

3RD ANNUAL
GREATER GRAND RAPIDS

Community Report Card

Improving by the Numbers...

2001 - 2002



The Delta Strategy is building the capacity of the community to solve our toughest problems.

The Community Report Card measures change from year to year. It reflects the dedicated and focused work of improvement by hundreds of community members, initiatives and organizations.



This year's highlights:

- ▲ The City of Grand Rapids gained 8,674 residents since 1990, a 4.6% increase. The County's population has grown by 73,704 residents, a 14.7% increase (Page 10)
- ▲ From 1990 to 2000, community members of Hispanic descent nearly tripled in the City of Grand Rapids and doubled in Kent County (Page 8)
- ▲ Minority residents are much more likely to worry about meeting their basic needs (Page 6)
- ▲ Emergency calls to help with rent, heat, and food have increased significantly (Page 6)

- ▲ Those who feel unsafe in their neighborhoods are more likely to live in the city, be younger, female, low income and minority (Page 10)

- ▲ Bus ridership has increased by 16% in the last year (Page 11)

- ▲ More residents are observing ozone action days (Page 7)

- ▲ Great disparity still exists in infant mortality rates between African Americans and whites (Page 9)



The Community Research Institute of the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy of Grand Valley State University compiled and analyzed the data for this Report Card.

www.gvsu.edu/philanthropy/cri

The 2001 Community Survey asked respondents to give the community an overall grade.

Once again, "B"

(Copies of the 2001 Community Survey are available)



CHECK OUR 'FOCUS ON POVERTY'!

New this year is our 'Focus on Poverty' pullout section (pages A-D).

This pullout shares some of our community's short-term successes toward reducing poverty. It includes data, personal stories and descriptions of corporations and organizations doing their part to move individuals and families toward economic self-sufficiency.

Keep this pullout and review it to get a better understanding of how poverty impacts all of us.



HOW TO CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Call: 616.234.4316 Fax: 616.234.3929
email: eforbes@grcc.mi.us

Check our website: www.deltastategy.org
for general information.

The 2001 Community Survey asked respondents to identify what they felt should be the priorities of our community.



- ▲ **Education**
- ▲ **Crime/Public Safety**

The following are the six results that community members believe cut across and bind the visions together and are important for our future. They provide the headings for the 2001-2002 Report Card.

▲ **What we want:**

1. Families and individuals are economically self-sufficient.
2. All children succeed in school and adults have opportunities for continued learning.
3. Families and individuals are healthy, with adequate shelter, nutrition and clothing.
4. Families and individuals live in a clean, natural environment where resources are used responsibly.
5. Families and individuals have equal opportunity and treatment.
6. Families and individuals live in a safe, caring, thriving and vibrant community.

WHAT IS THE DELTA STRATEGY?

The Delta Strategy is a network of community members, initiatives and organizations driven by a **common vision of a community that works for every one of our residents.**

The Delta Strategy *brings together* a broad base of community people. We *collaborate* with community leaders and *focus* on critical issues that impact all of us. Our *process* encourages community dialogue and action. We *provide a framework* for community success by sharing proven *problem solving tools* and *measuring* community improvements.

Working with the Community Research Institute of Grand Valley State University, data is compiled through surveys, secondary sources and other resources. This year, 10,000 surveys were mailed to community residents in early August and nearly 15% of the community *responded!* Thank you for your participation and feedback!

The Delta Strategy facilitates community-wide learning about issues and provides a framework to drive the problem-solving process. We place particular attention on addressing root causes. We provide an arena where knowledge of best practices – the ‘how to’ information from here and elsewhere – can be shared.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY SUCCESS

The Delta Strategy is about capacity-building to increase awareness, strengthen problem-solving, and expand leadership around critical community issues. It involves enhancing the skills and commitment of community members in order to successfully tackle our toughest issues together.

The Delta Strategy joins people and process to examine community problems. Working together, we create vision statements, set goals and determine priorities. Delta involves people who know about the problem, those living with the problem, and those who have influence or control over resources to address the problem.



MEASUREMENT DRIVES AND REFLECTS COMMUNITY ACTION

It's one thing to recognize we have problems. It's another to try and mobilize our community to do something about them. The Delta Strategy helps educate our community by working with teams to develop ways to measure progress toward identified goals. One of the results of our efforts is this annual ‘Community Report Card’, where we can *report real progress.*



YOU Can Make a Difference!

- ▲ Call The Delta Strategy to connect with a dialogue/action team
- ▲ Read and learn how poverty impacts our community
- ▲ Join a neighborhood or community group working with those in poverty
- ▲ Attend a local Institute for the Healing of Racism session
- ▲ Learn what your employer is doing to provide a positive working environment for employees living in poverty's shadow (see the ‘Focus on Poverty’ pullout for what others are doing)
- ▲ Encourage your employer, church, or civic organization to develop partnerships with schools or social service agencies
- ▲ If you're an employer, share your ‘best practices’ with us
- ▲ Volunteer – at a school, a shelter, or a service agency
- ▲ Tutor or mentor a child by joining the “FACTS” program
- ▲ Vote
- ▲ Organize – or join your neighbors in – a ‘neighborhood clean-up’

Our success and energy comes from the input, guidance, experience, and participation of the people who live and work in our community.

The broader the range of participants, the greater the shared success. There are many ways you can become involved and make a personal impact on our community!

***The possibilities are endless!
Your participation is key!***

What we want –

Families and individuals are economically self-sufficient.

Poverty affects the quality of life for all of us. On the community level, high levels of poverty correlate to poor educational outcomes, poor health, and often increased crime. On the individual level, poverty means being trapped in a cycle: If you collect welfare benefits and take advantage of other services offered by nonprofit organizations like Second Harvest Gleaners, you will survive, but barely. If you attempt to break away from welfare, you likely qualify only for entry-level work, frequently at a starting wage of less than \$8 an hour.

Some community services like Westside Weed and Seed and Work Progressions are assisting people to move out of the cycle of poverty, and helping families move from dependence to self-sufficiency. When the cycle is broken, more workers with livable wages mean more consumers. Businesses thrive, and in turn, provide more and better jobs.



Where we are today –

- ▲ Workers are satisfied with their jobs
- ▲ Families are losing ground financially

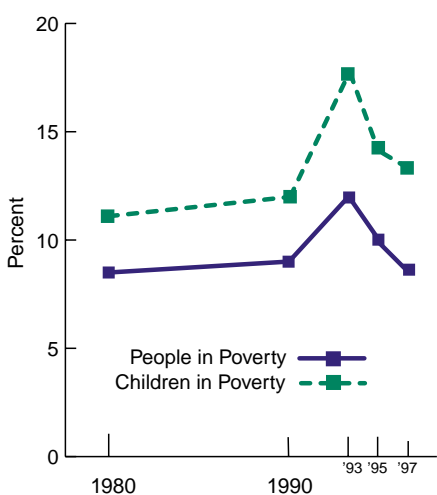
Community Voices

"Even though I now have a driver's license and a job, I still don't earn enough to keep the car on the road and find something inexpensive to do. There's still nothing to do with your friends except hang."

