



Community Interviews: What you told us

Garfield County Libraries
New Castle Branch Library
February 5, 2024

Our Process

- Brainstormed list of “movers and shakers” across Garfield County
- Each branch scheduled and held interviews with their community members over 2 months
- Interview questions:
 - What’s your story?
 - What’s your driver or personal passion?
 - What issues matter most to your constituents in the next 18-24 months?
 - What are your aspirations for the community?
 - Who else should we talk to?

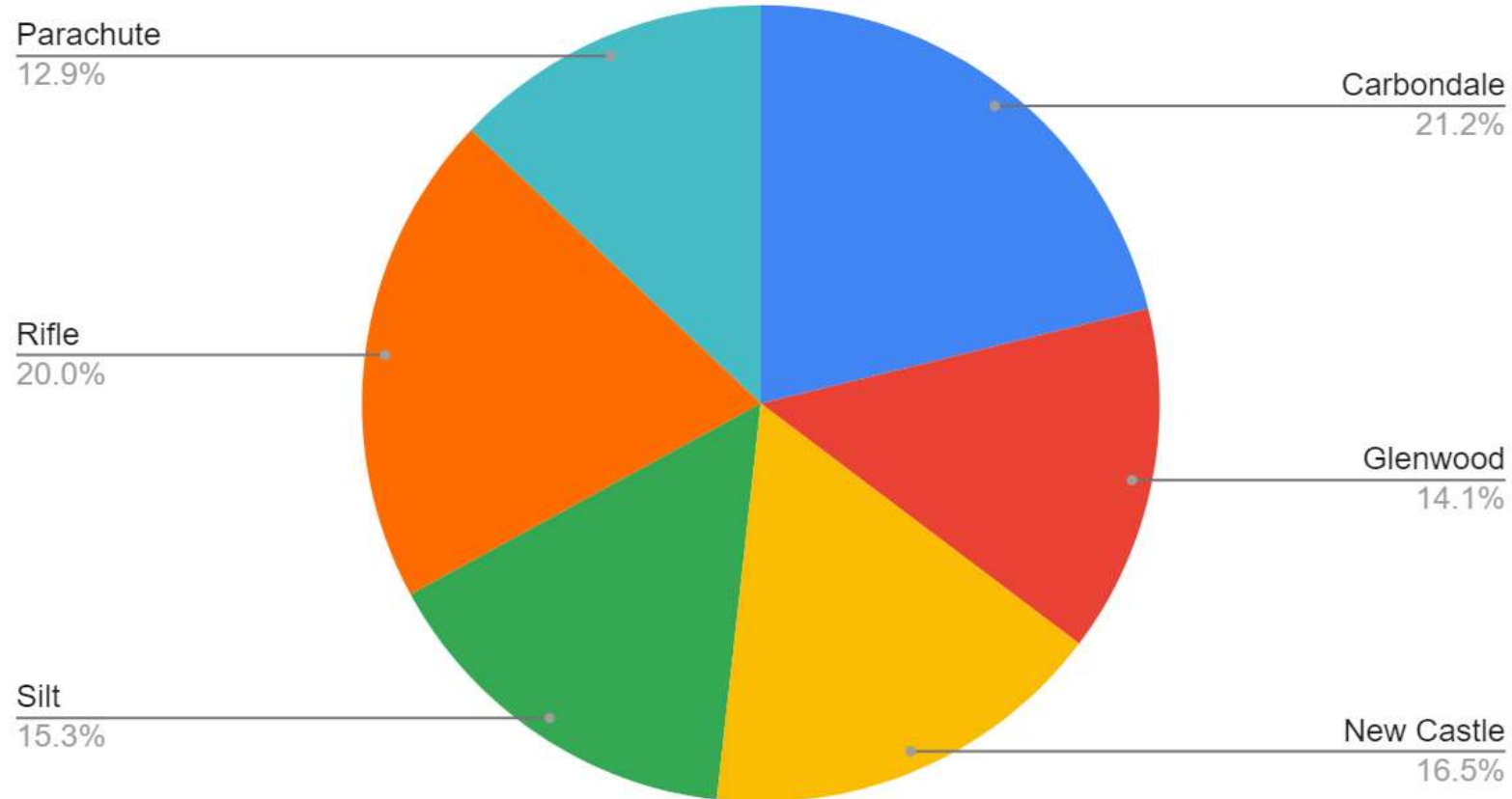
Our Process

- Compiled and analyzed data to determine county and individual community themes
- Presented findings to library board
- Currently, presenting findings to all six communities (Jan-Feb)

