

Carver County Quality of Life Indicators



DEMOGRAPHICS
ECONOMIC
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENT
GROWTH & HOUSING
HEALTH
MOBILITY
LEISURE & RECREATION
SOCIAL
PUBLIC SAFETY



2006

For Updated Data contained in this Report, please visit

www.co.carver.mn.us/qol

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What are Quality of Life Indicators?

Quality of life indicators are a way to measure the vital signs of a community. Viewed separately, indicators give information about a particular facet of community life. These indicators are similar to gauges in a car. To determine the overall performance of a car, we need to look at several pieces of information – gas gauge, oil pressure, temperature, and so on. Similarly, when community indicators are viewed collectively, they can provide insight into the overall health and quality of life, reflecting the values and vision of a community. Community indicators offer a view of the larger picture, and are very useful for policy makers to accurately frame issues facing the community. Indicators are also referred to as benchmarks and can be used to measure the goals set by a community.

Quality of life can be interpreted in many different ways. For some it may mean security and safety, employment opportunities, a clean environment, ease of travel, access to services, adequate health care, good schools, efficient government, or simply time spent with family and friends. This wide interpretation of quality of life demands a broad representation of indicators to best reflect the overall health of the community.

In most cases, the link between quality of life and the community is inseparable. In this regard, the perception of citizens can be measured through surveys, focus groups, or

personal interviews. Indeed, perceptions and information collected by word of mouth are important factors for shaping how people feel about the place they live.

Measuring the quality of life in a community can be a complex and detailed process. Determining which indicators reflect the values of our growing county requires a continuous and cooperative effort

SAMPLE INDICATOR PAGE

The Indicator

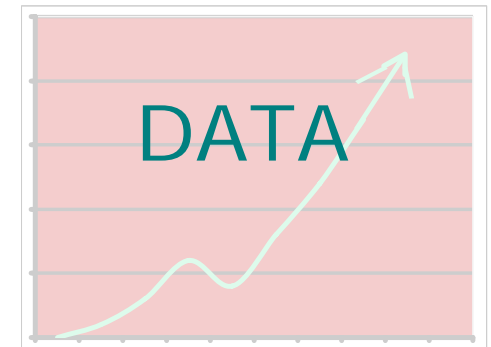
The *significance of the indicator* is intended to show the meaning of the indicator. Many times, this explains why this indicator is being used and how it relates to the community. County goals are also included in this section as applicable.

What is being Measured?

What is being measured provides the source for the data. This section is used to explain what the data are showing. It also provides the timeline for the data collection.

Trends

The *trends* section interprets the data. Critical information is listed following the bullet points. Information may relate to metropolitan, state, or national level trends. Ultimately, this section gauges how the county is performing in this indicator.



Links

The *links* section provides information on how this indicator relates to other indicators in the report. Since no indicator acts independently, linking them attempts to show how one indicator can affect the performance of another. Establishing linkages provide some insight on the interrelation of these forces, while working to achieve a more comprehensive view of the County.

Project Purpose

The Carver County Quality of Life Indicators Project serves three main purposes:

1) Collect, organize and analyze information about Carver County

Carver County's Health Partnership, Carver County Public Health and Ridgeview Medical Center identified the need to develop a more systematic data collection sharing process in the county. One key finding was that similar demographic information is scattered and duplicated throughout the county by city, county, schools, and Ridgeview Medical Center. Sharing information has increased the capacity to identify data gaps, better assess meaningful and measurable data, develop indicators, and determine the interrelationship between indicators.

2) Provide a status report on the Quality of Life in Carver County.

The Carver County Quality of Life Indicator report is meant to identify, track, and evaluate the indicators with ongoing data collection, and bi-annual reports. To facilitate action, information from this report will be presented to leaders, decision makers, and citizens throughout the Carver County community.

3) Coordinate community goals and values

One desired outcome is to identify common indicators that reflect Carver County's unique assets and values. *The Quality of Life Indicators Report* is a tool for community planning and decision making to track a wide spectrum of information. This information can help participatory and collaborative efforts, set priorities, develop community action plans, and track the progress of community goals and values.

NOTE:

The Carver County Quality of Life Report is a preliminary report aimed at understanding the county in a broad comprehensive way by tracking general trends. Not all potential indicators were included in this report, and the report is NOT a complete and final statement on the Quality of Life in Carver County. It is meant to be an on-going work in progress with this third edition exemplifying the iterative structure for future reports. It also serves as a baseline of information and discussion for local citizens and policy makers. Essentially, this report is a snapshot of the County, using the best data available at the time.

Process and Methodology

By pooling knowledge, resources, and ideas, this partnership has implemented the systematic, comprehensive ten-step planning process recommended by *The Community Indicators Handbook*. This detailed process has fostered the credibility of this research-based report.

Background Research

The Carver County partnership also studied other successful indicator studies across the United States and Canada. These include projects from Boulder County Colorado, Minnesota Milestones, Sustainable Calgary, Sustainable Seattle, and others.

Process

Determining indicators that reflected the goals and values of the county was the most challenging part of the plan. county department heads, school superintendents, and other representatives from community organizations were contacted in order to tailor the indicators that accurately measures trends in the county. Also, these individuals and organizations helped set goals to guide the project.

A set of over fifty indicators emerged from these interviews and community meetings, which became the first working set indicators. Limitations in data would serve to narrow and change this list, while still reflecting the priorities and values of Carver County.

Data Compilation

Collecting and compiling data for each indicator was challenging. Some of the indicator data was not available on a county level, or was not updated since the last quality

of life report. If this occurred, other data sources were used by examining the indicator from a different perspective. The integrity of data is critical. Therefore, the majority of data came from metropolitan, county, state, and national sources.

Trends and comparisons are critical for giving meaning to the indicators. Where possible, trend data was collected over five years. Indicators without trend data were compared to trends from the State of Minnesota or other areas as applicable. Our goal is that future editions of the report will establish longer trends and more comparable data.

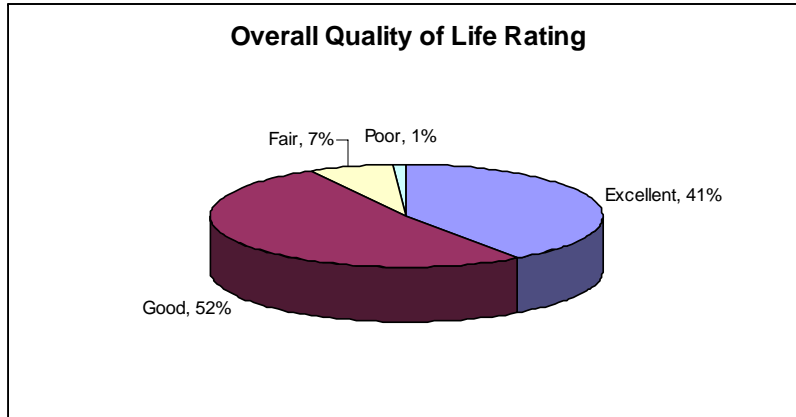
Technical Review

After completing an initial draft of the indicators, a review meeting with University of Minnesota Extension educators was held. Educators from several departments and locations attended this meeting, offering their expertise in each of the represented fields. This meeting intended to provide feedback on the report and assure data integrity. The feedback from the University meeting was a positive step in keeping the process moving forward and much of the feedback was incorporated into the report.

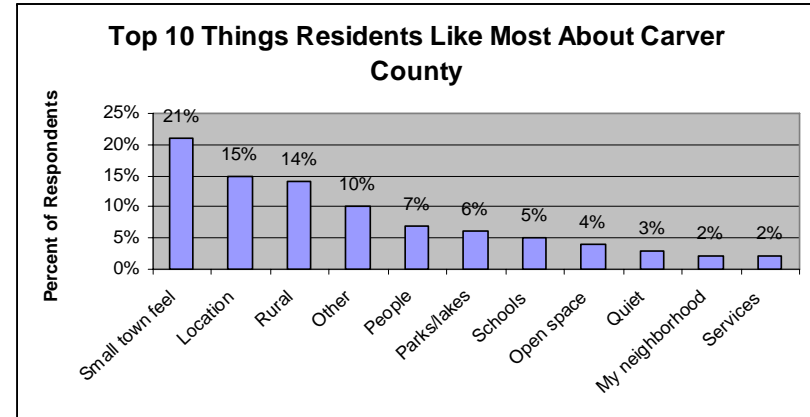
This report represents an update to the data provided in the 2003 report. A few indicators were added or changed, depending on the availability of data

2004 Carver County Citizen Survey Information

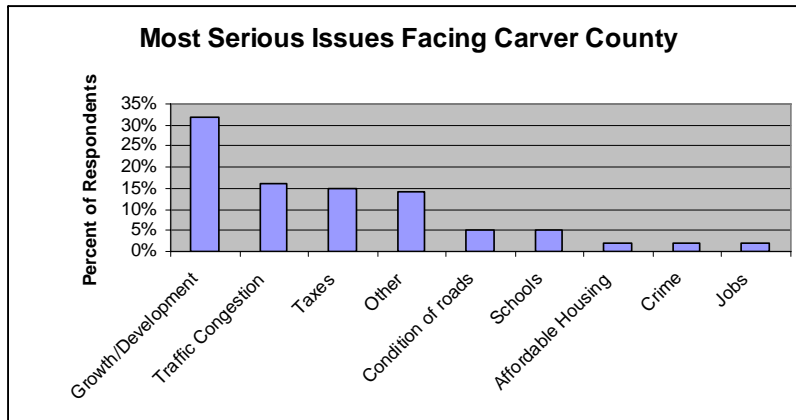
The following charts show general information gathered from the most recent county-wide citizen survey. Residents were asked to rate their *quality of life* in the County, what they like most about the County, where they get their information, and what are the most serious issues facing the County.



Source: Carver County Citizen Survey 2004: National Research Center, Inc.



Source: Carver County Citizen Survey 2004: National Research Center, Inc.

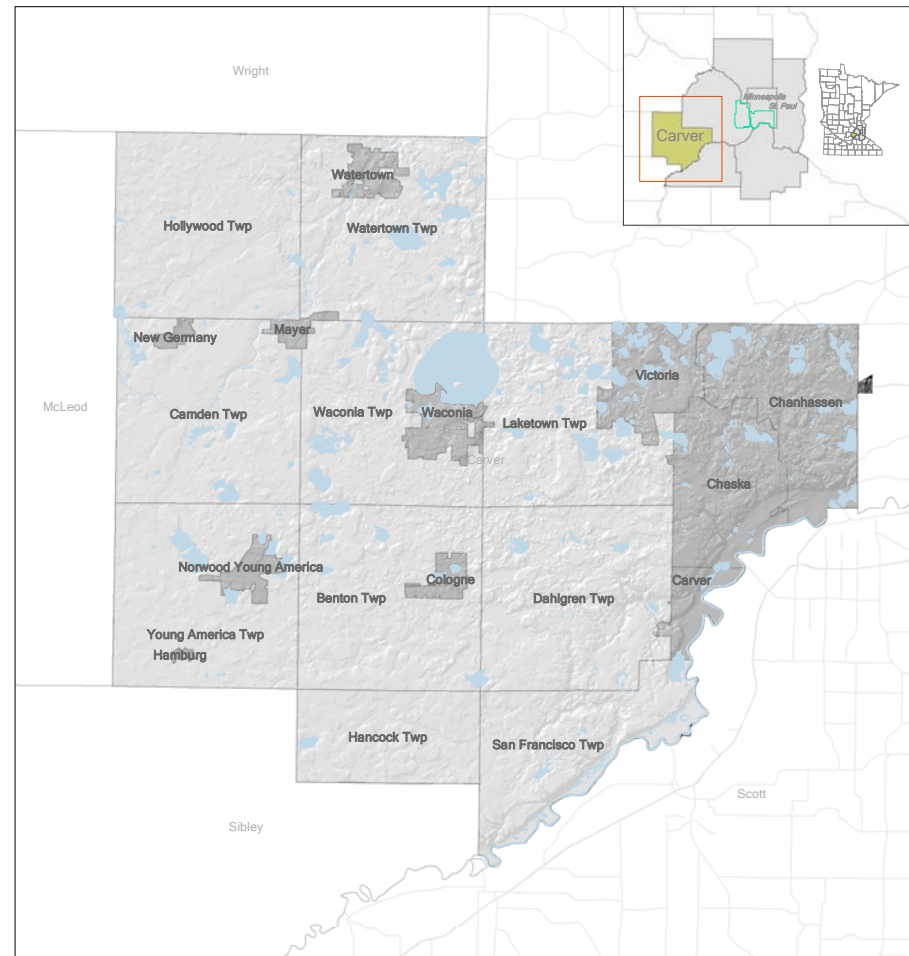


Source: Carver County Citizen Survey 2004: National Research Center, Inc.



CARVER COUNTY PROFILE

- **Growth**
- **Demographics**
 - Migration & Natural Increase
 - Age
 - Income
 - Race & Ethnicity
- **Housing**
- **Employment**



Carver County Cities and Townships

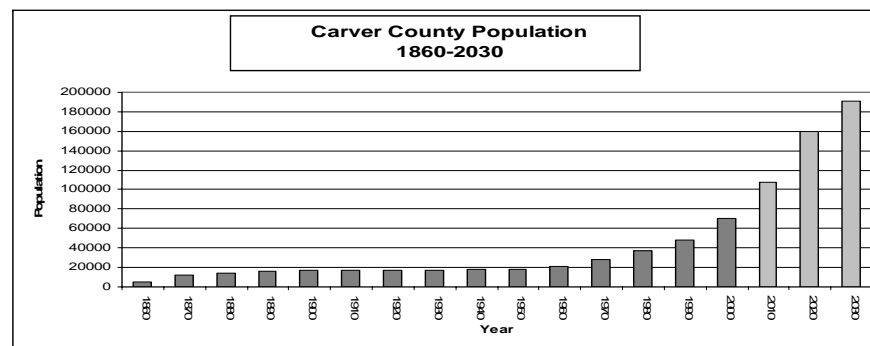
Source: Carver County GIS 2006



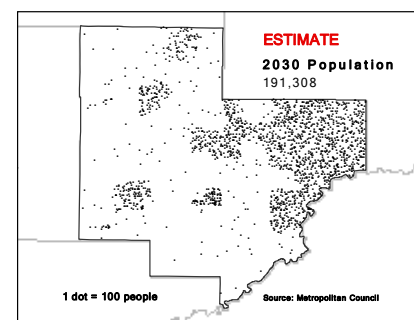
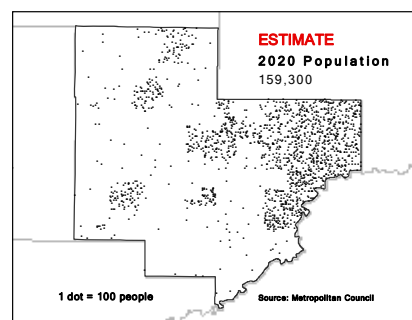
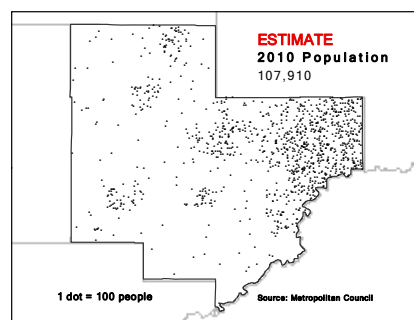
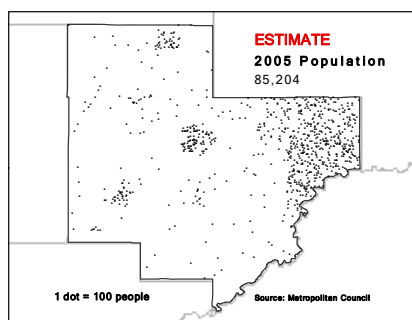
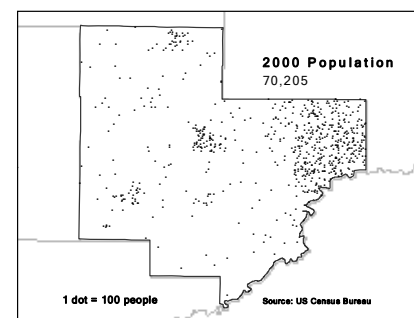
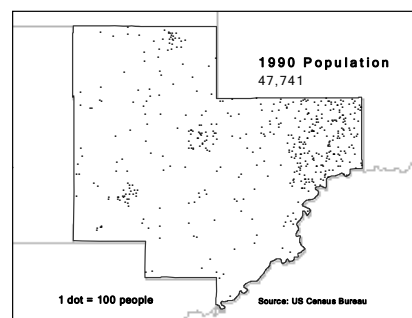
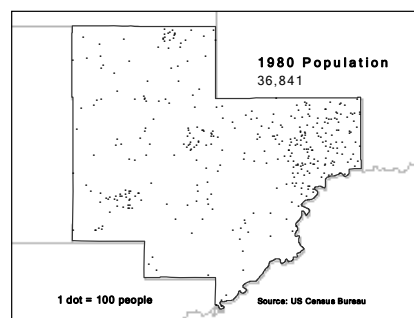
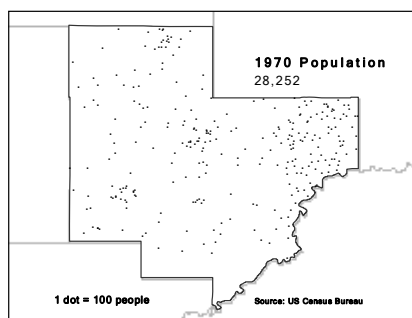
GROWTH

2005 Population: 84,864

- The growth rate in Carver (20.9%) from 2000-2005 was the 4th fastest in the Minnesota, behind Scott (33.9%), Sherburne (26.9%) and Wright (23.0%) counties.
- Much of Carver County is still undeveloped. Carver County is the least densely populated county of the Seven-county metropolitan area in both population and housing units.
- Recent population forecasts show that Carver County will top 190,000 by 2030.



Source: US Census Bureau Decennial Census, 1880-2000
Metropolitan Council, Estimates, 1981-2004 & Forecasts, 2010-2030





DEMOGRAPHICS

Migration and Natural increase

- According to a representative sample approximately 1/4 of the total population of Carver County has lived in the county for 2-5 years, compared to 16% who have lived in the county more than 30 years.

| Years of Residency ² | |
|---|---|
| Number of Years Residents have Lived in Carver County | Percentage of Total Population from Representative Sample |
| Less than 2 Years | 14% |
| 2-5 Years | 26% |
| 6-10 Years | 17% |
| 11-20 Years | 19% |
| 21-30 Years | 9% |
| More than 30 | 16% |

Natural Increase and Migration¹

| Year | Births | Deaths | Natural Increase | Net Migration* | Total Change** |
|-------|--------|--------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 90-91 | 898 | 280 | 618 | 1,158 | 1,777 |
| 91-92 | 870 | 251 | 619 | 1,148 | 1,767 |
| 92-93 | 923 | 246 | 677 | 1,608 | 2,285 |
| 93-94 | 938 | 282 | 656 | 1,764 | 2,420 |
| 94-95 | 1,060 | 265 | 795 | 1,775 | 2,570 |
| 95-96 | 1,046 | 330 | 716 | 1,705 | 2,421 |
| 96-97 | 1,011 | 339 | 672 | 955 | 1,627 |
| 97-98 | 1,005 | 333 | 672 | 1,026 | 1,698 |
| 98-99 | 1,007 | 339 | 668 | 1,492 | 2,160 |
| 99-00 | | | | | |
| 00-01 | 1,174 | 287 | 887 | 1,532 | 2,419 |
| 01-02 | 1,152 | 268 | 884 | 1,935 | 2,819 |
| 02-03 | 1,159 | 309 | 850 | 2,149 | 2,999 |
| 03-04 | 1,165 | 292 | 873 | 1,961 | 2,834 |
| 04-05 | 1,171 | 299 | 872 | 2,035 | 2,907 |

Source: ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, (www.census.gov)

²Carver County Citizen Survey, 2004: National Research Center, Inc.

* Includes domestic and international

** Does not include additional residual and federal movement as defined by U.S. Census Bureau



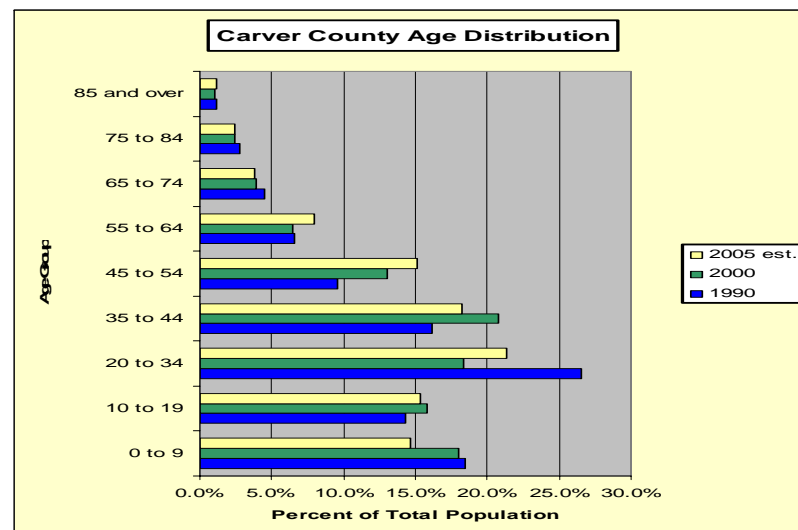
DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

- The median age (34.5) in Carver is rising slightly.
- The population 65 years and older (6,256) makes up 7.4% of the county's total population.

