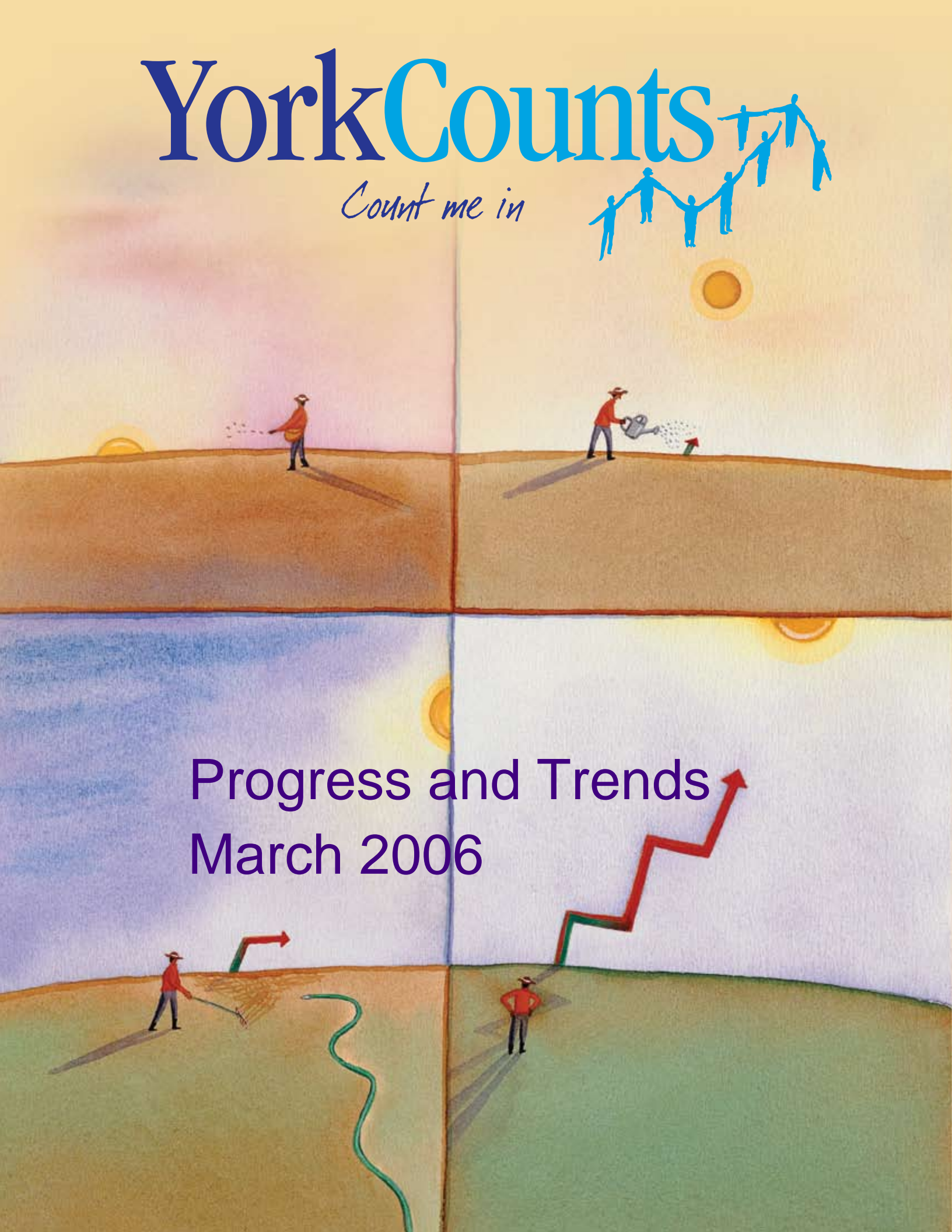


YorkCounts

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Progress and Trends
March 2006



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YorkCounts Funding Partners



York College of Pennsylvania

York College of Pennsylvania is a private-sector, independent institution of higher education, which focuses on offering baccalaureate degree programs in the arts and sciences, as well as professional programs. The College draws its 4,469 full-time undergraduate and 1,235 part-time and graduate students from some 30 states and 15 foreign countries.



United Way of York County

United Way of York County seeks to create positive impact on human service conditions within York County. This is accomplished through conducting an annual campaign and allocating resources to support needed services; providing information and referral services; serving as a central resource for volunteer recruitment, deployment and training; enhancing quality early childhood education; and convening individuals and groups around issues of critical importance to York Countians.



The York County Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce is York County's largest and most experienced business and community development organization, with more than 2,300 members employing 75,000 people. Since 1898, the Chamber has been leading the way for business in York County.



York County Community Foundation

The York County Community Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all York County's citizens, now and for generations to come. Life in York County is enriched by York County Community Foundation's services as a responsible steward, a valued resource, a trusted partner, and a tireless champion.



County of York

Established August 19, 1749, York County is a community nationally admired for its agriculture richness, industrial vigor and cultural enterprise.

BETTER YORK

Better York

Better York is a civic organization dedicated to providing leadership on issues of importance to the economic prosperity and social well being of the City of York. Better York plays a non-partisan role in public policy debates, fosters public/private partnerships for community initiatives, and works wherever possible through existing organizations.



WellSpan Health

WellSpan Health is an integrated health system serving more than 450,000 residents in York and Adams counties and northern Maryland. It includes such highly respected not-for-profit health care institutions as York Hospital, Gettysburg Hospital, York VNA Home Care, and some of the area's leading physician practices. As a community-based, not-for-profit organization, WellSpan Health is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the people it serves.

YorkCounts Compact and Engagement organizations

York County Economic Development Corporation
Healthy York County Coalition
Penn State York

Leadership York
York Jewish Community Center
York County Community Against Racism

Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support and ongoing interest of the **Women's Giving Circle of York County Community Foundation**, the **York County Bar Association and Foundation**, and the **Healthy York County Coalition**.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreward.....i

Chapter 1 - Cultivate Broad Commitment to a Shared Economic Development Agenda.....1

- Design and Implement a County-wide Economic Development Strategy.....1
- Build Vital Urban Cores.....13
- Develop a Healthy, Skilled, Productive Workforce.....16

Chapter 2 - Design and Test Innovative Strategies for County/Local Government Collaboration.....20

- Promote and Facilitate Regional Solutions.....21
- Foster School District Cooperation and Restructuring Initiatives.....25
- Institute a Comprehensive County Role in Environmental and Public Health Issues.....26

Chapter 3 - Foster Racially and Culturally Diverse Communities.....30

- Promote Diversity and Social Justice.....31
- Diversity Education and Leadership.....33
- County Human Relations Commission.....34

Chapter 4 - Quality of Life Indicators.....38

- Family and Community.....39
- Economics.....43
- Education.....47
- Health and Safety.....51

Appendix (Data Sources).....57

FOREWARD

INDICATORS OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE: A YORKCOUNTS PROGRESS AND TRENDS REPORT

The YorkCounts strategic planning process grew out of a broadly shared commitment to ensure a bright future for York County by identifying key goals for improvement, innovation, and preservation.

In May 2002, the York County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to form the YorkCounts Commission, which included over 100 residents of the county from all walks of life, sections of the county, and ethnic groups.

The YorkCounts Commission organized itself into three task forces: Economic Development, Community Development, and Education. Each task force then broadened its membership to include a larger number of relevant stakeholders for its assigned issue or topic. Working throughout 2002-03, the task forces formulated action goals, to be accomplished over the next several years. The goals were adopted by the full YorkCounts Commission and then reported to the York County Commissioners and to the community as a whole in the document, Charting a Brighter Future for All, issued in February 2004.

Since that time, YorkCounts has become a professionally-staffed organization, with offices at 850 Grantley Road in York, at the York College Center for Community Engagement.

This document is a progress report on the implementation of the action goals, as of the end of 2005. Some goals have been adopted by existing community organizations, and are well on their way to realization. Other action goals need further organizational support, and this progress report so notes. A final chapter goes beyond the specific goals included in Charting a Brighter Future for All, and reports on a variety of indicators of the overall quality of life in York County. Many of these indicators were included in the original YorkCounts report, Defining Our Future, published in 2001.

YorkCounts will issue progress reports on an annual basis going forward, to document and to catalyze further progress on achieving full implementation of the action goals identified in Charting a Brighter Future, as well as the more global quality of life indicators presented in the final chapter.

Towards the end of the decade, it is hoped that a new YorkCounts Commission will convene, to review the progress made on York County's first strategic plan and to generate the next strategic plan for further improvement in the vitality and quality of the place we call home.

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DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

The design of strategies to guide economic development policy and practice in York County was completed in 2003 during the planning phase of YorkCounts. It can be viewed on our website www.yorkcounts.org under the “News & Publications” tab, under “Reports”. It is titled *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*, or CEDS report. The CEDS report reflects the outcomes of a five-month process that was facilitated by ZHA, a private consulting firm located in Annapolis, Maryland. The process involved objective trend analysis, input from local businesses, and a workshop attended by government, civic, business, and education leaders.

Following the February 2004 release of the YorkCounts Action Plan and the related CEDS report, York County Economic Development Corporation (YCEDC) assumed the leadership role for implementing recommendations contained in the CEDS report.

This chapter of the 2006 Progress and Trends Report describes how YCEDC and its local partners are addressing the findings of the CEDS report and other recent studies relative to York’s dynamically transforming economy. It provides a status update on a series of on-going programs, pilot projects, and collaborative initiatives aimed at enhancing York’s economic competitiveness as York continues to adjust to a decline in manufacturing jobs and exploit emerging opportunities in economic fields with strong growth prospects.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Be more targeted in efforts to recruit and retain businesses.
2. Support and retain existing businesses.
3. Invest in the business environment.
4. Enhance the competitive positioning of business in York County.
5. Attract and retain diverse, creative workers with higher educational attainment and specialized skills.
6. Mobilize support for a single county-wide comprehensive economic development strategy.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

1. *Be more targeted in efforts to recruit and retain businesses.*

Background: The CEDS report identifies a number of strategies for helping York better focus its economic development efforts on industries and businesses that will build upon, take advantage of, and support the assets and structure of York County’s existing economy.

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

*1a. Identify the industries
York should target in its
business retention and
recruitment efforts.*

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

In order to provide a basis for targeting development efforts, the YCEDC, with support from York College, initiated a two-phase industry cluster analysis¹. The first phase of the industry cluster analysis, which will help guide business retention efforts, has been completed.

It found that the following industries are important drivers of York County’s existing economy and should be at the heart of retention strategies and tactics.

- Bio-Medical – Healthcare
- Building and Construction
- Metals and Metal Fabrication
- Food Processing
- Logistics and Transportation
- Technology and Information Services
- Printing
- Vehicles and Vehicle Equipment
- Chemical, Rubber and Plastics

The following chart details business and job growth in targeted industry clusters from 2001 to 2004.

Industry Cluster	2001		2004	
	Firms	Employment	Firms	Employment
Bio-Medical – Healthcare	730	17,672	763	19,727
Building and Construction	1,091	15,373	1,072	15,984
Metals and Metal Fabrication	184	7,265	170	6,808
Food Processing	63	5,343	58	5,403
Logistics and Transportation	208	5,164	212	6,046
Technology and Information Services	276	4,147	293	3,249
Printing	72	4,004	58	3,222
Vehicles & Vehicle Equipment	15	3,904	16	5,155
Chemicals, Rubber & Plastic	45	2,887	42	2,479

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¹ A cluster is a concentration of companies and industries in a geographic region, which are interconnected by the markets they serve, and the products they produce, as well as the suppliers, trade associations and educational institutions.

(Connecticut Industry Clusters, [http://www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=1100&Q=249794&ecdNav=\(1998\)](http://www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=1100&Q=249794&ecdNav=(1998))).



DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

1a (cont.). Identify the industries York should target in its business retention and recruitment efforts.

Next Steps: The second phase of the cluster analysis, which is scheduled to be completed in 2006, will identify industries that should be primary targets for business recruitment efforts. It will pinpoint industries that have the best fit with the existing economic structure and the greatest potential to build and strengthen job opportunities to produce a more competitive, high-wage future.

1b. Focus retention efforts on targeted industry sectors and clusters.

The CEDS report calls for the formation of advisory groups, with members drawn from industries that have been identified as important targets of retention efforts (cluster analysis described in #1a, on page 2). To date, advisory groups have been formed for the following industry clusters: Advanced Materials and Diversified Manufacturing; Agriculture and Food Production; Life Sciences; Logistics and Transportation; and Technology and Information Services. They will take the lead in building partnerships between businesses within their industry cluster and will help formulate targeted business retention strategies.

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The advisory groups have identified workforce development/employment preparedness, affordable healthcare, and financing as three key issues that cut across the five clusters and require attention.

Next steps:

- YCEDC will convene a forum of all advisory group members to develop strategies and an action plan to address the three key cross-cutting issues identified above.
- YCEDC will recruit additional advisory groups for clusters that are primary targets for retention and recruitment efforts.



DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

1c. Recruit businesses to enhance and complement existing industry sectors and clusters.

YCEDC has started to develop marketing strategies for reaching key businesses identified through the industry cluster analysis (#1a, on page 2). Implementation will rely on local business partners serving as ambassadors to introduce the businesses to York.

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Next steps: In 2006, YCEDC will begin a recruitment effort targeting a group of businesses in the following northern Maryland counties: Cecil, Carroll, Harford, and Baltimore counties. These efforts will take advantage of opportunities related to geographic proximity and fit with York’s existing business environment.

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Advisory group members will serve as business ambassadors/partners to make initial contact with the companies.

2. Support and retain existing businesses.

Background: The process of developing a county-wide economic development strategy (described at the top of page 1) provided valuable insight into what it will take to adequately support and retain existing businesses in York County. The following initiatives are based on the findings of that process.

2a. Develop a specific customer-service orientation within YCEDC and other local business support organizations.

In order to better understand the dynamics of the different types of local employers and develop a basis for customizing business support activity, YCEDC conducted 146 one-on-one business visits during fiscal year 2004-2005. In addition to gathering data about industry-specific support needs, YCEDC was able to respond to immediate company requests by accessing the resources of the state-wide Business Retention and Expansion Program (BREP). YCEDC also linked businesses with the services of a variety of business development agencies and organizations in York County.