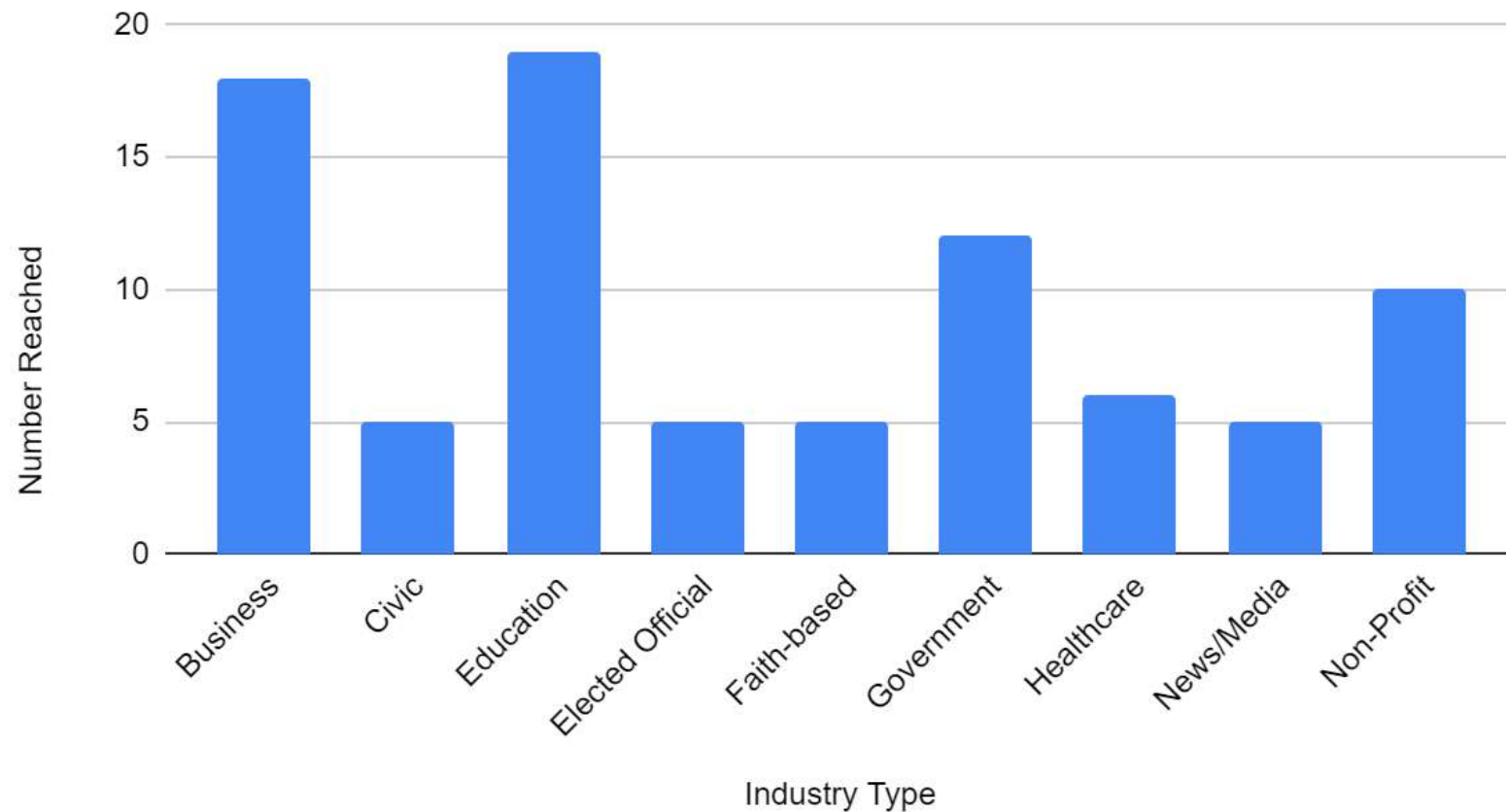
Who Participated

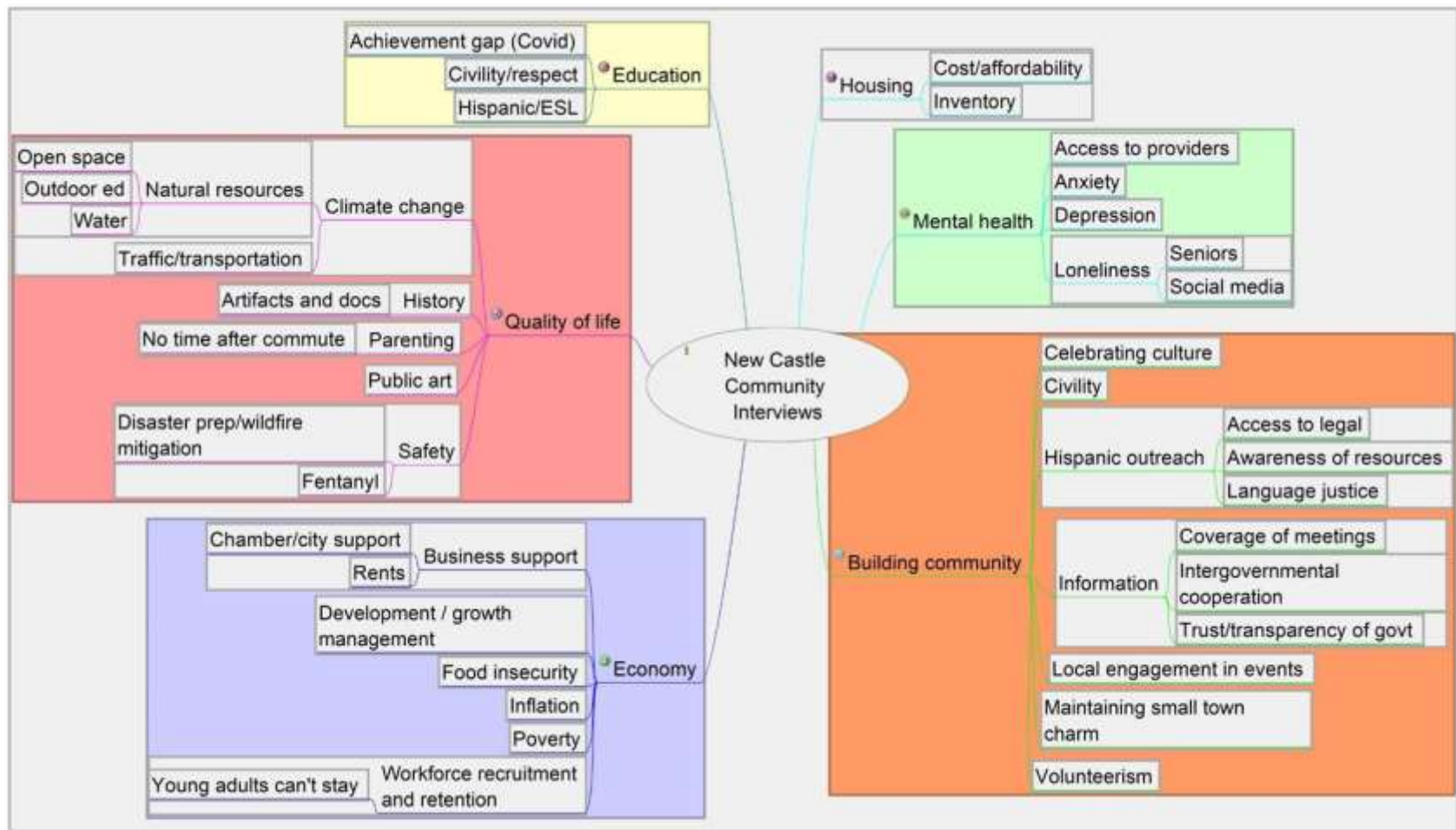
- 62 unique staff; 1 library board member
- 85 people interviewed - county-wide
 - 14 interviews - New Castle; 11 staff participants

