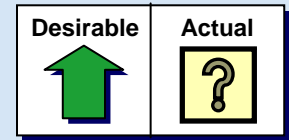


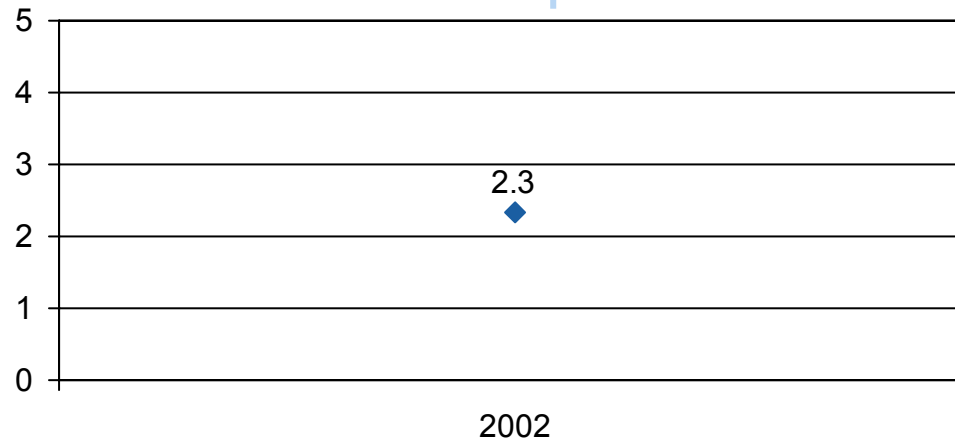
Civic Engagement and Arts & Culture

Washtenaw County has not yet systematically collected much data about civic engagement and arts and culture in the county. Nevertheless the county has abundant resources in this area including: the University Musical Society (UMS) of 128 years with a very special Partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company in London and outreach programs for families and students, multiple theater and musical performance groups, the Ann Arbor Art Association, the Art Fair, neighborhood centers, the Neutral Zone, multiple environmental groups providing volunteer opportunities as well as connections to our natural environment and to each other, multi-cultural associations and groups, and other volunteer opportunities, to mention a few.

With the exception of voting rates which have increased from 62.3% in 2000 to 69.5% in 2004 (both presidential election years) the other indicators in this study have data for only one point in time. There is a recently completed study of the economic impact of the arts in Washtenaw County and Youth Empowered to Act (YEA) is currently conducting county-wide youth asset mapping project. These studies are first time efforts. If they continue they can give us valuable data. A next step could be to conduct a qualitative case study and map the arts resources and civic engagement opportunities in the county. This would be a first step in identifying potential data sources that could be developed and reported on in the future.



Number of People (in millions) taking Part in Arts & Cultural Activities



What it is:

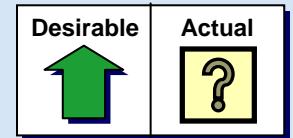
The number of people taking part in Washtenaw County arts and cultural activities (such as performances, exhibitions, art fairs, and other cultural activities), according to the Arts Alliance's 2002 Economic Impact Study. These people came from inside Washtenaw County and to Washtenaw County in order to participate in these activities.

Why it matters:

This indicator demonstrates how broadly the county's arts and cultural organizations are serving the public by measuring the size of audiences for performances, exhibitions and other arts and cultural activities. Arts and cultural activities impact the local economy by bringing resident and non-resident customers to local businesses.

What it tells us:

This benchmark data will be compared to future data.

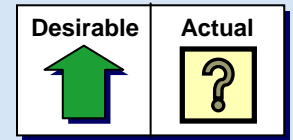


What it is:

The number of class hours devoted to arts instruction in K-12 public schools. There is currently no data regularly gathered about this number.

Why it matters:

Studies indicate that children who take part in arts activities (music, dance, visual arts, etc.) score higher on standardized tests, demonstrate improved problem-solving skills, display greater empathy for others, and work more effectively in team settings. For many young people, school provides the only opportunity for a consistent, ongoing exposure to the arts.

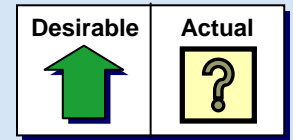


What it is:

