pollution is higher than 97 percent of communities across the country.¹⁷ The Environmental Justice (EJ) Index for the cancer risk is also high, with a value of 65 in Summit, compared to a Cook County index of 38 and a national index of 26.¹⁷

Respiratory Hazard Index: In Summit, the respiratory hazard index (HI) is 0.5, which is higher than the average in Illinois (0.4) and the United States (0.4).¹⁷ This places Summit in the 95th percentile nationwide,

meaning the risk of lung and breathing problems from air pollution is higher here than in 95 percent of communities across the country.¹⁷ The Environmental Justice (EJ) index for the respiratory hazard indicators are also high, with a value of 64 for respiratory HI, compared to national averages of 24.¹⁷

These findings suggest that Summit residents may face both short- and long-term health risks due to air pollution. This burden is greater in communities where residents already face other health or economic challenges.





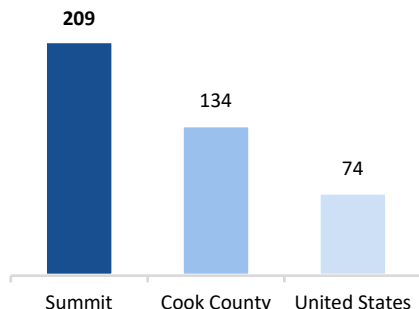
Traffic Exposure

Traffic Proximity: Summit experiences high levels of traffic near where people live. The traffic proximity score in Summit is 3,601,891, which is higher than the levels in Illinois (2,076,257) and the United States (1,669,847).¹⁷ This places Summit in the 85th percentile nationwide, meaning traffic levels are higher than in 85 percent of communities across the country.¹⁷

Major roadways like Interstate 55, Harlem Avenue, and Archer Road run through or near Summit and contribute to the high traffic volume. These roads bring many vehicles, including trucks and commercial traffic, through residential neighborhoods. This increases exposure to air pollution and related health risks such as asthma and heart disease.¹⁷

The EJ index for traffic proximity in Summit is 209, compared to 134 in Cook County and 74.2 nationally.¹⁷ This suggests that the health risks associated with traffic may be more significant in Summit, particularly for vulnerable residents.

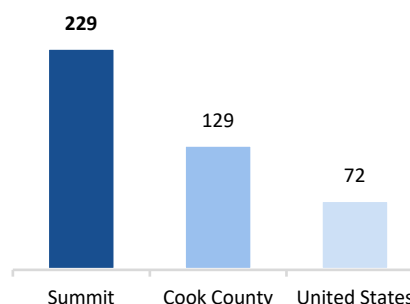
Environmental Justice index for traffic proximity¹⁷



Hazardous Waste

Hazardous Waste Proximity: Summit is located near several hazardous waste management facilities. These facilities include sites that store, treat, or dispose of hazardous materials, which can pose environmental and health risks, particularly during accidents or improper handling. The hazardous waste proximity score in Summit is 13, which is more than double the level in Cook County (6) and over three times higher than in Illinois (4) and the United States (4).¹⁷ This places Summit in the 93rd percentile nationwide, meaning its proximity to hazardous waste sites is higher than in 93 percent of communities across the country.¹⁷ The Environmental Justice (EJ) Index for hazardous waste proximity in Summit is 229, compared to 129 in Cook County and 71.8 nationally.¹⁷

Environmental Justice index for hazardous waste

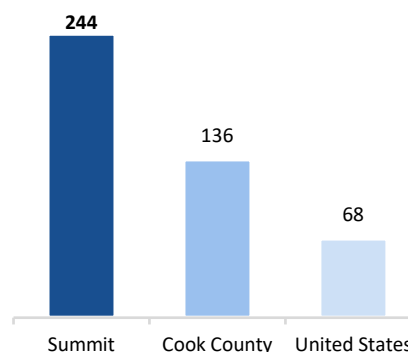


Chemical Risk

Risk Management Plan (RMP) Facility Proximity: Summit is located near several facilities that manage or store hazardous chemicals. The RMP facility proximity score in Summit is 6, much higher than the levels in Cook County (2) and the United States (0.6).¹⁷ This places Summit in the 99th percentile nationwide, meaning it is closer to more of these facilities than 99 percent of communities across the country. These facilities fall under the EPA's Risk Management Plan (RMP) program, which is designed to reduce the risk of chemical accidents. Living close to multiple RMP sites can increase the risk of exposure to hazardous substances, especially during emergencies or accidents.

