

Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment

Appendix B: Review of Existing Reports

Completed February 2006

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INTRODUCTION

The Washtenaw United Way Board of Directors Community Needs Assessment Committee contracted with FERA (Formative Evaluation Research Associates) to conduct a Washtenaw County Needs Assessment State of the Community Report. The Washtenaw United Way is facilitating the study in collaboration with a group of community partners. This effort is divided into several parts.

The first part of this study focuses on developing community indicators and reviewing already completed county-wide efforts to collect data. Reviewing existing reports/data collected will let us identify what exists and what the gaps are. The reasons for doing this analysis are so that 1) efforts are not duplicated, 2) we can build upon what already exists, 3) we understand the limitations/gaps of what has already been done, and 4) we have a rationale for doing further work. What has been done before should inform our current work. The key findings are presented in this report.

The second part of the Needs Assessment study will be to measure community perceptions in our community to: (1) “better understand the met and unmet needs of Washtenaw County through an examination of perceived needs and resource availability;” and (2) provide a “comprehensive picture of the current socio-economic status of our community and an informed beginning for community action.” This Community Perceptions Survey report will include results of surveys done with residents and community and nonprofit leaders.

In addition to this report and the two mentioned in the above paragraphs, an Overview of the Washtenaw County Needs Assessment is summarized in an Overview Report.

This information is intended to be used by: (1) multiple nonprofits throughout the county for many different purposes, such as, strategic planning and proposal preparation; (2) community-wide groups to inform action planning by serving as a baseline from which to measure change in Washtenaw County using a set of valid and reliable indicators.

The rest of this report: (1) reviews the methods FERA used to collect and analyze the data presented in this report; (2) presents key findings for each of the five overarching categories of indicators, including a summary of what already exists and what the gaps

are. FERA will work with the study committee comprised of county-wide representatives to select a final set of indicators. The five overarching categories are: Community and Economic Development; Health and Social Wellbeing; Education, Environment; and Community Connection. For each sub-area existing reports are identified and very briefly described. Reports vary widely. For example, some

- ◆ focus on goals and present little, if any, data.
- ◆ present key findings on one issue while others present data on multiple issues.
- ◆ are short while others are between 100 - 200 pages.
- ◆ present findings from a study while others draw from census and other available data.

Under the report titles and descriptions *Key Goals* and *Indicators* are identified, especially for those reports that do not present data. If available, *Key Findings* are listed. At the end of each sub area general observations are offered and gaps in available data are identified.

This report does not fully summarize and present all the key goals and findings from every report. Our intent was to provide enough information so that readers can understand what data already exists and what some of the gaps are. Readers can access complete reports if they desire more details. (See the last section of this report for a list of how existing county-level and key reports can be accessed.)

METHODS AND PROCESS

The Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment Committee members' primary role in this study is to: (1) participate in a data interpretation workshop to identify gaps in the data, knowledge and information currently available; (2) finalize a set of indicators; (3) provide input on the final report format; and (4) review completed data collection instruments and the final report. FERA has worked very closely with Dinella Crosby, Senior Director of Community Investments, who is the lead United Way staff member for this study, to develop overarching indicator categories and a preliminary list of possible specific indicators for each category.

Specifically, FERA:

- ◆ Systematically reviewed twelve other community indicator studies from around the country to understand their processes, methodologies, overall indicator categories, and the specific indicators used.
- ◆ Interviewed a key individual from three communities outside of Washtenaw County (Cincinnati, Ohio; Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Jacksonville, Florida) that already selected community indicators and have multiple years experience tracking and using indicator data to learn from their experiences.
- ◆ Collected, reviewed, analyzed, and interpreted existing community reports, studies and other data which can provide a “snapshot” of Washtenaw County’s socio-economic status.
- ◆ Interviewed key informants who were experts in their field in order to verify the reliability and validity of proposed indicators and to make sure we had up-to-date reports and studies.
- ◆ Created an indicator matrix which identifies the following information for each indicator: (a) how data could be collected, (b) frequency of data collection, (c) how far back data is available, and (d) whether it is available for the sub-regions of the county.

COMMUNITY INDICATOR EFFORTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

This section presents what was learned from other community indicator efforts around the country. Different methods exist for developing and selecting community indicators. One person commented, “collecting the data is the easy part, deciding **what** to collect and **why** takes time and effort.” Some communities implement a highly participatory process at the grassroots level to obtain community input and buy-in to the indicators. Others, like Washtenaw County, use a group broadly representative of the “community” to select the indicators. The rest of this section presents: (1) a brief summary of key characteristics of 12 community indicator efforts in other parts of the country; (2) process-related issues and solutions identified by different communities; and (3) community indicator report uses.

Key Characteristics of Other Efforts

We discovered that the type of organization that initiates and produces the indicator report varies. Some reports are produced by nonprofits.

- ◆ Nonprofit-Initiated:
 - ⇒ Quality of Life Progress Report: Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. is

a nonpartisan civic organization that engages diverse citizens in open dialogue, research, consensus building and leadership development to improve the quality of life and build a better community in Northeast Florida and beyond.

- ⇒ Sustainable San Mateo County Indicators: Project done by Sustainable San Mateo County, a 501(c)3 dedicated to Sustainability.
 - ⇒ Quality of Life - Truckee Meadows Tomorrow: Truckee Meadows Tomorrow (TMT) is a community-based, nonprofit organization whose vision is “to enhance our community's ability to continually improve the quality of life in the Truckee Meadows.”
 - ⇒ Yampa Valley Partners Community Indicators Project: Done by Yampa Valley Partners, a nonprofit.
 - ⇒ Osceola County, Florida Community Vision Community Report Card: Done by Community Vision, a nonprofit (Mission: Community Vision has worked to bring people and resources together to achieve the community's vision since 1995.)
 - ⇒ Kalamazoo Community Indicators: A Report of Healthy Futures: Done by Healthy Futures, a community based non-profit organization that is seeking to encourage collaborative efforts to improve the health of Kalamazoo County. The Research and Evaluation Committee of Healthy Futures had representatives from many community organizations.
- ◆ Government-Initiated:
 - ⇒ Jackson Community Report Card – Jackson County: Prepared for the Human Services Coordinating Alliance by Perspectives Consulting Group, Inc.
 - ⇒ City of Albuquerque: The Indicators Progress Commission (IPC) has the statutory responsibility for developing these indicators. The IPC is a citizen body appointed by the Mayor with advice and consent of the City Council.
 - ◆ United Way-Initiated:
 - ⇒ United Way of Central Ohio - What Matters: Done by Community Research Partners. CRP is a non-profit research and evaluation center formed by United Way of Central Ohio, the City of Columbus and the John Glenn Institute at The Ohio State University. UW also had a Community Assessment Advisory Council.
 - ⇒ The State of the Community: A Report on the Socio-Economic Health of the Greater Cincinnati Region Cincinnati: Done by a United Way Research Council, chaired by a researcher from the University of Cincinnati. This Council did the research for this report and will be bringing out future editions of The State of the Community. The Research

Council included representatives from the UC Institute for Policy Research, The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, and Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments who did the bulk of the “data mining” to support the indicators in the report.

◆ Partnerships:

- ⇒ Shared Community Indicators for Kent County: In 2002, The Delta Strategy and Heart of West Michigan United Way collaborated to develop shared community indicators. The two organizations facilitated an in-depth process in which over 15 lead organizations and representatives from another 50 organizations participated to identify a set of shared community indicators. Since then the CRI has continued to partner with Delta to provide a yearly update regarding these community indicators. (CRI is housed in the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, and its goal is to be the "one-stop shop" for data about the Greater Grand Rapids community.)
- ⇒ Communities Count Initiative in King County, WA: Partnership between Public Health, County Children & Family Commission, and United Way of King County.

How often the indicators are updated:

- ⇒ Ten indicator projects are updated yearly.
- ⇒ Another project’s data is updated every 2-3 years
- ⇒ It is not clear when the report will be updated in the last one.

Issues and solutions

Issue. Individuals and groups in the community have different interests, needs and uses for indicator data. “Data geeks” and heavy data users want more detail and the ability to analyze the data in different ways. At the other extreme are people who want straightforward graphs and tables with just minimal detail.

Solutions. Groups have dealt with this issue by:

- ◆ Creating a website where the data can be posted
- ◆ Updating each indicator as soon as it is available
- ◆ Posting indicator data broken down by age, sex, race and geographic location when available on the website (The Cincinnati Community Research Collaborative has 1.25 staff person dedicated to this activity along with developing the annual report and providing training to United Way staff on understanding, conducting, and using research)
- ◆ Creating data maps with a GIS and posting them on their website

- ◆ Including a data CD in the back of the report with all of the Excel files used to create the graphs/tables (this allows the “data geeks” to do their own analyses of the data and to look at relationships among different variables.)

