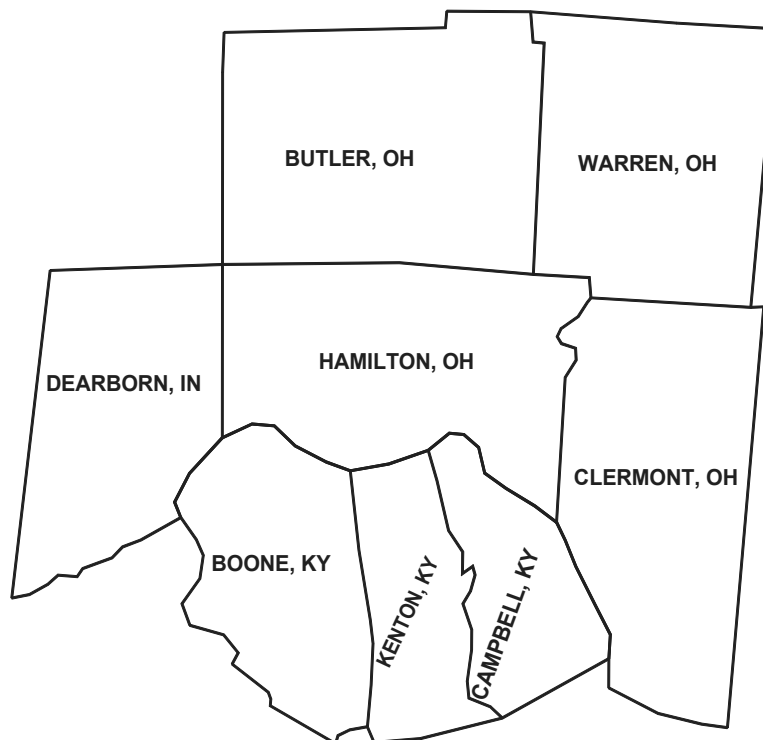


SUSTAINABLE CINCINNATI

2002

**A Regional Indicators Project Measuring
the Economic, Environmental, and Social
Health of the Tri-state Metropolitan Area**



SUSTAINABLE CINCINNATI 2002

A Regional Indicators Project Measuring the
Economic, Environmental, and Social Health
of the Tri-state Metropolitan Area

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MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

A sustainable community meets its present needs without sacrificing the ability of others, now and in the future, to meet their own needs. These needs include economic prosperity, quality of life, and healthy, functioning ecosystems. The foundation of sustainability is ensuring that economic prosperity, quality of life, and healthy ecosystems are enduring values for our region.

Sustainable Cincinnati was born of the belief that the 8-county, tri-state metropolitan region can become a sustainable community by paying attention to where we are now and holding one another accountable for our future. The Indicators Project is rooted in the concept of sustainable community – recognizing the interdependence of the environment, economic development, and social equity. We want to support a decision-making climate that invests in what is good for today without compromising the future for our children, a climate that benefits each person and the common good.

Our indicators project for the Cincinnati metropolitan region is not a new idea – hundreds of communities in the country are using this tool for civic improvement. Locally, the indicators project evolved from a handful of organizations convened by the League of Women Voters in 1999 to explore the idea, to a coalition of 59 organizations from across the tri-state region. This diverse coalition includes local governments, nonprofit organizations, universities, businesses, and faith-based groups. It includes organizations with economic development missions and social service missions; environmental advocacy groups and groups advocating for minorities and people with disabilities; government planning agencies and good-government citizen groups.

These diverse interests and personalities came together, listened to one another, debated, listened to national consultants, and over the course of two years decided on 14 key indicators for the region. This report presents those 14 indicators and a first-cut effort at determining what they say about the current state of our region. We publish this report with several cautions:

- An indicator by definition is a piece of data that communicates the status of a complex system. We struggled mightily to choose the best sustainability indicators, and for those we settled on, data were not always available. Where data is incomplete, we labeled the indicator “Under Construction.”
- In as many cases as possible, we tried to collect five years of data or more for this first report. We plan to publish a report each year to monitor trend-lines. In fact, the trend is often what is most important. Are we as a region moving in the direction we wish to move?
- There were a few areas that we knew were important and for which we struggled unsuccessfully to develop indicators. Suitable indicators for
- regional cooperation, availability of housing, and energy are not yet fully developed. The Steering Committee decided that the project needed to move forward with the 14 indicators with the idea that additional indicators may be developed for these areas in the future.

We publish this first report with one request of community volunteers and leaders, elected officials, and citizens. Please use the data as a starting point for dialogue and action. Where the data paints a picture of health and achievement and vitality, let us celebrate together. Where they challenge us to more action and better solutions, let us redouble our efforts.

The members of Sustainable Cincinnati care passionately about this region. We want this report to lift up the concept of sustainable community so that we can raise our aspirations. We want every decision to recognize the interdependence of economic vitality, environmental quality, and social equity. We want every decision to reflect a concern for all of our brothers and sisters and for our children in generations to come.

MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CINCINNATI COALITION

**Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Audubon Society
Bike/PAC
Charter Committee
Cincinnati Business Committee
Cincinnati Earth Institute
Cincinnati Nature Center
Cincinnati Preservation Association
Cincinnati Union Bethel
Cinergy
Citizens for Civic Renewal
City of Aurora
City of Erlanger
Civic Garden Center of Greater
Cincinnati
College of Mount St. Joseph
Community Building Institute
Concerned Citizens of Western Hamilton
County
Environmental Technology
Commercialization
Forward Quest (Northern Kentucky)
Genomatrix, Ltd.
Grailville
Greater Cincinnati Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Cincinnati Convention &
Visitors Bureau
Hamilton County Regional Planning
Commission / Planning Partnership
Hamilton County Board of MR/DD
Hamilton County Environmental Action
Commission
Housing Opportunities Made Equal
IMAGO, Inc.
Inclusion Network
Invest in Neighborhoods
Izaak Walton League of America**