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Index for Summit is 244, compared to 136 in Cook County and 68.0 nationally.¹⁷ This suggests that the potential health and safety risks from nearby chemical facilities may be especially concerning in Summit, particularly for residents who already face other health and economic challenges.

Environmental Justice index for RMP facility proximity¹⁷





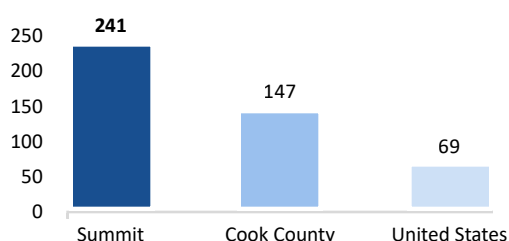
Water Quality

Water Quality: The Village of Summit receives its drinking water from Lake Michigan, treated by the City of Chicago at the Jardine Water Purification Plant.¹⁸ After treatment, the water is stored and distributed through Summit's local system.¹⁸ The Village of Summit and the City of Chicago conduct regular water testing to ensure safety. Throughout 2023, Summit's drinking water met all federal and state safety standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Illinois EPA.¹⁸ Daily testing was conducted for chlorine levels, and monthly and annual samples were taken for bacteria, disinfection by-products, and metals like lead and copper. Results showed no violations and contaminant levels were within safe ranges.¹⁸ The most recent testing for emerging contaminants like PFAS showed none detected above reporting thresholds.¹⁸

Although Summit's water meets all federal and state safety standards, the report includes important guidance about lead.¹⁸ Lead is not found in the source water itself, but it can enter drinking water through household plumbing materials, especially in older homes with lead pipes or fixtures.¹⁸ To reduce the risk of lead exposure, residents are advised to take precautions such as flushing taps for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.¹⁸

Wastewater Discharge: Summit has a high level of potential exposure to pollutants in local waterways. The wastewater discharge value in Summit is 134,876, which is significantly higher than the levels in Cook County (36,821) and Illinois (31,016).¹⁷ Summit ranks in the 98th percentile nationwide, meaning it has higher modeled toxic concentrations in nearby streams than 98 percent of communities across the country. This indicator estimates the potential risk of pollution from upstream discharges reaching local water bodies. Higher values suggest a greater chance of contaminants entering the water system, which may impact environmental and public health. The EJ index for wastewater discharge in Summit is 241, compared to 147 in Cook County and 69 nationally.¹⁷

Environmental Justice index for wastewater¹



Traffic

Traffic Noise: Residents living near Interstate 55, Harlem Avenue, and Archer Road in Summit may be exposed to elevated traffic noise levels. A 2019 noise analysis conducted by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) found that multiple locations along I-55, including near Summit, exceeded federal noise thresholds and qualified for mitigation.¹⁹ Several proposed sound barriers, ranging from 15 to 23 feet in height, were evaluated and found to be both feasible and cost-effective, offering meaningful noise reduction for nearby homes.¹⁹ While not all barriers have been constructed, the findings highlight the importance of continued investment in noise abatement infrastructure and further monitoring to reduce health and quality-of-life impacts for residents living close to major roadways.

