

Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment



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The full report as well as each of its Appendices are available at: <http://ccwc.ewashtenaw.org>

Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment: Committee Members

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Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment: Sponsors

Ambassador Ronald & Eileen Weiser

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Pfizer Global Research & Development Ann Arbor Laboratories

St. Joseph Mercy Health System

Steve and Judy Dobson

The University of Michigan Health System

Washtenaw County Government

Washtenaw United Way

Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment: Executive Summary



Highlighting Key Findings: Overview

The Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment presents data for a total of 54 indicators (including 13 placeholders for which data isn't available) that met the Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment Committee's criteria for inclusion in the report. In addition we surveyed three groups of people to determine their perceptions of the major issues and adequacy of resources to address those issues. This included two groups of county residents (one telephone survey and one written survey), and one group of community and nonprofit leaders. Not every indicator documented has perception data (see page 13 for more detail about these surveys and their results). This executive summary highlights key findings in five areas: community and economic development; education; health; environment; and community connections.

Looking across the indicator data raises the issues of regional equality. While some county-wide data shows improvement over time, data for areas within our county often highlights significant disparities among cities and townships and between individuals from different races. Hopefully knowing what these disparities are will help community leaders and residents address them as a county. Other community indicator efforts around the country encourage leaders and residents to "own" and address issues regionally. There is a risk of local level data being used to divide a region or county.

It is also very important to remember that the indicator data presented here portrays only a partial picture of community life. Every community in this county has a wealth of assets to contribute. These include: multicultural richness and diversity, youth leaders with time energy and talent, strong kinship and neighborhood networks, to mention a few.

In Washtenaw County multiple collaborations are engaged in developing and implementing creative and innovative solutions for a wide range of issues. Major assets in this county identified by community leaders included our universities, green space and parks, nonprofits, intellectual capital, and concerned, involved residents. Clearly, there is a base for working toward solving county-wide issues and improving the quality of life for everyone in Washtenaw County.

Highlighting Key Findings: Overview (continued)

Data can be interpreted in many ways. We hope that this report stimulates fruitful discussion among residents and community leaders from all the sectors in this county who are working to make a difference. Hopefully, having indicator and perception data together in one place will facilitate the types of collaborative and integrative solutions across issue areas that some groups have already begun to develop. It can point to additional data we need to start collecting and areas where indicator data and people's perceptions of issues differ. Funders can work together to support work that is already making a difference, in addition to addressing new areas of concern.

Over time, trends are moving in “positive directions” for eleven indicators (i.e., towards a desirable outcome) and in a “negative” direction (away from a desirable outcome) for eleven indicators. There is no change in the data for four other indicators. This does not mean that these are not important issues that need to be addressed; it simply means that there is no real movement in any direction. The direction of change is undetermined for eight indicators where there is current data but no previous data. Mixed trends exist for seven indicators (i.e, trends are moving in different directions for people living in various parts of the county or for different racial groups). These indicators highlight the disparities that exist within our county and among our cities, villages, and townships. This report tracks data over time for key indicators with the intent of measuring progress locally. While indicators cannot tell the whole story about the quality of life in our community, they do point to areas that are:

1. major issues of concern;
2. issue areas where findings demonstrate systematic inequities among residents;
3. assets, such as collaborative efforts and partnerships to be built upon; and
4. progress to be celebrated!

Highlighting Key Findings: Community & Economic Development Indicators

Community & Economic Development

Job growth finally increased in 2005 and is projected to continue to expand. While Washtenaw County's unemployment rates are lower than state and national levels, the percent of unemployed people in our county increased from 2000 to 2005 (2.4% to 4.2%). The discrepancy between the increase in new jobs available and the increase in unemployed people raises the question as to whether residents are able to access the new jobs, either because of lack of training or transportation.

Affordable housing (housing that costs no more than 30% of gross income) has decreased. In 2004, almost half (49%) of renter-occupied households paid 30% or more of their household income in rent, as did 30% of owner-occupied households. Indicator data shows that the affordability of housing is a key issue. Correspondingly, more residents (especially leaders) identified affordable housing and jobs paying a living wage as major issues than any other issue.

In 2000, the disparity in poverty rates for communities within our county ranged from 4.0% to 25.8%. Overall, county level poverty rates are decreasing slightly. Similarly, median household income ranges from \$28,610 in the City of Ypsilanti to \$86,797 in Ann Arbor Township. Washtenaw County's rate of poverty for children is half the national rate. Data on children's free and reduced cost lunches, often used as a proxy for children in poverty, ranges from 4% to 56%. The numbers of eligible students in Willow Run is nearly double state levels, with Ypsilanti close behind. Less than a third of community residents and leaders viewed hunger as a major issue, while 35% of residents and 51% of community leaders viewed poverty as a major issue. In this case people's perceptions do not match what the indicator data shows.

Existing indicator data does not yet present a clear trend on the issue of homelessness. The three groups of survey respondents clearly do not agree on the severity of homelessness in this county, ranging from 37% of residents (telephone) to 75% of residents (written) viewing this as a major issue.

Transportation and public transit services was identified as a major issue by almost half of all groups. Ridership increased on Ann Arbor Transportation Authority buses, but there is no data about residents who need transit services but are unable to obtain them.

Overall, violent and nonviolent crime rates have remained fairly stable. Domestic violence victim rates have dropped by a quarter from 2000 to 2003 while confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect rose slightly in 2004. Reliable data on elder abuse and neglect is not currently available. The area of most concern is the disparity in juvenile arrest rates. In 2003 African-American juveniles were 3.5 times (double the 2000 rates) more likely to be arrested than Caucasian juveniles.

Highlighting Key Findings: Community & Economic Development Indicators

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS	
<u>Housing & Homelessness</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Homelessness	Positive
Housing Affordability	Negative
<u>Work & Employment</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Unemployment	No Change
Job Growth	Positive
Living Wage Jobs	Placeholder: No Data
<u>Income</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Poverty Rates	Positive
Child Poverty Rates	Negative
Income & Wealth Distribution	No Change

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS	
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Use of Public Transportation	Positive
<u>Safety & Crime</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Violent Crime Rate	Negative
Non Violent Crime Rate	Positive
Juvenile Crime	Mixed
Racial Disparities for Juvenile Arrest Rate Index	Negative
Child Abuse & Neglect Rates	Negative
Domestic Violence	Positive
Hate Crimes	No Change
Elder Abuse & Neglect	Placeholder: No Data

Highlighting Key Findings: Education Indicators

Education

Starting with the care and education of our youngest community members, child care costs rose from 2001 to 2005. While the number of licensed and accredited childcare centers and homes has remained fairly consistent, the decreasing affordability of childcare has implications for the strategies that households, especially lower income ones, use to care for infant and preschool children. Quality affordable childcare was viewed as a major issue by survey respondents although it varied. Nearly 75% of community leaders viewed this as a major issue. This is an area where a major community concern is supported by data.

As mentioned previously, there is a great disparity between the number of free and reduced cost lunches for school age children in different parts of the county ranging from 4% to 56%. Average student teacher ratios are fairly consistent countywide (from 16.1 to 19.7). For students completing high school fully 86% plan to attend college.

Community leaders and residents taking the written survey rated the achievement gap between students, and students dropping out of school as major issues without adequate resources. Currently reliable indicator data is not being collected about these issues over the entire district. The high school drop out rate was a major issue to two-thirds (67%) of residents taking the written survey, but only 41% of community residents responding to the phone survey. Employment assistance and job training emerged as the major issues for adult education.

EDUCATION INDICATORS	
<u>Early Childhood Education & Care</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Childcare Affordability	Negative
Number of Licensed & Accredited Childcare Centers/Homes	Mixed
Head Start Enrollment Gap	Placeholder: No Data
<u>Children & Youth</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Free & Reduced Price Lunches	Negative
High School Completion Rate	Placeholder: No Data
Public School Attendance Rates	Placeholder: No Data
Student Teacher Ratio	Mixed
Plans after School	No Change
Disconnected Youth	Negative

Highlighting Key Findings: Health Indicators

Health

Highlights from the indicator data for health include:

- ◆ Infant death rates and low birth weights are higher for African American babies than for Caucasian babies and vary throughout the county.
- ◆ An increasing percentage of children are covered by public health plans.
- ◆ While the rate of teen pregnancy is dropping, there is still a rate of 31.7 per 1,000 females ages 15-19.
- ◆ The number of adults defined as “working poor” without health care insurance is rising in the county.
- ◆ The HIV incidence rate almost doubled between 2001 and 2004 (5.3 to 9.6)

All three groups surveyed ranked many aspects of health as some of the most important issues in Washtenaw County with the least adequate resources available. Adults without health insurance and affordable health care were consistently rated as major issues by all three groups (76%-94%). A slightly lower percent of respondents ranked affordable prescription medicine and affordable dental care as an issue. Community residents completing the written survey had a very different perception of dental care – 82% believed it was a major issue, and 70% believed resources were not adequate. Teen pregnancy was viewed as a major issue by 71% of residents (written), but not by the other two groups (29% and 39%). Children without health insurance and substance abuse were rated as major issues by most respondents (62%-80%). In contrast, only 12% of residents believed that infant mortality was a major issue, and 78% believed resources were adequate.

HEALTH INDICATORS

HEALTH INDICATORS	
<u>Healthy Kids</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Infant Death Rate	Mixed
Infant Low Birth Rate	Mixed
Child Immunization Rate	Positive
Asthma	Negative
Overweight Children	Placeholder: No Data
Children Insured by Public Health Plans	Positive
Children Who Have a Primary Health Provider	Placeholder: No Data
Adolescent Childbirth	Positive
<u>Healthy Adults</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Healthy Behaviors	Mixed
Years of Life Lost (YLL) to Heart Disease	Mixed
YLL to Breast Cancer	Positive
Uninsured Adults	Placeholder: No Data
HIV Incidence Rates	Negative
Adults Who Have a Primary Health Care Provider	Undetermined
Diabetes Rates	Placeholder: No Data
Access to Substance Abuse Services	Placeholder: No Data
Access to Mental Health Svces	Placeholder: No Data

Highlighting Key Findings: Environment & Community Connections Indicators

Environment

Indicator data shows that the percentage of days with good air quality has decreased from 67% in 2000 to 42% in 2005. However, over a third (38%) of residents did not believe that air quality was an issue, and 62% believed resources were adequate to address this issue. Fewer community leaders (39%) believed resources were adequate, and only 18% of residents (written) believed this.

The recycling rate varies by community, but overall our community recycles or diverts 29% of our waste. Approximately a third of residents and leaders believe recycling is a major issue.

Community Connections

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.

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 a county-wide youth asset mapping project. These studies are first time efforts. If they continue they can provide us with 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 in the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

<u>Natural & Built Environment</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Recycling & Waste Diversion	Undetermined
Air Quality	Negative
Bike Lanes and Sidewalks	Undetermined
<u>Land Use & Recreation</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Acres of Protected Land	Undetermined

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS INDICATORS

<u>Arts & Culture</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Residents Taking Part in Arts & Cultural Activities	Undetermined
Classroom Arts Instruction	Placeholder: No Data
Dollars Donated to Arts & Cultural Orgs.	Placeholder: No Data
<u>Civic Engagement</u>	<u>Our County's Trend</u>
Volunteer Rates	Undetermined
Money Donated	Undetermined
Involvement in Organizations	Undetermined
Voting	Positive

Highlighting Key Findings: Community Perceptions Survey Findings

Community Perceptions Surveys

Three surveys were designed and implemented to collect data from community residents about our community’s issues and assets. They included:

1. A statistically representative random telephone survey of 402 county residents, conducted by Wayne State University’s Center for Urban Studies.
2. A written survey of 65 residents was conducted to obtain input from residents who were likely to be systematically excluded from the telephone survey (e.g., individuals who are homeless, low income and youth who are likely to have cell phones, no land line, or no phone at all).
3. An online survey of 185 Nonprofit, Business, Educational, and Political leaders.

Issues identified as major by 75% or more of any one of the respondent groups are listed below. Other issues that followed closely behind with less than 75% of the respondents identifying them as major were affordable childcare, the achievement gap, job growth and obesity. It should be noted that on many issues perceptions among the three groups varied. Often the perceptions of community leaders and residents responding to the written survey (those unlikely to have a land line telephone) were similar while the perceptions of the larger group of residents, who responded to the telephone survey, were different.

<u>Major Issues</u>	<u>Residents (telephone)</u>	<u>Residents (written)</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Affordable health care	77%	79%	94%
Adults without health insurance	76%	83%	87%
Children without health insurance	71%	77%	74%
Affordable housing	61%	77%	86%
Affordable prescription medication	73%	65%	81%
Youth substance abuse	62%	80%	64%
Availability of jobs paying a living wage	57%	75%	63%
Affordable dental care	53%	82%	59%
Homelessness	37%	75%	50%

Highlighting Key Findings: Community Perceptions Survey Findings (continued)

Major Issues in County

Survey respondents were asked what they saw as the three major ISSUES in Washtenaw County for residents. These responses were coded into categories, presented below. If the percentage of respondents who named an item as an issue is above 10% (19 of 185 respondents), the item is included in the following two pages, along with several examples of the verbatim comments. They will total more than 100% due to the fact respondents could name up to three issues. There were a large percentage of miscellaneous comments which did not fit in any category.

- ◆ Economy (45%) including good jobs and wages, Michigan's economy, auto industry problems, and loss of locally owned businesses
- ◆ Affordable Housing (38%)
- ◆ Transportation (23%) including public transportation and traffic and road congestion
- ◆ Sprawl/green space (19%) including land use, environmental quality, traffic impacts, and loss of sense of place and community
- ◆ Access to affordable health care (18%)

Major Assets in County

Survey respondents were asked what they saw as the three major ASSETS in Washtenaw County for residents. Responses were coded into categories, presented below. If the percentage of respondents who named an item as an asset is above 10% (19 of 185 respondents), the item is included in the following two pages, along with two examples of the verbatim comments. They will add up to more than 100% due to the fact respondents could name up to three assets.

- ◆ Universities (41%)
- ◆ Green Space & Parks (22%)
- ◆ Nonprofits (21%)
- ◆ Concerned & Involved Residents (21%)
- ◆ Intellectual Capital (18%)

Highlighting Key Findings: Review of Existing Reports

Purposes

The key purposes for reviewing existing reports were to: 1) review community needs assessment and state of the community reports done elsewhere in the country; 2) review existing county level reports on Washtenaw County; and 3) identify the types of information already collected and the gaps in what we know. An annotated list of reports and where they can be accessed is provided in the full review in Appendix B.

Key Findings

Review of reports for other areas of the country and interviews with four individuals with up to 20 years experience conducting this type of study revealed that: 1) these types of reports are used in many different ways and are considered highly useful; 2) other reports focus either on indicators or community perceptions of needs but not both, as does this report. Washtenaw County's document is also unique in that it presents a review of existing reports.

FERA's review of existing reports for Washtenaw County revealed that while a wealth of data about the county exists, there is no central location where one can find out who is collecting what information. County level 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 these are one-time data collections, making it impossible to track trends over time. It is also 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 from national research and effective practices from various fields. Others focus on planning for the future. Until now, there has been no comprehensive report for Washtenaw County tracking indicators for multiple issue areas over time. In the reports reviewed, some data is compared to state and/or national data, other data is not. Different formats and levels of data collection (e.g., county, city, and zip code level) make it difficult to compare data and trends across issue areas. Some reports identify important indicators but do not present any data, while others are focused on specifying goals and the necessary actions for achieving those goals.

Collecting, analyzing and reporting data requires time, effort and resources. Efficiencies of scale can be achieved by consistently collecting and reporting data for the same set of indicators over time. The Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment Report done regularly (every two years) will 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 will be an effort that builds upon, brings together, and facilitates the work that others are doing.

Next Steps

This report is the just the beginning. Community residents and leaders need to take the information and use it. Some of the value of this report will be in continuing to track the indicator data into the future. Currently, the plan is to update the data every two years. This time the indicator data was paired with a study of residents' and community leaders' perceptions of major issues and adequacy of resources to address them. Next time, a study focused on assets would compliment both the ongoing indicator data and the current issues-focused perception data.

Key barriers to working together as a county to improve the quality of life, as identified by community leaders, are lack of:

- ◆ Coordination and collaboration
- ◆ Sufficient economic resources
- ◆ A strong regional focus

Key successful innovations for improving the quality of life, as identified by community leaders, include:

- ◆ Collaborative efforts to solve health and human service problems
- ◆ Cross sector partnerships (e.g, between funders, nonprofits and businesses)
- ◆ Efforts around open space

Interestingly, collaborative efforts are one of the major barriers, as well as one of the successes, for working together as a county. Perhaps this report will serve as a catalyst for developing a strong regional focus, developing coordinated and collaborative efforts and investing our economic and social resources in ways that improve the quality of life for all people throughout the county now and in the future.

Washtenaw County: Findings



Introduction

How do we know if we are improving the quality of life in Washtenaw County? Are some areas, sectors or people making progress while others are being left behind? Do we know if strategic interventions are making a difference? Are there gaps between what county residents perceive as major issues and what indicator data actually show? What data is already being systematically collected and what else would be helpful to know? Where can existing reports be accessed? What do they tell us about key issues and what are the gaps in our knowledge? This report starts to answer these questions. It is a beginning, a work in progress that will be refined over time.

The Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment Committee (WCCNAC), comprised of eleven representatives from community institutions and facilitated by the Washtenaw United Way, initiated a study of our county's socio-economic health. It is intended to be an on-going project through which we will regularly measure change in the county's well-being as measured by a set of valid and reliable indicators. We hope the information in this report will be used by nonprofits, foundations, local government and community groups for planning purposes. The Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment is preceded by an Executive Summary and presents:

- ◆ A descriptive profile of Washtenaw County
- ◆ County-wide data for a set of indicators in five areas: community and economic development; health; education; environment; and community connection. Whenever possible, the data is presented by sub-areas of the county as well as the state and nation. Highlights from residents' and community leaders' perceptions of the issues are included in the overview page preceding each of the five areas.
- ◆ Appendix A presents county residents', nonprofit and other community leaders' perceptions of what the County's key assets and issues are and how adequate the existing services and/or resources are to address these issues.
- ◆ Appendix B is a review of existing research and other reports focused on Washtenaw County. This section identifies gaps in what we know.

The Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment Committee issued a request for proposals and went through a structured proposal review and selection process. As a result of this competitive process, Formative Evaluation Research Associates (FERA) was contracted with to implement this study. FERA is an independent evaluation group located in Ann Arbor that has worked for over 30 years with nonprofits to improve their organizations and programs through evaluation. FERA works at the local, state, national and international levels. The FERA team was directed by Karin E. Tice, Ph.D. (Partner), and included Lisa Dugdale, MSW/MPP, Chantal Follet, Ph.D., and Amy McNulty, M.A. as well as FERA support staff.

Introduction

This report presents the highest quality, valid, reliable, and easily-accessible data FERA could find from secondary sources. In many cases FERA depended upon organizations working on a specific issue to determine whether existing data met these criteria. One of the challenges to implementing this study was finding systematically collected, comparable data over time at the local, county-wide, state and national levels.

Uses for This Report

This report is intended to be useful to the nonprofit, public and business sectors, as well as to citizen groups. It will be especially useful for cross-sector collaborative efforts because indicator and perception data are easily accessible for multiple indicators and are in one place. Indeed, one of this report's key findings is that the collaborative efforts and partnerships in this county are viewed as successful and innovative ways to address major issues. Interestingly, lack of collaborative efforts is viewed as the major barrier to addressing issues county-wide. Clearly we are moving in the right direction, but there is more to do. This report can facilitate focusing efforts and can measure our progress on multiple issues over time. It offers a county-wide picture and perspective on the quality of life in multiple areas. It also highlights differences among communities whenever possible.

Nonprofits can use this report to:

- ◆ identify and prioritize issues
- ◆ access data and demonstrate the need for services in proposals they develop
- ◆ understand how their organization fits into a broader set of issues

Business and local government can use this report to:

- ◆ encourage businesses to relocate to Washtenaw County
- ◆ engage businesses, especially those new to our area, as partners in solving key issues
- ◆ identify and prioritize issues and guide strategic planning

Introduction

Uses for This Report (continued)

Foundations and donors can use this report to:

- ◆ stimulate a discussion about opportunities for proactive giving and grantmaking
- ◆ identify and leverage additional needed resources to this county (This is important so that current funding isn't diverted from successful programs.)

Community groups can use this report to:

- ◆ inform their action plans
- ◆ demonstrate the importance of their efforts
- ◆ broaden their perspective to include other issues that might affect the ones they are focused on

Appreciation goes to Dinella Crosby, Senior Director of Community Investments of Washtenaw United Way. Her knowledge of Washtenaw County, insights on the findings, careful reading of drafts, and facilitation of the process have been invaluable. Acknowledgment and thanks go to the United Way of Greater Cincinnati. We have drawn extensively for the layout and format of the indicators section of this report from their report "The State of the Community: A Report on the Socio-Economic Health of The Greater Cincinnati Region" (2004). Finally, this report would not have been possible without: 1) the many community organizations that have shared existing reports and other data to include in this document; 2) the Community Needs Assessment Committee; and 3) the generous financial support from this study's sponsors.

The full report as well as each of its Appendices are available at: <http://ccwc.ewashtenaw.org>

How To Read This Report

How This Report is Organized

The Washtenaw County Community Needs Assessment first presents a profile of our county using demographic data. Next county-wide data (2000-2005) is presented for a set of indicators in five areas: community and economic development; health; education; environment; and community connection. At the beginning of each section there is an overview page which highlights any key findings from the indicator data in that section and key findings from residents' perceptions of issues. Whenever available, the data is presented by sub-areas of the county. If local level data was not available or accessible, we obtained state and national level data when available and comparable. State and national data is not always presented throughout the report because a decision was made to track our progress locally instead of comparing Washtenaw County to larger entities. Local, state and national data is very often collected in different ways and represents different contexts making comparisons difficult to interpret.

Each indicator in the report has "stand-alone" value and the set of indicators, taken together, represents the overall socio-economic health of the region. The indicators have strong policy relevance for public and private sector groups concerned about and working on community improvement. Each indicator is accompanied by a brief narrative section explaining its relevance and what the supporting data mean for the county and, where possible, its sub-areas. The report has 13 placeholder indicators of our region's socio-economic health for which no reliable data is currently available.

How To Read This Report

How This Report is Organized (continued)

The introduction to each of the five sections is integrated with survey results from three county-wide surveys that were conducted in order to better understand the perceptions of our county about:

1. What are the major issues facing this county?
2. How adequate are the current services and/or resources available to address these issues?
3. What are the existing assets we have to build upon?

Three surveys were designed and implemented to collect data. These surveys represent the community's perceptions. They included:

1. A statistically representative random telephone survey of 402 county residents, conducted by Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies.
2. A written survey of 65 residents was conducted to obtain input from residents who were likely to be systematically excluded from the telephone survey (e.g., individuals who are homeless, low income and youth who are likely to have cell phones, no land line, or no phone at all).
3. An online survey of 185 Nonprofit, Business, Educational, and Political leaders.

A discussion of what the results tell us is offered at the end of each of the five categories. Where possible, relevant observations are made about: (1) what the data tells us; (2) the differences in perceptions among the three groups; and (3) any disconnects between what the indicator data from the previous section of the report reveals and community perception of the severity of the issue.

Appendix A presents survey results for each of these three groups in detail.

Appendix B is a review of existing research and other reports focused on Washtenaw County. This section identifies gaps in what we know.

How To Read This Report

About the Indicators

The indicators were selected by the Washtenaw County Needs Assessment Committee. The criteria used were:

- ❖ Validity and reliability of existing county data
- ❖ Readily available and high quality data
- ❖ On-going data collection

Process for Selecting the Indicators

Formative Evaluation Research Associates (FERA) reviewed indicator studies across the country to identify commonly used indicators. A draft set of indicators was developed based on this review. FERA consulted with local experts in Washtenaw County to determine whether valid and reliable data existed for many of the indicators. FERA led the Committee through a structured workshop designed to review, add or delete indicators, and prioritize each of the final indicators in terms of its importance (high, medium and low). We realize that there are additional indicators that have not been included, and that there may be disagreement about whether the ones that were selected are the “best” indicators to use. Please consider this study a beginning. The Committee welcomes feedback regarding this report, especially from those of you with specific knowledge about a particular indicator area. The committee would also like to know how valuable this study is to individuals and organizations in our county, and how it is being used.

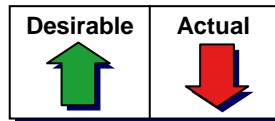
Each of the indicators presented in this report is reported on its own page. A graph showing trends over time is presented for each indicator where data is available. If data is available for the cities and villages in Washtenaw County it will be presented in table format on the right hand side of the page. Each indicator has three sections of text describing: (1) what it is; (2) why it matters – comments about why it is important to measure this indicator; and (3) what it tells us – observations based on interpretation of the available data.

How To Read This Report

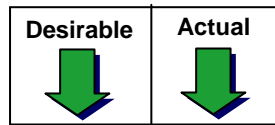
How to Read the Indicator Arrows

In the upper right-hand corner of each indicator page are a set of two arrows. The left-hand arrow shows the direction most people would agree is the direction in which the indicators “should” be moving. This is emphasized by the green color of the arrow.

The right-hand arrow indicates the direction in which the indicator has been moving overall during the years shown on the graph. If data varies between years, the arrow represents the difference between the last two years of measurement. The color of the arrow reinforces positive (green) and negative (red) trends. For example:



This pair shows that while the desired direction for the indicator is to move up or increase, it actually has decreased in contrast with the desired direction.



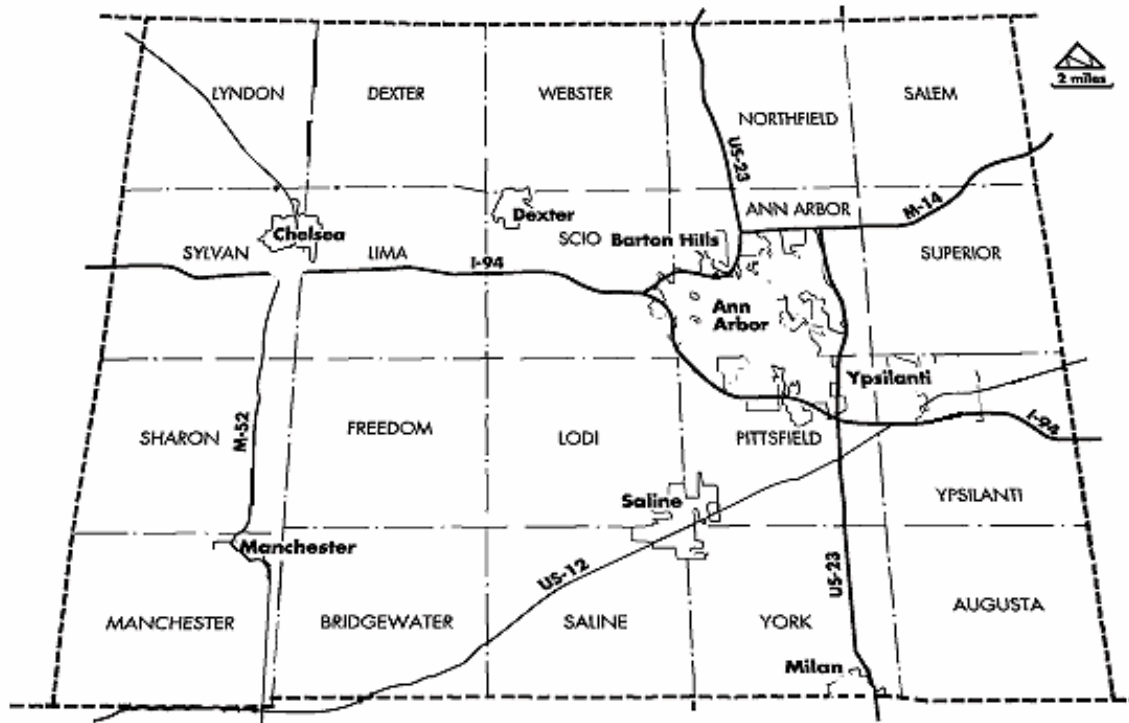
This pair, on the other hand, shows that the indicator should ideally be decreasing and the data in the indicator actually is decreasing.

The movement of some indicators is characterized by a yellow arrow going both ways that indicates that the indicator has shown no significant change over time or that the changes in the indicator are both positive and negative.

Some indicators are labeled as “placeholder” indicators, meaning that, while those measures are considered important, reliable and/or valid data measures are not yet available for them.

For each indicator presenting actual data, the source of the data is listed at the bottom of the page.

A Profile of Washtenaw County



Within Washtenaw County's 721 square miles are 28 local units of government including five cities, three villages, and twenty townships. Borders are shared with six other counties and 22 local units of government. Washtenaw County is the sixth largest county in population in the State of Michigan (2000 U.S. Census). According to Census data it is also one of the fastest growing. As of the 2000 U.S. Census, the Washtenaw County population totaled 322,895 people.

The City of Ann Arbor's population of 114,024 (including students) accounts for the greatest share at 35% of the total, followed by Ypsilanti and Pittsfield Townships at 15% and 9.3%, respectively. The City of Ypsilanti accounts for nearly 7% of the total population.

Information for the County Profile is from [A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County](#), adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners on September 22, 2004. The Comprehensive Plan can be accessed on the Washtenaw County website at:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning_environment/comp_plan/

A Profile of Washtenaw County

Age

The greatest percentage of the current population, 36 percent, is within the 35-64 age group. This age group will continue to hold the largest percentage of the population through 2020. Currently, there is an even proportion of the population four years and younger, and 65 years and older. This percentage is expected to change in the future – the number of children under four years is projected to comprise seven percent, whereas the population greater than 65 is expected to increase to 13% (51,529 residents) of the total county population (SEMCOG 2020 Regional Development Forecast). This trend is due to the aging baby-boomer generation, and will be common to most communities nationwide.

Educational Attainment and College Enrollment

The educational level of Washtenaw County residents falls above the average for the State of Michigan. In 2000, 48.1% of Washtenaw County's population above age 25 held a bachelor's degree or higher. This is more than double that of Michigan overall, with 21.8% of its population holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

Washtenaw County is also home to a number of colleges and universities. The county has six postsecondary institutions that have a combined approximate enrollment of 80,000 students. The six institutions consist of three public institutions (The University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and Washtenaw Community College), and three private institutions (Concordia University, Cleary University, and Ave Maria School of Law).

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

The latest census (2000) reveals that 12.3% of the county's population identify themselves as African American, and 6.3% identify themselves as Asian. Less than 3% of the population identify themselves as two or more races. People who identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino, who can be of any race, comprise 2.7% of the population. Based on informal observations, the Hispanic and Latino population in Washtenaw County is increasing.

A Profile of Washtenaw County

Income

Washtenaw County's median household income is \$51,990 (2000 U.S. Census). This exceeds the median household income of the state, at \$44,667. Similarly, the per capita income for Washtenaw County of \$27,173 is also higher than the \$22,168 state per capita income.

Job Growth

A net migration of workers indicates strong job formation compared to the region. Washtenaw County has a large number of workers commuting into the county to work. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, over 70,000 people commute into the county, compared to 40,000 county residents commuting out of the county for work. Over the next twenty years, job growth is projected to increase by 20.5 percent, from the current 232,175 jobs in the county to 279,741 by 2020 (an increase of 47,566 jobs).

Employment

Employment is divided into eight industries. The service industry is the largest, employing over half (52%) of the workers. Other areas in which many people are employed include the retail industry (17%) and the manufacturing industry (15%). Only five percent were found to be working in the F.I.R.E. Sector (Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate), closely followed by the Transportation, Communication and Utility Industry (4%). The industries that employ the fewest workers are Public Administration (3%) and Agriculture, Mining, and Natural Resources (2%). Transportation, Communication and Utility play a relatively high role in Ypsilanti Township while the Agriculture, Mining and Natural Resource industry employs only two percent of the county population. Mining and natural resource jobs are important for Bridgewater and Saline Township where up to 55 percent of the workers are employed in these areas.

A Profile of Washtenaw County

Housing

There are 131,069 housing units available in Washtenaw County (2000 U.S. Census). These units are spread throughout the county, however, similar to the population, most are located in the urban centers and surrounding townships. Sixty percent of the units are owner-occupied, an increase from 55% in 1990.

Environment & Land Use

Washtenaw County has over 175 lakes, three rivers including the Huron River (a State-designated Natural River), and numerous opportunities for recreation in over 350 state, regional, county and local parks.

There are approximately 462,325 acres of land in Washtenaw County. In 2000, most of the land (82%) was used for agricultural purposes or was in an undeveloped state. The built environment accounts for the remaining 18 percent.

Between 1990 and 2000, developed land categories increased while active agricultural lands, wetlands and woodlands decreased. During this same period, cultivated grass lands and shrub lands increased by 19 percent.

Arts and Culture

Arts and culture opportunities include theaters showcasing local, national, and international films, musicians, and theater productions; and our education systems including the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and four higher education colleges. A recent study of the economic impact of the arts by the Arts Alliance of the Ann Arbor Area showed that arts and cultural organizations generated over 2,600 jobs in the community and almost \$57 million in household income.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Housing & Poverty:

Affordable housing (housing that costs no more than 30% of gross income) has decreased. In 2004, almost half (49%) of renter-occupied households paid 30% or more of their household income in rent, as did 30% of owner-occupied households. Indicator data shows that the affordability of housing is a key issue. Correspondingly, more residents (especially leaders), identified affordable housing and jobs paying a living wage as major issues than any other issue.

In 2000, the disparity in poverty rates for communities within our county ranged from 4.0% to 25.8%. Overall, county level poverty rates are decreasing slightly. Similarly, median household income ranges from \$28,610 in the City of Ypsilanti to \$86,797 in Ann Arbor Township. Washtenaw County's rate of poverty for children is half the national rate. Data on children's free and reduced cost lunches, often used as a proxy for children in poverty, ranges from 4% to 56%. The numbers of eligible students in Willow Run is nearly double state levels, with Ypsilanti close behind. Less than a third of community residents and leaders viewed hunger as a major issue, while 35% of residents and 51% of community leaders viewed poverty as a major issue. In this case people's perceptions do not match what the indicator data shows.

Existing indicator data does not yet present a clear trend on the issue of homelessness. The three groups of survey respondents clearly do not agree on the severity of homelessness in this county, ranging from 37% of residents (telephone) to 75% of residents (written) viewing this as a major issue.

Income & Jobs:

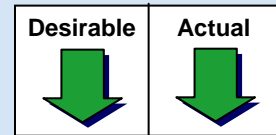
Job growth finally increased in 2005 and is projected to continue to expand. While Washtenaw County's unemployment rates are lower than state and national levels, the percent of unemployed people in our county increased from 2000 to 2005 (2.4% to 4.2%). The discrepancy between the increase in new jobs available and the increase in unemployed people raises the question as to whether residents are able to access the new jobs either because of lack of training or transportation.

Availability of Services & Transportation:

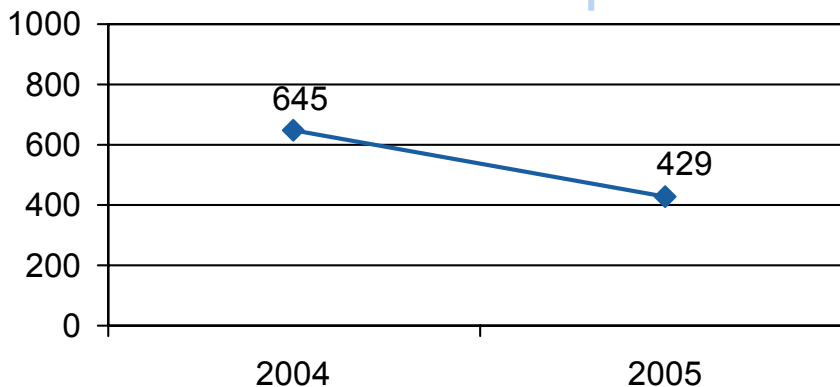
Transportation and public transit services was identified as a major issue by almost half of all groups. Ridership increased on Ann Arbor Transportation Authority buses, but there is no data about residents who need transit services but are unable to obtain them.

Safety & Crime:

Overall, violent and nonviolent crime rates have remained fairly stable. Domestic violence victim rates have dropped by a quarter from 2000 to 2003 while confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect rose slightly in 2004. Reliable data on elder abuse and neglect is not currently available. The area of most concern is the disparity in juvenile arrest rates. In 2003 African-American juveniles were 3.5 times (double the 2000 rates) more likely to be arrested than Caucasian juveniles.