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DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

2a (cont.). *Develop a specific customer-service orientation within YCEDC and other local business support organizations.*

Next steps: YCEDC will continue its one-on-one visits, with targeted clusters/sectors as a priority. Its goal for 2006 is 166 visits. It will use the information it gathers and research other business assistance programs to refine and develop a more customer-focused/customer-specific business assistance program for York County. It will also institute a formal and continuous system of monitoring, evaluating, and improving its business assistance program.

2b. *Provide customer-focused business support services, including specific programs and services for sectors and clusters.*

A pilot program to streamline the loan application process for small York County businesses was implemented in 2005. Twelve banks created a consortium, the York County Bankers' Consortium, which enables small businesses to present their financing needs to three banking institutions at one time.

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Next steps: YCEDC will undertake an assessment of the bank consortium concept and develop recommendations for enhancements, expansion, etc. Those recommendations, as well as other proposals for sector-customized business services, will then be prioritized into an implementation schedule.

3. *Invest in the business environment.*

Background: The CEDS report points to a number of locations across the county as attractive prospects for development or redevelopment activity. Attractive, that is, in terms of ability to increase the tax base, increase property values, and improve quality of life in surrounding areas.

However, many of the identified sites require infrastructure improvements to support new economy businesses. This section of the report describes how YCEDC and a number of local partners are prioritizing potential development locations and determining necessary site and infrastructure improvements.

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

3a. *Develop or redevelop land/buildings for new industrial and economic development.*

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

- YCEDC and its partners are currently concentrating their efforts on an area known as the Codorus Creek Corridor. The development/redevelopment concept for this area, which follows the Codorus Creek between Route 30 and Richland Avenue, includes the following:
 - a 28-acre parcel, known as the Northwest Triangle, that would include a mix of office, retail, and upscale residential uses;
 - an extension of the York County Heritage Rail Trail that would run throughout the corridor;
 - a comprehensive restoration project that would restore the Codorus Creek and its beds to a healthy and attractive state, and provide visitor and recreational amenities; and
 - an Outdoor Recreation Complex that would bring a baseball stadium to downtown York and be home to a minor league team.

YCEDC and York County Planning Commission are jointly working on a Land Use Study for this area. It will ensure that the future physical and economic development in this corridor is coordinated, environmentally sound, and ready to meet the needs of new economy businesses. The study is due for release December 2005.

- YCEDC has submitted a proposal to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), seeking Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) designation for an area centered on the York College of Pennsylvania West Campus and York International. Working through a strong set of partners, the KIZ is designed to help meet the demands of the new economy by connecting the resources of local colleges and universities with the business community.

The lead project in the KIZ is Crispus Attucks' renovation of the Dallmeyer cigar factory into Greenway Tech Center, the first "green" commercial space in York County. The \$10 million renovation will offer fiber optic cable and wireless broadband internet access. Tenant occupancy is expected by March 2006.

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DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

3a (cont.). *Develop or redevelop land/buildings for new industrial and economic development.*

Also related to the KIZ, Crispus Attucks' plans for a Micro-enterprise Center will take a first step forward with the first phase of renovation of five row houses on West Boundary Avenue scheduled for 2006.

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Next Steps: The KIZ application will be presented to the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority on January 26, 2006. Once approved, YCEDC will appoint a KIZ coordinator and begin implementation activity.

3b. *Enhance technological infrastructure to improve existing business connectivity and attract new economy businesses.*

The Land Use Study described on page 6 will identify what it will take to make the Codorus Creek Corridor, described on page 6, technologically ready to support new economy businesses.

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Next Steps: Specific technology needs throughout the county will be identified, and a strategy developed to address priority situations.

3c. *Improve roadway networks to better serve business needs.*

YCEDC is working with the York County Planning Commission to assure that gateway routes properly service priority redevelopment sites – from the south coming into the KIZ area; from the north coming into the Outdoor Recreation Complex.

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4. *Enhance the competitive positioning of business in York County.*

Background: In a series of one-on-one interviews that were conducted as part of the CEDS process, area business leaders mentioned the following as issues that could weaken the competitive position of businesses in York County:

- Recruiting young executives, engineers, research and development professionals, etc. is a challenge in York County.
- Workforce development in York County is a complex web of uncoordinated programs and initiatives.

The following notes provide background on initial efforts to address these concerns.

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

<p><i>4a. Encourage and support entrepreneurial development.</i></p>	<p>To help facilitate entrepreneurship and new business development in York County, a group of venture capitalists has formed. They have created a source of financial capital for start-up businesses. The Investors Circle of York (ICY) provides both financial and technical resources to entrepreneurs. In 2005, ICY invested \$250,000 in York County Businesses.</p>	<p>Carole Swope Special Projects Coordinator YCEDC cswope@ycedc.org</p>
<p><i>4b. Develop a labor force that meets business and industry needs, and is prepared for jobs in the new economy.</i></p>	<p>YCEDC has received a grant to study the need for a York County Office of Workforce Development. Findings will help define an approach for coordinating workforce development programs throughout the county for better efficiency and effectiveness.</p>	<p>Darrell W. Auterson President and CEO YCEDC dauterson@ycedc.org</p>
<p>5. Attract and retain diverse, creative workers with higher educational attainment and specialized skills.</p>	<p><u>Background:</u> The CEDS report takes a two-pronged approach to the issue of attracting and retaining creative class workers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare and direct York’s talented young people toward local career opportunities, and provide a system of supports to encourage them to remain in York; and 2. Create the kind of work and community environments that have been found attractive to creative workers. In keeping with Richard Florida’s writings on attracting “creative class” workers, the CEDS report emphasizes the importance of diversity, and calls for investment in cultural, entertainment, and recreational opportunities. 	
<p><i>5a. Retain college-educated York County natives among the workforce.</i></p>	<p>York Future Leaders Scholarship Program (YFLSP), an endowed program of York College of Pennsylvania, prepares promising youth from York City for local business and professional leadership positions – and builds a network of relationships to connect each participant with the York Community after college graduation.</p>	<p>Adrienne McNeil YFLSP Coordinator York College of PA amcneil@ycp.edu</p>



DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

5a (cont.). Retain college-educated York County natives among the workforce.

Students enter the program through a competitive selection process in ninth or eleventh grade and are partnered with mentors, counselors, and coaches throughout their involvement. Participants take advantage of academic enrichment programs, extracurricular activities, career exploration opportunities, and internship programs. Students who successfully complete the high school portion of the program and are accepted by York College receive full tuition support to attend York College for four years.

Since YFLSP was established in 1989, 43 of the students who entered the program have enrolled at York College and 11 have graduated from York College.

Next Steps: Develop and implement strategies to improve the retention rate of YFLSP participants, with the goal of having 80 students involved in the program on a regular and on-going basis.

5b. Attract creative- class workers.

In 2004, the York County Chamber of Commerce launched its *Winning With Diversity* initiative. Based on changing workforce demographics and a plan developed with consulting support from the IVY Group, LLC, *Winning With Diversity* defines the business case for diversity. It is designed to help local employers develop a diversity strategy for being more inclusive in all of their business relationships -- employees, customers, suppliers, etc. -- and create a work environment where people are respectful and appreciative of diversity.

In 2005, the York County Chamber of Commerce conducted quarterly *Winning With Diversity* workshops and assumed responsibility for coordinating the efforts of a number of business and business-related groups committed to achieving greater diversity in the workplace.

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DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

5c. Develop amenities to attract and retain workers who are young, diverse, well-educated, and interested in civic engagement.

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

- Plans call for the construction of the York Outdoor Recreation Complex (see #3a on page 6) to begin in spring 2006. The complex, which will be built in the Arch Street neighborhood of downtown York, will include a 5,260-seat baseball stadium that will be home to a minor league team in the Atlantic League.

Next steps: Before construction of the complex can begin, issues relative to property acquisition, demolition, cost, environmental remediation, and relocation of a rail yard need to be resolved.

- Two significant components of the Codorus Creek Restoration Project (see #3a on page 6) were addressed in 2005: (1) The Army Corps of Engineers completed their analysis of the status, integrity, and needs of creek habitat and flood protection capacity; and (2) the design firm of Brown & Keener Bressi, working under the direction of the York County Community Foundation’s (YCCF) Codorus Watershed Endowment program, prepared project concept drawings for improvements along a six and a half mile section of creek banks and public areas immediately adjacent to the creek.

Next steps: Project partners – Army Corps of Engineers, YCCF (Codorus Watershed Endowment and Women’s Giving Circle), the County of York, and the City of York – are focusing their immediate attention on one aspect of bank improvement: reconfiguring the boat basin on West Philadelphia Street and making it more attractive for public use. Their goal for completing the boat basin is August 2006. Additionally, they are working on a plan for funding the full scope of proposed improvements along the six and a half mile stretch of the creek.

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DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations	Progress – February 2004 – February 2006	Leadership/Contacts
<p>6. Mobilize support for a single county-wide comprehensive economic development strategy.</p>	<p><u>Background:</u> This goal recognizes that the fragmented nature of local government is exacerbating unbalanced growth patterns across York County, increasing infrastructure and service costs, and undercutting economic competitiveness. It underscores the importance of having a single “play book” for economic development activity in York County.</p>	
<p><i>6a. Achieve county-wide agreement on economic development priorities.</i></p>	<p>YCEDC has designed a training/education presentation, <i>Economic Development for Government and Executives (EDGE)</i>, to help municipal officials and business leaders better understand their role in the economic development process.</p> <p><u>Next Steps:</u> YCEDC will begin making presentations in 2006.</p>	<p>Darrell W. Auterson President and CEO YCEDC dauterson@ycedc.org</p>

Looking forward:

Significant progress has been achieved through implementation of various CEDS strategies. It should be noted that while YCEDC is the party responsible for implementation of the CEDS per its compact with YorkCounts, numerous community partners will be actively involved and contribute valuable expertise and resources as appropriate to help accomplish prescribed goals.

The outline that follows contains a listing of priority projects and pending action steps that will be instituted in the coming months and years. In some instances, YCEDC will assume direct responsibility for implementation. In other cases, YCEDC will act as a facilitator involving such partners as the York County Industrial Development Authority (YCIDA), York City Redevelopment Authority (RDA), York College, Penn State-York, the York County and Hanover Area Chambers of Commerce, the Manufacturers’ Association of South Central PA (MASCPA), MANTEC, the William F. Goodling Advanced Skills Center (ASC), the South Central PA Workforce Investment Board (WIB), the South Central PA CareerLink, the York County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), county and municipal planning staff and elected officials, legislative leadership, area lenders, area real estate professionals, and many other groups and individuals integral to achieving the objectives of the CEDS.

- Darrell W. Auterson

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

Other planned action steps and immediate priorities of a county-wide economic development strategy

Immediate Priorities:

Two CEDS-related projects that are currently underway will continue to be high priorities in 2006:

- The Codorus Creek Project, which includes the Northwest Triangle and the Outdoor Recreational Complex
- The Keystone Innovation Zone, or KIZ, initiative

Pending CEDS Action Steps:

- Target business retention and recruitment efforts
 - Complete phase II of the industry cluster analysis
 - Identify core competencies and skills for targeted industry clusters and communicate findings to key stakeholders
 - Complete recruitment of cluster advisory groups
 - Convene cluster advisory groups to strategize approaches to key cross-cutting issues
 - Begin targeted business recruitment efforts in Northern Maryland counties
 - Implement a new branding and marketing strategy that targets priority industry clusters
- Support and retain existing businesses
 - Design, implement and promote improved targeted business assistance programs
- Invest in the business environment
 - Complete Land Use Study for Codorus Creek Project
 - Identify and prioritize development/redevelopment sites in need of infrastructure improvements
 - Expand technology connections into strategic areas
 - Establish strategic broadband wireless internet connections
 - Package and promote development opportunity sites outlined in the CEDS report
 - Convert key brownfield sites into developable sites
- Enhance competitive positioning
 - Develop and implement entrepreneurship outreach programs for primary and secondary school students
 - Implement the strategy suggestion of the YorkCounts action team to revamp workforce training system in York County
- Develop a creative-class workforce
 - Manage construction phase of the Outdoor Recreational Complex
 - Develop and implement programs to promote York County at PA colleges and universities
 - Develop and implement strategies to recruit commercial entities that are attractive to creative-class workers
- Mobilize support for a single economic development strategy
 - Conduct a series of multi-jurisdictional town meetings to promote sound planning practices and coordination between municipalities
 - Promote the Council of Government Concept as a good model for multi-municipal cooperation

BUILD VITAL URBAN CORES.

The focus on “building vital urban cores” recognizes that a strong center city, supported by a network of healthy towns and boroughs throughout the county, is an essential component of a prosperous regional economy.

The 1990’s were difficult times for York City and the county’s boroughs, just as they were for other urban areas across the state. Populations declined and neighborhoods decayed. Jobs moved out of York’s central business district and there was an increase in vacant housing units. The education level of York City residents remained well below state and national averages, and significantly below the rest of York County.

This section of the 2006 Progress and Trends Report speaks to York County’s desire to revitalize our older urban core areas. It describes the status of several recommendations made in the 2004 YorkCounts Action Plan -- recommendations aimed at reversing the trends of the 1990’s and beginning the process of strengthening the financial and physical status of York City and the region’s towns and boroughs.

KEY RECOMMENDATION:

- 7. Focus on areas of extreme financial strain and physical decline in York County.

**YorkCounts Action Plan
Goals & Recommendations**

7a. Establish redevelopment-friendly policies and procedures that will encourage private and public reinvestment.

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Through lobbying efforts of YorkCounts Commission members, the City of York enacted a Residential Tax Abatement Program (RETAP) for newly constructed residential units within the City of York. The program lessens the property owner’s real estate tax burden over a 10-year period.

Leadership/Contacts

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When the program was introduced in 2002, taxes on exterior improvements and additions were phased-in over a 10-year period. In November 2005, the program was changed so that all taxes on new residential construction as well as on improvements and additions, are now waived for a full 10 years.

Since 2002, 13 property owners have taken advantage of the tax incentive program.

Next Steps:

- The 2004 YorkCounts Action Plan recommends that we work on removing local regulatory codes that dampen the interest and confidence of private investors relative to urban core development projects.

No specific initiatives have been initiated to-date to address this issue.

BUILD VITAL URBAN CORES.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

7a (cont.). Establish redevelopment-friendly policies and procedures that will encourage private and public reinvestment.

7b. Clean up and dress up York's urban centers and neighborhoods.

