2022 Lake County Community Health Needs Assessment
Deep Dive 1: Excessive Alcohol Consumption

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Excessive Alcohol Consumption

This Deep Dive is the first in a series of Lake County General Health District's further investigation of health disparities identified in the 2022 Lake County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

Secondary data collected in the process of conducting the 2022 CHNA indicated that based on most recent available data from 2018 that Lake County has a higher rate of adults excessively using alcohol than the state and national rates, as well as two demographically-similar comparison counties in Ohio[1]. Excessively using alcohol is defined as reporting at least one binge drinking episode (five or more drinks for men and four or more for women) over the past 30 days, or heavy drinking, involving more than two drinks per day for men and more than one per day for women over the past 30 days[2].

Methods and Results

To better understand this issue within Lake County, the Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) used the Healthy Northeast Ohio (NEO) platform (www.healthyneo.org) and U.S. Census data (www.data.census.gov) to explore rates at the census tract level to determine whether specific areas in Lake County had higher rates than others and determine what is different about the population in those areas that might provide some additional context. When exploring Adults who Binge Drink data at the census tract level for years 2018, 2019, and 2020, one census tract, 2043.01, was identified as having the highest values in Lake County, which were consistently approximately 4-4.5% above the remaining census tracts with the top five rates. Rates for 2018, 2019, and 2020 were 24.5%, 23.1%, and 22.6% respectively, with the next highest census tract having values of 20.0%, 18.6%, and 18.6%.[3]

Census Tract 2043.01 is located in Painesville, and includes residential areas of Brookstone Boulevard, Shamrock Boulevard, the Heisley Park subdivision, and portions of the northern half of West Jackson Street between SR-44 and Peppertree Lane, as shown in the map below.   Basic demographics for the population living in this census tract and all of Lake County, including income, age, race, ethnicity, education, housing, disability status, household size, and marital status were then reviewed and compared using 2020 U.S. Census data. Results are summarized in the following table.

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[1] Conduent Healthy Communities Institute. (2022). 2022 Lake County Health Needs Assessment. Available Online: https://www.lcghd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FINAL-2022-Lake-County-Ohio-CHNA-Report_09_30_22.pdf
[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
[3]The Center for Health Affairs.(2022). Healthy Northeast Ohio: Adults who Binge Drink. https://www.healthyneo.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=58&localeTypeId=4&periodId=227
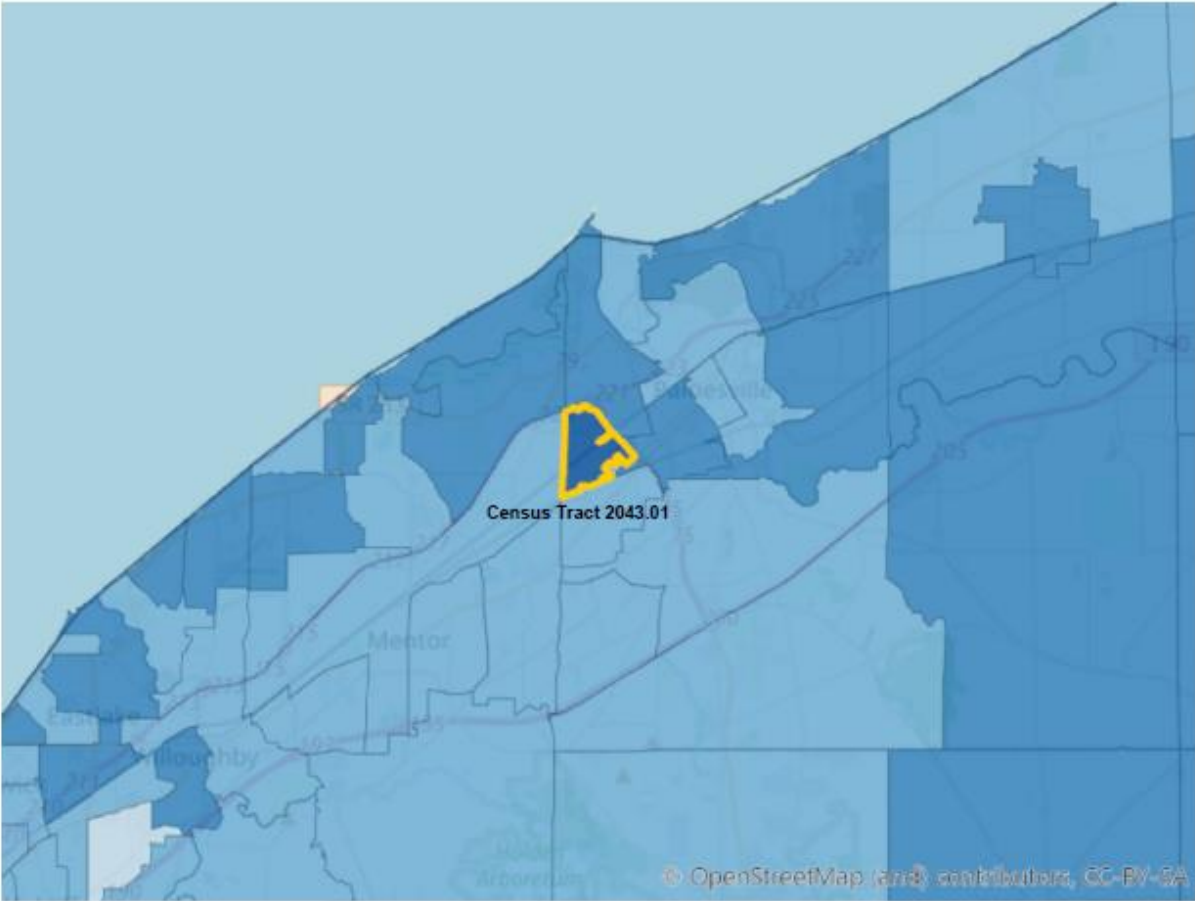
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Adults who Binge Drink

