



*Measure Up
Lancaster!*

Lancaster Community Indicators Project

Quality of Life Measures & Volume 2, 2003

This report was prepared by the Lancaster Community Indicators Project, an independent statistical and analytical collaborative effort of several service, civic, governmental, and educational organizations in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The information contained herein should not be construed as advocating or reflecting any policy position by Lancaster County or any other entity or organization. It has been collected to help measure the quality of life in the county.

The project has been funded through grants from the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners, Lancaster General Hospital, and Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The United Way of Lancaster has provided meeting facilities. Lancaster County Planning Commission, Lancaster Healthy Communities, and Franklin and Marshall College have provided in-kind staff support, and all participants have contributed many hours of support.



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Quality of Life Measures ∞ Vol 2. 2003

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2020 Vision for Lancaster County

Imagine . . . It's the year 2020, and Lancaster County is a diverse and multi-cultural community of neighbors who have joined together to create a high quality of life for all residents. Our county is a well-planned, healthy, and safe community where people are valued for their civic contributions and strong personal commitments to each other. Our children feel loved, nurtured, and protected. Suburban sprawl has been contained. Lancaster City is the hub of the county, and our small towns thrive with activity. There is a diversity of housing types, densities, and prices to accommodate all of our residents, anywhere in the county. Crime and violence are at an all-time low. Our history and heritage are valued by both residents and visitors alike. Communities are designed and constructed to reflect the character of our traditional neighborhoods. Our air and water are clean, and our woods, wetlands, and wildlife are protected. People walk and ride bikes along the county-wide network of trails and greenways, and public transit is easily accessible to all citizens. Our roads are safe and congestion-free. Education is high-quality and valued as a lifelong endeavor. Recreational, artistic, and cultural opportunities are abundant. Sustainable agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and services remain the foundations of our strong and diverse economy. Advanced technology is available to enhance all aspects of our daily lives. Our workforce is well-trained, well-educated, and well-paid. We enjoy a high level of physical and mental well-being. Problems are addressed effectively in our community through citizen involvement and collaborative efforts. Civic pride and volunteerism are commonplace. Neighboring communities regularly cooperate, plan, and work together on a regional basis. Our community decisions are made in the interest of the overall betterment of the community.

Introduction



The Lancaster Community Indicators Project was initiated in 1998 by several organizations that recognized the importance of establishing a valid, reliable method to measure progress toward community goals. “Imagine 2020”, the vision statement crafted by stakeholders of Lancaster Healthy Communities, which in turn was adopted by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners as the official vision statement of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, was used as the basis for what should be measured. The Lancaster Community Indicators Project (LCIP) is a collaborative effort of educational, service and governmental organizations from throughout the county.

This 2003 edition of *Measure Up Lancaster!* contains currently available data for each indicator. As complete data from resources becomes available, it will be included in subsequent reports. Individuals and/or groups that are aware of additional data sources should inform LCIP so that future reports can contain more complete data. The LCIP Quality of Life telephone survey, which collects primary data from residents of the county, will be conducted every five years.

This list of indicators informs the public about the continuing well-being of our community. A variety of organizations use the indicators to measure and report the effectiveness of their services. The 2001 edition of *Measure Up Lancaster!* was used in the classroom at Harrisburg Area Community College, the Charter School and Franklin and Marshall College. It was one of many resources used in programming

decisions made by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners, the Council on Domestic Violence, the Hourglass Foundation, the Junior League of Lancaster and others. The report was featured over time in the Lancaster New Era and can be found in our libraries.

Using indicators to measure progress is not a new idea. What is new is the way communities are using indicators to show connections between various aspects of community life. They help us explore how different pieces of our own community puzzle fit together. Across the country, cities and regions as diverse as Pasadena, CA, Boston, MA, St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN, Seattle, WA, Champlain, VT, and York, PA are measuring community well-being with indicator projects. *Measure Up Lancaster!* has been used by Lancaster Healthy Communities, The Lancaster County Planning Commission, Lancaster County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and other organizations in presentations on measurement systems. LCIP has been invited to be a presenter at the American Planning Association annual conference in April 2004.

What’s next? Indicators of community well-being change as our community evolves. This set of indicators will continue to be evaluated and refined through a process that will test its credibility with the community. We expect the next edition of *Measure Up Lancaster!* to follow mid-decennial Census reports and the update of the Lancaster County Growth Management Plan.

Who are Lancastrians?

Lancaster County General Profile 2000

470,658 Lancastrians, Including:

- 229,454 (48.8%) Men
- 241,204 (51.2%) Women
- 430,456 (91.5%) Whites
- 12,993 (2.8%) African Americans
- 681 (0.1%) Native Americans
- 6,960 (1.5%) Asian/Pacific Island Americans
- 13,669 (2.9%) Other
- 5,899 (1.3%) Mixed Race
- 26,742 (5.7%) Hispanic of Any Race
- 89,290 (33.8% over age 5) Live in Same House as 1995
- 55,112 (20.9% over age 5) Moved into Lancaster County Since 1995
- 172,560 Households, Average Size 2.64 Persons

Lancaster County Age Profile

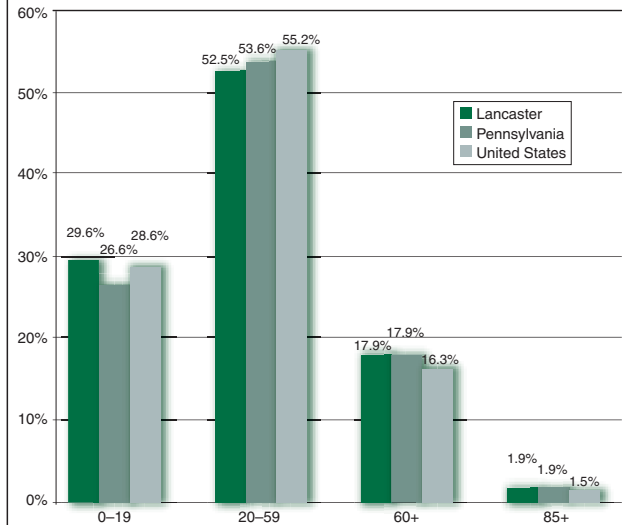
Lancastrians are both younger and older than the country as a whole.

- Median Age = 36.1 Years, but...
- More young people (age 19 and younger), as a percent of our total population
- More older people (age 60 and older) as a percent of our total population.

Relative number of our young people is even more pronounced when compared to the State of Pennsylvania.

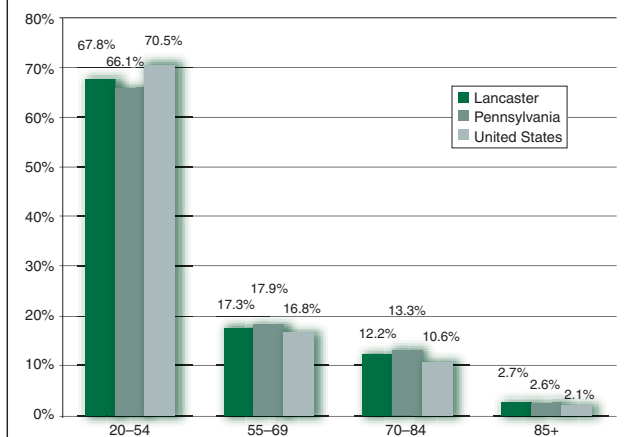
- Only three states (West Virginia, Florida and Maine) have a median age higher than Pennsylvania's 38.0.
- Only three counties (Centre, Union and Philadelphia) in Pennsylvania have a median age lower than Lancaster.
- Only one county (Monroe) has a greater percentage of residents under age 20 than Lancaster's 29.6%.
- Lancaster leads all counties in Pennsylvania in the relative size of its population in the age five and younger category (Lancaster = 6.9% v. Pennsylvania average of 5.9%).

Age Groups as Percentage of Total Population 2000



Source: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census 2000.

Age Groups as Percentage of Adult (20+) Population 2000



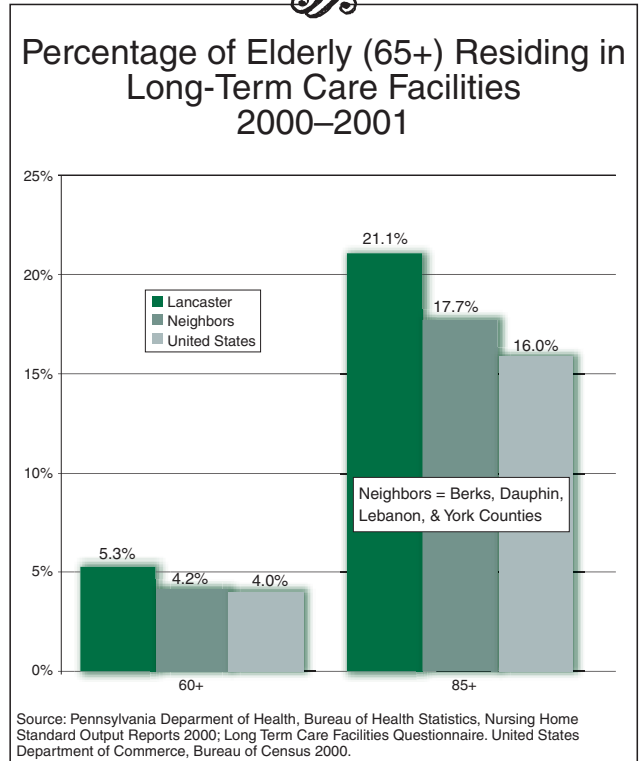
Source: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census 2000.

Lancaster County has 2% less residents age 60 or older when compared to Pennsylvania.

- In the age 85+ category Lancaster posts an equal 1.9% share of its population.
- When the age 20 and older population only is counted, Lancaster County and the State of Pennsylvania are older than the nation as a whole.

Older Lancastrians may be more “infirm” than the older population of the entire state.

- Elderly Lancastrians are more likely to live in a nursing home than in the state as a whole.
- 16% of the Pennsylvania’s 85+ population lives in a long term care facility,
- 21.1% of Lancastrians 85+ live in a long term care facility.
- Among Pennsylvania’s largest counties (23 with at least 3,000 persons age 85+), Lancaster County is number one in the percent who are residents of long term care facilities.
- Among 22 counties in Pennsylvania with at least 25,000 persons age 65 and older, Lancaster County leads in the percent living in nursing homes.
- About 3,500 Lancastrians age 65+ live in nursing homes.





*Lancaster Community
Indicators*

Lancaster Community Indicators

Following are the indicators as derived by consensus of the partners in the Lancaster Community Indicators Project, in collaboration with the Lancaster County community. They provide a snapshot of life in Lancaster County. The indicators have been divided into the six Focus Areas presented in the 1999 Policy Plan component of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

Each indicator includes a description of what it measures, as well as how it links to areas that are important to the overall health or quality of life of our community. Data sources or resources for each indicator are given.

- I. Protecting and Preserving Our Cultural and Natural Resources.
- II. Revitalizing Our Urban Communities
- III. Developing Livable Communities
- IV. Creating a Sustainable Economy
- V. Celebrating, Investing in, and Mobilizing the Talents of Our Human Resources
- VI. Promoting Strong Leadership, Awareness, Responsibility, and Involvement in Community Issues

I. Protecting and Preserving Our Natural and Cultural Resources

- ∞ Air Quality
- ∞ Protection and Preservation of Open Space
- ∞ Preservation of Historic Resources
- ∞ Water Quality
- ∞ Farmland Preservation
- ∞ Agricultural Heritage

Our heritage is a distinctive blend of natural and cultural resources. It includes some of the most fertile farmland in the world, a colonial heritage linked closely to the birth of our nation, and the rich culture and way of life of the Anabaptist communities. For many, this blend of resources is what makes Lancaster County a special place in which to live. It also is the keystone of our identity and a primary source of community pride.

If we are to maintain the quality of life that we enjoy today, we must protect and preserve the resources, characteristics, and amenities that make Lancaster County distinct from other communities.

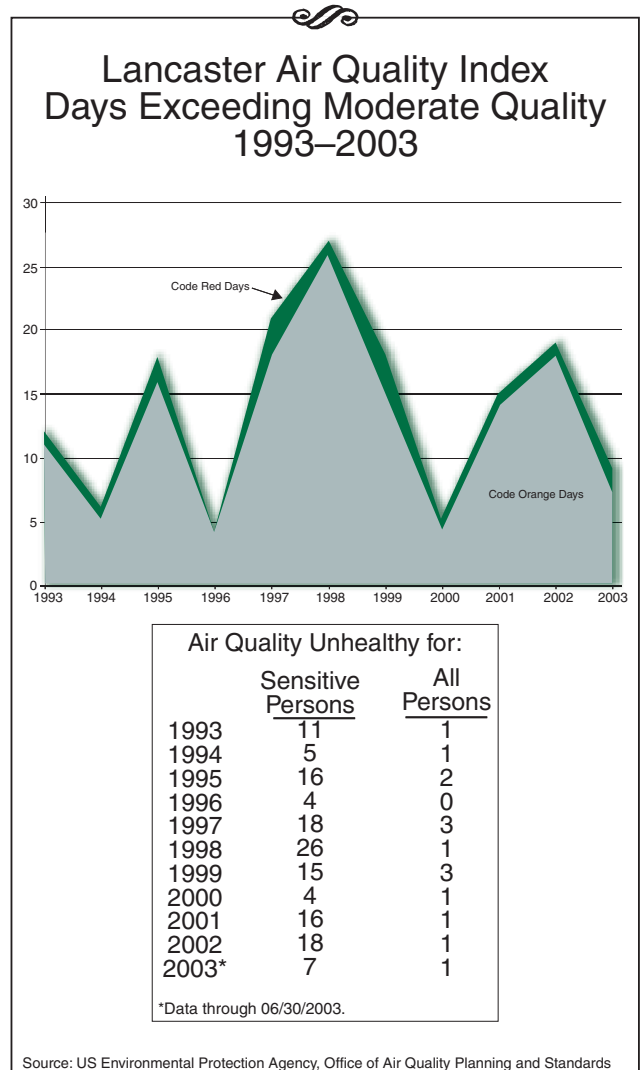
Air Quality

1. Total number of days annually that meet “Code Orange” standards for ground level ozone.
2. Total number of days annually that meet “Code Red” standards for ground level ozone.

The quality of the air has direct consequences on the environment and our physical health and well being. Poor air quality contributes to cardiac and respiratory illnesses that can affect work productivity and school attendance. It accounts for increases in emergency room visits. There are also economic consequences linked to air quality. Federal transportation funding may be reduced to areas that do not meet specific standards. Tougher vehicle inspection regulations and gasoline station controls may be introduced to help curb the amount of air pollution.

Ground level ozone, one of the key ingredients in smog, is an invisible pollutant that is formed when emissions from motor vehicles, industrial operations, paints and solvents, small gasoline engines, and common household products ‘bake’ in the hot sun. Emissions from vehicles idling in traffic on hot days are a prime factor in increased levels of ground level ozone in Lancaster County. This is reflective of increased traffic congestion and our reliance upon private automobiles.

We measure air quality based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s standardized Air Quality Index (AQI) and alert the general public via radio, television and newspapers when the levels become higher than acceptable for good health. The AQI measures pollutants (ozone) and particulate matter. During “ozone season” (May-September) the Susquehanna Valley Ozone Action Partnership forecasts Ozone Action Days when levels may exceed the AQI. The PA Department of Environmental Protection initiated year-round AQI forecasting in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas on October 1, 2003.



When “Code Orange” levels are forecasted, certain sensitive groups are advised to limit prolonged outdoor activity. This includes children, the elderly, and people with heart and respiratory ailments (asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis). “Code Red” days are those on which levels are so high that everyone should limit prolonged outdoor activity. Some geographic areas also forecast “Code Purple” days, during which sensitive groups should remain indoors in air-conditioned spaces, and others should limit vigorous outdoor activity to one hour, if possible. This is considered an extreme condition.

People contribute to ozone in ways they may not realize. Therefore it is important to be mindful of activities that may increase ozone levels during Code Red or Orange days. On Ozone Action Days residents should try to: carpool or take mass transit, refuel cars early or late in the day, avoid using gas powered lawn tools, avoid using oil based paint, and barbecue without starter fluid.

The Susquehanna Ozone Action Partnership, Red Rose Transit and Lancaster County Transportation Management Services (an affiliate of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry) promote the use of alternate modes of transportation on Ozone Action Days via the Share the Ride campaign. This effort has resulted in a database of possible car pool participants and grants that underwrite free bus coupons to participating area employers.

A monitor exceeds the 8 hour ozone standard when it records a average ground level ozone reading of 85 or more parts per billion (ppb) over an eight hour period. An eight hour reading of 85 to 104 ppb is Code Orange indicator. A reading of 105 to 124 is a Code Red indicator, while Code Purple readings exceed 124. The highest 8-hour reading ever recorded for Lancaster County was 121ppb in July 1997.

The American Lung Association’s *State of the Air: 2002* lists Lancaster County as having the fourth “dirtiest” air in Pennsylvania, and 65th out of 595 counties across the US. The “good” news is that Lancaster has dropped from being designated one of the dirtiest 25 counties in the US, having been ranked 20th in 2001 and 22nd in 2000.

Wet and cooler weather conditions contributed to 2003 being a below-average year for Ozone Action Days. Pennsylvania did experience some of its highest readings in a decade during a three-day period in late June 2003.

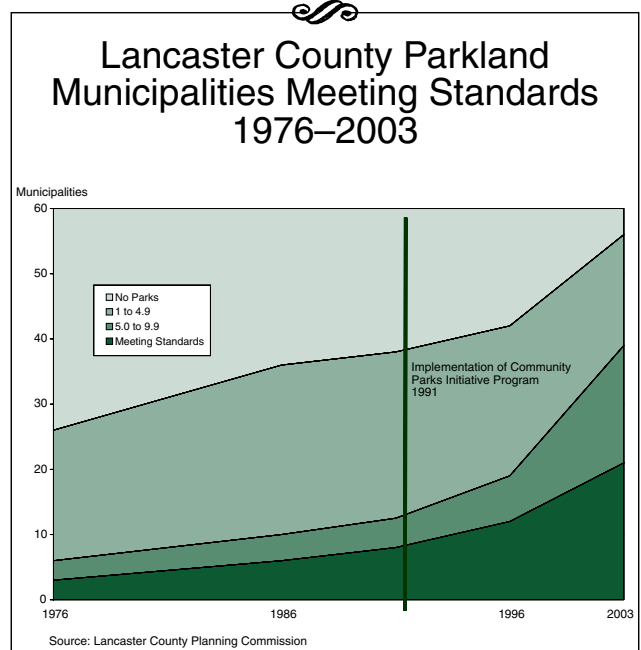
Protection & Preservation of Open Space

3. Total acres of parkland and open space permanently preserved.
4. Municipalities meeting or exceeding standards for publicly-owned parkland.

Open space is not farmland. It is that land that has been set aside for preservation of natural habitat or recreational use. Land in agricultural use is being used in the industry of farming.

Parkland and accessible open space ensure protection of the physical environment and can contribute to air and water quality. They preserve and enhance wildlife habitats, climate regulation, and soil conservation. The availability of publicly accessible parkland provides educational and recreational opportunities and contributes to the overall quality of life of our residents. Open space adds immeasurably to the character of our community and is an enticement for those moving to the area as well as an attraction for tourists. As our community continues to grow and change, it becomes increasingly important to preserve these resources.

Little of Lancaster County's open space is accessible to the public. Even less has been permanently protected by easement. Much of what residents consider public parks may be privately owned or even publicly owned but not preserved in easements for recreational use. Recent growth and development has added to residents' concern about the future availability of open space. The Lancaster County Regional Open Space Plan has identified the conservation and preservation of our natural resources as actions that must be taken. The plan establishes two goals: Providing a minimum of 5 acres of county-owned parkland per 1,000 residents; and another, providing a minimum of 10 acres of neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 residents in local municipalities.



In 1976, only three of the sixty Lancaster County municipalities met the standards adopted in the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan. Thirty-four municipalities had NO public parkland. In 1986, only six municipalities met the county standard, and twenty-four still had no public parkland. Since implementation of the Lancaster County Community Parks Initiative Grant Program in 1991, the number meeting the standard of 10 acres per 1,000 residents has increased to twenty-one in 2003, with only 4 municipalities having no parkland. This includes municipal and school-owned land.

Data pertaining to the number of acres in permanent easement is incomplete.

Preservation of Historic Resources

5. Percent of buildings identified as historic that are subject to review before modification or demolition.
6. Percent of buildings over 50 years old.

The built environment is an important part of a community's history and identity. Lancaster County's architectural heritage is part of what makes the county a distinctive place. The community is fortunate that many of its historic resources remain. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster conducted several surveys during the 1980's. The volunteers and interns who participated were able to identify 10,000 of these sites. This is the only study conducted in the county and remains incomplete. The actual number of sites in Lancaster County that meet guidelines for identification as "historic" is believed to be significantly greater than that. Because these resources have not been properly identified, they have not received adequate consideration in land use development. Seven municipalities have some type of review policy, four meeting current legal standards.

While identification and review of any proposed demolition and/or alteration does not guarantee preservation of a building, it is considered the minimum level of protection of these important assets. Preservation and reuse of historic buildings is one way to revitalize urban communities and limit "sprawl".

Resources must be at least fifty years old to be designated as "historic," using criteria established by the National Park Service. Not all resources can or should be preserved; however, adaptive reuse of existing buildings will help Lancaster County remain a distinctive place. Continuous expansion of the built environment results in sprawl, inefficient use of land and utilities, and decentralizes services and people. Abandoned and neglected buildings contribute to economic and physical blight, decrease values of neighboring properties, and create public safety issues. Awareness of conservation issues and the thoughtful reuse of existing resources can maintain or enhance property values and the municipal tax base as well as preserving the character of our community.

Lancaster County Historic Site Inventories

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Historic Sites Inventoried/Identified</u>
City of Lancaster	14,776
Strasburg Borough	260
Manheim Borough	820
Millersville Borough	600
	<u>15,856</u>

In addition: In 2003 Lancaster Township, Lititz Borough, and Christiana Borough were in the process of conducting inventories.

Source: Lancaster County Planning Commission.

According to Census 2000, over 27% of residential structures are over 50 years old. Data regarding the age of non-residential buildings in Lancaster County is considered incomplete and unreliable. Detailed information should become available as surveys are completed.

Data identifying resources fifty years or older is currently incomplete and difficult to quantify. Changes in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code enacted in 2000 have resulted in a new effort to gather this important information. The Lancaster County Planning Commission is providing technical assistance to municipalities to conduct surveys that update and complete any existing data, as well as updating and implementing review policies in accordance with enabling legislation. All collected data for the entire county will be maintained in a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) database.

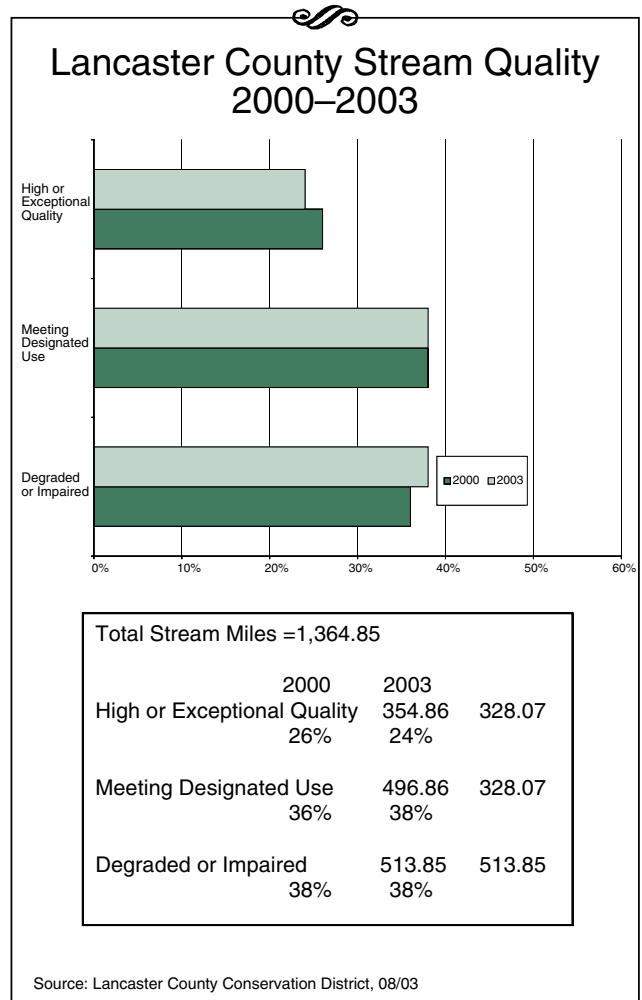
Water Quality

8. Percentage of county stream miles listed as “Impaired”, “High Quality” or “Exceptional Value”, or “Meeting Designated Use” designations.