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

- The 2004 YorkCounts Action Plan recommends that we advocate for state-wide policies and programs that will encourage reinvestment and redevelopment in cities and older boroughs.

The Campaign to Renew Pennsylvania, a state-wide initiative closely aligned with the YorkCounts agenda, has named “investing in established, distinctive communities” as one of its primary goals. In 2006, The Campaign will develop policy recommendations to advance this goal, giving YorkCounts an opportunity to add its voice to this larger effort.

Under the leadership of the York County Community Foundation’s (YCCF) YorkScape Endowment for City Beautification Committee, “Beautiful York,” a comprehensive beautification plan for the City of York was created by urban design consultants Brown & Keener Bressi. The plan emerged from two community beautification summits sponsored by the York County Community Foundation, where hundreds of volunteers helped to identify and prioritize beautification projects within the city. The “Beautiful York” plan will guide the work of the YorkScape Endowment Committee and ensure the continuity of beautification efforts within the City of York.

Next steps: In 2006, YCCF’s newly created City Beautification grant program will make \$7,000 in seed funding available for projects in York City. The YorkScape Advocacy Subcommittee will raise awareness of the “Beautiful York” plan through printed materials and presentations to civic groups and elected officials. Additionally, YCCF is continuing efforts to build the endowment to its goal of \$1 million, which will make \$45,000 available for grants each year.

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BUILD VITAL URBAN CORES.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

7c. *Improve housing stock and increase homeownership and affordable housing opportunities.*

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

- The Healthy York County Coalition Housing Task Force is sponsoring a study that will research and document the current state of affordable housing in York County including the number of rental units available and proposed, and information about proposed new homeownership opportunities. The task force will evaluate the need for affordable housing in York and examine avenues for funding. The final report will provide background information that is critical to advancing several YorkCounts Ready Solutions.

Next steps: The study is due to be released August 2006.

- WellSpan, York College of Pennsylvania, Susquehanna Pfaltzgraff Co., and the County of York have implemented Employer Assisted Housing Programs which provide financial incentives for employees to purchase homes within targeted neighborhoods.

7d. *Assure adequate utility capacity exists for the 21st century.*

No specific initiatives have been launched to date to address this recommendation.

Leadership/Contacts

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DEVELOP A HEALTHY, SKILLED, PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE.

The CEDS section of this report (pages 1-12) looks at workforce development from the perspective of filling skill and knowledge gaps tied to York County’s business needs of today, and in the near future. It focuses on workforce demographics, training programs, recruitment and retention strategies, etc. -- and the system of managing those issues.

This section, on the other hand, considers how we are preparing competent workers for the economy of the next generation, and what we are doing to capture the talent we create. It focuses on the premise that adequate and equitable investments in education today yield dividends in the workforce and society of tomorrow.

The recommendations reported in this section recognize that every level of education presents its own implications and funding issues, beginning with early childhood and continuing beyond the high school years.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 8. Publicly fund early childhood education for needy children attending accredited centers.
- 9. Ensure equitable and adequate per-student public funding for K-12.
- 10. Curb brain-drain.

**YorkCounts Action Plan
Goals & Recommendations**

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

8. *Publicly fund early childhood education for needy children attending accredited centers.*

Background: Studies have shown that children who receive quality early childhood education enter school ready to learn and have better social skills, fewer grade retentions, and higher high school graduation rates. School readiness is a critical indicator of later school success.

8a. *Advocate for public funding.*

Focus On Our Future (FOOF), in conjunction with early childhood education providers and professional organizations, continues to advocate for county and state funding to support voluntary preschool education for financially needy three- and four-year-olds who are attending accredited early childhood education programs. In May 2005, FOOF hosted a forum with York County business leaders to discuss the importance of early childhood education and related funding issues.

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DEVELOP A HEALTHY, SKILLED, PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE.

**YorkCounts Action Plan
Goals & Recommendations**

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

8b. Identify school readiness criteria as part of the case for support.

FOOF is spearheading an effort to identify essential school readiness criteria and then measure the impact of quality early childhood education on those criteria. It is convening a series of focus groups to draft a county-wide definition of school readiness. Over seventy early childhood education providers and school personnel from every district and the Lincoln Intermediate Unit attended the first set of focus groups. Additional sessions are planned. The final set of criteria and school readiness materials for parents and the community will be published by August 2006.

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8c. Track performance criteria to build case for support.

Funded by a grant from the Heinz Endowments, FOOF is studying the relationship between early childhood education, school readiness, and later school success. It is working with five early childhood education providers to conduct assessments of the preschool children and to follow them through the second grade. Early findings indicate that most children with low skill levels on their first assessments improved in multiple areas at follow-up; they are also showing positive results as compared to peer groups.

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9. Ensure equitable and adequate per-student public funding for K-12.

Background: This goal focuses on providing funding that is adequate to provide quality education through a taxation system that is equitable to taxpayers.

9a. Advocate for additional state funding and property tax reform that shifts away from reliance on residential property taxes.

In response to citizens' calls for reform, Governor Edward Rendell called a special session of the General Assembly in September 2005 to focus on property tax relief. Since property tax is directly linked to school funding, this session should promote healthy debate about a more equitable and robust system to fund Pennsylvania schools.

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Next Steps: YorkCounts will keep stakeholders informed of significant bills coming out of this special session of the General Assembly. Stakeholders have been asked to communicate their views to their elected representatives.



DEVELOP A HEALTHY, SKILLED, PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE.

YorkCounts Action Plan

Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

9b. Create a county-wide commercial/industrial tax base for the support of public schools.

Background: This recommendation aims to relieve revenue disparities between the school districts across York County by creating a county-wide tax base to be shared among all districts.

A preliminary legal review of the issue was conducted by York County Bar Association as a first step to addressing this recommendation. The study concluded that there would likely be state constitutional barriers to implementing the proposal exactly as prescribed in the 2004 YorkCounts Action Plan, but nevertheless suggested there may be other permissible avenues to achieving a similar result.

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In September 2005, Thomas Luce of the University of Minnesota spent a full day in meetings with members of the YorkCounts Steering Committee and YorkCounts Ready Solutions Committee, briefing them on the aspects and implications of various tax base sharing opportunities.

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Next Steps: The information gathered to date will be used to refine and re-frame tax base sharing recommendations.

9c. Create a Council of School Districts.

No specific initiatives have been launched to date to address this recommendation.

9d. Consider and pursue strategies for minimizing capital costs of publicly funded projects.

No specific initiatives have been launched to date to address this recommendation.



DEVELOP A HEALTHY, SKILLED, PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

10. Curb brain-drain.

Background: “Brain Drain” is the term used to describe the trend for young people to leave York County to pursue further education after high school, yet not return to work and reinvest in the community after completing their education. The trend poses a shortage of highly educated, skilled workers needed in York County’s economy.

No specific initiatives have been launched to date to address this recommendation. However, the reader can refer to pages 8-10 for related economic development efforts.

Chapter 2

Design and Test Innovative Strategies for County/Local Government Collaboration

PROMOTE AND FACILITATE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS.

Several action teams involved in the planning phase of YorkCounts identified local government structure, coordination, and effectiveness as important issues impacting quality of life in York County. These issues emerged from teams studying the areas of education, land use, the environment, and public health, and they challenged team members to think carefully about the proper balance between two competing interests: an interest in the anticipated benefits of accessible, accountable representation associated with Pennsylvania’s fragmented system of local government on the one hand, and the interest in potential efficiency and effectiveness gains associated with a more regional approach to local government on the other.

This chapter describes recommendations for considering various forms of government collaboration to preserve and improve the quality of life in York County. Some of the recommendations focus on the efficiency with which services are provided; some deal with relative imbalances among our communities in terms of income, racial composition, and resources – and the associated disparities in the quality of services provided; some deal with the degree to which government regulations are consistent and coordinated.

This chapter also represents a status report of projects and initiatives undertaken since the release of YorkCounts’ 2004 Action Plan relative to intergovernmental cooperation.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

11. Promote and facilitate regional solutions.
12. Foster school district cooperation and restructuring initiatives.
13. Institute a comprehensive county role in environmental and public health issues.

**YorkCounts Action Plan
Goals & Recommendations**

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

11. Promote and facilitate regional solutions.

Background: YorkCounts action teams recommended a more regional approach to sustainable land use, infrastructure, and natural resource planning to counter the negative effects of worsening sprawl conditions and unplanned land use.

11a. Develop and implement a municipal collaboration model regarding land use planning.

Background: York County has adopted a Comprehensive Plan that depicts a general county land use plan and growth management strategy to be implemented through local government units, and the York County Planning Commission’s Municipal Consulting Program has been successful in working with municipalities to develop comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances that are consistent with the county’s plan.

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PROMOTE AND FACILITATE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

11a (cont.). Develop and implement a municipal collaboration model regarding land use planning.

To date, 26 of York County’s 72 municipalities have adopted comprehensive plans that are consistent with the county plan. Additionally, 10 municipalities have adopted growth management designations that are consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan, but do not have an updated Comprehensive Plan.

Furthermore, some municipalities in York County have worked together cooperatively to create regional comprehensive plans that are consistent with the County plan. Currently, there are five such multi-municipal plans in place in York County, involving a total of 16 municipalities; two additional multi-municipal plans are under development.

Next steps: In 2006, the York County Planning Commission will develop a timeline for taking the Municipal Consulting Program to the next level. The timeline will identify a plan for creating a consulting model capable of engaging strategic sets of municipalities in developing joint land use plans and related zoning ordinances.

11b. Encourage the formation of Councils of Governments (COGs).

Background: There are currently 27 townships or boroughs participating in one of five Councils of Governments (COGs) in place in York County. Two of the COGs involve municipalities from across the county’s borders.

Next steps: In 2006, the York County Planning Commission will develop and distribute materials that document and promote COGs in York County.

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11c. Develop and deliver tools and training related to regional solutions.

In April 2005, York County Planning Commission and the Center for Community Engagement at York College co-hosted a Municipal Government Summit for elected and appointed officials. The Summit, *York County’s Future...Seeking Solutions Together*, brought together approximately 80 officials from throughout York County. It provided an opportunity for local officials to forge new relationships, learn about new areas of potential cooperation, and work in small groups to identify possible solutions to pressures and challenges that cross municipal boundaries.

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PROMOTE AND FACILITATE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

11c (cont.). Develop and deliver tools and training related to regional solutions.

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Prior to the summit, organizers conducted confidential interviews with 50 municipal officials representing approximately half of the municipalities in York County. The summit’s agenda was built around the following themes that emerged from those interviews: the need for local plans to be consistent with the county’s comprehensive plan; pressures of rapid growth experienced by some areas of the county; rising costs of services; unfunded and conflicting state mandates.

A 2004 special project of the York County Bar Association also provided background and context for the summit. Members of the Bar Association surveyed every municipality in the county to determine the extent of municipal cooperation and the types of multi-municipal cooperation that are most prevalent in York County. They documented numerous instances of intergovernmental cooperation agreements within the categories of administrative functions, councils of governments, emerging services, planning and codes enforcement, police, public works, recreation, transportation, and utilities.

Next steps: The following opportunities emerged from roundtable discussions at the summit.

- Expand the county’s Municipal Consulting Program to accommodate strategic sets of municipalities in developing joint land use plans and related zoning ordinances (see “Next Steps” under #11a on page 21).
- Investigate the possibility of a single Worker’s Comp plan to cover all 72 municipalities, administered by a single entity.

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PROMOTE AND FACILITATE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS.

**YorkCounts Action Plan
Goals & Recommendations**

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

11c (cont.). Develop and deliver tools and training related to regional solutions.

In September 2005, the Watershed Alliance of York conducted a conference designed to “begin a dialogue about how we can improve the quality of life in York County by applying the concept of sustainability.” The conference agenda was built around key elements of the 2004 YorkCounts Action Plan: strengthening York County’s urban centers; tools and resources for facilitating collaboration; developing municipal models for joint land use planning.

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Next steps: Conference participants developed a list of 15 strategies and tactics for fostering regional collaboration and responsible, sustainable natural resource and land use planning. They will actively seek opportunities to build the strategies and tactics into the work of their individual organizations.

Future Initiatives: York County Planning Commission is working to develop the capacity to “regionalize” its planning efforts. That is, to coordinate and monitor planning at the level of York County’s five distinct regions. This regional planning focus will be coupled with an expanded Municipal Consulting Program to create a full set of tools and training for regional solutions.

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11d. Develop and implement a communication strategy for promoting regional solutions to various target audiences.

Please refer to “Future Initiatives” under #11c, above.

11e. Provide technical assistance resources to help facilitate regional collaboration.

Please refer to “Future Initiatives” under #11c, above.

FOSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT COOPERATION AND RESTRUCTURING INITIATIVES.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

12. Foster school district cooperation and restructuring initiatives

Background: YorkCounts action teams recommended regional strategies for school districts, as well as for municipalities. They identified a number of opportunities for school districts to work together to make the very best use of community assets on behalf of all York County children.

12a. Establish a county-wide commercial/industrial tax base to support York County public schools.

Please refer to #9b on page 18.

12b. Coordinate an all-county education summit.

Background: The YorkCounts action team that put forth this recommendation conceived of the summit as an opportunity to engage community and education stakeholders in collaborating for continuous performance improvement and more equitable access to quality education.

In the spring of 2005, Penn State York assumed responsibility for developing and coordinating a county-wide education summit, with York College of Pennsylvania partnering to convene and launch the project. A 30-person steering committee was then appointed to plan a one- to three-day summit for fall 2006. The key areas of focus for the summit, as determined by the steering committee, will be as follows: equitable funding, improving academic achievement, parental and community engagement, and countywide collaboration/cooperation.

Next steps: Following the fall 2006 summit, the steering committee will review participant evaluations to determine appropriate follow-up and whether the summit should become an annual event.

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INSTITUTE A COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES.

**YorkCounts Action Plan
Goals & Recommendations**

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

13. *Institute a comprehensive county role in environmental and public health issues.*

Background: The quality of our environmental resources and the availability of public health services are linked, and together they have significant impact on our region’s quality of life.

13a. *Create a County Public Health Department.*

Background: Public health professionals play an essential role in keeping a community safe and healthy. They work on the front lines to prevent epidemics and the spread of disease; protect against environmental hazards; promote healthy behaviors; respond to disasters; and assure the quality and accessibility of health services. In recent years, threats associated with bioterrorism, infectious diseases, and food safety have underscored the critical role of a well functioning local public health system.