Number of Homeless People in Washtenaw County



Types of Homeless		
	2004	2005
Total	645	429
Individuals Alone	482	307
Families (total # of people in families)	163	122

What it is:

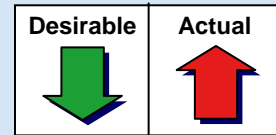
A point-in-time count estimate of all homeless in Washtenaw County.

Why it matters:

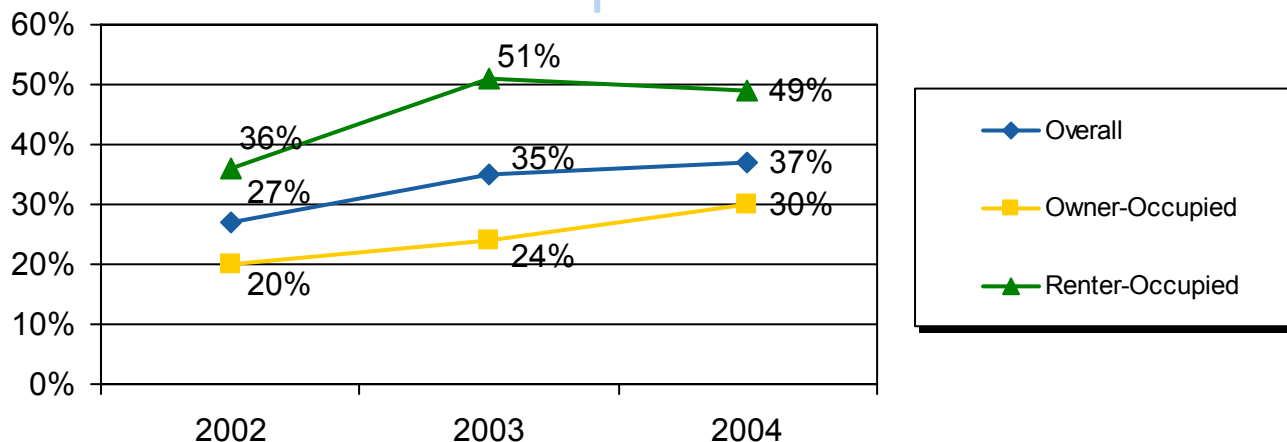
The Washtenaw County Office of Community Development Continuum of Care group estimates that 2,756 people will experience homelessness/ become homeless within a year in Washtenaw County. Lacking stable housing can interfere with obtaining and keeping employment, as well as decrease health and wellness.

What it tells us:

2004 was the first year that year that the Continuum of Care group completed a systematic count of homeless people in Washtenaw County, assisted by local agencies and volunteers. In 2005, additional checks were implemented to ensure that the clients who were counted met the definition of homeless. Given this fact, as well as such intangibles as weather differences, changes in the number of participating providers or volunteers, the group cautions that this data cannot at this point be interpreted as a definite increase or decrease in the number of homeless people.



Percentage of Washtenaw County Households Paying 30% or More of their Income for Housing



What it is:

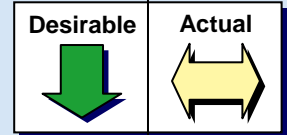
The general standard for affordable housing is housing that costs no more than 30% of gross income.

Why it matters:

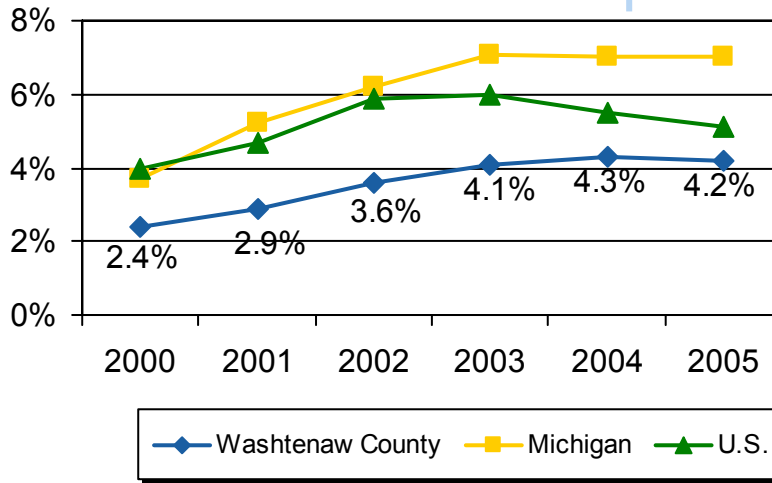
High housing costs are an indicator of how costly it is to live in certain communities and can impact the ability of workers to buy homes and live near where they work. High housing costs are an ongoing concern in Washtenaw County. As the proportion of household income allocated for housing increases, the proportion of household income available for other basic needs decreases.

What it tells us:

In 2004, almost half (49%) of renter-occupied households paid 30% or more of their household income in rent, as did 30% of owner-occupied households. This has increased from 2002, when 36% of renter-occupied households paid more than 30% or their income, and 20% of owner-occupied households.



Percent of Individuals Unemployed



Local Differences in Unemployment Percent (Individuals >16 yrs) U.S. Census 2000	
Michigan	3.7%
Washtenaw County	2.6%
Ann Arbor City	2.8%
Chelsea Village	1.8%
Dexter Village	1.1%
Manchester Village	2.9%
Pinckney Village	4.7%
Saline City	2.5%
Whitmore Lake CDP	2.9%
Ypsilanti City	3.9%

What it is:

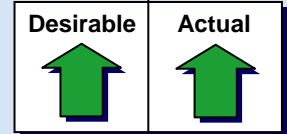
The percent of employable people actively seeking work, divided by the total number of employable people (age 16 years and over).

Why it matters:

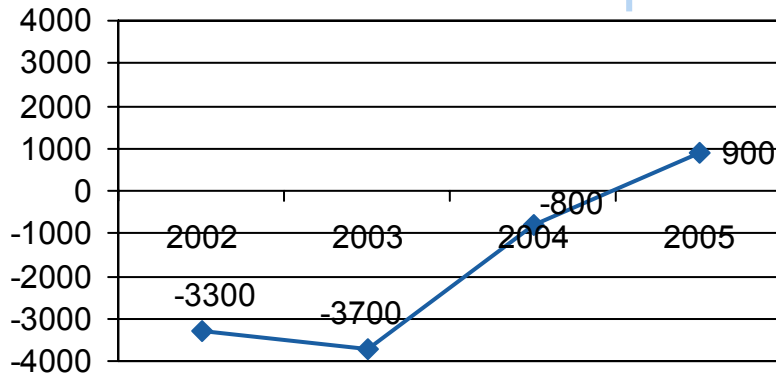
Unemployment rates are a critical indicator of a community's economic health.

What it tells us:

County unemployment rates increased from 2000 to 2005. Michigan's unemployment rates have continued to increase, while national unemployment rates decreased. Washtenaw County has maintained much lower unemployment rates than the state or national averages, although the difference between US and Washtenaw County unemployment rates appears to be narrowing.



Number of Jobs Added or Lost 2002-2005 in Washtenaw County



Job Growth by Sector for Washtenaw County between 2004 and 2005 (Percentage growth/reduction within sector)	
Total Nonfarm jobs	+0.4%
Total Private	+0.3%
Goods-Producing	-3.1%
Private Service-Providing	+1.2%
Government	+0.8%

What it is:

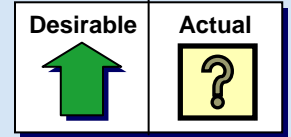
Job growth represents the number of non-farm jobs lost or added from December of one year to December of the following year in Washtenaw County.

Why it matters:

Job growth is a key indicator of a community's economic health and make it an attractive area for in-migration.

What it tells us:

Washtenaw County added an average of 4,000 jobs a year from 1990-2001, according to the Economic Outlook done by economists from the Institute for Labor & Industrial Relations at the University of Michigan. Starting in 2002, the job market slowed down, and 3,000-4,000 jobs were lost in 2002 and 2003. Much of the negative growth has been attributed to loss of automotive manufacturing jobs and loss of high-tech jobs post September 11. Projections indicate there will be continued growth in 2006-2008, driven by increases in the service sector.



What it is:

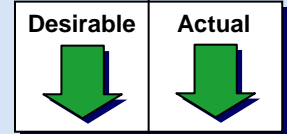
The percentage of working adults in Washtenaw County who earn a living wage. There is a lot of data about wages and income, but currently no group calculates the percentage of adults who earn a living wage.

Why it matters:

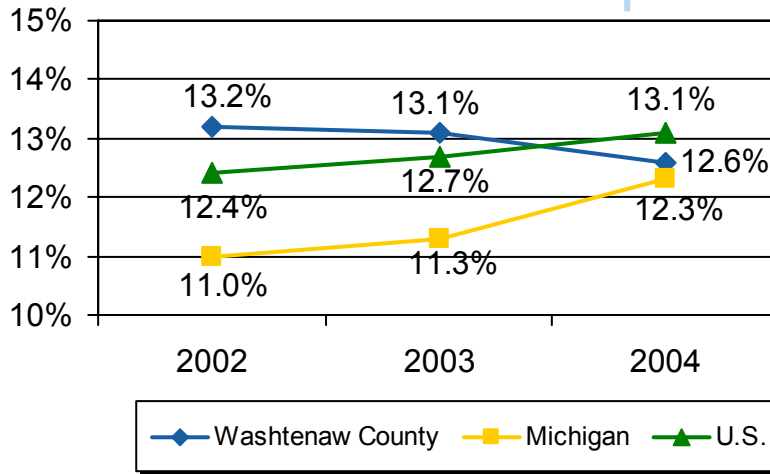
A living wage is the minimum hourly wage necessary for a person working forty hours a week, with no additional income, to be able to afford housing, food, utilities, transport, health care and recreation.

Income:

Poverty Rates



Percent of Individuals Living in Poverty



Local Differences Individuals in Poverty U.S. Census 2000	
United States	12.4%
Michigan	10.5%
Washtenaw County	11.1%
Ann Arbor City	16.6%
Chelsea Village	4.3%
Dexter Village	4.5%
Manchester Village	5.2%
Pinckney Village	5.7%
Saline City	4.0%
Whitmore Lake CDP	5.2%
Ypsilanti City	25.8%

What it is:

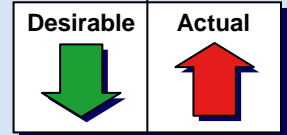
The percentage of individuals living below the federal poverty rate. The percentage of individuals living in poverty in specific cities and villages is only available in Census 2000 data, shown in the table

Why it matters:

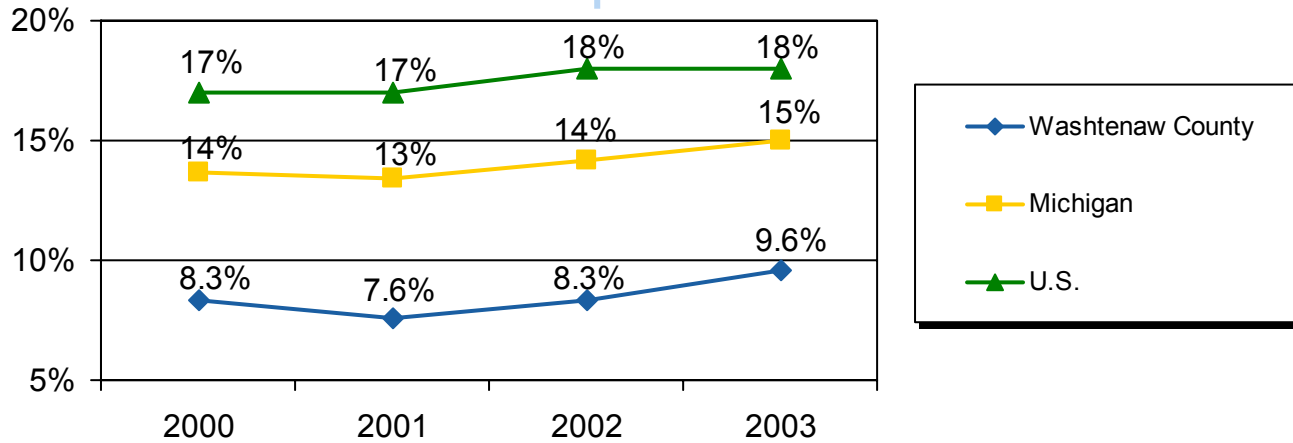
The percent of individuals living in poverty is a critical indicator of a community's economic health. Increases in poverty have a wide range of education, health, and safety implications for individuals, households, and the community at large.

What it tells us:

The percent of individuals living in poverty in Washtenaw County has fallen very slightly from 2002 to 2004, while it has continued to rise in Michigan and the United States. The 2000 Census data indicates wide variability in poverty rates in Washtenaw County with the highest rates in the largest cities, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor.



Percent of Children 0-17 in Poverty



What it is:

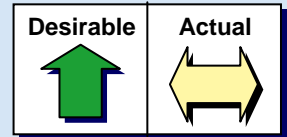
The number of children ages 0-17 who live below the poverty threshold according to data from KIDS Count. Percentages come from the U. S. Census Bureau and Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) web site.

Why it matters:

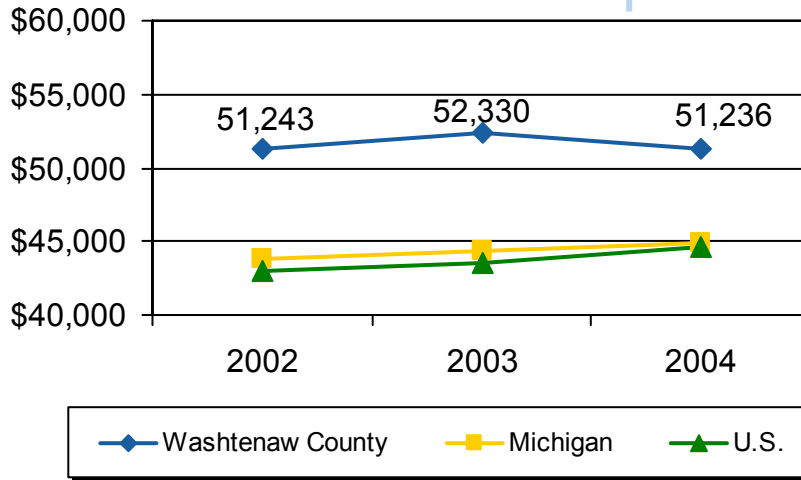
The percent of individuals living in poverty is a critical indicator of a community's economic health. Increases in poverty have a wide range of education, health, and safety implications for individuals, households, and the community at large. The effects of poverty are especially negative for children.

What it tells us:

The percent of Washtenaw County children living in poverty fell slightly in 2001, but increased in 2002 and 2003. This trend is similar to the ones shown at the state and national level, but the rate of child poverty in Washtenaw County is half the national rate.



Washtenaw County Median Household Income



Local Differences in Median Household Income
U.S. Census 2000

Michigan	\$44,667
Washtenaw County	\$51,990
Ann Arbor City	\$46,299
Chelsea Village	\$51,132
Dexter Village	\$50,510
Manchester Village	\$46,974
Pinckney Village	\$58,077
Saline City	\$59,382
Whitmore Lake CDP	\$51,504
Ypsilanti City	\$28,610

What it is:

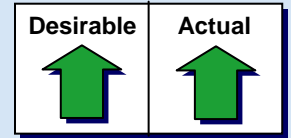
Median household income reflects the midpoint in household income for the region – half the households have an income above the median and half are below the median. Household incomes for cities and villages are only available in Census 2000 data, shown in the table.

Why it matters:

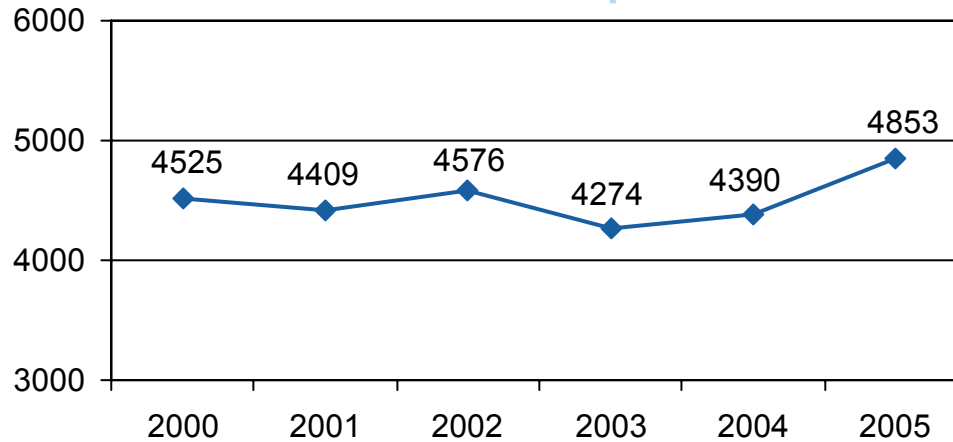
Household income is an indicator of a community’s economic health and standard of living.

What it tells us:

The median household income in Washtenaw County has remained consistent from 2002 to 2004. The only city or village with a lower median income than the State of Michigan is Ypsilanti. However, several of the townships (not listed) show median income over \$70,000 in 2000. These are Ann Arbor Township (\$86,797), Dexter Township (\$75,085), Saline Township (\$77,024), and Scio Township (\$73,705).



Number of Passengers using Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Buses (in thousands)



What it is:

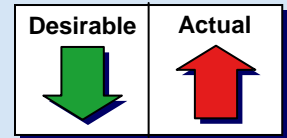
The number of riders who rode Ann Arbor Transportation Authority fixed route buses and demand-response buses in 2005. The fixed route service area includes the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti and the urbanized portions of Pittsfield, Ypsilanti, and Superior Townships. The AATA also provides demand-responsive service (i.e. door-to-door service for people with disabilities, seniors, and late night service).