Clean water is important to everyone. Human life and the natural environment can flourish only if it is present. It is a basic component of many businesses and industries. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has an ongoing program to assess the quality of the Commonwealth’s surface waters. Water body assessment and data evaluation is an ongoing process necessitated by the continuous land use variability within a given watershed. There are 1,364.85 miles of Lancaster County streams and rivers currently included in the DEP program.

The majority of degraded streams in Lancaster County are negatively impacted by “non-point source pollution” associated with agricultural activity. Residential, commercial, and industrial development also contribute, although to a lesser degree. Damaging “point source” discharges, such as water treatment plant effluent, are becoming rare due to regulatory oversight.

Section 305(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires that a list be maintained of any waters designated as “Impaired” in quality. Chapter 93, Title 23 of the Pennsylvania Code provided for designation as “High Quality” or “Exceptional Value” those streams in the commonwealth that meet predetermined standards of quality.



According to the Lancaster County Conservation District almost all streams in Lancaster County have been assessed. Any stream designated as “Meeting Designated Use” has been assessed as supporting its uses but is neither “impaired” nor is of “high or exceptional quality.”

Farmland Preservation

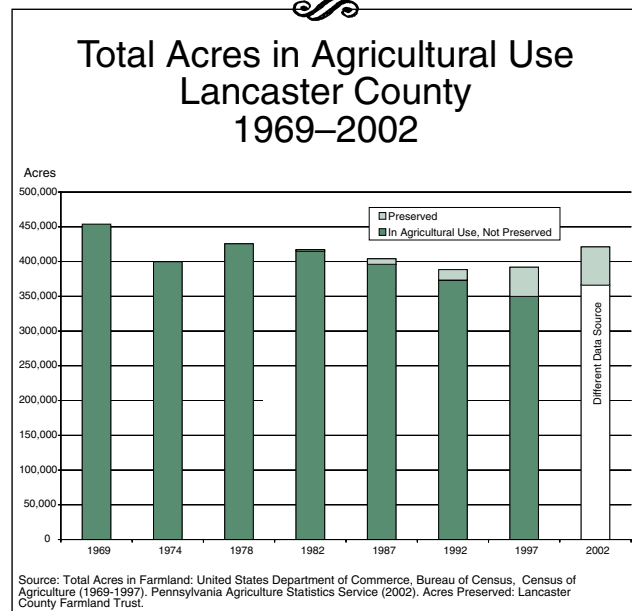
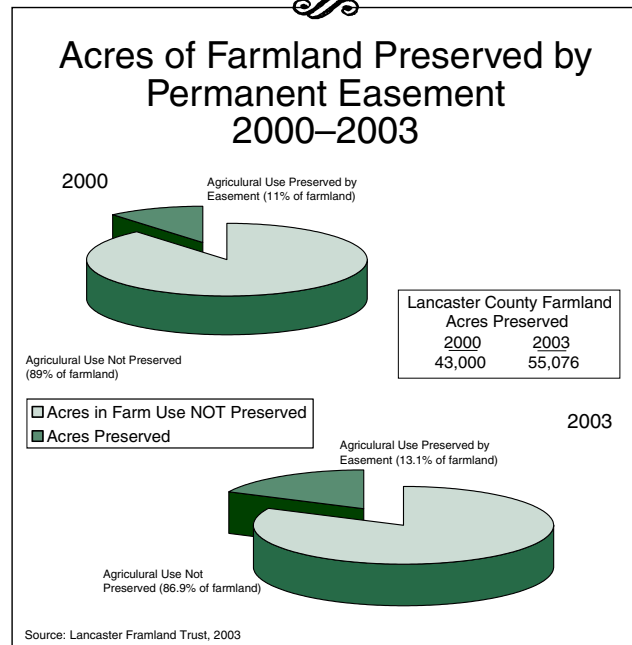


10. Total acres in agricultural use.

11. Total acres of agricultural land preserved by permanent easement.

Agriculture is an integral part of Lancaster's culture and its economy. Lancaster County is renowned worldwide for its highly productive, non-irrigated farmland. Agricultural output was valued at more than \$900 million in 1999. Fast paced growth and sprawl threatens the economic viability of farming. Preserving farmland supports efforts to direct growth into planned areas. As land values increase, municipal and school taxes based on property values increase. This threatens the economics of family farms, the heart of Lancaster's agricultural tradition. Our rural landscape is part of our heritage and is something we value. Preserving farmland protects this heritage for generations to come and ensures that farming will remain a part of our diverse economy.

Lancaster County land in agricultural use has decreased from over 450,000 acres in 1969 to approximately 391,000 acres in 1997. (Pennsylvania Agriculture Statistics Service estimates that figure to have risen to 421,000 acres in 2002). As of 2003, 55,076 acres were held in permanent easement by the Lancaster Farmland Trust, the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board, or the Brandywine Conservancy. Additionally, several municipalities budget capital funds for the purchase of easements in collaboration with these entities.



Agricultural Heritage

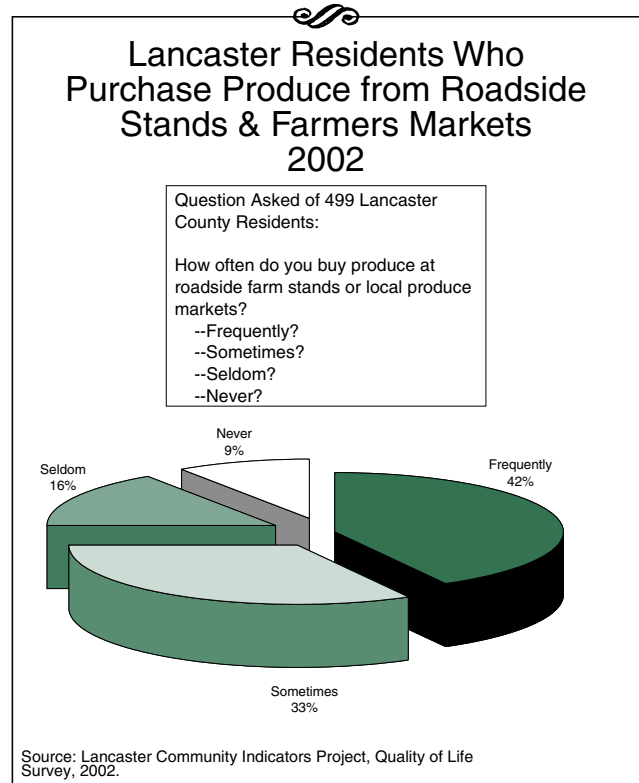
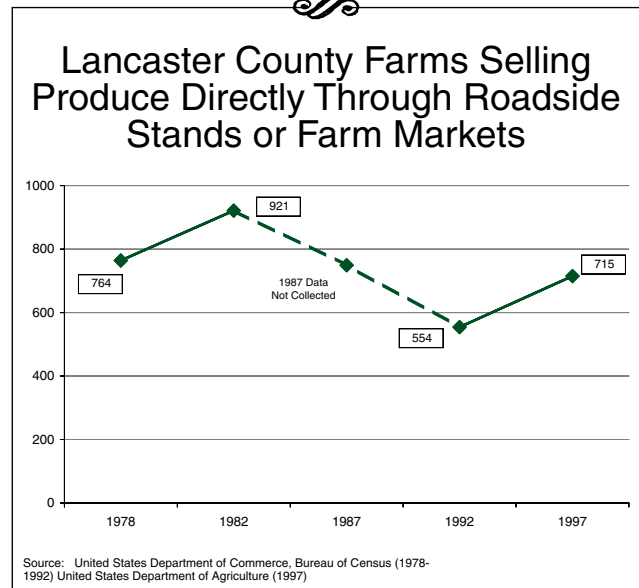
12. Total number of farms selling produce directly to the public at roadside stands and farmers markets.

12a. Residents who purchase produce from roadside stands and farmers markets.

Roadside stands and farmers markets are an important part of the rural economy. Their presence reflects the ready availability of fresh produce to Lancaster County's residents and visitors. Their significant numbers point to the vitality of the county's family farms. Unlike many other agricultural communities, the family owned and operated farm remains an integral part of the Lancaster County community. Many of these farms supplement their income by selling produce and home-made products at stands and markets. Lancaster residents have the opportunity to get their food directly from its source. This measure is a unique and important indicator of the sustainability of Lancaster's agricultural heritage.

The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years, indicates that since the 1970's the number of farms making direct sales for human consumption in Lancaster County has ranged from a high of 921 in 1982 to a low of 554 in 1992, with an average over the period since 1978 of approximately 740 farms. There is some suggestion in the data of a slight downtrend in the numbers: the 1978 and 1982 numbers are above the full-period average while the 1992 and 1997 figures are below it (no data was collected in the 1987 census). Data from the 2002 Census of Agriculture should become available in early 2004.

The Census of Agriculture also collects data for market value of direct sales. In 1992, Lancaster County's value of \$4,650,000 in direct sales ranked it number 1 in the nation. Direct sales of \$5,589,000 in 1997 earned a ranking of Number 3. Three neighboring counties, Berks, Chester and York, have also ranked in the top 25 counties in each of these years, but Lancaster is the clear leader, being one of only two United States counties to rank in the top 5 in both years.



II. Revitalizing Our Urban Communities

- ❧ **Building and Housing Safety**
- ❧ **Vacancy Rates**
- ❧ **Economic Stability**

Healthy, viable urban communities are wonderful places to live, visit, or do business. They are full of energy and flourish with life. They thrive with diversity, variety, and a multitude of activities like entertainment events, shopping, cultural celebrations, and social gatherings. These urban communities act like magnets, drawing people and attracting new businesses and institutions to locate within the community or within close proximity. They have pride, a strong identity, close neighborhoods, a sense of community, and active, involved, and well-informed citizenry.

Lancaster City and the boroughs of the county are our original “livable communities.” Revitalizing our urban communities is essential to the county’s growth management strategy and the future of Lancaster County.

Building and Housing Safety

15. Number of municipalities with housing codes and property maintenance codes.

16. Number of municipalities with housing or property maintenance code and enforcement officer(s).

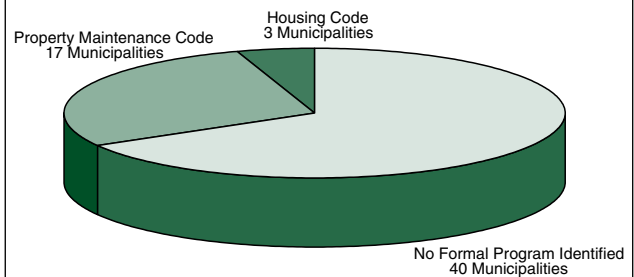
In 1999, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania adopted a state-wide building code. It is up to individual municipalities to adopt this code as a minimum standard and to enforce it. All of the sixty municipalities in Lancaster County are required to have some type of code and enforcement for new construction. However, in 2003, only twelve of those municipalities had building inspectors who did not share additional duties such as township clerk, road master or, quite frequently, zoning official.

Municipalities that enact and professionally enforce building codes are ensuring the safety of their residents, encouraging maintenance of the built environment, and reinforcing the economic sustainability of their communities. Building codes regulate specific standards that must be met in all new construction, renovation, or enlargement.

Housing codes specify features that must be included in all existing housing. Such codes ensure safe living conditions for residents. They help to stabilize the local tax base and keep insurance rates low. Housing codes are especially important in communities with older housing stock. In 2003, only three municipalities in Lancaster County had an enforceable code or Housing Authority.

Property maintenance codes may be less specific than housing codes, but also help to ensure safety, tax base stability, and lower insurance rates. According to a poll taken of municipal officials in 2003, only 17 municipalities in Lancaster County reported having any enforceable property maintenance code. At least two more were in the process of adopting a code. Each municipality enforced the code in a different way, some on a complaint basis, some on a regular inspection basis, some on sight and some on property transfer.

Lancaster County Municipalities with Housing or Maintenance Code & Enforcement 2003



Source: Poll of Lancaster Association of Township Officials, 2003.

Proper enforcement of building and housing codes requires extensive knowledge of the building profession as well as the codes themselves. Sharing these responsibilities with other municipal duties does not automatically mean that the person is not qualified. Small municipalities may not have the work load or funds to justify hiring separate individuals for each specific municipal office, but it may be difficult to find individuals qualified in multiple fields. Municipalities have the option to contract with private firms dedicated solely to inspections and/or enforcement.

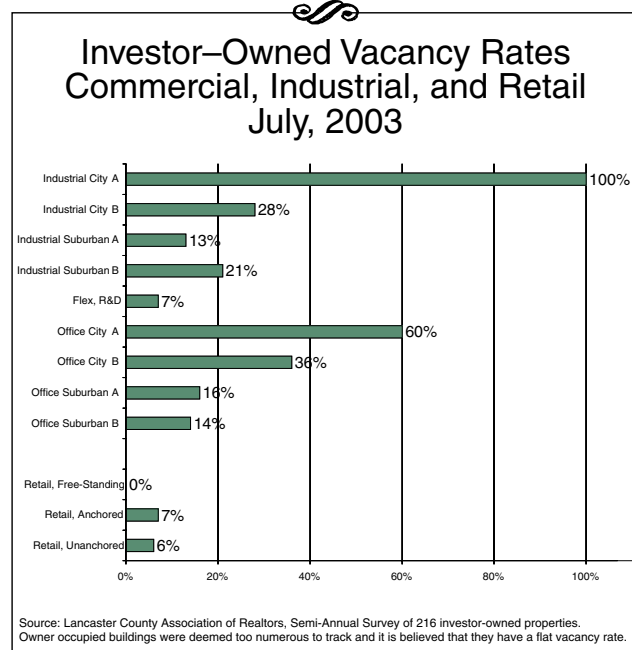
Vacancy Rates



17. Vacancy rates for retail, office, and manufacturing space.

Vacancy rates reflect the overall economic health of the community. They can illuminate trends in growth or decline. Vacancies affect surrounding property values, rental income, and a community's overall sense of well being, vitality, and safety.

By identifying surpluses or shortages of available space, we can better plan for land use development, public infrastructure, and services. We can better implement regional strategies for economic development and can identify where revitalization efforts are needed or new opportunities exist. Reuse of existing buildings preserves historic resources, discourages sprawl, and ensures efficient use of land and public services.



Industrial: Includes all classes of industrial space—warehouse & distribution, manufacturing, assembly, R&D, but not mini-storage. May include small office area.

Class A Suburban: Ceilings > 18 feet, must be modern one-story construction, excellent functional condition, with adequate docks and doors.

Class A City: Same, but may be located in more dense mixed-use area.

Class B Suburban: Older buildings, usually over 20 years, with ceilings < 18 feet, may have insufficient loading facilities, may not be heated.

Class B City: Excludes long vacant, functionally obsolete multi-story buildings targeted for redevelopment.

Flex Space: For lighter industrial use. At least 20-30% of building area is for office or retail usage.

Office: Includes all classes of office space except for flex, R&D, or offices space within an industrial building. Minimum 3,000 square feet.

Class A Suburban: Upscale, newer buildings, top quality construction & amenities, common lobby with elevator, designer fixtures & finishes.

Class A City: May include older buildings that have been substantially remodeled and upgraded to Class A.

Class B Suburban: Typical office building with basic construction and limited amenities, may not have elevators or ADA access, usually over 20 years old, older décor or partial renovations. No shared facilities except restrooms.

Class B City: Same as suburban, but may have additional functional obsolescence, ie: no parking, inability to expand.

Retail:

Freestanding: Single stores such as fast food, banks, restaurants and other out-parcels both within & outside of shopping centers under 10,000 square feet.

Retail, Shopping Center Anchored: Has large tenant such as grocery store, building supplier or discount store, of 40,000 square feet or more; in center of 50,000-200,000 square feet.

Retail, Shopping Center Unanchored: Largest tenant generally under 40,000 square feet, total size of center usually under 50,000 square feet.

Economic Stability

18. Change in real estate tax capacity status by municipality.
19. Tax capacity by land use type and municipality.

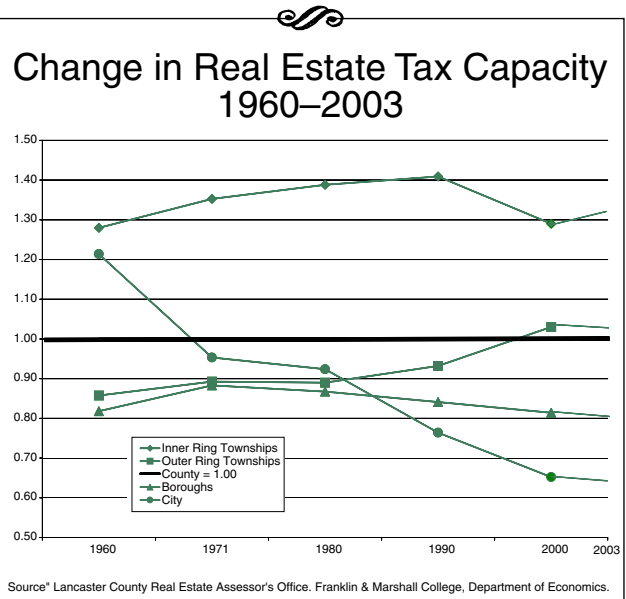
In the state of Pennsylvania, the major source of revenue for municipalities and school districts comes from taxes based on property values. Property values directly reflect the value of the built environment in a community and determine the level of taxes that can be raised by a community. They determine the capacity of a municipality or school district to fund and provide services. Values that increase or remain stable over time reflect a healthy economic and social environment. Decreasing property values reflect a lack of private interest or investment in the community.

As property values decrease, tax rates must increase in order to maintain the same level of services. This can result in more businesses and residents moving to where there are lower taxes—further weakening the tax base. Often, those residents and businesses that remain are those with the greatest need for public services. Disparities widen between older urban communities and wealthy suburban and rural communities. By examining the real estate tax in relation to the size of the population that must be served in a specific community, we see a clearer picture of what resources are available to fund public services.

Changes in an area's real estate tax base are complicated by accompanying changes in population, prices, and assessment practices. Between 1960 & 2000, Lancaster County's Real Estate Tax Base grew from approximately \$211 million to \$22.7 billion, an increase from about \$750 per resident to \$48,000 per resident.

Some properties are tax exempt; they are owned by entities that, as determined by state and federal laws, pay no property tax. This category may include schools, churches, libraries, museums, and service providers. This status decreases the tax base, thus increasing the amount of taxes paid per capita. In the City of Lancaster and some boroughs, the percentage of tax exempt properties has increased, while in the county as a whole, these properties have decreased from sixteen percent of the tax base in 1970 to ten percent in 2000.

A municipality's tax capacity is measured as taxable real estate valuation divided by population. Changes in a municipality's tax capacity can be compared relative to its neighbors by indexing that value to the overall countywide value (set equal to 1.00 in each observation year).



The first measure compares four types of municipalities as defined by the Franklin and Marshall Department of Economics: the City of Lancaster, the county's 18 boroughs, 6 "Inner Ring" townships (East Hempfield, East Lampeter, Lancaster, Manheim, Manor & West Lampeter Townships), and 35 "Outer Ring" townships, or those not included in the "Inner Ring".

The indicator shows that in 1960, the City of Lancaster and the "Inner Ring" townships enjoyed a superior tax capacity status. Since then, the city's status has deteriorated precipitously while the "Inner Ring" group has remained fairly consistent. The 18 boroughs have remained constant as well.

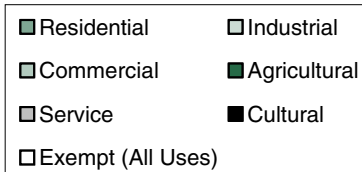
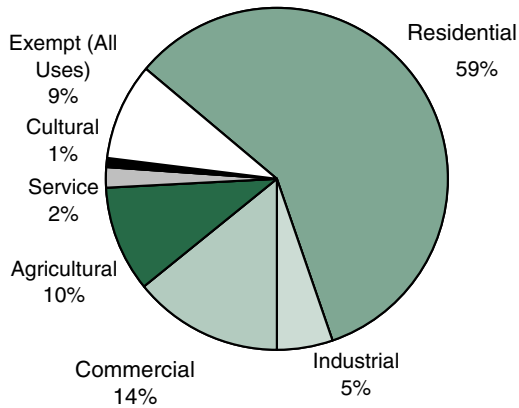
The second measure establishes "baseline values" by category of taxable real estate for Lancaster County as a whole and for each of the municipality types.

About two-thirds of Lancaster County taxable real estate is in the residential category. About half of the remaining one-third is in commercial real estate, followed by agriculture, industry, and service.

Lancaster City's tax base is disproportionately comprised of commercial, industrial, service and cultural activity. "Outer Ring" townships show the largest share for agriculture. The "Inner Ring" townships values are most similar to the county as a whole.

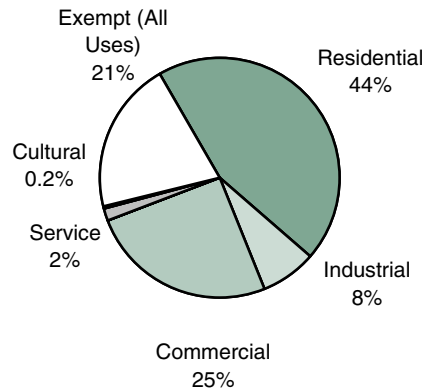
Tax Capacity by Land Use Type 2003

Lancaster County Total
 Total Value = \$27,461,674,084 (Per Capita = \$57,384)
 Taxable = \$24,916,969,084 (Per Capita = \$52,066)
 Exempt = \$2,544,705,000 (Per Capita = \$5,317)

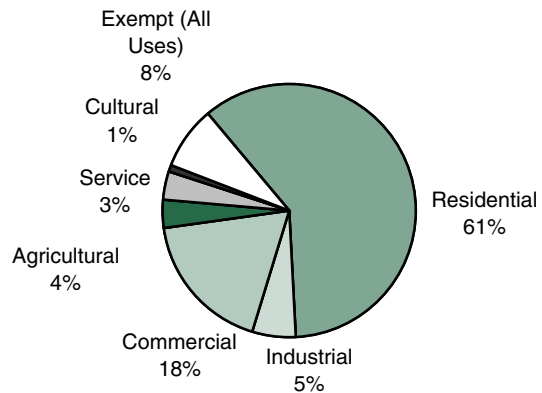


Source: Lancaster County Real Estate Tax Assessors Office, Franklin and Marshall College, Department of Economics

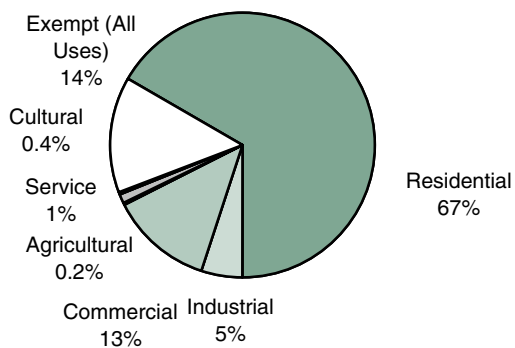
Lancaster City
 Total Value = \$2,262,031,900 (Per Capita = \$40,664)
 Taxable = \$1,795,534,600 (Per Capita = \$32,278)
 Exempt = \$466,497,300 (Per Capita = \$8,386)



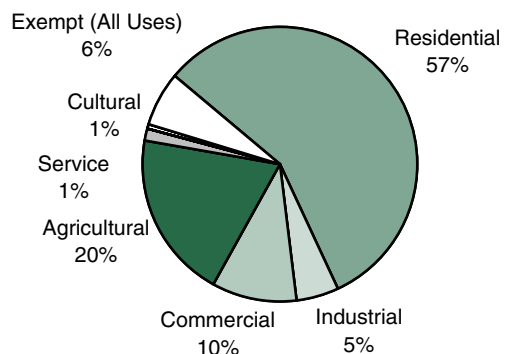
Inner Ring Townships
 Total Value = \$8,219,796,100 (Per Capita = \$71,426)
 Taxable = 7,554,292,500 (Per Capita = \$65,647)
 Exempt = \$665,099,600 (Per Capita = \$5,779)



Boroughs
 Total Value = (\$4,398,701,900 Per Capita = \$46,788)
 Taxable = \$3,778,707,500 (Per Capita = \$40,193)
 Exempt = \$619,994,400 (Per Capita = \$6,595)



Outer Ring Townships
 Total Value = \$12,581,144,184 (Per Capita = \$40,868)
 Taxable = \$11,788,030,484 (Per Capita = \$38,291)
 Exempt = \$79,311,700 (Per Capita = \$2,576)



III. Developing Livable Communities

- ❧ Growth Management
- ❧ Housing Affordability
- ❧ Personal Safety
- ❧ Transportation/Traffic Congestion
- ❧ Alternative Forms of Transportation
- ❧ Sheltered Housing
- ❧ Community Connectedness
- ❧ Socio-Economic Isolation
- ❧ Drinking Water Quality

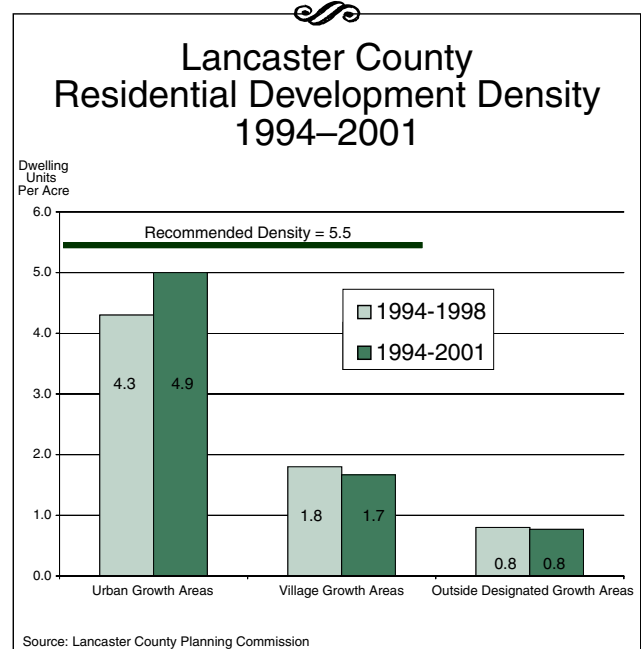
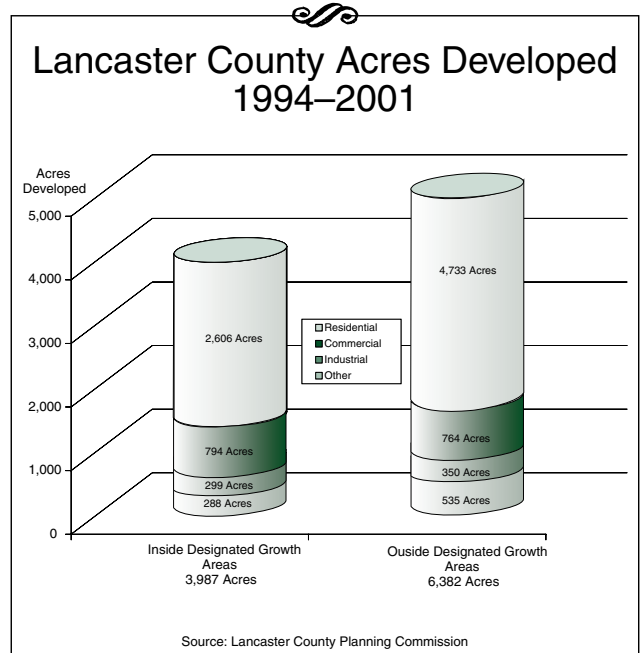
Livable communities are people-oriented places in which to live, work, shop, and play. They can be created in existing urban neighborhoods or in undeveloped suburban and rural growth areas. They have a mix of people from different generations, backgrounds, and income levels. They have compact neighborhoods with a blend of different houses that vary in size and type and a mix of shops, residences, civic buildings, and open spaces. Walking is encouraged, and streets are interconnected. This pattern of development enables people to interact, which helps create strong, safe neighborhoods and community pride.

