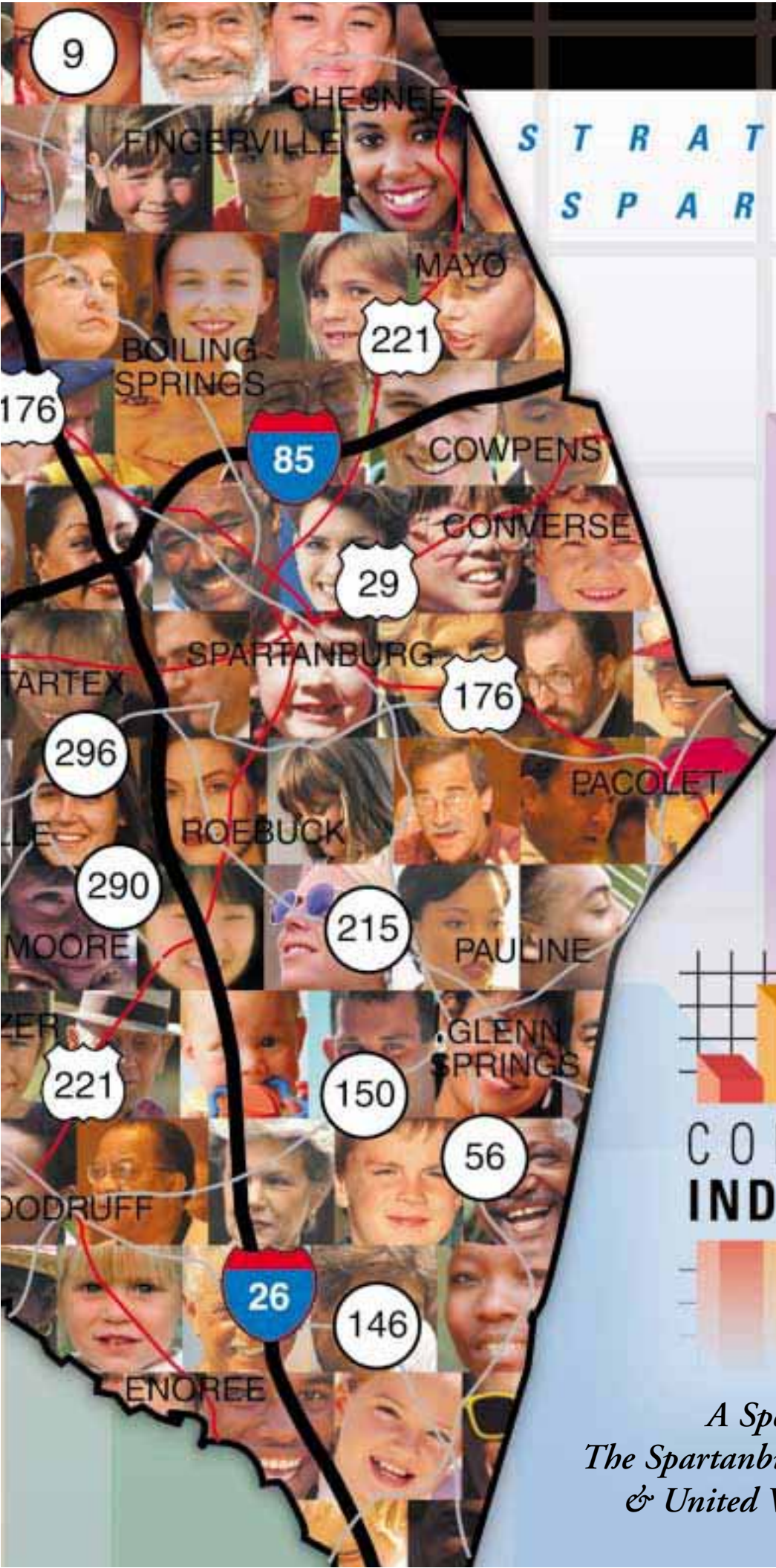


STRATEGIC
SPARTANBURG



COMMUNITY
INDICATORS VI



*A Special Report of
The Spartanburg County Foundation
& United Way of the Piedmont*

The sixth edition of *Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg* was made possible through the financial support of:

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The Spartanburg County Foundation and United Way of the Piedmont are delighted to present to you *Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg*. This sixth edition is a culmination of many hours of discussion, and research that has truly made this a community project.

Community Indicators VI has enabled us to accelerate the identification and examination of the many key human services and social issues affecting Spartanburg County. These issues directly impact the growth, health, and quality of life for all citizens in our community.

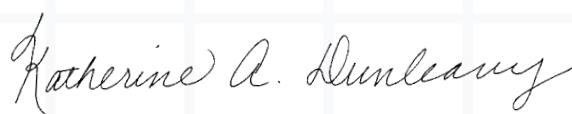
Building on the insights into community needs and perceptions gained since 1989 through the publication of the first edition of *The Critical Indicators* now known as *Community Indicators*, we have been able to build a strategic framework that involves the assets from the public, private, and nonprofit communities. The goal is to improve community understanding and knowledge of the many issues involving the county's social infrastructure, business development, and workforce development.

In the sixth edition, we brought together public, private, and nonprofit resources to establish community-wide goals to benchmark Spartanburg's progress, and collaborate and focus resources against community needs.

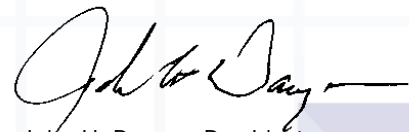
We retained the services of the Institute at Biltmore to lead our work on this challenging project. Nationally renowned, the Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides a proven framework for effective strategic planning to nonprofit and community organizations. We'd like to thank Dan Keith Ray, the President of the Institute, for leading the project for us. We would also like to thank all the Focus Groups and Advisory Committee members for their time and commitment to this effort.

Taking this project to this level could not have been accomplished without financial support from many community partners. These public, private and nonprofit groups enthusiastically supported this project and saw the potential to really make a difference in the community. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of them.

It is our sincere hope that efforts made as a result of this project will continue to improve the quality of life in Spartanburg County for years to come.



Katherine A. Dunleavy, President
United Way of the Piedmont



John H. Dargan, President
The Spartanburg County Foundation



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Spartanburg County Foundation published the first Indicators Report in 1989 called *Critical Indicators: Measuring Spartanburg County* in an attempt to measure progress, and identify concerns. Updated every three years, the report provided a valuable resource to the entire community, influencing development decisions, assisting organizations in their planning and encouraging conversation and dialogue among citizens to bring about community change. The report, *Community Indicators, fifth edition* was vastly changed in 2000 due to the efforts of many community volunteers who were brought together to enhance the quality and content of the publication. The Foundation collaborated with the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce to produce this document.

Now, the process has evolved into a community wide effort to prepare a better future for our citizens. This year, The Spartanburg County Foundation and United Way of the Piedmont teamed up to revolutionize the process to establish clear goals by which progress can be measured. The resulting ten goals, divided into four focus areas, describe aspirational qualities for Spartanburg's people and families, the communities, and the place we share. Progress toward each of the goals will be measured by a total of 60 community indicators.



The purpose of *Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg* is to help our citizens, communities, public officials, agencies, and organizations to come together as one community to address these important goals. Progress requires the collective efforts of the public (government), private (business), and nonprofit (organizations) sectors to join together in broad collaborations that address the pressing needs of our community.



Methodology

Consensus on the most pressing issues, public input drawn from surveys conducted for The Spartanburg County Foundation and United Way of the Piedmont, along with *The Community Indicators I through V*, 1989-2004, served as a starting point for this, the sixth edition.



Data collection was based on the input received from key experts who were identified from the Focus Groups to assist in the collection of information. Many local, state, and national agencies accumulate and report the quantitative data necessary for benchmarking in the *Community Indicators*. Rates per population and percentages are often used to compare county data to state and national data. When calculating rates per population, U.S. Census Bureau population estimates were used. When the data collection method does not allow for direct comparison, state and national information is noted in the text. Primary sources include the Bureau of Economic Analysis, South Carolina Office of Research and Statistics, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, South Carolina



Department of Education, U.S. Administration on Aging, Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, the Centers for Disease Control, and Clemson University. The source for each indicator is noted in the text.



The six Focus Groups representing individuals from across Spartanburg County, reviewed issues concerning Family, Health, Education, Public Safety, Economics, and Environment. Based on public input, Environment was added as a new category with this edition. The groups were comprised of institutional representatives from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors who have significant roles as professionals or volunteers within each focus area. In a series of 35 meetings, the groups suggested data available to further the benchmarking process and discussed community-wide goals for review by the Advisory Committee.

The Focus Groups' criteria for selecting the indicators stated that each must be:

- An accurate measurement of the goal,
- Reliable,
- Scientifically defensible,
- Understood and accepted by the community,
- Readily available and easily obtainable, and
- Relatively unambiguous in interpretation.



The Advisory Committee was comprised of leadership throughout the county. In a series of four meetings in 2004, the committee reviewed available data and input from the Focus Groups and debated Focus Group drafts to arrive at 10 goals and 60 indicators to benchmark progress. The Advisory Committee members were unanimous in recommending the establishment of an implementation task force to encourage collaboration among agencies capable of leading a community-wide effort to bring about an improved level of understanding, leverage community investment, and directly address these goals.

In setting the community-wide goals, the Advisory Committee used the following criteria:

- Accomplishing this goal will significantly impact the quality of life in Spartanburg County.
- Accomplishing this goal is possible, given the culture, resources, and politics of our community.
- Our community will care about this goal.
- It is possible to impact this goal within 5 years.
- It is possible to impact this goal significantly within 10 years.

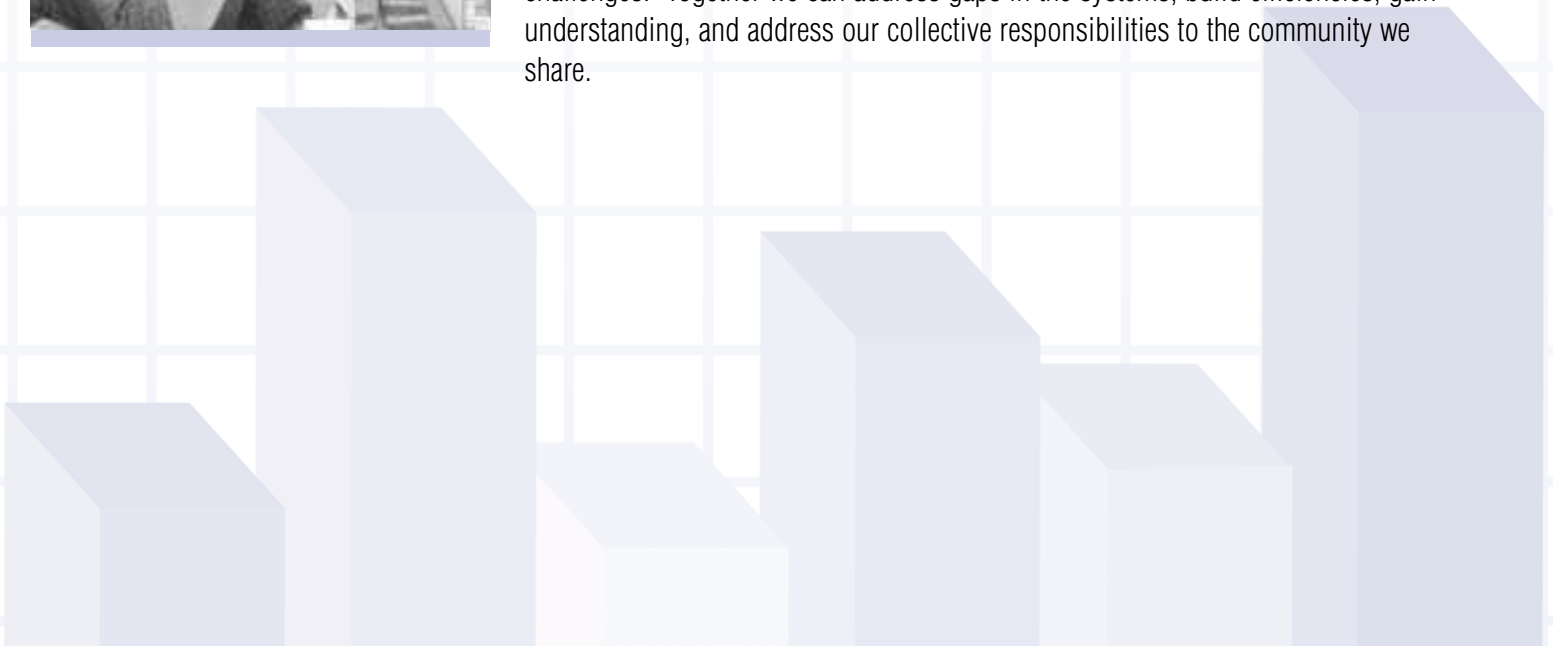
Where Do We Go From Here?

Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg provides information about the status of our community and points to a range of strategic issues that, if addressed, could greatly improve our county. By sharing this information, we hope to provide a common ground for public, private, and nonprofit leaders to engage the public in a dialogue about how we can work together to address these and other related issues. The first step is to share this information and ask ourselves the hard questions about what causes conditions in our county to get better or worse.

We, as individuals, can educate ourselves through this publication and the companion websites: www.spcf.org and www.uwpiedmont.org. Through our individual and collective research, armed with knowledge, we can become advocates for community change. There are several factors about the indicators that should be kept in mind as you study them:

- The indicators are designed to compare the community to itself over time, not to evaluate the community against progress of other communities.
- The indicators provide quantitative data from publicly-accessible sources. Some important dimensions to some issues are not included because data is not readily available.
- The indicators should be an accurate, reliable measurement of the goals that can be understood and accepted by the community.
- The indicators alone are mere pieces of a much larger picture. They do not, by themselves, explain why trends move as they do or what we should do as a community. They do provide the information we need to begin dialogue and take action throughout the community.

As we move toward implementation, we must encourage public, private, and nonprofit organizations and agencies to form collaborations that will address these challenges. Together we can address gaps in the systems, build efficiencies, gain understanding, and address our collective responsibilities to the community we share.



PEOPLE**Goal 1: Our children and youth will excel academically.**

- *Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) Scores • High School Retention Rates*
- *Gifted & Talented Eligible Students • Advanced Placement Exams*

Goal 2: Our citizens will have access to the education and training needed to compete in a global business environment.

- *High School Exit Exams • SAT Scores • ACT Scores • GED Certificates*
- *High School Graduates • Spartanburg Technical College Enrollment • Educational Attainment*
- *Teachers with Advanced Degrees*

Goal 3: Our elderly citizens will receive support to enable them to live as independently as possible in their homes and connected to their communities.

- *Population Age 65 and Above • Elderly Citizens Living in Poverty*
- *Household Income • Services for Seniors: Emergency Room Visits*

FAMILY**Goal 4: Our families will be stable and nurturing.**

- *Teen Pregnancy Rates • Children in Single Parent Families • Children Under 18 Living in Poverty*
- *Medicaid Eligibility • Food Stamp Recipients • Domestic Violence • Child Abuse and Neglect*

Goal 5: Our families will be healthy.

- *Low Birth Weight • Very Low Birth Weight • Immunizations (at age 2) • Infant Mortality*
- *Hospitalization Rates (Heart Disease, Cancer, Stroke, Diabetes) • HIV/AIDS Frequency Rates*
- *Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Rates • Oral Health • Drug & Alcohol Admissions*
- *Teen Risk Behaviors • Mental Health • Overweight and Obesity*

COMMUNITY**Goal 6: Our citizens will have the economic means to steadily improve their standard of living.**

- *Poverty by Census Tract • Median Family Income • Housing Costs • Home Ownership*
- *Unsound Housing • Availability for Full-Time Work • Per Capita Income*

Goal 7: Our communities will be economically viable places for our citizens to live.

- *Cost of Living • Job Creation • Unemployment Rates • Employment by Sector • Wages by Sector*

Goal 8: Our communities will be increasingly safe.

- *Adult Crime Index • Juvenile Cases & Commitments*
- *Commitments to South Carolina Department of Correction • Traffic Incidents*

Goal 9: Our citizens will have opportunities for civic engagement that promotes well-being and a higher quality of life.

