



Lexington-Fayette
County Health
Department
and
Lex-CHIP



Capturing Health: *Voices through Photos in Community Health Assessments (CHA)*

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Introduction

- CHA/Community Health Improvement (CHIP) efforts and other public health initiatives benefit from deeper understanding of community perspectives and needs.
- Photovoice: participatory methodology to "identify, represent, and enhance community through a specific photographic technique" (Wang and Burris, 1997).
- Three primary goals of Photovoice:
 1. Enable people to record and reflect community strengths and concerns.
 2. Promote critical dialogue and knowledge through group discussion of photos.
 3. Reach policymakers.
- Photovoice has established implications for:
 - Reducing stigma.
 - Enhancing community engagement.
 - Amplifying community voices of lived behavioral health experience.
- Yet, previous Photovoice literature has shown:
 - Inconsistent adherence to Photovoice method.
 - Inconsistent or unreported evaluation of Photovoice outcomes and impact.

Project Aims

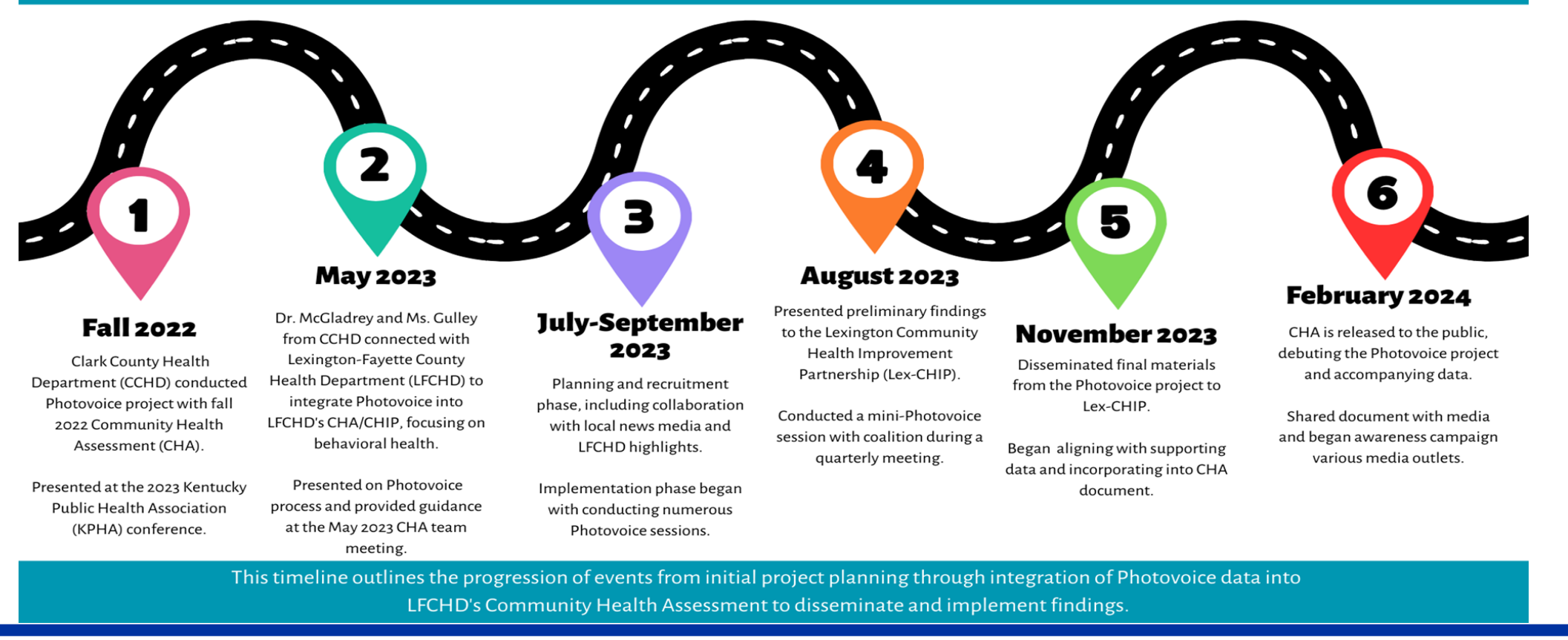
Amplify voices within Lexington-Fayette County using Photovoice to illustrate lived experience with stigmatized health issues: substance use disorder and mental health	Illustrate how Photovoice supports community engagement in CHA/CHIP work around stigmatized behavioral health issues	Assess how Photovoice enhances mixed-methods data collection for the CHA/CHIP process and documentation for accreditation
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Methods

