



EndNotes

1.1 Quality of Life

1.1.1 Broward County as a place to live

1.1.2 Change in the quality of life

Measurement: People's perception of Broward County as a place to live is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "Overall, how would you rate Broward County as a place to live as: Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor?" and "During the time that you have lived in Broward County, would you say that the quality of life here has improved, stayed about the same, or grown worse?" The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: It is important to know not only the county's physical, social and economic conditions, but also how people perceive Broward County as a place to live.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

Florida data source: *The FIU/Florida Poll*, Institute for Public Opinion Research, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Florida International University. The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 3\%$.

1.2 Population

1.2.1 Population

1.2.2 Population growth

Measurement: Broward County's population is the number of people who permanently reside in the County. The U.S. Decennial Census is the source of this information for 1980 and 1990. Population estimates for the intervening years are prepared by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of

Florida. Annual population growth is calculated as (1) the Broward County population in the given year minus the Broward County population the previous year, divided by (2) the Broward County population the previous year.

Explanation: Population growth has a significant effect on the livability of communities, the health of the environment, and the ability of government to provide schools, roads and other services to its citizens.

Data source: Revenue and Economic Analysis Policy Unit, Office of Planning and Budgeting, Executive Office of the Governor.

1.3 People in Poverty

1.3.1 People in poverty

1.3.2 People in poverty by race

1.3.3 People in poverty by gender

Measurement: People in poverty are those with an income below 100% of the federal poverty level. Statewide information on people in poverty is collected annually by the Current Population Survey. For calendar year 1995, a Florida family of four was at poverty level if its household income was \$15,150 per year or less. County level information is available only from the U.S. Decennial Census and applies only to the non-institutionalized, civilian population. Information on people with disabilities in poverty is not available on a statewide or county level from Census publications.

Explanation: Poverty is linked to low educational attainment, health problems, crime, and other conditions that weaken families and communities.

Data source: *1990 Census of Population, Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida*, Section 1 of 3, Table 149; *1980 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida*, Section 2 of 2, Table 181.

1.4 Single Parent Families

1.4.1 Single parent families

Measurement: Single parent families are male or female-headed households with no spouse present and with unmarried sons, daughters, stepchildren or adopted children under age 18 living in the home. Single parents may be divorced, separated, widowed or never married. Data are presented by number of children in households by householder type and numbers of families with own children within type of family household.

Explanation: Single mothers and fathers often have difficulty supporting a family, running a household and raising children alone.

Data source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, General Population Characteristics, Selected Social Characteristics, 1980 and 1990.

1.5 Children in Disadvantaged Families

1.5.1 Births to unwed mothers

Measurement: The marital status of a mother is self-reported on the child's birth certificate. Births include only live births to Broward County residents. Although the majority of teenagers bearing children in Florida are unwed mothers, the majority of unwed mothers in the state are not teenagers. For example, in 1993, about 86% of births to Florida teenagers ages 10-17 were to unwed mothers but about 87% of all of the unwed mothers were age 18 and older. About 52% were ages 20-29, 15% ages 18-19 and 13% ages 10-17. The remaining 20% were age 30 and older.

Explanation: Single mothers are more likely than two-parent families or single fathers to live in poverty. Unwed teen mothers are less



likely to obtain adequate prenatal care, more likely to receive welfare and more likely to have children with developmental problems, delinquent behavior or poor school achievement.

Data source: Office of Public Health Statistics and Program Assessment, State Health Office, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

1.5.2 Births to undereducated mothers

Measurement: Undereducated mothers are defined as mothers who have not completed the 12th grade. The highest grade completed by the mother is self-reported on the child's birth certificate.

Explanation: Young women who become mothers before they finish high school are less likely than their peers to get their diploma or earn enough income to support their families.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

1.5.3 Births to families at risk of poverty and instability

Measurement: Births to high-risk families are babies born to mothers with all of the following characteristics: 1) not married, 2) under age 20 when their first child was born and 3) less than 12 years of education. Information is self-reported by the mother on the child's birth certificate.

Explanation: Families with these disadvantages have a greater risk of instability and of becoming dependent on public assistance.

Data sources: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee (data); *1993 Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-being*, Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington, DC (risk factor research).

1.5.4 Families on welfare

Measurement: The AFDC program in Florida was being phased out with the implementation of the Work and Gain Economic Self-sufficiency (WAGES) legislation, passed by the Florida Legislature in 1995. The AFDC program was eliminated at the Federal level by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 and was replaced by the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant. The data that is available at the time of this report is unreliable at the county level. It is recommended that this indicator be included in the next edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*, after sufficient time has passed for the development of a valid and reliable state and local database.

1.6 Children in Poverty

1.6.1 Children in poverty

Measurement: Children in poverty are defined as children living in families with an income below 100% of the federal poverty level. For calendar year 1995, a family of four was at poverty level if its household income was \$15,150 or less. The U.S. Bureau of the Census defines children as people under the age of 18 who are related to the head of household by birth, marriage or adoption. Specifically, these children would include sons and daughters, stepchildren, adopted children and all other children related to the householder, except a spouse. Foster children are excluded. Information is collected by the decennial Census and applies only to the non-institutionalized, civilian population.

Explanation: Poverty is linked to low educational attainment, health problems, crime, and other conditions that weaken families and communities.

Data source: 1990 Census of Population, Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida, Section 1 of 3, Table 149; 1980 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida, Section 2 of 2, Table 181.

1.7 Child Care

1.7.1 Day care for children in poverty

Measurement: Subsidized childcare provides care and supervision primarily for low-income children while their parents are at work or in training. Care is fully or partially reimbursed with state or federal funding. The number of children on waiting lists is obtained from the Department of Children and Families through community coordinating agencies that contract or have voucher arrangements with licensed providers for care. These providers may be public or private day care centers, people caring for children in their homes, or relatives such as aunts or grandmothers. Childcare may be provided half-day, full day or after-school. Children range from newborns to age 12.

Explanation: Low-income parents often need help paying for childcare in order to get job training and employment.

Broward data source: Office of Family Safety and Preservation, Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL.

Florida data source: The Florida Children's Forum, Tallahassee, FL.

1.7.2 Day care waiting list

This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

1.7.3 Children of working parents

Measurement: The number of children who actually receive care is the number of children enrolled in day care center or family day care programs in Broward County. This figure



excludes children in Pre-K or Headstart programs. Enrollment data are collected by mail survey of local agencies.

Explanation: Children need to be cared for in a safe, healthy, and caring place while their parents are at work.

Data source: The Florida Children's Forum, Tallahassee, FL.

1.8 Children Living Away From Their Families

1.8.1 Children in foster care

Measurement: The number of children in emergency shelter and foster care placement is an unduplicated count as of June 30 each year for the State Fiscal Years 1989/90 through 1995/96. Foster care is defined as temporary care provided to children who are removed from their families and placed in state custody because of dangerous or harmful home situations. Post-placement supervision is the supervision by foster care workers of a child in the custody of a guardian or who has been returned to their home with the stipulation that they be closely supervised. Emergency shelter care is short-term temporary care (30 days or less). The most common reasons for foster and shelter care placement are neglect, abuse, or inability to control teenagers. Care is provided in licensed foster families or boarding homes, group homes, agency boarding homes, childcare institutions or any combination of these arrangements (Section 39.01(24), Florida Statutes).

Explanation: A stable family life is critical to children's mental, social and emotional development.

Data source: Management Plan Summary, Family Safety and Preservation, Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL.

1.8.2 Outcome of foster care

Measurement: Placement in a safe and permanent home is the ideal goal for foster care children. This arrangement may include reunification with the child's family, adoption, living with relatives or placement in another permanent home. For older children, it may mean living independently or living with a foster family until they are 18 years old. A successful outcome for a child/youth in supervision is reunification, transfer to adoption or independent living with self-support skills. A successful outcome for a child/ youth in foster care is reunification with their family, eligibility for adoption, placement with a relative or guardian, or independent living with self-support skills. The outcome data presented here is based on the termination status of children leaving the foster care system during the specified years.

Explanation: A stable family life is critical to children's mental, social and emotional development.

Data source: Client Information System and Management Plan Summary, Family Safety and Preservation, Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL.

1.8.3 Length of time in foster care

Measurement: The data presented is the average length of stay for children placed in foster care.

Explanation: A stable family life is critical to children's mental, social and emotional development.

Data source: Client Information System and Management Plan Summary, Office of Family Safety and Preservation, Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL.

1.9 Runaways

1.9.1 Runaway children

Measurement: Runaways are defined as children who run away from their parents or legal guardians without permission or are banished from home because their parents find them hostile or uncontrollable. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Uniform Crime Reports, has the number of arrests of runaway children, by county, from 1980 through 1987. FDLE has statewide numbers only of runaway children from 1989 through the present. They have eliminated the historical database that had this data by county due to errors/inaccuracies. The Department has recently changed their reporting and computing system and no longer has the runaway children data available that has been used in recent years. FDLE's Missing Children's Clearinghouse is now creating a new system to track the runaway children in each county of Florida. This new reporting system is supposed to begin collecting data as of January 1, 1998. Prior to 1994, runaway data was maintained by the Florida Network for Children and Youth. During 1993/94 they also eliminated their historical database due to errors and inaccuracies.

Explanation: Runaways are an indication of family problems with which children or parents are unable to cope.

Data source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL.

1.10 Homelessness

1.10.1 Homeless people

Measurement: The homeless are people who do not have a fixed regular and nighttime



residence. Homeless families are defined as a couple with children, a single parent with children, or a married couple without children. The number of homeless people and families in Florida is estimated by 1,500 local agencies providing shelter, food and other assistance to the homeless. Estimates are based on the number of homeless people served by these agencies and, in some cases, on street counts conducted by agency staff. Information is collected from local agencies by mail survey. Estimates for homelessness in Florida, as reported in November 1996, are:

- Total homeless = 57,850; 32% are families; 53% are single males; 15% are single females;
- 63% are new homeless; 37% are chronic homeless;
- 72% are state residents; 28% are from out of state;
- 43% have alcohol or drug abuse problems; 24% have mental illness; 23% have mental illness or substance abuse problems; 50% have health problems;
- 48% are white; 33% are black; 10% are Hispanic; 9% are other;
- 26% are vets; 6% are elderly; 7% are farm workers; 19% are disabled; 11% have HIV/AIDS.
- Homelessness is increasing in Florida at a rate of 12% per year.

Explanation: People who are homeless lack shelter, food and the basic necessities of life.

Broward data source: Broward Homeless Coalition

Florida data source: Benefit Recovery and Special Programs, Economic Services Program Office, Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL

1.10.2 Newly vs. chronically homeless

1.10.3 Homeless families

It was not possible to determine the demographics of the homeless population in Broward County at this time. The demographics of the statewide estimates are included for information only and readers are cautioned about applying these percentages to the Broward data. Further information on this item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

1.11 Self-Sufficiency of the Elderly

1.11.1 Elders with mobility limitations

Measurement: The percentage of elderly people with mobility limitations is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks respondents age 70 and older, "Because of any impairment or health problem, do you need the help of other persons with your routine needs, such as everyday household chores, doing necessary business, shopping, or getting around for other purposes?" Possible responses are "yes" and "no."

Explanation: Elders can live a better quality of life if they have the ability to take care of themselves and live self-sufficiently.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida* and *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

1.11.2 Elders with self-care limitations

Measurement: The percentage of elderly people with self-care limitations is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks respondents age 70 and older, "Because of any impairment

or health problem, do you need the help of other persons with your personal care needs, such as eating, bathing, dressing, or getting around the house?" Possible responses are "yes" and "no."

Explanation: Elders can live a better quality life if they have the ability to take care of themselves and live self-sufficiently.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida*, and *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants, Inc, Omaha, Nebraska.

1.11.3 Elders in poverty

Measurement: Elders in poverty are those living in households with an income below 100% of the federal poverty level. Information on age and income is obtained by the U.S. Decennial Census and applies only to the non-institutionalized, civilian population.

Explanation: Elders in poverty often have poor nutrition, health problems, and substandard living conditions.

Data source: *1990 Census of Population, Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida*, Section 1 of 3, Table 149; *1980 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida*, Section 2 of 2, Table 181.

1.12 People with Disabilities

1.12.1 Work limitations

Measurement: The percentage of non-elderly adults with mobility limitations is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks respondents ages 18-69, "Does any impairment or health problem now keep you from working at a job or business?" Possible responses are "yes" and



“no.” This question is asked of respondents in this age group if they indicated that for most of the past 12 months, they were working at a job or business, as opposed to keeping house, going to school or doing something else.

Explanation: Disabilities can limit people’s ability to work, socialize, and take care of their daily needs within and outside the home.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

1.12.2 Housework limitations

Measurement: The percentage of non-elderly adults with housework limitations is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks respondents ages 18-69, “Does any impairment or health problem now keep you from doing any housework at all?” Possible responses are “yes” and “no.” This question is asked of respondents in this age group if they indicated that for most of the past 12 months, they were keeping house, as opposed to working at a job or business, going to school or doing something else.

Explanation: Disabilities can limit people’s ability to work, socialize, and take care of their daily needs within and outside the home.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

1.12.3 Communication disabilities

1.12.4 Physical disabilities

Measurement: The percentage of people with communication and physical disabilities is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the

survey asks, “Would you please tell me how many persons in this household are: (a) hard of hearing?, (b) deaf?, (c) speech impaired?, (d) blind?, (e) have a physical disability requiring assistance in walking or moving around?”

Explanation: Disabilities can limit people’s ability to work, socialize, and take care of their daily needs within and outside the home.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

1.13 Life in Communities

1.13.1 People who are satisfied with their communities

Measurement: People’s satisfaction with their community is measured by a telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, “Overall, how satisfied are you with the community in which you live?” Possible responses are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied or not satisfied. The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: It is important to know not only the state’s physical, social and economic conditions, but also how people perceive their communities as places to live.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

1.14 Housing

1.14.1 Affordability of housing

Measurement: State and federal housing programs define affordable housing as costing

no more than 30% of household income for monthly rent or mortgage payments, insurance, and utilities. Households include renters and owners. Information is provided for low income households (20% or more below the median county household income) and very low income households (50% or more below the median county household income).

Explanation: Affordable, quality housing is a basic necessity of life.

Data source: Division of Housing and Community Development, Florida Department of Community Affairs, with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

1.14.2 Quality of housing

Measurement: Since direct inspection of occupied housing is not feasible, housing quality is measured based on indicators of (1) overcrowding, (2) adequacy of plumbing facilities, (3) adequacy of kitchen facilities, and (4) the age of the structure. Information is obtained from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the first three indicators and from the U.S. Census for the fourth indicator. Overcrowding is defined as more than one person per room, including living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, finished recreation rooms, lodgers’ rooms and enclosed porches suitable for year-round use. Complete plumbing facilities include (1) hot and cold piped water; (2) a flush toilet; and (3) a bathtub or shower. Complete kitchen facilities include (1) an installed sink with piped water; (2) a range, cook top, convection or microwave oven or cookstove; and (3) a refrigerator, all located within the same structure. Substandard housing is measured as the number of housing units built 50 or more years ago. Although older housing units are not necessarily substandard, this indicator has been used as a proxy for tracking



trends in substandard housing over time. The Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing at the University of Florida is developing a better measure of substandard housing that should be available later in 1996.

Explanation: Affordable, quality housing is a basic necessity of life.

Broward data source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing (Summary Tape File 3A on CD-ROM)

Florida data source: Division of Housing and Community Development, Florida Department of Community Affairs.

1.15 Mobility

1.15.1 Use of roads

Measurement: The average number of vehicles per day using each lane mile reflects the extent to which vehicles are competing for the same space on state roads. Florida data are provided for state roads; Broward data will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*. State roads are defined as interstates, toll roads, Florida's Turnpike, freeways, and other major roads maintained by the Florida Department of Transportation. Information is reported in terms of lane miles, rather than road miles. For example, a two-lane road ten miles long is counted as 20 lane miles. The number of vehicles using each lane mile per day is calculated based on traffic counts and the length and number of lanes. In 1993, the Florida state average number of vehicles per day using each lane mile was about 5,600.

Explanation: Mobility on our roads and highways is essential for daily living and economic prosperity.

Data source: Systems Planning Office, Florida Department of Transportation.

1.15.2 Commuting time

Measurement: The average travel time from home to work is a self-report measure obtained from the U.S. Decennial Census. It includes workers age 16 and older.

Explanation: The more time people spend commuting to their jobs, the less time they have for family, work, and leisure.

Broward data source: 1990 Census of Population, Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida, Section 1 of 3, Table 143; 1980 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida, Section 2 of 2, Table 174.

Florida data source: Office of Policy Planning, Florida Department of Transportation, Tallahassee, FL.

1.15.3 Public satisfaction with roads

Measurement: People's rating of their satisfaction with the local road and highway system is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents. Specifically, the survey asks, "Overall, how would you rate the road and highway system where you live -- would you say it is excellent, good, fair, or poor?" The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: Public satisfaction is an important factor in judging the adequacy of transportation systems.

Broward data source: Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: The FIU/Florida Poll, Institute of Public Opinion Research, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

1.15.4(a) Availability of mass transit

Measurement: The number of route miles reflects the geographic area served by mass transit systems. It is calculated as the number

of round-trip miles in the routes traveled by buses in Broward County's mass transit system. Only one round-trip is counted per route regardless of the daily frequency of service. The number of service miles reflects the frequency as well as the geographic area of service. It is calculated as revenue service miles, i.e., the total number of miles traveled by mass transit vehicles while carrying passengers. Service hours reflects the quantity of service provided to users of mass transit. It is calculated as revenue service hours, i.e., the total number of hours drivers spend transporting people in buses. Numbers reported for Broward County exclude the Tri-Rail system.

Explanation: Mass transit helps relieve traffic congestion, conserve fuel and reduce pollution.

Broward data source: Broward County Transit, Pompano Beach

Florida data source: Transit Office, Division of Public Transportation, Florida Department of Transportation.

1.15.4(b) Use of mass transit

Measurement: The average number of passengers is the average number of unlinked trips, i.e., the number of times people board buses per weekday, regardless of the number of different vehicles ridden to their destinations. This measure reflects use of mass transit -- how many and how often people ride on it. The annual growth in mass transit ridership is the (1) average number of passenger miles traveled the current year minus (2) the average passenger miles traveled the previous year, divided by (3) the average number of passenger miles traveled the previous year, (4) multiplied by 100.