Issue. Individuals and groups may differ on what they consider a valid indicator or data source. Data may be considered misleading.

Solution. Have the process for selecting the indicators be transparent and explainable. Invite anyone who is doing objective, reliable research to post their reports on the website, thus adding to the pool of data available for a particular indicator/area.

Issue. Committee membership changes over time. New members were not part of the original indicator selection process and may not buy into the indicators.

Solution. Develop a regular process for revisiting the indicators, reaffirming why they were selected and are important and discussing whether new indicators might need to be added.

Issue. Communities are more likely to use the indicator data for the purpose of creating community change, if they have been involved in the process.

Solutions. Communities have developed different solutions to this issue:

- ◆ Go through a community visioning process and then take the time to involve all different parts of the community in selecting the indicators (one community spends from May to September in the research phase and then holds 4-5 meetings with 20 individuals representing local residents to review the report before it is released)
- ◆ Establish a yearly committee of citizens to review the report
- ◆ Make sure the report is reader friendly and widely distributed and accessible
- ◆ One community has not used certain indicators because they just don't make sense to community members.

Issue. One group wanted to add a section to their report for each indicator focused on what the community ought to do to. There was a lot of disagreement about the needed strategies for addressing issues, the group could not come to consensus.

Solution. They created a database of social issues/topics with contact information for all of the groups locally that were addressing them in any way.

Issue. Is collecting and presenting data at the sub-regional (the localized geographic area, e.g., town, township, or neighborhood level) helpful or does it reinforce stereotypes and divide people rather than building community consensus? Does presenting sub-regional data create a feeling that a problem in a different neighborhood is “their problem” and therefore not “our problem” which our county needs to address? Residents don’t want to be judged or labeled. Doing so may have economic implications, such as property values. On the other hand, sub-regional data can increase a community’s understanding of the issues.

Solution. Ask the above questions and think very carefully about the implications of collecting and presenting sub-regional data before doing so. This can and should be done for each indicator. Presenting sub-regional data for some indicators can illuminate where resources need to be focused and can be very helpful. One community created a separate indicators report on racial disparities. It took them two years to review and to get community input into each indicator to make sure that it was fact based, fair, inarguable and not used to reinforce stereotypes.

Issue. Different sets of boundaries are used for different indicator data. Boundaries often don’t line up.

Solution. Use different sets of boundaries for different indicators. For example, police response time may be available by city and township, while school districts represent an entirely different set of geographic boundaries.

Issue. Some indicators mean different things in different neighborhoods. For example, the number of books in a library in a neighborhood where people do not have books at home can have a different meaning than the same indicator in a neighborhood where people have lots of books at home and buy books regularly.

Solution. Raise and think through this issue when selecting an indicator so that indicators are meaningful and useful. Identify related indicators which may inform and/or further explain an indicator.

Issue. Does a community compare themselves to national or state level benchmarks or measure the progress they are making locally?

Solution. Communities have chosen to do this in different ways. Some compare progress within their own county while others choose to compare local indicator data to state and/or national level data.

Issue. Indicator data may present numbers that don't look good.

Solution. As a courtesy one group lets individuals working in that area know before the report is released. These individuals are invited to attend the release event and to talk about what they plan to do or are already doing to improve this indicator.

Issue. How to sustain tracking indicators over time.

Solution. Formed a nonprofit United Way contract with their Institute of Public Policy at the University of Cincinnati.

Issue. Which geographic scale to use.

Solution. Communities have selected different geographic areas for data collection for their projects (e.g., county, multi-county, metropolitan area). Data for some indicators within a specific "community" are collected at different geographic scales. For example, one group started off with county wide economic data. Subsequently, they decided that in order to understand economic issues affecting their county they had to look at multi-county data.

Report Uses

- ◆ Funders use the report to help them set their funding priorities.
- ◆ Nonprofit human service providers use the data from the report in grant applications and to help them set priorities.
- ◆ Local governments use the indicators as benchmarks.
- ◆ One community holds a regular new CEO orientation. The report is presented as part of this orientation and CEO's receive training on how to read and use the report.
- ◆ Local leadership groups use the data from the report in their presentations.
- ◆ A citizens group reviews the report annually before it is released. The current President of the Chamber of Commerce always chairs the group. This ensures that the Chamber is aware of the report and part of the process.
- ◆ When businesses are interested in moving to the area and the area is on their "short list" the report is given to them with an explanation that the report identifies some of the area's challenges which are being actively worked on by different groups in the community. An invitation is offered for the business to become active in the process if they move to town.

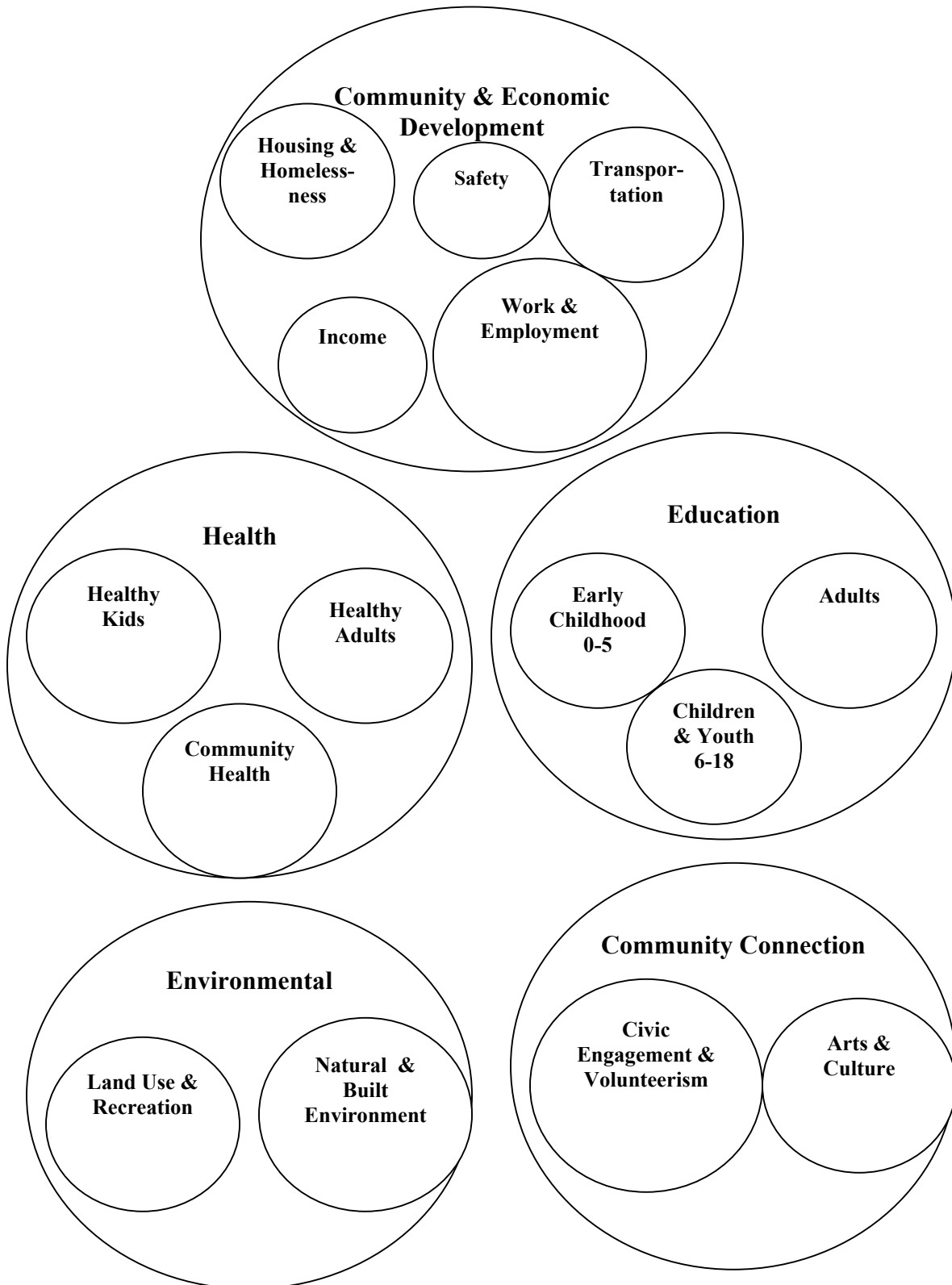
- ◆ Reports are used by community groups to identify areas where change needs to occur and to track that change over time.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community and economic development is the first of five overarching indicator categories. Each category is divided into sub-areas (see Figure 1). The summary of reports under Community & Economic Development includes four sub-areas:

- ◆ Work & Employment/Income
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Housing & Homelessness
- ◆ Transportation

Figure 1
Indicator Categories Chart



Work & Employment/Income

- ◆ **Washtenaw County Workforce Development. Environmental Scan Report Card 2004.** - The Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board, in partnership with the Community Action Board, has developed report cards for 2000 and 2004. The report card sets forth goals, identifies strategies and targets, summarizes data and trends for each goal area and presents model practices. Goals are followed by the type of data collected, in parenthesis.