In June 2004, the Healthy York County Coalition (HYCC) formed a compact with YorkCounts and took the lead in moving forward the effort of establishing a public health department for York County. As a first step, HYCC retained Drexel University School of Public Health to conduct a feasibility study of the concept. Results of that study, released in October 2005, present a strong case in terms of the critical need for services, and the availability of state and federal funding streams to help underwrite county health services.

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Next steps: HYCC will coordinate and oversee two additional components of the project master plan in 2006. A project coordinator will be retained to develop a detailed business plan for the start-up and on-going operation of a county health department. Also, a series of informational sessions and community dialogues will be conducted throughout the county to build awareness, gather input, and respond to questions and concerns. Assuming a favorable business plan and indication of community support, a formal proposal will be presented to the County Commissioners in late 2006 for their consideration.

INSTITUTE A COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES.

**YorkCounts Action Plan
Goals & Recommendations**

*13b. Protect York County
farmland and open
space.*

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Background: Intense development pressures from outside the county’s borders are threatening York County’s traditional landscape of farmland, wetlands, woodlands, and open spaces, with serious consequences to our cities and towns, our farms, and the health of our environment. The following notes provide background on two significant initiatives aimed at addressing these concerns.

- A 2002 public opinion poll indicated strong support for a \$30 million county bond to preserve land through the purchase of easements², and discussion of this strategy has surfaced on a number of occasions since then.

Next steps: The York County Agricultural Preservation Board and the Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County are gathering information from other Pennsylvania counties to learn from their experiences with this type of bond, and to better understand the mechanics of issuing such a bond. Once the County Commissioners have had a chance to review and discuss the research, a coalition of interested organization will follow-up with their recommendations for moving forward.

- In December 2005, York County Community Foundation awarded a \$120,000 grant jointly to the Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) to achieve greater municipal participation and coordination in farmland preservation.

Next steps: Farm & Natural Lands Trust and PEC will begin immediately to develop education materials, technical assistance programs, and incentive grants. Once all essential resources are in place, they will begin to educate local officials on the importance of protecting agricultural land and work with key municipalities in creating effective agricultural preservation programs.

Leadership/Contacts

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²An easement is a voluntary agreement between a land owner and an authorized governmental agency or conservation organization that protects the land from future development. The land owner agrees to protect or preserve certain aspects of their property in exchange for monetary compensation or other financial benefits. Easements can be purchased or donated. (*Agricultural Preservation*, <http://ccgov.carr.org/plan-d/ag-pres/> (2005)).

Other planned action steps and immediate priorities relative to county/local collaboration

Immediate Priorities:

- Expand the Municipal Consulting Program to accommodate joint land use planning and related zoning ordinance development
- Convene the first annual all-county education summit
- Prepare business plan and build community support for a County Health Department; present proposal to County Commissioners

Pending projects and initiatives related to government collaboration

- Municipal government collaboration
 - Develop and distribute materials to promote and facilitate Councils of Government
 - Develop and implement a comprehensive program of technical assistance to facilitate regional collaboration
 - Develop and implement a communication strategy for promoting regional solutions
 - Convene the second annual municipal government summit
 - Investigate the possibility of a single Workers' Comp plan for all York County municipalities
- School district collaboration
 - Evaluate the first all-county summit and propose mechanism for institutionalizing the event
 - Initiate a project to investigate/pursue the concept of a York County Council of School Districts
 - Refine and reframe tax base sharing recommendations
- County role in environmental issues
 - Organize and lead an effort for a bond issue to fund land preservation and multi-municipal planning efforts

Looking forward:

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where so much authority is vested in individual units of government, it is easy to overlook the value and accomplishments of cooperative relationships. Within York County, we applaud the numerous inter-governmental arrangements that have been created between County government, local municipalities, school districts, and authorities. They provide excellent examples for others to model.

Now, we must also pursue cooperative ventures in new areas. One of the most challenging areas in which to achieve regional cooperative success is land use. Whether it is joint municipal planning, strategically preserving farm land, or developing watershed improvement plans, all of these land use issues are more effectively addressed on a regional basis and, to that end, lead agencies, with the support of YorkCounts, have stepped up to the plate.

In addition to land use, there are other areas that would benefit from a regional perspective, such as the education of our children and public health issues. These topics transcend municipal or school district boundaries and are important to everyone in York County. Through the pursuit of regional efforts in appropriate areas, we can achieve coordination and efficiency on regional issues that will strengthen the York Community.

- Felicia Dell

Chapter 3

Foster Racially and Culturally Diverse Communities

PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

Deep concerns about diversity, tolerance and social justice in York County were at the heart of the YorkCounts founding partners’ decision to convene and fund a community planning process. Their concerns grew out of a series of events that occurred in the late 1990’s and early 2000’s, and they believed stakeholders at every level -- from elected officials to businesses, organizations, civic leaders, volunteers and grassroots activists -- needed to become involved in finding solutions and developing a community call to action.

In 1997, urban consultant David Rusk released a report that painted a picture of York as a seriously segregated community, and raised issues about poverty, housing, and our overall quality of life -- and about equal opportunity to take advantage of community resources and opportunities. In 2001, the YorkCounts Community Indicators report was published, further quantifying serious racial, ethnic, and economic disparities among York County communities. Also in 2001, York City’s mayor was indicted on charges associated with a 1969 race-related murder, causing latent racial tensions to surface. (The mayor was ultimately acquitted.)

Several YorkCounts action teams studied these issues and made recommendations for fostering communities that are respectful and appreciative of racial and cultural diversity; make housing available and affordable to people regardless of race, ethnicity or class; and assure access to civil and social justice for all. This chapter describes the nature of the action teams’ work and reports on progress toward implementing their recommendations.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 14. Propose and advocate for policies to encourage mixed income housing opportunities.
- 15. Systematize and institutionalize diversity education and leadership programs, with emphasis on K-12.
- 16. Establish a York County Human Relations Commission.

**YorkCounts Action Plan
Goals & Recommendations**

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

14. Propose and advocate for policies to encourage mixed income housing opportunities.

Background: YorkCounts action teams identified mixed income housing as an important tool for breaking the cycle of poverty and making York County neighborhoods and schools less racially segregated -- if approached strategically and regionally.

14a. Support community-based housing programs to increase the number and distribution of affordable housing options.

Background: Action teams found evidence of a “real need for new and rehabilitated affordable housing throughout York County.” They put forth this particular recommendation with the hope and expectation of cultivating private business support for the efforts of faith-based and community-based groups, such as Habitat for Humanity, in developing affordable housing units.

PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

14a (cont.). Support community-based housing programs to increase the number and distribution of affordable housing options.

In summer 2005, the Housing Task Force of the Healthy York County Coalition entered into an “engagement” with YorkCounts whereby they agreed to study this issue further and (1) propose a “challenge goal” for additional affordable housing units within the next five years, including a recommendation for target areas within the county for these units; (2) analyze the current capacity to expand affordable housing; and (3) identify strategies for meeting the five-year “challenge goal”.

Robin Rohrbaugh
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Healthy York County
Coalition
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Next steps: Plans call for the study to be completed in August 2006.

14b. Support Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and York Housing Authority (YHA) five-year plan.

Background: This recommendation reflects the need for ongoing support of measures to serve the needs of low-income families with adequate and affordable housing, and to ensure equal opportunities in housing for all York Countians regardless of race, color, religion, origin, sex, sexual orientation, familial status, and disability.

York Housing Authority (YHA) continues to administer its programs according to its five-year plan and in compliance with HUD rules. YHA’s somewhat unique span-of-authority enables them to place eligible participants throughout the county, and avoid exacerbating York County’s concentration of poverty issue.

Debbie Loucks
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14c. Promote and support Councils of Government (COGs).

Background: Action teams recognized the need to look beyond the circumstances of an individual municipality when addressing affordable housing needs. They identified COGs as bodies that could take a more regional view and would be better equipped to recommend and implement effective affordable housing strategies – strategies capable of combating concentrations of poverty and segregated neighborhoods.

Next steps: Please refer to Chapter 2, page 21, for background on COGs in York County.

Felicia Dell
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DIVERSITY EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

15. *Systematize and institutionalize diversity education and leadership programs, with emphasis on K-12.*

Background: The York City School District is the only district in the county with a significant representation of minority students. For school year 2003/2004, the minority student population for the York City School District was just under 75 percent. Four districts had minority populations between 10 and 15 percent; all others were under 7 percent. (see graph on F.6 on page 40). These circumstances underscore the need for schools to play a role in teaching students to value and respect one another’s differences and in fostering diverse experiences.

15a. *Institutionalize the effort to promote and provide diversity education in the York community, with particular emphasis on K-12.*

Leadership York and the York Jewish Community Center (YJCC) joined forces in 2004 to develop a training program that will prepare York County educators to take a lead role in promoting and embracing diversity in their classrooms and communities. The *Leadership for Diverse Schools* leadership development course is designed to enable educators to respond more effectively to their diverse student and parent groups and to cultivate an environment where there is respect and appreciation of racial, class, and cultural diversity.

The *Leadership for Diverse Schools* curriculum is being underwritten by a grant from the Women’s Giving Circle of York County Community Foundation.

Next steps: Leadership York and YJCC will pilot *Leadership for Diverse Schools* in fall 2006. Their goal is to recruit two or more educators from each York County school district to participate in the pilot sessions, which will be made possible through grants and a minimal tuition fee.

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COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION.

YorkCounts Action Plan Goals & Recommendations

Progress – February 2004 – February 2006

Leadership/Contacts

16. Establish a York County Human Relations Commission.

Background: A YorkCounts action team recommended the establishment of a county Human Relations Commission as a means of moving past the county’s racist past, and to ensure that every York County resident has access to timely consideration of complaints concerning equal employment, housing, and public accommodation. The action team envisioned that the countywide commission would provide education and outreach, local accessible solutions to citizen complaints, mediation services, and a voice for issues of a just society.

In September 2005, York County Community Against Racism (YCCAR) entered into a “compact” with YorkCounts and took the lead in moving forward the effort to establish a Human Relations Commission for York County. By October 2005, YCCAR had formed a steering committee and begun to identify human and financial resources for producing a report that will include an assessment of need, a case for support, a business plan, and recommendations for implementation.

Next steps: With underwriting for the study committed through various York County Community Foundation Funds, YCCAR’s goal is to complete the report by June 2006. It will be informed by community/stakeholder surveys, as well as the experience of existing county-wide human relations commissions in Lancaster and Erie. Assuming a favorable business plan, the task force will develop and implement a plan for presenting a formal proposal to the York County Commissioners.

Ryan Sattler
President
YCCAR
rsattler@bonton.com

Other planned action steps and immediate priorities relative to diverse communities

Immediate Priorities:

- Determine appropriate follow-up to report on community-based housing
- Determine appropriate follow-up to *Leadership for Diverse Schools* pilot programs
- Determine appropriate follow-up to Human Relations Commission study

Pending projects and initiatives

Mixed income housing

- Continue support of HUD and YHA five-year plan for low-income housing
- Continue to promote and support Councils of Government throughout the county
- Build consensus on addressing housing needs of distressed areas by adoption of county policies

Diversity education and leadership

- Create school environments that are conducive to diverse experiences
- Create a “hub” resource center to promote and support diversity education programs
- Engage the faith community in meaningful dialogue about ways to break down barriers to diverse experiences

County Human Relations Commission

- Build broad awareness, gather public input, respond to questions and concerns

Looking forward:

YorkCounts is all about growing a better community through vision, focus, collaboration, and continuous improvement. America and York County live with a paradox. We were founded on a vision in the Declaration of Independence that “All men are created equal.” And yet, the reality then and now doesn’t represent equal opportunity for all. However, since 1776, in our great democracy, we have continued to seek justice and expand opportunity.

York Countians are striving for a better community through fair housing initiatives, diversity education, and leadership beginning with young children at home, in places of worship, and in childcare centers and schools. *Winning With Diversity* and other education programs are reaching adults in the workforce, and YorkCounts is recommending establishing a York County Human Relations Commission.

Thousands of everyday people are taking millions of steps, small and large, to realize our vision, and we invite more to join us. The initiatives summarized here build upon many existing programs and initiatives. For more information, please contact the resources identified and other key organizations including, but not limited to Crispus Attucks, York City Human Relations Commission, NAACP, York Spanish American Center, York County Chamber of Commerce, York Business Diversity Consortium, or area school districts.

- *Thomas E. Donley*

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Chapter 4

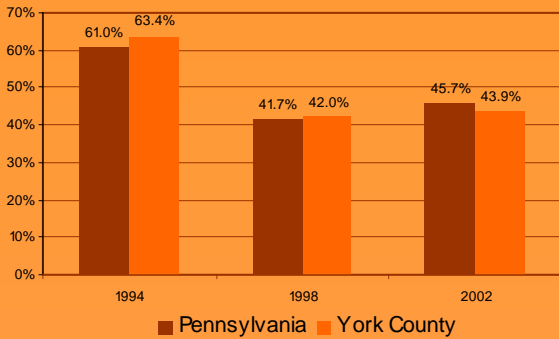
Quality of Life Indicators

Over 1,000 York County residents helped to select the original 57 quality of life indicators first published by YorkCounts in 2001. This chapter presents an update of the 2001 report. We have tried to maintain the integrity of the original indicators, including the use of the same numbering scheme. For a number of indicators, the data is no longer collected or the methodology has changed affecting comparability with the previous data. Exclusions are noted at the bottom of each page.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

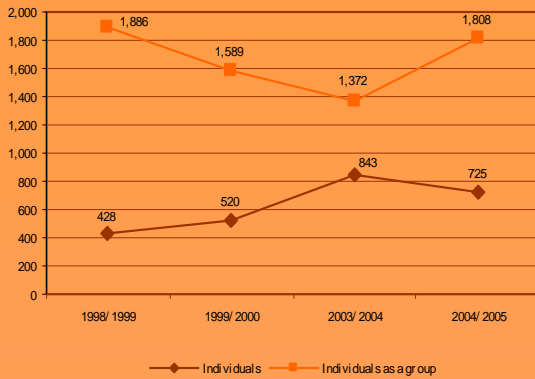
PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS CASTING BALLOTS IN ELECTIONS FOR GOVERNOR, 1994 - 2002

F.1



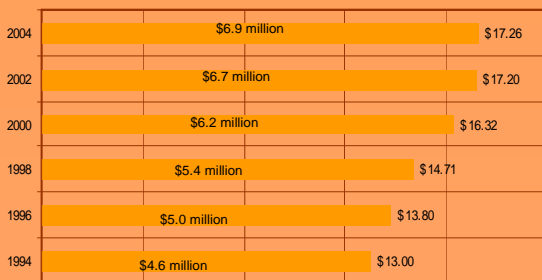
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER REFERRALS

F.4



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED WAY & PER CAPITA DONATIONS 1994 - 2004

F.5



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

County Voting - F.1

What does this measure?