**Keep Cincinnati Beautiful
Leadership Cincinnati Alumni Association
League of Women Voters
of Cincinnati
of Clermont County
of Hamilton/Fairfield
Media Bridges Cincinnati
Metropolitan Growth Alliance
Miami University Center for Sustainable
Systems Studies
Miami Valley Resource Conservation &
Development
Mill Creek Restoration Project
Neighborhood Development Corporation
Association
North Avondale Neighborhood
Association
North Fairmount Community Center
Northern Kentucky University -
Environmental Resources
Management Center
OKI Regional Council of Governments
Panoptic Media
Regional Greenspace Initiative
Smart Growth Coalition
The Amos Project
The Cincinnati Association
The Grassroots Leadership Academy
The Ohio State University Extension,
Hamilton County
Tri-State Environmental Resource Center
United Way & Community Chest
University of Cincinnati, Institute for
Community Partnerships
Urban League of Greater Cincinnati
Warren County Regional Planning
Commission
YMCA of Greater Cincinnati**

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

October 1999

The League of Women Voters invited other organizations to join in exploratory discussions of the need for indicators to guide our community in achieving sustainable development. This group met monthly, looked at what other communities were doing, and developed a plan for a regional indicators project.

October 2000

Public forum held to introduce the Sustainable Cincinnati project and further understanding of the concept of sustainable communities. National consultant, Maureen Hart, spoke.

December 2000

First meeting of organizations that signed the Sustainable Cincinnati coalition agreement. The Steering Committee included one representative of each organization. The Steering Committee continued to recruit additional members, organized an executive committee, and elected officers.

May 2001

Indicator development workshop facilitated by Maureen Hart.

Summer 2001

Funding received from three local foundations makes it possible to bring in a consultant and hire part time staff.

Summer/Fall 2001

Representatives to the Steering Committee held outreach meetings with their organization members and Boards of Directors. Public meetings held throughout the 8-county region.

Fall/Winter 2001

Issue-specific indicator development work sessions are held every 2-weeks on Friday afternoons. Steering Committee members and issue experts participate.

February 2002

Workshop held to select final indicators, facilitated by Maureen Hart.

April 2002

The Sustainable Cincinnati Steering Committee approved the 14 indicators.

Fall 2002

Data collected for the first indicator report. Arrangements made for an organization to take responsibility for issuing the annual indicator update reports.

Winter 2003

Report is issued. Steering Committee appoints an Advisory Committee to work with the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission on annual updates and dissolves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Sustainable Cincinnati indicators project was the result of the efforts of numerous people in the metropolitan region. Each of the 59 Coalition organizations had a representative on the Steering Committee. The officers and members of the Executive Committee put in many hours of volunteer work on the project. There are a few specific people and organizations that need to be recognized for their extraordinary efforts in making the Sustainable Cincinnati indicators project a success.

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area convened the project, provided administrative support, and served as fiscal agent.

The project received grants from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (\$50,000); Robert H. Reakirt Foundation (\$10,000); and the Josephine Schell Russell Foundation (\$5,000). In addition, member organizations provided in-kind services to the project, most notably the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati area, and Cinergy.

Working Together provided contract services as project facilitators. The team was led by Isabelle Healy, and included Marie Gemelli-Carroll, Courtney Hess, and Michael Maloney.

Maureen Hart, of North Andover, Massachusetts, served as consultant to the project and provided valuable advice and direction. She is author of *Guide to Sustainable Community Indicators*. See her website at www.sustainablemeasures.com.

Elizabeth Brown with Cincinnati Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development helped launch the project and facilitated the initial planning group. She provided assistance during the project and was a major contributor to this report.

Of all the numerous volunteers who donated many hours of service to Sustainable Cincinnati, four need to be specifically recognized for their tireless efforts and valuable contributions. Allison Leavitt served as Chair of the Process Development Committee, working tirelessly to keep the process moving forward. Rebecca Kelley contributed her skills as grant writer and served as Secretary/Treasurer. Chris Moran donated long hours to the project in numerous capacities, wherever there was a need. Harry Stone developed graphic materials for the community presentations and gathered data on several of the indicators.

In getting started and throughout the Sustainable Cincinnati project, we reviewed many other indicator projects throughout the country to seek ideas and guidance. In preparing this first year report, we found the reports of the Central Texas Indicators Project particularly helpful, and have borrowed format and language.

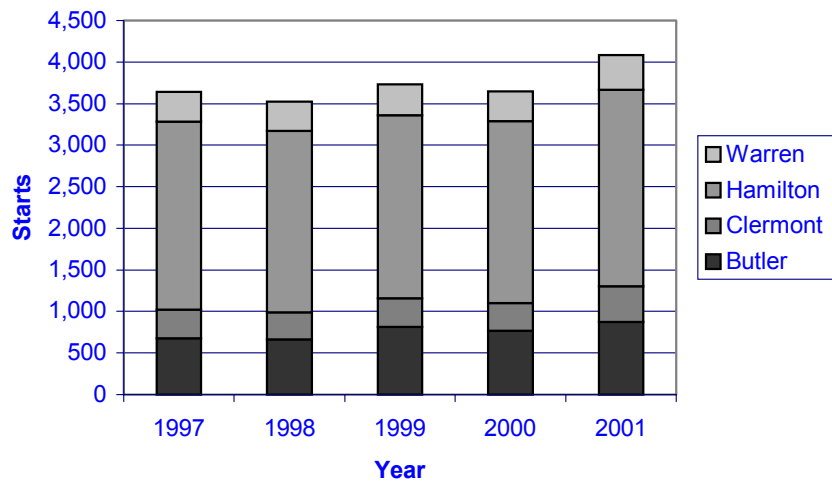
1. ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT AS MEASURED BY NEW BUSINESS STARTS

An entrepreneurial spirit is considered essential for wealth creation and the long-term health of the economy. Although it is understood that many new businesses fail in the first few years, the number of failures or the net number of businesses were seen as less important measures. The key indicator is whether there is a steady stream of new ideas and new enterprises, some of which will be successful.