Goals

- ⇒ Develop sector-based workforce development strategies (**occupational job growth, largest numeric growth occupations, high growth detailed occupations**)
- ⇒ Address the workforce development needs of small and medium sized employers (**number of employees by type of business establishment**)
- ⇒ Address the needs of the county's working poor (**poverty rates by families, individuals, gender, and race, unemployment rates**)
- ⇒ Harness the untapped human resources in the county including high school and college graduates, and persons with disabilities, to address the current labor shortage (**educational attainment by age**)
- ⇒ Improve system-wide planning efforts and customer outcomes through a concerted quality assurance initiative (**population figures, % of labor force growth**)

Key findings

- ⇒ Jobs in Washtenaw County are expected to increase by 13.7% between 2000 and 2010.
- ⇒ The highest growth occupations include: computer applications, health care, education, landscaping, and retail.
- ⇒ Small businesses comprise 99.7% of Washtenaw County's employment base.
- ⇒ Self employed and non-incorporated businesses (8,772 individuals) are also very present in this county.
- ⇒ About 48% of households earned between \$60,000-\$124,000 in 2000.
- ⇒ Of the 18% of families who have a female head of household with no male present 5,200 earned less than \$30,000.
- ⇒ The percent of county residents living in poverty is increasing. Many of the individuals living in poverty reside in working families.
- ⇒ An educated, skilled population is one of Washtenaw County's chief assets and is a vital ingredient in the area's continued economic success. Forty-eight percent of the area's population 25 years and older has a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree, compared with 21.8 percent nationwide. High school

graduation rates also outpaced the state's and nation's rates.

⇒ *Note: A new version of this report, Report Card 2005, is due out at the end of January 2006.*

- ◆ **Fulton, George, A. and Donald R. Grimes. The Economic Outlook for the Ann Arbor Metropolitan Area in 2005 – 2007 (March 2005).** Presents past job growth trends as well as forecasting future trends.

Key Findings

⇒ Between 1990 – 2004 jobs grew 19.8%, growing almost twice as fast as they did in Michigan as a whole.

⇒ In 2004 the distribution of jobs was as follows: services (34.9%) (mostly professional and business and education and health); Government (27.2%); Trade, transportation and utilities (14.7%); Manufacturing (13.8%); and Other (9%).

- ◆ **Washtenaw County. A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County (2004) –** Economic development goals are presented.

Goals

⇒ Identify the specific needs of target industries and develop the infrastructure needed to grow and attract these emerging businesses.

⇒ Develop the training and placement programs needed to take advantage of target business direct and indirect jobs and help residents at all socioeconomic levels to be gainfully employed.

⇒ Develop an inventory of ready sites for expanding and new businesses.

⇒ Maintain the viability of the agricultural sector of the county's economy through developing and supporting new and enhanced markets for locally grown food.

⇒ Develop an ecotourism and heritage tourism program for the county to provide jobs and tax base for local governments.

- ◆ **Washtenaw County. Sustainable Washtenaw Indicators Report. “A Work in Progress” (9/27/02).** Presents distribution of household income data for 1989 and 1996.

Key Findings

⇒ “Standard of living remained constant for the bottom 50% while the household income at the top improved. This gap has consequences for social equity as well as the County's ability to hold its workforce.”

⇒ Percent of children living in poverty has increased from 10.5% in 1989 to 12% in 2000.

⇒ Unemployment has dropped from 3.3% in 1995 to 1.6% in 2000.

Observations and Gaps

- ◆ An updated report card for Washtenaw County will be released in 2006. Economic-related data is readily available for Washtenaw County.
- ◆ The workforce development report card presents a broad picture of the county with data including poverty status, unemployment rates, but does not present the differences among different parts of the County.

Safety

Several reports present data related to safety in Washtenaw County. These include:

- ◆ **Human Services Collaborative Council. Improving Outcomes for Our Community's Well Being (Fall 2004).**

Goals

- ⇒ Decrease the need for incarceration through accessible mental health and substance abuse programs (*no indicators*).
- ⇒ Decrease alienation and rebelliousness in youth (decreased number of petitions filed for all status offenses and nonviolent offenses for youth, lowered number of runaway incidents).
- ⇒ Increase the number of children who are safe from intentional injuries in their homes and communities (*decreased number of substantiated child abuse cases and rate of domestic violence*).

- ◆ **Washtenaw County Building Restorative Communities (May 21, 2004).**

Goals

- ⇒ Reduce alienation and rebelliousness of youth
 - Number of petitions for juvenile driving/curfew/miscellaneous disorderly conduct
 - Number of petitions for juvenile drug and alcohol offenses
 - Number of runaway reports to law enforcement – for each town and the county as reported by each police department and the county sheriff
 - Suicidal ideation
- ⇒ Family conflict and maltreatment
 - Reported cases of child abuse and neglect
 - Substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect
 - Children living outside the family
 - Percent of FIA substantiated cases of child abuse where substance abuse was a factor
 - Domestic violence warrant requests

- ◆ **Moving in a Healthy Direction: Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan Progress Report (2001; 2005)** has a section on Safe Communities with four goals.

Goals

- ⇒ Reduce the homicide rate of African-American males (*rate of homicide*).
- ⇒ Reduce the occurrence of sexual assaults (rapes) of females aged 12 years and over (*rate of sexual assault*).
- ⇒ Reduce the occurrence of domestic violence (*domestic violence rate*).
- ⇒ Reduce the rate of substantiated child abuse (*substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect*).

- ◆ **Washtenaw County. Sustainable Washtenaw Indicators Report. “A Work in Progress” (9/27/02).** This report suggests four key indicators:

Indicators

- ⇒ Family and children offenses/10000 population
 - ⇒ Domestic violence crimes/1000 population
 - ⇒ Number of hate bias crimes/1000 population
 - ⇒ Violent crime offenses/1000 population
- ◆ **The Washtenaw Community Prevention Plan (1997)** presents data related to safe children and youth including number of: youth involved in crime, children living with single parents, runaways, incidents of domestic assault/violence, homeless children.

Observations and Gaps

Multiple reports present safety related data. Data on a number of common indicators is being collected and reported by multiple groups for different sets of years making comparisons over time difficult. The indicators most commonly tracked include:

- ◆ Substantiated child abuse cases
- ◆ Rate of domestic violence
- ◆ Number of runaways

Other indicators include:

- ◆ Violent crime offenses
- ◆ Hate bias crimes
- ◆ Youth homicide rates
- ◆ Status and nonviolent youth offenses

Many of the reports combined action goals with indicator data. Some present goals and indicators with little or no data.

- ◆ Some data is presented as county wide, other by city/township.
- ◆ Whether data is broken down by gender and/or race varies widely.

- ◆ Each of the reports is action focused. The data collected is focused on the outcomes the group hopes to achieve. County-wide data is collected over time 1998/99 to 2002/3.
- ◆ For substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect the Department of Human Services state level and Washtenaw County level data are somewhat different.
- ◆ Most of the data presented is countywide. Data is not presented by zip code or broken down by gender or race. No indicators were selected to measure progress toward decreasing the need for incarceration through accessible mental health and substance abuse programs.

Housing & Homelessness

- ◆ **A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County (2004) - Washtenaw.**

Key Findings

- ⇒ Affordable Housing was mentioned in each of the five regional planning meetings held to garner public input for the County Plan.
- ⇒ According to the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors, between December of 1998 and December of 2003, the average residential sales price increased from \$180,031 to \$268,888. This represents a 49 per cent increase in average residential sales price over this five-year period.
- ⇒ Currently, nearly \$9 million is received annually from federal, state and local sources for housing and housing-related services. Additionally, 2,334 housing vouchers and 548 public housing units provide housing opportunities for county residents. Over 20 public and not-for-profit groups receive these annual funds (typically via contracts with the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County). While all of these funds are used for eligible activities (low income and special needs residents), there has been no long-term strategy for coordinating resources and funds to provide the most efficient services to lower income residents. During the latter part of 2004, Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor began the process of integrating and coordinating their individual community development programs. This initiative should greatly improve planning efforts aiming to increase the effective use of Federal, State and Local resources.
- ⇒ Housing goals in the Plan include:
 - Maintain the existing affordable housing stock in the county.
 - Increase the private sector production of affordable housing.
 - Increase lower-income residents' ability to obtain and remain in affordable units.
 - Ensure housing for special populations and the homeless.
 - Develop community resources through collaboration and partnerships to achieve affordable housing goals in the most efficient, cost-effective manner.

