

2ND ANNUAL
GREATER GRAND RAPIDS

Community Report Card

Improving by the Numbers...



OCTOBER 2000

WHAT'S NEW?

The Delta Survey 2000 is all new data from a telephone survey of more than 400 greater Grand Rapids residents, conducted in August of this year. It will be updated periodically to allow us to see changes in community perceptions. These are some of the findings from the survey. Complete results are available on the website: "www4.gvsu.edu/philanthropy/cdi.htm". You can link to this site through "www.deltastategy.org".

- 45% of community members say that they are doing better economically this year as compared to last year. However, 11% say they're doing worse.
- 77% of those who are working are satisfied with their jobs, while 23% want a better job.
- Nearly one in five respondents experienced an incident of discrimination in the last year, with men more likely to experience discrimination based on race and women based on their gender.
- 34% of African-Americans and 24% of Hispanic-Americans have felt discriminated against in the past year.

- 66% of area residents believe their school districts have high expectations for all students.
- Most residents with children in school report that they attend parent-teacher conferences and school and class events.
- Over half of survey respondents feel "very safe" walking in their neighborhoods at night, while 10% feel "somewhat" or "very unsafe."
- One in five community residents report that children in their neighborhoods don't have enough activities after school, on weekends, and during the summer.
- One in three survey respondents report that they sometimes or often worry about running out of money for food, clothing and shelter. Minority residents are twice as likely as Caucasian residents to worry often about running out of money.
- Residents report that they are likely to engage in behaviors that lead to better health.
- 86% of community members feel that we have a "somewhat clean" or "very clean" environment, while 2% believe that our environment is "not clean."

WHAT MEASURES HAVE CHANGED SINCE LAST YEAR'S REPORT CARD?

- Unemployment continued to decrease — from 3.1% in Kent County in 1999 to 2.8% in the first six months of 2000. City of Grand Rapids numbers also declined from 4.4% to 3.9%.
- The rate of substantiated child abuse/neglect cases increased from 5.6 per thousand in 1998 to 8.6 per thousand in 1999.
- Crime is down.
- In 1998, the numbers of deaths from heart disease, cancer and stroke decreased slightly, even with continued population growth in Kent County.
- Bus service availability has increased to 19 hours per day, while miles covered are up 12% and ridership continues to increase.
- Housing deterioration in the core city increased from 1992 to 1996.



The Delta Survey 2000 asked respondents to give the community an overall grade.

We earned a "B"



HOW TO CONTACT US?

Call 616.234.4316 (fax: 616.234.3929), email: "deltastategy@grandcommunity.net" for more information on how to participate.

Check our website: "www.deltastategy.org" for general information and to link to "www4.gvsu.edu/philanthropy/cdi.htm" for more community data.

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



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 is committed to helping greater Grand Rapids **build its capacity to solve our toughest problems by—**

- Gathering visions to determine what kind of community we want to create
- Working with community teams to identify and update measures to chart our progress
- Bringing together individuals and organizations working on common, key issues
- Developing, communicating and helping to implement problem-solving processes that can be used by any group in the community.

WHY A COMMUNITY REPORT CARD?

Our Community Report Card contains six results that the community says it would like to achieve, and a number of measures, numerical data, that can tell us how we are doing on specific issues over time.

Greater Grand Rapids and many other communities throughout the country have chosen to develop report cards, because they allow progress to be visible. They also can focus the community's attention on specific issues that are most important.

THE STORY OF THIS REPORT CARD

This is the second annual greater Grand Rapids Community Report Card. Since last year, people from throughout the community have provided many suggestions to make the Report Card **clearer, more focused, and more likely to move our community to action**. They told us that these measures need to relate to the lives of real people in our community.

Based on the feedback, these are changes you will see:

- The eight Vision Areas are re-organized as six results our community wants.
- A 400 person quality-of-life community survey provides information on how community members feel about a variety of topics.
- Quotes from community members.
- Some measures from last year's Report Card are available on the Web, rather than in the Report Card.
- All measures are described in words as well as graphs, so that all readers can understand the trends.
- Greater detail is available at the website.

The most dramatic difference that will be apparent in the 2000 Report Card is a change from the eight Vision Areas to the six Community Results. The Community Results better reflect what the community wants as outcomes of their effort. As community groups have come together to work on specific problems, they have discovered that root or underlying causes for a problem can lie in multiple vision areas.

To effect meaningful change, we must work on root causes across vision areas – the new Community Results reflect that approach. For the purpose of review, the Vision statements were:

Economy-A community that fosters and sustains a strong, diverse economy where everyone has the opportunity to prosper.

Urban Environment- Urban communities that create and sustain an environment where people find it attractive to live, learn, play and work.

Basic Human Needs-A community that meets the needs of all people in regard to emotional and physical health, food, shelter, and safety.

Activities- A community that provides a range of year-round and accessible cultural, recreational, and entertainment activities.

Equality- A community that values and respects diversity by providing equal choice, opportunity and treatment for all its residents.

Natural Environment- A community that provides access to a clean, natural environment for all current and future residents.

Education- A community that provides equal access and quality of learning opportunities over the lifetime of its residents.

Transportation- A community that meets the needs of its residents in getting people, goods and services from one location to another.

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 2000 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 have equal opportunity and treatment.
4. Families and individuals live in a safe, caring, thriving and vibrant community.
5. Families and individuals are healthy, with adequate shelter, nutrition and clothing.
6. Families and individuals live in a clean, natural environment where resources are used responsibly.

For the community members who spent countless hours developing the first Report Card, your work was valid and is honored by the newly adopted Community Results. The data listed under the eight vision areas last year have been incorporated and included under the appropriate community result. (For example: under result 2, urban environment, transportation, and basic human needs measures are listed.) All the measures chosen last year in our highly participative community meetings are either included in this second edition or on the website: "www4.gvsu.edu/philanthropy/cdi.htm".

What Can You Do?

There are many things you can do that will make a difference on these measures over time – things like –

- Voting
- Volunteering—at a school, an environmental organization, a shelter
- Mentoring or tutoring a child
- Cleaning up your neighborhood with your neighbors
- Recycling
- Attending an Institute for the Healing of Racism
- Working together with people doing similar work in the community
- Writing a letter to the editor
- Joining a neighborhood or community group
- Calling The Delta Strategy to connect with a community action team

This list goes on — the possibilities are limitless.



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.

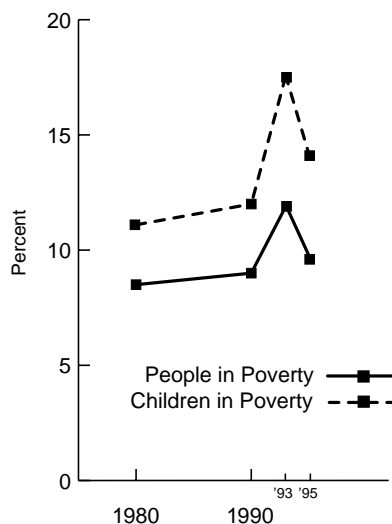


"If we're going to do anything about poverty, it has to be personal. Poverty needs a face. People need mentors, advocates, people to help them open up doors and walk through them. Treating poverty is not a matter of dollars—it's a matter of investing and connecting, person to person."
Dorothy Munson

"Everyone has a different economic goal. I think some people struggle because they don't open their minds to possibilities. They are willing and able to do what it takes to reach their economic goals, but they don't know where to begin, or how to get there."
Dan Barcheski

Poverty

Source: U.S. Census (updated data available in 2001-02)



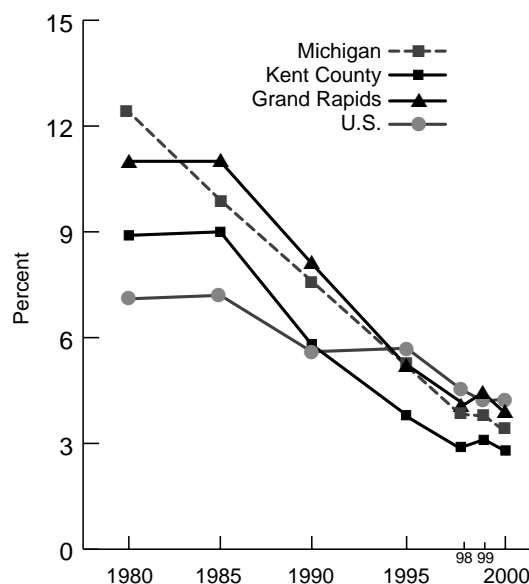
In Kent County, one out of seven children, and one out of nine residents lived in poverty in 1995. The Federal Government defines poverty as an annual income of \$16,895 for a family of four.