Why it matters:

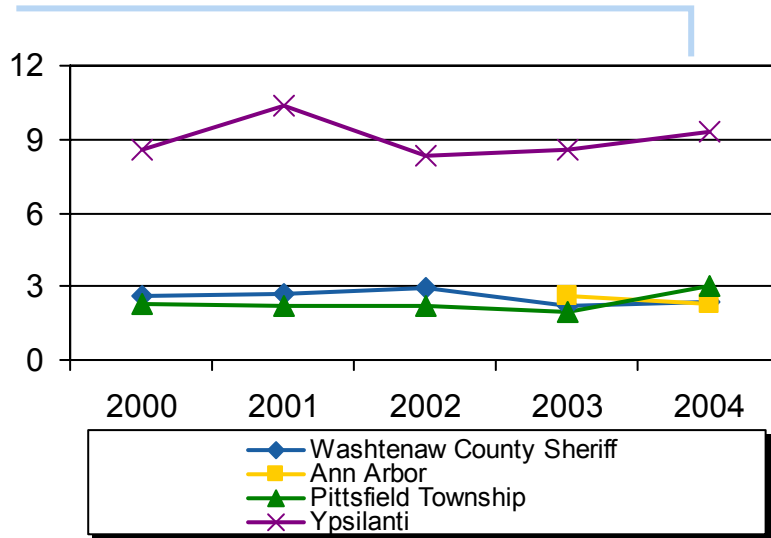
Increasing the use of public transportation systems will decrease air pollution and traffic and parking congestion. Public transportation provides critical access to jobs, social services etc., especially for individuals with low incomes and/or disabilities.

What it tells us:

Ridership showed a slight dip in 2003 and 2004, but increased in 2005.



Violent Crime Rates (per 1,000) in Washtenaw County



Local Differences					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Washtenaw County Sheriff's Dept.*	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.4
Ann Arbor Police Dept.	2.6 **	3.1 **	2.6**	2.6	2.3
Pittsfield Township Police Dept.	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	3.0
Ypsilanti Police Dept.	8.6	10.4	8.3	8.6	9.3

* The Sheriff's Department covers smaller townships 24-7 by contract (e.g. Dexter, Scio, Superior, etc.). It provides additional coverage for cities who do not have Police on duty 24-7.

**Ann Arbor Police Dept. (2003) – Due to changes in reporting practices, annexations, and/or incomplete data figures are not comparable to previous years' data.

What it is:

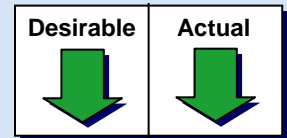
Rates of crime per 1,000 residents, as reported by the four police departments in Washtenaw County. Violent crime includes: murder, rape, aggravated assault and robbery.

Why it matters:

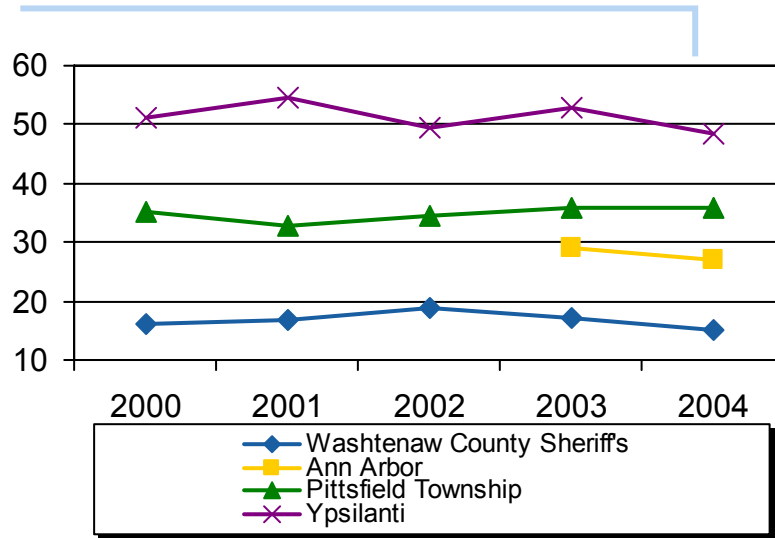
Crime rates influence people's decisions about where to live. Crime also has significant economic costs to businesses, government and taxpayers.

What it tells us:

Violent crime rates have remained relatively stable in Washtenaw County, although they have risen slightly in 2004 from 2003, in three of the four policing departments. Violent crime rates vary significantly in the county with the highest rates in Ypsilanti.



Nonviolent Crime Rates (per 1,000) in Washtenaw County



Local Differences					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Washtenaw County Sheriff's Dept.*	16.2	16.9	18.8	17.3	15.2
Ann Arbor Police Dept.	32.2 **	30.8 **	29.7 **	28.8	27.0
Pittsfield Township Police Dept.	35.3	32.9	34.5	36.0	35.7
Ypsilanti Police Dept.	51.2	54.7	49.4	52.7	48.3

* The Sheriff's Department covers smaller townships 24-7 by contract (e.g. Dexter, Scio, Superior, etc.). It provides additional coverage for cities who do not have Police on duty 24-7.

**Ann Arbor Police Dept. (2003) – Due to changes in reporting practices, annexations, and/or incomplete data figures are not comparable to previous years' data.

What it is:

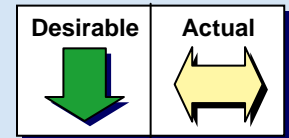
Rates of crime per 1,000 residents, as reported by the four police departments in Washtenaw County. Nonviolent crime includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.

Why it matters:

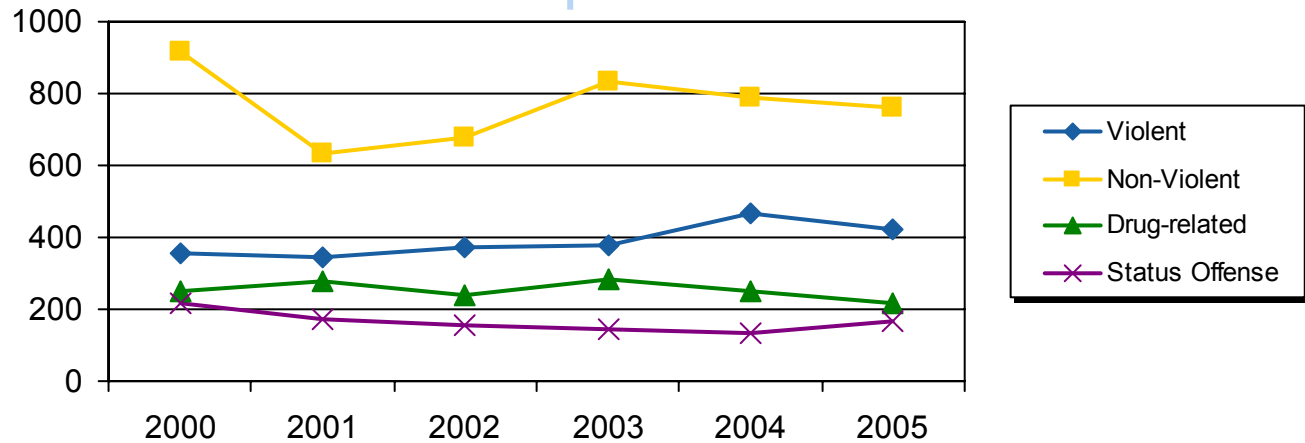
Crime rates influence people's decisions about where to live. Crime also has significant economic costs to businesses, government and taxpayers.

What it tells us:

Nonviolent crime rates have remained fairly steady, decreasing slightly in 2004 as reported by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, Ypsilanti Police Department, and the Ann Arbor Police Department.



**Number of Crimes Committed by Juveniles 2000-2005
in Washtenaw County**



What it is:

The number of juvenile crimes in several categories: violent, non-violent, drug-related and status offenses. Status offenses are offenses that are only illegal for a juvenile, including truancy, incorrigibility, runaway, and curfew violations.

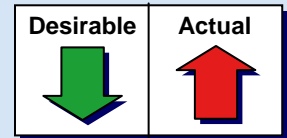
Why it matters:

Increasing or decreasing levels of juvenile crime can be a warning signal of future increase in the adult crime rate. Crime also has significant economic costs to businesses, government, and taxpayers.

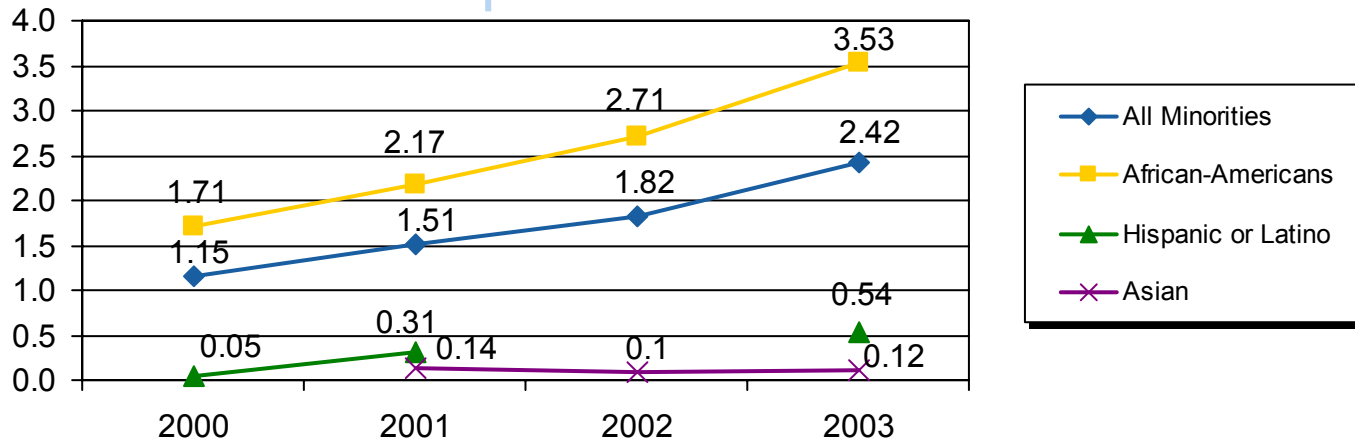
What it tells us:

After dipping between 2000-2001, non-violent crime increased through 2003 and has declined slightly to 2005. Drug-related offenses and status offenses remained steady 2000-2005, while violent crime increased slightly in 2004.

Racial Disparities for Juvenile Arrest Rate Index



Relative Rate of Arrest of Juveniles from Different Racial & Ethnic Groups Compared with Caucasian Juveniles in Washtenaw County



What it is:

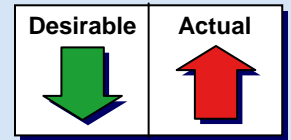
The Relative Rate Index of arrests for different racial/ethnic groups, as compared to Caucasian juveniles. For instance, the RRI rate of 3.53 shown for African-American juveniles in 2003 indicates that African-American juveniles were 3.5 times more likely to be arrested than Caucasian juveniles in 2003. Data has not yet been analyzed for 2004 and 2005.

Why it matters:

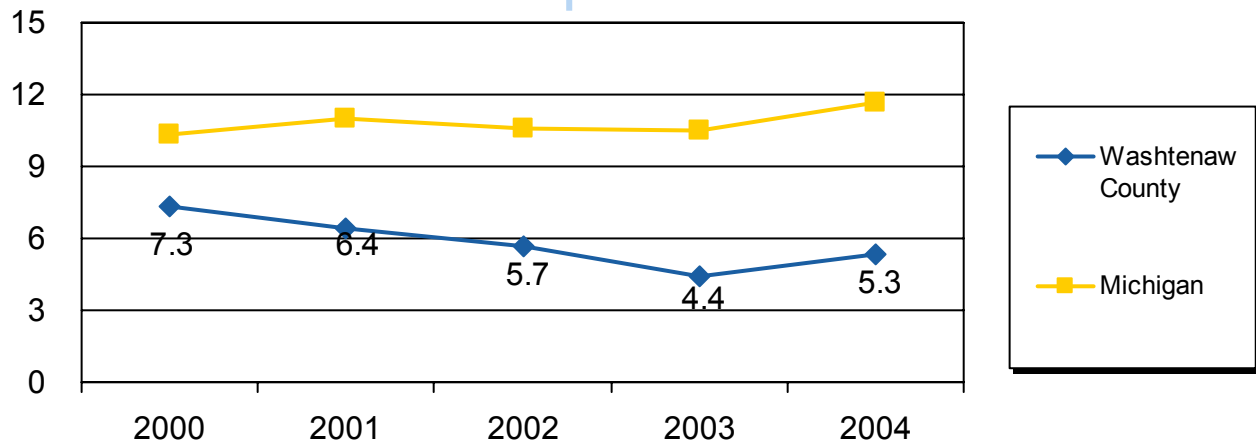
Racial disparities in the juvenile justice system indicates that the arresting, processing, detaining, adjudicating and imprisonment of youth is not race neutral and does not provide "Equal Justice Under the Law" for all.

What it tells us:

Racial disparities in juvenile arrests are increasing, in particular for African-American juveniles, Hispanic/Latino and Asian juveniles. There is not enough data to draw conclusions about other racial groups and ethnicities, so they are not shown on this graph.



Rates of Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse or Neglect (per 1,000)



What it is:

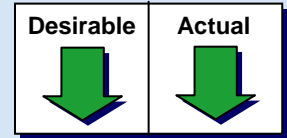
Confirmed victims of abuse or neglect in children birth to 17 after an investigation has occurred. The operational definitions of abuse and neglect can be found in the services manual for the Department of Human Services (formally FIA).

Why it matters:

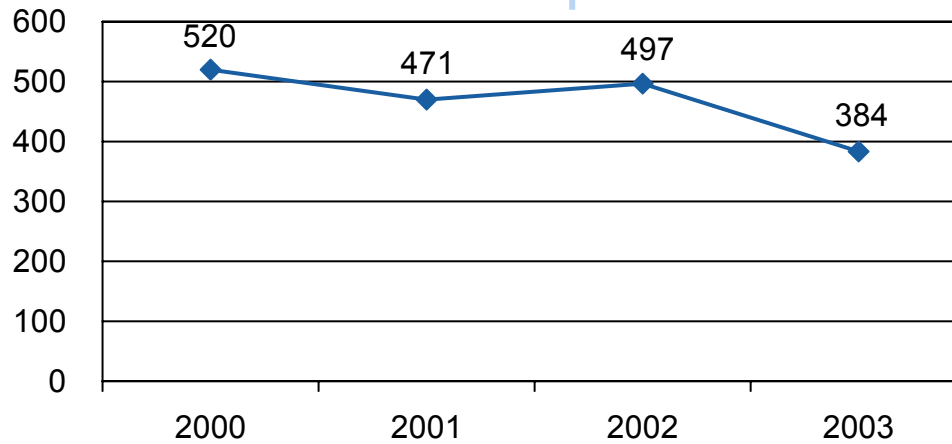
Children who are neglected or abused are at risk for developing mental health and academic problems. Rates of abuse and neglect increase during economic downturns.

What it tells us:

In Washtenaw County, child abuse and neglect rates decreased between 2000 to 2003, the same time that they remained steady at the state level. The rates rose in 2004 mirroring a state trend.



Domestic Violence Victim Rate (per 100,000) in Washtenaw County



What it is:

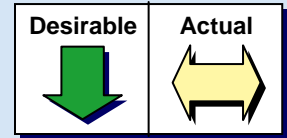
The number of confirmed cases of domestic violence in Washtenaw County per 100,000 adults. Domestic violence is physical, psychological, sexual or financial violence directed towards one's spouse, partner or cohabitant.

Why it matters:

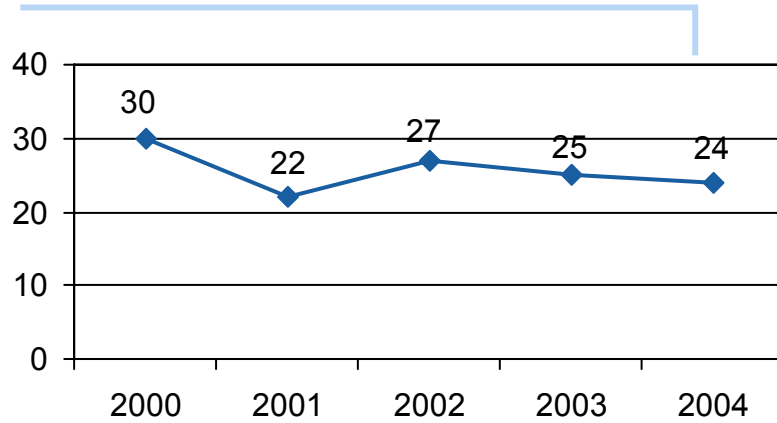
Domestic violence is a serious community health problem. Victims of abuse suffer physical and emotional injuries that require treatment. Also, it is an indicator of socio-economic health as it is correlated with downturns in the economy.

What it tells us:

Domestic violence rates have fallen slightly between 2000 and 2003.



Number of Hate Crimes in Washtenaw County



Local Differences					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Michigan	616	569	548	457	660
Washtenaw County	30	22	27	25	24
Ann Arbor	15	12	19	19	14
Chelsea	2	3	6	0	2
Milan	2	0	0	0	0
Pittsfield Township	1	2	0	0	0
Ypsilanti	8	3	0	4	4
Washtenaw County -Other	2	1	2	2	4

What it is:



Hate/Bias Crime is a criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation or disability group.

Why it matters:

Hate crimes are an indicator of the tensions in the community due to ethnicity, racial, religious, sexual orientation or disability differences. They also are correlated with the diversity found in an area.

What it tells us:

Washtenaw County accounts for 3%-6% of hate crimes reported in Michigan, and such crimes have slightly decreased in the county. The majority of hate crimes reported do not involve intimidation/stalking, non-aggravated assault or damage to property. The majority of the hate crimes occur in college towns (Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti).

Desirable	Actual
	

What it is:

The rate of elder abuse and neglect in Washtenaw County. Domestic elder abuse refers to any of several forms of maltreatment or abuse of an older person by someone who has a special relationship with the elder (e.g. a spouse, a sibling, a child, a friend, or a caregiver in the older person's home or in the home of a caregiver). The Washtenaw County Blueprint for Aging estimates that, "extrapolating national experience to the local senior population (in 2000 there were over 35,000 residents in Washtenaw County over the age of 60), it is estimated that, on an annual basis, about 360 persons age 60+ in Washtenaw County experience abuse/ neglect in a domestic setting alone." However, there is no data currently being collected, and it is unclear how accurate this estimate is for Washtenaw County and whether the rate has been increasing or decreasing.

Why it matters:

As the population becomes older in the country and in Washtenaw County, the rate of elder abuse and neglect has the potential to increase as well. Elder abuse is even more difficult to detect than child abuse, since the social isolation of some elderly persons may increase both the risk of maltreatment itself and the difficulty of identifying that maltreatment.