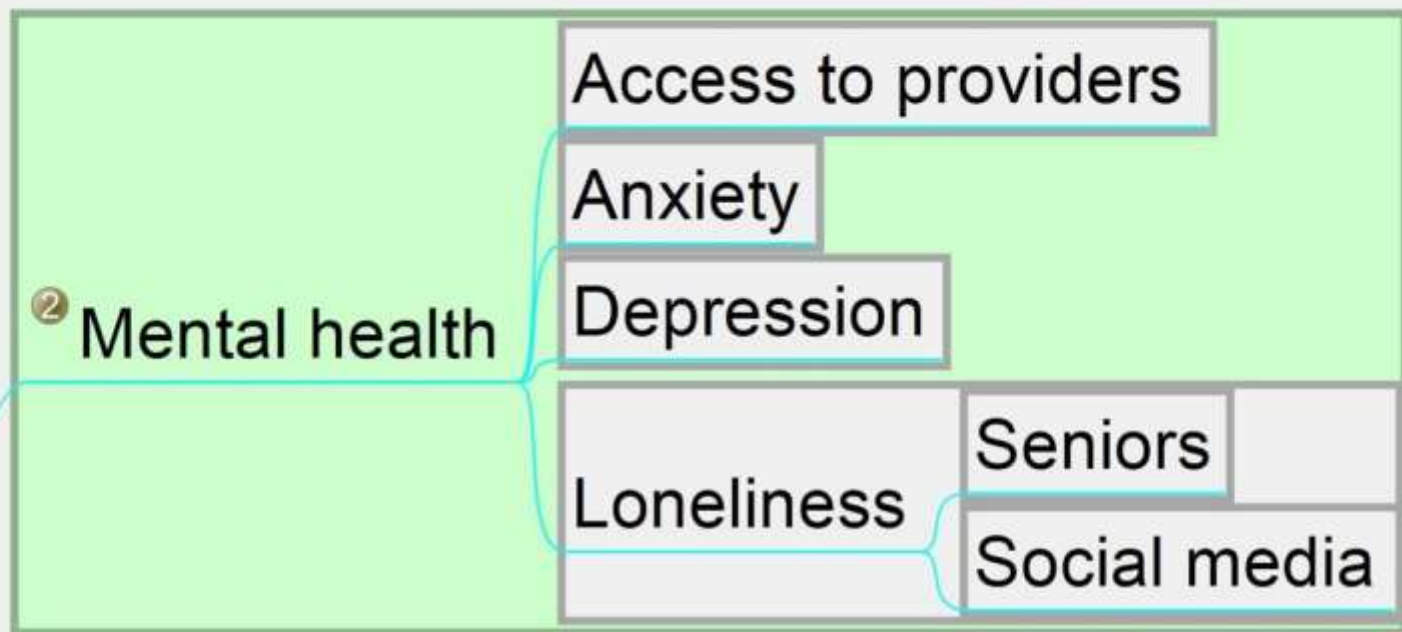
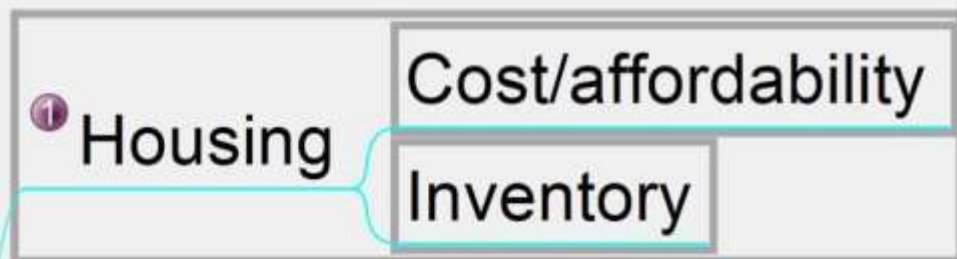
Completed Interviews



Movers and Shakers Interviews by Industry







New Castle
Community
Interviews

Celebrating culture

Civility

Hispanic outreach

Access to legal

Awareness of resources

Language justice

Building community

Information

Coverage of meetings

Intergovernmental
cooperation

Trust/transparency of govt

Local engagement in events

Maintaining small town
charm

Volunteerism

Chamber/city support

Rents

Business support

Development / growth
management

Food insecurity

Inflation

Poverty

Young adults can't stay

Workforce recruitment
and retention

⁴ Economy

Achievement gap (Covid)

Civility/respect

Education

Hispanic/ESL

Open space

Outdoor ed

Natural resources

Water

Climate change

Traffic/transportation

Artifacts and docs

History

Quality of life

No time after commute

Parenting

Public art

Disaster prep/wildfire mitigation

Safety

Fentanyl

Community Comments

“Concerned about parents working long hours and commuting a great distance. Kids are left for long periods of time on their own.”

“We need more forums where people civilly and respectfully discuss issues.”

“Housing and the economy make it difficult for people to engage with their community...commuting impacts community participation.”

“It’s hard to have a business downtown...it’s expensive to rent commercial space and there aren’t enough places to buy in New Castle.”

“The primary concern is development, wildfire preparedness and mitigation, and protecting what makes New Castle so unique.”

“There are Spanish speakers that are afraid to ask...they are in great need of services and knowledge.”

“Our people deserve being able to access information in their primary language.”

Review

- What did we get right?
- Is anything missing?
- What occurs to you now that didn't before (new issues)?

Next Steps

- Use community interview data to inform long range planning
- Establish key strategic initiatives that address community concerns
- Examples:
 - Housing summit, Feb 22nd, 2pm, Ute Theater in Rifle
 - Work with County on mental health awareness and resources
 - Cultural Celebrations (active & passive) at all branches
 - Convene civic discussions
 - Partnership with Glenwood Springs Historical Society

Thanks!

Contact us:

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Find Your
STORY