The percentage of York County registered voters who cast ballots in the past three gubernatorial elections.

Why is it important?

High voter turnout shows that citizens care about the way in which our leaders govern. It is the most effective way for individuals to communicate what's on their minds, and what they believe is important.

How are we doing?

The percentage of York County registered voters who cast ballots in the past three gubernatorial elections is comparable to the percentage across Pennsylvania. The 2002 election saw a slight increase over 1998 with 43.9 percent of registered voters casting ballots.

Volunteerism - F.4

What does this measure?

The number of individuals who volunteered through the Volunteer Center of the United Way of York County. (While providing valuable service for individuals and groups, the Volunteer Center represents only a small portion of the volume of volunteer activity. Many individuals contact agencies directly for opportunities and are not reflected in these numbers.)

Why is it important?

The fabric of a strong and healthy community includes people who care about being involved in making their community work.

How are we doing?

While showing a drop in individuals in fiscal year 2004/2005, the Center statistics show a significant increase in the number of individuals volunteering as a group, just below the 1998/1999 high of 1,886.

Charitable Giving - F.5

What does this measure?

Per capita contributions to the United Way of York County.

Why is it important?

The United Way annual campaign supports health and human service programs throughout York County. Without its support, many of the agencies would either not be in existence or the level of services would be significantly decreased.

How are we doing?

The 2004 campaign raised a record \$6.9 million, with per capita giving at \$17.26.

Note: F.2, Residents Running for Elected Office - Data no longer available.
F.3, Candidates Running Unopposed - Data no longer available.

Minority Students - F.6

What does this measure?

Percent of minority students in each school district.

Why is it important?

Early exposure to cultural and ethnic diversity can play a role in making a child a more tolerant and open-minded adult.

How are we doing?

The only school district in the county with a significant representation of minority (non-white) students is York City, with nearly three-quarters of its student population minority. Over the past four years, the percentage of minority students in each district has increased. However, with the exception of York City, the increase has been 4 percentage points or less.

Bias-Related Incidents - F.7

What does this measure?

The number of reported bias-related incidents.

Why is it important?

Bias-related incidents include any incident in which action taken by a person or group is perceived to be malicious toward another, based on bias or prejudice. The number of reported bias-related incidents in a community is evidence of intolerance of groups other than one's own.

How are we doing?

The number of reported bias-related incidents in York County increased 75.7 percent from 1993/1998 to 2000/2005, significantly greater than the 26.5 percent increase state-wide.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

One-Parent Families - F.10

What does this measure?

The percentage of school-age children living in one-parent families, by planning region.

Why is it important?

There are far-reaching consequences for children growing up in single-parent households and the communities in which they live. National studies show that almost half of the children in female-headed families are poor, and only about one-third receive child support or alimony.

How are we doing?

From 1990 to 2000, the number of single-parent families has increased across the county, with the exception of York City where the number decreased by 2.9 percentage points.

Teen Mothers - F.11

What does this measure?

Pregnancy and birth rates for teenagers ages 15 to 19 years old.

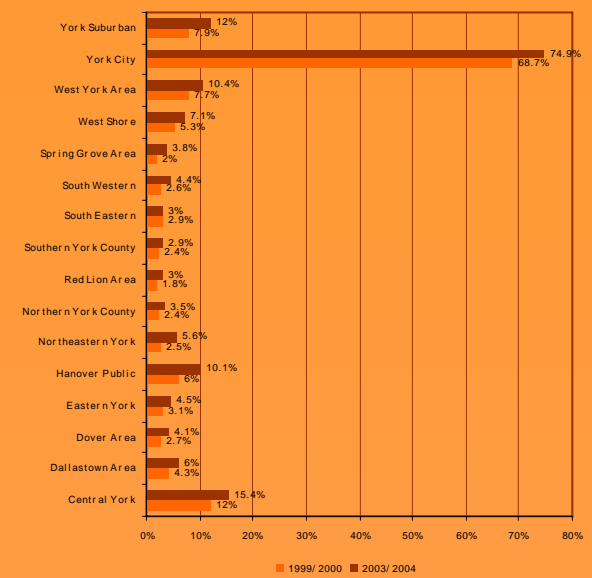
Why is it important?

Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school, and more likely to end up on welfare. The children of teen mothers have lower birth weights, are more likely to perform poorly in school, and are at greater risk of abuse and neglect.

How are we doing?

While pregnancy and birth rates have decreased since 2001, York County's rates exceed the State's rates.

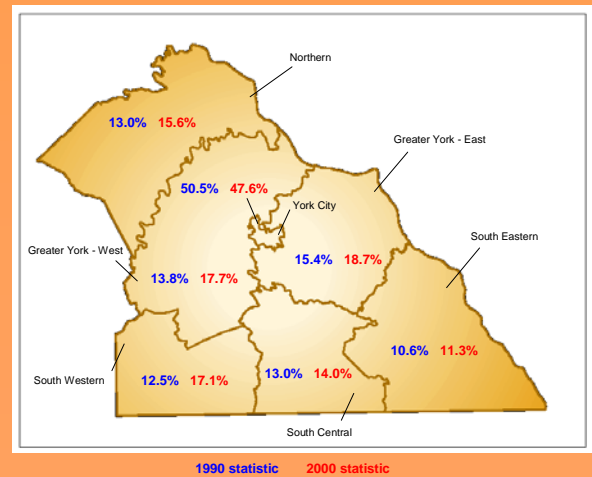
F.6 PERCENTAGE OF MINORITY STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT 1999/2000 vs. 2003/2004 SCHOOL YEAR



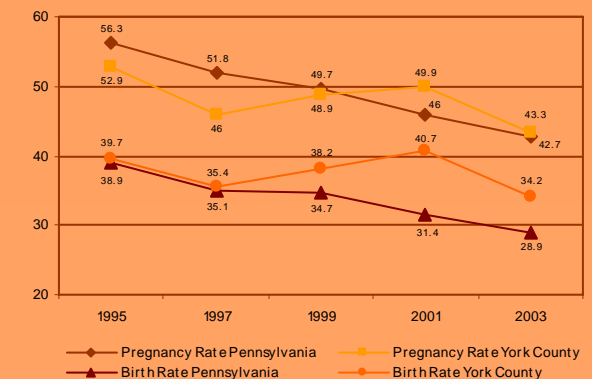
F.7 NUMBER OF REPORTED BIAS-RELATED INCIDENTS

	1994 - 1999	2000 - 2005
York County	70	123
Lancaster County	43	71
Pennsylvania	1,379	1,744

F.10 PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN LIVING IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES, BY PLANNING REGION



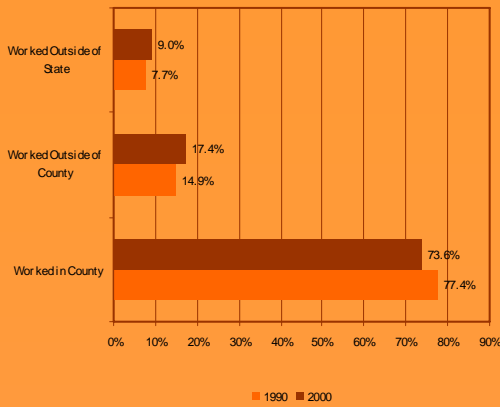
F.11 PREGNANCY/BIRTH RATES FOR TEENAGERS 15-19



Note: F.8, White Supremacist Activity - No current data available.
 F.9, Family Dinners - Data no longer available.

**RESIDENTS BY LOCATION OF WORKPLACE
TOTAL WORKERS = 193,126 (YEAR 2000)**

F.12



WORKPLACE

Working in York County - F.12

What does this measure?

Workplace location of York County residents.

Why is it important?

Residents who live and work in the same area are more likely to identify with and be involved in what's going on in their communities.

How are we doing?

More than 73 percent of county residents work in the county, down nearly 4 percentage points from 1990. Nine percent of working residents work outside of the state.

Working outside York County - F.13

What does this measure?

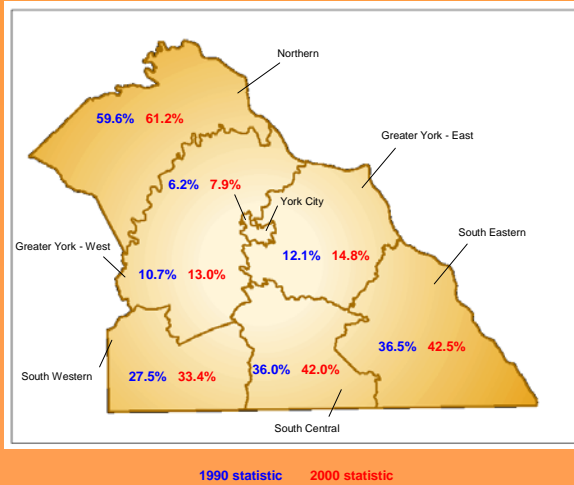
The percentage of residents who work outside of York County, by planning region.

Why is it important?

Residents who work outside of their communities are less likely to be involved with their community.

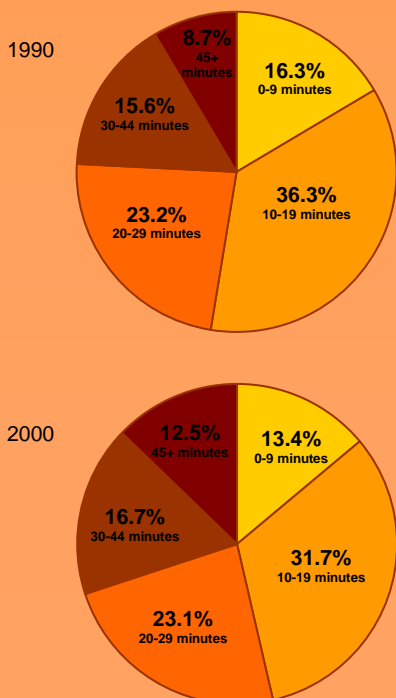
F.13

PERCENT OF WORKERS WHO WORK OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY, BY PLANNING REGION



**WORKERS BY TRAVEL TIME TO WORK
TRAVEL TIME BY PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS**

F.14



How are we doing?

More York County residents are working outside the county. Forty-two percent of residents in the South Central and South Eastern regions work outside the county.

Travel Time - F.14

What does this measure?

The length of time it takes workers to get to work.

Why is it important?

Long commutes often take time that could be spent with the family, in the neighborhood, or volunteering in the community.

How are we doing?

County residents are spending more time getting to work, 29.2 percent travel 30 minutes or longer to work; up from 24.3 percent in 1990. In contrast, 45.1 percent travel 20 minutes or less; down from 52.6 percent in 1990.

Note: F.15, Internet Access - Data no longer available.

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ECONOMICS

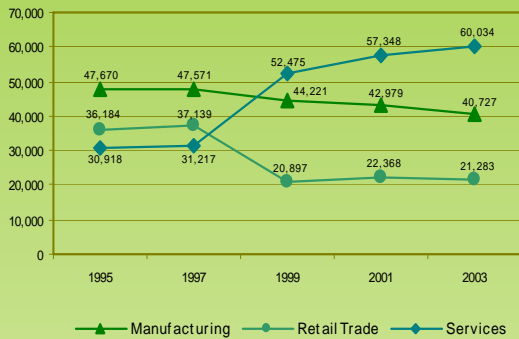
**TOTAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS
IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES, 1995 - 2003**

Eco.1



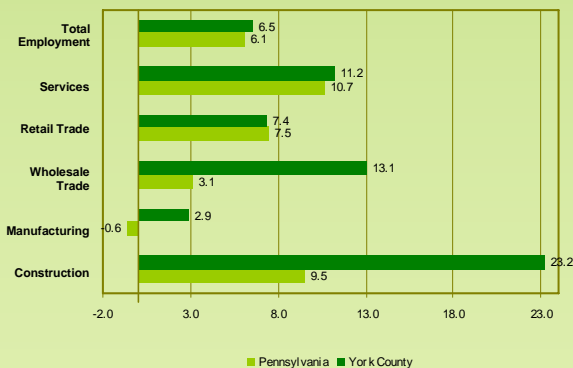
**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES, 1995 - 2003**

Eco.2



**PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT,
1997-1999 BY SELECTED INDUSTRIES**

Eco.3a



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Economic Base - Eco.1

What does this measure?

The total number of business establishments in selected industries.

Why is it important?

A diverse number of employment opportunities is vital to a community's health.

How are we doing?

York County continues to see a gradual shift away from a manufacturing economy to a service economy. The number of service sector businesses increased 6 percent from 1999 to 2003. The manufacturing sector saw a 1.4 percent decrease in business establishments and the retail sector decreased by 3.4 percent. The total business establishments in all sectors increased by 3.1 percent.

Employment Growth - Eco.2

What does this measure?

The total number of employees in selected industries.

Why is it important?

The availability of jobs can help us retain our young talent, attract new workers and businesses to the area, and prevent residents from seeking employment elsewhere.

How are we doing?

The number of persons employed in the county in all business sectors grew by 5 percent from 1999 to 2003. Employ-

ment in the service sector grew by 14.4 percent, while growth in the retail sector was 1.8 percent. Employment in manufacturing decreased by 7.9 percent over the same period.

Employment by Sector - Eco.3 (a,b)

What does this measure?

The percentage change in employment in selected industries.

Why is it important?

Employment by sector can show us where people are working, indicate how diverse our economy is, and help us paint a picture of our investment in human resources.

How are we doing? (Eco.3b)

Overall, employment in York County grew faster than the state from 1999 to 2003. The most significant difference was in construction where York County experienced an 8 percent increase compared to a 2 percent decrease state-wide. Both York County and the State experienced a loss in manufacturing jobs, 7.9 percent and 15.7 percent, respectively.