"The promise of tomorrow is in our grasp today. It is a future of knowledge, information, growth and prosperity. It is a future of innovation and entrepreneurial growth. Today, the Cincinnati Region has a unique opportunity to leverage its existing economic base to rejuvenate through the formation of new, innovative companies, products and production processes. Innovative entrepreneurs are a key to increasing the Region's economic vitality."

Johnathan M. Holifield,
Executive Director,
CincyTechUSA

Greater Cincinnati (Ohio Only) Business Starts



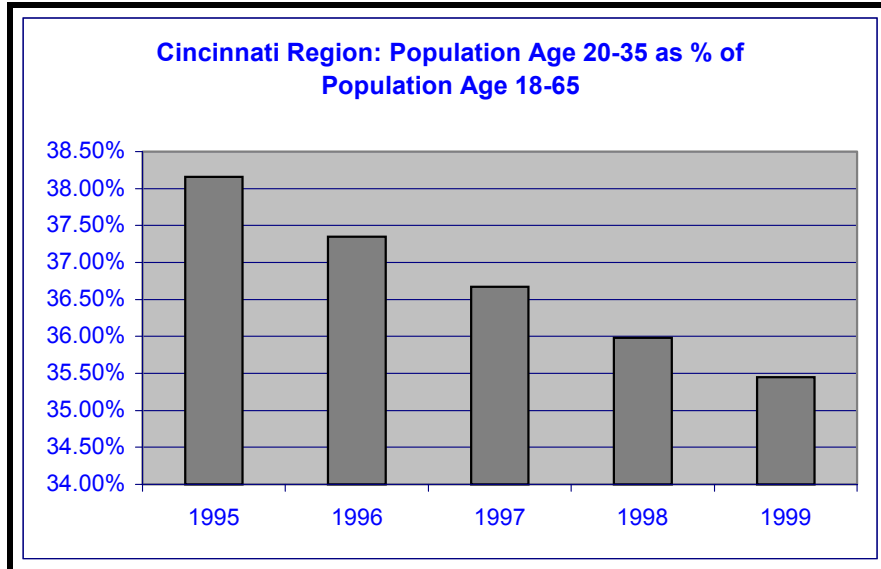
Greater Cincinnati business starts (in the Ohio counties*) have risen slightly over the past five years. Greater Cincinnati has had an average of 127.7 starts per 1000 active businesses since 1993. This is ahead of the Ohio average of 121.3, but trails the Columbus, Ohio average of 160.5. However, the growth in the number of businesses that sell outside the region (traded industries) have trailed the national average during the decade of the 1990s (3.6% vs. 4.6% for the U.S.**)

Business starts depend on adequate seed and early stage risk capital, venture capital, professional advice, innovation, buildings, communications and transportation infrastructure, and an educated and skilled workforce. In terms of innovation, Greater Cincinnati is above the national average as indicated by patents per employee and patenting growth compared to the national average.* However, the region lacks adequate seed and early stage risk capital to support leading edge entrepreneurship. Chrysalis Ventures Chairman David Jones Jr. recently stated the Midwest, including the Cincinnati Region, is "under ventured."

*Information on Kentucky and Indiana counties was not available. Further data will be sought in order to report on the full metropolitan region by the next report.

**Source: Cluster Mapping Project, Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard Business School

2. PERCENT OF WORKFORCE BETWEEN 20 AND 35 YEARS OF AGE



In the Cincinnati Region, the total potential workforce has declined from 1995 through 1999. The young adult portion of the potential workforce has fallen even faster. Between 1995 and 1999 the population of young adults, age 20 – 35, declined in the Region by 5.3%. This represents a 2.7% decline in the proportion of the potential workforce that is age 20 – 35 over the five-year period.

Retaining and attracting "intellectual capital" from a talented young professional workforce is critical to our economic vitality and growth; and continues to be one of the major priorities of companies in the Cincinnati region. Sherry Kelley Marshall, Director, Workforce Solutions, Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce

The Region must reverse the trend of losing the younger workforce. The high-tech businesses that the Cincinnati Region wants to attract and grow rely heavily on young professionals. These professionals are free to choose locations that appeal to their lifestyles. In 2002, Forbes rated Cincinnati next to last (39th) as "Best Cities for Singles." Similarly, Dr. Richard Florida's index* found that Cincinnati was perceived as intolerant and inhospitable. Expanding urban housing choices, continuing to revitalize the upscale entertainment district, and supporting high-tech ventures that provide opportunities for young professionals within the urban core remain key initiatives for the region. Simultaneously Cincinnati must address the causes of undertones about Cincinnati that negatively affect perceptions in the population of young people.

Source: U.S. Census

*Richard Florida, *Rise of the Creative Class*, Basic Books, 2002

This indicator measures our ability to attract new technology workers and keep our own children in the region when they graduate. Our ability to attract young people to the region is highly influenced by cultural and quality of life issues. Economic development professionals consider the ability to attract a qualified workforce essential to keeping the region competitive. As our population ages, young workers are essential not only to meeting the needs of employers but to providing support for older and younger people who are dependent on their wages and other support. This indicator is a measure of what might be called the "vitality" of a community. Information on trends for this indicator will be most useful.

3. CUMULATIVE PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO FINISH HIGH SCHOOL AND ARE “WORK READY” OR PREPARED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The percent would be cumulative, considering dropouts, students going directly into the workforce, and those going on to higher education. Whether students were work ready or prepared for college would be measured by the need for remedial education by employers or colleges. This indicator measures the effectiveness of our K-12 education systems. An adequate workforce is essential for the economy.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Information on this important indicator is not currently available. By the annual update report we will identify and compile readiness information for the tri-state metropolitan area from the overwhelming amount of educational statistical information collected.

In Kentucky, the ACT score of incoming college freshmen is used to determine whether they need to be evaluated for placement in remedial courses. The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education provided information on the number of freshman with an ACT score of 18 or higher, which is used as the system-wide standard.

Fall 2000

Northern Kentucky University – 64%

1,144 freshmen (out of 1,788) reported an ACT score of 18 or higher

Thomas More – 82%

197 freshmen (out of 240) reported an ACT score of 18 or higher

Measuring Up

Measuring Up 2002 is a report released by the independent, nonprofit National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Each state's higher education performance is evaluated by using "A" through "F" grades in 5 key areas of higher education performance: preparation, participation, affordability, completion, and benefits. The grades are based on an analysis of numerous quantitative indicators for each category.