A two-parent working family with 2 children would need an income of about \$34,000 a year to be economically self-sufficient.

Source: Michigan League for Human Services

Unemployment Rate

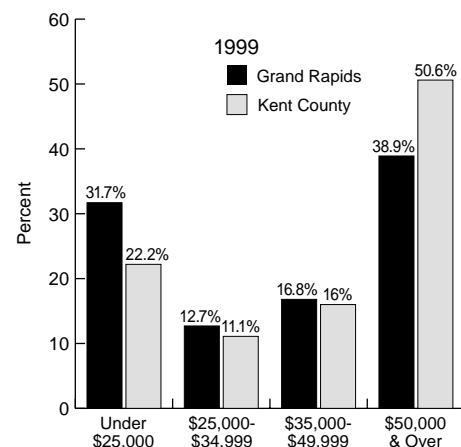
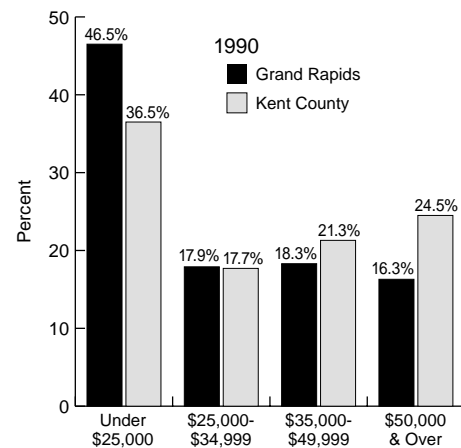
Source: Michigan Department of Career Development (Employee Services Division)



Unemployment rates for the city and county have continued their decline. These rates are the lowest the community has ever experienced.

Household Income

Source: US Census: Market Statistics



Although incomes are improving, there are fewer people at middle income levels and more at the high and low income levels.

"We've had a strong pendulum swing that promotes self-sufficiency while criticizing dependency. The furthest point of the pendulum swing will find people accepting responsibility for themselves, true, but also people focused only on helping themselves and their own families. I believe that humans are interdependent and that we will one day have to return to caring for and about others."
Jaime Muller

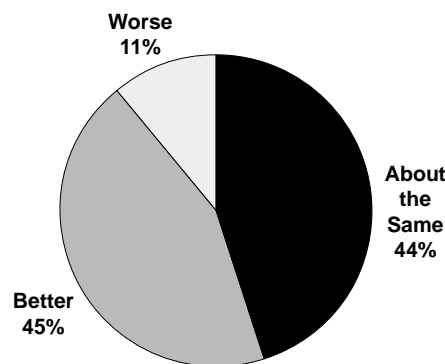
"Here in Heartside we're all fighting for a living. We need to respect each other and respect those who are trying to help instead of kicking them away. But the depression keeps everything in chaos – people angry with the world can't or won't do nothing to help themselves. In my last job at a chemical plating place, I was a hard worker and the bosses trusted me, so they moved me up. But on the new job, people would ask me questions I couldn't answer. It was just too much responsibility."

Linda Williams

Personal Economic Progress

Source: Delta Survey 2000

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



Nearly half of the respondents in the survey reported that they are better off financially than a year ago.

The survey also indicated that—

- 65% of those with incomes under \$30,000 are worse off today than a year ago.
- 63% of those with incomes over \$50,000 are better off today than a year ago.

"I love everything about being self-employed except searching for adequate, affordable health insurance. I don't think people who receive insurance through their employer understand how much of their income would go to insurance if they had to pay for it out of pocket. I can pay for occasional doctor and dental visits, but a hospital stay would wipe me out."

Barton Chatman

Feeding Our Kids

Source: Michigan Department of Education

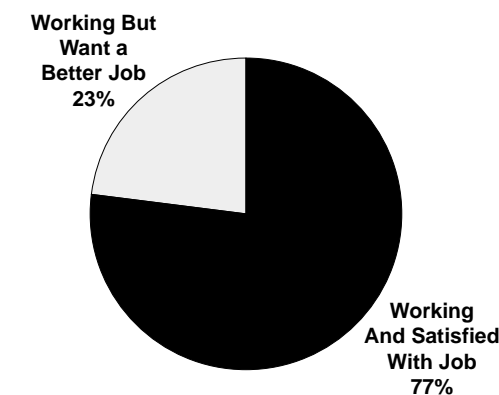
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Forest Hills	2.7%	2.5%	2.6%
Godfrey Lee	45.7%	47.9%	50.2%
Grand Rapids	61.2%	65.3%	66.0%
Kentwood	23.6%	23.8%	24.2%
KISD	28.6%	29.3%	28.9%
Michigan	31.4%	31.6%	31.3%

Reduced-price or free lunches are more than twice as likely in Grand Rapids than in other districts within Kent County. Poverty is disproportionately located in the core city.

Job Satisfaction

Source: Delta Survey 2000

How would you describe your current employment status?



Over 3/4 of workers are satisfied with their current jobs. The survey also indicated that 35% of minorities who are working want a better job.

62% of Kent County residents are concerned about the ability of their families to earn a good living.

Source: The Grand Rapids Press Survey, 1999

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.

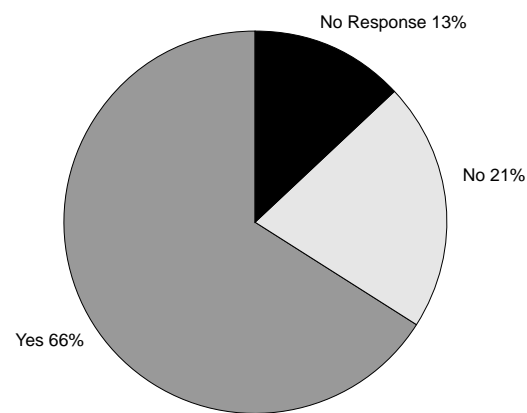
Some people choose to stop learning. They are intimidated and disgusted or feel powerless. They no longer are willing to participate. Their children, in turn, are handicapped when they enter the educational system. Often a good teacher or a great community school like Henry Street can help them catch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



Educational Expectations

Source: Delta Survey 2000

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



Two-thirds of survey respondents believe their schools have high expectations for all students.

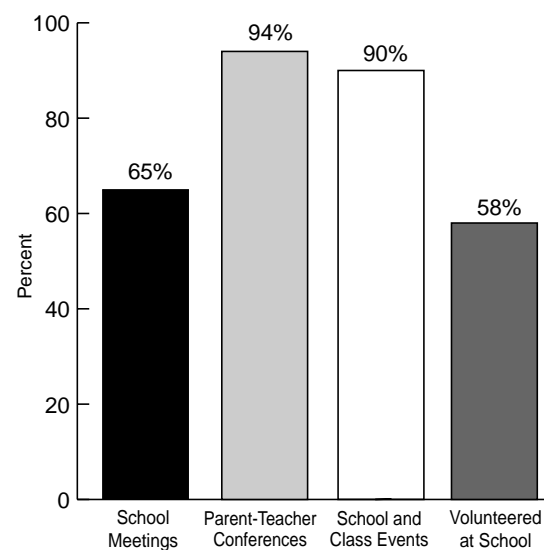
"Our school does things the way I expect them to in Kentwood. They give students good instruction, and give parents great opportunities to contribute to their children's education. We have high expectations for our kids and so do they."

Lionel Barnes

Parental Involvement in Schools

Source: Delta Survey 2000

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 and class events. Many attend school meetings and more than half volunteer at school.