- *Voter Registration Turnout • Charitable Giving • Attendance at Cultural Events*

PLACE**Goal 10: Our citizens will manage our natural resources in a way that will support current and future generations.**

- *Population Density • Vehicle Miles • Farmland Use: Cropland • Solid Waste/Recycling*
- *Air Quality • Water Quality*

VILLAGE OF 100

To humanize the issues that confront us, and make them more comprehensible, the following scenario is instructive. If we could shrink Spartanburg County's population to a 'village' of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would have the following characteristics.

Data is based on total population of 259,322 (2002 U.S. Census estimate).

PEOPLE

49 are males
 51 are females
 75 are Caucasian
 21 are African American
 3 are Hispanic
 1 is Asian

Children:

Ages 0-4: 4 boys, 3 girls
 Ages 5-17: 9 boys, 9 girls

Young Adults:

Ages 18-24: 4 women, 4 men

Adults:

Ages 25-64: 28 women, 26 men
 Ages 65 and older: 8 women (1 is 85+), 5 men

Among adults 25 and older:

17 have no diploma
 48 have high school diploma
 12 have Bachelor's degree or higher
 7 are unemployed

FAMILY

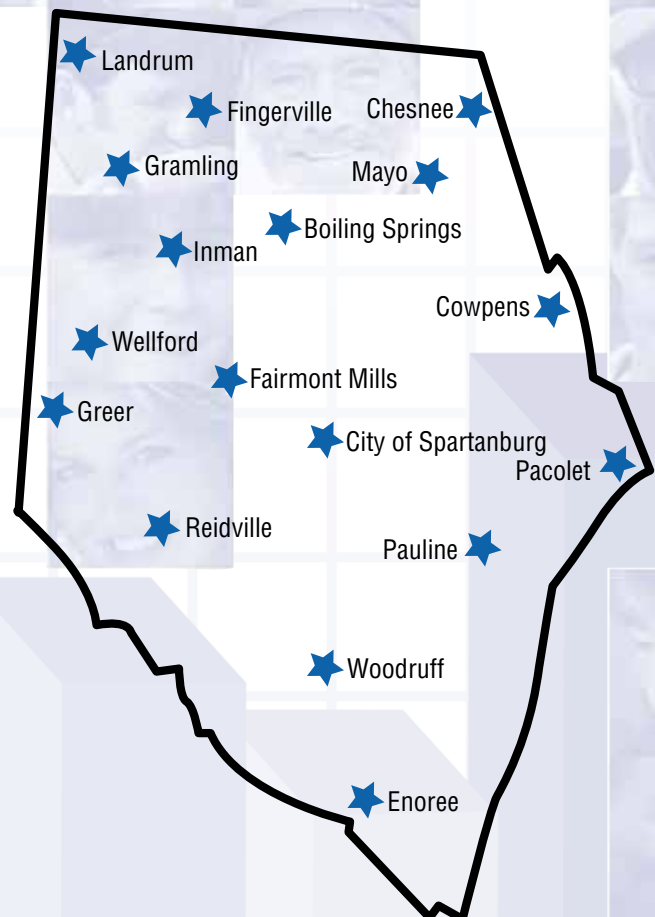
100,462 households in Spartanburg County
 2.89 persons equals average family size
 50% are traditional households
 23.9% have at least one person over age 65
 10,166 families have a female householder with no husband present and children under age 18

COMMUNITY

12 people live below poverty level
 26 people are disabled
 65 (age 18+) are registered to vote
 62 are overweight
 26 smoke

PLACE

The village would occupy approximately 200.15 acres. In actuality, Spartanburg County contains 519,038 acres, occupying 811 square miles of land area. The village would generate 530 pounds of solid waste for disposal each day. In the village, 65 people would live in an urban setting, 16 of them in the city limits of Spartanburg.



SPARTANBURG COUNTY POPULATION BREAKDOWN

Total Population (2002 Estimate).....259,322

Gender

Female51.4%
Male48.6%

Age Distribution

Under 1824.8%
Age 18 - 6462.7%
Age 65 and Older12.5%

Race

Caucasian75.1%
Black or African American20.8%
Hispanic2.8%
Asian1.5%
Other1.4%
Persons reporting 2 or more races1%
Foreign Born Persons3.7%

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Advisory Committee for their leadership in this process.

Advisory Committee

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Dr. Art Grant, Spartanburg County School District Seven
Dr. George Fields, Palmetto Conservation Foundation
Nancy Holmes, Mobile Meals Service of Spartanburg
Wanda Cheeks, Southside Unity in the Community
Robert Henderson, Vision 2 Destiny
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We deeply appreciate the participation of all the volunteers who devoted their time and energy to making **Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg** a thoughtful and inspired community-based publication.

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Citizens Input Day

Spartanburg Housing Authority Participants
 Woodruff Community Center Participants
 Senior Center Participants
 Middle Tyger Community Center Participants
 The Spartanburg County Foundation, Strengthening Voices Participants
 The Council for Community Empowerment

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GOAL 1: Our children and youth will excel academically.

Any community can, and should, be judged by its efforts to ensure that each generation of its young people improves the quality of life over previous generations. This is the American dream. This goal can only be accomplished through a commitment to education beginning in the home and community before formal schooling in our public and private school systems.

The indicators inform us:

- Scoring school readiness for first grade has been discontinued in favor of a more developmentally-appropriate assessment which provides better information to teachers. This change in no way de-emphasizes the importance of early childhood education as the essential first step in preparing our children for the future.
- Over the past decade, state and federal governments have emphasized benchmarking progress through testing. An area for further study is the finding that on national and state measurements of our students' achievements, performance levels decrease as they progress into higher grades.
- While progress has been made on retention of our children in school, one quarter of our white students, and one third of our minority students, drop out of school before graduation.
- The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research shows that among the nation's states, South Carolina ranks 26th in student achievement and 24th in spending efficiency.

Community Indicators

- Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) Scores (3rd, 5th & 8th Grades)
- High School Retention Rates
- Gifted & Talented Eligible Students
- Advanced Placement Exams

FIRST STEPS

Spartanburg County First Steps' mission is based on the knowledge that for our youngest citizens to develop socially emotionally and intellectually, they must live in an environment that fosters their growth. First Steps focuses on meeting needs for the individual development of children zero to five and also on strengthening adult's parenting skills and the overall health of their families. Determinants of readiness are varied but most early childhood experts believe that children at risk of failure in school experience one or more of the following: poverty, low birth weight babies, single parent care giver, poor health care, low educational level of the mother, low quality childcare.

First Steps programs and services addressing readiness to Spartanburg's youngest citizens:

- Support four Family Literacy Sites through Spartanburg County Adult Education providing adult education, childcare, parent training and PACT (Parents and Children Together) to over 120 at-risk families' and their children.
- Provide monthly staff professional development/improvement training associated with South Carolina's Palmetto Stars, a quality rating system for childcare centers, to 200 + childcare centers serving over 1500 children. Funded by the Mary Black Foundation.
- Administer the First Steps Early Head Start program serving 120 children birth to three years of age and families in center and home based programs.
- Host a statewide Early Learning Conference for over 400 educational professionals
- Partner with United Way to provide the Imagination Library in Spartanburg County for children birth to 5 years of age.
- Coordinate Partners for Literacy to promote collaboration and implementation of literacy initiatives in the county.
- Coordinate Parent Educators in the county providing training and support.

Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) Scores (3rd, 5th & 8th Grades)

- **Indicator 1:** The new South Carolina Readiness Assessment (SCRA) does not offer a quantitative assessment that permits comparison between Districts; therefore, 3rd grade PACT is the first test for state accountability. This achievement test measures how well students perform at grade level and how well they compare to standard achievement levels statewide.
- **Indicator 2:** 5th grade testing provides an interim check of academic development in the state testing continuum.
- **Indicator 3:** 8th grade testing is the final assessment testing before high school and assesses the skills learned in elementary and middle grade education.



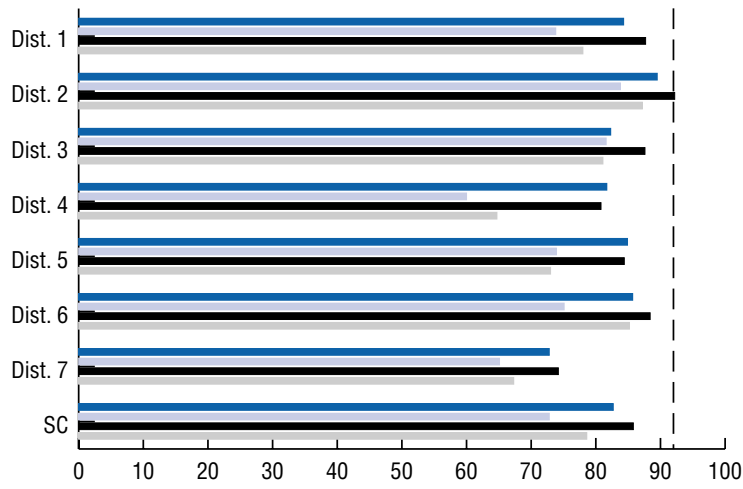
About the Indicators

The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) is a state test first administered in 1999 for grades 3 through 8 in math and language arts. In 2003 science and social studies were added. This indicator shows the passing levels for the total student population in Spartanburg County and minority levels. Five of seven Districts are performing at or above the state average.

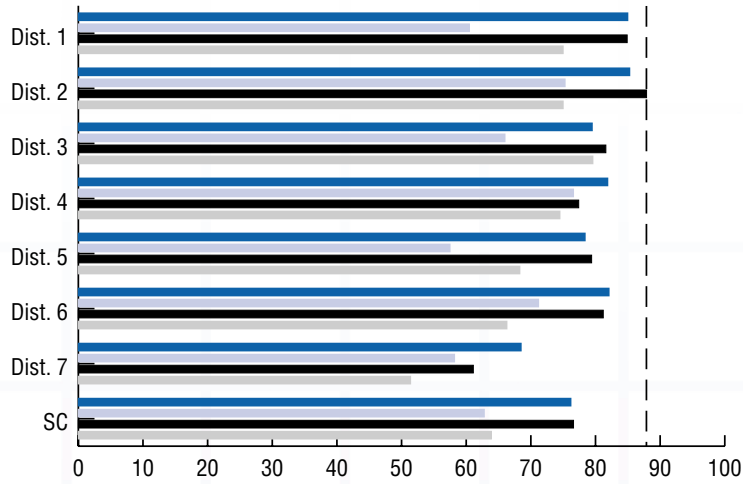
Source

South Carolina Department of Education, 2004

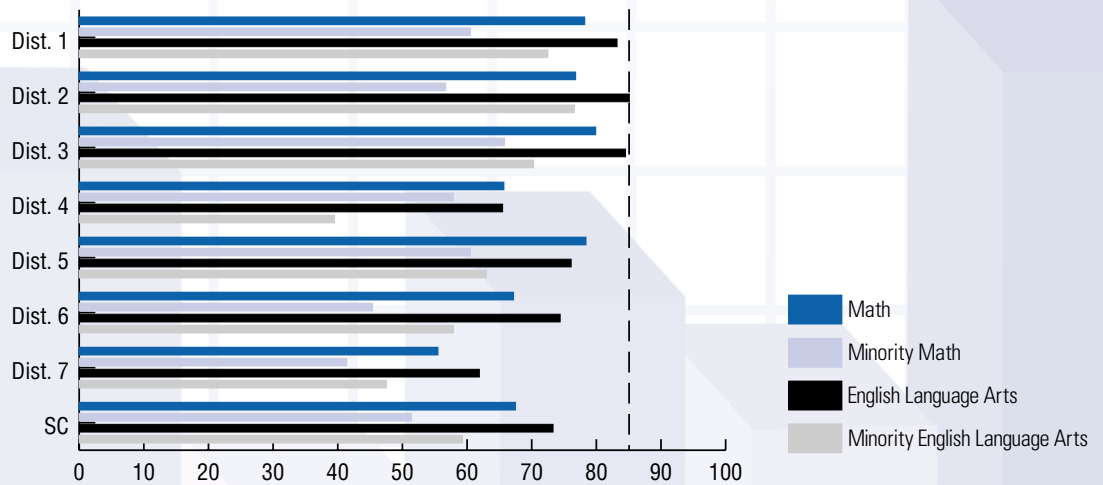




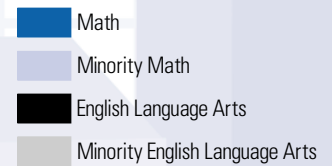
3rd Grade PACT Scores



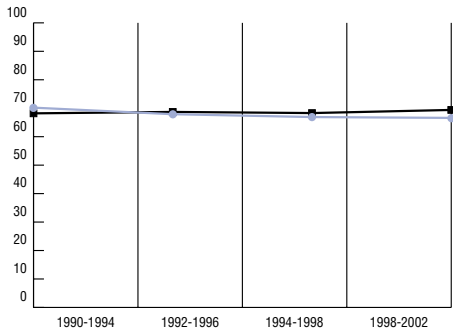
5th Grade PACT Scores



8th Grade PACT Scores



PEOPLE



High School Retention Rates
 — South Carolina
 — Spartanburg County

Sources

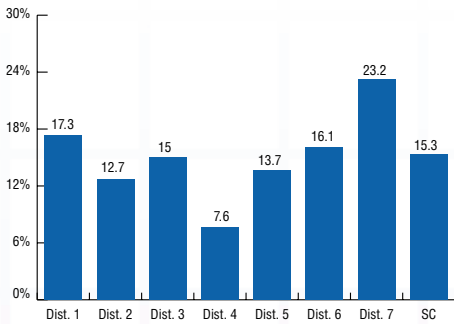
South Carolina Kids Count, 2003
 National Dropout Prevention Center, 2004

High School Retention Rates

High school graduation is an indicator of eventual success in a competitive environment. Since 1989, Spartanburg County has shown a slight improvement in the retention of students. In the years 2000-2002, 33.9% of minorities and 24.9% of whites dropped out of school before graduation. The National Dropout Prevention Center estimates that between 30-32% of U.S. students drop out from 9th to 12th grade. Among the 50 states, South Carolina is ranked 35th in the percentage of teens (ages 16-19) who are high school dropouts.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows an analysis of the number of 8th graders in a given year and the number of 12th graders enrolled four years later. This percentage is considered the retention rate by the U.S. Department of Education; however, it does not allow for migration, transfers, or early graduation numbers. High School dropout rates are represented by retention rate data.



Gifted & Talented Eligible Students

Source

South Carolina Department of Education, 2004

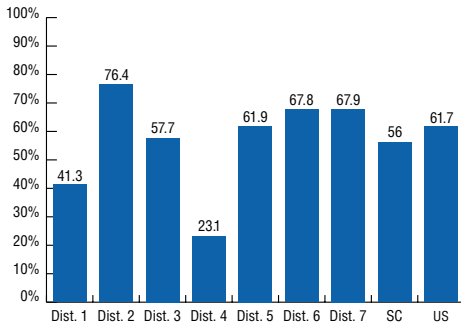
Gifted & Talented Eligible Students

The numbers of students identified for gifted and talented programs are evidence of ability or potential for high performance in academic areas. In the seven School Districts of Spartanburg County, between 7 and 23% of students are eligible for gifted and talented programs. Three of these districts have percentages of gifted and talented eligible students that are higher than the state average.



About the Indicator

Gifted and talented eligible students are those who are identified in grades 1 through 12 as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas and therefore require an educational program beyond that normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve their potential. Each student must be evaluated for purposes of placement.



Advanced Placement Exams

Sources

South Carolina Department of Education, 2004
apcentral.collegeboard.com

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

Advanced Placement courses enhance high school student's confidence and academic interests, as well as their school's reputation. College faculty report that AP students are far better prepared for serious academic work than are other students. In South Carolina, 56% of students taking the AP exams scored 3 or better on a 5 point scale. Within the seven School Districts of Spartanburg County, between 23 and 76% of students scored 3 or better. Statewide, 59% of white students taking AP exams scored 3 or better, compared to only 29.3% of their African American counterparts.

**About the Indicator**

Advanced Placement classes give students an opportunity to take college-level classes while still in high school. Students scoring at an acceptable level (3 or above) on the AP exam will be eligible to receive college credit at participating institutions. This indicator shows the percent of scores that were 3 or above in 2003-2004. The courses are developed by the College Board using prescribed curricula and tests.

PEOPLE

GOAL 2: Our citizens will have access to the education and training needed to compete in a global business environment.

