

Quality of Life Assessment

Jackson County, Indiana

4community Partnership
Jackson County United Way
June 2005



Partnership

4community Partnership

The following list of organizations and individuals partnered with Jackson County United Way in this improvement campaign. The Jackson County United Way wishes to recognize and express gratitude for their efforts on behalf of this initiative.

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Executive Summary

Background

In May 2004, the Jackson County United Way assembled a group of community leaders to collaborate on strategies for community improvement. The goal of the initiative was to bring county residents together to improve the quality of life of Jackson County. Rather than focus on one area of need, the community partnership sought to create a comprehensive needs assessment for the county, across all quality of life indicators, which could be used to inform strategic planning, decision making and resource investments for many years to come.

An exhaustive data collection effort followed, to determine the “baseline” or current state of several key indicators of quality of life in the county:

- Education
- Justice and Public Safety
- Leisure and Recreation
- County Infrastructure
- Economy and Financial Well-Being
- Health and Human Services

For each indicator, all available data were collected and reported as findings, highlighting both strengths of the Jackson County community and areas in need of improvement. The report also includes recommendations to address the greatest needs identified. It is hoped that these baseline measures of quality of life indicators will be used to benchmark progress of community investments, whether they be in the fields of education, public safety, recreation, infrastructure, economy, or human services.

Findings

The assessment identified many areas of strength, as well as critical needs that must be addressed to improve the quality of life of Jackson County residents. The “Top 10” needs are highlighted below:

- *K-12 education.* Many of the Jackson County schools are struggling with low assessment rates and high drop out rates.
- *Higher education attainment.* Jackson County residents do not seek higher education at rates commensurate with surrounding counties or the state.
- *Low levels of adult literacy.* More than half the adults in Jackson County have significant problems with reading.
- *Increased methamphetamine use and production.* The number of meth labs seized in Jackson County leads the region, while meth arrests are increasing faster than any other type of drug- or alcohol-related arrest.
- *Rapid growth of the Hispanic community.* The rapid growth of non-English speaking residents creates challenges for schools, employers, service providers and government officials.
- *Teen birth rate.* The teen birth rate in Jackson County has been on the rise for more than ten years, leading to more low birth weight babies and a lack of education attainment for female youth.
- *Limited quality early childhood care and education opportunities.* There are no licensed child care centers in Jackson County, outside of Head Start programs, and the need for child care greatly exceeds current capacity.
- *Limited resources to support the needs of adults ages 65 and older.* The availability of services for older adults does not meet the current need, and the population of seniors will increase dramatically in the near future.
- *Lack of public transportation.* There is a great unmet need for public transportation in Jackson County, which is a significant barrier for rural residents, especially those with limited mobility, the elderly and low-income families.
- *Significant caseload backlog for the Circuit Court.* The caseload of the Jackson County Circuit Court is one of the highest in the state, almost doubling in less than two years.

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Recommendations

The recommendations associated with the “Top 10” needs are summarized below:

- *K-12 education.* Encourage access to current information technology tools and collaboration among school corporations; and engage school improvement specialists to improve performance related to No Child Left Behind standards.
- *Higher education attainment.* Align learning with future employment opportunities, and establish a program responsible for coordination of learning opportunities for adults in Jackson and neighboring counties.
- *Low levels of adult literacy.* Expand current resources focused on literacy; create family learning opportunities; and hold adult education providers accountable for results.
- *Increased methamphetamine use and production.* Evaluate efforts around the state and the region aimed at reducing meth use and production, and implement selected strategies through a collaboration of human services and public safety agencies.
- *Rapid growth of the Hispanic community.* Increase English language learning opportunities for Hispanic students; identify and develop leaders and advocates among the Hispanic community; collaborate with nonprofit organizations to develop the Hispanic workforce; and recruit Spanish speaking medical personnel.
- *Teen birth rate.* Find quality programs that work to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy.
- *Limited quality early childhood care and education opportunities.* Increase financial support for early childhood education; develop and publish a county wide referral system of childcare providers; and develop and maintain licensed day care centers at strategic locations in the county.
- *Limited resources to support the needs of adults ages 65 and older.* Expand the capacity of the county senior citizen centers for service; expand public transportation available to seniors and others in rural areas; and plan and develop affordable, safe and quality housing for seniors.
- *Lack of public transportation.* Establish a county-wide, freestanding entity to operate a public transportation system that best fits the needs of the county.
- *Significant caseload backlog for the Circuit Court.* Work with state officials to gain the recommended addition to the Circuit Court system in Jackson County.

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Next Steps

Recommendations for each quality of life indicator have been developed to guide the future activities of Jackson County community leaders. It is the hope of the community partnership that produced this report that many of these recommendations will be adapted into the planning efforts of Jackson County government, private and non-profit organizations, and that the indicator measurements presented will be used to benchmark the progress of these efforts.

Introduction

Overview

Great results come when community organizations join forces.

This vision was at the heart for the convening of a community partnership of organizations from throughout Jackson County, Indiana. In May 2004, the Jackson County United Way assembled a group of community leaders to collaborate on strategies for community improvement. The goal of the initiative was to bring county residents together to improve the quality of life in Jackson County.

As the community partnership began to examine strategies to move toward their vision, they began to realize that this specific opportunity had the potential to impact future initiatives in Jackson County. To develop a blueprint that would leverage community resources against priority needs, it was necessary to lay a foundation with a county wide needs assessment. Not only would a needs assessment provide the information needed to make informed decisions now, it could be used by organizations throughout Jackson County in years to come to support many other initiatives.

Report design

Edward Deming and Joseph Juran, two of the great innovators in the practice of quality measurement, argued that measurement is central to the concept of quality and are often attributed as saying: “You cannot improve what you do not measure.” For Jackson County residents to improve the quality of life for residents, they must first establish measures, or indicators, against which quality can be determined.

The use of quality of life indicators for social measurement is not new. As early as the end of World War I, the federal government set about developing indicators to measure well-being. In 1969, President Lyndon B. Johnson commissioned the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to develop a statistical portrait of the social well-being of the country. Community indicator projects began to focus on local initiatives. By the late 1990s, over 200 community indicator projects were in place throughout the nation to track local social and economic conditions.¹

This report examines six key indicators of quality of life in Jackson County. The key indicators illustrate varied economic and social conditions.

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¹ Patrice Flynn, David Berry, and Theodore Heintz. (Vol. 1, No. 4, Fall 2002). Sustainability & Quality of Life Indicators: Toward the Integration of Economic, Social and Environmental Measures: *Indicators: The Journal of Social Health*.

Report design,
(continued)

Each indicator is considered in context of county, state, and national facts and figures. The following list contains the indicators used in this report.

- Education
- Justice and Public Safety
- Leisure and Recreation
- County Infrastructure
- Economy and Financial Well-Being
- Health and Human Services

For each key indicator, the report contains findings and recommendations. The findings represent the studies and data compilation the researcher completed. The recommendations are summary statements that can be used as a starting point for future discussions.

A supplement to the report document is available through the Jackson County United Way. The supplement is a compendium of the primary data collected in research.

**Recommended
uses**

This report is designed to be used as a reference for the entire Jackson County community. It is the hope of the partners that the report will be used for a wide range of purposes. Some suggested uses are as follows.

- Community organizations and agencies are encouraged to use the report as supporting information to develop and implement their missions and objectives, as well as to develop new programs and expand the development of existing programs.
- Profit and nonprofit organizations can use the report to develop strategic plans.
- Information from the report can be used as a benchmark for further studies and to evaluate the success of current and future initiatives.
- Finally, it is the hope of the partners that the county residents and leaders will use the report to identify ways to increase collaboration and reduce redundancies in services to solutions for addressing community problems. By developing collaborations throughout Jackson County, more can be accomplished than by any individual or single group alone. Ultimately, the partners believe that this report will serve as the foundation for great things to occur as a result of Jackson County residents working together to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Education Findings

Overview

Education is an essential component of quality of life for any community. Education is associated with income levels, opportunities, and cultural values. In Indiana, policy makers and legislators have worked to keep pace with national movements while facing difficult budget limitations. Across the nation, states are stepping up to meet the challenges required by the No Child Left Behind legislation. Economic demands, transitions in technology, and the pending retirement of the baby-boom generation have generated an awareness of the rising need for adult education.

In this section, we will examine education indicators of attainment and need in Jackson County. For each of these indicators, we will see the impact on the lifelong learning span of an individual, from infancy through adulthood. The data in this section will show educational successes in Jackson County as well as disparities between opportunity and attainment.

Education Attainment

Overview

Education attainment in Indiana has historically registered as mediocre on the national level. In *Education Week's* "State of the States" report, Indiana received a majority of "B" and "C" grades for 2003. Only about one-third of Indiana students tested at proficient or above in Math and Reading (Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Indiana Education Report Card

| Student Achievement (NAEP 2003) | |
|---|-----|
| Math | |
| • 4 th graders proficient or above | 35% |
| • 8 th graders proficient or above | 31% |
| Reading | |
| • 4 th graders proficient or above | 33% |
| • 8 th graders proficient or above | 33% |
| Standards and Accountability | A- |
| Efforts to Improve Teacher Quality | B+ |
| School Climate | C- |
| Resources | |
| • Equity | C |
| • Spending (ungraded) | |

Continued on next page

Education Attainment, Continued

Overview, (continued)

Residents of Indiana have generally attributed this mediocrity to individuals who do not place a high value on education. However, mediocrity may be in part caused by factors including accessibility, poverty, school funding, curriculum, and workforce needs. The barriers between the value of education and access to excellent education services have never been greater.

Education attainment in Jackson County

The barriers between the value of education and access to excellent education are apparent in Jackson County. Education attainment in Jackson County lags behind that of the state in every attainment category except for the number of high school graduates (Figure 2). The widest gap against state rates is the percent of individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher: Jackson County is lower by nearly 8 percent. On a more positive note, the percentages of Jackson County individuals graduating from high school exceed that of Indiana by nearly 10 percent.

Figure 2 – Education Attainment, Population 25 Years and Over (2000 U.S. Census)

| | Jackson County | Indiana |
|---|----------------|---------|
| Less than 9 th grade | 6.3% | 5.3% |
| 9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma | 13.9% | 12.6% |
| High school graduates | 46.7% | 37.2% |
| Some college, no degree | 16.6% | 19.7% |
| Associate degree | 5.0% | 5.8% |
| Bachelor's degree only | 7.3% | 12.2% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 4.2% | 7.2% |
| Percent high school graduate or higher | 79.8% | 82.1% |
| Percent bachelor's degree or higher | 11.5% | 19.4% |

Comparisons to neighboring counties

The percentage of high school graduates in Jackson County leads that of the seven neighboring counties (Figure 3). Again, Jackson County significantly trails neighboring counties in the numbers of individuals attaining a bachelor's degree by an average of 4 percent and that of the state by nearly 8 percent.

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Education Attainment, Continued

Figure 3 – Educational Attainment – 2000

| Geographical Location | High School Graduate or Higher | Bachelor's Degree or Higher |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jackson County | 79.8 | 11.5 |
| Average of 7 Surrounding Counties | 79.4 | 16.9 |
| Indiana | 82.1 | 19.4 |

College enrollment

As it stands, the low percentage of Jackson County residents with a Bachelor's degree or higher will more than likely remain low, based on the U.S. Census in 2000. Only 11 percent, or just over 1 in 10 residents, reported enrollment in college. This compares to the state rate of 22 percent, twice that of Jackson County.

Report Cards for Jackson County Schools

Communities “grow up” their future. Jackson County depends upon the school systems, both public and private, to prepare its youth for college and the workforce. This is true at a national level, as well. To ensure a quality education for all youth, the national emphasis in education is that of school accountability. To comply with, and even exceed, the demands of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, the Indiana legislature passed P.L. 221-1999. At the core of both of these legislative mandates, schools must demonstrate adequate yearly progress. Adequate yearly progress (AYP) is determined using accountability standards such as graduation rates, improved test scores, highly qualified teachers, and a curriculum mapped to state standards. Each of these standards must be studied according to student population. For example, the majority of students in a school may demonstrate AYP in math except for those students who receive free lunch. In that instance, the school is reported as not passing Math, but may be considered passing on an overall basis.

All Jackson County Schools Systems have demonstrated overall passing indicators in AYP for the 2003-04 school year. According to the Indiana Department of Education, reasons specific school buildings in Jackson County have not demonstrated AYP in specific indicators include poor or missing participation rates in elementary reading/language arts and mathematics testing, challenges with special education, and Hispanic student learning and testing needs.

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Education Attainment, Continued

Report Cards for Jackson County Schools, (continued)

In Jackson County, three of the four school corporations received passing grades on the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) report card. Unfortunately, the largest school corporation in the county, Seymour Community Schools, is the one corporation not meeting NCLB standards.

Figure 4 provides a brief overview of the No Child Left Behind Report Card scores for each of the Jackson County public school systems for 2002 and 2003, the most recent years posted. A “Y” indicates a passing score.

Figure 4 – NCLB Report Cards in Jackson County

| | 2002 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|
| Brownstown Central Community School Corporation | N | Y |
| Brownstown Central High School | N | Y |
| Brownstown Central Middle School | N | Y |
| Freetown Elementary School | Y | Y |
| Brownstown Elementary School | Y | Y |
| Crothersville Community Schools | Y | Y |
| Crothersville Elementary School | Y | Y |
| Crothersville Jr.-Sr. High School | Y | Y |
| Medora Community School Corporation | Y | Y |
| Medora Jr.– Sr. High School | Y | N |
| Medora Elementary School | Y | Y |
| Seymour Community Schools | N | N |
| Seymour Senior High School | N | N |
| Seymour Middle School | N | N |
| Cortland Elementary School | -- | Y |
| Emerson Elementary School | Y | Y |
| Seymour-Jackson Elementary School | Y | Y |
| Seymour-Redding Elementary School | Y | N |
| Margaret R. Brown Elementary School | Y | Y |

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Education Attainment, Continued

Adult literacy

Jackson County faces challenges in education with adults as well as children and youth. In 1993, the U.S. Department of Education initiated the National Adult Literacy Survey. According to this survey, a total of 21-23 percent of American adults read at Level 1, the lowest literacy level (Figure 5). At Level 1, adults display difficulty using certain reading, writing, and applying computational skills considered necessary to function in everyday life (Figure 6).

Although Jackson County does have fewer number of adults than the average for Indiana struggling at the lowest level of literacy, nearly half of Jackson County residents read at the lowest two levels of literacy. Low education attainment affects many sectors of the community. It negatively affects employment, and crime and poverty rates as well. (Figure 7).

Figure 5 – Adult Literacy Rates

| | Jackson County | Indiana | United States |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Level 1 | 14% | 16% | 21-23% |
| Level 1-2 | 48% | 43% | 46-51% |

Figure 6 – Skills of Adults at Level 1

| Can Usually Perform | Cannot Usually Perform |
|--|---|
| Sign one's name | Locate eligibility from a table of employee benefits |
| Identify a country in a short article | Locate intersection on a street map |
| Locate one piece of information in a sports article | Locate two pieces of information in a sports article |
| Locate the expiration date information on a driver's license | Identify and enter background information on a social security card application |
| Total a bank deposit entry | Calculate total costs of purchase from an order form |

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Education Attainment, Continued

Figure 7 – Effects of Low Literacy Levels

Poverty. Forty-three percent of adults at Level 1 were living in poverty, compared to 4 percent of those at Level 5.

Welfare. The likelihood of being on welfare goes up as literacy levels go down. Three out of four food stamp recipients performed in the two lowest literacy levels.

Income. Adults at Level 1 earned a median income of \$240 per week, compared to \$681 for those at Level 5.

Employment Status. Adults at Level 1 worked an average of 19 weeks per year, compared to 44 weeks per year for those at Level 5.

Crime. Seven in 10 prisoners performed in the lowest two literacy levels.

Challenge

The quality of life of Jackson County residents is directly impacted by education attainment rates. Economic development, opportunities for youth, and the pleasure gained from lifelong learning, are all related to individuals achieving success in education. Currently, some Jackson County Schools are struggling to provide quality education to all students. For Jackson County to see a rise in education attainment rates, it will be imperative to consider current education needs to identify risk points and strive to build a community of lifelong learners.

Adult Education Needs

Overview

In 2001, the Thomas P. Miller & Associates consulting group conducted a survey of employers and held a focus group in Jackson County as a component of the *Community Alliances to Promote Education* competitive grant program through Lilly Endowment. Emergent themes from the two surveys included the need for adult education opportunities to be expanded throughout Jackson County. The employer survey collected responses regarding the availability of and need for professional skills, basic skills, and technical skills training. Consistently, employers indicated that not only are skill sets needed in each of these areas, but that the opportunity for education to improve these skill sets is limited.

The focus groups and interviews for this analysis reached similar conclusions. Adult education opportunities in Jackson County are needed for residents to attain a higher quality of life. Again, employers stated the need for skills development and literacy attainment in their employees.

This analysis confirms the perceptions of these two sets of data. From technical skill needs to learning English or Spanish, adult learning is critical to maintain a vibrant, healthy community.

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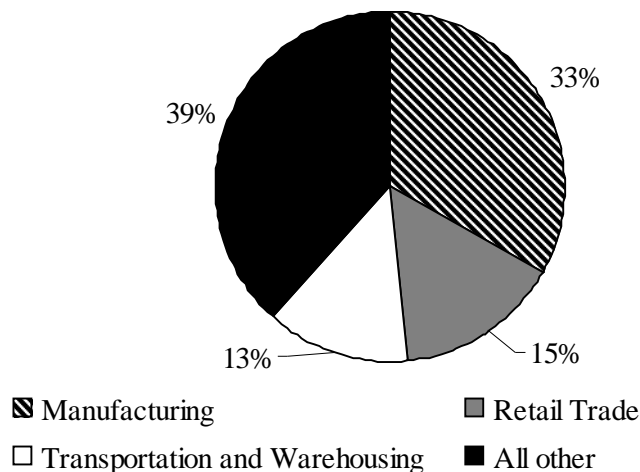
Adult Education Needs, Continued

Needs for learning

The impetus for adult learning is generally driven by the need for employment. Learning opportunities in a community are more likely to be accessed if the classes are in alignment with employment options.

In Jackson county, training and education for manufacturing skills head the list for learning needed to maintain an economically sound community. Based on statistics from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in the private employment sector, manufacturing jobs are represented by 33 percent of all people, followed by retail at 15 percent and transportation and warehousing at 13 percent (Figure 8). Less than 1 percent of Jackson County residents earn their living from farming. All others work in either government or private employment. Twelve other job classifications share a total of 39 percent of jobs in Jackson County. To accommodate this job distribution and the needs of Jackson County employers, adult learning should include skills and knowledge training, certification, and degrees needed to obtain a job, maintain employment, and progress in a career.

Figure 8 – Private Employment Percentages 2002



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Adult Education Needs, Continued

Accessibility Although skills and specific job training opportunities may be limited, Jackson County is fortunate that there is a variety of other adult learning opportunities. Figure 9 lists providers, types, and locations of educational opportunities in or near to Jackson County.

Figure 9 – Education Providers

| Provider | Services | Location |
|--|--|--|
| South Central Indiana Educational Association and Alliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Customized training programs for business and industry ● Offers classes at community learning centers ● Specialized classes ● Alliances with five colleges and universities | Jackson County Washington County Orange County Greene County Martin County Lawrence County. |
| Purdue Extension Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Private Applicator License Renewal ● Parenting Class ● Consumer and Family Science ● Class for Farmer's Market vendors ● Master Gardener Class | Brownstown Seymour |
| Jennings County Education and Training Center (Sponsored by the Jennings County Economic Development Commission.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distance learning ● Proctor tests ● Degree oriented courses from Indiana University Purdue University Columbus, Ivy Tech, and Indiana Wesleyan ● Limited | North Vernon |
| Jackson County Education Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workforce skills assessments and certifications | Seymour |
| Seymour Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GED | Seymour |

Continued on next page

Adult Education Needs, Continued

Accessibility, (continued)

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| College Cooperative Southeast | Certificate and degree programs from <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ball State University• Ivy Tech State College• Purdue University• Indiana University• Vincennes University• Taylor University• Indiana State University• University of Southern Indiana | Shelby County Decatur County Jennings County Scott County Bartholomew County |
| Community Education Coalition | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Columbus Learning Center• Indiana University Purdue University Columbus• Ivy Tech State College• Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation• Flat Rock – Hawcreek School Corporation | Bartholomew County |

Continued on next page

Adult Education Needs, Continued

Accessibility, Distance learning for adults is also available through Seymour High School.
(continued) Figure 10 lists the offering for 2004.

Figure 10 – Distance Learning Options

| Distance Learning Method | Courses | Institution Offering | Location |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|
| 2-way video | Nursing A150 LPN Transition | IUPUC | Seymour High |
| Internet | Medical terminology | Ivy Tech St College | Seymour High |
| Internet | Accounting 101 | Ivy Tech St College | Seymour High |
| Internet | Business 111 | Ivy Tech St College | Seymour High |
| Satellite TV | Education Supervision | Ball State University | Seymour High |
| Satellite TV | Education Administration | Ball State University | Seymour High |
| Satellite TV | Educational Psychology | Ball State University | Seymour High |
| 2-way video | Early Childhood Education 101 | ITSC – Columbus | Seymour High |
| 2-way video | Early Childhood Education 103 | ITSC – Columbus | Seymour High |
| IHETS TV | MCT 492, <i>Industrial Supervision</i> | ISU | Seymour High |
| IHETS TV | Adult and Community Education | Ball State | Seymour High |
| 2-way video | Early Childhood Education 102 | ITSC – Columbus | Seymour High |

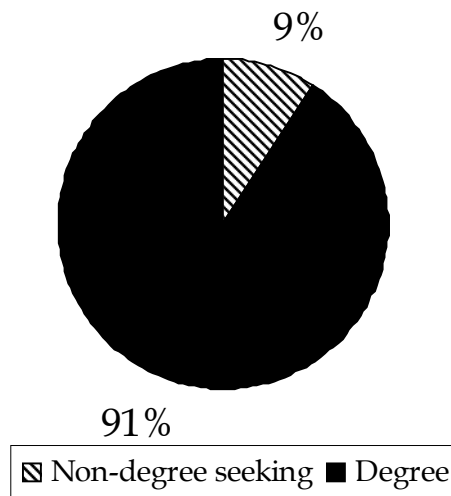
The previous lists contain a solid selection of learning opportunities; however, the learning opportunities do not meet the needs of all adults in Jackson County.

- Training opportunities are offered within the workplace, but limited work skills preparation and certifications are available.
- The majority of opportunities are limited to Seymour. This presents a barrier to adults in other areas of the county. Residents of Crothersville and Freetown have very limited access to education nearby.
- Teachers and other professional license holders are required to take courses to maintain their licensing or certifications. Post graduate offerings that would help support teachers and professionals are minimal.
- Most learning opportunities are directed toward degree-seeking adults (Figure 11).

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Adult Education Needs, Continued

Figure 11 – Non-degree vs. Degree Classes – 2004



Accessibility, (continued)

Beyond learning for career purposes, there are additional learning needs for adults in Jackson County. Other high priority needs for adult learning include English as a Second Language (ESL), lifelong enrichment learning opportunities, and parenting and other life skills training.

English as a second language

With the increase in the Hispanic population, there has been an increase in the need for English language classes. From 1990 to 2000 the Hispanic population in Indiana grew from about 99,000 to almost 215,000 people, a growth of 116,000 or 117 percent. In the 2000 U.S. Census, Jackson County ranked 28th in Indiana for Hispanic population. The need to provide English as a second language classes increases proportionately with the aggressive growth in the Hispanic population.