Explanation: Mass transit helps relieve traffic congestion, conserve fuel and reduce pollution.

Data source: Broward County Transit, Pompano Beach.



1.15.4(c) Use of bus capacity

Measurement: Use of bus capacity is the number of bus passenger miles traveled divided by the number of bus seat miles available multiplied by 100. Passenger miles are total miles ridden by seated or standing bus passengers during the year. The number of seat miles available is the sum of all miles traveled by each bus during the year multiplied by the number of seats installed in each bus.

Explanation: Mass transit helps relieve traffic congestion, conserve fuel and reduce pollution.

Data source: Broward County Transit, Pompano Beach.

1.15.5 Transportation alternatives

Measurement: Use of public transportation and other alternatives to the single-occupancy vehicle is measured by self-report by the U.S. Decennial Census. Transportation alternatives include carpooling, public transportation, motorcycling, bicycling, or walking. Vehicle miles traveled in Florida is measured based on traffic counts for selected segments of state roads.

Explanation: Transportation methods, other than the single-occupancy automobile, help relieve traffic congestion, conserve fuel and reduce pollution.

Broward data source: 1990 Census of Population, Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida, Section 1 of 3, Table 143; 1980 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida, Section 2 of 2, Table 174.

Florida data source: Office of Policy Planning, Florida Department of Transportation, Tallahassee, FL.

1.15.6 Bicycling

This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

1.15.7 Transportation for people with disabilities and other special needs.

Measurement: Transportation for people with special needs is provided through subsidies or with specially equipped vehicles and is coordinated by Broward County. It is funded by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD), Broward County and other public and private agencies. Under the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, special transportation services are required for people whose disability prohibits their use of the existing mass transit system. State-funded TD services are provided to people who meet eligibility requirements related to age, income, disability, and/or protected status (Chapter 427, Part 1, *Florida Statutes* and Rule 41-2, *Florida Administrative Code*). In 1996, an estimated 15 million one-way trips were provided through fully or partially subsidized passes and tokens, 202 wheelchair accessible buses, county-subsidized wheelchair accessible community buses, and contracts with seven paratransit firms transporting people on specially equipped vehicles. Each transportation provider reports number of trips and Broward County tracks the number of people who meet ADA and TD eligibility requirements. At this point, a countywide unduplicated count of the potentially eligible population may be estimated, while the number of people served is unavailable.

Explanation: Finding transportation can be a constant challenge due to physical or mental disability, age or income. Subsidized transportation creates opportunities for employment, education and self-sufficiency.

Data source: Broward County Transportation Planning Division.

1.16 Land Use

1.16.1 Urbanization

1.16.2 Growth in urbanization

Measurement: An urbanized area is defined by the U.S. Census as a central place and densely settled surrounding area with a combined population of at least 50,000. The percentage of land in urbanized areas is calculated by dividing (1) the square miles of land meeting this definition, by (2) the square miles of dry land, marshland and swamps in the State of Florida. Information is presented for Florida only. Data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Wise use of available land is important in areas where there is high population growth.

Data source: Academic Computing & Networking Services, Florida State University (Census information on urbanized areas); *Florida Statistical Abstract*, 1984 & 1994 (Florida's land mass).

1.17 - 1.19 Racial, Cultural and Religious Harmony

1.17.1 Race relations

1.18.1 Cultural relations

1.19.1 Religious relations

Measurement: People's perception of racial, cultural and religious harmony within their communities is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "Would you say that race/cultural/religious relations in your community are excellent, good, fair, or poor?" The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.



The question is asked separately for each: race relations, cultural relations and religious relations.

Explanation: People's perception of racial, cultural and religious relations reflects how well people of diverse backgrounds are getting along in the community and their ability to work out differences peaceably.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

Florida data source (religious only): FIU/Florida Poll, Institute for Public Opinion Research, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Florida International University.

1.20 Civil Rights

1.20.1 Housing discrimination complaints

Measurement: Complaints alleging housing discrimination based on race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, disability or marital status are investigated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Such complaints may involve access to particular housing, access to financing, or tenants' rights. Resolved complaints are those substantiated by investigations and settled, either by arbitration or negotiation, referral to another agency for handling, or court action. Total complaints received are reported. These items will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Housing discrimination unfairly limits people's opportunities to live in affordable, clean housing in the location of their choice, by limiting their access to particular housing, financing, or by subjecting them to harassment. Data are provided for Florida only;

data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Data source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C.

1.20.2 Education discrimination complaints

Measurement: Complaints alleging education discrimination based on race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, disability or marital status are investigated by the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. Such complaints may involve class placement, sports program participation, disciplinary criteria, or program accessibility. Resolved complaints are those substantiated by investigations and settled, either by arbitration or negotiation, referral to another agency for handling, or court action. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Education discrimination unfairly limits people's educational opportunities by restricting program access, academic advancement, and educational attainment.

Data source: Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, D.C.

1.21 Hate Crimes

1.21.1 Hate crimes

Measurement: Hate crimes are "criminal acts that evidence prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, color, ancestry, sexual orientation or national origin" (Section 877.19(2), *Florida Statutes*). Numbers include only those hate crimes that are reported to Broward County law enforcement agencies. The hate crime rate is the number of hate crimes reported, divided by the county population, multiplied by 100,000.

Explanation: Hate crimes reflect serious conflict among people of different backgrounds and make people fear for their lives and property because of victimization based on their personal characteristics.

Data source: Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL.

1.22 Equal Opportunity

1.22.1 Opportunities by gender and race

1.22.2 Opportunities for people with disabilities

Measurement: A statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County resident age 18 and older is surveyed by telephone about their perception of opportunities for people like themselves and for people with disabilities. Specifically, the survey asks two questions: (1) "I want to ask how fair you think things are for people like you in Broward County right now. Do you think a person in Broward County from the same background as you has more opportunities now than in the past, the same kinds of opportunities, or do you think things are more difficult for someone like you?" and (2) "And do you think a disabled person in Broward County has more opportunities now than in the past, the same kinds of opportunities, or do you think things are more difficult for disabled people?" The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: Social harmony, in part, depends on whether people think they receive fair treatment and have equal opportunities to achieve their life's goals.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.



Florida data source: *The FIU/Florida Poll*, Institute for Public Opinion Research, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

1.23 Immigration

1.23.1 Number of undocumented immigrants

Measurement: Undocumented immigrants are people from other countries who (1) enter the U.S. without inspection, (2) enter with fraudulent documentation or (3) remain in the U.S. after their visa expires. Illegal immigrants do not include refugees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, asylees, or other people from foreign countries who are living in the U.S. with the authorization of the federal government. Estimates of illegal aliens in the U.S. and Florida have been made by the U.S. Census and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) using slightly different methodologies. The only available method of estimating illegal aliens for Broward County is to multiply the INS estimate for Florida by the percentage of the state's foreign born population living in Broward County as measured by the 1990 Census. This method has not been used because of the 1990 Census undercount of Broward County's foreign-born residents indicated by recent studies of the local Haitian population.

Explanation: The influx of illegal immigrants into South Florida has strained local resources and the capacity of some communities to accept and assimilate people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Data source: Population Division, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce; Statistics Division, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice.

1.24 Cultural and Historic Resources

1.24.1 Support for the arts

Measurement: Florida's ranking in per capita state funding for the arts is based on budget appropriations for the arts reported by individual states. Private funding is excluded from the ranking because this information is not available.

Explanation: Cultural opportunities promote understanding between cultures, offer outlets for artistic expression, foster new learning experiences, and enhance economic growth.

Data source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Washington, DC

1.25 Outdoor Recreation

1.25.1 Recreational land and water

Measurement: Outdoor recreational areas are defined as acres of public land open to the general public for hiking, bicycling, boating, swimming or other recreational purposes. Information on parks and recreational areas in the county was collected by a survey by the Broward County Commission, Division of Parks and Recreation. The survey was designed to catalogue the amenities available in all of the state, county, and city public recreation areas. Excluded from the survey are homeowners' associations and hotels, which typically do not provide public access.

Explanation: Opportunities for outdoor recreation encourage physical exercise and appreciation of Florida's natural environment.

Broward data source: Broward County Commission, Parks & Recreation Division, *Survey of Amenities in Public Parks in the Broward County Area, Draft Report, 1997.*

Florida data source: Office of Park Planning, Division of Parks and Recreation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

1.25.2 Camping

Measurement: Camping sites are individual outdoor locations designated for tents or recreational vehicles/trailers. Primitive camping sites are excluded. Information on camping sites is obtained by a survey by the Broward County Commission, Division of Parks and Recreation.

Explanation: Recreational trails allow residents and tourists to enjoy the state's natural resources.

Broward data source: Broward County Commission, Parks & Recreation Division, *Survey of Amenities in Public Parks in the Broward County Area, Draft Report, 1997.*

Florida data source: Office of Park Planning, Division of Parks and Recreation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.

1.26 State and County Parks

1.26.1 State and County parks

Measurement: Visitors to parks are people who enter state and county parks through the main entry point, including hikers, bicyclists, campers, and picnickers. Only those county parks managed or owned by Broward County are included. Some of the county park land in Broward County is owned by either another state or local agency, such as Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission or the school board, but is leased back to the Broward Parks Division for management. Information on the number of visitors is collected by each park facility that has controlled access and is reported to the Parks division.



Explanation: State and local parks allow residents and tourists to enjoy Florida's natural resources.

Broward data source: Broward County Commission, Parks & Recreation Division.

Florida data source: Office of Park Planning, Division of Parks and Recreation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

1.26.2 Access for people with disabilities

Measurement: Assessment of availability of parks in Broward County to people with disabilities is based on standards according to guidelines in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Each type of activity, such as picnicking, hiking, camping, fishing, and swimming, is judged as accessible or non-accessible for each type of disability (e.g., physical, vision-impaired, hearing-impaired). For each activity, related facilities are inspected to determine, for example, whether a person with a physical disability could park, get to the picnic shelter, use the grill, or use the rest room.

Explanation: Without access to parks, people with disabilities are denied a valuable opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation.

Broward data source: Broward County Commission, Parks & Recreation Division, *Survey of Amenities in Public Parks in the Broward County Area, Draft Report, 1997.*

Florida data source: Bureau of Design and Construction, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

1.27 Beaches

1.27.1 Lakes and rivers

1.27.2 Coast

Measurement: Freshwater beaches are defined as sandy areas fronting lakes, rivers and other inland water bodies which are usable for recreation. Information on freshwater beaches

and boat ramps is collected by mail survey of state, federal, county, city and private owners, such as Boy Scout camps and recreational vehicle (RV) parks. Excluded from the survey are homeowners' associations and hotels, which typically do not provide public access. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks.*

Explanation: Beaches are an important resource for outdoor recreation.

Florida data source: Office of Park Planning, Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.

1.27.3 Coast

Measurement: Saltwater beaches are defined as sandy areas usable for recreation which front the Gulf of Mexico, Straits of Florida and the Atlantic Ocean. Information on saltwater beaches is collected by mail survey of state, federal, county, city and private owners, such as recreational vehicle (RV) parks. Excluded from the survey are homeowners' associations and hotels, which typically do not provide public access. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks.*

Explanation: Beaches are an important resource for outdoor recreation.

Florida data source: Office of Park Planning, Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.



2.1 Crime

2.1.1(a) Crime rate

Measurement: The crime rate reported by states and counties is the number of index crimes per 100,000 resident population. Index crimes - the best indicators of changing crime trends - include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary/breaking and entering, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft. Numbers reflect only those crimes reported to law enforcement agencies and, therefore, are an undercount of the number of crimes actually committed. According to a national crime victimization survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, only 40% of crimes committed in the United States are reported. This percentage may vary among states and counties.

Explanation: Crime violates our sense of right and wrong, imposes grave personal losses, and causes people to fear for their safety in our own communities.

Data source: Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee.

2.1.1(b) Broward County's ranking in crime rate

Measurement: Broward County is ranked among Florida's 67 counties based upon the index crime rate described in 2.1.1a above. Crime rates are not necessarily comparable among counties for two major reasons. First, crimes involving tourists are counted in reported crimes but tourists are not counted in the county's resident population. As a result, Broward County's crime rate probably is somewhat inflated compared to other counties not experiencing substantial numbers of visitors. Second, counties may vary in the

extent to which people report crimes to the police.

Explanation: Florida's national ranking in crime rate can affect how residents, tourists and companies perceive the state as place to live, visit or do business.

Data source: Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee.

2.1.2 Violent crime rate

Measurement: The violent crime rate reported by all states is the number of violent index crimes per 100,000 resident population. Violent index crimes are murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery and aggravated assault. Numbers reflect only those crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Rates for forcible sex offenses in 1980 and 1985 are not presented because in 1988 this category was expanded to include not only forcible rape, but also forcible sodomy and fondling. The latter two offenses were previously counted as aggravated assault. The rates for aggravated assault are presented for all years because these rates continued to rise even though forcible sodomy and fondling were no longer counted after 1988.

Explanation: Because violent crimes involve personal confrontation between perpetrator and victim, they are considered more serious than other index crimes.

Data source: Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee.

2.1.3 Non-violent crime rate

Measurement: The non-violent crime rate is reported by all states as the number of non-violent index crimes per 100,000 resident population. Non-violent index crimes are burglary/breaking and entering, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft. Numbers reflect only those crimes reported to law enforcement

agencies. Larceny includes grand and petty larceny.

Explanation: Non-violent crimes can impose significant losses in personal property and violate our sense of security in our own homes and communities.

Data source: Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee.

2.2 Crime Victimization

2.2.1 Violent crime victimization

Measurement: The percentage of households victimized by a violent crime within the past five years is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "Have you or has anyone in your household been the victim of a violent crime in the past 5 years?" Possible responses are "yes" and "no."

Explanation: Because many crimes are unreported, survey information on victimization is important to consider in assessing prevalence of crime.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

2.3 Perception of Crime

2.3.1 Perception of neighborhood crime

Measurement: People age 18 and older are surveyed by telephone about their perception of neighborhood crime. Specifically the survey asks, "Within the past year or two, do you think that the problem of crime in your neighborhood has been getting better, getting



worse, or has it stayed about the same?” Possible responses are getting better, getting worse, stayed about the same or don't know. The survey's margin of error is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: People's concern about crime often is based on their perception of its frequency rather than on actual crime rates.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

Florida data source: *The FIU/Florida Poll*, Institute for Public Opinion Research, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

2.4 Alcohol and Drugs

2.4.1 Driving under the influence (DUI)

Measurement: Drinking and driving and riding with a drinking driver are measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically the survey asks, “During the past month, how many times have you driven when you've had perhaps too much to drink?” and “During the past month, how many times have you ridden with a driver who has had perhaps too much to drink?” Alcohol-related traffic fatality rate is (1) the number of traffic deaths attributed by the law enforcement at the scene of the accident to alcohol only or to both alcohol and drugs, divided by (2) the county population, multiplied by (3) 100,000. The percentage of traffic crashes that were alcohol or drug related is the (1) number of traffic crashes attributed by the law enforcement officer at the scene of the accident to alcohol only, alcohol and drugs or drugs only, divided by (2) the total number of traffic crashes in Broward County, multiplied by (3) 100. The use of alcohol and drugs may be

determined by a blood or breath test, observation (e.g., slurred speech, smell of alcohol) or a field sobriety test (e.g., walking heel-to-toe).

Explanation: Driving under the influence is a major cause of traffic deaths and injuries, which can be prevented by more responsible consumption of alcohol and by not letting friends drive after having too much to drink.

Data sources: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida*, and *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska (Broward survey questions); Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL (Florida survey question); Office of Management and Planning, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Tallahassee, FL (alcohol and drug-related traffic crashes and fatalities).

2.4.2 Drug arrests

Measurement: Drug arrests include the arrest of any person by state or local law enforcement agencies for the unlawful cultivation, manufacturing, possession, sale, purchase, distribution, transportation or importation of any controlled drug, narcotic substance or drug paraphernalia. Not only illegal drugs but also legal drugs used for illegal purposes are counted. Notices to appear in court as well as physical arrests are included. Arrests made by federal agencies, such as the Coast Guard and Drug Enforcement Agency, are excluded. The increase in drug arrests may reflect not only criminal behavior but also the increased effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in apprehending violators.

Explanation: People are concerned about the influence of illegal drugs on their children and on the level of crime in their communities.

Data source: Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL.

2.5 Personal Safety

2.5.1 Safety at home at night

2.5.2 Safety at night

2.5.3 Safety near work

2.5.4 Safety in the daytime

Measurement: People's perception of their safety under various circumstances is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks four questions: (1) “How safe and secure do you feel at home at night?”, (2) “How safe and secure do you feel in the neighborhood where you work?”, (3) “How safe and secure do you feel at night?”, and (4) How safe and secure do you feel in the daytime?” For each question, people are asked, “Would you say very safe, somewhat safe, or not very safe?” The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: People's concern about crime often is based on how vulnerable they feel rather than on actual crime rates.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

2.6 Juvenile Arrests

2.6.1-2.6.3 Juvenile arrests

Measurement: The juvenile arrest rate reflects the extent to which children are picked up by the police and charged with crimes. The same child may be arrested more than one time.



Arrests are counted for index crimes only -- the best indicator of changing crime trends. The juvenile portion of all arrests is the percentage of total arrests which involve children ages 11-17. After a juvenile is arrested, the state attorney may dismiss the charges for lack of evidence, refer the youth to a circuit judge for a hearing, or divert the youth from the court system through alternatives such as counseling, drug treatment or repayment to the victim. Changes in juvenile arrest rates may reflect changes in police activity (e.g., crackdowns on juveniles) as well as changes in delinquent behavior. Because of data availability constraints, the juvenile arrest rate uses slightly different age groups for arrests (ages 11-7) and the population (ages 10-17). Only a very small number of arrests involve children aged 10. Therefore, the age group discrepancy does not significantly affect the rate reported.

Explanation: Juvenile arrests reflect the success or failure of our families and communities to raise law-abiding children. They also serve as an indicator of future crime trends.

Data source: Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL.

2.7 Juvenile Delinquents

2.7.1 Juvenile delinquency

Measurement: An adjudicated delinquent is someone under age 18 who, according to the court, has committed an offense that would be considered a crime if committed by an adult. Excluded are cases dismissed by the judge for lack of evidence and cases where judgment is withheld to give the youth another chance before having delinquency entered on his or her record. The number of delinquency referrals or cases received are those reported and used by the Department of Juvenile Justice

to track offenses/referrals from law enforcement. The number of cases is counted by "unduplicating" the number of referrals reported on the client information system by client identifier and date, however, it can represent more than one offense/referral per client per year. Presented here is the number of youths referred, which is determined by counting only the most serious offense for which a youth is charged during any fiscal year, an accurate unduplicated count.

