

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.

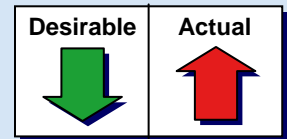
Children & Youth:

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.

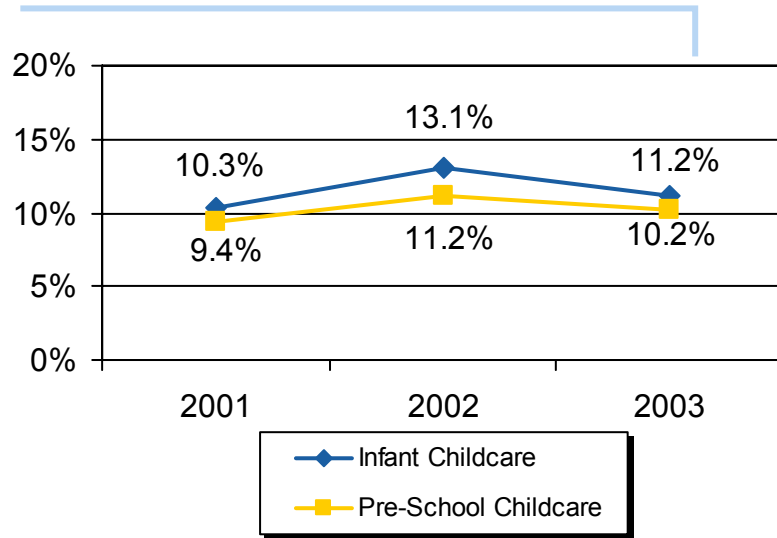
Community leaders and residents taking the written survey rated the achievement gap between students and students dropping out of school as major issues without adequate resources. Currently reliable indicator data is not being collected in an identical way in each district. The high school drop out 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:

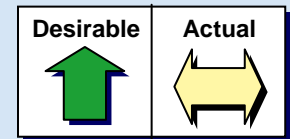
The average cost annually for one full-time infant space and preschool space, divided by the median family income for Washtenaw County.

Why it matters:

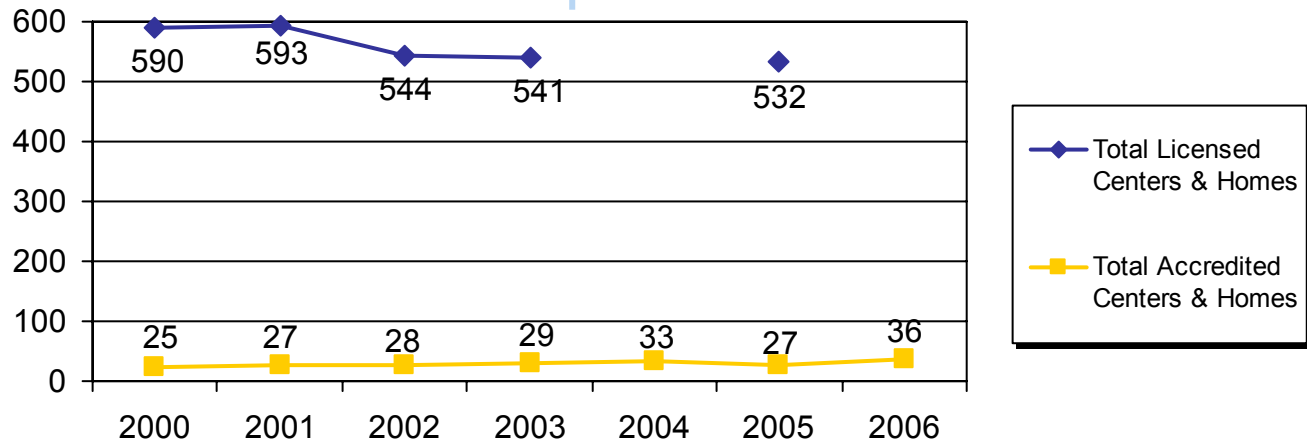
Childcare is a necessity for working parents, but is not always affordable for all households.