Figure 12 – Growth in Hispanic Population

| | Census 2000 | | | Census 1990 | | | % Chg. in Hispanic Population 1990- 2000 |
|---------|-------------|------|--------------------|-------------|------|--------------------|---|
| | Hispanic | Rank | % of Total Pop. | Hispanic | Rank | % of Total Pop. | |
| Indiana | 214,536 | N/A | 3.50% | 98,788 | N/A | 1.80% | 117.20% |
| Jackson | 1,112 | 28 | 2.70% | 122 | 60 | 0.30% | 811.50% |

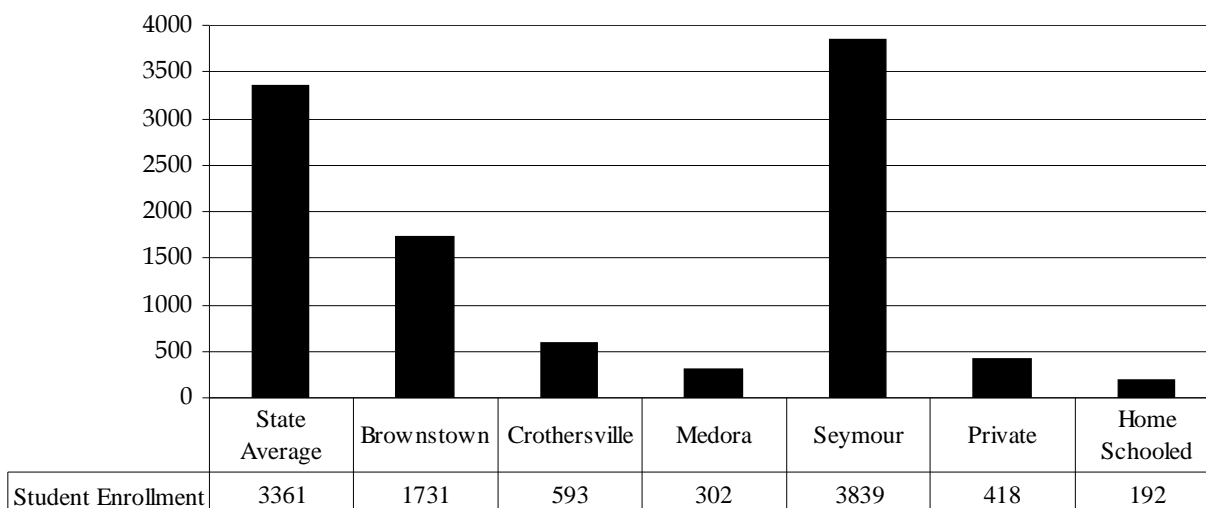
K-12 Needs

Overview of K-12 education in Jackson County

To serve its 7,756² school-aged children, Jackson County has four public school corporations and 13 private schools (Figure 13). The four public school corporations are centered in Seymour, Brownstown, Crothersville, and Medora. The private schools are located in Seymour and Brownstown. Neither Crothersville nor Medora have private K-12 schools.

The largest corporation, Seymour Community Schools, serves more students than all the other schools combined. Medora is the smallest corporation, schooling 302 students (Figure 13).

Figure 13 – Jackson County School Enrollment³



Continued on next page

² US Census 2000

³ <http://dew4.doe.state.in.us/>. Accessed 5/20/2005.

K-12 Needs, Continued

Figure 14 – Jackson County Schools

| Public High Schools | |
|---|--|
| Seymour Community Schools | Seymour Senior High School |
| Brownstown Central Community School Corporation | Jackson County Juvenile Detention Center Brownstown Central High School |
| Crothersville Community Schools | Crothersville Jr.-Sr. High School |
| Medora Community School Corporation | Medora Jr. – Sr. High School |
| Private High Schools | |
| Seymour | Trinity Lutheran High School Seymour Christian Academy Liberty Christian Academy |
| Public Jr. High / Middle Schools | |
| Seymour Community Schools | Seymour Middle School |
| Brownstown Central Community School Corporation | Brownstown Central Middle School Jackson County Juvenile Detention Center |
| Crothersville Community Schools | Crothersville Jr.-Sr. High School |
| Medora Community School Corporation | Medora Jr. – Sr. High School |
| Private Jr. High / Middle Schools | |
| Seymour | Saint Ambrose School Immanuel Lutheran School Saint John Lutheran School Seymour Christian Academy Liberty Christian Academy |
| Brownstown | Lutheran Central School |
| Public Elementary Schools | |
| Seymour Community Schools | Cortland Elementary School Emerson Elementary School Margaret R. Brown Elementary School Seymour-Jackson Elementary School Seymour-Redding Elementary School S.A.M.S. |
| Brownstown Central Community School Corporation | Freetown Elementary School Brownstown Elementary School |
| Crothersville Community Schools | Crothersville Elementary School |
| Medora Community School Corporation | Medora Elementary School |
| Private Elementary Schools | |
| Seymour | Saint Ambrose School Immanuel Lutheran School Saint John Lutheran School Seymour Christian Academy Liberty Christian Academy Zion Lutheran Kdg & Preschool |
| Brownstown | Lutheran Central School |

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K-12 Needs, Continued

Student demographics

Generally, students in Jackson County are Caucasian, speak English, and the large majority attend public school. Seymour and Medora schools both support more special education students than the current state average for schools (Figure 15). Seymour is also home to more than ten times the number of limited English speaking students than all other schools combined in the county.

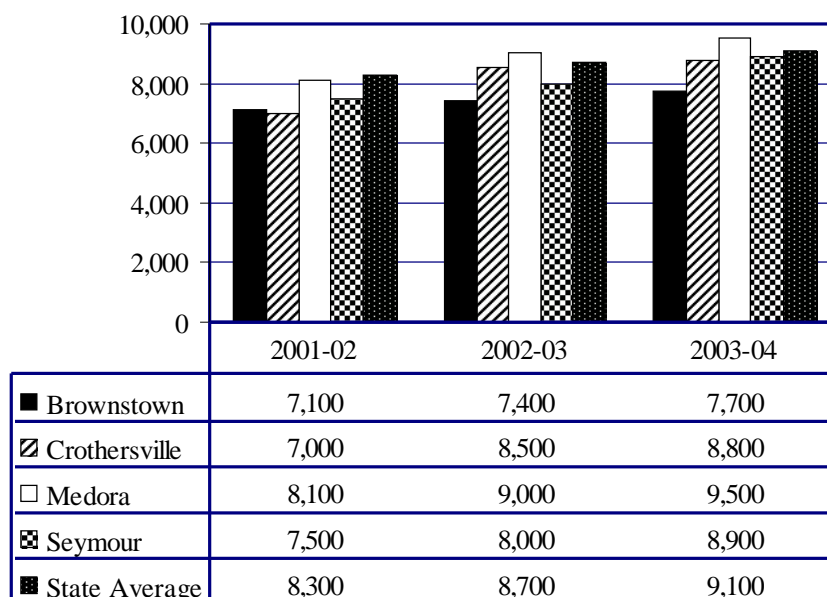
Figure 15 – Student Demographics

| 2004-2005 | Public School Enrollment | Home School Enrollment | Limited English | % Limited English | % Minority Enrollment | % Special Ed. | % Free and Reduced Lunches |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Crothersville | 593 | 18 | 2 | <1.0% | 2.7% | 16.7% | 34% |
| Brownstown | 1,731 | 43 | 7 | <1.0% | 2.8% | 16.9% | 29% |
| Medora | 302 | 7 | 0 | <1.0% | 1.0% | 19.4% | 43% |
| Seymour | 3,839 | 124 | 134 | <1.0% | 9.6% | 21.0% | 33% |
| State Avg. | 3,361 | --- | 112 | 2.7% | 21.3% | 17.7% | 35% |

Cost per pupil

Medora, with the smallest student population, has incurred the highest average cost per student over the past three years. The Seymour, Crothersville, and Brownstown schools' costs are all below the state average.

Figure 16 – Cost per Student Using 3 Year Average



Continued on next page

K-12 Needs, Continued

Teachers

Jackson County has excellent teachers in the K-12 school corporations. No Child Left Behind legislation requires that all schools have highly qualified teachers in every classroom. This means that a teacher must be licensed or certified to teach a particular subject matter to a specific age range of students. In Jackson County, all four school corporation have 100 percent highly qualified teachers on staff.

Teachers and the cost per student

The cost of having highly qualified teachers can weigh heavily on small rural school corporations. The average cost per student is driven in part by the number of students per classroom and the numbers of teachers. Because of the No Child Left Behind legislation, rural schools must place highly qualified teachers in each classroom no matter the number of students.

The impact of this can be seen when considering the cost per student, average teacher salary, and numbers of students. Medora has the highest cost per student, the lowest average teacher salary, and the lowest number of children enrolled in school. Although many factors contribute to the cost per student, the burden on small, rural schools to meet legislative demands is significant.

Figure 17 – Teacher Data

| | % Highly Qualified | 2002-03 Average Teacher Salary | 2004-05 Average Teacher Age | 2004-05 Teachers, FTE | 2004-05 Average Years Teacher Experience |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Brownstown | 100% | \$49,500 | 42 | 94 | 16.5 |
| Crothersville | 100% | \$42,300 | 45 | 37 | 19.4 |
| Medora | 100% | \$38,000 | 44 | 23 | 17.3 |
| Seymour | 100% | \$49,800 | 43 | 219 | 15.4 |
| State Average | 97% | \$45,000 | 44 | 192 | 17.2 |

Continued on next page

K-12 Needs, Continued

Student achievement rates

The Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) is the state's required assessment for measuring progress in student learning. ISTEP+ is administered to students in grades 3, 6, 8 and 10. At grade 10, the test is considered to be Indiana's Graduation Qualification Exam (GQE). Students must pass the GQE to achieve a high school diploma.

In Jackson County, Brownstown students consistently scored above state averages in both English and Math 2004-05 ISTEP+ exams. Seymour and Crothersville scores remained under the state average. Medora students scored exceptionally well in Math, but scored lower than state levels in English/Language Arts. Brownstown students were the only students as a group to exceed the state average in passing both the English and Math assessments (Figure 18).

Figure 18 – Corporation ISTEP Percentages

| | % Passing English/ Language Arts | % Passing Math | % Passing both English and Math |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| State Average | 72% | 73% | 63% |
| Brownstown | 74% | 77% | 68% |
| Crothersville | 65% | 64% | 52% |
| Medora | 65% | 81% | 61% |
| Seymour | 64% | 66% | 56% |

SAT scores

With the exception of Brownstown, Jackson County SAT scores were lower than those of the rest of Indiana. While just over half of Indiana seniors take the SAT, fewer than half of Jackson County seniors sat for the assessment (Figure 19).

Figure 19 – 2003-04 SAT Scores

| | % of 12 th Graders Taking SAT | Average Scores of 12 th Graders Taking SAT |
|---------------|--|---|
| State Average | 54% | 1,004 |
| Brownstown | 58% | 1,034 |
| Crothersville | 44% | 936 |
| Medora | 36% | 880 |
| Seymour | 45% | 991 |

Continued on next page

K-12 Needs, Continued

Graduation rates

Another key measure for educational accountability is high school graduation rates. In the 2003-04 school year, Brownstown's graduation rate led the county at 92.8 percent followed by Crothersville, Seymour, and Medora. Brownstown's graduation rates are higher than the state average.

Based on Indiana Department of Education 2003-04 statistics, all Jackson County schools lag behind the state average in the number of high school graduates pursuing college education. Again, Brownstown leads the county in number of students with plans to pursue college education (Figure 20).

Figure 20 – Graduation Rates and Intent

| | 2003-04 Graduation Rate | 2003-04 Graduates Pursuing College Education |
|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| State Average | 89.8% | 72.1% |
| Brownstown | 92.8% | 69.6% |
| Crothersville | 88.2% | 43.8% |
| Medora | 76.9% | 23.1% |
| Seymour | 82.1% | 52.6% |

Suspension, expulsion and drop out rates

Unfortunately, suspensions, expulsions and students dropping out of school are areas of concern in Jackson County. (The rates shown in Figure 21 cannot be compared from one school to another.) It is interesting to compare school populations with the rates. The smallest of the schools is facing the highest suspension and expulsion rates. Seymour had double the rate of dropouts than the state average for the 03-04 school year. The causes for this can range from the number of single parent households, poverty rates, special education rates, to many other social and economic conditions.

Figure 21 – Truancy, Expulsion, and Drop Out Rates

| | 2003-04 Suspension and Expulsion Incidents per 100 students ⁴ | 2003-04 Drop Out Rates ⁵ |
|---------------|--|---|
| State Average | 15.0 | 27 |
| Brownstown | 14.0 | 9 |
| Crothersville | 17.5 | 5 |
| Medora | 21.1 | 5 |
| Seymour | 8.5 | 55 |

⁴ <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/TRENDS/>. Accessed 5/20/2005.

⁵ <http://dew4.doe.state.in.us>. Accessed 5/20/2005.

Early Childhood Care and Education

Overview

- “Of the more than 10 million working mothers in the United States, 62 percent have children under the age of six.”
- More than half of all mothers return to work within a year of their babies’ births.
- Approximately 13 million children attend early care and education programs each day—either in center-based programs or family care homes. More than half a million preschoolers receive special education services.
- Over the last three decades, the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in nursery schools rose from about 11 percent to 48 percent.⁶

The education of young children cannot be separated from the needs and care of young children. Young children are directly affected by the challenges facing their parents. The ripple effects from these challenges spread through time to impact adult learning and employment needs, family needs, and the K-12 schools. Research over the last three decades has shown that high quality early childhood education improves later achievement and social adjustment, reduces the numbers of special education placements, and increases the likelihood of graduation from high school.⁷ Studies over time have shown that the negative effects of poverty can be reduced by participation in high quality early childhood programs.⁸ Addressing the needs of early childhood will have long-term, positive impacts throughout Jackson County.

Public perception

Public perception in Jackson County consistently indicates an increased need for high quality child care and education.

- In 2002, the Child Care Network, Inc. conducted a child care needs assessment. A total of 1,175 valid surveys were returned, indicating the following:
 - 42 percent indicated the need for and use of some form of child care
-

Continued on next page

⁶ Laura E. Berk, *Child Development*, 3rd edition (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1994); David Elkind, *A Sympathetic Understanding of the Child, Birth to Sixteen*, 3rd edition (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1994).

⁷ W. Steven Barnett, “Long-Term Effects of Early Childhood programs on Cognitive and School Outcomes,” In Richard E. Behrman, ed., *The Future of Children: Long-Term Outcomes of Early Childhood Programs*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (1991) 25-50; and Doris R. Entwisle, “The Role of Schools in Sustaining Early childhood Program Benefits,” in the same volume, 133-160.

⁸ L.J. Schweinhart, H.V. Barnes, and D.P. Weikart, with W.S. Barnett and A.S. Epstein, *Significant Benefits: the High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 27* (Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Press, 1993).

Early Childhood Care and Education, Continued

Public perception, (continued)

- 71% of respondents indicated they do not have a back-up child care arrangement
- 75 percent indicated they were generally satisfied with their child care arrangements
- 67 percent noted they would be interested in exploring other child care options
- 31 percent indicated the most important time period for child care was before and after school
- 56 percent responded that child care issues presented a problem with their job
- In 2005, a series of focus groups including family services providers, educators, and the general public identified the following high need areas in Jackson County:
 - Access to affordable childcare
 - Increased numbers of children not prepared to enter school
 - Lack of childcare centers (Most childcare is either church-based or home-based.)
 - Employers reported high absenteeism rates and increased turnover rates among young women (consequences of the lack of high quality early child care and education resources)

Capacity of Jackson County early childhood care and education providers

Public perception is born out of fact. Currently, 62 percent of Jackson County children need child care beyond licensed and registered provider capacity (Figure 22).

Figure 22 – Childcare Needs in Jackson County (U.S. 2002 Census)

| | |
|---|-------|
| Jackson County children ages 0-5 | 3,306 |
| Estimated percentage of Jackson County children ages 0-5 who need care | 67% |
| Estimate of Jackson County children who need care | 2,214 |
| Capacity of Licensed Providers and Registered Ministries in Jackson Co. | 611 |
| Jackson Co. Children Needing Care who Exceed Licensed Provider and Registered Ministry Capacity | 1,603 |
| Percent of Children who need child care who exceed licensed and registered provider capacity | 62% |

Continued on next page

Early Childhood Care and Education, Continued

Capacity of Jackson County early childhood care and education providers, (continued)

This does not mean that 62 percent of young children in Jackson County are not receiving childcare or education. Rather, the issue becomes one of *quality*. Despite the importance of the early childhood years, studies show that of every 10 center-based programs, 7 provide mediocre care, and one is so inadequate that it jeopardizes the children's health and safety.⁹ Another national quality study focused on family child care homes, and found that half of unregulated homes are of substandard quality.¹⁰

Indiana has put programs into place to improve access to quality childcare and education throughout the state. Indiana has a process for licensing or registration of childcare centers and preschool providers. There are provisions for faith-based child care organizations for registration, as well. The licensing requirements are working to both protect children and to increase the quality of child care providers.

The licensing requirements to become a licensed child care provider include having attained a high school diploma or GED, completion of a Child Care Associate's degree or equivalent post-secondary education, home audit visits, and orientation and training. For a home-based provider, the provider must have 12 credit hours of early childhood education if the home was opened after July 2003. There are no training standards for providers who were operating prior to July 2003.

A faith-based organization can apply for status as a registered ministry. A registered child care ministry is exempt from licensing. It must, however, clearly state in all of its paid promotional advertising that the organization is providing child care as an extension of the ministry's church or religious ministry. To gain and maintain its registration, the ministry must meet specific training and safety standards.

A child care center is a licensed facility designed to provide care for one or more children in a commercial building. Child care centers must meet and maintain rigorous standards in safety and training. The requirements are more stringent than those for child care ministry organizations. A child care center must maintain planned written activities and appropriate play and learning opportunities for children.

Continued on next page

⁹ Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes Study Team, *Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers, Executive Summary* (Denver: University of Colorado, 1995).

¹⁰ E. Galinsky, et al., *The Study of Children in Family Child Care and Relative Care* (New York: The Families and Work Institute, 1994).

Early Childhood Care and Education, Continued

Capacity of Jackson County early childhood care and education providers, (continued)

Jackson County has a total of 43 licensed and registered child care providers (Figure 23). There are currently no licensed centers in Jackson county, although the two Head Start sites are considered centers by the State of Indiana.

Figure 23 – Jackson County Licensed and Registered Child Care Providers

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Total Jackson County Licensed and Registered Child Care Providers | 43 |
| Licensed Child Care Centers: | 2 ¹¹ |
| Licensed Homes: | 37 |
| Registered Ministry: | 4 |
| Total Capacity: | 518 |
| Infant to Teen Capacity: (Most flexibility for families with multiple children) | 192 |
| Toddler – Teen Capacity | 326 |

Accessibility to childcare

With half of Jackson County residents residing in what the U.S. Census Bureau considers to be rural areas, many families have very limited choices regarding childcare. One major study that sampled childcare programs nationwide found that rural childcare providers have fewer years of schooling than their urban counterparts, and are paid less, wages being an “important predictor of quality care.”¹²

Jackson County’s 43 licensed and registered child care providers are not distributed equitably throughout the county. Licensed or registered providers are focused primarily in the more populous areas of the community (Figure 24). Medora, with 6 percent of the children under age 14 in Jackson County, has no registered or licensed providers while Brownstown has capacity to offer services to more children than currently served. Seymour has the largest discrepancy in the ratio of childcare provider capacity to numbers of children. When families do not have access to quality childcare, children often bear the results. Children may be placed in unsafe environments or with caregivers who do not understand the needs of children at varying ages. To look at the situation in a concrete manner, in Medora, there is the potential that the 96 children under age 5 must either travel for access to a registered or licensed provider, or are currently placed in situations with no documented oversight of safety or child development expertise.

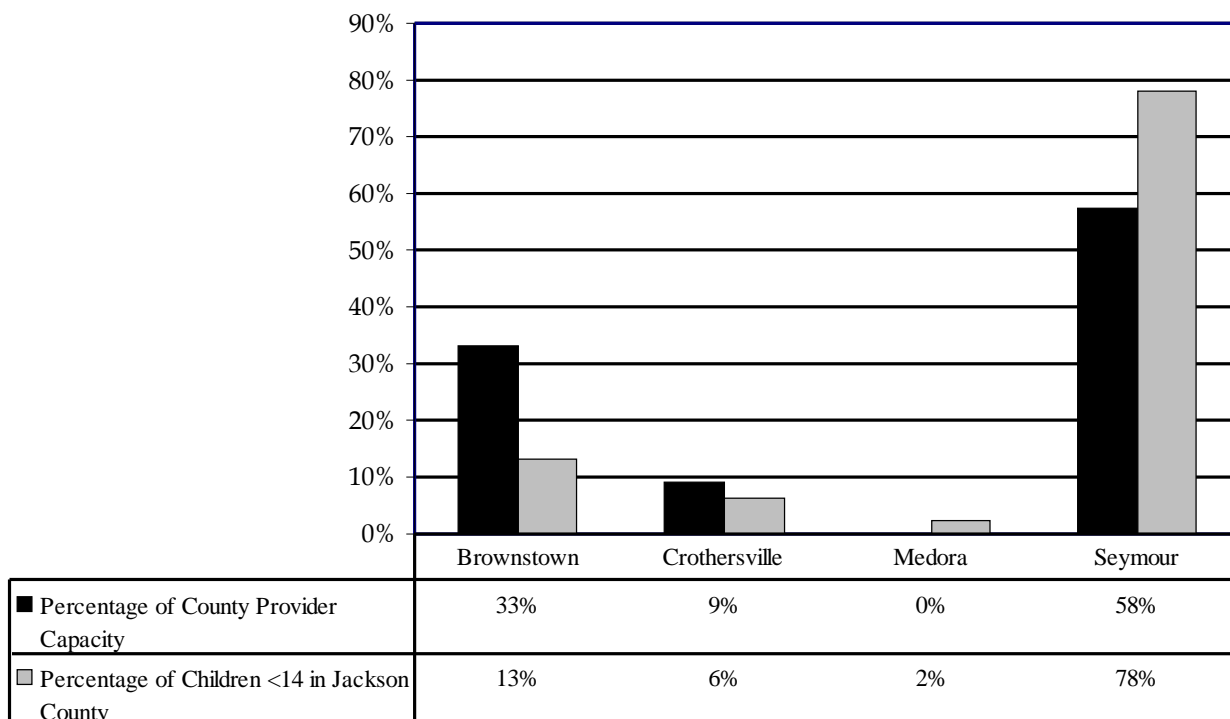
Continued on next page

¹¹ Brownstown Head Start and Seymour Head Start are considered Child Care Centers by Indiana Family Social Services Administration

¹² Beach, Betty A. (1997). *Eric Digest: EDO-RC-96-9: Perspectives on Rural Child Care.*

Early Childhood Care and Education, Continued

Figure 24 – Geographic Distribution of Child Care Providers to Numbers of Children under 5



Affordable child care

Participants in the community focus groups for this report identified the cost of child care the most pressing need in Jackson County. One strategy for measuring this need is to consider the number of children eligible for state child care vouchers against the number of children receiving vouchers. According to statistics from the Indiana June 2004 Child Care Development Fund Overview Report, for every 10 children in Jackson County who are eligible for vouchers, 2 are on a waiting list.

The impact of those 2 children becomes real when considered in the context of who is eligible for vouchers. The state provides child care vouchers to low-income families, the poorest of the poor. The vouchers give these families the financial resources to locate and afford quality child care for their children and to increase access to affordable, quality child care services. There is a 20 percent level of unmet need among the families most at risk due to poverty. This can contribute to a cycle of low achievement in academics, an unskilled workforce, and continued poverty in the future.