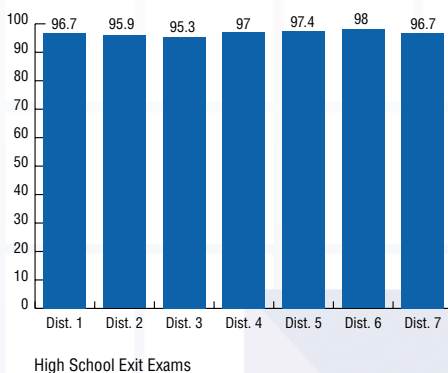
There is value in an educated citizenry, well prepared for work and participation in community life. This goal focuses on learning after high school and in the work force. It underscores the importance of post-secondary education and training needed to compete in an international economy.

The indicators inform us:

- All South Carolina high school students are required to pass exit exams. Competition in today's business environment will make this only the first step toward success in a competitive world.
- Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT), ACT Assessment Test (ACT), and General Educational Development (GED) testing are indicators of future success in a student's choice of career opportunities. At each level of post-secondary education, from technical college to advanced degrees, we must provide a supportive environment that encourages each student to achieve at his or her potential.

Community Indicators

- High School Exit Exams
- SAT Scores
- ACT Scores
- GED Certificates
- High School Graduates
- Spartanburg Technical College Enrollment
- Educational attainment
- Teachers with Advanced Degrees



High School Exit Exams

Source

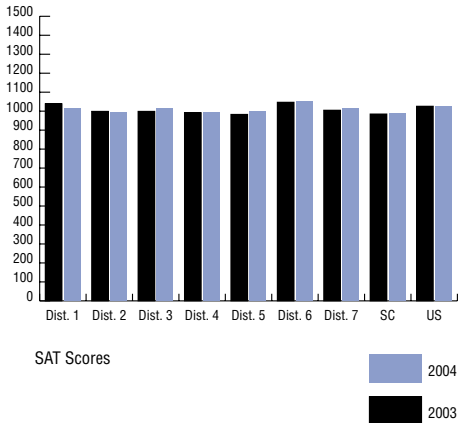
South Carolina Department of Education, 2004

High School Exit Exams

Effective preparation for higher education and/or employment is an important measure of student success. Communities with a better-educated adult population tend to have stronger economies and a higher standard of living. Among Spartanburg County's School Districts, between 95 and 98% of students successfully pass exit exams.

About the Indicator

Public high school students must pass Reading, Writing, and Math sections of the Exit Exam to qualify for a South Carolina diploma. The tests are initially administered in grade 10, and students who do not qualify have three additional opportunities to retake the test in later grades. This indicator depicts the percentage of all students passing the Exit Exam in 2004 by the time they graduate. South Carolina does not currently compile statewide data.



Source
South Carolina Department of Education, 2004

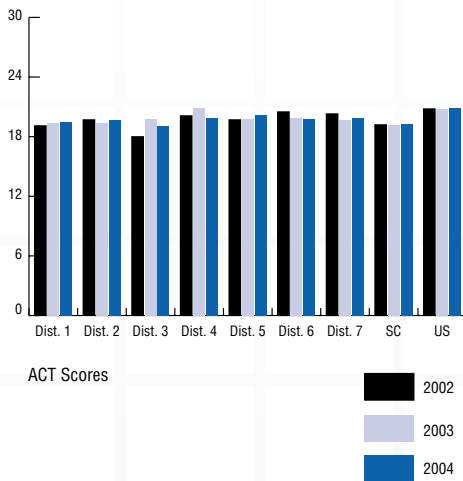
SAT Scores

The average SAT test scores provide one of the best indicators of broad, advanced skills and knowledge near high school graduation.



About the Indicator

The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), administered by The College Board, measures verbal and mathematical reasoning. Like all aptitude tests, it uses a medium within which to measure intellectual ability. For the SAT, that medium is Math and English. This indicator compares SAT scores in Spartanburg County's seven School Districts as well as the state and nation. The test is scored on a range from 400 to 1600. The average score in Spartanburg Schools is 1015, which is above the state average by 29 points.



Sources
South Carolina Department of Education, 2004
www.act.org

ACT Scores

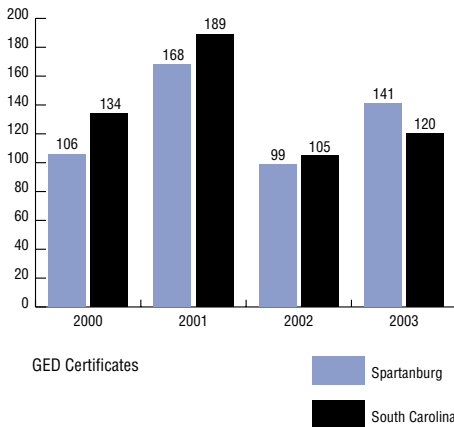
Colleges and universities use tests such as the ACT or the SAT, along with other information, to make admissions decisions.



About the Indicator

The ACT Assessment Test (administered by the American College Testing Program) measures reasoning and thinking skills in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. Results are reported for all four tests and provide a composite score. The indicator shows ACT test scores in Spartanburg County's seven School Districts as well as state and national scores. The score scale for each subject area, as well as the composite score, is 1 to 36.

PEOPLE

**Sources**

South Carolina Department of Education, 2003

U.S. Department of Commerce, 2003

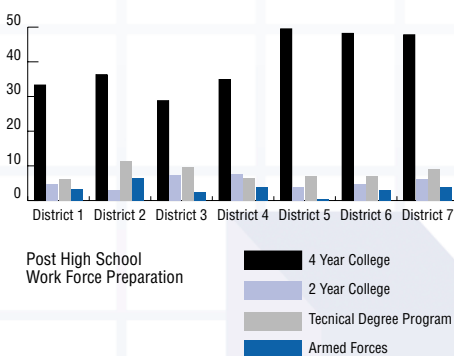
GED Testing Service, 2004

GED Certificates

The General Educational Development (GED) Testing Program is designed to provide adults who have not graduated from high school a means by which they may earn a high school equivalency diploma. This program may lead to entrance into higher education, increased opportunities for employment, or military enlistment. Due to an anticipated increase in the difficulty of the test after 2001, a greater number of people took and passed the GED test in Spartanburg County, South Carolina and the nation that year. In dollars and cents, research from the U.S. Department of Commerce indicates that the average life-time earnings for a dropout without a high school diploma are typically around \$600,000. When the dropout earns a high school credential, the lifetime earnings increase by \$200,000.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows the annual rate of GED certificates awarded per 100,000 population in Spartanburg County and South Carolina since 2000. The General Educational Development (GED) Testing Program is an alternative way to obtain a high school credential for people who have dropped out of high school or have not completed requirements for a high school diploma. The GED requires a group of five tests designed to measure the general knowledge and thinking skills required to earn a high school diploma. Anyone who is at least seventeen years of age, not enrolled in school, and does not already have a high school diploma from an accredited school, may take the GED tests.

**Source**

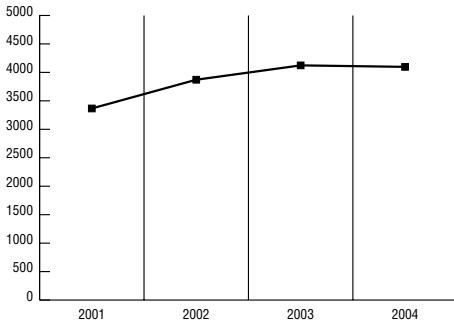
South Carolina Department of Education, 2003

High School Graduates

Continuing education, or certification, increases knowledge and may improve employment opportunities. An important outcome for all students is success in finding employment, or continuing education, after completion of high school.

**About the Indicator**

This indicator shows the percent of Spartanburg County students who enroll in a four-year college, two-year college, technical degree program or military service. School Districts in Spartanburg County range from 48% to 67% of graduates who continue their work force preparation following high school.



Spartanburg Tech Enrollment

Spartanburg Technical College Enrollment

Admissions at Spartanburg Technical College reflect the number of citizens enrolling in career advancing courses. In 2003, 77.7% of the credit-seeking students were from Spartanburg County. Technical colleges offer opportunities for work force training and skills development.

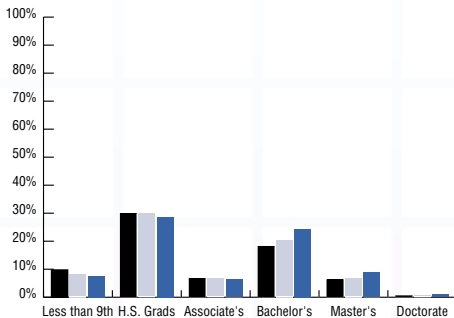


Source

Spartanburg Technical College, 2003

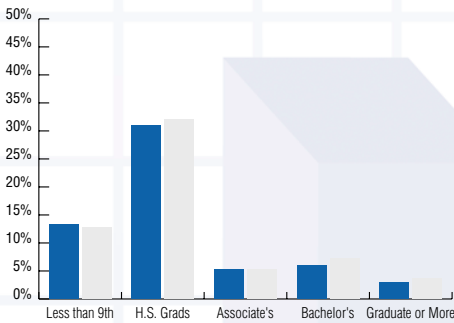
About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in annual fall enrollment for credit-seeking students at Spartanburg Technical College. Enrollment rates generally correspond to unemployment rates and a steady increase has been measured since 2001. The mix of students enrolled during Fall 2003 is similar to the ethnic composition of Spartanburg County.



Educational Attainment

- Spartanburg
- SC
- US



Minority Educational Attainment (percentages of minority population)

- Spartanburg County
- South Carolina

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is viewed by most as a measure of achievement in all aspects of life. Basic literacy is defined as an individual's ability to read, write, speak English, compute and solve problems. In the National Adult Literacy Survey, more than 60% of adults in Level 1, considered functionally illiterate, had not completed high school, and 25% were immigrants who may have just begun to speak English. Functional illiteracy may cause at-risk behaviors and may have a negative economic impact on the community.

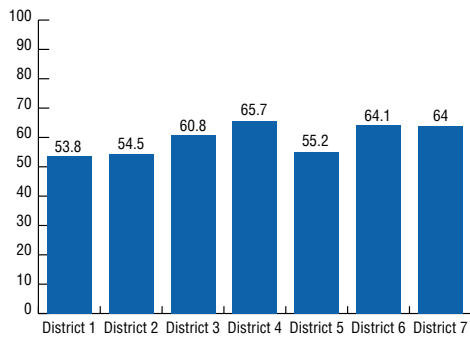
About the Indicator

In the 2000 U.S Census, data on educational attainment reflects the entire population of Spartanburg County and is derived from a single question that asks, "What is the *highest* grade of school completed, or the *highest* degree received?" This indicator compares Spartanburg County (with the minority percentages represented by the second chart) to South Carolina and the United States, indicating Spartanburg County residents receive less formal education than counterparts in the state and nation.

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

PEOPLE



Teachers with Advanced Degrees

Source

South Carolina Department of Education, 2004

Teachers with Advanced Degrees

One method of measuring quality teaching for our citizens is the percentage of teachers who have continued their education in order to improve their subject knowledge and teaching skills. In addition to serving as a measurement of the quality of educational instruction, teachers with advanced degrees are indicative of the preparation of the workforce.

**About the Indicator**

This indicator shows the percentage of teachers in Spartanburg County Schools who hold advanced educational degrees.

SPARTANBURG COLLEGE TOWN INITIATIVE

Spartanburg County is fortunate to have six distinct institutions of higher education within its boundaries: Converse College, Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic, Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg Technical College, the University of South Carolina Upstate, and Wofford College. "The Colleges of Spartanburg," a consortium with the City of Spartanburg, is committed to developing our City into a distinct "college town." Our vision is to develop a positive national image and reputation for "The Colleges of Spartanburg" and for Spartanburg as a college town. The City has the highest per capita college student population of any major city in the State.

The Consortium is committed to advancing the reality and the identity of the City of Spartanburg as a vibrant "college town;" to create opportunities for students' and institutions' to connect with the City; to enhance students' academic, social and service opportunities through institutional collaborations; to seek resource savings and programmatic enrichment opportunities among colleges through collaboration; and to further the missions of member institutions individually. This exciting collaboration provides many opportunities for improving the quality and the culture of our City.

Goal 3: Our elderly citizens will receive support to enable them to live as independently as possible in their homes and connected to their communities.

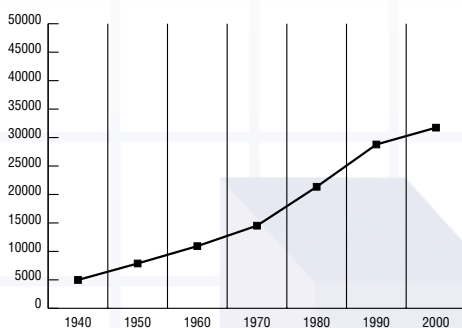
This goal reflects Spartanburg County's commitment to providing appropriate assistance that supports our elderly citizens in their desire to remain in their homes connected to their communities. The goal emphasizes personal responsibilities and encourages independence but recognizes that some people's circumstances require either temporary or ongoing assistance. As people age, their abilities to perform routine activities may decrease and many elderly citizens have physical conditions that make it difficult for them to live in their own homes.

Great improvements in medicine, public health, science, and technology have enabled today's citizens to live longer and healthier lives than was the case for previous generations. Older adults want to remain healthy and independent at home in their communities. Society wants to minimize the health care and economic costs associated with an increasing older population. These two goals are compatible if families and communities work together to ensure consistent and appropriate support. Available data indicates that:

- Our elderly citizens are living longer with the greatest growth in those age 85 and above. While medical advances have helped make this possible, our social support structure in the public, private and nonprofit sectors have not kept pace with the demand.
- The number of elderly citizens living in poverty has decreased in part because of public sector commitment to this population group. Changes in family structure, cost of medical care, and greater numbers of elderly with complex illnesses all have an impact on the economics of aging. The service delivery system for this population may collapse under this increased demand.

Community Indicators

- Population Age 65 and Above
- Elderly Citizens Living in Poverty
- Household Income
- Services for Seniors: Emergency Room Visits



Spartanburg Population - 65+ Years

Population Age 65 and above

Spartanburg County's population is growing older and living longer. This trend impacts adult care services, case management and skilled long-term services. It may also require human service agencies and government programs to further support the needs of an aging citizenry. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 60+ population will grow by 102.5% by 2025. As baby boomers age, the sheer numbers could overwhelm the social and health care systems that are already stretched to their current limits by an era of public desire to limit the growth and reach of government.

About the Indicator

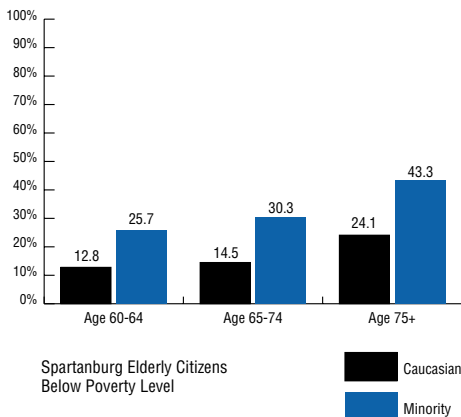
This indicator is a U.S. Census Bureau measurement of the growing elderly population. The elderly population of Spartanburg County and South Carolina has increased approximately six-fold from 1940 to 2000.

Sources

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

South Carolina Office of Research and Statistics, 2000

PEOPLE

**Sources**

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

South Carolina State Budget and Control Board, 2002

www.seniorjournal.com

Elderly Citizens Living in Poverty

It is commonly acknowledged that poverty is at the root of most health and human service needs. Mature adults may experience problems performing basic living activities, requiring special assistance from others. Family, private, and government support helps to provide opportunities to sustain independent living. The greatest need for unmet services for the elderly are in the middle economic levels, those not eligible for Medicaid. In both Spartanburg County and South Carolina, 13.9% of the 65+ population are at, or below, the poverty level, a decrease over the past 40 years. The percentage of older people living in poverty declined from 35 percent in 1959 to 10 percent in 2002.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows the percentage of Spartanburg County's 65 and older population living below the poverty level. In 1999, the poverty threshold for one person 65 years and older was \$7,990. For two people, householders 65 years and over, the threshold was \$10,075. As the age of the elderly population rises, income levels typically decrease causing more elderly citizens to live below the poverty level.

COMMUNITY CASE MANAGEMENT

In an effort to advance services for seniors in Spartanburg County, the Sage Center for Senior Health at the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, and other agencies have convened a community-wide collaboration of service providers to our elderly population. Following a needs assessment, short and longer-term goals have been developed from the perspective of those elderly seeking services. With quality of service in mind, a Centralized Community Case Management approach linking seniors with available community services, ensuring access to services, and supporting continuum of care would offer the greatest benefits.