Growth Management

- 20. Total acres developed inside v. outside Urban & Village Growth Areas.
- 21. Average density of new residential development inside Growth Areas.
- 22. Number of municipalities using consistent planning methods to implement Urban & Village Growth Areas.

The way we use our land impacts the quality of our air and water, our ability to travel from place to place, the type and availability of housing, the quantity and quality of jobs, the resiliency of our economy, and the stewardship of our resources.

Lancaster has adopted a countywide comprehensive land use plan to guide and manage growth and development. It uses the tools of Urban and Village Growth Areas to direct infrastructure expansion and development into specific areas close to traditional urban centers. The plan recommends an average density of 5.5 dwelling units per acre within these areas. Agricultural security areas are designated to ensure that land is reserved for farming. This lessens the negative impact on the agricultural industry by encouraging other types of development. Municipal comprehensive plans, supported by consistent tools such as zoning and subdivision ordinances, ensure that the vision of the community is carried forth for future generations to enjoy.



The Lancaster County Planning Commission (LCPC) maintains records of countywide development and development density. These findings are issued in an annual Growth Tracking Report.

The 2002 Report finds that there were 35,145 vacant and buildable acres for further development in Lancaster County Urban Growth Areas. The report finds that if development continues at current rates (456 acres/year) and density (4.9 dwellings/acre), it will take 57 years to develop 75% of the vacant buildable land inside Lancaster's designated Urban Growth Areas. (Note: not all land will be available for development).

Currently there are no adopted or established "standards" for identifying planning practices that would be consistent with good growth management. LCPC staff is developing a lexicon that will define uniform planning terms and methodology which will assist in developing such standards.



Lancaster County Planning Practices 2003

As of 2003:

- 23 Of 26 targeted Townships had adopted Urban Growth Areas. (8 of those also had adopted Village Growth Areas.)
- 4 Municipalities had adopted Village Growth Areas
- 12 Municipalities totally within designated growth areas had adopted resolutions supporting creation of Urban Growth areas.
- 39 Municipalities with some formal policy
- 21 Municipalities have NO formal policies

Source: Lancaster County Planning Commission



Housing Affordability

23. Housing Affordability Index by municipality.

23a. Household paying more than 30% of their income for housing expenses.

The ability to find suitable affordable housing ensures the safety and security of a household. Lack of affordable housing is considered one of the most significant social problems a community may face. When housing costs are too high, middle and lower income households have limited access to suitable housing. Geographic limitations on affordability lead to de facto segregation based on age, race, income level, and family type.

Affordable housing allows members of the household sufficient income to meet other needs and better enjoy a variety of social and cultural opportunities in the community. The availability of housing at different price ranges is a sign of a socially and economically diverse community, one in which the residents are treated equitably and are more able to share in a broad variety of community experiences.

A commonly used measure of housing affordability is the percent of households in a given area that pay more than 30 percent of total household income for rent or mortgage and other housing-related costs such as utilities. The higher

the percentage of households paying more than 30% of their income for housing, the less “affordable” is an area’s housing.

In 1980, 26% of all United States households paid more than thirty percent of their income for housing, but in Lancaster County only 17.9% of households were paying more than that percent. By 1990, both figures had risen, to 28.2% of United States households and 20.7% of Lancaster County households. In 2000, the figures were 28.7% nationally and 23.2% in Lancaster County.

This indicator is an inverted index of housing affordability for each of the county’s sixty municipalities using Census data. Setting the United States value of 28.7% as equal to 100, county municipalities are arranged into groupings centered on index values separated by 10 points. For each group, the municipalities are listed in descending order, with the percentage range given. The Housing Affordability Index does not take into account variables, such as homeowners who no longer have a mortgage or the length of time a homeowner has owned a particular property.

In 2000, more households throughout the county paid more than 30% of their income on housing than in 1990. Lancaster City residents, along with residents in Millersville Borough, and West Lampeter and Bart Townships, were least likely of other county residents and somewhat less likely than United States residents as a whole to find their housing “affordable”. Residents of the county’s other fifty-six municipalities were more likely to find affordable housing than were United States residents as a whole.

More Lancaster residents, both renters and homeowners, paid more than 30% of their income for housing in 2000 (23.2%) than in 1990 (20.7%). This is a larger increase than the rest of the United States which rose less than 1% from 1990 to 2000.

For a single wage earner to afford a two bedroom apartment in Lancaster County he/she would have to earn \$11.92 per hour (annual income of \$24,800), up from \$11.08 per hour in 1999.



Housing Affordability Index by Municipality Lancaster County 2000

Index Value	% Households Paying > 30% Income	Municipalities (Change in % since 1990)
120	34	Lancaster City (3%)
111	32	West Lampeter Township (8%)
109-100	31-29	Bart Township (15%) United States 28.7% (1%) Quarryville Borough (8%) Millersville Borough (5%)
98-89	28-26	West Donegal Township (15%) East Drumore Township (11%) Pennsylvania (2.0%) Ephrata Borough (-1%) Lititz Borough (7%) Lancaster Township (5%) Columbia Borough (4%) Salisbury Township (9%) New Holland Borough (8%)
88-79	25-23	Little Britain Township (6%) Martic Township (12%) Eliabethtown Borough (2%) Sadsbury Township (4%) Manheim Borough (4%) Lancaster County 23.29% (3%) Earl Township (7%) Fulton Township (-2%) Adamstown Borough (1%) Penn Township (7%) Colerain Township (11%) Marietta Borough (2%) Strasburg Borough (2%) East Lampeter Township (4%)
78-69	22-20	Paradise Township (8%) Conoy Township (6%) Upper Leacock Township (2%) Manor Township (4%) Manheim Township (2%) Denver Borough (1%) Providence Township (-4%) West Hempfield Township (1%) Mount Joy Borough (-1%) Drumore Township (0%) East Hempfield Township (2%) Brecknock Township (8%)
68-59	19-17	West Cocalico Township (-2%) Christiana Borough (0%) Mount Joy Township (5%) Mountville Borough (3%) Clay Township (3%) Akron Borough (2%) Pequea Township (2%) Warwick Township (4%) Ephrata Township (-1%) Caernarvon Township (3%) Conestoga Township (5%) Leacock Township (4%) East Earl Township (2%) Terre Hill Borough (3%) East Donegal Township (0%) East Cocalico Township (1%) Eden Township (-4%)
45	13	Rapho Township (0%) Strasburg Township (-6%) Elizabeth Township (-12%) West Earl Township (-2%) East Petersburg Borough (3%)

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Census of Population 1990, 2000.



Personal Safety

24. Percentage of persons who feel safe walking at night in their neighborhood.

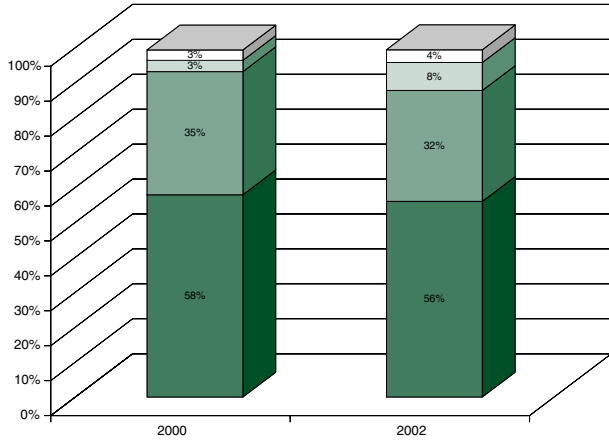
25. Violent crime statistics (e.g. murder/rape/assault) for adult and juvenile offenders.

Personal safety can be determined as much by individual perception as well as statistical crime data. Records of reported crimes are a factual measure of the safety of the community. A high crime rate, or the perception of one, affects our physical and mental health. There is a correlation between feelings of safety and understanding of the role of police. Feelings of a lack of safety impact community involvement and cohesiveness. They can create economic disinvestment and degrade the quality of housing and education. They destroy our sense of community and undermine our educational opportunities and economy. They impede our ability to act as neighbors. Domestic violence, date rape, child abuse, and violent crimes related to the sale of drugs have long-lasting impacts. Any crime involving children can have long-lasting repercussions. This is a reflection of the strength of families, schools and community, and the general welfare of children and youth.

Arrest rates are not the same as crime rates. The first indicator examines the rate of all reported violent crimes per 100,000 of the total population for Pennsylvania and Lancaster County. The second measure examines the total number of persons actually arrested per 100,000 population. It also examines the number of juveniles arrested per 100,000 of the juvenile population.

The Lancaster Community Indicators Project conducted a survey of 500 county residents in 2002 on multiple issues related to Quality of Life. The survey found that 56% of all county residents felt “very safe” walking in their neighborhood at night, while 12% felt “not too safe” or “not safe at all”.

Lancaster County Residents Who Feel Safe Walking at Night 2000–2002



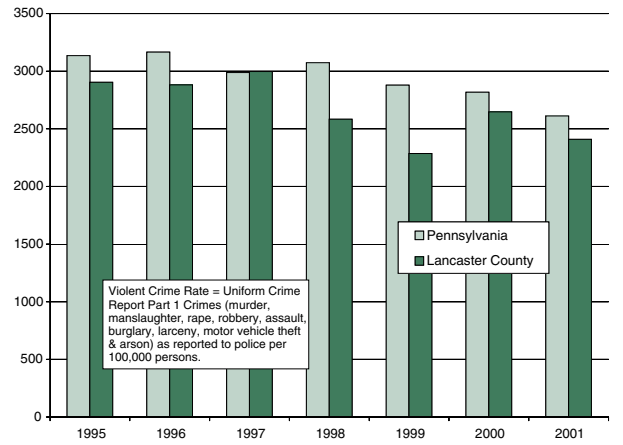
Question asked of 500 Lancaster Residents:

Generally, how safe would you say you and your family are from crime...When walking in your neighborhood after dark?

- Not safe at all
- Not too safe
- Somewhat safe
- Very Safe

Source: Lancaster Community Indicators Project, Quality of Life Survey, 2000 & 2002.

Violent Crime Rate Reported Offenses per 100,000 Persons 1995–2001

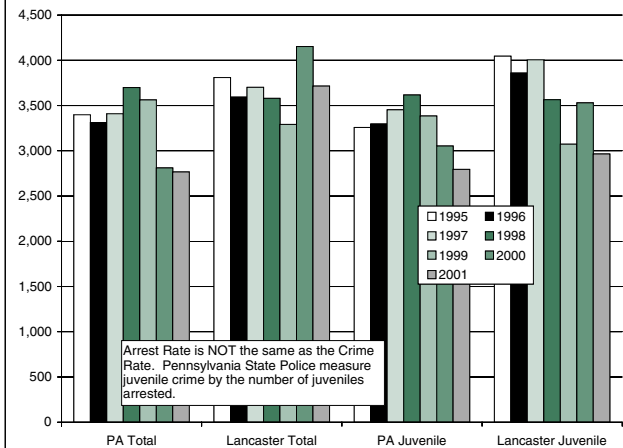


Violent Crime Rate = Uniform Crime Report Part 1 Crimes (murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft & arson) as reported to police per 100,000 persons.

Source: Bureau of Research and Development, Pennsylvania State Police

The rate of Violent Crimes actually committed and reported in Lancaster County was lower than for all Pennsylvania in 1995-2001. From 1995-1999, the Arrest Rate for all crimes in Lancaster fluctuated from a high of 4,152 in 2000 to a low of 3,290 in 1999, but reflected a general decrease. The Juvenile Arrest Rate peaked at 4,045 in 1995 but fell to 2,965 in 2001.

Arrest Rates Total & Juvenile Offenders per 100,000 Persons/Juveniles 1995–2001



Arrest Rate is NOT the same as the Crime Rate. Pennsylvania State Police measure juvenile crime by the number of juveniles arrested.

Source: Bureau of Research and Development, Pennsylvania State Police

Transportation/Traffic Congestion

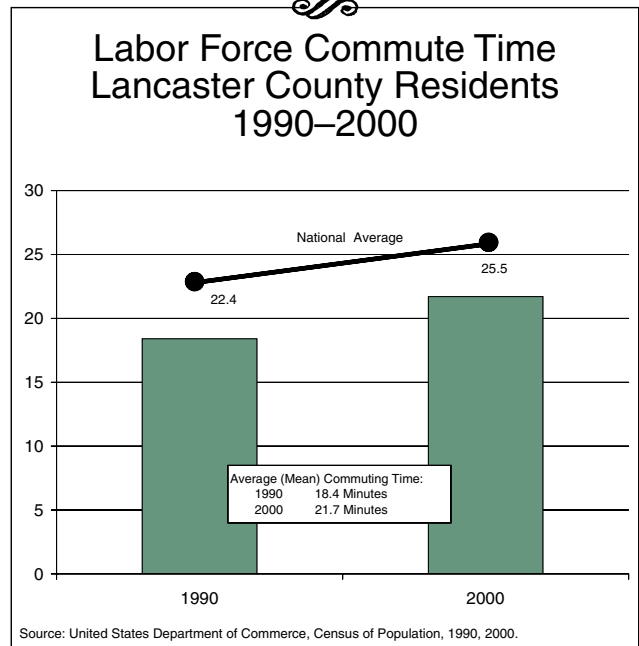
- 26. Average time spent in daily “commute” from home to work.
- 27. Ratio of registered vehicles to public road mileage.

The ability to travel on county roads is of personal, environmental, and economic significance. Time spent sitting on congested roadways impacts our personal freedom. It impacts the movement of goods and services and may impact their cost to the consumer.

Gasoline-fueled vehicles create air and water pollution, particularly when traffic is congested. Lengthy commuting times are being linked to an increase in the number of registered vehicles. While the total miles of roadway has been relatively constant, more vehicles are using these roads.

An increased amount of time spent traveling reflects a growing dependence on non-renewable natural resources, an increased amount of time allocated to a stressful activity, an increase of traffic congestion on our roadways, less time spent with family and friends, and an increase in the distance between our homes and places of work. It indicates an increase in suburban sprawl and a declining ability to work, live, and go to school within a neighborhood where one can walk or bike.

Only two major new roadways (Route 23 between Chestnut Street and US 30 and Good Drive) have been constructed in Lancaster County since 1985. During the same time period, the number of registered vehicles has grown faster than the population, and the number of daily vehicle miles traveled has increased even more.



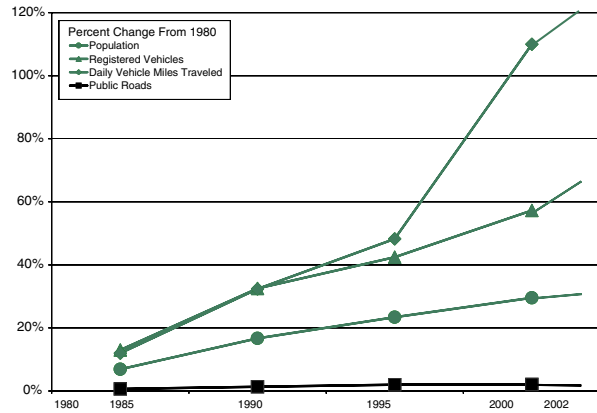
Year	Registered Vehicles	Public Road Miles	Ratio
1980	252,311	3,725	67.73
1985	285,188	3,750	76.05
1990	334,388	3,775	88.58
1995	359,393	3,800	94.58
2000	396,847	3,803	104.35

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

The U.S. Department of Commerce conducts a census of the population every ten years that includes data on commuting methods and length of time and vehicle miles traveled. They estimate county population changes during interim years. The Pennsylvania Department of Motor Vehicles maintains records on all licensed vehicles. The Lancaster County Planning Commission has records of mileage of public roadways in the county. Data compiled since 1980 shows significant increases in the number of registered vehicles and daily miles traveled by Lancaster residents, while the number of road miles has remained constant.

The 2000 Census of Population found that the average commute time (one way) in Lancaster County was 21.7 minutes, an 18% increase over 1990.

Lancaster County Traffic Congestion 1980–2002



The 2001 Lancaster County Congestion Management Systems Report defines congestion as, "the level at which transportation system performance is no longer acceptable due to traffic build-up or interference. The level of acceptable system performance may vary by type of transportation facility, geographical location, and/or time of day."

Resources: Population; United States Department of Commerce, Census of Population. Daily Vehicle Miles, Registered Vehicles, Road Miles; PA Department of Transportation.

Alternative Forms of Transportation

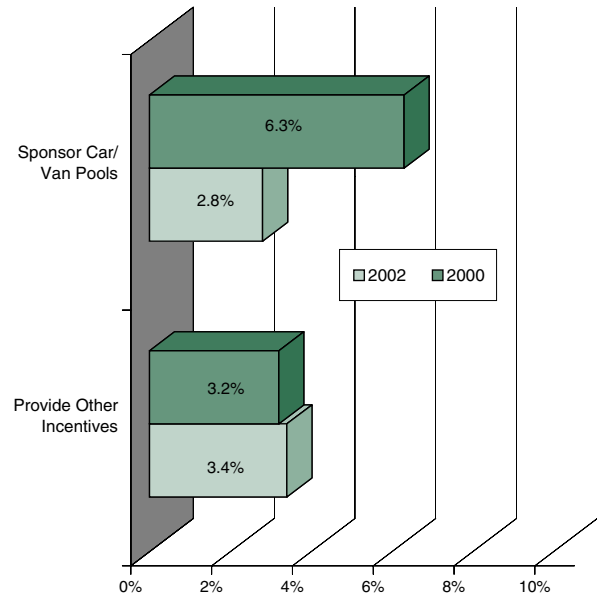
- 28. Percentage of employers with van or car pool incentives or programs.
- 29. Percentage of persons commuting to work alone.

Not all areas of Lancaster County are served by public transportation. Our primary method of transportation is the private vehicle in which there is generally one occupant. Carpooling can significantly reduce traffic counts and pollutants in the air and can significantly decrease traffic congestion, road maintenance, and travel delays. Larger car pools and van pools would be even more beneficial. Employers who provide carpool programs help educate employees about the short and long-term consequences of increased traffic. Employers with financial or other incentives for employees who car or van pool encourage even greater improvements in the environment, quality of life, and employee productivity.

The United States Department of Commerce Census of Population 2000 determined that 82% of Lancaster County workers commuted to their workplace ALONE in a private vehicle, compared to 79% of workers in 1990. While the percentage of county residents who use public transportation remained constant at 13%, the percentage of residents who carpoled decreased from 13% in 1990 to 11% in 2000.

In 1990, 50% of Lancaster City residents 16 and older who had jobs worked in the City, while in 2000, only 42.5% still worked in the City. In both 1990 and 2000, only 21% of those residents who lived outside Lancaster City worked in the same municipality where they lived.

Lancaster County Employer Incentives to Lessen Traffic Congestion 2000–2002



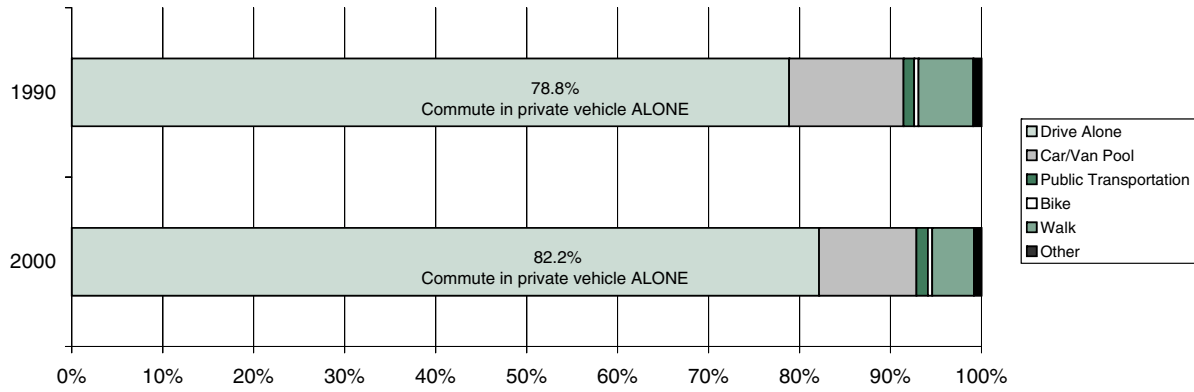
Question asked of 500 Lancaster Residents:

- Does your employer provide incentives for you to use a car or van pool when commuting to work?
 - Yes
 - No
- Does your employer provide incentives or transit passes for you to use public transportation such as the bus, train or taxi?
 - Yes
 - No

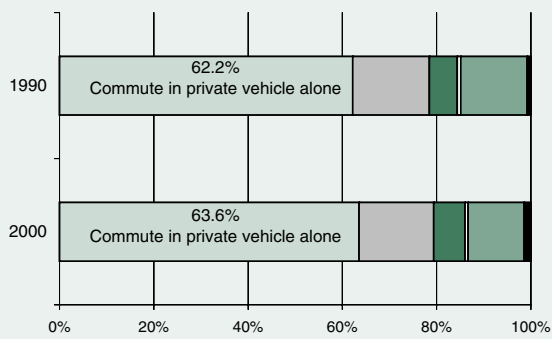
Source: Lancaster Community Indicators Project, Quality of Life Survey, 2000 & 2002.

According to the Quality of Life Survey conducted in 2002 by the Lancaster Community Indicators Project, only 3.4% of employers provide any incentive to encourage workers to use alternative forms of transportation. In June 2003, the RIDE PRIDE Program was introduced, allowing workers to access a database of others wishing to carpool. RIDE PRIDE is a joint effort of Lancaster County, Lancaster Chamber of Business and Industry, and Red Rose Transit Authority.

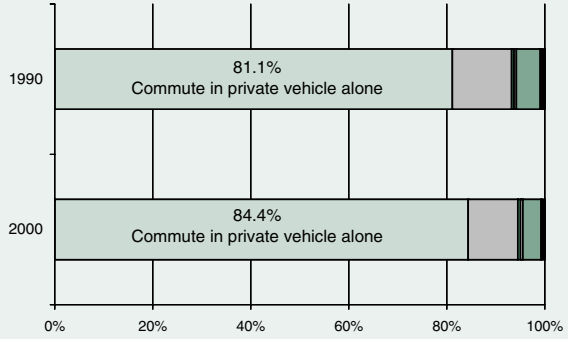
Transportation to Work Place Lancaster County 1990–2000



City Residents



Non-City Residents



Source: United States Census of Population, 1990, 2000.