Traffic Volume: Traffic remains heavy at the intersection of Archer Avenue and Harlem Avenue, a key corridor through Summit. In 2019–2020, this intersection saw an average of 147,300 vehicles per day.²⁰ Since installation, red-light cameras have contributed to an 18% reduction in crashes at this location.²⁰ The data suggest that both traffic flow and safety have improved over time because of these enforcement measures.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Keeping a community safe involves more than just responding to emergencies like fires or crimes. It requires systems that support prevention and long-term safety, whether that’s through traffic controls that protect pedestrians or community outreach that builds trust in the community. In a community the size of Summit, around 10,000 residents¹, even a single incident affecting public safety can have a significant ripple effect, making safety a key factor in overall community well-being.

Safety Services in Summit, IL

In Summit, public safety is a shared responsibility. Summit operates its own:²¹

- police department,
- fire department,
- emergency medical services, and
- public safety commission.

However, residents also benefit from additional public safety resources offered by Cook County and the State of Illinois.

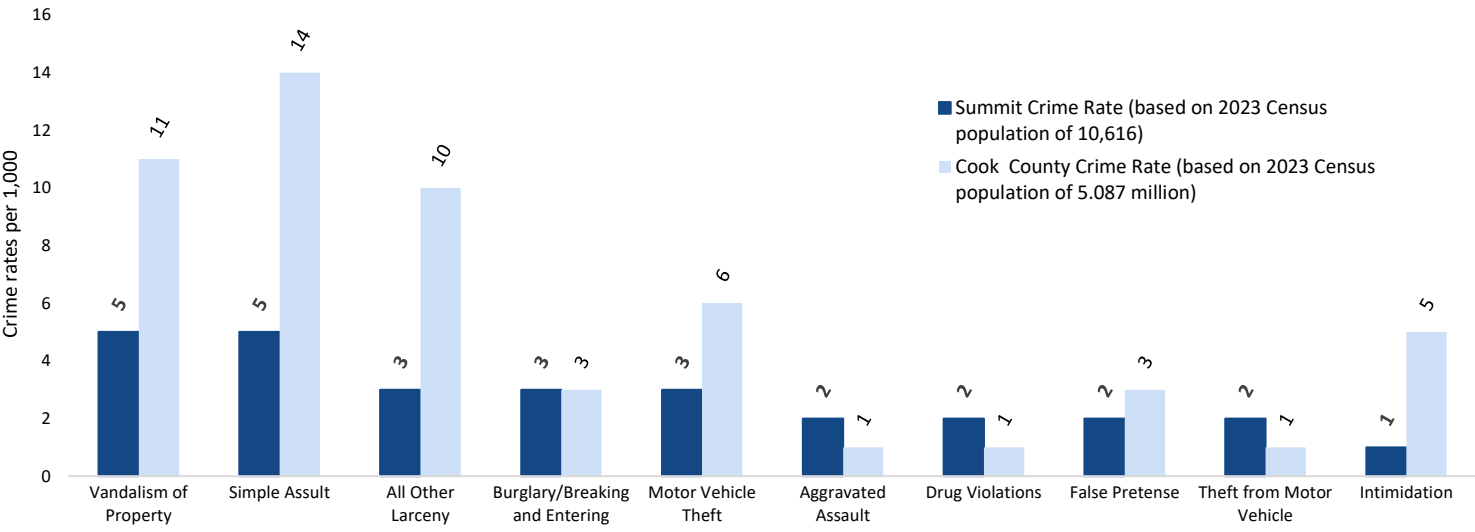
For example, the State of Illinois Statewide 911 Bureau is responsible the disbursement of surcharge to local 9-1-1 systems so local municipalities like Summit can get additional support when they need it.²² These efforts, along with other regional collaborations, play an essential role in keeping residents safe.

Crime Rates in Summit, IL

When residents feel safe in their neighborhood, they are more likely to participate in civic life, support local businesses, and engage with their neighbors.²³ In contrast, high crime rates or a persistent fear of violence can diminish trust in institutions, discourage investment, and negatively impact mental and physical well-being.²³ Toward this end, the Summit Police Department is not only focused on responding to crime, but it is also guided by a mission to promote a feeling of safety and security for all members of the community.