Median Age

| | |
|-------------|------|
| 1970 | 25.8 |
| 1980 | 27.3 |
| 1990 | 30.6 |
| 2000 | 33.9 |
| 2005 | 34.5 |
| 2010 | 35.4 |
| 2020 | 36.9 |



Past, Present and Estimated Future Age Distribution

| Age Group | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2005 est. | 2010 est. | 2020 est. | 2030 est. |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 0-4 | 3,206 | 4,561 | 6,170 | 6,033 | 6,650 | 8,390 | 8,950 |
| 5 - 19 | 10,269 | 11,123 | 17,575 | 19,172 | 20,970 | 23,130 | 27,100 |
| 20-44 | 14,232 | 20,463 | 27,527 | 33,508 | 32,740 | 39,340 | 42,490 |
| 45-64 | 6,043 | 7,755 | 13,687 | 19,170 | 24,940 | 29,320 | 30,780 |
| 65-84 | 2,999 | 3,479 | 4,519 | 5,109 | 5,960 | 11,060 | 18,940 |
| 85 + | 297 | 534 | 727 | 791 | 990 | 1,230 | 1,880 |

Source:

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1980-2000; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2005, <http://www.census.gov>

² State of Minnesota, Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2003 <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us>

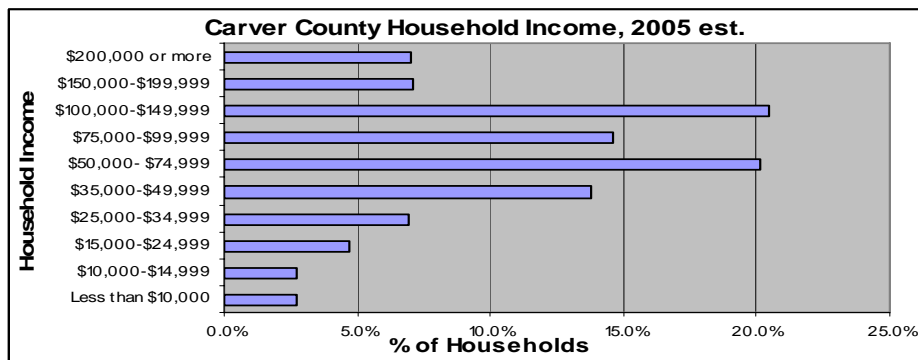
³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005 <http://factfinder.census.gov> Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Income

- Carver County has the 2nd highest per capita income in Minnesota at \$42,599, with an estimated median yearly household income of \$72,998.



Persons in Poverty – County Level¹

| Year | Total Persons | Percent of Total Population | Persons Age 0-17 |
|------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1990 | 2,288 | 4.9% | 741 |
| 1995 | 2,149 | 3.5% | 778 |
| 1997 | 2,421 | 3.7% | 980 |
| 2000 | 2,391 | 3.5% | 869 |
| 2003 | 3,254 | 4.0% | 997 |

County income by year

| Year | Median Household Income ¹ | Per Capita Income ² |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1980 | \$34,294 | \$10,541 |
| 1990 | \$39,188 | \$16,116 |
| 2000 | \$65,540 | \$28,486 |
| 2002 | \$72,945 | \$40,571 |
| 2004 | | \$42,599 |
| 2005 | \$72,998 | |

Median Household Income

| City | 1995 | 2000 | Township | 2000 |
|---------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Carver | \$46,719 | \$65,100 | Benton | \$62,600 |
| Chanhasen | \$59,819 | \$84,200 | Camden | \$60,600 |
| Chaska | \$37,979 | \$60,300 | Chaska | \$54,500 |
| Cologne | \$34,625 | \$54,600 | Dahlgren | \$63,200 |
| Hamburg | \$34,000 | \$47,600 | Hancock | \$58,800 |
| Mayer | \$33,542 | \$48,100 | Hollywood | \$52,800 |
| New Germany | \$25,714 | \$36,100 | Laketown | \$75,000 |
| Norwood | \$32,554 | \$46,200 | San Francisco | \$68,900 |
| Victoria | \$56,500 | \$86,800 | Waconia | \$76,100 |
| Waconia | \$32,111 | \$55,700 | Watertown | \$61,100 |
| Watertown | \$32,417 | \$47,500 | Young America | \$65,000 |
| Young America | \$38,095 | *Included as part of Norwood data | | |

Source: ¹U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program, 2002-2003; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005 <http://www.census.gov>
Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.

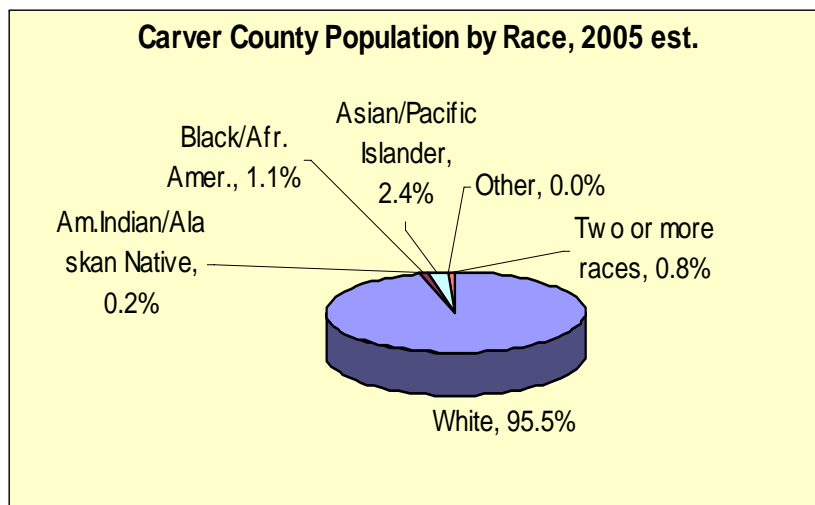
²U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1980-2000; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (www.bea.gov), BEAR Facts, 2002-2004



DEMOGRAPHICS

Race and Ethnicity

- The county's estimated racial make-up is dominantly white (95.5%). Asian Americans (2.4%), African Americans (1.1%), American Indian (0.2%), and those of more than one race (0.8%) constitute minority populations. Hispanics/Latinos make up 3.4% of the population.



| | 2000 | | 2005 est | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Race | Persons | Percent | Persons | Percent |
| White | 67,361 | 95.9% | 81,063 | 95.5% |
| Black/Afr. Amer. | 417 | 0.6% | 948 | 1.1% |
| Am. Indian/Alaskan Native | 129 | 0.2% | 209 | 0.2% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 1,106 | 1.6% | 2,006 | 2.4% |
| Other | 613 | 0.9% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Two or more races | 579 | 0.8% | 638 | 0.8% |
| Total | 70,205 | | 84,864 | |
| | | | | |
| | 2000 | | 2005 est | |
| Ethnicity | Persons | Percent | Persons | Percent |
| Not Hispanic | 68,414 | 97.4% | 82,020 | 96.6% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 1,791 | 2.6% | 2,844 | 3.4% |
| Total | 70,205 | | 84,864 | |

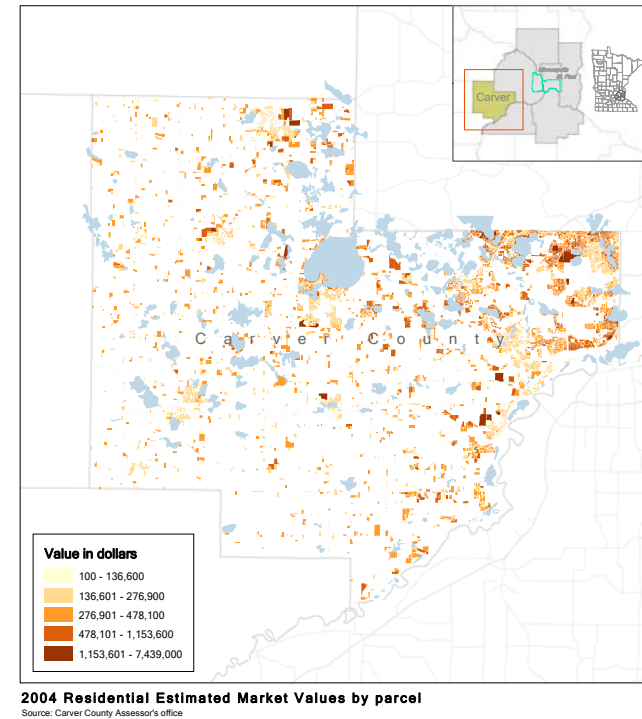
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1990 and 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2005 <http://www.census.gov>



HOUSING

2005 Households: 30,475

- Since 1990, nearly 90% of new housing units in Carver County were single family units.
- New housing unit growth is directed towards middle to upper income families.
- The estimated median home value in 2005 was approximately 272,100.
- The majority of homes in the county use utility gas as the primary home heating fuel.



Year structure built

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Built 2005 or later | 266 |
| Built 2000 to 2004 | 3,276 |
| Built 1990 to 1999 | 10,965 |
| Built 1980 to 1989 | 4,595 |
| Built 1970 to 1979 | 5,819 |
| Built 1960 to 1969 | 1,578 |
| Built 1950 to 1959 | 972 |
| Built 1940 to 1949 | 667 |
| Built 1939 or earlier | 3,548 |

House heating fuel

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Utility gas | 21,928 |
| Bottled, tank, or LP gas | 3,093 |
| Electricity | 3,860 |
| Fuel oil, kerosene, etc. | 999 |
| Coal or coke | 0 |
| Wood | 144 |
| Solar energy | 0 |
| Other fuel | 478 |
| No fuel used | 240 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005 <http://factfinder.census.gov> Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.



EMPLOYMENT

2005 Employment: 46,375

- Between 1995 and 2005, average annual employment grew by 34% in the county. The county is projected to be the fastest in job growth for the seven county area by 2010.
- With the continued expansion of the metropolitan area into eastern Carver County, the county has rapidly grown in non-farming industries, especially service industries

Civilian employed population 16 years and over by Occupation

| Civilian employed population 16 years and over | 46,375 |
|--|--------|
| OCCUPATION | |
| Management, professional, and related occupations | 18,596 |
| Service occupations | 6,112 |
| Sales and office occupations | 12,562 |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations | 227 |
| Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations | 3,389 |
| Production, transportation, and material moving occupations | 5,489 |

Civilian employed population 16 years and over by industry

| Industry | |
|--|-------|
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining | 814 |
| Construction | 2,604 |
| Manufacturing | 8,714 |
| Wholesale trade | 3,090 |
| Retail trade | 5,611 |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities | 1,690 |
| Information | 1,318 |
| Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing | 3,278 |
| Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services | 5,254 |
| Educational services, and health care, and social assistance | 8,062 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation, and food services | 3,081 |
| Other services, except public administration | 2,023 |
| Public administration | 836 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005 <http://factfinder.census.gov> Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.



Economic



GENERAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

TOP 20 EMPLOYERS

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY VALUES

COST OF LIVING INDEX





General Employment Trends

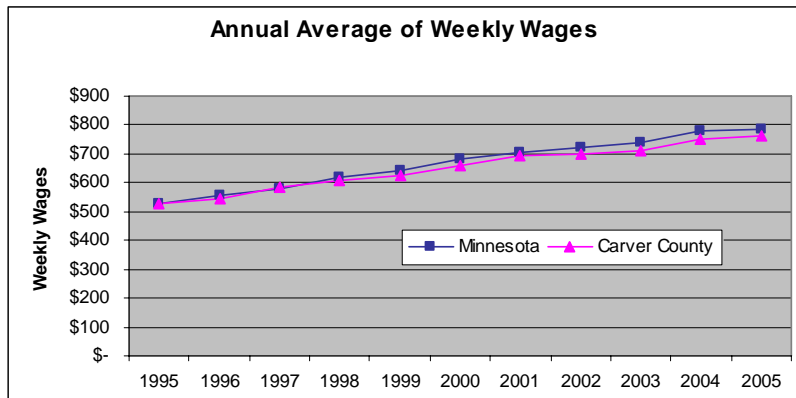
Weekly wages and employment numbers are important for families and businesses alike. Workers rely on a living wage to feed, clothe, and educate themselves and their dependents. Likewise, businesses are interested in paying workers a competitive wage to access and retain skilled labor. Monitoring the rates of employment and unemployment also helps assess demands on public assistance programs.

What is being measured?

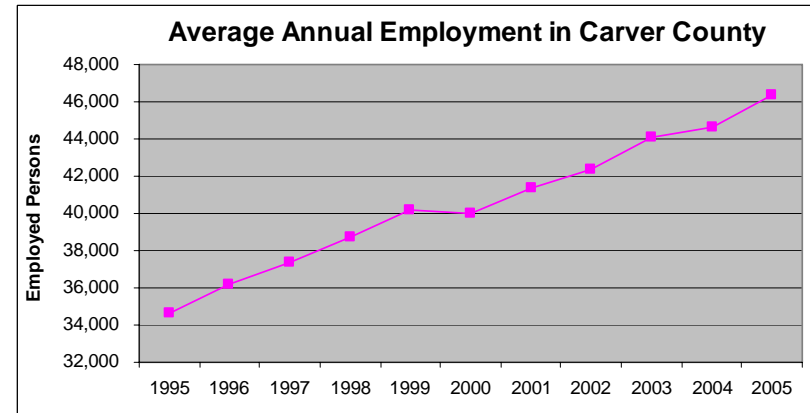
The Minnesota Department of Economic Security collects monthly data on employment, unemployment, and weekly wages. The annual average of weekly wages is shown (below), comparing Carver County and Minnesota. Average annual employment and unemployment rates are also shown (right).

Trends

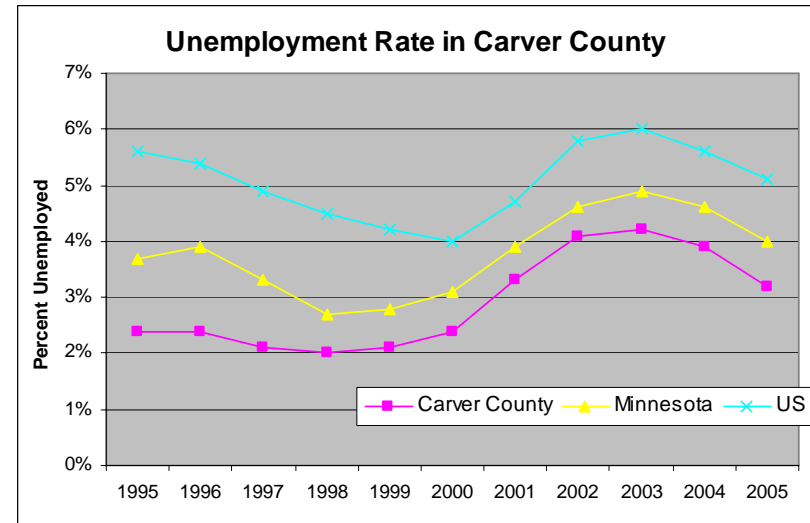
- Average weekly wages are very similar to Minnesota's average, yet slightly lower overall.
- Annual average employment increased 34% over the past decade.
- County unemployment is well below state and national levels.



Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, 2005, <http://www.deed.state.mn.us>



Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, 2005, <http://www.deed.state.mn.us>



Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, 2005, <http://www.deed.state.mn.us>

Links

- Access to Healthcare
- Child Care
- Commute to Work
- Economic Diversity
- General Poverty Trends
- Top 20 Employers



Economic Diversity

Employment in the County is a measure of economic viability and self-sufficiency. Employment opportunities spread across different industries create a more stable employment base. A diversification of industries also offers opportunities to a diverse labor market.

What is being measured?

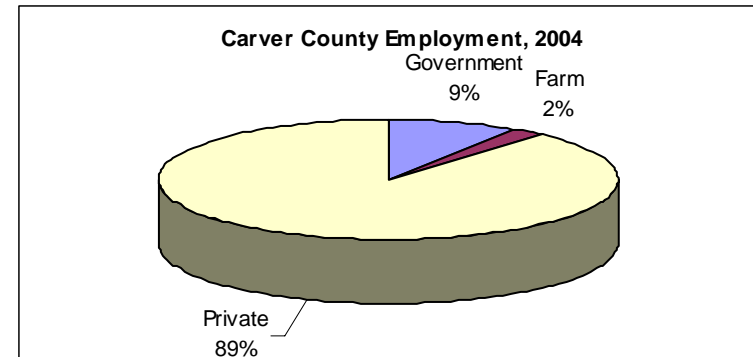
The US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis collects very rich data, which takes two to three years to compile. Data is available by many different levels of the local economy. The percentage breakdown of the county's total employment in farm, government, private sectors is shown (upper-right). Also, breakdowns of all major industries are given to show proportional changes in each sector over four years (lower-right).

Trends

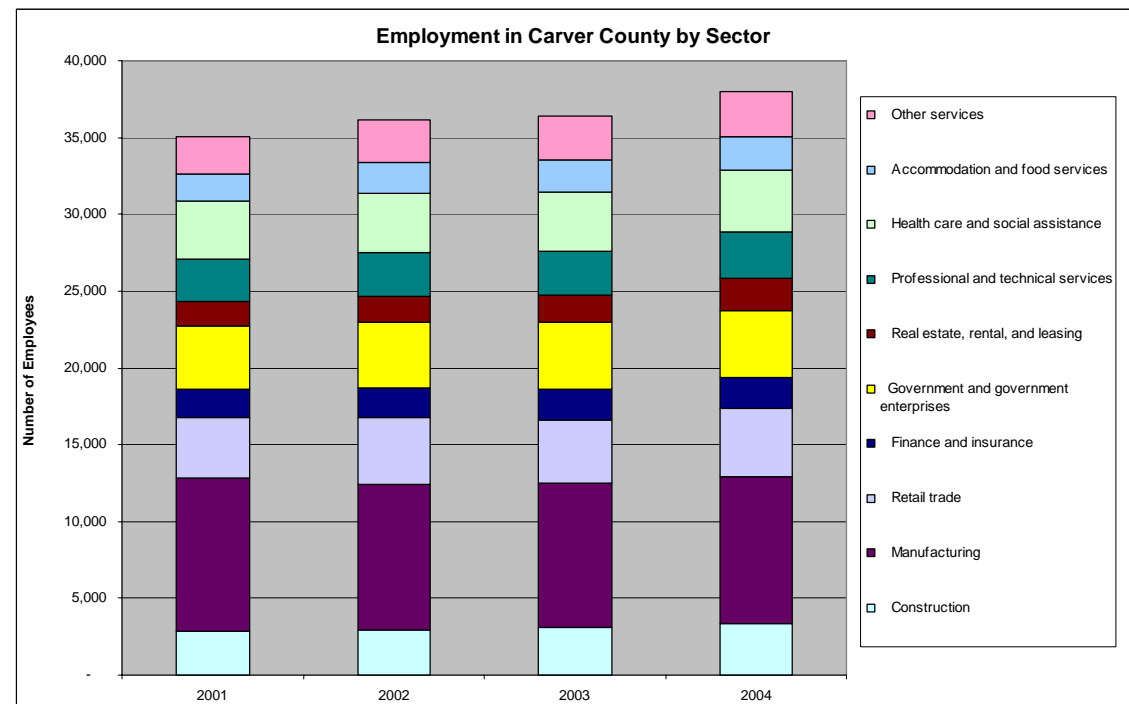
- Total employment in Carver County increased 9% (from 43,660 to 47,606) from 2001 to 2004.
- Manufacturing is the largest sector of the economy.
- Agricultural services, forestry, fishing, and mining are no longer relevant economic sectors for the county.
- Government and farm employment remain steady, making up roughly 9% and 2% respectively.

Links

- Commercial Property Values
- Educational Attainment
- General Employment Trends
- Top 20 Employers



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2004
<http://www.bea.gov>



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2004
<http://www.bea.gov>



Top 20 Employers

Measuring the number and size of major employers in the local economy gives policy makers, businesses, and residents a sense of the economic health of the county. Major employers generate local government revenues, demand local services, and offer employment to county residents. The types of services and products provided by the county's major employers are critical for measuring future economic viability. On the other hand, residents highly value small family-owned businesses for day-to-day services and shopping.

What is being measured?

The Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development tracks the size of firms by the number of employees and the services provided. The largest firms in the county are listed (right).

Trends

- Medical devices, electronics, and printing and publishing industries are economic drivers in the larger metro area (making up 8 of the 20 firms listed).
- Of the top 20 employers; 3 school districts, 2 medical facilities, and the county government offices have 3,525 employees who directly serve county residents.

Links

- General Employment Trends
- Educational Attainment
- Economic Diversity

| | Product-Service | Employees | Location |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Emerson Process/Rosemount Inc. | Electrical Apparatus & Equipment | 1200 | Chanhassen |
| Ridgeview Medical Center | General Medicine & Surgical Hospital | 1150 | Waconia |
| Chaska School District #112 | Elementary & Secondary Schools | 1100 | Chaska |
| FSI International Inc. | Semiconductors & Related Devices | 850 | Chaska |
| Carver, County of | Government Offices | 815 | Chaska |
| Fluoroware Inc. | Semiconductors & Related Devices | 800 | Chaska |
| Lake Region Mftg. Inc. | Surgical & Medical Instruments | 745 | Chaska |
| General Mills | Commercial Bakeries | 600 | Chanhassen |
| Instant Web Companies | Commercial Printing, Lithographic | 548 | Chanhassen |
| Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur Inc. | Surgical & Medical Instruments | 415 | Chaska |
| Entegris Inc. | Semiconductors & Related Devices | 350 | Chanhassen |
| Mammoth Inc. | Refrigeration & Heating Equipment | 350 | Chaska |
| Waconia School District #110 | Elementary & Secondary Schools | 330 | Waconia |
| Banta Marketing | Commercial Printing, Lithographic | 324 | Chanhassen |
| Chanhassen Dinner Theatres | Theater Companies & Dinner Theaters | 300 | Chanhassen |
| Byerly's | Supermarkets & Other Grocery Stores | 280 | Chanhassen |
| Medallion Kitchens | Wood Kitchen Cabinets | 280 | Waconia |
| Minnesota Landscape Arboretum | Zoos & Botanical Gardens | 240 | Chanhassen |
| Good Samaritan Center | Nursing Care Facilities | 205 | Waconia |
| Watertown School District #111 | Elementary & Secondary Schools | 200 | Watertown |

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota Properties and Community Profiles, <http://www.mnpro.com>

*This indicator may change frequently due to buy-outs, layoffs, closures, or name changes.