EDUCATION



Early Childhood Education & Care:

Starting with the care and education of our youngest community members, childcare costs rose from 2001 to 2005. While the number of licensed and accredited childcare centers and homes has remained fairly consistent, the decreasing affordability of childcare has implications for the strategies that households, especially lower income ones, use to care for infant and preschool children. Quality affordable childcare was viewed as a major issue by survey respondents, although it varied. Nearly 75% community leaders viewed this as a major issue. This is an area where a major community concern is supported by data.

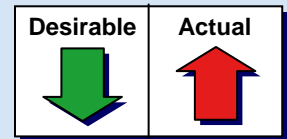
Children & Youth:

There is a great disparity between the number of free and reduced cost lunches in different parts of the county for school age children, ranging from 4% to 56%. Average student teacher ratios are fairly consistent countywide (from 16.1 to 19.7). For students completing high school fully 86% plan to attend college.

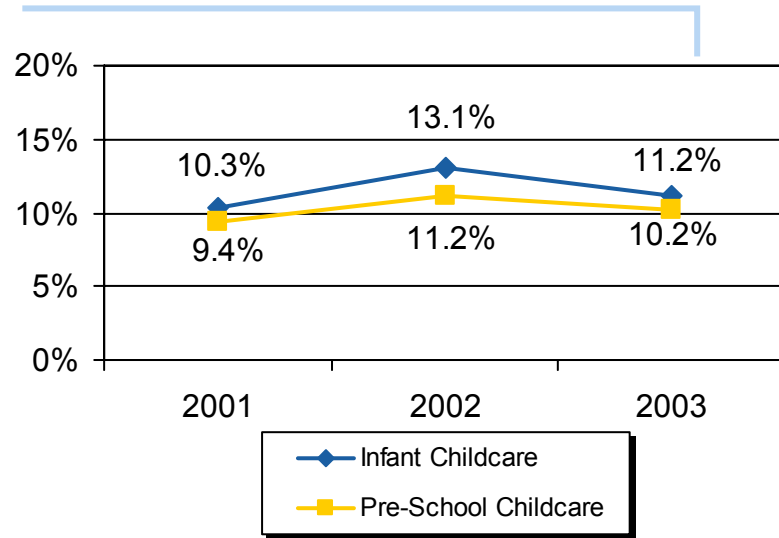
Community leaders and residents taking the written survey rated the achievement gap between students and students dropping out of school as major issues without adequate resources. Currently reliable indicator data is not being collected in an identical way in each district. The high school drop out rate was a major issue to two-thirds (67%) of residents taking the written survey, but only 41% of community residents responding to the phone survey.

Adults & Continuing Education:

Employment assistance and job training emerged as the major issues for adult education.



Childcare Cost as a Percentage of Median Family Income



Yearly Differences (all in Dollars)					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Median Family Income	73,572	66,527	72,741	67,167	N/A
Average cost annually for one full time infant space	7,577	8,736	8,112	N/A	9,152
Average cost annually for one full time preschool space	6,907	7,462	7,436	N/A	8,060

What it is:

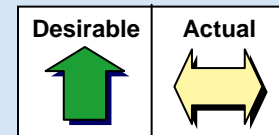
The average cost annually for one full-time infant space and preschool space, divided by the median family income for Washtenaw County.

Why it matters:

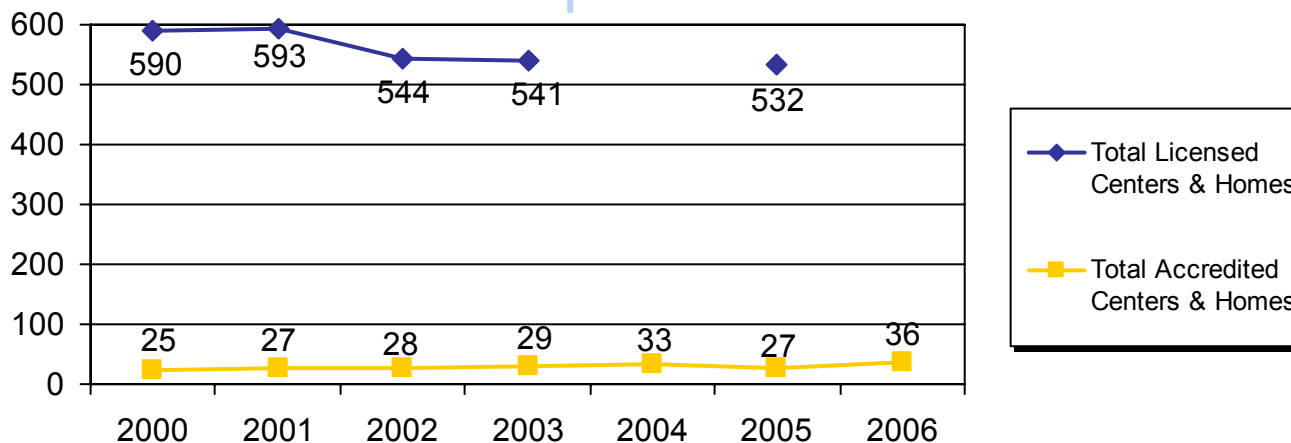
Childcare is a necessity for working parents, but is not always affordable for all households.

What it tells us:

Median family income was reported as lower in 2002 than in 2001 or 2003, leading to an increase in the relative cost of childcare in 2002. Childcare costs are 20.8% higher for infants in 2005 than they were in 2001, and 16.7% higher for pre-school aged children, while inflation rose only 10.3% in the same time period.



Number of Licensed & Accredited Childcare Centers and Homes



What it is:

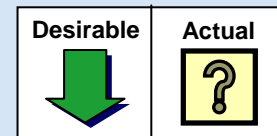
The number of childcare centers and homes that are licensed in Washtenaw County, as well as the number which have been accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Why it matters:

The number of licensed homes and centers indicates availability and that the home meets licensing requirements. Accreditation indicates that a center or home has reached certain high quality standards for the care of children. While there are many good childcare centers that choose not to apply to be accredited, the number of accredited programs can give some indication about the level of quality childcare available in our community.

What it tells us:

The number of accredited centers has increased almost every year from 2000. It dropped briefly in 2005, most likely due to a gap in centers applying for renewal, but it is rising again.

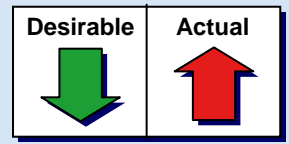


What it is:

The gap between the number of children eligible to be enrolled in the Head Start program and the number who are actually enrolled. Head Start enrollment data was not received in time for publication of this report.

Why it matters:

The experiences of early childhood have an enduring effect on each individual's future learning capacity. Positive early childhood development is essential to later success in school and in becoming a productive member of society. Children who are eligible to participate in Head Start but are not enrolled due to lack of knowledge, lack of space, or other reasons miss out on these opportunities.

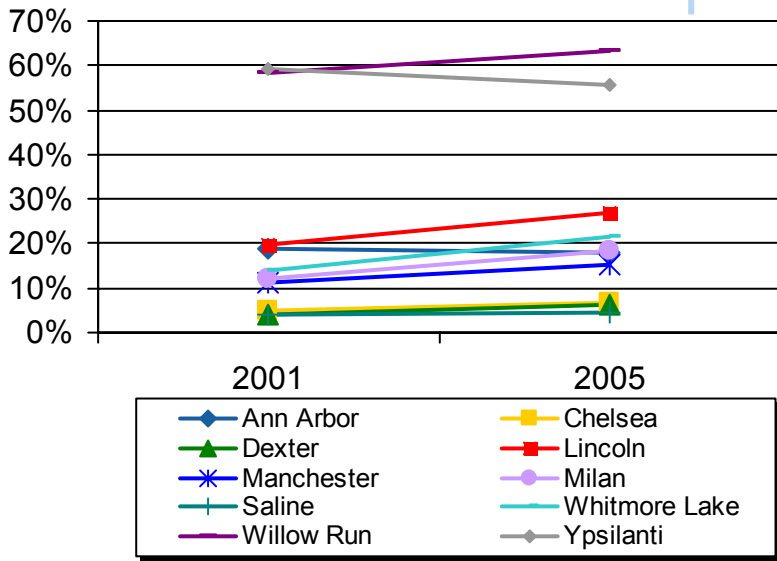


Children & Youth:

Free & Reduced Price Lunches

EDUCATION

Percentage of Students Receiving Free & Reduced Price Lunches



Local Differences					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Michigan	29.6	31.2	31.2	32.5	34.7
Ann Arbor	18.5	16.0	16.8	18.9	18.0
Chelsea	5.1	6.3	5.8	6.6	6.6
Dexter	4.4	4.7	5.9	5.4	6.1
Lincoln	19.6	20.8	24.7	25.4	26.9
Manchester	11.3	10.0	2.2	12.5	15.1
Milan	12.0	13.8	16.9	16.9	18.6
Saline	3.9	4.5	4.1	4.2	4.3
Whitmore Lake	14.1	16.0	21.0	19.6	21.5
Willow Run	58.3	62.9	60.0	64.5	63.2
Ypsilanti	59.3	51.6	54.2	53.0	55.5

What it is:

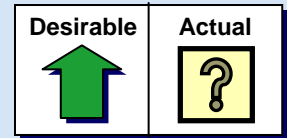
The percentage of Washtenaw County public school students determined eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch programs. Students are eligible for free lunches if their family income is within 130% of the official poverty line, or reduced-cost lunches if their family income is within 185% of the poverty line.

Why it matters:

Eligibility for the free or reduced-cost school lunch program is often used as a proxy for the level of child poverty. Poverty can impact the ability of children to learn, and is at the root of most health and human service needs.

What it tells us:

There is a great disparity between the number of free and reduced cost lunches in different parts of Washtenaw County. The number of free and reduced lunches has been increasing in Dexter, Lincoln, Manchester, Milan, Whitmore Lake, and Ypsilanti.

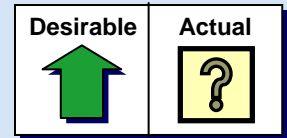


What it is:

Rates of high school completion for each school district within Washtenaw County. Data is collected in different ways by each of the ten school districts within Washtenaw County, and thus is not reliable or valid for comparison purposes. Districts are working within the “No Child Left Behind” Act to collect high school completion rate data in a consistent manner, and so consistent data may be available soon.

Why it matters:

High school completion rates are a key indicator of educational attainment and successful transition into adulthood.

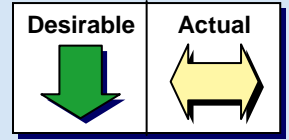


What it is:

The average daily attendance percent for each school district within Washtenaw County. Data is collected in different ways by each of the ten school districts within Washtenaw County, and is not reliable or valid for comparison purposes. However, districts are working within the “No Child Left Behind” Act to collect high school completion rate data in a consistent manner, and so reliable data may be available soon.

Why it matters:

Regular school attendance is an important prerequisite for success in school.

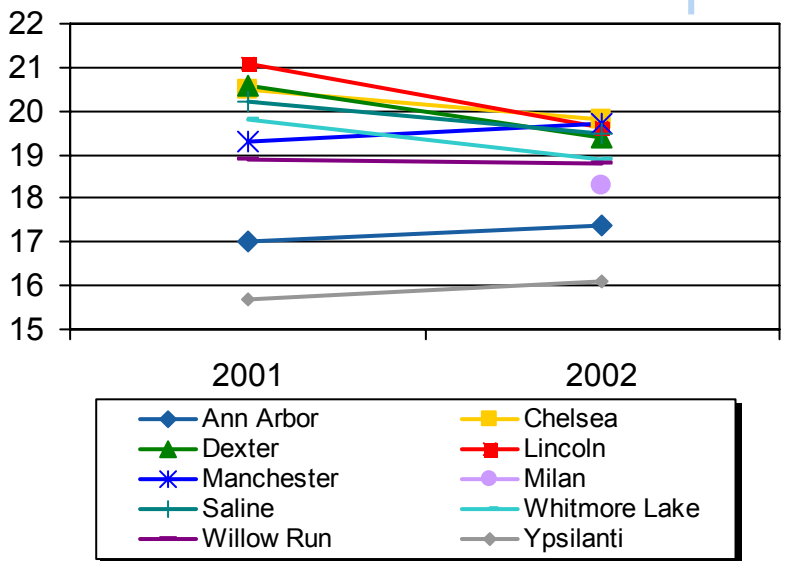


Children & Youth:

Student Teacher Ratio

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Student Teacher Ratio



Local Differences		
	2001	2002
Michigan	17.7	17.5
Ann Arbor	17.0	17.4
Chelsea	20.5	19.8
Dexter	20.6	19.4
Lincoln	21.1	19.6
Manchester	19.3	19.7
Milan	Data not available	18.3
Saline	20.2	19.5
Whitmore Lake	19.8	18.9
Willow Run	18.9	18.8
Ypsilanti	15.7	16.1

What it is:

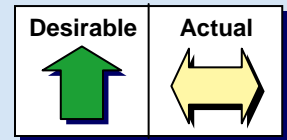
The average number of students per teacher, for each of the ten school districts in Washtenaw County.

Why it matters:

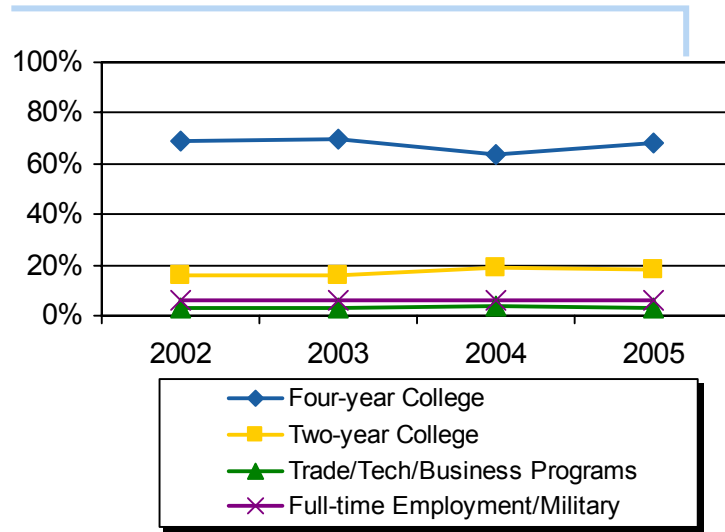
The lower the number of students that each teacher is responsible for, the more individual attention teachers can give each student.

What it tells us:

The number of students per teacher remained relatively constant overall between 2001 and 2002. In particular, Lincoln Consolidated School District decreased its ratio 8%, and Dexter Community School District decreased its ratio 6%.



High School Graduates' Reported Plans for Next Two Years



Data by Year				
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Four-year College	69%	70%	64%	68%
Two-year College	16%	16%	19%	18%
Full-time Employment	4%	4%	4%	4%
Trade/Tech/Business Programs	3%	3%	4%	3%
Military	2%	2%	2%	2%
Other	4%	3%	2%	3%

**** Percentages do not add up to 100% because some students did not answer this question.**

What it is:

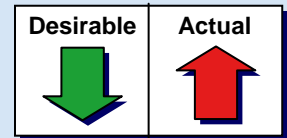
Students leaving high school are surveyed yearly in a High School Exit Survey, and are asked what they planned to do for the next two years.

Why it matters:

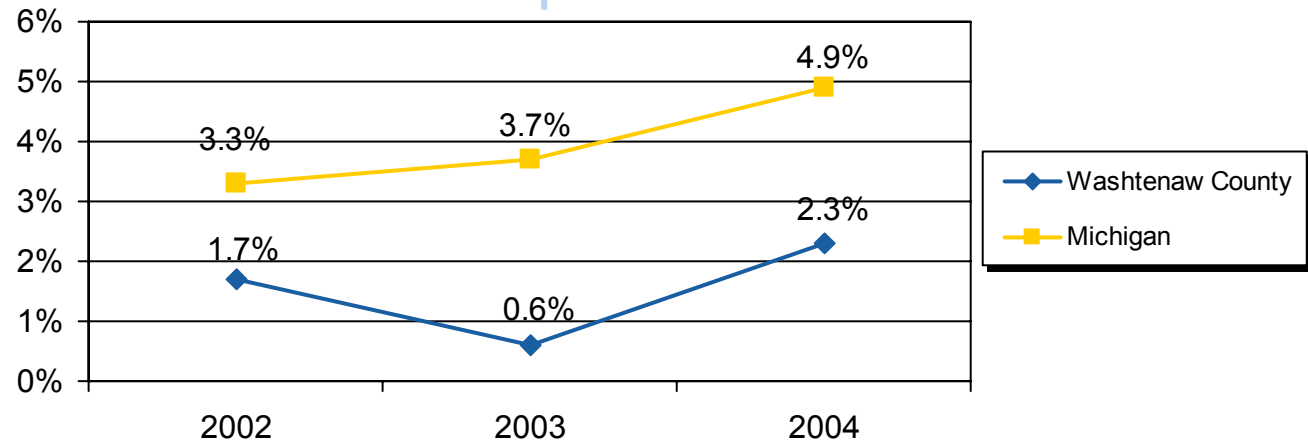
Post-graduation plans of high school students are an indicator of quality of schools, the value placed by families on continued education, and family's means to support their children's continued education.

What it tells us:

The majority of high school students plan to pursue higher education by attending either a 4- or a 2-year college. The remainder of graduates plan on attending a trade/tech/business program, working full-time, or joining the military. The trends have been steady 2002-2005.



Percent of 16-19-year olds Not in School, Graduated, or Working



What it is:

An estimate of the percentage of 16-19 year-olds not enrolled in school, not graduated, and unemployed or not in the labor force. This data comes from the American Community Survey, a new U.S. Census Bureau process which uses results of nationwide surveying to determine community economic and social data. There is a wide margin of error for this particular indicator, and it should be viewed with caution.

Why it matters:

Youth who have not graduated but are not in school or working are more likely to be involved in crime or drug use, and have more negative long-term economic outcomes.

What it tells us:

The number of 'Disconnected Youth' has risen slightly in Washtenaw County from 2002 to 2004. However, our rates have remained about half of the rates seen in the state overall.