- Engagement and Planning:** Collaborate with Lexington-Fayette County community stakeholders to plan the Photovoice project within the CHA/CHIP framework. Define objectives, target population, and scope of project.
- Participant Recruitment:** Through LFCHD staff email communications/meetings, LFCHD social media, and local media/radio outlets
- Data Collection and Participatory Analysis:** Facilitate Photovoice sessions with group participatory analysis using the Socioecological Framework

Photography Take photos illustrating the topics selected by the group between sessions	Collaborative Analysis Facilitators conduct preliminary analysis of photo discussion notes using the Socioecological Framework and identify key themes
Orientation Covers Photovoice goals, ethics of photography, informed consent, and topic development using nominal group technique	Photo Discussions Two group photo discussions on community health strengths and concerns following the SHOWeD method
Analysis and Action Planning Review thematically organized photos; analyze photo discussion notes and use them to write captions; and prepare for community forums	
- Integrate with CHA/CHIP:** Use findings from data collection and mixed-methods analysis to inform the prioritization of community health issues and the development of strategies and interventions in the CHA/CHIP reporting.

PHOTOVOICE JOURNEY



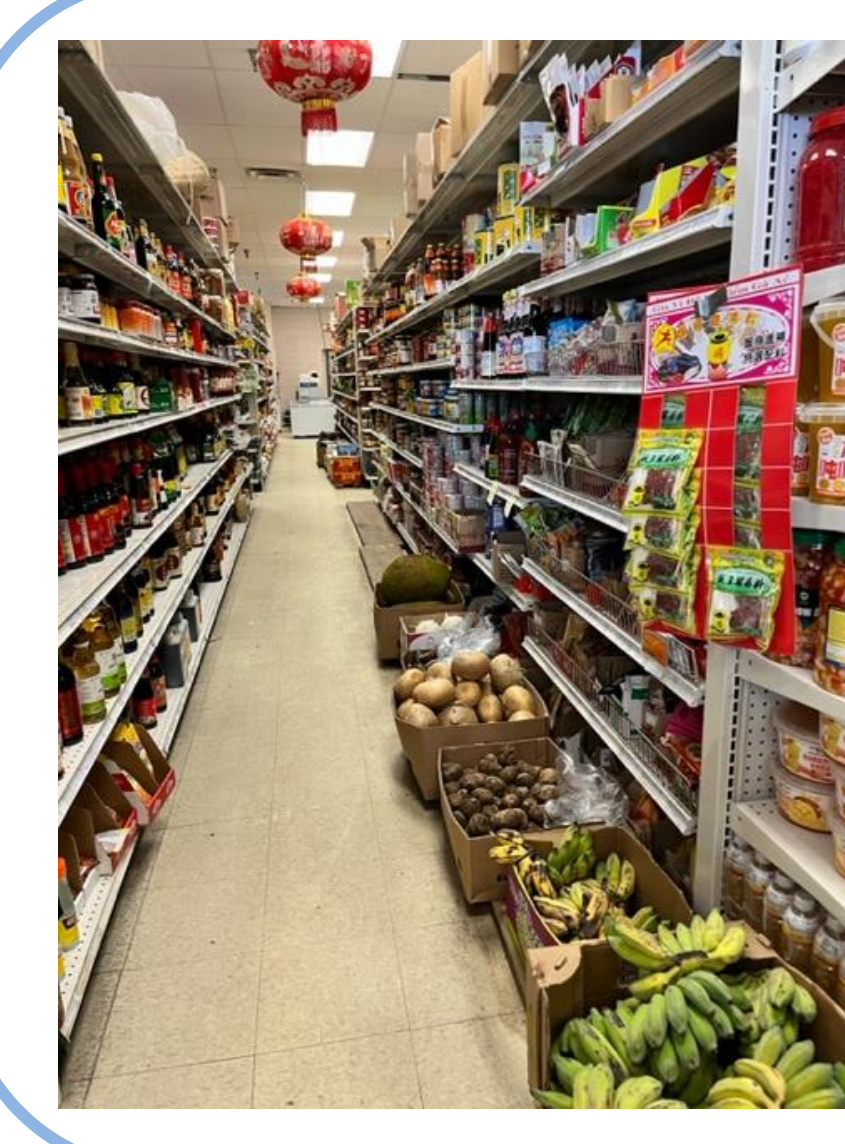
Results: Community Behavioral Health Strengths