"I tell my kids, 'Get the highest degree you possibly can.' I don't particularly like school, and I never have, but I know that it's what it takes to get you where you want to go."

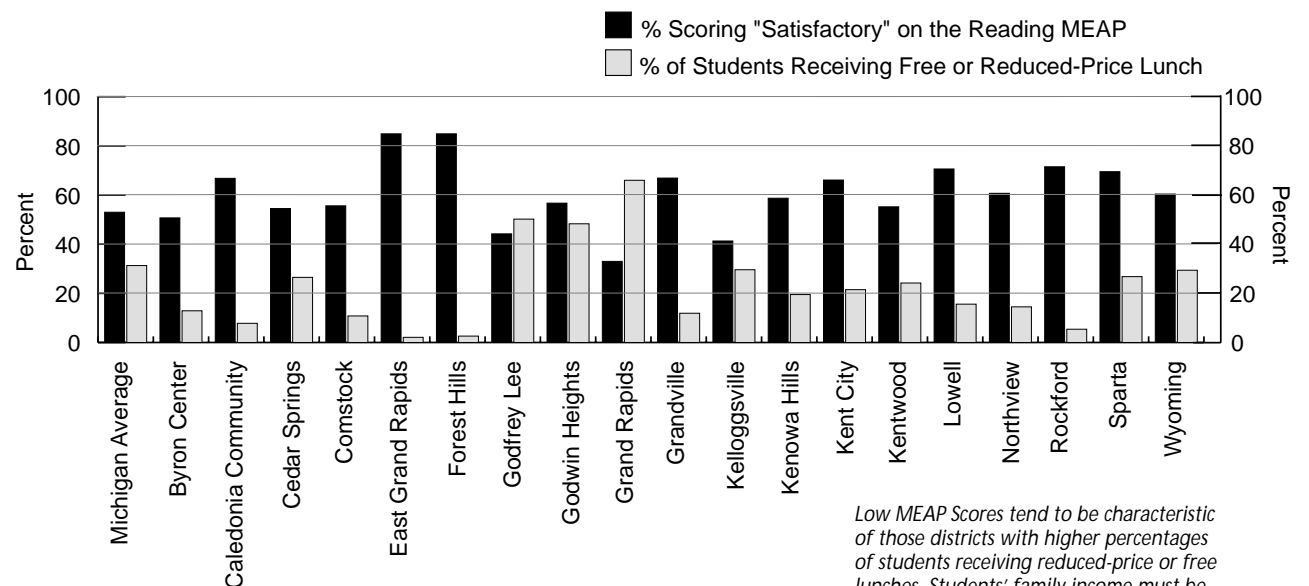
Stephanie Armour

"I think ambition, motivation, and a solid work ethic are far more important than a college education. I also think we've gone too far as a community in emphasizing a college education — to the point that college graduates think that all they have to do is get that piece of paper and, boom!, the money rolls in. It doesn't work that way. You have to work, produce, become better all the time."

Dave Roberts

Poverty and Student Achievement on 7th Grade MEAP Tests 1998-99

Source: Michigan Department of Education

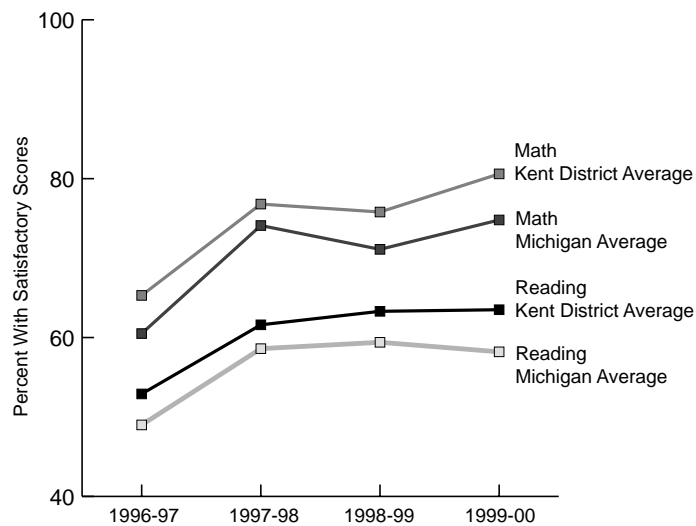


Low MEAP Scores tend to be characteristic of those districts with higher percentages of students receiving reduced-price or free lunches. Students' family income must be less than \$30,411 (180% of poverty level) to qualify for that program.



4th Grade Math and Reading MEAP Scores

Source: Michigan Department of Education



Kent County 4th grade math scores improved this year, while reading was virtually unchanged.

"I like school a lot, especially when we get to do science stuff. When I grow up, I want to be a veterinarian."

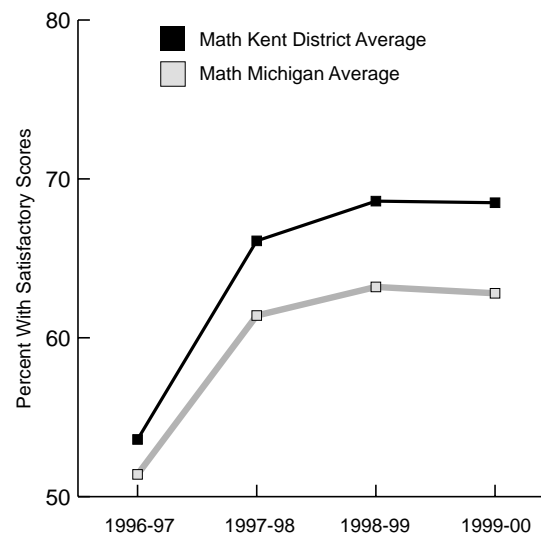
Amber Johnson, age 8

"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

7th Grade Math MEAP Scores

Source: Michigan Department of Education



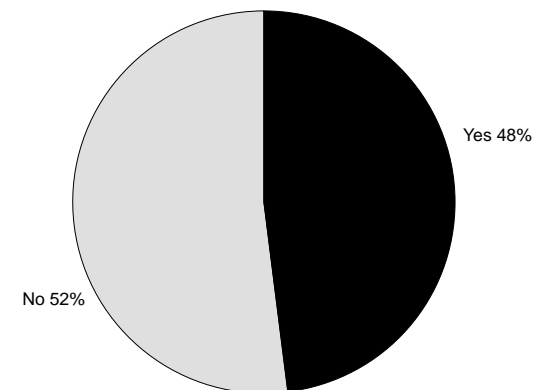
After several years of steep increases in math MEAP scores, students' performance has leveled off.



Adult Education and Training

Source: Delta Survey 2000

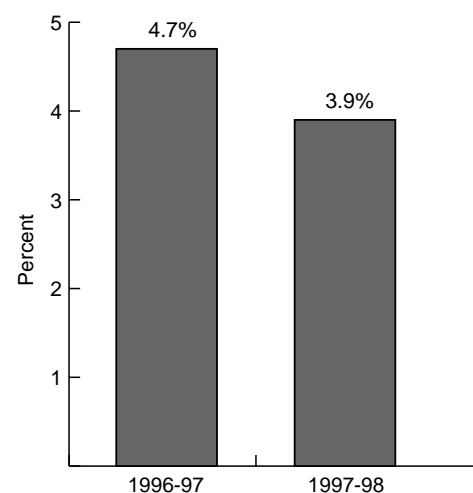
Have you participated in some form of training or education in the past year?



Nearly half of the survey respondents participated in some form of education or training in the last year.

Drop-out Rates

Source: Michigan Department of Education



Drop-out rates in Kent County are down from 1996-97.



"I'd like to work with the elderly, but you need to earn a certification for that. I don't have the money to go to school, and until recently, didn't even know where to go for it. If I could just get hired in at a nursing home, it would make taking the classes a lot easier."

Ora Jean Brinks

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.