HEALTH



Health (Kids, Adults, Community Health):

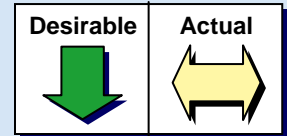
Highlights from the indicator data for health include:

- ◆ Infant death rates and low birth weights are higher for African American babies than for Caucasian babies and vary throughout the county.
- ◆ An increasing percentage of children are covered by public health plans.
- ◆ While the rate of teen pregnancy is dropping, there is still a rate of 31.7 per 1,000 females ages 15-19.
- ◆ The number of adults defined as “working poor” without health care insurance is rising in the county.
- ◆ The HIV incidence rate almost doubled between 2001 and 2004 (5.3 to 9.6).

All three groups surveyed ranked many aspects of health as some of the most important issues in Washtenaw County with the least adequate resources available. Adults without health insurance or affordable health care were consistently rated as major issues by all three groups (76%-94%). A slightly lower percent of respondents ranked affordable prescription medicine and affordable dental care as an issue. Community residents completing the written survey had a very different perception of dental care – 82% believed it was a major issue, and 70% believed resources were not adequate. Teen pregnancy was viewed as a major issue by 71% of residents (written), but not by the other two groups (29% and 39%). Children without health insurance and substance abuse were rated as major issues by most respondents (62%-80%). In contrast, only 12% of residents believed that infant mortality was a major issue, and 78% believed resources were adequate.

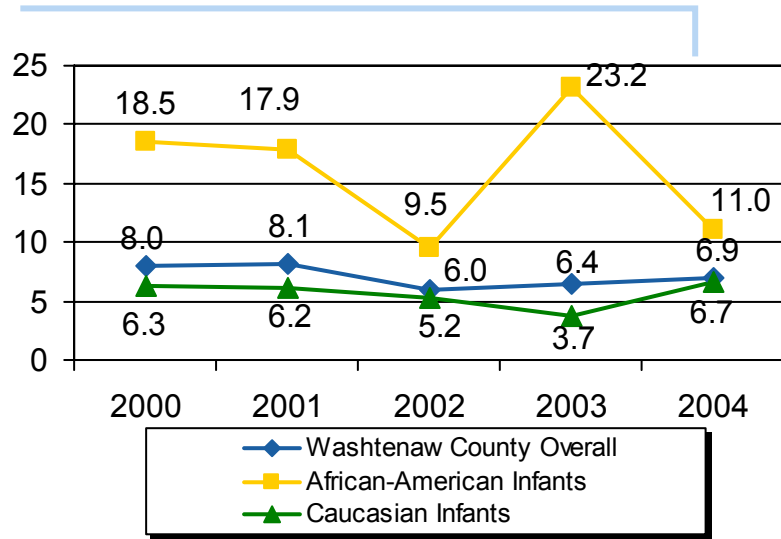
Healthy Kids:

Infant Death Rate



HEALTH

Infant Death Rate - Differences for African-American & Caucasian Infants in Washtenaw County



Local Differences - Infant Death Rate					
	1998-2000	1999-2001	2000-2002	2001-2003	2002-2004
Michigan	8.2	8.0	8.1	8.5	7.6
Washtenaw Co.*	6.6	7.8	7.3	6.8	6.4
Ann Arbor City*	7.4	8.6	7.0	6.3	4.7
Pittsfield Township*	No estimates because there were < 6 deaths				
Scio Township*	No estimates because there were < 6 deaths				
Ypsilanti City*	6.4	5.8	5.5	7.2	8.0
Ypsilanti Township*	10.8	20.9	17.0	11.6	8.4

*Estimated deaths from the Michigan Department of Community Health (per 1,000 live births) based on 3 year moving averages.

What it is:

Infant Death Rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Why it matters:

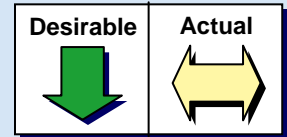
Infant mortality is a crucial measure of community physical and socio-economic health. It correlates with the performance of the region's health care intervention system and social support system for childbearing women.

What it tells us:

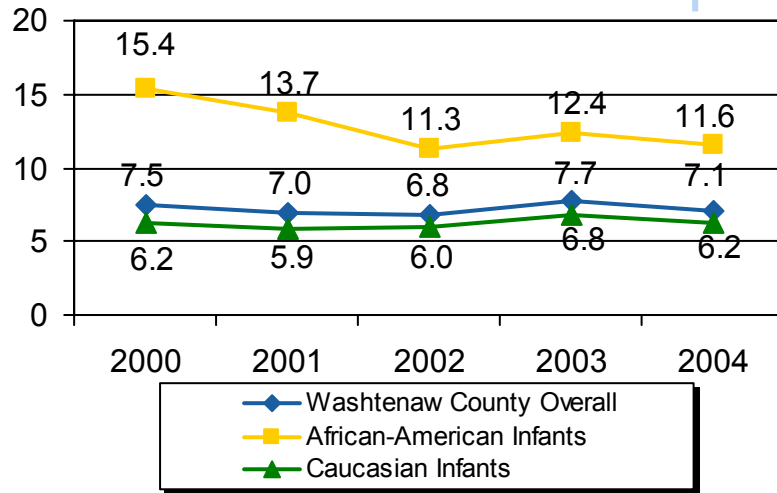
In Washtenaw County the infant death rate varies by race and by locality. The death rate for African-American infants is consistently higher than for Caucasian infants, though the amount of the difference varies by year. Specifically, Ypsilanti Township experienced a sharp increase in infant deaths in 2001, but the rate has fallen steadily since. Ann Arbor City has experienced a slight decline in infant deaths.

Healthy Kids:

Infant Low Birth Weight



Low Birth Weight Infants - Differences for African-American & Caucasian Infants



Local Differences in Percent of Low Birth Weight Infants (<5.5 lbs)					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Michigan	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.4
Washtenaw County	7.5	7.0	6.8	7.7	7.1
Ann Arbor City	7.9	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.4
Pittsfield Township	6.5	7.3	9.2	8.0	7.1
Scio Township	5.8	8.6	.8	10.6	3.8
Ypsilanti City	13.1	10.8	10.9	11.2	10.3
Ypsilanti Township	10.6	9.6	7.7	10.0	10.0

Michigan Resident Birth File, Vital Records & Health Data, MI Department of Community Health

What it is:

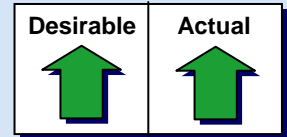
The percent of all births to children with low birth weight (<5.5lbs) or very low birth weight (3.3lbs) per 100 live births. Figures reflect only single births.

Why it matters:

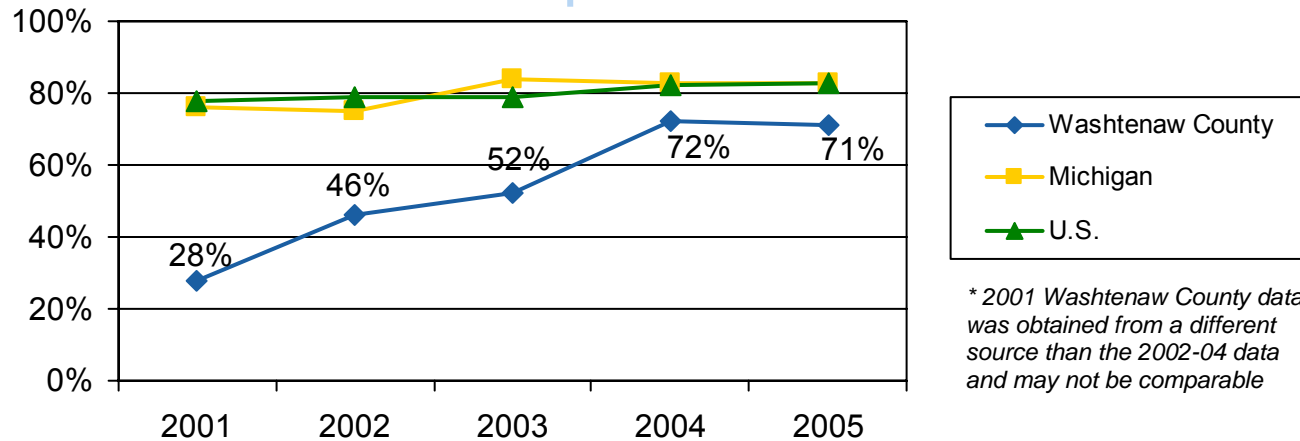
Low birth weight is reflective of quality and availability of prenatal care, and is associated with infant health problems for children who are very low birth weight.

What it tells us:

African-Americans have higher rates of low birth weight infants relative to Caucasians in Washtenaw County. Between 2000 and 2002 there was a marked decline in low birth weight African-American infants, which has been maintained between 2002 to 2004. Washtenaw County overall has a very slightly lower rate of low birth weight children than the state. Ypsilanti City and Township have a higher rate of low birth weight infants than the more affluent cities and townships in Washtenaw County.



Percent of Children (19-35 months) Who Are Fully Immunized



What it is:

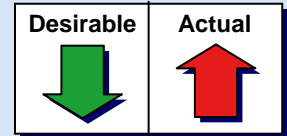
The percentage of children 19-35 months old considered fully immunized by the Michigan Childhood Immunization Registry (MCIR). A child is considered fully immunized after receiving four doses of DTaP, three does of Polio, three doses of Hib, one dose of MMR, and three doses of Hepatitis B.

Why it matters:

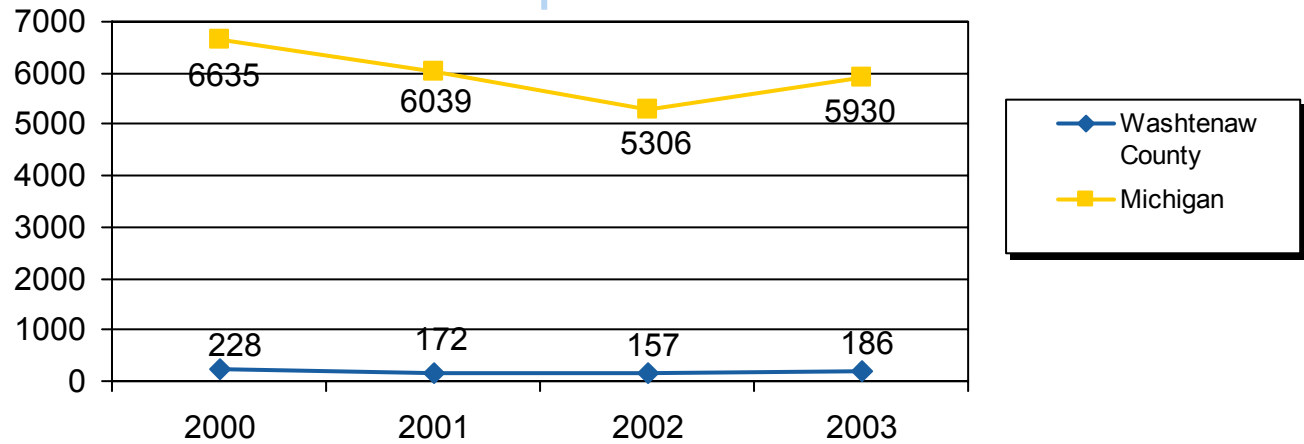
Immunization rates are an indicator of quality and availability of preventative health care in a community. Immunization is an important factor in reducing communicable disease in children and adults. Immunization protects children from the consequences of communicable diseases: brain damage, hearing loss, pneumonia, and death.

What it tells us:

Increasing number of children in Washtenaw County were immunized from 2001 to 2004. The 2005 rate is similar to the 2004 rate, though slightly lower than rates in Michigan and the U.S.



Preventable Hospitalizations for Asthma In Washtenaw County & Michigan



What it is:

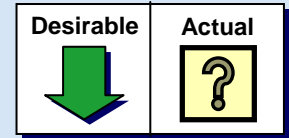
Preventable hospitalizations for conditions in which timely and effective ambulatory care can decrease hospitalization by preventing the onset of illness or condition, controlling acute episode of an illness or managing chronic disease or condition for children 18 years and under.

Why it matters:

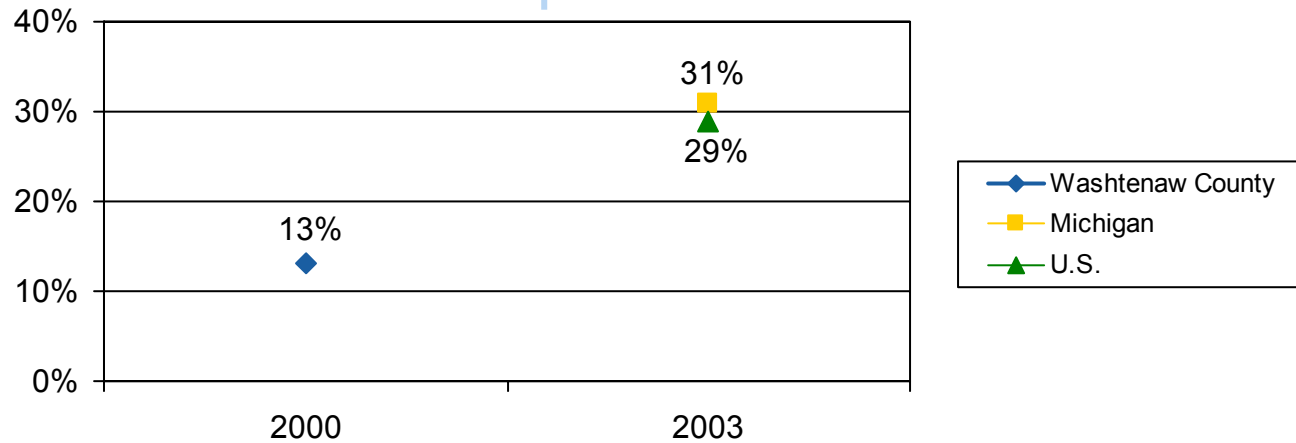
Asthma is an indicator of community health that is related to poor air quality and housing.

What it tells us:

Preventable hospitalizations due to asthma episodes in children have decreased overall from 2000 to 2002 in both Washtenaw County and in Michigan, but increased again from 2002 to 2003. Data from reported in the Washtenaw County Public Health HIP Survey in 2000 and 2005 found a decrease for children. The mean number of asthma episodes for children reported decreased from 3.0 to 1.6 between 2000 and 2005.



Percent of Overweight Children and Adolescents (6-17 years old in Washtenaw County; 10-17 years old in Michigan and the U.S.)



What it is:

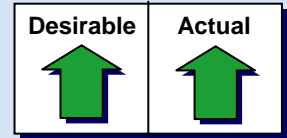
Proportion of children and adolescents aged 6 to 17 years in Washtenaw County who are overweight as reported on the HIP survey. Data from 2005 is not yet available. Michigan-level data and U.S.-level data are from a 2003 Survey of Children’s Health for children 10-17 years of age, and may not be comparable. Children with Body Mass Index (BMI) values at or above the 85th percentile of the sex-specific BMI growth charts for their age are categorized as overweight.

Why it matters:

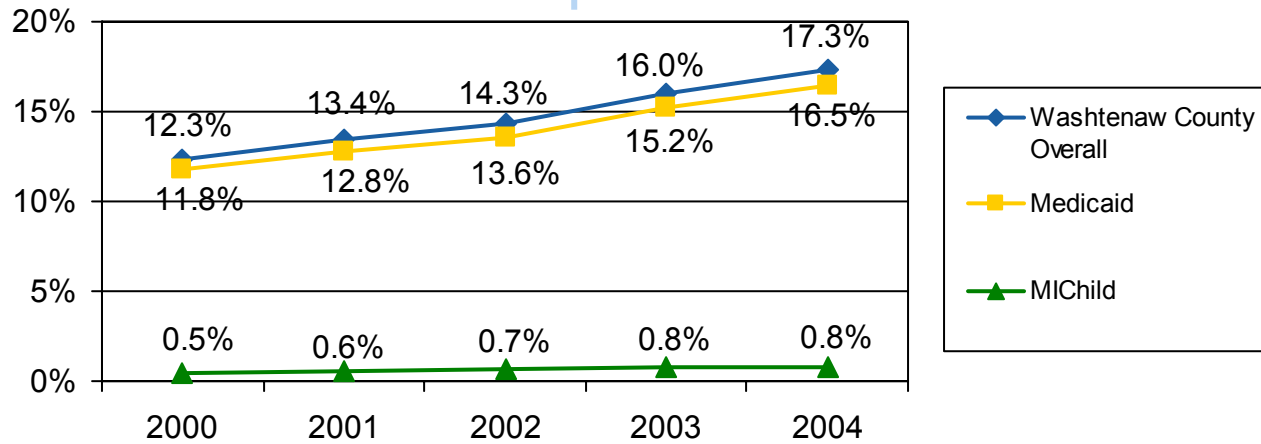
The percent of overweight children is an indicator of opportunities for physical activity and quality of nutrition. Overweight children are more likely to have health and social problems in childhood that can extend into adulthood.

What it tells us:

The proportion of overweight children and adolescents in Washtenaw County was 13% in 2000, and preliminary survey results suggest that this hasn’t changed significantly in 2005.



Percentage of Children 0-18 Covered by Public Health Plans in Washtenaw County



What it is:

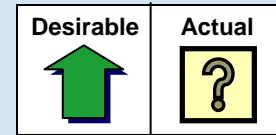
The percent of children in Washtenaw County who are covered by two public health plans - Medicaid and MICHild. Medicaid covers children 1-18 in families under 150% of poverty, and MICHild covers children 1-18 in families under 150-200% of poverty.

Why it matters:

An increase in health care coverage means that more children are receiving access to health care. However, an increasing percentage of children covered by public health plans can also indicate that private coverage is decreasing. Not only does the burden on public health expenses go up, but access to quality health care could potentially decrease because coverage is more limited in Medicaid or MICHild Health Plans.

What it tells us:

An increasing percentage of children are covered by public health plans. Census 2000 data indicates that 6.9% of children 0-17 were uninsured in Washtenaw County.

