
Indicators

Indicators can be a useful way to take the “pulse” of the community. While periodic assessments such as this one are critical to understanding the context and interrelationships of the many factors in human service delivery, they are very time and resource intensive to conduct properly. If indicators are collected and reported regularly, they do allow useful comparisons. Some indicators that could provide yearly comparisons are:

- percentage of children below poverty
- number of assisted lunches (% total, per school)
- unemployment rate
- length of time unemployed
- education; percent at GED/High School or higher
- number of individuals in jail
- # jobs created
- # jobs with health benefits
- % of the population with medical insurance
- % of the population that volunteers
- % of the population experiencing a high degree of stress, anxiety or depression
- the teen probation, substance abuse and school truancy or absenteeism rate
- crime statistics
- Kids Count stats, selected (birth weight, prenatal care, child abuse/neglect..)

The Supplement section contains the most current statistics for these indicators and others. References and web addresses are included for the user to be able to access any updates that will occur after SCAN is released.

Comparison of Selected Household Challenges SPAN/MC (1998) and SCAN (2003)

The following chart presents a comparison of responses to household challenge items that were used for both the survey instruments used in SPAN/MC (1998), the last community needs assessment, and SCAN (2003), the present assessment. Several items in the new survey focus on the same general topic, but are worded differently; these are indicated by an asterisk. The sample size for the subgroups in SPAN/MC was also much smaller than the sample used in the current study.

Comparison for Non-Student Households with Incomes Less than \$25,000

Challenge	Major '98 <\$25,000	Major '03 < 25,000	Minor '98 <\$25,000	Minor '03 <\$25,000
paying for legal help	50%	22%	17%	9%
paying for medical expenses*	26%	26%	29%	18%
finding a job that pays enough to met basic financial needs	50%	20%	32%	24%
paying for rent or mortgage	14%	17%	26%	30%
paying for utilities	15%	20%	26%	26%
paying for clothing	10%	15%	27%	32%
paying for food	10%	9%	28%	30%
finding affordable child care	38%	0%	38%	25%
finding affordable after school care	38%	7%	13%	11%
finding transportation for someone with a disability or serious illness*	14%	5%	14%	15%
finding services for someone with serious emotional problems*	8%	26%	24%	24%
Alcohol abuse*	3%	2%	15%	9%

Comparison for Non-Student Households with Incomes Less than \$15,000

Challenge	Major '98 <\$15,000	Major '03 < 15,000	Minor '98 <\$15,000	Minor '03 <\$15,000
paying for legal help	50%	24%	13%	5%
paying for medical expenses*	32%	38%	27%	14%
finding a job that pays enough to met basic financial needs	55%	19%	36%	28%
paying for rent or mortgage	18%	28%	24%	14%
paying for utilities	18%	33%	27%	24%
paying for clothing	15%	19%	27%	28%
paying for food	18%	19%	27%	24%
finding affordable child care	67%	0%	33%	33%
finding affordable after school care	33%	10%	33%	10%
finding transportation for someone with a disability or serious illness*	10%	9%	20%	18%
finding services for someone with serious emotional problems*	4%	38%	8%	19%
Alcohol abuse*	4%	5%	8%	10%