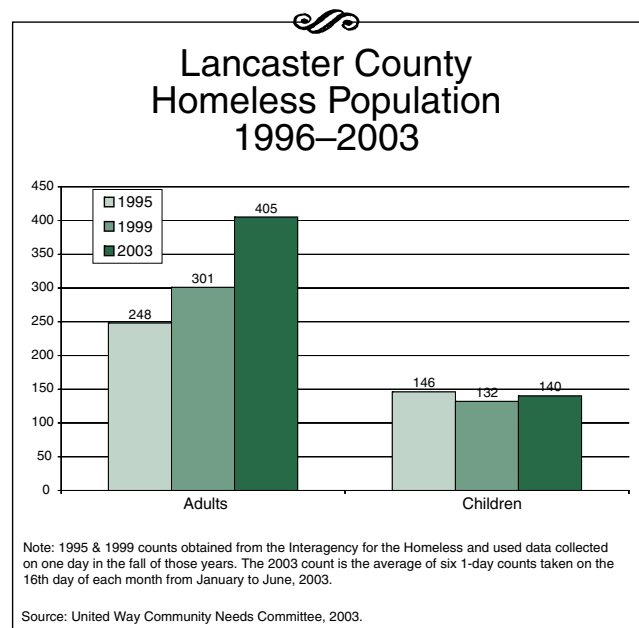
Sheltered Housing

- 30. Number of persons living in homeless shelters.
- 31. Number of those persons who are children.
- 32. Number of those persons who are employed.

Homelessness is a complex problem. It can be temporary or chronic. Many of the homeless have problems with drug or alcohol abuse. Some are veterans; some have mental illness; some are victims of domestic violence. For purposes of this indicator, homelessness refers only to those people living in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities. It does not include those people who live on the street, in their cars, or those who “double up” with family and friends. When thinking about homelessness, most people think of those in emergency shelters, often seen in the news media, when there are many others without a permanent residence who are difficult to identify.

Obtaining exact numbers of homeless people challenges service providers and planners. Locally, homeless shelters take periodic counts. Data that is collected often is neither consistent nor comparable. The Interagency Council for the Homeless issued reports in 1998, 1999 and 2000 that provided data collected from local shelters, however, it was not collected in a uniform method. They found that in a one day count on October 23, 1998, a total of 108 people, or approximately 40% of adults, in the shelter system were employed. Employment data was not collected in the one day count for 1999, but a review of six month’s data in 1999 showed that 45% were employed. The 2000 one day count also did not collect employment data, but a review of one year’s worth of data showed that 54% of homeless adults were employed. There were no surveys in 2001 and 2002.

The United Way of Lancaster County Community Needs Committee currently is preparing a study on homelessness in Lancaster County. They began maintaining numbers of sheltered persons in 2003. Lancaster County also has begun collecting data through the Homeless Management Information Center. More accurate and comparable data should be available in the future.



One of the most challenging problems faced by the homeless is the ability to find and afford permanent housing. Market rents are rising at a faster rate than income levels, and the number of “affordable” housing units continues to decline. While many of the homeless may be employed, they may not earn anywhere near that amount needed to afford a median priced apartment.

Community Connectedness



33. Percentage of county residents who know their near-by neighbors.

33a. Percentage of county residents comfortable borrowing a tool from a neighbor.

The quality of life in any community depends on a large variety of factors that can be quantified by statistics. An important and too often over-looked factor is how people feel about where they live—their sense of community. A basic step in feeling a sense of community is knowing and interacting with immediate neighbors. It can help people feel safe if they are looking out for someone and if someone is looking out for them. It helps people to feel a part of the larger community and understand their power to affect change. People who feel they “belong” are healthier, more active, and are willing to work cooperatively to prevent and solve community problems.

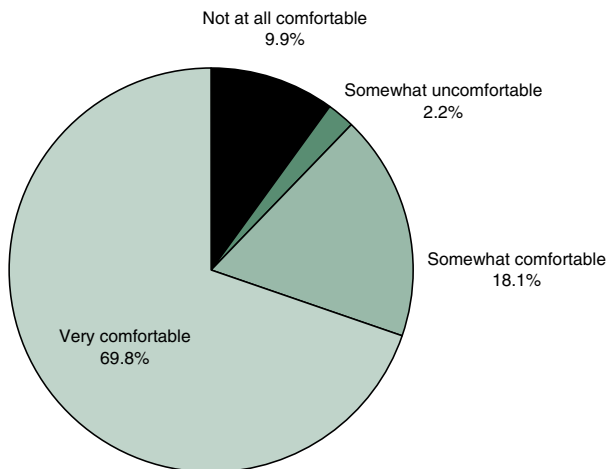


Community Connectedness 2002

Question asked of 500 Lancaster Residents:

Thinking about the neighbor you are most familiar with, how comfortable would you be borrowing one of their tools? Would you say:

- Very comfortable
- Somewhat comfortable
- Somewhat uncomfortable
- Not at all comfortable



Source: Lancaster Community Indicators Project, Quality of Life Survey 2002.

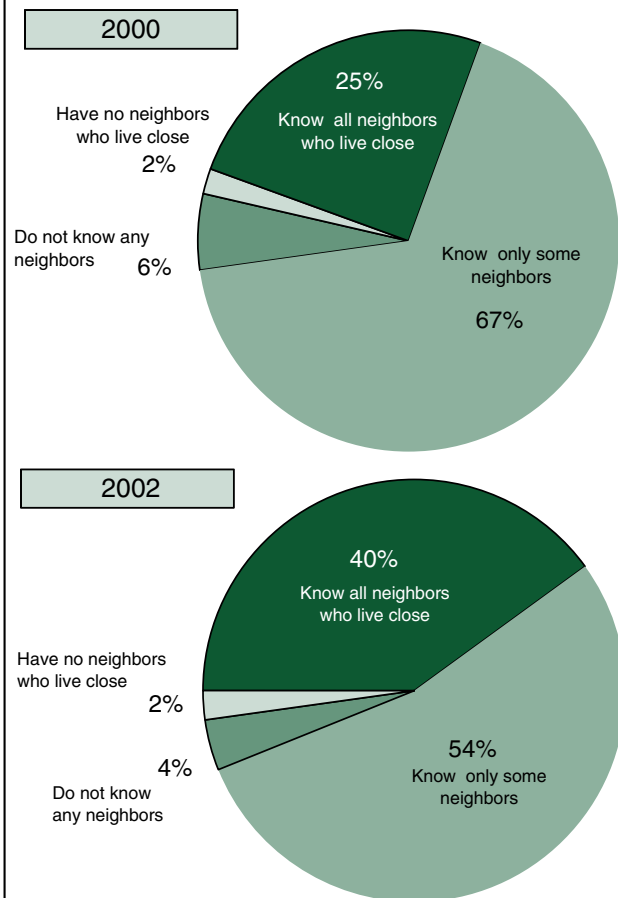


Community Connectedness 2000–2002

Question asked of Lancaster Residents:

How would you describe your level of familiarity with the neighbors who live close to you? Would you say you:

- Know them all
- Only know some
- Don't know any of your neighbors
- Don't have neighbors who live close



Source: Lancaster Community Indicators Project, Quality of Life Survey; 2000, 2002

The Lancaster Community Indicators Project conducted a survey of 500 county residents in August 2002 on multiple issues related to Quality of Life. The survey found that 54.7% of respondents knew only some of their neighbors

while 40% knew all their neighbors. Eighty-eight percent indicated that they would feel very or somewhat comfortable borrowing a tool from those neighbors.

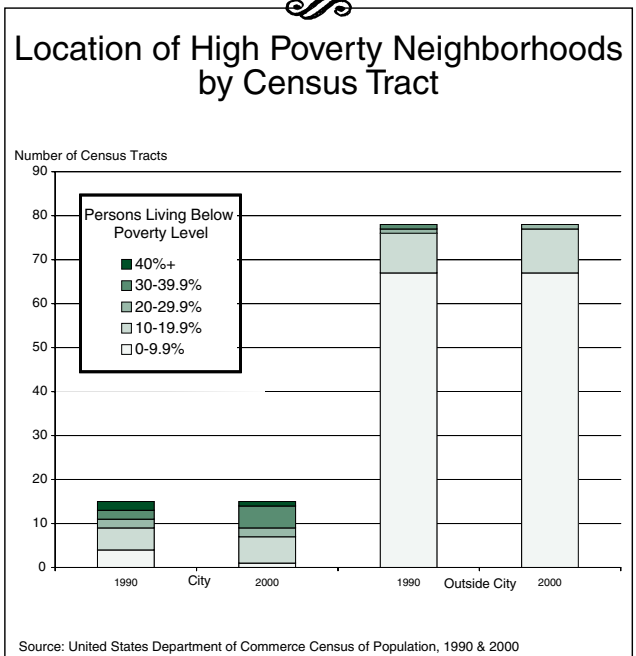
Socio-Economic Isolation

34. Number and location of High Poverty Neighborhoods in Lancaster County (Census Tracts with a poverty rate of 40% or greater).
35. Poverty rates by race, ethnic origin, and age.

The existence and the increase in the number of high poverty neighborhoods throughout the nation, and, in particular, Lancaster County, is of great concern. When poverty is concentrated in small areas, there are feelings of isolation and disenfranchisement. Social and economic hardships are more intense and more difficult to escape. Isolation of wealth contributes to misunderstanding and alienation.

As neighborhoods become dominated by poverty and segregation, they become isolated. Individuals, particularly children, are deprived of local successful role models and connections to opportunities outside of the neighborhood. Individuals who live in concentrated poverty are far more likely to drop out of high school, to have employment difficulties, and to become pregnant as teenagers, than are their counterparts in socio-economically-mixed neighborhoods. Most experts recognize that children living in these neighborhoods are at

heightened risks for failures across all sectors of their lives: physical, educational, social, psychological, and economic.



The 1990 Census revealed that two Lancaster City census tracts showed poverty rates exceeding 40%, up from one in both the 1980 and 1970 Census. In 1999 (Census 2000), only one tract stood above the 40% threshold. The poverty rate for the city of Lancaster increased from 20.9% to 21.2% between 1989 and 1999, while the county's poverty rate fell over the same period from 8% to 7.8%.

As was true ten years earlier in the 1990 Census, in 1999 the county's children were more likely to be poor than were its adults, although the gap narrowed somewhat over the decade. The county's older population saw its poverty rate cut during the 1990s; unlike ten years earlier, in 1999 persons 65 and older had a poverty rate below the county's overall rate.

Hispanic residents of Lancaster County were better off in 2000 than 10 years earlier; the poverty rate among Hispanics fell from 38% to 27.9%. Lancaster County Hispanic residents are

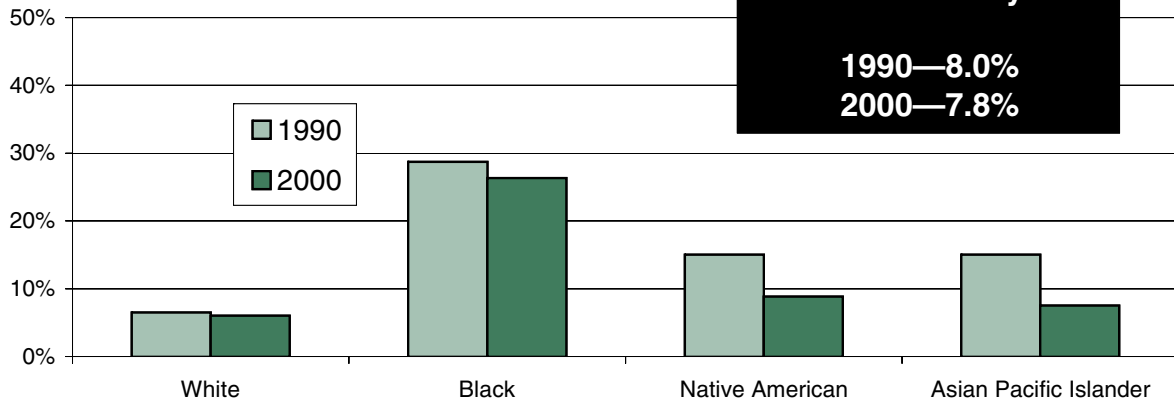
less likely to be poor than are all Hispanic residents of Pennsylvania (31.4%). Nevertheless, Hispanics continue to show the highest poverty rate of any racial and/or ethnic group in the county.

The poverty rate among Lancaster County's Asian residents was cut nearly in half between 1990 and 2000, falling from 15% to 7.6%. For the County's African American population, the rate fell less substantially. As of 1999, African Americans had a poverty rate of 26.3%, down from 28.7% ten years earlier. African Americans in Lancaster County are only slightly less likely to be poor as are African Americans across the state (26.8%).

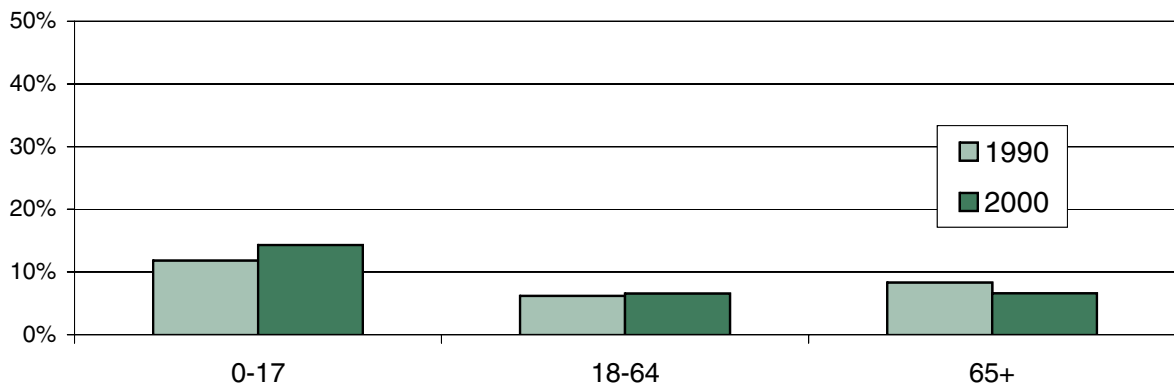
The white non-Hispanic population of Lancaster County had a poverty rate that is lower than its counterpart across the state; the 6% county rate for this demographic group is less than 75 percent of the comparable state-wide rate, which was 8.2% in 1999.

Distribution of Poverty 1990–2000

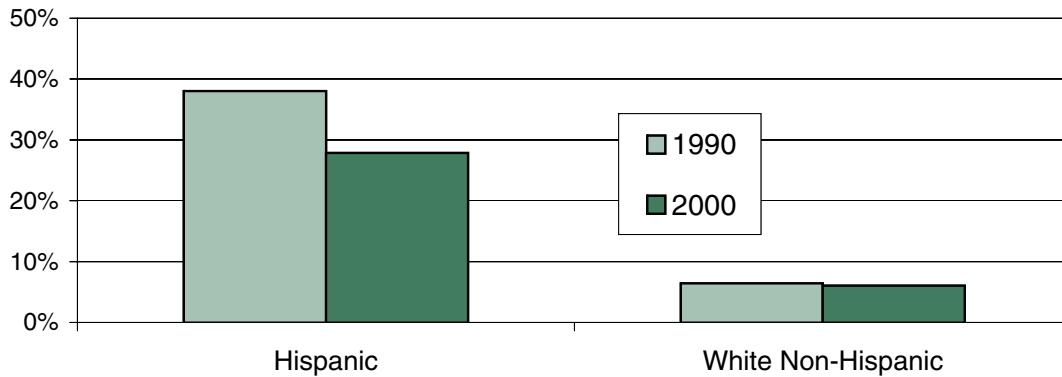
By Race



By Age



By Ethnicity



Source: US Department of Commerce Census of Population, 1990 & 2000

Drinking Water Quality

36. Municipalities that permit private on-lot wells but do not require regular testing.

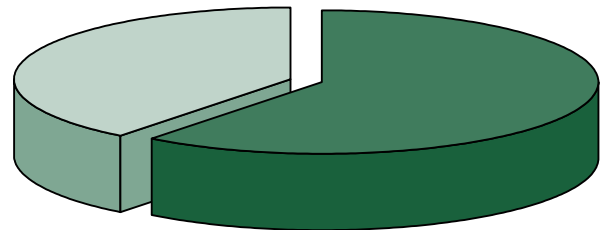
Pennsylvania has no requirements for periodically testing the quality of water drawn from private residential wells. Most municipalities in Lancaster County allow private on-lot wells, but have no testing requirements.

The quality of the water can have serious consequences to our health. Once a ground water supply is contaminated, it can affect the habitat of fish and wildlife and quality of other natural resources.

Lancaster County residents rely heavily on well water. Approximately 31% of water delivered by public suppliers is drawn from wells. Additionally, nearly 40% of all county households are served by on-lot wells and have on-lot sewer systems. Failure of older private septic systems, high nitrate levels from run-off in some farming areas, and some industrial sites may contaminate ground water. Currently, some Lancastrians receive regular warnings from their water suppliers related to water safety for children and pregnant women. Use of pesticides and herbicides as well as other chemicals from lawns, gardens, and farming can also affect water quality.

Residential Drinking Water Sources Lancaster County

On-lot wells, cisterns, etc.
40%



Community Water Supply
60%

Of 60 Municipalities in Lancaster County:

59	Allow On-Lot Systems
0	Require testing
32	Must comply with County Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance that requires yield and quality testing for new construction.

Source: Lancaster County Planning Commission

Barely half of the sixty municipalities in Lancaster County require compliance with the Lancaster County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance requiring yield and quality testing before NEW construction only.

Currently there are no local ordinances requiring testing of existing on-lot wells.

While the quality of drinking water is of utmost importance, the quantity of water available to a

community also is important. In one year, the average eighty-five acre farm with sixty cows collects thirty-four million gallons of ground water from rain, but uses only 1 million gallons for operations. Thus, nearly thirty-three million gallons of water pass into wells and aquifers via open fields. If the same eighty-five acre farm were developed into 300 home sites (at ¼ acre per home), over sixteen million gallons would be used by the families and one-third less water would pass into the ground.

IV. Creating a Sustainable Economy

- ∞ Livable Wage
- ∞ Economic Sustainability
- ∞ Effective Buying Power
- ∞ Work Force Development

A sustainable economy is one that is diverse, grows sufficiently to create meaningful jobs, reduces poverty, and increases the opportunity for a high quality of life for all—without degrading the natural and cultural heritage of the community. It is also capable of meeting the needs of its present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In order to accomplish this situation, an economic climate that attracts and retains vital and diverse businesses that provide quality jobs with living wages must be created. Ecologically compatible enterprises that use raw materials from sustainable sources, have manufacturing processes that minimize emissions, and have product outputs that are environmentally benign must be attracted.

Reinvesting in our central business districts will renew the vitality of our urban centers and will attract new businesses to Main Street. Heritage attractions must be promoted, not only to benefit the local economy, but also to enhance community pride and provide authentic experiences to visitors and residents.

A superior labor force that is skilled and knowledgeable with a strong work ethic must be sustained. We also need to ensure that all of our residents have an equal opportunity to share in the economic prosperity of our county.



Livable Wage

37. Percentage of households having less than minimum self-sufficiency income.

Residents need to earn sufficient income to buy the basic goods and services necessary to maintain a comfortable and healthy lifestyle. The exact dollar income needed to maintain self-sufficiency is determined by household characteristics and the cost of buying basic services and commodities in a community. When personal income is sufficient, there is additional circulation of money, greater economic security and growth, less reliance on social services, and better access to health care.

Nationwide studies determine minimum self-sufficiency standards based on household characteristics such as gender, age, and size and adjust these to living expenses in areas throughout the country. These figures represent the minimum income necessary to meet basic needs without outside assistance.

The 1999 self-sufficiency annual wage for a household of one adult and one child living in Lancaster County was \$21,623. Of like households, 39.5% made less than this amount. This was slightly greater than the surrounding area (34.7%) and Pennsylvania (34.4%).

Lancaster County households of two adults (both working) and two children were less likely than their counterparts elsewhere in the state to earn below the self-sufficiency annual wage standard (\$31,826). Only 13.8% of those households in Lancaster County earned below the wage standard as opposed to 29.4% in surrounding counties and 31.1% in Pennsylvania.



Self-Sufficiency Income Standards Lancaster County 1998–2001

	Minimum Wage	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	1 Adult 3 Children	2 Adults**
1998						
Hourly*	\$5.15	\$6.35	\$10.01	\$12.00	\$16.58	\$7.37
Monthly*	\$1,118	\$1,763	\$2,113	\$2,918	\$3,594	\$2,594
Annual*		\$13,416	\$21,156	\$25,356	\$35,016	\$31,128
1999						
Hourly*	\$5.15	\$6.49	\$10.24	\$12.27	\$16.95	\$7.53
Monthly*		\$1,143	\$1,802	\$2,160	\$2,983	\$2,652
Annual*		\$13,712	\$21,623	\$25,916	\$35,790	\$31,826
2000						
Hourly*	\$5.15	\$6.71	\$10.58	\$12.68	\$17.53	\$7.79
Monthly*		\$1,181	\$1,862	\$2,233	\$3,085	\$2,742
Annual*		\$14,172	\$22,344	\$26,796	\$37,020	\$32,904
2001						
Hourly*	\$5.15	\$7.53	\$13.04	\$14.64	\$21.52	\$9.93
Monthly*		\$1,325	\$2,294	\$2,577	\$3,788	\$3,495
Annual*		\$15,900	\$27,528	\$30,924	\$45,456	\$41,940

NOTES:

* Figures are for averages of values for different family types as distinguished by age category (i.e. infant, school-age, teen) and mix of children.

** Hourly wage rate or earnings per adult.

Source: Women's Association for Women's Alternatives, Inc. Chester, PA. United States Department of Labor



Households with Less Than Self-Sufficiency Income 1999

	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	1 Adult 3 Children	2 Adults**
Pennsylvania	6.0%	34.4%	56.0%	79.2%	31.1%
Region ***	4.2%	34.7%	51.2%	95.0%	29.4%
Lancaster County	3.6%	39.5%	56.5%	100.0%	13.8%

* Self-sufficiency wages are averages of values for different family types as distinguished by age category (i.e. infant, school-age, teen) and mix of children.

**Includes earnings of two adults.

***Region = Chester, Berks, Schuylkill, Northumberland, Montour, Lebanon, Dauphin, Perry, Cumberland, Fulton, Adams and York Counties. (Those included in the census defined Public Use Microdata Areas surrounding Lancaster County.

Source: Women's Association for Women's Alternatives, Inc. Chester, PA. United States Department of Commerce Census of Population 2000.

Economic Sustainability



- 38. Employment and average annual wage growth by industry sector.
- 39. Number of jobs by industry sector.

Employment growth (net job creation or creation of jobs minus loss of jobs) is a basic measure of overall economic performance. When the economy is growing rapidly, so typically are jobs and earnings. It is important to note whether job growth is broad based or concentrated in specific industry sectors. These indicators will measure the total number of jobs in the local market, as well as their distribution across different industries over time.

A healthy local economy requires sufficient jobs for all those who want to work. It also is important that those jobs not be concentrated in one industry or area, or offer pay that is exceptionally high or low. While the number of jobs may be affected by normal fluctuations in the economy, job diversity is essential to a healthy and sustainable economy.

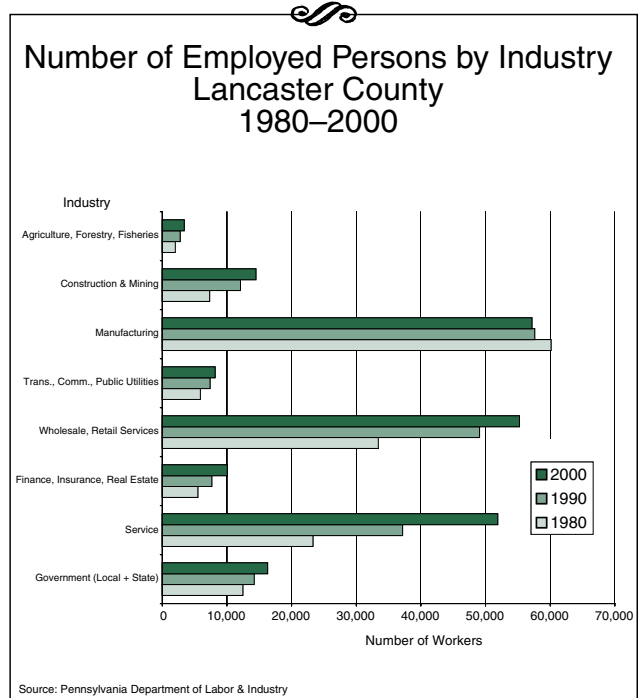
The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry maintains data on the county level for all jobs covered by the state Unemployment Compensation System and issues an annual report of their findings. Manufacturing was the only sector to lose jobs between 1990 and 2000. All other sectors in Lancaster County saw the number of jobs increase, especially within the service sector.

