



A regional community indicators program presented by Rochester Area Community Foundation and the United Way of Greater Rochester.

2009 Snapshot Report

About ACT Rochester

The goal of ACT Rochester is to build on community strengths and help solve our critical problems. We will achieve this through community debate, discussion and engagement based on objective, timely and independent data that can reshape our approach to community problem-solving.

In addition to a wide array of community indicators, ACT Rochester interprets the information through trend summaries, charts and graphs. And, information is provided on current efforts to advance our region, as well as links to more than 300 local community resources. ACT Rochester plans to use this wealth of information in public discussion and debate to find ways of improving our community.

Learn

The ACT Rochester website contains: detailed information for our region; profiles for all seven counties; 125 community indicators organized into 12 program categories; trend summaries and community resources for each category; hundreds of charts and graphs; and much more!

This report includes a quick overview of the key highlights and trends. For more information on how to become engaged with ACT Rochester, visit: www.actrochester.org.

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Engage

In addition to learning about the indicators, you can **network** by sending and viewing comments; provide **input** by responding to polls; **link** to hundreds of community organizations and initiatives; and do your own **research** by downloading the data and customizing your own graphs.

www.actrochester.org

Arts, Culture and Leisure

Highlights

- ❖ Attendance at the largest cultural venues in our region reached 3.8 million in 2007.
- ❖ Attendance at our region's professional sports events topped 1 million in 2007.
- ❖ New and planned facilities will add to our robust arts scene.
- ❖ Tourism is big business, contributing \$1.4 billion dollars to the region in 2007.
- ❖ On average, our public schools have 6.3 teachers of art, music, dance or theater for every 1,000 students. This is lower than the statewide mark of 7.6. Orleans County leads the area (7.2), while Monroe has the lowest number (6.1).

Trends - see Snapshot at right.

Arts, Culture and Leisure Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
Arts and Culture Attendance	3.8 million	2007	Yes	N/A
Attendance at Professional Sports Teams' Home Games	1.0 million	2007	Unchanged	N/A
Tourism Spending Per Resident	\$1,199	2007	Yes	Worse
Arts Teachers in Public Schools (per 1,000 Students)	6.3	2006	Unchanged	Worse
New York State Arts Grants Per Resident in 2007 Dollars	\$1.60	2006	No	N/A
National Grants for the Arts Monroe County	\$85,500	2007	No	N/A
Residents Involved in an Arts Group (percent)	21%	2006	Yes	N/A

See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols

Children and Youth Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to NY State?
Early Prenatal Care Percent of Live Births	77%	2006	Unchanged	Better
Babies with Low Birth Weights Percent of Live Births	7.9%	2006	No	Better
Infant Mortality Rate Deaths (per 1,000 Live Births)	7.6	2006	Yes	Worse
Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels (Percent Children Under Age 6)	1.90%	2005	Yes	Worse
Children in Poverty (percent)	17%	2006	No	Better
Child Abuse and Neglect (per 1,000 Children)	16	2006	No	Comparable
Teen Pregnancy Births (per 1,000 Teenage Girls)	29	2006	Yes	Better

See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols

Children and Youth

Highlights

- ❖ Though not as high as the state and nation, our childhood poverty rate has increased.
- ❖ The greatest concentration of children living in poverty is in the City of Rochester, where more than 40% of children are poor.
- ❖ Teen pregnancies and childhood exposure to lead have both declined.
- ❖ We are doing better than New York state in the incidence of low birth-weight babies.
- ❖ Our infant mortality rate is higher than New York state as a whole, but the trend has improved.

Trends – see Snapshot at left.

Community Engagement

Highlights

- ❖ Our rates for voter registration and participation are higher than NY state.
- ❖ 65% of area adults volunteered their services at least once in the most recent year surveyed (2006). This compares to 59% for the nation.
- ❖ In a recent survey (2006), 41% of area residents agreed that most people can be trusted, but this is a decline from 52% in the year 2000.
- ❖ Charitable giving in our area equaled 3% of annual income (in 2005), which is lower than the NY state and national averages (both 3.3%). Donations to the Community Foundation and United Way have declined since the year 2000.

Trends – see Snapshot at right.