◆ **Report and Recommendations of the Blueprint for Aging Services Partnership. Washtenaw County (November 2003).**

Key Findings

- ⇒ The June 2002 "The Report to Congress by the Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors in the 21st Century" indicates that nationally there are six times as many seniors with unmet housing needs as are currently served by rent-assisted housing. Local agencies serving older adults observe that this general trend is apparent in Washtenaw County, and that charitable funding is generally not sufficient to offset diminishing government support.
- ⇒ According to SEMCOG, the 65-and-over segment will increase from 26,300 in 2000 to 33,600 in 2010, or 28 percent. By 2015, the County's over-65 population is projected to be 41,300, or additional 23 percent growth from the 2010 level.
- ⇒ Currently there are imbalances in the supply and demand/ need for various types of housing for older adults: Local agencies serving older adults observe that more and varied housing is now available (e.g. assisted living), particularly for those with the ability to pay market rates. Although there may appear to be overall vacancies in affordable housing, affordable housing offering specialized services generally appears to be in very short supply (e.g. adult foster care; group homes, etc.) Furthermore, a recent study by the Housing Bureau for Seniors estimated that Washtenaw County's 26,000+ over-65 population is served by a total of 18 subsidized senior housing complexes in the county, with a combined total of only 2,089 units, well below obvious need.
- ⇒ Some low-cost housing categories, such as assisted living, appear to be in short supply. Low-cost subsidized assisted living is not available in Washtenaw County. Recent research on subsidized housing conducted by the Housing Bureau for Seniors revealed that Washtenaw County seniors who are looking for low-cost housing options are typically going to be placed on a wait list. Reportedly, certain geographic areas within Washtenaw County suffer relatively severe housing problems (e.g. Ypsilanti) because residents have limited ability to pay for housing due to lower incomes, and there are fewer housing options available in the area. A recent survey by the Housing Bureau for Seniors indicates that Washtenaw County has only three Adult Foster Care homes (with a total of 14 beds) that offer Medicare rates, which is well below apparent need.

◆ **2003-2008 Combined Washtenaw Urban County & HOME Consortium Consolidated Strategy and Action Plan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs (Ann Arbor is not included).**

Goals

- ⇒ To increase homeowner rehabilitation opportunities for low-moderate income households.
- ⇒ To increase homeownership opportunities for low-moderate income households.

- ⇒ To improve the quality, management, and supply of existing rental property available to low-moderate income households
- ⇒ To promote community stability through the coordinated delivery of services at designated places.
- ⇒ To increase the quality of life of Urban County and HOME Consortium residents by attending to infrastructure needs in order to reduce safety and health risks to low income residents.
- ⇒ To promote housing stability by addressing identified gaps in public/human services.
- ⇒ To develop plans that will efficiently address concerns that are identified by low to moderate income target areas and other problems within the Urban County and HOME Consortium.
- ⇒ To promote a suitable living environment, improve safety and livability, reduce isolation, support family structures, and facilitate access to mainstream resources for the following special populations: elderly, frail elderly, individuals with severe mental illness, persons with developmental disabilities, individuals with physical disabilities, persons with addictions, and individuals with HIV/AIDS.
- ⇒ To address gaps in support services needs for homeless individuals in the Wider Urban County Community.

- ◆ **City Of Ann Arbor 5-year consolidated strategy and plan FY 2005 – FY 2009 (7/1/2005).** This report offers an assessment of the housing and community development needs of extremely low, very low, low and moderate-income households in the community, and projection of these needs over a five year period.

Goals

- ⇒ The city has established four goals for all of its community development activities. The goals are the same as the Blueprint to End Homelessness.
 - Increase housing stability
 - Increase access to health and well-being
 - Increase long-term success of at-risk youth
 - Increase family economic stability
- ⇒ It also offers an assessment of the extent of homelessness and the need for facilities and supportive housing for homeless persons and others with special needs.

- ◆ **Human Services Collaborative Council. Improving Outcomes for Our Community’s Well-Being (Fall 2004).**

Goals

- ⇒ Increase affordable housing opportunities for extremely low, very low, and low income households. There is a need for 9,728 rental units for households earning under 30% of area median income. (The report notes that this may be larger than

the actual need due to the effect of University students on the Census, as they are often put in this ‘Extremely Low Income’ category)

⇒ Increase the number of homeless individuals with children moved into safe, permanent housing. No data.

⇒ Increase access to decent and affordable housing options for older adults. (from the Blueprint for Aging)

◆ **2004 Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor and Application Continuum of Care Plan FY 2004-2005.**

Goals

⇒ The 2003 Continuum of Care Plan, “future goals” section, identified five objectives toward achieving the goal of ending chronic homelessness. The specific action steps taken in 2003 toward achieving those objectives can be summarized as follows:

- Obtained 20 additional Section 8 vouchers through the MSHDA Preference Pilot Program (see “chronic homelessness” above for individuals).
- Implemented Ann Arbor PHA, “Section 8 Homeownership” pilot.
- Defined specific outcomes regarding linkage with mainstream for individuals and families.
- Coordinated with HSCC “Barrier Busters.”
- Participated in statewide “PIT Crew” to increase coordination and accessibility among mainstream and other programs.
- Held “Eviction Prevention Summit.”
- Create pilot partnership with McKinley Associates re: Sec. 8 and supportive services-in negotiation.
- Developed Comprehensive Housing Plan for County.-Housing Element complete.
- Hired a Homeless Employment Specialist to serve homeless families (see chronic goals for individuals).
- Assisted homeless families and individuals to apply for all entitlements and to access mainstream sources.
- Increased stability of mainstream child care for homeless families-CDBG/public services.

Key Findings

⇒ This report describes services currently in place for homeless and at risk populations in the areas of Rental/Mortgage Assistance, Emergency Eviction Assistance, Legal Advocacy (housing and domestic violence), Landlord Outreach/Advocacy, Mainstream Resource Referrals, and Housing Relocation.

◆ **A Home for Everyone: A Blueprint To End Homelessness In Washtenaw County (4/25/05).**

Goals

- ⇒ This report includes 17 strategies to end homelessness, and identifies the Community Champion, Convenor, Team Resources, and Group Charter for each of these strategies.

Key Findings

- ⇒ The March 18, 2004 Homeless Point-In-Time count found that on that night, 665 people were without homes in Washtenaw County including 100 children and 27 unaccompanied youth. Based on this, it is estimated that on an annual basis, 2,756 people are homeless in Washtenaw County.
- ⇒ Nearly half of the homeless (42%) had chronic mental illness (52%); (44%), had chronic substance abuse problems; 48% had children with them and were employed full time; and 54% were homeless less than three months.
- ⇒ Mortgage foreclosures have more than doubled since 2002 in Washtenaw County; evictions within the county increased 10% in one year. Washtenaw County has more than
- ⇒ 2,500 people are on waiting lists for affordable housing. People requesting affordable housing vouchers have an average wait of 28 months. On average, eight families are added to the waiting list for emergency shelter every week in our community.

Observations and Gaps

There are many reports about housing and homelessness in Washtenaw County. Many reports quote other completed reports in order to develop their goals, and many use Census data. Additional reports that were not summarized include Impediments to Fair Housing Reports, several consolidated annual performance reports, and older five-year plans. However, the different agencies and government departments appear to be fairly well-coordinated, and have recently taken steps to increase the coordination further.

Data is not the main gap, it is the availability of financial resources to create the type of very low income housing and workforce housing that is needed in the county. In addition, steps have been taken to make it easier for homeless and at risk people to seek help by streamlining the availability of services.

Transportation

There is numerous data available regarding transportation in Washtenaw County, but relatively few reports about the state of transportation:

- ◆ **Washtenaw Area Transportation Study. 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County (adopted June 16, 2004).** This is an update of the 2015, 2020, and 2025 plans.

