



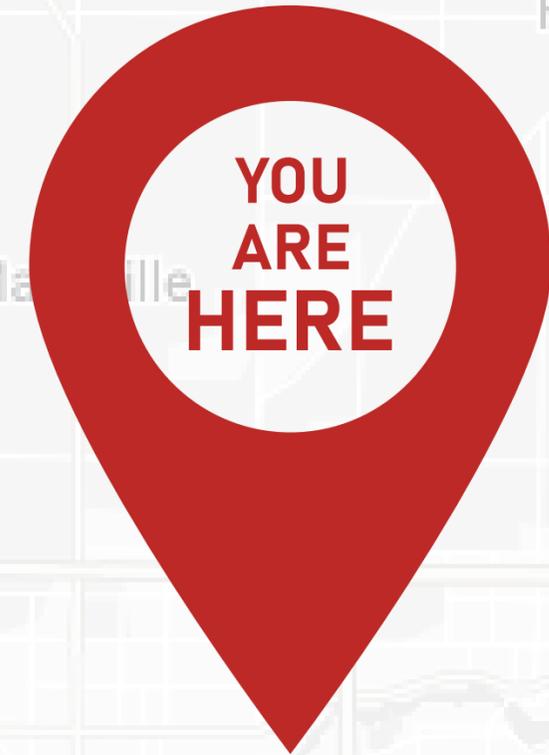
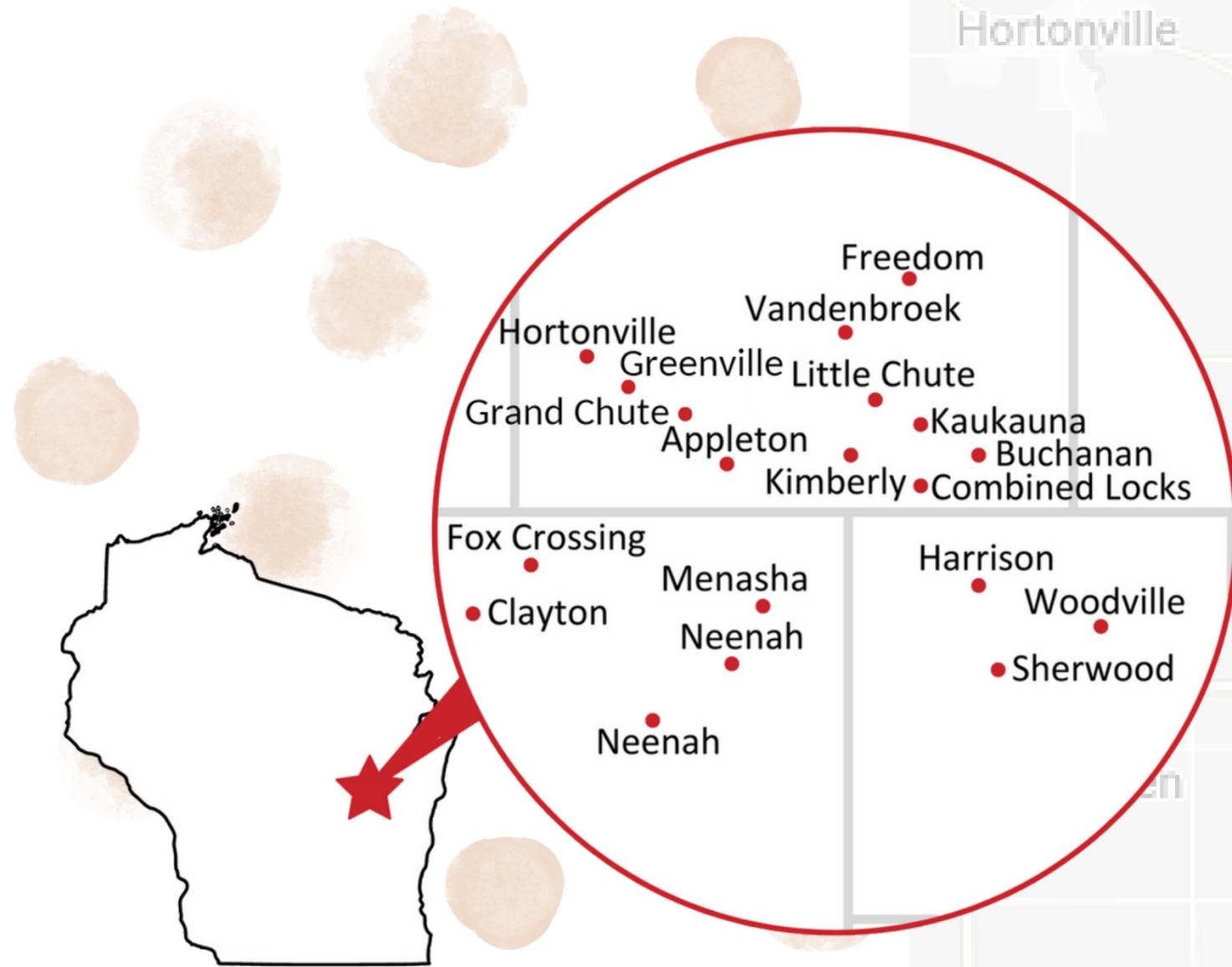
IMAGINE
FOX
CITIES

VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

A decorative graphic at the top of the page features a large, textured watercolor circle on the left in shades of orange and red. To its right is a thin, bright yellow arc. Further right is a thick, solid orange arc. The background is plain white.

INTRODUCTION TO IMAGINE FOX CITIES

THE FOX CITIES



WHAT IS IMAGINE FOX CITIES?

Imagine Fox Cities (IFC) took root in 2017 when a few community members began exploring how to best continue the legacy of prior community leaders in continuous investments in the Fox Cities. After gathering a diverse group of community members for many discussions, Imagine Fox Cities was born. It's purpose: to rely on broad-based community input to articulate long-term aspirations, acting as a "north star" for ongoing stewardship of investment in our community's well-being. The group acknowledged this vision must come from the bottom up, unlike the former top-down model, reflecting input from a wide range of the community, across neighborhoods, race, income and age. After intense analysis, the group drafted a Living Vision based on the research. The vision is "living" because it will evolve with the community, reflecting its beliefs and needs.

WHAT IS IMAGINE FOX CITIES?

Imagine Fox Cities is not an operational group nor a nonprofit. Rather, it is an investment in our community with the following scope:

- Convening around the Vision
- Catalyzing collaboration and innovation
- Measuring progress and tracking trends
- Connecting to resources, ideas and opportunities
- Influencing policy, practice and investment strategies

As the Fox Cities considers generation-lasting decisions and investments, IFC resolves to emphasize: learning with data; starting with listening; and encouraging growth and innovation.

Help steward the Fox Cities Living Vision!

IMAGINE FOX CITIES

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Any person or organization can be a steward, as long as they are willing to take responsibility for working with others to create conditions that expand well-being and equity. Stewards may be affiliated with organizations, or may act on their own agency, such as a resident.

Stewardship demands that we turn toward our interconnectedness, toward creating a life that honors our shared humanity. When we are practicing stewardship, we are invited out of “right or wrong,” and into an orientation that mobilizes the kind of discovery, experimentation, and learning that help us uncover the solutions we need.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship means:

- **Connecting Across Differences:** Stewardship is not a solo act. It becomes increasingly powerful as more people and organizations are drawn into the work together, connecting across geographies, roles, departments, sectors, or cultural divides because they are informed by place-based, interdisciplinary, multisector, multiracial, and multicultural perspectives.
- **Creating Opportunities:** Progress depends on actively breaking from the status quo by continually creating opportunities for a different future to take hold.
- **Learning and Adapting:** Our world is constantly changing; adaptive approaches will help us to move forward together, especially in the face of uncertainty.



IMAGINE FOX CITIES

LIVING VISION

Our Aim is to advance the Well-Being of Our Place and the Well-Being of Our People... to create the conditions that allow each person who calls this place home the opportunity to reach their full potential. We dare to imagine, and endeavor to realize, a shared future that leads to greater flourishing—for this generation and the next.

FOUR PILLARS OF THE IFC VISION

We Imagine Fox Cities as a place...



Where kids get off to a strong start and onto a positive life pathway



Where we have an economy that works for everyone



Where shared spaces and a rich cultural environment connect us



Where all belong!

