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Social and Community Indicators to Monitor Berrien County's Needs for Social and Public Services

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to Monitor
Berrien County's Needs for
Social And Public Services**

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Social and Community Indicators to Monitor Berrien County's Needs for Social And Public Services

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the initial findings uncovered through the creation of a comprehensive set of 37 social and community indicators for Berrien County. The selection of these indicators was based on their ability to monitor key aspects of the county's economic and social environment. The purpose of this database is to provide area service providers and funders a means to monitor the county's needs for social and public services.

This report is only the first of an annual series of reports that will monitor the economic and social environment of Berrien County. Throughout the year, the report's database will be updated and revised, in order for it to remain an effective monitoring tool. In compiling this database three major guidelines were followed:

- The data must be current and be available on, at least, an annual basis with a maximum two-year reporting lag.
- The data must not require expensive collection procedures such as surveys.
- The data must be consistent and not subject to significant changes in policy or collection procedures.

These guidelines proved challenging and, in some instances, we were unable to comply with them. Several state and local service providers have changed their program eligibility requirements, outreach/marketing efforts, and information systems, seriously affecting the consistency of the data being collected. Still, we believe that if carefully monitored, revised and updated this database can be very useful in monitoring the county's performance on key social and community indicators.

The major findings of this data base include:

- **Material Well-Being:** Although employment growth in the county has been positive for the past four years, it has lagged the state's growth. In 1996 alone, if the county's employment grew at the state's rate, it would have generated more than 1,000 additional jobs. The county's growth in employment has contributed to a decline in the percent of the population receiving food stamps. This percentage, however, remains similar to that for the comparison counties.

The availability of decent, affordable housing appears to be a major problem for many, as the number of eviction notices and gas disconnections has been on the rise in the past two years. Still, the number of new homeless persons has remained constant during the past five years.

Indicators suggest that the material well-being of the county's two most vulnerable populations, children and the elderly, have declined. The number of students receiving free and reduced-price lunches has steadily risen since 1991 in absolute numbers and relative to the state. Six elementary schools in the county reported that more than 90 percent of their students received free or reduced-price lunches in the 1995/96 school year. At the same time, the number of the county's elderly residents who received means-tested services rose 16.2 percent in 1996.

- ***Ability to be Economically Self-Supporting:*** The county's economy offers more employment opportunities today than it has during the past five years. In addition, the employment characteristics of the county's job seekers, in terms of education, wage expectations and job experience have remained stable. The affordability of available child care is a concern as rates have been rising faster than inflation. However, in recent years a higher percentage of licensed child care providers were available for backup care and accepted FIA payments than in earlier years.

A major challenge facing the county, however, is providing the skills and know-how for today's students to become economically self-supporting. Recent statistics are not promising. The county's falling high school completion rates and MEAP scores indicate that many of today's youth will not possess the necessary skills and education needed to be successful in the job market.

- ***Health Status:*** Indicators suggest that the health status of the county's more vulnerable population have held steady in the past several years, except for the elderly. Both the number of mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care and the number of low weight births have been declining. However, the number of elderly residents being tested and found eligible for means-tested and health-related services is growing.
- ***Physical Security:*** Public safety statistics indicate an improving environment. Of course, no level of violent and property crimes should be deemed acceptable; however, the incidents of property crime and the number of juvenile arrests have declined. The county's violent crime rate, however, has not improved.
- ***Civility and Citizenship:*** Indicators that monitor the civility of an area's residents are difficult to develop. Indicators that track public displays of disregard for the community such as vandalism and disorderly conduct have been stable and the crime rate of alcohol and drug related offenses are declining. Arrests of juveniles have been stable, but the number of formal petitions filed in Juvenile Court is on the rise. Most

disturbing, involvement in the schools as measured by the number of parents and/or guardians attending teacher conferences is declining, although, the data is incomplete and inconsistently collected among schools.

- ***Quality of Private Family Life*** - By definition, statistics on the quality of private family life are hard to uncover. Still, statistics such as the declining number of domestic violence crisis calls and number of offenses against family and children suggest that quality of private family life may be improving. Still, the number of suspected child abuse and neglect victims are growing and the number of teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17 who have become pregnant increased to 278 in 1995, the highest level in five years.

In summary, the statistics presented in this report point to the following three areas of concern.

1. **The health and development of children.** The increasing number of children receiving free or reduced-priced lunches, the growing number of cases of suspected child abuse and neglect, declining MEAP scores and the low high school completion rate in several of the county's high schools, all point to the need to continue and enhance efforts to help the county's youth.
2. **The health and well-being of the county's elderly population.** Although the report's indicators on the health and well-being of the county's elderly population are few, they all point in the same direction: for many elderly residents conditions are deteriorating.
3. **The availability of decent, affordable housing.** Although the county's economy is growing and offers a growing number of employment opportunities, the increasing number of eviction notices and residential gas disconnections suggest that many individuals are unable to find and maintain decent shelter. While the number of individuals who descend into homelessness have not increased dramatically, many are probably finding shelter in overcrowded and unsafe conditions.

Introduction

The effective allocation of community resources requires awareness of the area's social and community needs. Without a firm understanding of the area's weaknesses and strengths, it is, unfortunately, too easy to allocate community resources toward projects of secondary importance and to allow gaps to occur in delivery of more vital services. However, acquiring this knowledge is not an easy task. It requires more than a causal awareness of commonly reported trends and the views of community leaders.

The purpose of this report is to provide timely statistical indicators that monitor the well-being of an area's at-risk residents and provide information that is useful in identifying social and community needs. At-risk residents include adults and children living in unsafe environments, individuals following an unhealthy lifestyle, the unemployed, individuals who lack training and skills to be self-supporting, and students who are at risk of failure.

This report is just the first step in the development of a comprehensive database that will allow the community to monitor the well-being of its most vulnerable populations: children, the elderly, and the economically disadvantaged. Currently, the report contains 37 indicators that monitor different aspects of the county's social and economic well-being. In selecting these indicators we tried to adhere to the following guidelines:

- The data must be current and be available on, at least, an annual basis with a maximum two-year reporting lag.
- The data must not require expensive collection procedures, such as, surveys or compiling individual records.
- The data must be consistent and not subject to significant changes in policy or collection procedures.

These guidelines proved to be formidable. First, several of the area's major service providers have recently installed new information systems or are in the midst of changing their current ones (e.g. Riverwood Center, and the United Way First Call for Help). While these efforts will improve data collection in the future, it also made it nearly impossible to develop historical trends. More serious problems arise when an agency significantly changes the eligibility requirements for their services or heightens their outreach efforts. In these instances, it becomes very difficult to determine if the agency's data records are monitoring community trends or just the agency's activities. For instance, increased arrests due to a more aggressive drug enforcement effort, could be mistaken as evidence of a growing drug problem. Moreover, recent changes in eligibility requirements for public assistance offered by the Family Independence Agency threaten to disrupt the historical trends in several very important indicators.

In situations where changes in eligibility requirements or outreach efforts of a local agency are not matched in other communities, we face a serious problem in presenting a consistent data series. On the other hand, if local changes reflect statewide changes, a comparison analysis approach using counties with similar economic and social characteristics is helpful. Since the effects of statewide policies are felt equally across counties, a comparison analysis shows whether Berrien County is doing better or worse not in absolute terms but *relative to* a group of similar areas. For example, given that the number of individuals receiving foods stamps is declining due to statewide policy changes, a comparative performance indicator will show whether the declines in Berrien County are above or below those of similar areas.

The usefulness of a comparison analysis depends upon finding suitable areas to be included in the comparison group. In this study we selected Calhoun (Battle Creek), Jackson, Muskegon and Saginaw Counties to represent the comparison group. As shown in Table 1, the four counties share similar economic and social characteristics with Berrien County. The sole statistic where Berrien County stands separate from the other four metropolitan areas is in the percent of individuals between the ages of 16 to 19 years who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates.¹

This report and the data it contains are only the first steps, however. The fruits of this effort will only be harvested if this report remains a living document. This means that it needs to be annually updated, reviewed, and revised. Updating this report will not be difficult. We list the sources for all of the data series used in the report in Appendix B. This data is available in the community, on the Internet, or at state agencies in Lansing without charge. In fact, none of the data in the report is derived from expensive data collection procedures such as surveys. However, we strongly recommend that the report and its data series also be reviewed and revised annually. Data series that do not yield a consistent picture of the area's needs should be eliminated, while other, more promising, data series should be added. Finally, we do not have any objections with adding survey-based data to the report at a future date. In fact, in the conclusion we suggest that an attitudinal survey of high school and middle school students be considered as an addition to the database. We also strongly feel that any move to add survey data to the current data base must: 1) have stable funding which will allow an annual survey to be administered; and 2) be conducted using a structured and statistically valid procedure.

In the report's summary we identify possible data series that could be added to the data base in the coming years.

¹Based on the 1990 Census.

This data system uses a typology based upon the work of Robert D. Plotnick at the University of Washington's Graduate School of Public Affairs and School of Social Work.² The typology categorizes the different elements making up the county's residents' well-being into the following six classifications³:

- ***Material well-being*** reflects the degree to which area residents have access to and control over economic resources. Direct measures include income and employment growth, while indirect measures include the number of individuals receiving food stamps and the availability of adequate housing.
- The ***ability to be economically self-supporting*** (or the avoidance of economic dependence upon others) includes indicators that monitor factors affecting the ability of individuals to be self-supporting and includes the area's unemployment rate, statistics on the characteristics of the area's job seekers, high school completion rates, and the availability of affordable day care. In addition, this section includes indicators that comment on the likelihood of future populations being economically independent.
- ***Health status*** measures the physical and mental well-being of the county's residents with special attention given to the more vulnerable populations, such as infants and the elderly.
- ***Physical security*** measures the level of criminal activity in the area which is a clear component making up the area's overall quality of life or well-being.
- ***Civility and Citizenship*** indicators measure the degree to which residents play an active and constructive role in the life of the community. Indicators included also reflect the level of disagreeable behaviors, such as, vandalism.
- The ***quality of private family life*** is reflected in measures of family strife, such as domestic violence and/or incidence of child abuse or neglect.

The findings of this study are presented in the order of these headings.

²Robert D. Plotnick, "Assessing the Well-Being of Urban Households and Residents" in Harold Wolman and Elizabeth J. Agius ed., *National Urban Policy: Problems and Prospects*. (Wayne State University Press: Detroit) 1996, pp.74 to 100.

³Plotnick's typology also includes *Economic Security* which measures the ability of households to handle unexpected losses in income or major expenses, such as medical bills. The category is a very important one; however, we were unable to obtain any indicators to monitor it.

Table 1

Berrien County and Comparable Counties Selected Statistics					
	Berrien County	Calhoun County	Jackson County	Muskegon County	Saginaw County
Population	161,378	135,982	149,756	158,983	211,946
Percentage African-American	15.4%	10.6%	8.0%	13.6%	17.4%
Percentage of the population living below the poverty level	14.7%	14.3%	12.0%	15.3%	17.2%
Percentage under 18 yrs. of age living below the poverty level	42.3%	40.2%	38.5%	43.3%	42.8%
Percentage of the population living in census tracts with poverty rates twice those of the county	13.2%	17.4%	9.5%	15.2%	15.0%
Percentage 16-19 yrs. of age not enrolled in school and not a high school graduate	14.4%	10.7%	9.9%	10.0%	8.9%
Percentage employed in manufacturing	27.9%	26.5%	25.2%	31.9%	25.1%
County unemployment rate	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%	6.4%	6.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, 1990; MESA Area Labor Statistics 1995 annualized averages

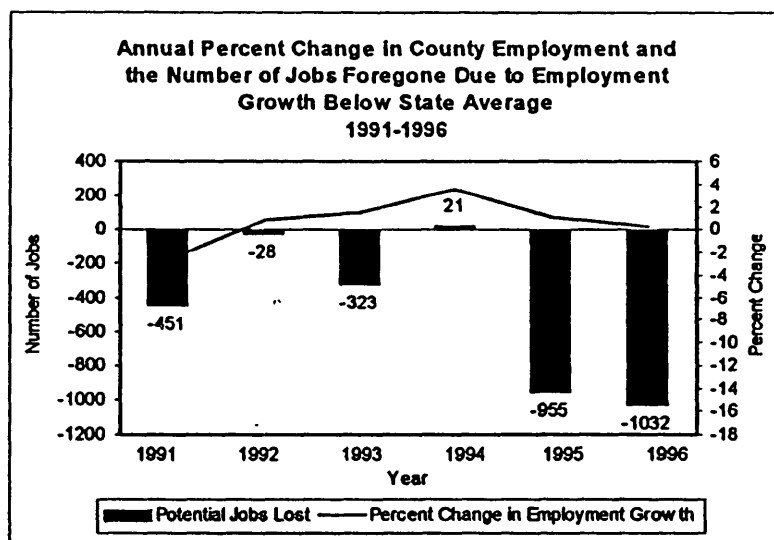
Material well-being

Indicators:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Growth • Employment Growth Relative to the State • Percent of the Population Receiving Food Stamps Relative to Comparable Counties • Number of Evictions Notices • Number of New Homeless Individuals • Residential Gas Disconnections • Percent of Students Receiving Free and Reduced Price Lunches • Number of Elderly Individuals Receiving Home Delivered Means-tested Services. • Annual Percent Change in Income Maintenance Benefit Payments Relative to Comparable Counties | <p>Trends:</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Stable</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Positive</p> |
|---|--|

The material well-being of the county's residents rests, in large part, on the county's employment and income growth and on the availability of affordable and decent housing. In addition, the material well-being of key population segments, such as children and the elderly, is important to monitor. The material well-being of children influences their future success, while, the material well-being of the county's elderly residents reflects the ability of the community to care for its past.

Chart 1



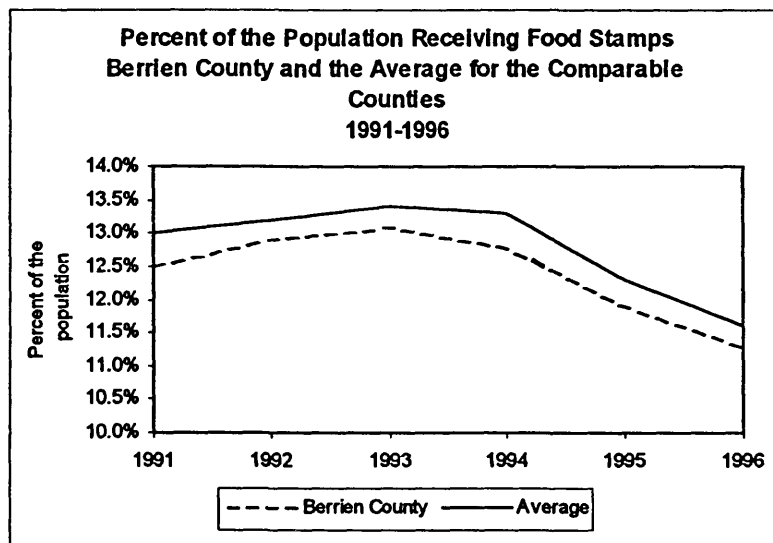
Source: *Area Labor Statistics 1991-1996*, MESA.

Note: The bar represents the number of jobs Berrien County would have realized had the area's employment growth kept pace with that of the State's. If the County employment grew at the State's rate, the value of the bar would be zero.

As shown in Chart 1, employment growth has been positive in Berrien County since 1992, reaching a strong 3.6 percent increase in 1994. Nevertheless, the county's employment growth continues to lag that of the state. Chart 1 shows the number of jobs foregone in the county due to its annual percent change in employment being lower than the state's rate. For instance, Berrien County had 1,032 jobs fewer jobs in 1996 than it would have had, if its employers matched the state's percentage increase in jobs that year. In contrast, the county's employment grew slightly faster in 1994, generating 21 more jobs than it would have had if it only matched the state's employment growth.

Although the county's employment growth has lagged the state's, the growing number of jobs in the county has contributed to a decline in the percent of its population receiving food stamps as shown in Chart 2.⁴ The percentage of the population receiving food stamps has dropped in Berrien County and has remained slightly below that of similar counties. This could be due to a higher proportion of individuals residing in the county who do not fall within certain eligibility guidelines.

Chart 2



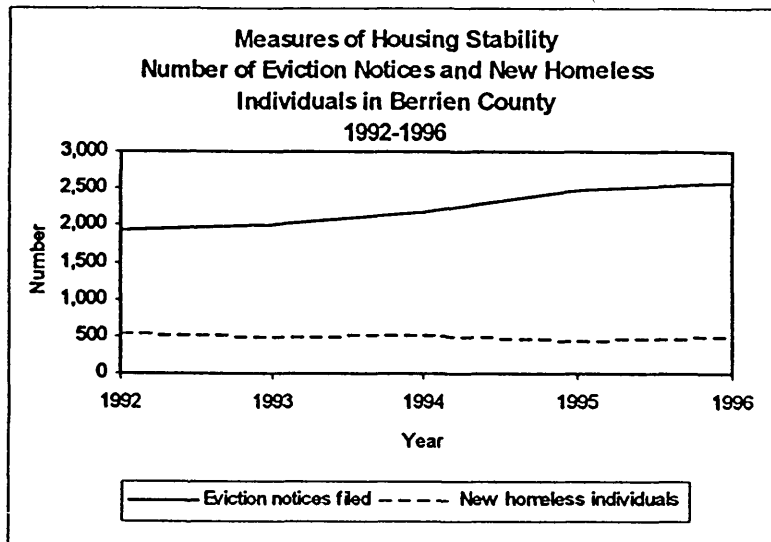
Sources: Berrien County FIA, Michigan Family Independence Agency, Office of Communications and the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.
 Note: Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

Material well-being is also measured by an individual's ability to find decent and affordable shelter. Recent trends in eviction notices and residential gas disconnections suggest

⁴From 1991 to 1996, there were not any substantial changes in the policies affecting the provision of Food Stamps, hence it is a good indicator of economic conditions. However, substantial restrictions were added in 1997 regarding food stamp eligibility. These policy changes will seriously impact the indicator's usefulness in measuring the county's material well-being. Still, the comparison analysis will show the relative condition of Berrien County to the comparison group of areas as they too are impacted by the same policy tightening.