Goals

- ⇒ Goal 1: Promote a safe and secure transportation system.
- ⇒ Goal 2: Provide accessibility and mobility for all people and goods.
- ⇒ Goal 3: Invest strategically in transportation infrastructure to enhance the vitality of the community.
- ⇒ Goal 4: Protect and enhance the environment.

Key Findings

- ⇒ The Plan notes that there are 410 capital transportation improvements and 18 operating improvements included in the 2030 Plan. Nearly one-third (133) of the capital improvements are for the reconstruction or resurfacing of the existing road network. The next largest category of improvements (60) are for transit improvements. Intersection (51) and widening (40) projects account for roughly twenty percent of the improvements. Non-motorized (bike and sidewalk) projects make up just over ten percent of the improvements.
- ⇒ It also notes that the transportation agencies have also identified an additional 126 improvements at a total cost of over \$934 million for which funding is not available, and that road operating expenses are not accounted for in the 2030 Plan.

◆ Washtenaw County. A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County (2004).

Goals

- ⇒ Improve our freeways and interchanges to maintain the ability to move people, goods, and services into and through the county.
- ⇒ Maximize the capacity of the existing urban and suburban transportation system.
- ⇒ Provide a system of north/south, east/west alternative routes in the rural areas to adequately move people, goods and services and minimize impacts to villages, cities and townships.
- ⇒ Develop a safe and well-maintained rural road system that meets the needs of agriculture and rural residents while maintaining the scenic beauty and character of this landscape.
- ⇒ Maximize limited funding to make design-sensitive improvements on deficient bridges.
- ⇒ Ensure public road connectivity for future and existing roadways to provide an efficient and safe road network for the residents and visitors throughout Washtenaw County.
- ⇒ Maintain the conditions of certain roads having unusual or outstanding natural beauty.
- ⇒ Expand the county's transit system to reduce auto dependency and meet the needs of the county's residents.
- ⇒ Become the state's leading example of implementing pedestrian, bicycle and trails

systems to reduce automobile dependency, connecting residents to educational, work and leisure opportunities.

Key Findings

- ⇒ Notable public transit and non-motorized data includes:
 - In service for an average of 17 hours per day, the Ann Arbor Transit Authority (AATA) runs 24 fixed routes with an average weekday ridership of 15,500 passengers.
 - In addition to fixed-route services, AATA provides paratransit services, a flexible or door-to-door service for the elderly, disabled or economically disadvantaged. In 2002, 4,475,765 riders used AATA's services.
- ⇒ Data from the 2000 Census indicate that 8,527 households do not own a personal vehicle and that 28,141 residents, 16 years and over, have a disability and rely on alternative transportation
- ⇒ The number of older adults (age 65 and over) is expected to increase 96 percent between 2000 and 2020, from 26,271 to over 51,529, indicating an increased need for transit services for older adults.
- ⇒ This Plan includes the following transportation goals:

◆ Human Services Collaborative Council. Improving Outcomes for Our Community's Well Being (Fall 2004).

Key Findings

- ⇒ More than 60% of the county's population lives within one-half mile of an existing Ann Arbor Transit Authority route.
- ⇒ More than 70% of the county's population lives where Ann Arbor Transit Authority provides the A-Ride services for people with disabilities and seniors.

Observations and Gaps

Data about motor vehicle crashes, traffic counts, rail and bus ridership data, and road conditions is available upon request from Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS). They also developed a non-motorized plan for the county. Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) also prepared a transportation improvement plan.

There are a number of gaps in information about transit needs for non-car transit. However, with the reduction in transportation funding from the state and the apparent unwillingness of some municipalities to pay for transit services, there are currently few resources to pay for the increased transportation needs. There may be need for increased information.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING

- ◆ **Washtenaw County. Moving in a Healthy Direction: Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan (2005; 2001).** This report (and 2005 Update) is a comprehensive report which seeks to (1) prioritize critical health needs of Washtenaw County citizens, (2) monitor progress, and (3) disseminate findings.

Key Findings

- ⇒ It identifies 52 objectives with indicator data presented for priority areas: Healthy Kids, Healthy Adults, Healthy Environment and Safe Communities. Similar data was collected in 1995 and 2000 and is currently being collected for 2005 in order to track changes. State and national level comparative data is also presented, where available, while local data is mapped by zip code.
 - ⇒ Teen birth rates have declined from 47.9 in 1994 to 31.9 in 2003.
 - ⇒ The number of overweight (see report for definitions) Washtenaw County residents has increased from 44.3% to 46.5%. In children, 7.6% of children 12-17 were overweight in 1995, while 14.2% were in 2000.
 - ⇒ Asthma hospitalization rates for children are substantially higher than state or national rates, especially for males, African Americans and residents of Ypsilanti.
 - ⇒ Smoking is on the decline and over 80% of women over 40 receive mammograms.
 - ⇒ Infant mortality has been decreasing for Caucasians, but increasing for African-Americans. Infant birth weight has been staying fairly steady, though a similar racial discrepancy was found for infant birth weights.
 - ⇒ In addition, several 'drill-down' reports have been done using HIP data, including Washtenaw County Healthy Eating Report (November 2004), a Report on Physical Activity in Washtenaw (1/20/03), and a report about prevalence of different types of cancer (not yet published).
- ◆ **Waller, Adreanne, MPH, Washtenaw County Public Health. Washtenaw Uncovered (January 2005).** This two-part report examines health disparities of uninsured and medically needy populations and the safety net of providers that serves them in Washtenaw County.
 - ◆ **Washtenaw County. Sustainable Washtenaw (9/27/02).** - uses data from the Health improvement plan for community health indicators including:
 - ⇒ Health risk behaviors
 - ⇒ County residents without health insurance
 - ◆ **The Unyielding Low Birth Weight in Washtenaw County Report.**

Key Findings

- ⇒ The low birth weight for Black and White births increased about 15% between 1990 and 2000.

⇒ Black birth weights are 2-2.5 times higher than those for White infants. Factors affecting low birth weights are also identified.

⇒ The Washtenaw County Coalition for Infant Mortality Reduction also collects information on infant deaths and their causes.

◆ **The Washtenaw Community Prevention Plan (1997).**

Key Findings

⇒ This report presents data on children's health including immunization rates for babies 0-35 months, cigarette, inhalant, and alcohol use, accidental injuries and death, and sexually transmitted diseases.

⇒ It also presents data on birth weights, teen births, infant mortality rates, and rate of early prenatal care.

◆ **WCHO. Important Aspects of Care Report (2004).**

Goals

⇒ Three policy directives for Board consideration are presented in this report: (1) identifying the types of data needed in the future and how they should be presented; (2) assessing their efforts to implement evidence-based best practices (EBP) and this strategy's return on investment; and (3) identifying the types of data and reporting needed to help the Board evaluate their partnerships and collaborations across systems.

Key Findings

⇒ This report presents data on consumers receiving services in the Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan (CMHPSM). This partnership includes Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw Counties.

⇒ The report includes demographic information as well as mental health, substance abuse and physical health care cost and utilization data for Washtenaw County.

◆ **Washtenaw County. Report and Recommendations of the Blueprint for Aging Services Partnership (November 2003).** Presents data about trends over time with regards to the growth of this population. The report is focused on specific recommendations in multiple areas but does not present indicator data.

Observations and Gaps

Due to the HIP survey, the Health area has a source of data that is updated every five years. The HIP report presents a broad picture of the health status of this county. Other reports focus on the health of specific sub-populations, such as Medicaid recipients (WHO), infant health, and the health of our eldest citizens.

There is a great deal of data being collected about the health status of Washtenaw County residents. Health concerns of specific populations are already being identified to some extent.

EDUCATION

Early Childhood

◆ Childcare Network. Washtenaw County Child Care Report (May 2005).

Key Findings

- ⇒ This report provides the number of sites (either in-home or child care centers) that are active and giving care, and the number of current vacancies (full-time and part-time). All types of sites have vacancies, except for the area of part-time infant care. There are breakdowns for cities as well.
- ⇒ 27 centers are nationally accredited
- ⇒ Estimate of how many children need childcare vs. how many licensed spots are available. The number of Washtenaw County children needing care (age 13 and under)= 25,196, while the total number of licensed child care spaces for all ages = 14, 404.
- ⇒ Cost of care as a percent of income is 13% for infants, and 11.5% for preschool children.
- ⇒ The average and range of costs are available for child care in each age group.

◆ Human Services Collaborative Council. Improving Outcomes for Our Community's Well-Being (Fall 2004).

Goals

- ⇒ The report developed an outcome of increasing the number of children who live in homes supportive of optimal cognitive development, but had not set an indicator to measure success for this goal.
- ⇒ Increasing access to full day subsidized preschool spaces for children at or below 200% poverty.
- ⇒ Increasing the number of accredited child care programs.