Explanation: Public safety, family relationships and the future of our youth all suffer when children become criminals.

Data source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Tallahassee, FL.

2.7.2 Juvenile commitments

Measurement: The commitment rate reflects the number of youth younger than age 18, who have committed a delinquent act or violation of law and have been committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The purpose of commitment is to give the state active control over delinquent youths and to provide for their custody, care, training, treatment and furlough into the community. A commitment ends when the delinquent youth is released by the Department or reaches the age of 19. Serious or habitual youth offenders can be held until age 21. Following commitment, placement is made in a proper residential or non-residential program, such as boot camp, training school or day treatment. The increasing juvenile commitment rates may reflect increases in the number of beds available in commitment programs as well as a higher incidence of delinquent behavior.

Explanation: Public safety, family relationships and the future of our youth all suffer when children become juvenile delinquents.

Data source: Bureau of Research and Data, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Tallahassee, FL.

2.7.3 Serious juvenile offenders

Measurement: Serious juvenile offenders are delinquents who pose a greater danger to public safety because they have committed a felony against persons. Specifically, they include felony offenses such as murder/manslaughter, attempted murder/manslaughter, sexual battery, armed robbery, other robbery, aggravated assault and battery, resisting arrest with violence, felony drug offenses, and shooting or throwing a deadly missile into an occupied dwelling or vehicle. The numbers presented here youth counts for referrals received.

Explanation: Serious crimes committed by youth have a substantial impact on families and communities.

Data source: Bureau of Research and Data, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Tallahassee, FL.

2.8 Juveniles in the Adult System

2.8.1 Juveniles in the adult correctional

Measurement: Generally, youth under age 18 are referred to the adult criminal justice system when charged with very serious crimes or when their criminal behavior has continued despite treatment in the juvenile justice system. The count reflects the number of juveniles who are placed in adult prisons operated by the state. Youths placed on probation or under community control after their release from prison are excluded. Also excluded are youth incarcerated in local jails or federal prisons.

Explanation: Public safety, family relationships and the future of our youth all suffer when children become criminals.



Data source: Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics, Florida Department of Corrections, Tallahassee, FL.

2.9 Abuse and Neglect

2.9.1 Child abuse and neglect

Measurement: Child abuse or neglect is defined as harm or threatened harm to a child's physical or mental health by the acts or omissions of a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare (Section 415.503(1), Florida Statutes). A child is any person under the age of 18 years. Numbers of reports data had been categorized as follows: (a) unfounded report - a report in which the investigation determines that no indication of abuse or neglect exists, (b) an indicated report - a report in which the investigation determines that some indication of abuse or neglect exists, or the protective investigator determines that abuse or neglect has occurred but is not able to identify the perpetrator. No perpetrator is named in reports closed with an indicated classification, or (c) confirmed report - a report in which the investigation determines that abuse or neglect has occurred and the perpetrator is identified. A preponderance of credible evidence is required in order to classify a report as confirmed. Currently the Family Services Response System (FSRS), a non-adversarial response to reports of child abuse and neglect, through a process of assessing the risk to the child and family and, when appropriate, delivering services to remove the risk to the child and support the integrity of the family, has become the vehicle for all reports. Prior to October 1, 1995, districts, at their option and under an approved plan, could handle some or all child abuse and neglect reports as FSRS cases. Since October 1, 1995 with the legislative elimination of classification, all

reports are closed as FSRS cases. Within the FSRS category reports can be closed as no indication, some indication, or verified. The numbers of maltreatments represent counts of abuse, neglect, or threatened harm. A maltreatment is counted each time it occurs in a category, a victim may have several maltreatments per report and a report may contain several victims. An alleged maltreatment is used in reference to an unconfirmed statement made by a reporter to the Florida Abuse Hotline of suspected abuse, neglect, or threatened harm to a child. A confirmed report is a proposed confirmed report that has been determined to be valid after a hearing for which the alleged perpetrator had failed to request amendment or expunction within the time allotted for such request. A proposed confirmed report was when a child protective investigation alleged that abuse or neglect occurred and which identified the alleged perpetrator, and some indication was identified when the investigation determined that there were some indicator that abuse, neglect, or threatened harm occurred. Data here represents the numbers of victims by demographic characteristics (age, sex, race) for alleged reports and for verified or some indication (at least one finding) in a report of abuse, neglect or threatened harm. There may be more than one report per victim per year.

Explanation: Abuse and neglect threatens the lives, health, and safety of children and teaches violence and poor parenting to future generations.

Data source: Child Protective Services, Office of Family Safety and Preservation, Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL.

2.9.2 Abuse and neglect of adults with disabilities

Measurement: An adult with a disability is a person aged 18 to 59 who "suffers from a condition of physical or mental incapacitation due to a developmental disability, organic brain damage, or mental illness, or one who has one or more physical or mental limitations that restrict his ability to perform normal activities of daily living" (Section 415.102(8), Florida Statutes). The indicators reflect reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation to the Florida Abuse Hotline at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Verified reports are reports which (1) have been investigated by a DCF worker and (2) found to show evidence of abuse, neglect or exploitation, regardless of whether a perpetrator was identified.

Explanation: Abuse, neglect and exploitation threaten the health, safety and welfare of adults who may be especially vulnerable because of their disabilities.

Data source: Adult Protective Services, Office of Family Safety and Preservation, Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL.

2.9.3 Elder abuse and neglect

Measurement: Abuse, neglect or exploitation of an aged person occurs when (1) someone inflicts non-accidental physical or psychological injury; (2) fails to provide care and services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the aged person; or (3) acts improperly in their management of an aged person's funds, assets or property (Section 415.502(1)(9)(12), Florida Statutes). It can occur in a home or institutional setting. A person 60 years of age or older who is suffering from the infirmities of aging as manifested by organic brain damage, advanced age, or other physical, mental or emotional dysfunctioning to the extent that the person is impaired in his/her



ability to adequately provide for his/her own care or protection. The indicators reflect reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation to the Florida Abuse Hotline at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Verified reports are reports which (1) have been investigated by a DCF worker and (2) found to show evidence of abuse, neglect or exploitation, regardless of whether a perpetrator was identified.

Explanation: Abuse, neglect and exploitation threaten the health, safety and welfare of adults who may be especially vulnerable because of their age.

Data source: Adult Protective Services, Office of Family Safety and Preservation, Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL.

2.10 Domestic Violence

2.10.1 Domestic violence incidents

2.10.2 Domestic violence murders

Measurement: Domestic violence is any assault, battery or other criminal offense committed by a household or family member that causes injury or death to another household or family member. Crimes of domestic violence can involve (a) people related by blood or marriage, (b) people who have a child in common, or (c) people who have lived together under the same roof, regardless of whether they were ever married or related (Section 741.30(1)(b), *Florida Statutes*). The crime is defined by the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, not the place where the crime occurs. The domestic violence crime rate is (1) the number of offenses involving domestic violence that are reported to state or local law enforcement agencies divided by (2) the county population, multiplied by (3) 100,000. Because many domestic violence crimes are unreported,

this rate should be considered an underestimate of the actual occurrence of domestic violence in Broward County. The domestic violence murder rate is the number of people killed by a household or family member, divided by the county population, multiplied by 100,000.

Explanation: In Florida, domestic violence accounts for about 25% of murders, manslaughter offenses, forcible sex offenses and aggravated assaults. It also is the single major cause of injury to women -- more frequent than auto accidents, rapes and muggings combined.

Data source: Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL.

2.11 Adult Repeat Offenders

2.11.1 Adult repeat offenders

Measurement: Adult recidivism is defined as the rate at which state prison releases commit another crime and return to the adult correctional system after their release from state prison. Recidivism is measured over a two-year period -- from the time of release to the time a new crime is committed. Released inmates returned to prison for technical violations are excluded because new crimes present the greatest threat to public safety. Also excluded are state prison inmates released to another state after serving time in Florida prisons. Inmates at federal prisons are not counted in this indicator. This indicator reflects inmates released to Broward County from a Department of Corrections institution.

Explanation: Public safety is affected by whether criminals continue to commit crimes after release from prison.

Data source: Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics, Florida Department of Corrections, Tallahassee, FL.

2.12 Juvenile Repeat Offenders

2.12.1 Juvenile repeat offenders

Measurement: Juvenile recidivism is defined as the percentage of juveniles released from juvenile justice programs who are subsequently adjudicated for committing another crime. Recidivism is measured over a one-year period -- from the time of release to the time a new crime is committed -- for juveniles released during the first six months of each year. Diversion programs, such as community service and victim restitution, provide juveniles an alternative to going to court and are generally ordered by state attorneys for first or minor offenses. Community control, non-residential commitment and residential commitment are increasingly restrictive placements in the juvenile justice system ordered by a judge. Juveniles under age 18 in the adult correctional system are excluded.

Explanation: Public safety is affected by whether juveniles continue to commit crimes after their release from programs designed to prevent or deter delinquent behavior.

Florida data source: Bureau of Research and Data, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Tallahassee, FL.

2.13 Time Served

2.13.1 Length of sentence served

Measurement: The percentage of sentence served by a state prison inmate is the number of years incarcerated in state prison divided by the number of years sentenced by the court system. By state law, jail time is counted in the length of sentence served. Life sentences are not included in this calculation. The change in



1995 reflects the following changes in state law that went into effect in 1994 and 1995: (1) elimination of basic gain time, (2) elimination of early release, and (3) the requirement that all offenders admitted to state prisons serve at least 85% of their sentences. This indicator measures time served only in state prisons for inmates convicted in Broward County and excludes federal prisons located in Florida.

Explanation: According to research by the Florida Department of Corrections, increasing the percentage of sentence served from 10% or less to 41-50%, reduces the likelihood of an offender returning to crime after release from prison.

Data source: Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics, Florida Department of Corrections, Tallahassee, FL.

2.14 Education of Offenders

2.14.1 Literacy of adult offenders

Measurement: The literacy of state prison inmates is measured by the administration of the Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE). This is a nationally standardized test measuring reading, math computation, applied math, language and spelling. The percentage of prison inmates who are literate is defined as the percentage who score at or above the ninth grade level. The data presented here is for inmates in the prison population who were convicted in Broward County and were tested on the specified dates. The percentages are results of tests administered on June 30, 1996 and June 30, 1997.

Explanation: Literacy improves an inmate's chances for gainful employment after release.

Data source: Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics, Florida Department of Corrections, Tallahassee, FL.

2.14.2 Vocational training of releasees

Measurement: Vocational training includes on-the-job training to state prison inmates provided by either the Department of Corrections or Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises, Inc. (PRIDE). The duration of training ranges from 400 to 900 hours or more, depending on the program. Inmates who completed vocational training are those who receive a certificate of achievement, based on the work supervisor's assessment of specific job and employability skills learned by the inmate. This indicator reflects the percent of inmates who were convicted in Broward County that were released from the Department of Corrections with a vocational certificate.

Explanation: Employment after release from prison can help prevent ex-offenders from committing further crimes.

Data source: Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics, Florida Department of Corrections, Tallahassee, FL.

2.15 Ex-offender Employment

2.15.1 Employment one year after release

Measurement: Employment after release from prison is measured by using social security numbers to match released inmates with employees on the Unemployment Compensation Program database maintained by the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security. A releasee is considered employed if he or she is working for a public or private employer in Florida during the October-December quarter of the year following the year of release. The data presented here represents the percentage of ex-offenders released to Broward County who were employed or enrolled in school full-time during

the October-December quarter of the year following release.

Explanation: Employment reduces the likelihood of returning to crime after release from prison.

Data source: Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

2.16 Disaster Protection

2.16.1 Evacuation time

Measurement: Broward County is one of the most hurricane vulnerable areas in the United States. Six months of the year are known as hurricane season, however, virtually every month has historically experienced the effects of hurricanes. Evacuation is taken to mean those protective actions taken by those persons in areas potentially affected by storm surge, and those persons residing in mobile homes to relocate out of the potentially damaged area and into a safer area.

Explanation: Evacuating from the potentially affected areas can mean the difference between life and death. Storm surge is the most deadly component of a hurricane.

Data source: Broward County Coastal Evacuation Plan, Broward County Emergency Management Division.

2.16.2 Shelter space

Measurement: The American Red Cross and the Broward County Department of Human Services are responsible for shelter activities in Broward County. The American Red Cross National Policy is a commitment to shelter 20% of the ordered evacuating population. The coastal high hazard area is divided into three evacuation zones based on the intensity of storms, with higher categories representing



more severe storms. Based on these projections the County does not experience a shelter deficit. **Explanation:** Temporary shelter capacity, away from the coastal high hazard area, is essential to accommodate the population ordered to evacuate when hurricanes approach. **Broward data source:** Broward County Department of Human Services

2.16.3 Shelter space for persons with special needs

Measurement: Recognizing the need and complexity of the issue of providing hurricane shelter for persons with special needs, Broward County has established a specific emergency support function to deal with the issue. Broward County Department of Human Services is responsible for the registration and management of the County Special Needs Shelter Program. The Department of Human Services has identified and maintains a list of 1,200 shelter spaces. All shelters are opened for any category of storm.

Explanation: Temporary shelter capacity, away from the coastal high hazard area, is essential to accommodate the special needs population when hurricanes approach.

Broward data source: Broward County Department of Human Services

2.17 Emergency Medical Assistance

2.17.1 Access to trauma centers

Measurement: Trauma centers are hospitals with medical staff, equipment and other resources needed to treat life-threatening injuries on a 24-hour basis. Medical research shows that people with traumatic injuries treated at a trauma center within the first hour, and especially within the first half-hour, are more likely to survive and less likely to become disabled. Access to a trauma center is defined

as (1) living in a county with a trauma center or (2) living in a county without a trauma center but with helicopter service that may be able to transport an injured person to a trauma center in another county.

Explanation: Immediate medical treatment can mean the difference between life, death and disability for people seriously injured in traffic crashes and other types of accidents.

Data source: Emergency Medical Services Office, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

2.18 Traffic Crashes

2.18.1 Traffic crashes

2.18.2 Deaths in traffic crashes

2.18.3 Injuries in traffic crashes

Measurement: Traffic accidents are collisions on publicly traveled roads that are reported to law enforcement agencies. Excluded are relatively minor (short-form) collisions, which are not entered into the traffic crash database. Deaths include motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians killed in these collisions. When one or more injuries occur, the law enforcement officer at the scene of the accident judges whether the injury is (1) possible, (2) non-incapacitating or (3) incapacitating. Rates are (1) the number of crashes (deaths or people injured), divided by (2) the county population, multiplied by (3) 100,000.

Explanation: Traffic accidents threaten the personal safety of people on our roads and highways.

Data source: Office of Management and Planning Services, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (traffic accident statistics).

2.19 Highway Violence

Measurement: Highway violence includes robberies involving physical assault or weapons, rock-throwings, and other acts of violence against motorists traveling on state roads, county roads or interstate highways. Incidents are reported by Florida Highway Patrol officers. In 1993-1994, 50% of highway violence incidents in Florida were rock-throwings. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Recent incidents have increased people's awareness of violence as a threat to their safety on roads and highways.

Florida data source: Division of Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

2.20 Boating Accidents

Measurement: Boating accidents are collisions, fires, sinking, capsizing, falls overboard and similar incidents involving recreational watercraft. Boats are broadly defined as all watercraft including Jet Skis, Wave Runners, Sea Doos, or similar equipment which, in 1994, were involved in 34% of recreational boating accidents in Florida. Commercial boating accidents are excluded. Registered boats include motorized boats only. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: As a peninsula with year-round boating, Florida has a high number of recreational boating deaths relative to other states. Many of these deaths could be prevented if boating operators and passengers used safe boating practices.



Florida data source: *Annual Florida Boating Accident Report*, Florida Marine Patrol, Division of Law Enforcement, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.

2.21 Injuries

2.21.1 Deaths from injuries

Measurement: Injuries may or may not be inflicted on purpose. For example, suicide and homicide are intentional injuries while falls and drowning are unintentional injuries. Causes in both of these categories are presented to give a complete picture. This indicator presents deaths due to injuries, rather than the actual number of injuries. According to *Injuries in Florida: 1993 Mortality Facts*, for every injury death in the United States, there are 16 hospitalizations and 381 emergency room visits that occur as a result of injuries. The total injury death rate reported for this indicator is not comparable to the injury death rate reported in 4.12.2(c). The latter is age-adjusted and includes unintentional injuries only.

Explanation: Injuries are one of the leading causes of death in Florida. Injury prevention can reduce pain and loss as well as medical costs.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

2.21.2 Deaths from firearms

Measurement: Deaths from firearms are deaths from homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings that involved a handgun, rifle or shotgun. In 1993, firearm-related homicides were the greatest problem for Blacks and young adults. Firearm-related suicides occurred predominantly among whites. Unintentional shootings accounted for a small percentage of cases.

Explanation: Misuse of firearms is the leading cause of injury death in Florida (1993).

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

2.22 Work-related Injuries

Measurement: Information about job-related injuries and illnesses is obtained from the Occupational Injury and Illness Survey that is administered to a statistically valid sample of private sector employers in Florida. Specifically, the survey asks employers about the number of "lost workday cases," defined as one or more days away from work and/or days of restricted activity that result from job-related injuries or illnesses. A rate per 100 full-time employees is calculated by the Division of Safety of the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security. The day of injury or onset of illness is not counted as a day away from work. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Workplace injuries and illnesses pose health and financial hardships for employees and increase workers' compensation costs.

Florida data source: Division of Safety, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, Tallahassee, FL.



Indicators contained in *The Broward Benchmarks* have been identified from *The Florida Benchmarks Report* published by The Florida Commission on Government Accountability to the People (GAP). Data elements were gathered primarily from a variety of state education accountability reports. A more comprehensive set of indicators based on Florida's Blueprint 2000 and published in the Superintendent's "Accountability Position Paper" is maintained and monitored by the School Board of Broward County.

3.1 Readiness for Kindergarten

3.1.1 Preschool attendance

Measurement: Preschool is defined as Headstart, child care, or a public school prekindergarten program for early intervention, children with disabilities, Chapter I/Title I, or migrant education. It is measured by parental report at the time the child enters school. Children from poverty-level families are children eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch. Broward figures include children served in Broward County Schools preschool programs only.