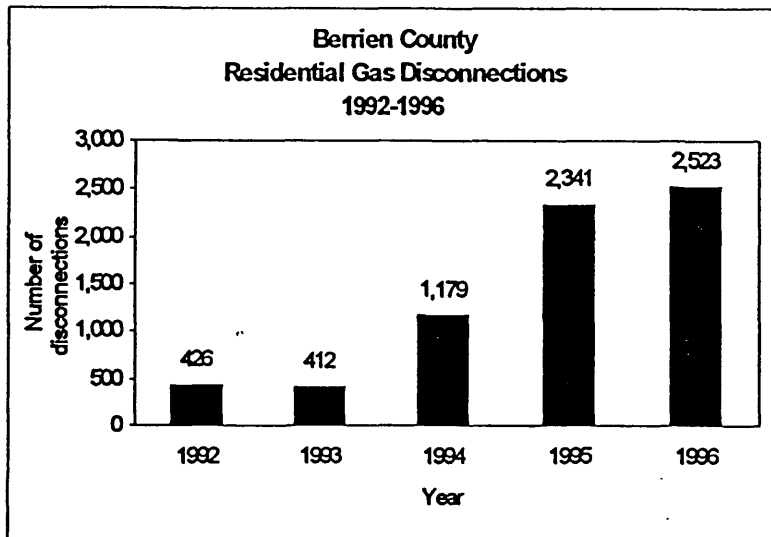
that many individuals are facing deteriorating housing conditions. As shown on Chart 3, the number of eviction notices have grown in the past five years from 1,937 in 1992 to 2,523 in 1996. At the same time, residential gas disconnections have soared from 426 in 1992 to 2,523 in 1996 (Chart 4).⁵ What is disturbing is that this deterioration has occurred in a period of

Chart 3



Sources: Berrien County Courthouse, Landlord & Tenants Division and Emergency Shelter Services, Inc.

Chart 4



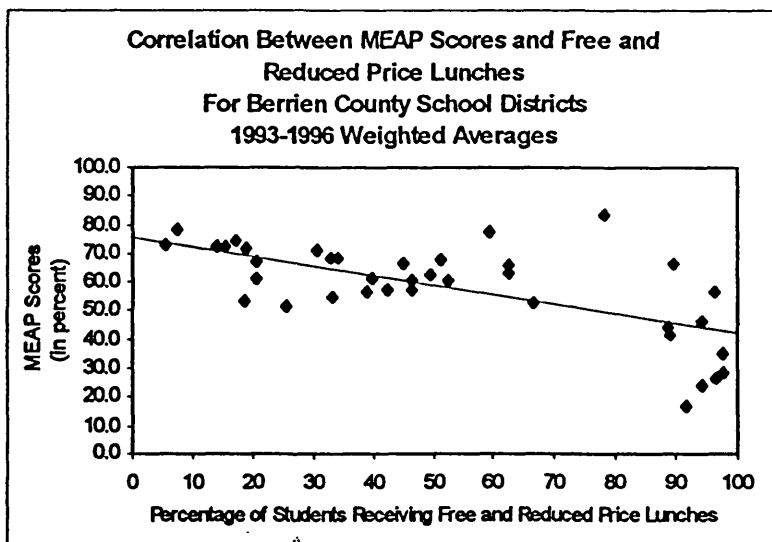
Source: Michigan Gas Utilities.

⁵ Evictions can occur due to nonpayment of rent or due to the renter's inappropriate behavior. Individuals who are evicted or have their gas disconnected more than once in a year can appear more than once in the statistics.

employment growth, albeit at a below state average rate. The number of new homeless individuals at the county's Emergency Shelter Service has remained stable at approximately 500 per year. With the improving economy, the number of the new homeless persons has declined slightly from 535 in 1992 to 486 in 1996.

Children and the elderly are two populations that are of special concern to area service providers. The material well-being of an area's children is associated with their academic success, while the elderly represent one of the most vulnerable populations in the area. In Chart 5, we correlated the percent of children receiving free and reduced price lunches and their school's average MEAP scores during the 1993 to 1996 period. The free and reduced price lunch program is means-tested and provides subsidized lunch to students of families reporting income below 185 percent of the federal poverty line. Children whose families earn below 130 percent of poverty are eligible for free lunch meals. The trend line shows a negative and statistically significant correlation between the percentage of the school's students receiving subsidized lunches and the building's performance on the MEAP tests.

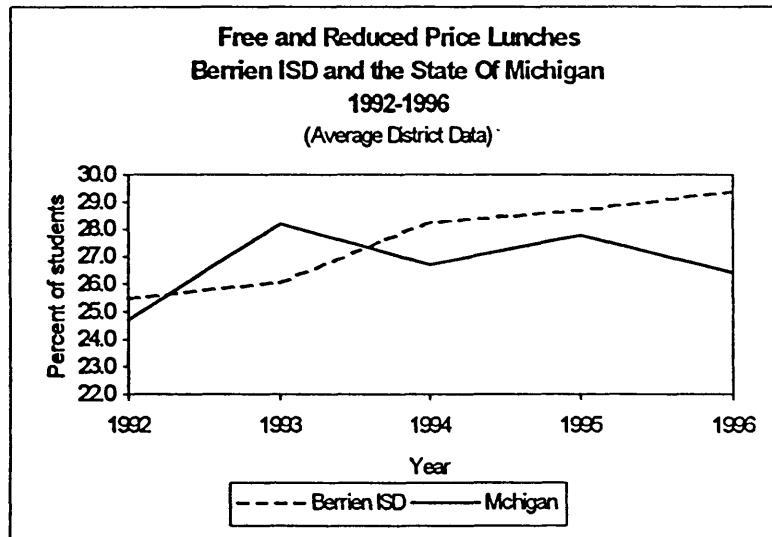
Chart 5



Source: Michigan Department of Education.

The percentage of all children receiving free and reduced priced lunches in the Berrien County Intermediate School District is compared to the state's average in Chart 6. The percentage of children receiving subsidized lunches has risen steadily since 1992, while the state average declined in 1994 and in 1996.

Chart 6



Source: Michigan Department of Education.

These trends do not reflect an accurate picture, however, because many students who are eligible for subsidized lunches in middle and high school choose not to take them. In elementary schools, the social stigma of taking free lunch is far less and hence their statistics are more reflective of the true material well-being of students and their families. Table 2 lists all elementary school buildings in the Berrien County Intermediate School District which have an above-average percent of students receiving free and reduced price lunches. More than 2,000 students are in schools where greater than 90 percent of the students receive free and reduced price lunches.

Our single indicator of the material well-being of the area's elderly population is the number of individuals receiving means-tested services, including meals in most cases. As shown in Chart 7, the number of elderly individuals in this program increased 16.2 percent in 1996 from 647 to 752.

Nearly all of the indicators discussed above suggest that the economic well-being of many of the area's more vulnerable populations has deteriorated in the past five years relative to the state. As shown in Chart 8, the annual percent increase in income maintenance benefit payments in Berrien County had been above that of the comparison counties until 1994 when the percentage in Berrien County dropped 0.4 percent, while income maintenance benefits in the other comparison areas grew a modest 0.5 percent.

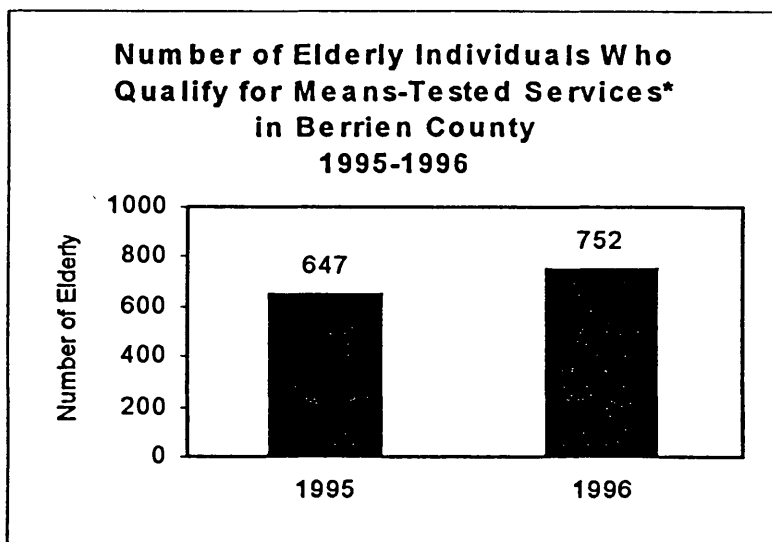
Table 2

**PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCHES
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH PERCENTAGES HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE BUILDING IN THE BERRIEN ISD
RANKED BY 1995-1996 PERCENTAGES**

District/ISD	Building	1991-1992 % of students	1992-1993 % of students	1993-1994 % of students	1994-1995 % of students	1995-1996 % of students	Enrollment
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Bard Elementary	99.5	98.8	95.9	97.6	100.0	150
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Calvin Britain Elementary	98.4	88.7	95.9	93.6	100.0	389
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Sterne Brunson Elementary	91.6	93.7	95.6	99.0	98.7	525
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Henry C. Morton Elementary	96.8	97.4	97.9	93.6	97.8	477
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Fair Plain Northeast Elementary	90.2	90.6	93.1	96.2	93.2	200
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Sorter Elementary	87.5	91.6	100.0	90.2	92.7	302
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Academic Academy	94.0	99.1	92.8	92.5	89.6	293
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Fair Plain West Elementary	91.3	90.0	87.3	93.9	88.0	337
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Hull Elementary	93.3	96.0	86.6	95.6	85.5	648
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Martindale Elementary	91.2	91.8	86.8	95.3	84.6	143
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Gifted and Talented Academy	57.1	77.2	76.5	81.5	76.8	125
Eau Claire Public Schools	Lybrook Elementary	66.7	68.4	66.8	65.1	67.9	457
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Boynton Montessori Program	51.9	52.2	60.7	61.6	65.0	260
Coloma Community Schools	Coloma Elementary	47.1	53.9	49.6	73.2	64.6	467
Niles Community School District	Northside Elementary	57.0	46.3	51.2	57.2	62.9	147
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Creative Arts Academy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	61.8	154
Niles Community School District	Oak Manor Elementary	57.8	61.3	57.7	61.5	58.5	348
Berrien Springs Public Schools	Sylvester Elementary	49.4	49.8	43.4	55.2	55.3	394
Niles Community School District	Eastside Elementary	37.2	44.1	44.3	50.1	54.4	371
Berrien Springs Public Schools	Mars Elementary	51.3	57.7	54.7	57.7	54.2	375
Watervliet School District	South Elementary School	32.7	28.0	35.0	46.1	51.3	431
Coloma Community Schools	Washington Elementary	46.2	51.1	50.4	57.4	49.6	454
Niles Community School District	James Ellis Elementary	37.1	38.5	47.7	34.6	47.9	189
Three Oaks-River Valley School District	Three Oaks Elementary	22.4	24.2	23.5	32.2	46.8	301
Watervliet School District	North Elementary	38.4	34.3	39.3	53.4	46.6	297
New Buffalo Area School District	New Buffalo Elementary	35.2	37.1	36.6	39.4	43.5	301
Niles Community School District	Ballard Elementary	43.5	44.2	44.0	48.3	42.9	765
ISD Building Average		35.5	36.5	38.8	40.4	41.8	376

Source: Michigan Department of Education

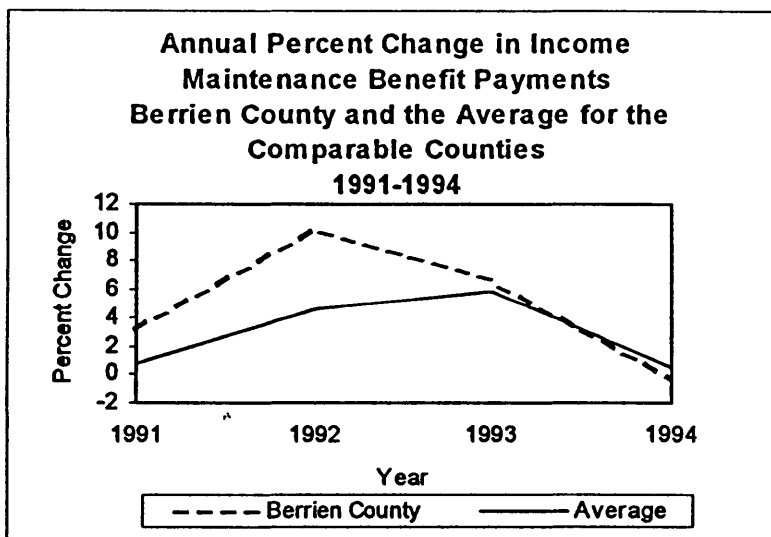
Chart 7



Source: Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

Note: *Means-tested services include home delivered meals, homemakers, home health aides, and others.

Chart 8



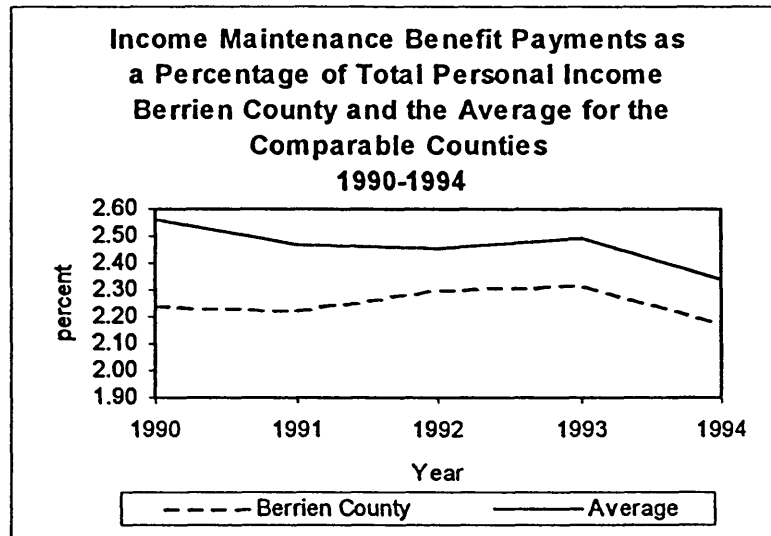
Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Note: Income maintenance benefit payments include: SSI, AFDC, Food Stamps, and other income maintenance payments (emergency assistance, foster care payments, earned income tax credits, and energy assistance benefits).

Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

Still, as shown on Chart 9, income maintenance benefit payments as a percentage of total personal income is less in Berrien County compared to the four comparison counties. This suggests that the inequality of income could be greater in Berrien County than in the other counties. In a more positive light, this also suggests that Berrien County may have greater local resources to address its social and community ills than in the other distressed counties.

Chart 9



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Note: Income maintenance benefit payments include: SSI, AFDC, Food Stamps, and other income maintenance payments (emergency assistance, foster care payments, earned income tax credits, and energy assistance benefits).

Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

The Ability to be Economically Self-Supporting

Indicators:

- Unemployment
- Characteristics of Area Job Seekers
- Availability of Affordable Child Care
- High School Completion Rates
- 7th Grade MEAP Scores
- 4th Grade MEAP Scores
- Pupil-Teacher Ratio

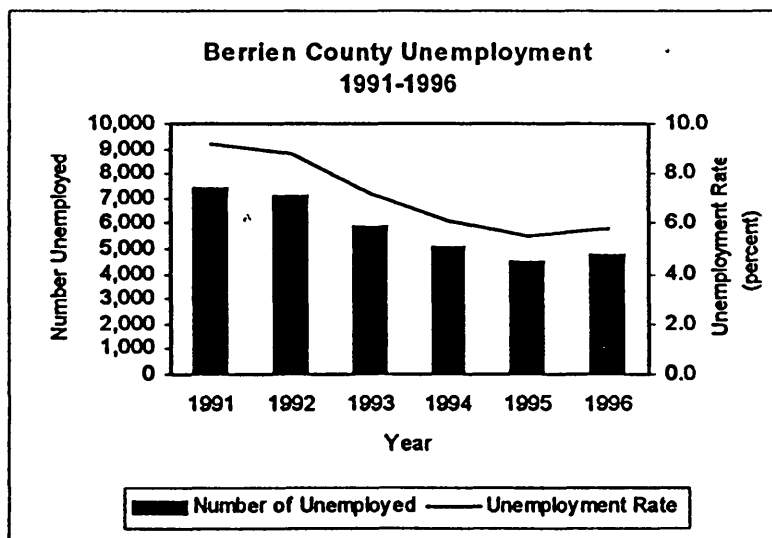
Trends

- Positive
- Stable
- Stable
- Negative
- Negative
- Negative
- Negative

The *ability to be economically self-supporting* depends upon the economic conditions facing residents, the individual's human capital (education/training and work experience) and the quality of schooling for county students. In many respects this category is forward looking, while material well-being focuses on the present.

The county's labor market has improved during the past five years, providing more opportunities for individuals to find work and be self-supporting. As shown in Chart 10, the county's unemployment rate has dropped from 9.2 percent in 1991 (the last recession) to 5.8 percent in 1996. The number of individuals unemployed and actively looking for work fell from 7,400 in 1991 to 4,800 in 1996. However, the number of unemployed persons has held steady in the past two years.

Chart 10

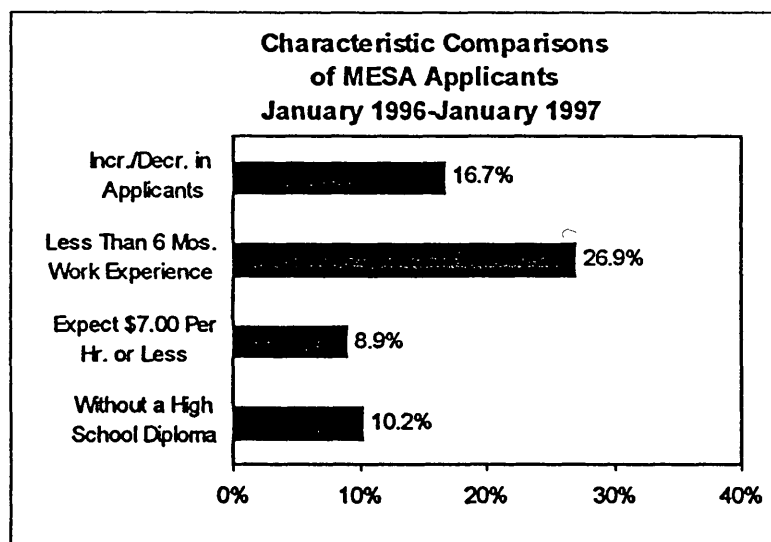


Source: Area Labor Statistics, MESA.