Alyssa Collins, age 16

Poverty

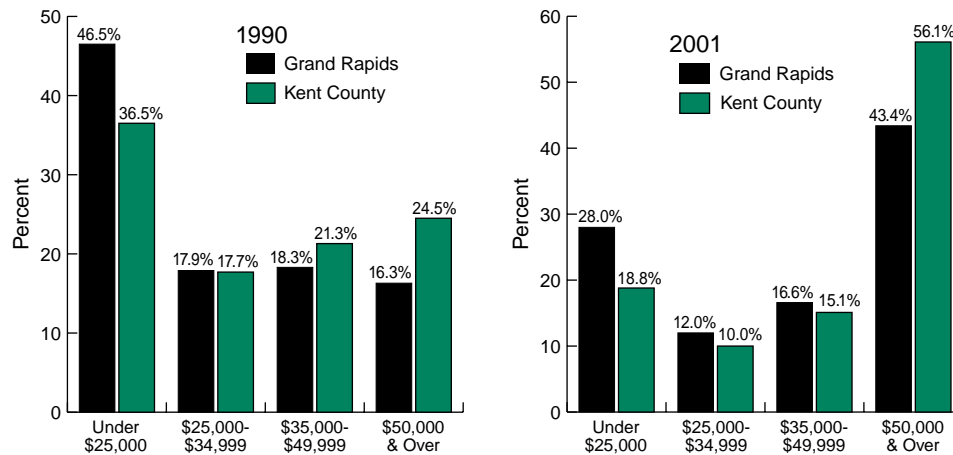
Source: U.S. Census (updated data will be available in 2002)



One in 8 children in Kent County, and one in 4 children in Grand Rapids, lives in poverty. Federal guidelines define poverty as an income of \$17,650 or less for a family of four.

Household Income

Source: U.S. Census (1990); Claritas (2001)

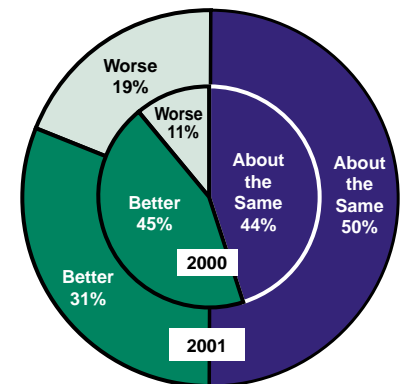


Incomes are improving and there are fewer people at middle income levels. Over a quarter of Grand Rapids households earn less than \$25,000 a year. (These numbers are not adjusted for inflation.)

Personal Economic Progress

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

How well are you (and your family) doing financially today compared to a year ago?



Families report losing ground financially compared to last year.

Reduced-Price And Free Lunches

Source: Michigan Department of Education

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Forest Hills	2.5%	2.6%	3.3%	3.9%
Godfrey Lee	47.9%	50.2%	57.1%	54.2%
Grand Rapids	65.3%	66.0%	65.4%	66.5%
Kentwood	23.8%	24.2%	25.9%	25.5%
All Kent County*	29.3%	28.9%	30.0%	30.1%
Michigan	31.6%	31.3%	31.0%	30.7%

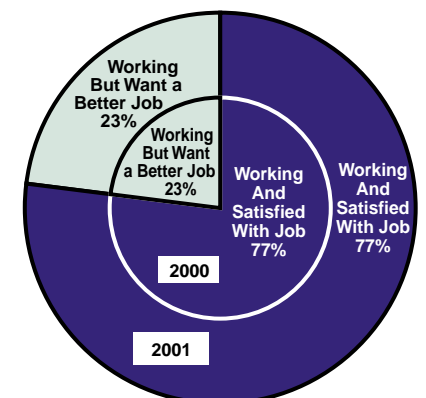
More than twice as many students receive reduced-price or free lunches in Grand Rapids Public Schools than in many other districts within Kent County. Poverty is disproportionately located in the city's core.

*Includes Christian and Catholic schools, but not charters.

Job Satisfaction

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

How would you describe your current employment status?



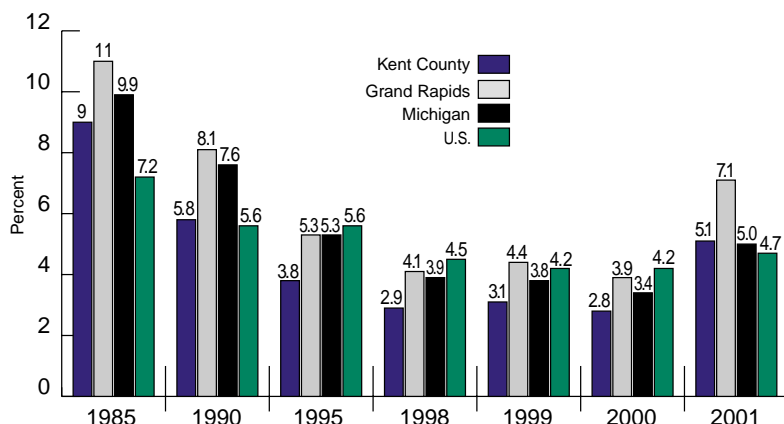
Over three-quarters of area workers are still satisfied with their current jobs.

37% of survey respondents provide assistance of some kind for an elderly relative or friend and nearly 30% report missing work occasionally to do so.

Source: 2001 Community Survey

Unemployment Rate

Source: Michigan Department of Career Development (Employee Services Division)



After a long decline, unemployment rates for the first half of 2001 have begun to rise, particularly in Grand Rapids.

Community Voices

"People in Kent County are concerned about providing their families with a good standard of living, but for lower-income families it's difficult. They're tied to a system, accepting short-term benefits, when what they really need is long-term gains. There's more to basic needs than food and shelter. There should be job training and education."

Trevor Jarvis, age 16

Does job training help? YES! 60% of minority respondents who had training in the last year are doing better economically this year than last year.

Source: 2001 Community Survey

What we want –

All children succeed in school and adults have opportunities for continued learning.

Perhaps no other factor contributes as strongly to a successful community than its number of committed learners. For the individual, education and training are the gateways to opportunity, the doorways out of poverty, and a key factor in determining income level. For the community, education and training insure sustained vitality. Employers and employees locate in communities where people are committed to continuing their learning and where schools are committed to excellence for all students.

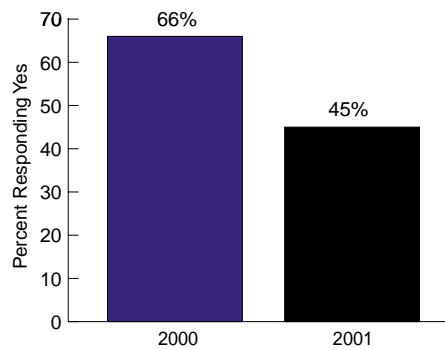
Some people choose to stop learning. They are intimidated and disgusted or feel powerless. They no longer are willing to participate. Their children, in turn, are handicapped when they enter the educational system. Often a good teacher or a great community school like Henry Street can help them catch up, and inspire in them a love of lifelong learning.



Educational Expectations

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

Do you believe the school district where you live has high expectations for all students?

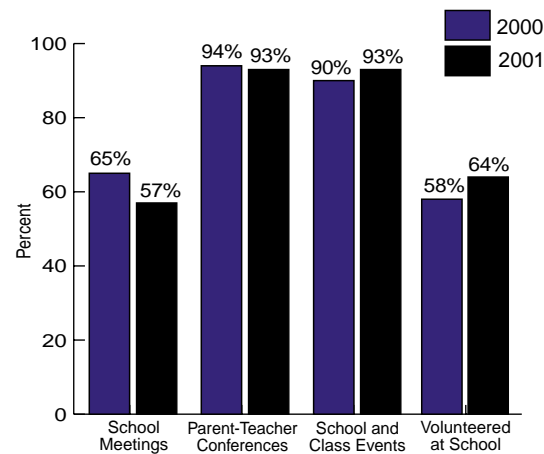


Fewer residents believe that their school districts have high expectations for all students.

Parental Involvement in Schools

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

Did you participate in any of the following school events last year?



Most parents in our survey report attendance at parent-teacher conferences and school events.

Community Voices

"Not all kids have the same access to enrichment. Field trips and extras cost money. So long as we put the burden for these things on parents, and parents can't afford the help, their kids will continue to get an inferior education."