Commercial Property Values

Commercial property values are important to current and prospective business owners in the County.

What is being measured?

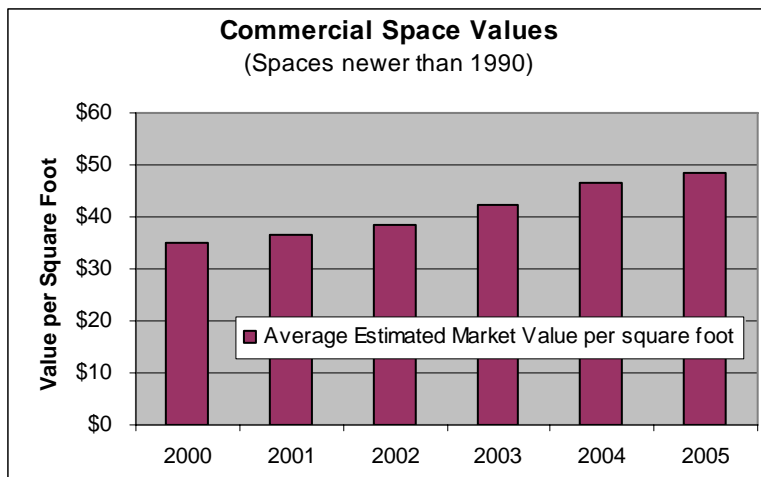
The County Assessor's Office collects data frequently to estimate property values and calculate the property tax base. The graph below shows the average estimated market value over the last 6 years.

Trends

- Average estimated market value of commercial space per square foot increased by 39% since 2000 for spaces newer than 1990 in Carver County.

Links

- Cost of Living Index
- Economic Diversity
- Shopping and Eating Places



Source: Carver County Assessor's Office, 2006

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us>

Cost of Living Index

This standard measures the average cost of the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and clothing.

What is being measured?

The cost of living index is shown (below) for Carver County, the Metro Region (excluding Carver County), and Greater Minnesota. Monthly costs for basic needs are shown by expense category for a family of two adults (both employed full-time) and two children.

Trends

- Annual total cost of living in Carver County is 23% greater than in Greater Minnesota.
- The annual total cost of living in Carver County is only slightly higher than the rest of the Metro Region (1.8%).

Links

- Affordable Housing and Home Ownership
- Average Home and Commercial Property Values

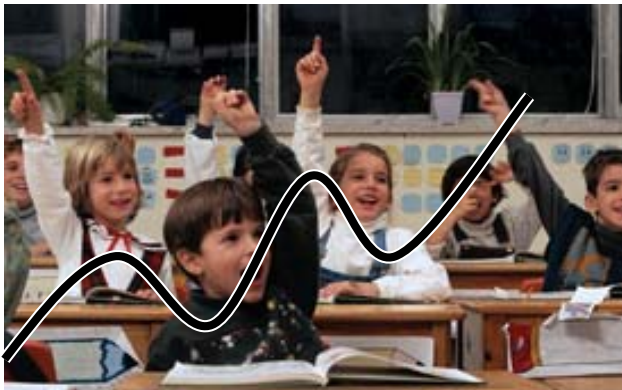
| Cost of Living Index | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Measures | Carver County | Metro Region | Greater Minnesota |
| Food | \$555 | \$555 | \$555 |
| Housing | \$1,229 | \$1,229 | \$803 |
| Health Care | \$424 | \$424 | \$424 |
| Transportation | \$602 | \$558 | \$636 |
| Child Care | \$893 | \$880 | \$658 |
| Clothing/Other | \$290 | \$290 | \$290 |
| Net Taxes | \$577 | \$552 | \$336 |
| Monthly Total | \$4,570 | \$4,487 | \$3,702 |
| Annual Total | \$54,840 | \$53,848 | \$44,424 |
| Hourly Wage Per Worker | \$13.19 | \$12.95 | \$10.68 |

Source: Jobs Now Coalition, 2004

<http://www.jobsnowcoalition.org>



Education



STUDENT ENROLLMENT

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

**BASIC REQUIREMENTS
TEST SCORES**

SPECIAL STUDENT POPULATIONS

DROPOUT RATES



2006

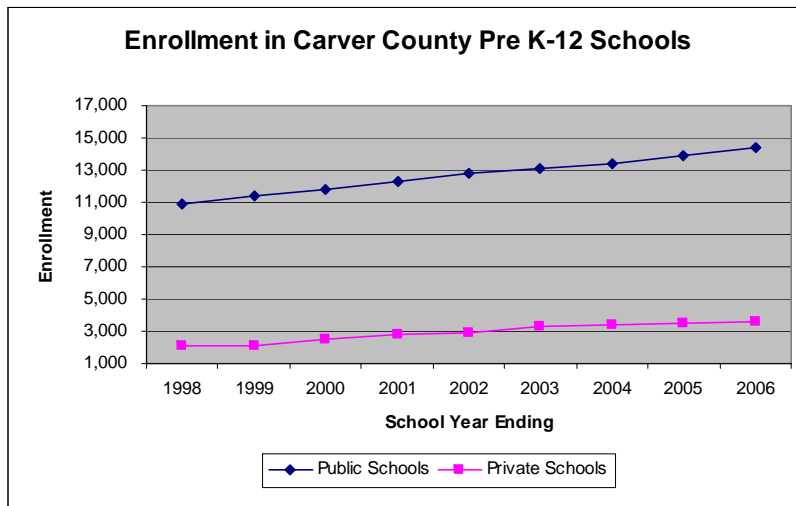


Student Enrollment

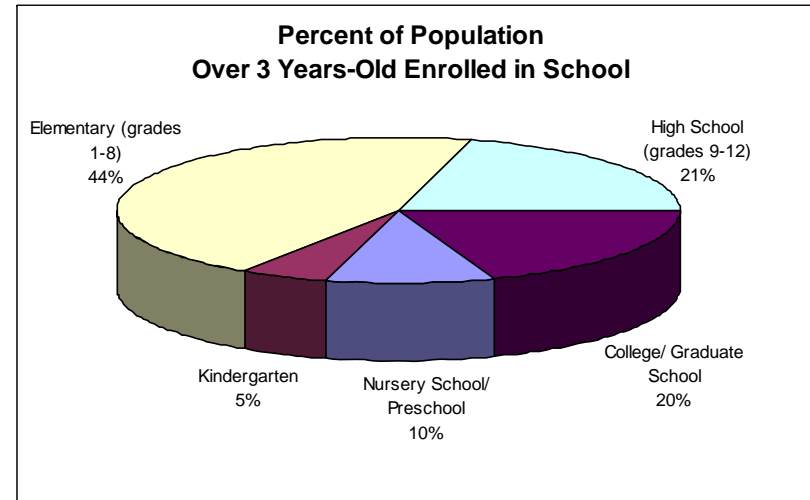
Education is the foundation of healthy communities. Elementary and secondary schools offer students essential skills for being productive citizens in society. The number of students enrolling in the county's education system can indicate the health of the education system, as well as looking at changing demands to the system.

What is being measured?

Total enrollment in Carver County's four largest school districts (including Norwood/Young America - District 108, Waconia - District 110, Watertown-Mayer - District 111, and Chaska - District 112) is shown (below). Percent of Population Over 3 Years Old Enrolled in School is shown (upper right).



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Data Center, 2006
<http://cfl.state.mn.us>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005
<http://factfinder.census.gov> Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.

Trends

- Steady growth in public school pre K-12 enrollment.
- Slight increase in private school enrollment since 2000-2001.
- All districts reported high attendance (above 95%) in the 2004-2005 school year. This exceeded the statewide percent.

Links

- Child Care
- Educational Attainment
- Prenatal and Childhood Health



Educational Attainment

Significance of the indicator is generally associated with per capita income and the productivity of citizens in the community. Basic skills learned in high school can establish a solid learning foundation for the future.

According to an ERIC Clearinghouse survey (Educational Resources Information Center), persons who have not finished high school both comprise a larger percentage of persons on public assistance, and earn continually less than high school graduates.

Also, numerous studies show individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to volunteer or participate in community-based activities. This indicator is important for estimating social capital in the County.

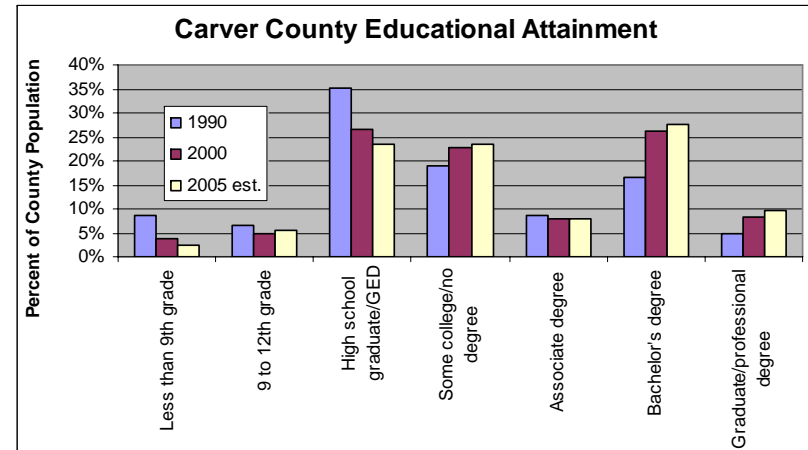
What is being measured?

The percent of County residents who achieved each level of education is shown (upper-right) for 2000, 1990, and 2005 (estimated). Data was collected from the 2000 and 1990 Census Survey and the 2005 American Community Survey, commissioned by the US Census Bureau.

Trends

- More county residents have a High School diploma or higher (92%) compared to the state (91%) and the Midwest region (87%).
- More county residents have a Bachelor degree or higher (37%) compared to the state (31%) and the Midwest region (26%).
- Since 1990, there has been an increase in the number of county residents with college degrees (bachelor's and graduate/professional)

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1990 and 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005
<http://factfinder.census.gov> Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.

Links

- Basic Requirements Test Scores
- Community Involvement
- Dropout Rates
- Economic Diversity
- General Poverty Trends
- Library Usage
- Prenatal and Childhood Health
- Special Student Populations
- Student Enrollment
- Teen Parenting
- Top 20 Employers



Basic Requirements Test Scores

Eighth-grade Basic Requirement Test Scores are useful tools for assessing students' ability to master basic skills needed in everyday life. Although standardized tests may not capture the true potential of a student, they are commonly used benchmarks to determine academic competency.

Public school students are required to pass the test in order to graduate. Students entering ninth grade must score at least 75% to pass the test. Private schools are not required to test students and may only test selected students.

What is being measured?

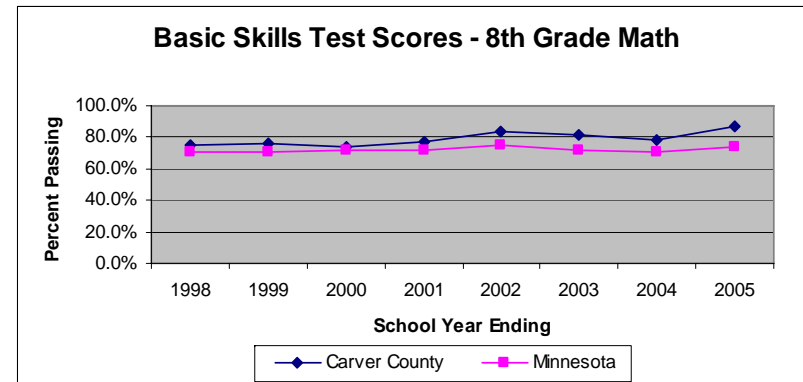
The percent of eighth grade students passing the math and reading standardized tests in the four largest public school districts is shown (upper- and middle-right). The percent passing for both the math and reading tests are also compared to the Minnesota overall percent passing. Additionally, the most recent percent passing are shown (lower-right) for each public school district.

Trends

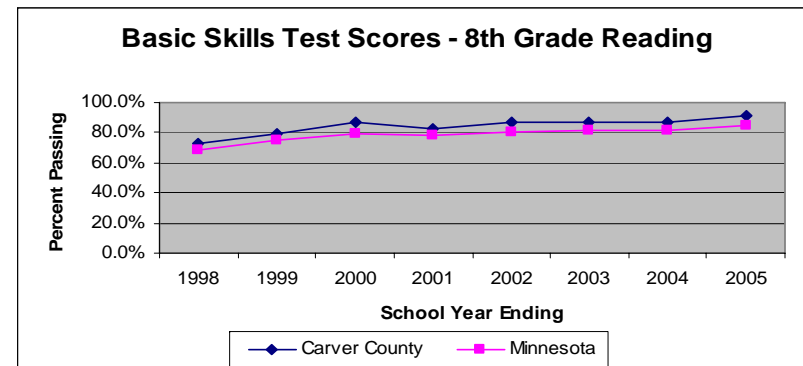
- The county's percent passing the math and reading tests is consistently above the state's percent passing.
- Percent passing the reading test is generally trending upward - mirroring the state. Percent passing the math test has generally followed the state, with a little bigger increase in 2005.
- The Waconia School District has the highest percent passing in math, while Watertown/Mayer has the highest percent passing in reading.

Links

- Abuse/Neglect Cases
- Educational Attainment
- Library Usage
- Special Student Populations



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Accountability Data, 2006
<http://cfl.state.mn.us>



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Accountability Data, 2006
<http://cfl.state.mn.us>

Carver County Eighth Grade Basic Skills Test Scores

| School Year 2004-2005 | Percent Passing | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Reading | Math |
| Chaska | 91.1% | 85.8% |
| Norwood/ Y.A. | 91.8% | 87.7% |
| Waconia | 91.2% | 91.6% |
| Watertown/ Mayer | 95.0% | 87.0% |
| MN Average | 84.8% | 74.3% |

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Accountability Data, 2006
<http://cfl.state.mn.us>



Special Student Populations

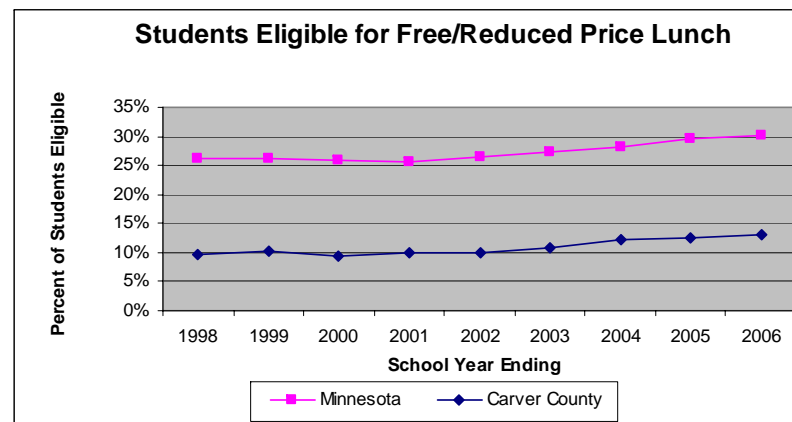
These indicators measure the special needs of students and the demand on schools to handle these needs. Eligibility for the free or reduced price lunch program helps identify students living in poverty. Students with Limited English Proficiencies (LEP) require special attention in learning, either in small groups or individually. Additional teaching resources are needed to meet both these needs. Learning is inhibited in a mainstream classroom without special attention to language barriers. An increased number of children with limited English skills indicate parents and other family members also speak limited English.

What is being measured?

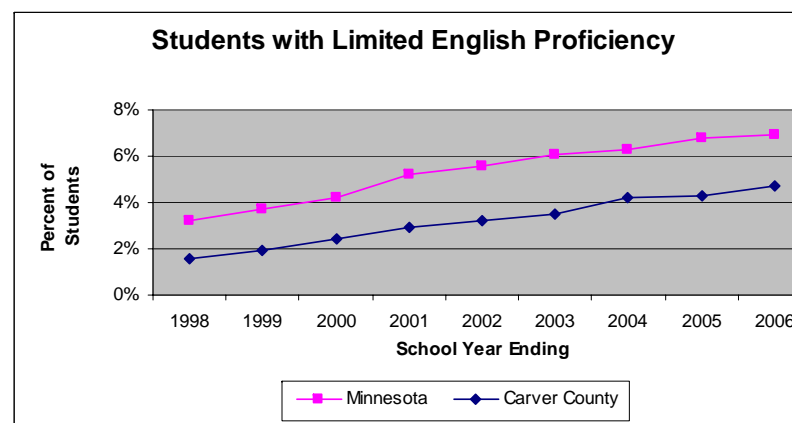
The graph in the top right measures the number of students in Carver County's four major public school districts eligible to participate in the free or reduced price lunch program. The graph in the bottom right measures students requiring special education due to limited English proficiencies. Data are collected by the individual districts and reported by the Department of Children, Families and Learning each school year.

Trends

- Very low percentage of free/reduced price lunch eligibility compared to Minnesota rates.
- Carver County school free/reduced price lunch trend is similar to Minnesota. Chaska School District has seen the greatest increase in free/reduced price lunch eligibles.
- The county's LEP students have been steadily increasing, similar to the state trend, but still lower than the state. In 2005-2006, 7.2% of the county's school enrollment spoke a language other than English at home.
- In the 2005-2006 school year, the county's schools had 9.9% K-12 students in special education.



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Data Center, 2006
<http://cfl.state.mn.us>



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Data Center, 2006
<http://cfl.state.mn.us>

Links

- Basic Requirements Test Scores
- Educational Attainment
- General Poverty Trends
- Graduation Rates
- Length of Residence



Dropout Rates

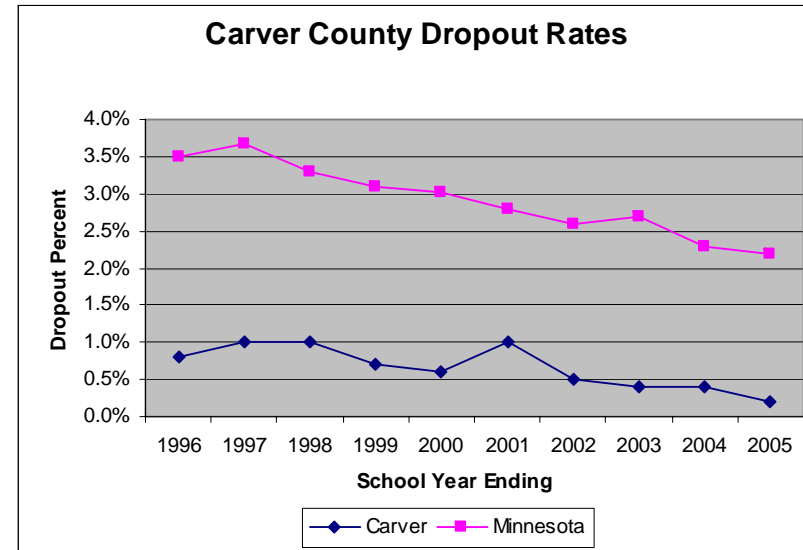
Graduation and dropout rates are important measures for determining job readiness in young adults entering the workforce. Also, graduation rates are directly linked to the percent of high school students entering higher education. From another perspective, graduation rates are useful for assessing a school district's ability to offer personalized and quality programs.

What is being measured?

Graduation rates were not collected by all school districts, thus dropout rates are used. The Minnesota Department of Children Families and Learning Data Center tracks dropout rates by school year by school district. Shown (right) are dropout rates for each school year as an average for public schools in the four major school districts. The dropout rate is defined as all students grade 7-12 who dropped out of school, then divided by grade 7-12 enrollment at October 1st for each school year.

Trends

- Graduation rates in the County are very high (around 94% in 2005), much better than state averages.
- Dropout rates have fluctuated since 1996, yet remain very low. All County districts were under 1% at the end of 2005. Carver County has been roughly following the statewide decrease since 2001.
- Chaska High School reports that nearly 83% of 2006 graduates plan to attend 2- or 4-year colleges or universities (www.district112.org/chs). 87% of 2005 Norwood-Young America seniors pursued higher education after graduation (www.centra12.mn.us). 84% of Watertown-Mayer 2005 graduates planned to attend 2- or 4-year colleges or universities (www.wm.k12.mn.us/hs). Waconia High School reports 91% of 2006 graduates intend to continue their education after high school (www.waconia.k12.mn.us).



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Data Center, 2006

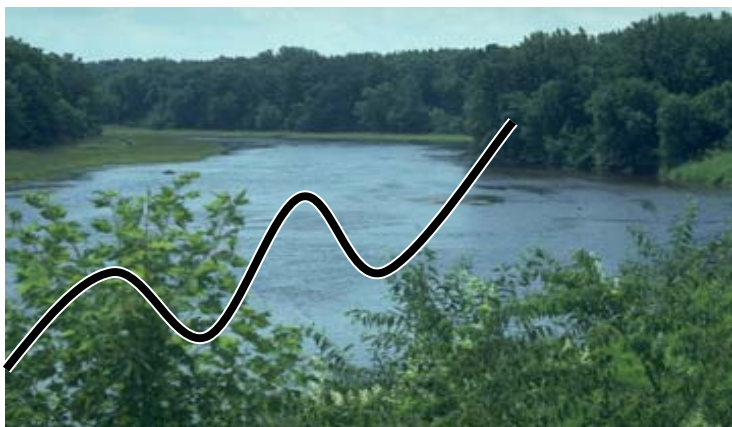
<http://cfl.state.mn.us>

Links

- Community Involvement
- Crime Rates
- Educational Attainment
- Teen Parenting
- Teen Substance Abuse



Environment



SURFACE WATER QUALITY

**SOLID WASTE PRODUCED
AND RECYCLED**

**LAND USE AND COVER
STATISTICS**

ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND

**ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL
PRESERVES**





Surface Water Quality

Lake and stream water quality is critical for preserving healthy habitats, clean drinking water supplies, and quality recreational opportunities. Water quality can be diminished by algal blooms and phosphorus loading, storm water drainage, and personal or commercial dumping of waste. Further, the aesthetic and social values of clean water are immeasurable.