Between 1990 and 2000, the county's total employment level grew by 28,744 jobs (15.3%) from 187,843 to 216,587. This job growth has been examined by three subsets; the High Earnings Group (those industries where the average annual wage is 125% of the county-wide average), the Middle Earnings Group (those industries where the average annual wage is about 110% of the countywide average), and the Low Earnings Group (those industries where the average annual wage is about 70% of the countywide average). Between 1990 and 2000, more than half of the total job growth occurred in the Low Earnings Group. At the same time, average annual wages increased for all Earnings Groups, ranging from 9.7% for the High Earnings Group, to 9.4% for the Middle Earnings Group, to 9.5% for the Low Earnings Group.

Growth in Employment and Wages Lancaster County

	1990		2000	
	Number Employees	Average Annual Wage	Number Employees	Average Annual Wage
High Earnings Group Mining, State Government, Transportation, Public Utilities, Manufacturing, Construction	79,195	\$27,261	81,728	\$39,403
	Change in Employment + 3.2%		Change in Average Annual Wage + 9.7%	
Middle Earnings Group Finance, Insurance & Real Estate, Wholesale Trade, Local Government	32,385	\$23,223	37,828	\$33,478
	Change in Employment + 16.8%		Change in Average Annual Wage + 9.4%	
Low Earnings Group Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Retail Trade, Services	76,264	\$15,465	97,021	\$22,303
	Change in Employment + 20.1%		Change in Average Annual Wage + 9.5%	
Lancaster County Total	187,844	\$21,777	216,577	\$30,708
	Change in Employment + 15.3%		Change in Average Annual Wage + 7.0%	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, U.C. Covered Employment



Effective Buying Power

40. Per capita personal income of Lancaster residents as compared regionally, statewide, and nationally.

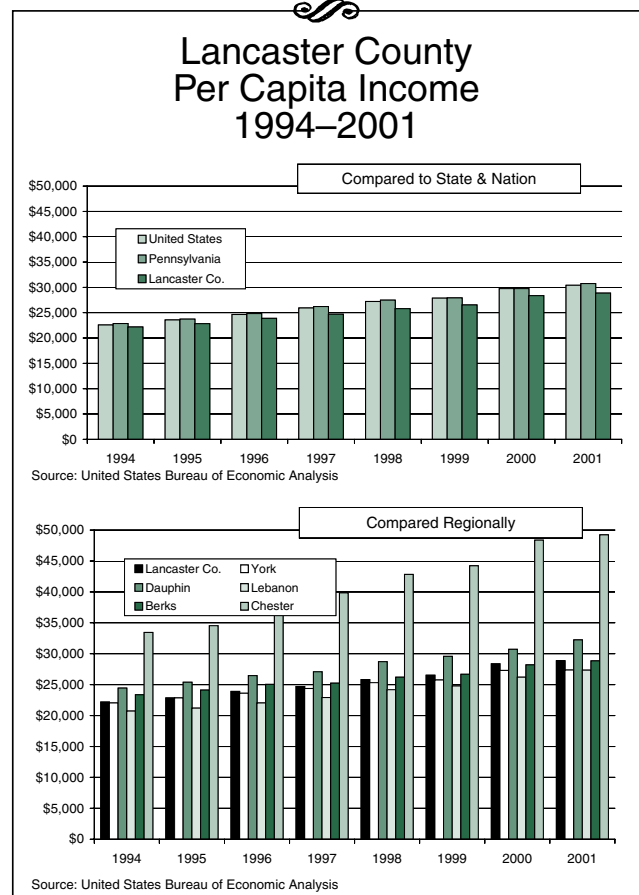
Per capita personal income is a reflection of the overall economic well being of the community. It measures how much money people have to spend on goods and services, including food, housing, health care, recreation, and savings. This ultimately can influence the general physical and mental well being of citizens, as well as the economic vitality of the community.

When real (inflation adjusted) per capita income grows over time, the average person can consume more goods and services. When compared to other counties or the nation as a whole, Lancaster County's per capita personal income is one measure of the county's relative economic health.

Between 1990 and 2001, Lancaster County's real per capita income (measured in 2001 dollars) grew by about \$4,500, from \$24,321 to \$28,863.

In 2001, Lancaster County's per capita personal income exceeded that of York and Lebanon Counties, fell slightly below Dauphin, was about even with Berks County, and was significantly less than Chester County.

During the latter half the 1990's, Lancaster County per capita personal income has been approximately 96% of that for Pennsylvania (\$27,469) and about 97% of that for the United States (\$28,518). In 1970, Lancaster County's per capita personal income was 105% of both the United States and Pennsylvania. By 1980, it had fallen to 99% of both the nation and state, and, by 1990, Lancaster was at 100% of the national value and 99% of the state. In 2001, Lancaster was at 95% the national and 94% of the state values.



Work Force Development

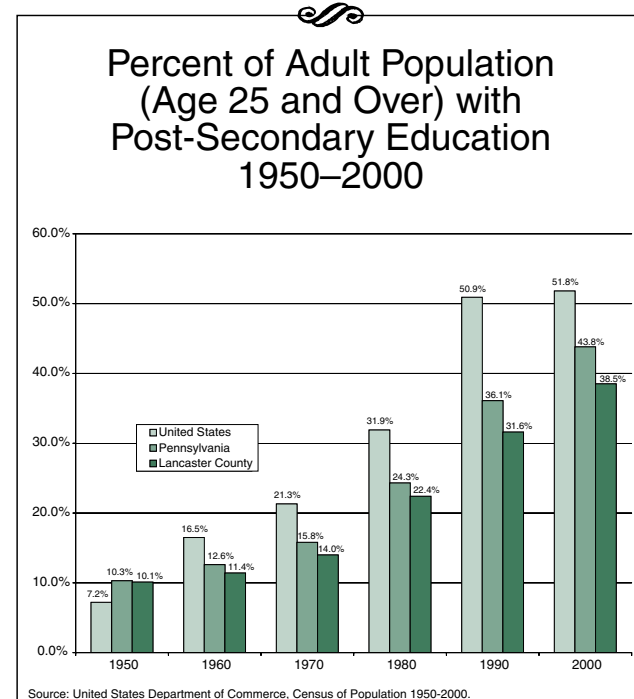
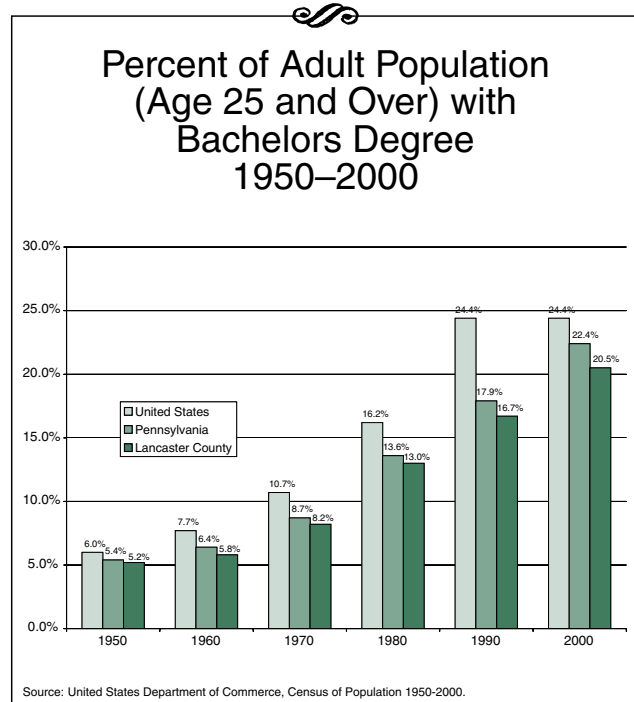


41. Percentage of adults 25 and over with some form of post-secondary (high school) education.

A well-educated work force is essential to support the needs of employers and maintain a sustainable economy. A high school diploma has long been considered the minimum education necessary for secure, well-paying employment. However, it is becoming increasingly necessary for the work force to have training beyond the secondary level.

Educational attainment is directly related to employment levels, lifetime earnings, and labor force diversity. The educational attainment of parents can be a predictor of a child's performance in school.

The data collected in each decennial census conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce Census shows that in 1950, the percentage of Lancaster residents with some form of post secondary (high-school) education was greater than the national average: 10.1% of Lancastrians, 7.2% of the national population 25 and over. By 1990, 31.6% of Lancastrians had some form of post-secondary education or training while 50.9% in the nation had attained that level of education. In 2000, 38.5% of Lancastrians had some form of post-secondary education, while the national rate had increased to 51.8%.



V. Celebrating, Investing In, and Mobilizing the Talents of Our Human Resources

Talents and Resources

- ☞ Quality of Education
- ☞ Life-Long Learning
- ☞ Cultural and Artistic Expression
- ☞ Learning and Information Technology

Health and Well Being

- ☞ Family and Child Welfare
- ☞ Substance Abuse
- ☞ Physical Health and Well Being
- ☞ Health Care Accessibility
- ☞ Mental Health and Well Being
- ☞ Quality Childcare

Of all the assets that make Lancaster County distinct, none is more important than our people. Lancaster County is a unique blend of diverse cultures, religious sects, and races. The strength of Lancaster County is the diversity of its people.

Investing in individuals, families, and children so that they can reach their full potential is extremely important to the success of our community. Every person has skills, abilities, and gifts. Given these opportunities, people will feel valued, empowered, and connected to the persons around them. The community around then becomes stronger because of the positive contributions being made.

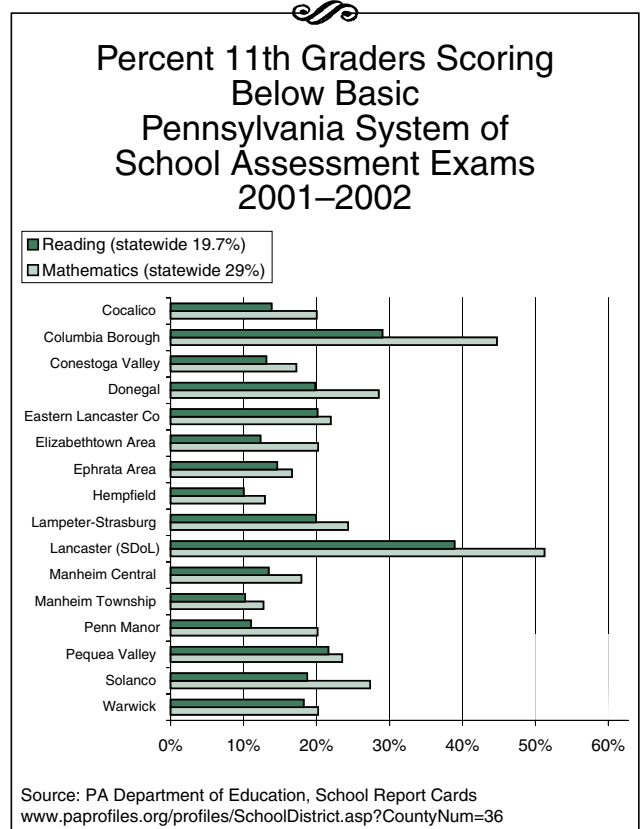
In order for us to become a better community, the skills, abilities, and gifts of our people need to be identified, valued, and used. By focusing on the potential capacity of our residents, rather than the shortcomings and deficiencies, the talents of our diverse community can be mobilized and our community made stronger.

Quality of Education

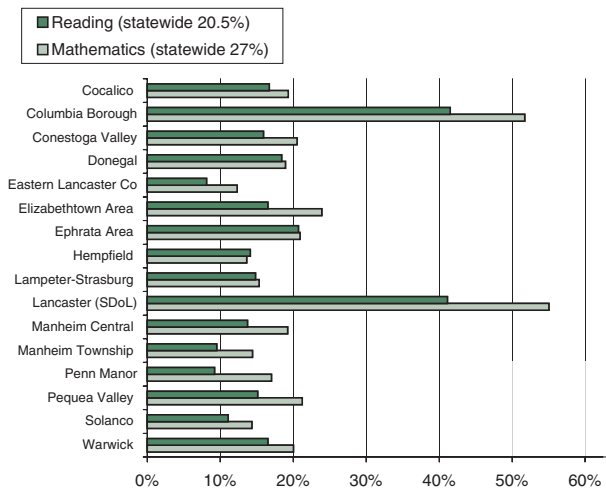
42. Percentage of 5th, 8th and 11th graders scoring “below basic” proficiency on state mandated standardized tests.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires that standardized achievement tests be administered to students at various grade levels in math, reading, and other areas. Although standardized tests are not the only way to measure school performance, using this data is the first step to determine where problems exist and if they are being addressed effectively. Achievement test scores are a useful indicator of the educational progress of our youth. They also provide a glimpse over time since they have been in place for many years.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education maintains records of test results for all public school districts, as well as accredited private schools and home-school programs. There are very few resources other than the results of these Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Exams available to compare student performance across the state. In addition to raw scores, the Pennsylvania Department of Education reports those scoring below what is determined a “basic” performance level. “Below Basic” work indicates little understanding and minimal display of the skills included in the Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards. This may indicate a need for additional instructional opportunities and/or increased student academic commitment to achieve the Proficient Level. In recent years, students in most Lancaster County school districts have performed near the mean score for the state. While scores vary from year to year, the recent trend has been for improvement of the scores of most county students.

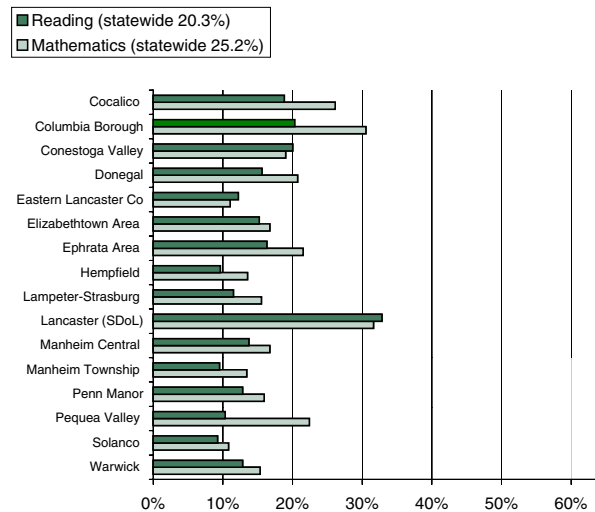


Percent 8th Graders Scoring Below Basic Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Exams 2001–2002



Source: PA Department of Education, School Report Cards
www.paprofiles.org/profiles/SchoolDistrict.asp?CountyNum=36

Percent 5th Graders Scoring Below Basic Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Exams 2001–2002



Source: PA Department of Education, School Report Cards
www.paprofiles.org/profiles/SchoolDistrict.asp?CountyNum=36

Life-long Learning

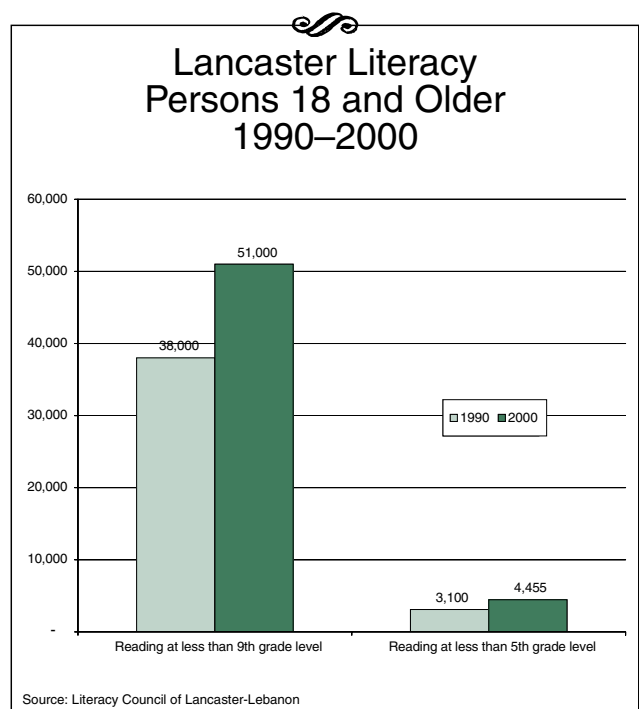
43. Percentage of residents, 18 years and older who read below a 9th grade level.

Functional literacy is the measure of minimum skills necessary to be self-sufficient in our community. The National Literacy Act defines literacy as “an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential.” It is important for personal health and safety and routine daily activities. The inability to read well is linked to higher risks for social, physical, and mental health problems.

Historically, the availability of labor-intensive jobs made education less crucial than in the fast-paced, high-tech world of today. Many manual labor jobs have been replaced by mechanization and technology. Some people may not feel the urgency to upgrade their literacy skills for employment, but need minimum skills to make informed decisions and enjoy life to its fullest.

Literacy problems are often passed from generation to generation. Since the skills for literacy are developed well before children enter kindergarten, many children enter school ill-prepared because their parents lack strong literacy skills. It is important to identify not only the number of persons who are low-level readers, but to identify them by age.

Literacy is essential for adults to fulfill their roles as citizens, parents and workers.



Based on 2000 Census Data, the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon has determined that approximately 90,000 Lancaster residents are in need of some type of basic adult education service. This data was not broken down by age. Adult Basic Education (ABE) serves those adults who have a functional capacity below eighth grade. Less than 3% of residents eligible for ABE are being served by existing programs. Half of those enrolled in local adult literacy programs are employed in some capacity, but it is estimated that only 3% of local employers offer basic skills improvement as part of employee training.

Cultural and Artistic Expression



44. Total number of venues (art galleries, museums, live production, theatres) for artistic enjoyment, enhancement, and expression.
45. Annual attendance at selected galleries, museums, artistic performances, and presentations.

Visual and performing arts programs and events are linked to the economic vitality, educational attainment, and overall quality of life of our community. They add immeasurably to the character of the community, are an attraction for those moving into the area, and are an enticement for tourists. As our community continues to grow and change, it becomes increasingly important to support and maintain these programs. The availability of a sufficient number of venues for artistic and cultural expression, enjoyment, and education is vital to community life.

Lancaster County currently is engaged in a number of initiatives that identify the importance of art and cultural venues in the community. While data regarding available artistic venues currently is incomplete, it is hoped that these efforts, including the Lancaster County Strategic Tourism Development Plan will identify ways in which to measure the role of these venues in the overall quality of life for residents as well as visitors to the county.

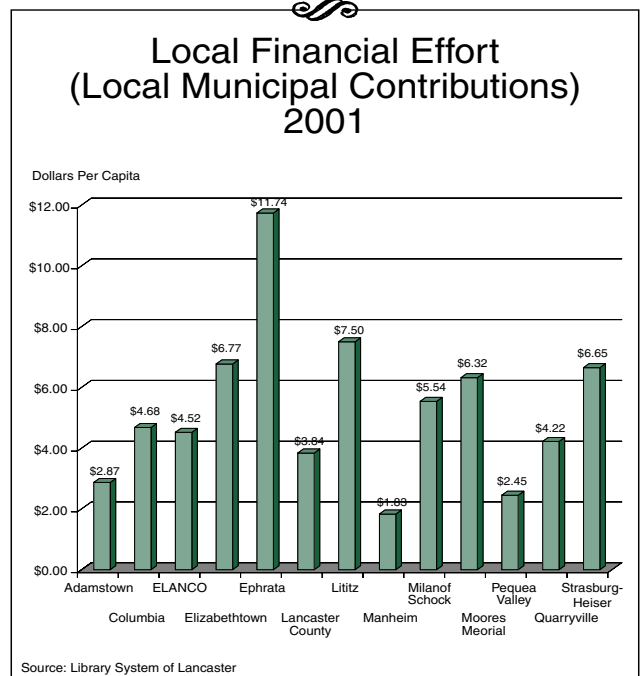
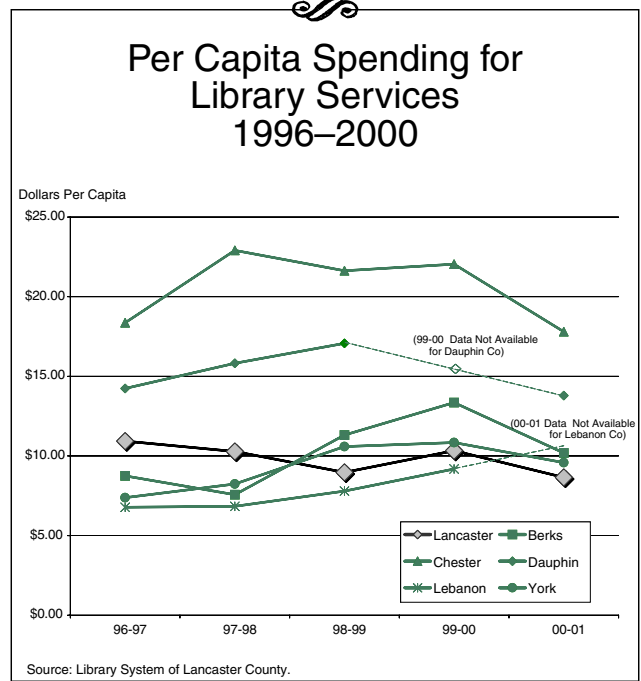
Learning & Information Technology in Public Libraries

- 46. Per capita spending/support for library services compared regionally.
- 47. Number of public access computer terminals in public libraries.

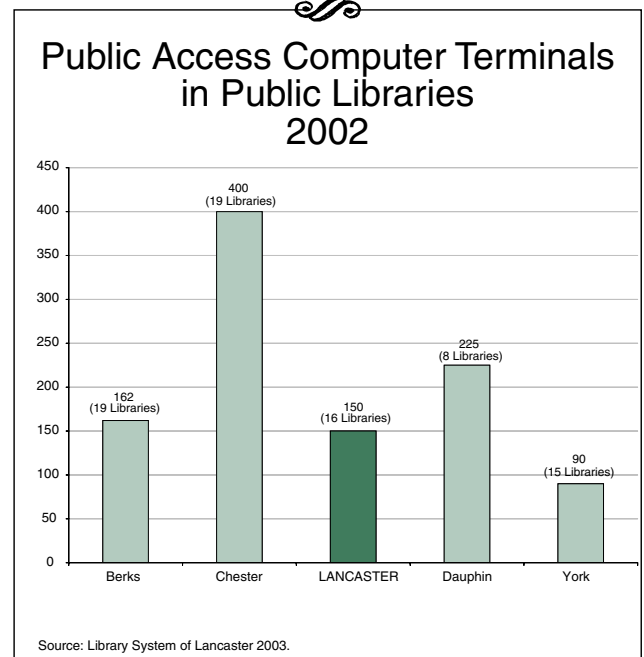
Local, national and world news and information is available to Lancaster residents from a wide range of sources. One goal of public libraries is to provide lifelong learning opportunities to all residents. The Library System of Lancaster County, through its thirteen member libraries (plus three branches of the Lancaster County Library) provides a wide variety of print and electronic resources and public access to computer terminals, as well as educational and entertainment programs to toddlers, senior citizens and everyone in between. In addition to books and periodicals, libraries have been adding collections of CD's, DVD's and audio books, all available for borrowing.

An educated community makes informed decisions. The amount of local support for public libraries is an indicator of the community's desire for knowledge and its support of efforts to provide information to all residents.

The Lancaster Board of County Commissioners funds libraries in Lancaster County through the umbrella organization of the Library System of Lancaster County. Additional monies are earned from the state using a complex formula based on individual municipal contributions to the library in their service area. In FY2001, five Lancaster municipalities did not contribute at all. Local financial effort (LFE) in FY2001 ranged from \$1.83 to \$11.74 per capita. Based on FY1998 data compiled by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Lancaster County ranked 50th of 67 Pennsylvania counties in per capita spending for library services. Lancaster ranked 63rd of 67 in average number of books. To make up the shortfall in government funding, libraries have reached out and were rewarded in FY2001 with \$349,889.02 in private contributions.



Information technology resources are costly and are often available only through schools and public libraries. The ability to access and use information technology can be hampered by an individual's socio-economic standing. Funding for development and usage of public sources of information through technology assures that all members of the community have access to the most current information and news. In an effort to bridge the digital divide, the Library System of Lancaster County has made thirteen new databases and electronic services available to the public since 2001.