IMAGINE FOX CITIES

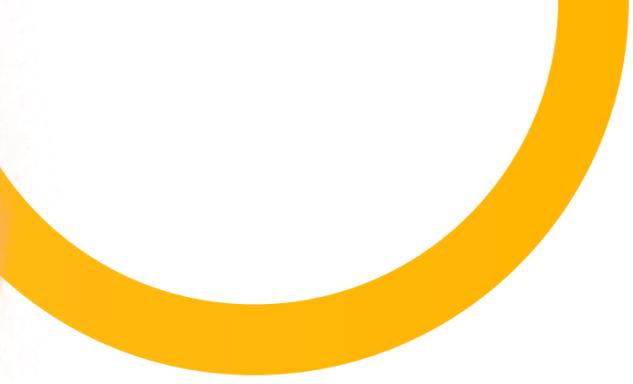
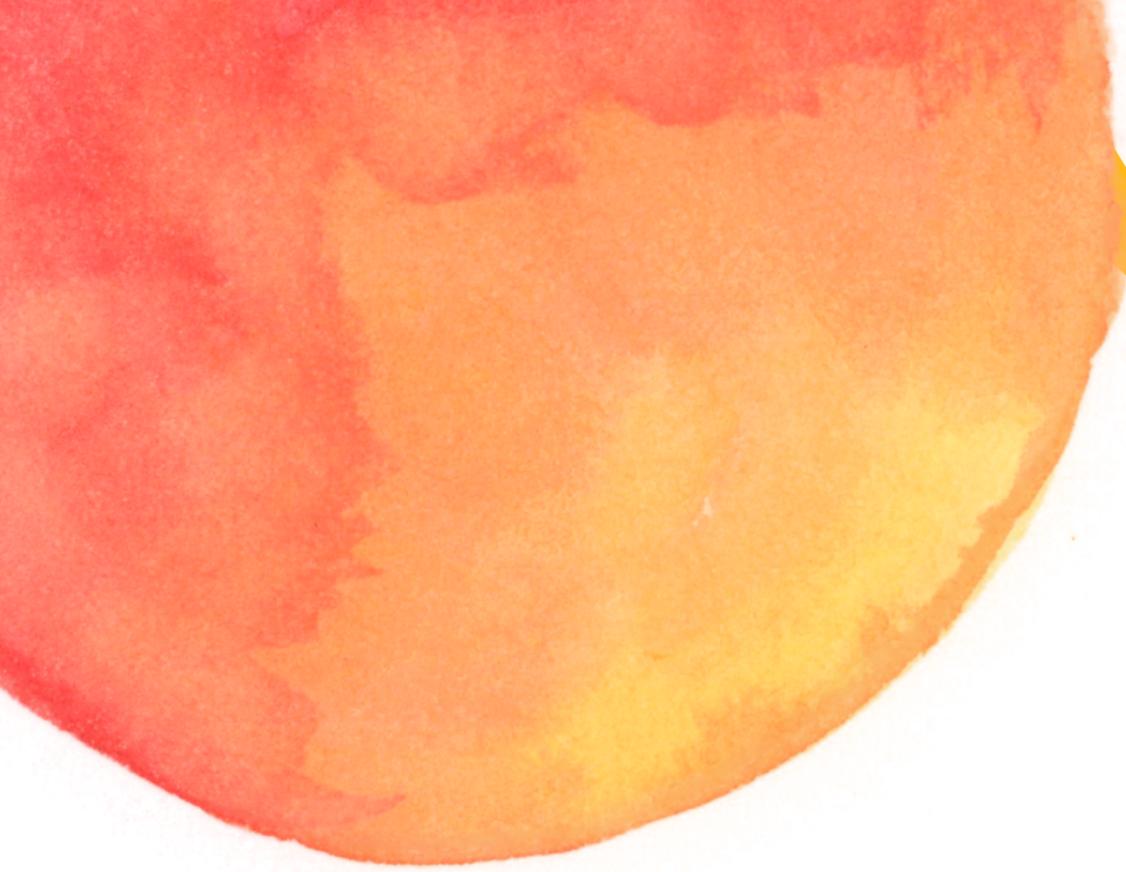
RESOURCES

[Living Vision](#)
(PDF download)

[IFC Overview](#)
(PDF download)

[IFC Model](#)
(PDF download)

[IFC Summary](#)
(PDF download)