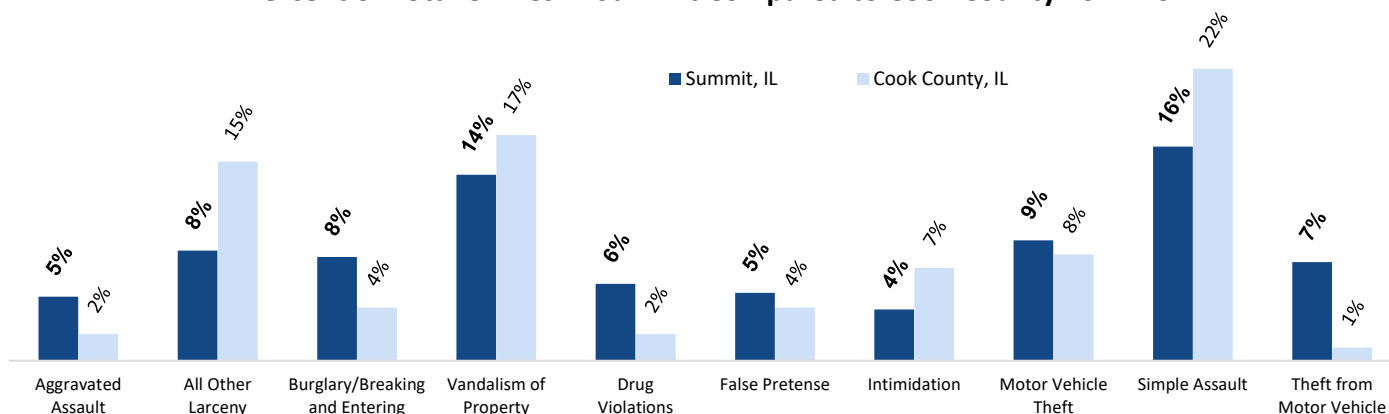
Overall, Summit reports a lower crime rate than the broader Cook County area, 32 incidents per 1,000 residents compared to 67 per 1,000 residents.²⁴ A closer look at specific offenses reveals that Summit experiences higher rates of aggravated assault, drug violations, theft from motor vehicles, and burglary/breaking and entering compared to Cook County.

Crime rates in Summit compared to Cook County per 1,000 residents²⁴





Percent of Total Crimes in Summit Compared to Cook County 2022-2024¹⁴



Crime Rates cont.

In Summit, the distribution of reported crimes from 2022 to 2024 shows that the most common offenses were simple assault (16%), destruction or damage to property (14%), and motor vehicle theft (9%).²⁴ The chart above shows the percentage each offense contributed to the total number of crimes over that three-year period, comparing Summit to Cook County. Summit had a higher proportion of aggravated assault, burglary, drug/narcotic violations, and theft from motor vehicles than the county overall. While Cook County showed higher shares of larceny and simple assault, these comparisons suggest that Summit's crime profile includes a greater share of violent and property-related offenses.²⁴ Definitions of these crimes are below:²⁵

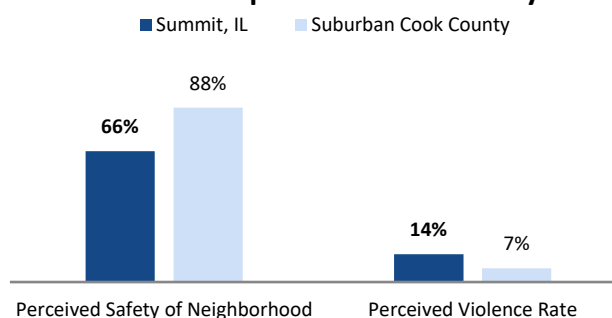
- **Aggravated Assault** – a serious attack that causes or could cause major injury, often involving a weapon.
- **All Other Larceny** – stealing property (like bikes, tools, packages) without breaking in or taking a vehicle.
- **Burglary/Breaking and Entering** – entering a building without permission to steal or commit a crime.
- **Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property** – deliberately damaging or defacing someone else's property.
- **Drug/Narcotic Violations** – illegal making, selling, or possessing drugs.
- **False Pretense/Swindle/Confidence Game** – using lies or tricks to get money or valuables from someone.