What is being measured?

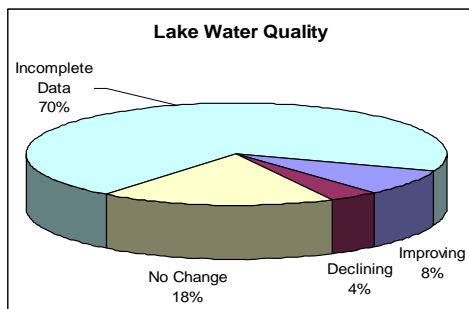
Carver County Environmental Services collects and reports data on water quality using Secchi Disk measurements and other tests to assess the level of nutrients in the water body. Shown (below) is a county-wide summary of lake water quality trends.

Trends

- Incomplete data severely limits comprehensive analysis.
- 4% of county lakes are declining in water quality.

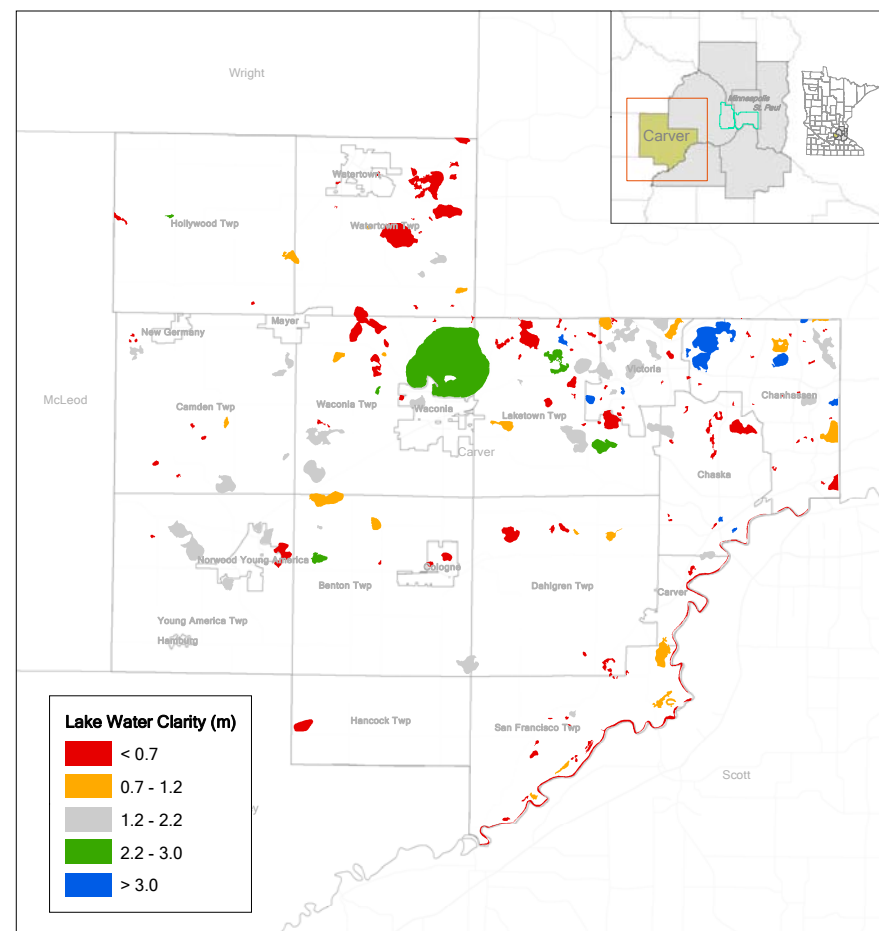
Links

- Acres of Protected Land
- Land Use and Cover Statistics
- Parks and Trails
- Solid Waste Produced and Recycled



Source: Carver County Environmental Services, 2002

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us>



2005 Census of Carver County Lake Water Clarity

Source: Environmental Information Management System, Metropolitan Council 2005

http://es.metc.state.mn.us/eims/maps/related_maps.asp?optn=22

Source: Carver County Environmental Services

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us>



Solid Waste Produced and Recycled

As the population increases so does the amount of waste produced. Recycling in conjunction with efforts to reduce the total amount of solid waste produced can preserve valuable resources and reduce the amount of waste in landfills or incinerated. Most importantly, closing the gap between the amount of solid waste produced and the amount of waste recycled creates a more sustainable and efficient community.

What is being measured?

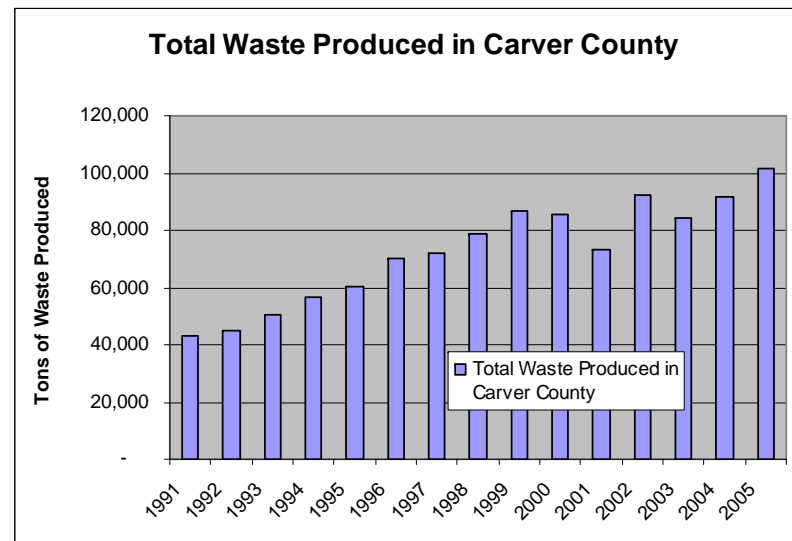
The Office of Environmental Assistance monitors the progress of counties in achieving recycling goals, while Carver County's Environmental Services Department collects waste and recycling data. Total tons of municipal solid waste collected is shown (upper-right). Solid waste is defined as residential, commercial, and industrial garbage, but does not include any hazardous waste. Also, the percent of waste recycled in the County is shown (lower-right). Recycling generally includes paper, metal, glass, plastic, and credits for yard waste recycling.

Trends

- Percent of recycled materials has been meeting the goal since 2003.
- Total solid waste tonnage is increasing per capita above seven-county metro area rates.

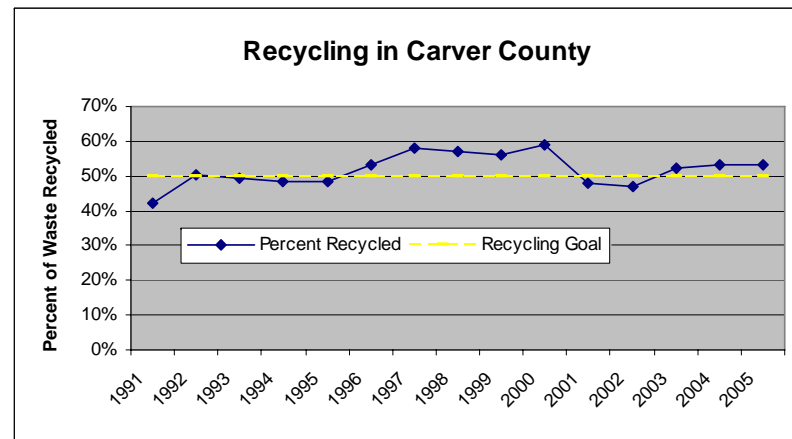
Links

- Ground Water Quality
- Surface Water Quality



*The lower 2000-1 waste tonnage # reflects hauling consolidations & changes in data collection practices by a private waste collection agency.
Source: Carver County Environmental Services, 2006

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us/>



Source: Carver County Environmental Services, 2006

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us/>



Land Use and Cover Statistics

Carver County's fundamental principal of development maintains that development should be concentrated within the current municipalities and areas outside should remain rural and open in order to preserve its historic rural character and protect open space. In fact, the county adopted a zoning ordinance in 1974 limiting one residence per 40 acres for rural western portions of Carver to control growth. Increasing impervious lands tend to disrupt wildlife corridors, and can impact water resources.

What is being measured?

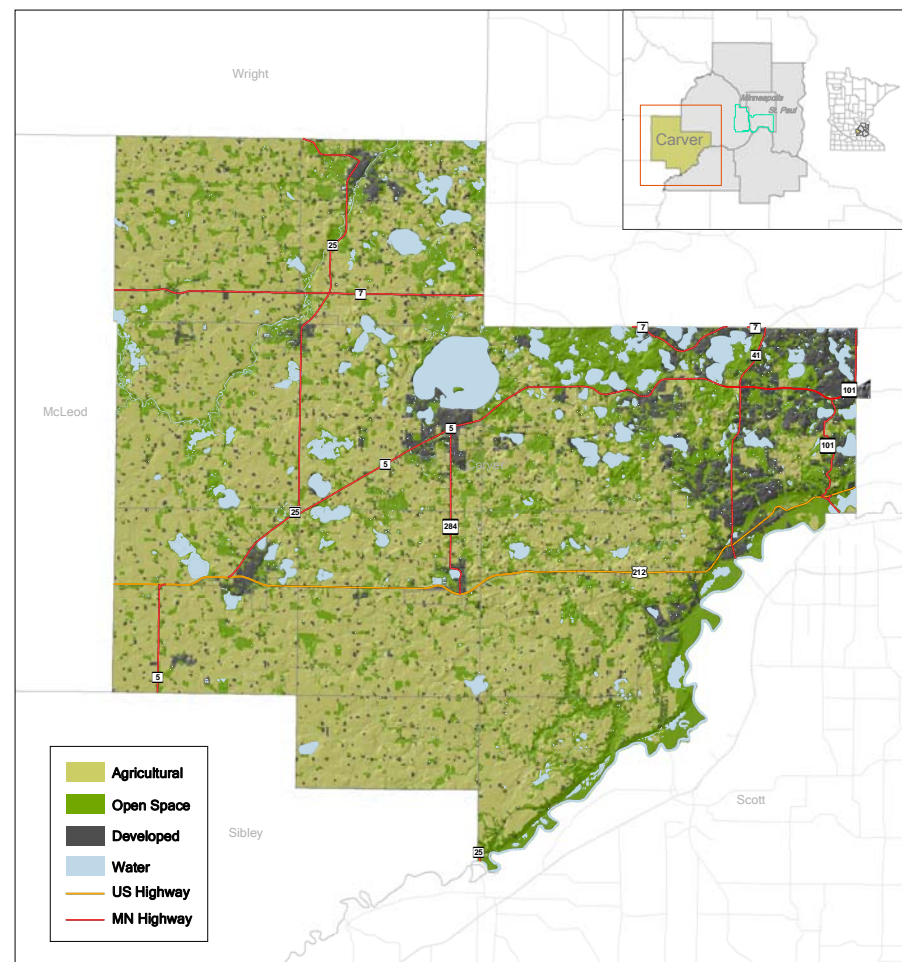
Shown (upper right) is a map displaying open spaces, agricultural lands, and developed areas. Open space includes publicly owned land (federal, state, county, or city) and privately owned pastureland, woodlands, and wetland areas.

Trends

- The majority of impervious lands are located in Eastern Carver, while most agricultural lands are located in western Carver County. The amount of developed land has steadily increased from 8.7% in 2000, to approximately 10% in 2005.
- 89% of Carver County residents felt the identity of communities should be maintained by preserving agriculture and open space between neighboring cities.
- Roughly 96% of the county's residents believe the remaining wooded and natural habitats should be managed to preserve their value.

Links

- Surface Water Quality
- Acres of Protected Lands; Parks and Trails
- Building Permits Issued



Developed, Open Space & Agricultural Land (2005)

Source: Metropolitan Council 2006 <http://www.metrocouncil.org/metroarea/LandUse/Counties/carver.pdf>



Acres of Protected Land

Assessing the number, size, and location of protected lands is important for achieving environmental sustainability. Protected lands help fulfill the county's mission, "...[to] *plan the county's growth to preserve its uniqueness and...encourage rural and urban compatibility.*" Also, protected lands serve as wildlife refuges and viewing areas.

What is being measured?

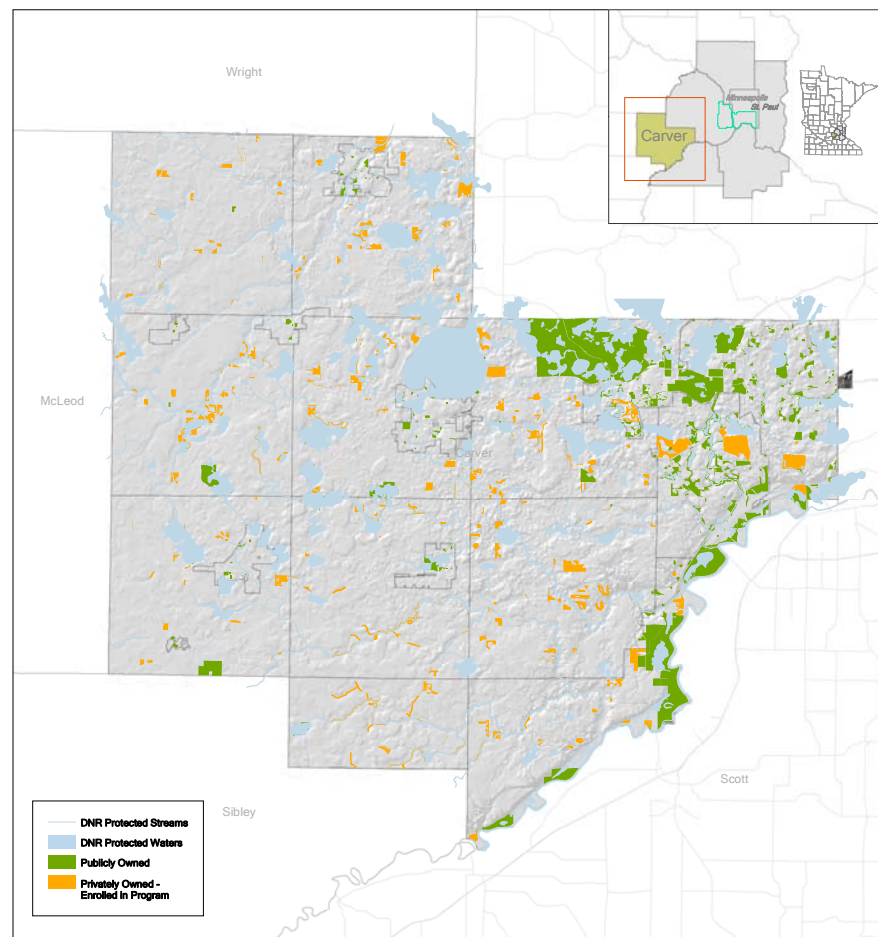
The Carver County Planning Office is responsible for land use management and planning for the county. In the map to the right, both public and private protected lands are identified. Publicly protected lands are owned and managed by municipalities and townships, the county, regional parks boards, and state agencies. Privately owned protected lands are enrolled in the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserve Program, managed and enforced by the county.

Trends

- The majority of protected lands are publicly owned and located in eastern portions of the county.
- Privately owned protected lands are scattered throughout the county.

Links

- Building Permits Issued
- Land Use and Cover Statistics
- Parks and Trails
- Surface Water Quality



Protected Land (2005)

Source: DNR and Carver County Planning 2006



Acres of Agricultural Preserves

Historically agriculture has played an important role in Carver County settlement and will continue to be a vital aspect of county life into the foreseeable future. Currently, agricultural land accounts for approximately 125,000 of the 240,500 total acres in the county. Preserving agricultural land fulfills the county's mission ***"...to protect our historical past while planning for a dynamic future."***

What is being measured?

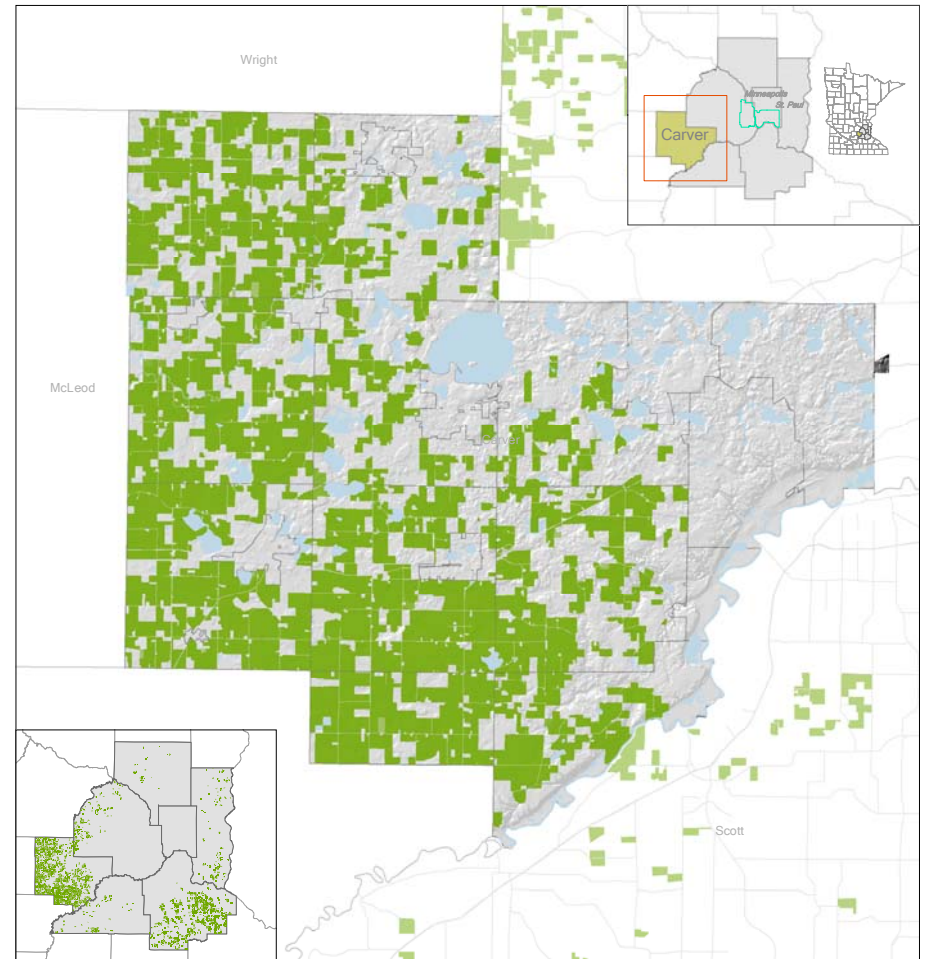
The Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves Program is a volunteer enrollment program that was established in 1980 under Minnesota Statute 473H. The program is meant to encourage preservation of long-term agricultural lands in the seven county metro area. Currently, the Metropolitan Council Monitors metro area participation in the program, and Carver County administers and manages the program within the county. The map to the right shows the geographic distribution of agricultural preserves within Carver County, and the seven county metro area.

Trends

- The majority of land enrolled in the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves Program is located in western portions of the county.
- In 2005, Carver County had approximately 96,115 acres enrolled in the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves Program, highest in the Metropolitan area.

Links

- [Building Permits Issued](#)
- [Land Use and Cover Statistics](#)
- [Parks and Trails](#)
- [Surface Water Quality](#)



Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves (2005)

Source: Metropolitan Council 2006



Growth & Housing



BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

AVERAGE HOME VALUE

HOME OWNERSHIP

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



2006



Building Permits Issued

Measuring the number of building permits issued is a useful tool for monitoring the growth and type of structures in the County. Policy makers and planners can use building permits to monitor growth and promote sustainable land uses. Yet, building permits do not account for the size of a building project or its impacts on the community, including services and infrastructure.

What is being measured?

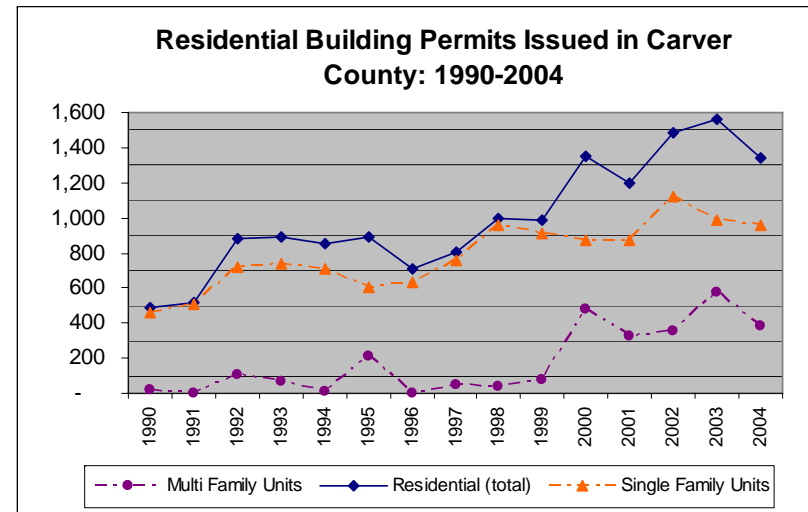
The number of new building permits issued is collected and monitored by the Metropolitan Council. Building permits include commercial and residential (single- and multiple-family) units. Shown (upper-right and lower-right) is the number of new permits issued over recent years.

Trends

- Increasing number of new building permits are being issued for residential units.
- Most new residential permits issued are used for single-family residences.
- Commercial building permits issued have remained very low but slowly increasing.