Key Findings

- ⇒ There are just under 3,000 subsidized full day preschool spaces in Washtenaw County.
- ⇒ U.S. census data shows that there are 4,000 Washtenaw County children who have full-time working parents and live at or below 20% of the poverty level.

◆ HelpSource. Child Care Project - Community Assessment (June 2005).

Key Findings

- ⇒ This report contains results from a human services survey about child care need. It includes results from agencies that serve 16 different agencies and at least 18 different programs.
 - All the agencies surveyed served Washtenaw County or areas within Washtenaw County, giving them a good perspective on the need in this area

for child care. Out of 24 respondents, 23 said that there is a need for child care in Washtenaw County. Out of 22, 20 said there is a need for drop-in services and 17 of 18 said there is a need for in-home care. According to the survey results, children who are aged infants to 18 months are most in need of care, followed by children 18 months-3 years then 3-5 years and finally 5-10 years.

- According to respondents, barriers include high cost, lack of transportation, hours of operation, location, and a lack of *quality* child care.

⇒ The report notes several limitations of their research:

- Scope: Since the respondents' agencies mainly served families, children, teens, and women, they are more likely to see a need for child care than agencies that do not serve these groups.
- The survey was sent to several agencies that chose not to respond, possibly because they did not feel that they had enough knowledge of the needs for childcare in Washtenaw County to answer the questions.

K-12

◆ Michigan League for Human Service. Kids Count in Michigan (2004).

Key Findings

⇒ This report presents data about:

- Infant death rate (slightly lower than state level) and child death rates (similar to state level)
- Less than adequate prenatal care (similar to state level)
- Children tested for lead. Fifty-five percent of Michigan children have been tested and 3 children had elevated blood levels in 2004.
- Children uninsured 0-17 (slightly lower than state level; from 2000 Census)
- Births to teens 15-19 (40% fewer than state level)
- Teen death rate (39% of Michigan rate)
- Free and reduced price lunch (64% of state level)
- Children 0-17 in poverty (64% of state level)
- Abuse levels – children in investigated families, confirmed rate of abuse/neglect (45% of state level), Out of home care
- Percent of children insured by Medicaid; MICHild

⇒ Some communities also have data listed: Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti Township, and Pittsfield Township.

◆ Human Services Collaborative Council. Improving Outcomes for Our Community's Well-Being (Fall 2004).

Goals

⇒ The report developed an outcome of increasing the number of youth completing high school, with associated goals to measure progress:

- Increase the credits earned towards graduation (data not currently available).
- Increase student attendance rates (reliable data not currently available).
- Reduce out of school suspension rates (data not currently available).

◆ **Washtenaw Community Prevention Plan (1997).**

Key Findings

⇒ This plan presents multiple indicators and indicator data on school success including: 1) educational achievement levels for adults for Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and the county; 2) school discipline data; 3) MEAP scores; and 4) dropout and graduation rates.

◆ **Standard & Poor. School Matters (2005).**

Key Findings

⇒ Data for each district, county, and state overall:

- Spending per student divided into a number of types of spending
- MEAP results
- ACT and SAT scores
- AP participation and scores
- Student/Teacher Ratio
- School Safety Infractions (per 100 students)
- Community Demographics

⇒ Washtenaw Intermediate School District notes that the Standard & Poor data is normally used by real estate agents and others trying to sell prospective customers on the appeal of a particular area, and is not always valid and reliable. For instance, the report lists graduation rate, which is not collected in the same way throughout the County.

◆ **Washtenaw Intermediate School District (2005).**

Key Findings

⇒ WISD publishes a report of 2004-05 fourth Wednesday student headcount by building and grade, Special Education Students Being Served by Disability, and Special Education Disability by Age.

⇒ Total General Fund Revenues by District 02-03 (and 98-99)

⇒ Teacher Salary Comparison 03-04 (95-99)

Adult

◆ **Human Services Collaborative Council. Improving Outcomes for Our Community's Well-Being (Fall 2004).**

Goals

⇒ Increase GED completion rates for adults without a high school diploma.

⇒ Increase the number of adults that earn a college degree or complete a certificate program.

Key Findings

⇒ According to the 2000 Census, among Washtenaw County adults aged 25 or

older, there are 5,000 that have less than a ninth grade education, and 12,000 who have gone beyond the ninth grade but who have not earned a high school diploma.

Observations and Gaps

There is a reluctance by WISD and the school districts to spotlight the differences between schools in graduation rates, academic tests, or anything else, because they do not believe that it is a fair comparison, given differences in funding and student socio-economic differences. To overcome that, WISD reports much of its data for the entire county. This encourages the individual school district to participate in data gathering, as well as giving the school districts a chance to look individually at how their school is doing, without making that information public.

There is a lack of reliably collected data county-wide. Each of the ten school districts collects data about graduation rates and school personnel in a slightly different way, and collects different sets of data. Some data will soon be collected in the same way, as the No Child Left Behind Act mandates how graduation rates should be documented.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Several reports present data and goals related to the environment in Washtenaw County. These include:

- ◆ **Washtenaw County. Sustainable Washtenaw Indicators Report. “A Work in Progress.” (9/27/02).** Environmental Stewardship was an important goal of this report and the proposed environmental indicators are in three different areas.

Key Findings

⇒ Environmental Quality

- Open Space Indicator – TBD.
- Air Quality Indicator – Presents data about the number of days that were over the 8-hour maximum allowable ozone levels in 2002, 2001, and 2000 in four communities: Warren, New Haven, Allen Park, and Ypsilanti.
- Water Quality Indicator – TBD

⇒ Efficient Resource Use

- Share of Recycled Solid Waste Indicator – TBD
- Acres of Parkland/1,000 residents. Presents parkland data from 1998 and 2002, and notes that Washtenaw County needs to add 315-495 acres of parkland to meet the National Recreation and Parks Association standard of 35-55 acres per thousand population.

- Demographics of Parks Visits per Year. Uses 2001 survey data from the Institute for Social Research showing that 84% of respondents visited a county or local park within the previous year.
- ⇒ County Resident Disconnect: Environmental Perception and Preference. Data for the following indicators is taken from the Detroit Area Study in 2001, which was discontinued in 2005:
- Perception of environmental problems. The percent of Washtenaw County residents that said the following were problems in 2001:
 - 72%: Loss of natural areas
 - 70%: Loss of natural places for fish and wildlife
 - 70%: Discharge of waste into lakes, streams, and rivers
 - 57%: Air pollution
 - Willingness to pay more taxes to improve/maintain quality of community life: Percent that responded positively:
 - 27%: improve/expand public transit
 - 44%: Acquire land for parks
 - 53%: Preserve farmland
 - 54%: Road improvement
 - Travel behavior – missing from draft
 - Neighborhood preference – type of neighborhood preferred:
 - 31% preferred transit/pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods
 - 69% preferred automobile-oriented neighborhoods
- ◆ **A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County (2004).** This Plan contains an analysis of existing conditions and trends from the Census 2000 data and SEMCOG, projects these trends into the future, and combines these with a citizen and local official input to develop a comprehensive set of goals for five areas.

Goals

- ⇒ Key land use goals:
- Promote higher density infill development and redevelopment within existing cities, suburban areas, and smaller cities and villages and areas surrounding them.
 - Promote the development of new, compact, mixed-use, transit-oriented activity centers.
 - Maintain our rural sense of place through land use techniques, economic viability of agriculture and alternatives that provide rural tax base for local governments.
 - Develop a system of open spaces throughout the county to delineate communities, maintaining our sense of place and to preserve our natural lands.
- ⇒ Agricultural goals:
- Encourage and support programs that will maintain the viability of agriculture through new and expanding markets for locally grown products.
 - Encourage and support agricultural operations through farmland preservation programs.

- Encourage and support planning and zoning tools, along with state and federal policies that promote the viability of the county's and region's agricultural sector.
- ⇒ Natural Resources goals:
- Protect and improve the quality of our water resources through a comprehensive approach of planning, maintenance, retrofit, and new development best management practices.
 - Preserve wetlands, woodlands, floodplains and other natural features through resource assessments, model regulations and leveraging open space and trail programs.
 - Improve air quality for county residents by reducing automobile and other source emissions.
 - Increase awareness and use of best management techniques through an aggressive public education program.
- ⇒ Parks and Recreation goals:
- Encourage the provision of parks and recreational opportunities in close proximity to county residents.
 - Leverage the resources of parks and recreation providers in developing regional open space systems and a county-wide greenway and trail system.
 - Build on established natural resource protection programs, such as the County's Natural Areas Protection Program and local open space initiatives to preserve important natural resources.
- ⇒ Solid Waste:
- Ensure adequate disposal systems and landfill capacity at a cost that will not overburden future generations.
 - Protect our environmental and public health through aggressive waste diversion and recycling programs.
- ◆ **Washtenaw Count Recycles – Residential Solid Waste Profile and Assessment Report (May 2005).** This report covers two main areas.