The county's low unemployment rate increases the prospects of unemployed individuals in finding jobs and of underemployed workers of finding better jobs. However, at the same time, job seekers must also have the skills required by employers to become self-supporting through work. One of the many doors job seekers can open in their search for employment is the county's MESA office. During the twelve-month period ending in January 1997, the number of job seekers increased 16.7 percent (Chart 11).⁶

Moreover, the quality of the area's pool of job seekers improved during this period: the percentage of job seekers who expected to earn only \$7.00 or less per hour grew by only 8.9 percent, while the percentage of jobs seekers without a high school diploma rose just 10.2 percent. Wage expectations reflect an individual's self assessment of his/her earning ability and are based, in part, on the individual's work experience and education. During the same time period, however, the number of job seekers with less than 6 months of experience increased 26.9 percent.

Chart 11



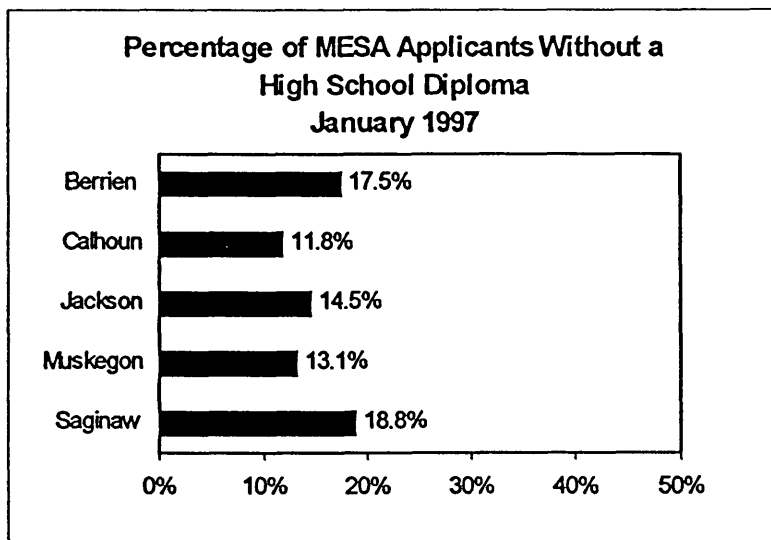
Source: MESA.

Compared to the counties of Calhoun (Battle Creek), Jackson, Muskegon and Saginaw, the characteristics of the job seekers in Berrien County are not unique. The percentage of job seekers without high school diplomas in Berrien County is higher than in Calhoun, Jackson

⁶ A job seeker is defined as an individual who has registered with the MESA employment service. Job seekers can be unemployed, underemployed, or fully employed but looking for a better position. Once an individual is registered with MESA's employment service s/he is kept on file for 18 months. Unfortunately, it is possible that an individual could have found a job or moved to another city and still be listed as a job seeker in Berrien County. In addition, MESA is only one option for an individual seeking employment; many individuals (especially professional or technical workers) may not use MESA in their job search.

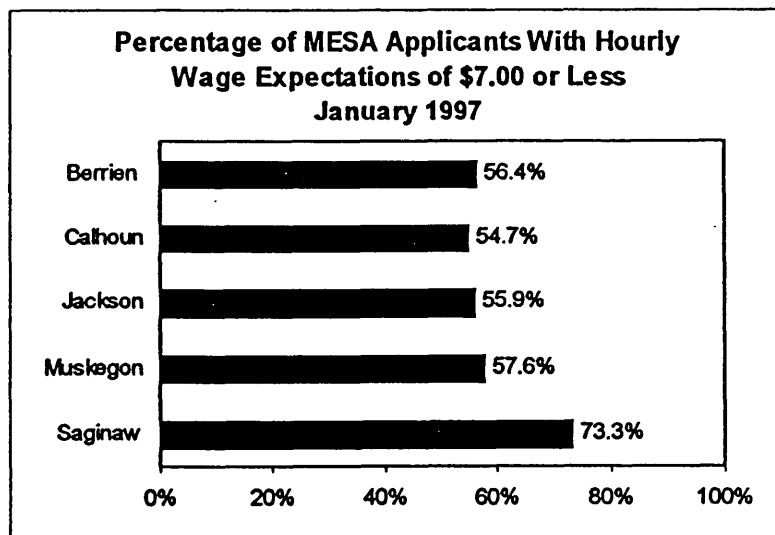
and Muskegon, but not by a significant amount (Chart 12). The percentage of job seekers in Berrien County willing to work for \$7.00 or less is extremely similar to the other counties' except for Saginaw (Chart 13) and the number of Berrien County's job seekers with less than six months of experience is below all but Jackson (Chart 14). While these indicators do not suggest any strong trends or deficiencies in the area's work force, it is highly likely that they will be more informative in the coming years as the current tightening of public assistance programs makes more individuals seek employment.

Chart 12



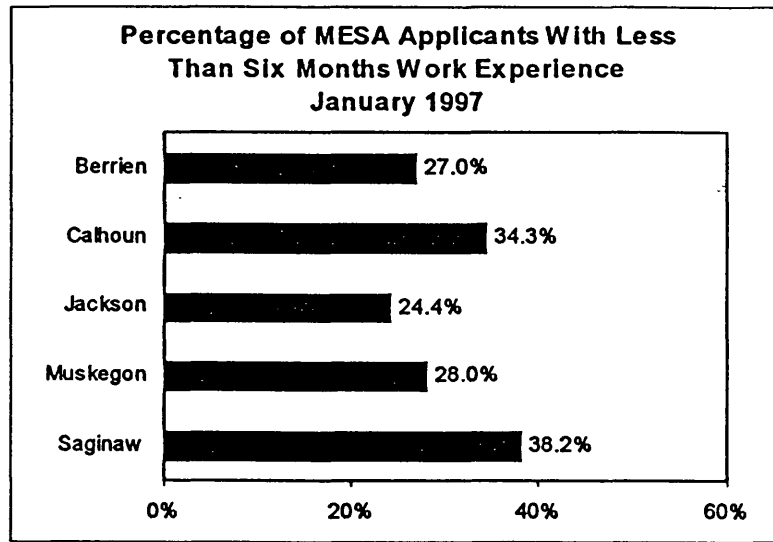
Source: MESA.

Chart 13



Source: MESA.

Chart 14



Source: MESA.

For many, especially single mothers, the availability of affordable child care is a necessary condition for achieving self-sufficiency. In Berrien County, the market price for licensed child care rose faster than inflation from 1993 to 1996. During this time period, general prices rose 8.6 percent, while the average price of child care increased 14.3 percent. The percentage of child care facilities accepting public assistance payments (MDSS/FIA) and the percentage that offer backup care rose during the period. Finally, as of March, 1997, the capacity utilization rate of licensed child care providers stood at 79 percent.

Table 2

	1993	1994	1995	1996
Market Rate (per week)	\$70.00	n.a.	\$75.00	\$80.00
Available for Backup Care	67%	n.a.	82%	82%
May Accept MDSS/FIA Payment	79%	n.a.	85%	84%
Current Capacity Utilization (all age groups)				79%

Source: Child Care Resources.

Note: Backup care availability indicates the willingness to accept a referral on a temporary basis within 24 hours notice. This is, of course, only if the care provider is not at full capacity level.

Current capacity utilization does not take into consideration such factors as the proximity of providers to parents, children's age restrictions (a provider may not accept children in diapers) and other supply and demand related issues.

Finally the quality of the county's schools and the graduate rates of its high school students are clear indicators of the ability of the county's young residents to become self-sufficient. Statewide the high school completion rate was 81.3 percent in 1995.⁷ As shown in Table 3, fifty percent of the county's 14 high schools had completion rates below that of the state in 1995. More troubling, all but one of these below-average high schools have experienced negative trends. The Benton Harbor Area Schools, for example, dropped from having a 74.9 percent completion rate in 1992 to a 32.8 percent rate in 1995. Moreover, completion rates have improved in only two of the county's 14 high schools during the period from 1992 to 1995. Students that do not complete high school face a very difficult road to economic self-sufficiency.

Table 3

High School Completion Rates 1995 District Rankings				
District	1992	1993	1994	1995
Benton Harbor Area Schools	74.9	40.6	47.5	32.8
Brandywine Public Schools	80.7	77.9	79.6	58.8
Buchanan Community Schools	95.6	54.1	76.3	60.6
Niles Community School District	88.8	86.6	73.7	71.4
Eau Claire Public Schools	76.1	44.0	87.9	72.6
Watervliet School District	72.8	48.2	79.6	78.1
Coloma Community Schools	79.4	66.3	80.3	78.9
<i>State Average</i>	<i>83.2</i>	<i>81.6</i>	<i>76.5</i>	<i>81.3</i>
Galien Township School District	90.0	72.0	65.7	82.0
New Buffalo Area School District	92.6	83.0	89.0	82.7
Stevensville-Lakeshore School District	95.4	72.0	78.6	85.9
St. Joseph Public School District	94.3	82.7	88.3	92.1
Bridgman Public Schools	94.1	87.5	86.7	92.8
Three Oaks-River Valley School District	97.4	n.a.	93.5	96.1
Berrien Springs Public Schools	90.3	84.7	81.7	98.0

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

⁷The high school completion rate is the percentage of 9th graders who will complete their senior year and graduate; this is a four-year rate as defined by Michigan Department of Education.

Student success in school depends upon many factors, many of which are outside the ability of the schools to address. For example in Chart 5 we already indicated the negative correlation between fourth-grade MEAP scores and the percent of students receiving free and reduced price lunches. Still, it is at the individual school building where the difficulties are identified and where intervention is commonly proposed. Tables 4 and 5 list the county's middle schools in which the 7th grade MEAPs are taken and the elementary schools where the three fourth-grade MEAPs are administered, respectively. A weighted, three-year moving average is used which weights the most current test results heavier than the earlier tests.⁸

Table 4

Percentage of 7th Grade Students Receiving Satisfactory MEAP Scores Three Year Weighted Average by Individual District Building and ISD		
District	Building	Three Year Weighted Average
Benton Harbor Area Schools	King Preparatory Center	9.3
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Fair Plain Jr. High School	9.5
Benton Harbor Area Schools	McCord Junior High School	38.9
Eau Claire Public Schools	Eau Claire High School	42.0
Galien Township School District	Galien Township Jr.-Sr. High School	42.9
Coloma Community Schools	Coloma Middle School	47.7
Three-Oaks River Valley School District	River Valley Middle School	48.1
<i>Berrien ISD Average Building Data</i>		<i>49.8</i>
Watervliet School District	Watervliet Jr.-Sr. High School	51.0
Brandywine Public Schools	Brandywine Jr.-Sr. High School	52.1
Niles Community School District	Ring Lardner Junior High School	52.4
New Buffalo Area School District	New Buffalo Jr.-Sr. High School	55.8
Berrien Springs Public Schools	Berrien Springs Middle School	56.0
Buchanan Community Schools	Buchanan Middle School	56.8
Bridgman Public Schools	F. C. Reed Middle School	60.2
Stevensville-Lakeshore School District	Lakeshore Junior High School	63.8
St. Joseph Public School District	Upton Middle School	71.2

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

⁸The average is the summation of the most current test results multiplied by 0.5, the previous year by 0.3 and the earlier year by 0.2.

Table 5

Percentage of 4th Grade Students Receiving Satisfactory MEAP Scores Three Year Weighted Average by Individual District Building and ISD		
District/ISD	Building	Three Year Weighted Average
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Academic Academy	16.8
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Fair Plain Northeast Elementary	24.1
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Calvin Britain Elementary	26.9
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Sterne Brunson Elementary	28.7
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Bard Elementary	35.4
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Hull Elementary	42.0
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Martindale Elementary	44.8
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Sorter Elementary	46.6
Gallen Township School District	Wolford Elementary	51.9
Eau Claire Public Schools	Lybrook Elementary	53.0
Sodus Township School District #5	River School	53.7
Bridgman Public Schools	Bridgman Elementary	53.8
Three Oaks-River Valley School District	New Troy Elementary	55.1
Buchanan Community Schools	H. C. Stark Elementary	56.8
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Henry C. Morton Elementary	56.8
Niles Community School District	Howard Elementary	57.2
Buchanan Community Schools	Moccasin Elementary	57.6
Coloma Community Schools	Washington Elementary	60.6
Watervliet School District	North Elementary	61.0
New Buffalo Area School District	New Buffalo Elementary	61.2
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Creative Arts Academy	61.5
Berrien ISD Average Building Data		61.6
Niles Community School District	Eastside Elementary	62.5
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Boynton Montessori Program	63.3
Hagar Township School District	Hagar Township School	64.2
Coloma Community Schools	Coloma Elementary	66.2
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Fair Plain West Elementary	66.8
Niles Community School District	Ballard Elementary	66.9
Stevensville-Lakeshore School District	Hollywood Elementary	67.5
Berrien Springs Public Schools	Sylvester Elementary	68.1
Brandywine Public Schools	Brandywine Elementary	68.6
Three Oaks-River Valley School District	Three Oaks Elementary	68.6
Buchanan Community Schools	Ottawa Elementary	71.2
St. Joseph Public School District	Lincoln Elementary	72.0
Stevensville-Lakeshore School District	Stewart Elementary	72.4
Stevensville-Lakeshore School District	Roosevelt Elementary	72.5
St. Joseph Public School District	E.P. Clarke Elementary	73.2
Three Oaks-River Valley School District	Chikaming Elementary	74.5
Niles Community School District	Oak Manor Elementary	77.9
St. Joseph Public School District	Brown Elementary	78.6
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Gifted and Talented Academy	84.0

Source: Michigan Department of Education

Pupil-teacher ratios have been commonly used as an indicator of quality. In fact, area students cited low pupil-teacher ratios as a strong indicator of teaching quality. National research, unfortunately, has yielded mixed findings regarding the meaningfulness of this indicator. Still, as shown on Table 6, the Benton Harbor Area Schools, which has many of the poorer performing school buildings according to the MEAP results, and the lowest high school completion rate, also has one of the largest pupil-teacher ratios for the 1994-1995 school year. But at the same time, the Stevensville-Lakeshore School District which has posted strong MEAP scores and a solid 92.8 percent high school completion rate also has a 24 to 1 pupil-teacher ratio.

Table 6

School District	School Year				
	1990-1991	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995
Bridgman Public Schools	15	15	17	17	17
New Buffalo Area School District	14	14	15	15	17
Three Oaks-River Valley School District	17	16	18	18	17
Galien Township School District	15	15	19	18	18
St. Joseph Public School District	19	20	20	20	20
Buchanan Community Schools	20	18	19	18	21
Watervliet School District	20	18	23	20	21
Brandywine Public Schools	20	20	20	20	22
Coloma Community Schools	13	14	22	21	22
Berrien Springs Public Schools	19	20	24	23	23
Eau Claire Public Schools	20	13	22	20	23
Benton Harbor Area Schools	24	22	23	23	24
Niles Community School District	20	19	21	24	24
Stevensville-Lakeshore School District	22	22	24	24	24

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

Health Status

Indicators:

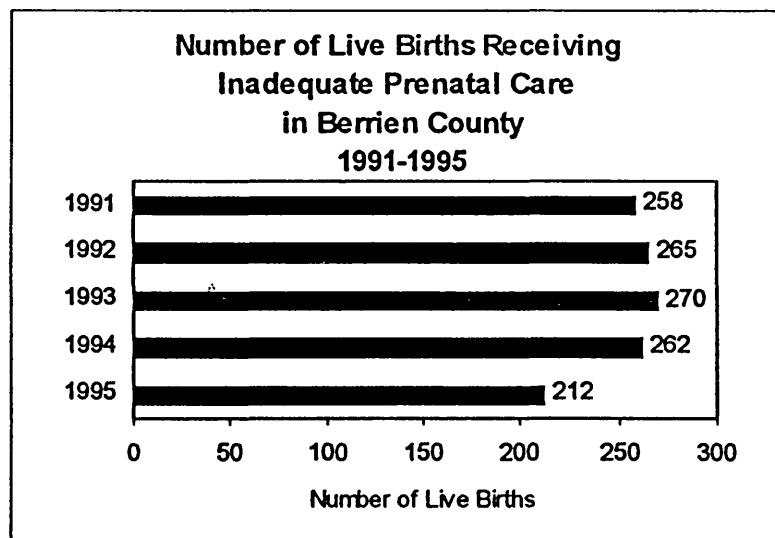
- Number of Live Births Receiving Inadequate Prenatal Care
- Number of Low Weight Live Births
- Low Weight, Live Births Compared to Similar Counties
- Number of Individuals Seeking Assistance for Selected Mental Health Problems
- Rate of Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Number of Elderly Individuals Screened for Eligibility for Home Based Services
- Utilization Rate of Nursing Homes in the County

Trends:

- Positive
- Positive
- Stable
- Not Available
- Stable
- Negative
- Stable

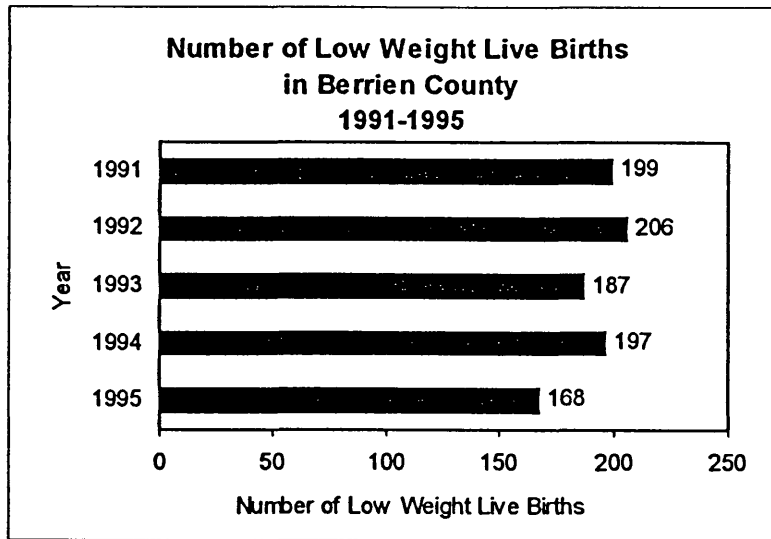
The health status, both mental and physical, of county residents is an obvious indicator of the area's overall well-being. It also cuts across all age groups from newborns to the elderly. As shown in Charts 15 and 16, while the number of mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care and the number of low weight live births are still too high (any level is too high), the trends are positive. A baby's birth weight has been shown to be correlated with long-term physical and mental disorders including mental retardation, developmental delays, and chronic respiratory ailments. At the same time, the lack of prenatal care of the mother decreases the likelihood of the delivery of a healthy, full-term, normal weight baby. The number of women giving birth without receiving adequate prenatal care dropped dramatically in 1995 from 262 to 212. In addition, the number of low weight births fell from 197 in 1994 to 168 in 1995.