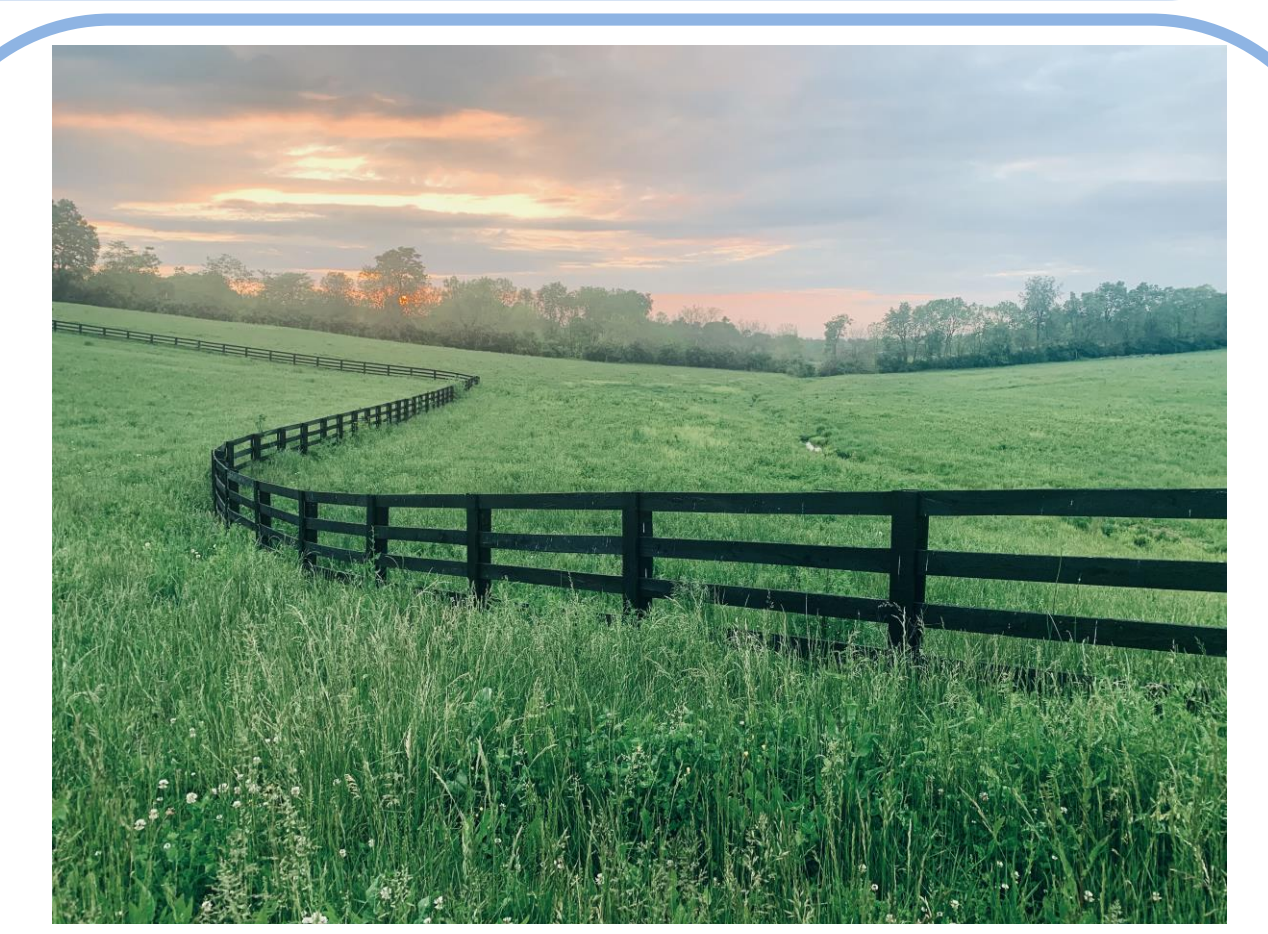
Baby Land: Photo of statues in "Baby Land," the "infant burial" section of the Lexington Cemetery that represent "peace with a baby and lamb." It represents the grief that parents have for losing their infant. The "infant burial" area of the cemetery unfortunately keeps growing. More parents who are experiencing grief and the loss of their baby.