THRIVING TOGETHER

A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

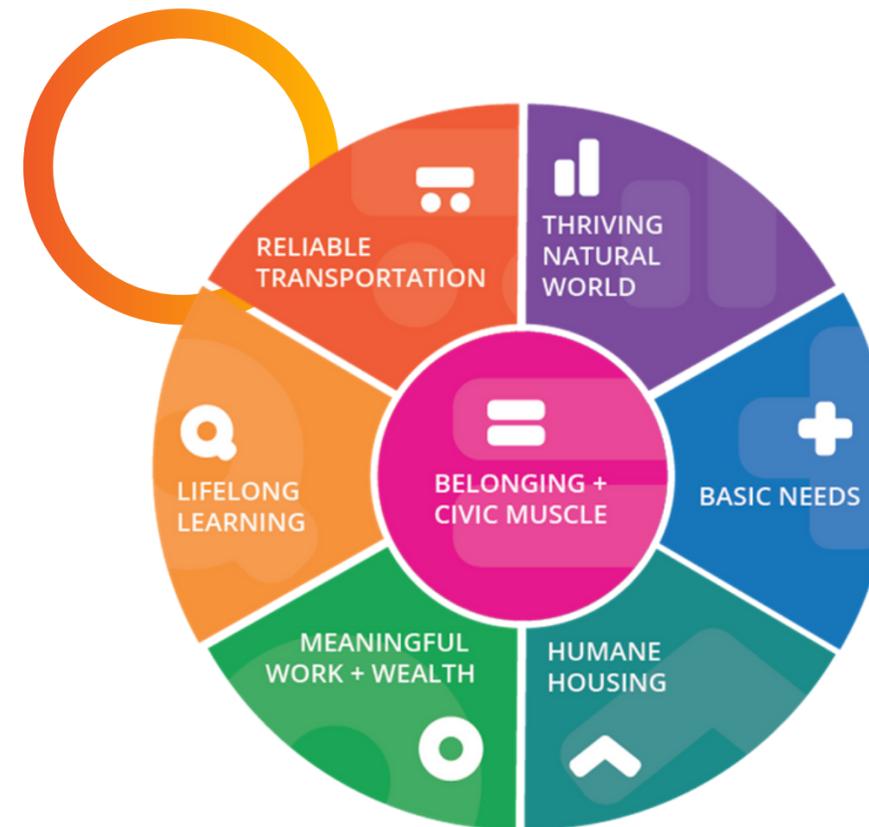
WHAT IS WELL-BEING?

Well-being reflects how people think, feel, and function—at a personal and a social level—as well as how they evaluate their lives as whole. It helps to distinguish two related ways of viewing well-being



Personal Experiences

Individual perspectives and experiences that affect how we think, feel, and function, as well as how we evaluate our lives as a whole.



Vital Conditions

Properties of places and institutions that we all depend on to reach our potential.

WHY MEASURE WELL-BEING?

Emerging evidence suggests that well-being is a protective factor against disease and is tied to extending life expectancy. By closely monitoring self-reported well-being, we can get a pulse of our communities, implement early interventions when needed, and tailor interventions accordingly. In fact, an effort is underway to create a measure of Well Being Adjusted Life Years, which combines life expectancy and well-being to underscore the reinforcing nature of well being and health.

HOW IS WELL-BEING MEASURED?

Well-being can be measured by an instrument called Cantril's Ladder, which includes several questions that through a simple analysis classifies an individual as "thriving," "struggling" or "suffering."

This simple two-question scale asks people to rate their well-being on a ladder from 0 (worst possible life) to 10 (best possible life), both now and in five years. When combined, those ratings reveal who feels they are thriving, struggling, or suffering.

Respondents who rate their current and future life high on the ladder are "thriving". "Suffering" means that respondents rate both their current and future life low on the ladder. And struggling is any other combination of placement.

VITAL CONDITIONS

Our freedom to thrive depends on having a consistent set of vital conditions, such as clean air, fair pay, humane housing, early education, routine health care, and other pragmatic necessities. Personal experiences may rise and fall from birth to death. However, vital conditions persist over generations. Each vital condition is distinct and indispensable. Together, they form an interdependent system that shapes opportunities for people and places to thrive. If any vital condition is denied or otherwise unfulfilled—or if there is a sudden shock, such as the emergence of a novel pathogen—serious adversity can accumulate, revealing itself in excess rates of illness, unemployment, housing distress, food insecurity, loneliness, and more. As a group, the following vital conditions strongly shape the exposures, choices, opportunities, and adversities that each of us encounter on day one and throughout our lives.