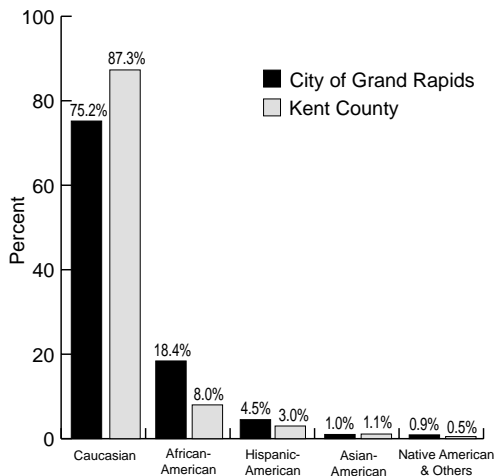
"There's a difference between fair and equal. Fair isn't always equal. We're all individuals, and we can expect to be treated fairly. But there are differences in 'fair.' For instance, a student with a disability requires greater services and greater financial investment than a student without. Providing those services is fair even though the investment isn't equal."

Scott Palczewski



1990 Population Diversity of Kent County and Grand Rapids

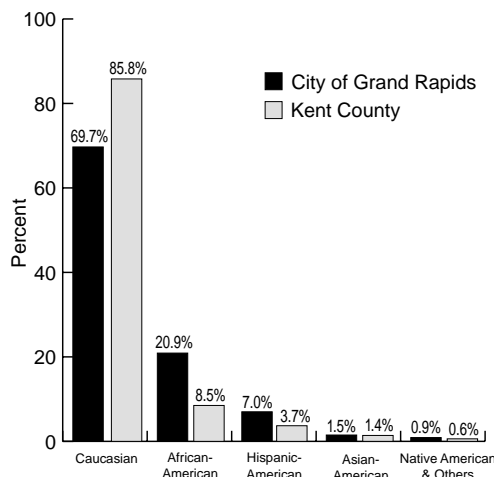
Source: City of Grand Rapids, Kent County



Most minority residents live in the City of Grand Rapids.

1998 Population Diversity of Kent County and Grand Rapids

Source: City of Grand Rapids, Kent County



Over the last decade, the minority population has increased in Grand Rapids and has remained stable in the county.

"We have to get comfortable with each other, and grow our relationships, if we're to heal."

Kent Vana

Feelings of Discrimination

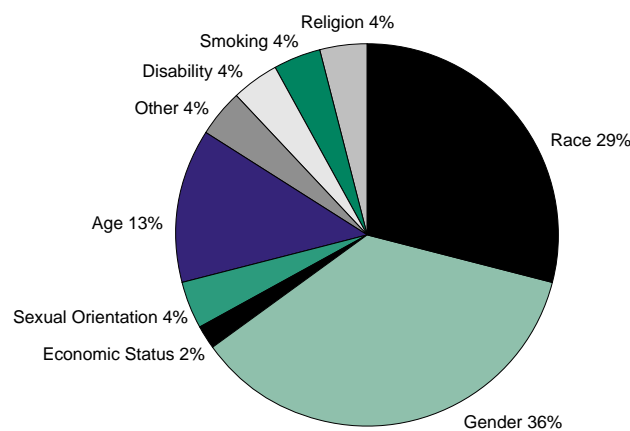
Source: Delta Survey 2000

Nearly one in five Delta Survey 2000 respondents experienced an incident of discrimination in the last year.

- 34% of African-Americans have felt discrimination in the past year.
- 24% of Hispanic-Americans have felt discrimination in the past year.
- 16% of Caucasians have felt discrimination in the past year.

Discrimination Experienced by Women

Can you think of an incident in the past year in which you felt discriminated against? Why?

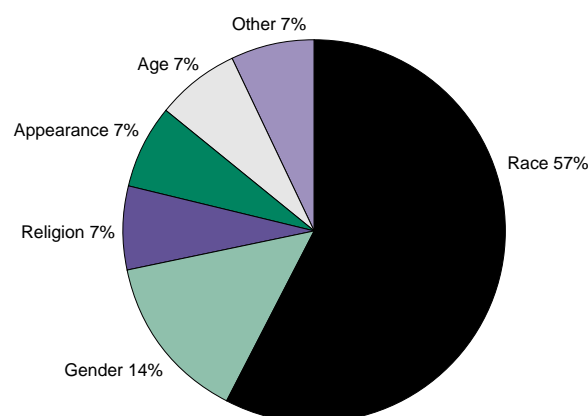


Over one-third of the women who experienced discrimination cited gender as the reason.

Discrimination Experienced by Men

Source: Delta Survey 2000

Can you think of an incident in the past year in which you felt discriminated against? Why?

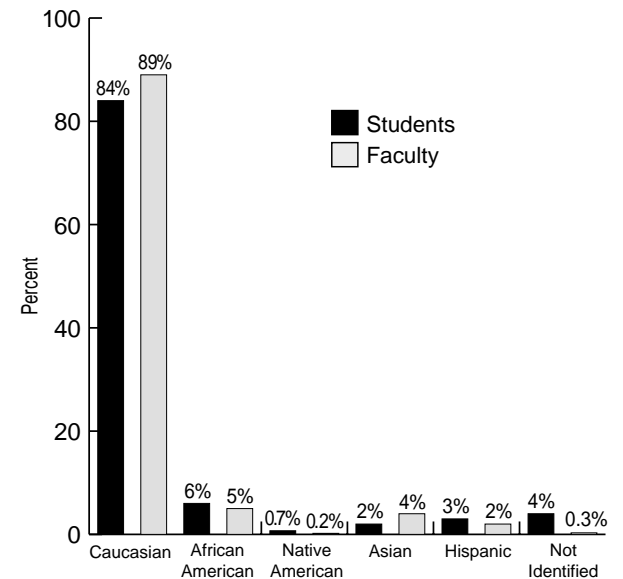


More than half of the men who experienced discrimination cited race as the reason.

Diversity in Higher Education

Source: Delta Survey of Higher Education Institutions August 2000

Fall 1999 Enrollment - Greater Grand Rapids Colleges and Universities

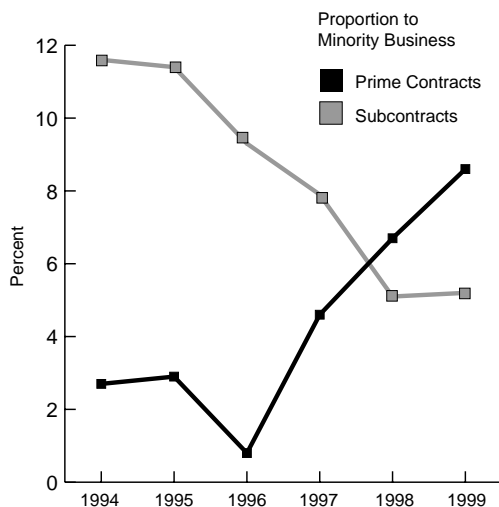


Diversity in faculty and students is relatively comparable in our higher education institutions.



City Construction Contracts with Minority-Owned Businesses

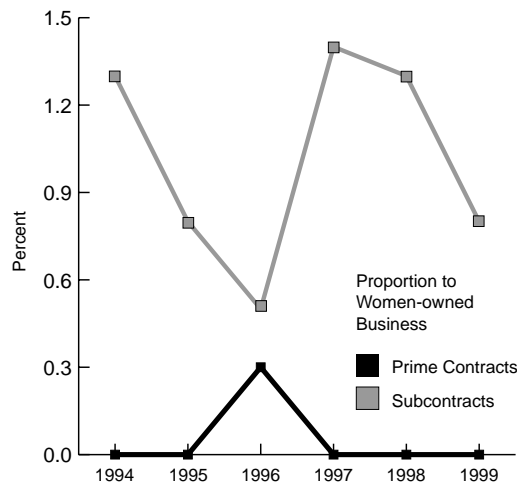
Source: City of Grand Rapids



Prime contracts to minority-owned businesses have increased to 8.6%, however, subcontracts are half of what they were in 1994.

City Construction Contracts with Women-Owned Businesses

Source: City of Grand Rapids



Sub-contracts to women-owned businesses are nearly 50% lower than in 1997. There have been no prime contracts awarded to women-owned businesses since 1996.