Alcoholics Anonymous/ Recovery Meetings: Doors to Relief, Freedom, and Recovery: You never know what's behind the doors we see on a daily basis. These doors lead to places where AA and other anonymous recovery meetings are held. These doors are a source of hope and community, and the meetings save lives. They also are the scariest doors anyone can walk through. Too many of us don't know that help is there, or misunderstand the problems of addiction. There shouldn't be a "wrong door" to treatment. Let's open the doors to all.



Inclusivity and diversity: Familiarity can bring comfort. Although diversity is good in that it brings new ideas, promotes tolerance, and enriches the community, being a stranger to the norm can be mentally exhausting. Lexington has opened its doors to people from all over the world, being accepting of strangers, and encouraging business opportunities to serve these populations. Grocers, are able to bring comfort in the form of food to help form a bridge between the strange and familiar.

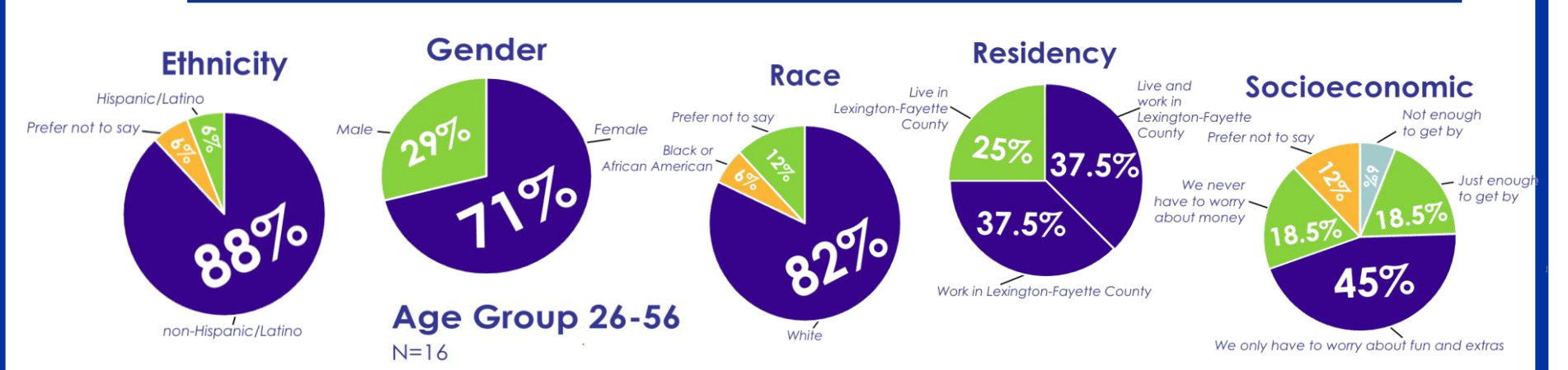


Green space: A refuge from the stress of urban life, Lexington-Fayette County has preserved much of the green space outside the city. Access is an issue, though, for many, who live in the urban core of our city.



Art & LGBTQ+ pride: Art represents the diversity of our community through unity, giving life, creativity, and a welcoming atmosphere to the city of Lexington. This mural is of James Herndon, Sweet Evening Breeze, an American drag queen who is considered by many to have originated and promoted Lexington's drag culture. This art represents the pride of the LGBTQ+ community and Lexington's pride in being a home for so many in this community. People of color in the LGBTQ+ community often get overlooked or further marginalized; celebrating intersectionality and being explicit in recognizing the contributions and innovations of people of color in the LGBTQ+ community is essential, as this mural represents.