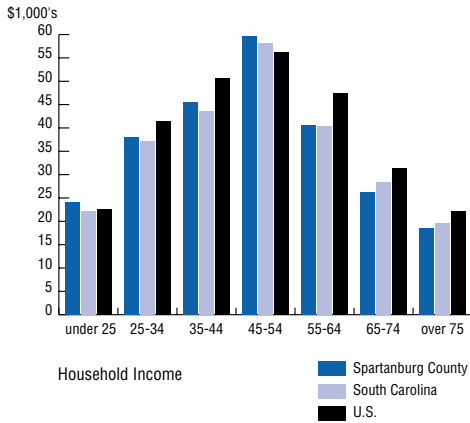
The existence of this service improves the quality of care and life for seniors by ensuring seniors are in a stable environment receiving all of the necessary support to keep them healthy and at home as long as possible. Examples of community services being coordinated include meal programs, health care, home health, respite care, financial and legal assistance, social and educational activities, family and illness support groups, long term care and assisted living services, etc.

Community case managers coordinate care to maintain the high-risk senior at the lowest level of care for optimal client benefit through the efficient use of community resources. As a result, there are benefits for seniors, their families and service providers.

Seniors are less likely to "fall through the cracks" since case managers are continually communicating with them...visiting them in the home as necessary...to ensure they are receiving needed assistance and services to remain stable and healthy.

Families are benefiting through case manager support...linking families with caregiver support services such as respite care, home sitting, home cleaning, support groups, etc.

Senior service providers benefit through the efficient use of their resources and improved quality of care. Health care benefits through more efficient and higher quality patient discharges, less unnecessary senior visits to the Emergency Room, less readmissions to the hospital and better processes to link their patients with need community services. Other senior service providers benefit through improved continuum of care, ensuring that seniors are receiving the necessary services to ensure quality and stability of life. This improved continuum leads to less "crisis management" and more proactive measures to provide services at the right time with the right method.



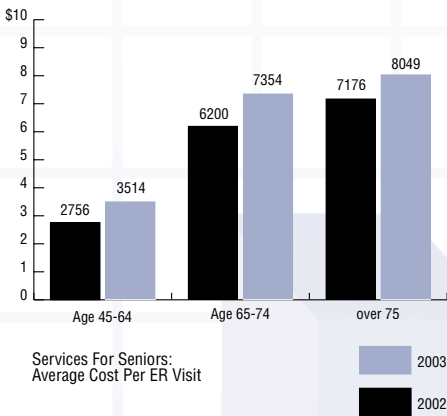
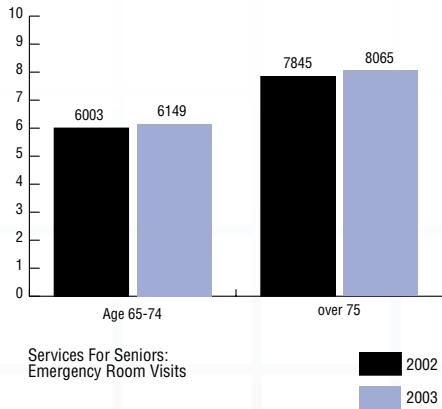
Sources
 U.S. Census Bureau, 2000
 National Center for Health Statistics, 2004

Household Income

Most seniors live on a fixed income. The prices of prescription drugs and health care are increasing at several times the rate of inflation which is a serious problem for seniors. Between 1974 and 2002, the national median income for households in which the householder was 65 and over increased from \$16,882 to \$23,152. The average annual health care expenditure of a beneficiary with a chronic condition in 1999 was \$11,047 according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows median household income in 1999 by age of householder in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, and the United States. As the age of the elderly population rises, income levels typically decrease.



Sources
 South Carolina Budget & Control Board, 2003
 U.S. Administration on Aging

Services for Seniors: Emergency Room (ER) Visits

Spartanburg County's population is growing older and living longer. The increase in visits to the emergency department is a result of overall population growth as well as increases in the number of seniors who utilize the emergency room for basic health care. Elderly citizens had the highest rate of emergency room visits reflecting the group's increased need for preventative health services and early intervention. In 2002, for Spartanburg County the rate was 44 visits per 100 persons per year for those 65 years and older. In South Carolina, the rate for seniors was 43 visits per 100 persons per year.



About the Indicators

These indicators show the annual number of emergency room discharges for elderly citizens and the average cost per visit. As the elderly population grows, the number of ER visits increases as well as do the charges for medical services.

FAMILY

Goal 4: Our families will be stable and nurturing.

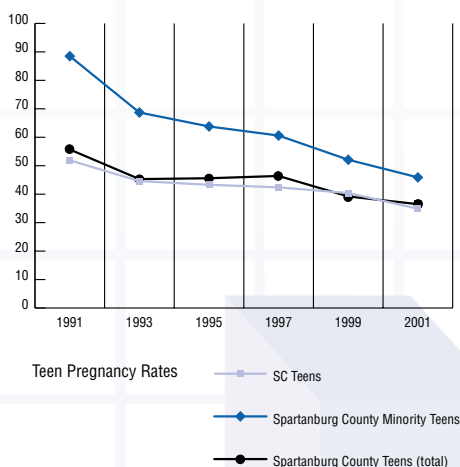
Society relies on families, whether traditional or non-traditional, to provide for the economic and protective needs of individuals, especially children, the vulnerable, and the elderly. In Spartanburg County, families are divided equally between traditional (a married couple living with their children) and non-traditional (a group of individuals with a continuing legal, genetic and/or emotional relationship). In the United States, for the first time in 2000, fewer than one in four households were comprised of a married couple with children.

Supportive and nurturing family relationships promote security and social development. The indicators look at several factors that lead to instability in families. Several trends provide a mixed assessment since we began tracking in 1989:

- Teenage pregnancy rates, and the number of children living in poverty, have both decreased.
- There continues to be a steady rise in the number of children in single parent families and, therefore, a rise in the challenges confronting these families and our communities as they design mechanisms to support them.
- South Carolina and Spartanburg County continue to experience unacceptable rates of domestic and child abuse within our families.

Community Indicators

- Teen Pregnancy Rates
- Children in Single Parent Families
- Children Under 18 Living in Poverty
- Medicaid Eligibility
- Food Stamp Recipients
- Domestic Violence
- Child Abuse and Neglect



Teen Pregnancy Rates

Teen pregnancy is closely linked to a host of other critical social issues (e.g., overall child well-being, school failure, welfare dependency, and work force development.). Simply put, when children are born to parents who are ready and able to care for them as opposed to parents who are still children themselves, we notice significant reductions in social problems afflicting children, families and society as a whole. This indicator demonstrates that while teen pregnancy is a serious, expensive, multi-generational issue, it is clearly not a hopeless one. When proven effective approaches are applied, progress occurs.

About the Indicator

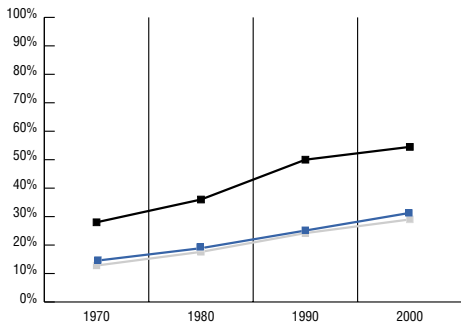
This indicator shows the trend in the rate of pregnancies per 1,000 females, ages 10 to 19, in South Carolina. The national data is compiled for ages 15 to 19. In South Carolina, the annual number of teen pregnancies has decreased by 27% since 1991. The Spartanburg County teen pregnancy rate was reduced 35% during the same period.

Sources

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2004

www.teenpregnancy.org

www.teenpregnancysc.org



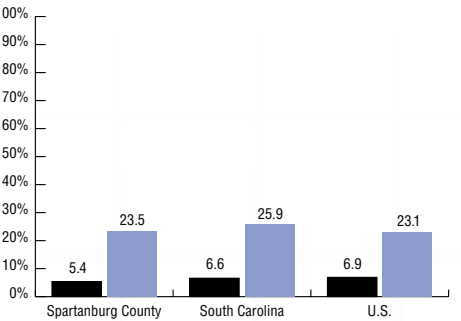
Children in Single Parent Families

Single mothers with dependent children have the highest rate of poverty across all demographic groups. Children growing up with only one parent are more likely to drop out of school, bear children out of wedlock, and have trouble keeping jobs as young adults. Parental involvement in the lives of their children is often compromised by economic necessity. Other consequences include risks to psychological development and social behavior.



Children In Single Parent Families

- South Carolina
- Spartanburg County - Minority
- Spartanburg County



Families Below Poverty Level (1999, children under 18)

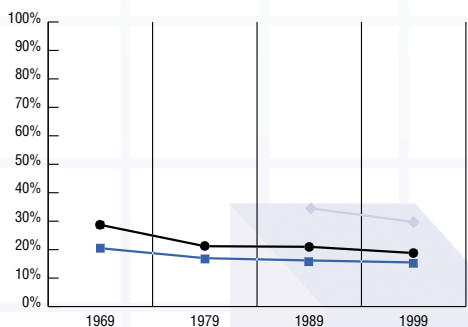
- Married Couple Families
- Single Parent Families

About the Indicator

The first chart presents three trends, as reported every 10 years by the U.S. Census Bureau: (a) the percentage of all South Carolina children under age 18 living with one parent, (b) the percentage of all Spartanburg County children living with one parent, and (c) the percentage of Spartanburg County minority children living with one parent. The number of children living in single parent families has more than doubled since 1970. Nationally, 28% of all children live with one parent. The second chart shows the percentage of married families with children under 18 and single parent families that have income levels below the poverty threshold for Spartanburg County, South Carolina, and the United States.

Sources

- South Carolina Kids Count, 2003
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2003
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2000



Percent of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty

- South Carolina
- Spartanburg - Minority
- Spartanburg County

Children Under 18 Living in Poverty

Children living in poverty are more likely to die in infancy, have low birth weight, lack health care, housing and adequate food, and score lower in math and reading. Poverty creates for them an unfair disadvantage for future opportunities.

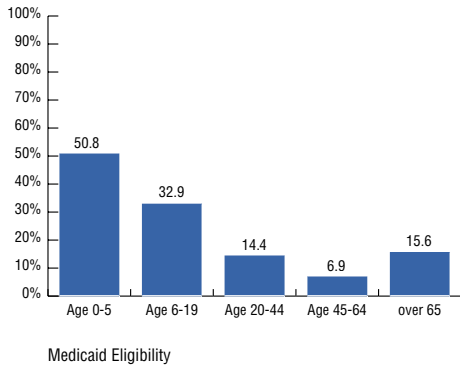
About the Indicator

This indicator shows three trends: (a) the percentage of all children under 18 in South Carolina living below the poverty level, (b) the percentage of children in Spartanburg County living below the poverty level, and (c) the percentage of minority children in Spartanburg County living below the poverty level. The poverty level is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau based on 1999 income. Spartanburg County has seen an improvement, with this rate steadily decreasing since 1969. Nationally, 16.6% of children under 18 live in poverty.

Sources

- U.S. Census Bureau, 2000
- Children's Defense Fund, "Poverty and Why It Matters for Children" August, 2004

FAMILY



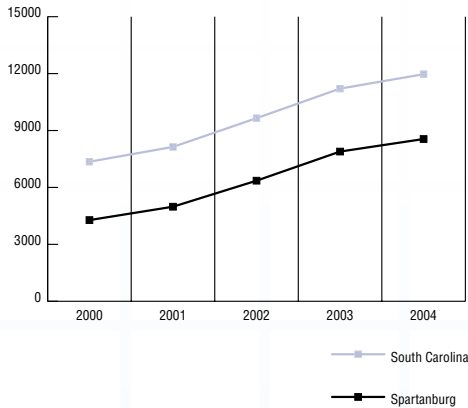
Source
Spartanburg County Health Department, 2003

Medicaid Eligibility

Medicaid is a shared responsibility of federal, state and local government. The costs have risen significantly over the last decade as the numbers of vulnerable citizens have increased, leaving families without necessary medical care.

About the Indicator

This indicator represents the percentage of the population in each age group eligible for Medicaid coverage in Spartanburg County. Medicaid eligibility in nearly every state is limited to select low income families: children, pregnant women, families with dependent children, persons who are disabled, and persons 65 or older.



Average Number of People Receiving Food Stamps Monthly
(From data reported Jan - Jul 2004-per 100,000 population)

Source
South Carolina Department of Social Services, 2004

Food Stamp Recipients

For some families assistance is needed to help establish the stability required to improve the family situation. The indicator reflects the number of citizens currently facing financial instability in Spartanburg County.



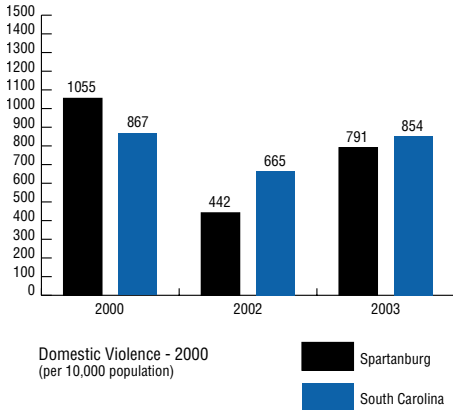
About the Indicator

This indicator shows a monthly trend in the average number of recipients of food stamps per 100,000 population in Spartanburg County and South Carolina from 2000 through July 2004. The precipitous increase in recipients reflects many factors, not the least of which is the rise in local unemployment.

HUNGER AND SHELTER

On any given day in Spartanburg County, 541 people are without shelter, 40% representing families. In January 2004 the unemployment in Spartanburg County was 6.7%. In Spartanburg County, 12.3% of individuals live in poverty. These factors as well as lack of affordable housing, needed services, mental illness, low paying jobs and substance abuse all contribute to this growing challenge. On average, people remain homeless for five months.

In 2003, over 5,000 individuals were provided emergency short-term help for the basic necessities of life. During that same time, there were 201 individuals, some making up intact families, who were given temporary shelter including meals, clothing, laundry facilities and personal hygiene products. These support systems enabled the individuals to focus their energies on regaining control of their circumstances in the shortest amount of time.



Source

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, 2003

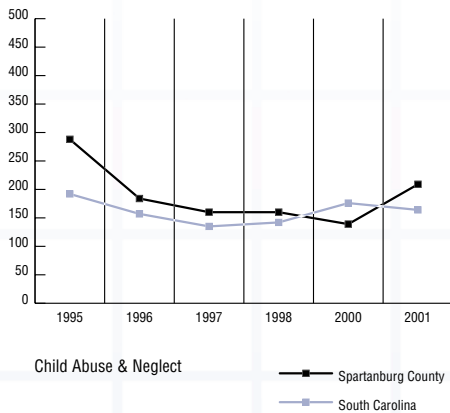
Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a learned and culturally-reinforced pattern of behavior. Without intervention, domestic violence may become intergenerational and more destructive over time. In 2003, spousal abuse constituted 51.9% of domestic assault in Spartanburg County and 53.8% in South Carolina. Domestic violence rates in South Carolina are among the highest in the nation.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in the rate of assaults, with a domestic relationship between victim and offender, reported per 100,000 to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Domestic violence is defined as aggravated assault, simple assault, and intimidation involving victims and offenders who are related to one another. These numbers do not include rape or murder. (Data not available for 2001).



Sources

South Carolina Department of Social Services, 2001
 American Academy of Pediatrics
 South Carolina Kids County, 2003

Child Abuse & Neglect

Children who are abused or neglected experience problems that are likely to have significant, long-term negative impacts on their lives. Child abuse and neglect often results in physical injury, emotional illness, poor school performance, and future criminal behavior.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in the number of indicated cases of abuse and neglect involving children per 100,000 of population in Spartanburg County and South Carolina. These cases include physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental injury, physical neglect, educational neglect, medical neglect, threat of harm, and other types of abuse. Nationally, 2.5 million cases of child abuse and neglect are reported annually. (Data not available for 1999).

FAMILY

Goal 5: Our families will be healthy.

This goal addresses both the physical and mental health of our citizens. By some important measurements, the health of the citizens of Spartanburg County, like the rest of the country, has improved. However, in some ways, the people of this area are at increased risk based on what are generally referred to as personal behavior choices.