Chart 15



Sources: Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department.
 Note: Inadequate prenatal as determined by the Kessner Index.

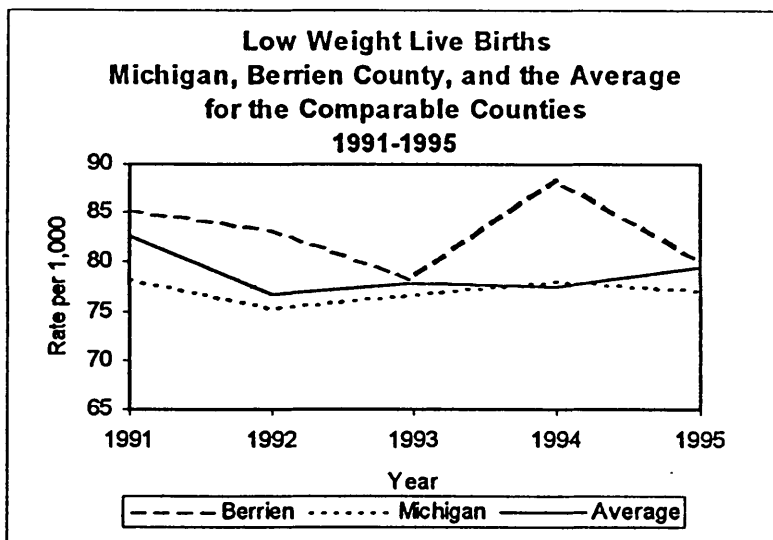
Chart 16



Sources: Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department.
 Note: Low weight births are those less than 2500 grams.

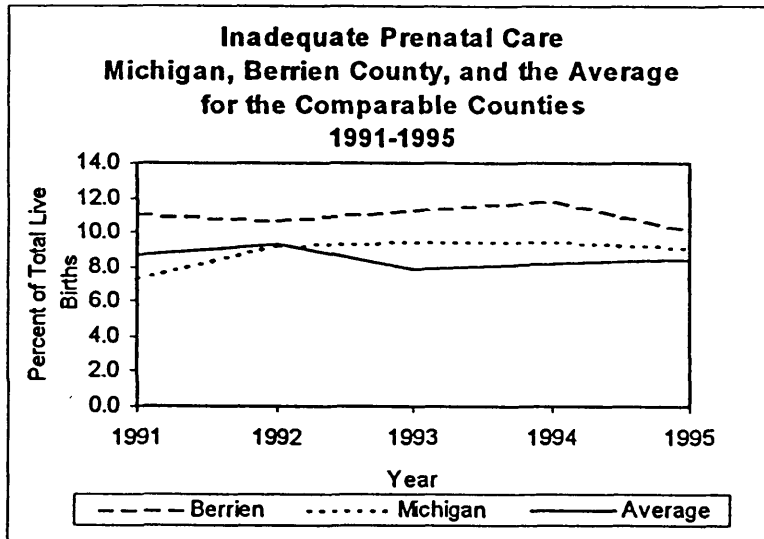
Compared to the four counties of Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon and Saginaw, Berrien County continues to have a higher rate of low weight, live births. However, the gap did close sharply in 1995 between the county's rate and that of the state's (Chart 17). Similarly, a higher percentage of live births received inadequate prenatal care in Berrien County than in the comparison counties (Chart 18).

Chart 17



Sources: Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.
 Note: Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

Chart 18



Sources: Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.
Note: Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

Table 7 lists the number of individuals seeking treatment for selected mental health conditions. These disorders were selected because they are highly influenced by the economic and social stress facing individuals. By themselves, these statistics do not provide any insight into the mental conditions of the county's residents, however. Unfortunately, due to the adoption of a new data system, historical trends are not currently available. Still, future changes in the number of individuals seeking treatment for these illnesses will offer a good indicator of the county's mental health.

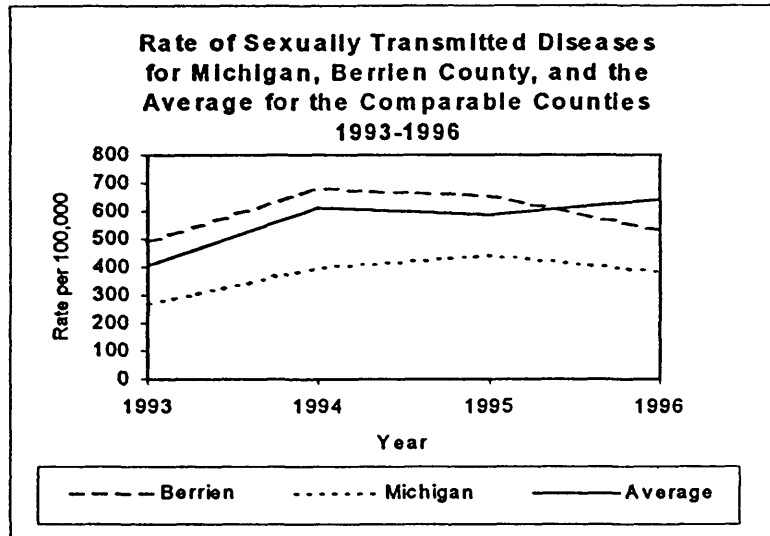
The rate of sexually transmitted diseases (gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis) is an indicator of risk taking behavior which can lead to poor health outcomes. In Berrien County the number of sexually transmitted diseases declined in 1996, but until then it was above the average of the four other comparison counties from 1993 to 1995 (Chart 19).

Table 7

Number of Individuals Seeking Assistance for Situational Mental Health Problems in Berrien County	
Description	1995-1996
Major Depressive Disorder	33
Major Depressive Disorder Recurrent	35
Panic Disorder without Agoraphobia	0
Agoraphobia without a history of Panic Disorder	0
Generalized Anxiety Disorder	0
Dysthymic Disorder	4
Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood	11
Adjustment Disorder with Anxiety	0
Adjustment Disorder with mixed anxiety and depressed mood	0
Alcohol Dependence	2
Amphetamine Dependence	0
Cocaine Dependence	1
Opioid Dependence	0
One Year Total	86

Source: Riverwood Center.

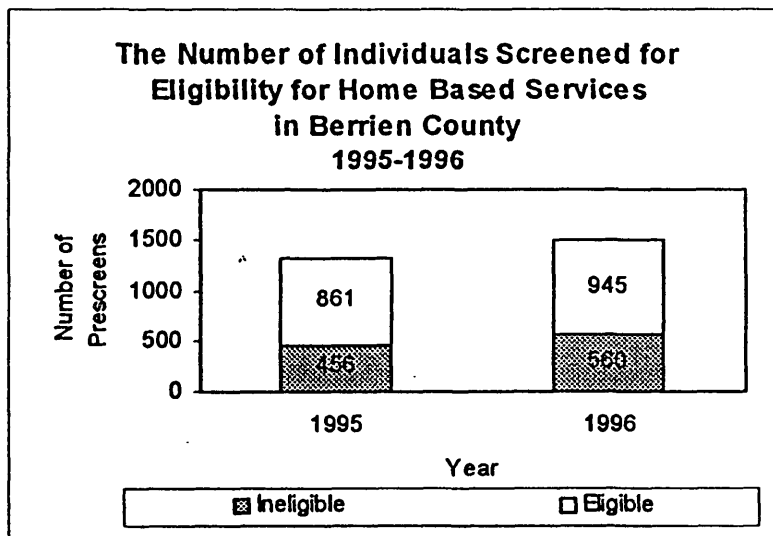
Chart 19



Sources: Division of Disease Control, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.
 Note: Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

The number of elderly who were screened for eligibility for mean-tested services increased in the past two years, as well as, the percentage of the screened individuals who qualified for these services (Chart 20). Both indicators are important because even if an elderly person did not qualify for assistance s/he had shown enough signs of needing assistance to be referred for screening by friends and relative.

Chart 20



Source: Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
 Note: Individuals are screened to: 1) identify nursing home eligibility; and/or 2) determine basic financial need.

Finally, the health status of the county's elderly population is highly dependent upon the availability and quality of nursing homes. While we currently do not have an indicator on quality of care, nursing home records suggest a general tightening in availability. As shown in Table 8, the capacity utilization rate (Patient day/Licensed Bed Days excluding facilities that do not have patients) of the county's nursing homes rose to 88.4 percent in 1995 from 85.6 percent in 1993.

Table 8

Capacity Utilization of Nursing Homes in Berrien County 1991-1995								
Facility	Location	1991 Capacity Utilization	1992 Capacity Utilization	1993 Capacity Utilization	1994 Capacity Utilization	1995 Capacity Utilization	1995 Patient Days	1995 Licensed Bed Days
Berrien General Hospital/Lakeland Medical Center	Berrien Center	92.5%	93.8%	90.0%	89.6%	92.9%	65,463	70,445
<i>Bry-Fern Care Center Inc./ Cambridge Court</i>	<i>Berrien Center</i>	92.0%	85.0%	80.9%	67.0%	61.9%	14,017	22,630
<i>Riveridge Manor</i>	<i>Niles</i>	94.7%	94.6%	96.4%	98.2%	97.8%	29,990	30,660
Mercy Memorial Nursing Care/Lakeland Continuing Care Center	St. Joseph	95.3%	81.4%	88.2%	92.4%	89.4%	36,200	40,515
<i>Woodfield Manor Inc.</i>	<i>Niles</i>	90.2%	86.8%	90.3%	81.8%	77.5%	25,185	32,485
<i>Orchard Grove Extended Care</i>	<i>Benton Harbor</i>	55.6%	61.7%	58.8%	70.2%	82.5%	37,058	44,895
<i>Silverbrook Manor</i>	<i>Niles</i>	93.3%	84.4%	83.1%	92.7%	92.7%	33,820	36,500
Jordans Nursing Home	Bridgman	99.2%	97.6%	98.4%	99.6%	99.3%	38,041	38,325
Capacity Utilization for the County		88.5%	85.7%	85.6%	87.2%	88.4%	279,774	316,455

Source: Office of the State Registrar & Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health.

Note: Facilities in italics are operated by for profit corporations. The remainder (with the exception of Berrien General Hospital which is run by the county) are operated by non-profit corporations. Capacity utilization or occupancy rates are calculated by dividing patient days by licensed bed days.

As of 1995's report, three facilities began operating under new names. These names are preceded by a "/" and the prior name.

Physical Security

Indicators

- Violent Crimes
- Property Crimes
- Juvenile Arrests

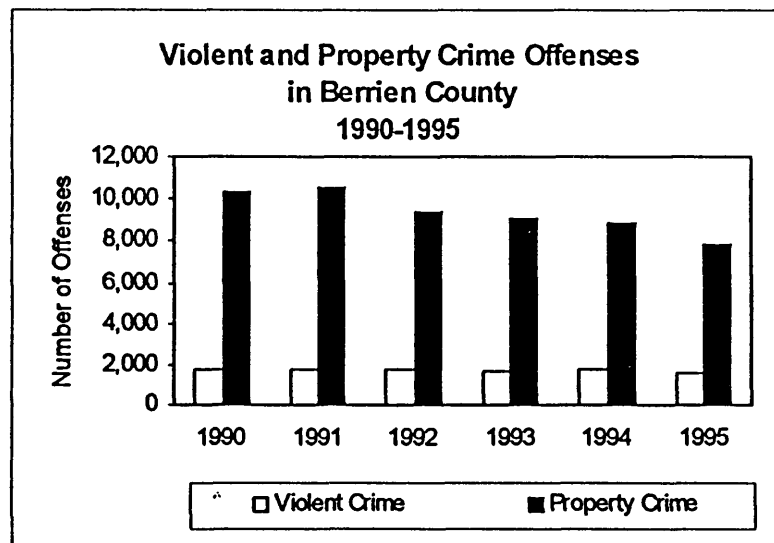
Trends

Stable
Positive
Positive

Public safety is a fundamental requirement for a healthy community. Individuals living in an unsafe environment are less likely to become active members in the community and suffer a poor quality of life. Moreover, a sense of being trapped in a high crime area promotes out-migration.

As shown in Chart 21, the number of property crimes has declined from 1991 to 1995, dropping from 10,322 offenses to 7,862. Property crimes included burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson. Violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) have held steady during this time period.

Chart 21



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Violent	1,737	1,816	1,734	1,704	1,787	1,521
Property	10,322	10,514	9,440	9,112	8,882	7,862

Source: 1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports, Michigan State Police.

The number of juvenile arrests for violent and property crimes have also declined from 1991 to 1994, as shown in Chart 24 (Civility and Citizenship). However, the number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes increased from 45 instances in 1991 to 63 in 1994.

Civility and Citizenship

Indicators

- Rate of Vandalism, Disorderly Conduct and Other Associated Crimes
- Crime Rates for Alcohol and Drug Related Offenses
- Number of Formal Petitions Filed in Juvenile Court
- Involvement in the Schools

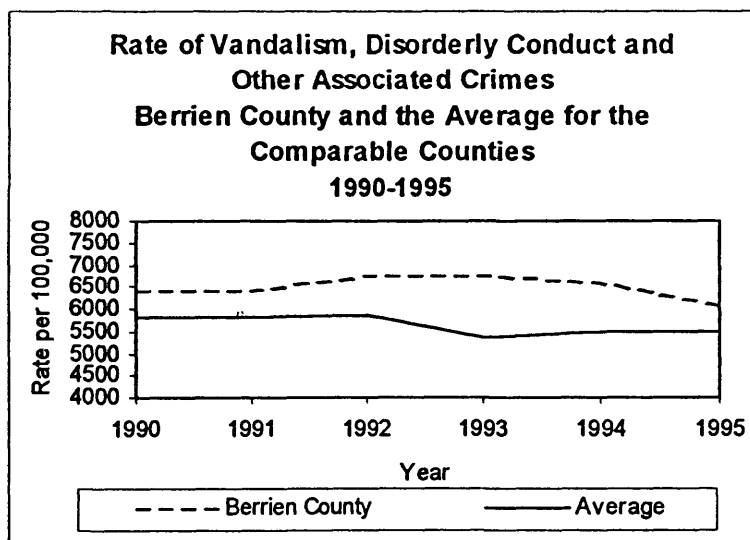
Trends

- Stable
- Positive
- Negative
- Stable

If more individuals take a greater citizenship role in the community, it is reasonable to expect that the number of minor, yet anti-social/community incidences would decline. We have included indicators which reflect the ability to respond to societal norms, such as, avoidance of disagreeable behaviors (vandalism) or exhibiting interest in education. Moreover, we have included statistics on the social behavior of the county's youth population because this data may indicate the roles that they will play as adults.

The rate of minor offenses including vandalism, disorderly conduct and other related crime has been stable in Berrien County as shown in Chart 22; however, the county's rate is still above that of the four comparable counties. The same actual trend is seen in the rate of alcohol and drug related offenses (Chart 23).

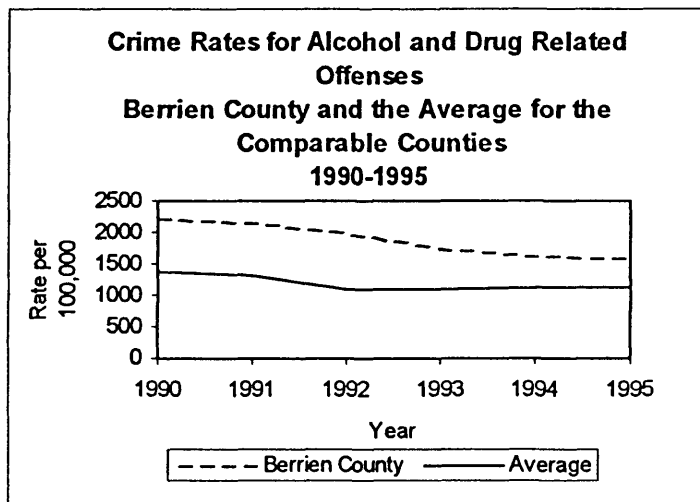
Chart 22



Sources: *1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports*, Michigan State Police; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Note: Associated crimes include drunkenness and vagrancy among others. Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

Chart 23



Sources: 1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports, Michigan State Police; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

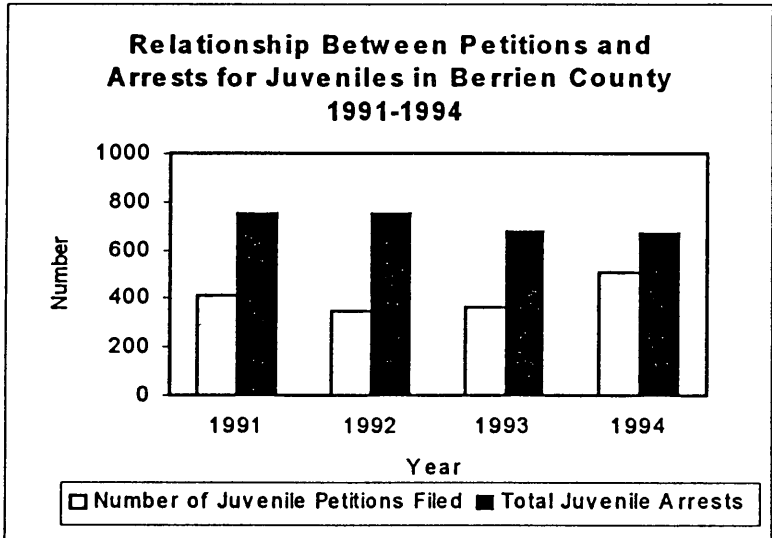
Note: Alcohol and drug related offenses include violation of narcotic and liquor laws and driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.

Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

Turning to juveniles, trends are not as promising. While the number of juvenile arrests has declined slightly from 1991 to 1994, the number of formal petitions set for court is on the rise from 366 petitions in 1993 to 726 in 1995 as shown in Chart 24.

Finally, Table 9 reports the number of parents and/or guardians attending teacher conferences at area schools. Although data are not available for all school districts, this indicator is of value. It suggests that most parents continue to play an active role in their child's education.

Chart 24



	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total Juvenile Arrests	751	750	680	666
<i>Violent Crime</i>	45	49	57	63
<i>Property Crime</i>	706	701	623	603
Total Juvenile Petitions	414	349	366	507

Sources: Berrien County Courthouse and 1990-1994 Uniform Crime Reports, Michigan State Police.

Note: Violent crime includes: murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crime includes: burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Table 9

School District/ Building	1993-1994 1994-1995 1995-1996		
	Percent of Parents/Guardians in Attendance		
Benton Harbor Area Schools	70.0	58.0	75.0
Berrien Springs Public Schools			
Mars Elementary	93.0	95.0	95.0
Sylvester Elementary	85.0	87.0	90.0
Berrien Springs Middle School	62.0	62.0	60.0
Berrien Springs High School	43.0	54.0	47.0
Brandywine Public Schools			
Brandywine Elementary	91.0	92.0	91.0
Brandywine Jr-Sr High School	41.0	45.0	45.0
Bridgman Public Schools	Data Unavailable		
Buchanan Community Schools			
Total Elementary	98.0	98.0	97.0
Buchanan Middle School	50.0	59.0	66.0
Buchanan High School	55.0	56.0	57.0
Coloma Community Schools			
Total Elementary (K-4)	96.0	97.0	96.0
Coloma Junior High School (8-9)	72.0	82.0	74.0
Total Middle School	54.0	55.0	60.0
Coloma High School	57.0	21.0	57.0
Eau Claire Public Schools	Data Unavailable		
Galien Township School District	Data Unavailable		
Hagar Township School District	Data Unavailable		
New Buffalo Area School District			
New Buffalo Elementary	88.0	88.0	Data
Grades 7-8	69.0	71.0	Unavailable
New Buffalo Jr.-Sr. High School (9-12)	82.0	67.0	
Niles Community School District	80.0	88.2	92.5

Source: Annual School Districts' Educational Reports.

Table 9 -continued

School District/ Building	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996
	Percent of Parents/Guardians in Attendance		
Sodus Township School District #5	Data Unavailable		
Stevensville-Lakeshore School District			
Stewart Elementary	98.3	98.0	98.5
Hollywood Elementary	98.5	98.0	96.5
Roosevelt Elementary	96.5	97.5	98.5
Lakeshore Junior High School	61.5	40.0	59.5
Lakeshore High School	45.0	48.5	49.5
St. Joseph Public School District			
Brown Elementary	97.5	98.5	97.0
E P Clarke Elementary	98.0	98.0	98.0
Lincoln Elementary	99.5	100.0	99.5
Upton Middle School	69.0	69.5	72.0
St. Joseph High School	60.0	60.0	56.0
Three Oaks-River Valley School District			
Chikaming Elementary	Data	98.0	98.0
New Troy Elementary	Unavailable	92.0	92.0
Three Oaks Elementary		93.0	79.0
River Valley Middle School		42.0	61.0
River Valley High School		45.0	44.0
Watervliet School District			
North Elementary	87.0		
South Elementary School	91.0	Data Unavailable	
Watervliet Jr-Sr. High School	60.0		

Source: Annual School Districts' Educational Reports.

Quality of Private Family Life

Indicators

- Number of Children Enrolled and on the Waiting List for Head Start
- Number of Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect Cases
- Number of Teenage Pregnancies (15-17 years)
- Teenage Pregnancy Rates Relative to the State
- Number of Domestic Violence Crisis Calls
- Domestic Assault Cases
- Offenses Against Family and Children

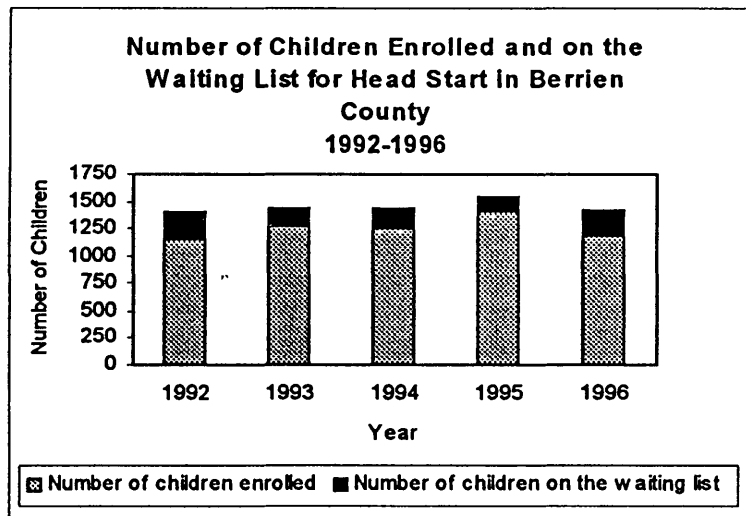
Trends

- Stable
- Negative
- Stable
- Stable
- Positive
- Stable
- Positive

The quality of private family life is probably the most important typology to track, but, because it is private, the hardest to monitor. Many victims of domestic violence, abuse or neglect do not feel safe in reporting their conditions to public authorities. Therefore, in observing the trends presented below, it is important to recognize that the numbers reported are far below the actual cases. All we can hope for is that the reported cases present a trend that holds true for the unreported cases as well.

The first indicator ties quality of family life to income. Indeed, the number of children enrolled and on waiting lists for Head Start could be included in the material well-being indicators. It is included in this section to serve as a reminder of the interrelatedness of income and family life. As shown in Chart 25, the number of children (3 and 4 years of age)

Chart 25

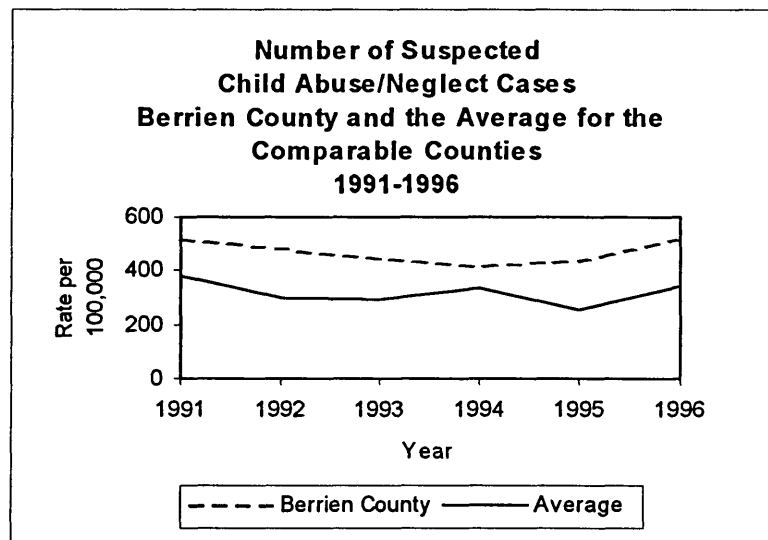


Source: Tri-County Head Start.

in Head Start or on the waiting list has held steady from 1992 to 1996. The number of children on the waiting list is included in order to reflect the spatial mismatching of capacity location and need that often occurs.

One of the more disturbing indicators on the quality of private family life in Berrien County is both the level and the rise in the number of suspected child abuse and neglect cases reported per 100,000 population, compared to other counties with similar economic/social conditions. As shown in Chart 26, the number of reported cases of child abuse and neglect has increased since 1994 and the county's level has stubbornly remained above the average for the other four counties since at least 1991.

Chart 26



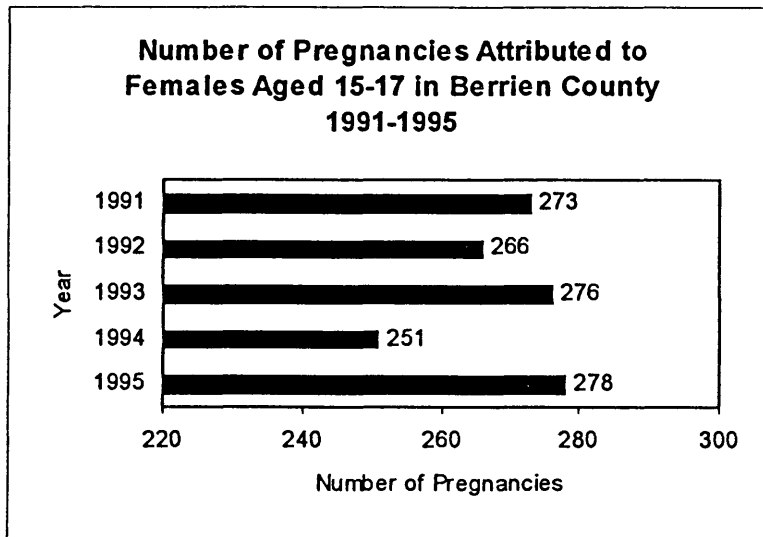
Sources: Berrien County FIA, the Michigan Family Independence Agency, Office of Communications; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Note: "Cases" refers to the unduplicated numbers of victims.

Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

Children having children puts a serious strain on families as grandparents can be required to help raise the newborns and young mothers are often not emotionally prepared to take on the responsibilities of motherhood. As shown in Chart 27, the number of females aged fifteen to seventeen having children has been somewhat stable, dropping to 251 in 1994 only to shoot back up to 278 in 1995. Unfortunately, the rate of teenage pregnancy per 1,000 in the county has remained above the state average since at least 1991 (Chart 28).

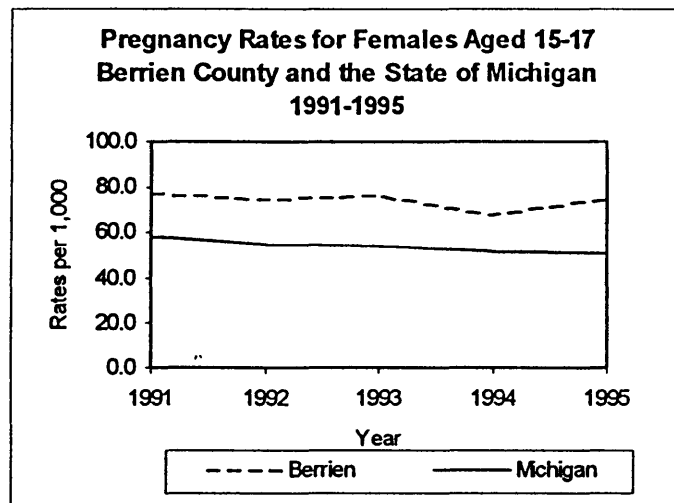
Chart 27



Sources: Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department.

Note: Pregnancies are the sum of live births + abortions + estimated miscarriages.

Chart 28

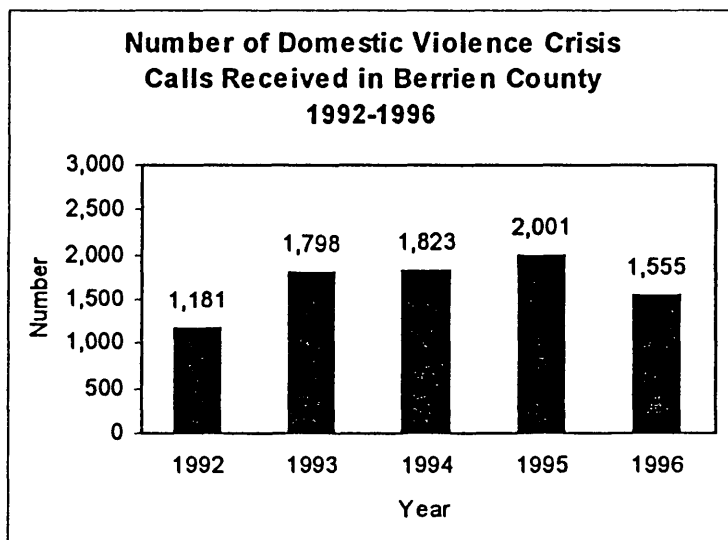


Sources: Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department.

Note: All rates are per 1,000 age and sex specific population. Respective year estimated population is used to calculate rates.

The instance of domestic violence is the strongest indicator of dysfunctional families. As shown in Chart 29, the number of crisis calls for domestic violence in the county has held steady over the past five years. In 1996, the number of calls dropped 22.2 percent from 1995.

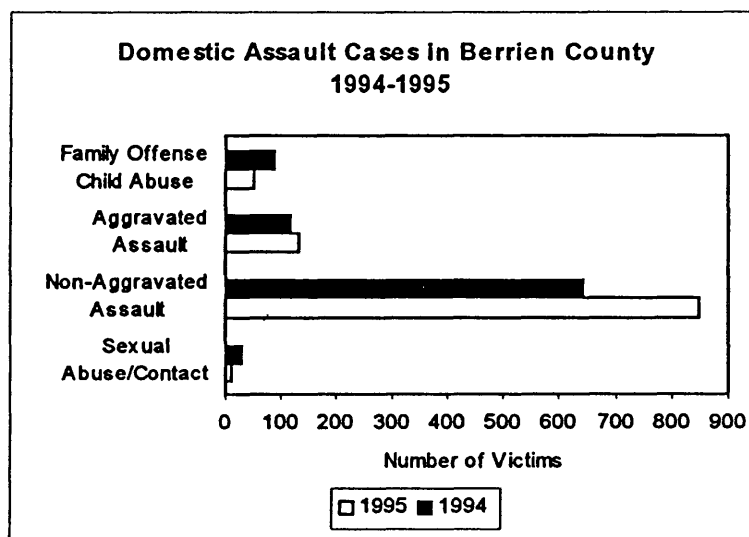
Chart 29



Source: Safe Shelter, Inc.

Note: Crisis calls are those which are made by individuals seeking temporary shelter from domestic violence and related abuse.

Chart 30



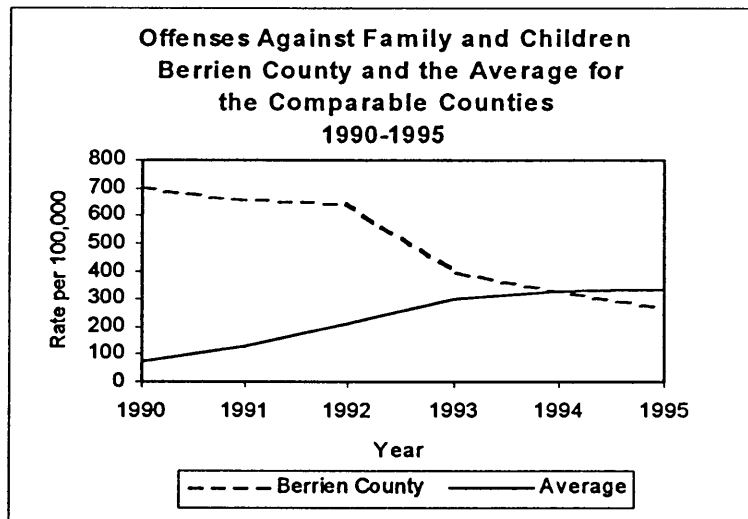
Source: *Domestic Assault Cases Victimization Report*, Michigan State Police.

Note: The above offenses account for approximately 99% of all domestic assault cases. The remaining offenses include: murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, parental kidnapping, robbery, burglary, unlawful entry, damage to property and concealed weapons charges.

From 1994 to 1995, the number of domestic assault cases in the county has stayed fairly constant with the only marked change being a sizable increase in non-aggravated assaults (see Chart 30).

Finally, in extremely welcomed news, the rate in the number of offenses against family and children per 100,000 in Berrien County has dropped significantly since 1992. In 1990 and 1991, the county's rate was nearly 7 times greater than the comparison counties. By 1994, the county's rate matched that of the four similar counties and in 1995, the county rate fell below the average as shown in Chart 31.

Chart 31



Source: 1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports, Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Note: Offenses against family and children are defined as any non-violent offense by a member of a family which threatens the unity of the family, the physical or economic welfare or morals of members of the family.

Comparable counties include: Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

Conclusions and suggestions for further study:

In a study that is as data intensive as this one, it is easy to lose sight of the purpose of the study among the charts and tables presented. Again, the purpose of this study is to provide useful information that can help guide the allocation of the county's limited charitable resources toward programs that address key areas of need. We believe that the statistics presented in this report suggest that the following three areas of need should be seriously considered when allocating resources.

- 1. The health and development of children.** The increasing number of children receiving free or reduced price lunches, the growing number of cases of suspected children abuse and neglect, declining MEAP scores, and the low high school completion rate in several of the county's high schools, all point to the need to continue and enhance efforts to help the county's youth.
- 2. The health and well-being of the county's elderly population.** Although the report's indicators on the health and well-being of the county's elderly population are few, they all point in the same direction: for many elderly residents conditions are deteriorating.
- 3. The availability of affordable housing.** Although the county's economy is growing and offers a growing number of employment opportunities, the increasing number of eviction notices and residential gas disconnections suggest that many individuals are unable to find and maintain a decent shelter. While the number of individuals who descend into homelessness has remained fairly steady each year, many are probably finding shelter in overcrowded and unsafe conditions.

This report is only the first step in the development of a county wide information system directed toward monitoring the social and economic conditions facing county residents. For it to remain effective, we strongly recommend that it be revised and updated when new data sources become available. Moreover, if some of the data series currently in the report lose their relevancy, they should be removed.

In preparing this report, we identified the following sources that hold strong potential in providing additional information about the county. In addition, we found gaps in the existing data series that we believe require further study.

Potential Data Sources

First Call for Help -United Way: The newly installed computerized information system being used at the United Way's First Call for Help program will provide invaluable data on the level of need in the community. Staff enters the type of assistance being requested into the following 12 areas: clothing, drug abuse/addiction, emergency financial aid, emergency food,

financial assistance for rent, financial aid, general information, mass transit, medical care/treatment, medical/health, shelter/emergency and special transportation. In addition, staff records if assistance is available and where the caller is located.