Jennifer Lyons



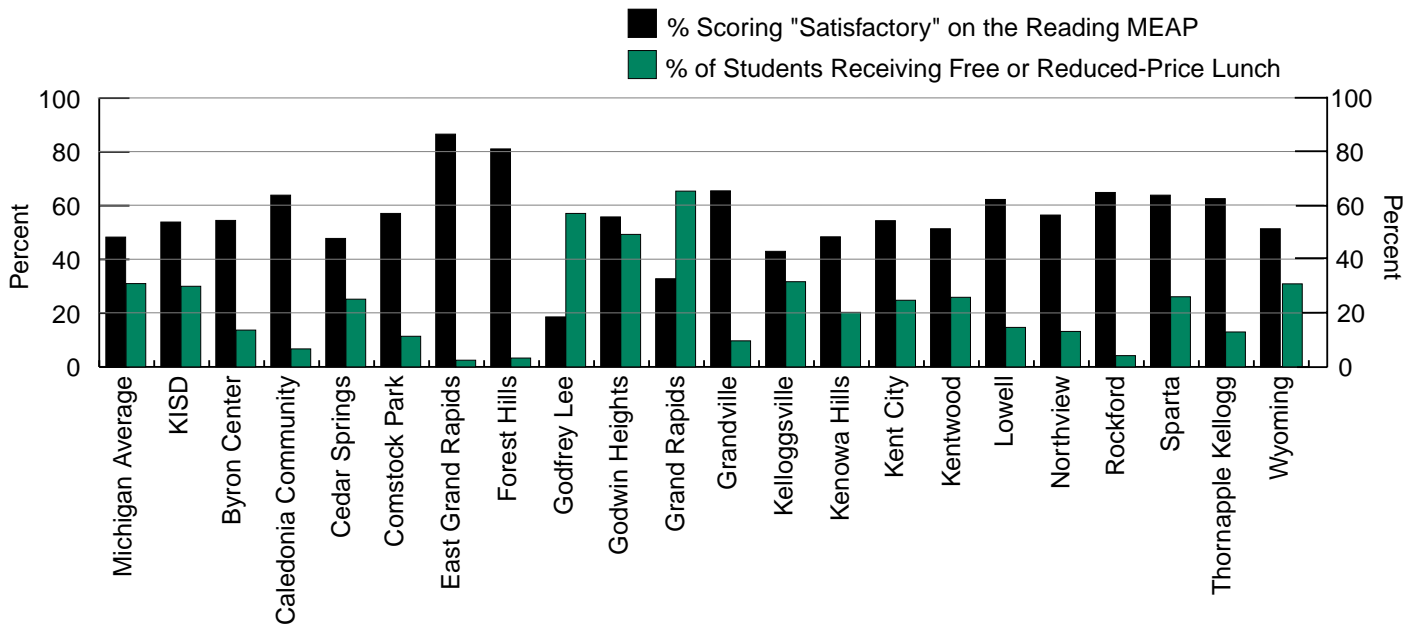
Community Voices

"One of my cousins had a child in an inner-city elementary school and was told her daughter was in the most advanced reading group. When she transferred to a suburban school, she was put in remedial reading. I don't know if it's lower standards across the board or over-comparison with kids who are really struggling; but when I heard about that, I moved my kids to a suburban school too."

Rosemary Cruz

Poverty and Student Achievement on 7th Grade MEAP Tests 2000-2001

Source: Michigan Department of Education

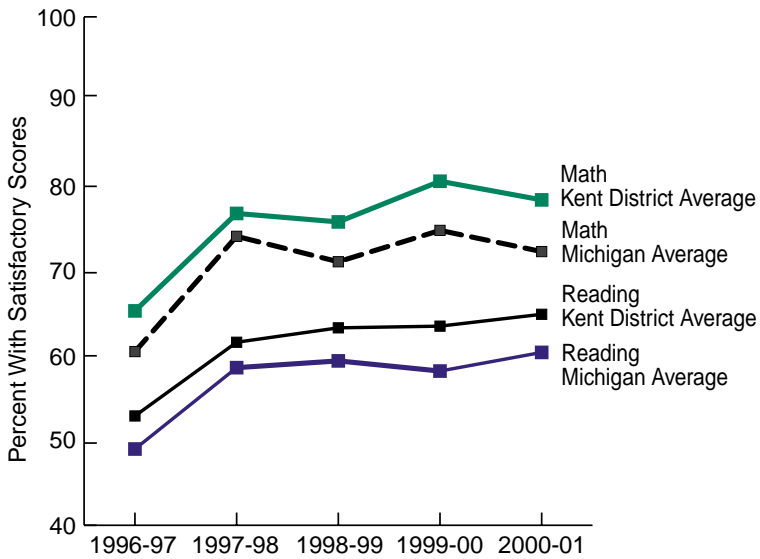


Low MEAP Scores tend to be characteristic of those districts with higher percentages of students receiving reduced-price or free lunches. Students' family income must be less than \$32,000 (180% of poverty level) to qualify for that program.

Parent-school communication is more important to lower-income residents than higher-income residents.
Source: 2001 Community Survey

4th Grade Math and Reading MEAP Scores

Source: Michigan Department of Education



Kent County 4th grade math scores declined slightly this year, while reading improved slightly.

Dropout rates should be an important measure, but controversy about how they are calculated makes these data less useful.

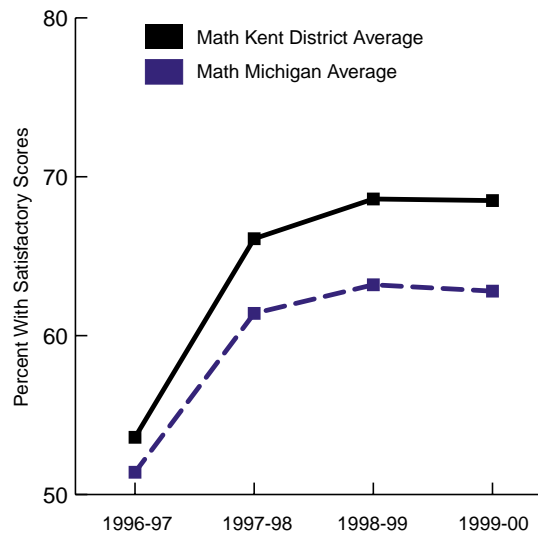


Where we are today –

- ▲ Most parents attend parent-teacher conferences
- ▲ Lower MEAP scores and poverty directly related
- ▲ Fewer adults participating in education and training

7th Grade Math MEAP Scores

Source: Michigan Department of Education



After several years of steep increases in math MEAP scores, students' performance leveled off. There were no 7th grade MEAPS in 2000-01.

Community Voices

"It seems that many parents are happy with elementary schools. It's when kids get into middle school that we start noticing changes which alarm us. The scores and behaviors seem to show that that's when schools start failing our kids...or maybe when our kids start failing to excel."

LaDeidre Brown-Gais



A higher percentage of minority residents than non-minority residents report they participated in training this year.

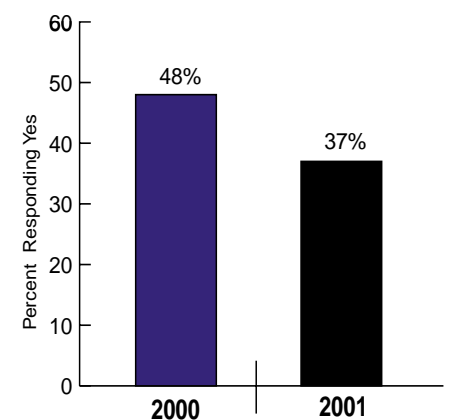
Source: 2001 Community Survey



Adult Education and Training

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

Have you participated in some form of training or education in the past year?



Fewer respondents participated in some form of education or training this year.

Community Voices

"Given the fact that many public schools have experienced sharp declines in their enrollments, while enrollments are sky rocketing in private/parochial schools, parent-supported/parent-run charter schools and parent-taught home school. It seems to me that parents might know more about education and be more open to "change" than educators care to admit."