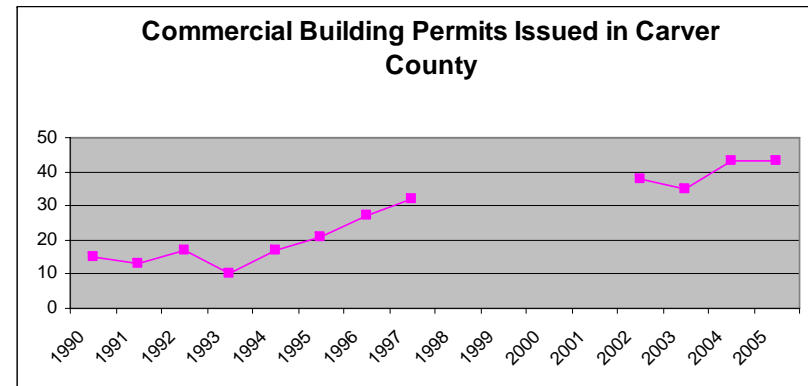
Links

- Acres of Protected Land
- Congestion
- Shopping and Eating Places
- Land Use Cover and Statistics



Source: Metropolitan Council, 2004

<http://www.metrocouncil.org>



*NOTE: Data not available for 1999-2001

Source: Metropolitan Council, 2005

<http://www.metrocouncil.org>



Average Home Value

The average home value is an important measure for determining property tax rates, assessing affordable housing, and influencing migration flows within and outside of the county. The increase in average home value is a result of the demand for housing by a growing population and the lagging supply of low-income housing.

What is being measured?

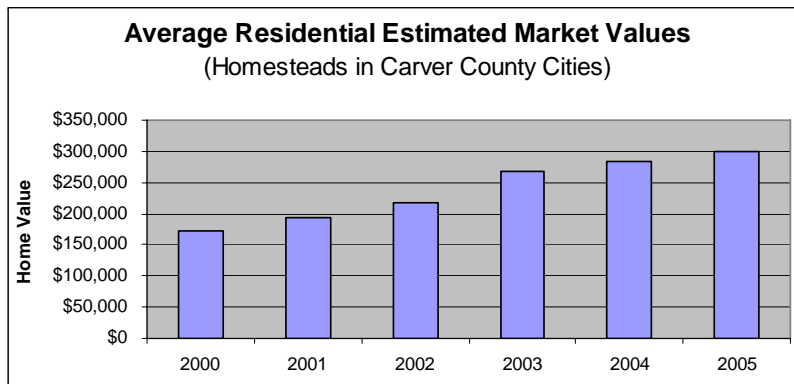
This measure takes the estimated residential market values for all homesteads (collected by the County Assessor's Office), and divides the value by the number of homes.

Trends

- Average home values are increasing steadily.
- The most dramatic increases are in eastern Carver County.
- New home constructions are averaging \$358,900.

Links

- Affordable Housing
- Cost of Living Index



Source: Carver County Assessor's Office, 2006
<http://www.co.carver.mn.us>

Home Ownership

Measuring home ownership is important for assessing personal assets and self sufficiency. The measurement is also useful for determining the length of residence and migration trends.

What is being measured?

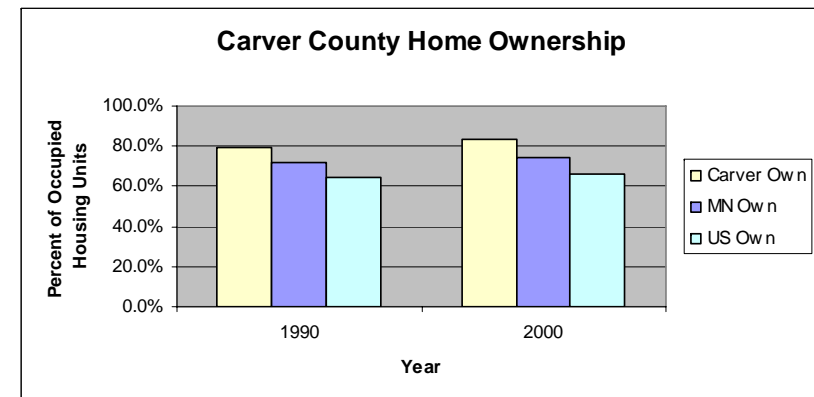
The US Census Bureau collects household data through the Decennial Census. Data shown (below) reflects the percentage of households owning compared to those renting.

Trends

- Home ownership has increased in the county since 1990.
- County home ownership rates are higher than Minnesota and the nation.

Links

- Affordable Housing
- Cost of Living Index



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2000
<http://factfinder.census.gov>



Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is a top concern for County residents. Closely associated with household incomes and population growth, affordable housing is a reflection of residents' ability to pay for the most basic necessity of life. The County's close proximity to the larger metropolitan area places unique strains on long time residents, as well as potential residents.

What is being measured?

The percent of monthly income is calculated using Census 2000 median household income and median home value data, collected decennially by the U.S. Census Bureau. Our calculation of affordable housing uses the Median Household Income multiplied by 2.5 to achieve an affordable market value threshold, shown below in the "Trends" section. The data shown is the percent of monthly household incomes dedicated to a home mortgage (upper-right) and rent (lower-right). Housing is considered affordable if it consumes 30% or less of a household's gross income.

Trends

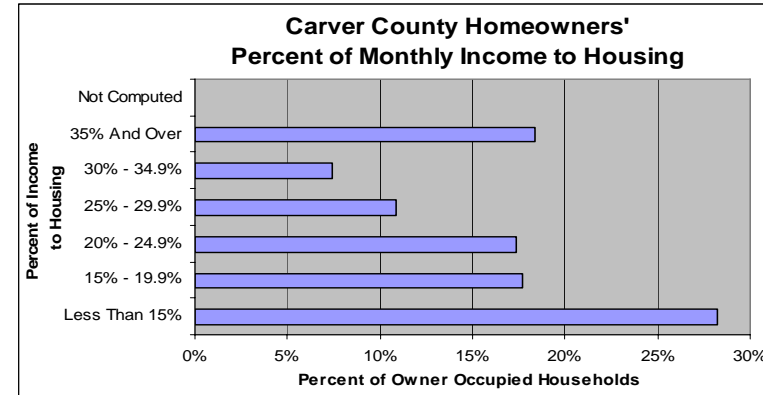
- The measurement of affordable housing is calculated using Carver County's median household income (2005 est.) of \$72,998, and then multiplied by 2.5; meaning the median home value for the county must be under \$182,495.
- The county's median home value of owner-occupied units (2005 est.) is \$272,100.
- New home construction averages for 2005 were \$358,900, above what is considered affordable for county households.

* New home construction values are taken from Carver County Assessor's Office data.

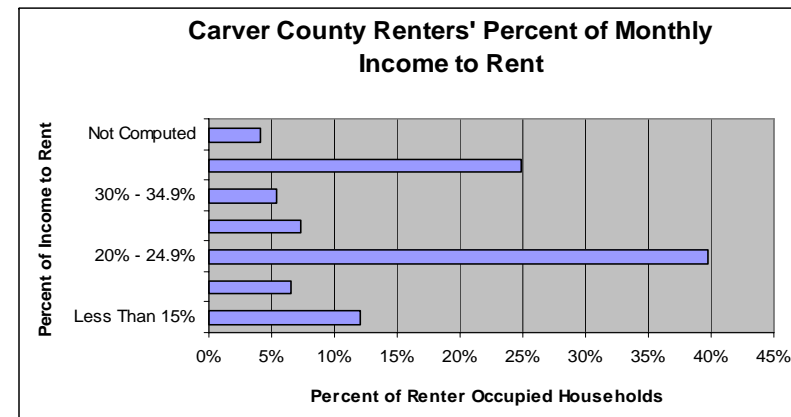
** Using county median income data to calculate an affordable housing measure cannot account for individuals looking to move to Carver County, or those individuals pushed out of the county due to rising housing costs.

Links

- Average Home Value
- Cost of Living Index
- General Poverty Trends
- Home Ownership
- Issues Facing Seniors



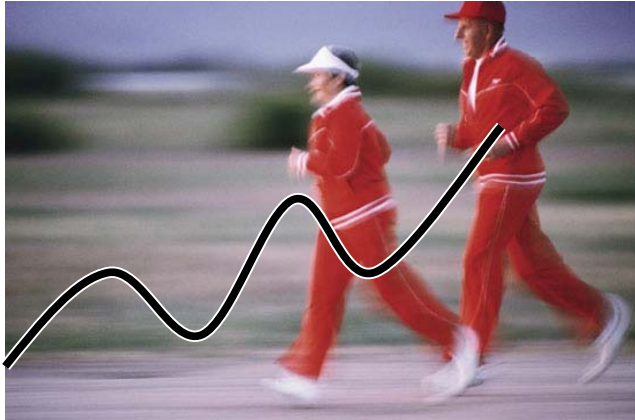
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005
<http://factfinder.census.gov> Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005
<http://factfinder.census.gov> Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.



Health



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
PRENATAL & CHILDHOOD HEALTH
TEEN SUBSTANCE USAGE
ADULT SUBSTANCE USAGE
OVERWEIGHT ADULTS
MORTALITY RATE



2006



Access to Healthcare

Access to healthcare is vital for diagnosing and treating community health problems. This relates to the number and type of physicians available, the percentage of residents insured, and the perceptions and satisfaction with healthcare in the county.

There are several public medical programs offered in Minnesota. Medical Assistance is the state's Medicaid program for low-income families with children, seniors and people with disabilities. General Assistance Medical Care provides health care coverage for low-income adults who have no dependent children and who do not qualify for Medical Assistance. MinnesotaCare is a subsidized health insurance program for residents who do not have access to affordable health care coverage.

What is being measured?

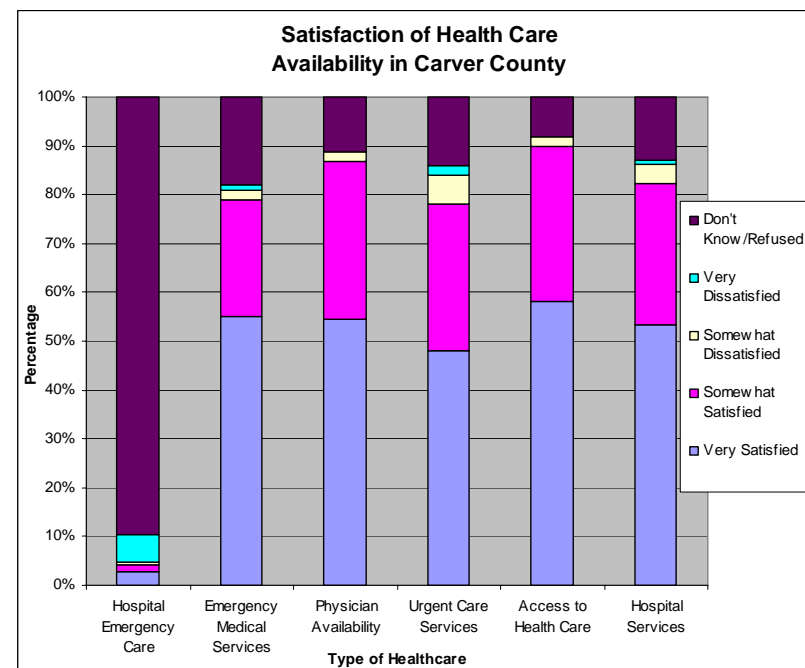
Residents' satisfaction with availability of healthcare in several settings in the county (right) is displayed. The rate of physicians per 10,000 people is also shown (next page, upper-left). Insurance coverage data includes health and dental insurance (next page, lower-left). Lastly, Carver County resident's enrollment in medical program is shown for 2004 (next page, middle).

Trends

- The number of physicians in Carver County has remained steady but is significantly lower than the rate seen in Minnesota as a whole.
- In 2004, 91% of residents interviewed reported having health insurance in the past year and 72% had dental insurance in the past year.
- Residents are generally satisfied with healthcare in the county, but least satisfied with urgent care services.

Links

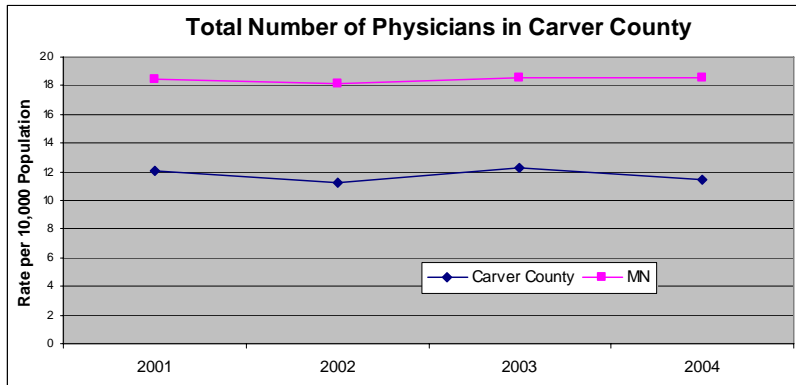
- Prenatal and Childhood Health
- Overall Quality of Life
- General Employment Trends
- Issues Facing Seniors
- Mortality Rates



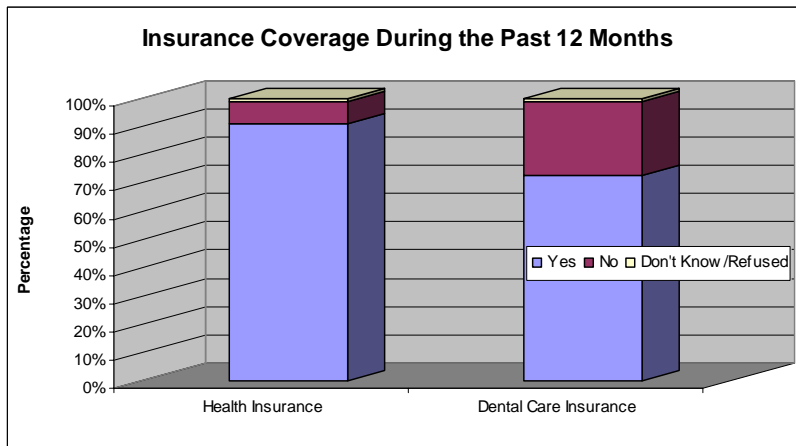
Source: Carver County Citizen Survey, 2004: National Research Center, Inc.



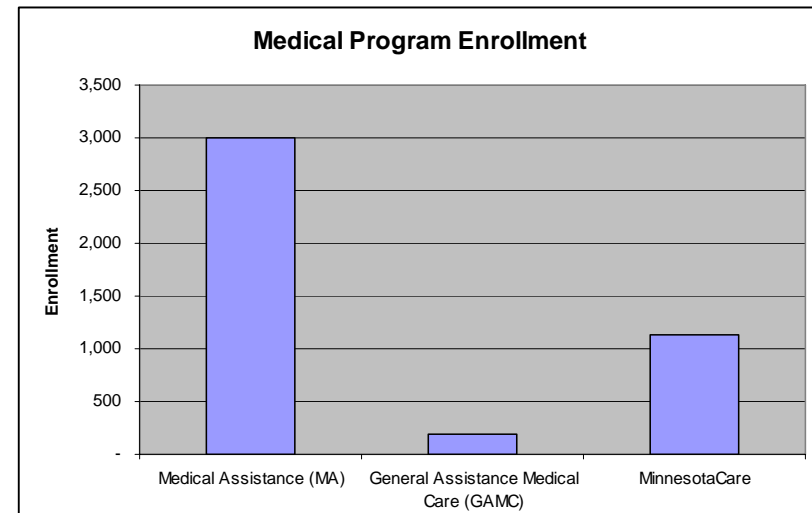
Access to Healthcare – Continued



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, County Health Tables, 2005
<http://www.health.state.mn.us>



Source: Carver County Citizen Survey, 2004: National Research Center, Inc.



Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2004
<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us>



Prenatal and Childhood Health

Prenatal care and childhood immunization rates are important to assess the current and future health of our children. Prenatal care can identify possible problems during and after the delivery. Also, timely immunizations help prevent the spread of disease among children and the general population.

What is being measured?

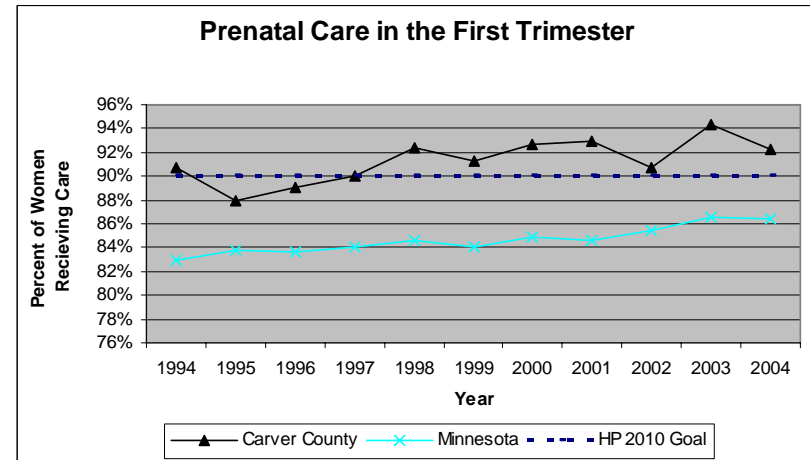
The percent of women receiving prenatal healthcare in the first trimester is shown (upper-right), which is collected annually by the Minnesota Department of Health. Childhood immunization rates are shown (lower-right) for each recommended age and immunization. In the process of updating data, Minnesota set a goal for 90% of children be immunized by 2004; monitored by the Minnesota Kindergarten Retrospective Immunization Survey.

Trends

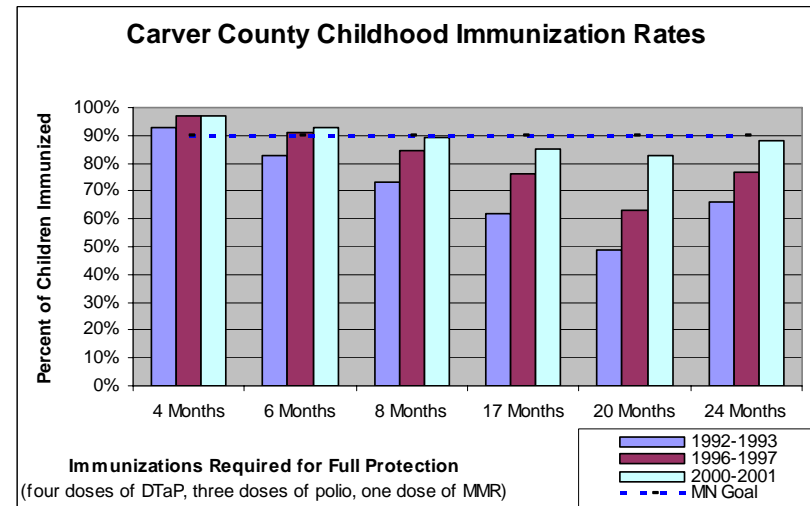
- The percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester has been consistently above the Healthy People 2010 Goal since 1998.
- The percent of kindergarten students immunized has improved or remained the same at each of the five age points.
- The county exceeded the 2004 state immunization goal at the 4-month and 6-month age points. The total up-to-date at 24 months of 88% is just below the Minnesota goal of 90%.

Links

- Access to Healthcare
- Educational Attainment
- Ground Water Quality
- Student Enrollment
- Teen Parenting



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, County Health Tables, 2005
<http://www.health.state.mn.us>



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Kindergarten Retrospective Immunization Survey, 2001
<http://www.health.state.mn.us>



Teen Substance Usage (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Marijuana)

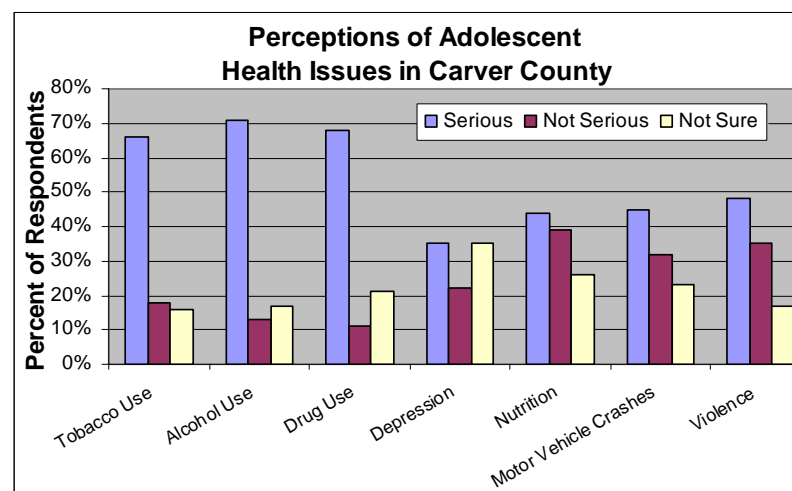
The use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs among youth can result in public health problems; such as chronic diseases, unintentional injury, mental health, and other adverse behaviors. Teens claim substance use is partially based on peer pressure, and a lack of other available activities.

What is being measured?

The Minnesota Student Survey tracks self-reported behaviors of students in 6th, 9th, and 12th grade. The percent of students who used alcohol in the past 12 months is shown (next page, upper-left). The percent of students who have smoked at least one cigarette in the past 30 days (next page, lower-left). The percent of students who used marijuana in the past 12 months is also shown (next page, lower-left). Alcohol and marijuana usage data includes both experimental users and regular users in all Carver County school districts. Lastly, adult perceptions of adolescent health issues are shown (upper-right).

Trends

- Alcohol use among Carver County 12th graders is higher than Minnesota percentages for both genders. For Carver County males, the percentage has been trending down. For females, there was a slight increase between 2001 and 2004.
- Cigarette use among Carver County youth is trending down, but it still exceeds state averages for 12th graders for both genders.
- Marijuana use is below Minnesota percentages for all grade levels. There was a downward trend for all grade levels in the county in 2004.