Results: Demographics and Characteristics



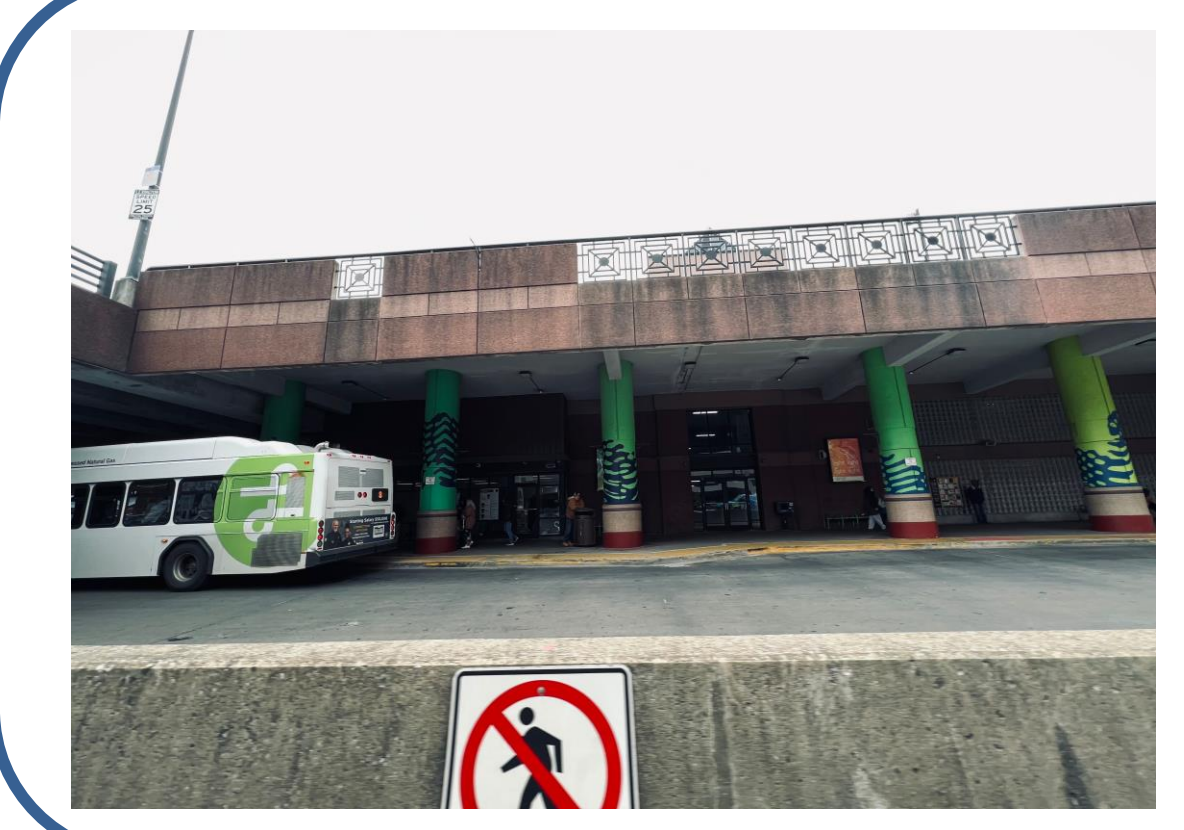
What is your role related to mental health services in Lexington-Fayette County?

ROLE RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	Count
Person advocating for community awareness, funding, and policy change to support mental health services and/or treatment	10
Other* *Other = community partner, working to bring light to a subject that is often thought of as taboo, mental health awareness, public health community education	5
Person working on research related to mental health services and/or treatment	2
Mental healthcare provider (person providing mental healthcare services to clients)	1
Mental healthcare policymaker (person making decisions or advising public decision-makers on behavioral healthcare policy and funding)	1
Mental healthcare agency leadership (person making decisions about private or nonprofit agency programming and services)	0

Which of the following options describes your experiences with mental healthcare services?