The economics of health is at the heart of our health care challenge. We spend a fraction of the health care dollar on the prevention of chronic illness, which experts agree could offer the most cost-effective approach. At the same time, the number of uninsured individuals continues to rise, leaving a vulnerable population to resort to the expensive and inefficient option of emergency room care.

The indicators inform us:

- The cost of preventive health care -- prenatal services, immunization, oral health screening, etc., represent an intelligent investment on the part of any community concerned about rising health care costs.
- Spartanburg County has significant challenges with identified risk behaviors such as obesity, alcohol, drug and tobacco use. These behaviors lead to lifelong health concerns. Data associated with this issue could be greatly expanded by countywide participation in the Center for Disease Control's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey.

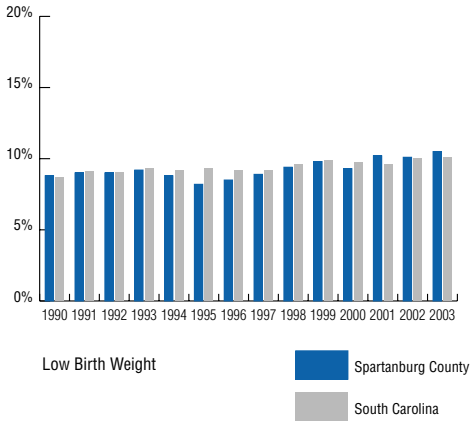
Community Indicators

- Low Birth Weight
- Very Low Birth Weight
- Immunizations (at age 2)
- Infant Mortality
- Hospitalization Rates (Heart Disease, Cancer, Stroke, Diabetes)
- HIV/AIDS Frequency Rates
- Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Rates
- Oral Health
- Drug & Alcohol Admissions
- Teen Risk Behaviors
- Mental Health
- Overweight and Obesity

COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

No community can prosper without a clear vision of what it wants and how it intends to get there. It is our desire that *Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg* will serve as a catalyst for grassroots action that will have a profound effect on our community.

The Council for Community Empowerment is a team of African-American citizens from across the spiritual, economic, educational, and political communities who have come together to redirect their energies, redefine expectations and reaffirm the abilities of that community to affect change in Spartanburg. Using the goals and indicators from this process, the Council will convene an African-American Family Summit in 2005 to rally the leadership of the community to design an implementation plan to address those issues that most effect the African-American community. By creating an agenda consistent with, and building on these indicators, the Summit will look at the barriers to overcome, the resources required, the building of grassroots ownership, all in an effort to offer a clear and compelling call for leadership that empowers the African-American community.



Sources

- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2004
- South Carolina Kids Count, 2003
- National Center for Health Statistics, 2004

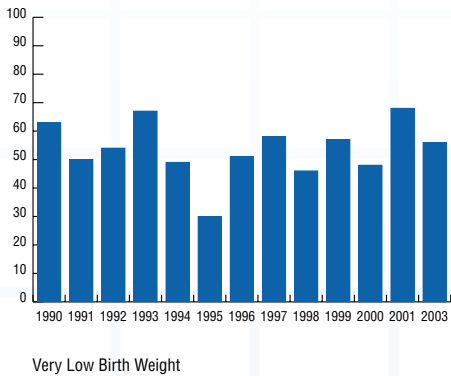
Low Birth Weight

The cost of hospitalization for each low birth weight baby in Spartanburg County in the period 1999-2001 was \$17,847 compared to the \$2,417 average cost of a normal delivery.

Low birth weight may be a result of delayed or incomplete prenatal care and may indicate limited access to care. The National Center for Health Statistics attributes the rise of low birth weight babies to the increase in mothers giving birth to multiple babies, who weigh less.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows low birth weight as a percentage of total births in Spartanburg County and South Carolina. Low birth weight is defined as weight at birth less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces), regardless of the period of gestation. Spartanburg County and South Carolina rates are very similar and follow a national trend. The National Center for Health statistics reports that incidences of low birth weight in the U.S. has increased since the mid-1980s. In 2001, 7.7% of all births were low weight. In 2002, the number increased to 7.8%, and in 2003 it rose again to 7.9%.



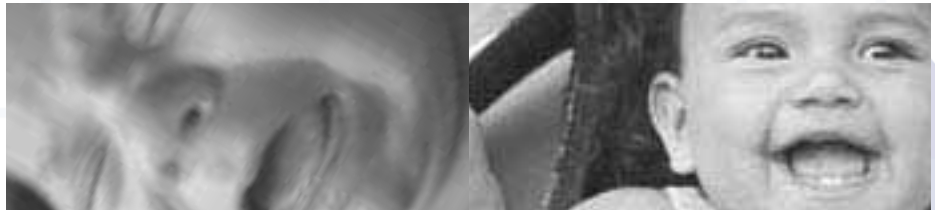
Sources

- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2004
- South Carolina Kids Count, 2003
- National Center for Health Statistics, 2004

Very Low Birth Weight

The cost of hospitalization for each very low birth weight baby in Spartanburg County in 1999-2001 was \$118,015, compared to the \$2,417 average cost of a normal delivery.

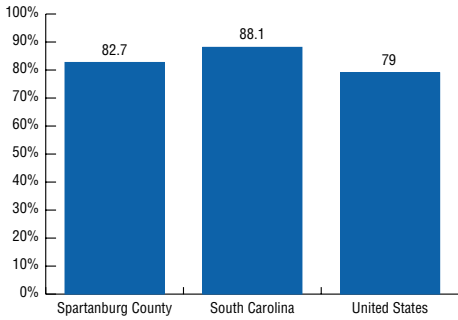
Very low birth weight may be a result of delayed or incomplete prenatal care and may indicate limited access to care. In 2003, 1.6% of all births in Spartanburg County were classified very low weight births, compared to 2% in South Carolina.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows very low birth weight numbers which include total number of births with weight less than 1,500 grams (3 pounds, 4 ounces), regardless of the period of gestation.

FAMILY



Immunizations (at age 2)

Sources

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2004

South Carolina Kids Count, 2003

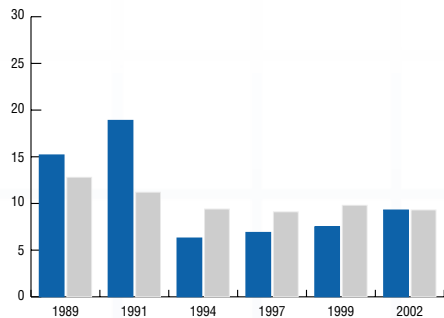
Immunizations (at age 2)

Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventative health care. Immunization is a powerful and cost-effective method of preventing diseases such as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B, and Whooping Cough. Studies have also shown significant cost savings: Every dollar invested in measles, mumps and rubella immunizations saves twenty-one dollars in future health care expenditures.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were fully immunized by age two. Immunization clinics in public health departments and those private practitioners participating in the Vaccine Assurance For All Children Program, (an immunization initiative for South Carolina), provides vaccines to children.



Infant Mortality (per 1000 Babies)

■ Spartanburg County
■ South Carolina

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate shows deaths that occur from birth to the first birthday and is a recognized international health indicator and an indirect measure of prenatal care. Medical advances in the care of very premature infants have improved survival rates. In 2002, the U.S. Infant Mortality rate was 7.0 per 1,000 live births.



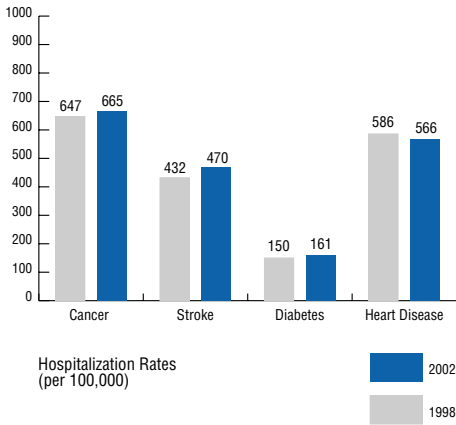
About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in deaths per 1,000 live births in Spartanburg County and in South Carolina.

Sources

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2004

National Center for Health Statistics, 2004



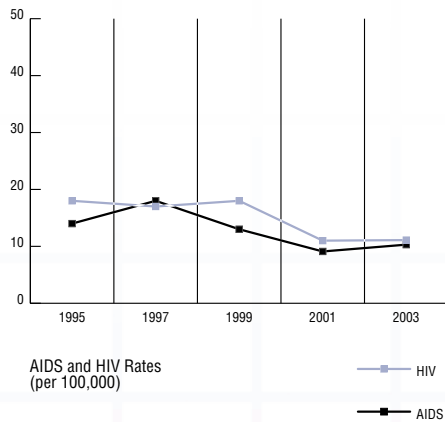
Source
 South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2002

Hospitalization Rates (Heart Disease, Cancer, Stroke, Diabetes)

These illnesses are among the most frequent causes of hospitalization. Hospital costs averaged \$21,860 for strokes; \$34,538 for heart disease; \$25,659 for cancer and \$18,448 for diabetes. A primary reason for hospitalization for any medical condition is the severity of that condition when the patient first seeks treatment. Improved access to primary care and to prevention programs have been shown to reduce hospitalization rates.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows the number of cases from Spartanburg County treated in South Carolina hospitals per 100,000 of population, in the years 1998 and 2002. Spartanburg County's rates of stroke and cancer exceed the state rates.



Sources
 South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2004
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003
 HIV and AIDS: A Spartanburg County Perspective, 2004 Report

HIV/AIDS Frequency Rates

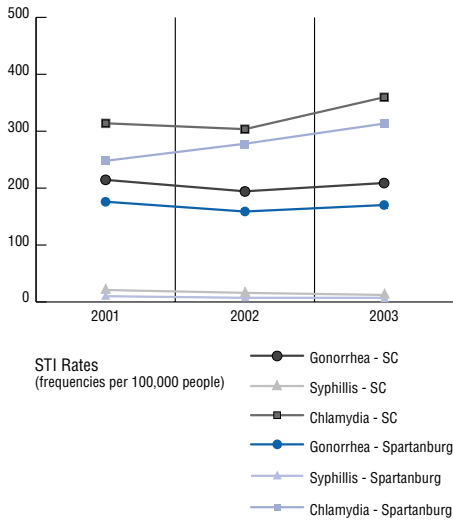
After 22 years of combating this disease, we have a better understanding of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus, but there is still no cure and no vaccine. The good news is that HIV infection can be prevented. People who test positive for HIV may or may not have AIDS, which is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. Early testing and diagnosis is important to the community because: 1) awareness helps prevent further transmission from the infected individuals; and, 2) knowledge of infection is the first step in obtaining important health care to prevent or minimize the development of AIDS. In South Carolina, 77% of persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are African-American. Nationwide, HIV/AIDS was the leading cause of death among African-American women between the ages of 25 and 34.



About the Indicator

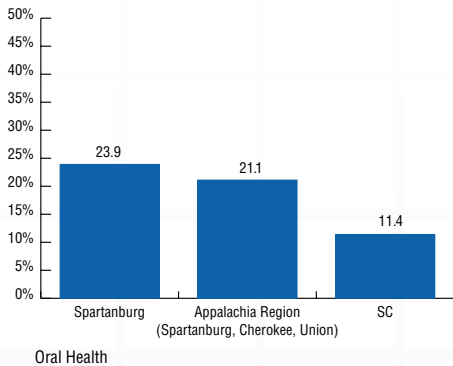
This indicator shows case rates of the HIV and AIDS per 100,000 population in Spartanburg County based on census estimates. This is a prevalence rate and is based on a cumulative number of cases. The United States Health Resources and Services Administration recently identified Spartanburg County as an "emerging community" – a metropolitan area with between 500 and 1,999 cases of AIDS for the most recent five-year period.

FAMILY



Source

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2003



Sources

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control: Division of Oral Health, Statewide Oral Health Needs Assessment, 2002

Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America, 2000

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Rates

Individuals who contract STIs may suffer severe medical problems. They may also be likely to contract HIV that can result in AIDS. Today more than 65 million Americans have an STI. An additional 15 million people become infected with one or more STIs each year.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in case rates per 100,000 of population in Spartanburg County and South Carolina based on census estimates. In every case, South Carolina's rate exceeds that of Spartanburg County. Information includes cases of Chlamydia, Syphilis, and Gonorrhea. These infections are communicable diseases; they can be transmitted to other individuals.

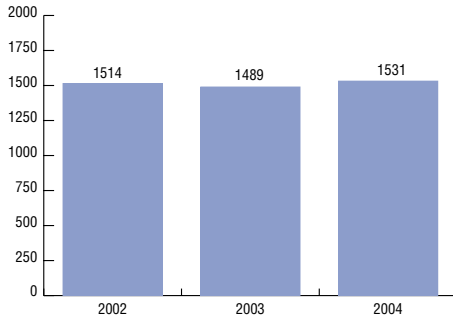
Oral Health

Nationally, studies show that almost 52 million school hours per year are lost to dental related illness. Poor oral health has been related to decreased school performance, poor social relationships, and less success later in life. Early tooth loss caused by dental decay can result in failure to thrive, impaired speech development, school absence, and inability to concentrate in school, and reduced self esteem. The prevalence of untreated dental caries (the formation of cavities by the action of bacteria) was slightly higher in Spartanburg County (34.1%) than the State (32.2%). The prevalence of dental sealant on at least one permanent molar was slightly lower in Spartanburg County (17.8%) than in the State (20.3%). Spartanburg County had nearly twice the proportion of children requiring urgent dental care as compared to the State.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows the percentage of children in kindergarten and 3rd grade with urgent dental treatment needs, according to the 2002 South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) Statewide Oral Health Assessment. The data is derived from a random survey, and brief dental screening, of 21,000 South Carolina students and is adjusted to reflect county, racial and socio-economic diversity. The Basic Screening Survey was developed and validated by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. Spartanburg County is compared to both the regional health district (Appalachia III) and to the State.



Drug and Alcohol Admissions

Sources

Spartanburg Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, 2004

National Institute on Drug Abuse, United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2004

Drug & Alcohol Admissions

While approximately 3,000 individuals seek professional assistance each year from the SADAC, national estimates indicate that more than 20,000 others in Spartanburg County are unable to receive help or choose not to seek it. Despite the negative stigma associated with the problem, with support and treatment, people who abuse alcohol and other drugs are able to make positive changes that improve their quality of life. Between 2000 and 2003, nearly 70% of all SADAC clients completed treatment successfully. Substance abuse and addiction are known to have a ripple effect on the community, contributing to issues such as poverty, unemployment, hospital admissions, school attendance, and crime. When individuals and families recover from addiction, the entire community benefits.

**About the Indicator**

This indicator shows first-time admissions to the Spartanburg Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (SADAC) programs and is only a partial indicator of the need for these services in the county. Each year, more Spartanburg County citizens with the chronic, progressive disease of addiction return to SADAC for additional services and support as they attempt to sustain long-term recovery. Current estimates are that approximately one in every ten persons in the United States has a diagnosable problem with alcohol alone. In Spartanburg County, this translates to 25,000 lives impacted by alcohol, with scores more affected by other drug use as well.

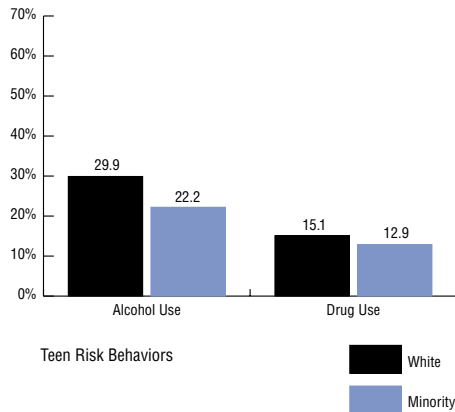
TRANSPORTATION

A common theme throughout the process and across several Focus Groups was lack of transportation - a reality that looms as a major barrier to many in our community. Stories were shared of shift workers unable to keep their jobs because no mass transit was available to accommodate their schedules. Mothers who leave at 6 a.m. to get their child to a doctor's appointment by 10 a.m., rural elderly who must wait for relatives, or friends, to drive them to their appointments.

Inadequate transportation resources constitute a hidden barrier in access to medical care. The result is that adults and children with manageable, chronic medical conditions get sick more often and frequently need critical follow-up care after surgery or a major illness that they cannot get.

There is a need to design solutions for personal mobility "flexible scheduling" and mass transit "fixed schedules" in Spartanburg County that are effective and can be economically sustained.