- **Intimidation** – threatening someone so they fear being hurt, without attacking.
- **Motor Vehicle Theft** – stealing a car, truck, or other vehicle.
- **Simple Assault** – a physical attack causing minor or no injury and no weapon used.
- **Theft from Motor Vehicle** – stealing items out of a parked car or truck (not the vehicle itself).

Perceived Safety

Residents' perceptions of safety are also important considerations, as they influence behavior, stress levels, and community cohesion.²¹ According to the 2022 Cook County Health Survey, 66% of Summit residents reported feeling safe in their neighborhood all of the time or most of the time, compared to 87% of residents in Suburban Cook County.²⁶ Similarly, 14% of Summit residents said violence occurs in their neighborhood every day or at least every week, twice the rate reported in surrounding suburbs (7%).⁶⁷ In 2023, just 23% of Summit residents said they trust the local law enforcement to a great extent or somewhat, ranking 90th among 124 suburban Cook Municipalities.²⁶

Reported Perceived Safety and Violence Rates in Summit Compared to Cook County²⁶





Fire Safety

In 2024, Summit's fire call data shows:²⁷

- 1,378 EMS and motor vehicle collision responses
- 103 Activated Fire Alarms
- 10 Structure Fires and 21 Vehicle Fires
- 30 Hazardous Materials Incidents, along with several service, electrical, and smoke/odor-related calls

Additional Public Safety Measures and Policies in Summit and Beyond

Summit Board of Commissioners' Public Safety

Committee: Meeting monthly, this committee addresses policy, funding, and public safety initiatives impacting the broader community.²⁸ These meetings are open to the public and serve as an important venue for transparency and community involvement.

School Drop-Off Safety Protocol: To protect students and reduce traffic-related risks during drop-off times, Summit promotes key safety practices like don't load or unload children across the street from the school.²⁹

Police Body-Worn Cameras: Beginning December 11, 2024, all Summit police officers are equipped with body-worn cameras.³⁰ This policy is a key step toward enhancing accountability, building community trust, and ensuring transparency in policing.

Cook County's Bike Plan: The county's bike plan supports the design of streets across the county that are safe and accessible for everyone, pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike.³¹

Cook County Justice Advisory Council: 2024–2027 Policy Map: At the county level, the **Justice Advisory Council** has outlined three strategic objectives to guide public safety efforts over the next three years:³²

- Proactively address violence and improve safety in highly impacted communities through coordinated investment,
- Promote alternatives to detention and support individuals involved in the criminal legal system, and
- Enhance data collection and sharing to inform decision-making, increase interagency collaboration, and improve public transparency.

Community Engagement in Safety

Summit's Neighborhood Watch Group demonstrates community engagement for public safety. Their goal is *To promote citizen and community involvement and to prevent and reduce crime and promote awareness and a wholesome environment within the community by working together.*³³ Originally formed in 2006 under the federal Weed and Seed program, the group was later renamed the Summit Neighborhood Watch in 2011. With over 70 members and regular participation from residents and local law enforcement, the group works to:³³

- Promote resident-police collaboration,
- Encourage public feedback and problem-solving, and
- Share updates on safety concerns, arrests, and community policing strategies.