VITAL CONDITIONS

Thriving Natural World

Sustainable resources, contact with nature, freedom from hazards Clean air, water, soil; healthy ecosystems able to sustainably provide necessary resources; accessible natural spaces; freedom from extreme heat, flooding, wind, radiation, earthquakes, pathogens

Basic Needs for Health & Safety

Basic requirements for health and safety Nutritious food, safe drinking water; fresh air; sufficient sleep; routine physical activity; safe, satisfying sexuality and reproduction; freedom from trauma, violence, addiction, and crime; routine care for physical and mental health

Humane Housing

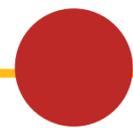
Humane, consistent housing Adequate space per person; safe structures; affordable costs; diverse neighborhoods (without gentrification, segregation, concentrated poverty); close to work, schools, food, recreation and nature

VITAL CONDITIONS



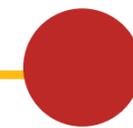
Meaningful Work & Wealth

Rewarding work, careers, and standards of living Job training/retraining; good-paying and fulfilling jobs; family and community wealth; savings and limited debt



Lifelong Learning

Continuous learning, education, and literacy Continuous development of cognitive, social, emotional abilities; early childhood experiences; elementary, high school, and higher education; career and adult education



Reliable Transportation

Reliable, safe, and accessible transportation Close to work, school, food, leisure; safe transport; active transport; efficient energy use; few environmental hazards

VITAL CONDITIONS



Belonging & Civic Muscle

Sense of belonging and power to shape a common world Social support; civic associations; freedom from stigma, discrimination, oppression; support for civil rights, human rights; civic agency; collective efficacy; vibrant arts, culture, and spiritual life; equitable access to information; many opportunities for civic engagement (voting, volunteer, public work)

The four pillars of the IFC vision align with four of these vital conditions: meaningful work & wealth, lifelong learning, thriving natural environment and belonging.

RESOURCES

[Vital Conditions
Summary Table](#)
(PDF download)

[Explore the
Springboard](#)
(summaries and deep dives)

[The Science of
Thriving](#)
(a collection)

A decorative graphic at the top of the page features a large, textured watercolor circle on the left in shades of orange and red. To its right is a solid yellow arc, and further right is a solid orange arc.

IFC WELL-BEING DATA

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM IFC WELL-BEING SURVEY

BACKGROUND

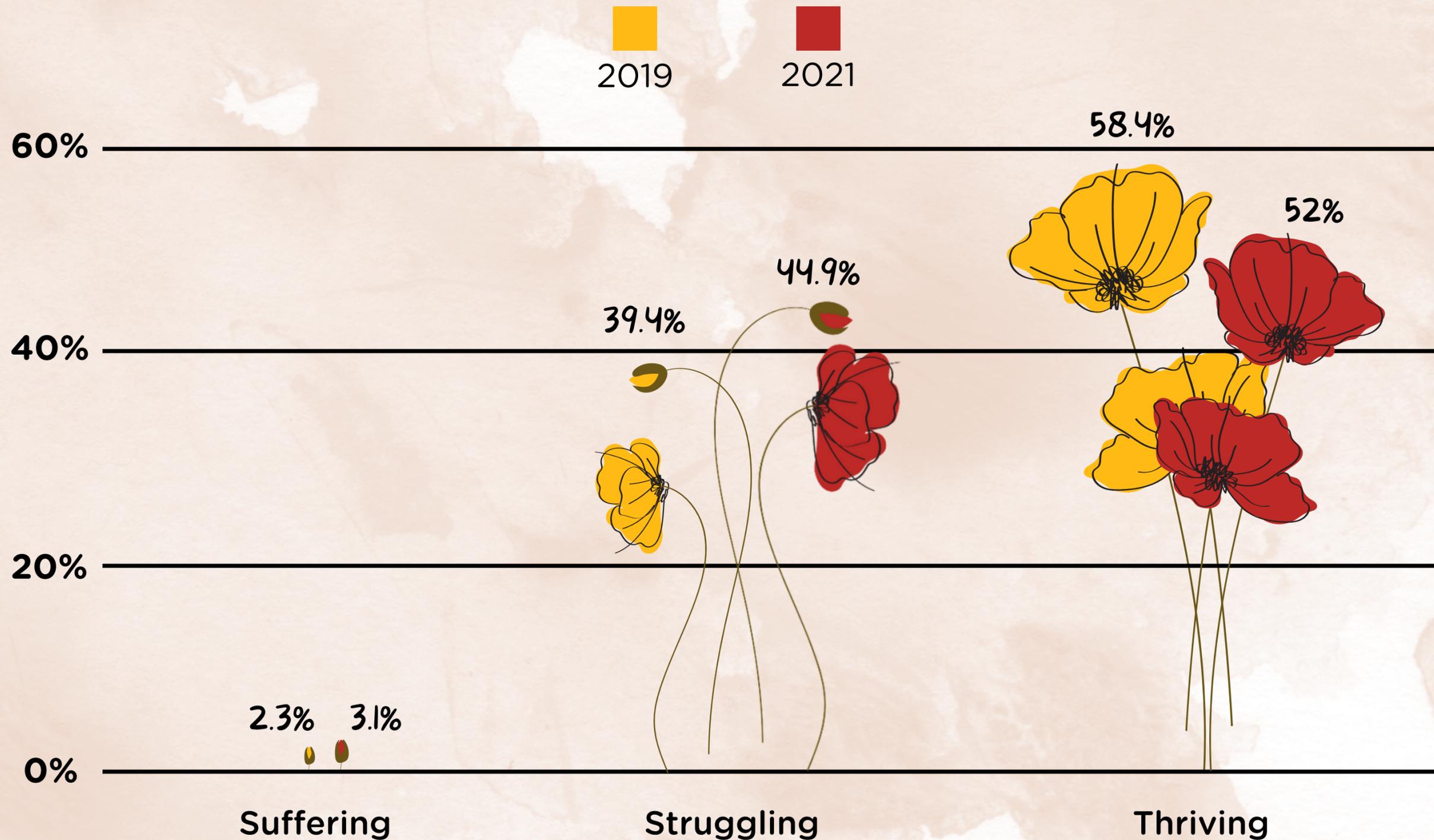
More than 3,000 diverse voices across the Fox Cities geographies and sectors helped shape a vision, which was launched at a summit in 2019.

