

IDENTIFYING ISSUES AND TRENDS

Small (6 to 8) and diverse groups discussed and then prioritized the current trends and issues that are shaping and affecting the Peshtigo community. Here are the top five from each group:

TABLE 1

1. Safety concerns; physical and virtual (technology access)
2. Technology's negative impact on communication; interpersonal communication – coursework that requires social competency
3. Employment opportunities; finding skilled workers; more time to train; lack of exposure to career/employment options
4. Education post high school; apprenticeships, college level value for economic growth
5. Funding; taxes; cost of living

TABLE 2

1. Doing more jobs and earning less – less financial security, less time with family
2. People with unmet needs – depression, suicide, alcohol abuse, domestic violence, lack of primary care and childcare
3. Water issues/Environmental
4. Alcohol, drugs, and violence
5. Minimal drawback (retain our own) to community – due to lack of diverse jobs and negative attitude about the region

TABLE 3

1. Technology; overuse, lack of social skills, educational, connected
2. Family Structure; no dedicated time – blended, poverty – generational involvement
3. Workforce; attracting skilled workforce to our area, aging, unemployment
4. Community; drug addiction, local celebrations, divided, alcohol abuse, affordable healthcare
5. Education; teacher shortage, overcrowding in future, student debt, choice

TABLE 4

1. Drugs, alcohol, mental health
2. Stagnant population growth
3. Past history of strong reputation of good academics (resting on laurels)
4. Social-economic status (40% of population free/reduced lunch)
5. Does the school have the tools and resources to do their job?

TABLE 5

1. Drug and alcohol/emotional and mental breakdown epidemic
2. Family moral breakdown and breakdown of community cohesiveness
3. Work requires advanced and different education
4. Health and Environment issues
5. Lack of compromise and civility – left and right

TABLE 6

1. Lack of available labor (skilled and non-skilled) that is work ready
2. Use of opioids/other drugs
3. Decrease in locally owned businesses (retail and industrial)
4. Increasing mental health needs without adequate access to services
5. Population changes in demographics (age and diversity) – how to increase inclusivity?

TABLE 7

1. Increase in technology to perform jobs but lack the knowledge of tech and those who can teach technology
2. Drugs and alcohol
3. Lack of trades education
4. Decrease in work ethic, life skills and communication skills
5. Changes in family structure and parent engagement and responsibility

TABLE 8

1. Technology and social/community disconnect
2. Mental illness/drugs/different family structures
3. Good school system attracting families
4. Economy – decrease in new businesses
5. Aging neighborhoods/less children

TABLE 9

1. Expectations on kids is high (pressure to perform in academics and sports)
2. Small towns don't retain people to stay (hollowing out the middle) – but people return to vacation/visit
3. Lack of face-to-face communication skills (social media)
4. Political differences (lack of shared vision)
5. Respect

TABLE 10

1. Aging population
2. Community leadership – lack of planning and development
3. Social media impact on mental health
4. Less kids with two interested parents – breakdown of family structure
5. Drug issues (including vaping and alcohol)

TABLE 11

1. Family dynamics
2. Mental health
3. Drug Use
4. Technology
5. Social Media

TABLE 12

1. Drugs/alcohol/mental health-trauma informed care (without resources, not informed)
2. Weak family management/social skills (communication-life skills)
3. Aging population (housing, healthcare) – improvement of the community
4. Technology – rapid change/lack of broadband
5. Kids being kids (too much emphasis on educational advances)

TABLE 13

1. Disrespectful – adults and children
2. Lack of support from city officials/old fashioned thinking
3. Drugs
4. Social Media
5. Lacking growth and rely on large employers/lack of trade and services

TABLE 14

1. Addiction (alcohol, vaping, drugs)
2. Technological impact on relationships
3. Lack of resources (mental health, technology, funding, trades)
4. Cultural diversity (responsiveness)
5. Personal responsibility (parents, students, community)

TABLE 15

1. Water/pollution
2. Unparented kids/complicated families
3. Lack of student effort
4. Poverty
5. Lack of preparation for ALL post high school paths