Preparation - How well are students prepared to take advantage of college?

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2002</u>
Ohio	C+/79	C+/78
Kentucky	C/74	C-/72
Indiana	C-/70	C-/72

Source: <http://measuringup.highereducation.org/>

4. THE PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE WORKFORCE EARNING ENOUGH TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

According to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, in order to meet other needs, a family should not pay more than 30% of household income on housing. The table below shows the amount of household income needed in the Cincinnati metropolitan area to pay no more than 30% of income for Fair Market Rent on a 2-bedroom apartment.

1999	\$21,240
2000	\$21,760
2001	\$22,280
2002	\$23,040
2003	\$26,480

According to the 2000 Census, in the Cincinnati metropolitan area:

- o 27.2% of the households reported income from all sources of less than \$25,000.
- o The median earnings for a full-time, year-round worker were \$40,553 for a male and \$28,485 for a female.
- o 3% of the labor force was unemployed.
- o 19% of homeowners and 35% of renters paid over 30% of their income on housing.

Housing costs are a large part of a family's expenses and 30% of income is a widely accepted measure of how much a family should pay for housing. This data is readily available and it seems reasonable to use housing costs as a stand-in for a more detailed study of self-sufficiency needs. However, more statistical analysis of earnings and unemployment data is needed to determine the "percentage of the eligible workforce" over time that meets these self-sufficiency levels.

Based on the above information, it is estimated that between 15-25% of the eligible workforce is not able to meet their basic needs without public assistance. However, this is a very rough estimate, that will need to be refined by further analysis in future reports.

Source: U.S. Census
Annual Fair Market Rents by metropolitan area are available at www.huduser.org.

This indicator takes into consideration both unemployment and the working poor. It combines economic and social concerns. Self-sufficiency is the amount of income needed in the region to meet basic needs without public assistance. While it is assumed that every economy has some jobs that are low-skill and low pay, the goal is to minimize the percent of the workforce not earning enough to support themselves and their families. This indicator will help the region focus economic development efforts on attracting higher paying jobs and providing the education and skills needed to prepare people for those jobs.

5. PERCENT OF LAND IN THE REGION DEVOTED TO PEOPLE HABITAT, CAR HABITAT, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND AGRICULTURE

This indicator measures the balance of land uses. While no ideal balance was identified, it is important to monitor trends. Land is a finite resource; increased use for one purpose means a reduction for other uses. It is expected that this indicator will be shown as a pie chart. Car habitat includes roads and parking lots. It gets at flooding and water quality problems caused by impervious surfaces; loss of greenspace; air quality problems created by auto emissions; increased commuter times that impact on civic and family life.

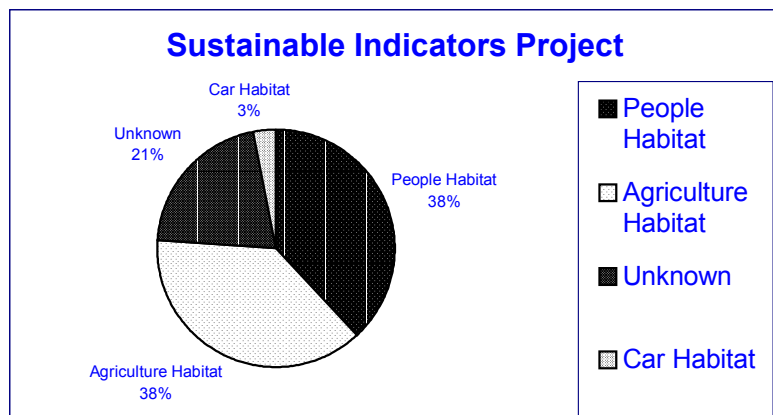
The total area of land in the region is approximately 2,600 square miles. That total area serves as the domain for a variety of uses – people habitat, car habitat, wildlife habitat and agriculture.

In the year 2000, 38 percent of the land in the region was devoted to people habitat. This number includes land dedicated to residential uses, commercial and industrial uses, institutional uses and park land.

Agricultural habitat also accounts for 38 percent of the land area in the region. Agricultural habitat includes land that is used almost exclusively for active cultivation of crops, orchards, feedlots, stables, livestock, pasturage, and other related agricultural uses, as well as farmsteads, outbuildings, and small tracts of woodland and grassland within the agricultural area.

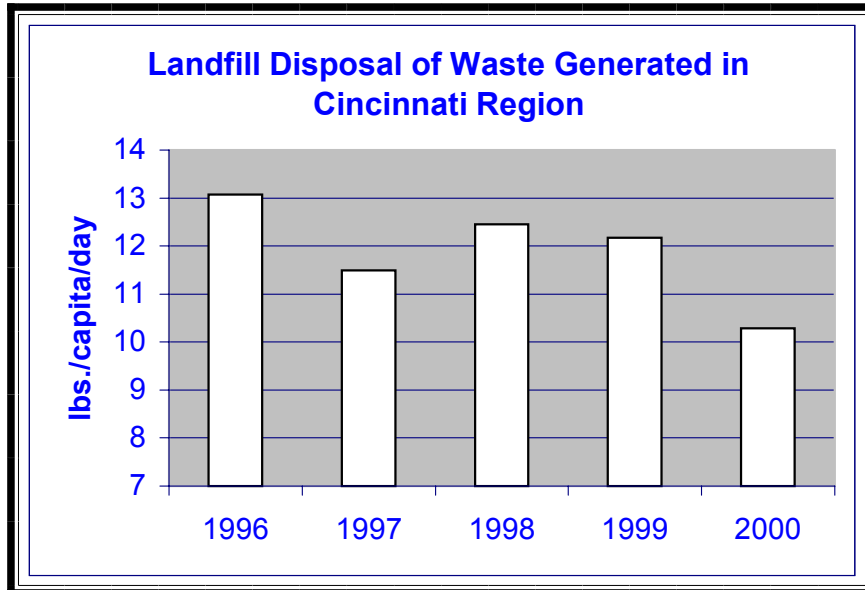
Car habitat, which in this case consists strictly of roads and streets in the region's transportation system, accounts for only 3 percent of the total land area in the region (car habitat is calculated using the total lane miles in the current road network in the region and assuming an average road network width). This calculation does not include parking lots.