Here is what we heard:

- We Have a Strong Sense of Community, but Not All Are Feeling It
- We Prize Our Cultural and Natural Assets
- There Is a Will—and We Are Looking for Ways—to Ensure Meaningful Employment and Livable Wages
- Education Is a Critical Bridge to Our Shared Future
- Our Mental Health Is Clearly on the Collective Radar
- The Future Will Require New Ways of Thinking, Learning and Working Together

In Summer 2021, Imagine Fox Cities once again conducted its well-being survey. Results were presented on May 17, 2022.

Nearly Half of the Fox Cities Is Struggling or Suffering



IMAGINE FOX CITIES

Who Is Thriving?



1.13 times
more likely

White



1.11 times
more likely

Ages 55-66



1.11 times
more likely

Male

Who Is Struggling?

2.03 times
more likely



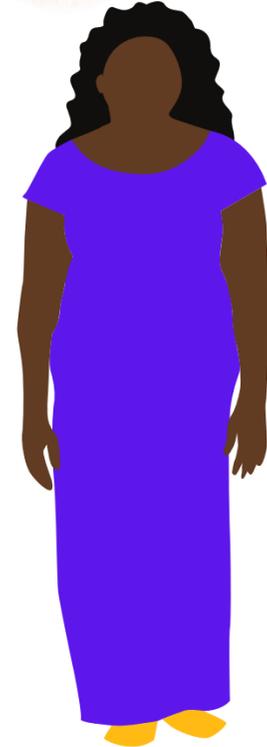
Transgender

1.49 times
more likely



LGBTQ+

1.39 times
more likely



**Black/ African
American**

Who Is Suffering?

4.89 times
more likely



Gender

4.80 times
more likely



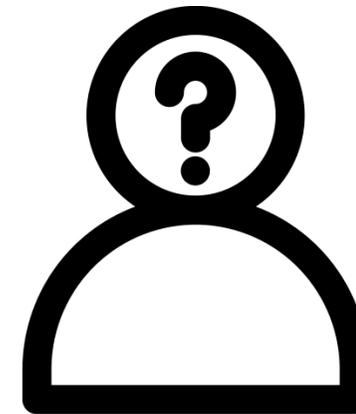
Age

3.82 times
more likely



Sexual
Orientation

2.88 times
more likely



Race

Who Is Suffering?