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:

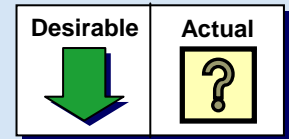
The number of childcare centers and homes that are licensed in Washtenaw County, as well as the number which have been accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

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.

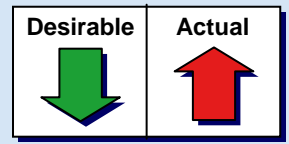


What it is:

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.

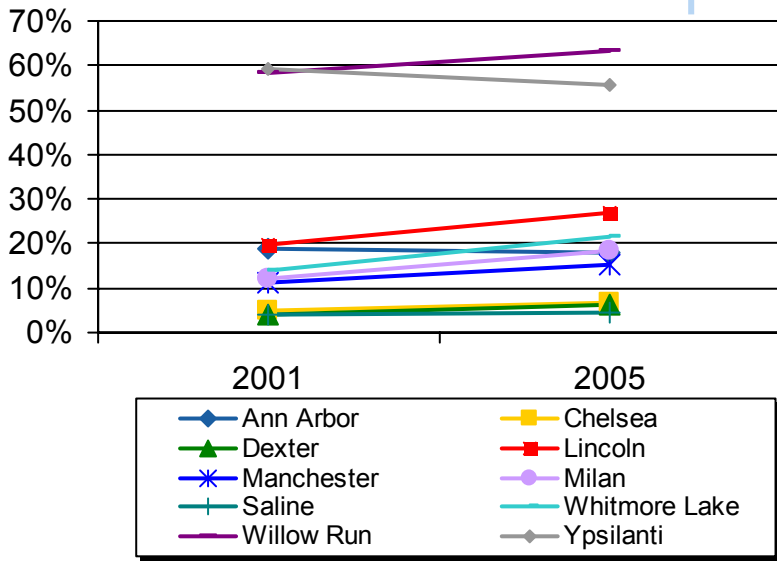


Children & Youth:

Free & Reduced Price Lunches

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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.

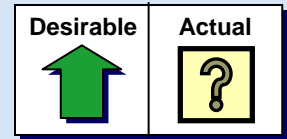
Desirable	Actual
	

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.

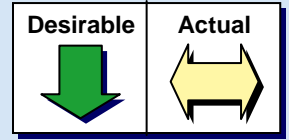


What it is:

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.

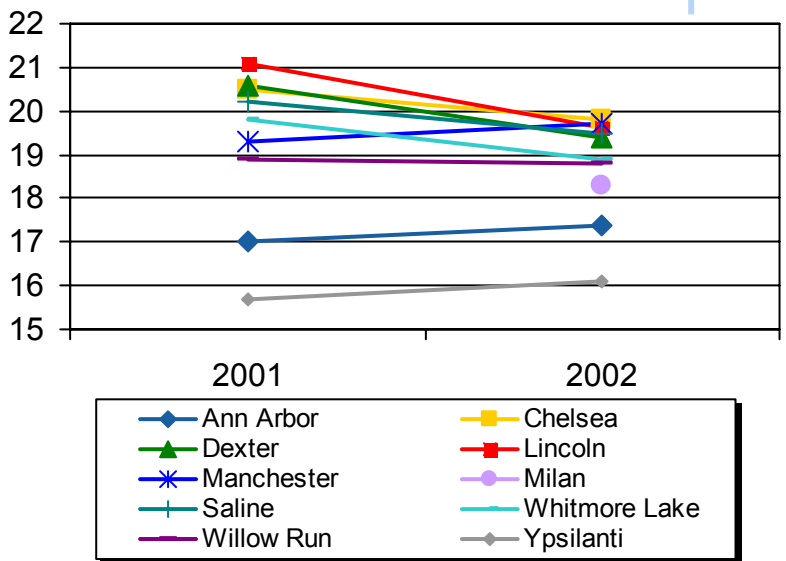


Children & Youth:

Student Teacher Ratio

EDUCATION

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:

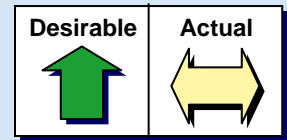
The average number of students per teacher, for each of the ten school districts in Washtenaw County.