Continued on next page

Early Childhood Care and Education, Continued

Figure 25 – Affordable Child Care Need

| Affordable Child Care Need | |
|--|-----|
| Number of Jackson County children authorized to receive vouchers | 185 |
| Number of Jackson County children on waiting list for vouchers | 47 |
| Number of Jackson County children with identified need | 232 |
| Percentage of unmet identified need | 20% |

Recommendations

Early childhood education

- Support early childhood education. Proven programs should be promoted, and the funding to underwrite the participation of every child who is deemed to be at-risk for poor educational outcomes should be identified and secured.
- Develop strategies to help strengthen and support families. Organizations such as United Way, Boy's and Girl's Clubs, faith-based organizations, as well as employers should collaborate to provide a broad range of services and avoid redundancies in service.
- Develop and publish a county wide referral system of childcare providers.
- Secure funds to conduct a marketing campaign concerning early childhood care and education information to include the importance of using licensed childcare providers.
- Institute the Parents as Teachers program (www.patnc.org) to prepare young parents and their infants for a better start as a family. Programs such as these not only promote the improved care of children, but help to encourage a high value for education from the earliest ages.
- Develop and maintain licensed day care centers at strategic locations in the county. These locations include at the industrial park in Seymour and other central places of employment in Jackson County.

K-12 education

- Ensure access to and maintain current information technology tools and educational experiences in the schools. Literacy in technology is an essential skill for the future workplace.
- Identify and institute innovative programs to connect schools with service providers that support the well-being of children. Children in need face many barriers to learning.
- Identify and implement programs that contribute to higher levels of achievement with respect to English and the language arts and mathematics in schools that now report poor educational outcomes.
- Encourage collaboration among school corporations to support the needs of students transferring among corporations and to extend learning opportunities equitably throughout Jackson County.
- Align learning with future employment opportunities. Establish career education programs that assess student skill levels for jobs available within Jackson County. Using programs such as WorkKeys and KeyTrain will offer all students a concrete plan for the future, not just those who are college bound.

Continued on next page

Recommendations, Continued

K-12 education, (continued)

- Engage school improvement specialists to support schools struggling to meet NCLB standards. These specialists will review assessment strategies, strengthen school improvement initiatives, and provide outside perspective to any unaddressed needs.
 - Encourage and support the efforts of schools to collaborate on educational opportunities as well as policies. As students migrate from system to system, it is imperative to provide as much continuity as possible for a quality education.
 - Increase English language learning opportunities for Hispanic students. Look for Spanish speaking advocates to assist Hispanic families and students through the English speaking system.
-

Adult education

- Support and expand the work of the Learning Center to provide innovative programs that incorporate non-English speaking individuals into adult classrooms and into the community.
 - Link adult education to employment – establish a consistent measurement or language between adult educators and employers.
 - Assess job skills of adults and provide training and education programs to increase the skills needed by both local employers and employees.
 - Establish an office or program responsible for the coordination of learning opportunities for adults throughout Jackson and neighboring counties. This office needs to provide intensive communication to the community regarding need and opportunity for learning.
 - Expand current resources focused on adult literacy. Take literacy learning opportunities directly into the workforce.
 - Create family learning opportunities. Set up collaborative programs between schools, employers, and child care providers that offer tutoring or literacy classes to the whole family, not just the adults.
 - Hold adult education providers accountable for results. Form baseline measurements from which the community can evaluate successful programs and eliminate ineffective programs.
-

Justice and Public Safety Findings

Overview

Introduction

Americans have traditionally considered rural communities to be safe-havens from crime for residents and visitors. Unfortunately, this perception is no longer true. The National Rural Crime Prevention Center indicates that rural areas are not only experiencing more crime than they have in the past, but, in fact, are experiencing more serious crimes.¹³ Rural communities now face problems with alcohol and drug abuse at rates equal to those in the largest cities.¹⁴ The days of an idyllic countryside are in danger of extinction.

Located in the rural southeastern portion of the state, Jackson County, Indiana is not exempt to the national crime trends that plague larger communities. Jackson County's 41,000 citizens are facing increasing incidents of crime, including substantial alcohol and drug abuse related problems.

This section of the report will include information on drug and substance abuse, crime rates, as well as their impact on the judicial system and on youth and children.

¹³ National Rural Crime Prevention Center

¹⁴ Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Youth in Rural Communities"

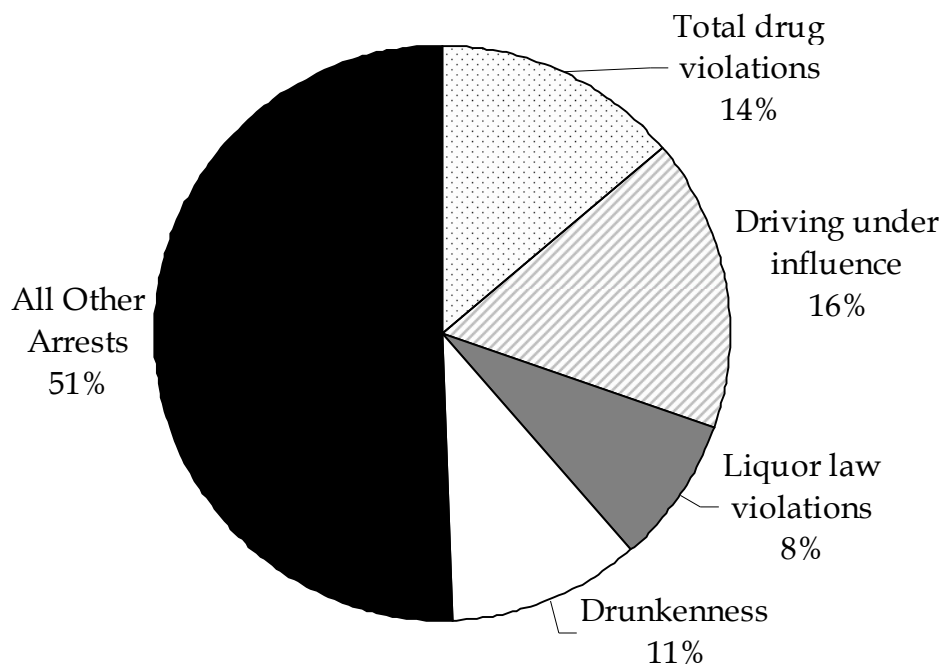
Alcohol Abuse and Other Drugs

Introduction

Addiction also takes a large toll on society. The social cost of drug and alcohol addiction treatment in the U.S. is estimated at \$294 billion per year in lost productivity and costs associated with law enforcement, health care, criminal justice, welfare, and other programs and services. According to the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), an FBI data collection report, nearly half of all reported arrests in Jackson County, Indiana were for drug and substance use related crimes. Figure 26 shows the statistical information included in the UCR for the year 2000.¹⁵

The good news is that treatment works – and for every dollar invested in addiction treatment, there is a return of \$4 to \$7 in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice costs, and theft. When savings related to health care are included, total savings can exceed costs by a ratio of \$12 to \$13.¹⁶

Figure 26 – Jackson County, Indiana Drug and Substance Abuse Arrests 2000



Continued on next page

¹⁵ Source: 2000 Unified Crime Report <http://www.fedstats.gov/mapstats/arrests/county/18071.html>

¹⁶ FSSA Division of Mental Health and Addition *Biennial Report SFY 2002-2003*

Alcohol Abuse and Other Drugs, Continued

Meth labs

Of all the alcohol and drug abuse arrests in Jackson County, methamphetamine arrests are on the steepest climb. Jackson County, like other rural counties in the Midwest, has experienced a rising epidemic – methamphetamine production and use. The Indiana State Police predict a continuous escalation of methamphetamine availability throughout Indiana. In fact, the number of methamphetamine laboratories discovered and seized by the Indiana State Police forensics experts has doubled every year since 1994. In 1999, the number tripled. The number of meth labs that have been seized in Jackson County has led the region since 2001.

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, law enforcement, and community groups have been working to raise awareness of the scope of methamphetamine use in Indiana. Although there was a decrease in methamphetamine lab seizures from 2003 to 2004, the epidemic of methamphetamine production and use in Jackson County is one of the most significant challenges the community faces (Figure 27).

Figure 27 – Methamphetamine Lab Seizures

| County | 2001 | 2002* | 2003 | 2004 |
|--------------------|------|-------|------|------|
| Jackson County | 33 | 1 | 64 | 55 |
| Jennings County | 16 | 8 | NA** | NA** |
| Bartholomew County | 11 | 16 | NA** | NA** |
| Brown County | 0 | 0 | NA** | NA** |
| Monroe County | 3 | 3 | NA** | NA** |
| Lawrence County | 1 | 0 | NA** | NA** |
| Orange County | 4 | 8 | NA** | NA** |
| Washington County | 1 | 1 | NA** | NA** |
| Scott County | 0 | 0 | NA** | NA** |

Source: Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

<http://www.in.gov/cji/drugfree/meth/counties.html>

* Data for 2002 was only available through 9/2002

** Data was not available

Continued on next page

Alcohol Abuse and Other Drugs, Continued

Substance abuse among youth in Jackson County

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS) is part of a national survey effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor students' health risks and behaviors in six categories identified as most likely to result in negative outcomes. In the spring of 2003, The YRBS was administered in 48 high schools statewide. According to the 2003 Indiana YRBS:

- 77.8 percent of students reported having had one or more drinks in their lifetime, and 28.9 percent had five or more drinks of alcohol on one or more occasions during the past 30 days.
- 43.4 percent of high school students in the state had used marijuana in their lifetime, 7.9 percent had used some form of cocaine in their lifetime, and 8.2 percent had used methamphetamines in their lifetime.
- 25.6 percent of Indiana high school students reported current cigarette use, 7.2 percent of students reported current smokeless tobacco use, and 20 percent of students in the state reported having purchased cigarettes at a store or gas station.¹⁷

Figure 28 contains an exhaustive list of drugs and trends for youth.

Continued on next page

¹⁷ Indiana Department of Health *Indiana Youth Behavior Risk Survey 2003*

Alcohol Abuse and Other Drugs, Continued

Figure 28 – Trends in Prevalence of Various Drugs for 8th-Graders, 10th-Graders, and 12th-Graders¹⁸

2001-2004

| | 8th-Graders | | | | 10th-Graders | | | | 12th-Graders | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------|------|---------------|--------------|------|------|-------------|--------------|------|------|--------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| Any Illicit Drug Use | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 26.8 | 24.5 | 22.8 | 21.5 | 45.6 | 44.6 | 41.4 | 39.8 | 53.9 | 53.0 | 51.1 | 51.1 |
| annual | 19.5 | 17.7 | 16.1 | 15.2 | 37.2 | 34.8 | 32.0 | 31.1 | 41.4 | 41.0 | 39.3 | 38.8 |
| 30-day | 11.7 | 10.4 | 9.7 | [8.4] | 22.7 | 20.8 | 19.5 | 18.3 | 25.7 | 25.4 | 24.1 | 23.4 |
| Marijuana/Hashish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 20.4 | 19.2 | 17.5 | 16.3 | 40.1 | 38.7 | 36.4 | 35.1 | 49.0 | 47.8 | 46.1 | 45.7 |
| annual | 15.4 | 14.6 | 12.8 | 11.8 | 32.7 | 30.3 | 28.2 | 27.5 | 37.0 | 36.2 | 34.9 | 34.3 |
| 30-day | 9.2 | 8.3 | 7.5 | [6.4] | 19.8 | 17.8 | 17.0 | 15.9 | 22.4 | 21.5 | 21.2 | 19.9 |
| daily | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 4.5 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.6 |
| Inhalants | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 17.1 | 15.2 | 15.8 | [17.3] | 15.2 | 13.5 | 12.7 | 12.4 | 13.0 | 11.7 | 11.2 | 10.9 |
| annual | 9.1 | 7.7 | 8.7 | 9.6 | 6.6 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| 30-day | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Hallucinogens** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 5.2 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 8.9 | 7.8 | 6.9 | 6.4 | 14.7 | 12.0 | 10.6 | 9.7 |
| annual | 3.4 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 6.2 | 4.7 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 9.1 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 6.2 |
| 30-day | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| LSD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 3.4 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 6.3 | 5.0 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 10.9 | 8.4 | 5.9 | [4.6] |
| annual | 2.2 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 4.1 | 2.6 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 6.6 | 3.5 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| 30-day | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 2.3 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Cocaine | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 4.3 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 8.2 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 8.1 |
| annual | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 3.6 | 4.0 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 5.3 |
| 30-day | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.3 |
| Crack Cocaine | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| annual | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| 30-day | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 1.0 |

Continued on next page

¹⁸ <http://www.nida.nih.gov/infofacts/HSYouthtrends.html> Accessed April 27, 2005

Alcohol Abuse and Other Drugs, Continued

Figure 28, continued

| | 8th-Graders | | | | 10th-Graders | | | | 12th-Graders | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------|------|--------------|--------------|------|------|---------------|--------------|------|------|-------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| Heroin | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| annual | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| 30-day | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Tranquilizers*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 5.0 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.0 | 9.2 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 7.3 | 10.3 | 11.4 | 10.2 | 10.6 |
| annual | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 7.3 | 6.3 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 6.9 | 7.7 | 6.7 | 7.3 |
| 30-day | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.1 |
| Alcohol | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 50.5 | 47.0 | 45.6 | 43.9 | 70.1 | 66.9 | 66.0 | 64.2 | 79.7 | 78.4 | 76.6 | 76.8 |
| annual | 41.9 | 38.7 | 37.2 | 36.7 | 63.5 | 60.0 | 59.3 | 58.2 | 73.3 | 71.5 | 70.1 | 70.6 |
| 30-day | 21.5 | 19.6 | 19.7 | 18.6 | 39.0 | 35.4 | 35.4 | 35.2 | 49.8 | 48.6 | 47.5 | 48.0 |
| daily | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| Cigarettes (any use) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 36.6 | 31.4 | 28.4 | 27.9 | 52.8 | 47.4 | 43.0 | [40.7] | 61.0 | 57.2 | 53.7 | 52.8 |
| 30-day | 12.2 | 10.7 | 10.2 | 9.2 | 21.3 | 17.7 | 16.7 | 16.0 | 29.5 | 26.7 | 24.4 | 25.0 |
| 1/2 pack+/day | 2.3 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 5.5 | 4.4 | 4.1 | [3.3] | 10.3 | 9.1 | 8.4 | 8.0 |
| Smokeless Tobacco | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 11.7 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 11.0 | 19.5 | 16.9 | 14.6 | 13.8 | 19.7 | 18.3 | 17.0 | 16.7 |
| 30-day | 4.0 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 6.9 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 4.9 | 7.8 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 6.7 |
| daily | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.8 |
| Steroids | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 | [1.9] | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.0 | [2.4] | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| annual | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | [1.1] | 2.1 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 2.5 |
| 30-day | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.6 |
| MDMA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | 5.2 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 8.0 | 6.6 | 5.4 | [4.3] | 11.7 | 10.5 | 8.3 | 7.5 |
| annual | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 6.2 | 4.9 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 9.2 | 7.4 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| 30-day | 1.8 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Methamphetamine | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lifetime | | 3.5 | 3.9 | [2.5] | | 6.1 | 5.2 | 5.3 | | 6.7 | 6.2 | 6.2 |
| annual | | 2.2 | 2.5 | [1.5] | | 3.9 | 3.3 | 3.0 | | 3.6 | 3.2 | 3.4 |
| 30-day | | 1.1 | 1.2 | [0.6] | | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.3 | | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.4 |

Bracketed figures in the table above indicate a significant change between 2003 and 2004.

** For Hallucinogens, in 2001 "other psychedelics" was changed to "other hallucinogens" on the MTF survey forms, and mushrooms ("shrooms") was added. For 2001, half the students sampled received the original survey question and the other half the revised question.

*** For Tranquilizers, in 2001 "Miltown" was removed and "Xanax" was added on the MTF survey forms. For 2001, half the students sampled received the original survey question and the other half the revised question.

Continued on next page

Alcohol Abuse and Other Drugs, Continued

Alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment

Because dynamics vary considerably among rural communities, programming efforts for alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment should be tailored specifically to the community needs.¹⁹

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute has instituted the Commission for a Drug Free Indiana as part of a statewide initiative to create these tailored strategies. The Commission created Local Coordinating Councils (LCCs) for each county. The LCC is comprised of volunteers from various organizations and serves as the planning and coordinating body that addresses alcohol and other drug related problems in the county. State and local funds are allocated to address substance use problems based on the LCC's submission of an approved Comprehensive Community Plan that outlines an assessment of the problems, proposed corrective and preventative actions, and outcome-based measurements.

¹⁹ "Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Youth in Rural Communities"

Crime Rates

Incidence of crime in Jackson County

Substance abuse issues contribute to other instances of crime. In fact, Jackson County residents have recently experienced relatively higher numbers of larceny, theft and burglary crimes that are associated with substance abuse. Information, collected by the Federal Bureau of Prisons for the year 2002, indicates that the rate of instances per 10,000 persons in Jackson County was uncomfortably high (Figure 29).

Figure 29 – Crimes Reported 2002

| | Jackson | | Jennings | | Bartholomew | |
|----------------------|---------|------------|----------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | # | Per 10,000 | # | Per 10,000 | # | Per 10,000 |
| Murder | 1 | 0.24 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Rape | 14 | 3.38 | 4 | 1.43 | 10 | 1.39 |
| Robbery | 8 | 1.93 | 4 | 1.43 | 15 | 2.09 |
| Aggravated Assault | 94 | 22.70 | 28 | 10.00 | 67 | 9.32 |
| Burglary | 120 | 28.99 | 49 | 17.50 | 325 | 45.20 |
| Larceny – theft | 1,001 | 241.79 | 253 | 90.36 | 2,251 | 313.07 |
| Motor vehicle thefts | 51 | 12.32 | 14 | 5.00 | 120 | 16.69 |

Incidence of crime in Jackson County, (continued)

Researchers acknowledge that each community can exhibit a unique crime profile that is difficult to describe with national level statistics and information.²⁰ That is particularly true in Jackson County, Indiana. As illustrated in the arrest tables, the county suffers from significant substance use problems as well as the previously noted larceny and theft crimes (Figure 30).

Continued on next page

²⁰ National Rural Crime Prevention Center

Crime Rates, Continued

Figure 30 – Arrests 2002²¹

| Arrests (2002) | Jackson | Jennings | Bartholomew |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| Murder | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Rape | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Robbery | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| Aggravated Assault | 43 | 35 | 76 |
| Burglary | 42 | 42 | 56 |
| Larceny – theft | 73 | 116 | 213 |
| Motor vehicle thefts | 9 | 18 | 44 |
| Arson | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Other assaults | 101 | 71 | 212 |
| Forgery & counterfeiting | 10 | 15 | 7 |
| Fraud | 11 | 11 | 6 |
| Embezzlement | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Have stolen property | 14 | 9 | 18 |
| Vandalism | 25 | 12 | 47 |
| Weapons violations | 10 | 12 | 10 |
| Prostitution | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sex offenses | 9 | 6 | 10 |
| Total drug violations | 229 | 100 | 245 |
| Gambling | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Offenses against family & child | 13 | 11 | 10 |
| Driving under influence | 270 | 174 | 292 |
| Liquor law violations | 137 | 135 | 231 |
| Drunkenness | 180 | 148 | 225 |
| Disorderly conduct | 28 | 28 | 46 |
| Vagrancy | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| All other offenses except traffic | 373 | 315 | 573 |

²¹ Source: Federal Bureau of Investigations

Jackson County Courts

Jackson County Circuit Court

In dealing with crime rates, the Jackson County Circuit Court experienced a significant backlog in caseloads. In 2004, 651 felony cases were filed in Jackson County Circuit Court.

- 1 murder
- 65 Class A felonies
- 95 Class B felonies
- 115 Class C felonies
- 374 Class D felonies²²

This is a 22 percent increase from the 508 cases filed in 2003. As of March 2005, there are 760 cases pending in the Jackson County Circuit Court.

The Indiana Legislative Services Agency Commission on Courts has recognized the backlog in case loads and has recommended 1 new court for Jackson County. Fourth on the priority list, this recommendation would move Jackson County from 6th in the state in case load per court to 39th.²³

New case filings in Jackson County Circuit Court

In contrast to the backlog of existing cases, new case filings decreased in 2004. The Jackson County Prosecutor attributes the decrease to a new and higher bond schedule. Additionally, repeat methamphetamine offenders began serving sentences for committed crimes, contributing to lowered case filings. These particular factors have helped to alleviate some caseload backlog. A final contributor to decreased case loads is related to repeat offenders. Crime statistics show favorable decline when repeat offenders remain in jail pending trial and more repeat offenders are sentenced to prison.

Jackson County Superior Court

The Jackson County Superior Court filed 1,502 new cases and disposed of 1,537 cases, resulting in a slightly lower overall caseload. The Jackson County Prosecutor's Office administered diversion and deferral programs to help supplement and offset court administration costs and reduce caseloads. These programs, designed for first time offenders and offenders with minimal criminal histories, provide alternatives to formal prosecution of minor traffic offenses and infractions. According to the Annual Report, the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office generated a total of \$63,470 for the 2004 year and significantly reduced caseloads by offering diversion programming.

²² 2004 Annual Report, Jackson County Prosecutor's Office

²³ Indiana Legislative Services Agency. (2004). *Final Report of the Commission on Courts* (<http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>).

Juvenile Crime

Rate of juvenile crime and delinquency

Juvenile delinquency and crime problems are prevalent in Jackson County, Indiana (Figure 31). The Indiana Department of Correction defines juveniles committed to the Department of Correction as children younger than the age of eighteen that have been committed (sentenced) to the Department of Correction.

Figure 31 – Juveniles Crime Filings and Commitments, 1996 and 2003

| Juveniles Committed to the Department of Correction | | | |
|--|---------|----------|-------------|
| | Jackson | Jennings | Bartholomew |
| 1996 | 1 | 0 | 35 |
| 2003 | 4 | 6 | 6 |

| Juvenile Status Case Filings | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| | Jackson | Jennings | Bartholomew |
| 1996 | 25 | 0 | 26 |
| 2003 | 24 | 0 | 21 |

| Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings | | | |
|--|---------|----------|-------------|
| | Jackson | Jennings | Bartholomew |
| 1996 | 91 | 23 | 288 |
| 2003 | 124 | 35 | 148 |

Rate of juvenile crime and delinquency, (continued)

Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings are defined as cases filed in Indiana courts on behalf of children younger than age eighteen who were alleged to be delinquent. The percentage of the population under the age of eighteen is 25.5 percent in Jackson County, slightly lower than the 27.7 percent rate of neighboring Jennings County (Figure 31). However, Jackson County has a higher number of juvenile delinquents and status offenders than neighboring Jennings County. Considering that Jackson County has a lower percentage of children living in the county than Jennings County, it is evident that youth crime is a troubling and prevalent problem.