Lori Brown

What we want –

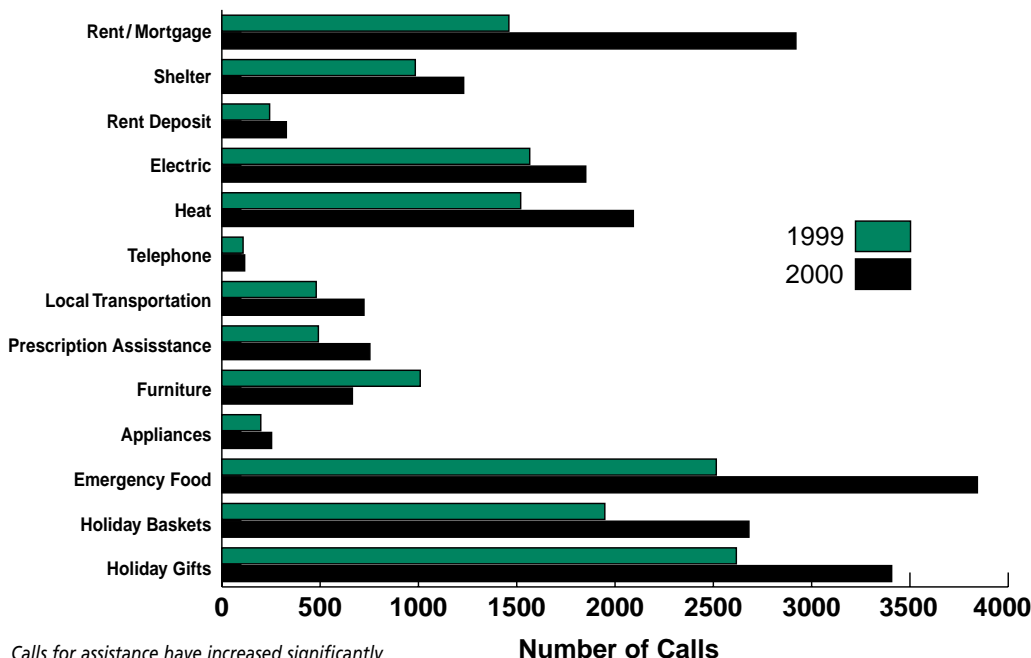
Families and individuals are healthy, with adequate shelter, nutrition, and clothing.

Some people in our community struggle for many of the things that others take for granted: food, water, shelter, clothing, health care, safety, or access to information. Only when those essential needs are met, are we capable of pursuing the benefits of our society: learning, contributing to the economy, and growing as individuals.

Heartside organizations like the Hard Times Cafe, God's Kitchen, Faith Inc., Dwelling Place, and others provide support, networking, shelter and food and fill a critical role in our community. They provide a foundation on which people can build new lives. Health clinics like Browning-Claytor, Belknap Commons and Clinica Santa Maria give people access to essential basic health care.

Emergency Calls for Help

Source: Heart of West Michigan United Way

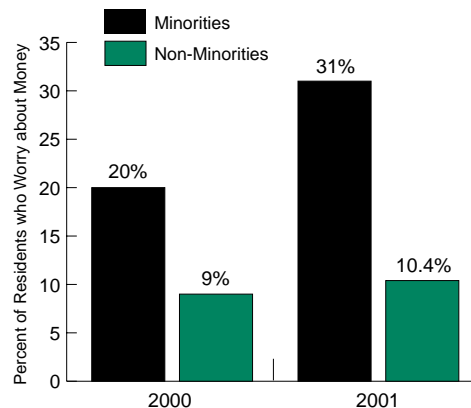


Calls for assistance have increased significantly since last year

Making Ends Meet

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

How often do you worry about having enough money for food, clothing and shelter?

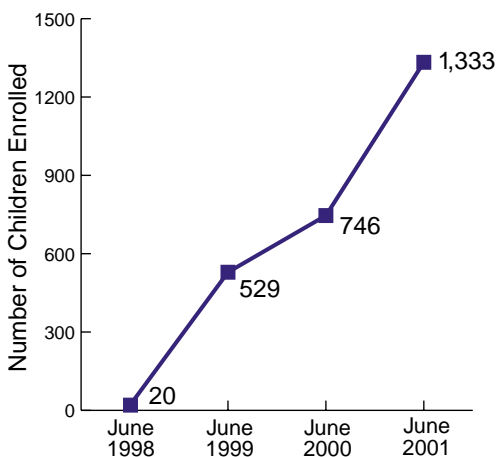


Minority residents are three times as likely as non-minority residents to worry often about running out of money. Overall, more people are worried about making ends meet.

Health Insurance For Children

MiChild Enrollment

Source: Kent County Health Department



Mi Child fills a gap between Medicaid and private insurance. Although enrollment almost doubled this year, only 1 in 5 eligible children are enrolled.



Where we are today –

- ▲ More children have health insurance
- ▲ Emergency calls for help increased
- ▲ One-third of seniors worry about running out of money

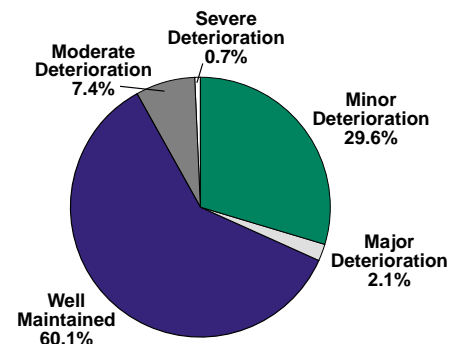
Community Voices

"Being unemployed in the current economic environment is a little scary as you read every day about more layoffs by companies, the stock market not doing well, and the economy on a downswing."

Belinda Jarvis

Core City Housing Condition

Source: 2000 City of Grand Rapids Exterior Housing Survey



Almost 40% of homes in the central city have some form of deterioration.

24.3% of those over age 70 have difficulty paying for medication.

Source: 2001 Community Survey

Community Voices

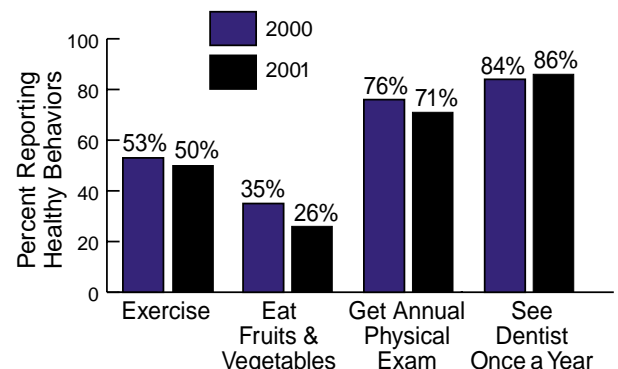
"People will live in healthy communities when wealth is more justly distributed and when those in power stop making decisions that exclude the rest of us."

Jeff Smith

Individual Commitment To Wellness

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

Which of the following do you do?



- Minority residents are significantly less likely to see a dentist than non-minorities.
- Women are much more likely to get a yearly physical exam.

33.4% of those over age 60 worry about running out of money for food, clothing and shelter.

Source: 2001 Community Survey

Community Voices

"A certain level of variety is an important part of 'adequate.' It's not really adequate to have hot dogs to eat, day after day - we need a nutritious variety of foods. Clothing doesn't have to be designer labeled - but clean, not torn. Variety need not encompass the entire spectrum - from filet mignon to peanut butter - but variety is important to 'adequacy.'"

Laurie Schaut

What we want –

Families and individuals live in a clean, natural environment where resources are used responsibly.