EXPERIENCES WITH MENTAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES	Count
Person with family member or close friend receiving mental health services	10
Person actively receiving mental healthcare services and/or treatment	8
Person with previous history of receiving mental health services and/or treatment	5
Person without personal lived experience with receiving mental health services and/or treatment	4

Results: Community Behavioral Health Concerns

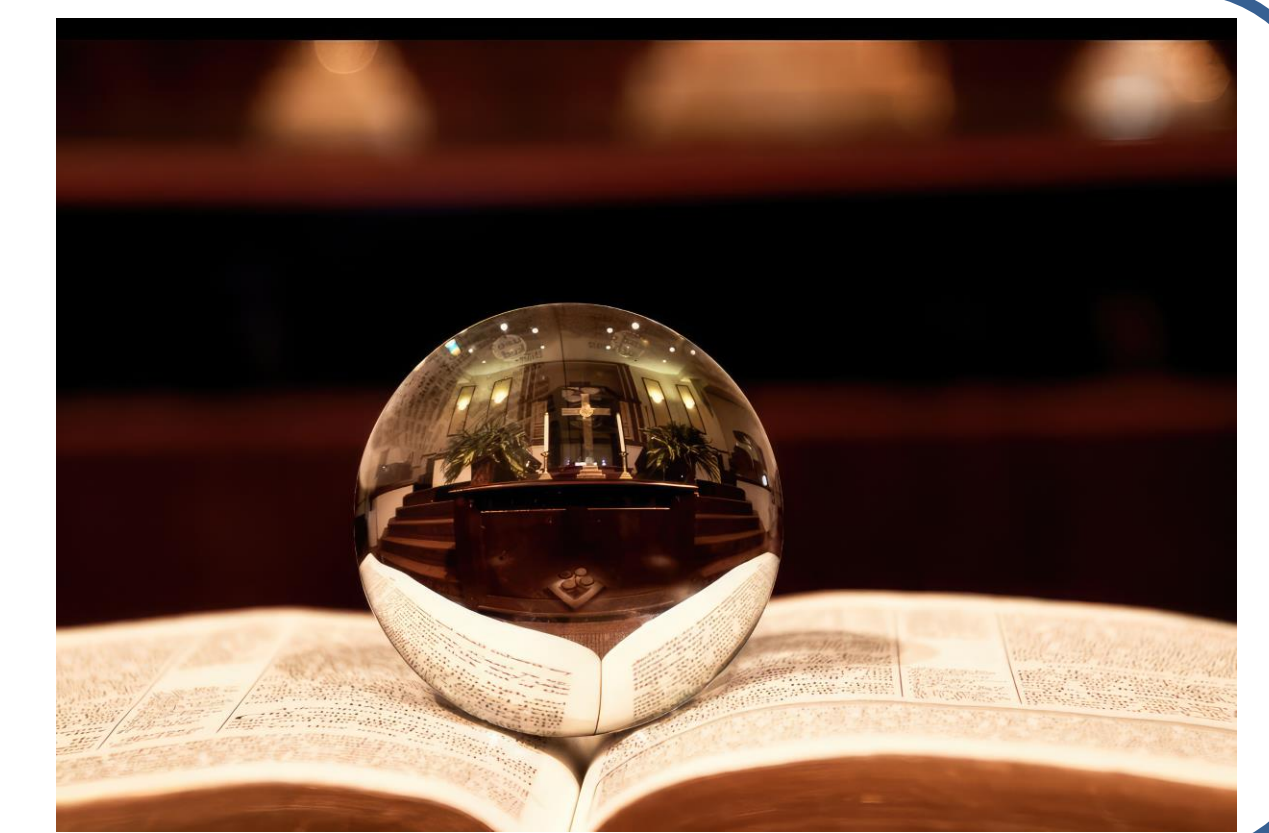


Accessibility & transportation issues: This photo of Lexington Transit Center Garage captures some of the mental health challenges in our public transportation system. It highlights the struggles of individuals reliant on public transit, emphasizing accessibility issues. The garage reveals some of the hardships faced by vulnerable individuals.



Mass shootings/gun violence: Military J-FAK trauma kit that a community member carries in his car routinely in case he is on the scene of a mass shooting. Mass shootings have become normalized, which carries a mental health burden for all those impacted by all those impacted by all those impacted by an incident. Parents of school-aged children are greatly affected.