Recommendations

Justice and public safety

- Work with state officials to gain the recommended addition to the Circuit Court system in Jackson County. This would provide residents with a more efficient judicial system.
 - Build collaborations between justice and public safety officers and nonprofit organizations. Through improved communication and coordination, nonprofit groups working with justice and public safety issues and justice and public safety officers can leverage each other's knowledge, resources, and skills to improve the safety and well-being of all Jackson County residents.
 - Expand the county wide Jackson County Drug Free Council, Inc to further address strategies and programs to reduce crime rates and increase safety for residents of Jackson County. Include stakeholders from medical institutions, education, social services, and the public safety and judicial systems.
-

Abuse of alcohol and other drugs

- Establish comprehensive drug and other substance abuse education programs in collaboration with the courts and the schools.
 - Pursue funding to support organizations dedicated to substance abuse prevention and treatment (including tobacco, alcohol, and drug use.)
 - Evaluate efforts around the state and the region aimed at reducing methamphetamine use and production. Determine which approaches could be most successful in Jackson County and implement selected strategies through a collaboration of human service and public safety agencies.
 - Identify and obtain funding to provide training to childcare workers, educators, and employers on signs of substance abuse in families. Work with medical, nonprofit and social service organizations to create support services and solutions for families dealing with drug and substance abuse issues.
 - Encourage county school systems to collaborate regarding drug and weapons policies. Make the consequences for alcohol and drug abuse consistent for youth no matter where they are in the community. Make Jackson County a drug free zone for its youth.
-

Juvenile crime

- Identify innovative programs for students in school who are suspended or expelled from educational settings. Work with the schools, social service agencies, faith-based and nonprofit organizations to implement programs that keep youth in school and out of trouble.
 - Develop programs and supervised activities for youth for after school hours and during the summers.
-

Leisure and Recreation Findings

Overview

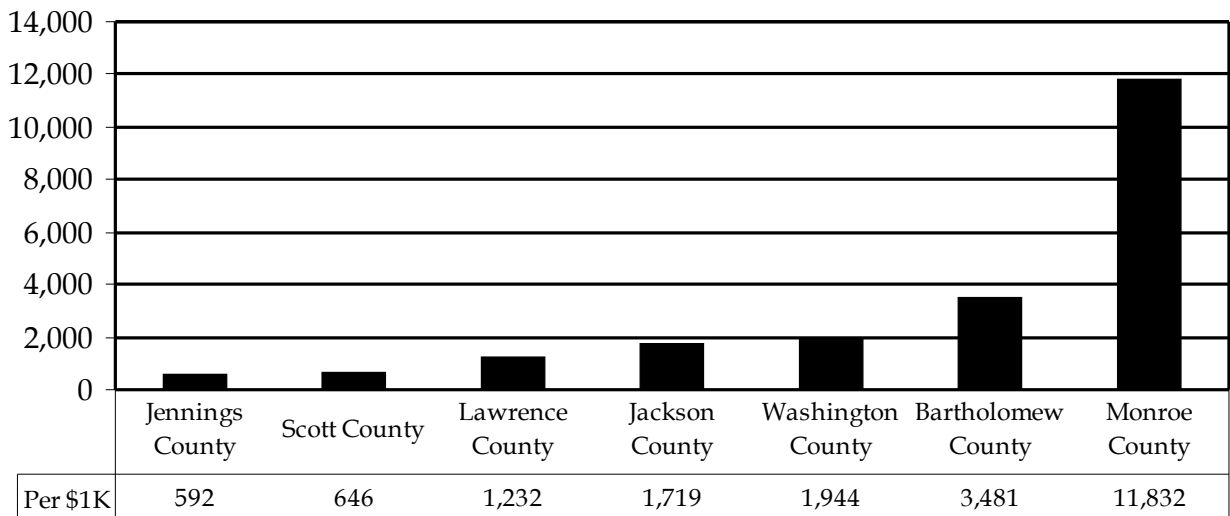
Overview

In 2000, the *Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators* were published by a group of practitioners from government agencies, for-profit firms, and non-profit organizations with expertise in the 12 indicators of quality of life.²⁴ Among the 12 indicators is the area of recreation and leisure. In an update to the *Indicators* publication, Richard A. Peterson defines recreation as

...to be revitalized in body and mind and to affirm or extend social contacts. Recreation also includes efforts to improve oneself, change one's social position, and take on an identity separate from those connected to work or family.²⁵

Americans take leisure and recreation very seriously. In the United States, on average, Americans now spend nearly a quarter of their time in recreation and spend more than 8.2 percent of personal consumption budgets.²⁶ According to the 1997 Economic Census in Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, Jackson County organizations subject to taxes reported \$1,719,000 in receipts in 1997. On average, each individual in Jackson County in 1997 spent \$430 on leisure and recreation activities.

Figure 32 – Receipts per \$1,000 of Firms Subject to Federal Income Tax 1997²⁷



Continued on next page

²⁴ Sustainability & Quality of Life Indicators: Toward the Integration of Economic, Social and Environmental Measures. Patrice Flynn, David Berry, and Theodore Heintz

²⁵ <http://www.calvert-henderson.com/recreat-ind.htm> accessed April 5, 2005

²⁶ <http://www.calvert-henderson.com/recreat-ind.htm> accessed April 5, 2005

²⁷ http://www.stats.indiana.edu/population/PopTotals/intercensal_90s.html Accessed April 5, 2005

Overview, Continued

Indicators

The *Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators* identify 13 major types of recreation widely available in the United States. This section of the report speaks to the availability of and access to many of these activities in Jackson County. These activities include the following:

- Experiences leading to the improvement of self or society
 - Religious activities
 - Professional arts
 - Amateur arts
 - Hobbies
 - Physical activity
 - Spectator sports attendance
 - Socializing
-

General inventory

Jackson County, as a whole, boasts a variety of leisure and recreation activities. There are activity venues to encourage participation in each of the types of leisure and recreation activities (Figure 33).

Availability and Access

Figure 33 – Opportunities Inventory for Leisure and Recreation by Indicator

| | Self Improvement/volunteering | Religious Activities | Professional Arts | Hobbies | Amateur Arts | Physical Activity | Spectator Sports | Socializing |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| State forests | • | | | | | • | | • |
| Public parks | • | | | | | • | | • |
| Shopping | | | | • | | | | • |
| Museums | • | | | | | | | |
| Youth programs | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • |
| School sponsored activities | | | | | • | • | • | • |
| Faith-based organizations | • | • | | • | • | | | • |
| Libraries | • | | | • | • | | | • |
| Community centers | • | • | | • | | | | • |
| Gymnasium | | | | | | • | • | • |
| Golf courses | | | | • | | • | | • |
| Art galleries | • | | • | | • | | | • |
| Concert venues | | | • | | • | | | • |
| Book clubs | | | | | | | | |
| Festivals and community events | • | | | | | | | • |
| Theatre/movies | • | | • | | • | | | |
| Art workshops | • | | • | • | • | | | • |
| Racket sports | | | | | | • | • | • |
| Ball fields | | | | | | • | • | • |
| Gymnastics and dance | | | | • | • | • | | |
| Senior centers | • | | | • | • | • | | • |
| Swimming pool | | | | | | • | | • |
| Cycling/hiking | | | | | | • | | |

Continued on next page

Availability and Access, Continued

General inventory, (continued)

The list of venues in Figure 33 shows a wide variety of opportunities for Jackson County residents to engage in self-improvement and socializing activities. Indicators that have fewer venues for participation include the arts and cultural settings, as well as spectator sports.

Opportunities for senior citizens

In Jackson County, the portion of county residents ages 65 and older was 13.5 percent in 1990.²⁸ This proportion has the potential to grow in the near future. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that over 22 percent of Jackson County residents are between the ages of 45 and 64. In the United States, from 1900 to 1991, life expectancy at birth increased from 46 years for men to 72 years; for women, the increase was from 48 years to nearly 79 years.²⁹ The implication is that to maintain a high quality of life for all Jackson County residents, the leisure and recreation needs of this growing population group must not be overlooked.

Currently, the opportunities for Jackson County senior citizens to engage in formal and informal leisure and recreational activities are limited. The county has only five senior citizen centers, in Seymour, Brownstown, Medora, Freetown, and Crothersville. According to the Census statistics reported above, each senior citizen center would need to serve an average of 1,101 individuals if all residents ages 65 and older were included.

To compound this issue, senior residents living in rural and remote areas of the county must travel to the population centers for leisure and recreational activities. With age, driving as well as fixed and limited incomes become barriers to access for support activities. Additional opportunities for seniors in Jackson County must be considered in terms of accessibility and costs for residents.

Opportunities for families, youth, and children

The options for family-centered leisure activities in Jackson County include access to community and state parks, faith-based and school activities. Sport teams from soccer to softball are available for youth and children. There are clubs for elementary-age children, including the Boys and Girls Club and Girls, Inc.

Continued on next page

²⁸ American FactFinder – US Census

²⁹ Need to add citation from report “Longevity and Health Research.”

Availability and Access, Continued

Girls, Inc.

Girls, Inc. is a national organization that has made a presence in Jackson County, Indiana. This organization provides girls with programs that enhance knowledge, leadership skills, life skills, and positive attitudes. The programs offered to girls are based on research-based needs and societal issues.³⁰ The organization also offers scholarship opportunities to girls seeking higher educational goals.

Boys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County offers programming and recreational activities for the youth of Jackson County. The Jackson County club is aligned with Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Boys and Girls Clubs offer programs that teach young people the skills they need to succeed in life, including education, health, the arts, leadership development, and athletics.

Cycling

Jackson County has trails and roads that provide an opportunity for cyclists to enjoy the countryside. Jackson County is but one part of several counties that have contiguous bicycle trails. These counties include Bartholomew, Daviess, Knox, Martin, Decatur, Jennings, and Jefferson. Trail lengths range from a half-mile to sixty miles. Organizations within Jackson County, Indiana sponsor the annual “Ride to Recycle” event for which community turnout is high.

Continued on next page

³⁰ Girls, Inc., http://www.girlsinc-jackson.org/GL_PRG/index.cfm.

Availability and Access, Continued

Shopping

Residents of Jackson County have a variety of shopping opportunities. Local family-owned restaurants, retailers and specialty businesses are available to shoppers in and around the downtowns of each community. In addition, a few national chain stores, outlet stores, and big box retailers line U.S. 50, which serves as the main retail corridor for the county and region.

Seymour and other small towns in Jackson County are home to several antique shops and country gift shops where shoppers can find one-of-a-kind collectibles, unique gifts, and crafts.

Southern Indiana Center for the Arts

The Southern Indiana Center for the Arts, located in Seymour, was made possible by singer and songwriter John Mellencamp. The Center offers a variety of cultural and educational programs that includes culinary and wine classes, a Crafts and Pottery Barn, and a series of lectures on numerous subjects.³¹ Southern Indiana Center for the Arts features an art gallery that exhibits work by various artists on a rotating basis. The gallery also has the world's only public display of a private collection of paintings by John Mellencamp. The amphitheater for the performing arts, located at the Center, hosts many concerts and other stage productions throughout the year.

Jackson-Washington State Forest

A valuable natural resource for leisure and recreation is the Jackson-Washington State Forest. The forest encompasses over 15,000 acres between neighboring Jackson and Washington counties. According to the Department of Natural Resources, the majority of the state forest land was purchased by the State of Indiana in the 1930s and 1940s.³² A trust program, utilizing funds from the sale of environmental license plates, has allowed for the additional acquisition of state forest land over time.

The forest is located in a part of the state that contains unique topography known as the “knobs” region.³³ Scenic lookouts and hiking trails are just two ways in which Jackson County residents can enjoy the forest. Hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding are outdoor activities in which residents can participate while visiting the forest grounds.

Continued on next page

³¹ Southern Indiana Center for the Arts, <http://www.jacksoncountyin.com/arts.htm>.

³² Indiana Department of Natural Resources, www.in.gov/dnr

³³ Indiana Department of Natural Resources, www.in.gov/dnr

Availability and Access, Continued

Parks, Pools, and Sports Leagues

In Jackson County, residents have access to numerous public parks such as Freeman Field, Shields Park, Gaiser Park, and Kasting Park. Many of the parks also offer athletic facilities such as baseball/softball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball courts, and even a pool at the Shields Park in Seymour. To take advantage of the athletic facilities, sports leagues are offered throughout the spring and summer.

Jackson County Community Theatre

The Jackson County Community Theatre, located in Brownstown, is a local not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing live theatre productions for Jackson County and surrounding communities. The actors and crew are members of the community. Four performances are held each season, and the theatre conducts a summer workshop for children.

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge

The Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge, located partially in Jackson County, is a tourist attraction that features nature trails, wildlife observation, fishing, hunting, and hiking. Many residents and tourists visit the refuge facilities year-round and are encouraged to take self-guided tours when available.³⁴

Covered bridges

Jackson County is home to several covered bridges constructed in the late 1800's: Bell Ford Covered Bridge, Medora Covered Bridge, and Shieldstown Covered Bridge. Bell Ford Covered Bridge is the only post-truss covered bridge in the world. Post-truss is known as the transition or combination from all wood to the iron bridges.³⁵ Medora Covered Bridge is the longest three-span covered Bridge in the United States.³⁶ The Shieldstown Covered Bridge is 355 feet long and considered the most scenic bridge in Jackson County. This bridge carried traffic until 1990.³⁷

Restoration and maintenance of these bridges are an especially important ongoing process for the Jackson County community. The bridges are a part of the history and culture of the community. The county holds festivals that celebrate the existence and history of these bridges.

Continued on next page

³⁴ Community Profile Network, <http://www.villageprofile.com/indiana/seymour/arts/topics.html>

³⁵ Jackson County Visitor Center, http://www.jacksoncountyin.com/coveredbridge_info.htm

³⁶ Jackson County Visitor Center, http://www.jacksoncountyin.com/coveredbridge_info.htm

³⁷ Jackson County Visitor Center, http://www.jacksoncountyin.com/coveredbridge_info.htm

Availability and Access, Continued

Covered bridges, (continued)

Jackson County received federal funds in FY 2001 to support a bridge restoration project on Medora Covered Bridge.³⁸ Medora Covered Bridge, built in 1875, is located on the East Fork of the White River, less than one mile from Sparksville, Indiana. This bridge, spanning across the White River in excess of 350 feet, will be preserved and maintained by Jackson County.

In an effort to increase public awareness and marketing of historic bridge restoration projects, INDOT publishes details of each restoration project online. In FY 2001, seven Indiana counties received federal money to fund bridge restoration and preservation projects. In fact, the FHWA approved eight applications submitted by Indiana counties, while only forty-three applications submitted by fifteen states were approved in FY 2001. The FHWA awarded Indiana counties over \$620,000 in funding to allocate for bridge preservation projects.

Visitor Center

Jackson County offers guests to the community a Visitor Center. The Center provides residents and visitors information on activities throughout the county. Examples of information offered includes descriptions of tours and sites to visit. A website makes the information easily accessible.

Festivals

Jackson County enjoys many festivals and tours available to residents and tourists alike. The Jackson County Visitor Center website offers the following descriptions of festivals and tours.

- Agriculture has always played a major role in the life of Jackson County. With assistance from the Jackson County Farm Bureau, an **Agricultural Tour** is offered as a tribute to the "living farms" and the people who make them one of our county's most important assets.
 - **Wings Over Muscatatuck** is a festival celebrating bird conservation. Hosted in May, the festival offers Artists and Featured Speakers, a Nature Book Store, and Exhibits with commercial vendors that offer bird and wildlife related items for sale.
 - The 11th Annual Indiana Indian Movement's **Pow-Wow** is held in May at Black Swan Lake Campgrounds, near Medora. The Native American Pow-Wow includes vendors, great music and dancing for two days.
-

Continued on next page

³⁸ Federal Highway Administration Memorandum, September 21, 2001

Availability and Access, Continued

Festivals, (continued)

- The largest and most visible festival held in the county is the **Jackson County Fair** – where over 100,000 folks attend every year at the 4-H fairgrounds in Brownstown.
- **Country Neighbors' Spring Tour** is held at various home-based businesses in the Norman, Brownstown, Freetown and Bedford area.
- **Summer Art Festival Entries** are displayed annually at Southern Indiana Center for the Arts
- Grassy Fork Volunteer Fire Department **39th Annual Truck and Tractor Pull and Fish Fry** is held in Tampico.
- There is an **Independence Day Celebration** held at Freeman Field Recreation Area, South Walnut Street, Seymour. It includes music and a fireworks display.
- There is an annual **Watermelon Festival** held around the courthouse in Brownstown.
- **Fort Vallonia Days**, held in downtown Vallonia is a two day festival that celebrates history of Fort Vallonia with Indian lodges, giant parade, muzzle loader shoots, tomahawk throw and pioneer crafts.
- When the City of Seymour was first founded, many settlers of Jackson County were of German heritage. To commemorate their heritage, they celebrate annually during the course of a three-day **Oktoberfest** event. This festival, first started in 1973, is an event held in downtown Seymour and involves many civic organizations.³⁹ The popular Oktoberfest festival features German music, dancing, ethnic foods, a parade, carnival and a variety of other activities.
- The **Get to Know the Outdoors at Spring Open House** with representatives from Jackson-Washington State Forest, Starve Hollow State Recreation Area and Selmier State Forest is held in May. It includes games and programs and participants can win a free night of camping, free firewood and even a free helicopter ride over the forestry. Conservation officers are on hand, along with a chainsaw carver and an expert in tree identification.
- The **Norman Station Conservation Club Annual Bluegrass Festival** includes a free bean supper and pitch-in dinner. There is music, camping and fishing available during the festival. A Children's Talent Contest is held in two age groups: 8-12 and 13-15. Prizes are awarded for the top three performers in each age group and the children must play a musical instrument or perform vocally. A flea market is held during the festival.

Continued on next page

³⁹ Community Profile Network, <http://www.villageprofile.com/indiana/seymour/welcome/topics.html>

Availability and Access, Continued

Festivals, (continued)

- The **Great U.S. 50 Yard Sale** is an unusual event that Jackson County enjoys. This event gives communities along U.S. 50 the opportunity to promote tourism, while also providing individuals the opportunity to make some money.
 - There is an **Annual Members' Show of Art** at Southern Indiana Center for the Arts, 2001 N. Ewing Street, Seymour.
 - The patriotic **Red, White and Blue Festival** is held each year in Crothersville.
 - Starve Hollow's **11th Annual Kids Fishing Derby** is held at Starve Hollow State Recreation Area, in Vallonia.
 - And many others.
-

Recommendations

Opportunities for improvement in leisure and recreation

- Extend opportunities for leisure and recreation outside of Seymour. Generally, outside school and church opportunities, residents must look toward Seymour for access to leisure and recreation centers. Strategies can be developed to extend opportunities to individuals throughout the community.
 - Build or identify existing structures to act as recreational venues for families throughout the community.
 - Develop partnerships between communities and schools to offer programs and activities for young adults and youth. As plans and strategies are developed for future improvements, consideration should be made regarding geographic location and costs for participants to make activities county-wide and inclusive.
 - Expand the capacity of the county senior citizen centers for service. Senior citizens have limited leisure and recreational activities designed to meet the special needs that come with aging. Schools, community organizations, and churches have the potential for partnership with existing senior centers to expand offerings for Jackson County's most senior residents.
-

YMCA

- Explore support and funding for a Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The YMCA is a recreational venue typical to Indiana rural communities. Currently, there is not a YMCA in the county. The time to explore the opportunity of investing in a YMCA facility for Jackson County residents is long overdue. Unfortunately, the closest YMCAs to Jackson County are located in neighboring Jennings, Scott, and Brown counties.⁴⁰ The positive and rewarding impact that a YMCA would have on Jackson County is unlimited. Below are some immediate and positive contributions that the YMCA could bring to Jackson County, Indiana:
 - YMCA, with its tradition of family-oriented programs, has proven to be a vital part of the communities in which the organization resides. The programming offered by the YMCA continues to improve the quality of life through educational outreach.
 - YMCA offers residents within communities a variety of programs ranging from topics of disease prevention and health incentives to water safety precautions and organized sporting activities for youth.
 - Programs would be customized for the county based on need.
 - Fees would be based on income.
-

Continued on next page

⁴⁰ YMCA website: facility locator, <http://clients.mapquest.com/ymca/mqinterconnect?link=find>

Recommendations, Continued

YMCA, (continued)

- Activities would support industry and hospital wellness.
 - The facility would increase venues for swimming, racquet ball, indoor track, etc.
 - Programs would be provided for families and adults.
 - YMCA sponsors social activities for families and youth.
 - YMCA offers educational programming on a variety of subjects.
-

Arts

- Pursue the Indiana Art Commission's cultural plan for the region. Leverage the existence of the Southern Indiana Center for the Arts to continually offer new and innovative arts programs to county residents.
 - Develop partnerships between local artists and the school systems to enhance the arts education available to youth.
 - Find ways to support and fully fund arts, music, and physical education programs throughout the county. These can help prepare a young person for a lifetime of positive recreational activities.
-

Infrastructure Findings

Overview

Introduction

Infrastructure, in its most simplistic terms, refers to the underlying foundation or basic framework of a system or organization. The term infrastructure, defined by Webster Dictionary, refers the basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of a community or society, such as transportation and communications systems, water and power lines, and public institutions including schools, post offices, and prisons. Collectively, infrastructure refers to the roads, bridges, rail lines, and similar public works that are required for an industrial economy, or a portion of it, to function.

This section examines transportation, public services and institutions, and industrial park capacity in Jackson County.

Transportation

Overview

Transportation is both the lifeblood and a source of frustration for a community. It affects potential economic growth, and is often determines who has access to needed services, and who does not.

To manage transportation initiatives, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has divided the state into six districts that geographically divide the state. Seymour houses District 2 that encompasses the southeastern region of the state. The district facility is the lead facility for the five sub-districts located within the region.

According to INDOT, Jackson County has initiated ten infrastructure projects within the last two years. Of the ten infrastructure projects that were started, seven were completed. Of the seven projects completed, four were bridge restoration projects, two were enhancement projects, and one was a new construction project. The seven completed projects totaled in excess of \$700,000 federally approved funds. At the time of data collection, there were three projects remaining in the initial phases and were not yet completed. The three incomplete projects consisted of one bridge restoration project – the Medora Covered Bridge project – and two enhancement projects.

These ten infrastructure projects are representative of the infrastructural needs in Jackson County. This topic will review the state of bridges, roads, and public transportation.

Continued on next page

Transportation, Continued

Roads

Jackson County hosts road infrastructure ranging from county roads to an interstate highway. A portion of Interstate 65 runs north and south through the eastern part of Jackson County. Eight state roads traverse the county. Two of the most heavily traveled roadways are State Road 31, parallel with Interstate 65, and State Road 50, which runs east and west through Seymour. In total, the county has five state roads that run north and south and three state roads that run east and west. Due to the number of major roadways, Jackson County has established a cross pattern of traffic that allows all portions of the county to be accessible.

Airport

Freeman Field on the west side of Seymour includes Seymour's municipal airport which features two 5,500-foot runways to handle charter and cargo flights.

Vehicle Census

Interstate 65 provides a gateway in and out of Jackson County. The interstate provides a route for resident commuters to both Indianapolis and Louisville. It also has the potential to bring in visitors to the county. In Jackson County, INDOT reported the average daily traffic count on Interstate 65 was 27,231 travelers in 2001.

Travel between towns in Jackson County is significant. INDOT also reported that the average daily traffic count on US 50 was 12,243 travelers between Seymour and Brownstown.⁴¹

Railroads

Railroads are an integral part of Jackson County's history. The history of the railroad in Indiana began in earnest in 1838, when the first steam train traveled from North Madison to Graham's Ford, carrying Governor James Wallace, legislators, and other dignitaries on an 8 mph, 15-mile inspection trip.⁴² By 1850, and throughout the next two decades, the railroad industry grew at a rapid pace. By 1861, railroads were linked throughout the state, providing connections to the west via Chicago and St. Louis and by 1863, 71 of Indiana's 92 counties had rail service.⁴³ During this development, Indianapolis emerged as a major hub for rail traffic, and the first major city whose growth was due to and dependent on railroads⁴⁴.