YWCA Women's Resource and Referral Services: Started in March of 1996 the service offers a comprehensive database of services and agencies that can help women find the assistance they need. Like **First Call for Help**, information on the type of calls received by the service could be a good indicator of need.

911 Emergency Records: Currently, the telephone records of the county's 911 emergency dispatch service are not computerized, making it impossible to tally the types of calls being received. Another problem is confidentiality. If, however, the service's records system could be computerized and the confidentiality of the individual callers maintained, this service could prove to be an excellent source of information about the community's emergency needs.

Emergency room records: Currently, these records are unavailable due to both issues of confidentiality and the fact that in many instances, they are not computerized. If these obstacles could be eliminated, these records could also prove to be an excellent source of information about the area's emergency health needs.

Information Gaps

The current database is lacking statistics on the following key areas:

Health status of children. According to the county's public health department, one of the standard measures of the quality of health care being provided to area children, number of children receiving proper immunization, is seriously flawed.

Housing Conditions. Factors that could be considered include the number of abandoned housing units and/or the number of parcels that are tax delinquent.

Transportation. The lack of reliable transportation prevents a number of individuals from pursuing possible employment opportunities. In addition, the lack of public transportation for urban and rural households that do not have access to a vehicle makes it very difficult to purchase grocery and other basic services and goods.

Level of Substance Abuse. The number of individuals arrested for drug offenses and/or being treated at Riverwood are only a very small portion of the number of individuals who are chemically dependent.

Information on the Status of Minorities

The Economic and Social Conditions of Migrants

Teenager Self-esteem. The possibility of conducting an annual survey of high school and middle school students that addresses the issues of self-esteem, as well as, health and safety factors should be explored.

APPENDIX A

DATA

Material Well-Being

**Individuals Receiving Food Stamps
Berrien County and Comparable Counties
1991-1996**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Individuals Receiving Food Stamps						
Berrien County	20,203	20,879	21,175	20,730	19,220	18,209
Calhoun County	17,543	17,631	17,709	17,494	16,085	15,252
Jackson County	13,703	14,478	14,984	15,169	13,784	12,802
Muskegon County	21,414	22,141	22,872	22,297	20,339	19,465
Saginaw County	33,592	33,649	34,041	33,895	31,971	30,306
Percentage of the Population						
Berrien County	12.5%	12.9%	13.1%	12.8%	11.9%	11.3%
Calhoun County	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	12.0%	11.0%
Jackson County	9.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	9.0%	8.0%
Muskegon County	13.0%	14.0%	14.0%	14.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Saginaw County	16.0%	16.0%	16.0%	16.0%	15.0%	14.0%

Sources: Berrien County FIA; Michigan Family Independence Agency, Office of Communications;
Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Note: The number of individuals receiving food stamps for each county is based on the monthly average.

The estimated population for each respective year has been used to derive the percentage of the population receiving food stamps.

**Percentage of Elementary School Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunches
in Berrien County
1991-1996**

School District/ Building	1991-1992		1992-1993		1993-1994		1994-1995		1995-1996	
	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment
<u>Benton Harbor Area Schools</u>										
Academic Academy	94.0	200	99.1	217	92.8	225	92.5	293	89.6	293
Bard Elementary	99.5	184	98.8	129	95.9	169	97.6	169	100.0	150
Boyrton Montessori Program	51.9	263	52.2	231	60.7	263	61.6	253	65.0	260
Calvin Britain Elementary	98.4	415	88.7	402	95.9	361	93.6	381	100.0	389
Creative Arts Academy	0.0	154	0.0	157	0.0	156	0.0	156	61.8	154
Fair Plain Northeast Elementary	90.2	214	90.6	232	93.1	212	96.2	183	93.2	200
Fair Plain West Elementary	91.3	324	90.0	349	87.3	350	93.9	337	88.0	337
Gifted and Talented Academy	57.1	n.a	77.2	138	76.5	150	81.5	124	76.8	125
Henry C. Morton Elementary	96.8	395	97.4	312	97.9	424	93.6	477	97.8	477
Hull Elementary	93.3	664	96.0	634	86.6	568	95.6	599	85.5	648
Martindale Elementary	91.2	206	91.8	175	86.8	194	95.3	196	84.6	143
Sorter Elementary	87.5	340	91.6	336	100.0	312	90.2	314	92.7	302
Sterne Brunson Elementary	91.6	552	93.7	513	95.6	516	99.0	507	98.7	525
<u>Berrien Springs Public Schools</u>										
Mars Elementary	51.3	445	57.7	415	54.7	391	57.7	367	54.2	375
Sylvester Elementary	49.4	425	49.8	379	43.4	347	55.2	366	55.3	394
<u>Brandywine Public Schools</u>										
Brandywine Elementary	30.9	854	32.0	826	33.9	819	30.1	861	35.0	852
<u>Bridgman Public Schools</u>										
Bridgman Elementary	10.7	423	11.3	343	14.7	382	22.0	368	18.7	422
<u>Buchanan Community Schools</u>										
H.C. Stark Elementary	29.8	303	37.3	292	46.3	254	31.9	218	38.7	236
Moccasin Elementary	50.6	355	52.8	341	57.4	344	42.3	326	39.9	341
Ottawa Elementary	33.7	298	32.9	299	30.1	298	25.5	282	36.1	292

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

**Percentage of Elementary School Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunches
in Berrien County
1991-1996**

School District/ Building	1991-1992		1992-1993		1993-1994		1994-1995		1995-1996	
	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment
<u>Coloma Community Schools</u>										
Coloma Elementary	47.1	503	53.9	503	49.6	480	73.2	479	64.6	467
Washington Elementary	46.2	461	51.1	470	50.4	466	57.4	452	49.6	454
<u>Eau Claire Public Schools</u>										
Lybrook Elementary	66.7	351	68.4	476	66.8	424	65.1	444	67.9	457
<u>Gallen Township School District</u>										
Wolford Elementary	20.2	312	28.0	296	23.3	309	27.1	298	26.4	262
<u>Hagar Township School District</u>										
Hagar Township School (K-8)	0.0	67	0.0	60	0.0	56	0.0	60	0.0	51
<u>New Buffalo Area School District</u>										
New Buffalo Elementary	35.2	339	37.1	325	36.6	290	39.4	299	43.5	301
<u>Niles Community School District</u>										
Ballard Elementary	43.5	742	44.2	725	44.0	748	48.3	792	42.9	765
Eastside Elementary	37.2	475	44.1	464	44.3	444	50.1	392	54.4	371
James Ellis Elementary	37.1	213	38.5	182	47.7	168	34.6	172	47.9	189
Howard Elementary	38.0	546	40.1	563	41.5	561	44.6	512	41.1	493
Northside Elementary	57.0	161	46.3	170	51.2	156	57.2	166	62.9	147
Oak Manor Elementary	57.8	325	61.3	316	57.7	323	61.5	314	58.5	348

Source: Michigan Department of Education

**Percentage of Elementary School Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunches
in Berrien County
1991-1996**

School District/ Building	1991-1992		1992-1993		1993-1994		1994-1995		1995-1996	
	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment	% of students	Enrollment
<u>Sodus Township School District #5</u>										
River School	0.0	66	0.0	69	0.0	71	0.0	73	0.0	77
<u>Stevensville-Lakeshore School District</u>										
Hollywood Elementary	16.9	439	18.9	473	21.9	461	20.2	455	20.1	452
Roosevelt Elementary	11.8	481	11.2	495	14.4	513	11.5	487	15.8	500
Stewart Elementary	11.0	440	12.5	455	13.9	445	17.2	449	15.4	478
<u>St. Joseph Public School District</u>										
Brown Elementary	12.8	353	11.2	350	8.7	281	7.1	294	6.6	275
E P Clarke Elementary	6.1	405	6.3	412	6.7	356	2.7	384	7.2	391
Jefferson Elementary	0.0	n.a.	0.0	n.a.	0.0	198	0.0	188	0.0	192
Lincoln Elementary	17.1	402	13.0	415	15.9	364	21.3	375	19.7	366
<u>Three Oaks-River Valley School District</u>										
Chikaming Elementary	14.7	227	12.0	218	13.3	n/a	15.8	278	22.4	258
New Troy Elementary	24.7	231	27.7	184	29.3	n/a	34.8	179	35.4	173
Three Oaks Elementary	22.4	261	24.2	281	23.5	n/a	32.2	260	46.8	301
<u>Watervliet School District</u>										
North Elementary	38.4	352	34.3	351	39.3	330	53.4	286	46.6	297
South Elementary School	32.7	326	28.0	369	35.0	343	46.1	313	51.3	431

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

Ability to be Economically Self-Supporting

**Characteristic Comparisons of MESA Applicants
Berrien County and Comparable Counties
January 1996 - January 1997**

	January 1996			January 1997			Change from 96-97	
	Applicants without a high school degree			Applicants without a high school degree			Change in number of applicants	
Counties	Total Applicants	Percentage		Total Applicants	Percentage		Percentage	
Berrien	3,887	20,896	18.6%	4,281	24,396	17.5%	395	10.2%
Calhoun	6,713	51,509	13.0%	5,659	48,160	11.8%	-1,054	-15.7%
Jackson	5,860	41,482	14.1%	7,329	50,519	14.5%	1,470	25.1%
Muskegon	5,188	38,497	13.5%	4,060	31,005	13.1%	-1,128	-21.7%
Saginaw	14,201	74,667	19.0%	17,045	90,622	18.8%	2,845	20.0%
	Applicants expecting \$7 per hour or less			Applicants expecting \$7 per hour or less			Change in number of applicants	
Counties	Total Applicants	Percentage		Total Applicants	Percentage		Percentage	
Berrien	12,630	20,896	60.4%	13,752	24,396	56.4%	1,122	8.9%
Calhoun	31,629	51,509	61.4%	26,346	48,160	54.7%	-5,283	-16.7%
Jackson	26,734	41,482	64.4%	28,253	50,519	55.9%	1,520	5.7%
Muskegon	23,987	38,497	62.3%	17,848	31,005	57.6%	-6,139	-25.6%
Saginaw	55,935	74,667	74.9%	66,432	90,622	73.3%	10,498	18.8%
	Applicants with less than 6 mos. work experience			Applicants with less than 6 mos. work experience			Change in number of applicants	
Counties	Total Applicants	Percentage		Total Applicants	Percentage		Percentage	
Berrien	5,194	20,896	24.9%	6,591	24,396	27.0%	1,397	26.9%
Calhoun	19,886	51,509	38.6%	16,512	48,160	34.3%	-3,374	-17.0%
Jackson	11,165	41,482	26.9%	12,327	50,519	24.4%	1,163	10.4%
Muskegon	13,122	38,497	34.1%	8,670	31,005	28.0%	-4,452	-33.9%
Saginaw	28,886	74,667	38.7%	34,621	90,622	38.2%	5,735	19.9%

Source: MESA.

**PERCENTAGE OF 4th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP
SCORES BY BUILDING**

School District/ Building	Math	Story	Info	Enrollment	Average of 3 tests	Weighted Average
<u>Berrien ISD Average Bldg. Data</u>						
1995-1996	62.3	77.0	48.9	n.a	62.7	31.4
1994-1995	67.4	72.8	50.4	n.a	63.5	19.1
1993-1994	48.6	73.7	45.1	n.a	55.8	11.2
Composite Scores 1996-1993						61.6
<u>Benton Harbor Area Schools</u>						
<u>Academic Academy (K-6)</u>						
1995-1996	9.1	27.3	9.1	26	15.2	7.6
1994-1995	33.3	36.1	13.9	49	27.8	8.3
1993-1994	4.2	6.3	2.1	50	4.2	0.8
Composite Scores 1996-1993						16.8
<u>Bard Elementary</u>						
1995-1996	42.9	42.9	21.4	17	35.7	17.9
1994-1995	52.9	41.2	41.2	21	45.1	13.5
1993-1994	32.0	28.0	0.0	25	20.0	4.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						35.4
<u>Boynnton Montessori Program</u>						
1995-1996	61.5	88.5	53.8	29	67.9	34.0
1994-1995	63.3	73.3	76.7	33	71.1	21.3
1993-1994	34.5	51.7	34.5	29	40.2	8.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						63.3
<u>Calvin Britain Elementary</u>						
1995-1996	55.6	58.3	19.4	43	44.4	22.2
1994-1995	7.9	26.3	2.6	46	12.3	3.7
1993-1994	7.7	5.1	2.6	45	5.1	1.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						26.9
<u>Creative Arts Academy</u>						
1995-1996	54.2	91.7	33.3	25	59.7	29.9
1994-1995	60.0	80.0	56.0	25	65.3	19.6
1993-1994	60.0	72.0	48.0	26	60.0	12.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						61.5
<u>Fair Plain Northeast Elementary</u>						
1995-1996	4.8	33.3	4.8	19	14.3	7.2
1994-1995	36.4	40.9	31.8	25	36.4	10.9
1993-1994	21.7	43.5	26.1	29	30.4	6.1
Composite Scores 1996-1993						24.1
<u>Fair Plain West Elementary</u>						
1995-1996	68.3	82.9	63.4	52	71.5	35.8
1994-1995	84.6	79.5	74.4	47	79.5	23.9
1993-1994	18.6	65.1	23.3	48	35.7	7.1
Composite Scores 1996-1993						66.8

Source: Michigan Department of Education

**PERCENTAGE OF 4th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP
SCORES BY BUILDING**

School District/ Building	Math	Story	Info	Enrollment	Average of 3 tests	Weighted Average
Gifted and Talented Academy						
1995-1996	100.0	96.0	76.0	25	90.7	45.3
1994-1995	85.2	88.9	74.1	27	82.7	24.8
1993-1994	71.4	71.4	64.3	31	69.0	13.8
Composite Scores 1996-1993						84.0
Henry C. Morton Elementary						
1995-1996	66.7	76.2	59.5	46	67.5	33.7
1994-1995	37.1	40.0	25.7	42	34.3	10.3
1993-1994	58.3	66.7	66.7	31	63.9	12.8
Composite Scores 1996-1993						56.8
Hull Elementary						
1995-1996	29.2	73.8	40.0	73	47.7	23.8
1994-1995	41.7	55.0	45.0	75	47.2	14.2
1993-1994	12.5	32.8	14.1	74	19.8	4.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						42.0
Martindale Elementary						
1995-1996	39.1	43.5	13.0	22	31.9	15.9
1994-1995	76.5	64.7	47.1	22	62.8	18.8
1993-1994	40.0	75.0	35.0	25	50.0	10.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						44.8
Sorter Elementary						
1995-1996	42.9	67.9	3.6	31	38.1	19.1
1994-1995	73.5	49.0	57.1	50	59.9	18.0
1993-1994	56.8	52.3	34.1	45	47.7	9.5
Composite Scores 1996-1993						46.6
Sterne Brunson Elementary						
1995-1996	15.2	23.9	2.2	55	13.8	6.9
1994-1995	55.9	58.8	29.4	51	48.0	14.4
1993-1994	26.1	63.0	21.7	54	36.9	7.4
Composite Scores 1996-1993						28.7
Berrien Springs Public Schools						
Sylvester Elementary						
1995-1996	72.7	78.2	51.8	126	67.6	33.8
1994-1995	75.8	85.7	53.8	120	71.8	21.5
1993-1994	63.7	76.9	50.5	103	63.7	12.7
Composite Scores 1996-1993						68.1
Brandywine Public Schools						
Brandywine Elementary						
1995-1996	71.0	87.9	56.1	126	71.7	35.8
1994-1995	74.0	77.9	47.1	112	66.3	19.9
1993-1994	64.9	73.0	55.0	122	64.3	12.9
Composite Scores 1996-1993						68.6

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

**PERCENTAGE OF 4th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP
SCORES BY BUILDING**

School District/ Building	Math	Story	Info	Enrollment	Average of 3 tests	Weighted Average
<u>Bridgman Public Schools</u>						
Bridgman Elementary						
1995-1996	49.0	78.4	31.4	60	52.9	26.5
1994-1995	60.8	63.5	45.9	75	56.7	17.0
1993-1994	40.0	72.3	43.1	71	51.8	10.4
Composite Scores 1996-1993						53.8
<u>Buchanan Community Schools</u>						
H.C. Stark Elementary						
1995-1996	77.8	70.4	37.0	32	61.7	30.9
1994-1995	45.5	65.9	40.9	44	50.8	15.2
1993-1994	44.0	72.0	44.0	29	53.3	10.7
Composite Scores 1996-1993						56.8
Moccasin Elementary						
1995-1996	72.7	59.1	43.2	49	58.3	29.2
1994-1995	78.0	73.2	43.9	48	65.0	19.5
1993-1994	40.0	64.0	30.0	51	44.7	8.9
Composite Scores 1996-1993						57.6
Ottawa Elementary						
1995-1996	80.8	75.0	59.6	52	71.8	35.9
1994-1995	86.0	83.7	58.1	49	75.9	22.8
1993-1994	59.2	79.6	49.0	55	62.6	12.5
Composite Scores 1996-1993						71.2
<u>Coloma Community Schools</u>						
Washington Elementary (K-4)						
1995-1996	60.9	81.4	39.1	94	60.5	30.2
1994-1995	64.3	72.9	47.1	79	61.4	18.4
1993-1994	52.6	73.1	52.6	86	59.4	11.9
Composite Scores 1996-1993						60.6
Coloma Elementary (PreK-4)						
1995-1996	78.3	84.1	55.1	88	72.5	36.3
1994-1995	75.3	75.3	46.8	87	65.8	19.7
1993-1994	52.6	69.5	31.6	105	51.2	10.2
Composite Scores 1996-1993						66.2
<u>Eau Claire Public Schools</u>						
Lybrook Elementary						
1995-1996	45.8	71.2	45.8	75	54.3	27.1
1994-1995	59.6	63.8	31.9	61	51.8	15.5
1993-1994	45.6	73.7	35.1	71	51.5	10.3
Composite Scores 1996-1993						53.0