While a portion of the remaining 21 percent (or approximately 350,000 acres) of the land in the region is likely devoted to wildlife habitat, the exact number is not known since such data is not currently being tracked. It is known, however, that some of that acreage is vacant, undeveloped, and or flood prone land.



Provided by Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments
March 21, 2003
Janet Keller

6. POUNDS OF WASTE PER CAPITA SENT TO LANDFILLS OR OTHER DISPOSAL



For each person in the region, about 1.88 tons of residential, commercial and industrial solid waste is disposed in landfills each year. This includes public and private landfills whether located within or outside the region.

These data do not include construction and demolition debris. As adopted, this indicator was defined to include construction and demolition debris. However, said waste is not weighed and accurate figures are not available. Construction and demolition debris further adds to our landfills.

As indicated by the above graphic, there has been a slight downward trend in total waste landfilled per capita. However, this trend is due to the recycling of ash from coal-fired electrical power generation in the tri-state region. The ash is landfilled in privately owned and operated captive waste facilities, not in municipal solid waste landfills. Overall, per capita waste flows to *municipal solid waste* landfills has actually increased slightly since 1997.

Recycling and waste reduction are becoming increasingly important as strategies to reduce landfill disposal. There are several key areas of focus that could increase recycling: (1) incentives to encourage increased recycling by residents and industry; (2) manufacturers designing their products for recyclability; and (3) economic development efforts to establish local markets for materials of insufficient value to be transported.

Source: Compiled by the Hamilton County Solid Waste District

This indicator includes residential, commercial and industrial solid waste, plus construction and demolition debris. The trend could be reduced by either producing less waste or by recycling.

“Landfill space is becoming more difficult to access (both geographically and politically). From an immediate perspective, as we lose our ability to dispose of waste locally, we will become more reliant on distant (and typically more expensive) facilities.”

**- Jeff Aluotto,
Director Hamilton
County Solid Waste
District**

7. NUMBER OF DAYS THAT AIR QUALITY IS UNHEALTHY BASED ON NATIONAL STANDARDS

This indicator combines environmental and health concerns. An air quality index is used nationally to rate the air as "good", "moderate", "unhealthy for sensitive groups", "unhealthy" or "very unhealthy (alert)". It is defined and reported for the Cincinnati region on a daily basis on the Internet at www.hcdoes.org/airquality/webpages/aqindex. This indicator is affected by energy use, both in automobiles and in electricity generated by burning coal.

Cincinnati Region Annual Days of Unhealthy* Air Quality

	SW Ohio	Northern Kentucky	SE Indiana
1999	29	-	0
2000	11	6	0
2001	20	7	0
2002	34	24	0

*unhealthy for sensitive groups or worse

The Air Quality Index (AQI) was established by the USEPA in 1999 to inform the public about current air quality conditions and its health effects. Five major pollutants: inhalable particulates, ozone, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide are measured twice daily at test sites. The daily AQI is based on the single pollutant with the highest index, generally particulates or ozone for this Region.

The AQI for Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties in southwest Ohio is measured and reported by Hamilton County's Department of Environmental Services' Air Quality Monitoring Network and can be accessed daily at (513) 946-7753 or by visiting the website at www.hcdoes.org. Northern Kentucky samples at test sites in Boone and Kenton counties and can be accessed at the Kentucky Division of Air Quality (502-573-3382). Dearborn County data (southeast Indiana) is for ozone only (317-308-3264).

Interpretation of AQI trends in the future will need to take into consideration changes in the measurements required for each pollutant as the USEPA revises the established National Ambient Air Quality Standards based on the latest medical research. Also, more stringent standards for inhalable particulates and ozone are being adopted and it is likely that the Region will experience a shift to a higher number of unhealthy AQI days.

Sources and health effects of the five pollutants measured in the AQI:

Inhalable Particulates - industrial processes, heating boilers, engines, dust which can clog lung sacs, and can carry toxic and carcinogenic materials.

Ozone - formed when hydrocarbons and nitrogen dioxide react in sunlight. Irritates mucous membranes, aggravates asthma and bronchial conditions.

Sulfur Dioxide - burning coal and oil, industrial processes; can aggravate lung conditions.

Carbon Monoxide - vehicle exhaust; replaces oxygen in blood causing dizziness, unconsciousness or death.

Nitrogen Dioxide - industrial processes, vehicle exhaust; structural damage to lungs, increased susceptibility to respiratory infection.

8. PERCENT OF STREAM MILES MEETING STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Streams of the Cincinnati Region can be considered to be the Ohio River from the Mehl Dahl Dam (mile 436.2) to the pool upstream of the Markland Dam (mile 531.5) and tributaries from the following watersheds: Licking River; White Oak Creek, Indian Creek and Bear Creek; East Fork Little Miami; Middle and Lower Great Miami and Whitewater; and Tanner Creek and Laughery Creek.

The standards for river and stream quality vary somewhat between the states. In general, however, the water should meet standards in four areas: support of natural fish communities; provide for the public water supply; be healthy for contact recreation; and allow for fish consumption.

In the Cincinnati Region, of the stream and rivers that flow from Ohio and Kentucky into the Ohio River 53.7% of the assessed stream miles fail to fully meet the State and Federal water quality standards. Some streams and river segments in Dearborn County, IN, also fail to meet water quality standards, adding to the impaired mileage. In addition, 100% of the Ohio River in our region fails to meet the State and Federal water quality standards.

There are many causes of water quality impairment. They include combined sewer overflows and malfunctioning septic tanks; siltation from erosion of agricultural fields and construction sites; stormwater runoff from roads and lawns that carry pesticides, fertilizers, oil and other pollutants; stream habitat modifications through straightening, dredging, and reinforcing banks with concrete.