Minority-Owned Businesses - Eco.5

What does this measure?

The percentage of minority-owned business establishments.

Why is it important?

Growth in minority businesses is an important component of a strong and balanced economy.

How are we doing?

The number of minority-owned businesses has increased in York County; however, the rate of growth did not keep up with the State. In 1992, 1.8 percent of all business establishments were minority-owned; in 1997, 3.4 percent were minority-owned, compared to 5.9 percent state-wide.

Note: The U.S. Census Bureau changed survey methodology for the 1997 Economic Census. The universe for the 1997 Minority-Owned Business Enterprise Survey was expanded to include all corporations; therefore, it is not possible to calculate the actual number increase of minority-owned business as was calculated for the 2001 Indicators Report.

INCOME LEVELS

Concentration of Poverty - Eco.6

What does this measure?

The percentage of households with annual income below the poverty level, by planning region.

Why is it important?

Poverty is known to have a negative effect on many parts of our lives. Our household income determines what type of house we live in, the car we

drive, and can have an impact on how well our children perform in school.

How are we doing?

The 2000 Census shows that 21.7 percent of households within the City of York have an annual income below the poverty level, an increase from 17.5 percent in 1990. While there was a slight increase in Greater York-East and Northern York, all other planning regions remain below 5.6 percent.

Free School Lunches - Eco.7

What does this measure?

The percentage of students who receive free school lunches.

Why is it important?

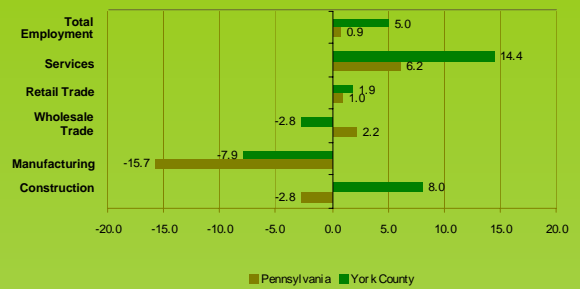
This indicator provides a more current measure of poverty distribution in York County. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free school lunches.

How are we doing?

Since 1999, the percentage of children receiving free school lunches increased in all districts with the exception of Southern York County, which experienced a slight decrease. The greatest increases can be found in Northeastern York, Hanover Public, and West York. Over 69 percent of York City students receive free school lunch.

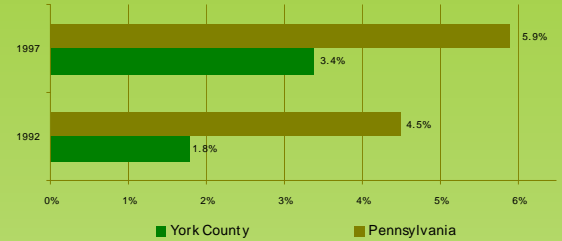
Eco.3b

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT, 1999-2003 BY SELECTED INDUSTRIES



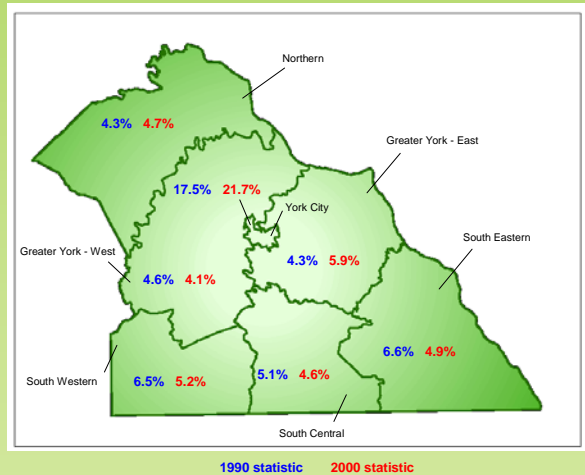
Eco.5

MINORITY BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS



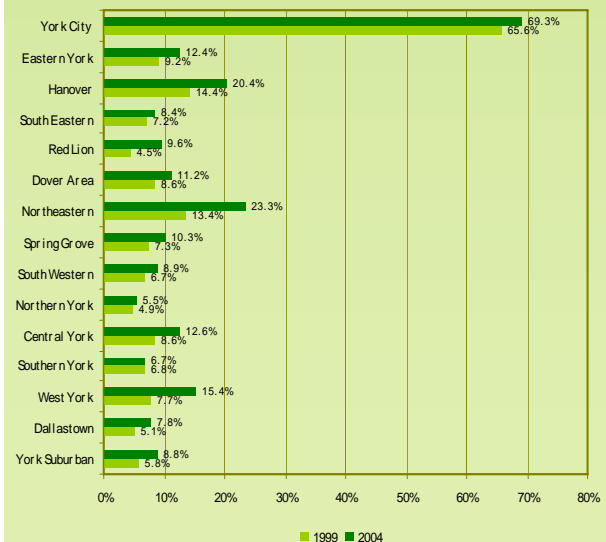
Eco.6

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ANNUAL INCOME BELOW POVERTY



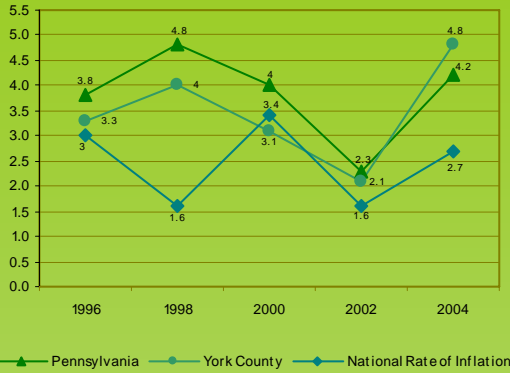
Eco.7

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES



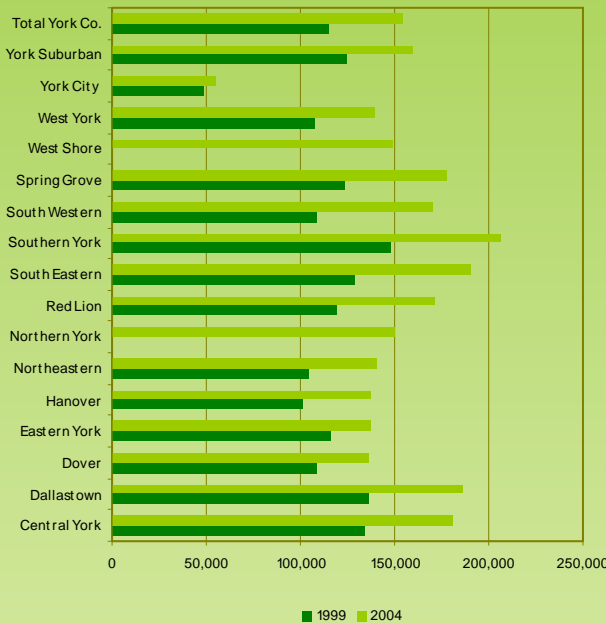
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE COMPARED TO CHANGE IN INFLATION RATE

Eco.9



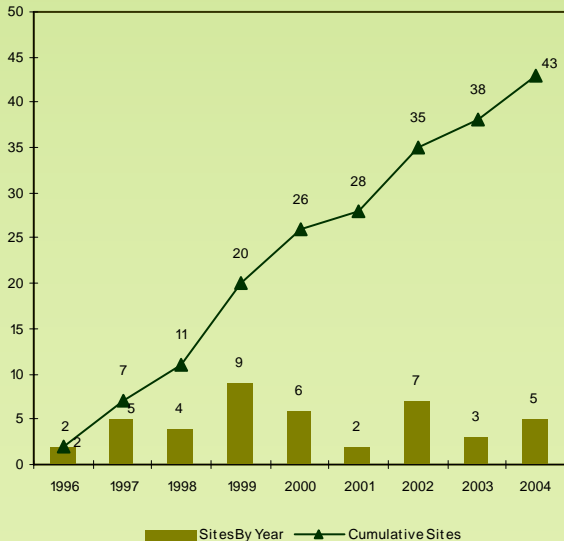
MEDIAN SELLING PRICE OF SINGLE-FAMILY, THREE-BEDROOM HOMES, 1999 VS. 2004

Eco.10



BROWNFIELD SITES BY YEAR COMPLETED

Eco.11



Annual Wage Compared to Inflation - Eco.9

What does this measure?

The percentage change in average annual wage compared to the change in the inflation rate.

Why is it important?

As prices go up (inflation), our buying power is reduced. That means our income is worth less and we cannot buy the same amount as we used to.

How are we doing?

The increases in wages at both County and State levels have outpaced inflation. Increases in the county peaked at 4.8 percent in 2004.

HOUSING

Median Selling Price of Single-Family Three-Bedroom Homes - Eco.10

What does this measure?

The median price of a single-family, three-bedroom house, by school district.

Why is it important?

Homeownership creates a more stable community and has noticeable impact on residents' mutual commitment to a neighborhood. Rising housing costs can put home ownership beyond the reach of some residents.

How are we doing?

The median price of a single-family, three-bedroom home in 2004 ranged from \$55,593 in York City to \$206,762 in Southern York County School District. South Western School District experienced the greatest increase in median price, with a 56 percent increase. All median sales prices in the county were greater than twice the median price in York City.

LAND USE

Brownfield Sites - Eco.11

What does this measure?

The number of brownfield sites redeveloped.

Why is it important?

The ways in which we use our land can have far-reaching consequences in terms of water quality, sprawl, and loss of farmland and open spaces that are valuable assets in any community.

How are we doing?

York County continues to respond to the need for better land use practices by recycling and developing an increasing number of "brownfields" – land that is contaminated due to previous industrial use. Since 2000, 17 brownfield sites have been redeveloped in York County.

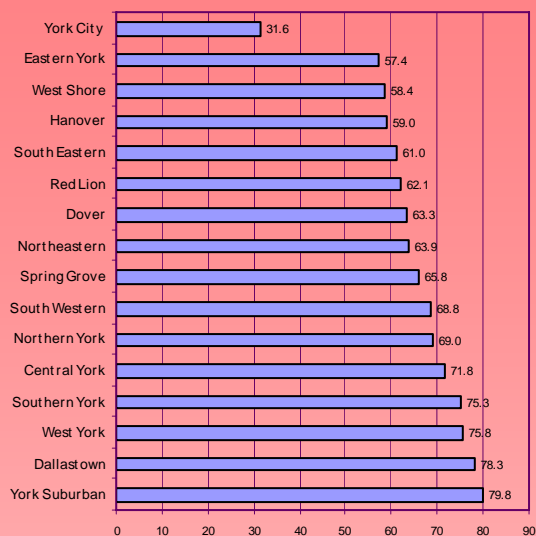
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EDUCATION

AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE OF 11TH GRADERS SCORING ADVANCED OR PROFICIENT IN STATEWIDE TESTS

EDU.1

READING



EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Achievement Levels - Edu.1 & Edu.2

What does this measure?

The average percentage of eleventh graders who scored proficient or advanced on standardized state reading and math tests for four years 2001/2002 to 2004/2005.

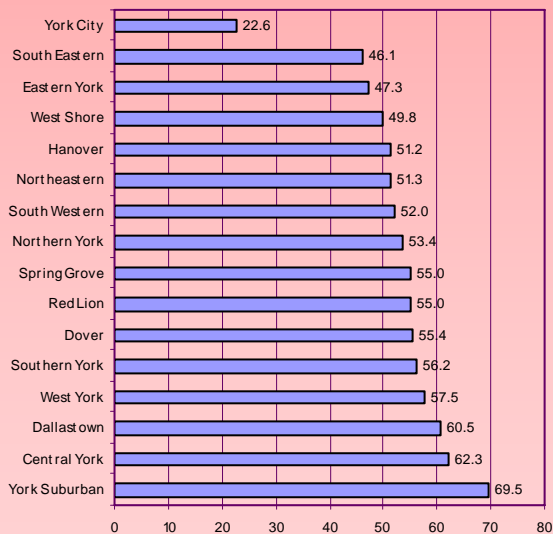
Note: The average for the four years is used to smooth out the fluctuations that occur from one year to the next.

Also, the 2001 report reflected data that was captured and reported in a manner in effect prior to the *No Child Left Behind Act*. It is not comparable with current data and therefore is not shown here for comparison.

All school districts within York County met the State target with the exception of York City, with an average of 31.6 percent for reading and 22.6 percent for math.

MATH

EDU.2



Why is it important?

Research has shown that education offers the greatest potential for economic advancement and upward mobility.

How are we doing?

According to the *No Child Left Behind Act*, students must be 100 percent proficient in reading and math by the year 2014. Since 2002, student results have been reported as either advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic. States are required to establish yearly targets to ensure that school districts are making adequate yearly progress toward the 100 percent goal. The 2004/2005 targets were 45 percent proficient or advanced in math and 54 percent proficient or advanced in reading.

High School Dropout Rate - Edu.3

What does this measure?

The dropout rate for grades 9 through 12 per 100 students.

Why is it important?

Education prepares us for life. Once students have dropped out of school, they may find it difficult to gain and maintain employment.

How are we doing?

The dropout rate for grades 9 through 12 for 2003/2004 for the County was 2.1 per 100 students. Six school districts experienced a slight increase from 1998/1999. York City had the highest rate at 6.6, a decrease from a high of 9.0 in 1998/1999. Central York had the lowest rate at .4.

Population with High School

Diplomas - Edu.4

What does this measure?

The percent of York County residents 18 years old and over with a high school diploma.

Why is it important?

Communities with a well-educated adult population tend to have stronger economies and a higher standard of living.

How are we doing?

In the 2000 Census, 80.3 percent of the York County population 18 years old and over had at least a high school diploma. The percentage with a diploma varies by geographic region. Using the York County Planning Commission's planning regions to group municipalities, York City had the lowest percentage of high school graduates with 69.4 percent, an increase from 64.2 in 1990; and the South Central region had the highest percentage with 83.9 percent.

Plans to Further Education - Edu.5

What does this measure?

The percentage of high school seniors planning to continue their education.

Why is it important?