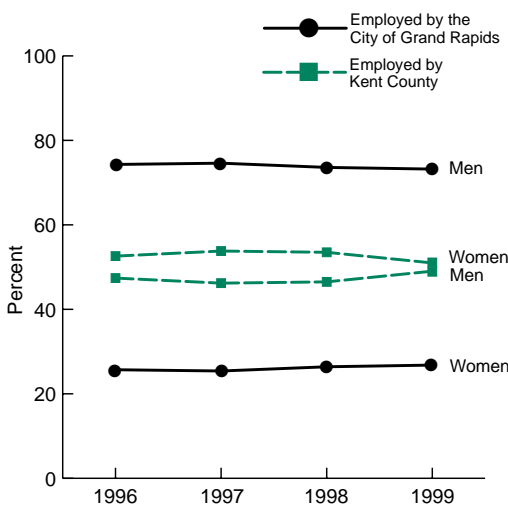
"I live in the 'wrong' neighborhood and I get judged for it. My daughter's father lives in a big house and in a small suburb; he's a professional. His new wife had me arrested for assault. I didn't do it, but the police in that suburb took her word over mine, especially when they found out I live in a neighborhood with a reputation. I've learned that there are two kinds of justice: one when people come together and force the system to notice, and the second when people have the money to 'buy' fairness."

Cindy Hicks

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



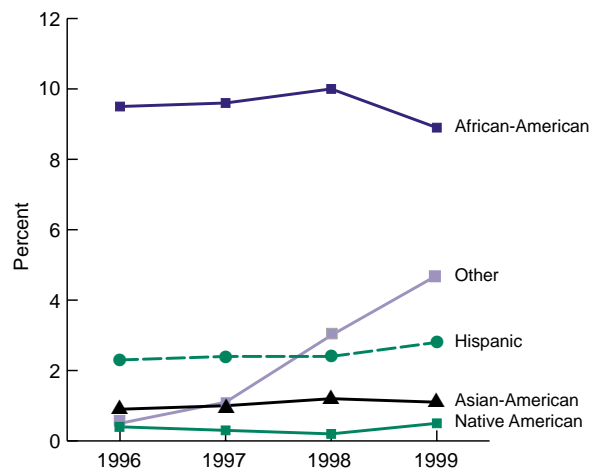
Males and females are equally represented in the County workforce, while 73% of the City workforce is male.



Government Minority Employment

% of Minorities in the Kent County Government Workforce

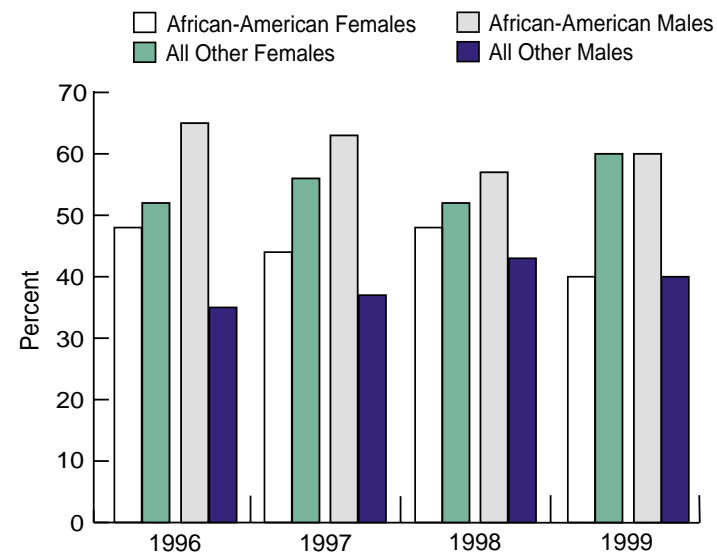
Source: Kent County



Minority employment has increased over the past 4 years to 18% of the County workforce.

Juvenile Referrals to the Family Court

Source: Grand Rapids Police Department



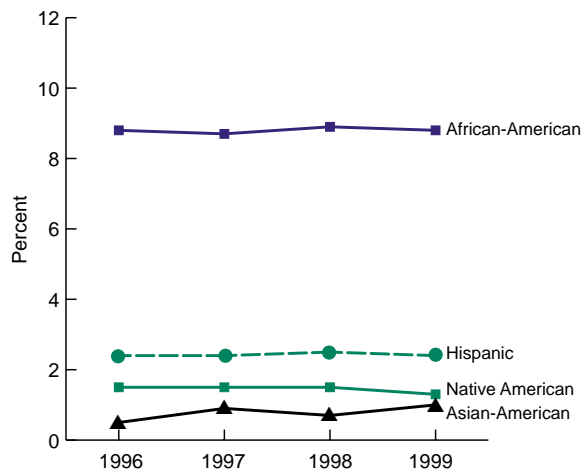
African-American youth are disproportionately referred to the Family Court for criminal offenses, based on their population numbers.

"When you don't get a job you thought was a perfect match for your background, you begin to question — are my credentials not as good as I thought they were? Am I not as capable as I believed? Did I give a wrong answer in the interview? Maybe they just didn't like the way I looked, or the color of my skin. It destroys your self esteem."

Paul Doyle

% of Minorities in the Grand Rapids City Government Workforce

Source: City of Grand Rapids



Minority employment has remained at the same level for the City of Grand Rapids workforce since 1996.

Although most citizens in our community believe they experience equal opportunity and treatment, one in five with incomes under \$20,000 do not. Nearly one in five minority residents believe they do not.

Source: Delta Survey 2000

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. Evidence of that, came to light this past year, when community members came together to develop a proposal for improved bus service, that was then approved by voters. Work and activities are now more accessible for all community residents.

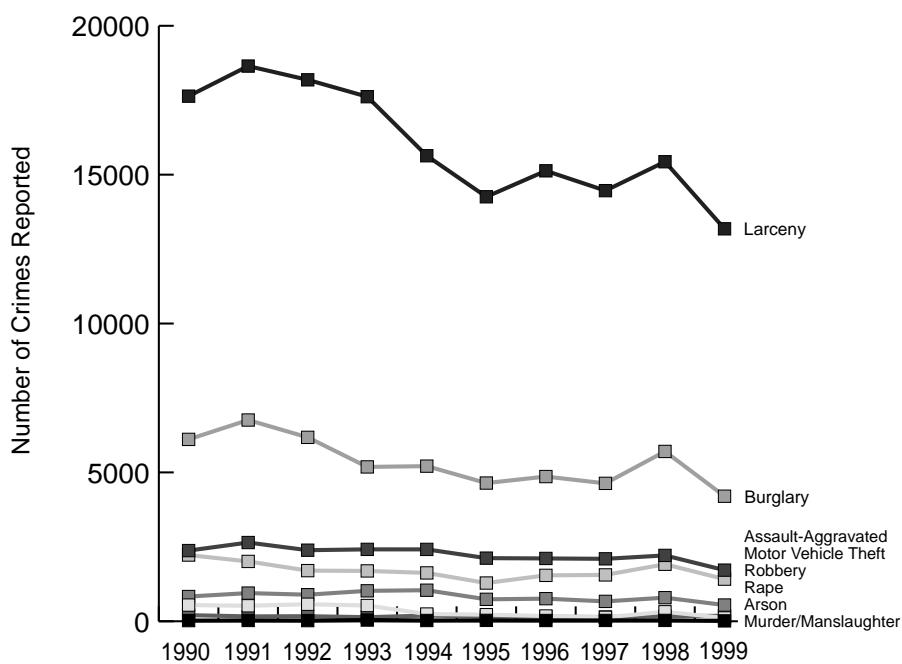
Not all neighborhoods and families in our community have that same quality of life. We have isolated pockets of high poverty and crime where drug dealers work in open view of neighbors, where young children have been awakened by the sound of street fights or gunfire, where no one feels safe or cared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



"Humans are tribal so it becomes really important to uphold the standards of the 'tribe.' The Anishnabek Indians don't punish their children, yet they have no crime. They simply tell their children that their behavior is 'not the Anishnabek way.' The children don't want to be outcasts from the group, so they meet their parents' and the community's expectations."
Levi Rickert

Incidence of Crime

Source: Uniform Crime Report, Michigan State Police

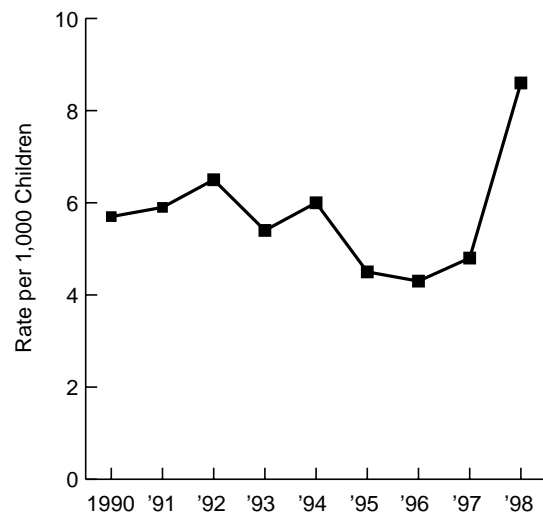


After an increase in crime from 1997 to 1998, there was a noticeable decrease from 1998 to 1999.