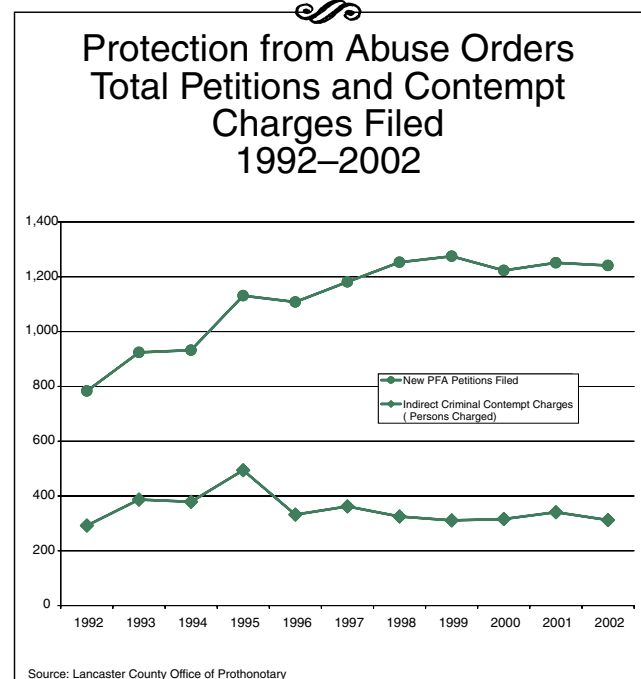
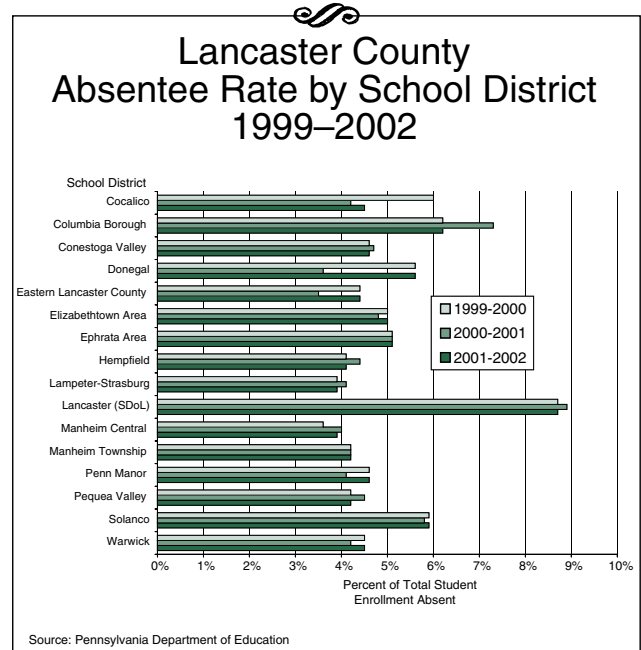
Family and Child Welfare

- 48. Absentee rates by school district.
- 49. Total number of Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders.
- 50. Number of persons charged with PFA (Indirect Criminal Contempt) violations.
- 51. Number of persons convicted of PFA (Indirect Criminal Contempt) violations.

Regular school attendance is essential to the learning and maturing process. Absence can indicate existing physical or mental health problems and may lead to multiple social problems. Frequent absence often precedes a student's leaving school permanently. It may lead to a number of social and economic problems, including violence and crime, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and unemployment. Minimum attendance is required to participate in school-related activities. High levels of absenteeism or truancy (illegal absence) affect the curriculum and learning of all students. Frequent absence from school also can be an indication of problems in the home.

Exposure to violence in early life can produce changes in brain chemistry and function that appear to be permanent. It is a risk factor for many later problems, including teen violence, self-mutilation, and general lack of impulse control. It affects the involved child's ability to learn and to become a productive citizen, increases demands on social services and schools, and can affect the quality of life for the entire community.

An overwhelming amount of domestic violence goes unreported. Often, when it is reported, there is no record of whether children were involved or were witness to the violence. A measure of the number of Protection From Abuse orders may measure only a portion of the exact number of abusive home environments, but trends in the number of reports, charges of violations, and convictions are reflective of the problem and our community's response.



Records maintained by the Lancaster County Prothonotary Office include the number of petitions for Protection from Abuse, as well as the number of Indirect Criminal Contempt (ICC) charges filed each year. Their records show that the number of petitions filed has increased in general (with slight dips in 1996 & 2000) from 1992 to 2002. The actual number of persons charged with violations (ICC) increased sharply during the early 1990's, but dropped somewhat in 1996 and has remained fairly constant since.

Detailed records maintained by the Lancaster County Victim and Witness Office show that in 2000, over 1,200 petitions were filed. After the initial filings, 675 (55%) were either dismissed or withdrawn and only 558 (45%) final orders were issued.

Neither of these agencies nor the Lancaster District Attorney's office maintain records of the number of persons convicted of violations.

Substance Abuse

52. Percentage of middle and high-school aged youth who have admitted using alcohol within the past thirty days.
53. Percentage of middle and high-school aged youth who have admitted using tobacco within the past thirty days.
54. Percentage of middle and high-school aged youth who have admitted use of an illegal drug or other controlled substance within the past thirty days.
55. Percentage of Emergency Room visits that are alcohol-related.

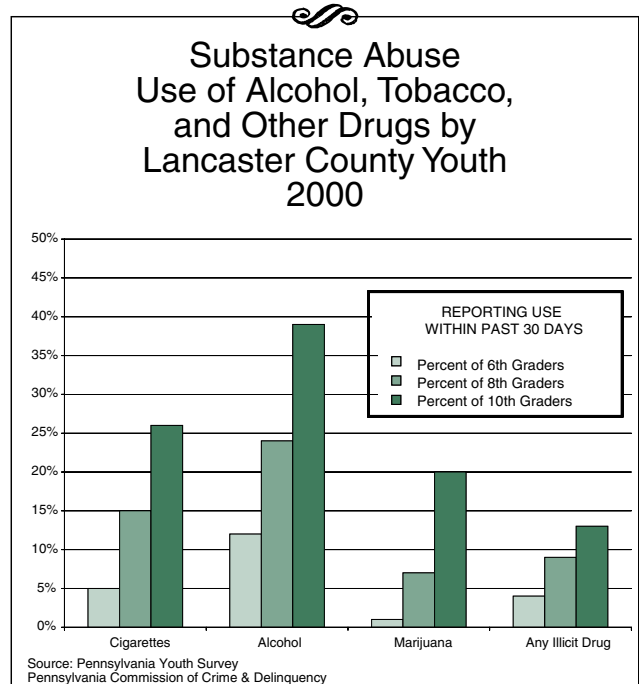
Alcohol and tobacco are the most popular substances of abuse by school-aged youth. Considered “gateway” drugs, their use places the user at higher risk for illegal drug use. Early first use (before age 15) is a risk factor for addiction later in life. Postponing first use of these substances until after age 19 greatly diminishes risks for problems such as abuse of other addictive substances.

Tobacco use is a major contributing factor in heart disease, lung disease, stroke, and cancer. Second hand smoke also is associated with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), asthma, and chronic respiratory infections in children. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, one of every five Lancaster Countians dies from a tobacco-related illness.

Alcohol abuse is associated with many health and safety concerns, such as traffic fatalities, work-related accidents, drowning, and domestic violence. It contributes to lost work productivity, school failure, and family dysfunction.

Illegal drug use places youth at risk for school failure, as well as a host of serious health problems. Injected drug use is associated with HIV, hepatitis, and tuberculosis. Death from overdose and violent crime also are possible risks.

Adult substance abusers and their families use more health and social service resources than non-abusers. They are more likely to be unemployed or under-employed, more likely to be of low income, and more likely to be involved in crime.





Alcohol Related Emergency Room Visits Lancaster County Hospitals 2000–2002

In a survey of patients treated at Emergency Rooms at 3 hospitals in Lancaster County, of 88,881 persons treated in Emergency Rooms in 2000, 2.5% or over 2,200 persons had alcohol-related diagnoses.

Of 76,366 treated at two hospitals in 2002, 1.5% were alcohol-related.

NOTE: Data is for admissions that are specifically alcohol related and does not include any admissions where alcohol may have been a contributing factor (ie: accidental injuries, automobile accidents, etc). Also, each individual hospital may have used varying definitions of what constitutes an alcohol-related admission.

Source: Each county hospital provided individual data.

In 2000, the Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Commission partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Education in sponsoring the Pennsylvania Youth Survey, a comprehensive measure of alcohol, tobacco, drug use, and related risk factors among 6th through 12th graders. The survey was repeated in Lancaster County schools in November 2003. Survey results are expected in the spring of 2004. Examining trends in substance abuse and risk factors will help schools and human service agencies address problem behaviors in youth before they manifest in addiction during adulthood.

Local hospitals maintain records of hospital admissions in which the primary diagnosis is alcohol-related. Figures for admission where alcohol may be a contributing factor are unreliable and incomplete.

Physical Health & Well-being

- 56. Birthrate of teen mothers.
- 57. Percent of adults who are overweight.
- 58. Percent of adults who engage regularly in physical activity (exercising on a regular basis).

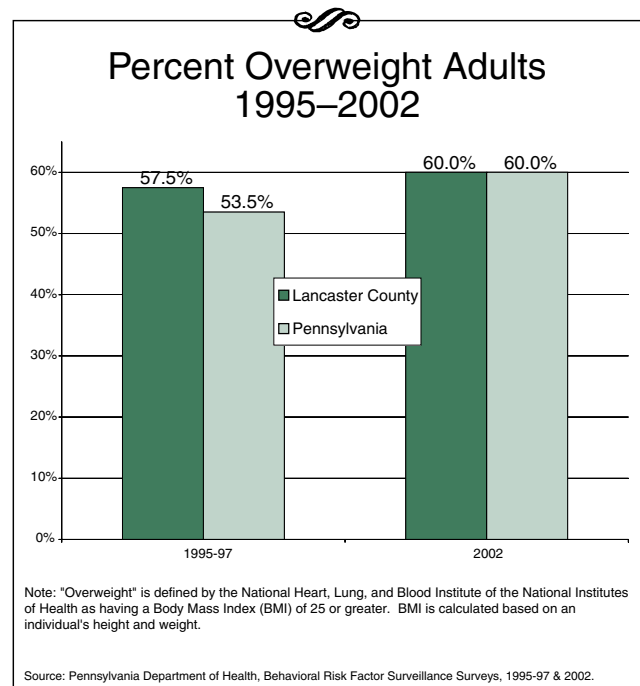
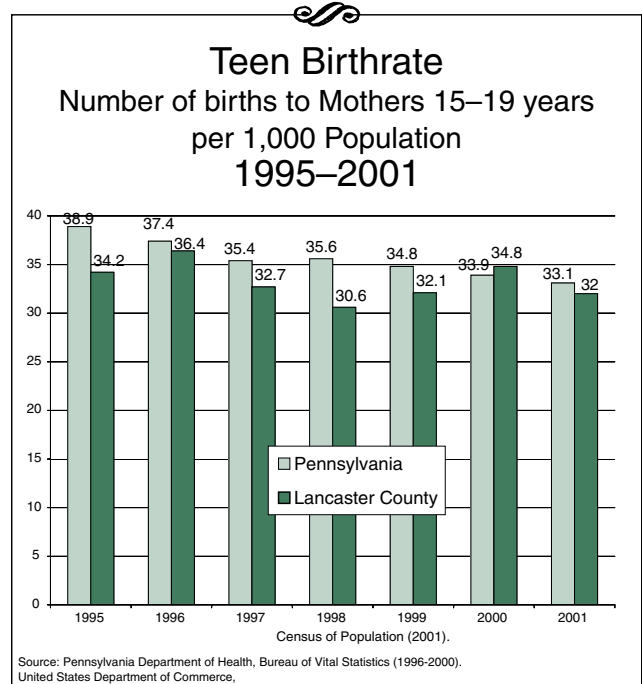
Early childbearing is a health risk factor for both the mother and child. Teenaged mothers are at higher risk for complications and low birth weight babies. Teen pregnancy can lead to a number of social problems, including decline in school performance, family income level, poor parenting, child abuse, and neglect. It has also been linked to sexual abuse of the teen mother, family dysfunction, and early promiscuous sexual activity.

During the period 1995-2001, the birthrate of teen mothers (number of live births per 100,000 women aged 15-19) for Lancaster County ranged from a high in 1996 of 36.4 to a low in 1998 of 30.6. This is somewhat lower than the teen birthrate for Pennsylvania which peaked at 38.9 in 1995 and was a low of 33.1 in 2001.

More than one-third of American adults are considered overweight (based on the Body Mass Index -BMI). Over half of all American adults have a BMI over the recommended healthy weight range. Excess weight is especially prevalent among certain racial and ethnic groups. It is becoming increasingly prevalent in children over 6 years of age regardless of race or ethnicity.

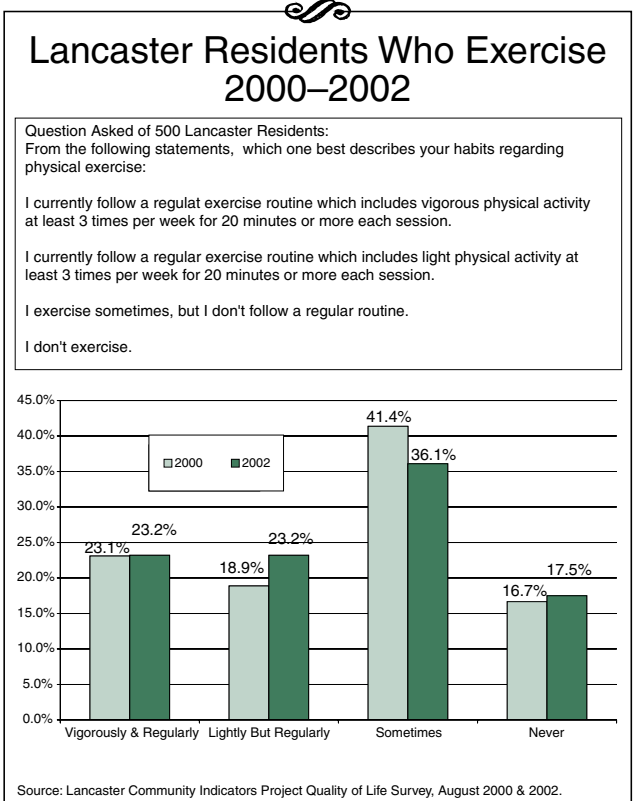
Excess weight and obesity leads to many other health problems, including glucose intolerance, heart and circulatory disease, degenerative arthritis, and low self-esteem. It affects the quality and length of life. While these problems may be reversed through weight loss, studies show that most persons who lose weight regain it within five years.

The adoption and maintenance of a physically active lifestyle is essential for a healthy life. Physical activity prevents heart disease, as well as helping maintain the functional independence of older adults, while enhancing the quality of life for all ages. Physically inactive people are almost twice as likely to have heart disease.



Almost 54% of Pennsylvania adults who responded to the 1995, 1996, and 1997 surveys of the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System were found to be overweight. Slightly more Lancaster County adults (57.5%) were found to be overweight. The 2002 Survey results show that the numbers for both groups have increased to 60%. The National Institute of Health guidelines of a Body Mass Index (BMI) value of 25 or more was used to define overweight. BMI is the calculated ratio of weight measured in kilograms to height measured in meters squared. This information can be obtained on the internet at:
<http://www.consumer.gov/weightloss/bmi.htm>.

In Lancaster Community Indicator Project's August 2000 Quality of Life Survey, 42% of the respondents said they regularly exercised (3 times per week at least 20 minutes per session). In 2002, this had increased to 46.4%. In 2000, seventeen percent admitted they never exercise and forty-one percent responded that they exercise infrequently. In 2002, those never exercising had risen slightly to 17.5%, while those who answered they exercise infrequently had dropped to 36.1%.

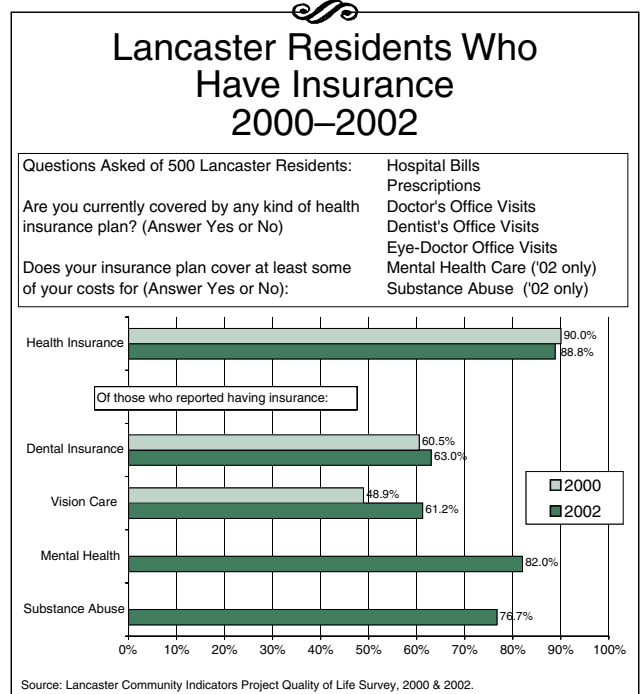


Health Care Accessibility

- 59. Percentage of hospital emergency room visits by persons who do not have health insurance.
- 60. Percentage of persons admitted to hospitals who do not have health insurance.
- 61. Percentage of adults who report having health insurance, dental vision care, mental health and/or substance abuse benefits.

Throughout the United States, increasing health care costs and changes in the structure of employment have led to a decline in the percentage of individuals with employer-based health insurance coverage. Typical private insurance policies require individuals to pay roughly one-third of their total medical costs out-of-pocket, through premiums, deductibles, or co-payments. Employer sponsored health insurance presents particular problems for people whose lives are characterized by high job-mobility and periods of unemployment. Low-income people are impacted the greatest by job changes and lack of benefits, resulting in having health coverage one month, but not the next.

Lancaster County is blessed with excellent health care providers and facilities. Much of that care is beyond the financial capabilities of most residents. Without insurance coverage, access to adequate health care is limited. This leads directly to increased health risks, employee absenteeism, economic instability, and affects all aspects of the quality of life of Lancaster residents.



Ten percent of Lancaster residents responding to the Lancaster Community Indicator Project Quality of Life Survey in August 2000, indicated that they had no health insurance. This decreased slightly to 9.3% in 2002. In both 2000 and 2002, more than ten percent of Emergency Room (ER) patients at those county hospitals providing data had no insurance. At those hospitals reporting, the average for inpatient admissions having no insurance coverage was 4.7 percent in 2000 and 3.8 percent in 2002.

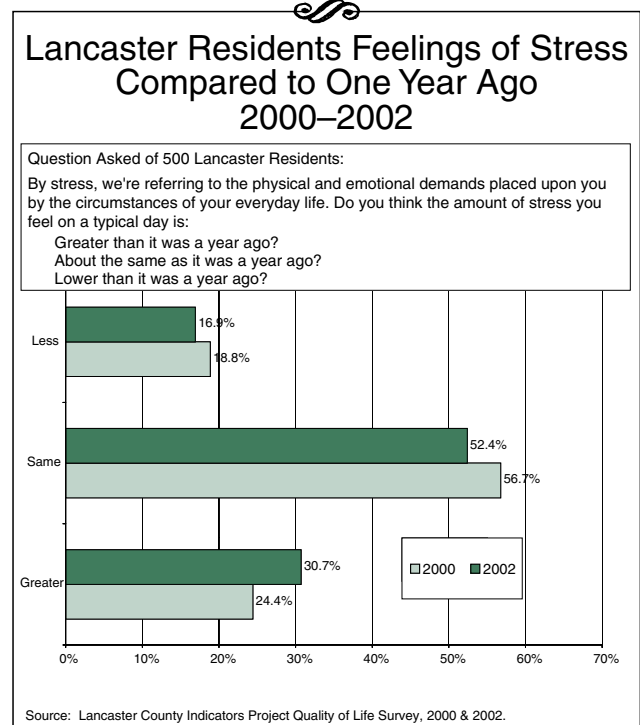
Mental Health & Well-being



62. Percentage of population that feels less able to cope with the routine demands of life than one year ago.

Stress can be defined as the physical and emotional demands placed upon us in our everyday life. Too much stress can produce physical and psychological ailments. When stress is allowed to mount unchecked, it can cause serious health problems including: hypertension, stroke, asthma, insomnia, backache, increased risk for drug and alcohol abuse, migraine, colitis, and lower efficiency of the immune system. The psychological effects are equally ominous: anxiety, depression, the inability to make routine decisions, higher risk of abuse and violence, and suicide.

Stress can come at a particular stage or change in life (getting married or retirement), as the result of a sudden serious event (death, job lay-off, accident), or can be a part of an ingrained pattern in daily life (long work commutes, job dissatisfaction, poverty).



Measuring stress is subjective, in that each person's coping mechanisms are unique, and tolerance levels vary. What may be stressful to one may be routine and easily handled by another. In Lancaster Community Indicator Project's August 2000 Quality of Life Survey, 25.3% of the respondents said their stress level is higher than one year ago. In 2002, this had increased to 30%, while the number responding that they felt less stress and the number responding they felt about the same had fallen.

Quality Child Care

63. Ratio of regulated child care openings to number of children in need.

64. Number of regulated childcare facilities that meet accreditation standards.

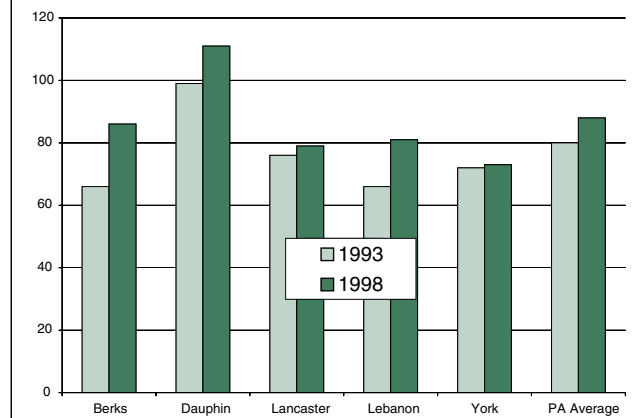
Child care that is accessible, affordable, and of a high quality is a vital component of our children's intellectual and social development. Numerous studies have tracked the success of children who had access to safe, stimulating, and nurturing early child care experiences. These children were less likely to have experience with juvenile criminal activities and substance abuse, thereby lowering the costs to the community for programs that deal with these issues.

For increasing numbers of parents joining the workforce, reliable child care is key to their job retention and economic stability. Lancaster County currently needs more licensed child care slots, particularly for infants. Before we can meet current needs, there are many other factors that must be addressed to insure that all care is of the highest quality, including: improved staff retention through increased salaries and benefits, greater subsidies for higher quality care, and improved access to neighborhood childcare centers.

Childcare capacity is the number of regulated spaces per 100 children in need (Children in need has been defined by Pennsylvania KIDS COUNT Partnership). Regulated childcare spaces are spaces for children in licensed day care centers, group day care homes, and registered family day care homes. A childcare capacity score of 100 would represent that the capacity is equal to need.

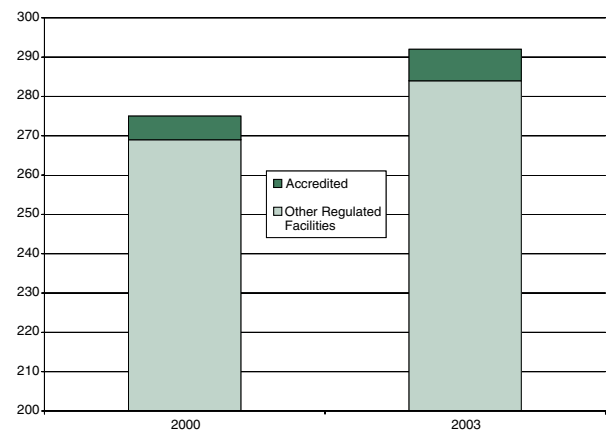
In its report, *Lancaster Child Care 2000*, the United Way of Lancaster County reports there are 275 licensed child care facilities in Lancaster County. Of these, six are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In 2003, there were 292 licensed facilities, eight were accredited by the NAEYC and one was accredited by the National School Age Care Alliance.

Regulated Childcare Capacity 1993–1998



Source: State of the Child in Pennsylvania, KIDS COUNT Partnership.

Regulated and Accredited Child Care 2000–2003



Source: United Way of Lancaster County

VI. Promoting Strong Leadership, Awareness, Responsibility, and Involvement in Community Issues

- ❧ Leadership and Involvement
- ❧ Voter Participation
- ❧ Volunteerism
- ❧ Intergovernmental Cooperation

A successful community plans for its future and implements those plans. To do so, a community needs a strong, well-defined, and well-developed civic infrastructure. One way to define civic infrastructure is the capacity of the public, private, and non-profit sectors to sacrifice self-interest for the mutual betterment of the entire community. In order to establish a strong, well-defined, and well-developed civic infrastructure, we must first accept that government alone cannot solve all the problems or provide all the economic or social opportunities to reach our goals. Partnerships, coalitions, and networks that facilitate the exchange of information and ideas must be formed among all sectors of our community.