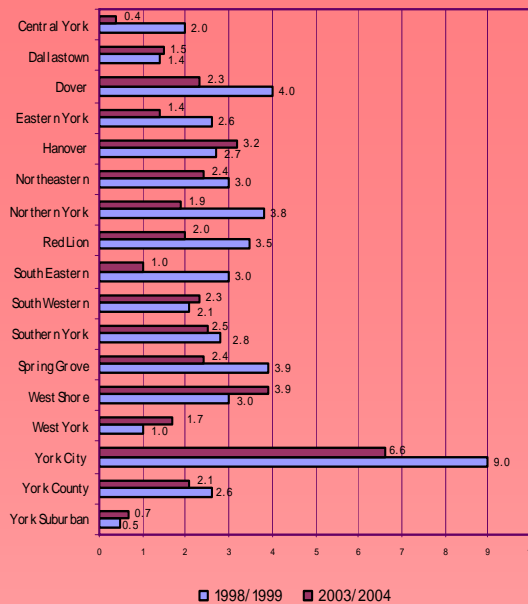
A college degree can substantially impact your lifetime earning potential. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, each additional level of education obtained is associated with an increase in average annual earnings.³

How are we doing?

The percentage of high school seniors planning to attend some form of post-secondary school ranges from a low of 55.7 percent in York City to a high of 84.5 percent in Central York. The percentage is an average for four school years 2000/2001 to 2003/2004. Using 2003/2004 data, the percentage of all York County seniors was 68.3 percent, which is below the state-wide rate of 75.5 percent.

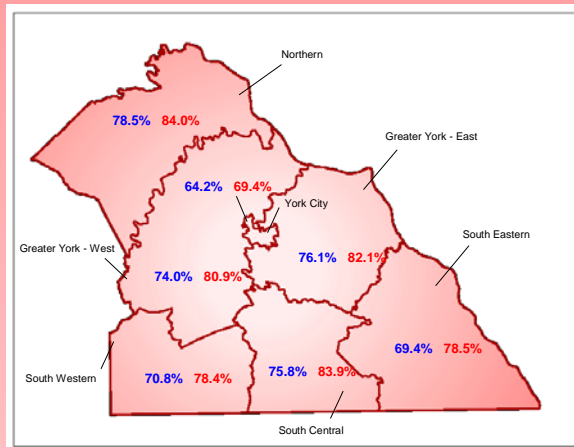
EDU.3

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE PER 100 STUDENTS, 1998/1999 VS. 2003/2004



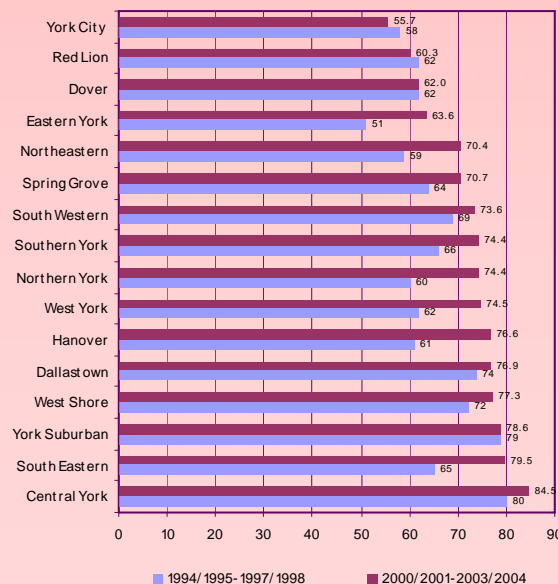
EDU.4

PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE AGE 18 AND OVER WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA



EDU.5

AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES PLANNING TO ATTEND POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS



³ Dividends of a College Education, <http://www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/costs/return-invest.htm>

CHILD CARE

Childcare Facilities - Edu.7

What does this measure?

The number of accredited child care facilities.

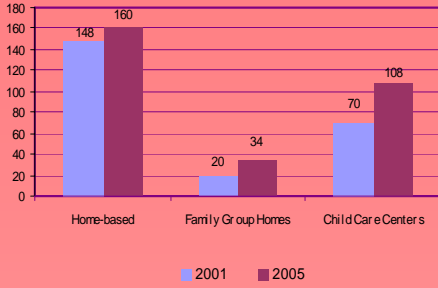
Why is it important?

Studies show that children who receive quality early childhood education enter school ready to learn and have better social skills, fewer grade retentions, and higher high school graduation rates. Based on labor statistics in York County, approximately 65 percent of the parents or primary caregivers of children under the age of six work outside the home, affecting over 18,000 children.

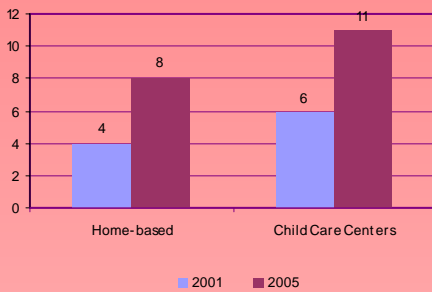
How are we doing?

In York County, there are 302 regulated childcare facilities, comprised of 160 home-based programs (4 to 6 children), 34 family group homes (7 to 12 children), and 108 childcare centers. Approximately 9,600 children receive services through these programs. Each of these facilities is licensed, and thus meets minimum safety and other standards criteria. In York County, 11 childcare centers and eight home-based programs are accredited under regulations established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).

REGULATED FACILITIES



ACCREDITED FACILITIES



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HEALTH & SAFETY

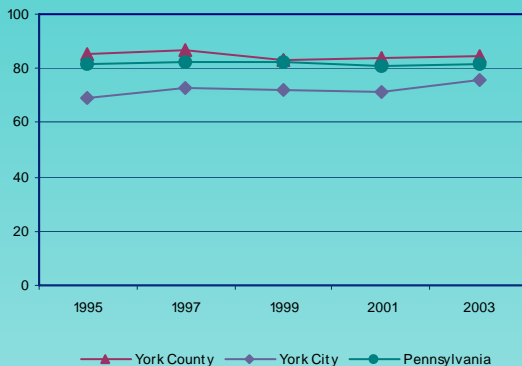
RESIDENTS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

H.1

1994	5.9%
1997	8.8%
2000	9.3%
2003	13.0%

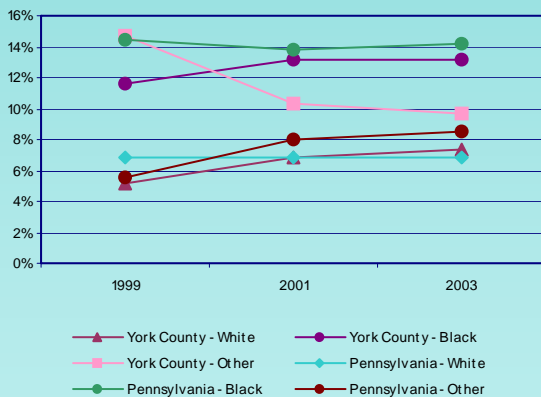
PERCENTAGE OF PREGNANT WOMEN RECEIVING PRENATAL CARE IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER

H.2



LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES BY RACE OF MOTHER

H.3



VISITS TO DENTIST WITHIN 12 MONTHS

H.4

2000	81.9%
2003	75%

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Health Insurance - H.1

What does this measure?

The percent of York County residents without health insurance.

Why is it important?

An initial barrier to health care access is being able to pay for it. The lack of health care insurance leads to lack of care. People without health insurance more often seek care later in the course of illness when treatment can be more complicated and more expensive.

How are we doing?

The 2003 Community Health Assessment found that 13 percent of York County residents do not have health insurance, an increase from the 9.3 percent reported in the 2000 Community Health Assessment. York County parallels the state-wide rate.

Prenatal Care - H.2

What does this measure?

The percent of pregnant women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.

Why is it important?

Prenatal care during the first trimester helps assure the health of both mother and child, and reduces complications during pregnancy and delivery.

How are we doing?

The percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the County consistently falls between 83 and 86 percent. The

percent of City residents receiving care has increased; nevertheless, the City rate remains 9.2 percentage points lower than the County rate.

Babies With Low Birth Weight - H.3

What does this measure?

The percent of low birth weight babies by race.

Why is it important?

Children with low birth weights require expensive medical care and are more likely to experience long-term complications and developmental problems.

How are we doing?

The percentage of low birth weight babies born to black mothers continues to be higher than those born to white mothers. The percentage of low birth weight babies born to mothers in other groups varies from year to year, with a high of 14.7 percent in 1999 to a low of 4 percent in 2002.

Dentist Visits - H.4

What does this measure?

Frequency of dentist visits.

Why is it important?

Regular visits to a dentist are essential for adults and children to receive either preventive or restorative care for their teeth and gums.

How are we doing?

The percentage of adult residents visiting the dentist within the last 12 months decreased by 6.9 percentage points.

AT-RISK BEHAVIOR

Tobacco Usage - H.5

What does this measure?

Percentage of York County residents who use tobacco.

Why is it important?

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of death. It is linked to premature death due to heart disease, cancer, and respiratory illnesses.

How are we doing?

The percentage of tobacco users dropped .9 percentage points and remains lower than the state-wide level of 25 percent.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases - H.6

What does this measure?

Cases of sexually transmitted diseases.

Why is it important?

If not treated, sexually transmitted diseases can lead to serious medical problems such as infertility, damage to vital organs, and medical problems for unborn and newborn babies.

How are we doing?

Reported Chlamydia cases have risen dramatically since 1994. Gonorrhea cases have also risen but not quite as fast. Syphilis remains very low in York County.

Obesity - H.7

What does this measure?

Percentage of York County residents who are overweight.

Why is it important?

Obesity contributes to serious health risks, such as heart disease and stroke.

How are we doing?

In York County, 61 percent of residents are overweight, a slight increase from the 60.1 percent reported in 2000.

Heart Disease - H.9

What does this measure?

The average annual age-adjusted death rate, as reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Why is it important?

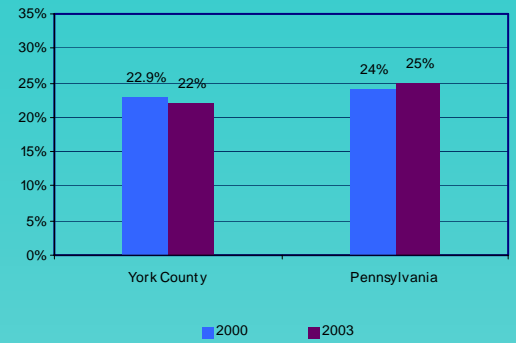
Heart disease is the leading cause of death in York County. Many at-risk behaviors contribute to heart disease.

How are we doing?

There has been a steady decline in the death rate due to heart disease in York County and Pennsylvania. (Note: According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the death rates included in the 2001 Indicators Report are not comparable to those included in this report; a different standard million population was used in the calculation.)

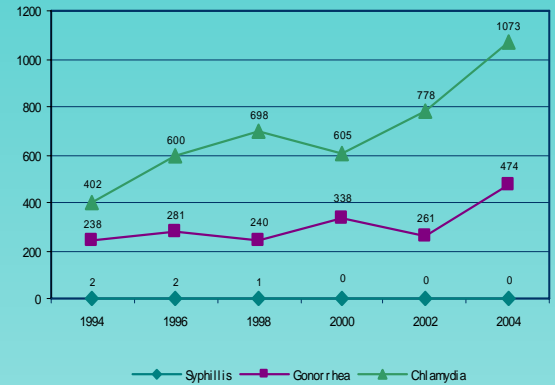
H.5

TOBACCO USERS



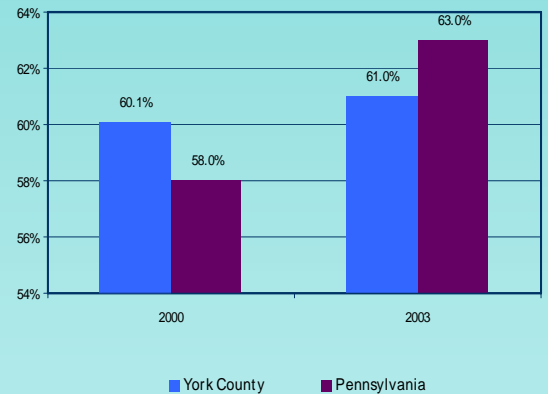
H.6

CASES OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES 1994-2004



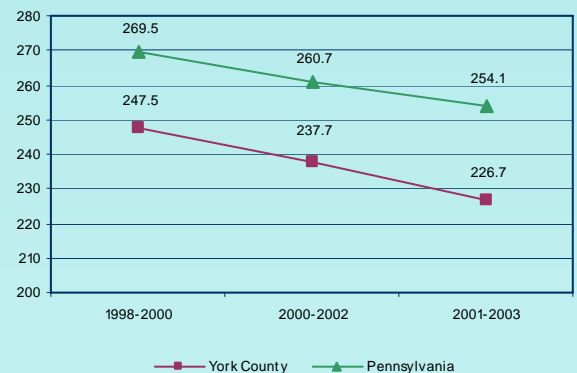
H.7

OVERWEIGHT PERSONS



H.9

DEATH RATE FROM HEART DISEASE



PERSONS WHO HAVE A FIREARM AT HOME

H.10



Access to Firearms - H.10

What does this measure?

Percentage of York County homes with firearms.

Why is it important?

Firearms in the home can expose children to significant danger.

How are we doing?

Forty-five percent of York County homes have at least one firearm present, not a significant change from the 45.8 percent found in 2000.

Suicides - H.12

What does this measure?

The number of documented suicides in York County.

Why is it important?

Suicide is an indicator of the emotional health and well-being of an individual.

How are we doing?

Over the past 10 years, the number of suicides in York County peaked in 2004 at 55.

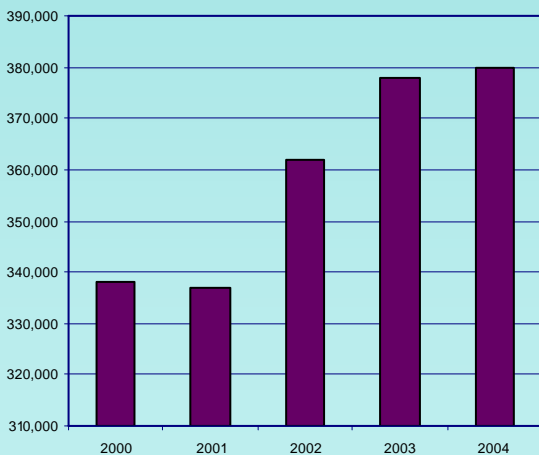
NUMBER OF SUICIDES

H.12

1994	39
1996	54
1998	34
2000	51
2002	49
2004	55
2005	37

TONS OF MUNICIPAL WASTE GENERATED

H.14



ENVIRONMENT

Municipal Waste Generated - H.14

What does this measure?