Census Tract: 39085204301

39085204301 Value for 2020: 22.6%
Measurement Period: 2020
Data Source: CDC - PLACES

Census Tract 2043.01

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| 8.0% - 11.7% | 11.7% - 14.6% | 14.6% - 17.6% | 17.6% - 20.5% | 20.5% - 24.9% |

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Adults who Binge Drink Comparison[4]		
Demographic Categories	**Lake County**	**Census Tract 2043.01**
Income		
Median Household Income in Lake County	$74,273	$81,136
Age		
Median age in Lake County	44.2 years	28.8 years
Race		
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.2%
Asian	1.4%	3.7%
Black or African American	4.7%	6.8%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race	2.4%	1.2%
Two or More Races	5.5%	2.2%
White	85.7%	85.9%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	5.0%	4.0%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	91.0%	96.0%
Education		
High school or equivalent degree	31.3%	25.2%
Some college, no degree	22.8%	22.9%
Associate's degree	10.1%	7.9%
Bachelor's degree	18.6%	27.4%
Graduate or professional degree	10.2%	12.8%
Housing		
Home Ownership Rate	78.1%	N/A
Housing Value		
Less than $50,000	4.0%	4.1%
$50,000 to $99,999	12.2%	4.3%
$100,00 to $149,999	25.5%	1.0%
$150,000 to $199,999	21.4%	14.7%
$200,000 to $299,999	22.6%	73.9%
$300,000 to $499,999	11.1%	0.3%
$500,000 to $999,999	2.8%	0.0%
$1,000,000 or more	0.4%	1.8%
Housing Occupancy		
Occupied Housing Units	99,590	954
Vacant Housing Units	5,725	135

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[4] U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Tables P1 Race, DP05 ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates, S0101 Age and Sex.

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Adults who Binge Drink Comparison[4]		
Demographic Categories	Lake County	Census Tract 2043.01
Health		
Disabled population	12.7%	6.3%
Families and Living Arrangement		
Family and Household Character		
Average Family Size	2.89	3.03
Marital Status		
Now Married (except separated)	50.0%	55.4%
Widowed	6.4%	2.0%
Divorced	12.5%	7.4%
Separated	1.3%	5.4%
Never married	29.8%	29.9%

When compared with Lake County's population as a whole, the population of Census Tract 2403.01 had a median household income that was nearly $7,000 higher than the county median, median age that is 15.4 years lower than the county median, a significantly higher percentage (8.8%) of residents with Bachelor's degrees, and a significantly higher percentage of homes valued between $200,000 and $299,999 (51.3%) than Lake County as a whole. Additionally, the racial composition of this area includes higher proportions of Asian (2.3%) and Black or African American (2.1%) residents than Lake County as a whole.

Conclusions

Although these demographic variations are interesting, there is no clear indication for why Census Tract 2403.01 is an outlier for binge drinking. A younger median age and higher education and income could be contributing factors, but this cannot be concluded with current information.

A cursory search using Google Maps indicates there are several alcohol retail establishments in close proximity, but it is unclear how this density compares with other areas in the county. Further and more in-depth investigation, possibly conducting focus groups in the area or using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is needed to determine rate or density of liquor stores and alcohol establishments at the census tract level to determine whether this could potentially be a contributing factor.

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