It took all of us together to damage the environment and deplete our non-renewable resources. Environmental hazards create health concerns for the entire community. Waste depletes our resources permanently. Continuing urban sprawl robs the city and nearby suburbs of their necessary tax base, destroys natural habitats, water, and air quality.

It will take all of us together to preserve and conserve what remains. It begins with people in their places of work and business, and individuals in neighborhoods taking personal responsibility for their natural environment. It continues with initiatives like the City of Grand Rapids Master Plan and Metropolitan Council Blueprint II guiding overall use of our natural and physical resources.



Where we are today –

- ▲ Air quality improving
- ▲ Residents want cleaner environment

In the decade ending in 1997, Kent County lost 17% of its farms and 8.5% of land in farms.

Source: State of Michigan Agricultural Census for Kent County



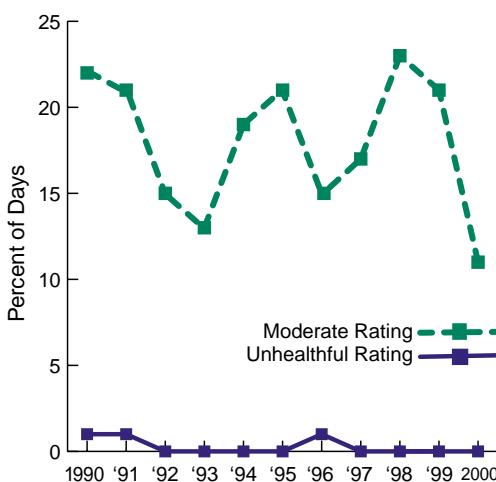
Community Voices

"In addition to its other demeaning impacts on the community, poverty erodes the health of our citizens. For example, 43% of the children in one of our urban neighborhoods suffer from lead poisoning that will affect brain function for the rest of their lives."
George Heartwell

Air Quality

Pollutant Standards Index

Source: U.S. EPA-AIR Data Monitor PSA Report



Moderate Rating: Few or no cautions for the general public.

Unhealthful Rating: Mild aggravation of symptoms among susceptible people, with irritation symptoms in the healthy population.

Air quality improved in 2000 with 89% of days rated as "good."

Community Voices

"Social context and physical environment have a tremendous psychological effect on all of us. As Joe Riley, Mayor of Charleston, said, 'An appreciation for beauty knows no economic strata. It is human and it is basic. Poor people know ugly just as much as rich people do, and poor people need beauty just as much as rich people do.'"
Gabriel Works

Kent County Stream Water Quality Measurement Scores 2000 - 2001

Source: West Michigan Environmental Action Council

Stream	2000	2001
Barkley Creek	30	32.5
Black Creek	38.3	44.2
Buck Creek	40.1	40.7
Emmons Creek	33.1	31.1
Grand River	25	50.2
Honey Creek (Seidman)	28.9	52.5
Indian Mill Creek	19.5	12.6
Lee Creek	12.1	19.2
Mill Creek	33.4	21.7
Plaster Creek	19.5	21.3
Rush/Bliss Creek	25.8	33
Schoolhouse Creek	32	32.8
Tyler Creek	21.9	19.9
York Creek	19.4	12.2

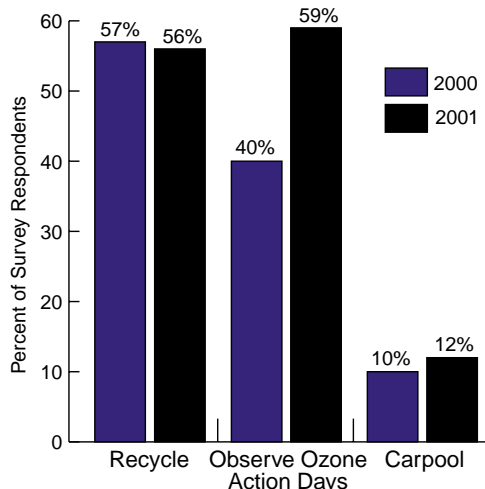
EXCELLENT 48 OR HIGHER
GOOD 34-48
FAIR 19-33
POOR 18 OR LESS

The score is a biological index. The higher the score, the better the quality of the water.

How We Contribute To Our Ecosystem

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

Which of the following activities do you do on a regular basis?

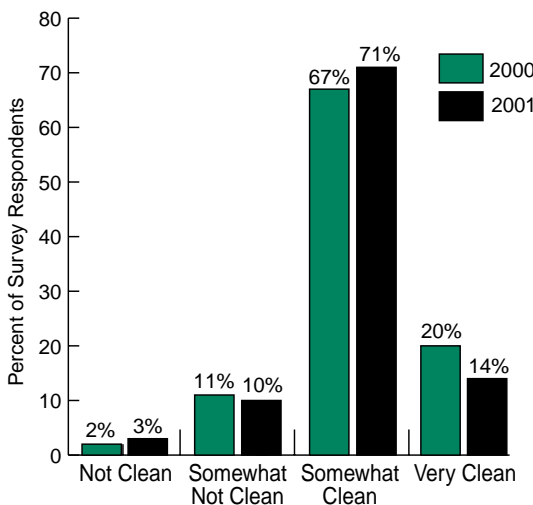


Significantly more residents are observing ozone actions days this year.

Our Natural Environment

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

How would you rate the natural environment of the greater Grand Rapids area?



13% of our community feel that we do not have a clean environment. Young people, minority residents and those with lower incomes tend to be more negative about the environment

Community Voices

"We should do a better job of regulating things that improve the environment: tickets for violating ozone warning days, fewer motorboats, monitor fertilizing and chemical sprayings, enforce fines for littering...."
Brenda Pruim

What we want –

Families and individuals have equal opportunity and treatment.

You can lose an opportunity because of gender or age or weight or something else. It's unfair and it hurts, but the wondering about it doesn't stay with you, every day, as it does with many minority residents. To be an ethnic minority in Kent County, is to wonder. When you don't get a job or promotion you want, is it because of your race? You know you make white people uncomfortable and you wonder why.

Many people from local businesses and organizations, and many individuals in our community, are beginning to understand the pain of discrimination, and are working hard to become more inclusive. Those who commit to inclusion are learning first-hand about the resources that diverse individuals bring to the workplace, the marketplace, the meeting table, and the neighborhood.

Population Diversity

Source: U.S. Census, 1990 & 2000



Race	City of Grand Rapids		Kent County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
White	75.2%	67.3%	87.3%	83.1%
African-American	18.4%	20.4%	8.0%	8.9%
Hispanic-American	4.5%	13.1%	3.0%	7.0%
American Indian	0.9%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Asian-American	1.0%	1.6%	1.1%	1.9%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	*	0.1%	*	0.1%
Some Other Race	*	6.6%	*	3.3%

* Data not available for 1990



Community Voices

"Ruby Payne's presentation supported my vision with my staff. Schools must find ways to share the "hidden rules" of the lower, middle, and upper economic strata with students. Money alone doesn't move people from one economic class to another. They must understand not only the "hidden rules", but also the expected behaviors - and what we must give up - to move from one class to another."

Nkeng'e A. Bergan

- One-quarter of women report gender discrimination
- Nearly half of those 18 – 24 report age discrimination
- Minorities are nearly three times more likely as non-minorities to report economic discrimination.

Source: 2001 Community Survey



Community Voices

"The role of poverty in a person's ability to access resources continues to be an issue in our country. We must find a way to achieve both equity and excellence in accessing services."

Dr. Scott Palczewski

Barely half the minority respondents in our 2001 Community Survey report that they feel they receive equal opportunity and treatment.

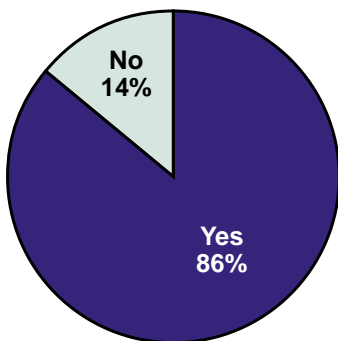
Source: 2001 Community Survey



Equal Opportunity and Treatment

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

Do you believe you and your family experience equal opportunity and treatment compared to others?