<u>River or Stream</u>	<u>% Not Attaining WQS</u>	<u>Miles Assessed</u>	<u>Miles Not Attaining WQS</u>
Licking (KY)	43.9%	563	247.2
Whiteoak, Indian & Bear (OH)	36.6%	81.9	30.0
East Fork Little Miami (OH)	66.2%	114.9	76.1
Lower Little Miami	53.4%	91.2	48.7
Middle Great Miami (OH)	70.4%	136.8	96.3
Lower Great Miami & Whitewater (OH)*	82.0%	114.7	94.1
TOTAL	53.7%	1103.5	592.3
*Additional impaired in Indiana			
Ohio (KY) (Entire Kentucky border)	100.0%	118.9	118.9

Source: 2002 Kentucky Report to Congress on Water Quality; Ohio EPA; Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

The Cincinnati region is focused on the Ohio River and its several tributaries. We are a River City. The health of our rivers is key to wildlife, drinking water, tourism, and our quality of life.

9. HEALTHY PEOPLE INDEX

Healthy People Index reported for the Cincinnati Region would include the following specific conditions monitored in our region:

- Percent of population that is overweight
- Suicide rate
- Infant mortality rate
- Asthma rate
- Blood lead levels in children
- Teenage smoking rates
- Number of people without public or private health insurance
- Perceived availability of affordable, quality health services (measured by surveys)
- Immunization rates

A Healthy People Index and statistics are maintained by the national Center for Disease Control.

Every three years the Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati produces the "Indicators of Healthy Communities for Greater Cincinnati" report. This report attempts to answer the difficult question: How healthy is our Tristate? It defines the Cincinnati metropolitan region as 14 counties, rather than the 8-county region used by Sustainable Cincinnati.

The Healthy Communities report was issued in 1997 and 2000. Another update is planned in 2003. The 2000 report included 41 different indicators. Following are the measures that best match the Healthy People Index defined by the Sustainable Cincinnati project. Information from the 2002 Community Health Status Survey is also included.

	1997*	2000**	2002**
Overweight	—	56%	61%
Suicide rate	7-15 per 100,000	11.2 per 100,000	
Infant mortality rate	5-10 per 1000 births	8.5 per 1000 births	
Adults who smoke	22-30%	34%	32%
No insurance (adults)	7-14%	7.4%	10%
Health service availability (% satisfied)	33-52%	83%	82%

*Range Among 14 Counties
 **Rate for 14 County Region

Children's Health	
Percent of children with doctor diagnosed asthma in 2000:	
Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Clermont	12%
Kenton, Boone, Campbell	13%
6 Indiana counties, including Dearborn	16%
Percent of children screened who had lead poisoning: (Ohio counties only)	
2000	3.2%
2001	2.2%
Source: Child Policy Research Center of Cincinnati Children's Hospital	

Source: "Indicators of Healthy Communities" by the Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati, www.the-collaborative.org.

10. SENSE OF COMMUNITY MEASURED BY THE SOCIAL CAPITAL INDEX

There is growing concern that social capital in the United States has deteriorated significantly during the last half of the 20th century. Social capital, our connections to family, friends, neighborhood and civic institutions, is the glue that holds us together and gives us a sense of community.

The “Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey,” which includes information on Cincinnati, was released in 2001. In the comparison of 35 metropolitan regions, Cincinnati rates as average. The Cincinnati area is slightly higher than other areas in some measures, such as associational involvement and volunteering, while we are slightly below other metropolitan areas in political involvement.

If the entire country is seeing a significant decline in social capital, however, being average is little consolation. Additional surveys over time will be needed to track the trend.

The Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati conducted a detailed analysis of the local 2001 survey data to highlight differences in social capital according to age, gender, race, place of residence (city/suburb), education, and income. These differences will be useful in focusing efforts to raise the sense of community in the region.

Reported voter turnout rates are calculated based on the number of registered voters. The following rates do not take into consideration the number of people who are eligible to vote, but have not registered.

	2000	2002
Boone	68	41
Campbell	64	43
Kenton	63	39
Clermont	62	37
Hamilton	66	47
Warren	73	49
Butler	64	42
Dearborn	52	28

Sources:

Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, 2000 (national trends).

Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey, www.cfsv.org (comparison among metropolitan areas).

“Social Capital in Greater Cincinnati,” Institute for Policy Research (comparison among different groups in the Cincinnati area).

Voter statistics from Secretaries of State websites.

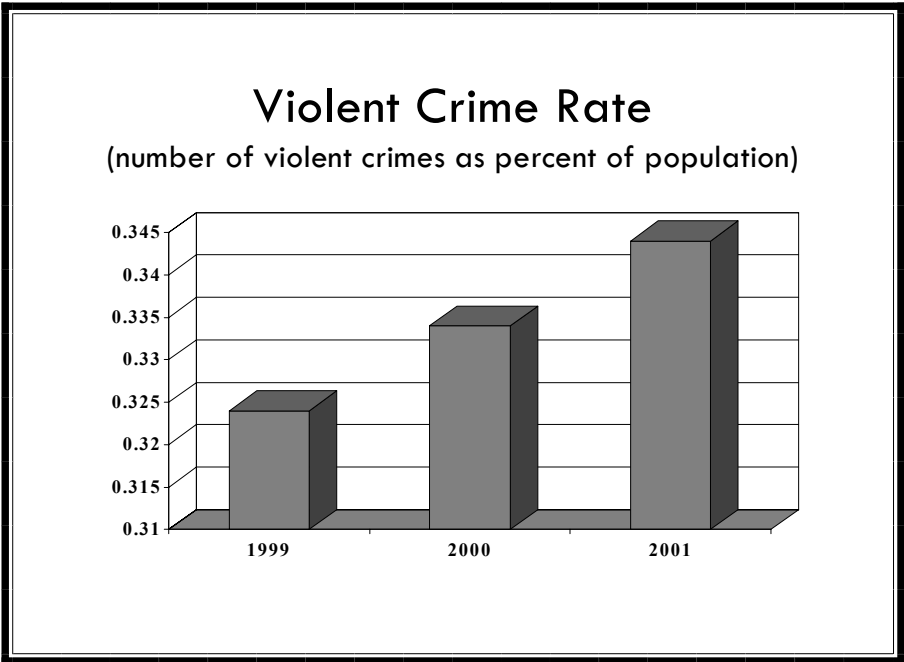
The Cincinnati region is one of several metropolitan areas involved in the Social Capital Benchmark Survey. The Greater Cincinnati Foundation sponsored the survey locally. The survey measures various aspects of civic ties and community connections, including social trust, political participation, civic leadership and associational involvement, giving and volunteering, faith-based engagement, and informal social ties. This indicator will also report the percent of eligible voters that actually vote.

