

This report is presented to the community on behalf of the hundreds of York Countians who helped develop YorkCounts' vision of a unified and prosperous county and who continue to work on advancing the YorkCounts agenda. It is a self-assessment of community effort and progress to date that documents the status of issues and initiatives the community has said are most important to York County's future.

In 2001, YorkCounts published a report of 57 indicators selected to measure and reflect the quality of life in York County. Three years and countless volunteer hours later, YorkCounts identified a set of specific recommendations, or thoughtful ideas, about what we could do to make life better in York. This, YorkCounts' third major report, is a report of progress and trends -- an accounting of what we have done, where things stand, and how we will move forward from here.

PROGRESS

Since the YorkCounts action plan, *Charting A Brighter Future for All*, was released in February 2004, more than a dozen organizations have taken on significant roles in moving forward its recommendations. Some of those organizations have formed *compacts or engagements* with YorkCounts, agreeing to lead major new change initiatives and related projects. Others have focused their professional roles and responsibilities on projects that will set the stage for bigger efforts to follow -- efforts that will address specific YorkCounts priorities.

Compacts and Engagements -- Six projects and initiatives have gotten underway since early 2004, seeking to bring about real change in the way our systems address issues and deliver services:

- **Public Health** -- Healthy York County Coalition is leading an effort to assess public health services and the way they are delivered to our citizens and local governments. Its work will culminate with a recommendation on the feasibility and advisability of instituting a Public Health Department in York County.
- **Quality Education** -- Penn State York, in partnership with York College of Pennsylvania, is planning a county-wide education summit for fall 2006. It will bring together stakeholders from across the county to discuss how we can collaborate across school district lines and assure that all our children have access to a high quality education.
- **Economic Development** -- York County Economic Development Corporation is spearheading an effort to build a more competitive economic region by focusing the work of entities throughout the county around a common "play book" of economic development strategies and action steps. Its work is guided by a set of goals and objectives developed as part of the 2004 YorkCounts planning process.
- **Social Justice** -- York County Community Against Racism is studying the need and feasibility of a county-wide Human Relations Commission as a vehicle for promoting diversity and assuring social justice for all York County Citizens
- **Leadership and Diversity** -- Leadership York and York Jewish Community Center are collaborating on the development of a training program that will prepare York County educators to take a lead role in promoting diversity in their classrooms and communities.
- **Affordable Housing** -- Healthy York County Coalition is sponsoring a study that will document the current state of affordable housing in York County. It will provide valuable background data for the implementation phase of several 2004 YorkCounts recommendations.

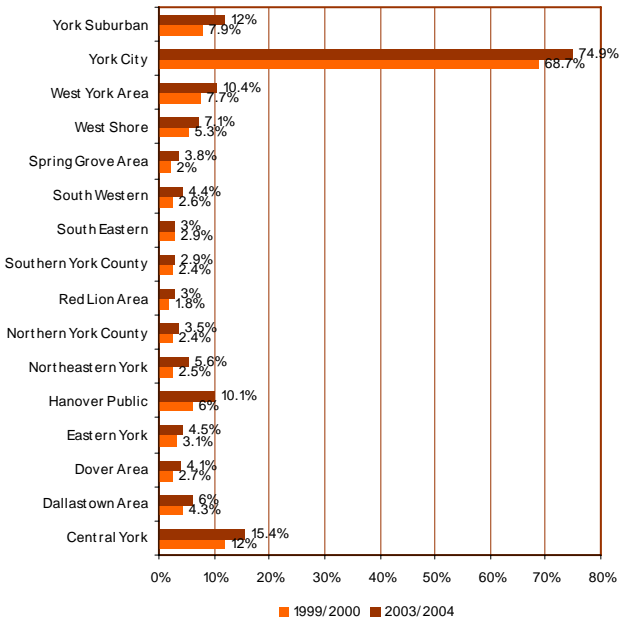
Professional Service -- A number of community organizations, institutions, and individuals are devoting valuable resources in broad support of the YorkCounts agenda. They are working on issues that range from workforce development to environmental protection, from urban renewal to regional cooperation. Their efforts are vitally important to keeping YorkCounts at the center of our community's agenda.

The complete *Progress and Trends* report identifies individuals who are playing a role in this first phase of YorkCounts' action plan implementation, and more fully documents their efforts and progress to date.