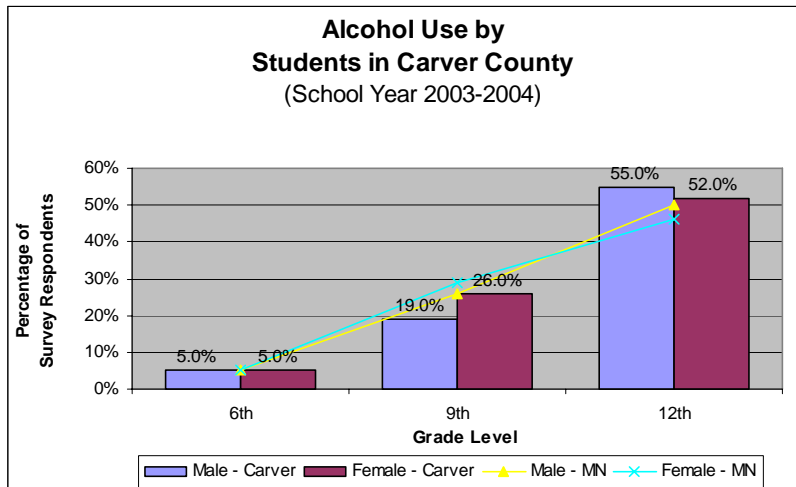
Source: Carver County Citizen Survey, 2002: Decision Resources, Ltd

Links

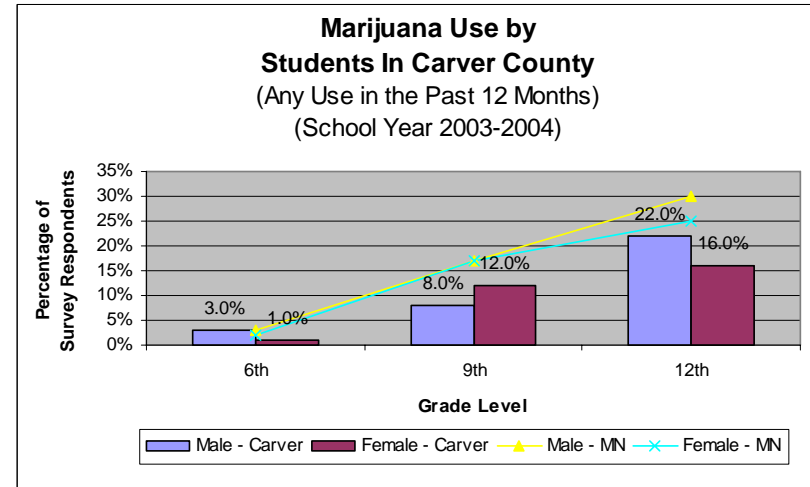
- Abuse/Neglect Cases
- Adult Substance Usage
- Crime Rates
- Dropout Rates
- Mortality Rates
- Motor Vehicle Injuries
- Perceptions of Public Safety



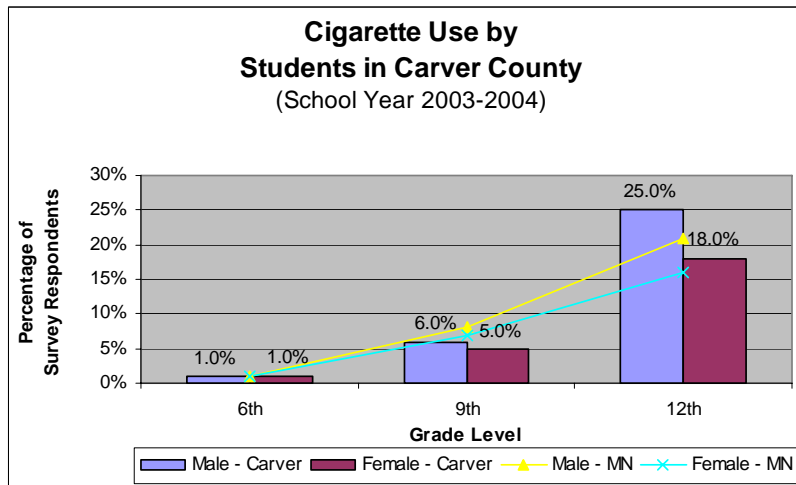
Teen Substance Usage - Continued (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Marijuana)



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Student Survey, 2004, <http://education.state.mn.us>



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Student Survey, 2004, <http://education.state.mn.us>



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Student Survey, 2004, <http://education.state.mn.us>



Adult Substance Usage

Tobacco is the number one cause of preventable disease and death in the United States. Alcohol consumption can result in unintentional injury, birth defects, and various chronic diseases. Further, usage of these substances by adults is proven to influence teen behavior.

What is being measured?

Estimates have been made based on the Minnesota Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey. These estimated percentages shown (right) represent the portion of adults considered to be at risk for current smoking, acute and chronic drinking.

Trends

- Approximately 20% of residents are estimated to be current regular smokers.
- A similar percentage of residents are estimated to participate in acute drinking (consumed five or more drinks on an occasion, one or more times in the month prior).

Links

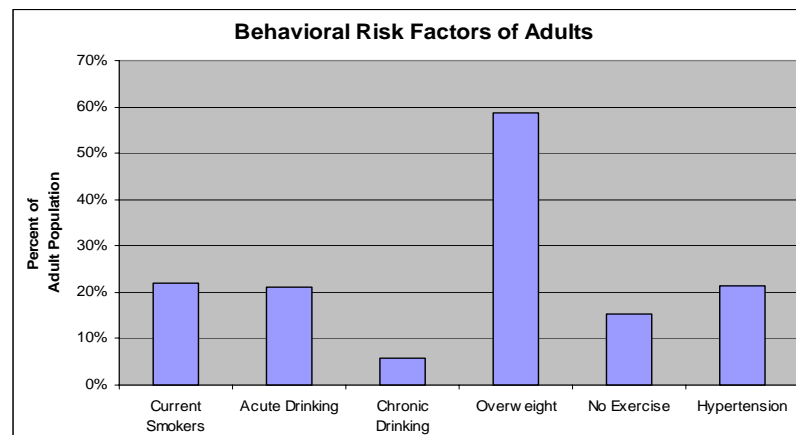
- Abuse/Neglect Cases
- Crime Rates
- Mortality Rates
- Motor Vehicle Injuries
- Perceptions of Public Safety
- Teen Substance Usage

Overweight Adults

The measure of overweight adults is an important determinate in health issues like heart disease, diabetes, mental health, physical mobility, and respiratory problems.

What is being measured?

Estimates of overweight, no exercise, and hypertension are shown (below). Overweight percentages are calculated using the body mass index ($BMI = \text{height in meters} / \text{weight in kilograms}$).



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, County Health Tables, 2005

<http://www.health.state.mn.us>

*These percentages were derived through a synthetic estimation method.

Trends

- Nearly 60% of the county's population is estimated to be overweight.
- 21% of residents are estimated to have ever been told by a health professional that they have high blood pressure.

Links

- Mortality Rates
- Time spent in leisure



Mortality Rates

Mortality is a vital statistic helpful in identifying specific health behaviors, risk factors and environmental surroundings attributable to deaths. Considering the county's population is younger than the nation as a whole, age adjusted death rates are used to determine if mortality differences really exist.

What is being measured?

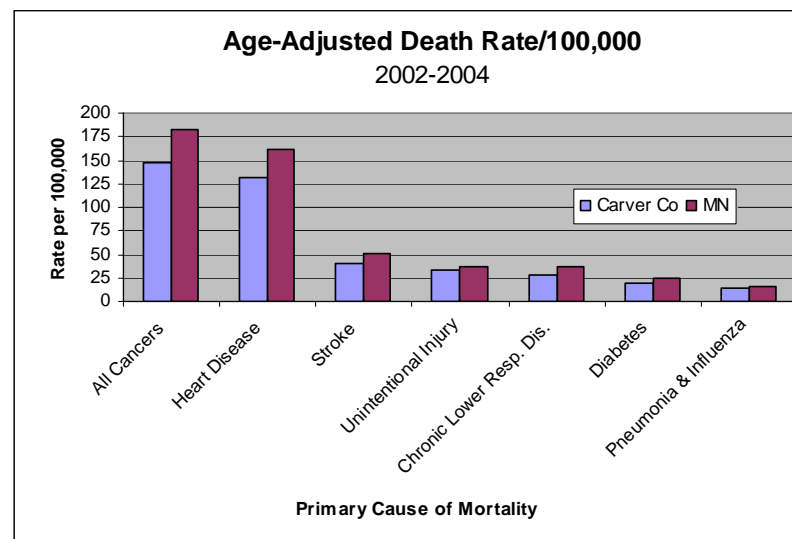
The Minnesota Department of Health collects data on primary causes of mortality by county. Using this data, the age-adjusted death rates were calculated. The calculation weights population groups in the county, and then standardizes the rate per 100,000 by multiplying total incidences and the weighted group value. Age-adjusted death rates in numbers per 100,000 persons are calculated using trends from 2002-2004. Shown (right) are the leading causes of death in the county compared to state rates.

Trends

- Cancer and heart disease are the leading causes of death within Carver County, yet remain significantly lower than the state rate. From 2000-2002, the leading cancer type was lung, followed by prostate cancer for men and breast cancer for women.
- Stroke, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease, diabetes and pneumonia and influenza are other leading causes of death. They are not significantly different from the state rates.

Links

- Access to Healthcare
- Adult and Teen Substance Usage
- Motor Vehicle Injuries
- Overweight Adults



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, County Health Tables, 2005

<http://www.health.state.mn.us>

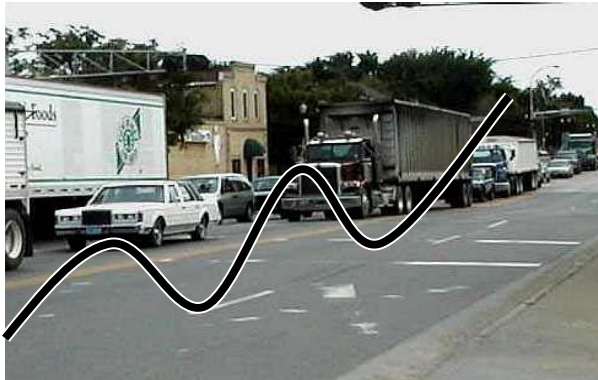
* All Cancers include lung cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, and all others.

** Unintentional Injury includes falls, motor vehicle accidents, and other fatal injury events.

*** Chronic lower respiratory disease includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema



Mobility



CONGESTION

COMMUTE TO WORK

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION USAGE



2006



Congestion

Congestion on state and county roadways is an increasing concern for county residents. Congestion limits mobility, increases commute time to work, increases personal stress, increases the need for alternative forms of transportation, and reduces overall quality of life for county residents. For our purposes, road congestion is defined when the average daily traffic volume exceeds the current road capacity given each road class.

What is being measured?

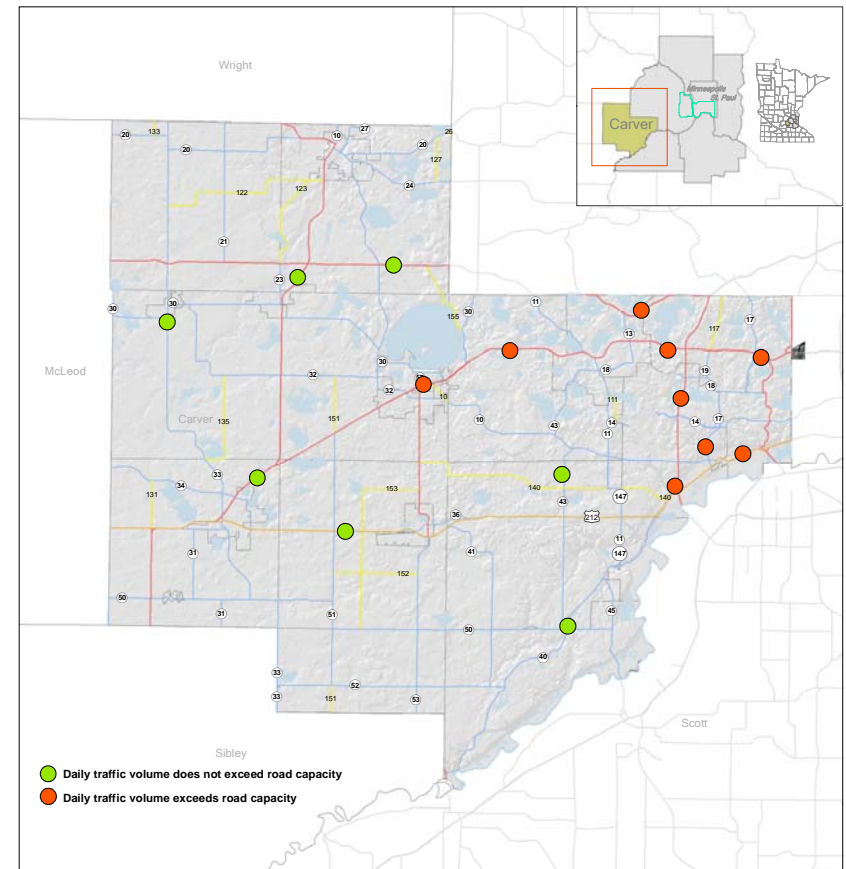
The Carver County Department of Public Works maintains average daily traffic volume data on county roadways, which is collected every-other year. Data points were randomly selected from major roadways across the county, which are shown on the map to the right. The green circles represent points where the average daily traffic volume does not exceed road capacity; whereas, the red circles represent points where the average daily traffic volume does exceed road capacity.

Trends

- Traffic congestion is increasing rapidly in eastern portions of the county, while western portions of the county experience little or no congestion.

Links

- Building Permits Issued
- Commute to Work
- Motor Vehicle Injuries
- Public Transportation Usage



Selected Daily Traffic Volume and Road Capacity (2005)

Created by Carver County Land Management Department
Source: Carver County Public Works



Commute to Work

Commuting patterns are important for understanding the mobility of residents within an area. Looking at commuting time to work helps assess congestion. Also, understanding the way we get to work is important for transportation planning decisions, public safety issues, and congestion patterns.

What is being measured?

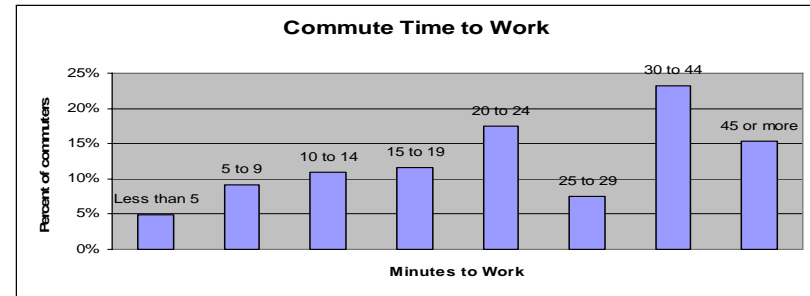
Data from the U.S. Census Bureau was used to show the time it takes county residents to get to work (upper-right). The US Census Bureau provides further commute information by reporting on where Carver County residents commute to (see map) as well as where workers in Carver County commute from. Shown (next page, upper-left) is the percent of county residents using each form of transportation listed.

Trends

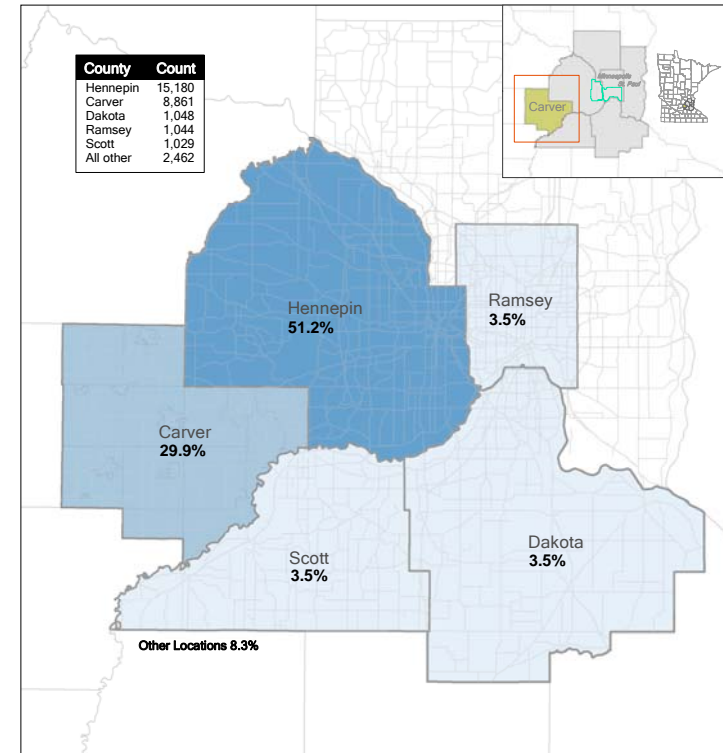
- About 62% of commutes take less than 30 minutes.
- Most workers commute by personal vehicle (80%).
- More workers are choosing alternatives such as carpools and working at home.
- A large portion of Carver County residents (29.9%) work in the County.
- 23% of workers in Carver County travel here from Hennepin County.
- 51.2% of Carver County residents work in Hennepin County

Links

- Congestion
- General Employment Trends
- Public Transportation Usage



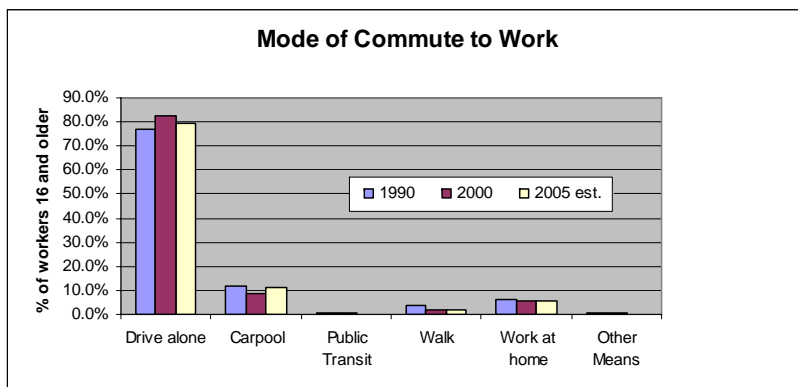
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005
<http://factfinder.census.gov> Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.



Counties where residents are employed
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics <http://lehdmap.dsd.census.gov>



Commute to Work – Continued



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1990 and 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005 <http://factfinder.census.gov> Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.

Public Transportation Usage

Alternative uses of transportation can greatly reduce road congestion, provide mobility to residents without personal transportation, and can reduce the number of traffic related accidents.

What is being measured?

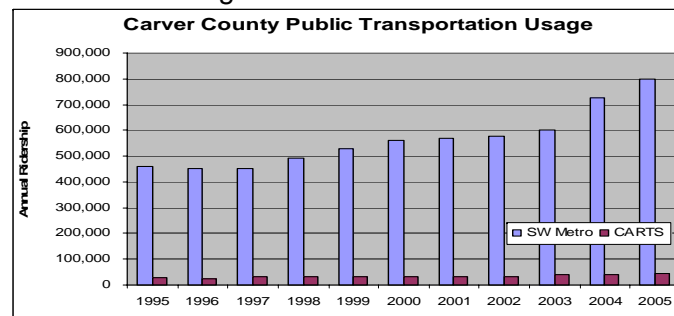
Southwest Metro and the Carver County Social Service's CART (Carver Area Rural Transit) track ridership annually, which is shown (below). Ridership is the number of rides taken per any person.

Trends

- Public ridership continues to increase steadily.
- Southwest Metro currently has five Park-n-Ride stops in the county, located in Chanhassen, Chaska, and Victoria.

Links

- Commute to Work
- Congestion
- Issues Facing Seniors



Source: Carver County CARTS; Southwest Metro Transit, 2005
<http://www.swtransit.org/>



Leisure and Recreation



PARKS AND TRAILS

LIBRARY USAGE

HISTORIC SITES AND LANDMARKS

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

SHOPPING AND EATING PLACES



2006



Parks and Trails

The availability and use of parks is extremely important for giving county residents options for outside activity and recreation. A variety of parks exist in the county serving a wide variety of interests. Most importantly, this measure shows access to public spaces and private recreation areas (e.g. golf course), particularly in more developed areas.

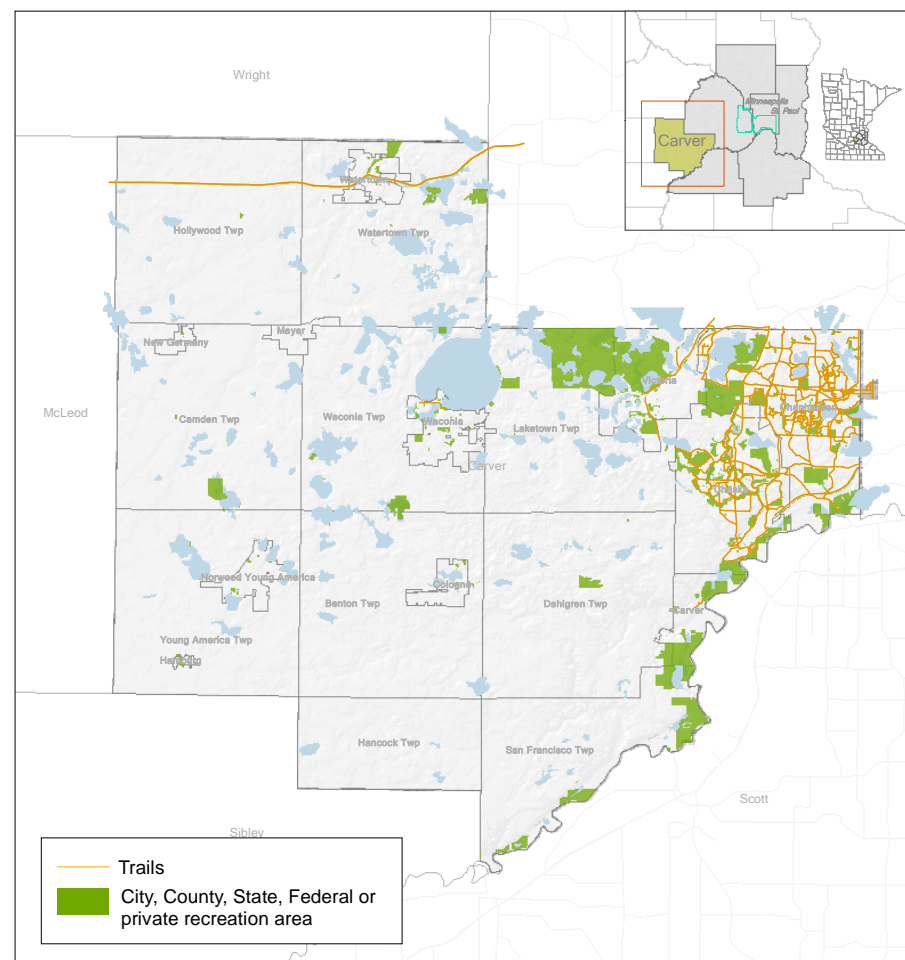
What is being measured?