Continued on next page

⁴¹ INDOT Seymour District Office-Traffic (personal communication, May 17, 2005)

⁴² Indiana Historical Society, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~vklein/railroad.html>

⁴³ Indiana Historical Society, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~vklein/railroad.html>

⁴⁴ Indiana Historical Society, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~vklein/railroad.html>

Transportation, Continued

Railroads, (continued)

Jackson County has three extant railroads, two of which are still in use.⁴⁵ The depot stations are vacant and need restoration or have been demolished. The tracks located in Jackson County are primarily used to transport freight as well as commercial cargo.⁴⁶

B&O Railroad Company owns and operates two routes that run through Seymour and Brownstown. These railroads are still in use today. In Seymour, the railroad tracks run down the middle of the street, adding character to the downtown.

The Louisville & Indiana (L&I) Railroad was formed in March 1994 to acquire 106 miles of rail line between Indianapolis and Louisville. The line serves numerous major companies and an efficient inland port facility. Since formation, L&I has located a number of new industries in proximity to its lines. L&I has been designated a future high-speed rail corridor by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Public transportation

Jackson County faces many issues in providing transportation to individuals throughout the rural areas and small towns of the county. According to the Indiana Statewide Public Transportation Needs Assessment Study, Jackson County has 10,188 persons in need of public transportation services.⁴⁷ Traditionally, the elderly, people with limited mobility, and non-elderly low-income persons are three demographic groups that most frequently utilize public transportation services. The study determined that the county has a rider base of 5,712 persons in need of public transportation – a number that is expected to grow as the rural population ages.⁴⁸

The Step Ahead Council of Jackson County conducted a countywide transportation feasibility study in 2002. The feasibility study identified the need for public transportation, demand for service, potential trip generators, and the most appropriate type of public transportation service. This study also incorporated approximate capital requirements and operating costs.

Continued on next page

⁴⁵ Railroad Station Historic Society, <http://www.rshs.org/INCo.RR/jackson.htm>

⁴⁶ Railroad Station Historic Society, <http://www.rshs.org/INCo.RR/jackson.htm>

⁴⁷ Jackson County Public Transportation Feasibility Study, 2002

⁴⁸ Ibid

Transportation, Continued

Public transportation, (continued)

The feasibility study findings indicate that the county or a freestanding entity should operate a public transportation system that best fits the needs of the county.⁴⁹ It was determined that a deviated fixed route system would sufficiently meet the needs of the county. The study demonstrates that a system such as the one described would have the potential of serving 14,000 riders and generate 200,000 trips per year.⁵⁰

The Council also conducted a survey to determine the demand for public transportation services. Survey results indicate that 62 to 69 percent of county residents would use a transportation service. Further results indicate that 45 percent of the riders would use the service once or twice per week and 30 percent of the riders would use transportation service once or twice per month. Shopping and doctor's visits are the primary reasons for which survey respondents would utilize the transportation services.

Recycle to Ride

The City of Seymour has initiated a creative solution for public transportation issues. *Recycle to Ride*, otherwise known as the City of Seymour's public transit system, operates five days a week from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. The transit system runs along previously determined routes within the City of Seymour city limits. In addition, customers can make arrangements and reservations with *Recycle to Ride* for scheduled pick-ups and drop-offs. There is a nominal fee charged to the customers for each ride. However, customers can donate recyclable items in return for a waiver of the fees.

Industrial Facilities

Overview

With access to Interstate 65 and railroads, Jackson County has the potential for increased industrial growth. Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation (JCIDC) has led the county's industrial and economic development since the mid-1980's.⁵¹ In 1998, JCIDC launched a workforce development program to enhance the competitiveness of business and industry.⁵² Seymour and Jackson County have seen investment exceeding \$200 million since 2000 at a time when many areas were experiencing a decline in business development.⁵³

Continued on next page

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation, <http://www.jcidc.com/>

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ Ibid

Industrial Facilities, Continued

Overview, (continued)

Industrial facilities in Jackson County include the East Side Industrial Park, developed in mid-1980, located in Seymour less than one mile from Interstate 65 and adjacent to the CSX Rail System. Seymour's oldest industrial park is the Freeman Field Airport and Industrial Park, located in the southwest quadrant of the city. The park also includes Seymour's municipal airport, which features two 5,500-foot runways to handle charter and cargo flights. This industrial site is home to more than twenty industries. JCIDC indicates that there is industrial development space available at an Interstate 65 frontage site located at the intersection of State Road 50.

Public Institutions

Overview

In the United States, investment in streets, highways, and education grew at an accelerated rate through the 1950s and 1960s. Growth began again in the mid- to late-1980s. Education infrastructure declined from the late 1970s through the mid-1980s. Since then, there has been a steady growth in the construction of police and fire stations, courthouses, auditoriums, garages, and schools.⁵⁴

The institutions included in this section include schools, post offices, and correctional facilities.

Schools

There are 28 schools in Jackson County serving children attending pre-kindergarten through high school. The 28 schools fall under four major public school corporations, four non-public schools, and two small public school corporations. The four major school corporations are Medora Community School Corporation, Seymour Community Schools Corporation, Brownstown Central Community Schools, and Crothersville Community Schools. The majority of the school-aged children living in Jackson County attend one of the major school corporations.

Post Offices

The United States Postal Service has six post office branches located in Jackson County. The branches are located in Seymour, Cortland, Freetown, Crothersville, Brownstown, and Norman.⁵⁵ The branches are located throughout the remote areas of the county making post offices accessible to all Jackson County residents.

Continued on next page

⁵⁴ www.calvert-henderson.com/infra-ind.htm. Accessed on April 24, 2005.

⁵⁵ United States Postal Service, <http://www.switchboard.com/bin/cgidir.dll?Mem=1355&PR=138&CSF=LocatorPostOffice&CID=1222>

Public Institutions, Continued

Correctional Facilities

Jackson County Jail, recently built and located in Brownstown, has a maximum housing capacity of 180 persons.⁵⁶ Prior to the construction of a new jail facility in 2000, Jackson County operated a much smaller jail facility that housed only 27 persons.⁵⁷ The county utilizes the old facility as a Courthouse Annex in which court administration and probation offices are located.

In addition to the jail, the county operates a Juvenile Detention Facility also located in Brownstown, Indiana.⁵⁸ The Juvenile Detention Facility can house a maximum of twenty-eight youth ranging in age from eight to eighteen. Both correctional facilities have the capability of housing both male and female offenders. Presently, there are no state or federal prisons located in Jackson County.⁵⁹

Courts

The Jackson County criminal justice system also consists of one circuit and one superior court that handle the county judicial proceedings. The Jackson County Superior Court is located in Seymour, Indiana. The Jackson County Circuit Court is located in Brownstown, Indiana. Sheriff personnel transport adult and juvenile detainees to both locations for court appearances.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ Interview, Jackson County Sheriff Personnel

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ Interview, Jackson County Juvenile Detention Facility Personnel

⁵⁹ Indiana Department of Correction, <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/facilities.html>

⁶⁰ Interview, Jackson County Sheriff Personnel

Utilities

Overview Depending upon the location within Jackson County, residents are provided with a limited selection of utility companies with which to do business. In general, most residents are only given one company as an option for a particular utility service. Residents of Jackson County are provided with the companies and services listed in Figure 34 when selecting utilities.

Figure 34 – Jackson County Utility Providers

| Servicing Area | Company | Type of Company | Services provided |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Parts of Jackson County | Cinergy PSI | Electric Company | Electricity |
| Parts of Jackson County | Jackson County Rural Electric | Electric Company | Electricity |
| Parts of Jackson County | Southwest Regional Sewer | Sewer Company | Sewage |
| All of Jackson County | Verizon | Telecommunications Company | Telephone services (local and long distance), high speed internet in some areas only |
| Seymour | Comcast | Cable Company | Cable, digital cable, broadband internet |
| Seymour | Vectren | Gas Company | Gas |
| Seymour | Indiana American Water | Water Company | Water |
| Brownstown and Crothersville | Insight Communications | Cable Company | Cable, digital cable, broadband internet |
| Brownstown and Crothersville | Midwest | Gas Company | Gas |
| Brownstown and Crothersville | Citizens Communications Corp | Telecommunications Company | Broadband internet connections |
| Brownstown | JC Rural Water | Water Company | Water |
| All of Jackson County | Cingular, Verizon, and Nextel | | Wireless phones, Wireless Internet |
| All of Jackson County | AOL, CompuAge and others | | ISPs |

Continued on next page

Utilities, Continued

Unsewered communities

In 1999, local health departments throughout Indiana began a survey of communities to identify communities struggling with water quality issues. Continuing this work, in 2003, the Indiana State Department of Health and the Rural Community Assistance Program completed the study in order to identify communities for assistance with resolving outstanding sewage disposal problems. Eighty-nine of 91 counties completed the survey and reported 642 unsewered communities. Jackson County has less than 1 percent of communities in Indiana that remain unsewered as of April 15, 2003 (Figure 35).⁶¹

Figure 35 – Jackson County Unsewered Communities

| Community | Residences | Businesses | Community Type |
|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Acme/Surprise | 30 | 3 | Unincorporated |
| Cortland | 20-25 | 5 | Unincorporated |
| Krietes Comer | 30-35 | 4-5 | Unincorporated |
| Kurtz | 35 | 5 | Unincorporated |
| Little Acres | 25+ | 0 | Unincorporated |
| Norman | 22 | 4 | Unincorporated |
| Reddington | 25-30 | 5 | Unincorporated |
| Uniontown | 25 | 7 | Unincorporated |
| Vallonia | 50+ | 6 | Not available |

Information technology infrastructure

Access to information technology resources affects communication, education, employment, economic development and recreation in a community. According to an April 2005 study by MORI Research, 68 percent of Jackson County residents have internet access. Use of the internet has grown from 41 percent of residents to 68 percent. (Figure 36) Of the 68 percent of adults with access to internet, 30 percent have used high speed, broadband internet services.⁶² With the exception of the most rural areas, residents are afforded accessibility to broadband and high-speed internet services provided by one of three companies.

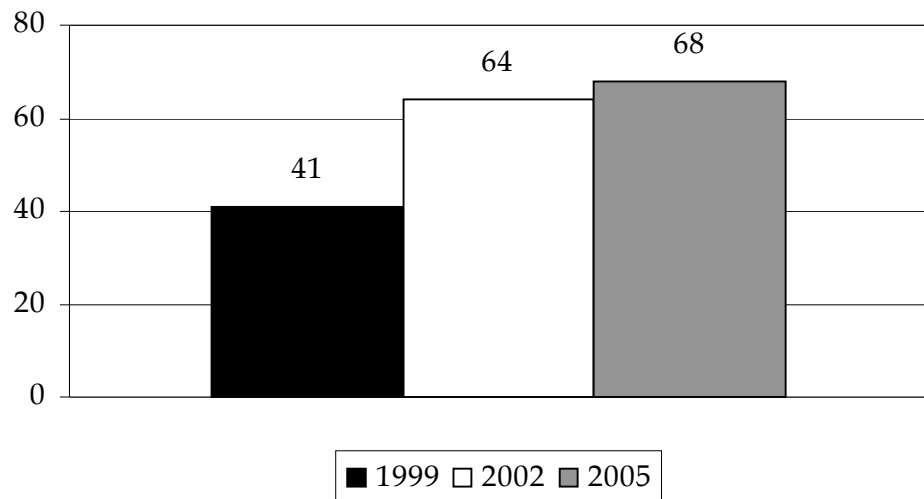
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⁶¹ Unsewered Community Survey Report. <http://www.incap.org/documents/Unsewered%20community%20list.rtf> Accessed 5/20/2005.

⁶² MORI Research. (2005). *2005 Freedom/MORI Media Monitor*. The Tribune: Jackson County Indiana.

Utilities, Continued

Figure 36 – Jackson County Adult Internet Usage



Public Works

City of Seymour

In Seymour, the Department of Public Works consists of the Motor-Vehicle-Highway (M.V.H.) Department, the Garbage-Sanitation-Garage (G.S.G.) Department, the Recycle Department, the Local Road & Street (LRS) Department, and the Seymour Municipal Sanitation Utility (S.M.S.U.) Department.⁶³

Continued on next page

⁶³ City of Seymour Department of Public Works, <http://www.seymourcity.com/publicworks.htm>

Public Works, Continued

**City of
Seymour,**
(continued)

The M.V.H. Department is responsible for the improvement and maintenance of streets, alleys, street rights-of-way, maintenance of storm drainage ditches, and other City-owned properties.⁶⁴ This includes concrete and asphalt construction and repair, street signs and street markings, downtown banners and flags, Christmas decorations, wheel chair curb ramps, tree grates and sidewalk pavers, snow and leaf removal, street sweeping, mowing, downtown maintenance and cleaning, limb removal, herbicide applications, and Police call duty.⁶⁵

The G.S.G. Department is responsible for the daily collection of trash, garbage and yard waste from 6,000 residences within the City limits of Seymour.⁶⁶ Five trash collection routes service residents, churches, and nonprofit entities of Seymour. The G.S.G. Department also provides snow removal, limb removal, extra trash pickups for large items and construction debris. In addition, G.S.G provides other emergency assistance to the community and the maintenance and repair for all Department of Public Works vehicles and equipment.⁶⁷ County residents outside of the city limits have a couple commercial companies from which to contract for trash collection.

The S.M.S.U Department is currently managed and operated by Environmental Management Corporation (E.M.C) and is charged with the responsibility of the daily operation and maintenance of the City of Seymour's Waste Water Treatment Plant, the 75 miles of sanitary sewer, 25 miles of storm sewer collection systems, and 30 sanitary lift stations.⁶⁸ The Waste Water Treatment facility handles 4.3 million gallons of water per day. E.M.C. is responsible for meeting all Federal, State, and Local specifications for effluent quality control.⁶⁹

The Recycle Department is responsible for the curbside recycling program made available at no cost to the residents of Seymour.⁷⁰ In addition, small businesses and schools are provided a recycling program that includes a cardboard and office paper route.

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⁶⁴ City of Seymour Department of Public Works, <http://www.seymourcity.com/publicworks.htm>

⁶⁵ Ibid

⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Ibid

Public Works, Continued

**City of
Seymour,
(continued)**

The recycling department provides 24-hour drop-off sites for hazardous and non-hazardous recyclables. The department is responsible for all handling, sorting, baling, and loading of recyclable commodities for sale to vendors.⁷¹ This department also presents recycling programs to groups ranging in age from pre-school to senior citizens, offers tours of the recycling center, sets up recycling displays at seminars and community events, and encourages recycling at major City functions.⁷²

**Brownstown
and
Crothersville**

All government-related activities in the cities of Brownstown and Crothersville derive from the town hall. Neither city has an elected Town Marshall or Mayor,⁷³ Fire department, parks and recreation boards, and other related boards operate on a volunteer basis. However, each city has a separate police department responsible for providing public safety within the city limits. Crothersville and Brownstown also have a government-funded street department responsible for maintaining the cities' sewer lines, roadways, and sidewalks.⁷⁴ This department is also responsible for snow, ice, and leaf removal during appropriate seasons.

There is a wastewater treatment facility located in each city. However, the city of Brownstown purchases water from JC Rural Water, a private company; whereas, the city of Crothersville maintains its own water supply from area wells.⁷⁵ Trash collection in each city is handled differently. Residents living in the city limits of Brownstown are required to contract with a private trash collection company and pay for their trash collection and recycling services on an individual basis.⁷⁶ The city of Crothersville has contracted with a commercial company to provide trash collection and recycling services to the residents living within the city limits.⁷⁷ However, the costs associated with this city contract are passed along to the residents of Crothersville.

⁷¹ City of Seymour Department of Public Works, <http://www.seymourcity.com/publicworks.htm>

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Interview, Brownstown and Crothersville Town Hall personnel

⁷⁴ Ibid

⁷⁵ Ibid

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ Ibid

Special Projects

Environmental Management

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management launched a geospatial project in 1999 in effort to study and analyze the nitrate contamination found in ground water just northeast of Seymour, Indiana. Agents from both departments conducted hydrologic, hydro-chemical, and isotopic investigations to determine the sources of the contamination.⁷⁸ Fortunately, the project is receiving ongoing funding for purposes of monitoring the project's progress and developing best practices that could be used to study similar geological systems where nitrate problems exist.

Opportunities

Through the Industrial Development Grant Fund, the State of Indiana supports and encourages the development of infrastructure by assisting local units of government in off-site infrastructure projects in support of new business development. The program is designed to supplement local funding sources by awarding a grant to fund up to fifty percent of the project. The grant award is based on new job creation.

⁷⁸ Center for Geospatial Data Analysis(CGDA), <http://igs.indiana.edu/cgda/projects.cfm>

Recommendations

Transportation

- A county-wide, freestanding entity should operate a public transportation system that best fits the needs of the county. This will help to improve the quality of life of residents with no other means of transportation throughout Jackson County.
 - Work with INDOT to take advantage of transportation enhancement dollars. These dollars can help to beautify communities as well as increase bike and hiking trails.
-

Economic development

- Build collaborations between the Brownstown and Seymour Chambers of Commerce, the Freetown Improvement Association, and the Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation to improve the economy of each community within Jackson County. As plans are made to entice new industries into the community, leadership from these entities should share ideas and leverage resources to develop the potential of each community.
 - Employers should work with schools and other education and training entities to continue to develop a highly skilled labor force. This will help to make the county more a viable choice for new industries and help to make more Jackson County families self sufficient.
-

Information technology

- County leaders need to work to expand the availability and quality of internet access throughout Jackson County. A well developed information technology infrastructure would provide improvement opportunities for schools, business, and private individuals alike.
-

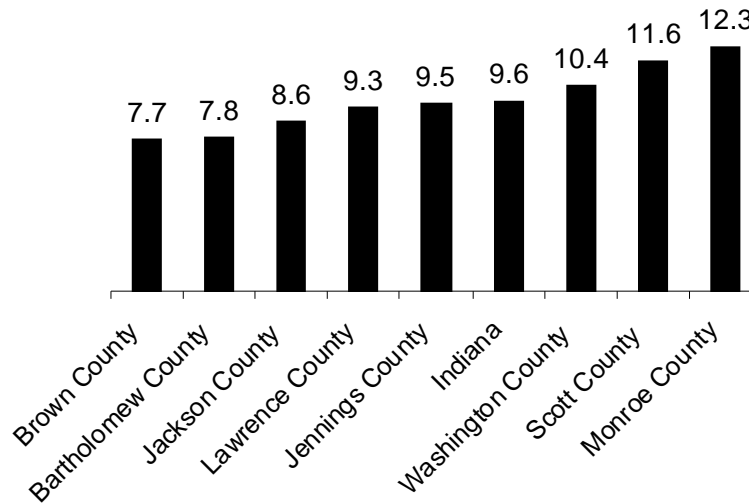
The Economy Findings

Poverty

Overview

The U.S. Census Bureau’s Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for Jackson County and surrounding areas show that Jackson has the third lowest poverty rate among the eight counties that surround it, a full percentage point lower than the state’s poverty rate.

Figure 37 – 2002 Percentage of People in Poverty⁷⁹



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⁷⁹ All Ages Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates – U.S. Census Bureau

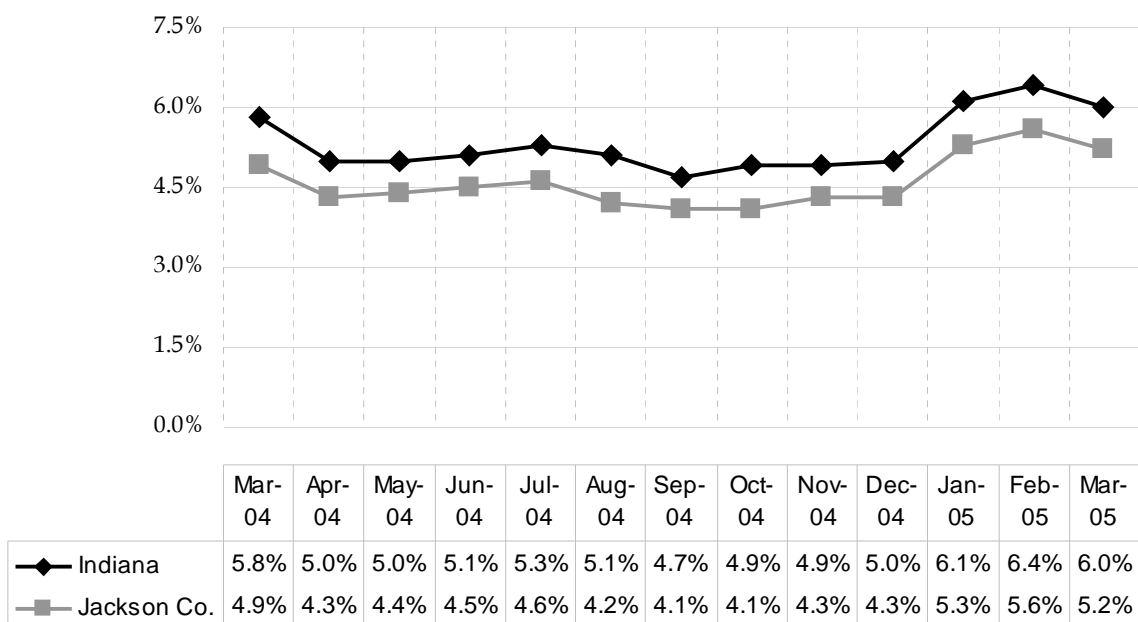
Poverty, Continued

Unemployment According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Jackson County's unemployment rate in January 2005 was 13 percent lower than the state rate. The County's rate ties for the second lowest in the surrounding area with Bartholomew County (Figure 38). Jackson County maintained a trend of lower unemployment rates than that of Indiana for the past 12 months (Figure 39).

Figure 38 -January 2005 Unemployment Rates⁸⁰



Figure 39 – Feb. 04 – Mar. 05 Unemployment Rates⁸¹



⁸⁰<http://www.accessindiana.com/dwd/inews/>

⁸¹ Ibid

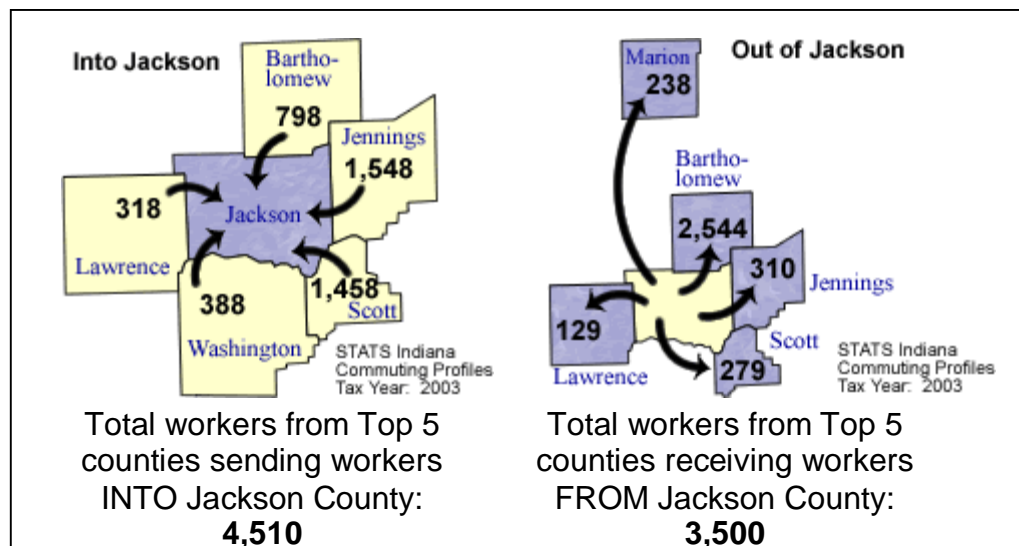
Income

Commuting Patterns

Conversely, 94 percent of Jackson County’s labor force is currently working. Commuting patterns based on information from 2003 tax returns imply an encouraging balance between Jackson County’s “import and export” of workers. Figure 40 illustrates the commuting patterns of the top five “sender” counties and the top five “receiver” counties. Of these commuting routes, Jackson County receives 22 percent more workers from its top five donor counties than it sends to its top five receiver counties.