FAMILY



Source

South Carolina Kids Count, 2003

Teen Risk Behaviors

Tobacco and alcohol use among youth is a demonstrated indicator of risk-taking and a likely predictor of future use of other addictive substances. Smoking-related diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, are the leading cause of preventable death in the nation. Studies show that most smokers begin by age 18, so reducing tobacco use among teens is seen as an important factor in reducing adult smoking.

According to research by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, adolescents who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21. The three leading causes of death for 15 to 24 year-olds are automobile accidents, homicides and suicides, and alcohol is identified as a leading causative factor in all three. Dependence on alcohol and other drugs is linked with psychiatric problems such as depression, anxiety, oppositional defiant disorder, and anti-social personality disorder.



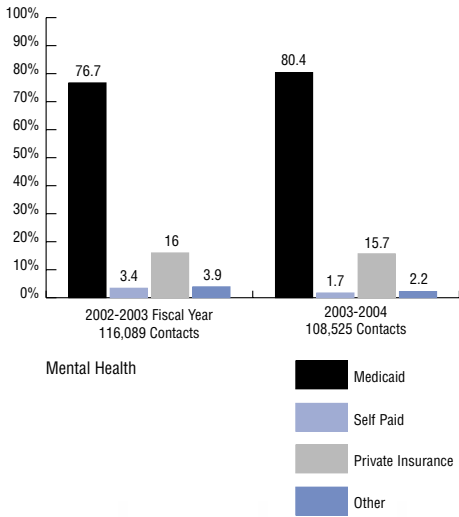
About the Indicator

Spartanburg County's participation in the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) South Carolina survey of adolescent substance and risk-taking reflects data from 5 of 7 school districts. Nevertheless, it is presented here as the best available indicator of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Spartanburg County.

YOUTH AT RISK

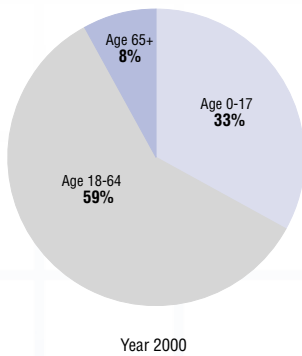
In the U.S., every ten seconds an adolescent contracts a sexually transmitted disease. Adolescent pregnancy rates in Spartanburg County is among the highest in South Carolina. The early onset of sexual activity and the resulting adolescent pregnancies have far reaching impact - medical, economic, educational, and social. Children born to adolescent parents are at greater risk for being low birth rate, dropping out of school, using public assistance, entering the juvenile justice system, being abused, and becoming an adolescent parent themselves. The annual direct costs of adolescent pregnancy in Spartanburg County, excluding private insurance costs, totals over \$20 million.

Progress is being made in reducing adolescent pregnancy rates. Pregnancy prevention education, after school clubs, and scouting troops are helping dispel myths and provide youth with positive environments where they can be safe and gain exposure to a wide variety of activities. This is building confidence and self-esteem and leading to better decision making.



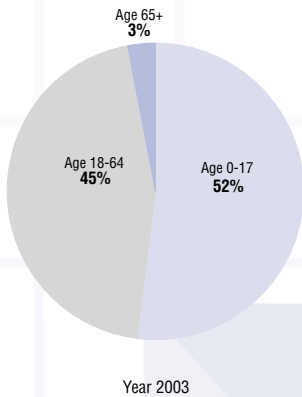
Mental Health

Medical professionals emphasize a clear connection between mental and physical health, and they stress the fundamental importance of mental health to overall health and well-being. Mental disorders, affecting nearly one in five Americans in any given year, are real illnesses, and when left untreated, they can be just as serious and disabling as physical diseases such as cancer and stroke. The inability to pay is often a barrier to securing mental health services for those who do not qualify for Medicaid



About the Indicator

The first chart shows the monthly number of service contacts from Spartanburg County in the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center (SAMHC) and the payment methods used. Medicaid has paid for the majority of mental health visits to SAMHC. The second chart represents the age breakdown of clients at the SAMHC, showing an increase in admissions under the age of 18.



Mental Health Clientele by Age

Sources

Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center, 2004
 United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General, 2004
 Office of Research and Statistics, 2004

Overweight and Obesity

The effects of obesity in terms of death, disability and morbidity are devastating. The impact of Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, stroke and other conditions caused by obesity are rising. Despite these alarming facts, obesity and its related illnesses do not receive the attention they deserve from government, the health care profession, or the insurance industry. Additional data about this indicator is needed for all age groups. Halting and reversing the upward trend of the obesity epidemic will require effective collaboration among government, voluntary, and private sectors, as well as a commitment to action by individuals and communities across the nation.



About the Indicator

It is estimated that 62% of Spartanburg County citizens are overweight. According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, 60.3% of the population of South Carolina is overweight or obese. In the United States, obesity has risen at an epidemic rate during the past 20 years. Research indicates that the situation is worsening rather than improving. The terms "overweight" and "obesity" differ:

- Overweight refers to increased body weight in relation to height, when compared to some standard of acceptable or desirable weight. Overweight may or may not be due to increases in body fat. It may also be due to an increase in lean muscle.
- Obesity is defined as an excessively high amount of body fat or adipose tissue in relation to lean body mass. The amount of body fat (or adiposity) includes concern for both the distribution of fat throughout the body and the size of the adipose tissue deposits.

Sources

Centers for Disease Control, 2004

South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002

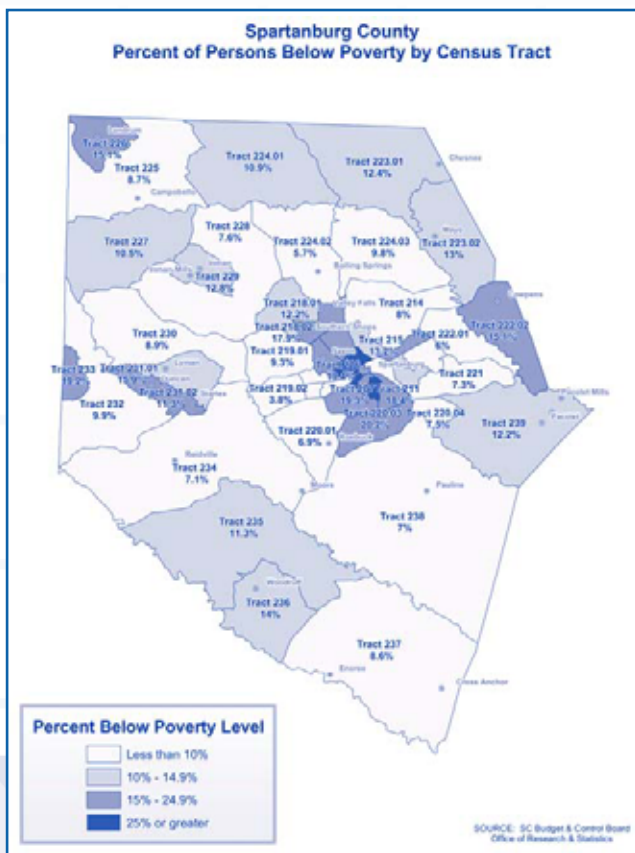
Goal 6: Our citizens will have the economic means to steadily improve their standard of living.

Over the past few years, continued progress has been made in providing our citizens with the economic means to support themselves and their families. This bright picture is clouded by the number of individuals and families among us who are experiencing acute problems. This is especially true for minority children and families who are seriously behind in health, educational success, home ownership, and income. Failure to address these disparities could undermine progress toward our strategic goals.

It is known that poverty causes immediate and lasting harm, particularly for children. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food and clothing, live in sub-standard housing, become victims of violence and crime, lack basic health care and do poorly in school. While the poverty rate is declining, the number of single parent households is cause for concern.

Community Indicators

- Poverty by Census Tract
- Median Family Income
- Housing Costs
- Home Ownership
- Unsound Housing
- Availability for Full-Time Work
- Per Capita Income



Poverty by Census Tract

Poverty is known to have a negative effect on human achievement. Poverty exists when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs. The identification of poor people requires a determination of what constitutes basic needs. These may be defined as narrowly as "those necessary for survival" or as broadly as "those reflecting the prevailing standard of living in the community." The first criterion would cover only those people near the borderline of starvation or death from exposure; the second would extend to people whose nutrition, housing, and clothing, though adequate to preserve life, do not measure up to those of the population as a whole.

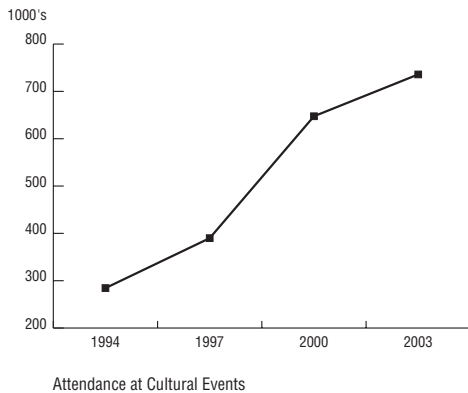
About the Indicator

The indicator shows the percentage of persons in households officially earning less than the poverty level in 1999. In 1999, the poverty threshold for one person was \$8,501. For a family of one parent with two children, the threshold was \$13,423. For a family of four (with 2 children under 18 years), the threshold was \$16,895. The Spartanburg County census tract map illustrates levels of poverty throughout the county.

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

COMMUNITY



Source

The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg, 2004

Attendance at Cultural Events

The arts shape the lives of all citizens. It is often said the arts help define our communities, add to the quality of life, make for quality education, and provide an economic return on investment that contributes directly to all aspects of society. Developing, strengthening and promoting the excellence, scope and educational role of the arts, humanities and sciences is an important component in community life.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in attendance has more than doubled from 284,000 to 786,000 between 1993 and 2003. This includes attendance at performances, art exhibits, historic houses, festivals, art classes, and other events.

LOCAL PHILANTHROPY

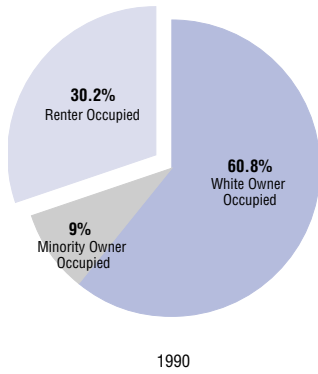
Attaining a higher quality of life encompasses all the goals that have been outlined in this publication – quality education, economic vitality, health and well-being, public safety and a focus on environment. A caring and generous community also illustrates the desire for a higher quality of life – the investment in the arts and health and human services shows a community that wants to continuously improve the conditions.

Since 1993, the combined annual budget for Spartanburg County's non-profit cultural organizations has almost tripled, growing from \$1.2 million to \$3.5 million. Per capita giving to The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg's 2003 United Arts Campaign was \$2.54. An additional Capital Campaign raised \$140.32 per capita to construct a new Center for Arts, Science and History.

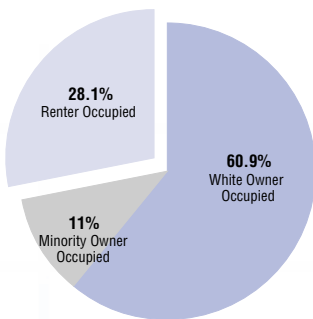
The United Way of the Piedmont raised \$13.30 per capita for Spartanburg County in 2003. This compares with \$12.20 per capita nationally and \$12.50 per capita for the state of South Carolina. The United Way of the Piedmont distributed funds to 111 programs in the health and human service area.

The Spartanburg County Foundation, a community foundation, raised \$25.00 per capita for Spartanburg County in 2003. In South Carolina, there are seven community foundations serving 31 counties. Per capita giving to each community foundation ranged from \$.71 to \$25.00. The Spartanburg County Foundation distributed in excess of \$4 million dollars in 2004 for community projects. Since 1943, the Foundation has distributed \$59 million to initiatives in the greater Spartanburg Community to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Spartanburg County also has a health legacy foundation, The Mary Black Foundation. Since 1996, it has awarded over \$20 million in areas of health and wellness, including early childhood, active living, teen pregnancy, nutrition, and family literacy.



1990



2000

Home Ownership

Home Ownership

Minority citizens of Spartanburg County are less likely to own their own homes than are whites. Housing is vital to the health of a vibrant community and the local economy. The lack of housing can be a significant impediment to obtaining employment and stabilizing a person's life. Home ownership is a priority for many citizens and is one strong indicator of housing affordability.



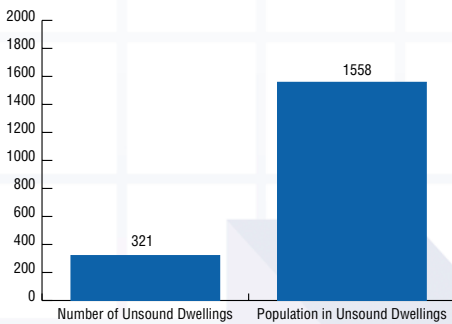
About the Indicator

This indicator shows minority and white home ownership depicted as a percentage of total housing in Spartanburg County in 1990 and 2000. Minority home ownership has increased from 9% in 1990 to 11% in 2000. In South Carolina, 54.4% of housing is white owner-occupied and 17.8% is minority owner-occupied.

Sources

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

U.S. Department of Commerce, 2004



Unsound Housing

Unsound Housing

Decent housing is vital to healthy families, communities and local economies. Substandard housing conditions give rise to a number of health, family, and societal problems such as lead poisoning, lack of heat or overcrowding.

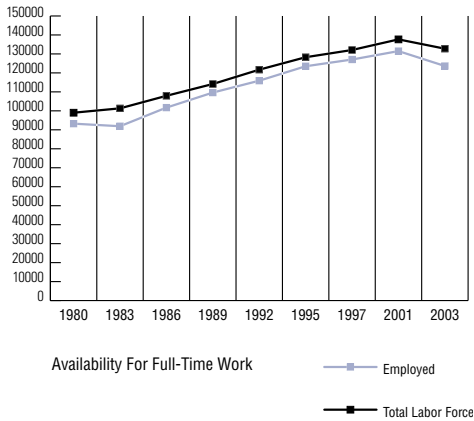
About the Indicator

This indicator shows the Spartanburg County Dwelling Condition Count for both incorporated and unincorporated areas, illustrating the number of dwellings assessed as "unsound" or not fit for habitation and how many people live in these dwellings.

Source

Office of the Tax Assessor, Spartanburg County, 2003

COMMUNITY



Source
South Carolina Employment Security Commission, 2003

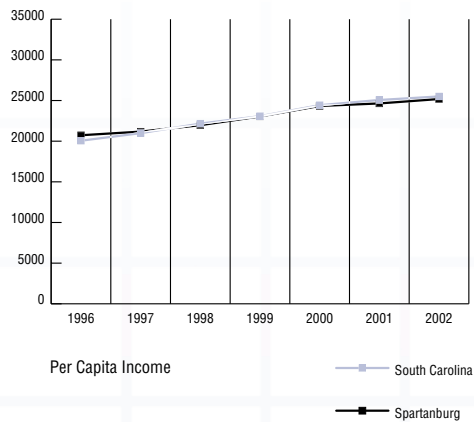
Availability for Full-Time Work

Full-time employment is an essential component of a thriving economy. This provides income opportunity for a strong consumer market, capacity to fund needed public services, and a higher standard of living for citizens of Spartanburg County.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in the total labor force available for work and the employed labor force numbers for Spartanburg County. The gap between these lines is the unemployed labor force in Spartanburg County.



Sources
Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2002
South Carolina Office of Research and Statistics, 2004

Per Capita Income

Effective buying income is essential for individuals to meet basic needs and have enough money left to enhance their quality of life. The national per capita income for 2002 was \$30,906. In South Carolina, the 2002 per capita income was \$25,502, compared to Spartanburg County's \$25,182. The most recent income statistics available by race are from the 2000 census, reporting income from 1999. The per capita income for whites in South Carolina was \$22,095, and \$20,988 in Spartanburg County. The per capita income among minorities in South Carolina was \$15,316, and \$12,643 in Spartanburg County.

About the Indicator

This indicator is a trend of income calculated as the personal income of the residents of Spartanburg County divided by its population. In computing per capita personal income, the Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the U.S. Census Bureau's annual mid-year population estimates. Personal income is the income that is received by persons from all sources. It is calculated as the sum of wage and salary disbursements, supplements to wages and salaries, proprietors' income with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments, rental income of persons with capital consumption adjustment, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and personal current transfer receipts, less contributions for government social insurance.