Why it matters:

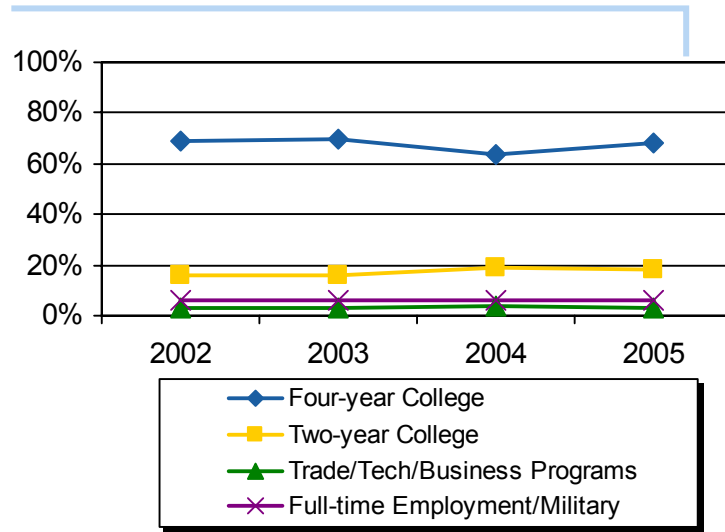
The lower the number of students that each teacher is responsible for, the more individual attention teachers can give each student.

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:

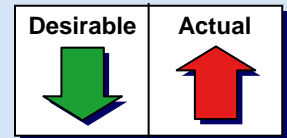
Students leaving high school are surveyed yearly in a High School Exit Survey, and are asked what they planned to do for the next two years.

Why it matters:

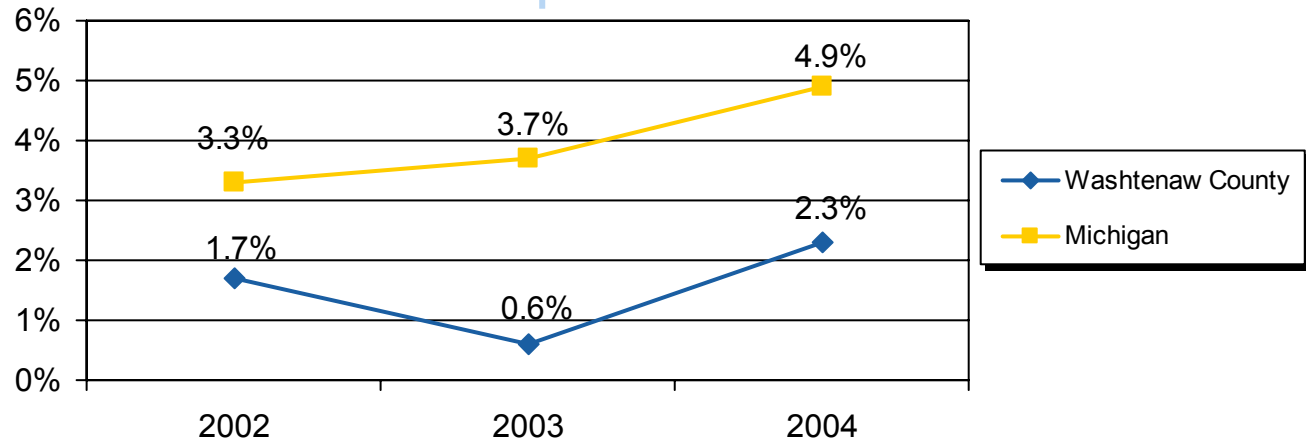
Post-graduation plans of high school students are an indicator of quality of schools, the value placed by families on continued education, and family's means to support their children's continued education.

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.