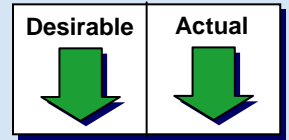


What it is:

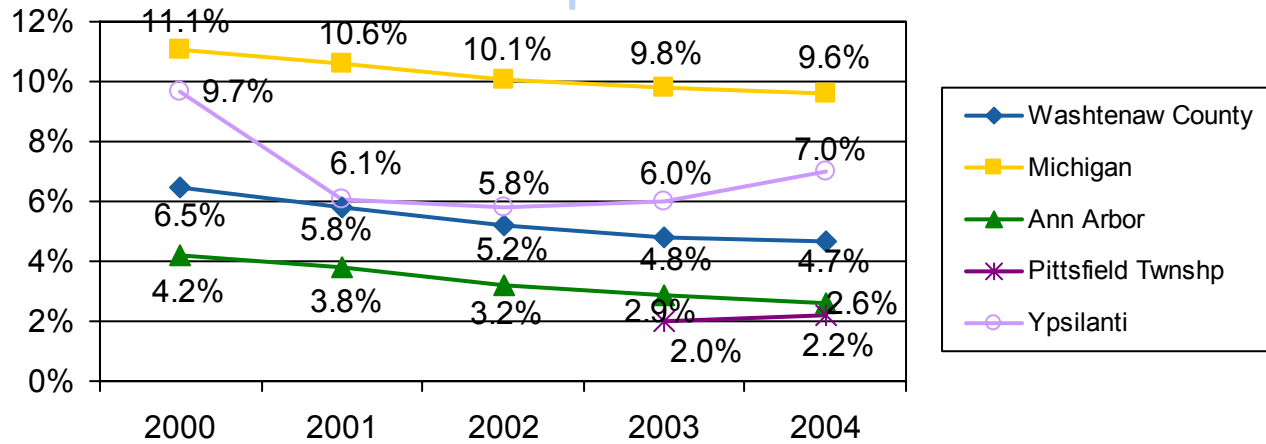
Percent of children who have one person who is their personal doctor or health care provider. There is no county-level data about the number of children who have a primary health care provider.

Why it matters:

Children with a primary care physician receive better quality health care. Children without a primary health care provider are more likely to receive late or no care for health problems, putting them at greater risk for hospitalization and developing chronic conditions.



Births to Teens (percent of total births)



What it is:

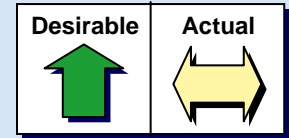
Percent of all infants born to an adolescent mother under age 20.

Why it matters:

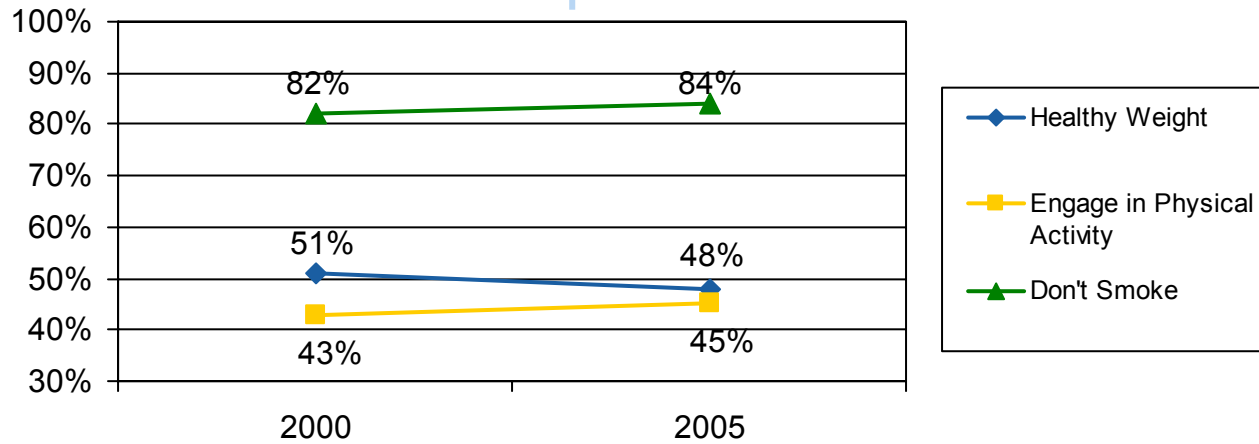
Teen childbearing is an indicator of a community's socio-economic health. Adolescent childbearing is correlated with lower educational attainment and engagement in the workforce.

What it tells us:

Washtenaw County has a lower percent of births to teen mothers than does Michigan. Trends in the county mirror national trends for lower percentages of birth to teens. There are regional differences - Ypsilanti has the highest percent of births to teen parents. There was a significant drop in births to teens in Ypsilanti between 2000 and 2002, but the percent of births increased in 2003-2004. Other areas showed a continued decrease.



Percent of adults maintaining a healthy weight, engaging in physical activity, and not smoking in Washtenaw County



What it is:

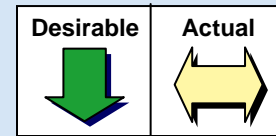
Indicators of adult healthy behaviors, including: maintaining a healthy weight, engaging in moderate physical activity at least 5-7 days a week, and not smoking. The percent of adults engaging in these healthy behaviors are taken from the Washtenaw County's bi-decennial Health Improvement Program (HIP) survey.

Why it matters:

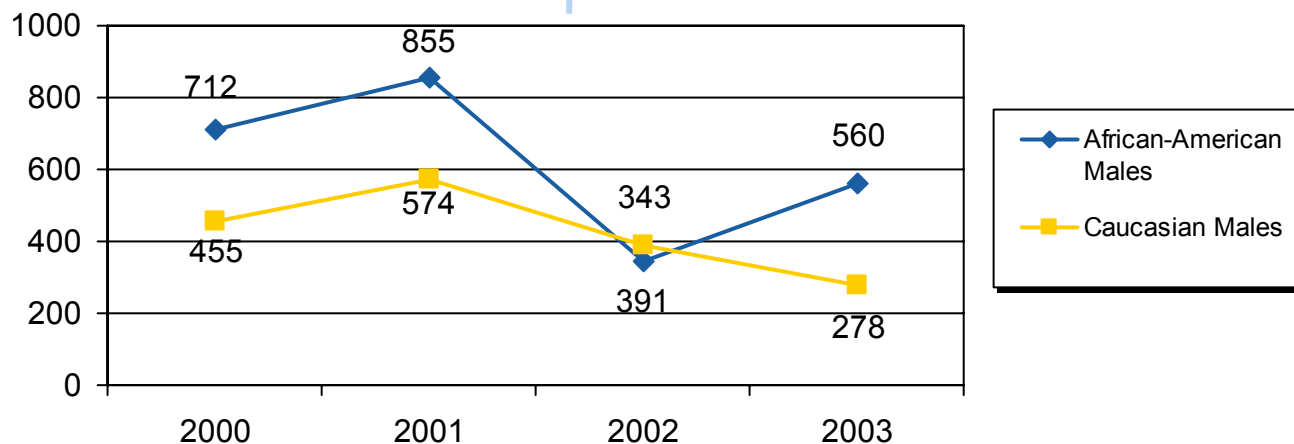
Adults who engage in healthy behaviors are much less likely to develop chronic diseases or die at an early age.

What it tells us:

The number of adults in Washtenaw County who are at a healthy weight has decreased slightly. However, the number of adults engaging in physical activity has increased slightly, as have the numbers of adults not smoking.



Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) Rate (per 100,000) for African-American and Caucasian Males in Washtenaw County



What it is:

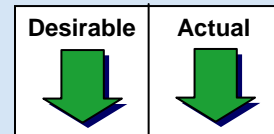
The total number of life years lost per 100,000 men in Washtenaw County owing to premature death from heart disease.

Why it matters:

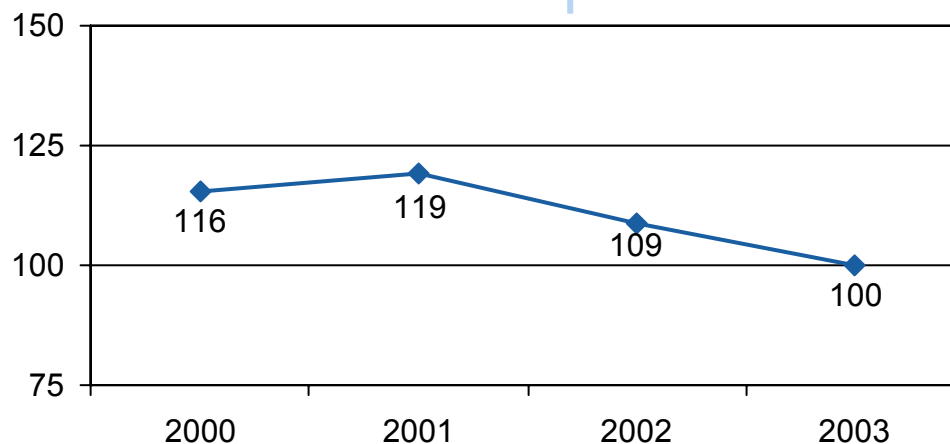
Heart disease is an important indicator of health. It is related to a number of poor health outcomes and increases an individual's chances of an early death.

What it tells us:

In general, African-American males have a higher rate of heart disease than Caucasian males. Rates among Caucasian and African-American males decreased steadily from 2000 to 2002. After 2002, the Caucasian rates continued to drop, but there was an increase in rates for African-American males.



**Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) Rate (per 100,000)
due to Breast Cancer in Washtenaw County**



What it is:

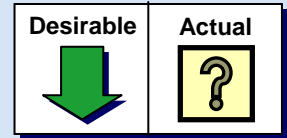
The total number of life years lost per 100,000 women for due to breast cancer in the county.

Why it matters:

Breast cancer survival rates are an indicator of the quality of health care available in a location both in terms of preventative care and treatment for advanced disease.

What it tells us:

The years of life lost to breast cancer is decreasing in Washtenaw County. This could be the result of earlier diagnosis and better treatments.



Percent of Individuals without Health Care Insurance in Washtenaw County, 2000-2005

No Data for 2005

Total Population Uninsured by Poverty Level in 2000			
	Washtenaw County	Michigan	U.S.
Below Poverty	29%	25%	31%
100-199% of Poverty	25%	17%	23%
200% of Poverty	8%	7%	10%
All Income Groups	11%	11%	15%

Data from The Lewin Group using the Current Population Survey (March Supplement-2000-2002- 3-year pool data) and 2000 Census

What it is:

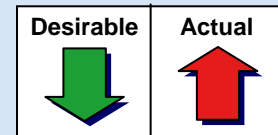
The percent of adults who do not have public or private health insurance. There is no data for all adults 18 and over in Washtenaw County to show if this has increased or decreased from 2000 to 2005. However, a survey conducted by the Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan in 2000 and 2005 found that the percent of 'working poor' who reported not having health care insurance increased from 9.5% in 2000 to 13.1% in 2005.

Why it matters:

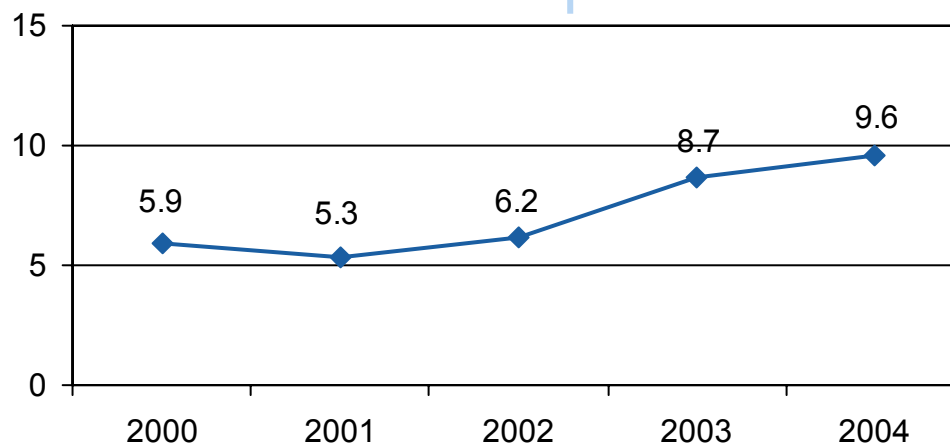
Health insurance is critical for preventative health. Lack of insurance is related to lower health status, increased use of emergency rooms for basic care, higher health care costs and unnecessary deaths.

What it tells us:

Data from 2000 shows that people in Washtenaw County making 199% of the poverty level or below are more than three times as likely to be uninsured as those making 200% of the poverty level or above. This rate is quite similar to Michigan's.



HIV Incidence Rates in Washtenaw County



What it is:

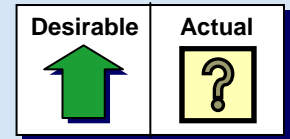
Rate of HIV infection per 100,000 population.

Why it matters:

HIV infection is a public health concern and it places a large burden on the health care system and on an individual's quality of life and life expectancy.

What it tells us:

HIV incidence rates are increasing in Washtenaw County. The rate has almost doubled between 2001 and 2004 (from 5.3 to 9.6).



Adults with a Primary Care Physician in Washtenaw County



What it is:



Percent of adult HIP 2005 Survey respondents who said 'yes' to the following question - "Do you have any one person you think of as your personal doctor or health care provider?"

Why it matters:

Having a primary health care provider is an indicator of the quality of medical care an individual receives. Individuals with a primary physician are more likely to receive regular preventative care and better management of chronic conditions.

What it tells us:

This data will be collected again by the Washtenaw County Health Improvement plan in 2010 to determine if this indicator is moving in a positive or negative direction.

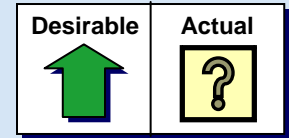
Desirable 	Actual 
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What it is:

Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) due to diabetes. The Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan has some data available for some groups in some years, but there is no consistent data available for each year.

Why it matters:

Diabetes is an important health indicator because it is related to a number of health issues including obesity, hypertension, and blindness. Also, it is a chronic disease which puts stress on the medical system.

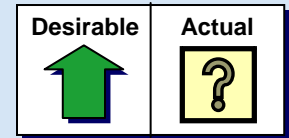


What it is:

Percent of the county population that has access to affordable treatment for substance abuse. Substance abuse services coverage can be limited by some insurances, and adequate services may not be available.

Why it matters:

Substance abuse has negative public health, economic, and personal impacts on the community. It is not currently known how much access county residents have to appropriate treatment for substance abuse issues.



What it is:

Percent of the county population that has access to affordable mental health services. The numbers of people accessing Community Mental Health services each year is available, but does not indicate what percentage of the county needs mental health services but cannot access them due to being ineligible for coverage from their private health insurance or Community Mental Health. Coverage that is provided may also not be affordable or a good fit with the services needed by an individual.

Why it matters:

Good mental health is important to physical health and the ability to pursue employment and education. However, mental health service coverage is limited in some private and public health plans.

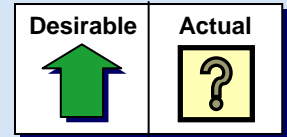
ENVIRONMENT



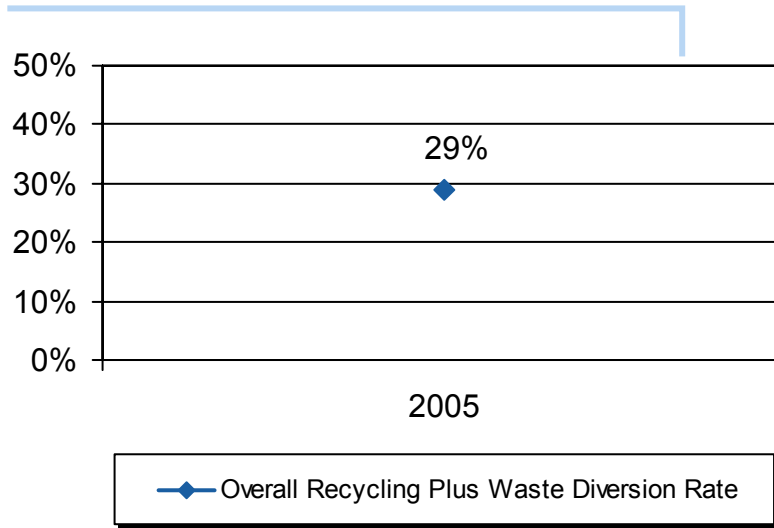
Environment & Land Use:

Indicator data shows that the percentage of days with good air quality has decreased from 67% in 2000 to 42% in 2005. However, over a third (38%) of residents did not believe that air quality was an issue, and 62% believed resources were adequate to address this issue. Fewer community leaders (39%) believed resources were adequate, and only 18% of residents (written) believed this.

The recycling rate varies by community, but overall our community recycles or diverts 29% of our waste. Approximately a third of residents and leaders believe recycling is a major issue.



Total Recycling Plus Yard Waste Diversion Rates



Local Differences

	Recycling Rate	Yard Waste Diversion Rate
Washtenaw County	14%	15%
Ann Arbor	24%	24%
Chelsea	30%	4%
Dexter	7%	51%
Manchester	26%	22%
Milan	13%	8%
Saline	19%	17%
Ypsilanti	13%	18%

What it is:

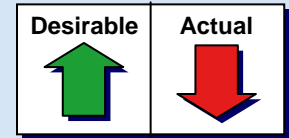
The amount of solid waste diverted from landfills consists of waste that is recycled as well as yard waste that is diverted from the landfill and composted.

Why it matters:

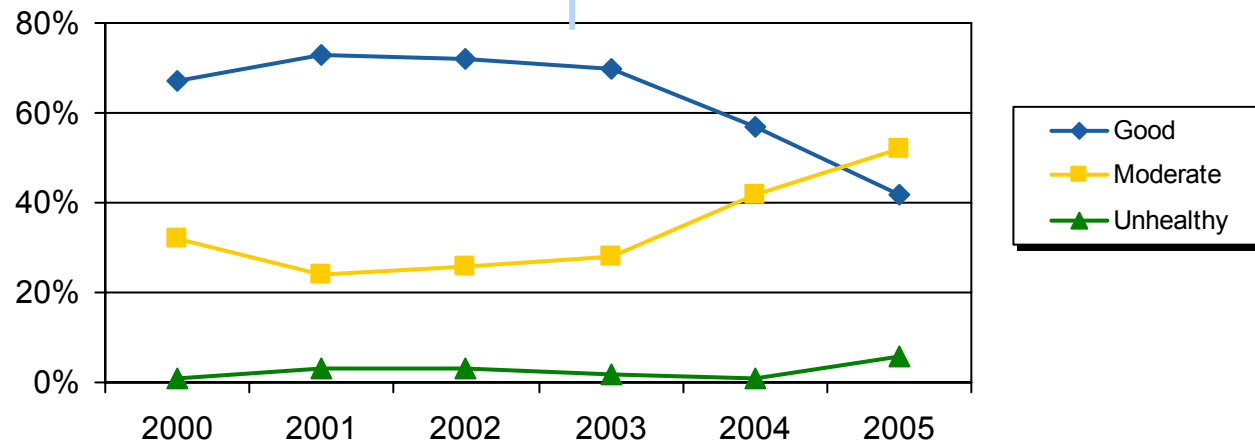
Waste not sent to landfills helps save resources and preserve our environment.