11. VIOLENT CRIME RATE IN THE REGION

Citizens will not stay in a community if they do not feel safe. Although violent crime rates have been going down nationally and the Cincinnati region is better than other urban areas, safety is such an essential need of the community, it needs to be watched and measured. Crime rates affect, and are affected by, economic and social issues. Although crime rates are generally reported by jurisdiction, it was felt important that attention be focused on a regional measure. Violent crime affects more than the people who live and work in certain high-crime neighborhoods. It has a negative impact on the entire region.

The FBI maintains crime statistics based on reports by local jurisdictions. The following information is for the metropolitan region with the exception of Kenton County and parts of Campbell County, which do not report statistics to the FBI in 1999 and 2000.

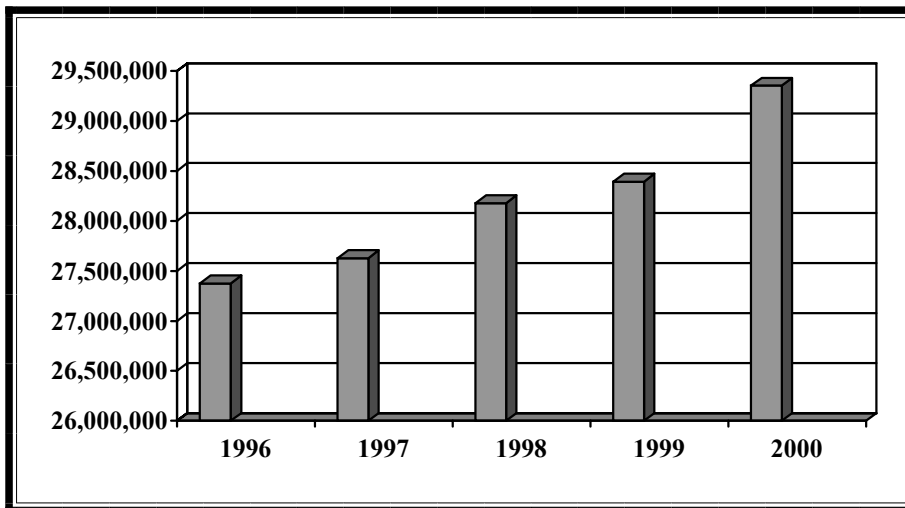
Year	Total Violent Crimes	Total Reporting Population	Violent Crimes per 100,000 people
1999	4846	1,496,622	323.8
2000	5218	1,561,558	334.2
2001	5561	1,651,069	336.8



12. NUMBER OF PEOPLE USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The automobile is the predominant mode of transportation in the region. Increasing highway congestion and improvements in the comfort and convenience of bus transit are contributing to a continued growth in the use of public transportation. The following table shows a 7% increase in the use of public transportation in the metropolitan area between 1996 and 2000. Ridership on the regular fixed bus routes is growing steadily. However, changes in the availability of service, particularly in Butler and Clermont counties, and questions about the continued availability of inter-county commuter routes, will hold down overall ridership rates.

Ridership on Transit Systems in the Cincinnati Metropolitan Area



This indicator is affected both by the existence (or lack) of public transit systems and by how accessible the existing systems are to the population. The use of public transportation reduces air pollution from automobiles, reduces energy consumption, and reduces the need for more and larger highways. Public transportation is also important in connecting potential employees to jobs and housing throughout the region.

13. PERCENT OF POPULATION THAT FEELS TREATED WITH FAIRNESS AND RESPECT IN PUBLIC INTERACTIONS, REPORTED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND DISABILITY STATUS

This information would be obtained through opinion surveys. Public interactions would include interactions with the police, with shop clerks, on buses, etc. African Americans make up 12% of the region and have historically been treated as an underclass by the white majority. Perceptions of fair treatment are a good indicator that we are healing the racial divisions. At the same time, it is important that diversity in all aspects is respected.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Surveys have not been done to measure this exact indicator. The fact it was selected by a broad coalition as a key measurement of long-term sustainability for the region will hopefully spur the needed research. Related information on perceptions of fairness and respect by race is available.

An August 2001 Cincinnati Enquirer poll of racial attitudes in the region indicates "that suburban blacks share beliefs and values that more closely mirror those of suburban whites... (and) share some beliefs and values that more closely mirror those of city blacks. Blacks and whites agree on some points and disagree - sometimes sharply on many more".

- Percent who have interacted with police and felt treated fairly and with respect:

Suburban blacks	73%
Suburban whites	93%
Blacks in Cincinnati	31%

- Those who are employed outside the home, responded to the statement:

	Whites		Blacks	
	City	Suburban	City	Suburban
	Strongly agree	79%	81%	47%
Somewhat agree	15%	14%	28%	36%

14. RACIAL AND INCOME SEGREGATION IN THE REGION MEASURED BY THE INDEX OF DISSIMILARITY

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Cincinnati metropolitan area is ranked as the eighth most racially segregated urban area in the United States based on the dissimilarity index. The index measures the percentage of a group's population that would have to change residence for each neighborhood to have the same percentage of that group as the metropolitan area overall. Complete integration would have a score of 0.