The percentage of minority respondents who answered no to this question doubled in the last year (from 24% to 48%).

Community Voices

"The digital divide is really nothing new, we have had an analog divide since wireless hit the air in the '20's and before that, we had those with access to school and those without, and before that we had Scribes and Pharisees controlling who could read and write. It is really about power and control. The metaphor of a digital divide is an analogy for a cultural divide."

Dirk Koning

Housing Discrimination Complaints

Source: Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids

Year	Number of Racial Housing Complaints	Total Number of Housing Complaints	Annual Percentage of Racial Housing Complaints
1995	73	160	45.6%
1996	82	155	52.9%
1997	72	159	45.2%
1998	88	152	57.8%
1999	71	134	52.9%
2000	56	145	38.6%

Racially-based complaints consistently make up a significant part of total housing complaints. However they have been fluctuating downward.

Community Voices

"There are a lot of factors that hinder equality, and funding for education is one of them."

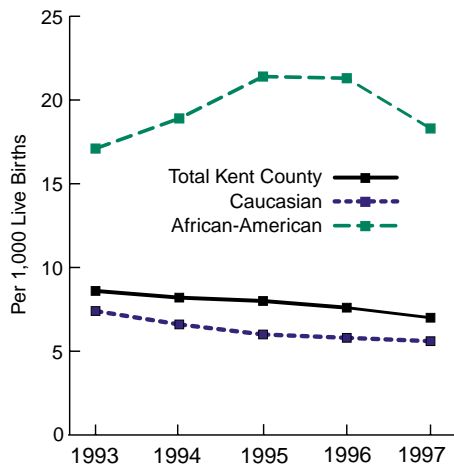
Dean Elias Lumpkins

89% of people with incomes of \$50,000 or more feel that they receive equal opportunity and treatment.

Source: 2001 Community Survey

Infant Mortality Rate

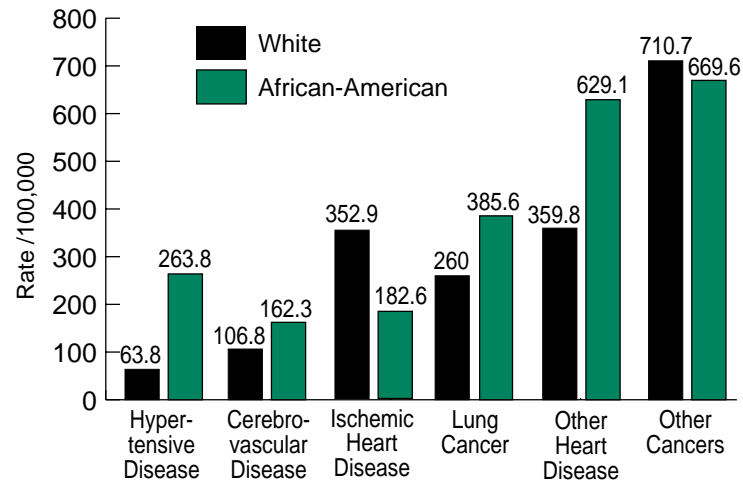
Source: Kent County Health Department



The infant mortality rate has declined somewhat for African-American infants. It is still more than triple the rate for white infants. (These are rolling three-year averages.)

Leading Causes of Death, by Race, Kent County Adults, Ages 65-74

Source:



African-American seniors are much more likely to die of hypertension, lung cancer, or heart disease than white seniors.

Where we are today –

- ▲ City and County population becoming more diverse
- ▲ Race-related housing discrimination complaints are down

Family Court Field Case Assignments

Source: Grand Rapids Police Department

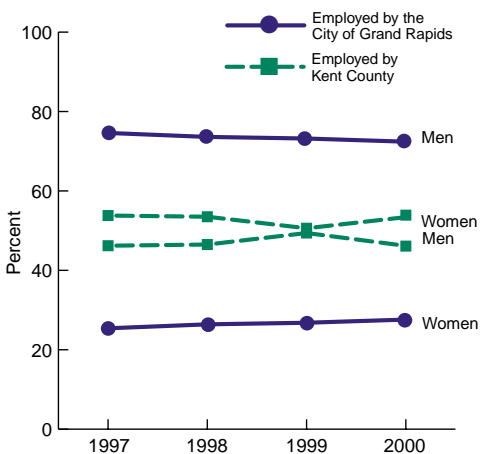
	1999	2000	County Racial Distribution
White	46.8%	56.4%	83.1%
Black	41.5%	29.2%	8.9%
Hispanic	9.5%	10.1%	7.0%
Native American	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Asian	0.5%	1.2%	1.9%
Multi Racial	1.2%	2.6%	4.3%

Field case assignments are only made when other diversion methods are exhausted.

Government Employment by Gender

% of Males/Females in the City of Grand Rapids and Kent County Government Workforces

Source: Kent County; City of Grand Rapids



Males and females are almost equally represented in the County workforce, while 73% of the City workforce is male.



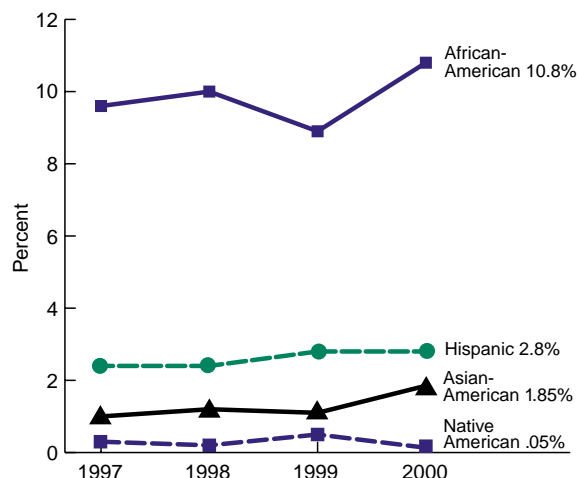
Most (72%) residents have access to the internet either at home, school or work. Younger people were more likely to have access, but even some people aged 80 and over had access. Minority and non-minority residents report equal access.

Source: 2001 Community Survey

Government Minority Employment

% of Minorities in the Kent County Government Workforce

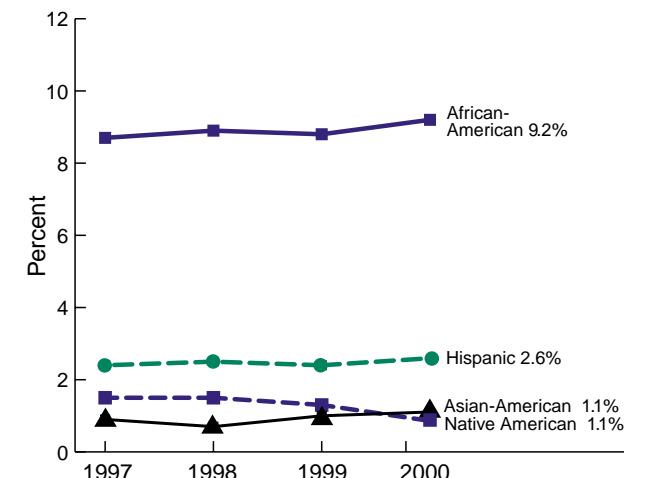
Source: Kent County



Minority employment has increased over the past 4 years to 15.5% of the County workforce.

% of Minorities in the Grand Rapids City Government Workforce

Source: City of Grand Rapids



Minority workers make up 14% of the City of Grand Rapids workforce.



Community Voices

"In class they asked us if we'd rather be a man and most of us women, including me, said we would. It would just be easier."
April Atwood

What we want –

Families and individuals live in a safe, caring, thriving, and vibrant community.