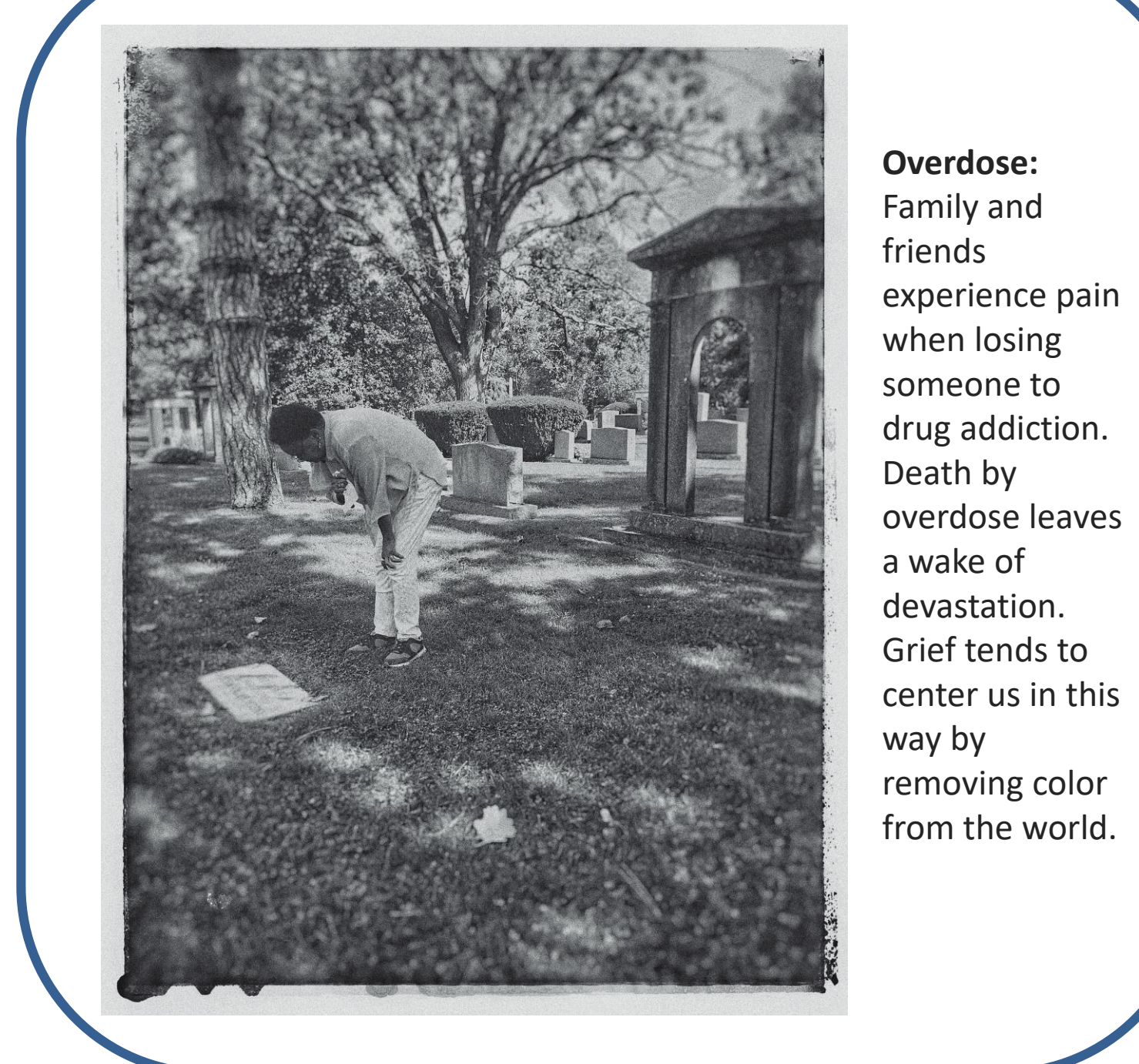
Barriers to recovery in worship centers: While places of worship have long opened their doors for 12-step and recovery programs, some members of the community might not feel comfortable in such spots. It's important for a community to have safe places available throughout to ensure people have as few barriers as possible for participating.



Housing challenges: According to recent news reports. There are around 400 evictions every month in Lexington. There are mental health consequences resulting from housing challenges, and it is important that we work quickly to and a way to provide an environment that offers affordable shelter.