2.53 times
more likely

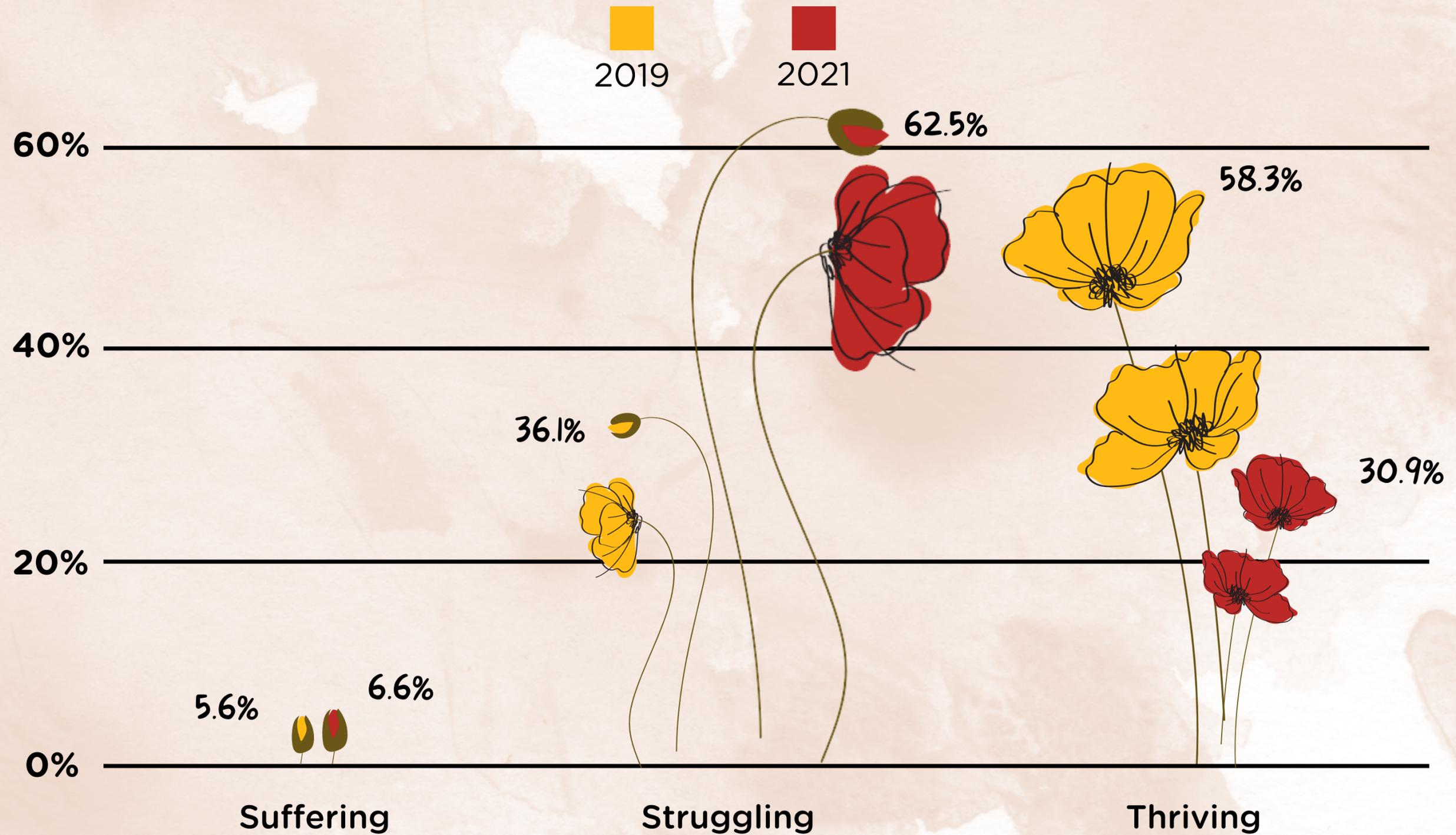
Ages 73-100



1.76 times
more likely

Ages 55-66

Well-Being Change for 73-100 Age Group



Feel Like They DO NOT Belong

3.15 times
more likely



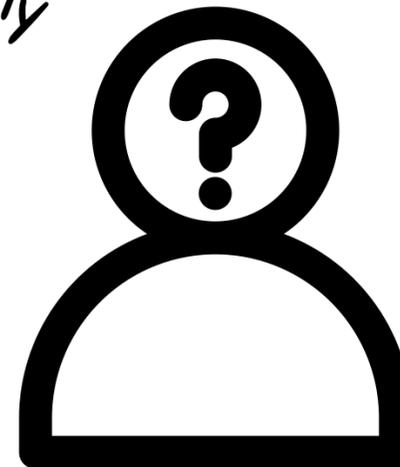
Transgender

2.60 times
more likely



LGBTQ+

2.54 times
more likely



Gender: Anonymous

2.32 times
more likely



Ages 18-23

Feel Like They DO Belong



2.23 times
more likely

Ages 67-73



1.55 times
more likely