Community Engagement Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
Voter Registration Rate	84%	2008	Yes	Better
Voter Participation Rate Gubernatorial	41%	2006	No	Better
Voter Participation Rate Presidential	61%	2004	Yes	Better
Volunteered in the Last Year	65%	2006	Yes	Not Available
% of People Saying Most People Can Be Trusted	41%	2006	No	Not Available
Average Charitable Contribution Inflated to 2007 dollars	\$3,200	2005	Yes	Worse
Support of United Way and Community Foundation	\$63 million	2007	No	Not Available

See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols

Economy

Highlights

- ❖ Our region's economy is in transition. Significant job losses in manufacturing (19% from 2001 to 2006) have been somewhat offset by increases in education (29%) and financial services (19%).
- ❖ Job growth in our region has lagged the nation in nine of the past 10 years.
- ❖ Regional unemployment is slightly higher than New York state and lower than the nation.
- ❖ Average salaries (adjusted for inflation) declined .6% between 1999 and 2007.
- ❖ Per capita school spending has remained flat and is lower than New York state as a whole.

Trends – see Snapshot at right.

Economy Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
Change in Total Jobs (2000-2008)	-3.5 %	2008	No	Worse
Change in Number of Business Establishments (2000 – 2007)	5.8%	2007	Yes	Worse
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	2008	No	Comparable
2007 Average Salary	\$40,109	2007	Flat	Worse
Change in Average Salary since 1999 (1999-2007)	-0.6%	2007	No	Worse
Employment-to-Population Ratio	75.4%	2006	No	Better
School Spending (per capita)	\$2,629	2006	Flat	Lower

See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols

Education

Highlights

- ❖ The percentage of regional children attending pre-kindergarten has increased, but lags behind the NY state average.
- ❖ Education is a regional asset, with area children outperforming their statewide peers. Some examples include:
 - 95% of area students pass the State Math Regents, compared to 89% statewide.
 - On-time graduation is 76% in the region, which beats the state average of 70%.
 - 60% of area adults have attended some college, which exceeds both the state and national levels.
- ❖ There are serious disparities in educational achievement, with lower-income students being negatively impacted. As described in the chart below, low-income students struggle at all levels.

Percent of Students Achieving Level Three or Four on State Exam (2007)				
Student Status:	4 th Grade		8 th Grade	
	Math	English	Math	English
Low - Income Students	63%	53%	36%	38%
All Other Students	89%	82%	73%	71%

Level three: "fully meets standards."
Level four: "exceeds standards."

- ❖ This income-achievement disparity at least partially accounts for the gap between the Rochester City School District graduation rate of 45%, and the regional mark of 76%. [Note: the City School District rate of 45% reflects the timing when standardized reporting takes place. The School District's most recent reported rate of 48% is from several months later].

- ❖ Overall school attendance in our region is comparable to the statewide level, but out-of-school suspensions (of at least one day) significantly exceed the state average. The local measure of 7.7% is significantly influenced by the Rochester City School District rate of 23%. The New York state average is 5.8%.

Trends – see Snapshot below.

Education Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
Pre-Kindergarten Participation (Percent of Four Year Olds)	38%	2007	Yes	Worse
Grade 8 Math Percent Scoring at Level 3 or Above	74%	2008	Yes	Better
Grade 8 English Percent Scoring at Level 3 or Above	60%	2008	Yes	Better
Regents Math Percent Passing at 55-100	95%	2007	Yes	Better
Regents English Percent Passing at 55-100	92%	2007	No	Better
Four Year Cohort Graduation Rate (Percent of Ninth Graders)	76%	2007	Unchanged	Better
Educational Attainment for People 25 and Older (Percent with Some College and Above)	59%	2006	Yes	Better
Elementary Attendance Rate (Percent)	95%	2007	Unchanged	Higher
Student Suspensions (Percent of Total Enrollment)	7.7%	2007	No	Worse

See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols

Environment Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
Unhealthy Air Quality % of Days	2.5%	2007	Unchanged	Not available
Total Emissions (tons per capita)	0.49	2005	Yes	Worse
Waterways Impaired (% of those inspected)	32%	Most Recent Available†	Not available	Not available
Population Density (people per sq. mile)	283	2006	Unchanged	Lower
Pounds of Active Pesticide Ingredients (per capita)	2.69	2005	Unchanged	Worse
Toxic Chemical Releases (per capita)	5.1	2006	Yes	Worse
Hazardous Waste Sites remediated or "no current threat"	47%	2008	Not available	Not available

See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols

Environment

Highlights

- ❖ Total air emissions (tons per capita) declined 28% between 1990 and 2005. This was helped by a 31% reduction in emissions from vehicles.
- ❖ 32% of our area waterways were judged to be impaired by pollution when most recently tested (dates vary). An additional 38% showed minor impacts.
- ❖ Our region's rate of pesticide application (2.69 pounds per person) considerably exceeded the statewide mark of .69 pounds. With our most urban county (Monroe) at a lower rate (.56 pounds), the likely key contributor is agricultural use.
- ❖ 47% of our region's 131 recognized hazardous waste sites have been cleaned up or are judged as "no current treat."

