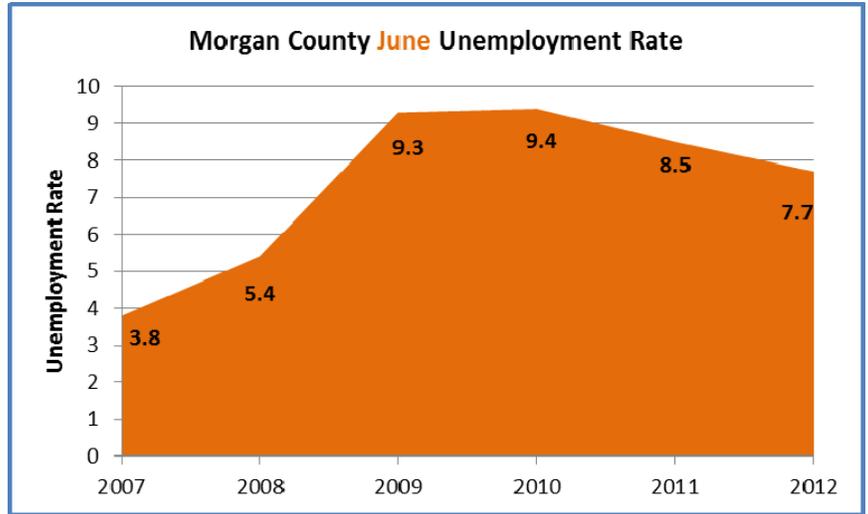


## Not All Morgan County Residents Benefit from Improving Economy

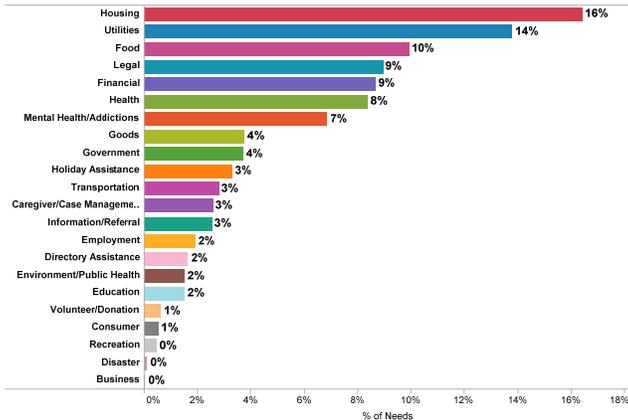
Hoosiers in general, and **Morgan County** residents in particular, are starting to breathe a sigh of relief as unemployment rates decline. In June of 2012, Morgan County's **unemployment rate** was 7.7%, compared to 8.5% just one year ago. While nowhere near the "Pre-Great Recession" low of 3.8% in June of 2007, it appears that the trend is going in the right direction.

However, the **7.7% rate still represents 2,700 Morgan County residents (many with families) who are unemployed and struggling to meet basic needs.** Connect2Help 2-1-1 data from Morgan County callers are even more grim. From July 2011 through June 2012, **23%** of the 2,122 callers reported that someone in their household was **unemployed**. Another **7%** reported that their **work hours or income had been reduced**.

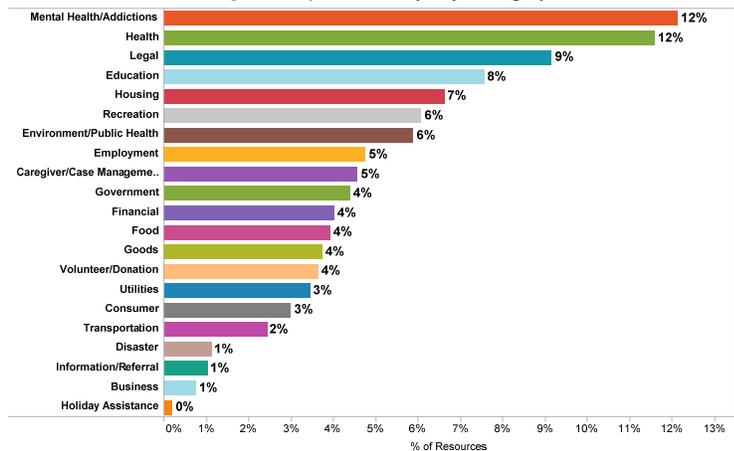


Without steady, stable income, it is nearly impossible to provide for a household's basic necessities. Sixteen percent (16%) of needs reported by Morgan County residents was related to **housing**. Trouble paying a **utility** bill accounted for another 14%, and 1 out of every 10 needs (10%) were for help with **food** for the household. Nearly 3,000 needs were reported; of these, **8%** were recorded as "**unmet.**" The top 3 unmet needs were housing (27%), utilities (26%) and food (9%). The **main reasons** that the needs were unmet included: no resource (43%), client is ineligible for resource (23%) and client refused resource (13%).

Morgan County Needs By Major Category  
July 2011 - June 2012



Morgan County Resources By Major Category



There are 609 Indiana agencies in the Connect2Help 2-1-1 database that have programs to serve Morgan County residents. The **chart above** shows the percentage of resources available to meet each of the major need categories. The **top three categories of resources** are mental health/addictions, health and legal; they account for 33% of Morgan County human services. In contrast, the **top 3 categories of need** are housing, utilities and food, which accounted for 40% of reported needs.

While there are 609 agencies that **serve** Morgan County, only 90 of these **have a physical location** in the county. For instance, of the 130 mental health/addiction resources that are available, only 10 of these are physically located in the county. It's critical that these "out-of-county" resources exist to provide extra support to those in need. However, traveling outside the county for services often is a barrier for people with limited economic resources. A lack of mass public transportation within and between Morgan and other counties adds to the difficulty.



Community Partner

For more information about Morgan County needs or resources, call 2-1-1 or visit [www.connect2help.org](http://www.connect2help.org).