Explanation: Low-income children who attend preschool perform better in school than those who do not.

Broward data source: The School Board of Broward County, Office of Strategic Planning and Accountability.

3.1.2 Repeating kindergarten

Measurement: Children who have reached the age of five by September 1 of the school year are eligible to enter kindergarten in Florida's public schools (Section 232.04, Florida Statutes). The information presented is the percentage of kindergartners in public schools who were not promoted to first grade at the end of the

academic school year. Broward figures for 1990 and 1995 include students in pre-first grade level coded as kindergarten.

Explanation: Children who have a strong educational foundation early are more likely to succeed in kindergarten.

Broward data source: The School Board of Broward County, Office of Strategic Planning and Accountability.

Florida data source: Education Information and Accountability Services, Division of Administration, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.2 Achievement Test Results

3.2.1 Florida Writing Assessment

Measurement: Administered in grades 4, 8, and 10, the Florida Writes! test requires students to write about a randomly assigned topic for 45 minutes. Written responses are scored on a 1.0 to 6.0 scale with 6.0 being the highest score. A score of 4.0 means "The writing focuses on topic, although it may contain loosely related information. An organizational pattern is apparent. Some of the supporting ideas contain specifics and details, but others do not. Word choice is adequate. Sentences vary in structure. Usage, punctuation, and spelling are generally correct." Changes over time, in part, may reflect changes in the topics, which may not be the same level of difficulty from one year to the next. Students must meet more challenging writing standards in grade 10 than grade 8. National norms are not available.

Explanation: Good writing skills are needed for employment in higher wage occupations and for postsecondary education which is becoming more important in an increasingly competitive job market.

Data source: Average score: Broward County Schools, Percentage scoring 4.0 and above:

Statewide Assessment Program; Bureau of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.2.2 - Reading achievement in grade 10

3.2.3 Math achievement in grade 10

Measurement: The Grade Ten Assessment Test (GTAT) is a multiple-choice test measuring the reading comprehension and mathematics skills of tenth graders in the public schools. It is administered to all tenth graders in the spring of each school year. By definition, 50% of the nation's tenth graders score above the middle score, which is estimated by testing a nationwide sample of students. To surpass students nationally, more than 50% of Broward's students would need to score above the national middle score. Testing using the Grade Ten Assessment Test (GTAT) began in 1992/93 school year and ended with the school year 1995/96. The 1992/93 test results are considered unreliable as they were based on the 1988 reading and math norms. Beginning with the 1993/94 school year, test results were based on the previous years GTAT results. Historical comparisons prior to spring 1993 are not valid because the test sample used to establish national norms was changed. The Grade Ten Assessment Test was discontinued after the 1996 administration and replaced with statewide assessments of educational standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

Explanation: Competency in reading comprehension and mathematics are essential to a basic education.

Data source: Statewide Assessment Program; Bureau of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.2.4 High School Competency Test



Measurement: The High School Competency Test is an untimed, multiple-choice test of a student's ability to apply basic mathematics and communication skills to real-world situations. It is administered to all 11th grade students in public schools as a statewide graduation requirement. Test items are at approximately a ninth or tenth grade level. Data reflect the percentage of 11th grade students passing the communication and mathematics sections of the test on the first attempt. Historical comparisons prior to fall 1992 are not valid because the test was previously administered to 10th grade students.

Explanation: Students need to achieve basic mathematics and communication skills before leaving high school.

Data source: Statewide Assessment Program; Bureau of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.3 High School Dropouts and Graduates

3.3.1 High school dropout rate

Measurement: A dropout is "a student over the age of compulsory school attendance who: (1) has voluntarily removed him (or herself) from the school system before graduation because of marriage, entrance into the military or failure on the statewide student assessment test required for a certificate of completion; (2) has not met attendance requirements specified by the School Board; (3) did not enter school as expected for unknown reasons; (4) has withdrawn from school without transferring to another school or vocational, adult or alternative education program; (5) has withdrawn from school due to hardship, court action, expulsion, medical reasons, or pregnancy; or (6) has reached the maximum age set by the school district for an exceptional

student program" (Section 228.041(29), Florida Statutes). Data prior to 1991 were collected from local school districts by mail survey. From 1991 forward, data were aggregated from individual student records and submitted by the districts to the Florida Department of Education. The number of dropouts is calculated based upon the number of students during the school year who were 16 or over and withdrew for one of the above mentioned reasons. The rate is calculated based upon the district's population in enrollment for grades 9-12 as of October of the school year being reported. The number of students who dropped out divided by the number of students enrolled in grades 9-12 and then multiplied by 100.

Explanation: The lack of a high school diploma can severely limit a person's employability and wage-earning potential.

Data source: Education Information and Accountability Services, Division of Administration, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.3.2 High school graduation rate

Measurement: High school graduates are students who receive a regular diploma, special diploma, regular certificate of completion, special certificate of completion, or general equivalency diploma (GED) awarded to students ages 16-19. Currently, state law defines the high school graduation rate as the number of students who graduated from public schools divided by the number of first-time ninth graders four years earlier (Section 232.2468, Florida Statutes). This rate does not track the same group of students from start to finish. As a result, it is inflated by the movement of high-school-aged students into Florida, who are counted as graduates but not as entering ninth graders. To supplement the official graduation rate, the state Department of

Education is developing a methodology to report a 1996-97 graduation rate for the same group of students who entered ninth grade in the fall four years earlier.

Explanation: As skill demands increase in the workforce, people without a high school diploma will have a more difficult time finding employment or advancing beyond low wage jobs.

Data source: Education Information and Accountability Services, Division of Administration, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.4 Readiness for College

3.4.1 SAT scores

3.4.2 ACT scores

Measurement: The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT) are national tests taken by high school students who plan to enter college. The average score is reported for students in the current year's graduating class, regardless of the year that they took the test. Average total scores may range from 400 to 1600 for the SAT and from 1 to 36 for the ACT. The higher the percentage of students taking these tests, the lower the statewide average scores tend to be. This information should be taken into account when comparing average scores over time and when comparing average SAT/ACT scores across states. For example on the SAT, Florida's percentage is relatively high (45% in 1994-95). As a result, the average SAT score in Florida will tend to be lower than the national average. The SAT is sponsored by The College Board in New York and administered by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey. The results presented here, both for the state and Broward County, were recalculated by the College Board on September 2, 1997, to adjust



for an error. They therefore differ from previously released results. They also reflect the “recentered” averages calculated in 1996. The ACT is a product of the American College Testing Company in Iowa City, Iowa.

Explanation: SAT and ACT scores are good predictors of performance during the first year of college.

Broward data source: The School Board of Broward County.

3.5 Need for Remediation

3.5.1 Need for remediation in college

Measurement: The percentage of public high school graduates who require remediation during their first year of college measures the success of the public schools in preparing students for college-level study. Students entering Florida’s community colleges and state universities for the first time are required to take a college entry-level placement test in reading, writing, and mathematics. A student who scores below acceptable standards in one of the areas tested must successfully complete a college preparatory (remedial) course in that area before taking a college-level course in the same area. The percentage requiring remediation is based on the number of Broward County public high school graduates who enrolled the year after graduation in Florida’s community colleges and state universities. Excluded from the report are (1) of Broward County public high school graduates who did not enter Florida’s community colleges or state universities within one year following graduation and (2) graduates of private or out-of-county high schools.

Explanation: Remediation is costly to students and taxpayers and reflects lack of success in teaching needed skills to students in grades K-12.

Data source: Office of Postsecondary Education Coordination, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.6 Community College Graduates

3.6.1 Students served

Measurement: Broward Community College offers a variety of college credit and non-credit programs and courses. This measure unduplicates student enrollment across semesters to arrive at the total number of individuals served by the institution in a given academic year. Students who enroll in both credit and non-credit courses are combined with those who enroll only in credit courses to determine total credit enrollment.

Explanation: Post-secondary education improves the general education and workforce preparation of Floridians.

Data source: Annual Community College Accountability Report, Bureau of Research and Information Systems, Division of Community Colleges, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.6.2 Student success rates

Measurement: The success measure is a way of assessing graduation and retention success. In community colleges, students often enroll to receive specific training which is job related or to take some courses prior to transferring to a state university. Consequently, students who leave in good standing are considered a success. The success measure includes students who have graduated, been retained and have left in good standing. The success measure indicates how many associate in arts students, who have earned at least 18 credit hours, have graduated, were retained in good standing, or left in good standing four years after the date of initial enrollment.

Explanation: Post-secondary education improves the general education and workforce preparation of Floridians.

Data source: Annual Community College Accountability Report, Bureau of Research and Information Systems, Division of Community Colleges, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.6.3 Associate in Arts transfer student performance

Measurement: This measure assesses the performance of associate in arts degree transfer students in the State University System based upon their grade point average. The data specifically reflect only those students who completed their entire associate in arts degree program at the college in which they initially enrolled. This definition provides for the assessment of each institution on their students’ ability to perform well in the university system. This measure shows the percentage of students who are at or above 2.5 on a 4.0 GPA Scale.

Explanation: Post-secondary education improves the general education and workforce preparation of Floridians.

Data source: Annual Community College Accountability Report, Bureau of Research and Information Systems, Division of Community Colleges, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.6.4 Licensure passing rates

Measurement: One of the key measures for the associate in science degree program is the licensure pass rate measure. For certain occupations, the state requires that students must pass a licensing exam. Prior to sitting for the exam students must complete their educational program. Consequently, the licensure pass rate measure is a direct indicator of how successful the program is in preparing students for the exam. The licensure pass rate



measure shows the number of students tested, the number of students passed, and the percentage of students who passed the licensure exam for their respective vocational programs.

Explanation: Post-secondary education improves the general education and workforce preparation of Floridians.

Data source: Annual Community College Accountability Report, Bureau of Research and Information Systems, Division of Community Colleges, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.6.5 Vocational placement rates

Measurement: The placement rate is another outcome measure which directly assesses the effectiveness of the associate in science degree program by measuring the placement of students in jobs related to their training. This measure shows the number and percent of students who complete a program, were found through the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP), and were placed in an occupation related to their instruction.

Explanation: Post-secondary education improves the general education and workforce preparation of Floridians.

Data source: Annual Community College Accountability Report, Bureau of Research and Information Systems, Division of Community Colleges, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.7 University Graduates

3.7.1 University graduation rate

Measurement: The university graduation rate is the percentage of first-time-in-college students entering public or private colleges and universities in Florida who graduated from the

same institution within six years. This rate is computed by tracking student cohorts - the same group of students from start to finish. It is recorded under each cohort's year of graduation. For example, the graduation rate for the cohort entering in the 1988-89 academic year and graduating by 1994-95 is recorded under the year 1995. The cohort for a given academic year includes all first-time-in-college students who entered the State University System in the fall or entered in the summer and continued in the fall. First-time-in-college is defined as entering with no more than 12 credit hours. Graduates are those students in the cohort who completed their undergraduate degree by the fall, spring or summer of the sixth consecutive academic year. In-state and out-of-state residents are included in the calculation. Students who take longer than 6 years to complete their degrees are not counted as graduates in this indicator. Nor are students who transfer to and graduate from another institution. A six-year completion time was selected because many students work and go to school part-time. A cohort graduation rate, comparable to the state university graduation rate, is expected to be available in 1997 for member institutions of Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

Explanation: A college degree improves employability and income-earning potential.

Data source: Academic Programs, Florida Board of Regents, Tallahassee, FL. (state universities); Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, Tallahassee, FL. (private colleges and universities).

3.7.2 Graduation rate for community college transfers

Measurement: Community college transfers are defined as students who earn Associate of Arts degrees in Florida's community colleges and subsequently enter Florida's state university

system. The graduation rate for these students is computed in the same way as the university system graduation rate (see endnote for Indicator 3.7.1), using a three-year, rather than a six-year, completion time. The rate is recorded under each cohort's year of graduation. For example, the graduation rate for AA students entering in 1990-91 and graduating in 1993-94 is recorded under the year 1994.

Explanation: A college degree improves employability and income-earning potential.

Data source: Academic Programs, Florida Board of Regents, Tallahassee, FL.

3.8 Public Satisfaction with Results

3.8.1 Public schools

Measurement: Ratings of the public schools are obtained by telephone survey from a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, How would you rate the job your local public schools are doing? Would you say they are doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job? The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: Public satisfaction is important to consider in judging the performance of public schools.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska
Florida data source: *The FIU/Florida Poll*, Institute for Public Opinion Research, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

3.8.2 Higher education

Measurement: Public satisfaction with higher education is measured by telephone survey of a



statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, How do you feel that Florida compares to other states in terms of the availability of a high quality, affordable college education -- do you feel it is better, about the same, or worse than other states? Possible responses are better, same, worse, don't know. The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: Public satisfaction is important to consider in judging access to higher education.

Data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska).

3.9. Adult Literacy

3.9.1 Literacy of young adults (ages 19-24)

3.9.2 Literacy of adults (ages 25-64)

3.9.3 Literacy of adults (ages 65 and older)

Measurement: Statewide, adult literacy is measured by the Adult Literacy Survey, a test which measures actual performance on tasks related to everyday living (e.g., reading a newspaper article, filling out a job application or balancing a checkbook). The test was administered to statistically valid samples of U.S. and Florida residents age 16 and older. Literacy is assessed in three areas: prose, quantitative and document literacy. Performance in each area is scored at a level ranging from 1 to 5. People with middle and high literacy levels are those scoring at levels 3, 4, or 5. Results are reported by the Educational Testing Service to state departments of education. Data are reported for the test administration year, not the reporting year. Statistically valid data are not available by county.

Explanation: People with middle or high literacy levels are more likely to vote, be

employed, and avoid dependence on public assistance.

Data source: Bureau of Adult and Community Education, Florida Department of Education.

3.10 Graduates Entering the Workforce

3.10.1 Employment and education after graduation

3.10.2 Placement in jobs related to field of training

Measurement: Employment and continuation of education after graduation is measured by matching graduates with student enrollments in postsecondary schools and with quarterly Unemployment Compensation reports submitted by public and private sector employers to the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security. Graduates are considered working if they are employed in part-time or full-time jobs during the October-December quarter of the year following graduation. Graduates are considered continuing their education if they are enrolled part-time or full-time in a community college or state university in Florida during the fall semester the year after graduation. Post-secondary adult vocational program graduates refer to students who completed vocational training in a local school district's adult education program or in a community college's vocational certificate program. Students earning Associate of Science (A.S.) or Associate of Arts (A.A.) degrees at community colleges are in a separate category. Percentages are recorded under the year of graduation. For example, employment and continuation of education for students graduating in 1993-94 are recorded under the year 1994. Percentages reflect only those graduates who could be identified as enrolled at educational institutions in Florida or working for Florida employers,

the military or the federal government. Educational institutions in Florida include state universities, community colleges, post-secondary adult education programs and accredited private colleges and universities. The percentage unaccounted for may be unemployed, deceased, working for out-of-state employers, or going to school at an institution outside Florida. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Employment and the pursuit of further education are both successful outcomes for graduates of the educational system. Continuation of education is especially important for high school graduates, who otherwise will have difficulty advancing beyond low-wage jobs.

Data source: Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP), Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.11 Job Training

3.11.1 Job placement for job training graduates

Measurement: Job training graduates are economically disadvantaged youth and adults who completed job training programs funded by Titles IIA and IIC of the former federal Job Training and Partnership Act (JTPA) – until recently, the primary source of funding for these services at the state and local level. The percentage of graduates who got jobs after completion of their training was determined using the same matching system described in endnote 3.10.1 above. The percentage reported is (a) the number of job training graduates employed in a job during the October-



December quarter of the state fiscal year after completion divided by (b) the number of job training graduates. Displaced workers (JTPA, Title IIIC) are excluded (see endnote 3.12.1 below). Percentages are recorded under the year of program completion. For example, placement for people completing job training programs in 1993-94 is recorded under the year 1994. Data are provided for Florida only. Similar data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Taxpayers invest in job training programs to help unemployed people enter or return to the workforce.

Florida data source: Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP), Florida Department of Education.

3.12 Retraining of the Existing Workforce

3.12.1 Laid-off workers

Measurement: Displaced workers are people who have been laid off from their jobs because of plant closings or workforce reductions. Laid-off workers completing job training are those who finished a private or public educational program funded by Title IIIC of the former Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The percentage of job training graduates who got jobs after program completion is determined using the same matching system described in endnote 3.10.1 above. Percentages are recorded under the year of program completion. For example, placement for people completing job training programs in 1993-94 is recorded under the year 1994. Data are provided for Florida only. Similar data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Upgrading the skills of the current workforce will become increasingly

important as companies adopt new technologies and enter new markets.

Florida data source: Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP), Florida Department of Education.

3.13 Employer Satisfaction

3.13.1 Recent graduates of the educational system

3.13.2 Business type

Measurement: Employer satisfaction with adult vocational program graduates and community college associate of science (A.S.) graduates is measured statewide by a mail survey of a statistically valid sample of Florida employers. Employers rate their satisfaction with the general preparation and work performance of graduates. Degree of satisfaction is rated for about 20 items on a 1 to 5 scale, ranging from very satisfied to very dissatisfied. The number reported is the percentage of survey items which employers rated as (1) satisfied or very satisfied, (2) neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, (3) dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, or (4) don't know/no answer. Percentages are reported for the year that the survey was administered. Data are provided for Florida only. Similar data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Employers expect employees to have the skills needed to learn or perform on the job. Employer satisfaction with graduates improves the climate for economic growth and indicates that tax-supported education and training programs are working.

Data source: Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP), Florida Department of Education.

3.14 Public Satisfaction

3.14.1 Public satisfaction with workforce preparation

Measurement: Public satisfaction with future workforce preparation is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, What kind of job do you think Florida's educational system is doing to develop the kind of work force businesses will need in the future? Would you say it is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job? The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: Public confidence is important to consider when judging the effectiveness of the educational system.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: *The FIU/Florida Poll*, Institute for Public Opinion Research, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

3.15 Wages of Graduates

3.15.1 Recent graduates of the educational system

Measurement: The annual average starting wage of graduates is measured using the same matching system described in 3.10.1 above. Because wages are reported on a quarterly basis, the average annual wage is estimated by multiplying the average quarterly wage for October-December by four (4). Wages for part-time workers, identified by their low earnings, are excluded from the calculation. Detailed



information is provided for community college graduates because of the variation in starting wages among different certificate and degree programs. Wages are expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation. Wages are provided for Florida graduates only; similar data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Starting wages reflect the marketability of graduates and the initial return on a student's educational investment.