Demographic Data Tables

Age	Count	Percent of Respondents
25-34 years	47	21%
65+ years	46	21%
35-44 years	43	19%
45-54 years	32	14%
55-64 years	29	13%
18-24 years	18	8%
Under 18 years	8	4%
Grand Total	223	

Race and Ethnicity	Count	Percent of Respondents
Asian	1	1%
Black	33	15%
Hispanic or Latino	154	72%
Multi-Racial	11	5%
White	16	7%
Grand Total	210	

Highest Level of Education	Count	Percent of Respondents
Some high school	30	14%
High school diploma or GED	56	27%
Some college, but no degree	49	23%
Associate's degree (e.g., AA, AS)	26	12%
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BA, BS)	35	17%
Graduate or professional degree (e.g., MA, MS, PhD, JD, MD)	14	7%
Grand Total	210	



Demographic Data Tables

Respondent was Resident of Summit	Count	Percent of Respondents
Yes	154	74%
No	54	26%
Grand Total	208	

Length of Residency	Count	Percent of Respondents
Less than 1 year	7	7%
1 - 5 years	22	21%
6 - 10 years	19	18%
More than 10 years	55	53%
Grand Total	103	

Relation to Summit total	Counts	Percent of respondents
I or my children go to school in Summit	89	40%
I work in Summit.	44	20%
I access social/human services in Summit.	38	17%
I have family in Summit.	119	53%
I shop at businesses (groceries, clothing, restaurants, etc.) in Summit.	95	43%
I attend social events (friends/family gatherings, community events, etc.) in Summit.	124	56%
Grand total	509	



Challenge Data Tables

Challenge Total	Count	Percent of Respondents (n=201)
Youth programs	82	41%
Community events & engagement	74	37%
Housing	70	35%
Village resources	69	34%
Crime & safety	59	29%
Senior services	51	25%
Nonprofit or social services	44	22%
Food access	38	19%
Schools	37	18%
Local businesses	37	18%
Legal aid	36	18%
Healthcare	35	17%
Mental health Services	33	16%
Transportation options	30	15%
Childcare	23	11%
Job opportunities	17	8%
Emergency Services	14	7%
Total	749	



Challenge Data Tables

Percent of Respondents						
	Count	Youth Programs	Community Events & Engagement	Housing	Village Resources	Crime & Safety
Age						
<18 years	7	57%	43%	14%	0%	14%
18 - 24 years	17	29%	29%	35%	18%	24%
25 - 34 years	44	34%	39%	32%	39%	30%
35 - 44 years	39	44%	31%	36%	28%	33%
45 - 54 years	28	46%	46%	36%	46%	29%
55 - 64 years	26	19%	38%	46%	35%	31%
65+ years	40	30%	35%	33%	40%	28%
Total	201	35%	37%	35%	34%	29%
Length of Residency						
<1 year	6	0%	0%	17%	17%	17%
1 - 5 years	21	43%	29%	14%	19%	29%
6 - 10 years	19	26%	53%	37%	47%	11%
>10 years	52	27%	40%	38%	46%	52%
Total	98	29%	38%	32%	39%	37%
Race & Ethnicity						
Black or African American	30	37%	30%	57%	50%	17%
Hispanic or Latino	139	36%	42%	29%	35%	30%
More than one race	9	56%	22%	44%	22%	11%
White	16	31%	19%	31%	25%	38%
Total	195	37%	37%	35%	36%	28%



Priorities Data Tables

Priorities	Count	Percent of Respondents (n=202)
Youth programs	74	37%
Housing	74	37%
Crime & safety	57	28%
Village resources	45	22%
Community events & engagement	44	22%
Senior services	37	18%
Schools	36	18%
Mental health Services	31	15%
Nonprofit or social services	23	11%
Healthcare	32	16%
Food access	25	12%
Local businesses	20	10%
Legal aid	22	11%
Transportation options	18	9%
Childcare	11	5%
Job opportunities	19	9%
Emergency Services	7	3%
Total	575	