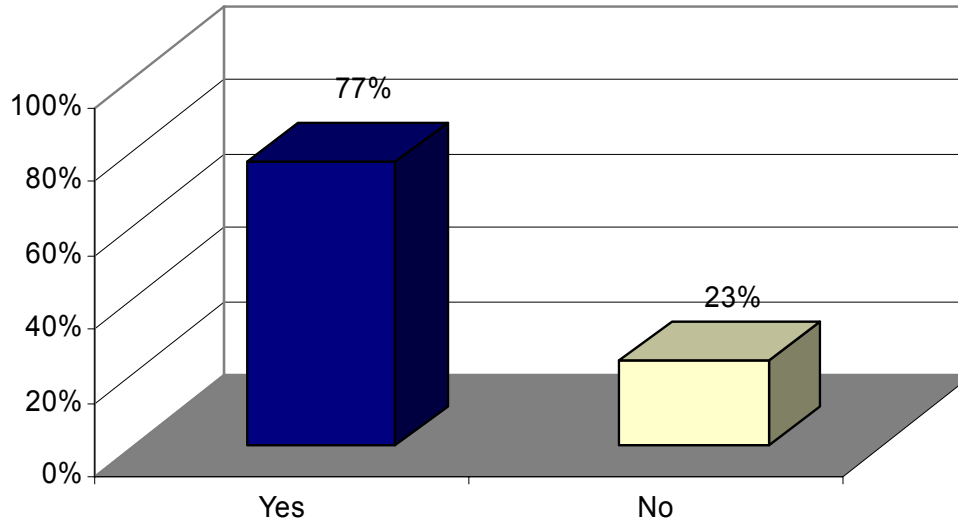
Percentage of Philanthropic Dollars Donated to Arts and Cultural Organizations in Washtenaw County. There is currently no data gathered to calculate this indicator.

Why it matters:

Studies indicate that private giving to arts and cultural organizations is approximately 5.5% of total philanthropic contributions in the United States. Washtenaw County's cultural resources are a major contributor to the area's quality of life. This data would compare local giving levels with national standards



Percentage of Residents Who Have Volunteered Time in the Past Year (2005-2006)



What it is:

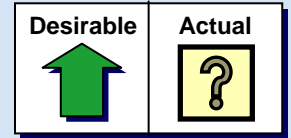
The percentage of people who said yes or no to the question: "Have you volunteered your time in the past year?"

Why it matters:

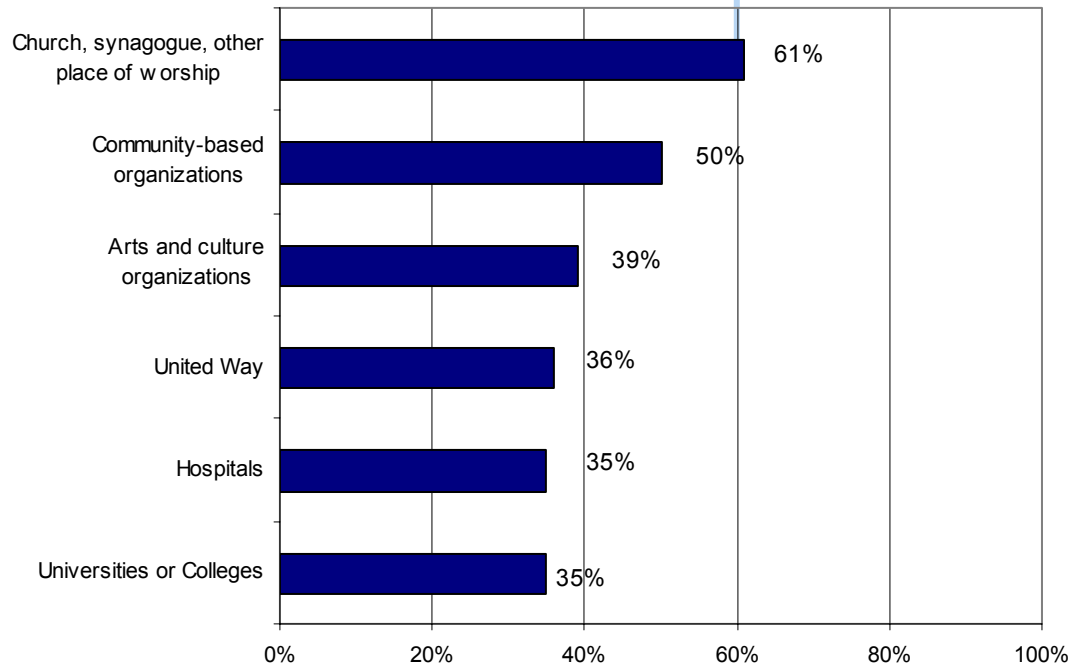
Demonstrates how vested community residents are in their communities and the value they place in the well-being of others. Many important needs in our community are met through volunteer service.

What it tells us:

Over three-quarters of residents have volunteered in the previous year.



Donation of Money in Past Year (2006)



What it is:

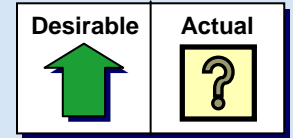
The percentage of people who answered yes to the question: “In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your household contribute money to any of the following organizations in Washtenaw County?”