Florida data source: Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP), Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.16 Parental and Community Involvement

3.16.1 Volunteer hours per student

Measurement: The number of volunteer contact hours per student is the number of hours of service donated to grades preK-12 in Florida's public schools divided by the October preK-12 student enrollment. Volunteer hours are obtained by mail survey of local school districts and reported by school volunteer coordinators based upon volunteer sign-in sheets. Prior to 1992-93, volunteer hours were defined as time spent by volunteers on any instruction-related activity. In 1993-94, this definition was broadened to include any activity contributing to school improvement, including fund-raising, as long as the activity was student-related. Volunteer hours per student are reported only for the 1994-95 academic year when this change had been fully implemented.

Explanation: Corporate and community involvement in the schools increases the time, talent and resources available to help children learn.

Data source: School Board of Broward County

3.17 Cost per Student

3.17.1 Total expenditure per student

3.17.2 Flow of dollars to the classroom

Measurement: The total education expenditure per student is defined as (a) all federal, state and local dollars spent on education costs divided by (b) the number of public school students enrolled in grades preK-12. This number may differ from other expenditure per student figures because it does not include public education dollars spent on adults for literacy, job preparation and GED programs. Flow of dollars to the classroom is the percentage of dollars allocated to school districts that are spent on direct costs. Direct costs include teacher salaries and benefits, classroom materials and supplies, textbooks, periodicals, audiovisual materials, and capital outlay for desks, furniture and other equipment or services used in the classroom. Excluded are indirect costs for administration, facilities, operations and maintenance and fiscal services. Local school district expenditures are recorded in Financial and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools; state-level expenditures on education are recorded in the State Automated Management Accounting Subsystem (SAMAS). Expenditure per student is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: The total cost per student helps citizens relate taxpayers' investment in education to the results achieved in the public schools. By tracking the flow of dollars into the classroom, citizens can see what proportion of money directly benefits preK-12 students.

Florida data source: Office of Education Budget and Management, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.18 School Overcrowding (Class Size)

3.18.1 Classrooms in Broward County with 20 or fewer students

Measurement: For state fiscal year 1995-96, the Florida Legislature approved \$40 million in funding for school districts to "achieve the goal that for each elementary school, class size for grades one, two and three shall not exceed 20 students, with a ratio of one teacher per 20 students (Specific appropriation 150, Section 2, Senate Bill 2800, *General Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1995-96*). Classes that exceeded 20 students could still meet the goal if they had at least one full-time aide. Priority for statewide funding was given in descending order to grades one, two, and three. In 1996-97, funding was increased to \$100 million; kindergarten and first grade were given priority for class size reduction and all "full-time equivalent" aides were counted toward the class-size goal. A class has a "full-time equivalent aide" if the same aide is assigned to the same class all day or if an aide is present during the same hours that students are present, regardless of whether the same aide is present. The percentage of classes in kindergarten and first grade in Broward County that met the goal is (1) the number of classrooms for a given grade that met the goal, divided by (2) the total number of classrooms for that grade, multiplied by (3) 100. The Florida Department of Education prepared initial data on class size from information submitted by school districts to the Automated Student Information Data Base. School districts reviewed and refined the data to confirm student counts for individual classes, to establish whether and how teacher aides were



assigned to actual classes, and to ensure that the data applied only to regular, self-contained elementary classes. Information was obtained in the fall of 1995 and the fall of 1996.

Explanation: Smaller class sizes allow teachers to give students more individual attention, especially in the early grades.

Data source: *Class Size for Grades K to 3 and the Assignment of Elementary-Level Teacher Aides: Selected Comparisons 1995-96 and 1996-97*, Education Information and Accountability Services, Florida Department of Education, March 1997.

3.18.2 Classroom size

Measurement: Class size is the number of students in a classroom for a given grade as of fall of the academic year. The percentage of K-3 classrooms with 20 or fewer students, 21-25 students, 26-29 students and 30 or more students is (1) the number of K-3 classrooms with the number of students in a given range, divided by (2) the total number of K-3 classrooms, multiplied by (3) 100. The Florida Department of Education prepared initial data on class size from information submitted by school districts to the Automated Student Information Data Base. School districts reviewed and refined the data to confirm student counts for individual classes, to establish whether and how teacher aides were assigned to actual classes, and to ensure that the data applied only to regular, self-contained elementary classes. Information was obtained in the fall of 1995 and the fall of 1996. A similar analysis has not been performed for grades 4-5 or 6-12.

Explanation: Smaller class sizes allow teachers to give students more individual attention, especially in the early grades.

Data source: *Class Size for Grades K to 3 and the Assignment of Elementary-Level Teacher Aides: Selected Comparisons 1995-96 and 1996-97*,

Education Information and Accountability Services, Florida Department of Education, March 1997.

3.19 Capacity to Meet Enrollment Needs

3.19.1 Teachers (Grades K-3)

Measurement: The number of teachers needed is the total number of excess students divided by 20, rounded to the nearest whole. The total number of excess students is the total number of students in a given grade who are being taught in K-3 classrooms, over and above 20 per teacher and 10 additional students above the class size of 20 for every full-time equivalent aide. The Florida Department of Education prepared initial data on class size from information submitted by school districts to the Automated Student Information Data Base. School districts reviewed and refined the data to confirm student counts for individual classes, to establish whether and how teacher aides were assigned to actual classes, and to ensure that the data applied only to regular, self-contained elementary classes.

Explanation: School overcrowding hinders effective teaching and strains local and state resources.

Data source: *Class Size for Grades K to 3 and the Assignment of Elementary-Level Teacher Aides: Selected Comparisons 1995-96 and 1996-97*, Education Information and Accountability Services, Florida Department of Education, March 1997.

3.19.2 Student workstations (Grades K-12)

Measurement: The number of student workstations needed for grades K-12 is the total student enrollment in grades K-12 minus building capacity to accommodate students in grades K-12.

Explanation: School overcrowding hinders effective teaching and strains local and state resources.

Data source: School Board of Broward County.

3.20 Student Attendance

3.20.1 Absences from public school

Measurement: The percentage of students absent from school 21 or more school days is (a) the number of enrolled students under age 16 who are absent 21 or more school days divided by (b) the total number of students under age 16 enrolled in public schools. The measure is limited to students of compulsory school age who are legally required to attend school regularly. Excused as well as unexcused absences are counted. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Frequent or long-term absences from school can interfere with learning and lead to dropping out of school.

Florida data source: Education Information and Accountability Services, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.21 Suspensions and Expulsions

3.21.1 Suspensions

Measurement: Suspension is "the temporary removal of a student from his regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days" (Section 228.041, Florida Statutes). Only school principals have the authority to suspend students. If suspended in-school, students continue attending school usually in a setting outside their regular classroom. If suspended out-of school, students do not attend school for



the duration of their suspension. Suspensions are reported by administrators in local school districts. For the purposes of this indicator, data are presented for public school students in grades 6-12 only. The percentage of students suspended is calculated as (1) the unduplicated count of students in grades 6-12 who were suspended, divided by (2) the total number of students in grades 6-12. (Note: Florida DOE calculates suspensions on an unduplicated count; Broward County uses a duplicated count.)

Explanation: Suspensions indicate behavior that disrupts learning.

Data source: Education Information and Accountability Services, Division of Administration, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.21.2 Expulsions

Measurement: Expulsion is "the removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend a public school under conditions set by the school board, and for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one additional year" (Section 228.041, Florida Statutes). Only school boards have the authority to expel students. Expulsions are reported by local school districts. For the purposes of this indicator, the number of students expelled is reported for public school students in grades 6-12 only. From 1980 to the present, this number represented 0.1% of the student enrollment in grades 6-12.

Explanation: Expulsions indicate behavior that disrupts learning.

Data source: Education Information and Accountability Services, Division of Administration, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

3.22 Crime on School Grounds

3.22.1 Violence

3.22.2 Drugs and alcohol

These items will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

3.23 Language Proficiency

3.23.1 Percentage of English-proficient students

Measurement: English-proficient students are defined as students enrolled (Fall count) in public school who are not enrolled in the Limited English Proficient Program (LEP). Limited English Proficient Students are defined as students whose home language is one other than English as determined by a home language survey and whose English aural comprehension, speaking, reading, or writing proficiency is below the average English proficiency level of English speaking students of the same age and grade. The number of English proficient students is determined by subtracting the number of students enrolled in the Limited English Proficient Program from the number of students enrolled in public school (Fall count) Kindergarten through 12th grade. The percent of English-proficient students is determined by dividing number of English-proficient students by the number of students enrolled in public school (Fall count) Kindergarten through 12th grade and multiplying by 100.

Explanation: Fluency in English will improve opportunities for success in higher education and future employment.

Data source: Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Office of Multicultural Language Education.



4.1 Births to Teenagers

4.1.1 Percentage of babies born to teenage mothers

4.1.2 Teen birthrate

Measurement: Births to teenagers are counted as babies born to mothers ages 15-19. The mother's age is self-reported on the child's birth certificate. The percentage of babies born to teenage mothers is (1) the number of births to teenagers ages 15-19, divided by (2) the total number of live births in Broward County, multiplied by (3) 100. Over time, this percentage tells us whether a growing percentage of babies are being born to teenage mothers. The teen birth rate is the number of births to teenagers ages 15-19 for every 1,000 teenage girls ages 15-19 in Broward County. Over time, this rate indicates whether the number of teenage girls having babies is increasing or decreasing, taking population growth into account. Teen birth rates are presented for whites, non-whites and all teenage girls ages 15-19. For example, the teen birth rate for whites is the (1) number of white females ages 15-19 giving birth divided by (2) the number of white females ages 15-19 in the county's population multiplied by (3) 1,000. Information about specific racial or ethnic groups is not available.

Explanation: Children born to teenage parents are more likely to have health problems, live in poverty, and receive poor parenting. Also, teen parents often lack the education and economic means needed to raise their children.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.1.3 Repeat births to teenagers

Measurement: Repeat births to teenagers are measured by counting the number of babies born to mothers ages 15-19 who have already

had one or more children. Information on prior births and the mother's age is self-reported on the child's birth certificate. Prior births include any previous live births, still births, miscarriages or abortions. The percentage of repeat teen births is (1) the number of babies born to mothers ages 15-19 who already have one or more children divided by (2) the number of live births to mothers ages 15-19, multiplied by (3) 100.

Explanation: Children born to teenage parents are more likely to have health problems, live in poverty, and receive poor parenting. Also, teen-age mothers with repeat births are most at-risk of not completing their high school education.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.2 Low Birth Weight

4.2.1 Low birth weight babies

Measurement: Low birth weight babies weigh less than 2,500 grams or 5 lbs. 9 oz. at birth, regardless of whether they are born full-term or prematurely. The baby's weight is recorded by hospital staff on the birth certificate. Births include only live births; still births are excluded. Separate percentages are given for whites, non-whites, and all newborns regardless of race. For example, the percentage of non-white babies born with a low birth weight is calculated by dividing the number of low birth weight babies born to non-whites, by the total number of non-white births, multiplied by 100. Information on specific racial or ethnic groups is not available.

Explanation: Low birth weight babies are more likely than normal weight babies to have health problems, develop disabilities and die in the first month after birth.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.3 Infant Mortality

4.3.1 Infants dying in the first year of life

Measurement: Infant mortality refers to the death of a baby before his or her first birthday. Still births, miscarriages and abortions are excluded. Infant mortality rates are presented for whites, non-whites and all infants regardless of race. The infant mortality rate is calculated by dividing the total number of infant deaths by the total number of live births and multiplying by 1,000. The white infant mortality rate is calculated by dividing the number of white infant deaths by the number of white live births and multiplying by 1,000. The nonwhite infant mortality rate is calculated by dividing the number of nonwhite infant deaths by the number of nonwhite live births and multiplying by 1,000.

Explanation: The infant mortality rate is a worldwide health indicator. In Florida, non-white babies are twice as likely to die in the first year of life as white babies.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.4 Aids and Drug-afflicted Babies

4.4.1 AIDS babies

Measurement: A baby has Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) if he or she tests positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and has another condition or disease, such as pneumonia. Babies diagnosed with AIDS within the first



year of life usually get the disease from an HIV-infected mother during pregnancy, at the time of birth, or by breastfeeding. Babies born to HIV-infected mothers do not necessarily become HIV-infected themselves. However, those that do will die during childhood.

Explanation: Without a cure, prevention is the only solution to eradicating this devastating and costly disease.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.4.2 Drug-afflicted babies

Measurement: The term "drug-exposed babies" or "substance-exposed newborns" refers to children who have physical, mental or behavioral abnormalities that may result from the mother's drug use during pregnancy or from conditions in the home (e.g., poor parenting or poor nutrition) that are related to the parents' drug use. Some possible effects of drug exposure are premature births, fetal death, low birth weight, respiratory problems, hemorrhages, birth defects, and language and learning problems. If exposed to opiates (e.g., heroin) during pregnancy, a baby may experience withdrawal symptoms, such as tremors, vomiting and sweats. In 1993, the following drugs, listed in descending order, accounted for 96% of cases reported in Florida: alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, barbiturates and heroin.

Explanation: Drug and alcohol use during pregnancy can lead to death, disabilities, learning difficulties and other irreversible conditions in children.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.5 Infant Screening

4.5.1 Prenatal screening

Measurement: A prenatal screening questionnaire is administered, by consent, to pregnant women so that they can be referred to appropriate services if their unborn infants are at risk of death or disability. The questionnaire is administered by family practitioners, obstetricians and other primary health care providers. It contains 12 items about the mother's health, safety, prenatal care, problems with previous pregnancies, nutrition, smoking, drug and alcohol use and conditions in her living situation. Points are scored for the presence of each risk factor. Mothers whose unborn infants are at risk are defined as those scoring a total of 4 or more points.

Explanation: Prenatal screening promotes the birth of healthy babies and helps to prevent death and disability.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.5.2 Infant screening after birth

Measurement: With the mother's consent, infants are screened by hospital staff on risk factors in their social environment that are highly correlated with death after the first 28 days of life. Information is reported on the child's birth certificate on the following 10 risk factors: the mother's age, race, marital status, and education; timing of prenatal care; the baby's birth weight; the mother's use of tobacco and alcohol during pregnancy; and health problems and congenital anomalies identified at birth. Points are scored for the presence of each risk factor. Infants at risk are those with a total score of 4 points or higher. Mothers of these babies are referred to medical and social services to improve their babies' health and chances of survival.

Explanation: Babies are less likely to die or develop lifelong disabilities if problems are identified and treated at birth.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.6 Adult Health

4.6.1 General health

4.6.2 Days of poor physical health

4.6.3 Daily living

Measurement: People's perception of their own health status is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, the following three questions: (1) "Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor", (2) "Now, thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?" and (3) "During the past 30 days, for about how many days did poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation?"

Explanation: How people perceive their health is a strong predictor of hospitalization and death.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.



4.7 Health Insurance

4.7.1 Uninsured

4.7.2 Race of Uninsured

Measurement: In Broward County, the percentage of people without health insurance is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 county residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks “Do you have any kind of health care coverage including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMO’s (Health Maintenance Organizations) or government plans such as Medicaid?” Florida data are also collected by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of Floridians.

Explanation: Health insurance allows people to get the treatment and care they need to maintain good health, seek early treatment for medical problems, and reduce the financial hardship of long-term or catastrophic illnesses.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Office of Health Policy, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Tallahassee, FL.

4.8 Health Care Access

4.8.1 Supply of physicians

Measurement: Primary care physicians are defined as (1) general or family practitioners, (2) pediatricians, (3) internists, and (4) obstetricians/gynecologists (OB/GYN) who deliver babies. Areas without enough primary care physicians are counties, service areas, population groups or facilities that have more

than 3,000 people per physician (if 20% or more of the population is in poverty) or more than 3,500 per physician (if less than 20% of the population is in poverty). These population-to-physician ratios are set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The population living in physician shortage areas is based on the most recent U.S. Census. Efforts are underway to determine physician shortage areas in Broward County. However, currently data are not available.

Explanation: People are more likely to get health care if doctors' offices, hospitals, and other facilities are located near where they live.

Data source: Health Professionals Recruitment Office, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

4.8.2 Affordability of health care

Measurement: Affordability of health care is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically the survey asks, “In the past year has there ever been a time when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of the cost?” Possible responses are “yes” or “no.”

Explanation: People may not be able to afford health care because they do not have health insurance or cannot pay the deductibles.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

4.9 Health Care Quality

4.9.1 Consumer satisfaction

Measurement: Satisfaction with medical care is measured by telephone survey of a statistically

valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, “Overall, how satisfied are you with the health care you currently receive?” The choices are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

Explanation: Consumer satisfaction with the quality of care is an important but often neglected outcome.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

4.10 Health Care Costs

4.10.1 Growth rate for health care expenditures

Measurement: Health care expenditures are the estimated total dollars spent on (1) hospital care, (2) physician services, (3) nursing homes, (4) prescription drugs, (5) dental services, (6) other professional services, (7) program administration, (8) public health activities, and (9) research and construction. As of 1996, statewide information was available only for the first three categories. Expenditures are reported for care provided by public and private facilities and funded through Medicare, Medicaid, worker’s compensation or the private sector. The annual percentage increase in health care expenditures is (1) health care expenditures in the current year minus the health care expenditures in the previous year, divided by (2) health care expenditures in the previous year, multiplied by (3) 100. It reflects the increase in both the price and amount of health services provided. The growth rate is based on nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation. The Agency for Health



Care Administration is currently examining health care expenditures by county, but had not completed its study by the publication date of this report.

Explanation: The high rate of inflation in health care expenditures has placed a great strain on taxpayers as well as consumers. A major challenge is controlling health care expenditures without sacrificing the quality or accessibility of health care.

Data source: Center for Health Statistics, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Tallahassee, FL.

4.10.2 Inflation rate for cost of living

Measurement: The annual percentage increase in the cost of living is the percentage increase in the annual Implicit Price Deflator, which measures the prices of a wide range of consumer goods and services while taking into account changes in consumption patterns over time. It is calculated as (1) the Implicit Price Deflator for the current year minus the Implicit Price Deflator for the previous year, divided by (2) the Implicit Price Deflator the previous year, multiplied by (3) 100. In contrast to 4.10.1 Growth rate for health care expenditures, the inflation rate for cost of living takes costs but not volume of services into account. The double-digit growth rate for most health care expenditures contrasts sharply with the decreasing rate of inflation for general consumer goods and services.