The 2003 tax returns also illustrate that workers from the top five senders comprise 15.7 percent of Jackson County’s workforce and 12.7 percent of the labor force.

Figure 40 – Commuting Patterns In and Out of Jackson County based on information from 2003 Tax Returns



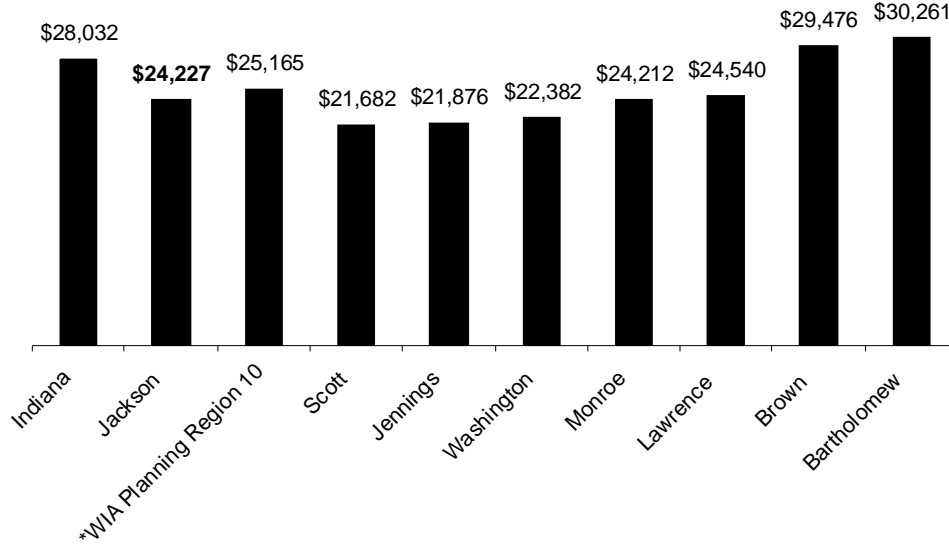
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Income, Continued

Earnings

Wherever members of Jackson County's labor force choose to work, they are earning well. Per capita earnings in Jackson are comparable to Indiana as a whole, and very near the average of the surrounding counties. Holding a position so close to Indiana's per capita income, shown in Figure 41, and so far below Indiana's overall unemployment rate, is a testament to the county's economic strength. Jackson County residents' income is also very comparable to the Workforce Investment Act Planning Region 10, which includes Jackson County along with the surrounding counties shown below excepting Scott and Washington counties, and including Owen and Greene counties.

Figure 41 – 2002 Bureau of Economic Analysis Annual Earnings Report⁸²



Median household income

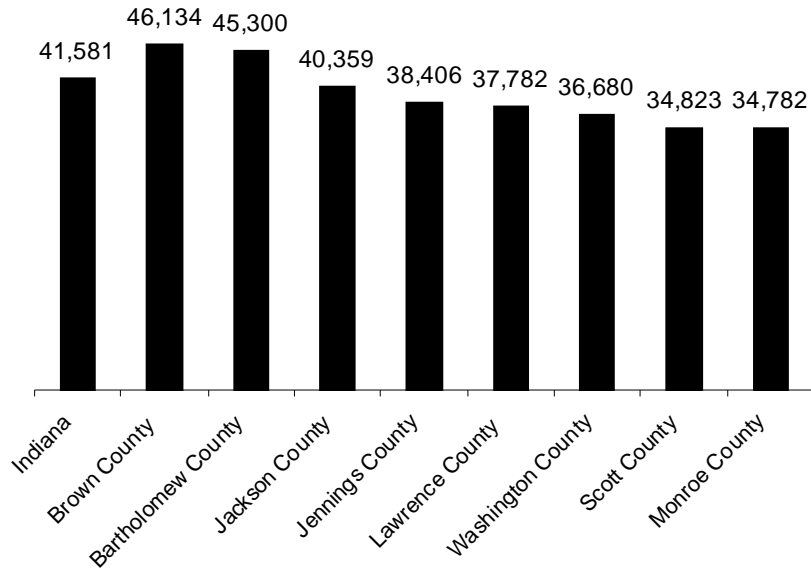
Jackson County's estimated median household income was \$40,359 in 2002. Jackson County ranks third in the surrounding area, and closest to Indiana's median income of \$41,581.

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⁸² WIA Planning Region 10 data from Indiana's New Economy Workforce Statistics (inews). Other data taken from 2002 BEA Annual Earnings Report

Income, Continued

Figure 42 – Median Household Income⁸³

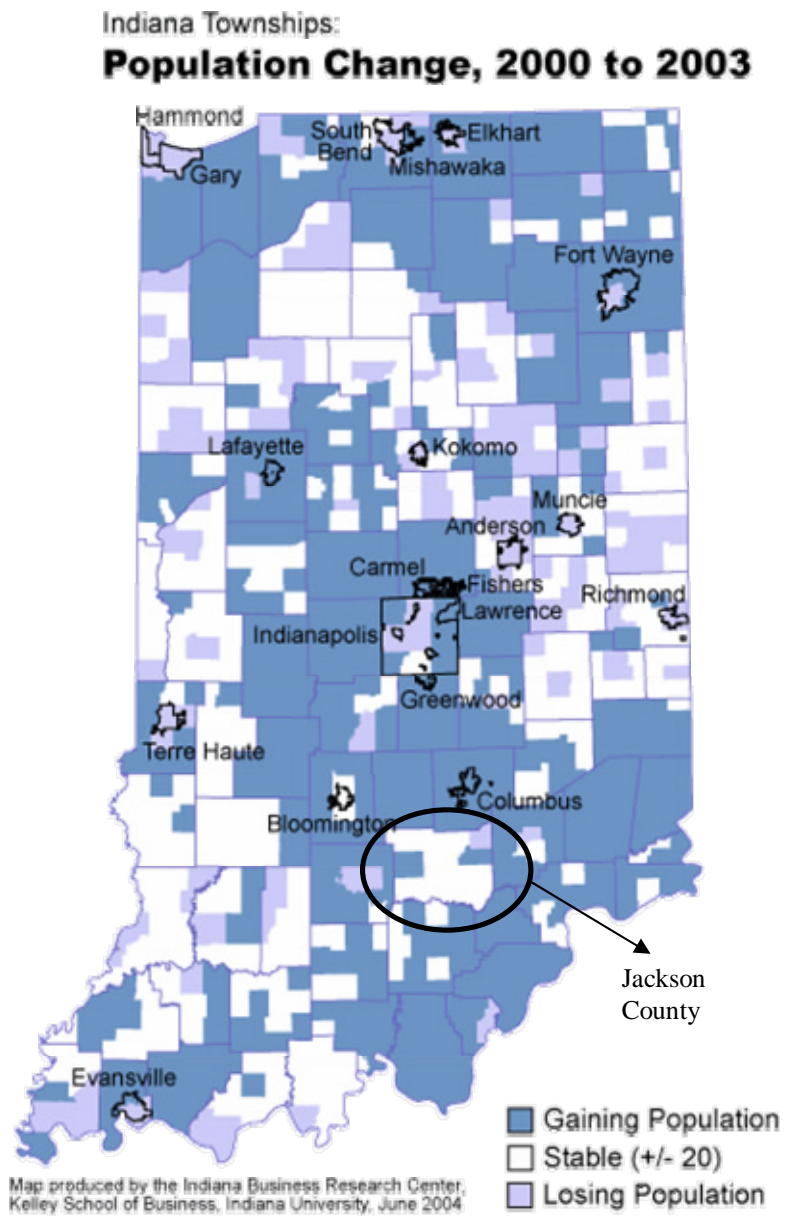


The preceding data show that most residents of Jackson County are employed, and most are earning amounts comparable to the surrounding area and the state as a whole. Jackson County also has demonstrated the ability to attract and maintain business, and maintains a healthy balance of attracting more workers from surrounding areas than it sends to jobs outside the county. The 2000 Census identified Jackson County's home ownership rate as 74.3 percent, which was 2.9 percent higher than Indiana's homeownership rate – an indicator of vitality.

⁸³ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Population

Figure 43 – Population Change, 2000-2003⁸⁴



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⁸⁴ Indiana Business Research Center, Indiana University

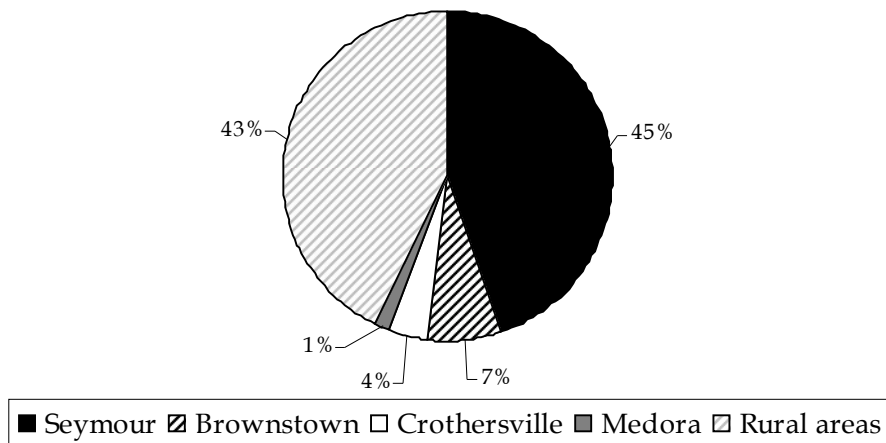
Population, Continued

Overview

Between 2000 and 2003, Jackson County's population has been predominately stable, with some growth near Seymour on the east and along highway 50 on the west.

The largest portion of Jackson County's population lives in Seymour, but rural areas across the county are a very close second. At 509.3 square miles, at 81.8 people per square mile, the population living in outlying areas could make it difficult to make services available where they are most needed.

Figure 44 – Jackson County's Population Distribution July 2003 Estimates ⁸⁵



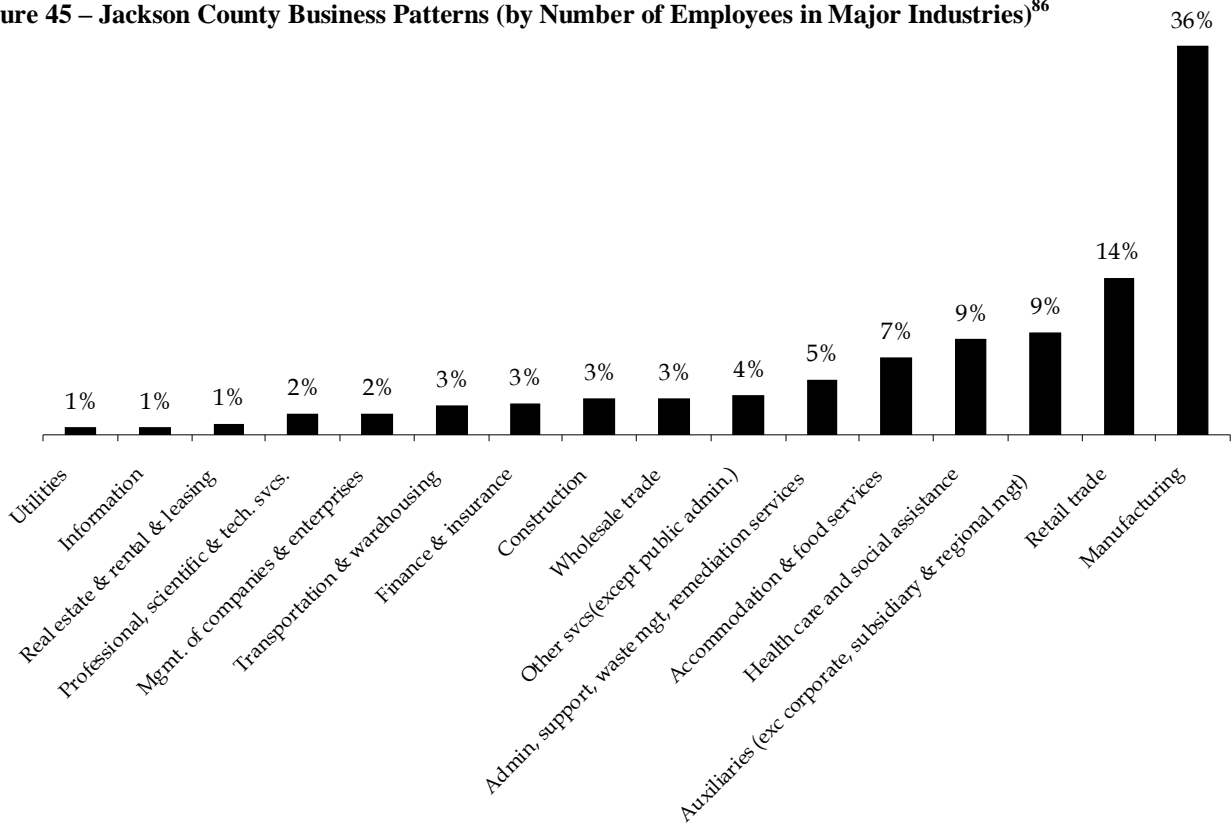
⁸⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Industry

Overview

A large part of Jackson County’s economic strength comes from its thriving manufacturing industry. The greatest percentage of Jackson County employees (35 percent) works in manufacturing. In 2003, manufacturing reported an average wage per job of \$37,463. Retail trade is the next largest industry, followed by health care and corporate and regional management. Jackson County ranks second of Indiana’s ninety-two counties in the number of people employed in the transportation and warehousing sector.

Figure 45 – Jackson County Business Patterns (by Number of Employees in Major Industries)⁸⁶



Continued on next page

⁸⁶ 2002 County Business Patterns (NAICS)

Industry, Continued

Manufacturing employers Figure 46 lists the county's largest manufacturing employers, along with number of employees and what they produce.

Figure 46 – Major Industrial Employers in Jackson County⁸⁷

| Major Industrial Employers in Jackson County | | |
|--|------------|------------------------------|
| Company | Employment | Product |
| Aisin USA (S) | 1899 | Auto Components |
| Valeo Sylvania LLC (S) | 1005 | Automotive Lighting |
| Aisin Drivetrain (C) | 402 | Drivetrain Components |
| Seymour Tubing, Inc. (S) | 385 | Cold-Drawn Steel Tubes |
| Schwarz Pharma (S) | 345 | Pharmaceutical Products |
| Cummins Industrial Center (S) | 315 | Diesel Engines |
| Home Products International (S) | 261 | Ironing Access/Bed Frames |
| Silgan Plastics (S) | 261 | Molded Plastic Products |
| Moore-Wallace, RRD (S) | 164 | Commercial Printing |
| Dicksons, Inc. (S) | 155 | Religious Materials |
| Versatech (C) | 150 | Electronic Connectors |
| Exopack (S) | 148 | Paper Bags |
| Kobelco Metal Powder (S) | 127 | Powdered Steel |
| Dura Automotive (B) | 125 | Auto Stamping Operation |
| Cerro Wire & Cable Co. (C) | 121 | Electrical Wire & Cable Mfg. |
| Seymour Manufacturing (S) | 116 | Home and Garden Hand Tools |
| Regal Industries (C) | 105 | Cellulose Insulation |
| Pretium Packaging (S) | 101 | Plastic Bottles |

Location Description After Company:

B – Brownstown C – Crothersville S – Seymour

⁸⁷ Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation

Recommendations

Opportunities for economic improvement

- Plan and develop affordable, safe and quality housing for seniors. As the numbers of residents ages 65+ grow and issues with Social Security loom, every effort should be made to plan for the future.
 - Develop and implement innovative plans to help youth in Jackson County learn about opportunities for their employment and future livelihood within the county. Work to provide post-secondary learning and training opportunities to encourage young people to remain in the county and to become contributors to the community.
 - Expand the leadership academy to grow and cultivate new leadership for the future. High school youth need opportunities to develop and apply leadership skills. Work with employers, schools, and interested individuals to identify high potential youth to learn about the needs and potentials for Jackson County along with leadership skills.
 - Identify and develop leaders and advocates among the Hispanic population. Incorporate Hispanic leadership development into the current leadership academy.
 - Collaborate with nonprofit organizations to develop the Hispanic workforce. This includes creating cultural awareness programs, English language classes, skills training, and health and human services support.
 - Develop a strategic plan for cultural and recreational tourism. This will not only raise the awareness of opportunities for recreation to Jackson County residents, it can contribute significantly to the economy of the region.
 - Investigate opportunities for entrepreneurial business development. Leverage resources such as Ball State University's "Building Better Communities" program (<http://www.bsu.edu/bbc/>).
-

Health and Human Services Findings

Overview

Introduction

Jackson County's approximately 41,639 (Figure 47) county residents face the same health and social challenges of communities nationwide: children are neglected and abused, and individuals fight illnesses and disease and face the high cost of healthcare. This section of the report offers a profile of its residents and what the community is doing to support its residents.

This section of the report includes the following topics.

- Status of Families
- Health of the Young
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Mental Health
- Insurance
- Mortality

Figure 47 – Population in Jackson County 2003⁸⁸

| Population Estimates by Age in 2003 | Number | Rank in State | Percent Dist. in county | Percent Dist. in State |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Preschool (0 to 4) | 3,017 | <u>31</u> | 7.2% | 6.9% |
| School Age (5 to 17) | 7,756 | <u>37</u> | 18.6% | 18.9% |
| College Age (18 to 24) | 3,674 | <u>42</u> | 8.8% | 10.2% |
| Young Adult (25 to 44) | 11,840 | <u>34</u> | 28.4% | 28.0% |
| Older Adult(45 to 64) | 9,822 | <u>35</u> | 23.6% | 23.6% |
| Older (65 plus) | 5,530 | <u>34</u> | 13.3% | 12.3% |
| Median Age | 36 | <u>66</u> | | Median Age = 35.5 |

⁸⁸ States Indiana Website, accessed April 27, 2005

Public Support for Families

Overview

In 2003, Jackson County was home to 16,052 households. Of these households, 25.7 percent were married with children, 32.4 percent married without children, 8.0 percent were single parents, and 23.5 percent were people living alone.⁸⁹ These family groups span the range of income and social levels. At times, any family, no matter the history, is vulnerable to economic change and other crises.

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), the Indiana State Department of Health, faith-based organizations, schools, and nonprofit organizations are prepared to offer assistance to these families. This support may come in the form of training, financial assistance, food stamps, shelter, clothing and health care.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a program that provides cash assistance and supportive services to assist the family, helping them achieve economic self-sufficiency. Families with children under the age of 18, that are deprived of adequate financial support from a parent by reason of death, absence from the home, unemployment, or physical or mental incapacity are eligible for TANF.

According to the FSSA Indiana FACT report, in January 2005, 107 families received TANF grants, representing less than 1 percent of recipients statewide.

Food Stamps

Approximately 7 percent of Jackson County families used food stamps in January of 2005. To be eligible for food stamps, families must meet the financial criteria found in Figure 48.

Continued on next page

⁸⁹States Indiana Website, accessed April 27, 2005

Public Support for Families, Continued

Figure 48 – Food Stamp Eligibility⁹⁰

| Household Size | Maximum Gross Monthly Income Limit |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | \$1,009 |
| 2 | 1,354 |
| 3 | 1,698 |
| 4 | 2,043 |
| 5 | 2,387 |
| 6 | 2,732 |
| 7 | 3,076 |
| 8 | 3,421 |
| 9 | 3,766 |
| 10 | 4,111 |
| Each Additional Member | 345 |

Food Stamps, The food stamp program is invaluable to those who are eligible. However, (continued) the amount of support provided to families is modest.

Figure 49 – Food Stamp Allotment

| Household Size | Maximum Food Stamp Allotment |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | \$149 |
| 2 | 274 |
| 3 | 393 |
| 4 | 499 |
| 5 | 592 |
| 6 | 711 |
| 7 | 786 |
| 8 | 898 |
| 9 | 1010 |
| 10 | 1122 |
| Each Additional Member | 112 |

Continued on next page

⁹⁰ <http://www.in.gov/fssa/families/stamps/index.html> . Accessed April 27, 2005

Public Support for Families, Continued

IMPACT

Indiana Manpower and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT) provides services designed to help recipients of Food Stamps and TANF achieve economic self-sufficiency through services including the following:

- education;
- training;
- job search; and
- job placement.

IMPACT services are a component of Indiana's Welfare-to-Work program, which places an increasing emphasis on "work first". "Work First" means that individuals are expected to accept a job when it can be secured with their existing education and skills.

In Jackson County, 122 individuals received IMPACT services in January 2005. This represents less than 1 percent of recipients statewide.

Health of the Young

Overview

Building strong families and supporting parents is the most important step in ensuring a safe and stimulating environment for the children of Jackson County. Successful parenting is a collaborative effort that requires families, communities, and government to work together for the child’s future.

The purpose of this section is to look at the health of Jackson County’s children through the perspectives of:

- Birth
- Teen birth rates

With the knowledge that everyone has “20/20 vision through hindsight”, this section offers statistics and information that will give a clear picture of the past to ensure a brighter future for Jackson County’s youngest citizens.

Births in Jackson County

Maternal health is one of the most important predictors of the birth of a healthy infant. Pregnant women who abstain from alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs, receive first trimester prenatal care, and eat a well-balanced diet are more likely to deliver a healthy, full term infant.⁹¹

In 2002, Jackson County welcomed 629 live births. Of these births, 7.5 percent were considered to be low birth-weight babies. Over 81 percent of mothers received prenatal care during the crucial first trimester of pregnancy, a rate slightly higher than state levels. However, 23.5 percent of mothers reported smoking during pregnancy, over 4 points higher than state averages (Figure 50).

Figure 50 – 2002 Births in Jackson County⁹²

| | Jackson County | | Indiana | |
|---|----------------|------|---------|--------|
| | 2002 | 1996 | 2002 | 1996 |
| Total # of Live Births | 629 | 569 | 84,839 | 83,157 |
| % of Low Birth-weight Babies | 7.5 | 6.7 | 7.6 | 7.6 |
| % of Mothers who Reported Smoking During Pregnancy | 23.5 | 21.6 | 19.1 | 21.1 |
| % of Mothers who Received 1st Trimester Prenatal Care | 81.2 | 79.4 | 80.5 | 78.1 |

Continued on next page

⁹¹ The Indiana Youth Institute (2004). *Kids County in Indiana 2004 Data Book: County Profiles of Child Well-Being*. Page 22.

⁹² Ibid, pg 121.

Health of the Young, Continued

Teen births

Teen birthrates in Jackson County are significantly higher than statewide averages. The birthrate of teens between the ages of 15 and 17 is 4 percent, nearly double that of the state (Figure 51). Since 1996, there has been an increase of teen births at the local level while state levels of teen births have decreased. In fact, Jackson County has maintained significantly higher rates than the state level of teen births over time (Figure 52). Of Jackson's neighboring counties, only Brown and Jennings Counties join Jackson in experiencing increases in teen birth rates since 1996. All other counties have decreased rates of teen births.

The needs of teens of child bearing age are directly affected by appropriate access to health care.⁹³ When considering the rates of sexually active teens, the need for information, education, and access to birth control is underscored. *Kids Count in Indiana* reports the 2003 Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey as stating:

- Half (49.8 percent) of Hoosier 9th-12th graders reported ever having sexual intercourse.
- One-third (38 percent) reported being currently sexually active.
- One-half (55 percent) of Hoosier teens reported using a condom during their last episode of sexual intercourse.