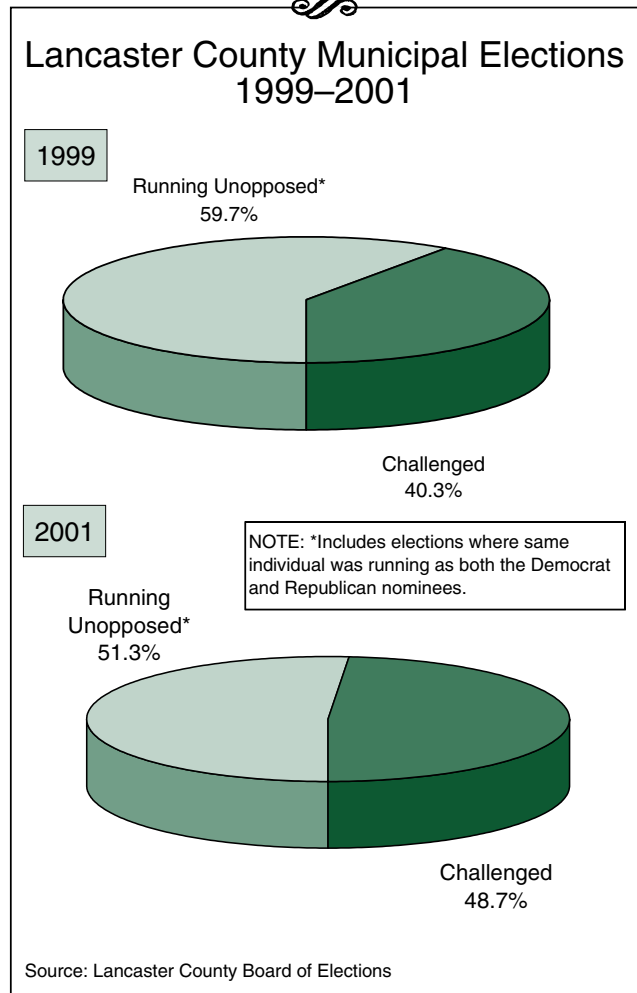
Stakeholders must learn to cooperate, and institutions must learn to collaborate better. We need leaders who are trustworthy, have vision, can facilitate consensus, and can make things happen.

Municipal governments must become proficient at working together for the good of the region. Our citizenry must be better informed, engaged, and capable of thinking regionally. A large, active base of volunteers and organizations is needed, and we must be more tolerant and celebrate our diversity.

Leadership and Involvement

- 65. Percentage of county and municipal elected and appointed officials who are women and/or minorities.
- 66. Percentage of candidates running unopposed in local elections.

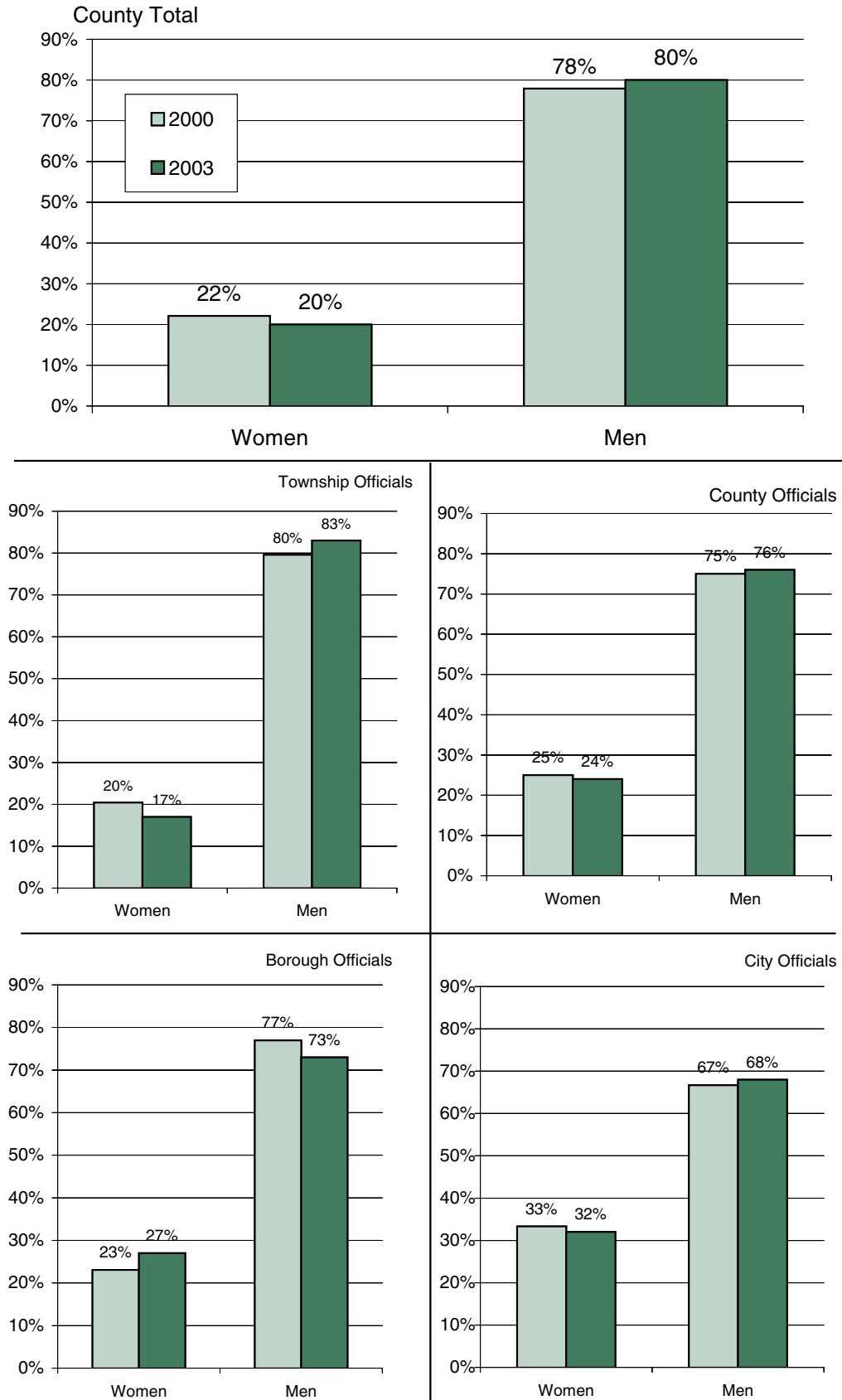
The minority population is growing at a far-greater rate than the total population. Women represent over 50% of eligible voters in Lancaster County. Municipal officials, whether elected or appointed, must be capable, accountable, accessible, and responsive to the community they serve. They should represent the entire community. Representation of all citizens is necessary for government to address the needs of the community efficiently and effectively. The number of women and minorities in positions of leadership reflects a community's recognition of the need for the inclusion of all people in the decision making process.



According to the Lancaster Association of Township Supervisors: Of over 1,600 county and municipal elected and appointed official positions in Lancaster County, 363 were held by women in 2000. This had dropped to 333 in 2002. No official records are kept regarding race or ethnicity of these officials.

According to the Lancaster County Board of Elections, in 2001, 51.3% of elected office holders in the county ran uncontested, down from 59.7% in 1999.

Women Elected and Appointed Officials Lancaster County 2000–2003



Source: Lancaster County Association of Township Supervisors

Voter Participation

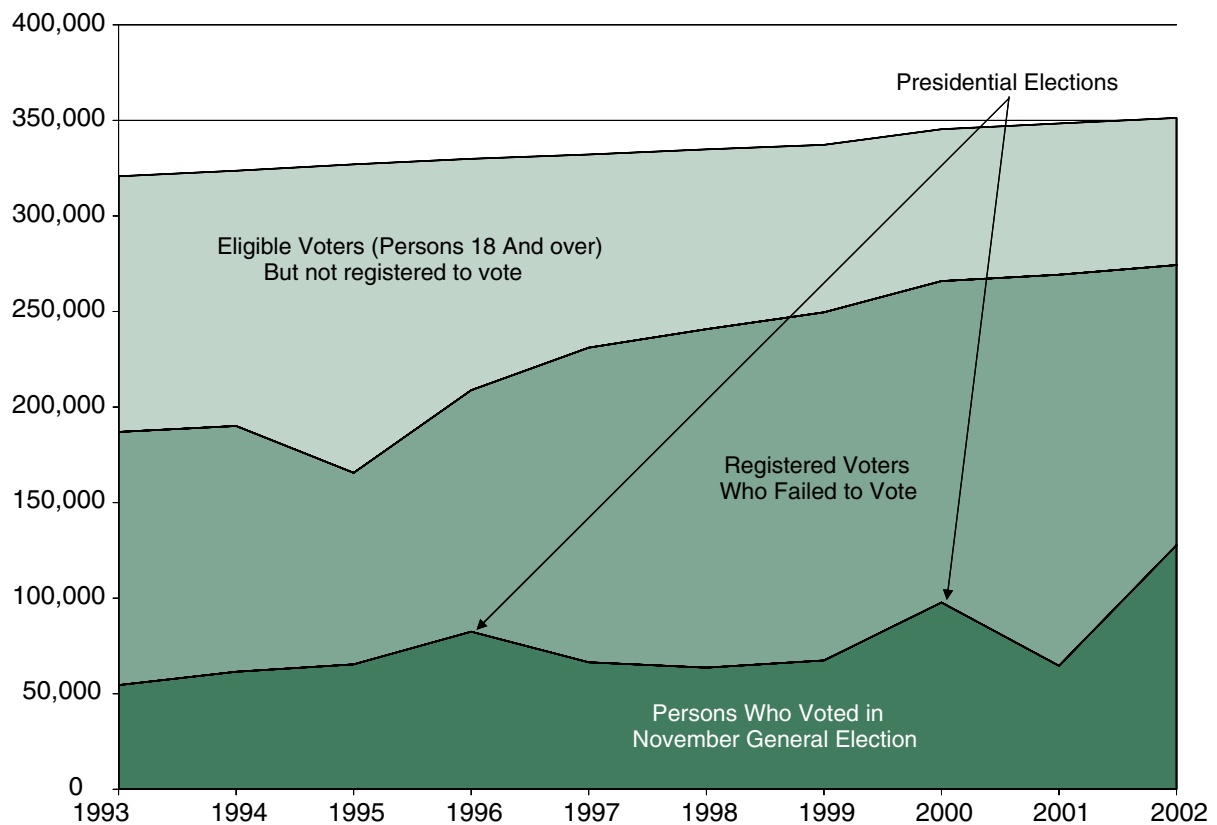
67. Number of eligible adults who register to vote.

68. Number of registered voters who vote in general elections.

In a democratic society, the level of voter turn-out reflects the commitment people have to the political system and the extent to which all segments of society participate in the decision making process. The key to active democracy is involvement in local government elections. Low voter turnout can signal that individuals feel powerless and believe that their vote won't make a difference, or that the government system is organized to discourage civic participation.

Records maintained by the Lancaster County Board of Elections indicate that of 320,000 persons age 18 and over, 187,003 (58%) were registered to vote in 1993; by 2000 that figure had risen to 265,877 (74%). In the "off-year" election of 1993, only 54,526 (17%) actually participated (voted) in the November election. In the off year of 1999, actual voter participation had increased to 67,441 (19%). Voter participation peaked at 82,469 (25%) in the presidential election of 1996 and to 97,749 (28%) in the presidential election of 2000. In the off year of 2002, 127,765 or 36% of those eligible voted, the highest percentage since 1993.

Voter Participation
1993–2002



Note: Several thousand names were purged from voter registration records in 1995 prior to "Motor Voter" registration procedures, but were reinstated & included in 1996 figures. This resulted in apparent dip in number of registered voters in 1995.

Source: Penn State Data Center, Pennsylvania Bureau of Elections, Lancaster County Voter Registration Office, United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

Volunteerism



69. Percentage of residents who do volunteer work.

Volunteerism is an indicator of the well-being of the entire community. Studies have shown that volunteerism contributes to the overall quality of life for not only those who volunteer, but also for those who receive the benefits of their involvement. Volunteers often provide services that otherwise would be paid or would not be provided. Crime, social alienation, and other social problems are linked with low levels of civic involvement.

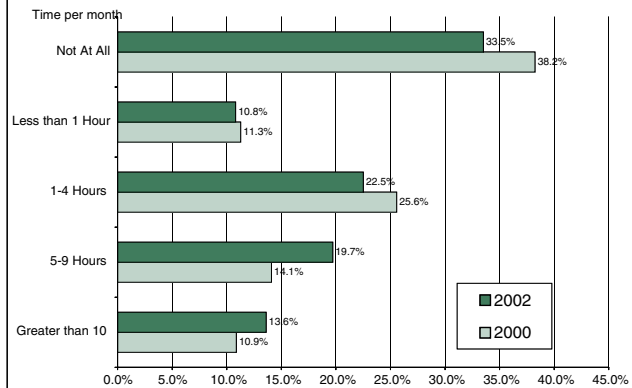
People who volunteer contribute a multitude of riches to their community. They are truly neighbors helping neighbors. Their investment of time is representative of their concern for ownership in the community in which they live.

Lancaster Residents Who Volunteer 2000–2002

Question Asked of 500 Lancaster Residents:

On the average, how many hours do you spend in a typical month volunteering your time to community organizations? Would you say:

- More than 10 hours
- Between 5 and 10 hours
- Between 1 and 5 hours
- Less than 1 hour, or
- Not at all



Source: Lancaster Community Indicators Project Quality of Life Survey, 2000 & 2002.

Of the 500 respondents to the Quality of Life Survey conducted by the Lancaster Community Indicators Project in August 2000, 38.2% indicated they do not volunteer at all. This had dropped to 33.3% in 2002. Of those who failed to volunteer, 64.7% indicated in 2000 and 55.2% in 2002, that they did not have time. Sixty-two percent in 2000 and sixty-seven percent in 2002 DO volunteer in the community on a regular basis.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

70. Number of community projects that involve two or more municipalities or agencies.

When two or more municipal entities plan, make decisions, or provide services together, they work more effectively and efficiently. Cooperative efforts foster a wider sense of community when organizations work with each other instead of duplicating services. Tax dollars and other resources are used more effectively. All aspects of government services become better coordinated.

There is a growing trend within Lancaster County to plan and provide services through regional cooperative efforts. Better long-term results are often realized by sharing ideas as well as efforts. Recent changes to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code both encourage and better enable multi-municipal planning.

There are many examples of municipal cooperation in Lancaster County. These include comprehensive plans, planning code authorized plans, Act 537 wastewater plans, Act 167 storm water management plans (officially adopted on the county level, but governing more than one municipality), as well as services such as joint police departments and recreational facilities.

In 2003, eleven of the twelve municipalities comprising the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee agreed to work together to develop a regional comprehensive plan. Participating municipalities include the City of Lancaster, three boroughs and seven suburban municipalities that constitute approximately 20% of the county's land area and 43% of its population. The initiative is the first of this size in Lancaster and the state of Pennsylvania. The \$300,000 budget for the plan is supported by equal grants from Lancaster County and The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The steering committee has selected two nationally-recognized firms, ACP-Visioning & Planning, Ltd. New York, and Thomas Comitta Associates of West Chester, PA, to assist them in this innovative effort.

Lancaster County Intergovernmental Planning Initiatives

1970 Octoraro Region Planning Document
1993 Cocalico Region Parks & Recreation Plan
1993 Elizabethtown Areas Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan
1993 Manheim Central Region Comprehensive Plan
1994 Lampeter-Strasburg Region Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan
1994 Solanco Region Comprehensive Plan
1995 Donegal Region Comprehensive Plan
1995 Ephrata Area Wastewater Facilities Plan
1995 Strasburg Regional Comprehensive Plan
1995 Lancaster Intermunicipal Committee Regional Open Space Plan
1996 ELANCO Regional Plan
1997 Elizabethtown Region Strategic Comprehensive Plan
1998 Suburban Lancaster Sewer Authority Facilities Plan
1999 Lititz-Warwick Joint Strategic Comprehensive Plan
1999 Cocalico Region Strategic Comprehensive Plan
2000 Conestoga Valley Joint Strategic Comprehensive Plan
2001 Eastern Lancaster County Land Use Study
2001 Octoraro Regional Strategic Comprehensive Plan
2003 Lancaster Intermunicipal Committee Regional Comprehensive Plan

Source: Lancaster County Planning Commission, 2003.

The Lancaster Planning Commission maintains records of planning projects within the county. Staff has identified nineteen projects initiated in the past decade, but official records may be incomplete. This list does not include cooperative services such as police or parks and recreation.



Choosing Indicators

Choosing Indicators



Why Community Indicators?

Lancaster County always has been a special place to live due to its unique blend of resources. The first Old Order Amish and Mennonite communities in America settled here and still maintain a strong presence. A colonial heritage linked to the birth of our nation contributes to a strong historical base, including significant examples of the county's architectural heritage. Lancaster County leads all counties in the nation in agricultural production from non-irrigated farmland. Natural resources such as the Susquehanna River and its tributaries, scenic vistas, woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitats contribute to the diversity of the county. Agriculture, industry, business, and tourism provide a firm economic base for the community. The residents of Lancaster County have a strong sense of identity and community pride. This creates an exceptional quality of life for all those who call Lancaster County their home.

The county's unique community character is changing. Increasing population and its attendant suburban sprawl has caused agricultural land to be lost. Groundwater quality is deteriorating. There is a lack of affordable housing for the median-income family. Traffic congestion is worsening, and the local economy may be slowly losing its diversity. All of these changes are contributing to the perception of a decline in the quality of life in Lancaster County.

Many community groups, local government representatives, and service agencies have recognized the need to take coordinated action to maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents of Lancaster County. The Lancaster Community Indicators Project (LCIP) is one such group. The genesis of LCIP was the release of the *1997 Lancaster County Health Profile*, a broad compilation of data on traditional health and quality of life issues. The *Profile* was compiled by the Lancaster County Health Partnership to stimulate discussion by the community around both positive and negative trends. By early 1998, a small group of individuals began to recognize the need to establish specific community goals and to initiate a valid reliable method to measure progress towards these

goals. This initial group was enlarged to include representatives of government and service agencies, and educational institutions from throughout the county. The group works as a collaborative.

After several months of team building, project design, and research into community indicators, the team began to develop a list of indicators specific to Lancaster County. They determined that each indicator had to include two primary traits: first, that it be easy to understand what the indicator was measuring; and second, that the measurement was related (linked) to the community as a whole.

In March of 1999, the team began developing a draft set of indicators. These indicators were based on a 2020 Vision for Lancaster County's future developed by county residents and adopted as part of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan in 1999. From an initial list of over 250 potential indicators, 60 were selected. This draft set was shared with over 300 citizens and organizations for evaluation and validation in nine public meetings held throughout Lancaster County. All comments and suggestions received were considered by the team and appropriate changes made.

What are Community Indicators?

Indicators are numeric measures of community health and well being. They are small windows that provide a glimpse of a big picture. Collected and combined, they tell what directions critical aspects of the community, economy, or environment are going. They help identify issues and explore linkages. Indicators can show data that reflects trends in critical aspects of community life, economy, or environment.

The need to set priorities and to take actions toward a desired future are at the heart of indicator projects. Once a community develops a shared vision and goals, indicators can help measure whether a community is moving forward, or backward, or maintaining the status quo. Indicators are not a substitute for action, but rather a measure of the effectiveness of actions.



Sets of indicators are often compared to the dashboard of an car. By checking the displays on the dashboard, most people can quickly determine if the vehicle is in good operating order and make appropriate decisions. Sometimes those readings lead the driver to check with experts and get more information about what's going on. The mechanic can pop the hood and examine with greater expertise the detailed mechanics of the operating systems. Indicators may not tell everything, but they provide enough information to make informed decisions.

Using indicators to measure progress is not a new idea. What is new is the way communities are using indicators to show connections between various aspects of community life. They help us explore how different parts of the picture fit together.

The best indicator projects combine traditional indicators that people recognize easily and feel comfortable using with those that highlight connections and inspire the community to action.

Lancaster's Community Indicators

A number of communities across the country have been engaged in the work of developing a tool to enable citizens, organizations, and local government to measure progress toward a shared vision and goals. These communities generally start with a vision for the community that is a set of value statements encompassing the broad spectrum of community life. Developing a set of indicators based on that vision demands a certain awareness of issues and available data, an understanding of the community infrastructure, and an appreciation for the way in which community actions are ultimately linked to each other.

The success of this type of project requires time to build a team that is credible, whose work can be respected by the community at large, and whose members generally reflect the community. At some point, the entire community must be engaged in verifying the meaningfulness of the indicators.

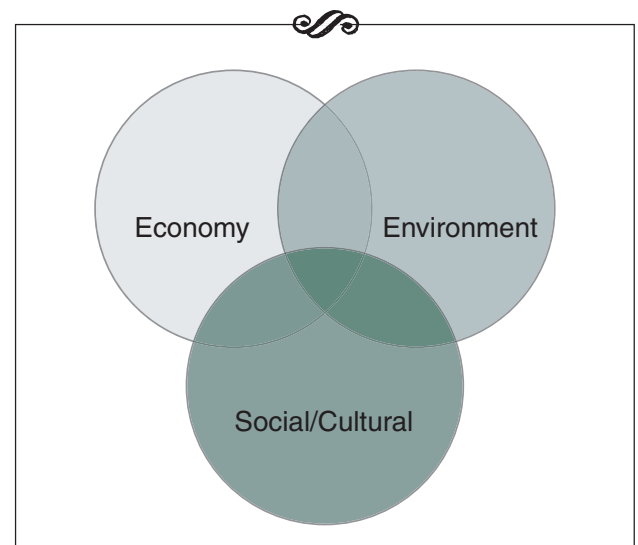
Indicators of community well-being change as the community evolves. This set of indicators will continue to be evaluated and refined through a process that will test its credibility with the community. The future work of the Lancaster Community Indicators Project will involve making those changes as they assess the needs of the community.

Indicator Selection Process

Communities are actually a complex web of interactions. Indicators can help us understand the ways in which different parts of our community connect. All systems are linked together in a complex chain of cause and effect.

Linkages

Using Hart Environment Data training materials, the Community Indicators Handbook, and several other sources, members examined the definition of an indicator and the properties of good indicators. They examined traditional indicators as opposed to interconnected measures - or the importance of linkages. Traditional indicators examine the community as disconnected segments: the environment, the economy, and society. They do not take into account the connections between these areas. As a result, the three groups work at cross-purposes. The Lancaster Community Indicator Project Team used linkages to evaluate every indicator selected.



Properties of a Good Indicator

- *Measurable
- *Understandable
- *Reliable
- *Attainable/Affordable
- *Tracks trends
- *Data based
- *Accessible-easily obtained
- *Relevant to community
- *Measured over time
- *Constant over time
- *Educates/Enlightens
- *Meaningful
- *Interesting
- *Shows linkages
- *Tangible
- *Valid
- *Meaningful
- *Sellable/Believable
- *Engages interest
- *Inspires action

Additional Selection Criteria

- * Indicators should paint a picture of the community.
- * Indicators should measure what the community values.
- * Before selecting an Indicator, the minimum standards or expectations for the community must be established.
- * If the minimum specifications cannot be defined, they cannot be measured.
- * Recognize the dangers of the “Push-Pull” factor.
- * Improvements in one area may mean decline in another. Both must be measured.

There are many kinds of data. First identify, and measure “lead” Indicators, and later explore additional underlying data to flesh out a particular subject area.

Linkages

Indicator

Category

Air Quality

Protection & Preservation of Open Space

Historic Resource Preservation

Water Quality

Farmland Preservation

Agricultural Heritage

Building and Housing Safety

Vacancy Rates

Economic Stability

Growth Management

Housing Affordability

Personal Safety

Protecting and Preserving our Natural and Cultural Heritage

1 Total days annually that meet "Code Orange" stds for ground level ozone	X	X		X						X	X								
2 Total days annually that meet "Code Red" stds for ground level	X	X		X						X	X								
3 Total acres of parkland and open space permanently	X	X	X	X						X	X								
4 Acres per capita of municipal parkland and open space for	X	X	X	X						X	X								
5 Percent buildings identified as historic that are subject to review before modification or demolition		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
6 Percent of buildings over 50 years old.		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X								
8 Percentage of County stream miles listed as "Impaired, "High Quality" or "Exceptional Value" or "meeting Designated Use"	X	X		X	X	X				X	X								
10 Total acres in agricultural use.	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X							
11 Total acres of agricultural land preserved by permanent	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X								
12 Total number of farms selling produce directly to the public at roadside stands and farmers markets		X	X		X	X				X	X								
12a Residents who purchase produce from roadside stands and farmers markets		X	X		X	X				X	X								

Revitalizing Our Urban Communities

15 Number of municipalities with Housing Codes.		X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
16 Number of municipalities with Housing Codes and		X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
17 Vacancy rate for retail, office & manufacturing space.	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
18 Per capita real estate tax capacity status by type of	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
19 Tax capacity by land use type and municipality.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					

Developing Livable Communities

20 Total acres developed inside v. outside UGB/VGB's.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
21 Average density of new residential development inside	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
22 Number of municipalities using consistent planning methods to implement UGB/VGB's	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
23 Housing Affordability Index by municipality.								X	X	X	X	X	X						
23a Households paying more than 30% of their income for housing								X	X	X	X	X	X						
24 Percentage of persons who feel safe walking at night in their								X	X	X	X								
25 Violent crime statistics (e.g. murder/rape/assault) by adult & juvenile offenders								X		X	X								
26 Average time spent in daily "commute" from home to work.	X	X		X						X	X	X	X						
27 Ratio of registered vehicles to public road mileage.	X	X		X						X	X								
28 Percentage of employers with van or car pool incentives and programs.	X	X		X						X	X								
29 Percentage of persons commuting to work alone.	X	X		X						X	X	X	X						
30 Number of persons living in homeless shelters.								X	X	X	X	X	X						
31 Percentage of those persons who are children.								X	X	X	X	X	X						
32 Percentage of those persons who are employed.								X	X	X	X	X	X						
33 Percentage of county residents who know their near-by								X		X	X								
33a Percentage of county residents comfortable borrowing a tool from a neighbor								X		X	X								
34 Number and location of High Poverty Neighborhoods.		X	X					X		X	X	X	X						
35 Distribution of low-income households by race, ethnic origin,		X	X					X		X	X	X	X						
36 Municipalities that permit private on-lot wells but do not		X		X				X			X								



Appendices

Lancaster's Community Indicators



Following is a list of indicators examined in this report. It was the intention to use the same list that appeared in Measure Up Lancaster! 2001, but a few minor changes were required. Those indicators that were amended are marked as such.