Explanation: Rising health care costs have a major impact on taxpayers' financial burdens.

Data source: Revenue and Economic Analysis Unit, Office of Planning and Budgeting, Executive Office of the Governor.

4.11 Life Expectancy

4.11.1 Life expectancy at birth (in years)

4.11.2 Life expectancy at birth by race and gender

Measurement: Average life expectancy is the number of years a person is expected to live from birth until death. Life expectancy is a prediction based on current year death rates for different age groups. Because average life expectancies are age-adjusted, comparison of life expectancies in Florida and the United States are not affected by the proportionally larger number of elderly people in Florida. Information is currently not available by county.

Explanation: A quality of life indicator used world-wide, life expectancy should increase with advances in medical treatment and prevention.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.11.3 Premature death

Measurement: Premature death is defined as dying before the age of 65. In 1996, the top 5 causes of premature death were (1) traffic accidents and other unintentional injuries, (2) cancer, (3) homicide and suicide, (4) HIV/AIDS and (5) heart disease. Years of life lost for an individual child or adult is calculated by subtracting the age of death from 65. The average number of years of life lost is the total number of years of life lost for all premature deaths divided by the number of people who died before age 65. The premature death rate is not comparable to the death rate reported in 4.12.1 because the former is based on the population ages 0-64 and is not age-adjusted.

Explanation: Premature deaths and the years of life lost should decrease as people get better health care and take better care of themselves.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.12 Deaths

4.12.1 Death rate

4.12.2 Top five causes of death

Measurement: Cause of death is determined by a private physician or medical examiner and recorded on the death certificate. Deaths include all county or state residents who die in any state or U.S. territory. The death rate is calculated by dividing the total number of deaths by the total population and multiplying by 100,000. Death rates are age-adjusted to account for Broward County's and Florida's high proportion of residents over age 65 and to make these death rates comparable to the nation's. Death rates are age-adjusted to the U.S. 1940 population which was younger than the 1990 population. As a result, causes of death for older people are underrepresented.

Explanation: Death rates indicate whether progress is being made in reducing the most serious effects of disease, accidents and crime.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.13 Preventable Cancer

4.13.1 Preventable cancer death rate

Measurement: Preventable cancer can generally be detected at an early stage or behaviorally prevented through reduced sun exposure, abstaining from smoking and following a



healthy diet. Examples of preventable cancer include breast, cervical, skin, lung, oral, and colorectal cancer. The preventable cancer death rate is (1) the number of preventable cancer deaths, divided by (2) the county population, multiplied by (3) 100,000.

Explanation: The devastating effects of preventable cancer can be reduced if people see a doctor when symptoms first appear and adopt healthy behaviors that reduce their cancer risk.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

4.13.2 Breast cancer diagnosis

4.13.3 Prostate cancer diagnosis

Measurement: Breast and prostate cancer is diagnosed at an early stage if the cancer is found before it has spread to surrounding organs, tissues and/or lymph nodes or to distant parts of the body.

Explanation: Early detection of breast and prostate cancer can save lives and is a good indicator of the preventive health care of the general population.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.14 Communicable Diseases

4.14.1 Major categories of communicable diseases

Measurement: Vaccine-preventable, sexually transmitted, intestinal and animal-transmitted disease categories encompass over 50 communicable diseases reported by laboratories, physicians, and other health providers to county public health units. Vaccine-preventable diseases include diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio,

smallpox, Hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella and HIB (a major cause of meningitis). Sexually transmitted diseases include gonorrhea, syphilis and other diseases transmitted through sexual contact. Intestinal diseases include hepatitis A, salmonella, giardiasis, shigellosis, and other diseases of the digestive system. Animal-transmitted diseases include rabies, encephalitis, brucellosis, and other diseases transmitted by rodents, insects and other animals. The increasing intestinal disease rate reflects improvements in surveillance and the diagnosis of new diseases that were not recognized in earlier years.

Explanation: The four major disease categories give the best overall picture of our success in preventing communicable diseases.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.14.2 Top four communicable diseases

Measurement: Gonorrhea is a bacterial infection, usually sexually transmitted, which is one of the leading causes of infertility. A person has Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) if he or she tests positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and has another condition or disease, such as recurring pneumonia or tuberculosis (TB). AIDS has no known cure and can be transmitted through sexual contact, intravenous drug use or blood transfusions. The definition of AIDS has become more inclusive over time. This change is reflected in the increase in the rate of new cases reported. Tuberculosis is a contagious respiratory disease, which can result in chronic disability and death if not appropriately treated. Syphilis, usually sexually transmitted, is a bacterial infection, which if left untreated, can affect the cardiovascular or central nervous systems and ultimately cause death. AIDS, syphilis and

gonorrhea can be transmitted by an infected mother to a newborn during either pregnancy or birth.

Explanation: Communicable diseases with the highest incidence are those spreading most quickly throughout the population. All of these diseases can be prevented. With the exception of AIDS, all can be successfully treated.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.15 Suicide

4.15.1 Suicide

4.15.2 Suicide by age group

Measurement: A death is attributed to suicide if a private physician or medical examiner lists suicide as the underlying cause of death on the death certificate. Numbers include all suicide deaths regardless of whether they occurred in the area, another state or an U.S. territory.

Explanation: Suicides indicate that people are having difficulty coping with personal crises, serious health problems, or other life stresses.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.16 Mental Health

4.16.1 Mental health of adults

Measurement: The mental health of adults is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "Now, thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?"



Explanation: People with mental health problems often have difficulty coping with life stresses and personal crises that may result in problems keeping a job or maintaining personal relationships.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

4.17 Immunizations

4.17.1 Immunizations

Measurement: A two-year-old is adequately immunized if he or she has received the required vaccines for the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella and HIB (a major cause of meningitis). The percentage of children who have completed these immunizations is determined from a statistically valid sample of children's medical records.

Explanation: Children need to be immunized during the first two years of life when they are most susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases that can result in death or disability.

Data source: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health; Tallahassee, FL.

4.18 Physical Fitness

4.18.1 Physical exercise

Measurement: Information about type, frequency, and intensity of up to two physical exercises is obtained by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "During the past month, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening or walking for exercise?" (b) "What type of physical activity or exercise did you spend the most time doing during the past month?" (c) "How many times per week or per month did you take part in this activity during the past month?" (d) "And when you took part in this activity, for how many minutes or hours did you usually keep at it?"

Explanation: Physical exercise increases strength, endurance, and cardiovascular health.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

4.18.2 Obesity

Measurement: Height and weight are obtained by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. The percentage overweight is determined using nationally standardized ideal body weights developed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

Explanation: Obesity increases the risk of serious and chronic health problems such as

heart disease, high blood pressure, knee and low back pain, diabetes, and certain cancers.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

4.19 Alcohol and Drug Use

4.19.1 Binge drinkers

4.19.2 Chronic drinkers

4.19.3 Use of illegal drugs

4.19.4 Misuse of prescription drugs

Measurement: Adult alcohol use is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks (1) "...keep in mind that a drink is 1 can or bottle of beer, 1 glass of wine, 1 can or bottle of wine cooler, 1 cocktail, or 1 shot of liquor. During the past month, on how many days did you drink any alcoholic beverages, such as beer, wine, wine coolers or liquor?" (2) "On the days when you drank, about how many drinks did you drink?" and (3) "Considering all types of alcoholic beverages how many times during the past month did you have 5 or more drinks on an occasion?" Questions (1) and (2) measure chronic drinking. Question (3) measures binge drinking. Drug use is assessed by asking "Have you used any illegal drugs during the past 12 months?" and "Have you used any prescription drugs not according to your doctor's orders during the past 12 months?"

Explanation: Alcohol and drug use can lead to health, family, crime, and employment problems. Misuse or abuse of prescription



drugs is a little documented problem that has potentially serious consequences, particularly among the elderly.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

4.20 Cigarette Smoking

4.20.1(a) Youth smoking

Measurement: Information about youth smoking is obtained from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States. The survey employs a sample of students in grades 9 through 12, in public and private schools in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The 1995 survey included state and local school-based surveys in the states and in 12 cities. One of the cities in the sample was Fort Lauderdale; the CDC reports that the weighted data from most of the cities can be generalized to all public-school students in the jurisdiction. Specifically, the item reported relates to the percentage of students who reported that they were current cigarette smokers, defined as having used cigarettes on one or more of the 30 days preceding the survey.

Explanation: Cigarette smoking has been linked to heart disease, cancer and other health problems.

Data source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 1995, Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, Centers for Disease Control, 1995.

4.20.1 (b) Adult smoking

Measurement: Information about adult smoking is obtained by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "Do you smoke cigarettes now?" Possible responses are "yes" or "no."

Explanation: Cigarette smoking has been linked to heart disease, cancer and other health problems.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

4.21 Check-ups / Preventive Health

4.21.1 Medical check-ups

Measurement: Information on medical check-ups is obtained by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "About how long has it been since you last visited a doctor for a routine check-up?" Possible responses are within the past year, within the past 2 years, within the past 5 years, 5 or more years ago, don't know/not sure, never, or refused to answer.

Explanation: Regular medical check-ups offer prevention and early detection of health problems.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

4.21.2 Mammograms

Measurement: Women over age 50 are questioned by telephone survey about how long it has been since their last mammogram and clinical breast exam. Specifically, the survey asks, "Have you ever had a mammogram?" and, "How long has it been since you had your last mammogram?" The survey also asks, "A clinical breast is when a doctor, nurse, or other health professional feels the breast for lumps. Have you ever had a clinical breast exam?" and "How long has it been since you had your last breast exam?" Possible responses are within the past year, within the past 2 years, within the past 3 years, within the past 5 years, 5 or more years ago, don't know/not sure, or refused to answer.

Explanation: An annual mammogram is recommended for all women age 50 and over by the majority of health organizations. Mammograms offer early detection of breast cancer, which can prevent the need for radical surgery and can strengthen chances of survival.

Broward data source: *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida, and Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL.

4.21.3 Dental check-ups

Measurement: Whether people have received dental checkups is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, survey respondents are asked,



“How long has it been since you last visited a dentist for a routine check up?” If the household has any children under 18, the respondent is asked, “Thinking about the child who had the most recent birthday, about how long has it been since this child visited a dentist for a routine check up?”

Explanation: Access to dental care is the most reliable indicator of the population’s dental health when information on actual dental health is not available.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

4.21.4 Safe sex

Measurement: The practice of safe sex is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents ages 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, “Do you practice safe sex?” Possible responses are “yes” and “no.”

Explanation: Reducing the incidence of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases requires people to adopt preventive health behaviors.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.



5.1 New Jobs Created

5.1.1 Net annual job growth rate

5.1.2 Broward County's ranking in net job growth rate

Measurement: The net annual job growth rate is (1) the number of non-agricultural jobs this year minus (2) the number of non-agricultural jobs last year divided by (3) the number of non-agricultural jobs last year multiplied by (4) 100. The number of non-agricultural jobs in a given year is calculated by averaging the number of public and private sector jobs reported by a sample of employers on a monthly survey. Both full and part-time jobs are counted. The public sector includes federal, state and local government. Rates for 1987 forward are not comparable to rates for prior years because of changes measurement methodology. For the ranking in job growth, Broward County is compared to the similar counties in Florida based on the size of their population as determined in 1996 by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida.

Explanation: Job growth is needed to offset job loss in existing industries and to keep pace with the state's population growth.

Broward data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Employment and Labor Security, Boynton Beach

Florida data source: Bureau of Labor Market Information, Division of Jobs and Benefits, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, Tallahassee (Florida and U.S. data).

5.2 Unemployment

5.2.1 Unemployment rate

Measurement: The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people age 16 and

older divided by the number of people in the civilian labor force. Broward County's unemployment rate as a percentage of the Florida (or U.S.) employment rate is (1) county's unemployment rate divided by (2) the state (or national) unemployment rate, multiplied by (3) 100. If this percentage is above 100%, Broward County is doing worse than Florida (or the nation). If it is less than 100%, Broward County is doing better than Florida (or the nation). The number of unemployed people is estimated from the Current Population Survey, a household survey of the civilian, non-institutional population conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. People are counted as unemployed if they (1) have not worked during the survey week, (2) are available for work, and (3) have looked for work during the preceding four weeks. Because of changes in the unemployment survey, the rates reported for 1990 forward are not comparable to rates reported for prior years. Being in school does not exclude people from being considered unemployed as long they are actively seeking but unable to find work.

Explanation: Job loss can have a devastating impact on people's lives as well as state and local economies.

Broward data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Employment and Labor Security, Boynton Beach

Florida data source: Bureau of Labor Market Information, Division of Jobs and Benefits, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, Tallahassee (Florida and U.S. data).

5.3 Teenage Unemployment

5.3.1 Teenage unemployment rate

Measurement: Teenage unemployment is presented for Florida's major racial and ethnic groups. Whites include Caucasians and White Hispanics. Blacks include African-Americans and Black Hispanics. Both White and Black Hispanics are included in a separate ethnic category called Hispanics. Total includes all races: Whites (including Hispanics), Blacks (including Hispanics), Asians/Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans. Similar information on Broward County will be included in the next edition.

Explanation: Job loss can have a devastating impact on people's lives as well as state and local economies.

Florida data source: Bureau of Labor Market Information, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, Tallahassee, FL.

5.4 Equal Employment Opportunity

Measurement: Complaints alleging employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, disability or marital status are investigated by the Federal Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. Resolved complaints are those substantiated by investigations and settled, either by arbitration or negotiation, referral to another agency for handling, or court action. Data are provided for Florida only; Broward County data will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Employment discrimination unfairly limits people's economic opportunities by restricting job access and career advancement.

Florida data source: U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission.



5.5 Personal Income

5.5.1 Average personal income

5.5.2 Broward County's ranking in average personal income

Measurement: Average personal income is the total personal income of Broward County residents divided by the county population. Broward County's average personal income as a percentage of the Florida (or U.S.) average personal income is (1) the county's average personal income divided by (2) the state (or national) average personal income, multiplied by (3) 100. If this percentage is above 100%, Broward County is doing better than Florida (or the nation). If it is less than 100%, Broward County is doing worse than Florida (or the nation). Total personal income is estimated annually by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, from the best available data sources on wages and salaries, interest, dividends, rental income, public pensions, health benefits, transfer payments (e.g., public assistance, Medicare/Medicaid), farm income, and other income sources. The resident population in non-census years is estimated by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida. Average personal income excludes private pensions and therefore will be underestimated in areas such as Florida and Broward County where there are a large number of retirees. Also, income estimates do not correct for regional differences in the cost of living. Average personal income is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation. Broward County's ranking in personal income shows how the county compares in average personal income to the other 67 counties in Florida.

Explanation: Average income generally reflects people's standard of living.

Broward data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Employment and Labor Security, Boynton Beach; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (ranking in average personal income)

Florida data source: Revenue and Economic Analysis Unit, Office of Planning and Budgeting, Executive Office of the Governor (Florida and U.S. data).

5.5.3 Growth in personal income adjusted for inflation

Measurement: Inflation-adjusted means that average personal income for each year is expressed in terms of 1994-95 dollars. Average personal income was calculated using information from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce (see endnote for indicator 5.5.1). The Chain Price Index, a new inflation adjustment index developed by the federal government, was used to convert nominal dollars to 1994-95 dollars. Annual growth in average personal income adjusted for inflation is calculated as (1) the average inflation-adjusted personal income for a given year minus (2) the average inflation-adjusted personal income for the previous year, divided by (3) the average inflation-adjusted personal income for the previous year, multiplied by 100.

Explanation: Growth in personal income adjusted for inflation indicates whether people's incomes are keeping pace with the cost of living.

Broward data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Employment and Labor Security, Boynton Beach

Florida data source: Revenue and Economic Analysis Policy Unit, Office of Planning and Budgeting, Executive Office of the Governor (Florida data and Chain Price Index).

5.5.4 Average personal income by race

Measurement: Average personal income by race is obtained from the U.S. Decennial Census. For the purposes of this indicator, average personal income for each racial and ethnic group is expressed as a percentage of the average personal income for the state as a whole. For example, in 1990, Blacks living in Florida had an average personal income that was 51% or about half of the state average. Racial and ethnic groups are defined as stated in endnote 5.3.1. The term "Hispanic" refers to an ethnicity, not a race. Therefore, Hispanics are counted not only as a separate ethnic group but also as Whites or Blacks, depending on their race.

Explanation: Average income generally reflects people's standard of living.

Broward data source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing* (Summary Tape File 3A CD-ROM).

Florida data source: Academic Computing & Networking Services, Florida State University.

5.6 Perception of Financial Situation

5.6.1 How people perceive their financial situation

Measurement: People's perception of their financial situation is a self-report measure of economic well-being obtained by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of Broward County and Florida residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "We are also interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you (and your family living in this household) are better off or worse financially than you were a year ago?" Possible responses are better off, same, worse off, don't know. The margin of error for the Broward County survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.



Explanation: People who believe their financial situation is improving are more likely to raise their standard of living and contribute to the local economy as consumers.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

Florida data source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, Gainesville.

5.7 Wages

5.7.1 Average wage

Measurement: Wages are defined as pre-tax income from wages and salaries earned by people in the workforce in full or part-time jobs. Employer paid benefits, such as health insurance and pension plans, are excluded. The average annual wage is (1) total wages reported by Broward County employers to the Florida Unemployment Compensation Program divided by (2) the average monthly number of employees working during the week of the 12th. The average wage is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation. Broward County's average wage as a percentage of the Florida (or U.S.) average wage is (1) the county's average wage divided by (2) the state (or national) average wage, multiplied by (3) 100. If this percentage is above 100%, Broward County is doing better than Florida (or the nation). If it is less than 100%, Broward County is doing worse than Florida (or the nation).

Explanation: People need to have a good income and earn decent wages in order to achieve a quality standard of living.

Broward data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Employment and Labor Security, Boynton Beach

Florida data source: Bureau of Labor Market Information, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, Tallahassee, FL.

5.7.2 Growth in average wage adjusted for inflation

Measurement: Wages are defined as pre-tax income from wages and salaries earned by people working for Florida employers in both the public and private sectors. The growth in wages adjusted for inflation shows how well wages have kept up with changes in the cost of living. To adjust for inflation, the average wage for each year is converted to 1995 dollars by dividing by the Chain Price Index, an inflation adjustment index newly developed by the federal government. This index measures the prices of a wide range of consumer goods and services taking into account changes in consumption patterns over time. Growth in the average wage in real or inflation-adjusted dollars is calculated annually by subtracting the average real wage for a given year from the average real wage for the previous year, (2) dividing by the average real wage for the previous year, and (3) multiplying by 100.