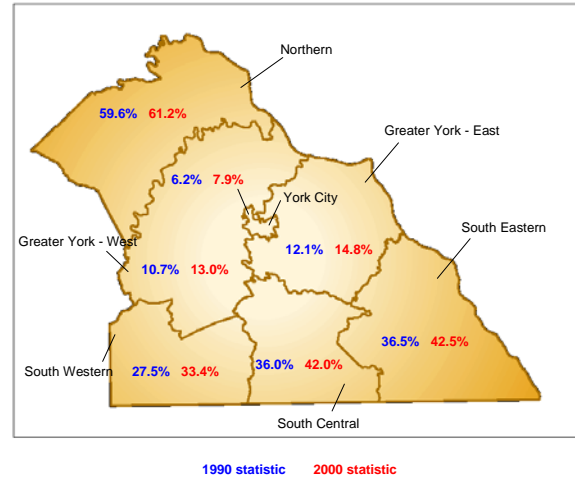
TRENDS

The *Progress and Trends* report provides the first comprehensive update of the 57 quality of life indicators first published by YorkCounts in 2001. The charts displayed below represent a sampling of the indicators YorkCounts is tracking. The full set can be found in Chapter 4 of the report.

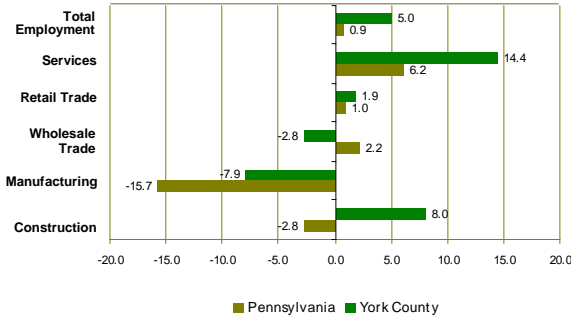
PERCENTAGE OF MINORITY STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT 1999/2000 vs. 2003/2004 SCHOOL YEAR



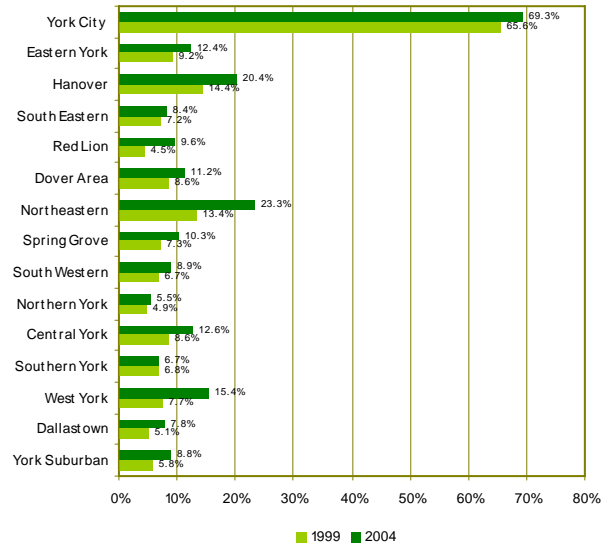
PERCENT OF WORKERS WHO WORK OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY, BY PLANNING REGION



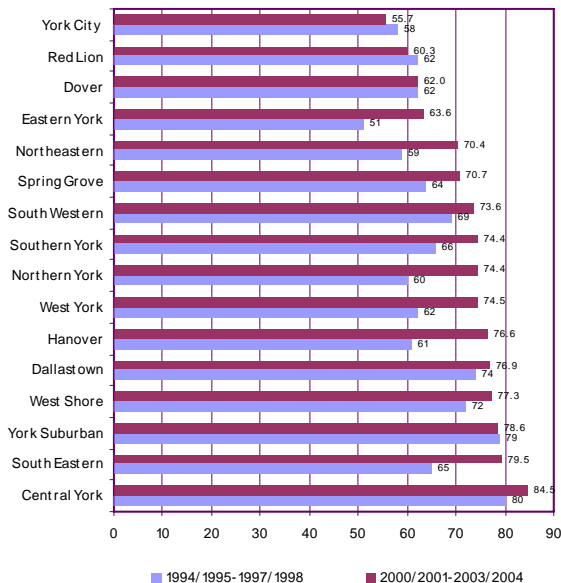
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT, 1999-2003 BY SELECTED INDUSTRIES



PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES



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



CHILDCARE FACILITIES