Priorities Data Tables

Percent of Respondents						
	Count	Youth Programs	Housing	Crime & Safety	Village Resources	Community Events & Engagement
Age						
<18 years	18	28%	44%	28%	11%	28%
18 - 24 years	45	29%	33%	33%	13%	13%
25 - 34 years	38	47%	32%	32%	18%	26%
35 - 44 years	28	39%	29%	25%	25%	14%
45 - 54 years	25	24%	52%	28%	20%	12%
55 - 64 years	40	25%	38%	23%	38%	30%
65+ years	8	38%	38%	13%	13%	50%
Total	202	33%	37%	28%	21%	22%
Length of Residency						
<1 year	7	0%	29%	14%	0%	0%
1 - 5 years	21	38%	38%	33%	19%	29%
6 - 10 years	14	14%	21%	14%	14%	36%
>10 years	52	27%	37%	48%	27%	27%
Total	94	26%	34%	37%	21%	27%
Race & Ethnicity						
Black or African American	30	33%	63%	10%	30%	27%
Hispanic or Latino	136	35%	31%	29%	20%	22%
White	16	19%	31%	44%	25%	6%
Total	182	33%	36%	28%	22%	21%



Strengths Data Tables

Strengths Total	Count	Percent of Respondents (n=177)
Schools	83	47%
Healthcare	30	17%
Youth programs	27	15%
Housing	28	16%
Senior services	27	15%
Local businesses	27	15%
Mental health Services	26	15%
Village resources	24	14%
Nonprofit or social services	24	14%
Crime & safety	22	12%
Community events & engagement	22	12%
Childcare	16	9%
Food access	15	8%
Emergency Services	12	7%
Legal aid	8	5%
Job opportunities	8	5%
Transportation options	6	3%
Total	405	



Strengths Data Tables

Percent of Respondents						
	Count	Schools	Healthcare	Youth Programs	Housing	Senior Services
Age						
<18 years	6	33%	17%	0%	0%	17%
18 - 24 years	15	27%	7%	13%	27%	7%
25 - 34 years	38	55%	11%	11%	18%	13%
35 - 44 years	35	60%	23%	9%	14%	9%
45 - 54 years	26	58%	12%	12%	12%	15%
55 - 64 years	19	42%	16%	11%	26%	32%
65+ years	38	32%	11%	18%	11%	18%
Total	177	47%	14%	12%	16%	15%
Length of Residency						
<1 year	5	40%	0%	20%	20%	40%
1 - 5 years	19	74%	16%	0%	21%	11%
6 - 10 years	14	57%	14%	14%	21%	14%
>10 years	46	43%	15%	17%	13%	15%
Total	84	52%	14%	13%	17%	15%
Race & Ethnicity						
Black or African American	25	44%	8%	12%	20%	20%
Hispanic or Latino	121	50%	16%	12%	16%	17%
More than one race	9	56%	33%	11%	22%	11%
White	14	29%	0%	14%	0%	7%
Total	170	47%	14%	12%	15%	16%