Why it matters:

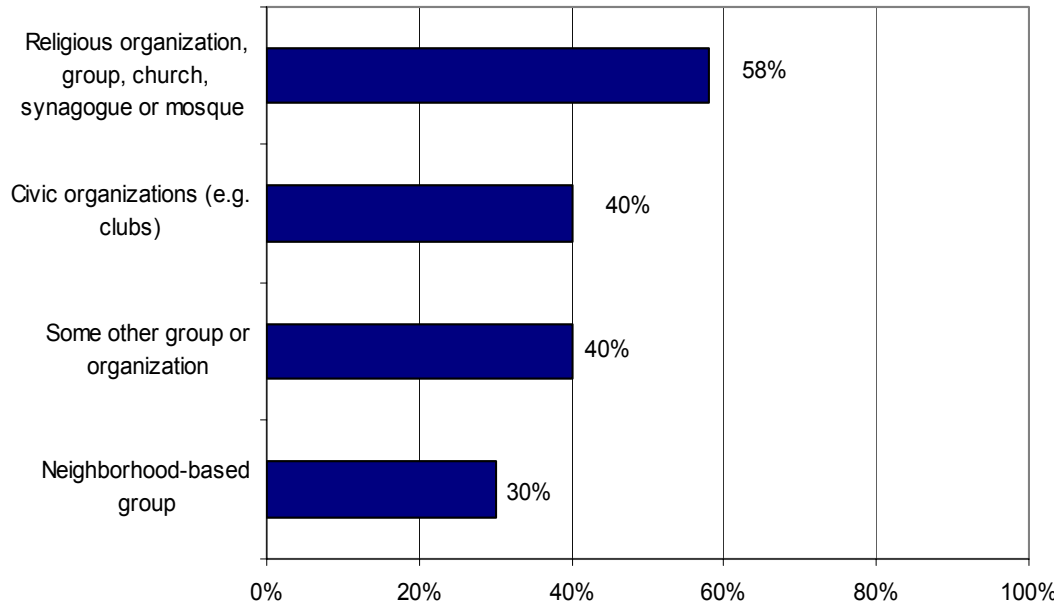
Individual donations are an important portion of the budgets of local nonprofits, allowing them to fulfill their missions and serve our community.

What it tells us:

People were most likely to donate to churches, synagogues or other places of worship, followed by community-based organizations.



Involvement in Different Types of Organizations (2006)



What it is:

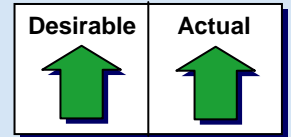
The percentage of people who answered yes to the question: “Are you a member of, or involved with, any of the following organizations or groups?”

Why it matters:

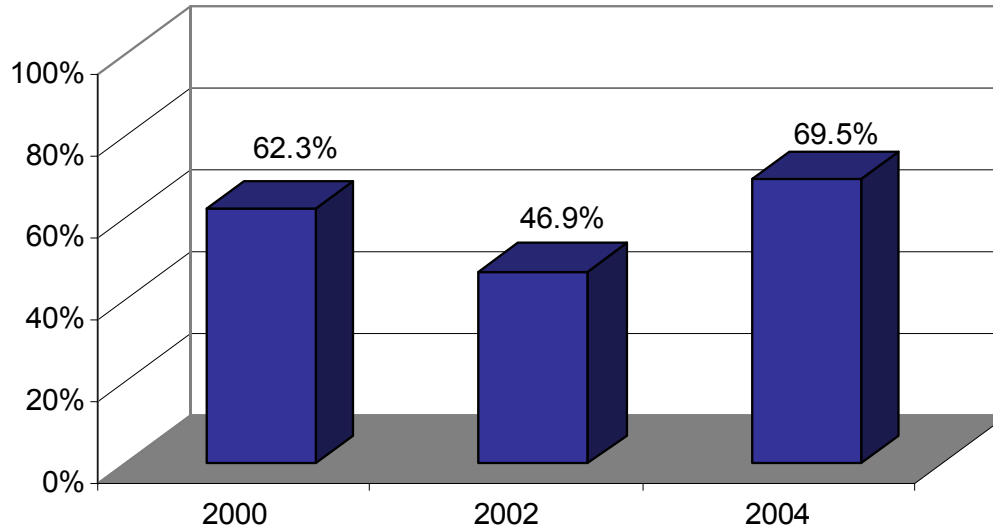
The number of people who are involved with organizations is an indicator of involvement with community and civic engagement.

What it tells us:

More than half of residents are involved with a religious organization, and more than 30% say they are involved with civic organizations, neighborhood-based groups, and other organizations. This baseline data for 2006 will allow us to measure the changes in civic involvement in Washtenaw County.



Voting Rates for Statewide Elections



What it is:

The percent of registered voters who cast a ballot during a statewide and presidential elections. Years 2000 and 2004 included a presidential election, while 2002 included statewide elections. All election included county-wide and city-wide positions.

Why it matters:

Voting is a strong measure of civic engagement and how well residents are vested in their communities.

What it tells us:

Voting increased between 2000 and 2004, a comparable year.