Trends – see Snapshot at left.

Financial Self-Sufficiency

Highlights

- ❖ The region's median household income in 2007 (inflation adjusted) was \$49,200, lower than both the state and national averages. Incomes in the City of Rochester were 43% lower than the region. City incomes have declined by 26% since 1990, while regional incomes dropped by 15.5%.
- ❖ In the most recent year surveyed (2006), 12.6% of area residents lived in poverty, slightly lower than the state and nation. For the City of Rochester the rate was 30.1%.
- ❖ The rates for both total residents and children receiving public assistance have declined since 2001, but the most recent rates for children (2007) are nearly 12% higher than the state as a whole.
- ❖ The number of emergency meals served (per resident) increased considerably from 2000 to 2004; then declined through 2007; and increased significantly in 2008.

Trends – see Snapshot at right.

Financial Self-Sufficiency Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
Median Household Income (Inflation adjusted)	\$49,166	2006	No	Worse
People Living in Poverty (Percent of Population)	12.6%	2006	No	Better
Public Assistance Recipients (per 1,000 residents)	30	2007	Yes	Comparable
Approval Rate for Public Assistance Applications	24%	2007	Unknown	Unknown
Children Receiving Public Assistance (per 1,000 Children)	76	2007	Yes	Worse
Emergency Meals Served (per resident)	3.4	2007	No	Not Available
Tax Filers Receiving Earned Income Tax Credit	14.4%	2005	Yes	Lower

See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols

Health

Highlights

- ❖ Our overall annual mortality rate of 762 per 100,000 residents is lower than both the state (781) and the nation (793).
- ❖ Our rates of certain sexually transmitted diseases (gonorrhea and chlamydia) are higher than NY State averages.
- ❖ A higher percentage of regional residents are living with the HIV virus and with AIDS than in the state as a whole.
- ❖ In the most recent year measured (2005), 10.5% of area residents were without health insurance, which was 21% lower than the state average and 30% lower than the nation.

Trends – see Snapshot at right.

Health Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
% of People Without Health Insurance	10.5%	2006	No	Better
% of People Enrolled in Medicaid	14%	2007	No	Better
Preventable Hospital Admissions (per 100,000 residents)	1,851	2006	Unchanged	Better (NY City Excluded)
Mortality (per 100,000 residents)	762	2006	Yes	Better (NY City Excluded)
Chlamydia Cases (per 100,000 residents)	377	2006	No	Worse
Gonorrhea (per 100,000 residents)	131	2006	Yes	Worse
People Living with HIV/AIDS (per 100,000 residents)	201	2006	No	Worse (NY City Excluded)
% of Population that is Obese	27% (Monroe County)	2006	No	Comparable

See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols

Housing Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
Median Home Value	\$120,907	2006	No	Lower
Median Rental Prices	\$693	2006	Not available	Better
Housing Affordability for Homeowners (ratio of home value to annual income)	2.46	2006	Yes	Better
Homeownership Rate	69%	2006	Unchanged	Better
Property Tax Foreclosures (per 10,000 Residents)	4.7	2007	No	Not Available
Residential Building Permits (per 1,000 Residents)	2.3	2007	No	Worse
Emergency Placements in Homeless Shelter	9,013	2006	No	Not Available

See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols

Housing

Highlights

- ❖ Housing is relatively affordable in our region, with both home ownership and rental costs considerably lower than state and national averages.
- ❖ In another measure of affordability, our regional home values equaled 2.46 times annual incomes. This is dramatically lower than the NY state level (5.9) and considerably lower than the nation (3.82).
- ❖ 69% of regional households own their own home, higher than both the state (56%) and the nation (67%). The homeownership rate varies from a high of 75% in Ontario County to 44% for the City of Rochester part of Monroe County.
- ❖ There were more than 9,000 emergency shelter placements in Monroe County, 23% of which were for families (2006).

Trends – see Snapshot at left.