Having a child during adolescence often presents long-term difficulties for both mother and child. The babies born to teens, especially younger teens, are at higher risk for low birth-weight and infant mortality. Births to teens also contribute to cycles of social problems, as well. Children born to teen mothers are more likely to grow up in homes that offer lower levels of emotional support and intellectual stimulation. These mothers are also less likely to complete high school. This has a result of limited earnings potential and lower probabilities of self-sustainability.

Figure 51 – Teen Births in Jackson County⁹⁴

| | Jackson County | | Indiana | |
|---|----------------|------|---------|------|
| | 2002 | 1996 | 2002 | 1996 |
| Teen Birthrate per 1,000 Females, Ages 15-17 | 40.4 | 30.2 | 22.5 | 32.7 |
| % of Babies Born to Single Mothers Under Age 20 without a High School Diploma | 8.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 |

Continued on next page

⁹³ Data provided by Lynn Clothier of Indiana Health Centers, May 20, 2005.

⁹⁴ Indiana Youth Institute. (2004) *Kids Count in Indiana: County Profiles of Child Well-Being*. pg. 121.

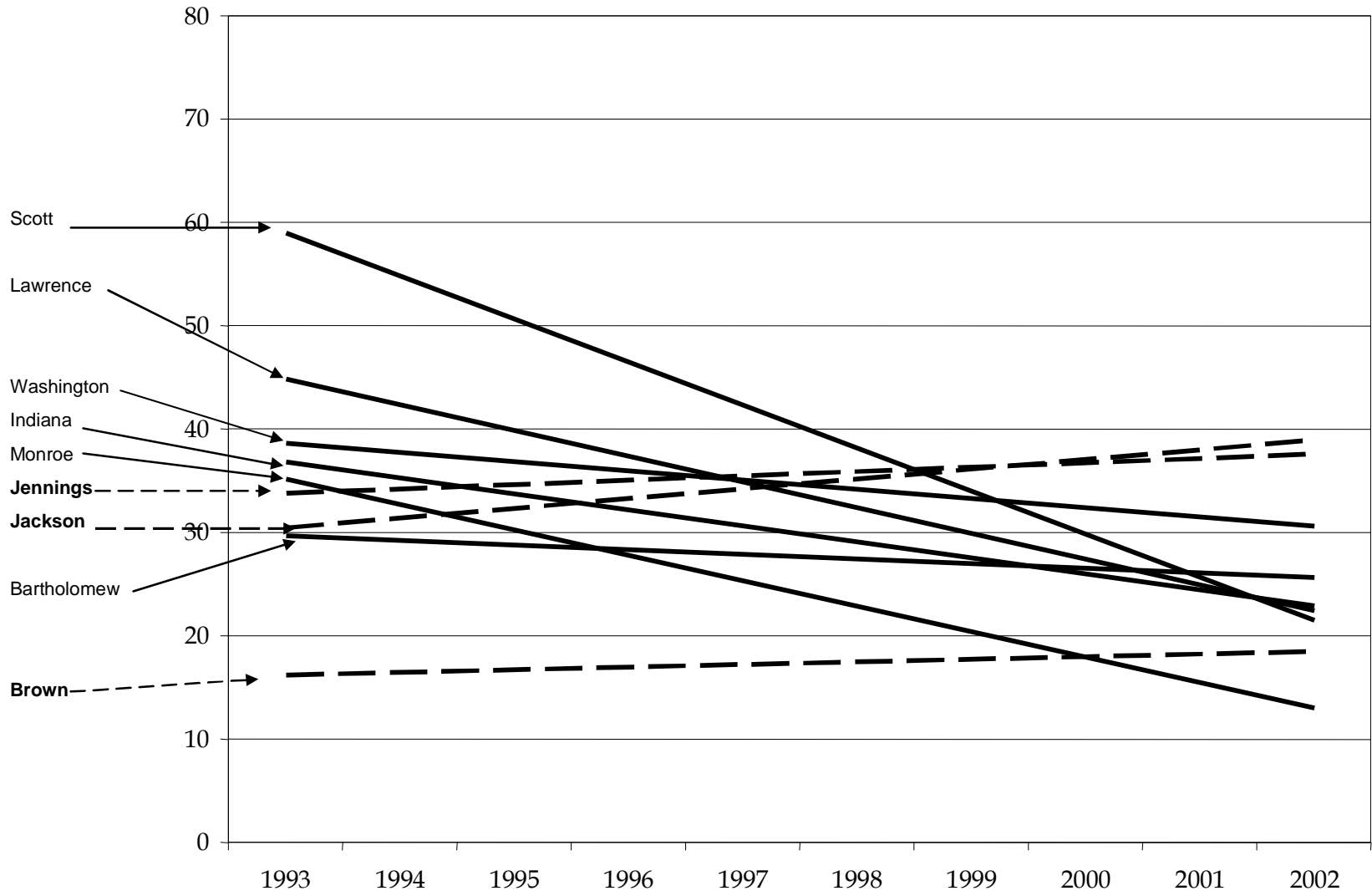
Health of the Young, Continued

Figure 52 – County Comparison of Teen Birth Rates Per 1,000 Females ⁹⁵

| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Indiana | 34.3 | 35.1 | 36.2 | 32.7 | 32.1 | 28.9 | 27.4 | 26.2 | 23.7 | 22.5 |
| Bartholomew | 32.0 | 25.8 | 33.5 | 36.1 | 19.6 | 25.1 | 21.8 | 21.3 | 28.2 | 32.9 |
| Brown | 28.1 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 8.6 | 11.4 | 8.3 | 13.9 | 35.6 | 19.4 | 17.2 |
| Jackson | 31.5 | 27.8 | 36.7 | 30.2 | 35.1 | 33.7 | 36.7 | 42.0 | 32.9 | 40.0 |
| Jennings | 35.5 | 30.2 | 39.7 | 34.3 | 37.5 | 32.4 | 23.0 | 47.1 | 43.7 | 33.1 |
| Lawrence | 44.8 | 33.7 | 51.0 | 38.5 | 35.2 | 30.5 | 28.9 | 23.6 | 28.7 | 21.8 |
| Monroe | 28.8 | 33.1 | 29.8 | 32.6 | 30.1 | 21.4 | 22.8 | 19.0 | 16.7 | 6.8 |
| Scott | 49.0 | 73.2 | 56.1 | 42.9 | 35.1 | 25.9 | 22.4 | 46.9 | 34.1 | 16.2 |
| Washington | 30.2 | 38.9 | 42.6 | 36.7 | 45.9 | 37.5 | 21.9 | 30.0 | 26.5 | 36.3 |

⁹⁵ Indiana Youth Institute. (2004) *Kids Count in Indiana: County Profiles of Child Well-Being*.

Figure 53 – Teen Birth Trends



Child Abuse and Neglect

Overview

In 2004, there were 57 substantiated abuse and neglect fatalities in Indiana. Of the 57 fatalities, 39 percent were due to abuse and 61 percent were due to neglect. The primary cause of these deaths were attributed to:

- Physical abuse/beatings – 21.1 percent
- Vehicular deaths – 19.3 percent
- Fire – 10.5 percent
- Drowning – 8.8 percent
- Poisoning – 8.8 percent
- Gun-related – 7 percent
- Medical neglect – 7 percent
- Asphyxiation – 7 percent
- Shaken baby syndrome – 3.5 percent
- Drug related – 1.8 percent
- Scalding – 1.8 percent
- Sexual assault – 1.8 percent
- Unknown cause – 1 percent⁹⁶

The most common stress factors in abuse cases are:

- Lack of parenting skills
- Family discord/marital problems

Continued on next page

⁹⁶ State of Indiana Department of Child Services *Child Abuse and Neglect SFY 2004 Annual Fatality Report*

Child Abuse and Neglect, Continued

Overview, (continued)

- Pregnancy/new child
- Authoritarian method/discipline
- Mental health problems

The most common stress factors in neglect cases are:

- Lack of parenting skills
- Pregnancy/new child
- Heavy child care responsibility
- Family discord/marital problems
- Drug dependency and insufficient income⁹⁷

Jackson County child abuse and neglect statistics

There are substantiated child maltreatment cases in Jackson County. In January of 2005, there were eight cases of substantiated child abuse and 17 of neglect. The numbers of substantiated child maltreatment cases can fluctuate greatly from one month to another. (Figure 54).

Figure 54 – Jackson County Child Abuse and Neglect Cases⁹⁸

| | Aug. 04 | Sept. 04 | Oct. 04 | Nov. 04 | Dec. 04 | Jan. 05 | Feb. 05 | Mar. 05 |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total number of children with substantiated child abuse | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| Children with physical abuse | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Children with sexual abuse | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| Total number of children with substantiated child neglect | 25 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 5 | 14 |

Continued on next page

⁹⁷ State of Indiana Department of Child Services *Child Abuse and Neglect SFY 2004 Annual Fatality Report*

⁹⁸ Indiana Family and Social Service Administration Indiana IN-FACT.

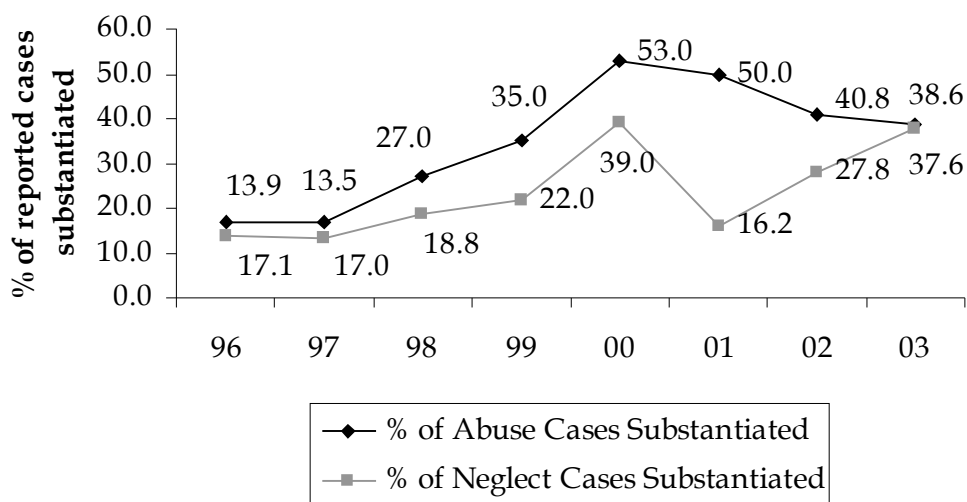
Child Abuse and Neglect, Continued

Jackson County child abuse and neglect statistics, (continued)

Although there are fluctuations in substantiated cases, trends can be mapped over a period of time. Jackson County showed definite increases in both abuse and neglect cases from 1996 through 2000. From 2000 to 2001, neglect cases dropped by nearly one half, the resumed an upward climb. In 2003, the percentage of neglect cases returned almost to 2000 rates. Abuse cases, however, have steadily dropped since 2000 (Figure 55).

The trend of substantiated child maltreatment paralleled that of the state in both abuse and neglect cases from 1996 through 2000. Since 2000, the trend of neglect cases dropped well below state rates, but then completed 2003 at a rate higher than the state. The percentage of abuse cases rose above state rates in 2000 and remained higher through 2003. (Figure 56)

Figure 55 – Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Jackson County: State Fiscal Years 1996-2003⁹⁹

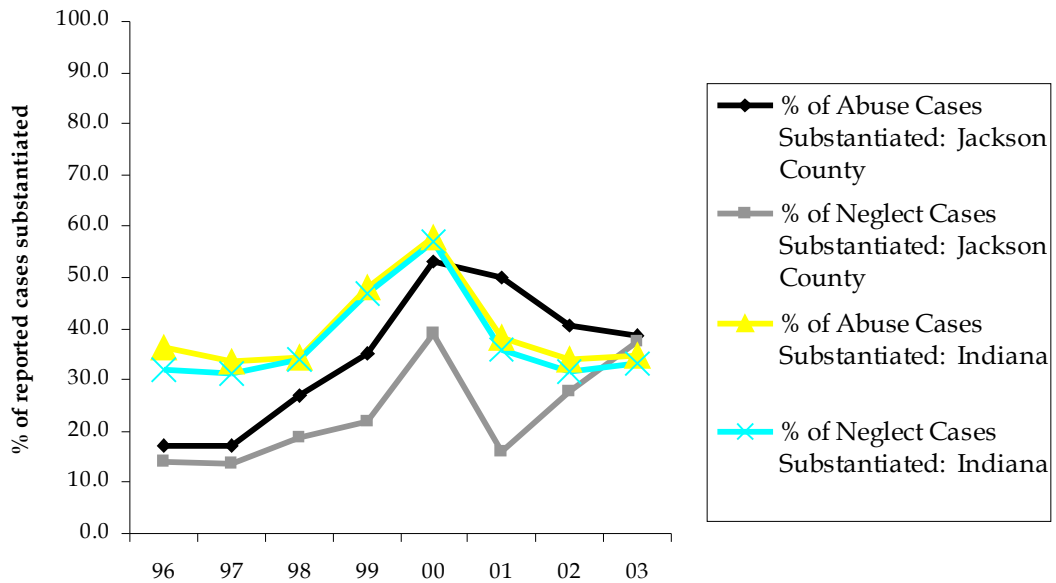


Continued on next page

⁹⁹ Indiana Youth Institute. (2004). *Kids Count in Indiana: County Profiles of Child Well-Being*.

Child Abuse and Neglect, Continued

Figure 56 – Trend Comparison of Jackson County Child Maltreatment Rates to that of Indiana's



Mental Health

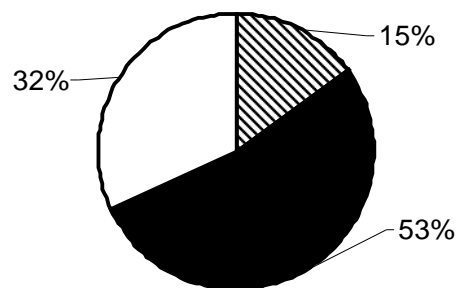
Overview

The need for effective, available mental health and addiction treatment is clear. Major depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide among all people over the age of five. Mental illness, including suicide, accounts for over 15 percent of the burden of disease in established market economies, such as the U.S. This is more than the disease burden caused by all cancers.¹⁰⁰

Incidence in Jackson County

Mental illness affects all strata of society, all ages of individuals. In a report from the FSSA Division of Mental Health and Addiction on the total persons served in State Fiscal Year 2003, a total of 608 individuals received mental health services. Of that total, over half the services were for adults with serious mental illness and less than 15 percent of services were for seriously emotionally disturbed children (Figure 57).

Figure 57 – Types of Mental Health Service Accessed in Jackson County 2003



- ▣ Adults and Children with Chronic Addictions and Gambling Addictions
- Adults with Serious Mental Illness
- Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children

Continued on next page

¹⁰⁰ FSSA Division of Mental Health and Addiction . *Biennial Report SFY 2002-2003*.

Insurance

Overview

The cost of healthcare is continually rising. The issue is debated in legislative chambers throughout the United States. The need for families and individuals to have insurance coverage is more important than ever.

Public healthcare information

Some individuals rely on the State to provide health coverage. Medicaid is the only source of health care coverage for 4,639 residents in Jackson County.¹⁰¹ This represents 11.2 percent of the population. The cost for these services is \$2,379,627.

The enrollment office for Medicaid is in Brownstown, not in the population center of Jackson County. The limited public transportation options for residents proves to be a barrier to enrolling for services.¹⁰²

Another avenue for public healthcare assistance is through Hoosier Rx. In March of 2004, 211 Jackson County residents used HoosierRx benefits for a total payment of \$25,117. This is an average of \$199 per individual.

Hoosier Healthwise is a health care system for youth and children. In March of 2004 there were a total of 2,340 children and youth in Jackson County enrolled in the program (Figure 58). Again, however, there are challenges for individuals accessing care through this program. Most of the low income pregnant women and children are referred to Indianapolis for services. This requires a 1.5 hour drive to the closest available care.¹⁰³

Figure 58 – Hoosier Healthwise Information March 2004

| Age Group | March 2004 |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 Year of Age | 254 |
| 1 – 5 Years of Age | 793 |
| 6 – 12 Years of Age | 818 |
| 13 – 18 Years of Age | 475 |
| Total for County | 2,340 |

Continued on next page

¹⁰¹ These figures are based on the FSSA March 2000 Quarterly Update Indiana FACT

¹⁰² Data provided by Lynn Clothier of Indiana Health Centers, May 20, 2005.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

Insurance, Continued

Private insurance

Some individuals are caught in between eligibility for public healthcare coverage and the high cost of private insurance. A 2002 Census report indicates that households earning more than \$75,000 are responsible for more than half the growth of uninsured individuals. While numbers at the county level are not available, across Indiana, the rate of uninsured individuals is rising (Figure 59).

Figure 59 – Uninsured Rates for Indiana¹⁰⁴

| 3 year Average 2001-2003 Percentage | 2 Year Average | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | 2001-2002 Percentage | 2002-2003 Percentage |
| 12.9 | 12.4 | 13.5 |

¹⁰⁴ U.S. Census Bureau *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2003*

Mortality

Overview

Americans are living longer than ever. Examination of mortality rates can help to define improvement in lifestyles and medical care. An example of this is infant mortality. Life expectancy increased dramatically during the first half of the 20th century, primarily because of decreased mortality among infants. Under the mortality conditions of 1950, life expectancy at birth had jumped to 68 years. Since then, improvements have slowed. Nevertheless, in 1991, life expectancy at birth had reached a record high of 75.5 years.¹⁰⁵

Jackson County mortality statistics

The Indiana State Department of Health publishes a mortality report for each county in the state. In 2002, the report lists the death rate for Jackson County residents was 438. Men accounted for 229 of all deaths and women accounted for 218.¹⁰⁶ The report also reports on the causes of death. Figure 60 lists the causes and corresponding number of deaths.

Figure 60 – Indiana Mortality Report 2002 (Jackson County)

| Cause | Total | Male | Female |
|--|-------|------|--------|
| Malignant Neoplasm | 97 | 57 | 40 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 10 | 8 | 2 |
| Alzheimer's Disease | 15 | 6 | 9 |
| Major Cardiovascular Diseases | 183 | 82 | 101 |
| Influenza and Pneumonia | 14 | 3 | 11 |
| Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases | 24 | 9 | 15 |
| Peptic Ulcer | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Chronic Liver Diseases & Cirrhosis | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Pregnancy, Childbirth | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Congenital Malformations | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sudden Infant Death Syndrome | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Symptoms, Signs, & abnormal Clinical and Lab Findings Not Elsewhere Classified | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| All other Diseases | 62 | 32 | 30 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| All other & Unspecified Accidents & Adverse Effects | 10 | 8 | 2 |
| Suicide | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Homicide | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Continued on next page

¹⁰⁵ Longevity and Health Research; Chapter 3: *Longevity and Health Characteristics*

¹⁰⁶ Indiana Mortality Report 2002; Table 5-36 (Jackson County)

Mortality, Continued

**Jackson
County
mortality
statistics,
(continued)**

More residents of Jackson County die of cardiovascular disease than any other reason. Malignant neoplasm follows cardiovascular disease with chronic respiratory disease coming in third. More women than men died of cardiovascular disease while more men than women died of malignant neoplasm. Equal numbers of men and women died from suicide.

It is interesting to note from the previous paragraph that there were no deaths to childbirth or sudden infant death syndrome.

Health and Human Services Providers

Accessibility

A variety of health-related and human services are available to Jackson County residents; however, resources are limited and access to services can be a challenge in the county and region, as it is in any rural area.

Although gains have recently been made in health care accessibility in Jackson County, there are still specific challenges that have yet to be addressed.

- In Jackson County, the ratio of primary care physicians to the total population is 1:3438. This ratio is slightly higher than that of the state levels of 1:2062.
- There is no dedicated, culturally relevant health care for the Hispanic population. With the 811.5 percent change in Jackson County's Hispanic population from 1990-2000, this issue is sure to become a crisis for many individuals.

Hospitals and Health Care Providers

Jackson County hosts the Schneck Medical Center located in Seymour. First opened in 1911, Schneck Medical Center offers a full range of services to the community. Today, the hospital is licensed for 166 beds. It employs a staff of 130 nurses and hundreds of other professionals from a wide range of health care specialists, and includes a Medical Staff of almost 80 physicians. Schneck encompasses almost 170,000 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities and equipment.

This institution provides clinical service to more than 120,000 residents of Southern Indiana. Each year Schneck admits over 5,000 patients, conducts more than 9,000 surgical procedures, performs over 500,000 laboratory tests, sees more than 24,000 emergency cases, and brings more than 600 new lives into the world. It provides dozens of wellness programs, support groups, and healthcare classes to adults and children.¹⁰⁷

Continued on next page

¹⁰⁷ <http://yourhospital.org/>. Accessed 5/20/2005.

Health and Human Services Providers, Continued

Hospitals and Health Care Providers, (continued)

Jackson County offers a new health care center. This center is located in downtown Seymour and is housed in the newly renovated Community Agency Building along with organizations and social service providers. The mission of the new Community Health Center of Jackson County is to provide health care for the uninsured or underinsured population of Jackson County.

To date, the Community Health Center of Jackson County has served more than 2,000 patients. The Center actively provides numerous on-site services, including laboratory work, pharmaceuticals, prenatal, maternal and newborn care, outreach and social services, case management, mental health visits, Medicaid enrollment and a sliding fee scale for outsource services from Schneck Medical Center. WIC (Women, Infants and Children) offices are also located within the center, and dental services will be added soon.¹⁰⁸

Continued on next page

¹⁰⁸ Wetzel, January. (2005). Clinic Opens Doors (Electronic version). The *(Jackson County) Tribune*, May 3, 2005.

Health and Human Services Providers, Continued

Figure 61 – Health and Human Services Agencies Serving Jackson County

| Provider | Services | Main Office |
|--|---|---------------|
| Aging & Community Services of South Central Indiana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Steps System Point of Entry (early intervention for young children at risk of developmental delay) ● Assisted Living ● In-home Services ● Adult Day Services ● Social Opportunities ● Household Services | Columbus |
| Anchor House | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Pantry and Shelter | Seymour |
| Community Provisions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Pantry | Seymour |
| First Baptist Church | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Pantry ● Mental Health Services | Crothersville |
| Human Services, Inc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Heating & Cooling Assistance ● Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program ● Emergency food assistance | Columbus |
| Jackson County Community Health Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary care and preventive health services (charged according to ability to pay) | Seymour |
| Jackson County Division of Family Resources & Department of Child Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) ● Food Stamps Program ● Medicaid/Hoosier Healthwise¹⁰⁹ ● Family Protection and Preservation ● Child Support Enforcement | Brownstown |
| Jackson County Extension Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Enrichment Program ● 4-H Program | Brownstown |
| Jackson County Health Department | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nursing services, including vaccinations and immunizations ● Vital Records | Seymour |
| Meals on Wheels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meals for homebound individuals | Seymour |
| Mental Health Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volunteer services for mentally ill, epileptic, senile and developmentally delayed individuals | Seymour |

Continued on next page

¹⁰⁹ Pregnant women and children also may apply for Hoosier Healthwise at Jackson County enrollment centers, including Brownstown Central Schools, and several locations in Seymour (Healthy Families, Community Health Center, La Paz de Cristo Hispanic Ministry, Planned Parenthood, Seymour Community Schools, and WIC).