References

1. U.S. Census Bureau. (2019-2023). American Community Survey. Retrieved February 25, 2025. <https://www.census.gov/data.html>.
2. US Department of Labor. (2024, November). *State and Metro Area Interactive Charts* : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved February 25, 2025. <https://www.bls.gov/lau/state-and-metro-area-interactive-charts.htm>
3. National Center for Education Statistics. (2023, August 31). *2022-23 Common Core of Data (CCD) Preliminary Directory Files* | IES. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Retrieved February 25, 2025. <https://nces.ed.gov/use-work/resource-library/data/data-file/2022-23-common-core-data-ccd-preliminary-directory-files>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). CDC PLACES. <https://www.cdc.gov/places/>
5. Cook County Department of Public Health. (n.d.). Cook County Health Atlas. <https://cookcountyhealthatlas.org/>
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. (2023). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from SparkMaps.
7. Cook County Department of Public Health. (2022, June). Community health status assessment: Appendix D. https://cookcountypublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CHSA_appendix-D_final.pdf
8. Cook County Department of Public Health. (2020, February). Leading causes of death: 2012–2016. <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Leading-Causes-2012-2016.pdf>
9. Health Resources and Services Administration. (n.d.). MUA Find. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/mua-find>
10. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. (2021). *Area Health Resource File (AHRF)*. Accessed via County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from SparkMaps.
11. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2024). *National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPDES)*. Retrieved from SparkMaps.
12. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. (n.d.). Community Data Snapshots. Retrieved July 15, 2025, from <https://cmap.illinois.gov/data/community-data-snapshots/>
13. U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (n.d.). Selected Housing Characteristics. *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04*. Retrieved August 5, 2025. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP1Y2023.DP04?q=DP04>.
14. Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. (2022). Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data. Data analysis by CARES <https://ffiec.cfbp.gov/data-publication/snapshot-national-loan-level-dataset/2024>
15. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2017–2021). *Assisted housing: National and local estimates*. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assths.html>.
16. Housing Authority of Cook County. (n.d.). Summit senior living. <https://thehacc.org/property/summit-senior-living/>
17. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2024). *EJScreen dataset*. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>
18. Village of Summit. (2024, June). *2023 Consumer Confidence Report*. <https://summit-il.org/164/Water-Services>
19. Illinois Department of Transportation. (2019, May 10). *I-55 Managed Lanes: Final Traffic Noise Analysis*. https://idot.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idot/documents/idot-projects/district-1/i55-managed-lanes/traffic-noise-analysis/2019-05-10_i-55-ml-final-traffic-noise-analysis.pdf
20. Village of Summit. (2022). *Red-Light 3-Year Statistical Report*. <https://summit-il.org/DocumentCenter/View/472>
21. Village of Summit. (n.d.). *Police*. Summit, IL. <https://www.summit-il.org/156/Police>.
22. Illinois State Police. (n.d.). *Statewide 9-1-1 Bureau*. <https://isp.illinois.gov/Statewide911Division/Bureau>.
23. Al-Ansari, H.A., Al-Khafaji, A.S. (2024). The role of safety and security in achieving urban space vitality. *International Journal of Safety and Security Engineering*, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 613-622. <https://doi.org/10.18280/ijss.140227Copy>.
24. Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting. (n.d.). *Custom crime reports*. <https://ilucr.nibrs.com/CustomReport/Custom>.
25. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2012). National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) offense definitions. U.S. Department of Justice. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2012/resources/nibrs-offense-definitions>.
26. Cook County Department of Public Health. (2022). *Community health indicators*. Cook County Health Atlas. <https://cookcountyhealthatlas.org/indicators/JG8JNGO?tab=table>.
27. Village of Summit. (n.d.-b). *Annual reports*. <https://summit-il.org/263/Annual-Reports>.
28. Village of Summit. (n.d.-c). *Public safety*. <https://summit-il.org/175/Public-Safety>.
29. Village of Summit. (n.d.-d). *School safety*. <https://summit-il.org/154/School-Safety>.
30. Summit Police Department. (2024, December 11). *Body-worn cameras*. CRIMEWATCH. <https://crimewatch.net/us/il/cook/summit-pd/191068/post/body-worn-cameras>.
31. Cook County Government. (2023, April). *Cook County Bike Plan 2023*. <https://www.cookcountyiil.gov/sites/g/files/ywwepo161/files/documents/2023-04/Cook%20County%20Bike%20Plan%202023%20Final.pdf>.
32. Cook County Justice Advisory Council. (2023, December). *Policy Roadmap 2024–2027*. <https://www.cookcountyiil.gov/sites/g/files/ywwepo161/files/documents/2023-12/Policy%20Roadmap%202024-2027%20FINAL.pdf>.
33. Village of Summit. (n.d.-a). *Neighborhood watch*. <https://www.summit-il.org/160/Neighborhood-Watch>.