Explanation: Increased wages produce a higher standard of living and a stronger economy for the state as a whole.

Broward data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Employment and Labor Security, Boynton Beach

Florida data source: Bureau of Labor Market Information, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, Tallahassee; Office of Planning and Budgeting, Executive Office of the governor (Chain Price Index).

5.7.3 Average wage by industry

Measurement: Wages are defined as pre-tax income from wages and salaries earned by people in the workforce in full or part-time jobs. Employer-paid benefits, such as health

insurance and pension plans, are excluded. The average annual wage by industry is computed as (1) total wages reported to the Florida Unemployment Compensation Program by Broward County employers in a given industry, divided by (2) the average monthly number of employees working in that industry during the week of the 12th. The industry of employers is identified by their Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. The average wage for each industry is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation.

Explanation: Increased wages produce a higher standard of living and a stronger economy for the state as a whole.

Data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Employment and Labor Security, Boynton Beach.

5.8 Wage Distribution

Measurement: The wage distribution is a frequency distribution showing the proportion of all full and part-time workers earning annual wages ranging from the lowest to the highest. For consistency with Enterprise Florida's definition of high wage jobs, the high wage group is defined as people earning 15% or more above the average state wage. The middle group, therefore, is defined as people earning within 15% above or below the average state wage. The low wage group is defined as wage earners at the lowest end of the distribution (15% or more below the average state wage). If Florida is successful in attracting higher wage jobs, the percentage of people earning middle and high wages should increase. Quarterly wages are reported by employers covered by the Unemployment Compensation program, which includes about 96% of all public and private sector employers in the state. Using social security numbers as an identifier, annual



wages for each employee were calculated by totaling reported wages for all four quarters. The wage distribution includes all full and part-time workers on an employer's payroll at any time during the year. Data are provided for Florida only; information is currently unavailable by county.

Explanation: To improve their standard of living, people need to move out of lower wage jobs and into higher wage jobs.

Data source: Bureau of Tax, Division of Unemployment Compensation, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security.

5.9 Output of Goods and Services

5.9.1 Growth in output

Measurement: The gross state product (GSP) is the market value of the goods and services produced by labor and property in Florida. The gross domestic product (GDP) is the same measure nationally. Growth in output is expressed as the percentage change from one year to the next. For example, the percentage for 1990 is the percentage increase in production from 1989 to 1990. The GSP and GDP are calculated by the Regional Economic Measurement Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce. Because of the two-year lag in BEA information, estimates for recent years are produced by the Division of Economic and Demographic Research, Joint Legislative Management Committee, Florida Legislature. Information on growth in output is currently unavailable by county.

Explanation: Gross state product is a general measure of business activity.

Data source: Revenue and Economic Analysis Unit, Office of Planning and Budgeting,

Executive Office of the Governor. (Florida and U.S. data)

5.10 Major Industries

5.10.1 Jobs by major industry

5.10.2 Government jobs

5.10.3 Change in jobs by major industry

Measurement: The number of jobs in a given industry is calculated by averaging the number of public and private sector jobs reported quarterly by employers to the Unemployment Compensation program. Both full and part-time jobs are counted. Jobs are classified into nine major industries based on the employer's primary line of business, identified by the first digit of the employer's Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. Public employers include federal, state and local government. For each industry, the percentage change in employment is (1) the number of jobs during the current year minus the number of jobs the previous year, divided by (2) the number of jobs the previous year, and multiplied by (3) 100. A positive number indicates growth in the number of jobs for a particular industry; a negative number indicates a decline.

Explanation: Job growth by industry shows how Broward County's major industries are expanding and contracting over time.

Broward data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Employment and Labor Security, Boynton Beach.

Florida data source: Bureau of Labor Market Information, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, Tallahassee, FL.

5.11 Tourism

This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

5.12 Defense Industry

5.12.1 Defense spending

Measurement: The dollars spent by the Department of Defense (DOD) in Florida include payroll outlays to active duty military, civilians working for the military, reservists and members of the National Guard and retired military living in Florida. Prime defense contract dollars are for those that are \$25,000 or more and include supply, research and development, service, construction and civil function contracts. Subcontractor information is not available. Although some contract amounts may include subcontracts to non-Florida firms, a 1979 DOD study found that, for the most part, non-Florida contractors who subcontract to Florida firms balance out the difference. Military is defined as U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Defense spending is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation.

Explanation: Defense spending in Florida, as home to major military installations and destination for military retirees, represents an important element of our economy. By establishing baseline data on military spending, the effect of base closures can be calculated in future years.

Data source: Atlas/Data Abstract for the U.S. and Selected Areas, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, U.S. Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.



5.12.2 Defense-related employment

Measurement: Department of Defense personnel - civilian, military and reservist - who have their official residence in Florida are included in the personnel count. Persons working under contract to the military are excluded.

Explanation: Defense employment in Florida, as home to major military installations, represents an important element of our economy. By establishing baseline data on military spending, the effect of base closures can be calculated in future years.

Data source: Atlas/Data Abstract for the U.S. and Selected Areas, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, U.S. Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.

5.13 Business Starts

5.13.1 Business starts

Measurement: A corporation is a business entity owned by stockholders that is incorporated under the laws of a state. New business entities are defined as any for-profit corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, professional association, or similar entity establishing a business in Florida for the first time. Broward trend data includes businesses designating Broward County as principal place of business in the state. Non-profit corporations and foreign corporations (corporations headquartered out-of-state) are excluded. A fictitious name is any name other than the legal name, under which a person or entity transacts business in Florida (Section 865.09, *Florida Statutes*). Fictitious names, which are legally required to register with the Department of State, include (1) general partnerships and limited partnerships, (2) corporations and similar business entities, and (3) sole proprietorships. Only those fictitious

names designating Broward County as their principal place of business in Florida are included in this measure. Duplication between corporations and fictitious names is minimal because corporations generally do not file fictitious names unless they start a new business venture or activity. Business entities, such as corporations, limited partnerships and limited liability companies, and fictitious names are registered with the Division of Corporations at the Florida Department of State. Only new filings designating Broward County as their principal place of business are reported for this indicator; renewals are excluded.

Explanation: Business starts strengthen the economy by increasing job growth and the production of goods and services in Florida.

Broward data source: Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State.

5.14 Business Failures

5.14.1 Business failures

Measurement: Business failures are defined as businesses that (1) ceased operations following assignment or bankruptcy, (2) ceased operations with loss to creditors after such actions as foreclosure or attachment, (3) were involved in court actions such as receivership, reorganization or arrangement, or (4) voluntarily compromised with creditors. Voluntary business closures involving no loss to creditors are excluded. Data are gathered from bankruptcy courts and Dun & Bradstreet field reporters. Preliminary data are reported for 1994. The Dun & Bradstreet Corporation reports that, historically, preliminary data have closely approximated the final numbers. Information is provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: A strong economy depends not only on business starts, but also on business survival.

Florida data source: Economic Analysis Department, The Dun & Bradstreet Corporation, Wilton, Connecticut.

5.15 Business Ownership

5.15.1 Minority-owned businesses

5.15.2 Women-owned businesses

Measurement: Nationally, business ownership is measured by the Survey of Minority and Women-Owned Businesses conducted every 5 years as part of the U.S. Economic Census. Included in the survey are all sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations with fewer than 35 shareholders filing tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service. Race and gender are measured based on survey responses and information obtained from Social Security Administration records. Information is available on a national and state level, but not by county. Also, information is obtained only for businesses owned by Blacks, not all minorities. The survey defines a Black or woman-owned business as a commercial establishment in which half or more of the owners are Blacks or women, respectively. Currently, survey data are not available by county.

Explanation: Broward County's economy could be strengthened by giving people of all races, cultures, and genders the opportunity to own and operate their own businesses

Data source: Company Statistics Branch, Agricultural and Financial Statistics Division, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.



5.16 Construction Activity

5.16.1 Housing starts

5.16.2 Dollar value of new construction

Measurement: A housing start is defined as the start-up of construction of single or multi-family housing units, excluding mobile homes. The dollar value of residential construction is the total value of winning contract bids for the construction of new single-family and multi-family housing permitted in a given year. Construction value is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation.

Explanation: Increased construction activity is a sign of economic strength and recovery.

Broward data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Employment and Labor Security, Boynton Beach

Florida data source: Revenue and Economic Analysis Unit, Office of Planning and Budgeting, Executive Office of the Governor, Tallahassee, FL.

5.17 International Trade

This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

5.18 Private Capital Investment

This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

5.19 Public Capital Investment

This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

5.20 Retirement

5.20.1 Pension coverage

Measurement: For statewide information on the number of employees participating and vested in employer-sponsored pension plans, the GAP Commission requested a special analysis of data from the Employee Benefits Supplement to the April 1993 Current Population Survey, conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This survey is administered to a national sample of wage and salary workers, excluding the self-employed and enlisted military personnel. An employer pension plan is a 401(k), annuity, profit sharing or other type of retirement plan sponsored by an employer. Social Security and personal retirement plans, such as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), are excluded. Employees are participating in an employer pension plan if they and/or their employer are making contributions to a retirement plan sponsored by their employer. Employees are vested in an employer pension plan if they have had sufficient time with a current or previous employer to receive benefits upon retirement. Results are statistically valid for Florida's wage and salary employees. Similar information may be provided for Broward County in the next edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Retirement income is essential to the quality of life and economic self-sufficiency of the elderly.

Florida data source: Office of Research and Economic Analysis, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

5.20.2 Retirement income and assets

Measurement: For statewide information on retiree income and net worth, the GAP

Commission requested a special analysis of Florida data from *Asset and Health Dynamics Among the Oldest Old (AHEAD)*, a survey sponsored by the National Institute on Aging. Statistically valid data on Florida residents age 70 and older was possible because of the oversample of Florida households. This survey provides up-to-date information on changes in the health and financial status of older-age households. Household income and net worth are calculated based on answers to multiple questions related to the household's financial situation. A median household income of \$16,010 means that 50% of households with residents age 70 and older have an annual income below \$16,010. Likewise, a median net worth of \$71,325 means that 50% of these households have a net worth below \$71,325. The survey excludes people living in institutions. Income and net worth are expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation.

Explanation: Retirement income is essential to the quality of life and economic self-sufficiency of the elderly.

Florida data source: The Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.



6.1 Air Quality

6.1.1 Days of good air quality

Measurement: The air quality index, developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is reported by Broward County's Department of Natural Resource Protection on a daily basis to advise people of pollutant levels that may adversely affect their health. Five pollutants are measured: carbon monoxide, particulate matter (i.e., dust), ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. The index is based on the pollutant present at the highest level compared to its EPA standard. In Broward County, the highest level pollutant is usually ozone, which can cause breathing difficulties for people with asthma or other respiratory ailments. To a lesser extent, the highest level pollutants are carbon monoxide, which tends to be higher in the winter months, and fine particulate matter (PM10). A good air quality index means that no adverse health effects are expected. Air quality indices cannot be compared across counties because health effects will vary depending upon the highest level pollutant used to compute the index. Broward County's air quality index can be obtained each day by telephone (954-519-1280); or from an annual summary on the department's website (<http://www.co.broward.fl.us/aqi00400.htm>).

Explanation: Clean air is essential to people's health and well-being.

Data source: Department of Natural Resource Protection, Broward County, Florida.

6.1.2 Radon in buildings

Measurement: Radon is a radioactive gas that has been linked to lung cancer. It is caused by the natural breakdown of uranium and can be found in high concentrations in soils and rocks containing uranium, granite, shale, phosphate, and pitchblende. Soils contaminated with certain types of industrial wastes, such as the

by-products of uranium or phosphate mining, also may contain large amounts of radon.

People cannot see, smell or taste radon. In outdoor air, it is diluted to such low concentrations that it is not a problem. However, when it accumulates in buildings in sufficient quantities, it may present health risks to people who are exposed to it over time. Indoor levels depend on a building's construction and the concentration of radon in the underlying soil. The health risks depend on the level of radon and the length of exposure. State law (Section 404.056(6), *Florida Statutes*) required that the following buildings be tested for radon by July 1, 1990: (1) all public and private schools with students in kindergarten through grade 12, (2) all 24-hour care facilities (such as hospitals or group homes) that are owned, operated, licensed or regulated by the state, and (3) all state-licensed day care centers for children or minors. The percentage of housing units with elevated levels of radon is based on voluntary tests made by property owners on apartments, condominiums, townhouses and single-family homes. Because these tests are voluntary, they will tend to represent the homes of average and above average income households who can afford to pay for radon tests. Data on radon levels will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: The American Lung Association estimates that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

Data source: Radon and Indoor Air Section, Bureau of Environmental Toxicology, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee (testing results); American Cancer Society (descriptive information).

6.2 Groundwater Quality

6.2.1 Quality of groundwater

6.2.2 Deterioration in groundwater quality

6.2.3 Sources of pollutants

Measurement: Statewide, groundwater quality is measured by testing 1,700 active wells, tapping each of the state's major aquifers. One-third of the wells in each water management district are tested for a standard list of pollutants. As of 1994, a complete sampling had been done one time. When, according to federal and state water quality standards, the level of pollutants threatens the health of the population, contamination exceeds what is considered a safe level. Four types of contaminants are tested: (1) pesticides (2) nutrients, (3) trace metals and (4) volatile organic compounds. (For a description of each, see 6.2.3 Sources of pollutants.) Groundwater monitoring is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Sampling is conducted by contracting with the five water management districts and six county governments. Information on the change or deterioration of groundwater wells since 1994 will be available in 1998. The sampling procedure used is designed to provide only indications of background or ambient water quality. As such, monitoring wells are generally placed away from population centers in areas where contamination is not anticipated. The results must be further qualified because testing occurs at different times during the year, thus hindering comparability across the sample. Therefore, the data about contaminated wells provides limited information about groundwater quality. The Department of Environmental Protection has a second groundwater testing network of 22 very intense study areas wells (VISAs) which focus on those places which are likely to be vulnerable to contamination. The Department



is developing a method for integrating information from VISA and other monitoring wells to arrive at an overall measure of groundwater quality. Information on groundwater quality in Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water in Florida. Groundwater is vulnerable to pollution because aquifers are located very close to the surface where they can easily be contaminated by leaking underground storage tanks, hazardous waste dumps, septic tanks and agricultural pesticides.

Data source: Bureau of Information Systems, Ground Water Quality Monitoring Section, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

6.3 Surface Water Quality

6.3.1 Quality of surface water

6.3.2 Deterioration in surface water quality

6.3.3 Sources of pollution

6.3.4 Surface water usable for fishing and swimming

Measurement: Surface waters refer to lakes, streams, rivers, bays and other water bodies on the surface of the earth. Statewide, the quality of these surface water bodies is monitored at 3,000 sampling stations by state agencies, counties and the U. S. Geological Survey. Quality is rated good, fair or poor. These ratings are determined using an index based on water clarity, nutrients, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll concentration and other characteristics. The Broward County Department of Natural Resource Protection tests surface water quality in specific locations of the county, as needed, to address current problems and concerns. Available data do not

permit comparisons over time or represent a county-wide perspective.

Explanation: Surface water is a key element in many unique ecosystems, including the Everglades, which supports a variety of plants and animals found nowhere else on earth. It also is vital for boating, fishing, swimming and other forms of recreation that attract visitors from all over the world.

Data source: Bureau of Surface Water Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Water Management Division, Broward County Department of Natural Resources.

6.4 Water Use

6.4.1 Water demand by source

Measurement: Demand on water supplies is measured by the amount of water withdrawn by source. "Groundwater", the most critical source, refers to freshwater withdrawn from underground aquifers. "Surface water" refers to water withdrawn from fresh water bodies, such as lakes.

Explanation: To plan for future needs, we need to know what water sources are being used most rapidly and what areas of the county have the greatest need or usage.

Data source: U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Tallahassee, in cooperation with the South Florida Water Management District.

6.4.2 Water consumption

6.4.3 Per capita water consumption

Measurement: Average daily water consumption is the amount of water used by type of user. Households, businesses and industries served by public water suppliers and private wells include indoor and outdoor water use by households, hotels, restaurants, and

other commercial establishments who get their water from public suppliers, such as city and county water departments, or from private wells. Private wells account for a very small portion of water consumption in Broward County and therefore is combined with public supply. Water usage from public suppliers is measured by meter records. Agricultural, recreational and private well usage is estimated. Commercial/industrial use is collected through permit records and reports to state and federal agencies. Water use for thermoelectric power production is excluded because (a) it is a mix of fresh and salt water and (b) it is primarily recirculated. Water withdrawals for agricultural and recreational use were reported separately beginning in 1990. Prior to that time, they were both reported as agricultural use. Per capita water consumption is the (1) number of gallons used per day by households and business on public supply divided by (2) the number of people served by public suppliers.

Explanation: Broward County's growing population is placing increasing demands on the freshwater supplies, particularly groundwater. Reducing water consumption is one way to manage this important resource.

Data source: U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Tallahassee, in cooperation with the South Florida Water Management District.

6.4.4 Reuse of reclaimed water

Measurement: Reclaimed water is water that has been treated and disinfected by domestic wastewater treatment facilities in order to be used for agricultural irrigation, landscape irrigation, industrial uses, ground water recharge, and other beneficial purposes. Reuse of reclaimed water is important to water management because it decreases the demand on fresh water supplies that are needed for



drinking water. The *percentage of domestic wastewater reused* is (1) the amount of domestic wastewater that is reclaimed and reused for beneficial purposes, divided by (2) the total flow of domestic wastewater to treatment plants, multiplied by (3) 100. The *reuse capacity* is the daily amount of reclaimed water that could be reused in Broward County. It is calculated by summing the permitted reuse capacity at all domestic wastewater treatment facilities in the county.

Explanation: Reuse of reclaimed water helps conserve limited water supplies, recharges water resources, and provides an environmentally sound means of wastewater management.

Data source: Domestic Wastewater Section; Bureau of Water Facilities, Planning and Regulation; Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.