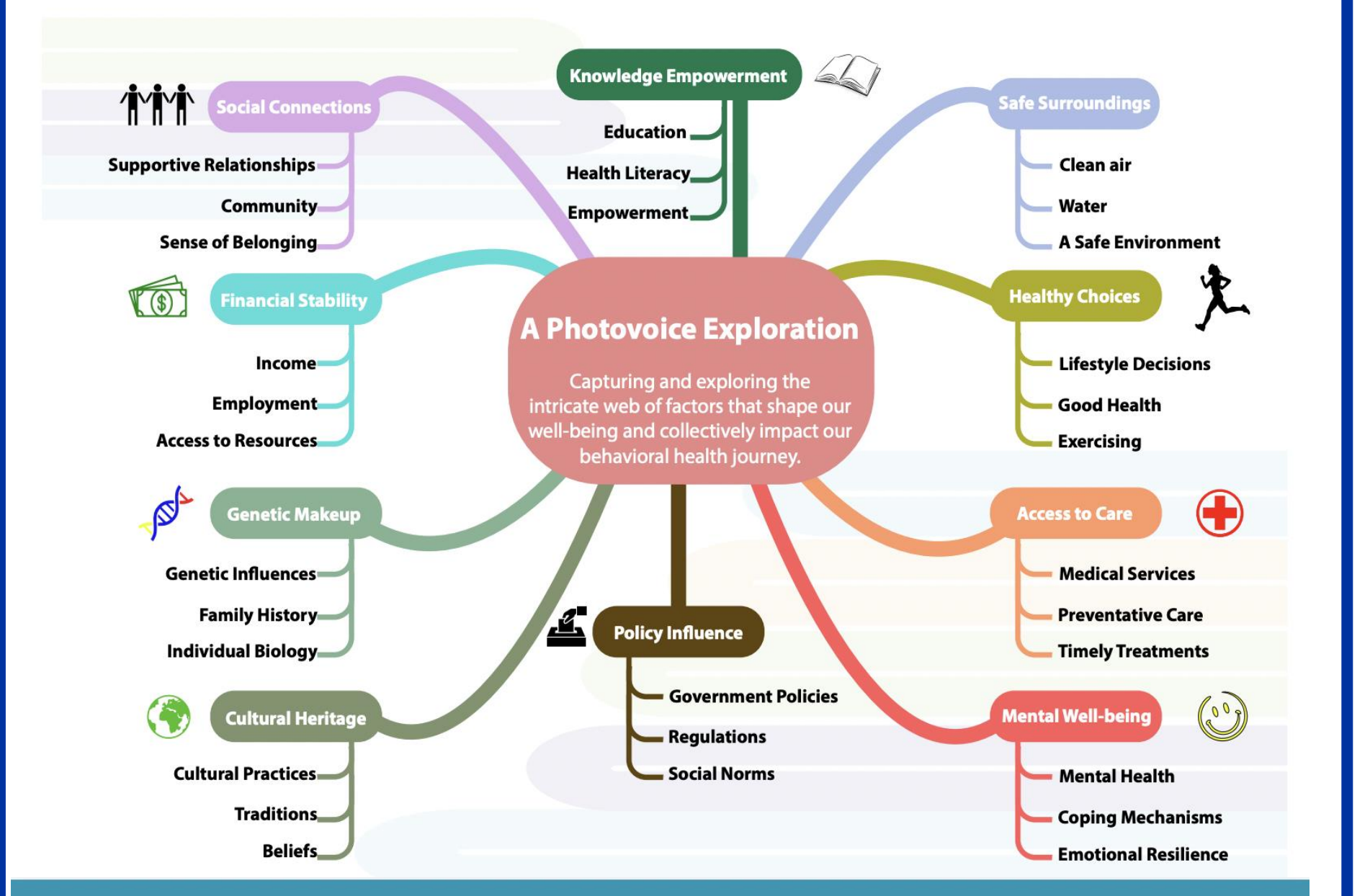
2023 Community Health Assessment

<https://www.lfchd.org/18739-downloads/>



Overdose: Family and friends experience pain when losing someone to drug addiction. Death by overdose leaves a wake of devastation. Grief tends to center us in this way by removing color from the world.

Conclusion / Future Directions



PHOTOVOICE NEXT STEPS



Acknowledgments

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References