What it tells us:

Almost a third of waste is diverted from landfills in Washtenaw County.



Percentage of Days When the Air Quality in Washtenaw County Was Good, Moderate, or Unhealthy



What it is:

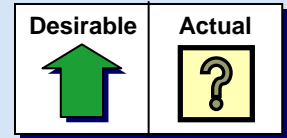
The Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Index is a nationally standardized measure of air quality that determines the number of days measuring "good," "moderate," or "unhealthy", as a percentage of total days monitored in the given year. Washtenaw County's measurement point is currently located in Ypsilanti.

Why it matters:

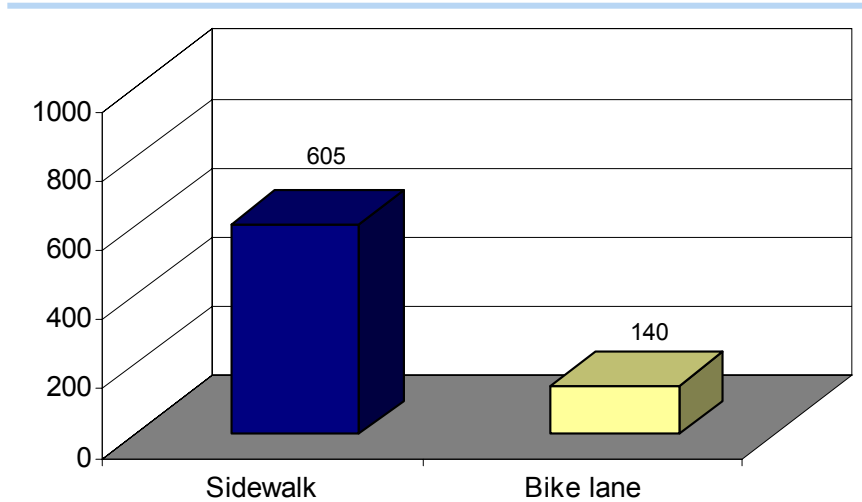
Air quality is a result of environmental issues, and has direct public health effects. Individuals with asthma and emphysema are particularly sensitive to air quality.

What it tells us:

The number of 'good' air quality days has decreased every year since 2001, while moderate air quality days have increased significantly, and unhealthy days have stayed below 6%.



**Miles of Sidewalks and Bike Lanes
Washtenaw County (2005)**



Local Differences, 2005		
	Sidewalk	Bike
Washtenaw County	605	292
Ann Arbor	Data not available	*152
Chelsea	34	0
Dexter	19	1
Manchester	10	0
Milan	Data not available	
Saline	52	0
Ypsilanti	98	3

* Bike facilities that may have been added due to road resurfacing in 2005 are not included in this figure, so this figure underestimates bike facilities.

What it is:

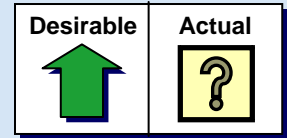
The miles of paved sidewalks, and bike ‘facilities.’ A bike facility is defined by the Washtenaw Transportation Study as any striped bike lane or designated shared-use path as well as any roads with a paved shoulder of greater than three feet.

Why it matters:

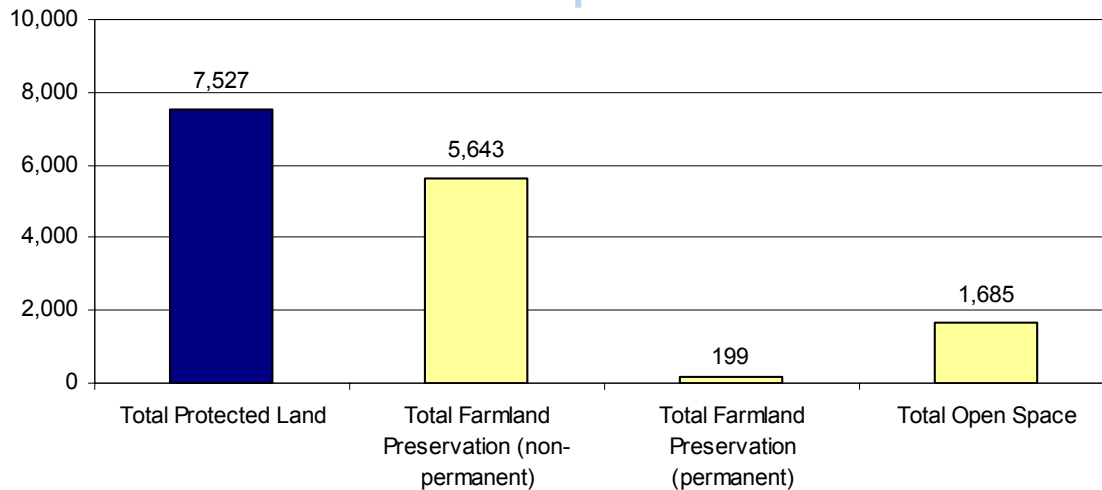
Increasing the availability of non-motorized options makes it easier for citizens to have the option to travel by foot or by bike, which has positive environmental and health effects.

What it tells us:

This baseline data for 2005 will allow us to measure the increase in bike lanes and sidewalks in future years.



Acres of Protected Land in Washtenaw County in 2005



What it is:

The total number of acres of land protected from development in 2005. This figure is broken down into three types of protected land. Farmland preserved permanently includes land preserved through the Ann Arbor Greenbelt and the United States Department of Agriculture Federal USDA-FRPP Program. Farmland preserved non-permanently includes land held in several USDA conservation programs. Open space includes parks and recreation land.

Why it matters:

Preserving land can help preserve agricultural land and limit sprawl. This is increasing important because of the loss of agricultural and wetland acres. In 2000, 191,145 acres of the county's 462,325 acres were being used for active agriculture, a decrease of 14% from 1990. 93,381 acres of land were considered woodlands and wetlands, a decrease of 2% from 1990.

What it tells us:

Data is not available for previous years. This data sets a baseline for Washtenaw County so that future data can show increases or decreases in the amount of land protected each year.

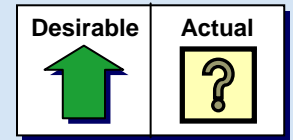
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



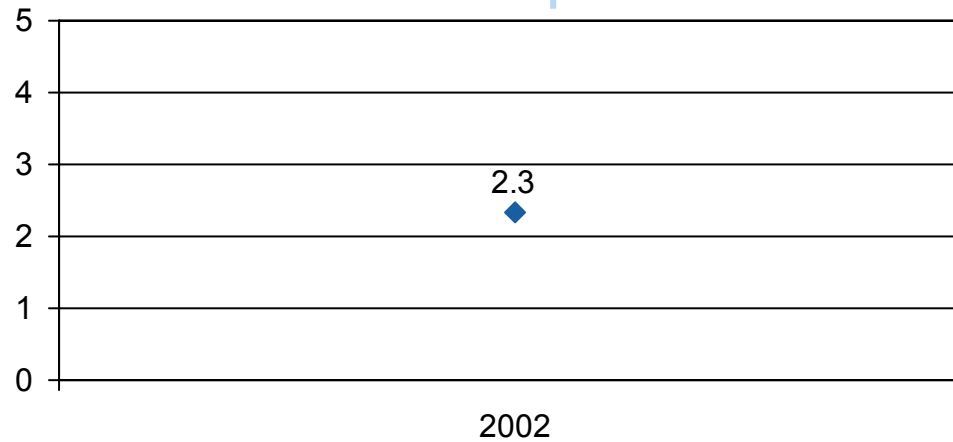
Civic Engagement and Arts & Culture

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:

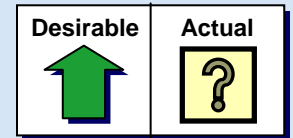
The number of people taking part in Washtenaw County arts and cultural activities (such as performances, exhibitions, art fairs, and other cultural activities), according to the Arts Alliance's 2002 Economic Impact Study. These people came from inside Washtenaw County and to Washtenaw County in order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

Philanthropic Dollars Donated to Arts & Cultural Organizations

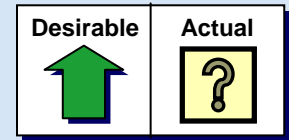
Desirable	Actual
	

What it is:

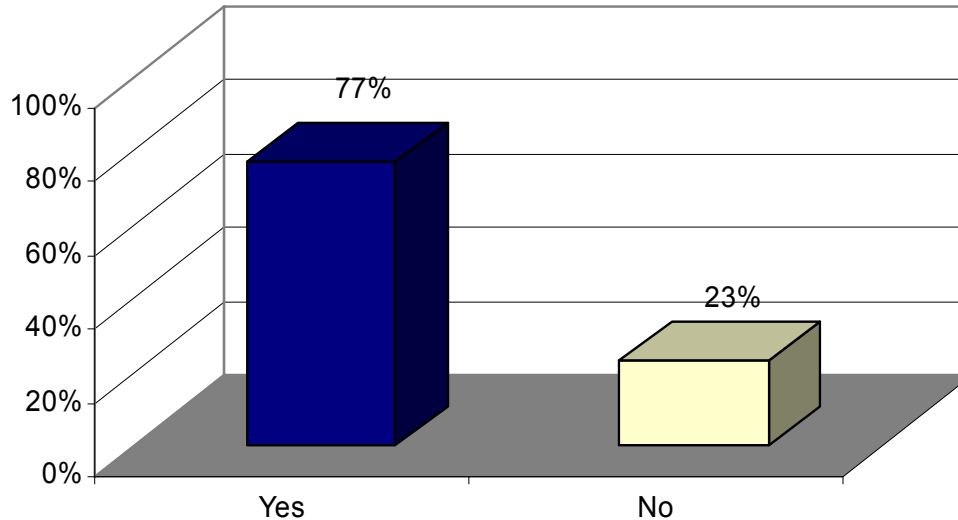
Percentage of Philanthropic Dollars Donated to Arts and Cultural Organizations in Washtenaw County. There is currently no data gathered to calculate this indicator.

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:

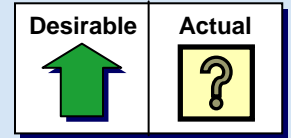
The percentage of people who said yes or no to the question: “Have you volunteered your time in the past year?”

Why it matters:

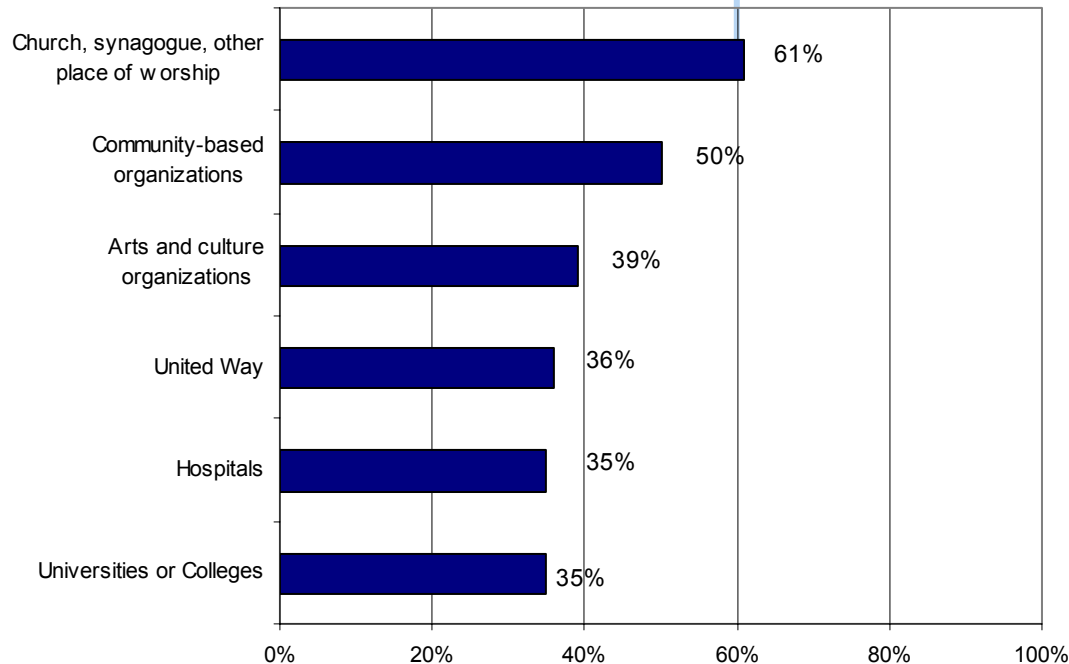
Demonstrates how vested community residents are in their communities and the value they place in the well-being of others. Many important needs in our community are met through volunteer service.

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:

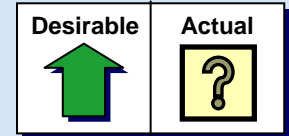
The percentage of people who answered yes to the question: "In the past 12 months, did you or someone in your household contribute money to any of the following organizations in Washtenaw County?"

Why it matters:

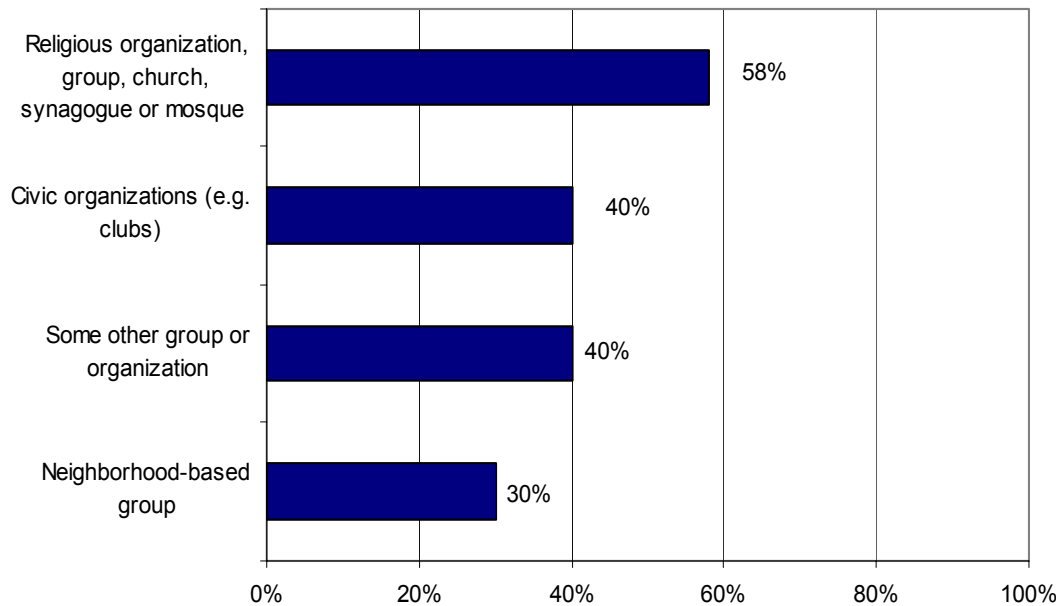
Individual donations are an important portion of the budgets of local nonprofits, allowing them to fulfill their missions and serve our community.

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:

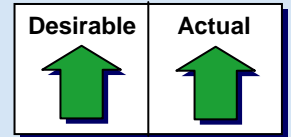
The percentage of people who answered yes to the question: “Are you a member of, or involved with, any of the following organizations or groups?”

Why it matters:

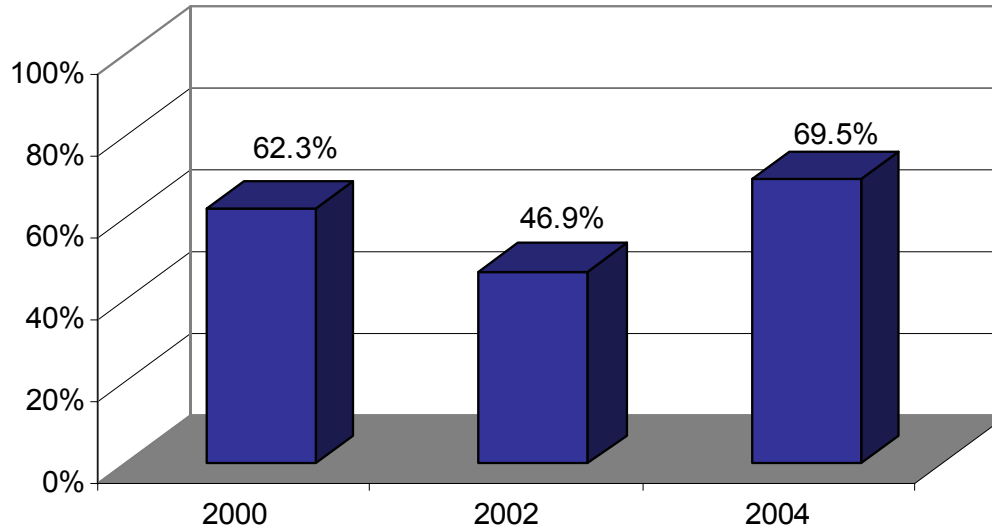
The number of people who are involved with organizations is an indicator of involvement with community and civic engagement.

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.

NEXT STEPS



Next Steps

This report is just the beginning. Community residents and leaders need to take the information and use it. Some of this report's value will be in continuing to track the indicator data into the future. Currently, the plan is to update the data every two years. This time the indicator data was paired with a study of residents' and community leaders' perceptions of major issues and adequacy of resources to address them. Next time, a study focused on assets would complement both the ongoing indicator data and the current issues focused perception data.

Key barriers to working together as a county to improve the quality of life, as identified by community leaders, are lack of:

- ◆ Coordination and collaboration
- ◆ Sufficient economic resources
- ◆ A strong regional focus

Key successful innovations for improving the quality of life, as identified by community leaders, include:

- ◆ Collaborative efforts to solve health and human service problems
- ◆ Cross sector partnerships (e.g, between funders, nonprofits and businesses)
- ◆ Efforts around open space

Interestingly, collaborative efforts are one of the major barriers, as well as one of the successes for working together as a county. Perhaps this report will serve as a catalyst for developing a strong regional focus, developing coordinated and collaborative efforts and investing our economic and social resources in ways that improve the quality of life for all people throughout the county now and in the future.