Child Abuse & Neglect

Source: Michigan Human Services League

"I'm very concerned about the number of teen parents. On a hot summer day or any Saturday you can see young, very young, kids pushing strollers. It's like they have a club and the baby is their entrance fee."
Rebecca Ramirez-Barnes

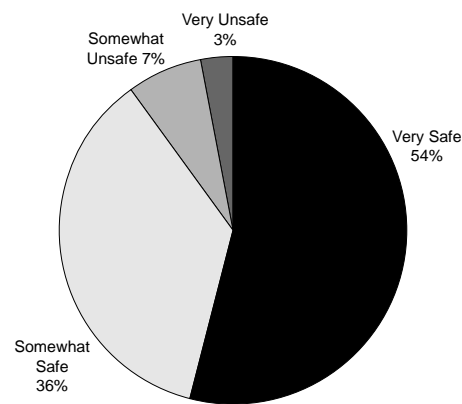


Although the rate of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect declined from 1990 to 1997, there has been a considerable increase since 1998 to a current level of 8.6 cases per thousand children. Part of the increase could be due to heightened awareness and better reporting.

Neighborhood Safety

Source: Delta Survey 2000

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



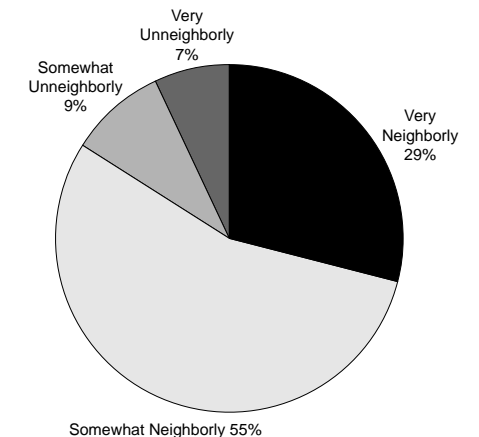
90% of survey respondents feel that their neighborhood streets are "very safe" to "somewhat safe."

"I've never been a victim of a crime. If I lived in a neighborhood where I felt I had to lock my doors, I'd move. Worry about a break-in or violence would be so stressful. That would wreck the idea that home is a safe haven."
Mark Clabeaux

How We Treat Each Other

Source: Delta Survey 2000

Sometimes neighbors help each other or work together to improve the neighborhood. How would you describe your neighborhood?

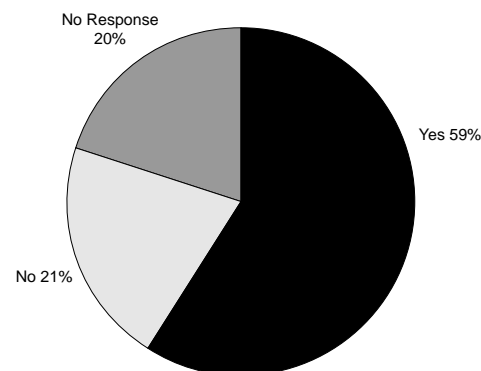


84% of survey respondents describe their neighborhoods as "very neighborly" or "somewhat neighborly."

Children's Activities

Source: Delta Survey 2000

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



More than half of survey respondents report that children in their neighborhood have enough activities after school, on weekends, and during the summer.

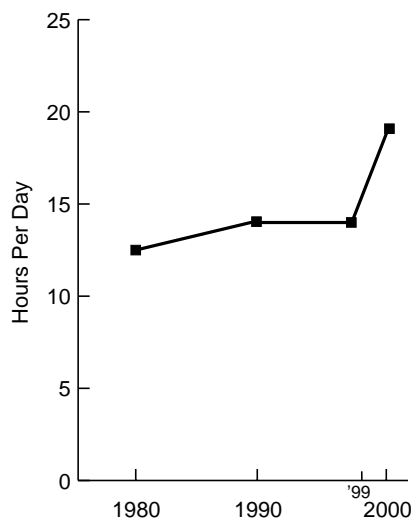


"There's nothing for kids in the suburbs to do unless it's tied to the school. We don't have a recreation center. We don't have a place to dance, and none of us know how to anyway. We can't afford a concert or movie."
Alyssa Collins, 15

Transit Services

Bus Service Availability: Hours of Bus Service per Day

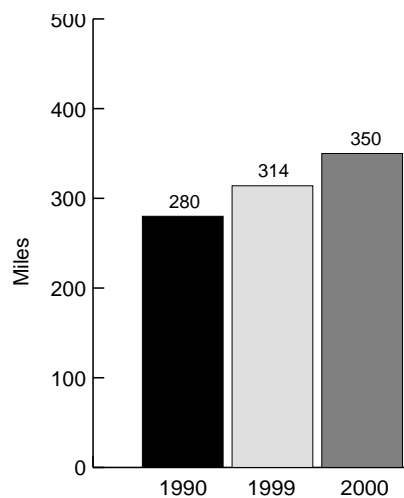
Source: Interurban Transit Partnership (GRATA)



Bus service availability has increased from about 12 hours a day in 1980 to nearly 19 hours a day in the year 2000. Bus service is now available on Sunday for the first time ever.

Bus Service Availability: Miles Covered by Bus Service (one direction)

Source: Interurban Transit Partnership (GRATA)



In 2000, one directional bus service covers 350 miles (excluding areas that overlap).



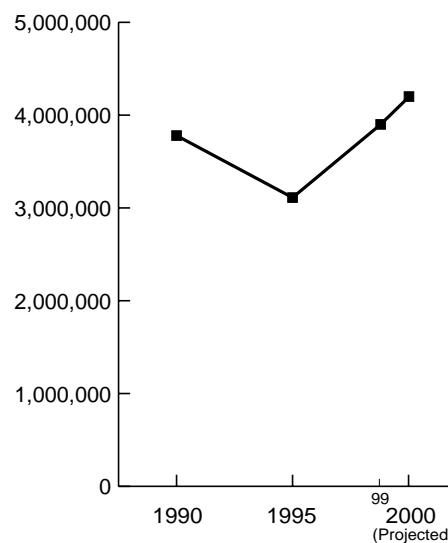
Number of Bus Routes to Airports and Bus/Train Stations

Source: Interurban Transit Partnership (GRATA)

There are currently 2 bus routes that go to the airport and 2 routes that go to train or bus stations.

Annual Bus Ridership

Source: Interurban Transit Partnership (GRATA)



After declining from 1990 to 1995, bus ridership has increased continuously.

"I wouldn't mind supporting a transit millage. We need to plan for a light-rail system if we're serious about reducing our dependence on cars."
Joel Morgan

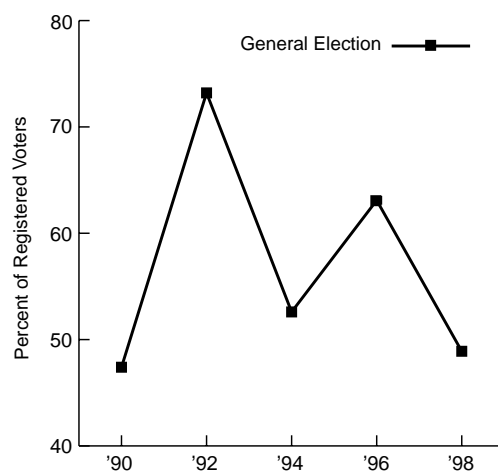
Bike Racks

Source: Interurban Transit Partnership (GRATA)

All buses are now equipped with bike racks.