Dissimilarity Index for African Americans in the Cincinnati Metropolitan Area

	Index	Ranking*
1980	.781	
1990	.761	18th most segregated
2000	.739	8th most segregated

* Ranking among U.S. Metro Areas

The trend shows a slight decrease in racial segregation over the last 20 years. Since 1980, segregation in the Cincinnati metropolitan area decreased by 5.3%. The change in ranking reflects that, while segregation has changed little in Greater Cincinnati, it has decreased more in other metropolitan areas.

Similar information was not immediately available for income segregation in the region. The census data exists, but no report was found that presents the dissimilarity index by income for the region. The table below shows comparable poverty rates for the counties in the region and a sampling of local jurisdictions.

Percentage of Families Below Poverty Level – Census 2000

Metropolitan Region 6.9%

COUNTIES		CITIES, VILLAGES & TOWNSHIPS			
Hamilton	11.8	Amberley	3.5	Hamilton (city)	10.6
Warren	4.2	Amelia	5.0	Highland Heights	5.0
Butler	8.7	Anderson Twp	1.8	Indian Hill	1.6
Clermont	7.1	Blue Ash	3.8	Lebanon	4.7
Dearborn	6.6	Cincinnati	18.2	Lincoln Heights	26.6
Campbell	9.3	Colerain Twp	3.6	Loveland	5.7
Boone	5.6	Covington	5.5	Middletown	9.2
Kenton	9.0	Evendale	0	New Richmond	14.3
		Fairfield	2.5	Newport	20.7
		Florence	8.1	Sharonville	2.5

Source: Census, "Racial and Ethnic Residential Segregation in the United States: 1980-2000" (Report No. CENSR-3). Census Bureau poverty data.

Concerns about racial segregation and the need for mixed income communities kept coming up in discussions of housing, regional cooperation, and diversity. There is a strong sense that a region with concentrations of poverty and isolated communities of the wealthy is not sustainable. Using this indicator does not assume that a total mix of races and incomes is possible or even desirable. It does assume that extreme segregation by race or income is not healthy for the region. The Index of Dissimilarity is also called the Tauber Index and is a commonly used measure of residential segregation based on Census data.

ANNUAL INDICATOR UPDATES

The Sustainable Cincinnati coalition came together to develop and reach consensus on indicators for our metropolitan region. Now that the development task is successfully completed, the project and the formal coalition will end.

The Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission has accepted responsibility for preparing annual updates on the indicators. It will work with a network of participating agencies that will gather and submit regional data on individual indicators. Many of the indicator measurements are useful only when trend lines become apparent. Each year when the Sustainable Cincinnati update is issued an effort will be made to involve the community in a dialogue. Are we as a region moving in the direction we wish to move? And if not, what can we, all of us, do about it?

A Sustainable Cincinnati Advisory Board has been established to assist the Regional Planning Commission with the annual reports. It will help obtain funding to support the work and pay special attention to helping communicate the annual report to the community.

CONCLUSION

The members of the Sustainable Cincinnati coalition invested many hours in developing and reaching consensus on the 14 indicators. The participants in the project agree that they grew in understanding and appreciation of our diverse metropolitan area as we listened to each other. We were constantly encouraged to think beyond our individual jurisdictions, to think regionally. We were asked to stretch beyond our own primary issue of concern and think about interrelationships.

The Sustainable Cincinnati Regional Indicators Project is the beginning of a new type of regional communication. The initial collection of data highlighted the inconsistent way we keep and report information across the region. Each annual Indicator Report will be further motivation to communicate with our peers throughout the region and maintain comparable data. In addition, some organizations are stepping forward to convene regional groups to champion specific indicators and work together to turn unacceptable trend lines. This new type of regional cooperation is an incredibly powerful tool.

Taken together the indicators speak volumes about our community values. These are the things we think are important. Now the task is to focus on the indicators as guides to the decisions we make. The indicators were not developed to sit on a shelf and collect dust. The coalition organizations have committed to use the indicators to help guide their programs and planning. We hope that citizens and elected officials will use the indicators to measure the effectiveness of public policy decisions, including funding decisions. The annual indicator updates will be reminders. But in the end the Indicators only tell us where we are. We have to commit to do the work necessary to ensure that the Cincinnati metropolitan region is sustainable and provides a quality home for our grandchildren's grandchildren.

APPENDIX

SUSTAINABLE CINCINNATI INDICATORS AGREEMENT

- WHEREAS:** We desire a vibrant and healthy present and future for the Greater Cincinnati Region, and
- WHEREAS:** The economy, environment, and social health of the community are interdependent components of the Region's status, and
- WHEREAS:** We wish to join in actions that will lead to sustainable improvements in all sectors of the Region, and
- WHEREAS:** Citizens and civic leaders are guided in their actions by measurements that indicate the condition of the economy, environment and social health of their communities, and
- WHEREAS:** Other communities have found that a coordinated effort to measure these "Indicators" has led to desired improvements, and
- WHEREAS:** A planning committee of individuals from a wide range of organizations in the region has developed an initiative, "Sustainable Cincinnati: a Regional Indicators Project" whose purpose is promote improvement in the community, and
- WHEREAS:** It is important that those who will use the indicators, those who will be responsible for maintaining them, and those who will urge attention to them be part of the coalition that identifies and develops the list of *Sustainability Indicators*,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the signatories commit to support and participate in the development of a regional indicators project to bring about improvements in the economic, environmental and social health of the metropolitan Cincinnati region and commit to the following goals:

- Enable decision makers and the public to identify key problem areas based on sustainability indicators, to focus community response, and to test decisions within the region based on sustainability criteria;
- Provide a means to identify key indicators of community health and promote community awareness;
- Integrate sustainability indicators into planning and decision making process;
- Establish collaborations that will strengthen the efforts and capacities of groups and organizations to address issues of environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

The signatories to this document agree to:

- Seek a more sustainable future for the region;
- Provide one member to the steering committee charged with the governance of the Project;
- Help to inform members and the public about the Project;
- Have their organization's name appear on the name of the list of Project supporters.

This agreement shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until the Project is completed. Signing this agreement does not commit your organization to financial support of the Project.

Authorized signatory(ies) for organization _____

(and) _____ for

(Name of organization)

(date)