Ages 55-66



1.53 times
more likely

Heterosexual

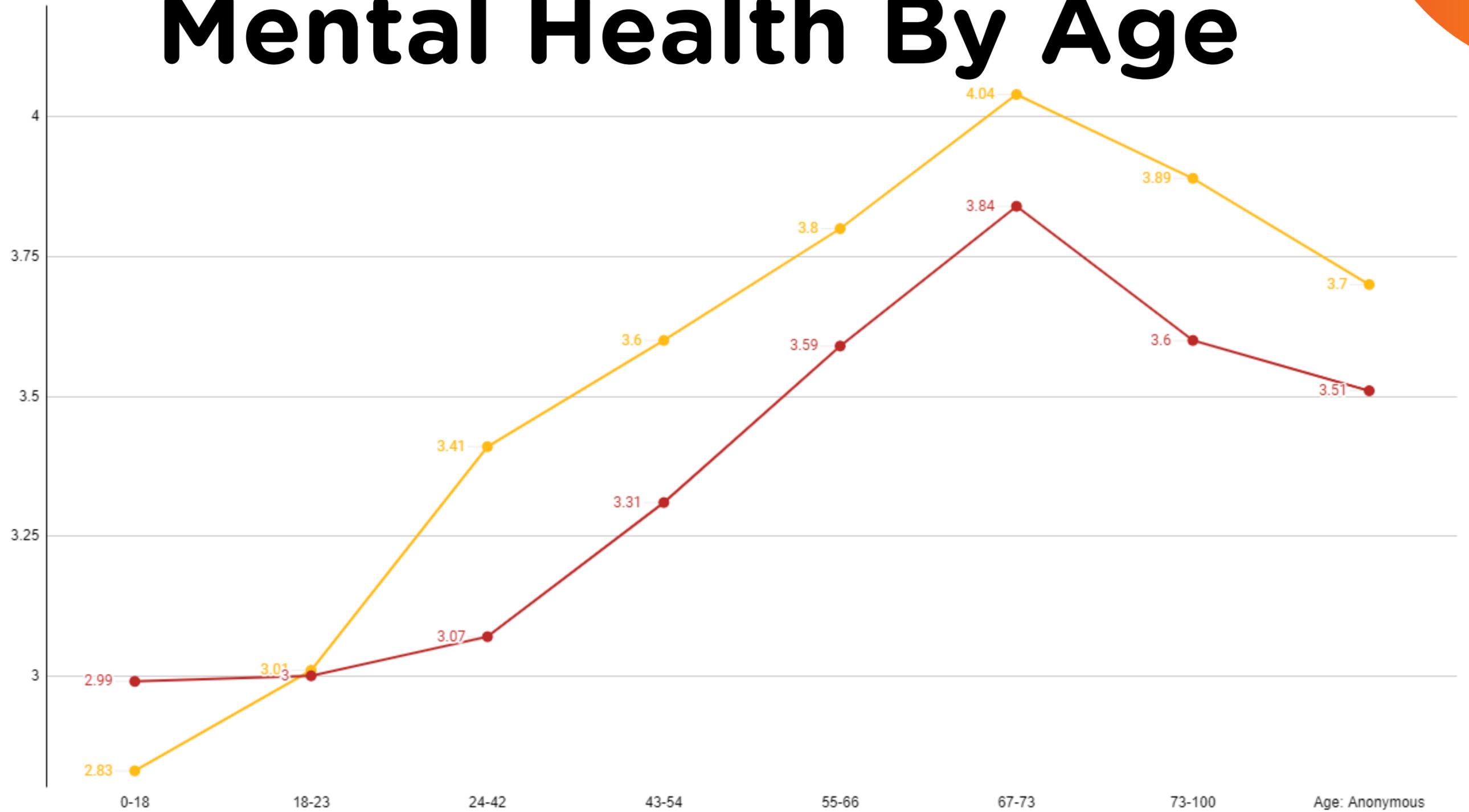


1.48 times
more likely

Male

● 2019 ● 2021

Mental Health By Age



IMAGINE FOX CITIES

RESOURCES

[Well-Being Data Dashboard](#)
(interactive)

[Well-Being Data Presentation](#)
(Video)

[Data Deep Dive Presentation](#)
(Video)

[What We Heard](#)
(PDF download)

STAY CONNECTED



@imaginefoxcities



@imaginefoxcities



www.imaginefoxcities.com



imaginefoxcities.com/signup