Voter Participation

Source: Kent County Clerk Elections Department

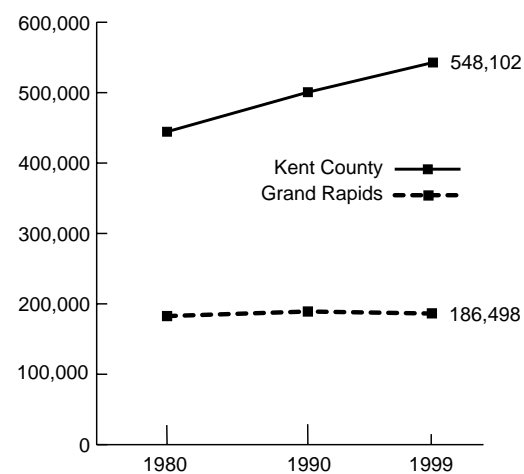


Less than one half of registered voters in Kent County voted in the 1998 general election.



Population Trends

Source: Market Statistics



Since 1990, the population of Grand Rapids has decreased by 1.4% while the Kent County population has increased by about 10%.

Elected officials come from all walks of life, but historically, minorities have not been elected to fill these positions in our community. We must change that for our own survival and well-being, in addition to the greater good of the community.

Don Williams Sr.

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.

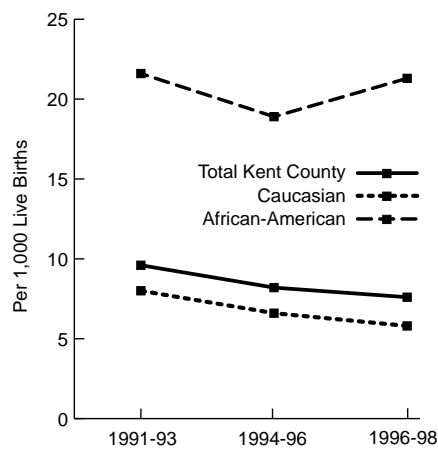


"Despite all our resources, we have one of the highest African-American infant mortality rates in the state. It's the whole community's problem – not just the problem of healthcare. We have to become aware of those things that keep people from accessing medical and dental care: answering machines, language barriers, treatment, cultural misunderstandings, and then we have to work to make sure that more cultures are represented in the healthcare industry."

Paul Doyle

Infant Mortality Rate

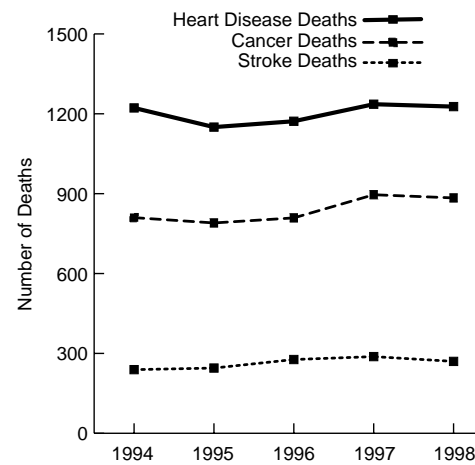
Source: Kent County Health Department



Although the overall infant mortality rate (deaths of children less than one year old per 1000 live births) has declined, African-American infants die at about four times the rate of Caucasian infants.

Mortality

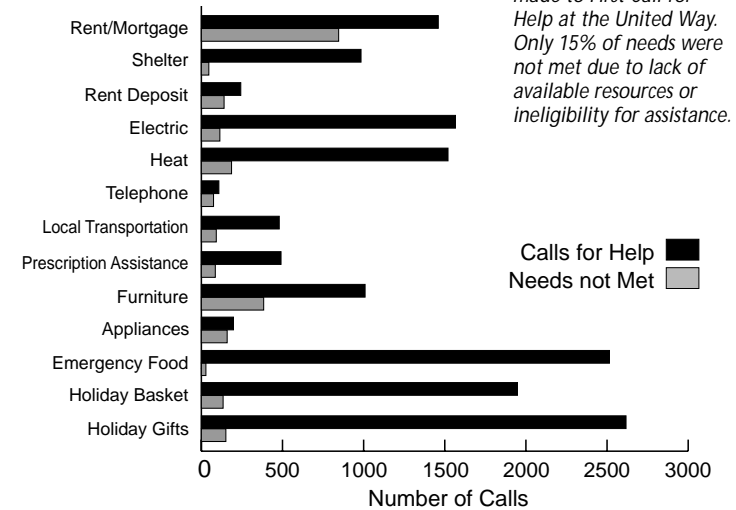
Source: Kent County Health Department



In 1998, number of deaths from these three diseases decreased slightly—the first decrease since 1995, even with significant population growth in Kent County. Heart disease and cancer remain the leading causes of death. Cerebrovascular disease (stroke) is the third leading cause of death in Kent County.

Accessing Help

Source: Heart of West Michigan United Way



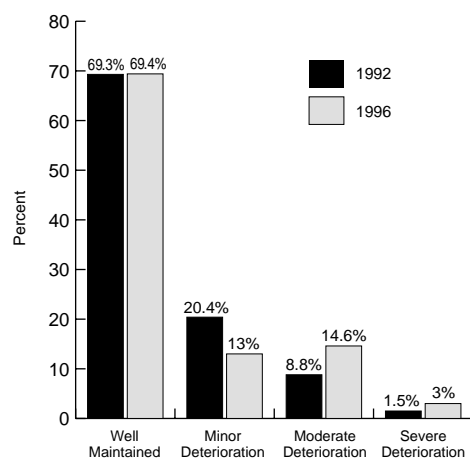
In 1999, 19,273 calls were made to First Call for Help at the United Way. Only 15% of needs were not met due to lack of available resources or ineligibility for assistance.

"People have to make tough choices: sometimes dental care or food. But in some cases, they make bad choices too. People buy into advertising messages that tell them they have to spend \$250 on a Christmas toy for their child. Advertisers really know how to get into people's hearts and minds. It's too bad folks who need food or healthcare don't have advertisers in their corner."

Richa

Core City Housing Condition

Source: City of Grand Rapids Exterior Housing Survey



Between 1992 and 1996, an increasing number of homes in the core city suffered from neglect.

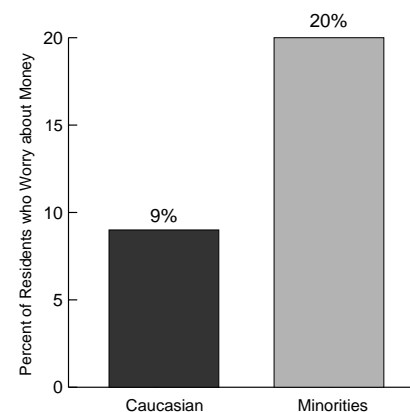
"I really admire urban pioneers — those who reclaim old houses, invest time and energy into creating a neighborhood, and use existing services rather than creating a need for new. I think they do far more to improve the environment than people who are religious about recycling paper and plastic."

Ken Taber

Making Ends Meet

Source: Delta Survey 2000

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



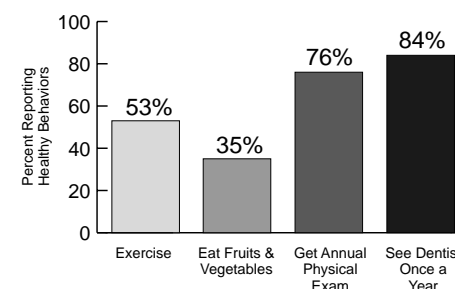
Minority residents are twice as likely as Caucasians to worry often about running out of money. One in three survey respondents report that they sometimes or often worry about running out of money for food, clothing and shelter.

"I don't understand how people buy their first house. Rent takes more than half our monthly income now. How are we supposed to feed and clothe the family, pay the rent and utilities, and save money for a down payment on a home of our own?"