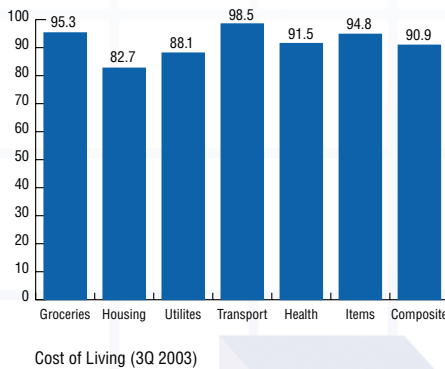
Goal 7: Our communities will be economically viable places for our citizens to live.

Spartanburg County and Upstate South Carolina are part of an economically-attractive region of the country. Assuming that the Upstate's population increases at the same rate during the next two decades as it has over the past twenty years, by the year 2020 there will be approximately 314,000 more people living in our region, 116,000 more homes, 209,000 more cars, and 29,010 more students.

With median family income and per capita income rising over the last decade, Spartanburg's citizens will continue to benefit from the growth and development along the I-85 corridor. Over the last 40 years, Spartanburg County has attracted global firms that have diversified an economy historically rooted in agriculture and textiles. Today, Spartanburg boasts the highest per capita international investment in the nation, according to the *New York Times*. With this growth and development upon us, it is essential that prosperity reaches every community in the county, providing opportunities for our citizens to enjoy its benefits.

Community Indicators

- Cost of Living
- Job Creation
- Unemployment Rates
- Employment by Sector
- Wages by Sector



Source

Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, 2003

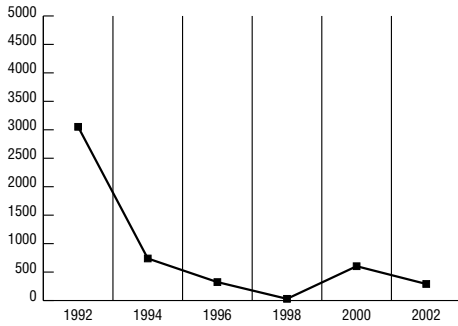
Cost of Living

A reasonable cost of living index is essential for citizens to be able to continually afford the basic needs of life. The cost of living in Spartanburg County is competitive with its neighbors and an asset in recruiting businesses to the area.

About the Indicator

This indicator compares total costs between urban areas with component data on groceries, housing, utilities, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous goods. Based on an index of 100 as the average (e.g. 125 would indicate an urban area was 25% more expensive than average) the indicator shows the average cost of all goods and services required for a reasonable standard of living by a typical consumer. Every quarter ACCRA (formerly known as the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association) compiles and publishes its *ACCRA Cost of Living Index*, a comparison of the cost of living in more than 300 cities and areas across the country. Participating agencies such as chambers of commerce collect prices on nearly 60 different products and services. In an effort to control random error in the analysis of the data, agencies are expected to collect the same data at the same time for every quarter during the year.

COMMUNITY



Job Creation

Job Creation

Job creation through new or expanded business and industry is an essential component of a thriving economy. As the working-age population grows, more jobs are needed to support economic stability. During the period 1992 to 2002, while numbers have fluctuated, the trend of job creation has declined in Spartanburg County. According to the Economic Policy Institute, South Carolina had zero percent job growth during the period from March 2001 to October 2004, while at the same time job creation nationally declined.

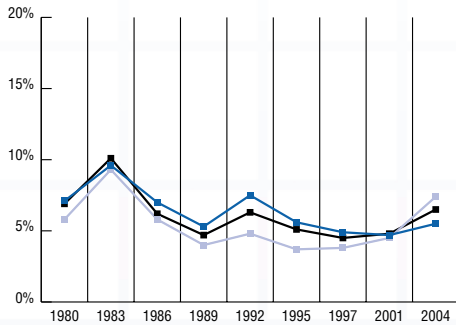


About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in the number of jobs created annually in Spartanburg County.

Sources

Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, 2003
Economic Policy Institute, 2004



Unemployment Rate

- United States
- Spartanburg County
- South Carolina

Unemployment Rates

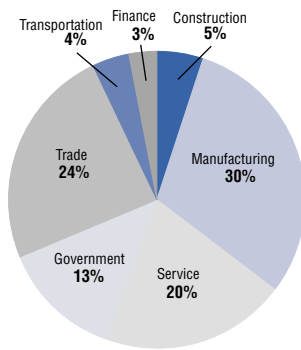
Individuals and families need consistent employment to remain self-sufficient. Unemployment insurance was designed to temporarily aid unemployed workers while they looked for a new job, however today's economic climate means that more and more workers are exhausting their unemployment benefits before they find a new job.

About the Indicator

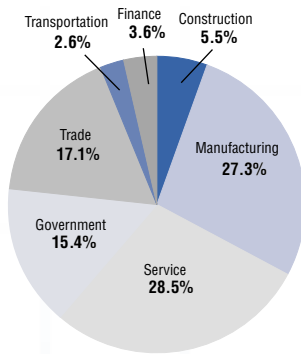
This indicator shows the total number of unemployed residents in Spartanburg County, South Carolina and the United States divided by their respective total labor forces. The average annual unemployment rate for 2004 was 6.5% for South Carolina and 7.4% for Spartanburg County, compared to 5.6% nationally.

Sources

South Carolina Employment Security Commission, 2004
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004



Employment By Sector - 1999



Employment By Sector - 2003

Employment by Sector

This indicator shows the major employment sectors on which Spartanburg County's economy is based. A diversified economic base provides more employment opportunities for citizens.



About the Indicator

This indicator depicts the percentage of individuals employed in each major business sector as determined by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Source

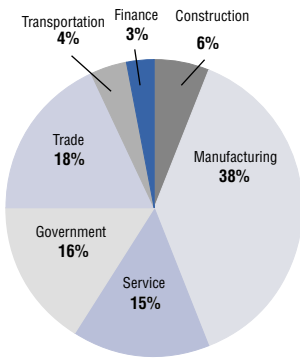
South Carolina Employment Security Commission, 2003

SPARTANBURG COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SCEDC)

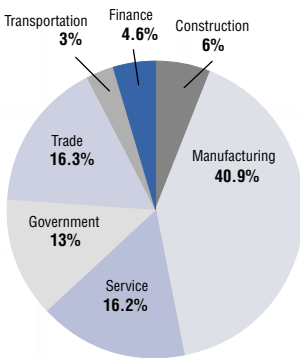
Established in 2002, the Spartanburg County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC), an affiliate of the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, is a 501 (c) (6) tax exempt organization. The SCEDC's purpose is to promote economic development and to concentrate its energy and resources on the economic development of Spartanburg County, City, and the surrounding municipalities. The focus is to generate capital investment and create and retain jobs in Spartanburg County in the manufacturing and non-manufacturing arena. These goals are accomplished by implementing an extremely aggressive marketing effort, consisting of national and global Project Development trips, along with participation in strategic trade shows.

The economic development effort in Spartanburg has been very successful in recent years, particularly in the manufacturing arena. Cooperation between the public and private sectors has created a pro-business climate that equates to success. In the current global economy, competition has increased and the project pool has decreased; therefore, we must seek ways in which to diversify our local economy. The SCEDC, via its aggressive project development initiative concentrates in the automotive, chemical, plastics and metalworking segments in the manufacturing arena and the logistics, distribution and office segments in the non-manufacturing arena.

COMMUNITY



Wages By Sector - 1999



Wages By Sector - 2003

Wages by Sector

An economically healthy community will provide jobs with livable wages for anyone who wants work. Identifying wages by sector helps us to learn how well our local economy sustains our citizens. A living wage allows families to meet their basic needs without resorting to public assistance and provides them some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows the percentage of total wages among the major industry sectors of Spartanburg County. During the first quarter of 2004, the average weekly wage in the Finance sector was \$703; Transportation was \$608; Trade was \$519; Government was \$651; Service was \$512; Manufacturing was \$840; and Construction was \$591.

Source

South Carolina Employment Security Commission: 2003, 2004



Goal 8: Our communities will be increasingly safe.

The indicators emphasize the importance of personal and community responsibility. Nowhere is that more evident than with the issue of public safety. When citizens feel safe in their neighborhoods, they are more likely to be active and involved.

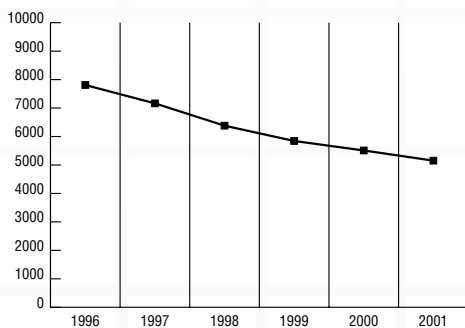
Progress towards safe communities is tied closely to the goals of family stability and economic viability. Over the past ten years, community-oriented policing has helped to build partnerships between law enforcement agencies through the development of special units, neighborhood watch programs and youth services collaborations – all of which contribute to a reduction in the overall crime rate.

The available data reveals:

- There is a general decrease in victimization crimes in Spartanburg County.
- The number of juvenile cases is decreasing through systemic collaboration involving youth service agencies, school resource officers and related agencies.

Community Indicators

- Adult Crime Index
- Juvenile Cases & Commitments
- Commitments to South Carolina Department of Corrections
- Traffic Incidents



Adult Crime Index

Sources

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, 2003

Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2003

Adult Crime Index

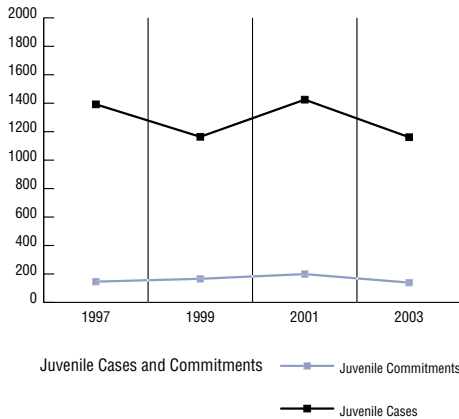
The overall crime rates for Spartanburg County have continually decreased over the past ten years. Although violent crimes may receive more attention, property crimes are far more common. In 2003, Americans age 12 or older, experienced approximately 24 million crimes, according to findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey: 77% (18.6 million) were property crimes, 22% (5.4 million) were crimes of violence, 1% were personal thefts.



About the Indicator

This indicator illustrates the trend in the total number of victimization crimes in Spartanburg County reported to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) annually. Violent crime includes homicide, rape, aggravated assault, and robbery. Serious property crime includes burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson. There has been a general decrease in victimization crimes in Spartanburg County.

COMMUNITY



Source
South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, 2003

Juvenile Cases & Commitments

Juvenile crime is an important factor in community safety. The top five offenses in Spartanburg County are shoplifting, domestic violence, disturbing school, probation violation, and simple assault and battery. Statewide in 2003, the number of juvenile cases increased. While the number of cases in Spartanburg County has decreased, the percentage of violent or serious cases has increased. As adults, juveniles who committed crimes are more likely to continue a criminal behavior pattern. It should be noted that the recidivism rate in Spartanburg County decreased by 6% between the years 2002 and 2003.



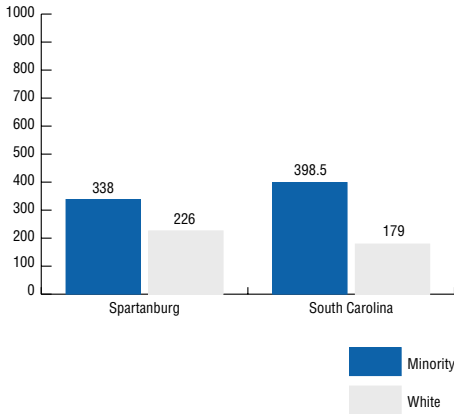
About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in the total number of juveniles (ages 10-16) processed for all types of crimes in Spartanburg County. Referred cases may be prosecuted, sent to arbitration/pre-trial intervention, or dismissed. Juveniles committed to an institution have generally committed more serious crimes. There has been an improved systemic emphasis involving youth service agencies, school resource officers, and mental health agencies on placement and treatment options for juveniles. The chart shows the number of juveniles committed to an institution and these numbers may be interpreted as evidence of failed intervention efforts.

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

The Mayor's Youth Council is a collaboration open to all youth service organizations from the public, private and nonprofit sectors in Spartanburg County. The Council was established to share information and reach consensus to ensure that those agencies in Spartanburg providing services to youth do so in the most effective manner possible.

The Council has adopted the goals and indicators related to youth from *Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg* as a means of aligning their priorities with those of the community. Collaboration among agencies provides the best avenue to address these multi-faceted issues and ensure that we as a community can respond together to the needs of our young people.



Commitments to South Carolina Department of Corrections

Source

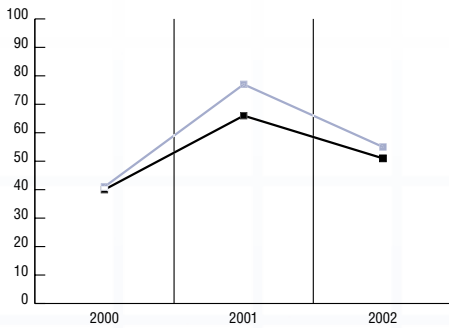
South Carolina Department of Corrections, 2003

Commitments to South Carolina Department of Corrections

Commitments to the South Carolina Department of Corrections reflect the seriousness of the crimes committed. Spartanburg County's commitment rate is higher than the state average (4th highest in South Carolina in 2003).

About the Indicator

This indicator shows the rate of individuals committed to the South Carolina Department of Corrections in 2003. Fifty-five percent of Spartanburg County felons are minorities, as compared to 69% for South Carolina.



Traffic Incidents

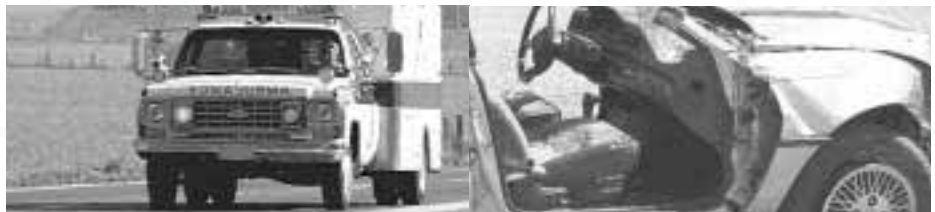
— Persons Killed
— Fatal Collisions

Source

South Carolina Department of Public Safety, 2002

Traffic Incidents

Spartanburg County has the second highest number of roadway miles and had the highest number of commercial motor vehicle (a truck with six or more tires, or a vehicle with a hazardous materials placard, or a bus designed to carry 16 or more persons, including the driver) collisions in South Carolina in 2002. South Carolina's rate of traffic fatalities per vehicle miles has continually been above the national average.



About the Indicator

This indicator illustrates the trend in the number of fatal collisions and persons killed annually. Following a national trend, the incident rate decreased between 2001 and 2002. In South Carolina, the number of fatal collisions decreased 1.4% in the same period.

COMMUNITY

Goal 9: Our citizens will have opportunities for civic engagement that promotes well-being and a higher quality of life.

Community quality of life is an amalgam of all our community indicators. The economy, health, social services, land development and environment all speak to the livability of our community. These issues lend themselves to measurement, but other factors relating to livability – leisure, cultural resources, social life, satisfaction with government services and spirituality – prove a challenge.

The Advisory Board felt strongly that these quality of life issues should become a part of the *Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg* report. There is a need for a mechanism to systematically gauge citizen involvement through participation in political processes and civic life.

In the areas of arts and culture, citizen satisfaction with government, and the role of the faith community, there are currently few sources of data meeting our criteria that produce the kind of benchmarking information usable in this report. More comprehensive methods of measuring quality of life can be found in survey instruments employed by other communities. The adoption of similar surveys would allow us to better assess these quality of life issues over the next five years.

This goal raises questions that we as a community must answer regarding the kind of place we wish to live in:

- How do we build a more inclusive, welcoming, and respectful community?
- How can the faith community more fully participate in the development of public, private and nonprofit sector solutions to meet the needs within our community?
- How do we benchmark citizen satisfaction with government at every level?
- How do arts and culture nurture the spirit, and the economy, of our community?
- How can we build a more collaborative partnership of public, private and nonprofit institutions throughout Spartanburg County?

