

## Catawba Connect Needs Assessment Summary 2021

Fall 2021

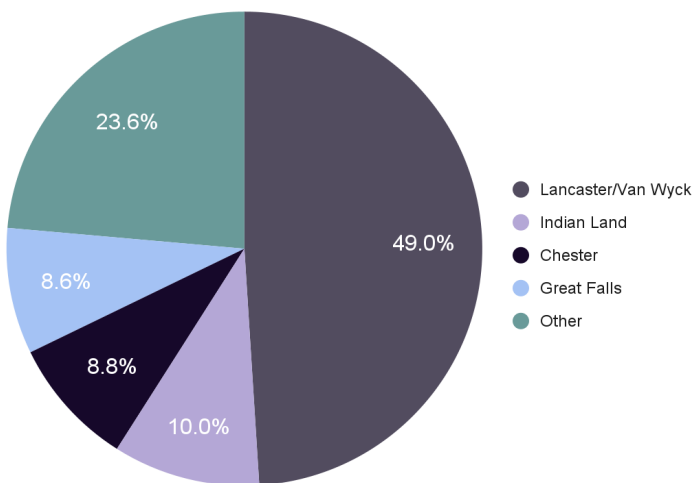
Catawba Connect was created in March of 2020 in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Through a partnership between the Arras Foundation, the United Way of Chester County, and the United Way of Lancaster County, Catawba Connect was designed to complement the ongoing work of public entities and to expand the capacity in Chester and Lancaster counties to address emerging needs in response to this and future crises.

With a desire to hear how people were recovering and responding to the ongoing public health crisis, we began hosting community conversations in the Summer of 2021 and invited community members to participate, as well as to take a check-in survey, a copy of which can be found [here](#). Below are some of the findings from the survey and the conversations.

### Who We Heard From

Total # of Respondents: 670	Work Full-time: 54.4%
Survey Responses: 640	Work Part-time: 13.2%
Responses by Conversation: 30	Retired: 22.7%
	Full-time Students: 8.8%

**Respondents by Zip Code**



Category	Census Demographics (2019)	Survey Demographics (2021)
Under 18	21.5%	7.7%
Over 65	21.4%	32.9%
Gender	51.4% Female	70.3% Female
White	75.1%	75.8%
Black	21.4%	19.9%
Hispanic	5.9%	1.6%

### What's Working Well

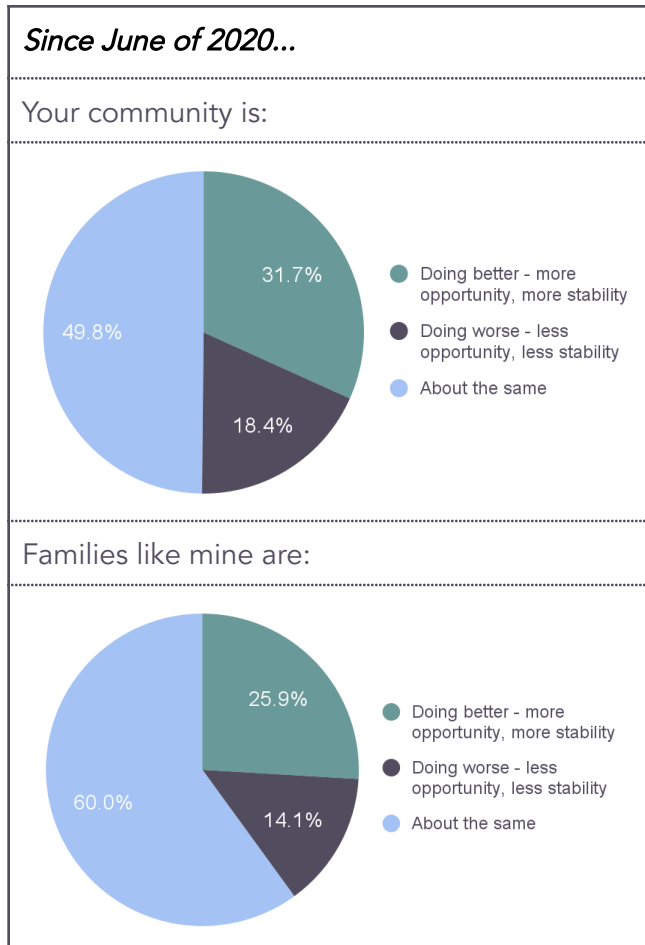
1. Faith Community
2. Arts & Civic Engagement
3. Access to Healthcare (this ranked noticeably lower for our Hispanic respondents)

### What Needs More Support

1. Healthy Economy
2. Healthy Living
3. Strengthening & Supporting Families
4. Transportation Access

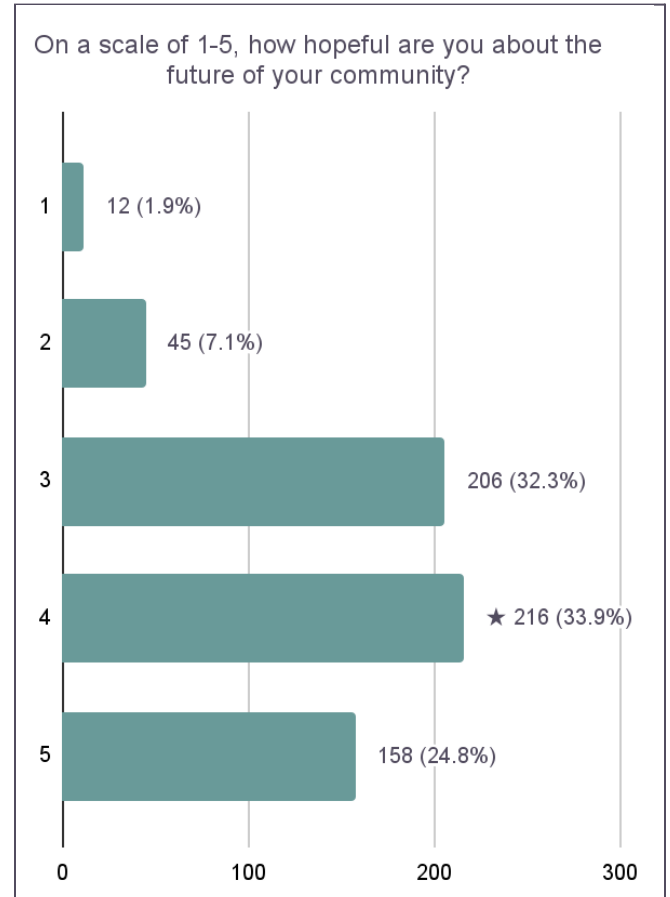
## Community Mindset

We asked how individuals felt the community and their families were faring overall, as compared to June 2020 at the start of the pandemic. While responses were generally similar, Black and African American respondents were more likely to respond in both categories that they felt things were worse.



## Hope Index

The Hope Index indicates that a large majority of responders are feeling hopeful about the future of our community. Most of the responses were a 4 on a scale of 1 to 5, one being not at all hopeful and five being very hopeful.



## What We Heard in Community Conversations

While survey data is important, Catawba Connect partners also wanted to make sure we were capturing community voices through conversation. There were some significant themes that emerged outside of the survey data including:

- Escalation of mental health difficulties, particularly in youth and adolescents
- Income related barriers - particularly to access to transportation and healthcare and housing security
- Excitement for downtown revitalization projects and greenway