Individual Commitment To Wellness

Source: Delta Survey 2000

Which of the following do you do?



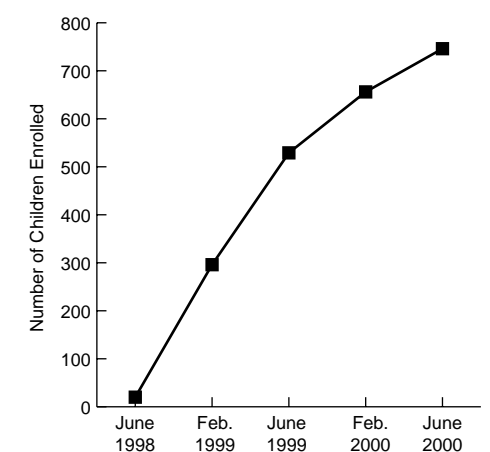
Survey respondents report following these behaviors to lead to better health:

- 53% exercise at least three times a week for 30 minutes
- 35% eat 5 servings of fruits and vegetables every day
- 76% get a physical exam once a year
- 84% see a dentist once a year



Caring For Our Children MICHild Enrollment

Source: Kent County Health Department



MI Child fills a gap between Medicaid and private insurance. According to Health Department estimates, over 6,000 children are eligible in Kent County. However, only 746 children were enrolled as of June 2000.

What we want –

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

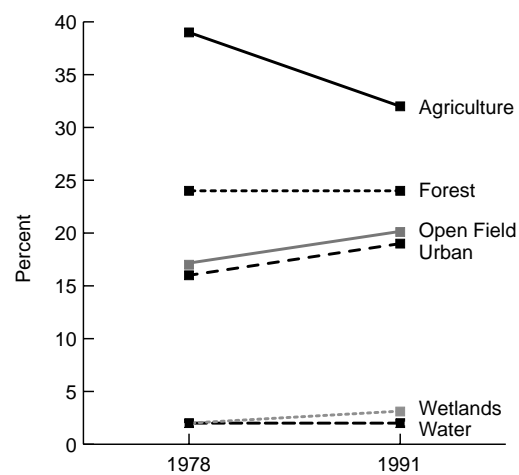
It took all of us together to damage the environment and deplete our non-renewable resources. Environmental hazards create health concerns for the entire community. Waste depletes our resources permanently. Continuing urban sprawl robs the city and nearby suburbs of their necessary tax base, destroys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

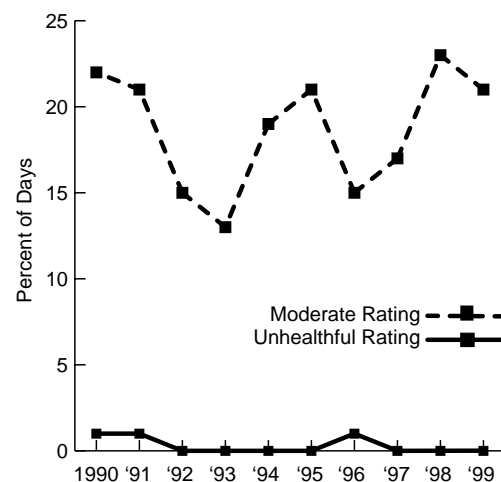


The proportion of land in agriculture continues to decline. Over 75% of Kent County agricultural landowners are concerned about the loss of farmland and urban sprawl. Despite their concerns, they say their land is more valuable for development than for farming. (MSU Center for Urban Affairs 1998 Survey)

Air Quality

Pollutant Standards Index

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

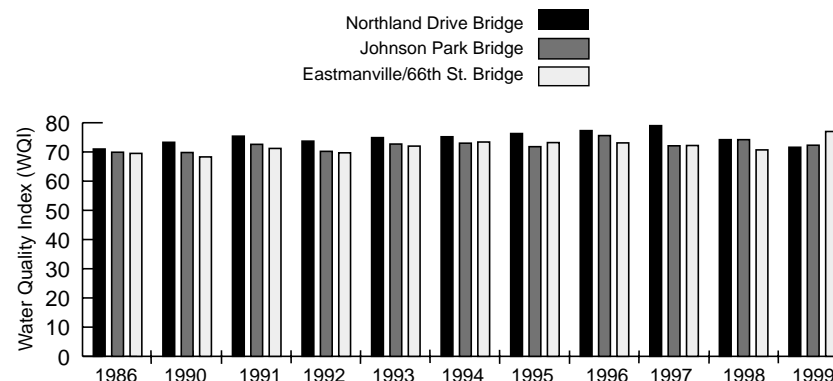


Moderate Rating: Few or no cautions for the general public. Unhealthful Rating: Mild aggravation of symptoms among susceptible people, with irritation symptoms in the healthy population. Persons with existing heart or respiratory ailments should reduce physical exertion and outdoor activity. General 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



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

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

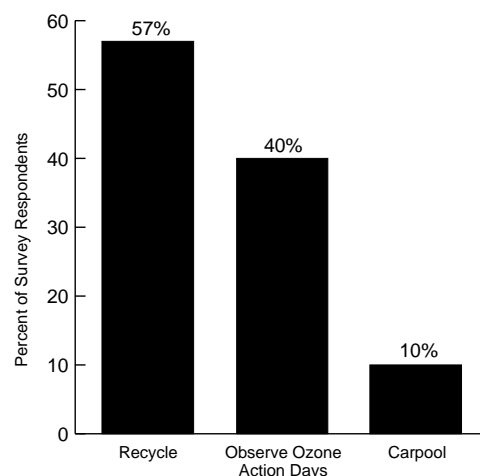


"Not only does urban sprawl destroy the natural environment; it necessitates cars, which further destroy the environment with toxic emissions and polluting the water with storm water run off."
Bill Beattie

How We Contribute To Our Ecosystem

Source: Delta Survey 2000

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

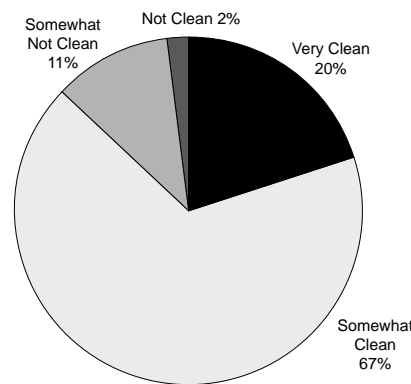


While almost 60% of our survey respondents choose to recycle in various ways, carpooling to reduce pollution or save energy is uncommon. Compliance with ozone action days are the priority of 40% of county residents.

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
John Thornquist
Tom Cary
Amie Harpe
Gabriel Works
Gwen Woomer
Jay Hoekstra
Laurie Craft
Tom Dandridge
Jan Koopman
John Hartel
MaryAnn Alliston
Pat Zomer
Ray Hoag
Bill Stough
C.J. Shroll
Michelle Cleveland
Teresa Schaal
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Allison Kaufman
Anna Kruse
Becky Easter
Patricia Marks
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Monica Rogers
Sarah Scott
Ed Sosa
Dale Royal
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Dick Bulkowski
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Linda Patterson
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Travis Porter
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Mike Reagan
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Sue Farrell
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
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Rose VanLent
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Sister Marjorie Vangsness
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Theresa Thome
Thomas Stankewicz
Tom Sinclair

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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
Frank Conner
Elizabeth Foetisch
Enid Gaddis
Susan Jarrell
Laurie Schaut



A Special Thank You!

This 2000 Community Report Card has received the generous support of these organizations:

*Frey Foundation
Steelcase Foundation
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Consumers Energy Foundation
The Grand Rapids Press
Heart of West Michigan United Way
Grand Rapids Community College
Grand Valley State University
Community Media Center*



**The Delta Strategy Staff
thanks everyone for your involvement and
Grand Rapids Community College for hosting us.**

Penny Pestle, *Director*
616.234.3428

Lou Barnes
Community Data & Outreach
616.234.4041

Elizabeth Forbes
Assistant
616.234.4316

Acknowledging your commitment to our community

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& Howlett LLP*