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

**PERCENTAGE OF 4th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP SCORES
BY BUILDING**

<u>School District/ Building</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Story</u>	<u>Info</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Average of 3 tests</u>	<u>Weighted Average</u>
<u>Galiien Township School District</u>						
Wolford Elementary						
1995-1996	48.1	70.4	51.9	32	56.8	28.4
1994-1995	40.0	62.5	45.0	44	49.2	14.8
1993-1994	31.0	62.1	37.9	36	43.7	8.7
Composite Scores 1996-1993						51.9
<u>Hagar Township School District</u>						
Hagar Township School (K-8)						
1995-1996	75.0	100.0	50.0	n.a.	75.0	37.5
1994-1995	66.7	83.3	33.3	10	61.1	18.3
1993-1994	25.0	100.0	0.0	4	41.7	8.3
Composite Scores 1996-1993						64.2
<u>New Buffalo Area School District</u>						
New Buffalo Elementary						
1995-1996	53.3	70.0	46.7	38	56.7	28.3
1994-1995	83.3	81.0	33.3	43	65.9	19.8
1993-1994	65.7	85.7	45.7	39	65.7	13.1
Composite Scores 1996-1993						61.2
<u>Niles Community School District</u>						
Ballard Elementary						
1995-1996	68.7	81.8	60.6	111	70.4	35.2
1994-1995	84.3	75.3	48.3	103	69.3	20.8
1993-1994	51.9	65.4	47.1	109	54.8	11.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						66.9
Eastside Elementary						
1995-1996	73.5	75.0	38.3	58	62.3	31.1
1994-1995	63.3	61.2	49.0	60	57.8	17.4
1993-1994	60.9	78.3	71.7	52	70.3	14.1
Composite Scores 1996-1993						62.5
Howard Elementary						
1995-1996	55.1	73.0	44.9	109	57.7	28.8
1994-1995	62.1	69.5	46.3	107	59.3	17.8
1993-1994	47.2	68.2	43.8	101	53.1	10.6
Composite Scores 1996-1993						57.2
Oak Manor Elementary						
1995-1996	74.4	97.4	76.9	43	82.9	41.5
1994-1995	82.1	84.6	61.5	47	76.1	22.8
1993-1994	30.4	87.0	87.0	49	68.1	13.6
Composite Scores 1996-1993						77.9

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

**PERCENTAGE OF 4th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP SCORES
BY BUILDING**

School District/ Building	Math	Story	Info	Enrollment	Average of 3 tests	Weighted Average
<u>Sodus Township School District #5</u>						
River School (K-8)						
1995-1996	33.3	66.7	22.2	12	40.7	20.4
1994-1995	100.0	100.0	66.7	7	88.9	26.7
1993-1994	20.0	60.0	20.0	12	33.3	6.7
Composite Scores 1996-1993						
<u>Stevensville-Lakeshore School District</u>						
Hollywood Elementary						
1995-1996	66.1	78.6	64.3	59	69.7	34.8
1994-1995	62.9	75.7	54.3	75	64.3	19.3
1993-1994	62.0	78.5	59.5	79	66.7	13.3
Composite Scores 1996-1993						67.5
Roosevelt Elementary						
1995-1996	69.9	83.6	65.8	80	73.1	36.6
1994-1995	76.8	82.9	61.0	73	73.6	22.1
1993-1994	68.9	77.0	62.2	78	69.4	13.9
Composite Scores 1996-1993						72.5
Stewart Elementary						
1995-1996	64.1	87.2	60.3	82	70.5	35.3
1994-1995	73.0	86.5	70.3	84	76.6	23.0
1993-1994	61.4	86.0	64.9	57	70.8	14.2
Composite Scores 1996-1993						72.4
<u>St. Joseph Public School District</u>						
Brown Elementary						
1995-1996	80.4	96.1	70.6	56	82.4	41.2
1994-1995	69.2	98.1	63.5	56	76.9	23.1
1993-1994	64.6	81.3	68.8	53	71.6	14.3
Composite Scores 1996-1993						78.6
E P Clarke Elementary						
1995-1996	69.5	89.0	54.9	82	71.1	35.6
1994-1995	74.4	84.1	68.3	84	75.6	22.7
1993-1994	65.6	82.0	76.7	68	74.8	15.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						73.2
Lincoln Elementary						
1995-1996	63.5	89.2	50.0	81	67.6	33.8
1994-1995	82.4	92.6	61.8	71	78.9	23.7
1993-1994	72.0	84.0	62.7	76	72.9	14.6
Composite Scores 1996-1993						72.0

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

**PERCENTAGE OF 4th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP SCORES
BY BUILDING**

School District/ Building	Math	Story	Info	Enrollment	Average of 3 tests	Weighted Average
<u>Three Oaks-River Valley School District</u>						
Chikaming Elementary						
1995-1996	78.9	84.2	57.9	41	73.7	36.8
1994-1995	93.8	78.1	75.0	40	82.3	24.7
1993-1994	69.2	69.2	56.4	n.a.	64.9	13.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						74.5
New Troy Elementary						
1995-1996	21.4	78.6	42.9	14	47.6	23.8
1994-1995	76.9	92.3	38.5	19	69.2	20.8
1993-1994	42.9	78.6	35.7	n.a.	52.4	10.5
Composite Scores 1996-1993						55.1
Three Oaks Elementary						
1995-1996	78.9	84.2	57.9	43	73.7	36.8
1994-1995	66.7	78.8	42.4	36	62.6	18.8
1993-1994	59.5	75.7	59.5	n.a.	64.9	13.0
Composite Scores 1996-1993						68.6
<u>Watervliet School District</u>						
North Elementary						
1995-1996	62.7	68.7	45.8	96	59.1	29.5
1994-1995	70.6	76.5	54.1	95	67.1	20.1
1993-1994	48.5	80.4	41.7	108	56.9	11.4
Composite Scores 1996-1993						61.0

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

**PERCENTAGE OF 7th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP SCORES
BY BUILDING**

Building/District/ISD	Math	Story	Info	Enrollment	Average of 3 tests	Weighted Average
<u>Berrien ISD Average Bldg. Data</u>						
1995-1996	49.8	65.2	37.5	n.a.	50.8	25.4
1994-1995	46.7	59.2	38.8	n.a.	48.2	14.5
1993-1994	42.4	66.7	39.1	n.a.	49.4	9.9
Composite Scores 1996-1993						49.8
<u>Benton Harbor Area Schools</u>						
Fair Plain Jr. High School						
1995-1996	1.7	26.7	1.7	139	10	5
1994-1995	4	19	2	198	8.3	2.5
1993-1994	0.7	29.1	0	241	9.9	2
Composite Scores 1996-1993						9.5
King Preparatory Center						
1995-1996	3.5	24.8	5.7	174	11.3	5.7
1994-1995	2	18.4	3.1	185	7.8	2.4
1993-1994	1.9	15.2	2.5	223	6.5	1.3
Composite Scores 1996-1993						9.3
McCord Junior High School						
1995-1996	36.2	65.4	22.3	145	41.3	20.7
1994-1995	33.8	56.4	21.1	142	37.1	11.1
1993-1994	25.6	53.2	28.2	166	35.7	7.1
Composite Scores 1996-1993						38.9
<u>Berrien Springs Public Schools</u>						
Berrien Springs Middle School						
1995-1996	57.5	67	39.6	127	54.7	27.4
1994-1995	56.1	72.4	50.4	141	59.6	17.9
1993-1994	43.9	71.7	45.9	140	53.8	10.8
Composite Scores 1996-1993						56
<u>Brandywine Public Schools</u>						
Brandywine Jr.-Sr. High						
1995-1996	61.5	69.6	50.4	136	60.5	30.3
1994-1995	39.6	53.2	30.6	113	41.1	12.3
1993-1994	35.7	62.7	44.4	142	47.6	9.5
Composite Scores 1996-1993						52.1

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

**PERCENTAGE OF 7th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP SCORES
BY BUILDING**

Building/District/ISD	Math	Story	Info	Enrollment	Average of 3 tests	Weighted Average
<u>Bridgman Public Schools</u>						
F.C. Reed Middle School						
1995-1996	59.6	82.7	57.7	68	66.7	33.3
1994-1995	55.1	59.4	37.7	70	50.7	15.2
1993-1994	54.7	79.7	40.6	71	58.3	11.7
Composite Scores 1996-1993						60.2
<u>Buchanan Community Schools</u>						
Buchanan Middle School						
1995-1996	60.7	77	50	132	62.6	31.3
1994-1995	56.6	67.1	45.5	160	56.4	16.9
1993-1994	34.7	57.6	36.8	153	43	8.6
Composite Scores 1996-1993						56.8
<u>Coloma Community Schools</u>						
Coloma Middle School-South						
1995-1996	42.2	62.7	31.1	201	45.3	22.7
1994-1995	55.2	59.7	38.9	154	51.3	15.4
1993-1994	32.4	53.5	29.4	161	38.4	7.7
MS South and North wtd 93-94	42.8	62	39.4		48.1	9.6
Composite Scores 1996-1993						47.7
	FOR BOTH MIDDLE SCHOOLS					
Coloma Middle School-North						
1995-1996						
1994-1995						
1993-1994	83	91.5	74.5	47	83	16.6
Composite Scores 1996-1993						
<u>Eau Claire Public Schools</u>						
Eau Claire High (gr. 7-12)						
1995-1996	50	72.6	40.3	72	54.3	27.2
1994-1995	27.8	36.1	22.2	76	28.7	8.6
1993-1994	25	52	16	79	31	6.2
Composite Scores 1996-1993						42

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

**PERCENTAGE OF 7th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP SCORES
BY BUILDING**

Building/District/ISD	Math	Story	Info	Enrollment	Average of 3 tests	Weighted Average
<u>Galien Township School District</u>						
Galien Township Jr. Sr. High						
1995-1996	40.9	63.6	38.6	49	47.7	23.9
1994-1995	20.9	58.1	32.6	45	37.2	11.2
1993-1994	18.9	64.9	35.1	46	39.6	7.9
Composite Scores 1996-1993						42.9
<u>Hagar Township School District</u>						
Hagar Township School (K-8)						
1995-1996	50	62.5	37.5	n.a.	50	25
1994-1995	25	62.5	62.5	9	50	15
1993-1994	40	80	40	5	53.3	10.7
Composite Scores 1996-1993						50.7
<u>New Buffalo Area School District</u>						
New Buffalo Jr.-Sr. High School						
1995-1996	48.8	68.2	47.7	49	54.9	27.5
1994-1995	51.8	78.2	35.2	65	55.1	16.5
1993-1994	45.3	82.8	50	69	59.4	11.9
Composite Scores 1996-1993						55.8
<u>Niles Community School District</u>						
Ring Lardner Junior High						
1995-1996	58.7	71.4	39	323	56.4	28.2
1994-1995	48	63.7	43.5	360	51.7	15.5
1993-1994	30.2	65.2	35	317	43.5	8.7
Composite Scores 1996-1993						52.4
<u>Stevensville-Lakeshore School Distr.</u>						
Lakeshore Junior School (gr 6-8)						
1995-1996	69.4	73.6	45.5	246	62.8	31.4
1994-1995	67	70.9	59.9	195	65.9	19.8
1993-1994	54.8	76.6	56.9	206	62.8	12.6
Composite Scores 1996-1993						63.8

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

**PERCENTAGE OF 7th GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY MEAP SCORES
BY BUILDING**

Building/District/ISD	Math	Story	Info	Enrollment	Average of 3 tests	Weighted Average
<u>St. Joseph Public School District</u>						
Upton Middle School						
1995-1996	77.8	81.5	64.4	201	74.6	37.3
1994-1995	71.7	75.1	62.7	217	69.8	21
1993-1994	57.1	84.8	51.9	212	64.6	12.9
Composite Scores 1996-1993						71.2
<u>Three Oaks-River Valley School District</u>						
River Valley Middle School						
1995-1996	50.6	62.1	34.5	95	49.1	24.5
1994-1995	44.4	55.2	36.8	97	45.5	13.6
1993-1994	41.4	67.8	40.2		49.8	10
Composite Scores 1996-1993						48.1
<u>Watervliet School District</u>						
Watervliet Jr-Sr. High School						
1995-1996	48.4	75.8	34.7	105	53	26.5
1994-1995	43.8	61.8	32.6	101	46.1	13.8
1993-1994	41.4	75.9	42.5	93	53.3	10.7
Composite Scores 1996-1993						51

Source: Michigan Department of Education.

Health Status

**Maternal Health and Well-Being
Michigan, Berrien County, and Comparable Counties
1991-1995**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Low Weight Live Births (Ratio per 1,000 Live Births)					
Michigan	78.3	75.3	76.7	78.1	77.2
Berrien County	85.2	83.2	78.2	88.4	80.0
Calhoun County	85.9	76.1	74.4	75.7	74.9
Jackson County	69.0	64.4	65.5	75.1	63.5
Muskegon County	79.4	64.5	69.1	69.2	78.5
Saginaw County	92.8	95.1	95.9	87.1	95.1
Inadequate Prenatal Care (Percent of Total Live Births)					
Michigan	7.3	9.2	9.4	9.4	9.1
Berrien County	11	10.7	11.3	11.8	10.1
Calhoun County	6.7	5.6	4.4	5.8	4.3
Jackson County	11.8	13.1	13.6	16.4	15.6
Muskegon County	7.8	7.8	5.5	6.6	9.7
Saginaw County	8.4	10.4	7.8	5	4.8

Sources: Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department.

Note: Low weight births are those less than 2500 grams.

Note: The Kessner Index is a classification of prenatal care based on the month of pregnancy prenatal care began, the number of prenatal visits, and the length of pregnancy. The "percent" is the percent of total live births determined to receive inadequate prenatal care.

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Michigan, Berrien County, and Comparable Counties
1993 - 1996**

	1993	1994	1995	1996
Gonorrhea (Rate per 100,000 Population)				
Michigan	193.8	196.0	196.0	164.0
Berrien County	373.7	398.4	423.8	351.3
Calhoun County	180.2	230.2	218.4	327.2
Jackson County	98.8	158.3	108.2	102.8
Muskegon County	468.0	281.2	243.4	259.8
Saginaw County	358.1	362.4	361.9	346.3
Chlamydia (Rate per 100,000 Population)				
Michigan	51.4	190.3	233.1	214.7
Berrien County	62.0	249.7	205.7	172.3
Calhoun County	5.1	272.1	235.3	289.0
Jackson County	62.8	259.1	259.1	230.4
Muskegon County	163.5	303.1	378.7	445.3
Saginaw County	108.0	396.3	360.5	459.6
Syphilis (Rate per 100,000 Population)				
Michigan	21.0	13.3	13.0	9.2
Berrien County	58.2	34.7	27.9	15.5
Calhoun County	1.5	6.6	33.8	3.7
Jackson County	19.4	16.7	8.7	6.7
Muskegon County	84.9	18.9	10.1	3.8
Saginaw County	14.6	20.8	42.5	24.5

Sources: Division of Disease Control, Michigan Department of Community Health;
Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department.

Note: Chlamydia became a reportable disease in Michigan in 1992.

Rates per 100,000 based on the population figures from the 1990 Census.

Civility and Citizenship

**Alcohol and Drug Related Offenses
Berrien County and Comparable Counties
1990-1995**

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Number of Offenses						
Berrien County	3,582	3,494	3,207	2,837	2,644	2,556
Calhoun County	1,851	2,164	2,005	1,789	2,023	1,824
Jackson County	2,217	2,034	1,469	1,438	1,713	2,086
Muskegon County	2,155	1,927	1,929	1,790	1,576	1,603
Saginaw County	2,720	2,552	1,899	2,188	2,281	2,017
Crime Rates per 100,000						
Berrien County	2,220	2,165	1,985	1,755	1,634	1,580
Calhoun County	1,358	1,576	1,450	1,286	1,446	1,308
Jackson County	1,477	1,346	969	942	1,121	1,360
Muskegon County	1,355	1,199	1,191	1,100	964	979
Saginaw County	1,283	1,202	894	1,031	1,075	953

Source: 1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports, Michigan State Police; Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Note: Alcohol and drug related crimes include violation of alcohol and narcotic laws, as well as driving under the influence.

Calculation of crime rates per 100,000 are based upon number of offenses and population estimates for each respective year.

**Vandalism, Disorderly Conduct, and Other Associated Crimes
Berrien County and Comparable Counties
1990-1995**

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Number of Offenses						
Berrien County	10,377	10,336	10,899	10,927	10,700	9,864
Calhoun County	5,330	6,077	6,698	5,785	5,789	5,417
Jackson County	10,612	10,922	9,917	8,142	8,578	9,555
Muskegon County	7,119	7,628	8,061	7,851	8,530	8,112
Saginaw County	15,195	13,851	14,107	13,819	13,850	13,519
Crime Rates (per 100,000)						
Berrien County	6,431	6,406	6,747	6,758	6,611	6,099
Calhoun County	3,910	4,425	4,845	4,157	4,139	3,884
Jackson County	7,069	7,229	6,542	5,335	5,616	6,227
Muskegon County	4,478	4,745	4,978	4,823	5,216	4,957
Saginaw County	7,169	6,523	6,642	6,512	6,526	6,385

Source: 1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports, Michigan State Police; Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Note: Associated crimes include drunkenness and vagrancy among others.

Calculation of crime rates per 100,000 are based upon number of offenses and population estimates for each respective year.

Quality of Private Family Life

**Number of Cases of Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect
Berrien County and Comparable Counties
1991-1996**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Berrien County	835	776	728	679	715	836
Calhoun County	862	419	569	556	419	738
Jackson County	382	421	307	322	278	336
Muskegon County	521	386	416	454	357	554
Saginaw County	776	758	665	923	672	660

Sources: Berrien County FIA; the Michigan Family Independence Agency, Office of Communications.

Note: "Cases" actually refers to the unduplicated number of victims. The numbers as shown are absolute numbers and are not weighted by population.

Domestic Assault Cases. Berrien County 1994 - 1995		
Offenses	1994	1995
Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter	1	1
Parental Kidnapping	1	3
Sexual Abuse/Contact	28	11
Robbery	4	1
Non-Aggravated Assault	644	847
Aggravated Assault	116	132
Burglary, Unlawful Entry	0	1
Damage to Property	1	5
Family Offense Child Abuse	87	51
Weapons Offense-Concealed	1	0
Total Offenses	883	1052

Source: *Domestic Assault Cases Victimization Report*, Michigan State Police.

Note: Assist and incomplete incidents are not included. Figures may be understated due to incomplete jurisdiction reporting.