I. Protecting and Preserving our Natural and Cultural Heritage

Air Quality

1. Total number of days annually that meet "Code Orange" standards for ground level ozone.
2. Total number of days annually that meet "Code Red" standards for ground level ozone.

Protection & Preservation of Open Space

3. Total acres of parkland and open space permanently preserved.
4. Municipalities meeting or exceeding standards for publicly-owned parkland.

Preservation of Historic Resources

5. Percent of buildings identified as historic that are subject to review before modification or demolition.
6. Percent of buildings over 50 years old.

Water Quality

8. Miles of county streams listed as "Impaired" Waters.

Farmland Preservation

10. Total acres in agricultural use.
11. Total acres of agricultural land preserved by permanent easement.

Agricultural Heritage

12. Total number of farms selling produce directly to the public at roadside stands and farmers markets.
- 12a. Residents who purchase produce from roadside stands and farmers markets.

II. Revitalizing Our Urban Communities

Building and Housing Safety

15. Number of municipalities with housing codes and property maintenance codes.
16. Number of municipalities with housing or property maintenance code and enforcement officer(s).

Vacancy Rates

17. Vacancy rates for retail, office, and manufacturing space.

Economic Stability

18. Change in real estate tax capacity status by municipality.
19. Tax capacity by land use type and municipality.

III. Developing Livable Communities

Growth Management

20. Total acres developed inside v. outside Urban & Village Growth Areas.
21. Average density of new residential development inside Growth Areas.
22. Number of municipalities using consistent planning methods to implement Urban & Village Growth Areas.

Housing Affordability

23. Housing Affordability Index by municipality.
23a. Household paying more than 30% of their income for housing expenses.

Personal Safety

24. Percentage of persons who feel safe walking at night in their neighborhood.
25. Violent crime statistics (e.g. murder/rape/assault) for adult and juvenile offenders.



Transportation/Traffic Congestion

- 26. Average time spent in daily “commute” from home to work.
- 27. Ratio of registered vehicles to public road mileage.

Alternative Forms of Transportation

- 28. Percentage of employers with van or car pool incentives or programs.
- 29. Percentage of persons commuting to work alone.

Sheltered Housing

- 30. Number of persons living in homeless shelters.
- 31. Number of those persons who are children.
- 32. Number of those persons who are employed.

Community Connectedness

- 33. Percentage of county residents who know their near-by neighbors.
- 33a. Percentage of county residents comfortable borrowing a tool from a neighbor.

Socio-Economic Isolation

- 34. Number and location of High Poverty Neighborhoods in Lancaster Tracts with a poverty rate of 40% or greater).
- 35. Poverty rates by race, ethnic origin, and age.

Drinking Water Quality

- 36. Municipalities that permit private on-lot wells but do not require regular testing.

IV. Creating a Sustainable Economy

Livable Wage

- 37. Percentage of households having less than minimum self-sufficiency income.

Economic Sustainability

- 38. Employment and average annual wage growth by industry sector.
- 39. Number of jobs by industry sector.

Effective Buying Power

- 40. Per capita personal income of Lancaster residents as compared regionally, statewide, and nationally.

Work-Force Development

- 41. Percentage of adults 25 and over with some form of post-secondary (high school) education.

V. Celebrating, Investing In, and Mobilizing the Talents of Our Human Resources

Quality of Education

- 42. Percentage of 5th, 8th and 11th graders scoring “below basic proficiency” on state mandated standardized tests.

Talents and Resources/Life-long Learning

- 43. Percentage of residents, 18 years and older who read below a 9th grade level.

Cultural and Artistic Expression

- 44. Total number of venues (art galleries, museums, live production, theatres) for artistic enjoyment, enhancement, and expression.
- 45. Annual attendance at selected galleries, museums, artistic performances, and presentations.

Learning & Information Technology

- 46. Per capita spending/support for library services compared regionally.
- 47. Number of public access computer terminals in public libraries.

Health and Well-being /Family and Child Welfare

- 48. Absentee rates by school district.
- 49. Total number of Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders.
- 50. Number of persons charged with PFA (Indirect Criminal Contempt) violations.
- 51. Number of persons convicted of PFA (Indirect Criminal Contempt) violations.

Substance Abuse

- 52. Percentage of middle and high-school aged youth who have admitted using alcohol within the past thirty days.
- 53. Percentage of middle and high-school aged youth who have admitted using tobacco within the past thirty days.

54. Percentage of middle and high-school aged youth who have admitted use of an illegal drug or other controlled substance within the past thirty days.

55. Percentage of Emergency Room visits that are alcohol-related.

Physical Health & Well-being

56. Birthrate of teen mothers.

57. Percent of adults who are overweight.

58. Percent of adults who engage regularly in physical activity (exercising on a regular basis).

Health Care Accessibility

59. Percentage of hospital emergency room visits by persons who do not have health insurance.

60. Percentage of persons admitted to hospitals who do not have health insurance.

61. Percentage of adults who report having health insurance, dental vision care, mental health and/or substance abuse benefits.

Mental Health & Well-being

62. Percentage of population that feels less able to cope with the routine demands of life than one year ago.

Quality Child Care

63. Ratio of regulated child care openings to number of children in need.

64. Number of regulated childcare facilities that meet accreditation standards.

VI. Promoting Strong Leadership, Awareness, Responsibility, and Involvement in Community Issues.

Leadership and Involvement

65. Percentage of county and municipal elected and appointed officials who are women and/or minorities.

64. Percentage of candidates running unopposed in local elections.

Voter Participation

67. Number of eligible adults who register to vote.

68. Number of registered voters who vote in general elections.

Volunteerism

69. Percentage of residents who do volunteer work.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

70. Number of community projects that involve two or more municipalities or agencies.

Indicators Deleted:

7. Percent of residential buildings over 50 years old. (Combined with #6).

9. Percentage of county stream miles maintaining “High Quality and “Exceptional Value” designations. (Combined with #8).

13. Number of municipalities with building codes. (All municipalities are now required to have a building code with enforcement).

14. Number of municipalities with building codes and enforcement officer. (Same as #13)

47. Per capita spending of libraries for public access to information through technology. (Replaced with #47 below)

Indicators Added or Amended:

12a. Percentage of residents who buy produce at roadside stands and farmers markets.

23a. Households paying more than 30% of income for housing expenses

33a. Percentage county residents comfortable borrowing a tool from a neighbor.

47a. Number of public access computer terminals in public libraries.

Quality of Life Survey—August 2002

The following questions were asked of Lancaster County residents as part of a random-digit-dialing telephone survey conducted by The Center for Opinion Research, an independent research company located at Millersville University. Five hundred adult residents of Lancaster County were interviewed October 10 through October 23, 2002.

Opening Inquiry

(To Determine Residency)

A. Do you primarily live in Lancaster County?

- Yes
- No

B. What is the name of the city, township or borough of your residence in Lancaster County?

_____Name of municipality

Main Questionnaire

1. Do you have a regular job that requires you to work outside of your home?

- Yes
- No

2. On average, about how long does it usually take for you to commute from your home to work?

Please account for the time spent from door to door and estimate the time in minutes.

_____Number of minutes

3. Please select ONE statement that best describes your commute to work. Would you say you usually:

- Walk to work
- Ride a bike to work
- Drive to work yourself
- Ride with at least one other person in a car pool or van pool
- Take public transportation such as a bus, train or taxi

4. Including yourself, how many people ride to work in the car or van pool?

_____Number of persons

5. Does your employer sponsor a car or van pool program or provide incentives for you to use a car or van pool when commuting to work?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

6. Does your employer provide incentives or transit passes for you to use public transportation such as the bus, train, or taxi?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

7. How would you describe your level of familiarity with the neighbors that live close to you? Would you say you:

- Know them all
- Only know some
- Don't know any of your neighbors
- Don't have neighbors who live close to you

8. How often do you talk to the neighbor you are most familiar with? Would you say:

- Almost every day
- About once a week
- Twice a month
- Once a month
- Less often than once per month

9. Still thinking about the neighbor you are most familiar with, how comfortable would you be borrowing tools from that neighbor? Would you say:

- Very comfortable
- Somewhat comfortable
- Somewhat uncomfortable
- Not at all comfortable

10. Generally, how safe would you say you and your family are from crime in the following locations?

a. At home

- Very safe
- Somewhat safe
- Not too safe
- Not safe at all

b. When walking in your neighborhood after dark

- Very safe
- Somewhat safe
- Not too safe
- Not safe at all

c. When at a shopping mall at night

- Very safe
- Somewhat safe
- Not too safe
- Not safe at all

d. At school

- Very safe
- Somewhat safe
- Not too safe
- Not safe at all

11. From the following statements, which one best describes your habits regarding physical exercise?

- I currently follow a REGULAR exercise routine that includes VIGOROUS physical activity at least 3 times per week, for 20 minutes or more per session.
- I currently follow a REGULAR exercise routine that includes LIGHT physical activity at least 3 times per week, for 20 minutes or more per session.
- I exercise sometimes, but I don't follow a regular routine.
- I don't exercise.



12. Which of the following statements best describes your **attitude** regarding physical exercise:
- I think exercise is important and I take the time to make it happen.
 - I don't really set aside any special time for exercise, because I think my usual day-to-day activities keep me fit.
 - I probably should get more exercise than I currently do.
 - Doing enough exercise is not really a concern of mine.
13. By stress we are referring to the physical and emotional demands place upon you by the circumstances of your everyday life. Do you think that the amount of stress you feel on a typical day is:
- Greater than it was a year ago.
 - About the same as it was a year ago.
 - Lower than it was a year ago.
14. On average how many hours do you spend in a typical month volunteering your time to community organizations?
- More than 10 hours.
 - Between 5 and 10 hours.
 - Between 1 and 5 hours.
 - Less than 1 hour.
 - Not at all.
15. Which of the following statements best describes the reason that you say you do not volunteer your time for community organizations?
- You are physically unable to do volunteer work.
 - You don't have time to do volunteer work.
 - You don't have any interest in doing volunteer work.
16. Are you currently covered by any kind of health insurance?
- Yes
 - No
17. From the following statements, which one best describes your health insurance plan?
- Linked to your or your spouse's job.
 - NOT linked to your or your spouse's job and you or your spouse pay for this insurance yourself.
 - Paid by Medicare.
 - Paid by Public Assistance
 - Something else (Specify) _____
18. Does your health insurance plan cover at least some of your costs for:
- a. Hospital bills
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - b. Prescriptions
 - Yes
 - No

- Don't know
- c. Doctor's office visits
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- d. Treatment for mental illness or emotional disorders
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- e. Treatment for substance (drug & alcohol) abuse or addiction
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- f. Dentist's office visits
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- g. Eye doctor's office visits
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know

19. How would you best describe your current situation relative to health insurance?

- You've never had health insurance.
- You used to have health insurance with a former job that you or your spouse had, but no longer have.
- You used to have a health insurance plan that was not linked to a job but that you or your spouse paid for as an individual policy, but you no longer have that coverage.
- Some other reason for not having health insurance. Specify _____

DEMOGRAPHICS

D1. How many children under the age of 18 live in your household?
_____ Number of children.

D2. Including yourself, how many adults 18 years or older live in your household?
_____ Number of adults.

D3. What is your age?
_____ Years.

D4. What is your highest level of education?

- Less than a high school degree.
- High school diploma or GED certificate.
- Some post-high school education or formal training.
- Associate's degree or two years of college.
- Bachelor's degree.
- Graduate or Professional Degree.



D5. What is the age of the other adult in the household?
_____ Years.

- D6. What is the highest level of education for the other adult in the household?
- Less than a high school degree.
 - High school diploma or GED certificate.
 - Some post-high school education or formal training.
 - Associate's degree or two years of college.
 - Bachelor's degree.
 - Graduate or Professional Degree.

D7. For any other adults in the household, what is her/his age?
_____ Years.

- D8. For any other adults in the household, what is the highest level of education?
- Less than a high school degree.
 - High school diploma or GED certificate.
 - Some post-high school education or formal training.
 - Associate's degree or two years of college.
 - Bachelor's degree.
 - Graduate or Professional Degree.

- D9. Which of the following best describes YOUR racial or ethnic background?
- African-American
 - American Indian
 - Asian American
 - Hispanic
 - White, non-Hispanic
 - Something else. Specify _____

- D10. Do you own or rent your home?
- Own
 - Rent

RENTERS

D11. What is your MONTHLY rental payment for your home or living space (round to nearest whole number)?
\$ _____

HOMEOWNERS

D12. What is your total MONTHLY payment including mortgage, taxes and homeowners/fire insurance (round to nearest whole number)?
\$ _____

D13. What is your total MONTHLY utility costs
\$ _____



D14. What was your total ANNUAL household income for 1999 before taxes? This would include the sum total for all adult household members including wages, salaries, pensions, interest and dividends?
\$ _____

D15. What is the sex/gender of the respondent?
 Male
 Female

Detailed records were maintained pertaining to:

Respondent Name (voluntary)

Respondent Phone Number

Respondent Number

Sequence Number

Interviewer Name

Interviewer ID

Date/Time of call.



Survey Summary Results

Total number of respondents: 500

Of the total 500 respondents, 449 [89.8%] knew where they lived (i.e., in the City, in a borough, or in a township). Of those 449:

64	[14.3%]	Lancaster City
115	[25.6%]	Boroughs
270	[60.1%]	Townships

Of the total 500 respondents, 307 provided income information. Of those 307:

146	[47.6%]	Household income <\$43,000
161	[52.4%]	Household income >\$43,000

Of the total 500 respondents, 486 [97.2%] provided their ethnic background. Of those 486:

452	[93.0%]	White, non-Hispanic
8	[1.6%]	African American
3	[0.6%]	American Indian
2	[0.4%]	Asian American
9	[1.9%]	Hispanic
12	[2.5%]	“Something else”

Of the total 500 respondents, 495 [99%] gave their age. Of those 495:

58	[11.7%]	Ages 18-24
344	[69.5%]	Ages 25-64
93	[18.8%]	Age 65+

Of the total 500 respondents, 494 said they work outside their homes. Of those 494, 263 provided responses:

236	[89.4%]	Drive to work alone
8	[3.0%]	Ride in a car or van pool
9	[3.4%]	Walk
1	[0.4%]	Ride a bike
10	[3.8%]	Take public transportation

Of the 494 who work outside their homes:

17	[7.0%]	Have an employer who sponsors car pools.
226	[93.0%]	Have an employer who provides incentives to use public transportation.

Of the total 500 respondents

- 480 Feel VERY/SOMEWHAT safe at home.
- 409 Feel VERY/SOMEWHAT safe walking after dark in their neighborhood.
- 374 Feel VERY/SOMEWHAT safe at the mall.
- 356 Feel VERY/SOMEWHAT safe at school.

Of the total 500 respondents

- 11 Feel NOT TOO/NOT AT ALL safe at home.
- 54 Feel NOT TOO/NOT AT ALL safe walking after dark in their neighborhood.
- 60 Feel NOT TOO/NOT AT ALL safe at the mall.
- 17 Feel NOT TOO/NOT AT ALL at school.

Of the total 500 respondents,

437 [88.8%]	Are covered by some kind of health insurance.
55 [11.2%]	Have no health insurance.

Of the 437 who have insurance:

310 [71.4%]	Have it through a job
23 [5.3%]	Pay for it themselves (Not related to a job)
75 [17.3%]	Have Medicare
6 [1.4%]	Have it through public assistance
20 [4.6%]	Have “something else.”

Of the total 500 respondents, 494 indicated their educational attainment. Of the 494:

435 [88.0%]	Are at least high school graduates.
88 [17.8%]	Are at least college graduates.
59 [12.0%]	Don't have a high school diploma.
220 [44.5%]	Have a high school diploma or GED.
79 [16.0%]	Have some post high school education.
48 [9.7%]	Have an associates degree or 2 years college.
53 [10.7%]	Have a bachelors degree.
35 [7.1%]	Have a graduate or professional degree.



Glossary of Terms

Baseline: Accurate, quantitative data at a stated point in time that marks the beginning of a trend.

Benchmark: An accurate data point that is used as a reference for comparative purposes.

Benefits: Varied improvements in quality of life or social conditions having some known relationship to interventions.

Body Mass Index (BMI): The calculated ratio of weight measured in kilograms to height measured in meters squared. The National Institute of Health has established guidelines for designating “overweight” persons as those having a BMI value of 25 or more.

Collaborating: Exchanging information, modifying activities, sharing resources and enhancing the capacity of another for mutual benefit and to achieve a common purpose.

Community: A collective of people identified by common values and mutual concern for the development and well-being of their group or geographical area.

Comparability: The extent which an indicator measures the same thing across time or space.

Cooperating: Exchanging information, modifying activities and sharing resources for mutual benefit and to achieve a common purpose.

Coordinating: Exchanging information and modifying activities for mutual benefit.

Credibility: Trustworthy and reliable information.

Easement: A permanent right granted for limited use by a landowner to another person or entity for a specific purpose, not inconsistent with the rights of the landowner.

Environment: The totality of social, biological, and physical circumstances surrounding a defined quality of life, health, behavioral goal or problem.

Evaluation: The comparison of an object of interest against a standard of acceptability.

Facilitator: Anyone who guides and accelerates the effort, initiative or program.

Grassroots: Individuals or society at a local level.

Healthy and Sustainable Community: One that develops and maintains a strong quality of life for its residents through consideration of its long-term economic, ecological, social and political well-being.

Index: A weighted combination of two or more indicators, designed to be a summary indicator that shows the general trend of a system. By combining a collection of indicators into an index, general trends can be depicted.

Index Number: A ratio that shows percentage change over time. A benchmark value is set at 100 and values are calculated as percentage of that.

Indicator: Specific items of information that describe observable, measurable characteristics of the social, economic or environmental system over time. They are used to understand the status or quality of the condition they measure. Generally an indicator focuses on small, manageable, tangible and telling piece of a system to give a sense of the bigger picture.

Interpolate: A method for estimating data points that fall between points of actual measurement.

Issue: A concern, problem or challenge of a community or organization. Issues are frequently addressed through projects or initiatives to achieve specific desired outcomes.

Key Indicator: One of limited number of primary indicators that are supported by secondary indicators.

Leading Indicator: An indicator whose value changes prior to a change in the larger system of which it is a component.

Linkage: Direct or Indirect causal relationship between two or more systems where changes in one affect the status of another.

Livable Communities: Alternatives to conventional patterns of development that have occurred since World War II. Characterized by the following: Multi-purpose interconnecting streets, a variety of housing types at a variety of densities, a mix of uses, and open space as a focal point of the community.

Objective: A defined result of a specific activity to be achieved in a finite period of time by a specified person or organization. Objectives can be considered intermediate, or programmatic. They do not reflect the ultimate change sought by a project or initiative.

Partnership: A bond or relationship between two separate organizations to create change.

Planning: Process of defining needs, establishing priorities, diagnosing causes of problems, assessing resources and barriers, and allocating resources to achieve objectives.

Policy: The set of laws and rules of a public or private organization guiding the activities of an organization or an administration in service to its constituents, and providing authority for allocation of resources.

Precision: The fineness of the measurement.

Primary Data: Information that does not exist within the community and needs to be gathered.

Priority: Alternatives ranked according to feasibility, value (importance) or both.

Quality of Life: The nature or character of the overall experience of daily living, particularly as it is influenced by the environment.

Rural Areas: Lands outside designated Urban Growth Areas, including agricultural areas, resource areas and rural villages. Only the basic services and

facilities to meet the needs of the local population are available in rural areas.

Secondary Data: Information that already exists in a community by virtue of having been collected previously, often by an outside agency.

Shared Vision: A compelling statement of what one wants to create; the engine that drives strategies and gives them their force.

Strategic Planning: Process of defining the vision, mission, goals and objectives of an organization.

Strategy: A plan of action that anticipates barriers and resources in relation to achieving a specific objective.

Surveys: Methods of polling a group or population to estimate the norms and distribution of characteristics from a sample, using direct observations, questionnaires or interviews.

Sustainability: The long-term health and vitality of cultural, economic, environmental and social systems. A healthy, vital, resilient society that is able to creatively adapt to changing conditions over the long-term.

Sustainable Development: "Development that meets the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Economic and social changes that promote human prosperity and quality of life without causing ecological or social damage.

Urban Areas: Lands within urban growth areas that include 1) Built Areas - lands already built upon or preserved as parks and environmentally sensitive features, and 2) Future Growth Areas - that include lands appropriate for future urban and suburban development requiring a full range of public facilities and services, and including residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and recreational uses.



Urban Growth Area: Area that includes a city or borough at its center, developed portions of townships, and enough buildable lands to meet future land use needs. These areas are separate from areas intended for agricultural, rural and resource uses. Urban Growth Areas are given official standing by their incorporation in Future Land Use Maps and adoption in the Lancaster County and local comprehensive plans.

Validity: How well an indicator actually represents what one intends to measure. This is similar to accuracy, but refers to the relation between the measurement and its underlying concept.

Village: A compact, primarily residential community with a well-defined edge, which may have a focal point or center. A village has a mix of uses, including supporting commercial and public uses and one or more central gathering places. A village generally has fifty or more dwellings and is pedestrian-oriented, with a radius of between one-quarter to one-half mile from center to edge.

Village Growth Area: An area that includes a village at its center, established for the purpose of separating areas appropriate for future growth from the surrounding rural countryside.

Vision: The ideal statement of what an organization's or initiative's constituents or community would look like.

Note: Most terms were taken from *The Community Indicators Handbook, Measuring Progress Toward Healthy and Sustainable Communities*, published by Redefining Progress, Tyler Norris Associates and Sustainable Seattle, 1997; from *Outcomes Users Guide*, prepared by the Health Forum and developed by Macro International, 2000; and from the 1997 Lancaster County Growth Management Plan.

Resources



The data compiled in this report came from a wide variety of resources. Listed below are those agencies and organizations providing raw data. Numerous other individuals and organizations assisted in helping to find these resources or the actual data itself.

Federal Agencies

- United States Bureau of Economic Analysis
- United States Department of Agriculture, Census of Agriculture
- United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census
- United States Department of Labor
- Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency

Other National Organizations

- Women's Association for Women's Alternatives, Inc.

State Agencies

- Pennsylvania Bureau of Elections
- Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- Pennsylvania State Data Center
- Pennsylvania State Library

Local Agencies & Organizations

- Building Industry Association of Lancaster County
- Ephrata Community Hospital
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Lancaster Association of Township Officials
- Lancaster Campaign

Local Agencies & Organizations Continued

- Lancaster Community Hospital
- Lancaster Community Indicators Project, Quality of Life Survey
- Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board
- Lancaster County Assessors Office
- Lancaster County Association of Realtors
- Lancaster County Bail Office
- Lancaster County Board of Elections
- Lancaster County Chamber of Business and Industry
- Lancaster County Conservation District
- Lancaster County Court Administration Office
- Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Commission
- Lancaster County Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- Lancaster County Interagency Council for the Homeless
- Lancaster County Planning Commission
- Lancaster County Office of Prothonotary
- Lancaster County Victim and Witness Protection Office
- Lancaster County Voter Registration Office
- Lancaster Farmland Trust
- Lancaster General Hospital
- Lancaster Regional Medical Center
- Library System of Lancaster County
- Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon
- Susquehanna Valley Ozone Action Partnership
- United Way of Lancaster County

Project Collaborators

Listed below are those individuals and the organizations represented, who have served on this project.

2003 Project Team Members

Franklin & Marshall College
Sean Flaherty 1998-
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Lancaster Campaign
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Lancaster Healthy Communities
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Lancaster Regional Medical Center
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Library System of Lancaster County
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Ephrata Community Hospital
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United Way of Lancaster County
Anne Gingerich 2002-

Urban League of Lancaster
Vickie Fleming 2002-

Others Contributing to the Project

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Crispus Attucks Community Center
Elizabethtown College
Harrisburg Community College
Inner City Group
Lancaster Community Hospital
Lancaster County Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Lancaster County Simply Better System Reform
Madonna-Young Opinion Research Center, Millersville University
St. Joseph Hospital
Southeast Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center



Lancaster Community Indicators Project

helping to ensure that

Lancaster County

is a community able and willing

to measure its progress

and effect positive change.