Public Safety

Highlights

- ❖ The rate of serious crimes in our region remained flat from 2000 to 2003, and then declined steadily for 2004 to 2007 (most recent comparable data). Overall, serious crime is down 18% from 2000. Our crime rate is still higher than New York state, and declined less than the statewide mark of 23%. Regional crime has been consistently lower than the national level.
- ❖ Property crimes declined 22% since 2000, but remain 25% higher than NY state.
- ❖ Juvenile delinquency referrals (from police and other sources) declined 13% since 2000, but remain 10% higher than NY state.
- ❖ The incidence of fire (both in total and those involving structures) has increased.

Trends – see Snapshot at right.

Public Safety Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
Serious Crimes #	294	2007	Yes	Worse
Violent Crimes #	31	2007	No	Better
Property Crimes #	263	2007	Yes	Worse
Other Reported Crimes #	464	2007	Yes	Not available
Domestic Violence #	29	2007	Yes	Not available
Felony Drug-Related Arrests (per 100,000 residents)	103	2007	Yes	Better
Juvenile Delinquency Intakes (per 1,000 Children)	10.6	2007	Yes	Worse
Structure Fires (per 100,000 Residents)	224	2006	No	Not available
# = per 10,000 residents				
See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols				

Technology Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
High Tech Jobs (% of total)	7.0%	2006	No	Better
Science and Engineering Research (Percent of State Expenditures)	11.3%	2007	Yes	Not Available
Enrollment in Technological Programs (Percent of Total Enrollment)	41.3%	2006	No	Better
Technical Degrees Conferred	4,389	2006	Yes	Not Available
Technology Teachers in Public Schools (per 10,000 Students)	12.2	2006	Comparable	Better
See page 8 for explanation of notes and symbols				

Technology

Highlights

- ❖ Employment in high-technology jobs is at 7%, a slight decline since 2006, but slightly higher than the New York state level of 6.3%.
- ❖ Government-supported research and development at regional colleges and universities has grown steadily and now tops \$300 million per year.
- ❖ Area academic institutions awarded 4,389 degrees in technical fields (2006), an increase of 28% over 2001, despite a slight overall enrollment decline in technology fields.
- ❖ There are 12.2 teachers of computer science or technology per 10,000 students in our regional public schools (2006). This exceeds the statewide level by 25%.

Trends – see Snapshot at left.

Transportation

Highlights

- ❖ We are highly dependent on the automobile, with 93% using a car to commute to work (2006). The state and national rates are 65% and 90%, respectively.
- ❖ 90.6% of those who commute by car drive alone, while 9.4% drive in carpools.
- ❖ 2% of regional commuters use public transit. For City of Rochester residents, the public transit rate was 11%.
- ❖ Our average commute time (19.4 minutes) is considerably lower than the state (30.9 minutes) and national (24.99 minutes) averages.
- ❖ 10% of regional residents live in households without a car. For the City of Rochester, that mark is 25%.
- ❖ Average airfares at the Greater Rochester International Airport were higher than the national average in 2000, but were 6% lower than the national benchmark by 2007.

Transportation Trends Snapshot				
Indicator	Regional Value*	Year**	Are We Improving?***	How Do We Compare to New York State?
Households with Vehicles - Percentage	90%	2006	Unchanged	Higher
Public Transit Trips (per resident)	14.3	2007-08	Yes	Not Available
Average Airfares	\$304	2007	Yes	Not Available
Average Commute Time in Minutes	19.36	2006	Unchanged	Better
Pavement Conditions (Percent Rated "Poor")	11%	2007	Unchanged	Worse
Personal Injury Crashes (per 10,000 Residents)	64.8	2006	Yes	Better
Crash Fatalities (per 10,000 Residents)	1.0	2006	Unchanged	Worse
Alcohol-related Crashes (per 10,000 Residents)	4.0	2006	Yes	Worse

See below for explanation of notes and symbols

Trends – see Snapshot at right.

Notes and Explanations

* Regional value may be expressed as a rate, percent, share of total or other measure. For sources and other details, see specific indicator sections of the ACT Rochester website (www.actrochester.org) or request a technical summary report by e-mail (actrochester@racf.org), phone (585-341-4358) or mail (ACT Rochester, 500 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607).

** Year refers to the most recent year data is available.

*** Trend is determined by comparing the most recent data to a baseline year.

† The most recent year varies.

Visit the Act Rochester website at: www.actrochester.org