**Offenses Against Family and Children
Berrien County and Comparable Counties
1990 - 1995**

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Number of Offenses						
Berrien County	1136	1062	1041	643	526	435
Calhoun County	4	15	31	201	35	49
Jackson County	2	2	1	6	118	71
Muskegon County	91	120	184	141	184	269
Saginaw County	414	721	1210	1661	1854	1847
Crime Rate (per 100,000)						
Berrien County	704.0	658.2	644.4	397.7	325.0	269.0
Calhoun County	2.9	10.9	22.4	144.4	25.0	35.1
Jackson County	1.3	1.3	0.7	3.9	77.3	46.3
Muskegon County	57.2	74.7	113.6	86.6	112.5	164.4
Saginaw County	195.3	339.5	569.7	782.8	873.6	872.3

Sources: 1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports, Michigan State Police; Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Note: Crimes against family and children are defined as any non-violent offense by a member of a family which threatens the unity of the family, the physical or economic welfare or the morals of the family.

Crime rates per 100,000 are weighted by the estimated population for each respective year.

APPENDIX B

DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

Material Well-Being

Indicator	Definition	Data Source
Employment Growth	Increase (decrease) in number of jobs based upon place of work and not where the employee lives.	Area Labor Statistics 1991-1996 Michigan Employment Security Agency MESA
Percent of the Population Receiving Food Stamps	The monthly average number of food stamp recipients in each county as a percent of total population. Each comparable county's numbers were weighted by population estimates on a yearly basis and then averaged to arrive at a composite number.	Berrien County Family Independence Agency; Michigan Family Independence Agency; Michigan Department of Management and Budget
Number of Eviction Notices	Yearly number of eviction notices filed due to nonpayment of rent or the renter's inappropriate behavior	Berrien County Courthouse, Landlord and Tenants Division
Number of New Homeless Individuals	The number of new homeless individuals seen each year by Emergency Shelter Services. This does not include "the repeaters"; those who had received services, found more permanent shelter, and then become homeless once again.	Emergency Shelter Services
Residential Gas Disconnections	The disruption and/or termination of gas utility services. Based upon occurrence, this data may include more than one disconnection to the same residence.	Michigan Gas Utilities
Percent of Students Receiving Free and Reduced Price Lunches	The percentage of students eligible to participate in the school lunch program at no cost or at a reduced cost. Eligibility is determined by federal guidelines through a review of the family's financial resources.	Michigan Department of Education website (http://www.mde.state.mi.us/gopher/)
Number of Elderly Individuals Receiving Home Delivered Means-tested Services	The number of elderly individuals who qualify for means-tested services such as home delivered meals, homemakers, and home health aides. Qualification for these services is based upon income guidelines.	Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Annual Percent Change in Income Maintenance Benefit Payments Relative to Comparable Counties	The annual percent change weighted by population. Income maintenance benefit payments include: SSI, AFDC, Food Stamps, and others (emergency assistance, foster care payments, earned income tax credits, and energy assistance benefits).	Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget
Income Maintenance Benefit Payments as a Percentage of Total Personal Income	Annual income maintenance benefit payments divided by total personal income for each county. Results for the comparison counties were weighted by population to arrive at a composite figure.	Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget

The Ability to be Economically Self-Supporting

Indicator	Definition	Data Source
Unemployment	Both the rate and the number of individuals unemployed. It is a measure of the number of area residents who are without jobs and actively looking for employment.	<i>Area Labor Statistics</i> , Michigan Employment Security Agency
Characteristics of Area Job Seekers	Job seekers are individuals registered with the MESA who are either unemployed, underemployed, or fully employed but looking for a better position. The increase/decrease in applicants, work experience, wage expectations, and educational attainment of the applicants in the MESA offices in each respective county is tabulated and compared. The data is not weighted by population.	Michigan Employment Security Agency
Availability of Affordable Child Care	Availability of providers within 24 hours notice as well as the market rate (per week) of care. Due to a database which continuously updates, only the current (as of March 21, 1997) capacity utilization is available.	Child Care Resources
High School Completion Rates	The percentage of 9th graders who will complete their senior year and graduate; this is a four-year rate as defined by the Michigan Department of Education.	Michigan Department of Education website (http://www.mde.state.mi.us/gopher/)
7th Grade MEAP Scores	MEAP scores for each middle and/or junior high school in every school district in the Berrien ISD for the 1993-94, 94-95, and 95-96 school years were collected. The three year weighted score for each building is the summation of the most current test results multiplied by 0.5, the previous year by 0.3 and the earlier year by 0.2. (Please note: not all schools reported for each year)	Michigan Department of Education website (http://www.mde.state.mi.us/gopher/)
4th Grade MEAP Scores	MEAP scores for each elementary school in every school district in the Berrien ISD for the 1993-94, 94-95, and 95-96 school years were collected. The three year weighted score for each building is the summation of the most current test results multiplied by 0.5, the previous year by 0.3 and the earlier year by 0.2. (Please note: not all schools reported for each year)	Michigan Department of Education website (http://www.mde.state.mi.us/gopher/)
Pupil-Teacher Ratios	Total number of enrolled students divided by the number of full-time equivalent teachers.	Michigan Department of Education Bulletin 1014 website (http://www.mde.state.mi.us/gopher/)

Health Status

Indicator	Definition	Data Source
Number of Live Births Receiving Inadequate Prenatal Care	Inadequate prenatal care is determined by use of the Kessner Index. The Kessner Index is a classification of prenatal care based on the month of pregnancy prenatal care began, the number of prenatal visits, and the length of pregnancy	Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department
Number of Low Weight Live Births	The number of low weight live births (less than 2,500 grams) in Berrien County	Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department
Low Weight Live Births Compared to Similar Counties	The rate per 1,00 live births of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams for Michigan, Berrien County and four comparable counties	Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department
Number of Individuals Seeking Assistance for Selected Acute Mental Health Problems	The acute mental health problems/disorders were chosen in order to reflect environmental stressors and individuals' responses to these stressors. The types and descriptions for these disorders were obtained from the DSM-IV.	Riverwood Center
Rate of Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Rates are per 100,00 population and were weighted by population for the comparable counties in order to arrive at a composite figure. Sexually transmitted diseases include Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Syphilis.	Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget
Number of Elderly Individuals Screened for Eligibility for Home Based Services	Most "screens" (also referred to as "pre-screens") are conducted over the phone. The majority of contacts are family and friends of the elderly individual. The screens are conducted in order to: 1) identify nursing home eligibility; and 2) determine basic financial need.	Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Utilization Rate of Nursing Homes in the County	Capacity utilization rates are calculated by dividing patient days by licensed bed days. The total patient days of all nursing homes reporting patients was divided by their total number of licensed bed days to arrive at a rate for the county.	Office of the State Registrar & Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health

Physical Security

Indicator	Definition	Data Source
Violent Crimes	The number of offenses reported for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. These numbers may be understated due to incomplete jurisdictional reporting.	<i>1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports</i> , Michigan State Police
Property Crimes	The number of offenses reported for burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson. These numbers may be understated due to incomplete jurisdictional reporting.	<i>1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports</i> , Michigan State Police
Juvenile Arrests	Includes arrests for both violent and property crimes. These numbers may be understated due to incomplete jurisdictional reporting.	<i>1990-1994 Uniform Crime Reports</i> , Michigan State Police

Civility and Citizenship

Indicator	Definition	Data Source
Rate of Vandalism, Disorderly Conduct and Other Associated Crimes	The rate per 100,000 of vandalism, disorderly conduct and other associated crimes weighted by population for the four comparison counties. Other associated crimes include drunkenness and vagrancy, among others.	<i>1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports</i> , Michigan State Police; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget
Crime Rates for Alcohol and Drug Related Offenses	The rate per 100,000 of alcohol and drug related offenses weighted by population for the four comparison counties. These rates include violation of narcotic and liquor laws and driving under the influence.	<i>1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports</i> , Michigan State Police; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget
Number of Formal Petitions Filed in Juvenile Court	Formal petitions are for offenses of a more serious nature for which a court date has been set. This is in contrast to petitions filed for status offenses such as truancy or incorrigibility.	Berrien County Courthouse, Juvenile Court Division
Involvement in the Schools	The number of parents and/or guardians attending teacher conferences at area schools.	Berrien County School Districts' Annual Education Reports

Quality of Private Family Life

Indicator	Definition	Data Source
Number of Children Enrolled and on the Waiting List for Head Start	The number of children aged 3 and 4 who are either enrolled in the Head Start Program in Berrien County or who have been accepted but are waiting for an available opening within their area.	Tri-County Head Start
Number of Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect Cases	The rate per 100,000 of suspected child abuse/neglect cases weighted by population for the four comparison counties. "Cases" actually refers to the unduplicated numbers of victims.	Berrien County FIA; the Michigan Family Independence Agency, Office of Communications; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget
Number of Teenage Pregnancies	The number of pregnancies attributed to females aged 15-17 in Berrien County. Pregnancies are the sum of live births + abortions + estimated miscarriages. Miscarriages are estimates adapted from a model developed by C. Tietz and J. Bongearts.	Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department
Teenage Pregnancy Rates Relative to the State	The comparison of teenage pregnancy rates in Berrien County and the State of Michigan. All rates are per 1,000 age and sex specific population. Respective year estimated population is used to calculate rates.	Office of State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health; Community Health Assessment, Berrien County Health Department
Number of Domestic Violence Crisis Calls	The total yearly number of crisis calls received by Safe Shelter, Inc. Crisis calls are those which are made by individuals seeking temporary shelter from domestic violence and related abuse.	Safe Shelter, Inc.
Domestic Assault Cases	The total number of victims of reported domestic assault incidences categorized by type of offense. The numbers may be understated due to incomplete jurisdictional reporting.	<i>Domestic Assault Cases Victimization Report</i> , Michigan State Police
Offenses Against Family and Children	The rate per 100,000 of reported offenses against family and children weighted by population for the four comparison counties. Offenses against family and children are defined as any non-violent offense by a member of a family which threatens the unity of the family, the physical or economic welfare or morals of members of the family.	1990-1995 Uniform Crime Reports, Michigan State Police; the Michigan Department of Management and Budget

APPENDIX C

**FOCUS GROUPS
PARTICIPANTS
AND SUMMARIES**

Appendix C

Summary of Focus Groups and name of participants.

Aging

Participants:

Dianne Carlson	Area Agency on Aging
Geri Eggleston	Family Independence Agency
Elizabeth Gravitt	ARRO
Charlie Rubel	Child and Family Services

Suggested Indicators:

- Number of grandparents rearing grandchildren
- Inadequate household income
- Adequate care for individuals with Alzheimer's
- Transportation issues
- Residential living broken down across townships
- No medical payments for respite
- Locating the developmentally disabled who have never been in the system
- Substance abuse by other family members
- Maintenance of independence
- Limited access to health care
- Abuse and neglect
- Quality of life in nursing homes - number of complaints
- Elderly Migrant population- what services are available to this population

Data Sources:

- School systems/teachers
- Respite Care program for persons with Alzheimer's
- Voter registration-geographical distribution
- Churches
- Physicians and nurses
- Emergency rooms
- Citizens for Better Care
- Police department (911)

Family

Participants:

Judy Fox	Legal Services
Ruth Frute	Adoption - Child and Family Services
Rick Kirby	Berrien County Family Independence Agency
Jane Sawyer	Adoption WEB/ Family Court
Claudia Vescolani	Berrien Council for Children

Indicators:

- Daycare availability
- Non-licensed care providers
- Lack of after school care providers --latchkey issues
- Transportation issues
- Teenage pregnancy
- Teenage school dropouts
- Housing issues--cost and quality
- Substance abuse
- Family counseling: focused on male issues
- Resource Management Training--for teenage single mothers
- Neglect of children
- Working poor
- Child support issues--lack of payment by absent parent
- What happens to the children of incarcerated mothers.

Data Sources:

- Head Start
- Family Independence Agency
- Faith Evangelistic Church
- Child Resources and Referral
- Department of Transportation
- Communities First
- Schools
- Emergency Shelter
- Homeless shelters
- Readiness Center

Education

Participants:

Gerry Beal	Twin City Area Literary Council
Marsha Carmichael	Emergency Shelter Services/BCISD
Nina Elmendog-Steele	University Center of Assistance and Learning

Patricia Leonard	Southwest Michigan Volunteer Center
Bob Nichols	St. Joseph Public Library
Heather Stuyvesant	University Center for Assistance and Learning
Elizabeth Thorpe	MSA Community Service
Martha Toney	Bessie H. Corhn Day Care Center
Glenn Uminowicz	Berrien County Historical Association

Indicators

Drugs, crime, and violence (affects a child's capacity to learn)
 Teachers don't have time to talk to the parents and visa versa
 Locating homeless children not in the shelters
 Family literacy- "People must have a desire to read and capacity to read".
 Literacy issues in the prison system
 Attitudes toward education
 Changes in teaching methods
 Location and number of children who move from school district to school district
 because parents are moving from house to house.
 Indicators of an individual who is "fine"- someone who is functionally literate, with
 adequate math skills; someone who is a responsible, respectful citizen, who can
 maintain a job
 Children who succeed in school and life in general usually have had some type of
 mentor; one-on-on contact.
 Find out statistical data- Intermediate School District (ISD) connected students with a
 mentor on a volunteer basis.
 Funding for individuals who can not pay for services
 Teenage pregnancy
 Undiagnosed disabilities related to drop out rate
 FIA changes
 Adult Education Program
 Tutoring services
 What causes some to frequently use library resources and what causes others not to use
 library resources
 How children's reading level is retained
 Literacy
 Types of reading- deep data analysis v. surfing
 Migrant community
 Number of students in free or reduced price lunch programs

Data Sources:

Teachers
 Berrien County Historical Association
 Library
 Parents
 Literacy Programs
 Alternative Education Rooms

Health

Participants:

Janel Groth	SW Michigan Volunteer Center
Peggy Howard	Lakeland Regional Health System
Larry Horvath	Berrien County Health Department
Marilyn Lauer	Hospice at Home
John O. Nelson	Berrien County Health Department
Javan L. Ntaganda	Gateway
Diane Raphport	Hospice at Home

Indicators:

States administration of managed care-how it impacts clients- FIA assigning clients to physicians that they are unable to keep appointments with because of *transportation issue*.

HIV infection-data on shift in population, concerns about the biases of the current data collection mechanism.

Teen pregnancy-*concern*: client does not show up for appointments-*possible reasons*: fear of drug testing, lack of understanding of the importance of prenatal care.

Death in Berrien County correlated with any type of disease

Infant mortality rate

Immunization education-*concern*: lack of knowledge

Teenage mental processes in relationship to grief and loss

Elderly women being abused

Alzheimers

Health care expenditures in Berrien County by population broken down by services

Lack of facilities for elderly in violent (abuse) situations

Welfare-to-work: inadequate job training-stress-health issues

Rationale for school drop out rate

Mental illness-Patients not receiving services- Chronic, Dual Diagnosis, Drug induced psychosis

Family treatment-specialist v. general physician

Data Sources:

State office (summary of changes in Medicaid)

AIDS Coalition

Health Department (HIV/AIDS)

Lakeland Regional Health Care System

Berrien County Guardianship Services

Community Leadership Academy

Department of Public Health

Group Homes (in re: disease and death in Berrien County)

Managed Care (in re: disease and death in Berrien County)

Minorities

Participants:

Yemi Akinwale	Communities First
Phil Bontrager	Gateway
Zelda Flesia-Mottley	Michigan State University Extension
Ira Lee Guerf	
Kathy Rosow	SW Michigan Volunteer Center
Becky Sheteron	Safe Shelter, Inc.
Vernell Thompson	Girl Scouts - Singing Sands
Tammi Williams	Safe Shelter, Inc.
Ruth Wood	Berrien County Health Department

Indicators:

Illiteracy issues
Housing development-single parent families
Limited transportation
Lack of community stability
Education--school drop out rate--inadequate training/job skills--learning disabilities
Health issues - access and affordability of medical/dental care
Documentation of sexual assaults
Utilities--gas, electricity, etc.
Drug Abuse
Accurate reporting on child abuse
Counseling--Domestic violence--Children with disabilities
Respite
Nutrition and food preparation training for disabled singles in transition from group home to living on their own.

Data Sources:

Family Independence Agency
Hospitals-Emergency Room records
911
Chapin Street Clinic (South Bend, In.)
Families First
Kids Count
Lakeland Regional Health Care System
Samaritan Counseling Center
Riverwood Center
Catholic Relief Services
LOVE, Inc.
Loaves & Fishes in Benton Harbor (not in operation today)
Street Ministry in Benton Harbor

LOFT
InterCare
Southwest Michigan Migrant Resource Council
Berrien Community Human Services Council
Sheriff Department
Berrien County Intermediate School District

Women

Participants:

Janel Groth	SW. Michigan Volunteer Center
Joan Phillips	YMCA
Ginny Steinman	Emergency Shelter
Elizabeth Thorpe	Andrews University Graduate Student
Julie Urness	Twin Cities Area Literacy Council

Indicators:

Family Independence Agency (changes within the agency)
Transportation
Developmentally Disabled
Lack of education in money management
Domestic Violence
Substance Abuse
Child Care - quality and affordability
Sick children needing child care services
After school child care
Self-esteem issues
Depression
Teenage Pregnancy
Homelessness
Dropout rates
Breakdown in family structure
Middle age care givers caring for elderly
Literacy issues.

Data Sources:

Mercy Center
Salvation Army
Safe Shelter, Inc.
Emergency Shelter

Youth

Participants:

Lynne Christiano
Susan Kuntz
Marion Maier
Sunita Prakash
Jolene Proj

Curious Kids'
Girl Scouts
Family Independence Agency
Brookview School
P.T.C. Education Services

Indicators:

Comprehension of diversity
Funding issues
Availability of qualified staff--paraprofessional staff
School violence--educating youth on how to reduce conflict within themselves and with those they come in contact with.
Inadequate community awareness
Interpersonal and family conflict
Lack of academic achievement (education issues)
Drugs and alcohol
Parental education (Adult education issues)
Violence
Teen pregnancy and the increase in male sexual activity--what community support helps teenagers to reach their potential-- extracurricular activities.

Data Sources:

Community workshops
Data on reported decreases in racially related violence
Drinking and driving records
SADD (Students Against Drunk Drivers)
MADD(Mothers Against Drunk Drivers)
Planned Parenthood
Schools