Key Findings

⇒ Waste Generation and Recovery Data: Presents data about estimated waste generation, recycling rate, and diversion rate for each local unit of government and the overall county system and recommendations for building this information into a more accurate and reliable database.

⇒ Current Solid Waste Management System: Examines the conditions of the current system including an assessment of local collection systems and costs, transportation/hauling issues, county funding and local solid waste ordinances.

- ◆ **Healthy Direction: Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan (2004).** - Priority area #3 is a Healthy Environment. Data is derived from their own surveys and research, from the census 2000, and from Washtenaw County.

Goals

⇒ Increase the percentage of homes that have been tested for radon.

- ⇒ Decrease the amount of air emissions per year.
- ⇒ Increase the percentage of community wells that comply with EPA standards.
- ⇒ Increase the percentage of household waste that is recycled.
- ⇒ Decrease the number of county sites listed as contaminated on the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality list.
- ⇒ Examine frequency and distribution of asthma in the county and their association with the environment.
- ⇒ Establish plan to define, track and identify link between environmental health and chronic disease.

Key Findings

- ⇒ In addition, the Washtenaw County Planning Department collects a variety of data about land use and environmental quality for their own use, but much of it is not published. They will start taking aerial land-use photographs every two years that will be used for their land-use analysis, and potentially could be used to develop an open-space indicator.

Observations and Gaps

The Washtenaw County Comprehensive Plan pulled together multiple data that was in different places before. It has also spurred reports and actions based on its finding and recommendations. However, many of its recommendations require the buy-in and active participation of the cities and townships, which are not required to follow this plan.

Regular reporting: County-level environmental data consists mostly of data and reports that are produced sporadically. However, there is a lot of data available when requested. Much of the data is based on census 10-year data, or is taken from SEMCOG, which updates their data based on census data or their own research, on a 5-10 year basis.

Comprehensive Information about Water Quality: Huron River Watershed Council has data about the water quality of specific bodies of water, as does the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Washtenaw County will release a water quality report in 2006. However, there is not one report that continuously tracks water quality in an easy-to-understand format.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

This area has the least data and fewest reports. Communities elsewhere in the country are collecting data about social connections as well as voting and arts facilities and attendance.

◆ **Washtenaw County. Sustainable Washtenaw Indicators Report. “A Work in Progress” (9/27/02).**

Key Findings

- ⇒ Data on the percentage of voter turnout for local elections shows that the number of registered voters and the percentage of voters who turn out to vote has increased from 48.85% in 1994 to 62.34% in 2000 (source Washtenaw County Clerk).
- ⇒ In 2002, Washtenaw County received 18% of the total dollars available for arts and culture in the State of Michigan.
- ⇒ Individuals who report that they share things/socialize/exchange labor with friends, neighbors or acquaintances/1000 population. This data comes from a 2001 Detroit area study.

CONCLUSIONS

FERA reviewed reports presenting data for Washtenaw County on a variety of issue areas. While we tried to include every major report focusing on the county, if we missed a report it was not intentional. It is clear from our review that this county has a wealth of organizations (both governmental and nonprofit), coalitions of organizations and individuals, and community members that have already developed goals and action plans for specific issue areas. Some efforts are highly data driven and draw in national research and effective practices from various fields. Others focus on planning for the future.

A wealth of data is already available about Washtenaw County. However, there is no central location where one can find out who is collecting what information. Furthermore, data is collected and reported at different points in time for different years. Surveys are conducted for many different purposes, but for the most part are one-time data collections, making it impossible to track trends over time. There is no comprehensive report for Washtenaw County which tracks indicators for multiple issue areas over time.

Several reports integrate data focused on a cluster of indicators related to the health, education and welfare of the young people living in our county (Building Restorative Communities and Washtenaw Community Prevention Plan, The Unyielding Low Birth Weight in Washtenaw County report). Other reports include youth as part of a broader focus. Indicators exist for the youth cluster, however no organization seems to

be collecting and reporting consistent data over time. Some data, such as prevalence of cigarette, alcohol and inhalant use, is collected from surveys which are not implemented regularly using a consistent sample of schools, making it difficult to track trends over time. Whether the data is presented countywide or is presented by zip code or town (e.g., rates in Ypsilanti) is not consistent. The State of the Community Report Committee may want to present in some way this integrative thinking showing how indicators are related.

In existing reports some data is compared to state and/or national data, others are not. Different formats and levels of data collection (e.g., county, zip code level) make it difficult to compare data and trends across issue areas. A State of Washtenaw County report that is done regularly could build upon the extensive work already being done by organizations and citizen groups by consistently tracking trends over time and making existing data easily accessible across issue areas. It would be an effort that builds upon, brings together, and facilitates the work that others are doing.

NEXT STEPS

The purpose for the State of the Community Report is to have a single-source, comprehensive document of economic, social, and demographic indicators of social health and well being. The report will provide benchmarks for Washtenaw County. Trendlines will be readily accessible and kept in one place. If the report is updated over time it can help Washtenaw County measure progress in certain areas and can be one of the knowledge sources that leads to developing priorities, making plans, taking action and improving outcomes. Organizations, task forces and other groups that do not have funding to conduct regular research will have a central place to find information that they can use.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead

KEY REPORTS AND HOW THEY CAN BE ACCESSED

Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. Report on Affordable Housing in the Ann Arbor Area: 2002 Housing Innovation Program. (2002). Accessed at: <http://closup.umich.edu/gerber/teaching/pp686/fall2002/affordable-housing.pdf>

Report about current existing affordable housing stock, the effect of an affordable housing shortage on businesses, the impact on workers and employers, brief profile of how 11 other communities have dealt with a shortage of affordable housing, roadblocks, and forecasts for housing needs. Identifies a new model of an affordable housing fund: “By combining efforts, local businesses can partner with local government, developers and nonprofits to impact the problem.”

Childcare Network. Washtenaw County Child Care Report. (May 2005). Accessed at www.childcarenetwork.org.

This report gives the number of sites (either in-home or child care centers) that are active and giving care, and the number of current vacancies (full time and part-time), and breaks it down by cities as well. It gives an estimate of how many children need child care vs. how many licensed spots are available, and gives an average cost breakdown for care for different ages of children. It is done yearly.

City Of Ann Arbor Five Year Consolidated Strategy And Plan FY 2005 – FY 2009. (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2010). Accessed at http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/community_development/plans_reports_data

Report prepared for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Assessment of the housing and community development needs of extremely low, very low, low and moderate-income households in the community, extent of homelessness , and projection of these needs over a five-year period. Presents an annual action plan which outlines the intended Uses of Community Development Block Grants.

Fulton, George, A. and Donald R. Grimes. Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Michigan. The Economic Outlook For The Ann Arbor Metropolitan Area In 2005-2007. (March 2005) Accessed at <http://www.ilir.umich.edu/LMR/Docs/Outlook/AnnArborOutlook2005.pdf>

Now in its twentieth year, this yearly economic outlook is prepared by two economists with the University of Michigan’s Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations for the Ann Arbor News. It has an economic forecast for the area as well as information about the last few years’ economic data including unemployment rate, employment by industry, and other data. It includes the Ann Arbor MSA, which is Washtenaw, Livingston, and Lenawee Counties. (Note that the Ann Arbor MSA will be changing for the next release of this report so that it is just Washtenaw County.)

HelpSource—Child Care Project Community Assessment. (June 2005). Accessed at:

<http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/hsc/0-5/Posted%20Documents%20and%20PDFs/Child%20Care%20Community%20Assessment.pdf>

This report contains results from a human services survey about child care need. It includes results from agencies that serve 16 different agencies and at least 18 different programs, and found that the agencies reported a great need for child care in Washtenaw County, in particular for drop-in services, in-home care, and infants to 18 months.

Human Services Collaborative Council. Improving Outcomes for Our Community's Well-Being. (Fall 2004). Accessed at:

<http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/hsc/plan.html>

The HSCC is a multi-purpose collaborative body. This report presents four main outcome areas that were identified as a focus through which to improve the community's well being: Economic Well-being, Intellectual & Social, Safety, and Health, and gives desired outcomes along with indicators that best represent this outcome based on data.