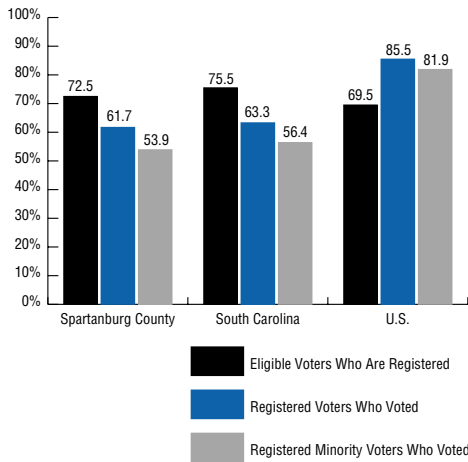
Community Indicators

- Voter Registration Turnout
- Charitable Giving
- Attendance at Cultural Events

SHARE THE VISION

Share the Vision, Spartanburg County's long-range strategic planning initiative housed at the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, began a re-visioning initiative in 2003 to develop a new strategic plan for the Spartanburg community. More than 400 citizens have participated in a series of visioning workshops to brainstorm ideas around the themes of Livability, Health, Education, Economic Vitality, Community Appeal, Inclusiveness and Governance. These ideas will be turned into goal statements on a "Commitments List" of actual projects and initiatives. Each goal included on the new Commitments List will have a champion – a community-based organization that takes responsibility for making the goal a reality.

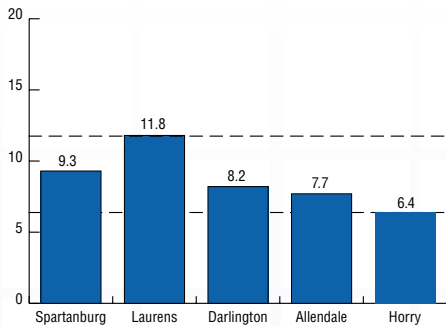
The new *Community Indicators Report*, published by The Spartanburg County Foundation in partnership with United Way of the Piedmont, includes inspiring community goals based on the indicators in each focus area of the report. The two initiatives, Share the Vision's Commitments List and The Spartanburg County Foundation's *Community Indicators*, compliment and strengthen each other, but have very different outcomes. While the *Community Indicators* seek to change the stats by showing us where many of our challenges lie, Share the Vision's goals seek to change the landscape by articulating the projects and initiatives that will move us forward as a community.



Voter Registration and Turnout
(2000 General Election)

Sources

South Carolina Board of Elections, 2004
U.S. Census Bureau: Current Population Survey,
November 2000



Charitable Giving

Source

Chronicle of Philanthropy, 2002

Voter Registration and Turnout

High voter turnout is an indicator that people are interested and believe they can make a difference in government.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows the registration and turnout percentages of voting-age citizens of Spartanburg County, South Carolina, and the United States for the 2000 General Election. When compared to the 1996 election, the trend for electoral participation is declining in the county, state, and nation.

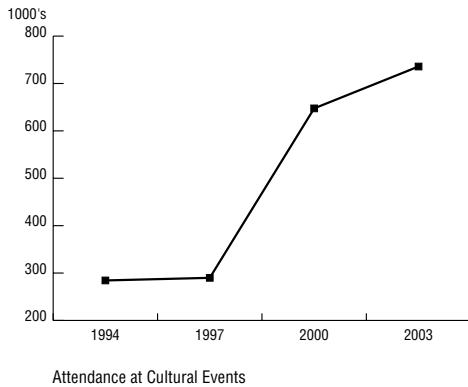
Charitable Giving

There is little more important to the future, character, and vitality of a community than how it cultivates philanthropy. Few things will shape the quality of life for our children and future generations as will what we give back to our community. Philanthropy sometimes involves partnerships with government, or pooling resources with corporations or foundations. It can also be an independent effort manifested by the vision and generosity of a single donor or family. Philanthropic donations pay for significant amounts of health and human service expenses. Nonprofit organizations play an ever-increasing role in the strength and well-being of the community. They deliver counseling, educate children, help those in need, and encourage volunteerism. In 1999, charitable giving in the U.S. reached \$190 billion. Bequests exceeded \$15 billion. Non-corporate foundations contributed nearly \$20 billion. Corporate giving topped \$11 billion. Since 1980, the number of foundations in our nation doubled.

About the Indicator

This indicator compares Spartanburg County's percentage of average discretionary income given to charity with other counties in South Carolina. *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* conducts an analysis of charitable giving by people who earned at least \$50,000 annually and who itemized deductions, using tax return data. Discretionary income is defined as what is left over after basic living expenses. The analysis used cost-of-living data to determine discretionary income at the local level. Laurens County had the highest percentage of discretionary income going to charity and Horry County, the lowest. Allendale and Darlington Counties had discretionary incomes similar to Spartanburg County (within \$790) and both gave less to charities.

COMMUNITY

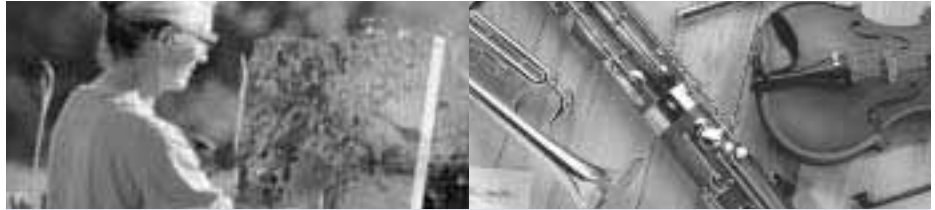


Source

The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg, 2004

Attendance at Cultural Events

The arts shape the lives of all citizens. It is often said the arts help define our communities, add to the quality of life, make for quality education, and provide an economic return on investment that contributes directly to all aspects of society. Developing, strengthening and promoting the excellence, scope and educational role of the arts, humanities and sciences is an important component in community life.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows the trend in attendance has more than doubled from 284,000 to 786,000 between 1993 and 2003. This includes attendance at performances, art exhibits, historic houses, festivals, art classes, and other events.

LOCAL PHILANTHROPY

Attaining a higher quality of life encompasses all the goals that have been outlined in this publication – quality education, economic vitality, health and well-being, public safety and a focus on environment. A caring and generous community also illustrates the desire for a higher quality of life – the investment in the arts and health and human services shows a community that wants to continuously improve the conditions.

Since 1993, the Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg has grown from \$1.2 million in combined budgets to \$3.5 million annually. Per capita giving was \$2.54 in 2003 for their annual campaign and \$140.32 for the capital campaign to construct a new Center for Arts, Science, and History.

The United Way of the Piedmont raised \$13.30 per capita for Spartanburg County in 2003. This compares with \$12.20 per capita nationally and \$12.50 per capita for the state of South Carolina. The United Way of the Piedmont distributed funds to 111 programs in the health and human service area.

The Spartanburg County Foundation, a community foundation, raised \$25.00 per capita for Spartanburg County in 2003. In South Carolina, there are seven community foundations serving 31 counties. Per capita giving to each community foundation ranged from \$.71 to \$25.00. The Spartanburg County Foundation distributed in excess of \$4 million dollars in 2004 for community projects. Since 1943, the Foundation has distributed \$59 million to initiatives in the greater Spartanburg Community to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Spartanburg County also has a health legacy foundation, The Mary Black Foundation. Since 1996, they have awarded over \$20 million in areas of health and wellness, including early childhood, active living, teen pregnancy, nutrition, and family literacy.

Goal 10: Our citizens will manage our natural resources in a way that will support current and future generations.

This goal acknowledges the importance of benchmarks associated with land, air, water, and waste management.

The available community indicators for this goal are mixed. There is a need to develop an extensive set of indicators to measure progress in this important area. It is critical that Spartanburg County view economic development and a healthy, sustainable environment as going hand in hand. The indicators in this section show that a generally healthy ecosystem faces increased pressures from population growth, energy consumption and land development.

Community Indicators

- Population Density
- Vehicle Miles
- Farmland Use: Cropland
- Solid Waste/Recycling
- Air Quality
- Water Quality



Population Density

Population size and composition impact the quality of life, economics, environmental and health status of the county and its need for a variety of services. Population data also provide the denominators used to calculate rates for most health and social indicators. Public service costs tend to increase with growth and population density.



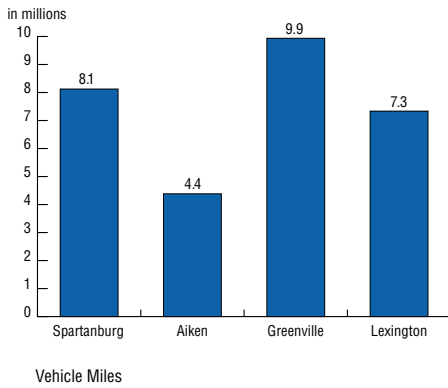
About the Indicator

This indicator shows the population density in Spartanburg County as compared to other similar South Carolina counties.

Sources

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Sociation Today
Journal of The North Carolina Sociological Association

PLACE



Source
 South Carolina Department of Public Safety, 2002
 U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

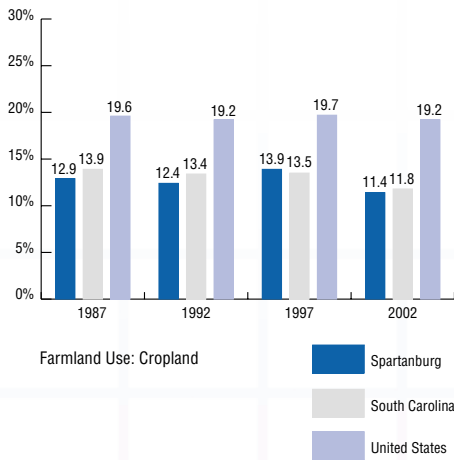
Vehicle Miles

Spartanburg County hosts the intersection of Interstate highways I-26 and I-85, affecting the economy, fuel consumption, public safety services, and air and water pollution.



About the Indicator

This indicator presents data about vehicle miles traveled daily in Spartanburg County in comparison with other counties of similar size.



Source
 United States Department of Agriculture, Census of Agriculture

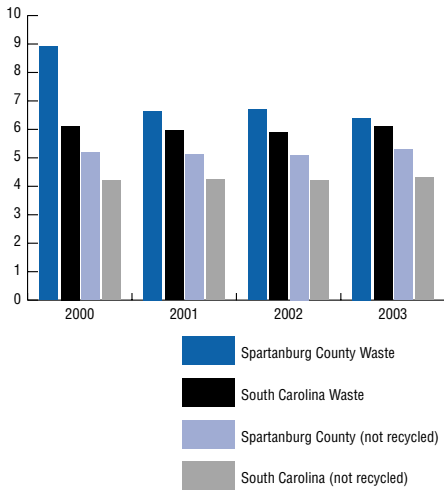
Farmland Use: Cropland

Since World War II, prevailing patterns of land use throughout the country have emphasized the conversion of natural or agricultural land to low-density residential subdivisions, commercial centers, and business parks separated by roads and parking lots. Often described as "sprawl," this type of land use creates long distances between homes and work or shopping, a heavy reliance on highways and automobiles, and the destruction of the natural landscape. Recent studies have begun identifying and quantifying the negative impacts that result from sprawl. These include: wildlife habitat loss and fragmentation, degradation of water quality as watersheds are paved, diminished air quality, loss of farmland, loss of open space, decline in community and quality of life as more time is spent isolated in cars and homes, and hazards to public health such as obesity from less walking.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows a trend in the percentage of total acreage by cropland in Spartanburg County, South Carolina and the United States according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Census, taken every five years. Cropland acreage in Spartanburg County has decreased by approximately 30% since 1982.



Solid Waste/Recycling

Source

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

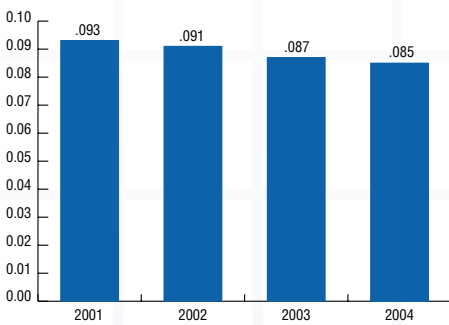
Solid Waste/Recycling

Reducing solid waste disposal in landfills decreases the need for new landfills or incineration. Much of the growing volume of garbage is from the use of disposable consumer products and excess packaging. A material doesn't become waste until it is put in the landfill or incinerated. If a material can be reused or recycled, it is not waste. Americans generate trash at a rate of four pounds per day per person, which is almost twice as much trash per person as most other major countries.



About the Indicator

This indicator shows a trend of waste per capita per day in pounds, which does not include recycled materials for Spartanburg County and South Carolina, compared to the per capita waste for disposal. Spartanburg County's per capita waste has been declining since 2000, yet the average number of pounds per day of waste exceeds the rate for South Carolina.



Air Quality

Source

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

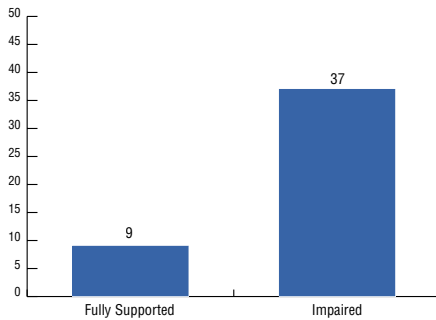
Air Quality

Spartanburg County, along with other Upstate counties, was designated a non-attainment area, with levels of ground level ozone higher than the EPA standards permit over a three-year-period. When inhaled, even at very low levels, ozone can cause acute respiratory problems, aggravate asthma, cause inflammation of lung tissue and significant temporary decreases in lung capacity. Ground level ozone also interferes with the ability of plants to produce and store food, damaging plants and reducing crop yields.

About the Indicator

This indicator shows the annual three-year-average of the key measure for ozone used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Each year the EPA collects the 5 highest 8-hour average, the key measure each year for the EPA is the 4th highest day. The maximum 8-hour ozone standard for air quality is .085 parts per million (166 micrograms of ozone per cubic meter of air). Since 2001, Spartanburg's averages have been steadily decreasing.

PLACE



Water Quality
(Broad River Basin Sites - 2000)

Source

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Water Quality

Water quality standards are used to compare concentrations of potentially toxic pollutants and bacteria that effect aquatic life and recreational usage. Bacteria levels are an indicator of the possible presence of fecal coliform and of pathogens found in runoff or in inadequately treated sewage, which can lead to a variety of human illnesses.

**About the Indicator**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control collects water quality data at several sites for the Broad River Basin watershed. An assessment of the measurements is reported every five years. If water quality standards are met, aquatic life and/or recreational use at that watershed site is considered "fully supported"; if levels do not comply with standards, a watershed site is considered "impaired." Of the sites previously tested, 10 showed an improved rating and 13 were degraded.

AIR QUALITY

In 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued new air quality standards measuring ground level ozone, commonly called smog. Ground level ozone is produced by manmade sources, which are produced by numerous combustion processes such as car exhaust and industrial boilers; and by natural sources, such as the gases released by natural vegetation. In the Upstate's hot, humid summers, these pollutants "cook" to produce high levels of ground level ozone. The Upstate's natural forestation, major interstate highways, and heavy industry, plus the heat and humidity and our location "up the Jet Stream" from the heavily populated transportation hub Atlanta, GA all have contributed to the Upstate in 2004 being named a "non-attainment area" relating to ground level ozone levels.

Ground level ozone is an irritant that can damage lung tissue, especially in those with respiratory diseases and the very young, when repeatedly inhaled over prolonged periods of time. For this reason, ground level ozone levels are monitored and reported daily throughout the region during the hot summer months and citizens are asked to make lifestyle changes to lessen the affect of these "red level alert" days. Citizens are urged to carpool or limit automobile trips, and to refuel cars and operate combustion engine machinery such as lawn mowers in the cooler evening hours. There are a number of recommendations for businesses and local governments on red level days as well.

Years before any non-attainment designation would possibly be given to the Upstate region, the public and private sectors came together to address the issue and to prepare a pro-active approach to improving air quality. The Upstate Air Quality Coalition was formed in 2000 and included representatives from Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg Counties. The group formalized the working relationship in 2002 as the three counties signed an Early Action Compact and worked to finalize 23 air quality improvement strategies that can be implemented to help bring the region into compliance for the benefit of economic development and the health of Upstate citizens even earlier than is required by the EPA.



NOTES