Quality of life is a complicated tapestry. It includes safety, health, educational opportunity, ability to get from place to place, friendliness, hope. Evidence that many people enjoy and want a high quality of life in Kent County includes our downtown revitalization, our vibrant and diverse community celebrations, and our increased commitment to working together to solve our problems. Work and activities are now more accessible for some community residents because of improved and expanded bus service.

Not all neighborhoods and families in our community have that same quality of life. We have isolated pockets of high poverty and crime where drug dealers work in open view of neighbors, where young children have been awakened by the sound of street fights or gunfire, where no one feels safe or cared for. "Thriving and vibrant" are just pretty words. That can change if we continue to work together to reduce these problems.



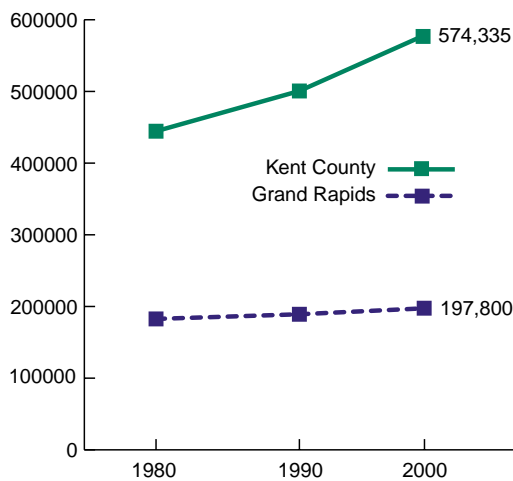
Community Voices

"My own neighborhood feels safe, but I drive through a lot of different neighborhoods on my way to work or on errands. Renters are at the mercy of the homeowner and I know their feelings of helplessness. You know it only takes one deteriorating house to start an entire neighborhood on a decline. It also only takes one resident to begin turning things around. Improvement can be contagious."

Micala McKeage

Population Trends

Source: Market Statistics

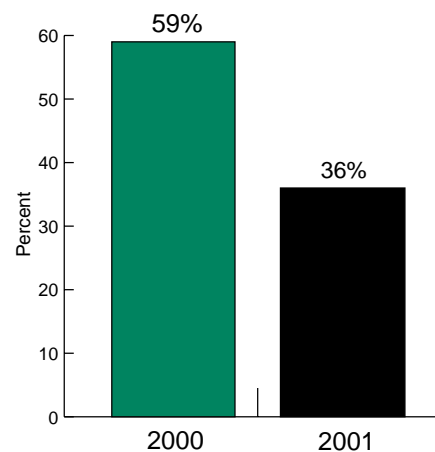


Since 1990 there has been a 4.6% increase in the city's population and a 14.7% increase in Kent County's population.

Children's Activities

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

Do the children in your neighborhood have enough activities for after school, weekends, and during the summer?

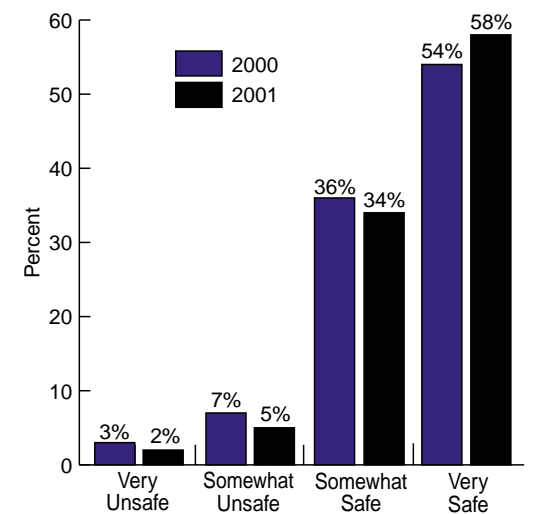


This year, significantly fewer survey respondents report that their children have enough activities in their neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Safety

Source: 2000 and 2001 Community Surveys

How safe do you feel walking in your neighborhood at night?



92% of survey respondents feel that their neighborhood streets are "very safe" to "somewhat safe."

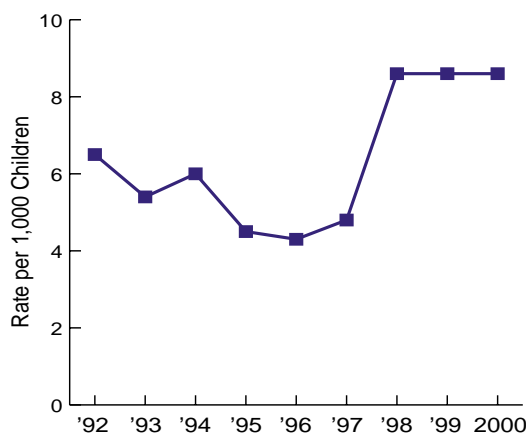


Those who feel unsafe in their neighborhoods are more likely to live in the city, be younger, female, low income and minority.

Source: 2001 Community Survey

Child Abuse & Neglect

Source: Michigan Human Services League



Although the rate of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect declined from 1990 to 1997, there has been a considerable increase since 1998 to a current level of 8.6 cases per thousand children. Part of the increase could be due to heightened awareness and better reporting.

Community Voices

"I really appreciated it when my neighborhood association sent door-to-door flyers about a rash of break-ins. The flyer included a sketch of the suspect and the phone number for the police. The only thing they could have done better was make it known when the man was captured."

Barbara Felten



Community Voices

"When I was a kid my mother would clean the house thoroughly before going on vacation because she said it always felt great to come home to a clean, orderly house after a time away. We should remember that for kids. If they were coming home to safe, orderly houses, they'd be more inclined to stay. It's all part of caring and making where you live a safe, comfortable place."

Irma Freeman

What we want –

Families and individuals live in a clean, natural environment where resources are used responsibly.

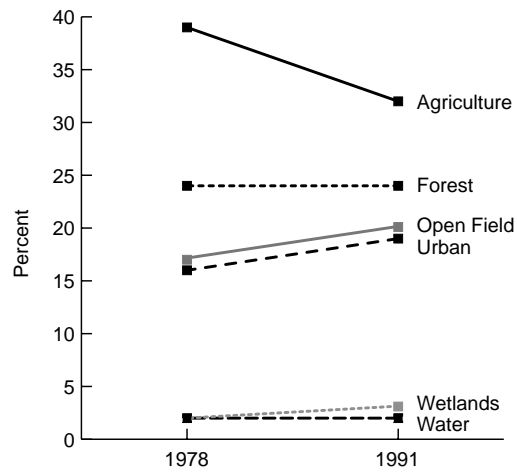
It took all of us together to damage the environment and deplete our non-renewable resources. Environmental hazards create health concerns for the entire community. Waste depletes our resources permanently. Continuing urban sprawl robs the city and nearby suburbs of their necessary tax base, destroys natural habitats, water, and air quality.

It will take all of us together to preserve and conserve what remains. It begins with people in their places of work and business, and individuals in neighborhoods taking personal responsibility for their natural environment. It continues with initiatives like the City of Grand Rapids Master Plan and Metropolitan Council Blueprint II guiding overall use of our natural and physical resources.



Kent County Land Use

Source: Water Resources Institute, GVSU



The proportion of land in agriculture continues to decline.