Michigan League for Human Service. Kids Count in Michigan. (2002). Accessed at: http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=MI&areaid=82

This report gives data about indicators of child well being in a number of states and counties across the US. Some communities also have data listed: Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti Township, and Pittsfield Township. Some data includes Infant Death rate; Less than adequate prenatal care; Births to teens 15-19; Teen Death rate; Free and reduced price lunch; confirmed rate of abuse/neglect; Percent of children insured by Medicaid; MICHild.

Okwuje, Ifie Mary Frances, for the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. Community Scan. (Summer 2005). Can be accessed at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, www.aacf.org.

Focus groups (31 respondents) and survey (135 respondents) were held with local non-profits, members of Human Service Collaborative Council Action Groups, and relevant local city and county officials to ask about community needs, existing resources, obstacles; community opportunities; and AAACF roles and resources.

Standard & Poor. SchoolMatters.(2005). Accessed at <http://www.schoolmatters.com>

"In response to an expressed need by the education community for an impartial, transparent analysis of the nation's educational data, Standard & Poor's (S&P) created School Evaluation Services." Data is presented for each district, county, and state overall, and includes Spending per student; MEAP results; ACT and SAT scores; Student/Teacher Ratio, and School Safety Infractions, from 2001 on.

Waller, Adreanne, MPH. Washtenaw County Public Health. Washtenaw Uncovered. (March 2005). Accessed at

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/ph_hltpublic.html/phcontent/washtenawuncovered2005.pdf

A two-part report examines health disparities of uninsured and medically needy populations and the safety net of providers that serve them in Washtenaw County.

Washtenaw Community Health Organization. Important Aspects Of Care Report (2004). Accessed by calling WCHO at 544-3000.

This report is a summary document of the mental health, substance abuse and physical health care cost and utilization data, as well as a demographic summary of the consumers receiving services in the Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan (CMHPSM).

Washtenaw County Community Health Committee. Moving in a Healthy Direction: Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan Progress Report. (December 2001. Update September 2005). Updates of indicator progress available at http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/hip

Includes data and indicators to show progress in achieving goals in four areas:

- ◆ *Healthy Kids*
- ◆ *Healthy Adults*
- ◆ *Healthy Environment*
- ◆ *Safe Communities*

Washtenaw County. Report and Recommendations of the Blueprint for Aging Services Partnership. (November 2003). Accessed at <http://csswashtenaw.org/basp/basp.pdf>

This is a strategic plan that outlines findings regarding the efficacy of existing programs and services for older adults in Washtenaw County, and presents recommendations for addressing identified deficiencies. Data used in preparing the report is extrapolated from national census data and national studies about older adults.

Washtenaw County Office of Community Development. 2003-2008 Combined Washtenaw Urban County & HOME Consortium Consolidated Strategy and Action Plan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs. (May 14, 2003). Accessed at http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/community_development/human_services/wshcnty_conplan0308.

This Consolidated Plan summarizes the data and five-year goals and objectives for two related programs: the Washtenaw CDBG/HOME Urban County and the Washtenaw HOME Program Consortium. The Washtenaw Urban County is comprised of the Ypsilanti Charter Township, Pittsfield Charter Township, Ann Arbor Charter Township, Bridgewater Township, Salem Township, Superior Charter Township, Northfield Township, and Washtenaw County as the lead entity. Housing Market Inventory and

Analysis, Housing Needs Assessment, Non-housing Community Development Needs Assessment; The 5-Year Housing & Community Development Strategic Plan; The 1-Year Action Plan.

2004 Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor Continuum of Care Plan and Application FY 2004-2005. Accessed at http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/community_development/plans_reports_data

This plan summarizes the data and five-year goals and objectives for federal HOME and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and local general funds and Affordable Housing Trust (AHTF) funds.

Washtenaw County. A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County. (2004). Accessed at http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning_environment/comp_plan/adopted_plan/full_plan.pdf

This plan contains an analysis of existing conditions and trends from the Census 2000 data and SEMCOG, projects these trends into the future, and combines these with citizen and local official input to develop a comprehensive set of goals and actions for Washtenaw County from 2004-2024.

Washtenaw County. Building Restorative Communities – Within Our Reach. (May 21, 2004). An Executive Summary of this report can be Accessed at <http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/hssc/workandprojects/BRC.html>

The Building Restorative Communities Initiative builds upon the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Offenders to provide “best practice” information about how to address rising violent juvenile crime. Parts of this plan are updated yearly.

Washtenaw County. Coalition for Infant Mortality Reduction: Executive Summary by Adreanne Waller. Washtenaw County Public Health. Accessed at www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/hip/Enewsletter%202005/Summer_2005/infantmortality)

This report presents data on low birth weight rates for Black and White births between 1990 and 2000 for Washtenaw County residents. Factors such as sociodemographics, medical risks, behavioral risks, health care, and related pregnancy outcomes are explored and relevant data is presented.

The Washtenaw Community Prevention Plan. (1997). A Project of the Washtenaw Family Services Collaborative Council. Accessed by contacting the Washtenaw County Children’s Services Manager at (734) 484-6630.

The Community Prevention Plan focuses on outcomes and presents data for each of the following areas: healthy births, healthy children, school success, and safe children and youth. Summaries of research documenting risk factors and protective factors for a wide range of child, youth and family problems are also presented.

Washtenaw County. Sustainable Washtenaw Indicators Report. “A Work in Progress – Collaboratory for Community Support Draft – Rev. 5.” (9/27/02). Accessed by calling Washtenaw County Planning & Environment at 734-994-8284.

Sustainable Washtenaw was a multi-stakeholder coalition consisting of a variety of mainly county-based stakeholders. Their goal was to reach consensus region-wide among a critical mass of stakeholder organizations, municipalities, civic leaders, and citizens regarding a new shared vision rooted in common values about how the region can grow in a more sustainable manner. Their first task was to gather a set of indicators of social health, economic vitality, and environmental stewardship. This effort disbanded in 2004.

Washtenaw County. Washtenaw Count Recycles – Residential Solid Waste Profile and Assessment Report (May 2005). Accessed at: http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning_environment/dpw/sw_report.pdf

This report is normally done every five years as required by the State of Michigan, with the next cycle occurring in 2007. This special report was done as a result of the Washtenaw County 2004 Comprehensive Plan, and will be updated presents data about estimated waste generation, recycling rate, and diversion rate for each local unit of government and the overall county system, as well as recommendations for building this information into a more accurate and reliable database. It also examines the conditions of the current Solid Waste Management System: system including an assessment of local collection systems and costs, transportation/hauling issues, county funding and local solid waste ordinances.

Washtenaw County. Workforce Development Environmental Scan Report Card 2000; 2004. (November 2000; 2004). New versions of this report can be accessed at: <http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/etcs/Publications/ReportCard.pdf>

The Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board, in partnership with the Community Action Board has developed report cards for 2000 and 2004. The report card sets forth goals, identifies strategies and targets, summarizes data and trends for each goal area and presents model practices.

Washtenaw Housing Alliance, Washtenaw County Government, City of Ann Arbor, City of Ypsilanti. A Home for Everyone: A Blueprint To End Homelessness In Washtenaw County (4/25/05). Accessed at:

<http://www.whalliance.org/blueprint/Blueprint-for-Homelessness-final.pdf>

This is a public guide, data source, and action plan to end homelessness in the County. “With its fourfold focus - Prevention, Housing with Services, System Reform and Community Engagement – this plan takes aim at the complexity of homelessness, from changing individual lives to changing community perceptions.” Also includes Recommendations and Implementation guide.

Report Addendum:

The following reports became available after this report was finalized.

Arts Alliance of the Ann Arbor Area – A Division of the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce. The Economic Impact of Arts & Culture in Washtenaw County. (June 2006). Accessed at:

http://www.annarborchamber.org/community/arts/Impact_Report.pdf

A study of the economic impact of the county's not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations and their audiences. The report includes two components: an online organizational survey and a patron survey designed to gather audience data.

Washtenaw County Department of Public Health. A Snapshot of Latino Health. (July 2006). Accessed at:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/phcontent/LatinoHealth.pdf

Latinos or Hispanics are one of the fastest growing populations nationwide and locally. To better understand the health issues of Latinos living in Washtenaw County, the Health Department, in partnership with UM Program for Multicultural Health and Latinos Unidos, conducted a brief health survey in Fall 2005.

Washtenaw County Department of Environmental Health. Water Quality Report. More information will be available at the Environmental Health Website:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/environmental_health/

Washtenaw County Water Quality Report.