The acreage of land classified as public parkland, preserve or private recreation area in 2005 was approximately 12,903. Since 1990, the percentage of land classified in these categories has steadily increased from 4.1% in 1990 to 4.7% in 2000, and 5.3% in 2005. Three regional parks total 678 acres. The map shows the location of these areas as of 2005.

The location of trails is also shown on the map. These trails include regional and local trails as identified by each community. They do not include any trails which lie within park facilities. Trails in the three regional parks total over 50 miles and are primarily grass and aggregate-base surfaced, largely for hiking and cross country skiing. Municipal parks also offer many miles of paved trails for walking, hiking, biking, rollerblading, and other activities.

Links

- Acres of Protected Land
- Land Use and Cover Statistics
- Surface Water Quality



Parkland, preserves, private recreation areas and trails

Source: Carver County Parks - Carver County GIS
<http://www.co.carver.mn.us>



Library Usage

Libraries are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources, and information in Carver County libraries is imperative for education, employment, and self government. The Carver County Library System participates in the Metropolitan Library Service Agency, allowing residents to use their library card in libraries throughout the Minneapolis/ St. Paul metro area. The county's law library offers legal materials and on-line resources for residents and professionals.

What is being measured?

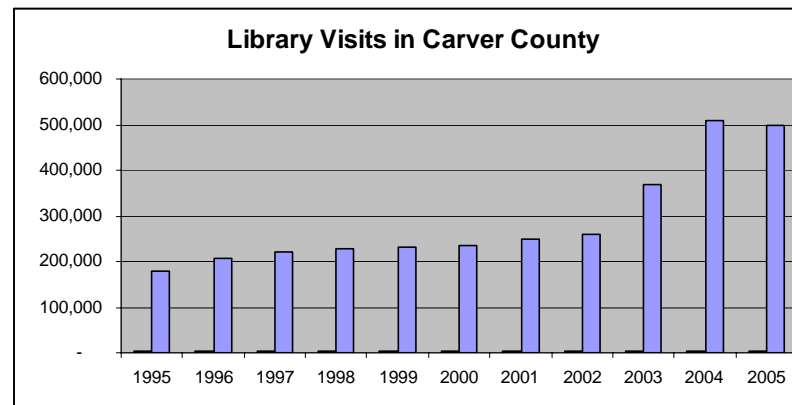
The Carver County Library System has six libraries located in Chanhassen, Chaska, Norwood-Young America, Watertown, and Waconia. The library keeps statistics on the circulation of library materials, number of users, inquiries into the web catalog, and reference questions. The number of library users is shown in the graph to the upper-right. Also, the annual volume of materials in circulation, not including reference materials, is shown in the graph to the lower-right.

Trends

- Growing number of library users and circulation volumes over the past decade. In 2005 a slight decrease was seen in both measures. Library hours were decreased in that year.
- Visits per capita reached 6.2 in 2004, up from 3.4 visits per capita in 2000.
- There were 79,401 requests for reference materials and information in 2005.

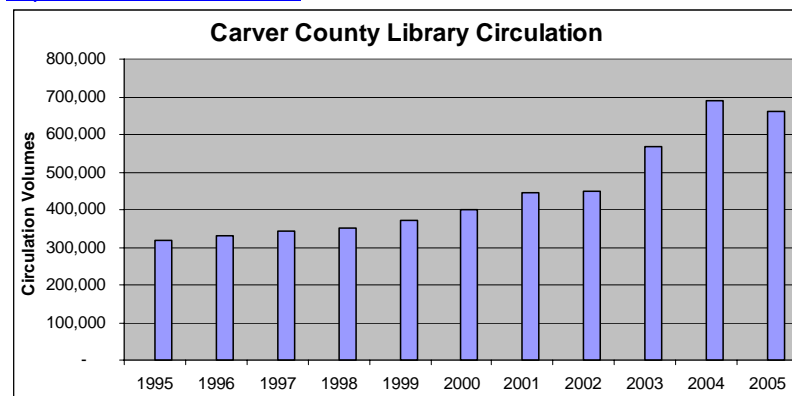
Links

- Basic Requirement Student Test Scores
- Community Involvement
- Educational Attainment



Source: Carver County Library Services, 2005

<http://www.carver.lib.mn.us/>



Source: Carver County Library Services, 2005

<http://www.carver.lib.mn.us/>



Historic Sites and Landmarks

Historic sites and landmarks represent the culture, growth, and change within the county. Listed below are historic institutions and centers; as well as land marks, buildings, and other historic sites in the county. This list shows the majority of historic sites in the county.

Data was collected from Carver County Historical Society and the National Register of Historic Places Minnesota Checklist (2002).

Historic and Cultural Institutions

- Carver County Historical Society
- Chaska Historical Society
- Watertown Area Historical Society
- Waconia Heritage Association

Significant Historic Landmarks, Buildings and Sites

- Walnut National Historic District (Chaska)
- Carver National Historic District (Carver)
- Wendelin Grimm Farmstead (Carver Park Reserve)
- Andrew Peterson Farmstead
- King Oscar's Settlement (Dahlgren Twp.)
- City Halls of Waconia and Young America
- Johann Schimmelpfennig Farmstead (Benton Twp.)
- Zoar Moravian Church (Laketown Twp.)
- Norwood Methodist Episcopal Church (Norwood)
- West Union (Hancock Twp.)
- Chaska City Square Park
- Coney Island (Waconia)

Source: Carver County Historical Society, 2002
<http://www.carvercountyhistoricalsociety.org/>

Festivals and Events

Festivals and events are opportunities for county residents and visitors to experience annual or seasonal cultural events. Below is a list of county festivals and events that are cornerstones of the community. Each one is unique to the values and interests within the county. Festivals and events are also unique opportunities for local artists to display their work, as well as to promote interest in the art community.

Festivals and Events

- Carver County Fair
- Nickel Dickel Day (Waconia)
- Fourth of July Parades
- Street Dances
- Dave Huffman Memorial 5K Race (Chanhassen)
- Lake Waconia Band Festival
- Lake Waconia Triathlon
- Taste of Chaska
- MN State Catamaran Championship (Lake Waconia)
- River City Days Celebration (Chaska)
- Stiftungsfest¹ (Norwood/ Young America)
- February Festival (Chanhassen)
- Easter Egg Candy Hunt (Chanhassen)
- Halloween Party (Chanhassen)
- Tree Lighting Celebration (Chanhassen)
- Music in the Park (Waconia)
- Bavaria Day (Victoria)
- Rails to Trails (Watertown)
- Steamboat Days (Carver)

¹ Minnesota's oldest continuous community celebration (141 years).



Shopping and Eating Places

The number and growth of retail and dining places is an important measure of local shopping opportunities. The amount of retail places in the county offers jobs to local residents, generates tax revenues for local governments, and helps to generate cash flow into the local economy. Further, shopping and eating places offer residents a chance to meet and interact with each other.

What is being measured?

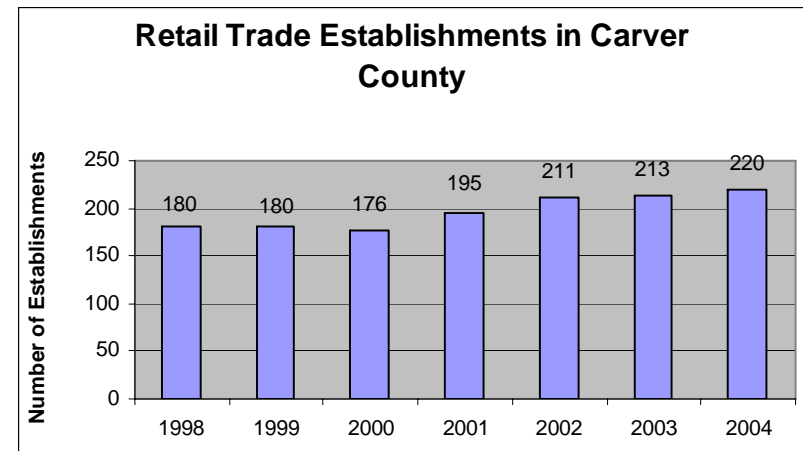
The growth in the number of retail trade establishments is shown (upper-right). This includes building materials and garden supplies, general merchandise stores, food stores, automotive dealers, apparel and accessory stores, furniture and home furnishing stores, eating and drinking places, and miscellaneous retail stores; data collected by the US Census Bureau at the 3-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) level. Also, the growth of eating and drinking establishments is shown (lower-right), which includes 2-digit NAICS codes of 44 and 45.

Trends

- Steady increase in establishments for both retail trade and eating and drinking places since 1998.

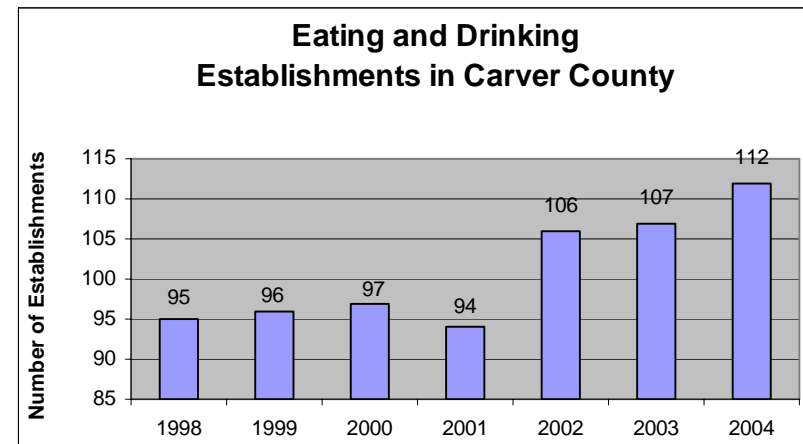
Links

- Building Permits Issued
- Commercial Property Values



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, 2004 (NAICS 722*)

<http://www.census.gov>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, 2004 (NAICS 44*-45*)

<http://www.census.gov>



Social



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

CHILD CARE

GENERAL POVERTY TRENDS

ABUSE/NEGLECT CASES

TEEN PARENTING

ISSUES FACING SENIORS



2006



Community Involvement

Voter participation, community education, and volunteer rates are important indicators of social capital and community participation. An increase in community participation shows increasing concern for the county as a whole.

What is being measured?

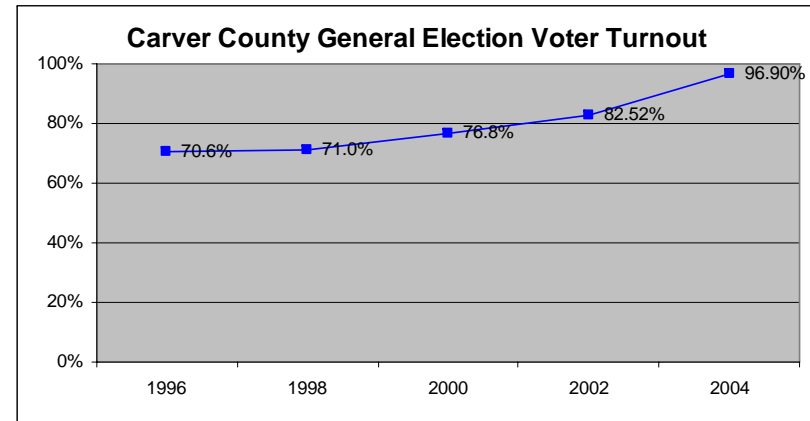
The Carver County voter turnout rate during recent general elections is shown (upper-right). Also, county respondents' time spent volunteering is shown (lower-right).

Trends

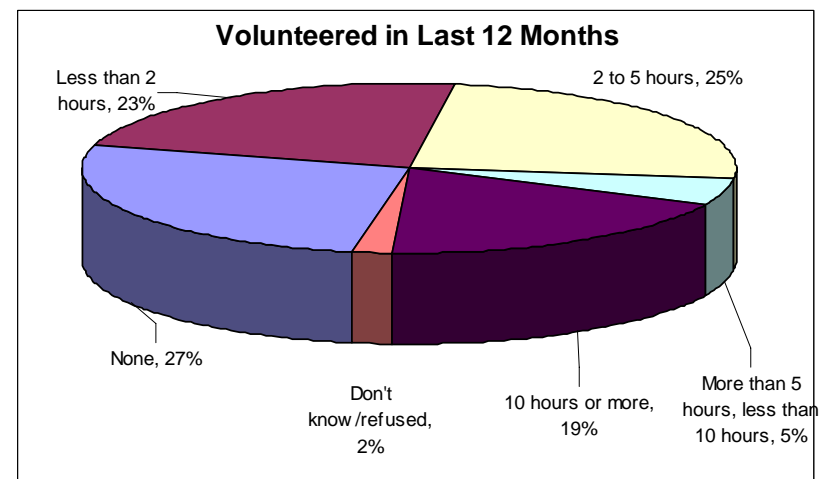
- Voter participation rates have been consistently increasing.
- Voter participation rates in the county are notably higher than Minnesota rates, while Minnesota rates are the highest in the nation.
- 71% of county respondents spent time volunteering last year.

Links

- Dropout Rates
- Educational Attainment
- Library Usage



Source: Minnesota Secretary of State, General Election Results, 2004
<http://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us>



Source: Carver County Citizen Survey, 2004: National Research Center, Inc.



Child Care

The cost and availability of care of children is a top concern for working families. A lack of adequate childcare can strain working parents, and possibly risk the safety of the child. The county does have a number of licensed and non-licensed childcare facilities to help parents manage their daily schedules.

What is being measured?

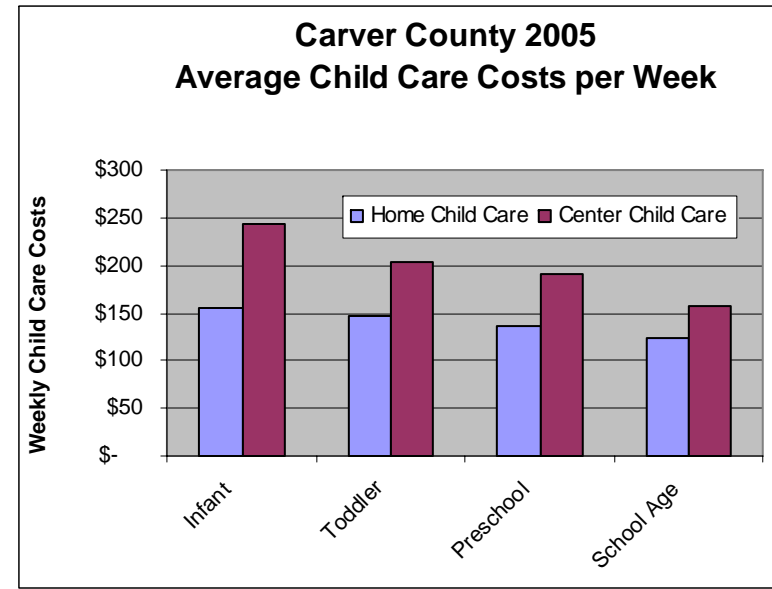
Information was attained through the Carver County Residential Survey, Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association and the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The average weekly cost of county child family and center care is shown (upper-right). Also, the perception of child care by those with children in “all-day day care” is shown (lower-right).

Trends

- Of those residents with children in “all-day daycare”, 59% believe there is adequate daycare in the county, 29% believe there is not, and 12% did not know.
- The number of family childcare providers in the county has remained around 200 over the past several years.
- 60% of childcare providers are located in Chaska, Chanhassen and Waconia.
- Average childcare costs in centers rose since the last Quality of Life Indicators Report in 2003. Previous costs are listed as follows: \$208 for *infant* care, \$172 for *toddler* care, \$156 for *preschool* care, and \$137 for *school-age* care.

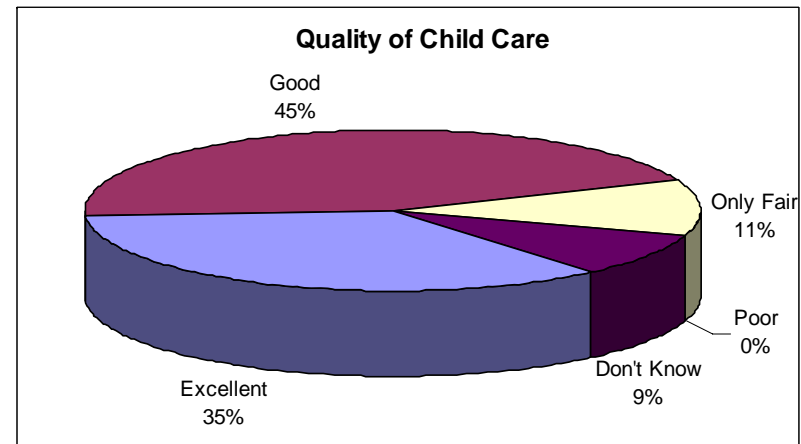
Links

- General Employment Trends
- School Enrollment



Source: Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, 2005

<http://www.gmdca.org>



Source: Carver County Citizen Survey, 2002: Decision Resources Ltd



General Poverty Trends

Tracking the number of families on public assistance will show general trends of poverty in the county. This indicator shows the results of families displaced by the workforce system, general financial stress within households, and families in need of outside support. County residents have access to state and federal programs through Carver County Social Services.

What is being measured?

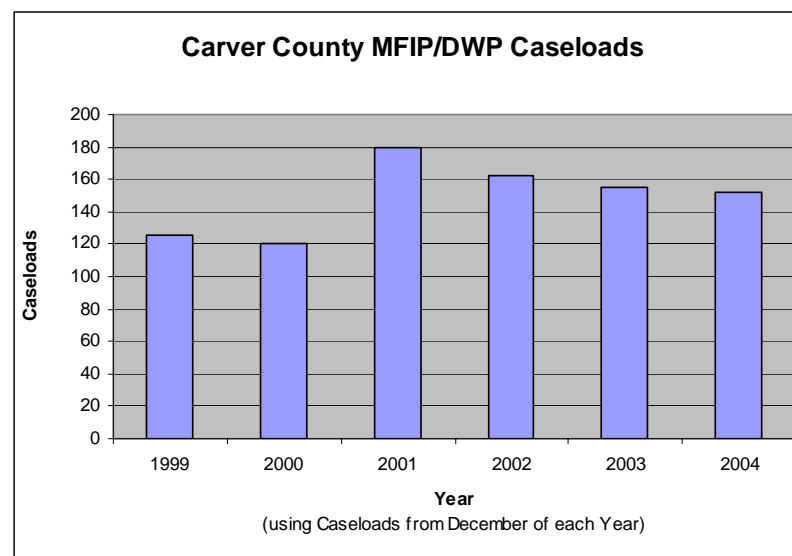
This is a measurement of families receiving public assistance in the county. It considers households receiving aid through the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and, starting in 2004, the Diversionary Work Program. To the right is the number of MFIP cases in the month of December from 1999 to 2004. The 2000 US Census collected and reported data on poverty rates for individuals, families, and female led single-parent families. The 2005 poverty threshold for an individual under 65 years of age is an income level of \$10,160 per year or less; while rates for families vary depending on family size and number of children under 18 years old.

Trends

- Caseload numbers fluctuate widely from month to month with changing needs of residents.
- The county has the lowest per capita use of MFIP in the state.
- Aside from an increase in 2001, MFIP/DWP caseloads have generally been decreasing.
- A higher rate of female led single-parent families are under the poverty threshold compared to individuals and other family structures.

Links

- Affordable Housing
- Educational Attainment
- General Employment Trends
- Special Student Populations



Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, MFIP Caseload and Participant Characteristics Report, 2004 <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us>

| Carver County Poverty Status | Number Below Poverty Level | Percent Below Poverty Level |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Families (1999) | 436 | 2.3% |
| Single Parent Families (Female Led Households) (1999) | 188 | 11.8% |
| Individuals under 65 (2005 est.) | 1,432 | 2.0% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005 <http://factfinder.census.gov>. Estimates based on a survey of the population not living in group quarters. Data are not directly comparable to 2000 census data.



Abuse/Neglect Cases

Domestic violence and child abuse adversely affect everyone in the community, increasing strain on police time and medical resources, and creating potential dangers in the community. Any form of domestic violence is detrimental to children by affecting their daily activities and interactions, personal relationships, and physical and mental health. The Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women is the most utilized agency serving and protecting county residents from abusive relationships. The Minnesota Department of Human Services reports annually on the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

What is being measured?

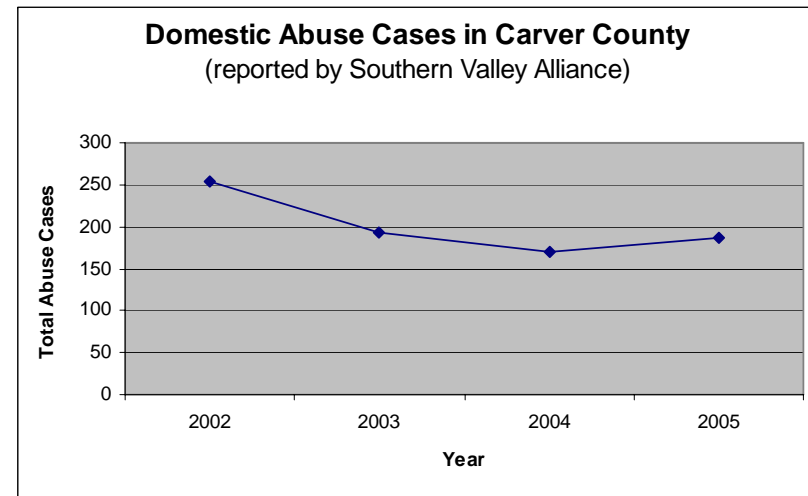
The total number of cases for all ages reported to the Southern Valley Alliance is shown (upper-right). The total number of determined cases of child maltreatment and neglect is also shown (lower-right).