Over 75% of Kent County agricultural landowners are concerned about the loss of farmland and urban sprawl. Despite their concerns, they say their land is more valuable for development than for farming. (MSU Center for Urban Affairs 1998 Survey)

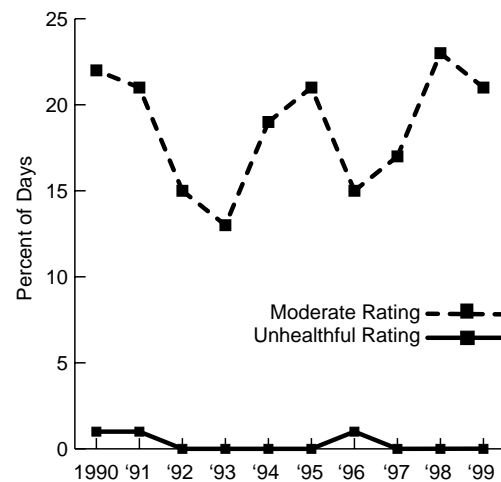


“Not only does urban sprawl destroy the natural environment; it necessitates cars, which further destroy the environment with toxic emissions and polluting the water with storm water run off.”
Bill Beattie

Air Quality

Pollutant Standards Index

Source: U.S. EPA-AIR Data Monitor PSA Report



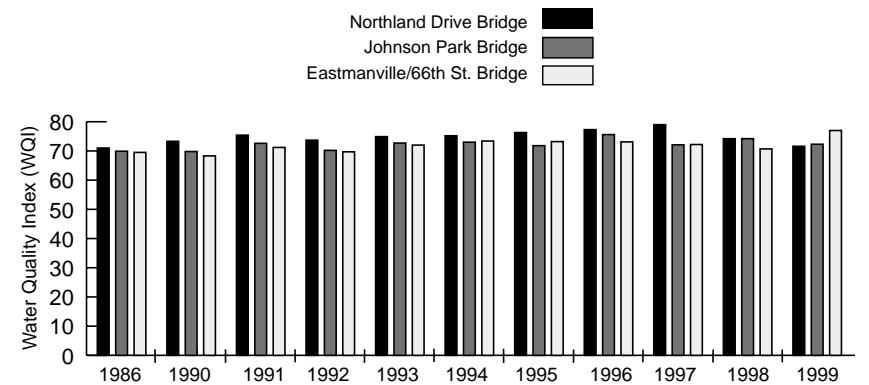
Moderate Rating: Few or no cautions for the general public. Unhealthful Rating: Mild aggravation of symptoms among susceptible people, with irritation symptoms in the healthy population.

Persons with existing heart or respiratory ailments should reduce physical exertion and outdoor activity. General population should reduce vigorous outdoor activity.

“Everything is business-oriented. We get bad air from Chicago and Milwaukee and we make our own here. As long as we have a good economy, we let those things happen. It takes a death to get people active on environmental issues”
Rashid

Grand River Water Quality Index

Source: Grand Rapids Environmental Protection Department



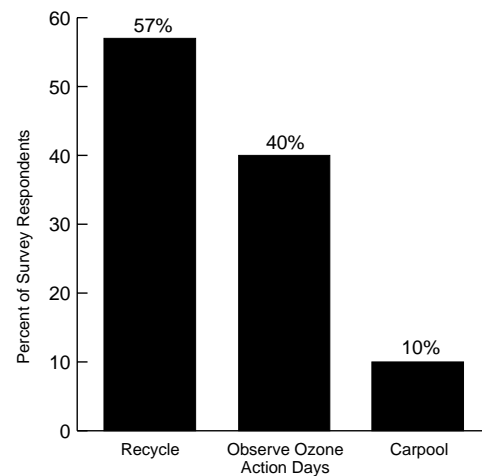
The overall quality of water in the Grand River continues to be good.

WQI VALUE	WATER QUALITY	RECREATIONAL USE
0-25	Poor	No body contact
26-50	Fair	Limited body contact
51-70	Average	Use with caution
71-90	Good	Very few limits
91-100	Excellent	Fully usable

How We Contribute To Our Ecosystem

Source: Delta Survey 2000

Which of the following activities do you do on a regular basis?

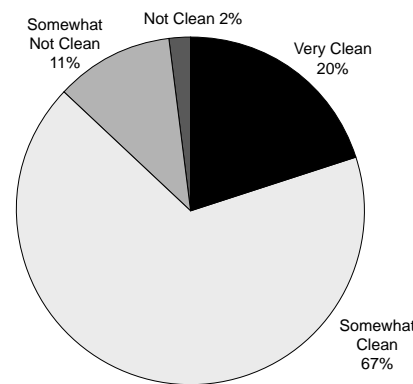


While almost 60% of our survey respondents choose to recycle in various ways, carpooling to reduce pollution or save energy is uncommon. Compliance with ozone action days are the priority of 40% of county residents.

Our Natural Environment

Source: Delta Survey 2000

How would you rate the natural environment of the greater Grand Rapids area?



Only 13% of our community feel that we do not have a clean environment.



Adopt-a-Highway

Source: MDOT

188 miles in Kent County have been adopted by 89 groups.

The following individuals are among the many who contributed in some way to our Community Report Cards over the last two years. We are very grateful to them.

Barb Hawkins Palmer
Cynthia Pimm
Diane Scott
Geoff Hughes
Jenny Shangraw
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Tom Cary
Amie Harpe
Gabriel Works
Gwen Woomer
Jay Hoekstra
Laurie Craft
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Jan Koopman
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Pat Zomer
Ray Hoag
Bill Stough
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Michelle Cleveland
Teresa Schaal
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Allison Kaufman
Anna Kruse
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John Koches
Mia DeBruyne
Monica Rogers
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Ed Sosa
Dale Royal
Dave Newton
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Kevin Wisselink
Linda Patterson
Sarah Green
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Pat Marks
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Ben Boerkoel
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Bob Perl
Carol Faas
Curt VanderKooi
Cynthia Singleton
Betty Blodgett
Bill Rawlings
Curt VanderKooi
Rev. David May
Floyd Wilson Jr.
Fran Dalton
Harriet Singleton
Jim Rademaker
Joann Reeves
Joann Ricci
John Ferguson
Julie Cowie
Lee Nelson Weber
Mark Herald
Mark Tourek
Nancy Haynes
Pat Williams
Phil Catlett
Rose VanLent
Sharon LaChappelle
Sister Marjorie Vangnsnes
Steve Robbins
Terri Handlin
Theresa Thome
Thomas Stankewicz
Tom Sinclair

Yvette McCutcheon
Fran Dalton
Jim Rademaker
Jim Meyer
Julie Mauer
Michel Coconis
Phil Catlett
Rose VanLent
Tamber Moore
Carol Faas
Bob Cooper
Pamela Daugavietis
Marilyn Titche
Mike Robinson
Van McMullan
Sandy Sefton
Micheal Wood
Alejandra Rojas
Phil Shaafstma
Sandra Strothers
Al Jansen
Anne Dierker
Erica Curry
Deanna Rolffs
Brittina Williams
John Gibbons
Lori Stegmier
Terri Weekley
Ingrid Scott-Weekley
LaDeidra Brown-Gais
Bobby Davis
Scott Palczewski
Brian Chivis
Anthony Gomez
Shirley Johnson

Cynthia Moody
Barton Chatman
Teresa Branson
Elena Juarez
Jerry Felix
Paul Haan
Stuart Ray
Martha Atwater
Micki Benz
Maggie Bethel
Mike Brennan
Susan Broman
John Brown
Daryl Delabbio
Beth Dilley
Joe Dulin
Paul Fuller
Stan Greene
George Heartwell
Lynn Heemstra
Jim Jendrasiak
Fred Keller
Alice Kennedy
Kurt Kimball
Birgit Klohs
Dirk Koning
Jim McKay
Toyin Moore
Patricia Oldt
Juan Olivarez
Rebecca Ramirez-Barnes
Milt Rohwer
Diana Sieger
Margaret Sellers Walker
Carole Morgan Williams
Donna Vanlwaarden
Cheryl Endres
Donna Kragt
Beth Leeson
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Elizabeth Foetisch
Enid Gaddis
Susan Jarrell
Laurie Schaut



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*Country Fresh
Wolverine World Wide
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