6.5 Wildlife Habitat

6.5.1 Wildlife habitat

Measurement: Acreage of natural areas includes 6,423 acres identified by a Natural Areas Survey conducted by the Environmental Coalition of Broward County in 1986-7 and 5,21,090 acres of the Everglades National Park measured using the Park's geographic information system (GIS). The purpose of the Coalition was to identify Local Areas of Particular Concern to be targeted for acquisition. Based on field visits, a team of local botanists identified these areas using ten criteria: (1) prime examples of key community types, (2) species diversity, (3) manageability, (4) feasibility of acquisition, (5) surrounding land use, (6) geographic distribution, (7) threat from development, (8) size, (9) likelihood of protection by another method and (10) rarity. Acreage of the Everglades National Park

located in Broward County includes Big Cypress National Preserve, Pensuoco wetlands, the Miccosukee and Seminole Indian Reservations and Water Conservation Areas 2, 3A and 3B.

Explanation: Changes in land use resulting from Florida's population growth have a significant effect on Florida's natural habitat.

Data source: *Natural Areas Survey, Broward County, Florida 1986-87* obtained from the Broward County Parks and Recreation Division; Beard Research Center, Everglades National Park.

6.5.2 Rare and imperiled species

Measurement: "Rare" means a species is showing a decline in population; "imperiled" means a species is living in a habitat prone to development or subject to other disturbances. The species fitting these descriptions are counted based on field observations, reported sightings, and scientific studies.

Explanation: By protecting species from extinction, Broward County can preserve its rich abundance of native plants and animals.

Data source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, a cooperative effort of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Headquarters Science Division of The Nature Conservancy.

6.6 Wetlands

6.6.1 Total wetlands acreage

6.6.2 Wetlands as a percentage of total land

6.6.3 Impact of state permitting on wetlands

Measurement: Wetlands are customarily called marshes, bogs, swamps, sloughs, mud flats or wet prairies. They are lands inundated by water or located near a water table close to the surface. Florida suffered its greatest losses in wetlands acreage before 1980. For example,

between 1936 and 1980, marshlands were reduced by 3,250,000 acres. Florida's growth in population, urbanization, rangeland, and economic development have all contributed to reduction in these valuable lands. Acreage of wetlands areas also can increase or decrease for a variety of reasons other than direct impact by humans, such as changes in the water table, sea level, or the methodology by which they are delineated. Information on wetlands acreage is gathered from two major sources: (1) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service using aerial photography and (2) by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission using satellite imagery. These methods can produce information for the state as a whole, but not by county. The Broward County Department of Resource Protection maintains a map of areas where wetlands are likely to be located. A determination is made if and when land developers apply for permits. Although useful for land management purposes, this map cannot be used to measure total wetlands acreage.

Explanation: Wetlands are important for replenishing and maintaining groundwater supplies. They also provide habitat for a rich variety of native wildlife.

Data source: These items will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

6.7 Invasion of Exotic Species

6.7.1 Coverage

6.7.2 Percentage of covered natural areas that have been cleared of exotic species

Measurement: Exotic species refer to plants that are not indigenous to Broward County. Examples of exotics are melaluca, brazilian pepper, carrotwood, "air potato," schefflera, woman's tongue and kalanchoe. Many of these plants have been used in Broward County for



landscaping or erosion control. However, these benefits have been offset by negative impacts on the natural environment.

Explanation: Exotics can significantly change the characteristics of existing habitat needed for the survival of native plants and animals.

Data source: Broward County Parks and Recreation Division.

6.8 Coastline

6.8.1 Sandy beach

Measurement: Sandy beaches are defined as open areas of sand along the coastline. The mileage reported includes sandy beaches fronting the Atlantic Ocean. Mangrove and sawgrass shoreline is excluded. Total coastline is the mileage of Broward County's entire shoreline, including barrier islands and the mainland. Lagoons and bays are excluded. The percentage of total coastline that is sandy beach is (1) the number of miles of sandy beach, divided by (2) the miles of coastline, multiplied by (3) 100.

Explanation: Beaches provide protection from hurricanes and a habitat for coastal plants and animals.

Data source: Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.

6.8.2 Critically eroding beaches

Measurement: Beach erosion refers to sand-shifting that results from development of near-shore areas rather than from natural causes. Critical erosion areas are identified using historical shoreline maps, aerial photography, videos, beach and offshore databases, and shoreline studies conducted by government agencies, universities and private firms.

Explanation: Beach erosion threatens habitat for coastal plants and animals and is a serious concern of beachfront property owners.

Data source: Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.

6.8.3 Natural coastal areas

Measurement: Statewide, the acreage of natural coastal uplands is estimated by interpretation of aerial photographs provided by the Florida Department of Transportation, supplemented by field visits to selected sites. Acres of coastal uplands remaining in natural condition include barrier islands and the mainland for Florida's 24 counties with predominantly sandy coasts. The percentage of total coastal upland acreage remaining in natural condition is available for barrier islands only. Information on Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Natural coastal areas provide protection from hurricanes, a habitat for coastal plant and animal species as well as areas for recreational and residential use.

Florida data source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory, a cooperative effort of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Headquarters Science Division of The Nature Conservancy.

6.9 Coral Reefs

6.9.1 Coral reefs

Measurement: Statewide, the health of coral reefs is monitored using periodic sampling at thirteen reef sites in Florida's coastal waters. Information is collected by federal, state and local agencies and reported to the Florida Marine Research Institute. The Broward County Department of Natural Resource Protection has been measuring the impact of

beach renourishment projects on specific reefs. However, data on the overall health of coral reefs in Broward County are not available.

Explanation: In Florida, sea life is an important natural resource for recreation and the fishing industry. The health of coral reefs, sea grasses and fish are key indicators of the health of sea life in general.

Florida data source: Florida Marine Research Institute, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

6.10 Land Stewardship

6.10.1 Land in managed areas

Measurement: Land in managed areas is county, state and federally owned acreage that offers some degree of legal protection to plants and animals living within its boundaries. In Broward County, the majority of these lands are in the Everglades National Park. Acreage of the Everglades National Park located in Broward County was measured using a geographic information system (GIS) and includes Big Cypress National Preserve, Pensuco wetlands, the Miccosukee and Seminole Indian Reservations and Water Conservation Areas 2, 3A and 3B. Private lands are excluded from this indicator as are aquatic preserves and conservation easements.

Explanation: Setting aside vulnerable lands through purchasing or management programs protects the county's natural resources.

Data source: Broward County Parks and Recreation Division (a and b); Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL (c), Beard Research Center, Everglades National Park (d).

6.10.2 Aquatic preserves



This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

6.11 Energy Use

6.11.1 Total energy use per resident

Measurement: Total energy use per resident is the total amount of energy used from all sources divided by the number of residents. Energy sources include petroleum-based fuels, natural gas, coal, nuclear energy, and renewable energy sources, such as solar, hydroelectric, ethanol, and woodwaste. Data are available statewide but not by county.

Explanation: Energy consumption places demands on our resources and contributes to environmental pollution.

Data source: Energy Office, Florida Department of Community Affairs, Tallahassee, FL.

6.11.2 Use of renewable energy sources

Measurement: Renewable energy sources which are tracked by the Florida Energy Office include ethanol, wood and waste, and direct solar. The most abundant native fuel source for Florida is solar power. Wind and animal wastes are excluded because of their minimal usage in Florida. Data are available by state but not by county.

Explanation: The use of alternative energy sources reduces the environmental impacts of fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum and natural gas.

Florida data source: Florida Energy Office, Bureau of Community Development, Florida Department of Community Affairs, Tallahassee, FL.

6.11.3(a) Electrical energy conservation

6.11.3(b) Electrical demand reduction

These items will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

6.11.3(c) Daily household electricity consumption per resident

6.11.3(d) Total daily electricity consumption

Measurement: Household electricity consumption per resident is the average number of kilowatt hours used per day by Broward County residents for household purposes. An increase in this number reflects an increase in the amount of electricity consumed per person. Total daily electricity consumption is the number of kilowatt-hours consumed per day by all users, including households and commercial establishments.

An increase in this number may reflect population growth, the influx of new industry, or higher consumption by individual households and businesses.

Explanation: Reducing our electricity consumption decreases the need to construct new power plants.

Broward data source: Florida Power & Light, Miami.

Florida data source: Florida Energy Office, Bureau of Community Development, Florida Department of Community Affairs, Tallahassee, FL.

6.11.4 Motor fuel consumption

Measurement: Motor fuel consumption is the number of gallons of motor fuel purchased by residents and tourists in Florida. It is estimated from taxes collected on the sale of gasoline and gasohol. The per resident measure is calculated by dividing the total number of gallons sold in Broward County by the county population. Broward County's motor fuel consumption per resident may be higher than in other counties because tourists are included in gasoline sales, but not the county population. Although the Broward County residents use mainly

electricity for household use, they are highly dependent on petroleum-based fuel for their transportation needs.

Explanation: The burning of fossil fuels is a major contributor to poor air quality and global warming.

Data source: 1996 Florida Motor Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Report, Florida Energy Office, Florida Department of Community Affairs, Tallahassee, FL, June 1997, Table 9.

6.12 Waste Management

6.12.1 Waste production

Measurement: Municipal solid waste collected is garbage from homes, businesses and institutions that is collected by cities, counties, or private contractors or deposited directly by individuals at landfill, recycling or waste-to-energy facilities. Medical waste (such as syringes), hazardous waste (such as paints and solvents), nuclear waste and certain industrial wastes are excluded. The pounds of municipal solid waste collected per Broward County resident per year are calculated by dividing the total pounds of municipal solid waste collected by the county population.

Explanation: Waste disposal becomes a greater problem as the county population grows larger. One way to better manage this problem is to reduce the amount of waste that we produce.

Data source: *Solid Waste Management in Florida*, Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Division of Waste Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.

6.12.2 Waste disposal

Measurement: **Recycled** waste is solid waste processed, reused or returned to use as raw materials or products. Examples are bottles, cans, newspapers, yard waste, construction materials and appliances. Through 1995,



reporting of recycled waste has been mandatory for public waste processing facilities and voluntary for private waste processing facilities. **Landfilled** waste consists of food waste, food and beverage containers, construction debris, yard waste, paper, appliances and similar types of waste that are taken to parcels of land designated for disposal of these items. Data are provided for Class I, II and III landfills. **Combusted** waste is disposed at waste-to-energy facilities that burn garbage, instead of coal or other fuels, to produce electricity. Landfills use up valuable land and can threaten the environment if they are not built, used and maintained properly. Waste-to-energy facilities are a potential threat to air quality if they do not have controls that prevent the release of pollutants into the air.

Explanation: Recycling reduces our need for landfills and incinerators and provides manufacturers a substitute for natural resources in their search for raw materials.

Data source: *Solid Waste Management in Florida*, Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Division of Waste Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.

6.13 Hazardous Waste

This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

6.14 Litter

6.14.1 Roads

6.14.2 Fresh waterways

6.14.3 Coast

These items will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.



7.1 Citizen Trust in Government

7.1.1 Public trust in government

Measurement: Public trust in government is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, “How much of the time do you think you can trust Florida state government to do what is right? Would you say just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, never, or don't know.” The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: Greater trust in government reflects public confidence that tax dollars are spent wisely with the intended results. As trust in government improves, people will be more likely to participate in representative government and to support government-funded services such as public education and transportation improvements.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska
Florida data source: *Florida Annual Policy Survey*, Survey Research Laboratory, Policy Sciences Center, Florida State University.

7.1.2 Public rating of local government

Measurement: The general public's rating of local government is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, “Would you rate the job your local government is doing as excellent, good, fair, or poor?” The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: Higher ratings of government performance reflect public confidence that tax dollars are spent wisely with the intended results. As the public perception of

government improves, people will be more likely to participate in representative government and to support government-funded services such as public education and transportation improvements.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska
Florida data source: *Florida Annual Policy Survey*, Survey Research Laboratory, Policy Sciences Center, Florida State University.

7.2 Public Satisfaction

7.2.1 Public satisfaction with government services

Measurement: Public satisfaction with government services is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, “In general, would you say that government services where you live are: excellent, good, fair, poor, or don't know or not sure?” The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: Citizen satisfaction with government services is an important outcome to consider in judging government performance.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska
Florida data source: *Florida Annual Policy Survey*, Survey Research Laboratory, Policy Sciences Center, Florida State University.

7.3 Government Spending

7.3.1 Taxes

7.3.2 Taxes relative to personal income

7.3.3 Ranking in local taxes

These items will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

7.4 Waste In Government

7.4.1 Public perception of government waste

Measurement: The general public's perception of waste in government is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, “How much of each tax dollar you pay to state government would you say is wasted, all of it, most of it, some of it, hardly any of it, or don't know?” The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: Citizen satisfaction with government will not improve unless people are convinced that their tax dollars are not being wasted.

Broward data source: *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska
Florida data source: *Florida Annual Policy Survey*, Survey Research Laboratory, Policy Sciences Center, Florida State University.

7.5 Government Employment

7.5.1 Size of government relative to size of the population

Measurement: The number of local government employees per 100 county residents is the (1)



average number of full-time and part-time jobs reported by local government to the Florida Unemployment Compensation program, divided by (2) the county population, multiplied by (3) 100. The number of government employees per 100 county residents is (1) the average number of full-time and part-time jobs reported by federal, state and local government to the Florida Unemployment Compensation Program, divided by (2) the county population, multiplied by (3) 100.

Explanation: Government has come under increasing scrutiny by many who believe that the size and cost of government has grown too much.

Data source: Region VI Office, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, Boynton Beach, FL.

7.5.2 Broward County's rank in size of local government

This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

7.6 County Financial Management

7.6.1 National ranking

7.6.2 County debt

7.6.3 Credit rating

7.6.4 Rainy day funds

These items will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

7.7 Use of Outcome Measures

7.7.1 Outcomes of county strategic plans

7.7.2 County budget tied to performance measures

These items will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

7.8 Achievement of Results

7.8.1 Achievement of results by local agencies

Measurement: Achievement of outcomes is determined by whether agencies meet or exceed the performance standards for major programs specified in their agency budgets. A hypothetical objective that expresses an outcome is: Place 80% of job training graduates in jobs within 6 months of program completion.

Explanation: Tax dollars should be spent on services and programs that produce results.

Data source: This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

7.9 Presidential Elections

7.9.1 Voter registration in presidential election years

Measurement: The voting age population, as estimated by the U.S. Census, consists of all people age 18 and older regardless of whether they meet Florida voter registration requirements. Registered voters are people who (1) meet age, residency and citizenship requirements, (2) do not have a criminal history, and (3) do not claim the right to vote in another state. In Florida, citizens may register to vote by mail, at county election offices, during official voter registration drives, or at drivers license offices. Beginning in January 1995, people could register to vote in Florida at the time they applied for drivers licenses.

Explanation: Those who register to vote are likely to have a greater interest in their governance than those who do not.

Data source: Broward County Supervisor of Elections, Office of Voter Registration.

7.9.2 Registered voter turnout in presidential election years

Measurement: Voter turnout is number of registered voters who voted at the polls or by absentee ballot divided by the number of registered voters. In this indicator, turnout is reported only for presidential election years in which the President and Vice President, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Florida House members, one-half the Florida Senate and a portion of the constitutional county officials are on the ballot. U.S. Senators are elected every six years.

Explanation: The turnout on election day indicates the level of interest citizens have in their governance.

Broward data source: Broward County Supervisor of Elections, Office of Voter Registration.

Florida data source: Division of Elections, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL.

7.9.3 Overall voter turnout in presidential election years

Measurement: Voter turnout is number of persons who voted at the polls or by absentee ballot divided by the total number of persons age 18 and older in the Broward County population. In this indicator, turnout is reported only for presidential election years in which the President and Vice President, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Florida House members, one-half the Florida Senate and a portion of the constitutional county officials are on the ballot. U.S. Senators are elected every six years.

Explanation: The turnout on election day indicates the level of interest citizens have in their governance.



Broward data source: Broward County Supervisor of Elections, Office of Voter Registration.

Florida data source: Division of Elections, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL.

7.10 Non-Presidential Elections

7.10.1 Voter registration in non-presidential election years

Measurement: The voting age population, as estimated by the U.S. Census, consists of all people age 18 and older regardless of whether they meet Florida voter registration requirements. Registered voters are people who (1) meet age, residency and citizenship requirements, (2) do not have a criminal history, and (3) do not claim the right to vote in another state. In Florida, citizens may register to vote by mail or at county elections offices, official voter registration drives, or drivers license offices. Beginning in January 1995, people could register to vote in Florida at the time they applied for drivers licenses.

Explanation: Those who register to vote are likely to have a greater interest in their governance than those who do not.

Broward data source: Broward County Supervisor of Elections, Office of Voter Registration.

Florida data source: Division of Elections, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL.

7.10.2 Registered voter turnout in non-presidential election years

Measurement: Voter turnout is number of Broward County registered voters who voted at the polls or by absentee ballot divided by the number of registered voters in the county. Non-presidential election years include the election of the governor and lieutenant governor, Florida cabinet members, one-half of

the Florida Senate, all members of the Florida House of Representatives, U.S. House of Representatives, and a portion of the state's constitutional county officials. U.S. Senators are elected every six years.

Explanation: Those who register to vote are likely to have a greater interest in their governance than those who do not.

Broward data source: Broward County Supervisor of Elections, Office of Voter Registration.

Florida data source: Division of Elections, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL.

7.10.3 Overall voter turnout in non-presidential election years

This item will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

7.11 Candidates for Public Office

7.11.1 Elective office-seeking in presidential election years

7.11.2 Elective office-seeking in non-presidential election years

Measurement: Candidates include all those who have qualified to run for election to public office with the exception of supreme court and district court of appeal judges (who run for retention and do not face an opponent in elections) at three levels of government: federal, state and county. The number of offices up for election include contested and non-contested offices. The number of offices differs because certain offices are up for election every four or six years. Data are provided for Florida only; data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

Explanation: Contested elections indicate citizen interest in governing.

Florida data source: Division of Elections, Florida Department of State.

7.12 Representation

7.12.1 Racial representation

7.12.2 Gender representation

Measurement: State officials include the highest elected officers: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate, and Florida's congressional delegation (U.S. House and Senate). Race and gender breakdowns for the Florida population are obtained from annual estimates prepared by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida under contract with the Governor's Office.

Explanation: Government should represent the citizens it serves. Citizens often feel better represented when people similar to themselves are making policy and budget decisions that affect their lives.

Florida data source: Congressional Yellow Book, Leadership Directories Inc.; The Florida Handbook, Allen Morris and Joan Perry Morris; Clerk's Manual, The Florida House of Representatives; Revenue and Economic Analysis Policy Unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting (race and gender data).



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