Health and Human Services Providers, Continued

Figure 62 – Health and Human Services Agencies Serving Jackson County, continued

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Quinco Behavioral Health Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 24-hour Crisis Intervention ● Adult & Child Mental Health Outpatient Services ● Family Support ● Family Education ● Chemical Addiction Treatment ● Children First Program for Divorcing Parents ● Supported Employment Program | Seymour |
| Senior Citizens Centers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transportation ● On-site meals ● Meals for homebound seniors | Brownstown Crothersville Medora Seymour |
| Turning Point | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crisis intervention for adult victims of domestic violence and sexual assault | Columbus |
| Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) / Indiana Rehabilitation Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VR services provide job training and assistance to individuals with disabilities | Seymour |
| Women, Infants and Children (WIC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nutritional assistance for pregnant women and young children | Seymour |

Recommendations

Opportunities for improvements in Health and Human Services

- Develop a county-wide council to address issues of heart health. The council should work with health-care providers, schools, employers, health insurers, and the general public to raise the awareness of good heart healthy habits.
- Leverage schools to address the epidemic of childhood obesity. This will require reassessment of decisions made pertaining to cafeteria services and physical education programs.
- Build community wide collaborations to support the efforts of organizations with the mission to reduce smoking and alcohol and other drug abuses among pregnant women.
- Find quality programs that work to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy.
- Develop and promote best practices in cross cultural relations that will assist Hispanic families in becoming contributing members of the community. Identify and support advocates to the Hispanic community to assist families in accessing available services.
- Recruit and support Spanish speaking medical personnel.
- Encourage collaborations among county and municipal governmental systems, nonprofits, schools, and human service providers to create a county wide net of services that protects and increases the quality of life of Jackson County residents.
- Engage in a county-wide communication initiative to eradicate competition among county and municipal governmental systems, nonprofits, schools, and human service providers.

Develop a Community Wide Strategic Plan for Giving

To leverage available resources and meet the challenges. The following structures and initiatives are needed to accomplish this at a community-wide level.

- Develop a nonprofit giving web portal through which organizations can consistently and easily report information to create a database of fund-raising opportunities and resources. Businesses can access the database to gather information about nonprofit giving opportunities while nonprofits can share information in a manner that can be tracked and monitored for success.
- Build a pool of funds to assist nonprofits in matching grant dollars.
- Pool community resources to provide training and technical assistance regarding best practices in fund-raising that will result in more sophisticated practices that target needs and funders.

Continued on next page

Recommendations, Continued

**Develop a
Community
Wide Strategic
Plan for Giving,**
(continued)

- Develop strategies to incorporate personal giving including resources for planned gifts and endowments.
 - Include representatives from government and state agencies in planning to ensure collaboration, leverage grant opportunities, and reduce redundancies in service.
 - Develop strategies community wide for balancing capital and operational funding needs and resources.
 - Consider the entire county when planning. Rural needs are rapidly growing, and that population has limited access to service.
-

Summary of Findings and Recommendations

Findings

“Top Ten” Priority Needs in Jackson County

This report started with the maxim: *Great results come when community organizations join forces.* With the completion of this report, Jackson County organizations have made a step forward in joining forces. The next steps will not be so easy. Personal passions, agendas, and fears have the potential to halt the best of strategies. Joining forces will require communication, collaboration, and cooperation among the good people and organizations of Jackson County. The result will mean a higher quality of life for all residents of this southeastern Indiana community.

The picture of Jackson County painted by this report contains both dark and bright spots. Jackson County has many attributes that other communities would seek to emulate. Festivals, the Community Agency Building, the Health Care Center and Schneck Medical Center, Southeastern Indiana Center for the Arts, low unemployment, a core of leaders, and an openness to a broader and more diverse population are just a few of these attributes.

There are indicators, however, that point to areas of stagnation and need. These indicators include education and health and human services. This does not mean that all education in Jackson County is bad. Nor does this imply that health and human service providers are doing an inadequate job. The indicators simply show that there are issues that threaten the quality of life of the people of Jackson County. By recognizing and facing these priority needs, leaders, organizations, government, and individuals can come together to address these needs in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Specific priority needs exposed by the indicators include (in no particular order):

- K-12 education;
- Higher education attainment;
- Low levels of adult literacy;
- Increased methamphetamine use and production;
- Rapid growth of the Hispanic community;
- Teen birth rate;
- Limited quality early childhood care and education opportunities;
- Limited resources to support the needs of adults ages 65 and older;
- Lack of public transportation; and
- Significant caseload backlog for the Circuit Court.

Continued on next page

Findings, Continued

K-12 education The school corporations of Jackson County face increasing barriers to providing a quality education to all students. The No Child Left Behind report card results for local schools point to a system in trouble. Low assessment rates along with high drop out rates indicate students with issues, both social and educational, that are not being met. While not all schools are struggling in Jackson County, the system with the highest population of students is struggling, resulting in a larger pool of students at risk of an inadequate education.

Higher education attainment Jackson County residents are not seeking college degrees at the same rate as other Hoosiers, even those in neighboring counties. Jackson County trails the state average in the percentage of adults with a Bachelor's degree or higher by almost ten percent. Current high school graduates are following the same pattern. In 2000, the portion of Jackson County residents who reported enrollment in college was half that of residents statewide. In the competitive workplace that exists today, this lack of higher education attainment could significantly impact the future success of young Jackson County residents.

Adult literacy More than half the adults in Jackson County have significant problems with reading. Whether this is the beginning of a cycle, or the result of a cycle, this is an indicator of risk to the economy and to the value of education throughout the entire community.

When paired with the more positive finding of low unemployment rates, there is an implication that many of the jobs may require lower skills. As long as employers that do not require a high skilled labor force remain viable, the community can continue as is. If these employers should leave or fail, many of Jackson County adults would lack the literacy skills to succeed in retraining or to pursue a new job.

While the concept of value in education means many different things to different people, for many, it is based on a core motivation to pursue learning for a lifetime. Individuals with low levels of literacy struggle to provide educational role models for their children. This presents a risk of perpetuating a culture of low education attainment.

Increased meth use and production Methamphetamine (meth) arrests are increasing faster than any other type of alcohol or drug abuse arrest in Jackson County. The number of meth labs seized in Jackson County has led the region since 2001. Prevention and law enforcement efforts must continue to focus significant resources on this growing problem.

Continued on next page

Findings, Continued

Hispanic community

Growth of the Hispanic community is not a problem. It is the preparedness of a community to support the growth that is an issue. With the rapid growth of non-English speaking residents, schools, employers, service providers, and government officials all struggle with communication and cultural barriers.

In Jackson County, there are indicators that the community has begun to show the effects of the rapid influx. Education assessment rates have been affected in the Seymour schools. Employers report the need for English language classes. Community leaders have identified the need for leadership within the Hispanic community to help bridge the gap between languages and cultures.

Teen birth rate

The teen birth rate in Jackson County has been on the rise for more than ten years. Babies born to teens are often low weight babies that need additional care. These young women are at risk for not completing their high school education. With the lack of education, the community again faces the problem of low education attainment, low value for education, and limited opportunities for employment.

Early childhood care and education

There are no licensed child care centers outside of Head Start organizations in Jackson County. The need for child care in Jackson County greatly exceeds the current capacity. As a result, many of the youngest citizens of Jackson County are daily left in the care of individuals who may or may not be qualified in terms of safety, hygiene, education, or child development knowledge.

Needs of senior citizens

There are more adults 65 and older than could be served by service centers available that specialize in the needs of older adults. As a result, these residents who are especially vulnerable to the conditions of weather, the cost of living, and the high cost of medical care and prescription drugs are at risk for neglect or abuse. These adults often need transportation, food, and assistance with housekeeping and hygiene to maintain a high quality of life.

Lack of public transportation

Jackson County has thousands of residents who would benefit significantly from public transportation, and the need will only grow as the population ages. The purpose of this assessment is to support efforts to improve the quality of life through improved educational, health and other opportunities for residents. Without public transportation for those who live outside Seymour, access to these opportunities may be a barrier, especially for low-income families, seniors and those with limited mobility.

Continued on next page

Findings, Continued

Court caseload backlogs

The number of felony cases filed in the Jackson County Circuit Court almost doubled between 2003 and March of 2005. The Indiana Legislative Services Agency Commission recommended a new court for Jackson County, which would move Jackson County from the 6th highest caseload per court to the 39th highest.

Conclusion of findings

The priority needs of Jackson County as reported above are based on the assumption that current health and human service provisions remain stable in Jackson County. These needs have themes in common:

- Education
- Value of education
- Health
- The most vulnerable members of the community

Underlying all these concerns is access and affordability. Jackson County is susceptible to all the barriers and challenges common to rural counties. The limited numbers of citizens supporting broad geographical areas strain towns, villages, and other communities in providing a safe, well-developed infrastructure, quality education system, and health and human services. The needs for public transportation, home visitation services, adult education needs, and other services are often put aside for another time or administration.

Only through a strategic, focused effort toward collaboration among government, employers, nonprofits, faith based organizations, schools, and individuals will many of these issues ever be resolved. Without this collaboration, the community will have splinters of service that results in redundant spending, ineffectual fund drives, duplicated services and resources, ineffectual programs, service gaps throughout the community.

The following section is a summary collection of all recommendations.

Review of Recommendations

Early childhood education

- Support early childhood education. Proven programs should be promoted, and the funding to underwrite the participation of every child who is deemed to be at-risk for poor educational outcomes should be identified and secured.
- Develop strategies to help strengthen and support families. Organizations such as United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs, faith-based organizations, as well as employers should collaborate to provide a broad range of services and avoid redundancies in service.
- Develop and publish a county wide referral system of childcare providers.
- Secure funds to conduct a marketing campaign concerning early childhood care and education information to include the importance of using licensed childcare providers.
- Institute the Parents as Teachers program (www.patnc.org) to prepare young parents and their infants for a better start as a family. Programs such as these not only promote the improved care of children, but help to encourage a high value for education from the earliest ages.
- Develop and maintain licensed day care centers at strategic locations in the county. These locations include at the industrial park in Seymour and other central places of employment in Jackson County.

K-12 education

- Ensure access to and maintain current information technology tools and educational experiences in the schools. Literacy in technology is an essential skill for the future workplace.
- Identify and institute innovative programs to connect schools with service providers that support the well-being of children. Children in need face many barriers to learning.
- Identify and implement programs that contribute to higher levels of achievement with respect to English and the language arts and mathematics in schools that now report poor educational outcomes.
- Encourage collaboration among school corporations to support the needs of students transferring among corporations and to extend learning opportunities equitably throughout Jackson County.
- Align learning with future employment opportunities. Establish career education programs that assess student skill levels for jobs available within Jackson County. Using programs such as WorkKeys and KeyTrain will offer all students a concrete plan for the future, not just those who are college bound.

Continued on next page

Review of Recommendations, Continued

K-12 education, (continued)

- Engage school improvement specialists to support schools struggling to meet NCLB standards. These specialists will review assessment strategies, strengthen school improvement initiatives, and provide outside perspective to any unaddressed needs.
 - Encourage and support the efforts of schools to collaborate on educational opportunities as well as policies. As students migrate from system to system, it is imperative to provide as much continuity as possible for a quality education.
 - Increase English language learning opportunities for Hispanic students. Look for Spanish speaking advocates to assist Hispanic families and students through the English speaking system.
-

Adult education

- Support and expand the work of the Learning Center to provide innovative programs that incorporate non-English speaking individuals into adult classrooms and into the community.
 - Link adult education to employment – establish a consistent measurement or language between adult educators and employers.
 - Assess job skills of adults and provide training and education programs to increase the skills needed by both local employers and employees.
 - Establish an office or program responsible for the coordination of learning opportunities for adults throughout Jackson and neighboring counties. This office needs to provide intensive communication to the community regarding need and opportunity for learning.
 - Expand current resources focused on adult literacy. Take literacy learning opportunities directly into the workforce.
 - Create family learning opportunities. Set up collaborative programs between schools, employers, and child care providers that offer tutoring or literacy classes to the whole family, not just the adults.
 - Hold adult education providers accountable for results. Form baseline measurements from which the community can evaluate successful programs and eliminate ineffective programs.
-

Continued on next page

Review of Recommendations, Continued

Justice and public safety

- Work with state officials to gain the recommended addition to the Circuit Court system in Jackson County. This would provide residents with a more efficient judicial system.
 - Build collaborations between justice and public safety officers and nonprofit organizations. Through improved communication and coordination, nonprofit groups working with justice and public safety issues and justice and public safety officers can leverage each other's knowledge, resources, and skills to improve the safety and well-being of all Jackson County residents.
 - Expand the county wide Jackson County Drug Free Council, Inc. to further address strategies and programs to reduce crime rates and increase safety for residents of Jackson County. Include stakeholders from medical institutions, education, social services, and the public safety and judicial systems.
-

Abuse of alcohol and other drugs

- Establish comprehensive drug and other substance abuse education programs in collaboration with the courts and the schools.
 - Pursue funding to support organizations dedicated to substance abuse prevention and treatment (including tobacco, alcohol, and drug use.)
 - Evaluate efforts around the state and the region aimed at reducing methamphetamine use and production. Determine which approaches could be most successful in Jackson County and implement selected strategies through a collaboration of human service and public safety agencies.
 - Identify and obtain funding to provide training to childcare workers, educators, and employers on signs of substance abuse in families. Work with medical, nonprofit and social service organizations to create support services and solutions for families dealing with drug and substance abuse issues.
 - Encourage county school systems to collaborate regarding drug and weapons policies. Make the consequences for alcohol and drug abuse consistent for youth no matter where they are in the community. Make Jackson County a drug free zone for its youth.
-

Juvenile crime

- Identify innovative programs for students in school who are suspended or expelled from educational settings. Work with the schools, social service agencies, faith-based and nonprofit organizations to implement programs that keep youth in school and out of trouble.
 - Develop programs and supervised activities for youth for after school hours and during the summers.
-

Continued on next page

Review of Recommendations, Continued

Opportunities for improvement in leisure and recreation

- Extend opportunities for leisure and recreation outside of Seymour. Generally, outside school and church opportunities, residents must look toward Seymour for access to leisure and recreation centers. Strategies can be developed to extend opportunities to individuals throughout the community.
 - Build or identify existing structures to act as recreational venues for families throughout the community.
 - Develop partnerships between communities and schools to offer programs and activities for young adults and youth. As plans and strategies are developed for future improvements, consideration should be made regarding geographic location and costs for participants to make activities county-wide and inclusive.
 - Expand the capacity of the county senior citizen centers for service. Senior citizens have limited leisure and recreational activities designed to meet the special needs that come with aging. Schools, community organizations, and churches have the potential for partnership with existing senior centers to expand offerings for Jackson County's most senior residents.
-

YMCA

- Explore support and funding for a Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The YMCA is a recreational venue typical to Indiana rural communities. Currently, there is not a YMCA in the county. The time to explore the opportunity of investing in a YMCA facility for Jackson County residents is long overdue. Unfortunately, the closest YMCAs to Jackson County are located in neighboring Jennings, Scott, and Brown counties.¹¹⁰ The positive and rewarding impact that a YMCA would have on Jackson County is unlimited. Below are some immediate and positive contributions that the YMCA could bring to Jackson County, Indiana:
 - YMCA, with its tradition of family-oriented programs, has proven to be a vital part of the communities in which the organization resides. The programming offered by the YMCA continues to improve the quality of life through educational outreach.
 - YMCA offers residents within communities a variety of programs ranging from topics of disease prevention and health incentives to water safety precautions and organized sporting activities for youth.
 - Programs would be customized for the county based on need.
 - Fees would be based on income.
-

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¹¹⁰ YMCA website: facility locator, <http://clients.mapquest.com/ymca/mqinterconnect?link=find>

Review of Recommendations, Continued

YMCA, (continued)

- Activities would support industry and hospital wellness.
 - The facility would increase venues for swimming, racquet ball, indoor track, etc.
 - Programs would be provided for families and adults.
 - YMCA sponsors social activities for families and youth.
 - YMCA offers educational programming on a variety of subjects.
-

Arts

- Pursue the Indiana Art Commission's cultural plan for the region. Leverage the existence of the Southern Indiana Center for the Art to continually offer new and innovative arts programs to county residents.
 - Develop partnerships between local artists and the school systems to enhance the arts education available to youth.
 - Find ways to support and fully fund arts, music, and physical education programs throughout the county. These can help prepare a young person for a lifetime of positive recreational activities.
-

Transportation

- A county-wide, freestanding entity should operate a public transportation system that best fits the needs of the county. This will help to improve the quality of life of residents with no other means of transportation throughout Jackson County.
 - Work with INDOT to take advantage of transportation enhancement dollars. These dollars can help to beautify communities as well as increase bike and hiking trails.
-

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Review of Recommendations, Continued

Economic development

- Build collaborations between the Brownstown and Seymour Chambers of Commerce, the Freetown Improvement Association, and the Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation to improve the economy of each community within Jackson County. As plans are made to entice new industries into the community, leadership from these entities should share ideas and leverage resources to develop the potential of each community.
 - Employers should work with schools and other education and training entities to continue to develop a highly skilled labor force. This will help to make the county more a viable choice for new industries and help to make more Jackson County families self sufficient.
-

Information technology

- County leaders need to work to expand the availability and quality of internet access throughout Jackson County. A well developed information technology infrastructure would provide improvement opportunities for schools, business, and private individuals alike.
-

Opportunities for economic improvement

- Plan and develop affordable, safe and quality housing for seniors. As the numbers of residents ages 65+ grow and issues with Social Security loom, every effort should be made to plan for the future.
 - Develop and implement innovative plans to help youth in Jackson County learn about opportunities for their employment and future livelihood within the county. Work to provide post-secondary learning and training opportunities to encourage young people to remain in the county and to become contributors to the community.
 - Expand the leadership academy to grow and cultivate new leadership for the future. High school youth need opportunities to develop and apply leadership skills. Work with employers, schools, and interested individuals to identify high potential youth to learn about the needs and potentials for Jackson County along with leadership skills.
 - Identify and develop leaders and advocates among the Hispanic population. Incorporate Hispanic leadership development into the current leadership academy.
 - Collaborate with nonprofit organizations to develop the Hispanic workforce. This includes creating cultural awareness programs, English language classes, skills training, and health and human services support.
-

Continued on next page

Review of Recommendations, Continued

Opportunities for economic improvement, (continued)

- Develop a strategic plan for cultural and recreational tourism. This will not only raise the awareness of opportunities for recreation to Jackson County residents, it can contribute significantly to the economy of the region.
 - Investigate opportunities for entrepreneurial business development. Leverage resources such as Ball State University's "Building Better Communities" program (<http://www.bsu.edu/bbc/>).
-

Opportunities for improvements in Health and Human Services

- Develop a county-wide council to address issues of heart health. The council should work with health-care providers, schools, employers, health insurers, and the general public to raise the awareness of good heart healthy habits.
 - Leverage schools to address the epidemic of childhood obesity. This will require reassessment of decisions made pertaining to cafeteria services and physical education programs.
 - Build community wide collaborations to support the efforts of organizations with the mission to reduce smoking and alcohol and other drug abuses among pregnant women.
 - Find quality programs that work to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy.
 - Develop and promote best practices in cross cultural relations that will assist Hispanic families in becoming contributing members of the community. Identify and support advocates to the Hispanic community to assist families in accessing available services.
 - Recruit and support Spanish speaking medical personnel.
 - Encourage collaborations among county and municipal governmental systems, nonprofits, schools, and human service providers to create a county wide net of services that protects and increases the quality of life of Jackson County residents.
 - Engage in a county-wide communication initiative to eradicate competition among county and municipal governmental systems, nonprofits, schools, and human service providers.
-

Develop a Community Wide Strategic Plan for Giving

To leverage available resources and meet the challenges. The following structures and initiatives are needed to accomplish this at a community-wide level.

Continued on next page

Review of Recommendations, Continued

Develop a Community Wide Strategic Plan for Giving, (continued)

- Develop a nonprofit giving web portal through which organizations can consistently and easily report information to create a database of fund-raising opportunities and resources. Businesses can access the database to gather information about nonprofit giving opportunities while nonprofits can share information in a manner that can be tracked and monitored for success.
 - Build a pool of funds to assist nonprofits in matching grant dollars.
 - Pool community resources to provide training and technical assistance regarding best practices in fund-raising that will result in more sophisticated practices that target needs and funders.
 - Develop strategies to incorporate personal giving including resources for planned gifts and endowments.
 - Include representatives from government and state agencies in planning to ensure collaboration, leverage grant opportunities, and reduce redundancies in service.
 - Develop strategies community wide for balancing capital and operational funding needs and resources.
 - Consider the entire county when planning. Rural needs are rapidly growing, and that population has limited access to service.
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Appendix II – Methodology

Methods and Procedures

Methods and procedures

For this report, the Jackson County United Way engaged Crowe Chizek and Company LLC to conduct a county wide assessment of perceptions and needs. Jackson County United Way partnered with a group of leadership from various county organizations to steer the assessment. This group, called the 4community Partnership, provided oversight throughout the life of the assessment.

Crowe Chizek conducted the assessment in two tiers: 1) study of public records and reports; 2) gathering public perceptions of county needs. From this information, Crowe compiled the data and information gathered to complete an analysis. Using the model of the Henderson-Calvert Quality of Life Indicators, Crowe analyzed the data, identified findings, and made recommendations. The 4community Partnership reviewed work and documents throughout the writing process.

Tier 1 – A study of public records and reports

The study of public records and reports provided a core description of Jackson County. Research into public records and reports included the following organizational web sites and documents:

- U.S. Census Bureau
 - National Park and Recreation Administration
 - Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
 - Indiana Department of Transportation
 - Indiana Department of Health
 - Indiana Department of Correction
 - Indiana Legislative Services Agency
 - Indiana Department of Education
 - Indiana Youth Institute
 - Indiana Department of Workforce Development
 - Bureau of Justice Assistance
 - Uniform Crime Report
 - National Crime Survey
 - Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana
 - National Criminal Justice Reference Service
 - LTC-Resources.com
 - Indiana Rural Health Organization
-

Continued on next page

Methods and Procedures, Continued

Tier 1 – A study of public records and reports, (continued)

- Indiana Health Professions Bureau
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- www.stats.indiana.edu
- Indiana Health Centers
- Ball State University
- Ivy Tech Community College
- Community Learning Centers
- Community Education Coalition
- Step Ahead Council of Jackson County Action Plan 2004-2005
- Jackson County Sheriff's Department
- Violence Prevention Coalition of Jackson County
- Jackson County Employer Survey (Thomas P. Miller & Associates)
- The community Foundations of Decatur, Jackson and Jennings Counties CAPE grant proposal for the *Opportunity Network*
- The communities of Seymour, Brownstown, Medora, Crothersville
- Jackson County Visitors Bureau
- Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation
- The Tribune
- Jackson County Step Ahead Transportation Study
- Champions! – Jackson County Community Profile
- Child Care Network, Inc.
- Seymour Parks and Recreation
- Jackson County United Way Pledge Card Survey

Tier 3 – interviews and focus groups

Crowe conducted interviews with thirty one community residents. Individuals interviewed outside of Jackson County include:

- Lynn Clothier, Indiana Health Centers
- Dr. Thomas Sawyer, Indiana State University
- Les Green, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- Jim Byrge, Jackson County Sheriff's Department
- Ken Bobb, Jackson County Health Department
- Sharon Bradford, Kobelco
- Terrye Davidson, Brownstown Middle School
- Cheryl Fenton, Teachers' Union - President

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Methods and Procedures, Continued

**Tier 3 –
interviews and
focus groups,
(continued)**

- Jackie Hill, Jackson County Industrial Development Center
 - Dave Lucas, Jackson County Council President
 - Rhea Murray, Turning Point/ PFLAG/Domestic Violence
 - Bill Rinehart, Childcare Network
 - Anne Windley, City Counselor/ Youth Jackson County
 - Kim Barnett, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hispanic Program
 - Jackson County human resource directors focus group
 - Educators focus group
 - Social service provider focus group
 - General community focus group.
-