Tons of municipal waste generated in York County.

Why is it important?

Solid waste disposal places pressure on our natural resources. It must be effectively managed to protect the environment, public health, and conserve resources.

How are we doing?

The amount of municipal waste generated continues to increase as the population of York County increases.

Note: H.11, Locked Firearms - Data no longer available.
 H.13, Toxic Chemicals - Data no longer available.
 H.15, Municipal Waste Recycled - Annual data not comparable.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Violent and Non-violent Crime Rates - H.16 & H.17

What does this measure?

Reported indexed crime rates. (Violent crimes include murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, and assault. Non-violent crimes include burglary, larceny, vehicle theft, and arson).

Why is it important?

Crime is a direct attack on a community's quality of life.

How are we doing?

The county's non-violent crime rate is consistently higher than the rate for Pennsylvania. The City's rate is significantly higher than the rest of the County.

The County's violent crime rate is consistently below the rate for Pennsylvania. The City's rate is significantly higher than the rest of the County.

Protection from Abuse - H.18

What does this measure?

The number of Protection from Abuse Orders granted in York County.

Why is it important?

A Protection from Abuse Order is a binding civil court order that prohibits batterers from harming their victims again. These orders serve as a critical component to ensure a victim's safety.

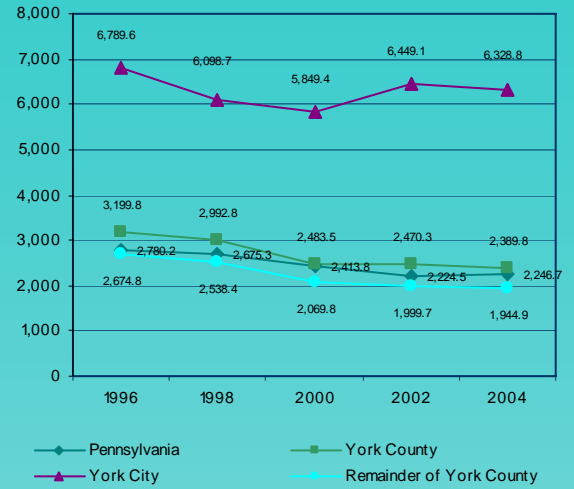
Cases of domestic violence are constantly reported in our media, too often describing a tragic ending to an ongoing situation. Recognizing the disruptive impact domestic violence has on families and community, it is used as an indicator of public safety.

How are we doing?

The number of Protection from Abuse Orders granted declined from a high of 1,189 in 1998 to a low of 453 in 2004.

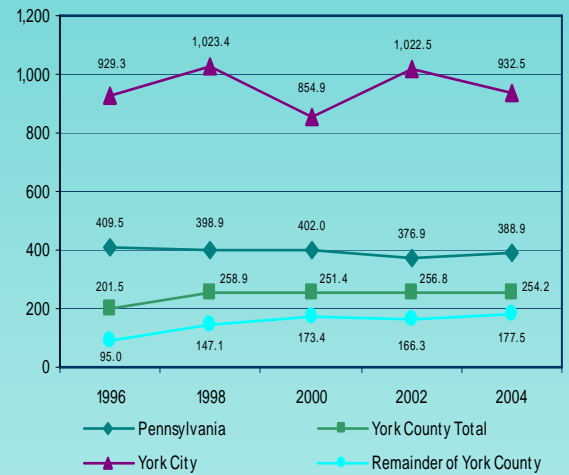
H.16

NON-VIOLENT CRIME, 1996-2004 RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION



H.17

VIOLENT CRIMES, 1996-2004 RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION



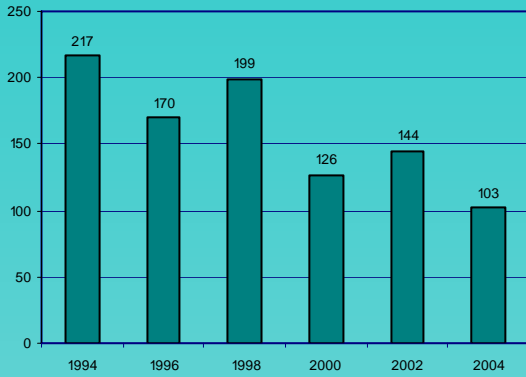
H.18

GRANTED PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDERS IN YORK COUNTY

1996	1,048
1998	1,189
2000	659
2002	583
2004	453

CASES OF CHILD ABUSE

H.19



Child Abuse - H.19

What does this measure?

The number of substantiated cases of child abuse in York County.

Why is it important?

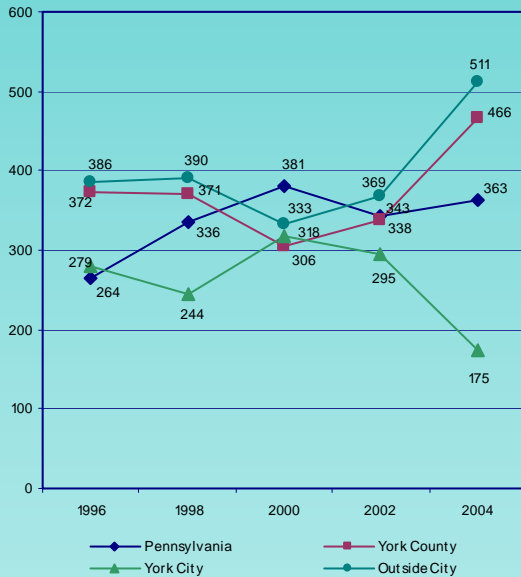
When children are abused, they become victims in both the short and long term, and quite often become abusive parents themselves.

How are we doing?

The number of substantiated cases of child abuse has decreased since the mid-1990s, from 217 cases in 1994, to 103 cases in 2004. Since 2001, the rate of substantiated cases per 1,000 children has steadily decreased from 1.6 in 2001 to 1.1 in 2004, falling below the state rate of 1.6.

ARRESTS FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION

H.20



Driving Under the Influence - H.20

What does this measure?

Arrest rate for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Why is it important?

Driving under the influence of alcohol is significantly related to traffic accidents, sometimes resulting in serious bodily injuries and even death.

How are we doing?

Since 2000, York County has seen a steady increase in the number of DUI arrests rising above the state rate.

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APPENDIX: DATA SOURCES

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

F.1 - PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS CASTING BALLOTS IN ELECTIONS FOR GOVERNOR, 1994 - 2002

Election data for 1994 taken from 1995 Pennsylvania Manual; election data for 1998 taken from 1999 Pennsylvania Manual; election data for 2002 taken from 2003 Pennsylvania Manual produced by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services and online at: www.dgs.state.pa.us.

F.4 - NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER REFERRALS

Email contact with Marlene Cook, staff member, Volunteer Center of York. cookm@unitedway-york.org

F.5 - CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED WAY OF YORK COUNTY PER CAPITA DONATIONS 1994-2004

Email and phone contact with Robert Woods, Executive Director, United Way of York County. woods@unitedway-york.org

F.6 - PERCENTAGE OF MINORITY STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT 1999/2000 vs. 2003/2004 SCHOOL YEAR

Reports, *Public School Summary of Enrollments by School District 2003-04*, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Education Technology, Division of Data Services. Available on the Internet at: www.pde.state.pa.us.

F.7 - REPORTED BIAS-RELATED INCIDENTS

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Tension Statistics 1994-95 through 2004-05.

F.10 - PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN LIVING IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES, BY PLANNING REGION

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population. Data mapped by York County Planning Commission.

F.11 - PREGNANCY/BIRTH RATES FOR TEENAGERS 15-19

Pennsylvania Vital Statistics for years 1999 to 2003. Report produced by Pennsylvania Department of Health.

F.12 - RESIDENTS BY LOCATION OF WORKPLACE

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population.

F.13 - PERCENT OF WORKERS WHO WORK OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY BY PLANNING REGION

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population. Data mapped by York County Planning Commission.

F.14 - WORKERS BY TRAVEL TIME TO WORK (TRAVEL TIME BY PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population.

ECONOMICS

Eco.1 - TOTAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES, 1999-2003

Report *County Business Patterns*: Pennsylvania 1999-2003. Report produced by U.S. Census Bureau available on the Internet at www.census.gov.

Eco.2 - TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES, 1999-2003

Report *County Business Patterns*: Pennsylvania 1999-2003. Report produced by U.S. Census Bureau available on the Internet at www.census.gov.

Eco.3 (a, b) - PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT, 1999-2003 BY SELECTED INDUSTRIES

Report *County Business Patterns*: Pennsylvania 1999-2003. Report produced by U.S. Census Bureau available on the Internet at www.census.gov.

Eco.5 - MINORITY BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

Data on minority-owned businesses obtained from the 1992 and 1997 Economic Census reports *Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises*, produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data on total businesses obtained from 1991 and 1992 *County Business Patterns*, produced by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Eco.6 - PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ANNUAL INCOME BELOW POVERTY LEVEL, BY PLANNING REGION

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population. Data mapped by York County Planning Commission.

Eco.7 - PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL LUNCHESES, BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Data tabulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition Programs. Report available on the Internet at: www.pde.state.pa.us.

Eco.9 - PERCENT CHANGE IN AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE COMPARED TO CHANGE IN INFLATION RATE

Data obtained from *Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Statistics, Employment and Wages by County and Industry*. Reports produced by Pennsylvania Department of Labor, Bureau of Research and Statistics. Inflation rate obtained from Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis at: www.minneapolisfed.org.

Eco.10 - MEDIAN SELLING PRICE OF SINGLE FAMILY THREE BEDROOM HOMES, 2004 BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Data provided by the Realtors Association of York and Adams Counties.

Eco.11 - BROWNFIELD SITES THAT HAVE BEEN RECYCLED

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management.

EDUCATION

Edu.1 - AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE OF 11TH GRADERS SCORING PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON STATEWIDE READING TESTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reports, *District Level PSSA Results 2001-02 through 2004-05*, produced by Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Assessment and Accountability. Available on the Internet at: www.pde.state.pa.us.

APPENDIX: DATA SOURCES (continued)

Edu.2 - AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE OF 11TH GRADERS SCORING PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON STATEWIDE MATH TESTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reports, *District Level PSSA Results 2001-02 through 2004-05*, produced by Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Assessment and Accountability. Available on the Internet at: www.pde.state.pa.us.

Edu.3 - HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE PER 100 STUDENTS

Reports, *Public Secondary School Dropouts in Pennsylvania by School, 2003-2004*, produced by Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Education Technology, Division of Data Services. Available on the Internet at: www.pde.state.pa.us.

Edu.4 - PERCENT OF PERSONS AGE 18 AND OVER WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, BY PLANNING REGION

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population. Data mapped by York County Planning Commission.

Edu.5 - AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES PLANNING TO ATTEND POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Reports, *Public High School Graduates and Postsecondary Education Rates, 2001-02 through 2004-05*, produced by Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Education Technology, Division of Data Services. Available on the Internet at: www.pde.state.pa.us.

Edu.7 - YORK COUNTY CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Data supplied by Christy Renjilian, Director, Focus On Our Future. renjilianc@unitedway-york.org

HEALTH AND SAFETY

H.1 - RESIDENTS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

Report, *2003 Behavioral Health Risk of Pennsylvania Adults and York County Adults*, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Available on the Internet at: www.health.state.pa.us.

H.2 - PERCENTAGE OF PREGNANT WOMEN RECEIVING PRE-NATAL CARE IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER OF PREGNANCY

Pennsylvania Vital Statistics, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Available on the Internet at: www.health.state.pa.us.

H.3 - LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES BY RACE OF MOTHER

Pennsylvania Birth Statistics, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Available on the Internet at: www.health.state.pa.us.

H.4 - PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS WHO HAVE VISITED A DENTIST WITHIN THE PAST YEAR

Report, *2003 Behavioral Health Risk of Pennsylvania Adults and York County Adults*, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Available on the Internet at: www.health.state.pa.us.

H.5 - TOBACCO USE

Report, *2003 Behavioral Health Risk of Pennsylvania Adults and York County Adults*, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Available on the Internet at: www.health.state.pa.us.

H.6 - CASES OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Report, *Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Pennsylvania*, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Available on the Internet at: www.health.state.pa.us.

H.7 - PERSONS IN YORK COUNTY WHO ARE OVERWEIGHT

Report, *2003 Behavioral Health Risk of Pennsylvania Adults and York County Adults*, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Available on the Internet at: www.health.state.pa.us.

H.9 - AVERAGE ANNUAL AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATE FROM HEART DISEASE

Report, *York County Health Profile*, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Available on the Internet at: www.health.state.pa.us.

H.10 - PERSONS WHO HAVE A FIREARM AT HOME

Report, *2003 Behavioral Health Risk of York County Adults*, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Available on the Internet at: www.health.state.pa.us.

H.12 - NUMBER OF SUICIDES

Phone contact with York County Coroner's Office.

H.14 - TONS OF MUNICIPAL WASTE GENERATED

Phone contact with York County Solid Waste Authority.

H.16 - NON-VIOLENT CRIME

Pennsylvania State Police *Annual Uniform Crime Reports*. Produced by Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Research and Development. City of York Police Department *Uniform Crime Reports. Annual Estimates of Population for Incorporated Places in Pennsylvania* produced by U.S. Bureau of Census. (Non-violent crime statistics include burglary, larceny, vehicle theft and arson.)

H.17 - VIOLENT CRIME

Pennsylvania State Police *Annual Uniform Crime Reports*. Produced by Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Research and Development. City of York Police Department *Uniform Crime Reports. Annual Estimates of Population for Incorporated Places in Pennsylvania* produced by U.S. Bureau of Census. (Violent crime statistics include murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.)

H.18 - PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDERS

Phone contact with York County Office of the Prothonotary.

H.19 - CASES OF CHILD ABUSE

The Pennsylvania Abstract, published by the Pennsylvania Data Center. 2001 data supplied by the York County Department of Children and Youth Services.

H.20 - ARRESTS FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Pennsylvania State Police *Annual Uniform Crime Reports*. Produced by Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Research and Development. City of York Police Department *Uniform Crime Reports. Annual Estimates of Population for Incorporated Places in Pennsylvania* produced by U.S. Bureau of Census.



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