Trends

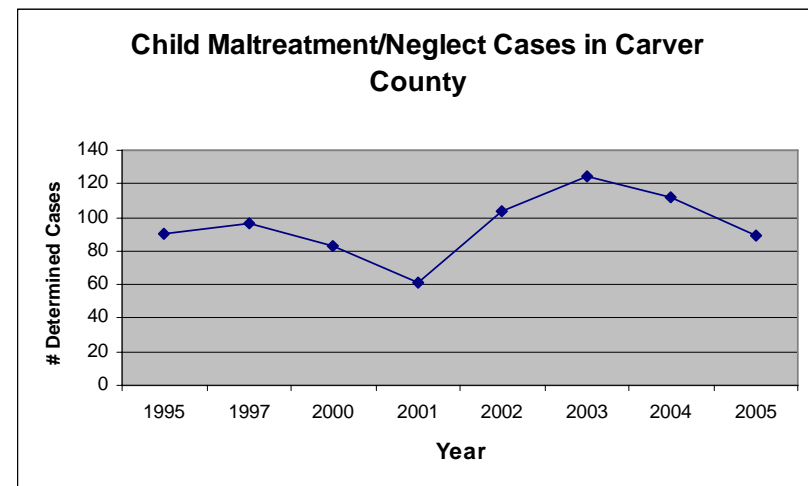
- Total domestic abuse cases are fluctuating. There has been a slight increase between 2004 and 2005.
- Child maltreatment and neglect cases are also fluctuating.
- Neglect makes up the majority of the child maltreatment cases in the county.

Links

- Adult and Teen Substance Usage
- Basic Requirement Test Scores
- Crime Rates
- Teen Parenting



Source: Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women, 2006



Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Child Welfare Report, 2005
www.dhs.state.mn.us



Teen Parenting

Teen pregnancies can result in health problems for the mother and baby. Births to teens, especially young teens, can also be a source of hardship in terms of parenting issues, educational completion, economic and social problems.

What is being measured?

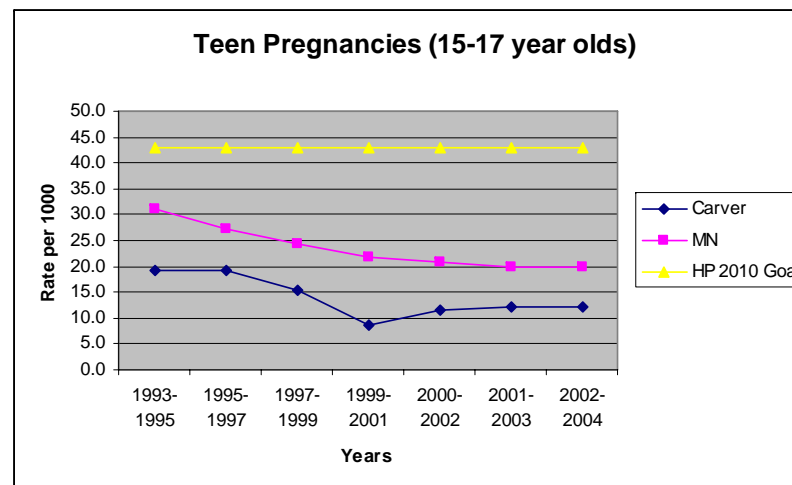
The rate of teen pregnancies (upper-right) and the rate of teen births (lower-right) is shown. The rates are calculated per 1,000 teens ages 15-17 for three year periods from 1993-2004.

Trends

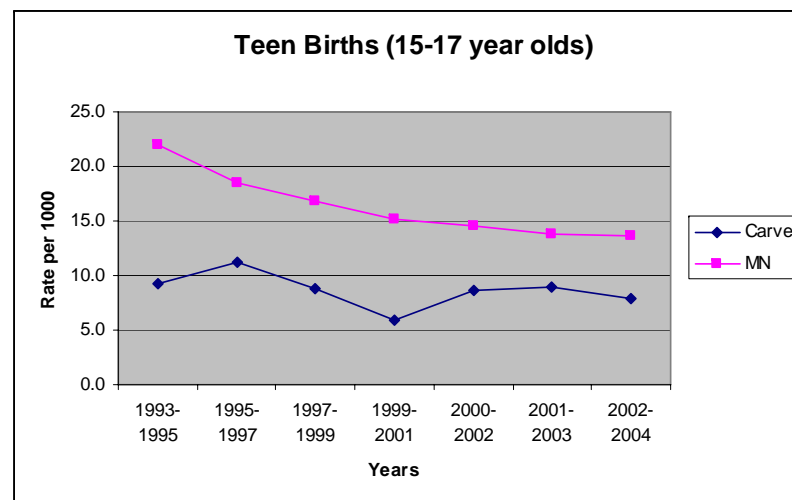
- Teen pregnancy rates for 15-17 year olds are fluctuating, but have generally decreased, following the state trend.
- Teen pregnancy rates for 15-17 year olds are below state rates and well below the Healthy People 2010 goal.
- Teen birth rates for 15-17 year olds are fluctuating, but have stayed below the state of Minnesota rates.

Links

- Abuse/Neglect Cases
- Dropout Rates
- Educational Attainment
- Prenatal and Childhood Health



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, County Health Tables, 2005, www.health.state.mn.us



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, County Health Tables, 2005, www.health.state.mn.us



Issues Facing Seniors

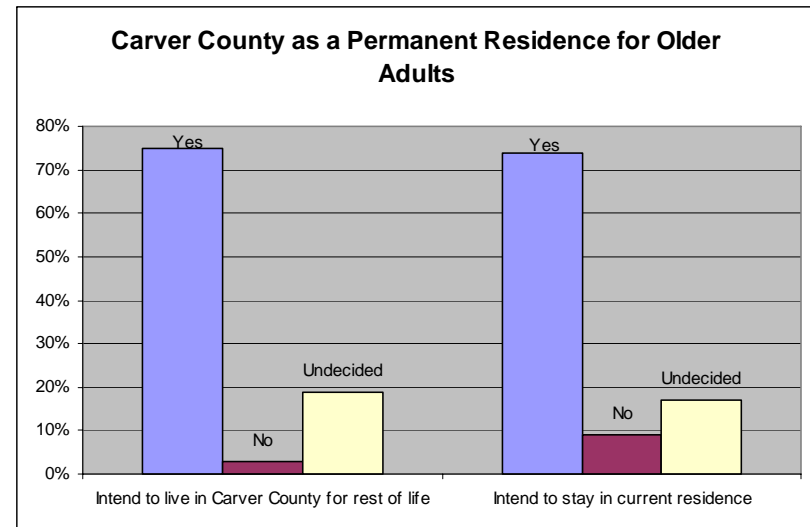
Issues facing seniors are a growing concern among county residents. Assessing the quality of senior life can help community leaders, program managers, and residents understand their extended family in relation to the whole community. Currently, agencies across the county are promoting home living options for seniors, rather than increasing occupancy in long-term care facilities.

What is being measured?

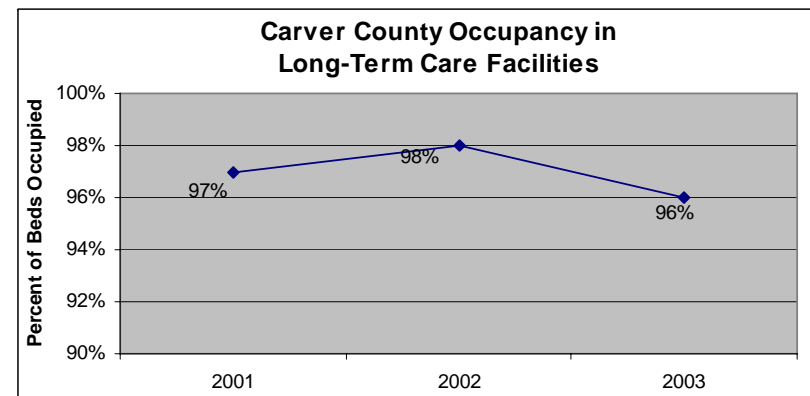
The Carver County Residential Survey collected data on senior quality of life and other issues facing our county's senior populations. Responses from older adults regarding their plans to live in Carver County for the rest of their life are shown (upper-right). The occupancy rate in long-term care facilities in Carver County is also shown (lower-right). The trends section, below, lists the most serious issues facing seniors. On the next page responses from older adults regarding various community factors.

Trends

- Occupancy rates at long-term care facilities remained very high indicating a demand for assisted living units and other supportive services to help older adults remain at home.
- Total number of licensed beds in long-term care facilities has remained at 355 in Carver County since 1996.
- 75% of respondents planned to maintain permanent residence in Carver County for the rest of their life.



Source: Carver County Citizen Survey, 2004: National Research Center, Inc.



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Compliance Monitoring, Nursing Home Occupancy Statistics, 2003

<http://health.state.mn.us>



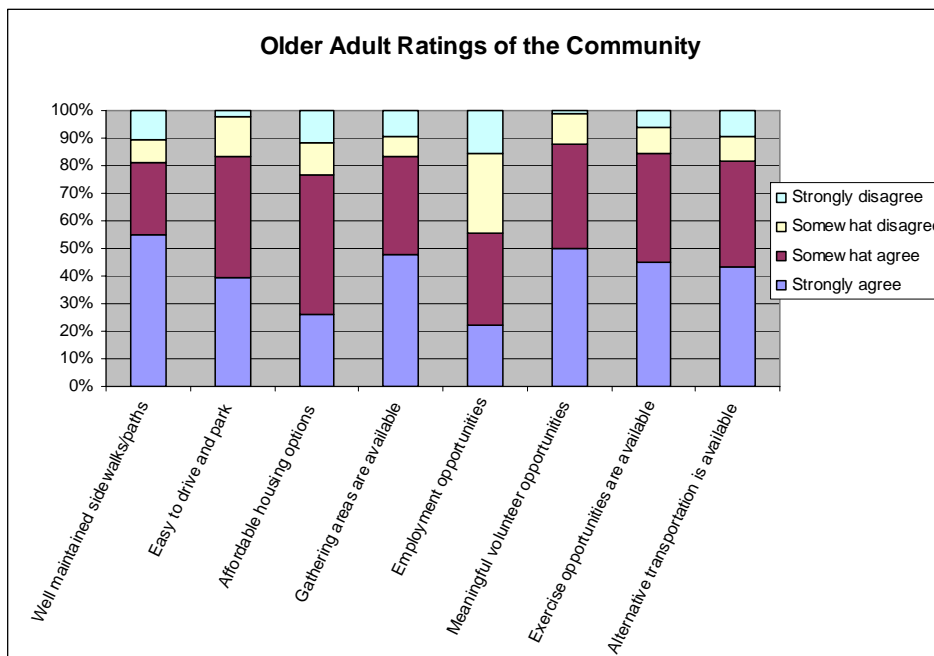
Issues Facing Seniors - Continued

Trends

- Most serious issues facing seniors as reported in the Carver County Residential Survey are 1) cost of prescription drugs 2) being able to stay in their own home 3) health.
- 76% of respondents felt that the ability to stay in their own home was a major or moderate concern for older adults.
- The top issues affecting the ability of older adults to remain in their homes are 1) having physical limitations 2) needing help with home maintenance 3) general health needs 4) having to pay taxes.

Links

- Affordable Housing
- Access to Healthcare
- Public Transportation Usage



Source: Carver County Citizen Survey, 2004: National Research Center, Inc.



Public Safety



**PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC
SAFETY**

CRIME RATES

MOTOR VEHICLE INJURIES





Perceptions of Public Safety

The perception of public safety measures the general sense of safety and concern for residents in the county. Linking perceptions to current crime rates is important for accurately addressing safety issues facing the county.

What is being measured?

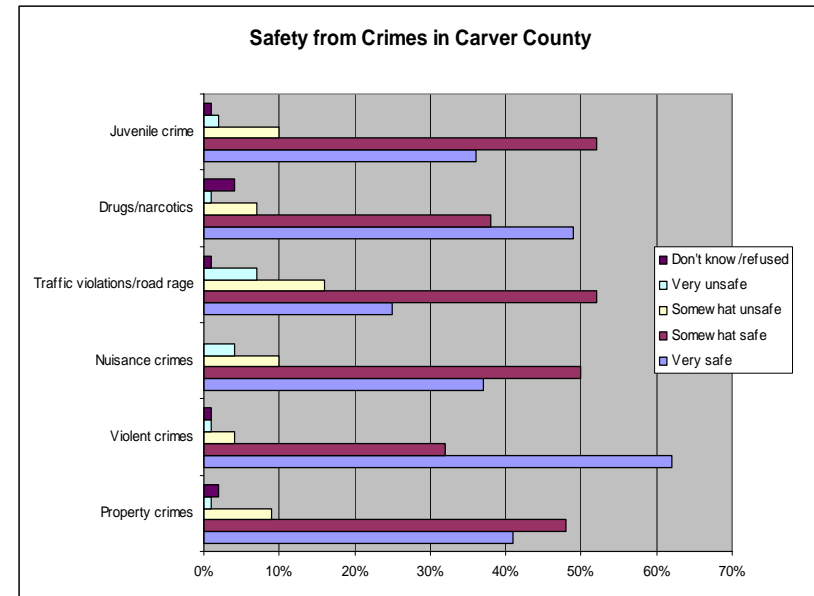
The results are drawn from the most recent Carver County Residential Survey published in 2004. County residents were asked to choose how safe they feel from crime, results are shown to the upper-right. Feelings of safety in areas are addressed in the graph to the lower-right.

Trends

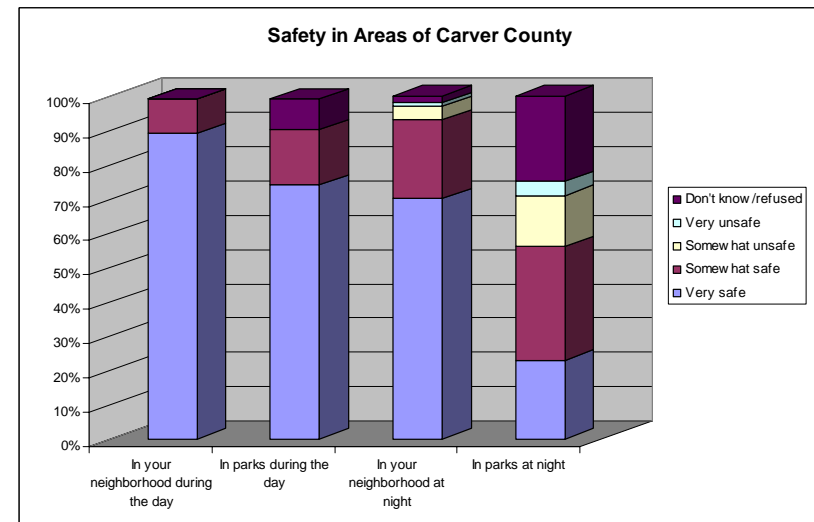
- Traffic violations, juvenile crimes, and nuisance crimes were the biggest safety concerns reported by county residents.
- 94% of residents feel very safe or somewhat safe from violent crimes.
- 99% of residents feel very safe or somewhat safe in their neighborhoods during the day and 93% felt the same way in their neighborhoods at night.

Links

- Adult and Teen Substance Usage
- Crime Rates
- Motor Vehicle Injuries



Source: Carver County Citizen Survey, 2004: National Research Center, Inc.



Source: Carver County Citizen Survey, 2004: National Research Center, Inc.



Crime Rates

Major crime offenses have physical, mental, economic, and emotional costs to victims and the community. The cost to communities is the threat to public safety and freedom. Crime invokes fear in citizens, negatively impacts the quality of life for families in their homes, children at school, and businesses within the community.

What is being measured?

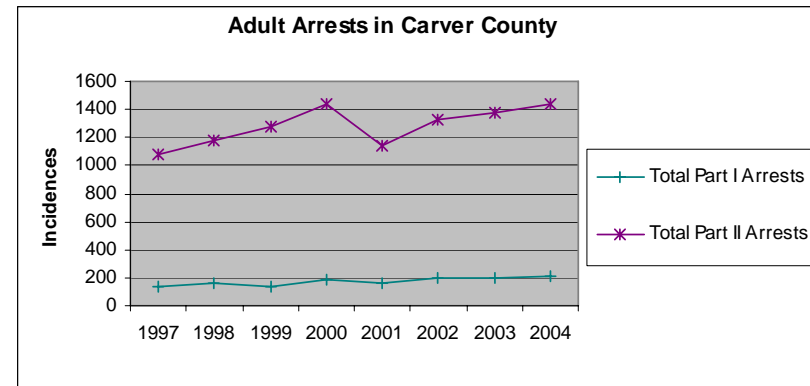
Data are collected according to the Uniform Crime Reporting program at a county level and reported by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Incidences represent all arrests for adults 18 years-old and up (upper-right) and for juveniles less than 18 years-old (lower-right). Part I offenses (serious crimes) include homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault, larceny, burglary, and arson. Part II offenses (less serious crimes) include fraud, vandalism, weapons violations, narcotics violations, driving under the influence (DUI), prostitution, and disorderly conduct. Other arrests for juveniles include curfew/loitering and runaways.

Trends

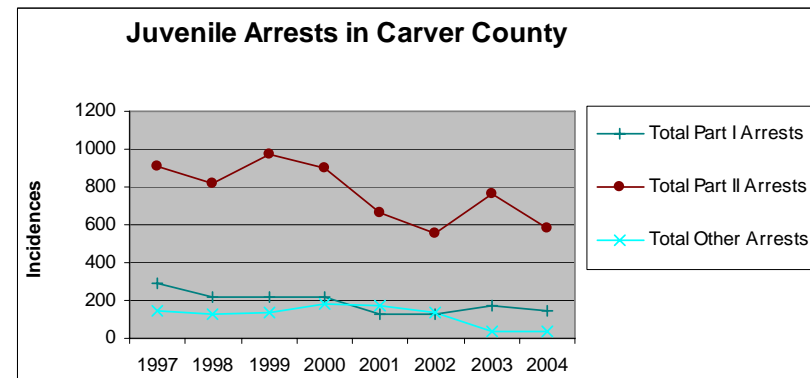
- Arrests for serious crimes are about 13% of total arrests for adults, and about 19% of total arrests for juveniles.
- Larceny and burglary are the largest proportion of arrests for serious crimes.
- Numbers of serious crime arrests have remained steady since 1997 for both adults and juveniles
- Arrests for less serious crimes are declining for juveniles, while arrests for less serious crimes are increasing for adults.
- Vandalism, driving under the influence and other offenses make up the majority of arrests for less serious crimes.
- Arrests for less serious crimes occur 4-6 times more frequently than arrests for serious crimes.
- Overall, the rates of serious and less serious offenses in Carver County were far below the Minnesota rate.

Links

- Abuse/Neglect Cases
- Adult and Teen Substance Usage
- Dropout Rates
- Perceptions of Public Safety



Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Uniform Crime Reports, 2004, <http://www.dps.state.mn.us>



Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Uniform Crime Reports, 2004, <http://www.dps.state.mn.us>



Motor Vehicle Injuries

Motor vehicle injuries show the results of public safety on roadways. Travel speed, traffic congestion, risk taking behaviors, and traffic intersections are all contributing factors to personal injuries on roads and highways.

What is being measured?

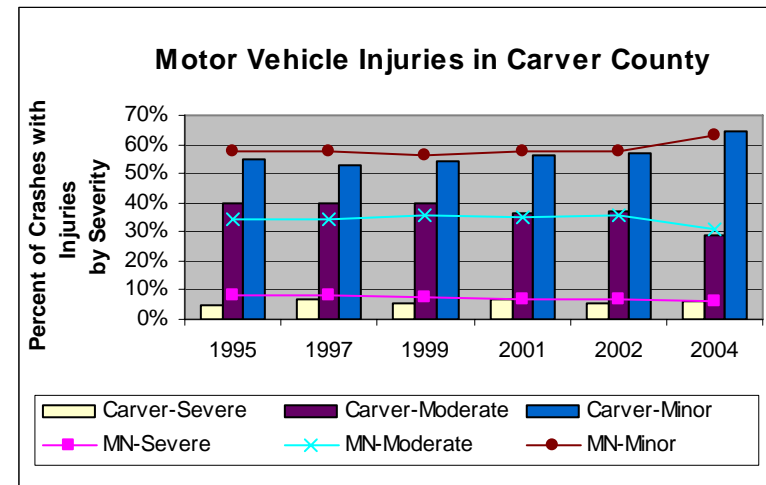
The Minnesota Department of Public Safety tracks motor vehicle accidents by severity on an annual basis. Severe injuries are defined as non-fatal personal injuries that prevent the individual from walking, driving, or doing activities he/she was capable of performing prior to the accident. Moderate injuries are non-fatal, non-capacitating personal injuries received at the scene of the accident, including bruises, abrasions, minor lacerations, swelling, limping, and others. Minor injuries involve complaints of physical pain, momentary loss of consciousness, nausea, hysteria, and others. Motor vehicles are defined as including cars, trucks, motorcycles, buses, taxis, snowmobiles, and other motor powered forms of transport.

Trends

- Total motor vehicle injuries in the county has remained relatively steady since 2001 and increased slightly in 2004.
- The county has seen more moderate injuries as a percent of total motor vehicle injuries compared to state levels.
- Severe injuries in the county remain between 5 to 7% of all motor vehicle injuries, lower than the Minnesota percentages.

Links

- Adult and Teen Substance Usage
- Congestion
- Mortality Rates
- Perception of Public Safety



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, County Health Tables, 2005
<http://www.health.state.mn.us>

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